

President urges ministries and media to build relations based on ethics and mutual respect

NAY PYI TAW, 1 Aug—Government bodies and the media are required to build good relations based on ethics and mutual respect, President U Thein Sein told the Myanmar Interim Press Council in Nay Pyi Taw on Friday.

They exchanged views on cooperation between the administrative branch and the media, dubbed the “fourth pillar,” for the promotion of press freedom and journalism, strengthening of the process of handling ethical problems by the Myanmar Interim Press Council, measures for effective release of information by government ministries, ways to solve ethical problems of journalists through the press council instead of legal action, holding workshops for building trust between government ministries and journalists and enhancing the ethical standards of journalists.

President U Thein Sein said at the meeting that the government has



President U Thein Sein with members of the Myanmar Interim Press Council after discussions on trust building between the government and journalists, and the need to take the country's security situation into account during coverage.—MNA

recognized the importance of the “fourth pillar” in the nation-building endeavours and of press freedom in implementing a democratic system.

However, journalists are required to stand out as “respectable” media by preventing the abuse of press freedom and exercising it with responsibility,

accountability and duty during this delicate transition period, the president said.

Press freedom should be exercised “harmoniously” taking into consideration stability and security requirements of the nation, the president added. As peace and stability of the society is maintained by

the law, everyone including the media is required to abide by the law, the president continued.

The president admitted that there are weaknesses in releasing information of government ministries and promised to cooperate with the Interim Press Council to (See page 3)

Myanmar Armed Forces discharge minors from military service, take concrete step towards ensuring zero underage recruitment and full discharge of child soldiers

By Ye Myint

YANGON, 1 Aug — Myanmar's Tatmadaw, the Armed Forces, released 91 children and young people from the military service through a ceremony marking the handover of discharged minors to parents or guardians on Friday,

signifying its commitment to ensure zero underage recruitment and full discharge of those under the age of 18 years in the armed forces.

The discharge of the group numbering 91 was the second mass return to civilian life after 96 children and young people were rehabilitated in January this year. It was the sixth time the

Myanmar military released those who were recruited into the armed forces as minors.

The latest releases mean that a total of 364 children and young people had been discharged from the military since the signing of the Action Plan to prevent and end the recruitment and use of chil-

dren between the Myanmar government and the United Nations country task force on monitoring and reporting grave violations against children (UNCTFMR) in June, 2012.

The action plan was renewed for the next six months in December 2013, said Brig-Gen Tauk Tun, joint secretary of the com-



Ceremony marking the handover of former child soldiers from the army to their parents or guardians at No (1) Transit Centre in Yangon.—PHOTO: YE MYINT



Republic of the Union of Myanmar President Office

(Order No. 18/2014)

6th Waxing of Wagaung, 1376 ME
(1st August, 2014)

Appointment of Union ministers

Under Sub-section (d) of Section 235 and Section 232 of the Constitution of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar and Section 12 of the Union Government Law, the following deputy ministers have been appointed as Union ministers to the ministries shown below.

- | | | |
|-----|--------------|-------------------------|
| (1) | U Ye Htut | Ministry of Information |
| (2) | Dr Than Aung | Ministry of Health |

Sd/ Thein Sein
President

Republic of the Union of Myanmar

INSIDE

Lower House Speaker meets journalists, Japanese guests in Nay Pyi Taw

PAGE 3

Effective use of ADB loan discussed at Pyidaungsu Hluttaw

PAGE 9

Building unity through maturity and responsibility

PAGE 8

mittee for prevention of military recruitment of underage children, in his address at the ceremony held in Yangon.

He continued to say that Tatmadaw is committed to continue making sure all underage soldiers are released from military service and the armed forces are child-free. Actions had been taken against 40 officers and 229 other ranks for breaking recruitment rules, he voiced.

“Today's release of 91 children and young people demonstrates an important step in ending the recruitment and use of children in the Myanmar Armed Forces”, said Ms. Shalini Bahuguna, deputy UNICEF representative in Myanmar.

(See page 3)

We must all strive to keep this spirit alive, and unite and cooperate in implementation of peace process and democratic process

NAY PYI TAW, 2 Aug—The following is the full text of the monthly radio message delivered by President U Thein Sein.

My fellow citizens,

In this radio speech, I would like to give you the monthly update on the work of my government, and the developments that have taken place in our country.

We welcome the July meetings of the armed ethnic groups in Laiza, Kachin State to discuss the nationwide ceasefire agreement. Our government provided necessary assistance for these meetings. The Union Peace Working Committee, program committees, and all the citizens are expecting positive results from these meetings will lead to agreements to ensure the signing of the nationwide ceasefire agreement and holding of inclusive political dialogue will produce enduring internal peace.

Currently, we face many difficulties and challenges to sustain the reform process. The one area where there is general consensus among different political groups is for the continued sustainability of the reform process and the nurturing of a democratic system. It is undeniable that since my government took office we have resolutely implemented reforms. It is also true that during the three plus years since my government took office, we have faced criticism and encountered constraints. I speak with conviction that I have tried to find solutions to these difficulties with good intentions and with the desires of the people in mind. Every transition from an old system to a new one will encounter constraints and challenges.

I am facing my criticisms not with the ideas of the old system but striving to find constructive answers that are in line with the current political climate.

If we look at where our nation wants to be in the future, we are still behind in many measures. Addressing the weaknesses requires the efforts of not just an individual or group but of the whole society.

I have already spoken of my government taking stern action against anyone threatening the nation's stability. In this regard, we are taking action against those who took advantage of fabricated stories to incite the recent violence in Mandalay. On behalf of the entire nation, I would like to convey my appreciation to everyone who vigilantly and dutifully maintained peace in Mandalay.

I had a very cordial meeting with members of dance, music and motion picture associations on July 12. On the basis of the feedbacks I received from them, the government will provide both immediate and long term assistance to these associations in promoting the performing arts sector. Artists are jewel of the country. I would like to thank them for the contribution they have made to the development and nation-building activities.

July 19th of this year was the 67th Martyrs' Day this nation has commemorated in remembrance of the assassinations of the Father of Independence Bogyoke Aung San and other martyrs. In addition to showing our sorrow, we can repay their sacrifices by following their example. The Martyrs' Day ceremonies give us an opportunity to honor the nine martyrs and to salute their selfless sacrifice. If we look at the martyrs' backgrounds, we see that they held different political persuasions, and were of different ethnicities, and religions. However, despite their differences they all shared a common belief of selfless sacrifice for the benefit of the nation and its people. We must all strive to keep this spirit alive, and unite and cooperate in the implementation of the peace process and democratic process.

In July, we drafted the Action Plan for Comprehensive Strategy for Stability and Development of Rakhine State in consultation with civil organizations, government departments, and development organizations. The

Action Plan will be finalized soon. I believe the successful implementation of the Action Plan will improve the livelihoods of the people of Rakhine State. But the Action Plan will only succeed with the cooperation of the government, civil organizations, community leaders, and international organizations. The government will provide necessary assistance to all the groups involved with the implementation of the Action Plan, and I also urge people of Rakhine State to act with foresight for the stability and development of the state.

Currently, we are encountering challenges developing the 3-branches system of government, that is, judicial branch, executive branch, and legislative branch based on the principles of separation of powers and checks and balances. During this process, it is essential we act to transition to a judicial system that protects civil liberties, transition to people-based democratic governance, and developing legislatures. Although every civil servant involved in this process is trying his or her best, it is undeniable that there are delays and weaknesses. On this point, I would like to stress the need for civil servants to complete their tasks efficiently without negligence or finding reasons to delay. I also urge citizens to consider these efforts a national duty and give their cooperation.

The current situation is by no means perfect. However, this is the time for all of us to join efforts to ensure the reform process that all of us have nurtured and value stays on course.

In conclusion, I would like to inform you that I continue to strive for achieving internal peace, improving livelihoods, and ensuring a brighter future for our children.

I wish you all good health.

World Breastfeeding Week, Nutrition Development Week launched



Union Minister for Health Dr Than Aung gives a vitamin A tablet to a child at the launch of World Breastfeeding Week and the Nutrition Development Week.—MNA

NAY PYI TAW, 1 Aug—The government has increased the maternity leave period to six months for enabling female government service personnel to take care of the child by breastfeeding, said Union Minister for Health Dr Than Aung at the launch of the World Breastfeeding Week and the Nutrition Development Week at the Ministry of Health in Nay Pyi Taw on Friday.

The Union minister

said that the Ministry of Health, the Ministry of Livestock, Fisheries and Rural Development and the Ministry of Education have been implementing the milk feeding project at basic education schools since 2013, adding that the Ministry of Health provided medicines and materials for the works worth K4.6 billion in the 2013-14 fiscal year.

Acting Resident Representative Dr Krongthong Thimasarn of the World

Health Organization, and Cliff Meyers, on behalf of the UNICEF Resident Representative, made speeches.

The Union minister and party presented Vitamin A tablets to pre-primary students, ferrous sulphate tablets to female middle and high school students, iron tablets and Vitamin B1 to pregnant women.

Myanmar joined the Scaling Up Nutrition-SUN as of May 2013.

MNA

Press conference on fate of 26 Myanmar employees in Thailand held in Yangon

By Khaing Thanda Lwin

YANGON, 1 Aug—The Myanmar Overseas Employment Agencies Federation (MOEAF) and Shwe Yi Phyo Aung Overseas Employment Agency held a press conference on releasing "true news" of 26 Myanmar employees who work at a construction site in a Province of Southern Thailand under a MoU of the two countries, on Friday at Yuzana Hotel in Yangon.

Director U Moe Kyaw of Shwe Yi Phyo Aung Co., said the Co. has solved the problem of those employees in cooperation with AS Associate Engineering Co., on 21 July, and made necessary arrangements.

Daw Pan Cherry, Managing Director of Shwe Yi Phyo Aung Overseas Employment Agency, said the language barrier was a root cause of the problem and that the agency is ready to take responsibility for labourers under the MoU,

and welcomes all organizations to participate in labour affairs.

Chairman U Min Hlaing of MOEAF said the press conference is aimed at releasing correct news for the public, the employees' parents and the government.

After solving the problem, twenty-one employees returned home back only for a short time, while five employees are working in Thailand, according to the agency.—NLM



Chairman U Min Hlaing of the Myanmar Overseas Employment Agencies Federation (MOEAF) explains what "correct news" are to the public and government officials.—PHOTO: KHAING THANDA LWIN

NATIONAL

President urges

(from page 1)

improve the situation and to cooperate with the media for the development of the media industry.

In conclusion, the president pointed out that both government ministries and the media are required to build relations based on ethics and mutual respect after fixing current issues between them. President U Thein Sein received a delegation led by Mr Hiroto Izumi, Senior Adviser to the Prime Minister of Japan at the hall of the Presidential Palace in Nay Pyi Taw on Friday to hold talks about development of infrastructures in Myanmar and the ODA loans and cash assistance to be provided by

Japan.

They also discussed extension of urban area and settlement, construction of the Thilawa Special Economic Zone and Dawei Deep Seaport projects, progress of cooperation in the communication sector, co-operation in the agriculture sector and exporting crops to the market in Japan.—MNA

President U Thein Sein with Mr Hiroto Izumi, Senior Adviser to the Prime Minister of Japan after talking about assistance of Japan for ODA loans.—MNA



Lower House Speaker meets journalists, Japanese guests in Nay Pyi Taw

YANGON, 1 Aug—Speaker of Pyidaungsu Hluttaw and the Lower House Thura U Shwe Mann received media personnel from local and foreign media and a Japanese delegation led by Mr. Hiroto Izumi, Special Advisor to the Prime Minister, the Cabinet of Japan, on Friday at Zabuthiri Hall of the Hluttaw complex in Nay Pyi Taw.

At the meeting with Japanese guests, both sides discussed cooperation on a range of sectors and bilateral relations between Myanmar and Japan.—MNA



Speaker of Pyidaungsu Hluttaw and the Lower House Thura U Shwe Mann meets local and foreign media at the Hluttaw complex.—MNA

Myanmar Armed Forces ...

(from page 1)

During the ceremony, the released children and young people were presented documents allowing them to resign from the military service and citizenship scrutiny cards in the presence of officials from the Ministry of Defence, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the Ministry of Labour, Employment and Social Security, the Ministry of Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement, UN agencies and INGOs.

While briefing the media after the ceremony, the UNICEF deputy chief, who is also the co-chair of CT-FMR, welcomed the recent directive of the Ministry of Education that commits to get discharged children to school immediately after their release and at any point in the school year.

She also acknowledged the concrete steps taken by the Ministry of Defence, by abolishing the 10th grade exemption in which children who passed the matric can join the army under the age of 18.

In her concluding remarks, Ms. Bahuguna called on the media to make public the number 09-421166701~02, managed by UNICEF and World Vision from 7 a.m. to 10 p.m. from Monday to Sunday.

According to official data, a series of releases happened since the signing of the Joint Action Plan in 2012, with the first release of 42 underage children taking place in September of that year followed by groups of 24, 42, and another 42, 68 and 96 discharged in 2013 and 2014.

NLM

Accreditation for 36th Meeting of ASEAN Ministers on Agriculture and Forestry

NAY PYI TAW, 1 Aug — The 36th Meeting of the ASEAN Ministers on Agriculture and Forestry—AMAF and related meetings will be held at the Horizon Lake View Hotel in Nay Pyi Taw from 23 to 25 September.

Local and foreign correspondents who wish to cover the news of the meetings are to click the registration link for the 36th Meeting of the ASEAN Ministers on Agriculture and Forestry—AMAF of Upcoming Events at the Home Page of www.asean2014.gov.mm to fill up the Media Registration Form. The registration must be done not later than 30 August. The media accreditation cards will be issued at Horizon Lake View Hotel on 23 September morning.

The foreign correspondents are to apply for visas at the respective Myanmar embassies to cover news. Please dial 067-410496 of Agriculture Department under the Ministry of Agriculture and Irrigation for further information about the meeting and 067-412126 of News and Periodicals Enterprise about news coverage of local-based foreign news agencies and local media.—MNA

**Republic of the Union of Myanmar
Union Election Commission
Nay Pyi Taw
Notification No. (28/2014)
6th Waxing of Wagaung, 1376 ME
(1 August, 2014)**

Nine region/state Hluttaw representatives of Armed Forces substituted

According to a request made in accordance with Section 33 of the Region/State Hluttaw Election Law to substitute nine representatives of the Armed Forces who are parliamentarians, the Union Election Commission scrutinized and substituted the following four region/state Hluttaw representatives under the Notification No. 3/2011 of the commission dated 20-1-2011 and Notification No. 40/2012 of the commission dated 12-10-2012.

The region/state Hluttaw representatives to be substituted were nominated by the Commander-in-Chief of the Defence Services in the first multi-party general election held on 7 November 2010.

Kachin State Hluttaw

- | | |
|----------------------|-----------------------|
| (1) BC 27326 | BC 31297 |
| Major Kyaw Kyaw Oo | Major Thaug Aye |
| (2) BC 31403 | BC 27944 |
| Major Zaw Zaw Htaik | Major Tezar Lin |
| (3) BC 33179 | BC 35468 |
| Major Kyaw Kyaw Htwe | Major Hlaing Phyo Wai |
| (4) BC 33254 | BC 37293 |
| Major Zaw Nyo Min | Major Kyaw Lwin Oo |

Kayah State Hluttaw

- | | |
|------------------|----------------------|
| (5) BC 33090 | BC 35802 |
| Major Min Zaw Oo | Major Aung Khine Soe |

Kayin State Hluttaw

- | | |
|-------------------|------------------------|
| (6) BC 34165 | BC 32414 |
| Major Myint Ko | Major Hein Maung Myint |
| (7) BC 34178 | BC 32377 |
| Major Nay Lin Oak | Major Htin Lin Kyaw |

Taninthayi Region Hluttaw

- | | |
|--------------------|---------------------|
| (8) BC 29132 | BC 35143 |
| Major Kyaw Thu Win | Captain Ngwe Soe |
| (9) BC 35802 | BC 36241 |
| Major Thurein Lin | Major Kyaw Ye Myint |

By order,

(Tin Tun)
Secretary

Union Election Commission

Digital meter boxes issued to the local people

NAY PYI TAW, 1 Aug—The digital meter boxes were delivered to the local people at the residence of U Hla Shein in South Zalaung Village of Ottarathiri Township in Nay Pyi Taw Council Area on Thursday.

A total of 334 houses of 430 have applied electrification for their residences. The village self-reliant electrification committee submitted the applications to the Electricity Supply Enterprise under the Ministry of Electric Power for installation of power to the people.

The ministry installed 11 power line of 400 watts to the transformer.

As of 5 July, 145 houses have been installed power lines. The local authorities issued digital meter boxes to 117 households that have paid K90,000 as fee to the enterprise.

Each house cost K310,000 for installation of power line on a self-reliant basis.—*Salai Tong Hsi*

Market festival, book fair promote relations among students



NAY PYI TAW, 1 Aug—The Mandalay University held the major-wise market festival and book fair at the main hall of the university from 9 am to 12 noon on Thursday.

A total of 25 departments including Myanmar, English, Chemistry, Physics, History, Geography, International Relations, Economics, Geology, Zoology, Botany and staff officers opened their booths. Yar Pyae Mandalay literary house and Myanmar Book Centre opened the book stalls and sold them at special rate.

After 1988, it was for the first time of the Mandalay University market festival. Students sold various kinds of Myanmar traditional snacks at the shops. Many students enjoyed the funfair and lucky draw programmes.

It was aimed at promoting relations among the students of various sub-

jects, said Mandalay University Rector Dr Maung Thin.

The market festivals, sports contests and teaching aid shows will be held for broadening horizon of the students in line with its tradition of the university, said an official.

Thiha Ko Ko
(Mandalay)



Reunification of human trafficking victims discussed

Reunification of families and rehabilitation seminar, jointly organized by Myanmar Anti-Human Trafficking Central Committee, the International Labour Organization and Township Anti-Human Trafficking Groups, was held at the hall of Hotel Mandalay on 78th street in Mahaangmye Township of Mandalay on Thursday and Friday.

Officials of Mandalay Region Police Force,

Anti-Human Trafficking Squad, and the prevention of violence against girls group of Mandalay Region Women's Affairs Organization participated in discussions.

The Mandalay Region anti-human trafficking group held discussions on handover of human trafficking victims and standardization for reunification of human trafficking victims to families.

International Organization for Migration (IOM) has been cooperating with Myanmar government since 2005 for taking care of migrants and providing health care services to them. The meeting was aimed at giving assistance to the human trafficking victim women, said an official of International Organization for Migration (IOM).

Thiha Ko Ko
(Mandalay)



Landslide kills two, injures two in Singu Township

SINGU, 1 Aug—Hla Lin, aged 24, Tun Lin, aged 43, Zaw Zaw, aged 20 and Aung Naing Win, aged 35 worked at mining of gold at an old lake owned by Aung Naing Win in Minpan Hill, three miles south of Yaymyet Village in Singu Township of Mandalay Region on

Wednesday.

At 2 pm, they fell under landslide at 60 feet deep mine.

Police Captain Ko Ko Hlaing and party together with local people rescued the gold mining workers. They found Aung Naing Win and Hla Lin were dead with injuries at chests and

faces. Tun Lin and Zaw Zaw could be rescued but they suffered from suffocation. The patients were rushed to Singu Hospital.

Singu Myoma police station conducts investigation over the landslide case.

Maung Pyi Thu
(Mandalay)



LOCAL NEWS

Mechanical training school turns out qualified skilled workers



MANDALAY, 1 Aug — The Ministry of Industry has opened mechanical training schools in Hsinde, Mandalay, Thagara, Pakoku, Magway and Myingyan to turn out the qualified skilled workers for the industrial sector of the nation.

On Friday, the No 2 Mechanical Training School (Mandalay) held the

concluding of No 6 course for mechanical training.

Director-General U Thwin Myint Maung of Directorate of Industries and officials presented model training award to Maung Wai Yan Min Lwin and certificates to all trainees.

A total of 169 trainees attended one-year course from 9 September 2013 to 1 August 2014.

The ministry manages creation of job opportunities for its trainees at State-owned factories and workshops and private industries.

No 2 Mechanical Training School (Mandalay) will open course No 7 in October 2014.

Tin Maung (Mandalay)

Religious books on high demand in Mandalay literary market



MANDALAY, 1 Aug — Demand of books in knowledge and aesthetic genres is down in the literary market in Mandalay but the books on religious genre is on high demand, said responsible persons of the literary publishing houses from Mandalay.

“In the past, the demand of these genres declined in the examination period of schools. Now, the market is declining day by day. However, the sale of books on religious affairs is still higher. Both new and old books on religious affairs are on high demand. Especially, the biography books on significant persons can be sold on high demand in the market,” said U Tun Oo of Tun Oo

Literary House.

At present, over 150 weekly journals and eight daily newspapers are being published in Mandalay. Publishing of weekly journals is on the regular trend but delivery of daily newspapers is gaining momentum.

Five daily newspapers are increasing circulation in Mandalay. The reader people recognize the presentations on hot news and knowledgeable articles of the dailies. In the future, the circulations of these newspapers may be higher and higher, he added.

Novels, cartoons and magazines that had target publishing for the book shops are also low demand. As a result, the publishers

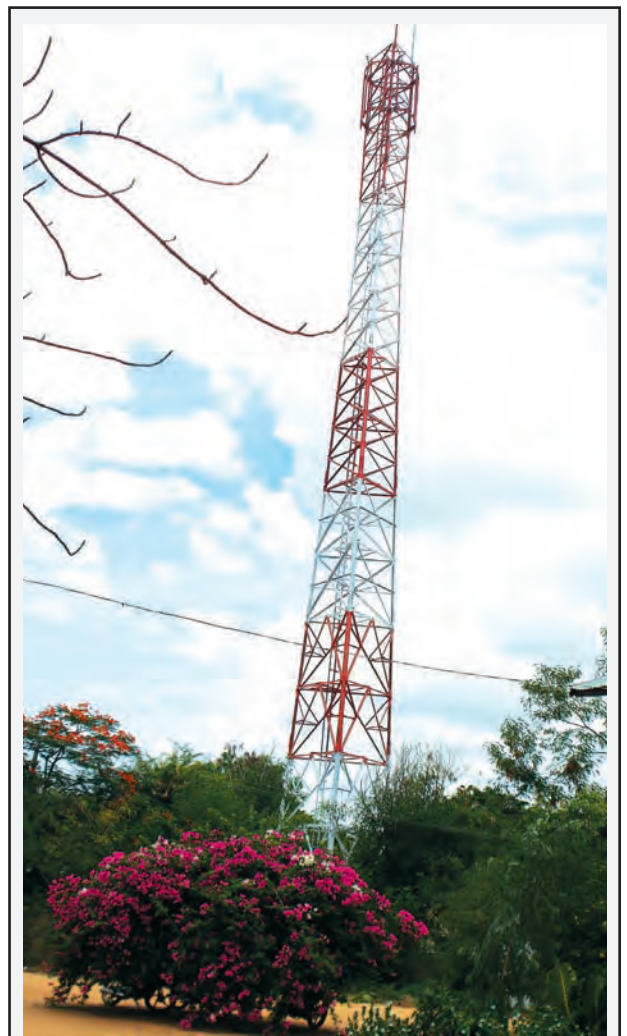
face difficulties in publishing industry.

“Nowadays, most of the youths who had read books in the past spend their spare times at facebook and Internet. They have not much time to read. Due to declining numbers of readers, the book shops cannot stand for a long time. That is why the regular circulation of books suspended,” said a responsible person from Nyo literary house.

In Mandalay, Tun Oo and Naga literary houses distribute various subjects of books and publications to over 300 persons who deliver books and publications to the residences through door-to-door system and send the books to

major cities of the central Myanmar.

Min Htet Aung (Mandalay Sub-printing House)



Myanma Posts and Telecommunications built two communication towers in Natogyi and Wetlu villages for ensuring better communication of mobile phones in Natogyi Township of Mandalay Region. The township has built seven communication towers.

HTAY MYINT MAUNG

Fingerlings released into dams in Taungtha Township

TAUNGTHA, 1 Aug — As part of efforts for conservation of fish species at natural water sources and lakes and dams, fingerlings were released to dams in Taungtha Township of Mandalay Region on Thursday.

Deputy Commissioner U Myint Thin Aung of Myingyan General Administration Department, Com-

mander of District Police Force Police Lt-Col Maung Win and officials released 25,000 fingerlings into Welaung Dam in Taungtha Township.

They also put 50,000 fingerlings into Kyauktalon, Taungtha and Thamekku dams in the township.

Zaw Min Naing (Myingyan)



Gas explosions in southern Taiwan kill 25



Rescue personnel survey the wreckage after an explosion in Kaohsiung, southern Taiwan, on 1 Aug, 2014.—REUTERS

TAIPEI, 1 Aug — A series of powerful gas explosions ripped through a port city in southern Taiwan midnight on Thursday, killing at least 25 people and

injuring 267 others, Taiwan's National Fire Agency said on Friday.

Firefighters and emergency personnel continue to remove debris, twisted

metal, bricks and dirt, seeking survivors and possible evidence of what caused the blast.

The military has mobilized troops and provided

equipment and vehicles to assist with relief efforts.

Describing the disaster as the most devastating in the city's history, Kaohsiung Mayor Chen Chu said investigation of the cause of the disaster is ongoing.

Kaohsiung City officials said they suspect the explosions were caused by leaks from oil or gas pipelines that exploded and then caught fire.

The city's fire bureau said Kaohsiung has asked local oil and gas companies — Chinese Petroleum Corp (Taiwan) and Hsin-Kao Gas Co — to cut off supplies to the Cianjhen District where 2 kilometres of roads, motor vehicles and homes were destroyed.

Earlier Friday, Minister of Economic Affairs Chang Chia-juch suggested the explosions might have

been caused by propylene gas.

Kaohsiung Deputy Mayor Wu Hong-mo later said they discovered pressure in a propylene pipeline showed an abnormal drop late Thursday night, but he emphasized further investigation is needed to determine the cause of the blasts.

Meanwhile, both the ruling Nationalist Party and main opposition Democratic Progressive Party announced on Friday they will temporarily suspend campaign activities.

Taiwanese voters will elect more than 11,000 local officials 29 November, including the mayors of Taipei and five other special municipalities.

Southern Taiwan has been a traditional stronghold of the DPP.

Kyodo News

Stop-start Afghan vote audit gets green light, but troubles remain

KABUL, 1 Aug — The mammoth task of auditing eight million votes cast in the second round of Afghanistan's presidential election will restart on Saturday, the electoral commission said on Thursday, but disputes still hang over the process. Allegations of mass fraud have cast doubt over the outcome of the vote that aims to transfer power democratically for the first time in Afghan history before most foreign troops pull out at the end of the year.

A US-brokered agreement to audit all ballots defused a crisis this month, but the process has stalled three times since and the candidates have yet to agree on how to disqualify votes. The audit stopped last weekend because of technical differences, and the suspension was extended due to the Eid al-Fitr holiday this week.

The United Nations on Thursday asked both candidates, Abdullah Abdullah and Ashraf Ghani, to fully engage in the process, warning against further delays.

"Any delays, any uncertainties, have a major, negative impact on both the political and economic situation in Afghanistan," said Jan Kubis, the top UN official in Afghanistan. "It's high time to complete the process of the elections."

The deal, brokered by US Secretary of State John Kerry, also introduces the idea of a national unity government that would soften the blow for the losing candidate, although the two sides have yet to hammer out an agreement. Preliminary results from the vote put former finance minister Ghani, a member of Afghanistan's biggest ethnic group, the Pashtuns, in the lead by about a million votes.

Reuters



Afghanistan's presidential candidate Abdullah Abdullah (L) addresses a news conference with rival Ashraf Ghani (R) at this side as they announced a deal for the auditing of all Afghan election votes at the United Nations Compound in Kabul, late on 12 July, 2014.—REUTERS

Singapore risks business cred with foreign labour restrictions



People wait to watch a laser light show along Marina Bay overlooking the central business district in the evening in Singapore on 28 May, 2014. REUTERS

SINGAPORE, 1 Aug — Singapore risks tarnishing its business-friendly reputation by implementing new labour laws that require companies to prioritise hiring locals over foreigners for middle income jobs, analysts say.

From Friday, large and medium-sized companies looking to hire workers with a monthly salary below S\$12,000 (£5,696) must advertise the positions on a government-run online job database that only Singapore citizens and permanent residents can apply through.

The job must stay open to locals for two weeks before the company is allowed to seek foreign candidates.

Many multinational corporations, from Google and Microsoft to Procter & Gamble and BP, use

Singapore as their regional headquarters, attracted by the city state's political and economic stability, low taxes and ability to attract talent from across Asia and the world.

Foreigners make up around 38 percent of Singapore's 3.4 million strong workforce and the new rules are the latest in a series of government measures aimed at easing locals' worries about the growing presence of foreigners on the tiny island.

Concerns about jobs were one of the most prominent issues raised by voters at the 2011 general election, which was the most contested since Singapore's independence. The ruling People's Action Party share of the vote also slipped to around 60 percent from 67 percent in the previous

election.

Economists said the foreign labour restrictions could tarnish the city-state's reputation as an open and free economy.

"There is a risk that Singapore might slide down the scale in terms of how open it is," said Chua Hak Bin, head of emerging Asia economics at Bank of America Merrill Lynch in Singapore.

Ten of 12 recruitment agencies polled by Reuters said filling vacancies has become tougher in the past year, a trend set to continue.

"Singapore's very strict policy when it comes to hiring foreigners will further exacerbate the skills shortage in Singapore," said Chris Mead, regional director at recruitment agency Hays.

Reuters

China lifts air control measures caused by military drills

SHANGHAI, 1 Aug — China will on Friday lift air traffic control measures imposed to allow military drills and which have caused major delays and cancellations of flights, raising concerns over airline earnings.

Flights in the country's eastern, central and southern regions will return to normal once the restrictions are lifted, the Civil Aviation Administration of China said a statement posted on its website late on Thursday.

The Public Security Bureau had said flights could still be affected until mid-August. Xinhua said military drills will continue in coastal areas in the southeast even after the air control restrictions are lifted.

Hundreds of flights have been delayed or cancelled since 20 July due to the air controls.

In one of the most serious disruptions, authorities issued a red alert on Tuesday, resulting in a near shut down of 20 airports in east China for much of the afternoon.

The military exercises, which political analysts say are larger in scope and duration than in years past, come as tensions with Japan and other Asian nations increase, although the government has called them annual and routine.

Defence Ministry spokesman Geng Yan-sheng said the exercises are not targeted at any other country.

"We hope parties concerned do not to make groundless links. It is one's own problem if he is suspicious of China's military drills and takes it personally," the official Xinhua news agency quoted Geng as telling a monthly news briefing on Thursday.

He added the drills are annual routine events aimed at strengthening real-combat training and military preparation, and improving the capability of countering various security threats.

Reuters

WORLD

Israel, Palestinian militant groups begin three-day Gaza truce



Valerie Amos, United Nations Under-Secretary-General for Humanitarian Affairs and Emergency Relief Coordinator (seen on screen) briefs a UN Security Council meeting on the situation in the Middle East, at UN headquarters in New York, on 31 July, 2014.—REUTERS

GAZA / JERUSALEM, 1 Aug — A three-day ceasefire between Israel and Palestinian militant groups in the Gaza Strip went into effect on Friday, and negotiators were due to travel to Cairo to discuss a longer-term solution.

The 72-hour break, the most ambitious attempt so far to end more than three weeks of fighting, began at 8 am (0600 London time). The truce was announced in a joint statement released by US Secretary of State John Kerry and UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon.

An official in Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu's office said Israel had accepted the US/UN proposal. A spokesman for Hamas, the Islamist group dominant in Gaza, said all Palestinian factions would abide by the truce.

"We urge all parties to

act with restraint until this humanitarian ceasefire begins, and to fully abide by their commitments during the ceasefire," Kerry and Ban said. "This ceasefire is critical to giving innocent civilians a much-needed reprieve from violence."

Hours before the ceasefire was announced, Netanyahu, facing international alarm over a rising civilian death toll in Gaza, said he would not accept any truce that stopped Israel from completing the destruction of militants' infiltration tunnels.

According to the Kerry and Ban statement, forces on the ground would remain in place during the ceasefire.

Israel and Palestinian delegations in the meantime will travel to Cairo for separate negotiations to reach a more durable

ceasefire, the statement said. The Palestinian delegation will be comprised of Hamas, Western-backed Fatah, the Islamic Jihad militant group and a number of smaller factions, Palestinian officials said.

A senior US State Department official said talks could start as early as Friday, depending on how long it takes the parties to reach Cairo. Representatives from Israel and the United States will not sit across the table from Hamas, the official added.

The United States, European Union and Israel consider Hamas a terrorist group.

Egypt's Foreign Ministry said it "stresses the importance the two sides respect their obligations resulting from their announcement of ceasefire so that negotiation can be held

in suitable condition and achieve the desired results."

Just over an hour before the ceasefire was due to take effect militants fired 11 rockets into Israel, one of which was intercepted by the Iron Dome defence system over the centre of the country, a military spokeswoman said.

Israeli strikes killed 14 people in Gaza, including eight from one family, hospital officials said. Earlier, Hamas rockets set off sirens in the Tel Aviv area and one was intercepted.

Israel's military said five of its soldiers were killed late on Thursday by a mortar bomb. Previous international attempts to broker a humanitarian truce were less successful, securing shorter periods of calm, with some collapsing immediately after being announced.

UN political affairs chief Jeffrey Feltman said it took a massive diplomatic push to achieve the ceasefire.

"The Egyptians played an important role, the Qataris played an essential role in helping bring the parties on board, the Turks were in touch with all sides. This was a collective effort," Feltman told CNN.

Israel launched its offensive in Gaza on 8 July in response to a surge of cross-border rocket attacks.

Gaza officials say at least 1,441 Palestinians, most of them civilians, have been killed in the battered territory and nearly 7,000 wounded. Sixty-one Israeli soldiers have been killed in the fighting and more than 400 wounded. Three civilians have been killed by Palestinian shelling in Israel.

Netanyahu faces intense pressure from abroad to stand his forces down. The United States and the UN Security Council have urged both sides to halt fighting in Gaza to allow in humanitarian relief.

Israel has ordered its ground forces to focus on locating and destroying a warren of tunnels through which Hamas has

menaced its southern towns and army bases.

"Our understanding is that the Israelis will make clear to the UN where their lines are, roughly, and they will continue to do operations to destroy tunnels that pose a threat to Israeli territory that lead from the Gaza strip into Israel proper as long as those tunnels exist on the Israel side of their lines," said the State Department official.

With Israeli forces remaining on the ground to pursue that mission, it could open the way for Israel to declare it achieved the main goal of its ground offensive and to pull troops out of the Gaza Strip.

Kerry, speaking to reporters during a trip to New Delhi, said the parties need to find a way to address Israel's security concerns and to ensure that the people of Gaza can live in safety and dignity.

"All the people involved in this have strong demands and strong visions on what the future should look like. Israel has to be able to live in peace and security, without terror attacks and rockets and tunnels and sirens going off in the day," Kerry said.

Reuters



Israeli soldiers stand at a staging area near the border with the Gaza Strip on 31 July, 2014.—REUTERS

Death toll rises to 41, over 100 still missing in landslide in India

MUMBAI, 1 Aug — At least 41 people were killed and over 100 remained missing in Wednesday's landslide which crashed on a village near Pune in the Indian state of Maharashtra, local media reported on Friday.

The officials have pegged the figure of dead at 41 with over 100 others being trapped under the debris. The landslide hit some 40 homes in the village, leaving only mud, slush and debris, when people were sleeping on Wednes-

day. Some media reports said that part of a mountain had come down the village.

Heavy rain and strong winds slowed down the efforts to reach the engulfed thatch huts and brick houses in Malin village, about 80 km north of Pune, even though rescue teams worked through the night with floodlights and earth-moving machines. "We are trying our best, but with every passing moment the situation is taking a turn for the worse," said National

Disaster Response Force (NDRF) commandant Alok Awasthi. "The hills are soft due to rains and deforestation."

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Wednesday termed as "saddening" the loss of lives in a landslide in Pune, and said Home Minister Rajnath Singh would be visiting the spot to take stock of the situation. Landslides are common in many parts of India during the monsoon from June to September.

Xinhua

Russia bans Ukraine's soy, mulls ban on Greek fruit, US poultry

MOSCOW / ATHENS, 1 Aug — Russia has banned soy imports from Ukraine and may impose restrictions on Greek fruits and US poultry next week, Russian news agencies reported on Thursday, in what could be responses to new Western sanctions. Russia has already announced several bans on food imports following Western sanctions over Moscow's support of rebels in Ukraine.

It has decided to suspend Ukrainian soy, soy-meal and sunseed imports starting from 1 August due to a breach of phytosanitary requirements, *Interfax*

reported, citing the Veterinary and Phytosanitary Surveillance Service (VPSS). Ukraine exported 1.2 million tonnes of soy in 2013, of which 141,000 tonnes went to Russia, according to Ukragroconsult consultancy data. Russia had previously banned Ukrainian dairy and juice supplies from 29 July.

VPSS also may restrict fruit imports from Greece next week, *RIA* news agency reported, citing the watchdog agency.

VPSS has found signs of certain quarantine-linked pests such as moths in Greek nectarines, and US poultry imports may be sus-

pended due to signs certain antibiotics were used, according to the reports.

Greece exported about 160,000 tonnes of fruit to Russia last year worth 180 million euros (\$241 million), said George Polychronakis, an adviser at Greece's fruit exports association Incofruit-Hellas.

VPSS may suspend US poultry imports next week, *Interfax* said. Russia imported US chicken meat worth \$71 million in January through April, *Interfax* said.

Russia's VPSS could not immediately be reached for comment.—Reuters

PERSPECTIVES

Saturday, 2 August, 2014

Building unity through maturity and responsibility

By Kyaw Thura

Much has been written about what unity is. Although we have all cited unity as strength, we have never succeeded in integrating this adage into our lives. Unity is nothing without maturity, which in turn is nothing without responsibility. They are

entwined.

Maturity has nothing to do with age. In fact, maturity is concerned with individual ability to take responsibility with one's own actions. In this respect, responsibility does not mean doing things as we are told. It is more than that. It does not come naturally. It comes with wisdom, awareness of conduct, and the capacity to anticipate the consequences of decisions to be made. In a sense, responsibility is an essential characteristic we need to possess to be trusted with anything.

The world is full of stories about people from different social strata trading blames with one another rather than coming together to find better solutions. Strange as it may sound, most people who are involved in disagreement are found to share the same goal. A conclusion should be

drawn that they love themselves more than anything else.

It is absolutely impossible to reach any goal as long as we hold to the view that "we agree to disagree". Instead, we should shift to the view that "We agree to compromise."

As Abraham Lincoln stated, "you can fool all the people some of the time, and some of the people all the time, but you cannot fool all the people all the time."

The fault lies with us if we fail to take heed to the phrase "Once bitten, twice shy".

Write for us

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

Myanmar's progress on political and international relations discussed Aviation fuel sent to Singapore for laboratory analysis after alleged fungus growth



Union Minister for Foreign Affairs U Wunna Maung Lwin holds talks with Mr Wim Luyten, Program Manager from US television on reforms of Myanmar.—MNA

NAY PYI TAW, 1 Aug—In order to project a good image of Myanmar to the people and business communities in the United States of America, an interview with U Wunna Maung Lwin, Union Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar was conducted by Mr Wim Luyten, Program Manager from US television on Thursday at the ministry in Nay Pyi Taw.

During the interview, they discussed objectives and the role of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in international relations and its role in national development endeavours, Myanmar's progress on political and international relations, bilateral

relations between Myanmar and US, investments opportunities for American investors in Myanmar, the advantages of Myanmar in attracting people and business entrepreneurs from the outside world, and the role of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in facilitating foreign investments to Myanmar.—MNA

NAY PYI TAW, 1 Aug—Following a media report that some foreign airlines had stopped buying aviation fuel from the Ministry of Energy on the pretext of microbial contamination and fungal growth in fuel, the ministry got the fuel tested in Singapore for laboratory analysis.

Fuelstat tests by Jetstar Airways have said now that there is nothing serious to

worry about the fuel.

The Myanmar Petroleum Products Enterprise under the Ministry of Energy is responsible for distribution and sale of aviation fuel at eleven local airports, including the Yangon International Airport, with a monthly sale of 2.75 million gallons of high quality jet fuel to internal and external airlines, sources said.

The Myanmar Petro-

chemical Enterprise of the same ministry imports aviation fuel that meets international specifications used to control the quality of the fuel, with the ministry assigning a joint inspection group to check the quality of fuel.

Currently, 18 international airlines, but Jetstar and a Singaporean airline, continue their purchase of fuel at the Yangon International Airport.—MNA

Myanmar in the International Media

By Kyaw The-ein

Italian weekly "Corriere della Sera Economia" on 24 July reported about business opportunities in Myanmar for the companies of the northern part of Lombardia, the so-called Alto Milanese area. A meeting was held on the topic in the town hall of Legnano with representatives of local institutions and entrepreneurial associations, Myanmar Ambassador U Tint Swai

and Embassy Counselor U Than Sain attending. The Myanmar economy is reported to be in strong expansion due to the reforms introduced in the last few years.

The 16 July issue of The Financial Times (Europe) featured an in-depth report about Rocket Internet, a German start-up that is led by three brothers. While Oliver Samwer is the public face of Rocket, he works closely with his

brothers. They sold their first joint company Alando (the German answer to eBay) to the US equivalent in 1999, after a stint in Silicon Valley. Many people say you need to be complementary to be a great team, but actually we are all the same, he says. "The beauty there is that you have an unlimited level of trust. While one is building in India, another can handle Russia, while the third might focus on Myanmar," he said.

As reported by the Italian daily "Italia Oggi" on 16 July, the Italian Ministry of Agriculture and the Italian Ministry of Economic Development are preparing a technical document on the impact of zero-duty rice imports from countries such as Cambodia and Myanmar. The documents will then be filed with the European Commission. Italian farmers' association Coldiretti demanded stricter controls on non-European rice. Italian Minister for Agriculture, Maurizio Martina, declared to be ready to cooperate with the Italian rice industry, which is currently protesting in many Italian towns.

Rules and regulations for Development Bank for Farmers issued

NAY PYI TAW, 1 Aug—With the aim of improving the economy of regions and states and providing financial services to farmers and other people in rural areas by protecting their interests, the Central Bank of Myanmar issued rules and

regulations for establishing the Development Bank for Farmers on 30 July 2014.

The complete rules and regulations are available at the website of the CBM (www.cbm.gov.mm).

MNA

Myanmar youth scouts to attend youth seminar

YANGON, 1 Aug—The World Organization of the Scout Movement and the

Scouts Organization of the Republic of Korea jointly organized a youth seminar of

the World Organization of the Scout Movement in Seoul of the Republic of Korea from 31 July to 8 August.

A Myanmar delegation comprising supervisor teacher Daw Khaing Cho Aung of Latha Basic Education High School No 2, Maung Nyan Ye Htet of Mingaladon BEHS No 2 and Ma Aye Phone Pyae Cho of Kamayut BEHS No 2 left Yangon International Airport on 30 July night.

Officials saw off the delegation at the airport.

Than Swe (Pabedan)



Myanmar delegation members students and teachers at the airport before departure for Seoul of Korea to attend youth seminar of the World Organization of the Scout Movement.

THAN SWE (PABEDAN)

NATIONAL

Effective use of ADB loan discussed at Pyidaungsu Hluttaw

NAY PYI TAW, 1 Aug—The Pyidaungsu Hluttaw approved the appointment of Deputy Minister for Information U Ye Htut as Union Minister and Deputy Minister for Health Dr Than Aung as Union Minister for their respective

ministries on Friday.

In other matters, MPs at the Pyidaungsu Hluttaw discussed a loan of US\$80m from the Asian Development Bank to be used for the Ministry of Construction.

MPs expressed their

support of the loan to be taken out from ADB, but urged the union government to make sure that the money will directly benefit the grass-roots.

They demanded to make it clear how the money will be spent and on

what projects and which bodies are responsible for the supervision of the projects.

Regarding the discussion, Union Minister for Construction U Kyaw Lwin pledged to use the money only to serve the public in-

terest in cooperation with relevant regional governments.

In connection with quality control of medical equipment, Union Minister for Health Dr Than Aung explained that registrations for licenses are needed for

medical equipment and medicines to be marketed, with the approval of the country concerned. He also expressed his belief that greater cooperation among ASEAN members will ensure safe use of them.

MNA

Myanmar and China to decide borderline in accordance with border treaty and protocols: Foreign Minister



Muse District Deputy Commissioner explains demarcation of borderline to villagers.—MNA

NAY PYI TAW, 1 Aug—As the borderlines between China and Myanmar remain unchanged, although water courses of rivers and creeks in the border area tend to change, bor-

derlines on the territorial map were decided out in the field after a joint-team from Myanmar and China inspected the locations of border posts by checking them with their original co-

ordinates and information stated in the border agreements, Union Minister for Foreign Affairs U Wunna Maung Lwin told the Pyidaungsu Hluttaw on Friday.

The minister was responding to a letter sent to the speaker of Pyidaungsu Hluttaw by Muse Township Lower House Representative U Sai Bo Aung in protest of erecting wooden posts in Myanmar territory near Muse and Namhkam Townships after the inspection of the joint team.

The joint-team inspected the alluvial land between border post S 61-1 and S 63 near Namhkam and it was discovered



Boundary Post No 63 (2) in China.

MNA

that the Ruili River which flowed along the borderline previously, has changed its course. The stretch of alluvial land was 1,750 metres long, with 33 wooden posts erected there and the coordinates recorded, the minister said.

It was also discovered that a total of 19 farmers from Saikun and Kunsavillages in Myanmar were growing 42 acres of sugarcane on Chinese territory. The joint-team explained the location of the borderline in accordance with the maps and agreements, according to the minister.

Another disputed area between border post S 78-1 and S 79 on an alluvial land near Muse town also result-



Boundary Post No 63(1) in Myanmar.

MNA

ed from the changed course of the Ruili River. A total of 29 wooden posts was erected on the 1,790-metre long stretch of alluvial land and their coordinates were recorded, the minister said.

According to the minister, a jetty, an electric power post and a building from China were on Myanmar territory, and a building, a house and 3.5 acres of sugarcane field of Myanmar were on Chinese territory.

The Union Minister said it is stated in the border agreements between the two countries that borderline shall remain unchanged although water-courses in rivers and creeks change and that the current

borderline is in accordance with the 1960 border agreement.

The borderline lies between the two posts on the ground and the location of the posts were checked with their coordinates. It is discovered that the posts were erected at their original coordinates, according to the minister.

After a joint-team from the two countries inspected the locations of the posts, the territorial line was implemented on the ground, said the minister.

The map and border treaty and the protocol cited by the minister were signed by Prime Ministers U Nu of Myanmar and Zhou Enlai of China in Beijing on 1 and 13 October 1960 and the protocol signed by the Deputy Minister for Foreign Affairs of Myanmar U Nyunt Swe and Tan Jiaxuan of China in 1995.

The minister said that the joint-team just inspected the location of border posts and did not redemarcate the borderline, but if the borderline is to be redemarcated, the government will seek the approval of the parliament, the minister told the Pyidaungsu Hluttaw.—MNA

Thai armed forces delegation to attend border committee meeting

NAY PYI TAW, 1 Aug—A delegation led by Lt-Gen Preecha Jan-O-Cha of the Third Army of the Royal Thai Armed Forces arrived in Myeik of Taninthayi Region on Friday morning to attend the 28th

Myanmar-Thailand Border Committee Meeting to be hosted by Myanmar.

They were welcomed by Leader of the Myanmar delegation Lt-Gen Thet Naing Win of the office of the Commander-in-Chief

(Army), Deputy Leader Lt-Gen Aung Than Htut and senior military officers, Myanmar Ambassador to Thailand U Win Maung and officials.—Myawady

Myanmar Embassy provides assistance to its nationals detained in Malaysia

NAY PYI TAW, 1 Aug—Myanmar nationals were detained on arrival at the Kuala Lumpur International Airport, Malaysia, on 8 July, sources said.

Malaysia's Immigration Department at the airport on 17 July informed the Myanmar Embassy there of 75 Myanmar detainees.

According to a Malaysian immigration officer, 72 Myanmar nationals were detained when three agents were leading them out of the airport. Investi-

gation is being made into the case, with two of them being questioned on charges of suspected human trafficking, he said.

"Further details will be provided to the Myanmar Embassy," he said.

Official reports said that action will be taken against 58 Myanmar nationals for holding fake passports.

Myanmar Embassy in Malaysia is helping the detainees through coordination with relevant departments.—MNA

Mawlamyine gets sub-printing house

MAWLAMYINE, 1 Aug—The Ministry of Information has launched a sub-printing house in Mawlamyine, Mon State, with the ministry saying on Friday that the sub-printing house will enable people in Mon State and Kayin State to get newspapers more easily.

Speaking at the opening ceremony, Mon State Chief Minister U Ohn Myint said that one significant thing about the sub-printing house is that the paper will have four pages of an "Ethnic Section" every Sunday in Mon, Kayin (Sakaw), Kayin (Poe) and PaO dialects.

U Pike Htway, Deputy Minister for Information,



said that his ministry is making efforts to improve the world of media in informing the public of the ongoing reforms.—MNA

Deputy Minister for Information U Pike Htway views newly-printed newspapers at Mawlamyine Sub-Printing House.

MNA

Japan, Chile agree to enhance cooperation in resources development

SANTIAGO, 1 Aug — Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe and Chilean President Michelle Bachelet agreed during their meeting on Thursday to cooperate on resources development and confirmed expanding cooperation in disaster mitigation efforts between the two quake-prone countries.

“Chile is an important partner who shares basic values such as freedom, democracy, human rights and rule of law,” Abe told a joint Press conference after the talks. “We will strengthen exchanges in the areas of disaster reduction, science and technology, not just in economic affairs.”

The Japanese leader said he and Bachelet have also reached an agreement on collaborating in disarmament issues and seeking an early conclusion of the Trans-Pacific Partnership free trade negotiations.

Strengthening ties with Santiago is part of Tokyo’s efforts at securing a stable supply of

natural resources. Chile accounts for around 48 percent of Japan’s copper imports.

Abe reiterated Japan’s plan to strengthen cooperation with the Pacific Alliance, an economic grouping comprising four Latin American countries — Chile, Colombia, Mexico and Peru.

Abe said he received Bachelet’s backing for his government’s recent decision to reinterpret Japan’s pacifist Constitution to enable Japan to exercise the right of collective self-defence, as well as his idea of “proactive” contribution to peace.

Abe expressed his appreciation for Chile’s support as Japan plans to seek a nonpermanent seat in the 2015 United Nations Security Council elections.

The prime minister is on a five-nation trip aimed at bolstering strategic ties with Latin America. He has already visited Mexico, Trinidad and Tobago, and Colombia. His next destination is Brazil.

Kyodo News

Sierra Leone declares emergency as Ebola death toll hits 729

FREETOWN, 1 Aug — Sierra Leone has declared a state of emergency and called in troops to quarantine Ebola victims, joining neighbouring Liberia in imposing controls as the death toll from the outbreak of the virus hit 729 in West Africa. The World Health Organization said it would launch a \$100 million response plan on Friday during a meeting with the affected nations in Guinea. It is in urgent talks with donors and international agencies to send more medical staff and resources to the region, it said.

The WHO on Thursday reported 57 new deaths in the four days to 27 July in Guinea, Liberia, Sierra Leone and Nigeria, raising the death toll to 729. It said the number of Ebola cases had topped 1,300.

“The scale of the Ebola outbreak, and the



Government health workers are seen during the administration of blood tests for the Ebola virus in Kenema, Sierra Leone, on 25 June, 2014. —REUTERS

persistent threat it poses, requires WHO and Guinea, Liberia and Sierra Leone to take the response to a new level, and this will require increased resources,” WHO Director General Margaret Chan said. Sierra Leone’s

president, Ernest Bai Koroma, announced a series of emergency measures, to initially last 60 to 90 days, in a speech on Wednesday night. “Sierra Leone is in a great fight. Failure is not an option,” he said.

Security forces will enforce a quarantine on all centres of the disease and help health officers and aid workers to work unhindered, following attacks on health workers by local people. —Reuters

Air quality in 2 cities of Malaysia remains unhealthy

BEIJING, 1 Aug — Malaysia Minister of Environment said in a notice published on Thursday that the air quality in two cities of the country was still “unhealthy” based on the air quality index monitoring recorded 07:00 the same day.

The notice said, recently affected by smog, the cities of Sibu and Sri Aman of the Sarawak state had air quality index of 127 and 102 respectively on Wednesday, which were

regarded as “slightly polluted.”

Air qualities in 17 areas including port Kelang turned “fairly good.”

According to the air pollution index, a pollution

reading below 50 is classed as “excellent,” 51 to 100 “fairly good,” 101 to 200 “slightly polluted,” 201 to 300 “poor” and over 301 is “hazardous” or “heavy polluted.” —Xinhua

Russia’s top general says Moscow committed to nuclear missile treaty



Russian armed forces Chief-of-Staff Valery Gerasimov delivers a speech during a conference titled *Military and Political Aspects of European Security in Moscow* on 23 May, 2013. —REUTERS

Moscow, 1 Aug — Russia’s top general, Valery Gerasimov, told the chairman of the US Joint Chiefs of Staff on Thursday that Moscow was committed to adhering to the Intermediate-Range Nuclear Treaty after Washington accused Russia of violating the agreement.

The accusations from Washington have heightened tension between Rus-

sia and the United States at a time when ties between the two former Cold War foes have plunged relations to their lowest level since the 1991 fall of the Soviet Union.

“Gerasimov reaffirmed Russia’s commitment to fulfilling the provisions of the treaty on intermediate-range rockets,” Russian state news agency RIA reported the general as telling

General Martin Dempsey in a telephone call.

Washington says Russia has violated the treaty, ratified in 1988, which was designed to eliminate ground-launched cruise missiles with ranges of 500 to 5,500 km (310 to 3,400 miles). The United States has called for senior-level talks to discuss Russia’s compliance.

It was unclear whether General Gerasimov’s conversation with General Dempsey was part of those talks. Russia’s Foreign Ministry denied the US accusations as “unfounded” and said it had its own complaints against the United States over the treaty.

Washington has given no details over how in its view Russia violated the treaty, but the *New York Times* had reported in January that Washington informed its NATO partners that Russia had tested a ground-launched cruise missile. —Reuters

Disappointment, uncertainty after India blocks WTO trade deal

SYDNEY/GENEVA, 1 Aug — Several member states of the World Trade Organization voiced frustration after India’s demands for concessions on agricultural stockpiling led to the collapse of the first major global trade reform pact in two decades.

WTO ministers had already agreed the global reform of customs procedures known as “trade facilitation” in Bali, Indonesia, last December, but were unable to overcome last minute Indian objections and get it into the WTO rule book by the 31 July deadline.

“We have not been able to find a solution that would allow us to bridge that gap,” WTO Director-General Roberto Azevedo told trade diplomats in Geneva, just two hours before the final deadline for a deal lapsed at midnight (2300 London time on Thursday).

Most diplomats had expected the pact to be rubber-stamped this week, marking a unique success in the WTO’s 19-year

history which according to some estimates would add \$1 trillion and 21 million jobs to the world economy.

They were shocked when India unveiled its veto and the eleventh-hour failure drew strong criticism, as well as rumblings about the future of the organization and the multilateral system it underpins.

“Australia is deeply disappointed that it has not been possible to meet the deadline. This failure is a great blow to the confidence revived in Bali that the WTO can deliver negotiated outcomes,” Australian Trade Minister Andrew Robb said on Friday. “There are no winners from this outcome — least of all those in developing countries which would see the biggest gains.”

But the momentum on trade facilitation reforms means it may be hard to stop and some nations have already discussed a plan to exclude India from the agreement and push ahead regardless.

An Australian trade

official involved in the talks, who requested anonymity to speak more candidly, said officials were exhausted with the process and that there was already discussion about major reforms at the WTO and the Doha Round of trade negotiations, which began in 2001.

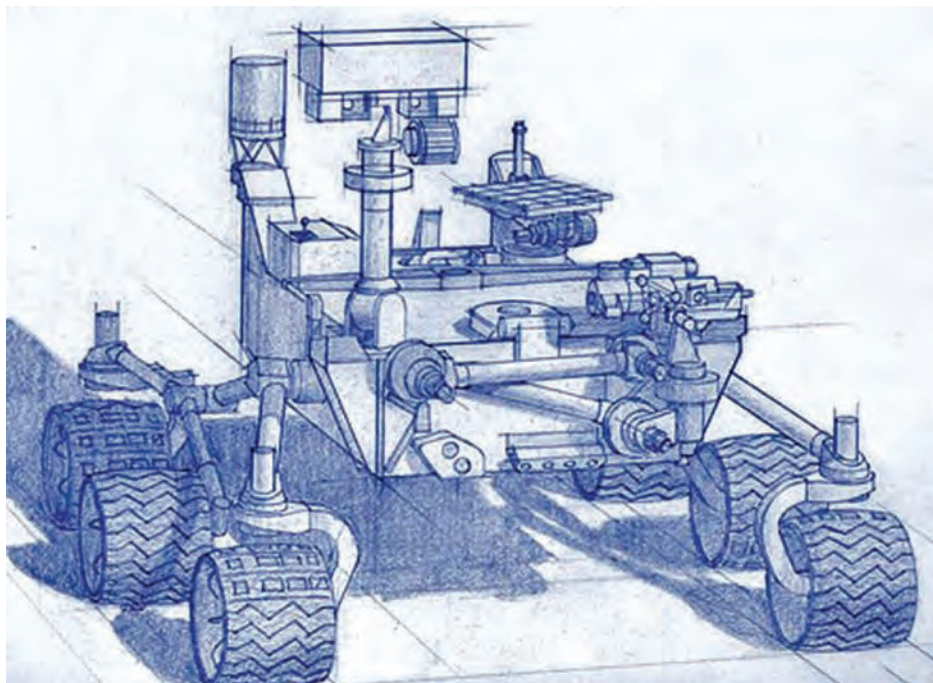
“Some see it as a final trigger for ending Doha and pressing ahead with plurilateral reform, leave behind those that don’t want to come along,” he said.

India had insisted that, in exchange for signing the trade facilitation agreement, it must see more progress on a parallel pact giving it more freedom to subsidise and stockpile food grains than is allowed by WTO rules.

India’s new nationalist government has insisted that a permanent agreement on its subsidised food stockpiling must be in place at the same time as the trade facilitation deal, well ahead of a 2017 target set last December in Bali. —Reuters

SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY

NASA unveils seven instruments for Mars 2020 rover



Artist's Concept of Mars 2020 rover

WASHINGTON, 1 Aug — US space agency NASA said on Thursday its Mars 2020 rover will carry seven instruments to conduct “unprecedented” science and exploration technology investigations on the Red Planet, including one that will be able to make oxygen for humans to breathe someday.

The instruments were chosen by NASA from 58 proposals it received in January from researchers and engineers worldwide,

the space agency said, adding that the seven it chose will cost about 130 million US dollars to develop.

“Proposals received were twice the usual number submitted for instrument competitions in the recent past,” NASA said in a statement. “This is an indicator of the extraordinary interest by the science community in the exploration of the Mars.” Among the most exciting is the Mars Oxygen ISRU Experiment (MOXIE), which will be

able to produce oxygen from Martian atmospheric carbon dioxide. The technology “will help advance our knowledge of how future human explorers could use natural resources available on the surface of the Red Planet,” NASA said.

Another instrument on the rover is Mars Environmental Dynamics Analyzer (MEDA), a set of sensors that will provide measurements of temperature, wind speed and direction, pressure, relative humidity and

dust size and shape.

The rover will also be equipped with Mastcam-Z, a camera system with panoramic and stereoscopic imaging capability with the ability to zoom. The instrument also will determine mineralogy of the Martian surface and assist with rover operations. In addition to Mastcam-Z, an instrument called SuperCam will be able to provide imaging, chemical composition analysis and mineralogy. The instrument will also be able to detect the presence of organic compounds in rocks and regolith from a distance. Meanwhile, an X-ray fluorescence spectrometer known as Planetary Instrument for X-ray Lithochemistry (PIXL) will be able to identify chemical elements in target spots as small as a grain of table salt.

Another spectrometer on the rover, Scanning Habitable Environments with Raman & Luminescence for Organics and Chemicals (SHERLOC), will provide fine-scale imaging and uses an ultraviolet (UV) laser to determine fine-scale mineralogy and detect organic compounds.

Xinhua

Fly Fido to the moon in space send off for deceased pets

HOUSTON, 1 Aug — A Texas company is offering a unique send off for beloved pets by placing a portion of their cremated remains in a capsule and blasting them off into space.

Celestis Inc, which has provided memorial space flights for human remains since 1997, will launch its first commercial pet memorial spaceflight in October 2014 with the remains of a blue merle Australian shepherd, named Apollo, the company said.

The pet services, such as one dubbed Earth Rise, start at \$995 and include

having the pet's remains into flown into space on a commercial flight and returned to the owner.

The space send-off options go up to \$12,500, which allows the pet's remains to be launched into deep space or to visit the moon.

Memorial service are available before blast off and families can witness most of the launches, depending on location, the company said.

“Our pet service flights are an idea that's been a long time coming,” Celestis Chief Executive Charles Chafer said. — Reuters



People stand and look at the moon one day ahead of the Supermoon phenomenon from a bridge over 42nd St in the Manhattan borough of New York on 11 July, 2014. — REUTERS

BlackBerry opens up BBM to Windows phone users



TORONTO, 1 Aug — BlackBerry Ltd said on Thursday its popular messaging system BBM, or BlackBerry Messenger, would now be open to those using the Windows phone platform, a move that potentially makes the messaging service more appealing to its enterprise clients.

BlackBerry, which is seeking to reinvent itself as a more software and services driven company as its smartphone market share has dwindled, has been lately touting new BBM features in a bid to make it a more viable messaging tool

for clients such as corporations and government agencies that are on the lookout for a secure messaging service.

The company, last year, opened the service to phones powered by Google Inc's wildly popular Android operating system and Apple's iOS platform. The rollout to the Windows phone platform means the service is now available on all major smartphone platforms, making it a more viable option for those clients that are considering using it as a communication tool.

BBM was a pioneering

mobile-messaging service, but its user base has failed to keep pace with those of WhatsApp and other rivals, in part because BlackBerry had long refused to open the programme to users on other platforms.

While the messaging service still has over 85 million active users, BlackBerry in a bid to boost its relevance and cater to the needs of its core enterprise audience is now marketing it as a secure communications tool for government agencies and regulated sectors, such as financial services.

Last month, BlackBerry began to roll out BBM Protected, a secure messaging service tailored specifically to the needs of companies in regulated sectors.

The move is part of a broader push that has also seen BlackBerry widen its device management capabilities to include devices that are powered by the Android, iOS, and Windows platforms.—Reuters

Smartphone management flaws puts users at risk, researchers say

VIENNA, 1 Aug — Security researchers have revealed two separate threats this week they say could put up to 90 percent of the world's 2 billion plus smartphones at risk of password theft, stolen data and in some cases let hackers take full control of devices.

One vulnerability involves flaws in the way scores of manufacturers of Apple, Google Android and BlackBerry devices, among others, have implemented an obscure industry standard that controls how

everything from network connections to user identities are managed. The threat could enable attackers to remotely wipe devices, install malicious software, access data and run applications on smartphones, Mathew Solnik, a mobile researcher with Denver-based cyber security firm Accuvant, said in a phone interview. A separate threat specifically affecting up to three-quarters of devices running older Android software has been unearthed by researchers at Bluebox Security of San

Francisco. Dubbed “Fake ID”, the vulnerability allows malicious applications to trick trusted software from Adobe, Google and others on Android devices without any user notification, the company said on Wednesday. “Essentially anything that relies on verified signature chains of an Android application is undermined by this vulnerability,” Bluebox said in a statement referring to devices built before Google updated its core software late last year.—Reuters



Fans take pictures with their phones at the beginning of the international friendly soccer match between Romania and Argentina at the National Arena in Bucharest on 5 March, 2014. — REUTERS



Photo taken on 15 July, 2014, shows tourists visiting Pulau Ubin, a small island tucked away just off the northeastern corner of mainland Singapore. The sleepy rural haven is struggling to preserve its rustic charm, even as other parts of the affluent city-state have long given way to economic development. — KYODO NEWS

23 drown at Karachi beaches, 20 bodies recovered

ISLAMABAD, 1 Aug — Pakistani rescue workers have recovered the bodies of 20 people who drowned at beaches along the Karachi coast over the last couple of days, a senior government official said on Thursday.

Shoab Siddiqui, commissioner of Pakistan's largest city, told reporters that at least 23 people are believed to be dead, and naval personnel and lifeguards of the city government had recovered 20 bodies as of noon Thursday.

Among them were the occupants of a vehicle that was washed away on Wednesday by high waves at Hawks Bay.

Several bodies were brought from the sea by navy divers on a rescue helicopter.

Those who drowned had gone to the beach at the end of holy month of Ramadan, escaping from the heat. Karachi has a long coastline and it is customary for people to throng the beaches during festival holidays.

Kyodo News

International experts reach plane crash site in east Ukraine — OSCE

KIEV, 1 Aug — The OSCE security and rights organization said its monitors, accompanied by Dutch and Australian experts, reached the crash site of a Malaysian airliner in eastern Ukraine on Thursday, two weeks after the plane came down.

Fighting between pro-Russian rebels and Ukrainian forces in the wider area has frustrated international experts' efforts to get to the site to recover remains of the victims and investigate the crash.

"OSCE... monitors

reach MH17 crash site for first time in almost week, accompanied by four Dutch, Australian experts. Used new route to access," the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe said on Twitter.

The small reconnaissance team would make initial checks of the area, a statement from the Dutch mission said.

"They will now only do initial reconnaissance, so that they can start searching as soon as possible during a later visit," it said. — Reuters

One dead, one injured in office building shooting incident in downtown Chicago

CHICAGO, 1 Aug — A disgruntled employee shot and wounded his boss before fatally shooting himself on the 17th floor of the Bank of America office building in downtown Chicago on Thursday morning, police said.

The gunman, reported-

Australia gives Pacific Island nations over 3 bln AUD in patrol boats and aid

SYDNEY, 1 Aug — Australia will launch a new 2 billion Australian dollars (1.86 billion US dollars) Pacific Patrol Boat Programme that will provide new vessels to 12 Pacific nations to help them protect their ocean resources, Australian Deputy Prime Minister Warren Truss announced on Friday.

Truss was representing Australia at the 45th Pacific Islands Forum in Palau and said the new patrol boat program is in addition to Australia's commitment of 1.1 billion Australian dollars in development

assistance to the Pacific in 2014-15.

He said the substantial funding reaffirmed Australia's standing as the region's primary development partner.

"Australia is taking concrete steps to help protect the ocean resources of the Pacific island countries by renewing the Pacific Patrol Boat Programme," Truss said in a statement.

"At an estimated cost of 2 billion Australian dollars, the first new vessels are due to come on-line from 2018 and will enable participating nations

to continue patrolling and managing their exclusive economic zones."

Pacific leaders told the forum this week that illegal fishing was costing their nations more than 1.5 billion US dollars of lost revenue each year.

Truss also announced two complementary initiatives directed towards strengthening Pacific island countries' maritime security capacity — a programme of contracted aerial ocean surveillance and the secondment of regional personnel to the Forum Fisheries Agency.—Xinhua

Snowden awaits extended asylum in Russia

told a local TV channel.

The Russian Federal Migration Service (FMS) must abide by "particular procedures," *Itar-Tass* news agency quoted the lawyer as saying, who added, "We hope that the issue will be resolved today or tomorrow."

The FMS granted Snowden, a former US National Security Agency contractor wanted by Washington for intelligence leaks, permission for one-year asylum in Russia

on 1 Aug, 2013.

Last month, Snowden said he had requested asylum from the Brazilian government, but the country's Foreign Ministry later denied receiving his request.

The FMS has not yet commented on the potential extension of Snowden's status, as FMS chief Konstantin Romodanovsky earlier called the issue "confidential."

Snowden faces three felony charges including espionage after he unveiled

a highly classified US intelligence project code-named "PRISM." He has traded fire with Washington over the latter's tapping of other countries ever after he arrived in Russia, where he has reportedly found a website maintenance job.

The United States and Russia have been at odds over Snowden's extradition, with Moscow repeatedly denying the case, citing absence of relevant bilateral agreements.

Xinhua



Fire fighters carry a victim in Kota Kinabalu, Malaysia, on 1 Aug, 2014. The fire killed two people. — XINHUA

ly a 59-year-old man, shot Arrowhead CEO, Steven LeVoie, 54, in the head and torso and critically wounded him.

The victim was removed from the scene by Emergency medical technicians, and sent to Northwestern Memorial Hospital

for treatment, a Xinhua reporter said.

According to local media reports, the company was downsizing and the shooter was not happy for being demoted.

Stefano Fredo, who was on the 12th floor when the incident happened, told

Xinhua, "We received an announcement in the building, but we didn't receive much details. They just told us not to leave the building, not to use the elevators, not to use the bathrooms, and that was about it."

Xinhua

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CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

MV PAC AQUILA VOY NO (014)

Consignees of cargo carried on MV PAC AQUILA VOY NO (014) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 2.8.2014 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of B.S.W where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

**SHIPPING AGENCY DEPARTMENT
MYANMA PORT AUTHORITY**

AGENT FOR: M/S VISA SHIPPING LINE PTE
Phone No: 2301185

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

MV ESM CREMONA VOY NO (103)

Consignees of cargo carried on MV ESM CREMONA VOY NO (103) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 2.8.2014 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of M.I.P where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

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

Phone No: 2301185

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

MV CTP FORTUNE VOY NO ()

Consignees of cargo carried on MV CTP FORTUNE VOY NO () are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 2.8.2014 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of H.P.T where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

**SHIPPING AGENCY DEPARTMENT
MYANMA PORT AUTHORITY
AGENT FOR: M/S SAMUDERA SHIPPING LINE**

Phone No: 2301185

**THE REPUBLIC OF THE UNION OF MYANMAR
MINISTRY OF ENERGY
MYANMA OIL AND GAS ENTERPRISE
(INVITATION FOR OPEN TENDER)
(16/2014)**

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

Sr.No	Tender No	Description	Remark
(1)	IFB -072(14-15)	Assorted Sizes of Ball Valves and Accessories (6) Items	US\$
(2)	IFB -073(14-15)	Spares for L-Type /ZW-Type Compressor and Dispenser (56) Items	US\$
(3)	IFB -074(14-15)	Steel Wire Ropes for Sand Line and Casing Line (3) Items	US\$
(4)	IFB -075(14-15)	Spares for KB 150 Well Servicing Truck (10) Items	US\$
(5)	IFB -076(14-15)	14" ERW API 5L Grade X-46, 3LPE Coated Steel Line Pipe (45) Miles & Hot Bends	US\$
(6)	IFB -077(14-15)	3.25mm/4mm/4.8mm Electrode(E 6011)(18) Tons	US\$
(7)	IFB -078(14-15)	14" Ball Valve Complete Set (2) Sets	US\$
(8)	IFB -079(14-15)	Heat Shrinkable Sleeve and Closure Patches	US\$
(9)	IFB -080(14-15)	100 KW Diesel Engine Driven Generating Set (1) Set	US\$
(10)	IFB -081(14-15)	Spares for Kenworth Truck (15) Items	US\$
(11)	IFB -082(14-15)	Spares for ATLAS COPCO Compressor (1) Lot	US\$
(12)	IFB -083(14-15)	30" Foam Pigs (15) Nos	US\$
(13)	IFB -084(14-15)	NDT Services for 30" Domestic Gas Pipe Line	US\$
(14)	IFB -085(14-15)	Cathodic Protection System Installation for 30" Domestic Gas Pipe Line	US\$
(15)	IFB -086(14-15)	Nitrogen Purging Services for 30" Domestic Gas Pipe Line	US\$

Tender Closing Date & Time - 25-8-2014, 16:30 Hr.

Tender Document shall be available during office hours commencing from 30th July, 2014 at the Finance Department, Myanma Oil and Gas Enterprise, No (44) Complex, Nay Pyi Taw, Myanmar.
Myanma Oil and Gas Enterprise
Ph: +95 67 - 411097/411206

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Weather report

FORECAST VALID UNTIL EVENING OF THE 2nd August, 2014: Rain or thundershowers will be isolated in Lower Sagaing, scattered in Mandalay, Magway Regions, Shan and Kayah States, fairly widespread in Upper Sagaing Region and Chin State and widespread in the remaining Regions and States with likelihood of regionally heavy falls in Rakhine State and isolated heavy falls in Bago, Yangon, Ayeyawady and Taninthayi Regions, Kayin and Mon States. Degree of certainty is (100%).

STATE OF THE SEA: Squalls with moderate to rough sea are likely at times Deltaic, off and along Rakhine Coasts. Surface wind speed in squalls may reach (35 - 40) m.p.h. Seas will be moderate elsewhere in Myanmar waters.

Two new parties launched after split of Japan Restoration Party

TOKYO, 1 Aug — Two new parties were officially launched on Friday as the opposition Japan Restoration Party co-headed by former Tokyo Gov Shintaro Ishihara and Osaka Mayor Toru Hashimoto dissolved over a proposed merger with the smaller opposition Yuinotoh party. A group of 22 lawmakers in both houses of the Diet formed the Party for Future Generations, and filed the report of the establishment of the new party with Internal Affairs and Communications Minister Yoshitaka Shindo.

Takeo Hiranuma, a former trade minister, heads the new party, while House of Representatives member Hiroshi Yamada is the new party's secretary general. Ishihara, a lower house member, is expected to serve as the top adviser of the new party headquartered in Tokyo.

Another group of 38 Diet members also set up a new party which inherited the name of the Japan Restoration Party and filed the report of the party's establishment with Shindo.

The Japan Restoration Party based in Osaka and led by Hashimoto is expected to merge with the 14-member Yuinotoh party led by lower house member Kenji Eda, in early September. Eda, former secretary general of Your Party, launched the Yuinoto party last December following internal strife with Your Party founder and then leader Yoshimi Watanabe.

Ishihara's group, whose members are conservative, was opposed to the merger with Yuinotoh.

Kyodo News

Mexico, US California agree to build new border crossing

MEXICO CITY, 1 Aug — Mexico and US state of California agreed on Thursday to build a new vehicle border crossing to help boost trade, Mexico's Communications and Transportation Ministry said.

Vice Minister Raul Murrieta Cummings and the secretary of the California Transportation Agency, Brian P Kelly, signed a memorandum of understanding to build and put into operation the Otay II-Otay Mesa East International Border Crossing, the ministry said in a statement.

The objective is to "spur trade exchange between Mexico and the state of California," the minister said.

Otay II, which forms part of Mexico's 2014-2018 National Infrastructure Plan, "is conceived as a high-tech border crossing for light and cargo vehicles, which will reduce wait times in the area, as well as have important environmental and health benefits," the ministry said.

Some 2 billion pesos (about 153 million US dollars) will be earmarked for the 35-lane crossing — 27 lanes going north and eight going south — "which could begin operating by the end of 2017," the ministry said. "As strategic partners, Mexico and California understand the great importance of generating more and better border infrastructure, the engine of development and competitiveness in the North American region," the ministry said.

A binational group is to be formed to oversee the project for the Tijuana-San Diego border area.—Xinhua



Employees of the Customs General Direction (DGA, for its acronym in Spanish), pour alcoholic beverages after being seized, in Santo Domingo, Dominican Republic, on 31 July, 2013. The DGA destroyed on Thursday 2000 boxes of whisky and alcoholic beverages, seized when being entered by contraband on national territory. The 2000 boxes, equivalent to 16,723.13 liters of different types of alcoholic beverages, with an approximate value of 11,793,331.76 dominican pesos, informed the engineer Fernando Fernandez, head of the DGA.—XINHUA

I thought I was dying: Sharon Stone on brain injury



NEW YORK, 1 Aug — ‘Basic Instinct’ star Sharon Stone, who was rushed to hospital back in 2001 with such a severe pain in her head, said she she felt like she’d been shot.

The 56-year-old actress has spoken out about her brain aneurysm

and her fear as she arrived at hospital, reported *Huffington Post*.

“I called my mom and I said I’m calling you from the emergency room. I said, ‘I’m having a brain haemorrhage’. And she said, ‘I’m on my way, I love you.’ Click,” Stone said.

“I was being wheeled down the hallway at one point, on a gurney, and I woke up and was like, ‘What’s going on?’ A young, young intern said: ‘I’m taking you to surgery.’ I said, ‘What surgery?’ and he said, ‘Brain surgery!’.”

Sharon had a brain aneurysm, which was so severe they had to operate on the problem immediately.

“When I woke up I had to learn to walk, hear, write, talk, remember and everything all over again. I thought I was dying for a long time, even after I came home.” Just three years later Stone found herself in a dark place, with her marriage to husband Phil Bronstein breaking down.

“My career was basically over, my marriage was over — I got divorced — my child was taken away. My identity too, I thought. I got down, down to it. And when I got down to it, it was like being a phoenix — I was burned to the ground,” she added.

PTI

Melanie Griffith hides her Antonio Banderas tattoo post split

LOS ANGELES, 1 Aug — ‘Thirst’ star Melanie Griffith stepped out in LA wearing a ‘Mel’ bandage to cover up her Antonio Banderas heart tattoo.

The 56-year-old actress has been slowly removing her inking since announcing her split from Banderas after 18 years of marriage last month, reported *Us* magazine. Griffith first covered the tattoo with make-up at the 2014 Taormina Film Festival in Italy on 17 June. —PTI



Melanie Griffith and Antonio Banderas

Chris Pratt wants to be role model to kids

LONDON, 1 Aug — ‘Guardians of Galaxy’ star Chris Pratt says he would be happiest if he could be a role model to children. Pratt, 35, who has a two-year-old son, said if his character from the superhero film inspires kids, it will give him more happiness than any success, reported Contactmusic.

“Right now, it means high profile, cool jobs coming up, big Press tour, and all the excitement of it all. But

none of that really means anything.

“The coolest things would be that my son can one day see this, and that maybe I can go affect some kids in a positive way’ be a good role model for them,” he said.

PTI



‘Guardians of Galaxy’ star Chris Pratt

‘SHARKNADO 2’

creates feeding frenzy on Twitter,
record audience for Syfy

LOS ANGELES, 1 Aug — Flying sharks chomping through New York City drew a record audience for Syfy’s “Sharknado 2: The Second One,” and became the most tweeted-about TV movie on social media, the US cable network said on Thursday.

“Sharknado 2,” which aired on Wednesday and reunited leading stars Tara Reid and Ian Ziering from last year’s campy hit “Sharknado,” drew 3.9 million viewers to become Syfy’s most-watched original movie.

The network added that the film also attracted 1.6 million viewers in the 18-49 demographic that advertisers covet.

On Twitter, Syfy, a unit of Comcast Corp’s NBCUniversal, said “Sharknado 2” garnered 1 billion impressions across conversations on the micro-blogging site, and was also among the top trending topics of Wednesday evening. In the movie, an aerial shark attack causes large-scale destruction across Manhattan. It features numerous cameos including “Today” show hosts Matt Lauer and Al Roker and country music singer Billy Ray Cyrus.

Last year’s “Sharknado” became a surprise hit for US cable channel Syfy after attracting a cult audience drawn to the film’s low-budget special effects about a hurricane that unleashes hungry sharks on Los Angeles. —Reuters

Ian Ziering
fends off a
flying shark in
Sharknado 2.
REUTERS



GENERAL

Spring Airlines starts Japan flight services after 2 delays



CHIBA, (Japan), 1 Aug — The Japanese unit of Chinese budget carrier Spring Airlines Co commenced three domestic routes on Friday after twice postponing the launch originally planned for May. The routes will connect Narita Airport,

serving the Tokyo metropolis, with Takamatsu, Hiroshima and Saga airports with one daily round-trip flight for Takamatsu and two for the others.

The postponements were due to delays in the training of crew members

and other preparations, according to Spring Airlines Japan Co based in Narita, Chiba Prefecture.

“The long-awaited flight services kicked off. I hope to obtain customers’ trust through safe operations and warm services,” Spring

Airlines Japan President Hiroshi Ugai said at an opening ceremony attended by 50 officials at Narita Airport, east of Tokyo.

The carrier aims for 70 to 80 percent seat occupancy.

Kyodo News

Muhammad Ali’s ‘Fight of the Century’ gloves sell for nearly \$400,000



The 1971 Muhammad Ali gloves from his first Joe Frazier bout are pictured in this undated handout photo courtesy of Heritage Auctions received on 31 July, 2014.

REUTERS

DALLAS, 1 Aug — The gloves that boxing great Muhammad Ali wore in his legendary 1971 fight against Joe Frazier in what became known as the Fight of the Century sold at auction on Thursday for almost \$400,000 (£237,040).

An anonymous bid-

der bought the gloves for \$388,375 at the auction run by Texas-based Heritage Auctions at the National Sports Collectors Convention in Cleveland. Heritage previously auctioned a set of gloves Ali wore to claim his first World Championship in 1964 for \$836,500.

The Fight of the Century, in New York’s Madison Square Garden, was the first of three fights between Ali and Frazier during the 1970s.

In 1971, Frazier officially held the title of Heavyweight Champion of the World. Ali had been stripped

of the title he had held since the 1964 bout against Sonny Liston because of his refusal to participate in the Vietnam War-era draft.

The 8 March fight against Frazier was Ali’s second after returning to the ring following a 3-1/2 year absence. Ali’s conviction had just been overturned earlier in 1971 by the US Supreme Court and his boxing license was reinstated.

“It was a controversial fight at a controversial time in America and the bout took on distinctly political and cultural overtones,” Chris Ivy, director of sports auctions for Heritage, said in a statement.

Frazier and Ali were each guaranteed \$2.5 million, a record purse for the time. “The fight sold out a month before the event with ringside seats commanding a record \$150, with even Frank Sinatra unable to get his hands on one,” Ivy said. Sinatra received a Press credential and shot ringside photos for *Life Magazine*.

Ali lost to Frazier but prevailed in a re-match at Madison Square Garden in 1974 and a third match-up known as “The Thrilla in Manila” in 1975.—Reuters

MYANMAR TV

(2-8-2014, Saturday)

- 6:00 am
- * Paritta by Hilly Region Missionary Sayadaw
- 6:20 am
- * Physical Exercises
- 7:20 am
- * Business News
- 8:30 am
- * TV Drama Series
- 9:00 am
- * News/ International News
- 9:30 am
- * Documentary (ASEAN)
- 10:00 am
- * News
- 10:15 am
- * Current Affairs
- 11:50 am
- * Musical Programme
- 12:00 pm
- * News/ International News/ Weather Report
- 2:20 pm
- * Business News
- 2:45 pm
- * Hyper Sports
- 3:00 pm
- * News
- 4:20 pm
- * University of Distance Education (TV Lectures) -First Year (Geography)
- 5:00 pm
- * News
- 6:20 pm
- * MRTV’s Youth Programme
- 7:00 pm
- * News
- 7:15 pm
- * Teleplay
- 8:00 pm
- * News/International News/Weather Report
- 9:00 pm
- * News
- * Documentary
- * Myanmar Series
- * Gitadagale Phwintparohn

MYANMAR INTERNATIONAL

(2-8-14 07:00 am~ 3-8-14 07:00 am) MST

- * Local News
- * The Exhibition Hall of The Great Chronicle of Buddha
- * World News
- * Trishaw Man
- * Local News
- * A Famous Festival & Its Fantastic Fair
- * World News
- * Kyaikhteeyoe: My Father The Porter
- * Local News
- * Fishing: Crab Business (Part- I) “Mud Crab”
- * World News
- * The Storytellers
- * Local News
- * Back To A Paradise (Part-1)
- * World News
- * Nang
- * Local News
- * A Day Life of Kayan Padaung Tribe
- * World News
- * Cosplayer
- * Local News
- * Myanmar Handicrafts
- * World News
- * Entrepreneur “Kalar Pyi Wai Shan”
- * Local News
- * Trend of Kachin Dress
- * World News
- * TECH School
- * Local News
- * City Night, Your Night
- * World News
- * Crocodile Keeper

Soseki Natsume’s novel “Kokoro” tops 7 million paperback sales

TOKYO, 1 Aug — “Kokoro,” one of the best known works by Japanese novelist Soseki Natsume, has sold more than 7 million copies, the most among over 3,000 titles in Shinchosha Publishing Co’s paperback series, the publisher said on Thursday.

Shinchosha first published the novel whose title means “Heart” in its paperback format in 1952. The work gained renewed interest in April when it marked its centennial since Natsume (1867-1916) released it as

serialized installments in a newspaper. Shinchosha printed 100,000 copies of the novel in the past three months.

Novelist Osamu Dazai’s “No Longer Human” came second with about 6.7 million copies.

Kokoro depicts the loneliness of Meiji era intellectuals through a story in which a man betrays his best friend to obtain a lover, and then feels guilty for the friend’s subsequent suicide.

Kyodo News



**Ronaldinho
in talks
with NY Red
Bulls**

Ronaldinho

RIO DE JANEIRO, 1 Aug — Ronaldinho is reportedly close to joining US Major League Soccer club New York Red Bulls.

The 34-year-old's brother and agent Roberto Assis has been in talks with Red Bulls officials about salary and conditions, according to the Uol news portal.

Under MLS rules, clubs are allowed three

marquee players who are exempt from salary cap rules.

New York currently have two marquee players: former France forward Thierry Henry and Australian Tim Cahill.

Ronaldinho terminated his contract with Atletico Mineiro earlier this week after more than two years with the Brazilian club.

Xinhua

Expect Chelsea fight for first-choice keeper spot — Mourinho

LONDON, 1 Aug — Petr Cech is ready to take up the challenge of competing with Thibaut Courtois for the position of Chelsea's number one goalkeeper, manager Jose Mourinho said on Thursday.

Belgian international Courtois, 22, has returned to his parent club following a long-term loan spell with La Liga champions Atletico Madrid and will battle with the Czech keeper for the starting role at Stamford Bridge.

Cech, 32, who has been Chelsea's number one for the past decade, is back from the dislocated shoulder he suffered in May and has featured in the pre-season games.

"Petr is working hard, he recovered in almost record time from his surgery and he's ready to fight for his position," Mourinho told Sky Sports television.

"Thibaut has just arrived...as the best young goalkeeper in the world, and they will fight. For me this is a good problem and I've never been afraid of

making a decision.

"I prefer to be in this position than not to have good goalkeepers for Chelsea. To have Petr and Thibaut together in the same squad is a good problem for me," said Mourinho.

"This is a club that wants to be strong and have real possibilities to compete for trophies so we

need competition in every place."

Courtois has been working with his team mates for the first time this week, having been given extra time off after the World Cup in Brazil.

"I just have to work hard and prove myself in training," said the Belgian. "We have to train hard and

work hard together as one team.

"All I can do is play well and then hope the manager chooses me. It's the same for everyone.

"I think I'm an all-round goalkeeper but I know I can improve at everything," added Courtois.

Reuters



Chelsea manager Jose Mourinho reacts during their English Premier League soccer match against Norwich City at the Stamford Bridge in London on 4 May, 2014.

REUTERS

Egyptian sumo wrestler storms his way into ancient sport

INAZAWA, (Japan), 1 Aug — Sumo wrestler Osunaarashi was a large, muscular Egyptian teenager with a passion for body building when a friend recommended he try the ancient Japanese sport of sumo. But it was a hard sell.

"This sport is about two elephants pushing each other," he recalls thinking. "I'm a body builder, man. It's so ugly for me, I will never do it."

Now Osunaarashi, 22, is the first Egyptian, first African, first Arab and first Muslim to muscle his way into sumo's professional ranks, so proud of his heritage that he observed the Ramadan fast during a just-ended tournament.

This meant neither eating nor drinking from 3 am to 7 pm despite grappling with wrestlers whose weight averaged 150 kg (330 lbs) in temperatures up to 33 C (91 F).

"The food was not a problem, but water was. It was the hardest part," Osunaarashi told Reuters in an extremely rare interview at his lively sumo "stable", as the wrestlers' gym and



Egyptian sumo wrestler Osunaarashi (R), real name Abdelrahman Shalan, throws Mongolian-born grand sumo champion Yokozuna Kakuryu out of the ring during the Nagoya Grand Sumo Tournament at Aichi Prefectural Gymnasium in Nagoya, Aichi Prefecture, central Japan, on 17 July, 2014, in this photo taken by Kyodo.—REUTERS

residence is called, just outside the central city of Nagoya.

"Without Ramadan, I just have a small headache after the fight. But in Ramadan, in this tournament, every day I have a really strong headache that I never had before."

Bulking up is one of the principles of sumo, which pits two giant, glowering wrestlers, clad in loincloths, against each

other. Bouts take place on a raised sand ring and the first wrestler forced out loses, with the outcome decided in seconds. Slapping is permitted, punching and hair-pulling are not.

Sumo tournaments are broadcast daily, but fight for audience with sports like soccer. It has trouble attracting new wrestlers within Japan as the rigours of daily life scare off enthusiasts.—Reuters

Nigerian Okagbare blessed after romping to 200 metres gold

GLASGOW, 1 Aug — Blessing by name, blessed by nature, Nigerian sprinter Blessing Okagbare hailed a remarkable sprint double after racing to victory in the women's 200 metres at the Commonwealth Games on Thursday.

The 25-year-old was in complete control of the final as her blistering speed took her away from the rest of the field and ensured she finished in a time of 22.25 seconds to win her second gold medal in Glasgow.

"It's amazing," Okagbare, who set a Commonwealth record of 10.85 to win the 100 metres gold on Monday, told reporters. "I feel extremely blessed, it's

not easy to get a medal so it is something to celebrate."

Despite being full of smiles after romping to victory on a damp Hampden Park track, the blonde Nigerian was frustrated that she did not run quicker to join the likes of American Olympic champion Allyson Felix in the sub-22 second club.

"I wanted to run faster, honestly," she said. "I went out in the final and I did not celebrate like I did in the 100 because I saw the time and was a little disappointed."

"I had to balance the weather and two runs in the 200 is just really, really hard. I don't know why

they did that schedule.

"If we had another extra day of 24 hours rest and came back then I would have been able to run faster because I think I'm actually ready to do under 22 seconds."

Okagbare, also an Olympic long jump bronze medallist, has the chance to cap her first Commonwealth Games with a third gold medal when Nigeria compete in the 4x100 relay.

"I am looking forward to it as long as we get to the final after the first run," Okagbare added. "I will come in for the final and if we get there then I will give my best for the nation."

Reuters



Nigeria's Blessing Okagbare (L) wins the women's 200m final ahead of England's Jodie Williams (R) in the athletics competition at Hampden Park during the 2014 Commonwealth Games in Glasgow, Scotland, on 31 July, 2014.—REUTERS