

President U Thein Sein urges ASEAN members to speed up regional integration



President U Thein Sein delivers speech at the 46th ASEAN Economic Ministers Meeting, urging to speed up regional integration.

MNA

NAY PYI TAW, 25 Aug— President U Thein Sein urged ASEAN member states to exert collective efforts for the regional economic integration through free flow of goods, free flow of services and investment and free flow of skilled labour and freer flow of capital as envisaged in the AEC Blueprint at his opening speech at the opening ceremony of the 46th ASEAN Economic Ministers Meeting held at Myanmar International Convention Centre-1 in Nay Pyi Taw on Monday.

The president said he

believes service liberalization and ASEAN Single Window will enhance trade flow across the region and beyond.

As for the free flow of services, he welcomed the cooperation in health sector, mutual recognition agreement on accountancy services and negotiation on investment for the free flow of investment in the region.

Then the president pointed out that the development of small and medium enterprises, which Myanmar has given priority to, will generate jobs and support growth while

capacity building program for CLMV countries bridges the development gap among ASEAN countries and speeds up regional integration. In addition, ASEAN is implementing the ASEAN Framework on Equitable Development for narrowing the development gap, according to the president.

Then, the president added that 82.1 percent has been completed on the implementation of the ASEAN Economic Community Blueprint and urged the member states to make

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46th ASEAN Economic ministers' meeting kicks off focusing on tariff liberalization, realization of AEC

By Aye Min Soe

NAY PYI TAW, 25 Aug — The 46th ASEAN Economic Ministers' Meeting kicked off Monday focusing on issues related to tariff liberalization and realization of the ASEAN Economic Community next year.

In his opening address to the meeting, President U Thein Sein urged ASEAN member states to exert collective efforts for regional economic integration through the free flow of goods, free flow of services and investment, free flow of skilled labour and

freer flow of capital as envisaged in the AEC Blueprint.

ASEAN's efforts on tariff liberalization and establishment of an ASEAN Single Window will enhance trade flows across the region and beyond the region, he added.

To accelerate the realization of the ASEAN Economic Community by 2015, ASEAN has identified and implemented its three priority areas, namely small and medium enterprise development, enhancing the public-private partnership and

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ASEAN Economic Ministers before meeting on tariff liberalization and establishment of AEC. —PHOTO: AYE MIN SOE

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Senior General discusses peace process with national race leaders



Senior General Min Aung Hlaing with leaders of Wa Special Region-2, Mongla Special Region-4 and vice chairman of SSPP/SSA.—MYAWADY

NAY PYI TAW, 25 Aug—Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Senior General Min Aung Hlaing received national race leaders from Wa Special Region 2 and Mongla Special Region

4 at Bayintnaung Guest House on Monday.

At the meetings, the senior general said that he

was glad to hear that all the armed national races would participate in the nationwide ceasefire ne-

gotiations and invited the leaders of the national race armed forces to frankly discuss the six principles

for achieving peace.

The senior general told the leader of Mongla Special Region 4 that all armed forces, including the Tatmadaw should abide by the three main national causes. Trust and respect essential for peace; Senior General

Trust among the national race armed forces and the Tatmadaw and respect for the pledges made are essential for peace, Senior General Min Aung Hlaing told a delegation led by the vice chairman of SSPP/SSA on Monday.

The SSA/SSPP delegation asked for financial assistance for regional development and promised to combat narcotic drugs phase by phase.

Also present were senior military officers.

Myawady

Deputy Speaker of Pyidaungsu Hluttaw meets Chairman of Indonesian Parliament

NAY PYI TAW, 25 Aug—Deputy Speaker of Pyidaungsu Hluttaw and Deputy Speaker of the Pyithu Hluttaw—Lower House—U Nanda Kyaw Swa received Mr Tantowi Yahya, Chairman of the Commission I for Foreign Affairs, Defence, Intelligence, Communications and Information of the House of Representatives of the Republic of Indone-

sia, and delegation at the Hluttaw Affairs Building in Nay Pyi Taw on Monday morning.

They held talks about friendly relations and bilateral relations between Myanmar and Indonesian Hluttaws, sharing of experiences among Hluttaw committees and plans of bilateral commissions and exchange of visits.

MNA

Senior General pledges to promote military relations with Pakistan

NAY PYI TAW, 25 Aug—Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Senior General Min Aung Hlaing received Air Chief Marshal Tahir Rafique Butt, NI (M) TBT of Pakistan at the Zeyathiri Guest Hall in Nay Pyi Taw on Monday morning.

The Senior General said that he would promote the relations between the defence services of the two countries in different fields through various means while the chief air marshal thanked Myanmar and its people for their help during

hard time for Pakistan and promised to promote the relations between the two countries.

Also present at the meeting were Deputy Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Commander-in-Chief (Army) Vice-Senior General Soe Win, Chief of the General Staff (Army, Navy and Air) General Hla Htay Win, and high ranking military officers of the Office of the Commander-in-Chief and the ambassador and the military attaché of Pakistan to Myanmar.

Myanmar and Pakistan established diplomatic relations on 1 August 1947. The Pakistani Embassy was opened in Yangon in

1949. On 25 June 1952, the two countries signed an agreement for bilateral relations.

Myawady

46th ASEAN Economic ministers' meeting kicks...

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moving ASEAN and AEC beyond 2015 as the key deliverables for this year under the ASEAN Economic Community. It is reported 82.1 per cent of the ASEAN Economic Community Blueprint has been implemented.

“Though we are trying our best to narrow the development gap among ASEAN members, it is still a great threat to the sustainability of socio-economic development of ASEAN achieved over the past four decades,” Dr Kan Zaw, union minister for National Planning and Economic Development, said.

“ASEAN member states still need to address issues related to beyond 2015, and to promote public and private sector partnerships in support of AEC,” he added.

At the 28th meeting of the ASEAN Economic Ministers' ASEAN Free Trade Area-AFTA Council, ASEAN economic

ministers also discussed issues related to trade and investment, including the ASEAN Trade in Goods Agreement, elimination of nontariff barriers, rules of origin, measures on facilitation of intra-ASEAN trade, resolving issues in the implementation of the ASEAN Common Effective Preferential Tariff scheme, progress in ASEAN trade and customs integration.

To accelerate the realization of the AEC next year, the four-day meeting will focus on strengthening regional cooperation for SMEs development, enhancing public-private partnership for infrastructure development and moving ASEAN and AEC beyond 2015 for the ASEAN Economic Community, according to minister Kan Zaw.

The economic ministers also held an ASEAN Investment Area Council meeting and ASEAN Economic Community Council meeting Monday.

NLM

Civil Service Training conducted for information officers

NAY PYI TAW, 25 Aug—The Ministry of Information and the Konrad Adenauer Foundation of Germany jointly conducted a civil service training

course at the hall of the ministry in Nay Pyi Taw on Monday, with an address by Deputy Minister for Information U Pike Htway.

Country Represent-

ative Dr Thomas Lawo of the Konrad Adenauer Stiftung explained the purpose for opening the training course, with instructors giving lectures on turning

out a new generation of personnel, management matter, uplifting of leaders' qualification, and the basic role of strategic connectivity and prospects for changing.

According to authorities, 57 officers from the ministry attended the two-day course which will run up to 26 August, adding that a similar course will be conducted on 28 and 29 August.—MNA

Deputy Minister for Information U Pike Htway speaking at opening of civil service training for uplifting capacity of information officers.—MNA



NATIONAL

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utmost efforts to implement the remaining measures in a timely manner.

Concerning the Master Plan on ASEAN Connectivity, which aims to enhance ASEAN integration, the president pointed out that the projects for physical connectivity require huge financial resources and technology.

In conclusion, the president urged the member states to join hand and work together for ASEAN to become a peaceful and prosperous community and a vibrant economic community in accordance with the theme of ASEAN for 2014 "Moving forward in Unity to a Peaceful and Prosperous Community."

The ceremony was attended by Vice President U Nyan Tun, Speaker of Pyidaungsu Hluttaw and the Pyithu Hluttaw (Lower House) Thura U Shwe Mann, Speaker of the Amyotha Hluttaw (Upper House) U Khin Aung Myint, Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Senior General Min Aung Hlaing and economic ministers from the ASEAN countries and officials. At 10 o'clock in the morning, President U Thein Sein received the economic ministers from ASEAN countries at the Pearl Hall of the MICC-1.—MNA

Myanmar, Indonesia see promotion of bilateral relations

NAY PYI TAW, 25 Aug—U Wunna Maung Lwin, Union Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar, received Mr Tantowi Yahya, Chairman of the Commission I for Foreign Affairs, Defence, Intelligence, Communications and Information of the House of Representatives of the Republic of Indonesia at the ministry on Monday.

They cordially discussed promotion of bilateral relations and cooperation between Myanmar and Indonesia.

MNA

President U Thein Sein meets ethnic armed group leaders



President U Thein Sein pledges development projects for education, health and rehabilitation for ethnic areas during a meeting with leaders of ethnic armed groups on Monday.—MNA

NAY PYI TAW, 25 Aug—President U Thein Sein met ethnic armed group leaders from Shan State here, holding talks on a ceasefire agreement.

U Kyauk Kaw Ann, member of central com-

mittee from Wa Special Region (2), Sao Khae Tai, vice-chairman of Shan State Progressive Party and Shan State Army, and U San Pae, vice-chairman of Mongla Special Region (4) reaffirmed the commit-

ments to safeguard the sovereignty of the country, to observe three main national causes for the unity of the country and to make dialogue for peace.

The President also said that all the national

brethrens have a common aspect of patriotic spirit for the unity of country and all the parties concerned are responsible for the development of the country.

He then guaranteed development programmes

of education, healthcare services and rehabilitation works in the ethnic areas.

The meeting was attended the vice chairmen of Union Peace-making Work Committee and union ministers.—MNA

Vice President Dr Sai Mauk Kham attends opening of Yangon Specialist Hospital



Vice President Dr Sai Mauk Kham inspects medical equipment at 500-bed Yangon Specialist Hospital, formerly energy ministry office renovated into hospital to provide medical services for public. —MNA

YANGON, 25 Aug—The 500-bed Yangon Specialist Hospital was commissioned into service on Minye Kyawswa Street in Lanmadaw Township of

Yangon on Monday, attended by Chairman of the National Health Committee and Vice President Dr Sai Mauk Kham.

Union Minister for

Health Dr Than Aung, Yangon Region Chief Minister U Myint Swe and other officials also attended the opening ceremony of the hospital located on the

grounds of the old office of the Ministry of Energy which was renovated.

Four entrepreneurs spent K185 million each on the renovation of build-

ings at the hospital, providing medical treatment to 17,631 patients from January to July.

During his inspection tour of Thingangyun Sanyapya Hospital in Thingangyun Township, the vice president said that a total of 1,066 hospitals across the nation cannot provide adequate health care to the people. He stressed the need for health staff to maintain good relations with private clinics and hospitals.

At Yangon International Airport, the vice president heard reports on the control of Ebola disease, intensive care of a suspected Ebola patient at Waibagi Specialist Hospital and his health improvement, and monitoring arrivals of passengers from international airlines presented by the Deputy Minister for Health Dr Win Myint. The vice president gave instructions on control of the Ebola virus not only at airports but sea ports and border checkpoints.

Wrapping up his trip, the vice president also visited the 300-bed Insein General Hospital.

MNA

Conveyance of Buddha images of Inlay PhaungdawU Pagoda on schedules



Traffic rule enforcement to be tightened in Mandalay



MANDALAY, 25 Aug — A total of 79 combined teams will carry out enforcement of traffic rules by taking action against offenders in Mandalay Region, said a member of the traffic rules enforcement committee.

“The combined teams were extended with the aim of reducing traffic accidents and assigned in respective townships to take deterrent action against offenders,” he said.

Although educative talks have been given and pamphlets on traffic rules distributed to the people, the public has a lack of adequate knowledge to abide by traffic rules.

A total of 31 combined teams are assigned in Mandalay District, 18 more teams in the remain-

ing six districts of Mandalay Region and 30 other teams in townships, with 671 members of 79 teams. “Action is taken against traffic brokers under the Vehicle Law and the Mandalay City Development Committee Law. Most the bikers drive without following the traffic rules and without wearing helmets,” said a traffic police officer.

Up to July 2014, a total of 105 people were killed and 279 wounded in 243 traffic accidents in Mandalay District. Authorities have taken action against 138 cases under the Vehicle Law, 13,556 cases under the MCDC Law and 28,270 motorcyclists under the law.

Min Htet Aung (Mandalay Sub-printing House)

NYAUNGSHWE, 25 Aug — Four Buddha images of Inlay PhaungdawU Pagoda will be conveyed from their chamber to 21 places of Inlay region as of 24 September 2014. The images will arrive in Nyaungshwe on 30 Sep-

tember and these Buddha images will be kept for public obeisance till 2 October. The images will be brought back Yadana Sankyaung Chamber of Inlay PhaungdawU Pagoda on 11 October.

Nay Myo Thurein

Okdoktan Street best tourist destination in ancient Inwa city

MANDALAY, 25 Aug— Ancient Inwa city, two miles and four furlongs north of TadaU and 20 miles southwest of Mandalay, has been attracting an increase in visitors, with officials naming Okdoktan Street the best tourist destination in Inwa city.

The ancient city is lo-

cated at the confluence of the Ayeyawady River and Myitnge River, with most of the visitors enjoying the scenic beauty of the confluence near Sagaing Bridge with Sagaing Hill in the background. Visitors have direct access to Inwa by car but must first go through Okdok-

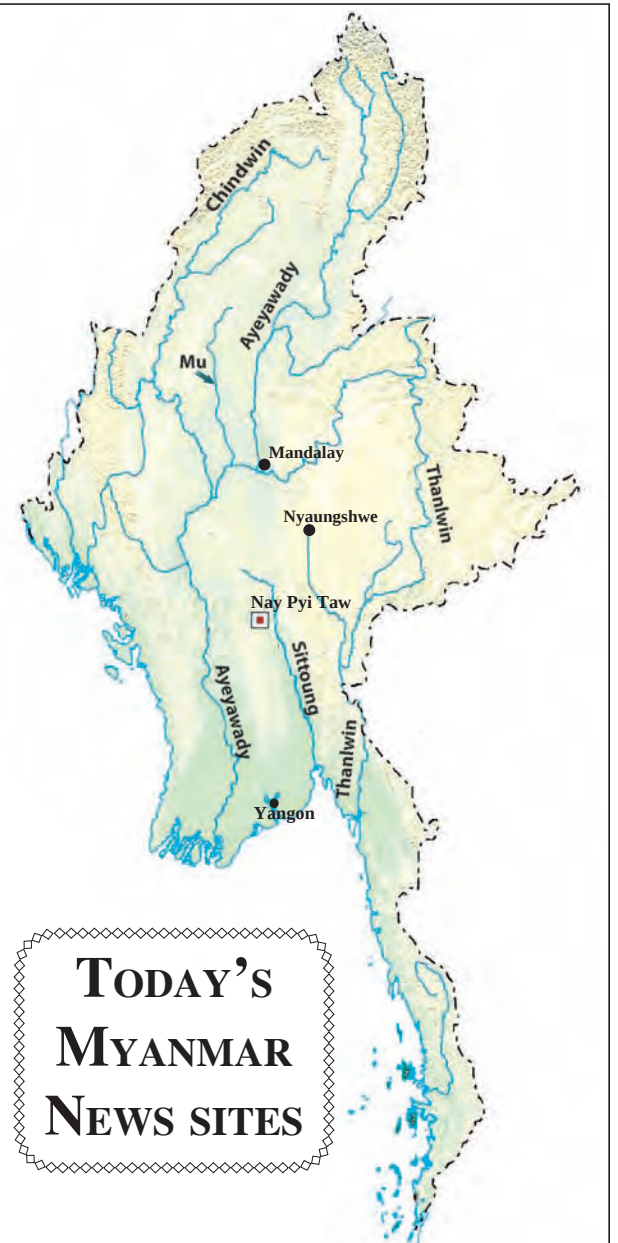
tan street, which is said to be the most beautiful one in the region. The street is flanked by shade trees on both sides like a cave made of trees, now dubbed the tree cave street, said a tour guide.

According to Myanmar history, King Thadoeminphya (1364-1368

A.D.) built Inwa city in 726 Myanmar Era.

The government has been preserving ancient pagodas and stupas decorated with Myanmar handicrafts in the ancient city for many years, with tourists exploring the ancient city on pony carts.

Tein Taman



LOCAL NEWS

Community-based policing process explained in Mandalay

MANDALAY, 25 Aug— A meeting on responsibility, accountability and management in the Third Wave process of the State took place at the hall of Mandalay Region Police Force in Mandalay on 23 August, with commander of the region police force Police Col Zaw Win Aung explaining responsibility and accountability in implementing the Third Wave process and

community-based policing process.

The commander of Kyaukse District Police Force discussed administration, management and political reforms of the nation and community-based policing tasks.

The meeting was attended by commanders of district and township police forces and police members. *Thiha Ko Ko (Mandalay)*



Sugar Mill in Katha Township to be built with foreign investment



MANDALAY, 25 Aug— Myanmar Sugar Development Public Company Ltd held its first annual general meeting at Oriental House in Chanayethazan Township of Mandalay on Sunday, attended by shareholders and guests, with officials saying a sugar mill, as part of a joint ven-

ture, will be built in Katha Township.

Chairman of the company U Nyi Khin read the report of the Board of Directors and Treasurer U Thiha Tun, the financial statement and shares. The shareholders approved the financial report and the list of members of the Board

of Directors. Managing Director U Win Htay explained future plans of the company, saying the company wants to build a sugar mill with foreign investment in Katha Township and cultivate 100,000 acres of sugarcane plantation. The sugar mill will be paid with 70 per cent

foreign investment and 30 per cent coming from the company.

Official said the mill will crush 5,000 tons of sugarcane per day with the establishment of a 35,000-litre ethanol plant and 80-ton fertilizer plant.

Thiha Ko Ko (Mandalay)

First prize winning team in MPCA Quiz honoured

MANDALAY, 25 Aug — A ceremony to grant scholarship awards to students of the University of Computer Studies and to honour the University of Computer Studies (Meiktila) representing Mandalay Region in the MPCA Quiz, was held at the hall of Mandalay Region Computer Professionals Association in Chanayethazan Township of Mandalay on 23 August. The scholarship award was provided by the Mandalay Region Computer Professionals Association and

Computer Industrialists Association.

Chairperson of Mandalay Region CPA Daw Thiri Khit and Chairman of the Mandalay Region CIA U Hla Kaung extended greetings, with Patron U Sai Kyaw Zaw and other officials presenting scholarship awards to the computer university students and the first prize to University of Computer Studies Meiktila in the MPCA Quiz.

Thiha Ko Ko (Mandalay)



Martial arts professionals demonstrate skills in performance

MANDALAY, 25 Aug — A skills demonstration of Myanmar traditional martial arts and royal Kanbawza Khu-kar-chant reversed martial arts were held at Nayhwetgu Shwenatha monastery in Aungmyethazan Township of Mandalay from 4 p.m. to 6 p.m. on Sunday.

It was attended by Myanmar martial arts professionals from Yamanaya, Inwa and Kanbawza regions, with the general public treated to performance showing a wide range of martial arts skills and techniques.

Maung Pyi Thu (Mandalay)



Thai king endorses junta leader as prime minister

BANGKOK, 25 Aug — Thai military leader General Prayuth Chan-ocha was endorsed as prime minister by Thailand's king on Monday, four days after he was elected by his own hand-picked parliament, although critics called his appointment a political farce.

Prayuth was appointed prime minister on Thursday, three months after leading a coup, by 191 out of 197 members of the military-dominated national assembly. He was the sole candidate.

Approval from King Bhumibol Adulyadej was a formality. His endorsement paves the way for the establishment of an interim government in coming weeks, although power will remain firmly in the hands of the junta formally known as the National Council for Peace and Order (NCPO).

"His Majesty the King has endorsed General Prayuth Chan-ocha as prime minister to govern the country from this day onwards," the Royal Gazette said in a statement published on its official website on Monday.

The military said the 22 May coup was necessary to avoid further bloodshed after months of turbulence



Thailand's newly appointed Prime Minister Prayuth Chan-ocha stands with his wife Naraporn during the royal endorsement ceremony at the Royal Army headquarters in Bangkok in this on 25 Aug, 2014 handout photo provided by the Thailand Government House. —REUTERS

pitting protesters, including the urban elite and southern Thais, against supporters of ousted Prime Minister Yingluck Shinawatra.

Dressed in a crisp white military uniform, Prayuth got down on his knees and paid homage to a portrait of King Bhumibol at a ceremony in Bangkok on Monday.

King Bhumibol, 86,

who is in a Bangkok hospital for what the palace said is a routine medical check-up, did not attend.

"I consider this the highest honour of my life," Prayuth said in a televised address after the ceremony.

"Our country has accumulated many problems over the years which need to be urgently solved. To do this we must not create

future problems," he said.

Critics have denounced the coup and the junta's self-described efforts to "return happiness to the Thai people".

The Organization of Free Thais for Human Rights and Democracy, a group set up overseas to oppose the junta, called Prayuth's selection illegitimate.

"The NCPO's selection of Prime Minister is only a political farce and in violation of the rule of law," Charupong Ruangsawan, the group's secretary general, said in a statement posted on Facebook.

The junta has cracked down on issues ranging from food hawkers at tourist destinations, the illegal logging of forests, and taxi

mafia gangs at international airports.

Prayuth, who is due to retire as army chief in September, moved quickly to silence dissent and deployed troops to quell protests in the weeks after the coup. The junta has tried to sell a positive story and has pointed to modest improvements in the economy and consumer confidence since the takeover.

Southeast Asia's second-largest economy avoided recession in the second quarter of the year but the tentative recovery is some way from matching the government spin.

Prayuth, 60, was a key figure in the 2006 coup that ousted Yingluck's brother, former Prime Minister Thaksin Shinawatra. Thaksin has lived in self-exile since 2008 to avoid serving a jail sentence for corruption charges he denies.

Prayuth has said he wants to free Thailand from a vicious cycle of political instability but critics say his rhetoric, including nostalgia-tinged references to an agrarian utopia and a "return to morality in Thailand", is outmoded and threaten to drag Thailand back by decades.

Reuters

Japan urges Thailand to ensure early transition to democratic system

TOKYO, 25 Aug — Japan urged Thailand on Monday to ensure a "smooth and early" transition to a democratic system through a parliamentary election in the wake of the appointment of coup leader Prayuth Chan-ocha as interim prime minister.

"As a longtime friendly country of Thailand, Japan strongly hopes the recent appointment of an interim

prime minister will be a step toward a smooth and early transition to a democratic system through a parliamentary election," Foreign Ministry Press Secretary Kuni Sato said in a statement as Prayuth formally took office.

On Thursday, Thailand's military-appointed legislature unanimously elected the army chief as interim prime minister, three

months after he seized power in a 22 May coup.

Sato said Japan regards it important that the interim regime ensure basic rights and freedom in Thailand.

Japan will take necessary measures such as filing a request with the interim government to ensure the safety of Japanese residents and businesses operating in Thailand, she said.

Kyodo News

Vietnam's special envoy to visit China to cool down situation

HANOI, 25 Aug — Spokesperson of Vietnam's Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MoFA) on Monday said that a special envoy will visit China aimed at discussing measures to relieve tension between the two countries.

"The visit by the Vietnamese official to China is to discuss with Chinese leaders on measures to cool down the situation and prevent tensions between the two countries from hap-

pening again," said Le Hai Binh, spokesperson of Vietnam's Ministry of Foreign Affairs on Monday.

Binh made the remark while addressing reporter's inquiry over the purpose of the tour to China by Le Hong Anh Le Hong Anh, a Politburo member and standing secretary of the Secretariat of the Communist Party of Vietnam Central Committee, will visit China from Tuesday to Wednesday as the spe-

cial envoy of Nguyen Phu Trong, general secretary of the Communist Party of Vietnam Central Committee.

"The visit, made at the invitation of Central Committee of the Communist Party of China, also aims to promote healthy, stable and long-term development of the bilateral relations between the two parties and two countries, which meets aspirations and interests of the two peoples," said Binh.

Xinhua

Fire breaks out in business hub in central Delhi, no casualties yet

NEW DELHI, 25 Aug — A fire broke out in a building at Connaught Place, a major business hub at the centre of the Indian capital on Monday, a senior police official said.

However, no casualties have been reported so far.

"The fire broke out on the first floor of the building in the morning. Some 10 fire tenders have been pressed into service and the inferno has been brought under control," he said on condition of anonymity.

A probe has been ordered into the incident, the official added.—Xinhua

Abe visits disaster-hit area



Prime Minister Shinzo Abe talks on 25 Aug, 2014 with evacuees from a deadly landslide that hit Japan's western city of Hiroshima. The death toll from the disaster has risen to 52 so far. — KYODO NEWS

WORLD

California wine country shaken by 6.0 quake, dozens hurt



Karl Luchsinger (C) removes a car seat from a vehicle crushed by a collapsed parking structure in Napa, California on 24 Aug, 2014. — REUTERS

NAPA, 25 Aug — Authorities in California's wine country north of San Francisco were scrambling late Sunday to reach damaged buildings and restore power in the town of Napa after a 6.0 magnitude earthquake struck before dawn, injuring more than 100 people.

The temblor damaged historic buildings, set some homes on fire and caused power and water outages around picturesque Napa, a famous wine-producing region and tourist destina-

tion.

The quake, the biggest in the region in 25 years, jolted many residents out of bed when it hit at 3:20 am (1020 GMT). It was centered 6 miles (10 km) south of the city of Napa.

There were no known fatalities, but three people were seriously injured, including a child who suffered multiple fractures after a fireplace fell on him, local fire battalion chief John Callahan said. Six fires broke out, including one that consumed six mo-

bile homes, he said.

At least 33 buildings in the city of Napa, a city of 77,000, had been "red-tagged," meaning they were unsafe to enter, said Napa Community Development Director Rick Tooker. Inspectors had accessed about a third of all structures and planned to complete the work on Monday.

Napa's Queen of the Valley Medical Centre said it had treated 172 patients injured in the quake.

"They say it went for

50 seconds. It felt like 50 minutes. I was just too terrified to even scream," said Patricia Trimble, 50, the owner of an antique store. She rushed to her store in central Napa and found the front window blown out, cabinets on their sides and merchandise littering the floor.

California Governor Jerry Brown declared a state of emergency, putting all state resources at the disposal of his Office of Emergency Services. The quake was felt throughout the San Francisco Bay area.

The state, which sits along a series of seismic faults, is forecast to experience a much more powerful earthquake at some point, but scientists do not know when it might come or how strong it would measure, a geophysicist with the US Geological Survey (USGS), Don Blakeman, said.

"Usually when people talk about 'The Big One,' they're talking about something in the order of a magnitude 9, which of course is tremendously more powerful" than Sunday's quake, he said.

Reuters

More than 250 migrants may have died in shipwreck off Libya



Members of Libya's coast guard recover the body of a migrant who drowned off Tripoli's coast, on 23 Aug, 2014. — REUTERS

TRIPOLI, 25 Aug — More than 250 migrants may have died when a boat sank a kilometre (half a mile) off the Libyan coast, a coastguard official said on Sunday.

"We believe there are still more than 250 bodies trapped underwater," coastguard official Mohammad Abdellatif told Reuters. "When we went underwater we discovered that the boat is a lot bigger than we thought."

The boat sank late on Friday east of the capital Tripoli. Thousands of migrants, mainly from sub-Saharan Africa, have crowded into rickety vessels in recent months in an effort to reach Italian shores. Many boats have been wrecked.

The total number reaching Italian shores has passed 100,000 in 2014, the Italian government said this week.

Libya is a major departure point for this journey, and human traffickers are exploiting the political chaos and lawlessness that has blighted the country since Muammar Gaddafi was toppled in an uprising in 2011.

Abdellatif said the coast guard had no resources for a rescue operation. "Most of the bodies washed on the shores are still there because we don't have any resources to move them," he said. "We contacted everyone, the health ministry and the Red Cross, but no one came to help."

Reuters

Stampede at temple in central India kills 10, dozens injured

NEW DELHI, 25 Aug — A stampede at a Hindu temple in the central Indian state of Madhya Pradesh killed at least 10 people on Monday and injured dozens, police and media said.

Several thousand pilgrims had gathered at the Kamtanath temple for prayers ahead of a new moon night when an electrical spark on temple premises triggered a rush for the doors.

Some of the devotees were lying on the temple floor, participating in a ritual, when the accident happened, said state police officer Pawan Shrivastav.

At least 60 people were injured, television channels said, quoting local officials.

Stampedes frequently occur at religious sites in India, many of which are poorly maintained.

Reuters



Photo provided by Korean Central News Agency (KCNA) on 24 Aug, 2014 shows top leader of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea (DPRK) Kim Jong Un (left, front) inspects the 2 Nov Factory of the Korean People's Army (KPA).

XINHUA

Philippine gov't maintains no Filipinos recruited by ISIS

MANILA, 25 Aug — Philippine military has denied reports that some Filipinos had been recruited and trained by Islamic State of Iraq and Syria (ISIS), presidential spokesman Edwin Lacierda said on Monday.

The Philippine government left it to the Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP) to validate the report after Davao Mayor Rodrigo Duterte said some of his constituents had been recruited and are now being trained by ISIS, Lacierda said. "There is none. We treat information only accurate if validated and so far there are no report nor names of Filipinos that are in the Middle East fighting for ISIS," Lacierda, quoting Lieutenant Colonel Ramon Zagala, military's public information office chief.—Xinhua

Korean ruling party leader meets with Chinese ambassador

SEOUL, 25 Aug — South Korea's ruling party leader on Monday met with Chinese Ambassador Qiu Guohong, talking about the unprecedented development of bilateral relations.

The top Chinese diplomat in Seoul visited the parliamentary office of Kim Moo-sung, who was elected new leader of the ruling Saenuri Party during last month's party convention.

Kim said during the meeting that South Korea and China achieved an unprecedented development of bilateral relations since the two countries established diplomatic ties in 1992, noting that it was based on the spirit of mutual respect and equal benefit.

Kim expressed his hope for more active exchange between politicians of the two countries as well as exchange between governments.

Touching on the ongoing negotiations for the bilateral free trade agreement (FTA), Kim said both countries are important economic partners, hoping both sides reach a better conclusion by considering sensitive issues to each other.

Qiu said political relations between China and South Korea were qualitatively improved after Chinese President Xi Jinping's visit to Seoul in July.

Trading volume of the two countries is very big and serves as a major pivot to the global economy, the diplomat said, adding that if a high level of free trade pact is reached between the two neighbors, it will provide great support for bilateral trade cooperation.

Xinhua

PERSPECTIVES

Tuesday, 26 August, 2014

Myanmar in need of better public transport system

By Aung Khin

While Myanmar is on the path of development due to the changes in politics and economy, major cities like Yangon are demanding a better public transport system.

The Mayor of Bogota, the capital of Columbia, said that 'A developed country is not a place where the poor have cars. It's where the rich use public transport'. This quotation points out that good public transport is essential for developed countries.

A good public transport could solve many difficulties in our daily life from living cost to a health living. Urbanization was expanded laterally because of good public transport in some mega cities of neighbouring countries.

In Yangon, a dependable inner city rail transport is an urgent need. If the railway network could be expanded with regular trains running up to the urban areas, many offices and companies will be built there, and workers will not need to come to the downtown areas. When city areas become larger, property prices could be controlled automatically.

The living costs in downtown areas are higher than in suburban areas. Therefore, low-income people can only afford to live away from business hubs. The metro of Yangon city is nearly 4,000 square miles and its urban area is about 232 square mile, while Bangkok city of neighbouring Thailand has a metro of 3,000 square mile and the city area of 606 square mile.

The Kingdom's city could be expanded laterally

together with comfortable rail transportations such as BTS and MRT. Property price is at an affordable rate, saving time and money in daily life.

Public transportation of inner cities should rely on railway lines, not on a large number of city buses which account for traffic congestions in the city. Myanmar people are very hopeful about the emergence of better services in the transportation sector. Possession of private cars is not as important as a good public transportation.

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The Fourth World Buddhist Summit which was successfully held in the Republic of the Union of Myanmar in the year of 2004

Ba Sein (Religious Affairs)

We all Buddhists throughout the Republic of the Union of Myanmar are still heartily pleased and greatly honoured for successfully holding the Fourth World Buddhist Summit in our Republic of the Union of Myanmar, a leading Theravada Buddhist nation in the year of 2004.

It is further learnt that with a view to promoting the concrete unity of all Buddhists throughout the world, the First World Buddhist Summit was successfully held in Japan in 1998, the Second World Buddhist Summit in Thailand in 2000 and the Third World Buddhist Summit in Cambodia in 2002. These three successful World Buddhist Summits were sponsored by the Nenbutsushu Buddhist Sect of Japan.

We all Buddhists know that altogether Six Great Buddhist Councils (Synods) were successfully held in order to preserve, purify, perpetuate and propagate the noble teachings of the Buddha after the noble demise of the Buddha over 2558 years ago.

The First Great Buddhist Council

Just three months and four days after the Buddha passed away, the whole body of the teachings of the Buddha were recited and given authenticity by an assembly of five hundred Arahats prescribed over by the Venerable Mahakasapa convened at the city of Rejagaha, India.

The second Great Buddhist Council

In the year 100 of the Buddhist Era, the Second Great Buddhist Council was held in the city of Vesali, India where seven hundred Arhats led by the Venerable Yasa dismissed the ten indul-

gences that a sect of heretical monks were trying to add to the original teachings of the Buddha.

The Third Great Buddhist Council

In the year 235 of the Buddhist Era, the Third Great Buddhist Council was held in Pataliputta, India where one thousand Arahats headed by the Venerable Mahamoggaliputtatissa cleared the Doctrines of unlawful extraneous elements that some had tried to insinuate into it.

The Fourth Great Buddhist Council

In the year 450 of the Buddhist Era, the Fourth Great Buddhist Council was held in the market town of Malaya in Ceylon (Sri Lanka) where five hundred venerable elders led by the Venerable Mahadhammarakkhita inscribed the entire words of the Buddha's teachings on palm leaves.

The Fifth Great Buddhist Council

In the year 2415 of the Buddhist Era, the Fifth Great Buddhist Council was held in the city of Mandalay, Myanmar, where two thousand and four hundred venerable elders led by the Venerable Jagarabhivamsa convened to recite and approve the scriptures which were then inscribed on stone slabs.

The Sixth Great Buddhist Council

In the year 2498 of the Buddhist Era, the Sixth Great Buddhist Council was held in the Mahapasana Great Cave, Yangon, Myanmar, where two thousand and five hundred venerable elders led by the Venerable Revata convened to recite and verify the scriptures which were later put into print.

The First Congregation of the Sangha of All Orders

To carefully preserve genuine teachings of the Buddha, the Republic of the Union of Myanmar being a Theravada Buddhist nation in the Buddhist world, successfully held the First Congregation of the Sangha of All Orders in 1980 in order to reconstruct the unity of the Sangha of All Orders. Since then, the following nine official sects (ganas) of the Sangha of All Orders in the Republic of the Union of Myanmar unitedly carried out the noble task of the genuine teachings of the Buddha at home and abroad.

Nine Official Sects of Sangha of All Orders

1. Sudhamma Sect
2. Shwekyin Sect
3. Dhammanu Dhamma Mahadwara Nikaya Sect
4. Dhamma Vinayanuloma Muladwara Nikaya Sect
5. Anaukchaung Dwara Sect
6. Veluvan Nikaya Sect
7. Catubummika Mahasatipathana Ngettwin Sect
8. Ganavimotti Kuto Sect
9. Dhammayutti Nikaya Mahayin Sect

The nine official sects of Sangha of All Orders represent over five hundred thousand members of Sangha throughout the Republic of the Union of Myanmar and besides they are unitedly carrying out various matters relating to members of Sangha in accordance with Vinaya Rules of the Buddha.

All members of Sangha, we all Buddhist people and the Government of Republic of the Union of Myanmar are still very pleased and have the great honour for having an opportunity to hold the Fourth World Buddhist Summit in the Union of Myanmar in

2004. The Republic of the Union of Myanmar as a Theravada Buddhist nation, hand in hand with other Buddhist Nations, is internationally striving to participate in active role for propagating and promoting Buddhism throughout the world. To implement the noble task for propagation and promotion of teachings of the Buddha at home and abroad is always encouraged and generously supported by Buddhist people and the Government of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar.

The Fourth World Buddhist Summit in the year of 2004

Buddhism is one of the four main historical religions of the world, and there are about (1096) million Buddhists throughout the world.

The Buddha attained supreme Enlightenment at the foot of the Bodhi Tree near the town of Gaya, India in 103 Maha Era (588 BC). He taught the Dhamma for forty five years of Buddhahood, and at the age of eighty, he attained Mahaparinibbana (passed away) in 148 Maha Era (544 BC).

The noble teachings (Dhamma) of the Buddha were continuously propagated and promoted by Bhikkhus (members of Sangha), Laity and the successive kings after the noble demise of the Buddha. And so, the teachings of the Buddha (Buddha Sasana) have flourished and spread throughout the world since then. Despite the existence of three main Buddhist Sects, namely; Theravada Buddhism, Mahayana Buddhism and Tibetan Buddhism, the essence remains the same.

With the intention of unity of all Buddhists based on original teachings of the Buddha to propagate and promote Bud-

dhism throughout the world, and to create peaceful world, the Nenbutsushu Buddhist Sect of Japan, sponsored the First World Buddhist Summit in Japan in 1998, the Second World Buddhist Summit in Thailand in 2000, and the Third World Buddhist Summit in Cambodia in 2002. The delegation of the Nenbutsushu Buddhist Sect of Japan led by Ven. Dr. Shinkai Kori visited the Union of Myanmar in 2002 and met the responsible officials and personnel of the State Peace and Development Council of the Union of Myanmar at that time in order to hold the Fourth World Buddhist Summit in the Republic of the Union of Myanmar.

In accordance with strong wishes of members of the Sangha, Buddhist people and Government of the State Peace and Development Council of the Union of Myanmar at that time, the Fourth World Buddhist Summit was successfully held in the Republic of the Union of Myanmar in 2004. The Summit was attended and participated in, by Buddhist representatives and observers from more than 20 countries.

Aims and objectives

The five aims and objectives for holding the Fourth World Buddhist Summit are as follows:-

- (1) To promote friendship, mutual understanding and cooperation among the Buddhist countries.
- (2) To maintain Buddhist teachings and practice among the Buddhist countries.
- (3) To promote Buddhist education based on the studies of Buddhist scriptures in nations of the world.
- (4) To help and to create the peaceful world by the Buddhists throughout the world.
- (5) To propagate and promote original teachings of the Buddha in the world.

NATIONAL

Myanmar hosts 46th AEMM and Related Meetings

NAY PYI TAW, 25 Aug — The 46th ASEAN Economic Ministers' Meeting and related meetings were held at the Myanmar International Convention Centre-1 (MICC-1) in Nay Pyi Taw on Monday.

The 17th ASEAN Investment Area Council Meeting was held at 1:30 pm, discussing the suggestions of the ASEAN secretary-general on the monitoring report of the 2014 ASEAN Investment sector, the matters included in the

report of ASEAN senior economic officer and the joint statement that will be issued at the meeting.

The 46th AEMM at 2:45 pm discussed the report of ASEAN senior economic officer submitted to the bloc's economic ministers, and the preparations for the meeting with dialogue partner countries which will be held in November.

The 12th ASEAN Economic Community Council meeting also took place at



Delegates participate in discussions at 46th ASEAN Economic Ministers' Meeting.—MNA



Delegates including Union Minister for National Planning and Economic Development Dr Kan Zaw to 17th AIA Council Meeting joining hands in posture as integration of ASEAN countries.—MNA

the same venue at 7:10 pm with discussions on the report of ASEAN senior economic officer, preparation for ministerial level meeting to sign an agreement on multi-economic cooperation and meeting between ASEAN economic ministers and those of dialogue

partner countries.

The meetings were attended by ASEAN economic ministers, the economic ministers from the six-dialogue partner countries, the secretary-general of ASEAN and senior economic officials.

MNA

Suspected Ebola patient shows improvement

NAY PYI TAW, 25 Aug — The suspected Ebola patient at Waibagi Specialist Hospital is getting better day by day while the other four people he was in close contact with were found to have no health problems, the Ministry of Health announced on Monday.

The suspected patient is receiving malaria treat-

ment b specialist and has not experienced bleeding symptoms.

News on the suspected patient has been released on TV, and newspaper and Web Portal of the ministry. More information will be issued for the public, according to the Ministry of Health.

MNA

Inlay Lake conservation plan to be discussed at workshop

NYAUNGSHWE, 25 Aug — A workshop on drawing a five-year Inlay Lake conservation plan, jointly organized by the Forest Department will be held at Taunggyi Hotel in Taunggyi of Shan State on 26 August.

National Adviser to UNDP U Tun Paw Oo will explain priorities of the five-year plan, lasting from 2015-16 to the 2019-2020 fiscal year. Agricultural methods, water quality, sewerage system, waste treatment system, silting, erosion, reforestation, educative works for environmental conservation will be discussed.—NLM-018

Two bridges in Mandalay and Sagaing improve local transport: Officials

MANDALAY, 25 Aug — To improve transport, the government has built a bridge named Ayeyawady Bridge (Yadanabon), 610 metres upstream of Inwa Bridge, at the confluence

of the Ayeyawady River and Myitnge River. The new bridge is of fixed arch type and 5,614 feet long. Its clearance is 700 feet wide and 40 feet high. Construction of the bridge started on

30 October 2001 and was completed on 26 February 2008.

The older bridge in the area, Sagaing Bridge also called Inwa Bridge, was built in 1934 during

the British colonial era. The 1,203 metres bridge can withstand 15-ton capacity trucks. Heavily laden vehicles crossed the river with Z-craft ferries, resulting in less efficient

transportation of goods.

The old and new Ayeyawady bridges have improved the transport sector in Mandalay and Sagaing, officials said.

Tein Taman



US Republicans pressure Obama to step up action against ISIS



Senator John McCain

WASHINGTON, 25 Aug — Republicans on Sunday called for more aggressive US action to defeat Islamic State militants in Syria and Iraq, accusing President Barack Obama of policies

that have failed to thwart potential new threats on US soil.

Representative Mike Rogers, Republican chairman of the House of Representatives Intelligence

Committee, urged the administration to work with Arab partners on robust steps to disrupt the operations of the Islamic State in Iraq and Syria (ISIS). He said the group is drawing support from Europeans and Americans who could travel undetected to Western countries to carry out attacks.

"They are one plane ticket away from US shores," Rogers said on NBC's "Meet the Press" programme.

"We have the capability to defeat (ISIS). We now have to have the political will and we have to have the policy to do it. We have the first. We don't have the second two."

Rogers and other Republicans including Senator John McCain have been

relentlessly critical of Obama's security policy, including accusations that the president has shown a lack of leadership against terrorism since ordering the military operation that killed al-Qaeda leader Osama bin Laden in 2011.

But a leading Senate Democrat cautioned against overstating the dangers ISIS could pose to the United States.

"I don't think we can simply dismiss them. But to jump from what they have done, which is horrific ... to the assumption that they're going to be an immediate, and within days, a threat to us here in our homeland, I think you don't jump to that," said Senator Jack Reed of Rhode Island.

"The proper strategy is a comprehensive strategy,

and its foundation is political, not just military," he added. US officials have identified ISIS as a major threat since it emerged from Syria's civil war and swept into Iraq this summer. Obama has ordered limited air strikes against the group in northern Iraq. But alarm raised by the beheading of US journalist James Foley has been followed by calls for action to defeat ISIS, including attacks on its operations in Syria. Officials have not ruled out escalating military action.

"The president has to articulate the challenge, what we need to do to meet it and describe exactly to Congress what those missions are. And unfortunately, so far, he seems to be strangely detached," McCain told Fox News on

Sunday.

"I am heartbroken about what has happened to the Syrian people and a lot of that is due to our total inaction, and that's going to be one of the more shameful chapters in American history."

Rogers blamed Obama for a change in policy that he said has inhibited the ability of US intelligence and defence agencies to "disrupt" ISIS operations and other militant groups overseas. "We have missed dozens and dozens of opportunities to take really bad people off the battlefield," he said. "This is an opportunity for the president to take a step back, change his presidential guidance on how we disrupt terrorism around the world." —Reuters

UK close to identifying Briton suspected of beheading

WASHINGTON, 25 Aug — Britain is close to identifying a man, thought to be British, who was shown beheading US journalist James Foley in a video released by the Islamic State militant group last week, its ambassador to the United States, Peter Westmacott, told CNN.

"We are close" to identifying the man in the video, Westmacott told CNN's "State of the Union" programme on Sunday.

"We're putting a lot into it," he said, including using voice-recognition technology to track down the killer.

British authorities are

trying to identify the man, who has a London accent and has been dubbed "Jihadi John" by British media. The masked figure beheaded Foley in a video released on Tuesday that also threatened a second captive American journalist, Steven Sotloff.

Foley was abducted in Syria in November 2012; Sotloff was kidnapped there in 2013.

Westmacott said the problem "goes beyond one horrendous criminal."

"People think maybe as many as 500 British subjects have gone to Syria and Iraq for this cause of jihad," he said.—Reuters



US journalist James Foley (R) arrives with fellow reporter Clare Gillis (not pictured), after being released by the Libyan government, at Rixos hotel in Tripoli, in this picture taken 18 May, 2011.—REUTERS

Hundreds dead as Islamic State seizes Syrian air base

BEIRUT, 25 Aug — Islamic State militants stormed an air base in northeast Syria on Sunday, capturing it from government forces after days of fighting that cost more than 500 lives, a monitoring group said.

The Syrian Observatory for Human Rights said at least 346 Islamic State fighters were killed and more than 170 members of government forces had died since Tuesday in the fight over Tabqa base, making it one of the deadliest confrontations between the two groups since the start of Syria's war.

The Observatory, which monitors violence in Syria through sources on the ground, said fighting raged inside the air base on Sunday. It was the Syrian army's last foothold in an area otherwise controlled by Islamic State, which has seized large areas of Syria and Iraq.

In nearby Raqqa city, an Islamic State stronghold, there was celebratory gunfire and several mosques announced through their loudspeakers that the base had fallen to the Islamists and cheered "God is greatest", a witness told Reuters.



A resident of Tabqa city touring the streets on a motorcycle waves an Islamist flag in celebration after Islamic State militants took over Tabqa air base, in nearby Raqqa city on 24 Aug, 2014. —REUTERS

IS fighters displayed the severed heads of Syrian army soldiers in the city square, the witness said, adding that Syrian warplanes were heard over Raqqa following the air base attack. Earlier on Sunday the Syrian air force had bombed areas around the base.

Syrian state television said that after fierce battles, the military was "regrouping". Citing a military source, it said there was a "successful evacu-

ation of the airport" and that the army was continuing strikes on "terrorist groups" in the area, which it said had suffered heavy losses.

Syrian state media gave no figure for the number of people killed in the clashes.

Islamic State had also trapped around 150 retreating Syrian soldiers in an area near the base and was believed to be holding them captive, the Observatory said.

The Syrian army sent reinforcements to the base overnight on Friday to fight Islamic State, which controls roughly a third of northern and eastern Syria.

Syrian television had shown footage of army forces defending the base on Saturday who had said it was safe from Islamic State's advances. Many of the Islamic State fighters died after Syrian warplanes bombed the area, the Observatory said.

Reuters

US says American journalist freed after being held in Syria since 2012

WASHINGTON, 25 Aug —American journalist Theo Curtis has been released after being kidnapped in Syria two years ago, US Secretary of State John Kerry said on Sunday.

Kerry said in a statement that the United States was using "every diplomat-



ic, intelligence and military tool" at its disposal to secure the release of other

US journalist Peter Theo Curtis is shown in this undated still frame taken from video courtesy of Al Jazeera on 24 Aug, 2014. REUTERS

Americans held hostage in Syria. The news of Curtis' release came just days after what Kerry called "unspeakable tragedy." Islamic State militants this week killed American journalist James Foley, who was kidnapped in Syria in 2012

Reuters

HEALTH & BUSINESS

Market leaders seen taking S&P 500 to 2,000

NEW YORK, 25 Aug — US stocks have been on a roll of late, with the S&P 500 hitting the latest in a series of records on Thursday, and investors expect the index's momentum to soon carry it to — if not far past — the 2,000 milestone.

The S&P is about 10 points, or 0.4 percent, from that landmark, which analysts expected would be reached toward the end of the year, according to the most recent *Reuters* poll. Reaching it ahead of schedule is the latest affirmation that stocks are widely preferred to bonds, even with further upside seen as limited as the Federal Reserve remains on track to end its bond-buying stimulus programme in October.

The level has more psychological than fundamental significance, and it could prompt market partic-

ipants to consider whether their holdings have become stretched. The "2,000 (level) has no fundamental significance outside of suggesting that stocks are fully valued and getting more so all the time," said David Joy, chief market strategist at Ameriprise Financial in Boston. "We should see some weakness as Fed policy winds down, but I'd still rather own stocks than bonds, as in the long run they'll continue to expand."

The S&P is up 7.8 percent this year, outpacing overseas indexes and shrugging off headwinds such as a weather-depressed first quarter and political unrest abroad. Both defensive and cyclical stocks have led at times, but traders expect technology and healthcare names, the market's current leaders, to drive it over 2,000.—*Reuters*



A Wall Street sign is pictured in the rain outside the New York Stock Exchange in New York on 9 June, 2014.—*Reuters*

Delay morning school start for teens: pediatricians

NEW YORK, 25 Aug — Middle and high schools should delay their start times to at least 8:30 am to benefit the health and welfare of students, according to a new policy statement from a large organization of US pediatricians.

Instead of having teens be in school by 7:30 or 8:00, delaying the start time has been found in past research to improve their quality of life through physical and mental health, safety and better academic performance, the American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP) says in its journal *Pediatrics*.

"We want to engage in at least starting a discussion in the community," Dr Judith Owens told *Reuters* Health. "Hopefully as a result of that the importance of sleep health as a priority will become more prominent."

Owens, a sleep medicine specialist at Children's National Health System in Washington, DC, led the AAP's Adolescent Sleep Working Group, Council on School Health and Committee on Adolescence in writing the new policy.

"I think that we definitely acknowledge that changing school start times is a challenge for many communities and that there are political, logistical and

financial considerations associated with that, but at the end of the day this is something that communities can do to have a significant and definite impact of the health of their population," Owens said.

In an additional article published alongside the new policy statement, Owens and her coauthors write that poor sleep has been linked to increased risks of depression, anxiety, obesity and motor vehicle accidents.

"We've been steadily accumulating the evidence to demonstrate that chronic sleep loss has very significant health safety and performance outcomes," Owens said.

Teenagers also experience a biological shift in sleep patterns after puberty that makes it difficult to get to sleep before 11 pm, Owens said. Their sleep needs of 8 to 9 hours don't change, however.

In addition to the health benefits, the pediatricians write that delaying school start times have been tied to better graduation and attendance rates, fewer children reporting sleepiness during class and better test scores.

When asked if pushing back the time school starts will just keep teens and adolescents up later, Owens



Precious Perez listens during a class on United States history at a high school in Chelsea, Massachusetts on 24 Jan, 2014.—*Reuters*

said research hasn't shown that to be true. In fact, one school that delayed its start time saw its students get an additional 50 minutes of sleep, because the students began going to bed even earlier.

"More is better, but even that modest amount of a shift can have very, very positive effects," she said.

In addition to encouraging later start times, the AAP's statement recommends pediatricians educate adolescents and their parents about proper sleep needs. Also, it says, school nurses and doctors should be educated about the sleep needs of students and the AAP and other organizations should develop educational tools about sleep needs.

The statement says

schools should take travel time into account when adjusting their start times.

"We hope one of the outcomes of this policy statement is that it gets communities and school districts considering this," Owens said of the time change.

The suggestion to push back the start time of school is good but sleep behavior also has to improve among students, said Dr Umakanth Khatwa.

"It will definitely help them to get more sleep but if they continue without improving their sleep hygiene maybe we would soon be talking about 10 o'clock," said Khatwa, director of Sleep Laboratories at the Center for Pediatric Sleep Disorders at Boston Children's Hospital.—*Reuters*

Heinz recall brings food tracking issue to the fore in China

SHANGHAI, 25 Aug — The entanglement of H J Heinz Co in China's latest food scare highlights a key concern for international and local firms — how to keep track of ingredients from diverse sources in a country where food supply tracing technologies are far from the norm.

The US food maker apologized to Chinese consumers last week and said it would tighten controls over suppliers after it was forced to recall some infant cereal from store shelves due to excess levels of lead.

Food safety scares erupt regularly in China — KFC parent Yum Brands Inc, McDonald's Corp, Wal-Mart Stores Inc and Fonterra Co-operative Group Ltd have all suffered recently — and such incidents can seriously dent sales.

But barcode tracking systems for produce, common in the United States and Europe, are largely absent.

"Standardized traceability of food products does not currently exist in China. It's a long way from it," said David Mahon, Beijing-based managing director of an investment firm focusing on China's food and beverage sectors.

China's food traceability systems and regulation were classified as "poor" in an August report from the Institute of Food Technologists. This was the lowest score of around 20 countries included.

Food safety barcodes store details such as the farm of origin, dates of harvest, planting, storage and shipment, meaning clients down the line can trace a particular batch and find out how and why any

issues occurred.

Some firms have tried to bring the system into wider use in China — French grocer Carrefour SA launched a barcoding system last year for fruit and vegetables — but the technology has failed to catch on due to the high costs of implementation throughout scattered sup-

ply chains.

Heinz said it had identified the supplier and ingredient — a skimmed soybean powder — responsible for the recall of four batches of its AD Calcium Hi-Protein Cereal from stores in eastern China, but added the firm needed to do more to keep suppliers in check.



A box of Heinz AD Calcium Hi-Protein Cereal, which is part of a batch of the cereal not affected by a recent recall, is pictured at a supermarket in Hangzhou, Zhejiang Province on 18 Aug, 2014.—*Reuters*

"We will keep improving traceable food safety control systems from 'farm to factory'," Heinz said in a statement posted on its Chinese website.

Heinz, which was bought out by Warren Buffett's Berkshire Hathaway Inc and private equity firm 3G Capital last year, did not respond to requests for further comment.

Consumers in China are highly sensitive to issues of food safety, especially with baby products, after powdered milk tainted with the industrial chemical melamine led to the deaths of at least six infants in 2008.

Danone SA and Abbott Laboratories saw infant formula sales in China plunge last year after concerns over a potentially fatal bacteria in a supplier's product. Tests later showed the initial finding

was incorrect.

China has soaring levels of soil and water pollution, with seven out of the top 10 farming provinces amongst the areas most exposed to heavy metal pollution such as lead, according to a March report from HSBC.

Major firms, including fast food chains McDonald's and Burger King Worldwide Inc, said they had put in place stringent testing and auditing procedures in China to avoid issues such as contamination from water and soil pollution.

"We have rigorous and overlapping internal and external testing procedures and audits to ensure that our suppliers in China, and around the world, meet our strict specifications," said Vijay Guyah, a Singapore-based spokesman for Burger King.—*Reuters*

War planes attack Libyan capital again as airport terminal is destroyed

TRIPOLI, 25 Aug — Fire destroyed the terminal at Tripoli's main airport on Sunday, one day after it was seized by militia fighters from the Libyan city of Misrata, witnesses said.

Unidentified war planes also attacked targets in the capital, residents said, the latest stage of the worst fighting in Libya since the overthrow of Muammar Gaddafi in 2011.

Tripoli residents heard jets followed by explosions at dawn but more details were not immediately available.

It was unclear who had burned the terminal and supporters of the rival factions took to social media to accused each other.

The main building was completely torched, witnesses said. All planes in front of it were damaged,

as well as many houses and office buildings on airport road.

A militia called Operation Dawn, consisting mainly of fighters from Misrata, said on Saturday that it had captured the airport from a rival faction from Zintan in western Libya.

However, it was deserted on Sunday with Misrata forces deployed on the airport road and no sign of Zintani fighters.

In the campaign to overthrow Gaddafi, fighters from Zintan and Misrata were comrades-in-arms. But they later fell out and this year have turned parts of Tripoli into a battlefield, with the weak government unable to control armed factions.

The central government lacks a functioning

national army and relies on militias for public security. While these forces receive state salaries and wear uniforms, they report in practice to their own commanders and towns.

Renegade general Khalifa Haftar, who has declared war on Islamist-leaning militias, claimed responsibility for air raids on Tripoli on Saturday and last Monday that targeted Operation Dawn.

Libya now faces the prospect of two competing parliaments.

In a challenge to a parliament elected on 25 June, an Operation Dawn spokesman called for the old General National Congress, set up after the fall of Gaddafi, to be reinstated.

The Misrata forces have rejected the new House of Representatives,

where liberals and lawmakers campaigning for a federalist system have made a strong showing.

The parliament has declared Operation Dawn as well as militant Islamists like the Ansar al-Sharia as "terrorist groups".

Muslim Brotherhood party member Amina al-Mahjoub, a former national congress member, told *Reuters* the congress would reconvene on Monday morning.

"It is not clear if the meeting will be consultative or we grant legitimacy to the rebels," he said.

The House of Representatives, which has fled to Tobruk in the east with senior officials to escape the fighting, had asked Haftar to fight the Operation Dawn forces.

Haftar launched a



A general view is seen of the passenger terminal of Tripoli international airport on 24 Aug, 2014.

REUTERS

campaign against Islamists in the eastern city of Benghazi in May and threw his weight behind the Zintan fighters.

Misrata forces have blamed the air strikes on Egypt and the United Arab Emirates, two countries

which have cracked down on Islamists. Libya's government says it does not know who is behind the attacks. Egypt denies conducting any air strikes or other military operations in Libya.

Reuters

Mihajlovic: New provincial gov't by end of September



NOVISAD, 25 Aug — Serbian Deputy Prime Minister Zorana Mihajlovic said on Sunday that a new provincial government must be formed by the end of September in order to prevent further devastation of Vojvodina.

"A new provincial government must be formed by the end of September. If not, the devastation of Vojvodina will continue, and we cannot allow that," Zorana Mihajlovic, who is also Vice President of the Serbian Progressive Party, told Novi

Sad-based daily *Dnevnik*.

The new government will aim to repair the damage caused by "poor management" and create a favorable environment for investors, motivating them to invest in Vojvodina because, as she noted, only an economically empowered province and its citizens can compete with the developed Europe. "We are ready to put all political differences aside and focus on realization of the economic development plan," stressed Mihajlovic.

Tanjug

Indonesia's last surviving Japanese freedom fighter dies

JAKARTA, 25 Aug — Sakari Ono, believed to be the last surviving Japanese freedom fighter in Indonesia's war of independence against the Dutch, died on Monday at a hospital in East Java. He was 94.

"Papi had been hospitalized for long time. He passed away this morning at 5:30 am," Ono's daughter-in-law told *Kyodo News* by telephone. Ono, whose Indonesian name is Rahmat, was born in Japan's northernmost main island of Hokkaido in 1919 and in 1942 was sent to Indonesia's Java island as part

of the Imperial Japanese Army. He was one of the estimated 1,000 Japanese soldiers who deserted and stayed behind in Indonesia, mostly in the islands of Sumatra, Java and Bali, to fight alongside Indonesian independence troops after the Japanese surrendered to the Allied forces on 15 August, 1945. The war against the returning Dutch ended on 27 Dec, 1949, when The Hague withdrew all Dutch forces from Indonesia and recognized its sovereignty. Ono lost his left arm in the war.

Kyodo News

Ukraine defiant on national day, rebels parade captives

KIEV / DONETSK, 25 Aug — Ukraine marked its independence day on Sunday with a military march-past in Kiev intended to send a message of defiance to Russia, but pro-Moscow rebels countered by parading captured Ukrainian troops through the streets of their main stronghold.

The rival events highlighted the divide that will have to be bridged if a compromise on Ukraine is to be reached on Tuesday when Russian President Vladimir Putin meets his Ukrainian counterpart Petro Poroshenko for the first time in

months. German Chancellor Angela Merkel, who visited Kiev on Saturday to try to lay the ground-work for a peace deal, said on Tuesday's talks were unlikely to produce a breakthrough.

Kiev's forces are trying to crush a pro-Moscow separatist revolt in the east of Ukraine, and on Sunday intense artillery fire could be heard around the main rebel bastion of Donetsk.

On Independence Square in the Ukrainian capital Kiev — scene of protests that pushed out a Moscow-backed president in February and precipitated



Border guards march during Ukraine's Independence Day military parade, in the centre of Kiev on 24 Aug, 2014.—REUTERS

the current crisis — President Poroshenko reviewed columns of men and armoured vehicles.

Some of the troops in the march-past were shortly heading to the front line in eastern Ukraine, Poroshenko said.

In an emotional speech, he said his country was fighting "a war against external aggression, for Ukraine, for its freedom, for its people, for independence".

"It is clear that in the foreseeable future, unfortunately, a constant military threat will hang over Ukraine. And we need to

learn not only to live with this, but also to be always prepared to defend the independence of our country," he said.

Poroshenko announced about \$3 billion would be spent on re-equipping the army in 2015-2017. Ukraine's armed forces are only a fraction of the size of those in Russia.

After Ukraine's previous president, Viktor Yanukovich, fled to Russia, Moscow annexed Ukraine's Crimea peninsula in March and parts of the Russian-speaking east rebelled against Kiev.—Reuters

ADVERTISEMENT & GENERAL

**Ministry of Energy
Myanma Petrochemical Enterprise
Request for Letter of Expression
of Interest (LOEI)
for Joint Venture Project
of Coastal Oil Tankers, River Crafts
and Barges**

1. The Myanma Petrochemical Enterprise, Ministry of Energy of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar hereby announced an invitation to the interested local investors, companies, the organizations / foreign companies to submit the Letter of Expression of Interest (LOEI) for Joint Venture Project of coastal oil tankers, river crafts and barges under Crude Oil and Petrochemical Movement Department of Myanma Petrochemical Enterprise (MPE). This business will be carried out by classification in accordance with coastal oil tankers, river crafts and barges group and the interested applicants can propose by conducting individual group or more.
2. The required data for LOEI submission and information related to coastal oil tankers, river crafts and barges group are available in the Ministry of Energy Website (<http://www.energy.gov.mm/index.php/en/information/announcement>) as well as the following address in person during the office hours.
3. LOEI shall be submitted to Managing Director, Building No.44, Myanma Petrochemical Enterprise, Nay Pyi Taw in person not later than 12:00 noon at the date of 25.9.2014. No submission of LOEI can be allowed by fax or email.
4. Only the qualified LOEI proposals will be invited to conduct the tender process.

Director (Planning)
Myanma Petrochemical Enterprise
Building No. 44, Nay Pyi Taw
Fax:-067 411124
Email:- cpmdjv@gmail.com

**China's Peace Ark hospital
ship delegation visits Fijian
government agencies**

SUVA, 25 Aug — A five-member team from the Chinese People's Liberation Army Navy hospital ship Peace Ark on "Mission Harmony-2014" on Monday paid a courtesy call to Fijian government agencies to familiarize themselves with the work carried out there.

The delegation, led by Real Admiral Shen Hao, the mission commander of "Mission Harmony-2014", visited the Fijian military's Naval Base and followed a courtesy call to Suva's Special Administrator Chandu Umaria.

The team also met with Fiji's Minister for Health Dr Neil Sharma and later with the Commander of the Republic of the Fiji Military Forces Mosese Tikoitoga.

Sharma said Fijians should take advantage of the free services offered by the medical team onboard Peace Ark.

While the medical team was offering health services onboard the vessel, they also visited health centers and assisted Fijian medical personnel.

Peace Ark arrived at Suva last Friday, starting treating Fijian patients for free. The humanitarian medical mission lasts for one week in the South Pacific island country.

Fiji is the second stop of "Mission Harmony-2014", which has just seen the diagnosing and treatment of over 4,000 patients in Tonga. Peace Ark is expected to visit Vanuatu as well as Papua New Guinea after completing the medical mission in Fiji.—Xinhua

**French PM presents government
resignation**

PARIS, 25 Aug — France's Prime Minister Manuel Valls presented the resignation of his government to the president on Monday, Francois Hollande's office said in a statement. The statement said a new government would be formed on Tuesday in line with the "direction he (the president) has defined for our country."

The move comes a day after leftist Economy Minister Arnaud Montebourg called for new economic policies and questioned what he called Germany's "obsession" with budgetary rigour.—Reuters

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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.

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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.

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Weather report

FORECAST VALID UNTIL EVENING OF THE 26th August, 2014: Rain or thundershowers will be isolated in Lower Sagaing and Magway Regions, Chin State, scattered in Upper Sagaing, Mandalay, Yangon, Ayeyawady and Taninthayi Regions, Rakhine and Kayah States, fairly widespread in the remaining Regions and States with likelihood of isolated heavy falls in Mandalay Region, Kayin and Mon States. Degree of certainty is (80%).

**Brown supporters from near and far form
striking Ferguson tableau**

FERGUSON, 25 Aug — When the call came just after the fatal shooting of an unarmed black teenager by a white police officer in this St Louis suburb, Reggie Jones didn't hesitate. He packed his bag, took time off work and came straight to Ferguson, Missouri.

A friend had asked the 40-year-old screen printer to make the trip from his home in Charlotte, North Carolina, and produce a T-shirt to help support the family of Michael Brown, the 18-year-old who was shot dead by Officer Darren Wilson.

Standing on the side of the road where protests have been held every night for two weeks, Jones sells T-shirts bearing the silhouette of a man with his hands up and the words, "Please Don't Shoot — R I P Michael Brown." Sixty percent of the \$10 he charges goes to the Brown family, the rest covers costs.

Jones is just one of hundreds of people from all over the country who have



A boy holds a sign near a makeshift memorial for Michael Brown in Ferguson, Missouri on 24 Aug, 2014.—REUTERS

been drawn to the scene of Brown's shooting, most of them to show support for the teen's family and Ferguson at large. While each seems to have personal reasons for coming, nearly all of them say they felt compelled to be there.

"This community has been hurt bad by Michael Brown's death," Jones said.

His parents need help to get through this, so I'm here to do my part." So far, the ebullient North Carolinian says he raised up to \$2,000 for the Brown family.

Brown's death has sparked days of protests and marches in the mostly black city just west of St Louis. The demonstrations have sometimes turned violent,

as the shooting inflamed long-simmering racial tensions and prompted international condemnation of the clashes between police and protesters.

While the majority of Brown's supporters are African-American, there are plenty of whites and Latinos who have marched in support of Brown.—Reuters

Jennifer Lopez will marry again!

LONDON, 25 Aug—Pop star Jennifer Lopez, who has already been involved in three divorces, says she is still open to the idea of tying the knot for a fourth time.

The 45-year-old singer appeared on her friend Chelsea Handler's talk show 'Chelsea Lately,' and was forced to answer questions about her well-publicised past romances, as well as finding a new man in the future, reported Contactmusic.

In the very open discussion, the Grammy-Award winning singer admitted that she "would get married again," after the host probed her on her future love life.

"I like being in a relationship, I do. I'm not one to mess around, that's not my thing (sic)," Lopez said.

The singer first got married to a Cuban waiter called Ojani Noa in February 1997 but ended shortly after in January 1998. She then tied the knot with former back-up dancer Cris Judd in another short partnership, they were together from September 2001 until June 2002.

Lopez's final marriage was with fellow singer Marc Anthony in June 2004, they would go on to have twins, a boy and a girl, who were born on February 22nd 2008. They announced their split three years later in June 2011.

However, most recently the 'Anaconda' actress split from her boyfriend of two and a half years, Casper Smart, who was who is 18 years her junior, after simply growing apart.

PTI

Top winners at the 2014 MTV Video Music Awards

INGLEWOOD, (Calif), 25 Aug — The 2014 Viacom Inc.-owned MTV Video Music Awards were held at the newly-renovated Forum Theater in Inglewood, Calif., on Sunday, bestowing accolades on musical talent producing the year's best music videos. Below is a list of key winners:

VIDEO OF THE YEAR

"Wrecking Ball" — Miley Cyrus

ARTIST TO WATCH

"Miss Movin' On" — Fifth Harmony

BEST MALE VIDEO

"Sing" — Ed Sheeran

BEST FEMALE VIDEO

"Dark Horse" — Katy Perry feat. Juicy J

BEST POP VIDEO

"Problem" — Ariana Grande feat. Iggy Azalea

BEST HIP HOP VIDEO

"Hold On (We're Going Home)" — Drake feat. Majid Jordan

BEST ROCK VIDEO

"Royals" — Lorde

BEST LYRIC VIDEO

"Don't Stop" — 5 Seconds of Summer—Reuters



Pop star Jennifer Lopez



Iggy Azalea performs "Black Widow" during the 2014 MTV Video Music Awards in Inglewood, California on 14 Aug, 2014. — REUTERS

Guardians of the Galaxy tops North America box office again

LOS ANGELES, 25 Aug—Guardians of the Galaxy claimed first place this weekend with an estimated 17.63 million U S dollars.

The blockbuster sci-fi superhero adaptation from Marvel returned to first place after finishing in second for the past two weekends. It held up extremely well this weekend, as it was down just 30 percent from last weekend. The film surpassed the 250-million-dollar mark this weekend and has grossed 251.88 million dollars in 24 days, which currently ranks the film as the third highest grossing release of 2014 so far domestically, only behind Captain America: The Winter Soldier and The Lego Movie. And it's set to move into first place of the year within the next week.

After leading the box office for the past two weekends, Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles fell into second place with an estimated 16.8 million dollars. Paramount's successful franchise re-launch was down a solid 41 percent from last weekend. But it continues to exceed expectations in a big way with 145.61 million dollars through 17 days of release. The film is expected to further stabilize next weekend with the help from the Labor Day holiday.

Warner's If I Stay debuted in third with an estimated 16.36 million dollars and received an encouraging



A-rating on CinemaScore. The low-budget drama starring Chloe Grace Moretz opened towards the lower end of pre-release expectations and performed well with its cost in mind. If I Stay opened slightly ahead of the 16.10 million dollars debut of last year's Carrie, which also starred Moretz. Due in part to its different genre and in part to the limited amount of new wide releases over the next few weeks, If I Stay will hope to hold up better going forward than Carrie did.—Xinhua

Women oriented roles aren't welcome in Bollywood

AHMEDABAD, 25 Aug — Actress Priyanka Chopra, whose upcoming biopic on boxing champion Mary Kom has generated a lot of interest, said that women-oriented roles are still not welcome in Bollywood.

"Mary Kom is a film obviously about Mary Kom. First and the foremost, women-centric roles are not welcomed in Bollywood," Priyanka said while interacting with the students of Indian Institute of Management (IIM) — Ahmedabad here as part of the film's promotion.

"While I was coming here, everybody was telling me that you are doing a fabulous woman-oriented film. When you get to watch PK or Kick do you say that 'I am going to watch a male-oriented film'. Nobody says that," the actress said.

Mary Kom is biopic on the Manipur-based pugilist who has

been a five-time world boxing champion and also an Olympic bronze medallist.

During her interaction with students, Priyanka stressed the need to weed out gender bias from Bollywood.

"Things will change for women in Hindi film industry the day when we go and watch a movie after seeing its trailer, without having any gender bias in our minds," she said.

Priyanka said that in a male-dominated society, talent of women is not getting recognised in contrast to their male counterparts.

Directed by Omung Kumar and produced by Sanjay Leela Bhansali, the film will have its world premiere at the Toronto International Film Festival which will be held from 4 to 11 September. — PTI



Priyanka Chopra

GENERAL

Softball: Japan beats US to retain softball world title

HAARLEM, (Netherlands), 25 Aug — Japan defeated the United States 4-1 to retain its women's softball world championship title on Sunday.

The Japanese, who won all 10 games en route to their third overall title, beat the Americans in the final for the second tournament in row, having won the championships for the first time in 42 years in 1972.

"Japan's power is the real thing," said Japan manager Reika Utsugi. "Winning all 10 games and a second consecutive title is not easy."

In the first at-bat, with one out, Rei Nishiyama walked, then advanced on a sacrifice bunt.

Eri Yamada was then walked intentionally to set up a force play and a walk for Yukiyo Mine to load the bases.

Haruna Sakamoto followed with a two-run single and Minami Sato added an RBI-single to give Japan an



Japan team players celebrate after winning the women's softball world championship in Harlem, the Netherlands, on 24 Aug, 2014. Japan beat the United States in the final 4-1. — KYODO NEWS

early 3-0 lead.

"All of a sudden we had a chance and I just tried to belt it," said Sakamoto. "We

were able to get on a roll after scoring early."

Yu Yamamoto and Rei Nishiyama then both sin-

gled and the lead runner scored when Misato Kawamo connected for the third consecutive single in the fourth inning.

Veteran pitcher Yukiko Ueno struck out six batters, walked three and gave up eight hits. Despite being out-hit 8-7, Ueno got the offensive support she needed.

"Ueno, Nishiyama and Yamada, those three players carried the team," said Utsugi. Ueno, who helped pitch Japan to the last Olympic gold medal in the sport in 2008 said, "Getting runs early on made things easier for me. I am glad we could win consecutive titles."

"Japan has won the championship I think we have made a case for trying to get softball back at the Olympics."

Baseball and softball were taken off the Olympic menu after Beijing 2008 and both sports are aiming for a return to the program for the 2020 Tokyo Olympics.

Kyodo News

MYANMAR TV

(26-8-2014, Tuesday)

- 6:00 am**
- * Paritta by Hilly Region Missionary Sayadaw
- 6:30 am**
- * The Mirror Image of The Musical Oldies
- 7:00 am**
- * News/Weather Report
- 7:20 am**
- * People Talks
- 8:30 am**
- * TV Drama Series
- 10:00 am**
- * News
- 10:20 am**
- * TV Drama Series
- 11:10 am**
- * Documentary
- 11:30 am**
- * Tamyethnar Takwetsar
- 12:30 pm**
- * Myanmar Video
- 2:30 pm**
- * Musical Programme
- 3:15 pm**
- * Documentary
- 4:25 pm**
- * University of Distance Education (TV Lectures) -Second Years (Myanmar)
- 5:00 pm**
- * News
- 6:20 pm**
- * Kyae Pwint Myaye Yin Khone Than
- 6:50 pm**
- * TV Drama Series
- 7:00 pm**
- * News
- 7:20 pm**
- * TV Drama Series
- 8:00 pm**
- * News/International News/Weather Report
- 8:35 pm**
- * Current Affairs
- 9:00 pm**
- * News
- 9:30 pm**
- * Mono Classical Songs
- * Teleplay

MYANMAR INTERNATIONAL

(26-8-14 07:00 am~ 27-8-14 07:00 am) MST

- * Local News
- * Myanmar Charitable Labour Association
- * World News
- * Chanmyay Yeiktha Meditation Centre -Chaw Dwin Gone
- * Local News
- * Food Trip (Episode-1) Part-2
- * World News
- * Cultural Shows: Theatrical Art
- * Local News
- * Myanmar Alternative Medicine (Noni)
- * World News
- * Shan Novices to be...
- * Local News
- * The World's Largest Book
- * World News
- * Scented Buddha Images
- * Local News
- * Myanmar Traditional Identity (Episode- 4) Tumbling Doll, Pyit Tine Htaung
- * World News
- * Myanmar Sculpture Work of Art
- * Local News
- * A Trip to The City of Rakkhita, Rakhine
- * World News
- * We'll Leave After 12 Passengers Are on Board ...
- * Local News
- * Taste of Myanmar: Shan Style Clay Pot
- * World News
- * Hip-Hop and Design
- * Local News
- * Historic And Mystery Behind The Caves
- * World News
- * Sticky Shan Snack

Teerasil becomes first Thai to play in La Liga

BANGKOK, 25 Aug — Striker Teerasil Dangda became the first Thai to play in the Spanish top flight when he came off the bench for Almeria in their 1-1 draw with Espanyol on Sunday.

The 26-year-old is on a season-long loan from Thai Premier League side Muangthong United as he bids to seal a permanent deal with the Spanish side, who narrowly avoided relegation last term after

finishing one point above the drop zone.

"I was already happy when I was named one of the substitutes for the match.

I'm delighted to see action on the pitch. I can't describe my feelings," Teerasil was quoted as saying by Thai media on Monday.

"I didn't know whether I was delighted, excited or nervous. It's a mixture of all but mostly it's one of

satisfaction to get a taste of what we previously could only watch on television."

Teerasil had a brief spell at Spanish champions Atletico Madrid last year but did not play in the first team.

He also had a trial at Manchester City in 2007, when the club was owned by his compatriot Thaksin Shinawatra, but was unable to gain a work permit and left without playing.

Teerasil, a mainstay of

the national team, said it was too soon to say whether the Almeria deal could become permanent.

"Let's see how it turns out. It's only one match so we cannot tell anything," he added.

"There are still many things that I need to work on if I want to make more appearances or break into the first team.

I need to improve on many things."

Reuters

Gov't to disclose Fukushima nuclear plant chief's testimony in September

TOKYO, 25 Aug —The government said Monday it will release in September testimony regarding the nuclear disaster at the Fukushima Daiichi power plant in March 2011 given by then plant chief Masao Yoshida.

"Former plant chief Yoshida did not want his testimony to be made public as he had mentioned concerns about misinterpretation, but the situation has changed," Chief Cabinet Secretary Yoshihide Suga said at a daily Press briefing.

In addition to the Yoshida testimony, the content of interviews with



Photo taken in November 2011 shows Masao Yoshida, who headed the Fukushima Daiichi nuclear power plant when a nuclear crisis broke out in March 2011. The government will release transcripts of interviews with those who had key roles in handling the disaster, including Yoshida, who died last year, next month.

KYODO NEWS

others who had key roles in handling the disaster "will be released at the earliest possible date in September, starting with whichever is ready first," Suga said.

The top government spokesman added that in-

formation related to privacy and national security will not be disclosed.

The testimony of Yoshida, who died of esophageal cancer in July 2013 at age 58, was compiled by a government panel formed

to examine the disaster at the plant northeast of Tokyo.

The panel interviewed Yoshida for more than 20 hours from July to November 2011.

The government had declined to make public Yoshida's testimony, citing a statement Yoshida signed saying he did not want it made available to any third party.

But interest in Yoshida's first-hand account of what transpired in the days immediately after 11 March, 2011, when a massive earthquake and tsunami knocked out power to much of the six-reactor

power plant, leading to a series of explosions and the worst nuclear disaster since Chernobyl, has been piqued by reports that most staff fled.

The Asahi Shimbun daily reported this past May that 90 percent of workers left despite being ordered by Yoshida to stay, citing his testimony to the government panel.

Another daily, the Sankei Shimbun, also reported the content of the Yoshida testimony earlier this month, while victims of the nuclear accident have filed a lawsuit seeking to make the documents public.—*Kyodo News*

India's Congress party fights back in local elections

NEW DELHI, 25 Aug—India's Congress party was fighting back in the local by-elections in four states held this week, with its candidate winning seats of local assemblies in Punjab, Karnataka and Bihar, said local media on Monday.

Congress candidate and former Union Minister Preet Kaur won the by-election on the Patiala assembly seat in the major industrial city of northwestern state Punjab Monday, said local media. A secular alliance of local parties and Congress in the eastern state of Bihar is set to win seven out of 10 seats contested. — *Xinhua*

Sluggish United held by Sunderland, Spurs thrash QPR

LONDON, 25 Aug — Manchester United laboured to a ponderous 1-1 draw at Sunderland on Sunday that delivered a first Premier League point for Louis van Gaal but laid bare their dire need for reinforcements and exposed frailties at both ends of the pitch.

United's problems were there for all to see as Juan Mata's opening goal on 17 minutes proved a unique scoring opportunity while their lack of a commanding centre half was exploited by an unmarked Jack Rodwell for Sunderland's equalizer.

They now find themselves five points adrift

of early Premier League pace-setters Tottenham Hotspur, who were Sunday's big winners with a 4-0 victory over Queens Park Rangers that ensured Harry Redknapp suffered a second straight defeat and a miserable return to his former club.

In Sunday's other game, Hull City played most of the match with 10 men and came within six minutes of holding on for victory over Stoke City, but were forced to settle for a 1-1 draw.

With the transfer window edging towards a close, United were handed another reminder that nothing but significant invest-

ment in a squad that lacks depth and strength will spark an improvement in their fortunes after last season's woes.

They lacked penetration in attack with little pace or incision and while Mata tapped home following a driving run and fizzing cross from Antonio Valencia, the Spaniard was largely ineffective as a central playmaker.

As English media reported United were nearing a deal for Real Madrid's Argentina winger Angel Di Maria, many United fans were perhaps wondering if the more pressing concern lies at the back despite defender Marcos Rojo's ar-

rival midweek.

It was Robin van Persie who let Rodwell run and jump unchecked to head Sunderland's leveler on 30 minutes, but in centre backs Phil Jones, Chris Smalling and youngster Tyler Blackett, United seemed to lack the presence of a leader.

For new manager Van Gaal, who has already claimed it will take a miracle to propel United to the Premier League summit, Sunday's woes stemmed from midfield.

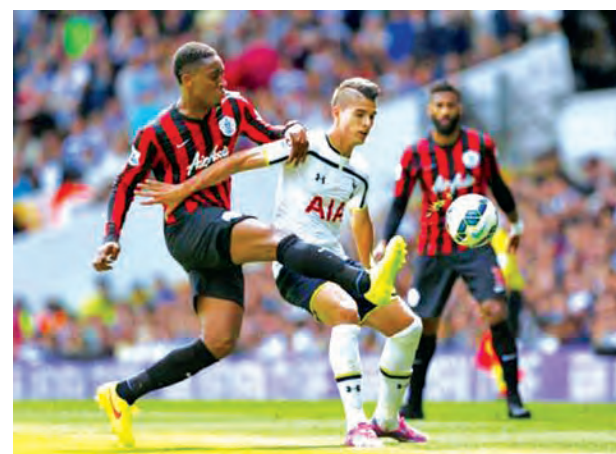
"We have one point and that is not good enough for Manchester United," the Dutchman told the BBC.

"We have to work a lot. The players are very disappointed after the game because we thought we would win.

"The purpose of the game is to create more chances and score goals. We haven't created more chances. You have to recognise the fight of the opponent.

"We have reached Wayne Rooney and Robin van Persie a lot of times, but after that you need the support of the midfielders, and the combination was not good enough."

Goals were not in short supply at White Hart Lane where players condemned as costly mistakes last sea-



Tottenham Hotspur's Erik Lamela (R) challenges Queens Park Rangers' Leroy Fer during their English Premier League soccer match at White Hart Lane in London on 24 Aug, 2014.—REUTERS

son starred in a 4-0 victory.

Nacer Chadli, among the expensive patchwork of players recruited when Gareth Bale left for Real Madrid, scored Tottenham's first and third while record signing Erik Lamela was pivotal in a playmaker role.

Eric Dier profited from a Lamela corner to net Tottenham's second, scoring for the second time in two weeks, and Emmanuel Adebayor rounded off the scoring with a crisp low finish.

For Redknapp, sacked by Spurs in 2012 after leading them to fourth in the Premier League, an experiment with three central defenders backfired spectacularly with Tottenham scoring three times inside the opening 37 minutes.

"We didn't play well. We got what we deserved, which is nothing. We didn't play with enough energy and I thought we were in awe of Tottenham a little bit," Redknapp said.

Hull had James Chester sent off after 14 minutes against Stoke for a lunging last-man tackle, but opened the scoring before halftime when Nikica Jelavic finished from close range after a Tom Huddlestone shot was only parried by Asmir Begovic.

The Tigers' hopes of winning back-to-back league games for the first time in 11 months were shredded when Ryan Shawcross scrambled the ball over the line after a Phil Bardsley effort hit the post.

The equalizer left Hull boss Steve Bruce fuming that a throw-in was given against his side earlier in the move.

"It baffles me. It is an awful one," he said.

"The throw-in was ours and blatantly ours. It is not as though it is a faint touch, their boy does not even want to turn round for a throw. You would think they get that right because it has cost us." — Reuters



Sunderland's Jack Rodwell (C) scores a goal against Manchester United during their English Premier League soccer match at the Stadium of Light in Sunderland, northern England on 24 Aug, 2014.—REUTERS

Mahan triumphs by two shots at The Barclays

PARAMUM, (New Jersey), 25 Aug — Hunter Mahan stormed clear of a congested leaderboard with five birdies in the last eight holes to claim his sixth PGA Tour victory by two shots at The Barclays on Sunday. A stroke off the pace heading into the final round, American Mahan sparked his sizzling run by knocking in a five-footer at the par-four 11th and effectively sealed the win at the par-five 17th, where he sank a slick 22-foot putt from above the hole.

He could afford the luxury of a bogey at the last, after pushing his tee shot into a tree line, chipping out and missing the green with his third, as he closed with a six-under-par 65 at Ridgewood Country Club to post a 14-under total of 270.

Stuart Appleby also signed off with a 65 in the opener of the PGA Tour's

four-event FedExCup playoffs, finishing joint second at 12 under with fellow Australian Jason Day (68) and American Cameron Tringale (66).

Veteran American Jim Furyk, co-leader after the third round with Day, mixed five birdies with four bogeys on the way to a 70 as he slipped back into solo eighth place at 10 under. Mahan, who was congratulated on the edge of the 18th green by his wife Kandi and daughter Zoe Olivia, was thrilled to clinch his first playoff event and end a title drought dating back to the 2012 WGC-Accenture Match Play Championship.

"I haven't played my best this year so to get a win at an event like this, and the timing that it was (in the playoffs), feels unbelievable," a beaming Mahan told CBS Sports.—Reuters

Messi strikes twice as 10-man Barca sink Elche

BARCELONA, 25 Aug — Lionel Messi wasted little time in finding his stride as he struck twice to lead 10-man Barcelona to a 3-0 home win over Elche and hand new coach Luis Enrique a happy start to the La Liga season on Sunday.

Youngster Munir El Haddadi hit the woodwork as did Andres Iniesta before Messi made the breakthrough, turning well in the box and slotting in after 42 minutes.

Barca's job was complicated with Javier Mascherano sent off for bringing down Garry Rodrigues a minute later but Munir, drafted into the side as a replacement for the injured Neymar, clipped home to make it 2-0 shortly after the restart.

Messi, whose Argentina side were beaten in the World Cup final by Germany in July, was the talisman once again for Barca.



Barcelona's Lionel Messi (C) celebrates his second goal with teammate Munir El Haddadi (L) and Jordi Alba during their Spanish first division soccer match against Elche at Nou Camp stadium in Barcelona, on 24 Aug, 2014.—REUTERS

He made space for himself on the edge of the area and found the back of the net again after 63 minutes.

The result handed Luis

Enrique a promising start with Barcelona after the club failed to win any major trophy last season under Gerardo Martino. "I've always

said that Messi is the best player in the world in all the ways that you want to look at it," Luis Enrique told a news conference.—Reuters