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Pre-SEA Games Karatedo Test Match kicks off

Vice-President U Nyan Tun presents certificate of honour to an athlete in Pre-SEA Games Karatedo Test Match.—MNA

NAY PYI TAW, 28 Aug—Vice-President U Nyan Tun attended the opening ceremony of Pre-SEA Games Karatedo Test Match at Nay Pyi Taw Wunna Theikdi Gymnasium (3000-A), here, this morning.

President of Myanmar Karatedo Federation Dr Win Zaw explained matters related to the test match and urged the athletes to try their best in the XXVII SEA Games applying the experiences to be obtained in the test match.

Chairman of Leading Committee for Organizing the SEA Games Union Minister for Sports U Tint Hsan in his address said that Myanmar Karatedo Federation was established in June 1989 and the federation has been taking part in the SEA Games from the 15th to 26th games without fail. Karatedo event will be put into the XXVII SEA Games to be able to have opportunity to designate it as an Olympic sport. The federation cooperates with regional countries in development of Karatedo sport while taking part in the contests not only in SEA but in Asia, he said.

Based on experiences obtained from the international competitions, Myanmar Karatedo Federation will successfully hold the test match in cooperation with the contending countries. Today's matches will foster friendly relations and understanding among SEA countries.

Vice-President U Nyan Tun presented gifts to the Karatedo teams.

In the afternoon, Deputy Minister U Zaw Win and the MKF President presented prizes to the winners. Also present on the occasion were Union ministers, deputy ministers, Hluttaw representatives, Chairman of Asian Karatedo Federation Referee Committee, Secretary of SEA Karatedo Federation Mr Vincent Chang, Technical in-charge Mr Lin Chee Jim, officials of the Ministry of Sports and Myanmar National Sports Committee, referees and spectators.

Karatedo teams of Malaysia, Thailand, Vietnam, Laos, host Myanmar A and B teams are taking part in the text match that will last till tomorrow.

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Modern recreation centre for public relaxation in Mottama

Article: *Thaw Zet;* Photo: *Aye Ko*

A modern recreation centre will be constructed on Mottama mountain range in Wariru Ward 2 of Mottama, a beach town of Mon State, with a view to enabling the people to enjoy relaxation.

The recreation centre will be perched on a four-acre plot between Balutahtaung Pagoda and Lwan Zedi which are the most significant ones in Mottama. A plan is underway to facilitate the recreation centre with surfing, swimming pool, skate ground, canteens, 5D mini-cinema, playground, car park and small stage, said Director U Aung Kyaw Moe of Than Lwin Aye Co that will take responsibility for construction of the centre.

"Construction of the recreation centre is aimed at enabling the visitors to enjoy panoramic views from Mottama mountain range. The centre will be built as a significant site in Mon State for tourists at home and abroad to be able to take relaxation," he continued.

Arrangements have been made to complete construction of the recreation centre by 2014, and it is expected to start construction tasks in open season, he added.

Kyemon: 25-8-2013

***Trs:* TTA**

LOCAL NEWS

Business

Tax-free markets to come out at Myanmar-India border region

YANGON, 28 Aug—A preliminary agreement has reached between Chin State government and India to open tax-free markets along Myanmar and India border area, according to Chin State government.

An MoU was signed between both sides last year so as to develop border regions, alleviate poverty and improve the region.

A plan is underway to open tax-free markets in nine places at border regions between the two countries. As a pilot project, the markets will be opened in Pansawng region of Sagaing Region and Indian market. More markets will be opened at the transport accessible areas to Sagaing Region and Chin State sharing borders with India.

More markets will be opened in five places in Chin State sharing border with India. These places will be Laylat border market in Falam, Darkhai of Tunzang Township, Khinman of Kyikha region, HtaO in Thantlang Township and Fartalang in Tiddim.

After putting the market into service in Pansawng in Sagaing Region, more markets will be inaugurated at Khampat and Leshi regions of Sagaing Region.

Myanmar and India trade volume scores US$ 1 billion yearly. A plan was set to raise US$ 2 billion of trade volume between the two countries, according to the statistics of the Border Trade Department. The tax-free markets in border areas will allow the merchants to trade 40 items of commodities, and these markets will be opened in open season.

Kyemon-Kyi (Yankin)

Child care marks nutrition week in Mongyawng

MONGYAWNG, 28 Aug—Organized by Mongyawng Township Maternal and Child Welfare Association, Women's Affairs Organization and health staff of Mongphyat District, the nutrition week activities were launched at the compound of Township People's Hospital on 24 August morning.

Health personnel gave vitamins and other pills to 400 children under five and milk bottles to mothers.

Kyemon-Shawlamon (Mongywang)

Over 70 grams of heroin seized on Tamu-Kalay Road

NAY PYI TAW, 28 Aug—Members of Tamu Anti-Drugs Squad of Sagaing Region ordered to stop the motorcycle driven by Aik Soe (a) Soe Soe, 38 of Ngopin Village in Myintha Village of Homalin Township, on Tamu-Kalay road in Khampat Sub-Township, at 11.30 pm on 22 August.

The motorcyclists did not stop and managed escape from the scene. After arresting him, the authorities seized 76.7 grams of heroin from six soap boxes from his rucksack worth K 7.67 million.

Khampat Myoma Police Station filed Aik Soe (a) Soe Soe under Section 15/19(a) of Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Law.—*MNA*

YANGON, 28 Aug—A ceremony to donate cash to the fund for construction of school building was held at Magadi Thazi Monastic Education School on Kyaytaingsu 2nd Street in Ward 13 of Dagon Myothit (East) Township in Yangon Region on 24 August.

Sayakyaw Maheikdi traditional medicine and Mega Power traditional medicine industries and wellwishers donated cash to the fund of construction tasks and school textbooks to officials.

Later, they fed the students with breakfasts.

Khin Maung Win (Kyemon)

Cash donated to fund of monastic education school building

Wellwishers feed refreshments to school children.

New fibre boats waiting for rowers in Meiktila traditional regatta

National Sports

MEIKTILA, 28 Aug—In commemoration of the 130th PhaungdawU Pagoda Pujaniya to be held in Meiktila of Mandalay Region, the Myanmar traditional regatta will use fibre boats.

"The boats in previous competition are old and lack of maintenance. Rowers face hardships in competition by using the old boats. So, we bought two new fibre boats from South Dagon Industrial Zone. The new ones are 31 feet long that can allow six oars. Each boat is worth K 950,000, explained Chairman of the Pagoda Board of Trustees U Win.

On 8th waxing of Tawthalin, the consecration ceremony will be held at the pagoda and alms will be offered to members of the Sangha. On 14th waxing, the Myanmar traditional regatta will be held in line with the tradition. On the full moon day, the alms will be offered to the Pagoda and rice offering ceremony to members of the Sangha on a grand scale. In the afternoon, winners will be awarded in the traditional regatta.—*Kyemon-Chantha (Meiktila)*

Heroin, stimulant tablets seized in Tangyan

NAY PYI TAW, 28 Aug—Members of Tangyan Anti-Drug Squad of Shan State searched the house of Ma Aye Htwam, 43 of Nawngpha Village in Tangyan Township at 7 am on 23 August.

They seized 56.517 grams of heroin worth K 1.13044 million, 320 stimulant tablets worth K 480,000 and K 100,000.

Tangyan Myoma Police Station opened a file of lawsuit against Ma Aye Htwam under Section 15/19(a)/20(a) of Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Law.

MNA

India-made illegal medicines seized from speed boat in Chindwin River

Anti-Narcotic Drives

NAY PYI TAW, 28 Aug—According to the information that illegal household drugs were transport from Indian border along the water course of Chindwin River, members of Myanmar Police Force from Kalay, Tamu, Hkamti and Mawlaik district police forces of Sagaing Region, members of Anti-Drug Squads from Homalin, Kalay, Tamu and Monywa carried out searching of illegal trafficking of drugs among the districts.

At 11.55 am on 22 August, a team led by Mawlaik District Police Force Commander and those of Homalin Anti-Drug Squad searched the speed boat Aung Zaw Moe at Mawlaik Jetty. The authorities seized 37 items of India-made various medicines without custom duty worth K 135.3022 million in 72 polyethylene bags.

Mawlaik Myoma Police Station opened files of lawsuit against seven illegal commodity traffickers including Hsan Lin, 42, Ange Lay (a) Kyaw Myo Thein, 32 and Aung Swe, 45 under the Section 18 of National Drugs Law.

After investigation, members of Tamu Anti-Drugs Squad raided the house of Dipa (a) Kan Char, 48 in Sandaku Ward 4 in Tamu at 3.45 pm the same day. They seized 300,000 tablets of Oxyped made in India worth K 3 million.

Tamu Myoma Police Station opened a file of lawsuit against Dipa (a) Kan Char under the law.

MNA

Obama meets new five-member panel reviewing surveillance programmes

*US President Barack Obama delivers remarks on affordable education at Henninger High School in Syracuse, New York, on 22 Aug 2013.—*Reuters

Washington, 28 Aug— President Barack Obama met on Tuesday with a five-member panel he appointed to review the privacy issues involved with US government surveillance programmes, the White House said, part of an effort to rebuild public trust after leaks by a former spy agency contractor.

Obama has faced criticism since Edward Snowden, a contractor for the National Security Agency, exposed classified information about US surveillance of telephone calls and emails to journalists, raising concerns about privacy and civil liberties.

The review panel is part of an effort to expand oversight of the programmes, which Obama has defended as necessary to protect national security.

Its members are Richard Clarke, a former counterterrorism adviser in the Clinton and Bush White Houses; Michael Morell, former deputy director of the CIA; Peter Swire, who worked on technology issues in the Obama and Clinton administrations; Geoffrey Stone, a constitutional law professor at the University of Chicago, where Obama worked before entering politics; and Cass Sunstein, Obama's former regulatory czar who is married to Samantha Power, the US ambassador to the United Nations.

The group will present interim findings in 60 days to the director of national intelligence, the White House said. They are expected to give a final report and recommendations to Obama by the end of the year.

Earlier this month, Obama also said he would work with Congress to reform laws that govern the collection of phone records and add scrutiny to the Foreign Intelligence Surveillance Court.—*Reuters*

UN rights mission meets with Japanese officials on N Korea

Tokyo, 28 Aug— Members of a UN commission tasked with investigating human rights violations in North Korea met with Japanese Foreign Minister Fumio Kishida on Wednesday, beginning a series of meetings that Tokyo hopes will highlight the unresolved cases of Japanese nationals abducted by Pyongyang decades ago.

Michael Kirby of Australia, chairman of a UN commission tasked with investigating human rights violations in North Korea, speaks with reporters after arriving at Tokyo's Haneda airport on 27 Aug 2013.
Kyodo News

During the meeting at the Foreign Ministry, Kishida is expected to brief three members of the Commission of Inquiry, which was established by the UN Human Rights Council in March, about Japan's efforts to resolve the abduction cases.

Following the meeting with the foreign minister, the panel members are scheduled to attend a briefing with Japanese officials, including Kishida and Keiji Furuya, a Cabinet minister in charge of the issue of North Korea's abductions of Japanese nationals in the 1970s and 1980s.

Kyodo News

US, allies prepare for probable military strike on Syria

Amman/Washington, 28 Aug— The United States and its allies geared up on Tuesday for a probable military strike against Syria that could come within days and would be the most aggressive action by Western powers in the Middle Eastern nation's two-and-a-half-year civil war.

Western envoys have told the Syrian opposition to expect a military response soon against President Bashar al-Assad's forces as punishment for a chemical weapons attack last week, according to sources who attended a meeting with the rebel Syrian National Coalition in Istanbul.

Amid a quickening drum beat of preparations, US Defence Secretary Chuck Hagel said American forces in the region were "ready to go" if President Barack Obama gave the order.

Obama— long reluctant to intervene in the Syrian conflict— worked to solidify allied support, including calling the leaders of Britain and Canada, while US intelligence agencies assembled what they are sure to say is final confirmation of the Syrian government's culpability for Wednesday's poison gas attack near Damascus.

White House spokesman Jay Carney said it would "fanciful" to think that anyone other than Assad's forces was behind the large-scale chemical attack, which activists said killed hundreds of people as they slept.

"There is no doubt who is responsible for this heinous use of chemical weapons in Syria: the Syrian regime," Vice President Joe Biden said at a speech in Houston to the American Legion, a military veterans' group.—*Reuters*

*Free Syrian Army fighters inspect munitions and a tank that belonged to forces loyal to Syria's President Bashar al-Assad after they seized Aleppo's town of Khanasir on 26 Aug 2013.—*Reuters

Military strike against Syria no good to West

Moscow, 28 Aug—The speculated if not anticipated military strike against Syria from the United States and its allies did not go in line with the West's interests, a Russian expert said on Tuesday, as momentum was building for such a response to the purported use of chemical weapons in the Syria conflict.

"The West has been looking for an excuse for military intervention in Syria. The latest developments show that the strike is pre-decided and it's a matter of time only when it actually happens," Sergei Druzhilovsky, professor in Moscow State Institute of International Affairs, told *Xinhua*.

While UN inspectors were on the scene collecting evidence, Washington and its allies have blamed the Syrian government for the alleged use of chemical weapons against civilians in the suburbs of Damascus, a claim Syrian President Bashar al-Assad called "preposterous."

US Defence Secretary Chuck Hagel told the BBC on Tuesday that the US military stands ready to strike Syria at once if President Barack Obama gives the order. —*Xinhua*

Pakistan says Taleban unwilling to talk to Afghan gov't

Islamabad, 28 Aug— Pakistan said on Tuesday that Afghan Taleban insurgents are unwilling to talk to Karzai government and its peace negotiators at least for now.

The statement came hours after Afghan President Hamid Karzai concluded a two-day visit to Pakistan that was focused on efforts to encourage Taliban to come to the negotiating table. Karzai's spokesman, Aimal Faizi, said in Islamabad that Karzai had pressed for Islamabad's help to bring Taleban leaders to the negotiating table.

Afghan government claims that leaders of Taleban are living in Pakistan and that Islamabad should use influence on them and facilitate direct talks between Taleban and Afghan High Peace Council.

Pakistan's Advisor to the Prime Minister on National Security and Foreign Affairs Sartaj Aziz said that Taleban are not willing to talk to Afghan government or Afghan High Peace Council.

However Pakistan will try its best to persuade them to hold dialogue so as to avert outbreak of civil war in post-conflict Afghanistan, Aziz told state radio. Taleban regime was outsted by a US-led invasion in late 2001 for harboring al-Qaeda and US and NATO-led combat troops are due to complete withdrawal from Afghanistan by the end of 2014. Aziz stated that Karzai's visit helped forge understanding and remove misgivings between the two countries.

"The two sides acknowledged that their peace and stability was interlinked," he said.

Karzai extended his daylong visit to Pakistan by one day on Tuesday and held another round of talks with Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif on peace process in war-torn Afghanistan.

The Prime Minister's office said Sharif told Karzai that Pakistan and Afghanistan have to work closely to bring peace in the region.—*Xinhua*

Photo released by Pakistan's Press Information Department (PID) on 27 Aug 2013 shows Pakistani Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif (R) talks with visiting Afghan President Hamid Karzai in Murree near Islamabad, Pakistan. Afghan President Hamid Karzai Tuesday wrapped up his extended visit to Pakistan, which focused on Islamabad's role in talks with the Taleban and the release of Taleban prisoners.
Xinhua

SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY

US security agencies say Android mobile main target for malware

SAN FRANCISCO, 28 Aug —Google Inc's Android, the dominant mobile operating system, is by far the primary target for malware attacks, mostly because many users are still using older versions of the software, according to a study by the Department of Homeland Security and the Federal Bureau of Investigation.

Android was a target for 79 percent of all malware threats to mobile operating systems in 2012 with text messages representing about half of the malicious applications, according to the study from the government agencies, which was published by Public Intelligence website.

Google did not respond to a request for comment. DHS declined to comment. By comparison, about 19 percent of malware attacks were targeted at Nokia's Symbian system and less than 1 percent each at Apple Inc's iOS software, Microsoft Corp's Windows and BlackBerry Ltd.

Attendees gather at the Android developer sandbox during the Google I/O Conference at Moscone Centre in San Francisco, California on 28 June, 2012. REUTERS

Android continues to be a "primary target for malware attacks due to its market share and open source architecture," said the study, which was addressed to police, fire, emergency medical and security personnel.—*Reuters*

New York Times, Twitter hacked by Syrian group

SAN FRANCISCO, 28 Aug —Media companies including *the New York Times*, Twitter and *the Huffington Post* lost control of some of their websites on Tuesday after hackers supporting the Syrian government breached the Australian Internet company that manages many major site addresses.

The Syrian Electronic Army, a hacker group that has previously attacked media organizations that it considers hostile to the regime of Syrian President Bashar al-Assad, claimed credit for the Twitter and Huffington Post hacks in a series of Twitter messages.

Security experts said electronic records showed that NYTimes.com, the only site with an hours-long outage, redirected visitors to a server controlled by the Syrian group before it went dark. New York Times Co NYT.N spokeswoman Eileen Murphy tweeted the "issue is most likely the result of a malicious external attack", based on an initial assessment. *The Huffington Post* attack was limited to the blogging platform's UK web address. Twitter said the hack led to availability issues for an hour and a half but that no user information was compromised.—*Reuters*

A man speaks on his mobile phone in front of the New York Times building in New York City on 21 May, 2009.—REUTERS

NASA hot-fire tests 3D printed rocket engine component

WASHINGTON, 28 Aug —US space agency NASA said on Tuesday it has successfully conducted a hot-fire test on the largest 3D printed rocket engine component it ever has. The 22 August test, which generated a record 20,000 pounds (about 9 tons) of thrust, is "a milestone" for one of many important advances the agency is making to reduce the cost of space hardware, NASA said. The component tested during the engine firing is an injector that delivers propellants to power an engine.

During the test, liquid oxygen and gaseous hydrogen passed through the component into a combustion chamber and produced 10 times more thrust than any injector previously fabricated using 3D printing, NASA said.

Early data from the test indicated that the injector "worked flawlessly" at pressures up to 1,400 pounds per square inch (about 984,300 kilograms per square metre) and at almost 6,000 degrees Fahrenheit (about 3,316 degrees Celsius), the space agency said.

"This successful test of a 3D printed rocket injector brings NASA significantly closer to proving this innovative technology can be used to reduce the cost of flight hardware," said Chris Singer, director of the Engineering Directorate at NASA's Marshall Space Flight Centre, in a statement.

NASA said it used a method called selective laser melting to build up layers of nickel-chromium alloy powder to make the injector with 28 elements for channeling and mixing propellants.

Xinhua

Nissan plans to begin selling self-driving cars by 2020

IRVINE, (California), 28 Aug—Nissan Motor Co Ltd said it will be ready to bring fully self-driving vehicles to market by 2020. The Japanese automaker said it plans to offer "multiple, commercially viable" vehicles that are capable of autonomous operation without driver input.

The self-driving vehicles will be sold "at realistic prices for consumers," the company said at a media event in Irvine, California.Nissan said its goal is to offer autonomous cars "across the model range within two vehicle generations"— about 10-12 years after the projected 2020 launch.

The company said it has been researching and developing autonomous vehicles "for years" with such top universities as Massachusetts Institute of Technology, Stanford, Oxford, Carnegie Mellon and the University of Tokyo. It is building a dedicated test track in Japan for autonomous vehicles that will be completed by next spring. Google Inc, the Internet search leader, launched an autonomous car program in 2010 and has built and is testing several different versions, including one based on Toyota Motor Corp's Prius.

Reuters

A company logo is seen on the newly-unveiled Nissan ''Terrano'' compact sport utility vehicle during a news conference in Mumbai on 20 Aug, 2013. — REUTERS

Scientists detect magmatic water on Moon's surface

WASHINGTON, 28 Aug —US researchers said on Tuesday they have found magmatic water, or water that originates from deep within the Moon's interior, on the surface of the Moon. The findings are the first such remote detection of this type of lunar water via the US Moon Mineralogy Mapper instrument. Earlier studies had shown the existence of magmatic water in lunar samples returned during the Apollo programme.

Scientists used the Moon Mineralogy Mapper, which is on board the Indian Space Research Organization's *Chandrayaan-1* spacecraft, to image the lunar impact crater Bullialdus, located near the lunar equator. Scientists were interested in studying this area because the central peak of the crater is made up of a type of rock that forms deep within the lunar crust and mantle when magma is trapped underground.

"This rock, which normally resides deep beneath the surface, was excavated from the lunar depths by the impact that formed Bullialdus crater," said lead author Rachel Klima, a planetary geologist at the Johns Hopkins University Applied Physics Laboratory, in a statement."Compared to its surroundings, we found that the central portion of this crater contains a significant amount of hydroxyl — a molecule consisting of one oxygen atom and one hydrogen atom—which is evidence that the rocks in this crater contain water that originated beneath the lunar surface," Klima said.

The detection of internal water from orbit means scientists can begin to test some of the findings from sample studies in a broader context, including in regions that are far from where the *Apollo* sites are clustered on the near side of the moon, said the researchers. For many years, scientists believed that the rocks from the moon were bone-dry and any water detected in the *Apollo* samples had to be contamination from Earth.

"Now that we have detected water that is likely from the interior of the moon, we can start to compare this water with other characteristics of the lunar surface," said Klima.

"This internal magmatic water also provides clues about the moon's volcanic processes and internal composition, which helps us address questions about how the moon formed, and how magmatic processes changed as it cooled," Klima added. The findings are published in the journal *Nature Geoscience*.— *Xinhua*

BUSINESS & HEALTH

Asian shares hit Seven-week low, oil at Six-month peak on Syria worries

*Traders are pictured at their desks in front of the DAX board at the Frankfurt stock exchange on 26 Aug, 2013.—*Reuters

Tokyo, 28 Aug—Jitters over a possible US-led military strike against the Syrian government knocked Asian equities to a seven-week low on Wednesday and pushed oil prices and safe-haven gold to multi-month highs. An acute 'risk-off' mode also boosted the appeal of the Japanese yen, which held near a one-week high against the dollar and euro after having posted its biggest rally in more than two months.

Washington and its allies were gearing up for a probable military action against President Bashar al-Assad's forces, which were blamed for last week's chemical weapons attacks. Western officials told the Syrian opposition to expect a strike within days, and US Defence Secretary Chuck Hagel said American forces in the region were "ready to go" if President Barack Obama gives the order. The news on Syria overshadowed improving economic indicators, such as rising US home prices and Germany's Ifo business survey hitting its highest in 16 months.

Overnight, US and European stocks suffered their worst day since June, and investor nervousness was reflected in a nearly 12 percent jump on the CBOE volatility index .VIX, Wall Street's so-called fear gauge, to a two-month high. .N .EU "(The Syrian issue) is adding a layer of nervousness on top of the debate of US tapering which is having a very big impact on carry trade globally and having a very big impact on emerging markets," a senior trader at a foreign bank in Tokyo said. Tokyo's Nikkei share average .N225 sagged 2.3 percent to a two-month low on Wednesday, while the yen was largely steady at 97.135 to the dollar and 130.075 to the euro after climbing more than 1 percent overnight.

MSCI's broadest index of Asia-Pacific shares outside Japan .MIAPJ-0000PUS shed 1 percent, hitting its lowest level since 9 July and extending the previous session's 1.2 percent drop. Emerging markets have been reeling for the past few weeks on expectations that the US Federal Reserve will reduce its $85 billion a month bond-buying programme as soon as next month. As the selloff in deficit-stricken emerging market nations deepened, Indonesian exchanged traded funds saw heavy redemptions from US investors overnight.

Reuters

Entergy focus under new CEO may shift to New York nuclear fight

Houston, 28 Aug—Entergy Corp's (ETR.N) decision to shut its Vermont nuclear plant begins the final chapter in a battle with politicians seeking to close the station and may shift the firm's focus to the larger Indian Point nuclear plant in New York. Entergy on Tuesday said it will shut the 620-megawatt Vermont Yankee by the end of 2014, saying the reactor is no longer economical to operate with current low power prices and rising regulatory costs.

The decision will end legal appeals and regulatory disputes and highlights the actions of Entergy's new chairman and chief executive, Leo Denault, who succeeded J Wayne Leonard as CEO in February. Denault previously served as Entergy's chief financial officer for nine years. Vermont Governor Peter Shumlin cited a "constructive" call with Denault on Tuesday and said he hopes to work with the new CEO going forward. "The past is the past; we're now dealing with the future and he pledged to work together as a team to get the best outcome we possibly can," Shumlin told reporters.

In New York, Entergy also faces a showdown with politicians, regulators and environmental groups in its effort to keep the two Indian Point reactors running after their current licenses expire later this year and in 2015. New York Governor Andrew Cuomo opposes Indian Point's license renewal because of the plant's proximity to the New York City metropolitan area that is home to 19 million people. At Cuomo's direction, state power agencies are pursuing plans to modernize the New York grid so that it can operate without the 2,037-MW Indian Point plant.

*Kayakers paddle in the Connecticut River from Hinsdale, New Hampshire, in front of the Vermont Yankee nuclear power plant in Vernon, Vermont on 27 Aug, 2013.—*Reuters

Denault told *Reuters* the company's current Indian Point strategy is to continue the safe, reliable operation of the plant located 40 miles north of New York City, but he remains open to talks to determine the plant's future.Like Vermont Yankee, Indian Point also faces the double economic challenges of falling wholesale prices and uncertain capital costs to deal with changing nuclear regulatory mandates, Denault said.Entergy is "open to a resolution with the state that makes sense for us and for the objectives of the state," Denault said.

Reuters

Roche looks to replicate cancer success with eye drugs

Zurich, 28 Aug—Positive results for Roche's experimental eye drug should bolster its position in the multibillion-dollar-a-year market for vision loss treatments, as it looks to branch out beyond its core cancer expertise. After scrapping drugs to treat diabetes and boost levels of "good" high-density cholesterol, the world's largest maker of cancer drugs is hoping to prove it has a stronger hand when it comes to developing treatments for the eyes.

The company has already chalked up one success with Lucentis, a treatment for wet age-related macula degeneration (AMD), which had sales of $1.5 billion in the United States last year. The macula is the part of the eye that allows fine detail to be seen. But it has been losing market share to Regeneron and Bayer's Eylea, making success with lampalizumab —its treatment for the dry form of AMD known as geographic atrophy (GA) — all the more pressing if it wants to consolidate its place as a key player in the market.

"While we have been a very oncology-focused company, ophthalmology is an area where there's a huge amount of opportunity," Carole Ho, Director of Early Clinical Development at Roche's biotech unit Genentech told *Reuters* in an interview prior to the data being published. There are currently no approved treatments for geographic atrophy, a leading cause of blindness in adults over 55, which gradually causes vision loss in the macula, making it harder to read, drive and recognize people's faces. More than 8 million people worldwide are affected by the disease and the numbers are expected to rise as the ranks of the elderly swell, making it a lucrative space for drugmakers.

Results of the phase II clinical trial presented at the American Society of Retina Specialists in Toronto on Tuesday found lampalizumab reduced this type of atrophy by 20.4 percent at 18 months in patients with this dry form of AMD. The data, also showed no unexpected or unmanageable side effects with the drug, Roche said. Although it is still early days, Deutsche Bank analyst Tim Race said the data was strong and estimated the market opportunity for the drug at over $5 billion globally, potentially making it a more meaningful for Roche than Lucentis. —*Reuters*

*The logo of Swiss pharmaceutical company Roche is seen at the company's headquarters in Basel on 5 April, 2012.—*Reuters

Bayer's Nexavar gets priority review as thyroid cancer drug

Frankfurt, 28 Aug —Bayer's cancer drug Nexavar was given priority review status by US healthcare regulators for the oral drug's use against a difficult-to-treat type of thyroid cancer, the company said on Tuesday.

The US Food and Drug Administration aims to complete the priority review within six months, rather than the standard review of about 10 months, Bayer said.

Bayer and development partner Onyx Pharmaceuticals are seeking a wider use for Nexavar to include treatment of patients with thyroid cancer that returned despite previous surgery and treatment with radioactive iodine, a group with a particularly poor prospect of survival.

Nexavar is already approved to treat liver as well as kidney cancer and it is also being tested on breast cancer patients.—*Reuters*

*A plant belonging to Germany's largest drugmaker Bayer is seen in Leverkusen on 30 Jan, 2013.—*Reuters

WORLD

Abdel-Qader Radwan, Libyan general prosecutor, speaks during a news conference in Tripoli, Libya, on 27 Aug, 2013. Late Libyan leader Moammar Gadhafi's son were charged on Tuesday and will be presented to a court in Tripoli on 19 September.—XINHUA

Four dead as two buildings collapse in NW India

MUMBAI, 28 Aug—At least 4 people are killed and over 35 people are feared trapped under debris on Wednesday morning as two buildings collapsed in Vadodara district of Northwest Indian State of Gujarat, local news channel NDTV reported.

According to the local police, the rescue is under way and eight people have been evacuated.

"The focus is on rescue operation. The state government has deputed two cabinet rank ministers to oversee the rescue operation, " said Vinod Rao, Vadodara District collector.

Both the buildings were residential and collapsed within a time gap of 20 minutes. However, one building was vacant while the other one was occupied by 12 families.—*Xinhua*

Colombia's ELN rebels free Canadian geologist

BOGOTA, 28 Aug—Colombia's ELN rebels freed a Canadian geologist they had held captive for seven months on Tuesday, meeting one of the demands by President Juan Manuel Santos to enable the start of peace talks with the insurgent group.

Jernoc Wobert was seized on 18 January in northern Bolivar Province along with two Peruvian and three Colombian miners contracted by the Toronto-based Braeval Mining gold mining company. His colleagues were later freed by the leftist ELN, or National Liberation Army, the smaller of two rebel groups fighting the government for almost five decades.

Wobert was released in a rural area to a mission of the International Committee of the Red Cross and has been examined by a doctor, said ICRC spokesman Jordi Raich in a statement.

Santos has conditioned any peace talks with the ELN on freeing Wobert and all other captives it holds in the nation's jungles. ELN leaders have expressed interest in starting peace negotiations similar to those currently under way with the Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia, or FARC.

It is not known how many hostages the group holds.—*Reuters*

Jernoc Wobert of Canada gestures to the media while arriving at Barrancabermeja airport on 27 Aug, 2013. REUTERS

Fijian PM meets senior Chinese military official, praises ties

SUVA, 28 Aug—Fijian Prime Minister (PM) and Commander of the Republic of Fiji Military Forces (RFMF) Commodore Josaia Voreqe Bainimarama on Wednesday met Wang Guanzhong, deputy chief of general staff of the Chinese People's Liberation Army (PLA), and praised the military ties between the two countries.

While meeting Wang in the Fijian town of Nadi, Bainimarama said his visit is a significant event for the ties between the RFMF and the PLA, which is to the benefit of enhancing mutual understanding and friendship, as well as promoting the further development of military ties between the two countries.

Fiji highly recognizes China's adhering to its path of peaceful development and significant achievements in economic and social development, as well as the key contribution China has made to peace and stability of the Asia-Pacific region and the world, Bainimarama said, adding that the South Pacific country is willing to make concerted efforts with China in promoting bilateral ties.

China and Fiji enjoy deep traditional friendship and have been witnessing fruitful pragmatic cooperation in all sectors between the two countries, Wang said, adding that the Chinese side respects the path of development chosen by the Fijian people, and is willing to boost the friendly ties between the PLA and the RFMF, deepen pragmatic cooperation, in a bid to make fresh efforts in developing bilateral ties.

Prior to the meeting with Bainimarama, Wang met with Fijian Minister for Defence Joketani Cokanasiga and Aziz Mohammed, RFMF's chief of staff.

Xinhua

Obama calls British PM again over Syria

WASHINGTON, 28 Aug —US President Barack Obama called British Prime Minister David Cameron again on Tuesday over possible responses to the alleged use of chemical weapons in Syria, as both leaders are weighing military actions against the Arab nation.

The White House described the phone conversation, the second since Saturday, as part of the ongoing consultations about Syria, where the government and opposition have traded blame for the chemical attacks in the suburbs of Damascus, capital of Syria, on 21 August, in which as many as 1,300 people were reportedly killed.

Obama and Cameron discussed "possible responses" to the attack and agreed to "stay in close consultation in the coming days," the White House said.

Washington has pinned the blame on the Syrian government and vowed to hold it accountable for this "moral obscenity."

The Washington Post reported on Tuesday that Obama is considering a limited military strike on Syrian targets, involving sea-launched cruise missiles or possibly long-range bombers.

As the British armed forces are working as well on contingency plans,Cameron recalled lawmakers from their summer recess to vote on Thursday on a government motion on how to respond.—*Xinhua*

6.3-magnitude quake hits Kermadec Islands region

HONG KONG, 28 Aug—An earthquake measuring 6.3 on the Richter scale jolted Kermadec Islands region at 10:55 Beijing Time on Wednesday, the Hong Kong Observatory said.

The epicentre was initially determined to be at 27.8 degrees south latitude and 179.9 degrees west longtitude.—*Xinhua*

"Save Food Asia-Pacific," a high-level consultation on food loss and waste in the Asia-Pacific, begins in Bangkok on 27 Aug, 2013, to examine measures to deal with loss and waste increasing in the region and the rest of the world. KYODO NEWS

Rescuers work in the site of the collapse of a building in Sao Paulo, Brazil, on 27 Aug, 2013. A building under construction collapsed on Tuesday morning in the Sao Mateus region, in the east zone of Sao Paulo. At least six people were killed and 24 injured on Tuesday when a commercial building under construction collapsed, officials said.—XINHUA

Japan negotiates tariffs with US, Australia in TPP trade talks

BANDAR SERI BEGAWAN, 28 Aug—Japan has held bilateral negotiations on elimination of tariffs with the United States and Australia during the ongoing 19th round of the Trans-Pacific Partnership free trade talks in Brunei, negotiation sources said on Tuesday.

The two major farming countries had previously been expected to hold off on talks with Japan until after the current round, as the United States has not finished assessing the impact of eliminating tariffs on Japanese products and Australia is scheduled to hold a general election on 7 September. The negotiations were held by Sunday at the strong request of Japan, which only joined the TPP talks at the tail end of the Malaysia round last month, with countries seeking to concluded a deal by year-end.—*Kyodo News*

LOCAL NEWS

School sanitation tasks carried out in Patheingyi

PATHEINGYI, 28 Aug—Health Department of Patheingyi Township in Mandalay Region and UNION jointly organized School Health Week activities and gave educative talks on health at Basic Education High School in Patheingyi on 22 August morning.

Dentist Dr Zaw Htaik, Township Health Assistant Grade (1) U Myint Maung, nurses and UNION members conducted medical tests.

Headmistress Daw Khin Khin Hla delivered an address at the educative talk. Dentist Dr Zaw Htaik and Health Assistant Grade (1) U Myint Maung gave talks on dental care and santiation and health.

MMAL-Aung Kyaw Tun (Patheingyi)

Collective blood donation held in Mandalay

MANDALAY, 28 Aug—A collective blood donation ceremony of seven townships in Mandalay Region was held at the Blood Bank in Central Women's Hospital in Mandalay on 23 August morning.

Mandalay Region Chief Minister U Ye Myint made his appearance at the ceremony and encouraged the blood donors.

Medical Superintendent Dr Daw Than Than Myint of Mandalay Women's Hospital reported to the chief minister on donations of nutrients and tonics by medicines companies for the blood donors and storage of blood bags in cold storage.

The chief minister attended to the needs and cordially greeted the blood donors.

Mandalay District Secretary U Bo Thin and committee members presented blood bags to the medical superintendent and officials who returned certificates of honour.

It was attended by Region Hluttaw Deputy Speaker U Aung Htay Kyaw and Region Hluttaw representatives from townships in Mandalay District, region committee members, district/township committee members and 111 blood donors from Chanayethazan, Aungmyethazan, Mahaaungmye, Chanmyathazi, Pyigyidagun, Amarapura and Patheingyi Townships in Mandalay District.

MMAL-Tin Maung (Mandalay)

Ownerless cattle auctioned

WAW, 28 Aug—U Soe Hlaing, Waw Township Administrator and Township Ownerless Property Auction Committee Chairman, supervised the auctions of 43 oxen seized ownerless in the township at General Administration Department in Waw Township on 25 August.

It was attended by the commander of Township Police Force, the Executive Officer of Township Development Affairs Committee, the Staff Officer of Veterinary Department and the Staff Officer of Township Internal Revenue Department.

A total of 30 farmers participated in the auction which was brought to an end at noon.

A total of K 24,690,000 revenue would be transferred to the Bago Region government.

MMAL-Phone Thaw (Waw)

Health Care Activity

Mobile medical team provides healthcare

NAY PYI TAW, 28 Aug—A mobile healthcare team formed with Secretary of Myanma Maternal and Child Welfare Association Daw Thazin Nwe, Joint Secretary (2) Dr Jo Jo San, Myitta San Yay Clinic in-charge, specialist, doctors, dentists, ophthalmologists and nurses made field trip to Kyaukchet village in Zeyathiri Township in Nay Pyi Taw Council Area on 25 August.

In-charge physician Dr San San Hlaing and doctors provided treatment to villagers and gave talks on child care and birth spacing.

They provided tonics, nutrients, iodine salts and food to the expectant mothers.

The doctors saw eye, dental and other patients and referred some to nearby health centre.

MNA

Odd News

Old bullets found in Wundwin Township

WUNDWIN, 28 Aug—Hundreds of bullets were found in the yard of Kywethar village in Nyaung-U-Phee village-tract in Wundwin Township on 22 August.

A total of 650 bullets were transferred to the Wundwin Township Police Force.

Police Sub-Inspector Maung Maung Aung, the head of Police Station Police Inspector Saw Myint and village-tract administrator U Tint Hsan inspected the bullets.—*MMAL-Tin Hlaing (Meiktila)*

FREE SAPLINGS DISTRIBUTED: ***Assistant Director U Tet Toe of Nay Pyi Taw Forest Department in Ottara District, Pyinmana Township Staff Officer U Win Bo and staff distributed 4300 saplings including teak and flowery plant saplings to the residents in Muntaekwin and Kyaukchet villages.*—MMAL-KO THU**

Health Care Activity

Fish and prawn culturing course opened

NAY PYI TAW, 28 Aug—Fisheries Department of Nay Pyi Taw Council Area is conducting fish culturing/breeding course at Yezin Fishery Station in Zeyathiri Township in Nay Pyi Taw Council Area.

The opening ceremony yesterday was attended by U Than Oo Wai, Director of Breeding Division of Fisheries Department under the Ministry of Livestock, Fisheries and Rural Development.

The director delivered an address at the ceremony.

The similar courses are being conducted in 14 regions and states and Nay Pyi Taw Council Area simultaneously.

It is aimed at developing socio-economic life of fish farmers, meeting regional fish demand and increasing their incomes by disseminating fish/prawn culturing techniques.

The course is being attended by those interested and Tatmadawmen. The course will last till 6 September.

MMAL-Fisheries Department

Anti-Human Trafficking

Educative talk on human trafficking organized in Namhkam

NAMHKAM, 28 Aug—An educative talk on human trafficking was organized in Mantna village in Namhkam Township in Muse District in northern Shan State on 20 August.

It was attended by Head of Township Information and Public Relations Department Daw Nay Chi Thway explained the purpose of organizing the talks.

Police Inspector Mong Pan Oo gave talks on human trafficking at the event attended by 75 people.

MMAL-Township IPRD

Take Preventive Measures against DHF

The New Light of Myanmar

PERSPECTIVES

Thursday, 29 August, 2013

The mission of separating fact from fiction

The major challenge of the people of Myanmar, who have found themselves in the very midst of the age of abundant information available from various sources when the country opened up, is defining that is fact and that is fiction. Fact encourages rational thinking and promotes public participation in development efforts while fiction creates rumours that set the country ablaze from the very root of society. Unfortunately, the latter has the character of spreading more rapidly and touched the people more seriously. Now is time when the government should begin looking for plans to promote fact-based thinking.

Media have well been blamed for sensational reports. Social networking has become the apparent mastermind behind each ugly incident. Our ways of thinking start with finding the victim and end with putting the finger of blame on someone. These fingers are moving here and there, but never reach an answer. The government seeks ways to tightening regulations while the public members seek more liberalization. The country will not go anywhere if both fail to do their parts well.

The government will start compile census, the most important data for a country, with the help of UN agencies and other development partners. It would unveil the most critical information for development strides of our country. We would be able to define what we need and where we are strong through census. But it calls for the active participation of the public members to ensure the data are accurate. It is our future. We should decide how our future would look like through census-taking efforts. But the newspaper slogan saying, "The people are to suffer from wrong data in census," rather looks like a threat than a campaign motto. The State in a whole would suffer from it and we could not afford the mistakes.

According to media reports, the Japanese government and ADB would help the government departments release information in smarter ways. The Japanese government has pledged more than 1 million aids in USD for the project. The project could make a huge impact with the cooperation of the government ministries.

Release more and more fact would help crack down "rumours" more effectively than the mere words, "Don't believe rumours," with no efforts to offer what are facts.

Shan State cultural troupe poses for documentary photo at performing arts festival.—MNA

NATIONAL

Debate on "British administration and immigration in colonial era" held

Amyotha Hluttaw Deputy Speaker U Mya Nyein delivers speech at debate on British administration and immigration in colonial era.—MNA

NAY PYI TAW, 28 Aug— Debate on "British administration and immigration in colonial era" was held at the assembly hall of Amyotha Hluttaw Building in the Hluttaw Complex, here, this afternoon.

Amyotha Hluttaw Deputy Speaker U Mya Nyein made a speech on the occasion.

Writer Dr Myint Thein explained facts about the debate and answered queries raised by Amyotha Hluttaw Representatives U Khin Maung Latt, U Ye Myint and U Maung Aye Tun.

MNA

Special Adviser to UN Secretary-General for Myanmar brings comfort to IDPs in Myitkyina

Special Adviser to UN Secretary-General for Myanmar Mr Vijay Nambiar meets local people.—MNA

NAY PYI TAW, 28 Aug— Special Adviser to UN Secretary-General for Myanmar Mr. Vijay Nambiar and party held a meeting with local people at Thida Baptist Church Hall on Aung San Road in Thida Ward in Myitkyina yesterday.

Union Minister for Livestock, Fisheries and Rural Development U Ohn Myint and State Chief Minister U La John Ngan Hsai, state ministers, members of Myanmar Council of Churches (MCC), and townselders were present at the meeting.

On the occasion, the Union Minister said that the country is striking for eternal peace and stability and tranquility and it has now seen progress in ongoing trust-building with KIO/KIA groups. There has come out fruitful results through peacemaking process step by step. Mass participation of people in Kachin State and their suggestions help support peace-making processes.

Afterwards, Mr. Vijay Nambiar urged the Union Government, state government and locals to foster regional peace and stability and rural development tasks and called for national reconciliation and open peace talks with positive attitudes. He pledged that UN will continue providing necessary assistances.

Mr. Vijay Nambiar then answered the queries raised by those present.

Next, Mr. Vijay Nambiar and party comforted the internal displaced persons at Janmaikaung relief camp in Myothitgyi Ward and Thagara Thayettaw relief camp in No (4) Ward, Waingmaw Township and Maina Catholic relief camp in Myitkyina.

MNA

Shan Cultural Troupe earn two gold and two silver in CLMV Performing Arts Festival

NAY PYI TAW, 28 Aug— The performing arts festival of the 4 countries was held in Dong Ha of Quang Tri Province in Vietnam from 12 to 18 August.

Shan State cultural troupe, took part in this performing arts festival and secured two gold and two silver medals.

There are altogether 11 national races—Shan, Pa-O, Inn, Danu, Taungyoe, Lehsu, Kokang, Wa, Palaung, Akha and Lahu—in Shan cultural troupes. The people from literature and culture troupes in Shan State (South, North and East) have been selected to participate in the festival.

With the aim of introducing Myanmar culture to the foreign countries, the cultural troupe took the pride in securing two gold and two silver medals in the performing art festival.

It was also attended by Dean U Thant Zin Oo of the National Culture and Fine Arts University of Yangon, Director Daw Nan Laong Ngin of the Department of Archaeology, National Museum and Library, Technician-1 (song and dance) Daw Wut Yi Hlaing of Production Department of Fine Arts as a referee, 27 cultural troupes members from Shan State totalling 30.—*MNA*

Ministry of Energy issues notification

NAY PYI TAW, 28 Aug— The Ministry of Energy today issued Notification No. 100/2013 concerning exportaion of petroleum products, storage, transportation and distribution. The notification comprises six chapters, it is learnt.

MNA

Relief aids provided to Htangon fire victims

NAY PYI TAW, 28 Aug—A ceremony to present relief aids to the fire victims was held at Htangon relief camp in Kanbalu Township this morning.

Chairman of Relief and Resettlement Committee U Than Win and officials handed over family kits, tarpaulin sheets and relief aids to 51 households with a population of 325 and donated stationery and books to 45 students.

The Medical Superintendent from Kanbalu Township Hospital (100-bed) and officials from Htangon Rural Health Branch are providing health care services to those victims. The Food Supply Committee is also serving them with daily meals.

MNA

***Health staff provide health care to families of fire victims in Htangon Village of Kanbalu Township.*—MNA**

Water level of Sittoung River may fall below its danger level

NAY PYI TAW, 28 Aug—The water level of Sittoung River at Madauk has reached above its danger level starting from 21-8-2013, 6:30 pm. According to the observation at 12:30 hrs M.S.T today, the water level has exceeded by 40 cm (about 1.3 ft) above its danger level. It may fall below its danger level during the next 48 hours commencing this noon, announced the Meteorology and Hydrology Department.

MNA

Talks on census-taking, reading habits given

KALAY, 28 Aug—Kalay District Information and Public Relations Department organized educative talk on promotion of reading habit and census-taking at Baptist Church in Yaukchokwin village in Pyinkhongyi village-tract in Kalay Township on 25 August afternoon.

The department also exhibited posters and photos.

Head of District Information and Public Relations Department U Dai Kyint Pao gave talks on population data and census taking. Township Staff Officer U Nyi Nyi Zaw gave talks on promotion of reading habits to broaden their horizons.

The township staff officer presented 50 publications to the villagers who viewed the posters and photos after the talk.

MMAL-Ju Nine

Chinese Hospital Ship Peace Ark (866) makes port visit at Thilawa

***Chinese Navy's Hospital Ship Peace Ark (866) arrives at Myanmar International Terminal Thilawa (MITT) in Yangon.*—MNA**

NAY PYI TAW, 28 Aug—As part of China-Myanmar friendship programme and medical trip, Chinese Navy's Hospital Ship Peace Ark (866) carrying 400 health staff led by Rear Admiral Shen Hao from the Chinese Navy docked at Myanmar International Terminal Thilawa (MITT) in Yangon this morning via Malaysia.

They were welcomed at the Terminal by Naval Training Command Headquarters Commandant Commodore Min Thein Tint, senior military officers from Defence Services (Navy), Chinese Ambassador to Myanmar Mr Yang Houlan, the Chinese Military Attaché to Myanmar and embassy staff from the Chinese Embassy, members of the Guard of Honour and officials from Chinese Merchants Association.

Rear Admiral Shen Hao and party cordially greeted the Guard of Honour and met the local media at the jetty. Then, they conducted the guests round medical wards on the board.

The 300-bed Hospital Ship measuring 4,000 squares meters covers 20 intensive care units and eight operation rooms. It is like high-class Hospitals in China and can make 40 times major operations per day. In addition, it will provide treatments with Chinese traditional therapies and the Western therapies up to 3 September.

Cultural talks, medical symposiums and sports competitions will be held in order to have amity and trusts between the navies and two countries.

Myawady

Myanmar, France to nurture MBA graduates with specialized skills

NAY PYI TAW, 28 Aug—Deputy Minister for Education Dr San Lwin held talks with Mrs Marie-Christine BERT, Director of Development of HEC Executive Education from France and party at the ministry yesterday afternoon.

At the meeting, they discussed signing an MoU between Yangon Institute of Economics and Hautes Etudes Commercials (HEC), to turn out MBA graduates with specialized skills such as finance, marketing, etc, by conducting MBA courses for senior managers, refresher courses for faculty members and sending of emeritus professor.

Also present at the call were Director-General U Ko Ko Tin of Education Planning and Training and officials.

MNA

Shan State chief minister holds development meeting

LASHIO, 28 Aug—Shan State Chief Minister U Sao Aung Myat and state ministers met district/township level departmental personnel, members of management committees, members of development support groups, members of social organizations, members of political parties and local people at Lashio Town Hall on 24 August noon.

The chief minister elaborated on seven socio-economic development tasks that include electrification, accessibility of drinking water, agriculture, employment, tourism development, monetary market and investment.

Lashio District Deputy Commissioner U Aung Muang Kyi reported on regional activities and township development support committee members of Tangyan and Mongyal Townships discussed the conditions of their townships. The state ministers made supplementary reports and the state chief minister made conclusions.

MMAL-State IPRD

Monthly Weather Forecast on September, 2013 Issued on 28-8-2013

The withdrawal of Southwest Monsoon condition

Southwest Monsoon is likely to withdraw from Northern Myanmar Areas during 20-25 September, 2013 and Central Myanmar Areas during 26-30 September, 2013.

Bay of Bengal condition

Two low pressure areas may form over the Bay of Bengal and one may be further intensify into the depression. Southwest Monsoon will be moderate in the Andaman Sea and Bay of Bengal.

Rain conditions and rainy days

Above normal rain are likely in Bago, Yangon and Ayeyawady Regions, Kachin and Rakhine States, below normal in lower Sagaing Region and about normal in the remaining Regions and States.

Rainy days are expected about 22 to 26 days in Bago, Yangon and Ayeyawady Regions, Kachin and Rakhine States, and about 14 to 18 days in the remaining Regions and States.—*NLM*

Weather forecast for 1st Dekad (10-day) of September 2013 Issued on 28-8-2013

Bay of Bengal condition

A low pressure area may form over the Bay of Bengal and further intensify into a depression. Southwest Monsoon will be strong to moderate in the Andaman Sea and Bay of Bengal.

Rain conditions and rainy days

Above normal rain are likely in Kachin, Shan and Rakhine States and about normal in the remaining Regions and States.

Rainy days are expected about 6 to 8 days in Kachin, Shan and Rakhine States and about 4 to 6 days in the remaining Regions and States.—*NLM*

LOCAL NEWS

Singaing's village library gets new building

HRD

SINGAING, 28 Aug—The new building of Arthit Library re-built by Myanmar Libraries Federation spending its fund was held in conjunction with the books and publications donation at the library in Meethwaybok Village of Singaing Township, Mandalay Region, on 25 August afternoon.

Head of Singaing Township Information and Public Relations Departtment Daw Tin Tin Htwe explained the programmes to ensure durability of library and advantages of reading.

Next, the Township IPRD and wellwishers donated books and publications.

Singaing Township IPRD has been opening self-reliant village libraries one after another in the township with the aim of broadening horizon of the local people and raising reading skills. In 2008, the opening ceremony of libraries in the whole township was held. As some of libraries become ruined at present, new buildings are being constructed for the village libraries.

Kyemon-Tun Tun Naing

Nutritious feedstuff course for animals kicks off

HAKA, 28 Aug—Organized by China State Livestock Breeding and Veterinary Department under the Ministry of Livestock, Fisheries and Rural Development, the animal nutrition course No 1/2013 was opened at its office in Haka on 26 August afternoon, with an address by Chin State Chief Minister U Hong Ngai.

The training course is aimed at giving cheap and nutritious feedstuff to the animals for contributing to development of meat and fish production as meat and fish consumption rate rises in Chin State.

Altogether 30 farmers are attending the two-week course.—*Kyemon-Chin State IPRD*

Opening ceremony of animal nutrition course No 1/2013 in progress in Haka of Chin State.

HRD

Fish breeding, hatching fingerlings course kicks off

HPA-AN, 28 Aug—Kayin State Fisheries Department gave lectures on fish breeding and hatching fingerlings course No 1/2013 at the hall of Hpa-an fishery camp in Taungthugon Village of Kayin State on 26 August.

The training course was aimed at developing socio-economic life of the rural people across the nation and propagating the fish breeding and hatching fingerlings technology in line with the directive of the Fisheries Department under the Ministry of Livestock, Fisheries and Rural Development.

The ceremony was attended by Kayin State Minister for Agriculture and Livestick Breeding U Saw Christopher, Head of Kayin State Fisheries Department Dr Nyunt Wai, Head of State Livestock Breeding and Veterinary Department Dr Maung Maung Soe Oo, training officials and 36 trainees.—*Kyemon-Dr Nyunt Wai*

Cash donations shared to religious building, national race culture troupes

LOILEM, 28 Aug—Shan State Government held a ceremony to donate cash to the fund of Dhamma Beikman Building at Maha Ratthabhisa Maggi Pagoda in Panglong and national races literature and culture troupes, at the hall of the pagoda board of trustees on 26 August.

"Shan State government wishes to make donation to construction of new Dhammayon, and the donation was initiated by the Shan State Chief Minister U Sao Aung Myat and state ministers on their trip to Loilem District on 22 August for paying homage to Maha Ratthabhisa Maggi Pagoda," said Deputy Commissioner U Moe Hein of Loilem District.

Next, the Shan State government donated K 5 million to the fund of the Dhamma Beikman through Chairman of the Pagoda Board of Trustees U Sai Lon who returned certificate of honour.

Officials handed over K 300,000 each to Shan and Pa-O literature and culture troupes, K 200,000 each to Palaung and Taungyoe literature and culture troupes through chairmen of the troupes.

A local spoke works of thanks.

The donations by the Shan State government amounted to K 6 million.

Kyemon-Moe Lwin Oo (Loikem IPRD)

Magway Region government implements plan to turn out midwives

PAKOKKU, 28 Aug—With the assistance of Magway Region Government, the opening of midwifery course (fourth batch) took place at the hall of Pakokku General Hospital on 26 August morning.

"Under the arrangement of the Magway Region government, the health training are being conducted for declining mortality and mother dead rates so as to disseminate health knowledge to the grassroots level," said Pakokku Township Administrator U Aung Naing Oo.

He continued that the sharing of health knowledge contributes to development of private sector.

Next, Medical Superintendent Dr Thin Thin Aye explained the plans of the training, disciplines and aims. Region Hluttaw representative U Zaw Moe Thein presented uniforms to the trainees.

The opening ceremony was attended by Chairperson of District Maternal and Child Welfare Supervisory Committee Daw Soe Soe Thein and members, members of Women's Affairs Organization and departmental officials.

Altogether 30 female trainees are attending the course.—*Kyemon-Aung (Mann Tekkatho)*

Health Care Activity

Yamethin Township marks Nutrition Week

YAMETHIN, 28 Aug—A ceremony to mark Nutrition Week, organized by Township Maternal and Child Welfare Association, was held at the hall of Township General Administration Department in Yamethin, Mandalay Region, on 25 August morning.

After opening the ceremony, Chairperson of District Maternal and Child Welfare Supervisory Committee Daw Htar Htar Win made a speech.

Township Association Chairperson Daw Yi Yi Thaung explained facts about the nutrition week and aims of the association, and in-charge of the Health Department Dr Myint Myint Maw rules of contest.

Officials presented prizes to model mother and winners in low-cost meals cooking contest. Then, they gave foods and vitamin to expectant mothers and vitamin (A) tablets to children under five, pamphlets and iodized salts to the attendees.

Kyemon-Hlaing Than Tint (Yamethin)

Japan raises toxic water leak severity at Fukushima plant to level 3

Tokyo, 28 Aug—Japan's Nuclear Regulation Authority decided on Wednesday to raise the severity assessment of a recent water leak incident at the crippled Fukushima Daiichi nuclear power plant to level 3 on an international scale.

The NRA will report its evaluation, initially rated level 1, to the International Atomic Energy Agency, an official of the NRA secretariat said.

Level 3 on the International Nuclear and Radiological Event Scale is defined as a "serious incident." The Fukushima nuclear accident, triggered by a huge earthquake and tsunami in March 2011, was rated as the maximum level 7, on a par with the 1986 Chernobyl disaster.— *Kyodo News*

Prime Minister Shinzo Abe (R) shakes hands with Japanese Maritime Self-Defence Force personnel at their base in Djibouti, eastern Africa, on 27 Aug, 2013. MSDF personnel have been engaged in an antipiracy mission off Somalia since 2009. **Kyodo News**

Flood death toll rises to 13 in Cambodia

Phnom Penh, 28 Aug—Flash floods have killed at least 13 people and affected about 3,000 families in Cambodia since early this month, a disaster control spokesman said on Wednesday.

Four provinces being hit by floods are Banteay Meanchey, Preah Vihear, Kampong Thom, and Kratie, Keo Vy, chief of the Cabinet of the National Committee for Disaster Management (NCDM), said.

"Eleven deaths were in northwestern Banteay Meanchey and two others were in northern Kampong Thom," he told *Xinhua* over telephone.

Besides, he said, some 20,000 hectares of rice paddy were inundated.

Floods usually hit Cambodia between August and October. In 2011, the country was hit the worst by floods, which killed up to 250 people, according to the NCDM.

Last year, the floods claimed 14 human lives.

Xinhua

Nine killed, 50 injured in road mishap in E India

New Delhi, 28 Aug—At least nine people were killed and 50 others injured in a major road mishap in the eastern Indian state of West Bengal on Tuesday, a senior police official said.

"The mishap happened when the bus in which the victims were travelling overturned at Panagarh in the state's Bardhaman District after the driver lost control of the speeding vehicle while negotiating a curve," he said, on condition of anonymity.

While six people died on the spot, three others succumbed to their injuries on their way to hospital where 50 others have been admitted, some with serious injuries, the official said.

A probe has been ordered into the incident, he added.

Xinhua

Over 500 families displaced by flash floods in central Philippines

Manila, 28 Aug—About 547 families have been displaced by flash floods in central Philippine province of Samar as tropical storm "Kong-Rey" , or locally known as Nando, entered the Philippine area of responsibility, a senior government official said on Tuesday.

Philippines' Deputy Presidential Spokesperson Abigail Valte said the affected families, coming from 11 villages in Samar, have been taking shelter at schools used as temporary evacuation centre.

"But again we continue to be on alert for the (further) effects of the tropical storm," Valte said in a news briefing.

The state weather agency, Philippine Atmospheric, Geophysical and Astronomical Services Administration (PAGASA), said that Kong-Rey has maintained its strength and continues to move closer towards the Northern Philippine province of Batanes (Batanes Group of Islands).

The tropical storm brings maximum sustained winds of 75 kilometer per hour (kph) near the center and gustiness of up to 90 kph, the agency said.

"Nando will continue to enhance the southwest monsoon which will bring light to moderate with at-times heavy rains and thunderstorms over Metro Manila and the rest of Luzon," PAGASA said in a bulletin earlier this day.

Xinhua

***Photo taken on 27 Aug, 2013 shows the facade of Yale-National University of Singapore (NUS) College's temporary school facilities during its first inauguration ceremony in Singapore.*—Xinhua**

Indian gov't approves multi-billion-dollar infrastructure projects

New Delhi, 28 Aug—The Indian government on Tuesday said that it has given its nod to at least 36 stalled multi-billion-dollar infrastructure projects in a bid to spruce up the sluggish economy and falling currency.

Indian Finance Minister P Chidambaram said that the 36 stalled projects include oil, gas, power, road and railways sectors, with value estimated at 1.83 trillion rupees (28.4 billion US dollars) .

"The message we are sending is that the investment cycle has restarted, and we are pushing it," he told the media in the national capital.

"Disbursements would start as the approvals are being given. Clearly the signal is projects are not being stalled. Stalled projects have been un-blocked. What I say today, would be heard by banks also. The banks' chairmen waiting to disburse funds would do it now," the Finance Minister added. The Indian currency hit a record low, breaching 66 rupees to a US dollar in intra-day trading on Tuesday.—*Xinhua*

Security threats loom large ahead of Nepal's 19 November elections

Kathmandu, 28 Aug—In Nepal's 2008 elections of the first Constituent Assembly, 50 individuals were killed, 1286 were injured and 116 were kidnapped under 485 incidents of political and election-related violence.

Five years down the line, there is valid ground to fear that the 2013 elections of the second Constituent Assembly, scheduled for 19 November this year, will not be less violent. "Plenty of security threats exist this time around as well. The success or failure of the election depends on how the government and security bodies manage to deal with them," Rohit Karki, an analyst with Nepal Institute for Policy Studies, told *Xinhua* on Tuesday.

Karki said the major obstacles may arise from the poll-opposing groups including the alliance of 33 smaller parties.

"If the alliance of fringe parties goes beyond the poll-boycott slogan and disrupts the election process, the government has to materialize its security plans considering such an unfavorable situation," Karki said.

Providing political patronage to criminals and criminalization of politics is yet another security threat to the upcoming election, Karki said, adding that it can be tackled by exposing and foiling the illegal nexus between politicians and the criminals.

Former chief election commissioner Bhojraj Pokhrel was of the view that only a coordinated and holistic effort from the government can ensure adequate security in the election.

"Security threats, first of all, emerge from the government itself. It is positive that we now have a non-partisan neutral government formed only for the purpose of election," Pokhrel said.

According to Pushkar Regmi, assistant inspector general (AIG) of Police, the ex-combatants, who were disqualified to be reintegrated with Nepal Army as part of the Comprehensive Peace Accord 2006, may pose a major threat during the election. Porous border with India, smuggling of arms and the armed outfits of Terai plains are other key challenges of the election, Regmi said. To ensure the election, Nepal's National Army should also be provided with some roles, said Govinda Kusum, a former secretary at the Ministry of Home Affairs. "Muscle and money will be the serious threats to election. Mobilization of youth wings of various political parties and possible unhealthy rivalry among them could be yet another threat, "Kusum said.

The government is well-aware about the security challenges of election, said Deputy Inspector General (DIG) of Armed Police Force Shailendra Khanal. "We have set up Election Cells in various places across the country to collect election-related information," said Khanal, adding that the security bodies are in the last phase of finalizing an Integrated Security Plan solely targeting the upcoming elections.—*Xinhua*

***A child plays angklung, an Indonesian traditional musical instrument, during the two-day Bamboo Music Festival in Jakarta, Indonesia, on 27 Aug, 2013.*—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

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Fig.1 Perspective view

Fig.2 Front view

Reg. No. 4/605 4/2013 (20 June 2013)

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Date 29 August 2013 utm@kcyangon.com

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C/o **Kelvin Chia Yangon Ltd.,**
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Sakura Tower, Yangon, **The Republic of the Union of Myanmar**
utm@kcyangon.com
Dated 29 August 2013

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

MV ZAMBALES VOY NO (119)

Consignees of cargo carried on MV ZAMBALES VOY NO (119) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 29.8.2013 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of M.I.P.L 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: TOKO KAIUN KAISHA LTD
Phone No: 256924/256914

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

MV FENG LI 12 VOY NO ( )

Consignees of cargo carried on MV FENG LI 12 VOY NO ( ) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 29.8.2013 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of M.I.T.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 UNION OCEAN MARINE CO LTD
Phone No: 256924/256914

No Pain No Gain

China will hit economic growth target, NBS spokesman

BEIJING, 27 Aug—China has shown signs of stabilizing and the country is poised to hit its annual growth target of 7.5 percent, the National Bureau of Statistics (NBS) spokesman Sheng Laiyun said at a Foreign Ministry conference on Monday.

China's gross domestic product (GDP) growth slowed to 7.6 percent in the January-June period of 2013, the weakest first-half performance in three years, but was in line with market expectations, Sheng said.

According to the latest data released by the NBS in July, industrial added value increased 9.7 percent year on year, with the growth rate up 0.8 percentage points from June, indicating confidence in Chinese enterprises, Sheng said. The Chinese government has unveiled a number of policies to cope with downward pressure and has created room for further economic rebalancing efforts, Sheng said.

"I do have confidence in China's economy," Sheng added. Sheng also expressed his confidence in China's dealing with local government debt. An audit conducted in 2011 by the National Audit Office (NAO) found that local government debt totaled 10.7 trillion yuan at the end of 2010, more than 26 percent of GDP.—*Xinhua*

Palestinians suspend peace talks with Israel after three killed near Ramallah

RAMALLAH, 27 Aug—The Palestinians have officially suspended a fourth round of direct peace talks with Israel in protest of killing three Palestinians earlier on Monday

The Palestinians were killed during clashes with Israeli soldiers who stormed Qalandya refugee camp in northern Ramallah.

Hours after the incident, Yasser Abed Rabbo, an official in Palestine Liberation Organization (PLO), announced in a Press statement that the Palestinian side decided to call off the round of direct peace negotiations scheduled to be held on Monday in the West Bank town of Jericho.

"We decided not to go to the scheduled round of talks today in protest of killing three Palestinian young men in Qalandya," Abed Rabbo said, adding that "the ongoing Israeli escalation of violence against our people can't be justified and it only aims at toppling the efforts to resume the peace negotiations."

A Palestinian protester gets ready to throw a Molotov cocktail during small clashes with Israeli forces following the funerals of Robin Zayed, Younis Jahjouh and Jihad Aslan at Qalandiya Refugee Camp near the West Bank city of Ramallah on 26 Aug, 2013.—REUTERS

The killing of a Palestinian young man in Jenin last week and the killing of three young men near Ramallah on Monday had outraged many Palestinians, mainly the factions and political powers that are basically against the resumption of the peace talks between Israel and the Palestinians.

Meanwhile, a well-informed Palestinian source, speaking on condition of anonymity, told *Xinhua* that Palestinian President Mahmoud Abbas addressed a strong letter of protest to the United States Administration against the Israeli violations in the West Bank.

"President Abbas urged the United States to immediately intervene to avoid more violent consequences among the populations in the West Bank," said the source, adding that President Abbas considered what happened on Monday "as an Israeli violation to the negotiations."

Later on Monday afternoon, hundreds of Palestinian mourners buried the bodies of the three Palestinian young men that were shot dead by the Israeli soldiers' gunfire.

Xinhua

Four children injured in Russia by teenager with air gun

MOSCOW, 27 Aug—A teenage boy attacked a group of children with a pneumatic gun, injuring four, in Ulyanovsk in central Russia, the regional prosecutor's office said on Monday.

"Several children were playing in a yard when an unknown person started to shoot at them late Sunday," deputy prosecutor Vasilii Zima said. The four injured, two boys and two girls aged from seven to 15, sustained minor wounds. They were taken to a hospital and received medical assistance before being released.

Police detained a 13-year-old boy suspected of carrying out the attack.

The teenager confessed he had argued with one of the girls a week earlier, Ulyanovsk regional police's spokesman Alexei Ryzhov said. The teenager purchased a pneumatic gun with the help of an adult acquaintance and concealed it from his parents, the spokesperson said.

Under Russia's criminal code, first-time offenders aged under 14 are immune from criminal prosecution.

If found guilty, the boy can only be put on a watch list of potential offenders.—*Xinhua*

ENTERTAINMENT

Obama on watching 'The Butler' - 'I did tear up'

WASHINGTON, 28 Aug —President Barack Obama says he teared up watching a movie about an African-American man who served for 34 years at the White House during the tumultuous time of the civil rights movement. Lee Daniels' "The Butler" is a hit movie starring Forest Whitaker in the lead role, which is loosely based on the real life of Eugene Allen, who served Presidents from Harry Truman to Ronald Reagan. Oprah Winfrey plays the butler's hard-drinking wife and Cuba Gooding Jr. is a friend and White House colleague.

"You know, I did see 'The Butler,' and I did tear up," Obama told syndicated radio hosts Tom Joyner and Sybil Wilkes in an interview broadcast on Tuesday, a day before he speaks at the 50th anniversary of the civil rights movement's "March on Washington."

US President Barack Obama waves before departing a news conference in the East Room of the White House in Washington, on 9 Aug, 2013.—REUTERS

"I teared up just thinking about not just the butlers who have worked here in the White House, but an entire generation of people who were talented and skilled, but because of Jim Crow (segregation laws), because of discrimination, there was only so far they could go."—*Reuters*

Madonna top-earning celebrity, trumping Spielberg, Winfrey

NEW YORK, 28 Aug— She's still the Material Girl.

Pop diva Madonna 55, is the world's top-earning celebrity, according to a *Forbes* list released on Monday, raking in an estimated $125 million in the past year, mainly from her $305 million-grossing MDNA tour, but helped by sales of clothing, fragrance and various investments.

Director Steven Spielberg, who had a big hit last year with "Lincoln," was a distant second with earnings of $100 million in the year ended June 2013, most of which came from his catalog of past hits such as "ET" and "Jurassic Park," which continue to bring in big bucks.

"Madonna's success, at age 55, just goes to show the incredible power of a successful music career," *Forbes* reporter Dorothy Pomerantz said, noting that 27-year-old pop singer Lady Gaga has often been said to be channeling Madonna's four-decade-long career.

"The young star is certainly emulating Madonna when it come to raking in money," *Forbes* said, with her $80 million in earnings largely from the singer's "Born This Way Ball" world tour, placing Gaga 10th on the list.

Forbes compiles its annual list of celebrity earnings using input from agents, managers, producers and others to calculate its estimates for each celebrity's entertainment-related earnings. The figures do not reflect tax deductions, agent fees or "the other expenses of being a celebrity."

Madonna's top spot compares with her previous peak of $110 million in 2009, but falls short of the $165 million taken in by Oprah Winfrey in the previous year, *Forbes* said. Talk show queen and media mogul Winfrey took a big pay cut this year according to *Forbes*, falling to No 13 on the list with earnings of $77 million.—*Reuters*

US singer Madonna waves as she leaves the new Hard Candy Fitness centre in downtown Rome on 21 Aug, 2013.—REUTERS

Jennifer Aniston's 'We're the Millers' to cross $100 million at box office

Actress Jennifer Aniston poses for photographers as she arrives for the UK premiere of "We're the Millers" in Leicester Square in central London on 14 Aug, 2013.
REUTERS

LOS ANGELES, 28 Aug — Jennifer Aniston's pot comedy "We're the Millers" has been doing a first-rate Energizer bunny imitation and will cross the $100 million mark at the domestic box office later this week.

It's been going and going since opening to $26 million on 7 August , and was at $92.7 million as of Tuesday, impressive for a movie that New Line produced for $37 million.

Also near the milestone is Sony's raunchy Seth Rogen-Evan Goldberg comedy "This Is the End," which opened back in June, and was at $96.7 million on Tuesday. With just a $32 million budget, it's a big win for the studio, too.

"I don't think a lot of people saw this kind of success coming for 'The Millers,' or "This Is the End,'" Exhibitor Relations vice-president and senior analyst Jeff Bock tells *TheWrap*. "But I think audiences get a kick out of movies that sort of push the envelope in terms of taste, and they were genuinely funny."

The success of those two and a handful of other R-rated comedies has been a bright spot at the domestic box office this summer.

Universal's Melissa McCarthy-Sandra Bullock buddy film "The Heat" has made $156 million and Warner Bros.' "The Hangover Part III" made it to $112 million. And "Kevin Hart's Let Me Explain" brought in $32 million for Summit — on a $2.5 million budget.

This being Hollywood, the popularity of those films ensures there will be more of the same next summer.

There are already a handful of comedies slotted for 2014, including John Favreau's "Chef" from Open Road, starring Robert Downey Jr and Scarlett Johansson, and Zac Efron's "Neighbors," both set for 9 May Seth MacFarlane's "A Million Ways to Die in the West" from Universal will be out 30 May.

Also on tap are Sony's Channing Tatum-Jonah Hill sequel "22 Jump Street" (13 June) and Melissa McCarthy's "Tammy" from Warner Bros and Sony's "Sex Tape," starring Jason Segel and Cameron Diaz, both scheduled to open on 2 July .—*Reuters*

New opening series introduced ahead of upcoming New York Film Festival

NEW YORK, 28 Aug— The Film Society of Lincoln Centre (FSLC) announced on Tuesday it will host a series to showcase classic old films in the week leading up to the 51st New York Film Festival that starts on 27 September.

The series, entitled "New York Film Festival: Opening Act", will give audiences a rare chance to refresh their memories of some great film works by directors, such as the Coen Brothers, Claire Denis, Arnaud Desplechin, Lav Diaz, and James Gray.

"This year's New York Film Festival lineup features both returning filmmakers and relative newcomers, with a collective body of work behind them that is formidable," said Dennis Lim, FSLC Director of Cinematheque Programming.

"This series, which will continue as an annual event, gives some context to the diverse festival slate but is also an occasion for us to show a wide range of terrific movies, from modern classics to cult favorites to genuine rarities," Lim said. The lineup of the series includes James Gray's "Little Odessa", Hirokazu Kore-eda's "Maborosi", and Abdellatif Kechiche's "Games of Love and Chance", among others.

Xinhua

Singer Michael Bublé welcomes baby with wife Luisana Lopilato

LOS ANGELES, 28 Aug —The Argentinian actress wife of Canadian Grammy-winning singer Michael Bublé gave birth to a boy on Tuesday, the singer said on Twitter.

The first child together for the singer and Luisana Lopilato was born in Vancouver, British Columbia.

"Overjoyed and filled with gratitude at the arrival of our son Noah Buble," the singer best known for songs "Haven't Met You Yet" and "Save the Last Dance for Me" wrote on Twitter, also posting a photo of the family on the Instagram photo-sharing website.

Bublé, 37, and Lopilato, 26, announced in January that they were expecting a child, posting a video with the ultrasound of a fetus on YouTube.

The couple were married in 2011. Lopilato has starred in such Spanish-language telenovelas as "Chiquititas, la historia" and "Rebelde Way."

Reuters

Canadian singer Michael Buble and his bride Argentine actress Luisana Lopilato pose for photographers after their religious wedding ceremony at the Villa Maria palace in Marcos Paz, outskirts of Buenos Aires in this on 2 April, 2011 file photo.
REUTERS

SPORTS

Bayern's Schweinsteiger doubtful against Chelsea

Bayern Munich's Bastian Schweinsteiger holds up the trophy after winning the final match against Manchester City at the Audi Cup friendly soccer tournament in Munich on 1 Aug, 2013.—Reuters

Berlin, 28 Aug— Bayern Munich midfielder Bastian Schweinsteiger is doubtful for their Super Cup game against Chelsea on Friday in Prague after straining his ankle in a 1-1 Bundesliga draw at Freiburg on Tuesday.

"He strained his ankle," coach Pep Guardiola told reporters. "Tomorrow there will be a medical check. I hope he can play on Friday but we do not know that yet."

The Germany international, who had foot surgery in the close season and raced to be fit in time for the Bundesliga start, limped off in the 78th minute after going down unchallenged.

"It does not look good," said captain Philipp Lahm.

Champions League winners Bayern, who take on Europa League champions Chelsea, are already without their Spain midfielder Thiago Alcantara who had surgery on his right ankle this week. Holding midfielder Javi Martinez is just returning to full fitness after an abdominal injury.—*Reuters*

Schalke, Vienna and Steaua qualify amid drama

Berne, 28 Aug— Schalke 04 scored twice after being reduced to 10 men to win 3-2 at PAOK and reach the Champions League group stage on Tuesday and there were dramatic playoff victories for Austria Vienna and Steaua Bucharest.

Austria Vienna, having apparently squandered their chance by conceding three goals at home to Dinamo Zagreb, produced a late rally to go down 3-2 and qualify for the first time while Steaua edged Legia Warsaw on away goals in another topsy-turvy match.

In contrast, Arsenal, as expected, cruised into the group stage for the 16th time in a row, beating Fenerbahce 2-0 at the Emriates with two Aaron Ramsey goals to complete a 5-0 aggregate win, and FC Basel made equally light work of Ludogorets Razgrad.

The Swiss champions, who did the hard work by winning 4-2 in Bulgaria last week, duly won the return 2-0.

The five qualifiers will earn handsome payouts as each of the 32 teams in the group stage receive a basic fee of 8.6 million euros ($11.52 million) plus a million euros for each win and half a million for each draw.

They also stand to receive further income from UEFA's television rights and sponsorship pool.

Schalke, held 1-1 at home by PAOK last week, knew they were in for a tough time in Greece, even though the match was played behind closed doors because of crowd trouble at a Europa League qualifier last year.

Adam Szalai gave Schalke the lead just before halftime but it all went wrong for the Germans when Stefanos Athanasiadis rifled home a 53rd minute equaliser and Jermaine Jones was dismissed for a second yellow card in the 64th.

Julian Draxler came to their rescue when he sprinted on to Max Meyer's through ball to score from a narrow angle in the 67th, but PAOK revived their hopes when Kostas Katsouranis flicked a back header into the net with 11 minutes left.

Schalke finally settled the tie in the last minute when Draxler set up Hungary forward Szalai to score from close range.

"We make it difficult for ourselves," said Schalke coach Jens Keller. "We let too many goals in these days. These are mistakes that should not happen. But what matters is that we are through."

Vienna became the first Austrian side to qualify for the group stage in eight years as they survived a torrid evening at home to Dinamo, who sacked coach Krunoslav Jurcic after losing the first leg 2-0.

It looked a formality for the hosts when Florian Mader scored with a deflected free kick in the sixth minute, but instead Dinamo took control and turned the game around before halftime with goals from Marcelo Brozovic and Junior Fernandes.—*Reuters*

PAOK Salonika's Giannis Skondras (C) is tackled by Schalke 04's Atsuto Uchida (R) during their Champions League soccer match in the city of Thessaloniki on 27 Aug, 2013. Reuters

Barkley and Townsend named in England squad

London, 28 Aug— Young midfielders Ross Barkley and Andros Townsend were named on Tuesday in the England squad for World Cup qualifiers against Moldova and Ukraine.

Everton's Barkley, 19, and Tottenham Hotspur's Townsend, 22, received their first senior call-ups and Southampton forward Rickie Lambert was given another chance after scoring on his debut against Scotland two weeks ago.

Liverpool striker Daniel Sturridge, who missed that match due to injury, was recalled to the squad and Celtic goalkeeper Fraser Forster replaced the injured Ben Foster. England face Moldova at Wembley on September 6 before travelling to Kiev to play Ukraine on 10 September.—*Reuters*

Fulham's Brede Hangeland (R) tackles Queens Park Rangers Andros Townsend during their English Premier League soccer match at Craven Cottage, London, on 1 April, 2013.—Reuters

Kondogbia set to leave Sevilla, expected in Monaco

Paris, 28 Aug— France midfielder Geoffrey Kondogbia is set to leave Sevilla after he told them that another club had agreed to pay his 20 million euros ($26.79 million) buyout clause, the la Liga side said on Tuesday.

The 20-year-old, who made his international debut with France two weeks ago after winning the Under-20 World Cup in July, could join French Ligue 1 club Monaco according to media reports.

Monaco have already splashed around 150 million euros to sign European greats including Radamel Falcao from Atletico Madrid and FC Porto pair James Rodriguez of Colombia and Joao Moutinho of Portugal.

Sevilla said on their website (www.sevillafc.es) Kondogbia was unilaterally rescinding his contract, which means he has agreed personal terms with the club willing to pay his clause.

"French midfielder Geoffrey Kondogbia is already history at Sevilla FC," the Spanish side said.

Kondogbia, a versatile midfielder with excellent passing skills, joined Sevilla last year from French second division club Lens. He made an immediate impact and eventually played 31 league games.—*Reuters*

France's Geoffrey Kondogbia challenges Uruguay's Nicolas Lopez (R) during the final match of the FIFA Under-20 tournament in Istanbul, on 13 July, 2013. Reuters

Ivanovic plays with heavy heart, advances at US Open

New York, 28 Aug— Former world number one Ana Ivanovic made a strong start at the US Open on Tuesday but said she was playing with a heavy heart after hearing about the drowning death of a childhood friend back home in Serbia.

Vukasin Ziramov, 25, died last week after jumping off a bridge into a river while on an outing with friends in Senta.

"It's been very sad news," Ivanovic, the 13th seed at Flushing Meadows, told reporters after her 6-2, 6-0 rout of Anna Tatishvili of Georgia.

"It was very hard because it was almost like my relative. We grew up, and I knew him since we were kids. It's very, very sad."

On the court, Ivanovic showed the positive effects of working with a new Serbian conditioning and coaching team she took on after Wimbledon as she works her way back after a disappointing stretch in her career.

The 25-year-old Serb, who rose to the top ranking in women's tennis in 2008 after winning the French Open, had dropped to 22 in the rankings in 2011.

Ivanovic ranked 15th heading to Flushing Meadows.

"I was playing really well and I had a few tough losses," Ivanovic said about a hardcourt build-up that included a three-set loss to Victoria Azarenka in Carlsbad, a third-set tiebreaker loss to China's Li Na in Toronto and a three-set loss France's Alize Cornet in Cincinnati.

"I'm very confident with the game and the way I was playing," she said, adding she was concentrating on conditioning and making her serve and forehand more dominant.—*Reuters*

Ana Ivanovic of Serbia hits a return to Anna Tatishvili of Georgia at the US Open tennis championships in New York on 27 Aug, 2013.—Reuters

GENERAL

UN Human Rights chief visits Sri Lanka

COLOMBO, 28 Aug—UN High Commissioner for Human Rights Navi Pillay visited parts of the final battle zone in Sri Lanka's north on Tuesday.

Among the areas she visited was Mullivaikal, which was where civilians were believed to have been killed during the war between the Tamil Tiger rebels and the military. Pillay also visited the northern town of Jaffna and met government officials as well as civil society members.

Meanwhile at least two demonstrations were held during Pillay' s visit to Jaffna. The demonstrators urged Pillay through placards and posters to look into their family members reported missing during and after the war.

Pillay, who is on a seven day visit to Sri Lanka, said on Sunday that following her visit she will be reporting on the human rights situation in Sri Lanka to the UN Human Rights Council in Geneva. Pillay said that she is not visiting Sri Lanka to criticize the country but to look into human rights concerns. She said that she wants to see if the government is complying with the human rights standards set to the whole world and accepted by the Sri Lankan government.—*Xinhua*

A woman shows her ink-stained finger after voting for municipal elections at a polling station in Amman, Jordan, on 27 Aug, 2013.—XINHUA

Ghana's political parties play soccer to pledge peace before court verdict on election

ACCRA, 28 Aug—Ghana's political parties played here a football match with former national football team players on Tuesday to pledge peace and unity before the Supreme Court makes on Thursday the final verdict on the 2012 presidential election petition.

Participating in the "Political Tolerance Soccer Gala" were more than 40 members from at least seven political parties, including the ruling National Democratic Congress (NDC) and the main opposition New Patriotic Party (NPP).

Despite of the great disparity, the two teams still won applause for the professional players and the politicians at the Accra Sports Stadium.

"We are here because every one of us believes in peace and peace building. Our same dream is a stable, united, peaceful, Ghana to move forward and showcase democracy for Africa." NDC's national chairman Dr Kwabena Adjei told *Xinhua*.

"This football game is to send a signal to the whole world that we can live in peace. We can also contest one another in politics and still be peacefully," said Hassan Ayariga, the flag bearer of the People's National Convention (PNC).

In December, the presidential election was held peacefully and led to the swearing in of President John Dramani Mahama. But the NPP went to court seeking to overturn the declaration of the Electoral Commission for what it claimed irregularities and the breaking of the law during the election.—*Xinhua*

MYANMAR TV

(29-8-2013, Thursday)

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

6:20 am
2. Mytta Pawana By Min Gun Sayadaw

6:35 am
3. Physical Exercises

6:40 am
4. Song of National Races

7:00 am
5. News/Weather Report

7:20 am
6. People Talks

8:00 am
8. News/International News

8:25 am
9. My Mind Game My SEA Games

9:00 am
10. News/International News

9:25 am
11. Nine Precepts

9:45 am
12. Mono Classical Songs

10:00 am
13. News

10:15 am
14. Kyae Pwint Myaye Yin Khone Than

10:50 am
15. Documentary

11:15 am
16. Sing & Enjoy

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

12:25 pm
18. Myanmar Video

2:10 pm
19. Documentary

3:00 pm
21. News

3:15 pm
22. Fine Arts-Boson of Dramatic Performance

4:00 pm
23. News

4:15 pm
24. Dance of National Races

4:45 pm
25. University of Distance Education (TV Lectures) -First Year (Law)

5:00 pm
26. News

5:15 pm
27. Documentary (SEA Games)

6:00 pm
28. News/Weather Report

6:20 pm
29. Approaching Science Discovery World

7:00 pm
30. News

7:25 pm
31. TV Drama Series

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

8:35 pm
33. Pyi Thu Ni Ti

8:45 pm
34. Documentary

9:00 pm
35. News
36. Clever
37. TV Drama Series

MYANMAR INTERNATIONAL

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

* Local News
* Myanmar Social & Charitable Association (Episode-1) Mingalar Byauha
* World News
* Popa Flat-topped Hill (Taung-Ka-Lat)
* Local News
* Tapestry-A Unique Combination Of Painting and Craftsmanship
* World News
* Myanmar Invites You
* Local News
* Me And My Travel (Pyin Oo Lwin) (Episode-1)
* World News
* Wholesale Fish
* Local News
* Snow Flakes…Scenic Confluence…To Kachin State
* World News
* (Herbal Medicine By Thurein) (Alove Vera)
* 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 Sopts (Episode-11)
* World News
* Traditional Snack
* Local News
* A Highland with Peace and Charm
* World News
* Myanmar Sculpture-work of Art

Federer and Djokovic cruise, Stosur stunned at US Open

NEW YORK, 28 Aug—A teenage American girl with a squeaky voice and an incredible tale of survival stole the spotlight at the US Open on Tuesday with a stunning upset win over the former champion, Sam Stosur.

While Roger Federer and Novak Djokovic and the rest of the sport's old order calmly went about their business, 17-year-old Victoria Duval became the toast of New York.

Making her second appearance in a grand slam event against the Australian who beat Serena Williams in the final just two years ago, the pint-sized Duval clawed and fought her way to a 5-7, 6-4, 6-4 first-round win.

Samantha Stosur of Australia walks off the court after losing her first round match to Victoria Duval of the US at the US Open tennis championships in New York, on 27 Aug, 2013. REUTERS

It was a remarkable performance but made all the more astonishing because of her background.

When she was seven years old, Duval was taken hostage by robbers at her aunt's house in Haiti, a terrifying incident that convinced her parents, both doctors, to move back to the United States.

"It's not a good memory, so I try to forget as much as I could about it. I don't remember too much of it anymore, which is great," she told reporters.

In 2010, her father was buried alive in the Haiti earthquake. He survived by digging himself out but suffered serious injuries, including broken legs, broken ribs and a punctured lung.

Duval took to tennis instantly and has quickly risen through the American junior ranks but Tuesday's win was by far her biggest.

With her family watching from courtside and chants of "U-S-A!" echoing around the Louis Armstrong Stadium, Duval had to battle all the way to beat the vastly more-experienced Stosur.

"I think I'm very much of a child at heart ... (but) on the court, you have to be a warrior because that's just the sport we are in," she said.

Stosur paid tribute to Duval, saying she deserved the win, but said she had contributed to her own downfall with a whopping 56 unforced errors.

"I'm not going to be a sore loser and say she didn't do anything," said Stosur. "But, you know, I think I certainly helped her out there today, that's for sure." Federer and Djokovic blasted their way into the second round with ruthless efficiency, crushing their hapless opponents in straight sets.

Reuters

Roger Federer of Switzerland reacts after his win over Grega Zemlja of Slovenia at the US Open tennis championships in New York on 27 Aug, 2013.—REUTERS

Novak Djokovic of Serbia comes to the net against Ricardas Berankis of Lithuania during their first round match at the US Open tennis championships in New York, on 27 Aug, 2013.—REUTERS

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A&I Ministry allows six groups of pesticides

Speaker of Pyithu Hluttaw Thura U Shwe Mann at today's session.—MNA

NAY PYI TAW, 28 Aug—Deputy Minister for Agriculture and Irrigation U Ohn Than replied to the question on safety use of legally permitted pesticides raised by U Sai Win Khaing of Hsenwi Constituency at today's session of Pyithu Hluttaw.

The deputy minister answered that the ministry has promulgated the Pesticides Law and legally allowed six pesticide groups. Action is to be taken over illegally imported pesticides. Training courses on systematic use of pesticide have been conducted to the pesticide traders and farmers. Moreover, pamphlets on use of pesticides have been distributed in Shan and Pa-O languages to the users. Cherry radio also broadcasts educative talks on pesticides.

"Our country has 70 per cent of farmers among the population. Many farmers lost lives due to lack of knowledge in usage of pesticides. Farmer educative works should be given on a wider scale. Radio programmes should be aired through Wa, Palaung and Kokang languages in Shan State. Moreover, region and state governments should keenly disseminate usage of pesticide," said MP U Soe Win Khaing.

With regard to the question on long standing of honest judge raised by MP Daw Le Le Win Shwe of Tamway Constituency, Judge of Supreme Court of the Union U Soe Nyunt explained matters related to the case of Judge U Min Thaw Htwe from Ayadaw Township and punishment for his malpractices, and actual situation over civil case 26/2012 submitted by Daw Than Than Aye.

In today's session, approval was sought from the Hluttaw that one Pyithu Hluttaw committee was renamed, terms of 18 committees extended, reassignment, transfer and assignment of committee members, reassignment and assignment of commission members.

Today's Hluttaw session came to an end in the afternoon.

MNA

ADB, Japan to assist in improving statistics collection in Myanmar

MANILA, 28 Aug—The government of Myanmar will use a $ 1.2 million Technical Assistance grant from the Japan Fund for Poverty Reduction (JFPR), administered by the Asian Development Bank (ADB), to strengthen institutional, strategic, and technical capacity for collecting better statistics to chart the country's development and progress.

The grant will fund strengthening the institutional and legal framework by updating the country's statistics law, bringing statistics collection up to international standards, and improving collection, compilation and timely dissemination of national data.

The grant will assist in compiling quality economic statistic based on international standards, strengthening technical skills of government statisticians and implementing training of trainers through short and long-term training programs. A training unit will also be established in the Central Statistical Organization to meet basic training needs of the statistics staff.

The Ministry of National Planning and Economic Development is the executing agency for the technical assistance to be implemented over a period of two years until August 2015. The JFPR was set up by the Government of Japan in 2000. As of 31 December 2012, the cumulative JFPR funds made available totaled about $ 561.5 million. ADB had approved 154 grant projects ($ 413.5 million equivalent), and 111 technical assistance projects ($ 110.6 million equivalent).

Moe Thu

Union Chief Justice leaves for PRC

NAY PYI TAW, 28 Aug—Chief Justice of the Union U Tun Tun Oo left Yangon this afternoon for the People's Republic of China to attend the Legal Protection Forum for Investment Cooperation in China-ASEAN Free Trade Area to be held in Nanning, China.

The Myanmar delegation was seen off at the Yangon International Airport by Chief Justice of Yangon Region High Court U Win Swe and the judges.

The Chief Justice of the Union was accompanied by Chief Justice of Shan State High Court U Kywe Kywe, Judge of Mandalay Region High Court Daw Khin Thin Wai and officials.

MNA

Myanmar Airways introduces Embraer E-190 jets for domestic flights

YANGON, 28 Aug—For the convenience of foreigners desirous to pay visit to Myanmar cultural heritage cities—Mandalay, NyaungU and Heho—Myanmar Airways and World Ticket Co from Denmark would introduce Embraer E-190 jet to ply Yangon-NyaungU-Mandalay-Heho-Yangon and Yangon-Heho-Mandalay-NyaungU-Yangon routes starting from 1 October.

With online service, air tickets are available at Myanmar Airways (Head office) and Sun Far Travels & Tours Co, Ayarwaddy Legend Travel & Tours Co, Unique Asia Travels Tours Co Ltd, Columbus Travels & Tours Co Ltd, Nice Fare Travel Co Ltd as of 1st September and visit WT Website https://sms.worldticket.net/myanmaairways/sms-airline/selma.html.

MNA

Amyotha Hluttaw approves Myanmar National Human Rights Commission Bill

NAY PYI TAW, 28 Aug—The Myanmar National Human Rights Commission Bill was approved at today's Amyotha Hluttaw Session.

Secretary of Amyotha Hluttaw Relief and Victims Care Committee Major Myint Sein submitted its report (1/2013) on providing cash and kind to flood victims in Kayin and Mon States, at today's Amyotha Hluttaw Session.

Regarding the bill, MP U Saw Maw Tun of Bago Region Constituency No.1 said that we all welcome the emergence of that bill. I found it that additional points can protect the human rights situation, bringing more benefits to the State and the people.

It is learnt that MP U Zone Hle Htan of Chin State Constituency No.2 sent a letter on the measures for the landslide victims in Zarlaing village of Falam Township, China State to the Amyotha Hluttaw Relief and Victims Care Committee. Five MPs held discussions on the Media Bill which was submitted by MP U Phone Myint Aung of Yangon Region Constituency No.3. MP Daw Khin Waing Kyi of Yangon Region Constituency No.1 discussed that the council members should be between 15-30, compared with those in Indonesia and India. She approved the right to information and the rest of the bill.

MP U Zone Hle Htan of Chin State Constituency No.2 discussed that non-profit media are carrying out the publishing in national races languages in the rural areas that have no access to print media. It is not economically viable as market size is very small. The Section 27 should be abolished in consideration of rural people's knowledge.

The 28th day session will continue on 30 August.

MNA

Speaker of Amyotha Hluttaw U Khin Aung Myint at today's session.—MNA

Myanmar, China focus on cooperation in media sector

NAY PYI TAW, 28 Aug—A Chinese journalist delegation led by Ms Zhang Xia, Editor-in-Chief of Overseas Edition of China Daily from All-China Journalists Union, called on Deputy Minister for Information U Pike Htwe at the Ministry of Information at 10 am today.

They discussed efforts for development of Myanmar's media sector, progress of public service media, and potentials for cooperation in media sector between Myanmar and China.

The Chinese delegation met member of Nay Pyi Taw Development Committee U Than Oo at the Nay Pyi Taw City Hall at 11 am and enquired about present undertakings of the committee. After visiting Gems Museum and Water Fountain Garden in Nay Pyi Taw, they paid homage to Thatta Thattaha Maha Bawdi Pagoda in Uttarathiri Township.

MNA

Deputy Information Minister U Pike Htwe holds talks with Ms Zhang Xia, Editor-in-Chief of Overseas Edition of China Daily from All-China Journalists Union.—MNA