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President U Thein Sein praises flood-prevention efforts in Ayeyawady Region

SCHOOLS IN DISASTER-HIT AREAS NEED ASSISTANCE TO REOPEN

By Aye Min Soe

YANGON, 9 Aug — Schools forced to close their doors due to recent flash floods and flooding need urgent assistance in order to be reopened, Ministry of Education said.

The Ministry of Education appealed to private donors Sunday to assist in the reopening of more than 2,490 schools in the worst-hit areas.

The recent floods and landslides destroyed or damaged more than 3,060 schools, forcing them to close.

The ministry has already reopened 569 schools which were damaged during the disasters.

Meanwhile, the Ayeyawady Delta, the country’s rice bowl, is at risk of a new flooding due to swollen rivers in the region.

The rising Ayeyawady and Ngawun rivers threatening to inundate Ayeyawady Region saw their levels drop slightly Sunday, but they still remained above their designated danger levels, the country’s weather bureau said.

 Authorities alerted residents in low-lying areas of the Ayeyawady Delta to possible flooding, urging them to move to designated shelters, as the Ayeyawady and Ngawun rivers remained above their danger levels in Hinthada, Nyaungdon, Zalun and Seiktha townships.

The nationwide death toll from severe flooding has risen to more than 100, and the number of people affected by floods since June reached nearly 1 million nationwide, according to an updated figure released by the Ministry of Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement.

The floods inundated more than 1.2 million acres of rice fields, destroying more than 439,400 acres, according to the Ministry of Agriculture and Irrigation.

The Ministry of Agriculture and Irrigation announced Sunday that it has collected enough rice seeds to distribute to farmers, at a rate of one basket of seeds per acre.

Flash floods and landslides in recent memory forced more than 3,000 schools in the worst-hit areas nationwide to shut down.—GNLM

Fundraising photo exhibition to be held for flood victims

By Khin Thanda Lwin

YANGON, 9 Aug — A charity dedicated to assisting flood victims is preparing to host an exhibition of works by members of the Myanmar Photographic Society, its joint-secretary said Sunday.

The fundraising show will be held from 17 to 19 August at Dagon Centre II in Sanyo Township in Yangon.

The society has already collected more than 100 colour and black-and-white photographs donated by its members, photographer Zaw Zaw Tun told The Global New Light of Myanmar.

“The works may cover a wide range of subjects such as landscapes and ethnic traditions,” he added.

“Exhibited works will be selling for just 30,000 kyats (around US$30) per photo,” the 35-year-old photographer said.

“This is an opportunity for collectors, as artists normally sell their works at a higher price.”

“All proceeds from the event will go to the charity,” said Zaw Zaw Tun, who donated three landscape photos for the event.

Torrential monsoon rains during June and July have caused floods and landslides across wide parts of the country, leaving more than 200,000 victims.—GNLM
Yinmabin, 9 Aug — Chairman of Yinmabin Township Natural Disaster Management Committee U Soe Win and party provided rice, foodstuffs, medicines and purified drinking water to 100 households from flood-affected villages as of 5 August. Well-wishers donated 74 bags of rice, foodstuffs, instant noodle and clothes for people from 435 households from None, Kyaukhmaw, Saythu and Thanbo villages where Sagaing Region Minister for Security and Border Affairs Col Kyi Niang and officials met with flood victims.

As of 7 August, flooding is receding from Chindwin River. Local authorities supervised sanitation tasks of volunteers at schools, monasteries, roads, bridges and houses. Basic education primary schools reopened in five villages on 6 August and Kyaukhmaw BEHS on 7 August. Arrangements are being made to reopen six more schools in the township.

Tun Ko Ko (Yinmabin)

US Professors visit water pump stations, sewerage plant

Mandalay, 9 Aug — Professors from Northern Illinois University of the United States of America together with faculty members from Yadanabon University viewed water supply system and drainage of sewerage water in Mandalay recently.

They visited No 1 pump station (Malun) and No 8 pump station in Mandalay and drainage of Shwege sewerage plant.

They held a meeting at the city hall in Mandalay, with Mandalay City Development Committee member U Tun Kyi and officials in attendance. They discussed water supply system in the downtown area of the city and drainage of sewerage.

Maung Pyi Thu (Mandalay)

Bangladesh donates medicines worth $800,000 to flood victims

Yangon, 9 Aug — An aircraft from Bangladeshi airline carrying medicines donated for flood-affected areas in Myanmar arrived at Yangon International Airport on 8 August.

Bangladeshi Ambassador Mr Mohammad Sufiur Rahman handed over the donations to Deputy Minister for Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement Daw Su Su Hlaing.

The ambassador said, “Our Prime Minister urged Bangladeshi people to donate cash and kind to flood victims of Myanmar. We arrange to donate makeshift tents and blankets for the victims.”

An official of Relief and Resettlement Department said that the department will distribute 40 medical kits worth US$800,000 comprising 32 medical items to the flood-affected areas through Ministry of Health.—Min Thit
President U Thein Sein praises flood-prevention efforts in Ayeyawady Region

**NAY PYI TAW, 9 Aug** — President U Thein Sein on Sunday flew to flooded areas of Ayeyawady Region and praised rescue workers for their concerted efforts to prevent the towns from flooding.

In Nyaungdon, the president praised local people, military and departmental personnel and social organizations for laying sandbags on river banks as part of the effort to prevent flood water entering the town.

“More funds would be asked from the Pyidaungsu Hluttaw to pile more sandbags up to five feet,” he said before inspecting the distribution of water by a military water-purification vehicle.

At a relief camp where 630 flood victims are looked after, he recognized voluntary services in face of disaster, pledging timely assistance to the needs of education, health and agriculture.

The recovery activities will include disbursement of paddy seeds and land preparation for cultivation of crops on damaged farmland.

In Hinthada, the president inspected the construction of a disaster management training centre, which is near completion. The centre is the first of its kind in Myanmar and its construction started in 2013-2014 fiscal year.

At a relief camp there, he presented relief supplies and K90 million for the flood victims through the region’s chief minister.

The president also met members of China’s Blue Sky Rescue team, who are here to engage in rescue operations in Rakhae State.

The president flew to Bago Region, where he stopped for the night.

**MNA**

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Senior General Min Aung Hlaing on tour of Sagaing Region, Chin State

**NAY PYI TAW, 9 Aug** — While the government is making arrangements for providing assistance to the flood-affected areas during a six-month rehabilitation period, the Tatmadaw will reconstruct these areas with might and main, Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Senior General Min Aung Hlaing told the ceremony to disburse relief supplies to flood victims at the hall of Kalay Station Sunday.

The senior general and party viewed clearing of debris by Tatmadawmen on Kalay-Kalewa road Sunday after visiting flood-affected regiments and units in Kalay and Cikon stations.

The senior general and party presented personal goods for the victims to officials. In Falam, Chin State, the senior general gave foodstuffs to the local people while wife of the senior general Daw Kyu Kyu Hla presented cash assistance to Township Maternal and Child Welfare Association.

On arrival at the local battalion in Tiddim Township, they provided cash assistance and supplies to the family members.

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**YANGON, 9 Aug** — A ceremony to install a blue plaque at Central Press under the Ministry of Information was held at No 228 on Theinbyu Street, Botataung Township, here, Sunday.

Managing Director U Aung Myo Myint of Print and Publishing Enterprise, executive of Yangon Heritage Trust Dr Thant Thaw Kaung and Head of Branch of Yangon City Development Committee U Zaw Min Tun formally opened the ceremony.

Senior Architect Mr David Gole of YHT spoke about tasks to be done at the Central Press.

The Central Press is installed with the blue plaque as the 7th installation of its kind in downtown Yangon.

The plaque describes the relations between the historical persons and events in the public places. It is one of the best ways to observe the history of Yangon City.

As of June 2013, YHT in cooperation with Royal Philips Corporation has installed blue plaques at the significant venues in Yangon.

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**Tatmadaw provides relief supplies, medical treatment to flood victims**

**NAY PYI TAW, 9 Aug** — Tatmadaw provides cash assistance and relief aid to flood-affected areas.

The command-in-chief of Defence Services on his tours donated K90 million, military commands and Myanmar Economic Corporation, 1,045 bags of rice and relief supplies including 16 bags of gram, foods, cooking oil, instant foods, purified drinking water, clothes and soft drinks to the flood victims.

A floating hospital (Shwepezan) of Defence Services (Navy) gave medical treatment to 276 men, 671 women and 74 children in Hinthada and Kyangin townships.

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**Historian Dr Thant Myint-U wins Fukuoka Grand Prize**

**YANGON, 9 Aug** — Historian and Yangon heritage champion Dr Thant Myint-U on Sunday received the grand prize of Fukuoka Asian Culture Prize from Mr Soichiro Takashima, Mayor of Fukuoka City, Japan.

Fukuoka Prize is an award established by the city of Fukuoka and the Yokatopia Foundation to honor the outstanding achievements by individuals or organizations in preserving and creating unique and diverse cultures of Asia.

According to a post on Fukuoka website, Dr. Thant Myint-U is a truly worthy recipient of the Grand Prize of the Fukuoka Prize as he is a distinguished intellectual of 21st century Asia, narrating the voices of the people of Myanmar and connecting them with the wider international community.

Dr. Thant Myint-U is the grandson of former UN Secretary-General U Thant. He was born in 1966 in New York City. After graduating from Harvard University, he enrolled at Johns Hopkins School of Advanced International Studies, from which he received a Master’s Degree in International Relations and International Economics. In 1996, he received his Ph.D. in Modern History from the University of Cambridge.

Present at the prize award ceremony at Park Royal Hotel in Yangon were Union Minister at the President Office U Soe Thane, Yangon Mayor U Hla Myint, ambassadors from the foreign embassies and officials.

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**Myawady**

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YHt installs blue plaque at Central Plaque

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**Myawady**
As Singapore turns 50, a proud nation prepares to party

SINGAPORE, 9 Aug — Festooned with countless red and white flags, Singapore launched an extravagant celebration of its 50th anniversary on Sunday, an occasion of national pride the city state’s ruling party is expected to exploit to call an election next month.

It will be the second time this year that Singaporeans have come together to reflect on the extraordinary success of a tiny nation, after they mourned the death of first prime minister Lee Kuan Yew in late March.

An island of 5.5 million people that sits just north of the equator, what was a post-colonial backwater at independence from Malaysia in 1965 is now a global business hub whose economic and social model is the envy of nations around the world.

The government intends to showcase its success in an elaborate parade that will include a flypast by fighter jets and fire-works for an audience of 200,000 as well as millions watching on television from their living rooms.

“At 50 years, as we stand at a high base camp, we look back and marvel how far we have come. We are grateful to those who made it happen.” Prime Minister Lee Hsien Loong said in a televised speech on the eve of the national day.

“From this base camp, we can also look forward to new peaks ahead. The journey ahead is uncharted. But we must press on, because we aspire to do better for ourselves and our children.” Lee spoke at the Victoria Concert Hall, where his father, the country’s first prime minister, Lee Kuan Yew, launched the People’s Action Party in 1954. The party that has remained in power since independence.

The government has granted an extra day of public holiday, and handed out commemorative tote bags stuffed with national flags along with snacks and games from Singapore’s yesteryear.

Regional leaders attending the festivities will include Malaysian Prime Minister Najib Razak and Australian Deputy Prime Minister Warren Truss.

The official logo for the celebration is a red dot, a symbol of pride and defiance since the 1990s when annual “SG50” in white characters, is ubiquitous, adorning banners, buses, cafes and a host of goods in shops.

A recording of Lee Kuan Yew reading the Proclamation of Independence, the document that announced Singapore’s separation from Malaysia, was played on radio and television channels at 9 a.m.

Prime Minister Lee, is widely expected to call the next election as early as September.

His party suffered its worst showing at the polls in the last parliamentary election in 2011 due to discontent over issues from a widening wealth gap, sky-rocketing property prices and an influx of foreign workers.

Political analysts expect Lee’s party to win more votes this time, in part thanks to the patriotism and feelgood factor of the nation’s celebrations but also the government’s ability to address issues irritating the public.

Still, when the banners are taken down, Singapore will return to debates over how to keep the economy growing while combating a low birth rate, anger over property prices and a backlash over many years of liberal immigration policies.

Emperor undergoes checkup due to chest pain

TOYO, 9 Aug — Empress Michiko underwent a scheduled medical exam Sunday at a Tokyo hospital after she complained of chest pain in recent months, the Imperial Household Agency said.

The 80-year-old wife of Emperor Akihito could be suffering myocardial ischemia, or insufficient blood flow to some heart muscle via the coronary arteries, which could lead to cardiac infarction, the agency said earlier.

She underwent a coronary computed tomography scan at the University of Tokyo Hospital.

Last month an electrocardiogram showed evidence of possible heart disease, prompting the agency to arrange for the empress to undergo a more detailed exam.

The empress has experienced chest pain since late June. She initially experienced pain several times a week, but the frequency has increased recently to several times a day, according to the agency.

In myocardial ischemia, obstruction of a blood vessel can occur temporarily or simply advancing age. But it also could be evidence of more serious heart disease.

Emperor Akihito showed similar symptoms in 2011. He underwent heart bypass surgery in 2012 after being diagnosed as suffering from angina.

Typhoon Soudelor kills 12 in E China

WENZHOU, (Zhejiang Province), 9 Aug — Typhoon Sou-delor, the 13th this year, has left 12 people dead and another 5 missing in Wenzhou City in east China’s Zhejiang Province, the provincial flood control and drought relief headquarters said on Sunday.

Heavy downpours have caused mudslides and cave-ins in the city’s rural areas, and several houses collapsed on Saturday night.

According to officials with the headquarters, the dead and missing people may have been washed away by floods or buried under the collapsed houses.

After pounding Taiwan and leaving six people dead, Soudelor landed in the Chinese mainland Saturday night in Fujian Province and moved from there to neighboring Zhejiang and Jiangxi provinces.

In Wencheng county, under the jurisdiction of Wenzhou, precipitation within 24 hours hit 645 mm, the heaviest in a hundred years, officials said.

A total of 221,900 people were affected in Wenzhou, with a direct economic loss of 248 million yuan.

Zhejiang Province issued an orange alert for rainstorms earlier Sunday.

Soudelor landed in Fujian Province at 10:10 p.m. Saturday in Putian county. As of 7 a.m. Sunday, precipitation in 16 cities and counties reached 250 mm. The city of Fuding experienced the heaviest downpour of over 501 mm.

In the provincial capital of Fuzhou, much of the downtown area was waterlogged. More than 10,000 trees had fallen and traffic stalled on flooded streets.

A total of 163,200 people were evacuated to shore on Saturday night, according to the provincial flood control and drought relief office.

Power supplies for more than two million households was affected, and was restored for 630,000 households as of Sunday morning after urgent repairs, according to State Grid Fujian Electric Power Co., Ltd.

Three airports in the province were closed, with more than 530 flights canceled. Six expressways were closed. Also canceled were 191 high-speed trains.

As the typhoon moved to east China’s Zhejiang and Jiangxi provinces, the Fujian flood control and drought relief office downgraded the level-three typhoon emergency response to level-two.

Meanwhile, east China’s Jiangxi Province launched a level-three emergency response as the typhoon was expected to land in the province around noon Sunday.

Soudelor landed in Taiwan earlier Saturday and left at least six people dead, four missing and 102 injured before it entered mainland China.

The official logo for the celebration is a red dot, a symbol of pride and defiance since the 1990s when annual “SG50” in white characters, is ubiquitous, adorning banners, buses, cafes and a host of goods in shops.

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Political analysts expect Lee’s party to win more votes this time, in part thanks to the patriotism and feelgood factor of the nation’s celebrations but also the government’s ability to address issues irritating the public.

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Typhoon Soudelor illustrated through Fujian after it landed in the province on Saturday night, causing urban waterlogging in the capital city of Fuzhou.

Typhoon Soudelor kills 12 in E China

Emperor undergoes checkup due to chest pain

Typhoon Soudelor killed 12 in E China

Emperor undergoes checkup due to chest pain

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Typhoon Soudelor killed 12 in E China
Text of Abe’s A-bomb anniversary speech in Nagasaki

KYODO NEWS

Monday, 10 August, 2015

NAGASAKI, 9 Aug — The following is the text of a speech delivered by Prime Minister Shinzo Abe at a memorial ceremony in Nagasaki on Sunday marking the 70th anniversary of the U.S. atomic bombing of the city.

Here today, at the opening of the Nagasaki Peace Memorial Ceremony on the 70th anniversary of the atomic bombing, I reverently express my sincere condolences to the souls of the great number of atomic bomb victims.

I also extend my deepest sympathy to those still suffering from the aftereffects of the atomic bomb even now.

Seventy years have passed since the atomic bomb dropped that day reduced Nagasaki to ash, devoid even of any vegetation. At that time some 70,000 people lost their precious lives. In this catastrophe, even those who survived were forced to live lives of hardships beyond description.

Yet despite this, the citizens of Nagasaki rosepowerfully from amidst this ruin to admirably build up an International Cultural City blessed with World Cultural Heritage and a beautiful natural environment.

As we look around the city of Nagasaki that has achieved its present-day restoration, we appreciate once more how precious is peace. I have also renewed my determination for Japan, as the only country to have ever experienced the horror of nuclear devastation in war, to take the lead in the international community’s nuclear disarmament efforts, firmly upholding the “Three Non-Nuclear Principles” as we work towards the realization of a world free of nuclear weapons.

“Especially, this year is the 70th anniversary of the atomic bombings. Regrettably, a draft final document could not be adopted at the 2015 Review Conference of the Parties to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons (NPT), but Japan is determined to make even greater efforts towards realizing a world free of nuclear weapons as we continue to call for the cooperation of both nuclear-weapons States and non-nuclear-weapons States. As an expression of that determination, the Government of Japan will submit a new draft resolution on the total elimination of nuclear weapons to the United Nations General Assembly this autumn.

At the end of August, the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty (CTBT) Group of commuter Persons meeting and the United Nations Conference on Disarmament issues will convene in Hiroshima. Not long after, the Pugwash Conference will be held here in Nagasaki in November. Then in 2016, we will advance our efforts to realize a world free of nuclear weapons still further.

This year the average age of atomic bomb survivors is for the first time over 80 years old. It has also been 20 years since the Atomic Bomb Survivors Relief Law, enacted to provide support for aging atomic bomb survivors, came into effect. We will continue to develop thoroughly our comprehensive relief measures covering health and medical services and welfare.

In particular, giving consideration to the feelings of those who have applied for recognition as having an atomic bomb disease, we will expedite screenings of the applications so that recognition is granted at the earliest possible time.

I express my heartfelt prayers for the repose of the souls of the victims of these atomic bombs, to the bereaved families and to the atomic bomb survivors, along with my sincere prayers for the inner peace of all the participants today and the people of Nagasaki City.

KYODO NEWS

Monday, 10 August, 2015

Government forces in East Timor kill ex-guerrilla leader in clash

JAKARTA, 9 Aug — A former guerrilla leader in East Timor has been killed in a security operation, the government said on Sunday, raising concern about unrest in the nation, was killed in a joint police and military operation in the Fatu- lia area.

“My effort was made during the operation to avoid this outcome,” a government spokesman said in a statement, calling for calm. “Regrettably the operation was unable to avoid a confrontation resulting in the exchange of gunfire.”

After decades under harsh Indonesian rule, when rag-tag rebels battled Indonesian forces from the hills, the former Portuguese colony has struggled to develop economically since independence in 2002.

Moruk often confronted another old guerrilla leader, Xanana Gusmao, the country’s first president and later prime minister, challenging the government to do more about poverty and unemployment.

Despite gas production worth billions of dollars, about half the 1.2 million population live in poverty, according to the World Bank.

Indonesia invaded East Timor in 1975, after Portuguese abruptly pulled out of a colony it had ruled for three centuries, and annexed the territory later that year, maintaining a heavy and at times brutal military presence. Indonesia later allowed a vote and East Timor opted for independence in a violence-plagued poll in 1999.

Independence hero Gusmao stepped down as prime minister this year. The government spokesman said the country’s security commission was due to meet on Monday to discuss the situation.

Reuters

Cargo stolen from Singaporean tanker hijacked in Malaysia waters

KUALA LUMPUR, 9 Aug — Fuel oil worth some 2.7 million ringgit (680,000 U.S. dollars) on board a Singapore-registered tanker, which was briefly hijacked in the Malaysian waters, was stolen, authorities said on Sunday.

The MT Joaquim went missing Saturday night en route from Indonesia’s Tanjung Pinang to Langkawi Island in Malaysia, said Malaysian Maritime Enforcement Agency deputy director-general Ahmad Puzi Ab Kahar.

The tanker was found some 14 nautical miles east off Pulau Rupat, Indonesia, after Malaysian authorities dispatched dozens of ships, boats and aircraft for search and rescue operations.

Ten crew members, including 9 Indonesians and one Singaporean, were safe while two of them suffered minor injuries, according to a government official.

The tanker, which was carrying 6,000 tons of fuel oil was reportedly gone. The latest incident came after a tanker went missing off the east coast of Malaysia’s southern Johor state in June. The tanker, which was carrying 6,000 tons of palm oil worth 11 million ringgit (5.6 million U.S. dollars), was later found near Vietnamese waters and at least eight pirates were arrested.—Xinhua

Government forces in East Timor kill ex-guerrilla leader in clash

JAKARTA, 9 Aug — A former guerrilla leader in East Timor has been killed in a security operation, the government said on Sunday, raising concern about unrest in Asia’s youngest nation.

Mauk Moruk, widely considered a symbol of resistance against the independent government of the gas-rich but poor half-island nation, was killed in a joint police and military operation in the Fatulia area.

“Every effort was made during the operation to avoid this outcome,” a government spokesman said in a statement, calling for calm. “Regrettably the operation was unable to avoid a confrontation resulting in the exchange of gunfire.”

After decades under harsh Indonesian rule, when rag-tag rebels battled Indonesian forces from the hills, the former Portuguese colony has struggled to develop economically since independence in 2002.

Moruk often confronted another old guerrilla leader, Xanana Gusmao, the country’s first president and later prime minister, challenging the government to do more about poverty and unemployment.

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Independence hero Gusmao stepped down as prime minister this year. The government spokesman said the country’s security commission was due to meet on Monday to discuss the situation.

Reuters

Ex-S. Korean first lady returns from trip to N. Korea

SEOUL, 9 Aug — The widow of former South Korean President Kim Dae-jung returned from North Korea on Saturday after a four-day visit that took place amid heightened tensions between the two Koreas.

Lee Hee-ho, 92, who arrived at Seoul’s Gimpo airport on a chartered flight, did not have an official welcome at Seoul’s Gimpo airport on Aug. 15.

Dove’s fly over the Statue of Peace during a ceremony at Nagasaki Peace Park in Nagasaki, southern Japan Sunday, Aug. 9, 2015 to mark the 70th anniversary of the world’s second atomic bomb attack. The atomic bomb attack on this city that left more than 70,000 dead and hastened the end of World War II exactly 70 years ago.—Kyodo News

The South Korean government did not ask Lee to convey a message to North Korea on its behalf. Lee accompanied her husband to see his former home in Tongyong in June 2000 for the inter-Korean summit. Kim Dae-jung died in 2009. She also met with Kim Jong Il in December 2007 when she traveled to the North Korean capital to express condolences over the death of Kim Jong Il, father of the current young leader.

During her latest trip, she also visited a maternity hospital in Pyongyang and Mt. Myohyang in North Pyongan Province, among other places.—Kyodo News
Greek government says discussing draft of third bailout deal

ATHENS, 9 Aug — Greek government officials discussed a draft of the country’s third bailout agreement drawn up on the basis of discussions with EU/IMF lenders, a government official said on Saturday, boosting hopes a deal could be wrapped up in days.

“Athens is racing to wrap up the bailout agreement of as much as 86 billion euros ($94.35 billion) by as early as Tuesday in a bid to get the first disbursement of aid by Aug. 20, when it faces a debt payment to the European Central Bank,” the official said.

Officials from European Union and International Monetary Fund lenders met Greece’s finance minister, Alexis Tsipras, on Friday, and noted progress and International Monetary Fund lenders met Greece’s finance minister, a senior government official said without giving details.

Talks will continue on Sunday to discuss more contentious issues, the official said.

“The agreement will be concluded comfortably before Aug. 18,” the official said.

Greece narrowly dodged a euro zone exit last month after months of acrimonious negotiations that culminated with Prime Minister Alexis Tsipras clinching an agreement on the issue, a senior government official said without giving details.

Since then negotiations on the agreement itself—which will spell out details of the reforms and funds to be disbursed—have proceeded remarkably smoothly, with the lenders praising Greece for its cooperation.

The view of EU officials on Friday’s conference call was that talks are proceeding well and may be completed over the weekend, one source familiar with the matter said.

If a draft memorandum of understanding and an updated debt sustainability analysis are ready as planned on Tuesday, the Greek government and parliament would be expected to approve them on Thursday.

This would open the way for euro zone finance ministers to meet or hold a teleconference on Friday to endorse the up to 86 billion euro three-year loan program for Athens. Greece would be expected to enact another package of reform legislation before Aug. 20, in parallel with national ratification procedures to receive a first aid payment in time to meet the ECB payment.—Reuters

Republicans pile on Trump as U.S. presidential campaign stumbles

WASHINGTON, 9 Aug — Rival Republican presidential candidates piled on Donald Trump on Saturday for his caustic remarks about a female debate moderator, and the billionaire celebrity candidate backedaped in an effort to keep his campaign from unraveling.

Trump blasted Fox News anchor Megyn Kelly during a debate in Cleveland on Thursday when she questioned him about insulting comments he had made about women. The backlash to his exchange with Kelly has triggered threats to knock the wheels off the bandwagon of support that had Trump leading early polls in the race for the Republican nomination for the 2016 election.

 Asked about Kelly on a CNN interview on Friday, Trump said: “You could see there was blood coming out of her eyes. Blood coming out of her wherever.”

Trump was promptly dumped from a keynote speaking role on Saturday night in Atlanta at an important gathering of conservative activists put together by the RedState organization. Republican candidates Carly Fiorina, Scott Walker, Lindsay Graham, Rick Perry and George Pataki denounced the comments on Twitter or in statements.

RedState chief Erick Erickson said he disinvited Trump because of his remarks about Kelly on CNN.

The Trump campaign issued a statement clarifying that by “her wherever,” Trump meant Kelly’s nose.

“Mr. Trump made Megyn Kelly look really bad - she was a mess with her anger and totally caught off guard,” the campaign said.

Trump said ‘blood was coming out of her eyes and whatever’ meaning nose, but wanted to move on to more important topics. Only a devout would think anything else.”

Erickson, who invited Kelly to replace Trump at the conference, said he revoked Trump’s invitation because he did not “want someone on stage who gets a hostile question from a lady and his first inclination is to imply it was hormonal.”

A campaign spokeswoman said on Saturday that Trump had fired senior political adviser Roger Stone, the second firing of a senior staffer over the past week. The reason cited was that Stone was using the Trump campaign for his own personal political agenda. Stone denied being fired, saying he resigned over the direction of Trump’s campaign.

Trump also took to Twitter on Saturday to renounce political-fiscal views. As a party, we are better to risk losing without Donald Trump than trying to win with him.”

He added: “Due to Donald Trump’s unwarranted and offensive attack on Megyn Kelly and others, we are at a crossroads with Mr. Trump.”

Without mentioning Trump’s name, Jeb Bush made reference to him when he spoke to RedState. Bush, former governor of Florida, said the tough questions at the debate were nothing compared to the challenges the next president will face.

“You think that’s tough? How about dealing with (Russian President Vladimir) Putin? How about dealing with the challenges that exist in our country? This is nothing,” he said.

Erickson read aloud some of the emails he had been getting from Trump supporters to protest his move, saying it appeared the Trump campaign had made his email address available to them.

In some of the emails, according to Erickson, the writers used profanity and threatened to refer to President Barack Obama and made other inflammatory comments.

“I’ve got to tell you guys, I made the right decision,” said Erickson. “These are the people I don’t ever want at a RedState event.”—Reuters

Argentines choose post-Fernandez path in presidential primary

BUENOS AIRES, 9 Aug — Argentina holds an open primary election on Sunday that will gauge the country’s appetite for change after eight years of heavy state control of the economy and generous welfare spending under outgoing President Cristina Fernandez.

The front-runner ahead of the Oct. 25 general election is Daniel Scioli, governor of Buenos Aires province and a member of Fernandez’s party. Running second is Mauricio Macri, the business-friendly mayor of the capital city who wants to do well enough in the October vote to force a November run-off.

Both are former businessmen with more orthodox policies than Fernandez, whose high public spending has drained fiscal accounts and fuelled inflation while curreny and trade controls slowed investment.

Macri promises to quickly free the markets. Scioli says “gradualism” is the best way to open the economy while preserving the strong social safety net woven together by Fernandez since she took power in 2007.

The primary is set up for each party to choose its presidential candidate, but with voters free to cross party lines, Sunday’s vote will be a dry run ahead of the October election.

Argentine stock and bond prices will likely fall if Scioli comes out of Sunday’s primary strong enough to win the presidency in October’s first round.

If Macri looks strong enough to force a run-off in November, markets are set to rise.

To win outright in October, a candidate needs 45 percent of votes cast or 40 percent with a 10-point spread over the second place candidate.

Scioli needs close to 40 percent of the primary vote to have a chance of a first-round win.

Ignacio Labaqui, who analyses Argentina for Medley Global Advisors, said Macri’s coalition needs at least 30 percent on Sunday to stay in serious contention.

Macri vows to scrap current, largely state-run pension and welfare programs and slash welfare spending. Scioli promises to maintain much of the system in place while tightening controls.

Neither Fernandez’s policies have fuelled one of the world’s highest inflation rates, but poor voters who have benefited from state largesse over the last eight years remain loyal to her. While barred from running for a third consecutive term in October, Fernandez could return as a presidential candidate in 2019.—Reuters
BAMAKO, 9 Aug — At least 12 people were killed during a nearly 24-hour siege of a hotel in central Mali seized by suspected Islamist gunmen that ended on Saturday as security forces stormed the building and released some of the United Nations workers trapped inside.

Four U.N. contractors were freed in the pre-dawn raid, but Mali’s U.N. peacekeeping operation MINUSMA said five people associated with the mission had died, while Malian officials counted three hostages dead.

The attack was the latest in what appears to be a growing campaign against Malian soldiers and U.N. personnel by remnants of an al Qaeda-linked insurgency and newly formed local Islamist groups.

Malian Prime Minister Souleymane Maiga said the early suspicion was that the Massina Liberation Front, whose members are mainly drawn from central Mali’s ethnic Peul community, had carried out the attack.

A Sevare resident living near the hotel told Reuters that the security forces had launched their raid between 4 and 5 a.m. (0400-0500 GMT), saying: “We didn’t hear heavy weapons this time. There was just some small arms fire.”

On Friday, Malian forces had used heavy weapons, including rocket-propelled grenades, in a failed attempt to dislodge the gunmen.

The resident and a Malian military source said a special unit of the Malian gendarmes had carried out Saturday’s raid.

MINUSMA spokeswoman Radhia Achouri said four U.N. contractors - two from South Africa along with a Russian and a Ukrainian - had been freed: “At no point were they discovered by the terrorists in the hotel. They were hiding.”

She said the five personnel associated with the mission who had been killed were a Nepalese, a South African, two Ukrainians and a Malian.

South Africa’s Foreign Ministry confirmed that two of its citizens were safe while a 38-year-old Pretoria resident working for an aviation company contracted to MINUSMA had died.

Malian military and government officials had earlier said three hostages, from South Africa, Russia and Ukraine, had died. Ukraine’s Foreign Ministry also said in a statement that one of its citizens was believed to be dead while three others had escaped or been freed.

In Washington, the White House strongly condemned the attack and expressed its condolences to the families of the victims.

“That the victims came from different nations and faiths highlights the common cause that the United States and its partners must continue to make in the global effort to confront and defeat terrorists who have no regard for human life and diversity,” the White House said in a statement.

Seven suspects were arrested in connection with the attack, according to a government statement released late on Friday.

A 2013 French-led military operation drove back Islamist fighters, who had taken advantage of an ethnic Tuareg rebellion and a military coup to seize territory in the north a year earlier. While the United Nations has managed to broker a tenuous peace agreement between the government and Tuareg separatists, Islamist fighters left out of the negotiations have mounted an insurgency.

Former colonial ruler France and other Western and regional nations fear Islamist fighters could turn the remote region into a launch pad for attacks further afield if they regain power there.

Iraqi PM bids to cancel posts of deputy PM and vice president

BAGHDAD, 9 Aug — Iraqi Prime Minister Haider al-Abadi called on Sunday for the multiple positions of vice president and deputy prime minister to be canceled, as part of an initiative to improve state finances and reduce corruption.

The measure, announced in an online statement, follows weeks of protests in Baghdad and southern cities demanding better government and a call on Friday by Iraq’s leading Shi’ite cleric for Abadi to do more. Iraq’s system of sharing out government posts along sectarian lines has long been criticized for promoting不合格 candidates and allowing corruption.

Public anger at the state of politics could hamper efforts to rally support for the fight to push Islamic State militants from territory in the north and west of Iraq.

Abadi called for an end to sectarian and party quotas for government positions, the reopening of corruption investigations and the reassessment of officials’ security details to the ministries of defense and interior.

Iraq has three vice presidents, two Shi’ites and a Sunni, and three deputy prime ministers, a Shi’ite, a Sunni and a Kurd. The constitution gives Abadi the right to dismiss ministers with parliament’s consent.

Shi’ite cleric Grand Ayatollah Ali al-Sistani pushed Abadi in a Friday sermon to “strike with an iron fist” against corruption and make appointments based on ability rather than party or sectarian affiliation.

UN chief saddened to learn of death of five Rwandan peacekeepers in CAR

MONDAY, 10 AUGUST, 2015

Iraqi Prime Minister Haider al-Abadi talks to Russian President Vladimir Putin (not pictured) during their meeting at the Kremlin in Moscow, Russia, May 21, 2015.—REUTERS

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UN chief saddened to learn of death of five Rwandan peacekeepers in CAR

United Nations, 9 Aug — UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon on Saturday said that he was “saddened to learn of the death of five Rwandan peacekeepers” in the Central African Republic (CAR), offering condolences to the bereaved families.

Ban, in a statement issued here Saturday night, said that the five fallen UN peacekeepers were serving in the United Nations Multidimensional Integrated Stabilization Mission in the Central African Republic (MINUSCA).

“A full investigation into the circumstances of this incident in which eight additional peacekeepers were wounded is ongoing,” the statement said, without disclosing any details on the deadly incident.

A Rwandan soldier serving under UN peacekeeping mission in CAR opened fire on comrades early Saturday, killing five of them and wounding eight others before shooting dead himself, Rwanda’s Defence and Military spokesperson said Saturday.

“The secretary-general offers his deepest condolences to the bereaved families and to the government and people of Rwanda,” the UN statement said. “He wishes a speedy recovery to the injured.”

The incident occurred on Saturday at around 5:45 a.m. local time in Bangui, at Rwanda Battalion Headquarters.

The casualties were immediately evacuated to hospital, spokesman Brigadier General Joseph Nzanamwita said in a statement.

Since January 2014, Rwanda has deployed battalion of 800 soldiers to reinforce the MINUSCA in the CAR.

In addition, another special forces comprising of 140 Rwandan police officers, who are part of Rwanda’s elite Police Unit, have been deployed to Bangui to conduct patrols, ensure protection of VIPs, key installations and other escort duties. Fighting has gripped the CAR since early 2013, when mostly Muslim Seleka rebels seized power in the capital Bangui, sparking reprisal attacks from Christian militias. The international peacekeeping operation in the landlocked CAR stems from the political violence.

France and African nations sent peacekeepers after a coalition of mostly Muslim rebels ousted President Francois Bozize in March 2013.
Monday, 10 August, 2015

From human blunder to human predicament

By Kyaw Thura

As an agricultural country, Myanmar still has to depend on its rivers, resulting in the construction of dams with the intention of providing irrigation water and generating hydroelectricity. The construction of dams is not without environmental impacts. These facilities have the potential to destroy the existing ecosystems as they change the circulation system of rivers, resulting in what is called ‘climate change’. Environmental scientists have noted that it takes thousands of years for an ecosystem to come into existence, while some research has warned that dams can cause the disappearance of aquatic species, birds, forests, wetland and farmland, as well as erosion in coastal delta regions.

In the past few decades, hazards related to climate change have become more dramatically noticeable, with more and more people starting to take into consideration their own environments and surroundings.

Tackling the matter of climate change is not an individual concern. Nor is it a societal concern. Nor is it an institutional concern. It is a national concern. More truly, it is a global concern. It is absolutely imperative for the government to weigh up the pros and cons of building irrigation and hydropower projects.

As part of the ecology movement, the government and environmentalists should network and strategize better plans for future water and energy projects in the country. Now is the time to raise awareness about the impacts of dams and the value of free-flowing rivers.

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Don’t waste the precious time of other people

By Myo Myint

When we were young, we wanted time to pass swiftly so that we would be old enough to do the things grown-ups do like riding a bicycle and driving a car. During term time, we would look forward to our summer vacation; and when it arrived, we wanted it to pass quickly because time seemed to stand still as we had so much time to kill and we wanted to be back at school and be with our friends. As we grew older and started working, we began to appreciate the value of time. We felt that we never had enough time to complete our tasks, or to have a bit of leisure. Later as we got married and had kids, we were pressed for time, as we had to divide our time between work and family obligations. Often, we think that time has passed without having been able to accomplish anything. Indeed, now at retiring time, we feel that the decades that have passed seem so short and that time had flown, and it is a matter of time when the long awaited end of our journey will arrive. In the meantime, without much work to do, we have all the time in the world to fret over little things. A look at the sayings and phrases related to time shows that it is seen from different perspectives, but the majority of them take note of its value. To those who regard it as a scarce commodity, “time is precious”. To those who can count the amount of money they earn by the minute, or even second, “time is money”. To those who have to fit in many things in their day’s schedule, “time is fleeting”. To those who see time from a philosophical point of view, “Time and tide wait for no man”. To those who have experienced pain and sorrow and are slowly recovering, “Time is a great healer”. To those who like to dilly and dally, point out that, “There is no time like the present” and that “Time is of the essence”. For those with a lot of care and extra time, “Time hangs heavy” and for those who are enjoying life immensely, we enviously remark, “They are having the time of their lives”. However much experience tells us that time wasted cannot be made up, sometimes, we like to waste a lot of our valuable time over trivial pursuits. In Myanmar, there is a saying “bathing the cat as there is nothing better to do” to describe such activities. To any criticism about wasting time, we all right to retort saying, “It’s none of your business how I spend my time.” We cannot use any excuse to defend ourselves for wasting other people’s time. But many people, because of lack of consideration for others, are wasting other people’s time due to their actions, or inactions.

There is no doubt that daily, the majority of us encounter the boorish behaviours of others that rob us of a lot of our valuable time. The most common experience of those who have to leave their homes, either for work or to attend to other business, daily, whether by car, bus, or on foot is the irritating delays caused by the self-centredness of car drivers who park and even double park anywhere they like, even at busy street corners, blocking the traffic. Some of them sit in their expensive cars without giving any thought to the traffic jam they are causing and the trouble they are creating to others. Trishaw men in groups also park their vehicles at intersections not to miss fares, thus making cars slow down so that they will not accidentally knock them down. There are delays also due to the boorish behaviours of others that rob us of a lot of our time, while it is all right to retort by saying, “Whoever he/she is, do” to describe such activities. To any criticism about wasting time, we cannot make up, sometimes, we like to waste a lot of our time, while it is all right to retort by saying, “They are having the time of their lives”. For those with no school or university education, we enviously remark, “They are having the time of their lives”. For those with no children, we enviously remark, “They are having the time of their lives”. For those who have experienced pain and sorrow and are slowly recovering, “Time is a great healer”. Those who like to waste time, point out that, “There is no time like the present” and that “Time is of the essence”. For those with a lot of care and extra time, “Time hangs heavy” and for those who are enjoying life immensely, we enviously remark, “They are having the time of their lives”. However much experience tells us that time wasted cannot be made up, sometimes, we like to waste a lot of our valuable time over trivial pursuits. In Myanmar, there is a saying “bathing the cat as there is nothing better to do” to describe such activities. To any criticism about wasting time, we all right to retort saying, “It’s none of your business how I spend my time.” We cannot use any excuse to defend ourselves for wasting other people’s time. But many people, because of lack of consideration for others, are wasting other people’s time due to their actions, or inactions.

There is no doubt that daily, the majority of us encounter the boorish behaviours of others that rob us of a lot of our valuable time. The most common experience of those who have to leave their homes, either for work or to attend to other business, daily, whether by car, bus, or on foot is the irritating delays caused by the self-centredness of car drivers who park and even double park anywhere

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Aye Phyoe

# From an embryo to a fetus
Inside a world completely dark
For about nine months I stayed
While, with a rhythmic chant, time ticked away

# Nowhere could I roam
When, with a sudden ‘boom’
Crashed was my tiny cosy room
And I was thrown into a strange world soon

# Silhouettes of all shapes
Clad mostly in long drapes
Not a single one could I gape
Far away, I wanted only to escape

# Everything’s extremely bright
The whole world full of light
Gripped with so much fright
I shut my eyes pretty tight

# Stripped off warmth and security
In no time, feeling cold and hungry
I greatly yearned for anything
To bring those back to my feelings

# Then I was handed onto someone
Who clasped me in her arms
Fed me from her bosom
For sure, kept me secured and warm

# Mornings and evenings rush in and go
Nights and days I quickly came to know
Over time I started to grow
With bits of memories well in store

# For me, the breastfeeding times are the best
The most memorable and the happiest
My secured feelings, warmth and coziness
Through all the tender caudding and caresses
With the person of whom I’m fondest

expensive things in the shop and make them wait to be served. There are also restaurants, although they have a lot of staff, are slow at serving customers, either because they are inefficient, or they do not care about their customers.

At some schools and higher education institutions, there are teachers who do not take classes even though they are present, who take classes but spend the time talking about irrelevant things, or who after teaching for a few minutes give some tasks to students and then disappear without returning to give any feedback, thus wasting the valuable time of students, some of whom have to come from distant places. Due to parents being unsure about whether their children are being taught properly, they send their children

(See page 9)
Journalists gather at 2nd conference

YANGON, 9 Aug — New generation media persons are weak in journalism, ethics, accountability, unbiased activity and abiding by the ethics, Patron of Myanmar Journalists Association U Khin Maung Lay (Po Thaukkyar) (Kh-it-Moe) told the opening ceremony of the 2nd conference of the association at the UMFCCI tower, here, Sunday.

Chairman of the association U Ko Ko (Ko Ko-Sethmu Tekkatho) and Permanent Secretary of Ministry of Information U Tint Swe spoke on the occasion. Representatives read out the messages sent by various organizations to the conference.

The chairman and officials accepted K32.7 million from well-wishers.

The conference focused on the report of executive committee, financial report and amendment of the organizational setup.

The association which organized its first conference on 11 August 2012 is formed with more than 1,000 members. It holds prize awarding ceremony, respect paying ceremony, forums and talks, training courses and press conferences.

Win Win Maw

KBZ Brighter Future Myanmar Foundation expands rehabilitation supports for disaster victims


Foundation Chairperson Daw Nang Lang Kham said the foundation will continue its assistance for flood victims in those areas to rebuild their lives, especially in education, health and agriculture.

The foundation’s rehabilitation aid covers medicines, hospital devices, personal use, food, education equipment including school uniforms, financial assistance and basic needs of the victims.

The foundation has pledged to provide cash assistance for rice cultivation of farmers in those areas.

Coordination meeting focus on extension and renovation of YGH

YANGON, 9 Aug — Yangon General Hospital Renovation Work Committee and subcommittee held a meeting at Training Centre of the hospital, here, Sunday, with Chairman of the work committee Chief Minister of Yangon Region U Myint Swe in attendance.

Officials of the subcommittees reported on accomplishments for the guidance of Vice President Dr Sai Mauk Kham on his inspection tour on 17 July and financial matters.

Officials of Yangon Electricity Supply Corporation and Budget Department discussed budget allocation for construction of a 66-KV sub-power station.—MNA

New ATR arrives for Myanmar National Airlines

YANGON, 9 Aug — The ATR-72-XY-AJY of Myanmar National Airlines of the Ministry of Transport arrived at Mingaladon International Airport on Saturday.

It is the first of six new airplanes imported from ATR Company of France. Deputy Minister for Transport U Han Sein and Chief Executive Officer Captain U Than Tun welcomed two pilots of the airplane.

The CEO and officials met media at the lounge.

The aircraft can give 70 seats to the passengers.—MNA

Don’t waste the precious ...

YANGON, 9 Aug — The above are just a few of the things that the common people are doing. Everyone has to understand that time is finite and money is not available in abundance.

Lack of sufficient time is the prime cause of our daily life. People are too busy with their own lives and have no time for work, fun, relaxation, sleep and our family.

It is necessary to train ourselves to manage time so that we have adequate time for work, fun, relaxation, sleep and our family.

All the above activities are good and all the people attached to those activities are doing a good job.

But, if we spend more time on useless and unnecessary things, then we will feel that we are not doing anything useful with our lives.

We should not waste our own and other people’s time. We should use our time efficiently so that when we grow up we will not waste their time. We should not waste our own and other people’s time.

We should try to be consumer/client oriented and try to expand one-stop services for the convenience of the public.

Public officials in charge of government offices should check regularly how people who come to their offices are being treated and see that they get better and prompt services and the necessary information.

Owners of stores, restaurants, big and small, should ensure that their staff are giving proper service and attention to their customers and not treating them disdainfully.

A large section of our population is attending schools and universities and those in charge of education institutions need to ensure that students’ time is not being wasted due to absentee, or inefficiency of teachers and lack of proper supervision by school heads. In addition, school children should be taught to be considerate to others, have self-discipline, better manners, be helpful to each other and learn to use their time efficiently so that when they grow up they will not waste their own and other people’s time.

We should be more assertive and speak out when other people infringe on our rights and waste our time. Finally, we need to train ourselves to manage time so that we have adequate time for work, fun, relaxation, sleep and our family.

Don’t waste the precious ...

(from page 8)

tuition, some of which are run by the subject teachers themselves. Hence, time is wasted by students on learning the same lessons at tuitions, and having to go from one tuition to another. Similarly, there are doctors at private clinics who arrive long after the appointed time as they are trying to be consumer/client oriented and trying to expand one-stop services for the convenience of the public.

The above are just a few of the things that the common people have to face or do, day in and day out, that waste their time.

It is understandable if traffic jams are being caused by the inordinate increase in the number of cars and narrow roads in the city. But, if they are caused by things like illegal parking, the usurping of pavements and roads by shop keepers, hawkers, and trishaw men, then action needs to be taken against them by the authorities concerned for the good of all. Similarly, at a time when we are trying to be consumer/client oriented and trying to expand one-stop services for the convenience of the public, officials in charge of government offices should check regularly how people who come to their offices are being treated and see that they get better and prompt services and the necessary information. Owners of stores and restaurants, big and small, should ensure that their staff are giving proper service and attention to their customers and not treating them disdainfully. A large section of our population is attending schools and universities and those in charge of education institutions need to ensure that students’ time is not being wasted due to absentee, or inefficiency of teachers and lack of proper supervision by school heads. In addition, school children should be taught to be considerate to others, have self-discipline, better manners, be helpful to each other and learn to use their time efficiently so that when they grow up they will not waste their own and other people’s time.

We should also be more assertive and speak out when other people infringe on our rights and waste our time. Finally, we need to train ourselves to manage time so that we have adequate time for work, fun, relaxation, sleep and our family.

Please contribute for flood relief. You, celestial beings, must donate more than humans!
German trade surplus to rise to new record in 2015

BERLIN, 9 Aug — Germany’s trade surplus is expected to rise to a new record in 2015 thanks to falls in the prices of imported oil and gas, Der Spiegel reported on Saturday.

The Finance Ministry is estimating a trade surplus of 8.1 percent of economic output after 7.6 percent last year, the magazine said, citing an internal ministry document.

The lower cost of imports of oil and gas is expected to boost the trade balance by around 1.2 percent alone, the document said. Without the decline in oil and gas prices, the trade surplus would have fallen compared with the previous year.

Germany has come under international pressure to reduce its trade surplus, which critics say contributes to imbalances in the world economy.

In a report published last month, the International Monetary Fund said Berlin should focus on bolstering medium-term growth and reducing external imbalances.

The European Commission considers trade surpluses that are repeatedly over 6 percent of economic output as dangerous for stability and has urged Germany to undertake more investment to stimulate imports.

Despite a fall in exports in June, the larger net balance between exports and imports meant that the trade surplus widened to a record 24.0 billion euros ($26.19 billion), data published on Friday showed.—Reuters

New York to clean cooling towers in outbreak area by Sunday

NEW YORK, 9 Aug — New York officials expect by Sunday to complete a city-ordered cleaning of cooling towers in the South Bronx that were tied to an outbreak of Legionnaires’ disease that has killed 10 people, Mayor Bill de Blasio told reporters on Saturday.

The outbreak appears to have peaked with no new cases diagnosed over the last four days, but the inspection and cleaning of cooling towers will continue as the city battles the Legionella bacteria, which thrive in warm water, de Blasio said.

Some 108 people were sickened in the outbreak, with 18 still hospitalized. de Blasio said.

“This is literally uncharted territory. We have never seen an outbreak of Legionnaires’ like this in the history of New York City,” he told reporters.

“We also know that this is an emerging reality not just here in this city but around our state and nation.”

New York had not previously attempted to list all of the estimated 2,500 cooling towers within its five boroughs. The towers, common on the rooftops of modern buildings, are used for heating, ventilation and air conditioning.

The city turned to a range of technologies from police helicopters to satellite maps available on the Internet to search them out. Cooling towers in five buildings were identified as the likely origination points for the outbreak, and another 161 buildings in the outbreak area were identified as potentially having cooling towers.

The city is working to have all of the remaining buildings in the area inspected and disinfected within the next 24 hours, de Blasio said.

Citywide, building owners have been ordered to disinfect their cooling towers within 14 days if they have not already done so within the last month. The state is also providing building managers and landlords with free Legionella testing through October.

Officials have stressed that drinking and bathing water are safe to use throughout the city, and using home air conditioning units are also safe.—Reuters

Facing epidemic, Cincinnati hospitals test mothers, newborns for drugs...
Video gamers win millions of dollars in Seattle championship

SEATTLE, 9 Aug — Teams of video gamers playing characters ranging from wizards to monsters exchanged virtual punches, fireballs and lightning strikes over the past six days, battling at the main event of the Dota 2 International 2015 tournament in Seattle.

And by the end of Saturday’s finals, five players, including a 16-year-old, became more than a million dollars richer.

Now in its fifth year and playing to a sold-out crowd in the 17,000-seat Key Arena, the International has grown every year in size, popularity and possible winnings for players. The tournament launched in 2011 with a then-ground-breaking grand prize of $1 million and now offers an $18 million prize pool.

“U-S-A” and “E-G” with each spectacular play. Syed Sumail Hassan, 16, who moved from Pakistan to Illinois chasing his dreams of being a professional gamer and is most known for playing a powerful electricity-based champion for the team, said after winning the tournament: “It just meant everything to me.” Tickets for this year’s event sold out and hundreds have registered to attend so-called “Pubstomp” viewing parties at bars and internet cafes in cities from Los Angeles to Sandy Springs, Georgia.

Hundreds of thousands of fans have tuned in daily this week to watch streams of the event on sites such as Twitch.TV, while thousands more have packed into the arena to cheer on their favorite players live.

Ben Mussett, 24, drove two days from his native Ohio in a car packed with friends. He said he found watching video games, which he and other young fans refer to as “eSports,” more appealing than traditional spectator sports like basketball and football.

“Traditional sports are kind of boring,” Mussett said, “eSports are the future.” His pal, 24-year-old Becca Eagen, agreed: “I’ve never watched or enjoyed sports the way I’ve enjoyed this.”—Reuters

Web portal chastised for pornography, harmful political information

BEIJING, 9 Aug — China’s Internet watchdog on Friday ordered iFeng.com, one of the biggest web portals, to correct its practices after netizens complained the website has published pornography and harmful political information.

In a statement posted on its own website, the Cyber Space Administration of China (CAC) said a total of 1,330 complaints had been filed against iFeng.com this year. Among them, 38.1 percent were related to pornography, 16 percent were political while 1.5 percent were about terrorism.

An affiliated unit under Hong Kong-listed Phoenix Satellite Television Holdings Ltd., the web portal was also accused of “illegally publishing and spreading to release untrue breaking news.” If the website can not rectify its problems, its certification to provide online web media outlet. Calling in Internet firms’ executives to urge them rectify problems has become the norm for the regulator to manage the Internet. Last month, the regulator reprimanded Sina and Tencent for their failure to prevent a sex video taken in a Union Beijing store fitting room from going viral online.

According to the statement, iFeng.com said it would correct its practices, strive to spread positive energy and become a responsible web media outlet.

Twitter considers board shakeup, may include exit of Costolo — Bloomberg

NEW YORK, 9 Aug — Twitter Inc’s (TWTR.N) board is weighing a shake-up that could involve the exit of former Chief Executive Dick Costolo, Bloomberg reported, citing people familiar with the matter.

The changes may be announced when the company names a permanent CEO, Bloomberg said.

The change is intended to make the board more diverse. The board may expand or shuffled to represent directors from diverse backgrounds, such as minorities and those with experience in adjacent industries, including advertising and e-commerce, the people familiar with the matter said.

Twitter declined to comment.

Costolo stepped down as CEO on July 1 and the company named co-founder Jack Dorsey as interim CEO.

Last week, Twitter said its number of monthly average users grew in the second quarter at the slowest pace since it went public in 2013.

Aside form Dorsey, other possible candidates for CEO include former Yahoo Inc (YHOO.O) CEO Ross Levinsohn; Mike McCue, CEO of newsreader Flipboard; Instagram founder Kevin Systrom; and Evan Williams, CEO of blogging website Medium, according to Sun. Trust Robinson Humphrey.—Reuters

Japanese company sends whisky samples to Space Station

BEIJING, 9 Aug — Japanese distillery Suntory is sending variety of whisky samples to the International Space Station for getting a flavor liftoff, according to media reports Wednesday.

Scientists for the event believe that after storing one year in a microgravity environment, the taste of the whisky will become smoother via the aging and mellowing process.

The whisky samples that will be on board the Space Station are aged for 10, 18 and 21 years respectively. A flavor will be assessed once they come back to Earth, according to the company.

The result of the study won’t be used for commercial product at present, the spokeswoman of the company said.

UK mobile phone retailer Carphone Warehouse hacked

LONDON, 9 Aug — Up to 2.4 million customers’ data of the British mobile phone retailer, Carphone Warehouse, might have been accessed in a recent cyber-attack, the company said on Saturday.

The breach was discovered on Wednesday, which involved the names, addresses, dates of birth information and bank details of 2.4 million customers, and the credit card data of 90,000 customers, the company said in a statement.

The company has notified local police and hired cyber-attack experts to investigate the breach.

The company said it has taken down affected websites and was trying to inform customers who might be affected by the data breach.

The affected part of the company operates websites such as OneStopPhoneShop.com, e2save.co.uk and Mobiles.co.uk.

Twitter considers board shakeup, may include exit of Costolo — Bloomberg

NEW YORK, 9 Aug — Twitter Inc’s (TWTR.N) board is weighing a shake-up that could involve the exit of former Chief Executive Dick Costolo, Bloomberg reported, citing people familiar with the matter.

The changes may be announced when the company names a permanent CEO, Bloomberg said.

The change is intended to make the board more diverse. The board may expanded or shuffled to represent directors from diverse backgrounds, such as minorities and those with experience in adjacent industries, including advertising and e-commerce, the people familiar with the matter said.

Twitter declined to comment.

Costolo stepped down as CEO on July 1 and the company named co-founder Jack Dorsey as interim CEO.

Last week, Twitter said its number of monthly average users grew in the second quarter at the slowest pace since it went public in 2013.

Aside form Dorsey, other possible candidates for CEO include former Yahoo Inc (YHOO.O) CEO Ross Levinsohn; Mike McCue, CEO of newsreader Flipboard; Instagram founder Kevin Systrom; and Evan Williams, CEO of blogging website Medium, according to Sun. Trust Robinson Humphrey.—Reuters

Japanese company sends whisky samples to Space Station

BEIJING, 9 Aug — Japanese distillery Suntory is sending variety of whisky samples to the International Space Station for getting a flavor liftoff, according to media reports Wednesday.

Scientists for the event believe that after storing one year in a microgravity environment, the taste of the whisky will become smoother via the aging and mellowing process.

The whisky samples that will be on board the Space Station are aged for 10, 18 and 21 years respectively. A flavor will be assessed once they come back to Earth, according to the company.

The result of the study won’t be used for commercial product at present, the spokeswoman of the company said.

UK mobile phone retailer Carphone Warehouse hacked

LONDON, 9 Aug — Up to 2.4 million customers’ data of the British mobile phone retailer, Carphone Warehouse, might have been accessed in a recent cyber-attack, the company said on Saturday.

The breach was discovered on Wednesday, which involved the names, addresses, dates of birth information and bank details of 2.4 million customers, and the credit card data of 90,000 customers, the company said in a statement.

The company has notified local police and hired cyber-attack experts to investigate the breach.

The company said it has taken down affected websites and was trying to inform customers who might be affected by the data breach.

The affected part of the company operates websites such as OneStopPhoneShop.com, e2save.co.uk and Mobiles.co.uk.
U.S. urges S. Korea’s Park not to attend China’s war ceremony

WASHINGTON, 9 Aug — The U.S. government has urged South Korean President Park Geun Hye not to attend next month’s ceremony in China to mark what Beijing calls its victory over Japan during World War II, sources close to the matter said Saturday.

The administration of President Barack Obama conveyed to South Korea that if Park attends the Sept. 3 ceremony in Beijing, that would send a false message to the world that China has cracked the U.S.-South Korea alliance, the U.S. government and diplomatic sources said.

Along with other world leaders, China has invited Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe to the commemoration marking its wartime resistance against Japan’s aggression. Abe does not plan to attend the event partly because it includes a major military parade in Tiananmen Square. But Abe is considering visiting Beijing either before or after Sept. 3 for what could be his third meeting with Chinese President Xi Jinping.

The United States and Japan also recently declined to join the China-led Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank, even though key allies including South Korea and Britain were among nearly 60 countries that did join it.

China and South Korea share the perception that Japan has not done enough to atone for its atrocities before and during World War II, causing the United States to worry that this could affect its strategy in the region. Kyodo News

Visitors look at demilitarized atom bombs, nicknamed “Little Boy” (L) and “Fat Man” (R), and the Bockscar B-29 bomber at the National Museum of the United States Air Force in Dayton, Ohio, Aug. 6, 2015. To accelerate Japan’s surrender in World War II, the U.S. army dropped atom bombs “Little Boy” and “Fat Man” respectively to the Japanese cities of Hiroshima and Nagasaki in August 1945.— Reuters

Protesters take to Ferguson streets to mark anniversary of Brown killing

Ferguson, 9 Aug — More than 200 protesters carrying bullhorns, drums and signs demonstrated against police in Ferguson, Missouri, on Saturday night, with some placing the roasted head of a pig on a barricade in front of officers.

The protest in front of police headquarters took on elements of a street carnival ahead of the first anniversary of the fatal shooting of unarmed black teenager Michael Brown by a white officer in a small town near St. Louis.

Demonstrators of all ages, with some children in the group, blocked traffic but were mostly peaceful. Some danced on cars and others stood on concrete barriers, cursing at officers through bullhorns.

Police mostly stayed behind a barricade. “The whole idea is for people to be able to vent, to express themselves,” said Ferguson police Sergeant Dominica Fuller, one of five African-Americans on the 50-member police force. “They are getting their message out,” Fuller said.

One group of protesters carved up a barbecued pig and placed its head on the barricade in front of officers.

Civil rights activists, religious leaders and other demonstrators from around the United States have converged on Ferguson, a mostly black community of about 21,000 people, to commemorate the life and death of 18-year-old Brown, who was unarmed when he was shot in a confrontation with a white police officer on Aug. 9, 2014.

The public events, many organized by Brown’s father, include a moment of silence at midday on Sunday on the street where Brown died.

“I am out here because I never want what happened to Mike Brown to happen to a friend of mine or their kids,” said Christopher Woods, a 34-year-old white Ferguson resident who said many of his friends are black.

The death of Brown and other African-American men in encounters with police sparked months of sometimes unruly protests in Ferguson and around the United States.

It also strengthened the “Black Lives Matter” movement that has cast a spotlight on long-troubled relations between police and minority residents of many U.S. cities.

Ferguson Mayor James Knowles has said the city has made many reforms in the last year, though it still has more to do.—Reuters

Laura Charles performs with fire sticks during a protest outside the police department in Ferguson, Missouri August 8, 2015.—Reuters

France opens bribery investigation into Gabonese official

PARIS, 9 Aug — France is investigating Gabon President Ali Bongo’s chief of staff on suspicion of taking a bribe to help secure a contract, a judicial source said on Saturday.

French police had detained Maixent Accrombessi for questioning last Monday, a move sharply condemned by Bongo, but released him after finding that he had diplomatic immunity.

Accrombessi is suspected of accepting a bribe from Marcq, a French firm that makes military uniforms, in connection with Gabon’s award of a contract to Marcq at the end of 2005, the source said.

For the man suspected of bribing Accrombessi, Marcq chairman Philippe Belin, prosecutors have gone a step further by formally placing him under investigation, the source added. Marcq did not immediately answer the phone or respond to an email seeking comment late on Saturday.

After returning home, Accrombessi, one of Bongo’s closest advisers, said on his Facebook page that he was at the disposal of the French justice system, provided Bongo’s sovereignty and his rights were respected.

Bongo’s presidency had said Accrombessi’s detention was “linked to an affair that has nothing to do with (his) capacities as chief of staff” and that it had been meant “to humiliate (him) and his public function.”

Bongo had excellent relations with France for decades under a system known as “la Françafrique”, where Paris granted political and military support to long-serving presidents in its former African colonies exchange for commercial favors.

But the friendship has cooled since Ali Bongo succeeded his father Omar as president in a disputed election in 2009, not least because France is investigating the Bongo family’s assets.

France’s Total is one of the biggest oil producers in Gabon, which pumps around 230,000 barrels per day. Reuters
Samurai Senbei has global ambitions for its rice crackers

SAPPORO, 9 Aug — A shop in Sapporo, Hokkaido, aims to crack an overseas market this fall with its hand-grilled “senbei” rice crackers made entirely from rice grown in Japan’s northernmost prefecture.

“Samurai Senbei” has gained a strong local following since it opened in January and its baked senbei, “Fukurinko” for thin senbei and “Oborozuki” for crunchy senbei.

The rice crackers come in some 20 different flavors, ranging from senbei standards such as soy sauce and wasabi to offbeat tastes including chamomile, truffle with salt and a soy sauce-balsamic vinegar combination.

The senbei start at 120 yen per piece. Sampei did not come new to the business. There has been a senbei shop on his mother’s side of the family for five decades. As a child, Sampei remembers watching her make rice crackers for “Kamata Seika,” a long-established store in Sapporo.

He came up with the idea of using Hokkaido rice to make senbei about four years ago, but soon discovered why no one had done so before. Senbei makers favor rice before. Senbei makers favor rice from Tohoku, “but we’re trying to push using high-quality rice from Hokkaido,” Sampei said.

He contacted countless factories, but they all refused to manufacture rice cracker dough using Hokkaido rice, saying it was “unprofitable.”

But two companies in Yamagata Prefecture, northeastern Japan, finally agreed to join hands with Sampei, apparently giving in to his irresistible enthusiasm.

“The quality of Hokkaido rice is top class,” Sampei said, “and I think senbei made from it should be a success anywhere.”

Hokkaido’s self-appointed rice cracker salesman to the world is thus giving in to his irrepressible enthusiasm.

Police investigate shinkansen electricity failure in Fukuoka

FUKUOKA, 9 Aug — Police on Sunday began looking into an electricity failure on a bullet train on the Sanyo Shinkansen Line the previous day caused by an aluminum plate falling off a train while it was running at a speed of 285 kilometers per hour.

Local police officers entered West Japan Railway Co.’s train depot in Fukuoka Prefecture, southwestern Japan, and examined the train.

Sakura 561, suspecting a possible maintenance flaw and negligence resulting in injury, was saved from the jaws of a crocodile until it released the child, who had bite wounds to the arm, leg and back.

The boy’s wounds at home before rushing him to the provincial capital of Guacimo for treatment. Although it took over 90 minutes to reach a hospital in Guacimo, the boy is now in stable condition.

According to studies carried out by the National University of Costa Rica, the country’s crocodile population has tripled in the last 15 years and 13 people have lost their lives in crocodile attacks.

Mother saves son from crocodile attack in Costa Rica

SAN JOSE, 9 Aug — A five-year-old Costa Rican boy was saved from the jaws of a crocodile by his mother, local media reported Saturday.

The boy, Kenner Gutierrez Navarro, was attacked on Friday afternoon outside his house near the Tortuguero National Park in the coastal province of Limon, said La Nacion daily.

His mother, Teresa Navarro, heard the boy’s cries as he was being dragged by the crocodile toward the Parismira River. She rushed outside and fought with the crocodile until it released the child, who had bite wounds to the arm, leg and back.

The mother addressed the boy’s wounds at home before rushing him to the provincial capital of Guacimo for treatment. Although it took over 90 minutes to reach a hospital in Guacimo, the boy is now in stable condition.

According to studies carried out by the National University of Costa Rica, the country’s crocodile population has tripled in the last 15 years and 13 people have lost their lives in crocodile attacks.
Perrie Edwards loves One Direction’s ‘Drag Me Down’ song

Los Angeles, 9 Aug — Former One Direction star Zayn Malik’s former fiancée Perrie Edwards thinks the group’s first single without him is ‘incredible’.

The Little Mix singer, who recently split from Malik, said her favourite song of the summer is the four-piece’s latest release, “Drag Me Down”, reported Hollywood Life.

“I like One Direction’s new song ‘Drag Me Down’. It’s incredible,” Edwards said.

It was recently reported that the heartthrob broke up with the Edwards, 22, two weeks ago by text message.

“It’s unbelievable, he’s an immature little boy with no thought for anyone else’s feelings. Perrie is one of the sweetest girls in the world and she’s stood by him through thick and thin,” a source said.

“But he ended their engagement with one text message and in the two weeks since there’s been complete radio silence between them. Who does that? It’s really hard on it. I’ve been really hard on it. I’ve been working during the second day of the 2015 iHeartMedia Music Summit in Burbank, California, described his new music as ‘very awesome’, reported Ace Showbiz.

Jennifer Aniston’s wore a cream dress on wedding?

Los Angeles, 9 Aug — “Friends” actress Jennifer Aniston reportedly ditched the typical white gown for her wedding to Justin Theroux and opted for a dress in “off-white, cream” shade.

Aniston, 46, and Theroux, 43, tied the knot on August 5 in Bel Air mansion. She wore a fitted, simple and classy dress, reported People magazine.

“It was very simple, but beautiful. It wasn’t a white colour — it was like an off-white, cream colour. Very classy, fitted well and simple,” said a source.

Reps for Versace, Gucci and Vivienne Westwood confirmed they did not design Aniston’s dress for nuptials.—PTI

Spice Girls to reunite without Victoria Beckham?

Los Angeles, 9 Aug — Spice Girls are reportedly reforming for a world tour next year but without Victoria Beckham.

The “Spice Up Your Life” hitmakers celebrate 20 years since the release of their first single “Wannabe” next year, reported Ace Showbiz.

They allegedly plan to mark the occasion with a global concert series, but the fashion designer will not be joining Emma Bunton, Mel C, Geri Halliwell and Mel B on stage. “This will be one of the biggest pop reunions of all time. There is a huge demand for the Spice Girls to get back together, especially with the nostalgia around the two-decade anniversary of their first release next summer.

“Mel B flew into London last month to secretly agree the plan with the other three girls. They should each make more than ten million pounds from this,” a source said.

Beckham took part in the group’s 2007-2008 reunion tour and their appearance at the London Olympics closing ceremony three years ago.—PTI

Justin Bieber to release next album in September

Los Angeles, 9 Aug — Pop sensation Justin Bieber has revealed that his highly-anticipated LP would come out in September.

The 21-year-old singer, who appeared during the second day of the 2015 iHeartMedia Music Summit in Burbank, California, described his new music as “very awesome”, reported Ace Showbiz.

“I’ve been working really hard on it. I’ve been taking my time. I haven’t put out an album in over three years,” he said.

During the event, Bieber also treated the Music Summit crowd to “What Do You Mean” which has been confirmed as the first single off the yet-to-be-titled album that’s marking his first since 2012’s Believe.

A new ‘Nightmare on Elm Street’ film in works

Los Angeles, 9 Aug — New Line Cinema is in the early stages of developing a new instalment of the horror film “Nightmare on Elm Street”. The production house is hiring screenwriter David Leslie Johnson of “Orphan” fame to pen an update of the landmark horror franchise, reported Entertainment Weekly.

The first “Nightmare on Elm Street” film, released in 1984, starred Robert Englund in the iconic slasher role as the child murderer burned boogyman Freddy Krueger who dreams of his victims.

Director Samuel Bayer previously attempted to reboot Wes Craven’s brainchild with a 2010 remake that starred Rooney Mara and featured Jackie Earle Haley (Watchmen) as Freddy.

Johnson also wrote the upcoming “The Conjuring 2: The Enfield Poltergeist” and season two of the television series “The Walking Dead”.—PTI

One Direction to film video at NASA facility

Boyband One Direction will reportedly shoot the video for their new single “Drag Me Down” at NASA’s Space Center in Houston, Texas.

The music group released their new single “Drag Me Down” last week and are now planning to film an out-of-this-world video at the facility in Houston, Texas, to match the track, which is the first to be taken from their as-yet untitled fifth studio album, reported Contactmusic.

The intergalactic clip will feature plenty of gadgetry with band members Harry Styles, Louis Tomlinson, Liam Payne and Niall Horan gaining access to training equipment, airfields and other areas located at the astronaut centre.

The track is the first to be released by the band since Zayn Malik quit earlier this year to pursue a solo career and Payne has since revealed they are planning to take a break from the band at some point after the release of their next LP, which is due later this year.—PTI

Jennifer Aniston’s wore a cream dress on wedding?
Israel charges Swede with spying for Lebanon’s Hezbollah

Jerusalem, 9 Aug — Israel charged a Swede of Palestinian descent on Sunday with spying for Hezbollah, saying the Lebanese guerrilla group had tasked him with gathering information on Israeli military facilities that might be attacked in a future war.

The suspect, Khalid Hisran, was arrested on July 21 after flying into Tel Aviv, and confessed under interrogation to working for Hezbollah, Israel’s Shin Bet security service said after a gag order on the case was lifted. According to a Shin Bet statement, Hisran planned to gather information on military sites in Israel, a mission it deemed “proof that Hezbollah is preparing for the next war with Israel and is marking out a ‘target bank’.”

Hisran’s Israeli lawyer, Leah Tsemel, denied the charges. Speaking to Reuters, she said Hisran had met with Hezbollah members during visits to Lebanon, where he was born to Palestinian refugees and from which he had emigrated to Sweden.

“But he refused any request to harm Israel’s security,” Tsemel said. Hisran made a previous visit to Israel in 2009. Hezbollah fought Israel to a standstill in the 2006 Lebanon war. Neither side appears eager to come to blows again but tensions remain high. Israel worries that Hezbollah has improved its rocket arsenal and other capabilities while helping Syrian President Bashar al-Assad battle a four-year-old insurgency. Hisran was indicted on three criminal counts. Officials at the Swedish embassy in Israel, and with Hezbollah in Lebanon, could not immediately be reached for comment.—Reuters

About 150 homes evacuated in fast-moving Arizona wildfire

PHOENIX, 9 Aug — A raging fire broke out on Saturday in a wildlife refuge in northwestern Arizona near the California border, forcing the evacuation of about 150 homes, fire officials said.

Authorities ordered the mandatory evacuations from homes in the rural area after the wildfire sparked on Saturday afternoon grew to 10,000 acres in the Havasupai National Wildlife Refuge, said Bohrer of Land Management.

Isner defeated the unseeded Johnson 6-3 3-6 7-6 (11-9). In the third-set tie-break, Isner faced match point at 4-6, but managed to storm back for his eighth consecutive match win and back-to-back finals after his win in Atlanta last weekend.

The 25-year-old Nishikori will meet American John Isner, who won the final two sets to level the match 3-1 and 4-2 lead but Cilic battled back to draw level at 4-4 before the Japanese won the final two games to beat the Croatian in their first meeting since the Open final. Nishikori, who has now beaten Cilic in six of their nine head-to-head matches, improved his match record this year to 42-9. Only Novak Djokovic (48-3) and Andy Murray (48-8) have more wins in the 2015 ATP World Tour.—Reuters

Nishikori gets the better of Cilic in U.S. Open rematch

ToRonto, 9 Aug — Kei Nishikori exacted a measure of revenge against Marin Cilic when the Japanese world number five overcame the Croatian in the semi-finals of the U.S. Open tennis tournament on Saturday in Washington D.C.

“Two years ago, there were only a few business-to-customer (B2C) shopping websites in Cambodia, but now the number has reached almost 20,” he told Xinhua.

He said his online platform currently partners with 30 stores.

“E-commerce is going well, our sales on average grows about 10 percent every month,” he said, attributing the growth to the increasing number of Internet surfers and customer confidence in the company’s products and services.

The Shop168 sells products ranging from clothing, shoes and accessories, said the merchant, adding that customers in Phnom Penh can pay cash on delivery, while customers in provinces are required to pay cash first via mobile payment company Wing, then the company will send the products to them via logistic company Viettel Post.

Figures from the Ministry of Posts and Telecommunications show that more than 5 million of the nearly 15-million population in Cambodia have obtained access to the Internet as of 2014, most of whom get online via smartphones.

Minister of Posts and Telecommunications Prak Sokhonn said in April that in Cambodia, Internet penetration rate is currently just over 30 percent and is expected to reach almost 65 percent by 2020. —Xinhua

Nine killed in mortar attacks in Damascus on Saturday —monitor

BEIRUT, 9 Aug— At least nine people were killed and several wounded in a series of mortar bomb attacks on the Syrian capital Damascus, the Syrian Observatory for Human Rights said on Sunday. The monitoring group said schoolchildren were among those killed.

A Syrian source said a number of mortar bombs hit several residential areas in the capital on Saturday causing casualties among civilians. He did not give more details.

There was no claim of responsibility but insurgents based in the Eastern Ghouta region near Damascus have carried out rocket and mortar bomb attacks on the capital in the past.

Damascus, the seat of Syrian President Bashar al-Assad’s government, came under heavy bombardment in late 2014 and early 2015 in the four-year-old civil war that has killed at least a quarter of a million people.—Reuters
Arsenal optimism punctured as West Ham claim shock win

**LONDON, 9 Aug —** West Ham United capitalised on two mistakes from Arsenal’s new goalkeeper Petr Cech to claim a surprise 2-0 victory at the Emirates, bringing the Gunners’ early Premier League optimism down to earth on Sunday. Cech, signed from Premier League champions Chelsea during the close season, came flying out to punch Dimitri Payet’s free kick just before half-time but was beaten at the ball by the head of West Ham’s Cheikhou Kouyate.

Mauro Zarate doubled West Ham’s advantage in the 57th minute when his low shot from outside the box was deflected near post as former West Ham player Slaven Bilic enjoyed victory in his first Premier League match as a manager.

Newcastle United also have a new manager in Steve McClaren and the former England coach’s first league match in charge ended in a 2-2 draw against Southampton at St James’ Park.

Later on Sunday, Liverpool have an immediate opportunity to avenge a 6-1 loss to Stoke City on the opening day of last season, with a return to the Britannia Stadium.—Reuters

**Phelps beats world winning time in 100 metres fly**

**SAN ANTONIO, 9 Aug —** Michael Phelps swam the fastest time in the world this year as he blew away the field to win the 100 metres butterfly at the U.S. championships in San Antonio on Saturday.

The most decorated Olympian of all-time led from start to finish, clocking a stunning 50.45 seconds.

Phelps’s time, the second-fastest ever recorded in a standard swimsuit, bettered the 50.56 South African Chad Le Clos clocked to win the same event at the world championships in Russia only hours earlier.

Fellow American Ian Crocker swam 50.40 in 2005, before the introduction of high-tech swimsuits, which were subsequently banned in 2010 after times improved so dramatically they made it impossible to compare eras.

Le Clos, after his victory,trash-talked Phelps, who declined to get involved in a slanging match when asked about the comments in a poolside interview.—Reuters

**Ten-man Chelsea held amid high drama, United win**

**LONDON, 9 Aug —** Chelsea were embroiled in familiar Premier League high drama as the champions were reduced to 10 men and held 2-2 by Swansea City on Saturday in an entertaining start to the defence of their title at their home fortress.

The new season had earlier kicked off in unique fashion with a 22nd minute own goal by Tottenham Hotspur’s Kyle Walker, giving Manchester United a 1-0 victory in an undistinguished season opener at Old Trafford.

Never before had the competition begun with a player putting the ball into his own net but the day’s late fixture at Stamford Bridge also featured an own goal, plus much, much more.

The rich entertainment included Chelsea goalkeeper Thibaut Courtois being sent off and the danger of that rarest of events — manager Jose Mourinho losing a home match to inspired opposition.

Within 92 seconds thanks to a big looping deflection, at faultless defender Federico Fernandez from a Willian cross. The own goal, which left goalkeeper Lukasz Fabianski hopelessly stranded, seemed to have settled Chelsea only for Swansea to roar back with a goal disallowed for offside and fall further behind, 29 minutes from time.

Mourinho’s side were reduced to 10 men when Ashley Young’s cross saw Ashley Williams head the ball into the net only for Wasilij Shatov to have his header disallowed for offside.

Van Gaal wants United’s best player De Gea to stay

**LONDON, 9 Aug —** Louis van Gaal was adamant on Saturday that he wanted to keep goalkeeper David de Gea at Old Trafford because the Spaniard was still Manchester United’s best player.

As uncertainty continued to swirl around the future of the brilliant stopper, long linked with a move to Real Madrid, Van Gaal, who dropped him for United’s opening Premier League win over Tottenham Hotspur, said: “We cannot let him go so easily.”

After United’s 1-0 victory in which De Gea’s replacement, newly-signed Argentine Sergio Romero, played an impressive part, the Dutchman also made it clear that, if the Spain keeper does leave United will expect a proper reward for his signature.

De Gea was considered by Van Gaal not to be mentally ready for Saturday’s match at Old Trafford because of all the speculation surrounding a possible move and the 24-year-old ended up watching the game from the stands.

When asked if De Gea could ever play for the club again, Van Gaal pointed to his hesitation in telling reporters: “Of course.”

He added: “He’s our best player for two years or three years, chosen by the fans, so we cannot let him go so easily.”

“We have to pay a lot of money for all the players we want so we want to sell at the same level.”

Romero, one of five United debutants, had an excellent afternoon, making some key saves, with 22-year-old keeper Sam Johnstone on the bench.—Reuters

**AFF U-16 CHAMPIONSHIP 2015**

(Final on 9-8-2015)

Myanmar U-16 0-3 Thailand U-16

Van Gaal wants United’s best player De Gea to stay