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Measures being taken for people to enjoy medicare system



UEC Secretary

U Win Ko reads out report.—MNA

NAY PYI TAW, 20 Aug—Bill Committee member U Thaung read the report on findings in the **Early Child Care and Development Bill** sent by Amyotha Hluttaw with approval at today's session of Pyithu Hluttaw.

The bill comprising 33 sections in nine chapters is aimed at systematically nurturing the children, supervising the child care activities and providing technology and management expertises to day care centres and pre-primary schools.

U Kyaw Myint of Ayadaw Constituency on behalf of Dr Aung Than of Shwebo Constituency raised the question for **preparations for private health care services to**



Daw Khin Saw Wai from Yathedaung Constituency participates in discussion.

MNA

keep pace with changes and developments. Deputy Minister for Health Dr Daw Thein Thein Htay replied that the Ministry of Health is implementing national health policies.

She said that arrangements are being made to allow the MBBS graduates and similar ones obtained from foreign countries to take registration at Myanmar Medical Council. People's Hospital is providing free surgical operation on emergency patients and medical

treatment to maternal patients. In addition, taking free care is being provided to children under five. Efforts are being made for people enabling them to enjoy medicare system. Code of Medical Ethics and safety for patients are being lectured to students at universities of medicine as of 2008-09 academic year. There is no plan to hold the workshop on enactment of more laws and policies.

The 24th day session continues tomorrow.

MNA



24th day session of Pyithu Hluttaw in progress.—MNA

No plan to establish SEZ in Sittway

NAY PYI TAW, 20 Aug—The Bill Committee submitted its report on Myanmar National Human Rights Commission Bill at today's Amyotha Hluttaw Session.

Regarding the report, MP U Ohn Tin of Rakhine State Constituency No.10 said that out of nine main human rights treaties, three which Myanmar signed should be described in the introduction. The President should form the Myanmar National Human Rights Commission comprising 21 members instead of at least 9-15 members. The appointment of members—one each from respective region/state and other seven appropriate persons would help facilitate

human rights affairs in these region/state.

MP Daw Khin Waing Kyi of Yangon Region Constituency No.1 said that Myanmar is now getting engaged in the political, economic and social affairs of the world countries. That's why, democracy and human rights comes to the forefront. It needs to add the point—the qualification should be: those shall be loyal to the State and its citizens and those shall be a citizen of Myanmar who is born of both parents who were born in the Union and Myanmar citizens. She welcomed that law, she added.

With respect to the question of MP Dr Aye Maung of Rakhine State



Deputy Minister for Industry U Myo Aung.

MNA

Constituency No.1 on implementation of a Special Economic Zone (SEZ) in Sittway of Rakhine State, Deputy Minister for Industry U Myo Aung said that the establishment of an

industrial zone or a SEZ calls for infrastructures and inputs. It needs to



Daw Khin Waing Kyi from Yangon Region Constituency (1).

MNA

carry out a feasibility study there. There is no plan to establish a special economic zone in Sittway as it lacks infrastructural

development.

The Communication Bill which was sent back by the Pyithu Hluttaw with its amendments was



Dr Aye Maung from Rakhine State Constituency (1).

MNA

also approved. Hluttaw decided to submit the

proposal on discussion on the disagreements of two Hluttaws to the Pyidaungsu Hluttaw. The meeting came to an end in the afternoon.

MNA



U Ohn Tin from Rakhine State Constituency (10).

MNA

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Full moon Day of Wakhaung commemorates Metta Sutta [Loving-kindness Day]

Maha Saddhamma Jotika dhaja Sithu Dr. Khin Maung Nyunt

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Heavy rains delay transportation, cause landslides in Haka



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Nutrition development activities launched in Lewe



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Construction

Heavy rains delay transportation, cause landslides in Haka

HAKA, 20 Aug—The heavy rain hit Haka of Chin State, causing landslides on Haka-Gangaw-Mandalay Road. In consequence, the blockage of road delayed the transport.

Landslides coursed on Haka-Gangaw-Mandalay Road at mile post 19-7 on 16 August and mile post 12/4 on 17 August. That was

why local passengers faced difficulty in transportation.

“Due to landslides, the passengers wishing to go to Haka, Gangaw and Mandalay are waiting to clearance of roads by bulldozer. Motorcyclists helped them continue their trip. The passengers in cars are waiting for finishing the clearance of road. Although

the road is good in summer, landslides in rainy season delay transport of local people,” said a passenger.

Engineers and workers of Public Works are assigned duties on main roads of Chin State to maintain the roads and clear the landslides with the use of heavy machinery.

Kyemon-State IPRD



A
bulldozer
clears
parts of
landslides
on the
hill
road.

Erosion prevention undertaken at pier

MEIKTILA, 20 Aug—Officials carried out prevention of erosion at pier of the creek bridge No 54 on Thazi-Meiktila-Myingyan railroad in Meiktila Township of Mandalay Region on 17 August morning.

“Maintenance is being

undertaken for prevention against erosion at piers of the bridge in the rainy season. At present, we carry out maintenance at pier of bridge No 54 between mile posts 328/0 and 328/1, west of Kankaung Village. Workers of Myanma Railways are working

together with me,” said Junior Engineer (III) U Hsan Naing.

Kyemon-Chan Tha (Meiktila)

Health knowledge shared in Dawbon

DAWBON, 20 Aug—The talks on health knowledge were given at Basic Education Primary School No. 1 in Yamonna Ward 1 of Dawbon Township on 14 August.

Administer U Myint Wai of Township General Administration Department spoke on the occasion. Head of Township Health

Department Dr Moh Aung, Health Assistant (1) U Aung Kyaw Lwin of Township Development Affairs Committee and Dr Tun Tun Naing of Myanmar Red Cross Society gave lectures on health matters, sanitation and health and birth-spacing and embryo.

Kyemon-Maung Sein Hnin (Dawbon)

Crime

Arms and ammunition seized in Kalaw

NAY PYI TAW, 20 Aug—Arms and ammunition were seized in Kalaw Township of Shan State recently.

A combined team in Kalaw Township seized one M-16 automatic rifle, one .32 pistol, 284 assorted

rounds of ammunition, eight magazines and two fuses of BA-91 grenade from the house of Sai Kaw Kham (a) Aik Kaw in Peinne Village in Kalaw Township.

Kyemon-Maung Zaw

Instructions of Chief Justice of the Union explained in Hpa-an

NAY PYI TAW, 20 Aug—A ceremony to recount the experiences on fifth coordination meeting between Supreme Court of the Union and State and Region High Courts in Nay Pyi Taw was held at the hall of Kayin State High Court in Hpa-an on 15 August morning.

Chief Justice of the state High Court U Saw San Lin discussed the instructions of the Chief Justice of the Union and heard reports on judicial



affairs and office works presented by district and township judges.

Judges of the state

High Court explained judicial matters and the State Judicial Officer office works.—*Kyemon*

Spoken English Course commences at SPEI (Yangon)

HRD

YANGON, 20 Aug—The Spoken English course No 1/2013 was opened at Institute of Sports and Physical Education (Yangon), here, on 15 August afternoon.

Principal of the institute Director U Kyaw Hsan Oo made an opening speech.

Principal Mr Omer Celik of Horizon International School explained the purpose of training course.

A total of 40 students who are attending the 2013-14 academic year were selected to attend the course that will be conducted from Monday to

Friday weekly. The class will be from 1.30 pm to 3 pm daily.

They will be supervised by English language teachers from Sports Plus Education High School and Horizon International School up to end of the academic year.

Kyemon

Taaung Literature Course opens

NAMHSAM, 20 Aug—Under the arrangement of Namhsam Township taaung Literature and Culture Committee, the Taaung Literature Basic Course No. 1/2013 was opened at the monastery of Myoma Sangharaja Sayadaw in

Namhsam in Palaung Self-Administered Zone on 15 August.

The enthusiast youths, 54 students who have passed matriculation examination

for 2012-2013 academic year and three monks are attending the course that will last from 15 to 27 August.

Kyemon-Township IPRD

Duties assigned to tender-submitted companies in Chin State

KALAY, 20 Aug—Chin State government invited the tender for construction of roads in the state. Local national race companies and others over 10 companies submitted tenders for the works.

At the coordination meeting, the Chin State Prime Minister and party assigned duties to all tender-submitted companies.

Local national race companies Khawnuthum Co was assigned duty to construct the 15 miles long section from Thantlang to Narein, Royal Shine Star Co, Shwekason Co, Aung Myat Khaing Co and Shwe Lyan Thang Co along the route of Gangaw-Lutaw section and Shatalai-Lutaw section.

Public Works will construct Haka-Matupi section and Mindat-Matupi section. Road Construction Special Group No 11 and Khawnuthum Co will

take responsibility for construction of Thantlang-Rarein-Matupi section. Zeyar Min Htet Co will build Kanpetlet-Mindat section.

Shwekason Co and Best Luck Co were assigned duty to construct Matupi-Paletwa section, Full Strength Co, Mann Shwepyi Co and Htaik Sin Co the Haka-Thantlang-Sarsichauk section, Alpha Co and BME Co the section of Thantlang-Lonle road, Aung Shwe Htoo Win Co and UKhwaLwel Co Falam-Reed section, Chin Hill Star Co Kalay-Natchaung-Falam section.

Public Works will construct Tiddim-Tonzang-Kyikha section and Aung Shwe Htoo Win Co the Fort White-Htoklai section.

The road section must be 24 feet wide and the bend of the road 34 feet. Moreover, the uphill road in 12 feet high must be built with step.

Kyemon-Ju Nai

National Sports



Mr Dawei University and Miss Dawei University contests were held at the convocation hall of the university on 17 August. A body-builder shows off his muscles in best posture in the contest.—KYEMON-PO SHWE THUN (DAWEI)

WORLD

Japan, US eye Abe-Obama summit in Russia in early Sept

TOKYO, 20 Aug—Japan and the United States plan to hold a summit between Prime Minister Shinzo Abe and President Barack Obama on the fringes of the summit of Group of 20 major economies in Russia early next month, a Japanese government source said on Tuesday.

The meeting, where the two leaders are expected to confirm once again plans to strengthen the bilateral security alliance, is likely to take place on 5 Sept, the first day of the two-day G-20 annual gathering of leaders, according to the source.

If realized, the summit would be the second for the two, following their first in Washington in February, which was held just months after Abe became prime minister in late December.

In the envisioned talks, Abe and Obama are expected to acknowledge the importance of dialogue in mending ties between Japan and China that have soured over disputed islands in the East China Sea.

They are also expected to agree to closely work together to prevent North Korea from going ahead with its nuclear and ballistic missile programmes.

Among the other topics to be discussed are construction of a new US Marine Corps air base in Okinawa Prefecture that has stalled amid local opposition, and steps aimed at alleviating the burden on Okinawa residents of hosting the bulk of US military installations in the country.

Abe and Obama are also expected to confirm cooperation between Tokyo

and Washington in seeking to conclude by year-end negotiations for the Trans-Pacific Partnership, a US-led free trade pact involving 12 Pacific Rim nations.

The two are also likely to discuss a possible visit to Japan by Obama as a state guest being arranged for next spring or later, according to the source.

On Monday, Japan and Russia agreed to hold a summit between Abe and Russian President Vladimir Putin on the fringes of the G-20 summit.

Abe is expected to cut short his attendance at the G-20 summit to attend a session of the International Olympic Committee in Buenos Aires, Argentina, on 7 Sept where the host city of the 2020 Summer Games will be selected.

Kyodo News



Smoke rises after what activists said was an air raid by forces loyal to Syria's President Bashar al-Assad in Salma town, Latakia governorate on 16 Aug, 2013.

REUTERS

ASEAN makes progress in creating economic community

BANDAR SERI BEGAWAN, 20 Aug—The Association of Southeast Asian Nations said Monday it has made significant progress in achieving the group's goal of creating an economic community by the end of 2015.

At a three-day ministerial meeting that began Monday in the capital of Brunei, officials said ASEAN states have already

implemented 79.4 percent of the 10-member group's blueprint to create the planned ASEAN Economic Community.

"They reaffirmed their commitment to enhanced implementation of in-country measures in order to realize regional measures and ensure the timely realization of AEC by 2015," according to a statement released after Monday's talks.

Indonesian Trade Minister Gita Wirjawan told reporters that the ministers

are, however, aware that the 2015 deadline might be too soon.

"We stand realistic in that we may not be able to achieve 100 percent by the end of 2015...some countries have certain limitations in terms of being able to open up as much as some other countries," Gita said.

The ministers also discussed the concern by some member countries over the negative impact of the tapering off of quantitative easing in the United States.

Kyodo News

Seven killed in Philippine SW monsoon



Residents waded through floodwater brought by monsoon rain, intensified by tropical storm Trami, in Kawit town of Cavite city, south of Manila on 19 Aug 2013. Heavy rain in the Philippine capital forced the closure of government offices, schools, banks and most private companies on Monday, and residents in parts of the city and nearby provinces had to flee from their homes because of floods. At least three people were killed and two were missing in accidents caused by the rain and flooding, disaster and government officials said.

REUTERS

MANILA, 20 Aug—At least seven people died and over 600,000 people

were affected by massive flooding in Metro Manila and other parts of the Phil-

ippines due to southwest monsoon rain, a senior government official said Tuesday.

Two of those were killed in Pampanga Province, and one each from Apayao, Cavite, Rizal, Bataan and Bulacan provinces, said Undersecretary Eduardo del Rosario, executive director of the National Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Council (NDRRMC).

Meanwhile, four were reported missing and 11 others were injured, he said.

About 601,114 individuals in 125,024 families were affected by flooding in northern regions of Ilocos, Central Luzon, Calabarzon, Mimaropa, Cordillera Administrative Region and the National Capital Region, he said.

Of the affected families, 9,153 or 40,740 people have been housed in 199

evacuation centres, while 19,140 families with 90,458 persons opted to stay in their relatives' houses.

Philippine President Benigno Aquino III canceled all his engagements on Tuesday as he continued to monitor the situation in the country, Deputy Presidential Spokesperson Abigail Valte said.

She said that the concerned government agencies have been giving updates to the president.

Over 100 passengers were also stranded in some ports in northern part of the country and over 60 local and international flights were also suspended.

The Department of Social Welfare and Development has prepositioned 120.64 million peso (2.76 million US dollars) worth of emergency relief resources.

Xinhua

Floods in Russia's Far East cost 260 million USD in agriculture

MOSCOW, 20 Aug—Floods in Russia's Far East region have cost agriculture 8.5 billion rubles (260 million US dollars), the Agriculture Ministry said on Monday. More than 627,000 hectares of agricultural land, or 40 percent of crop areas, have been affected by the floods, said the ministry in a statement.

Nearly 28,500 people

have been affected by the floods in the Amur Region, the Khabarovsk Territory and the Jewish Autonomous Region, it said.

The water level of the Amur River in the city of Khabarovsk peaked at a historic height of 642 centimetres on Sunday, which happened only in 1897, local authorities said.

By Sunday noon, more

than 17,000 people have been evacuated, and 166 temporary shelters have been set up across the three regions, providing water, food and medical supplies for those victims, said local officials. Prime Minister Dmitry Medvedev instructed local authorities to make sure funds allocated to the flood victims could reach them. "This situation needs

to be controlled," RIA Novosti news agency quoted him as saying.

Head of Russia's Federal Service for Hydrometeorology and Environmental Monitoring Alexander Frolov said Monday in an intercom conference that the flood peak was over and water level in the Far East would soon go down.

Xinhua

Hostages freed in southern Germany after police raid

INGOLSTADT, (Germany), 20 Aug—The remaining two hostages were freed in the town hall of the southern German city of Ingolstadt as police raided the building after hours of standoff on Monday.

The gunman, holding three hostages, had released Deputy Mayor Sepp Missbeck earlier after negotiations.

The man entered the building shortly before 9:00 a.m. (0700 GMT). Police cordoned off the building and contacted directly with the hostage taker.

Shots were heard when police raided the building. The remaining two hos-

tages, including the deputy mayor's secretariat, were freed unhurt. The offender was injured.

Bavarian Interior Minister Joachim Herrmann told reporters that the 24-year-old hostage-taker was stalking the deputy mayor's secretariat who had finished a relationship with him.

German Chancellor Angela Merkel was scheduled to visit the Bavarian city for an election rally at 17:00 (1500 GMT). The plan was cancelled due to the incident, announced her CDU and its sister party CSU in the southern German state. —Xinhua



People gather near the scene of a hostage taking in Ingolstadt, Germany, on 19 Aug 2013. The remaining two hostages were freed in the town hall of the southern German city of Ingolstadt as police raided the building after hours of standoff on Monday. —XINHUA

SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY

Website clamps down on bullying after teenage suicides

LONDON, 20 Aug—Online social network Ask.fm said on Monday it would clamp down on bullying after coming under fire from child safety campaigners for a string of suicides in Britain that were linked to the website popular with teenagers. Earlier this month Hannah Smith, 14, hanged herself at her family's home after suffering months of bullying on the Latvia-based website, which allows users to post questions and comments to each other, anonymously if they want.

This was the fourth teenage suicide in Britain linked to the website in the past year and prompted some companies, including Vodafone, Laura Ashley and the Save the Children charity, to withdraw advertising from the site. Following Smith's suicide, Prime Minister David Cameron said Internet users should boycott "vile" websites that allow cyber bullying to avoid any more deaths, while some schools urged parents to get their children off the site.

The founders of Ask.fm, Russian brothers Ilja and Mark Terebin, said on Monday there had been a full audit of the website's safety features and that as a result, they would hire more staff to moderate comments, including a safety officer. They would also create a new function for users to report any bullying or harassment, and raise the visibility of a button to stop anonymous comments, they said in a statement.

Ask.fm has attracted 70 million users since it was founded in 2010. The site made headlines in the United States last week when kidnapping victim

Hannah Anderson logged on just 48 hours after her rescue in Idaho to openly answer personal questions about her ordeal. "I think they've gone far enough to make the website safe for teenagers to use but I also think they can do a bit more. Get rid of the anonymous bit completely, because if you're anonymous, you can bully," Smith's father, David Smith, told Britain's Sky Television on Monday.

A report this month from the National Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Children (NSPCC) indicated that online harassment, abuse or cyber stalking was experienced by almost one in five children who used social networking sites. —Reuters

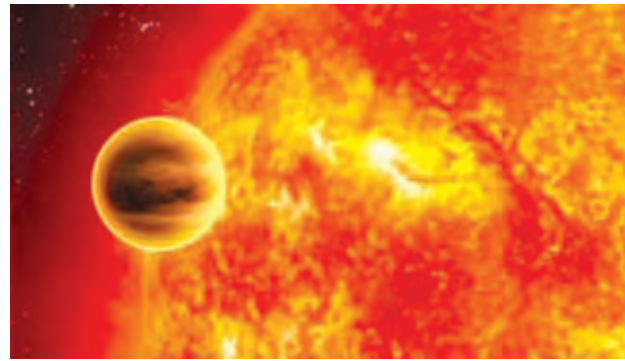
Judge dismisses suit against AOL in patent sale to Microsoft

NEW YORK, 20 Aug—A federal judge on Monday dismissed a lawsuit accusing AOL Inc and some of its executives of fraud for repurchasing 14.8 million shares in 2011 without disclosing that the company would sell a \$1 billion portfolio of patents to Microsoft Corp months later. Plaintiffs in the case said they suffered significant losses when they sold their shares ahead of the patent deal, after which AOL's stock surged 43 percent in a single day.

Knowing the deal with Microsoft was imminent allowed AOL, its CEO Tim Armstrong and former CFO Arthur Minson to effectively buy their company's stock at a discount price, plaintiffs said. But "the complaint's conspiracy theory is mere speculation," US District Judge Denise

WASHINGTON, 20 Aug—US researchers said on Monday that they have discovered an Earth-sized exoplanet that orbits its host star in the time it takes you to complete a single workday, or get a full night's sleep. Located about 700 light-years away, the exoplanet named Kepler 78b is extremely close to its star. Its orbital radius is only about three times the radius of the star, causing it to complete an orbital year in a mere 8.5 hours, one of the shortest orbital periods ever detected.

Most importantly, researchers from the Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT) were able to detect light emitted by the planet, a first for an exoplanet as small as Kepler 78b. This light, once analyzed with larger telescopes, may



give scientists detailed information about the planet's surface composition and reflective properties. While it is about the size of Earth, Kepler 78b is most certainly not habitable, due to its extreme proximity to its host star, the MIT researchers wrote in the *Astrophysical Journal*.

They estimated that its surface temperatures may be as high as 2,760 degrees Celsius. In such a scorch-

ing environment, the top layer of the planet is likely completely melted, creating a massive, roiling ocean of lava. "You'd have to really stretch your imagination to imagine living on a lava world," co-author Josh Winn, an associate professor of physics at the MIT, said. "We certainly wouldn't survive there."

The researchers also determined that the planet is about 40 times closer to its star than Mercury is to our Sun. The star around which Kepler 78b orbits is likely relatively young, as it rotates more than twice as fast as the Sun, a sign that the star has not had as much time to slow down. Kepler 78b was observed by the US Kepler Telescope, which has recently been retired from its planet-hunting mission after US engineers failed to find a fix for its hobbled pointing system. Winn and his colleagues were tasked with looking for Earth-sized planets with very short orbital periods. "We've gotten used to planets having orbits of a few days," said Winn. "But we wondered, what about a few hours? Is that even possible? And sure enough, there are some out there." —Xinhua

Amazon.com back up after going down for US, Canadian users

NEW YORK, 20 Aug—Amazon.com, the website of the world's largest online retailer, went down for about 15 minutes on Monday in a rare outage for many users across the United States and Canada.

It was unclear what triggered the rare disruption. The company, whose Amazon Web Services is designed to ramp up server capacity for customers to prevent outages, did not respond to multiple requests for comment.

Earlier on Monday, users from New York and To-

ronto to San Francisco got only error messages when trying to access the popular shopping website. The news came less than a week after the website of the *New York Times* went down for about two hours.

Amazon has \$86 billion in annual gross merchandise volume, including its business through third-party sellers, according to consultants at RetailNet Group. Going by that estimate, Amazon processes some \$163,622 in transactions per minute on average. —Reuters



The Microsoft logo is seen at their offices in Bucharest on 20 March, 2013. —REUTERS

Cote said in an 18-page opinion. The lawsuit failed to provide an adequate example in which AOL executives made a material misstatement or omission prior to the announcement of the patent sale on April 9, 2012, Cote said.

It was well known in the market that AOL's patent portfolio might be extremely valuable, Cote wrote. The company disclosed in numerous public filings that its patents were among its most valuable assets, and an activist investor in AOL, Starboard Value LP, had publicly speculated that the portfolio could be worth as much as \$1 billion, Cote said. The deal also came at a time in the market for such patents was heating up. Nortel, for example, sold a patent portfolio for \$4.5 billion in June 2011, Cote noted.

Press reports from the time and AOL disclosures

that it was working to sell the patents "render implausible any suggestion that the public was not aware that AOL possessed an extremely valuable patent portfolio," Cote wrote. The judge also did not accept the plaintiffs' claim that an auction for the patents was essentially a sham, and that AOL knew long before 9 April that it would sell them to Microsoft, Cote said.

"The remaining allegations in the complaint simply provide no basis for an assertion that AOL and Microsoft reached a secret deal for the sale of the patents months before the auction was conducted," the judge wrote. Representatives for the plaintiffs and AOL were not immediately available for comment. The lead plaintiff is Barbara Keeling, who the complaint said sold AOL stock during the class period and before the deal. —Reuters



A zoomed illustration image of a man looking at a computer monitor showing the logo of Amazon is seen in Vienna on 26 Nov, 2012. —REUTERS



Photo taken on 19 Aug, 2013 shows an announcement on the email web pages of Yahoo China. Yahoo China said in the announcement that it decided to shut down its email service on 19 August. —XINHUA

BUSINESS & HEALTH

Chinese shipbuilder reveals breakthrough technology

BEIJING, 20 Aug—One of China's major shipbuilders said it has developed cutting-edge propulsion technology that will bring the nation closer to its goal of modernizing its shipping and naval fleets.

China Shipbuilding Industry Corp said its Wuhan Institute of Marine Electric Propulsion finalized its integrated electric propulsion technology in mid-July. It said the in-house development will help the nation wean itself off the long-standing dependence on imported parts in manufacturing ships.

Most surface vessels in China use mechanical transmissions and are propelled by a motor or an engine spinning a propeller. Many Western countries have adopted integrated electric propulsion, in which gas turbines or diesel generators produce electricity that powers electric motors. "Chinese ships usually use steam engines, multiple-stroke diesel engines or gas turbine engines," said Wang Dan, deputy editor-in-chief of Modern Ships magazine. "Chinese navy ships that need to reach fast speeds would have 'combined diesel or gas' propul-

sion systems."

The development of integrated electric propulsion may resolve engine problems that have long haunted the nation and its navy. One of the major issues has been a lack of domestic companies who can make gas turbine engines to support long distance voyages. Without domestically developed gas turbine engines, the Chinese navy has been forced to import foreign engines for its ships, said a military expert who did not want to be named. And until an electric propulsion engine is more widely available in China, most ships must run on an engine fueled by diesel and gas.

"Compared with other drive methods, integrated electric propulsion has many advantages. It can save more space and is easier to control. It helps reduce a ship's weight and noise," Wang said. "It also enables ships to cruise at a faster speed and for a longer time." The new technology is also easier to operate and maintain, he said.

"Now with the achievement made by our technicians, we are seeing an opportunity to narrow the gap with Western naval

powers. The British navy's HMS Queen Elizabeth aircraft carrier and the United States navy's Zumwalt-class destroyers, which are all under construction, will use the new electric propulsion technology, which means we must accelerate our development (of the technology) if we don't want to fall behind in building advanced ships."

The HMS Queen Elizabeth, which is scheduled to commence sea trials in 2017, will be the first carrier in the world to adopt integrated electric propulsion. Wang said it is important for China to improve its vessels' propulsion systems and invest more to develop reliable gas turbine engines for battleships before integrated electric propulsion can be put into wide use.

China in recent years has made a great deal of effort to modernize its naval and shipping fleet and to design new propulsion engines. China Shipbuilding Industry Corp said in February that one of its research institutions received State approval and funding to formally begin research on core technologies for nuclear-powered ships.

Xinhua

India, Brazil, other emerging economies hit by currency rout

MUMBAI/RIO DE JANEIRO, 20 Aug —The Indian rupee plummeted to a record low against the dollar on Monday, leading a rout by Brazil's real and other emerging market currencies seen by investors as the most vulnerable to an exodus of foreign capital. A fierce selloff in many emerging currencies shows no sign of abating as the expected withdrawal of US monetary stimulus prompts investors to shun markets seen as riskier because of funding deficits, slowing economies and inflation.

The rupee fits that bill, as do the Indonesian rupiah, the South African rand and the Brazilian real. The rupiah plunged to four-year troughs on Monday while the rand lost another 1 percent to bring year-to-date losses to almost 17 percent against the dollar. Brazil's real extended last week's fall of more than 5 percent fall to trade at its weakest level since March 2009 even as the central bank sold nearly \$3 billion worth of currency swaps, which are derivatives that mimic an injection of dollars in the futures market. Like the rupee, it has been hammered by doubts over the efficacy of policy actions to stem the rout. The rupee and the real,



A private money trader counts Indian Rupee currency notes at a shop in Mumbai on 1 Aug, 2013.—REUTERS

respectively, have been the worst performers in Asia and Latin America since late May when the Fed first signaled that it may begin winding down its monetary stimulus this year. India's currency has lost 13 percent against the dollar this year while the real has plunged 15 percent in the same period.

A decline in the Fed's bond purchases will push government debt yields higher, which should raise the attractiveness of the dollar and dollar-denominated assets. In Brazil, the currency weakness has complicated policymakers' efforts to rein in inflation, leading many investors to bet the central bank may speed up the pace of monetary tightening next week.

In India, the rupee's sell-off threatens to drive Asia's third-largest economy towards a full-blown crisis. "Our primary concern is that the policy authorities still don't 'get it' - thinking this is a fairly minor squall which will simmer down relatively quickly with fairly minor actions," Robert Prior-Wandesforde, an economist at Credit Suisse in Singapore, wrote in a note on the Indian currency on Monday. The partially convertible rupee has continued to weaken despite the central bank's dollar sales and its latest curbs on outflows from companies and individuals, announced last Wednesday, which have dented India's stock and bond markets.—Reuters

Nesting endangered bird found near Mekong River in Cambodia

PHNOM PENH, 20 Aug—Conservation group WWF said on Monday that a Giant Ibis—Cambodia's national bird—has been found nesting in the Mekong Flooded Forest in the country's northeast, creating hope that the endangered bird can be saved from extinction.

"The discovery of the Giant Ibis nest on the Mekong is extremely significant because it provides hope for the species' survival," said Sok Ko, Forestry Administration official and Bird Nest Project officer at WWF-Cambodia.

The nest was found in mid-July by a local villager, a few kilometres inland from the Mekong River, making it "the first documented nest site for this species" within the Mekong Flooded Forest—an important biodiversity area located between Kratie and Stung Treng towns in northeast Cambodia. Following the villager's report, WWF officials vis-

ited the site in O Chralang Village and encountered an adult Giant Ibis, sitting on two eggs. The bird's breeding season runs from June to November and according to Sok Ko, his team agreed with local villagers to protect the nest until the chicks have hatched and left it.

Technical adviser at WWF-Cambodia Gerry Ryan said, "Giant Ibises don't like to be disturbed and are very shy—they tend to live far from human settlements." Found only in Cambodia, Laos and Vietnam, the Giant Ibis or *Thaumatibis gigantea* was included on the International Union for Conservation of Nature and Natural Resources' Red List of Threatened Species in 1994 as a critically endangered species.

About 90 percent of the estimated 345 birds live in Cambodia, with the population rapidly declining, according to experts.

Kyodo News

Operator of crippled Japan nuclear plant says tank leaked contaminated water



A radiation monitor indicates 131.00 microsieverts per hour near the No 4 and No 3 buildings at the tsunami-crippled Tokyo Electric Power Co. — REUTERS

Lilly defends blockbuster Alimta with unusual ammo

WASHINGTON, 20 Aug—Eli Lilly and Co, now facing one of the worst patent cliffs in its history, could find \$15 billion in sorely needed relief if it beats the odds and wins a closely watched patent battle with generic drug-maker Teva Pharmaceutical Industries. While a Lilly victory is not widely expected, a number of patent attorneys and industry analysts say the patent being

challenged by Teva, beginning Monday in Indianapolis federal court, will pass legal muster.

The US Court of Appeals in Washington last summer upheld the validity of the basic patent on the chemical structure of Alimta. That protected Lilly's \$2.6 billion-a-year lung cancer drug from generics until January 2017, including a six month patent extension granted by US

TOKYO, 20 Aug—The operator of Japan's crippled Fukushima nuclear plant said on Tuesday it believes about 300 tons of highly contaminated water has leaked from a storage tank designed to hold overflows from the site.

The leaked water contains 80 million becquerels of radiation per liter, a Tokyo Electric spokesman said by phone. The company will give further details at a media conference at 0330 GMT (11:30 pm Monday EDT).

A becquerel is a measure of the release of radioactive energy. The Fukushima plant was crippled by an earthquake and tsunami in March 2011, the world's worst nuclear disaster in a quarter of a century.

The government said this month it would step up its involvement in the plant's cleanup after announcing the station was leaking contaminated water into the ocean, following months of denials of a leakage by Tokyo Electric.

Reuters

regulators for testing the drug in children. The Indianapolis court will weigh the merits of a separate "method-of-use" patent on the way Alimta is administered. If the court upholds the patent, Lilly would be able to fend off generic alternatives to Alimta until 2022.

The so-called '209 patent covers administration of two nutrients—folic acid and vitamin B12—to patients

before they receive Alimta, to prevent side effects of the drug. Alimta's package insert label instructs doctors to administer the nutrients prior to and during use of the medicine. For a generic to win approval, it usually has to copy the language of the branded drug's label, Ben Hsing, a partner in the law firm of Kaye Scholer in New York, said in a recent interview.

Reuters

Egyptian authorities arrest Muslim Brotherhood leader

CAIRO, 20 Aug—Egyptian authorities escalated their crackdown on deposed President Mohamed Mursi's Muslim Brotherhood by arresting the Islamist organization's top leader, state media reported on Tuesday.

Mohamed Badie, 70, was detained at a residential apartment in Nasr City in northeast Cairo "after information came to the security apparatus locating his place of hiding," the state news agency reported.

The Interior Ministry's Facebook page showed a picture of Badie, with dark rings under his eyes, sitting in a car between two men in black body armour, with a caption confirming his arrest.

"Carrying out the decisions of the public prosecutor to arrest and bring forward the 'general guide' of the Muslim Brotherhood, Mohamed Badie, and through collected information and observation of movements, it was possible for the criminal search apparatus under the direction



Sudanese and Egyptian Islamist supporters of deposed Egyptian President Mohamed Mursi shout slogans during a rally after taking part in Jumma prayers (Friday prayers) to protest against the recent violence in Egypt, in Khartoum on 16 August, 2013.—REUTERS

of Cairo's security (services) to arrest him," according to the caption.

Badie was charged in July with inciting the murder of protesters. Together with his two deputies, he is due to stand trial on 25 August.

Interior Minister Mohamed Ibrahim told the *Al Masry Al Youm* newspaper that Badie was arrested in the early hours of Tuesday.

The military removed Mursi from power on 3 July after mass protests against

his rule. Mursi, who was freely elected but alienated many Egyptians during his year in power, is in detention at an undisclosed location.

Egypt's public prosecutor pressed new charges against Mursi of inciting violence in a move coinciding with a court ruling on Monday that toppled military strongman Hosni Mubarak—arrested after his overthrow in 2011—can no longer be held on a corruption charge.—Reuters

US yet to pay damages for taxi robbery by Marines 7 years ago

NAHA, (Japan), 20 Aug—The US government has yet to pay compensation to a 71-year-old former taxi driver diagnosed with post-traumatic stress disorder after he was robbed by two US Marines while driving a taxi in Okinawa Prefecture in 2006, the man's lawyer said on Monday.

The bilateral Status of Forces Agreement calls for the United States to pay damages to unlawful acts perpetrated by its off-duty soldiers in Japan. The lawyer, Tsutomu Arakaki, said such compensation is typically paid within a period of a year or a year and a half.

The man filed for dam-

ages in November 2008 and in April 2009 with Japan's Defence Ministry serving as a point of contact for the US military, but the procedure has stalled on the US side for an unknown reason, he said.

At a Press conference in Naha, Arakaki said that his client "became incapable of driving and sustained a great deal of emotional distress." He added that leaving the victim's applications unprocessed for a prolonged period of time is "unreasonable and abnormal." The Naha District Court ruled in 2009 that the United States pay about 28 million yen in damages. The same court sentenced the soldiers to two years and 10 months in prison the previous year. The bilateral agreement also stipulates that if damages paid by the US government fall short of the amount finalized by the court, the Japanese government can pay the balance.

On 14 Aug, the lawyer asked the Defense Ministry to pay the compensation if the United States continues to be nonresponsive.

Kyodo News

Xi demands all-out efforts to help flood victims

BEIJING, 20 Aug—Chinese President Xi Jinping has demanded all-out efforts in putting people's lives first as the country's northeast combats the worst floods in more than a decade. Xi asked local authorities and armed forces to guard against risks and save people's lives.

Since 14 Aug, persistent downpours have caused the worst floods since 1998 in Liaoning, Jilin and Heilongjiang provinces, also the heartland of China's grain production.

By 4 pm Monday, 85 people were confirmed dead and 105 were missing. Some 3.74 million people have been affected, with direct economic losses totalling 16.14 billion yuan (2.6 billion US dollars).

Although the floods have passed their peak, the outlook remains grim for autumn.

Premier Li Keqiang has also urged local authorities to relocate people and help them during the post-flood reconstruction.

Official data showed

floods have forced the relocation of 360,000 people, toppled more than 60,000 houses and affected 787,200 hectares of farmland. During 16-19 Aug, Vice Premier Wang Yang visited Heilongjiang Province, the nation's biggest grain-growing province, demanding scientific approaches to achieve bumper harvests amid the floods.

Authorities should prepare for the worst to prevent dykes and reservoirs from being breached, he said.

Xinhua

EU mission to monitor Gibraltar border amid British-Spanish row

BRUSSELS, 20 Aug—The European Commission has decided to send a "fact-finding mission" to Gibraltar to investigate the dispute between Spain and Britain over extra border checks on the Spanish side.

The team is to be sent as soon as possible, according to a phone conversation between European Commission President Jose Manuel Barroso and Spanish Prime Minister Mariano Rajoy on

Monday. Barroso also urged Spain and Britain to solve the dispute "in line with their common membership in the European Union." On Sunday, dozens of Spanish fishing boats confronted British police vessels.

The latest conflict over the territory, situated on the southwest coast of Spain, began earlier this month after authorities from Gibraltar dumped around 70 large concrete blocks in the sea.

The move was thought to be designed to prevent Spanish fishermen from overfishing in Gibraltar's territorial waters. Spain saw the matter as a direct affront and responded with tighter border controls, causing delays of between three to four hours. Last Monday, British Prime Minister David Cameron called the beefed-up controls by Spain "politically motivated and disproportionate."—Xinhua

Australian navy helping stricken refugee boat

CANBERRA, 20 Aug—Australia's navy began rescuing 105 people from a crowded asylum-seeker boat on Tuesday after it ran into difficulties about 120 nautical miles north of

Australia's Christmas Island territory in the Indian Ocean. The rescue comes in the middle of Australia's campaign for the 7 Sept election, where border protection and tough policies to deter asylum seekers are

important issues.

The Australian Maritime Safety Authority said it received the call for help from someone aboard the boat early on Tuesday.

The Australian navy's HMAS Parramatta had since arrived at the scene and was conducting a rescue operation after reporting the boat had foundered, AMSA said. There were no reports of fatalities.

Reuters



Britain's Princess Diana attends a gala performance in London in this 16 December, 1985 file photo. British police said on 17 August, 2013 they were assessing new information about the deaths of Diana and her friend Dodi al Fayed in a Paris road crash in 1997.

REUTERS

Sri Lanka transfers 29 Indian prisoners

COLOMBO, 20 Aug—The Sri Lankan government has transferred 29 Indian prisoners to India under bilateral agreement between both countries, the Indian High Commission in Colombo said on Monday.

The High Commission said that 31 sentenced prisoners under detention in Sri Lanka were found eligible for transfer to India pursuant to the bilateral agreement

on the Transfer of Sentenced Prisoners between India and Sri Lanka signed in June 2010. "As stipulated in the agreement, to facilitate the social rehabilitation of sentenced prisoners in their own country, cases of these prisoners were duly processed by the Government of Sri Lanka and forwarded to the Government of India for completion of required formalities on the Indian side," the High

Commission said. That High Commission said that on completion of all formalities, the prisoners were transferred back to India in two batches. "The High Commissioner acknowledged the assistance rendered by all concerned departments of the Government of Sri Lanka and expressed hope for continued cooperation in this area," the Indian High Commission said.—Xinhua



A visitor poses for a photo in front of the Martin Luther King, Jr. Memorial in Washington on 16 August, 2013. The monument is on track to be fixed by on 28 August in time for the 50th anniversary of the March on Washington for Jobs and Freedom. Workers have been removing a disputed inscription from the side of the monument.—REUTERS

LOCAL NEWS

Medical equipment donated to Panlon Township Hospital

HOPANG, 20 Aug—Medical equipment were donated to 16-bed hospital in Panlon Sub-Township in Hopang District in northern Shan State at a ceremony held at Township General Administration Department in Hopang on 15 August.

Secretary of 'Wa' Self-Administered Zone Leading Body Deputy Commissioner of Hopang District U Than Htut Oo delivered a speech at the ceremony.

Chairman of 'Wa' Self-Administered Zone Leading Body U Khun Tun Lu and

party donated wheel chair, suction, oxygen container and trolley worth K 1.4 million to the hospital.

Townselder U Khun Sein and Secretary U Than Htut Oo made donations to Township Health Officer Dr Myint Oo.

Police Lt-Col Maung Maung Oo of District Police Force and Township Administrator U Nyi Nyi Lwin made donations to Medical Superintendent of Panlon Township Hospital Dr Aung Myo Oo.

MMAL-Township IPRD

Health Care

Nutrition development activities launched in Lewe

LEWE, 20 Aug—Nutrition development week in August was launched in Lewe Township in Nay Pyi Taw Council Area at No (6) ward Dhammayon here on 17 August.

It was jointly organized by Township Maternal and Child Welfare Association and Myanmar Women's Affairs Organization.

At first, Township Administrator U Hla Shaung delivered an address at the ceremony and the Township



Health Officer elaborated on nutrition development activities. Nurse Daw Hla Hla Wai explained nutrition development tasks in pregnancy. Anti-malaria inspector U Thein Naing elaborated on anti-malaria

and anti-DHF efforts. Township Maternal and Child Welfare Association Chairperson Daw Cho Cho and members administered tonics to under-5 children and expectant mothers.

MMAL-Zaw Myo Naing

Charity

Wellwishers donate vehicles to social services group



MANDALAY, 20 Aug—Wellwishers donated two vehicles to Kissanamahi Social Service Association of Kissanamahi ward in Chanayethazan Township of Mandalay Region on 13 August.

Chairman U Moe Min Aung of the Association

said the association provided social care to all the people regardless of religion or race.

He praised the support of the residents of the ward for the success of the association.

U Aye Ko and wife Daw Nge of Kyan Dai Aung eatery and U Thein Aung and

Daw Swe Swe Win of Aung Publishing House and Oil Mill handed over documents related to the vehicles.

Chairman U Moe Min Aung and Vice-Chairman U Win Htein accepted the documents and returned certificates of honour.

MMAL-040

Social services group established in Singu Tsp

the ceremony.

Secretaries U Aung Thin, U Aung Ko Latt and U Aung Ko Myat briefed on functions of the association. Chairman of the Board of Trustees U Kyaw Sein spoke words of thanks.

The chairman of the association and officials presented certificates of honour to 65 donors at the ceremony—MMAL-433



Educative talks on health organized in Amarapura Tsp

School of Myitnge in Amarapura Township on 17 August as part of activities in School Health Week on 12-17 August.

Headmistress Daw Phyu Phyu Win of Myitnge Basic Education High School made a speech at the ceremony. Myanmar

Railways Hospital (Myitnge) Region Medical Officer Dr Myint Aung gave talks on DHF. Assistant Surgeon of Amarapura Township Hospital Dr Tin Ko Ko Soe gave talks on HIV/AIDS.

Amarapura Township Health Officer U Ye Wint

Aung explained PICTS-Programme (The Union) and free TB treatment. Maternal and Child Welfare Association, Women's Affairs Organization, teachers, health staff and students participated in the activities.—MMAL-Maung Maung Soe (Myitnge)

HRD

Prizes awarded to distinction winners and schools with highest pass rate

MAHLAING, 20 Aug—Outstanding students who passed matriculation exam in 2012-2013 fiscal year with distinctions were awarded at Panhlaing Shwewah Hall on 17 August.

The ceremony was organized by Township Education Supervisory Committee.

Schools with highest pass rate and distinction-winners were presented prizes at the award presentation ceremony.

Mahlaing Township education officer Daw San Yi explained education activities in the township.

Pyithu Hluttaw

Representative U Aye Mauk presented awards to schools with highest pass rate BEHS-Mahlaing, BEHS-Hsedaw and BEHS (Branch)-Thadunaye and the first prize winning private

school Family Private High School in Upper Myanmar.

Then, prizes were presented to distinction winners.

MMAL-Kyaw Kyaw (Mahlaing)



Agriculture

Combined farming course opened in Mandalay

MANDALAY, 20 Aug—A combined farming course No (1/2013) was opened at the lecture hall of Thayetgon fishery station on 14 August morning.

The course is aimed at developing farming and fishery so as to contribute to rural development and poverty alleviation.

The region social affairs and livestock breeding minister delivered an address at the ceremony. The course would inform the farmers of the profits of combined



farming and convince them to breed farm in their farmland. It is being attended by 40

farmers and will last two weeks.—MMAL-Tin Maung (Mandalay)

ARTICLE

Full moon Day of Wakhaung commemorates Metta Sutta [Loving-kindness Day]

**Maha Saddhamma Jotika dhaja
Sithu Dr. Khin Maung Nyunt**

The fifth month of Myanmar lunar calendar is Wakhaung approximately corresponding to August. The name Wakhaung is a combination of two words. 'Wa' and 'Khaung'. 'Wa' is the rain retreat of Buddhist monks. "Khaung" means "middle". So it is the middle month in the rain retreat period of three months [Waso, Wakhaung and Tawthalin, July, August and September respectively], during which Buddhist monks take vows to stay at their respective residing monasteries and devote themselves to the study of Tipitaka or meditating practices, so as not to disturb unintentionally farmers and peasants who are busy with their daily agricultural activities.

Myanmar old saying ဝါဆို၊ ဝါခေါင်၊ ရေဘောင် ဘောင် [In Waso and Wakhaung there are billows of rain water] bespeaks heavy showers and floods. Natural environment is emerald green, wet and cool. Mother Earth brings forth all kinds of rain flora, trees, bushes, creepers, plants and sprouts. Among a variety of wild flowers of different designs, hues and scents Land Lily [Khat tar. *crinum amoenum*] is traditionally designated as the flower of this month.

Astrological name of Wakhaung is Simha [Leo] with lion as its zodiacal sign. In day time the sun and Hpou Sha constellation shine together and at night the moon and Tharawun constellation rival their radiance. Stone inscriptions of Bagan Period of Myanmar history mention this month "Nankala" meaning the time for ploughing.

Sayeytan Pwe is the traditional festival of Wakhaung. Roughly translated into English this festival is the festival of religious charity by casting lots. Sayeytons are lots to choose recipient monks for "Swun" food, alms, or robes in religious offerings. Palm leaves or slaps of bamboo with names of either donors or monks, written on them are used as lots to be drawn in public either by donors or monks.

This custom of religious charity by casting lots originated in the life time of

Lord Buddha. While residing in Weiluwn Vihara at the capital of Yazagyo, famine hit the city, one year. There was food scarcity. Buddhist devotees could no longer provide alms food everyday for all monks. They became selective and personal in offering food. Some offered food only to monks who were their relatives or friends. Some offered food only on Sabbath days or on full moon days. Finally they all went to the Buddha and put up the matter for Buddha's advice. Whereupon the Buddha expounded seven different modes of offering food to monks as follows:-

- (1) Sangha-bhat, which is the food offered to all monks
- (2) Uddesa-bhat, which is the food offered particularly to one or two monks
- (3) Nimantana-bhat which is the food offered to the invited monks
- (4) Salaka-bhat which is the food offered to the monks chosen by casting lots
- (5) Pakkhika-bhat which is the food offered to the monks on the waxing and waning moon days
- (6) Uposathika-bhat which is the food offered to the monks on the Sabbath day and
- (7) Patipadika-bhat which is the food offered to the monks on the day after the Sabbath day.

The Buddha said he approved all of them. But since that time, offering of food to the monks by casting lots became a common practice among Buddhist devotees. With the permission and at the direction of Lord Buddha, the monks chose one monk from among themselves and appointed him "Bhattuddesaka" i.e. the monk who was in charge of allotting food offered by the devotees. The monk thus chosen for that charge must have special qualifications – good health, activeness, managerial skill, freedom from bias and prejudice, and being able to keep the correct list of allotted and unallotted monks. The first monk appointed in that charge during the lifetime of the Buddha was Maha Thera Ashin Datba, the son of the Malla King. He discharged

the duty of allotting Uddesa-bhat, Nimantana-bhat and Salaka-bhat, with fairness and correctness.

The lots, wooden sticks, bamboo slats, or palm leaves with names and addresses of donors written on them are put into the basket which is shaken upside down to thoroughly shuffled up the lots. Monks queue up to draw the lot by turn. Then they go to the addresses on the lots to partake alms food. If the monk cannot go, food is brought to him by the donor. There was originally no fixed time or month for this type of food offering. It was Myanmar kings who performed this function in Wakhaung because monks observing rain retreat vows and residing together in the same monastery might have difficulty in getting sufficient alms food in that month. Though originally casting lots was to provide food to monks, later other charity- robes, priestly needs, medicine and even monasteries are donated by lot casting.

The earliest evidence of charity by casting lots was found in Bagan stone inscriptions. In lines 22 and 23 of Saw Hla Wun Pagoda stone inscription of 1268 A.D. 1290 A.D and 1291 A.D there were mentions of Sayey Tan Charity. During the reign of King Thihathu [1298-1312 A.D.] of Pinya dynasty [1298-1364 A.D.] a big teak wooden monastery was built. Though it was offered to Su Twin Pyit Sayadaw Monk Ashin Nagita to honour his high moral caliber and learnedness, the monk advised the king to donate by casting lots. The lot chose him to be deserving recipient.

Since then, religious charity by casting lots became the established traditional festival Wakhaung month. Myanmar literature of later historic periods contained references to this festival. Poets like U Yar, Lu U Min, Hpohudaw U Min, Mei Khwe, U Hpyey, and playwright U Ponnya composed diverse verses

describing this festival. On page 229 of one Myanmar chronicle named Konbaung Set Maha Yazawun Tawgyi Volume 2, the casting lots festival at the palace of King Bagyidaw (1819-1837 A.D.) was recorded as follows:-

"On the 8th Waning day of the month of Wakhaung, village monks [Yama Wathi] and forest monks [Arinnja Wathi] were invited to the Court. Eight priestly utensils and other offertories were decoratively displayed on the 260 padeithabin stands. Their Majesties the King and the Chief Queen donated them to the invited monks and poured water to share their merits with all sentient beings. Next, they offered Salakabhat [Sayeytan food] offered to monks by casting lots."

Just like on other Myanmar religious functions, a festive atmosphere is created by gathering of lay devotees, dressed in their finery, and dainty damsels carrying offertories on their heads well balanced, followed by groups of merry-making male youths who joyously sing, play instruments and dance to the folk music of 'do-bat', 'ozi', and 'byaw' which befit the occasion.

Most religiously significance of the full moon day of Wakhaung is "Metta Sutta" [Discourse on loving-kindness] which Lord Buddha gave as a protective sutta. The background story is as follows:-

"Five hundred monks from Savatthi, after obtaining a meditation topic from the Buddha travelled for a distance of one hundred leagues away from Savatthi and came to a large forest grove, a suitable place for meditation practice. The guardian spirits of the trees dwelling in that forest thought that if these monks were staying in the forest, it would not be proper for them to live with their families.

So, they descended from the trees, thinking that the monks would halt there only for one night. But the monks were still there at the end of a fortnight, then it (See page 9)

PERSPECTIVES

Wednesday, 21 August, 2013

Knowledge is fortune

Knowledge is the basis of rational thinking which brings about a variety of prosperity. Knowledge can help a person distinguishes between good and bad or right and wrong, meaning it really overwhelms the whole life of a person.

Knowledge can find its way to everybody regardless of race, status and age. One can come a long way in his life if he is fully equipped with knowledge. But, his single mistake can ruin the life of two or more others if he is lack of knowledge.

With knowledge one can be visionary, rational and prosperous, and can also be a force to be reckoned with. And there is nothing he couldn't do, nobody's heart he couldn't win and no honor he couldn't earn. With those attributes, he can overcome a series of difficulties and troubles and thence live a life of comfort. Knowledge means a great deal to him.

Even though one happens to strike a fortune he could be in danger of overplaying his hand and suffer financial reverses if he is without knowledge of properly managing his fortune. This reflects how tough it can be for a person to come up with a vision and lead a better life without knowledge.

Knowledge accumulation requires hard work plus constant learning. Pursuit of knowledge is an endless mission. The more knowledge one accumulates the more skills he obtains and the more fortune he garners. And therefore, everyone is to work hard constantly to fully equip themselves with knowledge and try to be ready at a moment's notice.

Anti-DHF measures carried out in Ywangan hospital compound

YWANGAN, 20 Aug— Government departments, organizations and local people carried out sanitation tasks in hospital yard in Ywangan Township in Danu Self-Administered Zone in Shan State on 17 August morning.

The campaign was aimed at preventing against outbreak of Dengue Hemorrhagic Fever and malaria in the rainy season.

Commander of Township Police Force Police Major Than Zaw Myint, policemen, Chairman

of Township Development Support Group U Than Oo, Township Development Affairs Committee U Myint Oo, Executive Officer U Myat Khant Aye and Township Development Affairs Committee staff, Township Hospital Medical Superintendent Dr Daw Khin Moe Hlaing, in-charge of Shwe Than Lwin Company plantation U Tin Than, firefighters, Red Cross members, ward administrators.

MMAL-Township (IPRD)



NATIONAL

Technical presentation seminar on steel bridges held

NAY PYI TAW, 20 Aug—A technical presentation seminar on steel bridge, jointly organized by Public Works under the Ministry of Construction and JFE Steel & Engineering Corporation of Japan, was held at the meeting hall of the Ministry here this morning, with an address by Union Minister for Construction U Kyaw Lwin.

Senior Vice-President Mr Hiroshi Ueda of JFE Steel & Engineering Corporation extended a greeting.

After that, experts from JFE Steel & Engineering Corporation explained steel production technology, steel pipe pile installation and construction of bridges on international highways.

MNA



Technical presentation seminar on steel bridges in progress.—MNA

Myanmar, Malaysian entrepreneurs seek ICT opportunities

YANGON, 20 Aug—The Malaysia-Myanmar ICT Opportunities : Seminar and Industrial Business Meeting was held at Parkroyal Hotel, here, this morning.

Malaysian ICT companies and service companies explained information and communication technological services in respective sectors.

Responsible persons of Myanmar Computer Federation explained ICT infrastructure being constructed in the nation. Myanmar is turning out about 10000 ICT technicians



including about 6000 from Universities of Computer Studies yearly. At present, investors have good opportunities for investment in the various sectors of the nation as ICT demand is high.

Malaysian and

Myanmar ICT entrepreneurs held talks in respective sectors. Malaysian Foreign Trade Corporation plans to hold about 188 times of business meetings between Malaysian companies and Myanmar entrepreneurs.

Moe Thu

Full moon Day of Wakhaung ...

(from page 8)

occurred to them that the monks might be staying there till the end of the rain retreat. In that case they and their families would have to be living on the ground for a long time. So they decided to frighten away the monks, by making ghostly sounds and frightful apparitions such as bodies without heads and heads without bodies. So the monks were frightened and upset. They left the place and returned to the Buddha whom they related everything. On hearing their account, the Buddha taught them the protective discourse Metta Sutta [Loving-kindness].

The gist of Metta Sutta is giving loving-kindness to all sentient beings including your enemies [if you have any]. With good-will, and

wishes, praying for their health, happiness, long life and no harm and no dangers to all, assuming other that you are not their enemy but their friend. The immediate effect of Metta Sutta recitation is reciprocation of loving-kindness from those who hear it and cultivation of friendship and end of conflict and enmity.

The monks returned to the forest, reciting Metta Sutta and reoccupied their forest monasteries reciting Metta Sutta. The guardian spirits of the trees hearing Metta Sutta and receiving good-will and loving-kindness from the monks, reciprocated by welcoming them and not harming them anymore. Therefore, the monks could meditate in peace throughout the retreat. The Buddha knew that

protective Metta Sutta had beneficial effect. Because of peaceful meditation on the body, the monks came to realize its fragile and impermanent nature. The Buddha from Jetavana Vihara monastery, sent out his message to the monks, "Monks just as you have realized, the body is, indeed, impermanent and fragile like earthen jar."

Myanmar Buddhists are taught by monks Eleven Protective Suttas called "Parittas" which most of them can recite by heart. Whenever and wherever they go, they recite them. Especially they recite Metta Sutta when they go out or stay at new places.

On full moon day of Wakhaung, organized groups recitation of Metta Sutta are held to commemorate Metta Sutta Day.

BRT buses to charge K 400 per passenger

YANGON, 20 Aug—The private company which is expected to operate Bus Rapid Transit in Yangon will charge K 400 per passenger, according to media reports.

The company will field 80 buses into the system, with the backup of 12 buses.

An official of the company is quoted as saying by media that it would charge K 400 per passenger.

Yanongites raised concerns over the relatively higher transportation charge while most city dwellers live on daily wage of around K 3000.

MMAL-Khin Hsai

Experiences shared on Nay Pyi Taw meetings

BAGO, 20 Aug—Chief Justice of Bago Region High Court U Maung Maung Shwe shared his experiences of the coordination meeting of the Union Supreme Court, of chief justices of region/state high courts and of region/state justice officers at the high court of Bago Region on 17 August morning.

He attended the meetings in Nay Pyi Taw.

The experience sharing session was attended by justice officers, high court judges and officials, totaling 93.

MMAL-Thant Zin

Appointment of Austrian Ambassador agreed on

NAY PYI TAW, 21 Aug—The Government of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar has agreed to the appointment of Mr Enno Drofenik as Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the Republic of Austria to the Republic of the Union of Myanmar with residence in Bangkok.

Mr Enno Drofenik was born in 1971. He studied law and Jurisprudence at the University of Vienna in Austria and obtained a Master degree of law in 1993 from that university. In 1997, he joined the Austrian Federal Ministry of European and International Affairs and served in various capacities at Austrian Embassies and Missions abroad since 2010. He is Director at the office of the Secretary-General for Foreign Affairs of Austrian Federal Ministry of European and International Affairs.—MNA

Consultations for ADB-funded initiatives in Myanmar to be driven by stakeholders

MANILA, Philippines, 20 Aug—The Asian Development Bank (ADB) is providing a \$ 225,000 grant to help civil society in Myanmar develop a strategy for participating in the shaping of ADB-funded projects and programs in the country.

"We have a unique opportunity to put ADB's project consultation and participation process in the hands of civil society from the start, allowing them to drive the way they engage in the design of ADB-financed projects. This reflects lessons from other countries, and ADB's respect for the complexity of re-engagement in Myanmar," said Lainie Thomas, Social Development Specialist in ADB's Southeast Asia Department.

Historically, civil society organizations (CSOs) have not always been able to operate openly to Myanmar, but their participation is crucial to the success of ADB's work, as it gives voice to those affected by ADB-funded programs and helps them influence the design, implementation and monitoring of projects. It can also help lessen negative impacts on communities affected by resettlement or environmental concerns, and ensure ADB's safeguards are followed.

This grant will identify key stakeholder groups and equip them with the skills needed to maximize their participation in ADB-

supported consultation process. It will also look at ways to bring government and CSOs together to discuss development challenges and potential solutions.

Since Myanmar began a series of economic and social reforms in January 2012, ADB has provided more than \$5.4 million in technical assistance grants to help the country cope with an influx of tourists, update the country's electricity laws, and assess the state of post-primary education. ADB has also undertaken sector-specific assessments, including in-depth looks at transportation and energy in the country. It resumed operations in the country in January 2013.

ADB's interim strategy for Myanmar focuses on improving connections between urban and rural areas closing the development gap with regional neighbors and boosting growth through key infrastructure investments, particularly in transport and energy. ADB will also work with communities to improve livelihoods in rural areas where the majority of people live.

ADB, based in Manila, is dedicated to reducing poverty in Asia and the Pacific through inclusive economic growth, environmentally sustainable growth and regional integration. Established in 1966, it is owned by 67 members—48 from the region.

Zagawah

Volunteer

Singaporean Red Cross Society donates modern ambulance



NAYPYI TAW, 20 Aug—Under the arrangement of Myanmar Red Cross Society, Singaporean Red Cross Society donated an ambulance to Yangon-Mandalay Expressway Emergency First-Aid Camp to be opened near mile post 285 in Theegon of Meiktila, in the first week of August.

“As a cooperation programme between MRCS and Singaporean Red Cross Society, the ambulance

was donated to the camp. The donation is aimed at transporting patients from the accidents on the expressway to nearest hospitals as quickly as possible after providing first aid to them. The ambulance has been facilitated with modern devices and it will be about K 30 million. The vehicle will be used separately in transport of patients from traffic accidents on the

expressway,” said Staff Officer (Grade II) U Nay Oo of Meiktila Red Cross Brigade.

At a time when traffic accident occurs from mile post 276 of Pyawbwe-Meiktila area in Meiktila District to mile post 318 in Pyinsi Village of Wundwin-Myththa area, may contact 09-2201962, Staff Officer (Grade II) U Nay Oo, 064-23037 and 064-25474, Township Red Cross Brigade Office.

Kyemon-Chan Tha (Meiktila)

MPF launches emergency, complaint-handling phone lines

NAY PYI TAW, 20 Aug—Myanmar Police Force under the Ministry of Home Affairs has put hot lines into place at Myanmar Police Force HQ and region/state police stations to enable the public to submit tip-offs and complaints over illegal acts, mis-appropriation and corruption.

The public may reach the numbers for their information and complaints but are requested to avoid manners causing disruptions to these phone lines.

Myanmar Police Force HQ, Nay Pyi Taw Police Force, Kachin, Kayah, Kayin, Chin, Mon, Rakhine and Shan State Police Forces, Sagaing, Taninthayi, Bago, Magway, Mandalay, Yangon and Ayeyawady Region Police Forces, Offices of Commanders of East, West, South and North District Police Forces in Yangon Region, No (1) Police Station in Taunggyi, Office

of Deputy Commander of State Police Force in Lashio, and Kengtung Police Station in Kengtung have emergency numbers of 199.

Phone numbers receiving complaints from the public are Myanmar Police Force HQ (067-412222 and 067-412444), Nay Pyi Taw Police Force (067-550333), Kachin State Police Force (074-21444), Kayin State Police Force (058-23355), Sagaing Region Police Force (071-24996), Taninthayi Region Police Force (059-23998), Bago Region Police Force (052-23999), Magway Region Police Force (063-28099), Mandalay Region Police Force (02-61444), Mon State Police Force (057-24987), Rakhine State Police Force (043-22833), Yangon Region Police Force (01-2302199), Shan State Police Force (081-2125455) and Ayeyawady Region Police Force (042-23844).—MNA

Health Care Activity

Coord meeting on control of malaria disease held

TANINTHAYI, 20 Aug—With the aim of eliminating malaria disease, a meeting on control of malaria disease was held at the hall of the People's Hospital in Taninthayi of Taninthayi Region on 16 August morning.

Head of Township Health Department Dr Daw Than Than Aye explained future tasks to control malaria.

Leader of Taninthayi Region Malaria Control Team Dr Tin Tun Oo briefed the attendees on plans of the disease control, coordination in once every three weeks for assessing the weak and strong points in implementing the disease control tasks and plan to make field trips to grassroots level.

After that, the departmental officials,

National Sports

Traditional cane-ball contest kicks off in Sagaing

SAGAING, 20 Aug—Sagaing Gems Entrepreneurs Association (Hsinmyashin) held the traditional cane-ball contest in conjunction with the sports ground opening ceremony in front of the

association office on 16 August morning.

Win Win Kyaw, Shwechu, Ye Man, Htet Ahkar, Naing Shwe, Meeyahtar, Sanpya Maung, Po La Pyae, Pyanhlwar, Ma Myint Win Swe, Soe Moe

Myo Thant and Tabindaing teams from Sagaing and Mandalay are taking part in the contest.

The contest is aimed at turning out the outstanding players and raising sporting spirit.—Kyemon-Myo Win

Multiplier librarian course opened in Kalay

KALAY, 20 Aug—Kalay Township Information and Public Relations Department and the village library committee jointly organized the multiplier librarian course at the library in Kyaungtaik Village of Kalay Township

in Sagaing Region on 16 August.

It was the first training course in 2013. Altogether 16 trainees from Kyaungtaik Village, five from HsedawU Village and two from Thaphanein Village are attending the

course.

In previous years, similar courses were conducted in PyindawU, Myaungthla, Htoma, Htaukkyant, Kokko and Kangyi villages.—Kyemon-Wun Yan Kha (Tekkatho)

Distinction winners honoured at Yekyi BEHS

YEKYI, 20 Aug—A ceremony to present prizes to the students who passed the matriculation examination for 2012-13 academic year was held at Tezar Thiri Hall of Yekyi Basic Education High School in Patheingyi District of Ayeyawady Region on 18 August.

On the occasion, Ayeyawady Region Minister for Forestry and Mines U Soe Mya made a speech.



Next, U Kyi Than of Ayeyawady Foundation spoke on the occasion.

Ayeyawady Foundation donated K 9 million for prize presentation ceremony to Township Administrator U Ye Htut Naing.

Officials presented prizes to 203 outstanding students who had passed the matriculation examination with flying colours.

After that, officials gave prizes to 60 outstanding teachers.

Prizes also went to best pass rate schools Myoma BEHS, Zayathla BEHS Branch and Yodayatet School in first, second and third positions.

On behalf of the winners, Lu-Yay-Shun Ma Pwint Phyu Phyu of Yekyi BEHS spoke words of thanks.—Kyemon-697



REGIONAL

India train accident death toll rises to 37

NEW DELHI, 20 Aug—The death toll from a train accident in the eastern Indian state of Bihar on Monday has risen to 37, police officials said.

Most of the victims were women and children, who were crossing train tracks at a railway station in Bihar's Khagaria District when another train sped by on the adjacent track mowing them down.

"Today there was a

huge congregation of people at the railway station and they were heading towards a nearby temple to offer prayers. As there is no alternative path for the pedestrians, the pilgrims were walking on the tracks and were suddenly trapped by a fast moving train," a Mansi police station official said.

Following the incident, a mob of people beat the train driver to death and set fire to some trains, media

reports said.

Around 25,000 people were at the railway station when the accident occurred.

"Senior police officials are here to control the situation, and relief and rescue work is being carried out. We have sent nearly 20 injured people to hospitals," the police official said.

The death toll is likely to rise further, according to reports.

Kyodo News



Photo taken on 21 June, 2013 shows children practicing "an-zan" or "blind calculation" while watching computer screens which show numbers and a scaled-down abacus at a soroban class in Tokyo's Nerima Ward. KYODO NEWS

Death toll in knife attack on bus rises to three



Photo taken with a mobile phone shows a bus which is cordoned off after a robbery incident happened in Anyang City, central China's Henan Province, on 19 Aug, 2013. XINHUA

ZHENGZHOU, 20 Aug—Another victim died in hospital on Tuesday morning after being attacked by a knife-wielding man on a bus in central China's Henan Province on Monday, bringing the death toll to three.

The government of Anyang city confirmed that the three victims were all children, the youngest of whom was a 10 month-old baby girl.

The other two were boys aged 10 and 18, respectively.

They were among 15 people injured by a mob who used a knife to assault passengers on the bus en route to Beiguo Township, Anyang County on Monday

afternoon.

The attacker is still on the run.

The incident happened at about 3:05 pm on Monday, when there were 33 passengers on the bus.

Two of the victims died on the way to hospital.

Sources with the Anyang City People's Hospital and the Anyang County No 2 People's Hospital said among those who remained treated, the oldest was 67 and the youngest 18.

More than 400 policemen were sent to hunt for the suspect on Monday. According to witnesses, the attacker was a man of 1.65 metres tall, with crew cut hair and aged around 27.

Xinhua

Pakistani PM calls on peace talks with militants

ISLAMABAD, 20 Aug—Pakistani Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif on Monday invited the militants for dialogues to end the bloodshed in the country in his first televised address.

"My government is determined to tackle the problem of terrorism either through dialogues or with full might of the state and all state institutions are on the same page on the issue," Nawaz Sharif told the nation over Radio and Television networks.

He said the government has more than one option to tackle the problem but wisdom demands that there is no loss of innocent lives. He invited those treading the path of terrorism to dialogues to end the

vicious cycle of bloodshed.

The prime minister expressed the resolve of the government to eliminate the menace of terrorism, improve economy, address power crisis and pursue good neighbourly relations with all countries of the region, including India, for regional peace and prosperity.

"Pakistan is today facing serious challenges like terrorism endangering the very survival of the country and worst kind of load-shedding that has paralyzed the economy," he said.

Talking about relations with India, he said Pakistan and India will have to joint their heads together so that they can address common issues like poverty and ig-

norance.

"History bears testimony to the fact that progress and development of a nation is deeply linked to cordial relations with neighbours. It is because of this that we want good relations with all neighbours including India."

He said he has always wanted good relations with India and people supported his contention during recent elections. He said both countries should realize that instead of wasting their energies and resources on wars, they should wage war against poverty, ignorance and disease. He said the nation is fully prepared to defend the motherland along with its valiant armed forces.—Xinhua

Fertility treatment aid to be limited to women up to 42 from 2016

TOKYO, 20 Aug—The health ministry decided on Monday to limit public financial aid for fertility treatment to women up to 42 years old from fiscal 2016, preceded by a two-year transition period in which such aid will be curbed for older women, on the grounds that its success rate diminishes with age.

Since its introduction in 2004, financial aid has been provided to couples with a combined annual income of 7.3 million yen or less for in vitro fertilization—not covered by public health care insurance—regardless of the woman's age.

Each treatment costs 300,000 yen on average, of which the aid covers 150,000 yen, which is reduced to 75,000 yen if frozen eggs are used. The aid is offered for a total of five years, limited to three times in the first year and up to twice a year after the second.

Kyodo News



Workers clean up ash from the Sakurajima volcano on streets in Kagoshima City in Kagoshima Prefecture on 19 Aug, 2013, the day after 1,117-metre volcano had a major eruption. KYODO NEWS

Militancy, conflicts leave seven dozen Afghans dead

KABUL, 20 Aug—The Taliban-led militancy and conflicts have left seven dozen or 84 people with majority of them Taliban fighters dead in Afghanistan over the past two days, officials confirmed on Monday.

In the bloody battle which erupted in the western Farah Province on Sunday and over Monday, according to an official, 72 Taliban militants and 11 police had lost their lives.

"The Public Protection Police Force (PPPF) was escorting a convoy travelling from western Herat Province to the southern Helmand Province on Sunday evening when several hundred armed Taliban rebels launched an attack on the convoy triggering heavy fighting. The clash lasted until Monday morning during which 72 militants and 11 policemen were killed," an official with police in Herat, lieutenant

colonel Farid told Xinhua.

He also added that the bloody incident took place in Chahkab area of Gulistan district just in western part of Farah city, 695 km west of Afghan capital Kabul.

An another violent incident, the unknown armed men opened fire and killed an educationist in the eastern Nangarhar Province with Jalalabad as its capital 120 km east of Kabul on Monday.—Xinhua

Regulators promise greater scrutiny of New Zealand dairy industry

WELLINGTON, 20 Aug—New Zealand food safety officials announced on Tuesday that they will step up their regulatory oversight of the dairy industry after two international alerts involving New Zealand products this month.

The Ministry for Primary Industries (MPI) was exploring interim measures to strengthen consumer assurances around the country's dairy production, as it

and the government launch inquiries into the cause and response to the botulism scare involving whey protein concentrate from Fonterra.

"Our dairy sector trades on New Zealand's reputation, and that reputation is built on the strong assurances our regulatory system provides, and the quality of New Zealand's products," MPI acting director-general Scott Gallacher said in a statement.

The interim measures included stepping up the regulatory presence in manufacturing premises, improving and expanding testing across dairy production, and running simulations to test the industry's ability to track product through their supply chains. The MPI would also step up review of the risk management plans that dairy producers drew up for their manufacturing plants.

Xinhua

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MV MOROTAI VOY NO (215)

Consignees of cargo carried on MV MOROTAI VOY NO (215) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 21.8.2013 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of M.I.P 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 Claims 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.

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Consignees of cargo carried on MV EVER ABLE VOY NO (352N) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 21.8.2013 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 Claims 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 EVER GREEN SHIPPING**

Phone No: 256908/378316/376797

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

MV SUNNY NAPIER II VOY NO ()

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Damaged cargo will be surveyed daily from 8 am to 11:20 am and 12 noon to 4 pm to Claims 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.

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INVITATION TO OPEN TENDER

Sealed tenders are invited by the Department of Health, Central Medical Stores Depot for the supply of Medical Equipment.

Tender documents are available during office hours at the office, Commencing from (23.8.2013).

Sealed bids are to be submitted to the office, not later than (23.9.2013) 14: 00 hour, after which no bid will be accepted. No telegraphi/telex proposal will be accepted.

For detail information please contact the Deputy Director (Medical Stores) Phone No. 371969, 372362, 371284

Central Medical Stores Depot
Department of Health

Indian navy recovers 7th body from sunken submarine

NEW DELHI, 20 Aug— Indian navy rescuers on Monday extricated one more body from INS Sindhurakshak, taking the number of victims recovered from the ill-fated submarine to seven, said *Press Trust of India*.

The report quoted na-

val sources as saying the body has been taken to state-run J J Hospital in Mumbai for postmortem. Eleven navy personnel remained missing in the naval tragedy which took place early last Wednesday in downtown Mumbai.

Xinhua



Fully assembled Chevrolet Cruze cars reach the end of the assembly line at the General Motors Cruze assembly plant in Lordstown, Ohio in this file photo from 22 July, 2011. General Motors Co will recall 292,879 Chevrolet Cruze cars in the United States due to a defect that can cause loss of the brake assist function in models with the 1.4-liter turbocharged engine and six-speed automatic transmission, it announced on 16 Aug, 2013. The recall affects 2011 and 2012 models.—REUTERS

19 charged in largest gun bust in New York history

NEW YORK, 20 Aug— Nineteen people have been detained and 254 guns seized in what New York City mayor Michael Bloomberg called the largest gun bust in the city's history.

"There is no doubt that the seizure of these guns—the largest bust in the city's history — has saved lives," he said on Monday at a Press conference at the police headquarters, where many of the illegally trafficked guns were displayed.

Using court-authorized wiretaps, investigators have identified the gun sellers in North and South Carolina attempting to supply guns for the purpose of

re-selling the weapons in New York City.

The 254 seized firearms include high-capacity assault weapons, a fully automatic machine gun and handguns, which are most typically the models of guns used to commit violent crimes in the five boroughs of New York City.

"New York is the safest big city in the nation, but year after year, illegal guns flow into our city from states that don't have common-sense laws that keep guns out of the hands of criminals," Bloomberg said.

According to the most recent available gun trace data from the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Fire-

arms and Explosives, the percentage of out-of-state guns used in crimes in New York City has been increasing in recent years.

In 2009, 85 percent of crime guns came from out-of-state. In 2010, that proportion was 86 percent, and in 2011, 90 percent of crime guns came from outside the State of New York.

Both North and South Carolina states have laws that allow criminals and traffickers to easily obtain guns, such as not requiring lost or stolen guns to be reported to law enforcement.

They are in the list of top out-of-state for illegal firearms recovered and traced in New York City.

Xinhua

China, Thailand convene first strategic dialogue

BANGKOK, 20 Aug— Chinese Vice Foreign Minister Liu Zhenmin held talks with Thai officials on bilateral ties and China- ASEAN relations in the First China-Thailand Strategic Dialogue held in Bangkok on Monday.

In the meeting co-chaired by Liu and Sihasak Phuangketkeow, permanent secretary of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Thailand, both sides noted with satisfaction the progress made in high-level visits, trade and investment, tourism, culture and education between the two countries since the adoption of the Joint Action Plan on China-Thailand Strategic Cooperation (2012-2016).

They agreed to maintain the momentum of cooperation under the MOU on Cooperation on Sus-

tainable Development and to enhance cooperation in such areas as high speed train, water resources management, green energy as well as education and human resource development.

The two sides vowed to step up efforts to further promote trade and investment in order to achieve the bilateral trade target of 100 billion U.S. dollars by 2015 set by the leaders of the two countries, prompting an early convening of the 3rd Meeting of the Joint Commission on Trade, Investment and Economic Cooperation. They also pledged to fully implement the MoU on Agricultural Trade Cooperation and expand trade in agricultural products. They shared the view that RMB should play a greater role in the business transactions between China and Thailand.—*Xinhua*

China, Mexico vow to boost strategic partnership

BEIJING, 20 Aug— Chinese State Councilor Yang Jiechi met with a delegation led by three Mexican ministers on Monday, vowing to boost bilateral partnership.

Yang met with Secretary of Foreign Relations

Jose Antonio Meade, Secretary of Communications and Transportation Gerardo Ruiz Esparza and Secretary of Tourism Claudia Ruiz Massieu Salinas.

Yang said China attaches great importance to the development of friend-

ly and mutually beneficial cooperation with Mexico.

China will work with Mexico to enrich bilateral strategic partnership in order to benefit the people of the two countries, he said.

Meade said Mexico is ready to work with China

to implement the agreements reached by the countries' leaders and expand bilateral cooperation in politics, trade and mutual investment in order to achieve common development goals.

Xinhua

ENTERTAINMENT



Jennifer Lopez's boyfriend Casper Smart accidentally revealed the news.—PTI

Fergie officially changes her name

LOS ANGELES, 20 Aug — Black Eyed Peas singer Fergie has officially changed her name from



Fergie requested for the name change last month. PTI

Stacy Ann Ferguson to Fergie Duhamel.

The 38-year-old singer, who is married to actor Josh Duhamel for five years, requested for the name change last month, reported TMZ online.

Fergie, who is pregnant with her first child, was asked to publish a notice in a local newspaper for four weeks which she dutifully did.

After completion of all the formalities a judge gave his consent to the Fergalicious singer's request.

PTI

Ashton Kutcher, Mila Kunis planning to get married?

LOS ANGELES, 20 Aug — Actor Ashton Kutcher is reportedly planning to pop the question to his actress girlfriend Mila Kunis soon.

The 35-year-old actor is smitten with Kunis, 30, who he has known for 16 years and plans to get married with her as soon as his divorce from Demi Moore comes through, reported Contactmusic.

Kutcher was previously married to Hollywood star Demi Moore and the couple are now in the process of getting a divorce.

"They plan to get engaged soon. Being with



Ashton Kutcher has known Mila Kunis for the past 16 years.—PTI

Mila brought Ashton back to who he really is.

He's not playing the field, he's focused on enjoying Mila and the happiness she brings," a source

said. "She doesn't get jealous like Demi used to. He calls her because he wants to and when they're apart they talk constantly," the source added.—PTI

Priyanka Chopra: Give the daughters of India a chance

NEW DELHI, 20 Aug — Priyanka Chopra, the ambassador of the just-launched NDTV-Vedanta Our Girls, Our Pride campaign, spoke today about her experiences as a child helping her parents conduct health clinics in rural Uttar Pradesh.

Priyanka's parents, both army doctors, conducted the health camps from out of an ambulance helped by a nurse, Priyanka and her brother Siddharth. Priyanka, whose job it was to package up the pre-

scribed medicines, said at the launch of the NDTV-Vedanta campaign in Delhi: "Since then, I've seen so closely what happens in a lot of rural India and, now that I've come to know, in a lot of urban India as well—the mindsets that people have towards the girl child, how she's looked upon as a burden."

Priyanka, who describes the campaign as one close to her heart, has already worked with UNICEF against female foeticide and infanticide in

2008. She said: "Our future is in the hands of our children and our girls are a huge part of that. We are one of the youngest nations in this world and I think it's high time that we take charge of this nation." Priyanka said this about the Our Girls, Our Pride campaign: "With this initiative we aim to change the lives of many girls and provide them with basic necessities to be able to lead a quality life." She urged Indian parents to give their daughters a chance.—PTI

Jennifer Lopez returning as judge on American Idol season 13?

LOS ANGELES, 20 Aug — Jennifer Lopez's boyfriend Casper Smart has accidentally revealed that the singer is heading back to the judging panel of American Idol.

There have been speculations about her return on the Fox reality show's 13th season but a formal announcement is awaited,

reported E! News.

When asked whether she is returning on the show, Smart said, "Yes". Apparently Smart thought that Fox had already made the announcement.

"Returning to American Idol makes sense for Jennifer this season as the show's schedule will allow her to focus on new

film and TV projects at the same time. And, of course, her twins are starting school this year and she will have time for her family," a source told the website.

The deal is yet to be finalised and if Lopez returns on the show, she will join returning judge Keith Urban. Fox Network President Kevin Reilly had confirmed

that they had approached Lopez. Names like Jennifer Hudson, Kelly Clarkson, Clay Aiken, Adam Lambert and Black Eyed Peas frontman will.i.am. are doing the rounds as possible replacements for Mariah Carey, Randy Jackson and Nicki Minaj. American Idol returns on January 2014.

PTI

Actor Dick Van Dyke escapes unhurt from car fire on Los Angeles freeway



Actor Dick Van Dyke Life holds his award backstage after receiving the life achievement award at the 19th annual Screen Actors Guild Awards in Los Angeles, California on 27 Jan, 2013.—REUTERS

ing wheel of a Jaguar that was reported to be on fire on the shoulder of the Ventura Freeway.

Van Dyke said a group of motorists who stopped to render assistance, one of them apparently an off-duty firefighter, saw him huddled in the driver's seat while he was trying to place a call for help and pulled him out of the car to safety. "They thought I had passed out so they yanked me out of the car," Van Dyke recounted in an interview with the celebrity news website TMZ.com, saying he had not initially realized that his car was burning.

"It just started making a noise, and I thought I had a flat at first, then it started to smoke, then it burned to a crisp," he said smiling. He added that he was unhurt and got out of the vehicle "long before" it went up in flames. Still, he counted himself lucky to be alive. "Not only that, there was a fireman, a nurse and a cop just happened to be passing by. Somebody's looking after me."

The actor's publicist, Bob Palmer, said the car, a "brand new" Jaguar, inexplicably caught fire after Van Dyke heard an unusual noise while driving and pulled over

to the shoulder of the freeway. He quoted Van Dyke, who had been on his way to a dental appointment, saying afterward, "The only thing I'm embarrassed about is that I could never figure out that damned car." Firefighters were "quickly able to extinguish the flames and evaluate the driver's medical condition. He did not require transport to a medical facility," Los Angeles city fire department spokesman Erik Scott said. Palmer said the actor was back at his home and was fine. A six-second video clip posted on Twitter by Van Dyke's wife, Arlene, showed the performer's charred vehicle on the freeway and a brief glimpse of the actor talking to officials at the scene. Van Dyke appeared unharmed in the video clip. A caption accompanying the clip said: "Van Dyke's melted car ... He's fine thank God!!" The tall, lanky actor, whose air of affability and gift for physical comedy helped make "The Dick Van Dyke Show" one of the most beloved sitcoms in US television history, received a lifetime achievement award from the Screen Actors Guild in January.

Reuters



Winners of the "Queens of Twins" beauty contest Melissza Czirok and Cintia Czirok (3rd L and 3rd R) pose with runner-ups Abigel Repcsik and Angela Repcsik (2nd R and 1st R), and the third placed Dora Papp and Judit Papp (1st L and 2nd L) during the 14th National Twins Festival in Ercsi, central Hungary, on 19 Aug, 2013.—XINHUA

SPORTS



Manchester City's David Silva, centre right, scores past Newcastle's goalkeeper Tim Krul, right, during their English Premier League soccer match at The Etihad Stadium, Manchester, England, on 19 Aug. 2013. Manchester City win 4-0.

REUTERS

Raikkonen will not drive for Red Bull in 2014

LONDON, 20 Aug—Kimi Raikkonen will not drive for Formula One champions Red Bull next season after talks broke down, his manager said on Monday. The Finn is out of contract at Lotus at the end of the season and was a leading contender to replace Mark Webber at Red Bull when the Australian moves over to endurance racing next year. Fellow Australian Daniel Ricciardo, from Red Bull's junior team Toro Rosso, now looks most likely to get the 2014 seat alongside world champion and current standings leader Sebastian Vettel.

"Kimi will not be driving for Red Bull in 2014. We held some talks but a deal will not be happening," his manager Steve Robertson told www.autosport.com.

A Red Bull announcement could come at this weekend's Belgian Grand Prix when the season resumes after a break. Robertson said staying at Lotus was just one possibility for 2007 world champion Raikkonen who spent two years in rallying after being forced out of Ferrari in 2009. He has shone on his return to F1 with an unfashionable team.

"We are pretty confident Kimi will be in F1 next year," he said. "There are options—and that is plural—out there and I will continue to talk to teams. I am hopeful we will sort something out in the not too distant future." Raikkonen, second in the current standings and third last year, has even been linked in the media with a return to Ferrari to replace the underper-

forming Felipe Massa but the Italian team have played down the speculation.

The F1 rumor mill even suggested Ferrari's number one driver Fernando Alonso

Lotus F1 Formula One driver Kimi Raikkonen of Finland holds up his trophy on the podium after placing second in the Hungarian F1 Grand Prix at the Hungaroring circuit in Mogyorod, near Budapest on 28 July, 2013.—REUTERS



could be heading to partner Vettel next season after his manager was seen entering the Red Bull motorhome at the Hungarian Grand Prix last month. Ferrari issued a

rare public rebuke to Alonso after he told reporters "The one the others have" when asked following Hungary what kind of car he wanted for his birthday.—Reuters

NASCAR's Stewart out for season with broken leg

LOS ANGELES, 20 Aug—Three-time NASCAR Sprint Cup Series champion Tony Stewart has ruled himself out for the rest of the season due to the broken right leg he suffered in a car crash earlier this month.

Stewart, who suffered a broken tibia and fibula in an August 5 sprint car race in Iowa, will be replaced on his Stewart-Haas team by veteran driver Mark Martin and Austin Dillon for the remainder of the 2013 campaign.

"Obviously, I'm disappointed to be out ... but the team is in very good hands with Mark Martin and Austin



Three-time NASCAR Sprint Cup Series Champion Tony Stewart.

Dillon," Stewart, 42, said in a statement.

"Mark is someone I've looked up to my entire career and I have a tremendous amount of respect for him. Austin is a great young talent, and he showed that Sunday at Michigan."

Dillon, who finished 14th at Michigan after replacing Stewart in the Stewart-Haas No 14 Chevrolet, will also drive for the team in the October 20 Talladega

event.

Martin, who has piled up 40 wins in the Cup ranks over the past four decades, was released by Michael Waltrip Racing on Monday and will fill in for Stewart this weekend at Bristol and in 11 other races.

Stewart, who has also won titles in Indy cars and stock cars, was NASCAR Sprint Cup Series champion in 2002, 2005 and 2011.

Reuters

Sao Paulo will be ready for World Cup

SAO PAULO, 20 Aug—FIFA secretary general Jerome Valcke said on Monday he has no doubt Itaquerao stadium in Sao Paulo will be ready in time for next year's World Cup.

Earlier this year Valcke warned Sao Paulo could be taken off the tournament's schedule if construction work was not stepped up at the venue. "I remember that during the Confederations Cup we had an emergency meeting because we were

afraid about when this stadium would be delivered," Valcke said. "And I can tell you that, yes, the stadium will be delivered on time and, yes, it will be ready to organize the opening game of the World Cup and also for test events here before this opening game."

Sao Paulo was Valcke's first stop of a four-day tour that will also include inspections of stadiums in Curitiba, Manaus and Rio de Janeiro.

Reuters

Towering Isner emerges as America's hope for Flushing Meadows

CINCINNATI, 20 Aug—Long before Andy Roddick retired at the US Open last year American tennis had been searching for some-



John Isner of the US hits a return ball to Rafael Nadal of Spain during their championship match at the Men's Cincinnati Open tennis tournament in Cincinnati, Ohio on 18 Aug. 2013.

REUTERS

one to wave the Stars and Stripes at Flushing Meadows. That man has stepped forward this summer with towering John Isner and

his booming serve looking ready to make some noise when the final grand slam of the season gets underway on 26 August.

Roddick exited the sport to great fanfare last September taking his final bow on the same Arthur Ashe Stadium court where he had claimed his one and only grand slam title.

This year it will be a full decade since Roddick became to the last American man to hoist the trophy and the search continues in earnest for the next in an illustrious line of home-grown winners that also includes, Pete Sampras, Andre Agassi, John McEnroe and Jimmy Connors. The search has been tough—last week's world rank-

ings did not include a single American in the top 20 for the first time since the classification began in 1973.

That changes on Monday though when Isner will move from 22 to 14 in the world and he underlined his US Open ambition forcing world number two Spaniard Rafa Nadal to grind out a 7-6, 7-6 win in the final of the Western and Southern Open on Sunday. While it is far too early to put Isner's name in the same sentence with any of the greats of American tennis the 27-year-old is looming as the big dangerman in Flushing Meadows."

His game is on the rise. He's improving a lot, and he's moving fast," said Argentine Juan Martin Del

Potro, the 2009 US Open winner. "His serves are unbelievable, and nobody wants to play against him."

Since retiring in the second round at Wimbledon with a left knee injury Isner has been in brilliant hardcourt form putting together a 16-4 match record while picking up his seventh career title in Atlanta followed by runnerup finishes in Washington and Cincinnati.

Along the way to Sunday's final Isner knocked off three top 10's, world number one Novak Djokovic, number seven Del Potro and number 10 Milos Raonic.

"Nobody likes to play against a great player, and nobody likes to play

against a player who you will not have the chance to be on rhythm for most of the time," said Nadal. "John is this kind of player that, in my opinion, he should be fighting for the Masters, for the top 10. Of course, with his serve, advantage is huge. "So if he's playing well mentally and he's making the right decisions in important moments, he's a player that it's very difficult to stop."

Certainly, if nothing else, Isner has raised expectations heading into the US Open but remains reluctant to shoulder the added burden of being the next great American hope leaving that duty to four-time US Open champion Serena Williams.—Reuters

GENERAL

BiH army helicopters drop water to fight against forest fire

SARAJEVO, 20 Aug—Helicopters from Armed Forces of Bosnia and Herzegovina (BiH) on Monday dropped water over raging forest fire in southern part of the country.

The helicopters operated in the area of Jablanica, where a raging forest fire has swallowed up hundreds of hectares of forest land.

The move came as the latest efforts to put out the wildfire which began in late July. No deaths or injuries were reported. Under the request of the Security Ministry, BiH Air Force has participated in the operations to fight against fire since August 3, local media reported.

Helicopters have dropped almost 1,000 tonnes of water with a flight time of over 60 hours since early August, the reports said, adding that the fire was still not under control. Hot weather has fueled forest fires in mountains since early summer in BiH while firefighters were struggling with the lack of equipment and difficult terrains.—Xinhua



“The Condor Aerial’s Maveric unmanned aerial vehicle system, or drone, that will be considered for use by the Florida Keys Mosquito Control District later in August, is pictured in this undated handout courtesy of Condor Aerial. The Florida Keys agency charged with keeping the island chain’s mosquito swarms at bay might become the nation’s first to use drones to spot remote breeding grounds as part of efforts to eradicate the insect.”

REUTERS

MYANMAR TV

(21-8-2013, Wednesday)

6:00 am	12:25 pm
1. Paritta By Venerable Mingun Sayadaw	17. Myanmar Movies
6:15 am	2:45 pm
2. Metta Pawana By Min gun Sayadaw Phayagyi	18. Instrumental Music
6:40 am	2:50 pm
3. Dance of National Races	19. Hit Songs of Stars
6:45 am	3:00 pm
4. Documentary	20. News
7:00 am	3:15 pm
5. News/Weather Report	21. India Drama Series
7:20 am	4:00 pm
6. Maha Wuntha Myat Buddha	22. News
8:00 am	4:15 pm
7. News/International News	23. India Drama Series
8:25 am	4:35 pm
8. Sing A Song	24. University of Distance Education (TV Lectures) -Third Year (Philosophy)
9:00 am	5:00 pm
9. News/International News	25. News
9:25 am	5:15 pm
10. Nine Precepts	26. Myitta Sutton Sermon by Sidagu Sayadaw
9:45 am	6:00 pm
11. Mono Classical Songs	28. News/ Weather Report
10:00 am	6:20 pm
12. News	28. Shwe Yin Khone Than
10:15 am	7:00 pm
13. Sermon on Fullmoon Day of Wakhaung (Metta A Khadaw Nay)	39. News
11:00 am	7:25 pm
14. Documentary	30. Kyae Pwint Myaye Yin Khone Than
11:10 am	8:00 pm
15. Bakery World	31. News/International News/Weather Report
12:00 pm	8:35 pm
16. News/International News/Weather Report	32. People Talks
	9:00 pm
	33. News
	34. My Mind Game My SEA Games
	34. Nostalgia to Myanmar Cultural Arts

MYANMAR INTERNATIONAL

(21-8-13 09:30 am ~ 22-8-13 09:30 am) MST

- * Local News
- * Offering Alms To The Monks During The Lent
- * World News
- * Product of Myanmar-Shin Ma Taung Thanakhar
- * Local News
- * “Great Shwedagon” (Episode-3)
- * World News
- * Will you feed the pigeons
- * Local News
- * Wagaung...A Festival For Persenting Offertories by Lot
- * World News
- * Journey To Unimaginable Spots (Episode-7)
- * Local News
- * Five Treasures in the Ancient City of Mrauk U
- * World News
- * Youth of the future (Episode-16) Young Photographer (Thi Ha Aung)
- * Local News
- * Taung Byone Nat Festival (Episode-5)
- * World News
- * Unique Art of Stuceo Work
- * Local News
- * Those who never give up (Episode-5) Shwe Min Thar Foundation
- * World News
- * ASEAN Choral Dance
- * Local News
- * Come along With mel
- * World News
- * Sea Games (Boat Race)
- * Local News
- * Sagaing Hills & Nostalgic Panorama
- * World News
- * Sitagu International Buddhist Acedamy (SIBA)

Israel allows 270 trucks into Gaza amid closure of Rafah crossing

GAZA, 20 Aug—The Israeli authorities allowed 270 trucks carrying agricultural products and construction materials into Gaza via Kerem Shalom crossing on Monday, Gaza commercial liaison officer Raed Fattouh said.

Fattouh noted that it included 20 trucks of gravels belong to the private commercial sector, in addition to limited quantities of cements, iron bars and gravels

for international construction projects.

“The Israeli authorities had also pumped limited quantities of gasoline and cooking gas,” he added.

Israel has been imposing a tight blockade on Gaza after Islamic Hamas movement had violently seized control of the area since June 2007.

Meanwhile, the Egyptian authorities closed down Rafah border crossing with

the Gaza strip, the main crossing point of the coastal enclave, until further notice, the interior ministry of Hamas government announced on Monday.

It said the Egyptian side “officially informed us that the border crossing between Gaza and Egypt is closed in both directions due to the hard security condition in northern Sinai.”

Xinhua

MotoGP set to return to Brazil after a decade away

SYDNEY, 20 Aug — MotoGP will return to Brazil for the first time in a decade next year subject to an upgrade to the Nelson Piquet track in Brasilia, promoters Dorna announced

on Tuesday.

Grand Prix motorcycling last took place in the country in Rio de Janeiro in 2004 and its return is subject to approval by the MotoGP safety commis-

sion and the agreement of the governing International Motorcycling Federation (FIM).

“Brazil is one of the most important motorcycling markets in the world

(and a return) has been a wish of the whole MotoGP family for many years,” Dorna chief Carmelo Ezpeleta said after meeting with local promoters and government officials at the circuit.

“I think it is really fantastic. It is an important project for us. Right now, Brazil is involved in many big projects, such as the football World Cup and the Olympic Games, so it is also very important for them.”

Should the race get the go-ahead, South America would go from having no rounds in the 2013 calendar to two in 2014 with Argentina also hosting a race at the new Termas de Rio Hondo circuit.

Reuters

First batch of Thai evacuees from Egypt return home

BANGKOK, 20 Aug—The first batch of 345 Thais evacuated from strife-ridden Egypt arrived in Bangkok on Monday on a government-chartered flight.

A Thai Airways International’s special flight from Dubai, where the evacuees were taken on Sunday, landed Monday afternoon at Bangkok’s Don Mueang airport. The Transport Ministry arranged Bangkok and inter-provincial buses to take the evacuees to destinations in the capital and other provinces.

Later on Monday, a second batch of Thai nationals will return to Thai-

land from Dubai on another chartered flight by the national flag carrier. In addition, a Thai Air Force C-130 transport plane will bring back about 66 Thais.

By now, more than 1,000 people have registered with the Thai embassy in Cairo to leave the Middle East country where violence keeps escalating. There were about 2,000 Thai staying in Egypt and most are students.

On Monday, the Foreign Ministry of Thailand ordered evacuation of families of staff of Thai Embassy in Cairo, particularly women and children.

Xinhua



Honda MotoGP rider Marc Marquez (93) leads Yamaha rider Jorge Lorenzo (99) and Honda rider Dani Pedrosa, all of Spain, during the Indianapolis Grand Prix in Indianapolis on 18 Aug, 2013.—REUTERS

Union ministers discuss Myanmar's affairs with Quintana



NAY PYI TAW, 20 Aug—Mr Tomás Ojea Quintana, the United Nations Special Rapporteur on the human rights situation in Myanmar met with Union Ministers Dr Pe Thet Khin, U Wunna Maung Lwin, U Aye Myint and Dr Daw Myat Myat Ohn Khin, here, separately today.

They held talks on the implementation of National Health Plan in the rural areas, IDPs' easy access to health care in Rakhine State by the Ministry of Health, progress in Myanmar and ongoing works between Myanmar and they UN, labour affairs, eradication of forced labour, formation of labour union, sending

of Myanmar workers abroad, humanitarian aids to the IDPs in Kachin State, women rights and anti-human trafficking.

MNA

**Union Minister
U Wunna Maung
Lwin holds talks with
Mr Tomás Ojea
Quintana.—MNA**

Union Attorney-General receives foreign guests

NAY PYI TAW, 20 Aug—A delegation led by Mr John W Hancock of Thailand-based International Baker & McKenzie Law Firm called on Attorney-General of the Union Dr Tun Shin at his office, here, this morning.

At the call, the guests said that arrangement has been made to open Law Firm branch in Yangon in

September and investment will be invited.

In the afternoon, the Union Attorney-General received Senior Legal Adviser Dr Mark West and party of East West Management Institute of USAID.

During the meeting, Senior Legal Adviser Dr Mark West informed the Attorney-General of the

Union FM meets Director of Brazilian Cooperation Agency

NAY PYI TAW, 20 Aug—Ambassador Fernando Marroni Abreu, Director of the Brazilian Cooperation Agency (ABC) and party paid a courtesy call on U Wunna Maung Lwin, Union Minister for Foreign Affairs at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs this evening.

They discussed matters on enhancing technical cooperation between the Government of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar and the Government of the Federative Republic of Brazil.

MNA

Appointment of Serbian Ambassador agreed on

NAY PYI TAW, 21 Aug—The Government of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar has agreed to the appointment of Mr. Miodrag Nikolin as Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the Republic of Serbia to the Republic of the Union of Myanmar with residence in Yangon.

Mr. Miodrag Nikolin was born in 1954, in Zrenjanin, Republic of Serbia. He was graduated from the Faculty of Economics, University of Belgrade in 1977. He worked as an intern of the then Federal Secretariat for Foreign Affairs of the Socialist Federal Republic of Yugoslavia from 1981 to 1982. Since then, he served in various capacities at different departments of Ministry of Foreign Affairs and at the Diplomatic Missions in Yangon. He is currently serving as Ambassador, Diplomatic adviser at the Ministry of Energy, Development and Environment Protection.

MNA

Appointment of Polish Ambassador agreed on

NAY PYI TAW, 21 Aug—The Government of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar has agreed to the appointment of Mr. Zenon Kuchciak as Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the Republic of Poland to the Republic of the Union of Myanmar with residence in Bangkok.

Mr. Zenon Kuchciak was born in 1960 in Poland. In 1986, he has obtained a Master Degree in Political Science at the Moscow State Institute of International Relations. He joined the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in 1986 and served in various capacities at the different departments of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Ministry of Internal Affairs and at the Polish Diplomatic Missions abroad. He was Ambassador of Poland to Uzbekistan from 2001 to 2005. He is currently serving as Deputy Director/Ambassador at the Foreign Service inspectorate at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

MNA

Byline: PyinOoLwin Chit Swe

As part of efforts for supplying irrigation water to farmland across the country, the government has built new dams and reservoirs and renovated and maintained the old ones, including the Aingma diversion weir in Minbu (Saku) Township in Minbu District.

The irrigation facility built over the Mann Creek is over 80 years old and it is 580 ft long and 10 ft high. There are 116 shutters and nine sluice gates at the diversion weir.

When Mannchaung Reservoir located about 30 miles upstream of the Mann Creek was completed in 1999, the number of farmland to which Aingma Diversion Weir irrigated has increased from 28965 acres in rainy season and 132 acre in summer season in 1996 to

34758 acres in rainy season and 5136 acres in summer season in 2013.

However, the water from the diversion weir did not reach 1431 acres in northern most part of it due to damaged part of the irrigation system which was constructed about eight decades ago.

Therefore, the over-30-mile-long northern main canal, the 18-mile-long southern main canal, 14 channels, nine minor channels were renovated, drains silted in the irrigation system were dredged and irrigation infrastructures were renovated in the 2012-13 FY. The irrigation system of the diversion weir is being upgraded.

Upon completion of the upgrade work, the diversion weir is expected to irrigate 36189 acres, benefiting

Aingma Diversion Weir benefiting local farmers, greening environment



the population of 42940 from 95 villages. The first renovation of the irrigation facility in 80 years would help local farmers enjoy high per capital income and would prevent flood in the

rainy season.

Local farmers are delighted to see irrigation water flowing into their farmland and ready to engage in double cropping which would improve their

livelihood. Besides, the upgraded irrigation facility is sure to turn the region to greener and to supply drinking water sufficiently to the people and cattle as well. The facility will surely

play an important role in implementing rural area development and in making efforts for reducing poverty in rural areas.

Myanma Alinn: 11-8-2013

Trs: AMS