The New Light of Myanmar
THE MOST RELIABLE NEWSPAPER AROUND YOU
Volume XXI, Number 134 | 7th Waning of Wagaung 1375 ME | Wednesday, 28 August, 2013

Dr Sai Mauk Kham views round proper flow of water at drains in Lashio

NAY PYI TAW, 27 Aug—Vice-President Dr Sai Mauk Kham looked round progress of works for proper flow of water at drains in wards in Lashio this afternoon.

He inspected dredging of drains for better flow of water in region 19, Ward 12 near Mansu Pagoda in Lashio, drains along both sides of Lashiogyi Road and along Kholaung Creek that crosses Airport Road and region 13 of Ward 12.

The Vice-President heard reports on progress of works by officials and gave instructions on extended construction of retaining walls at Kholaung Creek and holding coordination between Shan State government and township development support committee.

The Vice-President and party arrived back here by air in the evening.

MNA

***Vice-President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar Dr Sai Mauk Kham views progress of works for proper flow of water in wards in Lashio.*—MNA**

Republic of the Union of Myanmar
Pyidaungsu Hluttaw
Nay Pyi Taw
Notification No (59/2013)
6th Waning of Wagaung, 1375 ME
(27 August, 2013)

Objectives, term, duties, power, procedures and rights of Republic of the Union of Myanmar Constitutional Review Joint Committee

1. The Pyidaungsu Hluttaw has formed the Republic of the Union of Myanmar Constitutional Review Joint Committee with Notification No (41/2013) dated 25-7-2013. Objectives, term, authority, procedures and rights (draft) were drawn by the committee with the consensus of Meeting No (1/2013) held on 23-8-2013, exercising power vested by the above-mentioned notification.

2. The draft was approved by the Pyidaungsu Hluttaw at 17th day seventh regular session. The objectives, term, duties, power, procedures and rights of the committee are as follows:-

Objectives

3. The joint committee is formed to accomplish the following objectives:-
   (a) Developing the constitution that guarantees perpetuation, stability and development of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar;
   (b) Pursuing lasting peace by building up national reconciliation among ethnic groups;
   (c) Maintaining pace of democratic transition drive by the State and its people.

Term of the joint committee

4. The term of the committee is till it submits the report to the Pyidaungsu Hluttaw.

Duties of the joint committee

5. Duties of the joint committee are as follows:-
   (a) The joint committee shall review the constitution after taking the historical background of the country, current political, economic and social realities, political maturity of the people, national reconciliation, rule of law and stability into consideration.
   (b) It shall give precedence to provisions that are conducive to the nation and as desired by the people over unprofitable and controversial provisions.
   (c) It shall submit report to the Pyidaungsu Hluttaw of provisions in the 2008 Constitution of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar that do not come into effect in practice.
   (d) It shall focus on democratizing all administrative mechanisms.
   (e) It shall focus on helping emerge a reliable judicial system.
   (f) It shall submit report of findings in separate chapters to the Pyidaungsu Hluttaw.
   (g) The report of the joint committee shall be submitted to the Pyidaungsu Hluttaw Speaker if the Pyidaungsu Hluttaw is not in session.
   (h) Reviews and findings of the joint committee shall be kept secret and are confidential before submission to the Pyidaungsu Hluttaw. The committee shall record and approve meeting minutes in details. The meeting minutes shall not be distributed.
   (i) The joint committee shall submit its report to the Pyidaungsu Hluttaw before 31 December, 2013.
   (j) Upon its expiry, the joint committee shall systematically hand over a dossier of all its discussions, assessment, presentation, decisions and reports and documents and records to the Pyidaungsu Hluttaw.

Power of the Joint Committee

6. The power of the joint committee is as follows:-
   (a) The joint committee chairman has power to form work committee and teams required for review and assessment of the constitution.
   (b) The joint committee chairman shall summon committee meetings occasionally.
   (c) The joint committee members shall be vested with freedom of expression but without affecting other organizations and exempted from legal punitive actions for such action other than Hluttaw laws and bylaws.
   (d) The meetings of the joint committee shall be valid if more than half of the total number are present.
   (e) Decisions at the joint committee meetings shall be made by the majority of the committee members present at the meetings.
   (f) The joint committee shall demand and photocopy documents required for its works from all departments.
   (g) The joint committee shall seek advices from individuals, organizations and departments described in paragraph 6 of Notification No. 41/2013 of the Pyidaungsu Hluttaw.

Procedures

7. The procedures of the joint committee are as follows:-
   (a) The joint committee shall divide itself into small groups, each group to be tasked with reviewing particular section of the 2008 constitution and compiling assessment report the section it reviews.
   (b) The assessment of each small group shall be discussed by other groups at the joint committee meeting.
   (c) After the all-inclusive discussion at the joint committee meeting, the report approved by the majority shall be submitted to the Pyidaungsu Hluttaw section by section.

Rights of the Joint Committee

8. The rights of the joint committee are as follows:-
   (a) Members of the joint committee are entitled to same rights like the parliamentarians.
   (b) The joint committee shall have its office, meeting hall, staff, office equipment and transportation and allowances in line with rules and regulations.
   (c) The joint committee shall report to and demand the Pyidaungsu Hluttaw Speaker to fulfill its requirements.

***Sd*/Thura Shwe Mann**
Speaker

LOCAL NEWS

TOURISM

Tourists visit score high at Shwedagon Pagoda

YANGON, 27 Aug—The visits of globetrotters at Shwedagon Pagoda hit over 890 per day, according the Shwedagon media meeting on 22 August.

From 1 to 21 August, a total of 18752 tourists visited the pagoda, and there are 893 visitors a day on average.

Due to their visits, the fund of the pagoda could take fee US$ 93761for the visit and donation US$ and FECs 8373.

During this month, the statistics stated that there were 8970 Korean tourists, 3758 Thai tourists and 1592 Chinese tourists who set the top scores on their visits to the pagoda.—*Kyemon-Htet Khaing (Sangyoung)*

New Dhammayon handed over to Dekkhinathiri Township

NAY PYI TAW, 27 Aug—A ceremony to hand over new Dhammayon was held in Shweingyin Ward of Dekkhinathiri Township of Nay Pyi Taw Council Area on 25 August morning.

Chairman of Township Sangha Nayaka Committee Nyaunggon Monastery Abbot Bhaddanta Pandita administered the Five Precepts and members of the Sangha recited Parittas. The congregation offered alms to members of the Sangha.

Member of Nay Pyi Taw Development Committee U Than Oo handed over documents related to the newly-built Dhammayon to Shweingyin Ward administrator U Thaung Nyunt.

Next, the ward administrator presented certificates of honour to wellwishers who donated the Buddha image and throne which are being kept at the Dhammayon.

After that, the congregation shared merits gained.

The new Dhammayon is 72 feet long and 30 feet wide one-storey building constructed by Nay Pyi Taw Development Committee.

Kyemon

JUDICIAL AFFAIRS

Kayah State Chief Justice meets lawyers

LOIKAW, 27 Aug—Chief Justice of Kayah State High Court U Kyaw Lin Maung met with advocates and higher grade pleaders from Kayah State at the hall of Loikaw District Court in Loikaw this morning with the aim of implementing the judicial affairs in line with the laws in the state.

On the occasion, Chief Justice of the state U Kyaw Lin Maung and Advocate-General U Htay Aung made speeches.

Those present participated in the discussions on judicial affairs.—*H*

10 departmental squads to check traffick rule brokers

YANGON, 27 Aug—A total of 10 squads formed with departmental personnel will check and take action against traffic brokers in Yangon Region, according to the media meeting of Yangon Region All Bus-line Control Committee (Central) on 21 August.

Two of ten squads will discharge duties to check undisciplined vehicles and walkers breaking traffic rules daily.

The squads are constituted with officials of departments concerned and responsible persons of Ma Hta Tha, Transport Planning Department and Yangon City Development Committee as mobile teams.

"Personnel of APBCC (Yangon) themselves participate in the mobile teams that will not station at a single place by go round the downtown to check and take action against the traffick offenders as of today," said Chairman of the Committee U Hla Aung.

According to the duty assignments by the Yangon Government, the central committee will check 50 traffic lights, 30 bus stops, 32 streets and 15 schools and take action against offenders so as to relax the traffic congestion.

Kyemon-680

WOMEN'S AFFAIRS

MWEA member leaves for Malaysia

NAY PYI TAW, 27 Aug—Member of Myanmar Women Entrepreneurs' Association Daw Win Kalyar Oo left for Malaysia on 25 August to attend the Workshop on Empowering Women in Business Using Social Media and Digital Marketing to be held in Kuala Lumpur in Malaysia from 26 to 30 August.—*MNA*

DEVELOPMENT

Sagaing Region government meets for 30-month plan

MONYWA, 27 Aug—A coordination meeting on drawing 30-month plan was held at the city hall in Yongyi Ward of Monywa on 20 August morning.

In his address, Region Chief Minister U Tha Aye stressed the need to undertake electrification, sufficiency of drinking water and agricultural purpose water, job opportunity creation, tourism industry promotion, monetary affairs development and trade and investment promotion.

Regional departmental officials submitted the reports on drawing of 30-month plan for each departments, chairmen of Naga Self-Administered Zone Leading Body and district and township management committees progress of their regions in the respective sectors under the plans.

The meeting came to an end with remarks by the Region Chief Minister.

Also present at the meeting were Speaker of Region Hluttaw U Thin Hlaing, Deputy Speaker U Thaung Sein, region ministers, Chief Justice of the region high court U San Ko, region Advocate-General U Maung Maung Lin, region Auditor-General Daw Khin Myint Aye, region legel departmental officials, township development support committees and township development affairs committees.

Kyemon-Myo Win Tun (Monywa)

ODD NEWS

Seized pangolins released into forests

NAY PYI TAW, 27 Aug—On 24 August morning, a total of 47 pangolins weighing 80 viss worth K 12 million were seized from a Toyota Hilux Surf driven by U Aung Myat together with U Thaik Tun of Nyaunglebin of Bago Region, near Donthami Bridge in Duyinseik Village of Thaton Township in Mon State.

On 25 August, Assistant Director U Aye Cho of Mawlamyine and Thaton District Forest Departments and Township Staff Officer of Forest Department U Htay Lwin and officials released pangolins into the Danu forest reserve on Myathabeik mountain ranges in Thaton Township.

The Township Staff Officer said, "These pangolins have been starving for three days. They were suffocated in the packages. So, we released them as quickly as possible after seeking order."

It was reported that the pangolins would be transported to Heindu Village of Kayin State from Nyaunglebin of Bago Region.

The illegal traffickers are being taken action under the national parks and wildlife conseration law.

Kyemon-Thet Oo (Thaton)

WORLD

Japan to step up decontamination work in Fukushima

Japan's Economy, Trade and Industry Minister Toshimitsu Motegi (R), wearing a protective suit and a mask, inspects contaminated water tanks at the tsunami-crippled Fukushima Daiichi nuclear power plant in Fukushima prefecture on 26 Aug, 2013, in this photo released by Kyodo. — Kyodo News

Fukushima, 27 Aug—The Japanese government will step up decontamination efforts in areas hit by high levels of radiation around the crippled Fukushima nuclear plant under a revised plan to be released on Friday, Senior Vice Environment Minister Shinji Inoue said on Monday.

After a meeting with Fukushima Gov Yuhei Sato, Inoue told reporters the government will deal with areas not covered or thoroughly decontaminated under the initial plan, which limits work for forests to within around 20 meters of residential areas but has been delayed to require a review.

"We're ready to decontaminate wherever people's lives are affected, beyond 20 meters," the vice minister said, responding to Fukushima citizens' demand for more aggressive decontamination efforts. "We will also take care of areas that are left (still contaminated) or were newly found to have high radiation levels," he said.

The government is trying to clean up the so-called special decontamination area that consists of 11 municipalities near Tokyo Electric Power Co's Fukushima Daiichi plant that suffered a meltdown of three reactors after being hit by a tsunami in March 2011. It had planned to complete the work by the March 2014 end of the current fiscal year, but there has been a delay in the process, leading to a review of the plan.—*Kyodo News*

US will act on Syria only with international community

Jakarta, 27 Aug—US Defence Secretary Chuck Hagel said on Monday that Washington will take action on Syria over its alleged use of chemical weapons in concert with the international community and under legal justification.

"The United States is looking at all options regarding the situation in Syria. We're working with our allies and the international community," Hagel told a Press conference following a meeting with his Indonesian counterpart Purnomo Yusgiantoro.

"We are analyzing the intelligence and we will get the facts, and if there is any action taken, it will be in concert with the international community within the framework of a legal justification," he added.

Purnomo shared a similar view with Hagel, saying that the issue should be solved through the UN Security Council.

"We are opposing this use of chemical weapons by the government (of Syria), but the solution should be done through the UN Security Council," he said.

The Syrian crisis has worsened as reports claim that chemical weapons have been used against civilians. The opposition has pointed to President Bashar al-Assad's government as the culprit although the Syrian military has denied using such weapons.

Hagel arrived in Jakarta on Monday for a two-day visit as part of his Asian tour that will also take him to Brunei and the Philippines.—*Kyodo News*

Russia sees talks with Ukraine over Customs Union accession "senseless"

Moscow, 27 Aug—Moscow sees further talks with Kiev over Ukraine's accession to the Customs Union (CU) senseless, First Deputy Prime Minister Igor Shuvalov said on Monday.

"I believe this is senseless to continue talks over lateral trade in the light of Kiev's plans to join the European Union (EU)'s free trade zone this November.

"The Ukrainians want to find a format compatible (with simultaneous membership in the EU free trade zone and tripartite Customs Union). But even if we could find a compromise over single customs taxes, they have no such a possibility, as they are completely tied (by agreement with the EU)," Shuvalov said.

Moscow fears that if Kiev and the EU sign a free trade deal, the goods made in Europe will sneak into the CU territory through Ukraine thus bypassing customs control.—*Xinhua*

Iran adds to atom capacity, holds down stockpile growth

Vienna, 27 Aug—A report by the UN nuclear watchdog is expected to show that Iran is pressing ahead with its nuclear programme by further increasing its capacity to enrich uranium, diplomats said on Monday.

They said Iran also appears to have started making fuel for a heavy-water reactor that could produce plutonium, a development that concerns the West because of its potential to be used in a nuclear weapon.

On the other hand, the diplomats said this week's report by the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) is also likely to include data showing that Iran is limiting growth of its most sensitive nuclear stockpile, a step that could buy time for negotiations with major powers.

If confirmed, such findings would give a mixed picture of Iran's atomic activities at a time when the outside world is waiting to see if its new president, Hassan Rouhani, will move to ease tension with the Islamic Republic's Western critics.

A general view of the Arak heavy-water project, 190 km (120 miles) southwest of Teheran on 15 Jan, 2011. Reuters

Iran says its nuclear programme is for power generation and medical purposes only, rejecting Western allegations that it seeks the capability to make atomic arms.

Israel has threatened to attack Iran if diplomacy fails to curb its programme and it amasses enough medium-enriched uranium to make a nuclear weapon, if processed further.—*Reuters*

US, Israel officials discuss Syria, Iran

Washington, 27 Aug—The White House hosted a senior Israeli delegation on Monday to discuss Syria and Iran as the Obama administration is mulling over possible military strikes on Syria over its alleged use of chemical weapons in internal conflict.

Susan Rice, President Barack Obama's national security advisor, met with retired Israeli major general Yaakov Amidror, the national security advisor to Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu.

They discussed Iran, Egypt, Syria and "a range of other regional security issues," US National Security Council spokeswoman Caitlin Hayden said in a statement.

The conflict in Syria, which started in March 2011, came to the fore following allegations of chemical weapons use in suburbs of Damascus, capital of Syria, on 21 August, in which as many as 1,300 people were reportedly killed. The Syrian government denied the allegations and blamed instead the opposition forces for the attack. Obama has called leaders of Britain, France and Australia in the past few days over Syria.

"The president and his team are evaluating options with regards to responses to this specific violation of an international norm — the prohibited use of chemical weapons against civilian populations," White House spokesman Jay Carney told reporters.

Carney said a military response is among the options under consideration. The US Navy now has four warships armed with cruse missiles in the Mediterranean. US Secretary of State John Kerry issued a statement on Monday afternoon, saying that the chemical weapons use against civilians in Syria is "inexcusable" and "undeniable," and that Obama will make an "informed" decision on how to respond.

Russian Foreign Minister Sergei Lavrov on Monday warned the Western powers against military strikes on Syria, calling the move "a very dangerous and slippery path."

Xinhua

Chemical experts can gather Syria evidence despite time lapse

United Nations, 27 Aug—The United Nations said on Monday it was still possible for a UN team of chemical weapons experts to gather evidence necessary to investigate last week's alleged gas attack in suburbs east of Damascus, despite the lapse of time.

"Despite the passage of a number of days, the Secretary-General (Ban Ki-moon) is confident that the team will be able to obtain and analyze evidence relevant for its investigation of the 21 August incident," UN spokesman Farhan Haq told reporters. The UN team visited the site on Monday.

Britain said on Sunday that evidence of the attack, which is believed to have killed hundreds of people, could have already been destroyed ahead of a visit to the site by UN inspectors.

Reuters

United Nations (UN) vehicles transport a team of UN chemical weapons experts to the scene of a poison gas attack outside the Syrian capital last week, in Damascus on 26 Aug, 2013.—Reuters

SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY

New apps help shoppers identify items using image recognition

TORONTO, 27 Aug—A new app lets shoppers flipping through retail flyers purchase items that catch their eye using image recognition technology. The iOS app Pounce allows shoppers to scan images they spot in print media with their device's camera, then purchase the item online directly from the retailer running the advertisement.

"We are able to match an image with an actual product available online," said Avital Yachin, chief executive of BuyCode, Inc, the Tel Aviv, Israel-based company that developed the app, one of a growing number of apps using image recognition to bridge the physical and online worlds of e-commerce. "Our vision is to allow purchasing of any product in any print ad," he said, adding that the company plans to expand to catalogs, magazines and billboards. The Pounce app recognizes products that its retailing partners, which include Staples Inc, Target Corp, Toys "R" Us Inc and Ace Hardware Corp, sell online.

After scanning an image, the app displays the item's price and shipping cost, then allows shoppers to make the purchase directly from the retailer. Other companies such as eBay and Amazon have apps that use image recognition to identify objects such as books, cars and even clothing to help shoppers find similar items in their online marketplaces."The potential of image recognition lies in its ability to determine the make and model of any item in the world, especially those that consumers are otherwise unable to identify," said Steve Yankovich, the VP of Innovation and New Ventures at eBay Inc. EBay has experimented with adding image recognition to their eBay Fashion and eBay Motors iPhone apps.

With eBay Fashion, for example, users can upload an image and the app will suggest items that have similar colors, styles, and fabric. Its RedLaser app for iPhone and Android allows users to take photos of items and shows similar items available for sale at retailers online and locally, which eBay says fosters its main mission of partnering with retailers, not competing with them. Yankovich predicts that image recognition technology will help make shopping more seamless as it evolves over the next 10 years. Amazon's app Flow, for iPhone and Android, allows users to use the camera to identify a product sold on Amazon and get such details as its description, reviews and video or audio clips.

Sami Pienimaki, one of the founders of Jolla company, presents the new Jolla smartphone in Helsinki, on 20 May , 2013 in this photo taken by Lehtikuva.
REUTERS

The company says the app can recognize packaged goods with distinguishable features such as books, DVDs or even items such as candy bars or a box of cereal. Users can then read reviews and purchase them from the online retailer. But Yachin said it will be some time yet before consumers can identify everyday items such as clothing on another person. "The broader vision of recognizing real-world objects will take a little longer," he said, adding that the technology relies on a large database of product images. Pounce is free and available in the United States, with plans to expand to Canada and Europe. Amazon Flow is only available in the United States and is free and EBay Fashion is also free and available worldwide.—*Reuters*

US judge approves Facebook privacy settlement over ads

SAN FRANCISCO, 27 Aug —A US judge on Monday granted final approval to Facebook's $20 million settlement of a lawsuit over targeted advertising despite objections that the deal did not go far enough to protect children's privacy. Five plaintiffs filed a class action against Facebook in 2011, saying the social networking giant's "Sponsored Stories" program shared users' "likes" of certain advertisers with friends without paying them or allowing them to opt out.

A "Sponsored Story" is an advertisement that appears on a member's Facebook page and generally consists of a friend's name, profile picture and an assertion that the person "likes" the advertiser. The case has highlighted tension between privacy concerns and Facebook's drive to monetize user content.

Under the terms of the settlement, Facebook will pay $20 million to compensate class members, and promised to give users more control over how their content is shared - changes which plaintiff lawyers estimate to have a value of up to $145 million. Facebook charged advertisers nearly $234 million for Sponsored Stories between January 2011 and August 2012, court filings show.

Child rights advocates had argued that no minors should have their content shared with advertisers. But in an order on Monday, US District Judge Richard Seeborg in San Francisco wrote that the settlement, "while not incorporating all features that some of the objectors might prefer, has significant value." Representatives for Facebook, the plaintiffs or objectors could not immediately be reached for comment.

Reuters

The Facebook logo is pictured at the Facebook headquarters in Menlo Park, California on 29 Jan, 2013.
REUTERS

Telefonica wins Slim over with sweetened German deal

AMSTERDAM/MADRID, 27 Aug—Telefonica has raised its bid for KPN's German arm by 6 percent to 8.55 billion euros ($11.5 billion), winning over top KPN investor America Movil and setting the stage for consolidation in Europe's largest mobile market. Mexican billionaire Carlos Slim's America Movil, which owns almost 30 percent of KPN, said it backed Telefonica's new offer for KPN's E-Plus unit. Shares of America Movil rose 1 percent in morning trade.

Earlier this month, America Movil launched a bid for the shares of KPN it did not already own, a challenge to the Spanish telecoms group's original deal to buy the E-Plus unit. America Movil said on Monday it would press ahead with its plan to buy the rest of the Dutch firm. But its bid faces challenges from antitrust regulators, unions and a foundation with power to block a takeover of KPN. Analysts also said some KPN shareholders, including hedge funds who have bought shares recently, could pressure America Movil to raise its offer.

The agreement moves Telefonica closer to its goal of stepping up its challenge in Germany to market leaders Deutsche Telekom and Vodafone. It also offers a better deal for America Movil, Telefonica's arch-rival in Latin America which on paper has racked up huge losses on its European investments since buying minority stakes in KPN and Telekom Austria. The new offer hands KPN 5 billion euros in cash and also increases its stake in the future combined German business to 20.5 percent from 17.6 percent under the terms of the previous offer.

A man walks past Telefonica's building in central Madrid on 26 March, 2013.—REUTERS

Investors are cautious about America Movil's European expansion efforts. Its shares remain down more than 20 percent since it announced it would offer 7.2 billion euros for KPN. Stefan Astheimer, vice president of strategy at investment manager Howe & Rusling in Rochester, New York, said Monday's news was mixed for the Mexican company. "On the one hand, they are losing the opportunity to gain direct entry to the German market which was an important part of their strategy," said Astheimer, whose firm has a small equity and debt position in America Movil.

"On the other hand, the deal will inject cash into KPN and allow America Movil to focus on the Dutch and Belgian markets, while giving them a larger stake in Telefonica Germany, which should appreciate in value," he added. "I think it was prudent of America Movil to allow Telefonica to acquire E-Plus rather than getting bogged down in a potentially expensive or ugly conflict which would not reflect well on their efforts to allay the concerns of the KPN Foundation and others," Astheimer added. BPI analyst Pedro Oliveira said the deal showed Carlos Slim and Telefonica boss Cesar Alierta could overcome their differences. "Their business sense is becoming stronger than the rivalry between Telefonica and America Movil," he said.

Telefonica still needs support from antitrust regulators for a deal that will reduce the number of players from four to three in Germany, a market with 112 million subscribers.

Reuters

Panda ambassadors visit Singapore's River Safari on global conservation tour

SINGAPORE, 27 Aug— Three panda ambassadors, or Pambassadors, representing China's Chengdu Panda Base, visited Singapore's River Safari on Monday on a global tour to spread the message about conservation of giant pandas and other wildlife. ' Erica Chen Yinrong and fellow conservation ambassadors Jerome Pouille and Melissa Katz visited Kai Kai and Jia Jia, the two pandas hosted at River Safari. They also interacted with visitors and shared their experience of being conservation ambassadors after emerging as winners from 1.16 million applicants in the Pambassador global campaign last year.

"Many would think that the conservation of giant pandas is only about giant pandas, while the conservation of other wildlife is conservation of other wildlife. But this is not true," Chen said. Chen said that there are many other wild animals that live in the same habitats as the giant pandas and their habitats are affected by human activities, too -- species such as monkeys, antelopes, snow leopards and leopard cats.

Pouille, a biologist who has been running a panda website in French, conducted an interesting question and answer session with audience, with questions such as "How heavy is my (panda) baby?" and "How many fingers do I (panda) have?"Chen, a fashion magazine editor who was also a volunteer at the Copenhagen Climate Change Conference in 2009 and the World Expo in 2010, demonstrated how the panda cakes are made at the Chengdu Panda Base, asking the audience to compare what the pandas eat at the Chengdu Panda Base and in Singapore.—*Xinhua*

BUSINESS & HEALTH

Healthcare group Fresenius warned over Puerto Rico plant

The headquarters of Fresenius is pictured in Bad Homburg near Frankfurt on 24 Feb, 2010.—Reuters

Frankfurt, 27 Aug— US regulators have issued a third warning this year for German healthcare group Fresenius to improve procedures at its sites, this time a blood bag manufacturing plant in Puerto Rico. A letter to the company from the US Food and Drug Administration (FDA) took issue with complaint-handling procedures and labeling at the Puerto Rico site, the German company said on Friday, adding that patients had not been put at risk.

Fresenius said that it is addressing the concerns raised by the FDA and that production at the plant is continuing, adding that full-year earnings targets for the infusion drugs and blood transfusion unit Kabi are not at risk. Only last month Fresenius received an FDA warning letter related to an inspection of its cancer drug plant in Kalyani, India.

In March the company's separately listed subsidiary Fresenius Medical Care, the world's largest dialysis company, was told by US regulators to improve the way it sterilizes certain dialyzers for filtering patients' blood. In May and June Fresenius Kabi voluntarily recalled some magnesium sulphate and benztropine mesylate injections in the United States because of the potential presence of glass particles in the vials.

Reuters

Nasdaq, NYSE at odds on outage cause as SEC seeks facts

New York, 27 Aug— US regulators have asked Nasdaq OMX Group and NYSE Euronext to come up with a timeline of Thursday's three-hour trading disruption, but the rival exchange operators have been unable to agree on the details, according to several sources familiar with the situation on Monday. Five days after a glitch that paralysed Nasdaq-listed stocks for three hours on all U.S. markets, Nasdaq and NYSE have a different understanding of what happened in the period preceding and during the blackout, with each side blaming the other for the outage, according to the sources.

At the centre of the disagreement is the role of Arca, NYSE's fully electronic stock market. The blackout, which saw trading in about 3,200 Nasdaq-listed stocks such as Apple Inc, Google Inc and Facebook Inc grind to a halt, was preceded by connectivity problems between Arca and the Nasdaq-operated Securities Information Processor (SIP). The SIP consolidates stock prices and distributes them to the market.

What's not clear is whether the problem at the SIP was caused by issues at Arca or technical flaws at the processor.The inability of the two largest US stock markets to come to a common understanding on what caused one of the worst market disruptions in recent memory underscores the complexity of the highly fragmented market and the difficulty of preventing future glitches. It could further damage investor confidence in markets, which have been roiled by a succession of high-profile technical glitches in recent years.

Much is at stake for the two exchange operators. Nasdaq and NYSE have a lock on the US primary listings business and compete fiercely to woo companies to list on their respective markets. Major market debuts— Wall Street watchers have been tweeting about the possibility of a Twitter IPO for months—are huge public relations boons for exchanges.— *Reuters*

Two women hold umbrellas as they walk past the Nasdaq MarketSite in New York's Times Square, on 22 Aug, 2013.—Reuters

Starbucks to sell home-grown coffee to the Colombians

New York, 27 Aug — Starbucks Coffee Company (SBUX.O), which has exported coffee beans from Colombia for more than four decades, plans to open its first café in the Andean country in 2014 and serve only locally-grown coffee. The world's biggest coffee chain hopes to open at least 50 coffee shops in cities across Colombia in the next five years, starting in the capital Bogota.

The announcement by the Seattle based-firm coincided with protests by local coffee growers who are demanding the government provide more aid to counter low global prices and cheap imports hitting the world's biggest producer of washed arabica beans. "We've had great success in Latin American and it's well overdue for us to open up in Colombia," Starbucks Chief Executive Howard Schultz told *Reuters* in an interview, adding that he hoped to open at least six stores in the first year.A military crackdown on drug-funded insurgent groups has made Colombia more attractive to foreign firms once fearful of investing in the nation when the conflict between Marxist FARC rebels and the government was at its height.

In addition to opening stores, Starbucks said it would partner with the United States Agency for International Development (USAID) and invest a joint $3 million in a plan to help 25,000 farmers in conflict-hit areas of Colombia increase coffee yields. Starbucks' new coffee shops will be run by a joint venture between Mexican restaurant firm Alsea (ALSEA.MX), which operates more than 500 Starbucks stores in Latin America, and Colcafe, a subsidiary of Grupo Nutresa, the fourth-largest Colombian food company.Colcafe helped Starbucks develop Via, its instant coffee product, launched in 2008. The Via manufacturing business, Starbucks' only roasting facility in Colombia, will be expanded to roast espresso blends and packaged coffee for sale in the country.

A barista puts whipped cream on a drink at a newly designed Starbucks coffee shop in Fountain Valley, California on 22 Aug, 2013.— Reuters

"We want to sell Colombian coffee in Colombia," said Craig Russell, Starbucks' senior vice president of global coffee. The USAID-Starbucks program will be directed at farmers in Antioquia, Tolima, Huila and Cauca, rich coffee-growing areas where there is still a FARC presence. A major aim of the initiative is to reduce "extreme poverty, which is still a reality for almost all of these small-scale coffee growers that have barely one hectare (2.5 acres) of land," said USAID chief Raj Shah. Carlos Piedrahita, head of Nutresa, said Starbucks' entrance into Colombia's coffee shop market would mean investment and jobs.

Reuters

Study shows water supplies in eastern US threatened by river alkalinization

Washington, 27 Aug— Human activities are changing the water chemistry of many rivers in the eastern United States, potentially threatening urban water supplies and aquatic ecosystems, a US study said on Monday. Researchers from the University of Maryland and other institutions looked at records of alkalinity trends in 97 rivers from the US state of Florida to the state of New Hampshire over the past 25 to 60 years and found that two-thirds of the region's rivers are becoming "significantly more alkaline."

Among the rivers impacted are those that provide water for big cities such as Washington DC, Philadelphia, Baltimore, and Atlanta, the researchers said. Increased alkalinity complicates drinking water and wastewater treatment, encourages algae growth, and can hasten the corrosion of metal pipe infrastructure. At high alkalinity levels, ammonia toxicity can also harm irrigated crops and fish in rivers, according to the researchers.In what may seem like a paradox, human activities that create acid conditions, such as the burning of fossil fuels, are causing the problem, they said.

Xinhua

Many medicines safe during breastfeeding

New York, 27 Aug — Many medications can be used safely by women who are breastfeeding and the benefits of breastfeeding outweigh most harms related to babies' exposure, a panel of pediatricians said today. In a clinical report, the American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP) Committee on Drugs said mothers may be "inappropriately advised" to stop breastfeeding or to stop taking their medications, for fear the drugs will be passed through breast milk and harm infants.

"Sometimes people are told that, because physicians may be worried about the risks the drug may pose ... and aren't necessarily thinking about the potential benefit of breastfeeding," Dr Hari Cheryl Sachs, the lead author on the report, said. That benefit includes a lower risk of ear infections, asthma and sudden infant death syndrome, according to the US Department of Health and Human Services. Sachs said properties of the drug itself, whether it's being used on a long- or short-term basis and the age and health of the infant all affect how safe it is to use medication while breastfeeding.

"It's hard to make a blanket recommendation on what drugs are fine for the mother, because it's going to depend on multiple factors," Sachs, from the Pediatric and Maternal Health Team in the Food and Drug Administration's Center for Drug Evaluation and Research, told *Reuters Health*."It's always a risk-benefit decision." She and her colleagues on the AAP committee said women seeking information on specific medicines should talk with their doctors and visit the National Institutes of Health-run website, LactMed (1.usa.gov/15eWNH).—*Reuters*

WORLD

Israelis line up for gas masks over Syria war fears

JERUSALEM, 27 Aug—Thousands of Israelis are lining up for gas masks or ordering them by phone, spurred on by fears that any Western military response to last week's alleged chemical weapons attack in Syria could ensnare their own country in war.

Western powers are considering military action to punish the Syrian government for the alleged attack that killed hundreds near Damascus last week.

With speculation mounting that NATO powers might fire cruise missiles into Syria, many in Israel worry that President Bashar al-Assad, embroiled in a 2-1/2 year uprising against his rule, could strike out at the Jewish state in retaliation.

Israeli media reports of Syrian officials threatening retaliation against Israel for any Western strike have only served to heighten the anxiety. "We live in a crazy region. All it takes is for one crazy person to push a button and you never know, everything can go up in flames," said Victor Bracha, 72, one of those queuing for protective gear at a makeshift distribution center in a shopping mall in Jerusalem.

Maya Avishai, spokeswoman for the Israeli Postal Service which oversees the distribution of gas masks on behalf of the military's homefront command, said four times as many people as usual had phoned in orders in the past two days.

"Twice as many as usual are showing up at public centers to pick them up. The pressure has been great," Avishai said. There was also talk of expanding the number of centers handing out gas masks to meet demand, she added.

Israel has eschewed any involvement in the internal conflicts gripping its Arab neighbours in the past two years, and some Israelis doubt Assad would turn his guns on Israel.

"It is not in his interest, it could bring about his demise more quickly," Israeli Strategic Affairs Minister Yuval Steinitz said on Sunday. "It would be insane for somebody to try and provoke Israel," he added in remarks to foreign correspondents in Jerusalem on Monday. Shlomi Goldstein, 32, another shopper at the mall in Jerusalem, said he had no plans to join those queuing for masks, confident that Israel could deter any attack.

"I think Assad wouldn't dare to attack us, he knows that if he did it could be the last thing he ever does," he said. Israel has provided its citizens with gear to cope with possible chemical or biological attacks since the 1991 Gulf War, when US-led troops drove Iraq out of Kuwait.—*Reuters*

An Israeli Postal Service employee shows a man how to adjust a gas mask at a distribution point at a shopping mall in the West Bank Jewish settlement of Maale Adumim near Jerusalem on 26 Aug 2013.
REUTERS

The Liuhe night market in Kaohsiung City, Taiwan. The Liuhe night market in Kaohsiung is a favourite dining place for residents and tourists alike.
XINHUA

Snowstorm cuts off access to 12,000 families in Peru

LIMA, 27 Aug—Peruvian officials on Monday urged the central government to provide aid to some 12,000 families in southern Peru, after a two-day snowstorm cut off access to the high-altitude area.

Carabaya, a remote indigenous province located at 1,540 km southeast of Lima, the Peruvian national capital, and 5,000 meters above sea level, has been completely isolated since a meter of snow and ice blocked highways connecting the community with the outside world.

Ronald Gutierrez, mayor of Carabaya Province, in the southern Puno region, called on the central government to send basic goods, including food, coats and medicine, saying children and the elderly were suffering the most from the frigid temperatures, according to local media reports.

"We urgently need a helicopter to bring us the aid," said Gutierrez.

Peru's high-altitude communities, such as Carabaya, are struggling through a harsh winter season that has seen several deaths due to respiratory ailments and economic damage to local crops and animal stocks.

Xinhua

N Korea seeks 4-party talks, exclusion of Japan, Russia

SEOUL, 27 Aug—North Korea's top military official has proposed talks with South Korea, China and the United States to discuss its nuclear weapons programme, but the proposal was met with skepticism in Seoul and Washington, *Yonhap News Agency* reported from Beijing on Tuesday, citing a diplomatic source.

"Vice Marshal Choe made the proposal for the four-party talks during his visit to Beijing in May, but such talks are unlikely because there is no pledge from Pyongyang to take sincere steps toward denuclearization," the source said, referring to Vice Marshal of the North Korean People's Army Choe Ryong Hae. "The US side won't agree to hold such talks unless North Korea meets preconditions on denuclearization," the source said. Six-party talks on Pyongyang's denuclearization, which include Japanese and Russian representation, have been on hold since late 2008.—*Kyodo News*

Switzerland, UNIDO to help develop agribusiness in Indonesia, Morocco, Tunisia

VIENNA, 27 Aug—Switzerland and United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO) had signed letters of agreement on the funding of UNIDO programmes and projects to help improve market access for food products produced in Tunisia and Morroco, and to strengthen the trade capacity of Indonesia's fisheries export sector, UNIDO announced on Monday.

According to the agreements, Switzerland would contribute 13.7 million US dollars to the funding of UNIDO programmes. In projects in Tunisia and Morocco, each running for four years, UNIDO will help strengthen the organization and governance of selected value chains, improve the productivity, quality compliance and product development of micro, small and medium-sized enterprises, and enhance their position in both domestic and export markets.

In projects in Indonesia, running for five years, UNIDO will support the development of trade capacities of selected value chains within the fisheries sector. The organization will in particular support the government of Indonesia on public-private dialogue in the fisheries sector, and facilitate trade linkages for Indonesian fisheries' products in global markets.

Xinhua

Tropical depression Fernand kills 13 in Mexico, dissipates

MEXICO CITY, 27 Aug—Torrential rains triggered by tropical depression Fernand killed 13 people in central Mexico on Monday before it dissipated, though the country's major oil installations were unaffected.

Nine people were killed in the town of Yecuatla, three in the city of Tuxpan, and one in the town of Atzalan, all in Mexico's eastern Veracruz state, Governor Javier Duarte said.

"All of (the deaths) were caused by landslides in the hills above their homes," Duarte said at a news conference.

The bulk of oil and gas installations of state-run monopoly Pemex are located to the south of the once-powerful storm, and were not affected, a company spokesperson said.

Located about 75 miles west-southwest of Tuxpan, the remains of Fernand had maximum sustained winds of 30 miles per hour and dissipated further inland at about 9 miles per hour, the NHC said earlier on Monday. Fernand made landfall near the coastal city of Veracruz early in the day.

***A man stands at a flooded building in Veracruz on 25 Aug 2013.*—REUTERS**

More than 200 people had been evacuated from their homes in Veracruz state, according to local emergency services. Mexico's government discontinued all costal warnings earlier in the day.

Fernand was still expected to produce between 4 and 15 inches of rain in the east-central states of Veracruz, Hidalgo, Puebla and San Luis Potosi, as well as the northern state of Tamaulipas.—*Reuters*

LOCAL NEWS

Communications

Low-priced mobile connection has yet to be available in Singu

Photo shows a communication tower in Singu but it cannot serve low-priced mobile connection to telephone users efficiently.

SINGU, 27 Aug—Low-priced mobile phone connection is not working well in Singu since the start of sales of MEC CDMA-800 SIM cards.

The budget mobile phones can make calls only to hear indistinct voices over there.

The town is well accessible to CDMA-450, GSM and WCDMA except in case of bad weather and cable failure.

There is a telecom tower in the town for CDMA-450, WCDMA and GSM and also one for MEC CDMA-800.

Township communications officials are not available for comments.

They are also accused of closing down complaint handling lines.

The local people who bought the low-cost SIM cards in lottery-style sales are demanding better connection.—*MMAL-433*

India pledges 245 million USD for Tamu-Kalewa road

TAMU, 27 Aug—India would channel USD 245 million into the construction of 71 bridges on key Tamu-Kalewa road on India-Myanmar road link in 2014-2015 fiscal year.

The project would be completed by 2016. Before the completion of the new bridges, Public Works under the Ministry of Construction would regularly maintain the old ones for keeping the road link, according to the deputy minister for construction.

The Ministry of Rail Transportation and Indian counterpart are preparing to sign an MoU to ply passenger buses between Mandalay of Myanmar and Manipur of India.

The Kalewa-Yagyi road is proposed to use as the bus route and the Indian side is hoping to finish the project by 2016.

MMAL-Chindwinthar

Educative talks on human trafficking, abuse of drugs given in Dekkhinathiri Tsp

NAY PYI TAW, 27 Aug—An educative talk on human trafficking and abuse of drug was organized at No 18 Basic Education High School in Dekkhinathiri Township in Nay Pyi Taw Council Area on 16 August.

Police Sub-Inspector Min Naing of Nay Pyi Taw Human Trafficking Squad gave talks on background history of human trafficking on global scale and on local scale, migration, human trafficking laws, human trafficking in Myanmar and major tricks employed by human traffickers.

He then distributed pamphlets on human trafficking.

Commander of Dekkhinathiri Township Police Force Police Major Win Thein gave talks on human trafficking.

MMAL-145

Low-cost SIM cards sold to slow vehicle drivers in Pyinmana

PYINMANA, 27 Aug—Low-cost SIM cards were sold to slow vehicle drivers in Pyinmana Township in lottery-style sale yesterday morning.

Member of Nay Pyi Taw Council U Myo Nyunt and officials supervised the sale.

A total of 65 CDMA cards and 10 GSM cards were sold.

The Nay Pyi Taw Council has sold 95 budget SIM cards to the pony cart and trishaw drivers.

U Thein Myint, a pony cart driver who won the lot to by the SIM card said, "I'm happy to emerge a winner in this fair lottery. I thank all the authorities who help the grass root people like me own a phone." The Nay Pyi Taw Council also sold low-priced SIM cards to slow vehicle drivers in Lewe and Tatkon Townships.

MMAL-Maung Than Oo

Environment

Free saplings distributed in Tatkon Township

NAY PYI TAW, 27 Aug—Forest Department in Tatkon Township in Nay Pyi Taw Council Area distributed free teak and gim-kino saplings to residents in downtown wards in Tatkon, Nay Pyi Taw Council Area, on 23 August morning with trucks.

The effort is aimed at raising public awareness for environmental conservation.

A total of 7000 saplings were presented in the campaign.

The Forest Department under the Ministry of Environmental Conservation and Forestry is calling for participation of the residents in conserving the environment and prevention against soil and water degradation.

MMAL-Kyaw Thu Win (Myanma Alinn)

MINBU, 27 Aug—The spillway of KyeeOhn-KyeeWa Dam in Pwintpyu Township in Minbu District has to discard water through it as the water level in the dam rose due to several days of heavy rain.

Manchaung Dam and Monchaung Dam are also facing the same situations, according to the officials of Minbu Construction (3).

As the dams are filled with water, they would supply adequate irrigation water to farmlands in Saku, Pwintpyu and Salin Townships for monsoon paddy.

MMAL-Tin Tun Oo

Health Care Activity

Anti-DHF measures carried out in Zabuthiri Township markets

NAY PYI TAW, 27 Aug—Sanitation and sterilization measures were carried out in markets in Zabuthiri township in Nay Pyi Taw Council Area to prevent outbreaks of Dengue Hemorrhagic Fever on 20 August.

In-charge U Hla Mying and shopkeepers of Tharaphi Market under Markets Supervisory Committee of Nay Pyi Taw Development Committee carried out the efforts on 20 August morning.

In-charge U Myint Khaing and shopkeepers participated in the sanitation tasks in Cherry markets on the same day.

In-charge U Pyae Phyo Maung of Ingyin market and in-charge U Maung Maung Lwin of Gandama market led the campaign to prevent DHF in their respective markets on 21 August morning.

MMAL-Min Min Latt (Mandalay University)

Odd News

Garden to establish at site of Thai king's tomb

MANDALAY, 27 Aug—Myanmar and Thai archaeologists are working in the site of a Thai King's tomb and they have proved that it was authentic tomb of the Thai King, Tampawady U Win Maung from Myanmar research team said. According to manuscripts found at the site, the Thai king spent 30 years in monkhood and had a relations between Myanma King Hsinbyushin.

He was honoured with a dignified funeral as a king when he died and his remains were kept in a typical tomb in Myanmar as a pagoda.

The findings could portray friendly relations between Myanmar and Thailand then, the researcher said.

Thai visitors used to visit the tomb and pay tributes on their visits to Mandalay.

There was a proposal to build a garden at the site of the tomb.—*MMAL-Aung Thura (Mandalay)*

KyeeOhn-KyeeWa dam stores water to full capacity

The New Light of Myanmar

PERSPECTIVES

Wednesday, 28 August, 2013

Copying

Copying is to make something that is exactly like something else. Copying has been around since time immemorial and our success continues into 2013 with more and more people have something to do with copying.It iscopying which started from childhood that was awash with a series of curiosity.

Forty years ago, innovation was introduced phase by phase with computer as the base. It is now up to innovation to deliver improvements to the country's deficient public services. HighTech appliances such as Lap top, i pot and smart phone are the products of the innovation. Without innovation, man will still bea long way off enjoying the fruits of high technology.

Copying without innovation is at best ill-advised. Copying of foreign culture and traditions through movies and songs will be at a distinct disadvantage and morally unacceptable.Only copying with a clear sense of direction will make it possible to get itself up and running in the run up to a complete success.

Copying can be an index of learning although it is a matter of personal taste. But constant copying would be met with failure. Copying should be accompanied by upgrading, invention and innovation based on the cutting edge technology that often proves costly, complex and time-consuming.

Man is simply tied to copying one way or another in order to master a difficult and delicate process to get what they need off the ground. Their years of patient and relentless work finally pay off.

NATIONAL

Women's vocational courses open in Lashio

NAY PYI TAW, 27 Aug—Opening of basic domestic science course No.64 and advanced tailoring course No.36 was held at the Lashio Women's Vocational Training School under Education and Training Department of the Ministry of Border Affairs, yesterday, with an address by Chairman of the Work Committee for the Progress of Border Areas and National Races Union Minister for Border Affairs Lt-Gen Thet Naing Win.

The Union minister presented cash assistance for training school, course instructors, staff and trainees. And Kaungkha People's Militia Troop and Seinkyawt People's Militia Group donated K 50,000 each for the training school. Afterwards, the Union minister looked round the training school and left necessary instructions.

A total of 82 female trainees—62 in basic domestic course and 20 in advanced tailoring course—from Lashio, Hsipaw, Kyaukme, Nawnghkio, Namlam, Hsenwi, Hopong and Kunlong townships from the northern Shan State—are taking the 14-week courses.—*MNA*

SWRR Minister receives WFP Country Director and Resident Representative

Union Minister for SWRR Dr Daw Myat Myat Ohn Khin holds talks with Country Director and Resident Representative Mr Domenico Scalpelli of WFP.—MNA

NAY PYI TAW, 27 Aug—Union Minister for Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement Dr Daw Myat Myat Ohn Khin received a delegation led by Country Director and Resident Representative Mr Domenico Scalpelli of World Food Program (WFP) at her office, here this morning.

Their meeting focused on emergency response to disaster, food sufficiency project and foods supplies, technical assistance for opening of natural disaster management training school and disaster response centers and cooperation between two organizations to provide foods to IDP in Rakhine and Kachin States.—*MNA*

Training & Consultation on Building a World Class Strategy held

NAY PYI TAW, 27 Aug—Training & Consultation on Building a World Class Strategy for Ministry of Mines, the Republic of the Union of Myanmar was opened at the Ministry of Mines, here yesterday morning, attended by Union Minister for Mines Dr Myint Aung, Deputy Minister U Than Tun Aung, Director Ms Margraet Bridges of Strategy Matters (Myanmar) Co., Ltd of Australia, departmental heads and trainees.

Director-General U Win Htein extended greetings and the Director Ms Bridges explained the purposes of conducting the training course.

A two-week training course is being attended by 25 trainees.—*MNA*

Junior Golf Myanmar Tournament 17-18 Sept

YANGON, 27 Aug—The 4th Junior Golf Myanmar Tournament 2013, organized by Myanmar Golf Federation and Junior Golf Myanmar (JGM), will take place at Punhlaing Golf Resort, here, on 17 and 18 September.

The tournament will be classified into men's and women's U-24, U-18, U 14 and U 10 events. Those wishing to take part in the tournament are to enlist at MGF with birth certificate (or) ID (original/copy), not later than 12 noon on 13 September.

For further information, may dial 09-43095678 or 01-9669526. Deserved prizes will be awarded to the winners.—*NLM*

Food supplies to displaced persons in Rakhine, Kachin States discussed

Deputy Minister for Border Affairs Maj-Gen Maung Maung Ohn receives Country Director and Resident Representative Mr. Domenico Scalpelli from World Food Program.—MNA

NAY PYI TAW, 27 Aug—Deputy Minister for Border Affairs Maj-Gen Maung Maung Ohn received Country Director and Resident Representative Mr. Domenico Scalpelli from WFP at the hall of the ministry, here, this afternoon. At the call, they exchanged views on taking care of maternal and child, contribution to health and education sectors, emergency supplies in natural disasters, food supply to needy regions in collaboration with the Ministry of Border Affairs, processes of peace and stability and rehabilitation tasks in Rakhine State, and work programmes to provide food to the displaced persons in Rakhine and Kachin States.

It was also attended by the directors-general and officials from the ministry.—*MNA*

Deputy Education Minister receives Pro Vice-President of Ritsumeikan Asia Pacific University

NAY PYI TAW, 27 Aug—Deputy Minister for Education Dr San Lwin held talks with Pro Vice-President, Professor Edgar Porter of Ritsumeikan Asia Pacific University and party of Japan at his office, here this morning.

They had a cordial discussion on signing an agreement on cooperation in education and research work between Yangon Institute of Economics and Ritsumeikan Asia Pacific University.

Also present at the meeting were Director-General Dr Myo Thein Gyi of Department of Myanmar Education Research Bureau and responsible persons.

MNA

Disaster

Heavy rains and overflow of river hit low-lying areas of wards in Shwepyitha Township of Yangon Region on 22 August. A total of 3058 people from 779 households at 700 houses in Ward 17 and Ward 1 in the township were evacuated to the safe places such as Basic Education Middle School No 6 Branch and Dhammayons. Township level authorities accept the cash and kind donations for the flood victims and distribute them to the victims with the assistance of members of Red Cross Brigade, Fire Brigade and NGOs. Members of social organization were helping those who were not able to walk to the safe places on 25 August.
KYEMON-MYINT THAN KYI (SHWEPYITHA)

HRD

Basic Education Primary School No 111 upgraded to Post-Primary School in Meiktila

Officials formally open upgraded Post-Primary School in Meiktila.

MEIKTILA, 27 Aug—A ceremony to upgrade the Basic Education Primary School No 111 of Tatmyay to Post-Primary School was held in Yadana Manaung Ward of Meiktila on 25 August morning.

Lt-Col Zaw Min Htet of No 99 Light Infantry Division, District Education Officer U Thaung Oo, Major Tin Min Oo of Recruits Unit formally opened the ceremoy and prinkled scented water on the signboard of the school.

Member of the School Board of Trustees Col Zaw Min Htet made a speech. The district education officer explained the purpose of upgrading the school.

Deputy District Education Officer U Thet Lin Oo handed over documents related to the upgraded schools to Headmaster U Htay Win.

The headmaster presented commemorative pennants to Col Zaw Min Htet, the district education officer, Major Tin Min Oo of Recruitment Unit and the assistant Township Education Officer.

Kyemon-Thein Myint Kyaw

Wearing of life jackets demonstrated for safety of waterway for passengers

MYEIK, 27 Aug—A ceremony to demonstrate wearing of life jeckets on board the vassels, organized by Myeik District Fire Services Department, was held at the jetty in Seiknge Ward of Myeik in Taninthayi Region on 25 August.

Deputy Head of Township Fire Services Department U Myo Thura Win led the members of Fire Services Department, Auxiliary Fire Brigade, Red Cross Brigade, Relief and Resettlement Department and Myanma Port Authorities who participated in demonstration on wearing of life jackets.

Officials introduce use of life jeckets at jetty in Myeik.

Likewise, the local authorities and departmental personnel introduced use of life jackets to the waterway passengers and those in the marine sector and gave lectures on waterway safety at Kyauk Jetty in Seiknge Ward, No 1 Jetty in West Centre Ward, Tawseik Jetty in Yenanmyay Ward and Yawgyiwa Jetty in Myothit Ward for life safety of the passengers on board the vessels.—*Kyemon-Myeik District IPRD*

DRR

Farmland ownership explained in Kyaukpadaung

KYAUKPADAUNG, 27 Aug—With regard to ownership of farmlands in Kyaukpadaung Township of Mandalay Region, Region Hluttaw representatives U Taing Aye and U Win Myint, Township Administrator U Saw Tun Win and membersof Township Farmland Management Committee, Township Development Supportive Committee and local farmers held meetings.

The local authorities met with 27 local farmers from Ohaing Village of Thebuddha Village-tract and 15 farmers from Aingyamyauk Village on 24 August and 30 farmers from Myaingthaya Village of Zaygon Village-tract on 25 August at the hall of Township General Administration Department.

The Region Hluttaw representatives, the township administrator and members of Township Farmland Management Committee heard the requirements of local farmers and explained farmer rights, farmland laws and bylaws to the farmers.

Kyemon-628

Coord meeting on malaria control project held in Palaw Tsp

PALAW, 27 Aug—WUniversity Research Co Ltd (URC) that cooperates with Health Department held a coordination meeting on malaria disease control project implementation in Palaw Township at Coastal Yadana Hall in Palaw on 23 August afternoon.

At first, Township Administrator U Kyaw Swa made a speech.

In-Charge of the region Dr Kyaw Zaw Latt of University Research Co Ltd (URC) explined the plan to control malaria disease and its work programmes.

The attendees gave suggestions and took part in the discussions on control of malaria disease in the township.

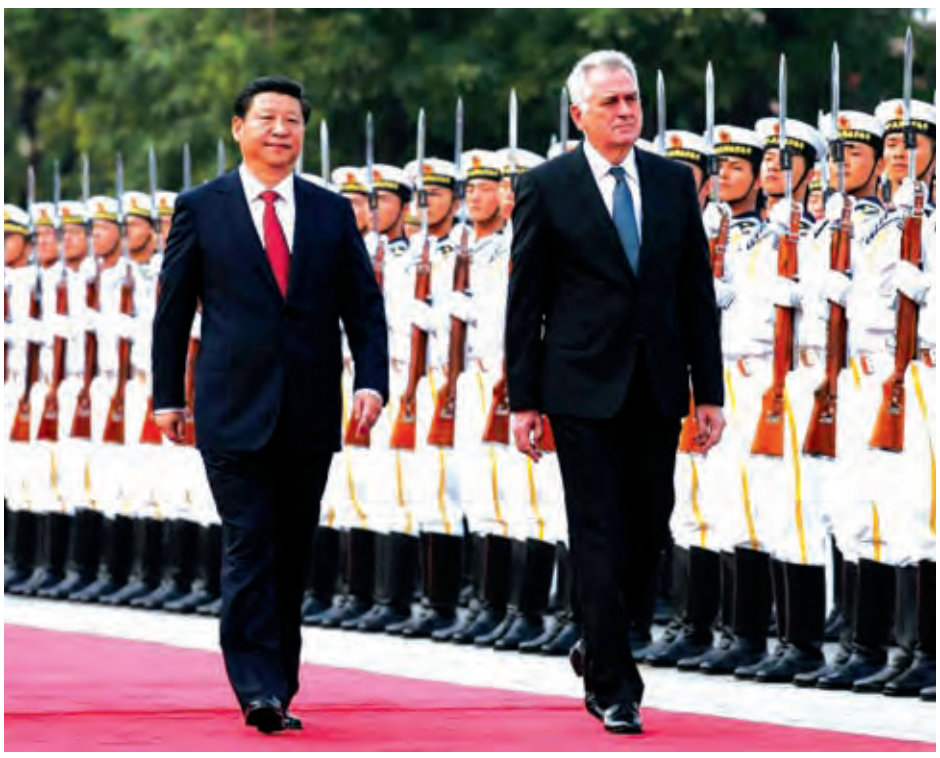
According to the malaria disease control project, a plan is underway to make field trips to 30 villages of the township so as to carry out combating the malaria disease, providing health care services and holding educative talks in September this year.

It was learnt that more plans will be implemented as part of efforts for conducting the field trips and work processes in the remaining villages.

Kyemon-Palaw IPRD

450 feet long and 13 feet wide Taungin Bridge linkingTaungin Village and Nanma Village in Mohnyin Township was commissioned into service on 31 July. It cost K 39,3 million and contributed the government and the people. Opening ceremony was attended by Kachin State Minister for Finance and Revenue U Nyunt Maung and officials.
NLM-001

WORLD



*Chinese President Xi Jinping (L) holds a welcoming ceremony for visiting Serbian President Tomislav Nikolic before their talks in Beijing, capital of China, on 26 Aug 2013.—*XINHUA

Cuban state begins to move out of the restaurant business

HAVANA, 27 Aug— More than 20 state restaurants in Cuba are about to become employee-run cooperatives as Raul Castro's communist government continues its retreat from running just about everything on the Caribbean island. The restaurants will become cooperatives in October, with hundreds more likely to follow if the experiment succeeds.

All aspects of the business from buying the food to splitting the profits will be decided by the employees, not from on high in the government. A similar process is already under way in other sectors from construction and transportation to farmers' markets and light manufacturing.

The restaurants are the first to be ceded by the state since communist authorities took over all eateries in 1968. Until 5 years ago, visitors venturing from their hotels had basically one option: state-run eateries, often with a reputation for poor quality.

Today, there are close to 2,000 private restaurants as local entrepreneurs take advantage of market-oriented reforms initiated by President Raul Castro, who took over for his ailing older brother Fidel in 2008.

"The government is hoping that cooperative owners, with pride in their establishments and motivated by profits, will offer much better service and higher quality goods to customers, both to tourists and fellow Cubans," said Richard Feinberg, a non-resident senior fellow of the Washington-based Brookings Institution and author of a number of studies on Cuba's economic reforms.

Some of the restaurants slated to become coops are off the beaten track and cater to a mainly Cuban clientele using the local peso currency. Others — for example La Casona de 17 and La Divina Pastora, both in Havana — operate in a dollar equivalent, called the convertible peso or CUC, and serve mainly tourists. The Divina Pastora, nestled under Moro Castle at the narrow entrance to the Bay of Havana, sits on some of the city's most valuable real estate, owned by the military-run Gaviota tourism corporation.—*Reuters*

*A woman (L) prepares food as customers dine outside her newly opened private-licensed family home restaurant in Havana on 11 Jan, 2011.—*REUTERS

United Nations says it will contact United States over spying report

UNITED NATIONS, 27 Aug—The United Nations said on Monday it plans to contact the United States over a report that the US National Security Agency bugged its New York headquarters and warned that countries are expected to respect the world body's diplomatic inviolability.

Citing secret US documents obtained by fugitive former intelligence contractor Edward Snowden, Germany's *Der Spiegel* reported on Sunday that the United States succeeded in gaining access to the internal UN video conferencing system in 2012.

"We're aware of the reports and we intend to be in touch with the relevant authorities on this," UN spokesman Farhan Haq told reporters.

He said well established international law, like the 1961 Vienna Convention governing diplomatic relations, protected functions of the United Nations, diplomatic missions and other international organizations.

"Therefore member states are expected to act accordingly to protect the inviolability of diplomatic missions," Haq said.

Der Spiegel also said the European Union and the UN's Vienna-based nuclear watchdog, the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA), were among those targeted by US intelligence.

According to the documents, the NSA runs a bugging programme in more than 80 embassies and consulates worldwide called "Special Collection Service".

"The surveillance is intensive and well organized and has little or nothing to do with warding off terrorists," wrote *Der Spiegel*.

Xinhua

Cyprus not informed about possible use of British bases against Syria

NICOSIA, 27 Aug— Cyprus on Monday said it had no official information about the possibility of British bases in Cyprus being used for military actions against Syria in response to alleged poisonous gas attacks by government forces against the opponents of President Bashar al Assad.

"The government has neither been officially advised nor has any other information about the prospect of the British bases on Cyprus being used by Britain and the United States," Cyprus Defence Minister Fotis Fotiou said.

The *London Sunday Times* and the *Daily Telegraph* said British and American military officials were working on plans to use the British Air Force (RAF) base at Akrotiri on the south shores of Cyprus for attacks on selected Syrian government targets. In an interview with the state broadcaster, Fotiou described the situation in the eastern Mediterranean region as "very grave."

Britain retained two sites in Cyprus totaling 156 square kilometers when it granted the island independence in 1960 following a four-year long guerilla struggle against colonial rule.

Britain claims sovereign rights over the bases, which are not physically separated from the rest of the eastern Mediterranean island except for a small fenced off area containing an airfield and other military installations.

Xinhua

*An Afghan health worker gives polio vaccine to a child in Herat Province, western Afghanistan, on 26 Aug 2013. Afghanistan launched a three-day nationwide polio vaccination in order to immunize children under five years old against polio. —*XINHUA

Indian parliament approves $20 billion cheap grain plan for poor

NEW DELHI, 27 Aug— India's lower house of parliament approved a plan worth nearly $20 billion on Monday to provide cheap grain to the poor, a key part of the ruling Congress party's strategy to win re-election.

Under the plan, the government will sell subsidized wheat and rice to 67 percent of its population of 1.2 billion. India is home to a quarter of the world's hungry poor, according to United Nations data, despite being one of the biggest food producers and experiencing years of rapid economic growth.

The vote broke a long stalemate in parliament, potentially clearing the way for several reforms aimed at spurring the flagging economy which the government hopes to pass in an extended session that ends on 6 September.

Faced with an unruly parliament, Prime Minister Manmohan Singh's coalition government last month resorted to an executive order to implement the programme, which his Congress party hopes will help win it a third consecutive term in power. The next election is due by May.

The Rajya Sabha upper house must now approve the decree before it becomes law.

In a foretaste of the battle for votes to come, the main opposition party says the welfare scheme, which expands an existing cheap food programme covering 218 million people, is still too narrow to tackle widespread malnutrition among India's millions of poor.

Lawmakers passed the bill only after nearly nine hours of debate and the inclusion of amendments that government sources could lead to an additional requirement of about 3 million tonnes of grain.

Singh said last year that the child malnutrition in India, where almost 50 percent of children are underweight, was a "national shame".

Despite that, some critics have dubbed the new plan a waste of public money at a time when growth has been steadily slowing.

The main opposition Bharatiya Janata party (BJP), which already runs a successful food handout programme in Chhattisgarh state, voted for the bill. It had earlier criticized it for making food more expensive and failing to provide enough nutrition.

Reuters

India's ruling party president Sonia Gandhi returns from hospital

New Delhi, 27 Aug—Sonia Gandhi, the president of India's ruling Congress party who is widely seen as the country's most powerful politician, was back home from hospital on Tuesday after she took ill during a marathon parliament debate, officials said.

Gandhi, 66, was led limping out of the lower house on Monday evening by her son and colleagues, and then taken by car to the All India Institute of Medical Sciences hospital in New Delhi.

A Congress party official said Gandhi had a touch of viral fever and was fine now. "Madam Gandhi is home now. She is perfectly fine," the official said.

The Italian-born politician, who has led her party to two successive terms governing the world's largest democracy, has played a slightly reduced public role since being treated abroad for an unknown illness in 2011. Still, she is the world's sixth most powerful woman, *Forbes* magazine said last year.

The party is usually very secretive about Gandhi's health, but several media reports said in 2011 that she had been treated for cancer at New York's Sloan-Kettering Cancer Centre. On Monday, Gandhi participated in a parliament debate on a scheme to provide cheap food to more than two-thirds of India's poor — one of her pet projects — when she felt unwell.

Reuters

Indian Prime Minister Manmohan Singh (in blue turban) and chief of India's ruling Congress party Sonia Gandhi (R) sit after paying respect at the memorial of the former India's Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi on the occasion of Rajiv's 68th birth anniversary in New Delhi on 20 Aug, 2013.—Reuters

Indonesia gets approval on Apache procurement from US

Jakarta, 27 Aug—Indonesia obtained approval from US government on its proposal to acquire *AH-64 Apache* combat helicopters with procurement document signed by Indonesian Defence Minister Purnomo Yusgiantoro and visiting US Defence Secretary Chuck Hagel here on Monday.

"Thanks to the American government, they allow us to have the Apaches. Indonesia is thinking to build the Apache squadron in the future," Purnomo told a joint press conference held in his ministry on the sidelines of his bilateral meeting with Chuck Hagel. He added that for initial phase, Indonesia planned to build one squadron of *AH 64 Apache* helicopters for the Army.

The Indonesian defence minister said that the planned procurement on Apache attack helicopters was part of the country's plan to modernize its arm forces.

In its military modernization plan, Indonesia has procured *Sukhoi Su-27 and Su-30 Flanker* fighter jets from Russia, Leopard Main Battle Tanks from Germany, anti-insurgency planes *Tucano* from Brazil, trainer planes from South Korea and is now expecting delivery of 24 *F-16* used planes grant from US and four *C-130 Hercules* military cargo planes from Australia.

Xinhua

Local residents wade through flooded roads at the village of Simultala Jangipur, some 252 kilometers away from Calcutta, capital of eastern Indian state West Bengal, on 26 Aug, 2013.
Xinhua

Photo taken in June 2013 in Phnom Penh, Cambodia, shows a house standing at a location where a condominium unit was advertised as due for completion at the end of 2013 in a brochure to raise investment. The National Consumer Affairs Center of Japan and related bodies are warning of a rise in fraudulent investment schemes involving real estate in Cambodia, where economic growth is boosting foreign investment.
Kyodo News

Haze may return to Singapore with surging hotspots in Sumatra

Singapore, 27 Aug—Singapore may see haze return with the number of hotspots surging to 488 in neighbouring Indonesia's Sumatra, the city-state's National Environment Agency (NEA) released the data on Monday. As of 10: pm, the three-hour Pollutant Standards Index reading stood at 24, remaining in the good range.

The number of hotspots increased nearly six-fold from 86 on Saturday to 488, of which 267 are in Riau province and 66 in South Sumatra, the NEA said. Moderate to dense smoke plumes emanating from some of the hotspots in central Sumatra were also observed.

The CEO of the NEA has addressed the city-state's "concerns over the sharp increase in hotspot counts in Sumatra, particularly over the past few days." The NEA said considering the dry weather conditions in central and southern Sumatra for the next few days, as well as the change of the wind's direction, "there is a possibility that Singapore could experience slightly hazy conditions."—*Xinhua*

Landmine casualties in Cambodia down 36 pct in 7 months

Phnom Penh, 27 Aug—Cambodia reported 74 landmine casualties in the first seven months of this year, down 36 percent from the 115 casualties over the same period last year, the figures of the Cambodia Mine Action Centre (CMAC) said on Tuesday.

During the January-July period this year, 12 people were killed and 62 others were injured, while at the same period last year, 25 people were killed and 90 were injured, the figures said.

From 1979 to July this year, about 19,674 people were killed by landmines and 44,603 others injured, the report said.

The latest accident occurred on 14 August in northwestern Preah Vihear province, killing six farmers when their home-made tractor ran onto an old anti-tank mine.

The Southeast Asian nation is one of the world's worst countries suffered from landmines. An estimated 4 to 6 million landmines and other munitions have been left over from three decades of war and internal conflicts that ended in 1998.—*Xinhua*

Cambodian police trained to fight money laundering, terror financing

Phnom Penh, 27 Aug—With an aim of facing the growing challenge in Southeast Asia concerning money laundering and the financing of terrorism, the UN Office on Drugs and Crime has stepped in to provide Cambodian police with skills in order to curb this threat, according to a statement released on Monday.

The statement, released by the European Union, said money laundering and the financing of terrorism have become a growing challenge worldwide, with Southeast Asia being no exception.

"Cash-based economies, high tourism levels, and the many financial services available make the region attractive to organized crime and corruption. This has negative impacts on the stability and development of many countries, including Cambodia," it said.

In response to this threat, a joint EU-UNODC initiative to support Southeast Asian countries in countering terrorism conducted seven one-week training workshops to expand investigators expertise and train local police trainers.

It said that since September last year, 60 Cambodian counter-terrorism police officers received training in basic and advanced investigation techniques related to fighting money laundering and the financing of terrorism. Out of these, a selected number of law enforcement officers were trained to become trainers, to ensure the sustainability of the programme.

Sieng Lapresse, undersecretary of state at the Interior Ministry said, "Cambodia has great challenges ahead of it. This programme provided the necessary skills and knowledge to the Cambodian law enforcers to suppress all kind of terrorist activities."—*Kyodo News*

Toyota Marketing Japan Corp, a marketing unit of Toyota Motor Corp, unveils the "Auris Char's Customize" in Tokyo on 26 Aug, 2013. The special Auris model is customized with the image of Char Aznable, a character from the popular Japanese animated television series "Mobile Suit Gundam."—Kyodo News

Birth rate in S Korea falls for six months

Seoul, 27 Aug—Birth rate in South Korea continued to fall amid the trend of delaying marriage and postponing having children, a government report showed on Tuesday.

The number of babies born in June was 33,400, down 12.6 percent from a year earlier, according to the Statistics Korea.

It marked the sixth straight month that the country's childbirth declined. For the first six months of this year, the childbirth dropped 8.1 percent from the same period last year.

The low birth rate came as young people with the marriageable age sought increasingly to delay marriages and put off having children amid growing costs for rearing a child and daily livelihood.—*Xinhua*

ADVERTISEMENT & GENERAL

THE REPUBLIC OF THE UNION OF MYANMAR
MINISTRY OF ENERGY
MYANMA OIL AND GAS ENTERPRISE
(INVITATION FOR OPEN TENDER)
(8/2013)

Open tenders are invited for supply of the following respective items in United States Dollars and Myanmar Kyats.

Sr.No	Tender No	Description	Qty	Remark
(1)	IFB -069(2013-2014)	Plastic Valve Cups and Plastic Seating Cup	(8) Items	US $
(2)	IFB -070(2013-2014)	Spares for National Drive Group (Bearing & Oil Seal)	(5) Items	US $
(3)	IFB -071(2013-2014)	Spares for National Drive Group (Air Clutch)	(6) Items	US $
(4)	IFB -072(2013-2014)	Spares for National Drive Group (Rotor Seal & Valve)	(5) Items	US $
(5)	DMP/L-031(2013-2014)	Sucker Rod Coupling & Change Over Coupling	(4) Items	Kyat
(6)	DMP/L-032(2013-2014)	Wire Cables for Solar Cell	(3) Items	Kyat
(7)	Container (2/2013)	ရန်ကုန်ဆိပ်ကမ်းများမှ သာကေတရေနံအခြေစိုက် စခန်း (အသွား/အပြန်) ကွန်တိန်နာသယ်ယူ ပို့ဆောင်ခြင်းလုပ်ငန်း (၆-လ အတွက်သာ)		Kyat

-Tender Closing Date & Time - 25-9-2013, 1300 Hrs.

Tender Document shall be available during office hours commencing from 26th August, 2013 at the Finance Department Myanma Oil and Gas Enterprise, No (44) Complex, Nay Pyi Taw, Myanmar.

Myanma Oil and Gas Enterprise
Ph: +95 67 - 411097/411206

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

MV THI GA YU VOY NO (01/13)

Consignees of cargo carried on MV THI GA YU VOY NO (01/13) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 27.8.2013 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of A.W.P.T where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

SHIPPING AGENCY DEPARTMENT
MYANMA PORT AUTHORITY
AGENT FOR: M/S KRUNG THON NAVA CO LTD

Phone No: 256916/256919/256921

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

MV GUNKUL-1 VOY NO ( )

Consignees of cargo carried on MV GUNKUL-1 VOY NO ( ) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 28.8.2013 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of S.P.W(6) where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

SHIPPING AGENCY DEPARTMENT
MYANMA PORT AUTHORITY
AGENT FOR: M/S KULNATEE CO LTD THAILAND

Phone No: 256924/256914

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

MV MALTE RAMBOW VOY NO (1338)

Consignees of cargo carried on MV MALTE RAMBOW VOY NO (1338) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 28.8.2013 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of M.I.P where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

SHIPPING AGENCY DEPARTMENT
MYANMA PORT AUTHORITY
AGENT FOR: M/S MCC- TRANSPORT S'PORE PTE LTD

Phone No: 256908/378316/376797

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(For. **Global Strategic Holdings Franchising Pte. Ltd., Singapore**)
Dated 28 August,2013.

Plane overshoots runway in Moscow, no injuries reported

Moscow, 27 Aug—A passenger plane overshot the runway at Moscow's Domodedovo Airport on Sunday, but no injuries were reported, local media said.

The *Boeing 737-800* landed at around 12:30 pm Moscow Time (0830 GMT) from the Greek resort of Rhodes.

An Interior Ministry spokesperson told the *Itar-Tass* news agency that 170 people, including seven crew, were aboard.

Meanwhile, the *RIA Novosti* news agency said "no injures were reported among the passengers and crew members."—*Xinhua*

Newly born panda cub at Washington zoo doing fine

Washington, 27 Aug —The US National Zoo's panda team gave a newly born panda cub its first neonatal exam on Sunday morning, and found it healthy, said the zoo authorities.

This is the first exam done by the panda team after the cub was born on Friday afternoon.

"The cub is robust, fully formed, and is bright, healthy shade of pink," said the zoo in a statement.

The newly born baby panda weighs 137 grams. Its heart rate is steady, and veterinarians were able to hear breathing sounds from both lungs.

"All signs are that we have a very healthy, active, vibrant cub," said the zoo.

The cub was born to female giant panda Mei Xiang at 5:32 pm on Friday. Mei Xiang also gave birth to a second but stillborn cub late Saturday, the zoo announced on Saturday night.

Xinhua

In this photo released by Smithsonian's National Zoo the giant panda cub born 5:32 pm on 23 August at the Zoo receives an exam from animal care staff in Washington DC on 25 Aug, 2013.—Xinhua

Yosemite wildfire grows, fueling dangerous winds

San Francisco, 27 Aug — A colossal wildfire raging across the western edge of Yosemite National Park swept further into the park on Sunday and forced the evacuation of some its camps due to heavy smoke, according to a park spokesman.

The blaze on Sunday had come within 2 miles of a key reservoir that supplies most of San Francisco's water. The so-called Rim Fire, which has burned 134,000 acres, caused the closure of the White Wolf area of the park on its western side, said Yosemite spokesman Tom Medema. Thirteen of 74 camps were occupied and evacuated, he said.

The flames had consumed 15,000 acres within Yosemite, a park known for its waterfalls, giant sequoia groves and other scenic wonders, by Sunday afternoon, up from just over 12,000 acres in the morning, he said. "There's no eminent risk from the fire but the smoke impact is so heavy that we're evacuating those areas," Medema said.

He did not know how many people were evacuated but said that one of the camps had 25 occupants.

Officials said they have no plans to shut down the entire park or its top attractions.

The fire was threatening power and water supplies to San Francisco, about 200 miles to the west. On Sunday, it moved to within 2 miles of the Hetch Hetchy Reservoir, which serves 85 percent of San Francisco with water, according to San Francisco Public Utilities Commission spokesman Tyrone Jue. The fire had been 4 miles from the Hetch Hetchy Reservoir the day before. Jue said reservoir water remained clear on Sunday, despite threats of ash contamination.

"There are strike teams and crews in place right now to assist with fire protection" near the reservoir, Jue said.

The fire also passed through two power structures that help supply San Francisco's public facilities with electricity. Utility crews planned to make repairs on Sunday, Jue said.

The utility commission has been drawing on power reserves and purchasing electricity since Monday due to the downed power structures.—*Reuters*

No Smoking

A firefighting crew puts out a spot fire that jumped a fire line in Yosemite National Park, California, on 23 Aug, 2013.
Reuters

ENTERTAINMENT

Taylor Swift featured with Julia Roberts in the film Valentine's Day.—**PTI**

Taylor Swift gets beauty, career tips from Julia Roberts

Los Angeles, 27 Aug — After getting advice on dating, singer Taylor Swift has been receiving tips on beauty and career from actress Julia Roberts. They became friends when they filmed the movie Valentine's Day together.

Roberts, who worked alongside the blonde beauty Swift on the 2010 comedy movie, has urged the 23-year-old singer to take up yoga to help her maintain her stunning figure and to keep her cool.

"Julia's sharing her beauty tips, urging Taylor to take good care of her skin and to try yoga to tone her body, calm her mind and help manage stress," contactmusic.com quoted a source as saying.

The 45-year-old Roberts, who has eight-year-old twins, Hazel and Finn, as well as five-year-old boy Henry with husband Danny Moder, has also been giving the We Are Never Ever Getting Back Together hitmaker some career guidance.

"Julia's urging Taylor to stay hungry and competitive, but not let petty fights spill over into public. It's a case of Julia just trying to impart her hard-won wisdom to a kindred soul, and it's blossoming into a beautiful friendship," the source added.

PTI

US actor Vin Diesel honoured with star on Hollywood Walk of Fame

Los Angeles, 27 Aug —US actor and filmmaker Vin Diesel, best known for starring in a couple of Hollywood blockbuster hits including "Saving Private Ryan" and "Fast & Furious" film franchise, received the 2,504th star on the Hollywood Walk of Fame on Monday in honour of more than 20 years of career.

"I never thought it would be here in public on a corner, but I guess in some strange way, 30 years ago I made my living by dancing on corners like this with crowds smaller than this," Diesel said at a brief ceremony held in front of the Hollywood Roosevelt hotel on Hollywood Boulevard. Diesel, 46, was joined by a number of people including his "Fast & Furious" co-star Michelle Rodriguez.

A New York native, Diesel made his film debut in the 1990 drama "Awakenings." Five years later, his independent short "Mult-Facial" drew the attention of "Saving Private Ryan" helmsman Steven Spielberg who created the role of Pvt. Adian Carparzo, a rifleman, in the Oscar-winning drama for the actor. Diesel also starred in a couple of films including "Boiler Room" (2000), "Pitch black" (2000),action thriller "xXx" (2002) and "Fast & Furious" series.His next film "Riddick" is slated to hit theaters on 6 September.

US actor and filmmaker Vin Diesel

He will also reprise his role in "Fast & Furious 7" which will be released in July 2014.—*Xinhua*

Kareena Kapoor: Saif is the same after marriage

Mumbai, 27 Aug — Actress Kareena Kapoor feels marriage to actor Saif Ali Khan has not changed anything in her life and she hopes the Nawab of Pataudi also remains the same. Bollywood star couple Saif and Kareena tied the knot here in October last year after a five-year courtship. "Saif and I were in love and we decided to get married. For us everything is same. Things are going great (in married life). It is just the same even while I was dating Saif... Things are going amazing. Saif is same as before, hopefully he will never change," Kareena told *PTI*.

Kareena and Saif were married in October 2012.—**PTI**

"For media and people, it (marriage) seems like a big thing. But in real life it is not like that. There have never been any restrictions. We are surprised when people ask what is the difference after marriage, we fail to understand this as there is no difference. He is in America and we were talking about this thing... it seems surprising," she said.

Though Kareena feels things are same post marriage, there is usually an added responsibility after marriage but for her, singlehood and married life is more or less the same. "Since childhood I was a responsible girl. There was responsibility of the family... First of my mother, then my sister Karisma and now Saif's responsibility.

PTI

Shah Rukh Khan: Wish Singham 2 surpasses Chennai Express

Mumbai, 27 Aug — Shah Rukh Khan has his fingers crossed for Rohit Shetty's next offering Singham 2 and hopes that it surpasses the box office success of Chennai Express. Singham 2, a sequel to one of the biggest hits of 2011, Singham, will have Ajay Devgn reprising the role of Bajirao Singham. The first one had crossed Rs 100 crore mark.

"I would pray that Inshallah his (Rohit Shetty) next Singham 2 does much more business than Chennai Express because he deserves it," Shah Rukh said here in an interview. SRK teamed up with Shetty for the first time in romantic comedy Chennai Express, which is still running superfast at the box office. The Rs 75 crore film not only earned over Rs 100 crore within first weekend, but it also crossed Rs 200 crore mark in just two weeks.

Shah Rukh credits the film's success to Shetty."Being a director is a very lonely job. So you don't just thank them, you just stand by them. For the film also, as an actor, and as a friend we all tried to stand by him (Shetty)...," said the superstar who is laughing all the way to the bank.

PTI

Japan school board bows to outcry, drops curbs on anti-war comic

Tokyo, 27 Aug —A Japanese school board on Monday scrapped curbs on children's access to an iconic anti-war comic, following criticism from those who saw the move as part of a trend to whitewash the country's wartime misdeeds. The furore over the bid to limit access to the late Keiji Nakazawa's "Barefoot Gen" manga has echoed worries about Prime Minister Shinzo Abe's conservative agenda to recast Japan's wartime history in less apologetic colours.

"The decision was to return to the situation before 17 December, 2012," an official of Matsue City, in western Japan, said by telephone, referring to the date of a directive by the superintendent of the school board at the time. The superintendent had instructed elementary and middle schools to take the manga off library shelves and not allow students to read it without a teacher's permission.The board cited procedural problems with the way the directive was issued as the reason for Monday's decision, and said that individual schools' decisions on access should be respected, the official added.

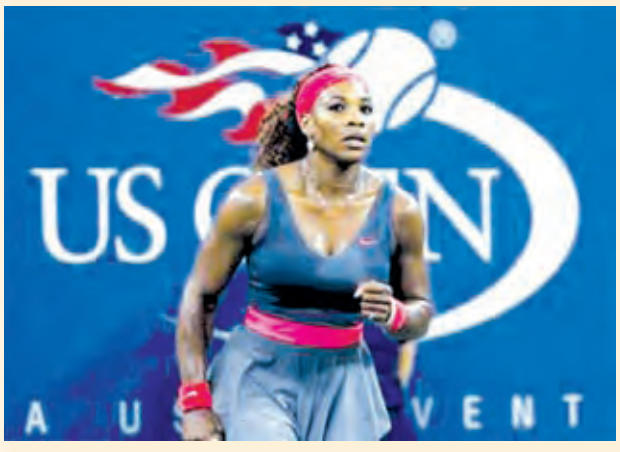
A survey by the board had found only five out of 49 principals saw a need to restrict access to the comic, *Kyodo* news agency reported. Nakazawa's manga, "Barefoot Gen", is based on the author's own experience of the 6 Aug, 1945 atomic bombing of Hiroshima, and tells of the struggle of a boy whose father and siblings were killed. Published over a dozen years from 1973 and translated into some 20 languages, the comic includes harsh criticism of the late Emperor Hirohito in whose name Japan fought World War Two.

Besides its stark depiction of the aftermath of the bombing, the 10-volume manga illustrates atrocities by Japanese soldiers in Asia — drawings some thought were too graphic for children. A classic made into movies and animated films, the comic has drawn criticism from Japanese ultra-conservatives. They also argue that the post-war education system teaches a "masochistic" account of history, putting too much stress on Japan's wartime misdeeds. Nakazawa's widow, Misayo, last week expressed shock that children's access to the work was being curbed. "War is brutal," Misayo, 70, told the Japanese media. "It expresses that in pictures, and I want people to keep reading it." The author died last December at age 73. Manga run the gamut from cute to violent and pornographic, and many adult Japanese vividly recall the stark impact of reading "Barefoot Gen" as children.

Reuters

SPORTS

Nadal, Williams sisters cruise at US Open



Serena Williams

New York, 27 Aug — Rafa Nadal made an ominous return to the US Open on Monday while the sister act of Serena and Venus Williams shared the spotlight as the last grand slam of the year got underway. Roared on by the energetic Flushing Meadows crowds, the trio turned on a masterclass of power hitting at Arthur Ashe Stadium before New York's fickle weather brought proceedings to an early end.

A late rain shower forced tournament organisers to abandon the opening day's play before former world number one Roger Federer was about start his match against Slovenia's Grega Zemlja. Nadal, who missed last year's US Open because of a chronic knee problem, demonstrated his intentions to make up for lost time as he demolished American wildcard Ryan Harrison 6-4, 6-2, 6-2 during the day session.

Bouncing around the unforgiving hardcourt like a kangaroo, the Spaniard chalked up 28 winners despite the blustery conditions at the US National Tennis Centre."For me, the chance to be back here playing is great," said Nadal. "The first match after two years in the Arthur Ashe is a great feeling."Serena needed just one hour to remind everyone why she remains the overwhelming favourite to win the women's title as she demolished Italy's Francesca Schiavone 6-0, 6-1.

The American showed no mercy against her opponent, who won the French Open in 2010 and was a finalist in Paris the following year, conceding just 23 points in the 60-minute romp."I knew playing a former grand slam champion in the first round was a really tough draw so I decided to be super serious," she said. Not to be outdone, her older sister Venus rolled back the years with a headturning appearance on the center court, arriving with her hair braided and dyed a deep purple. Her fingernails were also polished in the same vivid fuschia and no repeat of the injury problems that have sidelined her for most of the year as she dispatched Belgium's Kirsten Flipkens 6-1, 6-2.

Flipkens was the first notable casualty on a day where most of the top players safely made it through.

Roger Federer

China's Li Na, the 2011 French Open champion and runner-up in Australia this year, needed just 64 minutes to crush Olga Govortsova of Belarus 6-2, 6-2. And Poland's Agnieszka Radwanska, the third seed, was even more ruthless, thumping Spain's Silvia Soler-Espinosa 6-1, 6-2 in 63 minutes in the opening match on the center court. There was an early upset in the men's draw when Japan's Kei Nishikori, Asia's highest-ranked man, was beaten 6-4, 6-2, 6-2 by English qualifier Dan Evans, ranked 179th.

"It's definitely a good one," said Evans, playing in his first US Open. "That was pretty good out there to play so well and against someone so highly ranked." Russia's Alisa Kleybanova made an emotional return to the grand slam circuit, more than two and a half years after she was diagnosed with Hodgkin's lymphoma, a form of blood cancer. The now 24-year-old underwent chemotherapy through most of 2011 and after beating the disease she decided on a comeback."All those things are over for me now," she said after defeating Puerto Rico's Monica Puig 6-4, 3-6, 7-5."I went through them. I came out as a winner in that battle."

Reuters

Rafael Nadel

British grand slam hopes get surprise boost at US Open

New York, 27 Aug — These are heady days for British tennis. And not only for Andy Murray, the reigning Wimbledon and US Open champion. After years of shouldering his nation's grand slam hopes, the Scotsman is no longer fighting a lone battle. On Monday at the US Open, there were two other British winners.

With Murray not scheduled to play his opening round match until Wednesday, Dan Evans briefly took over the spotlight for British men when he stunned Japan's Kei Nishikori 6-4, 6-4, 6-2. Evans, ranked 179th in the world, had to come through the qualifiers just to reach the main draw and was given little hope of beating Asia's highest-ranked man and the 11th seed. But the 23-year-old, who has spent most of his career on the Futures Tour, played the match of his life to claim his biggest victory.

"It's definitely a good one," said Evans. That was pretty good out there to play so well and against someone so highly ranked." Laura Robson, Britain's top female player, beat Spain's Lourdes Dominguez Lino 7-5, 6-0, though that was not much of a surprise. A former Wimbledon junior champion, she teamed up with Murray to win a silver medal in mixed doubles at last year's London Olympics then made the last 16 at the US Open.

Reuters

Tennis player Andy Murray of Britain speaks during a news conference after Arthur Ashe Kids' Day at the USTA Billie Jean King National Tennis Centre in New York on 24 Aug, 2013.—Reuters

Manchester United's Wayne Rooney (R) challenges Chelsea's Ashley Cole during their English Premier League soccer match at Old Trafford, northern England on 26 Aug, 2013.—Reuters

Decision time for Rooney in 48 hours — Mourinho

Manchester, 27 Aug —Wayne Rooney needs to break his silence in the next 48 hours and either commit to Manchester United or say he wants to leave the club, Chelsea manager Jose Mourinho said on Monday as he urged his top target to end the transfer saga. The London club have made two unsuccessful bids for the England striker and have not ruled out making a third with their pursuit of him coming after former United manager Alex Ferguson said in May that Rooney wanted to quit Old Trafford.

Rooney played the whole of Monday's 0-0 draw at home to the club chasing his signature with his manager David Moyes saying his performance on the pitch demonstrated his position on the matter without him actually needing to say it. "I think the person that started the story has to finish the story," Mourinho told a news conference. "A club like us, a manager like me and the people that work in the club with me, we are not silly to try to get a player from a big club, a club that does not sell what they don't want to sell, we are not silly to try something if somebody didn't start."

Asked if he meant did he want Rooney, who has not commented on the matter publicly, to come out and say he wanted to stay or go, he replied: "Yes." He added he would like that to happen in the next "24, 48 hours" as if Chelsea could not get Rooney they would sign someone else. Rooney, who was cheered by his own fans and Chelsea's, who were singing "Wayne Rooney, we'll sign you next week", had the best goal-scoring chances in a poor game, including an attempt at an acrobatic volley in stoppage time.

Reuters

Former scoring champ T-Mac retires from NBA after 16 years

Washington, 27 Aug —Seven-time All-Star Tracy McGrady, a shooting guard renowned for his exceptional athleticism, announced on Monday that he was retiring from the National Baseketball Association (NBA) after 16 years in the league. A two-time scoring champion who played a small role for the San Antonio Spurs in the playoffs last season, McGrady averaged 19.6 points, 5.6 rebounds and 4.4 assists per game in a career that began with much promise in 1997 when he was drafted out of high school.

"Thank all of you who have supported me over 16 NBA seasons, 7 All-Stars, and countless exciting moments. Retiring from NBA. Stay tuned," McGrady, whose career was curtailed by various injuries, tweeted on Monday. The 34-year-old, known to many as "T-Mac," later told ESPN's "First Take" he had enjoyed "a great run, but it's time for it to come to an end".

Reuters

NBA basketball player Tracy McGrady of Detroit Pistons gestures to his fans at a stadium during a promotional event of his China tour in Hefei, Anhui province in this 27 Aug, 2011 file photo.
Reuters

GENERAL

The aerial photo taken on 26 Aug, 2013 shows a protection dike built with sandbags along the Tongjiang-Fuyuan river section of the Heilong River in northeast China's Heilongjiang Province. The Heilong River has swelled since mid-August, with some sections of its middle and lower reaches seeing their worst floods in history.—XINHUA

Three dead in coal mine accident in Poland

WARSAW, 27 Aug— Three workers were killed and one was injured in a coal mine accident in southern Poland on Monday.

According to media reports, they were working some 320 meters underground in the Myslowice-Wesola coal mine when an electric cable they were installing got loose and fell on them.

The three workers were killed on the spot and the other was taken to hospital in stable condition.

The men were employees of Kopex-PBS, a company which constructs and consolidates mine shafts.

Myslowice-Wesola mine represents one of the largest coal reserves in Poland with estimated reserves of 232 million tonnes of coal. Its annual coal production is around 3 million tonnes.

Xinhua

Four suspected rhino poachers killed in South Africa

CAPE TOWN, 27 Aug— Four suspected rhino poachers were shot dead and seven others were arrested over the weekend by South African law enforcement officials, authorities on Monday.

Three of the suspects were killed in the Kruger National Park on Saturday in a shoot-out with rangers, according to the South African National Parks (SanParks).

Three others in the group tried to escape but were arrested by the rangers, SanParks spokesman Ike Phaahla said.

In another operation at Crocodile Bridge in Mpumalanga Province, rangers shot dead the fourth suspect and arrested four others.

Rifles, ammunition and rhino poaching equipment were seized in the operations.

The deaths and arrests came as the country intensified its crackdown on rhino poaching, which has grown rampant, with the total number of rhinos poached in South Africa having increased to 587 since January 2013, according to the latest official update on rhino poaching statistics issued on 21 August.

Xinhua

MYANMAR TV

(28-8-2013, Wednesday)

6:00 am
1. Paritta By Hilly Region Missionary Sayadaw

6:20 am
2. Physical Exercise

6:35 am
3. Dance National Races

6:40 am
4. Documentary

7:00 am
5. News/Weather Report

7:20 am
6. Documentary

8:00 am
8. News/International News

8:25 am
9. Sing A song

9:00 am
10. News/International News

9:20 am
11. Mono Classical Songs

9:35 am
12. Documentary

10:00 am
13. News

10:15 am
14. Teleplay

11:10 am
15. Bakery World

11:25 am
16. Approaching Science Discovery World

12:00 pm
17. News/International News/Weather Report

12:25 pm
18. Myanmar Movies

2:25 pm
19. Documentary

3:00 pm
21. News

3:15 pm
22. India Drama Series

4:00 pm
23. News

4:15 pm
24. India Drama Sreies

4:35 pm
25. University of Distance Education (TV Lectures) -Fourth Year (Law)

5:00 pm
26. News

5:20 pm
27. Documentary (Mahargita)

6:00 pm
28. News/Weather Report

6:50 pm
29. Information Security Awareness Animation

7:00 pm
30. News

7:45 pm
31. Documentary

8:00 pm
32. News/International News/Weather Report

8:35 pm
33. People Talks

8:45 pm
34. Documentary

9:00 pm
35. News
36. My Mind Game My SEA Games
37. Fine Arts-Boson of Dramatic Performance

MYANMAR INTERNATIONAL

(28-8-13 09:30 am ~ 29-8-13 09:30 am) MST

* Local News
* A Real Dream Of Accidental Gift
* World News
* Taste Of Myanmar (Thin Egg Noodle Soup)
* Local News
* Inlay Lake and Its Challenges
* World News
* Modifying Natural Thanakha Bark into Ready-Made Skin Care Product
* Local News
* Journey To Unimaginable Spots (Episode-11)
* World News
* Traditional Snack
* Local News
* A highland with Peace and Charm
* World News
* Myanmar Sculpture-work of Art
* Local News
* Flying Without Wings-My Great Limitless Adventure (Mandalay & Sagaing)
* World News
* Secret Places For Yummy Food (Min Lane Mont Tee) (Episode-3)
* Local News
* Enchanting Rakhine Land
* World News
* Porcelin and Glass
* Local News
* Preserving Myanma Handicrafts
* World News
* Myanmar Masterclass: Fantastic Art
* Local News
* Come and Visit, no matter the distance (Pathein)
* World News
* Mya Nan San Kyaw Golden Palace

Mets ace Harvey likely out for season with injury

New York Mets starting pitcher Matt Harvey throws a pitch to the Detroit Tigers in the third inning of their MLB inter-league baseball game at Citi Field in New York, on 24 Aug, 2013. REUTERS

NEW YORK, 27 Aug — All-Star starting pitcher Matt Harvey of the New York Mets has a partially torn ligament in his right elbow and is likely to miss the rest of the Major League Baseball season, the team said on Monday.

Harvey, a candidate for the National League's Cy Young Award and a starter in last month's All-Star Game at his home Citi Field ballpark, was stunned after the tear was revealed by an MRI taken early on Monday in New York.

"Nothing is shooting in my elbow at all," the 24-year-old right-hander told reporters. "That's not the issue.

When I heard the news, I was pretty shocked. "But I'm still very optimistic. I'm going to do everything I can so I don't have to get surgery." Harvey, who is 9-5 with a 2.27 earned run average this season and a league-leading 191 strikeouts, experienced increased discomfort in his forearm as he gave up a career-high 13 hits in 6-2/3 innings against the Detroit Tigers on Saturday.

"I didn't see velocity issues or anything like that, so obviously I was able to go out there and throw," the right-handed pitcher said.

"Unfortunately this weekend there just happened to be a little more discomfort than in previous starts."

Though Harvey and the Mets hope he will be able to avoid having Tommy John reconstructive surgery, that option has not been ruled out.

"Over the next two or three weeks, the situation with the overall prognosis and ultimate treatment will be determined," said Mets General Manager Sandy Alderson."These injuries are often progressive, and so it is conceivable that surgery will be necessary.

It's conceivable that no surgery will be necessary at this time and may be necessary at some point down the road.

"We just need to take the time to see how those facts resolve themselves."

The Mets entered Monday's home game against the Philadelphia Phillies 19 games back of the NL East-leading Atlanta Braves.

Reuters

Students have a calligraphy class at the Zhuhelu Elementary School in Handan City, north China's Hebei Province, on 26 Aug, 2013. Chinese education authorities on Sunday called for providing better calligraphy education for the country's primary and middle school students, according to the Ministry of Education. Calligraphy, which was a sort of time-honored handwriting art in China, was suspended for a period of time in school classes.—XINHUA

R/489 Printed and published by the New Light of Myanmar press in Nay Pyi Taw, the News and Periodicals Enterprise, Ministry of Information.

7th Waning of Wagaung 1375 ME

The New Light of Myanmar

Wednesday, 28 August, 2013

Myanmar, Japan friendly relations and cooperation discussed

Speaker of Pyithu Hluttaw Thura U Shwe Mann receives Chairman of Foreign Affairs Committee Mr Katsuyuki KAWAI of the House of Representatives of Japan.—MNA

NAY PYI TAW, 27 Aug—Speaker of Pyithu Hluttaw Thura U Shwe Mann received a delegation led by Chairman of Foreign Affairs Committee Mr Katsuyuki KAWAI of the House of Representatives of Japan at Zabuthiri Hall of Hluttaw Complex, here, yesterday morning.

At the call, they cordially discussed friendly relations and cooperation between Myanmar and Japan, and friendly ties and cooperation between two parliaments.

Also present at the call were Committee Chairmen U Maung Maung Thein, U Hla Myint Oo, U Soe Naing and U Htay Myint, Committee Secretary U Kyi Tha, Commission member U Khin Maung Tun and officials.

The Japanese delegation was accompanied by the Japanese Ambassador to Myanmar.

MNA

Pyidaungsu Hluttaw approves Communications Bill

Deputy Minister for Labour, Employment and Social Security Daw Win Maw Tun.—MNA

NAY PYI TAW, 27 Aug—Daw Khin Waing Kyi of Yangon Region Constituency No 1 discussed a report submitted by Pyidaungsu Hluttaw Employee and Employer Rights Observation Joint Commission at today's session of Pyidaungsu Hluttaw, and Deputy Minister for Labour, Employment and Social Security Daw Win Maw Tun replied to discussions of the MPs.

Member of the Joint Bill Committee U Aung Myint Thein read the findings and remarks of the committee on the Employment and Skill Development Bill sent by the President with remarks and sought the approval from the Hluttaw.

Daw Khin Waing Kyi of Yangon Region Constituency No 3.

MNA

Member of the Joint Committee U Khin Maung Shwe read the findings and remarks of the Joint Bill Committee on Communications Bill and sought the approval from the Hluttaw.

"As the Pyidaungsu Hluttaw approved the Communications Bill, MPT and international operators can launch their operations. They are waiting for this bill. The Communications and Information Technology would form a commission to supervise the communication tasks. In the future, the communication tasks of the nation will be supervised by the commission in line with the law," Amyotha Hluttaw MP U Phone Myint Aung expressed his opinion.

Secretary of the Constitution Assessment Joint Committee U Aye Mauk.— MNA

Member of the Joint Committee U Khin Maung Shwe.—MNA

Secretary of the Constitution Review Joint Committee U Aye Mauk read out the aim, term, law, bill amending marine traffic act and bill amending defile traffic act approved by Pyithu Hluttaw and Amyotha Hluttaw.

U Khaing Maung Yi, Secretary of Joint Bill Committee.—MNA

The Pyidaungsu Hluttaw put record on formation and cancellation of new wards and villages in Mandalay Region and Rakhine State.

The 18th day session of the Hluttaw will be held on 29 August.—*MNA*

U Aung Myint Thein of Kayin State Constituency No 9.

MNA

Seeking international experience for achieving victory in hockey event of SEA Games

Byline & Photo; Than Swe (Pabedan)

Tentatively selected men's and women's hockey teams that will take part in the XXVII SEA Games are undergoing training at the Theinbyu artificial Turf Pitch, said Vice-President of Myanmar Hockey Federation U Saw Lu Lu Htaw.

The men's tentatively selected team is constituted with outstanding youth players from Defence Services (Army, Navy and Air), Myanmar Police Force, Theinbyu Youth team and SMART team. The women's team is formed with players from the Ministry of Sports.

As of 1 March, both teams are undergoing training at the camp. In their training sessions, the men's team is under the training of Pakistani Coach who is still taking out of the duty to train the Pakistani women's hockey team. The women's team is being trained by the Malaysian Coach who is discharging duty of coach for the Malaysian Universities' Selected hockey team.

The coaches are focusing on stamina, speed, linkage and skills for the players, especially in corner kicks and penalty kicks in two training sessions a day.

At present, the men's hockey team is taking joint training together with Malaysian players at the Hockey Academy in Epo of Malaysia as of 31 July. So far, Myanmar men's team has played against Malaysian teams and Hong Kong U-16 team in seven tune-up matches. In all matches, Myanmar team routed the opponent teams and played a draw with MKI team of Malaysia with a 3-3 result.

Likewise, Myanmar women's team is under training in Bangkok of Thailand so as to have speed, stamina and skills in the matches.

Men's and women's hockey teams will take part in the Pre-SEA Games hockey contest in Bangkok of Thailand from 1 to 8 September. In the games, Myanmar men's team will meet with Thai, Sri Lankan and Pakistani teams while Myanmar women's team will compete with Thai, Singaporean, Sri Lankan, Pakistani and Cambodian teams.

As preparations for taking part in XXVII SEA Games, Myanmar men players in training session of hockey event.

According to the plan, invitation will be extended to foreign hockey teams to the Pre-SEA Games hockey tournament at Theinbyu Hockey Turf Pitch in Yangon in October.

Myanma Alinn: 24-8-2013

Trs: TTA