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President U Thein Sein felicitates Malaysian King, PM

NAY PYI TAW, 31 Aug—U Thein Sein, President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar, has sent messages of felicitations to His Majesty Almu' Tasimu Billahi Muhibbuddin Tuanku Alhaj Abdul Halim Mu' adzam Shah ibni Almarhum Sultan Badlishah, the Yang di Pertuan Agong of Malaysia XIV and His Excellency Dato' Sri Mohd Najib bin Tun Haji Abdul Razak, Prime Minister of Malaysia, on the occasion of the 56th Anniversary of the Independence Day of Malaysia which falls on 31 August 2013.—*MNA*

Findings and suggestions on Comprehensive Education Sector Review (CESR) clarified

NAY PYI TAW, 30 Aug—A ceremony to clarify findings and suggestions on Comprehensive Education Sector Review (CESR) (1) was held at Myanmar International Convention Center (MICC) here this morning, with an address by Vice-President Dr Sai Mauk Kham.

In his speech, Vice-President Dr Sai Mauk Kham said that the new government led by the President is making sweeping reforms in education, health and social sectors through the principles for people-centered approach. And the government is implementing long-term projects for the emergence of life-long learning society, having equal access to education and emergence of the center of excellence.

Under the exchange programme, Yangon University, Yangon Institute of Economics and Mandalay University which are members of ASEAN Universities Network are jointly making cooperation in courses, discussions and research with other member countries.

As of 2012-2013 academic year, scholarships and stipends for basic education and universities have been granted. The State is annually increasing

(See page 9)

Mr. Vijay Nambiar meets all faiths in Meiktila

NAY PYI TAW, 30 Aug—"Reconciliation can be fostered through friendly cooperation between interfaith and dialogue is good hope for future," said UN Secretary-General's special advisor on Myanmar Mr. Vijay Nambiar in meeting with interfaith at communications guest house in Paukchaung Ward in Meiktila yesterday evening.

He continued that he visited Meiktila after the violence and requested the two communities to be restraint and urged them to maintain peaceful coexistence. He pointed out the importance of cooperation in rehabilitation and warned them to prevent misunderstandings in order to ensure peaceful coexistence not only among families but also for the country.

The religious leaders and townselders took part in the discussions. They said that they coordinate with departments concerned not to occur similar event in Meiktila. They said all one to live in amity and peaceful co-existence. They said that it is satisfactory for concerted efforts of interfaith. Action should be taken over misunderstanding activities. They suggested that all should work to do anything under coordination.

The meeting was attended by the religious leaders, townselders and officials concerned.

Yesterday evening, Mr. Vijay Nambiar and party met with family members and members of religious association from relief camps in Yadana Manaung, Nandawgon, Chanayetha, Yanmyoaung and Ingon wards and No. 16 Basic Education Post-Primary School and gave encouragements to them.

MNA

***UN Secretary-General's special advisor on Myanmar Mr. Vijay Nambiar meets with interfaith at communications guest house in Meiktila.*—MNA**

President U Thein Sein's radio message on air

NAY PYI TAW, 30 Aug—A radio message to be delivered by U Thein Sein, President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar, will be broadcast through radio programmes from 1 to 3 September. Myanma Radio, Mandalay FM, Pyinsawady FM, Shwe FM, Cherry FM, Padamya FM, FM Bagan and Thazin Radio will broadcast the message at 7 am, 11 am, 6 pm and 8 pm.

MNA

***Vice-President Dr Sai Mauk Kham addresses ceremony to clarify findings and suggestions on CESR.*—MNA**

Aungmingala Bus Terminal sees progress

A plan is underway to complete roads in Aungmingala Highway Bus Terminal in Yangon in coming December, according to the Revenue Department under the Yangon City Development Committee.

Seven roads of 20 were upgraded in August. If the weather is fine, all the tasks would be completed by 2013, said Deputy Head of the department U Nyan Tun Aung.

"Some of roads will be expanded and some repaired. We set a plan to complete all 20 roads in December. Except bad climatic conditions, we will overcome all the difficulties," he added.

Under the guidance of the Yangon Mayor, 22 feet wide Aungmingala Road is being upgraded to 72 feet wide one. Upon completion, all the roads will be used as two ways system. It will be a solution to traffic congestion in the terminal, said an official of the in-charge office of terminal.

Two time sessions—the arrival from 3 am to 7 am and the departure from 2.30 pm to 7 pm—are the most traffic congestion in the terminal.

As of 19 August, the arrival terminal has been launched for the express buses. Moreover, the plan has been set to construct a departure terminal.

On completion of both arrival and departure terminals, the Aungmingala express terminal will become an international standard bus terminal in the nation, said those in the transport services at the terminal.

Byline: Ye Khaung, Myat Thanda Maung; Photo: Po Htaung

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LOCAL NEWS

Paper-reading session marks centennial of Mandalay University Vice-Chancellor

MANDALAY, 30 Aug— In commemoration of the centennial anniversary of Vice-Chancellor Sayagyi U Ko Lay who founded Mandalay University, meals and alms were offered to members of the Sangha at Mandalay University Dhammayon on 22 August morning.

On 23 August, a paper-reading session on biography of the Sayagyi and literature created by the Sayagyi was held at the convocation hall of the university.

Director-General (Rtd) of Upper Myanmar Higher Education Department Dr Thein Myint spoke introduction to the biography of the founder.

Myanmar Professor (Rtd) U Tin Myint read the paper on reviews on three books on Myanmar's politics, Professor (Rtd) U Han Tint, on the capabilities of Sayagyi in literature creation, History Professor Dr Sai Naw Khat on the book review on King Thibaw and New York Times daily written by Sayagyi U Kyo Lay and Professor U San Myint on translation capability of the Sayagyi.—*Kyemon-Thiha Ko Ko (Mandalay)*

Htangon station under maintenance for rural development

KANBALU, 30 Aug— Shwebo-Mohnyin railroad section was put into service in 1893. The railroad section comprises 31 railway stations that turn more than 100 years. Of them, Htangon station is contributing to development of rural people relying on railroad.

Htangon Village is engaged in agriculture and livestock breeding. Products of the villages are transported to various regions and states by train and car. Before building the rural road, the local people relied only on railroad.

As Myanma Railways Division 2 (Ywahtaung) is carrying out maintenance of the railroads and rail tracks spending the fund allotted in 2013-2014 fiscal year, the railroad of the Htangon Station has been substituted with new concrete sleepers and gravels for ensuring smooth transportation of the passenger trains and wagons.

"About 150 passengers and commodities are being transported to Upper Myanmar.

In addition, chicken bred in the region is also transported to the upper areas," said the station superintendent of Htangon Station.

U Kyaw Win of Htangon Village said, "We thank Myanma Railways for maintenance of the railway station."

The overseer of the railroad section said, "Our railroad section is constituted with 74 railway stations. We organize the local people to maintain the respective stations."

Kyemon-Min Chan Mon

HRD

Vocational training courses for women commence in Haka

HAKA, 30 Aug— Women's Vocational Training School has been turning out trainees with vocational courses in Haka of Chin State.

The school opened the basic domestic training course No 53/2013, advanced tailoring course No 36/2013 and basic weaving course No 22/2013 at its hall on 26 August.

Speaking on the occasion, Chief Minister of Chin State U Hong Ngai said that understanding the goodwill of the government that gives priority to the human resource development of local women by providing vocational courses, the female trainees are to abide by the disciplines of the training courses and try their best in learning the training courses.

Also present on the occasion were Chin State level officials, departmental officials and course instructors.

Altogether 50 trainees from Haka and Thantlang townships are attending the 14 weeks course.

Kyemon-Chin State IPRD

Anti-Narcotic Drives

1.5 million pseudo-ephedrine tablets seized in Kalay

NAY PYI TAW, 30 Aug— Pseudo-ephedrine tablets worth over hundreds of million kyats were seized in Kalay of Sagaing Region on 24 August.

A combined team comprising members of Kalay District Police Force and Kalay Anti-Drug Special Squad searched the fuel bowser driven by Kyaw Naing Win together with Htet Naing Lin hearing for Kalay from Tamu at Indainggyi toll gate in Kalay Township at 6.15 pm.

The policemen seized 1.5 million pseudo-ephedrine worth K 154 million used in making narcotic drugs in the empty fuel barren on the vehicle.—*Kyemon-Maung Maung Min*

Using visa to cross Myanmar-Thai border launched

KAWTHOUNG, 30 Aug— The opening ceremony of commence using visa to cross Myanmar-Thai border by Immigration and National Registration Department under the Ministry of Immigration and Population was held at Myoma Jetty in Kawthoung on 28 August morning.

It was attended by Taninthayi Region Minister for Security and Border Affairs Col Zaw Lwin, Region Minister for Development Affairs U Aung Kyaw Kyaw Oo, the Deputy Commissioner of Ranong District of Thailand, the commanding officer of No. 25th battalion of Thailand, responsible persons of Ranong Commerce Industry and Myanmar departmental officials.

Staff Officer of Kawthoung District INRD U Win Bo explained immigration matters of foreigners through border gates.

Head of Taninthayi Region INRD U Hsan Lwin and Deputy Commissioner of Kawthoung District U Kyaw Swa Tun formally opened the ceremony.

Officials from both sides and guests crossed the border and visited the office of the border cross camp.

Foreigners can take visa from Myanmar embassies in respective countries to pass the border gates such as Tachilek-Maesai, Myawady-Mae Sot, Kawthoung-Ranong and Htikhee-Namphurawn of Dawei region as of 28 August.

Kyemon-Kyaw Soe

Anti-Human Trafficking

Talks on prevention against trafficking in person held in Nyaunglebin

Commander of Township Police Force Police Major Tin Aung gives talks on prevention against trafficking in person.

NYAUNGLEBIN, 30 Aug—Organized by Nyaunglebin Township Police Force of Bago Region, the talks on prevention against trafficking in person was held at the hall of Basic Education High School No. 1 in Nyaunglebin on 28 August morning.

At first, Township Administrator U Thihan Soe made a speech.

Commander of Township Police Force Police Major Tin Aung explained taking care of the criminal cases, in-charge of Bago Region Traffic Police Corp Police Major Htein Win, traffic rules, Nyaunglebin Township Police Station Police Captain Thet Lwin crime reduction, IP Maung Maung Win of Bago Region Anti-Human Trafficking Squad prevention against trafficking in person.

Township Education Officer Daw Naw Chit May spoke words of thanks. Later, pamphlets were distributed to those present.

Also present at the talks were Chairperson of Township Women's Affairs Organization Daw Moe Moe Aye and members, departmental personnel, social organizations and students.

Nay Lin (Nyaunglebin)

WORLD

Britain says no to Syria intervention as US considers actions

Britain's Prime Minister David Cameron is seen addressing the House of Commons in this still image taken from video in London on 29 Aug, 2013.—Reuters

London/Beirut, 30 Aug — Britain will not join any military action against Syria after a stunning parliamentary defeat on Thursday of a government motion on the issue, dealing a setback to US-led efforts to punish Damascus over the use of chemical weapons against civilians.

Following a 285-272 vote against a motion by British Prime Minister David Cameron to authorize a military response in principle, British Defence Secretary Philip Hammond confirmed Britain would not be involved in any action against Syria.

Hammond said key ally Washington would be disappointed that Britain "will not be involved," although adding, "I don't expect that the lack of British participation will stop any action.

But he told BBC TV, "It's certainly going to place some strain on the special relationship," referring to ties with Washington.

US officials suggested President Barack Obama would be willing to proceed with limited actions against Syria even without specific promises of allied support because US national security interests are at stake.

"President Obama's decision-making will be guided by what is in the best interests of the United States," White House spokeswoman Caitlin Hayden said in a statement after the British vote. "He believes that there are core interests at stake for the United States and that countries who violate international norms regarding chemical weapons need to be held accountable."

She added, "The US will continue to consult with the UK government - one of our closest allies and friends."—*Reuters*

US envoy set to leave Friday on mission to free American in North Korea

Tokyo, 30 Aug — A US envoy was set to leave Japan on Friday to secure the release of an imprisoned and ailing American missionary in North Korea, a move that could signal the start of a gradual thaw in relations between Washington and Pyongyang.

Robert King, special envoy for North Korean human rights issues, is scheduled to return from Pyongyang on Saturday after a one-day trip, an official at the US Embassy in Tokyo said. The official was unable to specify exact times.

The State Department has termed the trip a "humanitarian mission" and played down any connection between Bae's release and the North's sanctioned nuclear weapons programme, although the planned release follows a pattern of previous periods of tension and thaws.

King secured the release of another Korean-American missionary, Jung Young Su, in 2011 as part of a trip to assess North Korean pleas for food aid.

Relations between Washington and Pyongyang have been in deep freeze since the collapse of a food deal in early 2012, when North Korea broke its promise to end its long-range rocket launches and prevented nuclear inspectors from examining its nuclear stockpiles and production.

Bae, 45, was sentenced to 15 years hard labour for attempting to overthrow the North Korean state by spreading anti-government propaganda, according to North Korean media. His health has deteriorated since he was jailed and he has diabetes.

Reuters

Robert King, US special envoy for North Korean human rights issues, holds a meeting with Japan's Minister-in-Charge of the Abduction Issue and head of the national public safety commission Keiji Furuya (not in picture) in Tokyo on 28 Aug, 2013.—Reuters

Asia-Pacific ministers seek "practical measures" to avoid conflicts at sea

Bandar Seri Begawan, 30 Aug — The defence ministers or representatives of ASEAN and eight countries — Japan, the United States, China, Russia, India, South Korea, Australia and New Zealand — on Thursday said they agreed to establish "practical measures" to avoid maritime conflicts in the region. In a joint declaration issued at the end of the one-day "ASEAN Defence Ministers' Meeting Plus, the ministers also stressed the need to renounce threats and the use of threats in dealing with security issues plaguing the region.

Thursday's four-hour talks covered maritime security and ways to tighten defence and military cooperation among the 10 ASEAN members and their eight "dialogue partners," committing to enhance peace and security in the Asia-Pacific region. Brunei's Energy Minister Yasmin Haji Umar, who chaired the meeting, said the ministers "forged practical cooperation among the defence forces."

"We look forward to the upcoming exercise on maritime security, counter-terrorism and peacekeeping operation," he told a news conference, stressing the need to "emphasize the strategic importance of the ADMM-Plus and the need to cooperate closer." The declaration signed by the defence ministers or representatives said they discussed ways on how to "encourage the cooperation within the ADMM-Plus defence and military establishments to establish practical measures to reduce vulnerability to miscalculations, and avoid misunderstanding and undesirable incidents at sea."

Kyodo News

Japanese Defence Minister Itsunori Onodera (facing) and Chinese Defence Minister Chang Wanquan (R) have a brief conversation in Bandar Seri Begawan, Brunei, on 28 Aug, 2013, at a dinner ahead of a meeting of defence ministers from the Association of Southeast Asian Nations and other countries.—Kyodo News

Syrian army moves Scud missiles to avoid strike

Amman, 30 Aug — President Bashar al-Assad's forces have removed several Scud missiles and dozens of launchers from a base north of Damascus, possibly to protect the weapons from a Western attack, opposition sources said on Thursday.

The move from the position in the foothills of the Qalamoun mountains, one of Syria's most heavily militarized districts, appears part of a precautionary but limited redeployment of armaments in areas of central Syria still held by Assad's forces, diplomats based in the Middle East told *Reuters*.

They said rebel raids and fighting near key roads had blocked a wider evacuation of the hundreds of security and army bases that dot the country of 22 million, where Assad's late father imposed his autocratic dynasty four decades ago.

With US air strikes looming in response to poison gas attacks last week on rebel-held Damascus suburbs, some of the formations on the move are accused by Assad's opponents of firing the chemical weapons. The Syrian government blames rebels for releasing gas but Western powers hold Assad responsible.

Reuters

Syria's President Bashar al-Assad (C) chats with military personnel during his visit to a military site in the town of Daraya, southwest of Damascus, on the 68th anniversary of army day, in this handout photograph distributed by Syria's national news agency SANA on 1 Aug, 2013.
Reuters

Egypt arrests senior Brotherhood member ahead of Islamist protests

Cairo, 30 Aug — Egyptian police arrested a wanted senior member of the Muslim Brotherhood ahead of the group's massive protests aiming to reinstate Mohamed Morsi as president, official news agency *MENA* reported on Thursday. The security forces arrested Mohamed al-Beltagi in a small apartment in Tersa District in Giza governorate, along with Khaled al-Azhary, the former minister of manpower and immigration.

Beltagi has been transferred to Tora prison in southern Cairo, where many other Muslim Brotherhood leaders are detained.

Known as the president of Rabaa Square where pro-Morsi protesters had rallied for fifty days, Beltagi was the latest Brotherhood leader detained in a wide-ranging crackdown on the Islamist movement.

In early July, prosecutors had issued a warrant for Beltagi on the charge of inciting violence. Then he was referred in absentia to a criminal court on the same charge as well as for murdering peaceful anti-Morsi protesters. In a pre-recorded video aired by Al-Jazeera TV Thursday, the Brotherhood leader urged Morsi's loyalists to be patient and resistant.

He stressed Morsi's supporters are defending the people's right to live a free and dignified life and their will to choose their leader, condemning on what he described as a "military coup" that led to the ouster of Morsi.

The arrest came one day before the massive protests called by the National Alliance for Supporting Legitimacy, a pro-Morsi bloc, in an attempt to press for the reinstatement of the "legitimate leader."

The alliance, comprising 33 Islamic movements including the Brotherhood, also announced a "peaceful civil disobedience plan" which will start from Friday.—*Xinhua*

SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY

Ariane 5 launches with two communications satellites

PARIS, 30 Aug—An *Ariane 5* rocket took off Thursday at 22:30 local time (20:30 GMT) from the Space Centre in Kourou, French Guiana, and carrying two communications satellites.

This is the fourth launch of the *Ariane 5* in 2013, which had put into orbit the *EUTELSAT* satellite *25B/Es' hail 1* and *GSAT-7*, said statement released by the European launch company Arianespace.

According to Arianespace, *EUTELSAT 25B/Es'hail 1*—a groundbreaking partnership between Eutelsat and the Doha-based Es'hailSat, the Qatar Satellite Company—marked a historic moment for the Qatari operator as it is the first satellite of its planned global fleet.

Operating from a position of 25.5 deg. East, *EUTELSAT 25B/Es'hail 1*, will provide coverage of the Middle East, North Africa and Central Asia for both Eutelsat and Es'hailSat, delivering Ku-band television broadcasting, telecommunications and government services for this area, while its Ka-band capability will open new business opportunities for the two operators. The *GSAT-7*, developed by the Indian Space Research Organization is based on India's *I-2K* spacecraft bus and will provide relay capacity in UHF, S-band, C-band and Ku-band from 74 deg. East longitude for the Indian subcontinent, during its design life of seven years.

Xinhua

NASA's Mars rover spies solar eclipse

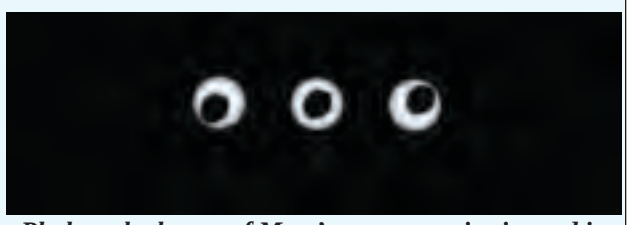
CAPE CANAVERAL, (Florida), 30 Aug—NASA's Mars rover *Curiosity* turned its cameras skyward to snap pictures of the planet's moon, Phobos, passing in front of the sun, images released on Thursday show.

Curiosity landed on Mars in August 2012 for a two-year mission to determine if the planet most like Earth in the solar system has, or ever had, the chemical ingredients for life. It struck pay dirt in its first analysis of powder drilled out from inside a once water-soaked piece of bedrock.

The rover is now enroute to its primary hunting ground, a three-mile (5-km) high mountain of layered sediment called Mount Sharp. It paused on 17 August to snap pictures of Mars' larger moon, Phobos, making a dash in front of the sun. NASA released three pictures, taken three seconds apart, of the eclipse, taken with the rover's telephoto lens.

"This one is by far the most detailed image of any Martian lunar transit ever taken. It was even closer to the sun's centre than predicted, so we learned something," Curiosity scientist Mark Lemmon of Texas A&M University said in a statement. Curiosity is scheduled to moonlight as an astronomer again in September and October when it tries to catch a glimpse of the approaching Comet ISON.

Reuters



Phobos, the larger of Mars' two moons, is pictured in the midst of an annular eclipse of the sun on 17 Aug, 2013 in this combination of three handout photographs taken three seconds apart by NASA's Curiosity rover from the surface of Mars.

REUTERS

Facebook considers adding profile photos to facial recognition

SAN FRANCISCO, 30 Aug —Facebook Inc is considering incorporating most of its 1 billion-plus members' profile photos into its growing facial recognition database, expanding the scope of the social network's controversial technology. The possible move, which Facebook revealed in an update to its data use policy on Thursday, is intended to improve the performance of its "Tag Suggest" feature. The feature uses facial recognition technology to speed up the process of labeling or "tagging" friends and acquaintances who appear in photos posted on the network.

The technology currently automatically identifies faces in newly uploaded photos by comparing them only to previous snapshots in which users were tagged. Facebook users can choose to remove tags identifying them in photos posted by others on the site. The changes would come at a time when Facebook and other Internet companies' privacy practices are under scrutiny, following the revelations of a US government electronic surveillance programme.

Facebook, Google Inc and other companies have insisted that they have never participated in any programme giving the government direct access to their computer servers and that they only provide information in response to specific requests, after careful review and as required by law. Facebook Chief Privacy Officer Erin Egan said that adding members' public profile photos would give users better control over their personal information, by making it easier to identify posted photos in which they appear."Our goal is to facilitate tagging so that people know when there are photos of them on our service," Egan said.

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

She stressed that Facebook users uncomfortable with facial recognition technology will still be able to "opt out" of the Tag Suggest feature altogether, in which case the person's public profile photo would not be included in the facial recognition database.Facial recognition technology has been a sensitive issue for technology companies, raising concerns among some privacy advocates and government officials.

Reuters

China's Xiaomi poaches Google's Barra to power global drive

SAN FRANCISCO, 30 Aug —Xiaomi Tech, a fast-growing Chinese maker of cheap smartphones, has hired senior Google Inc Android executive Hugo Barra to spearhead its nascent global expansion. Xiaomi founder Lei Jun said on his Weibo feed late on Wednesday that Barra, who led product development for Google's industry-leading Android mobile software, will join the Chinese company in October as head of international business development.

"Barra will be responsible for Xiaomi's global business expansion," Lei said on Weibo, a Twitter-like Chinese service. Xiaomi is known for portraying itself as China's answer to Apple Inc, an image its billionaire founder has fostered since he started the company in 2010. Lei often dresses in the black tops, jeans and sneakers favoured by the late Steve Jobs.

Along with fellow Chinese smartphone makers Huaweiand ZTE Corp, Xiaomi has aggressively seized market share by combining lower prices with quality gadgets, helping pressure margins and market share at Apple and Samsung.

Xiaomi's latest smartphone, the Hongmi, sells for $130, much less than the $770 iPhone 5 or the $470 for the latest Samsung Galaxy model, the market leader in China. Xiaomi sold more smartphones than Apple in the second quarter in China, the world's biggest smartphone market, according to IT consultancy Canalys.—*Reuters*

Hugo Barra, director of product management of Google, speaks during Google I/O 2012 Conference at Moscone Centre in San Francisco, California on 27 June, 2012. —REUTERS

Chinese researchers identify key protein behind depression

WASHINGTON, 30 Aug —Chinese researchers said on Thursday that they have identified a key protein in the brain responsible for the development of depression, offering a fresh avenue in the search for therapies to treat depression. Previous studies have found that cells in a brain region called lateral habenula (LHB) are hyperactive in depressed individuals, but scientists haven't known what triggers them.

Curious about molecular-scale activity in the LHB of depressed people, the researchers from the Shanghai Institutes for Biological Sciences, part of the Chinese Academy of Sciences, used a technique called quantitative proteomic screening to examine the proteins in the LHB tissue of regular rats and rats that had been depressed since birth.

The researchers reported in the US journal Science that a protein called CaM was nearly twice as abundant in the depressed rats. When the researchers gave depressed rats antidepressant drugs, not only depressive symptoms of the animals improved significantly, but also the amounts of the protein in the LHB tissue dropped significantly.

To understand what level of the protein might be required in the LHb to cause depressive behaviour, they injected variable levels of this protein into regular rats and mice using viral vectors and found LHb cell activity spiked in both animals. After 10 days, the researchers tested the engineered animals' attentiveness to sugar, a substance typically of interest to rodents, and also put them in forced swim tests to see how willing they were to fight to stay afloat. They found that animals with very high CaM levels showed less interest than their counterparts in the sugar, and exhibited less "fight" in the swim test — both symptoms of depression.

Furthermore, depressive symptoms were reversed when the researchers reduced CaM expression using a technique called RNA interference.

Xinhua

Daimler's Mercedes-Benz set to beef up sales network in China

CHENGDU, (China), 30 Aug—Daimler AG's Mercedes-Benz will try to reach deeper into China's inland-west region and small "lower-tier" cities for growth as part of a broader turnaround plan for the world's biggest auto market, according to people familiar with the matter. The initiative, due to be detailed by top Mercedes-Benz China executives at the Chengdu auto show on Friday, is a key component of Daimler's (DAIGn.DE) strategic plan to invest 2 billion euros ($2.67 billion) in China over the next two years.

The German brand aims to boost sales of Mercedes-Benz cars by a third to more than 300,000 cars a year by 2015, from this year's forecast sales of 230,000 cars. If achieved, the target would make China Mercedes-Benz's biggest market globally. Currently, China is the brand's No 3 market behind Germany and the United States. The sale network plan, according to two sources close to the company, calls for increasing the number of Mercedes-Benz dealer retail outlets to 300 covering more than 150 cities by the end of this year, compared with 285 the brand operates currently.

This year, Mercedes-Benz is aiming to add a total of 75 stores, about 45 percent of them sited in lower, third-tier and fourth-tier cities, the individuals said. In addition to Mercedes-Benz stores, the German auto maker currently has about 90 Smart dealer-shops. It was not clear how many additional Smart outlets Mercedes-Benz plans to add by year's end. One of the 20 new or upgraded products Mercedes-Benz plans to launch in China through 2015 is the E-class sedan specially redesigned for China, which the company is due to officially launch at the auto show in Chengdu, southwest China.

On Tuesday, Daimler's new China chief, Hubertus Troska, told reporters in Beijing about the planned new product blitz and noted Mercedes-Benz was going to expand its manufacturing capacity in Beijing, as part of an effort to make its cars more affordable and expand their appeal in China amid a slowdown in economic growth. In order to be the world's No 1 luxury auto brand by volume, which is Daimler's objective for Mercedes-Benz, Troska said the brand needed to improve its performance in China.

"If we are not more successful in China, then our goal of global position No 1 will be difficult to achieve," the German executive said in Beijing on Tuesday. "There is a recognition that we need to improve our performance in China vis-à-vis some of our competitors." One factor behind Mercedes-Benz's struggle in China was a lack of market coverage."If you compare us to our competitors, they cover more cities. They have more outlets," Troska said. "The expansion of dealer network and bringing more new products to market are going to drive our growth momentum."

Reuters

Hygiene, sanitation tied to small effects on growth

NEW YORK, 30 Aug—Children from poor regions with clean water, hygiene and sanitation programmes tend to be slightly taller than those who grow up in similar areas without such programmes, according to a new review. Kids ages four and younger who washed their hands, drank clean water or used well-maintained toilets—or some combination of the three - were on average 0.2 inches taller than those lacking such protocols, the findings show.

However, researchers led by Alan Dangour of the London School of Hygiene & Tropical Medicine reported that trend was not consistent among all 14 studies included in their review. "The absolute difference in height is not large, but stunting is associated with many negative health and economic outcomes," Dr Anna Bowen, a medical epidemiologist at the US Centres for Disease Control and Prevention, told *Reuters* Health in an email." Therefore increasing the median height of the population even slightly could have benefits," added Bowen, who was not involved in the new review.

All 14 studies were originally designed to test the effectiveness of water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH) interventions on the prevention of diarrhea and diseases among children in low-income countries. In 2011, the US and United Kingdom allocated a combined total of $626 million in aid for such interventions. Dangour and his colleagues were interested in whether those programmes had any secondary benefits on children's height and weight.In comparing children in regions that did and did not have the programmes, they found no WASH-related benefits on weight, but a small benefit on height, according to findings published by The Cochrane Collaboration, an international organization that evaluates medical research.—*Reuters*

US economy picks up pace on housing revival, consumption

WASHINGTON, 30 Aug—The real gross domestic product (GDP) of the United States expanded at an annual rate of 2.5 percent in the second quarter this year, the best performance since the third quarter of last year, boosted by ongoing recovery of US housing market and household consumption, showed figures from the Commerce Department on Thursday. It has beaten market expectations and is a welcome acceleration from an initial estimate of 1.7 percent released last month. In the first quarter of the year, the US real GDP grew at a meager 1.1 percent, the department said in a report.

The increase in real GDP in the second quarter primarily reflected positive contributions from personal consumption expenditures (PCE), exports, private inventory investment, nonresidential fixed investment, and residential fixed investment that were partly offset by a negative contribution from federal government spending, said the department. Real personal consumption expenditures increased 1.8 percent in the second quarter, with durable goods including motor vehicles leading the advance by growing 6.1 percent from April to June.

Personal consumption accounts for about 70 percent of the overall US economic activity, thus being the main engine of the nation's economic growth. With a housing market recovery, real residential fixed investment surged 12.9 percent in the second quarter, after increasing 12.5 percent in the first quarter, said the report.Experts held that US housing market started to gain ground since last year, boosted by pent-up demand, an improving job market and low mortgage rates.

"Very low mortgage rates and some improved availability of mortgage credit have provided a sizable boost to the demand for housing. That boost to demand from low mortgage rates and a relatively small inventory of homes on the market has resulted in rising house prices," David Stockton, a senior fellow at the Washington-based Peterson Institute for International Economics, told *Xinhua*, adding that prospective buyers are less fearful now of buying into a falling market against the backdrop of the firming of home prices.

Better export performance also helped support US economic growth. Real exports of goods and services increased 8.6 percent in the second quarter, compared with a decrease of 1.3 percent in the first quarter.

Xinhua

Nasdaq says software bug caused trading outage

NEW YORK, 30 Aug—Nasdaq OMX Group's (NDAQ.O) massive trading halt last week was due to a software bug and other internal technology issues triggered by problems at NYSE Euronext's (NYX.N) Arca exchange that led a key backup system to fail, the exchange operator said on Thursday.

Nasdaq said it was "deeply disappointed" by the three-hour outage on 22 August, and while it pointed to connection problems between rival NYSE's electronic exchange Arca and the Nasdaq-run system that receives all traffic on quotes and orders for Nasdaq stocks, it took ultimate responsibility for the glitch.

"Our backup system did not work," Bob Greifeld, Nasdaq's chief executive, said in an interview. "There was a bug in the system, it didn't fail over properly, and we need to work hard to make sure it doesn't happen again," he said, referring to the inability of the system to fully revert to backup mode. New York Stock Exchange parent NYSE declined to comment. Nasdaq said it was in the process of identifying potential design changes to make the Securities Information Processor, or SIP, more resilient, "including architectural improvements, information security, disaster recovery plans and capacity parameters."

A man walks past the Nasdaq MarketSite in New York's Times Square, on 23 Aug, 2013.— REUTERS

The exchange plans to present its initial recommendations for change to the SIP governing committee, made up of US exchanges and the Financial Industry Regulatory Authority, within 30 days. Nasdaq said that on the morning of 22 August, Arca connected and disconnected to the SIP more than 20 times, eating up capacity. It said the SIP's capacity was further eroded as Arca sent a stream of inaccurate stock symbols to the SIP, generating numerous rejection messages.

Each data port connecting to the SIP can handle 10,000 messages per second, Nasdaq said. But in this case, the traffic from Arca was more than double that, the exchange said.

"The confluence of these events vastly exceeded the SIP's planned capacity, which caused its failure and then revealed a latent flaw in the SIP's software code," the Nasdaq report said.—*Reuters*

WORLD

Gov't, TEPCO to reveal measures to address toxic water buildup in September

TOKYO, 30 Aug—The government and Tokyo Electric Power Co will present a clearer picture in September on ways to address the massive accumulation of radioactive water at the crippled Fukushima Daiichi nuclear power plant, a government official said on Thursday. "We hope to compile countermeasures for the contaminated water at the earliest possible date in September," the official said amid growing calls within the country for the situation to be dealt with swiftly under government leadership.

A national fishermen's organization pressed TEPCO the same day to ensure there will be no further leaks of radioactive water from the plant, where three reactors suffered meltdowns during the 2011 nuclear crisis.

"Your company's radioactive water management has failed," the National Federation of Fisheries Co-operative Associations told TEPCO President Naomi Hirose after it summoned him to its office in Tokyo.

"We want the problem to be fundamentally resolved as early as possible under the state's leadership," the federation said in a statement. Hirose apologized for the recently confirmed leak of highly toxic water from one of the huge water storage tanks at the nuclear complex, some of which may have flowed into the adjacent Pacific Ocean.

"We would like to make sure that we will no longer generate (public) concern as early as possible," Hirose said.

The federation also said in the statement that local fishermen are "hugely disappointed" by the escalating toxic water problem as they have been waiting to resume fishing operations.

On Wednesday, the Fukushima Prefectural Federation of Fisheries Co-operative Associations decided to suspend "trial" fisheries operations off the coast of Fukushima at the end of August.

A trial operation limits the area of fishing and only allows shipment of products confirmed to be safe.

A fisheries cooperative covering the northern part of the prefecture has conducted trial operation for more than a year, while another cooperative covering the southern part of the prefecture had planned to resume such an operation from September.

Kyodo News

Hiroshi Kishi (R), head of Japan's national fisheries cooperatives federation known as Zengyoren, hands a letter of protest to Tokyo Electric Power Co President Naomi Hirose (L) in Tokyo on 29 Aug, 2013. The fishermen protested the leak of radioactive water at the utility's crippled Fukushima Daiichi Nuclear Power Station.
KYODO NEWS

Al-Qaeda claims responsibility for Iraq bombings

BAGHDAD, 30 Aug — An al-Qaeda affiliate claimed responsibility for a series of bombings in Baghdad and other areas of Iraq in retaliation for the execution of Sunni Muslim prisoners, according to an Internet statement on Friday.

Hundreds of people have been killed in attacks across Iraq in recent weeks in the worst wave of sectarian bloodshed in the country for at least five years. Just last week, car bombs, roadside bombs and shootings have killed at least 100 people.

The Islamic State in Iraq and the Levant (ISIL) said in a statement it had acted in response to the prisoner killings, an apparent reference to the execution of 17 people in Iraq this month, most convicted on terrorism charges.

"We will avenge the blood of our brothers," said the statement, posted on a website used by Islamist militants. An insurgency by Sunni Islamist militants, including the local branch of al-Qaeda, against Iraq's Shi'ite-led government, has been gaining momentum 18 months after the last US troops withdrew.

The Islamic State of Iraq has significantly increased its attacks this year. More than 1,000 Iraqis were killed in July, the highest monthly death toll since 2008, according to the United Nations.

More than two years of civil war in neighbouring Syria have aggravated deep-rooted sectarian divisions and shaken Iraq's fragile coalition of Shi'ite, Kurdish and Sunni factions.

The renewed violence has sparked fears of a return to the large-scale sectarian slaughter in 2006 and 2007.—*Reuters*

People gather at the site of a car bomb attack in Baghdad's al-Shaab District on 28 Aug, 2013.
REUTERS

Yemen refers 5 Saudis to court for links with al-Qaeda

SANAA, 30 Aug—A Yemeni criminal prosecution on Thursday referred five al-Qaeda suspects of Saudi origin to court, the Yemeni defence ministry said.

The accused will be put on trial in the capital of Sanaa for illegally crossing the Yemeni border, forging Yemeni official identities and fighting with al-Qaeda in the Arabian Peninsula against the Yemeni army in the past few months. The ministry did not reveal when the trial will begin.

The Yemeni government has arrested and tried scores of al-Qaeda suspects since the beginning of this year as part of a US-backed anti-terrorism campaign.

Also, dozens of militants, including some Saudis, have been killed by US drone strikes in the campaign. The Yemeni troops defeated al-Qaeda fighters in the southern Province of Abyan and recaptured their strongholds in May 2012 after a year-long battle.—*Xinhua*

Colombian president calls for calm as farm protests reach Bogota

BOGOTA, 30 Aug—Thousands of Colombian farmers and state workers marched through Bogota on Thursday, banging pots and pans as they converged on the capital after 11 days of increasingly violent protests against agricultural and trade policies they say have left them impoverished.

Students wearing balaclavas pelted shop windows with rocks near the capital's main square and clashed with riot police who fired tear gas to disperse them. Bogota imposed a curfew in three of the more populated areas of the city after violence continued into the night. "Long live the farmers' strike! Food sovereignty," protesters chanted as they waved anti-government banners.

President Juan Manuel Santos, who has been unable to end the so-called national strike that has united potato growers, milk producers and teachers, acknowledged agriculture is in crisis, but called for peaceful dissent while talks about possible solutions are going on.

"The farm sector has been abandoned," the centre-right president said in a televised address early on Thursday. "The protests are valid ... but, via dialogue, we will resolve the problems ... We are in a storm, but we will persevere."

Protesters wearing typical farmer attire of woolen ponchos, brimmed hats and rubber boots to show their solidarity, marched in 15 columns toward the Plaza Bolivar, where the presidential palace and Congress are located. There were also protests in Medellin, Cali and elsewhere across the nation.

Farmers have blocked roads, snarling city-bound traffic and piling pressure on Santos three months before he must decide whether to run for a second term. The government's tough peace negotiations with Marxist FARC rebels are creating their own contentious national debate at the same time.—*Reuters*

***A police officer takes shelter behind the shields of his colleagues during a protest against the government of Colombian President Juan Manuel Santos in Medellin on 29 Aug, 2013.—*REUTERS**

Radio broadcaster killed in S Philippines

DAVAO CITY, (Philippines), 30 Aug—Unidentified gunmen shot and killed a radio broadcaster in southern Philippines late on Thursday, the second attack against journalists in the region this month, officials said on Friday.

Fernando Solijon was killed shortly after visiting a friend in Buruun village, Lanao del Sur Province.

Solijon, a public affairs commentator for the DXLS radio station, sustained multiple gunshot wounds to the body and head. The suspects fled on a motorcycle after the shooting.

Early this month, a photojournalist for a local newspaper in General Santos City was also shot dead by motorcycle-riding gunmen.

International media watchdogs tagged the Philippines as one of the most dangerous places in the world for journalists, with over a hundred media workers already murdered since democracy was restored in the country in 1986.

The worst attack against Filipino journalists occurred in 23 November, 2009 when gunmen loyal to a powerful political clan kidnapped and killed over 50 people, including 33 journalists, in the province of Maguindanao.

Xinhua

LOCAL NEWS

Union Rail Transportation Minister meets guests from ROK, Japan

NAY PYI TAW, 30 Aug— Union Minister for Rail Transportation U Than Htay received Honorary Consul-General of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar to Busan of Republic of Korea Mr. Won Bae Dahn and party at the ministry, here, on 28 August evening. They discussed matters on solving traffic congestion problems in Yangon in cooperation with three Korean companies, establishment of transportation network system that links and controls all transport networks of rail, city bus, taxi and river ferry.

Then, the Union minister met a delegation led by Dr Maki Morikawa and Sadanki NURODA from JICA of Japan at the same venue. The meeting focused on upgrading of 41-mile Yangon-Bago section and 120-mile Bago-Toungoo section as first phase of Yangon-Mandalay Railroad, rail safety and technical transfer for promotion of services.

MNA

Myanmar, ROK sign Assistance Framework Arrangement on Grant Aid for 2013

NAY PYI TAW, 30 Aug— Assistance Framework Arrangement between the governments of Myanmar and the Republic of Korea was signed at the Ministry of National Planning and Economic Development, here, yesterday afternoon.

On behalf of the Union Government, Deputy Minister Daw Le Le Thein and Korean Ambassador to Myanmar Mr. KIM, Hae-yong signed the agreement in the presence of Union Minister Dr Kan Zaw.

The agreement would serve as a platform for constant development of socioeconomic status of the two countries. Provision of assistance to implementation of projects in the country would contribute to development and further cement amity between the two countries.

The signed agreement covers projects for development of road network by KOICA, implementation of national statistical system, capacity building strategy for conferences, land reform programme for mechanized farming, and bilateral cooperation between KOICA and the Ministry of Environmental Con-servation and Forestry on greening projects in the arid zone of central Myanmar.

It was attended by the Union Minister and the deputy ministers.—*MNA*

SEAMEO TROPMED Network 52nd Governing Board Meeting at Parkroyal Hotel

YANGON, 30 Aug— The SEAMEO TROPMED Network 52nd Governing Board Meeting took place at Parkroyal Hotel, here, yesterday morning.

Union Minister for Health Dr Pe Thet Khin addressed the meeting.

He said that Myanmar is pleased to host the SEAMEO TROPMED Network 52nd Governing Board Meeting. The Ministry of Health joined hands with SEAMEO TROPMED in taking effective measures against malaria, HIV infectious diseases and worm infections, and undertaking school health activities in the country he said.

He pledged that the ministry continues cooperating with SEAMEO TROPMED in doing research on tropical infectious diseases, combating worm and parasitic diseases and malaria, and capacity building for human resources development in medical field.

Next, Director Dr. Witaya Jeradechakul from SEAMEO and Coordinator Prof. Dr. Pratap Singhasivanon extended greetings.

MNA

Kalewa-Yagyi road section scheduled to complete by 2016

KALAY, 29 Aug— Equipment procurement for construction has started for the upgrading of 75.5-mile Kalewa-Yagyi road section with the consultation of the Ministry of External Affairs of India.

The road would be upgraded with the assistance of the Indian government, according to Pyithu Hluttaw Representative U Tin Hlaing. Upon completion, the road would become a tarred one. The estimated cost of construction is K 20 million and it is scheduled to be completed by 2016.

The road is not accessible in rainy season by trucks.

According to a frequent road user, the repair should be made in Kyaw Village and Metme Village.

MMAL-Shin Nay Min

Mandalay job fair help half of job seekers get employed

MANDALAY, 30 Aug— The third Job Fair 2013 in Mandalay could help almost 900 job seekers, half of the attendance, find jobs at one stop on 24-25 August.

A total of 1913 job seekers applied for employment at the fair at Mandalay City Hall and 899 found their employers.

"Mandalay could successfully host three job fairs, one of which was organized by our company. I am happy beyond compare that young people get decent jobs here. We are planning a similar event in January 2014," said U Pyae Phyo Maung, Director of Pan Yazar Co Ltd. The job fair is aimed at providing one stop services for both employers and job seekers to help resolve unemployment problem, especially in rural areas. Two foreign companies and 33 local companies participated in the event.—*MMAL-Tin Maung (Mdy Sub-Printing House)*

HRD

Educative talks on violence against young women given

HLEGU, 30 Aug—An educative talk on prevention of violence against young women was held at Basic Education High School in Hlegu on 24 August.

The event was organized by Yangon North District Women's Affairs Organization. Chairperson of Yangon North District Women's Affairs Organization Daw San San Mar delivered an address at the event.

Health Staff Grade-1 of the Township Health Department Daw Than Aye, Deputy Law Officer Daw Myint Myat Mon and Police Inspector of Traffic Police Corps gave educative talks on violence against young women.

MMAL-Township IPRD

The New Light of Myanmar

PERSPECTIVES

Saturday, 31 August, 2013

Promote tourism

With the gradual opening-up and dramatic changes in its political landscape, Myanmar has been back on the list of top tourist destinations, attracting more foreign visitors both from Asian and western countries. More than 1 million foreign tourists visited Myanmar in 2012 and the number is expected to reach 1.8 million by the end of 2013.

While the tourist arrivals are increasing, Yangon and Mandalay are facing of shortage of hotel rooms. Given her unexplored regions and unexploited nature, Myanmar has no reason not to become a popular destination for globetrotters. But shortage of hotel rooms is just one aspect of the problem Myanmar needs to overcome if it is to generate income from tourism industry.

To Myanmar, most of potential visitors would make their first time visit, which means first impressions would count much in their decision to come and visit Myanmar again. There have been reported cases of mugging of foreign tourists in Bagan, the mystical archaeological showcase in central Myanmar, where the thefts of pilgrims' shoes was never heard before there. This if continues would threaten the national image and damage the tourism industry that is starting to develop. It should be borne in mind that negative publicity travels faster and reaches more people than positive stories.

While the smokeless industry has become a major source of income for many countries, the environmental and social impacts it has exerted should not be neglected. In Myanmar, famous places like Inlay Lake and U Pein Bridge have started to bear the brunt of ecological impact following the increase in tourist arrivals there.

To create tourism boom while minimizing ecological and environmental impacts, nothing is better than ecotourism or green tourism. It can bring equal development opportunities to remote regions whereas the modern tourism only benefits mega cities. Sustainable development would be created should Myanmar manage to turn her new visage green.

ARTICLE

Politician and media

Min Ba Htoo

It was nearly ten years ago while I was under attack for an action I had taken; one of my seniors gave me a personal advice with goodwill as we met before a meeting. He said: "You should have started a fight at that point." Immediately, I raised a question, "I have never picked up a fight since I was a child. How can I do so when I'm over sixty?" While I took myself a civil servant, I was extremely unwilling to say "I am right, he/she is wrong" because most of the things we do, we write and we speak never stay the same.

However, beginning 2010 general elections, I tried to adapt myself to the mindset of a politician in anticipation of multiparty democracy era. What I thought was simple. A politician must have his political ambition and only when his ambition meets the desires of voters, can he get their votes. Then I articulated my political stance in the constituency I was contesting. I enchanted "public comes first" from door to door from street to street in my election campaign. Despite the uncertainties, I had full confidence in myself. As the voting day was drawing near, one of other candidates spoke of a false news in an interview with a news agency, an unintentional personal attack under which I came. I did not have much time left to think about it and I was worried the potential voters' confidence in me would decline. Therefore, I revealed the reality at my personal blog. My response in form of argument in letter was featured only by some news agencies and a local journal just a day before the voting day. I was not sure how much votes I could save for me by doing so, but I did believe it would clear somewhat of the doubts in voters' mind.

While I was as civil servant, I held the attitude that justice stands by the right person. But when I had to think from the point of view of politician, I had to see to impact of public relations rather than personal feelings and was required to respond with extra care to make sure my public image is misled. I as a long-time reader of books on psychology of self-esteem by psychotherapist Brander, I understand well that respect, kindness and generosity towards other people are related with self-esteem. Therefore I was careful in my writing not to harm the other party.

I won decisive victory in the election. But I was then caught in the thought that if my response through media was fair, if there was really no other choice. I started learning ethics of journalists. Thousands of journalists across the world of their own volition are practising widely the code of ethics of prestigious Society of Professional Journalists (SPJ) as standard instructions. The code of ethics stated by the SPJ has only four main points along with 37 minor points. Under one of the main points "Seek Truth and Report it", it states "Diligently seek out subjects of news stories to give them the opportunity to respond to wrong allegations" and I became to know that my past action was within my right. I'd like to present three other main points to readers—"Minimize Harm", "Act Independently—journalists should be free of obligation to any interest other than the public's right to know—", and "Be Accountable". How the international media code of ethics is just and fair. I would present the other minor points at an opportune time.

Although I served in various capacities in democratic transition in Myanmar, the people-centred policy adopted by the government affirmed my political commitment. I have made up my mind to do everything it takes to serve the interests of the people. I have learnt several options to bring about media development of the country for last two years. I have to deal with criticisms since I started learning media industry.

Here I would like to give an example of how politicians interact with media and vice versa. Assuming that the politicians are mariners and media the sea, the mariners are not supposed to speak ill of the sea because the sea is the nature. It has no responsibility for any bad weather. The politicians are also not supposed to speak ill of the media. They need not to get scared of them. The mission of the politicians is similar to that of the mariners. Braving any weathers or any dangers, the mariners need to manage to reach their destination. Despite any difficulties, the politicians are also to try to complete their political mission for the sake of the people. A saying goes, "Rough seas make good sailors" Those who are frightened by the sea cannot become mariners. Some politicians are reluctant to reveal their political aims, saying the likes of others to the media. A politician is a public figure. Who would rely on a leader with no firm commitment?

I authored a book entitled, "Criteria of leadership", in 1998. In this book, under the title 'Relations with Media', I wrote, "Our pretense, empty promises, hollow-heartedness and lies would damage our images. If our ways of communications do not reflect our inner feelings, we are just hypocrites—a kind of light liar. It is always negative in public relations".

Now we are sailing a rough sea. But it is nothing strange to me that I have expected it since the start. With risk-taking behaviour or political commitment, I would sail this sea. I am sailing the sea with my firm political commitment to serve the interests of the people. So, what are the interests of the people?

(To be continued)

***Trs*: TKK+HKA**

Basic Diplomatic Skills course concludes

NAY PYI TAW, 30 Aug—The concluding ceremony of the Basic Diplomatic Skills course (31/2013) conducted by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs was held at Wunzinminyarzar Hall of the Ministry in Yangon this morning. Deputy Minister for Foreign Affairs U Thant Kyaw delivered an address on the occasion, and presented completion certificates to the trainees.

The course covers contemporary international affairs, holding of international meetings, negotiation skills, international law, international economic relations, international etiquette, diplomatic and official correspondence and communication skills.

The 12-week course was taken by 176 trainees.

MNA

Myanmar-Japan Building and Housing Conference held

NAY PYI TAW, 30 Aug—Myanmar and Japan Building and Housing Conference jointly organized by Department of Human Settlement and Housing Development and Public Works under the Ministry of Construction and the Ministry of Land, Infrastructure, Transport and Tourism (MLIT) of Japan was held at the hall of the Ministry, here, this morning.

At the conference, Deputy Minister Dr Win Myint expressed thanks for sharing knowledge and Mr Kimihiro Hashimoto of MLIT extended greetings.

Both sides discussed construction of housings and maintenance by two countries through modern technology, geographical conditions, expertise and technology.—*MNA*

Amyotha Hluttaw Deputy Speaker receives guests from ILO

Deputy Speaker of Amyotha Hluttaw U Mya Nyein meets Technical Specialist of ILO Patrick Quinn.

MNA

NAY PYI TAW, 30 Aug— Deputy Speaker of Amyotha Hluttaw Chairman of Pyidaungsu Hluttaw Joint Studies Commission on Rights of Employee and Employer U Mya Nyein received a delegation led by Patrick Quinn, Technical Specialist of International Labour Organization (ILO) at the hall No. 20 of the Hluttaw Committee building, here, this morning.

At the call, they frankly discussed commission's activities and detailed studies.—*MNA*

Vice-President Dr Sai Mauk Kham receives UN Secretary General's special advisor on Myanmar

Vice-President Dr Sai Mauk Kham poses for documentary photo with a delegation led by UN Secretary General's special Adviser on Myanmar Mr Vijay Nambiar.
MNA

NAY PYI TAW, 30 Aug—Vice-President Dr Sai Mauk Kham received a delegation led by Mr. Vijay Nambiar, the UN secretary general's special advisor on Myanmar at Credentials Hall of Presidential Palace, here, this morning.

Also present at the call were Deputy Ministers U Tin Oo Lwin, Maj-Gen Maung Maung Ohn and U Kyaw Kyaw Win and departmental officials. They had a cordial discussion on peaceful coexistence between the communities in Rakhine State and UN's contributions to Myanmar's endeavors.

MNA

Findings and suggestions ...

(from page 1)

education budget, he added.

Under a free and compulsory primary education system, the State has distributed reader books worth K 1723.46 million and exercise books worth K 5500 million free of charge as from 2012-2013 academic year. For development of education sector, a two-year Comprehensive Education Sector Review (CESR) will be carried out from 2012 to 2014.

The CESR is sponsored by the World Bank (WB), UNICEF, UNESCO, Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA), GIZ, Denmark, UK's International Development Department, Australia's International Development Assistance, Norway, British Council, Multi-Donor Education Fund, Asia Development Bank, EU and local and foreign donors.

He urged those present to give advice on findings on CESR's first-step six areas: early child education, informal education, primary education, higher education, teachership education and technology and vocational education for attaining State's educational goals and keeping abreast of ASEAN education standard.

Afterthat, Union Minister Dr Mya Aye explained the matters related to the clarification and displayed documentary video.

Afterwards, National Advisor U Tin Nyo and CESR Secretary Dr Myo Myint Gyi discussed CESR's findings and suggestions. The groups held discussions on the six areas.

It was also attended by Union Ministers U Soe Maung and Dr Ko Ko Oo, Deputy Ministers, MPs, departmental officials and enthusiasts.

MNA

Same letter numbers and ...

(from page 16)

the Pyithu Hluttaw is to approve the bills in line with Sub-Sections (a) and (c) of Section 138 but not to suspend the bill. Thus, the report gave suggestions to go on the discussion over the bill by abiding by the constitution and emphasizing fundamental rights of voters.

U Thein Nyunt of Thingangyun Constituency expressed his opinion that MPs should deeply review the letter of UEC. The presentation of UEC is in line with the constitution, he said.

U Saw Hla Tun, Secretary of Bill Committee, said that seven MPs have submitted the amendments for the bill. Depending on decision of Hluttaw, the bill is ready to be enacted. MPs must face the recall of voters if they fail to perform out their tasks dutifully, he said.

In his speech, Pyithu Hluttaw Speaker Thura U Shwe Mann said that Pyithu Hluttaw's main functions cover question-and-answer session, submitting of proposals and approval of the bills. The question-and-answer session reflects people's expectations and wishes in a democratic way. It is heartening to see the reply to MPs' questions by respective administrative bodies, judicial bodies and other organizations.

The report shows that there are 440 asterisked questions and 172 questions (under way) and 884 non-asterisked questions and 682 questions (under way), 75 approved motions and 40 (under way) left.

He understood that MPs have to raise the questions through the Hluttaw Speaker as MP's questions reflect people's necessities and difficulties.

That's why, every MP should have rights to shoot their questions. As a Speaker, he had to remind the MPs of ethics, disciplines and delay on the fair ground.

It is found that there were 1262 questions at seventh regular session. Over half of the asterisked questions and two third of non-asterisked questions could be replied.

It shows that MPs should value the times taken. There were 15 motions—12 normal motions and three urgent motions.

Of five submitted proposals, three were approved and two, put on record. And two approved proposals, one record-putting proposal and one question were sent to the President as message. There were 38 bills of which 28 bills were discussed, 16 completed, 12 are under discussion and ten new bills.

He urged the MPs to hear people's voices in their respective constituencies after 7th Hluttaw session. He wished he want to meet the MPs healthily and happily in the next 8th Hluttaw session which is scheduled to hold within next one month.

MNA

Thura U Shwe Mann meets Mr. Vijay Nambiar

NAY PYI TAW, 30 Aug—Speaker of Pyithu Hluttaw Thura U Shwe Mann received UN Secretary General's special adviser for Myanmar Mr Vijay Nambiar at the hall of Pyithu Hluttaw at Hluttaw Complex, here, today.

They discussed Hluttaw affairs, internal peace process and national reconciliation.

Also present at the call were Chairman of Pyithu Hluttaw International Relations Committee U Hla Myint Oo and officials.

MNA

Speaker of Pyithu Hluttaw Thura U Shwe Mann shakes hands with UN S-G's special adviser Mr Vijay Nambiar.—MNA

Union Ministers discuss development task of Ayeyawady Region

NAY PYI TAW, 30 Aug—Union Ministers at the President Office U Soe Thane and U Tin Naing Thein met local people at City Hall in Pathein, Ayeyawady Region yesterday morning to carry out regional development tasks.

Union Minister U Soe Thane discussed progress of reform process being made based on requirements of the people for development of the nation and experience on obstacles and future potential. Moreover he pledged that the Union government will perform socio-economic development based on people-centered approach consulting with organizations. Actively participated by the people, the regional development tasks would achieve more successful, he added.

Union Minister U Tin Naing Thein in his speech saying that today's discussions would bring successful results not only to the people but also to the nation. He stressed that requirements should be fulfilled in line with the people's voices according to eight points of rural development and poverty alleviation. To overcome challenges while implementing the rural development tasks, the members of supportive committee for development and departments are to cooperate with each other, he said. Also present at the meeting were Region Chief Minister U Thein Aung, region level authorities, responsible persons and townselders.

MNA

Discussion on rural development task of Ayeyawady Region in progress in Pathein.
MNA

LOCAL NEWS

Yamethin Township MCWA presents uniforms to members

Presentation of uniforms, membership cards and brooches to MCWA members in progress in Yamethin Township.

YANGON, 30 Aug—A ceremony to provice uniforms, permanent membership cards and brooches by Yamethin Township Maternal and Child Welfare Association was held at the hall of Township General Administration Department on 28 August.

Chairpersons of Yamethin District Maternal and Child Welfare Supervisory Committee Daw Htar Htar Win and Chairperson of Township Maternal and Child Welfare Association Daw Yi Yi Thaung made speeches.

The chairpersons presented uniforms, permanet membership cards and brooches to members of the wards of the township.

Also present on the occasion were members ofthe wards in Yamethin.

Kyemon-Hlaing Than Tint

Talks on census taking process held in Dekkhinathiri Tsp

NAY PYI TAW, 30 Aug—The talks on census taking process was held at the administrative office in Chaing Village of Dekkhinathiri Township, Nay Pyi Taw Council Area, on 28 August, with an address by Township Administrator U Wai Lwin Phyo.

Head of Township Information and Public Relations Department U Zaw Min Tun explained matters related to census taking process and tasks of the people, Staff Officer U Aung Soe of Township Immigration and National Registration Department facts and fitures for taking census to be given by the people.

Later, the pamphlets on knowledge about taking census were distributed to those present.

Kyemon-Dekkhinathiri IPRD

Work coord meeting held in Gangaw

GANGAW, 30 Aug—The departments in Gangaw Township held a coordination meeting at the hall of Township General Administration Department on 28 August.

Deputy Commissioner U Hla Min Htut of Gangaw District spoke on the occasion.

Departmental officials discussed progress of their tasks.

Magway Region Hluttaw representative U Myint Aung, district level departmental officials and township management commttee, development support comittee and development affairs committee officials participated in the discussions in their respective sectors.

Kyemon-465

Malaysia Exhibition 2013 at Tatmadaw Hall on 5-8 Sep

YANGON, 30 Aug—Organized by Malaysia External Trade Development Corporation, Malaysia Exhibition 2013 will be held at Tatmadaw Convention Hall on U Wisara Road from 5 to 8 September.

At the exhibition, over 60 companies from Malaysia will display not only construction materials, electronic and technological items, machinery, personal goods, food and clothing but also handicraft and jewellery. Myanmar companies are invited to showcase their products with a view to dealing with Malaysian entrepreneurs and promoting bilateral trade.

Attractive programmes such as air ticket for Malaysia trip, free advice on doing business with Malaysia, individual business meeting and free medical check-up will include at the exhibition.

Last year's exhibition resulted in total sales of USD 68.71 million from 900 business meetings arranged between Malaysian and Myanmar companies and received 4155 merchants. Total trade between the two countries increased to USD 887 million accounting for 11.9 percent in 2012. During this period, exports from Malaysia to Myanmar amounted to USD 703 million while import from Myanmar to Malaysia reached about USD 184 million.

Exports of Malaysia include palm oil, petroleum and chemical products, foodstuff, machinery and spare parts and Myanmar exports to Malaysia are crude rubber, fruits, marine products and minerals.

Investments of Malaysia companies in Myanmar have reached USD 1.03 billion and Malaysia stood at 7th largest investor in the country.

Moe Thu

Theft of cables worth K 5.1 million seized in few days

YANGON, 30 Aug—The 594 feet long cables worth K 5.1 million linling Ayemyintthaya Bridge No 1 and No 2 lost in Zeyathiri Township of Nay Pyi Taw Council Area on 22 August.

Under the supervision of Nay Pyi Taw Police Force Police Col Aung Aung, policemen from Ottara District and Zeyathiri Township and Yezin police station exposed the case.

They arrested the suspected persons Po Lon (a) Aung Htay Hlaing, Po (a) Aung Win Hlaing, Khin Maung Nyunt, Hsan Win Naing, Tayoke Kyi (a) Thiha and trafficker Nyein Chan (a) Nay Zar and Win Hlaing from Ayemyintthaya Village who all were masons, together with stolen cables on 24 August.

Action was taken against them under the law at Yezin Police Station.

Nay Pyi Taw Police Force accelerates its tasks of crime reduction as the construction site finished the works in the projects. So, some of the labourers became jobless and some committed crims.

Aye Than

Samsung launches volunteer activities in Myanmar

YANGON, 30 Aug—The ICT technicians and medical team from Samsung Electronics arrived in Myanmar on 24 August under the arrangements of KOICA's World Friends, KOICA Volunteer (WEF-Volunteer) programme.

ICT technicians from Samsung will share knowledge at University of Computer Studies (Yangon) in programming, software engineering, mobile application, developing Samsung-KOICA Digital Library in cooperation with KOICA's WEF-Volunteers. In addition, Samsung's medical team provides health care services to the local people in Shwepyitha Township from 26 to 30 August.

Prof Dr Shin Jan Koon of KOICA has developed his pilot project worth US$ 50000 to be able to contribute to improvement of education activities of UCSY and the cost was funded by ICT group of Samsung.

Samsang-KOICA Digital Library equipped with advanced technology was put into service at UCSY on today.

Zagawah

MPF launches emergency, complaint-handling phone lines

NAY PYI TAW, 30 Aug—Myanmar Police Force under the Ministry of Home Affairs has put hot lines into place at Myanmar Police Force HQ and region/state police stations to enable the public to submit tip-offs and complaints over illegal acts, mis-appropriation and corruption.

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

Myanmar Police Force HQ, Nay Pyi Taw Police Force, Kachin, Kayah, Kayin, Chin, Mon, Rakhine and Shan State Police Forces, Sagaing, Taninthayi, Bago, Magway, Mandalay, Yangon and Ayeyawady Region Police Forces, Offices of Commanders of East, West, South and North District Police Forces in Yangon Region, No (1) Police Station in Taunggyi, Office of Deputy Commander of State Police Force in Lashio, and Kengtung Police Station in Kengtung have emergency numbers of 199.

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

MNA

REGIONAL

Indian police arrest key terror suspect

NEW DELHI, 30 Aug — Indian police have arrested a key terror suspect and founder of the country's major terror group Indian Mujahideen, Yasin Bhatkal, at the Indo-Nepal border, said local media reports on Thursday. Bhatkal, who is also a key suspect in several terror blasts since 2008, has been arrested in a joint operation between the central intelligence agencies and police in the eastern state of Bihar, said *The Times of India* online.

"Yasin Bhatkal has been traced and detained at the Indo-Nepal border in Bihar. He is presently in the custody of Bihar police. His interrogation is going on," Union Home Minister Sushilkumar Shinde was quoted as saying.

The arrest of Yasin, alias Ahmed Siddibappa alias Shahrukh, is being seen as a major breakthrough in the agencies' protracted efforts to break the back of the Indian Mujahideen, suspected to be the masterminds of a series of major blasts in the country, which killed dozens of people. Another Indian Mujahideen operative, Asadullah Akhtar alias Haddi, is reported to have been detained along with him.—*Xinhua*

TPP talks on tariffs advance as Brunei round ends

BANDAR SERI BEGAWAN, 30 Aug — Twelve Pacific Rim countries wrapped up the 19th round of the Trans-Pacific Partnership free trade negotiations in Brunei on Friday, saying they have advanced work on tariffs and other key subjects while agreeing to hold more working-level negotiations in coming weeks.

Chief negotiators from the countries will meet in Washington in mid-September, a negotiation source said, adding the Brunei round is the last for full-scale negotiations, and the countries are expected to focus on intersessional meetings that involve only one or two working groups from now on.

Marking the end of the 9-day round that started on 22 August.., the countries released a statement that said, "Negotiators advanced their technical work this round on the texts covering market access," which deals with tariff cuts, and numerous other fields such as fishing subsidies and intellectual property.

Kyodo News

Chinese Foreign Minister Wang Yi (C) chairs the special Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN)-China Foreign Ministers' Meeting in Beijing, capital of China, on 29 Aug, 2013. Wang Yi and his Thai counterpart Surapong Tovijakchaikul were co-chairs of the special meeting to celebrate the 10th anniversary of the formation of the China-ASEAN strategic partnership. —XINHUA

One killed in S Philippine landslide

DAVAO CITY, 30 Aug — Landslide hit anew a mining village in southern Philippines, killing one and injuring three others, police said on Friday.

The latest disaster happened in Ngan village, Compostela Valley Province on Thursday around 9 am, local time according to Senior Superintendent Camilo Cascolan, provincial police chief.

Cascolan said villagers dug the body of a 43-year old miner and rescued three others after loose earth and boulders rolled down the hillside in Bango, burying the four victims.

Disaster and police officials believe days of continuous rains in the area triggered the landslide.

Cascolan said the body of the lone fatality was brought to a local funeral parlor while those injured are now undergoing treatment at a local hospital.

On Tuesday, a miner was also killed and three others hospitalized after an avalanche of earth and boulders cascaded down a gold mining community in Agusan del Norte Province.

Landslides, cave-ins and other disasters are common in minerals- rich Philippine south, where thousands of people are into unregulated and sometimes hazardous mining activities.

In one accident, at least 50 people were killed when a landslide buried a mining community in Pantukan town, also in Compostela Valley, in 2011.

Xinhua

Budiman appointed as Indonesia army chief of staff

JAKARTA, 30 Aug — Lieutenant General Budiman has been appointed as the new Indonesian Army Chief of Staff, State Secretary Sudi Silalahi said here on Thursday.

Budiman will be officially sworn in at his installment at the State Palace on Friday, said Silalahi.

Budiman was Secretary General at the Defence Ministry and Deputy Chief of the Indonesian Army. He is to replace General Moeldoko.

General Moeldoko has been appointed as Indonesian Military Commander. He will be also installed on Friday.

Terrorism, transnational crimes and insurgency are among the main challenges of the Indonesian military.—*Xinhua*

***Empress Michiko plays the piano at a workshop in Kusatsu, Gunma Prefecture, on 29 Aug, 2013.* KYODO NEWS**

Thailand pledges to further foster China-ASEAN relations

BANGKOK, 30 Aug — Thai Prime Minister Yingluck Shinawatra said on Thursday that Thailand is committed to further strengthening the strategic partnership between China and the Association of South East Asian Nations (ASEAN).

In an exclusive interview with *Xinhua*, Yingluck expressed her satisfaction over the decade-long cooperation between China and ASEAN under the framework of strategic partnership, which has brought peace and prosperity for both sides.

She pledged that Thailand would give full play to its role as country coordinator between China and ASEAN by working with "hard effort"and on the principle of trust to cement the strategic partnership between the two sides.

According to the prime minister, the trade volume between China and ASEAN, which currently stands at about 300 billion US dollars, could reach 500 billion US dollars in 2015 when the bloc's 10 economies integrate under one roof, the ASEAN Economic Community (AEC).

Speaking highly of the time-honoured China-Thailand ties, Yingluck underlined the importance of people-to-people exchanges between the two nations, especially in the form of tourism.

Yingluck cited with great interest "Lost in Thailand", a Chinese hit comedy in the kingdom, as a good channel to connect the two peoples. She said Thailand, a country full of natural wonders and cultural heritages, hopes to increase tourism exchanges with China.

"I would like to thank all the Chinese tourists to Thailand. All Thais welcome the Chinese people coming to Thailand because we have been close to each other for a long time,"she said.

Xinhua

Two people killed in restive S Thailand

BANGKOK, 30 Aug — Two people were killed in Thailand's restive southern provinces of Pattani and Narathiwat on Thursday, *Thai News Agency* reported.

The first attack occurred in Pattani's Kapho District around 8 am local time when a 49-year-old defence volunteer was shot while riding his motorcycle home.

Seriously wounded, he was later pronounced dead at hospital. Another incident took place in Narathiwat's Rangae District.

Also on Thursday morning, a durian grower was shot dead in the neck while collecting produce on his farm. Local authorities said the motivation for the two shootings could be insurgency and/or personal conflict. More than 5,000 people have been killed and more than 9,000 injured in over 11,000 incidents, about 3.5 incidents a day, in Thailand's provinces — Yala, Pattani, Narathiwat and four districts of Songkhla — since separatist violence erupted in January 2004, according to Deep South Watch, which monitors the regional violence.

Xinhua

***A series of exhibitions are being held in the city of Hezuo to mark the 60th anniversary of the founding of the Gannan Tibetan Autonomous Prefecture in Northwest China's Gansu Province. A Thang-ga painting exhibition is ready to receive visitors in Hezuo, Gannan Autonomous Prefecture in Northwest China's Gansu Province on 28 Aug, 2013.* XINHUA**

ADVERTISEMENT & GENERAL

Invitation for Cooperation with Lease (or) Joint Venture in High Grade Paper Mill (Thabaung) under Paper and Home Utility Industries, Ministry of Industry

High Grade Paper Mill (Thabaung) under Paper and Home Utility Industries, Ministry of Industry is intended to cooperate with Locals and Foreign entrepreneurs as Lease (or) Joint Venture in it.

Companies who interested in those cooperation are required to submit their draft proposal of Lease (or) Joint Venture, not later than 3 PM (Myanmar Standard Time), on 30th September , 2013 to Material Planning Department, Paper and Home Utility Industries, Ministry of Industry, Office No (41), Nay Pyi Taw, the Republic of the Union of Myanmar.

Interested entities can submit the draft proposal at above office commencing from (2.9,2013) by presenting document of company profile.

Document of Company Profile

- Valid Certificate of Incorporation
- Records and Regulation of Company
- Name of Foreign's Technical Cooperator

(For more information: 95-67-408293/408375/408352)

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

MV POSITIVE PIONEER VOY NO (78)

Consignees of cargo carried on MV POSITIVE PIONEER VOY NO (78) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 31.8.2013 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: EASTERN CAR-LINER S'PORE PTE LTD

Phone No: 256924/256914

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

MV MCP LARNACA VOY NO (012)

Consignees of cargo carried on MV MCP LARNACA VOY NO (012) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 31.8.2013 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of M.I.P where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

SHIPPING AGENCY DEPARTMENT
MYANMA PORT AUTHORITY
AGENT FOR: M/S MOL (S'PORE) PTE LTD

Phone No: 256908/378316/376797

Photo taken on 28 Aug, 2013 shows the Education College of Taiwan Normal University (TNU) in Taipei, southeast China's Taiwan. Founded in 1946, TNU has long been recognized as one of Taiwan's elite institutions of higher education. The university encompassed three campuses and consists of 10 colleges that include 32 departments and 22 graduate institutes, offering a wide variety of courses. —XINHUA

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

MV SANG THAI EAGLE VOY NO (-)

Consignees of cargo carried on MV SANG THAI EAGLE VOY NO (-) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 1.9.2013 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of H.P.T where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

SHIPPING AGENCY DEPARTMENT
MYANMA PORT AUTHORITY
AGENT FOR: SANG THAI SHIPPING CO LTD

Phone No: 256924/256914

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

MV KOTA TAMPAN VOY NO (545)

Consignees of cargo carried on MV KOTA TAMPAN VOY NO (545) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 31.8.2013 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of A.W.P.T where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

SHIPPING AGENCY DEPARTMENT
MYANMA PORT AUTHORITY
AGENT FOR: M/S ADVANCE CONTAINER LINES

Phone No: 256908/378316/376797

Moldovan people hopeful to travel freely in Europe next year

BUCHAREST, 30 Aug — Moldovan authorities expected the country's citizens will be able to travel freely in Europe as early as next year, visiting first deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Natalia Gherman said on Wednesday, at the Annual Meeting of Romanian Diplomacy in Bucharest. "We expect a positive decision on visa liberalization for the Moldovan people in the first half of 2014," said the Moldovan official, who is paying a working visit to Bucharest.

Gherman stressed that Moldova is about to complete the fulfillment of the EU preconditions for visa liberalization. "Moldova expects a decision on the fulfillment of preconditions at the Vilnius Summit and the final decision on visa liberalization for the Moldovan people in the first half of 2014," she said, stressing that "it is important that we translate the visa liberalization provisions into life during this term of office of the European Parliament and European Commission and Moldovan Parliament as well."

According to the minister, the reforms in the justice and home affairs, migration management and investments are a priority for the Moldovan authorities. Gherman said that the negotiations on Moldova-EU Association Agreement are over. She expressed hope that this agreement will be initialed at the Vilnius Summit and stressed that "this is just a milestone."

The post-Vilnius period, when the Association Agreement is expected to be signed, will be a more important phase, she stressed. The Annual Meeting of Romanian Diplomacy takes place on Tuesday through Thursday in Bucharest, the event being attended also by Linas Antanas Linkevicius, the foreign minister of Lithuania, the country which will host the Eastern Partnership Summit this autumn.—*Xinhua*

THE ASEAN SECRETARIAT INVITES ASEAN NATIONALS TO APPLY FOR THE POSITIONS OF:

DIRECTOR/CHIEF ECONOMIST FOR ASEAN INTEGRATION MONITORING OFFICE

Qualifications:

1. PhD in Economics, with specialization in International Trade.
2. Substantive senior-level experience (minimum 10 yrs) in international and/or regional development work in Asia, including extensive research experience in macroeconomic and international trade analyses.

Duties and Responsibilities:

1. Spearhead the implementation of regional surveillance and economic monitoring in ASEAN, including drafting of surveillance reports and other policy papers in support of regional economic integration.
2. Provide high level policy and technical advice and recommendations to support ASEAN economic integration initiatives.

How to apply:

Visit ASEAN website at **www.asean.org/opportunities/vacancies** for details on job specifications, qualification and application procedure for the position. Application papers should reach the ASEAN Secretariat by **13 September 2013**.

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

MV HOANG SON SUN VOY NO ( )

Consignees of cargo carried on MV HOANG SON SUN VOY NO ( ) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 1.9.2013 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: M/S HOANG SON CO LTD

Phone No: 256916/256919/256921

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

MV EVER ABLE VOY NO (353N)

Consignees of cargo carried on MV EVER ABLE VOY NO (353N) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 31.8.2013 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of H.P.T where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

SHIPPING AGENCY DEPARTMENT
MYANMA PORT AUTHORITY
AGENT FOR: M/S EVER GREEN SHIPPING

Phone No: 256908/378316/376797

Donate Blood

ENTERTAINMENT

Actress Valerie Harper arrives for the taping of "Betty White's 90th Birthday: A Tribute to America's Golden Girl'' in Los Angeles on 8 Jan, 2012.—Reuters

Actress Valerie Harper's brain cancer nearing remission

New York, 30 Aug—Actress Valerie Harper's brain cancer is nearing remission, her physician said in an excerpt of a documentary that was shown on NBC's "Today" show on Thursday.

"I'd say that we're getting pretty close to remission," neuro-oncologist Dr Jeremy Rudnick said in a documentary that will air next month on the US network. "It defies the odds," he added, as Harper sat listening to the results of tests conducted in June.

Harper, 74, won four Emmy Awards for her signature role of Rhoda Morgenstern on the hit 1970s sitcoms "The Mary Tyler Moore Show" and spin-off "Rhoda." The actress said in March that her diagnosis of leptomeningeal carcinomatosis—cancer in the membrane of her brain—meant she had as little as three months to live. In June, NBC announced that it was shooting a documentary about Harper and her treatment.

Rudnick cautioned in the segment that resistance to treatment is all-but-assured, saying, "it's not a matter of if, but of when." The actress has received treatment ranging from chemotherapy to acupuncture.

"I am afraid of what's ahead," Harper said. "But, so what? There's much to be afraid of in life."

Harper completed a tour promoting her new autobiography "I, Rhoda" shortly before going public with her illness. Last year she starred on Broadway as actress Tallulah Bankhead in "Looped," for which she earned a Tony nomination.

Reuters

Australian trek, Sicilian stand-off feature at Venice film fest opening

Venice, 30 Aug—The real-life story of a young woman's trek across the Australian desert with four camels and a film about a stand-off between two female Sicilian motorists opened the competition for the 70th Venice film festival on Thursday.

The 10-day cinema circus showcases 3,470 feature-length and short films, of which 20 new works have been selected to compete for eight awards including the coveted Golden Lion for best film.

"Tracks", with Australian actress Mia Wasikowska and Adam Driver of TV series "Girls", and director Emma Dante's "Via Castellana Bandiera" kicked off the first day of competition for the gongs, a day after the festival opened with space drama "Gravity", starring George Clooney and Sandra Bullock.

"Tracks", based on Robyn Davidson's 1979 book about her own journey, shows a young woman, bored with city life and haunted by the deaths of her dog and her mother, travelling almost 2,000 miles (3,200 km) from Alice Springs to the Indian Ocean.

"I'd always been drawn to the purity of the desert, its hot wind and wide open spaces," Davidson, played by Wasikowska, says early in the film.

She sets out on her trip with four camels, brought to Australia by early settlers, earning her the nickname "Camel Lady".

"I think it would be hard for an Australian not to respond to the film on a visceral level," Hollywood Reporter critic David Rooney told *Reuters* after the debut screening.

"I found it quite transporting actually, like I was there in the desert with her."

Davidson's quest for solitude—interrupted by Driver as National Geographic photographer Rick Smolan and the more welcome company of aboriginal Mr Eddy—resonates in the Internet age, director John Curran said.

"A young person's desire to disconnect and get away and be on their own is probably more relevant now than 10 years ago," Curran said at a news conference.

Reuters

Actress Mia Wasikowska poses during a red carpet at the 70th Venice Film Festival in Venice on 29 Aug, 2013. Wasikowska stars in the John Curran movie "Tracks'', which debuts at the Venice Film Festival. Reuters

Child models present creations at a release fair of Lining's new children's collections in Beijing, capital of China, on 29 Aug, 2013.—Xinhua

Singer Fergie, actor Josh Duhamel welcome first child together

Los Angeles, 30 Aug—Fergie, the singer of pop-rap group the Black Eyed Peas, has given birth to a boy in Los Angeles on Thursday, a representative for her actor-husband Josh Duhamel said.

Axl Jack Duhamel weighed 7 lb and 10 ounces (3.5 kg), Duhamel spokeswoman Ruth Bernstein said.

It is the first child for both Fergie, who recently changed her first name from Stacy to her stage name, and Duhamel.

Fergie, 38, rose to prominence when her addition to the Black Eyed Peas lineup coincided with a string of breakout hits for the group from their 2003 album "Elephunk."

Her 2006 solo album, "The Dutchess," scored three No 1 hits in the United States.

Duhamel, 40, is best known for his roles in the "Transformers" film franchise and romantic comedies "Safe Haven" and "New Year's Eve."

The couple married in 2009.

Reuters

Sheryl Crow finds new 'home' in country music's Nashville

Nashville, 30 Aug—Sheryl Crow has spent the past seven years living the country life in country music's capital with her country music friends, but the Grammy-winning rocker has only now come around to recording a country music album.

"Feels Like Home," which will be released on 10 September, is the culmination of the 51-year-old mother of two's latest musical conversion, this time into a country singer.

"This album feels very natural," Crow said in an interview at her 50-acre (20-hectare) estate on the outskirts of Nashville, where she keeps 11 horses, two head of longhorn cattle and dogs.

"It's an extension of who I am, where I live. It doesn't seem like too big of a departure. I've been absorbed into the city limits of Nashville."

But it was just 20 years ago when Crow catapulted to pop-rock radio sensation with "All I Wanna Do," proclaiming that "all I want to do is have some fun until the sun comes up over Santa Monica Boulevard," the street that traverses Los Angeles.

Crow has sold upward of 20 million albums and has managed to make the transition from 1990s' barroom rocker to polished pop singer in the first decade of the 2000s and now to a new residence in country.

In that time, she credits Rock and Roll Hall of Famers The Rolling Stones and Tom Petty, both of whom she has worked with, for helping her find her country voice, namely the Stones' 1969 song "Country Honk" and Petty's Southern-bred storytelling.

"After 25 years of songwriting, some of my best is on this record," she said. "Nashville's breathed new life into my songwriting career."

Crow has already scored a top 30 single on Billboard's county music chart with "Easy," an uptempo love song about domestic happiness.—*Reuters*

Sheryl Crow performs "Boys Round Here'' at the 48th ACM Awards in Las Vegas, on 7 April, 2013.—Reuters

Singer Fergie Duhamel poses at the premiere of "Scenic Route'' at the Chinese 6 theatre in Hollywood, California on 20 Aug, 2013.—Reuters

SPORTS

Guardiola and Mourinho lock horns again in Prague

PRAGUE, 30 Aug—Pep Guardiola and Jose Mourinho renew their long-standing rivalry when European champions Bayern Munich take on Europa League winners Chelsea in the UEFA Super Cup on Friday.

New Bayern coach Guardiola and Mourinho, back for a second stint at Chelsea, have tangled repeatedly in their careers especially when the Spaniard was at the helm at Barcelona and the outspoken Portuguese held the reins at Real Madrid. Both clubs are unbeaten in their respective leagues this season but Mourinho knows his team will have their work cut out to repeat their 2012 Champions League final win over the Bavarians.

The Chelsea coach hailed Bayern's "fantastic" feat in landing a Champions League-Bundesliga-German Cup treble last season.

"Only great teams with a great mentality, with fantastic football qualities ... manage it," said Mourinho, who also captured a Champions League-Serie A-Italian Cup treble with Inter Milan in 2010.

"To play against the best team in the world last year ... is a big challenge for us. It is good for us to measure where we are in terms of playing against the best," he told www.uefa.com.

The Chelsea squad are still adapting to life under Mourinho, who left Real for Stamford Bridge in the close season to succeed Rafael Benitez.

The Londoners have had an extra day to prepare for the Super Cup after drawing 0-0 at Premier League title rivals Manchester United on Monday.

Mourinho can call on Brazil defender David Luiz for the first time this season following a hamstring injury while Spain playmaker Juan Mata could come back into the side after being left on the bench at Old Trafford. Chelsea's new signings from Russian club Anzhi Makhachkala, Cameroon striker Samuel Eto'o and Brazil midfielder Willian, are not in the 26-man squad.

Bayern playmaker Bastian Schweinsteiger has travelled to Prague but faces a race against time to recover from the ankle injury he sustained in the 1-1 Bundesliga draw at Freiburg on Tuesday. Holding midfielder Javi Martinez is also in the squad despite having had an abdominal injury.

Reuters

Chelsea's head coach Jose Mourinho (C)

Bayern Munich's head coach Josep Guardiola

Federer and Serena cruise, Errani cracks

NEW YORK, 30 Aug—Roger Federer and Serena Williams, stress-free and loving the limelight, strolled into the third round of the US Open on Thursday as the pressure began to mount at the year's last grand slam.

For Federer and Williams, it was business as usual at Flushing Meadows but not for Italy's Sara Errani, the women's fourth seed.

Crumbling under the weight of expectation, Errani crashed to a 6-3, 6-1 loss to compatriot Flavia Pennetta and made the startling admission that she had choked under pressure.

"I don't know why, but I'm not enjoying going on the courts," she told reporters. "And that is the worst thing a player can have."

Victoria Azarenka, last year's runner-up, continued her love affair with the New York City hardcourts with a 6-3, 6-1 win over Canada's Aleksandra Wozniak.

"I would say it's my husband, hardcourts," she said. "Because we have been together for a long time (we) got really comfortable with each other."

British qualifier Dan Evans, one of the surprises of the tournament, continued his impressive run with a 1-6, 6-3, 7-6(4), 6-3 win over Australia's Bernard Tomic.

The Englishman, who said he was suffering from an unusual affliction in sore nipples, also revealed he was recently given a juicy incentive to beat Tomic by the Australian's father.

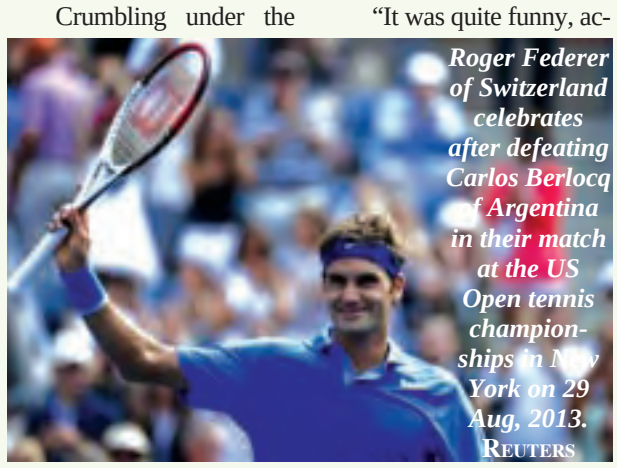
"It was quite funny, actually," Evans said.

"I was there playing quallies. His dad sort of fobbed me off and said I wasn't good enough to practise with him. I remembered that."

Evans, ranked 179th in the world, had no problems finding a practice partner at Flushing Meadows, however, with even Federer joining him for a hit.

The Swiss master, unflappable even as he struggles to add to his record collection of 17 grand slam singles titles, hardly raised a sweat as he brushed aside Argentina's Carlos Berlocq 6-3, 6-2, 6-1 on Thursday.

"For me it was pretty straightforward, to be honest," Federer said.—*Reuters*



Roger Federer of Switzerland celebrates after defeating Carlos Berlocq of Argentina in their match at the US Open tennis championships in New York on 29 Aug, 2013. REUTERS

Flavia Pennetta (L) of Italy is congratulated after defeating compatriot Sara Errani (R) at the US Open tennis championships in New York on 29 Aug, 2013. REUTERS

*Victoria Azarenka of Belarus hits a return to Aleksandra Wozniak of Canada at the US Open tennis championships in New York on 29 Aug, 2013.—*REUTERS

Frustrated Kaka says he wants to leave Real Madrid

MADRID, 30 Aug—Real Madrid's Brazilian playmaker Kaka has told the Spanish club he wants to leave after deciding he will not get sufficient playing time under new coach Carlo Ancelotti.

The 31-year-old has failed to reproduce the form that won him a World Player of the Year award in 2007 since he joined Real from AC Milan for a fee of 65 million euros ($86 million) in 2009.

Real have several players ahead of him in the pecking order, including Germany's Mesut Ozil and Spain's Isco, and Kaka said he hoped to move on before the transfer window closes on 2 September. "The club knows I want to leave and I would like them to help me find a solution for my exit," he told reporters on Thursday after scoring two goals in a 4-0 win in a friendly at Deportivo La Coruna. "Things are difficult for me here, there is less room in the squad all the time," he added.

"I am ready every day to train and work but that does not mean that I am happy." Kaka's departure is likely to be complicated by negotiations over his wages as he is one of the best paid players in the world, earning more than 10 million euros a season, according to media reports. "I cannot go to Brazil because the market is closed, the exit would be within Europe," he said. "I don't want to talk about clubs because I have none at this stage."—*Reuters*

*Real Madrid's Kaka (L) and Inter Milan's Hugo Campagnaro fight for the ball during their friendly soccer match in St Louis on 10 Aug, 2013.—*REUTERS

Tiger's practice may be restricted by ailing back

NORTON, (Massachusetts), 30 Aug—Tiger Woods is undergoing a daily routine to treat his back troubles and the FedExCup points leader may be forced to restrict his practice sessions at this week's Deutsche Bank Championship.

Woods collapsed to his knees in pain with a spasm on the 13th hole during Sunday's final round of The Barclays in New Jersey and though he recovered to nearly force a playoff, his ongoing back issues have forced a change of plans this week.

The world number one pulled out of his good friend Notah Begay III's charity event on Wednesday and kept himself away from practice sessions at the TPC Boston until Thursday's pro-am competition.

That cautious approach came after Woods received a series of treatments for his back, some of which will continue for the rest of this week.—*Reuters*

*Tiger Woods of the US hits his tee shot on the second hole during final round play in the Barclays' PGA golf tournament in Jersey City, New Jersey, on 25 Aug, 2013.—*REUTERS

An Afghan Defence Ministry delegation approaches a refurbished newly arrived MI-17 helicopter at the military airport in Kabul on 17 Jan, 2008. REUTERS

Pentagon opens criminal probe of Russian helicopter deals

WASHINGTON, 30 Aug— The Pentagon has opened a criminal investigation of an Army aviation unit that awarded tens of millions of dollars worth of contracts to Russian and US firms for maintenance and overhaul of Russian-made helicopters, according to people familiar with the matter. The investigation, which has not been made public before, is led by the Defence Criminal Investigative Service. Investigators are examining potentially improper payments by the Army aviation office to contractors as well as possible personal connections between members of the Army unit and the contractors, said the sources, speaking on condition of anonymity.

No charges have been filed.

The maintenance deals are part of a broader Defence Department programme that is buying and overhauling Russian-made *Mi-17* helicopters for use by Afghanistan. The aircraft are being purchased by the Pentagon from a Russian manufacturer through Russia's powerful state-owned arms dealer, Rosoboronexport, which isn't a focus of the criminal probe. The Pentagon has touted the program — budgeted at approximately $1.1 billion for acquisition of the latest set of choppers — as the quickest way to beef up the Afghan Air Force's special mission wing before US troops withdraw next year.

In addition to the criminal probe of the maintenance and overhaul contracts, investigators with the office of the Special Inspector General for Afghan Reconstruction are also said to be looking at the much more lucrative helicopter-acquisition program. The unit cost of the new helicopters has escalated dramatically in recent years, according to watchdog groups and government documents, from around $10.5 million each in 2009 to $19 million today.

Phil LaVelle, a spokesman for SIGAR, said the office is "in the preliminary stages" of its probe and "is working with other federal agencies relating to the purchase of *Mi-17* helicopters for the Afghan government."

Lawmakers in both houses of Congress have demanded the Pentagon halt its dealings with Rosoboronexport, in part because the Russian firm supplies weapons to the government of embattled Syrian President Bashar al-Assad.

Reuters

MYANMAR TV

(31-8-2013, Saturday)

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

6:20 am
2. Physical Exercise

6:30 am
3. Dance of National Races

6:45 am
4. Pyi Thu Ni Ti

7:00 am
5. News

7:20 am
6. Business News

8:00 am
7. News

8:25 am
8. India Drama Series

9:00 am
9. News/International News

9:25 am
10. Mono Classical Songs

9:45 am
11. Documentary

10:00 am
12. News

10:15 am
13. TV Drama Series

11:00 am
14. Shwe Yin Khone Than

11:30 am
15. Game for Children

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

12:25 pm
17. Round Up of The Week's TV Local News

1:00 pm
18. Teleplay

2:00 pm
19. Round Up of The Week' Hlut Taw News

3:00 pm
20. News

3:15 pm
21. TV Drama Series

4:00 pm
22. News

4:15 pm
23. Business News

4:35 pm
24. University of Distance Education (TV Lectures) -Third Year (Chemistry)

5:00 pm
25. News

5:15 pm
26. Documentary (SEA Games)

6:00 pm
27. News

6:35 pm
28. TV Drama Series

7:00 pm
29. News

7:15 pm
30. TV Drama Series

8:00 pm
31. News

8:35 pm
32. Monthly Weather

8:45 pm
33. Business News

9:00 pm
34. News
35. Documentary
36. Myanmar Series
37. Gitadagale Phwintbaohn

MYANMAR INTERNATIONAL

(31-8-13 09:30 am ~ 1-9-13 09:30 am) MST

* Local News
* Food Trip (Episode-4) Part-1
* World News
* Fantastic Orchid Garden From The Flower City
* Local News
* Let's Visit Flower City by Coach
* World News
* Myanmar Traditional Instruments (Myanma Drum)
* Local News
* Myanmar Delicate Artistic Handy Creations (Goldsmith)
* World News
* Trishaw Man
* Local News
* School For the Blind (Kyee Myin Dine)
* World News
* A Study Tour To Khakaborazi Museum (Putao)
* Local News
* Shwe Kyet Yet- Shwe Kyet Kya's Boat Race Festival
* World News
* Fortune Teller: "Yan Moe Aung"
* Local News
* Visiting A Serence Village In The Northwest Of Myanmar
* World News
* Great Shwedagon-The Ten Traditional Arts & Crafts
* Local News
* Journey To Unimaginable Spot (Episode-12)
* World News
* Will you feed the pigeons
* Local News
* Historic And Mystery Behind The Caves
* World News
* Variety Puppet Dances

Australia's Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander population reaches 669,900

CANBERRA, 30 Aug— Australia's Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander population has reached 669,900 (or 3 percent of the total population), according to the latest figures released by the Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS) on Friday. Contrary to popular belief, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples mainly live in urban areas.

"The Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander population predominantly lives in Australia's most populous areas, with about 60 percent living in major cities and inner regional areas, and just over 20 percent living in remote and very remote areas," said Bjorn Jarvis, director of demography at the ABS.

The figures showed that New South Wales has the largest Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander population (208,500), followed by Queensland (189,000) and Western Australia (88,300). About three-quarters of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people live in these three states.

And almost a third (30 percent) of the Northern Territory's population were Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people, the highest of any state or territory. Victoria had the smallest proportion of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people at just under 1 percent.—*Xinhua*

Boston Marathon to accept another 9,000 runners in 2014

BOSTON, 30 Aug—Next year's Boston Marathon will include an additional 9,000 runners, amid a groundswell of support and interest in the wake of the bombing attack this year which killed three people and cut the event short, the marathon's organizers said on Thursday.

Boosting the field size to 36,000 runners at the 21 April, 2014, race would make for the second-largest turnout in its history, since 38,708 runners toed the starting line in Hopkinton, Massachusetts at the race's 100th anniversary in 1996.

"We understand many marathoners and qualifiers want to run Boston in 2014, and we appreciate the support and patience that the running community has demonstrated because of the bombings that occurred this past spring," said Tom Grilk, executive director of the Boston Athletic Association, which organizes the race. The increase, a one-time break from the race's normal cap of 27,000 runners, will help to accommodate the 5,624 athletes who were still on the course this year, when a pair of homemade pressure-cooker bombs exploded amid thousands of spectators, volunteers and athletes at the finish line and brought the race to a halt. The attacks prompted an intense investigation, with law enforcement officials combing both the scene and thousands of still and video images received of Boston's best-attended sporting event.

Three days after the 15 April attack, FBI officials released photos of two men they believed were responsible for the bombing in a plea for the public's help in identifying the suspected bombers. The pair, later identified as brothers Tamerlan and Dzhokhar Tsarnaev, tried to flee Boston that night, first killing a university police officer in a failed attempt to steal his gun and later engaging in a firefight with police in Watertown, Massachusetts that ended with older brother Tamerlan, 26, dead and younger brother Dzhokhar fleeing the scene.

Reuters

Runners continue to run towards the finish line of the Boston Marathon as an explosion erupts near the finish line of the race in this photo exclusively licensed to Reuters by photographer Dan Lampariello after he took the photo in Boston, Massachusetts, on 15 April, 2013. REUTERS

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The New Light of Myanmar

Saturday, 31 August, 2013

Same letter numbers and seals to be used at every MP office

Pyithu Hluttaw session in progress.—MNA

NAY PYI TAW, 30 Aug—Secretary of Pyithu Hluttaw Rights Committee Dr Soe Yin replied that coordination is being undertaken for use of letter numbers and seals in equal term at every MP office across the country asked by U Than Oo of Myawady Constituency at today's session of Pyithu Hluttaw.

At the meeting, the Speaker of Pyithu Hluttaw said that the Union Election Commission sent a letter to the Speaker of Pyidaungsu Hluttaw. With regard to the letter, the Speaker of Pyidaungsu Hluttaw sent back a letter to the Speaker of Pyithu Hluttaw. In the letter, some complaints were sent to the UEC that at least one percent of voters would like to recall MPs elected in their respective constituencies in line with the constitution. The UEC needs to carry out the complaints of the voters as tasks must be undertaken in accord with provisions of the constitution. Section 397 of the constitution states the Pyidaungsu Hluttaw shall enact the necessary laws on matters relating to 'Election' and on matters relating to 'Recall'. The UEC has sent letters two times to the Speaker of Pyidaungsu Hluttaw so as to dutifully carry out its tasks enshrined in the constitution and to protect the fundamental rights of the voters.

The commission has submitted the bill under Sub-Section (a) of Section 100 of the constitution. After the Pyithu Hluttaw Bill Committee held discussions, the bill was submitted to the fifth regular session of Pyithu Hluttaw on 6-11-2012. Due to invitation of Hluttaw, seven MPs came out to submit the proposals to amend the bill.

According to the Sub-Sections (a) and (c) of Section 138 of Constitution, Pyithu Hluttaw must discuss and decide any bill and then send the approved bill or the bill approved with amendments to Amyotha Hluttaw. However, the Bill Committee submitted the report to the seventh regular session of Pyithu Hluttaw held on 23 August for suspension of the MP Recall Bill, and the Hluttaw approved it.

The report of the Bill Committee stated main reason to suspend the bill that due to the provision that a minimum of one percent out of the original voters of the electorate of the constituency concerned shall submit the complaint to the UEC in the provision of Sub-Section (b) of Section 396 of the Constitution, the defeated candidates may organize the voters to make complaints to the UEC. So, undesirable problems may come out. Other democratic countries do not practise the system of "Right to Recall" by one percent voters. That is why, as the Constitution Review Joint Committee needs to review the Sub-Section (b) of Section 396 of Constitution, the Hluttaw decided to suspend the bill.

In studying the bill, although the provision in the constitution states a minimum of one percent out of the original voters of the electorate of the constituency concerned shall submit the complaint to the UEC in accordance with Sub-Section (b) of Section 396, the complaints will not immediately recall the MPs. The complaint will be put under investigation in conformity with the law. The MPs will have right of defence. The incorrect complaints will be cancelled. If it is correct, election will be held in the respective constituencies, and the MP will be elected with over a half of votes.

The final decision must be laid down through over 50 percent majority vote. The UEC has submitted the bill to implement the provisions of the constitution in line with Section 100 (a) of Constitution. According to Section 397 of the Constitution, the Pyidaungsu Hluttaw shall enact the necessary laws on matters relating to 'Election' and on matters relating to 'Recall'. Due to assignment by the Pyidaungsu Hluttaw,

(See page 9)

Republic of the Union of Myanmar
President Office
(Order No. 37/2013)
9th Waning of Wagaung,1375 ME
(30th August, 2013)

Sagaing Region Minister appointed

Under the Subsection (e) and (f) of Section 262 and Subsection (c) of Section 264 of the Constitution of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar, Subsection (c) of Section 19 and Subsection (c) of Section 82 of the Union Government Law and Subsection (g) of Section 8 and Subsection (a) of Section 56 of the Region/State Government Law, Region Hluttaw Representative U Aung Zaw Oo from Salingyi Township Constituency (2) has been appointed as Sagaing Region Minister for Transport.

Sd/ Thein Sein
President
Republic of the Union of Myanmar

Union FM felicitates Malaysian counterpart

NAY PYI TAW, 31 Aug—On the occasion of the 56th Anniversary of the Independence Day of Malaysia, which falls on 31 August 2013, U Wunna Maung Lwin, Union Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar, has sent a message of felicitations to His Excellency Datuk Anifah bin Haji Aman, Minister of Foreign Affairs of Malaysia.—*MNA*

Workshop on State Systems of Accounting for and Control of Nuclear Material-SSAC held

NAY PYI TAW, 30 Aug—Jointly organized by the Ministry of Science and Technology and International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA), a Workshop on State Systems of Accounting for and Control of Nuclear Material-SSAC took place at Aureum Palace Hotel from 26 to 28 August, with an address by Deputy Minister Dr Aung Kyaw Myat.

At the workshop, matters on SSAC, non-proliferation of nuclear weapons, agreement on control and guide on nuclear activities and terms of agreement to be followed by the countries that possess least nuclear particles or no nuclear particles were discussed.—*MNA*

Myanmar student honoured

YANGON, 30 Aug—BDS final student Maung Ye Htut Oo from University of Dental Medicine (Yangon) stood second in International Association for Dental Research/ Dentsply Student Clinician Program (IADR/Dentsply SCP/2013 Competition held at Plaza Athenee in Bangkok of Thailand from 21 to 23 August. Among the participants from Indonesia, Singapore, Philippines, Hong Kong and Vietnam, he secured the prize for his paper on effectiveness of Tamar (neem) mouthwash on gum disease.—*MNA*

Amyotha Hluttaw approves Media Bill

NAY PYI TAW, 30 Aug—Member of Bill Committee U Aung Nyein read the report of the committee over the discussions of MPs concerning the Media Bill and the Hluttaw approved the bill at today's session of Amyotha Hluttaw.

The report stated that as discussions of the MPs on Media Bill were appropriate, the Hluttaw should approve the amendments. Officials of the Ministry of Information and Myanmar Press Council (Temporary) have reached agreement except some differences after a series of meetings. The Bill Committee has no particular suggestion on the agreed points. As the different points have been coordinated and amended, the bill was submitted to seek the approval from the Hluttaw.

U Phone Myint Aung of Yangon Constituency No 3 submitted the proposal to approve the Media Bill, and then Hluttaw decided to approve the bill with amendments.

Hluttaw approved the report on the case of Daw Ma San from Kyaungsu Village in Koete Village-tract in Laymyethna Township in Hinthada District reviewed by Supreme Court of the Union.

Next, the Speaker of Amyotha Hluttaw explained the undertakings in the seventh regular session of the First Amyotha Hluttaw.

From 25 June to 28 August, Union level organization members replied to 304 questions. Ten MPs submitted 14 proposals. Twenty-four bills were also submitted. The Hluttaw sought approvals for the reports of Government Guarantees, Pledges and Undertaking Vettings Committee and Relief and Victims Care Committee of Amyotha Hluttaw. The Hluttaw carried out formation of committees, associations, cancellation of commission and approved the nomination of the MPs for the joint committees.

U Phone Myint Aung from Yangon Region Constituency (3).—MNA

Bill Committee member U Aung Nyein.

MNA

Committees held meetings for 118 times and commission four times.

From 24 July to 28 August, one talk and eight debates were held for ensuring capacity building of MPs.

The library of the Hluttaw has collected 864 books in the seventh regular session period in addition to 5604 books already collected before the seventh regular session.

The seventh regular session of the first Amyotha Hluttaw came to an end in the morning.

MNA