STATE Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi was welcomed by Chinese Premier Mr Li Keqiang at the Great Hall of the People in Beijing yesterday.

During the welcoming ceremony, the state counsellor and the Chinese premier reviewed the honour guards before the bilateral meeting.

At the meeting, their discussions focused on the five principles of peaceful coexistence, enhancement of bilateral relations and closer cooperation in transportation. China offered 1 billion yuan in assistance to the development of health, education, agriculture and border areas. It also promised technical assistance in response to disasters like flooding, expressing its enthusiasm for cultural cooperation.

Premier Li Keqiang reaffirmed China’s support for the country’s peace process, calling for commemoration of the 25th anniversary of ASEAN-China relations, the establishment of the ASEAN-China Economic Community and further enhancement of the Lancang-Mekong cooperation. The state counsellor and the Chinese premier also discussed the setup of an investigative committee to look for an appropriate resolution to the Myitsone dam project. They also talked of exchange of visits among political parties and the peoples of the two countries.

After the discussions, the two countries agreed to a deal on further promotion of bilateral economic and technical cooperation. The deal was signed by Finance Union Minister U Kyaw Win and Chinese Commerce Minister Mr Gao Hucheng. China pledged its assistance to the construction of a bridge in Kunlong in the northeastern part of the country.

State Counsellor invited Premier Li Keqiang to visit Myanmar and he accepted the invitation.

The Permanent Secretary of the Ministry of Construction U Kyaw Lin signed a memorandum of understanding with Mr Gao Hucheng to launch a feasibility study for construction.

After the signing ceremony, China’s Premier Mr Li Keqiang hosted a dinner in honour of Daw Aung San Suu Kyi and her entourage.

In the morning, Chinese Foreign Minister Mr Wang Yi hosted a breakfast in honour of the state counsellor at the Diaoyutai State Guesthouse in Beijing.

After the breakfast, the state counsellor went to the Embassy of Myanmar in Beijing, where she met embassy staff and their families and attended a luncheon hosted by Myanmar Ambassador to China U Thit Lin Ohn.—Myanmar News Agency
THE Amyotha Hluttaw session continued for the 17th day with Union Minister for Health and Sports Dr Myint Hnaw responding to questions on the opening and upgrading of health facilities in regions and states yesterday.

The Union minister pledged to build a 16-bedded hospital in Hopong Township, Mongpyin region next fiscal year. Regarding a proposal to upgrade a hospital in Yedashe Township of Bago Region into a 50-bedded facility, the Union minister replied that the 25-bedded hospital in an easy accessible town will be upgraded in the future based on the number of patients treated. Despite rising hospital admissions between 2011 and 2015, it would be difficult to increase the number of health staff there if the hospital were upgraded, added the Union minister.

Likewise, the Union minister responded to a question regarding the 50-bedded Paletwa Township hospital and a 16-bedded Hsamae station hospital, saying that there are no immediate plans to upgrade those hospitals into 100-bedded and 50-bedded health facilities respectively.

He vowed, however, to provide manpower and medical equipment to Paletwa Township hospital as soon as possible.

Answering a call to upgrade a 100-bedded hospital in Myingyan District into a 200-bedded facility and appointment more doctors and health staff, the Union minister replied that there is no plan to upgrade the hospital as it did not meet the basic principles of the upgrading process.

The Union minister stated that an anesthetist will soon be appointed at the hospital where a dental doctor has been on staff since 2013 and that there will be more fresh doctors and nurses appointed there in the future.

— Myanmar News Agency

Pyithu Hluttaw hears answers to parliamentary questions, discusses proposal

The Ministry of Health and Sports has accelerated its programme to prevent and control the spread of tuberculosis.

As part of the project, the healthcare providers in Sagain Region on Tuesday visited Monywa Prison, which is under the auspices of the Myanmar Correctional Department, to find out the TB infection rate among prisoners, with the aim of protecting those not infected from the communicable disease.

“A decline in poverty rate may reduce the outbreak of the disease,” a medical specialist for TB said.

— Min Wai (Monywa)

Awareness of reproductive health raised in Sittwe

The HEALTH and Sports Ministry will conduct several health training sessions to promote knowledge about reproductive health issues among a rural community in Paletwa Township.

The records of landmine fatalities reportedly reveal the victims died as a result of the initial explosion as well as passing away from injuries sustained by pieces of shrapnel.

According to its plan, tuberculosis screenings and necessary medical examinations have been carried out in the prison between 16 and 19 August,” said Dr Nyein Nyin Aye of Sagaing Region TB Control Department. “The health staff also conducted a public awareness campaign during the second week of August, sharing knowledge about tuberculosis and associated health-seeking behaviours to the prisoners”. According to the WHO report, there are about 500,000 people with MDR-TB around the world. In Myanmar, MDR-TB is one of the 27 high MDR TB burdened countries worldwide. “TB cases are reported mostly in peri-urban areas. The outbreaks of the cases are linked to the living standards. A decline in poverty rate may reduce the outbreak of the disease,” a medical specialist for TB said.

— Min Wai (Monywa)

Over 100 landmine fatalities since January 2015

A TOTAL of 101 people throughout Myanmar have lost their lives since the start of 2015 from landmine related injuries, according to the Ministry of Health.

The vast majority of landmine fatalities are located in Kachin State, totaling 74, while others died from landmine related injuries in Shan and Chin States number 14 and 11 respectively. Kayah and Rakhine States also each saw a death in January and February.

“Landmine victims are given emergency treatment when they arrive at hospital. Injuries are sustained to the face and chest, while many injuries also sustained to the victims legs. Most of the time leg amputation is the better option. Some must have the leg amputated below the knee, while for others it’s above the knee. Efforts are being made to improve the knowledge of emergency surgery; training courses in emergency surgery have been opened in hospitals,” explained Dr Myint Han, director general of the Ministry of Health’s Department of Treatment.

The list of landmine fatalities is one compiled by the Ministry of Health from records sent by hospital across the country.

“Internal displaced villagers daren’t return home, despite that fact that fighting has subsided, because of the presence of landmines planted within their villages. This is compounded by the absence of mine clearing professionals,” said U Aung Myat, a staff of an IDP Camp in northern Shan State’s Mara Township.

The records of landmine fatalities reportedly reveal the victims died as a result of the initial explosion as well as passing away from injuries sustained by pieces of shrapnel.

—Myintakhai News Agency

Tuberculosis screening being conducted at Monywa Prison

“They who have not been vaccinated against tuberculosis have a tendency to become infected. Those who have had the vaccine have a better chance of being resistant to the disease,” said Dr Tun Myint Hla, a medical officer of Monywa Prison.

“According to its plan, tuberculosis screenings and necessary medical examinations have been carried out in the prison between 16 and 19 August,” said Dr Nyein Nyin Aye of Sagaing Region TB Control Department. “The health staff also conducted a public awareness campaign during the second week of August, sharing knowledge about tuberculosis and associated health-seeking behaviours to the prisoners.” According to the WHO report, there are about 500,000 people with MDR-TB around the world. In Myanmar, MDR-TB is one of the 27 high MDR TB burdened countries worldwide. “TB cases are reported mostly in peri-urban areas. The outbreaks of the cases are linked to the living standards. A decline in poverty rate may reduce the outbreak of the disease,” a medical specialist for TB said.

—Min Wai (Monywa)
Food, medical supplies airlifted to Naga SAZ

A SECOND airlift of food and medical supplies has reached virus-affected Lahal township in the Naga Self Administrative Zone, officials at Mingaladon Air Base said yesterday.

As the region is difficult to access, military aircraft have been relied on to deliver relief supplies.

Villagers in the township were diagnosed with measles in July and August and as a result children are in need of vitamin-enriched rice and other nutritious food. The second batch of food supplies included 104 bags of vitamin-enriched rice, edible oil, beans and pulses, canned fish, mosquito nets, and some dried foods.

A military aircraft will drop the food supplies in Homelin, from which point military helicopters will distribute the goods to needy villages.—Myanmar News Agency

Fifth Media Development Conference set for November in Yangon

FOR the fifth time, a media development conference will take place in Yangon in November, according to a Media Development Thematic Working Group (MDTWG) that met in Yangon yesterday.

The outcomes of the MDTWG meeting will be brought to the 5th media conference which is expected to be held on 7 or 8 November, said Mr. Sandar Umar Alam, Head of the UNESCO Yangon Office, adding that the conference involving the parliament, Ministry of Information and local and ethnic media is set to hold discussions on a wide range of matters including security and safety of media professionals and development of community-based media.

During the MDTWG meeting, those present discussed legal matters, the Information Ministry’s plan to launch an English version e-newspaper, access to authentic information, measures to facilitate communication channels between the government’s spokespeople and the media and preparatory works for the November conference.

Dr Ma Thida, chair of Pen Myanmar, expressed her view that the meeting paved the way for further discussions to produce better results.

Deputy Director-General Dr Daw Thida Tin of the Information and Public Relations Department elaborated on the Information Ministry’s efforts for media development, saying that the ministry will cooperate with DW, the German broadcaster, to enable viewers to visit the MRTV website via iPhone, sign an agreement on the establishment of libraries with Myanmar Book Aid and organize a Book Fair near the IPRD Office.

An online newspaper in English will be launched, added the deputy director-general.

The MDTWG meeting brought together responsible persons from more than 30 local and foreign media.—Myat Sandi Thin Zaw

Taninthayi Region, Mon State to see isolated heavy rainfall

RAIN with thunder is expected to fall over Nay Pyi Taw, Sagaing Region, Mandalay Region, Magway Region, Shan State and Kayah State State and Kachin State and isolated heavy rain fall is expected over Taninthayi Region and Mon State due to the Tropical Storm Dianmu which will cross the coast of Vietnam within 36 hours, according to the Department of Meteorology and Hydrology Department.

The degree of certainty is a hundred percent, according to the weather bureau’s observation at 6:30 pm.—GNLM

Participants discuss at the Media Development Thematic Working Group (MDTWG) in Yangon. PHOTO: ZARLWIN LATT

State Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi and Chinese Premier Mr Li Keqiang held talks at the Great Hall of the People in Beijing on 18 August, 2016. During the meeting, they also discussed the setup of an investigative committee to look for an appropriate resolution to the Myitsone dam project. PHOTO: MYANMAR NEWS AGENCY
Youth invited to participate in UNICEF’s U-Report programme

“U-REPORT, an innovative social messaging programme, will encourage adolescents and young people to contribute to shaping the present and the future of their environment at historic times for their country,” said Mr Bainvel, UNICEF Representative to Myanmar.

The United Nations Children’s Fund on Thursday officially launched the new programme in Myanmar, which allows adolescents and young people across the country to speak out on issues that matter to them, respond to polls, support child rights, and work as positive agents of change in the country.

Ma Pwint Phyu Thant, a member of the Youth Content Group, said, “As U-Reporters, we speak out on the issues impacting our lives and those around us whether it is climate change, peace and social cohesion, health of children or access to education for all.”

“We improve accountability, we highlight injustice and we protect the most vulnerable, particularly children, by making sure we contribute to polls, debates and by reporting on the tough conditions faced in our communities and those around us,” she added.

Starting in late July, U-Report Myanmar already has more than 1000 U-Reporters, mainly from youth associations. It is expected to reach 100,000 by the end of 2017.

The platform provides decision makers with a forum to listen to many voices across the country, giving them a unique insight into the challenges that affect young people in Myanmar.

The results from the polls are used by UNICEF and partners in their advocacy with governments, incorporated within development debates, and even shared directly with elected leaders as messages for further action.

Myanmar adolescents are often seen but rarely heard, especially girls, adolescents with low education levels, those from rural communities and ethnic groups,” said Bertrand Bainvel.

With this launch, Myanmar adolescents join more than 2 million young ‘U-Reporters’ from 25 countries who are sending or receiving messages every week — shaping their futures and those of their countries.

In Myanmar U-Report currently works on social media through Facebook Messenger - https://www.facebook.com/UReportMyanmar. It will be available soon via SMS on even a basic mobile phone.— GNLM

Crime NEWS

Vehicle collision kills one man

A PASSENGER bus collided head on with a motorcycle on Payagon road, Thanlyin township on Wednesday, leaving one man dead.

According to an investigation, the Kayan-Yangon passenger bus, being driven by one Wai Lin Maung, 37, with passengers on board crashed into the motorcycle which was being ridden by one Tun Zani Kyaw, 29, from Konchangone village when the passenger bus lost control.

The motorcycle rider succumbed to his injuries at the scene while two passengers from the passenger bus sustained minor injuries. They are undergoing medical treatment at Thantlang general hospital.

Vehicle overturns in Nawnghkio

A VEHICLE overturned on the Mandalay-Muse Pyithaungyu road near Yaywine village, Nawnghkio township on Tuesday.

According to a witness, a small vehicle en route to Poin-Oo Lwin from Nawnghkio overturned when the driver lost control of the vehicle between mileposts 64/1 and 64/2 due to speeding. No one was injured in the accident. Police have filed charges against the driver for reckless driving.— Thipaw Ko Latt

Two drug dealers arrested in Yangon

AN anti-narcotics suppression squad comprising policemen from Insein police station seized 888 yaba pills from a vehicle being driven by one Aung Pyat Sone, 32, with Naing Lin Tun alias Naing Kyi alias Ah Pho Gyi, 35, on board in Insein township, Yangon on 13 August.

Police have filed charges against both suspects under section 15/19-A/20-A/21 of the Anti-Narcotic Law.— 684

Police car skids into ditch, injures driver

A POLICE patrol car skidded into a ditch near a Gems Museum in Zambyuthiri township, Nay Pyi Taw Council area on Wednesday.

Traffic police said the officer lost control of his car when its right tyre burst in front of the gems museum. The driver was seriously injured and taken to the General Hospital in Nay Pyi Taw.

The local traffic police station said it would file charges against the driver for reckless driving.— Thein Ko Lwin
With condo law, expatriates shaking up Yangon real estate market

WITH a condominium law enacted in January, expatriates can now own apartments in Myanmar, which has had a positive impact on the condominium market, it is learnt from the real estate dealers.

The real estate market became more attractive after the general election was held on 8 November 2015. At that time, the condominium law was not yet formulated.

The sellers outnumber the purchasers in the Yangon real property market. Apartments that rent for under Ks2 lakhs are quickly taken, said U Kyaw Kyaw Soe from Win real estate business.

But the rent for apartments on Pyay Road and in Mayangon Township is exorbitant because of the popularity of the area for many foreigners. But the demand has made the real estate market in each town-ship better, dealers said.

Some condominium proprietors would like to rent their apartments only to foreigners, said the one who is engaged in the real property business.

Yangon is a vibrant metropolitan city as well as Myanmar’s commercial centre. Therefore, the real estate market is better than other towns in Myanmar. The price of real estate has also risen from the improved economic relationship with foreign countries.

In Asia, Hong Kong, Singapore and China are considered the top places to invest in real property. However, the slowdown in China’s economy affected the real estate market, prompting investors to consider other countries in the region to make investments.—Zar Zar

Mung bean and pigeon pea prices plunge by Ks40,000 per 3-tonne bag

Aung Thant Khaing

THE prices of mung beans and pigeon peas have plunged by Ks40,000 per 3-tonne bag on 16th August while India is waiting to purchase the pulses produced in Myanmar, said U Soe Win Myint from the Soe Win Myint pea depot.

The price of mung beans and pigeon peas soared to Ks180,000 per three-tonne bag in early June. However, the prevailing market price of mung bean on 16th August was Ks145,000 per three-tonnes bag whereas that of pigeon peas decreased from Ks148,000 to Ks107,000. The pea prices have been on the decline starting from July.

The drop in price has caused problems for local merchants, who have purchased and stored large amounts of the peas because prices were high in previous years. The peas are not in farmers’ hands because it is the time of pea cultivation and their mature peas have been already sold to the merchants. The result is a surplus of peas in the hands of the merchants.

The pea prices are likely to continue to decline because the peas are stranded at the merchants’ hands and have not been sold. Also, the cultivation season of the pulses kicks off again. The pulses are mostly cultivated in Mandalay, Sagaing and Magwe regions, said U Soe Win Myint.

India is the exclusive buyer of Myanmar’s pigeon peas and mung beans. India produced over 19 million tonnes of peas in 2013-2014 fiscal year and 17.15 million tonnes in 2014-2015 fiscal year. Pea production dropped to 17.06 million tonnes in 2015-2016 fiscal year. India imported nearly six million tonnes of peas in the previous fiscal year.

India has decided to purchase two million tonnes of peas this year as buffer stock so that they can control the price. India has been negotiating with pea cultivating countries, including Myanmar, to purchase the peas under Government to Government (G to G) system.

The real estate market in Yangon is better than other towns in Myanmar. PHOTO: Nyi Zaw Moe

Industrial Collaboration Department issues requirements of chemical and associated materials imports

THE Department of Industrial Collaboration has released an announcement concerning the requirements to import chemicals and associated materials.

According to the Prevention from Danger of Chemical and Associated Materials Law, the Union Government has formed a unit that will formulate a policy to reduce the danger of chemical and associated materials. And it will also be engaged in manufacturing, utilizing, storing, distribution, transportation and import. They will also prescribe the types of chemicals and associated materials and the volumes of chemicals which will be prohibited from export.

When a company seeks permission to import chemicals and associated materials, they will have to submit an application bearing the letterhead of the company to the Industrial Collaboration Department, attaching a copy of the National Registration Card (NRC) of their managing director or a member of the Board of Directors.

To import and export the chemicals and associated materials, the companies have to apply as prescribed rules. They will present the trading contract copy, a pro forma Invoice and Certificate of Analysis (COA) of the chemical and associated materials. They will also provide the letter mentioning how and where they will use these materials.—GNLM

Trade with ITC earns over US$1 billion

THE trade with individual trading card (ITC) has fetched over US$1.67 billion in this fiscal year and a total of 1,035 ITCs have been issued from the border trade camps of Myanmar, it is learnt from the Ministry of Commerce.

The individual cards were issued starting in the 2012-2013 fiscal year with the aim of increasing the legal trade volume and eliminating illegal trade. Using the card, exports worth over US$271 million were made, while import with ITCs has amounted to US$1.4 billion.

Trading with the card kicked off in November, 2012 at the Tamu border trade camp, in December, 2012 at Muse 105th Mile and Myawady border trade zones and in February, 2013 at Tachileik border trade camp.

Similarly, use of the card started on 1st March, 2013 at Lweje trade border camp, on 1st April at Sittwe and Maung Taw border trade camp and on 1st July at Maw Taung and Htee Khee border trade camps. The ITC system was practiced in Mandalay, Keng Tund and Myitkyina in 2014 whereas Kyaing Lat and Mese border camps received the ITC users in 2015, it is learnt.—200

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Malaysia will take action if proven that 1MDB funds embezzled — minister

KUALA LUMPUR — Malaysia will take legal action against individuals named in civil lawsuits filed by US prosecutors last month if there is proof that they defrauded a Malaysian state-owned fund, a government minister said on Thursday.

More than $3.5 billion was allegedly misappropriated from 1Malaysia Development Berhad (1MDB), founded by Prime Minister Najib Razak, according to civil lawsuits filed by the US Justice Department.

Minister Senator Paul Low, whose portfolio covers governance and integrity, said criminal prosecution “must be instituted” against all involved if funds were “stolen from us”.

“Our enforcement agencies and the attorney-general must cooperate fully with all international agencies to deal with the matter in an appropriate manner in order to allay negative perception and restore the trust and confidence of the people for the government,” he said, according to the official text of a speech at a function on Thursday.

The US lawsuits named several individuals, including Malaysian financier Low Taek Jho, popularly referred to as Jho Low.

The civil suits also seek to seize $1 billion in assets believed to have been bought using money stolen from 1MDB, the largest case to date in the US Justice Department’s Kleptocracy Asset Recovery Initiative.

Prime Minister Najib has weathered persistent calls for him to step down over his handling of the 1MDB scandal, which is also being investigated by at least five other countries.

Najib has denied any wrongdoing and has said the US Department of Justice lawsuit does not involve him.— Reuters

SINGAPORE

Singapore Telecommunication (STEL.SI) is investing S$2.47 billion ($1.8 billion) for bigger slices of the top mobile operators of Thailand and India, as Southeast Asia’s largest telecoms firm raises its bet on emerging markets to spur growth.

Singtel said on Thursday it is buying 21 per cent of Thai telecoms firm Intouch Holdings PCL (INTUCH. BK) for S$1.59 billion and 7.39 per cent of India’s Bharti Telecom for S$884 million. The stakes are being bought from Singapore state investor Temasek (TEM. UL), which owns more than half of Singtel.

Intouch is the largest shareholder in Advanced Info Services PCL (AIS) (ADVANC.BK), Thailand’s biggest mobile operator, in which Singtel already holds 23.3 per cent. Bharti Telecom is the holding company of Bharti Airtel (BRTL.NS), India’s largest telecoms firm and Singtel’s existing partner.

The stake purchases will increase Singtel’s exposure to the high-growth telecom sectors in Thailand and India that are being driven by rising mobile data usage. India is the world’s second-biggest mobile phone market by customers, after China.

“Strategically, they are positioning to be a natural buyer of any other stakes that could potentially come into play,” said Daiva analyst Ramakrishna Maruvada.

Singtel, Singapore’s most valuable company on the stock market, has been assembled over more than a decade a portfolio of stakes in regional mobile operators outside its small home market, as a result of which overseas businesses now contribute 75 per cent to its revenues and core earnings.

The company also operates in Australia through subsidiary Optus. In an attempt to speed up growth, Singtel has been broadening its sphere of operations, spending more than a $1 billion since 2012, mainly to build its cybersecurity and digital businesses.

The new deals will help boost its growth pace. Singtel’s economic interest in AIS will rise to 31.8 per cent and in Bharti Airtel to 36.2 per cent. The deals will be funded by issue of 86 million Singtel shares to Temasek totaling S$1.605 billion, and cash and short-term debt. Singtel said the acquisitions and share placement are interdependent. Temasek’s stake in Singtel will rise to 52.27 per cent from 51.1 per cent prior to the share issue.

“Singtel’s interest in AIS is staggered over several years, and that will help smooth the growth trajectory,” said Debra Praball, international editor of Straits Times.

Despite the deal, Temasek intends to retain an interest in AIS, which Singtel said it may sell if Temasek conditions so that smaller groups of veterans could visit the site. Tehan called the cancellation “a kick in the guts”.

More than 60,000 Australians served in Vietnam between 1962 and 1972 and more than 500 Australians were killed during the deeply unpopular war between the Soviet-backed Communist government of North Vietnam and South Vietnam’s US-backed regime.

The war ended with the fall of the former Saigon in 1975. The 1966 battle of Lang Tan, fought in a rubber plantation in South Vietnam, was Australia’s costliest battle.

The commemoration had long been planned in coordination with Vietnamese authorities but was cancelled on Wednesday.

Australian Veterans’ Affairs Minister Dan Tehan said the formal ceremony at the Long Tan site remained cancelled but Nguyen had agreed to ease the restrictions so that smaller groups of veterans could visit the site. Tehan called the cancellation “a kick in the guts”.

Australia, Hanoi at odds over 50th anniversary of Viet Nam War battle

SYDNEY — An Australian ceremony to commemorate the 50th anniversary of a Viet Nam War battle has soured into a diplomatic spat after the Vietnamese government restricted access to the site at Long Tan.

Australian Prime Minister Malcolm Turnbull made an 11th-hour appeal to his Vietnamese counterpart Nguyen Xuan Phuc on the behalf of about 1,000 Australian veterans and their families who had travelled to Viet Nam but found themselves barred by authorities, who said the ceremony might offend residents.

“I think the prime minister of Viet Nam for agreeing last night to arrangements which will, after all, enable our veteran and their families who have travelled to Viet Nam, reverently to commemorate the battle as they honour all those who fought and died in those fields so many years ago,” Turnbull said in an address in Canberra on Thursday.

The commemoration had long been planned in coordination with Vietnamese authorities but was cancelled on Wednesday. Australian Veterans’ Affairs Minister Dan Tehan said the formal ceremony at the Long Tan site remained cancelled but Nguyen had agreed to ease the restrictions so that smaller groups of veterans could visit the site. Tehan called the cancellation “a kick in the guts”.

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Australian state leader offers to house stranded asylum seekers

SYDNEY — The premier of Western Australia state, a member of Prime Minister Malcolm Turnbull’s Liberal Party, has offered to accept refugees from Australian-funded detention centres amid growing concern about conditions for the 1,350 people held in the camps. Under Australian law, anyone intercepted trying to reach the country by boat is sent for processing to asylum seeker camps on the tiny Pacific island of Nauru or to Manus Island off Papua New Guinea. They are never eligible to be resettled in Australia.

Australia and Papua New Guinea said on Wednesday that they would close the Manus Island facility, but gave no timeline, and did not say where the people held there would be sent.

“We would certainly accommodate a number of them in Western Australia and we’d certainly support them as a state government,” Western Australian Premier Colin Barnett told the Australian Broadcasting Corp on Wednesday night.

Barnett has taken a similar position in the past, and his stand demonstrated a rare public split in the conservative Liberal Party over the government’s controversial detention policy.

A spokeswoman for New Zealand Prime Minister John Key on Thursday said that an offer made in 2013 to accept 150 refugees, which Canberra has rebuffed, still stood. Harsh conditions and reports of rampant abuse at the camps have drawn wide criticism at home and abroad.

Australia says its hardline policy is needed to stop deaths at sea during the dangerous boat journey from Indonesia to Australia.

Australian Immigration Minister Peter Dutton on Thursday stood by the government’s policy ruling out settling the detainees in a third country, casting doubt over the fate of the remaining 850 refugees on Manus and 500 in Nauru.

“It’s never been about tearing down the fences, it’s about what to do with the people trapped behind them,” Daniel Webb, director of legal advocacy at the Human Rights Law Centre, told Reuters.

He did not name any country’s internal management dispute, while the crew was being affected either directly or indirectly by trade protectionism.

Protectionism is likely to grow globally in the near future, the survey said, while the election of either US presidential candidate would likely exacerbate the situation.

The finance minister said the government will use planned talks with other countries and high-level meetings to oppose all forms of protectionism and aim to create more projects involving cooperation with different countries.

Manila — The Philippines has freed 12 communist guerrilla leaders, police said on Thursday, days before a new round of peace talks with the Maoist-led rebels resumes in Norway to end nearly five decades of conflict that has killed more than 40,000 people.

New President Rodrigo Duterte has a reputation as an implacable and ruthless enemy of drug traffickers but he came to power after winning a May election promising to negotiate the end of long-running insurgencies.

Talks brokered by Norway between the government and the rebels’ National Democratic Front stalled in 2012 over the refusal of the government to free communist leaders who had been in jail for decades.

National police chief Ronald dela Rosa told reporters the temporary release of the 12 by courts was a consequence of the president’s peace offer and was “one of the most positive developments” in years. “They were only allowed to post bail,” he said. “But they continue to face criminal cases in courts.”

Renato Reyes, secretary-general of the left-wing Bayan (Nation) group, which is allied with the communist movement, said the releases boded well and raised hopes the talks would begin on 22 August “on a positive note.” — Reuters

South Korea to oppose trade protectionist moves through diplomacy

SEOUL — South Korea’s finance minister said on Thursday the country is planning to oppose all kinds of trade protectionist moves through diplomatic measures such as bilateral talks and high-level meetings with other countries.

Finance Minister Yoo Il-ho said in a speech the global economy faces growing risks from increasing tendencies of trade protectionism. Ex-vice and US presidential election campaign.

He did not name any countries as getting more protectionist, though he noted results of a survey by the country’s biggest business lobby group this month.

“Two out of three exporters in key industries have said they can tangibly feel protectionism from antidumping measures taken by the US and India on products like steel and chemicals,” said Yoo, citing the survey.

The Federation of Korean Industries (FKI) said 10 out of 15 major industry associations said they were being affected either directly or indirectly by trade protectionism.

Protectionism is likely to grow globally in the near future, the survey said, while the election of either US presidential candidate would likely exacerbate the situation.

The finance minister said the government will use planned talks with other countries and high-level meetings to oppose all forms of protectionism and aim to create more projects involving cooperation with different countries.

Yoo will meet his Japanese counterpart on 27 August while President Park Geun-hye will have a summit meeting in Russia in early September. — Reuters

Philippines frees communist leaders before peace talks in Norway

KUALA LUMPUR — A tanker carrying 900,000 liters of marine gas oil that was earlier reported to have been hijacked was instead found to have been taken over by its crew following a “management dispute,” the Malaysian and Indonesian maritime authorities said on Wednesday.

First Adm. Mohd. Taha Ibrahim, director of enforcement and exercise at the Malaysia Maritime Enforcement Agency, said in a statement that a preliminary investigation showed that the disappearance of the Indonesia-flagged MT Vier Harmoni was due to “problems between the owner, the leasee, and the crew.”

He said they managed to establish contact with the ship’s captain around noon and were informed that the tanker was on its way to Batam, Indonesia, and that all 10 Indonesian crew are safe.

MT Vier Harmoni is registered in Batam and the owner is PT Vierline. It is leased to a Malaysian company.

The tanker was reported missing at 5pm Tuesday while anchored in waters off Kuala Lampur in Malaysia’s east coast state of Pahang. It was carrying 900,000 liters of marine gas oil with an estimated value of 1.57 million ringgit (about $392,800).

The MMEA was only informed of its disappearance early Wednesday and immediately deployed three vessels and a helicopter to search for it along waters bordering Indonesia.

The MMEA also sought the assistance of Indonesia and Singapore to track the ship.

In a separate statement, the Indonesian navy’s Western Fleet Quick Response Commander Vice Adm. Suprianto Irawan concurred that it was not a case of hijacking.

He said the captain had contacted its agent twice to notify that they were bringing the tanker back to Batam due to “the company’s internal management problem.”

Taha said the MMEA will conduct a thorough investigation to determine the cause of the incident. — Kyodo News

Oil tanker taken over by crew due to ‘management dispute’
ALMOST every government promises to enhance economic growth before and after they are voted to office. Economists have laid it out clearly that governments should adopt strategies that focus on the promotion of competition, innovation and entrepreneurship and encourage measures to help tackle unemployment. Economic growth and job security are entwined. Being rich in natural resources is no guarantee of wealth. Natural resources are not only non-exhaustible and non-renewable. We need human resources with innovations in the sustainable use of natural resources with due regard for environmental conservation.

Researchers have argued it is not large companies but small enterprises that offer a high level of employment. It is therefore necessary for the Government to formulate policies designed to empower small and medium businesses. It is strongly recommended that the government should create an enabling environment to bring people together and foster economic growth. The government's economic policy makers have a critical role to play in working with other agencies to develop effective policies and programmes. Another important thing for decision makers is to be progressive, dynamic leadership and delegate responsibility whenever possible. Unfortunately, it is typical that most government officers are under the illusion that they know what is best for their subordinates, thereby forcing themselves to effect change through direct personal involvement.

All in all, it is imperative to foster small and medium enterprises in order to stimulate economic growth. However, encouraging new businesses to start is one thing, but persuading them to succeed is quite another. It remains a challenge to both. However, it should be noted that every successful business starts small with a dream of growing big.

Tin Shein

Now the role of GG comes in here. We may need to explore what is meant by GG, what elements or factors constitute GG and how to implement GG.

GG means absence of corruption, cronyism, favoritism, etc.—are stumbling blocks that stand in the way of achieving good governance that we all hope for.
A historic C-47 aircraft will land in Mandalay on 20 August before flying “across the hump” to reach its final destination in Guilin, China where it will go on permanent display at the Flying Tiger Heritage Museum.

The museum chronicles the critical contributions made by the pilots known as the “Flying Tigers” and the people in the region who traveled the route in an effort to bring victory and peace to the region during World War II. Following the aircraft’s landing by pilot and war veteran Tom Claytor, 53, a press conference will be held at the Mandalay International Airport.

The aircraft will leave for Guilin, China, the next day. “Across the hump” refers to flying over the Himalayas before entering China — one of the most dangerous air routes of its time used by U.S. pilots during World War II. The flight will be conducted to honour the brave pilots who flew the route and acknowledge the friendships between nations today — like the United States and Myanmar — who continue to work together to maintain peace in the region. — Aung Thant Khaing

WWII-era C-47 aircraft to land in Mandalay on way to Flying Tiger Heritage Museum

AID FOR 2,000 FAMILIES IN NAGA SAZ PROVIDED BY BRIGHTER FUTURE MYANMAR

KBZ’s Brighter Future Myanmar Foundation (BFM) yesterday sent aid worth more than K130 million and K50 million in cash to the Naga Self-Administrative Zone, which urgently needs effective health care and nutrition.

The move comes after civil society organizations, ethnic young people and activists on 16 August in Yangon called for more assistance in the self-administered zone, which has poor health infrastructure, a lack of transport facilities and a dearth of nutritious food.

The aid includes 3,500 sets of warm clothes, 2,000 dry ration packages for 2,000 families and 3,500 packages of cow milk powder.

Under the arrangement of Daw Nang Lang Kham, Chairperson of the BFM, Deputy Executive Director of the KBZ Ltd U Tin Tun handed over the aid to Chief Minister of Sagaing Region Dr Myint Naing yesterday.

Between 1 June and 12 August, 42 people in Lahe and nearby villages in the Naga Self-Administrated Zone were killed by communicable diseases including measles, diarrhea, malaria and seasonal flu, according to official figures released by the Ministry of Health and Sports.

There are nearly 9,000 people from 1,503 households in 15 villages in Nanyun and Lahe townships in the Naga Self-Administrated Zone.

The foundation, which has established a K100-million fund for disaster preparedness and relief in 12 regions and states, is also providing relief aid including food and water to the people in flood-hit areas nationwide.

Following the warning by weather experts that the country could face an extreme cold season due to La Nina, BFM sent warm clothes worth more than US$2 million to the internally displaced peoples living at the camps.

Since its founding, BFM has spent more than K107 billion on religion, education, health, social welfare, sports, regional development and disaster preparedness and relief nationwide. — Thura Lwin

Volunteers from the KBZ’s Brighter Future Myanmar Foundation transports aid to Sagaing Region Government to send them the peoples in Naga Self-Administrative Zone. — Photo: Thura Lwin

ENTREPRENEURS of fishery businesses along the Rakhine State coastline have voiced favor over the pressing of legal charges against fishing vessels and trawlers which employ the use of Thai-produced drag nets and fishing nets with small openings.

The local fishery entrepreneurs have said the Department of Fisheries should upscale its inspections of vessels using the non-environmentally friendly Thai fishing nets.

“The use of drags nets, and those with small net openings, is a contributing factor towards depletion of the ocean’s fish stocks; they pick up smaller fish which haven’t matured and had the chance to reproduce. As such, it’s ever important that people be educated that the utilization of such fishing nets is beyond the bounds of the law,” said U Khin Aye Maung, chair of the Fish and Shrimp Producers Association for Kyaukphyu Township.

U Kyaw Lwin, a local fisherman from Kyaukphyu, says that off-shore fishing vessels, as well as those which ply waters close to the shore, catch fish using nets with openings of only one inch or less, highlighting how fishing with these nets should especially be avoided during the fishes’ reproductive season. It seems as though a lack of knowledge over the existing fishing net regulations extends even as far as the Department of Fisheries itself, as a member of the department candidly told Myitmakha News Agency, “I’m not certain as to whether regulations stipulate fish must be caught with net openings of two inches, three inches, two-and-a-half inches or one-and-a-half inches.”

According to a report on research by a Norwegian organization into the state of Myanmar’s coastal waters, only ten percent of surface-water fish, and 35 percent of fish which dwell close to the seabed, remain.

Rakhine State’s shrimp farming sector is also reportedly in decline. One acre of a shrimp farm used to produce around 50 viss (80 kilograms) of shrimp in the past, but as of 2014 this has plummeted to between just three and ten viss. The sector’s demise is also reflected in the acreage of shrimp farms throughout the state, reducing in size from a sum of over 155 acres in 2001 to just 110 acres a decade later, according to a statement released by a local civil society organization. — Myitmakha News Agency

REPUBLIC OF THE UNION OF MYANMAR — who continue to work

U THA AUNG NYUN PRESENTS CREDENTIALS TO GOVERNOR-GENERAL OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF AUSTRALIA

U Tha Aung Nyun, Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar to the Commonwealth of Australia, presented his Credentials to His Excellency General The Honourable Sir Peter Cosgrove AK MC (Retd), Governor-General of the Commonwealth of Australia on 17 August 2016, in Canberra. — Ministry of Foreign Affairs

Rakhine fishery entrepreneurs rebuke use of Thai fishing nets
UN Secretary-General’s Message on World Humanitarian Day

19 August 2016

A record 130 million people are dependent on humanitarian assistance to survive. Grouped together, these people in need would comprise the tenth most populous nation on Earth. These figures are truly staggering, yet they tell only a fraction of the story. Hidden behind the statistics are individuals, families and communities whose lives have been devastated. People no different to you and me: children, women and men who face impossible choices every day. They are parents who must choose between buying food or medicine for their children; children who must choose between school or working to support their families; families who must risk bombarding at home or a perilous escape by sea.

The solutions to the crises that have plunged these people into such desperate hardship are neither simple nor quick. But there are things we can all do – today, and every day. We can show compassion, we can raise our voices against injustice, and we can work for change.

World Humanitarian Day is an annual reminder of the need to act to alleviate the suffering. It is also an occasion to honour the humanitarian workers and volunteers toiling on the front lines of crises. I pay tribute to these dedicated women and men who brave danger to help others at far greater risk.

Today, I urge everyone to sign on to the United Nations “World You’d Rather” campaign. As well as raising awareness and building empathy, the campaign has a concrete goal: to raise money for the UN’s Central Emergency Response Fund and to enrol the support of individuals everywhere in the Messenger of Humanity. We need everybody to demand that their societies and governments put humanity first.

Earlier this year, 9,000 participants gathered in Istanbul for the first-ever World Humanitarian Summit. World leaders committed to transform the lives of people living in conflict, disaster and acute vulnerability. They rallied behind the Agenda for Humanity and its pledge to leave no one behind.

This prospect is also at the heart of the Sustainable Development Goals. With their focus on human rights, resilience and poverty eradication, these 17 global goals offer a 15-year plan to reduce needs and vulnerability and promote a world of peace, dignity and opportunity for all. To succeed on this collective journey, we need everyone to play their part. Each one of us can make a difference. On this World Humanitarian Day, let us unite in the name of humanity and show that we cannot and will not leave any one behind. —UN/EuYangon

Hong Kong shipping group calls for aid to crew on arrested coal ship

HONG KONG — The Hong Kong Shipowners Association (HKSOA) on Thursday called on the city’s authorities to provide assistance to the crew of a Hong Kong-flagged coal ship off the east coast of Australia that is running out of food and fuel.

Local Australian media and Great Britain’s Guardian newspaper reported this week that the Five Stars Fujian, a 180,000 deadweight tonne capesize class coal carrier, has been sitting in the middle of the Great Barrier Reef for the past month with supplies dimming and salaries going unpaid.

The HKSOA said in a statement that the ship was under detention by the Australian Maritime Safety Authority (AMSA), off the port of Gladstone, for breaches of the Maritime Labour Convention relating to lack of provisions and unpaid wages.

Six wounded in train accident in southern France

PARIS — Six people were injured, one seriously, on Wednesday after a French regional train TERR crashed into a fallen tree on track in the southern region of Montpelier, railway company SNCF said.

Violent storm in the region uprooted the tree, which caused the accident, according to the state-run railway company.

The train, carrying about 200 passengers, ran at a speed of 140 km per hour when the accident happened in Saint-Aunes, east of Montepelier, BFMTV news channel reported.

According to preliminary reports, the train’s engine, bumper and windshield were damaged.

Emergency services including ambulances, helicopters were immediately dispatched to the accident scene, according to the report. —Xinhua

FBI documents viewed in secure areas of the US Capitol

WASHINGTON — FBI documents viewed in congressional committee rooms were turned over to Congress on Tuesday, parts of which are redacted, in the first review of the materials that have been provided “relevant materials” to congressional committees looking into the Hillary Clinton e-mail controversy, a congressional aide said.

“Our investigators with (secret) jurisdiction have been reviewing the material,” the Oversight committee aide said.

The FBI provided “relevant materials” to congressional committees on Tuesday to the Senate Security Committee, asking them to provide a redacted version of the documents, “rather than allow Republicans to mischaracterize them through selective, partisan leaks.”

The documents on the Senate side of the Capitol are under the control of the Office of Senate Security, a Senate aide said. In the House of Representatives, another set was being viewed in a “Secure Compartmented Information Facility,” an aide said with the House Oversight and Government Reform committee said.

“Our investigators with (security) jurisdiction have been reviewing the materials to help us better understand the materials so far,” the Oversight committee aide said.

“It was unclear how many lawmakers had actually seen the material so far,” the Oversight committee aide said. “The investigators with (secret) jurisdiction have been reviewing the material,” the Oversight committee aide said.

The materials were made available to the Judiciary, Homeland Security, and Appropriations committees in the Senate, and the Oversight, Judiciary and Appropriations committees in the House, the Oversight committee aide said.

The Intelligence committees on both sides of the Capitol also have copies, so they do not have to join the line with the others.” —Reuters

US assessing if Russian use of Iran base violates UN resolution

WASHINGTON — The United States is looking at whether Russia has violated a UN Security Council resolution on military dealings with Tehran by using an Iranian air base to carry out strikes inside Syria, the State Department said on Wednesday.

State Department spokesman Mark Toner said US government attorneys had not yet decided whether they think Russia’s use of the Iranian base is a violation of UN Security Council Resolution 2231, which was passed as part of the Iran nuclear deal.

The resolution governs some military interactions between Iran and other countries, including the supply, sale or transfer of military technologies or the provision of training or financial assistance related to the acquisition of new technologies.

“As I understand it, it’s not just supplying the Iranians certain weapons or certain offensive weaponry. It’s more complex than that,” Toner told a news briefing.

“Our investigators with (secret) jurisdiction have been reviewing the material,” the Oversight committee aide said. “The investigators with (secret) jurisdiction have been reviewing the material,” the Oversight committee aide said.

“The materials were made available to the Judiciary, Homeland Security, and Appropriations committees in the Senate, and the Oversight, Judiciary and Appropriations committees in the House, the Oversight committee aide said. “The Intelligence committees on both sides of the Capitol also have copies, so they do not have to join the line with the others.” —Reuters

UN-Googled 8
Bomb attacks kill seven, wound 224 in southeast Turkey

DIYARBAKIR, (Turkey) — Two bomb attacks blamed on Kurdish militants killed seven members of the security forces and wounded 224 people in southeast Turkey on Thursday, officials and security sources said, in a renewed escalation of violence across the region.

A car bomb ripped through a police station in the city of Elazig at 9:20 am (0620 GMT) as officers arrived for work. Three police officers were killed and 217 people were wounded, 85 of them police officers, Prime Minister Binali Yildirim said.

Offices in the police station were left in ruins and filled with smoke after the bomb exploded in front of the complex, destroying part of the facade, CNN Türk footage showed.

Less than four hours later, a roadside bomb believed to have been planted by Kurdistan Workers Party (PKK) militants tore through a military vehicle in the Hizan district of Bitlis province, security sources said.

“They said the blast killed three soldiers and a member of the state-sponsored village guard militia and wounded another seven soldiers.”

No one immediately claimed responsibility for the bombings, but Yildirim said there was no doubt they were carried out by the PKK, deemed a terrorist organisation by Turkey, the United States and the European Union.

“The (PKK) terror group has lost its chain of command. Its elements inside (Turkey) are carrying out suicide attacks randomly wherever they get the opportunity,” Yildirim told reporters in Elazig.

“We have raised the state of alert to a higher level,” he said at the scene of the attack, where a crowd chanted “Damm the PKK!” The PKK has carried out dozens of attacks on police and military posts since 2015 in the largely Kurdish southeast in its fight for greater autonomy for Turkey’s 15 million Kurds.

Elazig, a conservative province that votes in large numbers for the ruling AK Party, had been spared violence until now.

Video footage showed a plume of black smoke rising above the city after the blast, which uprooted trees and gouged a large crater outside the police complex, which is situated on a busy thoroughfare in the city of 420,000 people.—Reuters

Syrian refugees in discarded holiday homes dream of anything but Greece

MYRSINI, (Greece) — A small house close to the beach in western Greece is replete with a small rose garden, flowers in a vase, a thatched roof and a kennel, all created by its newly arrived refugee occupants.

It may sound ideal, but for all the cosiness, they say it will never be a home.

And here’s why. A sign scrawled in green paint on a piece of plywood propped against the window shutter says: “My son is very happy in Germany. We hope to handle the biggest humanitarian challenge in generations.

“My son, brother, sister and father are in Germany. Why am I here?” he asks.

After squatting in a tent for weeks near Athens, Berajikli, his wife and his other son were moved into the small beachside house close to the beach in west Greece along with about 340 other Syrian refugees.

For five months, they have been living at LM Village, a beachside resort 280 km (174 miles) west of Athens which fell into disuse six years ago amid disagreements between its administrators.

The idea came from Nampi-Isfah Morant, the Syrian-born mayor of the Andraida-Kyllini municipality, who suggested accommodating some refugees as a stop-gap to get them out of overcrowded camps.

He thought it would be a temporary fix.

There is a Greek proverb, however, that nothing is more permanent than the temporary.

“I thought that Europe would stand by, would show a lot more support to Greece than what I have seen so far,” said Morant, a doctor who moved to Greece in 1991 and was elected mayor in 2014.

“I expected Europe to help solve the crisis. Not shut down borders.”

Since border shutdowns in the Balkans earlier this year, about 57,000 migrants and refugees have been stuck in Greece, straining a country suffering the worst economic crisis in generations.

Morant, a 54-year old married man to a Greek and who considers both Greece and Syria as his home, said it was difficult not to be moved by the plight of refugees. “Grant-ed, I am from Syria. But I think it would be very difficult for anyone to say ‘I don’t care’, if they saw the squalor these people lived in at the camps.”—Reuters

Israeli army arrests 5 Palestinians, seizes weapons in overnight raid

JERUSALEM — Israel’s security forces arrested five Palestinian youths and seized weapons in an overnight raid in the West Bank, the Israeli army said Thursday.

An Israeli Defence Forces (IDF) spokesperson said in a statement that the five Palestinians were wanted on various “terrorism-related” charges, and that some weapons, including a homemade grenade, a shotgun-type weapon and ammunition, were also found in the raid.

The raids and operations are part of efforts by Israeli security forces to curb an ongoing wave of violence which started in October, and which has since claimed the lives of 34 Israelis and 220 Palestinians.

While the attacks against Israelis became less frequent in recent months, sporadic attacks still take place, specifically in the West Bank and East Jerusalem area. Israeli security forces arrested Hussein Abu-Kweik, a high-ranking official of the Hamas Islamic movement, on the night between Tuesday and Wednesday in a similar West Bank raid.

He was arrested by Israeli security forces near Ramallah for alleged “involvement in security related activities” as well as “presenting a threat to the security of the area,” the Shin Bet security agency said. On Tuesday, the Palestinian Health Ministry said a Palestinian teenager, Mohammed Abu Hashash, was killed and dozens more were injured in clashes between Israeli security forces and Palestinians at the al-Fawar refugee camp near Hebron, following an overnight Israeli operation.—Xinhua
Haiti to fund $55-million new try at elections after results scrapped

PORT-AU-PRINCE — Haiti said on Wednesday it would spend $55 million (€42 million) on a new election after the results of the last vote were scrapped, with most of the money to be drawn from the poor Caribbean nation’s own coffers as foreign donors are reluctant to pay again.

The United States, which contributed $33 million to the last election, strongly opposed aborting the results and said in July that no aid would be forthcoming for the repeat.

Washington also asked Haiti to return nearly $2 million.

Haiti’s electoral council said the new budget would cover a period from June to March, 2017.

Finance Minister Yves Bastien told Reuters the polls would be largely paid for through funds collected from a port, the central bank and Haiti’s National Credit Bank.

“The only way for us to have these elections is to get our own financing in place,” Bastien said.

Budget cuts this year drawed from the poor Caribbean nation’s own coffers as a result of efforts to disarm Venezuela, through a combination of seizures and a voluntary programme to swap guns for electrical goods.

Haiti has been led by interim president Jocelerme Privert since February to avoid the prospect of Martelly leaving office without a replacement.

Privert’s 120-day mandate expired in June but parliament has not yet voted on whether he can stay in office. In June, he told Reuters he intended to stay in office until the elected president took office in March.—Reuters

More than 500 rescued from burning ferry fire off Puerto Rico

SAN JUAN (Puerto Rico) — Hundreds of people were rescued from a smoldering passenger ferry ship that caught fire off Puerto Rico on Wednesday, the US Coast Guard said.

The Coast Guard and local police brought ashore all 512 passengers and crew from the American Cruise Ferries vessel that was burning about two miles (3.2 km) off of San Juan, Puerto Rico’s capital, the Coast Guard said in a statement.

Rescue crews worked for hours to remove passengers and ferry employees, the last of whom disembarked just after 2 pm EDT (1900 London time), the Coast Guard said. They were transported to San Juan.

The fire, which was reported at about 7:40 am EDT, began in the engine room of the ship and spread to other compartments on board, the Coast Guard said.

“Everyone has been safely removed from the ship,” the Coast Guard said.

Smoke billowed from several parts of the large white ferry as an inflatable orange rescue slide was activated, images posted by Puerto Rico police on social media showed.

The 561-foot-long (171-metre-long) ferry, en route to the Dominican Republic, eventually ran aground about 800 feet offshore, the Coast Guard said.

American Cruise Ferries takes tourists from San Juan to Santo Domingo, Dominican Republic, according to the travel company’s website. Coast Guard officials could not be reached for further comment.—Reuters

Venezuela crushes 2,000 guns in public, plans registry of bullets

CARACAS — Venezuelan police crushed and chopped up nearly 2,000 shotguns and pistols in a Caracas city square on Wednesday, as the new interior minister launched a long-stalled gun control campaign in one of the world’s most crime-ridden countries.

Interior Minister Nestor Reverol said the event marked the renewal of efforts to disarm Venezuelans, through a combination of seizures and a voluntary programme to swap guns for electrical goods.

Venezuela has the world’s second highest murder rate and the street gangs that plague its poor neighborhoods have become increasingly heavily armed in recent years, at a time when a deep recession has reduced resources available to police.

Gangs often get weapons from the police, either by stealing them or buying them from corrupt officers, experts say.

With inflation of 185 per cent in 2015 and a currency collapse, police salaries have fallen far behind rising prices creating more incentives for corruption.

President Nicolas Maduro promoted Reverol this month, days after the United States accused the former anti-drugs tsar of taking bribes from cocaine traffickers.—Reuters

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

MV E.R. TURKU VOY. NO ( )

Consignees of cargo carried on MV E.R. TURKU VOY NO ( ) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 18.8.2016 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of A.W.P.T where it will lie at the consignee’s risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

SHIPPING AGENCY DEPARTMENT
MYANMA PORT AUTHORITY
AGENT FOR: M/S HANJIN SHIPPING LINES
Phone No: 2301185

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

MV PACAO VOY. NO ( )

Consignees of cargo carried on MV PACAO VOY NO ( ) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 18.8.2016 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of H.P.T where it will lie at the consignee’s risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

SHIPPING AGENCY DEPARTMENT
MYANMA PORT AUTHORITY
AGENT FOR: M/S YANG MING LINE
Phone No: 2301185

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

MV INNWAA STAR VOY. NO ( )

Consignees of cargo carried on MV INNWAA STAR VOY NO ( ) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 19.8.2016 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of A.I.P.T where it will lie at the consignee’s risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

SHIPPING AGENCY DEPARTMENT
MYANMA PORT AUTHORITY
AGENT FOR: M/S REGIONAL CONTAINER LINE
Phone No: 2301185
App unites diners and restaurants in fight against food waste

LONDON — More than 100,000 meals in Europe have been saved from the rubbish bin over the past 10 months thanks to an app that allows hungry diners to buy leftover food from restaurants at a fraction of the price, its founders said on Wednesday.

The app, Too Good To Go, was launched in Denmark in October last year and has since expanded to Germany, Switzerland, France, Norway and Britain on the back of a growing global effort to cut food waste.

Between 30 per cent and 40 per cent of food produced around the world is never eaten because it is spoiled after harvest and during transportation, or thrown away by shops and consumers.

Yet almost 800 million people worldwide go to bed hungry every night, according to UN figures.

The problem has become so serious that helping world food waste by 2030 was included as a target in global development goals adopted by world leaders in 2015. Chris Wilson, co-founder of Too Good To Go UK, said his team hoped to play its part in ending food waste by “putting food into bellies instead of bins”, while raising awareness over the issue.

App users can search for meals that restaurants would otherwise throw out and put in an order to collect before closing time. It’s a win-win concept,” Wilson told the Thomson Reuters Foundation.

“From a user perspective it is extremely affordable. From a restaurant point of view ... they are attracting a new market.”

In Britain, where the app features a variety of eateries ranging from bakeries to high end Japanese restaurants, prices vary from 2 pounds to 3.80 pounds ($4.95).

Wilson said since its launch, Too Good To Go, a social enterprise, has amassed more than 350,000 users across Europe and is planning to launch in the United States before the end of the year.

—Reuters

Invitation of Expression of Interest (EOI) for Cooperation Public Private Partnership (PPP) in No.(17) Heavy Industry (Malun), No.(1) Heavy Industries Enterprise, Ministry of Industry

No. (17) Heavy Industry (Malun) under No(1) Heavy Industries Enterprise, Ministry of Industry intend to cooperate with Local (or) Foreign Tractor Companies which produce the modernized Tractor in the international market and the local companies that can operate with under approval for products and technical supervision from these Companies to produce modernized Tractor as PPP (JV, Lease etc.)

As a first step, Companies who interest in those cooperation are required to submit their Expression of Interest (EOI) not later than 4PM (Myanmar Standard Time), on September 1st 2016 to Planning Department, No.(1) Heavy Industries Enterprise, Ministry of Industry, Office No.(30), Nay Pyi Taw, the Republic of the Union of Myanmar.

Interested entitles can inquire and take over the (EOI) Form and other indications at above office commencing from (19.8.2016) by presenting document of company profile.

The Cooperation of Myanmar Radio and Television for the Promotion of TPO Asian Tour.

The “The Philharmonic Orchestra (TPO) from Bangkok with its 90 international musicians will come to Myanmar to perform three concerts in Yangon, Mandalay and Nay Pyi Taw Under the baton of its Chief Conductor. Maestro Gudni Emilsson (Tuebingen, Germany) and Guest Conductor, Maestro parteep Suphanroj (Bangkok, Thailand) together with the world-renowned pianist Oliver Kern (Hamburg, Germany). In addition, 8 dancers and 2 Myanmar traditional musicians from Myanmar National Symphony Orchestra will join this concerts and bring a unique music experience to all.

The concerts will take place at National Theatre of Yangon on August 26th 2016 at 07.00p.m; National Theater of Mandalay on August 27th, 2016 at 07.00 p.m; and, Myanmar International Convention Centre (Nay Pyi Taw) on August 28th, 2016 at 07.00 p.m.

Myanmar Radio and Television (MRTV), Ministry of Information will broadcast live coverage of the concert in Yangon. SKY-NET will brocast live for Mandalay concert and MRTV-4 will broadcast live for Nay Pyi Taw concert.
‘Love Story’ director Arthur Hiller dies at 92

LOS ANGELES — Versatile and prolific Canadian film director Arthur Hiller, whose sentimental “Love Story” starring Ali MacGraw and Ryan O’Neal was the biggest hit of 1970 and stands as one of the most popular romantic movies ever made, died on Wednesday at the age of 92, the Academy of Motion Pictures Arts and Sciences said.

Hiller, whose work also included successful collaborations with playwrights Neil Simon and Paddy Chayefsky, died of natural causes in Los Angeles, the Academy said in a statement.

The director was the president of the Academy, which hosts Hollywood’s annual Oscars ceremony, from 1993 to 1997, and served as a longtime member on the organisation’s Directors Branch.

Current Academy president Cheryl Boone Isaacs said the organisation was “deeply saddened” by Hiller’s death.

“I was a member of the Board during his presidency and fortunate enough to witness firsthand his dedication to the Academy and his lifelong passion for visual storytelling,” Boone Isaacs said.

Hiller directed more than 30 films from 1957 through 2006 covering a range of genres including comedies, dramas, tearjerkers, war stories, satires and musicals. He guided five different actors — O’Neal, MacGraw, George C. Scott, Maximilian Schell and John Marley — to Oscar-nominated performances.

His films were nominated for 15 Academy Awards, winning two. Hiller’s adventure comedy “Silver Streak” marked the first screen pairing of Gene Wilder and Richard Pryor and became one of the top box office hits of 1976.

Hiller also collaborated with Chayefsky on two notable films — the anti-war comedy “The Americanization of Emily” (1964) starring James Garner and Julie Andrews and the dark satire “The Hospital” (1971) starring Scott.

He joined forces with Simon for the comedies “The Out of Towners” (1970) with Jack Lemmon and “Plaza Suite” (1971) with Walter Matthau.

“Love Story,” Hiller’s biggest success, was nominated for seven Academy Awards, including best picture and Hiller as best director. It won only one Oscar, for best original score, as “Patton,” starring Scott, swept the top awards.

“Love Story” was a tale of ill-fated lovers — privileged Oliver (O’Neal) and working-class Jennifer (MacGraw). It featured one of the most famous movie lines of the 1970s: “Love means never having to say you’re sorry.”

It was uttered twice: once by MacGraw to O’Neal and then at the end of the movie by O’Neal to his judgmental and disapproving father, played by Ray Milland.

Hiller said “Love Story” nearly did not get made.

“Paramount (film studio) was in rocky financial shape,” he told the Los Angeles Times in 1991. “They’d sold off part of the lot and moved their offices to Beverly Hills — although I never understood how they figured to save money that way.

“But Bob Evans, who was running the studio then, loved the project. And he said we could make it if I would swear — and I literally had to swear — that I would bring it in for under $2 million.”

Hiller added, noting that he finished the movie under budget.

“Ben Hur” was a colossal hit, generating more than $100 million at the box office.

— Reuters

‘Baar Baar Dekho’ spins Bollywood twist on time and love

NEW YORK — It is not easy fusing a cocktail of genres including music, comedy and time travel into a movie, but the leading stars of new Bollywood film “Baar Baar Dekho” hope to convey a multi-faceted love story.

“Baar Baar Dekho,” which translates as “Look Again and Again,” centers on Jai (Sidharth Malhotra) and Diya (Katrina Kaif), two childhood sweethearts now grown up and getting ready for their wedding. Jai gets cold feet as he wonders how to balance his personal and professional life.

Through time travel, Jai is able to see what his future may look like in a few days, years and decades, and comes to a realization about his present.

“Imagine that you get a chance to see the future of your love story and whether you want to fix things, change things and learn some things from that or what you’re doing at present,” Malhotra told Reuters. “It might look confusing in the trailer. But once you go through the journey, by climax it has a very nice message.”

“Baar Baar Dekho,” out in theaters 9 September, marks the feature film debut from director Nitya Mehra and the first time that Kaif and Malhotra have worked together. Kaif, 33, known for Bollywood films such as 2009’s “New York” and 2011’s “Zindagi Na Milegi Dobara,” said she and Malhotra, 31, forged a connection during casting exercises where they were made to sit opposite each other and look into each other’s eyes.

“Those things are funny but they work. These ideas exist for a reason because they help you break the barriers which are there,” Kaif said.

After filming, Malhotra, known for films such as 2014’s “Ek Villain,” was romantically linked to Kaif. However, the actors said dating rumors are always to be expected when they are single.

“If you’re not in a relationship, which most people are aware of, or know about, then these kind of stories come. But they come and they also go the next day, they don’t really live a long life,” Kaif said.

“They just can’t believe we’re really, extremely good actors. There has to be something,” Malhotra added.— Reuters

Hollywood classic ‘Ben-Hur’ gets modern remake

LOS ANGELES — “Ben-Hur,” the 1959 movie epic that won 11 Oscars, has received a Hollywood revamp — but its makers say the famed chariot race still relies on humans and horses, not special effects.

“Boardwalk Empire” actor Jack Huston takes on the role for which the late Charlton Heston was named Best Actor, playing the young Jewish noble Judah Ben-Hur, who is sent into slavery by Roman occupiers but returns to take his revenge.

“If you think about the climate of the world today — and this movie is set 2,000 years ago — you realize the world hasn’t changed that much,” Huston said at the film’s Tuesday premiere.

“Instead of a beautiful action movie with all of the thrills and excitement, it’s still a very serious movie for our time.”

Producer Mark Burnett said that for the chariot-racing sequence — nine minutes long in the original — special effects had been used only for crash scenes.— Reuters
Brazil’s Neymar nets fastest Olympic goal at 15 seconds

Neymar of Brazil celebrates scoring past goalkeeper Luis Lopez of Honduras. PHOTO: REUTERS

RIO DE JANEIRO — Brazil’s Neymar has not yet won his country a gold medal, but on Wednesday he at least pocketed an Olympic record — the fastest goal, at a dazzling 15 seconds into the game over overwhelmed Honduras.

The men’s semi-final had barely kicked off when Barcelona forward Neymar intercepted the ball, charged towards the Honduran side, challenged the goalie and intercepted the ball, charged, had barely kicked off when Neymar of Brazil celebrated scoring past goalkeeper Luis Lopez of Honduras.

“Neymar’s goal, 15 seconds in, is the fastest in the history of Olympic football, 5.42 seconds more than Usain Bolt,” the Rio 2016 Spanish-language account tweeted in reference to the Jamaican sprinter.— Reuters

Japan flag Tokyo 2020 threat with Rio medal haul

Team Japan celebrates winning the silver medal in the men’s table tennis team event at Riocentro, Pavilion 3 during the Rio 2016 Summer Olympic Games in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, on 17 August 2016. PHOTO: REUTERS

Japan showed they could be the biggest threat to China’s quest to continue their table tennis domination in Tokyo 2020, after their team achieved the country’s best-ever medal haul in the sport in Rio.

Japan’s men, who never made the Olympics podium in the sport before, are leaving this year with a team silver medal and an individual bronze while their women are heading home with a team bronze medal. They won a silver four years ago.

China’s supremacy over the sport is well accepted by players and coaches alike who say the country’s national team, all of whom dominate world rankings, possess skills and strength that far outclass their opponents.

The country has swept the table tennis gold medals at the Rio Olympics, and has now won 28 out of 32 golds awarded since table tennis became an Olympic sport in 1988.

But the growing strength of the Japanese was apparent at certain instances during the Rio tournament.

During the men’s team final, individual bronze medalist Jun Mizutani snatched one set from world number three Xu Xin, breaking the Chinese team’s winning streak through the tournament and past Olympics. China eventually won the game 3-1. In the women’s team battle for the bronze against Singapore, 15-year-old Mima Ito overcame world number four Feng Tianwei in a 3-1 match, helping her country to third place and becoming the youngest ever player to win a table tennis medal.

“The fact we lost to China may even be more valuable to us than the medal itself. This game has given us confidence in playing the Chinese team, said Mizutani.

“Our game has given us confidence in playing the Chinese team, said Mizutani.

“I can look forward to Tokyo 2020 and the notion of beating the Chinese team there will not just be a dream.”

The Chinese women’s team coach, Kong Linghua, also spoke of the strength of their Japanese opponents, saying that their early exposure to such high-level international competitions at a young age would likely help them become an even tougher force to be reckoned with in four years.

Compared to the Chinese men’s and women’s teams in Rio, who are all in their mid-to-late twenties, half of the Japanese six player-strong team is in their early twenties alongside the teenage Ito.

Ai Fukuhara and Mizutani are considered the team veterans at the age of 27.

—Reuters
Marvellous Turan fires Barcelona to Super Cup glory

RIO DE JANEIRO — Two goals from Arda Turan and one from Lionel Messi gave Barcelona a 3-0 win over Sevilla in the Spanish Super Cup second leg on Wednesday to seal a 5-0 aggregate victory.

The La Liga and King’s Cup champions led 2-0 after the first leg in Seville and Turan’s opening goal early in the first half set Barca on their way to a big win at a packed Nou Camp.

The Turkish midfielder picked up a pass from Messi in the ninth minute, ran in on goal and drove a left-foot shot past goalkeeper Sergio Rico.

Sevilla’s Vicente Iborra had a 30th-minute penalty kept out by Claudio Bravo after Samuel Umtiti was penalised for a handball.

Tur'an’s second came one minute after the re-start when he launched an audacious curled shot from 30 yards to stun the Sevilla keeper and send the ball into the top corner. Messi made sure of Barca’s first trophy of the season when he headed Lucas Digne’s pass out of Rico’s reach.

“To win a title before the start of La Liga is great,” Barca midfielder Sergio Busquets told Telecinco TV. “We did a fantastic job last season and we are hungry for titles.”

Barca were without Neymar, who was on Olympic duty with Brazil, and injured trio Marc-An- dre Ter Stegen, Jeremy Mathieu and Andres Iniesta.

But coach Luis Enrique handed new signings Umtiti, Den- is Suarez, Andre Gomes and Lu- cas Digne their first competitive starts.

A minute’s silence was ob- served before kick-off in honour of former FIFA president Joao Havelange, who died this week.

The Super Cup is Spain’s traditional season opener between the winners of the league and King’s Cup. Barca won both last season and have now lifted 12 Su- per Cups.

RIO DE JANEIRO — Jamaica’s Usain Bolt and Canadian Andre de Grasse set up an Olympic 200 metres showdown after crossing the line laughing together in their semi-final on Wednesday, but 100m silver medallist Justin Gatlin missed out after easing up too soon.

Bolt, now one step away from securing an incredible third Olympic sprint double, crossed in 19.78 seconds with De Grasse clocking a Canadian record 19.80.

“He was supposed to slow down,” said Bolt. “I said, ‘What are you doing, it’s a semi-final?’ But I think he wanted to push me.

“I was a bit lazy, I don’t why, but I executed and got round.”

Bolt has won the last two Olympic titles and four succes- sive world championships over his favourite distance.

The last time he lost a ma- jor 200m race was in the 2007 worlds when he was edged by American Tyson Gay, though training partner Blake did take him down in the 2012 Jamaican trials.

“I definitely think I can try for the world record,” said Bolt, who set the current mark of 19.19 in the 2009 world championships.

“I need to run efficiently and get into the straight and run the perfect race. If I can run a little more efficiently on the turns, I will be hoping for lane six or seven maybe to be able to run as smooth as I can.” — Reuters

Murray and Nadal roll, Raonic outslugs Isner

CINCINNATI — Olympic and Wimbledon champion Andy Mur- ray picked up where he left off in Rio by knocking out Argentina’s Juan Monaco to take his place in the third round of the Western & Southern Open in Cincinnati on Wednesday.

Murray, who with his gold medal triumph at the Rio Games became the first player to repeat as Olympic singles champion, notched his 19th successive match victory by a 6-3, 6-2 margin in what amounted to a noice workout for the 29-year-old Scotsman.

The Wimbledon winner scored the first break of the opening set in the eighth game and served out the set.

After seemingly enjoying the long rallies, Murray had his right shoulder massaged on the changeover before the second set and rat- tled off four games in a row from 1-1 to turn it into a rout.

His victory set up a third- round match against South Afri- can Kevin Anderson with a berth in the quarter-finals at stake.

Top-seeded Murray’s vic- tory was in contrast to numerous big battles in the US Open run-up event and a slew of tiebreakers.

Third-seeded Spaniard Rafa Nadal, winner of gold in the Olympic men’s doubles, averaged a defeat to Pablo Cuevas in Febru- ary with a 6-1, 7-6(4) win over the Uruguayan.

Fourth seed Milos Raonic of Canada won a heavy artillery bat- tle with John Isner 7-6(5), 7-6(5) for his first win after three career losses to the American.

Raonic said he had just spent 10 days in New York working with John McEnroe.

“John makes fun out of the practice, he challenges you in many ways,” Raonic said. “He finds ways to point out things that I tried to bring to the match today.”

Seventh seed Jo-Wilfried Tsonga of France enjoyed his own double tiebreaker win over Amer- ican Reilly Opelka 7-6(5), 7-6(3).

Second-seeded Swiss Stan Wawrinka overcame 18-year-old American Jared Donaldson 2-6, 6-3, 6-4 in a match carried over from rainy Tuesday and will next face his doubles partner Grigor Dimitrov of Bul- garia.

Tiebreakers decided two three-set encounters.

Borna Coric, 19, of Croatia came back from 2-5 in a climactic decider against Australian Nick Kyrgios by winning five of the last six points to claim the tiebreak 8-6. — Reuters

Bolt through to 200m final, Gatlin out

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Usain Bolt (JAM) of Jamaica crosses the finish line ahead of Andre De Grasse (CAN) of Canada to win the semifinal during Men’s 200m Semifinals at Olympic Stadium in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil on 17 August. (Photo: Reuters)