

Buddhist devotees in Myanmar observe Dhammacakka Day on Fullmoon Day of Waso



Buddhist devotees on the platform of Uppatasanti Pagoda in Nay Pyi Taw on Fullmoon Day of Waso.—MNA (News on page 3)

Roadshow for promotion of Kyauk Phyu Special Economic Zone gains wave of interest in Singapore

By Ye Myint

YANGON, 11 July — Myanmar held a roadshow for promotion of Kyauk Phyu Special Economic Zone in Singapore on 7 July, gaining a wave of interest from attendees including Singapore-based diplomats and businesspeople, according to a press release from the Kyauk Phyu SEZ Bid Evaluation and Awarding Committee.

The Singapore roadshow caught strong interest from not only potential investors but also local media, U Aung Kyaw Than, BEAC's joint secretary, told The New Light of Myanmar on Thursday.

The roadshow took place at Suntec City & Exhibition Centre in Singapore three days after the Yangon Roadshow on 3

July, with officials making a master plan presentation and explaining the tender process to choose developers for the US\$227 million project that will include construction of a deep-sea port, an industrial park and a residential area in Myanmar's western Rakhine State.

Regarding concern about possible impact of the project development by some Yangon-based Rakhine social organizations, he asserted the project will have minimal or no adverse social and environmental impact on local people as it will be developed in accord with policies focusing on emergence of an environmentally-friendly SEZ and sustainable development of the region. He reaffirmed that no villages are in both Phase I and Phase II areas

of the Kyauk Phyu SEZ development, citing the SEZ's location on the area

of open space as a reason for his assertion.

According to the re-

lease, a Myanmar delegation for promoting Kyauk Phyu SEZ in Singapore

delivered the project's information and explained (See page 2)



U Aung Kyaw Than, joint secretary of Bid Evaluation and Awarding Committee, taking a floor at Kyauk Phyu Special Economic Zone Roadshow in Singapore on 7 July.—PHOTO PROVIDED

Yangon Region Chief Minister attends Waso robe offering ceremony

YANGON, 11 July—To mark the Fullmoon Day of Waso, Yangon Region Government led by Yangon Region Chief Minister U Myint Swe and wife Daw Khin Thet Htay donated Waso robe and offertories to the Abbot and monks from Pitikat Thonepon Nikal Buddhist Literature School in South Dagon Township in Yangon

on Friday.

During the Waso robe offering ceremony, the chief minister also conferred the religious titles to the two monks who won the religious examination.

The three well-wishers also donated 6.4 million for construction of the monastery through U Myint Swe.—MNA

Yangon Region Chief Minister U Myint Swe and wife Daw Khin Thet Htay offer Waso robe to a monk.

MNA



Seminar on snake bite problem in Myanmar held in Nay Pyi Taw



Union Minister U Maung Myint addresses seminar on snake bite problem in Myanmar.—MNA

NAY PYI TAW, 11 July—The seminar on snake bite in Myanmar took place on Friday in Nay Pyi Taw, with an address by Union Minister for Industry U Maung Myint.

In his address, he said the Ministry is trying to increase manufacturing an-

ti-venom and needs skilled workers, technology and financial supports.

Kidney specialist Dr Chen Au Peh from Royal Adelaide Hospital in Australia and officials also discussed the current production of anti-venom and its challenges, distribution of anti-venom in

Myanmar and cold chain system and hospital management for snake bite patients.

According to the Union minister, about 300 people died in over 13,000 snake bite cases in 2012 and most of them were farmers.

MNA

Roadshow for promotion of...

(from page 1)

ongoing works to enhance cooperation and coordination with local organizations and partnerships to interested firms and media. Moreover, the delegation held talks with the Singaporean senior minister of state for Trade and Industry on prospects for bilateral cooperation during their stay in Singapore.

Expressions of interest (EOI) for the Kyauk Phyu SEZ will be made availa-

ble on 14 July and developers for the three areas of the zone are slated to be announced at the end of November after shortlisted candidates are selected in September, the BEAC joint secretary said.

It is planned to enable potential developers to visit the SEZ before submission of their detailed proposals to the BEAC, he added.

Myanmar is committed to the development of three Special Economic Zones at

Thilawa in Yangon, Dawei and Kyaukphyu. Among them, the Kyauk Phyu SEZ will see a deep sea port that will unlock the potential of the hinterland and fulfill the country's potential as a trade corridor for Africa, the Middle East and China.

Myanmar is also hoping the development of the SEZ will provide locals in the region with employment opportunities, thereby ensuring a favourable environment for the people in Rakhine State.

Myanmar joins 35th World Conference of World Association of Girls Guides and Girl Scouts

YANGON, 11 July — A three-member Myanmar delegation took part in the World Association of Girls Guides and Girl Scouts' 35th World Conference held in Hong Kong from 5 to 9 July.

The Myanmar delega-

tion arrived back in Yangon on Thursday. They were welcomed back at Yangon International Airport by Yangon Region Minister U Nyan Tun Oo and officials.

During the 35th conference, Myanmar was

recognized as an associate member of the WAGGS, the world's largest voluntary organization for girls and young women. WAGGS World Conferences have taken place every three years since 1954.

MNA



Myanmar delegation seen at Yangon International Airport on their return from World Association of Girls Guides and Girl Scouts' 35th World Conference.—MNA

Saw Nadi (Myitkyina), Moe Myint Kyel win Nan Nyunt Swe Poetry Award

By Khaing Thanda Lwin

YANGON, 11 July—The first Nan Nyunt Swe Poetry Award ceremony to mark the 4th anniversary of the death of Poet and Writer Saya Nan Nyunt Swe (1923-2010) took place on Friday at House of Media and Entertainment on Bo Aung Kyaw Road in Kyauktada Township in Yangon.

The well-known comedian Zagana, son of Saya Nan Nyunt Swe, presented prizes to youth winner poets

Saw Nadi (Myitkyina) and Moe Myint Kyel.

The prize is aimed at long-term remembering of his father's name that did not mention for 25 years ago because of his political activities, Maung Thura (Zagana) said.

Zagana added that he will try to award the poetry prizes yearly by choosing the poems from any magazines and he will also arrange to award the best article prizes next year to

mark his mother Daw Hla Kyi who had the pen name Yuwadi Kyi Oo.

Nan Nyunt Swe, a very honest man, loved his job and wrote more than 1,200 poems and 800 articles, focusing primarily on music and classic literature and he respected Composer Gita Nat Than Ko Saw Nyein, Writer Daw Kywe Kywe said. Nan Nyunt Swe was born in 1923 in Pyay District, Bago Region and passed away on 14 July 2010 of natural causes.

NLM

Buddhist devotees in Myanmar observe Dhammacakka Day on Fullmoon Day of Waso



Shwedagon Pagoda in Yangon crowded with devotees on Dhammacakka Day.—MNA



Union Minister for Religious Affairs U Soe Win offering Waso robes to monks.—MNA

NAY PYI TAW, 11 July —Buddhist devotees in Myanmar thronged pagodas across the country for observing Dhammacakka Day on Friday, Fullmoon Day of Waso.

The sixth Waso robe offering ceremony of Uppatasanti Pagoda in Nay Pyi Taw took place at the pagoda on Friday, with officials led by Union Minister for Religious Affairs U Soe Win offering Waso robes to Buddha Images at

the Pagoda and provisions to monks.

Being a day of religious significance, pagodas—Uppatasanti, Datu-zaya Datpaungsu, Lawka Marazein, Phaya Koesu and Koe Khamgyi— in Nay Pyi Taw Council Area were packed with devotees doing meritorious deeds the whole day. In the evening, religious associations from townships in Nay Pyi Taw Council Area and Nay Pyi Taw Command recited

Dhammacakka verses and parittas at the pagodas.

In Yangon, devotees led by members of the Board of Trustees of Shwedagon Pagoda offered Waso robes and alms to Buddha Images at the Pagoda.

Likewise, Waso robe offering ceremonies were held at Sule, Botahtaung Kyaik-dae-at, Maha Wizaya, Shwe Phone Pwint and Kyaik Waing Pagodas and others in Yangon.

MNA



A pagoda packed with devotees on Dhammacakka Day.

MNA



People offer lights at a pagoda on Dhammacakka Day.

MNA

Maukmai BEHS offers Waso robes

MAUKMAI, 11 July — Maukmai Township Basic Education High School held a ceremony to offer Waso robes and alms to members of Sangha at the prayer hall of the school on 10 July morning.

School Headmistress Daw Chaw Su Khine, teachers and students donated alms and robes to the member of Sangha. Then the monks delivered sermons and the teachers and students shared the merit gained. Guest were also treated with refreshments.

Sai Myo Thant (IPRD)



Rakhine State government to help farmers

SITTWAY, 11 July — Landlords were getting into trouble as farmers in Bangali villages in Maungdaw Township were returning the farmland leased to them for cultivation of rice paddy this year, according to 8-7-2014 issue of the De-

mocracy Today. However, it was discovered that out of 35 farmers and 210 acres of farmland in Mingalan-yunt Village in the township, eight farmers were planning to grow rice in 45 acres of farmland on their own arrangements and oth-

er 27 farmers had difficulty to grow rice in 165 acre of farmland in time in this cultivation season.

There are a total of 1190 farmers who had difficulty to grow rice in 2975 acres of farmland in 36 villages. Authorities are trying

to provide everything the farmers need in time in the cultivation season, according to an official.

Arrangements are also underway to train 1190 farmers for cultivation methods.

Rakhine State IPRD

Mandalay crowded with people on Waso Fullmoon Day

MANDALAY, 11 July —Famous pagodas around Mandalay and monasteries were crowded with people who were reciting prayers and offering robes, flowers and alms to Buddha images and monks on Friday which coincided with Waso Fullmoon Day or Dhammacakka Day on Buddhist Calendar.

At prayer halls in wards, locals donated robes and alms to monks

and monks delivered sermons to people, who took sabbath.

At four o'clock this morning, monks washed the face of Maha Muni Buddha Image and offered robes, flowers, lights and alms. Mandalay Region Government held a ceremony to recite prayers continuously at the Maha Myat Muni Pagoda.

Famous pagodas crowded with people today

included the Maha Lawka Yan Naing Aung Hsu Taung Pyay Pagoda, the Mandalay Hill Kuthodaw Sandamuni Kyauk Taw Gyi Pagoda, Yankin Hill, the Tooth Relic Pagoda, the Tawagu Pagoda, the Chanthagyi Pagoda, the Shwe Kyimyin Pagoda, the Hsu Taungpyay Pagoda, the Hsu Taungya Pagoda and the Wakhinkon Pagoda.

Tin Maung (Mandalay)

Legal action to be taken against drivers causing rush hour traffic congestion on Mandalay's main roads

MANDALAY, 11 July — Legal actions will be taken against drivers of vehicles causing rush hour traffic congestion on busy roads

in Mandalay starting from 15 August, according to a meeting of Mandalay Region traffic rule enforcement subcommittee.

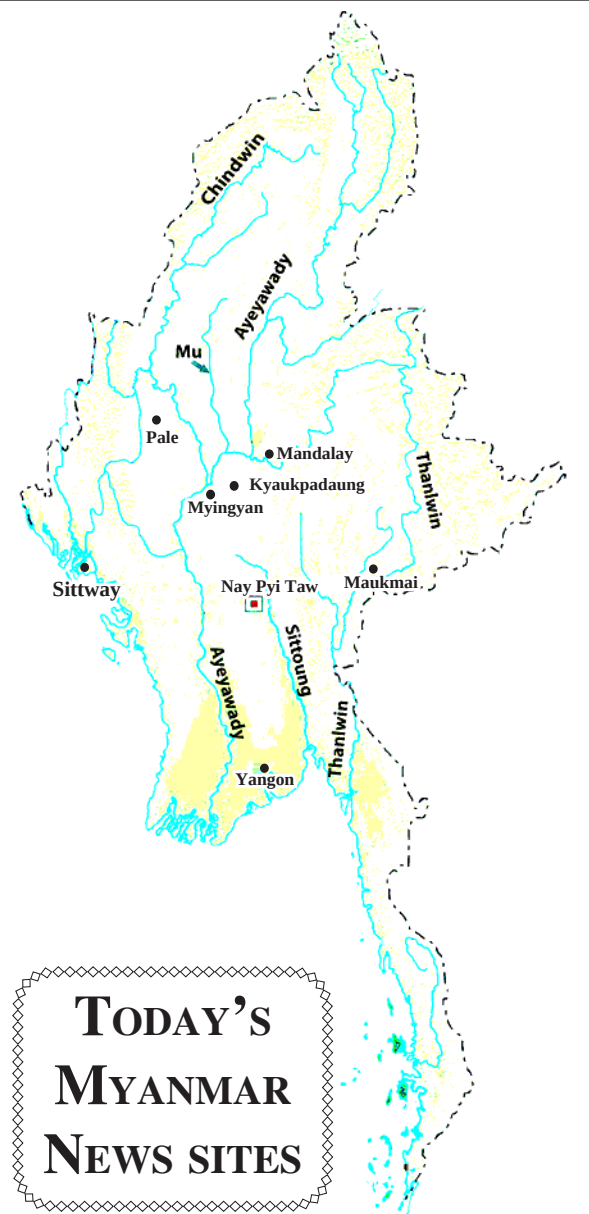
The meeting was held at the office of Mandalay City Development Committee on Thursday, with U Thet Naing Tun, joint

secretary of MCDC calling for participation of all in the drive to reduce road accidents and traffic congestions on downtown roads of Mandalay.

The joint secretary who led the subcommittee stressed the need to step up developing awareness on traffic rules among road users at the meeting. He also called on inspection teams to take more assignments of duties.

When the period from 15 July to 14 August to educate road users on traffic rules is over, legal actions will be taken against drivers of vehicles stopping for passengers and goods on main roads during rush hours, officials said.

Thiha Ko Ko (Mandalay)



Ministry of Environmental Conservation and Forestry plants trees to prevent climate change

NAY PYI TAW, 11 July — The tree-planting ceremony of the Ministry of Environmental Conservation and Forestry was held near the Thatathataha Pagoda in Nay Pyi Taw Council Area on Friday.

Union Minister U Win Tun and wife Daw Swe Chit participated in the tree planting campaign and planted a Kankaw tree.

Union deputy ministers and

wives, officials and staff also planted trees during the campaign.

As the area today planted with tree includes in the watershed areas of Thapaysam Dam, a total of 551 trees planted today will one day contribute to prevention of climate change and soil erosion and conservation of biodiversity.

MNA

Healthcare reform to be implemented

NAY PYI TAW, 11 July — The Ministry of Health is implementing measures to reform the healthcare system in an effort for laying firm foundation in the democratic transition, said Union Minister for Health Dr Pe Thet Khin at the meeting to explain the Third Wave Reform held at the ministry in Nay Pyi Taw on Friday.

The union minister urged the staff of the ministry to cooperate with other ministries, social organizations, well-wishers, reli-

gious organization and the public to consolidate the functions of the ministry.

At the meeting, Union Deputy Minister for Health Dr Daw Thein Thein Htay explained responsibility, accountability and coordination in the healthcare sector and Union Deputy Minister for Health Dr Than Aung explained the comprehensive national development plan (health sector). Directors-general and officials of the ministry attended the meeting.

MNA

LOCAL NEWS

Power lines pose threat to commuters in east of Dagon

YANGON, 11 July—Power lines on Shwepadetha Street in the east of Dagon township are said to be posing unwanted threat to passers-by, according to a person who lives in the surrounding area.

He expressed his worry, saying that cables are hanging down on old lamp-

posts, with the possibility of falling down on houses nearby, thereby inviting ill consequences.

Some locals want the ministry concerned to deal with the issue by replacing old power lines and lamp-posts and trimming branches of trees.

Nay Win Tun

Mandalay gets new towers for speedy connection

MANDALAY, 11 July—New towers are being erected in Mandalay Region in a bid to boost telephone and internet connections, according to local people.

Private telephone operators are reported to cajole owners of tall buildings

into letting them their facilities for the installation of antenna with annual rents.

According to a local communication department, poor connections are blamed on the fact that users outnumber available services.



University students donate blood in Mandalay

MANDALAY, 11 July—Students from Yadanabon University gathered at the Kyauktawgyi Pagoda near the university to donate blood in Pyigyidagun Township here on Thursday.

Two philanthropic social organizations joined the university students in the blood donation charity.

A Buddhist monk from Myat Parami Blood Donors Association said, “When it comes to blood donation, the younger the better. This kind of merit is personal and more rewarding.”

Another monk from Bawa Alin, a social group,

An official of the department explained that slow speed is due to the use of phones from different regions, saying, “Some people bring phones from other areas and use them here.”

Thiha Ko Ko (Mandalay)



said, “Blood is a life giver, so donation of blood is quite noble.”

A blood donor said that 202 sacs of blood were donated to the Na-

tional Blood Bank.

Thiha Ko Ko (Mandalay)

Antique-like articles found in Myingyan

MYINGYAN, 11 July—Things which are thought to be antiques were found in a village-track of Myingyan township, Mandalay Region, while an ancient pagoda was under renovation.

Seven ancient items were found to be related to Buddhism, with pictures depicting the birth of the Buddha, His renunciation, preaching a sermon to the first Five Disciples, and His

conquers.

The ancient articles are now placed under the supervision of the village’s chairman Sayadaw.

Zaw Min Naing (Myingyan)

Sagaing Region Government donates Sky Net television receivers to village libraries in Pale Township

PALE, 11 July—With the aim of improving the socioeconomic lives of people living in rural areas, Sagaing Region government, through Region Information and Public Relations Department, donated seven Sky Net television receivers to village libraries to

Nwein Village, Kyaukphyakan Village, Hnawkan Village, Aima Village, Hsinshin Village, Alebon Village and Ywathit Village in Pale Township, Yinmabin district in Sagaing Division on 6 July.

Patron of U Soe Pyaing Library U Myo

Maung said that he would like to thank the region government for donation of a Sky Net television receiver that cover over 80 channels as the receiver would enable the local people to have access to information in no time.

Myint Thein Soe (IPRD)

Model paddy field sees double yields

KYAUKPADAUNG, 11 July—A model paddy field was harvested here in Mandalay Region on Wednesday, local farmers said.

The harvested paddy field was worked by the township’s agricultural department. Officials from the department, lo-

cal authorities and interested peasants gathered at the harvest.

According to officials, the model paddy plot yielded 203 baskets per acre, which farmers said is two times higher than that of ordinary fields.

Ko Nay (Kyaukpadaung)



REGIONAL

Thousands of people join parade to enshrine late Cambodian King Sihanouk's remains

PHNOM PENH, 11 July — Thousands of people attended a religious procession on Friday morning to enshrine the remains of Cambodia's most revered King Father Norodom Sihanouk, who died of illness in Beijing in 2012.

Three diamond-studded gold and marble urns containing Sihanouk's ashes were moved from an altar in the Royal Palace to be placed inside a monument on a golden mythological bird-shaped float and marched through streets around the palace.

Meanwhile, Buddhist monks chanted prayers as the 101-gun artilleries salute were fired into the sky.

Sihanouk's ashes were marched through streets around the Royal Palace as part of an elaborate three-day ceremony which began Thursday, before being interred in a stupa in the opulent Silver Pagoda at the compound of the Royal Palace on Saturday, their final resting place. Sihanouk's wife Queen Mother Norodom Monineath and his son, current King Norodom Sihamoni, as well



The late Cambodian King Sihanouk's remains are marched through streets in Phnom Penh, Cambodia, on 11 July, 2014.—XINHUA

as Prime Minister Hun Sen, his cabinet members, and foreign diplomats, were present at the parade rite.

Deputy Governor of Phnom Penh Municipality Khuong Sreng said, "Approximately 20,000 people joined the procession of

the late king's remains by standing along road sides."

National Police spokesman Kirt Chantharith said some 7,000 police, military police and soldiers were assigned to attend the march, which was live broadcast on local TV

channels.

To mark the interment ceremony, King Norodom Sihamoni had signed a royal decree to release or reduce jail terms for 335 prisoners, while Prime Minister Hun Sen allowed all civil servants and

private company employees to take a day-off.

According to schedule, in line with his wishes, Sihanouk's cremated remains will be enshrined in a stupa in the Silver Pagoda in the Royal Palace on Saturday.

On Thursday evening,

approximately 3,000 Buddhist monks gathered in front of the Royal Palace in meditation and prayers to mark the start of the interment ceremony.

King Father Norodom Sihanouk died of illness at the age of 90 in Beijing on 15 Oct, 2012. The late king requested that all of his ashes be interred in the Silver Pagoda alongside the remains of his favourite daughter, Princess Kantha Bopha, who died of leukemia in 1952 at the age of 4.

The late monarch reigned over Cambodia from 1941 to 1955 and again from 1993 until his voluntary abdication in 2004 in favor of his son, King Norodom Sihamoni.

He was a presence through decades of political and social turmoil in Cambodia, despite long periods of exile overseas.

Sihanouk was named as the King Father of Independence, Territorial Integrity and National Unity. He led Cambodia to gain full independence and freedom from the French protectorate in 1953. —Xinhua

Seoul hotel rejects Japan embassy party, museum cancels cartoon exhibit

SEOUL, 11 July — The Lotte Hotel, one of the largest luxury hotels in Seoul, has decided against hosting a regularly held reception organized by the Japanese Embassy to commemorate the establishment of Japan's defence forces, because of anticipated demonstrations against it, a hotel source said on Thursday night. Meanwhile, the War Memorial of Korea has canceled an exhibition of the popular Japanese cartoon "One Piece,"

which had been scheduled to start on Saturday, citing a drawing similar to the Rising Sun flag — considered as a symbol of Japan's aggression in South Korea — appearing in the original comic series.

The Seoul hotel has notified the Japanese Embassy of the decision for the Japanese Self-Defence Forces event that had been scheduled on Friday evening. The embassy has since decided to hold the event at the ambassador's

residence. A Japanese government source said, "It's regrettable that the Lotte, which has been a familiar venue for us, has decided to take such action."

With the history issue that has long been simmering and Japan's recent move to change its defense policy to play a greater security role in the background, criticism against Japan has been growing from the South Korean government and media.

The Dong-a Ilbo

newspaper carried a report blasting the hotel's reception plan in its Thursday edition. The hotel said it has been bombarded with calls of protests and threats. The hotel has been almost annually hosting the same reception in recent years.

The SDF commemorates its founding on 1 July. This year marks its 60th anniversary. Japanese diplomatic missions around the world hold similar events around this date.

Kyodo News

Family planning funding needed to save lives in Pacific:

New Zealand parliamentarians

WELLINGTON, 11 July — Women and newborns are dying in Pacific island nations for a lack of investment in sexual and reproductive health, particularly in family planning, a group of New Zealand Members of Parliament said on Friday. Many countries in the Pacific have poor sexual and reproductive health indicators, reflecting a lack of prioritization and investment by governments, the New Zealand Parliamentarians Group on Population and Development (NZPPD) said in a statement to mark World Population Day. In countries such as Papua New Guinea, Kiribati and the Solomon Islands, less than 30 percent of women of reproductive age use modern contraceptives, it said.

Teenage pregnancy rates are worryingly high, and gender-based violence rates in some countries are among the highest in the world, with two-thirds of women reporting having experienced physical or sexual violence from an intimate partner. "These issues need to be addressed urgently if our Pacific neighbours are going to see progress in sustainable development. When people lack control over their reproductive health, they lack control over their lives and future prospects," NZPPD chair Paul Hutchison said in the statement.

Research shows that investing in family planning can save both lives and money, with one report finding that 18 percent of maternal deaths and 860 infant deaths can be averted over 15 years by meeting unmet needs for family planning in Kiribati.

Other research finds that preventing unintended pregnancies in Vanuatu and the Solomon Islands can avert more than 2,500 maternal and newborn deaths. "It is becoming increasingly clear that investing in reproductive health is central to advancing many areas of society. When women and couples can plan their families, they tend to have smaller families, which allows them to invest more in the children they have," said Hutchison. —Xinhua



Workers wait for customers at a fuel gas station in Kolkata, capital of eastern Indian state West Bengal, on 10 July, 2014. India's new government under Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Thursday presented its first national budget which is aimed at achieving 7 to 8 percent growth rate in next three to four years while maintaining inclusiveness of development.—XINHUA

Russia's Putin says emerging powers must play bigger role in world affairs



Russian President Vladimir Putin stands with military personnel during a ceremony marking Victory day in Sevastopol on 9 May, 2014.—REUTERS

Moscow, 11 July — Russian President Vladimir Putin, speaking on the eve of a trip to Latin America, said Brazil and other emerging powers must play a greater role in world affairs, suggesting they could do more to counter US influence.

In an interview published on Friday, Putin framed his tour of Brazil, Cuba and Argentina as part of an effort to build

a multi-polar world at a time when he is isolated by sanctions over Ukraine and his relations with the West are at their frostiest since the Cold War.

Russia sees strong relations with Brazil as “strategically important” in opposing Western clout, he said, ahead of next week’s summit with fellow BRICS nations, which includes China, India and South Africa.

“This powerful and fast-developing country is destined to play an important role in the emerging poly-centric world order,” Putin told the *Itar-tass* news agency.

He said Moscow would back Brazil to obtain a seat on the United Nations Security Council, where Russia is a veto-wielding member along with the United States.

The Russian leader has ramped up criticism of what he says is US meddling in other state’s affairs as the former Cold War superpowers clashed over Russia’s annexation of Crimea in March and its political support of separatists in eastern Ukraine.

In a veiled dig at Washington on Friday, Putin criticised cyber espionage. Last year’s revelations by former US intelligence contractor Edward Snowden of US surveillance have led to a rift in its ties with European allies.

“It (cyber espionage)

not only amounts to overt hypocrisy in relationships between allies and partners but also a direct violation of the state’s sovereignty,” he said.

Putin begins his tour of the region in Cuba on Friday, then travels to Argentina and Brazil to attend the World Cup final on 13 July in Rio de Janeiro and meet BRICS leaders in Fortaleza on 15-16 July.

Russia will be introduced at the World Cup closing ceremony as the host of the next tournament in 2018.

The BRICS leaders are expected to endorse plans for a new development bank to rival the World Bank with its headquarters in China and to create a joint foreign exchange reserve pool. “This will lay the foundations for macroeconomic coordination between the five countries,” Putin’s Foreign Policy adviser Yuri Ushakov said in a Kremlin statement.—*Reuters*

Kerry, ministers to join Iran nuclear talks in Vienna

PRAGUE, 11 July — US Secretary of State John Kerry and foreign ministers from the six powers negotiating with Iran on its nuclear programme will travel to Vienna this weekend to help break the logjam in the talks, a senior Western official said on Thursday.

“I can tell you that Kerry will be in Vienna this weekend, probably on Saturday,” the official told *Reuters* on condition of anonymity. Kerry has scheduled bilateral meetings with fellow ministers on Sunday, he said. Another diplomat confirmed the travel plans.

A French diplomatic source said Foreign Minister Laurent Fabius would arrive on Sunday for the talks. Iran and the powers — the United States, France, Germany, Britain, Russia and China — aim to reach a long-term deal to end the decade-old nuclear standoff by a 20 July deadline. Many diplomats and analysts believe an extension may be needed in view of the wide gaps in negotiating positions.

Earlier this week, diplomats close to the talks said the ministers may end up negotiating the terms of an extension while in Vienna. The goal is to reach a deal under which Iran would curb its nuclear programme in exchange for a gradual lifting of sanctions.

The talks resumed last week with still no sign of substantive progress on the main sticking points, which include uranium enrichment, the length of any agreement and the speed at which sanctions would be lifted.

The Western official said it was unlikely they were going to Vienna to sign an agreement, given the significant differences between the parties on the acceptable scope of Tehran’s future uranium enrichment programme.

Another Western diplomat said: “Things have been moving but there are still wide gaps and they need to be narrowed down. This is what needs to happen in the next days.”

Reuters

Berlin tells CIA station chief to leave in spy scandal

BERLIN, 11 July — Germany told the CIA station chief in Berlin to leave the country on Thursday in a dramatic display of anger from Chancellor Angela Merkel at the behaviour of a close ally after officials unearthed two suspected US spies.

The scandal has chilled relations with Washington to levels not seen since Merkel’s predecessor opposed the US invasion of Iraq in 2003. It follows allegations that Merkel herself, who grew up in Stasi-ridden East Germany, was among thousands of Germans whose mobile phones have been bugged by American agents.

“Spying on allies ... is a waste of energy,” the chancellor said in her most pointed public remarks yet on the issue. “We have so many problems, we should focus on the important things.” Senior conservative supporters denounced US “stupidity” and some Americans said spying on their friends had backfired. But both sides stressed their need to go on working together.

“In the Cold War maybe there was general

mistrust. Today we are living in the 21st century. Today there are completely new threats,” Merkel said in Berlin, once a key CIA listening post behind the Iron Curtain during the superpower duel with Moscow and now the reunited capital of Europe’s most powerful economy.

Her spokesman said the request for the top US intelligence official in the Berlin embassy to leave was made in response to questions raised in recent months on US intelligence activity in Germany and by prosecutors’ investigations.

In guarded comments, a White House spokeswoman declined comment on “reports” of “a purported intelligence matter” but she stressed: “Our security

and intelligence relationship with Germany is a very important one and it keeps Germans and Americans safe ... It is essential that cooperation continue.” US government sources said the official — whom neither side named — was Berlin station chief for the CIA, the Central Intelligence Agency. A German source said the man would face possible forcible expulsion if he did not leave voluntarily.

Washington’s embassy and Merkel’s office sit a few hundred metres apart. They lie east and west of what was the Berlin Wall, for the removal of which many Germans still give great credit to their US ally — deepening today’s sense of betrayal.—*Reuters*



People pass the entrance to the US Embassy in Berlin on 28 Oct, 2013.—REUTERS

Japan's SDF to expand cooperation with US Marines over equipment



Japan's Defence Minister Itsunori Onodera (C) takes a test ride aboard an Osprey transport aircraft at the US Defence Department near Washington on 10 July, 2014.—KYODO NEWS

WASHINGTON, 11 July — Japanese Defence Minister Itsunori Onodera agreed with a US Marine Corps commander on Thursday that the Self-Defence Forces should expand cooperation with the Marines over technology and equipment ahead of the SDF’s launch of an amphibious force by the fiscal year through March 2019, Japanese officials said.

“Acquiring know-how on real-life combat operations is important,” Onodera told reporters after meeting with Lt Gen Kenneth

Glueck, commanding general for the Marine’s Combat Development Command, at the Quantico base in Virginia. “We intend to closely communicate” with the Marines, he added.

The talks with Glueck, whose command serves as a base for research in training, tactics and weapons development for the Marine Corps, came as Japan plans to launch by fiscal 2018 an amphibious force within its Ground Self-Defence Force with capabilities for the recapturing of remote islands.

At the Pentagon earlier in the day, Onodera had a test ride on an *Osprey* transport aircraft, with the SDF set to acquire the tilt-rotor aircraft from the new fiscal year from next April.

The minister said the *Osprey* has advantages for the defence of remote islands, telling reporters that the aircraft, which can take off like a helicopter and cruise like a fixed-wing airplane, “can land on a very tiny space, while flying far at high speeds.”

Kyodo News

PERSPECTIVES

Saturday, 12 July, 2014

Let's not waste public taxes

By Myint Win Thein

A government ministry made a loss of about K190 billion (US\$ 200 million) last year due to privatization of lucrative industries such as brewery, cigarette, soft drinks etc, to businessmen according to a parliament representative.

However, officials said that the losses were

due to the lower demand for agricultural equipment, the suspension of two factories and fertilizer revenues. So what is to be blamed for the loss of K190 billion of public taxes, the businessmen who bought only the lucrative factories, or those who pravitized profitable industries to businessmen or those who managed the remaining factories still under the ministry?

Whosoever is to be blamed for, it is important that such losses of public taxes should not be repeated in the future. All people who manage public taxes should not repeat such undesirable losses by developing a master plan to save government-owned businesses.

Every government department should have its own plans to spend the public taxes most profitably for the people and the country because Myanmar is just beginning to try to get out of the pit of poverty. Our country is not rich enough to waste such amount of public taxes which would otherwise be spent in the other sectors of the country.

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Kyi Mun

"Never promise what you cannot deliver."

-An Advertising Commandment

"A seller sells benefits, and a buyer buys value"

-Anonymous

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Advertising is communicating with the target audience. It is giving a message — a message about the qualities, advantages, benefits and value of your product/service. Advertising is coaxing, enticing and persuading the existing customers and future prospects, to patronize your product/service. Advertising is making emotional, intellectual and psychological connections with the target audience. It makes alluring appeals to the targets on emotional level with the offering's benefits, and on an intellectual level with the offering's VALUE, and then on an psychological level with the offering's differentiation/unique features that could augment the owner's

prestige.

How To Advertise?

Effective advertising must be clearly and uniquely focused on the COMPELLING PROMISE of being the BEST or the GEATEST or the LATEST or the SUPREMEMOST in QUALITY, DIFFERENTIATION or VALUE. The ENTICING APPEAL must STRIKE the HEARTS & MINDS of the targets with FASION, STYLE, ESTEEM, PRIDE, VANITY or ANY OTHER FORM OF HUMAN WEAKNESS of the targets. In any advertising, the CORE MESSAGE should be the UNIQUE SELLING POINT (USP) which must be expressed in SACA, i.e, SHORT, ACCURATE, COMPELLING, & APPEALING manner.

But Strategic advertising must NEVER make a MOUNTAIN OUT OF A MOLEHILL. The advertising must be based on the SUBSTANCE of the BENEFITS AND VALUE of its

offerings. Any advertising of enduring effectiveness must be based on the genuine WORTH of its offering: It must be authentic, reliable and objective. A truly good advertising must AVOID 3-D of advertising — Deception, Defects, and Default — Deception of Message Promises; Defect in Product/ Service; and Default in the Delivering of Value:

Advertising and Woman

It is said that Advertising is like WOMAN — Woman is indispensable in our life, but she is expensive! But, no man will live WITHOUT a woman, however much she is expensive.

Customer Relationship Management and Advertising

The aim of Customer Relationship Management is Brand-Building, while the objective of Advertising is : CIEA – Communicating, Informing, Enticing and Appealing.

- Communicating with

the Target Audience

- Informing them about the Offerings
- Enticing the audience with the Benefits, and
- Appealing them to patronize or to buy
- Or, IADA,
- Attention Getting
- Interest Holding
- Desire Arousing, and
- Action Obtaining

The Fundamental Purpose of Advertising

The fundamental purpose of advertising is : to sell more, to make more customers, to increase market share and customer share, to help image-shaping, to support brand-building and to conquer new markets, and to outperform the main competitors and finally to establish a strong positioning in the marketplace.

The Information and Communication Channel

The whole spectrum of business is made up of Producer's supply on the one hand and Consumer's demand on the other. In business, producer and consumer cannot but establish relationship based on a win-win outcome. They are interdependent

ent upon each other. Advertising is communication between seller and buyer mutually enjoying benefits from the relationship between the supplier and the consumer. Thus, advertising is the indispensable information and communication channel in the fast moving world of trade and commerce.

"The seller sells Benefits, and the buyer buys Value."

This profound truth should be the heart of advertising, the essence of the message and the basis of all commercial transactions.

The seller should objectively and accurately portray the benefits that the offerings of the product / service in the advertisement will provide. For example, a Railroad or bus company provides TRANSPORTION service, a cosmetics company sells BEAUTY, a Hotel provides and sells HOSPITALITY, a hospital provides and sells HEALTH, and VE-

DIO / SPORTS sells ENTERTAINMENT, a Beer Pub sells GOOD FEELING. In short, every kind of business SELLS BENEFITS & SATISFACTION and nothing else ultimately.

The consumer or buyer or customer buys BENEFITS emotionally, VALUE intellectually and ESTEEM & PRESTIGE psychologically. Ultimately, the buyer or end-user buys VALUE in the forms of :

- Product Value
- Service Value
- People Value
- Image Value
- Differentiation Value
- Brand Value

Value in the final analysis means value for Money.

So, an effective advertisement must portrays BENEFITS OF THE PRODUCT/SERVICE which should be sold at a optimum price which is normally competitive for the Seller and of maximum value to the Buyer.

U Kyi Mun residing in Yangon is a consultant of NAING Group Capital Co., Ltd.

The Future in Their Hands

KAYAH STATE, 11 July —Villagers from Demoso and Hpruso townships are enjoying lunch together. This is not something they do every day. Today, they are on the first leg of an inter-village exchange visit, sharing experiences about community infrastructure.

The visit is facilitated by the International Rescue Committee (IRC), the United Nations Development Programme's (UNDP) infrastructure partner in Kayah state. The construction of roads, bridges, culverts and community halls using community labour through cash-for-work schemes is meeting critical infrastructure needs and contributing to quick-impact income-generation in the target villages. Visits such as this one are helping to strengthen relationships

and networks between these ethnically-diverse and otherwise isolated communities.

"We learnt that the Demoso villagers planned their cash-for-work schedules more systematically than we did. We need to do that better next time." reflects U Jeronimo, of Htee Taw Tani Khu village in Hpruso Township.

In Kayah state, where UNDP is supporting livelihoods and strengthening social cohesion across 40 villages in Demoso and Hpruso townships, there are many such reflections about how to do things better in the future. UNDP's work in Kayah involves several partners including the NYEIN Foundation, Kayah Phu Baptist Association, Karuna Myanmar Social Services, Kayah Baptist Association, Kaina-

yar Rural Social development Organization, Kay Hto Boe Social Development and IRC.

Village rice banks, a rice stock that allows poor families to borrow or buy rice were set-up by UNDP. They play an important social protection function for vulnerable households. People become food insecure in the lead-up to harvesting. In Oh Kay village, in Demoso Township and Law Gyar village in Hpruso Township, the village committees have already decided to keep the rice-bank mechanism going for the next two to three years. "We want to do it on our own next year" says U Thei Roh of Law Gyar.

Livelihood assistance in cash and kind, provided by UNDP, is helping people like U Kay Kaw Ley and U

Ste Tyar No, of Hasang Du Kar village in Demoso Township, to buy livestock and to make a net profit of approximately USD 200 at the time of sale. They are helped by community extension workers, trained by UNDP in partnership with the livestock department, who help with vaccinations and share information about keeping the animals healthy and disease-free. Daw Tar Malar Hpaw, one of the few women livestock extension workers, says she has conducted information sessions for all livestock breeders in her village, and due to growing demand, she is voluntarily extending her services to other villages in the area. She'd like to be considered for more advanced training so she can improve herself and provide better services to her community next time, she says.

This work is part of a UNDP programme that covers 300 villages in 24 townships in 7 States in the country. In partnership with over 35 non-governmental organizations, UNDP is supporting the livelihood and social cohesion needs of these communities by providing them with social protection assistance; grants for agriculture, livestock and micro-enterprises; vocational training; community mobilization and training; and infrastructure. The work aims to strengthen community cohesion by reducing socio-economic disparities and vulnerabilities and strengthening community networks and relations. The work is made possible with funds from Japan, DANIDA and UNDP.

The village-based committees, were set-up by UNDP to oversee project ac-

tivities. Now these committees are leading consultations, planning and monitoring community development activities beyond UNDP's support. For example in Hpruso's Htee Taw Tani Khu village, villagers have elected the committee to install a water supply system using household contributions to meet water shortages in the village. In Law Gyar, also in Hpruso Township, the households were spread-out across a large mountainous area, and didn't have a habit of meeting. "We didn't come together before" says U Thei Roh, a village committee member. "Now we are more like a family. We plan to train the young people about the rice-bank method, so they can take it forward next time".

A future for the villagers of Demoso and Hpruso awaits.—UNDP

ARTICLE

Cultural heritages in Inwa

Saddhamma Jotika dhaja
Sithu Dr. Khin Maung Nyunt

No scientific archaeological excavation has yet been carried out in “long lasting old capital Inwa of Myanmar’s medieval history. Only conservation, preservation and restoration works were and are being done within the limited means of the Archaeological Department so far. But judging by the casual observation of experts, these works are reasonably satisfactory. Inwa awaits attention and care of international experts and culture lovers, particularly of UNESCO world cultural heritage, before it decays into ruin and thus lost forever to mankind.

When you visit Inwa which is easily accessible by land, water, and air, you can make a day or half-day trip of you have time constraint, from Mandalay or you hire a tour bus or taxi at the Mandalay International Airport to go to Inwa. You get a good view of the archaeological landscape of Inwa as it stands today, making you feel as though you were momentarily transported to the past five thousand years. Observing monuments, palace sites, pagodas, temples, and monasteries and several other objects amidst today’s paddy fields, farms, villages and wild vegetations, you will be conveyed on the time machine of H.G. Well’s science fiction. The kings

and the people of Myanmar in the successive periods of Inwa, Nyaung Yan, First Konbaung and Second Konbaung dynasties (1364-1837) will appear in your mind’s eyes.

Inwa’s regional name is “Ratanapura” meaning “the City of Gems” the capital city underwent a chequered, career, periods of peace, prosperity, war, poverty and decline. However, remnants of its heydays still stand in the form of religious edifices, palace platforms, a watch tower, city walls, few city gates, some fortresses and a long brick cause way.

Unfortunately today the major portions of Ratanapura are covered with paddy fields, farms, gardens and wild vegetations. But a site museum there exhibits a number of artifacts collected sites and a small pamphlets provides some information about this old city. Tour guides trained by the Ministry of Hotels and Tourism are available to take visitors around. Local monks and people are friendly and helpful to share with you their knowledge of this old city.

Inwa did not take Myanmar conventional quadrangular design because it was built on the land filled area and city was located at the confluence of five rivers. Its fortifications resemble the shape of a stylized lion seated on its hands. The inner city was recon-

structed these times in 1597, 1763 and 1832 A.D.

Myanmar religious monuments, belonging to Bagan and Pinya periods are found in Inwa in various degrees of preservation. If you are interested in Inwa’s history, notable ruins worth seeing are platform at the palace site, a ninety foot high masonry watch tower, previously leaning like Pisa Tower in Italy, due to the earthquake in the year of 1838, but now up-righted by archeological engineers.

Other attractions that surely catch your eyes are (1) the city walls of mud, brick and stone, and a surviving city gate with a unique design of a wooden spire spanning above it, an old monastery named Maha Aung Mye Bonzan but commonly known as “Namadaw Mei Nu Oak Kyaung.” Namadaw means Chief queen. Mei Nu is the name of this chief queen. Oak means brick and Kyaung means monastery. She was the influential queen of King Bagyidaw of Inwa (1819-1837). Thus monastery is a famous tourist attraction because of its architecture and beautiful decorative art. Unlike typical wooden monasteries, it is a masonry master piece with spacious halls, multiple roofs and a big prayer hall with seven tier superstructure.

There is another monastery of a later date. It is the Bagaya Kyaung of teak wood with ornate carvings. This structure has 267 teak wood posts.

An old fort which King Mindon, the second last

Myanmar King built lies in a preserved state, about a mile from the city, which forms a triad with two other forts namely (1) Thabyetan Fort above Inwa and (2) Asikhan Fort in Sagaing on the opposite bank of the Ayeyawady River.

From the south city gate to a nearby town “Tada Oo” runs an old brick causeway reaching out to old Pinya, another capital city nearby. Many ruins of Pagodas, temples, monasteries and new additions appears in your sight as you shall everywhere. Inwa has many histories to tell and many archaeological ruins to discover.

Ava (Inawa) often appears in the reports and travel writings of British and European diplomats Christian missionaries and visitors such as Major Henry Burney, Michael Symes, John Crawford, Hiram Cox, Father Sanger-mano and others. They described “Ava” as they eyewitnessed with illustrations of paintings and sketches.

In spite of most flat land in the country, it is astonishing to know that “Ava” (Inwa) was founded on the land filled site at the five rivers confluence and became capital city not only once, but four times, lasting over five hundred years! Scholars of geopolitics, military science, trade, commerce and town planning have not been able to figure out why? This secret still remains with the Ava Kings and with the walls of the city.

Inwa today

In these days of the Age of globalization, with the booming of Myanmar tourism in the recent

years, would Inwa remain a virgin field of archaeology and cultural heritage? With the building of Mandalay International Airport in the periphery of “Ava” and the sprouting of Mandalay, extending its urbanization into a mega city into all directions except the west where the River Ayeyaraddy flows as its water boundary line, Inwa is bound to emerge out of its medieval settings to become a modern town. Many projects are in the pipeline of dialogues for its infrastructure building, hotels, restaurants, parks, museums, amusement centres. So it is high time that Department of Archaeology and its related Departments and stakeholders sat down at the table for harmonious planning and implementation of their projects, rather than running the risk of going ahead alone.

We now have three ancient Pyu City States, Beikthano, Thayay Kitaya and Hanlin already admitted into the list of UNESCO world cultural heritage and the great marble Book of Tipitaka in Mandalay in the world memory list: Taking good precedents and examples of these four world class cultural sites, we should be easier for Inwa.

Every two or three circle, there arrives heavy Monsoon which causes floods to all aquatic bodies in our country. Dry Zone of central Myanmar is no exception. We have the experience of the approach road to Mandalay International Airport being submerged or swept away in high Monsoon. Though there is no sign of rain, billows of rain water gush-

ing down from the Shan Plateaus flow through sub-terranean streams under the landfilled Inwa. Similarly the great Taungthaman Inn(Lake) of Amarapura spills over its flooded water from the River Ayeyawaddy at the Yadanabon University nearby, and so classes have to be suspended until the flood recedes. Also at Mandalay University the canal “Ye Ni Myaung”, flowing around the campus, can disturb the classes by seeping or even sometimes gushing, into surplus water into class rooms and some staff quarter in high monsoon.

Taking these real situations of past history, local geography, geology, meteorology and practical experience of the people who really face such situations into consideration of the policy makers, planners, and implementers, modernization of Inwa can be carried out without much ado. Timely demarcation of archaeological and cultural heritage zones should be made and known to the public. The public awareness education, all Myanmar citizens need to participate.

Especially mass media-men-Journalists, writer, T.V.s. video camera man, and all others prefer artists, visual artists, public service people, monks, nuns, teachers, doctors social organizations-youth, women, NGOs and INGOs are very effective in this kind of task “public awareness campaign” as it is they who are constantly in touch with the people down to the grass root.

MoU for MCCA programme signed



Union Minister U Win Tun addresses at the signing of the MoU on Implementation of Myanmar Climate Change Alliance Programme funded by the European Union UN-HABITAT.—MNA

NAY PYI TAW, 11 July— The MoU on Implementation of Myanmar Climate Change Alliance programme funded by the European Union was signed by the Ministry of Environmental Conservation and Forestry, UN-HABITAT and the United Nations Environment Programme at the Amara Hotel in Nay Pyi Taw on Thursday.

At the signing ceremony, the Union Minister for Environmental Conservation and Forestry U Win Tun said that the issue of climate change is the biggest challenge and must be solved immediately.

The MCCA Pro-

gramme is to be implemented over four years with financial assistance from the EU and technical assistance from UN-HABITAT and UNEP.

Director-General U Nay Aye of the Environmental Conservation Department, Regional Director Mr Yoshinobu Fukasawa and Regional Director Mr Kaveh Zahedi signed the MoU.

The ceremony was attended by union deputy ministers of the ministry, directors-general, and regional directors and representatives from UN-HABITAT and UNEP.

MNA

World cities, home to most people, to add 2.5 billion more by 2050

UNITED NATIONS, 11 July — More than half of the world's seven billion people live in urban areas, with the top "mega cities" — with more than 10 million inhabitants — being Tokyo, Delhi, Shanghai, Mexico City and Sao Paulo, according to a United Nations report on Thursday.

That proportion is expected to jump, so that more than six billion people will be city dwellers by 2045, the UN's World Urbanization Prospects report said.

The jump will be driven by a "preference of people to move from rural to urban areas, and the overall positive growth rate of the world's population, which is projected to continue over the next 35 years," John Wilmoth, director of the Population Division in the UN's Department of Economic and Social Affairs said at a news conference on Thursday at the UN.

Indeed, urbanization, combined with overall population growth, will boost the number of people in cities by 2.5 billion over the next three decades, with much of that growth in developing countries, especially in Asia and Africa.

India, China and Nigeria will make up 37 percent of the projected growth in the next three decades, with India adding 404 million city residents, China 292 million, and Nigeria 212 million, by 2050.

The key challenge for these countries will be to provide basic services like education, health care, housing, infrastructure, transportation, energy and employment for their growing urban populations.

"Managing urban areas has become one of the most important development challenges of the 21st century," Wilmoth said.

He said providing such services for a dense urban population was typically cheaper and less environmentally damaging than doing the same for a dispersed, rural population.

"The thing to be afraid of is situations in which governments do not plan for the growth that is going to take place," Wilmoth said. "Then you can get sprawls, and slums and cities that are not pleasant places to live."

The world's urban population has grown so rapidly that while in 1990, there were only ten mega



A general view of the Shanghai's financial district of Pudong, with the Shanghai Tower (R), which is undergoing construction and scheduled to finish by the end of 2014, in Shanghai on 31 July, 2013.

REUTERS

cities, today there are nearly three times as many — 28 worldwide.

Sixteen of those are in Asia, four in Latin America, three each in Africa and Europe, and two in Northern America.

Tokyo is the world's most populous city with 38 million inhabitants, followed by Delhi with 25 million, Shanghai with 23 million and Mexico City, Mumbai and Sao Paulo, each with around 21 mil-

lion people.

The New York-Newark urban area, the world's third-largest in 1990, fell to ninth place and is expected to drop further to 14th position by 2030 as cities in developing countries become more prominent, the report said.

Low fertility, economic contraction and natural disasters were the most common factors that contributed to population losses in some Asian and

European cities in recent years. Emigration was also a factor.

Meanwhile, the world's rural population, which is now close to 3.4 billion, is expected to reach its peak by 2020, after which it will decline to 3.1 billion by 2050.

While Africa and Asia are urbanizing rapidly, they are still home to nearly 90 percent of the world's rural population.

Reuters

EU election observing team confirms need for audit in Afghan election

KABUL, 11 July — The European Union Election Assessment Team (EU EAT) has confirmed the need of comprehensive audit of the votes used in the Afghan presidential runoff held on 14 June, a statement of the observing team released here said. "At this stage of the analysis of the preliminary results, and without an in-depth audit, the final result is as yet uncertain and it is not possible to declare a winner, given the very high number of votes yet to be validated or annulled," EU Chief Observer Thijs Berman said in the statement.

"Analysis of the figures published by the IEC leads to an estimate that between 2 and 4 million of the votes should be further investigated," the statement added.

EU Chief Observer Thijs Berman stated in the statement, "The EU EAT encourages the election authorities to carry out, in Kabul, a comprehensive and transparent audit of the results in a neutral environment and in close cooperation with all the stakeholders as well as to concentrate audit efforts on the polling stations with very high turnouts, and the polling stations where nearly all the votes were cast in favour of a sole candidate."

Xinhua

Israel presses on with Gaza offensive, Palestinians fire rockets



Israeli firefighters work to put out fire on burning cars in an apartment building parking lot after it was hit by what Israeli police say was a rocket fired by Palestinians from the Gaza Strip, in Ashdod on 10 July, 2014.—REUTERS

GAZA/JERUSALEM, 11 July — Israel pressed on for a fourth day with its Gaza offensive on Friday, striking the Hamas-dominated enclave from air and sea, as Palestinian militants kept up rocket attacks deep into the Jewish state.

At least 79 Palestini-

ans, most of them civilians, have been killed in the offensive, which Israel says it launched to end persistent rocket attacks on its civilian population, some of which have reached Tel Aviv, Jerusalem and other cities.

The salvoes into Israel

have caused no fatalities or serious injuries, due in part to interception by Israel's partly-US funded Iron Dome aerial defence system.

One rocket on Friday hit a petrol station in Israel's port city of Ashdod, causing a huge blaze and at least three people were seriously wounded, an ambulance spokesman said.

Israeli leaders have appeared to hint at a possible invasion by ground forces and some 20,000 army reservists have been mobilized, giving them the means, if they choose, to mount a land offensive.

Lebanese security sources said two rockets were fired into northern Israel on Friday but they did not know who had fired them. Israel responded with artillery fire at the source of the rockets.—Reuters

Israel says Iron Dome scores 90 percent rocket interception rate

JERUSALEM, 11 July — Israel's Iron Dome interceptor has shot down some 90 percent of Palestinian rockets it engaged during this week's surge of Gaza fighting, up from the 85 percent rate in the previous mini-war of 2012, Israeli and US officials said on Thursday.

Seven batteries of the system, made by the state-owned Rafael Advanced Defence Systems Ltd and partly funded by Washington, have been rotated around Israel to tackle unprecedented long-range salvoes by Hamas guerrillas. Rafael said it had been working on improvements to Iron Dome, which is designed to fire guided missiles at rockets that threaten to hit populated areas while ignoring others.

"We've been constantly fine-tuning the

programming of the system, including during the fighting. Our engineers are on the ground, with the military crews, analysing

each interception and making adjustments to get the best results," said a Rafael spokesman.

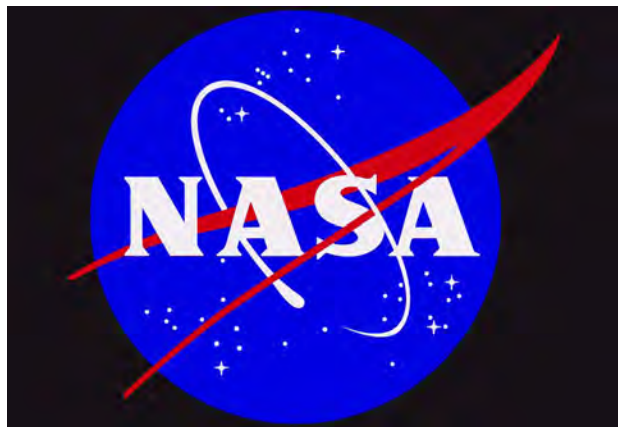
Reuters



An Iron Dome launcher fires an interceptor rocket in the southern Israeli city of Ashdod on 9 July, 2014.—REUTERS

SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY

Citizen scientists out of options to rescue old NASA satellite



CAPE CANAVERAL, 11 July — A valiant effort to put a defunct NASA science satellite back to work came to a disappointing end this week after the 36-year-old spacecraft's propulsion system failed, project organizers said.

An ad hoc team of engineers and scientists won permission from NASA to try to take control of the

International Sun-Earth Explorer-3, or *ISEE-3*. The spacecraft was launched in 1978 to study the solar wind, a continuous stream of charged particles flowing from the sun.

A second mission to study comets followed in 1981, after which the satellite entered a graveyard orbit around the sun.

As *ISEE-3* neared Earth's orbit this spring, a volunteer team launched a crowd-funding campaign to raise money, eventually ending up with nearly \$160,000. The group also petitioned NASA to let it try to redirect the probe into a stable orbit around Earth so it could resume science operations.

The Arecibo Observatory in Puerto Rico offered free telescope time and the group made two-way radio contact with *ISEE-3* on 29 May. More than a month of painstaking checkouts followed. Last week, flight controllers finally coaxed a tiny thruster burn out of *ISEE-3*, which made it spin slightly faster, steadying it for the long series of engine firings needed to change its orbit.

Reuters



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

Microsoft says cybercrime bust frees 4.7 mln infected PCs

BOSTON, 11 July — Microsoft Corp said it has freed at least 4.7 million infected personal computers from control of cyber crooks in its most successful digital crime-busting operation, which interrupted service at an Internet-services firm last week.

The world's largest software maker has also identified at least another

4.7 million infected machines, though many are likely still controlled by cyber fraudsters, Microsoft's cybercrime-fighting Digital Crimes Unit said on Thursday.

India, followed by Pakistan, Egypt, Brazil, Algeria and Mexico have the largest number of infected machines, in the first high-profile case involving

malware developed outside Eastern Europe.

Richard Domingues Boscovich, assistant general counsel of the unit, said Microsoft would quickly provide government authorities and Internet service providers around the world with the IP addresses of infected machines so they can help users remove the viruses.—Reuters

Digital warriors battle to get African games on phones

LAGOS / NAIROBI, 11 July — Safari the warrior crouches in the bush — a digitized heroine from the new mobile phone game "Afro Fighters" that its Nigerian creator hopes will soon rival the likes of Clash of Clans or Angry Birds on the world's handsets.

To achieve this, Olakunle Ogungbamila is preparing to take on a lineup of challenges as daunting as any of the muscular opponents on his new app, even the game's arch foe the Dark Lord of Oti.

Industry analysts have long hailed the explosive growth of mobile telecoms in sub-Saharan Africa — 635 million subscribers by the end of 2014 climbing to 930 million by the end of 2019 according to a report by Ericsson.

But size isn't everything. It is the quality of those mobile



An illustrator works on a digital drawing board at the Kuluya Games office at Anthony district in Nigeria's commercial capital of Lagos on 16 June, 2014.—REUTERS

phone connections, subscriptions and surrounding infrastructure that is holding up Africa's nascent games development indus-

try, not the quantity of handsets. The number of expensive smartphones that can run sophisticated games and applications is

low. They will account for only 14 percent of African mobile connections by the end of 2014, about half the global average and less than a quarter of the penetration in north America, says research group Ovum.

"That is the number one obstacle. It is changing rapidly though," says Ogungbamila, sitting in the office of his Kuluya Games — two long rows of desks squeezed into a glassed-off partition on part of a floor of a Lagos office block.

He would like more deals with telecoms companies to let him process payments, more skilled developers, better, cheaper mobile broadband and, one day, more funding to make full-blown console games for the Xbox and PlayStation.

He would also like more of

his customers to have bank cards and accounts, to make it easier for them to send in small payments for charge-ups and extra characters in games.

"Collecting money is still an issue," he says.

Around 80 percent of Kuluya's revenue currently comes from making branded mini games and apps for other companies, rather than adverts and purchases in its own titles, says Ogungbamila.

On the other side of the continent, in the cramped office of Nairobi's Planet Rackus, Mwaura Kirore splits his time between designing games and running an advertising company.

Those well-paying advertising clients get the bulk of his time at the moment, he concedes.

Reuters

Chimpanzee intelligence largely determined by genes



WASHINGTON, 11 July — Some chimpanzees are smarter than others, and their intelligence differences may largely be explained by the genes they inherit, a US study said on Thursday.

For the animals that are highly intelligent and genetically similar to humans, environmental factors might be less important than scientists previously thought, according to the study published in the US journal

Current Biology. "As is the case in humans, genes matter when it comes to cognitive abilities in chimpanzees," lead author William Hopkins, professor in the Centre for Behavioral Neuroscience at Georgia State University, said in a statement.

"It doesn't mean that they are the only factor determining cognitive abilities, but they cannot be ignored," said Hopkins, who is also a research scientist in the Yerkes National Primate Research Centre at Emory University. The role of genetics in intelligence has long been debated in scientific circles. It is now clear from previous studies that humans' performances on intelligence tests do depend to a large extent on genetics, but it can be modified by environmental factors, such as formal education and socioeconomic status.—Xinhua

Amazon seeks FAA permission to test drones outdoors near Seattle

SAN FRANCISCO, 11 July — Amazon.com Inc is seeking permission from US regulators to test its delivery drones near Seattle, as part of a rapid expansion of a programme that has sparked widespread debate over the safety and privacy implications of drone technology.

Chief Executive Jeff Bezos wants to use drones — small unmanned aircraft — to deliver packages in 30 minutes or less as part of the programme dubbed "Prime Air." The company is developing drones

that can fly at speeds of 50 miles per hour. Now Amazon is seeking permission to test drones in outdoor areas near Seattle, where one of its research and develop-

ment labs is working on the technology, according to a letter posted on the Federal Aviation Administration's website on Thursday.

Reuters



Boxes are pictured at Amazon's logistics centre in Graben near Augsburg on 16 Dec, 2013.—REUTERS

Fukushima farmer takes on nuclear plant operator over wife's suicide



Members of the media and Tokyo Electric Power Co (TEPCO) employees, wearing protective suits and masks, walk toward the No. 1 reactor building at the tsunami-crippled TEPCO's Fukushima Daiichi nuclear power plant in Fukushima prefecture on 10 March, 2014. —REUTERS

YAMAKIYA, (Japan), 11 July — A Japanese court is due to rule next month on a claim that Tokyo Electric Power is responsible for a

woman's suicide, in a landmark case that could force the utility to publicly admit culpability for deaths related to the Fukushima nuclear

disaster.

In July 2011, nearly four months after the massive earthquake and tsunami that triggered a series of

catastrophic failures at the Fukushima Daiichi nuclear plant, Hamako Watanabe returned to her still-radioactive hilltop home, doused herself in kerosene and set herself on fire.

She left no suicide note, but her husband Mikio says plant operator Tokyo Electric is directly responsible.

"If that accident hadn't happened, we would have lived a normal, peaceful life" on their family farm some 50 km (30 miles) from the plant, said Watanabe, now 64, who discovered her charred body.

A district court in Fukushima is expected to rule in late August on Watanabe's lawsuit, which Tokyo Electric (TEPCO) is contesting. The outcome could set a precedent for claims against the struggling utility, said Watanabe's lawyer Tsuguo Hirota.

The triple meltdowns at the plant forced more than 150,000 people from their homes. About a third, including Watanabe, remain in temporary housing.

The utility has settled a number of suicide-related claims through a government dispute resolution system, but declined to say how many or give details on how much it has paid.

Japan has made public 25 disaster-related death cases that were settled through the resolution system, some for more than 16 million yen (\$157,000). Causes of death were not always specified, and include those due to natural causes, such as elderly patients who died in evacuation centres. A *Mainichi* report this week said arbitrators were encouraged to automatically halve requested damage to expedite the process.—Reuters

One dead, 20 injured in explosion in Turkey

ISTANBUL, 11 July —One people died and more than 20 were injured in an gas explosion in Turkey's Aegean Sea city of Denizli early in the morning on Friday.

Denizli governor Abdulkadir Demir told reporters that five of the injured people are in critical condition.

The accident occurred in a bakery at the center of the city, Bayramyeri Square. Tens of ambulances have been deployed to the scene.

According to the report, the explosion was likely caused by a gas leak but not yet confirmed.

Reuters

Eleven killed in China school bus crash

BEIJING, 11 July — Eleven people died, including eight children, in a school bus crash in China's southern Hunan Province, state media said on Friday, the latest in a string of traffic accidents that have fuelled public anger over unsafe transport for school children.

A bus taking kindergartners home on a rural, mountainous road near Xiangtan city tumbled into a reservoir on Thursday afternoon, state-run *China News Service* reported, killing everyone on the vehicle, including two teachers and the driver.

China News Service said the narrow dirt road, flanked by a mountain on one side, had no guardrail. All of the victims' bodies were recovered, it said.

A series of accidents

in recent years involving vehicles carrying school children have made such incidents a sensitive issue in China.

Eight children died in a bus crash on China's southern island province of Hainan in April on their way to a school outing.

In 2011, a nationwide outcry erupted over the deaths of 18 nursery school children after a coal truck slammed into their overcrowded school van in northwestern China.

The tragedy prompted then-premier Wen Jiabao to promise more government funds to improve school bus services.

China's rural areas are known for providing unsafe transport for children in ageing vans and trucks, often on poorly maintained roads.—Reuters



A school van is lifted from a reservoir after an accident in Xiangtan, Hunan Province, on 11 July, 2014. —REUTERS

Ukraine readies plan against rebels; Germany, France press Putin

KIEV / DONETSK, (Ukraine), 11 July — Ukrainian forces regained more ground but sustained further casualties on Thursday in clashes with separatists, while two Western allies urged Russia's Vladimir Putin to exert more pressure on the rebels to find a negotiated end to the conflict.

Government forces have recently gained the upper hand in the three-month conflict against separatists in the Russian-speaking eastern regions in which more than 200 government troops have been killed as well as hundreds of civilians and rebel fighters.

The Ukrainian military says it has a plan to deliver a "nasty surprise" to the heavily-armed separatists who have dug in Donetsk, a city of 900,000 people, after being pushed out of their bastion in Sloviansk last weekend. In a further success, military spokesman Vladyslav Seleznyov said government forces on Thursday re-took the town of Siversk, east of Sloviansk, when separatists fled.

A separatist confirmed the government's version saying it was "more or less correct". "There was no sense in holding it and reinforcing it (Siversk) because there was a big risk of being



Pro-Russian separatist fighters gesture from an armoured missile launcher at a checkpoint on the outskirts of the eastern Ukrainian city of Donetsk, on 10 July, 2014.—REUTERS

encircled," he said.

But casualties mounted on the Ukrainian side with the deaths of three more soldiers in two attacks on Wednesday night in different parts of the east, the military said.

One was killed in an ambush of an army convoy near Luhansk. Two others died when an armoured personnel carrier was blown up by a landmine in the village of Chervona Zorya near Donetsk.

Government forces guarding Donetsk's international airport, scene of bitter fighting in late May,

came under mortar fire on Thursday but the rebel attack was repelled, Seleznyov said.

In further diplomacy to end the worst Russia-West crisis since the Cold War, French President Francois Hollande and German Chancellor Angela Merkel urged Putin by telephone to "exert all necessary pressure on the separatists to bring them to negotiate effectively," an Elysee Palace statement said.

They also asked him to take concrete steps to ensure control of the border where, the Kiev government says,

Russian authorities have been turning a blind eye to fighters crossing with weapons and equipment to help the rebels. Moscow protested to Kiev on Thursday after it said Ukrainian military fired on a Russian border checkpoint. The Foreign Ministry said it was not the first time the border post at Gukovo had come under fire. Moscow is under sanctions by the United States and the European Union over the Ukraine crisis but denies it is supporting the rebels in the Russian-speaking east of Ukraine.—Reuters

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MV NOBLE BREEZE VOY NO (049)

Consignees of cargo carried on MV NOBLE BREEZE VOY NO (049) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 12.7.2014 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
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CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

MVSINGAPORE BRIDGE VOY NO (072)

Consignees of cargo carried on MV SINGAPORE BRIDGE VOY NO (072) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 12.7.2014 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 SAMUDERA SHIPPING
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**THE REPUBLIC OF THE UNION OF MYANMAR
MINISTRY OF ENERGY
MYANMA OIL AND GAS ENTERPRISE
(INVITATION FOR OPEN TENDER)
(15/2014)**

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

Sr.No	Tender No	Description	Remark
(1)	IFB -067(14-15)	Portable Welding Machine with Complete Accessories (300 AMP, Diesel Engine Driven (4) Sets	US\$
(2)	IFB -068(14-15)	Data Processing Center and Interpretation Work Station (1) Lot	US\$
(3)	IFB -069(14-15)	High Pressure Rubber Hoses for ZJ 70L Drilling Rig (2) Items	US\$
(4)	IFB -070(14-15)	Spares for HDD Rigs (12) Items	US\$
(5)	IFB -071(14-15)	Spares for CAT G 398 Gas Engine and Worthington 5 SU 3 Compressor (46) Items	US\$
(6)	DMP/L -012(14-15)	Spares for Komatsu Dozers (23) Items	Ks
(7)	DMP/L -013(14-15)	Fuel Bowser (3200 Gal Capacity) (2) Units (13) Items	Ks

Tender Closing Date & Time - 5-8-2014, 16:30 Hr

Tender Document shall be available during office hours commencing from 8th July, 2014 at the Finance Department, Myanma Oil and Gas Enterprise, No (44) Complex, Nay Pyi Taw, Myanmar.
Myanma Oil and Gas Enterprise
Ph: +95 67 - 411097/411206

INVITATION TO OPEN TENDER

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

Tender documents are available during office hours at the office. Commencing from (15.7.2014).

Sealed bids are to be submitted to the office, not later than (16.8.2014) 14:00 hour, after which no bid will be accepted. No telegraph/telex proposal will be accepted.

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

Central Medical Stores Depot
Department of Health

**Copenhagen
Airport registers
record number
of passengers
in June**

COPENHAGEN, 11 July — The airport in Denmark's capital city of Copenhagen has witnessed a record number of 2.5 million passengers in June, it was reported on Thursday.

The number of travelers at Copenhagen Airport in June rose 8.3 percent from the same period last year, bringing the total number of passengers in the first half year to 12.36 million, the airport said in a statement. June also saw the busiest day ever. On 27 June, the last Friday of the month when the Danish usually start their summer vacations, the airport handled a record number of 98,674 passengers in a single day. During the month, 170,376 passengers traveled to and from London, up 10.7 percent from June 2013. Stockholm was the second most popular destination with 138,233 passengers, followed by Oslo with 137,750 passengers.

Xinhua

**Over 10
Heads of
State to
attend FIFA
World Cup
final match**

RIO DE JANEIRO, 11 July — Over 10 Heads of State are expected to attend the final match of the FIFA World Cup, which will take place in Rio de Janeiro's world-renowned Maracana stadium on Sunday afternoon, *Agencia Brasil* reported on Thursday.

According to *Agencia Brasil*, besides Brazil's President, Dilma Rousseff, the leaders of the finalist countries, Argentina's Cristina Kirchner and Germany's Angela Merkel, are confirmed.

Argentina will fight for its third World Cup title, and Germany, for its fourth.

Some of the BRICS leaders are expected to be present as well, as the Sixth BRICS Summit will take place two days later: South Africa's Jacob Zuma and Russia's Vladimir Putin.

South Africa hosted the 2010 World Cup and Russia will host the next one, in 2018.

In addition, the Presidents of the Republic of Congo, Denis Sassou-Nguesso; of the Democratic Republic of Congo, Joseph Kabila; of Haiti, Michel Martelly; and of Hungary, Janos Ader, are expected to be present as well. Others have yet to confirm their presence.

There will be a lunch for the State leaders before the match. Security at the Maracana stadium and its vicinities has been increased since the beginning of the World Cup.

Xinhua

Faltering Germany casts cloud over fragile euro zone

BRUSSELS, 11 July — Germany's faltering economy has cast further doubt over the euro zone's prospects for recovery this year, with no other big country strong enough to pick up the slack. Since late last year, the 18 countries using the euro have been climbing steadily out of a two-year recession. But just as the bloc appeared to be turning the corner, its star economy, Germany, has fumbled the ball.

To make matters worse, other big states, including the euro zone's second-largest economy France, show little prospect of a strong rebound.

French industrial production plunged unexpectedly in May, and inflation fell to its lowest level since the financial crisis in 2009. Adding to the gloom, Italy's factories also saw a 1.2 percent drop in output



People look for clothes in a store with discount signs during the second day of summer sales in Brussels on 2 July, 2014.—REUTERS

in May, the steepest fall in more than a year and a half.

And while Spain is expecting growth to accelerate to near 2 percent in 2015, one in four of Spain's workforce are out

of work after the collapse of a property price bubble.

"Europe is getting more and more Japanese," said Carsten Brzeski, an economist with ING, echoing concerns of others that

the region faces permanent slow growth and no price inflation.

"The euro zone is flat lining. I don't see substantial growth for another year."—Reuters

Weather report

Forecast valid until evening of the 12th July, 2014: Rain or thundershowers will be scattered in Sagaing, Mandalay and Magway Regions, Kayah State, fairly widespread in Bago Region, Shan and Rakhine States and widespread in the remaining Regions and States with likelihood of isolated heavy falls in Yangon and Taninthayi Regions, Rakhine and Mon States. Degree of certainty is (100%).

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Rosie O'Donnell to return to TV talk show “The View”

NEW YORK, 11 July — Actress and comedian Rosie O'Donnell is returning to ABC's long-running morning talk show “The View” to co-host it with Whoopi Goldberg, the television network said on Thursday.

The outspoken talk show star and Emmy winner will rejoin “The View” in the fall.

“ABC confirms Rosie O'Donnell returns as co-host of #TheView w/ moderator Whoopi Goldberg for Season 18,” the Walt Disney Co-owned network said in a tweet.

O'Donnell, 52, was a co-host on the show in 2006-2007 but left after failing to negotiate a contract with the network and following clashes with property baron Donald Trump and former co-host Elisabeth Hasselback.

O'Donnell's daily talk show programme “The Rosie Show,” which featured celebrity guests, interviews and news, was cancelled by Oprah Winfrey's OWN network in 2012.

“The View” is going through an overhaul after journalist Barbara Walters, who created the show in 1997, retired in May and two other co-hosts, Sherri Shepherd and actress Jenny McCarthy, announced they would be leaving.

Goldberg is the only host who is returning.—Reuters



Paris Hilton ditches junk food

LONDON, 11 July — Socialite Paris Hilton has lost weight since she changed her eating habits. The 33-year-old hotel heiress, who was known for her slim frame, said she decided to give up fast food to lead a healthier lifestyle, reported Contactmusic.

“I lost about five pounds just from staying away from the Drive-Thrus. I can feel the difference especially when I'm in a bathing suit,” Hilton said.

“I used to eat that way, but I decided to change things this year. Now I don't do that. There are times when I will stop at a Carl's Jr, but I will maybe get a turkey burger or something healthier instead of a cheeseburger and fries. I am more careful now,” she added.

PTI



Paris Hilton

Bollywood Star

Unaffected by comparisons, Alia Bhatt says Shraddha has given soul to ‘Galliyan’

NEW DELHI, 11 July — Alia Bhatt is not bothered about comparisons between her song in ‘Humpty Sharma Ki Dulhania’ and her contemporary Shraddha Kapoor's hit number from ‘Ek Villain’.

The 21-year-old star, who has earlier sung in ‘Highway’, has been appreciated for her voice in the unplugged version of ‘Samjhawan’ from her upcoming release. “I always knew there would be comparisons. Karan (Johar) and I infact discussed it too. I told him that I don't care because I am not comparing in my head.

“So let people compare because it is something to be talked about. Two contemporaries singing back-to-back unplugged versions of two hit romantic songs are bound to draw comparisons,” Alia told reporters here. Alia is all praise for Shraddha and

feels she has given a completely different soul to ‘Galliyan’.

“I have heard the song and I loved it. It is a beautiful song. The original and her version both have a completely different soul to it. I think she has sung it brilliantly,” she said.

The ‘Highway’ star has plans to cut her own album in the near future.

“I do plan to take my singing forward. Hopefully, I will be out with my own album,” Alia said.

‘Humpty Sharma Ki

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Sharon Stone ready to date again

LONDON, 11 July — ‘Basic Instinct’ star Sharon Stone has revealed that she is ready to date again. The 56-year-old actress said she was more focused on her two children earlier and is now more comfortable with trying to find a new relationship, reported Contactmusic.

“What's happened is my kids have reached the age where I feel comfortable to date. I didn't want to date when they were little. Who needs a bunch of people running in and out of their lives? Now I feel comfortable dating... I am available for dating,” she said.

The star, who was previously married to Michael Greenberg and Phil Bronstein, was linked to her old friend Antonio Banderas, who split from his wife Melanie. But the speculation was later quashed by the actors. — PTI

TV newcomers ‘True Detective,’ ‘Orange’ storm Emmys race

Netflix, racked up a dozen Emmy nominations each on Thursday in a challenge to stalwarts like “Breaking Bad” and “Modern Family.” Online streaming company Netflix Inc, the big disrupter of the Emmys last year, more than doubled its nominations for TV's highest honors to 31 this year. Its political thriller “House of Cards,” which stars Kevin Spacey and Robin Wright, earned 13 nods for its second season. HBO's medieval thriller and fan favorite “Game of Thrones” received

overall nods to 39, the most of any network for the 14th year in a row. While cable networks and Netflix fared well, the broadcast networks were once again shut out of the top competition, best drama. Last year's winner, AMC's gritty drug tale “Breaking Bad,” will compete for its final season, along with the network's ad world drama “Mad Men,” “House of Cards,” PBS's British period drama “Downton Abbey,” “Game of Thrones” and “True Detective.”—Reuters

GENERAL

In Vietnam, a World Cup loss is a whole different ball game



The Netherlands' players celebrate their penalty shootout win against Costa Rica in their 2014 World Cup quarter-finals at the Fonte Nova arena in Salvador on 5 July, 2014. — REUTERS

HANOI, 11 July — Sitting alone in the corner of bar in Vietnam's capital, Doan Minh Tuan buries his head in his hands as he watches the penalty shootout save that fires the Netherlands into soccer's World Cup semi-finals.

He wasn't mourning the shattered World Cup dream of entertaining underdogs Costa Rica. Tuan, 32, is a compulsive gambler, and his loss was about as big as they come. "I sold everything in my home — television, motorbike, fridge — and now I've lost my house. I have nothing now. This is all I have left," he said, pointing to the 250,000 dong (\$12) on the table in front of him.

"I bet on all games since the World Cup started. Damn my life, I always lose. The bookmaker took

my house this evening, my wife had to carry our daughter to her mother's home. I've nothing to lose now and I'll sleep on the street tonight."

Tuan's case is the tip of the iceberg in a country where gambling is rampant and strictly illegal.

Vietnamese are known for flutters on almost anything, from card games and lotteries to online poker and back-street cock fights. Legal gambling is confined to the state lottery and dog and horse racing in some regions.

But soccer is the nation's firm favourite, especially when the World Cup comes around.

Betting values range from a dollar among colleagues to tens of thousands for high-rollers, but losses can mean repossession of

property or trading-in of smartphones, motorcycles, watches and jewellery in return for money to pay debts.

In the most extreme cases, some gamblers have taken their own lives, with media reporting as many as three suicides related to betting during this World Cup. That included a man in the central city of Hue, who drank a bottle of pesticide after Italy's 2-1 win over England on 14 June.

There's no official estimate of the value of Vietnam's clandestine gambling scene, but the real figure is assumed to be huge. The size of the networks, often mafia-linked, is unknown.

Anticipating a surge in wagering in a country that already bets big on European leagues, police

intensified their crackdown during the World Cup and have so far made busts of underground gangs that have handled a combined 6.5 trillion dong (\$307 million) since the tournament started on 12 June.

But it's an uphill struggle to counter a practice entrenched in society and where bookmakers seem always ahead of the game. The Internet has proved difficult to police, with gangs taking bets surreptitiously at street level and gambling large sums online on legitimate websites hosted overseas.

"After a few raids by police over the years, dealers have changed their tactics. They've become more sophisticated," said an official with knowledge of the crackdown, who requested anonymity. — Reuters

MYANMAR TV

(12-7-2014, Saturday)

6:00 am
* Paritta by Venerable Mingun Sayadaw

7:20 am
* Business News

8:00 am
* News/ International News

8:30 am
* TV Drama Series

9:30 am
* Documentary (ASEAN)

10:00 am
* News

11:15 am
* Documentary

12:00 pm
* News/ International News/ Weather Report

1:30 pm
* Round Up of The Hluttaw News

2:45 pm
* Hyper Sports

3:00 pm
* News

3:15 pm
* Teleplay

4:30 pm
* University of Distance Education (TV Lectures) -Second Years (Zoology)

4:45 pm
* Pyi Thu Ni Ti

5:00 pm
* News

5:15 pm
* Documentary

6:20 pm
* MRTV's Youth Programme

7:00 pm
* News

8:30 pm
* Documentary

9:00 pm
* News
* Myanmar Series
* Gitadagale Phwintbarohn

MYANMAR INTERNATIONAL

(12-7-14 07:00 am~ 13-7-14 07:00 am) MST

- * Local News
- * Great Shwedagon — Auspicious Grounds and Devotional Posts
- * World News
- * Serene and Happy Rural Life in Myanmar
- * Local News
- * Waso Festival, Auspicious Occasion of Myanmar
- * World News
- *Changes
- * Local News
- * Young Artist Pann Kyi
- * World News
- * Green Grocer
- * Local News
- * Kachin Land: Lannakha Waterfall
- * World News
- * Paper Products... Plain but Pretty
- * Local News
- * Shan Novices to be
- * World News
- * Waso on the Buddhist Lent
- * Local News
- * Adventure Abroad: Walking Along Orchard Road
- * World News
- * Inlay Lake: The Challenges
- * Local News
- * Martial Arts: Moving Meditation: Aikido
- * World News
- * Traditional Snacks
- * Local News
- * Instruments: Myanmar Traditional Instruments (MYANMA DRUM)
- * World News
- * A Historic Town: 9 Pagodas

China looking into Bank of China money laundering allegations

SHANGHAI, 11 July — China's central bank is looking into allegations by a state broadcaster that Bank of China, the country's fourth largest lender, has been laundering money offshore for clients, the official Xinhua news agency said on Friday.

While Beijing maintains a tight control over its capital account, limiting foreign currency transfers by individuals to \$50,000 a year, wealthy Chinese, including corrupt government officials, have managed to move their money out to snap up overseas property and other assets.

The China Central Television (CCTV) aired

what it said was an undercover investigation programme on Wednesday that focused on a service offered by BOC called "You Hui Tong", which is designed to help Chinese individuals take part in investment emigration programmes in other countries to move cash offshore in amounts the exceed the annual cap.

The report quoted unnamed BOC sources as saying the bank kept the programme secret because it knew it was illegal. However, BOC has denied the allegations.

Xinhua news agency reported the People's Bank of China, the central bank,



Pedestrians walk past a Bank of China sign at its branch in Beijing on 26 March, 2013 file photo.

REUTERS

was now looking into the matter.

"We have noticed the media report about a commercial bank's cross-border renminbi business, and are verifying related

facts," Xinhua quoted an unidentified central bank spokesman as saying.

The PBOC statement quoted by Xinhua did not name the Bank of China specifically, referring

instead to "a commercial bank," and it did not use the term "investigation," which often implies a degree of formality.

BOC has said the service was part of the government's efforts to open the capital account and increase the international popularity of the yuan, and that branches of other banks in Guangdong province offered similar services.

Investment programs that grant Chinese passport holders citizenship or residency in exchange for substantial investment have become popular with wealthy citizens and government officials.

China has been cracking down on such "naked officials", one whose spouse and children have emigrated.

In May, a senior official in Guangdong province was removed from his position in what Xinhua said one of the first to lose his position.

Since the mid-1990s, an estimated 16,000 to 18,000 Communist party officials, businessmen, CEOs and other individuals have "disappeared" from China, taking with them some 800 billion yuan (\$133 billion), according to a PBOC report prepared in 2008.

Reuters

Argentina, Germany start final tuning, Suarez loses appeal



Argentina's national soccer team player Javier Mascherano (2nd L) talks to teammate Lucas Biglia (C) as they sit with Ezequiel Lavezzi (R), Martin Demichelis (2nd R) and Rodrigo Palacio (R, standing) during a training session ahead of their 2014 World Cup final match against Germany, in Vespasiano on 10 July, 2014. — REUTERS

RIO DE JANEIRO, 11 July — Argentina and Germany were both back at work on Thursday, secretly hatching plans for Sunday's World Cup final as Uruguay striker Luis Suarez lost his appeal against his ban for biting.

While their contrasting styles promise a classic battle between Europe and South America, Argentina and Germany have plenty to think about as they put the finishing touches to their preparations. Lionel Messi and his Argentina team mates had a light workout

after they returned to their base camp in Belo Horizonte after Wednesday's dramatic penalty shootout win over the Netherlands.

Argentina winger Angel Di Maria joined the training session in the hope of being able to play in the final despite suffering a thigh injury just days ago.

Di Maria, the South Americans' most creative player after Messi, hurt a muscle when shooting at goal during the quarter-final win over Belgium.

He jogged lightly but is

still racing against the clock to be ready, although striker Sergio Aguero's full recovery from a muscle strain has given Argentina a boost.

"We have to win and it doesn't matter if we play well or not," Aguero said.

"This is the game we have all wanted to play since we left Buenos Aires, and against an aggressive and tough opponent." Germany were also back on the training pitch at their secluded base camp in Santo Andre after taking Wednesday off following their 7-1

thrashing of host-nation Brazil on Tuesday.

Defender Mats Hummels was cleared to rejoin his team mates after undergoing treatment for a knee injury that prompted him to miss the second half against Brazil. With the team only having a gentle run-out, Germany's assistant coach Hansi Flick said Hummels was free to do what he wanted.

"All the players will be able to train, whether it's on an exercise bike or on the pitch — whichever they prefer," Flick said. "It's up to each individual to decide what they want to do in training." Germany's biggest challenge remains how to contain Messi, who has been heavily marked throughout the tournament but still looms as the big danger.

The Germans sat down together to watch the second semi-final and were impressed at how the Dutch managed to neutralise Messi. "We've also got a plan," Flick told reporters. "But we're not going to reveal that here to you."

Preparations were also underway for the third-place playoff in Brasilia on

Saturday with Brazil and the Netherlands in very different states of mind.

Eebirmous Pressure

The hosts are under enormous pressure to gain a minor consolation win following the Germany debacle, while Dutch coach Louis van Gaal said he did not believe the playoff match should be played so his side may struggle for motivation.

For most Brazilians, the prospect of watching their traditional rivals Argentine play in the final has only added to their humiliation but injured Brazil striker Neymar said he would be supporting his fellow south Americans.

"I always said I wanted Argentina to get to the final because Brazil would be there but it never worked out like that," said Neymar, whose World Cup was cut short when he broke a bone in his back against Colombia.

"I still want them there because my two (Barcelona) team mates are there, Messi and (Javier) Mascherano, and I hope they win."

An emotional Neymar cried as he recalled the high challenge from Colombia

defender Juan Zuniga which ruled him out of the tournament with a back injury.

"If it had been another two centimetres I could be in a wheelchair today," Neymar said.

Away from the pitch, Suarez, banned from all soccer activity for four months and nine competitive internationals for biting Italy defender Giorgio Chiellini during the World, lost his appeal.

FIFA rejected the appeal filed by the Uruguayan Football Association (AUF), although it can still take the case to the Court of Arbitration for Sport (CAS), a FIFA spokeswoman said.

Police in Rio were searching for the chief executive of a Swiss hospitality company implicated by an investigation into the illegal resale of VIP World Cup tickets.

After a court ordered the arrest of the executive and the continued detention of 10 other suspects already held in the probe, police were unable to find Ray Whelan, of MATCH Services, a company contracted by tournament organisers to arrange ticketing and hospitality packages.—Reuters

Preview — Brazil face must-win game the Dutch don't even want

BRASILIA, 11 July — After Brazil's utter humiliation against Germany, anything less than a win in Saturday's third-place match against an indifferent Netherlands team would deepen the gloom hanging over the World Cup hosts.

Brazil's astounding 7-1 semi-final thrashing by rampant Germany ended their dream of winning a sixth World Cup, and a first on home soil, and plunged the nation into despair.

There is still the prospect, an appalling one for many Brazilians, that arch-rivals Argentina could win Sunday's final in Rio de Janeiro.

Although third spot would be scant consolation for many, the match at the national stadium is one Brazil, and under-fire coach Luiz Felipe Scolari, must take very seriously.

By contrast, Scolari's Dutch counterpart Louis van Gaal, whose side exceeded many people's expectations by reaching the last four, has said the third-place game is pointless and

that too will ramp up the pressure on the hosts.

Savaged in local media after the Germany match, Scolari labeled the semi-final disaster the worst day of his life and he and his staff are widely expected to step aside after the tournament whether they beat the Dutch or not.

"We have a deal ... until the game on Saturday and after that, probably, we will have a conversation to sort some things out," Scolari said. "I will continue with my life, the players will also continue to be winners and we must continue," he added.

"History will have to record that Brazil, for the first time since 2002, reached the semi-finals."

Van Gaal also came in for criticism after his side, who began the tournament by thrashing holders Spain 5-1, failed to score in either their quarter-final against Costa Rica or Wednesday's semi against Argentina.

They beat the Costa Ricans on penalties but lost their shootout to Argentina

when goalkeeper Sergio Romero stopped two Dutch spot-kicks.

Van Gaal, who will take charge of Manchester United after the World Cup, told a news conference the third-place game "should never be played" and noted he had been saying the same thing for 10 years. "But the worst thing is I believe that chances are that you lose twice in a row," he said.

"And a tournament in which you've played so marvelously well, you would go home as a loser just because you could possibly have lost the last two matches and this has got nothing to do with sport in my view.

"So, in a football tournament particularly not at the last stage you shouldn't have players playing match for third-fourth place. Because there is only one award that counts and that is becoming world champion."

The Netherlands have never won soccer's global showpiece despite reaching the final three times.



Wesley Sneijder of the Netherlands (R) and his teammates react after the final penalty was taken during their penalty shootout against Argentina in their 2014 World Cup semi-finals at the Corinthians arena in Sao Paulo on 9 July, 2014. —REUTERS

They lost in 1974 and 1978 to West Germany and Argentina respectively and were beaten 1-0 by Spain in

South Africa four years ago.

Brazil and the Netherlands have played 11 times and four times at the World

Cup, including the quarter-final in 2010 when the Dutch came from behind to win 2-1.—Reuters

World Cup 2014 Brazil			
 Match-63	 Brazil	Third Place play off 2:30 MST (13.7.2014)	 Netherlands
	Match-64	Final 1:30 MST (14.7.2014)	 Argentina
	 Germany		