PR system debated at Lower House

NAY PYI TAW, 25 July—The Lower House session on Friday debated a proposal calling for the adoption of a suitable electoral system for lower house elections, submitted by Representative U Aung Zin from Pazundaung Constituency.

Law students observe UEC functions

NAY PYI TAW, 25 July—Law students from Dagon University visited the Union Election Commission Office here on Friday afternoon, where they were welcomed by the UEC Chairman and members. Supervised by Associate Professor Dr Daw Yi Yi Lwin, the student delegation observed how the functions were performed, including the processes of compiling voter lists, as well as rules and regulations concerning the commission. The UEC chairman and members responded to queries raised by students.—MNA

NCCT meets in Laiza

LAIZA, 25 July—The first meeting of the Nationwide Ceasefire Coordination Team of the national races took place at the Laiza Headquarters of the Kachin Independence Organization on Friday.

The 7-chapter ceasefire draft agreement jointly drawn by the Union Peace-making Work Committee and armed ethnic groups was reviewed at the meeting.

Assessments and ad-

service made at the meeting will be supplemented to the draft agreement and it will be submitted in continued negotiations with the Union Peace-making Work Committee.

Sai Tun Aung Lwin

Co-operative Bank launches EASi mobile agent banking service

By Ye Myint

YANGON, 25 July —CB Bank, which is officially called Co-operative Bank Ltd.—The Public Bank Company Limited—launched an EASi mobile agent banking service on Friday, letting customers withdraw and transfer money through a network of banking agents, who will perform transactions over a mobile device.

The launch of the agent banking system took place at Sedona Hotel in Yangon, with a presentation made by U Kyaw Lynn, executive vice chairman and chief executive officer of the CB Bank.

The agent banking service is aimed at contributing towards rural development to a certain extent, enabling its customers, including those running small and medium enterprises to save time and money, said the CB Bank in its press release.

Using the latest technology of Switzerland-based Temenos Banking Software Company, customers will be given the higher security system of Temenos banking software (T-24) to prevent their accounts from being easily used by others, the statement added.

“Although cash transfers can be done with a mobile device and cash withdrawals made at ATMs or the bank’s branches, a banking agent acting as a bank clerk will allow customers, who are unable to visit automated teller machines or branches that are mostly located in big towns and usually closed on weekends and holidays, access to get cash,” U Zaw Min Thant, the Bank’s project manager told The New Light of Myanmar.

According to the Bank, the EASi mobile agent, who serves as a small branch or a bank counter, enabling customers to use the service effectively has to deposit a certain amount of cash in a bank account of the CB Bank.

“This bank service is designed to be within the reach of rural people, said U Soe Myint, one of the Bank’s 50 agents. Regarding Internet connection, the agent from Kyangin Township of Ayeyawady Region expressed his view that the and-balance system would be more effective. She concluded that the electoral system was good for ethnic groups and would contribute to a better future.

Another supporter of the electoral system at the Lower House session was U Nyan Swe Win, who said that the electoral system had been adopted in over 90 countries around the world and the system would contribute to an inclusive process in national reconciliation and democratization.

Representative U Thein Tun Oo of Amarapura supported the proposal and urged the session to form a committee or commission to draft a bill for adoption of the electoral system.

At the Upper House session today, representatives discussed the census and assistance for senior citizens.—MNA

Law students observe UEC functions

NAY PYI TAW, 25 July—Law students from Dagon University visited the Union Election Commission Office here on Friday afternoon, where they were welcomed by the UEC Chairman and members. Supervised by Associate Professor Dr Daw Yi Yi Lwin, the student delegation observed how the functions were performed, including the processes of compiling voter lists, as well as rules and regulations concerning the commission. The UEC chairman and members responded to queries raised by students.—MNA
Youth delegation receives financial, material assistance

By Kharging Thanda Lwin

YANGON, 25 July — A Myanmar youth delegation is scheduled to attend the second ASEAN-China Youth Cultural Exchange Festival, which is set to take place from 29 July to 4 August in Beijing, China, sources said.

The delegation is comprised of students with excellent academic achievements from different states and regions.

According to sources, the Myanmar-China Friendship Association rendered financial and material assistance to the participant students at a ceremony which took place at Sky Star Hotel on Friday.

Last year, a Myanmar delegation comprising eight students participated in the first ASEAN-China Youth Cultural Exchange Festival, and ten students will join the festival this year.—MNA

Citizenship scrutiny cards issued in Lewe

LEWE, 25 July — Under Moe Pwint Project Phase (6), citizenship scrutiny cards were issued free of charge with one-stop-service for people in Sawhmawgon Village Tract in Lewe Township on Friday.

Staff Officer U Cho Tun of the Nay Pyi Taw Council Immigration and National Registration Department, Staff Officer U Soe Thein of township INRD and officials issued 274 citizenship scrutiny cards to locals.—Zaw Myo Naing

World’s largest Dhammazedi Bell salvage project to start second week of August

By Kharging Thanda Lwin

YANGON, 25 July — The Yangon Region Government on 14 July gave green light to a team led by U San Linn to start finding the Great Bell of King Dhammazedi, which is assumed to have submerged in the Yangon River.

U San Linn said on Friday at a press conference in Yangon that the bell is said to be made of gold and silver as well as copper and tin and said to be the world’s largest bell ever cast.

He said that the team searched for the Dhammazedi Bell after dredging the sandbank and detecting its location on 11 August, 1998 and that the bell is located at a depth of 25 feet from the river bed.

Fourteen divers will arrive to salvage the bell on 29 July and have arranged to start the work on 8 August. The project is expected to be completed in the last week of the month. It is also expected to cost over 180 million, donor U Win Myint, who participated in activities to include the three ancient Pyu cities of Myanmar on the World Heritage List, said.

Now, the team is arranging to hold meetings with officials from Ayeyawady Naval Regional Command, Headquarters and the Union Minister for Transport to pull out the bell on that day with the use of a buffer system.

It is reported that many people have attempted to take out the bell, thus far without success. The water is muddy and visibility is extremely poor under the surface, officials said.

The Dhammazedi Bell is thought to be buried in 25 feet (7.6 m) of mud. Previous attempts to locate the bell, by both domestic and foreign teams since 1987, either failed or did not materialize. Some treasures from the Shwedagon, part of the loot, are believed to be there guarded by gods and spirits, and some locals have claimed to have sighted the bell surfacing on a full moon night.

At the end of June 2012, the Historical Research Department of the Ministry of Culture and SD Mark International LLP Co of Singapore held a workshop in Yangon for a renewed attempt with the Singaporean firm, pledging USD 10 million for the non-profit project.—NLM

Deputy Minister for Foreign Affairs attends FOC in India

NAY PYI TAW, 25 July — At the invitation of Ms Sujatha Singh, Foreign Secretary of External Affairs of India, a Myanmar delegation led by U Thant Kyaw, Deputy Minister for Foreign Affairs, left for New Delhi to attend the 14th Myanmar-India Foreign Office Consultations (FOC), which took place from 22 to 24 July, officials said.

At the meeting, Myanmar and India exchanged views on further strengthening of existing friendly relations, the promotion of bilateral cooperation in the areas of connectivity projects, and matters related to border affairs, defence, trade, tourism, and culture.

Connectivity projects include the construction of India-Myanmar-Thailand Trilateral Highway, Reed-Tiddim road and the Kaladan Multi-Modal Transport Transit project, sources said.

U Thant Kyaw called on Ms Sujatha Singh, with their discussions focusing on enhancing the existing relations and cooperation between the two countries.—MNA

Japan builds high school in Hinthada Tsp


Officials of Grant Assistance for Grass-roots Human Security Projects (GGP) Scheme formally open a school building at Kyet Tu Yway Village in Hinthada Township.

The Government of Japan, Hinthada Township, Ayeyawady Region.

Correction
Please read “UNHCR” in the 4th line of paragraph-2 in the first column under line-2 of this daily issued on 24-7-2014.—NLM
President U Thein Sein felicitates Maldivian counterpart

NAV PI TAW, 26 July—On the occasion of the 49th Anniversary of the Independence Day of the Republic of Maldives which falls on 26th July 2014, U Thein Sein, President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar, has sent a message of felicitations to His Excellency Mr. Adbulla Yameen Abdul Gayoom, President of the Republic of the Maldives.—MNA

Union FM sends felicitations to Maldivian counterpart

NAV PI TAW, 26 July—On the occasion of the 49th Anniversary of the Independence Day of the Republic of Maldives which falls on 26th July 2014, U Wunna Maung Lwin, Union Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar, has sent a message of felicitations to Her Excellency Ms Dunya Maumoon, Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Republic of the Maldives.—MNA

UN special rapporteur meets union ministers

NAV PI TAW, 25 July—Ms Yanghee Lee, United Nations Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights in Myanmar, called on union ministers here on Friday, sources said.

The union ministers met were Lt-Gen Wai Lwin, Lt-Gen Thet Naing Win, U Aung Kyi, U Soe Than, U Aung Min, Dr Daw Myat Myat Ohn Khin, U Aye Myint, and U Khin Yi.

Co-operative Bank launches...
Repaved road commissioned into service in Pyinmana Tps

NAY PYI TAW, 25 July — A ceremony to inaugurate the Myitta Street, which was repaved with asphalt, was held in Paunglaung Ward of Pyinmana of Nay Pyi Taw Council Area on Friday.

Health talks given in Lashio

LASHIO, 25 July — The Myanmar Maternal and Child Welfare Association Central gave talks about its seven projects to local people in Lashio Township in Shan State North from 22 to 24 July.

CEC member of the association Dr May Soe Oo, Maternal and Health Specialist Dr Maharajan Muthu of UNHCR (Myanmar) and officials of the Health Department explained good health practices for families and children, assistance for health care services and implementation of the suggestions and discussions to the people in Hopeik, Hsonkwe and Einai villages in Lashio Township.

The talks were aimed at broadening the horizon of the rural people and enabling them to practise good health care to uplift the health standard of the entire people.

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Shan State IPRD

Importance of proper feeding of cattle explained in Mahlaing Tsp

Mahlaing, 25 July — Local farmers face difficulties to feed cattle in Mahlaing Township of Mandalay Region, as the area has been suffering from drought in the early monsoon period.

At present, the farmers give priority to seeking feedstuff for their cattle. As such, they send their cattle to the pasture lands far from the native areas.

“We bought straws of paddy plants in Zeedaw Village of Natogyi Township, costing K200,000-K300,000 per bale of straw depending on size. Moreover, we bought K200 per basket of straw and K500 per basket of cuttings of maize. However, we purchased stalk pieces of maize plants in Myingyan Township. Now, we are so difficulties in feedstuff for cows and buffalos,” said farmer U Kan Kaung.

Aung Htay (Mahlaing)

Speaking on the occasion, Member of Nay Pyi Taw Council Col Myint Aung Than said that the council has spent K2.86 billion on extension and upgrading of asphalt roads, maintenance and construction of bridges, dredging of drains for proper flow of water and installation of lamp-posts in Pyinmana Township.

The Nay Pyi Taw Council member and officials unveiled the road.

The road is 3,400 feet long and 12 feet wide was constructed at a cost of K64.2 million.

Htet Min Aung (HGP)

Over K2 billion disbursed to farmers for cultivation of monsoon crops in Mahlaing Tsp

MAHLAING, 25 July — Myanmar Agricultural Development Bank of Mandalay Region has disbursed agricultural loans to farmers of Mahlaing Township for the 2014 monsoon on 21 July.

“The bank branch delivers loans to the farmers as they have to pay back the loans to the bank,” said manager U Ngwe Tun of the bank branch.

The bank disbursed K100,000 per acres of farmland and K20,000 per acre of cropland as of 5 June, issuing K2.3 billion to 14,202 farmers from 247 villages of the township up to 21 July.

“With the loans disbursement, local farmers will enjoy a better living standard,” said a local of Panaing Village.

Aung Htay (Mahlaing)

Maize production of Kalay region supplied to people of Chin State, Gangaw District

Kalay, 25 July — Local farmers cultivate maize three times a year in Kalay Township of Sagaing Region, increasing family incomes.

“Farmers do not need to spend much expense on cultivation of maize, costing K200,000 per acre, making various foods with the maize yearly,” he added.

K800,000 per acre in sales after harvesting,” said farmer U Win Hlaing of Myohla Village.

“The maize farms need to be irrigated once before cultivation. I did not face loss in cultivation of maize yearly,” he added.

Kalay region is marketable in Falam, Tiddim, Kyikha, Tonzaung, Kabaw plain, Tamu, Khampat and Yaw and Gangaw regions daily.

Linlet Kywe Sin

Danger of unregistered pesticides, chemicals disseminated

MANDALAY, 25 July — Some people were pronounced dead as farmers use chemicals and pesticides without abiding by the prescribed limit in cultivation in total. They can fetch K800,000 per acre in sales after harvesting,” said farmer U Win Hlaing of Myohla Village.

“The maize farms need to be irrigated once before cultivation. I did not face loss in cultivation of maize yearly,” he added.

Kalay region is marketable in Falam, Tiddim, Kyikha, Tonzaung, Kabaw plain, Tamu, Khampat and Yaw and Gangaw regions daily.

Linlet Kywe Sin

“Extreme use of chemicals and pesticides cause various diseases like liver cancer to the customers,” said an agriculturalist.

“1,000 ml of chemical and pesticide into the body will cause death of the customers,” said Daw Than Than Swe, adding that most of deaths of customers were based on use of unpermitted pesticides and chemicals.

“We disseminate information not to use unregistered chemicals and pesticides in the cultivation to the rural people,” an official of Fruits and Flower Producers Association (Mandalay).

Thibu Ko Ko (Mandalay)
Indonesia’s constitutional court ready to take on election result challenge

JAKARTA, 25 July — Indonesia’s top court is prepared to hear a case challenging the result of this month’s presidential election, well aware that its reputation is on the line after its top judge was found guilty of corruption, his successor said.

The losing presidential candidate, Prabowo Subianto, has alleged mass cheating in the election and has said he will challenge the result in the Constitutional Court.

A member of his team said the complaint would be lodged later on Friday.

The Prabowo team has not made public evidence to show that the cheating was on a large enough scale to overturn the result and some analysts say the case is more of a face-saving effort and poses no real risk to the winner, Joko “Jokowi” Widodo.

“We realize that there are doubts about us,” the head of Prabowo’s Constitutional Court, Hamdan Zoelva, told Reuters.

Speaking at an interview in his office in Jakarta on 24 July, 2014.—REUTERS

Tokyo, 25 July — Prime Minister Shinzo Abe has expressed regret that ordinary people from the two countries “may be farther apart psychologically because of difficulties” even though they have got along well in the past.

The meeting was Park’s first with a Japanese politician since a trilateral summit with Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe and US President Barack Obama in March in the Netherlands.

Bilateral relations have nosedived to the worst level in years over differing views on wartime history and over the ownership of islands in the Sea of Japan.

Abe has not held bilateral summit talks with Park since the latter took office in February last year.

Abe leaves for Latin America to boost economic ties

TOKYO, 25 July — Prime Minister Shinzo Abe departed on Friday for a five-nation tour of Latin America to promote infrastructure exports and strengthen economic ties with the region in the fields of resources and energy development.

During his visit to Mexico, Trinidad and Tobago, Colombia and Brazil, Abe plans to meet with the leaders of the five countries and seek support for Japan’s bid next year for a nonpermanent seat on the UN Security Council from 2016, according to government officials.

Positioning Latin America as a promising “market of 600 million” people, the government aims to help Japanese companies win orders for infrastructure development, one of the pillars of Japan’s growth strategies, according to a senior Foreign Ministry official.

The Abe government has set a goal of increasing the value of overseas infrastructure-related orders received by Japanese firms to 30 trillion yen in 2020.

Japan saw the value increase roughly three-fold to 9.26 trillion yen last year from 2012, a feat partly attributed by the government to the prime minister’s promotion of activities at home and abroad.

“With this Latin America trip, I hope to take on all the world in my globe-trotting diplomacy,” Abe told reporters in Tokyo earlier Friday.

“I would like to strengthen relations with Latin America, which has unlimited potential,” Abe said, expressing his intention to explore business opportunities there with corporate executives who are travelling with him.

In Mexico and Chile, which are engaged in talks on the Trans-Pacific Partnership free trade pact, Abe plans to exchange views with Mexican President Enrique Pena Nieto and Chilean President Michelle Bachelet toward an early conclusion of the TPP accord.

The visit is also apparently aimed at highlighting Japan’s presence in Latin America, after Chinese President Xi Jinping visited four countries in the region, including Brazil and Cuba, earlier this month.

Abe is scheduled to return home on 4 August.

S Korea’s Park urges Tokyo governor to work for “stable relationship”

SEOUL, 25 July — South Korean President Park Geun-hye urged Tokyo Gov. Yoichi Masuzoe on Friday to work for a stable relationship between South Korea and Japan, the presidential press office said.

Speaking at the outset of her meeting with Masuzoe at the presidential office, Park said, “Japanese politicians’ improper words and behaviour have caused various difficulties in bilateral relations.”

“I would like to ask you to work so that the two countries can share a correct recognition of past history and develop a stable relationship,” Park said in a statement released by her press office.

Park said she hopes for a settlement “by sincere efforts” of the issue of Japan’s wartime sexual slavery, adding it is “not only a matter between the two countries, but also a matter concerning universal women’s rights.”

Park expressed regret that ordinary people from the two countries “may be farther apart psychologically because of difficulties” even though they have got along well in the past.

The meeting was Park’s first with a Japanese politician since a trilateral summit with Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe and US President Barack Obama in March in the Netherlands.

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Abe has not held bilateral summit talks with Park since the latter took office in February last year. Abe became prime minister for the second time in December 2012.

Masuzoe, who had pressed for his meeting with Park, gave the South Korean leader Abe’s message that the Japanese leader hopes to improve Japan-South Korea relations.

But neither Masuzoe nor Park touched on the feasibility of a meeting between Abe and Park, the Tokyo governor told reporters after the meeting.

Masuzoe said he told Park that he will convey to Abe the South Korean president’s message that the two countries should firmly establish the recognition of past history as the first step toward building bilateral friendship.

He also said he felt that Park is willing to improve Japan-South Korea relations.

At a meeting of senior Foreign Ministry officials from the two countries on Wednesday, Japan assured South Korea that it will uphold its official apology concerning the mostly Korean and other Asian women who were forced to work in Japanese wartime military brothels.

Seoul has stepped up criticism of Japan since Tokyo concluded in a report last month that the South Korean government was involved in the drafting process of the apology, known as the Kono statement.

S Korea fails to determine cause of death of owner of sunken ferry

SEOUL, 25 July — South Korea’s top forensic agency said on Friday it cannot determine the cause of death of the tycoon Yoo Byung-eun, whose decomposed body was found last month, adding yet another twist to the saga involving the sinking of the passenger ferry in April that left more than 300 people dead or missing.

“We couldn’t confirm the cause of death since Yoo’s body was badly decomposed,” Seo Joong-seok, head of the National Forensic Service, told reporters.

The body of Yoo Byung-eun, the 73-year-old billionaire who owned the ferry operator Chonghajin Marine Co., was found on 12 June on a farm just a few kilometres away from his house in the southwestern city of Suncheon, South Jeolla Province, police have said.

Seo ruled out speculation that Yoo’s body had been switched, saying forensic examinations have confirmed the body was that of Yoo.

Police said on Tuesday the results of DNA and fingerprint tests showed a match for Yoo and the final results will be made by the National Forensic Service.

South Korean police launched a nationwide manhunt for Yoo, offering a $500,000 reward for information leading to his arrest. Many of Yoo’s family members, including his wife and elder brother, have been arrested on embezzlement charges.

A total of 331 people, including crewmen of the sunken ferry and Coast Guard officials, have been booked for investigation related to the disaster.

The botched manhunt for Yoo claimed heads of senior officials in the prosecution and police.—Kyodo News
Peres steps down as Israeli president, sees peace ‘one day’

Jerusalem, 25 July  — Israel’s elder statesman Shimon Peres bowed out of active political life on Thursday with an ardent defence of the war in Gaza against Hamas militants and a defiant prediction that peace will “one day” come to the Middle East.

At a ceremony overshadowed by the 17-day Gaza conflict in which nearly 800 people have died, Peres, 90, relinquished his largely ceremonial post as Israeli president to Reuven Rivlin, a member of Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu’s Likud Party.

Israeli heads of state are not directly involved in political decision-making, but Peres, a Nobel Peace Laureate, has used the presidency over the last seven years as a pulpit for advocating peace with the Palestinians, often taking a more conciliatory stance than right-winger Netanyahu.

In his farewell speech, Peres invoked the biblical prophets he said had taught Israel to see “social justice and world peace as guiding principles” and he urged the Jewish state to “practise equality for all its citizens”.

“I will not give up my right to serve my people and my country, and I will continue to help build my country, with a deep belief that one day it will know peace,” he added, making clear he did not envisage a quiet retirement.

But Peres also defended Israel’s offensive in Gaza, launched in response to rocket attacks on its territory, despite the deaths of at least 762 Palestinians and 32 Israeli soldiers. He accused Hamas militants of turning Gaza “into a man-made tragedy” and of deliberately putting civilians in harm’s way.

“Israel is not the enemy of the people of Gaza,” he said.

But he also said Israel should welcome and encourage debate about the rights and wrongs of the conflict in Gaza.

“In these difficult days in which the eyes of the nation are on its leaders, on you, please do not lessen the debate. It is the essence of democracy,” said Peres.

Peres was born in Poland in 1923 and began in politics as a close aide to Israel’s founding father and first prime minister David Ben-Gurion. In a career spanning nearly seven decades, he has served in a dozen cabinets and twice as prime minister.

He shared the Nobel Peace Prize with Israel’s late prime minister Yitzhak Rabin and Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat for a 1993 interim peace deal that they and their successors failed to turn into a durable treaty.

Unlike Peres, Rivlin, a former parliamentary speaker, is opposed to the creation of a Palestinian state. A champion of Jewish settlements built on occupied land, Rivlin, 74, has called for a confederation with the Palestinians rather than negotiating an independent state for them — something Palestinian leaders have long rejected.

Yet Rivlin, chosen by parliament last month, has won endorsements from Israeli doves for his long-time advocacy of Jewish-Arab cooperation and for a sense of humour known to cross political and ethnic lines.

Rivlin has tears in his eyes as he was sworn in as head of state, but he sounded a combative note against Gaza militants.

“They will not defeat us. Terror will not defeat us, or weaken our resolve or our spirit or conviction in our feeling of justice,” the new president said.

Reuters

Russia says will cooperate with MH17 probe led by Netherlands

Kuala Lumpur, 25 July — Russia will cooperate with the investigation into the downing of a Malaysian airliner a week ago and is satisfied that the Netherlands, rather than Ukraine, is leading the effort, the country’s ambassador to Malaysia said on Thursday.

Ludmil Vorobyeva also rejected suggestions that the pro-Russian separatists blamed by Western governments for shooting down Flight MH17 possessed a Russian-made anti-aircraft missile, and said the rebels lacked the training to use such a system.

Nearly 300 people, 193 of them Dutch citizens, were killed when the Malaysia Airlines plane en route from Amsterdam to Kuala Lumpur was brought down in eastern Ukraine, where separatists are battling government forces, on 17 July.

The norm under rules set down by the United Nation’s civil aviation body (ICAO) is that an air investigation is led by the state in whose territory the plane crash, but Russia had said that Ukraine should not take charge because the rebels who control the crash site did not trust the authorities in Kiev. “We want an international investigation led by ICAO. Any country part of ICAO may take part. Netherlands has the right to lead this,” the ambassador told Reuters in an interview in Kuala Lumpur. “We are members of ICAO, we will cooperate with the investigation.”

Vorobyeva said Russian experts were already participating in the investigation, although she did not say what role they were playing.

“As soon as experts from ICAO and international experts have a part, we think it could lead to authentic results and the truth will come out,” she said.

Russia has not been asked to act as an intermediary with the rebels, who the United States and Ukraine’s pro-Western government says are armed by Moscow, Vorobyeva said. “We haven’t been asked to do that and for the time being there’s no need for an intermediary, because, as we know, the rebels have operated with the experts,” she said. “We have to see how the situation develops, its hard to have any forecast now.” — Reuters

Bad weather likely cause of Air Algerie crash: French officials

Paris, 25 July — Poor weather was the most likely cause of the crash of an Air Algerie flight over the West African state of Mali with 116 people on board, French officials said on Friday. Investigators at the scene of the crash had concluded the airliner broke apart when it hit the ground, the officials said, suggesting this meant it was unlikely to have been the victim of an attack. “The aircraft was destroyed at the moment it crashed.” Interior Minister Bernard Cazeneuve told RTL radio of the wreckage of the plane carrying 51 French nationals which crashed in Mali near the border with Burkina Faso on Thursday.

“We think the aircraft crashed for reasons linked to the weather conditions. No theory can be excluded at this point ... but that is indeed the most likely theory,” he added.

Separately, Transport Minister Frederic Cuvillier said the strong smell of aircraft fuel at the crash site and the fact that the debris was scattered over a relatively small area also suggested the cause of the crash was linked to weather, a technical problem or a combination of such factors.

“We exclude — and have done so from the start — any ground strike,” Cuvillier told France 2 television.

He added that a column of 100 soldiers from the French force stationed in the region were on their way to secure the crash site near the northern town of Gossi. France deployed troops to Mali last year to halt an al-Qaeda-backed insurgency.

Aviation officials lost contact with Flight AH5017 en route from Burkina Faso to Algeria early on Thursday after a request by the pilot to change course due to bad weather.

Burkina Faso authorities said the passenger list included 51 French, 27 Burkinabe, eight Lebanese, six Algerians, five Canadians, four Germans, two from Luxembourg, one Cameroonian, one Belgian, one Egyptian, one Ukrainian, one Swiss, one Nigerian and one Malian. Crash site investigators saw no survivors. — Reuters

A journalist takes photographs at the site of Thursday’s Malaysia Airlines Boeing 777 plane crash near the settlement of Grabovo, in the Donetsk region on 18 July, 2014. — Reuters

A screengrab of the homepage of the Ouagadougou airport’s Internet site (http://www.aeroport-ouagadougou.com) shows a candle next to the flight number AH5017 and a map displaying the plane’s last contact zone, on 24 July, 2014. — Reuters

Israel’s President Shimon Peres (C) looks at a book with pictures from his years in office, at the presidential residence in Jerusalem, on his last day in office, on 24 July, 2014. — Reuters

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A journalist takes photographs at the site of Thursday’s Malaysia Airlines Boeing 777 plane crash near the settlement of Grabovo, in the Donetsk region on 18 July, 2014. — Reuters

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Israel’s President Shimon Peres (C) looks at a book with pictures from his years in office, at the presidential residence in Jerusalem, on his last day in office, on 24 July, 2014. — Reuters
Shelling of Gaza school kills at least 15; toll nears 800

GAZA / JERUSALEM, 25 July — Gaza authorities said Israeli forces shelled a shelter at a UN-run school, killing at least 15 people, as the Palestinian death toll in the conflict reached 796 and attempts at a truce remained elusive.

United Nations Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon expressed horror at the Thursday attack on the school at Beit Hanoun in the northern Gaza strip. “Many have been killed — including women and children, as well as UN staff,” he said in a statement. “Circumstances are still unclear. I strongly condemn this act.”

Ban later arrived at Cairo where he was expected to meet US Secretary of State John Kerry, who has been working the telephones to try to broker a truce.

Kerry’s spokesman said the school attack “underscores the need to end the violence.”

But there was no sign of progress in securing a ceasefire in his four days in the region. “Gaps remain between the parties,” a senior US official said, adding that Kerry would not stay “for an indefinite amount of time.”

The Israeli military said it was investigating the school incident. Israel Defence Forces spokesman Lieutenant-Colonel Peter Lerner told Reuters TV: “It could be errant fire from the IDF or rockets landing from Gaza terrorists but we still don’t know, there’s still a question mark.”

A spokesman for the UN Relief and Works Agency said it had tried in vain to arrange an evacuation of civilians from the school with the Israeli army, and noted reports of Hamas rockets falling in the area at the same time.

Scores of crying families who had been living in the school run with their children to a hospital a few hundred metres away where the victims were being treated. Laila Al-Shanbari, a woman who was at the school when it was shelled, told Reuters that families had gathered in the courtyard expecting to be evacuated shortly in a Red Cross convoy.

“All of us sat in one place when suddenly four shells landed on our heads ... Bodies were on the ground, (there was) blood and screams. My son is dead and all my relatives are wounded including my other kids,” she wept.

Ashraf al-Qidra, spokesman for the Gaza Health Ministry, said that besides the 15 dead, 200 people had been wounded in the attack. The director of a local hospital said various medical centres around Beit Hanoun were receiving the wounded.

In the occupied West Bank, some 10,000 protesters marching in support of their Gaza compatriots clashed with Israeli troops and at least one protester was killed and some 200 were injured, Palestinian hospital officials said.

More than 140,000 Palestinians have fled 17 days of fighting between Israel and Gaza militants, many of them seeking shelter in buildings run by the UNRWA. Israeli forces are trying to stop militants from Hamas and their allies from firing rockets into its territory.

“It’s clear that civilians are paying an unimaginable price caught between both sides,” said UNRWA spokesman Chris Gunness. “We were attempting to arrange a window for evacuation for the civilians with the Israeli army that never came. The consequences were deeply tragic.”

First UN aid convoy enters Syria without government consent

UNITED NATIONS, 25 July — The United Nations sent its first humanitarian aid convoy into rebel-held areas of Syria without government consent on Thursday as UN chief Ban Ki-moon accused warring parties of denying assistance to millions of people in need as a tactic of war.

The UN Security Council unanimously adopted a resolution 10 days ago that authorized aid access at four border crossings from Turkey, Iraq and Jordan, even though Syria has warned it deems such deliveries incursions into its territory.

“A convoy of nine trucks crossed into Syria today from the Turkish crossing at Bab al-Salam, carrying UN food, shelter, water purification and sanitation supplies,” said Amanda Pitt, spokeswoman for the United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs.

No further details were available on whether the trucks had reached the people it was intended for. In a report to the Security Council, obtained by Reuters on Thursday, Ban said that an estimated 10.8 million people need help, of which 4.7 million are in hard to reach areas of Syria.

He said at least 241,000 people in areas besieged by government or opposition forces, “The parties have continued to obstruct humanitarian assistance to those most in need and to withhold consent for operations in a completely arbitrary manner as a tactic of war,” Ban said in the report, dated Wednesday.

“I call upon parties to the conflict to lift the sieges immediately and facilitate access to people in need of humanitarian assistance,” he said. Ban has reported to the Security Council on the implementation of a resolution adopted in February demanding rapid, safe and unhindered aid access in Syria. The United Nations says that resolution had failed to make a difference and that the humanitarian situation on the ground had worsened.

The action then taken by the council on 14 July was a follow-up to the February resolution. The new resolution threatens “further measures in the event of non-compliance.” The council would need a second resolution to impose punishments. — Reuters

Mediterranean boat people numbers soar to near 100,000 this year

GENEVA, 25 July — Almost 100,000 boat people have made the dangerous journey across the Mediterranean to Europe this year, a roughly 60 percent increase on the whole of last year, and about 800 have died in the attempt, the UN refugee agency said on Thursday.

The exodus has surged this year, as far more migrants put their lives in the hands of smugglers or unseaworthy vessels in a desperate attempt to reach Europe.

More than 75,000 people have made the trip in the first six months of the year, landing up in Italy, Greece, Spain and Malta, the UNHCR agency said. Their number included 10,500 children, two-thirds of them unaccompanied or separated from their families. The number of the whole of 2013 was around 60,000.

The UNHCR also said that this year the numbers are accelerating: 21,000 have reached Italy since the beginning of July.

People unpack humanitarian aid inside a warehouse in Ghouta, eastern Damascus on 24 May, 2014. — REUTERS

African migrants sit on the deck of an Armed Forces of Malta (AFM) patrol boat as it arrives at the AFM Maritime Squadron base in Valletta’s Marsamxett Harbour on 20 July, 2014. — REUTERS

Gaza / Jerusalem, 25 July — Gazan authorities said Israeli forces shelled a shelter at a UN-run school, killing at least 15 people, as the Palestinian death toll in the conflict reached 796 and attempts at a truce remained elusive.

United Nations Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon expressed horror at the Thursday attack on the school at Beit Hanoun in the northern Gaza strip. “Many have been killed — including women and children, as well as UN staff,” he said in a statement. “Circumstances are still unclear. I strongly condemn this act.”

Ban later arrived at Cairo where he was expected to meet US Secretary of State John Kerry, who has been working the telephones to try to broker a truce.

Kerry’s spokesman said the school attack “underscores the need to end the violence.”

But there was no sign of progress in securing a ceasefire in his four days in the region. “Gaps remain between the parties,” a senior US official said, adding that Kerry would not stay “for an indefinite amount of time.”

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The UNHCR also said that this year the numbers are accelerating: 21,000 have reached Italy since the beginning of July.
Winning the Life Game

Kyi Mun

You must complete your growth in the midst of life. Lao-tzu

Everyone has to live and move and has one’s being in something good and true, from birth to death. But the problem is how one has to live and move and has one’s being in something good and true!

In order to be a winner in the game of life, one has to deal with the following five areas of life:

- **Physical Quality** which is concerned with the BODY.
- **Mental Quality** which is concerned with the MIND.
- **Emotional Quality** which is concerned with the HEART.
- **Spiritual Quality** which is concerned with the SOUL.
- **Achievement Quality** which is concerned with the LIFE.

The Physical Quality of Body

The physical quality of the body consists of HEALTH and STRENGTH. If you want to be endowed with health and strength, you have got to have DISCIPLINE & DILIGENCE.

You need a resolute discipline in following a strict DIET REGIMEN and a robust EXERCISE REGIMEN. In the diet regimen, you should avoid eating saturated fats such as fats from red meats and milk products, coconut milk, egg yolk, and trans fat, on the one hand, and eat in moderation sugar and sweet foods & drinks, and salt and salty products on the other. You should take more fresh, juicy fruits and leafy vegetables.

As to the exercise regimen, you have got to do your diligence in taking some proper exercises which are aerobic and strength, you have got to have DISCIPLINE & DILIGENCE.

The Mental Quality of Mind

To enhance your knowledge and wisdom, you have got to learn, to observe, to listen, to read good books. Besides enriching yourself with good knowledge and learning, you should cultivate yourself to be able to shape the future of your life with a set of sensible but very vivid VISION and STRATEGY. You must know what you really want from your life with a set of sensible but very vivid VISION and STRATEGY. You must know what you really want from your life with a set of sensible but very vivid VISION and STRATEGY. You must know what you really want from your life with a set of sensible but very vivid VISION and STRATEGY. You must know what you really want from your life with a set of sensible but very vivid VISION and STRATEGY. You must know what you really want from your life with a set of sensible but very vivid VISION and STRATEGY. You must know what you really want from your life with a set of sensible but very vivid VISION and STRATEGY. You must know what you really want from your life with a set of sensible but very vivid VISION and STRATEGY.

The Emotional Quality of Heart

For your unique emotional quotient, you have got to cultivate very strong passion and some lofty core values and beliefs. You must stand for something in your whole life. You must have a strong backbone. You have got to have fire in your guts and values in your heart. The values that should be enshrined in the heart include, “Love all, serve all, help each other, never.” One more thing also should be included: i.e. “Doing small things with great love”, as Mother Teresa used to say.

Some examples of Business Values are:
- Profitability
- Profit
- Excellence
- Respect for the Individual
- Involved Citizenship
- Dedication to Fairness and Integrity
- Existing for the Customer

The Six Values of Caring Leaders are:
- Honesty
- Consideration
- Responsibility
- Persistence
- Excellence
- Commitment

The Spiritual Quality of Soul

The ordinary worldly people are usually conditioned by Greed (Lobha), Anger (Dosa), Delusion or Ignorance (Moha), Pride (Māna), Doubt (Vicikicchā). So, all conditioned beings are selfish and egoistic. They are usually self-centered.

People of higher nature want to be free and altruistic. So, they choose to practice to live and move and have their being in Loving-kindness, Compassion, Sympathetic Joy and Equanimity of Mind. Accordingly, these people try to go all-out to serve for the most good for the most people. They are no longer self-centered.

The Achievement Quality of Life

For those who want to be masters of their own fate should try to deal with life in their own terms. They must have what it takes to win big in life. They must know how: “to strive, to seek, to find and not to yield” in their life. To succeed in life, they should build their success on the strong foundation of CHARACTER and COMPETENCE. They should be able to reveal themselves to the world what they are and what they can do. They have got to prove the true worth of their metal and the true value of their service or contribution. People of character and competence are doers, achievers, winners who dare to surmount all the challenges and who are visionary enough to seize and exploit all the opportunities in their pursuit of the triple bottom lines of PEOPLE, PLANET and PROFIT. Character development is the single most difficult issue in life. Good character, which is the moral action, must be demonstrated in all circumstances.

Conclusion

Man is a conscious being with conscience. A human being, by nature, is endowed with five strengths of:
- The Strength of Faith
- The Strength of Mindfulness
- The Strength of Diligence
- The Strength of Concentration
- The Strength of Wisdom

By the proper and consistent deployment of these strengths, man can aspire and attain supreme most accomplishments in life.

Ref:
1. Management by Stephen P. Robbins and Mary Coulter
2. The Art of Leadership by Manning Curtis
3. Five-Star Leadership by Patrick L. Townsend and Joan E. Gebhardt

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

The Recreation Trolleys donated to Parami General Hospital

YANGON, 25 July—The Embassy of Israel continues with its 2014 project in the health sector, donating two more “Recreation Trolleys”, this time to Parami General Hospital, in Yangon.

The donation ceremony on 23 July was attended by Mr Tomer Heyvi, Deputy Chief of Mission at the Embassy of Israel in Yangon, Prof. Dr Thein Aung, Chairman of Parami General Hospital, Dr Zeyar Aye, Vice Chairman, and more guests as senior medical superintendents, child specialists and nurses, all from Parami Hospital.

Mr Heyvi, DCM, from the Israeli Embassy explained in his opening remarks that this special project is for the benefit of hospitalized children of Myanmar. The Recreation Trolley contains children’s books and toys that are meant to help in creating a friendlier environment for children. The idea was taken from the children’s hospitals in Israel that uses different methods in order to reduce the trauma experienced by a child during hospitalization.

This is the 3rd donation made by the Embassy of Israel. In total, 10 Recreation Trolleys were donated to different children’s hospitals in Myanmar.
Ancient Inwa City draws more foreign visitors

MandalaY, 25 July—Ancient Inwa city (AD 1364) which is one of the cultural heritages in Myanmar, located in TadaU Township of Mandalay Region, is attracting more and more globettrotters and local visitors. Ancient Barmae, also known as Bagaya monastery, Mei Nu brick monastery, Nannyaing Tower, Sanya Gate, Yadana Hsimee Pagoda, Shwesigon Pagoda, Botakol Lake, Thit-tat, coal chamber, Inwa archaeological museum are also tourist areas in the ancient Inwa city.

Although a strong earthquake jolted many buildings of the city in 1838, there remained the Bagaya monastery built with 267 teak posts near the Nannyaing tower.

Tourists often visit the ancient Inwa city and its significant sites and buildings, by pony carts.

Nine archaeologists will be sent to Japan for attending the archaeological technology course in August under the arrangements of the Myanmar Culture Ministry and National Research Institute for Cultural Properties-NRICP of Japan, according to the Archaeology and National Museum Department (Mandalay Branch).

**Township IRD provides cash to Township Development Affairs Committee**

Letpadan, 25 July—Letpadan Township Internal Revenue Department of Bago Region shared funds for the first three months of the 2014-15 fiscal year to the Township Development Affairs Committee at the DAC office on Thursday.

Head of Township IRD Daw Thet Thet Nwe explained the purpose of sharing the fund to the committee and presented K797,668 levied from the taxpayers. Executive Officer U Sann Lwin of the committee accepted the cash share.

Nay Lin (Nyanglelebon)

**Tomatoes in Chin State sold with profit**

Kalay, 25 July—Tomatoes produced in Chin State have been sold for profit in Kalay, Tamu and Gangaw regions, selling K800 per 1.6 kilos in Kalay, K450 in Tamu and K800 in Gangaw, according to a tomato merchant. People of Chin State are cultivating tomato plants in May and June, producing over about 5 kilos of fruits per plant and over 8,000 kilos per acre. The fruits are transported to Kalay, Tamu and Gangaw regions by car.

Local farmers use folio fertilizer worth K15,000 to K30,000. They cost K2,000,000 per acre, fetching profit K300,000 per acre, said U Zar Lyan Thang of Loppan Village.

Linlet Kyel Sin

**Midwifery and nursing assessment workshop held in Kawkareik**

Kawkareik, 25 July—PU-AMI organized a midwifery and nursing assessment workshop at the Kawkareik District General Hospital in Kayin State on 23 July morning. Kayin State Project officer Dr Thuza Win Pe of PU-AMI explained the emergence of PU-AMI and its functions. Mr Sebstien, Program Coordinator and Ms Aude, MNCH Officer explained the implementation of the project in Kayin State in 2012 and its achievement.

PU-AMI focuses on providing technical assistance and training to midwives in rural areas and giving health care services to mothers and children.

The workshop lasted from 23 to 25 July, attended by 10 midwives and 20 auxiliary midwives.

Soe Htet Aung (IPRD)

**Cash donated to Mandalay General Hospital for improving health standard of people**

Mandalay, 25 July—U Thet Wai-Daw Kyi May (Asia Energy Co Ltd) of Mandalay donated K100 million to a fund for providing health care services to the people at Mandalay General Hospital on Thursday.

On the occasion, Chief Minister of Mandalay Region U Ye Myint explained arrangements of the region government to be able to give health care services to the local people at full capacity and providing necessary buildings and healthcare equipment at the general hospital. He also explained the efforts of the region government for uplifting the health sector.

Medical Superintendent Dr U Maung Win accepted the cash donations and returned a certificate of honour to the wellwishers.

Thiha Ko Ko (Mandalay)
Afghan vote recount moves at snail’s pace, rival sides far apart

KABUL, 25 July — The dusty ballot box from the disputed Afghan presidential election was supposed to contain 550 votes. When auditors cut the seal they found barely 30 votes inside.

Both candidates cried foul, accusing the other camp of stealing votes from a 14 June run-off presidential ballot, the results of which are still being squabbled over amid allegations of widespread vote rigging.

“Both camps argued over one result sheet for hours,” an Independent Election Commission (IEC) official told Reuters.

Eventually a United Nations official stepped in, and told the two sides to move on and let the IEC investigate.

Preliminary results from the election put Ashraf Ghani, a former World Bank official, well ahead, but his rival Abdullah rejected the result, claiming major fraud and calling the outcome a “coup” against the Afghan people.

His supporters threatened to form a parallel government, and Afghans weary of civil war, hard-line Islamist rule under the Taleban and a vicious insurgency that has struck civilians as well as soldiers began to fear the worst.

More than 1,500 Afghan civilians have died in the insurgency during the first six months of the year, although the Taleban failed to deliver on its promise to derail the vote entirely as millions of people turned out in defiance.

After direct US intervention earlier this month, both sides agreed to a full recount to resolve the dispute, but with more than 23,000 ballot boxes to audit, observers worry that the process is becoming bogged down by rows over every detail.

If that happens, talks to form a unity government just as thousands of foreign troops prepare to leave the country could drag on for months.

Moreover, the snail’s pace at which the recount is moving will push back the inauguration of a new president to replace Hamid Karzai, who has led Afghanistan since the Taleban was ousted in a US-led war in 2001.

The ceremony was scheduled for the start of August, and major delays could complicate plans to sign an agreement by the end of 2014 to keep about 10,000 US troops in the country.

By Thursday, after eight days of counting, only about 1,000 ballot boxes had been examined, IEC spokesman Noor Mohammad Noor told a news conference in Kabul.

He conceded the process was moving forward slowly, partly due to staffing constraints over the holy month of Ramadan, and because it was not well organized.

“And there are still disagreements between both camps about the invalidation of fraudulent votes. For example, both camps ... argued for four hours over one ballot box,” Noor said.

The United Nations said it had been unable to get both sides to agree on a common text for scrutinising votes, which would allow for a recount once fraudulent votes are thrown out.

The scrutiny mirrors the “hanging chads” of the 2000 US presidential election, when George W. Bush won Florida, and in turn the presidency, by a few hundred votes after officials debated which absentee ballots and punch card ballots with hanging flaps counted.

Just over a week into the Afghan recount, the audit has already been suspended twice due to disputes over how the process is conducted.

The recount is the first step towards a new administration. Next, the two candidates must sit down and iron out a more complicated agreement — the composition of a unity government. The bitter standoff has quashed hopes of a smooth transition of power after Karzai.

In a bid to break the impasse, US Secretary of State John Kerry flew to Kabul to secure a political agreement with Ghani and Abdullah, a former foreign minister.

Reuters

Rise of Islamic State tests Syrian army strategy

KABUL / HELSINKI, 25 July — Two Finnish aid workers with an international Christian organization were shot dead on Thursday in Afghanistan’s western city of Herat, officials said.

The attack comes at a sensitive time as Afghanistan attracts votes from a disputed presidential election to pick a successor to the incumbent, Hamid Karzai.

Foreign troops have been in Afghanistan fighting the Taleban since 2001 but are withdrawing from the country this year, leaving Afghan forces to maintain security.

“The two women who were gunned down were working in the health sector for a foreign aid organisation in Herat,” provincial governor Fazullah Wahid told Reuters.

Two gunmen on a motorbike approached the aid workers’ taxi and opened fire, he said. Finland’s foreign ministry later said the women were Finnish, while the Afghan Interior Ministry said the two worked for International Assistance Mission, a Christian group that has worked in Afghanistan since 1966.

“The barbaric fate of the women affects us all. The act is particularly shocking as the women were in Afghanistan to help local people,” Finnish president Sauli Niinisto said in a statement. He said he had demanded that local officials do all they can to bring those guilty to justice.

In a separate incident, explosives attached to a motorbike went off in the northern province of Takhar, killing six civilians and wounding 28 people, the interior ministry said.

Two Finnish aid workers killed in western Afghanistan

Militant Islamist fighters on a tank take part in a military parade along the streets of northern Raqqa province on 30 June, 2014. —REUTERS

It has mainly advanced in Syria by capturing land from more moderate rebel fighters. But it is now clashing with the Syrian military more often, and the army has responded by stepping up air bombings on its positions.

In the short term, Damascus has not been too worried about ISIL, said a former Syrian diplomat who spoke on condition of anonymity. “In the long-term though, it must be a matter of great concern because it makes all the more difficult should ISIL establish itself semi-permanently, especially with its control of resources like the oil.”

“The crypto-fascist interest here interests both what is short-term and practical, and a long-term consideration,” the former diplomat said.—Reuters

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Two Finnish aid workers killed in western Afghanistan
Facebook goes express to mega-cap status — now valued more than AT&T, Coke

A man is silhouetted against a video screen with a Facebook logo as he poses with an Dell laptop in this photo illustration taken in the central Bosnian town of Zenica, on 14 Aug, 2013. REUTERS

Australia develops much smarter phone for the blind

SYDNEY, 25 July — Mobile smart phones for the blind and visually impaired have — until now — relied almost solely on clunky voice-to-text technology, but with the release, on Thursday, of the world’s first braille mobile phone, all that may be about to change.

With the evolution of touch screen technology, the blind have been left out in the cold with the extraordinary technical evolution of mobile devices. According to Brad Scoble, Director of OwnFone Australia, that door has now been opened with the “world’s first commercially available braille phone.” “Touchscreen technology is problematic ... ” Scoble said.

“OwnFone, in consultation with the blind and low vision community, developed a simple mobile phone without a touchscreen and one that users can personalize with braille buttons.

It’s not the first time mobile designers have reached out to the visually impaired. While the phone supports calls, texts, GPS navigation, object recognition, and some 100,000 audio books, Tom Sunderland, the inventor of OwnFone, says that personalization is the future of vision-impaired technology.

“The braille buttons are produced using 3D printing and customized for every customer, which makes OwnFone’s braille phone a world-first.”

Sunderland, based in UK said, “OwnFone is the first in the world to sell a braille phone which is personalized for every user.”

According to Sunderland, the cost of developing a braille phone versus the market size has previously been a barrier to entry.

“3D printing provides a fast and affordable way to overcome this barrier,” he said. Vision Australia estimates there are currently 357,000 people in Australia who are blind or have low vision. Providing services that cater to this disproportionately large segment has been a priority of successive governments.

The controversial National Disability Insurance Scheme (NDIS) implemented last year (providing support for the significantly disabled) reflects the commitment here to ensuring services for those disadvantaged by a disability are a policy priority.—Xinhua

Antarctic fish might survive ocean warming: New Zealand study

WELLINGTON, 25 July — A species of Antarctic fish might be able to survive the predicted warming of its native waters over the next century if the warming is gradual enough, according to a New Zealand scientist.

University of Canterbury researcher Charlotte Austin tested how the emblem rock cod adapted to warmer waters after being removed from its minus 1.9 degree centigrade habitat below the Antarctic ice.

The fish were able to fully recover from short exposures to temperatures up to 6 degrees centigrade, but long periods of time at 4 degrees centigrade was fatal, Austin said in a statement on Thursday.

However, if the temperature increase was gradual, all fish tested survived the 56 days of the experiment at 3 degrees centigrade and were able to successfully digest food, a vital physiological process for survival, she said.

The results provide some optimism for the survival of this species if ocean temperature in Antarctica does not exceed the predicted increase of 2 degrees centigrade over the next century.

Austin said Antarctic cod dominated the Southern Ocean and were vital to the food-web and ecosystem due to a wide range of predators, including whales, orca, seals, penguins and other fish.

Several species have been targeted by humans for commercial fisheries and the sustainability of the stock slumped, under-performing for 15 months before finally eclipsing its offering price of $38 in August 2013. Since then, Facebook shares have been unstoppable, doubling in less than a year.

“People understand the world is moving to mobile, and when you look at the time spent on mobile, Facebook has the lion’s share,” said Walter Price, senior portfolio manager and managing director of the AllianzGI Global Technology fund, which owned more than a million shares as of 30 June.—Reuters

Scientists to excavate Wyoming cave with trove of Ice Age fossils

Salmon (Idaho), 25 July — Scientists will begin excavation early next week of an ancient Wyoming sinkhole containing a rare bounty of fossil remains of prehistoric animals, such as mammoths and dire wolves, preserved in unusually good condition, researchers said on Thursday. The two-week dig, set to begin next Monday under the direction of Des Moines University paleontologist Julie Meachen, marks the first exploration of Natural Trap Cave in north-central Wyoming since its initial discovery in the 1970s.

At that time, scientists found that the 85-foot-deep cavern formed a natural repository for a rich fossil record that may date back as far as 100,000 years, but a full-scale expedition into the sinkhole has not previously been attempted.

The cave, formed by the collapse of limestone bedrock at the base of the Bighorn Mountains, became a tomb for thousands of ancient mammals that stumbled into the 15-foot-wide mouth of the sinkhole, then concealed by vegetation, and plunged to their deaths.

Conditions in the underground chasm, which widens to 120 feet at its base, are cold and damp, offering a degree of preservation for fossils generally associated only with those found frozen in ice in Siberia and the Arctic, Meachen said. “They fell into a refrigerator,” she said of animals such as camels, American lions, cheetahs, woolly mammoths and short-faced bears.

Meachen will lead a team of international scientists as they rappel from the outer rim of the cave’s opening — covered for decades by a metal grate installed by federal land managers — to the depths below, where they will load fossils into buckets to be hoisted to the surface.—Reuters
Malaysia official pledges to support Port Klang free trade zone

KUALA LUMPUR, 25 July — Malaysian Investment Development Authority (MIDA) would try its best to support the international trade in Port Klang free trade zone and preparation for Malaysia Halal Industry Park.

Ding Yuezhen, director of MIDA, said during a seminar on Port Klang free trade zone in Kuala Lumpur lately.

She said, after six years preparation, Port Klang free trade zone and halal industry park are in the last stage. She appreciated the contribution from SM International Wholesale (China) Centre, the projects operator, to the economic trade, cooperation and exchange between China and Malaysia.

She said, “as such a large project, its operation needs all parties’ cooperation and supports. We realized the problems it would face. Therefore, we plan to hold special meetings with Malaysia Halal Industry Development Corporation, customs office and immigration to clear the last hurdle for Port Klang free trade zone and Halal industry park’s opening, and also to provide the best investment environment for each entering company.”

Port Klang free trade zone projects operation seminars is held in Malaysia Industrial Development Authority.

Xinhua

IAEA says needs more money to monitor Iran nuclear deal extension

STOCKHOLM, 25 July — The UN atomic watchdog said it needs 1 million euros in extra funding to help pay for its monitoring of a four-month extension of an interim nuclear deal between Iran and six world powers. The request was made in a note to member states of the UN international Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) dated 24 July and seen by Reuters on Friday, six days after the extension of last year’s agreement was announced.

Iran and the six powers — the United States, France, Germany, Russia, Britain and China — agreed to continue talking after they failed to meet a 20 July deadline for a final accord to end the decade-old dispute over Iran’s nuclear programme.

The IAEA has a pivotal role in verifying that Iran is complying with the preliminary agreement, under which Teheran halted its most sensitive uranium enrichment in exchange for a limited easing of sanctions that are hurting its economy.

The short-term deal was designed to buy time for talks on a comprehensive agreement on the permissible scope of a nuclear programme which Iran says is peaceful but which the West fears may be aimed at developing an atomic weapons capability.

The IAEA said its workload increase significantly under last November’s preliminary accord, initially due to run for six months from 20 January but now prolonged until 24 November.

Its inspectors accessed Iran’s uranium enrichment facilities of Natanz and Fordow daily, compared to about once a week before. The agency also provides monthly updates to member states on how Iran is implementing its commitments.

IAEA Director General Yujiya Amano said in January the agency would nearly double the number of people it has working on Iran as a result of the November agreement. He then asked for about 5.5 million euros in extra voluntary contributions, money which diplomats later said it had obtained without problems in view of the deal’s political importance.

In the new note, the IAEA said it had received a request from the seven countries involved in the negotiations to “continue to undertake the necessary nuclear-related monitoring and verification activities in Iran” under the accord.

That would include monitoring of additional measures to be taken by Iran as part of the terms of the extension, such as Iran’s commitment to turn some of its higher-grade enriched uranium oxide into nuclear fuel for a Tehran research reactor.

“Continuation of the ... activities will require additional financial resources for the Agency,” the note said. —Reuters

Train hits school bus in India, killing 18

NEW DELHI, 25 July — A train rammed into a school bus at a railway crossing in southern India on Thursday, killing 18 people including 16 children and injuring 22 other children. Press Trust of India quoted police as saying the bus driver apparently did not notice the approaching train when driving across the railway crossing in Medak district of Telangana state around 9 am.

A district official said 13 children died on the spot and another three succumbed to their injuries on way to local hospitals. The deceased children ranged in age from 5 to 15 years. Both the driver and cleaner of the bus were also killed. A railway official told PTI that the injured have been taken to a nearby hospital.

A Telangana state minister said an inquiry will be conducted and action will be taken against those responsible. Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi expressed his deepest condolences to the families of the deceased.—Kyodo News

US lifts flight restrictions for Tel Aviv

WASHINGTON, 25 July — The US Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) has lifted its restrictions on US airline flights into and out of Israel’s Ben Gurion Airport in Tel Aviv. Before making this decision, the agency worked with its US government counterparts to assess the security situation in Israel and carefully reviewed new information and measures that the Israeli government is taking to mitigate potential risks to civil aviation, the FAA said in a statement on Thursday.

The FAA initially instituted the flight prohibition on Tuesday, in response to a rocket strike that landed approximately one mile from the airport. Then the agency extended the flight restrictions for additional 24 hours. The US State Department has been warning citizens to defer nonessential travel to Israel since early February this year because of safety concerns in Gaza. Long-range rockets launched from Gaza since early this month have reached many locations in Israel, resulting in negative impacts on the safety of aviation there.—Xinhua

The flag of the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) flies in front of its headquarters during a board of governors meeting in Vienna on 28 Nov, 2013.—REUTERS

IAEA says needs more money to monitor Iran nuclear deal extension
CLAIMS DAY NOTICE
MV THAI BINH 68 VOY NO (-)
Consignees of cargo carried on MV THAI BINH 68 VOY NO (-) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 25.7.2014 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of S.P.W-1 where it will lie at the consignee’s risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

SHIPPING AGENCY DEPARTMENT MYANMA PORT AUTHORITY AGENT FOR: M/S LINK EXPRESS PTE LTD
Phone No: 2301191, 2301178, 2301177

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE
MV STX PRIDE VOY NO (023)
Consignees of cargo carried on MV STX PRIDE VOY NO (023) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 26.7.2014 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: M/S BRIGHT SAIL SHIPPING CO LTD.
Phone No: 2301186

Rival Libyan militias clash in Tripoli, Benghazi

Tripoli, 25 July — Heavy black smoke rose over southern Tripoli on Thursday after rival militias exchanged artillery and rocket fire in a battle over the Libyan capital’s airport that has killed around 50 people in nearly a fortnight of fighting.

Sporadic blasts echoed across the city since the morning in clashes that have deepened fears of post-war Libya becoming a failed state, with a fragile government unable to control heavily armed militias battling for power.

Fighting in the capital and the eastern city of Benghazi, its heaviest since the 2011 war that ousted Muammar Gaddafi, has led most international flights to Libya to be canceled and has prompted the United States to pull out embassy staff.

A Health Ministry official in Tripoli was unable to provide details of Thursday’s casualties because he could not contact hospital staff in the area. One local doctor said at least 30 injured were at his hospital in Tripoli on Wednesday.

The Mitiga hospital in Tripoli said it was in an emergency situation because of a lack of resources and the inability of many employees to get to work due to the fighting and gasoline shortages, state news agency LAN reported.

Undersecrecy Libya’s chaos, acting Prime Minister Abdullah al-Thinni said on Thursday that he was prevented by militiamen from flying from an airport outside Tripoli. “Groups controlling Mitiga Airport prevented acting Prime Minister Abdullah al-Thinni and ministers from flying to the eastern city of Tobruk,” a statement from his office said. Mitiga, used mostly for military and oil company flights, has been opened to limited international flights since the clashes erupted and Tripoli International Airport was closed.— Reuters

Australia to send 100 extra police, troops to Ukraine

SYDNEY, 25 July — Australia will send 100 additional police and some defense force personnel to Europe to join a planned

Dutch-led international security force to secure the Malaysia Airlines Flight MH17 crash site, Prime Minister Tony Abbott said on Friday.

The Australian Federal Police (AFP) officers, some of whom will be armed, will join a contingent of 90 AFP officers already in London waiting for a deal with Ukrainian President Petro Poroshenko to be approved by Ukraine’s parliament. “This is a humanitarian mission, with a clear and simple objective,” Abbott told reporters. “I expect the operation on the ground in Ukraine, should the deployment go ahead, to last no longer than a few weeks.”

Abbott announced on Thursday that 50 police officers had been deployed to London ahead of the mission, but a police spokes-

woman said on Friday that the number was 90. It was unclear why the discrepancy had occurred.

On Tuesday, Abbott said that Russian-backed rebels who control the area were tampering with evidence on “an industrial scale” and argued that outside police or possibly military forces were needed to ensure that did not continue. The Boeing 777 was shot down last week in eastern Ukraine en route from Amsterdam to Kuala Lumpur, killing all 298 passengers and crew on board. Twenty eight Australians were killed.

Reuters
Venice film festival to kick off with black comedy “Birdman”

New York, 25 July — Mexican director Alejandro Inarritu opens this year’s Venice film festival with the premiere of “Birdman,” a black comedy that heads a 55-strong selection leaning heavily towards war and recession, festival director Alberto Barbera said on Thursday. As well as “Birdman”, starring Michael Keaton as a fading action hero, 19 other films are in the main competition, including “Manglehorn”, starring Al Pacino, “Good Kill” with Ethan Hawke as a disillusioned military drone pilot and Fatih Akin’s “The Cut” with Tahar Rahim, star of Jacques Audiard’s 2009 thriller “A Prophet”. Oscar winner Barry Levinson also directs Pacino in “The Humbling”, showing outside the main competition.

Rachel McAdams embarrassed by her ‘The Notebook’ audition

New York, 25 July — Rachel McAdams won millions of hearts with her performance in the 2004 romance ‘The Notebook’ but the actress looked embarrassed while watching her own audition for the film. McA d a m s, 35, starred opposite Ryan Gosling in the love story, which is hailed as one of the most romantic films of all times. She was seen blushing, with her head down, when she was shown her 10-year-old audition tape for the film at a TV chat show recently, reported The Huffington Post. McAdams reads lines from an emotional scene for director Nick Cassavetes and Ryan Gosling in the audition clip. Though she once called the moment ‘the best audition experience I’ve ever had,’ it did not save McAdams from embarrassment, who admitted she was watching the clip for the first time ever.

The film, based on the novel of the same name by Nicholas Sparks, released in 2004.

Brain power outwits Asian mobsters in sci-fi thriller ‘Lucy’

New York, 25 July — Gun-toting thugs and a vicious Asian mob boss are no match for the brain and brain of French director Luc Besson’s super-powered heroine in his sci-fi, action thriller “Lucy.” Besson is known for creating strong female characters in “La Femme Nikita” and “The Fifth Element.” But he goes a step further in “Lucy,” which opens in theaters in the United States on Friday, with an American student in Taipei who becomes invincible after the full power of her brain is unleashed. Scarlett Johansson (“The Avengers”) is Lucy, a woman tricked by a boyfriend into delivering a suitcase and becomes one of several unwilling drug mules dispatched around the globe by Asian mobsters. After a brutal beating, the powerful synthetic compound implanted in her stomach seeps into her body and gradually lets her access more and more of her brain power. — Reuters

Mamata Banerjee wants Bollywood to come to Kolkata

Kolkata, 25 July — West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee said she wants Bollywood to turn its eye to the state as it is a gateway to Bangladesh, Nepal, Bhutan and the north-eastern states.

“We want Mumbai to come here. Bengal is the gateway to north-east, Nepal, Bhutan and Bangladesh. Bengal will be transformed into ‘Biswa Bangla,’” Banerjee said while felicitating actors and technicians of the Bengali film industry with the ‘Mahanayak Uttam Kumar Samman’.

She said the state government has a vision and a mission and Hollywood and Bollywood would come to the state. “We have identified land for two new film cities. A TV studio will also come up at a six-acre plot in Baruipur,” Banerjee said.

The minister paid tributes to legendary Bengali actor Uttam Kumar on his death anniversary, she said when the actor passed away, some people thought Bengali cinema would be over. “But new talent has emerged. The golden era of Uttam-Suchitra in Bengali cinema can never be forgotten,” she said, adding, the golden era of Bengali film and television industry would return one day. — PTI

‘Hunger Games,’ ‘Divergent’ pushed aside for new Comic Con fare

San Diego, 25 July — Young adult film franchises have dominated the conversation at San Diego’s annual Comic Con gathering in recent years, but as the buzz-building convention kicked off on Thursday, the absence of established blockbusters has allowed studios to push new fare targeting a similar audience.

Without the star-studded film panels promoting November’s “The Hunger Games: Mockingjay - Part 1,” the next installment in the series starring Jennifer Lawrence, or next year’s “Insurgent,” the sequel to this year’s “Divergent” film, convention-goers will fill up on a new crop of dystopian thrillers.

“It does feel strange that there’s no big young adult panel at Comic Con this year, but what’s interesting is that there are some young adult-oriented panels that are going to pick up the slack,” said Dave Karger, chief correspondent of Fandango. The “Twilight” series, “Hunger Games” and “Divergent” have all been highlights at Comic Con’s main Hall H, where audiences are shown exclusive footage and studios organize promotional panels with stars and filmmakers. — Reuters
Former wine collector to forfeit $20 million for counterfeiting

New York, 25 July — An Indonesian man once considered one of the world’s top wine collectors has been ordered on Thursday to forfeit $20 million for selling millions of dollars of counterfeit bottles of wine to unsuspecting buyers.

Rudy Kurniawan, whose fall from grace made international headlines, was ordered to forfeit the sum by US District Judge Richard Berman. The order came at a hearing that was originally scheduled for his sentencing, which was delayed until on 4 August.

The delay followed arguments over how much in losses Kurniawan’s crimes had caused, a key factor in determining his sentence. The judge said he wanted more information.

Kurniawan, 37, was found guilty of 30 counts of wire fraud in June, stemming from a one-of-a-kind mail fraud scheme involving counterfeit wine, including National and Pancasani water heaters produced between November 2003 and January 2008.

The recall are 208 types of water heaters produced between November 2003 and January 2008. According to Panasonic, five complaints have been reported so far, none of them involving any injury.

Meanwhile, Kurniawan has agreed to settle a civil lawsuit filed by billionaire oenophile William Koch, who in 2009 sued him in a California state court as part of a long-running legal crusade against fake vintage wine.

The deal was disclosed in court by Kurniawan’s lawyer, Jerome Mooney. Brad Goldstein, a spokesman for Koch, confirmed the deal, which he said was resolved for $3 million in damages.

Mooney in an email said what Kurniawan ultimately pays Koch will be determined by the probate department. Goldstein also said Kurniawan had agreed to “provide full cooperation to help reform the industry.”

Koch, the founder of Oxbow Group, testified as a government witness against Kurniawan. He is the brother of conservative political activists, Charles and David Koch. Forbes estimates his net worth at $3.9 billion.

Prosecutors accused Kurniawan of operating a counterfeit wine factory out of his California home, buying empty rare bottles, printing forged labels and spending thousands on French wax to produce hundreds of fakes.

Mooney argued at trial he had acquired the fake bottles unknowingly and had been made a scapegoat for a pervasive counterfeit problem in the fine wine industry. Ahead of the sentencing, Koch was expected to seek $2.1 million in restitution.

Earlier this month, the billionaire reached a confidential settlement in a separate lawsuit filed in 2008 in New York state court against Acker, Merrill & Condit Co, a wine dealer and auction house that sold Kurniawan’s bottles.

“As I testified during Kurniawan’s criminal trial, I, like many others, was conned and cheated by Mr Kurniawan,” Koch wrote in a letter to Berman in May.

Typhoon Rammasun kills 62 in China

Beijing, 25 July — The death toll from super typhoon Rammasun in China has reached 62 with another 21 people missing, according to latest figures from the Ministry of Civil Affairs.

The strongest typhoon to hit south China in four decades has brought gales, downpours and floods to four southern provincial-level regions, affecting over 11 million people in Guangdong, Hainan, Yunnan and Guangxi, the ministry said in a statement on Friday.

A total of 862,000 people have been resettled and some 261,000 are in urgent need of basic necessities. Some 261,000 are in urgent need of basic necessities.

Panasonic to recall 1.03 mil water heaters

Osaka, 25 July — Panasonic Corp said on Friday it will recall about 1.03 million Eco Cute water heaters for free repair. Subject to the recall are 208 types of water heaters produced between November 2003 and January 2013 under various brands including National and Panasonic.

The compressors in these heaters could blow up due to metal corrosion, Panasonic said. According to Panasonic, five complaints have been reported so far, none of them involving any injury.

The “Amazing Spider-Man 3” gets delayed, to release in 2018

Los Angeles, 25 July — The fans of ‘The Amazing Spider-Man 3’ will have to wait longer as the web-casting superhero’s arrival in theatre has been delayed by almost two years. Sony announced the reshuffle in release dates at San Diego Comic-Con.

The film, which was first scheduled to bow in 2016, will now release in 2018, said the Hollywood Reporter. The studio has instead moved forward the release date of Spider-Man spin-off ‘Sinister Six’, which now opens in theatres 11 Nov, 2016.

‘Sinister Six’ is about the villains in the Spider-Man universe and tells the story of they try to destroy New York. Drew Goddard will write and direct the movie.
Wenger bemoans Arsenal's pre-season tour schedule

NEW YORK, 25 July — Arsenal manager Arsene Wenger was left fuming over the selection of new Manchester United boss Louis van Gaal in criticising the demands of their pre-season tour. Wenger said it was “impossible” to prepare his squad properly for the upcoming Premier League campaign, which begins on 16 August, given the demands of their pre-season schedule and players returning later than normal after World Cup duty.

Arsenal are in the United States for a friendly against Major League Soccer (MLS) franchise New York Red Bulls, before heading to Austria for a training camp and then returning to London for the Emirates Cup.

“These training camps in the modern game are decided for commercial reasons and because of the extent of popularity of the club,” the Frenchman told a news conference on Thursday. “We’ve never been to the States before and I was very happy to come to New York – a city I love. “But for purely football reasons, the best thing to do is stay and not travel too much because of the time you waste and the jet lag you suffer is not ideal.”

Arsenal are without a host of internationals following the World Cup and Wenger highlighted the difficulty in players briefing the intense domestic campaign so soon after returning from the tournament.

“This season is a post-World Cup year and very difficult because the time is very short between the final, which was on 13 July, and the start of the new season on 16 August. “And compulsory, from FIFA, you are obliged to give four weeks’ holiday to the players, so I don’t know how all that works together. It looks, to me, impossible.”

Wenger’s comments came days after Van Gaal said Manchester United’s pre-season tour was wrongly being dictated by the club’s commercial interests.

United beat Los Angeles Galaxy 7-0 on Wednesday, and now face games in Denver, Washington and Detroit.

Van Gaal’s team potentially face a fifth game on 4 August, less than two weeks before they kick off their Premier League season at home to Swansea City on 16 August. “More or less, yes,” Van Gaal told British media in the United States, when asked whether the demands were hindering their preparations.

Banned Suarez could make Barca debut in El Clasico

MADRID, 25 July — Disgraced Uruguay striker Luis Suarez, who is serving a four-month ban for biting an opponent at the World Cup, could make his Barcelona debut against Real Madrid in El Clasico in October.

La Liga announced its fixtures for the season on Thursday and the first meeting of the two Spanish giants will be on the week-