Nay Pyi Taw, 10 Aug.—The Ministry of Foreign Affairs issued a press release on 10 August 2015 that Myanmar officially handed over additional verified 159 Bangladesh nationals among the boat people rescued by Myanmar in May 2015. The individuals were handed over to Bangladesh side at Myanmar and Bangladesh border after the flag meeting in Taung Pyo (Let We’). The 159 Bangladesh nationals were planned to handover on 30 July 2015, however, it was postponed due to adverse weather condition.

A team led by U Saw Naing, Deputy Director, Maungtaw District Immigration Officer from Myanmar handed over the 159 Bangladesh nationals to the Commanding Officer of No. 17 Border Guard Battalion of Cox’s Bazar and his team. Police Colonel Myo Swe and Police Lieutenant Colonel Kyaw Tay Za from Police Border Guard of Myanmar observed the event together with Mr. Mahbubur Rahman, Consul from the Bangladesh Consulate in Sittway and his team member. The No. 17 Border Guard Battalion of Cox’s Bazar brought the 159 persons back at 13:30 hrs to Bangladesh.

A total of 501 verified Bangladesh nationals rescued from the two boats have been repatriated to their place of origin, Bangladesh, on four different occasions. Authorities in Bangladesh continue to verify the remaining persons from the two boats rescued. The remaining boat people will be handed over to the country of origin upon completion of the verification process.

Nay Pyi Taw, 10 Aug.—A highway bus running from Yangon to Lashio crashed and overturned at mile post 1052 on Yangon-Mandalay Expressway at about 6.15 pm on Monday.

The bus, which was from ShwehOo Bus Line, was carrying a total of 36 passengers at the time of the accident.

A total of 6 passenger including two men and four women were dead, and three or four more people were also believed to have died inside the bus, according to a police officer at the scene.

Those who were injured in the accident were sent to Pyu People’s Hospital, which is located nearest to the scene.—Thet Paing Latt

Navy, southern Ayeyawady to see heavy rain

Yangon, 10 Aug.—Northwestern Myanmar and the southern part of Ayeyawady Region can expect heavy rainfall for the next five days, the weather bureau said Monday.

A low-pressure zone could form over the northwestern Bay of Bengal from Monday afternoon, the Meteorology and Hydrology Department said.

Rakhine State and Sagaing Region, which have been hit by the worst flooding in recent memory, are likely to see heavy rainfall from 15 to 19 August, the weather bureau said. The department urged people to heed to its daily announcements and to be alert to possible flooding. —GNLM

Traffic accident on Yangon-Mandalay Expressway causes dead and injuries

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Tuesday, 11 August, 2015

LOCAL NEWS

Nay Pyi Taw
Mandalay
Yangon

Today’s Myanmar News sites

Mandalay, 10 Aug — The Mandalay Region Music Association will hold a fundraising concert for flood victims at Mingala Mandalay Hall in Chanmyathazi Township on 23 August.

Artists from various fields will participate in the concert on a voluntary basis.

Ticket for the concert ranging in price from K10,000 to K30,000 are available at Mandalay Region Music Association and Mingala Mandalay.

Well-wishers will provide transportation and accommodation for the artists.

Tin Maung (Mandalay)

Soldiers plant 500 saplings beside expressway

Natogyi, 10 Aug — Soldiers from Air Defence unit on 8 August grew 500 shade saplings on Sapakyin Hill near mile post 327 of Yangon-Mandalay Expressway as part of activities of rainy season tree growing ceremony.

Soldiers from the Air Defence unit, police from Pyinsi police station, Pyinsi expressway fire station, Natogyi police station, Township Forest Department and local residents participated in the tree growing ceremony.—Htay Myint Maung

Chinese merchants donate foodstuffs to Sedoktara Township

Township, Magway Region.

Chinese merchants also donated 10 tons of rice, clothes, foodstuffs, medicines and personal goods worth more than K18 million to Township Administrator U Aung Kyaw Oo and officials in the township.

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Artists to perform at fundraising concert in Mandalay

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Tin Maung (Mandalay)

Library community joins hands to help Magway Region

Kawlin, 10 Aug — Members of the Helping Hands library community in Zabuthiri Township recently donated relief supplies worth K3 million to flood victims in Sedoktara Township.

On 8 August, they provided rice, cooking oil and instant foods worth K1.5 million to the victims in Pwintbyu and Sedoktara townships.

The donors also gave rice, cooking oil, instant noodles and clothes worth K1.5 million to the residents in Thaphangon village in Kawlin Township on 9 August.

Ko Ko Nyein (Kawlin)

Farmers directly sow paddy seeds on flood-hit farmlands

Kawlin, 10 Aug — Local authorities arrange re-cultivation of crops on the flood-ravaged farmlands in Kawlin Township, Sagaing Region.

A total of 12 creeks and river overflew the monsoon paddy farmlands in the region due to heavy rains.

Township Department of Agriculture helped local farmers regrow paddy on 745 acres of farmlands.

Officials of the department demonstrated use of direct seeding machines in the township and distributed the machines to local farmers.

Workers from the department ploughed the farmlands in Seinpangon, Yataung and Kyokhon villages with the use of tractors free of charge.

Ko Ko Nyein (Kawlin)

Medical officers provide healthcare in flood zones

Nay Pyi Taw, 10 Aug — Director-General Dr Soe Lwin Nyein of the Public Health Department visited Pwintbyu Township People’s Hospital on 9 August to inspect damage to the medical store and supervise health care services in Uyinkyit and Konzaung villages.

Officials of the department also made field trips to towns in Bago, Magway, Ayeyawady and Sagaing regions and Rakhine State to prove health care services to flood victims. Practitioners from the Traditional Medicine Department also treated residents in Haka Township, Chin State, MraukU Township in Rakhine State, Kalay Township in Sagaing Region and Pwintbyu Township in Magway Region and delivered medicines from Great Wall traditional medicine industry to the local people.

Up to 8 August, the Public Health Department has presented 232 containers of bleach powder, 3,430 mosquito nets, 28,800 chlorine tablets, 30 DHF test kits, 6,700 commodes and other relief items to the flood-affected areas.—MNA

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Nay Pyi Taw, 10 Aug—President U Thein Sein on Monday presented relief supplies to flood victims sheltering in camps at a pagoda and a primary school in Shweku Ward in Pyay, Bago Region.

More than 600 flood victims are being accommodated at the Dhammayon of Shwepalinhmaw Pagoda and more than 290 at basic education primary school No 1.

Local authorities have opened 18 relief camps for the flood victims in Pyay Township.

The president inspected flood-prevention works to raise the height of the Nawin embankment in Koethaung ward.

Officials of the Irrigation Department reported on maintenance of the embankment and the placement of sandbags to raise its height and prevent flooding.

The president said embankments must be raised to stop Nawin Creek and Lawthawt Creek overflowing.

The president paid homage at Shwehsandaw Pagoda in Pyay before returning to Nay Pyi Taw.

Myanmar, China eye peace, stability in border regions

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Vice President U Nyan Tun receives Chinese ambassador

Nay Pyi Taw, 10 Aug—Vice President U Nyan Tun received a delegation led by Chinese Ambassador to Myanmar Mr Hong Liang at the Credentials Hall of the Presidential Palace on Monday afternoon.

They discussed cooperation in flood affected areas and resettlement, promotion of diplomatic relations, business and cultural exchange and exchange of visits.

Also present were Deputy Ministers U Tin Oo Lwin, U Maw Tha Htwe and U Aung Htoo.

Pyithu Hluttaw speaker receives Chinese ambassador

Nay Pyi Taw, 10 Aug—Speaker of Pyithu Hluttaw Thura U Shwe Mann received Chinese Ambassador to Myanmar Mr Hong Liang at the Credentials Hall of the Presidential Palace on Monday.

Also present at the call were Chairman U Hla Myint Oo of Pyithu Hluttaw International Relations Committee and members of Assessment Commission for Legal and Special Affairs U Khin Maung Tint and Daw Aye Aye Mu and officials.

Nomination for Hluttaw candidates continues

Nay Pyi Taw, 10 Aug—A total of 69 candidates for Pyithu Hluttaw, 48 candidates for Amyotha Hluttaw, 146 candidates for state/region Hluttaws and 9 candidate for state/region ethnic affairs submitted their nomination for 2015 General Election on 10 August.

From 20 July to 10 August, 4,224 candidates including 1,191 for Pyithu Hluttaw, 627 for Amyotha Hluttaw, 2,278 for state/region Hluttaws and 128 for ethnic affairs constituencies.

They represent 80 political parties while 162 of them are individual candidates. Detailed nomination process is available at www.uecmyanmar.org.
RELIEF AND REHABILITATION

Israel’s relief supplies to flood victims

Yangon, 10 Aug—A team from the Embassy of Israel in Myanmar headed by Ambassador Mr Daniel Zonshine visited Thayawady District flood victims’ camps last Friday. The Embassy handed over dry noodles, hygiene kits, impregnated bednets and medicines of relief supplies to the flood victims on behalf of the State and people of Israel. Over 2,400 people were evacuated to 12 rescue camps in this township. Ambassador visited 2 relief camps, met with victims and donated goods to over 250 families. The team also visited Thayawady District Hospital and donated medicines for the flood victims.

On behalf of the State of Israel, the Ambassador expressed his sympathy to the people of Myanmar, and he affirmed that Israel will continue helping the rehabilitation of flood victims of Myanmar.

Min Thit

Aid from Australia arrive in Yangon

Yangon, 10 Aug—An RAAF C17 aircraft delivered emergency supplies to assist people displaced by flooding and landslides in Myanmar on Monday. The delivery was 952 family kits which will be distributed by World Vision and IOM.

On 11 August the remaining 48 of the 1,000 family kits that have been donated by the Australian Government will be delivered. The kits contain essential relief items such as hygiene kits, cooking utensils, school learning materials, torches, radios and blankets for families affected by the flooding. The kits will be distributed by World Vision to Pwintbyu township in Magway region.

The 11 August plane will also include emergency supplies that have been donated by the ASEAN Coordinating Centre for Humanitarian Assistance on disaster management. These supplies included 1,900 tarpaulins, 4 aluminium boats, 1,800 mosquito nets and 1,800 water cans. These supplies will be delivered to the Relief and Resettlement Department for distribution.

World Vision has delivered about 2 million water purified tablets donated by PMG Company of the US to the victims.

Min Thit
China hits back at U.S. criticism over South China Sea ‘restrictions’

BEIJING, 10 Aug — China hit back on Monday at U.S. criticism that it restricts navigation and overflights in the South China Sea amid a festering maritime territorial dispute with some of its neighbours.

China claims most of the South China Sea, through which $5 trillion in ship-borne trade passes every year. The Philippines, Vietnam, Malaysia, Taiwan and Brunei have overlapping claims.

Freedom of overflights and navigation doesn’t mean allowing foreign warships and military jets to violate other countries’ sovereignty and security, the Foreign Ministry said in a statement to Reuters on Monday, after U.S. Secretary of State John Kerry told a meeting of regional leaders in Kuala Lumpur last week that China’s construction of facilities on man-made islands for military purposes was raising tension and risked “militarisation” by other claimant states.

Kerry also criticised “restrictions” put in place in recent months by China, saying the U.S. would not accept any restrictions on freedom of navigation and overflights.

China has repeatedly warned Philippine military aircraft away from the artificial islands in the Spratly archipelago of the South China Sea, Philippine military officials have said.

The Chinese navy also issued eight warnings to the crew of a U.S. P-8-A Poseidon surveillance aircraft when it conducted overflights in the area in May, according to CNN, which was aboard the U.S. aircraft.

In June, China said it would soon complete a phase of its reclamation projects, adding it would continue to build facilities on the man-made islands.

Ongoing reclamation activities in the Spratly Islands include civilian facilities for the “public good” including hospitals, maritime research institutes, lighthouses and search and rescue facilities, the Foreign Ministry said.

A Philippine lawmaker said on Monday he had information that a Chinese coast guard ship dropped anchor more than a month ago near a rusting Philippine Navy transport ship in the disputed Second Thomas Shoal.

“I think China has no intention of leaving the area and they are waiting for our ship to collapse or prevent us from reinforcing that ship,” Congressman Francisco Acedillo, a former air force pilot, said at a naval base in Manila. Acedillo said the presence of a Chinese ship within Second Thomas Shoal was a serious threat to the Philippines.

Japan set to restart nuclear reactor Tuesday morning

FUKUOKA, 10 Aug — Kyushu Electric Power Co. officially announced Monday it will restart a nuclear reactor at its Sendai complex Tuesday morning, becoming the first Japanese utility to do so under a set of new, tighter safety regulations adopted following the Fukushima meltdowns in 2011.

The No. 1 reactor at the utility’s Sendai Nuclear Power Station in Kagoshima Prefecture, located on the southwestern main island of Kyushu, will begin generating and delivering electricity on Friday, and enter commercial operation in early September, according to Kyushu Electric.

The reboot of the reactor will mark the revival of Japan’s nuclear industry following the worst nuclear accident since Chernobyl in 1986.

On Monday, Kyushu Electric carried out inspections of control rods, which have been suppressing the fuel’s nuclear fission, as it proceeded with the final preparation process toward the resumption.

In September last year, the Sendai plant became the first nuclear facility to meet the more rigorous safety requirements introduced in 2013, which the government calls “the world’s toughest safety standards.”

The Fukushima accident resulted in the shutting down of all Japan’s commercial reactors by the end of September 2013 due to safety concerns.

All reactors now need to pass the Nuclear Regulation Authority’s safety screening based on the new regulations.

The government has sought to reactivate nuclear reactors that have obtained safety clearance from the regulator, despite the majority of the public being opposed to it.

Antinuclear residents on Monday marched around the Sendai plant to protest against its restart.

Nao to Kan, who was Japan’s prime minister at the time of the March 2011 nuclear disaster, was among those who joined the demonstration.
South Korea condemns North over land mine blast, threatens retaliation

SEOUL, 10 Aug — South Korea’s military threatened retaliation against North Korea on Monday after it accused the North of planting land mines inside the Demilitarised Zone border that wounded two soldiers last week, calling it a cowardly act of provocation.

There was evidence to conclude that soldiers from the North crossed the Military Demarcation Line recently to plant the mines, and Pyongyang would be made to “pay a severe price”, the South’s military said at a news briefing. “We strongly condemn this cowardly act, which would be unthinkable for a normal military,” Major General Ku Hong-mo of South Korea’s Joint Chiefs of Staff said, calling it a violation of the armistice agreement that ended the 1950-53 Korean War. The denunciation is likely to provoke an angry response from the North and further raise tensions on the Korean peninsula. The United Nations Command, headed by the U.S. military and which oversees the armistice, also condemned what it called the North’s violation of the truce. It said it would call for a meeting with North Korea’s military. The area where the blast happened last Tuesday had been swept for mines and the terrain made it impossible for mines planted elsewhere to have drifted due to rain or shifting soil, South Korea’s military said.

Fragments from the exploded mines also had paint typically used by the North, it said. Two soldiers who were part of a team conducting a routine search operation inside the heavily fortified DMZ near the town of Paju, about 50 km (30 miles) north of Seoul, were seriously wounded in the blast.

Gov’t suspends work on relocating U.S. base within Okinawa

Tokyo, 10 Aug — The Japanese government on Monday suspended work on the planned relocation of a U.S. military base within Okinawa Prefecture for a month as part of efforts to defuse tensions with local authorities.

During the period through Sept. 9, the national and Okinawa prefectural governments will hold “intensive consultations” in an attempt to break the impasse over the U.S.-Japan plan to relocate the U.S. Marine Corps’ Air Station Futenma from a densely populated area in Ginowan to the less populated Henoko district of Nago.

The national and Okinawa governments plan to hold five rounds of talks, the first of which is expected to take place Tuesday in Naha between Chief Cabinet Secretary Yoshihide Suga and Okinawa Gov. Takeshi Onaga.

Onaga has demanded that the Futenma base be relocated outside the island prefecture. The relocation is a key part of a broader bilateral agreement to reorganize the U.S. military presence in Japan. “By having a cooling period and in a calm atmosphere, we would like to explain our thoughts on the need to remove the danger posed by Futenma and relocate it to Henoko, as well as initiatives to reduce the burden on Okinawa in a visible way,” Suga said at a news conference.

Suga, the top government spokesman, doubles as minister in charge of reducing the burden on Okinawa from hosting the bulk of U.S. forces in Japan. “We would also like to hear how the governor views the issue of removing the danger posed by Futenma, which is said to be the most dangerous airfield in the world,” Suga said.

In 2004, a U.S. Marine Corps helicopter crashed at Okinawa International University, which is adjacent to the Futenma base. Local citizens held a rally to protest the relocation of the Futenma base to Henoko in front of the U.S. Marine Corps’ Camp Schwab near the planned relocation site on the coast of Henoko.

Tokyo maintains that relocating Futenma to Henoko is the “only solution” for removing the dangers posed by the air station without undermining the deterrence of the Japan-U.S. alliance in the increasingly tense security environment in East Asia. Speaking after a meeting Friday with Prime Minister Shinzo Abe in Tokyo, Onaga said that during the consultations, the Okinawa prefectural government wants to discuss issues such as Okinawa’s postwar history, how and why the Futenma base was built and the deterrence power provided by U.S. forces. Earlier, Onaga said that while the suspension is in place, he will not make a decision on the possible cancellation of his predecessor’s approval of landfill work to build the coastal replacement facility in Henoko. Onaga was referring to a “legal flaw” that a prefectural advisory panel says it found in the process of former Gov. Hirokazu Nakaima’s approval in December 2013 for the landfill work.

Onaga beat Nakaima in last November’s Okinawa gubernatorial election. —Kyodo News

Washington Post reporter stands trial in Iran over spying charges

TEHRAN, 10 Aug — An Iranian court on Monday tried a Washington Post reporter for the fourth time over spying and propaga-

describe charges, official IRNA news agency reported.

Jason Rezaian, 39-year-old Iranian-American, stood trial at Branch 15 of Iran’s Islamic Revolution Court, the same court before which he was previously tried for three times.

It is not clear whether the Monday session would be the final hearing session for Rezaian. Director General of the Judiciary’s Tehran Province Office Gholam Hossein Esmaeili said Sunday that the date of final court session of the Rezaian depends on the judge’s decision, according to IRNA. Rezaian faces charges of “espionage, collaboration with hostile governments, gathering classified information and disseminating propaganda against the Islamic Republic,” Rezaian’s lawyer, Leila Absan, said earlier.

Rezaian assumed his job as Washington Post correspondent in Tehran in 2012. He was arrested on July 22, 2014, along with his wife, Yeganeh Salehi, a reporter for The National newspaper based in Abu Dhabi, and a female freelance photographer.

Salehi and the photographer, who were released on bail in October 2014, also appeared in court on Monday. —Xinhua

Park wants Abe statement to uphold views of past governments

SEOUL, 10 Aug — South Korean President Park Geun-hye said Monday she wants a statement that Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe is due to issue this week on the 70th anniversary of the end of World War II to clearly uphold the historical perception of past Japanese governments.

“I hope the Japanese government clarifies it is upholding the historical perception of past governments and shows a mature attitude in wanting to make a fresh start in relations with neighboring countries, including our country,” Park said at a meeting with senior secretaries, according to the presidential office.

Abe is expected to issue the statement on Friday, one day before the day on which Japan surrendered to the Allied Powers in 1945.

Park referred to a 1995 statement by then Prime Minister Tomiichi Murayama, who apologized for Japanese aggression in Asia during WWII, and also a similar statement issued by then Prime Minister Junichiro Koizumi in 2005.

In a related development, the South Korean Foreign Ministry issued a simi-
lar statement later Monday, saying it has noted the current Japanese government has publicly stated it will inherit the his-
torical views of past governments.

“It is the prime minister’s statement, the Japanese government is urged to clearly state it is upholding the historical perception of past governments and resolve issues arising from the past history and show a mature attitude in wanting to make a fresh start in relationships with neighboring countries, including South Korea,” it said. “As this year marks the 50th anniversary of diplomatic normalization between the two countries, the South Korean government also wants relations with Japan to further improve in a cycle of keep-
ing up developments and also expects Japan to win trust from neighboring countries and to be born again to play a responsible role in the international community,” the statement said. —Kyodo News
Senior German conservative sees open questions on Greek bailout

BERLIN, 11 Aug — A senior parliamentary ally of German Chancellor Angela Merkel believes a deal with Athens on a new multi-billion-euro bailout is some way from completion, with a number of points still to be clarified.

“There are a lot of questions that remain open,” Ralph Brinkhaus, deputy parliamentary floor leader for Merkel’s conservatives, told Deutschlandfunk radio on Monday.

Greece’s finance and economy ministers were locked in negotiations with representatives of creditors that stretched until the early hours of Monday.

A Greek official said Greece hoped to conclude negotiations with international creditors by early Tuesday at the latest.

Asked whether Germany favored 35 billion euros ($39 billion) being handed to Greece in a first tranche of aid, rather than 30.5 billion as favored by the EU and the International Monetary Fund, Brinkhaus replied:

“The more money is handed out in one stroke, the less leverage one has to stop payments if the reform process in Greece does not pan out as planned and as promised. “A lot of trust has been lost in a process that has stretched until the early hours of Monday. “A lot of trust has been lost in a process that has stretched until the early hours of Monday.

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On the preceding general election, the people will elect more than 1,000 parliamentary representatives. It is an opportunity to select the best candidates for the country’s administrative, judicial and legislative branches.

At the moment, political parties are selecting their candidates through a variety of processes in which the people do not have a say. The voters are still waiting for their time to come.

Some political parties choose wealthy candidates for financial reasons, while others choose young, popular people to attract the youth vote. Some political parties choose experienced politicians, while other choose naive people who are eager to listen to their leaders.

It is essential that the select the best people for the country. Myanmar cannot afford any naive politicians for its future, as it has been suffering the worst conditions for decades under successive governments. Political parties and the electorate both have a responsibility to pick the best possible candidates.

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

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

An Upcoming Future that is DMHC in Yangon University

By Myint Win Thein

Tuesday, 11 August, 2015

Has it not been just a dream to choose the best candidates for the upcoming general election, the people will elect more than 1,000 parliamentary representatives. It is an opportunity to select the best candidates for the country’s administrative, judicial and legislative branches.

At the moment, political parties are selecting their candidates through a variety of processes in which the people do not have a say. The voters are still waiting for their time to come.

Some political parties choose wealthy candidates for financial reasons, while others choose young, popular people to attract the youth vote. Some political parties choose experienced politicians, while other choose naive people who are eager to listen to their leaders.

It is essential that the select the best people for the country. Myanmar cannot afford any naive politicians for its future, as it has been suffering the worst conditions for decades under successive governments. Political parties and the electorate both have a responsibility to pick the best possible candidates.

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H azy as it was, everything seemed stunningly attractive and quiet save some occasional horns on the roads. Trees in the campus were splashed in the beans of the pale sun. It was still early and the sun was barely rising. It’s Submit required to have the tattered quiet of the daybreak. The trees indeed formed leafy canopie above the campus. Traffic was usually light on the road, a score of yards away from the university at this time of the day. Heavy rainfall in the previous night washed away all the dead or dry leaves towards the gutters. Thus, shining even in the faint sun were the leaves and the tarred road snaking around the halls in the campus.

Small groups of middle-aged people were scurrying towards the Vesali Hall. However, upon arrival at the portico of the Vesali Hall, their hurried steps were tamed by the sight of the Vesali Hall at Yangon University and the lecture time (7:00 AM to 9:00 AM). The term “DMHC” stands for Diploma in Myanmar History and Culture launched in June 2015. It reportedly aims at imparting rudimentary knowledge on Myanmar History and Culture on the students and the History enthusiasts. In retrospect, applicants were jostling for enrolment in the course. In fact, it quite a long time passed since History as a university subject was very popular. Its popularity waned since the score-based majoring system was initiated into the university entrance. Every far-sighted and well-read person knows that there is no subject which is not as good as another in education. All are instrumental on the same footing throughout the educational process. Unfortunately, the popularity of a particular subject is also related to its job opportunities after graduation.

History serves as the umbrella term for all the other subjects although it is as essential as they are. Both in the pre-war and post-war period, products of Yangon University as historians had emerged as intellectual giants and received international recognition. Now, the year 2015 has seen the revival of the upcoming future of “History” as a discipline. Many of them, which is often quoted as a question “Why do we have to learn history?”, Dr. Than Tun, a prominent Myanmar Historian, has one said so that we might not err again. “Yes, to err is human; to forgive di-vine.” His answer is recorded as the shortest and best one ever. Over the past, history has been taught all over the world for the purpose of promoting nationalism, certainty and accuracy of the past. These had been the generally accepted or adopted approach to the teaching/learning of “History”. However, in the course of time, the world has dramatically changed and shifted to an international curriculum (here, in the context of “history”).

Nowadays, the international academicians, curriculum developers, syllabus-designers and historians, start to turn their attention to the source-based approach. That means, in the field of humanities is not “History”. Historians who study the same subject should develop new approaches which are student-centered. They start to emphasize empathy, open-mindedness and critical thinking about the past and even the contemporary. History books can convey a variety of perspectives that would stir up perplexity in the readers. What is worse, these books will almost completely be out of date and lagging in terms of the latest information. However, they are stuffed with a myriad of least-known facts. So, it can be deduced that the DMHC course serves as a stepping stone for the future scholars and historians to be able to know more about the past and present. That is why the DMHC course is a volunteering institution for the world or at least Myanmar.

As a means to an end far a drop in child mortality logically and objectively deduce and interpret the data and facts available in the history books. To be able to do so, a future historian is required of employing an analytical approach which is different from the comparative study. In short, to be able to evaluate bias in the history books, a reader needs to already acquire a considerably intimate knowledge on history. Then only can one understand the discrepancies among facts, bias, generalizations, presuppositions and corresponding evidence. Thereby, one can decide how much more or less one can rely on the theories of a particular author. It is simply because an author is biased does not mean the information he includes is false. At such stage, one can possibly but upon a penetrating idea on a variety of different perspectives of the same subject could have developed. Therefore, it is noticed that these steps are prerequisites for any future historian.

Fortunately, the learned teachers in DMHC are now sharing their encyclopedic knowledge on history with the students. As a result, the students can attain a vast knowledge on the subject under discussion at one sitting as the lectures are stuffed with a myriad of least-known facts. So, it can be assumed that the DMHC course serves as a stepping stone for anyone who wants to engage in the field of history or culture. It is undeniable that the somewhat-orthodox approaches in the educational sector have already left us with a widening generation gap since the age of intellectual giants has died away. To narrow down the gap, establishment of post-gradual diploma courses are indispensable as these courses can equip the students with the rudiments of the disciplines so that they can shine in any of their future pursuits. Therefore, suffice it to say, DMHC is such a flier to bridge the generation gap in the discipline of “History” and it is definitely worth being labeled as an upcoming future.
Contact persons listed for disaster victims in Chin, Rakhine states

NAY PYI TAW, 10 Aug — Torrential monsoon rains during the last two months have caused floods and landslides across wide parts of the country, leaving numerous victims.

People who want to know the latest information to donate for flood victims in Chin State may dial 09 2450 222 of Secretary of the State Government U Maung Maung Hsan, 09 5061 610 of State Revenue Officer U Soe Nyunt, 09 3334 6222 of State Finance Minister U Nang Za Mung, 09 2450 177 of Deputy Director of State Rural Development Department U Tun Aung, 09 2629 4969 of Head of State Agricultural Development Bank U Kyaw Htun and 09 9600 755 39 of State Government Office Staff Officer Varman Peepu.

In addition, well-wishers can make donations for those victims via Myanmar Economic Bank account 03 4600 000 222 17 in Haka Township.

For victims in Rakhine State, those people may dial 043 22651 of State Social Affairs Minister Dr Aung Kyaw Min, 09 8524 163 of Ethnic Affairs Minister U Ko Ko Naing, 043 23638 of Secretary of State Government U Tin Maung Swe, 043 23069 of Director of State Relief and Re-settlement Department U Myint Soe, 09 402 524 064 of Deputy Commissioner of MraukU District U Aung Mon Latt, 09 428 224 701 of Deputy Commissioner of Maungtaw District U Khin Maung Lwin and 09 4965 8501 of Administrator of Butthlaung Township U Than Shwe.

Canine charity seeks volunteers to help street dogs

By Khin Than Lwin

YANGON, 10 Aug — The local non-profit Stray Dogs Lovers Group is stepping up its efforts to rescue homeless canines, and it is calling for volunteers to lend a helping hand, the group’s spokes-woman said Monday.

Since its establishment early this year, the SDLG has helped street dogs in Yangon, as well as disaster-hit areas through a range of programmes.

As part of its effort, the NPO opened a shelter for stray dogs in Yangon’s suburban North Dagon Township in mid-July, saving the lives of more than 20 unhealthy dogs including eight dogs with disabilities, spokeswoman Daw Yu Par told The Global New Light of Myanmar.

“The majority of dogs were hurt in traffic accidents,” she said. “We do not have enough funds to rent a wider space to keep dogs, so we need to hire a single house with a 40-foot by 60-foot compound that can hold around 30 dogs.”

The shelter is seeking additional volunteers to help care for the dogs, as they currently have a limited number of volunteers.

The SDLG is also planning to conduct free rabies vaccinations for dogs in Seikkyi khanaungto Township and some wards in Latha Township within two weeks.

Yu Par said, “There are around 100 dogs that need to receive the vaccine even in Seikkyi khanaungto Township.”

The team has provided free vaccination services to those who wish to protect their pets from rabies, inviting pledges of support.

The group can be contacted on +95 795 301 644.—GNLM

Attorney-General visits Pwintbyu Township law office

MAEWAY, 10 Aug — Attorney-General of the Union Dr Tun Shin on 8 August visited law offices in Minbu District and Pwintbyu Township where he met flood victim staff.

He also met with law officers currently attending the legal capacity enhancement course at Magway Region Law Office. The union attorney-general gave instructions on legal affairs to the officers at different levels at the office of Magway Region Advocate General.—MNA

KOICA celebrates handover ceremony for follow-up project of rural development

YANGON, 10 Aug — The Korea International Cooperation Agency (KOICA) held the handover for follow-up project of rural development at Khayaung village in Hlegu Township, recently.

It is one of the grant aid programs in cooperation between KOICA and Ministry of Agriculture and Irrigation. This project aims to maintain and increase the effectiveness of Hlegu Rural Development project in 2008-2010, and to foster sustainable rural development in Myanmar. According to the project, KOICA improved the standard living for Hlegu by providing the road, bridge, school, village hall, etc.

Chief Resident Representative of KOICA, Mr. Nam Kwon-Hyung remarked, “This project will improve the standard living for local communities and can foster sustainable rural development at the national level in connection with Saemaul Undong Project in Myanmar.”—GNLM
CAR BOMB

near Kabul airport causes casualties: officials

KABUL, 10 Aug — A car bomb exploded near the entrance to Kabul airport on Monday causing casualties among both civilians and security forces, officials said, days after series of suicide attacks in the Afghan capital killed dozens and wounded hundreds.

A security official at the scene said the suicide attack appeared to be aimed at two armored cars, although it was not clear who was in the vehicles.

"It was a crowded area. There are both civilian and security forces casualties," said Najib Danish, a spokesman for the interior ministry.

He said the wounded had been taken to hospital but there was no word on fatalities. There was no immediate claim of responsibility.

Kabul was already on high alert following last week’s attacks which killed at least 50 civilians and security forces personnel in the worst violence seen in the city in years.

The wave of violence comes days after a change of leadership in the Afghan Taliban. They announced the death of their founder, Mullah Mohammad Omar, last month and named Mullah Mohammad Akhtar Mansour as their new leader.

However, his swift appointment by a small council of leaders in the Pakistani city of Quetta has angered others in the group, causing rifts within the movement and adding to speculation that the latest wave of violence is linked to the leadership dispute.

The Taliban are seeking to re-establish their hard-line Islamist regime after they were toppled by U.S.-led military intervention in 2001.

Anti-Houthi fighters seize districts in central Yemen

SANAA, 10 Aug — Fighters opposed to Yemen’s dominant Houthi movement seized four districts in the central province of Ibb on Monday, residents and local officials said, bringing the armed resistance closer to the group’s stronghold in the capital Sanaa.

Tribal gunmen and Sunni Islamist militias loyal to Yemen’s exiled government took control of the areas amid heavy clashes with the Shi’ite Houthis, in the latest of a series of northward gains with the backing of Gulf Arab air strikes and weapons.

The northernmost district overrun, Al-Radma, is 125 km (80 miles) from Sanaa, which was conquered by the Iran-allied Houthis in September in what they called a revolution against corrupt officials backed by the West.

A political crisis in Yemen descended into civil war in late March when Houthi forces plunged southward toward the main southern port of Aden in late March and caused President Abd-Rabbu Mansour Hadi to flee to Saudi Arabia.

A Saudi-led Arab military coalition began a bombing campaign against the Houthis on March 26 to restore the exiled government and fend off what they see as Iranian influence in their backyard.

The conflict has killed more than 4,000 people and spread hunger and disease in the impoverished nation.

Deadlocked for almost four months, the war has tipped somewhat to the advantage of the Houthis’ opponents, with their seizure of Aden last month and advance into nearby areas with the help of tanks and heavy artillery shipped by the United Arab Emirates.

The southern fighters battled Houthi forces on Monday in the southern city of Lawdar, one of the last Houthi strongholds in Abyan province.

Bomb explodes at Cairo traffic sentry post, wounds three police: sources

CAIRO, 10 Aug — Three police were wounded on Monday when a bomb exploded under a traffic sentry post near a Cairo court house, security sources said, in the latest in a series of attacks to hit the Egyptian capital.

The explosion occurred in the affluent northeastern Heliopolis district, they said.

Egyptian authorities have pledged to end a wave of Islamist militant violence that has swept across the country, but sporadic attacks on high-profile locations in the city and elsewhere have continued.

No one claimed immediate responsibility for Monday’s bomb, in which a health ministry spokesman confirmed three people were wounded.

A two-year-old insurgency centered on the Sinai Peninsula has killed hundreds of soldiers and police since the army ousted President Mohamed Mursi after mass protests against his rule in 2013.

Sinai Province, which has pledged allegiance to the militant Islamic State movement that has taken over swathes of Iraq and Syria, is the most active group.

The violence is undermining efforts by the Egyptian government to revive investment and foreign tourism crucial to the economy and stability of the Arab world’s most populous country.

While the insurgency is concentrated in the Peninsula, which lies between Israel, Gaza and the Suez Canal, violence has also hit the capital.

A man sits at a site which the Houthi-led authorities say was hit by a Saudi-led air strike at the old quarter of Yemen’s capital Sanaa 9 August, 2015. — Reuters
Investors in smaller cities line up to join stock rush

Mumbai, 10 Aug — India’s mutual funds are seeing a surge in stock investments from the hinterland as growing ranks of provincial retail investors help drive a two-year long rally.

Many retail funds say they are seeing the fastest growth in fund flows from areas beyond India’s 15 largest cities, while growth from more traditional investment centres such as Mumbai has slowed. Fund executives see more room for such growth, given investors from smaller cities account for only 1.9 trillion rupees ($29.8 billion) in mutual funds, or 15 percent of total share assets in India.

The government has long believed that attracting investors from beyond big cities such as New Delhi is vital to direct more household savings into equities, reducing traditional investor preference for property and gold. One such investor is Barun Mukherjee, 54, a senior operator at a steel plant in Jamshedpur, a city of about a million people in Jharkhand. Like many Indians, Mukherjee avoided stocks after the 2008 crisis and subsequent stock slump wiped out the savings of many households.

Before a month ago he decided to invest 50,000 rupees ($783) into a mutual fund “to provide the best returns. The market is doing well. India’s business scene is positive and the future seems to be good,” he said.

Mukherjee is investing in stock markets that have surged 67 percent since August 2013 when the rupee hit a record low. The surge was largely driven by foreign investors’ heavy buying. They now own nearly a third of the equity of companies in the Sensex.

Asian stocks near 1-1/2 year lows on China data; dollar steady

Hong Kong, 10 Aug — Asian shares edged higher but held near 1-1/2 year lows while commodity currencies such as the Malaysian ringgit weakened further on Monday after Chinese data highlighted a deepening slowdown in demand in the world’s industrial powerhouse.

China’s stock markets bucked broad caution in Asian equities with major indices up between 2 and 4 percent on investor expectations of yet another round of policy stimulus.

Financial spreadbetters on Monday expected Britain’s FTSE 100 to open up 0.4 percent, Germany’s DAX to edge 0.4 percent higher, and France’s CAC 40 to open around 20 points higher. News of another monthly decline in Chinese exports — its biggest fall in four months — and a collapse in producer prices shows how China’s faltering industrial demand has hit global trade and sent emerging market assets reeling.

MSCI’s broadest index of Asia-Pacific shares outside Japan edged higher on the day but held near a 1-1/2 year low hit last month. It has fallen 16 percent since May.

“The markets are beginning to price in structurally lower growth in China and an end to the so-called commodity super-cycle,” said Yoshinori Shigemi, global market strategist at JPMorgan Asset Management.

While economists have long predicted a slowdown in the pace of China’s economic expansion after years of turbocharged growth, investors have been taken aback by the scale of the slowdown and the impact it has had on emerging markets.

In the six months to May, world trade volumes have shrunk by around 4 percent annualized, a pace of decline that hasn’t been seen since the global recessions of 2001 and 2009, according to BNP Paribas economists. Much of that decline has been caused by a sustained slowdown in China.

Emerging market equities have been among the hardest hit as companies struggle to deal with the China factor.

Of the nearly 32 percent of the companies in MSCI Asia-ex Japan index reporting results so far, more than half have led to downgraded estimates for their earnings per share, according to Credit Suisse strategists.

China’s slowdown comes at a particularly sensitive time for emerging markets as expectations that the U.S. Federal Reserve will end nearly a decade of zero interest rates soon have gained momentum in recent weeks, dealing a further blow to emerging market currencies and commodities.

Malaysia’s ringgit hit a 17-year low as its foreign exchange reserves fell below the $100 billion mark while leveraged funds have increased their short bets on other commodity-linked currencies such as the Canadian dollar and the Australian dollar in recent days.

Recent data have confirmed the economic recovery away in the United States.

The U.S. Department of Labor said on Friday employers added 215,000 jobs in July, only slightly below a Reuters poll while the unemployment rate fell to a seven-year low of 5.3 percent, with signs that wages were beginning to pick up.

On Wall Street the Dow Jones industrial aver-

age fell 0.3 percent, hitting a six-month low. The S&P 500 and the Nasdaq also shed about 0.3 percent.

Prospects of higher U.S. interest rates have made the dollar more attractive to investors with the world’s biggest currency, which tracks the greenback’s performance versus a basket of currencies, rising after the U.S. jobs data sent the dollar index, which tracks the greenback’s performance versus a basket of currencies, rising after the U.S. jobs data sent the dollar index, which tracks the greenback’s performance versus a basket of currencies, rising after the U.S. jobs data sent the dollar higher.

Fed futures prices fell 1.1 percent, with multi-month lows early on Monday. Brent fell to $48.35 a barrel, not far from a six-year low of $45.19 hit in January.

The 19-commodity Thomson Reuters/Commodity CRB Index plunged fresh lows not seen since 2003 with a year-to-date decline of nearly 14 percent.

Music may help treat people with epilepsy

WASHINGTON, 10 Aug — The brains of people with epilepsy appear to react to music differently from the brains of those who do not, according to a round of findings that could lead to new therapies to prevent seizures, according to new research.

“We believe that music could potentially be used as an intervention to help people with epilepsy,” said Christine Charyton, from The Ohio State University Wexner Medical Centre.

Approximately 80 percent of epilepsy cases are what is known as temporal lobe epilepsy, in which the seizures appear to originate in the temporal lobe of the brain, researchers said.

Music is processed in the auditory cortex in this same region of the brain, which was why Charyton wanted to study the effect of music on the brains of people with epilepsy.

Charyton and her colleagues compared the musical processing abilities of the brains of people with and without epilepsy using an electroencephalogram, where electrodes are attached to the scalp to detect and record brainwave patterns.

They collected data from 21 patients who had undergone an epilepsy monitoring unit at The Ohio State University Wexner Medical Centre between September 2012 and May 2014.

Researchers found significantly higher levels of brainwave activity in participants when they were listening to music.

More important, said Charyton, brainwave activity in people with epilepsy compared to people who were not epileptic.”We hypothesised that music would be processed in the brain differently than silence. We did not know if this would be the same or different for people with epilepsy,” she said.

Charyton said this research suggests that music could be a novel intervention used in conjunction with traditional treatment to help prevent seizures in people with epilepsy. —PTI
**U.S. sends six jets, 300 personnel to Turkey base in Islamic State fight**

The Pentagon said, after Ankara on Sunday, the U.S. military said, after Ankara agreed last month to allow American planes to launch air strikes against Islamic State militants from there. The Pentagon said in a statement the “small detachment” is from the 31st Fighter Wing based at Aviano Air Base, Italy.

Support equipment was also sent but no details were provided. “The United States and Turkey, as members of the 60-plus nation coalition, are committed to the fight against ISIL in the pursuit of peace and stability in the region,” the statement said, using an acronym for Islamic State.

The ability to fly manned bombing raids out of Incirlik, a major base used by both U.S. and Turkish forces, against targets in nearby Syria could be a big advantage. Such flights have had to fly mainly from the Gulf.

Turkey’s decision last month to allow use of the base follows long-time reluctance by Ankara to become engaged in the fight against Islamist militants. Turkey has faced increasing insecurity along its 900-km (560-mile) border with Syria, with fears the conflict could spill onto Turkish soil and worsen relations with its Kurdish minority.

**Two shot in Ferguson amid standoff between police, protesters**

WASHINGTON, 10 Aug — The United States sent six F-16 jets and about 300 personnel to Incirlik Air Base in Turkey on Sunday, the U.S. military said, after Ankara agreed last month to allow American planes to launch air strikes against Islamic State militants from there.

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**Typhoon lashes China’s east coast, 14 dead and four missing: Xinhua**

Beijing / Shanghai, 10 Aug — A typhoon battered China’s east coast on Sunday, killing 14 people and forcing the authorities to evacuate hundreds of thousands more.

The 14 were killed after being washed away by flash floods or buried under collapsed houses or landslides, state news agency Xinhua said. Another four people were missing.

Typhoon Souledor forced more than 188,400 people to leave their homes in Zhejiang and 320,000 in neighboring Fujian, Xinhua said. More than 530 flights were canceled and 191 high-speed trains were suspended.

The typhoon had killed six people in Taiwan earlier in the weekend, then moved across the Taiwan Strait and slammed into the mainland’s Fujian province late on Saturday.

It churned towards neighboring Zhejiang and Jiangxi on Sunday, Xinhua said. The Tropical Storm Risk website downgraded Souledor to a tropical storm as it moved inland.

In Taiwan, the rain and wind eased on Sunday although the Central Weather Bureau warned that conditions remained unstable as crews began clearing fallen trees, mud flows and other debris from blocked roads.

The storm killed six people in Taiwan, with four missing and nearly 400 injured, authorities said.

Typhoons are common at this time of year in the South China Sea and Pacific, with up to 35 storms from warm waters before losing it over land.

Ferguson, 10 Aug — Two people were wounded in gunfire last night in Ferguson, Missouri, on Sunday marking the first anniversary of the death of Michael Brown near where the unarmed black teenager was shot dead by a white officer.

The gunshots rang out as police tried to disperse demonstrators blocking traffic and smashing windows along a street that was a flashpoint of last year’s unrest following the shooting of 18-year-old Michael Brown.

The origin of the gunfire and condition of the two people shot was not immediately known, police said. One of the victims, a black man who looked to be a teenager or young adult, appeared in a Reuters photo to have been badly wounded.

Anniversary commemorations for Brown had begun hours earlier with a peaceful march through the St. Louis suburb after a moment of silence for the teenager, whose death on Aug. 9, 2014, ignited months of demonstrations and a national debate on race and justice. The scene changed dramatically after dark with dozens of protesters blocking traffic and smashing store windows along West Florissant Avenue, which bore the brunt of last summer’s rioting, chanting “Shut it down” in the midst of a severe thunderstorm.

A phalanx of helmeted police wearing body armor and carrying shields moved in. Protesters briefly fell away before regrouping to confront the line of officers, who ordered them to disperse.

The protesters, locking arms and edging closer to the police cordon, began throwing water bottles and shouting, “We are ready for war!” Both sides held their fire and condition of the two people shot was not immediately known, police said. One of the victims, a black man who looked to be a teenager or young adult, appeared in a Reuters photo to have been badly wounded.

The protesters, locking arms and edging closer to the police cordon, began throwing water bottles and shouting, “We are ready for war!” Both sides held their fire and condition of the two people shot was not immediately known, police said. One of the victims, a black man who looked to be a teenager or young adult, appeared in a Reuters photo to have been badly wounded.

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Earthquake in Afghanistan felt across South Asia

New Delhi, 10 Aug — A moderate earthquake in Afghanistan was felt across South Asia on Monday, shaking the ground in Kabul, Islamabad and New Delhi, witnesses said. The epicentre of the magnitude 6 quake was 88 kilometres (54.68 miles) from Feyzabad in Afghanistan, at a depth of 209 kilometres (129.87 miles), the U.S. Geological Survey said.

Vehicles run on an “overwater highway,” a highway linking Gufu Township and Zhaojun Bridge in Yichang City, central China’s Hubei Province, Aug. 9, 2015. The highway, which is 10.9 kilometres long, is built overwater on a river.—Xinhua

Fiji to pull out peacekeepers in South Sudan if situation escalates

Suva, 10 Aug — The Fijian government is on standby to pull out Fiji’s peacekeepers in South Sudan if the African country’s civil war escalates, local media reported Monday. Timoci Natuva, minister of defense and national security told local news website Fijivillage.com that the Fijian peacekeepers are safe and the government keeps getting daily situational reports from them.

Thirteen Fijian peacekeepers, including five soldiers and eight police officers are in South Sudan. The peacekeepers are facing difficulties in carrying out their work, as a stable government has not been formed in the African country, Natuva said, adding that the Fijians will act accordingly if an official warning is issued by the United Nations. Clashes in South Sudan have left thousands of people dead and forced around 1.9 million South Sudanese to flee their homes.

The Fijian government through the UN has been in negotiations with the government of the different belligerents for a lasting peace deal between the government and rebels in South Sudan, Natuva said. Fiji has deployed over 1,000 peacekeepers to foreign countries such as Syria, Egypt, Iraq, South Sudan, Sudan and Liberia.—Xinhua

WEATHER REPORT

BAY INERENCE: Monssoon is weak in the North Bay and moderate to strong in the Andaman Sea and elsewhere in the Bay of Bengal.

FORECAST VALID UNTIL EVENING OF THE 11th AUGUST, 2015: Rain or thundershowers will be isolated in Kayah State, scattered in Mandalay, Magway Regions, fairly widespread in Bago Region, Shan, Rakhine and Kayin States and widespread in the remaining Regions and States with likelihood of isolated heavy falls in Sagaina, Yangon, Ayearyawady and Taninthayi Regions, Kachin and Mon States. Degree of certainty is (100%).

STATEN OF THE SEA: Squalls with moderate to rough sea are likely at times Deltaic, Gulf of Mottama, off and along Mon - Taninthayi Coasts. Surface wind speed in squalls may reach (35) m.p.h. Sea will be moderate elsewhere in Myanmar waters.

OUTLOOK FOR SUBSEQUENT TWO DAYS: Likelyhood of increase of rain in the Southern Myanmar areas.

FORECAST FOR NAY PYI TAW AND NEIGHBOURING AREA FOR 11TH AUGUST, 2015: Some rain or thundershowers. Degree of certainty is (80%).

FORECAST FOR MANDALAY AND NEIGHBOURING AREA FOR 11TH AUGUST, 2015: Isolated rain or thundershowers. Degree of certainty is (80%).
Epidaurus, (Greece), 10 Aug — On a stiflingly hot summer night, the ancient Greek amphitheatre of Epidaurus is packed to capacity for a performance of a 2,400-year-old play by Aristophanes — testimony to Greeks’ enduring love of theater despite years of grinding economic crisis.

While cash-strapped Greeks forgo the cinema and other luxuries, theater ticket sales are booming — even if theaters struggle to cover their costs and actors often go unpaid.

Greeks can often catch echoes, even in ancient drama, of their current tribulations — and Aristophanes’ comedy of political intrigue “Ecclesiazusae”, or “The Assembly Wom- en” — in which women take control of Athens and set up a communist-style government — is no exception.

The main female character is dressed as the fiery leftist speaker of Greece’s parliament, Zoe Konstantopoulou.

“She is the real-life rebel of Greek politics who, despite being a woman, has managed to get a lot of things done,” said Kyrillides.

The number of plays performed in Greece is set to increase to around 1,000 next season, starting in October, from 858 last year, said Maria Kryou, theater editor of Athinora ma, Greece’s most popular city guide.

“People still visit theaters because the ticket fees are much lower than they used to be. But the plays are not profitable for theater owners. Only about 15 theaters manage to make ends meet and cover their costs,” said Dimitris Fotopoulos.

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Teen falls from balcony during Taylor Swift show

Los Angeles, 10 Aug — A teenage boy has sustained serious injuries after he fell from a balcony during Taylor Swift’s concert in Seattle.

Swift’s concert at Century Link Field, the home of the Seattle Seahawks NFL team, took place on Saturday night (August 8) as part of her 1989 World Tour.

The boy fell from the 300 level to the 200 level of the stadium, the equivalent of a one-storey drop. The fall took place as one of 25-year-old Swift’s support acts performed, and the boy has been unable to recall what caused him to fall between the two levels, reported NME.

The 13-year-old boy is being treated at Seattle’s Harborview Medical Center, which has reported he is in serious condition. He was conscious when treated on site, and able to communicate with the medical team.

Swift had had an eventful week, responding ecstatically to Ryan Adams’ covers of 1989 on social media, and also reacting angrily as a fan grabbed her in Edmontonic on Tuesday night.

The Seattle gig featured a guest appearance from New Jersey rapper Fetty Wap, which Swift also highlighted via her Twitter account, calling her guest slot during her set — the continuation of a ‘special guest’ theme on this tour — “no big deal, just the happiest moment of my life to date.” Swift’s tour takes a break during the week, and continues in Santa Clara, California on Friday.—PTI

‘FANTASTIC FOUR’ opens poorly, ‘MI: Rouge Nation’ rules BO

Los Angeles, 10 Aug — Superhero movie “The Fantastic Four” opened to a disappointing start, securing a second position at this weekend box office, which was ruled by action thriller “Mission: Impossible Rogue Nation”.

The reboot, starring Miles Teller, Kate Mara, Michael B Jordan and Jamie Bell, opened to USD 26.2 million from 3,995 theaters, reported Ace Showbiz.

“Fantastic Four” is considerably one of the worst debuts for a big-budget superhero movie, earning even less than 2011 flop “The Green Hornet” (USD 33.5 million).

“Fantastic Four” has been slammed by critics and got a C- CinemaScore.


“Rogue Nation” took in USD 65.5 million from 58 territories for a foreign cume of USD 156.7 million and global haul of USD 265.3 million.

Placing the third was “The Gift”, Joel Edgerton’s directorial debut. The movie launched to approximately USD 12 million from 2,503 theaters. Coming behind “The Gift” was the raunchy comedy “Vacation” which earned another USD 9.1 million from 3,430 domestic theaters in its second weekend. Rounding out the top five was Paul Rudd’s “Ant-Man” which garnered around USD 7.8 million in theaters.—PTI

Economic crisis proves no tragedy for Greek theater

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Unemployment among actors has reached a whopping 92 percent, he said, yet drama schools still churn out about 500 actors annually.

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I wish had met Keith Urban earlier: Nicole Kidman

London, 10 Aug — Actress Nicole Kidman says she wishes she had met her husband Keith urban “much earlier” and had more kids with him.

The 48-year-old actress has two daughters, Sunday Rose, seven and four-year-old Faith, with her country music star husband, who she married in 2006.

Kidman said if she had two more children with Urban, 47, it would have been “glorious,” reported Fe-male First.

“I wish I could have met him much earlier and had way more children with him. But I didn’t. I mean, if I could have had two more children with him, that would have been just glorious. But as Keith says, “The want-ing mind, Nicole. Shut it down.””

Kidman also has two adopted children, Connor and Isabella, with her former husband Tom Cruise.

The children have been raised as Scientologists like their father and she is believed to have little contact with them.—PTI

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IAAF criticised by London Marathon for anti-doping failure

London, 10 Aug — Organisers of the London Marathon criticised athletics’ governing body, the International Association of Athletics Federations (IAAF), on Sunday for its “failure to take effective action” in the war on doping.

The IAAF stripped Russian Svetlana Shkolnikova of her medals since 2009 last week, including three victories in the Chicago marathon and one in London. The IAAF has defended its drug testing procedures strongly and refutes suggestions of turning a blind eye to doping, says it is cooperating with the independent World Anti-Doping Agency (WADA) in an investigation into the allegations.

Reuters

Phelps sets fastest time of year in 200m medley

SAN ANTONIO, 10 Aug — Michael Phelps continued his brilliant comeback when he swam the fastest time in the world this year to win the 200 metres individual medley at the U.S. championships in San Antonio on Sunday. The most decorated Olympian of all-time was ahead of world record pace after 150m, before fading slightly over the final 50m of freestyle. He clocked 1:54.00 from 2011.

No athletes were named in the claims but London organisers said they had never been informed of abnormal blood test results at their event between 2001 and 2012, or subsequently.

The claims prompted Bittel to release a statement saying the Marathon would “be discussing the implications of the allegations with the IAAF.”

On BBC radio’s Sportswear programme, Bittel added that, although the Marathon paid “tens of thousands of pounds” to test athletes, it did not administer the procedures and did not see the results, so were not aware of any abnormal tests. “We are disappointed,” he said. “We’re doing more than anybody else to fight doping in our sport.”

“What this story is really about is the IAAF’s failure to take effective action. Those athletes that have been caught have only been caught because of the tests at the London Marathon.”

“The IAAF needs to do more to stop people from starting (cases) that have blood values that are out of normal range.”

Last week, the Sunday Times and German broadcasters ARD said data, leaked by a whistleblower, showed that between 2001 and 2012 a third of Olympic and world championship endurance and middle distance running medals had been won by athletes who, at some point, had given a suspicious blood test.

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Reuters

A spectator holds a Union Flag as runners make their way along Upper Thames Street during the London Marathon, 26 April, 2015.—Reuters

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Nick Bittel, chief executive of the London race, said he was “disappointed” in the IAAF after fresh allegations made by the British newspaper, the Sunday Times, in the continuing doping storm which has thrown the sport into turmoil.

Thirty-two medal winners at the world’s six top city marathons were among the hundreds of long distance runners with suspicious blood test results revealed in a leak, the newspaper reported on Sunday.

But when the London Marathon won seven times over a 12-year period by athletes who had given suspicious blood tests at some point in their careers.

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Reuters

Wastewater spill from Colorado gold mine triples in volume

SAN JUAN, (Colorado), 10 Aug — Some 3 million gallons of toxic wastewater, triple previous estimates, have poured from a defunct Colorado gold mine into local streams since a team of Environmental Protection Agency workers accidentally triggered the spill last week, EPA officials said on Sunday.

The discharge, containing high concentrations of heavy metals such as arsenic, mercury and lead, was continuing to flow at the rate of 500 gallons per minute on Sunday, four days after the spill began at the Gold King Mine, the EPA said. An unspecified number of residents living downstream of the spill who draw their drinking supplies from their private wells have reported water discoloration, but there has been no immediate evidence of harm to human beings, livestock or wildlife, EPA officials told reporters in a telephone conference call.

Still, residents were advised to avoid drinking or bathing in water drawn from wells in the vicinity, and the government was arranging to supply water to homes and businesses in need. The spill began on Wednesday after an EPA inspection team was called to the abandoned mine near the town of Silverton in southwestern Colorado to examine previously existing wastewater seepage.

As workers excavated loose debris at the site, they inadvertently breached the wall of a mine tunnel, unleashing a flow of the orange-tinted slurry that cascaded into Cement Creek and then into the Animas River downstream.

The town of Durango, Colorado, roughly 50 miles south of the spill site, shut off its intakes of river water as a precaution, according to the EPA. By Friday, the main plume of the spill had traveled some 75 miles south to the New Mexico border, prompting utilities in the towns of Aztec and Farmington to turn off their intakes from the Animas as well, local authorities said.—Reuters

Michael Phelps after his drink driving arrest last year.

He is under supervised probation for 18 months and under orders from the judge who ruled in his case to abstain from alcohol for that period, something he has vowed to do until after the Rio Games.—Reuters
Barca and Sevilla prepare for European Supercup in Georgia

MADRID, 10 Aug — Two Spanish sides, FC Barcelona and Seville, will go head to head in the Georgian city of Tbilisi on Tuesday night to try and win the first title of the new season: the European Supercup.

Champions League winners, Barca will be favourites against Sevilla, who won last season’s Europa League, but Barca will have to wary of a side who are aiming to forget a disappointing display from last season when they were comfortably beaten by Real Madrid.

The European Supercup marks the start of a busy week for Barca, who face Athletic Club Bilbao in the first leg of the Spanish Super Cup on Wednesday and the Catalan’s view Tuesday as the next step in their aim to match the incredible achievements from 2009 when the side, which was then coached by Pep Guardiola won all six titles (Spanish League, Cup, Champions League, Spanish and European Super Cups and World Club Championship) that it is possible to win over a 12-month period.

Although Messi is back, fit and looking lean and hungrier than ever, Barca will be without striker Neymar, who will be out for the next 10 days with an attack of mumps, while Jordi Alba is out with a muscle injury that he picked up in pre-season.

Meanwhile, coach Luis Enrique will have to decide whether Ter Stegen or Claudio Bravo will get the nod in goal and striker Pedro Rodriguez will probably replace Neymar in Tbilisi, despite continued links with a move to Manchester United.

He will also have to work on his defense after pre-season in which Barca shipped too many goals, although the return of Javier Mascherano could help remedy that. Sevilla go into the game with the club looking to sign a striker to replace the departed Carlos Bacca after last season’s top scorer moved to AC Milan.

Their coach Unai Emery also has defensive problems with Nico Parejo out of action as well as Daniel Carrico and their last preparation match: a 1-1 draw in Athens showed they are still some way off their best, although should Jose Antonio Reyes have a good night in Georgia, that could all change.—Xinhua

Fourth-tier Jena stun Hamburg in German Cup as Bayern progress

BERLIN, 10 Aug — Fourth division club Carl Zeiss Jena stunned Hamburg 5-3-2 in the German Cup on Sunday, taking the scalp of the Bundesliga’s former European champions to cause the biggest sensation of the competition’s first round.

On an afternoon when German champions Bayern Munich were made to rouse themselves to progress with a 3-1 win over plucky fifth league side Noettingen, it was Carl Zeiss Jena’s teenage striker Johannes Pieles who stole the headlines.

Hamburg, who needed a relegation playoff to remain in the Bundesliga last season, twice came back from behind only for 19-year-old Pieles to make it a red letter day for the Underdogs at their Ernst-Abbe-Stadion home when he headed home the winner in extra time.

It represented a memorable victory for the club from Jena which has its own distinguished history. Founded by workers at the Carl Zeiss optics factory, they were powerhouses of the East German game in the 1970s and reached the European Cup Winners’ Cup final in 1981 before falling on harder times after German reunification.

Hamburg needed an Ivica Olic goal in the 48th minute to equalise after Justin Gerlach’s thundering 30-metre free kick that curled in off the post put Jena ahead.

The visitors, with Russian defender Juraj Spahic in the lineup after joining the club following his sacking from Bayer Leverkusen last season for hitting and headbutting a club steward, had constant trouble with Jena’s pace.

Forward Velimir Jovanovic put the hosts ahead once more in the 58th minute but Hamburg battled to save themselves with a last-gasp Michael Gregoritsch goal deep into second half stoppage time.

The fairy tale was not quite over, though, as Pieles punished Hamburg for giving him too much space to head the winner in the 106th minute.

At Noettingen, Bayern were given a shot at new signing Arturo Vidal who scored his first goal for the club in the fourth minute, only to be pegged back by Niklas Hecht-Zirpel’s 16th minute goal.

The lead lasted for just a minute, though, as Mario Gotze restored Bayern’s advantage and Robert Lewandowski’s 26th minute goal settled the issue.

Botussia Dormund also advanced, beating Chemnitz 2-0 with Henrik Mhitaryan scoring one goal and setting up another for Gabon international Pierre-Emmeric Aubameyang.

Nishikori beats Isner in D.C. for 10th career ATP title

WASHINGTON, 10 Aug — Kei Nishikori broke the serve of American John Isner once in the second set and a total of three times and that was enough for the rising Japanese player to claim the Citi Open title in Washington, D.C. on Sunday.

The second seeded Nishikori beat the big-serving Isner 4-6, 6-4, 6-4 to celebrate his third title of the season and 10th of his career.

It was an amazing year so far,” said the 25-year-old Nishikori, who will move up to fourth in the world rankings. “I have had some good Grand Slams, too.”

Nishikori now looks forward for the third time in six years. —Reuters

Chelsea don’t miss Cech, says Mourinho

LONDON, 10 Aug — Jose Mourinho has said Chelsea do not miss goalkeeper Petr Cech and is sure his side will cope without the suspended Thibaut Courtois when they visit Manchester City on Sunday.

Mourinho was not keen on allowing the 33-year-old Cech to join London rivals Arsenal after 11 successful seasons with the champions, but the managerial insists he is happy with the goalkeeper’s options at his disposal.

“We don’t miss Petr,” Mourinho was quoted as saying by the British media. “We’ve got a good keeper, the problem with Petr is not that we miss him because we have two excellent keepers.”

“The problem with Petr is that an opponent is better than before.”

Cech opted to move to Arsenal after finding himself playing second fiddle to Belgian internationals Courtois, who Chelsea re-called from loan at Atletico Madrid last season. —Reuters

Nishikori reacts to missing a shot against John Isner (not pictured) in the men’s singles final of the 2015 Citi Open at Rock Creek Park Tennis Center. Nishikori won 4-6, 6-4, 6-4.—Reuters

Chelsea manager Jose Mourinho during a Press Conference.—Reuters

Aug 9, 2015; Washington, DC, USA; Kei Nishikori reacts to missing a shot against John Isner (not pictured) in the men’s singles final of the 2015 Citi Open at Rock Creek Park Tennis Center. Nishikori won 4-6, 6-4, 6-4.—Reuters

Chelsea bought Stoke City keeper Asmir Begovic as a back-up to Courtois following Cech’s transfer.

“Thibaut and Asmir are two fantastic keepers. My club did very well by getting a keeper on time and not on the August 31,” Mourinho added.

Courtois is banned for the match at the Etihad Stadium after he was sent off against Swansea for a foul on striker Bafetimbi Gomis, which earned his opponents a penalty and allowed them to draw the game 2-2.—Reuters

Fourth division club Carl Zeiss Jena’s Johannes Pieles (C) and Dominik Bock (L) celebrate with teammates after winning their German Cup (DFB Pokal) first round soccer match against Hamburg SV in Jena, Germany, August 9, 2015.—Reuters

Fourth division FC Carl Zeiss Jena’s Johannes Pieles (C) and Dominik Bock (L) celebrate with teammates after winning their German Cup (DFB Pokal) first round soccer match against Hamburg SV in Jena, Germany, August 9, 2015.—Reuters