President U Thein Sein visits flood-hit areas in Sagaing Region

At the hall of the airport, Vice Chairman Mr Futoshi Hiroi and General Manager Mr Yosuke Shigemori of MJAS presented K3 million for flood victims to the union ministers.

The president and party proceeded to Kanbula by helicopter where they were greeted there by Sagaing Region Chief Minister U Thar Aye, Commander of North-West Command Maj-Gen Min Naung, town elders and local peoples.

Afterward, the president and party arrived at Minmyin Dam and thanked members of the Tatmadaw from Shwebo Station working to repair the overflowed dam.

The president and party presented gifts to Tatmadaw members before meeting local people near the dam.

Union Minister U Myint Hlaing, the chief minister of Sagaing Region and officials reported to the president on evacuation procedures and disaster prevention efforts.

After hearing reports, the president said it was an unusual natural disaster and urged officials to be prepared for further heavy rains and to inspect dams and reservoirs countrywide.

He praised the region government, local people and members of the Tatmadaw for their work to prevent damage to Minmyin Dam.

Later, the president and party continued to Thaphan-seik Dam, where Union Minister U Myint Hlaing, the chief minister and officials reported to the president on water prevention efforts.

The current water level in the dam is still under its storage capacity of 2,880,000 acres, according to sources.

Later in the afternoon, the president and party viewed flood-damaged areas in Kynnha and met with Hluttaw representatives, town elders, members of the township management committee, members of the development supporting committee, members of development affairs committee, officials and local people.

President U Thein Sein was accompanied on his trip by Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Senior General Min Aung Hlaing, Union Ministers U Myint Hlaing and U Ohn Myint, Lt-Gen Myint Soe of the Office of the Commander-in-Chief (Army) and deputy ministers.—MNA

Media, CSOs can help keep companies honest: business watchdog

By Ye Myint

YANGON, 20 July — Local media and civil society organizations need to help identify companies that are failing to deliver on their promises to the public, the head of the Myanmar Centre for Responsible Business said Monday.

More thorough coverage would enable the public to “compare what (company) websites say with media reporting and voices of CSOs,” MCRB Director Ms Vicky Bowman said at the launch of the Pwint Thit Sa project’s Transparency

(See page 9)

Myanmar negotiates release of fishermen detained by India

NAY PI TAW, 20 July — Myanmar officials are arranging the repatriation of fishermen detained for illegally entering Indian waters, the Myanmar News Agency reported Monday.

India has agreed to use its coast guard ships to transport the detained Myanmar fishermen after monsoon to Cocogyun Island in Myanmar waters.

Earlier this year, 411 Myanmar fishermen were returned from India by air after being released from Port Blair prison in the Andaman and Nicobar Islands. The fishermen currently held by India have been moved from the prison to the nearby Open Distress Camp.

The Myanmar Embassy in New Delhi and India’s Ministry of External Affairs are coordinating the repatriation. As part of the verification process, (See page 9)

Corrigendum

Please read “Tax should be assessed based on actual income earned and expenditures spent. There should not be an ‘advance tax’ of 2% on income for contract manufacturing businesses” instead of “By giving tax breaks to garment businesses” under the heading of Global brands voice support for minimum wage proposal on front page of this daily issued on 16 July, 2015.—GNLM
Graffiti mural honours martyrs

Mandalay, 20 July — Youth artist Zwe Ko Naing created a graffiti mural depicting the national martyrs on a wall of the Nawarat housing complex in Chanayethazan Township on 19 July. The artist painted the portraits of the martyrs with permission from officials of the housing complex located on 35th Street between 68th and 69th streets. Local people have complimented the artwork.

Maung Pyi Thu
(Mandalay)

More than 200 youths apply for special police in Taungtha Tsp

Mandalay to host Upper Myanmar Interfaith Conference

Mandalay, 20 July — A coordination meeting focused on holding the Upper Myanmar Interfaith Conference at the Oriental House in Mandalay recently.

While General Secretary Dr Thar Nyan of the Interfaith Committee (Central) spoke about procedures for the conference, Chairman of the Mandalay Region Interfaith Committee Thiha Thudhamma Manjotadhara U Kyaw Win explained formation of work committees to successfully hold the conference.

Work committee members discussed preparations for the conference and progress of works.

The conference will be held on 25 July in Mandalay with participation of religious representatives of Hindu, Buddhism, Christianity and Islam from Shan and Kayah States, Magway and Mandalay Regions.

The conference will discuss extended establishment of the committee, future tasks, working together with avoiding hate speech, and paper-reading sessions on peaceful co-existence for realizing friendly relations of interfaith activities.

Tin Maung (Mandalay)

Traditional medicine practitioners treat villagers

Taungtha, 20 July — Traditional medicine practitioners from Dekkha District gave free treatment to local residents in Wegyi and Kadoseik villages in Pyinmana Township on 19 July.

U Hla Maw, head of the district’s Traditional Medicine Department, gave talks on herbal plants to be used as emergency treatment for patients and distributed pamphlets on traditional medicines for common diseases.

They provided health care services to 175 local people from two villages.

Maung Kyaw Latt
(IPRD)

Residents work together to electrify village

Meiktila, 20 July — Local residents in Dahattan village in Meiktila Township, Mandalay Region, have a reliable source of electricity following the installation of two 315 KVA transformers.

Dahattan village is home to more than 2,300 residents. One transformer is positioned at the entrance to the village and another at its centre. Villagers have erected 120 lamp-posts to illuminate roads.

Local people have spent K140 million on electrification of homes.

Chan Thar (Meiktila)
President U Thein Sein sends messages of felicitations to Belgium

Union FM sends message of felicitations to Belgium

Union Election Commission, civil society organizations meet

MRTV, VOV agree to boost broadcast sector cooperation

Japanese experts read papers on development of rice mill, income improvement
China’s Xi tells army to learn from uncorrupt past

BEIJING, 20 July — China’s military must learn from the glorious, uncorrupt example of its revolutionary forebears and thoroughly banish the deep-rooted, pernicious influence of the army’s worst corruption scandal in decades, President Xi Jinping has told official military media.

China’s military is facing the “worst corruption scandal in decades” in the People’s Liberation Army, according to a Defence Ministry statement late on Sunday. Xi, who had been a vice chairman of the powerful Central Military Commission which Xi leads, died before he could be brought to trial.

The government said in October Xu had confessed to taking “massive” bribes in exchange for help in promotions. “Thoroughly clear away the influence of the Xu Caihou case in thinking, politics, organization and work style. Return to, hold on to, and carry on the glorious traditions and excellent working style of the old Red Army,” Xi said, using an informal term for Communist forces who won the Chinese civil war in 1949.

His remarks were carried in all major state-run newspapers on Monday, The Global Times, an influential tabloid published by the Communist Party’s official People’s Daily, said it was the first time Xi had mentioned Xu in public since the Xu’s death.

Retired and serving officers have warned that the graft problem in the army is so serious it could affect the military’s ability to wage war.

China intensified its crackdown on corruption in the military in the late 1990s, banning the People’s Liberation Army from engaging in business. But the military has been involved in commercial dealings in recent years due to a lack of checks and balances, military analysts have said.—Reuters

Malaysia blocks website critical of PM and state fund

Malaysia’s Prime Minister Najib Razak speaks at a presentation for government interns at the Prime Minister’s office in Putrajaya, Malaysia on 8 July, 2015.—REUTERS

KUALA LUMPUR, 20 July — Malaysian authorities have blocked access to a website critical of Prime Minister Najib Razak’s government, saying the British-based news portal had violated a local internet law in a move condemned by opposition lawmakers.

Sarawak Report, a website run by a British woman based in London, has been publishing reports and documents that allegedly include graft and mismanagement by the state investment fund 1Malaysia Development Berhad (1MDB). The Malaysian Communications and Multimedia Commission (MCMC) said the site had breached a law under the Communications and Multimedia Act 1998, prohibiting people from using a website to provide content “that is indecent, obscene, false, menacing, or offensive in character with intent to annoy, abuse, threaten or harass any person”.

“MCMC decided to block a website that could threaten the country’s stability, namely Sarawak Report, for publishing contents with unproven veracity and that are under investigation, after receiving complaints from the public,” the commission said in a statement on Sunday evening.

The site’s editor Clare Rewcastle-Brown said it was “a blatant attempt to censor our exposures of major corruption”.

“This latest blow to media freedom only brings further discredit upon the present administration, who have proven unable to counter the evidence we have presented in any other way,” Rewcastle-Brown said in a statement.

Opposition lawmaker Lim Kit Siang, from Democratic Action Party, decried the action as diminishing the government’s credibility.

“My advice to Najib is to allow common sense to prevail, that blocking access to Sarawak Report is not going to end his 1MDB woes but the opposite, plugging his credibility and legitimacy to even unimagined depths, which is not good for him as prime minister and for the nation as well,” said Lim.

1MDB, with debts of over $11 billion, is being investigated by authorities in Malaysia for financial mismanagement and graft. The state-owned firm’s advisory board is chaired by the prime minister.

The Wall Street Journal (WSJ) reported earlier this month that investigators looking into 1MDB had traced close to $700 million of deposits into personal bank accounts belonging to Najib, according to documents from the probe.

Reuters has not verified the WSJ report.

Najib has denied taking any money for personal gain and said the corruption allegations are part of a malicious campaign to force him out of office. He is weighing legal options against the WSJ.—Reuters

Abe aims to quintuple engineers in marine resource development

Prime Minister Shinzo Abe

TOKYO, 20 July Prime Minister Shinzo Abe on Monday announced a target of quintupling the number of engineers engaged in the development of marine resources by 2030, as Tokyo hopes to export the economy by better utilizing such resources.

The target, revealed at a ceremony commemorating Japan’s Marine Day holiday on Monday in Tokyo, is also aimed at securing the nation’s interests in marine resources as China continues gas development in the East China Sea, observers said. Abe said the number of such engineers should be increased from the current 2,000 to around 10,000 by 2030 through cooperation among the government, academia and related industries.

“Various kinds of resources, including methane hydrate, exist around Japan,” Abe said. “In the sea, there are resources and the (potential for creating) jobs.”

He also warned against aggressiveness in pursuing marine resources, apparently with China’s land reclamation work in disputed areas of the South China Sea in mind.

“Any disputes should be solved peacefully based on international laws, without the use of force and threats,” he said.

Later in the day, Abe visited a base for patrol vessels of the Japan Coast Guard in Tokyo’s Koto Ward and observed a drill in Tokyo Bay based on the need to seize a vessel with terrorists on board.

He then moved to the JCG’s disaster prevention base in Yokohama near Tokyo and provided encouragement to JCG members there. Referring to Chinese ships’ entry into Japan’s territorial waters around the Japanese-controlled Senkaku Islands in the East China Sea, Abe said, “The environment surrounding isolated islands and territorial waters has become more severe than ever.”

“I pay my respects to you for fulfilling your duties under constant pressure,” Abe said. China calls the Senkaku islets Diaoyu and claims them as its own territory.

Cambodia’s Khmer Rouge court says Vietnam, Thailand fail to cooperate

PHNOM PENH, 20 July — The United Nations-backed tribunal for trying former Khmer Rouge leaders said on Monday that Vietnam and Thailand have failed to cooperate with its investigations despite repeated requests.

In a statement, the Office of the Co-Investigating Judges of the Extraordinary Chambers in the Courts of Cambodia said it had written several letters to Vietnam and Thailand, asking them to provide relevant documents as well as access to archives that may contain such documents.

“The Office of the Co-Investigating Judges has written several letters to Vietnam and Thailand, asking them to provide relevant documents as well as access to archives that may contain such documents, but the office has not received any reply,” it said.

The tribunal, established in 2006, has so far convicted and completed all proceedings against one Khmer Rouge leader, Kaing Guek Eav, also known as Duch, who headed the notorious S-21 prison. He was sentenced to life in prison.

The Khmer Rouge is blamed for the deaths of at least 1.7 million Cambodians from 1975 to 1979.

Kyodo News

Regional

China’s Xi

China’s President Xi Jinping

Tokyo, 20 July Prime Minister Shinzo Abe

Prime Minister Shinzo Abe
Obama sends Iran deal to wary Congress, Israel urges rejection

Washington, 20 July — President Barack Obama’s administration sent a nuclear agreement with Teheran to Congress on Sunday and Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu urged US lawmakers to reject a deal he said would only feed an “Iranian terror machine.”

Netanyahu told reporters on his aircraft: “I’m not going to change anybody’s mind in Israel. That’s not the purpose of my trip.”

Friends in disagree but we have decades of rock-solid cooperation with Israel.”

Teheran denies West- ern and Isreali allegations that it has been using a research programme as cover for ambitions to develop atomic weapons. President Hassan Rouhani said on Saturday he expected the deal would lead to closer economic ties between Iran and six major powers.

There are many things to be done to stop Iran’s ag- gression and this deal is not one of them, he said.

US Defence Secretary Ash Carter, arriving in Isra- el on the first visit by a US cabinet official since the agreement, told reporters on his aircraft: “I’m not going to change anybody’s mind in Israel. That’s not the purpose of my trip.”

The investigation is “I think the right thing that they would be in favor 95 percent of New Zealanders back curb on junk food to children: survey

Forty-one percent said they would be strongly in favour of restrictions. It also found strong majorities in favour of regulating unhealthy food and drink promotions in television advertising, website and drink promotions in tele- vision advertizing, website and drink promotions.

“The finding is not sur- prising,” Prof Boyd Swin- burn said in a statement. “Parents do not like to have to say ‘No’ to their children all the time. The pester power that the marketing to children creates really undermines parents’ efforts to give their children a healthy diet.”

The cost of obesity in New Zealand was estimat- ed at 1 billion N$23 651.5 million US dollars) per year for healthcare and lost productivity caused by obesity related illnesses such as diabetes, heart dis- ease and some cancers.

Regulation was usually one of the top cost-effec- tive strategies to reduce childhood obesity, said Swinburn.

A World Health Or- ganization (WHO) Commis- sion to End Childhood Obesity, led by the New Zealand Prime Minister’s chief science advisor, Prof Peter Gluckman, had issued an interim report call- ing for much stronger govern- ment-led restrictions, and WHO Director General Dr Margaret Chan had also called for “regulatory and statutory approaches” to food marketing.

Sydney, 20 July — A small asset that was carrying asylum seekers was seized of Australia’s remote west coast on Monday, the Australian Broadcasting Corp (ABC) reported, the first sighting of a boat carry- ing would-be refugees close to shore in two years.

Australia has vowed to stop 200 asylum seekers reach- ing its shores, turning boats back to Indonesia when it can and sending those it cannot to camps in impov- erished Papua New Guinea and Nauru in the South Pa- cic for long-term detention.

Australia’s Department of Immigration and Border Protection “does not comment on ‘water’ operations, so it was not immediately possible to verify the report,” the ABC said.

The ABC cited a source within the federal govern- ment confirming the sighting of the boat near Dampier, about 1,500 km (930 miles) north of Perth. A police boat was being sent to intercept the vessel, it reported.

The last asylum-seek- er vessel to come so close to the Australian mainland was a boat carrying 17 peo- ple from Vietnam, which arrived in late July 2013 at a floating oil platform located about 125 km (75 miles) from Dampier.

Those asylum seekers were the last to be taken to the Australian territory of Christmas Island for pro- cessing before former La- bour prime minister Kevin Rudd declared a new policy of offshore processing.

Asylum seekers have long been a lightning-rod political issue in Australia, although public opinion has never shown anywhere near the number of refugees current- ly flooding into Europe in an effort to flee growing insta- bility in North Africa.

No one processed for asylum in Nauru or Papua New Guinea is eligible to be settled in Australia, even if they are found to be a genu- ine refugee, under the harsh policies introduced by Rudd and strengthened by the cur- rent conservative govern- ment.

The United Nations and human rights groups have criticized Australia over its tough asylum-seeker pol- icies. Conservative Prime Minister Tony Abbott has defended the measures as necessary to stop deaths at sea.

In June, reports that Australia paid people-smug- glers bound for Australia thousands of dollars to turn the other cheek on refugees has caused tensions with Jakarta, plunging relations to their lowest point in more than a year. — Reuters

Uljan Bator, 20 July — Japan and North Korea held secret talks in May in Uljan Bator over North Korea’s abductions of Japanese nationals dec-ades ago, in a diplomatic source in Mongolia said on Sunday.

Officials of the two countries met secretly be- fore what Japan viewed as the one-year deadline for 4 July for completing the North Korean probe. North Korea told Japan on 2 July it needed more time to complete the investiga- tion, according to the Japa- nese government.

The investigation is the third that Pyongyang has promised to conduct, following probes in 2002 and 2004 that Japan found unconvincing.

Japanese Prime Min- ister Shinzo Abe sent an aide to Mongolia in mid- May to seek its help in get- ting North Korea to clarify what became of Japanese nationals it abducted in the 1970s and 1980s, a source familiar with Japan-North Korea relations said.

Chances are high that the aide, one of Abe’s execu- tive aides, is to be the secret talks.

In July last year, North Korea launched a compre- hensive policy adviser who heads the secretariat of Japan’s National Security Council, held talks in the Mongolian capital with Tsagaandaar Enkhutsun, secretary of Mongolia’s National Security Council. For the Mongolian offic- ial told reporters he prom- ised Yachi that Uljan Bator will continue to serve as a platform for the settlement of the abduction issue. Mongolia has diplomat- ics ties with North Korea, while Japan does not.

Kyodo News
US, Cuba quietly open historic new chapter in post-Cold War ties

WASHINGTON, 20 July — The United States and Cuba quietly ushered in a new era of post-Cold War relations on Monday, formally restoring diplomatic ties severed more than five decades ago and re-establishing embassies in each other’s capitals.

Just past the stroke of midnight, the two countries reached a new milestone in the historic thaw that began with a breakthrough announcement by US President Barack Obama and Cuban President Raul Castro on 17 December last year.

Foreign Minister Bruno Rodriguez will preside around 10:30 pm (3.30 pm BST) over the raising of the Cuban flag for the first time in 54 years over a mansion that will again serve as Havana’s embassy in Washington.

The hugely symbolic event will be followed by a meeting at the State Department between Secretary of State John Kerry and Rodriguez, the first Cuban foreign minister on an official visit to Washington since the 1959 Cuban Revolution.

While the Cubans hold their ceremony, the US Embassy in Havana will also re-open. But no American flag will fly there until a visit by Kerry expected next month.

“We wanted the secretary to be there to oversee these important events,” a State Department official said.

Differences remain and efforts toward full normalization between the United States and the Community-ruled island are expected to proceed slowly. Monday’s steps culminated more than two years of negotiations between governments that had long shunned each other.

More than 500 people will attend the Cubans’ festivities in Washington, including members of Congress. No invitations were extended to hardline anti-Castro lawmakers. The US delegation will be headed by Assistant Secretary of State Roberta Jacobson.

Kerry and Rodriguez last met in April at the Summit of the Americas in Panama, where Obama and Castro also held talks. Aides see the outreach to Cuba as a boost to Obama’s legacy, re-establishment of embassies agreed to on 1 July, opens a new chapter of engagement by easing government contacts heavily restricted during the US economic embargo against Cuba will remain in place, and only Congress can lift it. Even so, before dawn on Monday, the US Department planned to hang a Cuban flag in its lobby among the banners of other countries with which Washington has relations.—Reuters

Greek banks reopen as Tsipras eyes return to normal

ATHENS, 20 July — Greeks queued outside banks on Monday as they reopened three weeks after closing to stop the system collapsing, the first cautious sign of a return to normal after a deal to start talks on a new package of bailout loans.

However limits on withdrawals will remain and payments and wire transfers abroad will still not be possible — a situation which German Chancellor Angela Merkel said on Sunday was not a normal life and warranted swift negotiations on a new bailout, expected to be worth up to 86 billion euros.

The stock market will also remain closed until further notice. Increases in value added tax agreed under the bailout terms have also taken effect with VAT rising to 23 percent from 13 percent.

The bank closures were the most visible sign of the crisis that took Greece to the brink of falling out of the euro earlier this month, potentially undermining the foundations of the single European currency.

Their reopening followed Tsipras’ acceptance of a tough package of bailout demands from European partners but party revolts has threatened the stability of his government and government officials have said that new elections may be held as early as September or October.

Queues formed outside bank branches in central Athens as long queues of Greeks waited to take care of business frozen during the three-week-long bank holiday. “Things are better than the last few weeks. Thank God we didn’t end up with the drachma!” said 62-year-old pensioner Maria Papadopoulou. “I came to pay bills and my taxes today. Last week I couldn’t and all of this is very tiring for the older people like me.”

Limits on cash withdrawals have been made slightly more flexible, with a weekly limit of 420 euros in place of the daily 60 euro limit previously.

“Capital controls and restrictions on withdrawals will remain in place but we are entering a new stage which we all hope will be one of normality,” said Louka Katseli, head of the Greek bank association.

Greeks will be able to deposit cheques but not cash, pay bills as well as have access to safety deposit boxes and withdraw money without an ATM card.

Bankers said there may be minor disruptions after the three-week interruption to services but they expected services to resume largely as normal.

“My expectations are normal and that the network of our competitors are ready to serve our clients,” said a senior official at Piraeus Bank, one of the big four lenders. “There might be lines because many people will want to withdraw money from their deposit boxes,” the official said.

After European authorities agreed last week to provide emergency funding assistance, Athens is expected to meet a payment deadline for 4.2 billion euros, including interest payments, due to the European Central Bank on Monday.

Admiral Scott Swift

SEOUL, 20 July — A top US admiral on Monday joined a routine surveillance flight over the disputed South China Sea on Saturday and that the US was not ready to discuss freedom of navigation in the region.

Admiral Scott Swift, commander of the US Pacific Fleet, confirmed at a press roundtable in Seoul on Monday that he had been aboard the seven-hour flight of a Boeing P-8 surveillance plane, but gave no specific details about the flight. In May, Beijing called a P-8 surveillance flight carrying a CNN team over the South China Sea “irresponsible and dangerous”.

Swift said his flight was routine, like the earlier CNN flight, and did not say if China responded to Saturday’s patrol.

China’s defence and foreign ministries did not immediately respond to a request for comment.

“We have forces deployed throughout the region to demonstrate the United States commitment to freedom of navigation,” said Swift, adding the flight allowed him to see “first-hand” new operational capabilities in the region.

Swift said communications with China at sea were “positive and structured”. “I’m normal, if you will,” he said. China has almost finished building a 3,000-metre-long (10,000-foot) airstrip on one of its artificial islands in the disputed Spratly archipelago of the South China Sea, according to satellite imagery of the area. Beijing claims most of the South China Sea, with the Philippines, Vietnam, Malaysia and others holding overlapping claims.

Washington has demanded China halt land reclamations and militarization of the disputed area and to pursue a peaceful resolution of the dispute to international law.

China stepped up its pursuit of disputes with neighboring countries in Asia and drew criticism from Washington. Beijing says the outposts will have undefined military purposes, as well as help to stabilize the region as it pursues a peaceful resolution of the South China Sea dispute and that’s generating uncertainty,” said Swift, without giving details.

Swift had a crystal ball that I look into the future and see, I am concerned about the forces of destabilization that appear to be more cautious in the theater,” he said. “And that’s what I hear from my friends in the region as I communicate with them…The lack of certainty - the growing uncertainty of those countries in the region.”—Reuters

EU regulations cost UK asset managers two billion pounds a year

LONDON, 20 July — Complying with European Union regulations costs British asset managers 2 billion pounds ($3.13 billion) a year and the EU should find ways to cut managers’ costs when they sell their funds across the bloc, a report said on Monday. EU regulations allow fund managers to sell their products across national borders, which is positive for both the asset managers and investors, the report from think-tank Open Europe and fund management trade body New City Initiative said. But it said the start-up and running costs of the so-called “passport” system were a deterrent for some fund managers.

“The EU should ensure that European asset managers are freed down by disproportionate EU regulation and can take full advantage of the single market without facing extra costs when distributing their funds across the 28 EU member states,” the report said.

The report estimated that a UK-based fund manager marketing and distributing in all the 27 EU member states plus Switzerland would face total initial costs of over 1.5 million euros ($1.63 million).

On-going costs could approach 1.4 million euros a year, it added.

The report recommended removing these “national hurdles” to the marketing of funds across Europe, for instance by cutting the requirements to appoint local paying agents in member states or to translate investor documents into local languages.

It also opposed EU proposals to ban fund managers from receiving brokers’ commissions, saying this was part of the dealing commissions they pay, which are then charged to the funds’ clients.

“A outright ban would have a disproportionate impact on smaller asset managers — and may even force some of them out of business,”—Reuters
Babur Ahmad (R), a British national accused of operating a website that promoted jihad and supported al-Qaeda, is pictured in this courtroom sketch in the US District Court in New Haven, Connecticut on 10 Dec, 2013. —Reuters

Houthi bombardment in Yemen’s Aden kills 43 — exiled government

Babur Ahmad’s sentenced 11 years

Six foreign jihadists killed

Four Italians kidnapped in Libya: Italy foreign ministry

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Houthi bombardment in Yemen’s Aden kills 43 — exiled government
Farmers need agricultural insurance policies

By Aung Khin

Torrential rains in many areas of Myanmar pose problems for residents. Although natural disasters cannot be prevented, their consequences can be reduced through response and recovery programmes, as well as rehabilitation projects.

Local government emergency services are responsible for the initial response to disasters with the help of state and volunteer agencies, followed by the contributions of respective departments, providing search and rescue, electricity, food, water, shelter and other fundamental needs.

Heavy rains have persisted from the second week of July in many areas of Myanmar and have caused floods in some regions and states. Flooded areas have been evacuated and evacuees provided with accommodation at temporary relief camps.

Locals will suffer certain consequences from disasters in varying degrees. While there have been no deaths reported, farmlands are sure to be left damaged after floods. To help farmers hit by floods, a crop insurance scheme should be launched in Myanmar at a reasonable price. This programme should be set up by the respective ministries and financial institutions to prevent a monopoly by a private firm.

In some neighbouring countries, insurance policies on paddy fields cover damage incurred from natural disasters, as well as pests and epidemics. In these countries, farmers purchase crop insurance to protect themselves against either the loss of their crops due to disasters such as drought and floods, or from other sources of damage, such as wild elephants.

Insurance policy for in-season paddy fields should be compulsory to all farmers who receive subsidies for fertilizers. For example, farmers who purchase fertilizers may be required to pay a compulsory premium to become a policy holder of the insurance scheme.

Such an insurance scheme should be included in the recovery plan for farmers to reduce their burdens caused by natural disasters.

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.

Due to limitation of space we are only able to publish “Letter to the Editor” that do not exceed 500 words. Should you submit a text longer than 500 words please be aware that your letter will be edited.

Leadership for Democracy

Kyi Mun

Not the cry, but the flight of the wild duck prompts the flock to fly and to follow.

- A Chinese Proverb

Democracy means:

Greek: demos, the people; kráttein, to rule: meaning Government by the people.

Leadership means: (1) The position of being the leader of a team, organization etc. (2) Burns took over the leadership of the party. The quality of being good at leading a team, organization, country etc. e.g. someone with vision and leadership. (3) All the people who lead a group, organization etc. e.g. The party leadership are in agreement on this matter. (4) The position of being in front of others in a competition. e.g. Burns took over the leadership of the party

The party leadership must be resolute, fear no sacrifice and surmount all difficulties to win victories.

ABLE & WILLING PARTICIPATION OF THE PEOPLE

Without the broad-based involvement of the broad masses of the people, democracy movement cannot be successful. People will be the main beneficiaries of democratic rule. So, the people must be the main driving force behind the democracy movement. The broad masses of the people must be mobilized, organized, educated, and led in the culture of democracy in a big way. Democracy building should be people-centered and people-oriented, because the government under democracy must be government of the people, by the people, for the people.

DYNAMIC MOBILIZATION OF THE RESOURCES

At the end of the day, the leadership must take the responsibility of dynamically mobilizing the national as well as the international resources of:

- Human resource
- Financial resource
- Technological resource
- Organizational resource
- Information (ICT) resource
- Material resource

The leadership should leave no stone unturned in going all out for attracting the international and regional: technical cooperation, development assistance and (FID) investment in economic, finance, technological areas for the modernization of the country.

EDUCATIONAL & ENVIRONMENTAL DEVELOPMENT

The caliber of the leadership is very important in the national development and modernization endeavour. It is of utmost importance to awaken and educate the people. The broad masses of the people must be dynamically inspired to rise up and try to join the ranks of the economically and culturally developed countries of the world. Human conditions have to be transformed by the renewal of the people’s minds.

REVOLUTIONARY REFORMS

Revolution means: A great change in conditions, ways of working, beliefs etc. that affect large number of people: a cultural/social/scientific etc. revolution; A revolution in information technology is taking place.

Reform means: (1) To improve a system, an organization, a law etc, by making changes to it. (2) To improve our behavior; to make somebody do this. (3) Change that is made to a social system, an organization etc., in order to improve or correct it. Revolutionary reforms must be made dynamically in the following areas:

- Political Reform
- Economic Reform
- Technological Reform
- Educational Reform

SOCIO-CULTURAL REFORM

The leadership must possess the sincerest spirit of pursuing to the best of their utmost abilities Peace, Progress and Prosperity for the People, Planet and Posterity! This should be the leadership’s strategic vision. The whole leadership must go all-out and aim high in this historical mission giving every bit of themselves, holding nothing back.

CONCLUSION

The leadership for democracy must have the resolute determination and the ardent capabilities to turn heaven and earth upside down in leading Myanmar into a fully developed and modernized democratic country.

All’s well that ends well. Long live democracy!
Kyaukpadaung Tsp lays gravel on two earthen roads

KYAUKPADAUNG, 20 July — The Kyaukpadaung Township Rural Development Department is laying gravel on two earthen roads as part of its programme to improve transport infrastructure.

The department has spent K85 million upgrading the 2-mile Kyaukpadaung-Myingyan-Natkale Road, commencing work in July 2014.

Work to upgrade the 3-mile Kyanay-aing-Kangon Road begins at the end of this month. The department allocated K128 million for road works to link Kyaukpadaung-Myingyan Road.

Recently, Head of Township Rural Development Department Daw Myint Win and officials inspected progress of upgrading tasks on the two roads, Ko Nay (Kyaukpadaung).

National forum targets universal health coverage by 2030

YANGON, 20 July — A national conference in Nay Pyi Taw later this month will discuss strategies toward implementing universal health coverage in Myanmar by the year 2030, one of its organizers said Monday.

The first-ever Myanmar Health Forum will take place 28-29 at Myanmar International Convention Centre II, Health Ministry permanent secretary Prof Thet Khine Win said.

The forum will highlight the need for huge investments in the health sector, he said, adding it will provide an opportunity for those involved in the sector to have their say.

Experts will share their experiences and views on development of the health sector through plenary talks.

Around 700 people from the health ministry and related ministries, international development partners, INGOs, NGOs and civil society organizations, are expected to attend the two-day forum, a health ministry official said.

Local and foreign CSOs are holding a civil society consultation meeting ahead of the forum from 20-22 July in Yangon.

“The results of the meeting will be presented to the health forum,” said Dr Sid Naing of Marie Stopes International, an NGO focused on current reproductive health, maternal and child mortality and human rights, health, safety and the environment.

It bases scores on information published by the companies, and is not an assessment of their actual performance, added the MCRB.

“Thirty-nine of 100 companies surveyed have no website and around 40 more who have group subsidiary websites publish little or no corporate governance and sustainability information,” said Ms Bowman, formerly the British Ambassador to Myanmar.

Smart, Parami, and Myanmar Petroleum Resources Limited (MPRL) in the country’s oil and gas service sector are showing themselves to be transparency leaders among their Myanmar peers, she said.

The MCRB also made a recommendation to the government for non-financial information to be published by larger Myanmar companies and an annual sustainability report by investing companies granted permits by the Myanmar Investment Commission, she added.

The MCRB, a Yangon-based initiative funded by a number of European countries, aims to improve knowledge, capacity and dialogue concerning responsible business in Myanmar. Its first report on transparency came out in 2014, and it expects to repeat its survey in 2016.

Myanmar negotiates release of ... (from page 1)

two representatives from the Myanmar Embassy in New Delhi and the Myanmar Consulate in Kolkata will go to the camp to verify the identities of fishermen held there.

Thanks to the collaborative efforts of the Ministry of Home Affairs, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the Ministry of Labour, Employment and Social Security and International Organization of Migration (IOM), a total of 514 trafficked Myanmar citizens earlier this year returned home from Indonesia’s Benjina Island.

Myanmar signs International Covenant on Education, Social and Cultural Rights


The signing ceremony was held at Legal Affairs Department at the United Nations Headquarters in New York and it was signed by Ambassador U Kyaw Tin, Permanent Representative of Myanmar to the United Nations.

According to the UN data, a total of 164 countries have already ratified the convention, to date.

Since Myanmar has already signed the convention, ratification process will be done accordingly. Necessary domestic process for the implementation of the obligations deriving from the convention will be carried out in line with the national interest. It was learnt from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs.—MNA
Dollar on the rise, gold melts to five-year low

SYDNEY, 20 July — The US dollar held firm in Asia on Monday as investors looked ahead to higher interest rates from the Federal Reserve, while gold slumped to five-year lows as a lack of global inflation left little to hedge against.

The precious metal ran into a wave of selling in Asia that drove it down almost 4 percent at one stage to as deep as $1,088.05 an ounce. It was last at $1,107.70.

“It looks like someone was taking advantage of the low liquidity environment at the moment. It’s a bit of speculative selling going on,” said Victor Thi, an analyst at ANZ Bank in Singapore.

Nearly 900,000 lots were traded on a key contract on the Shanghai Gold Exchange, compared to less than 27,000 lots on Friday,Reuters data showed. Prior to Monday, volume for July had averaged less than 30,000 lots.

Activity was light elsewhere with Japan on holiday and a dearth of major data in the diary, leading to a cautious session for stocks in Asia. Financial spread betters expected European bourses to open with gains of 0.1 to 0.2 percent.

Australia’s main index edged up 0.2 percent, but MSCI’s broadest index of Asia-Pacific shares outside Japan slipped 0.5 percent.

There was better news from China where home prices rose for a second month in a row in June, suggesting government efforts to boost the struggling property sector have started to gain traction.

China stocks seem to have pulled out of their recent nosedive amid a barrage of measures from regulators and buying by brokerages and mutual funds.

The Shanghai Composite Index was all flat but 1 percent on the day, while the CSI300 index of the largest listed companies in Shanghai and Shenzhen dipped 0.6 percent.

Greek banks are set to reopen on Monday after a three-week shutdown, while German Chancellor Angela Merkel called for swift aid talks so Athens could also lift withdrawal limits.

With Greece fading from the limelight, markets focussed on the relative outperformance of the US economy and nudged the euro to its lowest in seven weeks at $1.0822.

A break of the May trough around $1.0818 would likely embolden bears to head for the April lows at $1.0521. “For now, the US dollar remains in the driving seat,” Barclays said in a note to clients.

Analysts at Goldman Sachs said that should WTO get back to a level seen last April, the price of a barrel, “US producers will ramp up activity given improved returns with costs down nearly 30 percent and producers increasingly comfortable (with the current economies).”

Salmender NV (SALN) said it is betting on an uptick in demand in coming quarters for oilfield services in North America, a market that has been battered by the steep drop in oil prices. Money managers cut their net long US crude futures and options positions in the week to July 14, the most in five months, according to a closely-watched report by Baker Hughes Inc (BHI).

Oil prices edged lower on Monday as data showed Saudi Arabian exports fell to their lowest in five months despite record output, while a resurgence in US drilling activity seemed to have peaked last week.

Both international and US crude futures posted their third consecutive weekly losses last week on expectations of increased exports from Iran following a deal to ease sanctions against the OPEC producer. Brent September crude LCOC1 was 14 cents lower at $56.96 a barrel by 0708 GMT.

The benchmark fell nearly 3 percent last week and more than 10 percent for the month.

US crude futures CLc1, also known as West Texas Intermediate (WTI), were down 7 cents at $50.82 on Monday, after falling more than 3 percent last week and more than 14 percent in July. The August contract expires on Tuesday.

Saudi Arabia’s crude oil exports fell in May to their lowest since December, with official data showing daily shipments stood at 6.935 million barrels a day (bpd) compared with 7.377 million bpd in April.

The decline came despite record high output of over 10 million bpd as the world’s biggest exporter of crude — transforms into one of the largest oil refining centres.

In the United States, drillers cut seven oil rigs last week, according to a closely watched report by Baker Hughes Inc (BHI). Prices fell despite a 2 percent climb.

So when turkeys about 13 kilometres (8 miles) from Wood’s hatchery in Webster City, Iowa, were infected, he scrambled to relocate his most precious birds. Wood made a “Noah’s Ark” list of breeds he had to move to safety, including male and female White Cochins which look like snowball with masses of downy feathers, and Ancona, a breed with histrionic black plumage that originated in Italy. He plans to keep the chickens in Texas through next spring while he monitors the virus in the Iowa epicenter.

Bird flu has killed more than 48 million chickens and turkeys since December, with most of the losses affecting egg-laying hens in Iowa, the top egg-producer in the United States.

Wood’s breeding stock includes chickens with genetic lines that date back to the early 1900s. Some of the breeds are so rare, he said, that if they were ever wiped out by the flu, “even to find them and build them back up to bigger numbers would take a long time.”

Kansai Electric eyes LNG tie-up with GDF Suez of France

OSAKA, 20 July — Kansai Electric Power Co plans to join hands with French energy giant GDF Suez in procurement and marketing of liquefied natural gas, a source with knowledge of the matter said Monday.

The move, aimed at lowering LNG procurement costs for Kansai Electric amid swelling fuel imports in the wake of the nuclear crisis triggered by the March 2011 earthquake and tsunami, is in the final stage of talks between the two companies and is expected to be announced as early as Tuesday, according to the source.

The planned tie-up is expected to cover extensive cooperation between Kansai Electric and GDF Suez, including joint operation of LNG ships and obtaining gas concessions, the source said.

Kansai Electric, which inked an LNG sales and purchase agreement with a Singaporean affiliate of Britain’s BP plc in May, plans to expand overseas LNG sales into a new pillar of its growth strategy.—Kyodo News

Oil edges lower as Saudi crude falls, US cuts drill rigs

SINGAPORE, 20 July — Oil prices edged lower on Monday as data showed Saudi Arabian exports fell to their lowest in five months despite record output, while a resurgence in US drilling activity seemed to have peaked last week.

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Toshiba accounting probe set to prompt board reshuffle, possible fines

Tokyo, 20 July — A probe into an accounting scandal at Toshiba Corp is expected to find that top management were responsible for failures on a company-wide scale, setting the stage for a board overhaul, results restatements and potentially hefty fines.

The summary report by an independent committee, due on Monday at 9 pm (1200 GMT), is likely to show faulty book-keeping led to profits being overstated by close to 170 billion yen ($1.4 billion) over several years, people briefed on the probe said last week. That would be more than three times Toshiba’s initial estimate.

It is also likely to lead eventually to 300-400 billion yen in charges related to overstated profits and various write-downs, other people familiar with the matter said, although it was unclear how much of that would be booked for the business year that ended in March. Such numbers would significantly dent Toshiba’s results. The semiconductor-to-nuclear conglomerate reported just 50.8 billion yen in net profit for the previous financial year.

A Toshiba spokesman said the company was still waiting for the report and had not yet compiled estimates. The company is scheduled to hold a news conference on Tuesday.

Toshiba has not been able to close its books for the latest year because of the probe, which also forced the company to cancel its annual dividend. The investigation comes as Japan’s Prime Minister Shinzo Abe is trying to improve the country’s corporate governance in order to attract more foreign investors. This is the country’s biggest business scandal since camera and medical-equipment maker Olympus Corp’s 13-year cover-up of $1.7 billion in losses blew up in late 2011.

The scandal also shakes a stalwart of Japanese industry, which has regularly supplied leaders to Japan’s biggest business lobby. Toshiba remains Japan’s 10th-biggest company by assets and market value despite its stock price falling 26 percent since the scandal surfaced in early April. It is Toshiba’s second probe in less than two years. In October 2013 it announced it had found that subsidiary Toshiba Medical Information Systems had overstated results for several years.

Company officials initially expected accounting overstatements than now appear likely, and had briefly considered an extraordinary dividend to make up for the missed payout. That now looks unlikely given the mounting problems.

Investigators have focused on the theory that executives, worried about the impact of the 2011 Fukushima disaster on its nuclear business, set overly aggressive targets for new operations such as smart meters and electronic toll booths, encouraging irregular book-keeping, according to sources.—Reuters

Seattle’s long-broken tunnel-boring machine set to resume 23 November

Workers look on as they lift the machine head from Bertha, the world’s largest tunnel-boring machine, from an access pit for repairs in Seattle, Washington on 30 March, 2015.—Reuters

Seattle, 20 July — The world’s largest-diameter tunnel-boring machine is expected to resume drilling under downtown Seattle in late November after repairs are completed, allowing a central part of a years-delayed highway project to go forward.

Washington state officials said on Friday.

The broken machine, known as Bertha, stopped working in December 2013 after digging just 10 percent of a planned tunnel to replace an aging waterfront highway. It was stuck for more than a year underneath downtown Seattle.

The new timeline for replacing the busy Alaskan Way Viaduct and opening it to drivers is now spring 2018, Washington state Department of Transportation said in a statement. The viaduct was damaged in a 2001 earthquake and is nearing the end of its lifespan.

“Tunneling is slated to resume in late November, with the machine emerging approximately one year later,” the Transportation Department said. “The state is not able to verify the contractor’s schedule.”

Previously, project contractor Seattle Tunnel Partners said it hoped to have Bertha drilling again by August, but it pushed that estimate by nearly four months to 23 November, when the contractor’s timeline provided to the state. In March, crews hoisted Bertha’s 2,000-ton front end from a pit in an attempt to assess damages and make repairs and improvements, which are scheduled to wrap up in the fall.

Bertha’s breakdown and other unexpected construction issues have left the $3.1 billion project two years behind schedule and sparked concern about even greater cost overruns. The project had initially been slated to cost $2.5 billion and be completed by 2015.—Reuters

Huawei’s first-half revenue up 30 percent year-on-year at $28 billion

Hong Kong, 20 July — Huawei Technologies Co Ltd [HWT.UL], one of the world’s largest telecom equipment makers, on Monday posted a 30 percent increase in first-half revenue to 175.9 billion yuan ($28.3 billion) and said it would achieve “effective growth” in 2015.

The Shenzhen-based company, which competes with Sweden’s Ericsson (ERICb.ST) for the top spot in the global market for communications towers and other infrastructure, posted an operating margin of 18 percent in the first six months of 2015, compared with 18.3 percent in the previous half-year. The private company did not elaborate in its brief statement.

“Huawei achieved stable and healthy growth in all of its three business segments,” Huawei CFO Meng Wanzhou said in the statement, referring to the company’s telecom, consumer device and enterprise business segments.

“We are confident that we will maintain effective growth and steady and healthy development in all business segments in 2015.”

Huawei earlier this year set a target of 20 percent growth in global revenue for 2015. Last year, Huawei reported a 19 percent rise in its first-half revenue. The company reported an operating margin of 11.9 percent in 2014. Huawei had targeted overall revenue of $70 billion by 2018, which translates as roughly 10 percent annual growth. It posted 21 percent revenue growth last year.—Reuters

Microsoft to buy Israeli cyber security firm Adallom: report

Tel Aviv, 20 July — Microsoft Corp plans to acquire Israeli cyber security company Adallom for $320 million, the financial newspaper reported on Monday. Adallom, which develops cloud security platform, is expected to become the center for Microsoft’s cyber security business in Israel, the newspaper said.

Adallom could not be reached for comment and officials at Microsoft in Israel declined to comment. The US technology company has made several recent acquisitions in Israel, including security software developer Aerotro for a reported $200 million. It also bought text analysis developer Aorato for a reported $200 million. It also bought text analysis

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China finds new evidence for use of fire

by “Peking Man”

Beijing, 19 July — New evidence has been found in an archeological site in Beijing suggesting that the ancestor of modern man was able to use fire more than 600,000 years ago.

The findings were announced Friday, after archeologists spent three years excavating the Zhoubaidian fossil site in the western suburbs of Beijing.

According to Gao Xing, research fellow with the Institute of Vertebrate Paleontology and Paleoanthropology of the Chinese Academy of Sciences, a fire site, sintering soil, and burned rocks and bones were uncovered at the site.

Some of the animal bones were entirely carbonized, turned black both outside and inside,” Gao said. “It is safe for us to conclude that this is the result of burning.” They also found fire sites encircled by rocks and lime resulting from the burning of lime-stone, Gao added.

Fossils of Peking Man were discovered in the 1920s, including an entire cranium that earned Zhoukoudian fame as one of the birth places of humans. Ashes, burned bones and rocks, as well as charred seeds were also found in 1929, according to Gao, leading many archeologists to agree that Peking Man knew how to use fire.

However, there has always been skepticism that they resulted from natural fire. “The evidence this time is more convincing,” Gao said. “It has been found under the earth, untouched, without weather damage.” “This shows us that Peking Man could not only keep kindling, but knew how to control fire,” he said.—Xinhua
**France returns 32 cultural relics to Chinese museum**

Lanzhou, 20 July — Thirty-two gold ornaments stolen from ancient Chinese tombs and held by French collectors were formally handed over to northwest China’s Gansu Provincial Museum on Monday.

Li Xiaojie, head of the State Administration of Cultural Heritage, presented a gold ornament to Liu Weiping, Gansu provincial governor, at a handover ceremony on Monday morning, marking the relics’ return.

It was the first time cultural relics have been successfully returned to China following bilateral negotiations between the Chinese and French governments. They were returned by French private collectors Francois Pinault and Christian Deydier earlier this year.

The 32 gold items came from tombs in Dabu, Zishan in Lixian County, Gansu Province dating back to the Spring and Autumn period (770 BC-476 BC). The tombs were badly looted during the 1990s and a large number of relics, including the gold ornaments, were smuggled abroad. A public exhibition of the relics also opened on Monday and will last until 31 October. After that, they will be permanently displayed at the Gansu Provincial Museum.

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**Mitsubishi Materials makes historic apology to ex-POW forced labourers**

Los Angeles, 20 July — A top executive from Japan’s Mitsubishi Materials Corp delivered on Sunday a historic apology to former American prisoners of war who were used as forced labour during World War II.

Hikaru Kimura, senior executive officer at the company, said through a translator that the company expressed “our most remorseful apology” to the nearly 900 former US POWs “subjected to hard labour during the war.”

A number of other former POWs and families of former POWs were also in attendance.

Chuck Johannsen, 81, attended the ceremony on behalf of his late older brother, Fred Johannsen, a POW captured in Bataan in the Philippines and held by Japanese forces for over three-and-a-half years.

“It’s heartwarming,” Johannsen said of the apology. “I never thought anything like this would ever happen and was definitely surprised.”

Stanley Gibson, the son of a former British POW who was liberated at the same time as Murphy, flew in from Scotland for the ceremony after learning about it in the news.

Kimura said if the apology would also extend apologies to other people in different countries. Prior to the ceremony, the Japanese officials and former POWs spoke in a private meeting.

“I entered the room with a heavy heart seeking forgiveness,” Okamoto said. “Instead of grievances, I was met with forgiveness and generosity.”

He also apologized “for not apologizing earlier,” acknowledging that many former POWs have already died.

This year marks 70 years since the end of World War II in 1945. 

Rabbi Cooper highlighted Kimura Tokudome, founder and director of the US-Japan Dialogue on POWs, for her efforts advocating for Japanese companies to apologize to former POWs.

Tokudome approached several major Japanese companies about offering an apology, prompting Mitsubishi Materials to act.

Murphy and others urged other Japanese companies to follow Mitsubishi Materials’ lead to apologize for the forced labor of the US and other countries’ POWs.

The two electrocuted in a river were identified as Masatomo Ozaki, a 42-year-old resident of Kanagawa Prefecture, south of Tokyo, according to local police.

The Ozaki and Iwamura families were on a picnic at the time of the accident. The one-metre-high wire fence was set up on a riverside in Nishi-izu town by local residents to guard a plantation of hydrangea flowers from wild deer. Part of the fence was damaged and a piece of wire was in the water.

Electricity was supplied to the fence from a 100 volt outlet in a farm supply shed nearby, an investigative source said.

The police will investigate whether appropriate safety measures were in place as government regulations require the installation of an earth leakage breaker around electric fences carrying charges of 30 volts or more.

A transformer was installed in the line, but it could have been out of order, according to the source.

Around 4:30 pm on Sunday, Ozaki, his son Raiku, 8, and Iwamura’s son Kaio, 8, were heard screaming while playing in the river. Ozaki’s wife Yuka, 43, Iwamura and his wife Takako, 42, as well as Sumie Yamamoto, a 75-year-old local resident, were also electrocuted after entering the water to save the three.

Takako Iwamura and son Kaio were severely injured, while Yuka Ozaki and son Raiku as well as Yamamoto suffered slight injuries.

The accident took place about 25 km southeast of Shuzenji Station on the Izu Hakone Railway. It was not raining at the time of the accident.

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**Kyodo News**

**Shizuoka, 20 July — Police on Monday began onsite investigations into the cause of an accident the previous day in Shizuoka Prefecture, central Japan, that left two men dead and five women and children injured after making contact with an electrified fence protecting flower beds.**

The two electrocuted in a river were identified as Masatomo Ozaki, a 42-year-old resident of Kanagawa Prefecture, south of Tokyo, according to local police. The Ozaki and Iwamura families were on a picnic at the time of the accident. The one-metre-high wire fence was set up on a riverside in Nishi-izu town by local residents to guard a plantation of hydrangea flowers from wild deer. Part of the fence was damaged and a piece of wire was in the water.

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The accident took place about 25 km southeast of Shuzenji Station on the Izu Hakone Railway. It was not raining at the time of the accident.
### Claims Day Notice

#### MV VEGA FYNEN VOY NO (1525)
Consignees of cargo carried on MV VEGA FYNEN VOY NO (1525) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 20.7.2015 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of M.I.P where it will lie at the consignee’s risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

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<tr>
<th>Shipping Agency Department</th>
<th>Myanmar Port Authority</th>
<th>Agent for: M/S MCC Transport (S’Pore) PTE LTD</th>
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<td>Phone No: 2301185</td>
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#### MV BEHSAD VOY NO (1017E)
Consignees of cargo carried on MV BEHSAD VOY NO (1017E) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 20.7.2015 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of M.I.T where it will lie at the consignee’s risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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<td>Phone No: 2301185</td>
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#### MV KULNATEE VOY NO (05/15)
Consignees of cargo carried on MV KULNATEE VOY NO (05/15) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 21.7.2015 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of S.P.W where it will lie at the consignee’s risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

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<tr>
<th>Shipping Agency Department</th>
<th>Myanmar Port Authority</th>
<th>Agent for: M/S Advance Container Lines</th>
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#### MV BLUE MOON VOY NO (1905)
Consignees of cargo carried on MV BLUE MOON VOY NO (1905) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 20.7.2015 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of M.I.T/L.M.P where it will lie at the consignee’s risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of Port of Yangon.

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

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

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<th>Shipping Agency Department</th>
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<th>Agent for: M/S MCC Transport (S’Pore) PTE LTD</th>
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#### MV YANTRA BHUM VOY NO (959N)
Consignees of cargo carried on MV YANTRA BHUM VOY NO (959N) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 20.7.2015 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of M.I.P where it will lie at the consignee’s risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

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#### MV INDUSTRIAL CHAMP VOY NO (510293)
Consignees of cargo carried on MV INDUSTRIAL CHAMP VOY NO (510293) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 21.7.2015 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of M.I.P where it will lie at the consignee’s risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

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<th>Shipping Agency Department</th>
<th>Myanmar Port Authority</th>
<th>Agent for: M/S INTERMARINE KUALAUMPUR</th>
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### Weather Report

**BAY INFERENCES:** Monsoon is strong in the Andaman Sea and South Bay and moderate elsewhere in the Bay of Bengal.

**FORECAST VALID UNTIL EVENING OF THE 21st July, 2015:** Rain or thundershowers will be scattered in Magway Region, fairly widespread in Sagaing and Mandalay Regions, Kachin, Shan and Chin States and widespread in the remaining Regions and States with likelihood of regionally heavy falls in Tanninthayi Region and Mon State, isolated heavy falls in Bago, Yangon and Ayeyawady Regions, Rakhine and Kayin States. Degree of certainty is (100%).

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An elephant plays in water to cool itself at the Taipei Zoo in Taipei, southeast China’s Taiwan on 19 July, 2015. Taipei Zoo gave animals some special cooling treats due to the weather these days.—Xinhua
Universal's "Trainwreck" bested initial projections which had it debuting to roughly $20 million. The story of a commitment-phobic woman who falls for a sports doctor got a boost from strong reviews and a long and winding promotional tour that saw Schumer doing everything from posing provocatively with C3PO to sexting Katie Couric's husband. "Amy Schumer is absolutely a star," said Nick Carpo, Universal's domestic distribution chief. "Based on exit polling, after the humor, she's the second biggest reason people went out to see the film."

"Trainwreck" kicks off Schumer's film career on a high note and marks the second busiest opening for director Judd Apatow, behind only "Knocked Up"'s $30.7 million debut. Crowds were primarily comprised of women, as females represented 66% of ticket buyers. Universal produced the comedy for a modest $35 million, so it should make a healthy revenue on its investment. That's a fraction of the $130 million that Marvel spent on the story of a thief (Paul Rudd) who becomes a hero after donning a suit that gives him the powers of an arthropod. The superhero film will lean heavily on foreign crowds as it looks for profits. Internationally, "Ant-Man" opened in 37 markets, including Mexico, the UK, France, and Russia, pulling in $56 million.

"Ant-Man," which employs a more tongue-in-cheek, lighter tone than most superhero movies had hoped to pull in younger crowds. To that end, the domestic audience for "Ant-Man" was 28% comprised of families. Fifty eight percent of ticket buyers were male, 59% were adult, and 13% were teens.

In its second weekend, Universal and Illumination Entertainment's "Minions" captured runner-up status, pulling in $50.2 million. The "Despicable Me" spin-off has raked up $216.7 million stateside since it debuted, while selling boatloads of merchandise.

In milestone news, "Jurassic World" became the sixth consecutive week one movie. It marks the seventh consecutive weekend of gains, a sign that business is booming at the multiplexes. That cuts both ways, as Disney and Marvel discovered. "It's great for the business, but what it means is that it's more competitive," said Hollis.

Box Office: 'Ant-Man' tops with $58 million, 'Trainwreck' impresses with $30.2 million

John Boyega teases fans with a picture of him and Chewbacca

London, 20 July — Actor John Boyega gave "Star Wars: The Force Awakens" fans a sneak-peek into the upcoming movie as he posted a picture of himself with Chewbacca on Instagram. The 23-year-old "Attack the Block" actor will be playing Finn in the new film. He is seen lining up with Chewbacca as both aim their weapons against an unseen foe, reported Digital Spy.

"Star Wars Episode VII: The Force Awakens" directed by JJ Abrams is the seventh installment in the episodic Star Wars film series. Starring stars John Boyega, Daisy Ridley, Adam Driver, Oscar Isaac, Andy Serkis, Domhnall Gleeson, and Max von Sydow, with Harrison Ford, Carrie Fisher, Mark Hamill, Anthony Daniels, Peter Mayhew, and Kenny Baker the film is scheduled to release in December this year.

Want to be a mum but not for next 2-3 yrs: Kareena

LONDON, 20 July — Bollywood actress Kareena Kapoor, who married Saif Ali Khan in October 2012, has expressed her desire to become a mother but not in the next two-three years. "As of now there are no plans to have children and I am very clear about it. Of course I will be a mother someday but not for the next two three years. It is not even a thought," Kareena, who is basking in the success of "Bajrangi Bhaijaan" told PTI.

After getting married, the 34-year-old actress continued working in all kind of films. The duo tied the knot after a five-year courtship. "Despite being married, I chose to do good entertaining films including commercial films. It is difficult to balance. It is important for an actress to do everything," the "Jab We Met" star said.

Kareena, daughter of Randhir Kapoor and Babita, has been in the industry for 15-16 years. She said she is working with all the Khans in the industry. "I was working from very young age," she said. According to Kareena, she thinks that she is the only actress, who balances commercial and off beat films and says she will continue to experiment. After scaling heights in her career Kareena wants to set an example for others. "I am not an insecure person. I am happy that after so many years I am still working, I am happy, I am independent, I am married. I would like to be an example for many young girls, that they can be married and still flourish in their career," Kareena said.

"I don't have any fear apart from the fact that I have to lose my loved ones. I don't care about my position and all that but family does matter," the actress added. —PTI

Body of dead man found in Demi Moore's swimming pool

LOS ANGELES, 20 July — A 21-year-old man was found in the swimming pool at the Los Angeles home of actress Demi Moore, a spokesperson for the film star and police said on Sunday.

"I am in absolute shock," Moore said in a statement through a representative. "I was out of the country travelling to meet my daughters for a birthday celebration when I got the devastating news."

"The loss of a child is an unthinkable tragedy and my heart goes out to this young man’s family and friends," Moore added. — Reuters

U2 revive old hit ‘October For First Night’ in New York

LOS ANGELES, 20 July — Irish rock band U2 served up a treat for their die-hard fans during the opening night of their Love tour at New York’s Madison Square Garden by playing a song “October For First Night”, which the group had not performed live since 1989. Bono and his band-mates eliminated the 1981 tune after the New Zealand leg of their Lovetown tour in November, 1989, but decided it was time to perform it again, reported Rolling Stone magazine.

And among the fans who enjoyed the track — and the rest of the group’s set — were Salman Rushdie, Jon Bon Jovi, Christie Turlington and chef Mario Batali. U2 are using their Innocence + Experience tour to revisit a few old tracks — they performed “In God’s Country” for the first time in 14 years on stage in Phoenix, Arizona. —PTI

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"I don’t have any fear apart from the fact that I have to lose my loved ones. I don’t care about my position and all that but family does matter," the actress added. —PTI
Australian Fanning escapes shark attack in J-Bay final

Jeffrey's Bay, (South Africa), 20 July — Australia's triple champion Mick Fanning survived a shark attack in Sunday's final of the World Surf League's J-Bay Open, fighting off the circling predator with his fists before returning safely to shore.

Fanning was paddling out to ride his first wave when the unidentified species of shark surfaced next to him, knocking the 34-year-old off his board.

"I was just sitting there and I felt something just get stuck in my leg rope, and I was kicking trying to get it away," Fanning, nicknamed 'White Lightning', told Fox Sports. "I punched him in the back".

"I instantly just jumped away. It kept coming at my board and I was kicking and screaming. I just saw fins. I was waiting for the teeth."

After the shark apparently swam away, the shaken three times world champion headed towards the beach and was picked up by a support craft.

The incident, which was broadcast on TV, led to the cancellation of the final against compatriot Julian Wilson.

"We are incredibly grateful that no one was seriously injured today," the World Surf League (WSL) said in a statement.

"Mick's composure and quick acting in the face of a terrifying situation was nothing short of heroic and the rapid response of our water safety personnel was commendable."

"The safety of our athletes is a priority for the WSL and, after discussions with both finalists, we have decided to cancel the remainder of competition at the J-Bay Open."

South Africa's waters are among the most shark-infested in the world. A swimmer was killed by a Great White shark at Albatross Point close to Jeffrey's Bay in 2013.—Reuters

Up, up, and away: NZ drone makers target Hollywood

RAGLAN, (New Zealand), 20 July — Deep in New Zealand's dairying heartland, drone maker Aeronavics tests aircraft designed to corner the fast-growing emerging market for unmanned aerial vehicles in the film and television business.

The developer of drones used in the production of "Dr Who" and the "Twilight" films is one of a stable of New Zealand firms that are using the country's reputation for innovation in the film industry to stake out claims to what is expected to be a drone boom in Hollywood.

The relaxation of US rules for commercial drones late last year has sparked a race to develop flying camera platforms that — while priced upwards of $100,000 each — will still cost significantly less to hire than the jibs, cranes and helicopters studios currently use to capture sweeping aerial shots.

Until now, cinematographers have bolted specialized add-ons like cinema-quality cameras to off-the-shelf drones that cost a few thousand dollars each. New Zealand's drone makers want to change all that, with sophisticated, purpose-built aircraft.

"A lot of drone technology companies got their start in the custom-build film and photography sector, and the New Zealand film industry has a global reputation as leading technology advances in film," said Chris Thomson, aviation manager at government technology incubator Calaghan Innovation.

New Zealand's drone makers are building on home-grown innovation including animation software used in the "Lord of the Rings" and real-time motion capture technology that brought facial expressions to life in "Avatar".

Backed by "Avatar" director James Cameron, the New Zealand government is holding a competition for developers of drones for the film industry, focusing on criteria such as flight stability, noise reduction and weather-proofing.

First prize is NZ$50,000 ($32,625.00) and an entry into the first drone makers to receive registration. Aeronavics was one of the first drone makers to receive registration in the UK.

A firefighting helicopter operates over a raging wildfire at the Kareea suburb, east of Athens, Greece on 17 July, 2015.—Reuters

Aviation Authority by the start of July, roughly half covered aerial photography. Aeronavics was one of the first drone makers to receive registration in the UK.

The Apache and defence consultants the Teal Group expects the global drone industry to be worth $91 billion by 2024 compared with $6.4 billion in 2014.

Due to tight US drone regulations, drone use in other parts of southern Europe, (New Zealand) and Ireland has been focused on its struglmg creditors.

Minister Alexis Tsipras' island of Zakynthos was hit by a wildfire that broke out north-east of Athens. Most of the fires that had retreated or were under partial control, but an unergrowth fire that started on Saturday on the Ioman island of Zakynthos was still raging.

The fires have added to the worries of Prime Minister Alexis "Tsipras" government, which has been focused on its struggle to obtain a new financial bailout from foreign creditors.
Spieth makes his move, Dunne steals Open limelight


golfing planet to Masters

66 for an 11-under total,

and lost ground early on

since Ben Hogan in 1953,

American, bidding to be

straight major title loomed


Panama and Mexico through to Gold Cup semi-finals

Bundled over in the box by Costa Rica’s Roy Miller. Television replays, however, showed minimal contact between the pair when Peralta was attempting a header. Guardado then slotted the penalty to set up a semi-final against Panama, who reached the Gold Cup final in 2013. Panama advanced to the last four after goalkeeper Jaime Penedo made the clinching save that allowed the team to outlast Trinidad and Tobago 6-5 in the ninth round of the shootout after their quarter-final had finished level at 1-1 after extra time.

Luis Tejada scored in the 37th minute for Panama before Kwennye Jones leveled it in the 54th for the Caribbean side.

FIFA meet to set date for vote on Blatter’s replacement

ZURICH, 20 July — The leadership of crisis-hit world football governing body FIFA gathered at their Zurich headquarters on Monday to set a date for the vote to replace outgoing president Sepp Blatter.

Blatter and other top officials from around the world began an extraordinary executive committee meeting to set the timetable for a congress to vote on their next leader.

Also on the agenda are early plans for reforms in response to corruption scandals which have rocked FIFA.

Blatter and his general secretary Jerome Valcke will address the media following the meeting — the first time the president has faced the press since announcing he would stand down.

The organization insisted it is taking the need to reform seriously and is co-operating with investigators, but for many critics those claims will be greeted with scepticism until the man who has ruled the body since 1998 is replaced.

Blatter was re-elected for a fifth term at the congress but then announced on 2 June that he would lay down his mandate at the ‘extraordinary elective congress’ which will likely be held between December and February.

The 79-year-old has repeatedly said that he will not stand again and has remerged on that promise before saying his election in 2011 was his last before changing his mind, it would be a mistake because if he made another u-turn.

With FIFA rules stat- ing candidates need to announce their intention to run four months ahead of a vote, the focus will quickly turn to who intends to run for the most powerful job in world soccer.

Messi needs a rest, says Barca coach

Madrid, 20 July — FC Barcelona coach Luis Enrique said on Monday that the club’s star player Leo Messi is desperately in need of a rest.

Speaking at the start of Barca’s summer tour of the USA, Luis Enrique looked back at the last 13 months which have seen Messi play the World Cup, helping Argentina to the final of the tournament. His domestic season was also longer than almost everyone else as Barcelona played the final of the King’s Cup and the Champions League before Messi then competed in the Copa America, where Argentina again reached the final.

Barcelona meanwhile kicked off their new campaign on 17 August when they face Athletic Club in the Spanish Super cup, whether or not Messi plays in that is still to be decided. In the overe, moment, Luis Enrique explained the player was having a well-earned rest.

“Messi’s season is all

most never ending and he needs to rest,” he said. “He is not in the United States because he needs his holiday and I am not going to deny him those no matter where we go on tour.”

After leaving Barca to the treble last season, it will not be easy to improve on the 2014-15 campaign but Luis Enrique continued to show his ambition.

“I want to win three more titles that in 2014,” he commented. “I don’t know if it is going to be a calm season or not, but my aim is to do something historic and to be able to do what nobody has done before.”

He also hinted that summer signings Arda Turan and Aleix Vidal will not be sent out on loan for the start of the campaign even though that they can’t make their debuts until January because of a FIFA ban.

“It doesn’t help us that they can’t play until January, but I want them with us until then,” said the Barca coach.

“I’d rather not have them bring more problems than benefits,” added Enrique.