

US-based information security company to provide anti-fraud solutions for KBZ Bank's future online banking services



Vincent Goh, Vice President of RSA's Asia-Pacific & Japan, during a presentation on online fraud prevention solutions.
PHOTO: YE MYINT

By Ye Myint

YANGON, 17 July—Kanbawza Bank Limited (KBZ Bank), one of Myanmar's biggest financial

pany, to provide fraud protection to its customers.

According to the deal, RSA, the Security Division of EMC which is an American multinational corporation, will protect the KBZ Bank's customers from online fraud and cyber threats, officials said.

RSA's leading role in providing security solutions in this field has resulted in choosing it for the bank, Utpal Bora, chief information officer of KBZ Bank told The New Light of Myanmar during a briefing.

Vincent Goh, vice president of RSA's Asia-Pacific & Japan, said KBZ Bank is the very first customer adopting RSA's proven solutions in Myanmar. He added that RSA,

which is now working with Myanmar Millennium Group (MMG) to support customers, has no office here yet, but it plans to have a base in Myanmar at a later point.

According to KBZ's information chief, the bank will launch its online & mobile banking services soon, "maybe in a few weeks."

The bank with more than 200 branches across the country has been granted an Authorized Dealer License (ADL) by the Central Bank of Myanmar in 2011 to operate foreign banking business. The bank started with an initial capital of K477 million in 1999 and has expanded its capital to K113 billion in 2014.

NLM

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UN special rapporteur meets heads of IFG and MNHRC

YANGON, 17 July—Yanhee Lee, Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights in Myanmar, who is now in Yangon, and her delegation called on U Hla Maung and U Sein Win Aung, Patron and Chairman of the Interfaith Friendship Group, at Yangon City Hall on Thursday morning,

sources said.

U Hla Maung said that Myanmar is a country where people can enjoy freedom of worship, adding that all religions are coming together to resolve recent conflicts.

Yanhee Lee responded that she had heard (See page 2)

Information Ministry unveils rules on social responsibility for ads

NAY PYI TAW, 17 July—The Ministry of Information has announced details of the final draft of advertisement policies for socially responsible media on Thursday.

The advertisement policies involve about 14 sectors including politics, religion, culture, education, tobacco and alcohol, illegal gambling and lottery, non-profit organiza-

tions, children, private freedom, medicines, financial services, advertisement of products, property rights and environmental conservation.

The policies are aimed at promoting people's trust in socially responsible media, decreasing complaints against advertisements in socially responsible media (See page 2)

institutions, announced on Thursday through a briefing at Sule Shangri-La Hotel in Yangon that it selected RSA, a US-based information security com-

Taiwan to promote products with a series of expos from 18 July

By Khaing Thanda Lwin

YANGON, 17 July—The Taiwan excellence campaign launched in Myanmar, organized by the Bureau of Foreign Trade and Ministry of Economic Affairs-MOEA, aimed at raising awareness of Taiwanese brands among Myanmar people and bringing "excellent lifestyles to them with all the Taiwanese cutting-edge products", according to the organizer on Thursday.

Mr. Chiu, Director of the Economic Division of the Taipei Economic and Cultural Office in Thailand, explained that Taiwan Excellence was established by the MOEA in 1992 as a symbol of representing quality products from Taiwan on the international market.

"I want Myanmar people to enjoy the quality lifestyle products of Taiwan so we have established the Taiwan Trade

Center in Yangon," said Mr. Chiu.

According to a press release, Taiwanese exports to Myanmar in 2014 from January to May reached US\$98.5 million, which means an almost 47 per cent growth over the same

period last year.

The organizer said Taiwan excellence award winners in 2014 will exhibit at three main events in July, September and November in Yangon.

Auto Expo, the first exhibition of the Taiwan excellence campaign, will be held from 18th to 21st July at Tatmadaw Convention Hall in Yangon.

"Electronics, motors, machinery and automotive parts will be displayed during the exhibition, which will be beneficial for businesses, manufacturers, and cars and auto parts dealers, and it would also be attractive to small and medium enterprises and even consumers", the official said.

(See page 2)



Taiwanese products displayed at the press conference of the Taiwan Excellence Campaign launch ceremony at Parkroyal Hotel in Yangon.

PHOTO: KHAING THANDA LWIN

Workshop on ILO standards for labourers conducted



Union Minister U Aye Myint delivers a speech at a workshop on ILO standards for the Management of Labour Migration and the Protection of the Rights of Myanmar Workers.—MNA

NAY PYI TAW, 17 July—The workshop on ILO standards for the Management of Labour Migration and the Protection of the Rights of Myanmar Workers, jointly organized by the Ministry of Labour, Employment and Social Security and the International Labour Organization, took

place at Hotel Amara in Nay Pyi Taw on Thursday, with an address by Union Minister U Aye Myint.

Participants discussed ILO standards for the management of labour migration and the protection of the rights of Myanmar migrant workers and the provisions of ILO.

The workshop is aimed at drawing laws for creation job opportunities for citizens, increase wages, prevention against a wrong system of recruitment, construction of a safe and secure social network for migrant workers and their families, and minimizing migration.—MNA

UN special rapporteur meets heads . . .

(from page 1)

about their combined efforts to patch up differences and settle conflicts, which she said were not peculiar to Myanmar, but the world at large.

The UN special rapporteur also visited the Myanmar National Human Rights Commission in Hline township here and the Insein Central Prison, where officials gave briefings.—MNA

UN special rapporteur on the situation of human rights in Myanmar Yanhee Lee visits Central Prison (Insein).—MNA



Information Ministry . . .

(from page 1)

and disputes and encouraging a market oriented economic system, the announcement said.

Advertisements shall respect private freedom and shall respect current laws, the announcement said.

The ministry put the draft of the policies on its website and facebook on 31, May 2014 and invited advice and suggestions from people.

The rules for advertisement polices will take effect on 1 April, 2015.

NLM

Forty-two suspects of Mandalay riots arrested

MANDALAY, 17 July—According to the Mandalay Region Police Force, 42 people, who are suspected of having started the riots in Mandalay that occurred on 1st, 2nd and 4th July, have

been arrested. Regarding the ongoing investigation, police forces are tracking down more suspects, with officials saying that further arrests are expected soon.—MNA

First ever British Chamber of Commerce launched in Myanmar

By Aung Khin

YANGON, 17 July—The British Chambers of Commerce on Wednesday announced that the UK has become the first country to launch a completely new, locally registered Chamber of Commerce in Myanmar.

According to the press release of the BCC, the role of the Chamber is to promote, foster, support, and represent UK business interests in Myanmar – directly helping British firms identify market opportunities and providing them with a first

port of call when looking to trade in that particular market.

John Longworth, Director General of the British Chambers of Commerce, said: “Myanmar is the fastest growing economy in South East Asia, with goods exports seeing an increase of 244% in 2013. This highlights the opportunities that are available to UK firms in Myanmar, and we would urge more companies to explore this market with the help of the new Chamber.”

The Chamber, supported by four British businesses

who are acting as founding patrons – BG Group, Jardines, Prudential and Standard Chartered Bank, has five Gold Sponsors – Agrekkko, British American Tobacco, Herbert Smith Freehills, Shell and Stephenson Harwood. Lord Livingston, British Minister for Trade & Investment also said that Myanmar offers many exciting opportunities for British companies and the BCC.

The press release said that the BCC aims to transform the support available for British SMEs looking to do business in high-growth,

many outstanding Taiwanese branded products in Myanmar such as Smartphones from HTC and Laptops from Acer, said Mr. Walter Yeh, Executive Vice President, Taiwan External Trade Development Council-TAITRA.—NLM

hard-to-access global markets as per the expectation of British Prime Minister to double the UK’s annual exports to £1 trillion and to increase the number of UK exporters by 100,000 by 2020.

BCC is the national body of 52 Accredited Chambers of Commerce across the UK, representing thousands of businesses of all sizes and within all sectors.—NLM

MYANMAR GAZETTE

NAY PYI TAW, 17 July—The President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar has confirmed the appointment of the following heads of service organizations on expiry of the one-year probationary period.

Name	Appointment
(a) U Win Khant	Director-General Transport Department Ministry of Transport
(b) U Htein Lwin	Managing Director Myanma Electric Power Enterprise Ministry of Electric Power

The President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar has appointed Deputy Director-General Dr Khin Zaw of the Directorate of Livestock, Fisheries and Rural Development under the Ministry of Livestock, Fisheries and Rural Development as Director-General of the same department on the probation of the date he assumes charge of his duties.

Myanmar, Sri Lanka to cooperate in development of textile industry

NAY PYI TAW, 17 July—Union Minister for Industry U Maung Myint held talks with Sri Lankan Ambassador Mr Handunnethi Rannulu Piyasiri and delegation and with entrepreneur Mr Manju-

la Weerasekara of Setas Kimyas Limit at the ministry in Nay Pyi Taw on Thursday.

They discussed cooperation in investment for the establishment of a textile factory and wet

and dry-processing units in Myanmar as well as the hiring of land plots by the Ministry of Industry, and future plans to cooperate in the development of the textile industry.

MNA

Live radio, TV broadcast of 67th Martyrs’ Day celebrations on 19 July

NAY PYI TAW, 17 July—The Myanmar Radio and Television will broadcast live both on the radio and television the 67th anniversary celebrations of Martyrs’ Day at 7.55 am, which falls on 19 July. The celebrations will

take place at the Martyrs’ Mausoleum in Yangon.

After the 10 am local news programme, MRTV will also broadcast an excerpt from the speech General Aung San delivered at the Town Hall on 13 July 1947, including a ceremo-

ny to pay tribute to General Aung San and the Fallen Heroes.

MRTV will replay the excerpt of General Aung San’s 13 July speech after the 7 pm local news programme.

MNA

Taiwan to promote . . .

(from page 1)

China Motor Corporation-CMC, the number one export company of Taiwan’s commercial vehicle manufacturers, and AEON Motor Co., Ltd. will also take part in the exhibition and “3W Elite 350”, the safest scooter in the world, will be presented by AEON.

There are 43 Taiwanese companies participating in Taiwan Excellence Pavilions and more than 121 items will be exhibited from four major industries: ICT, sanitary and health care equipment, kitchenware and home applications, and automotive and motorbike parts. There are

Correction

Please read “Myanmar Airways, ATR Ltd., sign JoA on purchasing aircrafts” at the heading and JoA instead of MoU at 4th line of first column and 5th line of second column on page 2 of the news appeared in this daily issued on 17-7-2014.—NLM

Vice president wraps up Singapore visit



Vice President Dr Sai Mauk Kham and party enjoying a music performance at Yaung Siew Toh Conservatory of Music under the National University of Singapore.—MNA

NAY PYI TAW, 17 July—Vice President Dr Sai Mauk Kham, who was visiting Singapore, arrived at Yaung Siew Toh Conservatory of Music under the National University of Singapore on Thursday morning.



Deputy Director Associate Professor Mr Craig De Wilde of the conservatory briefed the vice president on courses available there including acting, composing and sound engineering.

The conservatory, once an affiliation of John Hopkins University, has nurtured a number of world famous musicians and performers during its

existence of over a decade. It is now organizing courses for over 220 students from 22 countries, including Singapore. The school aims to enhance the artistic creativity proportionately with the development of economic, technological and health sectors of Singapore.

Following the briefing, the vice president was given a tour round the conservatory and gave presents to school officials.

In the afternoon, the vice president and his delegation left Changi International Airport for Myanmar and arrived in Yangon at about 3 o'clock where he was welcomed by Chief Minister U Myint Swe of Yangon Region, Yangon Mayor U Hla Myint and officials from the Embassy of Singapore in Myanmar.—MNA

Government should recognize national peacemakers and continue its effort till peace prevails: Kachin MP

NAY PYI TAW, 17 July—The Union Government should recognize peacemakers in the nation and continue its efforts till peace-making bears fruit, U Khet Htein Nan of Constituency 1 in Kachin State said at the Upper House on Thursday.

In his response, Union Minister U Aung Min

said the government has entered a ceasefire agreement with 14 of 16 ethnic armed groups, adding that the Kachin Independence Army (KIA) of the Kachin

Independence Organization (KIO), one of the remaining two ethnic armed groups, has now reached a truce with the government.

The union minister also pledged their continued peacemaking efforts.

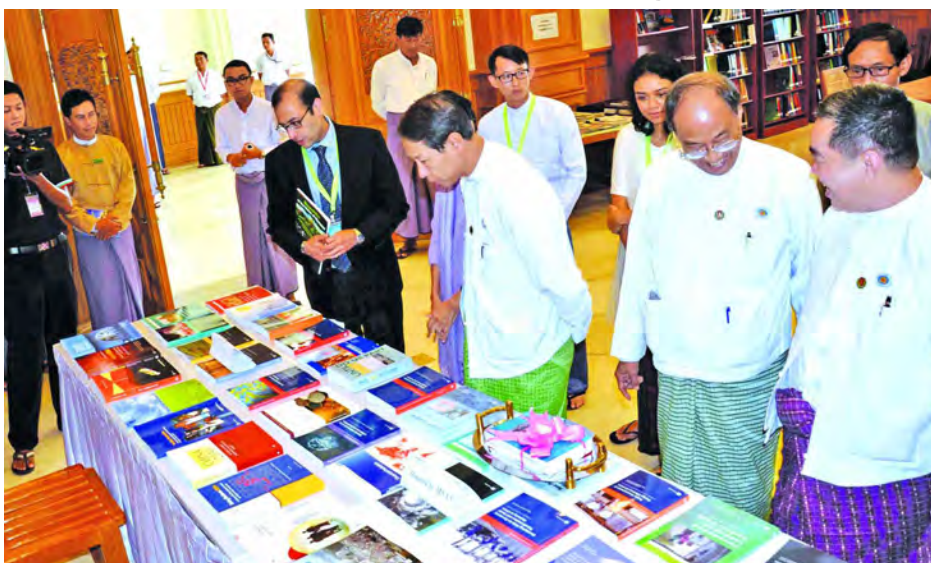
In other matters, U Paik Ko of Pakokku Constituency suggested relocating the martyr's monument from the Municipal Market 2 to a more suitable place, reasoning that people would find it hard to pay tribute to the martyr's monument on 19 July, since the market is usually packed with ven-

dors and visitors. The Pakokku township development committee agreed to his request and urged local committees to coordinate and cooperate in finding a new place for the martyr's monument.

General Aung San, widely revered as an architect of independence in Myanmar, and eight national heroes were assassinated on 19 July, 1947, which was then designated Martyr's Day and has since been observed every year.

MNA

Pyidaungsu Hluttaw Deputy Speaker receives foreign guest, attends workshop on public spending



Deputy Speaker of the Pyidaungsu Hluttaw and the Lower House U Nanda Kyaw Swa views various books donated by Assistant Professor Dr Renaud Egretau.—MNA

NAY PYI TAW, 17 July—Dr Renaud Egretau, French Research Assistant Professor at the University of Hong Kong, called on U Nanda Kyaw Swa, Deputy Speaker of the Pyidaungsu Hluttaw and the Lower House, here on Thursday morning, sources said.

In the afternoon, the World Bank Office in Bangkok donated books to the library in the office of the Lower House, followed by a workshop.

Mr Shabih Ali Mohib, Senior Country Economist and Task Team Leader of Myanmar, donated 52 books on various disci-

plines, which were accepted by Deputy Speaker U Nanda Kyaw Swa.

In the workshop, Mr Mohib presented a topic on "how parliamentarians can review an oversight of public spending better", which drew reciprocal discussion from participants.—MNA



Union Minister for Defence Lt-Gen Wai Lwin receives Deputy Commander-in-Chief of the Royal Cambodian Armed Forces and Commander of Bodyguard Unit General Hing Bunhieng and party at the Ministry of Defence on Thursday to hold talks about cooperation between the armed forces of Myanmar and Cambodia.—MNA

Let's grow watermelon on arbour



NAY PYI TAW, 17 July—Big-m Company cultivates 80-day strain of watermelon at a 500-acre model farm in Pobbathiri Township of Nay Pyi Taw

Council Area.

The company tests cultivation of watermelon with the use of arbour for enthusiasts in agriculture. The cultivators will cost

K15,000 for a 60 feet-long, 15-feet wide and 6-feet high arbour but other vegetables can be grown under the arbour. The local farmers will be able to carry out

manageable scale of cultivation at their farms, said Daw Ei Mon Kyaw of the Township Agriculture Department.

Ko Pauk (Okkar Myay)



Police take action against motorcycles that broke traffic rules at the traffic light on railway station road in Ward 3 of Nyaunglebin Township in Bago Region on Tuesday and give educative talks to bikers.

NAY LIN (NYAUNGLEBIN)

Dabayin Township promotes integrated farming

DABAYIN, 17 July—Rural people are now increasingly engaging in integrated farming as their main business to earn family income with the assistance of staff from departments concerned, officials said.

As of 1 July, Dabayin Township Livestock Breeding and Veterinary Department is carrying out insemination of cows to become quality pedigrees with higher production of milk and meat.

The activity of the

department is much concerned with breeding of cows of local farmers and production of meat in addition to breeding of cattle for farming works.

Aung Lin (IPRD)

Inmates, prisoners receive Abhidhamma course at Myeik Jail

MYEIK, 17 July—The Myanmar Correctional Department at Myeik Jail organized a basic Abhidhamma course on 16 July in Myeik of Taninthayi Region with the aim of “ena-

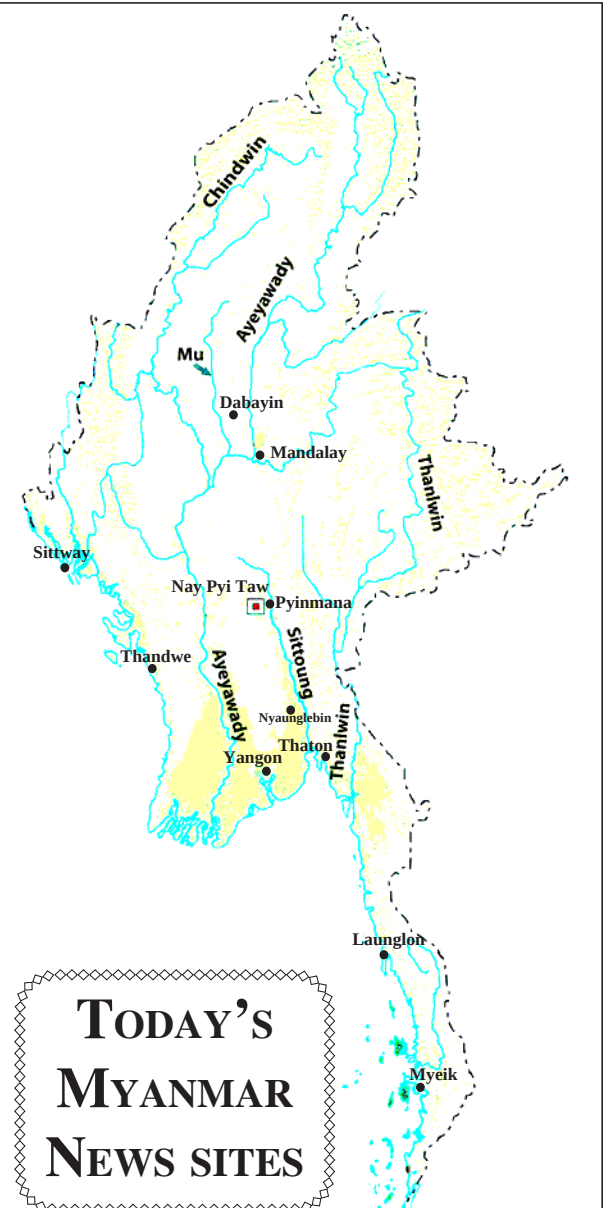
bling the inmates and prisoners to have better moral and mental capability.”

The inmates and prisoners took the Five Precepts from Mingala Bonkyaw Monastery Abbot

Bhaddanta Vasettha before the course.

The abbot is giving lectures to 30 inmates and prisoners from 16 to 25 July.

Myeik District IPRD



DRA issues vehicle and driver licences to people in Rakhine State



THANDWE, 17 July—Directorate of Road Administration in Rakhine State gave services to customers to renew their licences of vehicles, register new hearses and issue driver licences at its office from 10 to 13 July.

Deputy Commissioner of the district U Hla Myo,

Commander of District Police Force Police Lt-Col Kan Win and officials supervised the issuance of licences to the vehicles and drivers at the office on 15 July.

The directorate also issued licences to vehicles, tuk-tuks and motorcycles and driver licences to 250

persons from 7 to 9 July in Taungup of Thandwe District.

A plan is underway to give renewal of licences and new licences to the owners from Thandwe and Gwa townships on 18 July.

Thandwe District IPRD

Treated mosquito nets distributed to local people

LAUNGLON, 17 July—With the assistance of the Global Fund, Daw Kay Nyein Latt and delegation of World Vision Myanmar

distributed 1,651 treated mosquito nets to 3,301 people from 624 houses of Thabawseik Village at the monastery of the vil-

lage in Launglon Township of Taninthayi Region on Tuesday.

The team will make field trips to the villages to take prevention against mosquito-borne diseases.

Township IPRD

REGIONAL

Typhoon kills at least 38 in the Philippines, heads for China

MANILA, 17 July — The Philippines set to work clearing debris, reconnecting power and rebuilding flattened houses on Thursday after a typhoon swept across the country killing 38 people, with at least eight missing, rescue officials said.

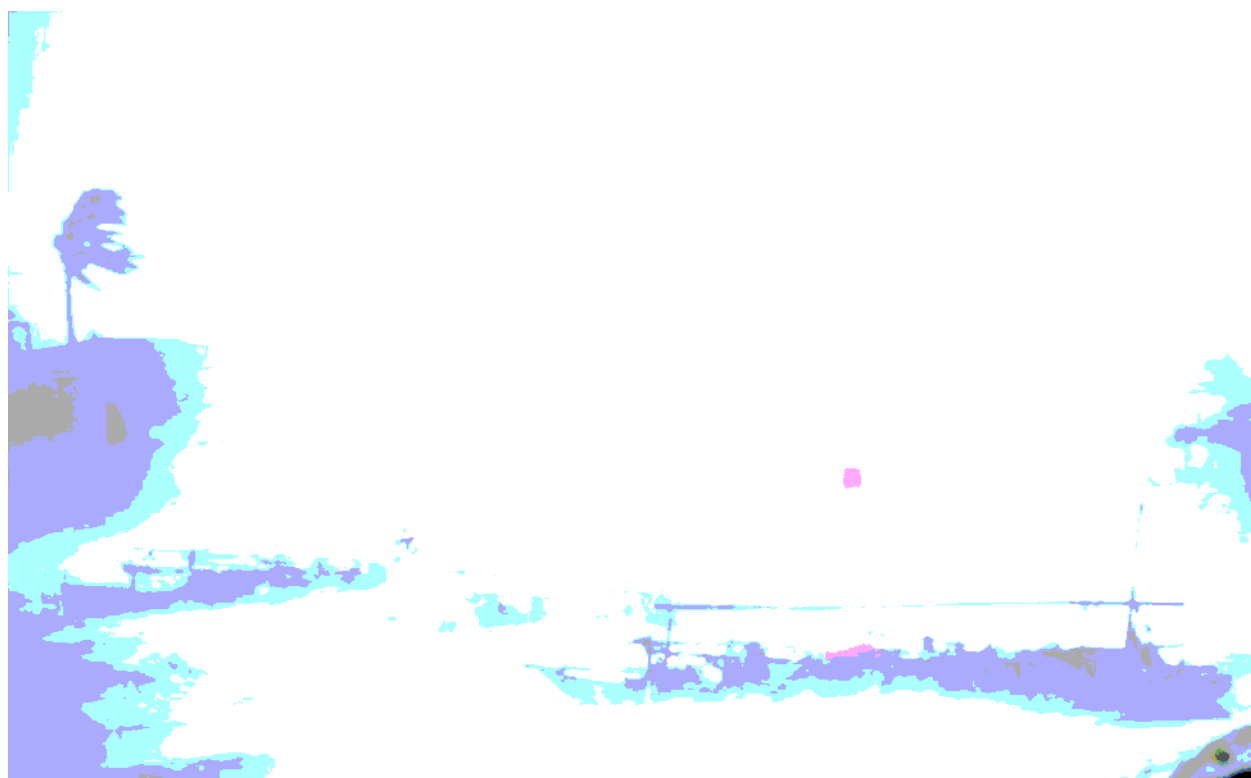
Typhoon Rammasun, the strongest storm to hit the Philippines this year, was heading towards China after cutting a path across the main island of Luzon, shutting down the capital and knocking down trees and power lines, causing widespread blackouts.

The storm destroyed about 7,000 houses and damaged 19,000, the executive director of the National Disaster Agency, Alexander Pama, said. More than 530,000 people had taken refuge in evacuation centres, according to official figures.

Pama put the damage to crops, mostly rice and corn, from the Bicol region, southeast of Manila and the first to be hit by the storm, at around 668 million pesos, or about \$15 million.

Most schools remained closed in the capital and southern Luzon, the most densely populated part of the country with about 17 million people. Power had been restored to just over half of the Luzon grid, a transmission agency official said. Electricity distributor Manila Electric Co said a third of its 1.88 million customers were without power.

Disaster officials were still assessing damage but



Fishing boats are pictured amid heavy winds and rain brought by Typhoon Rammasun (locally named Glenda) as it hit the town of Imus, Cavite southwest of Manila, Philippines, on 16 July, 2014.—REUTERS

the coconut-growing Quezon province south of Manila appears to have borne the brunt of Rammasun, which intensified into a category 3 typhoon as it crossed the country.

Tropical Storm Risk, which monitors cyclones, has downgraded Rammasun to a category 1 storm on a scale of one to five as it headed northwest towards China.

But it predicted it would gain in strength to category-two within 24 hours, picking up energy from the warm sea as it headed in the direction of China's Hainan island.

Quezon governor David Suarez said the province was preparing to

declare a state of calamity. He said officials had confirmed seven people died in the province.

"Last night we had difficulty going around because many trees and fallen poles are blocking highways and roads," Suarez said in a radio interview.

Pama said on Wednesday the government was more prepared after the devastation caused by Super Typhoon Haiyan in November, evacuating people at risk in coastal and landslide-prone areas well before the typhoon made landfall.

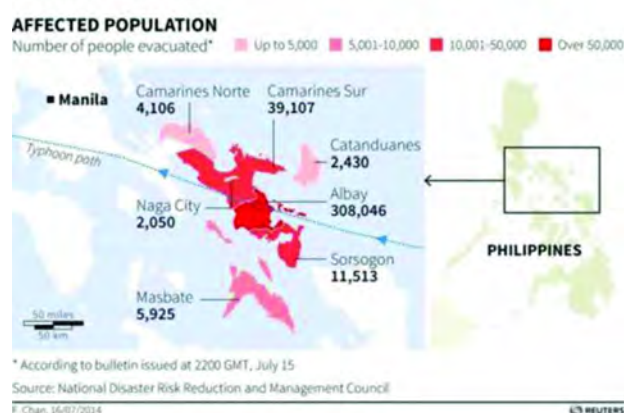
Parts of the Philippines are still recovering from Haiyan, one of the biggest cyclones known to

have made landfall anywhere. It killed more than 6,100 in the central prov-

inces, many in tsunami-like sea surges, and left millions homeless.—Reuters

Typhoon evacuations

Typhoon Rammasun killed at least 10 people as it churned across the Philippines, cutting power and prompting the evacuation of more than 370,000 people, rescue officials said on Wednesday.



Provincial map of the Philippines highlighting where residents are evacuated due to Typhoon Rammasun. REUTERS

Five killed, one injured in S Korean helicopter crash

SEOUL, 17 July — Five people have been killed and one wounded in a South Korean helicopter crash that occurred in the country's southern city on Thursday morning, YTN and Yonhap News Agency reported.

A South Korean fire-fighting helicopter crashed in downtown Gwangju, around 330 km south of the capital Seoul. The firefighting authorities received the accident report at about 10:53 am local time.

The chopper crashed into the southern city's downtown, where one-room apartments and commercial buildings stand close together. Five firefighters on board the crashed chopper all have been confirmed dead, including two pilots, one engineer and two rescuers. One female student, who was waiting for a bus at the bus stop near the site, was injured after the crash. She was taken to a nearby hospital for treating her minor injury. The helicopter dropped in the sidewalk right beside the road, with the chopper caught under fire. Witnesses said it continued spinning around at a low altitude until before the crash, as if it was looking for a peopleless place.

Around 10 metres from the site, there are a school, an apartment complex and single-family houses lying close together. If the helicopter falls into the dwellings, it could have led to massive casualties.—Xinhua

Former Thai PM allowed to vacation abroad

BANGKOK, 17 July — Former Thai Prime Minister Yingluck Shinawatra has received permission from the military junta to travel to Europe with her son, a junta spokesman said on Thursday.

The National Council for Peace and Order (NCPO) has approved Yingluck's written request to vacation in Europe from 21 July to 10 Aug, NCPO spokesman Col Winthai Suvaree said. The permission was granted because Yingluck has complied with the NCPO orders and resisted no instructions for cooperation, Winthai said.



Former Thailand's Prime Minister Yingluck Shinawatra

Yingluck has kept a low profile since her release after being shortly detained by the NCPO which staged

the 22 May military coup to oust the former government.

Yingluck, as well as

a number of political figures, has been required not to leave Thailand without prior permission from the NCPO.

It is widely speculated that she will attend a planned celebration in France on 26 July for the 65th birthday of her brother and former Prime Minister Thaksin Shinawatra, who was ousted in a 2006 coup and now lives in self-exile.

Recently, many key figures of Yingluck's Pheu Thai Party have reportedly requested NCPO permission to leave the country for the celebration.

Xinhua

Cambodia achieves border demarcation of 80 pct with Vietnam, 75 pct with Laos

PHNOM PENH, 17 July — Cambodia has achieved border demarcation of 80 percent with Vietnam and 75 percent with Laos, Keo Piseth, a spokesman for Cambodian Parliamentary President Heng Samrin, said on Thursday. The spokesman told reporters after a meeting between Heng Samrin and delegations of Vietnamese lawmakers led by Nguyen Kim Khoa, chairman of the Vietnamese National Assembly's Committee for Defence and Security, and Laotian parliamentarians headed by Vilay Douang-

many, chairman of the Laotian National Assembly's Committee for Defence and Security.

The delegations visited Cambodia to attend a conference on the Cambodia-Laos-Vietnam Triangle Development Area, which was held on Wednesday.

"During the meeting, Heng Samrin, president of the National Assembly, stressed that building a border of peace, friendship, cooperation and development was essential to improve living conditions for residents along the border," Keo Piseth said.—Xinhua

BRICS leaders agree to set up bank

FORTALEZA, (Brazil), 17 July — Leaders of China, Russia and three other emerging economies agreed on 15 July on the establishment of a bank to support infrastructure development in developing countries, a move to challenge the US-led global financial system in the post-war era.

The new bank will be headquartered in Shanghai with a capital of \$100 billion equally put up by the five countries — Brazil, Russia, India, China and South Africa — known as BRICS. A support center will be established in Africa.

The plan was included in a joint statement adopted at the summit meeting held in Fortaleza, Brazil. But the document fell short of citing when it will be established, apparently suggesting gaps in views about



(from L to R) Russian President Vladimir Putin, Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi, Brazilian President Dilma Rousseff, Chinese President Xi Jinping and South African President Jacob Zuma pose for a group photo during the BRICS summit in Fortaleza, Brazil, on 15 July, 2014. —KYODO NEWS

how to go about running the new institution.

The new BRICS bank

is expected to provide loans for emerging and industrializing nations in which

infrastructure demand has been surging recently.

Kyodo News

United Nations Secretary-General's

Message on Nelson Mandela Day

18 July 2014

Last year, the world lost one of its greatest leaders when Nelson Mandela passed away. We remember his legacy especially on his birthday, the 18th of July.

Nelson Mandela and the United Nations had a strong history together. Shortly after he was released from prison, he came to our Headquarters. It was a moment of great excitement.

Nelson Mandela's presence in the General Assembly Hall proved that United Nations resolutions, sanctions and solidarity can win over violence and injustice. His extraordinary compassion after 27 years in prison showed that human rights and equality are stronger than discrimination and hate. On that day in 1990, he said people would always be challenged by the fact that, quote, "it took as long as it has before all of us stood up to say enough is enough." The room burst into applause.

Apartheid is gone — thanks to Nelson Mandela, countless other individuals and the proud actions of the United Nations. But our planet and its people still face terrible threats — poverty, discrimination, climate change, conflict and more. Nelson Mandela Day is a call to action. Each of us can celebrate this Day by helping to address real problems in our communities. Together we can give great meaning to our celebration by paving the way for a better future. — UNIC/Yangon

Abe reiterates desire to meet with S Korea's Park



Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe

TOKYO, 17 July — Prime Minister Shinzo Abe reiterated his eagerness on Thursday to meet with South Korean President Park Geun

Hye to mend bilateral ties strained by territorial disputes and differing views on history.

"There are difficult problems between Japan and South Korea, and because of that we should have a frank exchange of opinions," Abe told a group of visiting South Korean media executives at the outset of their meeting at the prime minister's office.

"I would like to improve bilateral ties and develop them into future-oriented relations," said Abe, who has been unable to

hold one-on-one talks with Park since the South Korean leader took office in February 2013.

The South Korean media executives include Song Hee Yong, editor in chief of the *Chosun Ilbo* daily.

"Through our visit, we found that many Japanese politicians want to see the normalization of South Korea-Japan relations," Song told reporters, adding that he hopes the visit will serve as the start of the normalization process.

Kyodo News

Policeman killed, five injured in clash with militants in E Pakistan

ISLAMABAD, 17 July — A policeman was killed and five others were injured during a clash between police and militants in Pakistan's eastern city of Lahore on Thursday morning, officials said.

Superintendent Police Zahid Nawaz Marwat said they launched a search operation in the area in the wee hours of Thursday morning at Raiwind Road area located at the outskirts of Lahore, the capital city of the country's east Punjab Province.

He said that during the search operation the police was fired upon from a com-

pound, following which the exchange of firing started.

Police launched the search operation on an intelligence tip-off, he added.

Provincial Minister Shuja Khanzada said that the militants used sophisticated weapons during exchange of firing and also hurled hand grenades at the police. He confirmed that a policeman was killed and five others injured during shoot-out with the unknown number of militants hiding in the compound.

He said that several women and kids are also in the compound and the police is trying to arrest the

militants rather than opening fire the compound to kill them. Residents said that the militants moved into the compound six months ago and are involved in trading weapons.

They said that the militants occasionally come out of the house and their women go out for buying things from the market. The injured policemen have been shifted to a nearby hospital.

Additional contingent of police also reached the spot for the operation. Lahore police chief has ordered to beef up the overall security of the city.

Xinhua

Kerry, Hagel to visit India to push strategic ties

WASHINGTON, 17 July — America's top diplomat and the head of its Defence Department will visit India in coming weeks seeking to revitalize a relationship the United States sees as a crucial counterbalance in Asia to an increasingly assertive China.

Secretary of State John Kerry will represent the United States in an annual session of Strategic Dialogue with India scheduled for 31 July, and he will be followed to New Delhi by Defence Secretary Chuck Hagel in early August, US officials said on Wednesday. They will be the most

senior US officials to visit India for talks with the new government of Prime Minister Narendra Modi since his May election. Modi is expected to visit the United States in September.

In testimony for a hearing of the US Senate Committee on Foreign Relations, Nisha Biswal, the US assistant secretary of state for South Asia, noted that President Barack Obama had said the US-India relationship would be "one of the defining partnerships of the 21st century."

She also said Modi had told US Deputy Secretary of State Bill Burns in India

last week that the world would benefit from closer US-India ties. "Across the board ... we have an opportunity here to engage more robustly with India in how the Asian landscape unfolds," she said. "And we look forward to engaging with the new government in that agenda."

Biswal referred to planned joint military exercises involving India, the United States and Japan, a country with a growing strategic rivalry with China in East Asia.

"We see opportunities for increasing the collaboration across Southeast

Asia," she said. "We are engaging more frequently in consultations and dialogue with India on ASEAN (the Association of Southeast Asian Nations) and look forward to increased and more frequent consultations across the East Asian sphere," Biswal said, adding:

"A rising India is in some ways going to be an ameliorating influence on China, in China's own growth and China's own behavior in the region."

Amy Searight, the US deputy assistant secretary of defence for South and Southeast Asia, said there



US Secretary of State John Kerry

was "a real strategic convergence" as India looked east in Asia and the United States pursued its "re-balance" to the continent.

"We both are looking to the challenges in East Asia today, of which a rising China is certainly a major part," she said.

Searight said there were growing relationships between India and Japan and the ASEAN countries, including Vietnam, a country which has been playing out a bitter territorial rivalry with Beijing in the South China Sea.

Referring to India's growing relationships with other Asian countries, Searight added: "We want to capitalize on that ... we want to support that activity." —Reuters

WORLD

EU leaders fail to agree on top jobs, to decide end-August

BRUSSELS, 17 July — European Union leaders failed to agree at a summit on Wednesday on sharing out a package of top jobs in the 28-nation bloc, including a new foreign policy chief, and postponed the decision until late August.

The talks foundered over opposition to Italian Foreign Minister Federica Mogherini's candidacy for the foreign policy role and demands by central and east European leaders that the job should go to someone from their region, diplomats said.

"It's a bit unfortunate but not dramatic at all," European Council President Herman Van Rompuy, who chaired the summit, told a news conference. "These things take time. I'm absolutely certain we will take the decision on 30 August."

The leaders did agree

to step up sanctions against Russia over separatist violence in eastern Ukraine, shortly after Washington also tightened the screws.

German Chancellor Angela Merkel said Moscow had failed to fulfil commitments to restore peace in the region.

The EU will expand sanctions against Russia to target companies that undermine Ukrainian sovereignty and will ask the EU's European Investment Bank and the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development to suspend new lending.

Former Luxembourg Prime Minister Jean-Claude Juncker has already been approved as president-elect of the executive European Commission.

But the summit stalled over the allocation of other top posts, including a



(L-R) Britain's Prime Minister David Cameron, Portugal's Prime Minister Pedro Passos Coelho, Germany's Chancellor Angela Merkel and Finland's Prime Minister Alexander Stubb attend an European Union leaders summit in Brussels on 16 July, 2014. — REUTERS

successor to Van Rompuy, who will help shape Europe's response to economic stagnation, the crisis in Ukraine and Britain's waver- ing attitude to member-

ship of the bloc.

Several leaders said they did not get as far as discussing names because of disagreement on the criteria under which the top

jobs should be distributed.

Mogherini, 41, began the day as front-runner but Poland and Baltic states voiced misgivings about her inexperience and her

emollient attitude towards Russia since its annexation of Crimea in March.

Lithuanian President Dalia Grybauskaitė told reporters: "I will support a person with experience in foreign affairs and a person who is neutral and at least reflects all opinions of all member states on the conflict between Russia and Ukraine and I will not support a person who is pro-Kremlin."

That irked Italian Prime Minister Matteo Renzi, who said: "This is not about questioning one position or another, it's questioning the respect that is due to all member states, and in particular to a founding member."

He denied there had been opposition to Mogherini, but other diplomats said her candidacy was in trouble. —Reuters

Russia set to reopen Soviet-era spy post on Cuba

MOSCOW, 17 July — Russia has reached a provisional agreement with Cuba to reopen a big Soviet-era base on the Caribbean island from which it once spied in the United States, a Russian security source said on Wednesday.

The move comes as US-Russian relations have reached a post-Cold War low in a dispute over Ukraine.

"A framework agreement has been agreed," the source told Reuters, confirming a report in the daily Kommersant newspaper that the reopening was approved in principle during a visit to Cuba last week by President Vladimir Putin.

In Washington, State Department spokeswoman Jen Psaki declined to comment, noting there was no formal announcement from Moscow. Other US officials were skeptical, questioning whether Russia would go through with what would be an expensive initiative with possible limited returns.

When they closed the base, the Russians said it was a "goodwill gesture" toward Washington, although many US officials at the time believed Moscow was really concerned about costs. One officials who asked not to be named called Russian statements and news reports about the project "propaganda." At the height of the Cold War,



Russia's President Vladimir Putin waves as he leaves the Itamaraty Palace after the 6th BRICS summit and the Union of South American Nations (UNASUR), in Brasilia on 16 July, 2014. —REUTERS

the base at Lourdes, just south of the capital Havana, had up to 3,000 personnel and was the biggest centre Moscow operated abroad for gathering intelligence from radio signals. The base, 250 km (150 miles) from the US coast, was also used to provide communications for Russian ships.

Government and Kremlin officials did not immediately comment. The base was closed in 2001. Discussions about its reopening began several years ago and intensified this year, Kommersant said, as relations with the United States deteriorated.

Since the Ukraine crisis worsened in February, the United States and the European Union have imposed sanctions on Russia and Moscow has tried to bolster ties with other countries, including in Asia and Latin America, to ensure Russia is not isolated.

Kommersant gave no financial details about the agreement, but noted Russia agreed before Putin's visit to forgive 90 percent of Cuba's \$32 billion Soviet-era debt. Putin, who is attending a summit of the BRICS emerging market powers in Brazil, also visited Argentina last week. —Reuters

Libyan air controllers strike to protest against airport shelling

TRIPOLI, 17 July — Air controllers in western Libya have gone on strike to protest the shelling of Tripoli's main airport, halting flights in much of the oil-producing country, a government official said on Thursday.

The strike puts pressure on rival militias to end four days of heavy fighting over control of the country's biggest airport, during which at least 20 aircraft have been damaged in the worst violence in the Libyan capital for six months.

The Tripoli air controllers refused to go to work at the control tower in Tripoli, which regulates traffic for all of western Libya, said

Tarek Arwa, a spokesman for the transport ministry.

Authorities had closed Tripoli International Airport after militias coming mainly from the western city of Misrata attacked on Sunday the airport area controlled by a rival militia from Zintan in the northwest, part of growing turmoil in the North African country.

On Wednesday, Libya reopened the western Misrata airport, which also had been closed after the airport attack, but it will have to close again due to the strike because Tripoli air controllers are also responsible for Misrata, Arwa said.

The weak Libyan government has no control over former rebel fighters who helped topple dictator Muammar Gaddafi in a NATO-backed uprising but now defy state authority and often battle for political or economic power.

The airport fighting has halted flights, stranding abroad many Libyans who were planning to return home for the Muslim fasting month of Ramadan and trapping expatriates. The heavy fighting in Tripoli and clashes in the eastern city of Benghazi prompted the United Nations to pull its staff out of the North African country. —Reuters



The photo taken on 16 July, 2014 shows the ruin of a destroyed plane in Tripoli International Airport, in Libya. Libya's international airport in capital Tripoli has been under renewed attack on Wednesday with the death toll reaching 30, according to security sources. —XINHUA

PERSPECTIVES

Friday, 18 July, 2014

Protecting children for the future of Myanmar

By Myint Win Thein

Myanmar joined the International Labour Organization in 1948 and is now currently implementing a total of 19 conventions. In December, Myanmar is going to take another important step towards the implementation of international labour practices by adopting Convention 182 of the ILO.

Convention 182 of the International Labour Organization is concerned with the prohibition

and immediate action for the elimination of the worst forms of child labour.

One of the worst forms of child labour is slavery or similar practices, including the sale and trafficking of children, debt bondage, serfdom and forced labour such as the recruitment of children for use in armed conflict. As armed conflicts are common in Myanmar, the convention should be implemented effectively.

Another form of worst child labour is the use, procuring or offering of a child for prostitution and for the production of pornography or for pornographic performances. Although such form of child labour is not widespread in Myanmar, special care should be taken so that children cannot be exploited in this way.

The last form of worst child labour is the use, procuring or offering of a child for the produc-

tion and trafficking of drugs and work which is likely to harm the health, safety or morals of children. As narcotic drugs are one of the biggest problems in Myanmar, this form of child labour should also be uprooted as soon as possible. In addition, Myanmar will also be responsible to rehabilitate abused children by providing free education and creating appropriate environments for them.

It is essential that the convention is implemented effectively as protecting children amounts to safeguarding the future of Myanmar.

Write for us

We appreciate your feedback and contributions. If you have any comments or would like to submit editorials, analyses or reports please email wallace.tun@gmail.com with your name and title.

Union minister for Border Affairs on tour of Ponnagyun, Minbya, MraukU, Kyauktaw



Union Minister Lt-Gen Thet Naing Win meets officials of social organizations and departmental officials.—MNA

NAY PYI TAW, 17 July—Union Minister for Border Affairs Lt-Gen Thet Naing Win, together with State Chief Minister U Maung Maung Ohn explained peace and stability and development of the state to the local people from Ponnagyun, Minbya, MraukU and Kyauktaw

townships on his inspection tour on Monday and Tuesday.

The union minister donated K1 million to the fund for a free school being opened for matriculation students at Myoma monastery in Ponnagyun on Monday.

He held meetings

with officials at Minbya Township General Administration Department and MraukU Hotel in the afternoon.

On Tuesday, the union minister met local people at Kissapanadi Hall in Kyauktaw, focusing on development of the region.

MNA

Myanmar, India focus on drawing energy policy and procedures

NAY PYI TAW, 17 July—Union Minister for Environmental Conservation and Forestry U Win Tun held talks with Indian Ambassador Mr Gautam Mukhopadhyaya at the ministry in Nay Pyi Taw on Thursday.

They focused on use of renewable energy and various energy, drawing of en-

ergy policy and procedures, cooperation between the ministry and the Energy and Resources Institute of India in enhancement of research and capacity, development of waterways in Kaladan river, investment in tea plantations in Kachin and Chin states and technical assistance, conservation of forest resources and

bio-diversities, implementation of ecotourism industry and sending Myanmar trainees to India to pursue forest protection, environmental conservation and land survey.

Myanmar and India authorities will sign the MoU on cooperation in the energy sector, according to sources.—MNA



Union Minister for Environmental Conservation and Forestry U Win Tun holds talks with Indian Ambassador Mr Gautam Mukhopadhyaya.—MNA

Repaired jetty in Myeik now safe in rainy season

MYEIK, 17 July—Repair works on a jetty in Myeik has been finished, with officials saying Myeik Port has spent K 51.7 million on repairing the jetty since 7 October 2013. It can now be used safely when water levels rise, and safety for passengers and smooth flow of commodities are now ensured, he said.

No 1 jetty is a significant point for waterway transport of passengers and commodities from villages of Myeik, Kyunsu

and Bokpyin townships, and was built in 1974 to be

used for high water levels due to the sandbanks.

Zaw Myo Naing
(Myeik District IPRD)



GOLD PRICE, FE RATE (17-7-2014)

Yangon Gold Price

Buying K676,300 per tical: Selling K677,300

Mandalay Gold Price

Buying K676,300 per tical: Selling K677,300

FE RATE

USD Buying K969 - Selling K974.5

SGD Buying K777 - Selling K786

Euro Buying K1313 - Selling K1325

LOCAL NEWS



Vehicle licences issued to hearses in Mandalay

MANDALAY, 17 July—South District Directorate of Road Administration near Sacred Tooth Relic Pagoda in Mandalay is now issuing licences to unlicensed vehicles of social welfare associations of Mandalay Region.

As the directorate has issued licences for legalizing 308 hearses in the first week of July, associations of Mandalay and its nearby townships welcome its activity.

Tin Maung (Mandalay)



Plan to distribute desks to basic education schools in Mandalay Region

MANDALAY, 17 July—Desks are being made for basic education schools in Mandalay Region, and the furniture will be distributed to schools of the townships this month, according to a special session of Mandalay Region Hluttaw.

The region government allotted K77.97 million for making school furniture in the 2014-15 academic year. The region government is

also making desks worth K64.5 million to be distributed to the schools in the townships. Despite supplying desks to the basic education schools depending on the allotment of funds, the Ministry of Education has adequate funds for the desks, with the ministry said to hold a coordination meeting soon, according to the Hluttaw.

Min Htet Aung (Mandalay Sub-printing House)

Dan grading course from 26 to 30 July: Karatedo Federation

YANGON, 17 July—The Myanmar Karatedo Federation allows various Karatedo clubs to designate Kyu and Dan grades based on their experiences but organizes them to abide by prescribed standards of international organizations in the competitions. At present, the World Karatedo Federation-WKF will allow those who have received the Dan grade of WKF in the Karatedo contests. Moreover, those who

will discharge duty of referees and coaches must have the Dan certificates recognized by the WKF.

For the first phase, the Dan grading course recognized by the MKF will be opened at the training hall of the federation at Aung San Gymnasium from 26 to 30 July for enabling the Myanmar Karatedo professionals to participate in the SEA Games and international championships.—MNA

Rakhine State maternal and child welfare officials pay respects to the aged

SITTWAY, 17 July—Patron of Rakhine State Maternal and Child Welfare Supervisory Committee Daw Khin Swe Win, wife of the Chief Minister of Rakhine State, and officials paid respect to 28 older persons at the Home

for the Aged in Danyawady Ward of Sittway on Tuesday and gave refreshments, eggs and other foodstuffs to them.

The patron and delegation viewed health care services given by doctors and staff of Sittway Township

Health Department and the Myanmar Red Cross Society to the older persons.

They also fed refreshment to children at the ABC child care centre in Mingan Ward and donated cash to the fund of the centre.—Rakhine State IPRD

Sowing paddy seeds demonstrated to local farmers

THANDWE, 17 July—An event to sowing hybrid Palethwe paddy seeds was held on 10-acre farmlands in Chanbyin Village-tract of Thandwe Township of Rakhine State on Tuesday.

Head of District Agriculture Department U Than Tun explained nurturing of paddy saplings on the small dykes and use of good agricultural patterns for achieving high yield of paddy.

Head of Township Agriculture Department U Tin Win Maung and staff participated in the demonstration of sowing paddy seeds.

Thandwe District IPRD

High yield sugarcane production technique taught to farmers, agricultural staff



Trainees of sugarcane planting technique course nurture sugarcane saplings at practical works.—Ko HTAUK

PYINMANA, 17 July—The Sugarcane Technology and Development Branch of Industrial Crops Development Department under the Ministry of Agriculture and Irrigation opened a sugarcane planting technique

course at the training centre of the sugarcane research and plant propagation farm in Pyinmana from 14 to 18 July.

The course is aimed at boosting production of sugarcane and increasing

benefits for the farmers.

The techniques on cultivation of each graft of sugarcane can produce over 80 tons per acre.

The course was attended by 51 trainees, including local people, sugarcane

cultivation companies, staff of the Agriculture Department, sugar mills, Agricultural Research Department and agricultural institutes.

Myo Zeyar (Pyinmana)

Low-lying farmlands flooded in Thaton Township

THATON, 17 July—Some paddy plantations in low-lying land areas were flooded in Aukkwin Village of Thaton Township in Mon State recently.

"I have cultivated paddy at the farmlands for three times this year as the farmlands were flooded. I have spent large amounts of money on cultivation," said a local farmer.

As now is cultivation time for all farmers, they face shortage of farming workers. Local authorities should solve this problem of farmers, said Budinchaung village administrator U Thein Myint.

Aukkwin Village was five miles from Mottama

Bay in the past. Due to sandbanks, the village is

now seven miles from the bay.—Thet Oo (Thaton)



US slaps toughest sanctions yet on Russia, targets Putin allies

WASHINGTON, 17 July — President Barack Obama imposed the toughest US sanctions yet on Russia, striking at the heart of Vladimir Putin's powerbase by targeting companies closest to him over what Washington says is Moscow's failure to curb violence in Ukraine.

By imposing penalties on Russia's largest oil producer Rosneft, its second largest gas producer Novatek and its third largest bank Gazprombank, Washington targeted Putin's allies, many of whom have become wealthy during his tenure. The sanctions, which in effect close medium- and long-term dollar funding, were also put on Vnesheconombank, VEB, a state-owned bank that acts as payment agent for the government, and eight arms firms, including the producer of the Kalashnikov assault rifle.

The sanctions did not freeze those four companies' assets, or stop US firms from doing business with them and several were quick to say it was busi-



A pro-Russian separatist from the Vostok (East) battalion stands guard near a T-64 tank in Donetsk, eastern Ukraine, on 16 July, 2014. —REUTERS

ness as usual. But Russia's rouble-traded stock market and the rouble tumbled on opening.

Rosneft and Novatek were heavily hit, with both down more than 5 percent.

The MICEX index was off more than 3 percent.

In his harshest words yet about future ties with Washington, Putin said the sanctions would damage US energy companies and

bring relations to a "dead end." A Foreign Ministry official said Moscow would hit back in a way that would be "painful" for Washington.

The chief executive

of Russia's VTB bank warned of potentially devastating consequences for the global financial system from sanctions which he called illegal, echoing the sentiment of several

Russian business leaders. "Of course, these sanctions are inappropriate and of course they do not correspond to the spirit or the legal standards of existing international relations, in particular in the field of finance and banking," Andrei Kostin, whose bank is Russia's second largest, was quoted as saying by Itar-Tass news agency.

"I believe that if we do not take measures to stop such unilateral actions, we could see devastating consequences for the global financial system."

Obama, who warned of more sanctions if Russia did not take concrete steps to ease the conflict, said Putin had so far failed to take steps needed to resolve the crisis peacefully.

"We have emphasized our preference to resolve this issue diplomatically, but that we have to see concrete actions and not just words that Russia, in fact, is committed to trying to end this conflict along the Russia-Ukraine border," he said.

Reuters

Gaza truce goes into force, hours after tunnel clash

GAZA/JERUSALEM, 17 July — A five-hour humanitarian truce agreed by Israel and Hamas came into force on Thursday, hours after the Israeli military said it fought Palestinian gunmen who infiltrated from Gaza.

About a dozen Palestinian fighters tunneled under the border, emerging near an Israeli community, and at least one was killed after Israeli aircraft bombed the group, the military said.

A break for five hours in 10 days of fighting was requested by the United Nations to allow Gaza residents to gather supplies and repair infrastructure damaged in warfare that has killed at least 224 Palestinians, most of them, Gaza health officials said, civilians.

In Israel, a civilian has been killed by one of more than 1,300 Palestinian rockets fired and more than half a dozen people have been wounded in frequent strikes that have made a race to shelters a routine for hundreds of thousands of people.

After the early morning clash over the tunnel,



Palestinians stand next to a house which police said was targeted in an Israeli air strike in Gaza City on 17 July, 2014. —REUTERS

air raid sirens sounded across Israel, including in the Tel Aviv area, the country's heartland, warning of a heavy barrage of incoming rockets. The military said at least one rocket was intercepted by the Iron Dome anti-missile system and another fell in a town near Tel Aviv. There were no reports of casualties.

But there were no immediate reports of violations of the humanitarian truce after it went into effect at 10 am (0300 ET).

Israel's military said it would respond "firmly and decisively" if militants in Gaza launched attacks dur-

ing the five-hour break.

President Barack Obama said on Wednesday the United States supported Egyptian efforts to bring about a ceasefire. US officials would use their diplomatic resources over the next 24 hours to pursue closing a deal, he said.

Egypt had proposed a permanent ceasefire plan on Tuesday, which Israel accepted and Hamas, saying its terms had been ignored, rejected.

Israeli media reports said Egypt was continuing its truce efforts and that senior Israeli officials would hold talks in Cairo

on Thursday on a ceasefire. A spokesman for Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu declined to comment.

On Wednesday, an Israeli gunboat off Gaza's Mediterranean coast shelled a beach, killing four boys — two aged 10 and the others 9 and 11 — from one family and critically wounding another youngster, witnesses and Ashraf al-Qidra of the Gaza Health Ministry said.

The Israeli military said the reported civilian casualties were unintended and "tragic" and it was investigating what happened. "Based on preliminary results, the target of this strike was Hamas terrorist operatives," it said in a statement.

One Israeli has been killed by shelling from Gaza since the Israeli offensive began on July 8, in conflict largely triggered by the killing of three Israeli teens in the occupied West Bank and the death of a Palestinian youth in a suspected revenge murder.

Most of the Palestinian projectiles have crashed on open ground or been intercepted by Iron Dome.

Reuters

Militants killed after audacious attack on Kabul airport

KABUL, 17 July — Militants armed with rocket-propelled grenades attacked Kabul International Airport in the Afghan capital on Thursday in one of the most audacious assaults on the facility, used by both civilians and the military, in a year. The attack on the airport comes at a time of great uncertainty for Afghanistan as votes from the second round of a disputed presidential election are to be recounted. The poll is meant to mark Afghanistan's first democratic transfer of power.

The attack lasted about four hours after four unidentified militants armed

with automatic rifles and rocket-propelled grenades opened fire on the airport from the roof of a building just to its north.

"Four terrorists were killed by police special forces. The area is being cleared now, there are no casualties to our forces," said Interior Ministry spokesman Sediq Sediqqi.

The airport is home to a major operational base for NATO-led forces that have been fighting Taliban and other insurgents for 12 years and is bristling with soldiers and police, guard towers and several lines of security checkpoints.

Reuters



Security vehicles rush towards smoke rising in the distance, as an area near the Kabul airport comes under attack, in this still image taken from a Reuters TV video in Kabul on 17 July, 2014. —REUTERS

SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY

US Cygnus spacecraft arrives at space station

WASHINGTON, 17 July — A commercial spacecraft, operated by US space company Orbital Sciences Corp., arrived at the *International Space Station (ISS)* on Wednesday for its second cargo resupply mission to the orbiting lab, US space agency NASA said.

The unmanned *Cygnus* spacecraft was successfully captured by a robotic arm operated by astronauts inside the *ISS* at 6:36 am EDT (1036 GMT) as the two flew 260 miles (about 418 km) over northern Libya, NASA said. About two hours later, *Cygnus* was berthed to the Earth-facing port of the space station's Harmony module. The spacecraft launched atop Orbital's Antares rocket on Sunday from NASA's launch range at the Wallops Flight Facility in eastern Virginia.

The mission, called Orbital-2, is delivering almost 3,300 pounds (about 1,500 kg) of supplies for the *ISS* and its crew.

Among the research investigations aboard *Cygnus* are a flock of Earth-imaging



The International Space Station's robotic arm, Canadarm2, grapples the Orbital Sciences' Cygnus cargo craft, as seen in this still image taken from NASA TV on 16 July, 2014.—REUTERS

nanosatellites, hardware to enable a trio of free-flying robots to perform 3D mapping inside the *ISS* and a host of student experiments.

This is the second of the eight Antares and *Cygnus* cargo delivery missions to the *ISS* under Orbital's 1.9-billion-US-dollar Com-

mercial Resupply Services contract with NASA.

The ship will remain attached to the *ISS* for about 30 days before departing with trash for a destructive reentry in Earth's atmosphere. Orbital launched its first cargo resupply mission in January. The company

said its third cargo mission has been scheduled for October, with another three resupply launches being planned for 2015.

Besides Orbital, NASA has also signed a deal with another private company called SpaceX to supply cargo to the *ISS*.—Xinhua

New Zealand Antarctic sea ice project aims to improve climate change understanding

WELLINGTON, 17 July — New Zealand scientists will begin a ground-breaking project to measure Antarctic sea ice from below this coming southern summer in a bid to get a better understanding of the effects of global climate change.

University of Canterbury scientist Professor Ian Hawes will measure the thickness and biological productivity of Antarctic sea ice, using a remote underwater vehicle to understand its role in ocean circulation and the functioning of polar ecosystems.

Other than spot drilling, measuring sea ice is extremely difficult because of its inaccessibility, Hawes said in a statement on Wednesday. "Our cutting-edge project will produce accurate information on sea ice thickness and the biomass of algae growing in the ice, information which is of global significance for better under-

standing linkages between ice dynamics, ecosystems and climate change," said Hawes.

"Sea ice comes in two types, pack ice and fast ice. Fast ice is attached to land and is safe to access and drill holes for only part of the year. Pack ice is not attached to land, but occurs as broken up floes that can only be accessed by some ships," he said.

"This has put major limitations on where we can sample and how many samples can be obtained.

"At the same time we know that sea ice properties are variable over distances of a few meters. Information from satellites is very limited too as they can only tell us the elevation of the ice surface." The underwater vehicle will take measurements with finer resolution over greater distances to help measure ice properties in a much more robust way.

Xinhua

Microsoft starts taking EU 'right to be forgotten' requests



A photo illustration shows the Microsoft logo displayed on a Nokia phone in Vienna on 3 Sept, 2013.

REUTERS

SEATTLE, 17 July — Microsoft Corp on Wednesday started taking requests from individuals in Europe who want to be removed from its Bing search engine results following a court judgment in May guaranteeing the "right to be forgotten."

Microsoft, whose Bing search engine has 2.5 percent of the European search market, follows market leader Google Inc which complied with the ruling in May, and started removing some search results last month. The Luxembourg-based Court of Justice of the European Union in May ordered Google to remove a link to a 15-year-

old newspaper article about a Spanish man's bankruptcy, effectively upholding people's "right to be forgotten" on the Internet.

The ruling, which affects the EU's 500 million citizens, requires that Internet search services remove information deemed "inadequate, irrelevant or no longer relevant." Failure to do so can result in fines.

It only applies to EU countries, meaning links that have been removed in Europe will still appear in search results elsewhere, including the United States.

Microsoft's form, available on its Bing website (here), is a four-part questionnaire. —Reuters

Fossils show strange sea creature's half-billion-year-old brain

WASHINGTON, 17 July — Researchers on Wednesday described fossilized remains unearthed in China showing in fine detail the brain structures of a bizarre group of sea creatures that were the top predators more than half a billion years ago.

The fossils show an animal called *Lyrarapax unguispinus* that lived during the Cambrian Period, a pivotal juncture in the history of life on Earth when many major animal groups first appeared. It was a member of a group known as anomalocaridids

— primitive relatives of arthropods, which include crustaceans, insects and spiders — that hunted prey with a pair of claw-like grasping appendages in front of the eyes.

Even though anomalocaridids do not have any direct descendants alive today, the brain structures of *Lyrarapax* closely resemble those of worm-like animals called velvet worms that crawl along the ground in tropical and semitropical forests in the Southern Hemisphere.

The researchers said the similarities suggest

that velvet worms may be very distant cousins of the anomalocaridids, whose best-known example is *Anomalocaris*, known from a Canadian fossil site called the Burgess Shale.

Velvet worms, land animals also known as onychophorans, grow to a few inches in length, have two long feelers extending from the head and have numerous pairs of stubby, unjointed tubular legs that each end in a pair of small claws.

Lyrarapax, whose scientific name means spiny-clawed, lyre-shaped predator, lived 520 million years ago. Its neuroanatomy resembles that of velvet worms in multiple ways, with a simple brain and a pair of ganglia — a cluster of nerve cells — placed in the front of the optic nerve and the base of the grasping appendages.

The soft parts of any animal's body typically decay after death, meaning that fossils usually preserve only hard parts like bones, teeth and shells. But under exceptional circumstances, soft tissue and anatomical organs can be preserved in fossils.

Lyrarapax was much smaller than some other

anomalocaridids. It measured about 6 inches (15 cm) long, roughly the size of a large shrimp. Peiyun Cong, a paleontologist at Yunnan University in China, said the three specimens of *Lyrarapax* that were found "may represent immature stages of the animal, so it might be larger."

"Anomalocaridids preserved with the whole body are very rare. None of them have been reported with the brain," Cong said.

The fossils show that anomalocaridids possessed brains that were less complex than those of animals it may have hunted.

University of Arizona neuroscientist Nicholas Strausfeld, another of the researchers, said the threat posed by predators like these creatures may have helped drive brain complexity among animals in the ancient seas.

"Predation may have in part contributed to the evolution of more elaborate brains that could process more complex ecological cues that might have offered camouflage or other protection," Strausfeld said.

The study was published in the journal *Nature*.—Reuters



*A side-by-side comparison reveals the similarity between the brain of a living onychophoran (L) and that of the anomalocaridid fossil of a *Lyrarapax unguispinus*, as seen in an undated handout illustration courtesy of the University of Arizona.*

REUTERS

Thailand to exempt Chinese tourists from visa fees

BANGKOK, 17 July — Thai military junta has agreed to a proposal to exempt Chinese tourists, including those from Taiwan, from visa fees for three months, local media reported on Thursday. In a bid to boost tourism, the National Council for Peace and Order (NCPO) agreed to waive visa fees for Chinese tourists from 1 August to 31 October, Arkhom Termpittayapaisith, secretary-general of the National Economic and Social Development Board, was quoted by *Bangkok Post* as saying.

The exemption policy is expected to lure more Chinese tourists to Thailand, head of the Thailand-China Tourism Association Li Liangchen told *Xinhua*.

So far this year, the number of inbound Chinese tourists has dropped by around 25 percent year-on-year, with those traveling to the capital Bangkok slumping by almost 40 percent, Li said, attributing the decrease to protracted political tumult that lasted from late last year to mid-2014.

This month, tourism departments of the Thai government will invite Chinese tourism officials to a series of promotion activities in Thailand so as to restore the confidence of Chinese visitors, he said.

The visa fee exemption is among the five proposals approved by the NCPO to stimulate the economy, Arkhom said. Other proposals aim at promoting the development of trade, investment, industry and infrastructure, and amending laws and regulations to remove obstacles to businesses.—*Xinhua*

Woman in Obama ricin case sentenced to 18 years in prison

HOUSTON, 17 July — A Texas woman who has admitted to sending ricin-laced letters to US President Barack Obama and former New York City mayor Michael Bloomberg was sentenced to 18 years in prison on Wednesday, media reports said. Shannon Guess Richardson, an actress and mother-of-six, was sentenced by US District Judge Michael Schneider as part of a plea agreement with prosecutors, the Houston Chronicle reported.

Richardson, 36, pleaded guilty last December at

a federal court to a single charge of developing, producing, possessing, and transferring a biological agent for use as a weapon.

She was arrested last June after she allegedly sent the letters not only to Obama and Bloomberg, but also to a Washington, DC-based gun-control group. The content of the letters is believed to be threat of violence against gun-control advocates. Richardson initially told the FBI it was her husband who mailed those letters, but later she said he “made her” do it. The cou-

ple was believed to be going through a divorce and the wife was pregnant when she was arrested. She later gave birth to a baby while in custody.

Richardson, an actress by profession, appears in movies and on TV under the name Shannon Guess. Her resume on the Internet movie database IMDb said she has had small television roles in “The Vampire Diaries” and “The Walking Dead.” She had a minor role in the movie “The Blind Side” and appeared in an Avis commercial.—*Xinhua*

Imperial War Museum to reopen with new WWI objects

LONDON, 17 July — Imperial War Museum London will open permanent New First World War Galleries to public on 19 July, marking the 100th anniversary of the First World War. The Imperial War Museums (IWM), established in 1917 when the WWI was still going on, is partnering with the British government to commemorate the landmark anniversary of the outbreak of WWI.

As one of the branches of IWM, IWM London has spent about 40 million pounds (68 million US dollars) for the ground-breaking new First World War Galleries and a newly configured Atrium.

By visiting the new parts of the museum, visitors can discover the story of the war and will see how the war started, why it continued, how the Allies won and its global impact. Staff of the museum introduced on Wednesday that since the museum has the richest and most comprehensive collections of the First World War in the world, visitors will see over 1,300 objects on display, many of which have never been seen before.

Those objects will include weapons,

uniforms, equipment, diaries, letters, keepsakes, trinkets, photographs, etc.

“Each of the objects on display will give a voice to the people who created them, used them or cared for them and reveal stories not only of destruction, suffering and loss, but also endurance and innovation, duty and devotion, comradeship and love,” said Diane Lees, director general of IWM.

Besides watching by their eyes, visitors can also experience the sights and sounds of a recreated “trench,” with fighter plane and tank looming above them.

“IWM London is presenting 1914 to 1918 afresh for a 21 century audience. These impressive new galleries illuminate the soldier’s experiences but they also get us out of the trenches to understand the lives of women and children on the home front and the large international story of a British world at war. They also offer a chance to ponder the hard questions about why Britain fought and what was gained by all the sacrifices,” said David Reynolds, professor of Cambridge University.

Xinhua

Nachi Fire Festival in Wakayama Pref



Kumano Nachi Grand Shrine's Nachi Fire Festival is carried out in Nachikatsuura, Wakayama Prefecture, western Japan, on 14 July, 2014.

KYODO NEWS

Former official receives life sentence for bribery

BEIJING, 17 July — Wang Suyi, a former senior official from north China’s Inner Mongolia Autonomous Region, has been sentenced to life imprisonment for accepting bribes, a local court in Beijing announced on Thursday.

Wang was also deprived of political rights for life and all his property has been confiscated, according to the court ruling by Beijing No 1 Intermediate People’s Court.

Wang was a member of the Standing Committee of the Inner Mongolia Autonomous Regional Committee of the Communist Party of China (CPC) and head of the United Front Work Department of the regional Party committee.

The court found that Wang had accepted bribes worth more than 10.73 million yuan (1.73 million US dollars) on various occasions. In return, he took advantage of his posts and offered business opportunities or promotions to nine companies and individuals, including a local real estate development company and Li Shigui, a former official of the region’s Bayannur municipal government, between 2005 and 2013.

All of Wang’s illegal gains have been recovered, the court said. Thursday’s sentencing was open to the public and media. Wang was expelled from the CPC and dismissed from public office for severe disciplinary violations in September.—*Xinhua*

Thailand to introduce female-only train carriages

BANGKOK, 17 July — The State Railway of Thailand (SRT) said on Wednesday that it would launch women-only train carriages on 1 August, obviously as a result of a high-profile murder case earlier this month. From 1 August, carriages reserved exclusively for women and children under 10 will be introduced on each night train on the country’s northern, north-eastern and southern railway lines, SRT chairman Omsin Chivapreuk said.

This initiative was launched in the wake of the rape and murder of a 13-year-old girl on a night train from southern

Nakhon Si Thammarat province to capital Bangkok on 8 July, in hopes of restoring the confidence of passengers. The crime was allegedly committed by a SRT staff member.

The military junta has removed Prapat Chongsanguan from his post as the SRT governor in response to the public outcry that demanded his resignation. A new governor is yet to be selected. Women-only carriages used to be in service in 2001 on a night express train from Bangkok to Chiang Mai, only to be abrogated months later due to lack of popularity.

Xinhua



Former US President Bill Clinton (2nd L) visits the kitchen of an NGO, Akshaya Patra foundation, in Jaipur, India, on 16 July, 2014. Former US President Bill Clinton on Tuesday arrived in Jaipur, the capital of the western Indian state of Rajasthan, to have a glimpse of an NGO-run mid-day meal scheme for school children.—XINHUA

ADVERTISEMENT & GENERAL

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

MV KULTHARA VOY NO (02/14)

Consignees of cargo carried on MV KULTHARA VOY NO (02/14) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 18.7.2014 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of SPW(5) 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.

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MV UBC CANADA VOY NO (24)

Consignees of cargo carried on MV UBC CANADA VOY NO (24) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 15.7.2014 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of M.I.T.T where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

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Weather report

STATE OF THE SEA: Squalls with moderate to rough sea are likely at times off and along Myanmar Coasts. Surface wind speed in squalls may reach (35) m.p.h.

OUTLOOK FOR SUBSEQUENT TWO DAYS: Likelihood of increase of rain in the lower Myanmar areas.

Police to arrest system engineer involved in Benesse data leak

TOKYO, 17 July — Police are expected to arrest on Thursday a system engineer who has admitted to involvement in a massive customer data leak at Benesse Holdings Inc, investigative sources said.

The temporary employee is suspected of downloading customer data in June from Benesse, Japan's largest provider of correspondence education for children, at a Tokyo office of Benesse affiliate Synform Co and copying the data to storage media, the sources said.

During questioning by the police, he has admitted to selling the information, which includes children's



Eiko Harada, chairman personal data, multiple times to a name-list trader for a total of several million yen, the sources said.

The temporary worker, who was dispatched to Synform by another com-

pany providing database management services, is suspected of violating the unfair competition prevention law, which bans unauthorized use or disclosure of trade secrets.

The data are believed to have been sold to software developer Justsystems Corp. via multiple name-list traders.

Benesse said it has so far confirmed that the leaked data covered 7.6 million customers but the actual number may be as high as 20.7 million.

Benesse Chairman and CEO Eiko Harada submitted a report on Thursday morning to industry minister Toshimitsu Motegi on

measures to prevent the reoccurrence of similar incidents.

"It is extremely regrettable that the leaked personal data included those of elementary and junior high school students, and (Benesse) failed to acknowledge it for as long as half a year," Motegi told Harada who visited the Ministry of Economy, Trade and Industry.

Harada said his company will do its utmost to investigate the cause of the information leak under a third-party committee set up on Tuesday. The ministry had requested Benesse submit the report by Thursday. — Kyodo News

Landslide in SW China buries eight

GUIYANG, 17 July — A rain-triggered landslide in southwest China's Guizhou Province buried eight people on Thursday morning, local authorities said.

Days of heavy rain caused the landslide in Dakuo Village of Zhijin County in the city of Bijie at around 4 am, said a spokesman with the county. By 10 am, two people had been rescued,

and rescuers were searching for the remaining six, he said. Rainstorms have lashed Guizhou this week, with many parts of the province flooded. Seven people have been killed in floods as of Wednesday, according to the provincial civil affairs bureau. Three others were reported missing and more than 91,000 have been relocated.

Xinhua



Two residential buildings are damaged by landslide in Dakuo Village of Zhijin County in Bijie City, southwest China's Guizhou Province, on 17 July, 2014. — XINHUA

Confident Assad launches new term in stronger position

DAMASCUS, 17 July — Bashar al-Assad was sworn in for a new term as Syria's president on Wednesday, after an election which his opponents dismiss as a sham but which he said proved he had achieved victory after a "dirty war" to unseat him.

Once written off in the West as certain to fall, he launches his seven-year term in his securest position since the early days of the three-year-old war. Those close to Damascus say he now believes his Western and regional foes will be forced to deal with him as a bulwark against Sunni Islamist militants who advanced across northern Iraq last month.

At his inauguration he delivered a defiant speech, vowing to recover all Syria from Islamist insurgents and warning that Western and Arab countries would

pay dearly for supporting rebels he described as terrorists.

Looking calm and confident, the president of 14 years repeatedly took aim at the West and Sunni Muslim Gulf Arab monarchies who have funded and armed the rebels that have taken control of much of the north and east of his country.

"Soon we will see the Arab, regional and Western states that supported terrorism pay a high price," he said in the speech at the presidential palace in Damascus, broadcast on state TV. "I repeat my call today to those who were misled to put down their guns, because we will not stop fighting terrorism and striking it wherever it is until we restore security to every spot of Syria," Assad said. But with swathes of the country still in rebel



Syria's President Bashar al-Assad places his right hand on a Koran as he is sworn in for a new seven-year term, at al-Shaab presidential palace in Damascus on 16 July, 2014, in this picture released by Syria's national news agency SANA. — REUTERS

hands, opponents said the speech showed Assad was delusional.

"This is completely separated from reality. Assad is going on as if everything is normal and as if he didn't lose two-thirds of the country," Monzer Akbik of the Western-backed National Coalition opposition group told Reuters. "It was a theatrical election and this is a theatrical swearing in." Syria's war has been the battleground for a sectarian struggle between groups supported by Sunni Muslim states including Saudi Arabia and Qatar, and Assad's government backed by Shi'ite Iran.

Last month it spread dramatically in Iraq, where an al-Qaeda offshoot operating on both sides of the frontier, the Islamic State in Iraq and the Levant (ISIL), seized cities, changed its

name to the Islamic State and declared its leader ruler of all Muslims.

ISIL has officially been rejected as a terrorist group by the Gulf states that support other Sunni fighters in Syria, but Damascus, Baghdad and Teheran all blame the Gulf kingdoms for supporting the wider Sunni militancy that feeds it.

Since advancing in Iraq, ISIL has also expanded its reach in Syria, using weapons seized from the fleeing Iraqi army to fight against rival rebel factions in Syria.

Those around Assad now feel that the ISIL threat will force Western leaders to seek a way to work with him against the common foe, said Salem Zahran, a Lebanese political analyst who is sympathetic to Assad and meets Syrian officials regularly. — Reuters

Seth MacFarlane is sued for stealing idea for 'Ted'

LOS ANGELES, 17 July — Producer-director Seth MacFarlane has been sued by a California production company for allegedly stealing the idea for a foul-mouthed talking bear with a penchant for drinking, drugs and prostitutes for his 2012 hit movie "Ted."

In a complaint filed on Tuesday in the US District Court in Los Angeles, Bengal Mangle Productions LLC said Ted is "strikingly similar" to its own teddy bear Charlie, who was created in 2008 for the screenplay "Acting School Academy" and has appeared on websites such as YouTube and FunnyorDie.

Bengal Mangle said the bears physically resemble each other, have similar personas and verbal deliveries, have human friends, spend much time on the living room couch with a beer or cigarette in hand, and have active social media presences on Facebook and Twitter



Writer, director and cast member Seth MacFarlane poses at the premiere of "Ted" at the Grauman's Chinese theatre in Hollywood, California on 21 June, 2012.—REUTERS

with similar, often profane postings.

It also said "Acting School Academy" got about 1.2 million online views between July 2009 and June 2012. "Defendants never sought nor obtained

plaintiff's permission to use the Charlie character and continue to infringe the Charlie character," the complaint said. Bengal Mangle is seeking to recoup profit stemming from the alleged copyright infringement, and

halt further infringement.

Among the other defendants are MacFarlane's Fuzzy Door Productions Inc and Comcast Corp's Universal Studios, which released the movie.

Reuters

Singer-songwriter Sia snags first No 1 on US Billboard chart

LOS ANGELES, 17 July — Singer-songwriter Sia, the writing talent behind several pop hits, on Wednesday grabbed her own No 1 spot on the weekly US Billboard 200 chart for the first time with the album "1,000 Forms of Fear," according to figures from Nielsen SoundScan.

machine and not shown her face during TV performances of the single "Chandelier."

Surging back into second place from fifth last week was the soundtrack from the animated Disney film "Frozen," which sold 46,000 copies in its 30th consecutive week



Singer Sia performs at the Democratic National Committee's (DNC) annual Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender (LGBT) gala in New York on 17 June, 2014.—REUTERS

In its debut week, "1,000 Forms of Fear," sold 52,000 copies, the lowest sales figure for a top-selling album in nearly two years, Billboard said.

The unconventional artist, who has penned songs for Rihanna and Beyonce among others, has famously shunned the industry's marketing

in the top five. British singer-songwriter Sam Smith retained his No 3 spot with "In the Lonely Hour" selling 42,000 copies, while last week's No 1 artist Trey Songz dropped to fourth place as "Trigga" sold 35,000 copies, around a third of the 105,000 sold in its debut week.

Reuters

In superhero gender bend, Marvel unveils Thor as a woman

LOS ANGELES, 17 July — Comic book superhero character Thor, who first appeared in 1962 and is based on the Norse hammer-wielding god, will now be a woman, publisher Marvel Comics said on Tuesday. The publisher said the female Thor is an effort to bring new readers and to appeal to women and girls, whom Marvel said have long been ignored in comics. It will be the biggest change to its three largest comic characters, Captain America, Iron Man and Thor, according to Marvel.

"This is not She-Thor," Jason Aaron, the writer of the new "Thor" series, said in a statement. "This is not Lady Thor. This is not Thorita. This is Thor." The new series will debut in October and be illustrated by Russell Dauterman. "Thor," which was created by comic book writer Stan Lee, has also been the subject of two blockbuster films. The movies, which have grossed \$1.1 billion at the global box office, star Australian actor Chris Hemsworth as Thor.—Reuters

Lady Gaga not threatened by boyfriend's intimate scenes



LONDON, 17 July — Pop sensation Lady Gaga does not feel threatened by her boyfriend's romantic scenes with Sophia Bush in 'Chicago PD'.

Bush said Gaga does not mind Taylor Kinney, who she has been dating for three years, getting close to her in the film, reported Contactmusic. "(Gaga is) an artist through and through. There's no part of her that doesn't understand our job or thinks it's weird. I think she's probably the least threatened woman on the planet," Bush said.

The 32-year-old actress, who is in a relationship with Google programme manager Dan Fredinburg, also said that her first encounter with the 28-year-old singer was a little strange.

"It's always a little strange to meet the love of someone's life after you've swapped spit with their partner!—PTI

Indian baseball story 'Million Dollar Arm' premieres in UK

LONDON, 17 July — 'Million Dollar Arm', a true story of two Indian village boys who go on to become baseball stars in the US, premiered at the London Indian Film Festival (LIFF) and is slated to open in theatres here next month. The Disney film follows the life of Rinku Singh and Dinesh Patel from Uttar Pradesh as their lives are transformed by a TV reality show.

'Life of Pi' star Suraj Sharma and 'Slumdog Millionaire' star Madhur Mittal star as Rinku and Dinesh in the movie while 'Mad Men' star Jon Hamm plays JB



'Million Dollar Arm' is a true story of two Indian village boys who go on to become baseball stars in the US.—PTI

Bernstein.

"This was one of those movies where everything fit like a glove," producer Mark Ciardi told audiences at the UK premiere.

"We had a tiny month to shoot this in India just before the monsoon and everything just seemed to work. There was no shortage of talent there," he added. Based on real events, the film tells the story of Bernstein as a down-on-his-luck sports agent who hits upon the idea of cashing in on India's obsession with cricket by looking for a fast-paced pitcher for baseball.—PTI

GENERAL

Man Utd sign up Japanese noodle maker



Manchester United players and coaching staff sit on the bench before their English Premier League soccer match against Hull City at Old Trafford in Manchester, northern England on 6 May, 2014. — REUTERS

LONDON, 17 July — Manchester United (MANU.N) signed a multi-season sponsorship deal with Japanese noodle maker Nissin (2897.T) on Wednesday, illustrating the English soccer team's undiminished appeal to a broad range of businesses.

The agreement follows a record sportswear partnership announced this week with Germany's Adidas (ADSGn.DE), worth 75 million pounds (\$128.4 million) a season from next year, in spite of United's disappointing results in the English Premier League last season.

The club now has 14 global partners and can earn up to about 9 million pounds (\$15 million) a year from tie-ups such as the Nissin agreement, though commercial terms of the latest deal were not disclosed.

Nissin, best known for its instant noodles, will be able to display its branding at United's Old Trafford stadium, on club publications and via the team's in-house TV channel MUTV.

United, owned by the American Glazer family, are seeking a fresh start on the pitch under new manager Louis van Gaal after finishing only seventh in the Premier League last season. Dutchman Van Gaal was expected to start work in Manchester on Wednesday, having led his country to third place in the World Cup finals in Brazil.

Reuters

Nickel leak poses danger to Finnish river lamprey

HELSINKI, 17 July — Fans of the Finnish delicacy river lamprey are worried about the future availability and prices following a major leak of nickel to a river in the main catch area early July, it was reported on Wednesday.

Over 60 tons of nickel ended up in the river Kokemaki in Southwestern Finland early July from the Russian-owned Norilsk Nickel processing plant in Harjavalta, local media said. Regional officials said the leak had continued over 30 hours until noticed by the plant staff. The local

director of Norilsk Nickel, Joni Hautajarvi, has not denied the leak, but did not comment on whether the plant had broken the rules in its license.

Regional environmental authorities are asking for a police investigation.

Finnish daily *Helsinki Sanomat* said on Wednesday that the company failed to comply with its environmental permit by not reacting to the accident sooner.

"Although the leak was caused by a technical failure, the personnel should have monitored the system and consequently been able

to detect the leak sooner," the newspaper quoted the Centre for Economic Development, Transport and the Environment (ELY Centre) as saying.

Following the environmental hazard, thousands of dead clams surfaced in the river. Helsinki Sanomat published a photo taken on Tuesday showing contaminated mussel shells by the river.

River lampreys take five years to develop. After the larva stage, they migrate out to the sea and return later to the river.

This year's catch is

migrating back to the river in August and will not be affected, but possible damage to lampreys now, in the earlier larva stage, on the bottom of the river may decimate catches in the next few years, fishermen in the area said.

River lampreys live in other local rivers, but Kokemaki river is the main catch area.

Norilsk Nickel purchased the Harjavalta plant from the US OM Group in 2006. It is one of the largest Russian-owned enterprises in Finland.

Reuters

MYANMAR TV

(18-7-2014, Friday)

6:00 am

* Paritta by Hilly Region Missionary Sayadaw

7:25 am

* Hyper Sports

8:00 am

* News/ International News

8:30 am

* TV Drama Series

10:00 am

* News

10:15 am

* TV Drama Series

12:00 pm

* News / International News / Weather Report

12:30 pm

* Myanmar Movie

2:30 pm

* Musical Programme

2:40 pm

* Hyper Sports

3:00 pm

* News

3:15 pm

* Teleplay

4:30 pm

* University of Distance Education (TV Lectures) -Second Year (Oriental)

5:00 pm

* News

5:15 pm

* Documentary

6:20 pm

* Amazing World

6:50 pm

* TV Drama Series

7:00 pm

* News

7:25 pm

* TV Drama Series

8:00 pm

* News/ International News/ Weather Report

8:35 pm

* Documentary

9:00 pm

* News

* Documentary

* Hyper Sports

* Teleplay

MYANMAR INTERNATIONAL

(18-7-14 07:00 am~ 19-7-14 07:00 am) MST

- * Local News
- * Sons of the lake
- * World News
- * Art Students: Their Dream
- * Local News
- * Pagodas: "Bago : A City of Famous Historic Pagoda"
- * World News
- * Sagaing: Pe Kwel Kone Nat Festival
- * Local News
- * Martial Arts: Traditional Martial Art
- * World News
- * Manaw Festival
- * Local News
- * Sarah Special.. "A Trip To The City of Rakkhita, Rakhine"
- * World News
- * Karaweik Palace-A Symbol Of Glorious Myanma Culture
- * Local News
- * Charity in Myanmar: The Heart Love Influenced -U Hla Tun Cancer Foundation
- * World News
- * Tea
- * Local News
- * Pagodas: "History Of Mrauk U Pagoda"
- * World News
- * Parents' Day
- * Local News
- * Next Weekend
- * World News
- * Myanmar Railways City Circular Train
- * Local News
- * Cruising To Precious Islands (Part-1)
- * World News
- * Hip-Hop and Design

EU leaders call on Israelis, Palestinians to end violence

BRUSSELS, 17 July — European Union leaders on Wednesday called on Israelis and Palestinians to end violence and said they welcomed efforts, particularly from Egypt, to broker a cease-fire following more than a week of warfare.

The leaders, meeting in Brussels, urged both sides to "de-escalate the situation, to end the violence, to end the suffering of the civilian populations notably by allowing access to humanitarian assistance, and return to calm."

In a statement, the EU leaders welcomed Egypt's efforts to mediate and

called on the Islamic Hamas, which rules Gaza, to agree to a cease-fire. US President Barack Obama also said on Wednesday he supported Egypt's attempt to achieve a Israeli-Palestinian cease-fire.

The EU leaders condemned the firing of rockets from Gaza into Israel and the indiscriminate targeting of civilians.

Israel has a right to protect its population from these attacks, but it must act proportionately and ensure the protection of civilians, they said. The EU "deeply deplores the loss of innocent lives and the high

number of wounded civilians in the Gaza Strip as a result of Israeli military operations and is deeply concerned about the

rapid and dramatic deterioration of the humanitarian situation," the statement said. Gaza health officials said 207 Palestinians, most of them civilians, had been killed in air and naval barrages, in the worst flare-up of Israeli-Palestinian violence in two years.

One Israeli has been killed by shelling from Gaza that has made a race to shelter a daily routine for hundreds of thousands in Israel.—Reuters



Visitors take pictures in front of buildings of a museum in Taiyuan, Shanxi province on 16 July, 2014. The structure complex, which consists of five buildings similar to giant instant noodle bowls, has stirred up discussions among netizens after photos of the structure being posted online.—XINHUA

German soccer boss says players' 'gaucho' dance not disrespectful

BERLIN, 17 July — The head of Germany's national soccer association said on Wednesday that German players celebrating their World Cup triumph did not intend to be disrespectful when they performed a dance that poked fun at their defeated opponent Argentina.

During victory celebrations in front of fans in Berlin on Tuesday a group of players stooped low and chanted "This is how Gauchos walk, Gauchos they walk like this", before jumping up to shout: "This is how Germans walk, Germans they walk like this!"

There was little outcry in Argentina but sports newspaper Ole said: "The Gaucho dance performed by the Germans ... caused

unease in our country."

Some German media criticised the dance too. *Frankfurter Allgemeine Zeitung* newspaper said it was a "nasty satire" with which the players damaged Germany's image as a tolerant country, *Tagesspiegel* newspaper said it was "tasteless" and *Tagesspiegel* said it was "disrespectful".

Wolfgang Niersbach, president of the DFB football association, said the dance was "in no way meant disrespectfully", adding that it was a "spontaneous" expression of the players' joy.

"They are all absolutely decent and fair sportsmen who don't make fun of anyone but just wanted to celebrate wildly with the fans," he said in a statement



Germany's players celebrate with the World Cup trophy after the 2014 World Cup final against Argentina at the Maracana stadium in Rio de Janeiro on 13 July, 2014.—REUTERS

on the DFB's website.

"We're sorry if this came across the wrong way or was misunderstood by

some people."

He said he would write a letter to Argentine FA (AFA) president Julio

Grondona and make clear to him that the routine was not meant disrespectfully.

Reuters

Pacquiao to fight unbeaten Algieri in Macau



Manny Pacquiao of the Philippines punches Brandon Rios (L) of the US during their World Boxing Organization (WBO) International 12-round welterweight boxing title fight at the Venetian Macao hotel in Macau on 24 Nov, 2013.—REUTERS

MACAU, 17 July — Filipino southpaw Manny Pacquiao will return to the ring on 22 Nov to defend his World Boxing Organization (WBO) welterweight title against undefeated American Chris Algieri in Macau, his promoter Bob Arum said.

The Venetian Macao, where Pacquiao (56-5-2) claimed a unanimous decision victory against American Brandon Rios last November, will host the bout.

In April, Pacquiao scored a points win over Timothy Bradley to regain the WBO welterweight title and avenge a highly controversial loss to the American in June 2012.

"We have a deal. On my end, it wasn't a hard deal at all," Arum told ESPN.com.

The 30-year-old Algieri, a former kick-boxer, has a 20-0 professional record and won the WBO light-welterweight title last month by a split decision against Russia's Ruslan Provodnikov. "Manny is 100 percent for it," Arum added. "I told him I was coming along with it. He said Algieri seems like a nice young man and he saw his fight with Provodnikov."

"Manny said he thought it would be a good fight and he was OK with fighting Algieri."

Pacquiao has not scored a knockout since stopping Miguel Cotto in November 2009, and was himself knocked out at the end of the sixth round by Juan Manuel Marquez in 2012 in his first outing after losing to Bradley the same year. The 35-year-old, who has won world titles in a record eight weight divisions, cooled retirement talk with wins against Rios and the convincing defeat of Bradley in the April rematch.—Reuters

Barca director defends Luis Suarez over biting scandal

BARCELONA, 17 July — Barcelona sports director Andoni Zubizarreta defended new signing Luis Suarez over his World Cup biting scandal on Wednesday, saying that nobody was perfect. Suarez joined the Catalan club in a five-year-deal last week from Liverpool despite receiving a nine-match international suspension from all football related activities for biting Giorgio Chiellini in Uruguay's group stage clash with Italy.

"We accept that we are all humans and that we have our imperfections. We try to learn from when we make mistakes," said Zubizarreta. "Our history is full of bad days as well as good days. Luis Suarez will be a star at Barcelona

although Barcelona is more important than one player."

Suarez, who cost 81 million euros (64.22 million pounds) according to Spanish media, has yet to be presented at the Nou Camp due to the ban, which Barca are appealing against.

"Luis Suarez is a Barcelona player but aside from that we have been told by our lawyers to be

discreet," said Zubizarreta.

Zubizarreta added that signing a defender before the end of the transfer window remained a priority for the club. They have brought in keepers Marc-Andre ter Stegen and Claudio Bravo but have yet to sign a defender.

Last season Barcelona struggled at the back and failed to win any major trophy.—Reuters



Uruguay's national soccer team player Luis Suarez attends a news conference prior a training session at the Dunas Arena soccer stadium in Natal, on 23 June, 2014. REUTERS

Real Madrid still world's most valuable team

NEW YORK, 17 July — Spanish soccer club Real Madrid retained their title as the world's most valuable sports franchise, according to a poll released by *Forbes* on Wednesday that was again dominated by National Football League teams.

Soccer clubs held the top three positions with the European champions valued at \$3.44 billion, topping the list for the second consecutive year. They were followed by La Liga

rivals Barcelona at \$3.2 billion and Premier League club Manchester United at number three at \$2.81 billion, *Forbes* said in a statement.

Major League Baseball's New York Yankees occupy the number four spot valued at \$2.5 billion while the NFL's Dallas Cowboys are worth \$2.3 billion.

Rounding out the top 10 were MLB's Los Angeles Dodgers (\$2.0 billion), soccer's Bayern Munich

(\$1.85 billion), NFL's New England Patriots (\$1.8 billion), NFL's Washington Redskins (\$1.7 billion) and NFL's New York Giants (\$1.55 billion).

With 30 teams in the top 50, for the second consecutive year, the NFL occupies 60 percent of this year's list.

The average value of the top 50 teams is \$1.34 billion, an eight percent increase from last year.

Four National Basketball Association franchises

Serena Williams heads women's field for US Open

NEW YORK, 17 July — World number one Serena Williams, coming off a surprise third round loss at Wimbledon, heads the women's field for the US Open, which starts in New York in late August.

Players from 36 countries are represented, the US Tennis Association announced on Wednesday, with two-time defending champion Williams heading an 11-strong American contingent for the August 25-September 8 event.

Williams has five US Open crowns, just one shy of the modern era record held by compatriot Chris Evert.



Serena Williams

Joining Williams in the top four are Li Na of China, Simona Halep of Romania and this month's Wimbledon champion, Petra Kvitova of the Czech Republic. The field also includes French Open champion Maria Sharapova, two-time US Open champion Venus Williams and former US Open champions Samantha Stosur and Svetlana Kuznetsova.

The latest WTA rankings were used to determine the main draw entry list for the final Grand Slam event of 2014 but seeds will be announced closer to the event.—Reuters