Union gov’t holds 2014 four-monthly meeting to review reform process

Export figures decline in 1st 4 months of new fiscal year

President U Thein Sein says while the reform process has produced some results, more needs to be done especially in the health and education sectors.—MNA

The meeting focused on increased coordination between the union government, state and region governments, and self-rulled regions and areas.

The president said that the government is pushing to reform politics, the economy and social-economic life, as well as developing administrative mechanisms and improving the private sector by adopting strategic plans.

He also reminded officials that the present administration will remain in office for another year during which the development momentum should be increased.

The president said that the political reform processes will result in a (See page 3)

Suspected Ebola patient in isolation ward in Yangon: Health Ministry

By Ye Myint

Yangon, 20 Aug.— A Myanmar national was placed in isolation at a specialist hotel in Yangon on Tuesday evening after arriving back at Yangon International Airport from West Africa with high fever, according to an official from the Ministry of Health on Wednesday.

Preparations are being made to send blood samples taken from the man to a virology lab in India’s city of Pune to test it for Ebola, with four others who were in close contact with the man also getting their blood tested, the ministry said.

A rapid response team at the airport singled the man out after a screening test showed that he was suffering from high fever, with officials saying he might be infected with the virus.

The Myanmar citizen flew into Yangon from Bangkok at 8pm on Tuesday, returning home from Africa, where he had worked for 13 months in the two countries worst affected by Ebola—Guinea and Liberia.

The man is now in an isolation ward at Waibargi specialist hospital in North Okalapa Township in Yangon for testing, with four other people who accompanied him also in quarantine in the same hospital.

“It is not confirmed yet that the suspected patient has Ebola as we will first have to send the blood samples to India and then wait for the test results which will take four days at least”, Dr. Tun Tin of the ministry told The New Light of Myanmar.

“The suspect is not in critical condition and his four close contacts seem to be in good health showing no symptoms of illness. They are isolated separately and being treated by health professionals in protection uniform”, he added.  (See page 3)

Export figures declined from $199m last year, while mineral products enjoyed an increase by $29m from exports, which stood at $179m last fiscal year but rose to $208m this year.

There was a growth in exports of finished products, reaching over $1.7 billion in the first four months of this fiscal year, up from $1.6b the same period last year.

Exports of other items, whose specification is unavailable, boasted a dramatic surge of $405m, making this year’s earning total $538m in the same period last year, the earning just stood at $135m.

The Ministry of Commerce announced on its website that both exports and imports by ship experienced increases in the first four months of this fiscal year, with $200m and US$1.6b respectively.

Exports from border trade rose by $63m, an increase from around $799m last fiscal year to around $862m this fiscal year. The ministry posted earnings of $88m from border trade import in the months of April, May, June, July and the first eight days in August, according to the Commerce Ministry.

NM
Accommodation and food for 46th AEMM discussed

Ministry of Hotels and Tourism discusses accommodation and service for delegates to 46th ASEAN Economic Ministers’ Meeting.—MNA

NAO PIV TAW, 20 Aug—A coordination meeting for accommodation and food for guests attending the 46th ASEAN Economic Ministers’ Meeting and related meetings to be held from 23 to 28 August took place at the meeting hall of the Ministry of Hotels and Tourism on Wednesday.

The meeting was attended by Deputy Ministers Dr Tin Shwe and Dr Sai Kyaw Ohn and hotel managers and focused on providing accommodation, arranging dinners and food services during the meetings. —MNA

Thailand provides Myanmar with US $200,000 for humanitarian aid in Rakhine

By Aung Khin

YANGON, 20 Aug—The Deputy Chief of the National Council for Peace and Order (NCOP) Supreme Commander General Thanask Patimaparakorn on Tuesday in Bangkok gave US $200,000 to Myanmar Ambassador to Thailand U Win Maung for humanitarian programmes in Rakhine State, western Myanmar.

According to a report by the Thai News Agency (TNA), the fund will be used to improve the public health system, develop agriculture and lift the standard of living for the residents in the western Myanmar state.

The Myanmar ambassador expressed his gratitude to the Thai government for the money, as well as for the new policies on Myanmar migrant workers and for facilitating imported farm products from Myanmar through border passes.

The Thai economy is largely relying on migrant workers to work in a wide range of sectors, from sea-food to construction.

An estimated one to two million of Myanmar immigrants are working in Thailand. A survey conducted by the International Organization of Migration (IMO) in 2013 showed that 80 percent of Myanmar workers in Thailand want to return home, and 41 percent of them will do so within the next five years.

Based on these figures, IMO pointed out that Thailand could face a shortage of over five million workers by 2025.

Myanmar, Thailand sign MoU on cooperation in trade promotion, development of MICE

By Khaing Thanda Lwin

YANGON, 20 Aug—A MoU was signed by Myanmar and Thailand on Tuesday, aimed at further improving and expanding trade promotion and development of MICE, which stands for meetings, incentives, conventions and exhibitions.

U Myo Thet, Vice-President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar Federation of Chambers of Commerce and Industry, and Mr. Nopparat Maythaveekulchai, President of Thailand Convention and Exhibition Bureau (TCEB), signed the MoU at UMFCCCI office tower in Yangon.

“TCEB’s mission is to support the connections and linkages through meetings, incentives, conventions and exhibitions. TCEB will do our utmost to further improve and expand trade promotion and the MICE industry in many ways.”

U Myo Thet, Vice-President of UMFCCCI and President Mr. Nopparat Maythaveekulchai of TCEB exchange documents on trade promotion between the two countries.

This includes encouraging public and private sector delegations and missions, to deepen engagement and expand collaboration in preparation for the AEC integration in 2015,” Mr. Nopparat said.

According to U Myo Thet, “The MoU sets up an undertaking between the two organizations to further improve and enhance trade promotion. We invite responsible and ethical businesses to take part in our new era of economic development and share the opportunities on a win-win basis.”

According to a list of foreign investment (FDI) among 33 countries, Thailand ranks second in bilateral trade and border trade, with “vast opportunities for TCEB to engage in trade promotional activities”.

In his remark on the occasion, Mr. Pisanu Suwanajata, Royal Thai Ambassador to Myanmar, said that Myanmar is becoming a major economic hub of South-East Asia, with an average of 6.8 per cent of annual economic growth that is projected to increase to 8.9 per cent in the next year.

“The exposure of Myanmar as an emerging economy through road shows, and trade exhibitions will serve as an important platform to promote businesses, trade, tourism and investment, all of which were set as national strategic goals of Myanmar” he said.

The Royal Thai Embassy will extend its full support to promote co-operation between Thailand and Myanmar, “for we are not only immediate neighbours and members of the ASEAN family, but we are also partners that must move forward together, toward mutual progress and prosperity,” the ambassador added.—NLM

Republic of the Union of Myanmar
The Pyidaungsu Hluttaw Notification No. (6/2014)
10th Waning of Wagaung, 1376 ME
(20 August, 2014)

11th regular session of first Pyidaungsu Hluttaw summoned

In accord with Section 79 of the Constitution of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar, Section 13 of the Pyidaungsu Hluttaw Law and Sub-section (b) of the Section 3 of the Pyidaungsu Hluttaw Rules, it is hereby announced that the 11th regular session of the first Pyidaungsu Hluttaw is summoned at 13 hours on the 3rd Waning of Tawthalin, 1376 ME (11 September 2014) (Thursday).

Sd/ Thura Shwe Mann Speaker Pyidaungsu Hluttaw

Republic of the Union of Myanmar
The Pyithu Hluttaw (Lower House)
Notification No. (2/2014)
10th Waning of Wagaung, 1376 ME
(20 August, 2014)

11th regular session of first Pyithu Hluttaw summoned

In accord with Section 126 of the Constitution of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar, Section 35 of the Pyithu Hluttaw Law and Sub-section (b) of the Section 3 of the Pyithu Hluttaw Rules, it is hereby announced that the 11th regular session of the first Pyithu Hluttaw is summoned at 10 hours on the 3rd Waning of Tawthalin, 1376 ME (11 September 2014) (Thursday).

Sd/ Thura Shwe Mann Speaker Pyithu Hluttaw

Republic of the Union of Myanmar
The Amyotha Hluttaw (Upper House)
Notification No. (2/2014)
10th Waning of Wagaung 1376 ME
(20 August, 2014)

11th regular session of first Amyotha Hluttaw summoned

In accord with Section 155 of the Constitution of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar and Section 35 of the Amyotha Hluttaw Law, it is hereby announced that the 11th regular session of the first Amyotha Hluttaw is summoned on the 3rd Waning of Tawthalin, 1376 ME (11 September 2014) (Thursday).

Sd/ Khin Aung Myint Speaker Amyotha Hluttaw

Notification No. (6/2014)
10th Waning of Wagaung, 1376 ME
(20 August, 2014)

ME (11 September 2014) (Thursday).
Union govt holds...

(from page 1)

nationwide ceasefire, with progress made on the peace talks.

Regarding economic reform, the trade volume of the country has increased from 15.27 billion in the 2010-2011 fiscal year to 24.96 billion in the 2013-2014 fiscal year, while the investment sector amounted to US$205.07 million in the 2010-2011 fiscal year and $4.17 billion in 2014. These figures do not include the electricity, energy and mining sectors.

U Thein Sein also said that the government will develop people-centric administrative mechanisms which will take into account public voices through “delivery units at grass-roots level”.

The government has relaxed laws, by-laws and regulations of government departments, and implemented rural development projects and is working on decentralization of power.

The president also called for an end to “chronic bribery and corruption in the civil service sector”, as well as effective plans to develop the education and health sector.

He then urged to handle communal violence in Rakhine State with care as the international community is regarding that point as a major weakness of the government during the transition period.

The president said that long and short-term systematic plans are required to achieve immediate results by linking state/region governments, private sectors and social organizations.

U Thein Sein urged members of state/region governments to work hard to get Myanmar off the list of the 49 ‘least development countries’ which includes fellow ASEAN members Laos and Cambodia.

He also said the “problem of having homeless people and squatters” is of concern for the government which “needs to handle them with law enforcement and problem-solving actions”.

At the meeting, Vice President Dr Sai Mauk Kham highlighted the importance of interrelation between politics, the economy, executive and private sectors.

He said that other countries have hailed the political reform process of Myanmar, including the amendments of laws regarding the electoral system and formation of political parties, the development of media freedom, the release of political prisoners and the peacemaking processes.

Vice President U Nyan Tun discussed the fixed plans and objectives of the ongoing transition period.

Participation of media in reform process and development tasks discussed

NAY PYI TAW, 20 Aug — Speaker of the Pyithu Hluttaw (Lower House) Thura U Shwe Mann received Vice Chairman of Myanmar Press Council (Interim) U Khin Maung Lay (Po Thaukkyar-Kyi) and party at Zabuthiri Hall of the Hluttaw Complex in Nay Pyi Taw on Wednesday to hold talks about the media reform process and development tasks of the nation.

The meeting was also attended by chairman of Hluttaw committees and members, and Secretary of the MPC (Interim).—MNA

Vice-President U Nyan Tun explains infrastructural developments programmes.—MNA

Vice-President Dr Sai Mauk Kham says the international community is acknowledging the reforms.—MNA

Vice-Senior General Soe Win and military delegation at the Central Museum of the Great Patriotic War at Victory Park in Russia.—MYAWADY

MPs urged to contact Pyithu Hluttaw and Amyotha Hluttaw Offices to register for new session

NAY PYI TAW, 20 Aug — As the Speakers of the Pyithu Hluttaw and Amyotha Hluttaw (Lower and Upper Houses) have summoned the 11th regular session of the first Pyithu Hluttaw and Amyotha Hluttaw to be convened at 10 a.m. on 11 September 2014, an invitation has been extended to the Pyithu Hluttaw and Amyotha Hluttaw representatives.

The Pyithu Hluttaw and Amyotha Hluttaw representatives are to contact the Pyithu Hluttaw Office and Amyotha Hluttaw Building 1-19 in Nay Pyi Taw on 9 and 10 September and must present their MP certificates and MP IDs, according to the Pyithu Hluttaw and Amyotha Hluttaw Offices.

MNA

Suspected Ebola patient . . .

(from page 1)

Myanmar News Agency reported that the Myanmar Centre for Disease Control and Prevention has disinfecting the airplane that carried the suspected patient and also the luggage conveyer belt. Safety and precautionary measures for airport employees have also been carried out at the airport, according to the report.

The Health Ministry has announced it is monitoring all points of entry into the country for the deadly Ebola virus, including Yangon International Airport where fever surveillance, including infrared thermal scanning is being undertaken. In cooperation with UN agencies and local and international organizations, infection control programs are being carried out at the main health facilities in the country, officials said.

NLM
Groundnut production thrives in Natogyi due to monsoon

**Natogyi, 20 Aug —** With daily scattered rains, monsoon groundnut plantations are now thriving in Htanzin village of Natogyi Township of Mandalay Region, with a good harvest expected, locals said.

Farmer U Han Tun estimated that his groundnut plantation may produce 60 baskets per acre if the weather conditions remain the same. “If the showers increase, my groundnut plantation will yield over 80 baskets per acre,” he said, adding that he only uses “natural fertilizers on the farm”.

“In fact, groundnut can produce 100 baskets per acre on these farms regularly. This year, the hot and dry season caused a decline of per-acre yield. I will harvest my groundnut plantations in October. After that, I will cultivate groundnut once more in the cold season,” the farmer said.

Khin Zar Mon Myint (Law)

Arts contest held at pre-primary school in Shwebo

**Shwebo, 20 Aug —** Shwebo Pre-Primary School under the Social Welfare Department of the Ministry of Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement held a student arts contest in Shwebo of Sagaing Region on Tuesday.

Principal Daw Khin Mar Htoo and teachers supervised the contest participated by 66 students, with officials giving first, second and third prizes to the winners and choosing two consolation prize winners.

Shwebo Pre-Primary School admits students under the age of five according to timetables designated by the Social Welfare Department.

Kyaw Zaw

Table tennis tournament under the auspices of Higher Education Department kicks off

**Mandalay, 20 Aug —** The men’s invitational table tennis tournament for universities and colleges, organized by the Higher Education Department of Upper Myanmar, kicked off at the open shed of Mandalay University in Mandalay on Tuesday.

Deputy Director-General Dr Zaw Win of the Higher Education Department of Upper Myanmar opened the tournament which was also attended by deputy director-general, rectors and pro-rectors of universities and colleges in Mandalay and other officials who watched the matches of four groups in the tournament.

A total of 14 table tennis teams participated in the team, doubles and singles events at the same venue.

The final and prize presentation will be held on 21 August.

Tin Maung (Mandalay)

Establishment of community forests face challenges in Mohnyin Township

**Mohnyin, 20 Aug —** Founders of Public Forests and Fauna & Flora International (FFI) jointly organized a meeting on future plans for environmental conservation in Biliu Village of Mohnyin Township in Kachin State on Monday and the difficulties that lie ahead.

Founders of the Community Forests reviewed progress on reforestation, and discussed experiences and challenges in the establishment of forest plantations, illegal logging, destruction by cattle, forest fires, disputes of farmland ownership and difficulties for applying for a 30-year guarantee forest management certificate. Representatives of FFI gave suggestions over the discussions.

The establishment of community forests commenced in 2012 in Mohnyin Township with the assistance of FFI and will conclude in 2014.

A total of 22 public groups have so far established 4,605 acres of community forests in the township.

Khin Zar Mon Myint (Law)

MCDC bans vehicles over 3 tons from use of some local roads

**Mandalay, 20 Aug —** Several roads in Mandalay will have restrictions from September 1, with vehicles over 3 tons prohibited from accessing to ensure an ease of traffic congestions and improve safety, the Mandalay City Development Committee said.

Officials said they are also hoping to reduce the damage to roads with the new move, stressing that no-entry signboards will be posted at all prohibited roads for over 3-ton vehicles. Action will be taken against offenders
**Chinese paper highlights justice, necessity in reform**

**BEIJING, 20 Aug —** Without justice, the reform campaign will fail, warns a commentary in *People’s Daily*, the flagship newspaper of the Communist Party of China (CPC), on Wednesday.

Poverty is not socialism, nor is a growing wealth gap. The success of China’s further reform campaign hinges on whether fairness justice can be reflected, the commentary said.

The two elements are key for gathering public recognition and participation in the reform, it said.

In preparation for the 110th anniversary of the birth of Deng Xiaoping on Friday, this is the second commentary from the *People’s Daily* calling for deepened reforms.

On Tuesday, the commentary board of the paper penned an article titled “Reform or Die,” which recalled memories from before China’s reform.

It was Deng’s outcry that China’s socialist cause and modernization drive would be ruined without reform. It was this outcry that started the reform campaign for which Deng is best known, the piece read. China’s reform drive was launched amid a stumbling and underdeveloped economy in the wake of the disastrous Cultural Revolution (1966-1976).

The fate of socialism has been deeply connected with reform ever since.

By breaking through forbidden zones and challenging stereotypes, China’s reform campaign not only generated unprecedented prosperity for the current second largest economy, but also unleashed the vitality of the socialist system.

China is indeed winning the moment, but can it still win the future? Harsh as it might be, the question does drive home the fact that more than 30 years on, the difficulty and complexity of China’s efforts to push forward reform are no less challenging.

But for CPC, reform is still the right way to survive, persist, perfect itself, renew itself, develop itself and strengthen itself, said the commentary.

The paper urged Party members to show their Party spirit and courage to continue the reform drive.

“There is a new window of opportunity for China’s reform. We must push forward the reform drive with our consistent belief and resolve, for what we are creating will not only affect China but also the whole world,” it said.

**Pakistan army calls for dialogue as anti-gov’t protesters rally against PM**

**ISLAMABAD, 20 Aug —** As political crisis in Pakistan is fast growing and thousands of anti-government protesters have forced their way to reach the parliament building, the country’s powerful army on Wednesday called for dialogue to resolve the current situation.

The rare statement came shortly after the protesters, demanding resignation of Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif, removed all hurdles and reached a highly secured area in the capital city.

The authorities had earlier stopped the protesters from entering the “Red Zone” which houses diplomatic missions and other important buildings including the Prime Minister’s House.

Cricketer-turned politician, Imran Khan, and a religious leader, Tahir-ul-Qadri, led thousands of their supporters to enter the Red Zone.

Major political parties had called for patience and dialogue to resolve the political deadlock, however, all efforts for dialogue have failed so far.

Pakistan army also joined in calls for “meaningful dialogue in larger national and public interest to resolve prevailing impasse.” The military spokesman said the current “situation requires patience, wisdom and sagacity from all stakeholders.”

Major General Asim Bajwa said in a statement that buildings in Red Zone are symbol of state and being protected by army, therefore sanctity of these national symbols must be respected.”

**27 dead, 10 missing as torrential rain hits Hiroshima**

**HIROSHIMA, 20 Aug —** At least 27 people were confirmed dead and 10 remain missing after a series of landslides triggered by torrential rain overnight engulfed residential areas in Hiroshima, western Japan, on Wednesday, the National Police Agency said.

The government decided to boost the number of Self-Defense Forces for rescue operations to 500 from the initially dispatched 30, saying that every minute counts. Prime Minister Shinzo Abe, who was taking his summer vacation, cut short a game of golf and returned to his office in Tokyo to deal with the disaster.

More than 100 millimetres of rain per hour was recorded in the disaster-hit area at about 3:30 am on Wednesday, triggering reports of people buried alive or washed away in flooding. Over the 24-hour period, rainfall in the area reached a record 243 mm.

The 27 people who died included a 2-year-old boy and an 11-year-old boy who were both buried in a mudslide. A 53-year-old firefighter also died while engaging in rescue operations.

The two children were buried alive in Asaminami Ward in Hiroshima at about 3:20 am. The 2-year-old boy was rescued two hours later, but died.

Masayuki Murakami, a 35-year-old man living next to the house where the children lived, said that after he noticed some movement of soil on the mountain behind his house he urged the children’s family to evacuate over the phone. The landslide struck soon after he left his house by car.

Another man in his 40s who also lived nearby heard the children’s mother screaming for help. The man dug in the mud with his bare hands to reach the 2-year-old boy inside the house but could not bring him out in time because bamboo and furniture blocked his way.

“It’s body was still warm (at that time),” the man said.

There were also emergency calls received reporting that people in Asakita Ward, adjacent to Asaminami Ward, were caught in a landslide.

A 75-year-old woman living in the area said the roads looked like a river. “I thought it was dangerous to go outside so I was in my room listening to disaster information all through the night,” she said.

Although emergency calls started from around 3 am on Wednesday, the Hiroshima city government has acted slowly, only issuing an evacuation order at about 4:20 am By around that time a river in Asakita Ward has flooded.

Many new residential areas have been built on unstable ground in the mountains in Hiroshima. The soil in Hiroshima Prefecture is also known to have a tendency to crumble easily when it becomes saturated.

In June 1999, a landslide disaster was triggered by heavy rain that left 32 people dead or missing in the same areas in the prefecture.

Before heading to Tokyo, the prime minister instructed government bodies to make all-out efforts to rescue those affected.

Sources close to the matter said Abe started playing golf around 8 am in Yamanshi Prefecture east of Tokyo where he was staying on vacation, but stopped playing around 9:20 am. He left for Tokyo 20 minutes later and arrived at his office in Tokyo at 11 am.

But opposition party lawmakers criticized Abe. “The prime minister should have not played golf. We can see how Abe’s government lacks vigilance from the way he acted this morning,” Democratic Party of Japan Secretary General Akiko Ohata told reporters.

Seiji Mataichi, secretary general of the small opposition Social Democratic Party, said, “I wonder whether the prime minister has been receiving timely information about the damage.” —Kyodo News
Al Jazeera rejects allegations from Al Gore on Current TV deal

DOHA, 20 Aug — Al Jazeera on Tuesday rejected allegations from Al Gore and Joel Hyatt, the founders of Current TV, saying they were false and potentially misleading.

Al Jazeera acquired Current TV for an estimated $500 million in 2013. Gore and Hyatt filed a lawsuit against the Qatar, Doha-based company on Friday for fraud and material breaches of the acquisition.

Al Jazeera America said in a statement that Gore and Hyatt’s assurances of contract compliance were inaccurate and that third parties contend that Current TV breached its contracts while the group ran the channel.

The company said the Gore-Hyatt group promised to indemnify Al Jazeera if, after the sale, the company was sued for breach of any of these contracts while Gore and Hyatt ran the channel.

“Rather than indemnifying Al Jazeera as they were required to do, Gore and Hyatt have resorted to a preemptive lawsuit and lawyer-driven public relations maneuvers,” the company said in a statement.

The Gore-Hyatt group’s attorney, David Boies, said on 15 August the group asked the court to order Al Jazeera America to “stop wrongfully withholding the escrow funds that belong to Current’s former shareholders”.

Al Jazeera said under the deal the sellers had set aside money in an escrow fund, which Al Jazeera would use if it became liable to pay damages or settle its contract dispute with a third party, the company added. “The money in the escrow fund is intended to indemnify Al Jazeera, and Al Jazeera’s indemnification claims are more than the amount held in escrow,” the company said.

Al Jazeera used its acquisition of Current TV to kick start its efforts to kick start its efforts to compete with Fox News.

Japanese recognized as world’s oldest man by Guinness World Records

SAITAMA, (Japan), 20 Aug — A 111-year-old Japanese was recognized as the world’s oldest man by Guinness World Records on Wednesday, following the death in June of a Polish man.

Momoi, a former teacher of agricultural chemistry, at a health care institution in Tokyo where he is receiving care. He is registered as a citizen of Saitama city, north of Tokyo. Momoi was one day younger than Alexander Imich, who died at the age of 111 in June. Momoi eats three times a day and is doing well at the institution, a Saitama city official said.

A native of Minamisoma in Fukushima Prefecture, he likes to eat fish and read books, according to people close to him. The world’s oldest person recognized by Guinness World Records is Misao Okawa, a 116-year-old Japanese woman who lives in Osaka.

Nuclear watchdog to set up panel on volcanic eruptions near plants

Tokyo, 20 Aug — Japan’s nuclear safety regulator decided on Wednesday to set up a panel to discuss measures to be taken when there are signs of possible volcanic eruptions that could affect the country’s nuclear power plants. The focus is on Kyushu Electric Power Co’s Sendai nuclear plant located in a region of active volcanic sites in southwestern Japan, which is expected to become the first nuclear facility to restart under a set of new regulations introduced following the 2011 Fukushima nuclear crisis.

The Nuclear Regulation Authority’s decision-making panel has approved a draft report required to restart two reactors at the Sendai plant in Kagoshima Prefecture, saying the risk of volcanic eruptions during the facility’s lifespan is negligible, and said discussions by the panel would not affect that judgment. Nonetheless, the utility is required to keep monitoring the state of volcanoes, and the regulator could order it to halt the plant’s operation or take other measures if any signs of change are observed. As it remains unclear what specific measures should be taken on what criteria, the panel involving outside experts will start discussing details at their first meeting scheduled for next Monday.

“In our safety screening, we have judged that the risks (of volcanic eruptions that could affect the Sendai plant) are small enough at the moment. But continued monitoring is needed as the situation could change down the road,” NRA Commissioner Kunihiko Shimazaki told a meeting.

NRA Chairman Shunichi Tanaka said, “We haven’t obtained enough knowledge about volcanic eruptions in Japan.” The NRA decision-making panel consists of five experts, but does not include anyone with expertise on volcanology. There has been criticism that the nuclear safety regulator is underestimating risks related to volcanoes near the Sendai nuclear plant, while some point out that it is extremely difficult to predict large volcanic eruptions.
Gaza war resumes with deadly strikes, rocket fire

BAGHDAD, 20 Aug — Islamic State insurgents posted a video on Tuesday purportedly showing the beheading of US journalist James Foley and images of another US journalist whose life they said depended on how the United States acts in Iraq.

The video, titled “A Message To America,” presented President Barack Obama with bleak options that could define America’s next phase of involvement in Iraq and the public reaction to it, potentially deepening the conflict he built much of his presidency on ending.

Obama held back from making a public statement about the beheading until the video could be formally authenticated.

“If genuine, we are appalled by the brutal murder of an innocent American journalist and we express our deepest condolences to his family and friends,” White House National Security Council spokeswoman Caitlin Hayden said in a statement.

The video’s grisly message was unambiguous, warning of greater retaliation to come against Americans following nearly two weeks of US air strikes that have pounded militant positions and halted the advance of Islamic State, which until this month had captured a third of Iraq with little resistance.

Posted on social media, the video brought a chilling and highly personal tone to a conflict that for many Americans had started to become all too familiar.

Foley, 40, was kidnapped by armed men on 22 November, 2012, in northern Syria while on his way to the Turkish border, according to GlobalPost, a Boston-based online publication where Foley had worked as a freelancer. He had reported in the Middle East for five years and had been kidnapped and released in Libya.

Steven Sotloff, who appeared at the end of the video, went missing in northern Syria while reporting in July 2013. He has written for TIME among other news organizations.

The video injected an unpredictable element into Obama’s deliberations on how far to proceed with US air strikes against Islamic State targets in Iraq, though aides said his vow not to put US combat forces on the ground in Iraq still held. On a Facebook page for Foley, a message from his mother Diane Foley said: “We have never been prouder of our son Jim. He gave his life trying to expose the world to the suffering of the Syrian people.”

“We implore the kidnappers to spare the lives of the remaining hostages. Like Jim, they are innocents. They have no control over American government policy in Iraq, Syria or anywhere in the world.”

Islamic State had not previously executed American citizens publicly. The video was posted after the United States resumed air strikes in Iraq this month for the first time since the end of the US occupation in 2011.—Reuters

Kurdish fighters stand guard at the Mosul Dam in Mosul in northern Iraq

Palestinian negotiators walked out of the talks later, blaming Israel for their failure. “Israel thwarted the contacts that could have brought peace,” chief Palestinian negotiator Azzam al-Ahmed said.

Rejecting the charge, Mark Regev, a spokesman for Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu, said Gaza rocketfire “made continuation of talks impossible”.

“The Cairo process was built on a total and complete cessation of all hostilities and so when rockets were fired from Gaza, not only was it a clear violation of the ceasefire but it also destroyed the premise upon which the talks were based,” Regev told Reuters.

Regev had earlier called a rocket strike at Israel’s city of Beersheba on Tuesday “a grave and direct violation of the ceasefire”. A military spokesman said that, in response to the salvoes, “terror targets across the Gaza Strip” were attacked.

Netanyahu ordered the immediate return of Israeli delegates to the indirect talks in Cairo on ending the Gaza war and charting the territory’s future.—Reuters

Israelite military. In addition to the deaths, more than 50 people were wounded in the air strikes across Gaza, ordered after rockets were fired at Israel. Hamas initially denied firing any rockets, then claimed responsibility for shooting dozens as far as the Tel Aviv and Jerusalem areas.

There were no reported casualties but falling shrapnel damaged a car in Tel Aviv, and a building was damaged in southern Israel. Some of the rockets were shot down by Israel’s Iron Dome interceptor.

The violence shattered a 10-day period of calm since a first trucebrokered by Egypt, about a month after the conflict flared on 8 July. Accusing Gaza Islamists of breaking the truce with rocket fire eight hours before it was to have expired, Israel recalled its negotiators from truce talks in Cairo on Tuesday, leaving the fate of the Egyptian-brokered efforts to secure a lasting peace hanging in the balance.

In a statement issued here by his spokesperson, Ban expressed his grave disappointment at the return to hostilities, and reminded both sides of their responsibility not to let the situation escalate.

“The hopes of the people in Gaza for a better future and the hopes of the people of Israel for sustainable security rest on the talks in Cairo,” he noted in the statement.

“The Secretary-General calls on the delegations to live up to this expectation and urges the parties to reach an immediate understanding on a durable ceasefire which also addresses the underlying issues afflicting Gaza,” said the statement.

An Egyptian-brokered humanitarian ceasefire, which was to expire at midnight local time, collapsed earlier in the day, with Hamas firing dozens of rockets at Israel and Israel responding by launching air strikes.

The resumption of hostilities shut down truce talks in Cairo that seek a permanent ceasefire between Israel and Hamas, the Islamist movement which dominates Gaza, after more than a month of conflicts.

Several temporary truces have been held over the past two weeks, some of which were breached, that were repeatedly extended, as both sides discussed their demands in order to achieve a deal that would end the offensive, which started on 8 July and claimed the lives of 2000 Palestinians and 67 Israelis. — Xinhua

Smoke rises following what witnesses said was an Israeli air strike in Gaza

Palestinians palled by the brutal murder of another US journalist James Foley and images of his beheading as he tried to expose the world to the suffering of the Syrian people. “If genuine, we are appalled by the brutal murder of our son Jim. He gave his life trying to expose the world to the suffering of the Syrian people,” chief Palestinian negotiator Azzam al-Ahmed said.

Rejecting the charge, Mark Regev, a spokesman for Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu, said Gaza rocketfire “made continuation of talks impossible”. “The Cairo process was built on a total and complete cessation of all hostilities and so when rockets were fired from Gaza, not only was it a clear violation of the ceasefire but it also destroyed the premise upon which the talks were based,” Regev told Reuters.

Regev had earlier called a rocket strike at Israel’s city of Beersheba on Tuesday “a grave and direct violation of the ceasefire”. A military spokesman said that, in response to the salvoes, “terror targets across the Gaza Strip” were attacked.

Netanyahu ordered the immediate return of Israeli delegates to the indirect talks in Cairo on ending the Gaza war and charting the territory’s future.— Reuters

The video injected an unpredictable element into Obama’s deliberations on how far to proceed with US air strikes against Islamic State targets in Iraq, though aides said his vow not to put US combat forces on the ground in Iraq still held. On a Facebook page for Foley, a message from his mother Diane Foley said: “We have never been prouder of our son Jim. He gave his life trying to expose the world to the suffering of the Syrian people.”

“We implore the kidnappers to spare the lives of the remaining hostages. Like Jim, they are innocents. They have no control over American government policy in Iraq, Syria or anywhere in the world.”

Islamic State had not previously executed American citizens publicly. The video was posted after the United States resumed air strikes in Iraq this month for the first time since the end of the US occupation in 2011.— Reuters
Giving land to the public essential for poverty reduction and development

By Myint Win Thein

Providing land for landless people and solving land disputes as soon as possible are essential for the reduction of poverty. Peasant farmers need land for agriculture as they can’t do anything for their living without land and migrant urban workers need shelters in cities where rent prices are not affordable anymore for locals.

Providing land to landless farmers is also important as Myanmar is an agricultural economy and a large proportion of the population consists of farmers. Providing land to landless farmers is also a way of investing in the agricultural sector which can contribute much to the GDP. If the agriculture sector is thriving, urban migration can be reduced and the problems of urban slums can also be eased in cities where crimes are rampant.

According to a recent study, the agriculture sector has a high ratio between forward linkages and backward linkages. This means that the growth of the agriculture sector can contribute to other sectors including inputs for agriculture, tourism and restaurants which will create job opportunities in cities. Myanmar has chosen a right path to reduction of poverty, with President U Thein Sein promising land for landless people. But it is important to implement the plan to provide land to the landless as soon as possible.

NATIONWIDE ASSESSMENT OF GOVERNANCE OF LOCAL ADMINISTRATION ENTERS FINAL PHASE

Yangon, 20 Aug—Transparency, the importance of a good flow of information between government and citizens and citizens’ legal awareness were some of the issues discussed at a local governance sensitization workshop held last week. The workshop, the final in a series of seven was designed to discuss the roll out of the local governance mapping in the Yangon region. It also opened up space for a broader discussion on governance amongst the more than sixty participants, which included members of Parliament, representatives from District and Township Administrations, civil society organisations and members of township and municipal level development support committees.

The local governance mapping is conducted by the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) in partnership with the General Administration Department (GAD) of the Ministry of Home Affairs. It aims to serve as a starting point for improved governance and service delivery at the sub national level in Myanmar. Through this process, UNDP and GAD hope to build a common understanding of the concepts of improved performance, good local governance and active citizen participation.

During the workshop in Yangon, the findings from the pilot mapping in Mon and Chin states were discussed. These findings which highlighted disparities in service delivery, challenges in information flow and inter-departmental coordination resonated amongst the participants at the Yangon workshop, leading to rich discussions also on broader governance issues.

“Important to have a good flow of information between the national, state and local governments and to ensure legal awareness amongst citizens. With such awareness citizens can make their voices heard which can help improve services and bring more transparency,” said one of the participants at the workshop.

Another participant said that the local governance mapping provided an important step in the country’s democratic transition.

“Changing mind sets of civil servants, citizens and others is a key factor in this transition,” he said.

The local governance mapping will be conducted in 3 townships in the Yangon Region and will start in September. So far, the mapping exercise has been completed for 7 States/Regions – Mon, Chin, Ayeyawady, Bago, Kayin, Kayah, Taninthayi. The following States/regions will be included in Phase three: Kachin, Magway, Mandalay, Rakhine, Sagaing, Shan and Yangon.

UNDP

SERVICEMEN CARRY OUT RELIEF AND RESETTLEMENT TASKS FOR FLOOD VICTIMS IN MOHYIN TP.

Mohyn, 20 Aug—Nantin Creek in Mohyn Township of Kachin State flooded over 200 houses along its banks due to recent heavy rains in the region.

On 14 August, township authorities and departmental officials carried out rescue and relief tasks in the affected area, without giving details of the operation.

The servicemen led by Brig-Gen Thet Lwin, commander of No 904 Artillery Operations Command participated in the relief and resettlement tasks for the flood victims.

NEW LIGHT OF MYANMAR

GOLD PRICE, FE RATE (20-8-2014)

Yangon Gold Price
Buying K671.800 per tical: Selling K672.600

Mandalay Gold Price
Buying K671.800 per tical: Selling K672.600

FE RATE
USD Buying K970 - Selling K974
SGD Buying K774 - Selling K782
Euro Buying K1280 - Selling K1300

Write for us
We appreciate your feedback and contributions.
If you have any comments or would like to submit editorials, analyses or reports please email wallace.tun@gmail.com with your name and title.
Research workshop on nature of bat conducted

Mandalay, 20 Aug — A Workshop on International Bat Research by the Southeast Asian Bat Research Team and Zoology Department of Mandalay University, kicked off at the convocation hall of Mandalay University on Sunday, with an address by Deputy Director General Zaw Win of the Higher Education Department of Upper Myanmar.

Pro-Rector Dr Thida Win of Mandalay University explained progress on cooperation between Mandalay University and international universities and participants of the workshop discussed protection of bat species and presented research results on bat species in the international research journal, classification of bat species and observation over bats for use of echo at night.

The workshop was attended by four zoologists from the US and the UK, two from Malaysia, one each from Germany, Ireland, Thailand, Vietnam, Laos, Indonesia and China (Taipei), and lecturers and students from the Ministry of Education who said they plan to make field trips around Mandalay with the foreign delegates.

Thiha Ko Ko (Mandalay)

Foreign and local companies erect communication towers in Natogyi Tsp

Natogyi, 20 Aug — To improve the telecommunications sector in Mandalay Region, foreign and local providers have been installing communication towers, with MPT and Tel-enor building four towers each, Ooredoo three towers and the Union of Myanmar Economic Holdings Ltd two towers. The towers were built in Natogyi of Mandalay Region, where mobile telephone services have been unreliable as is the case in most parts of the country.

Foreign telecommunications companies have brought much needed expertise and experience, offering reliable and affordable services to the public, with Ooredoo SIM cards now sold nationwide for K 1,500 as opposed to the US $200 a SIM card used to cost in Myanmar.—Khin Zar Mon Myint (Law)

Training given to cooperative societies in Myanaung Tsp

Myanaung, 20 Aug — Myanaung Township Cooperative Department of Ayeyawady Region conducted a basic accountant course at its office on Wednesday.

The three-day course was given by two trainees each from 100 basic cooperative societies, with a total of 32 trainees from 16 basic cooperative societies attending.

Course instructors gave lectures on cooperative policies of the State, goals, procedures and directives, teaching basic book-keeping, basic accountancy and cooperative ideology.—Nay Win Zaw (Myanaung)

Gold mining company plants teak saplings for environmental conservation

Singu, 20 Aug — Htet Yi Lin Group conducting gold mining organized a monsoon tree planting ceremony in Kyitaukpauk Village of Singu Township in Mandalay Region on Monday with the aim of conserving the environment destroyed due to gold mining. Departmental officials of the Forest Department and No 2 Mining Enterprise, responsible persons of Htet Yi Lin Group of Companies and local people participated in planting 5,500 teak saplings.

The company nurtures over 12,000 saplings of various species to be used in environmental conservation tasks in the township, officials said.—Win Maung
Police kill another black youth just 10 km from Ferguson shooting

ST LOUIS, United States, 20 Aug — Police shot and killed a 23-year-old black male in the northern part of St Louis, Missouri on Tuesday, just 10 km from and ten days after the shooting of 18-year-old Michael Brown in Ferguson, Missouri.

Police say he pulled a knife on them after taking energy drinks and sweet treats from a nearby convenience store.

Police Chief Sam Dotson told reporters the officers ordered the 23-year-old man to drop the knife and drew their weapons after he refused.

He said the youth told officers, “Shoot me now. Kill me now.”

Approximately 100 people were gathered to protest at the site of the shooting nearly three hours after the incident occurred.

Cameron was at the protest. “Whatever happened did not require two police officers to shoot six times.

He was mentally challenged, everyone knew he was mentally challenged, if you didn’t know him, you could look at him and tell he was mentally challenged,” she said.

Monique Peete was in her house when she heard shots. “Shooting, a lot of shooting, in the daytime in this area. Yes. When I did come down, the baby was lying in the middle of the street,” she told Xinhua.

“I know this young man, he stands in front of this store and sells his CDs, I have given him money before, I have fed him before, he’s not a bad person.” Sheff Pugg, another area resident, also heard the shots.

“I was a devastated man to see another one get killed. Less than ten days. They are protesting right on in Ferguson. This gonna be another protest site. It’s not fair to keep killing our young kids.”

Many reporters that are present to cover Michael Brown incident have shown up at the scene.

Police kill another black youth just 10 km from Ferguson shooting

MISSOURI SUBURB BRACES FOR MORE RACIAL UNREST BUT CALM PREVAILS

FERGUSON, 20 Aug — Police in Ferguson, Missouri, braced for another night of racially charged unrest on Tuesday as the governor and US attorney general renewed appeals for calm 10 days after the fatal shooting of black teenager Michael Brown.

Street protests in the predominantly African-American community of 21,000 people have been punctuated by looting, vandalism and clashes between demonstrators and police every night since the unarmed, 18-year-old Brown was killed by a white police officer. In the hours after darkness fell on Tuesday, protesters were notably fewer in number and more subdued than previous nights, with more onlookers milling about the fringes as civic leaders, members of the clergy and even Missouri Attorney General Chris Koster mingled with demonstrators.

Two dozen police in military-style uniforms took positions across the street from a burned-out gas station where protesters on Monday threw at least one gasoline bomb.

But confrontations between police and protesters seemed mostly isolated. A group of people playing music and dancing on top of a white truck bearing the slogan “Don’t loot don’t shoot” were ordered by police to move on. Earlier in the day, St. Louis metropolitan police said they had killed a 23-year-old black man who brandished a knife at officers and yelled at them to “shoot me now, kill me.”

Two officers opened fire after he refused repeated orders to drop his weapon, police said. The incident occurred a few miles from the scene of the protests.

While apparently unrelated to the Brown killing, the shooting sparked concerns about an escalation of public anger over what many perceive as a pattern of excessive police force against minorities.

Tuesday’s shooting drew scores of angry protesters who lingered well past dark outside the convenience store where the man with the knife had snatched some drinks and snacks before he was confronted by police. Police remained in a show of force to keep a lid on any potential trouble there.

The aftermath of the Brown shooting was due to take a new turn on Wednesday, when the St Louis County prosecutor’s office said it expected to begin presenting evidence to a grand jury investigating the case. In an appeal for public conciliation and calm on Tuesday, Governor Jay Nixon promised a “vigorous prosecution” of the case and “justice for the family of Michael Brown.”

US Attorney General Eric Holder, who plans a visit to Ferguson on Wednesday to be briefed on separate civil rights investigation he ordered into the Brown shooting, likewise called for demonstrators to remain law-abiding in an opinion piece published online by the St Louis Post-Dispatch.—Reuters

Advancing Ukraine troops take fight to heart of pro-Moscow rebellion

DONETSK/BERLIN, (Ukraine), 20 Aug — A gun battle broke out in the centre of the rebel-held Ukrainian city of Donetsk and residents ran for cover from artillery fire on Tuesday, taking a government military offensive into the heart of the retreating pro-Moscow separatist rebellion.

Russian President Vladimir Putin and his Ukrainian counterpart will meet next week for the first time in months to try to end their confrontation over the separatist rebellion in eastern Ukraine, their offices said. In a prelude to the talks between Putin and Ukraine’s Petro Poroshenko, German Chancellor Angela Merkel is to visit the Ukrainian capital Kiev on Saturday, her office said, to show support for the Ukrainian government.

A diplomatic solution would have to resolve a contradiction: with his troops advancing and victory possibly within reach, Poroshenko has little incentive to offer the kind of compromises that would allow Putin to achieve a face-saving deal.

Donetsk has for months been the headquarters of Ukraine’s separatist rebellion, with rebel flags flying over administrative buildings and where residents strolled along the main avenue lined with flower bed and fountains.

On Tuesday afternoon, the centre of the city was transformed into a battle zone. A Reuters reporter said intense shooting broke out. Five or six rebel guns ran through a shopping mall car park, ducking behind cars and firing their guns.

A teleprompter displays information for a news reporter to read about police officers watching over demonstrators protesting the shooting death of Michael Brown, in Ferguson, Missouri on 19 Aug, 2014.—Reuters

Venezuela calls for greater “civic-military unity” to stabilize economy

CARACAS, 20 Aug — Venezuelan Vice President Jorge Arreaza on Tuesday called for greater civic-military cooperation to stabilize the economy, the Venezuelan News Agency (AVN) said. Arreaza stressed that civic-military unity is fundamental to national economic stability and to safeguarding popular rights to have access to goods and services, the AVN said.

Speaking at a seminar in Caracas, the vice president stressed the need for a unified front against anti-government tactics designed to destabilize the economy, including the creation of shortages to spark inflation. “We are all responsible for..., protecting the integrity and security of our nation,” Arreaza told the seminar participants, who were to discuss ways to combat price hikes and scarcity of goods. Last week, the government announced border measures designed to prevent the smuggling of state-subsidized and price-controlled food and fuel from Venezuela into Colombia, where they are sold at prices much more higher than their purchasing prices.

“Smuggling harms industry, it harms the economy,” said Arreaza, accusing those who have opposed the anti-smuggling measures “of having direct links to contraband strategies or having an interest in destabilizing the Venezuelan economy.”

Vladimir Padrino Lopez, head of the Armed Forces Strategic Operational Command, said the military was fighting the scourge, especially in states bordering Colombia. —Xinhua

Russian military truck loaded with Msta-S self-propelled howitzer drives along the road outside Kamensk-Shakhtinsky, Rostov region, on 19 Aug, 2014.—Reuters

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New Light of Myanmar

World

10
Silicon to spinach: Japan tech helps farmers cope with climate shifts

SHIZUOKA, Japan — Japanese technology firms are applying their expertise in energy-saving and cloud technology to help farmers cope with shifting weather patterns, an onslaught of cheaper imports and a shrinking workforce.

Panasonic Corp, Fujitsu Ltd and others, seeing niche business opportunities to offset a downturn in demand for their consumer electronics, are touting automated greenhouses and sensor-controlled fields that ensure constant conditions to produce high-quality vegetables all year-round.

Fujitsu says its Akisai cloud-based farming system means users can sit at a desk in Tokyo or even New York while tending vegetables in Shizuoka, using a tablet to operate sprinklers, fans and heaters in response to changes in heat and moisture tracked by sensors in fields or greenhouses.

Companies are also converting factories into farms. Toshiba Corp is trialling an indoor strawberry farm in Dubai.

This tech push into farming is endorsed by Prime Minister Shinzo Abe’s government, which is promoting robotics and sensors to boost farm production and exports — essential if Japan concedes to lower agricultural tariffs in the Trans-Pacific Partnership (TPP) free trade agreement.

Domestic demand for farming systems using information technology and the cloud is expected to expand ninefold to 60 billion yen ($586 million) by 2020, according to market research firm Seed Planning, as farmers fret over the impact of climate change on their crops. Last year’s summer was Japan’s hottest on record, with temperatures in Tokyo topping 35 degrees Celsius (95 degrees Fahrenheit) for a week straight in early August.

Reuters

Twitter to remove images of deceased on families’ request

SAN FRANCISCO, 20 Aug — Twitter Inc said it will remove images or videos of deceased individuals at the request of family members.

“In order to respect the wishes of loved ones, Twitter will remove imagery of deceased individuals in certain circumstances,” according to a statement tweeted by Twitter spokesman Nu Wexler on Tuesday. Immediate family members and other authorized individuals may request the removal of images or videos of deceased individuals, from when critical injury occurs to the moments before or after death, the statement said.

However, the micro-messaging service said it will consider public interest factors such as the newsworthiness of the content while reviewing such media removal requests and may not be able to honour every request.” — Reuters
Reykjavik, 20 Aug — The National Commissioner of the Icelandic Police (NCIP) announced on Tuesday that the authorities were evacuating the north of Vatnajokull to prepare against a possible eruption at Bardarbunga volcano in southeast Iceland.

The NCIP said in a statement that it has raised the Civil Protection level to Alert Phase as all roads leading into the area were closed, and the authorities in Husavik and Seydisfjordur were evacuating the area north of Vatnajokull.

A surveillance plane of the Icelandic Coast Guard has been ordered to monitor the volcano’s situation. This decision was a safety measure, said the statement, adding the seismic activity in Bardarbunga might lead to a volcanic eruption. Bardarbunga volcano, located under the 800-metre-thick Vatnajokull glacier, is 225 km northeast from Reykjavik, capital of Iceland. Bardarbunga is Iceland’s second highest mountain at 2,000 meters above sea level.

Since the onset of the earthquake swarm at Bardarbunga on Saturday morning, about 2,600 earthquakes have been detected by the earthquake monitoring network of the Icelandic Meteorological Office (IMO). IMO has raised the danger level from yellow to orange, which indicates the volcano showed heightened or escalating unrest with increased potential of eruption. If the volcano erupts, a major flood fed by melting ice from the glacier could be expected to the north, the Icelandic National Broad-casting Service reported.

There have been 48 eruptions in Iceland in last 100 years. The latest huge eruption happened in 2010, when the ash emission from the Eyjafajallajokull volcano forced an air travel disruption in Europe. —Xinhua
Roadside bomb kills three, wounds two in S Afghanistan

Xinhua, (Afghanistan), 20 Aug — Three persons were killed and two others sustained injuries as a roadside bomb struck a civilian car in the southern Urzugan province with Trinkot as its capital 370 km south of Kabul on Wednesday, police said.

“The gruesome incident occurred at around 10:00 am local time in Charchino District, leaving three persons dead and two others injured,” district police chief Wali Dad told Xinhua.

All the victims are civilians, the official said. He also blamed the enemies of peace for the attack, a term used against Taliban militants by Afghan officials.

However, the armed outfit fighting the government has yet to make comment.

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Ministry of Energy
Myanmar Petroleum Products Enterprise
Invitation for Opened Tender (3/2014)

1. Open tenders are invited for supply of the following respective items in Myanmar Kyats and United States Dollars (CIF Yangon).

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Sr.No</th>
<th>Tender No</th>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Qty</th>
<th>Remark</th>
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<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>MPPE/LP/MCY/CAP/T/5</td>
<td>2,800 Gallons Bowser (Brand New)</td>
<td>10 Units</td>
<td>Kyats</td>
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<td>2</td>
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<td>Flow Meter 100 IGPM (Positive Displacement Liquid controls, Branded)</td>
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<td>Kyats</td>
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<tr>
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2. Tender Closing Date & Time: 18-9-2014, 12:00 Hrs.
3. Tender documents are available at our office starting from 19-8-2014 during office hours and for further detail please contact Phone: 067-411487.

Planning Department
Myanmar Petroleum Products Enterprise
Ministry of Energy, No(6) Complex, Nay Pyi Taw
Dev Patel falls into River Cam while filming with Jeremy Irons

Dev Patel is an actor who gained fame for his role in the movie "Slumdog Millionaire". He recently fell into the River Cam while filming a scene for a new movie. Patel was filming a scene where his character was punting down the river, and as he tried to navigate the boat, he fell into the water. He was quickly rescued by emergency services and is said to be fine. The incident caused a temporary halt in filming, but it is expected that the production will continue as scheduled. The incident is a reminder of the dangers that can be associated with filming on location in diverse environments.

Taylor Swift joins by fans for pizza party at her apartment

Taylor Swift is known for her friendly personality and her love of pizza. Fans of the singer often see her as relatable and approachable, which is why they are so excited to spend time with her. Recently, a group of Swift’s fans visited her apartment to have a pizza party with her. They brought along pizzas and drinks and enjoyed each other’s company. It was a fun and spontaneous event that brought Swift and her fans closer together. Taylor Swift’s fans are known for their loyalty and support, and this event was a perfect example of that. It was a heartwarming scene of Swift and her fans bonding over their love for pizza.
Condolement

We, the staff of The Shwe Super Light Co., Ltd. would like to express our sincere and heartfelt condoleance and deep sympathy to the bereaved family on the sad demise of Mr. C.D. Prakash @ U Maung Maung, Chairman of Shwe Super Light Co., Ltd., on 17th August, 2014.

May his soul rest in eternal peace and All Almighty God bestow moral courage upon the bereaved family to endure the pangs, sorrow and grief caused by the recent bereavement.

Staff Members
Shwe Super Light Co., Ltd.

Leading tennis tournament renamed Miami Open with Brazilian sponsorship

MIAMI, 20 Aug — One of the most popular professional tennis events has a new name — the Miami Open presented by Itaú - following the announcement that the Brazilian bank Itaú Unibanco is taking over as its new title sponsor from Sony.

The tournament, near- ing its 30th year, attracts the world’s top male and female tennis stars who help drive flocks of international vis- itors and tennis fans to the ritz island of Key Biscayne off Miami where it is held. “Itaú’s understanding of the international consumer experience, innovation, entertainment value, and commitment to the growth of tennis makes the company an ideal partner,” Miami Open Director Adam Barrett said in a news release. The tournament was previously named the Sony Open for the Japanese electronics giant. — Reuters

Russia says rejects FIFA plea to cut World Cup venues

MOSCOW, (Russia), 20 Aug — Russia has rejected a FIFA recommendation to cut the number of host cities for the 2018 World Cup from 11 to nine and stadiums from 12 to 10, according to Russia sports minister Vitaly Mutko.

“The plan that we will have 12 stadiums in 11 cit- ies, which will host matches at the World Cup is not changing,” Mutko told the ITAR-TASS news agency on Tuesday. “FIFA recom- mends that we should have 10 stadiums in nine cities, which include two arenas in Moscow. This week deleg- ates from FIFA will visit us and we will be taking them to all the host cities. Tomorrow they will be go- ing to Saransk.”

Mutko said if there was a decision to reduce the number of stadiums it would have to be taken within the next two months. “If this question is not decided during their (FIFA’s) executive (com- mittee) meeting in Octo- ber then it will be too late to change anything, as we are planning to start construc- tion of the stadiums in 2015,” he said.

After this year’s World Cup in Brazil, FIFA president Sepp Blatter said he was troubled it had cost $11 billion to stage and indi- cated Russia’s 2018 plans could be re-examined.

Mutko told reporters in Rio de Janeiro that Rus- sia had allocated $20 bil- lion (12.03 billion pounds) to staging the 2018 finals.

“It’s obvious the World Cup has taken such a di- mension that the organiza- tion is a hard work for the organizing country and also for the FIFA,” Blatter said at his final media briefing following Germany’s win over Argentina in the final.

“FIFA is looking at 2018 now and we are in discussions on what is the ideal number (of stadiums) for the organization and to keep it in such a manner that it’s feasible, reason- able and controllable,” he said. “We are not going to be in a situation as is the case of one, two or even three stadiums in South Af- rica (after the 2010 World Cup) where it is a problem of what you do with these stadiums,” Blatter added.

The 11 cities chosen by Russia to host matches are Moscow, St. Petersburg, Sochi, Kazan, Kaliningrad, Volgograd, Rostov-on-Don, Nizhny Novgorod, Samara, Saransk and Yekas- ternburg. — Reuters

Russia’s President Vladimir Putin (L) addresses people as he visits a construction site of the stadium which is expected to host soccer matches of the 2018 World Cup, next to Sports Minister Vitaly Mutko (R), in the city of Sa- mara, on 21 July, 2014. — Reuters
Brazil keeper Julio Cesar joins Benfica

LISBON, 20 Aug — Brazil goalkeeper Julio Cesar has joined Benfica where he will attempt to revive his career after an unhappy last season and a disappointing World Cup.

The Portuguese champions, who recently sold first-choice goalkeeper Jan Oblak to Atletico Madrid, confirmed on their website that the 34-year-old had signed a two-year contract.

Julio Cesar started last season at Queen’s Park Rangers in the English championship (second tier), where he did not play a single league game, before joining MLS club Toronto FC on loan in February. Despite his lack of top-level football, he was Brazil’s first-choice goalkeeper at the World Cup which they hosted.

Although he was the hero in the penalty shoot-out win over Chile in the second round, Julio Cesar was on the wrong end of seven goals as Brazil were humiliated 7-1 by Germany in the semi-final.

Raised at Brazilian club Flamengo, Julio Cesar spent seven years at Inter Milan, winning five Serie A and one Champions League title, and was regarded as one of Serie A’s top goalkeepers until he was unceremoniously offloaded in 2012.

At international level, he played in the Brazil team which won the 2004 Copa America with a penalty shootout win over Argentina in the final, but then lost his place to Dida for the 2006 World Cup.

He won back his place under Dunga and was also Brazil’s first-choice goalkeeper in the 2010 World Cup, where they went out in the quarter-finals.

Atletico’s Garcia earns Super Cup draw at Real Madrid

BARCELONA, 20 Aug — Atletico Madrid’s Saul Garcia netted a late equaliser to earn a 1-1 draw at Real Madrid in the Spanish Super Cup first leg on Tuesday after substitute James Rodriguez had opened the scoring with 10 minutes left.

Colombian Rodriguez, who came on for the injured Cristian Ronaldo at halftime, thought he had won the game when he slotted the ball into the net from inside the box.

There was little of the flair that saw Real beat Sevilla in European Super Cup a week ago and, although there were several new names in the Atlético side from last season, they maintained the same solid-ity that saw them win La Liga.

Atletico host Real in the return leg at the Calderon on Friday where they will be seeking revenge for their defeat in the Champions League final by their city rivals.

There is everything to play for now. I got the goal but it could have been anyone in the team. We now have another match at home and the chance of lifting a trophy, Garcia told reporters.

Real midfielder Xabi Alonso said Atletico were favourites.

“They were compact and very difficult to play against. We did our best,” he told reporters.

“We have to go now to their stadium and score a goal which puts them in the driving seat.”

Defence Ministry wins Inter-Ministry Football Tournament with Information Ministry vice champions

Nay Pyi Taw, 20 Aug — Ministry of Information and Ministry of Defence met in the final of the Inter-Ministry Football Tournament at Nay Pyi Taw Wunna Theikdi training ground No 3 in Nay Pyi Taw on Wednesday, with the Defence Ministry crowning champions beating their colleagues from the Information Ministry 5-3 result.

In the 90th minute there was a 1-1 draw, with both teams failing to score in extra times. It went to penalties with the Ministry of Defence scoring four times.

Union Minister for Information U Ye Htut presented K1.5 million to the champions of the Ministry of Defence, K1 million to second prize winner Minister of Information and K600,000 to third prize winner Minister of Electric Power. Union Minister for Culture U Aye Myint Kyu gave K400,000 to fourth prize winner Finance Ministry and K200,000 to fair play award winner Ministry of Defence.

Union Minister for Sports U Tin Hsan presented the championship trophy to the Ministry of Defence team. Best goalkeeper award went to Aung Min Oo of the Ministry of Information, best defender award to Naing Win of the Ministry of Defence, best midfielder award to Wai Lin Paing of the Ministry of Information, best forward award to Maung Khin Zaw of the Ministry of Defence and best player award to Thurein Aung of the Ministry of Defence.

Meilutytė gears up for gold at Youth Olympics, China top table

Nanjing, (China), 20 Aug — London Games gold medallist Ruta Meilutytė cruised through to the women’s 100 metres breaststroke final at the Youth Olympic Games on Tuesday, while China surged to the top of the medals table on the third day of competition in Nanjing.

Lithuanian Meilutytė, the world record holder over 50m in the discipline, will swim for her second gold of the Games on Wednesday before hopping on a plane to Berlin bound for the European Championships.

Also making waves on Tuesday was Swiss sharp shooter Sarah Hornung, who took gold in the women’s 10m air rifle competition after a tense duel with Singapore’s Martina Lenders-Yelosso.

“I knew that a medal was there but I didn’t know which one,” said Hornung. “I just knew if I could fight again, I would reach it.”

Canadian Tony Gil was also on target when he notched a hole-in-one at the Games’ golfing competition. The 18-year-old holed out with a seven iron at the par three third.

Gil’s compatriots on the women’s rugby team showed they had the stomach for a fight by overcoming home favourites China 26-19 to set up a gold medal game against powerhouse Australia, who thrashed the United States 33-0 in the other semi-final.

Argentina will meet France in the men’s final. The 13-day multi-sport event, which debuted in Singapore four years ago, kicked off amid something of a sour note at the weekend when Sierra Leone, Liberia and Nigeria withdrew due to the Ebola outbreak in Africa.

Despite the rough start, Han Dong, assistant director of the marketing department for Nanjing’s Youth Olympic Games Organizing Committee, said at a media briefing on Tuesday the Games were proving a big hit.

“For 80 percent of the competition, the tickets have been sold,” said Han. “Now the events are in full swing we expect more ticket sales.

“About half of the tickets have been sold to young people or families. About 70 percent have been sold locally in Nanjing.”

Rata Meilutytė of Lithuania competes during the Women’s 50m Breaststroke match at Nanjing 2014 Youth Olympic Games in Nanjing, capital of east China’s Jiangsu Province, on 18 Aug, 2014.—Xinhua

Meilutytė of Lithuania wins the gold medal in the Women’s 50m BreaststrokeFinal during the Youth Olympic Games in Nanjing, capital of east China’s Jiangsu Province on 18 Aug, 2014.—Xinhua

Meilutytė and her team won the 10m air rifle competition and took the gold medals in swimming.

Meilutytė is one of the most promising swimmers in Lithuania and is expected to compete in the 100m breaststroke at the 2016 Olympic Games in Rio de Janeiro.

Meilutytė, who won gold in the women’s 200m breaststroke at the 2012 London Olympics, said the experience of the Youth Olympic Games will be very helpful for her future Olympic campaign.

“I was very nervous before the race but I managed to stay focused and my preparation was good. I’m very happy with the result,” Meilutytė said.

Meilutytė’s coach, Arturas Jons, said he was proud of his swimmer’s performance.

“Ruta is a very hardworking and dedicated athlete. She deserves this victory,” Jons said.

Meilutytė is currently training for the 2015 European Swimming Championships in Berlin, where she is expected to win several medals.

Meilutytė has already won gold in the 200m breaststroke at the 2014 European Short Course Swimming Championships in Budapest.

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