DEATH TOLL RISES
69 PERISH IN FLOODS, 270,000 AFFECTED

Volunteers lay sandbags on the bank of the Ayeyawady River in Nyaungdon to hold back rising waters. *Photo: Thaplay Tun (Nyaungdon)*

**By Aye Min Soe**

YANGON, 5 Aug.—The death toll from flooding across the country has reached at least 69, with nearly 270,000 people affected, the Ministry of Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement said Wednesday.

Rakhine State, one of four declared disaster zones, was by far the worst hit, recording 41 deaths, followed by Mandalay Region with eight, Sagaing Region with seven and Shan State with five, said the ministry.

Authorities have issued a yellow alert since Tuesday for flooding in Nyaungdon Township, Ayeyawady Region, where the Ayeyawady River has risen to its designated danger level, evacuating people from 10 low-lying areas and four villages in the township to shelters, a local official said.

Meanwhile, the Ministry of Agriculture and Irrigation announced Wednesday that the Ayeyawady River has been rising since the end of July, exceeding its designated danger level in Hinthada, Ngathaingchaung, Zalun and Nyaungdon in Ayeyawady Region.

The weather bureau has warned people in low-lying areas in Ayeyawady Region, Aunglan and Seiktha in Magway Region and Pyay in Bago Region to be alert to possible flooding.

The United Nations warned last Friday that the death toll from the disaster was set to rise.

Dams in severely flooded areas in central Myanmar are nearing or exceeding capacity, according to the government’s announcement on Wednesday.

Excess water draining from dam spillways has further impacted areas flooded by overflowing rivers.—GNLM
UN Special Rapporteur visits Thayawady Prison

Ms Yanghee Lee, the UN Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights in Myanmar, visits Thayawady Prison.—MNA

Union Home Affairs Minister meets US Ambassador

Nyi Nyi Taw, 5 Aug—Union Minister for Home Affairs Lt-Gen Ko Ko met US Ambassador Mr Derek Mitchell at the ministry, here, on Tuesday.

They exchanged views on security measures for upcoming election and natural disaster management.

Also present at the meeting were officials of Myanmar Police Force, General Administration Department, Myanmar Correctional Department and Fire Services Department.—MNA

Domestic carriers airlift emergency relief items

Nay Pyi Taw, 5 Aug—Domestic airlines on Wednesday joined the Air Force in transporting emergency relief supplies to flood-devastated regions.

The Air Force, Golden Myanmar Airlines and Kanbawzathiri Airlines conducted six airlifts carrying medicines, generators and lifeboats to Sittway airport in Rakhine State. They also flew five

Well-wishers donate relief goods for flood victims

Nay Pyi Taw, 5 Aug—Well-wishers at home and abroad donated relief supplies and cash for flood victims at the hall of Department of Relief and Resettlement, here, Wednesday.

Deputy Minister Daw Su Sa Hlaing and officials accepted donations including a cheque worth K100 million by SPA, FMI and YSH group of companies, purified drinking water and medicines worth US$20,000 by Bank for Investment and Development of Vietnam-JSC of Vietnam, 6,000 blankets, 10,000 bed sheets and 90 plastic ground sheets worth US$150,000 by the Japanese government.

The deputy minister inspected emergency supplies for the victims at Mingala Airbase.—MNA

KBZ Bank, wellwishers provide emergency supplies to flood victims

Yangon, 5 Aug—Kanbawzathiri Bank Limited and well-wishers donated K184 million for flood victims in Kalay, Sagaing Region and Haka, Chin State.

The chairman of KBZ Bank Ltd presented cash, rice, cooking oil, drinking water and emergency relief to the victims at the relief camp in Haka.

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Youth volunteers build bonds between religious faiths

Youth volunteers from different religious backgrounds implement interfaith youth services project at Bago Shwe Maw Daw Pagoda.

PHOTO: SMILE EDUCATION AND DEVELOPMENT FOUNDATION

Youth volunteers from different religious backgrounds implement interfaith youth services project at Bago Shwe Maw Daw Pagoda. Its coordinator Khin Thinza said Wednesday.

The programme includes garbage collection and sanitation services in religious buildings of different faiths, as well as helping during religious festivals and holy days, she told The Global New Light of Myanmar.

In addition, participating youths can explain the interfaith concept to children pursuing their education at those buildings, she added.

Khin Thinza said the project was aimed at promoting mutual understandings and trust among youths from different religious backgrounds, which play a crucial role in creating a harmonious society.

“Youths involved in the programme will have an opportunity to meet with religious leaders to discuss community issues,” she said.

She expressed the view that “youths hardly have contacts with religious leaders.”

“We faced some challenges at the beginning of this programme but it is heartening to see the active participation of youths,” she said.

According to the project coordinator, the foundation together with around 25 young people will visit Wailuwon Monastic Education School in Bago Region on 8 August, with plans to conduct tree planting there.

“We are planning to perform the programme at more than 20 religious buildings in Yangon, Mandalay and Bago every Saturday of the year,” Khin Thinza said.

“The next activity will take place at a Christian home for the elderly in Mingala Taungnyunt Township in Yangon on 15 August.”

The foundation began its interfaith activities in late 2013, and aims to improve the lives of young people and women through a wide range of development programmes.

Youths between 18 and 25 wishing to take part in the programme may contact the foundation through smile.education@myanmar@gmail.com.—GNLM
President sends messages of felicitations to Jamaica

U Thein Sein flies over flood-hit areas in Magway

Dawei SEZ projects bring jobs, investment: vice president

Vice President Dr Sai Mauk Kham visits dams in Lashio Tsp

Myitkyina-Mandalay train service set to resume
Emerald Green Project training kicks off in Muse

Muse, 5 Aug — The Muse Township Rural Development Department recently conducted a course for trainers participating in the Emerald Green Project at Muse’s town hall in northern Shan State.

The project aims to foster self-management skills, create economic opportunities in villages and promote women’s participation in regional development works, Assistant Director U Win Zaw of the department said at an opening ceremony.

The course includes problem-solving methods that play a vital role in implementing the project, he added.

Ko Mong (IPRD)

Mandalay artists raise funds for flood victims

Mandalay, 5 Aug — A group of 25 artists created paintings along the moat in Mandalay as part of a fund-raiser for flood victims.

On 3 August, the artists raised more than K5 million from the proceeds of their paintings. They sold their works for K5,000 each, artist U Khin Maung San said. “As artists are not rich, they earn income from creation of artistic works for flood victims,” he said.

Artist Kyaw Thiha said, “Artists from Mandalay joined the fund-raising group. Some well-wishers donated about K1.5 million to the artists’ fund.”

The artists plan to showcase paintings at the gallery at the foot of Mandalay Hill from 15 to 17 August.

Tin Maung (Mandalay)

Indian consul general provides emergency relief for Sagaing Region

Mandalay, 5 Aug — The Indian consul general, staff, and Indian women in Mandalay donated cash, medicines and foodstuffs for flood victims in Sagaing Region, at the hall of Kanbalu Township General Administration Department recently.

Indian consul general Dr N Nandakumar and party handed over medicines, foodstuffs, bags of rice, clothes and household utensils worth K2.5 million including K500,000 to Speaker of Sagaing Region Hluttaw Speaker U Thin Hlaing and officials.

Chairman of Kanbalu Township Management Committee U Myo Lwin spoke about flood-affected areas, distribution of assistance and rehabilitation tasks.

Ko Pauk (Okkar Myay)

Twenty tractors from No 84 tractor station in Pyinmana and No 47 tractor station in Lewe departed Wednesday for Kalay, Sagaing Region, to help local farmers plough farmlands for cultivation of monsoon paddy.

Ko Pauk (Okkar Myay)
ASEAN faces uphill task in getting nuclear states to sign treaty

Kuala Lumpur, 5 Aug — The 10 member states of the giant Asian regional bloc that comprises of over 600 million people have failed to convince nuclear weapon states to sign a pact that will make the region free from nuclear threats.

This marks the 20th anniversary of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations introduced and signed the South-East Asia Nuclear Weapons-Free Zone (SEANWFZ) treaty. Despite negotiations with the five superpowers that are the nuclear weapon states and also are permanent members of the U.N. Security Council, there is no positive sign that the so-called P5 will ink a protocol on the treaty of the SEANWFZ anytime soon or even in a decade ahead.

A senior ASEAN diplomat who preferred not to be identified said only two out of five nuclear weapon states, China and the United States, said they are ready to sign a protocol to the treaty while Britain, France and Russia have released their reservations that will not allow the SEANWFZ to be fully implemented.

When asked why China is willing to sign that and what will benefit China, the diplomat said, “China wants to take ASEAN’s heart and wants to please ASEAN because it sees ASEAN as a great partner and neighbor.”

Geopolitically, China would benefit from the signing of the protocol because it is located in the same Asian region.

For the United States, the diplomat said despite the fact that it has showed readiness to sign the protocol, it is not that easy because Washington is strategic and diplomatic. Even if it has agreed to sign the protocol it still always needs ratification and that will be a stumbling block. Therefore, the signing by the U.S. has “no value added” as long as there is no ratification in the later stage.

Now, the SEANWFZ issue could be considered as a test for ASEAN if it is always in harmony for the group’s interest.

The ASEAN sources who are very much aware of the situation in Singapore is the one who is opposed to any suggestion that ASEAN should accept “China” as it is the “first come” and that should be the “first served.”

A particular ASEAN member state suggested that ASEAN should sign the protocol first so that ASEAN would secure negative security assurances from these two major powers and this would mark significant progress which would contribute to enhanced security in the region, given the complex situation in the South China Sea.

The event of a conflict in the South China Sea, China’s conclusion of the protocol would close the window of opportunity for the countries to share nuclear weapons; and this would be a push factor for the remaining NWS to sign the protocol in a faster manner, one of the sources said.

The sources added that ASEAN’s latest position is reviewing whether there is no provision of the treaty or of the articles of the Treaty to which it refers shall impair the full exercise of the inherent right of self-defense provided for in Article 51 of the charters of the United Nations.

Russia, on the other hand, said, “The Russian Federation reserves the right not to consider itself bound by its obligations under the protocol if any state party to the treaty under Article 7 of the treaty permits entry into its port landing at its airfields of foreign nuclear aircraft having nuclear or other explosive devices on board as well as transit in any other form of nuclear weapons or other nuclear explosive devices through its territory.”

On the eve of the 48th ASEAN Foreign Ministers’ meeting in Kuala Lumpur that kicked off on Tuesday, Malaysian Foreign Minister Anifah Aman acknowledged the slow progress on the SEANWFZ but said ASEAN agreed to intensify efforts on how best to resolve the outstanding issues pertaining to the signing and ratifying of the protocol by the NWS, which remains pending following the submission of reservations to the protocol by France, Russia and Britain.

France has explained its reservations saying “No provision of this protocol or of the articles of the Treaty to which it refers shall impair the full exercise of the inherent right of self-defense provided for in Article 51 of the charters of the United Nations.”

Russia, on the other hand, said, “The Russian Federation reserves the right not to consider itself bound by its obligations under the protocol if any state party to the treaty under Article 7 of the treaty permits entry into its port landing at its airfields of foreign nuclear aircraft having nuclear or other explosive devices on board as well as transit in any other form of nuclear weapons or other nuclear explosive devices through its territory.”

For Britain, it said, “the United Kingdom reserves the right to exercise the right to withdraw from the protocol under Article 7, the United Kingdom considers that the threat, development and proliferation of other weapons of mass destruction, for example chemical, and biological, and it make necessary, on giving notice of withdrawal to the deposity state three months in advance.”

According to the 1995 treaty which was signed in Bangkok, it said each state party undertakes not to, anywhere inside or outside the Zone to develop, manufacture or otherwise acquire, possess or have control over nuclear weapons; to station or transport nuclear weapons by any means; or to test or use nuclear weapons.

It also said each state party also undertakes not to, in its territory, any other state to: develop, manufacture or otherwise acquire, possess or have control over nuclear weapons; to station or transport nuclear weapons; or test or use nuclear weapons.

ASEAN diplomats said it is almost impossible that the three countries and maybe later including the United States will sign the protocol to the treaty, but ASEAN will not bog down its efforts either.

Japan, ASEAN meet to boost maritime security cooperation

Japan and ASEAN meet to boost maritime security cooperation

Kuala Lumpur, 5 Aug — Top diplomats of Japan and the Association of Southeast Asian Nations met Wednesday in Kuala Lumpur to discuss boosting cooperation to ensure maritime security and China’s growing assertiveness at sea.

They held talks on the sidelines of a series of regional meetings involving Japan and its dialogue partners including Japan.

Efforts to boost their maritime security capability come at a time when Japan and ASEAN—which groups Brunei, Cambodia, Indonesia, Laos, Malaysia, Myanmar, the Philippines, Singapore, Thailand and Vietnam—are facing Chinese muscle-flexing in asserting territorial claims in the East and South China seas.

Japan, which shares the concerns of some ASEAN members with regard to Beijing’s maritime assertiveness, also wants to distinguish its infrastructure development initiative from that of China, which is stepping up its economic influence in the region, political observers and Japanese officials said.

In the South China Sea, some ASEAN members have been concerned about territorial rows with China while Japan also has its own maritime tensions with China in the East China Sea.

On infrastructure development, Japan will renew its pledge to help the regional bloc’s efforts to increase regional connectivity as they try to establish a more integrated ASEAN Economic Community by the end of this year, one of the Japanese officials said.

Singapore vows to strengthen community partnership amid security fears

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Singapore, 5 Aug — Singapore’s Deputy Prime Minister and Home Affairs Minister Teo Chee Hean said on Wednesday that the country’s Home Team, a home affairs training institution, must adapt to the rising level to meet these challenges.

He said the Home Team will also take new technological capabilities, Teo said the Home Team will also take community partnerships to a higher level to meet these challenges.

He also welcomed the public to contribute innovative ideas as part of community efforts to save lives, deter and fight crime.

The official said just eight minutes after the accident, the two trains had crossed that section and their drivers did not detect any problem.

President Narenda Modi expressed grief over the loss of lives in the twin train accidents and said authorities are doing everything possible on the ground. — PTI

29 killed, 25 hurt in MP twin train derailing; probe ordered

Harda (MP), 5 Aug — At least 29 passengers, including 11 women and five children, were killed and 25 others injured when several coaches of two trains, one heading to Mumbra and another to Varanasi, derailed on a railway bridge in Harda district and plunged into the swollen Machak river.

The Railway Ministry has ordered an inquiry into the twin train derailments and compensation for the families of the victims.

However, Divisional Railway Manager (DRM) Bhopal, Alok Kumar said, “11 passengers were injured in the accident, and from Kamayani Express were found dead. About rest, we are not sure whether they were victims or not.”

Though the state government said that 21 coaches of the two trains derailed, the DRM said seven bogies of the Janata Express plus engine and 10 of Kamayani Express derailed.

Commissioner Railway Safety (central zone) will conduct an inquiry into the accidents, Railway Spokesperson Anil Saxena said.

He said though prime face flash floods led to the derailment of the two trains, the main cause will be ascertained after submission of the inquiry report.
Abe seeks explanation over alleged U.S. spying in talks with Biden

Tokyo, 5 Aug — Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe called on U.S. Vice President Joe Biden on Wednesday for an investigation into allegations by the WikiLeaks anti-secrecy website that Washington spied on the Japanese government and companies. A Japanese Prime Minister Shingo Abe enters his office in Tokyo on Aug. 5, 2015. According to government sources, Abe called on U.S. Vice President Joe Biden in phone talks the same day for an investigation into allegations by the WikiLeaks anti-secrecy website that Washington spied on the Japanese government and companies. —Kyodo News 2014 presidential directive to focus on our intelligence collection on national security interests, the release said. Abe and Biden highlighted the “historic level of cooperation” between the two countries and committed to further strengthening the relationship, according to the release. They may also have discussed the Japanese government’s plan to suspend work on the planned relocation of a U.S. military base within Okinawa Prefecture for a month from next Monday as part of efforts to defuse tensions with local authorities. Kyodo News

Kuala Lumpur, 5 Aug — U.S. Secretary of State John Kerry expressed his concern about China’s land reclamation and construction on man-made islands in the disputed South China Sea during talks with his Chinese counterpart on Wednesday, a senior State Department official said. Kerry made the remarks to Foreign Minister Wang Yi in Kuala Lumpur on the sidelines of meetings involving the 10-member Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN), where tensions in the South China Sea have taken centre stage. The official said Kerry told Wang that while Washington did not take a position on sovereignty claims in the strategic waterway, it wanted to see them resolved peacefully and in accordance with international law. Kerry also reiterated U.S. concerns over the “militarisation” of features on the Chinese-held islands in the Spratly archipelago of the South China Sea, the official added. “I encouraged China, along with the other claimants, to halt problematic actions in order to create space for diplomacy,” the official said. In brief remarks to reporters after his talks with Wang, Kerry said China would pursue “peaceful discussions” to resolve the South China Sea dispute. He did not elaborate. Recent satellite images show China has almost finished building a 3,000-metre (10,000-foot) airstrip on one of its seven new islands in the Spratlys. The airstrip will be long enough to accommodate most Chinese military aircraft, security experts have said, giving Beijing greater reach into the heart of maritime Southeast Asia. China claims most of the South China Sea, through which 55 trillion in ship-borne trade passes every year. The Philippines, Vietnam, Malaysia, Taiwan and Brunei have overlapping claims. China had said it did not want the South China Sea dispute raised at this week’s ASEAN meeting, but some ministers, including from host Malaysia, rebuffed that call, saying the issue was too important to ignore. In a statement, Japan’s senior vice foreign ministers Minoru Kuchi “voiced deep concern over unilateral actions that change the status quo and heighten tensions in the South China Sea, including large-scale land reclamation, the construction of outposts and their use for military purposes.” Despite strong public comments by several Southeast Asian ministers about the need to reduce tensions, the grouping had yet to issue a customary communique following annual talks between its foreign ministers on Tuesday. In the South China Sea, it is believed they are probably nearing a formulation,” said Jakkrir Srivari, director-general of the ASEAN department at Thailand’s Foreign Affairs Ministry. Other issues had also held up the statement, he said without elaborating. A communal was expected at the end of joint meetings between ASEAN, the United States, China, Japan and other countries on Thurs., senior officials said. China and Southeast Asian nations had agreed to set up a foreign ministers’ hotline to tackle emergencies in the waterway, a senior ASEAN official said on Friday. This was expected to be contained in the communique. Wang was due to hold talks with ASEAN foreign ministers later on Wednesday. On Monday, he described calls for a freeze in activity in the South China Sea as “unrealistic.”

Kerry raises South China Sea concerns with China’s Wang

US Secretary of State John Kerry (L) and China’s Foreign Minister Wang Yi take part before a bilateral meeting at the Putra World Trade Centre, August 5, 2015 in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia. Kerry told his ASEAN counterparts in a separate meeting that Washington wanted to see stability in the South China Sea. “We want to ensure the security of critical sea lanes known as a flaperon — and to see that disputes in the area are managed peacefully and on the basis of international law,” Kerry said.

Kerry has shown no sign of halting its construction on artificial islands in disputed areas. It has accused the United States of militarising the South China Sea by staging patrols and joint military drills. The senior State Department official said Kerry and Wang also discussed Chinese President Xi Jinping’s visit to the United States in September, as well as U.S. concerns over cybersecurity and human rights in China. “They agreed there are many shared challenges that both countries should work closer together to address, such as climate change and development, and that more dialogue and cooperation between the United States and China remains vital,” the official said.

Australia says initial MH370 debris models gave wrong clues

Sydney, 5 Aug — Initial models of where potential debris from a missing Malaysia Airlines passenger jet might first wash up had incorrectly identified Indonesia as the most likely location, the Australian body leading the search said on Wednesday. Flight MH370 disappeared without a trace in March 2014 with 239 passengers and crew on board. Search efforts have focused on a broad expanse of the southern Indian Ocean off Western Australia.

A piece of aircraft debris that washed up on the French island of Reunion last week roughly 3,700 km (2,300 miles) from the expected crash zone was consistent with where the plane went down, based on analysis of ocean currents, winds and waves, Australian officials and independent oceanographers said last week. But the Australian Transport Safety Bureau, which is leading the search, said initial debris drift modeling undertaken in June 2014 had mistakenly indicated that the first possible landing of debris would be on the west coast of Sumatra, Indonesia, in the first weeks of July 2014. Models run by Australia’s Commonwealth Scientific and Industrial Research Organization in November last year and updated last month found, however, that an Indonesian landfill was highly unlikely. The mistake did not affect the extensive international surface search for the missing plane off the west coast of Australia, ATSB said. That search was called off in April, more than a month after the plane went down. While this error in that model had no impact on the way the surface search was conducted, it was important in order to understand over the course of time where debris might wash up and help verify or discount the various items found on beaches, particularly on the west coast of Australia,” the ATSB said in a statement on Wednesday. Australia has sent an expert to Toulouse, France, to examine the debris - a wing surface identified - on Wednesday, Deputy Prime Minister Warren Truss said in a statement. “Work is being undertaken by the Malaysian and French authorities to establish whether the flaperon originated from MH370,” Truss said.

“Malaysian and French officials may be in a position to make a formal statement about the origin of the flaperon this week.” —Reuters

Debris that has washed onto the Jamejama beach in Saint-Denis is seen on the shoreline of French Indian Ocean island of La Reunion, August 3, 2015. —Reuters

A piece of aircraft debris that washed up on the west coast of Sumatra, Indonesia, in the first
Obama warns of dangers to Israel if Iran deal blocked: U.S. Jewish leader

Jerusalem, 5 Aug — President Barack Obama told U.S. Jewish leaders it was "likely" that nuclear rockets would fall on Tel Aviv if a nuclear deal with Iran was blocked and military action ensued, one of them said on Wednesday.

In a separate appeal to American Jews, Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu, a fierce opponent of the July 14 accord, pushed back in a webcast on Tuesday against the Obama administration’s argument that the agreement was the only way to avoid eventual war with Iran.

The Republican-led U.S. House of Representatives will vote on whether to reject the agreement when lawmakers return to Washington in September, party leaders said on Tuesday, setting up a showdown with the president.

Greg Rosenbaum, one of 20 Jewish leaders who met Obama at the White House on Tuesday, said on Israel Radio that the president spelled out what exercising a U.S. military option to strike Iran’s nuclear facilities would mean if the deal between world powers and Tehran was scrapped.

“He said military action by the United States against Iran’s nuclear facilities is not going to result in Iran deciding to have a full-fledged war with the United States,” Rosenbaum, of the National Jewish Democratic Council, quoted Obama as telling the forum.

“You’ll see more support for terrorism. You’ll see Hezbollah, mostly falling on Tel Aviv.”

This is what he said would happen if the U.S. had a military strike on Iran,” Rosenbaum said, referring to the Iranian-backed Lebanese guerrilla group and its long-range missile arsenal.

Netanyahu, in the webcast organized by Jewish groups in North America, reiterated Israel’s arguments that the nuclear deal was not enough to curb Iranian nuclear projects with bomb-making potential.

With surveys showing American Jewish opinion mixed on a dispute that has strained the U.S.-Israeli alliance, Netanyahu cast his opposition to the Iran deal as non-partisan.

“I don’t oppose this deal because I want war. I oppose this deal because I want to prevent war. And this deal will bring war,” he said, cautioning that sanctions relief would result in a financial windfall for Iran that could help fund destabilizing regional conflicts.

“This is a time to stand up and be counted. Oppose this dangerous deal,” Netanyahu said.

Having infuriated the White House by speaking against Iran in Congress in March at the invitation of the Democratic president’s Republican rivals, Netanyahu cast himself as the emissary of an Israeli public that, polls show, mostly shares his misgivings about the deal with Iran.

Turkey says comprehensive battle against Islamic State to be launched soon

A Turkish soldier stands guard in front of a tank near the Suleyman Shah tomb near the northern Syrian village of Esmar, on the Syrian-Turkish border February 25, 2015. — Reuters

Turkey's top soldier said on Thursday that Ankara was planning to launch a comprehensive battle against the Islamic State (IS) militant group in northern Syria within weeks.

Turkey's Chief of the General Staff, Necati Sahin, said his country would begin the operation towards the end of the current month, with confirmed dates yet to be decided.

The operation would be an "all-out" response to a perceived threat that IS poses to Turkey's borders.

"We will launch a comprehensive battle against IS in northern Syria very soon," Sahin told reporters.

Sahin's comments come as Washington and Brussels have called on Ankara to do more to fight IS in Syria, which has taken over large tracts of the country's northeast.

Syria's president Bashar al-Assad is an ally of Russia, which has been helping IS.

Ankara, which does not recognize IS as a terrorist group, has been reluctant to engage more prominently in the war against IS.

All five members of the UN Security Council have instructed Turkey to help contain the IS threat. - Reuters

Greece wants full bailout, not bridge loan, ruling party says

Athens, 5 Aug — The parliamentory spokesman for Greece’s ruling Syriza party urged it on Wednesday to unite behind a new funding agreement, saying the country wanted a full bailout immediately rather than a bridge loan.

Nikos Filis said Greece was seeking a full agreement so that it could receive a first payment of 25 billion euros (17.46 billion pounds).

“We are seeking to have a deal,” he said on state television station ERT. “The deal will have tough measures. What is important is that the financing of the Greek economy starts.”

Filis was speaking amid signs of progress in talks between Greece, the International Monetary Fund and European Union institutions on a new bailout worth up to 86 billion euros ($94.5 billion).

A deal must be must be settled by Aug. 20, or a second bridge loan agreed, if Greece is to pay off debt of 3.5 billion euros to the European Central Bank that matures on that day.

Both sides have said such a deal is possible, although the European Commission described the target as ambitious, suggesting a lot of work remains to be done.

Filis said Greece wanted the full deal, not a temporary measure.

“We will not accept new prior actions (reform conditions in place) in order to have a small bridge loan,” Filis said. “We want one final deal to be signed and then we will see what is needed to have a disbursement of 25 billion euros as the first installment.”

He also called for members of his party, about a quarter of whom oppose the reforms and austerity linked to the bailout, to put the country first.

“Differences should not prevail over the party’s unity and the country’s stability,” Filis said, warning that a split could damage the government.

“The leftist government will stay in power only if its leftist lawmakers vote in favour (of the bailout).”

Talks between Greece and its international creditors will continue on Wednesday.— Reuters

Norwegian police investigate ‘bomb-like’ package at Oslo university

Oslo, 5 Aug — Norwegian police are investigating a suspicious package found on Wednesday on the campus of the University of Oslo, they said on their Twitter account.

The object, which the police said was seen as ‘suspicious’, was being linked to a shooting episode earlier in the night, where two people shot at a campus guard.

The shooters fled the scene and the guard was not seriously hurt, the police said.

It concerns a bomb-like object,” police said on the social media website, adding that bomb technicians were on the scene.— Reuters
Many hands make light work

By Kyaw Thura

T is encouraging to see and hear people of different ages and social strata voluntarily joining rescue operations in the wake of devastating floods that have claimed dozens of lives and caused widespread destruction across the country. Never in its history has the country seen such a shocking disaster.

Further good news is that the central government has made an appeal to the international community to assist the country in responding to the disaster. Asking for international aid is nothing to be ashamed of.

There are times when we cannot handle our affairs all alone. In such cases, we must look for outside help from friends. We all do so in the belief that many hands make light work.

It will be far better for all of us to stop finding fault with one another and trading blame over each other's shortcomings and inconveniences in rescue services.

Some political lobbyists have been spreading inflammatory remarks through social media. In fact, their action is no more than an exchange of insults. Such arguments are more of a hindrance than a help to rescue missions.

In this crucial moment, any attempt to hold the government accountable for the catastrophically deluge is like giving politics a bad name. Now is the time to leave the differences behind and work for the common good. Come on, Myanmar. You can do it!

LEND YOUR HELPING HAND TO FLOOD VICTIMS

Maung Hlaing

I was deeply moved by a photo to under the title of “Youths mobilize to help disaster vic-
tims” appeared in the Global New Light of Myanmar of 4 Au-
gust issue. According to the pho-
to news, a young man held a placard that read “Lend your helping hand to flood victims.”

As my daughter asked me to donate some money to flood vic-
tims, I went to the MOFA (Yangon Headquarters) where a do-
nation center was organized by retired diplomats. When I came back from the donation center, I saw some teenagers collecting donations of cash and kinds from commuters and passers-by on busy roads downtown and in nearby areas to help flood vic-
tims. The scene made me say “Well-done, or Sadhu!”

Nowadays, heavy monsoon rains have caused flooding, flash floods, and landslides in several states and regions across the country. The Office of the Presi-
dent has issued a statement de-
claring natural disaster zones in Chin State, Sagaing Region, Magway Region and Rakhine State on 31 July, 2015.

According to the news, al-
though Cyclone Komen weak-
ened and it moved into Bangla-
desh, severe flooding over the past few weeks inundated nearly 400,000 acres of farmland, de-
stroying nearly 30,000 acres and damaged more than 73,000 acres. And the Ministry of So-
cial Welfare, Relief and Reset-
tlement announced that up to 3 August, the death toll from se-
vere flooding across the country stood at 46, with more than 217,000 people affected by the disaster. Besides, the Ministry of Education has announced that more than 1,000 schools throughout the country have been temporarily closed due to the flooding and landslides caused by months of torrential rain.

A look into our neighbour-
ing countries will reveal the out-
breaks of natural disasters such as floods, cyclones, droughts and so forth. An example will be given. The GNLM of 3-8-2015 issue carried a news story of the landslides that rock Darjeeling. According to the news, a series of landslides triggered by over-
night heavy rain left at least 38 people dead, 23 missing and more than 500 displaced in West Bengal’s Darjeeling District. Moreover, the torrential rain caused flooding, flash floods and landslides and left at least 90 people dead across Nepal.

Disaster is a sudden event that has very unfortunate conse-
quences for those affected by it. Disasters involve large-scale loss of life and property. The worst disasters in history killed thousands of people at a time. As for the flood, it can cause de-
struction over a wide area. In 1887, during what was probably the worst flood in recorded his-
tory, the Huang He River in Eastern China overflowed an area of 130,000 square kilo-
metres and killed about 900,000 people. One of the worst floods in Indian history occurred in 1840 when an earthquake occurred in the Upper Indus Val-
ley. There were so many events that caused destruction to people and property.

Recent reports conveyed the news that some areas of our neighbour-
ing countries have been hit by seasonal rainfalls for days. Besides, the unusual heavy rainfalls threatened the planta-
tions and farmers fear that fur-
ther rain showers will affect low-lying paddy fields. Such a happening is not uncommon in this century and it wreaks havoc whenever it strikes.

Yet the troubles are not over. Natural disasters usually bring social evils—thousands of victims, vast property losses, costs for combating, side effects like hunger, costs of temporary housing, hospitalization and medicines, reconstruction and etc.

What is happening these days reminds us of Cyclone Nargis that hit Ayeyawady and Yangon Regions, claiming many lives and causing enormous de-
struction to houses, religious buildings, schools, hospitals, watercraft, crop plantations, and food supplies on 2 May, 2008. Floods and landslides are thought to be natural catastro-
phes beyond the control of man. However, we have to face them through our concerted efforts.

Now, leaders from top hier-
archy paid field visits to inundat-
ed areas and urged the local au-
thorities to fulfill the daily requirements of victims of se-
vere floods being accommodated

at relief camps.

Air KBZ and MAI employed their aircraft to transport life jackets, clothes, foodstuffs, med-
icines, bottled water and finan-
cial assistance to flood victims in affected areas while MNA is car-
ying relief supplies and other donations free of charge for flood victims in Kalay and its surrounding areas.

Even teenagers, boys and girls, are out to collect donations of cash and kinds, going from street to street.

According to the Myanmar saying “Wazo Wakhaung, yay phaung phaung” or “July, Au-
gust... rains and floods””, natural disasters may break out any time. When we were in our childhood, we happily sang songs; had showers in the rain; and bathed in creeks and rivers. But today, we no longer want to sing songs in the rain.

Disasters are natural. However, please lend your helping hand to flood victims. They will grasp even at a straw!

SRC to distribute USD100,000 in relief aid to affected communities

SINGAPORE, 5 Aug—In re-
sponse to the severe flooding in Myanmar, Singapore Red Cross (SRC) has pledged USD100,000 in relief items to be distributed to the affected communities. These items include food, medic-
ine, blankets, clean drinking water and hygiene kits. A SRC team will be deployed to Myan-
mar later this week to distribute the supplies, working together with the Myanmar Red Cross. A SRC medical team is also on

standby to be deployed if the sit-
uation calls for it.

SRC has activated its Re-
store Family Links (RFL) ser-
vice to assist the community in locating their immediate family members who may have been af-
fected by the disaster and with whom they have difficulty con-
cting. The RFL hotline is 6664 0503.

Since the start of the floods, Myanmar Red Cross volunteers have assisted in the evacuation

of affected households to tempo-
rary sites and higher ground, in

conjunction with local authori-
ties and the Government’s Relief and Resettlement Department, as well as the distribution of re-

lief items.

For more information, please contact the Singapore Red Cross: Chloe Tan on +65 66640578 and chloe.tan@red-
cross.sg and Eileen Cher on +6566640518 and eileen.cher@redcross.sg—GNLM

The human abode is flooded due to heavy rains!

Don’t try to leave the news of ongoing rescue missions!

Tavatimsa

( Celestial Abode)

Hla Htut Oo
Pyithu Hluttaw speaker tours Bago, Ayeyawady regions

Yangon, 5 Aug—Flood-prevention works are under way around the Ayeyawady River in western Bago Region, as well as Hinthada and Maubin districts of Ayeyawady Region, Pyithu Hluttaw Speaker Thura U Shwe Mann told residents in Nyaungdon Township on Wednesday.

The speaker watched soldiers, social organization members and local residents as they worked to strengthen the embankment along the bank of the Panthlaing River to prevent flooding following heavy rainfall in upper Myanmar.

The speaker on Tuesday inspected flood prevention and maintenance works on an embankment of the Ayeyawady River in Kalachaung Village, Letpadan Township. During the trip, Thura U Shwe Mann donated lamps and cash to officials for use in the flood-prevention works in Bago and Ayeyawady regions. MNA

Amyotha Hluttaw MP, defence services MP donate relief supplies to flood victims

Amyotha Hluttaw Speaker U Khin Aung Myint speaking at ceremony to donate relief supplies for flood victims.—MNA

Nav Pyi Taw, 5 Aug—Amyotha Hluttaw plans to donate relief supplies to victims in flood-affected areas across the nation. Speaker U Khin Aung Myint told the donation ceremony for the victims at the Ministry of Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement, here, Wednesday.

The speaker presented K23.15 million donated by Amyotha Hluttaw representatives and Brig-Gen Kyaw Oo Lwin, K 8.4 million, 168 bags of rice and 168 packages of instant noodle by defence services personnel representatives to U Phone Swe, Secretary of National Disaster Management Committee.

Today’s donation for flood victims amounted to K36.3 million including relief supplies.—MNA

Commander-in-Chief meets flood victims in Taikkyi, US Ambassador

Yangon, 5 Aug—Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Senior General Min Aung Hlaing provided relief aid to flood victims in Taikkyi Township Wednesday.

At a meeting with the flood victims in the township, he called on the people to be alerted to severe weather conditions caused by the climate change, urging them to cooperate with the Sate and the Tatmadaw to overcome the current challenges caused by floods.

Overflow water from the Ayeyawady River has inundated low-lying areas and some villages in Apyauk, Taikkyi Township, displacing nearly 300 people.

Authorities have provided aids to flood victims sheltering at a monastery in Taikkyi. The senior general met U.S. Ambassador to Myanmar Mr Derek James Mitchell here Wednesday to discuss bilateral cooperation between the two countries’ armed forces.

At the call, both sides exchanged views on the Tatmadaw’s role in Myanmar, the upcoming general election, eliminating the use of child soldiers, and the Tatmadaw’s flood relief operations.

Also present at the meeting were Deputy Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Commander-in-Chief (Army) Vice-Senior General Soe Win and senior military officers, as well as U.S. Military Attaché Col James McAden.—Myawady

Nomination for Hluttaw candidates continues

Nav Pyi Taw, 5 Aug—A total of 184 candidates for Pyithu Hluttaw, 72 candidates for Amyotha Hluttaw, 256 candidates for state/region Hluttaws and 22 candidates for state/region ethnic affairs submitted their nomination for 2015 General Election on 3 August.

From 20 July to 5 August, 2,618 candidates including 748 for Pyithu Hluttaw, 355 for Amyotha Hluttaw, 1,428 for state/region Hluttaws and 87 for ethnic affairs constituencies.

They represent 64 political parties while 90 of them are individual candidates. Detailed nomination process is available at www.ucmmyanmar.org.—MNA

Senior General Min Aung Hlaing inspects participation of soldiers in prevention of flooding.—Myawady

Expert criticizes disaster preparedness, warns of further danger

By Ye Myint

Yangon, 5 Aug—A prominent weather expert has criticized Myanmar’s lack of preparedness for extreme weather, warning that flooding across the country could worsen amid forecasts of above-average rainfall until the end of next month.

“The risk of flooding is serious, as the country will see above-average rainfall,” Dr Tun Lwin, former director-general of the Department of Meteorology and Hydrology, said Tuesday.

Speaking at the hall of the Myanmar Fisheries Federation in Yangon, Dr Tun Lwin said a cluster of storms including three or four over the Bay of Bengal is likely to bring more heavy rain to Myanmar. He said a third wave of flooding was likely to occur in September and October, following the first in June and the second in July and August.

He also warned of potential inundation until 10 October, saying there would be a severe impact on the country if gale-force winds from the South China Sea were to meet the strong monsoon, as happened in 1974 and 2004.

The weather expert stressed the need for implementation of effective climate action, pointing out that preparedness and preventive measures have been weak in Myanmar, leaving the country susceptible to recent widespread flash floods.

Although Myanmar’s ranking in “disaster vulnerability” is 131 among 184 countries globally, a US-based report ranked the country at 179 in “readiness for disaster” while fellow ASEAN member Laos was at 128, he pointed out.—GNLM
Dollar, bond yields rise on Fed rate risk

SYDNEY, 5 Aug — Asian share markets were in a mixed mood on Wednesday as the mounting risks of a hike in U.S. interest rates as early as next month lifted the dollar and bond yields, pressuring currencies across the region.

Financial spreadsheets expected Britain’s FTSE 100 to open 0.1 percent higher, Germany’s DAX to open 13-14 points or 0.1 percent higher, and France’s CAC 40 to open 2-3 points or as much as 0.1 percent up.

Moves were mostly within broad ranges. Japan’s Nikkei was up 0. percent and South Korea’s KOSPI rose 0.1 percent. MSCI’s broadest index of Asia-Pacific shares outside Japan slipped 0.3 percent.

In China, the CSI300 index of the largest listed companies in Shanghai and Shenzhen was flat after curbs on short-selling prompted a sizable bounce on Tuesday.

There were also signs Chinese consumers could be taking over from manufacturers as the driving force for growth as the Caixin/Markit survey of services climbed to its highest in 11 months. Losses on Wall Street had been modest with the Dow ending Tuesday off 0.27 percent, while the S&P 500 eased 0.22 percent and the Nasdaq 0.19 percent.

Leading the way were shares in Apple which hit their lowest in over six months, apparently in part on worries about demand in China.

The latest scare over U.S. rates came when Atlanta Federal Reserve President Dennis Lockhart told the Wall Street Journal that it would take “significant deterioration” in the economy for him to not support a hike in September.

“Given that Lockhart is middle-of-the-road to slightly dovish, these comments from him really add a lot of weight to the notion that the Fed really wants to go in September,” said analysts at Citi.

Investors reacted by narrowing the odds of a move next month, though Fed fund futures still imply only around a 50-50 chance of a hike so soon.

Yields on two-year Treasury notes jumped 5 basis points to 0.74 percent, reversing all the fall that followed a surprisingly soft report on U.S. wages out last week.

Raising interest rates with zero inflation is a hard sell

LONDON, 5 Aug — Americans and Britons bracing for the first interest rate rises in almost a decade are puzzled: why are rates about to go up when there’s no inflation?

But in the Federal Reserve and Bank of England are proclaiming that they are on the cusp of raising interest rates for the first time in almost a decade. It may take a few months, but the message they are sending still heavily-indebted households either side of the Atlantic is clear: “be warned”.

It’s not hard to see why near-zero interest rates should be “normalised” when you do a quick economic health check.

After years in the post-credit crisis doldrums, both economies are now growing at brisk annual clips of between 2 and 3 percent. Jobless rates are near long-term averages of less than 6 percent. Real estate and financial asset prices have raced higher over the past couple of years.

The problem is that annual consumer price inflation rates are zero in Britain and just 0.1 percent statewide, far below the 2 percent consumer price growth targets both have committed to in one form or another as a policy guide.

Even the Fed’s favoured inflation measure — the index of personal consumption expenditures (PCE) — is running as low as an annual 0.3 percent.

The policy mantra for much of the year has been that headline inflation was artificially depressed by the collapse of energy and raw materials prices in late 2014. Once these stabilised — as they did through the spring — then the assumption was that these base effects would wash out of CPI indexes and reveal far livelier ‘core’, large- domistically driven, price rises pushing headline inflation back toward its target.

In other words, central banks would face down what they saw as a temporary drop in headline inflation, focus on core price developments and pull the interest rate trigger anyhow.

The ‘core’ PCE for the United States is indeed punchier. But, at just 1.3 percent, it’s still well below target rates. ‘Core’ UK inflation also remains less than 1 percent.

It’s further complicated this summer, not least because the bursting of a stock bubble in Shanghai has stoked intense anxiety about the slowing Chinese economy.

The result has been another tailspin in commodity prices. Oil has lost a further 20 percent since the start of July and the Commodity Research Bureau’s broad index of raw materials prices has fallen to its lowest in 12 years - below even its level at the trough of the Great Recession of 2008/2009.

The upshot is headline inflation rates are likely to remain depressed for far longer. While that may not be a disaster, the economy is flitting with an equally destabilising bout of deflation that could feed on itself by delaying consumer purchases, weighing down nominal wage settlements and complicating long-term debt servicing.

First separated conjoined twin survivor thanks doctors 18 yrs later

CHONGQING, 5 Aug — As Gu Qiao graduates from high school and enters college, the formerly conjoined twin took time to visit and thank doctors who successfully performed the risky separation that saved his life 18 years ago.

Gu was born in Dazu County in southwest China’s Chongqing Municipality to a peasant family in 1996. He was connected to his sibling at the chest and stomach, and became the first to survive a separation operation for such a condition. The baby boys suffered from several malformed organs. They were sent to Xinqiao Hospital of Third Military Medical University in Oct. 1996. Wang Weidong, former head of the hospital recalled.

“There was no successful separation operation on such rare conjoined twins before that time in China,” Wang said. “But the boys could have died any minute if we hadn’t performed the operation. I decided to take the chance to save their lives.”

After 20 days of research and preparation, doctors from more than 20 departments including pediatrics, cardiovascular, and infectious diseases, performed a 10-hour surgery on the twins.

The parents named the twins “Xin” and “Qiao” following the surgery, in honor of the hospital, Xinqiao. Sadly, the second twin, Gu Xin, died about 20 days after the operation.

Conjoined twins are quite rare. The phenomenon is seen in an estimated one in 50,000 births to one in 100,000 births. Conjoined twins are identical twins joined in utero. Most conjoined twins are stillborn, and many pairs born alive have seriously debilitating abnormalities.

Gu Qiao cannot practice intense exercise as he has a long scar on his chest. Growing up, he was shy due to his physical appearance, said Gu Weihua, his father.

“I started to spend a lot of time reading books and seeing movies,” said Gu Qiao. “Gradually, I was drawn by France and am looking forward to experiencing romance in that exotic country, just like in the books.”

To realize his dream and to be closer to his parents, Gu Qiao has chosen to major in French at Sichuan International Studies University in Chongqing. He was accepted last week.

Wang, former head of the hospital, said during their reunion on Monday that he will help pay for Gu Qiao’s tuition to ease the financial pressure of his family.

“Gu Qiao was an unfortunate boy when he first came to this world, but he was quite fortunate and strong to be the survivor. Therefore, he has more reason to pursue his dream and I will support him.” “The hard work of the doctors gave me the chance to fulfill my dream today,” said Gu Qiao, “I will cherish it.”

Reuters

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Reuters


Xinhua

Xinhua
Eco-friendly 3D printed supercar

NEW YORK, 5 Aug — A California automotive start-up is hoping their prototype supercar will redefine car manufacturing. The sleek race car dubbed ‘Blade’ didn’t come off an assembly line - but out of a 3D printer.

Kevin Czinger of Di- verge Microfactories has spent most of his career in the automotive industry. One day he realized that no matter how fuel-efficient or how few tailpipe emissions the modern car has, the business of car manufacturing is destroying the environment.

“3D printing of metal radically changes that. By looking at 3D printing not for that overall structure but to create individual modular structures that can be combined, that 3D printing transforms everything,” said Czinger during an interview with Reuters in Silicon Valley.

According to Czinger, 3D printing transforms everything by changing the way the structural components of cars are fabricated. Currently cars are pieced together on long assembly lines inside large factories that use massive amounts of energy. Even the most fuel-efficient car has a large carbon footprint before even leaving the plant.

Czinger and his team’s approach was to take the large plant out of the equation. To accomplish this they printed the modular pieces that are used to connect carbon rods that make up the Blade’s chassis. “The 3D printed chassis is only 102 pounds and has the same strength and safety protection as a frame made out of steel,” said Brad Balzer, the lead designer on the project.

By using carbon fiber instead of steel or aluminum for the body, the entire vehicle only weighs 1400 pounds (635kg), giving it twice the weight to horsepower ratio of a Bugatti Veyron.

The Blade is fitted with a 700 horse power engine that runs on natural gas, reducing their carbon footprint even further. Balzer says designing an eco-friendly speed demon supercar as their first prototype was intentional.

“We focused a lot on the aesthetics of this car because it is very important to capture the people’s imaginations, especially when we are talking about the core enabling technologies,” he said.

The core enabling technology, the ability to print out car components that can be easily assembled, is what Kevin Czinger hopes will revolutionize car manufacturing. He says electric cars are a step in the right direction, but alone they won’t be enough to curb greenhouse emissions given the projected rise in demand for cars globally unless the way they are manufactured changes.

“By constructing a car this way it has less than one third of the environmental and health impact than the 85 hours a diesel car for example has,” he added.

Czinger and Balzer are starting small but they believe their new 3D printing method for car manufacturing will have a huge impact on how the cars of the future are built.

Sprint overtaken by T-Mobile to become No. 4 U.S. mobile carrier

NEW YORK, 5 Aug — Sprint Corp, the U.S. subsidiary of Japan’s SoftBank Corp., said Tuesday the company had 57.66 million subscribers, falling behind T-Mobile US Inc to become the fourth largest mobile carrier in the country.

Although the struggling unit said it added 675,000 customers in the April to June quarter, the figure was not enough to stay above T-Mobile’s 58.90 million subscribers. T-Mobile has been aggressively pursuing new customers and has had nine consecutive quarters of 1 million net additions.

Verizon Communications Inc and AT&T Inc — the first and second largest carriers, respectively — each have more than 100 million subscribers.

Sprint also announced a net loss of $20 million in the quarter, compared to a net profit of $23 million a year ago, and an 8.7 percent decrease in net revenue of $8.03 billion.

Purchased by SoftBank in 2013, Sprint has long failed to restore profitability amid intense competition with bigger rivals Verizon and AT&T in the almost saturated U.S. mobile market.

SoftBank gave up a bid in 2014 to acquire T-Mobile and merge it with Sprint following difficulty gaining approval from U.S. regulators who were skeptical about leaving the market with too few mobile carriers. —Kyodo News

EU-funded project seeks to recover phosphorus from municipal sewage

BRUSSELS, 5 Aug — Researchers from an EU-funded project sought to promote the recovery of phosphorus from municipal sewage, said the European Commission in a press release on Tuesday.

Phosphorus, which is excreted in urine, is a nutrient needed by all life. Plants extract phosphorus from soil; farmers replenish it via fertilizers.

To make the fertilizers and animal feed, the EU depends on imports of phosphorus, as about 90 percent of the demand, some 975,000 tons annually, is imported mainly from North Africa and the Middle East, where it is mined from phosphorus rock.

EU researchers found that this dependence could be reduced by recycling phosphorus from sewage sludge, the thick semi-solid material left over after treating municipal wastewater.

Recovered phosphorus from this sludge could then theoretically cover about 20 percent of Europe’s current demand, said project coordinator of P-REX Christian Kabbe of Kompetenzcen- trum Wasser Berlin in Germany.

P-REX, which would end this month, was advancing that process by evaluating the costs and benefits of 10 currently promising technologies to recover phosphorus from sludge, or from the ashes left over from its incineration.

Alongside market analysis, P-REX would also produce a guidance document for policymakers and industry, outlining the suitable phosphorus recovery options and recommendations for fostering a European market for products containing recovered phosphorus, such as fertilizer.

In 2010, some 42 percent of Europe’s municipal sewage sludge was treated and used on farmland, 27 percent was incinerated, 14 percent was disposed of by land filling and about 17 percent was disposed of in other ways, according to Eurostat.

But there are wide variations across Europe — and even between regions — in how each country currently treats and disposes sludge. The P-REX recommendations are tailored to these differences.

“The aim is not to change the modes, but recommend suitable recovery technology based on the infrastructure already in place,” explained Kabbe.

But there would be no recycling without a market, which is dependent on price, quantity, handling, distribution, and the operational benefits of recovering phosphorus from sludge, said Kabbe.

“We know a lot about the technologies and how recycling phosphorus could work, but now we need to do the obvious and take action,” he adds, “industry needs incentives, such as reasonable subsidies and EU-wide policies, to reach the economies of scale needed to reduce our dependence on imports.”

Currently, only about 2,000 to 3,000 tons of struvite, a phosphorus-rich mineral, is produced each year in Europe from municipal sewage, said Kabbe. It represents the lowest hanging fruit and to increase this, the project launched an online platform in January 2015 to link European suppliers of recovered phosphorus with potential buyers.

The results of the project would be disseminated at international workshops and regional events to encourage more production. “P-REX will provide an essential milestone for our future development into a recycling society,” said Kabbe. —Xinhua

Toshiba CEO apologizes to Japan PM office for accounting scandal

TOKYO, 5 Aug — Toshiba Corp’s chief executive apologized to Prime Minister Shinzo Abe’s office on Wednesday after revelations of wide-spread accounting irregularities at the industrial conglomerate embarrassed government efforts to improve the country’s corporate governance.

Masashi Muromachi, interim CEO, met with an aide to Abe and apologized for the “inconveniences caused”, a company spokesman said. An independent inquiry last month found Toshiba had inflated its profits by $1.2 billion over several years. Previous CEO Hisao Tanaka, his two predecessors and a string of other senior officials resigned from their roles.

The scandal came as Abe’s government is trying to bolster global investors’ confidence in Japan Inc with better corporate governance guidelines.

Among large Japanese firms, Toshiba has particularly close ties with the government, with former and current executives sitting on various policy committees.

The affair has prompted previous vice chairman Norio Sasaki, a former CEO, to quit his roles on government panels including a committee on industrial competitiveness. The former chairman of the company’s audit committee, Makoto Kubo, stepped down from his position on a government accounting panel.

Sadakazu Osaki, head of research at Nomura Research Institute’s Center for Strategic Management and Innovation, said the apology reflected the degree to which Toshiba executives were involved in government panels. “This is because it’s Toshiba. I don’t think a normal company would’ve done that,” he said. —Reuters
Security bills technically allow nuclear arms transport: minister

Tokyo, 5 Aug — Government-posed national security legislation would theoretically allow Japan to transport nuclear weapons in logistics support for foreign countries, Defense Minister Gen Nakatani said Wednesday.

During deliberations on the legislation in a House of Councillors panel session, Nakatani, however, immediately ruled out such a possibility citing the country’s non-nuclear principles.

Foreign Minister Fumio Kishida also denied the possibility regardless of legal interpretation, telling the same panel, “Given Japan’s policy and stance on nuclear weapons, Japanese would never transport nuclear weapons.”

The three non-nuclear principles forbid Japan from possessing, manufacturing or allowing nuclear weapons on its territory.

Shinkun Haku, a lawmaker of the biggest opposition Democratic Party of Japan who questioned the ministers during the panel session, said the government should scrap the legislation which would pave the way for the SDF to carry nuclear arms, Haku said. The security bills are aimed at expanding the role of the SDF abroad and strengthening Japan’s security alliance with the United States.

Recent opinion polls indicate a majority of Japanese voters oppose the legislation, which opponents say would make it likelier for Japan to be involved in war. Nakatani said enhancing the SDF’s operations is more important than ever at a time China is stepping up its military assertiveness.

China’s expanded maritime activity has become “a security concern for the region including Japan and for the international community,” he said.

New Zealand, Philippines to join efforts in developing geothermal energy

WELLINGTON, 5 Aug — A New Zealand government research institute is joining with a major Philippines energy company to work on geothermal energy developments.

The Institute of Geological and Nuclear Sciences (GNS Science) said Wednesday that it had signed a memorandum of understanding (MoU) with Energy Development Corporation (EDC) on new research initiatives.

Areas where increased co-operation was likely included modelling of geothermal reservoirs, management of databases, and assessment of major fields in both countries, GNS Science geothermal department head Greg Bignall said in a statement.

EDC had indicated it would support GNS Science’s bid to set up a regional research institute based in Taupo, in the North Island, that would draw funding and expertise from numerous countries and focus on geothermal development in New Zealand and throughout the Pacific.

Collaboration between the two organizations dated back to the 1970s and GNS Science specialists had been involved in the discovery and development of major fields in the Philippines.

Meanwhile, the South Korean government has clarified that Lee is making the visit in a private capacity, adding it has not asked Lee to convey a special message on inter-Korean relations to the North on the Seoul government’s behalf.

Former S. Korean first lady departs for N. Korea on 4-day visit

SEOUL, 5 Aug — The widow of former South Korean President Kim Dae Jung departed for North Korea on Wednesday on a four-day visit amid heightened tensions between the two Koreas.

Lee Hee Ho, 92, left Seoul’s Gimpo airport around 10 a.m. aboard a chartered plane with the 18-member entourage and is scheduled to arrive in Pyongyang later in the day.

Lee’s visit to the North “is aimed at healing pains and wounds of national division of 70 years,” Kim Sung Jae, her aide and a former culture minister, told reporters at the airport.

Her visit is also “to achieve reconciliation and cooperation to become a nation where people live peacefully and exchange visits through the spirit of the June 15 (Joint Declaration),” he said, referring to the date of a set of agreements signed at the end of the landmark inter-Korean summit in Pyongyang in 2000 between her late husband and then North Korean leader Kim Jong Il.

She is scheduled to visit a children’s hospital, a maternity hospital and a nursery in Pyongyang, and Mt. Myohyang in North Pyongan Province.

She plans to deliver knitted hats and clothes to North Korean children.

Her visit is focused on whether Lee will be able to meet with North Korean leader Kim Jong Un.

She met him in December 2011 when she traveled to Pyongyang to express condolences over the death of Kim Jong Il, the father of the current young leader.

Upon a request by Lee, North Korea sent an invitation Monday to Lee, according to officials of the Kim Dae Jung Peace Center.

The North’s Asia-Pacific Peace Committee, which handles matters related to South Korea, invited the former first lady to visit the country. She had sought to travel to the North in December last year, but the plan was canceled mainly due to her declining health.

In 2000, Kim Jong Il held a landmark summit with Kim Jong II in Pyongyang and agreed to promote national reconciliation and economic cooperation. Kim Dae Jung died in 2009.

Her visit has drawn interest as to whether it may help reduce tensions between the two Koreas as this year marks the 70th anniversary of the Korean peninsula’s liberation from Japan’s 1910-1945 colonial rule.

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Meanwhile, the South Korean government has clarified that Lee is making the visit in a private capacity, adding it has not asked Lee to convey a special message on inter-Korean relations to the North on the Seoul government’s behalf.
FBI looking into security of Clinton private email account — Washington Post

WASHINGTON, 5 Aug — The FBI has begun looking into the security of Hillary Clinton’s private email setup, contacting in the past week a Denver-based technology firm that helped manage the unusual system, according to a government watchdog. Clinton has said she did not send or receive any secret information using that account.

The FBI last week also contacted Clinton’s lawyer, David Kendall, with questions about the security of a thumb drive in his possession that contains copies of work emails Clinton sent during her time as secretary of state. Kendall said in a statement, “The government is seeking assurance about the storage of those materials. We are actively cooperating.”

The server installed in her Chappaqua, New York, home as she was preparing to take office was originally used by her first campaign for the presidency, in 2008, the Post reported, citing two people briefed on the setup. A staffer who was on the payroll of her political action committee set it up in her home.

Responsibility for setting up and maintaining the server that handled personal email communications passed through a number of different hands, starting with Clinton staffers with limited training in computer security and eventually expanding to Platte River, the Post reported.

At least four emails from the account used by Clinton while she was secretary of state contained classified information, according to a government watchdog. Clinton has said she did not send or receive any secret information using that account.

The FBI probe is preliminary and is focused on ensuring the proper handling of classified material, the Post said. Nick Merrill, a spokesman for Clinton’s campaign, declined to comment on the FBI’s actions.

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Robert Downey Jr. ranked world’s top-earning actor by Forbes

Los Angeles, 5 Aug — “Iron Man” star Robert Downey Jr. was named the world’s top-earning actor on Tuesday by Forbes, taking first place on a list that featured leading men from Bollywood as well as Hollywood for the first time.

Downey Jr. earned an estimated $80 million between June 2014 and June 2015, spurred by the success of this year’s superhero ensemble “Avengers: Age of Ultron,” which grossed more than $1.3 billion worldwide.

Second-place honors went to veteran Chinese actor and martial arts star Jackie Chan, 61, who Forbes said had earned $50 million in the past year from Hollywood and China co-productions such as “Dragon Blade” as well as merchandise.

Chan came in ahead of Hollywood stars Vin Diesel, who grabbed third place with $47 million mainly due to his stake in the “Fast and Furious” franchise, as well as Bradley Cooper, Adam Sandler and Tom Cruise. Sandler, 48, whose most recent big-budget film “Pixels” performed poorly in the global box office, still earned $41 million over the past year, in part due to his production deals with Sony studios and Netflix. Bollywood actors Amitabh Bachchan, Salman Khan and Akshay Kumar, all staples of Indian cinema, also featured in the top 10, with 72-year-old Bachchan and 49-year-old Khan tying at No. 7 with $33.5 million each. Kumar, 47, came in at No. 9 with $32.5 million.

Forbes collates its earnings lists using figures from sources such as Nielsen, Box Office Mojo and IMDB, and calculates earnings by deducting estimated taxes and management fees. It will publish a list on the world’s highest-paid actresses at a later date.—Reuters

Monkey King is a milestone for Chinese animation

Beijing, 5 Aug — Universal praise was heaped on “Monkey King: Hero is Back” as a Chinese animated feature.

The animation inspired by a classical epic was a bold creation, said Tong Gang, deputy head of the State Administration of Press, Publication, Radio, Film and Television (SARFT), when attending a seminar on the film.

“Monkey King: Hero is Back” is a 3D animated adaption of the classic epic “A Journey to the West.” It tells of the story of the Monkey King’s encounters with his future master, Monk Tang, before they embark on a pilgrimage to India, defeating monsters along the way.

Tong said the work was a real tribute to the epic.

The animation has pulled in about 800 million yuan (about 130 million U.S. dollars) since its release on July 10, the highest grossing animation in Chinese cinemas.

Critic Zhong Chenguang said the domestic production blazed a trail for domestic animators.

The production has been criticized, with some saying its characters were not well drawn and the ending was abrupt. However, encouraged by favorable criticism and box office success, director Tian Xiaopeng said overseas promotion of the animation was under way and the producers were planning a sequel.

The majority of Chinese animation fans, if not all of them, have grown up with foreign cartoons, including Doraemon from Japan and Iron Man from America.

And before “Monkey King: Hero is Back,” most Chinese animated films found it hard to reach the 100 million yuan box office benchmark.—Xinhua

Meryl Streep finds inner rock star in ‘Ricki and the Flash’

New York, 5 Aug — Multiple Academy Award winner Meryl Streep brings her inner rock star to the screen in “Ricki and the Flash,” playing a bar musician who left her family to follow her rock and roll dream.

The Hollywood actress portrays Ricki who now returns home to help her daughter Julie, played by Streep’s real-life daughter Mamie Gummer, through a tough period.

Although Streep has sung on camera before, in films such as “Mamma Mia”, the actress said she only feels confident doing so for the movies.

“They are different, you know. Every character is different, everyone of these times that I’ve sung, they don’t really sound like each other because they are different women,” Streep told reporters at the film’s premiere on Monday night.

“I don’t think I have the nerve to get up in front of people myself and sing but ... give me a character and I’ll sing.”

Streep learned how to play guitar for the film, in which she performs alongside singer and actor Rick Springfield.

“Every weekend this August he’s filling stadiums across the country so I had to really learn how to play and how to earn the right to be on stage with these great musicians,” Streep said of Springfield.

The actress came to the premiere in New York with Gummer and the two posed for pictures together.

“I’m doing every movie from now on with my daughter,” she joked.—Reuters

Pop princess Taylor Swift wins elderly actors, fans in Australia

Sydney, 5 Aug — U.S. pop star Taylor Swift has intervened to allow her global hit song “Shake It Off” to be used in a Sydney production featuring a cast of 70 year old and older actors in a theatrical play.

The play, Seventeen, was due to open on Wednesday night in the iconic independent Belvoir theater, was hit by an order on Tuesday from Swift’s international record company not to use it, as the producers did not have rights.

The record company issued an order not to use the song after discovering the plan on social media.

But the director, Anne-Louise Sarks, launched a social media campaign which was picked up by global celebrities including Hugh Jackman, Russell Crowe and singer Ed Sheeran.

Swift found out within hours and gave her permission via Twitter overnight and the show will go ahead as planned.

The play is about a group of elderly people performing as they were when they were 17-years-old before reverting to their true age.

A representative of the Guinness World Records organization poses with participants during a fashion show held in a mall, in Lima, Peru, on August 4, 2015. According to the local press, the event called “30 Hours Gamarra Fashion Show” was held in the Gamarra mall, gathered 120 businessmen of the textile industry, seek to break the Guinness record of the longest fashion show, established last year in Miami, U.S., with 24 hours.—Xinhua

Actress Meryl Streep attends the premiere of “Ricki And The Flash” at AMC Lincoln Square Theater in New York August 3, 2015.—Reuters

A social media campaign called “Ricki Perú,” which asked the actress to perform in the play, went viral on Twitter despite the original ban.

“I’m so happy they’re doing this,” she said.

Swift filed a motion asking a judge to rule on the ban and said she and her team had been “very, very, very patient.”

“I’ve been waiting and waiting and waiting. I’ve been really backing them up because I think it’s really important,” she said, adding the show was “super important.”

She said the show had been in the works for a month before the ban was lifted and thanked everyone who had supported the play.

The <i>New York Post</i> reported that Swift had asked for a percentage of the proceeds of the performance to support a local cancer research organization.

“Everyone is incredibly grateful to her for her generosity,” said Streep, who has supported the play through her philanthropic organization the Endometriosis Foundation of America, which supported the show.

“I just loved the idea of this kind of social media campaign,” Streep said.

“I think that’s how the world is changing,” she said.

In an interview with the magazine at the end of August, Streep revealed that the film’s director Tom Hooper had been interested in working with her before they were paired up on “Ricki and the Flash.”

She said she was drawn to the film because it was about a woman finding her voice in middle age.

“I’ve always wanted to play a woman who’s going through a mid-life crisis,” she said.

“I’m doing every movie from now on with my daughter,” she joked.—Reuters

The Hollywood actress portrays Ricki who now returns home to help her daughter Julie, played by Streep’s real-life daughter Mamie Gummer, through a tough period.

Although Streep has sung on camera before, in films such as “Mamma Mia”, the actress said she only feels confident doing so for the movies.

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U BA KYIN
Age: 77
Was Peacefully passed away on 3 August 2015
Dearly missed and fondly cherished by loved ones.

Wife: Daw San San Myint
Son: Tin Maung Kyin, Pete
Daughters: Sons-in-Law
Htar Htar Kyin Myint Naing
Nilar Kyin Pyi Soe
Grandson:
Wai Shin Thant Granddaughter:
Phyu Shin Thant
Brothers, Sisters, Relatives, and Friends

Wake is held at 45PM Tay Nu Yin St, 7&1/2 miles, Mayangone, Yangon.
Finally funeral prayers and sermons from five monks and offer robe donations will be held at 9am on 5 Aug 2015.
Cortege leaves on Wed 5 August 2015 at 2:00pm to Weyaw Cemetry and thereafter Crematorium main hall 1 for cremation at 5:00pm.

Brazil politician proposes annual ‘Goal to Germany’ day

SAO PAULO, 5 Aug — A city councilman in one of Brazil’s biggest cities has tabled a proposal to create a ‘Goal to Germany’ day every July to remember Brazil’s shocking World Cup defeat.

It was Brazil’s heaviest ever World Cup defeat and an unprecedented humiliation for the host nation.

“It wouldn’t be a holiday, just a day to remember,” Silva told Reuters.

“For two to three months afterwards people were joking about it, people were always saying, ‘another goal to Germany!’”

But Brazil’s downward spiral in football has been going on for some time. And we need to ask, where do we go from here? A day would give us a chance to reflect.”

It wouldn’t be a holiday, just a day to remember,” Silva added.

“The day should actually be a ‘Goal to Germany’ day every July to remember Brazil’s shocking World Cup defeat by Germany.”

Rodrigo Pacheco, a city councilman in one of Brazil’s biggest cities, Sao Paulo, proposed the annual event to commemorate the day.

He said the day would serve to “reflect on what happened on July 8,” and push on or come home.”

It wasn’t in line with what happened on July 8,” he told the newspaper.

Silva said he had spoken to colleagues and there was support for the bill. However, voters in the city of 12.2 million people near Sao Paulo were not so enthusiastic.

“Stop taking the micky out of your constituents,” a man named Marcos Nascimento posted on Silva’s Facebook page.

Some wags suggested the ‘Goal to Germany’ day should actually be a week.—Reuters

With deepest sympathy and Heartfelt condolences to our directors
Daw Nilar Kyin, Managing director
U Pyi Soe, Chief Operating Officer

On the demise of their beloved father

U BA KYIN
Director, Green Power Myanmar Co., Ltd
Chief Superintendent, Silk Processing (Rtd),
Maymyo Division Manager,
Textile Mill (Rtd),
Meiktila

Departed on 3 August 2015
From the Management & Staff of
Green Power Myanmar Co., Ltd
Grand Kawthaung Co., Ltd

Adams may give up shot at world title defence — report

Wellington, 5 Aug — Olympic champion shot-putter Valerie Adams is considering pulling out of her attempt to win a fifth straight world championships title in Beijing later this month.

She had been struggling this season after returning from surgery on her right elbow and left shoulder and was not keen to compete in China unless she was 100 percent fit.

Her manager Nick Cowan told the New Zealand Herald that her trip to Beijing for the Aug. 22-30 championships was “up for review” as the 30-year-old looked forward to her Olympic title defence in Brazil next year.

“This year was always a risk but we knew we had to take it to be ready for Rio,” he told the newspaper.

“We had to give it a crack to be able to put some sticks in the sand. It’s all about Rio for her, and always has been.”

Adams, IAAF Athlete of the Year in 2014, lost for the first time in 57 meetings when she finished fifth in Paris last month and effectively gave up the Diamond League title she had owned for four years when she finished fourth in Stockholm last week.

“(Stockholm) wasn’t her best performance,” Cowan added.

“It wasn’t in line with how we thought things would track and it probably added a few things up for us, so those discussions are what to do from here — push on or come home.”

German Christina Schwantzi, who won her fourth straight Diamond League event in Stockholm, is favourite to take the world crown Adams first won in Osaka in 2007. — Reuters
Nishikori overcomes stiff 2nd-round challenge in Washington

WASHINGTON, 5 Aug — Second seed Kei Nishikori came out from a set down to beat James Duckworth in a second-round Citi Open match that ended after 12:30 a.m. on Wednesday morning.

After dropping the tiebreak 10-8 to lose the first set, the fifth-ranked Nishikori found a rhythm and cruised to a 6-7(8), 6-1, 6-4 victory over the 95th-ranked Australian.

"Even though I lost the first set, I wanted to calmly cope with it, and because of that I was able to concentrate from the start of the second set," said Nishikori.

The match was Nishikori’s first since he withdrew from his second-round match at Wimbledon due to a left calf injury.

"Because it was my first match in a long time, I made some mistakes, so now I want to make some good adjustments." Japan’s Go Soeda, ranked 102nd in the world, lost his second-round match to 13th seed Sam Querry of the United States — Kyodo News

Former Cardiff boss Solskjaer in talks with Toronto — agent

Oslo, 5 Aug — Ole Gunnar Solskjaer is in talks to become the manager of Major League Soccer outfit Toronto FC, the agent of the former Cardiff City boss has said.

Asked by newspaper Dagbladet if Solskjaer was talking to the Canadian club, Jim Solbakken replied: “Yes.” He did not go into any further details about the negotiations.

The 42-year-old former Manchester United striker was sacked by Cardiff in September last year following relegation from the Premier League in 2014 and a poor start to the subsequent season in the second tier. Toronto FC are currently fifth in the Eastern Conference of the MLS with 28 points after 20 games. —Reuters

Mayweather returns to ring in September against Berto

NEW YORK, 5 Aug — Floyd “Money” Mayweather (48-0) will put his unbeaten record on the line when he steps into the ring to face Andre Berto in Las Vegas on Sept. 12 in what could be the final fight of his career, it was announced on Tuesday.

Mayweather, who beat Manny Pacquiao in May in what was billed as the “Fight of the Century”, will risk his WBC and WBA welterweight world titles against the power-punching, two-time welterweight world champion Berto (30-3) at the MGM Grand Garden Arena.

A victory for Mayweather would match the record of the late heavyweight champion Rocky Marciano, who retired in April 1956 with an unblemished record of 49-0. “I’m ready to get back in the ring on September 12 and prove again to the whole world why I’m ‘The Best Ever,'” said the 38-year-old Mayweather.

“I always bring my A-game and this fight against Andre Berto is no exception. ‘He’s a young, strong fighter who is hungry to take down the best. Forty-eight have tried before and on September 12, I’m going to make it 49.” Haitian-American Berto, who has lost three of his last six fights, sounded a confident note about finding the range against the elusive Mayweather, rated one of the greatest defensive fighters of all-time.

“T’m coming to kick Floyd’s ass on September 12,” said Berto, 31, who has won his last two bouts. “Best believe that I plan to bring it to Floyd and I’m not concerned about what 48 other fighters have been unable to do. Somebody is getting knocked out and it won’t be me.”

The match will be the sixth and final fight of a record-breaking deal between Mayweather and Showtime Networks, leading to speculation it could be the farewell match for the American.

A world champion in five divisions, Mayweather made a reported $220 million from his $600 million in revenue.

Two other world championship fights are also planned for the pay-per-view telecast.

Roman “Rocky” Martinez (29-2-0) will risk his WBO junior lightweight title in a rematch against the boxer he dethroned, four-time world champion Orlando “Sinh” Salido (33-15-2). "T’wo Jack – ‘The Ripper” (19-1-1) will make the first defense of his WBC super middleweight title against mandatory challenger “Saint” George Groves (21-1, 16 KOs).—Reuters

Argentina’s Di Maria has medical ahead of PSG move

PARIS, 5 Aug — Angel Di Maria has undergone a medical ahead of his move from Manchester United to Paris St Germain, according to the hospital where he is having the tests.

The former Real Madrid wide midfielder, whose £39.7 million transfer a year ago set a British record, is preparing to join the French champions for a considerably lower fee, according to media reports.

“I am very happy to join Paris Saint-Germain,” Di Maria told beIN Sports. “What I know about PSG is that they are a team who have won all possible titles in France last season.

“I also know that I want to overcome the obstacle that is the quarter-finals of the Champions League,” he added, with PSG having failed to get past the eight of Europe’s premier club competition for the last three seasons.

Paris Saint-Germain won the Champions League with Real Madrid in 2014 when they claimed a record-extending 10th European Cup.

Aspetar, a specialist sports hospital in Doha, Qatar, announced on its Twitter feed earlier on Tuesday: “#AngelDiMaria has a medical ahead of a proposed move to @ManUtd to @PSG_inside.”

The tweet was accompanied by photographs of the 27-year-old Argentine international at the hospital with officials.

Despite a promising start to his time at Old Trafford, Di Maria has failed to win a regular starting place under Manchester United manager Louis van Gaal.

United, who have been linked with a move for Pedro, the Barcelona winger, are thought to be prepared to take a heavy loss on Di Maria, with a transfer fee in the region of 44.5 million pounds reported to have been agreed.

Di Maria scored the last of his three league goals for the club in October and did not join United’s recent pre-season tour of the United States.—Reuters