

Thailand's largest cement company invests \$400 million in greenfield cement plant in Myanmar

By Ye Myint

YANGON, 18 July — Siam Cement Group-SCG, the largest cement company in Thailand, held a press conference in Yangon on Friday, with Mr. Kan Trankulhoon, SCG's President and CEO, briefing local media on the company's first cement plant construction project in Myanmar.

SCG, a leading conglomerate in the ASEAN region, is investing US\$ 400 million to build its first clean and green cement plant in Mawlamyine, 300 km southeast of the country's commercial city of Yangon, said SCG in a press release released Friday.

"Land grading is underway, with completion of an access road to the plant site, and it is expected to be operational in the middle of 2016", Mr. Chana Poomee, SCG's country director to Myanmar, told the media,



SCG Cement Plant in Lampang, Thailand, with the company expected to expand its business substantially in Myanmar.—CREDIT TO SCG

adding that acceleration of construction works is planned when the rainy season is over.

SCG, that recently celebrated its 100th anniversary, has sold and exported its products to Myanmar

for more than 20 years and earned \$200 million in the last fiscal year from sales of 2 million tons of cement in

the country.

Despite high demand in Myanmar, with 2 million (See page 3)

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2nd Myanmar International Auto Parts and Accessories Exhibition opens in Yangon

By Khaing Thanda Lwin

YANGON, 18 July—The 2nd Myanmar International Auto Parts and Accessories Exhibition jointly organized by Taipai World Trade Center Co., Ltd and Yorkers Trade and Marking Service Co., Ltd opened to the public at Tatmadaw Exhibition Hall in Yangon on Friday, aimed at promoting Myanmar's automobile service and creating business opportunities in the country.

According to the organizer, 150 booths of 120 exhibitors from eight countries—Taiwan, the USA, the UK, Vietnam, the Philippines, Myanmar, Malaysia and China—are displaying more than 2,500 kinds of their quality products and they expect about 7,000 visitors to come to the four-day event.

During the opening

ceremony, U Saw Aung Myint, the Minister of Karen Affairs, said "I believe that this exhibition will bring more benefits to both local and overseas entrepreneurs."

Many of the best companies including Sonar Auto part Co., which produces automotive lighting, Eagle Eyes Traffic Industrial Co., which does auto lamps, aftermarket performance lamps and Hulane Associate Inc., producer of automotive connectors and terminals are exhibiting at the event.

During the event, China Motor Cooperation (CMC) is introducing its new model Super Veryca, vehicle that dominates the Taiwanese market with 90 percent, to Myanmar consumers. The official of CMC said more than

670,000 vehicles have already sold in Taiwan and CMC has got certification as an authorized dealer to sell its brand in Myanmar

starting on Friday.

The expo will wrap up on 21 July, with admission free for trade visitors, but children under 12 years of

age are not admitted entry.

Promoting another fair, sources said that the 2014 Myanmar Int'l Electronics and Electric Equip-

ment Fair will be held from 13 to 16 November at the Myanmar Convention Center-MCC in Yangon.—NLM



Officials at the 2nd Myanmar International Auto Parts and Accessories Exhibition, which showcases a wide range international and domestic products, say they want to create more business opportunities and support local entrepreneurs.—PHOTO: KHAING THANDA LWIN

UEC Chairman donates Waso robes to monks in Nay Pyi Taw



U Tin Aye, Chairman of the Union Election Commission, offers Waso robes and offertories to a Sayadaw.—MNA

NAY PYI TAW, 18 July — U Tin Aye, Chairman of the Union Election Commission, and his members donated Waso robes and offertories to monks from Mahavisutarama Monastery of Pyinmana Township here on Friday, sources said.

The congregation received the Five Precepts from the Head Sayadaw of the monastery, who later together with other monks

recited religious protection verses called parittas in Pali.—MNA

Heavy rainfall warning for regions and states

NAY PYI TAW, 18 July—According to observations at 13.30 hrs MST on Friday, under the influence of Typhoon Rammasun over the South China Sea, heavy rain or thundershowers will be fairly widespread to widespread in Mandalay, Magway, Bago, Yangon, Ayeyawady and Taninthayi Regions, Shan, Rakhine,

Kayah, Kayin and Mon States with the likelihood of regionally and isolated heavy falls during the next three days beginning on Friday noon.

Flood and landslide hazards are likely in coastal area and some hilly regions due to the heavy rainfall, according to the Department of Meteorology and Hydrology.—MNA

Meeting on syllabus designs held in Yangon

NAY PYI TAW, 18 July —A three-day meeting on social science syllabus, organized by Open Society Foundation-OSF and Yangon University, concluded on Friday at Yangon University in Yangon, sources said.

The meeting focused on the structural change of

the university and other education reforms.

Professors and researchers from Singapore, Australia, Hungary, China, Austria and Myanmar held talks on OSF's assistance to Myanmar's education reforms, syllabus designs for political science, journalism and social science.—MNA

Open Society Foundation-OSF and Yangon University hold meeting on social science syllabus.—MNA



Union Minister for LFRD U Ohn Myint discusses poverty alleviation in rural areas. MNA

Poverty rate to be reduced for Myanmar to come off list of least developed nations: ministry

NAY PYI TAW, 18 July —Myanmar aims at reducing the poverty rate to 16 per cent in 2015 in line with the UN millennium development goals, said Union Minister for Livestock, Fisheries and Rural Development U Ohn Myint at a meeting of officials of the ministries related to six sectors of rural development subcommittees at the ministry in Nay Pyi Taw on Friday.

He noted that the Ministry of LFRD “must try hard to present data on

good results” of meat and fish production.

The watchdog organizations are to conduct assessments over per capita income and human resource development under the prescribed standards, he said, adding that progress in assessment could contribute to Myanmar coming off the list of least developed countries.

Departmental officials of relevant ministries participated in discussions on respective fields.

MNA

Music concert to raise funds for Rakhine nationals to be held on 27 July

By Khaing Thanda Lwin

YANGON, 18 July — A concert will be held from 7 to 11 p.m. on 27 July at the National Theatre on Myoma Kyaung Street in Yangon, aimed at raising funds for Rakhine refugees in particular, said organizer Soe Win Maung on Thursday at a press conference in Yangon.

The organizer added that the team, including him, has seen many Rakhine national refugees in the camps of Rakhine State during previous donation trips and wants to help more national refugees.

Eighteen famous ce-

lebrities, including actor Nay Toe, actress Waing Su Khaing Thein and vocalist Yadana Mai will participate in the performance and two famous comedians as well as Miss International Nan Khin Zeyar will act as presenters during the concert.

Famous vocalist Chaw Su Khin said she feels “happy to participate” in the fund-raising concert for refugees.

Soe Win Maung said all funds from the concert and other relief supplies from social teams in Yangon and Nay Pyi Taw will



Vocalist Chaw Su Khin expresses her happiness for participation in fund-raising concert for refugees.—PHOTO: KHAING THANDA LWIN

be presented to the Rakhine refugees next month.

Tickets for the con-

cert reach from K10,000 to K20,000 per seat.

NLM

NATIONAL

Myanmar sees 26 % increase in opium production: Upper House

NAY PYI TAW, 18 July—Opium production in Myanmar increased 26 per cent in 2013 compared with 2012, according to an Upper House MP on Friday at the parliamentary session.

The total opium production of the country in 2013 was 870 metric tonnes, increased from 690 metric tonnes of the previous year, he said.

Opium cultivation in the country noticeably declined between 1999 and 2006 when the military government launched a 15-

year campaign on the elimination of narcotic drugs. However, the industry has surged again since 2007, he said.

Discussing infrastructure, Deputy Construction Minister U Soe Tint said that senior engineers of the ministry are inspecting the quality of infrastructural projects in Bago Region, especially standards in construction projects of roads, bridges, schools and hospitals, and were instructed to meet the new standards set by the ministry.



Deputy Construction Minister U Soe Tint answers questions.

MNA

Responding to a question about more construction of apartments for civil employees, the deputy min-

ister replied that the ministry has targeted to construct an additional 2,540 units of apartments in 196 government housings by 2015, and these apartments will prioritize the civil staff in far-flung areas.

During the parliamentary session of the Lower House on Friday, Deputy Minister for Railway Transport U Chan Maung said that construction of the Minbu-An-Sittway railway track will be completed in the 2021-2022 fiscal year if the project is fully allocated

from the state budget.

Brigadier General Kyaw Zan Myint, Deputy Minister for Home Affairs, replied to a question about recruitment processes of the ministry and elimination of illicit liquor houses and fake alcohols, saying the issues are being addressed.

Kyaw Zan Myint said that employment procedures will prioritize local people in ethnic areas if the qualifications of the candidates meet the Civil Service Law.

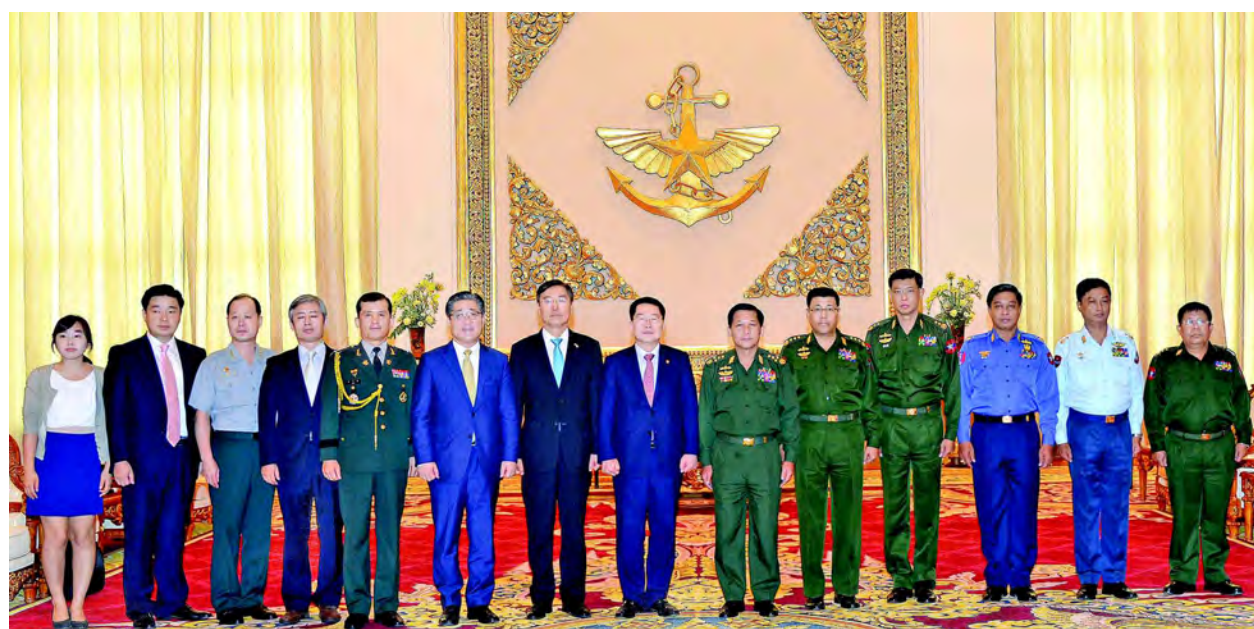
He also said that the

ministry is making preparations to submit an amendment of the Myanmar Excise Act to the Pyidaungsu Hluttaw.

He added that the Social Welfare Department under the Ministry of Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement is working together with representatives from social organizations, from gender equality advocacy group and UN-GDG to draft news bills to protect women from sexual abuse.

MNA

Myanmar, ROK focus on promotion of friendly relations between armed forces



Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Senior General Min Aung Hlaing with Vice Minister of National Defense Baek Seung-joo of the Republic of Korea and delegation.—MNA

Union minister attends opening ceremonies of new school buildings

NAY PYI TAW, 18 July—A ceremony to hand over the Myintzuthaka two-storey school building of the Basic Education Middle School branch at Minma West Village in Pale Township, Sagaing Region, was held at the school on 14 July morning.

Head monk of Zawtika Rama Monastery of Monywa U Garava, Sagaing Region Development Affairs Minister U Tin Hlaing Myint and Deputy Director U Than Aung of Region Education Department formally opened the building.

Union Minister for Cooperatives U Kyaw Hsan and Chief Minister of Sagaing Region U Tha Aye unveiled the signboard of the building and planted trees to mark the ceremony.

In the afternoon, the

union minister attended another ceremony to mark the opening of Khaye building and the upgrading of a Basic Education High School in Lettaungyi Village.

The union minister donated computers, exercise books and pencils to the schools and books to village libraries.

MNA



Union Minister for Defence Lt-Gen Wai Lwin holds talks with Vice Minister of National Defense Baek Seung-joo of the Republic of Korea about cooperation between the armed forces of the two countries at the ministry in Nay Pyi Taw on Friday.—MNA

Myawady

Health ministry discusses school-based healthcare programme



Deputy Minister Dr Daw Thein Thein Htay speaking at meeting on school healthcare programmes.—MNA

NAY PYI TAW, 18 July — Deputy Minister for Health Dr Daw Thein Thein Htay on Friday said that health problems in Myanmar started from unhealthy lifestyles at the time of school children.

She added that new generation need to have knowledge about the practices of healthy lifestyle and follow them after re-

ceiving training under school-based healthcare programmes which she said can help them prevent from both infectious and non-infectious diseases.

The deputy minister also said that investments in health and education sectors for the school children are very crucial for the development of the country.

MNA

Thailand's largest...

(from page 3)

NAY PYI TAW, 18 July — Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Senior General Min Aung Hlaing received Vice Minister of National Defense Baek Seung-joo of the Republic of Korea at the Zeyathiri Beikman in Nay Pyi Taw on Friday.

They discussed the role of the Myanmar armed forces and cooperation in all sectors between Myanmar and Korea, promotion of friendly relations between the two armed forces and the democratic reform process of the nation.

tons of SCG cement import in 2013 alone, the \$400-million cement plant will have a production capacity of 1.8 million tons per year.

“We are considering for the second line, and that means building more plants in Myanmar. Under the first line, cement imports to Myanmar will continue along with cement production of 1.8 million tons per year from the Mawlamyine plant”, voiced Mr. Kan, saying that SCG sees strong potential in the Myanmar market as the country is developing steadily and there is a need to build basic infrastructure”.

The company plans to invest around \$7 billion on its businesses in the next four to five years, with 50 percent of the investment going to ASEAN countries including Myanmar, the SCG president added.

On job opportunities that would be brought about by the establishment of the new cement plant, SCG officials affirmed about 400 Myanmar staff will be employed at the plant, and before that the construction works will create jobs for more than 1,000 locals.

EIA and SIA studies were carried out two years ago for approval by the Myanmar Investment Commission to build the plant and CSR activities are underway depending on the needs of local people, a SCG official told The New Light of Myanmar. According to the press release, SCG's 1.8 million-ton greenfield cement plant will include a 40 megawatt waste heat power plant with greenhouse gas reduction technology.

NLM

Power lines to be completed in Myinmu Township for village electrification



MYINMU, 18 July—Power lines in Paletan Village of Myinmu Township in Sagaing Region are being installed and are 60% completed, according to officials.

Myanma Electric Power Enterprise of the Ministry of Electric Power has installed 11 KV power lines in Paletan Village, and needs to install transformer and power lines to the houses.

Local people contributed cash to the erection of lamp-posts and installation of power lines, which, without private donations, would not be possible.

Aung Soe Pe (IPRD)

Online trading of gold, money and stocks to be conducted free of charge

MANDALAY, 18 July—A course on the international and internal gold and monetary market and trading of stock shares through online services will be conducted free of charge at Myanmar Golden Link at No 175 on 26th Street between 80th and 81st streets in Mandalay from 9 a.m. to 11 a.m. from 21

to 25 July.

The subjects on dealing on international gold and monetary markets online, introduction to gold, money and stock trading, trading of gold and money through Contracts for Difference (CFDs) and selling of international currency will be provided to the trainees.

The course is aimed at enabling entrepreneurs and interested people to join the international gold and monetary markets and to obtain better knowledge in general.

Officials said that trainees who wish to participate must have Internet skills and bring mobile phones linked to the Inter-

net or Tablet or laptop to the training, with practices to be conducted on a Demo Trade Account and a Real Time Trade Account.

Those wishing to attend the course may register at Myanmar Golden Link (Mandalay), Tel: 09-259116592.

Thiha Ko Ko (Mandalay)

Fourth leg of Myanmar Golf Tour from 7 to 10 August



PYINOOLOWIN, 18 July—The Myanmar PGA and Myanmar Golf Federation will jointly organize the fourth leg of the Myanmar Golf Tour with the sponsorship of Myawady Bank at PyinOoLwin Golf Club in PyinOoLwin of Mandalay Region from 7 to 10 August.

The golf tournament will be held under the Sant Andrew golf rules.

Isuzu Single Cab will be awarded to the hole in one scorer at hole No 7.

The golfers are to enlist at the golf club, Tel: 09-2037671, 09-420017835 and 09-73130474, no later than 4 August.

Nyi Nyi Soe Nyunt

Shwedaung-8 cotton strain harvested in Wetlet Tsp



WETLET, 18 July—The model plot of Shwedaung-8 strain of pre-monsoon cotton was harvested in the fields of Leinbin Village-tract

in Wetlet Township of Sagaing Region on Thursday.

The cotton plantation produced about 1,400 kilos per acre. The harvest was supervised by Head of Shwebo District Industrial Crops Development Department U Myint Hlaing and officials.

The head of district department urged local farmers to grow more cotton on places where paddy cannot be grown.

Nan Myint

Stimulant tablets worth K200 million seized in PyinOoLwin

PYINOOLOWIN, 18 July—Narcotic drugs were seized from Sai San Oo and Aung Nyunt in Room 205 at Shwe Hteik Tan Lodge on the Mandalay-Lashio Road in Ward 1 of PyinOoLwin of Mandalay Region on 15 July evening, according to police records.

Police officers, acting on a tip-off, raided the room and found 40,000 stimulant tablets weigh-

ing 4 kilos worth K200 million, sources said.

PyinOoLwin Myoma police station opened a lawsuit against Sai San Oo and Aung Nyunt and dealer Aik Tee of Ward 4 in Tangyan under the Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Law, according to the Mandalay Region Police Force.

Thiha Ko Ko (Mandalay)

Arts show to depict portraits of Sayagyi Thakin Kodawhmaing on peacemaking activities

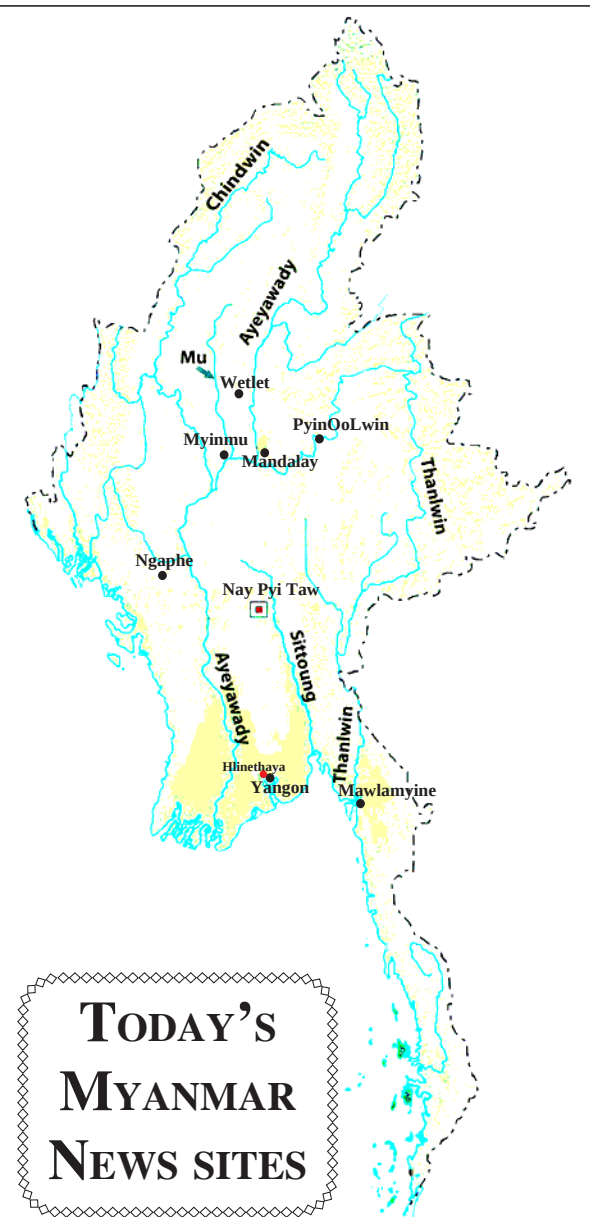
MANDALAY, 18 July—The Post-Maha Hmaing 50-year Arts Show will be held at Dhamma Thalla Hall at the corner of 84th and 31st streets in Mandalay from 22 to 24 July.

It will be organized by Sayagyi Thakin Kodawhmaing Peace Network of Mandalay to show paintings depicting historical world peace and internal peace activities of the Sayagyi.

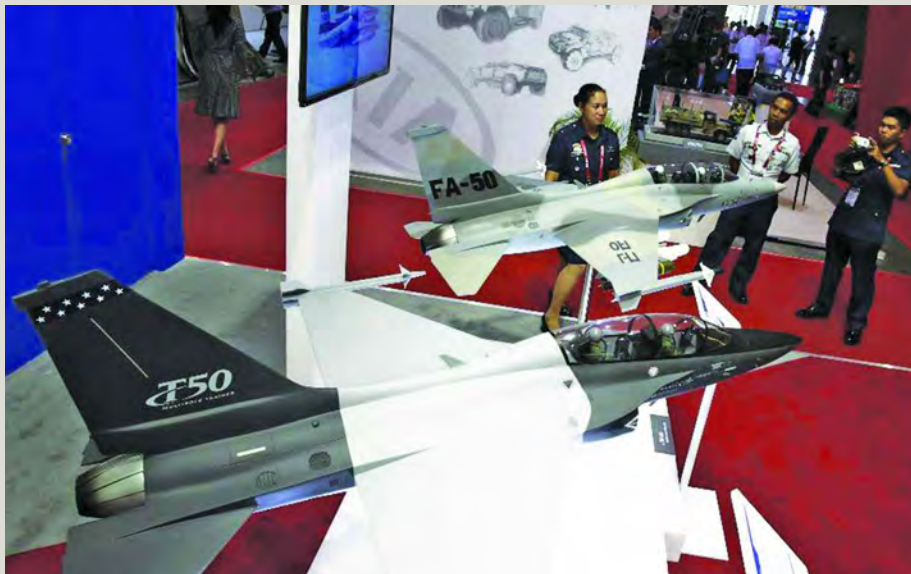
Visitors can enjoy the portraits of Sayagyi Thak-

in Kodawhmaing and images of his peacemaking activities, with 30% of the proceeds from the paintings donated to the fund of the network. The paintings depicting Sayagyi Thakin Kodawhmaing and other artworks will be printed on postcards, posters and calendars for sale. The documentary photos and portraits of the Sayagyi will be displayed at arts show, said an official of the organizing committee.

Thiha Ko Ko (Mandalay)



REGIONAL



Miniature aircrafts from South Korea are seen during the Asian Defence and Security (ADAS) Exhibition 2014 in Pasay City, the Philippines, on 17 July, 2014. More than 80 delegates from various countries and regions participate in the ADAS 2014 from 16 July to 18 July.—XINHUA

Thai junta seeks Japan's understanding, support to restore democracy

BANGKOK, 18 July — Thailand's acting foreign minister said on Thursday that last May's military coup was undertaken as a "last resort" to avoid bloodshed, while he sought understanding and support from Japan and other countries that have frowned on the army's seizure of power from a democratically elected government. Sihasak Puangketkaew, permanent secretary of the Foreign Ministry, told *Kyodo News* in an interview that without military intervention, the political and security situation in the kingdom was likely to become more chaotic and unstable.

"That's why we had what happened on 22 May," he said.

"We understand why our Western and Japanese friends have to take the

position that they took," Sihasak said, alluding partly to Japan's having criticized the coup as "deeply regrettable" and its having strongly urged junta to quickly restore democracy.

"At the same time, we hope they gain more understanding why we had to do this," he said, adding, "Now it's not the time for friends to turn their backs, but time to engage, support and encourage us to move forward in the right direction to democracy." The top diplomat, who plans to visit Tokyo to that end, said that whatever disappointments Japan may have with what happened in Thailand, it can hardly disengage with the kingdom as it has very strong and permanent interests here.

Sihasak said he has noticed that from the

perspective of members of the Japanese business community, they appreciate Thailand's stability and predictability because they can do business. "We think Japan is a friend who should understand the situation and should appreciate common interests that two countries share, the long-term interests that Japan has in the stability and prosperity of Thailand."

He said that in the eyes of those who do not understand Thai politics, there has been an erosion of democracy, but in the eyes of most Thais, what happened was needed to save democracy, which was going downhill as confrontation and polarization increased. In any case, he said, Thailand now has to look ahead as it cannot undo what had happened.—*Kyodo News*

N Korea walks out of inter-Korean talks on Asian Games

SEOUL, 18 July — Inter-Korean talks on North Korea's planned participation in the Asian Games to be held in South Korea later this year broke down on Thursday, with the North Korean delegation walking out of the meeting in the truce village of Panmunjeon, *Yonhap News Agency* reported.

At the one-day talks, attended by sports officials from each side, the North reportedly revealed its plan to send 350 athletes and an equal number of cheerleaders to the sport event to be held in Incheon from 19 September to 4 October.

A South Korean official was quoted as saying Pyongyang's negotiators demanded Seoul provide "a range of support" for its delegation, but Seoul demurred, saying its basic principle is to follow international practice — a break from its tradition of financially supporting visiting sporting delegations from the North.

The North then took issue with the South's stance and blamed it for causing the talks to break down, the official said. The official expressed "deep regret over North Korea's unilateral attitude."

The two sides ended the talks without even agreeing on the date of the next meeting, *Yonhap* said.—*Kyodo News*

South Korea airlines say flights over Ukraine rerouted since March

SEOUL, 18 July — South Korea's two major airlines said on Friday they had stopped flying over Ukraine air space since 3 March because of security concerns.

Korean Air Lines Co Ltd and Asiana Airlines Inc both said they had changed flight paths to avoid flying over Ukraine since the same date.

A Malaysia Airline System Bhd (MAS) plane was brought down in eastern Ukraine on Thursday, killing all 298 people on board, in what the United States said was probably a ground-launched missile strike.—*Reuters*

Singapore Airlines stopped flying over Ukrainian airspace after MAS plane crash

SINGAPORE, 18 July — Singapore Airlines Ltd stopped flying over Ukrainian airspace following the downing of a Malaysia Airlines (MAS) flight in that region on Thursday.

"We have re-routed our flights since the incident and are no longer using that airspace," a spokeswoman from Singapore Airlines told *Reuters*.

Some international airlines, including Australia's Qantas Airways and Korea's two major carriers, shifted the route of flights over Ukrainian air space months ago amid increasing tensions between Kiev and pro-Moscow rebels.—*Reuters*

China orders aircraft to avoid eastern Ukraine airspace

BEIJING, 18 July — China's civil aviation authorities told *Xinhua* on Friday it has ordered all Chinese aircraft flying over Ukraine to avoid airspace over the area where a Malaysia Airlines plane crashed.

There are 28 round-trip flights each week flying over the area, according to the Civil Aviation Administration of China. A *Boeing 777* passenger plane with 283 passengers and 15 crew members on board crashed on Thursday in eastern Ukraine near the Russian border. There were no survivors.—*Xinhua*

Indian gov't asks its national carrier to avoid troubled Ukrainian airspace

NEW DELHI, 18 July — The Indian government on Friday asked its national carrier, Air India, to avoid flying over the troubled Ukrainian airspace in the wake of the Malaysian plane crash in which some 298 people were killed, sources said.

"The decision was taken at a meeting between Indian Civil Aviation Minister P Ashok Gajapathi Raju and senior officials of the ministry. Air India has been directed not to fly over the troubled Ukrainian airspace and instead take alternate route," the sources said.

However, the government is not planning to issue any such direction to private airlines in India, they said.

All the 298 people on board that ill-fated Malaysia Airlines flight — from Amsterdam to Kuala Lumpur — were killed when it crashed on Thursday in Ukraine near the Russian border.—*Xinhua*

Six dead, two injured in China landslide

GUIYANG, 18 July — Six people died and another two were injured in a rain-triggered landslide in southwest China's Guizhou Province, local authorities said on Friday.

The landslide happened at around 4 am on Thursday in Dakuo Village of Zhijin County in the city of Bijie, burying eight people, said a spokesman with the county.

By 10 am on Thursday, the injured had been rescued. The bodies of the other six were later retrieved. The injured were receiving treatment in hospital and their injuries were not life threatening, the spokesman said.

Rainstorms have lashed Guizhou this week, triggering landslides and floods in many parts of the province.—*Xinhua*



Photo taken on 17 July, 2014 shows the site of landslide in Gedi Village of Muhuang Township in Yinjiang Tu and Miao Autonomous County, southwest China's Guizhou Province. The landslide here, which occurred at 3 am on 17 July, damaged 152 buildings and 275 villagers has been evacuated.

XINHUA

International probe demanded after Malaysian airliner downed over Ukraine, 298 dead

HRABOVE (Ukraine), 18 July — World leaders demanded an international investigation into the shooting down of a Malaysian airliner over eastern Ukraine in which all 298 people on board were killed, a tragedy that could further heighten tensions between Russia and the West. One US official said Washington strongly suspected a surface-to-air missile that downed the Malaysia Airlines Boeing 777 on a flight from Amsterdam to Kuala Lumpur on Thursday was fired by Ukrainian separatists backed by Moscow.

There was no evidence Ukrainian government forces fired a missile, said the official, speaking on condition of anonymity. US Vice President Joe Biden, speaking in Detroit, said the passenger jet was apparently “blown out of the sky”.

Australian Prime Minister Tony Abbott appeared to go further than other Western leaders in apportioning blame, demanding on Friday that Moscow answer questions about the “Russian-backed rebels” that he said were behind the disaster.

More than 20 Australians were among the many nationalities aboard Flight MH17. The Netherlands was the worst affected, with 154 Dutch citizens on the downed plane.

The plane crashed near the village of Hrabove about 40 km (25 miles) from the border with Russia near the regional capital of Donetsk, an area that is a stronghold of rebels who have been fighting Ukrainian government forces for several months.

Ukraine accused pro-Moscow militants, aided by Russian military intelligence officers, of firing a long-range, Soviet-era SA-11 ground-to-air missile. Leaders of the rebel Donetsk People’s Republic denied any involvement and said a Ukrainian air force jet had brought down the intercontinental flight.

Russian President Vladimir Putin — at loggerheads with the West over his policies toward Ukraine — pinned the blame on Kiev for renewing its offensive against rebels two weeks ago after a ceasefire failed to hold. The Kremlin leader called it a “tragedy” but did not say who brought the



Photo taken on 17 July, 2014 shows the debris at the crash site of a passenger plane near the village of Grabovo, Ukraine. A Malaysian flight crashed Thursday in eastern Ukraine near the Russian border, with all the 280 passengers and 15 crew members on board reportedly having been killed. —XINHUA

Boeing 777 down.

The loss of MH17 is the second for Malaysia Airlines this year, following the mysterious disappearance of Flight MH370 in March, which vanished with 239 passengers and crew on board on its way

from Kuala Lumpur to Beijing. In Malaysia, there was a sense of disbelief that another airline disaster could strike so soon.

“If it transpires that the plane was indeed shot down, we insist that the perpetrators must swiftly

be brought to justice,” Malaysian Prime Minister Najib Razak told a pre-dawn news conference in Kuala Lumpur. “This is a tragic day, in what has already been a tragic year, for Malaysia.”

US President Barack

Obama, who spoke to Dutch Prime Minister Mark Rutte as well as other leaders, said evidence from the crash must remain in Ukraine so international investigators have a chance to look at all of it, officials said.

Reuters

West considers early sanctions moves in troubled Iran nuclear talks

BRUSSELS/VIENNA, 18 July — With talks between world powers and Iran over a broad nuclear accord at an impasse, Western governments are considering offering a significant easing of sanctions early on in the process to try to wring concessions from Teheran, diplomats say.

To be effective, such a plan would have to involve clear guidance to companies made wary by US fines for sanctions-busting, be re-

versible and not go too far, or sceptical US lawmakers would simply reimpose restrictions.

The OPEC oil producer has seen its economy devastated by years of sanctions imposed over its contested nuclear programme, which Western states say appears to be aimed at producing a nuclear bomb and Teheran says is purely peaceful.

The prospects for an immediate accord scal-

ing back that programme in return for sanctions relief appeared tenuous on Thursday. Diplomats said the six world powers negotiating with Iran — the United States, Russia, China, France, Britain and Germany — were working out terms for an extension of talks, beyond their self-imposed on 20 July deadline, instead of seeking to close a deal now.

If there is an agreement in the coming weeks or months, Western diplomats have told Reuters, Iran might still have to wait years, or as long as two decades, to see the complex web of sanctions permanently removed.

Instead, they said, Western states may opt for a patchwork of steps suspending sanctions in various industries that can be easily reinstated if Teheran reneges on its nuclear commitments. The extent of these steps would match Iranian concessions.

“When Iran does

something, then we can respond with sanctions relief,” one said, speaking on condition of anonymity. “The whole process will take years.”

The timing of any easing of oil sanctions — closely watched by the markets — which now prohibit US and European importers from buying Iranian crude and impose severe restrictions on third country purchases, will depend on what Iran offers to do from its side and when.

But some diplomats said restrictions on banking with Iran might have to be eased in step with other industries, such as shipping for example, to make sure companies can finance any newly re-established trade.

“We can be flexible,” a senior western diplomat said. Without access to finance, relief might not materialise, raising questions about the world powers’ credibility and endangering the implementation of the accord, they said.—Reuters

Strategic trust important to achieve overall security in Asia-Pacific region

NAHA, (Japan), 18 July — Experts here called for enhancing strategic trust among regional players to achieve overall security in the Asia-Pacific region.

The experts made the remarks during the “Okinawa Asia-Pacific Partnership Forum: Creating Perspectives on Security with Regional Partners” that kicked off Thursday in Japan’s southernmost island prefecture of Okinawa.

Park Cheol-hee, a professor at South Korean Seoul National University, said that the region lacks regional security mechanism but is witnessing heightened security dilemma, as well as mutual suspicion between regional powers, like Japan with its neighbours, namely South Korea and China.

He added that the Asia-Pacific region also suffered from “broken balance” in comprehensive security as countries here sought national

sovereignty and hard power at the expense of regional cooperation and soft power.

He went on to say that to achieve an overall security in the region, countries should discuss security cooperation, proactively promote regional collaboration and enhancing soft power connection, adding security “is a very comprehensive concept that is not in only one specific area.”

Regional players should hold high-level security talks so as to overcome misperceptions and misunderstandings, Park suggested.

Meanwhile, US George Washington University-based professor Mike Mochizuki said that military deterrence in the region is “by no means to achieve comprehensive security,” adding regional countries should build mutual strategic trust through dealing with legacy of history. —Xinhua



Iran’s Foreign Minister Javad Zarif (L) holds a bilateral meeting with US Secretary of State John Kerry (R) on the second straight day of talks over Teheran’s nuclear programme in Vienna, on 14 July, 2014. —REUTERS

WORLD

Israel launches ground offensive in Gaza Strip

GAZA / JERUSALEM, 18 July — Israel launched a Gaza ground campaign after 10 days of bombardments from the air and sea failed to stop militants' rocket attacks, stepping up an offensive that already has taken a heavy toll in civilian lives.

Israel signalled the invasion would be limited in scope — targeting tunnels dug by gunmen — and said it was not intended to topple Hamas, the Gaza Strip's dominant Islamist group.

Explosions lit up the sky in the early hours of Friday and residents in several areas of the densely populated strip of 1.8 million Palestinians said they saw small numbers of Israeli tanks that had crossed the border from Israel.

A statement from Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu's office late on Thursday said he had given orders to destroy tunnels that militants use to infiltrate Israel and carry out attacks.

An Israeli military spokesman said Israel was not out to try to topple Hamas.

Hamas spokesman Sami Abu Zuhri responded with defiance to Israel's invasion announcement, telling *Reuters*: "We warn



Israeli soldiers watch the smoke trails of 155mm shells fired at targets in the Gaza Strip, at an army deployment area in southern Israel near the border with Gaza, on the tenth day of Operation Protective Edge, on 17 July, 2014. The Israeli military launched a ground offensive on the Hamas-controlled Gaza Strip on Thursday night after days of heavy bombardment, the military said.—XINHUA

Netanyahu of the dreadful consequences of such a foolish act."

Gaza residents and medical officials reported heavy shelling along the eastern border from the southern town of Rafah to the north of the strip.

Residents said heavy clashes took place along

the border, including in the northern towns of Beit Hanoun and Beit Lahiya.

Orange flashes illuminated the eastern Gaza Strip as Israeli gunboats off the Mediterranean coast fired shells and tracer bullets. Israeli artillery pounded the area and helicopters fired across the border,

Reuters witnesses said.

Rockets streaked from Gaza towards the southern Israeli towns of Ashdod and Ashkelon. Live television showed interceptions by the Iron Dome anti-missile system, and no casualties were reported.

Israel last mounted a large-scale invasion of the

Gaza Strip during a three-week war in late 2008 and early 2009 that claimed 1,400 Palestinian and 13 Israeli lives.

No time frame was announced for the new operation, and the length and intensity of Israel's assaults could depend on the scale of civilian deaths.

Such casualties are likely to boost international pressure for a ceasefire.

The current conflict was largely triggered by the killing of three Israeli teens in the occupied West Bank last month and the death on 2 July of a Palestinian youth in a suspected revenge murder.

Israel briefly held its fire on Tuesday after Egypt, which is also Gaza's neighbour, announced a truce plan, but Hamas and other militant groups rejected the proposal, saying it had not addressed their demands.

"The directive for ground action was approved by the security cabinet after Israel agreed to the Egyptian ceasefire proposal, whereas Hamas rejected it and continued firing rockets at Israeli cities," the statement from Netanyahu's office said.

Several hours after the announcement, two residents of Khan Younis, in the southern Gaza Strip, said they could see a small number of Israeli tanks inside Palestinian territory.

A witness in northern Gaza said several tanks had rolled through Israel's Erez border crossing to the Palestinian side but had stopped short of residential areas, and that no clashes had ensued.—*Reuters*

Wildfire forces 1,500 residents to evacuate in west Canada

VANCOUVER, 18 July — The wildfires caused by hot and dry weather in recent days forced on Thursday more than 1,500 residents to leave their homes in Kelowna, the third largest city in Canada's west province of British Columbia.

Central Okanagan Emergency Operations, which is located in Kelowna, about 400 km northeast of Vancouver, said in a statement that a small fire on the edge of the neighbourhood in west Kelowna bloomed from a patch to more than 30 hectares in size in a few hours over Thursday afternoon and forced the local residents to leave immediately.—*Xinhua*

US orders airliners to avoid eastern Ukraine airspace

WASHINGTON, 18 July — The US Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) on Thursday issued a notice prohibiting American airliners from flying to the airspace over eastern Ukraine.

FAA said the restricted area includes the entire Simferopol and Dnepropetrovsk flight information regions.

"This action expands a prohibition of US flight operations issued by the FAA in April, over the Crimean region of Ukraine and adjacent areas of the Black Sea and the Sea of Azov," FAA said in the notice.

No scheduled US airlines are currently flying routes through this airspace, it said.

A Malaysian flight with 283 passengers and 15 crew members on board crashed on Thursday in Ukraine near the Russian border. US officials told media that they concluded the plane was shot down by missiles.—*Xinhua*

Military did not support fixing Afghan exit date

WASHINGTON, 18 July — US military officials would have preferred the United States not announce a date for ending its troop presence in Afghanistan, as the White House did in May, the outgoing commander of US forces there said on Thursday.

General Joe Dunford, commander of US and NATO troops in Afghanistan, was asked at a Senate committee hearing whether President Barack Obama's announcement that almost all US troops would be gone by 2017 had damaged morale among Afghan soldiers.

"I think all of us in uniform, to include the Afghans, would have preferred that be a bit more ambiguous," Dunford said.

He was responding to a question by Republican Senator John McCain of Arizona, a persistent critic of Obama's Afghanistan policy, during a hearing on Dunford's nomination to become the next head of the US Marine Corps.



US Army soldiers with the 10th Mountain Division prepare to board a CH-47 Chinook troop transport helicopter after completing their mission at Forward Operating Base Muqar in this US Army picture taken on 14 March, 2014.—REUTERS

The White House announced in May that if a bilateral troop deal is signed in time, it plans to keep a residual force of 9,800 soldiers in Afghanistan after the current international military mission ends in December.

That force would

gradually be reduced and by the end of 2016 there would be only a small number of soldiers left at the US embassy under the authority of the US ambassador, as the United States had in Baghdad after its 2011 withdrawal from Iraq.

McCain asked whether

any senior military leaders had recommended setting a fixed date for a full pullout of the US military force, and whether Dunford would have preferred that future troops levels be based on evolving security conditions.

Reuters

PERSPECTIVES

Saturday, 19 July, 2014

Attacks on civilians a callous act

By Aung Khin

According to a report by the State Department of the United States published in April 2014, nearly 18,000 people lost their lives in 2013 as a result of terrorist attacks, the first surge in fatalities after a steady decline over half a decade.

Most of the victims in these attacks were civilians who do not hold weapons, women and

children, who are not involved in power struggles.

A tragic airline accident happened on 17 July afternoon, in which Malaysia Airlines flight MH17 with 298 people aboard exploded in the sky at 33,000 feet, crashing and burning on a flowered wheat field in a part of eastern Ukraine, leaving no survivors. This Boeing 777 was on a flight from Amsterdam to Kuala Lumpur when it came down near the village of Grabovo.

It was the second time within four months that Malaysia Airlines had suffered a mass-casualty in a flight disaster after the mystical loss of the same model plane MH370.

Based on surveillance satellite data, American intelligence and military officials said the

plane was shot down by a ground-to-air missile, without mentioning its point of origin. World leaders commented that this is an act of terrorism.

Before 2013, the number of deaths globally as a result of terrorist attack was on the decline, from 15,765 in 2008 to 11,098 in 2012, according to previous State Department reports.

Civilians are falling victim to power conflicts around the world. While there is no peace in many countries, civilians should not be regarded as 'easy targets' by terrorists.

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.

Myanmar to discuss sustainable market and financial investment in agriculture sector at 36th AMAF

NAY PYI TAW, 18 July—The topic on sustainable markets and financial investment in the agricultural sector will be included at the 36th ASEAN Ministerial Meeting on Agriculture and Forestry (AMAF) and the 14th ASEAN+3 Meeting and related meetings for emergence of sustainable development of agriculture procedure among the 10 ASEAN countries, Union Minister for Agriculture and Irrigation U Myint Hlaing said at the coordination meeting to host the meetings at the Ministry of Agriculture and Irrigation in Nay Pyi Taw on Friday.

Union Minister for Livestock, Fisheries and Rural Development U Ohn Myint stressed the need to discuss alleviation of poverty in rural regions and nutrition of rural people in the meetings.

Union Minister for Environmental Conservation and Forestry U Win Tun pointed out that it is necessary to talk about protection of mangrove forests as environmental conservation of Myanmar in the meeting.

Myanmar will host the 36th ASEAN Ministerial Meeting on Agriculture and Forestry and the 14th ASEAN+3 Meeting and related meetings from 20 to 26 September.

Union Minister for

MNA

Compensation for killed worker given to family

YANGON, 18 July—Compensation was provided for families of workers who were killed in work accident at the Yangon Workers' Hospital in Yangon on Friday, with officials also discussing the coverage of medical costs for insured workers under the Social Security Law 2012.

Speaking on the occasion, Union Minister for Labour, Employment and Social Security U Aye Myint said that social security facilities are being

given to over 700,000 workers nationwide. According to the new law, families receive five times the maximum monthly salary to cover funeral costs, compared to the K40,000 provided in the past, he explained.

Union Minister U Aye Myint presented K4.92 million insurance compensation plus K182,040 for funeral costs to the family of U Zaw Moe Hlaing from Ahlon Main Power Station.—MNA

MCDC says construction of high-rise buildings must not cover ancient buildings



MANDALAY, 18 July—Officials of the Mandalay City Development Committee held a meeting to draw rules for construction of buildings near ancient moats, walls, tier-roofed buildings, pagodas, stupas and religious edifices, at its office in Mandalay recently.

Mandalay Region Minister for Development Affairs Mandalay Mayor U Aung Moun explained that construction of buildings must not cover the images of ancient pagodas, stupas, moats and walls and urged officials to coordinate systematic construction rules for buildings in Mandalay with a view to developing Mandalay City.

Head of Building and Warehouse Department U Myo Aung, architect Dr Kyaw Latt and officials participated in the discussions.

To develop the city with good local roads, sanitation, proper flow of water in drains and greening tasks, MCDC has issued instructions for building owners to place the car parks on the ground floors. In addition, the committee is implementing a plan to upgrade the roads to a two-way road for ensuring fire safety.

In Mandalay, Department of Human Settlement and Housing Development and private companies are implementing the Seik-

taramahi housing estate including the nine-storey buildings at the place of Pyidawtha building in Chanayethazan Township. Local people are worried about covering the images

of moats, walls and tier-roofed buildings of the royal palace, which are popular points for foreign tourists.

Thiha Ko Ko
(Mandalay)

GOLD PRICE, FE RATE (18-7-2014)

Yangon Gold Price

Buying K677,000 per tical: Selling K678,000

Mandalay Gold Price

Buying K677,000 per tical: Selling K678,000

FE RATE

USD Buying K968 - Selling K973.5

SGD Buying K777 - Selling K786

Euro Buying K1308 - Selling K1320

LOCAL NEWS

Departmental officials discuss electricity safety in Mandalay



MANDALAY, 18 July—A meeting on electricity safety was held at the hall of Mandalay City Development Committee in Mandalay on Thursday morning, attended by Mandalay Region Minister for Electric and Industry U Kyaw Myint.

Region Superintend-

ing Engineer U Sein Win Myint of the Electricity Supply Enterprise explained the safety of electricity and information to be given to nearby electrical engineering offices.

Deputy Director U Phyu Win of Industrial Coordination and Inspection Department also explained

electrocution and matters related to electricity law and rules.

The attendees discussed requirements in informing emergency situations to officials, and the superintending engineer reviewed their discussions.

Tin Maung (Mandalay)

Cash donated for Wushu Championships

MANDALAY, 18 July—The Mandalay Region team will take part in the Shan State Chief Minister's Cup Inter-State/Region Wushu Championship at the Shan State gymnasium in Lashio from 20 to 24 July.

At the Bahtoo gymnasium, U Hset Thi, on behalf of wellwisher U Thet Wai-Daw Kyi May family of Asia Energy Trading Co Ltd, donated K1 million to fund prizes for the Region men's and women's Wushu

teams to Deputy Director U Wai Zin of Region Sports and Physical Education Committee and Secretary of Wushu Subcommittee U Kyaw Aye.

At the ceremony, Wushu athletes demonstrated their skills.

Tin Maung (Mandalay)



Agricultural loans disbursed to local farmers in Ngaphe Tsp

NGAPHE, 18 July—The Myanma Agricultural Development Bank branch has disbursed agricultural loans to local farmers in Ngaphe Township of Magway Region for the 2014 cultivation season.

The bank disbursed K728 million loans to 2,863 farmers from 22 village-tracts for 11,924 acres of farmlands and croplands in the township as of 5 June.

Than Naing Oo (Ngaphe)

Mandalay Region to address living standard of people

MANDALAY, 18 July—The Rural Region Development and Uplift of Living Standard Committee and the Mandalay Region Subcommittee held a coordination meeting in Aungmyethazan Township on Thursday.

Secretary of the committee U Myo Naing Aung said that the committee was formed with 17 members to carry out rural development, supply of potable water and rural electrification.

Departmental officials participated in discussions of enhancement of living standard of the local people, rural development and future tasks.

Mandalay Region has 4,052 villages, with 84% of them getting supply of water.—*Thiha Ko Ko (Mandalay)*



Measures to improve health services to be implemented

MANDALAY, 18 July—Improvement of the health sector as part of the Third Wave process was discussed at the hall of Mandalay Region Health Department in Mandalay on Thursday.

The Director of the Health Department Dr Yin Thanda Lwin explained the implementation of measures to improve the health sector in the Third Wave process. Head of Region Health Department Dr Than Win said that the president has given guidance to step up the reform of the health

care system of the nation in line with reform processes of other sectors. He stressed the need for health officials to survey the requirements of the people to supply better health care services.

Director Dr Yin Thanda Lwin discussed the plan to implement universal health coverage for the people in Myanmar and programmes to make field trips to conduct surveys on the health requirements of the people.

Thiha Ko Ko (Mandalay)



Officials and staff of Mawlamyine Township Health Department take preventive measures against dengue haemorrhagic fever and common diseases in monsoon in Maungngan and Shwemyaing Thiri wards every Saturday.—HSET NAY MIN AUNG

Citizenship scrutiny cards issued to youths in Hlinethaya Tsp



HLINETHAYA, 18 July—Hlinethaya Township Immigration and National Registration Department made field trips to wards and villages for the issuance of citizenship scrutiny cards to local people at No 1 Ward in Hlinethaya Township of Yangon Region on Thursday.

Staff of the department

together with volunteer youths issued the CSCs to people older than 10 years old under the Myanmar Citizenship Law 1982 in implementing the Moe Pwint Plan (6).

They plan to issue the cards to students at wards, villages and basic education schools in the township.—*Than Tun*

Asian shares fall as Malaysia jet downing hits sentiment

TOKYO, 18 July — Asian shares sagged and a drop in Treasury yields pressured the dollar on Friday after news of a downed Malaysian airlines jet at the Ukraine-Russia border sent investors scurrying into defensive assets.

The United States believes a surface-to-air missile brought down the airliner flying from Amsterdam to the Malaysian capital of Kuala Lumpur, killing all 298 people on-board, an incident that has sharply heightened geopolitical risks.

Both Russia and Ukraine denied involvement in the crash, which came just a day after the US ratcheted up sanctions against Moscow.

MSCI's broadest index of Asia-Pacific shares outside Japan fell 0.3 percent after touching a two-week low, but was still poised to eke out a modest weekly gain.

Japan's Nikkei stock average tumbled 1.1

percent but was also on track to mark a small rise for the week.

"Amid a recovery in the Japanese market led by the strong US economy amid expectations for rising US interest rates, this geopolitical concern can cloud such optimism in the mid-term," said Hiromitsu Kamata, head of Japanese equity target department at Amundi Japan.

Kamata said that the plane crash might be perceived as an isolated event for financial markets, but he also cautioned it had the potential to lead to bigger turmoil.

Even before news of the downed jet broke, market sentiment was already fragile after a weak reading on US housing starts for June.

Wall Street had its worst day since April on Thursday with losses deepening in the last hour of trading, after Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu instructed the military



Pedestrians pass by an electronic board displaying stock prices, which are reflected in a polished stone surface, in Tokyo on 7 March, 2014.—REUTERS

to begin a ground offensive in Gaza.

Bond prices soared as investors sought safety, pressuring yields. The benchmark 10-year Treasury yield stood at 2.465 percent in Asia, down from Thursday's US close of 2.475 percent and moving

back toward a seven-week low of 2.441 percent marked on Thursday.

The dollar edged up 0.2 percent to 101.32 yen, clawing back some of its nearly 0.5 percent slide overnight, which was its biggest one-day loss since early April. A break below

101.06 yen would take the greenback to a two-month low.

"Put simply, US Treasury yields declined on heightened geopolitical woes and hurt dollar/yen, which has a high correlation with yields," said Masafumi Yamamoto, market

strategist at Praevidentia Strategy in Tokyo.

The euro, which has lost roughly 0.9 percent against the yen this week, traded at 137.05 yen after reaching a five-month low of 136.715 yen earlier in the session.

The euro was steady at \$1.3526 but not far from \$1.3512 touched earlier in the session, its lowest in a month against the US currency. In commodities trading, US crude oil extended gains by about 0.6 percent on the day to \$103.85 a barrel, after jumping by more than \$2 on Thursday. Russia pumps more than a tenth of the world's crude.

Gold also soared on safe-haven bids, though it steadied at \$1,315.54 an ounce after gaining 1.5 percent in the previous session. However, it was still on track for a 1.6 percent loss for the week, breaking a six-week winning streak.

Reuters

Google exec Arora to join Softbank as vice chairman in October



Google Inc Chief Business Officer Nikesh Arora

NEW YORK, 18 July — Google Inc Chief Business Officer Nikesh Arora will join Japan's major communication provider Softbank Corp in October as vice chairman, Softbank said on Thursday.

Arora will assume the vice chairmanship of the group as well as the chief executive officer role of Softbank Internet and Media Inc, to be set up in the United States.

He is also to be nominated as a board member, the company said.

Reporting to Chairman and CEO Masayoshi Son, the Boston College graduate is expected to take charge of the group's mobile phone business in the United States, where talks

to merge with T-Mobile US Inc have been under way since the group acquired Sprint Corp.

Arora joined Google in 2004 and assumed his current position five years ago to oversee its global business development. Before joining the Internet giant, he was chief marketing officer of T-Mobile International.

"As we enter the next phase of our expansion I can't think of a better person than Nikesh to help us chart that course," said Son, adding that Arora's long experience at one of the fastest-growing companies in history makes him uniquely qualified for the new role.

Kyodo News

India has third highest number HIV-infected people globally

MUMBAI, 18 July — About 2.1 million Indian people are infected with the HIV disease, the third highest number in the world, according to a UN report released on Thursday. The report by the United Nations programme on HIV/AIDS said that around 19 million out of the 35 million people infected with HIV across the world are unaware of their HIV+ status.

The report said that the plan to end the AIDS epidemic by 2030 will need massive scale-up as only it can help close the gap.

The UNAIDS report said that after sub-Saharan Africa, the largest number of people living with HIV are in Asia and the Pacific.

There were an estimated 4.8 million people living with HIV in this region in 2013. China, India, Indonesia, Myanmar, Thailand and Vietnam account for more than 90 percent of the people living with HIV in the region.

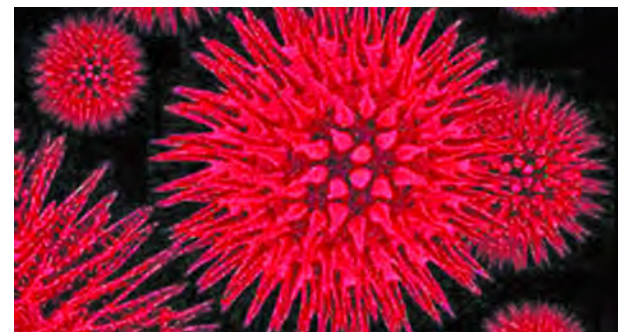
"India has the third largest number of people living with HIV in the world — 2.1 million at the end of 2013 — and accounts for about four out of

10 people living with HIV in the region," the report said.

The report added that in India, the coverage for HIV treatment is only 36 percent and the country records 51 percent of AIDS-related deaths.

The positive news, however, is that the numbers of new HIV infections dropped by 19 percent in India in 2013 but the nation still accounted for 38 percent of all new HIV infections in the region.

Xinhua



Alcohol, energy drink mix tied to urge to drink

NEW YORK, 18 July — Mixing alcohol and energy drinks increases the urge to drink more than drinking alcohol alone, according to a new study from Australia.

The findings suggest that people who mix alcohol and energy drinks may end up drinking more alcohol than they intended, said the study's lead author.

"Obviously these findings are not going to deter young people from drinking if they want to get drunk, but they need to be mindful that they may be unwittingly putting themselves at a greater risk of accidents and

injuries because they end up drinking more than they had intended," Rebecca McKetin said in an email. The study results are similar to those of research published by a US group last year, write McKetin and her co-author Alice Coen, who are both with the Australian National University's Centre for Research on Ageing, Health and Well-being in Canberra.

"We normally think of alcohol as a depressant, but it also has a stimulant effect, and it is this stimulant effect that is most strongly related to how much we like

alcohol, and whether we want to keep drinking," McKetin said. "Energy drinks contain caffeine. Caffeine, being a stimulant, tends to bring out the stimulant effects of alcohol intoxication. It may be this that causes energy drinks to increase the desire to keep drinking alcohol."

For the new study, she and Coen recruited 75 participants between the ages of 18 and 30 years. The participants were assigned to drink either vodka mixed with soda water or vodka mixed with a popular energy drink.

Both cocktails also contained some fruit juice. The participants were unaware of which cocktail they drank. The participants answered a series of questions before they drank their cocktail and again 20 minutes afterward.

Those who drank the cocktail containing vodka and the energy drink reported a greater urge to drink afterwards than those who drank the cocktail of vodka and soda water. That was especially true among the test subjects who had higher blood alcohol levels, the researchers found.—Reuters

SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY

Facebook tests new 'buy' button for online purchases in US

SAN FRANCISCO, 18 July — Facebook Inc is testing a new "buy" button on its website that will let consumers purchase products that are advertised on its social network.

The new service, which Facebook described on Thursday as a test with a "few small and medium-sized businesses" in the United States, represents the Internet social networking company's latest effort to play a bigger role in the e-commerce business.

Facebook said its new Buy button will be available on the mobile and desktop PC version of its website and will allow consumers to purchase goods directly from participating businesses.

"None of the credit or debit card information people share with Face-



book when completing a transaction will be shared with other advertisers, and people can select whether or not they'd like to save payment information for future purchases," the company said in a blog post on Thursday. Facebook is not currently

taking any portion of the revenue for products sold with the Buy button, a source familiar with the matter told *Reuters*. Credit card transactions will be handled by a third-party payment processing company, the person said.

Facebook in 2012

introduced a way for its users to buy their friends gifts such as socks and teddy bears. But Facebook stopped selling physical goods through the service after a year, letting consumers buy only gift cards instead.

Reuters

Genetic blueprint unveiled for vital food crop wheat

WASHINGTON, 18 July — As far as agricultural genome research goes, this may be the best thing since sliced bread — wheat bread, that is.

An international team of scientists on Thursday unveiled a genetic blueprint of wheat in an accomplishment that may help guide the breeding of varieties of the vitally important food crop that are more productive and more hardy.

Researchers who are part of the International Wheat Genome Sequencing Consortium, formed in 2005 by a group of wheat growers, plant scientists and breeders, unveiled what they called a chromosome-based draft genome sequence of bread wheat,

also known as common wheat.

The work makes it easier to identify genes controlling agriculturally important traits like yield, disease and pest resistance and drought tolerance, according to Frédéric Choulet, a plant genomicist at the French National Institute for Agricultural Research (INRA), one of the lead researchers.

"Bread wheat is a major crop. It is the most widely grown crop around the world and is a staple food for one third of the human population. However, its genome is so complex that it has always been perceived as impossible to sequence," Choulet said.

"Wheat improvement

is crucial to ensure food security and the development of sustainable agriculture in a context of climate change and growing population," Choulet added.

The large, repetitive nature of the wheat genome has complicated efforts to decipher it.

The research, published in the journal *Science*, encompasses nearly all the genes of bread wheat, whose scientific name is *Triticum aestivum*, and roughly 60 percent of the whole genome. The researchers estimate that wheat has about 124,000 genes and that its genome is 40 times larger than rice and seven times larger than corn, both of whose genomes have been deci-

phered.

The wheat genome also is more than five times larger than the human genome, the researchers noted.

The new work also included a comprehensive look at the largest of wheat's 21 chromosomes.

The researchers underscored the need to develop new and better wheat varieties.

"The world is facing enormous challenges with a human population projected to rise to over 9 billion by 2050. Food production will need to increase by over 50 percent without expanding land use in the face of a changing climate and with dwindling availability of fertilizers, water and effective pest treatment," the consortium said in a statement.

The researchers noted that wheat is a versatile plant that can be grown in a range of environments and that its grain can be stored easily and turned into flour to make a lot of different kinds of food.

The consortium has set a goal of finishing the full genome within three years. "We have a clear path forward for completing high quality sequences of all bread wheat chromosomes," said Kellye Eversole, the consortium's executive director. —*Reuters*

Next-generation iPhone to enter mass production this month

TAIPEI, 18 July — Taiwan's Hon Hai Precision Industry Co Ltd, the world's largest contract manufacturer of electronic goods, will begin mass production of Apple Inc's next-generation iPhone this month, local media reported on Friday. Mass production of a 4.7-inch successor to the wildly popular iPhone 5 series of smartphones will begin during the third week of July, Taiwan's *Economic Daily News* said, without citing sources. Production of a 5.5-inch version will begin during the second week of August, it said.

A separate report issued on Thursday by a China state-run news service

said Hon Hai is planning to hire 100,000 workers at its mainland facilities to meet future demand for the gadget, citing comments made by the chief of the Henan Provincial Commerce Department.

Fellow Taiwanese contract manufacturer Pegatron Corp this month also began recruitment of over 10,000 workers for its mainland facilities to manufacture the phone, according to the *Economic Daily News* report.

Hon Hai had no comment on the report. Representatives for Pegatron and the Henan Provincial Commerce Department could not immediately be reached for comment. —*Reuters*



A woman speaks on her iPhone as she walks on a busy street in downtown Shanghai on 10 Sept, 2013 file photo.—REUTERS

UK firm touts one-man flying machine for police and military

FARNBOROUGH, (England), 18 July — Once the preserve of science fiction, a one-man flying machine is now a viable, cost-effective option for the police and military, according to UK manufacturer Parajet International.

Paramotors — which require pilots to use a parachute-shaped glider and a motor-driven propeller strapped to their back — have been popular among amateur flying enthusiasts and extreme-sport fanatics for several years.

But Parajet, which began making paramotors over 10 years ago, says they are becoming increasingly popular as a cheaper alternative to light aircraft for police and military, particularly in developing countries.

"In the Middle East and South America they're using them for a multitude of different things," managing director Tom Prideaux-Brune told *Reuters* at the Farnborough Airshow. "Border patrol, search and rescue, aerial reconnaissance, medical supply, anti-poaching operations — all sorts of different things."

Prideaux-Brune said there was also interest from forces in India and Pakistan, and that paramotors had been successfully used by police in the United States to track down cannabis farms, stolen vehicles and illegal dog-fighting rings. "The reason that was really successful was because they had a very minimal budget ... things like helicopters, they cost a lot of money to run," he said.

"One person was able to take off and fly over a vast area of woodland for two hours. They located the cannabis farms and then simply called in the troops. Instead of 30-40 guys on the ground sweeping an entire forest, it required just three. It's really very efficient."

Parajet currently makes and sells around 300 paramotors a year. Each "system" — which includes a glider, motor-driven propeller harness, helmet and safety equipment — is built using aircraft-grade aluminium and costs about 9,000 pounds (\$15,400). —*Reuters*



Wheat pours into a truck as a French farmer harvests his crop in Aigrefeuille-sur-Maine near Nantes on 17 July, 2014.—REUTERS

UN chief, new envoys pledge to end violence in Syria

UNITED NATIONS, 18 July — UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon and his new special envoys for Syria on Thursday pledged to “spare no effort” to help end the ongoing conflict in the country. “The Syrian people have suffered enough and too long. It is time for peace,” Ban said when his newly appointed Special Envoy Staffan de Mistura and Deputy Special Envoy Ramzy Ezzeldin Ramzy made their debuts at the UN Headquarters in New York.

“Together, we will spare no effort to help stop the violence and achieve a Syrian-led inclusive political solution that meets the democratic aspirations of the Syrian people,” he said.

“I have assured Mr de Mistura and Mr Ramzy that we will work very closely in bringing my good offices to bear on the situation in Syria, with the support of



United Nations Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon (C) poses for a picture with his Special Envoy for Syria Staffan de Mistura (L) and Deputy Special Envoy for Syria Ramzy Ezzeldin Ramzy prior to their meeting at the UN headquarters in New York, on 17 July, 2014.—XINHUA

my senior advisors,” said the UN chief.

Meanwhile, he stressed that “the full support of the parties and the international community, including especially a united Security Council, will be essential.”

He added that de Mistura and Ramzy have traveled to New York only days after their appointment for a first round of consultations, and will travel to Syria, the countries of the region and other relevant countries in the near future.

minister, as de Mistura’s deputy. Brahimi resigned from the post of UN-Arab League special envoy to Syria in May. The former Algerian managed to organize two rounds of negotiations in Geneva between the Syrian government and members of the opposition earlier this year, yet the peace talks produced little result.

The conflict in Syria, which began in March 2011, has led to over 150,000 deaths, and more than 680,000 people injured.

According to the United Nations, 10.8 million Syrians, nearly half of Syria’s population of 22 million, are in urgent need of humanitarian assistance. Among the needed, 6.6 million are children. At present, 2.9 million Syrian refugees seek shelter in neighbouring countries, such as Lebanon, Turkey and Jordan.—Xinhua

Two killed, 14 wounded in eastern Afghan blast

MEHTARLAM, (Afghanistan), 18 July — Two people were killed while 14 civilians were wounded in an explosion in the eastern Afghan province of Laghman on Friday, said a provincial government spokesman.

“One militant was carrying a mine on a motorbike along a road in provincial capital Mehtarlam city. The explosive suddenly went off, killing the militant and one civilian while injuring 14 other bystanders,” spokesman Sarhaddi Zwak told Xinhua.

The blast occurred in the morning. The injured were shifted to a hospital in Mehtarlam city, 90 km east of Afghan capital of Kabul, the official said, adding police had launched an investigation into the incident.

On Thursday evening, 15 people, including two policemen and eight children, were wounded in a roadside bombing in Pul-e-Khumir city, the capital of northern Baghlan Province, 160 km north of Kabul, according to a police spokesman Jawid Bagharat. A surge in attacks has been witnessed in the country since the Taliban launched a yearly rebel offensive against Afghan security forces and nearly 50,000 NATO-led troops stationed in the country in mid-May.

The war-torn country is due to take over the responsibility for its own security from foreign troops by the end of the year. More than 1,560 civilians were killed and nearly 3,290 others wounded in conflicts and Taliban-led attacks in the first six months of 2014, according to official figures released by UN mission in the country.—Xinhua

Gov’t to tap 50 experts to analyze economic issues

TOKYO, 18 July — The government will appoint 40 to 50 experts to hear their opinions on economic issues amid lingering fears about the negative impact of a consumption tax hike from 1 April, economic and fiscal policy minister Akira Amari said on Friday.

The experts are expected to be selected from private-sector economists, university professors and business leaders, Amari said at a Press conference, adding the government will ask them to submit their opinions via e-mail once a month, ahead of a meeting

in the fall.

Amari also said Prime Minister Shinzo Abe’s administration plans to hold a panel to exchange views with various analysts before deciding whether to implement the second stage of the tax increase to 10 percent from the current 8 percent as scheduled in October 2015.

When he decided last August to raise the consumption tax rate to 8 percent from 5 percent, Abe called for the opinions of 60 people from a variety of sectors.

Kyodo News



Photo taken on 17 July, 2014, shows a laptop screen connected to the Internet aboard a Japan Airlines flight bound for Fukuoka from Tokyo. The airline took journalists on a flight so they could experience browsing the Internet and e-mailing while flying ahead of the introduction on 23 July of wireless Internet service on some of its domestic flights.—KYODO NEWS

Singapore wants to see good relations between US, China

SINGAPORE, 18 July — Singapore wants to see good relations between the United States and a rising China, which makes it possible for it to be friends with both, Prime Minister Lee Hsien Loong said on Thursday.

Speaking at a dialogue session at the Future China Global Forum, Lee said that there has to be an active engagement between the United States and China where third countries, including smaller ones like Singapore, can be friends

with both.

“So far we have managed to be friends with both,” he said.

Lee said that it is a big challenge to the world order to have a China emerging on such an enormous scale, with some 1.3 billion people going from poverty to almost middle income level within a little bit more than one generation. This means a very big change in economic relationships, the strategic landscape and the power balance, and it is not easy to reach a new

equilibrium in a peaceful, stable way.

Nevertheless, he said that there are important shared interests between China and the United States like the US Treasury securities held by the Chinese government and the US investments in China.

“So there are important shared interests. It does not mean that they will definitely prevail but it gives a powerful incentive for the two countries to work together in a constructive way,” he said.



Singapore’s Prime Minister Lee Hsien Loong attends the dinner dialogue at the FutureChina Global Forum at Shangri-La Hotel in Singapore on 17 July, 2014.

XINHUA

“There has to be an active engagement. It cannot be one where one side takes on the role which the other used to play. It cannot be one where you are dividing the world into a G2. I think neither side feels comfortable with the term G2,” Lee said.

Lee said that the pre-occupations of Europe are primarily economic, and that it is seeing China as an important market after trade frictions that had been seen in the past receded in recent years.—Xinhua

ADVERTISEMENT & GENERAL

BID NOTICE

Date: July 17 - 23, 2014

Loan Agreement N°: MY-P3 on June 7, 2013

I. Myanma Electric Power Enterprise (MEPE) of Ministry of Electric Power (MOEP) invites sealed Bid for Construction of Gas Pipeline in Thilawa Area under Infrastructure Development Project in Thilawa Area. It is intended that part of the proceeds of Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) loan will be applied to eligible payments under the Contract for "package 4: Gas Pipeline of Sub-project for Electric Power Development in Thilawa Area under Infrastructure Development Project in Thilawa Area (Phase I) (MY-P3).

2. Bidding will be conducted through procedures in accordance with the applicable Guidelines for Procurement under Japanese ODA Loans, and is open to all Bidders from eligible source countries, as defined in the Loan Agreement

3. Completion of the Works as below:

Eligible Bidder

- Minimum average annual construction turnover of 12 Million US\$, calculated as total certified payments received for contracts in progress and/or completed, within the last five (5) years.
- A minimum number of three (3) similar contracts that have been satisfactorily and substantially completed as a prime contractor (single entity or JV member) within the last five (5) years prior to the Bid submission deadline.

The Works

- Procurement of Materials and Equipment of Gas Pipeline
- Construction work of Gas Pipeline with HDD (Horizontal Directional Drilling)
- Other services included Non Destructive Test (NDT), Cathodic Protection System and Nitrogen Purging

4. Interested eligible Bidders may obtain further information from and inspect the Bidding Documents at the office of Thermal Power Department for the technical matter and Material Planning Department for the bid procedure matter, Myanma Electric Power Enterprise, No. 27 Building, Nay Pyi Taw.

Technical Matter

- Contact Person: Chief Engineer of Thermal Power Department
- Phone: 95-67-410557
- E-mail: thilawagt@gmail.com

Bid Procedure Matter

- Contact Person: General Manager of Material Planning Department
- Phone: 95-67-410075
- E-mail: mepemp@moep.gov.mm

5. A complete set of Bidding Documents can be purchased by interested Bidders on the submission of a written application to the address above at office hour and upon payment of a non-refundable fee of two hundred fifty thousand Myanmar Kyats (Ks. 250,000/-) during:

- From 9:30 to 16:30 on July 21 (Mon.) - August 21 (Thu.), 2014 (except for Government holiday)

6. The provisions in the Instructions to Bidders and in the General Conditions of Contract are the provisions of the Standard Bidding Documents under Japanese ODA Loans for the Procurement of Small Works.

7. Bids must be delivered to the above address on or before at 2:00 p.m. on August 21, 2014 and must be accompanied by a security two hundred forty thousand US Dollars (240,000 US Dollar). The bid security shall be provided by any bank, which should be related to Myanma Foreign Trade Bank (MFTB).

- Attention: Myanma Electric Power Enterprise (MEPE)

8. Bids will be opened in the presence of Bidders' representatives who choose to attend at 2:00 p.m. on August 21, 2014 at No. 1 Meeting Room of Myanma Electric Power Enterprise at ground floor.

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE
MVMALTERAMBOW VOY NO(1428)

Consignees of cargo carried on MV MALTE RAMBOW VOY NO (1428) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 20.7.2014 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of M.I.P where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

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

Phone No: 2301185

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE
MV ESM CREMONA VOY NO (102)

Consignees of cargo carried on MV ESM CREMONA VOY NO (102) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 19.7.2014 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of M.I.P where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

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

Phone No: 2301185

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE
MV KOTA RAJIN VOY NO (869)

Consignees of cargo carried on MV KOTA RAJIN VOY NO (869) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 19.7.2014 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of A.W.P.T where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

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

Phone No: 2301185

INVITATION FOR OPEN TENDER
(TENDER NO. 3(T)MPE/MOGAS(1)/2014-2015)

1. Open Tender is invited for the Myanma Petrochemical Enterprise, the Ministry of Energy for the supply of Mogas (92-RON) UNL (47,000 ± 10%Barrels).
2. Tender Closing Date : 5 - 8 - 2014 at (12:00) noon.
3. Tender Opening Date : 5 - 8 - 2014 at (13:00) hrs .
4. Delivery Time : End of August 2014
5. Tender Documents and details information are available at the Department of Finance, Myanma Petrochemical Enterprise, Nay Pyi Taw, during office hours commencing 15-7-2014 on payment of the Myanmar Kyat One Hundred Thousand (Kyat 100,000) per set.
6. Only bid from tenderer who has purchased tender document officially from Myanma Petrochemical Enterprise will be accepted for evaluation.

Managing Director
Myanma Petrochemical Enterprise

Contact Phone no.
067-411108/411193

S Korea to open rice market in 2015 under high-tariff terms

SEOUL, 18 July — South Korea decided on Friday to open its rice market to imports next year on conditions that super-high rate of tariffs will be imposed on imported rice and special safeguard will be levied on excessive rice imports. "The conclusion was drawn as the rice tariffication is the best, inevitable option for the rice industry's future," Lee Dong-phil, minister of Agriculture, Food and Rural Affairs, told reporters after deciding on it during the economy ministers' meeting.

Lee vowed to protect the country's rice industry by imposing the highest possible rate of tariffs, probably 300-500 percent, on imported rice within the



Lee Dong-phil (C), minister of Agriculture, Food and Rural Affairs, speaks during a Press conference of decision to open the local rice market at the Government Buildings in Seoul, South Korea, on 18 July, 2014.
XINHUA

permissible range of the World Trade Organization (WTO) agreement.

The minister also promised to prevent an excessive import of foreign rice in advance by levying

special safeguard on it.

Under the government schedules, the South Korean rice market will be opened completely from 1 Jan in 2015. South Korea has been exempted from

liberalizing its rice market for 20 years from 1995 due to the 1994 Uruguay Round of trade negotiations at the WTO. The exemption is set to expire by the end of this year.—Xinhua

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Weather report

STATE OF THE SEA: Occasional squally with rough sea will be experienced off and along Myanmar Coasts. Surface wind speed in squalls may reach (40) m.p.h.

OUTLOOK FOR SUBSEQUENT TWO DAYS: Increase of rain in the Eastern Myanmar areas.

Adele

has no plans to go on tour



Oscar-winning singer Adele

LOS ANGELES, 18 July — Oscar-winning singer Adele is not planning a world tour in 2015, according to a senior executive at her record label.

Martin Mills, chief of Beggars Group, which owns Adele's record label XL, — said that there was “no truth” in rumours that the singer would be returning to the live arena next year in support of her forthcoming third studio album, reported *Billboard* magazine.

The 26-year-old singer recently teased that the title of her new album will be titled 25, keeping in line with her previously records

19 and 21. A message on the World Music Awards' official Twitter feed had claimed that the award-winning star would take to the road next year in support of the new record. Adele's spokesperson refused to comment on the reports.

The singer has worked with Ryan Tedder for the new collection, with the OneRepublic frontman saying “she is sounding even better than ever”. It will be the first new material released by Adele since her James Bond theme ‘Skyfall’ back in October 2012, which won her a Golden Globe, an Academy Award, a Brit Award and a Grammy Award.

PTI



Beyonce, Eminem, Azalea lead MTV Video Music Awards nods

LOS ANGELES, 18 July — R&B singer Beyoncé and rappers Eminem and Iggy Azalea led the nominations for the MTV Video Music Awards, one of the industry's top televised showcases, the cable TV network said on Thursday.

Beyoncé garnered eight nominations and will go up against Azalea in the coveted Video of the Year category at the Aug. 24 awards show, which attracts a young audience prized by advertisers.

Eminem and Azalea, an Australian rapper who

has broken out internationally this year with the hit “Fancy,” each scored seven nominations.

Beyoncé's hit “Drunk in Love,” featuring her husband, the rapper Jay Z, earned her nods for best video and best collaboration. Her songs “Partition” and “Pretty Hurts” also earned nominations in categories including best cinematography, direction, choreography and social message.

Pharrell Williams' “Happy,” which has spawned fan videos world-

wide, Sia's “Chandelier” and Miley Cyrus' “Wrecking Ball” are also up for best video. Pop singers Katy Perry and Ariana Grande, as well as New Zealand teenage singer Lorde and British R&B vocalist Sam Smith earned multiple nominations.

The awards show, which hands out “Moonman” statuettes of an astronaut planting an MTV flag, will also help unveil Madison Square Garden Co's revamped Forum arena in Inglewood, California.

The Video Music Awards began in 1984 and helped propel the young cable channel, now owned by Viacom Inc, as a player in the entertainment industry.

Grande, R&B singer Usher and Australian rock group 5 Seconds of Summer are slated to perform at the awards show.

At last year's show, Cyrus' sexually explicit “twerk” dance overshadowed the awards ceremony and dominated news headlines the following week.

Reuters



Jennifer Aniston launches second fragrance

LOS ANGELES, 18 July — Actress Jennifer Aniston is back with another fresh and crisp scent for the season ‘J by Jennifer Aniston’.

The ‘Friends’ star new fragrance has gorgeous notes of magnolia, freesia and sandalwood, reported E!Online.

The shape of the bottle is almost identical to her first, with the exception of its sea blue color—totally reminiscent of the ocean.

Aniston, 45, made her debut in the scent industry back in 2011.

PTI

Marvel says the next Captain America will be an African American



Copies of the Captain America comic book are displayed at a store in New York on 7 March, 2007.—REUTERS

LOS ANGELES, 18 July —An African American character will soon strap on the star-emblazoned shield and step into the red, white and blue uniform of Captain America in the pages of Marvel Comics.

The character of Captain America first appeared in 1941, as a super soldier fighting the Nazis. He was revived by Marvel in the 1960s and became an icon among Marvel's lineup of heroes.

The change in char-

acters was announced on the publisher's official website on Wednesday. It is built around the retirement of Captain America's original alter ego, Steve Rogers, who finds he has lost the extraordinary strength and agility he had once gained from injections of performance-enhancing “super soldier serum.”

Rogers will hand the Captain America persona to his much younger friend and cohort, the character Sam Wilson,

already a comic book star in his own right as the true identity behind the winged superhero known as Falcon.

A three-page explanation of the transformation was posted under the headline: “It's time for an all-new Captain America.” It was authored by Marvel writer-artist Rick Remender and editor Tom Brevoort, part of the creative team involved in the publisher's re-launch of several of its popular heroes.

The Captain America update also was unveiled by Marvel Comics' chief creative officer, Joe Quesada, during a Wednesday night TV appearance on Comedy Central's “The Colbert Report.”

It came one day after Marvel's announcement that another founding member of its Avengers superhero team, the hammer-wielding Norse god Thor, would be reintroduced as a woman.

Reuters

GENERAL

UN Security Council condemns North Korea missile launches



A view of a multiple rocket launcher during an exercise in this undated photo released by North Korea's Korean Central News Agency (KCNA) in Pyongyang on 15 July, 2014. —REUTERS

UNITED NATIONS, 18 July — The UN Security Council on Thursday con-

demned recent ballistic missile launches by North Korea, describing the three

rounds of Scud short-range missiles fired in June and July as a violation of coun-

cil demands on Pyongyang.

"The members of the Security Council condemned these launches ... and urged the DPRK (North Korea) to fully comply with the relevant Security Council resolutions," said Rwandan UN Ambassador Eugene Gasana, council president for July. North Korea is under an array of United Nations, US and other national sanctions for repeated nuclear and ballistic missile tests since 2006 in defiance of international demands to stop. UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon deplored the continued missile launches by North Korea. "The Secretary-General urges the DPRK instead to work towards building confidence and mutual trust with its neighbours," Ban's Press office said in a statement. —Xinhua

World's top AIDS experts among MH17 victims

SYDNEY, 18 July — Some of the world's top AIDS experts, bound for an international conference in Melbourne, Australia, were among those killed in Malaysian Airlines MH17 crash, the International AIDS Society (IAS) announced on Friday. In a statement on its website, IAS said the loss of so many lives was a deep tragedy.

"IAS expresses its sincere sadness at receiving news that a number of colleagues and friends en route to attend the 20th International AIDS Conference taking place in Melbourne, Australia, were on board the

Malaysian Airlines MH17 flight that has crashed over Ukraine earlier today," the statement said.

"At this incredibly sad and sensitive time the IAS stands with our international family and sends condolences to the loved ones of those who have been lost to this tragedy."

It is believed the former president of the International AIDS Society, Joep Lange, was among those killed. He had been involved in HIV treatment and research for more than 30 years, working for the World Health Organization.

Xinhua

Trade in smartphone game user accounts rampant despite ban, fraud

TOKYO, 18 July — Trade in smartphone game user accounts via Internet auctions is thriving, despite game operators banning the practice amid a spate of scams involving such transactions.

The National Consumer Affairs Centre of Japan said it has been receiving a large number of complaints related to the sale of user accounts purporting to possess coveted characters or items for popular games including Puzzle & Dragons and Monster Strike.

Most complaints relate to sellers failing to transfer ownership of the purchased

accounts. A search of a major auction site by Kyodo News found roughly 2,000 accounts for popular online games advertised for sale, with price tags up to tens of thousands of yen.

The high-priced accounts include rare items or characters that might otherwise require several hours of game play to attain.

Operators of many online games ban the sale of accounts, warning of the potential for fraud, taking disciplinary action including suspension of accounts when users have been found to violate the rules.

Kyodo News

Fujitsu to end chip production, sell plants to Taiwan, US firms

TOKYO, 18 July — Fujitsu Ltd will end its production of semiconductors by selling two main factories in Japan to Taiwanese and US companies, sources close to the matter said on Friday.

The major electronics firm is in talks with Taiwan's United Microelectronics Corp and ON Semiconductor Corp of the United States to sell the factories, the sources said.

Fujitsu will not completely withdraw from the chip business, continuing with reduced research and development of semicon-

ductors.

UMC is close to buying a plant in Mie Prefecture, central Japan, which produces large-scale system integrated circuits that support high-tech devices such as mobile phones.

Fujitsu and UMC are planning to jointly set up and invest in a new manufacturing company to purchase the factory, the sources said.

They could accept investment in the new company from other manufacturers.

The move comes after Fujitsu failed to reach

an agreement with another chipmaker, Taiwan Semiconductor Manufacturing Co, to sell the Mie factory.

ON Semiconductor is nearing a deal to buy the Aizuwakamatsu factory in the northeastern prefecture of Fukushima, which produces microcomputers that are often used in digital home appliances and automobiles.

The Mie plant employs some 800 and the Aizuwakamatsu about 700. Fujitsu expects to secure their employment after the plants are sold.

Kyodo News

MYANMAR TV

(19-7-2014, Saturday)

6:00 am

* Paritta by Hilly Region Missionary Sayadaw

7:25 am

* Business News

7:55 am

* "67th Matyr's Day Live Broadcast"

9:45 am

* The Nine Precept

10:00 am

* News

11:45 am

* Documentary

12:00 pm

* News / International News / Weather Report

1:20 pm

* Round Up of The Week's Hluttaw News

2:30 pm

* Business News

2:45 pm

* Hyper Sports

3:00 pm

* News

3:35 pm

* Pyi Thu Ni Ti

4:40 pm

* University of Distance Education (TV Lectures) -Third Year (Myanmar)

5:00 pm

* News

5:15 pm

* Golden Music of Old Stars

6:20 pm

* MRTV's Youth Programme

7:00 pm

* News

7:45 pm

* Documentary

8:00 pm

* News/ International News/ Weather Report

8:35 pm

* Documentary

9:00 pm

* News

* Myanmar Series

* Gitadagale Phwintbarohn

MYANMAR INTERNATIONAL

(19-7-14 07:00 am~ 20-7-14 07:00 am) MST

* Local News

* Great Shwedagon-Historic And Mysterious Places

* World News

* A Monk's Robe

* Local News

* The Martyr's Day

* World News

* Guiding Star of Song Birds

* Local News

* Creator of Imagination

* World News

* The Photographer (Portiature) "Aung Kyaw Moe"

* Local News

* Kachin Land: A Study Tour to Khakaborazi Museum (Putao)

* World News

* Kid's Home

* 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

* General Aung San Museum

* Local News

* Sarah Special..

"A Trip to The City of Rakkhita, Rakhine"

* World News

* Karaweik Palace-A Symbol of Glorious Myanma Culture



Some illegal immigrants walk in lines after being rescued off the coast of Qara Bolle, in Libya, on 17 July. Libya's coast guard rescued some 100 illegal immigrants about 40 kilometres off the coast of Qara Bolle. Libya has long been a transit point for migrants seeking to reach Malta, Italy, and other places in Europe because of its proximity and relatively loose border control. —XINHUA

FIFA rankings put Germany on top of the world

LONDON, 18 July — Germany's World Cup triumph has seen them rise to the top of the world rankings for the first time in 20 years, FIFA announced on Thursday.

The 1-0 victory in the final has taken them up one place to top spot, ahead of their opponents in the Brazil final, Argentina, who rise three to second.

The Netherlands move up a hefty 12 rungs on the ladder to third after their impressive World Cup third-place finish.

Spain have paid the penalty for not progressing from the group stages in Brazil by dropping from first to eighth place with Colombia, Belgium and



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

Uruguay occupying the places above them.

Hosts Brazil, hammered 7-1 by Germany in the World Cup semi-final

in the shock of the tournament, drop four places to seventh.

England have fallen 10 places to 20th in the list,

World top 10 (compared to June rankings)

- | | | |
|-----|-------------|-------|
| 1) | Germany | (+1) |
| 2) | Argentina | (+3) |
| 3) | Netherlands | (+12) |
| 4) | Colombia | (+4) |
| 5) | Belgium | (+6) |
| 6) | Uruguay | (+1) |
| 7) | Brazil | (-4) |
| 8) | Spain | (-7) |
| 9) | Switzerland | (-3) |
| 10) | France | (+7) |

their lowest position since May 1996, after a dismal World Cup when defeat in their opening two group matches gave them their worst performance in over 50 years.—Reuters

Former England defender Ferdinand joins QPR



LONDON, 18 July — Former England defender Rio Ferdinand has joined Premier League Queens Park Rangers on a free transfer after he was released by Manchester United, the London club said on Thursday.

Ferdinand, 35, has signed a one-year contract with QPR who were promoted back to the top flight through the second tier playoffs last season.

The centre back, who played 81 times for England, ended his 12-year spell at United at the end of last season after making more than 400 appearances for them and winning almost every honour in the game. He will link up with manager Harry Redknapp, who helped nurture Ferdinand when the pair were together at West Ham United. "I spoke to Harry and (chairman) Mr (Tony) Fernandes at length. I think they both looked me in the eye and knew that I still have something to offer — that I had a genuine desire to come here and play football," Ferdinand said in a statement.—Reuters

China sweeps synchronized titles at FINA Diving World Cup



SHANGHAI, 18 July — Host China has swept all the synchronized diving titles at the 2014 FINA Diving World Cup here on Thursday.

Beijing Olympic men's 10m platform synchro champion Lin Yue claimed both the 10m platform and the 3m springboard synchro titles here with partner Cao Yuan.

The pair made a mistake in the first round and only finished 11th, but they regained their pace soon before collecting 461.31 points to win the men's 3m springboard synchro title.

Germany's Stephen Feck / Patrick Hausding came second in 431.40, while Russian Evgenii Kuznestsov / Ilia Zakharov, runners-up of the event at the London Olym-

pic Games, were third in 431.34.

The Russian duo have been strong rivals to the Chinese "dream team" since 2011 and Zakharov beat China's Qin Kai and He Chong at the London Games to win the 3m springboard gold.

"I had a poor run in major competitions since 2009 and I want to say 'thank you' to those who have always supported me," said Lin, who failed to make the final in the 10m platform at the 2013 Barcelona Worlds.

Hausding, who also finished second in the 10m platform synchro, was happy with his second silver here. "The Chinese divers are very competitive. We did a good job, and we are happy to win the second medal today," he said.

Olympic champion Chen Ruolin and her partner Liu Huixia won the women's 10-metre platform synchro title earlier Thursday.

Two-time Olympic champion Chen and newly crowned world champion Liu dominated the final with 357.66 points, 21 pointst than the second-placed Leong Mun Yee / Cheong Jun Hoong from Malaysia, who started to pair up just a few days ago. Canadian Meaghan Benfeito / Roseline Filion were third in 335.25.

"In terms of synchronization, we were better today than in the training," said Chen, also the defending champion of the event. "But I still need to improve my own performance."

Xinhua

Serena Williams, Li Na to feature in WTA Wuhan Open

WUHAN, 18 July — Serena Williams and Li Na will headline a star-studded field at the inaugural WTA Wuhan Open in September, organizers said on Thursday.

Fabrice Chouquet, event director of the WTA

premier-level tournament, told a Press conference here that eight of the WTA Tour top 10 ranked players will be competing in the 21-27 September event.

Russia's Maria Sharapova and Petra Kvitova of the Czech Republic are

also expected to show up in the tournament, according to Chouquet.

The Wuhan Open is one of three WTA events in China new to the calendar in 2014, bringing the total number of tournaments in the growing tennis hotbed to six. It is also one of two Premier-level stops in China.

Sandwiched in between Premier events in Tokyo and Beijing during the WTA's Asia swing, the Wuhan Open will take place at the Wuhan Optical Valley Tennis Centre.

Wuhan, the capital of Hubei Province and the most populous city in central China, is the hometown of two-time Grand Slam champion Li Na.

Xinhua



Li Na and Serena Williams

Gunslinging McIlroy and Woods steal Hoylake show

HOYLAKE, (England), 18 July — Golfing gunslingers Rory McIlroy and Tiger Woods sprayed Royal Liverpool with a barrage of birdie bullets to steal the show in a thrilling opening round of the 143rd British Open on Thursday.

Northern Irishman McIlroy has developed a penchant for making fast starts and he did it yet again on a blisteringly hot day at the third major championship of the season, firing a pacesetting six-under-par 66.

Matteo Manassero was in second place on 67, one ahead of fellow Italians Francesco and Edoardo Molinari. Also on 68 were American pair Brooks Koepka and Jim Furyk as well as Spain's Sergio Garcia, world number one Adam Scott and Ireland's Shane Lowry.

Woods, playing in only his third competitive round since undergoing back surgery in March, confounded the critics who wrote off his chances by shooting a 69.

The 14-times major winner made a poor start by bogeying the first two holes but it was almost vintage Tiger on the back nine as he went storming through the field with five birdies in six holes from the 11th.

The former world number one, sporting grey slacks and a white shirt with blue/grey flecks down the front, got his round going when he holed out from off the green at the 11th.—Reuters



Tiger Woods of the US lines up his putt on the seventh green during the first round of the British Open Championship at the Royal Liverpool Golf Club in Hoylake, northern England on 17 July, 2014. —REUTERS