**SEARCH FOR NEW HOMES**

Land survey seeks relocation sites for landslide-hit households

**By Aye Min Soe**

**Yangon, 24 Aug** — The government will publish the findings of a geological survey carried out in Haka, Chin State in September.

The survey aims to identify a suitable location for the resettlement of residents left homeless by landslides in late July and early August.

Geological experts met with representatives of the Chin State Government and the Ministry of Mines on Sunday to discuss the preliminary findings of the survey, which will be officially published by the ministry.

Across Haka, more than 600 homes were affected by the landslides, with 370 completely destroyed.

In western Chin State, landslides and flash floods caused severe damage; leaving more than 1,000 homes damaged or destroyed, affecting 7,670 people and killing five.

Haka Township Administrator U Thein Zaw Oo told The Global New Light of Myanmar on Monday that nearly 200 homes in Myo Haung Ward need to be relocated as a result of the damage caused by the landslide that hit the mountain-side capital city.

He added that many residents have already left their homes and moved to safer areas.

At the start of the month the city was threatened by food shortages after the Haka-Gangaw Road was almost completely cut off by a landslide.

The Chin State government is building an emergency road route that links Kalay in Sagaing Region with Falam in Chin State, in order to transport aid to the mountainous region.

The nationwide death toll from landslides and floods between June and late August reached 121. Most of these deaths occurred in Rakhine State, where 56 people were killed, followed by 23 in Sagaing and 12 in Mandalay Region, according to data from the Ministry of Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement.

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**Bangladesh to approve proposal for new road to Myanmar**

**Dhaka, 24 Aug**—Bangladesh’s economic policy-making body is all set to approve a proposal for constructing a new road to Myanmar, aimed at boosting bilateral trade, an official said Monday.

A Planning Ministry official who did not like to be named said the Executive Committee of the National Economic Council will likely approve the proposal on Tuesday in a meeting with Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina in the chair.

The $500 million taka (about 7 million U.S. dollars) proposed new road will pass through Bangladesh’s two southeastern hilly districts – Cox’s Bazaar, some 292 km away from capital Dhaka, and Bandarban, some 316 km south-east of the capital city – which border Myanmar to the country’s east. He said that in April this year the project for constructing the new road was finalized.

The proposed road aims at Bangladesh’s plan to develop bilateral trade with Myanmar as well as develop road connectivity with China and other nations in Southeast Asia, he added.

**London, 24 Aug**—Alarm bells rang across world markets on Monday as a near 9 percent dive in Chinese shares and a sharp drop in the dollar and major commodities panicked investors.

European stocks were more than 5 percent in the red and Wall Street was braced for similar losses after Asian shares slumped to 3-year lows as a three-month-long rout in Chinese equities threatens to get out of hand.

Oil plunged another 4 percent, while safe-haven government U.S. [.T] an German bonds and the yen and the euro rallied as widespread fears of a China-led global economic slowdown and currency war kicked in.

“It is a China driven macro panic,” said Didier Duret, chief investment officer at ABN Amro. “Volatility will persist until we see better data there or strong policy action through forceful monetary easing.” — Reuters
Parliament approves appointment of two union ministers

NAY PYI TAW, 24 Aug — A Pyidaungsu Hluttaw (Union Parliament) session on Monday approved the appointments of two union ministers by the president.

Lt-Gen Sein Win has been appointed the Union Minister for Defence and Lt-Gen Kyaw Swe the Union Minister for Border Affairs. Parliament also designated five new towns in Bago Region, before deputy ministers discussed arrangements for new foreign loans including Yen 24.866 billion for upgrading the Yangon Circular Rail Line, Yen 41.115 billion for the second phase of upgrading the national grid and Yen 33.869 billion for upgrading three bridges on Myanmar’s east-west economic corridor. The session also passed a martial law affecting Myanmar women, a law for the preservation of ancient buildings and discussed a new broadcasting law. MNA

MOFA’s diplomacy course begins

YANGON, 24 Aug — The Ministry of Foreign Affairs launched a training program on diplomacy on Monday, with the opening address given by the Deputy Minister for Foreign Affairs U Thant Kyaw.

The program aims to enhance the skills and abilities of the ministry’s newly recruited junior officers. The curriculum includes subjects on politics and security, international and domestic economics, cultural and social issues, protocol, consular and legal matters, communication, administrative and budgetary issues, diplomacy and ASEAN studies. Thirty heads of branch and secretaries will take part in the 12-week course, which is the fourth of its kind to take place this year. MNA

Deputy defence minister explains assignment of officers

NAY PYI TAW, 24 Aug — Deputy Minister for Defence Rear-Admiral Myint Nwe outlined the appointment of military officers to region and state Hluttaw, as well as self-administered zones and divisions, in the Pyithu Hluttaw on Monday.

U Kyaw Ni Naing of Laukkai constituency asked for an explanation of the appointments for security and border affairs during the 86th day session of the Lower House. The deputy minister said experienced officers had been assigned to the posts in line with the constitution.

Deputy Minister for Rail Transportation U Chan Maung, responding to a question from U Nanda Kyaw Swa of Dagon constituency, said Roman letters and Arabic numerals would be used in place of Myanmar characters on vehicle licence plates in line with international standards. Number plates identify 14 regions and states, as well as the Nay Pyi Taw council area, he said. The Nay Pyi Taw Hluttaw approved the bill amending the Highway Law and the bill amending the Expressway Law submitted by the Ministry of Construction. The bill committee read out the bill amending the blood and blood materials law and the body organs donation law submitted by Ministry of Health.—MNA

Getting to the goal of 100 percent birth registration

NAY PYI TAW, 24 Aug — UNICEF released a press release Monday that at the third National Forum on Birth Registration in Myanmar held in Nay Pyi Taw Monday, donors, policymakers and service providers from around the country, reconfirmed the critical importance of birth registration and reflected on what more needs to be done to realize an efficient and effective birth registration system for the country.

To get to the goal of 100 percent birth registration, the Government of Myanmar and UNICEF are urging donors to respond to a request for US$1.5 million to support the ongoing national birth registration campaign.

Myanmar has made considerable progress on birth registration in recent years. Demand for birth registration is being created through awareness raising at region and state level.

The successful campaigns in 2014-2015 in the six states and regions of Ayeyawady, Chin, Kayin, Kayah, Magway and Mon saw the registration of more than 300,000 children aged under five years. This brings the national coverage to approximately 79% of births registered, up from 72% in 2009-2010.

There are wide differences across the country. While nearly all children born in Yangon are registered, many children in remote rural areas still lack a birth certificate. —MNA

Cancer awareness campaign to focus on early diagnosis

YANGON, 24 Aug — A public awareness campaign about the prevention and early detection of eight common types of cancer will take place in Taungoo, Bago Region during September and October, announced a local non-profit organisation on Monday.

The local non-profit Golden Rose Cancer Foundation is teaming up with the Myanmar Medical Association to roll out the campaign, which will include free medical check-ups and blood tests for those who attend the health seminars, said the foundation’s Secretary General, Dr Moe Aung Kyaw Naing.

“The free tests include screening for Hepatitis B and diabetes, as these people with these illnesses are at an increased risk of getting certain types of cancer,” he said.

Cancer specialists will give short talks on different types of cancer, such as prostate, liver and mouth, with each specialist focusing on risk factors and possible warning signs that could lead to early detection.

According to data from the Ministry of Health, breast and ovarian cancers are the most common types of cancer found in Myanmar women, while lung and colon cancers are the most prevalent among men.

“Lifestyle-related risk factors, such as excessive levels of drinking and smoking among men, explain why these cancers are more prevalent,” Dr Moe Aung Kyaw Naing said.

The two organisations will also hold a conference on cancer treatments in October in Yangon.—GNLM
Much remains to be done to repair flood damage: president

The president said it was necessary to provide food, clothing, shelter and healthcare services to flood victims, and while some problems had been solved through international assistance, private donations and government action, much remained to be done.

The reconstruction efforts will be spearheaded by the government based on data collected by state and region governments, the president added.

After the speech, Vice President U Nyan Tun, who chairs the natural disaster management committee, and chief ministers of states and regions hit by floods reported to the president on tasks being carried out for disaster relief.

Centenarians receive honours at ceremony

President Dr Sai Mauk Kham and wife Daw Nan Shwe Hmon gave K100,000 each to the older persons.

Daw Phyu Phyu Nyunt, wife of the chief minister of Shan State, also presented K100,000 each provided by the president will be given to 603 older persons of above 100 years old across the nation.

Senior General Min Aung Hlaing meets MPC (Interim) members

Nay Pyi Taw, 24 Aug — The government, Tatmadaw and local and foreign organizations for relief and rehabilitation and the future plan concerning recent flood. The C-in-C replied to queries raised by members of MPC (Interim).

Vice-Senior General observes Japan defense drill

President’s Office appoints military personnel to new posts

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MNA

President U Thein Sein delivers speech at coordination meeting on reconstruction in flood-affected regions.

MNA

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Daw Phyu Phyu Nyunt, wife of the chief minister of Shan State, also presented K100,000 each to the centenarians.

A total of 17 senior citizens in northern Shan State received K6.8 million at the ceremony.

The programme to honour the senior citizens is the first of its kind in Myanmar since independence. According to the social welfare national strategic plan, certificates of honour and K200,000 each provided by the president will be given to 603 older persons of above 100 years old across the nation.

Senior General Min Aung Hlaing received Vice Chairman of Myanmar Press Council (Interim) U Khin Maung Lay and party at Bayinnaung Yeiktha, here, on Monday.

The senior general explained situation in Laukkai region and its latest developments, goodwill visits to Pakistan, Serbia and India, relations between armed forces of these countries and Myanmar Tatmadaw, free and fair general election in 2015, process of nationwide ceasefire and peace-making process, attitude of Tatmadaw on leadership change in Union Solidarity and Development Party and political parties, measures taken by the government, Tatmadaw and local and foreign organizations for relief and rehabilitation and the future plan concerning recent flood. The C-in-C replied to queries raised by members of MPC (Interim).

MNA

President’s Office appoints military personnel to new posts

Nay Pyi Taw, 24 Aug — The President’s Office announced a reshuffle of the Nay Pyi Taw Council on Monday, replacing Col Min Naung with Col Myint Aung Than.

The outgoing Col Myint Aung Than is assigned to his former military responsibilities, according to the announcement.

Meanwhile, military personnel assigned as ministers for security and border affairs in four regions and four states have been replaced, according to the announcement signed by President U Thein Sein.

The outgoing ministers have been assigned to their former military responsibilities, it said.

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Park demands apology, end to provocations as inter-Korean talks continue

SEOUL, 24 Aug — South Korean President Park Geun-hye reiterated Monday that North Korea should apologize for its recent provocations and vow not to repeat them, as inter-Korean talks aimed at defusing heightened tensions continued into a third day.

The talks “are still under way amidst efforts being made to wrap up agreements,” Park said at a meeting with senior secretaries, according to the presidential office.

She stressed “a clear apology and assurance that (provocations) will not be repeated are necessary” to break the North’s pattern of carrying out provocations and stoking tense situations.

“Without the things obtained, we will take corresponding countermeasures and continue (anti-Pyongyang) loudspeaker broadcasts” along the border with the North, she said.

Park added that South Korea “will not step back when North Korea maximizes the provocative situations and increase threats to our security.”

The talks began early Saturday evening and the first session lasted nearly 10 hours. They restarted at 3:30 p.m. Sunday.

Kim Kwan Jin, chief of the National Security Office at the South Korean presidential office, and Unification Minister Hong Yong Pyo are meeting with the North’s representatives in the talks are demanded a halt to the South Korean military’s loudspeaker broadcasts, while the South insists that the North must first accept responsibility for landmine blasts that seriously injured two South Korean soldiers earlier this month on the South’s side of the demilitarized zone.

South Korea resumed the broadcasts earlier this month for the first time in 11 years in retaliation for the landmine blasts.

Park said it fired back a volley of artillery shells after the North fired shells in anger over South Korea’s resumption of the broadcasts.

South Korea then set a 48-hour deadline for Seoul to stop the broadcasts or risk military action, but the Saturday deadline passed without incident.

She stressed “a clear apology and end to provocations and immediately retaliate against any attacks by North Korea."

Fire breaks out at steel pipe factory near Tokyo, no one injured

YOKOHAMA, 24 Aug — A fire broke out at a steel pipe factory in Kawasaki, south of Tokyo, on Monday but no injuries were reported, firefighters said.

The fire occurred at around 11:35 a.m. at the plant of Nippon Steel and Sumikin Pipe Co., a subsidiary of the country’s biggest steelmaker, Nippon Steel & Sumitomo Metal Corp.

The blaze spread to a neighboring factory of major chemical maker Kao Corp., which issued an order for its employees to evacuate the facility.

Due to the fire, traffic on the metropolitan expressway was temporarily suspended between Daishi and Kawasaki-Ukishima junctions, the Japan Road Traffic Information Center said.

Flight services at nearby Haneda airport, which lies on the opposite side of the Tama River, were not affected, the Ministry of Land, Infrastructure, Transport and Tourism said.

The factory was not operating at the time of the fire as it is scheduled to be closed in November.

Police said the blaze is suspected to have started at a warehouse that was undergoing demolition.

Thai police deactivate bomb in Bangkok house

BANGKOK, 24 Aug — Thai police said on Monday that they had found and deactivated a bomb in the capital Bangkok, a week after an explosion killed 20 people in the city.

“We received reports this afternoon of a bomb in Sukhumvit 81. I went to check and found a wide bomb,” Kamthorn Ancharoen, commander of the police’s explosive ordnance team, told Reuters, referring to a road off of one of Bangkok’s main thoroughfares.

“It was left in the house of a construction worker,” he said. “We have deactivated the bomb and will destroy it.”

Police said Monday the trail had gone cold in the hunt for a bomber in Thailand’s worst ever bomb attack, and they were unsure if the chief suspect was still in the country.
**Controversial China rig completes drilling well near Vietnam coast**

Beijing, 24 Aug — The Chinese oil rig at the centre of last year’s standoff between China and Vietnam over oil exploration in the South China Sea has completed drilling of a well not far from Vietnam’s coast, the official Xinhua News Agency said on Monday.

Xinhua did not give coordinates for the well, but the China’s Maritime Safety Administration website earlier put the drilling site just over 100 nautical miles from the coast of Vietnam and 75 nautical miles south of the resort city of Sanya on China’s Hainan Island.

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

China’s deployment of the rig last year in what Vietnam considers its exclusive economic zone, about 120 nautical miles off its coast, led to the worst breakdown in relations since a brief border war in 1979. The $1 billion deepwater rig, known as the Haiyang Shiyou 981, is owned by state-run China National Offshore Oil Corp. (CNOOC), China’s largest producer of offshore oil and gas.

Xinhua, citing a company statement, said that the rig had completed China’s first high-temperature, high-pressure and deep water exploration well.

A statement could not be found on the company’s website or that of its flagship listed unit, CNOOC Ltd. A spokesperson could not immediately be reached.

Vietnam and China agreed on an equal split of their maritime boundary of the Gulf of Tonkin in 2000 but have yet to agree on demarcating waters further south, near the well’s site.

Vietnam’s people remain embittered over a perceived history of Chinese bullying and territorial claims in the South China Sea, although China said at the time the rig was operating completely within its waters.

China has also clashed with the Philippines in recent years over a disputed shoal that China seized in 2012.

On Monday, China’s foreign ministry again condemned an arbitration case initiated by the Philippines, saying it was a violation of previous commitments to handle to dispute bilaterally and an abuse of the legal system.

China has for years insisted that disputes with rival claimants to the South China Sea be handled bilaterally and has refused to take part in the Philippines case.

But last month, its claims came under international legal scrutiny for the first time when the Permanent Court of Arbitration in The Hague began hearing a suit the Philippines filed in 2013.

Reuters

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**Blast rocks U.S. Army warehouse in Japan, no injuries reported**

Yokohama, 24 Aug — An explosion occurred early Monday at a warehouse at a U.S. military base in Sagamihara, Kanagawa Prefecture, but there were no reports of injuries, local authorities said.

The one-story warehouse at the U.S. Army Sagami General Depot, some 40 kilometers southwest of Tokyo, burst into flames at around 0:45 a.m., according to local firefighters who received a number of calls from local residents as well as being contacted by the U.S. military.

The fire was extinguished about seven hours later after burning down some 900 square meters of the warehouse, fire officials said.

The fire had started in the area of a large warehouse measuring 2,000 square meters, but there was no report of injuries, local authorities said.

The fire broke out at around 2:30 p.m., according to officials.

The Kanagawa prefectural government announced that Col. Willy Vargas, commander of the U.S. Army Garrison in Japan, offered an apology to Mayor Yoshito Yamaya by phone on Monday.

The United States said it looked into the cause of the blast and take preventive measures.

The Sagamihara city government confirmed there was no damage to the base and no injuries, the report added.

In Washington on Sunday, the Defense Department said it had received no reports of injuries and did not yet have any details about the explosion.

The Kanagawa prefectural government said the warehouse contained no hazardous materials and there were no munitions or radiological materials in the depot.

After consulting with U.S. base officials, the firefighters initially decided not to discharge water at the fire since the condition of the warehouse’s contents was unclear and there was no fear of the fire spreading. There are no other buildings around the military depot, which covers some 200 hectares.

They used water after confirming there were no hazardous materials in the warehouse.

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**MiG-21 fighter jet of Indian Air Force crashes in Indian-controlled Kashmir**

A military source in New Delhi said the MiG-21 fighter jet of Indian Air Force (IAF) crashed in a paddy field in the summer capital of Jammu and Kashmir on Monday, 24 August 2015. The pilot of the aircraft ejected safely, according to local media reports. — Reuters


According to officials, both the pilot and a co-pilot on board managed to eject safely prior to the crash.

The MiG-21 fighter jet of IAF crashed in a paddy field in village Soibugh in Budgam district of Srinagar, some 40 kilometers south of the summer capital of Kashmir, about 14 km south of Srinagar city, the summer capital of Indian-controlled Kashmir.

“Today a MiG-21 belonging to IAF has crashed at Soibugh in a paddy field,” Indian military spokesman Col Manish Kumar told Xinhua. “There is no casualty in this accident, neither on board nor on ground.”

The cause of the crash was not immediately known.

According to Kumar, pilot and navigator inside the fighter jet managed to eject safely “well in time.”

Eyewitnesses said the pilot was provided first aid at the spot before being flown away in a chopper of IAF that reached the spot following the crash.

Officials said the fighter aircraft had taken off from Srinagar airfield and was on a “routine” sortie in the area. Following the crash, locals, police, rescue teams and IAF officials immediately rushed to the spot to inspect the debris of the mangled aircraft.

Reports said that an inquiry has been ordered into the accident to ascertain the cause. Last year, an IAF pilot was killed after MiG-21 he was flying crashed in the region.

Reports said IAF has inducted over 900 MiG-21 in its fleet over the past 40 years and many of them were lost in crashes.

Of late India is phasing out its MiG-21 squadron, following incidents of its frequent crashes in the past.

Earlier this year, two Indian military troopers were killed after a helicopter they were flying in crashed.

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**People killed in bull running events in Spain rises to 10 this year**

Madrid, 24 Aug— The number of people who have died as the result of being gored by a bull during this year’s popular celebrations of ‘fiestas’ in Spain rose to 10 on Sunday when a man in his 40’s was killed.

The unidentified victim was gored several times by a bull in the town of Borrín (northeastern Spain) and later died in hospital.

This death comes in the wake of four deaths in four different locations in Spain in the past week bringing this year’s death toll to the record number of deaths which was set in 2009.

One of the deaths happened close to Toledo where a 55-year-old was gored to death by a bull he had been filming on his mobile phone, while another victim was an 80-year-old man who was gored in the neck.

The number of deaths is almost certain to rise given that the months of August and September are the most popular months for small towns to hold their celebrations in memory of their patron saints.

One contributing factor to the increase in deaths is the end of the economic crisis: events involving bulls have returned to many towns which had previously decided to end them in recent years in an attempt to cut costs.

Xinhua
France honours Americans, Briton who disarmed train gunman

PARIS, 24 Aug — French President Francois Hollande on Monday awarded France’s highest honour, the Legion d’honneur, to three U.S. citizens and a Briton who helped disarm a machine-gun-toting suspected Islamist militant on a train last week.

The award came a day after it was revealed that one of the Americans, Spencer Stone, also appeared to have saved the life of a fellow passenger.

“Faced with the evil called terrorism there is a good, that’s humanity. You are the incarnation of that,” he told the four men.

The suspect’s lawyer said on Sunday the man named by intelligence sources as Ayoub El Khazzani, 26, of Morocco, is “dumb-founded” at having been taken for an Islamist militant and says he only intended to rob people on board because he was hungry, his lawyer said on Sunday.

Stone, a 23-year-old airman travelling with two friends on the train from Amsterdam to Paris on Friday, told reporters on Sunday of how he plugged the blood-spurting wound of another passenger with his fingers after himself being injured by the attacker, identified by security sources as a suspected Islamist militant.

“I went over, saw that he was squirting blood out of the left or right side of his neck.” Stone, with a cut above his right eye and his left arm in a sling to protect his injured hand, said at a press conference alongside his friends, student Anthony Sadler, also 23, and National Guardsman Alek Skarlatos, 22.

“And I was going to use my shirt at first, but I realised that wasn’t going to work, so I just stuck two of my fingers in the hole, found what I thought to be the artery, pushed down and the bleeding stopped.” Stone held that position until paramedics arrived, he said.

The man whom Stone helped remains hospitalized. U.S. Ambassador to France Jane Hartley said at the news conference that he was “doing pretty well.”

Chris Norman, a 62-year-old British consultant who lives in France, was also decorated by Hollande on Monday.

Stone said another man, who is French and whose name has not been disclosed, “deserves a lot of the credit” because he was the first one to try to stop the gunman.

Stone thanked the doctors who reattached his thumb, which was almost severed by the gunman, who was armed with a box cutter, a pistol and a Kalashnikov AK-47 assault rifle.

The three Americans, who grew up together near Sacramen-to, California, were touring Europe, partly to celebrate Skarlatos’ return from a recent tour of duty in Afghanistan.

The trio said they had no choice but to react when they saw the gunman cocking his assault rifle. Stone said he choked him while Skarlatos hit him on the head with one of his firearms.

Stone’s and Skarlatos’ military training kicked in while they provided first aid and searched the train to make sure there were no other gunmen, they said.

They said the gunman was apparently untrained in firearms and that he could have used all his firepower to devastating ef-fect if he had known more about weapons.

Skarlatos disputed a state-ment the gunman made, through a lawyer, that he just wanted to rob the train because he was hun-gry.

“It doesn’t take eight maga-zines to rob a train,” Skarlatos said. “The guy had a lot of ammo. His intentions seemed pretty clear.”

More Democrats crack open door for Biden presidential run

WASHINGTON, 24 Aug — More prominent Democrats on Sunday cracked open the door for Vice President Joe Biden to enter the race for the Democratic presidential nomination as front-runner Hillary Clinton battled questions over her use of a private email server.

California Governor Jerry Brown told NBC’s Meet the Press program that, if he were Biden, he would give “very serious consideration” to a presidential run.

Brown said the email saga surrounding Clinton’s private email server as Secretary of State carried a “dark energy” that represents a substantial challenge for her campaign.

“It is almost like a vampire. She is going to have to put a stake...in the heart of these emails,” the California Democrat said.

Asked if Biden should run, Brown said: “You are asking me presidential advice. All I can say is if I were Hillary, I would say don’t jump in. If I were Joe Biden, I would probably give it very serious consideration.”

Speculation grew on Saturday that Biden may soon challenge Clinton for the Democratic nomination as the vice president met with Senator Elizabeth Warren, a power broker among liberal Democrats.

Warren, who has strong support from liberal groups that would be critical to a Democratic platform, has said she will not run for president herself, but she has endorsed Clinton or any other Democratic candidate.

Joseph Alcorn, a senior advisor for Draft Biden 2016, a Super PAC group that is laying groundwork for a potential run, said the vice president was “sounding out potential and potential supporters.”

Meeting with Warren could help give Biden more ideas for making the U.S. economy work better for middle-class Americans, he told Fox News Sunday.

If Biden decides to run, Alcorn said it would be important for him to announce his candidacy in time take part in the first Democratic debates in October.

Democratic presidential candidate Martin O’Malley said he had a “great deal of respect” for Biden.

“It would be nice to have at least one more lifelong Democrat in the race,” the former Maryland governor told ABC’s This Week with George Stephanopoulos.

The comment was partially a refer-ence to independent Senator Bernie Sand-ers, a self-declared socialist from Ver-mont, who is also seeking the Democratic nomination.

Former New Mexico Governor Bill Richardson on Sunday told ABC’s “This Week” program that he would endorse Clinton in her bid to win the November 2016 presidential election, but said Biden would be a formidable candidate if he entered the race.
Islamic State militants blow up temple in ancient city of Palmyra

DAMASCUS, 24 AUG — Islamic State militants on Sunday blew up the temple of Baal Shamin, one of the most important sites in Syria’s ancient city of Palmyra, said Maamoun Abdul Karim, the country’s antiquities chief.

The temple bombing would be the first time the insurgents, who control swathes of Syria and Iraq and captured Palmyra in May, damaged monumental Roman-era ruins.

“We have said repeatedly the next phase would be one of terrorising people and when they have time they will begin destroying temples,” Abdul Karim told Reuters.

“I am seeing Palmyra being destroyed in front of my eyes,” he added. “God help us in the days to come.”

A week ago, the militants beheaded Khaled Asaad, an 82-year-old scholar who worked for more than 50 years as head of antiquities in Palmyra, after detaining and interrogating him for over a month.

Before the city’s capture by Islamic State, Syrian officials said they moved hundreds of ancient statues to safe locations out of concern that the militants would destroy them.

In June, Islamic State blew up two ancient shrines in Palmyra that were not part of its Roman-era structures but which the militants regarded as pagan and sacrilegious.

The militants were also beginning excavation for gold and giving licenses for illicit excavation of the city’s treasures, Abdul Karim added.

Houthi rockets kill 14 civilians in Yemen’s Taiz — residents

SANA, 24 Aug — Rockets fired by Houthi militiamen killed 14 civilians, most of them children, as fighting intensified for control of Yemen’s third largest city, Taiz, residents said on Monday.

The Saudi-led coalition opposing the Houthis also launched air raids on military bases and Houthi positions in the southwestern city during the fighting, residents said, but no casualties were reported.

Fighters loyal to Yemen’s exiled government have been contesting control of Taiz, known as Yemen’s cultural capital, since the Houthis took over the city by April. Hundreds of combatants and civilians have been killed.

“The situation is awful and the fighting is happening on many fronts. All the hospitals have closed except for one, so there’s a shortage of medical care. Two rockets fell on the De luxe neighbourhood, killing 14 people, among them women and children,” Taiz resident Abdul Azeem Mohammed said.

“Taiz is being devastated.”

The nothern-based Houthi

Bahrain says holding former MP on charges of financing militants

DUBAI, 24 Aug — Bahrain has detained a former member of parliament on charges of financing militants, state news agency BNA said late on Sunday, the latest in a series of arrests of opposition figures.

The agency did not name the man but quoted the director of criminal investigations as saying he was being held on Aug. 18 after returning from a trip to collect funds in Iran.

Leading Shi’ite Muslim opposition group Al-Wefaq said in a statement it had not heard from one of its senior members, Sheikh Hassan Issa, since he was detained on Aug. 18, though it did not confirm he was the man mentioned in the report.

Washington has criticised its ally Bahrain over the arrest and trial of several prominent opposition figures, including the head of al-Wefaq, Sheikh Ali Salman, and Ibrahim Sharif, former head of the secular National Democratic Action Society, known as Waad.

The Sunni Muslim-led island kingdom, which hosts the U.S. Fifth Fleet, has experienced sporadic turmoil since mass protests in 2011 led by majority Shi’ites demanding reforms and a bigger role in government.

Bahrain says the opposition has a sectarian agenda and is backed by Shi’ite power Iran, a charge Shi’ite groups deny.

Al-Wefaq leader Sheikh Salman was detained in June four years in jail after he was convicted of inciting unrest.

Sharif, who was freed on June 19 after serving more than four years of a five-year sentence, had been charged with advocating the violent overthrow of the government.

Sharif’s trial is due to start on Monday.—Reuters

Militants attack Tunisian customs officers near Algerian border, one killed-source

TUNIS, 24 Aug — Islamist militant gunmen opened fire on a Tunisian customs team near the Algerian border, killing one customs agent and wounding three more, a security source said on Monday.

The attack on a customs vehicle late on Sunday was in Bouchbka, in central Kasserine province, where Islamist militants belonging to Okba Ibn Na-faa, an al Qaeda-tied group, have often attacked police, army and local officials.—Reuters
Subjective thinking is a risky business

By Myint Win Thein

Subjectivity places too much emphasis on one’s own ideas, opinions and feelings – the facts come a distant second. In the real world, one is sure to make mistakes when the facts are neglected. This is especially true for politicians.

Think of it like this – scientists measure water vapour levels to predict rains. This is the objective and accurate way to go about it. Being influenced by personal feelings and opinions would only lead to incorrect assessments. It would be like predicting rain solely because one is tired of the heat.

But sometimes even the most seasoned of politicians and other types of public figures are given to making decisions for solely subjective reasons. This will have an unfortunate effect on a party’s policies.

Eventually, such policies will fail and the party in question will have no choice but to adopt the policies that the general public has long been demanding. A party leader would do well to take heed of the peoples’ concerns and interests rather than giving too much weight to their own personal feelings. May all those in positions of leadership think objectively.

Write for us

We appreciate your feedback and contributions. If you have any comments or would like to submit editorial, 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.
Local News

**Township officials honour ‘best mother’**

HINTHADA, 24 Aug — Hinthada District General Hospital recently presented a “best mother” award as part of its nutrition development week activities.

Medical Superintendent Dr Toe Toe and Dr Phyo Wai Hlaing spoke about breastfeeding and criteria for the award.

The medical superintendent gave the first prize in breastfeeding to Daw Hsu Mon Htwe of Pabedan Ward while Chairperson of Hinthada Township Maternal and Child Welfare Association Daw Yin Yin Myat presented the second prize to Daw Thwe Thwe Oo of Takalay Ward. — Kyaw Kyaw (Hinthada)

**Volunteers give relief supplies, Buddha images to Pwintbyu Township**

MEIKILA, 24 Aug — Volunteers and well-wishers led by the Meikila Township Vehicle Supervisory Committee donated relief supplies and Buddha images to local residents from south and north Petaung villages and Padongyi village in Pwintbyu Township on 23 August.

“We collected more than K11.9 million in cash donations from well-wishers in Meikila,” Chairman of the supervisory committee U Khin Maung Myint said.

“We have distributed relief supplies to more than 550 households from three villages and 250 Buddha images to the flood victims donated by Shwe Natketaung Sayadaw from Natmauk Township to the flood-hit areas in Pwintbyu Township. “New Myanmar and Doh Shan Nyinaung transport services also donated cash assistance to the flood victims.”

Chun Tha (Meikila)

**UNDP helps farmers back on feet after Chin landslides**

HAKA, 24 Aug — The United Nations Development Programme is working with communities in Chin State affected by landslides to help them return to a normal life.

In the short-term, women and men from 500 households in Haka will be paid to clear debris from paddy fields, renovate fish ponds, farm drains, village footpaths and roads linking villages.

The UNDP will also provide small farm animals and feed, as well as farming tools, to help affected farmers get back on their feet.

The UNDP is also supporting affected communities in Rakhine State through a similar initiative.

UNDP

**Irrigation Dept plans to improve Myanaung embankment**

MYANAUNG, 24 Aug — The Myanaung embankment can withstand rising waters, Staff Officer U Myo Zaw Zaw of Township Irrigation Department told media on 23 August.

After the Ayeyawady River rose to its danger point at the sluice gate near Ngabatchaung village in Myanaung Township from 24 July to 6 August, local residents and officials of the Irrigation Department participated in maintenance of the embankment.

“In accord with the guidance of the president on his inspection tour of Ayeyawady Region, Township Irrigation Department plans to improve the embankment,” a staff officer said.

During the flash flooding period in August, local residents from Shwe Kyin village-tract moved to Htoo village-tract. Officials opened relief camps at monasteries in Htoo village to accommodate the flood victims. Residents returned home on 7 August.

The Myanaung embankment is roughly 49 miles long, running from Taikkyi village in Kyangin Township to Lutawsu village in Ingapu Township.

Nay Win Zaw (Myanaung)
Iran says an OPEC emergency meeting may stop oil price slide

DUBAI, 24 Aug — Iran’s Oil Minister, Bijan Zanganeh, said on Sunday that holding an emergency OPEC meeting may be “effective” in stabilising the oil price. Iran’s oil ministry news agency Shana reported.

Algeria said earlier this month that the Organisation of Petroleum Exporting Countries could hold an emergency meeting to discuss the drop in oil prices but other OPEC delegates said no meeting was planned.

“Iran endorses an emergency OPEC meeting and would not disagree with it,” Zanganeh told reporters in Tehran, according to Shana.

U.S. oil prices CLc1 fell below $40 a barrel on Friday for the first time since the 2009 financial crisis, pressured by signs of oversupply in the United States and weak Chinese manufacturing data.

OPEC is not due to meet until Dec. 4. While OPEC rules say a simple majority of the 12 OPEC members is needed to call an emergency meeting before then, some OPEC delegates say a meeting is unlikely unless Saudi Arabia is in favour.

Saudi Arabia, the world’s top oil exporter, and other Gulf states that have traditionally pushed OPEC’s strategy shift last year to defend market share rather than cut output to support prices.

Relatively wealthy, they are better able to cope with low oil prices than Iran, Venezuela or African members. OPEC delegates see little chance of the exporting group diverting from its policy of defending market share, although the latest drop in prices is starting to sour the business mood even in Saudi Arabia.—Reuters

Oil sinks 4 percent, hits 6-1/2 year low on China concerns

LONDON, 24 Aug — Oil prices fell 4 percent to fresh 6-1/2 year lows on Monday, after Chinese stock markets suffered their biggest one-day drop since the global financial crisis, intensifying worries over the outlook for global oil demand.

Growing concerns of a China-led global economic slowdown sparked sharp declines in global equities and commodities, with around 400 billion euros wiped off Europe’s FTSEurofirst 300 TFEUS stocks index.

“To-day’s falls are not about oil market fundamentals. It’s all about China,” Carsten Fritsch, senior oil analyst at Commerzbank in Frankfurt, told the Reuters Global Oil Forum. “The fear is of a hard landing and that things got out of control of the Chinese authorities.”

Brent oil LCOc1 was trading down $1.95, or more than 4 percent, at $45.51 a barrel at 1200 GMT, after touching an intraday low of $43.28, its weakest since March 2009.

U.S. light crude CLc1 was down $1.83, or 4.5 percent, at $38.62 a barrel, after falling as low as $38.59. Steep losses last week led to the contract’s longest weekly losing streak since 1986.

U.S. crude is now more than 17 percent below its opening price at the start of the month and Brent is down more than 16 percent.

Multi-year lows in oil prices have so far failed to trigger any action from the world’s biggest producers to rein in output, though Iran Oil Minister Bijan Zanganeh said on Sunday that holding an emergency OPEC meeting could be effective in stabilising prices. Iran’s oil ministry news agency Shana reported.

There was a similar call by Algeria earlier this month, but other OPEC delegates said no meeting was planned.

Zanganeh also said Iran would defend its oil market share by ramping up production at any cost and would not have another alternative, Zanganeh said.

“If Iran’s oil production hike is not done promptly, we will be losing our market share permanently.”

In a sign that relations between Iran and Western powers are improving, Britain reopened its Tehran embassy on Sunday.

Several oil and gas companies, including representative from Shell, travelled to Iran with foreign minister Philip Hammond.

“Effective” in stabilising the oil price, Bijan Zanganeh, said on Sunday that holding an emergency OPEC meeting would not disagree with it,” Zanganeh told reporters in Tehran, according to an interview with the Associated Press.

Meeting may stop oil price slide

Meeting was planned.

Other OPEC delegates said no meeting was planned.

The biggest issue we resolved today was agreement on modalities in goods, meaning the level of tariff reduction,” Malaysian Trade and Industry Minister Mustapa Mohamed said in a press conference at the end of the ministerial meeting, adding “I consider this to be a major achievement.”

The ministers agreed that upon being put into force, no duty will be imposed on 65 percent of tariff lines, and in 10 years it will be 80 percent.

“Details will be worked out in the next few weeks,” Mohamed said. “Our position now is for RCEP to be substantively completed by the end of this year. There will be some technical issues which need to be resolved in 2016. We have to be realistic. Although the original plan was to complete everything perhaps by 2015, now we know that some issues might have to be carried forward. But those are minor issues.”

He said part of the problems faced in negotiations was that some countries involved do not have bilateral free trade agreements like Japan and China or China and India. A meeting of the trade negotiating committee is scheduled for Oct. 12 to 16 in Busan, South Korea. “We hope that by the time Busan comes in October, countries can exchange requests and offers.”

Indian stock markets experience biggest drop in 6 years

Mumbai, 24 Aug — India’s stock markets posted their biggest daily falls since January 2009 on Monday as steep falls in Chinese equities sparked widespread unrest in global markets.

The BSE Sensex (Bombay Stock Exchange) Senses closed at 25,741.56, down 1624.51 points, or 5.94 percent on the day, while the CNX Nifty Index lost 5.92 percent, or 490.95 points, ending at 7,809.00.

The Indian rupee also witnessed a 1.33 percent drop against the U.S. dollar, the steepest since Sep. 3, 2013. Finance Minister Arun Jaitley and Reserve Bank of India Governor Raghuram Rajan said there was no need to panic, and that the government is monitoring the situation.—Kyodo News

Asia Pacific nations aim to eliminate 80% of import duties in 10 yrs

KUALA LUMPUR, 24 Aug — Trade ministers from 16 Asia Pacific countries agreed Monday to eliminate tariffs on 80 percent of their imports within a decade, in a major breakthrough in talks for a massive regional free trade deal.

The 10-member Association of Southeast Asian Nations and China, Japan, South Korea, Australia, New Zealand and India, which have been negotiating for a regional trade pact known as the Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership or RCEP since May 1993, have been bogged down by the issue of modality in goods until now.

“Regional free trade will play a major role in promoting regional development and growth,” Zanganeh said in a press conference at the end of the ministerial meeting, adding “I consider this to be a major achievement.”

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Efforts under RCEP have paralleled with more high-profile free trade talks on the Trans-Pacific Partnership led by the United States. TPP is seen as crucial for the United States to counter China’s growing influence in the Asia-Pacific region, while RCEP is one of the key platforms for China to strengthen its trade ties with other nations.

ASEAN groups Brunei, Cambodia, Indonesia, Laos, Malaysia, Myanmar, the Philippines, Singapore, Thailand and Vietnam.

New Zealand study shows breakthrough in deer velvet health research

Wellington, 24 Aug — New Zealand scientists say they are close to verifying home-boosting properties of deer velvet that have been recognized for centuries in traditional Asian medicine.

If their research was successful, it would allow velvet extracts to be sold with a precise measure of the active ingredients they contained, and potentially send the export market soaring, according to Deer Industry New Zealand (DINZ) experts.

AgResearch institute scientist Dr Stephen Haines said their research, which began in the 1990s, had shown that velvet extracts boosted immune function both in cell-lines and in animals.

“But we didn’t know what was doing it. Velvet is a very complex mixture of thousands of components, making it very difficult to isolate and identify the ones that are biologically active,” Haines said in a statement Monday.

However, recent improvements in mass spectrometry and high-speed data processing had made it possible for researchers to sort through the thousands of peptides, proteins and related compounds in velvet to find the ones with bioactive properties.

The research was being carried out with support from the Korean Ginseng Corporation (KGC), a South Korean company that has become the largest buyer of New Zealand deer antler velvet.

Four different velvet extracts provided by KGC, which are known in in-vitro studies to boost immune function to varying degrees, with the most active extract consistently stimulating high levels of activity in the natural killer cells that fight infection before the immune system starts producing antibodies.

“We are now testing them on two different types of human cell to assess their immune activity. If we identify the active ingredients, that would support the development of a standardized product for immune function,” Haines said.

“This would be an important step in getting velvet products registered as healthy functional foods in China or Korea (Korean Peninsula) — something that would add considerable value to New Zealand velvet. The sky could be the limit.”

The DINZ group said the research would be an important step in getting regulators to register velvet products as healthy functional foods.

“Velvet’s reputation as a health tonic goes back more than 300 years and it is still widely used in Korean Peninsula and China in mixtures with ginseng and herbs in tonics and traditional medicines,” DINZ chief executive Dan Coup said in the statement.

The logo of the Organization of the Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC) is pictured at its headquarters in Vienna, Austria, August 21, 2015.—Reuters
Hugo Award to open new chapter for Chinese sci-fi

BEIJING, 24 Aug — Chinese writer Liu Cixin has become the first Asian author to win the Hugo Award for Best Novel, receiving the 2015 honor for his book, The Three-Body Problem.

The prize was announced by astronaut Kjell Lindgren in a live feed from the International Space Station on Sunday. “I’m of course very happy to win this award,” said Ke Shuai, adding that it was a “milestone” and a “symbol of the ultimate unsolved puzzle that any molecular biologist wants to crack,” said Shi. Yet the scientist did not manage to start the research until just six years ago. Shi opened his own laboratory at Tsinghua University in 2007 and spent the first two years training students and building up the confidence of his staff members. By 2009, the lab already had some research results published internationally. "So I decided it was the time to accomplish my dream," he said.

Compared with his competitors in the international science community seven world-class labs, including in the US, the UK, and Germany Shi was lucky to be the one who made the breakthrough. "I can’t explain why we were the first to find the structure of spliceosome," he said. “One possible factor is that my students, that young and outstanding, bravely changed some internationally used arithmetic, while another could be that we’ve been doing the research with cryoelectron microscopy and the right equipment capable of observing such complex structures." —Xinhua

Tsinghua biologists solve genetic puzzle

BEIJING, 24 Aug — A team of molecular biologists at Tsinghua University reported a milestone breakthrough in molecular biology and gene expression on Sunday.

"As DNA is no longer a mystery, many scientists have shifted their interest to understanding the disease process. In this process the information stored in DNA is delivered to produce proteins with different functions, such as forming a person’s skin, organs and hair."

On Sunday, scientists Shi Yigong and his team at Tsinghua University’s School of Life Sciences, reported the structure of a substance called spliceosome, which is crucial in gene expression. Results of the team’s analysis on its functioning mechanism were published in Science, the academic magazine.

"The structure of the spliceosome represents a much greater challenge than the structure of the ribosome, for which three individuals in the past were awarded the Nobel Prize." Phillip Sharp, a 1993 Nobel Prize winner for physiology or medicine, said in an e-mail to Shi, who the university released to China Daily.

"I can’t explain why we were the first to find the structure of spliceosome," he said. “One possible factor is that my students, that young and outstanding, bravely changed some internationally used arithmetic, while another could be that we’ve been doing the research with cryoelectron microscopy and the right equipment capable of observing such complex structures.” —Xinhua

Apple discovers blurry problem with iPhone 6 Plus cameras

BEIJING, 24 Aug — Smartphone maker Apple has discovered a problem with the main camera in some iPhone 6 Plus cameras, according to media report on Monday.

Apple acknowledged that few iPhone 6 Plus units were affected, where the cameras, dubbed “iSight”, had a component that may fail, causing photos to look blurry. The company considers the problem a “software issue” and has released an update for users to fix the problem.

"It’s a milestone achievement in Chinese life sciences, and it will encourage the next generation to enter the field and target the most challenging and high-profile projects with the knowledge that Shi’s laboratory took on an impossible challenge and succeeded on a world stage," said Yao Haijun, deputy editor-in-chief of Science Fiction World, which serializes the Three-Body Problem.

The 52-year-old, who was appointed by IT giant Tencent as its mobile games imagination architect, Amazon, the e-commerce site, has included the Three-Body Problem in its list of “best books of 2015”, which is based on reviews.

Liu wrote the book as a part of his trilogy, which is about human responses to alien invasions. The books were originally serialized in a Chinese magazine between 2006 and 2010. The author, winner of the Chinese Science Fiction Galaxy Award in 2006 and 2010, has sold more than a million copies of his trilogy in China.

A movie adaptation of The Three-Body Problem, which was also nominated for the 2014 Nebula Award for Best Novel, is now in production and expected to hit screens in July next year.

The English edition of the first novel was published last year, and the second book, Dark Forest, released this month. The final installment, Death’s End, is still being translated.

"I can’t explain why we were the first to find the structure of spliceosome," he said. “One possible factor is that my students, that young and outstanding, bravely changed some internationally used arithmetic, while another could be that we’ve been doing the research with cryoelectron microscopy and the right equipment capable of observing such complex structures.” —Xinhua
Australian man called hero after saving friend from shark

SYDNEY, 24 Aug — An Australian man was being hailed a hero on Monday after he raced to his friend who had been mauled by a shark on Saturday at a beach in Australian state of New South Wales (NSW).

Dale Carr, 38-year-old father of two, was badly injured and his friend paddled over to him and dragged him ashore and up onto the beach where he applied a tourniquet made by a ripped t-shirt.

Paramedics then rushed him to hospital at Port Macquarie.

A local lifeguard has described the terrifying moment as similar to Mick Fanning, who was rescued by his friend Julian Wilson following a shark attack in July.

It was the 12th shark attack in NSW this year, the most in history. —Xinhua

Powerful typhoon Goni approaches Japan’s southern islands

TOKYO, 24 Aug — Powerful typhoon Goni is expected to near Japan’s southern islands on Monday afternoon and bring strong winds and torrential rain after having ravaged the northern Philippines where dozens of people were killed.

After approaching the main island of Okinawa and Amami-Oshima Island, the typhoon is expected to maintain its strength as it heads towards Kyushu on Tuesday, the Japan Meteorological Agency said, warning of high waves, flooding and landslides.

Winds of up to 180 kilometers per hour are projected in northern Kyushu from Monday to Tuesday, while Okinawa and southern Kyushu are expected to have winds of up to 162 kph, it said.

The agency forecasts high waves of up to 12 meters in Okinawa and Amami islands and 9 to 11 meters in Kyushu.

The typhoon was also expected to bring heavy rainfall of more than 50 millimeters per hour in western Japan from late Monday, with southern Kyushu forecast to see 180 mm of rain in 24 hours through 6 a.m. Tuesday, it said.

All Nippon Airways cancelled 81 flights, mostly those to and from Okinawa’s Naha, and Japan Airlines 30 flights.

As of 11 a.m., the typhoon was located 60 kilometers north-northwest of Okinawa’s Kume Island and moving northeast at 30 kph, packing winds of up to 252 kph with an atmospheric pressure of 940 hectopascals near its center.

Typhoon Goni dumped heavy rain and triggered landslides in the northern Philippines before approaching Taiwan and Japan, leaving dozens dead and several missing. Another strong typhoon, Astani, was moving northeastward in the Pacific east of Japan. —Kyodo

Death toll in UK airshow could approach 20

LONDON, 24 Aug — The number of people killed when a jet aircraft crashed onto a busy road near an airshow in southern England on Saturday could climb to nearly 20, British police said on Monday.

“It’s too early to tell but I’d be surprised if (the death toll) doesn’t go above 11,” Assistant Chief Constable of Sussex Police, Steve Barry, was quoted as saying by the BBC.

“If it would be below 20 then that would be probably the best estimate that I could give you at this stage,” Barry said on Saturday that seven people died in the crash and then raised the likely death toll to 11 on Sunday. —Reuters

Thai deputy premier vows to restore grassroots economy

BANGKOK, 24 Aug — Newly-appointed deputy premier Somkid Jatusripitak on Monday pledged to bolster Thailand’s grassroots economy, especially in the agricultural sector.

The former finance minister admitted that the country had been hit by stagflation which, he said, had resulted from world economic recessions and sustained decline in export industry.

However, Somkid assured that he will see to it that grassroots economy nationwide will be strengthened and farmers will have more income and purchasing power. “We will apply short-term measures to strengthen the rural economy ... We believe the situation will gradually improve,” he added.

Thai farmers’ purchasing power has declined and their costs of living have increased since their farm goods had secured lowered prices; “We will see to it that the rural economy will be stimulated and strengthened,” said the deputy premier.

He did not elaborate about the planned short-term measures for the grassroots economy, but said farmers in particular will get “better off” to the extent that they have more money to spend in the face of the current stagflation.

Meanwhile, he said the government has yet to find ways and means to restore investors’ confidence in the country which, he said, had apparently plummeted over the last several months.

“The government will fix problems about the reduced confidence on the part of the investors and see to it that they will again have confidence in the country’s economic potentials,” he said. —Xinhua

Israeli biogas digesters energise isolated Palestinian village

HAIFA, Israel, 24 Aug — Palestinian villagers living in desolate, off-grid areas in the West Bank have begun using Israeli-made biogas generators that supply free, clean energy to 200 families.

The portable, household “anaerobic digesters” made by Israel start-up company HomeBioGas turn food leftovers and manure into methane for cooking and lighting.

“They can be taken along if people living in ramshackle huts or tent dwellers, such as local Bedouin, decide to relocate or move home,” said Palestinian engineer Amer Rabayah, who coordinates installation of the devices.

Rural West Bank areas that Palestinians want as part of a future state with the Gaza Strip and East Jerusalem have been left under-developed, while Israel, which captured the territory in a 1967 Middle East war, has invested in adjacent settlements.

Palestinians — largely left to fend for themselves — have relied on donations from foreign states and international aid agencies. “(In) this area ... there is no water or electricity. We have no services,” said local resident and digester owner Nayef Zayed.

Around 40 digesters have been set up in a pilot project at the Palestinian village of al-Awja in the central West Bank’s Jordan Valley. The European Union has funded the project to the tune of some 500,000 euros ($559,750), and the Peres Center for Peace, set up by former Israeli president Shimon Peres, facilitated Israeli-Palestinian cooperation.

A group of Israeli and Palestinian volunteers helped assemble the digesters, which take about three hours to install.

Some digesters have also been provided to Bedouin in Israels’s Negev, with the company aiming to expand its production capacity and enlist governments and aid agencies to buy digesters for impoverished communities, but plans are still in their infancy, Efrati said.

“This system will be available to everyone that needs it in the developing world. It will eliminate waste, it makes clean gas, and there is no need to breathe in any smoke,” he said.

A fermentation process to produce the gas is precipitated when bacteria is added in powdered or liquid form to a mix of water and waste. The bacteria then multiply to create a self-perpetuating process.

Rich liquid fertiliser, a by-product of the process, can also be used to boost crop growth for a population that largely relies on agriculture for income, Efrati explained.

HomeBioGas declined to discuss a retail price for the digester, whose materials and construction costs amount to a few hundred dollars. It is best suited for use in warm climates.

The company also sees affluent, environmentally aware Western consumers as future clients for its product, which will be sold to them for profit, marketing director Ami Amir said. —Reuters
Six killed in truck-train collision in southern India

20th August 2015 — Union Minister for Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement, H.E. Dr. Daw Myat Myat Ohn Khin receiving Cathay United Bank’s donation for flood victims of USD $30,000 presented by Chief Representative, Mr. Pan Chung En in Donation Ceremony organized by Central Bank of Myanmar in Nay Pyi Taw.
Bon Jovi splits from record label after 32 years

LOS ANGELES, 24 Aug — Veteran rockers Bon Jovi have parted ways with Mercury Records after 32 years on the books. Frontman Jon Bon Jovi, 53, declared it is the “end of an era” and hinted the split was a bitter one, urging fans to listen to the lyrics of “Burning Bridges”, the title track of the band’s last album, if they want to know the full story, reported Billboard magazine. “It is the end of an era. (The album fulfills) a commitment to Mercury Records. After 32 years, we have parted ways. That is the big news. If you listen to Burning Bridges, the song, it is clearly spelled out... This hurts it right in the head and tells you what happened. Listen to the lyrics because it explains exactly what happened. And that’s it,” he said.

Bon Jovi hinted the split was a bitter one, urging fans to listen to the lyrics of “Burning Bridges”, the title track of the band’s last album.—PTI

One Direction to go on extended hiatus in 2016?

The four members Of One Direction are reportedly set to take an extended hiatus next year in order to focus on their own solo projects.—PTI

Comedian Tracy Morgan weds 14 months after surviving car wreck

LOS ANGELES, 24 Aug — Tracy Morgan, a star of comedy series “30 Rock” and cast member of “Saturday Night Live”, married his long-time fiancee on Sunday, 14 months after surviving life-threatening injuries in a deadly car wreck, People magazine reported on its web site.

Morgan, 46, sustained a brain injury and broken bones when a Walmart tractor-trailer hit his limousine on the New Jersey Turnpike as he returned from a gig in Atlantic City in June last year. The comedian’s wedding to Megan Wollover on Sunday night was attended by close friends and family, the couple’s 2-year-old daughter, Maven. “After almost losing Tracy last year, I am so grateful to finally be married to the love of my life,” Wollover told People. “We have been through so much and our love is stronger for it,” Wollover was quoted as saying. The magazine reported that Morgan’s representatives also confirmed the marriage. Morgan has not performed since the crash, in which a close friend died, but will host an episode of sketch show “Saturday Night Live” on Oct. 17, NBC said earlier this month. He was once a regular cast member of the long-running show.—Retuers

Amanda Seyfried gets family pressure to have kids

LONDON, 24 Aug — Actress Amanda Seyfried feels the “pressure” to have children “every day”. The “Les Miserables” actress — who is dating Justin Long — said she does not want to start a family now, reported Contactmusic.

“Society keeps reminding us that our eggs are dying off, which I’m sick of. I’m like, ‘I get it!’ Technology these days mean, I mean you can have babies until you’re 50 apparently. But I feel the pressure every day,” she said. The 29-year-old actress thinks parenthood would be a “wonderful adventure” but she isn’t ready to start a family of her own just yet. “Right now, I’m being careful. But it does seem like a wonderful adventure. My three best friends have kids and it looks like they’ve figured out the secret of life because of it. They are very happy.”

Rishi Kapoor a living legend, says Katrina Kaif

Mumbai, 24 Aug — Bollywood actress Katrina Kaif heaped praise on Rishi Kapoor, father of boyfriend Ranbir Kapoor, and called the veteran actor a living legend. “I have worked with Rishiji (Rishi Kapoor) in ‘Namastey London’ and he was super kind to me. I think he is a wonderful, fascinating, eccentric, person. He is a living legend and I feel happy when I see him,” Katrina told PTI.

The couple started dating each other during the shooting of “Ajab Prem Ki Ghazab Kahani” in 2009. Photographs of Ranbir and Katrina holidaying in Ibiza went viral in 2013, confirming their relationship.

Though the two starts are often seen together, they have not uttered a word on their relationship.—PTI
Mt. Fuji, green tea, wasabi promoted at Milan expo

Kagawa nets for Dortmund again

Woods’ best outing in years not good enough to snap skid

Murti TV Myanmar International

(25-8-2015 07:00 am ~ 26-8-2015 07:00 am) MST

Today Fresh

7:00 Am News
7:26 Am Insight Myanmar “CSOs & Election”
7:46 Am Pet Fish Biz
8:00 Am News
8:26 Am A Day Tour on A Cart (Bagan Trip)
8:39 Am Natural Mineral Water
8:54 Am Myanmar Traditional Art Bronze Casting
9:00 Am News
9:26 Am Choral Dance by Female Dancers
9:35 Am Reflected Glory
10:00 Am News
10:26 Am MURAL PAINTING BAGAN
10:38 Am A Visit to San-Taw-Shin Kyike-Hti-Yo Pagoda
10:55 Am School for the Blind

Prime Time

(11:00 Am ~ 03:00 Pm) - Monday Repeat (07:00 Am ~ 11:00 Am)
(03:00 Pm ~ 07:00 Pm) - Today Repeat (07:00 Am ~ 11:00 Am)

07:00 Pm News
07:26 Pm A Day out With Sarah (EP-6)
08:00 Pm News
08:26 Pm Taste Of Myanmar (Noodle with Fermented Soya Bean)
08:43 Pm Wholesale Fish
08:48 Pm Chef Life “Thanakrit Chamrongbut”

(9:00 Pm ~ 11:00 Pm) - Today Repeat (09:00 Am ~ 11:00 Am)
(11:00 Pm ~ 03:00 Am) - Monday Repeat (07:00 Am ~ 11:00 Am)
(03:00 Am ~ 07:00 Am) - Today Repeat (09:00 Am ~ 11:00 Am)

(For Detailed Schedule – www.myanmaritv.com/schedule)
Football tournament begins in Mandalay Region

Mandalay, 24 Aug — An under-20s football tournament kicked off at Mandalay Thiri Sports Ground in Mandalay Region’s Pyigyidagu Township on 23 August.

Pyigyidagu Township beat Meiktila Township 2-1 in the debut match of the tournament, which began with demonstrations of various sports such as chinlone, taekwondo and Myanmar martial arts.

Eight townships will be competing for the trophy, including Meiktila, Singaing, Pyawbwe, Pyigyiadagu, NyunagU, Chanmyathazi, Myintgyan and PyinOoLwin. Matches will also be played at Mandalay Thiri and Aungmye Mandalay stadium and the tournament will continue until 2 September.

Two Myanmar chess players to compete in Iran

Yangon, 24 Aug — Two Myanmar chess players will take part in the 6th Asian Senior Chess Championships 2015, which will be hosted and run by Iran from 24 September to 2 October.

Myint Han and Myo Naing will represent Myanmar in the 50-and-above age bracket. Myint Han has secured two international master norms while international master Myo Naing has won two grand master norms in previous championships.

The first prize winner will bag the international master and one grand master norm, while the first prize winner who has won two grand master norms will win the Grandmaster award.

The championships, which will take place in Larestan County, also includes an event for men aged above 65 and for women over 50.

Real held at Gijon, Suarez earns Barca win in Bilbao

Madrid, 24 Aug — Rafa Benitez suffered an embarrassing setback in his first La Liga outing in charge of Real Madrid as they were held to a 0-0 draw at promoted Sporting Gijon in their opening match of the season on Sunday.

Real’s expensively assembled squad, including FIFA Ballon d’Or winner Cristiano Ronaldo and Gareth Bale, the world’s most expensive player, could not find a way past Gijon’s determined defence at the Montilivi stadium and the Spanish champions will begin their La Liga campaign without a win.

They will have tests on Monday and coach Luis Enrique said neither injury appeared to be serious.

“We know that these kinds of matches give us strength in our effort to win La Liga,” Suarez told Spanish television.

“They also knew that they would be a very difficult, very tough opponent,” added the Uruguay striker.

Felix purrs in 400; long jump challengers falter

BEIJING, 24 Aug — Highly-decorated American Allyson Felix kicked-off her bid for a first world athletics championships gold by sailing through the opening heats with sumptuous ease on Monday.

The four-times Olympic and eight-times world champion, who has enjoyed most of her success in shorter sprints, coasted across the line in 50.60 seconds on the third morning of action at the iconic Bird’s Nest stadium.

“It felt good. Good to get the first one under. Just keep moving on,” Felix told reporters.

“I just wanted to be able to control it (the race) early and try to get through as comfortable as possible.”

With reigning Olympic champion Sanya Richards-Ross not taking part in China after failing to make it through the U.S. trials, Felix faces competition from 2008 Beijing Games winner Christine Ohuruogu (51.01) of Britain and Bahrainian teenager Shaahane Miller (50.53), who both won their opening heats comfortably.

“The crowd interest, though, concentrated on the long jump qualifiers where Wang Jianan (8.12 metres), Gao Xinglong (8.11) and Li Jinzh african Marquis Dundy, who could only muster a best of 7.76 metre effort after his final jump of well over eight metres off after a narrow foul he initially disputed.

African Zark Visser, who produced an 8.41m effort last month, also failed to make it through after the African champion could only register a 7.79m on Monday.

There were no such problems for Pan American Games champion Jeff Henderson of the United States, who nailed a solid 8.36m opening effort to lead the way ahead of the final on Tuesday evening.

“It did on my first try, it’s great,” he said.

Olympic champion Greg Rutherford also made it a comfortable morning, the British registering an 8.25m jump to finish just behind the American.

“The qualification showed we are on the right way,” he said. “I think we will need to show a big performance over 8.50 to fight for the gold. Jeff Henderson will attack it for sure.”

Elsewhere, Olympic champions have safely negotiated the qualifiers of the women’s pole vault by clearing 4.55 metres at their second attempt, while Cuba’s Dayna Caballero (65.15 metres) pipped Olympic champion Sandra Perkovic (64.51) in the discussion qualifiers. —Reuters