



President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar U Thein Sein shakes hands with Japanese Minister of Economy, Trade and Industry Mr Toshimitsu Motegi.

MNA

Heavy power plant (500 MW) to be built in Hlinethaya Township

President receives Japanese Minister for Economy, Trade and Industry

NAY PYI TAW, 22 Aug—President U Thein Sein received a delegation led by Japanese Minister of Economy, Trade and Industry Mr Toshimitsu Motegi at the Credentials Hall of the Presidential Palace here this morning.

They held a cordial discussion on cooperation with JICA in poverty alleviation, human resources development and infrastructural development in Yangon spending 51 billion yen granted

during Japanese Prime Minister's trip to Myanmar, running of Japanese companies and talks on future investments, power supply by gas and charcoal, implementation of health and electricity sectors and promoting social status of national races in border areas with the assistance of 20 billion yen, human resources development in industrial sector, standardization of crops' quality such as rubber and onion, capacity building of

doctors, ongoing assistance for sufficient power supply, construction of heavy power plant (500 MegaWatt) in Hlinethaya Township, potentials for export of food stuffs to the neighboring countries and Japan's help for development of SMEs.

It was also attended by Union Ministers U Wunna Maung Lwin, U Tin Naing Thein and U Maung Myint, departmental heads and the Japanese Ambassador to Myanmar.

MNA

C-in-C meets senior military officers in PyinOoLwin

NAY PYI TAW, 22 Aug—"Tatmadawmen need constant training to sharpen their skills," Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Senior General Min Aung Hlaing said at a meeting with senior military officers from PyinOoLwin Station at Defence Services Academy (DSA) this morning.

He urged those officials to nature their trainees to

become gentlemen even during under training period.

After that, the Senior General together with the Commander-in-Chief (Navy), the Commander-in-Chief (Air) and the senior military officers from the Office of the Commander-

in-Chief (Army), the Commander and the Station Commander visited Department (2) of Studies at DSA.

The Senior General looked into cadet wears on show at the meeting hall.

Myawady

Senior General Min Aung Hlaing views military equipment displayed at Defence Services Academy in PyinOoLwin.—MNA



Press release on actions of ministries on recommendations submitted to Public Service Capacity Assessment Committee

- Regarding the complaint about renewing of visa by Myanmar workers at Myanmar Embassy in Malaysia, under the guidance of the head of State, staff were sent to Myanmar embassy to issue passports to illegal Myanmar workers who have registered under 6P of Malaysia government during the designated period. As of October, 2011, Myanmar visas were issued to about 150,000 illegal Myanmar workers there and C of I, to about 10,000 illegal Myanmar workers who want to go back home. During 6P period, passport was issued to the complaint who applied for Myanmar passport (M 572073) with issued date (2-12-2011).
- The Ministry of Foreign Affairs is ready to help Myanmar people in Malaysia. Those who need help may contact the Minister-Counselor in Kuala Lumpur, Myanmar Embassy (Ph- 603 425 14455) and Labour Officer from the Ministry of Labour, Employment and Social Security (Ph- 603 425 15595).
- Respecting the complaint about floods on Myawady Road in Hlinethaya Township, Yangon Region and garbage in the back of Kyaukkasan Housing in Tamway Township, Yangon City Development Committee (YCDC) cleared the channel along Myawady and Tabinshwehti roads. On 5-7-2013, damaged culverts at the junctions of P Moe Nin and Hninsi Roads and Myawady and P Moe Nin Roads were replaced with box culverts.
- The garbage pile in the complaint letter is not YCDC's, but Roll on/ off container.

Small garbage collector cars have to put collected garbage into the garbage containers. When the containers are full, garbage are disposed to last garbage cans. This system has been implemented since many years. YCDC is strictly supervising garbage disposal.

- With respect to Myanmar Posts and Telecommunications' bill, Ministry of Communication and Information Technology replied: MPT has changed its service charges collected with FEC as of 1-6-2013.
 - services collected in Myanmar kyat
 - overseas calls by government departments and private
 - sale of prepaid Top-up cards and One time cards for overseas calls
 - overseas postal charges, receipts from overseas parcels and overseas telegraph.
 - services collected with USD only
 - foreign embassies, UN agencies, foreign companies/organizations and initial installation costs collected from foreign citizens and domestic and overseas calls (Auto, Mobile, ADSL, Internet and IP Star which are installed with All in FE)
 - International Private Lease Line
- As of 1-6-2013, service charges are collected with USD in place of FEC in accord with the points described in the above Para-5. It has been announced at the receipt counters.
- Complaints and inquiries about the actions of Ministries can be sent to Public Service Capacity Assessment Committee.

Public Service Capacity Assessment Committee

Health Care

Zeyathiri Tsp launches World Breastfeeding Week and Nutrition Week

NAY PYI TAW, 22 Aug—A ceremony to launch the World Breastfeeding Week and Nutrition Week was held at the hall of General Administration Department in Zeyathiri Township of Nay Pyi Taw Council Area on 20 August.

Chairperson of District Maternal and Child Welfare Supervisory Committee Daw Kyi Kyi Yin and Chairperson of Township MCWA Daw Hla Hla Win made speeches.

Next, Medical Superintendent Dr Kaythi



Khaing, Assistant Surgeon Dr Aye Mya Thida Aung and nurse grade I Daw Nan Thuza Myaing gave vitamin

tablets to children under five and nutritious feeds and refreshment to expectant mothers and children.

Kyemon

Odd News

Rounds of ammunition found in Kalaw

KALAW, 22 Aug—Bullets were found in digging the drain in Ward 3 of Kalaw in Shan State (South) and two guns and assorted rounds of ammunition from the house of the guard of orange farm.

The ward administrator and local people dug the drain for proper flow of water near Thitsa Farm in Thitsa region of Ward 3. At 2 pm on 15 August, they found 2550 .303 rounds of ammunition from the one foot deep ground and 325 empty bullets.

The people informed the township Police Force of finding the rounds of ammunition.

Township Police Force Commander Police Major Tin Win and Commander of Township Police Station Police Captain Swe Oo and members accepted the bullets.



Unearthed bullets in Kalaw.

Acting on tip-off, the Township MPF commander and party raided the house of the guard of orange farm Sai Kyaw Kham (a) Aik Kaw at Palaungtaung Orange Farm on 16 August morning.

They seized one M-16 automatic rifle, one .32 pistol, 45 .9mm rounds of ammunition, 15 5.56mm bullets, 130 .303 rounds

of ammunition, 30 .30mm bullets, 14 .12mm bullets, two fuses of BA-91 grenade and 11 magazines.

Sai Kaw Kham (a) Aik Kaw is under investigation over the case of possessing rounds of ammunition and related materials at the Kalaw Township Police Force.

Kyemon-Zaw Thein Yi

Survey conducted for construction of Yangon-Dala suspension bridge

DALA, 22 Aug—Survey works were carried out for topographical map of Yangon-Dala suspension bridge, said in-charge of Survey Team of Top Company Chief Surveyor U Than Lwin.

“We conduct ground survey for construction of the bridge with the use of theodolite. After that, we will create the design for the bridge. Depending on the design, we will consider on construction of the bridge,” Chief Surveyor U Than Lwin.

Kyemon-Than Htay (Dala)



A survey team conducting preparation for topographical map.

Anti-Narcotic Drives

Stimulant tablets seized in Hpa-an, Muse, Kalaw

NAY PYI TAW, 22 Aug—A team from Hpa-an Anti-Drug Squad of Kayin State raided the house of Aye Naing (a) Saw Bilu (a) Bay Lu Wa, 45, in Thayagon Village of Thamanya Village-tract in Hpa-an Township on 18 August afternoon and arrested him with 191 stimulant tablets worth K 668,500, one hand-made pistol, five rounds of ammunition of carbine and one grenade.

File against Aye Naing was opened at Eindu Police Station under the law.

In the afternoon, members of Muse Anti-Drug Squad searched the house of Ma Aye Saw, 38, in Monghsat Village of Namkat Village-tract in Muse Township. They seized 350 stimulant tablets from the shoes of child worth K 700,000.

Muse Myoma Police

Station opened a file of lawsuit against her under the law.

On 19 August evening, members of Taunggyi Anti-Drug Squad together with Kalaw Township Police Force searched the shirt of passenger Khun Maung Chon, 35 of Tonkhan Ward of Hopong Township from the Yangyiaung Bus at the combined checkpoint at the

exit of Kalaw.

They seized five grams of opium from his shirt and 200 grams of opium from the sharp bottle, totalling 205 grams worth K 133,250 and 104 stimulant tablets worth K 10.4 million.

Kalaw Myoma Police Station filed him over the opium and stimulant tablets cases under the law.

MNA



Myanmar National Team, U-23 team to meet in tune-up match

YANGON, 22 Aug—Myanmar National Football Team and Myanmar U-23 Team will hold the tune-up match at Youth Training Centre in Thuwunna at 4 pm on 1 September.

Both teams are under training for taking part in the international football matches and SEA Games.

The senior team will participate in the final stage of the AFC Challenge Cup in 2014 and meet with Hong Kong team as an international tune-up match of FIFA on 6 September.

The senior team is under training of Chief Coach U Hsan Win from 21 to 31 August at Aung San Stadium. From 2 to 6 September, the team will be camped at Youth Training Centre.

The U-23 team will take part in the Merdeka Cup as of 7 September in Malaysia and in the SEA Games.

The fee for the tune-up match of the two teams is K 500 per head at ordinary stand and K 1000 at grand stand. TV broadcast is under coordination.

Kyemon-Zaw Min Aung

SITTWAY

INUNDATED: This rainy season, floods, inundation and heavy rains brought troubles to the flood victims across the nation.

Heavy rains and high tide floods Park Street in North Yupa Ward at downtown Sittway of Rakhine State on 20 August morning.

KYEMON-698



WORLD

Italy's Letta meets centre right, fails to resolve problems



ROME, 22 Aug — Italian Prime Minister Enrico Letta met with Silvio Berlusconi's center-right party on Wednesday to seek a solution to a stand-off that threatens his fragile coalition, but positions remained "distant", a government source said. Berlusconi's conviction for tax fraud has shaken the stability of the left-right coalition, with the former prime minister's People of Freedom (PDL) party demanding guarantees for his political future.

Letta and PDL Secretary Angelino Alfano held tense talks for almost three

hours on Wednesday evening, but failed to reach any agreement on how to proceed regarding Berlusconi.

"In terms of the Berlusconi question, the meeting did not go well. Positions remain distant," the government source said, adding that some progress was made towards a deal on property tax reform.

PDL leaders have presented a list of demands to Letta as the price for their continued support of an awkward coalition of traditional rivals, forced to rule together to end months of post-election stalemate in

April. In autumn, Berlusconi, a four-time prime minister, faces a vote in the Senate on whether to remove him from parliament and prevent him from standing for election.

The 76-year-old billionaire recently relaunched Forza Italia, the party that first swept him to victory in 1994. His allies are lobbying hard to guarantee his freedom to campaign, desperate to protect a charismatic leader who has dominated Italian politics for almost two decades.

The PDL wants Letta's center-left party to give an earlier signal of how it plans to proceed in the vote, and Alfano warned Letta on Wednesday that the PDL would not be able to stay in a coalition with a party that votes to eject its leader from parliament, PDL sources said.

Letta believes the matter is now firmly up to parliament and not something his Cabinet can get mixed up in, the government source said.—Reuters

Egypt's Mubarak to be released, put under house arrest, as authorities detain Islamist leaders

CAIRO, 22 Aug — An Egyptian court ordered the release of ex-President Hosni Mubarak after his petition on his last corruption case was accepted, and he is set to be put under house arrest, while the authorities continued detaining supporters of his successor Mohamed Morsi, who was ousted by the military in early July.

Mubarak will be freed

in the case of Ahram institution, in which he was charged along with his two sons with misusing power and accepting gifts from governmental institutions via his information minister.

For his age and after Mubarak paid 18,300 million Egyptian pounds (2.61 million US dollars) — the value of the gifts, "There is no justification for keeping

Mubarak in jail," the court said.

But Mubarak is still banned from travelling abroad as he still faces a retrial on charges of involvement in the killing of protesters during the 2011 unrest that eventually toppled him. The next hearing is slated for Saturday.

Mubarak's lawyer, Farid al-Deeb, told Xinhua that the former president would be freed Thursday.

"Mubarak will be freed unless he is charged with other crimes," legal expert Aly Mashallah said, adding that the prosecution is the sole authority to determine his final release.

Assistant Interior Minister for Prison Affairs, Mostafa Baz, said Mubarak could not be released from prison on Wednesday as government offices had already closed. After his release, Mubarak, who ruled Egypt for three decades, will be put under house arrest.—Reuters



Former Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak waves to his supporters inside a cage in a courtroom at the police academy in Cairo on 13 April, 2013.—REUTERS

Norway's ruling Labour party on comeback trail as election nears, poll shows

OSLO, 22 Aug — Norway's ruling Labor party is making up ground on the center-right opposition, raising the prospect of a close parliamentary election on 9 September, polls showed on Thursday.

Prime Minister Jens Stoltenberg's Labour is now the most popular party, taking away votes from the Conservatives, its main challenger, the poll by television channel TV2 showed.

A strong campaigner and debater, Stoltenberg scored an unexpected comeback victory in the previous national election four years ago. This time around his coalition, which also includes the Centre Party and



Norwegian Prime Minister Jens Stoltenberg visits Kvam, a flooded area, in central Norway on 23 May, 2013.

REUTERS

the Socialist Left, still trails the grouping of four centre-right parties that could form the next government, the poll showed.

The winner in the vote

will get to preside over Western Europe's biggest petroleum sector, which supplies a fifth of the European Union's gas, and may set new rules for the \$750

billion oil fund, the world's biggest sovereign wealth fund.

Support for Labor stands at 31.8 percent, up from 30.2 percent just a few days ago, while Erna Solberg's Conservatives are down to 26.8 percent from 29.4 percent, the poll showed. Another poll by tabloid VG indicated a similar trend and put the two parties neck and neck at just over 28 percent.

Stoltenberg's coalition is now on course for 74 seats in parliament, well short of the 85 needed for a majority, while the centre-right block could pick up 93, the TV poll showed.

Reuters

Fukushima fishermen delay resuming business due to toxic water leak

FUKUSHIMA, 22 Aug — A fisheries cooperative in Iwaki city, Fukushima Prefecture that has been voluntarily suspending business since the March 2011 disaster at the Fukushima Daiichi nuclear plant, decided Wednesday to postpone a trial operation that had been set for 5 September.

The cooperative has yet to set a new date. Ma-

sakazu Yabuki, head of the cooperative, told reporters after a meeting that, "We believe that (the decision to postpone the operation) is logical as we hear about issues over the leakage into the ocean of contaminated water day in, day out. We intend to conduct the trial operation if the situation settles down."

The cooperative originally planned to start the

test operation in waters off the city from 5 September, aiming to ship their goods after checking them for radioactive materials to confirm their safety.

The majority of meeting participants said that starting the operation on 5 September would be difficult after it came to light in July that radioactive water has been spilling into the Pacific Ocean from the nu-

clear power plant.

Fisheries operations have been voluntarily suspended in the prefecture facing the Pacific following the 2011 accident. In June last year, the Soma Futaba fisheries cooperative started a test operation off the coast of Soma city, north of the crippled plant.

Iwaki City is located south of the plant.

Kyodo News

Voting in Pakistan's by-elections begins

ISLAMABAD, 22 Aug — Voting started in Pakistan's by-elections on Thursday that will test popularity of the ruling and opposition parties, officials said.

Elections are being held on 41 seats including 15 National Assembly seats and 26 Provincial Assemblies seats across the country. These seats were vacated by those members who had won more than one seats in the 11 May elections and on those seats where candidates had been killed and disqualified over fake education degrees.

Nearly 500 candidates representing different political parties are in the run. Over 8 million people are eligible to cast votes.

The polling process began at 8 am and will continue till 5 pm, without any break. Troops have been deployed at some sensitive polling stations to ensure security, election commission officials said.

A total of 7,606 polling stations are established for the by-elections.

Unofficial results will be announced by the Election Commission of Pakistan at the conclusion of counting Thursday night.

The Election Commission has imposed ban on keeping mobile phones at the time of polling votes in the by-elections. Presiding officers have been directed to ensure secrecy of vote.

Xinhua



A Pakistani woman casts her vote at a polling station in Islamabad, capital of Pakistan, on 22 Aug, 2013.

XINHUA

SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY

Google in early talks with NFL on 'Sunday Ticket' service

NEW YORK, 22 Aug—Google Inc has opened discussions with the National Football League to buy the rights to the "Sunday Ticket" subscription TV service now owned by DirecTV, tech blog AllThingsDigital reported on Wednesday, citing sources familiar with the matter.

The acquisition, if consummated, would dramatically boost the media ef-

forts of the Internet search company, which is trying to ramp up original programming and earn subscription revenue as opposed to advertising income. The "Sunday Ticket" service allows NFL fans to watch a wide variety of football games outside of their local markets. NFL Commissioner Roger Goodell and league officials called on Google, Facebook Inc and

several other key Silicon Valley companies in recent days, as part of efforts to improve their content, NFL spokesman Alex Reithmiller confirmed on Wednesday. He did not elaborate.

But the tech blog cited sources saying Google CEO Larry Page and YouTube content chief Robert Kyncl specifically discussed acquiring the rights to the popular Sunday Ticket

package with Goodell and his delegation.

Google's YouTube last year expanded its stable of original content by promoting and investing in hundreds of dedicated channels, hoping to shed its image as a repository for grainy home videos and to start putting out quality content to boost advertising sales and earn subscription revenue.—Reuters



The NFL logo appears on an entrance door to the football stadium at Super Bowl XLII in Glendale, Arizona on 2 Feb, 2008.

REUTERS



A man is silhouetted against a video screen with an Facebook logo as he poses with an Dell laptop in this photo illustration taken in the central Bosnian town of Zenica, on 14 Aug, 2013.—REUTERS

Facebook-led project seeks Internet access for all

NEW YORK, 22 Aug—Facebook Inc CEO Mark Zuckerberg has enlisted Samsung Electronics Co Ltd, Qualcomm Inc and other technology companies to help him in a project aimed at making Internet access affordable for the 5 billion people around the world who are not online.

The group, called internet.org, is the latest effort by an Internet company to seek to expand Web access to emerging economies. It follows a similar thrust by Facebook rival Google Inc, which uses everything from balloons to fiber connections to expand connectivity.

While short on specifics, Zuckerberg's group intends to explore everything from lower-cost smartphones and providing Internet access to underserved communities, to working out ways to reduce the amount of data downloads required to run mobile Internet applications such as Facebook.

Zuckerberg did not give an estimate on how much it would cost to connect the world's population to the Internet. He said the key is to cut network operators' costs for provid-

ing data services so they can in turn lower the prices charged to consumers.

The 29-year-old who founded Facebook in his university dorm room said in a 10-page document released on Wednesday that he hopes the efficiency of data delivery will improve 100-fold in the next five to ten years. Keith Mallinson, a longtime telecom industry analyst, said that while the concepts and technologies Zuckerberg cites could be viable, the commercial interests of big companies and government politics could create bigger obstacles.

"There has to be a lot of heavy lifting to make all these things happen and to coordinate them," said Mallinson, who founded research firm WiseHarbour.

While 2.7 billion people are already online, the number is increasing by less than 9 percent annually, a rate that Zuckerberg said was too slow. Two-thirds of the world's population still has no Internet access.

While many of today's Facebook members use the service just to keep in touch with friends, Zuckerberg said future Internet users may have more lofty needs.

Reuters

Ottawa watching BlackBerry carefully, wishes firm well

OTTAWA, 22 Aug—The Canadian government is watching smartphone maker BlackBerry Ltd carefully as it explores options including sale of the company but will not comment on its affairs, Industry Minister James Moore said on Wednesday.

Loss-making BlackBerry, which has bled market share to Apple's iPhone and phones using Google's Android operating system, said last week it was weighing options that could include an outright sale.

The company's new phones, introduced earlier this year, have sold less quickly than expected and BlackBerry expects more red ink for the current quarter at least.

Speaking in an interview with Reuters, Moore said it was "unfortunate" that BlackBerry's new Q10 and the Z10 smartphones had not taken off with consumers.

"I know that they're facing their challenges and they're adjusting their firm internally in the way that

best suits their interests," he said. "And all I can say is, we wish them well, and we're keeping a close eye on the situation."

Moore declined to speculate about whether a foreign bid for BlackBerry could run afoul of national security regulations. Asked if the government wanted BlackBerry to stay Canadian, he replied: "We want them to do well, keep employing Canadians, keeping putting out innovative technologies and platforms, and we're paying close attention."

BlackBerry, formerly known as Research In Motion, made on-your-hip email possible with its first pagers and smartphones, coupled with strong security features.

But the company was slow to embrace the important consumer market and rivals are rapidly pushing into the corporate and government market that BlackBerry used to own.

Reuters



Blackberry Z10 devices are displayed at a Rogers store in Toronto on 5 Feb, 2013.—REUTERS

Nokia to launch large-screen smartphones next month

HELSINKI, 22 Aug—Nokia plans to unveil new, large-screen mobile handsets next month to revamp its Lumia smartphone lineup and challenge rival Samsung's dominance in increasingly popular phablet devices, sources said.

Nokia has developed more than one new mobile device and is due to announce them at an event in New York in late September, said the sources familiar with the plan.

The sources would not elaborate on details such as specifications and price but said the new models will include a phablet, a common name for smartphones with screens over 5 inches. Tech-

nology blogs have also said that Nokia plans to launch a tablet device.

Nokia officials were not immediately available for comment. The move comes as the Finnish mobile

phone company, which has fallen behind Samsung and Apple in smartphones, has stepped up its pace of product launches in the past year in a bid to stem a decline in sales.—Reuters



Men are silhouetted against a video screen with an Nokia logo as he poses with an Nokia Lumia 820 and Samsung S4 smartphones in this photo illustration taken in the central Bosnian town of Zenica, on 14 Aug, 2013.—REUTERS

Climate change major challenge for Pacific

SUVA, 22 Aug—Climate change is one of the greatest barriers to sustainable development for small island countries, a Fijian official said on Wednesday.

Esala Nayasi, Director of the political and treaties division of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, said the adverse effects of climate change is a security threat to Pacific island countries (PICs) as it greatly affects the survival of people through the impact it has on resources. Speaking at the "First Open Discussion Workshop about Climate Engineering: Perspectives of Pacific Small Island States" held in Suva on Wednesday, Nayasi highlighted the need for research, scientific studies, data and even climate engineering in addressing the impact it will have on these nations.

"As PICs, it is incumbent on us to endeavor to advance our interest within the international community and we need science, we need research, we need data and we need climate change engineering," the Ministry of Information quoted Nayasi as saying. According to Nayasi, Fiji has long recognized that individually it cannot achieve change but need to use collective strength to persuade communities on the absolute imperative for action on climate change. The workshop is a joint effort of the Institute for Advanced Sustainability Studies and the University of the South Pacific's Pacific Centre for Environment and Sustainable Development, where experts from both institutions would share their findings with the participants over the three-day meet.—Xinhua

BUSINESS & HEALTH

9 anti-aging foods to keep you healthy

1. Kiwifruit
2. Mushroom
3. Raspberry
4. Walnut
5. Redbean
6. Sugarbeet
7. Sardine
8. Watermelon
9. Pumpkin seeds

Xinhua



Free mobile app introduced to help cooks cut calories in meals

NEW YORK, 22 Aug — The Health Department of New York on Wednesday launched a free mobile app that will help cooks calculate how many calories are in the food they prepare and find ways to reduce calorie counts.

Restaurant chefs or home cooks can enter the ingredients and number of servings of a recipe with CalCutter and the app will calculate the number of calories per serving in the finished dish. CalCutter will then suggest alternative ingredients or cooking methods that reduce the number of calories in the dish.

"Many people want to count calories as a way to avoid gaining weight, but they have no way of knowing how many calories are in restaurant food or even food they prepare themselves," said Health Commissioner of New York Thomas Farley.

"CalCutter is a free, simple tool to help cooks figure out how many calories their recipes deliver. We encourage both restaurant cooks and home cooks to use this tool and prepare food with calorie counts that fit into a healthy diet."

Xinhua

Line to launch mail order business in Japan this fall

TOKYO, 22 Aug — Smartphone messaging company Line Corp said on Wednesday it will begin mail order business for smartphone users this fall in Japan, in an attempt to counter US online retailer Amazon.com Inc. and Japanese online shopping mall operator Rakuten Inc.

The envisioned new

service to be called "Line Mall" will enable users of Line applications and its business partners to sell and purchase commodities and clothing through smartphones, the Tokyo-based company said.

Method of payment and other details have yet to be decided, it added.

Line CEO Akira Mori-

kawa said at a Press conference in Chiba Prefecture near Tokyo that the number of users of Line applications has topped 230 million worldwide as of Wednesday, marking an almost fivefold increase since last August. Domestically, it has around 47 million users.

Kyodo News



Smartphone messaging company Line Corp holds a Press conference in Urayasu, Chiba Prefecture, near Tokyo, on 21 Aug, 2013.—KYODO NEWS

New tastes, nimble fashion rivals squeeze top US teen chains

NEW YORK, 22 Aug — Abercrombie & Fitch Co (ANF.N), Aeropostale Inc (ARO.N) and American Eagle Outfitters Inc (AEO.N) have fallen out of fashion with fickle US teen shoppers and aren't likely to win back their business anytime soon. The retailers, known as the "3As," have long been popular for their cool basics like jeans, hoodies and t-shirts. But young shoppers are now less interested in their logo-centric clothes and more eager to shop for electronics or go to low-

er this month said that comparable sales fell 15 percent last quarter, and Wall Street analysts expect earnings per share to fall by more than two-thirds to 21 cents this year. It will report full quarterly results on Thursday, as will Abercrombie. Last week, Barclays lowered its profit estimate on Abercrombie because of the "intense promotional environment."

One of the big problems the 3A's face is a narrower clientele than that of H&M (HMB.ST) and of Gap Inc (GPS.N), which



Customers leave an Abercrombie & Fitch store at South Park mall in Charlotte, North Carolina on 25 Nov, 2011.—REUTERS

cost, fast-fashion chains like Zara, Forever 21 and H&M that offer greater variety more quickly.

"The teen retailers seem to be not in style or in vogue at this point in time for their target consumers," said Bryan Keane, portfolio manager of the Alpine Global Consumer Growth Fund. "That usually does not turn around quickly."

American Eagle on Wednesday gave a weak forecast for the fall, sending its shares to their lowest levels in a year and a half. American Eagle Chief Executive Robert Hanson told analysts the level of price slashing now is "unprecedented." Aeropostale earli-

draw shoppers of all ages.

American Eagle gets about 80 percent of sales from its standard merchandise, and Hanson conceded that it's been tough to compete as his company tries to offer more fashion, more quickly. "This team (young shoppers) wants to be fashionable but they don't want to spend a lot of money, and fast fashion works very well for that," said Eric Beder, a Brean Capital analyst, who has a sell recommendation on Aeropostale. For example, H&M sells V-neck men's t-shirts for as low as \$5.95, while Aeropostale t-shirts on clearance on Wednesday were priced at \$6.99.—Reuters

Influenza vaccine reduces heart attack risk

SYDNEY, 22 Aug — The influenza vaccine can almost halve the chances of a heart attack for people aged 50 to 64, who are at risk for heart disease, according to a new Australian study revealed on Thursday.

The study has been published in the international journal *Heart*.

Researchers from the School of Public Health and Community Medicine at the University of New South Wales (UNSW) found the

link after examining more than 500 patients at Westmead Hospital in Sydney's west. Lead author of the study Professor Raina MacIntyre from UNSW said the flu vaccine reduces the risk of heart attack.

"It has a protective effect of a 45 percent reduction of the risk of heart attack," MacIntyre said.

"What we were able to do is to compare the vaccination rates and the heart attack rates between peo-

ple and measure vaccine effectiveness."

MacIntyre said the potential population health impact of influenza vaccination should be further explored.

"Heart attack is the leading cause of death in Australia, and in the world in fact, so there is potentially a significant population health impact from a vaccine that can reduce the risk of heart attack," she said.

Xinhua

Japan manufacturers' optimism hits three-year high

TOKYO, 22 Aug — Japanese manufacturers' optimism improved to the highest level in three years, a *Reuters* poll showed, as a weak yen boosted earnings for exporters of textiles, chemicals, steel and other metals. The index of sentiment derived from a monthly *Reuters* survey of manufacturers rose by 3 points to plus 16 in August, which matched the level it was at in November 2010. A positive readings shows optimists outnumbered pessimists.

The index is expected to rise again to plus 18 in November in the *Reuters* survey, which is strongly correlated with a closely watched quarterly Bank of Japan tankan survey.

Makers of cars and electronics, however, were

less upbeat due to worries about slowing growth in emerging markets, highlighting the risk overseas economies pose to Prime Minister Shinzo Abe's reflationary policies.

"Sales are doing much better than we initially anticipated," one chemicals maker said in the August 2-9 poll of 400 big and medium-sized firms, of which 276 responded.

The service sector gauge also rose 5 points in August from the previous month to plus 23. This marked the highest level since April 2007 due to a housing boom and increased corporate spending on IT services.

The index is expected to improve further to plus 29 in November.

The BOJ's tankan is-

sued on 1 July showed manufacturers' sentiment turned positive in April-June for the first time in nearly two years and was seen rising further on the feel-good mood generated by Abe's policies, intended to end 15 years of deflation, spur hiring and improve wages. The BOJ will release its next tankan survey on 1 October. The central bank kept monetary policy steady earlier this month and left its economic assessment unchanged as board members wanted more time to measure the strength of capital expenditure.

Comments from the *Reuters Tankan* survey in August suggest that a turnaround in business investment is still distant.

"Europe's economy is in the doldrums and domestically companies feel they still have excess capacity," said one machinery maker.

"Going through with new capital expenditure is much more difficult than we thought."

Japan's economic growth slowed more than expected in the second quarter, driven by an unexpected fall in capital expenditure in a worrying sign of companies' reluctance to invest.—Reuters



A man works inside a factory in Tokyo on 12 August, 2013.—REUTERS

Pentagon cuts F-35 operating estimate below \$1 trillion

WASHINGTON, 22 Aug—The US government has slashed its estimate for the long-term operating costs of Lockheed Martin Corp F-35 fighter jets by more than 20 percent to under \$1 trillion, according to a senior defence official, a move that could boost international support for the programme.

The Pentagon has been under pressure for over a year to revise its estimate of maintaining a fleet of more than 2,000 F-35s over 55 years, with industry and military officials arguing that many of the assumptions were outdated and off base.

The new estimate of \$857 billion could help ensure the new plane turns out to be as affordable as advertised and comes days after South Korea determined that only a bid by Boeing Co for its F-15 Silent Eagle came in below a \$7.4 billion price ceiling for its plan to buy 60 new fighter aircraft.

Lockheed's F-35 and the Eurofighter Typhoon remain in the running, but



The US Marine Corps version of Lockheed Martin's F35 Joint Strike Fighter, F-35B test aircraft BF-2 flies with external weapons for the first time over the Atlantic test range at Patuxent River Naval Air Systems Command in Maryland in a 22 Feb, 2012 file photo.—REUTERS

Boeing's pricing marked a step toward winning the contract, according to sources close to the process. A final decision is expected in mid-September.

It was not immediately clear what impact the lower F-35 operating estimate would have on the South Korean tender, but US officials said Seoul could decide to restart the competition and ask for new bids.

The Pentagon's revision

reflects data about the plane's performance based on over 7,000 hours of test flights and revised assumptions about how it will be used and maintained, said the official, who was not authorized to speak publicly.

The estimate was provided to the Senate Armed Services Committee by the Pentagon's F-35 programme chief, Air Force Lieutenant General Christopher Bogdan, the official said.

A revision had been flagged in June when the Pentagon's acquisition chief said he had expected a review to result in lower operating and maintenance costs. The F-35 Joint Strike Fighter is the costliest weapons program in U.S. history. The Pentagon estimates it will cost \$392 billion to develop and build 2,443 of the new jets for use by the US Air Force, Navy and Marine Corps.—Reuters

San Diego mayor accused of harassment reaches proposed settlement

SAN DIEGO, 22 Aug—San Diego Mayor Bob Filner and the city reached a proposed settlement on Wednesday in a sexual harassment lawsuit filed against him by his former Press secretary, the city attorney told reporters.

The disclosure of the settlement on the third day of negotiations came on the same day a former star of a reality television show became the 18th woman to publicly accuse Filner of groping or other inappropriate behaviour, in a scandal that has rocked California's second largest city.

Filner has come under mounting pressure to resign amid a torrent of sexual harassment allegations leveled at him, starting with his former press secretary, Irene McCormack Jackson,

who sued the mayor and the city on 22 July.

The San Diego City Council in July filed a cross-complaint against Filner seeking to recover from him any damages the city might face in the lawsuit.

"We have reached a proposed resolution," City Attorney Jan Goldsmith, who was flanked by two City Council members and attorneys for Filner, told reporters gathered outside the downtown office building where talks were held.

Goldsmith did not disclose the scope of the proposed settlement, but he said that it will be presented to the San Diego City Council in closed session on Friday. "We won't have more to discuss until Friday afternoon," he said.

Reuters

White House denies NSA domestic spying

WASHINGTON, 22 Aug—The White House on Wednesday denied that the National Security Agency (NSA) has domestic Internet surveillance programme, with its reach even broader than US intelligence whistleblower Edward Snowden has revealed.

White House spokesman Josh Earnest reiterated President Barack Obama's

assertion that there was no domestic surveillance programme going on in the country despite new media revelations about the scope of US emails and Internet communications that can get scooped up by the NSA.

The NSA's surveillance efforts were "a narrowly focused programme that is focused specifically at foreign intelligence," Earnest said at

a daily briefing.

Domestic information was only occasionally accessed by the NSA, which amounted to "compliance issues" rather than systematic spying on US citizens, he said. *Wall Street Journal* reported Tuesday that the NSA's surveillance reach is broader than officials previously disclosed.

The newspaper cited

current and former officials as saying that the NSA, which possesses only limited legal authority to spy on US citizens, has built a surveillance network that has the capacity to reach roughly 75 percent of all US. Internet traffic in the hunt for foreign intelligence, including a wide array of communications by foreigners and Americans.—Xinhua



San Diego mayor Bob Filner speaks at a news conference in San Diego, California on 26 July, 2013.

REUTERS

Japan, 11 countries start 19th TPP free trade talks in Brunei

BANDAR SERI BEGAWAN, 22 Aug—Twelve Pacific Rim countries began the 19th round of negotiations for creating a regional free trade pact in Brunei on Thursday, with Japan engaging in full-fledged talks on tariffs and other issues for the first time after joining last month.

ing last month.

Marking the start of the nine-day round of the Trans-Pacific Partnership negotiations, a ministerial meeting opened in the morning as the countries sought to facilitate the talks toward their target of concluding a deal within this

year.

"We will take into account the circumstances of each country and still raise the level" of trade liberalization, Japan's TPP Minister Akira Amari told reporters shortly before the meeting.

Kyodo News

Japanese students give 195,000 anti-nuke signatures to UN

GENEVA, 22 Aug—A group of 20 high school students from Japan selected by a civic organization in Nagasaki City handed over on Tuesday a petition with around 195,000 signatures calling for the abolition of nuclear weapons to the secretariat of the UN Conference on Disarmament in

Geneva.

The number of signatures collected worldwide this year was the largest presented by the organization, exceeding the previous high in 2012 by some 40,000 and lifting the cumulative sum of collected signatures to over 1 million, the delegation said.

It was the 16th time the "messengers of peace" high school students from Japan visited the UN European headquarters since 1998. The students are set to fly back to Japan on Thursday after conducting a signature collection campaign in Berne, the capital of Switzerland.—Kyodo News



Kenji Shiga, Director of the Hiroshima Peace Memorial Museum, looks at a "peace clock" monument on 21 Aug, 2013, at the museum in the city of Hiroshima, which counts the number of days since the last nuclear test. It showed "98" after it was reset the same day as the city learned of a US experiment in May using plutonium to examine the capabilities of nuclear weapons.—KYODO NEWS

Iraqi PM visits India for investment, trade agreements

BAGHDAD, 22 Aug—Iraqi Prime Minister Nuri al-Maliki will pay an official visit to India on Thursday to sign investment and trade agreements, an official Iraqi television reported.

"Our visit to India aims to enhance bilateral relations, particularly in the

energy field due to India's interest in investing in this field," Maliki said in a press release aired by the state-run channel of Iraqia.

"There are also contracts on oil supplies to India as Iraq has become the second largest exporter of oil to India," Maliki said before leaving for India.

Earlier, Maliki's office said in a statement that the prime minister will start Thursday a four-day visit to India at the invitation of his Indian counterpart Manmohan Singh. It said Maliki will be accompanied by a delegation of ministers, senior officials, advisors and businessmen.—Xinhua

LOCAL NEWS

Mandalay Football Stadium completed by 97 percent



MANDALAY, 22 Aug—The construction of Mandalay Football Stadium started since January, 2011, in Chanmyathazi Township in Mandalay has been completed by 97 percent.

“We are working with full workforce and machinery day and night to complete the stadium on schedule. We have designated two training grounds and started implanting there. The Mandalay international-standard football stadium

is being built over 89.09 acres of land. It is of the same design with the international-standard stadiums in Nay Pyi Taw. We have designed it would withstand 8 Richter Scales of quake. The interior parking lot will be able to handle 400 vehicles and the exterior one 10,000. All the projects will be completed ahead of SEA Games,” said the project manager.

The runway, water supply, lighting, sound system, LED score board,

stand, fence and seats have been completed 100 percent. The roof and decoration have been completed by 98 percent. The exterior fence has been completed by 90 percent. The ticket booths have been completed by 97 percent and finishing touches were being put to greening works.

It has the standard size of a stadium with the length of 345 ft and the width of 223 ft as set by FIFA, alongside with two training grounds.—MMAL-040

HIRD

Upgraded school opened in ChaungU Tsp

SAGAING, 22 Aug—Sagaing Region Chief Minister U Tha Aye, accompanied by Region ministers and Region-level departmental personnel, attended opening ceremony of upgraded Basic Education Middle School in Hmancho village in ChaungU Township on 16 August morning.

Region Social Affairs Minister Dr Myint Thein, Region Education Department Director U Phone

Kywe and townselder U Win Maung formally opened the middle school.

Region Chief Minister U Tha Aye unveiled the signboard of Basic Education Middle School and that of the Pyinnya Dagonnewschool building.

A member of the new school building construction committee handed over the documents related to the school building to the township education officer.

Chief Minister U Tha Aye donated 22-inch Television to the school.

The Region government donated stationery, publications and sports gears to the school.

The new school building has the length of 120 ft, the width of 30 ft and the height of 12 ft.

The estimated cost of the construction of the RC building is K 33.5 million.

MMAL-Region IPRD

Disaster

Laymyo river erosion destroys five buildings



MRAUKU, 22 Aug—Laymyo River is one of the most important rivers in Rakhine State, second only to Kaladan River. Started from Chin State, it crosses through MraukU, Minbya and Pauktaw Townships in Rakhine State and flows into the Bay of Bengal.

Residents in these townships grow crops on alluvial lands left by the

river which often causes erosion in rainy season each year. This year's erosion by the river is greater than any year before.

Letma village in Minbya Township is the worst affected area. Five houses have been destroyed by erosion of 2000 ft of the river bank in this August.

It caused no casualty because the evacuation

could be carried out before the erosion. As the erosion escalates, the people living nearby are moving to safer grounds.

Any erosion caused damages to crops and houses on the river bank. The extraction of sand from the river beyond 1988 has been widely blamed for the erosion.—MMAL-Maung Kyaw Zaw

Anti-Human Trafficking Drives

Educative talks on traffic rules, human trafficking given in Ela



LEWE, 22 Aug—An educative talk on human trafficking and traffic rules was organized in No (5) Basic Education High School in Ela in Lewe Township in Nay Pyi Taw Council Area on 19 August

afternoon.

Staff Officer II of Lewe Township General Administration Department U Aye Zaw delivered an address at the ceremony.

Township Law Officer Daw Khin Swe Win gave

talks on crime reduction and Additional Township Judge U Kyaw Soe Khaing on judicial affairs.

Police Inspector of Nay Pyi Taw Police Force Than Kyaw Htay gave talks on traffic rules and Police Inspector Kyaw Kyaw Oo of Ela Police Station on human on human trafficking.

MMAL-Min Min Latt (Mandalay University)

Educative talks on human trafficking given in Myinmu

MYINMU, 22 Aug—Sagaing Region Women's Affairs Organization organized an educative talk on human trafficking and protecting women at the hall of General Administration Department in Myinmu Township on 19 August afternoon.

Chairperson of Sagaing Region Women's Affairs Organization Daw Thin Thin Cho gave talks on the

law safeguarding the rights of children and women. Police Inspector Khin Moe Than of Sagaing District Police Force gave talks on human trafficking and violence targeted at the women. The event was attended by members of Township Women's Affairs Organization, members of WAOs of wards and students.—MMAL-Ko Ko Naing (Myinmu)

HTILIN, 22 Aug—Pakokku-Pauk-Yebyu-Kyin-Htilin road in Magway Region is 95 miles long motor road built in the colonial era. It crosses the twin hill of Pontaung Ponnya at

an altitude of more than 2000 ft.

Despite repair works carried out on the road in March and April, the road is still in bad conditions and filled with muds. It is the road the people

from Butaung, Nyaung, Akyiban, Alalban,

Anyaban and Pyinpa villages and 14 villages in Kyin area rely on. There was no passenger bus on the road more than five years ago. The only



Pakokku-Htilin road needs urgent repairs

Transport

passenger operating on the road was Htilin-Kyaukhtu (Panhsan)-Paukkan bus. The people in the region have to rely on trucks that pick up them.

The cars on the road are facing difficulties when the road is inundated in monsoon. It took two hours to get a truck back on track as it slipped off the road on 17 August.

Local people in the area are demanding the repairs of the road soon to avoid delays in transportation.

MMAL-Pho Thar Lay (Yaw Myay)

PERSPECTIVES

Friday, 23 August, 2013

Sweep gold medals

The long-awaited the XXVII SEA Games, which can bring the glory to the State, is drawing near. Myanmar athletes are under intensive training to achieve success in every kind of sports as being a host country.

As the dress rehearsals of the XXVII SEA Games, Myanmar won 175 medals—54 gold, 64 silver and 57 bronze in 33 kinds of sports in 64 times. And Myanmar also won 129 medals (28 gold, 36 silver and 65 bronze) in the test match in June this year.

Myanmar athletes have undergone joint training for 15 times with Turkey, Holland, Italy, Japan, Kuwait, Azerbaijan, Kazakhstan, Thailand, Vietnam, Singapore and Laos in 12 kinds of sports. Local and foreign sponsors were systematically selected. Myanmar athletes are now undergoing training with the use of sports wears, sports gears, foods, medicine and materials from those sponsors.

Taking the examples of former host countries, authorities concerned are making all-out efforts for successful holding and achieving success in the XXVII SEA Games under the leadership of the Leading Committee for holding XXVII SEA Games.

Sports grounds and gymnasiums have been completed by cent per cent and are ready to host the competitions.

A total of 1557 medals (460 gold, 460 silver and 637 bronze) will be awarded to athletes in the XXVII SEA Games. The government is providing necessary assistance to the athletes. Here all athletes are urged to make strenuous efforts to sweep gold medals in every kind of sports.

Mrs Abe visits University of Agriculture (Yezin)

NAY PYI TAW, 22 Aug—A Japanese delegation led by wife of the Japanese Prime Minister Ms. Akie Abe observed Hitome Bore paddy research plantation and chemical free vegetable plantations of Ngaliike irrigated area in Dekkhinathiri Township, here, this noon. They were conducted round by Union Minister for Agriculture and Irrigation U Myint Hlaing.

At University of Agriculture (Yezin), they were clarified by Rector Dr Tin Htut on research

and technical cooperation between Japan and Myanmar for agricultural development.

Next, the wife of Japanese Prime Minister claimed that the cooperation would be implemented.

They then observed various seeds and sample Myanmar rice displayed in the university's library.

They attended the demonstration on growing paddy in hilly regions and penetrating the paddy into the market, held in the hall of the university.

MNA

Attorney-General Office, JICA to make cooperation

NAY PYI TAW, 22 Aug—The Union Attorney-General Office and JICA held a signing ceremony for Capacity Development of Legal, Judicial and Relevant Sectors in Myanmar at the Union Attorney-General Office, here, this morning.

"It is a long-term plan for cooperation in Capacity Development of Legal, Judicial and Relevant Sectors in Myanmar," said Attorney-

General of the Union Dr Tun Shin.

Chief Representative Masahiko TANAKA of JICA said, "The agreement would contribute towards democratization, rule of law and economic development of Myanmar."

Director-General U Kyaw Hsan and Chief Representative Masahiko TANAKA signed the agreement.—MNA

MYANMAR GAZETTE

NAY PYI TAW, 22 Aug—The President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar has transferred the following persons as heads of service organizations shown against each from the date they assume charge of their duties.

Name	Appointment
(a) U Kyaw Swa Soe Director-General Technical Development and Cooperation Department Ministry of Science and Technology	Director-General Advanced Science and Technology Department Ministry of Science and Technology
(b) Dr Aye Myint Rector Technological	Rector Yangon Technological

University (Mandalay) Technical and Vocational Education Department Ministry of Science and Technology	University Advanced Science and Technology Department Ministry of Science and Technology
(c) Professor Dr Daw San San Nwe Rector University of Pharmacy (Mandalay) Medical Science Department Ministry of Health	Rector University of Pharmacy (Yangon) Medical Science Department Ministry of Health

The President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar has appointed Director (Offshore) U Myo Myint Oo of Myanma Oil and Gas Enterprise under the Ministry of Energy as Managing Director of the same enterprise on probation from the date he assumes charge of his duties.

Pyithu Hluttaw Speaker receives Japanese guests

NAY PYI TAW, 22 Aug—Pyithu Hluttaw Speaker Thura U Shwe Mann received a delegation led by Mr. Toshimitsu MOTEGI, Japanese Minister of Economic, Trade and Industry, at Zabuthiri hall of the Hluttaw building, here, this afternoon.

Also present at the call together with the Pyithu Hluttaw Speaker were committee chairpersons U Htay Oo, U Maung Maung Thein, U Hla Myint Oo, U Soe Naing and U Htay Myint, committee secretaries U Maung Toe and U Kyi Tha, committee member Dr Win Myint, commission members U Khin Maung Tun and U

Khin Soe, and officials of the Hluttaw Office.

The Japanese Minister was accompanied by the Japan Ambassador to the Republic of the Union of Myanmar.

At the call, they frankly discussed further cementing friendship relations and cooperation between Myanmar and Japan.

MNA

Pyithu Hluttaw Speaker Thura U Shwe Mann shakes hands with Mr. Toshimitsu MOTEGI, Japanese Minister of Economic, Trade and Industry.

MNA

Supreme Court, JICA ink capacity development project

NAY PYI TAW, 22 Aug—Signing ceremony for record of discussion of "The Project for Capacity Development of Legal, Judicial and Relevant Sectors in Myanmar" Sub-Project II between the Office of Supreme Court of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar and Japan

International Cooperation Agency was held at the assembly hall of the Office of Supreme Court of the Union, here, this morning.

Chief Justice of the Union U Tun Tun Oo said that the signing would improve capacity development of legal,

judicial and relevant sectors in Myanmar including human resources development. Besides, it would further promote Japan-Myanmar cooperation in legal affairs and capacity enhancement of the courts.

Next, Director-General of the Supreme Court of the Union U Sein Than and resident representative of JICA (Myanmar) Mr. Masahiko Tanaka signed the record of discussion.

MNA

Issuance of compensation continues for confiscated farmlands

MONYWA, 22 Aug—As tasks are being carried out with added momentum to accelerate the suggestion of the Investigation Commission, it is necessary to give priority to development of socio-economic life of local people in giving compensation for confiscated farmlands, perennial trees and wells, creating job opportunities for local people and undertaking river water pumping projects for agricultural purpose,

said Vice-Chairman Chief Minister of Sagaing Region U Tha Aye at the coordination meeting of the

Implementation Committee of the Report of the Investigation Commission for Letpadaungtaung Copper Mining Project at the hall of the region government office, here, yesterday.

Members of the committee, work committee leaders deputy ministers and region ministers submitted reports for respective sectors. The vice-chairman reviewed their reports.

Myanmar Wenbao Co has issued K 3706.83 million for land and crops compensation and K 348.09 million for perennial trees, totally amounting to K

4054.92 million in April 2011.

According to the suggestion of the Investigation Commission, K 1 million per acre of croplands, K 1.2 million per acre of rain-fed farmland and K 1.5 million per acre of irrigated farmland have been issued for the second time. So far, the compensation K 3197.21 million has been given to the local people. One more compensation issuance centre was opened in Hsete-Zeetaw Village in addition to the administrator office in Salingyi Township.

A total of 1238

local people have been appointed at six jobs at Letpadaungtaung Copper Mining Project and 1754 at Kyaysintaung-Sabeitaung project of Myanmar Yangtze Co. A plan is underway to appoint 3000 persons at the works within one year.

Myanmar-Wenbao Co will spend K 479.8 million on repairing of drains to farmlands in the project area.

The liaison office of the committee is opened at the library of Hsete-Zeetaw Village as of 12 August for ensuring transparency of public-centred development tasks.—MNA



Findings and review of the Pyidaungsu Hluttaw Joint Bill Committee on the Messages of the President to the Pyidaungsu Hluttaw Speaker dated 5-8-2013 and 7-8-2013 and on related Press Releases Nos. 14/2013 and 15/2013 by the Government Information Team

Date: 22 August, 2013.

1. "2013 Region or State Hluttaw Bill" and "Anti-Corruption Bill" were approved by the Hluttaw at eighth day seventh regular session of first Pyidaungsu Hluttaw on 26-7-2013.

2. The President sent back the following messages regarding these laws:-

a. One message on "2013 Region or State Hluttaw Law" dated 5-8-2013

b. One message on "Anti-Corruption Law" dated 7-8-2013

3. Regarding these messages, the Information Team of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar issued press release No. 14/2013 on 7-8-2013 and press release No. 15/2013 on 8-8-2013 through state-owned newspapers.

4. While reading out the two messages of the President at the 13th day seventh regular session of the First Pyidaungsu Hluttaw to put them on record on 13-8-2013, Pyidaungsu Hluttaw Representative U Kyaw Naing Htay of Indaw Constituency in Sagaing Region suggested that the press releases Nos. 14/2013 and 15/2013 issued by the Information Team could mislead the public about the legislation activities of the Pyidaungsu Hluttaw Representatives; the Pyidaungsu Hluttaw Representatives were performing duties in accord with the laws; and the press releases should be discussed widely and put on record. Pyidaungsu Hluttaw Representative U Aung Myint Thein of Kayin State Constituency No. (9) seconded the motion.

5. The Pyidaungsu Hluttaw agreed to put the two messages of the President on record and to task the Joint Bill Committee to scrutinize the related press releases and submit report to the Hluttaw.

Findings

6. The Joint Bill Committee of Pyidaungsu Hluttaw which scrutinized the press releases found the following facts:-

a. The Pyidaungsu Hluttaw approved the original provision as regards the ninth comment of the President for "2013 Region or State Hluttaw Bill".

b. Among 12 comments on the "Anti-Bribery Bill", the Pyidaungsu Hluttaw approved two suggestions to change the name of the bill and find evidence from a bank and kept other 10 provisions remain unchanged.

7. The Pyidaungsu Hluttaw Speaker sent the message to the President on enactment of "2013 Region or State Hluttaw Bill" with the letter No. 1/PaHta (Session) 9/2013-55 dated 29-7-2013. The Pyidaungsu Hluttaw Speaker sent the message to the President on enactment of "Anti-Corruption Bill" with the letter No. 1/PaHta 9/2013-59 dated 31-7-2013.

8. The activities of the President on the bills after receiving the messages were as follows:-

a. The President sent a message with the letter No. 107 (1) 8/President Office dated 5-8-2013, seventh day after receiving the message of the Pyidaungsu Hluttaw Speaker on "2013 Region or State Hluttaw Bill", saying, "Some provisions in the bill need to be in accord with the Constitution, to ensure zero discrimination, sharing of power among three branches of power and check and balance which are democratic practices."

b. The President sent a message with the letter No. 107 (1) 8/President Office dated 7-8-2013, seventh day after receiving the message of the Pyidaungsu Hluttaw Speaker on "Anti-Corruption Bill". Paragraph 5 (a), (b) and (c) of the message mentioned three suggestions of amendments, saying, there is a need "to hear some provisions in the bill to make

it constitutional by the Constitutional Tribunal of the Union in accord with Section 322 Sub-Section (b) of the Constitution" and there is a need to take the provisions in Section 198 Sub-Section (a) of the Constitution into consideration, and he signed the bills with respect to the approval of the majority.

9. Some days after exchanging messages between the Pyidaungsu Hluttaw Speaker and the President, the Press Release Team issued press releases No. 14/2013 and 15/2013, misleading the public about the proceedings of the Pyidaungsu Hluttaw.

10. Rejecting the suggestions of the President in approving "2013 Region or State Hluttaw Bill" is constitutional and done in accord with Section 106 Sub-Section (a) of the Constitution. In accord with Section 106 Sub-section (b), although the President had not signed "2013 Region or State Hluttaw Bill", it shall become law as if he had signed it in accord with Section 106 Sub-Section (c) of the Constitution. The review of the Joint Bill Committee over the approval of the Pyidaungsu Hluttaw and the remarks of the President are shown in the table.

11. Parliamentarians have agreed to changing of the name of "anti-corruption bill" and finding evidence from a bank in line with the democratic practice in response to the remark of the President and decided to remain intact the original approval of the parliament, concerning the remaining 10 remarks of the President and the decision was also made in line with the constitution. The review and assessment of the joint bill committee on the approval of the parliament and remarks of the President was presented with table so that readers can understand clearly.

12. Though it is required to amend some provisions in the law to reflect the meaning of title of the law when it is changed and enacted as "anti-corruption law", the parliament failed to change the name in the meantime as the President made no suggestions to do so. Now following the enactment of the law, the joint bill committee has the right to put forward a bill amending the anti-corruption law making necessary amendments and other required supplements to reflect the meaning of the name of the law, the joint bill committee has taken measures to submit the bill amending the law.

13. The parliament places the interests of the nation and citizens at the fore and tries its utmost to be in line with the constitution in passing legislation. In addition, it seeks opinions and suggestions of Union ministries, legal experts, scholars and enthusiastic citizens in passing legislation to ensure emergence of standard laws. Under this circumstance, the Parliament Speaker and the President should increase understanding, cooperation and use other communication links apart from messaging to each other.

14. The Section 105 sub-section (c) and Section 106 sub-section (c) states that "If the Bill sent back by the Pyidaungsu Hluttaw is not signed by the President within the prescribed period, it shall become law as if he had signed it on the last day of the prescribed period." So, it means that a bill sent by the parliament to the President would become the law if the President can't sign it for some reason. Therefore, the constitution obliges the President to sign the bills into laws.

15. Of the two messages sent to the Parliament Speaker by the President, the 10th sentence of the 10th para on the page 4 of the message dated 7-8-2013 regarding the anti-corruption law said that "regarding the need for some provisions to be in line with the constitution, the Constitutional Tribunal of the Union shall be endowed by the Section 322, sub-section (b) of the constitution to check whether the laws enacted by the parliament, Region/

State Hluttaws or leading bodies of self-administered region/zones are against the constitution and shall take actions as necessary" and the para 11 on the page 5 said that "regarding the effect of the laws, the Section 198, sub-section (a) of the constitution states that if a particular provision in a law enacted or a particular existing law goes against a particular provision in the constitution, the provision in the constitution must be followed", which are regarded as apparent intervention in legislation process of the parliament and functions of the Constitutional Tribunal of the Union.

16. The Parliament places focus in performing its functions to be in accordance with the constitution and Hluttaw laws and bylaws. Likewise, the executive branch is obliged to respect to the constitution and relevant laws and bylaws when it is to amend, add and revoke a particular law. Therefore messages and press releases out of the legal framework are regarded as apparent influence of the executive branch over legislative and judicial branches.

17. The press releases Nos 14/2013 and 15/2013 of the government Press Release team regarding the legislation of the parliament is assumed to be of the President. Those press releases made public the full context of the messages of the President to the Parliament Speaker on 5-8-2013 and 7-8-2013. The publication of work-related messages between the Parliament Speaker and the President in the State-run newspapers even prior to the parliamentarians' knowledge is regarded as actions misleading the citizens over legislative process of the parliament.

18. The contexts of the messages and press releases mentioned above can mislead the citizens over the parliament and damage the prestige of the parliament. It was like washing the dirty linen of troubles in interaction between the Parliament and the President's Office in public.

Assessment

19. The press releases along with the messages dated 5-8-2013 and 7-8-2013 are out of the boundary of provision in Sections 105 and 106 about the President's obligations and are assumed in appropriate in terms of law and legislative ethics.

20. The Pyidaungsu Hluttaw with genuine goodwill and transparency and in line with official procedures is passing laws that most citizens can abide by for the sake of the interests of the nation and national people with the assistance of parliamentarians, Union level authorities of agencies concerned, legal experts, scholars and enthusiastic citizens.

21. One can check if the laws passed by the parliament are in line with the constitution and can seek for the judgement of the Constitutional Tribunal of the Union if he thinks a particular law is against the constitution. The Constitutional Tribunal of the Union is tasked with checking whether the laws passed by the parliament are in line with the constitution or not.

22. When rights and power endowed by the constitution are used in defiance of law, it can cause misunderstanding and undesirable problems, with possible negative impact on the nation and citizens.

23. The authorities concerned are to act in accordance with laws, regulations, disciplines and ethics in discharging their legislative, executive and judicial duties with accountability and responsibility.

24. Therefore, the joint bill committee has submitted its report and suggestions, urging the parliament to approve the above-mentioned suggestions and State-run media to publicize them for the sake of public's knowledge.

Pyidaungsu Hluttaw Joint Bill Committee

Social Activity

Nutrition Week launched in Padaung Tsp

PADAUNG, 22 Aug—Activities to mark the Nutrition Week 2013 were held in Okshitpin of Padaung Township in Bago Region on 20 August morning.

At the dispensary of Okshitpin Township Health Department, Health Assistant U Ye Naing of Township Health Department, nurses and midwives together with grassroots level authorities, the chairperson and members of Maternal and Child Welfare Association, the chairperson of Women's Affairs Organization, Red Cross Society and social organizations fed vitamin and necessary pills to children under five years



A responsible person gives vitamin to a child under five in Okshitpin of Padaung Township.

and iron tablets and vitamins to expectant mothers.

After that, refreshments was fed to mothers and childrens. In addition, pamphlets on knowledge

about nutrition week activities were distributed to them.

Kyemon-042

Accident

Fuel bowser and other two vehicles hit one another in series in Bago

BAGO, 22 Aug—A Nissan truck driven by Tun Tun Oo, 45 of 133 Ward in Dagon Myothit (East) Township violently bumped with a 10-wheeled Nissan

August.

In the accident, three persons in the vehicle were injured (unserious) and rushed to Bago Hospital.

SIP San Yu of Traffic Police Corps opened a file against reckless driver Tun Tun Oo at Bago Myoma Police Station.—Kyemon-Nay Htet Win



Two nissan cars and fuel bowser seen in traffic accident in series.

BM, trawlergy in collision in Hlinethaya

YANGON, 22 Aug—A BM with number plate 4B/5111 driven by Min San Maung, 35, son of U Kyi Shwe of Ma/456 (A) on Natmauk Street in Ward 11 of Hlinethaya Township collided with a trawlergy of Sanitation Department driven by U Aung Kyaw San, 31, son of U Tin Shwe of Development Committee housing in Ward

8 of Hlinethaya Township near the Defence Services Germant Factory near Sanayma Bus-stop on Yangon-Nyaungdon Road in Hlinethaya Township at 7 am on 20 August.

In the accident, the trawlergy caused overturn. A total of 12 persons—nine men and three women—of sanitation workers were injured in the incident.

The injured were sent to Hlinethaya Township People's Hospital. Of them, Daw Baby, 47, daughter of U Nga Moe sustained serious injury and she was transferred to Yangon General Hospital.

Hlinethaya Township Police Station opened a file of lawsuit against reckless driver of trawlergy under the law.—Kyemon-Min Htet Paing (Hlinethaya)

Transport

Myanma Airways reduce air ticket rate from Sittway to Yangon

SITTWAY, 22 Aug—Myanma Airways reduced air ticket rate on the route between Sittway and Yangon as of 18 August.

Air ticket for Sittway-Yangon ART-72 was K 56000 per adult and K 42000 per child, K 5600 per infant

and foreigner 85 dollars.

Tickets of Embraer 190 flight is K 63000 per adult, K 47250 per child, K 2000 per infant and foreigner 95 dollars. With regard to Sittway-An ART-72 flight, ticket is K 20000 per adult, K 15000 per child, K 2000

per infant and foreigner 25 dollars. Except Thursday, the flight schedules for Sittway-Yangon route have been drawn for six days per week. Sittway-An flight is scheduled on Wednesday and Saturday weekly.

Kyemon-698

Pyawbwe Township forms Anti-Narcotics Association

PYAWBWE, 22 Aug—Pyawbwe Township Anti-Narcotics Association was set up at the hall of Township General Administration Department on 19 August.

Deputy Township Administrator U Kyaw Soe

Lin made a speech. U Min Hein Khant (Crime) of MANA explained purpose of formation and mission and vision of the MANA.

Those present took part in the discussions.

The ceremony elected

five patrons of the township association and 11 executives. In Yamethin District, all townships have constituted township Anti-Narcotics Associations.

Kyemon-Hlaing Than Tint (Yamethin)

School heads capacity enhancement course concludes in Dala

DALA, 22 Aug—UNICEF and No 3 Basic Education Department jointly conducted the basic education school heads capacity enhancement course in Yangon South District.

On 18 August, the training course concluded at Basic Education Primary School No 7 in Dala.

Assistant Director Daw Than Than Aye of Dala Township Education Department made a speech, and Course Supervisor Daw Ohn Than and Staff Officer Daw Myint Myint presented gift to the headmistress of

the BEPS No 7.

The Townsh Education Officer presented completion certificates to school heads from informal school camps in Kawhmu, Kungyangon, Twantay, Seikkyi Khanaungto and Dala townships.

On behalf of the trainee, Headmaste U Hsan Win spoke words of thanks.

The course lasted two days from 17 to 18 August. A total of 27 school heads from five townships of Yangon South District attended the course.

Informal school camps are opened. Of them, six



schools are opened in Dala Township, six schools in Seikkyi Khanaungto Township, three in Twantay Township, six schools in Kungyangon Township and six schools in Kawhmu

Township, totalling 26.

The training courses have been opened since 2009-2010 academic year in Yangon South District (B).

Kyemon-Than Htay (Dala)

Narcotic drug traffickers arrested in Shwegu Township

SHWEGU, 22 Aug—A squad led by Police Captain Win Sein of Myoma Police Station of Shwegu Township, Kachin State, together with local authorities Ward 1 administrator U Htein Win and 100-house leader U Aung Kyaw Myint, acting tip-off, arrested four drug traffickers along with two motorcycles at mile post 138/0 on Shwegu-Bhamo

Strategic Road, (map ref: KG 794715), five miles southeast of Shwegu Police Station in Bhamo District of Kachin State at 2 pm on 18 August.

One of four drug traffickers managed himself escape from the scene when the authorities arrived there.

The authorities arrested and seized them. The team seized 4.01 grams

Anti-Narcotic Drives



of heroin in the plastic bottle worth K 150,000 and K 41000 of proceeds from Min Khaing (a) Hsan Shay, Kham Htoo (a) Alaung and Po Say.

Shwegu Myoma Police Station opened files of lawsuit against them under Sections 15/19(a)/20(a)/21 of Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Law.

Kyemon

REGIONAL



A cleaner clears up the road by which the bamboos are blew down by wind at Guping Road in Fuzhou City, capital of southeast China's Fujian Province, on 22 Aug, 2013.

Trami, the 12th tropical storm hitting China this year, landed at 2:40 am in Fuqing City of the province, packing strong winds of 35 metres per second at the storm centre, according to the Fujian provincial meteorological observatory.—XINHUA

Two Koreas to hold talks Friday on reunions of separated families

SEOUL, 22 Aug — North and South Korea are scheduled to hold talks Friday on arranging reunions of families that remain separated since the 1950-1953 Korean War, South Korea's Unification Ministry said Thursday.

The schedule was fixed after the North sent a notice to the South in the morning, accepting the South's offer to hold the talks at the truce village of Panmunjeom.

North Korea also said it wants to hold talks with the South on restarting a suspended tourism project in the North's Mt Kumgang area in late August or early September, according to the ministry. South Korea

on Tuesday proposed holding the talks on the tourism project on 25 September.

In a speech delivered on Liberation Day, 15 August, marking national independence from Japan's colonial rule, South Korean President Park Geun Hye made the proposal for the next round of family reunions to be held on the occasion of Chuseok, the Korean Thanksgiving Day which falls on 19 September this year.

The two Koreas first arranged temporary reunions for separated family members after the landmark inter-Korean summit in 2000, and have so far held 18 reunions, bringing

together more than 20,000 family members who had not seen each other since the war. But none has been held since late 2010 due to strained ties.

Yonhap News Agency reported that some 73,000 people in South Korea have requested to meet with their relatives in the North, and about 80 percent of them are over the age of 70, adding urgency to the issue of family reunions.

The programme for South Koreans to tour Mt Kumgang, launched in 1998, has been suspended since 2008 when a South Korean tourist was shot dead by a North Korean soldier.—*Kyodo News*

Highly toxic water leaked from tank could have flowed into sea

TOKYO, 22 Aug — Highly radioactive water that leaked from a storage tank at the Fukushima Daiichi nuclear power plant could have flowed into the adjacent Pacific Ocean through drainage channels, data provided by Tokyo Electric Power Co showed on Wednesday.

TEPCO is studying the possibility in detail, Executive Vice President Zengo

Aizawa told a Press conference.

TEPCO first noticed on Monday puddles with high radiation levels near an area where many storage tanks stand. The seriousness of the situation escalated when the utility later found that 300 tons of toxic water had likely leaked from a tank that should have been holding about 1,000 tons.

Kyodo News



Security officials gather at the blast site in southwest Pakistan's Chaman on 21 Aug, 2013. At least two people were killed and 15 others injured on Wednesday afternoon when a bomb blast hit a railway station in Chaman, local media and official said.

XINHUA

Bus falls into ravine in Malaysia, killing 37

KUALA LUMPUR, 22 Aug — At least 37 people were killed after a tourist bus plunged into a deep ravine near a Malaysian hilltop resort on Wednesday.

Sixteen survived the accident, one of the worst in a decade in the country, and have been sent to nearby hospitals. Some were in critical condition.

Most of those aboard the bus were Malaysians, but at least three were foreigners, including a Chinese national, police said. The nationalities of the killed remained unknown.

The bus was travelling downhill from the Genting Highlands resort in the afternoon when it went off the cliff and plunged some 60 meters into the ravine, according to authorities.

The cause of the accident is yet to be determined. A rescue worker said the driver, who was among the killed, apparently lost control of the vehicle on a downhill bend.

Due to the rugged terrain and thick vegetation at the crash site, rescuers had to install a makeshift pulley system to transfer bodies

and injured victims. Police dogs had also been used to search for survivors before the search and rescue work ended late evening.

The bus was a regular shuttle bus that ferries visitors between Kuala Lumpur and the hilltop resort, which is usually capped by thick clouds or fog.

Liow Tion Lai, a local parliament member, has requested the authorities to speed up the investigation and present a clear report to prevent such accidents from repeating.

Malaysian Minister of Urban Wellbeing, Housing and Local Government

Abdul Rahman Dahlan said the bus was probably overloaded. Malaysian Prime Minister Najib Razak has expressed via his microblog his condolences to the victims' families.

Genting Highlands, located some 50 km from the capital, is a popular tourist attraction for its cool air and the country's only casino. Yet the road to the resort consists of many steep slopes and sharp turns.

In 2012, two tourists from India died and 20 other passengers were injured when a tour bus overturned near Genting Highlands.

Xinhua



Rescuers work at the scene of bus plunge at Genting Highlands resort in the state of Pahang, Malaysia, on 21 Aug, 2013.—XINHUA

Philippine gov't, rebels resume peace talks in Malaysia

MANILA, 22 Aug — Peace talks between the Philippine government and the Moro Islamic Liberation Front (MILF), the largest rebel group in the country, resumed Thursday in Malaysia.

In the 39th round of formal exploratory talks, both sides will discuss power-sharing and normalization, the two remaining annexes of the framework agreement on the Bangsamoro, according to gov-

ernment's chief negotiator Miriam Coronel-Ferrer.

"In this round, we will prove that we have not been waylaid by these groups' destructive, desperate ways," she said. Ferrer was alluding to the recent spate of bombings in southern Philippines, which were allegedly perpetrated by sectors which were out to derail the peace process. "Violence is not strength. It reflects a weakness in ideas, a lack of strength in the moral persuasiveness of one's beliefs and causes," she said.

Prior to the ongoing talks, the 38th round of negotiation was held last month and signed the annex on wealth-sharing.

Both sides hope to complete the signing of four annexes of the framework as well as the comprehensive peace agreement as soon as possible. The pact will pave the way for the formation of a Bangsamoro entity that will replace the existing Autonomous Region in Mindanao and will end the more than four decades armed struggle in southern Philippines.

Xinhua

Xinhua



Photo taken from a Kyodo News helicopter shows the crippled Fukushima Daiichi Nuclear Power Station in Fukushima Prefecture on 20 Aug, 2013.

KYODO NEWS

Cambodian FM to attend ASEAN-China foreign ministers meeting in Beijing

PHNOM PENH, 22 Aug — Cambodian Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Hor Namhong will lead a delegation to attend the Special ASEAN-China Foreign Ministers' Meeting to be held on 28-29 Aug in Beijing, according to a statement from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs on Thursday.

The special meeting is convened on the occasion of the 10th Anniversary of ASEAN-China Strategic Partnership this year.

"It will exchange views

on a number of issues to enhance the ASEAN-China Strategic Partnership," the statement said.

On the sidelines, Hor Namhong and other ASEAN foreign ministers will pay courtesy calls on Chinese Premier Li Keqiang, and Chinese State Councilor Yang Jiechi, it added.

Hor Namhong said the meeting is very important to strengthen and expand the Strategic Partnership of Cooperation between ASEAN and China.

"I hope that the rela-

tions between ASEAN and China will be better and both sides will have more mutual understanding through the forthcoming meeting," he told reporters on Wednesday after a bilateral talk with visiting Chinese Foreign Minister Wang Yi.

The Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) groups Brunei, Cambodia, Indonesia, Laos, Malaysia, Myanmar, the Philippines, Singapore, Thailand and Vietnam.

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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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Dated 23 August, 2013.

Giant panda cub nicknamed "Yuan Zai" sleeps at the Taipei Zoo in Taipei, southeast China's Taiwan, on 19 Aug, 2013. The female cub, born on 6 July, is the first baby of a pair of giant pandas, namely "Tuan Tuan" and "Yuan Yuan", who were given as a goodwill gift to Taipei by the Chinese mainland.

XINHUA

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Dated 23 August 2013

Africa mulls legal framework to curb rising poaching

NAIROBI, 22 Aug—African envoys have resolved to enact strong and enforceable legal framework to help control rising poaching in the continent.

The ambassadors who ended their two-day retreat organized by Kenya's Mission to the UN Office at Nairobi (UNON) were also unanimous on the need for the African Diplomatic Corps (ADC) to take up the issue of combating poaching strongly.

"They viewed this as yet another chapter in which a more assertive Africa that seeks to im-

plement solutions to its own challenges comes together," they said in a joint statement issued in Nairobi on Tuesday.

The envoys welcomed the upcoming Wildlife Bill spearheaded by Kenya. Kenya has enacted a bill to punish poachers with fines between 120,000 U. S. dollars and nearly 200,000 dollars.

However officials said the pending bill to allow a poacher to be fined up to 200,000 dollars is not stiff enough. The Kenya Wildlife Services (KWS) is punishing poachers with

life imprisonment as deterrent measures to protect the two endangered species of elephant and rhino, an official has said.

KWS Director William Kiprono said early this month that the killing of wildlife especially the elephants and rhinos in the county are alarming and required stiff penalties to the perpetrators.

Kiprono said the killing of the two endangered species for their valued tusks is an economic sabotage and punitive measures have to be meted on criminals involved in the vice.

During the meeting, the African ambassadors noted that communities that live close to wildlife should gain resources from wildlife revenue, receive compensation for losses, and have a voice in the ongoing debate on conservation.

Conservation, it was agreed, should become an activity owned by the African public and not divorced from them in any fashion if indeed wildlife is to be viewed as a national economic asset and as part of a precious common heritage.—Xinhua

New Zealand sees record number of winter visitors

WELLINGTON, 22 Aug—The number of overseas visitors to New Zealand last month was a record for July, up 6 percent year on year to 183,700, the government statistics agency announced on Wednesday. Australia led the way with visitor numbers up by 6.6 percent, or 5,200,

from July 2012, followed by China (up 25.2 percent or 3,100), the United Kingdom (up 21.7 percent or 1,500), and the United States up 11.5 percent or 1,100), according to Statistics New Zealand.

In the year to the end of July, there were 2.647 million visitors from all coun-

tries, up 1 percent from the previous year.

Meanwhile, the number of New Zealand resident short-term trips abroad in July was the highest monthly figure ever, rising by 15 percent year on year to 237,000, said a statement from Statistics New Zealand.—Xinhua



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ENTERTAINMENT

Luke Bryan tops Billboard album chart; Perry has No 1 download

LOS ANGELES, 22 Aug — Country singer Luke Bryan's latest record stormed straight to the top of the Billboard 200 album chart on Wednesday, while pop singer Katy Perry scored her biggest digital song debut to date with new single "Roar."

"Crash My Party," the fourth studio album from Bryan, sold more than 527,000 copies in its first week, according to figures from Nielsen SoundScan,

making it his best debut.

It is also the third-biggest opening for an album this year, behind Jay Z's "Magna Carta ... Holy Grail," which sold 528,000 in its first week in July, and Justin Timberlake's "The 20/20 Experience," which debuted with 968,000 in March.

Hip-hop artist K Michelle was the only other new album to enter the top 10 of the Billboard 200 this week, landing at No 2 with

her debut album "Rebellious Soul," selling 71,000 copies.

Pop singer Perry, who released her first single "Roar" from upcoming album "Prism" last week, scored her best sales week as the song sold more than 557,000 downloads and topped the Billboard Digital Songs chart.

The song also notched No 2 on Billboard's Hot 100 chart, which measures radio airplay, online streaming and sales, but it was unable to knock off Robin Thicke's "Blurred Lines" featuring T.I. and Pharrell, which clocked its 11th non-consecutive week at No 1 on the chart. "Roar" beat out stiff competition from Lady Gaga, who released her new single "Applause" from upcoming album "ARTPOP," which reached No 3 on the digital songs chart with 218,000 downloads and No. 6 on the Hot 100 chart.—Reuters



Singer Luke Bryan performs on NBC's 'Today' show in New York, on 16 Aug, 2013 file photo.—REUTERS

US blockbusters perform in China, but not at home

BEIJING, 22 Aug— US science fiction blockbuster "Pacific Rim" has remained top of China's box office charts for a third consecutive week, while it performed poorly in the US film market.

According to box office figures by China Film News on Tuesday, the movie about monsters set in the 2020s, had taken 640 million yuan (104.5 million US dollars) by the week ending 18 Aug, since it debuted in late July.

However, it only took 52.3 million US dollars in its first week at the US box office and dropped by 57.2 percent in the second week.

At douban.com, a popular Chinese social network for films, "Pacific Rim" received 7.9 (out of 10), with many praising the visual effects.

Reviewers wrote on douban.com that people should see it in 3D or at the IMAX.

Similarly to "Pacific Rim," other US movies, including "Fast and Furious 6" and "White House Down," did well in China but performed poorly in the United States.

Cai Yuheng, a senior at Tsinghua University, admitted that the Chinese elements in "Pacific Rim"

attracted him to watch the film.

Many Hollywood films try to cater to the Chinese audience. This is illustrated by Chinese versions of "Iron Man 3" and "Looper" that feature Shanghai.

Zhang Huijun, president of the Beijing Film Academy, said that the Chinese elements added into American films attract a younger audience. Huang Qunfei, chief manager of the Beijing-based New Film Association, said due to a lack of competitive domestic films, US action movies are popular among Chinese moviegoers.—Xinhua



Actor James Franco poses for photographers at the European premier of *Oz: The Great and Powerful* in London on 28 Feb, 2013.—REUTERS

James Franco Hosting Ovation Arts show 'James Franco Presents'

NEW YORK, 22 Aug— James Franco is using his ubiquitousness to further the arts on television: The actor will host and executive produce "James Franco Presents," a new show on Ovation dedicated to increasing interest in the arts.

Ovation is sticking with its arts mission long after other cable stations, such as A&E and Bravo, have abandoned high art for reality shows. Franco's celebrity may help Ovation draw eyes without changing its focus. It debuts this fall.

"James Franco is the ultimate artist, so partnering with James is a dream come true for Ovation," said Robert Weiss, Ovation's chief creative officer. "And, since Ovation's mantra is 'art is everywhere,' James is the perfect person through whom to introduce viewers to a modern, more inclusive definition of art."

Reuters



Singers Joan Baez and Bob Dylan perform together during the March on Washington for Jobs and Freedom in this on 28 Aug, 1963 file photo shot by US Information Agency photographer Rowland Scherman and provided to Reuters by the US National Archives in Washington on 21 Aug, 2013.—REUTERS

Marches, events to mark anniversary of King's 'dream' speech

WASHINGTON, 22 Aug —Marches, speeches and global bell-ringing are set to mark the 50th anniversary this month of the Rev Martin Luther King Jr's "I have a dream" speech, a key event in the struggle of African Americans for racial equality.

The week of commemorations in Washington will culminate on 28 August, when President Barack Obama, the first black US president, will speak at the Lincoln Memorial 50 years to the day after King made his historic address at the site.

King, an advocate of non-violence, was among six organizers of the 1963 March on Washington, a rally for jobs and freedom. King led about 250,000 marchers to the Lincoln Memorial on the National Mall and delivered his signature "I have a dream" speech from its steps.

The March on Washington helped pressure Congress to pass the landmark Civil Rights and Voting

Rights acts in 1964 and 1965, respectively. The Supreme Court struck down a key provision of the Voting Rights Act in June, and Obama has called that ruling a setback.

King was awarded the Nobel Peace Prize in 1964. A white drifter assassinated him in 1968 at age 39.

Events in Washington will kick off on Wednesday with a commemorative service at Mount Airy Baptist Church. Seminars on women and young people in the civil rights movement and on March on Washington figures Bayard Rustin and A Philip Randolph will take place in the following days.

Civil rights groups the National Urban League and King's Southern Christian Leadership Conference (SCLC) will also be holding events in Washington. The SCLC's international convention on Friday will feature debates on race and poverty and on voting rights.

Reuters

One Direction premiere draws screaming fans; Cowell talks of fatherhood

LONDON, 22 Aug— British boy band One Direction was greeted by more than 3,000 screaming fans on Tuesday for the London premiere of its new 3D documentary "This Is Us," while music mogul and manager Simon Cowell addressed his impending fatherhood for the first time.

Cowell, 53, the owner of music and television production company Syco, which manages One Direction, is expecting a child with his friend's ex-wife, socialite

Lauren Silverman.

The music magnate declined to comment publicly about the news until Tuesday, when he told BBC at the premiere's red carpet that "things are changing in my life right now, for the better."

"I'm proud to be a dad," Cowell said. "It's something I hadn't thought of before and then, now I know, I feel good about it. She's a very special girl." Cowell also told reporters that he would be willing to let his own child become a pop star, as long as

he was the manager.

Cowell joined "This Is Us" director Morgan Spurlock to share the spotlight with the boy band that has risen to worldwide fame and success since the five members formed the band on UK television singing competition "The X Factor" in 2010.

The Sony Pictures documentary, out in theatres on 30 August, features concert footage and the group's life backstage and on the road over the last two years.

Reuters



One Direction, (L-R) Harry Styles, Niall Horan, Louis Tomlinson, Zayn Malik and Liam Payne pose for photographers at the world premiere of their film "One Direction: This Is Us", in London on 20 Aug, 2013.—REUTERS

SPORTS

Brazil, Argentina top World Cup ticket requests

RIO DE JANEIRO, 22 Aug— More than 2.3 million fans have applied to attend next year's World Cup in the first two days of ticket sales, according to football's governing body FIFA.

Some 1.9 million requests came from Brazil, 207,000 from Argentina and 50,000 from the United States, FIFA said on Wednesday.

The most sought-after game is the tournament opener in Sao Paulo on 12 June with 372,000 requests. The match will feature Brazil against a yet to be determined opponent.

The final in Rio de Janeiro on 13 July has received 340,000 requests.

Almost one million tickets will be available during the first phase of sales, which closes on 10 October. Successful applicants will then be drawn from a lottery.

FIFA marketing director Thierry Weil advised fans to apply during the first phase to avoid higher demand after the World Cup draw is announced on 6 December.—Xinhua



Sara Errani of Italy reacts to missing a point against Agnieszka Radwanska of Poland during their women's quarter-finals tennis match of the Rogers Cup tennis tournament in Toronto, on 9 Aug, 2013.—REUTERS

Top seed Errani upset in final WTA event before US Open

TORONTO, 22 Aug— Sara Errani's US Open preparations were jolted on Wednesday when the top-seeded Italian was upset by Russia's Ekaterina Makarova 7-5, 6-1 in the second round of the New Haven Open.

World number five Errani double-faulted five times while her 26th-ranked opponent unleashed eight aces and won seven consecutive games on the way to victory in one hour 22 minutes.

The premature exit of Errani followed the elimination of second-seeded Angelique Kerber of Germany in the second round

on Tuesday, marking the first time the top two seeds had failed to reach the last eight at the tournament.

In other matches on Wednesday, fourth seed Caroline Wozniacki of Denmark booked her place in the quarter-finals with a 6-1, 7-5 victory over Italy's Karin Knapp and Romania's Simona Halep battled past Spaniard Carla Suarez Navarro 3-6, 6-4, 6-1.

The New Haven Open is the final tune-up on the WTA Tour before the final grand slam event of the year, the US Open, which starts on 26 August in Flushing Meadows, New York.—Reuters

Sharapova out of US Open with shoulder injury

NEW YORK, 22 Aug— Third-seeded Russian Maria Sharapova has pulled out of next week's US Open due to a shoulder injury, tournament organizers said on Wednesday.

The four-times grand slam winner, who triumphed at Flushing Meadows in 2006, fired coach Jimmy Connors last week after just one match together.

The 26-year-old world number three, who is suffering from inflammation in her right shoulder, said withdrawing from the

year's final grand slam was "a really tough decision to make".

"I have done everything I could since Wimbledon to get myself ready but it just wasn't enough time," she said in statement on her Facebook page.

"I have done many tests, received several opinions and it all comes down to taking the proper amount of time to heal my shoulder injury properly."

"It's certainly not an easy decision to make ahead of one of my favourite tournaments, but I know

it's the right one that will get me back on the courts soon."

"I plan on taking the next few weeks off, receiving proper treatment and rehabilitation."

Sharapova lost to 20-year-old American Sloane Stephens in the second round of the Western and Southern Open in Cincinnati last week in her only match since a second-round exit at Wimbledon.

Her absence from Flushing Meadows at least puts to rest widely reported plans she had to legally change her name for the US Open in a publicity stunt for her candy business.

Defending champion Serena Williams is the top seed for the US Open at Flushing Meadows in New York, ahead of Belarusian Victoria Azarenka and Poland's Agnieszka Radwanska, who now moves up to third.

Tournament director David Brewer had earlier announced Sharapova's withdrawal.

"We wish her a speedy recovery and look forward to her return to New York next year," he said in a statement.

Reuters



Maria Sharapova of Russia reacts to her play against Sloane Stephens of the US at the women's Cincinnati Open tennis tournament in Cincinnati, Ohio, on 13 Aug, 2013.—REUTERS

Woods looks to add to 'great' year with FedEx win

JERSEY CITY, 22 Aug— Tiger Woods has gone a fifth season without winning a major but still considers his five tour titles a "great year" and is looking to add more in the FedExCup series starting on Thursday with The Barclays.

Woods, who has long measured success by his hardware from golf's major championships, sounded philosophical on Wednesday when asked to assess his 2013 season ahead of the opening round at Liberty National.

"You're going to have years where you don't win major championships and years that you do," said Woods, whose stated pursuit of Jack Nicklaus and his record 18 majors has stalled since winning the 2008 US Open at Torrey Pines.

But failure to end his majors drought did not diminish his achievements this year, Woods said.

"This year's been a great year so far," the

37-year-old American told reporters.

"I've won at two of my favourite venues (Torrey Pines and Bay Hill), plus winning two World Golf Championships and a Players (Championship) in there. It's been pretty good," he added with a smile.

The five tournament victories from 12 starts this year have put him firmly atop the world rankings and brought him to a total of 79, three away from the record 82 won by Sam Snead.

Woods said his PGA Tour wins column was something he was very proud of.

"It's been an amazing, amazing run to get here," he said. "The consistency is one of the things I'm most proud of, winning five or more tournaments, 10 years. That's one of the stats that I look at as one of the ones I'm really proud of. This is one of those years."

"I'm second on the all-time list on both, whether

it's majors or all-time wins. That's not bad at my age."

Woods has twice won the FedExCup competition, in the inaugural 2007 series and again two years later, but his 2009 triumph began with a contentious start at The Barclays, which served as the coming-out party for the Liberty National venue.

The American was very critical about the layout, especially the heavily undulating contours of the greens.

Woods remarked to a player in his pro-am group the day before the tournament began that "maybe Tom (co-designer Kite) did this course before his eye operation."

Kite shed his thick-lensed eyeglasses after having Lasik surgery in 1998, six years after first considering the challenge of turning the former landfill site into a world-class venue.

Reuters



Atlanta Braves Jason Heyward lies on the ground after being hit in the head by a pitch from New York Mets starting pitcher Jonathon Niese during the sixth inning of their MLB National League baseball game at CitiField in New York, on 21 Aug, 2013.—REUTERS

Braves' Heyward hit by pitch, breaks jaw

NEW YORK, 22 Aug— Atlanta Braves outfielder Jason Heyward is expected to be sidelined for at least four weeks with a broken jaw after being hit by a pitch from Mets starter Jon Niese in New York on Wednesday.

With two outs in the sixth inning, former All-Star Heyward was struck by a 90 mph fastball and immediately fell to the ground amid groans from

the crowd.

Head trainer Jeff Porter and Braves manager Fredi Gonzalez ran out to attend to Heyward, who was then seen by Mets doctors before being taken to a Manhattan hospital to have X-rays and further tests. Two fractures were revealed in his jaw and Howard has been told he could miss the rest of the regular season as he will need between four and six weeks to recover.—Reuters



Tiger Woods of the US tees off on the third hole during the third round of the 2013 PGA Championship golf tournament at Oak Hill Country Club in Rochester, New York on 10 Aug, 2013.—REUTERS

GENERAL



A night parade is held in Keelung, Taiwan on 20 Aug to celebrate the annual Ghost Festival, which falls on the 15th day of the seventh month according to Chinese lunar calendar. Mid-summer Ghost Festival has been celebrated in Keelung for more than 150 years.—XINHUA

China, Nepal to set up office of consulate general in each other's territory

KATHMANDU, 22 Aug—Due to the growing trade and interdependence among each other, Nepal and China have proceeded to set up the office of consulate general in each other's territory.

Once set up, this will be China's first office of the consulate general in Nepali land while the latter will have its third office of consulate general in China.

So far, Nepal has three diplomatic missions in China, Embassy of Nepal in Beijing and two consulate general offices in Lhasa and Hong Kong.

Nepal has been preparing to set up its office of

consulate general in Guangzhou, China's third largest city, while the northern neighbour has proposed to establish the office in Pokhara, a tourist hub in central Nepal.

Nepal's trade with China has significantly increased through Guangzhou, making the city a trade hub for Nepal in the recent decade.

"China has dispatched proposal in this regard several times in the past," a high level official at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MoFA) told *Xinhua* on Wednesday preferring anonymity.

A bilateral meeting on

Sunday in Beijing will make a decision in this regard.

"The establishment of office of consulate general in both countries will be the major agenda of discussion," Nepal's foreign secretary Arjun Thapa told *Xinhua*, adding the meeting will also ponder on the jurisdiction and the number of staffs in regards to the proposed offices of consulate general. Nepal's Ministry of Commerce and Supplies (MoCS) has been lobbying the government to propose the Chinese government for the establishment of office of the consulate general in Guangzhou.—*Xinhua*

McEnroe cannot see another grand slam win for Federer

NEW YORK, 22 Aug — John McEnroe finds it hard to envisage Roger Federer adding to his record 17 grand slam titles and believes the Swiss maestro is showing signs of slowing down.

The 32-year-old Federer heads into next week's US Open seeded seventh, his first time outside the top three in any slam in the past decade, and his recent form offers no suggestion of a quick improvement at Flushing Meadows in New York.

McEnroe, a four-time U.S. Open champion and three-times Wimbledon winner, is not ruling Federer out of contention for the latter stages of the tournament but he feels it may now be too much to expect the Swiss to go all the way. "To me, it's obviously going to be a lot more difficult at this stage,"

McEnroe, now a television commentator with ESPN, said on a conference call.

"I don't see at this stage him being able to go through all seven (rounds) and have to beat at least two of these (top) three guys."

"Maybe he would use that type of thing as incentive. When you've won 17, you clearly think you can win another one. To me, there comes a point, even as great as Roger has been for so many years, that it catches up to you a little bit," McEnroe added.

Beaten by the 116th-ranked Sergiy Stakhovsky in the second round at Wimbledon, Federer also lost to Federico Delbonis in the Hamburg semi-finals and 55th-ranked Daniel Brands on home soil in Gstaad.

He fared a little better in

Cincinnati last week, reaching the quarter-finals where he was beaten by eventual winner, and US Open favourite, Rafa Nadal.

McEnroe believes that while Federer's experience and ability mean he will still be a factor, grand slam win number 18 may be a step too

far now.

"There are certainly scenarios where he could easily still get late into an event and even to a final," McEnroe said. "Andre (Agassi) got to the final of the Open at 35, so there's no reason to believe he couldn't do it.

Reuters



John McEnroe of the US reacts after winning a point during his BNP Paribas Showdown friendly tennis match against compatriot Ivan Lendl in Hong Kong on 4 March, 2013.—REUTERS

MYANMAR TV

(23-8-2013, Friday)

6:00 am	2:45 pm
1. Paritta By Venerable Mingun Sayadaw	19. Teleplay
6:30 am	3:00 pm
2. Physical Exercise	20. News
6:40 am	3:15 pm
3. Dance of National Races	21. TV Drama Series
6:45 am	4:00 pm
4. Documentary	22. News/ Weather Report
7:00 am	4:15 pm
5. News	23. TV Drama Series
7:20 am	4:30 pm
6. Pyi Thu Ni Ti	24. University of Distance Education (TV Lectures)
8:00 am	-Second Year (Geography)
7. News/International News	5:00 pm
8:25 am	25. News
8. India Drama Series	5:15 pm
9:00 am	26. Documentary (SEA Games)
9. News/International News	6:00 pm
9:25 am	27. News/ Weather Report
10. Mono Classical Songs	6:20 pm
9:45 am	28. Amazing World
11. Documentary (ASEAN)	7:00 pm
10:00 am	29. News
12. News	7:25 pm
10:15 am	30. TV Drama Series
13. TV Drama Series	8:00 pm
11:05 am	31. News/International News/Weather Report
14. CLEVER	8:35 pm
11:40 am	32. People Talks
15. Myanmar Series	8:45 pm
12:00 pm	33. Documentary
16. News/International News/Weather Report	9:00 pm
12:25 pm	34. News
17. Myanmar Movies	35. Mono Classical Songs
2:35 pm	36. Traditional Boxing
18. Hit Songs of Stars	37. TV Drama Series

MYANMAR INTERNATIONAL

(23-8-13 09:30 am ~ 24-8-13 09:30 am) MST

- * Local News
- * Applied Myanmar Traditional Martial Art (Part-2)
- * World News
- * Fortune Teller: "Yan Moe Aung"
- * Local News
- * Unique Pattern Of Myanmar...A Trend of China Traditional Dress
- * World News
- * Serone and Happy Rural Life in Myanmar
- * Local News
- * Myanmar Mega Factory- (Episode-1)
- * World News
- * Myanmar Masterclass: Impressionism
- * Local News
- * Products to Myanmar Bamboo Hat
- * World News
- * A Trip to Mon State "Mawlamyine"
- * Local News
- * Applied Myanmar Traditional Martial Art (Part-1)
- * World News
- * A Journey to the Zalon Mountain
- * Local News
- * Sweet & Dreamy Taste
- * World News
- * Up Against the Tide
- * Local News
- * Marketable Goods- (Straw paingting)
- * World News
- * Secret Places For Yummy Food (Episode-5) (Myanmar Favourite Snacks)
- * Local News
- * Journey To Unimaginable Spots (Epside-8)
- * World News
- * Unique Pattern Of Myanma...A Trend Of Chin Traditional Dress

S Korea's household credit hits record high

SEOUL, 22 Aug—South Korea's household credit, including mortgage loans and credit purchases, hit a new record high as demand for home-backed loans jumped ahead of the end of temporary tax benefits, central bank data showed on Thursday.

Household credit outstanding was 980 trillion won (873 billion US dollars) as of the end of June, up 16.9 trillion won from three months earlier, according to the Bank of Korea (BoK). The figure was the highest in the country's history.

Household credit includes loans from banks, non-bank depository institutions as well as purchases on credit.

Household loans increased 17.5 trillion won during the April- June period as demand for mortgage loans jumped ahead of the end of temporary cuts for home acquisition tax. Credit Purchases reduced 0.6 trillion won due to a rise in purchases with check cards.

Loans extended by banks increased 8.3 trillion won in the second quarter after falling 4.9 trillion won in the prior quarter. Debts owed by households to non-bank deposit takers, including savings banks, credit unions and community credit cooperatives, increased 3.1 trillion won in the quarter after increasing 0.1 trillion won in the previous quarter.

Xinhua

Vice-President U Nyan Tun attends opening of Pre-SEA Games Vovinam Test Match 2013



Vice-President U Nyan Tun greets the team manager and athletes.—MNA

NAY PYI TAW, 22 Aug—Joint Bill Committee's findings and report on Press Release Team's announcement Nos.14/2013 and 15/2013, was approved at today's Pyidaungsu Hluttaw session.

(Joint Committee's findings and reports are reported separately.)

Union Minister for Commerce U Win Myint explained duties and functions of the Central Committee for Control of Illegal Trade. After that, Union Minister for Finance U Win Shein and Union Minister for Cooperatives U Kyaw Hsan touched upon taking loans of 100 million USD from Exim Bank of China. Myanmar signed a loan agreement (two-year suspension period and eight-year repayment

and will have to pay 4.5 % interest rate per year and one percent of loan amount for management expense.

Hluttaw agreed in principle to take loans from China and decided to submit Cooperatives Ministry's management to the Hluttaw.



Union Minister for Commerce U Win Myint.—MNA

period) with Exim Bank of China on 5 April, 2013

Myanmar, Indonesia to cooperate in electricity sector

NAY PYI TAW, 22 Aug—Union Minister for Electric Power U Khin Maung Soe held a meeting with Indonesian Ambassador to Myanmar Mr. Sebastianus Sumarsono at the ministry, here, this morning. At the meeting, the Indonesian ambassador said that during the Indonesian President's visit to Myanmar this April, promotion of electricity sector cooperation between

Indonesia and Myanmar was discussed and an MoU on power supply quality improvement and power loss mitigation project was signed. Indonesia is rich in coal resource and has been successfully running coal-fired power plants, he added. He also invited a Myanmar delegation to observe clean coal technology that is less environmental impact in Indonesia.

The Union minister on his part said all out efforts are being made to fulfill increased electricity demand in Myanmar and plans are underway to construct coal-fired power plants. The Union minister welcomed investment from Indonesia through either government to government cooperation or private sector.—MNA

Regarding the loan, MP U Phyo Min Thein of Hlegu Constituency said that it is found that loan interest rate is higher than that of international



Union Minister for Finance U Win Shein. MNA

loans. It needs to ensure the correct use of loans in promoting the living standards of people. Only then, would it bring benefits to the country and people as well as to farmers.

MP U Than Myint of Salingyi Constituency said that the interest rate is a



Union Minister for Cooperatives U Kyaw Hsan. MNA

bit higher compared with international rates. That matter should be deeply thought.

Two MPs discussed the report of Pyidaungsu Hluttaw Joint Study Commission on Rights of Employee and Employer.

Amyotha Hluttaw

NAY PYI TAW, 22 Aug—Patron of the Leading Committee for Organizing the XXVII SEA Games Vice-President U Nyan Tun attended the opening of Pre-SEA Games Vovinam Test Match 2013 at Wunna Theikdi Stadium, here, this morning.

First, Chairman of Leading Committee for holding 27th SEA Games Union Minister for Sports U Tint Hsan made an opening speech and launched the tourney.

It was attended by the Union ministers, deputy ministers, President of South East Asian Vovinam (Bando) Federation Mr. Oknha RATSOKHORN, committee members from Myanmar Martial Arts Federation, referees and athletes, fans and guests.

Vice-President U Nyan Tun greeted the athletes and presented gifts to them.

The demonstration of Myanmar's martial arts and entertainment programme

followed.

The teams from Myanmar, Indonesia, Vietnam and Laos demonstrated the fighting skills.

The Union minister awarded first prize to Myanmar, second to Indonesia and third to Laos teams.

Vovinam sport, Vietnamese traditional martial arts, comprises two categories. One of Vietnamese national formed Vovinam sport in 1938 and its purpose is to pursue self-defence martial arts in a short period. Vovinam (Bando) sport includes fighting and demonstration in the sport events.

Vovinam sport included in 2011 SEA Games and 14 gold medals were awarded in those Games. In 27th SEA Games to be hosted by Myanmar, 18 gold medals will be presented in Vovinam event.

MNA

The State needs to seek possible means and ways to handle exploitation of workers: Amyotha Hluttaw Speaker

Amyotha

Hluttaw

Speaker

U Khin Aung

Myint at

Pyidaungsu

Hluttaw

session.

MNA



Speaker U Khin Aung Myint said that there would be losses in both sides when an employee or employer one-sidedly terminates its relations with employer or employee. It can hamper State's economic development and cause loss to those from grass-root level. So, it needs to deal with the employee-employer disputes in accord with democratic norms and standards.

The State needs to seek possible ways to handle the exploitation of workers. He urged those from legislative and executive bodies to keep a watchful eye on labour

disputes which can hamper country's democratization process.

MP Dr Myat Nyana Soe from Yangon Region Constituency No.4 called for Ministry's effective supports and budgets for effective handling of labour disputes. The Labour Union Laws have been enacted since the emergence of the Pyidaungsu Hluttaw. The implementation of these laws is still weak. There should be organizations that can mediate employees and employers, he added.

The meeting came to an end at 3 pm, and the 17th day session will go on 27 August.—MNA