President says continuity of political process will help democracy thrive

NAY PYI TAW, 1 Aug—President U Thein Sein said in his radio message on Friday that his government appreciates the gathering of leaders of ethnic groups in Laiza, Kachin State, last month in a bid to enter a comprehensive ceasefire agreement, with necessary assistance being provided to make the gathering a success.

Speaking of the country’s transitional period, President U Thein Sein said efforts are being made to keep peace talks moving amid scores of obstacles and challenges facing political reforms. Despite differences in political points of view, political groups entertain a shared attitude that the continuity of this political process will help the democratic system take root and thrive, the president noted. President U Thein Sein admitted that his government has encountered political hardship and received complaints over the past three years, noting that this kind of hardship is not new during the period of transition to a new system from an old one.

No corruption cases sent to Anti-Corruption Commission: Supreme Court Judge

NAY PYI TAW, 31 July—No cases have been referred to the Anti-Corruption Commission since the adoption of the Anti-Corruption Law on 7 August 2013, Supreme Court Judge U Soe Nyunt told the Lower House on Thursday.

The Supreme Court Judge was responding to a question raised by a representative concerning complaints about bribery.

The Action Committee Against Corruption had sent three corruption complaints to the Office of the Chief Justice of the Union, he added.

Regarding a complaint against the township justice and joint township justice of South Dagon Township with accusations of bribery, no evidence or irregularities were found, according to the union chief justice.

There was also no “eye-witness” as requested by the government for another complaint accusing the office assistant of Kyaukdaga Township Court of taking K 100,000 bribe for a gambling case, but the assistant was transferred to another post as a warning, he said.

The union chief justice said there was no proved wrong doing in another case that accused Kyaukdaga Township Justice of irregularities, but the justice was transferred to another township.

A total of 13 complaints were received by the Office of the Union Chief Justice between 7 August 2013 and 22 April 2014. Out of them, seven complaints were found to have accused wrongly while the rest are still under investigation. As a result, no cases were sent to the Anti-Corruption Commission which would take legal action (See page 2).

Free show to mark 5th anniversary of Cherry FM in mid-August in Taunggyi

By Khaing Thanda Lwin

YANGON, 31 July—A free show to commemorate the fifth anniversary of Cherry FM will be held on 15 August at 5 p.m. to 9 p.m. in Taunggyi, the capital of Southern Shan State, with fifteen popular vocalists, aimed at providing special presentation to audiences in Taunggyi. U Than Htwe Zaw, General Manager of Cherry FM said on Thursday at the media conference in Yangon.

The fifteen popular vocalists are Sai Sai Kham Hlaing, R-Zar Ni, Han Htoo Htun, ThuO, G-Latt, AR-T, Ye Yint Aung, Waing Su Khang Thein, Thiri Swe, Nge Nge, Sandi Myint Lwin, Mi Sandi, Khin Su Su Naing, Htun Yati and Po Po Hay Tha.

The general manager said Cherry FM chose those vocalists who may present in the show in Taunggyi which is the native town of many famous artists, including popular vocalist Sai Sai Kham Hlaing, adding that the officials of the FM arranges to release new album as of 7th August by the Sun Music distribution.

Composer Za Wah, Production Director of Cherry FM, said those vocalists feel very excited to perform the show.

Cherry FM, one of the broadcast media in Myanmar, has been broadcasting its news and entertainment for 18 hours daily to about 27 million people in eleven states and regions of the country.

U Than Htwe Zaw said Cherry FM has a plan to extend a relay FM radio station in Bago Region this year on the fans’ requests and that plans are underway to provide 24/7 services at the end of 2015.

At the media conference, participant singer R-Zar Ni and AR-T also spoke words of gratitude to the attendees and made clarification on their preparations to perform the show.
Union Energy Minister meets US-ASEAN Business Council delegation

NAV Pyi Taw, 31 July — Union Minister for Energy U Zeyar Aung called on US firms to make more investments in the energy sector and open training centers for human resource development in Myanmar on Thursday.

In a meeting with a delegation led by Mr. Alexander C. Feldman, Chairman of the US-ASEAN Business Council at his office in Nay Pyi Taw, the Union minister said the ministry and business entities are conducting Environmental Impact Assessment and Social Impact Assessment and Cooperate Social Responsibility to minimize a negative impact on local people, ensuring improvement of their living standard due to inland and offshore oil and natural gas blocks. During the meeting, he also held talks with a delegation on the ministry’s update to the meeting were deputy ministers and officials and representatives from Exxon Mobil, Chevron, Caterpillar, GE, ConocoPhilips and Baker & McKenzie. — MNA

No corruption cases sent to...

(From page 1) against offenders under the Anti-Corruption Law, the union chief justice concluded.

Other topics discussed at the Lower House on Thursday included food safety and amendments of bills, including the Inland Water Transport Bill.

The Upper House session on Thursday focused on vehicle licenses, transfers of teachers to rural areas, and amendments of bills.

The ninth sessions of the Upper House and the Lower House concluded on Thursday, with remarks of speakers urging the representatives to keep in touch with local people in their constituencies and fulfill their needs even during the parliament holidays.

Course in Diplomacy wraps up

YANGON, 31 July — The graduation ceremony of a Course in Diplomacy conducted by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs was held at the ministry in Yangon on Thursday.

A total of 25 officers of the ministry attended the 11 weeks course.

The course was aimed at enhancing the ability and knowledge of the newly recruited junior officers of the Ministry. The curriculum included subjects related to political and security issues, international and domestic economies, cultural and social issues, protocol, consular and legal matters, communication skills, administrative and budgetary matters, diplomacy and ASEAN related matters. — MNA

Buildings constructed without permission to be demolished when new rules and by-laws of the City of Yangon Development Law passed

YANGON, 31 July — Buildings, which are constructed without permission of the Yangon City Development Committee, will be demolished when the rules and by-laws of the City of Yangon Development Law are passed by the Yangon Region parliament, according to a press release of the YCDC.

The YCDC exposed 2,021 cases of buildings which contravened the building regulations of the 2013 City of Yangon Development Law, the press release said.

Though the YCDC has issued contractor licenses at one-stop services, the number of buildings which are constructed in contravention of the 2013 City of Yangon Development Law is increasing, an official of the YCDC said.

As courts have been giving minimum penalties to the offenders, the number of offenders is increasing, said an official of the YCDC.

Under Section 68 of the City of Yangon Development Law, someone who erects buildings in contravention of YCDC orders may face a minimum fine of K10,000 to a maximum fine of K500,000 per day from the day they are found guilty.

The YCDC is reforming the law to give the law power to demolish any buildings even if not in time. Offenders could also face a prison sentence of up to one year or both, the fine and prison sentence.
Commission formed to choose suitable democratic system

Speaker of thePyidaungsu Hluttaw and Lower House Thura U Shwe Mann and Alexander C Feldman, chairman of the US-ASEAN Business Council, discuss investments and cooperation for economic growth for development of the nation.—MNA

Retaining walls constructed to save MyoU Pagoda in Lewe

Following a briefing, Senior General Min Aung Hlaing gave instructions on measures to restrain soil from erosion and make the most use of labour and machinery to ensure durability and speedy completion. He also called on Bhuddanta Koviada, a monk aged 96, at Gainghtauk Monastery in Ywama, near Lewe, and paid homage to the monk with offerings.

Last year, the MyoU Pagoda suffered from a soil erosion that destroyed a small stupa and a Bodhi Tree.—MNA

Ms. Yanghee Lee expresses her recognition and applause for progress in sweeping and far-reaching reforms dramatically achieved in landscape of political, economic, social and human rights in Myanmar

Press Release

Myanmar sets the promotion and protection of human rights of its people as one of its priorities while dramatically and speedily undertaking the reforms on the political, socio-economic, administrative fronts and on enhancing the role of private sector. It was in line with this priority that the Government of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar held a meeting at the Lower House Building here on Thursday, sources said.

According to officials, the commission has appointed U Tin Maung Oo of Shwepyitha constituency as chairman, U Thein Tun Oo of Amarapura constituency as secretary, and U Than Win of Taungdwingyi constituency as joint secretary.—MNA

In the existing 1982 Citizenship Law, it has been clearly mentioned that nationals such as Kachin, Kayah, Karen, Chin, Bamar, Mon, Rakhine, Shan and ethnic groups who settled in any of the territories included in the States as their permanent home from a period prior to the year 1823 are Myanmar citizens. Myanmar does not accept and recognize the term ‘Rohingya’ which has never existed in the country’s history. The question of citizenship will be settled in accord with the 1982 Citizenship Law.

At the same time, Myanmar is amending outdated laws and drafting new ones in line with the State Constitution, taking into consideration of the public aspiration, and to serve the interests of its people. In this respect, transparency is prioritized and fully exercised but also the desire of people is emphasized.

In the existing 1982 Citizenship Law, it has been clearly mentioned that nationals such as Kachin, Kayah, Karen, Chin, Bamar, Mon, Rakhine, Shan and ethnic groups who settled in any of the territories included in the States as their permanent home from a period prior to the year 1823 are Myanmar citizens. Myanmar does not accept and recognize the term ‘Rohingya’ which has never existed in the country’s history. The question of citizenship will be settled in accord with the 1982 Citizenship Law.

As Myanmar is sparing no efforts in building a democratic society with the people-centered policy, the people of Myanmar, enjoying their democratic rights, are also joining their hands with the Government. In the meantime, accountability and responsibility should be progressively developed and matured in proportion so that the goal of democratic society will be achieved smoothly and peacefully.

Myanmar has determined to continue to march unswervingly towards this goal and to conquer any difficulties and challenges on the path.

The international community should be in a position to see and understand the difficulties and challenges which a young democratic State has to face and overcome. The situation on the ground in Myanmar should also be viewed in a balanced and objective manner. It is also necessary to constructively support Myanmar’s reform process particularly on further promoting and protecting human rights for its people.

Ministry of Foreign Affairs
Nay Pyi Taw
Ooredoo SIM cards available at mobile shops in Mandalay District

Mandalay, 31 July — Ooredoo Communication Company allotted its SIM cards to mobile shops in Mandalay on 29 July.

The mobile shops depending on sizes sold 1,000 SIM cards in a few hours. However, some mobile shops sold K2,000 per card although the company fixed the cards worth K1,500.

Call charge is fixed at K25 per minute for Ooredoo SIM cards, K35 for Ooredoo card and SIM cards of Myanmar Posts and Telecommunications and Myanmar Economic Corporation and K25 per 1 MB data for applying for the Internet.

For the test-run period, Ooredoo SIM card users will enjoy 900 minutes free communication service between Ooredoo SIM cards and 900 SMSs, 90 minutes free from mobile phones with Ooredoo SIM cards to MPT or MEC cards and Internet service with 20 MB and Facebook free of charge.

Customers need to show copy of citizenship scrutiny cards for buying the SIM cards. Ooredoo SIM cards are fitted with 3G handsets. The company sells top-up cards worth K1,000, K3,000, K10,000 and K20,000 to the users.

Maung Pyi Thu (Mandalay)

Buildings to mark establishment of ancient Yadanabon city under construction in Mandalay

Mandalay, 31 July — Myanan Sankyaw Golden palace, the moats, Maha Lawkamarazin Kuthodaw and Maha Atula Wayan Atumashi Monastery were included in the list of seven great buildings in establishment of the Yadanabon Royal Palace.

Of them, Thudhamma public rest house, Golden Ordination Hall and Pitakat Chamber were destroyed in the bomb blasts of the Second World War. Wellwisher Thiha Thudhamma Mani-jotadhara U Kyaw Win and family of Mandalay rebuilt these three buildings by driving stakes for construction on 21 April 2013.

The wellwisher rebuilt the Thudhamma public rest house and Golden Ordination Hall without losing their original styles. Concrete posts were built in the places of ancient teak posts at the rest house. The posts were decorated with Myanmar handicraft works. Power lines have been installed at the buildings and streets have been constructed around the buildings.

Upon completion, the seven significant buildings of Mandalay will attract globetrotters.

So far, construction of buildings has been completed by 80 per cent.

Thiha Ko Ko (Mandalay)

Plans underway to sink 15 tube-wells in Natogyi Township

Natogyi, 31 July — Officials of the Department of Rural Development have chosen sites for sinking tube-wells in Natogyi Township of Mandalay Region for local water sufficiency with the assistance of the international community.

Under the arrangements of the Japan International Cooperation Agency-JICA, the department will sink five four-inch diameter tube-wells spending K101.31 million in Kyaungnan, Kyaungkangyi, Aungpagan, Handaw and Nyaungchaypaw villages.

Likewise, UNICEF will assist in sinking four four-inch tube-wells and one water tank in five villages, spending K108.40 million.

Plans are underway to sink five two-inch diameter tube-wells in five villages spending K20 million from the union budget.

Natogyi Township is included in Myingyan District of Mandalay Region, and it is one of the hot and dry townships in central Myanmar. The UN agencies and international communities have been providing hot and dry townships with water supply facilities.

Htay Myint Maung
HANOI, 31 July — The relations between the Armies of China and Vietnam will continue to witness new developments, a senior Vietnamese defence official said here on Wednesday.

The friendly military ties between the two countries will be important pillars for the relationship between the two parties and the two nations, which accords with the expectation and interests of the people of the two countries, said Le Huu Duc, Vietnamese Deputy Minister of Defence.

Duc made the remarks at a reception held by the Chinese Embassy in Vietnam on Wednesday to mark the upcoming 87th anniversary of the founding of the Chinese People’s Liberation Army (PLA).

Duc hailed the continuous development of China’s PLA in the past 87 years, as well as the PLA’s participation in both domestic disaster relief assistance and international humanitarian activities, as well as UN peace-keeping operations.

Over the past 60 years since the two countries officially established diplomatic relations, the bilateral ties withstand the test of time. The more hardship that the two countries have gone through, the more respect should be paid to the efforts on peace, stability, cooperation and mutual development, said Duc.

Speaking at the reception, Zhen Zhongxing, military attache of the Chinese Embassy in Vietnam, said China will adhere to the principles of “amicity, sincerity, mutual benefit and inclusiveness” and deepen mutually-beneficial cooperation with neighbouring countries.

China will also continue to pursue a national defence policy which is purely defensive in nature, as well as oppose all forms of hegemonism and power politics.

“In the new period, China’s PLA is willing to strengthen friendly cooperation with other countries’ armies and enhance mutual trust to contribute to maintaining world peace and promoting common development,” Zhen added.

Zhen said China highly appreciates the efforts of the Vietnamese government and army in searching for the missing Malaysian jetliner MH370, and China is willing to expand and deepen the exchange and cooperation between the two armies in related fields.

Zhen expressed belief that the two countries are able to deal with differences and existing issues through dialogues and negotiations with a spirit of mutual understanding, thus continue to contribute to maintaining the traditional friendship and comprehensive strategic cooperative partnership between the two countries.

Le Huu Duc, the deputy minister of national defence of Vietnam, addresses the reception to mark the upcoming 87th anniversary of the establishment of the Chinese People’s Liberation Army (PLA), in Hanoi, Vietnam, on 30 July, 2014. — Xinhua

Indian army gets new chief

NEW DELHI, 31 July — The Indian Army on Thursday got a new chief, General Dalbir Singh Suhag, after the incumbent General Bikram Singh retired from service.

The 59-year-old became the 26th Indian Army chief who will have a tenure of 30 months. He was earlier the vice chief of the 1.3 million-strong Indian Army.

Earlier in the day, during his farewell ceremony, General Bikram Singh said: “At the centre of any combat power is the soldier and our soldiers are the finest.”

General Suhag, a Gorkha soldier who took part in the 1987 Indian Peace Keeping Force operation in Sri Lanka, has a distinguished career record.

However, he got mired in a controversy in 2012, following a vigilance ban on him by then Indian Army chief General VK Singh in connection with an intelligence operation in Assam.

The ban was removed after General Bikram Singh took over in May 2012.

5.7-magnitude quake hits off PNG, Papua New Guinea

HONG KONG, 31 July — A 5.7-magnitude earthquake jolted 119 km Southwest of PNG, Papua New Guinea at 00:00:58 Beijing Time on Thursday (16:00:58 GMT on Wednesday), the US Geological Survey (USGS) said.

The epicenter, with a depth of 10.0 km, was initially determined to be at 7.1854 degrees south latitude and 154.8418 degrees east longitude.

S Korea’s main opposition party leaders resign for defeat in by-elections

SEOUL, 31 July — Co-leaders of South Korea’s main opposition party resigned on Thursday for a crushing defeat in the parliamentary by-elections seen as a mid-term referendum on the Park Geun-hye administration.

Kim Han-gil and Ahn Cheol-soo offered to step down from top posts of the New Politics Alliance for Democracy (NPAD), which won only four out of the 15 seats at stake in the parliamentary by-elections held a day earlier.

The ruling Saenuri Party won a landslide victory, raising the number of its parliamentary seats to 158 in the 300-member parliament.

Kim told reporters that he decided to resign to assume all responsibilities for the defeat, noting the party should have won the election. Ahn said he will quit the top post, which he held with Kim for four months, to take the responsibility, adding he will do his best for the party as one of ranks and files. — Xinhua

Fuel, food shortage N Korea’s ‘Achilles’ heel’

WASHINGTON, 31 July — A US official handling North Korean issues suggested on Wednesday that exploiting its dependence on China for fuel and food procurement could be a way to encourage Pyongyang to scrap its nuclear programmes. “This is the ‘Achilles’ heel of North Korea,” Glyn Davies, special US representative for North Korea policy, told a congressional hearing.

The shortages of fossil fuels and food are “some of the ways that we can use to put pressure on North Korea,” Davies told the Subcommittee on Asia and the Pacific of the House of Representatives’ Foreign Affairs Committee. Davies ruled out the possibility of meeting North Korea’s call to resume the long-stalled six-nation talks on its denuclearization which also involve China, Japan, South Korea and Russia. — Kyodo News
Japan railway reinvents image with anime-designed trains, sumo goods

KANAZAWA, 31 July — Hoping to attract more visitors to Noto Peninsula on the Sea of Japan coast, a local railway has been reinventing its image by decorating its trains with pictures of Japanese animation heroines and selling goods related to a popular local sumo wrestler.

Since railway operator Noto Tetsudo in 2012 introduced trains with pictures of female characters in popular Japanese animation series “Hanasaku iroha,” fans have flocked to the countryside station in Ishikawa Prefecture to take photos of the train.

The animation, set in Ishikawa, tells the story of a 16-year-old high school girl who starts to live in and work at an “onsen” hot spring inn operated by her grandmother.

Yunosagi Station in the series was modeled after Nishigishi Station on the Noto Tetsudo line after the animation production staff fell in love with the station’s Showa era (1926-1989) charm.

Kazuyuki Hachisuka, a director of the railway operator, was initially doubtful that the trains would become popular but he was eventually proven wrong.

Visitors to the station have increased since the anime was aired on TV in spring 2011. When the operator decided to put up a signboard for “Yunosagi Station” there, more than 300 people came on the first day.

Taking its cue from the popularity of the “Hanasaku iroha” train, the railway operator will introduce from Friday new trains with illustrations from two more TV anime series — “Glasslip,” whose story is set in Fukuji Prefecture, and “True Tears,” set in Toyama Prefecture, both neighboring Ishikawa Prefecture.

Noto Tetsudo has also targeted popular sumo wrestler Endo, who hails from Ishikawa’s Anamizu town. Anamizu Station, the last stop on the Noto Tetsudo line, began this month selling goods related to Endo such as a teacup with his portrait.

N Korea rejects US claim of religious repression, suggests action

BEIJING, 31 July — North Korea’s official news agency on Wednesday dismissed the latest claim by the United States that Pyongyang sharply limits religious freedom, suggesting that those violating the country’s law “under the mask of religion” will face tougher punishments, a possible allusion to detained Americans.

The Korean Central News Agency said the assertion in the US State Department’s International Religious Freedom Report for 2013 is groundless, saying “religious belief and freedom are fully guaranteed” in the country and “believers can freely practice religions at will.”

The State Department designated North Korea as among the “countries of particular concern” in the report released on Monday, saying that Pyongyang in practice “severely restricts religious activities, except for some officially recognized groups that it tightly supervised.”

KCNA said, “As long as the US persists in its hostile acts against the DPRK, the latter will inflict harsher punishment on those who commit crimes against the law of the DPRK under the mask of religion.”

The DPRK stands for the Democratic People’s Republic of Korea, the official name of North Korea. North Korea is known to have detained three US citizens, Kenneth Bae, Matthew Miller and Jeffrey Fowle. Two of their arrests could be linked to religious grounds.

Bae, arrested in November 2012, is a Korean American missionary. Fowle was detained in May for leaving a Bible in his hotel before his departure, according to diplomatic sources.

Miller’s detention since April is related to “his rash behavior” when entering the country, according to KCNA.

Greek embassy in Libya evacuated amid clashes

ATHENS, 31 July — An operation was launched on Thursday to evacuate the Greek Embassy in Libya amidst spiraling violence in the country, according to the Greek Foreign Ministry.

Greek navy frigate “Salamis” was en route to Tripoli to evacuate Greek Embassy employees and Greek nationals living in Libya.

The approximately 80 members of the Greek community in the country were notified that they can board the ship, as clashes between militias in the area escalated.
WASHINGTON, 31 July — The United States has allowed Israel, waging an offensive in the Gaza Strip, to tap a local US arms stockpile in the past week to resupply it with grenades and mortar rounds, a US defence official said on Thursday.

The munitions were located inside Israel as part of a programme managed by the US military and called War Reserves Stock Allies-Israel (WRSA-I), which stores munitions locally for US use that Israel can also access in emergency situations.

Israel, however, did not cite an emergency when it made its latest request about 10 days ago, the defence official said, speaking on condition of anonymity.

The United States allowed Israel to access the strategic stockpile anyway to resupply itself with 40mm grenades and 120mm mortar rounds to deplete older stocks that would eventually need to be refreshed.

“They didn’t ask for it from there but we gave it to them so we could rotate our stocks,” the official said.

Additional Israeli requests for US-manufactured ammunition were also being processed in the United States, the official said. The official did not offer further details on quantities or costs of ammunition already supplied or requested.

Israel’s embassy in Washington declined comment about the supply request, including whether it asked for the ammunition because of its operations in Gaza. Separately, US lawmakers were working in Congress to provide millions of dollars in additional funding for Israel’s “Iron Dome” missile shield.

The US Senate Appropriations Committee added $225 million for Iron Dome to a spending bill intended mainly to provide money to handle an influx of thousands of Central American children across the US-Mexico border.

According to the Gaza Health Ministry, 1,346 Palestinians, mostly civilians, have been killed since Israel began its offensive on 7 July with the declared aim of halting cross-border rocket fire and destroying the tunnel network of the Islamist group Hamas.

On the Israeli side, 56 soldiers and three civilians have been killed.

Hezbollah commander killed in Iraq

BEIRUT, 31 July — A Hezbollah commander has died during a mission in Iraq, sources familiar with the incident said on Wednesday, indicating the Lebanese group that is already fighting in Syria’s civil war may be involved in a second conflict in the region.

Hezbollah, an Iranian-backed Shi’ite Islamist group, has not previously announced any role in the conflict in Iraq, which escalated last month when radical Sunni militants seized large areas of territory from the Shi’ite-led government in Baghdad.

Four sources in Lebanon named the Hezbollah commander as Ibrahim al-Hajj, a technical specialist involved in training. They said he was “martyred” in a battle near Mosul, a city in northern Iraq seized by government control last month by an al-Qaeda offshoot known as the Islamic State.

Maliki promised in his weekly speech to the nation on Wednesday to end the threat from Islamic State. His funeral was held on Wednesday in the village of Qlya in the Bekaa Valley. A Hezbollah official contacted by Reuters declined to comment.

Hezbollah’s deployment in Syria has helped President Bashar al-Assad’s government firm up its grip on power by reestablishing control over a strategic corridor of territory stretching north from Damascus. The group says it is fighting in Syria against the threat posed by radical Sunni militants.

Assad is an ally of Iran and a member of the Alawite sect that is an offshoot of Shi’ite Islam. Tehran also has longstanding ties to Shi’ite politicians in Iraq.

Hezbollah was founded with Iranian help in the early 1980s and fought to drive out Israeli forces that occupied southern Lebanon until 2000. The most powerful group in Lebanon, it also fought a war with Israel in 2006.

Shi’ite militia hangs up 15 executed Sunnis in Iraqi square

BAGHDAD, 31 July — Iraqi Shi’ite militia forces executed 15 Sunni Muslims and then hung them from electricity poles in a public square in the town of Baquba, northeast of Baghdad, on Wednesday, police said.

With Iraq sliding ever closer to all-out sectarian civil war, a car bomb exploded near restaurants and shops in the capital’s Shi’ite district of Sadr City, killing 16 people, while another car bomb killed five in Baghdad’s Ameen district, police said.

A police officer at the scene in Baquba, a mixed Sunni and Shi’ite town 65 km (40 miles) from Baghdad, said he believed the gruesome display of the bodies was designed to warn Sunnis off supporting the Islamic State, an al-Qaeda offshoot that has seized swathes of land in an advance through northern Iraq.

The victims, who had been kidnapped over the last week, were shot in the head and chest and then hung up by cables.

“The militia forces are preventing the medical crew from taking down the bodies,” the police officer said.

“They are following a new tactic of keeping bodies hanging for a longer time to deter the Sunni population from backing the Islamic State. We asked them to let us evacuate the bodies but they refused.”

Even before Islamic State’s dramatic advance, Prime Minister Nuri al-Maliki’s Shi’ite-dominated government had already alienated many in the Sunni minority with what they saw as authoritarian government biased towards Shi’ites, prompting some to find common cause with Sunni militants.

The US-funded and trained Iraqi army unraveled in the face of the Islamic State’s sweep through the north, and violence in other parts of Iraq has increased since then, raising fears that the OPEC member will relapse into the dark days of sectarian civil war that peaked in 2006-2007.

Maliki is currently ruling in a caretaker capacity, having won a parliamentary election in April but failed to win enough support from the Kurdish and Arab Sunni minorities as well as fellow Shi’ites to form a new government.

On the battlefield, Shi’ite militias have stepped in to challenge the Sunni insurgents after Iraq’s top cleric called on his compatriots to take up arms against the Islamic State.

Maliki promised in his weekly speech to the nation on Wednesday to end the threat from Islamic State.
Job creation for young women is vital

By Myint Win Thein

Job creation for young women is an important issue in Myanmar, as some women have to support their families alone because their husbands have left them or their parents are seriously ill or too old to work. They have to work to support their family members by taking whatever job they can get.

However, almost all of them do not earn enough to support their families and have to work in the sex industry like massage parlours, night clubs, karaoke lounges and brothels.

According to a recent news report, there are many sex workers in Yangon. Many of them are from other towns or villages across the country and they lie to their families that they are working in factories or companies in Yangon when sending the money home.

In the booming sex industry in cities across the country, they earn more than in their previous jobs but they are subject to sexual harassments by their customers. Some of them who go to work in or are trafficked into neighbouring countries like China and Thailand are more cruelly exploited and tortured.

Most of them do not want to work in the sex industry but they have to work there because of the lack of education or jobs to support their families. They should be provided with capacity enhancement trainings so that they can work with dignity. These women should not be neglected and they must be properly protected by enacting laws and creating jobs in which they can earn enough.

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

Concentration

Kyi Mun

Concentration: The ability to direct all your effort and attention on ONE thing, without thinking of other things.

Concentrate: To give all your attention to something and not think about anything else.

Concentrated: Showing determination to do something.

Focus: To give attention, effort, etc. to one particular subject, situation or person, rather than another.

Focused: With your attention directed at what you want to do, with very clear aims.

The Importance of Concentration or Single-Mindedness

In religion we have got to single-mindedly concentrate our MIND on SOME ULTIMATE POWER; in Meditation we have got to concentrate our Attention and Effort on Some Universal Truth; in Warfare, we have got to concentrate all our resources on the Cutting Edge for winning the War; and in Business, our Passionate Focus must be on ADDING VALUE and Creating Wealth for all the Stakeholders.

Focus On Letting Go & Letting Flow

When we are relentlessly FOCUSED on Letting Go and Letting Flow, we tend to lose ourselves-our F-centered PRIDE together with HURRY, WORRY and SORROW, seem to FLOW AWAY. We just REMAIN with our Focused Concentration on LETTING Go. All the DISTRACTIONS of our mind Flow Away by LETTING FLOW.

A Concentrated Mind Is A Strong Mind

A Concentrated Mind is a Made-up Mind which cannot but be STRONG and CLEAR. A made-up mind has POWER. A totally made-up mind has a tremendous ENERGY and POWER in the forms of:

The FOUR POWERS of a Concentrated Mind

1.) The Power of Desire
2.) The Power of Spirit
3.) The Power of Energy
4.) The Power of Insight

Please note that DESIRE can be of different kinds. Here, we mean the Desire to be unconditioned by being CAREFREE. We must be CAREFREE not to hanker after the POSITIONS, POSSESSIONS and POWER that we have not really earned and thus we do not truly deserve to get them.

A Concentrated Mind Is A FREE MIND

By focusing our mind on letting go and letting flow, nothing that binds our mind remains. The mind, when clearly concentrated is FREE from all forms of BONDAGE. The concentrated mind becomes unburdened, and thus unconditioned by all kinds of external forces. The mind, when fully concentrated, is invulnerable to outside influences. It remains CALM in FREEDOM.

The WIND IS A FREE FORCE

The wind is free, independent and powerful, because it is always FLOWING. The WIND never STOPS at ANYTHING. It always flows on without being attached to anything or any place. So also the HUMAN MIND can be free, independent, and powerful if it is FOCUSED on Letting Flow.

Concentrate on LETTING GO & LETTING FLOW

Concentrating our mind on Letting Go & Letting Flow means unburdening and untying our mind. By letting go and letting flow, we can attain a state of mind in which every burden is dropped, and every bondage is burst asunder.
Singaing Township team wins championship trophy in U-20 football tournament

Mandalay, 31 July — Singaing Township emerged as champions with a 1-0 victory over Madaya Township in the final match of the Mandalay Region Chief Minister’s Trophy Inter-Township Men’s U-20 Football Tournament. The final match took place at Bahtoo Stadium on Wednesday afternoon.

Both teams could not break the deadlock of a goalless draw in the first half. Players of Singaing Township were in football possession more than Madaya Township in the second half, with Sagaing Township winning the match.

Officials presented the fair play award to the Chanayethazan Township team, best player awards in respective places to the winners, silver medals to players of Madaya Township team and gold medals to those of Singaing Township team.

Mandalay Region Chief Minister U Ye Myint awarded the championship trophy to first prize winner Singaing Township team.

Tin Maung
(Mandalay)

People receive medical treatment from health staff

Shwepyitha, 31 July — A health care team gave free medical treatment to local people in Shwepyitha Township of Yangon Region on 28 July.

Township Medical Officer Daw Mi Mi Khaing and health staff visited villages that are far from the hospitals and clinics in the township.

In Zigon Village, they performed medical check-up on 95 children and adults with the assistance of Maternal and Child Welfare Association and social organizations.

Thar Sein Daing

Earthen and glaze wares sold at toy pots festival in Mandalay

Mandalay, 31 July — A toy pots festival is held with the sales of small earthen pots for children in Ohbo Shwegyin and Padamyataw wards of Aungmyethazan Township of Mandalay from 2 pm to 7 pm on 8th Waxing of Wagaung, which this year falls in early August.

The festival is held before the Taungpyone festival.

Sellers from Nwenyein region of Singu Township from Mandalay Region, Inwa of TadaU Township, Khinthin and Sheinmaka regions of Shwebo Township, Myaung and Myimmu townships of Sagaing Region bring toy pots in various sizes, earthen wares, water pots, vases and glaze wares by boat along Ayeyawady River and sell the products one week ahead of the Taungpyone festival.

They also sell glaze and earthen wares at Taungpyone festival in Madaa Township and Yadana-gu festival in Amarapura Township. Moreover, they put the toy pots on sales at the three-pagoda festival on 82nd street between 29th and 30th streets in Chanayethazan Township.

— Maung Pyi Thu (Mandalay)

Priority given to traffic safety for people, students

Mandalay, 31 July — Deputy Head of No 11 Traffic Police Squad (Mandalay) Police Major Thein Ko Ko explained instructions of the Union Minister for Home Affairs, the Mandalay Region Chief Minister, the Chief of Myanmar Police Force and the Commander of Traffic Police Corps to his 205 subordinates on Tuesday.

The head of the squad explained that members of the traffic police are to take action against owners of unlicensed vehicles, to be free from bribery, and give priority to traffic safety of the people and students.

Tin Maung

Muse market fire destroys over 300 shops

Muse, 31 July — A fire broke out at the development market in Monepaw Village of Panghsai (Kyukok) Sub-Township of Muse in northern Shan State at 4.30 a.m. on Wednesday.

An electric shock caused an outbreak of fire at the noodle shop, blazing to his 205 subordinates on Tuesday.

Although there were no casualties, the fire led to a K8.3 million loss.

Thirty members of the auxiliary fire brigade, local authorities and 30 Monepaw militia participated in putting out the fire at 7.15 p.m.—Muse District IPRD

First prize winner Singaing Township team with championship trophy in Mandalay Region Chief Minister’s Cup football tournament.
Moscow fights back after sanctions; battle rages near Ukraine crash site

Russia says US accusations over nuclear treaty “unfounded”

Moscow, 31 July — Russia rejected US allegations that it has violated the Intermediate-Range Nuclear Treaty (INF) on Wednesday, dismissing Washington’s accusations against Moscow over its support for Ukraine’s rebels. The new EU and US sanctions restrict sales of arms and equipment for the oil industry, while Russia state banks are banned from raising money in Western capital markets.

G7 leaders issued a joint statement on Wednesday warning Russia that it would face added economic sanctions if Moscow does not change course on its Ukraine policy.

The statement from the leaders of the G7 countries — the United States, Canada, France, Germany, Italy, Japan and Britain — was a show of solidarity among allies. They expressed grave concern about Russian actions that have undermined “Ukraine’s sovereignty, territorial integrity and independence.”

“Russia still has the opportunity to choose the path of de-escalation,” the statement said. “If it does not do so, however, we remain ready to further intensify the costs of its adverse actions.”

In addition, the European Commission published the names of eight Russians, including some of President Vladimir Putin’s associates, and three companies that will have their assets frozen as part of the sanctions. The people on the list include Arkady Rotenberg, who is Putin’s long-time judo partner and has been on a US sanctions list since March.

Yuri Kovalchuk and Nikolai Shamalov — the two largest shareholders in Bank Rossiya, a St Petersburg company that expanded rapidly after Putin moved to Moscow and became president in 2000 — were also blacklisted.

The companies named include Russian National Commercial Bank, which was the first Russian bank to go into Crimea after the region’s annexation by Russia this year. The other two firms are anti-aircraft weapons maker Almaz-Antey and airline Dobrolyot, which operates flights between Moscow and Simferopol in the Crimea.

On the ground in Ukraine, heavy fighting between government forces and separatists has been taking place near the site where Malaysian flight MH17 crashed into wheat and sunflower fields on 17 July, shot down by what Washington and Brussels say was a missile supplied by Russia.

US envoy Kennedy to attend Hiroshima A-bomb ceremony

HIROSHIMA, 31 July — US Ambassador to Japan Caroline Kennedy will attend the annual ceremony in Hiroshima next week to mark the anniversary of the 1945 US atomic bombing of the city, sources familiar with the matter said on Thursday.

Kennedy’s attendance at the 69th anniversary ceremony in Hiroshima is expected to come after her first visit to the city since assuming her post in November.

Her predecessor, John Roos, became the first US representative at the 6 August ceremony in 2010. He also attended the event in 2012 and 2013.

Kennedy’s attendance at the annual ceremony in Nagasaki marking the 68th August atomic bombing of the city is also under consideration, according to the sources, who asked not to be named.

Last December, the envoy visited the United photo shows US Ambassador to Japan Caroline Kennedy. Kennedy will attend the annual ceremony in Hiroshima on August 6 to mark the anniversary of the 1945 US atomic bombing of the city, sources familiar with the matter said on 31 July, 2014.—Kyodo News

Nagasaki Atomic Bomb Museum and listened to A-bomb survivors’ accounts of the attack.

Putin still welcome to G20 leaders summit: Australian PM

SYDNEY, 31 July — Australian Prime Minister Tony Abbott said on Thursday he would like Russian President Vladimir Putin to attend the upcoming G20 leaders summit in Australia despite the constant hammering of international investigators trying to reach the MH17 crash site. The suspected shooting down of the Malaysia Airlines plane by pro-Russian rebels has triggered calls for Putin to be banned from the Brisbane meeting in November.

But Abbott believes it would be better for Russia that attended the important international event.

“I would like to be in a position for him to continue to attend,” he told local radio. “There will no doubt be a lot of water flow under the bridge between now and November.”

Australian Opposition Leader Bill Shorten said recently that Putin should be uninvited from the Brisbane G20 meeting because of his government’s “reckless and stupid” actions leading up to the MH17 disaster.

A woman takes a photograph of wreckage at the crash site of Malaysia Airlines Flight MH17 near the village of Hrabove (Grabovo), Donetsk region on 26 July, 2014. —Reuters

A woman takes a photograph of wreckage at the crash site of Malaysia Airlines Flight MH17 near the village of Hrabove (Grabovo), Donetsk region on 26 July, 2014. —Reuters

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A woman takes a photograph of wreckage at the crash site of Malaysia Airlines Flight MH17 near the village of Hrabove (Grabovo), Donetsk region on 26 July, 2014. —Reuters
European regulators training sights on Google’s mobile software

Google ranks its own services higher than those of its rivals in search results, according to two people with knowledge of the matter. Google's competitors have been investigating the search giant's Android mobile operating system for a growing list of regulatory challenges that complicate the Internet company's ambitions in a vital market. Europe accounted for more than $30 billion in digital advertising spending in 2013. The European Commission is likely to start a formal probe into Android once it wraps up an investigation into whether Google ranks its own services higher than those of its rivals in search results, according to two people with knowledge of the matter.

One of the sources said going after Android would help stem a growing chorus of complaints. Google struck a deal with Almunion in February by agreeing to display rivals' links more prominently, but the preliminary settlement was criticized as inadequate by rivals.

A deep-sea octopus (Graneledone boreopacifica) is shown on a ledge near the bottom of Monterey Canyon, California, about 1,400 meters (4,600 feet) below the ocean surface in this undated handout photo provided by Eurekalert.org. Reuters

A deep-sea octopus (Graneledone boreopacifica) is shown on a ledge near the bottom of Monterey Canyon, California, about 1,400 meters (4,600 feet) below the ocean surface in this undated handout photo provided by Eurekalert.org. Reuters

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Major fire breaks out at historic seaside resort in southeast England

Fire rips through Eastbourne Pier in SE England

Photo: Reuters

London, 31 July — A major fire has broken out at a historic pier in the seaside resort town of Eastbourne in East Sussex of southeast England, leading to quick evacuation and traffic control around the popular tourist site, local authorities said Wednesday.

Around 60 firefighters were called out at 15:13 local time (1413 GMT) on Wednesday to tackle the fire. “They are attacking the fire from the coastal side of the building, from the beach and from underneath the Pier,” the East Sussex Fire and Rescue Service (ESFRS) said in a statement.

The fire was believed to have started in the pier with a machine paneling in a part of the pier which houses arcade games. A large plume of smoke could be seen above Eastbourne.

Local police confirmed that the pier was safely secured and quickly evacuated and there was no one trapped in the fire when it broke out. No injuries or casualties have been reported so far.

Police were called to the seashore to assist service colleagues with traffic control and the large number of people who were on the seashore at the time or who have turned up to watch, according to Sussex Police.

A one-way system was put in place in the area around Eastbourne Pier to assist firefighting vehicles attending the major fire that has broken out on the historic structure.

“Police are asking drivers to stay away from the area and to be prepared for diversions or other traffic control measures if they have to use roads locally,” Sussex Police said, adding “The fire is not believed to be suspicious at this time.”

The ESFRS noted that a two-storey building on the Pier measuring around 30 metres by 50 metres was well alight. The building is 30 metres by 50 metres was well alight.

Firefighters were also being assisted by the Coastguard, the Royal National Lifeboat Institution (RNLI) and the South East Coast Ambulance at the scene.

Opened in 1870, Eastbourne Pier has a popular resort for tourists in the coastal town.

Seven killed, 13 missing in boat sinking in North Sumatra, Indonesia

Jakarta, 31 July — Rescuers have found seven bodies and are searching for 13 missing people after a boat with 47 passengers on board capsized in Labuhan Batu ULA district of North Sumatra on Thursday, official said here.

The accident took place after midnight in Bencubang river in Pana Hilir sub-district when the boat carrying people returning from a tour to visit their relatives in Kuala-Ledong sub-district, said Sutopo Purwo Nugroho, spokesman of national disaster agency.

“The boat was running out of fuel and was swept by the current. It hit a stave that make it destabilized and sank,” he told Xinhua via phone.

“Seven bodies have been identified and the 13 missing persons are being searched,” Sutopo said.

Visiting relatives are a tradition for Muslims in Indonesia during the Islamic festivity of Eid al-Fitr.

Rescuers from local search and rescue office, soldier and police are searching for the missing, he added.

“Boat, with its low cost, is a favourite transport mean in Indonesia, an archipelago country, but low safety standard has often led to fatal accidents. On Tuesday, a wooden boat with 60 people on board capsized in Kapanas river of Central Kalimantan, leaving 15 people dead, three missing, rescue said.

Xinhua
Ministry of Livestock, Fisheries and Rural Development

INVITATION FOR OPEN TENDER

We would like to revise our advertisement in Myanmar Ahlin and the Mirror dated July 14, 2014 as shown below. The Ministry of Livestock, Fisheries and Rural Development intends to procure the following packages of Trollergy and Drilling Machine:

Sr. No | Description | Qtv. | Remark
--- | --- | --- | ---
1 | Trollergy (China, Myanmar), Diesel, at least 90HP with start-motor 2012 Model and above them | 20 Nos |
2 | Drilling Machine 300m Depth | 20 Nos |

Where to Get Forms

The Tender Form may be obtained from the Directory of Livestock, Fisheries and Rural Development, Office No. 36, Nay Pyi Taw and Department of Rural Development, Office No. 14, Nay Pyi Taw during office hours from 0800 to 1600, Monday through Friday, except public holidays. Forms may be downloaded from the Ministry webpages: www.mlfrd.gov.mm (or) www.drdmyanmar.org or may be requested in writing to: info.mlfrd@gmail.com or drdmyanmar@gmail.com

Submission Deadline

Technical and Financial Proposals shall be submitted to the Procurement Committee at Ministry Office No. 36 in person from 0800 to 0900 on August 14, 2014. Proposals submitted after 0900 shall be rejected. All proposals will be opened at 1000 on the same day in front of all attendees.

More detailed information may be obtained from the below address during office hours.

Procurement Committee
Ministry of Livestock, Fisheries and Rural Development
Office No. 36, Nay Pyi Taw
Ph: (95) 67 408046, 409214, 408153, 408224
Fax: (95) 67 408223, 409029

Belin Industrial Alcohol Distillery Co., Ltd

Invitation to open tender

Open tender is invited for supply of the following items in kyat, including transportation and installation at Alcohol Plant, Belin Township, Mon state.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Sr.No</th>
<th>Tender No</th>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Remark</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>IFB-072(14-15)</td>
<td>Assorted Sizes of Ball Valves and Accessories</td>
<td>US$</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>IFB-073(14-15)</td>
<td>Spares for L-Type /ZW-Type Compressor and Dispenser (56) Items</td>
<td>US$</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>IFB-074(14-15)</td>
<td>Steel Wire Ropes for Sand Line and Casing Line</td>
<td>US$</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>IFB-075(14-15)</td>
<td>Spares for KB 150 Well Servicing Truck (10) Items</td>
<td>US$</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>IFB-076(14-15)</td>
<td>14” ERW API 5L Grade X-46, 3PE Coated Steel Line Pipe (45) Miles &amp; Hot Bends</td>
<td>US$</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td>IFB-077(14-15)</td>
<td>3.25mm/4mm/4.8mm Electrode (E 6011) (18) Tons</td>
<td>US$</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7</td>
<td>IFB-078(14-15)</td>
<td>14” Ball Valve Complete Set (2) Sets</td>
<td>US$</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8</td>
<td>IFB-079(14-15)</td>
<td>Heat Shrinkable Sleeve and Closure Patches</td>
<td>US$</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9</td>
<td>IFB-080(14-15)</td>
<td>100 KW Diesel Engine Driving Generating Set (1) Set</td>
<td>US$</td>
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<tr>
<td>10</td>
<td>IFB-081(14-15)</td>
<td>Spares for Kenworth Truck (15) Items</td>
<td>US$</td>
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<tr>
<td>11</td>
<td>IFB-082(14-15)</td>
<td>Spares for ATLAS COPCO Compressor (1) Lot</td>
<td>US$</td>
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<tr>
<td>12</td>
<td>IFB-083(14-15)</td>
<td>30” Foam Pigs (15) Nos</td>
<td>US$</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>13</td>
<td>IFB-084(14-15)</td>
<td>NDT Services for 30” Domestic Gas Pipe Line</td>
<td>US$</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>14</td>
<td>IFB-085(14-15)</td>
<td>Cathodic Protection System Installation for 30” Domestic Gas Pipe Line</td>
<td>US$</td>
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<tr>
<td>15</td>
<td>IFB-086(14-15)</td>
<td>Nitrogen Purging Services for 30” Domestic Gas Pipe Line</td>
<td>US$</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Closing date and time: 08.08.2014, 14:00 hr.

For inquiries to place an advertisement in the NLM, Please email: wallace.tun@gmail.com

Typhoon Nakri to move into East China Sea

Beijing, 31 July — Typhoon Nakri is moving from waters southwest of Taiwan Island into the East China Sea at a speed of 20 to 25 kilometres per hour (kph), said China’s National Marine Environmental Forecasting Centre on Thursday.

The storm is packing winds at speeds of up to 64.8 kph and is expected to get stronger. It will cause gusts and waves as high as six metres off China’s southeast coastal areas.

The centre has issued an alert to vessels near Taiwan, Shanghai and Zhejiang.

Typhoon Nakri to move into East China Sea

Advertisement & General

FORECAST VALID UNTIL EVENING OF THE 1st
August, 2014: Rain or thundershowers will be isolated in Lower Sagaing and Mandalay Regions. Kayah State, scattered in Upper Sagaing and Magway Regions and Shan State, fairly widespread in Kachin State and widespread in the remaining Regions and States with likelihood of isolated heavy falls in Bago and Taninthayi Regions, Rakhine, Kayin and Mon States. Degree of certainty is (100%).

STATE OF THE SEA: Squalls with moderate to rough seas are likely at times Deltac, off and along Rakhine Coasts. Surface wind speed in squalls may reach (35 - 40) m.p.h. Seas will be moderate elsewhere in Myanmar waters.

Weather report

PLA, Armed Police back graft probe of Zhou Yongkang

Beijing, 31 July — The Chinese People’s Liberation Army (PLA) and Armed Police fully support the decision to investigate Zhou Yongkang, the latest and highest-ranking “tiger” in the anti-corruption campaign, a military newspaper said on Thursday.

The Communist Party of China (CPC) announced on Tuesday an investigation into Zhou, a former Standing Committee member of the Political Bureau of the CPC Central Committee, for suspected “serious disciplinary violations.”

The decision reflects the CPC’s political resolve to purify and reform itself, the PLA Daily said on its official microblog on Thursday.

Officers across the army support the investigation, as it shows the resolution of the CPC Central Committee to operate with strict discipline and on the principle that all people are equal under the law and regulations, the newspaper said.

There will be “no exceptions” and no leniency meted out, no matter who is involved in violating laws and regulations, it said.

China’s top leadership has resolved to target both high-ranking “tigers” and low-ranking “flies” in the current anti-corruption efforts. The PLA and the Armed Police officers should always remain clear-minded and strictly observe discipline to guarantee a strong military.

Officers are reminded that Party members must resist the lure of power, money and beauty. Otherwise, ignoring discipline will eventually lead to crimes, the paper said.

PLA, Armed Police back graft probe of Zhou Yongkang

Weigher report
Allison Williams to star in NBC’s live ‘Peter Pan’ musical

NEW YORK, 31 July — Allison Williams, who stars in the HBO comedy “Girls,” will play Peter Pan opposite Christopher Walken as Captain Hook in the TV musical special “Peter Pan Live!” on NBC, the television network said on Wednesday.

The live television production of JM Barrie’s tale about a boy who can fly and never grows up will be broadcast on Dec. 4. It follows the success of last year’s live special of “The Sound of Music Live,” which starred country singer Carrie Underwood and drew an audience of 19 million.

“We think she will bring the perfect blend of boyish vulnerability and bravado to save the day against Christopher Walken’s powerful Captain Hook,” Robert Greenblatt, the chairman of NBC Entertainment, said in a statement.

Williams, 26, is the daughter of “NBC Nightly News” anchor Brian Williams.

It will be the third live “Peter Pan” broadcast by NBC, but the first in nearly 60 years. The network aired the original Broadway production, starring Mary Martin in the title role, in 1955. It was so popular the network did a second live broadcast in 1956 and later aired a taped production.

Beyonce posts Jay Z, Blue Ivy pictures to slam break-up rumour

LOS ANGELES, 31 July — Beyonce, who has been at the centre of break-up rumours, assured fans that all was well in her universe by posting a cute picture of her husband Jay Z holding their daughter Blue Ivy.

Beyonce often takes to Instagram to post pictures about her family life whenever she is hit with a rumour and when a new story that she was house hunting alone came up, Beyonce took to the photo sharing website again.—PTI

Paramount Pictures apologises for tweeting Ninja Turtle 9/11 poster

SYDNEY, 31 July — Paramount Pictures film studio apologised on Wednesday for a poster for its upcoming film “Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles”, showing the four characters jumping down from an exploding skyscraper underscored with a 11 September release date.

The poster went out in a tweet posted by the Australian Paramount Pictures Twitter account and also appeared on its official Facebook page, which has more than six million fans. Both posts received a barrage of criticism and were deleted, though some screenshots were still being shared on social media.

“We are deeply sorry to have used that artwork for the marketing materials promoting the September 11 opening in Australia,” Paramount Pictures Australia said in an emailed statement to Reuters.—Reuters

J Lo wants to date Maksim, but is cautious?

LOS ANGELES, 31 July — Singer Jennifer Lopez reportedly wants to get serious with Ukrainian choreographer Maksim Chmerkovskiy but is no mood to hurry things up.

The 44-year-old star and Maksim, 34, who was seen on an Indian dance reality show, have been linked with each other from past few months but the dancer has repeatedly denied any such possibility.

The pair is now contemplating taking the friendship to the next level, reported E! Online. The have been talking a lot and she thinks he is great, but she is being very careful. She does not want to get her kids involved in meeting another guy yet,” a source said.

Lopez has just been out of a relationship. She broke up with Casper Smart a month ago. Since then, the singer and Maksim have been spending time with each other. “There has been a date here and there, but really they are good friends before anything else. Maks asks her for advice and she thinks he is super-talented and very hot. Obviously that is hard to ignore,” the source added.—PTI
Glazers to raise $150 million by cutting Manchester United stake

Manchester United board members Avram (L) and Brian Glazer attend the English Premier League soccer match against Manchester City at Old Trafford in Manchester, northern England, on 23 October, 2011. — REUTERS

LONDON, 31 July — The Glazer family will make around $150 million (£86.6 million) by selling part of its stake in Manchester United although the deal will leave the Americans firmly in control of the English soccer club.

The Glazers, who bought United for 790 million pounds in 2005, are selling 8 million of their shares in the club which amounts to a stake of about five percent. Once the shares are sold, the six children of the late Malcolm Glazer will still own more than 80 percent of the club’s total shareholding.

None of the proceeds will go to the club itself, a fact that is likely to annoy some fans who have long campaigned against owners they accuse of burdening United with excess levels of debt following their takeover. The sale of the shares would create a more liquid market for United stock after a flotation on the New York Stock Exchange two years ago.

The shares were listed at $14 and have risen to a price of $19.31 on Wednesday, valuing the club at almost $3.2 billion.

United, English soccer champions, have been rebuffed after a poor season in which they finished only seventh in the Premier League, missing out on a place in lucrative European club competition in the coming season.

Optimism has been fuelled by the arrival of a new team manager, Dutchman Louis van Gaal, and the signing of a new sports equipment deal with Adidas worth a record 750 million pounds over 10 years. General Motors Co made a $559 million seven-year sponsorship deal with the club for GM’s global mainstream auto brand, Chevrolet, to appear on team jerseys.

The Glazers also own the NFL team The Tampa Bay Buccaneers. Family patriarch Malcolm Glazer died earlier this year.

The book-running managers for the share offering are Jefferies, BofA Merrill Lynch, Credit Suisse, Deutsche Bank and Nomura.

Temporary ceasefire in Tripoli, 75 bodies found in Benghazi

BENGHAZI/Tripoli, 31 July — Rival Libyan militias fighting for control of Tripoli’s airport agreed to a temporary ceasefire on Wednesday to allow fire-fighters to try to control a huge blaze at a fuel depot hit by a rocket.

Meanwhile in Libya’s second city, Benghazi, at least 75 bodies, mostly soldiers, were found after two days of fighting in which Islamist fighters and allied militiamen overran an army base.

The past two weeks of fighting have been the worst since the civil war that ousted Muammar Gaddafi in 2011, prompting Western governments to follow the United States and the United Nations in pulling their diplomats out of the North African country.

Two brigades of former rebels, mainly rooted in the towns of Zintan and Misrata, have pounded each other’s positions in Tripoli with Grad rockets, artillery fire and cannon, turning the south of the capital into a battlefield. But except for sporadic shelling away from the ceasefire zone near the international airport, Wednesday was the quietest day in the capital for two weeks.

“Many mediators have succeeded in convincing the militias to stop fighting, at least temporarily,” government spokesman Ahmed Lamin said. “They are trying to get them to the negotiating table, we hope they will agree.”

France nevertheless closed its embassy on Wednesday, and evacuated 30 French nationals from Tripoli, a few days after the US Embassy evacuated its staff across the Tunisian border under heavy military escort. It was unclear if the blaze at the airport depot, which supplies millions of liters of gasoline and gas to the capital, was under control on Wednesday, although the volume of smoke had lessened.

A spokesman for the state-run National Oil Corporation, one of the tasks’ operator, Brega Oil company, said he did not yet have any update on the situation.

AMC Networks in talks to buy slice of BBC America—WSI

New York, 31 July — AMC Networks Inc is in talks to take a minority stake in BBC America, the Wall Street Journal on Wednesday cited people familiar with the matter as saying, in a deal that will team two smaller production houses known for high-quality programming.

AMC, known for “Breaking Bad” and “The Walking Dead,” and BBC America have been in talks for several months, the paper cited the unidentified sources as saying.

Under a deal being discussed, AMC would represent BBC America in distribution negotiations with pay-TV operators, the Journal cited one of the people as saying, giving AMC the chance to increase its presence in US households and raise the fee it receives from operators.

BBC America’s shows include “Doctor Who” and “Orphan Black.” AMC and BBC America were not immediately available for comment.
Grenada’s James lights up Glasgow with emphatic 400 win

Glasgow, 31 July — Olympic champion Kirani James lit up the Commonwealth Games with a devastating and graceful run to win gold in the men’s 400 metres on Wednesday.

In a Games hampered by big-name withdrawals and weakened fields, the arrival of the powerful Grenadian was a welcome sight at a wet and windy Hampden Park. James took charge of the final from the start and looked in complete control as he finished in a Games record time of 44.24 seconds ahead of South Africa’s Wayde van Niekerk and Trinidad and Tobago’s Lalonde Gordon.

“I expected to have a great performance,” James told reporters. “I can’t predict the outcome of the event but all I am doing is coming out here and try my best. “Every champion, every accolade, is unique in its own way and these Games are different. I think the crowd really makes it special; the stadium was full at 10am, that says something about Scotland and how much they appreciate track and field.”

The 21-year-old James has won Olympic and world championship gold, but he said talk of breaking American Michael Johnson’s world record time of 43.18 was premature.

“I’m going to be 22 in September,” James said. “Michael Johnson set the record when he was nearly 32 I’ve got 10 years to work with.”

Greg Rutherford, England’s Olympic long jump champion, provided further delight for the Hampden Park crowd when the self-proclaimed “Ginger Wizard” posed for selfies after leaping 8.20 to win his first Commonwealth gold.

“It’s never an easy road and after what happened last year with injury I wasn’t sure if I could carry on jumping. Now I’ve managed to come away with another title,” Rutherford told the BBC.

“I think a few people had written me off thinking I was a one-hit wonder. But I’m here again and will be here again many more times. I want to keep going out there jumping far and wide more.”

JAVELIN TITLE

New Zealand’s double Olympic shot put champion Valerie Adams claimed her third Commonwealth gold medal with a throw of 19.88 and Australia’s Kim Mickle won the women’s javelin title thanks to a Games record throw of 65.96.

With England’s Olympic champion Jessica Ennis-Hill recently giving birth and Katarina Johnson-Thompson pulling out of the Games with a foot injury, Canada’s Brianne Theisen-Eaton had little trouble in claiming the women’s heptathlon title.

Theisen-Eaton, wife of Olympic decathlon champion Ashton Eaton, finished at the U.S. Open in 2007. “Well, I broke the world record for fastest serve on @WTA...,” Lisicki tweeted after her defeat.

Defending champion Dominika Cibulkova was another first round loser in Stanford on Tuesday, going down 6-2, 4-6, 6-2 to 20-year-old Spaniard Garbine Muguruza.

The fastest serve ever recorded on approved equipment in professional tennis was the 263.4 kph (163.7 mph) rocket hit by Australian Sam Groth at the U.S. Open in 2007. 

Former Dutch international Frank Rijkaard and the former Tottemham Hotspur and Fulham coach Martin Jol have also been reported as possible candidates for the vacant position. 

Lee Yong-soo told reporters at the national training centre in Paju, north of Seoul, the committee had considered 17 local and 30 foreign coaches to come up with their shortlist.

Hong Myung-bo resigned as coach after South Korea’s woeful World Cup campaign in Brazil, where they earned only one point and finished bottom of their group.

“We came up with a list of candidates and selected three coaches to give priority to,” said Lee, who also headed the committee in 2002 when Guus Hiddink coached the Koreans to fourth place at the World Cup on home soil.

“All three are foreign coaches. One Korean coach met the requirements but after the technical committee discussion we have decided to rule him out this time.”

“The KFA will begin contacting the three foreign coaches starting next week. We won’t disclose their names.”

Lee said earlier this week that experience, whether at international or domestic level, would be a top priority for South Korea’s new coach.

Neil Lennon, the former manager of Celtic, has been linked with the post in various media reports.

Lennon worked with South Korean players Ki Sung-yong and Cha Du-ri at the Scottish champions.

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South Korea have enjoyed mixed success under foreign coaches, with Hiddink and compatriot Dick Advocaat getting the best out of them while others such as Pim Verbeek, Humberto Coelho and Jo Bonfere have failed to deliver.

Dutchman Verbeek was the last foreigner to coach Korea.

He resigned after leading them to third place at the 2007 Asian Cup.