

President U Thein Sein attends merit-sharing ceremony of paying tributes to martyrs

NAY PYI TAW, 19 July —To mark the 67th Anniversary Martyrs' Day, tribute was paid to the fallen heroes at Zabuthiri Hall of Nay Pyi Taw Council Office in Zabuthiri Township of Nay Pyi Taw Council Area on Saturday.

President U Thein Sein donated offertories to Maha Withutayama Zaygon Monastery Sayadaw Abhidhaja Maha Rattha Guru Agga Maha Pandita Bhaddanta Kavisara.

Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Senior General Min Aung Hlaing offered alms to Pali Monastery Sayadaw.

Chairman of the Union Election Commission U Tin Aye, Union ministers, officials, responsible per-

sons of Union Solidarity and Development Party, National Unity Party and National League for Democracy and social organizations donated offertories to members of the Sangha.

They shared merits gained for paying tributes to fallen martyrs General Aung San, Deedok U Ba Cho, U Ba Win, Thakin Mya, Mahn Ba Khaing, Mongpaw Sawbwa Sao San Tun, U Razak, U Ohn Maung and Yebaw Ko Htwe, who were assassinated on 19 July 1947.

Following the cash offerings, the President, the commander-in-chief of Defence Services and attendees offered meals to members of the Sangha.

MNA



President U Thein Sein donates robes and offertories to Zaygon Monastery Sayadaw Bhaddanta Kavisara at the ceremony to mark 67th Anniversary Martyrs' Day.

MNA



Vice President Dr Sai Mauk Kham cordially greets family members of martyrs at 67th Anniversary Martyr's Day occasion in Yangon. (News on Page 3)—MNA

Statement of ASEAN Foreign Ministers on the tragic incident of Malaysia Airlines flight MH17 (19-7-2014)

ASEAN Member States strongly condemn the downing of Malaysia Airlines Flight MH17 in Eastern Ukraine on 17 July 2014. We express shock at the tragic deaths of the 298 people of multiple nationalities on board the airline.

Flight MH17 was flying over non-restricted airspace, and following a flight path which had been declared safe by the International Civil Aviation Organisation (ICAO). It is a flight route that is utilised by many international airlines plying the Asia-Europe route.

ASEAN Member States underline that it is imperative that we find out precisely what happened to Flight MH 17. We call for a full, independent and transparent investigation into the catastrophe. We emphasise that investigations must not be hindered.

ASEAN Member States hereby convey over profound sorrow and condolences to the families and loved ones of those on board Flight MH 17.

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Pyidaungsu Hluttaw Speaker joins meal offering to monks to pay tribute to martyrs



Speaker Thura U Shwe Mann offers robes to a Sayadaw at a ceremony to mark the 67th Anniversary Martyrs' Day at USDP Headquarters in University Avenue in Yangon.—MNA

NAY PYI TAW, 19 July —To mark the 67th Anniversary Martyrs' Day, Speaker of Pyidaungsu Hluttaw and Lower House Thura U Shwe Mann attended a ceremony to donate meals to members of the Sangha for paying tributes to fallen General Aung San and martyrs organized by the Union Solidarity and

Yangon hosts ASEAN 3/45 Senior Economic Officials' Meeting

YANGON, 19 July — The first ASEAN 3/45 Senior Economic Officials' Meeting took place at Innaya Lake Hotel in Yangon on Saturday, with 107 participants discussing matters related to the ASEAN Economic Community, progress in integration of priority sector and reports which are going to be submitted to the ASEAN Economic Ministers' Meeting, ASEAN Free Trade Area (AFTA) Council meeting, ASEAN Economic Community (AEC) Council meeting and ASEAN Investment Area (AIA) Council meeting.

The meeting continues till Monday to discuss es-

tablishment of a FTA, economic integration, matters to be discussed at the 46th ASEAN Economic Ministers' Meeting and related meetings in August and points to be included in a joint statement after the meetings.

The meeting was attended by senior economic officials from ASEAN countries and dialogue partners and the Deputy Secretary-General of ASEAN.

According to officials, a coordination meeting between ASEAN and Dialogue Partners will also be held from 21 to 23 July at the same venue.

MNA



First ASEAN 3/45 Senior Economic Officials' Meeting in progress at Innaya Lake Hotel.—MNA



Family members of martyrs attend 67th Anniversary Martyr's Day in Yangon. (News on Page 1)—MNA

New academic journal to come out in 2015

By Khaing Thanda Lwin

YANGON, 19 July — Plans are underway to publish a biannual magazine entitled *Independent Journal of Myanmar Scholarship* (IJMS) in 2015 under the arrangement of both local and international scholars.



Associate Professor Dr Tun Myint of Political Science explains preparation for publishing the *Independent Journal of Myanmar Scholarship*. PHOTO: KHAING THANDA LWIN

ars. The academic journal is designed to create opportunities for local researchers, Ye Hein Aung, Editor of Pansodan Art and Culture Journal, said on Saturday at a press conference in Yangon. Myanmar scholars are invited to send their research articles and papers to the Editorial Committee of IJMS at tmyint@carleton.edu and aungsoeminn@gmail.com no later than the last week of October, and peer-reviewed articles and papers chosen by international scholars will be published in the journal.

Dr Tun Myint, Associate Professor of Political Science, said that the editorial committee has set up its funds to last for three years and arranged to give US\$200 per article as hon-

orarium and US\$500 per paper for selected scholars.

Ye Hein Aung added the committee is organizing to publish the journal twice a year with both Myanmar and International scholars' articles and papers in both English and Myanmar languages. Interested people are invited to the first workshop on public memory on Sunday at Pansodan Scene at the corner of Maha Bando Road and Pansodan Road in Kyauktada Township in Yangon, with the second workshop scheduled for December.

Sector-wise research papers and articles in the journal, are also aimed at improving general knowledge of the public to build a better society, the professor said.—NLM

Transformer installed for sufficient supply of power

YANGON, 19 July — Officials and electricians of Thingangyun Township Electrical Engineer's Office have installed one 200-KVA transformer, six concrete posts, 6.6 KV insulated spacer aerial cables, 400 volt power line along 1st Thudathana Street in Ward 16 of Thingangyun Township of Yangon.

They launched supply of power to the local people on Wednesday.

The Township Administrator plans to install 32 more 200-KVA transformers in the township in 2014-15 fiscal year for sufficient supply of electricity to the people.

Hmwe Hmwe
(Thingangyun)



NATIONAL

67th Martyrs' Day commemoration takes place in Yangon



Vice President Dr Sai Mauk Kham, Speaker of Pyidaungsu Hluttaw and Lower House Speaker Thura U Shwe Mann, Upper House Speaker U Khin Aung Myint, Union Chief Justice U Tun Tun Oo and party pay tribute to fallen national heroes at the Martyrs' Mausoleum.—MNA

YANGON 19 July — The 67th Martyrs' Day was held here on Saturday with participation of the vice president, speakers of Hluttaw, the Yangon Region chief minister, and other senior government officials.

Before the commemoration service at the Martyrs' Mausoleum, Vice President Dr Sai Mauk Kham, Speaker of the Pyidaungsu Hluttaw and the Lower House Speaker Thura U Shwe Mann, Upper House Speaker U Khin

Aung Myint, Union Chief Justice U Tun Tun Oo and high-ranking officials greeted the family members and relatives of the then national leaders, who were assassinated on 19 July, 1947.

U Aung San Oo and

Daw Aung San Suu Kyi, the son and daughter of General Aung San who led the country's independence movements against the British colonial powers, were among those who paid respect to the assassinated leaders.

The public also joined the event, which was attended by members of local non-profit organizations and social organizations as well as foreign diplomats.

Following the celebrations, Vice President Dr Sai Mauk Kham visited the Bogyoke Aung San Museum in Bahan Township of Yangon to look at rare doc-

umentary photos depicting the life of General Aung San, including his childhood, student and family life and the time when he was national leader, and the places where the general enjoyed his leisure time, including the dining room and drawing room on the ground floor.

MNA

Workshop hosted to promote good governance and greater public participation

MANDALAY, 19 July — A workshop for regional administrative functions took place at Hotel Mandalay in Mahaaungmye Township in Mandalay on 17 July, with focus on the provision of community-based services through cooperation between the government and the public.

The UNDP-organized workshop drew local parliamentary representatives, administrative officers at district and township levels, officials of the Myanmar Police Force, and local civil society organizations.

The need for greater public involvement in capacity building and good governance is of the utmost importance for the reform



processes, President U Thein Sein was quoted as saying.

With this in view, the Union Government gradually allocates more powers

to regional governing bodies, he said.

The United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) is working in close cooperation with regional

authorities as part of helping accelerate the measures for the realization of good governance and public participation.

Maung Pyithu (Mandalay)

monastery of Mandalay Abhidhaja Maha Rattha Guru Abhidhaja Agga Maha Saddhammajotika Dr Bhaddanta Kumara and members of the Sangha.

The union minister and party shared merits as paying tributes to the fallen martyrs.

Later, they donated meals to members of the Sangha.—MNA

Tributes paid to martyrs by sharing merits of meal offering to leading monks

YANGON, 19 July—In commemoration of the paying tribute to fallen martyrs, the 67th Anniversary Martyrs' Day organizing committee held the

meals offering ceremony at the city hall in Yangon on Saturday morning.

Chairman of the committee Union Minister for Culture U Aye Myint

Kyu, deputy minister U Than Shwe and Yangon region ministers donated offertories to Chairman of State Sangha Maha Nayaka Committee Bhamo

Red Cross affairs explained in Yedashe

YEDASHE, 19 July—The Executive Committee of Yedashe Township Red Cross Society held a meeting at the hall of the Township Police Force in Yedashe of Bago Region on 16 July, aiming at disseminating knowledge about the Red Cross Society to the people.

Commanding Officer of the Township Red Cross Battalion Police Major Nyan Win explained future tasks of the township Red Cross soci-

ety.

Company commander U Zin Wai Yan Lin recounted his experiences in the Red Cross society and treasurer of the society Senior Auditor Daw Myint Myint Khaing of the Township Accounts Office discussed financial matters. Members of the executive committee participated in the discussions which focused on the development of the township Red Cross society.—Ko Lwin (Swa)

AFC visits football grounds in Mandalay

MANDALAY, 19 July—Members of the Executive Committee of the Asian Football Confederation (AFC), accompanied by officials of the Myanmar Football Federation, toured football grounds in Mandalay on Friday, giving suggestions on how to improve the standard of Myanmar football, sources said.

In a briefing at Ba Htoo

Sports Ground, Myanmar officials told them about ground management activities such as ground improvement, usage, capacity, quality and safety of sports fields.

AFC officials also visited the Myanmar Football Academy in Chanmyathazi township.

Thiha Ko Ko (Mandalay)

67th Anniversary of Martyr's Day marked in Mandalay



MANDALAY, 19 July—A ceremony to offer alms to members of the Sangha, paying tribute to fallen martyrs was held at the city hall in Mandalay with members

of the City Development Committee on Saturday.

The ceremony marked the 67th Anniversary Martyr's Day organized by Mandalay Region Govern-

ment.

Mandalay Region Chief Minister U Ye Myint and region ministers offered robes and alms to Shwegyin Sangharaja Maha

Withokdayon Waso monastery Abhidhaja Maha Rattha Guru Abhidhaja Agga Maha Saddhamma Jotikadhaja Bhaddanta Agghiya and other monks.

The congregation shared merits gained for paying tributes to the fallen martyrs.

At 10.45 a.m., the chief ministers, region ministers, members of Red Cross and Auxiliary Fire Brigades, members of social organizations and local people paid tributes to the fallen heroes.

Similar ceremonies were held in each township of the region.

Tin Maung (Mandalay)



Prizes, stipends provided to children of bus owners, drivers of MRABLCC

MANDALAY, 19 July—The Mandalay Region All Bus-line Control Committee honoured outstanding students, who are children of bus owners and workers of the bus lines, at the hall of the committee in Mandalay on Friday.

Chairman of the committee U Thein Hlaing and other officials presented prizes to outstanding stu-

dents in the 2013-14 matriculation examination and stipends to students of basic education schools for the 2014-15 academic year.

The committee has held the ceremony to honour outstanding students 15 times. This year, the committee presented K1.74 million in cash and stipends to students.

Tin Maung (Mandalay)



Mandalay's entrepreneurs to meet with Thai businessmen on 21 July

MANDALAY, 19 July—Entrepreneurs from 20 companies based in Bangkok and Chiang Mai of Thailand will hold business matching fairs with members of Mandalay Region Chambers of Commerce and Industry and entrepreneurs at Amarapura Hall in Sedona Hotel at the corner of 26th and 66th streets in Chanayethazan Township of Mandalay from 10 am to 5 pm on 21 July.

The talks will focus on

Mandalay to enforce traffic safety around schools, offices

MANDALAY, 19 July—Mandalay City Development Committee recently issued an instruction that vehicles are not allowed to stop over along both sides of 62nd, 73rd, 78th, 80th, 84th, 26th, 30th, 35th and Theikpan streets from 7.30 a.m. to 9.30 a.m. before school hours and 3 p.m. to 6 p.m. after school hours daily,

automobile and motorcycle tyres and parts, industrial-used rubber products, hydraulic cylinder and pumps, tractors, trucks, machinery production, construction materials, fire extinguishers, key and security materials, rice mill, child bicycles, mountain bikes, boxes and bottle production.

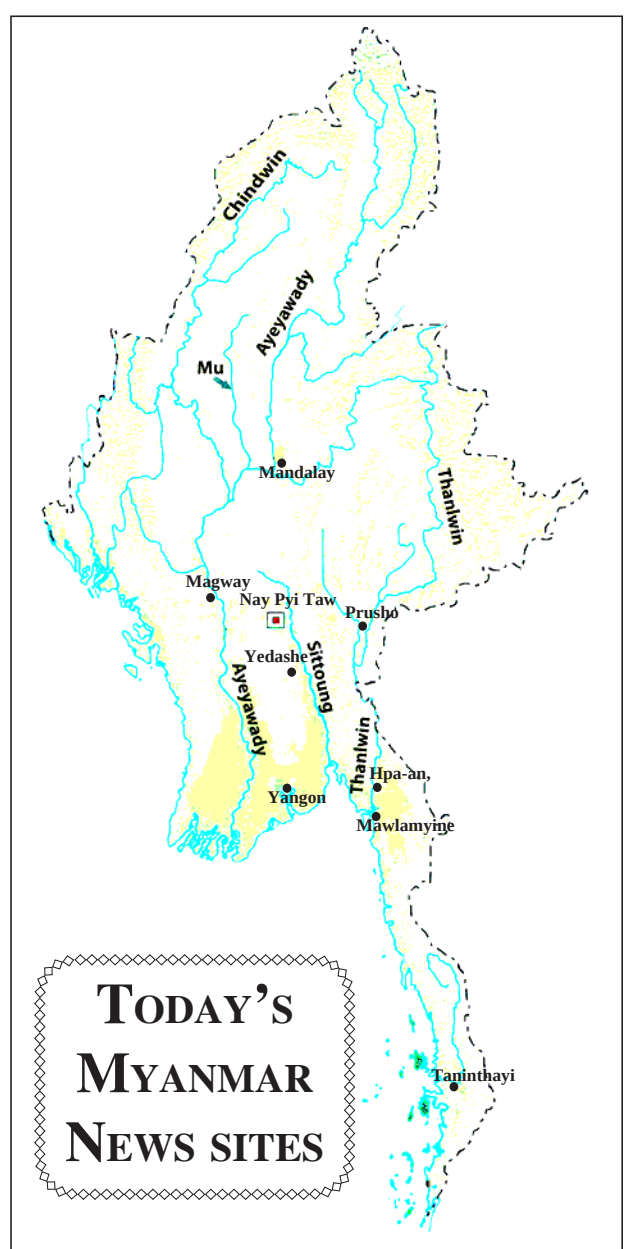
The talk will be held in conjunction with the product show of 20 Thai companies.

Thiha Ko Ko (Mandalay)

aimed at ensuring traffic safety for teachers, students and staff of the departments.

The inspection teams will check the vehicles along the streets and will take action against offenders as of 15 August 2014.

Thiha Ko Ko (Mandalay)



Magway Region coordinates implementation of Third Wave process

MAGWAY, 19 July—The Magway Region government held a coordination meeting on the implementation of the Third Wave process in line with the guidance of the President at its office in Magway on Friday.

The Magway Region Minister for Social Affairs urged participants at the meeting to step up their

efforts in undertaking improvement of the health sector.

Officials of the Ministry of Health will make field trips to Taungdwingyi and Aunglan townships of Magway Region to access the current situation in villages to better implement the Third Wave process.

Khin Marlar (Magway)

WORLD

UN accuses Islamic State of executions, rape, forced child recruitment in Iraq

BAGHDAD, 19 July — The United Nations accused Islamic State fighters in Iraq of executions, rape and forced recruitment of children during a campaign to seize much of northern Iraq, part of a conflict it said has killed almost 5,600 civilians this year.

In a report, the UN focused on a range of violations committed against civilians, particularly by the Islamic State, though it also said Iraqi forces and allied fighters had not taken precautions to protect civilians from violence.

“(This)...may also amount to war crimes,” it said in its report into months of unrest which culminated in advances by Sunni militants led by the al-Qaeda offshoot Islamic State, formerly known as ISIL, across the north of the country.

“ISIL and associated armed groups have also continued to... perpetrate targeted assassinations (of) community, political, and religious leaders, govern-



People who fled from the violence in Mosul walk inside the Khazer refugee camp on the outskirts of the Kurdish city of Arbil, on 17 July, 2014. —REUTERS

ment employees, education professionals, health workers... sexual assault, rape and other forms of sexual violence against women and girls, forced recruitment of children, kidnappings, executions, robberies.” The report, the UN’s most comprehensive review of the impact of months

of unrest, also accused the Islamic State of wanton destruction and plundering of places of worship and of cultural or historical significance.

“Every day we receive accounts of a terrible litany of human rights violations being committed in Iraq against ordinary Iraqi

children, women and men, who have been deprived of their security, their livelihoods, their homes, education, healthcare and other basic services,” UN High Commissioner for Human Rights Navi Pillay said.

Iraq’s Interior Ministry, citing testimony from a survivor, said this week

that an investigation had revealed the Islamic State took 510 Shi’ite prisoners from a Mosul prison to nearby farmland and executed all but 17 who managed to flee. The report also detailed violations committed by government forces and affiliated groups, citing “summary executions / extrajudicial killings of prisoners and detainees”, which it said may constitute a war crime.

Of the 2,400 people killed in June, 1,531 were civilians, the UN said earlier this month.

The report called on the government to investigate serious violations and to hold the perpetrators to account. But the capacity of the Shi’ite-led caretaker government to do so in the face of a Sunni uprising that threatens to fracture the country on sectarian and ethnic lines may be limited.

Iraqi politicians have yet to complete the formation of a new government more than three months after parliamentary elections.

Prime Minister Nuri al-Maliki faces pressure from Sunnis, Kurds and some Shi’ites to step aside after two terms in office in which his critics say he marginalized opponents.

In an interview published on Friday, Maliki, whose Shi’ite State of Law bloc won the most seats in parliament, reiterated his determination to form the next government. “In free and democratic elections, we won the most votes and the constitution says that the leader of the strongest faction forms the government, so I want to run again for the post of prime minister in parliament,” Maliki said in an interview with German mass-selling daily *Bild*.

He said some groups were trying to bypass the election result: “But we insist that the opinion and decision of the people be respected, and we won’t make any compromises at the expense of the people and the legitimacy of the state.” —Reuters

Syrian army, Islamic State clash near army airport

BEIRUT, 19 July — Syrian soldiers clashed with Islamic State militants outside a government-controlled army airport on Friday, a British-based monitoring group said, part of a major escalation of fighting between the al-Qaeda offshoot and the military.

The hardline Sunni militants have gained ground in Syria over the past five weeks, bolstered by equipment seized in a lightning offensive last month in neighbouring Iraq. On Thursday, the group seized the Sha’ar oilfield, east of the central city of Homs, in what the Britain-based Syrian Observatory for Human Rights said was one of its bloodiest clashes with President Bashar al-Assad’s forces.

On Friday, the death toll from the raid rose to 115, the Observatory said. The fate of 250 others was unknown, it said.

A video posted online on Thursday, purportedly of the battle site, showed armed men pacing through a barren desert space speaking in Arabic and German as they reviewed what ap-

peared to be more than 50 bodies, many with gunshot wounds to the head, chest and legs. Some of the bodies appeared to be young men. “Here lie two pigs,” said one of the men, speaking German. At least two multiple-rocket launchers and other military vehicles were visible.

The Observatory, an anti-Assad group which tracks the violence through a network of contacts in Syria, said the government had sent reinforcements backed by helicopters to the nearby Hajjar oil field.

In Raqqah Province, which borders Turkey, a woman — sentenced to death for adultery by the Islamic State — was stoned to death, the Observatory said. The report could not immediately be corroborated. On Friday, fighting also broke out between Islamic State militants and government forces at the army airport in Deir al-Zor, one of the last major strategic locations in Deir al-Zor Province not under the control of the Islamic State.

The Syrian army responded to the militants’

offensive by bombing areas around the airport, which supplies its forces in the east of the country, the Observatory said. There were no details of casualties.

The fighting was just a few hundred metres (yards) from the airport, the Observatory’s director Rami Abdulrahman said, noting that it would be tough for the Islamic State to overcome government forces there.

The Islamic State expelled rival rebels from Deir al-Zor city on Monday, tightening its hold on the eastern province bordering Iraq.

Capturing most of Deir al-Zor Province has helped the Islamic State link up territorial gains across Syria and Iraq, where it seized the northern city of Mosul in June. Last month it also declared an Islamic caliphate in territory it controls in both countries.

The group, previously known as the Islamic State in Iraq and the Levant, follows al-Qaeda’s hardline ideology but draws strength from foreign fighters, many with experience in Iraq.

Reuters

Bulgaria identifies killer of five Israelis

SOFIA, 19 July — The Bulgarian authorities have identified the bomber who killed five Israeli tourists at Bulgaria’s Black Sea city of Burgas two years ago, officials said on Friday. “The offender, who was using a fake driver’s license in the name of Jacque Felipe Martin, was indeed Mohamad Hassan El Hussein,” the Bulgarian State Agency for National Security and the country’s Prosecutor’s Office said in a joint Press release.

The man was born in

Lebanon on 27 May, 1989, had Lebanese and French citizenships, the Press release said.

Husseini had two suspected accomplices in the attack, also of Lebanese origin, who remained at large. Bulgarian prosecutors have named the two suspects as Meliad Farah, 32, an Australian citizen, and Hassan El Hajj Hassan, 25, a Canadian citizen.

“Identity was categorically established after performing the DNA expertise and numerous other investi-

gative procedures,” it said.

It was also found out that Hussein’s friends and relatives have published on social networks eulogies of his death as a “martyr”, the Press release said.

“The investigation continues,” the Press release added. A bomber blew himself up near an Israeli-packed tourist bus at the Burgas airport car park on 18 July, 2012, killing five tourists, their Bulgarian driver and himself, and wounding more than 30 others. —Xinhua



A truck carries a bus, that was damaged in a bomb blast on Wednesday, outside Burgas Airport, about 400km (248miles) east of Sofia on 19 July, 2012.

REUTERS

Cambodian opposition chief returns home amid arrests of party members



Sam Rainsy (C), president of the opposition Cambodia National Rescue Party (CNRP), greets supporters in front of Phnom Penh International Airport in Phnom Penh, Cambodia, on 19 July, 2014.—XINHUA

PHNOM PENH, 19 July — Sam Rainsy, president of the opposition Cambodia National Rescue Party (CNRP), returned home on Saturday after spending

more than a month overseas.

His return came after the Cambodian authorities have arrested at least eight CNRP politicians, including seven lawmakers-elect and one party member, for their leading role in a violent protest on Tuesday that left dozens of people injured, mostly security personnel.

Thousands of supporters greeted Sam Rainsy at Phnom Penh International Airport upon his arrival and followed his convoy to Wat Phnom historical site near the Freedom Park, where the violent protest occurred.

"I hope that there will be a political solution soon and I call for the release of all my colleagues without any conditions," Sam Rainsy addressed to the supporters on the street in front of the airport.

On Friday, Sam Rainsy said in a statement that he hoped his return would help defuse the worrying growing political tension, secure the release of all detainees allegedly linked to recent political violence.

He also hoped to

re-start negotiations with the ruling Cambodian People's Party (CPP) over the current political dispute in the spirit of national reconciliation.

The protest on Tuesday aimed to demand the government to reopen the Freedom Park, a designated protest space that it has closed since January after violent clashes.

A Cambodian court has charged the eight detainees with leading insurrection and incitement that could carry a prison sentence of up to 30 years if convicted.

Political dispute between the ruling CPP of Prime Minister Hun Sen and the CNRP has persisted since July last year when the results of a general election showed that the CPP won 68 parliamentary seats against 55 seats for the CNRP.

The opposition has refused to accept the election outcome it says was marred by fraud, and it has boycotted parliament and held many demonstrations to demand an electoral reform and an early election.

Xinhua

At least 38 killed, five injured in China highway collision

CHANGSHA, 19 July — At least 38 people are confirmed dead and another five injured after a vehicle crash triggered fire and explosion on a central China highway early Saturday morning, police said.

The accident happened at around 3 am on a section of the Hukun (Shanghai to Kunming) Expressway in Hunan Province, when a freight van loaded with flammable liquid, probably alcohol, rear ended a passenger coach capable of carrying 53 people.

A total of five vehicles were destroyed in the accident. The driver of the van

and a passenger in it died at the scene, according to the provincial traffic police.

The injured have been rushed to a local hospital for emergency treatment. Exact casualties are still under investigation.

A joint task team led by senior officials with the State Administration of Work Safety, the Ministry of Public Security and the Ministry of Transport is rushing to the site for rescue and investigation. The fire has been put out as of 8 am. The provincial government has ordered all-out rescue efforts, which is still under way.—Xinhua



Rescuers work at the site of a traffic accident on a section of the Hukun (Shanghai to Kunming) Expressway in central China's Hunan Province, on 19 July, 2014.—XINHUA

Philippine typhoon death toll stands at 77

MANILA, 19 July — The death toll of typhoon Rammasun (local name Glenda) in the Philippines soared to 77 by Saturday, the National Risk Reduction and Management Council (NDRRMC) said.

The state disaster relief agency accounted 23 more deaths since Friday afternoon, bringing the official death toll to 77.

Among the newly-retrieved bodies, 18 were from the worst-hit provinces of Cavite, Laguna, Batangas, Rizal and Quezon in southern Luzon region.

Meanwhile, the number of the injured climbed to 220, and the number of missing stood at five.

About 1.6 million people have been affected, of whom 518,764 are housed inside 1,264 evacuation centres. Typhoon Rammasun, which made landfall in eastern province of Albay on Tuesday night with gustiness of up to 170 kph, was the strongest typhoon to hit the country so far this year.—Xinhua



Photo taken on 18 July, 2014 shows a fire on Lotus Business Park building in Mumbai, India. One firefighter was killed and more than 20 others were trapped while they were fighting the fire on a building terrace in Andheri district of Mumbai, India, local media TIMESNOW reported.—XINHUA

Malaysia Airlines to waive passenger's change fees on their changes of itinerary

KUALA LUMPUR, 19 July — Malaysia Airlines said here on Saturday in a statement that it would waive change fees for passengers who wish to make changes to their itinerary to any MH destinations. It said passengers who wished to postpone or cancel their travel plans can obtain a refund, including for non-refundable tickets.

"Our Enrich passengers will also receive fee waivers for any changes to their travel itinerary, as well as refunds of miles should they choose to cancel their redemption tickets," it said.

The waivers were only applicable from 18 July, 2014 until 24 July, 2014, for travel between 18 July, 2014 until 31 Dec, 2014, it added. Meanwhile, the company gave an update of the latest number of passengers and their nationalities on those onboard MH17 in its latest statement.

According to the statement, there were 192 people (including one dual Netherlands / US citizen) from Netherlands, 44 (including 15 crew and two infants) from Malaysia, 27 from Australia, 12 (including one infant) from Indonesia, 10 (including one dual British / South Africa citizen) from Britain, four from Germany, four from Belgium, three from Philippines, one from Canada, one from New Zealand on the MH17.—Xinhua

Abe says he will see to nuclear plant restart in southwestern Japan

TOKYO, 19 July — Prime Minister Shinzo Abe has told business leaders in southwestern Japan that his government will see to it that a nuclear plant in the region is restarted "by some means or other," sources familiar with the matter said on Saturday.

He made the remark as an independent regulatory body continues the ongoing process of vetting the plant, and even though Abe's government has said it will leave the final decision on whether to restart Kyushu Electric Power Co's Sendai plant up to its operator following the Nuclear Regulatory Authority's safety review. "I will see to it by some means or other. I will

properly deal with it," Abe was quoted by one of the sources as saying in a dinner meeting in Fukuoka on Friday at which local business executives, including Kyushu Electric's chairman, voiced their hope for the reactor restart.

The Sendai plant in Kagoshima Prefecture recently cleared an initial safety hurdle, in what is seen as a major step toward becoming the first nuclear facility to restart under new safety standards introduced following the 2011 Fukushima nuclear crisis.

Kyushu Electric and eight other utilities have applied for safety screenings for a total of 19 reactors so far.—Kyodo News

WORLD

Obama says downing of plane a 'wake-up call' for Europe over Ukraine conflict



Pro-Russian separatists watch as Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE) monitors arrive at the crash site of Malaysia Airlines flight MH17, near the settlement of Grabovo in the Donetsk region, on 18 July, 2014.

REUTERS

HRABOVE, (Ukraine) / WASHINGTON, 19 July — US President Barack Obama said the downing of a Malaysian jetliner in a Ukrainian region controlled by Russian-backed separatists should be a “wake-up call for Europe and the world” in a crisis that appears to be at a turning point and warned Russia of possible tightening of sanctions.

While stopping short of blaming Russia for Thursday’s crash of Malaysia Airlines Flight MH17, in which 298 people died, Obama accused Moscow of failing to stop the violence that made it possible to shoot down the

plane. The United States has said the jetliner was hit by a surface-to-air missile fired from rebel territory. A senior US official said there was increasing confidence that the missile was fired by separatists and that there was no reason to doubt the validity of a widely circulated audiotape in which voices identified as separatists discussed the downing of the plane.

“This certainly will be a wake-up call for Europe and the world that there are consequences to an escalating conflict in eastern Ukraine; that it is not going to be localized, it is not go-

ing to be contained,” Obama told reporters on Friday.

Obama spoke by phone later with German Chancellor Angela Merkel, British Prime Minister David Cameron and Australian Prime Minister Tony Abbott. The White House said they discussed Ukraine and the downed jet and the need for an unimpeded international investigation into what happened. Malaysian Transport Minister Liow Tiong Lai said on Saturday he would fly to the Ukraine capital of Kiev to ensure an investigating team gets safe access to the site. Defence Minister and former Transport

Minister Hishammuddin Hussein said a main priority was to ensure debris was not tampered with. “We want to get to the bottom of this,” he added, saying that Malaysia had been in touch with officials in Russia, Ukraine, the United States, Britain and China. “We do not have a position until the facts have been verified, whether the plane was really brought down, how it was brought down, who brought it down.”

International observers said gunmen stopped them examining the site properly when they got there on Friday. More than half of the victims were Dutch in what has become a pivotal incident in deteriorating relations between Russia and the West. Obama ruled out military intervention, but said he was prepared to tighten sanctions.

Russia, which Obama said was letting the rebels bring in weapons, has expressed anger at implications it was to blame, saying people should not prejudge the outcome of an inquiry.

There were no survivors from Flight MH17 from Amsterdam to Kuala Lumpur, a Boeing 777. The United Nations said 80 of the 298 aboard were children. The deadliest attack on a commercial airliner, it scattered bodies over miles of rebel-held territory near the border with Russia.

Reuters

AIDS community mourns as top experts feared killed in downed plane

MELBOURNE / AMSTERDAM, 19 July — The world of AIDS research was in shock on Friday after dozens of leading HIV experts were feared killed when a Malaysian plane was shot down over Ukraine, fueling concerns that research on curing the disease could suffer. Among them was Joep Lange, who researched the condition for more than 30 years and was considered a giant in the field, admired for his tireless advocacy for access to affordable AIDS drugs for HIV positive patients living in poor countries. “Global health and the AIDS response have lost one of their great leaders,” Peter Piot, director of the London School of Hygiene & Tropical Medicine and a former executive director of UNAIDS, told *Reuters* in London. “Joep Lange was one of the most creative AIDS researchers, a humanist, and tireless organizer, dedicated to his patients and to defeating AIDS in the poorest countries.”

The United Nations AIDS programme, UNAIDS, said it feared “some of the finest academics, health-care workers and activists in the AIDS response may have perished” on the plane. “Professor Lange was a leading light in the field since the early days of HIV and worked unceasingly to widen access to antiret-

roviral medicines around the world,” it said.

As many as 100 people heading to the AIDS 2014 conference in Melbourne were on the doomed flight, Fairfax Media reported, including Lange, a former president of the International AIDS Society (IAS) which organizes the event.

“The UNAIDS family is in deep shock...” The deaths of so many committed people working against HIV will be a great loss for the AIDS response,” said Michel Sidibé, executive director of UNAIDS.

The conference, due to start on Sunday, features former US President Bill Clinton among its keynote speakers and is expecting around 12,000 participants.

The IAS said it was still working with authorities to confirm the number of delegates on the flight and would go ahead with the conference as planned.

Peers paid tribute to Lange, a Dutch professor of medicine at the Academic Medical Centre at the University of Amsterdam.

The Malaysian Airlines Boeing 777 was en route from Amsterdam to Kuala Lumpur when it was shot down on Thursday by a surface-to-air missile in an area of eastern Ukraine where Moscow-backed rebels have been fighting government forces.—*Reuters*

Iran, powers extend talks after missing nuclear deal deadline

VIENNA, 19 July — Iran and six powers agreed to continue talking for four more months after failing to meet a 20 July deadline to reach a deal on curbing the Iranian nuclear programme in exchange for ending sanctions, enabling Teheran to access \$2.8 billion of frozen cash.

But US officials warned that most sanctions against the Islamic Republic would remain in place.

The announcement came in the early hours of Saturday after nearly three weeks of marathon talks in a 19th century Viennese palace, where senior officials from Iran, the United States, Britain, France, Germany, Russia and China were holed up in negotiating rooms struggling to reach an agreement.

Iran will be allowed to access in tranches an additional \$2.8 billion of its fro-

zen assets during the period of extended talks, senior US officials told reporters in Vienna.

“Iran will not get any more money during these four months than it did during the last six months, and the vast majority of its frozen oil revenues will remain inaccessible,” US Secretary of State John Kerry in a statement released in Vienna on Saturday. “We will continue to vigorously enforce the sanctions that remain in place.”

It remains uncertain whether four more months of high-stakes talks will yield a final deal, since major underlying differences remain after six rounds of meetings this year.

Western nations fear Iran’s nuclear programme may be aimed at developing a nuclear weapons capability. Teheran denies this.

The six powers want

Iran to significantly scale back its nuclear enrichment programme to make sure it cannot yield nuclear bombs. Iran wants sanctions that have severely damaged its oil-dependent economy to be lifted as soon as possible.

After years of rising tension between Iran and the West and fears of a new Middle East war, last year’s election of a pragmatist, Hassan Rouhani, as Iran’s president led to a thaw in ties that resulted in November’s diplomatic breakthrough.

A senior US official told reporters Washington would make clear to countries around the world that “Iran is not open for business” during the four months of extended talks.

In exchange for the \$2.8 billion, Kerry said, Iran has agreed to continue neutralizing its most sensitive uranium stocks — uranium that has been enriched to a level

of 20 percent purity — by converting it to fuel for a research reactor in Teheran that is used to make medical isotopes. Kerry said the future of Iran’s enrichment programme was one of the most divisive topics.

“There are very real gaps on issues such as enrichment capacity at the Natanz enrichment facility,” he said. “This issue is an absolutely critical component of any potential comprehensive agreement. We have much more work to do in this area, and in others as well.”

Iranian Foreign Minister Mohammad Javad Zarif told reporters earlier this week that Teheran would be willing to delay development of an industrial-scale uranium enrichment programme for up to seven years and to keep the 19,000 centrifuges it has installed so far for this purpose.

But Kerry said after



US Secretary of State John Kerry addresses the media during a news conference in Vienna on 15 July, 2014.—REUTERS

several face-to-face meetings with Zarif it was “crystal clear” that for Iran to keep all of its existing centrifuges was out of the question.

EU foreign policy chief Catherine Ashton and Zarif spoke of “significant gaps” in a joint statement they issued in the early hours of

Saturday.

Another difficult issue in the talks, diplomats said, is how to address Iran’s suspected past atomic bomb research and the duration of any long-term restrictions on its nuclear programme. The negotiations began in February in Vienna.—*Reuters*

PERSPECTIVES

Sunday, 20 July, 2014

Shortage of coins makes everyday transactions difficult

By Aung Khin

Coins are used as money in everyday transactions, circulating alongside banknotes in most countries across the world, but coins are so extremely rare to find in Myanmar that their rarity makes them a precious item, with many street vendors in Yangon trying to sell them as well as old kyat notes to

foreigners.

There is no satisfactory explanation as to why the Central Bank of Myanmar is not producing enough small notes, with possible reasons being the high cost in producing small currency notes or coins. Their intrinsic value should be kept lower than their production value. This small change problem has severe economic and social cost, while the challenge is perennial.

When cashing a cheque the full sum can often not be paid out as bank clerks are K5 or K10 short, lacking smaller change.

Cashiers at both small shops and provision stores also cannot give back enough change and make up for it by giving sweets to customers. Such practice are annoying for both, shopkeepers and buyers. Shortage of coins has been a headache for supermarkets, vegetable vendors

and even bus conductors and trishaw drivers.

The onset of coin was around 600-700 BC in ancient Greece, India and China. The use of coins then spread rapidly in the 6th and 5th centuries BC. King Mindon of ancient Myanmar established the Royal Mint in 1852. The tradition of using coins in business should not be abandoned as coins or small notes are still useful. Experts suggested two methods to tackle this problem. One is to mint plastic tokens with security marks perhaps with a small metal foil type cover and also issue small currency notes with plastic lamination.

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.

Enhancing higher education institution efficiency

By Myo Myint

In recent times, as countries turn to knowledge-based economy to promote prosperity and well-being, the role of higher education institutions has become even more crucial. Today's universities are expected to produce cutting-edge knowledge through research and innovation. They need to transfer and exchange advanced knowledge that promotes innovation in industries, businesses, and services. They need to develop international competencies in their graduates so that they can collaborate with associates both from within the country as well as from overseas. They need to nurture knowledge workers with skills needed for the 21st century. In addition, universities need to internationalize themselves and be globally connected, so that the knowledge and skills they impart remain relevant.

Many of the tasks mentioned above fall within the domain of academic departments. An academic department in a Myanmar university is in a way, a smaller version of a university. Hence in addition to academic responsibilities heads of departments have to fulfil, they also have administrative, staff, financial and development responsibilities. They manage academic staff, and support staff such as clerical and lab staff. They supervise facilities like ICT, language and science labs, specialized centres

and libraries. They have to take care of lab equipment and teaching aids. They also have some financial responsibilities such as, management of research and library funds. As good and fair management of department contributes a lot to its academic performance, if heads of departments feel that they do not have an adequate mastery of management skills, then it is up to them to develop them either with the assistance of the university, or at their own initiative. In this connection, rectors need to encourage heads of departments to improve themselves and also provide supervision to ensure that this is being undertaken in all departments.

At the top of the list of academic responsibilities of heads of departments is the supervision of students and ensuring their intellectual, skill and social developments. In this respect, they are responsible for the quality assurance of the programmes their departments provide and how students are assessed. They have the duty to periodically review the curriculum, syllabuses, teaching methodology and quality of teachers and take appropriate measures for their uplift. They also have the task to introduce new disciplines within their field of competence to cater to the demand for new skills and drop those that are no longer relevant to the needs of the community, or the times.

A primary requirement of academics to successfully serve as heads of departments is the need to have expert knowledge of their field of specialization as

well as research and teaching. They need to have an insatiable thirst to discover new knowledge and to share this knowledge with their colleagues, students and the community. As heads of department and leading intellectuals of their universities, and probably of the country, professors cannot just be satisfied with their current academic achievement and need to constantly update themselves with the latest developments in their fields of specialization so that they remain experts in their respective fields throughout their career. To do this, they firstly need a sound knowledge of English to utilize references and new developments that are published in English and to interact with their colleagues from abroad. Secondly, they need ICT skills to gain access to the extensive knowledge available on the Internet and to harness it for their teaching. Thirdly, department heads need to be involved in research to keep them abreast with the latest developments in their field of specialization and research methodology.

The strength of the department is primarily dependent on the number and expertise of the academic staff and it is one of the key tasks of the head of department to create opportunities for his/her staff to become better teachers and to update their knowledge and teaching skills. New knowledge needs to be acquired swiftly due to the fast paced developments taking place all over the world and there is no excuse for not to do so as the

technology to obtain information rapidly is now available. Hence, heads of departments need to constantly encourage academic staff to improvise themselves and also devise programmes for the professional development of his/her staff so that they will not lag behind their colleagues in other institutions and countries. Professional development for academic staff can be done in many forms, varying from mentoring programmes by senior faculty for junior faculty, workshops focusing on specific areas, courses on ICT, English language, teaching methodology, research methodologies, and using ICT based teaching aids, to sharing of experience by those faculty members who have been abroad for academic purposes, etc.

The focus of all academic departments is the students who have enrolled in one of their programmes either because they are really interested in or because of some other reasons, such as the university being close to home. Whatever the reason may be, heads of departments have the obligation to ensure that when their students graduate, as persons with university education, they are well prepared for the world of work and civic life. In this age of massive competition and challenges, the four years they spend at universities must prepare them to lead a useful life both for themselves as well as for the society they live in.

The complex nature of today's world of work with its extensive use of ICT, the requirement for creativ-

ity, critical thinking, problem solving skills, and the ability to interact in a multi-cultural context call for skills that were not in great demand a couple of decades ago. Bernie Trilling and Charles Fadel (2009) in their book, 21st Century Skills: Learning for Life in Our Times, describe in detail the skills, competencies and flexibilities that are required for successfully facing the challenges of the 21st century. I recommend that all those involved in the higher education sector, especially heads of departments, read the book in order to get a hint of what demands students will have to meet when they graduate if they are to be able to successfully integrate into a complex workplace. Trilling and Fadel identified three sets of skills most needed in the 21st century: learning and innovation skills, information, media, and technological skills and life and career skills. Critical thinking and problem solving, communication and collaboration, creativity and innovation are the main components of the first set of skills. The second set of skills consists of three kinds of literacy – information, media and ICT. The third set of skills consists of flexibility and adaptability skills, initiative and self-direction skills, social and cross-cultural skills, productivity and accountability skills, and leadership and responsibility skills. It will be noted, even from my very sketchy description of the three set of skills which Trilling and Fadel identified, that if universities aim to prepare stu-

dents for the world of work of the 21st century to a certain extent, it will not be enough just to provide them with knowledge of specific subjects and research methodology. It is obvious that a combination of social, ethical, psychological, linguistic, analytical, and technological skills that need to be imparted will have to be incorporated into the content of the programme as well as the methodology used. The implication is that heads of departments will need to review, and if necessary, redesign the content, assessment system and the method used regularly. This process should not just be carried out in relation to the development of 21st century skills but done regularly to ensure that the curriculum remains always up-to-date. Consequently, new content and skills will have to be first imparted to academic staff and orientation courses conducted so that they can effectively teach the skills embedded in the programmes.

Research and teaching are regarded as fundamental responsibilities of reputable universities and university teachers. Basic research seeks to provide new knowledge or understanding, while applied research has the goal of solving practical problems that improve human conditions. Apart from being a responsibility, research also many practical benefits for teachers and students. It provides researchers with new knowledge of a field and develops expertise in research methodology.

(To be continued)

GALLERY

Families, officials and foreign diplomats commemorate assassinated independence leaders on Martyrs' Day on 19 July



The family of killed Minister of Home Affairs Thakin Mya paying tribute to the independence leader at the Martyrs' Mausoleum in Yangon.—MNA



The son of General Aung San, U Aung San Oo, and wife Daw Leh Leh Nwe Thein lay a wreath at the Martyrs' Mausoleum on 19 July.—MNA



Family members of assassinated Information Minister Deedok U Ba Cho commemorating the national hero.—MNA



The family of killed Minister of Industry Mahn Ba Khaing praying at the Martyrs' Mausoleum.—MNA



Among those paying tribute to the national heroes were several foreign diplomats and dignitaries.—MNA

The general public was braving the strong rain on Saturday to pay their respects to the nine independence leaders.—MNA



Presidents of Russia, Iran discuss need for Israeli-Palestinian talks



Russia's President Vladimir Putin (R) meets with his Iranian counterpart Hassan Rouhani during the Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO) summit in Bishkek, on 13 Sept, 2013 file photo.—REUTERS

UN chief to travel to Middle East in bid to end fighting

UNITED NATIONS, 19 July — UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon will travel to the Middle East on Saturday in a bid to end the fighting between Israel and Palestinians, alarmed at a serious escalation that includes a ground offensive by Israel, said a senior UN official. Israel intensified its offensive in Gaza with artillery, tanks and gunboats on Friday and warned it could “significantly widen” an operation Palestinian officials said was killing ever greater numbers of civilians.

“Israel has legitimate security concerns, and we condemn the indiscriminate rocket fire from Gaza into Israel that ended yesterday’s temporary ceasefire. But we are alarmed by Israel’s heavy response,” UN political affairs chief Jeffrey Feltman told the UN Security Council on Friday. The Israeli land advance into the enclave of 1.8 million Palestinians followed 10 days of barrages against Gaza from air and sea, hundreds of rockets fired by Islamist Hamas militants into Israel and failed attempts by Egypt — a mediator in previous Israeli-Palestinian flare-ups — to secure a truce.

Ban will travel to the region “to express solidarity with Israelis and Palestinians and to help them, in

coordination with regional and international actors, end the violence and find a way forward,” Feltman said.

US Secretary of State John Kerry and French Foreign Minister Laurent Fabius are also due to be in the Middle East at the weekend to try and bring an end to the conflict.

Feltman said Palestinian President Mahmoud Abbas had written to Ban to ask that Palestinians “be placed under an international protection system administered by the United Nations.” He said Ban was studying the request. UN diplomats, however, have said it was unclear exactly what Abbas wanted.

Ban has urged Israel to do more to stop civilian casualties. Feltman said some 250 Palestinians, mostly civilians and including more than 50 children, and two Israelis, one of them a civilian, have been killed since hostilities flared on 8 July.

“Hamas uses Palestinian casualties to fuel its own propaganda machine,” Israel’s UN Ambassador Ron Prosor told the council. “Hamas’s strategy is clear. It perpetuates the killing of its own people in the hope that the international community will place pressure on Israel to grant its demands.” —Reuters

Israel steps up Gaza offensive, Hamas fires more rockets



Israeli soldiers carry their gear as they walk towards a staging area outside the Gaza Strip on 18 July, 2014.—REUTERS

GAZA / JERUSALEM, 19 July — Israeli forces on Saturday pressed ahead with a ground offensive in the Gaza Strip, where Palestinian militants kept firing rockets deep into Israel’s heartland, pushing the death toll past 300 in almost two weeks of conflict.

Palestinian officials said 65 Palestinians, at least 15 of them under the age of 18, have been killed since Israel sent ground forces on Thursday into the densely populated enclave of 1.8 million Palestinians.

During that time, more than 135 rockets have been fired from Gaza, though many were shot down by Israel’s Iron Dome missile-defence shield,

Moscow, 19 July — The presidents of Iran and Russia discussed by telephone on Friday the need for an end to the conflict in Gaza and renewed Israeli-Palestinian talks, the Kremlin said. The conversation between Russia’s Vladimir Putin and Iran’s Hassan Rouhani was initiated by Teheran and was prompted by concerns over the “sharp escalation of the crisis” since Israel began its land offensive in Gaza, it said.

“Both sides stressed the need for a speedy end to the armed conflict and the resumption of direct Israeli-Palestinian negotiations,” the Kremlin said. The two leaders also spoke about negotiations over Iran’s nuclear programme, it said.—Reuters

including some over the country’s commercial capital Tel Aviv, causing no casualties.

The Israeli military said it killed 17 Palestinian gunmen while 21 others surrendered and were taken for questioning after the infantry and tank assault began in the territory dominated by the Islamist Hamas.

One Israeli soldier was killed in an apparent friendly fire incident, the military said, and several other troops were wounded in the ground operations. It said some 240 targets, including 21 concealed rocket launchers and 10 tunnels, have been attacked.

US President Barack

Train accident kills three workers in Italy

ROME, 19 July — A train hit and killed three railway workers in Sicily island in southern Italy, local reports said on Friday.

The three men were working on Thursday afternoon to repair rail tracks when a regional train en route near the town of Caltanissetta ran into them, according to ANSA news agency. Two passengers who were travelling in the train were unharmed. According to first investigations, the three victims when rounding a bend did not see the train approaching at slow speed.

There were reportedly no signals indicating the presence of the three workers. Police have opened an

investigation to ascertain responsibilities.

Condoling with the families of the victims, Transport Minister Maurizio Lupi said Italy was mourning again the “absurd deaths” of innocent workers.

Deaths in the workplace have tumbled over the past three years in Italy, according to national work accident insurance agency INAIL. A total of 660 workers died on the job last year, registering a 21-percent drop in fatalities over 2012. The downward trend was sparked by reforms introduced in 2008 which made penalties stricter for breaking work safety laws.

Xinhua

political affairs chief Jeffrey Feltman condemned rocket fire into Israel but voiced alarm at “Israel’s heavy response”.

The Israeli land advance followed 10 days of barrages against Gaza from air and sea, about 1,500 rockets fired by Hamas into Israel, and failed attempts to secure a truce by Egypt, a broker of ceasefires in previous Israeli-Palestinian flare-ups.

“We chose to start this operation after we exhausted other options and reached the conclusion that without it we could pay a much higher price,” Netanyahu said on Friday. “The main goal is to restore quiet.

“My instructions ... to the Israeli army, with the approval of the security cabinet, is to prepare for the possibility of a widening, a significant widening of the ground operation.”

He did not say what form a broadened offensive might take. Israel says its forces have focused so far on seeking out tunnels Palestinian militants might use for cross-border raids and moving weaponry.

One such infiltration was thwarted on Thursday: the army said it had repelled 13 Hamas gunmen after they emerged from a tunnel close to an Israeli farming community.

Reuters

SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY

3D printing in space far from reality



WASHINGTON, 19 July — Space-based 3D printing of hardware such as a fully functional small spacecraft is still far from being a reality at least in the short term, according to a new US report out on Friday that believed “a substantial degree

of exaggeration, even hype” exists about this technology that has attracted significant attention recently.

Although 3D printing, also known as additive manufacturing, is advancing rapidly and is increasingly used on the ground

for an expanding number of industrial purposes, the basic technology is “still relatively young” and its application in space “is not feasible today, except for very limited and experimental purposes,” said the report from US National

Research Council, which was written at the request of the US space agency NASA and the US Air Force.

The specific benefits and potential scope of the technology’s use in space remain undetermined, the report acknowledged, adding that the realities of what can be done today on the ground demonstrate the “substantial gaps” between the vision for 3D printing in space and its limitations.

“Many of the claims made in the popular press about this technology have been exaggerated,” Robert Latiff, chair of the committee that wrote the report and a former Air Force Major General, said in a statement.

“For in-space use, the technology may provide new capabilities, but it will serve as one more tool in the toolbox, not a magic

solution to tough space operations and manufacturing problems.”

According to the report, multiple limitations prevent in-orbit 3D printing, a process of joining materials, usually layer on layer, to make objects from 3D model data, from coming true in the near future.

The vacuum of space, zero gravity, and intense thermal fluctuations all pose extreme and harsh environmental obstacles as these factors are important not only in terms of completing the manufacturing process but also in how they can alter the integrity of the final product, the report said.

Furthermore, a number of impacts and obstacles need to be considered in the cost-benefit equation for space-based manufacture, said the report.

The largest disadvantages stem from the high costs of equipment operation, maintenance, and infrastructure platforms such as a reliable power source that does not detract from spacecraft operations, it said. Automation presents another unknown cost. The report said that 3D printing currently requires extensive human presence and participation on the ground, sometimes just to move parts from one machine to the next, but human labour in space is very expensive.

“Because the most obvious applications are for human spaceflight and exploration and for military missions, the government cannot expect industry to invest in technology developments that do not have a clear path to profit,” it said.

Xinhua

Global climate report shows unpredictable future: New Zealand scientist

WELLINGTON, 19 July — Meteorological studies of the past are no longer a reliable guide to the future as the pace of global climate change accelerates, one of the co-authors of the American Meteorological Society’s annual State of the Climate report said on Friday.

The report showed the world continued to warm last year, with some Southern Hemisphere countries having one of their warmest years on record in 2013, said Associate Professor James Renwick of New Zealand’s Victoria University.

New Zealand had its warmest winter on record and its third warmest year

overall, while Argentina had its second warmest and Australia its warmest since record keeping began in 1910, said Renwick, who had overall responsibility for the report’s climate summaries of Europe, Asia and Oceania.

Of particular note were the devastating floods in Europe in the spring of 2013, which resulted in 24 deaths and caused billions of dollars of damage, Renwick said in a statement.

Asia also experienced extreme weather events, including super-typhoon Haiyan, one of the strongest cyclones ever recorded, which saw sustained winds of up 315 km per hour and

left more than 6,000 people dead. Another significant phenomenon was the extreme heat in Australia where some places recorded temperatures of at least 10 degrees centigrade above average for several days in January 2013.

“The sort of temperatures we are calling warmer than average now, will be considered colder than average in 50 or 60 years that’s how quickly the climate is changing,” said Renwick.

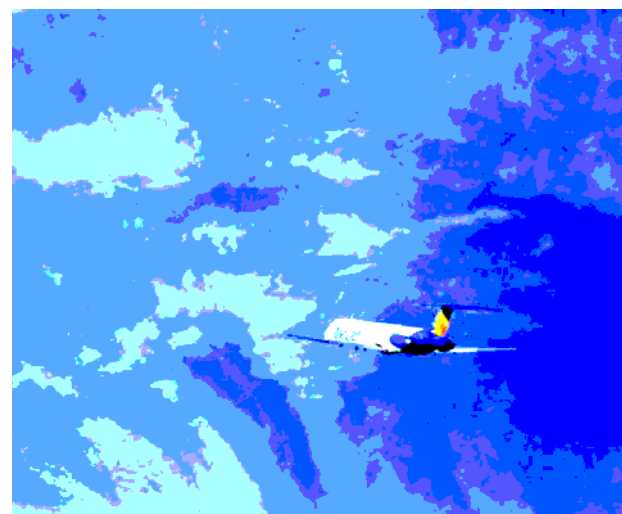
A four-day storm that flooded parts of the north of New Zealand this month after a run of very dry summers was the sort of pattern to be expected of climate change.—Xinhua

Allegiant computer outage resolved; 26 flights affected

ATLANTA, 19 July — Allegiant Travel Co, the parent of Allegiant Air, said on Friday that a computer outage that affected 26 flights and 4,000 passengers has been resolved, and its systems are back to normal.

The outage, which began earlier in the day, slowed the carrier’s customer check-in and affected its text-alert system.

Of the 26 flights affected, eight were canceled and 18 were rescheduled to operate on Saturday, the Las Vegas-based low-cost carrier that serves leisure destinations said in an updated statement. The airline had 250 flights scheduled to operate on Friday.



An Allegiant Air MD-83 passenger jet takes off from the Monterey airport in Monterey, California, on 26 Feb, 2012. — REUTERS

Shares of Allegiant closed up 2 percent at \$120.80 on Nasdaq.

Reuters

Google seen best placed for growth as it transitions to mobile

BANGALORE, 19 July — Google Inc (GOOGL.O) (GOOG.O) is the best placed of any company to benefit from the shift to mobile, increased local advertising and wearables, analysts said after the search giant posted its 18th straight quarter of 20 percent-plus revenue growth.

At least eight brokerages raised their price targets on the stock on Friday by as much as \$75, to a high of \$745.

Google shares were up 2 percent at \$593.37 in early trading on the Nasdaq.

The company, which is also set to benefit from the so-called “Internet of

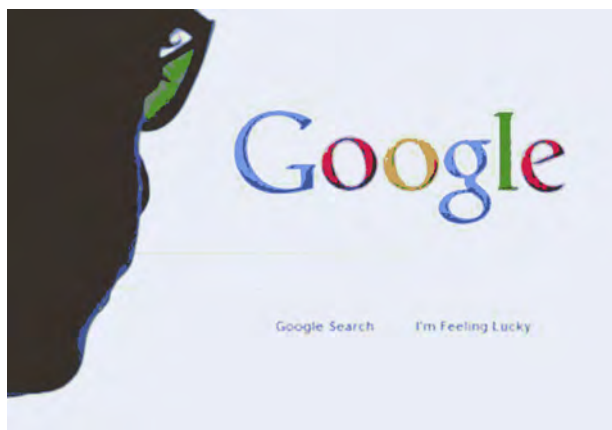
things”, said on Thursday that second-quarter revenue rose 22 percent to \$15.96 billion, beating the average analyst estimate of \$15.61 billion.

Growth was driven by the company’s core search business, YouTube and product-listing ads, which combined to drive three times as much mobile traffic for merchants compared with last year, Jefferies analysts wrote in a note.

Brokerage Jefferies maintained its “buy” rating and \$700 price target on the stock.

Of the 46 analysts covering Google, 36 have a “buy” or a higher rating

on the stock and 10 have a “hold”. There are no “sell” ratings, according to StarMine data.



A computer user poses in front of a Google search page in this photo illustration taken in Brussels on 30 May, 2014. — REUTERS

Google earns most of its revenue from advertising.

The number of “paid

clicks” by consumers on ads serviced by Google increased 25 percent year-on-year in the quarter.

However, the average price of the ads declined 6 percent as ad rates on mobile phones are typically cheaper than traditional online ads because of their smaller screens.

“Google is successfully transitioning its business from PC to mobile, and is arguably in a more favorable position in mobile than it was in PC, which should eventually be reflected in a higher multiple,” Deutsche Bank analyst Ross Sandler wrote in a client note.

Google also owns An-

droid, the world’s most-used mobile software, and YouTube, the most popular video-streaming service.

Other online companies such as Facebook Inc (FB.O) and Twitter Inc (TWTR.N) are also revamping their advertising businesses to take advantage of the shift to mobile devices.

But Google has established unusually deep competitive “moats” around its business through scale, aggressive product innovation and substantial investment, RBC Capital Markets analysts wrote in a research note.

Reuters

G-20 trade chiefs gather in Sydney to discuss trade facilitation

SYDNEY, 19 July — Trade ministers from the Group of 20 industrialized and emerging economies kicked off their meeting on Saturday in Sydney, aiming to promote global trade facilitation and boost cooperation against protectionism.

Attention is focused on whether developed and emerging economies can take a cooperative stance in

light of the so-called “Bali Package” agreed on last year under the Doha Round of global market-opening talks.

The Bali Package contains agreements on some of the issues negotiated in the talks, including trade facilitation through such measures as reducing customs procedures.

It is one of the major outcomes yielded under

the negotiations sponsored by the 160-member World Trade Organization.

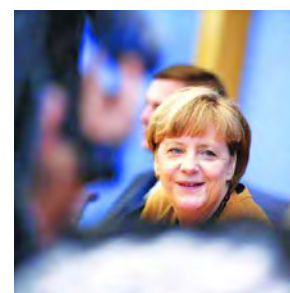
At the meeting in Sydney, the trade ministers will seek to show their commitment on implementation of the package aimed at streamlining trade, but countries such as India and South Africa have voiced reluctance saying that more discussions are needed, according to people familiar

with the matter.

G-20, which accounts for some 80 percent of all world trade, comprises Argentina, Australia, Brazil, Britain, Canada, China, France, Germany, India, Indonesia, Italy, Japan, Mexico, Russia, Saudi Arabia, South Africa, South Korea, Turkey, the United States and the European Union.

Kyodo News

US, German views on spying differ but still firm allies



German Chancellor Angela Merkel smiles during a news conference in Berlin, on 18 July, 2014. — REUTERS

BERLIN, 19 July — German Chancellor Angela Merkel said on Friday that Germany and the

United States had differing views on data protection after new allegations of US spying emerged this month but added that the partnership with America was nonetheless very important.

“We have different opinions on an area of cooperation between our services and also on the issue of security and protection of personal data, but that doesn’t change the fact that the US is our most important ally,” she said at a news conference in Berlin.

Reuters

Singapore hangs two drug traffickers, first executions in over three years

SINGAPORE, 19 July — Singapore hanged two men convicted of drug trafficking on Friday, the first executions carried out in the city-state for more than three years while the country reviewed its use of the death penalty.

Tang Hai Liang, 36, and Foong Chee Peng, 48, both from Singapore, were executed at Changi Prison according to the Central Narcotics Bureau (CNB), having been convicted of trafficking heroin.

Singapore put a halt to all executions in July 2011 while it reviewed its use of the mandatory death penalty and now allows judges to have more discretion in certain cases.

Last November, it lifted the death penalty on a convicted drug trafficker for the first time.

When the review took place, all people on death row were allowed to ask to be considered for re-sentencing, though the CNB

said Tang and Foong both said they did not want to be considered.

“Tang Hai Liang and Foong Chee Peng had been accorded full due process,” the CNB said.

The Singapore Working Group on the Death Penalty, a group of non-governmental organizations, said they believed the executions should not have taken place given another drug offender is making a constitutional challenge against the anti-drug laws.

“It was deeply unjust to have executed them before the constitutional challenge was decided,” they said in a statement.

“The executions are a regrettable step backwards for Singapore,” they added.

Singapore has some of the toughest anti-drugs laws in the world, and its customs forms warn arriving travellers of “death for drug traffickers” in no uncertain terms.— Reuters

At least nine people killed in traffic accident in Germany

BERLIN, 19 July — At least 9 people were killed and 40 more injured in a highway collision near Dresden in Germany early Saturday morning, local media reported.

The accident happened at about two o’ clock Saturday morning on a highway near Dresden, a city near

the border with the Czech Republic. A bus slammed into a van after it broke through the central barrier and drove into the opposite lane, reported local MDR radio. Seven passengers in the van and two in the bus were killed. Another 40 were injured, it said, citing witnesses.—Xinhua

South Africa launches limited edition Mandela coins in birthday tribute



South African President Jacob Zuma (2nd L) stands behind a statue of former South African President Nelson Mandela outside Parliament in Cape Town on 17 June, 2014. — REUTERS

PRETORIA, 19 July — South Africa launched a set of limited edition gold and silver coins on Friday

to honour former president Nelson Mandela on what would have been the late anti-apartheid hero’s 96th

birthday.

The South African Reserve Bank said the set of three coins was a tribute to

South Africa’s first democratic president’s “dedication to life-long learning”.

The centrepiece is a 24 carat gold coin etched with Mandela’s portrait with his arms folded, inscribed with his words: “Every where it is accepted that students... have the right to freedom of thought.”

The second coin, also gold, shows an elderly Mandela over-looking his alma mater the University of Fort Hare — a blacks-only university and a hotbed of anti-government activity during apartheid.

The third is a sterling silver coin that depicts a young Mandela learning to write his name on his first day of school.

Reuters

Spain summons British ambassador over ‘inappropriate’ Gibraltar action

MADRID, 19 July — Spain summoned the British ambassador on Friday to complain about Britain’s handling of an incident on Wednesday involving the Spanish Navy near the disputed territory of Gibraltar.

Britain had summoned Spain’s ambassador on Thursday after it said a Spanish Navy vessel had sought to redirect two commercial vessels heading to and from the port of Gibraltar on Wednesday because it said they were in Spanish waters. Britain said the vessels had been in international waters.

“Summoning ambassadors is a very serious step that should only be reserved for the gravest situations,” the Spanish Foreign Ministry said in a statement, calling such a move inappropriate between allied nations.

“This incident is unac-

ceptable interference by the United Kingdom in routine activities of the Spanish army in Spanish waters,” the Ministry said.

The incident is the latest in a long line of diplo-

matic spats between Britain and Spain over Gibraltar, which Madrid ceded to Britain around 300 years ago, but now wants to reclaim.

The Spanish ambassa-

dor has been publicly summoned five times by Britain’s Foreign Office over Gibraltar since the current Spanish government took office in December 2011.— Reuters



Vehicles wait to enter the British territory of Gibraltar at its border with Spain on 25 Sept 25, 2013. — REUTERS

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.

EU-US 6th round of trade talks end in Brussels



EU chief negotiator Ignacio Garcia Bercero (R) and US chief negotiator Dan Mullaney, address the media at the end of the sixth round of the Transatlantic Trade and Investment Partnership (TTIP), at the European Commission headquarters in Brussels, on 18 July, 2014.—XINHUA

BRUSSELS, 19 July — The sixth round of Transatlantic Trade and Investment Partnership (TTIP) negotiations between the European Union (EU) and the United States concluded in Brussels on Friday, paving the way for the later stage of the talks, an EU official said.

EU Chief Negotiator Ignacio Garcia Bercero said: "we have had intense discussions in most of the areas we intend to cover in this agreement."

"The work this week has again been highly tech-

nical. This work is essential to prepare the ground for the political decisions that would need to be taken at a later stage of the negotiations," he said in a statement at the end of the five-day talk.

During this round of talks negotiators of both sides continued discussions on the classic market access issues, such as areas of tariffs, services and public procurement, regulatory agenda and other negotiating areas, like sustainable development, labour and environment, energy and

SMEs. Chief US negotiator Dan Mullaney told the joint Press conference that "TTIP negotiation offers us a good opportunity to establish that strong environmental protection."

The US and EU leaders have initially set a timetable for completing an agreement for TTIP by late 2014. But negotiations moved very slowly amid rising political and public resistance to the deal on both sides.

The last round of talks was held in Washington in May.—Xinhua

Aviation safety in spotlight after some airlines avoided Ukraine

SYDNEY, 19 July — Airlines including Qantas Airways and Air Berlin altered their flight paths months ago to avoid Ukrainian air space after fighting flared up in the region, raising questions about why others did not do the same.

The issue of whether to avoid flying over conflict zones has come into sharp focus since the downing of Malaysian Airlines Flight MH17 on Thursday with 298 people in board.

International civil aviation regulators had imposed no restrictions on crossing an area where pro-Russian rebels are fighting Ukrainian forces, and the majority of carriers had continued to use a route popular with long-distance flights from Europe to southeast Asia.

But the fact that a handful of companies decided to circumnavigate the disputed territory underlined inconsistencies in airlines' approach to passenger safety. Aviation experts said piecemeal and potentially conflicting advice from aviation regulators further confused the situation, and called for clearer guidance on which areas to avoid.

In addition to Qantas and Air Berlin, Asiana Airlines Inc, Korean Air Lines Co Ltd, Cathay Pacific Airways Ltd and Taiwan's China Airlines decided to avoid Ukrainian airspace several months ago.

"Although the detour adds to flight time and cost, we have been making the detour for safety," said a spokeswoman for Asiana, which has been diverting its once-weekly cargo flight some 150 km (93 miles) below Ukrainian airspace since 3 March.

The European Aviation Safety Agency did issue a safety bulletin, accompanied by recommendations from both the International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO) and Brussels-based Eurocontrol, on 3 April, advising that Crimean airspace should be avoided. Russia annexed Crimea from Ukraine in March.

Reuters



Members of National Nurses United, Michigan Welfare Rights Organization, The People's Water Board and other local community groups, clergy and supporters take to the streets in Detroit, the United States, on 18 July, 2014, to protest residential water shut offs in the city by the Detroit Water and Sewerage Department (DWSD). DWSD said in March it would target Detroit homes with overdue bills of \$150, or more than two months late. Since spring it has shut off water to more than 15,000 homes.—XINHUA

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Weather report

SPECIAL FEATURE: According to the observations at (15:30) hrs MST 19 July, the Typhoon (Rammasan) over Gulf of Tonkin is crossing Southern coasts of China. It is forecast to move westwards and downgrade into a land depression.

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: Continuation of increase of rain in the coastal areas.



Actress and campaigner Angelina Jolie and Brad Pitt arrive at a summit to end sexual violence in conflict, at the Excel centre in London on 13 June, 2014.—REUTERS

Universal acquires Jolie-Pitt film project 'By the Sea'

LOS ANGELES, 19 July — Universal Pictures said on Friday it has acquired worldwide rights to Angelina Jolie's next film project, "By the Sea," written and to be directed by the actress who will also co-star and co-produce the drama with partner Brad Pitt.

It will be Jolie's third directing effort, after Bosnian war drama "In the Land of Blood and Honey," and "Unbroken," the story

of Olympic runner and war hero Louis Zamperini, another Universal film that opens in December.

"Angelina continues to showcase her extraordinary storytelling abilities in front of and behind the camera and we are thrilled to extend our relationship with her on 'By the Sea,'" Universal Pictures Chairwoman Donna Langley said in a statement.

The Hollywood power

couple known as "Brangelina" last co-starred in 2005's "Mr and Mrs Smith," which sparked their relationship. They are raising six children.

Universal called "By the Sea" a character-driven drama, but gave no further details.

"I am very happy to continue my relationship with Donna and the entire Universal team as I finish 'Unbroken' and begin work on 'By the Sea,'" Jolie said in a statement.

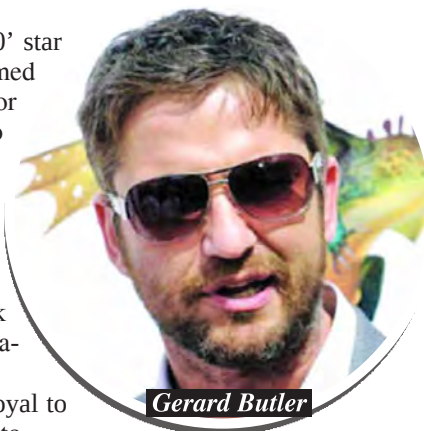
"They have created a very special place for storytellers, and I look forward to the continued passion and support they have provided to me as a filmmaker."—Reuters

Gerard Butler is brand ambassador for Hugo Boss

LONDON, 19 July — '300' star Gerard Butler has been named as the brand ambassador for German fashion house Hugo Boss and will appear in their 'Boss Bottled' TV and print campaign this winter.

The 44-year-old actor will endorse Hugo Boss Perfumes, which will also mark his modelling debut for the label, reported Contactmusic.

"Boss Bottled remains loyal to the belief that success comes to the man who grasps life with confidence. Gerard Butler is that man. His road to success is a constant, ever-evolving journey, but one that he approaches with confidence and drive," said Global marketing director of Boss Perfumes.—PTI



Gerard Butler

Bipasha Basu, Sonam Kapoor bring the curtains down at IIJW

MUMBAI, 19 July — With Bollywood beauties Bipasha Basu and Sonam Kapoor on the ramp, elaborate stage setting and exquisite jewellery on display, the fifth edition of the India International Jewellery Week came to an end.

Sonam, 29, the brand ambassador of the event walked the ramp wearing a sheer white Neeta Lulla saree which she teamed with a bridal headband called 'Arbor Amore' created in a gold leaf design, wrist wear from Gerbera collection and ring from the Nizam collection and floral earrings.

Ending the show was Bi-

pasha, who glided down the ramp in a luxurious green embroidered net lehenga/ maroon blouse and modelled a gorgeous polki Raani Haar shoulder dusters, bangles and a cocktail ring.

The dual grand finales were presented by P C Jewellers. Models sashayed on the ramp adorned with beautiful kundan sets, polki jewellery and diamond pieces.

The stage setting was elaborate with a giant Zodiac wheel that featured the twelve signs and a black patterned mirror edged ramp.—PTI



Bipasha Basu and Sonam Kapoor on the ramp, elaborate stage setting and exquisite jewellery on display, the fifth edition of the India International Jewellery Week came to an end here.—PTI



Lindsay Lohan
bags the best comeback award

LONDON, 19 July — Troubled actress Lindsay Lohan has won the Biggest Comeback award at the Ischia Global Film & Music Festival. The 28-year-old 'Mean Girls' star collected the prize at the festival in Italy earlier this week and she was on hand to accept the trophy, reported Contactmusic.

The award comes at a time when Lohan is preparing to make her West End theatre debut with 'Speed-the-Plow'. The actress reportedly wants to bring her focus back to her acting career. The 'Mean Girls' actress recently claimed she wanted her 'talents' to be recognised again, instead of being known for her controversial and well-documented personal issues.

"I want to be known for my talents and my work that I create, rather than a tabloid sensation. However long it does take, I'm willing to do it. I'm willing to work for it," she said.—PTI

GENERAL

Narita airport to open budget “capsule hotel” on Sunday

CHIBA, (Japan), 19 July — A “capsule hotel” targeting passengers of early-morning budget airline flights is scheduled to open on Sunday at a car park building adjacent to Narita International Airport’s Terminal 2.

The hotel, dubbed nine hours Narita Airport, offers overnight accommodation starting at 3,900 yen in a “capsule” sleep pod measuring around 1

metrewide, 1 metre high and 2 metres long. A guest may opt for shorter stays ranging from a minimum one hour for 1,500 yen or for a shower around the clock. Budget airlines operate domestic flights from 6 am at Narita, which is located outside of Tokyo. Train and bus access is limited from late night till early morning, when the airport is closed to air traffic. Many passengers



New capsule hotel to open at Narita Airport.

spend the night on benches inside passenger terminals. The first of its kind at Narita, the hotel offers 71 units for men and 58 for women. It says it hopes to serve connecting passengers in addition to those taking early morning flights. —Kyodo News

Assemblyman proposed “punctured condoms” to stop birthrate fall

NAGOYA, 19 July —A municipal assembly member in Aichi Prefecture proposed in June distributing “punctured condoms” to married couples in the city as a way of stemming its dwindling population, the secretariat of the assembly said on Friday.

Following the controversial proposal made at a meeting of the Shinshiro city assembly, the independent assemblyman, Tomonaga Osada, was given a verbal reprimand on Wednesday that his remarks “lacked dignity for an assembly member

and consideration” by the assembly chairman, who also decided to delete the remarks in question from the minutes of the 18 June meeting.

Osada, 49, is serving his third term as a member of the assembly in Shinshiro, a city with a population of some 49,000.

He told Kyodo News that he wanted the people of the city to “feel friendly toward the city hall,” which is deemed conservative.

He also wanted more people to raise children in Shinshiro, but said he would like to apologize for making an “inappropriate

proposal.

His “punctured condoms” proposal became widely known after another member of

the assembly from the Japanese Communist Party wrote about it on his blog on Monday.

Kyodo News

5.3-magnitude earthquake hits 26 km E of Jarm, Afghanistan

HONG KONG, 19 July — An earthquake measuring 5.3 on the Richter scale jolted 26 km east of Jarm, Afghanistan at 07:17: 56 GMT on Saturday, the US Geological Survey said.

The epicentre, with a depth of 85.79 km, was initially determined to be at 36.8716 degrees north latitude and 71.1293 degrees east longitude.

Xinhua

London street artist makes hit — and money — with dog sketches

LONDON, 19 July — A former homeless man’s sketches of his dog George, a Staffordshire Bull Terrier he credits with changing his life, are commanding rising prices in a London gallery and have earned him a show in Los Angeles.

John Dolan, 43, who used to sell his sketches for pocket change and now gets 3,000 to 4,000 pounds (\$6,800) for them, said he had descended into a life of poverty, drugs, crime and homelessness until a homeless woman got George, then a puppy, in exchange for the price of a can of beer and gave the dog to Dolan.

He started drawing the dog and the scenes around him while begging on the street, and soon passersby were buying his sketches, he said.

“The drawings that I do of him are quite simple but I’ve done one that’s been in most of the papers, it’s the very detailed one, it’s quite a big drawing,”



Street artist John Dolan and his dog George pose with his artwork “Shoreditch Skyline”, a collaboration with the London Police, at the Howard Griffin Gallery in London on 4 Feb, 2014. — REUTERS

Dolan said, while sitting in his favourite spot on an east London street.

He can now afford his own lodgings but still prefers to draw outdoors.

“I’ve captured him magnificently in that, but these little ones that I do, I basically try and capture his personality if I can in all

of them,” he said.

His success in part comes from a chance meeting with Richard Howard-Griffin, who runs street art tours in East London, owns a gallery there and mounted a first show of Dolan’s work.

That was a hit, so now there is a second “John and

George”.

“I mean, John’s rise has been really meteoric in the art world, it’s like watching an artist’s career in fast-forward — that’s what a lot of artists say so his first show was a sell-out, he’s got a second show now coming out which is really, really amazing,” Howard-Griffin said.

“He’s got a book and he’s doing a show in Los Angeles and all this kind of stuff so there’s a real relevance to his work and there’s a real soul in it because it has a true story behind it which is very inspiring, and that’s born out of the work when you look at it.”

After spending three years on the streets churning out sketch after sketch of George, Dolan is branching out with the show in Los Angeles, and also plans to make a book of drawings of rock stars with their dogs in conjunction with a dog shelter.

Reuters

MYANMAR TV

(20-7-2014, Sunday)

- 6:00 am**
* Paritta by Venerable Min Gun Sayadaw
- 7:20 am**
* MRTV’s Youth Programme
- 8:30 am**
* Amazing World
- 9:30 am**
* Documentary (ASEAN)
- 10:00 am**
* News
- 11:00 am**
* Gitadagale Phwintbarohn
- 12:00 pm**
* News / International News / Weather Report
- 2:30 pm**
* Alinka Kyaw Swar Shwe Pyi Aye Music Troupe
- 3:00 pm**
* News
- 3:15 pm**
* Mono Classical Songs
- 4:25 pm**
* University of Distance Education (TV Lectures) -Fourth Year (Law)
- 5:00 pm**
* News
- 5:15 pm**
* Sing & Enjoy
- 6:20 pm**
* Cartoon’s Series
- 7:00 pm**
* News
- 7:20 pm**
* Weekly Entertainment News
- 8:00 pm**
* News/ International News/ Weather Report
- 8:35 pm**
* Documentary (Women in Myanmar Society)
- 9:00 pm**
* News
- * Tamyethnar Takwetsar

MYANMAR INTERNATIONAL

(20-7-14 07:00 am~ 21-7-14 07:00 am) MST

- * Local News
- * Home Made: Product of Myanmar “Craft Blacksmithing”
- * World News
- * Kayah Style
- * Local News
- * A Day Life of Kayan Padaung Tribe
- * World News
- * Indian Footsteps
- * Local News
- * To The Land of Countless Temples - Bagan Trip (Episode-1)
- * World News
- * In The Studio: Shin Min Eain
- * Local News
- * Odd Jobs....: The Man and The Elephant
- * World News
- * I’m in Love with Diamond
- * 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

Chinese, Venezuelan central banks ink cooperation deal

CARACAS, 19 July —The central banks of Venezuela and China signed a cooperation agreement here on Friday aimed at promoting the exchange of information on statistical methodologies, monetary policy strategies and funding mechanisms.

Zhou Xiaochuan, governor of the People’s Bank of China, said the agreement is a breakthrough for both sides to enhance economic ties.

It is important for the two central banks to share experiences, especially on monetary policies and financial stability, Zhou

added.

Zhou’s Venezuelan counterpart, Nelson Merentes, described the deal as “historic,” saying it would facilitate bilateral collaboration.

Merentes stressed that the two institutions have to work together as ties of two countries are getting ever closer.

“We must take into consideration that more and more Chinese companies” are investing in Venezuela in various fields, such as agriculture, livestock, construction, mining and telecommunications, he said.—Xinhua

Youth and experience in Van Gaal's first squad



New Manchester United manager Louis Van Gaal (L) poses for pictures with club director Bobby Charlton during a news conference at the club's Old Trafford Stadium in Manchester, northern England, on 17 July, 2014.—REUTERS

Don't copy Germany, Redknapp urges England

LONDON, 19 July — Harry Redknapp believes England need to stop trying to emulate other international teams and focus on creating their own footballing identity, the Queens Park Rangers manager said on Friday. England endured a terrible World Cup campaign, winning just one point from three games against Italy, Uruguay and Costa Rica to finish bottom of their group.

"I thought we were certainties to win a very poor group," Redknapp told reporters, referring to England's pool that contained three former world champions.

"We have good players and we have a good manager. Don't ask me what happened. We've had lots of good players and managers since 1966 (England's only World Cup triumph)."

Germany have won many plaudits for their rebuilding process over the

last 10 years which culminated in winning the World Cup with a 1-0 extra-time win against Argentina in Sunday's final.

Fans and pundits have called for England to copy their successful blueprint, but Redknapp disagrees.

"The problem is, France won the World Cup (in 1998) and we have to copy the French way," he added. "Then we've got to copy the Spaniards and now it is the Germans and the next World Cup we'll be copying someone else."

"Let's be ourselves. Let's get the best out of the players and decide how we actually play the game and what is England's style of play." "Everybody should play the same way, down through the youth teams. We should be employing people to work with the kids who have got a philosophy of how the game should be played and want to play that way."—Reuters



Queens Park Rangers' manager Harry Redknapp

McIlroy in control at Open, Tiger survives by his fingernails

HOYLAK, (England), 19 July — This time there was no freaky Friday for Rory McIlroy as a majestic second round gave him a four-shot stranglehold on the British Open at a sweltering Royal Liverpool course.

Several second round blow-outs this season, the most recent at the Scottish Open, meant all eyes were on the 25-year-old Northern Irishman to see if he could capitalise on his one-stroke overnight lead rather than shoot himself in the foot.

Apart from a jittery bogey on the first, his only dropped shot so far, he was immaculate, racking up seven birdies for a second successive round of 66 for a 12-under total of 132.

Tiger Woods attracted huge galleries but a triple bogey at the 17th meant the 14-times major champion needed a birdie at the last to make the cut by his fingernails.

He duly obliged but barring an extraordinary turnaround in his form he will be making up the numbers at the weekend.

Less celebrated American Dustin Johnson will lead the chase of the runaway McIlroy after a tournament best seven-under 65 fired him into conten-

LONDON, 19 July — Louis van Gaal's pledge to assess all of Manchester United's first team players is apparent after the new man in charge announced a bumper 25-man squad on Friday for the club's tour to the United States.

Van Gaal, who arrived at Old Trafford this week after guiding the Netherlands to an impressive third place in the World Cup, named a number of fringe players and youngsters in his first squad as well as new big-money signings Ander Herrera from Athletic Bilbao and Luke Shaw from Southampton.

Ashley Young, Wilfried Zaha and Shinji Kagawa make the trip alongside 20-year-old defenders Tyler Blackett and Reece

James as well as 21-year-old twins Will Keane, a striker, and brother Michael, a defender.

The full squad, announced on the United website, also includes Wayne Rooney and Danny Welbeck.

Absentees include Robin van Persie, who said he was exhausted after the World Cup and needed a rest, Michael Carrick, who has had ankle surgery that will keep him out for up to three months, and Anderson, who picked up a calf strain in pre-season training.

During the tour United play LA Galaxy (23 July), AS Roma (26 July), Inter Milan (29 July) and Real Madrid (2 August).

Reuters



Rory McIlroy of Northern Ireland acknowledges the crowd after making a birdie putt on the 15th green during the second round of the British Open Championship at the Royal Liverpool Golf Club in Hoylake, northern England on 18 July, 2014.—REUTERS

tion for his first major.

Fellow Americans Rickie Fowler and Ryan Moore were in a formidable group of six players on six under, which also included Italy's Francesco Molinari, popular Spaniard Sergio Garcia, 2011 US Masters champion Charl Schwartzel and 2010 British Open winner Louis Oosthuizen.

After a relatively calm opening day, warm, gusting winds of around 20mph (32kph) meant birdies were at a premium for the early starters with South African George Coetzee the only player to make a move with a 69 that gave him the clubhouse lead.

The birdies and ea-

gles flowed later, however, as the wind lost its strength and the leaders, most of whom got the best of Thursday's weather, began to make hay in the sunshine.

Even the local wildlife came out to play as McIlroy's charge was briefly halted by a curious pheasant that wandered across the eighth green before he drained another long putt.

McIlroy, who won the US Open by eight strokes in 2011 having also reached double figures under par by the weekend, was not about to let his so-called Friday demons ruin a gilt-edged chance to seize control of the Open.—Reuters

Dunga is favourite to coach Brazil's soccer team



Former soccer player Brazil's Dunga attends a news conference concerning the 2014 World Cup, in Rio de Janeiro on 3 July, 2014. REUTERS

RIO DE JANEIRO, 19 July — Former World Cup winning captain Dunga is the favourite on a short list of candidates to coach Brazil's national soccer team, two sources with direct knowledge of the situation said on Friday.

Dunga, whose real name is Carlos Bledorn Verri, previously coached Brazil from 2006 to 2010, where he won the 2007 Copa America and the 2009 Confederations Cup.

He was fired by the Brazilian Football Confederation (CBF) after losing to the Netherlands in the quarter-finals of the 2010 World Cup.

One source, who declined to be identified since the process is underway, said Dunga has a good relationship with Gilmar Rinaldi, who was named on Thursday as general manager for Brazil's national teams. Both players were part of the 1994 World Cup winning team.

The CBF and Dunga, 50, began talks early this week, a second source said.

"He is the front runner in the list and things are moving forward satisfactorily," a second source told Reuters. "There were important meetings that took place in São Paulo, and Gilmar is fine-tuning details already."

A new coach to replace Luiz Felipe Scolari is expected to be named next Tuesday.

Scolari, who guided Brazil to their fifth World Cup title in 2002, resigned as coach after the 2014 tournament where the hosts entered as hot favourites but finished fourth. They were also humiliated by eventual champions Germany 7-1 in the semi-finals and then lost the third-place playoff 3-0 to the Netherlands.—Reuters

the newlightofmyanmar@gmail.com
www.facebook.com/newlightofmyanmar

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