The New Light of Myanmar
MYANMAR'S OLDEST ENGLISH DAILY
Volume XXII, Number 132 | 7th Waxing of Tawthalin 1376 ME | Sunday, 31 August, 2014

SMEs key to economic boost and more jobs: Vice President U Nyan Tun

Vice President U Nyan Tun pledges government's full support for smooth operation of SMEs.—MNA

Nay Pyi Taw, 30 Aug — The Work Committee for Development of Small and Medium Enterprises held a meeting at the Ministry of Industry here on 29 August, with an address by Vice President U Nyan Tun.

As Chairman of the Work Committee, Vice President U Nyan Tun said that small and medium enterprises are key to boosting the economy and creating job opportunities, stressing the need to enhance entrepreneurial skills through a strong and complete policy that will guarantee the continuous growth of the enterprises.

Steps should be taken preparatory to the revitalization of local businesses so that they will be in a position to compete with foreign firms in terms of investments and services, a trend which is expected to become a reality under the ASEAN Free Trade Aggrement, he quoted President U Thein Sein as saying.

According to the ASEAN SME Policy Index 2014, the highest index is 5.4 and the ASEAN average index is 3.7 while Myanmar's index stands at 2.9. The ASEAN SME Policy Index 2014 was published by the Economic Research Institute of ASEAN and East Asia (ERIA), whose assessment is based on the institutional framework for SMEs in the ASEAN region, access to support services, cheaper and faster start-ups and better legislations and regulations for SMEs, access to finance, technology and technology transfer, international market expansion, and promotion of entrepreneurial education.

Vice President U Nyan Tun called for obtaining technical assistance and cooperation from development partners and international organizations, pledging his government's full support for smooth operation of SMEs.

He also pointed out the need to systematically carry out a regulatory impact analysis (RIA) to weigh the pros and cons of the regulations designated for small and medium enterprises.

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Female population outnumbers male in Myanmar's provisional population results, amounting to over 1.7 million

By *Ye Myint*

Yangon, 30 Aug — Myanmar's Central Census Commissionsaid Saturday there are more than 1.7 million more women — 26.59 million — than men — 24.82 million — in the country's population of 51.41 million based on the provisional results of the 2014 population and household census.

The finding was released at a press conference announcing the provisional population results for Myanmar at Kandawgyi Palace Hotel in Yangon.

According to the commission, the population of Myanmar is 51,419,420 in which 50,213,067 are persons enumerated during the first census conducted in Myanmar in more than three decades and 1,206,353 are estimates of people from parts of northern Rakhine, Kachin and Kayin states who were not counted.

Union Minister U Khin Yi announces provisional results on 2014 Nationwide Census in Myanmar, saying that the population of Myanmar was more than 51 million on census night, 29 March 2014.
Photo: Ye Myint

The provisional results only provide the number of people, including those working in Myanmar embassies abroad and their families in the territory of Myanmar, taken during the 12 days nationwide census from midnight 29 March, 2014, it added.

The results show there are 10,889,348 households in Myanmar, with the average household size at 4.4 in each household.

(See page 3)

President U Thein Sein's radio message to be broadcast on 1 and 2 September

Nay Pyi Taw, 30 Aug — A radio message by U Thein Sein, President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar, will be broadcast on radio on 1 and 2 September.

Myanmar Radio, Mandalay FM, Pyinsawady FM, Shwe FM, Cherry FM, Padamya FM, FM Bagan and Thazin Radio will broadcast the message four times a day at 7 a. m., 11 a.m., 6 p.m. and 8 p.m. during the two days. Full text of the speech will be appeared on dailies issued on 1 September.—*MNA*

President sends messages of felicitations to Malaysia

Nay Pyi Taw, 31 Aug — U Thein Sein, President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar, has sent messages of felicitations to His Majesty Almu' Tasimu Billahi Muhibbuddin Tuanku Alhaj Abdul Halim Mu' adzam Shah Ibni Almarhum Sultan Badlishah, the Yang di-Pertuan Agong of Malaysia XIV, and His Excellency Dato' Seri Mohd Najib Bin Tun Haji Abdul Razak, Prime Minister of Malaysia, on the occasion of the 57th Anniversary of the National Day of Malaysia which falls on 31 August 2014.—*MNA*

Myanmar interfaith friendship group hold talks on social media awareness

Yangon, 30 Aug — The Republic of Union of Myanmar Interfaith Friendship Group (Central) on Saturday held talks with the title of 'Social Media Awareness' at the headquarters of Young Men's Christian Association here.

The event was aimed for peaceful coexistence among the people of different faiths, eliminating hate speeches, fears and loathe.

At the ceremony, leaders of interfaith friendship groups from Buddhism, Christianity, Islam and Hinduism urged to implement peace and stability of the State by the contribution of young people with progressive attitude, adding to prevent hate speeches through internet and social media such as Facebook and Twitter.

They also warned that ridiculous accusations can fuel communal conflicts when loving-kindness, tolerance and forgiveness are ignored.

Retired ambassador U Hla Maung, patron of IFG (Central) and retired ambassador U Sein Win Aung, chairman of the group, delivered opening speech at the ceremony, and Dr Thar Nyan, general secretary of the group, made a closing speech.

MNA

Myanmar, Japan discuss about cooperation on education

Nay Pyi Taw, 30 Aug — Deputy Minister for Education Dr Aung Kyaw Myat and Senior Vice-Minister Yoshitaka Sakurada from the Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology of Japan on Saturday discuss in Yangon about cooperation on education programme between the two countries.

The two sides talked over expanding cooperation of Japanese education organizations and universities in Myanmar.—*MNA*

Fisheries course conducted in Myingyan Tsp

MYINGYAN, 30 Aug—Organized by Myingyan District Fisheries Department of Mandalay Region, the fish breeding course was conducted at the residence of fisherman U Kyaw Sein in Layeindan Village in Myingyan Township recently. Head of District Fisheries Department U Thaw Tun Oo gave lectures on preparations for fish breeding ponds, basic methods for fish breeding, matters related to the fresh water fish law and breeding of fish in dams and lakes.

Altogether 20 local people and staff of the Fisheries Department attended the course.

Zaw Min Naing (Myingyan)

Toungoo university students participate in walking exercise

NAY PYI TAW, 30 Aug — Faculty members and students from all subjects totalling over 400 of Toungoo University including the chairman of Universities Hiking and Mountaineering Association led by the rector took an exercise of walking along a five-mile route from the university to Kokkobin Village beside Yangon-Mandalay Expressway on Friday.

The students included in the practice are eager to take part in a hiking and mountaineering trip in the future.

MNA

KhinU Township turns out 10 midwives for promotion of health care

KHINU, 30 Aug—The second midwifery course, funded by Rural Development Fund of the Sagaing Region Government, concluded at the hall of Township Hospital in KhinU of Sagaing Region on Thursday.

Pyithu Hluttaw representative U Khin Maung Shwe and Chairman of Township Management Committee U Yazar Aye made speeches. Head of Township Health Department Dr Kyaw Naing explained decrease of mortality rate, promotion of mother health and emergence of hygienic villages.

Officials presented certificates to 10 trainees who attended the three months for theoretical exercises and three more months for practical works.

KhinU Soe Wai

Yangon Region organizes Hockey Tournament on 31 August

YANGON, 30 Aug—Region and State hockey teams will participate in Yangon Region Government Cup for 2014 from 31 August to 14 September.

The tournament will take place at Theinbyu artificial hockey pitch with two matches per day.

Hockey teams from Nay Pyi Taw Council Area, Yangon, Mandalay, Bago and Ayeyawady Regions; and Chin, Mon, Kachin, Shan, Rakhine and Kayah States will compete in the tournament.

The debut will be at 2.30 pm at the pitch and the remaining matches will be held at 2 pm.

The final match will be on 14 September at 3 pm and prize awarding ceremony will follow at 5 pm.

Reporter Than Swe (Pabedan)

Talks to prevent danger against children given

YANGON, 30 Aug—Talks on prevention of dangers against children was held at the hall of Basic Education Middle School No 12 in Htaukkyant Extended Ward in Mingaladon Township of Yangon Region on Thursday. Township Education Officer Dr Kyaw Soe Naing, police officers and local authorities explained the ways on prevention of dangers against children.

Present at the talks were local people, teachers and students totalling 250.—*Khin Zaw (Mingala)*

Turn on Music, Turn off Drug

Narcotic drugs seized

YANGON, 30 Aug—According to the tip-off, officials searched the house of Than Lwin in Tamakyaing village in Bamauk Township and seized 1.3 gram of white powder assumed to be heroin and other paraphernalia on 28 August. Than Lwin and his accomplice managed to escape the arrest and police station concerned filed lawsuit against them.

In another drug-related case in Mandalay, Southern Mandalay Anti-Drug Squad, on 27 August, arrested Ma Thandar Kyaw together with 788 stimulant tablets in her house in Shweponeshein Ward in Maha Aungmyay Township. —*Myanma Alinn*

Green Village Project arrives Myingyan District in arid zone of central Myanmar

MYINGYAN, 30 Aug — As Myingyan district in central Myanmar is located in the arid zone, officials are focusing on greening the area under the Green Project, Htanzinhla village is no exception.

In meeting with committee members of the project and villagers who are engaging in agriculture, livestock breeding, trade and production industries, officials dissused matters on balance sheets, agricultural and livestock breeding undertakings, trading, and production of goods. Officials also explained the villages on setting of funds through an understandable ways. Villagers also participated in the discussion as the project will help raise their living standard.

U Zaw Min Naing (Myingyan)

Facing Reality, Denial Corruption and Violence

Female population . . .

(from page 1)

Urban population that amounts to 14,864,119 represents 29.6 percent of the total population and Yangon, the country's commercial city with a population of 7,355,075, stands as the most populated region, accounting for 14.3 percent while Nay Pyi Taw, the capital, with 1,158,367, accounting for 2.3 percent.

The results indicate there are 76 persons per square kilometer in Myanmar and Yangon has the population density of 723 people per sq.km while Chin State is the least densely populated one with 13 per sq.km.

In his clarification on the provisional results of Myanmar Census 2014, Union Minister for Immigration and Population U Khin Yi said the census enumeration did not cover every household or population in the three districts, Maungdaw, MraukU and Sittway, of Rakhine State and it could not be completed in 25 village-tracts in Kachin State. But, for some villages in Hpapun Township, the ministry was provided with a summary count of households and people by sex by KNU headquartered in these areas.

The Union minister, who is also the chair of Myanmar's Central Census Commission continued that provisional results of Myanmar's 2014 census enumeration indicated an overall satisfactory compliance with international guidelines and standards, quoting the findings of the 47-member census observation mission comprising 23 international and 24 Myanmar nationals as saying the mission rated the quality of enumeration as 7.5 out of 10 and a few observers even cited this as one of the best enumeration exercises they had seen in their observation of censuses.

According to the commission, the main results of the 2014 Census will be released in May 2015, followed by thematic reports from November 2015 onwards. During the 12-day national census, 98 percent of the population within the borders of the country had been enumerated. The government contributed $15 million to the process which was also financed and supported by the United Nations and other donors, namely Australia, Finland, Germany, Italy, Norway, Sweden, Switzerland and Britain.

The last census in Myanmar was conducted in 1983, more than 30 years ago.—*NLM*

Union FM felicitates Malaysian counterpart

Nay Pyi Taw, 31 Aug — On the occasion of the 57th Anniversary of the National Day of Malaysia which falls on 31 August 2014, U Wunna Maung Lwin, Union Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar, has sent a message of felicitations to His Excellency Datuk Anifah bin Haji Aman, Minister of Foreign Affairs of Malaysia.—*MNA*

Parboiled rice is likely on its way to local market

By *Khaing Thanda Lwin*

Yangon, 30 Aug — Parboiled rice is going to hit the market in Myanmar as the Myanmar Rice Millers Association has joined with the Myanmar Rice Federation and the Myanmar Agribusiness Public Corporation.

The trio organized a campaign on Saturday to promote the public consumption of parboiled rice, calling for farmers to grow more rice.

The Myanmar Rice Federation is keen on expanding the local market to arouse the public consumption of parboiled rice, with U Thaung Win, MRF's joint secretary, saying that it is still enjoying a growing demand in foreign countries.

"There is little consumption at home, so most of parboiled rice is to be exported," he said.

He added that plans are underway to construct more parboiled rice plants in Ayeyawady, Bago and Nay Pyi Taw as the MRF plans to increase its production from about 30 plants in 2015.

According to a report, Myanmar has exported its parboiled rice to Europe, Russia, Asia, Africa and Middle East countries since 2011.

Regarding differences between white rice and parboiled rice, an official from the Ministry of Commerce said that parboiled rice is a lot cheaper than white rice and that parboiled rice is richer in nutrients and vitamins.

Parboiled rice contains vitamin B6, vitamin E, calories, protein, carbohydrate, fat, dietary fibre, riboflavin (B1), niacin (B2), potassium and magnesium, which he said can prevent beriberi disease, a serious disease common in poor countries.—*NLM*

Yangon boasts soft opening for international wharf

Yangon, 30 Aug — The Myanmar Economic Corporation launched a soft opening for No.1 Ahlon International Wharf in Ahlon township here on Saturday, sources said.

Yangon Region Chief Minister U Myint Swe and high-ranking officials were given briefings on operational functions of the wharf.

The No.1 Ahlon International Wharf is the first to be completed under the development projects for wharfs in Yangon. The newly built wharf has a 200-metre-long jetty with a 27-acre platform for containers.

***MEC's No.1 Ahlon International Wharf will be developed to be able to handle 24,000 containers a month on its 200-metre-long jetty with a 27-acre container yard.*—MNA**

Another jetty with 400 metres in length is also under construction. It will have 18 acres of platform for containers. Upon completion, the 400-metre-long jetty will be able to shelter three 20,000-tonne ships simultaneously. In addition, it will be able to handle 24,000 containers a month. —*MNA*

Myanmar needs many banks to provide sufficient financial supports to SMEs

Nay Pyi Taw, 30 Aug — Myanmar needs many financial institutions that are able to provide sufficient supports to small and medium enterprises, said Union Minister for Industry U Maung Myint at a workshop in Nay Pyi Taw on Thursday.

Weak financial support available from banks is a major hindrance to the development of small-and medium-scale enterprises in Myanmar, the Union minister voiced.

In his opening speech at the workshop jointly organized by Kasikornbank Public Company Limited (K Bank) of Thailand and Deloitte-Myanmar Office, the Union minister highlighted the importance of continuous financial support for sustainability of Myanmar's SME sector, calling for effective cooperation and collaboration in seeking ways and means to make it a success story.

According to him, Small and Medium Industrial Development Bank (SMIDB) had lent the amount of K 10 billion to 62 industries so far and it is planning to lend K 20 billion to SMEs.

It is impossible to provide financial assistance to all SMEs in the country by SMIDB alone, he added.

Deputy Minister for Finance Dr Maung Maung Thein elaborated on sustainable financing that will be managed by the ministry to those present at the workshop.

There are more than 100,000 SMEs including over 45,000 small and medium industries in Myanmar.—*MNA*

US Companies Optimistic About Doing Business in Myanmar and ASEAN

Presented by Kyaw The-ein (MNA)

US companies in ASEAN expect investment expansion, workforce growth, and profit increases in 2015 according to the ASEAN Business Outlook Survey released on 28 August 2014 at the ASEAN Economic Ministers Meeting in Nay Pyi Taw, Myanmar. The survey was designed and implemented by the US Chamber of Commerce and the American Chambers of Commerce in ASEAN member countries and included 588 business executives representing small, medium, and large US companies in all ten ASEAN countries.

As 2015 and the establishment of the ASEAN Economic Community (AEC) approaches, US companies keep a keen eye on opportunities offered by the regional economic integration, although most respondents don't believe that the goals of the AEC will be reached until 2020 or later. Still, two thirds of the respondents in Myanmar indicate that their company's level of trade and investment in ASEAN has increased in the past two years and expect this trend to continue in the next five years. Overall, 86% of business executives based in Myanmar regard ASEAN integration as important to helping their companies do business in the region.

The business expansion outlook is high with 91% of respondents saying they expect their companies in Myanmar to expand and as many expecting increased profits in 2015.

"The ASEAN Business Outlook Survey shows that Myanmar is one of the most popular countries for business expansion in ASEAN, offering a ready supply of affordable labor and personal security. The economic growth is also visible in the number of U.S. companies coming to invest in Myanmar and becoming members of AMCHAM's Myanmar Chapter. The Chapter was established less than a year ago and we already have 100 member companies," says Mariano Vela, President of the Myanmar chapter.

Myanmar's expat workforce are generally satisfied with living and working conditions as 91% report satisfaction with their assignments and 77% attempt to extend their time in the country. In addition, US companies are viewed more favorably in Myanmar than in any other country in ASEAN. The major impediments to living and doing business in Myanmar according to respondents are housing and office lease costs, infrastructure, and the limited availability of trained personnel.

People, servicemen join hands in tree growing ceremony

THATON, 30 Aug—Local people and servicemen of local battalion grew saplings in the area of the local battalion in Winpa Village of Thaton Township of Mon State for environmental conservation on 27 August morning.

The servicemen led the commanding officer and local people totalling over 200 planted 250 saplings.

Thet Oo (Thaton)

Power-tillers sold in installment to farmers in Kyaikmaraw, Bilin Tsps

MAWLAMYINE, 30 Aug—The heavy rains in the first week of August caused flood to farmlands in Bilin and Kyaikmaraw townships of Mon State.

With the aim of re-growing monsoon paddy in the flood-hit farmlands, a ceremony to hand over agricultural machinery sold in installment to the farmers was held at No 37 Agricultural Mechanization Station on 27 August.

Officials of Mon State and District Agricultural Mechanization Department handed over documents related to 10 long handle power-tillers to farmer U Htay Shein of Phathein Village of Kyaikmaraw Township and eight power-tillers to farmer U Win Ko of Laikkhon Village fo Bilin Township.

Ko Ko Yupa

Kyunsu Tsp Forest Department focuses on establishment of community-based forests

KYUNSU, 29 Aug—A ceremony to present certificates of establishment or community-based forests was held in conjunction with the talks about elimination of illegal timber extraction and environmental conservation in Kapa Village of Kyunsu Township in Taninthayi Region on 27 August.

Director U Kyaw Kyaw of Taninthayi Region Forest Department discussed establishment of community-based forests and its rules and regulations. Assistant Director U Aung Kyaw Lin of Myeik District Forest Department presented a certificate of establishment for the community-based forest to its work committee member.

Forester U Khin Soe gave lectures on decline of illegal timber extraction and environmental conservation process and replied to queries raised by those present.

Local people set up 110 acres of community-based forest in Kapa Village of Kyunsu Township.

Yan Naing Tun (Kyunsu Township IPRD)

Locals delighted at cleaning wells after flood

THATON, 30 Aug—With the sponsorship of Myanmar youths in Singapore, the Kyaikkaw social welfare association members cleaned over 500 flood-hit wells in Thuwunnawady, Kyaikkaw and Theinseik wards of Thaton Township in Mon State recently.

"After flooding, I noticed the wells. The flood-hit wells are hazard of the local people. So we volunteered for cleaning the wells," said leader of the association Ko Kyaw Htaik.

The association members pumped out water from the wells with the use of five pumps as of 11 August. Then, they chlorinated the wells with the assistance of the Health Department. On 28 August, they have already cleaned all wells in the township.

"We were afraid of infectious diseases and dysentery. Officials put the drug into the water after the flood. But the water was red and dirty. We did not dare use of such water. We collected rainwater only. We did not afford to pump out the dirty water from the wells. We all thanked the volunteers for their efforts in cleaning the wells," said a local.—*Ko Aung Thuwunna*

Japan, India to cooperate on Ganges cleanup

MUMBAI, 30 Aug— Japan and India are set to embark on a joint project to clean up the river Ganges, government sources from both countries said on Saturday.

The project is likely to be included in a joint statement to be issued after Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe and his Indian counterpart Narendra Modi hold a bilateral summit in Tokyo on Monday, the sources told *Kyodo News*.

India sought cooperation from Japan as Modi, who took office in May, has made a priority of cleaning the Ganges, which is holy to Hindus and also known as one of the world's most polluted rivers.

Japan will help clean up the river with financial assistance through the Japan International Cooperation Agency and Japan Bank for International Cooperation, and in partnership with Japanese companies with specialized expertise on water purification and antipollution know-how.

The project could require a massive effort, however, as the 2,525-kilometre Ganges is a trans-boundary river that flows from the Himalayas to the Bay of Bengal.

Kyodo News

Three killed as prisoner attempts jailbreak in S Philippines

MANILA, 30 Aug — Three people, including a jail guard, were killed, while eight others were wounded in an attempted jail break in southern Philippines on Friday night, local police said on Saturday. A detainee at the Bureau of Jail Management and Penology facility in Siocon, Zamboanga del Norte, allegedly grabbed the firearm of a jail officer who was escorting another detainee back to the cell and shot him dead at around 8:00 pm, Zamboanga Regional Police Office said. The Siocon Police and troops from the Philippine Army responded to the incident and a shootout occurred resulting to the death of two detainees, both with murder case.

A police, two jail officers and three detainees were wounded in the incident, while another cop and a detainee were hit by splinters. All wounded victims were brought to Siocon District Hospital for medical treatment, Zamboanga police said, adding that investigation into the incident has been ongoing.

Xinhua

Family, sect members mourn South Korea ferry owner at funeral

Maritime police search for missing passengers in front of the South Korean ferry "Sewol'' which sank at the sea off Jindo on 16 April, 2014.— REUTERS

SEOUL, 30 Aug — Family and church members mourned at a private funeral on Saturday a South Korean businessman linked to a ferry that sank in April killing hundreds of children, though his death remained shrouded in mystery.

Yoo Byung-un, 73, was found dead in a plum orchard in June, but his body was not identified for more than a month, despite him being wanted in connection with the sinking of the *Sewol* ferry, with 476 passengers and crew on board.

Around 300 people drowned in South Korea's worst maritime accident in decades, while 172 survived.

Most of the victims were children on a school trip.

The tragedy caused an outpouring of nationwide grief, and the government of President Park Geun-hye was heavily criticised for the ineffective response to the disaster.

Yoo was the head of the family that owned the ferry operator's holding company. He was accused of a range of questionable activities that included embezzlement and negligence that prosecutors believe led to the ferry disaster.

The coffin holding his body was brought to a sprawling rural compound of the Evangelical Baptist Church about 80 kilometres south of Seoul, as church members streamed in to attend the two-day funeral service.

The service was closed to outsiders and the news media.

The interment will take place on Sunday.

"He will be buried on a mountain inside the complex, which will be 5-10 minute walk from his father-in-law's grave," said Lee Tae-jong, a church official. Yoo had co-founded the church, along with his later father-in-law.

"Yoo was our mentor who taught about the Bible and loved nature and our country. I feel so sad to see him becoming feed for maggots," a church member said, requesting anonymity.

"There will be a judgement by God some day."

The Sewol ferry capsized and sank after trying to make a sharp turn while on a routine journey from Incheon on the mainland to the southern holiday island near the southwestern coast. It was later found to be structurally defective and overloaded.

On trial for homicide along with three crew members, the ferry's 68-year-old captain Lee Joon-seok took the stand for the first time this week. He told the court he was just following established practice in not making safety checks before the vessel set off, *Yonhap* news agency reported.

Authorities have arrested or questioned Yoo's family members and associates of the Christian sect, but have failed to unlock the circumstances surrounding his death.

Investigators looking to capture him continued on with the country's largest manhunt with a reward of 500 million won, the highest allowed under criminal law, unaware his body was near a cabin they had searched, next to a cover of a book he had written and empty bottles of alcohol.

Yoo's wife, brothers and oldest son have been arrested on charges including embezzlement but were granted temporary release from detention so that they could attend the funeral.

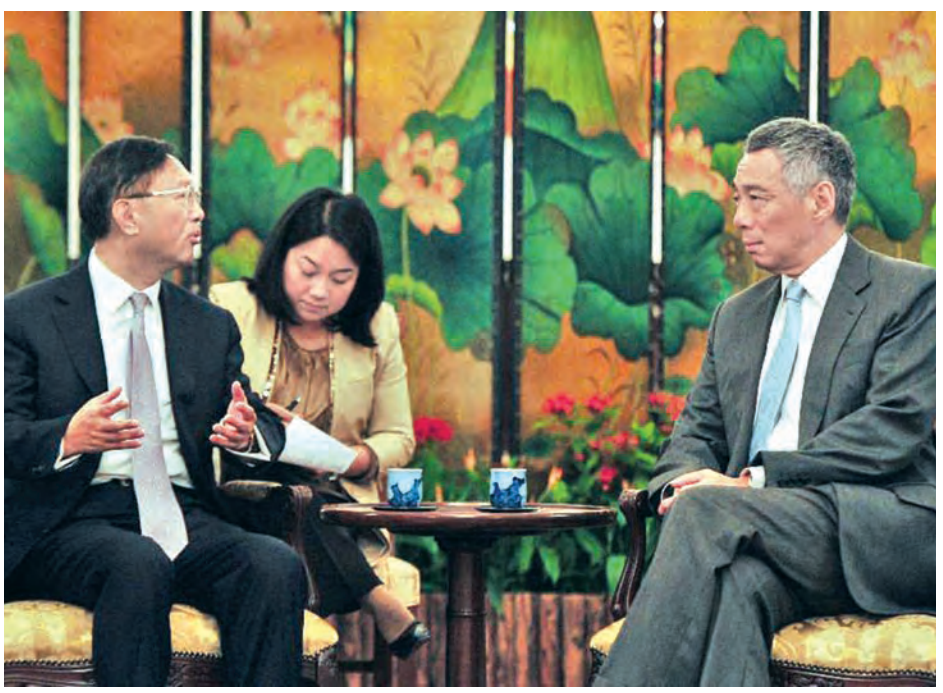
But, his younger son, Yoo Hyuck-ki, remains at large and is believed to be overseas. —*Reuters*

Singapore PM meets Chinese state councilor

SINGAPORE, 30 Aug — Singapore Prime Minister Lee Hsien Loong on Friday met with Chinese State Councilor Yang Jiechi in Singapore.

Yang said 2015 marks the 25th anniversary of diplomatic relations between Singapore and China, he hopes the two countries take this opportunity to strengthen high-level exchanges, deepen mutual trust and lift bilateral ties to a higher level.

Yang said that the Suzhou Industrial Park and Tianjin Eco-city have become models for bi-lateral collaboration and he hopes the two sides continue to work closely and use their advantages to engage in more collaboration.



Singapore' s Prime Minister Lee Hsien Loong (R) meets with China' s State Councillor Yang Jiechi at Singapore' s Istana on 29 Aug, 2014. Yang Jiechi is on a three-day official visit in Singapore. — XINHUA

Talking about China-ASEAN relationship, Yang emphasized China's firm stand on strengthening the good-neighbourly friendship and mutually beneficial cooperation with ASEAN. China is willing to push forward the relationship with ASEAN countries, and as Singapore will host as the coordinator between China and ASEAN next year, China is willing to work with Singapore to promote greater progress in China-ASEAN relationship, Yang said.

Yang also welcomed Lee to attend the China-ASEAN Expo in Nanjing in September this year, and the APEC Economic leaders' Informal Meeting in Beijing this November.

Lee said Singapore hopes to realize exchanges of visits by leaders from two sides as the two countries celebrate their 25th anniversary of diplomatic relations, adding that he looks forward to welcoming President Xi to pay a state visit to Singapore.

In response to Yang's emphasis on China's position on South China Sea, Lee said that Singapore attaches great importance to China's position on the South China Sea issue, and he hopes all parties could work together to maintain peace and stability in the area.Yang also met with deputy Prime Minister Tharman Shanmugaratnam, Emeritus Senior Minister Goh Chok Tong, Minister for Law and Foreign Affairs K Shanmugam on the same day.— *Xinhua*

EU leaders to threaten extra Russia sanctions, agree new team

BRUSSELS, 30 Aug— European Union leaders are likely to threaten Russia with new economic sanctions over its action in Ukraine on Saturday but officials and diplomats said the bloc was not yet ready to order additional penalties.

At a summit in Brussels that may hand one of the Union's top jobs to Poland's prime minister, giving Vladimir Putin's critics in ex-communist Eastern Europe new influence over EU policy, Ukrainian President Petro Poroshenko received a demonstrative welcome from senior officials whom he urged to set new sanctions.

But divisions among the 28 EU nations are likely to stay their hand, with large western countries wary of self-inflicted pain for their own economies. Those include Germany, Britain and France, as well as Italy, which is heavily dependent on Russian gas and expects to secure the post of EU foreign affairs chief.

A woman walks past the entrance of the European Council headquarters in Brussels on 29 Aug, 2014, ahead of a European Union leaders special summit to discuss EU top jobs. —REUTERS

Rome, whose little-tested young foreign minister is in line for that job, holds the rotating presidency of the Union and Prime Minister Matteo Renzi wants leaders to agree to meet again soon to forge a plan to revive their stuttering economies. Some fear a slowdown could undermine the bloc's euro currency.

Poroshenko told reporters he wanted new EU sanctions against President Putin's Russia, which he accuses of sending in troops to support separatist rebels in eastern Ukraine. It is the Kiev government's efforts to bind the former Soviet state closer to the EU that Moscow blames for provoking confrontation.

Poroshenko's spokesman said on Twitter that his main goal in Brussels was "to forge ever stronger unity of the EU and its solidarity with Ukraine, to seek more resolute EU actions".

However, echoing comments from other diplomats and officials, Finnish Prime Minister Alexander Stubb said EU leaders would not decide on new sanctions immediately:

"We will discuss new sanctions as the situation has changed in the last few days ... but we will not decide on any new sanctions today," he told Finnish public radio.

"If Russia continues with its destabilising efforts, I think it is right that sanctions will be toughened but I hope that won't happen. There are countries that want to toughen sanctions right away and countries that want a more calm approach."

Poroshenko met Herman Van Rompuy, the president of the European Council whose replacement is due to be decided at the summit, starting at 5 p.m. (1600 BST). He also met Jose Manuel Barroso, who is being replaced as president of the executive European Commission by former Luxembourg premier Jean-Claude Juncker.

Diplomats said Polish Prime Minister Donald Tusk has broad support for Van Rompuy's job, although Stubb, demonstrating Nordic solidarity, said Tusk was still neck and neck with former frontrunner Helle Thorning-Schmidt, the Danish prime minister.

Many officials in Brussels expect a deal that will balance the interests of left- and right-wing factions across the bloc, eastern and western states, northern Europe and the south, as well as satisfy pressure for more women in senior EU roles. With Tusk, a conservative easterner replacing the Belgian Van Rompuy, Italian Foreign Minister Federica Mogherini, a member of Renzi's centre-left party, would take over as the bloc's foreign policy chief, replacing Briton Catherine Ashton.

Eastern leaders, alarmed by a resurgent Moscow, resisted the appointment of Mogherini. At 41 and with just six months' experience in government, they saw her lacking the political weight to stand up to the Kremlin and also handicapped by Italy's dependence on Russian energy.

However, the emergence of support for Tusk as president appears to have forged the makings of a consensus, diplomats and officials said. That would rule out Thorning-Schmidt - who like Tusk has never publicly declared herself a candidate.

Van Rompuy, whose responsibility it is to try to find ways for the 28 leaders to reach joint decisions, was in contact with them in the run-up to the summit. But a final agreement is unlikely to emerge until they meet in person later on Saturday.

Ahead of the summit, French President Francois Hollande was hosting fellow leaders from the left in Paris, while European conservatives were gathering in Brussels at the same time.—*Reuters*

Firefight erupts between militants and Philippine peacekeepers in Golan Heights

MANILA, 30 Aug — A firefight erupted on Saturday between a group of Philippine peacekeepers trapped in the Israeli-occupied Golan Heights and Islamist militants who were surrounding their position, the defence chief of the Philippines said.

About 40 Philippine troops manning one of two camps on the Syrian side of the frontier, identified as camp 68, came under attack at around 6 am local time, Voltaire Gazmin told reporters via a mobile phone text message.

Another defence official said all the Philippine troops were safe. A further 35 Philippines troops were at another site, known as camp 69, about 4 km (2.5 km) away but were not engaged in the firefight.

The troops are part of UNDOF, a UN force that has monitored the disengagement zone between Israel and Syria since 1974 in the wake of the 1973 Arab-Israeli war.

UN officials are trying to establish the whereabouts of 44 Fijian peacekeepers, also part of UNDOF, seized by al-Qaeda-linked militants this week along the rocky frontier between Syria and the Golan Heights.

The Philippine troops, however, have held their ground for about 48 hours and have refused to give up their arms to the militants.

Reuters

Smoke rises following an explosion on the Syrian side near the Quneitra border crossing between the Israeli-controlled Golan Heights and Syria on 29 Aug, 2014. REUTERS

UN urges US to stop police brutality after Missouri shooting

GENEVA, 30 Aug — The UN racism watchdog urged the United States on Friday to halt the excessive use of force by police after the fatal shooting of an unarmed black teenager by a white policeman touched off riots in Ferguson, Missouri.

Minorities, particularly African Americans, are victims of disparities, the UN Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination (CERD) said after examining the US record.

"Racial and ethnic discrimination remains a serious and persistent problem in all areas of life from de facto school segregation, access to health care and housing," Noureddine Amir, CERD committee vice chairman, told a news briefing.

Teenager Michael Brown was shot dead by a white police officer on 9 August, triggering violent protests that rocked Ferguson — a St Louis suburb — and shone a global spotlight on the state of race relations in America.

"The excessive use of force by law enforcement officials against racial and ethnic minorities is an ongoing issue of concern and particularly in light of the shooting of Michael Brown," said Amir, an expert from Algeria.

"This is not an isolated event and illustrates a bigger problem in the United States, such as racial bias among law enforcement officials, the lack of proper implementation of rules and regulations governing the use of force, and the inadequacy of training of law enforcement officials."

The panel of 18 independent experts grilled a senior US delegation on 13 August, about what they said was persistent racial discrimination against African-Americans and other minorities, including within the criminal justice system.

US Ambassador Keith Harper told the panel that his nation had made "great strides toward eliminating racial discrimination" but conceded that "we have much left to do".

Ferguson Police Officer Darren Wilson, who shot Brown, has been put on paid leave and is in hiding. A St Louis County grand jury has begun hearing evidence and the US Justice Department has opened its own investigation.

Police have said Brown struggled with Wilson when shot. But some witnesses say Brown held up his hands and was surrendering when he was shot multiple times in the head and chest.

Activists raise their hands as they demand justice for the killing of Michael Brown while marching to the Thomas F Eagleton United States Courthouse from City Hall in downtown St Louis, Missouri on 26 Aug, 2014. —REUTERS

In its conclusions issued on Friday, the UN panel said "Stand Your Ground" Laws, a controversial self-defence statute in 22 US states, should be reviewed to "remove far-reaching immunity and ensure strict adherence to principles of necessity and proportionality when deadly force is used for self-defence".

Ron Davis, father of Jordan Davis, a 17-year-old shot dead in a car in Jacksonville, Florida during an argument over loud rap music in November 2012, attended the Geneva session. Sybrina Fulton, mother of Trayvon Martin, an unarmed black teen killed in Miami, Florida by a neighbourhood watch volunteer, testified.

The UN panel monitors compliance with a treaty ratified by 177 countries including the United States.

"The Committee remains concerned at the practice of racial profiling of racial or ethnic minorities by law enforcement officials, including the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI), Transportation Security Administration, border enforcement officials and local police," it said, urging investigations.

Reuters

Shortage-weary Venezuelans scoff at fingerprinting plan for food sales

CARACAS, 30 Aug—A government plan to combat Venezuela's food shortages by fingerprinting shoppers in grocery stores has sparked a backlash ranging from violent street protests to social media campaigns ridiculing the idea.

Shoppers have for more than a year struggled to find basic goods including cooking oil, powdered milk and corn flour as well as detergent, shampoo and diapers.

Apart from a short supply of dollars for imports, the shortages have been blamed on heavy subsidies that allow shoppers to stock up on staples and resell them in neighbouring Colombia or on the local black market.

President Nicolas Maduro says the biometric system, to be introduced this year, will allow authorities to weed out smugglers, often seen in lines buying conspicuous amounts of goods that are in short supply.

"It's absurd. How does a fingerprinting machine help you? It's only more regulation," said Jose Briceno, a pastry chef who was once a fervent supporter of late socialist President Hugo Chavez but says his handpicked successor, Maduro, should resign.

"I've reached my limit," said Briceno, 39, adding that he has to go shopping nearly every day to find what he needs for his kitchen.

Demonstrators opposed to the fingerprinting scheme clashed this week with police in San Cristobal, a city near the border with Colombia where product shortages are among the worst in Venezuela.

Some Caracas residents banged pots and pans on Thursday night in a traditional display of anger although the issue looks unlikely to spark the kind of massive demonstrations that rocked Venezuela for three months this year.

"I wanted to strangle Maduro," Esperanza Diaz, a 54-year-old retired government worker, said of the plan. "We can't keep being abused," she added, speaking in front of half-empty shelves as she stocked up on rare sugar at a sprawling government-run Bicentenario supermarket in central Caracas.

Government supporters argue that while stores in this oil-rich South American nation used to be better supplied, the poor could ill-afford to stock up on many consumer items anyway.

They blast what they call a pampered, out-of-touch elite for seeking to stir up trouble.

"I agree with the fingerprinting system because I see how smugglers are bleeding the country dry," said Ninoska Mazza, 40, a real estate agent waiting behind other shoppers at a Bicentenario meat counter.

*People wait to buy medicines at a drugstore in Caracas on 28 Aug, 2014. —*REUTERS

Venezuelans used to dodging socialist regulations are already joking that "rent-a-fingers" will soon emerge to help duck around the system.

A Twitter campaign shows a hand flashing the middle finger with the hashtag #ScanThisFingerprint.

The government has in recent days scaled back the fingerprinting plan, saying it will be voluntary and only required for 23 basic goods. Some Venezuelans are sceptical the plan will even be implemented but others see a dark motive behind it.

"They want to control us," said Monica Betancour, 43, a dentist looking for turkey at a supermarket in posh eastern Caracas. "Whenever they announce a protest against this, I'll be there," she said.

Reuters

Pentagon says Iraq operations costing on average $7.5 million per day

*Flight deck crew member confirms the deck is all clear before a F/A-18C Hornet of Strike Fighter Squadron (VFA-87) take offs the aircraft carrier USS George HW Bush (CVN 77), in the Gulf on 12 Aug, 2014.—*REUTERS

WASHINGTON, 30 Aug — US military operations against Islamic State in Iraq have cost an average of $7.5 million per day since they began in mid-June, the Pentagon said on Friday, a figure that means the department has spent more than $500 million on the conflict.

Rear Admiral John Kirby, the Pentagon press secretary, told a briefing the expense of US operations against Islamic State in Iraq had varied since US forces became involved on 16 June but on average "it's costing us about $7.5 million per day."

"As our op (operational) tempo and as our activities have intensified, so, too, has the cost," Kirby said, noting that the figures were based on a snapshot of expenses between 16 June and 26 August.

He did not offer an estimate of the Pentagon's total costs so far, but an average cost of $7.5 million per day for 71 days would mean the department has spent roughly $532 million.

By comparison, the Pentagon has been spending roughly $1.3 billion per week on Afghanistan, analysts said.

The estimate includes like fuel for flying reconnaissance and strike missions, the cost of missiles and other weapons fired, as well as some payments for personnel, defence officials said.

The military so far has carried out 110 air strikes while flying about 60 reconnaissance aircraft sorties per day, defence officials said. In addition, it has sent more than 800 troops to evaluate the situation.

The operation is being paid for from the Pentagon's war-spending budget, which included some $80 billion in 2014, mainly for the conflict in Afghanistan.

"We're well within the limits that we need for 2014," Kirby said, noting that Defence Secretary Chuck Hagel has previously said the Pentagon would not require additional funds to cover the costs of Iraq this year.

But he said Hagel has noted the Pentagon might have asked Congress for more money in the 2015 fiscal year, which begins in October.

"Right now, in Iraq and elsewhere around the world, we've got resources sufficient to the military tasks that we're accomplishing," Kirby said.

"Once you get into '15, if we're still involved at this level or a higher level, then we've got to have another discussion about what the funding levels might be," he added.

He noted that the Pentagon was facing a larger budget problem in 2016 if automatic, across-the-board budget cuts return. The department is currently under orders to cut nearly $1 trillion in projected spending over a decade.

Congress agreed on a two-year deal for the 2014 and 2015 budgets that gave the department some relief from the financial uncertainty it has faced since being ordered to implement the cuts. But the automatic reductions are due to return in 2016.—*Reuters*

Silva widens lead ahead of Brazil presidential election

BRASILIA, 30 Aug — Environmentalist Marina Silva has widened her lead over President Dilma Rousseff to 10 percentage points in what could be a likely runoff in Brazil's October election, a survey by polling firm Datafolha showed on Friday.

Silva has surged to 34 percent support from 21 percent in a previous Datafolha poll conducted before hotly contested vote that is being watched closely by investors hoping that a change of government will issue in more market-friendly policies.

*Presidential candidate Marina Silva (L) and her vice-president candidate Beto Albuquerque of Brazilian Socialist Party (PSB) attend a launching ceremony of her government programme in Sao Paulo on 29 Aug, 2014. —*REUTERS

It was the third poll in less than a week that projected the 5 October election would go to a second-round vote in which Rousseff would be unseated by Silva, who entered the race just 10 days ago following the death of her party's candidate.

The popular anti-establishment figure is threatening to end the 12-year rule of the Workers' Party in a she launched her candidacy. She is now tied with Rousseff whose support has fallen to 34 percent from 36 percent in a first-round vote. If the race goes to a runoff on 26 October as expected, Silva would win 50 percent of the votes, while Rousseff would get 40 percent, widening her margin of victory from six to 10 percentage points, according to Datafolha.— *Reuters*

PERSPECTIVES

Sunday, 31 August, 2014

MPF and public security

By *Aung Khin*

The Myanmar Police Force (MPF) was re-organized in October 1995 following its former name of the People's Police Force in 1964. MPF has now a strength of nearly 100,000 men and women in seven states and seven regions, each with its own local police force.

MPF is now obtaining technical and training assistance from the INTERPOL National Central Bureau (NCB) for Myanmar. MPF has recently received EU training on crowd control. However some experts remarked that it still needs more members, systematic management and skills in handling street gangs in some major cities.

When these street gangs become powerful, they threaten the public security seriously. In some cases, local security forces could not control them. MPF has mandates to prevent, detect and investigate crimes, to enforce and maintain law and order, to suppress criminal activity related to narcotic drugs, to preserve community peace and tranquility, to carry out community welfare activities and to ensure public security.

There are some capable, brave and powerful police officers in MPF. They should be assigned duties in the areas where rule of law is a matter of concern to public security. Moreover, MPF must take decisive actions on street-gangs control.

In this age of information technology, any problem in any area can spread quickly on social media in many languages. Feeling insecurity, tourists or foreign investors will mull their visit before travelling to Myanmar.

Myanmar should not be a place for street gangs or mob rule. Street gangs were uncontrollable in many circumstances during colonial period. MPF should ensure public security in modern time by controlling street gangs in line with their mandates and objectives.

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Learning Together: UNDP's Implementing Partners Come Together for Social Cohesion

a Loikaw partner presents a conflict tree

Myanmar - In a local hall in Loikaw, about 30 people are working excitedly in small groups. Crowding around sheets of flip-charts, they are in intense discussion. The groups have an hour to design a community cohesion project intervention. While they have worked on exercises like this before, this is the first time they are developing a project using the information, skills and tools they've newly acquired. Occasionally, laughter breaks through the otherwise serious atmosphere.

Similar exercises happened in Mawlamyine, Hpa-an, Taunggyi, Myitkyina and Yangon in June and July this year, as part of a UNDP effort to increase capacities for social cohesion among its staff and implementing partners in Mon, Kayin, Kayah, Shan, Kachin, Chin and Rakhine. These three-day training workshops reached over 115 people, including from 35 of UNDP's implementing partners.

Daw Nang Mo Mo Thida, Secretary of the Southern Shan State Branch of Mana Organization who participated in the training says she found it very helpful because she hadn't thought about how social cohesion connected to topics like governance and gender. "The idea of social cohesion is important for Myanmar because it can help solve the problems in our country" she says.

The trainings covered concepts, skills and tools for social cohesion, and gave participants opportunities to test their knowledge in real time. For example, in one activity, participants were asked to analyze a dispute among neighboring villages using conflict analysis tools. In Hpa-an, they identified the lack of water as a root cause of the conflict and shared ideas on what kind of intervention could help the situation. In another activity, participants designed a community dialogue process and used dialogue facilitation skills to mediate a conflict between the community, the local government representative and a development agency.

The aim of these trainings was to encourage UNDP's partners to take forward social cohesion in their future work, above and beyond their ongoing partnerships with UNDP. Daw Wai Wai Aung from ACTED says, "I plan to use these tools for future programming, especially participatory planning and conflict resolution."

This work is part of a UNDP programme that covers 300 villages in 24 townships in 7 states in the country. In partnership with over 35 non-governmental organizations, UNDP is supporting the livelihood and social cohesion needs of these communities by providing them with social protection assistance; grants for agriculture, livestock and micro-enterprises; vocational training; community mobilization and training; and infrastructure. The work aims to strengthen community cohesion by reducing socio-economic disparities and vulnerabilities and strengthening community networks and relations. The work is made possible with funds from Japan, DANIDA and UNDP.

Back in Loikaw, an hour later, the groups are ready to present their new projects. It's been an opportunity to showcase their new knowledge and skills. It's been a good day of learning, interacting and networking with other people. Each team presents their ideas, answers questions and receives feedback from their peers. Occasionally, the laughter still breaks through.

(By: Anna Jane Saxby, International United Nations Volunteer, UNDP Myanmar & Manuel Vazquez Cano, UNDP Graduate Intern)

Outlook and opinion of doctors that treated DM patients at Wachet Jivitadana Sangha Hospital in Sagaing Hills

By *Sayar Mya*

(from yesterday)

2. Since the field treatment project at the WJSH is in the pattern of secondary health center, the health care offered during the project period is highly beneficial. The momentum in the care of the patients has never slowed down, instead it accelerating into sustainable caring. In other words, the project is well equipped with the required conditions such as the perfect blood test, adequate drug supply, sufficient doctors to attend the patients, and the best part of the project is the supervision of senior physicians, who avail themselves on Sunday. She said that paying attention to the patients and disseminating health knowledge was most beneficial.
3. The visiting field doctors were accorded with food, accommodation and transport, including local tours to the neighborhood. The plan fulfilled the satisfaction of the guest doctors.
4. The visiting doctors have adequate time not only in treating the patients, but also imparting them with health knowledge. Therefore, the guest doctors gain merits in the religious aspect. That is one of the reasons that the doctors joined the visiting team in offering free medical treatment to the patients.

Professor Dr. U Nyunt Thein (Retired Head of Department, Medical Education Department, University of Medicine, Yangon.

The Professor joined the UK based Brighter Future Foundation in the medical treatment trip to the WJSH in Sagaing Hills to treat the DM patients and disseminate health knowledge to the local population. He joined the BFF in person as he has impression on the noble attitude of the BFF.

On 7 and 8 of August, he met with patients who are suffering DM, but without any knowledge on the illness. They have no idea what points to follow and which behaviors and food that they must avoid. The patients are not aware on the ways and means to control the blood sugar. The professor said that he was glad and honored to have the opportunity to offer treatment, provide health care and impart health education to the vulnerable people at the WJSH.

He noticed that most of the patients are poor and could not afford to take regular medical treatment on their DM. The poor scenario was that the patients are taking Myanmar traditional medicine at will without proper instruction and guidance on dosage. As the main staple food is rice, it is difficult for the patients to reduce the intake of rice in their daily meals, prompting the team to give lecture on the knowledge of food intake.

After the lectures, the attendees could catch up and understand the social life style, food intake and diet, the regular drug compliance and the necessary physical exercise. They are equipped with the basic knowledge on the supplementary complication of the illness DM.

The professor explained that due to the limited time space and limited facility, the team could offer medical treatment to only (270) patients, (10) persons more than the original schedule. He and his team intend to offer medical treatment to patient double the number in their next visit to WJSH. With a view to fulfill this aim and goal for the next visit, he reminded to his team the Brighter Future Foundation and the WJSH to be prepared in treating more number of patients.

(Concluded)

ARTICLE

Second Last Old Capital City Amarapura Part III

By Maha Saddhamma Jotika dhaja Sithu Dr. Khin Maung Nyunt

The first western envoy who came to Amarapura was an English envoy sent by the government-general of the British India in 1795, in the 13th year of King Bodawpaya's reign. He was Major Michael Symes of the 76th Regiment Symes was warmly received at the royal audience. He got on well with the King, who was willing to learn much from the advanced nations of the west for progress and prosperity of his country. The King consented to most of his proposals including the opening of diplomatic relations with the British, by stationing an English political agent in Yangon and liberal treatment of the British subjects in Myanmar. Because of his diplomatic skill and since understanding and appreciation of Myanmar culture, Symes stayed at the capital Amarapura for some times, during which he eye-witnessed the capital city, learned about the King, his administration, economy of his Kingdom and his military strength.

On return home after his assignment, he submitted to the Directors of the English East Inida company the official report of his embassy to Myanmar. It was published in 1800 in London titled "An account of an Embassy to the Kingdom of Ava in the year 1795". The British always used the name "Ava" regardless of other the capital cities they visited such as Amarapura and Mandalay.

In this book he gave a full account of Amarapura and Myanmar Kingdom. In chapter XIV of the book he gave his high impression of Myanmar armed forces of Bodawpaya's time. Symes noticed that of the King's armed forces, infantry and cavalry were the hard core. He wrote very highly of the horsemen. They were the regular guards of the King. 700 were on constant duty at several gates of the Palace. When Symes entered the Amarapura Palace to present his credentials to the King at royal audience, he was accorded a military salute with a strength of about 2000. He thought that that was the Parade of all troops. Otherwise they were scattered in small detachments throughout neighbouring districts. Regarding calvary, Symes observed there were 300 in Ummerapoora [Amarapura]. The following is an except from his book "The Burmas may be denominated as a nation of soldiers, everyman in the kingdom being liable to be called upon for his military services; and war is deemed the most honourable occupation; the regular military establishment of the Birmans is nevertheless very inconsiderable, not exceeding the numbers of which the royal guard is composed, and such as are necessary to preserve the police of the capital. When an army is to be raised, a mandate issues from the golden palace, to all viceroys of provinces, and Miragees (Myogi) of districts, requiring a certain number of men to be at a general rendezvous, on an appointed day, under command, sometimes of the Viceroy himself, but oftener that of an inferior officer: the levy is proportioned to the population of the province, or district, estimated from the number of registered houses it contains. The provincial court determines the burthen which each is to bear; commonly every two, three or four houses are to furnish among them one recruit, or to pay 300 tackal in money about £40 or £45; this recruit is supplied with arms, ammunition, and, I believe, with a certain daily allowance of grain from the Government, but is not entitled to pay. The families of these conscripts are carefully retained in the district which they inhabit, as hostages for the good conduct of their relation.

"Infantry and cavalry compose the regular guards of the king: the former are armed with muskets and sabres, the latter are provided with a spear about seven or eight feet long, which they manage on horse back with great dexterity, seldom requiring or making use of any other weapon. The infantry are not uniformly clothed; I heard various accounts of their numbers: 700 do constant duty within the precincts, and at the several gates of the palace: I think that on the day of my public reception I saw about 2000 and have no doubt but all the troopers in the city were paraded on that occasion. I was told that there were only 300 cavalry in Ummerapoora, but 2000 were scattered, in small detachments throughout the neighbouring districts. All the troopers in the king service are natives of Cassay, who are much better horsemen than the Birmans. Mr. Wood, who saw some of them at exercise, informed me that "they nearly resembled those he had met with in Assam, they ride like orientals with short stirrups and a loose rein, their saddle is hard and high, and two large circular flaps of strong leather hang down on each side, painted or gilded, according to quality of the rider. Their dress is not unbecoming they wear a tight coat, with skirts reaching down to the middle of the thigh and on their head is turban of cloth, hard rolled and painted, that forms a high one, which fends backward in a graceful manner.

The breed of horses in Ava are small, but very hardly and active, contrary to the practice of other eastern countries they castrate their horses, and are thus enabled to maintain them with little trouble and expense, and can also turn a number loose in the field together, without any risk of their injuring one another. Horses are frequently exported in timber ships bound for Madras, and other parts of the coast, where they are disposed of to considerable advantage."

"The government of Ava is extremely attentive to provide, in times of peace, for the contingencies of war, the royal magazines, I was told, could furnish 20,000 firelocks, which, if they resemble the specimen I saw, cannot be very formidable, these have been imported, at different periods, into the country, by ships trading to Rangoon, and other parts of the Empire, and are either of French manufacture, or muskets from the English arsenals in India. The Birmans are very fond of their arms, of "they take great care; their gun smiths who are all natives of Cassay, keep them in repair …''

Amarapura was on the bank of Ayeyawady River and there were vast aquatic bodies around it. The big lake Taungthaman-In in those days was almost an inland sea where war boats of all sizes could carry out their naval exercise and stationed, let alone Zaung Kalaw Lake and Tetthein-In in not too far distance of the city's northeast and northwest. Therefore though Myanmar fleets of Amarapura were not maritime they formed inland water forces for the defence of the capital city.

Major Michael Symes upon seeing fleets of Myanmar war boats was quite impressed. The following excerpts show his high estimate of Myanmar was boats and rowers. "By far the most respectable part of the Birman military force is their establishment of war boats. Every town of note, in the vicinity of the river, is obliged to furnish a certain number of men, and one or more boats, in proportion to the magnitude of the place. I was informed that the King can command, at a very short notice, 500 of these vessels; they are constructed out of the solid trunk of the teak tree, which is excavated partly by cutting, the largest are from eight to one hundred feet long, but breadth seldom exceeds eight feet, and this space is artificially extending the sides after the trunk has been hollowed. They carry from fifty to sixty rowers, who use short oars that work on a spindle; the prow is solid, and has a flat surface, on which, when they go in war, a piece of ordnance is mounted a six, a nine, or even a twelve pounder; the gun carriage is secured by lashings to strong bolts on each side, and swivels are frequently fixed on the curvature of the stern."

"The rowers are severally provided with a sword, and a lance which are placed by his side whilst he piles the oars. Besides the boatmen, there are usually thirty soldiers on board, who are armed with muskets; thus prepared, they go in fleets to the foe, and when in sight, draw up in a line, presenting their prows to the enemy. Their attack is extremely impetuous; they advance with great rapidity, and sing a war song, at once to encourage their people, daunt their adversaries, and regulate the strokes of their oars; they generally endeavour to grapple, and when that is affected, the action becomes very severe, as these people are endued with great courage, strength, and activity. In times of peace they are fond of exercising in their boats, and I have often been entertained with the dexterity they display in the management of them. The vessels being low in the water, their greatest danger is that of being run down by a larger boat striking on their broadside, a misfortune which the steersman is taught to dread, and to avoid, above all others. It is surprising to see the facility with which they steer, and elude each other in their mock combats. The rowers are also practised to row backwards, and impel the vessel with the stern foremost; this is the mode of retreat, by means of which the artillery still bears upon their opponent. The largest of the war boats do not draw more than three feet water. When a person of rank is on board, there is a sort of moving tilt or canopy, for his particular accommodation, placed sometimes in the centre, and sometimes on the prow. The sides of the boat are either gilt as far as the water edge, or plain, according to the rank of the person it carries. Gilded boats are only permitted to the princes of the blood or to persons holding the highest stations, such as a Myowoon of a province, and a Minister of Justice."

From these excerpts, we learn much not only of King Bodawpaya's armed forces but also of Amarapura's greatness and glory of that time. Cassay and Assam mentioned by Symes were Manipura and Assam, the two tributary states of Myanmar Empire of that time. They contributed their calvaries to Myanmar army in times of war and in times of peace they were given permanent residence at and around Amarapura to protect the Palace and the King and serve as guards of honour on ceremonial occasions.

Myanmar war boats were of different sizes and types-Hlawkas were vessels of different sizes and ranks, Laung Hlays were another type to carry food ration etc. Only war canoes dug out of a single teak log were the fighting boats, light, mobile and could fight in any aquatic body. These boats were constantly repaired and new boats were made for war contingency.

Myanmar had gun smiths who made Tumi guns and Kyauk mi guns. There was a free flow of trade in arms and ammunitions between Amarapura, British India as well as France. The King stored up muskets, magazine and other arms from any quarter abroad to make his armed forces always strong and ready for any emergency rebellion or war. We also learn that Amarapura exported horses of native breed which though physically small composed to foreign horses, were hardy and mobile in fighting and less expensive in maintenance. In exchange Amarapura imported horses of high quality foreign breed to cross breed with native horses.

Amarapura was not merely a ceremonial capital city of the King who resided in a golden palace within the walled and moated Palace City. It was the centre of all activities of a Kingdom—political, diplomatic, economic, socio-cultural, military, defense and what not.

In our next installment we shall learn more about Amarapura as recounted by a Christian missionary who lived a long time there.

(To be continued)

Syrian refugees top 3 million, half of all Syrians displaced—UN

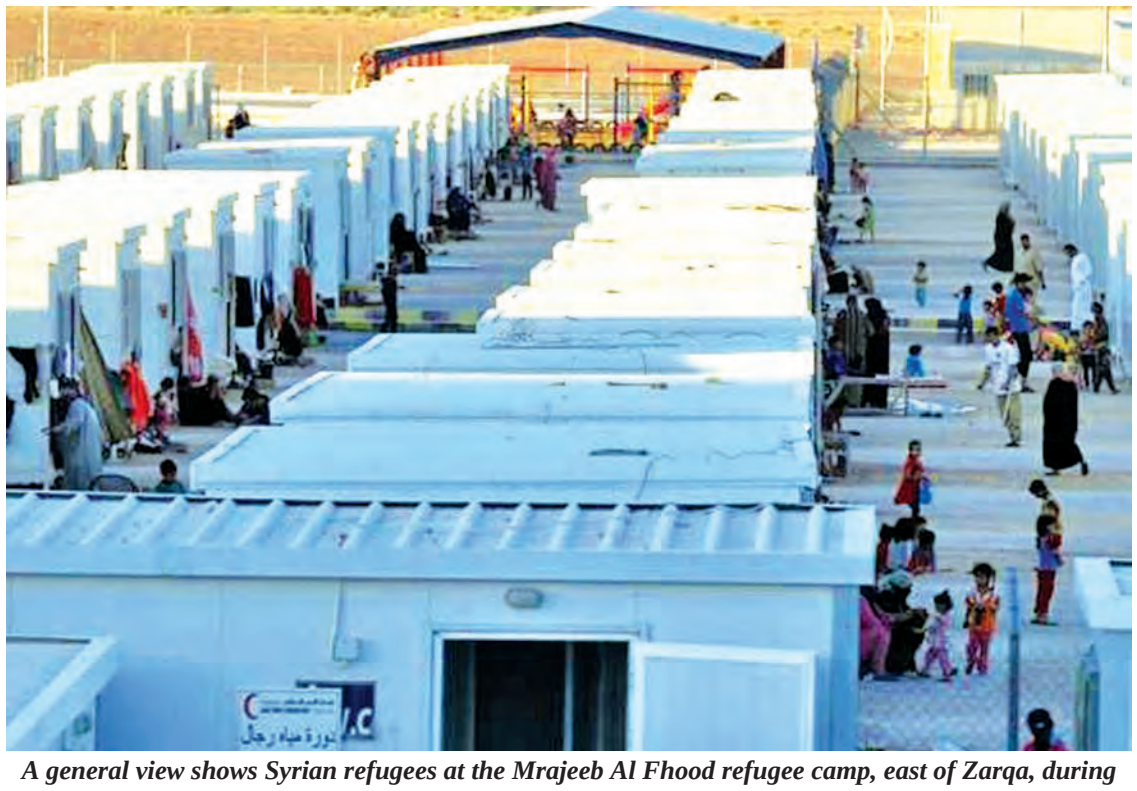
GENEVA, 30 Aug — Three million Syrian refugees will have registered in neighbouring countries as of Friday, but many remain trapped by the advance of Islamist militants or are having difficulty in reaching open border crossings, the United Nations said.

Syrians desperate to leave their war-engulfed homeland are forced to pay hefty bribes at armed checkpoints proliferating along Syria's borders, or to smugglers, the UN refugee agency said.

The record figure is one million refugees more than a year ago, while a further 6.5 million are displaced within Syria, meaning that "almost half of all Syrians have now been forced to abandon their homes and flee for their lives," it said.

"The Syrian crisis has become the biggest humanitarian emergency of our era, yet the world is failing to meet the needs of refugees and the countries hosting them," Antonio Guterres, UN High Commissioner for Refugees, said in a statement.

Hollywood actress Angelina Jolie, who serves as UNHCR special envoy, said in a separate statement: "Three million refugees is not just another statistic. It is a searing indictment of our collective failure to end the war in Syria."



A general view shows Syrian refugees at the Mrajeeb Al Fhood refugee camp, east of Zarqa, during the Muslim fasting month of Ramadan, on 1 July, 2014.— REUTERS

The vast majority of Syrian refugees remain in neighbouring countries, with the highest concentrations in Lebanon (1.17 million), Turkey (830,000) and Jordan (613,000), the UNHCR said.

Some 215,000 refugees are in Iraq with the rest in Egypt and other countries. Syrians have also been among migrants who have drowned in the Mediterranean trying to reach Europe, Jolie said.

In addition, the host governments estimate that hundreds of thousands more Syrians have sought sanctuary in their countries without formally registering, the agency said.

But there are worrying signs that the journey out of Syria is becoming tougher for desperate families, it said.

Some areas of Syria are emptying out as the front lines in the conflict shift. "Recent arrivals to Jordan, for example, are running from attacks in the areas of al-Raqqa and Aleppo," the UNHCR said, referring to northern areas of Syria controlled by Islamic State forces. "The borders are open in Lebanon. They're managed in Jordan and Turkey, that is in those countries feeling very legitimate security concerns, they are screening people who are coming in," UNHCR chief spokeswoman Melissa Fleming told a news briefing. "In Iraq, the border is closed, it was closed some time ago in Anbar Province and actually now it's no longer controlled by the government of Iraq," she said.

Reuters

Silence surrounds Colombia's 92,000 disappeared — ICRC

BOGOTA, 30 Aug — More than 92,000 Colombians have disappeared during 50 years of war and at the hands of drug gangs, and the government needs to step up efforts to find missing people, the Red Cross said.

Every day nine people are reported missing in Colombia. Of the total number of those registered as missing over the years, nearly 70,000 remain missing without trace, according to the government's official register.

Many are victims of five decades of armed conflict between government troops, right-wing paramilitary groups and leftist rebels, while others are victims of ongoing drug-turf wars.

"The problem of missing people in Colombia is as widespread as it is silent," Jordi Raich, head of the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) delegation in Colombia said in a statement on Friday.

"We know many have disappeared because of the conflict and armed violence. The uncertainty and suffering of families which comes from not knowing the whereabouts of their loved ones is unacceptable."

Government forensic teams and around 20 state prosecutors from the attorney-general's office are searching for the disappeared and exhuming bodies across Colombia. The Colombian government offers up to $8,600 in compensation for relatives of those who have disappeared as a result of the conflict, and it recently adopted a protocol on handing back bodies to relatives to ensure they are honoured properly and their rights to a private or public funeral respected.

Jordi Raich, head of the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) delegation in Colombia, speaks during a management report on their 2012 activities, in Bogota on 24 April, 2013.—REUTERS

But the government must do more to find and identify the tens of thousands of people missing in Colombia, raise awareness about the largely invisible problem, and make it easier for relatives of the missing to seek and get help from authorities, the ICRC in Colombia said.

A possible government peace accord with the Marxist FARC rebels might help throw light on some of the forced disappearances. Peace talks between the two sides have been under way in Havana, Cuba, since November 2012 in a bid to end the war, though fighting continues.

A peace deal might persuade rebels from the Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia to identify where bodies are buried, and might also encourage people who have never reported disappearances to come forward, rights groups say.

Earlier this month, twelve victims from all sides of the Colombian conflict, including relatives of those who have disappeared, addressed peace negotiators in Havana, marking the first time victims have been given a voice in peace talks to end a war that has killed over 200,000 civilians and displaced 5.7 million Colombians.

They urged the FARC to reveal the whereabouts of mass graves and the truth about what happened to relatives killed and missing.—*Reuters*

Iran's foreign minister hopes for nuclear accord 'in short time left' till deadline

Iranian Foreign Minister Mohammad Javad Zarif arrives at the airport in Baghdad on 24 Aug, 2014. —REUTERS

MOSCOW, 30 Aug — Iranian Foreign Minister Mohammad Javad Zarif said Teheran hoped to reach a "positive result" in talks with world powers on its nuclear programme ahead of a November deadline, thanks in part to support from Russia. "In that short period of time that is left, we hope that we can reach a positive result," said Zarif, speaking through a translator at a news conference on Friday with his Russian counterpart Sergei Lavrov.

Iran and global powers are working to strike a comprehensive agreement by a 24 November deadline, under which Iran would curb its nuclear activities in exchange for an easing of economic sanctions that have crippled its economy.

The talks include the United States, Britain, Russia, China, Germany and France together with Iran, a format known as the 6+1. Russian Foreign Minister Sergei Lavrov said Moscow advocated a solution that would acknowledge Iran's right to peaceful nuclear activity.

"We expect that the continuing 6+1 talks will allow the conclusion of such a resolution," he said. Moscow has helped to bridge differences between Iran and other world powers over Teheran's nuclear activities, which the West fears could be a front to develop nuclear weapons. Iran says it needs nuclear power to generate electricity. Earlier this month, Russia and Iran announced a big oil-for-food deal, highlighting the problems both countries face in overcoming Western sanctions. Teheran's economy has been struggling for years, while Russia's has been hit by sanctions against its finance, oil and defence sectors over the Ukraine crisis. Few details were disclosed, but sources told *Reuters* in January that the two sides were negotiating a deal worth $1.5 billion a month that would enable Iran to lift oil exports substantially.—*Reuters*

Ebola outbreak reaches Senegal, riots break out in Guinea

DAKAR/CONAKRY, 30 Aug — The West African state of Senegal became the fifth country to be hit by the world's worst Ebola outbreak on Friday, while riots broke out in neighbouring Guinea's remote southeast where infection rates are rising fast.

In the latest sign that the outbreak of the virus, which has already killed at least 1,550 people, is spinning out of control, the World Health Organization (WHO) said that Ebola cases rose last week at the fastest pace since the epidemic began in West Africa in March. The epidemic has defied efforts by governments to control it, prompting the leading charity fighting the outbreak, Medecins Sans Frontieres (MSF), to call for the UN Security Council to take charge of efforts to stop it.

Including the fatalities, more than 3,000 have been infected since the virus was detected in the remote jungles of southeastern Guinea in March and quickly spread across the border to Liberia and Sierra Leone. It has also touched Nigeria, where six people have died.

Health workers wearing protective clothing prepare to carry an abandoned dead body presenting with Ebola symptoms at Duwala market in Monrovia on 17 Aug, 2014. — REUTERS

Sierra Leone's President Ernest Bai Koroma dismissed his Health Minister Miatta Kargbo on Friday over her handling of the epidemic, which has killed more than 400 people in the former British colony.

Liberia's Information Minister Lewis Brown said that two African healthcare workers treated with the experimental ZMapp Ebola drug would be released from hospital on Saturday, after making a full recovery. Scientists on Friday also reported that ZMapp, the drug that last week cured two American aid workers who contracted the disease in Liberia, had cured all 18 lab monkeys infected with the virus in laboratory tests.

Senegal's first case is a student from Guinea.

Senegalese Health Minister Awa Marie Coll Seck said the man turned up for treatment at a hospital in the capital Dakar on Tuesday, concealing the fact that he had had close contact with victims in his home country.

"We are tracing his whole itinerary and also identifying anyone who had contact with the patient, who now that he has been diagnosed is much more cooperative and supplied all the necessary information," the minister said. A Health Ministry official, who asked not to be named, said that the 21-year-old crossed into Senegal via its southern border with Guinea and had been living in the densely populated Dakar suburb of Parcelles Assainies for weeks. He added that the man appeared to have a good chance of recovering.

The man had been under surveillance by health authorities in Guinea because of his contact with Ebola victims but escaped to Senegal, Seck said.

Residents in Dakar reacted with anger and concern. "When you are sick, why do you leave your own country to export the disease to another?" asked radio host Taib Soce on RFM, a popular station owned by Senegalese music star Youssou N'dour.

In an attempt to prevent the spread of the virus, Senegal last week banned flights to and from three of the affected countries and shut its land border with Guinea.

The country, a regional hub for UN agencies and aid groups, has also refused to give clearance for UN aid flights to Ebola-hit countries in a move that humanitarian workers say is hampering their ability to respond to the epidemic.—*Reuters*

Fears of addiction keep cancer patients from getting pain

NEW YORK, 30 Aug — Fears of opioid abuse and addiction might be keeping patients with advanced cancer from getting enough pain medicine, researchers say. "At the end of life, we should feel comfortable providing whatever necessary to control pain," said Joel Hyatt, assistant regional director at Kaiser Permanente. Concerns about overdose and addiction, he told Reuters Health, should not prevent terminally ill patients from obtaining relief.

Pain undertreatment is estimated to affect half of cancer patients, according to a recent report in the Journal of Clinical Oncology. Opioids, a type of narcotic, work in the spinal cord and brain to reduce the intensity of pain signals reaching the brain. The opioids hydrocodone (Vicodin), hydromorphone (Dilaudid) and oxycodone (Oxycontin, Percocet) are commonly prescribed painkillers.

Hydrocodone is the most prescribed medication in the US, according to the International Narcotics Control Board.

Opioid overuse and abuse are a widespread problem that gets lots of attention in the news media — and that may keep cancer patients and doctors from using them appropriately.

"On one hand, we're told we overuse opioids," Hyatt said. "On the other, we're told we underuse them."

Underuse worries Judith Paice, a pain specialist at Northwestern University Feinberg School of Medicine in Chicago. Part of the problem, she said, is that it's sometimes hard for patients to convey to doctors how severe the pain is.

Most pain is controllable, she maintains; patients must describe symptoms, and physicians must seriously consider them.

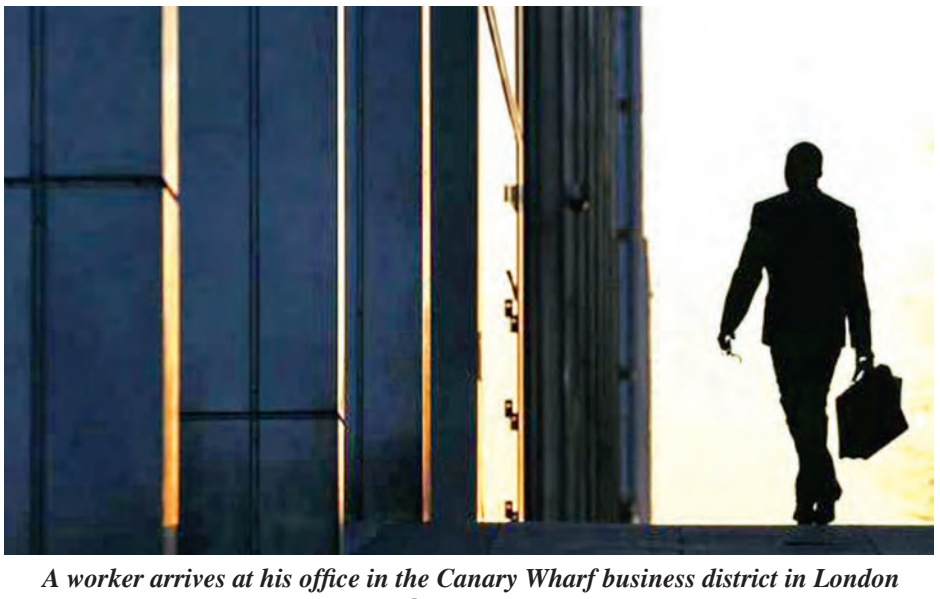
"All pain is real to the person experiencing it," Paice told Reuters Health. "But unlike infections we measure with blood samples, it doesn't have an objective marker." Doctors often ask patients to rate their pain on a 0 to 10 scale.

But severity, experts say, should be described in more detail than that. "The zero to ten scale was a good beginning when introduced to quantify pain," said Paice. — *Reuters*

UK bankers' bonuses rise twice as fast as rest of workforce

LONDON, 30 Aug — Bonuses for Britain's bankers and insurance workers rose at double the pace of those for the total workforce last year, despite politicians' and regulators' attempts to clamp down on bumper payouts at financial firms. Employees in the finance and insurance industry were on average paid a bonus of 13,300 pounds in the year to April, up 5.5 percent on a year earlier, according to data released by the Office of National Statistics (ONS) on Friday.

Across the whole of the UK workforce, the average bonus per employee was just over 1,500 pounds, 2.6 percent higher than the previous year.



A worker arrives at his office in the Canary Wharf business district in London on 26 Feb, 2014. — REUTERS

Politicians have been trying to crack down on generous bonuses in financial services following the credit crunch. Many blame such incentives for encouraging excessive risk-taking, which destabilised banks that then needed to be bailed out.

The Bank of England last month tightened measures around bonuses, increasing the number of years in which payouts can be clawed back to seven.

The European Union has also introduced a new rule that limits bonuses to no more than annual salary, or twice that with shareholder approval. It will apply to awards handed out from early 2015.

Reuters

Indonesia's Telkom to join undersea cable projects worth $1 bil

JAKARTA, 30 Aug— Indonesia's largest telecommunication company PT Telekomunikasi Indonesia plans to involve itself in three major undersea cable projects with total investment of up to $1 billion, a local business newspaper reported on Friday. The Jakarta-based *Kontan* daily quoted CEO Arief Yahya as saying that for the first project, the company, popularly known as Telkom, will be a part of a seven-firm consortium, including some from the United States, that will develop a 15,000-kilometer cable network connecting Indonesia's eastern island of Sulawesi with Los Angeles in the United States via Guam and Hawaii.

The $250 million project, in which Telkom will invest $71.25 million, or 28 percent of the total, is expected to be completed in 2016. Arief said Telkom will also work on an undersea cable project in Europe involving a consortium of 17 countries of Southeast Asia, the Middle East and Western Europe under the name of SEA-ME-WE5. For the third project, Telkom plans to develop by itself an undersea cable network named Indonesia Global Gateaway, or IGG, with a total investment of $253 million. Its groundbreaking is expected early next year.— *Kyodo News*

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From 1st September, MPT SIM cards will be available in retail stores across the nation

MPT is making to get SIM cards easier for the people of Myanmar. From 1st September onwards, affordable MPT SIM cards will be sold at a wide network of retail stores in all states and regions across the country. More SIM cards will continue to come every month, and will be made available in more cities and townships across the nation.

State/Region	Townships
Nay Pyi Taw	Dekkhina Thiri, Leway, Ottaya Thiri, Pobba Thiri, Pyinmana, Tetkon, Zabu Thiri, Zeyar Thiri
Kachin	Myitkyina,Bhamo, Hpakan, Mogaung, Mohnyin, Shwegu,Tanai
Kayah	Loikaw
Kayin	Hpa-An,Hlaingbwe, Hpapun, Kawkareik, Kyainseikgyi, Myawaddy
Chin	Hakha, Falam, Mindat, Tiddim
Sagaing	Monywa, Budalin, Hkamti, Homalin, Indaw, Kale, Kalewa, kanbalu, Kawlin, Mawlaik, Myinmu, Pale, Sagaing, Wuntho
Thanintharyi	Dawei, Bokpyin, Kawthoung, Kyunsu, Launglon, Myeik, Pulaw, Yephyu
Bago	Bago, Daik-U, Kawa, Kyaukkyi, Kyauktaga, Nyaunglebin, Oktwin, Phyu, Shwegyin, Tantabin, Taungoo, Thanatpin, Waw, Yedashe, Gyobingauk, Letpadan, Minhla (Bago), Monyo, Nattalin, Okpho, Padaung, Pauk Kaung, Paungde, Pyay, Shwedaung, Thayarwady, Thegon, Zigon
Magway	Magway, Aunglan, Chauk, Gangaw, Kamma, Minbu, Mindon,Minhla, Myaing, Myothit, Natmauk, Ngape, Pakokku, Pauk,Pwintbyu, Salin, Saw, Seikphyu, Sidoktaya. Sinbaungwe, Taungdwingyi, Thayet, Tilin, Yenangyaung, Yesagyo
Mandalay	Aungmyaythazan, Chanayethazan, Mahaaungmyay, Mogoke, Patheingyi, Pyinoolwin, Singu, Amarapura, Chanmyathazi, Kyaukpadaung, Kyaukse, Meiktila, Pyigyitagon, Sintgaing, Tada-U, Thazi

State/Region	Townships
Mon	Mawlamyine, Bilin, Chaungzon, Kyaikmaraw, Kyaikto, Mudon, Paung, Thanbyuzayat, Thaton, Ye
Rakhine	Sittwe, Ann, Buthidaung, Gwa, Kyaukpyu, Kyauktaw, Maungdaw, Minbya, Mrauk-U, Munaung, Myebon, Pauktaw, Ponnagyun, Ramree, Rathedaung, Thandwe, Toungup
Yangon	Botahtaung, Dagon Myothit, Dawbon, Mingalartaungnyunt, North Okkalapa, Pazundaung, South Okkalapa, Tamwe, Thaketa, Thingangkuun, Yankin, Hlaingtharya, Hlegu, Hmawbi, Htantabin, Insein, Mingaladon, Shwepyithar, Taikkyi, Ahlone, Bahan, Cocokyun. Dagon. Dala, Hlaing,Kamaryut, Kawhmu, Kayan, Kungyangon, Kyauktada, Kyauktan, Kyeemyindaing, Lanmadaw, Latha, Mayangone, Pabedan, Sanchaung, Seikgyikanaungto, Seikkan, Thanlyin Thongwa
Shan	Taunggyi, Lashio, Kengtung, Monghpyak, Mongton, Tachileik, Hseni, Kutkai, Laukkaing, Mabein, Manton, Mongmit, Mongyai, Muse, Nanhkan, Nawnghkio. Kalaw, Kunhing, Laihka, Langkho, Lawksawk, Loilen, Monghsu, Mongnai. Nansang, Nyaungshwe, Pekon, Pindaya, Pinlaung, Ywangan
Ayeyarwady	Pathein, Bogale, Danubyu, Dedaye, Einme, Hinthada, Ingapu, Kangyidaunt, Kyaiklat, Kyangin, Kyaunggon, Kyonpyaw, Labutta, Lemyethna, Maubin, Mawlamyinegyun, Myanaung, Myaungmya, Ngapudaw, Nyaungdon, Pantanaw, Pyapon, Thabaung, Wakema, Yegyi, Zalun

For detail informations, please contact to “106”.

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CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

MV KOTA RESTU VOY NO (403)

Consignees of cargo carried on MV KOTA RESTU VOY NO (403) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 31.8.2014 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of A.W.P.T where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

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

Phone No: 2301185

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

MV MALTE RAMBOW VOY NO (1434)

Consignees of cargo carried on MV MALTE RAMBOW VOY NO (1434) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 31.8.2014 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of M.I.P where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

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

Phone No: 2301185

Japanese tourists arrive in N Korea to watch pro wrestling show

PYONGYANG, 30 Aug — A group of more than 50 Japanese tourists arrived on Friday in North Korea for a rare pro wrestling event this weekend as the two countries seek to lay the groundwork for the establishment of diplomatic relations.

The group's visit comes after Japan eased travel restrictions to and from North Korea last month to create an atmosphere more conducive to settling the long-standing issue of Japanese citizens abducted by North Korean agents in past decades.

They will watch a two-day extravaganza, bringing together 21 pro wrestlers from Japan, Brazil, China, France and the United States, in Pyongyang, which will be co-hosted by Japan's high-profile opposition lawmaker Antonio Inoki and North Korean authorities.

Kyodo News

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

New Turkish cabinet spells little policy shift, Erdogan stays dominant

ANKARA, 30 Aug — Prime Minister Ahmet Davutoglu kept key members of Turkey's economic management team in place and named Ankara's point man on Europe as foreign minister in a new cabinet on Friday, moves signalling President Tayyip Erdogan's continued domination.

Erdogan, who had held sway over politics as prime minister since 2003, was sworn in on Thursday as Turkey's first popularly-elected president, cementing his position as its most powerful leader of recent times.

Erdogan is likely to retain influence over the new team, with his former aide Yalcin Akdogan and Numan Kurtulmus, the deputy chairman of the ruling AK Party and another close ally, both named as deputy prime ministers.

"This cabinet carries Erdogan's signature," said Huseyin Yayman, a columnist and political science professor at Ankara's Gazi University.

The new government takes office at a challenging time for Turkey, with economic growth — one of the pillars on which the popularity of the AK Party is based — slowing and the map of the Middle East being rapidly redrawn around it.

Outgoing EU Affairs Minister and career diplomat Mevlut Cavusoglu becomes foreign minister, replacing Davutoglu, suggesting that reinvigorating Turkey's stalled European Union membership negotiations could be a priority.

Volkan Bozkir, the former head of parliament's foreign relations commission who has held several diplomatic posts in Europe, takes over as EU minister.

Deputy Prime Minister Ali Babacan, who had responsibility for economic affairs in the last cabinet, Finance Minister Mehmet Simsek and Economy Minister Nihat Zeybekci all kept their posts, as did Energy Minister Taner Yildiz.

*Turkish Prime Minister Ahmet Davutoglu announces his new cabinet in Ankara on 29 Aug, 2014.—*REUTERS

"This is a conservative cabinet in the sense that there are no breaks with the former political team of Erdogan, especially on economic policy," said Sinan Ulgen, head of the Center for Economics and Foreign Policy Studies in Istanbul.

"This shows that the Davutoglu government is very much aware of Turkey's economic vulnerability and is not going to take any risks," he told *Reuters*.

Babacan is widely respected by foreign investors, who hope he will retain responsibility for economic affairs. But markets were somewhat unnerved by the appointment of Kurtulmus, a former economics professor who they feared may start to eclipse him.

Listing priorities shortly after his appointment, Kurtulmus said Turkey needed to embark on constitutional reform, advance a Kurdish peace process and establish "a new economic programme with the determination to increase our economic power".

Reuters

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Weather report

FORECAST VALID UNTIL EVENING OF THE 31st August, 2014: Rain or thundershowers will be fairly widespread in Taninthayi Region, Kachin and Shan States and widespread in the remaining Regions and States with likelihood of isolated heavy falls in Sagaing, Mandalay and Bago Regions, Chin, Rakhine and Mon States. Degree of certainty is (100%).

BAY INFERENCE: According to the observation at (15:30)hrs MST today, the low pressure area over West central and adjoining Northwest Bay of Bengal has crossed into North Coastal Andhra Pradesh(India). Monsoon is moderate in the Andaman Sea and Bay of Bengal.

STATE OF THE SEA: Squalls with moderate to rough sea are likely at times off and along Myanmar coasts. Surface wind speed in squalls may reach (30) m.p.h.

Fukushima families sue gov't for insufficient anti-radiation steps

FUKUSHIMA, 30 Aug — A group of parents and children who lived in Fukushima Prefecture at the time of the 2011 nuclear accident filed a damages suit on Friday against the central and prefectural governments for lack of sufficient steps to prevent children's radiation exposure during the crisis. The 88 plaintiffs sought compensation of 100,000 yen each in the lawsuit filed with the Fukushima District Court.

They said in a written complaint that the central and prefectural governments failed to promptly release accurate data of radiation levels in the air after the nuclear crisis was triggered by a massive earthquake and tsunami in March 2011, neglecting their duty to prevent residents' radiation exposure as much as possible, and exposed children to unnecessary radiation.—*Kyodo News*

Jessica Chastain wants female superhero film

Los Angeles, 30 Aug — 'Zero Dark Thirty' star Jessica Chastain has called for a female superhero movie to be released.

The 37-year-old actress criticised Marvel and Hollywood for not giving Scarlett Johansson's popular 'Avengers' character Black Widow her own solo movie, reported The Wrap.

"Where is the Scarlett Johansson superhero movie? I don't understand it, why is it taking so long for this? This woman clearly shows that people want to go see her in the movies," Chastain said.

"'Lucy', didn't it beat 'Hercules' by a lot opening weekend, when it was made for a lot less? She shows that she kicks ass, she's a great actress. 'Under the Skin' is an incredible film, and why are we still waiting for a go-ahead on a superhero movie starring Scarlett Johansson?

"To me, it's a no-brainer. You want to make money, put Scarlett Johansson in her own superhero movie," she added.

Johansson will reprise her role as international assassin Black Widow in the upcoming 'Avengers: Age of Ultron' alongside Robert Downey Jr, Chris Hemsworth and Chris Evans.

PTI

George Clooney tops Men Ageing Gracefully list

***Hollywood heartthrob George Clooney saw off competition from Brad Pitt and Johnny Depp to top a Men Ageing Gracefully list, thanks to his positive disposition and naturally greying hair.*—PTI**

London, 30 Aug — Hollywood heartthrob George Clooney saw off competition from Brad Pitt and Johnny Depp to top a Men Ageing Gracefully list, thanks to his positive disposition and naturally greying hair. The 53-year-old, who is engaged to Amal Alamuddin — a lawyer, 17 years younger than the actor-conquered the list, which aims to celebrate men who have remained good-looking as they got older, reported *Daily Express.*

The poll of 1,000 people for the Crown Clinic hair transplant centre in Manchester looked at men over 40 who best embraced the ageing process. The 'Gravity' star was praised for looking comfortable in his skin and for not dying his greying head of hair.

Pitt, who recently married his partner of nine years, Angelina Jolie, came in at second place on the poll, while 'Pirates of the Caribbean' actor Depp and James Bond star Daniel Craig finished in the third and fourth place respectively.

Hugh Jackman, Matt Damon, Matthew McConaughey, Will Smith and Sean Penn also appeared on the list, with 'The King's Speech' actor Colin Firth rounding off the top 10.—*PTI*

Angelina Jolie's dad Jon Voight wasn't aware of daughter's wedding

***Veteran actor Jon Voight says he wasn't aware of his daughter Angelina Jolie's secret nuptials to Brad Pitt.*—PTI**

Los Angeles, 30 Aug — Veteran actor Jon Voight says he wasn't aware of his daughter Angelina Jolie's secret nuptials to Brad Pitt.

The longtime couple got married in France last Saturday in presence of their six children but the 75-year-old actor said he did not know about it, reported *Us* magazine.

"It seems like it was very nice — and with all of the kids involved, it must have been a lot of fun and very beautiful. I'm happy for them," Voight said.

The 'National Treasure' actor said he hadn't had a hance to congratulate the couple, who got engaged in 2012. "I haven't spoken to them since they got married. No, I didn't know it was happening — it was Emmys week, so I wasn't able to go," he added.

Jolie, 39 and Pitt tied the knot at Chateau Miraval, their French getaway since 2008.

"Angelina's wedding gown was very traditional, but very Angie. It was comfortable but plain white floor-length antique lace and silk. It was definitely wore something that once belonged to her late mother Marcheline Bertrand," a source said.—*PTI*

Bogdanovich's "She's Funny That Way" milks laughs in Venice

***Cast member Owen Wilson poses with director Peter Bogdanovich (C) and cast member Kathryn Hahn during the photo call for the movie "She's Funny That Way" at the 71st Venice Film Festival on 29 Aug, 2014. —*Reuters**

Venice, 30 Aug —A madcap New York drawing-room comedy that played out like a classic Hollywood farce saw "The Last Picture Show" director Peter Bogdanovich in sharp comedic form at the Venice Film Festival on Friday. In "She's Funny That Way" Bogdanovich, who in the 1970s was part of the "New Hollywood" wave of pioneering directors, has assembled an all-star cast including Imogen Poots as an aspiring actress who says she is a muse but works as a call girl.

Her liaisons weave a spider's web that nets men, including Owen Wilson, a theatre director who has played the rich sugar-daddy "benefactor" to a series of call girls over the years. The people revolving around her character eventually crash into each other, to everyone's huge embarrassment.

Jennifer Aniston, as a therapist, gives a refresher course in how to portray the woman scorned once she finds out about her lover's hanky-panky partners.

Telling who shows up in cameo roles would be a spoiler, but it is all fairly ingenious, as well as preposterous.

Bogdanovich, 75, said at a Press conference that he had been inspired by classic Hollywood films but also by the 19th-century French farce writer Georges Feydeau whose motto, he said, was "whoever must not come into the room must come into the room".

He also said he'd tried to capture the spirit of Hollywood before it was governed by a system that would not settle for less than huge box-office takes on the opening weekend.

"The great days of Hollywood which we remember with (Ernst) Lubitsch and Preston Sturges and Howard Hawks and John Ford and all those great filmmakers, those days are not with us anymore.

"Now it's how do you make $300 million the first weekend. It's rather depressing, I think we're in a period of decadence in America." The posh New York scene was a world away from American director Ramin Bahrani's "99 Homes", a grim tale about the lives that were destroyed, but also the big money to be made, during the tidal wave of home foreclosures that washed across Florida after the 2008 mortgage-market collapse in the United States.—*Reuters*

People gather in the area where a landslide took place at a mine in Bonanza Town, north Nicaragua on 29 Aug, 2014. At least 25 workers were trapped when a gold mine caved in on Thursday in Bonanza.
XINHUA

US sends arms to bolster Lebanon army after Islamist incursion

BEIRUT, 30 Aug — The United States has begun delivering nearly $20 million of arms including assault rifles, anti-tank missiles and mortars to bolster Lebanon's army after Islamist insurgents seized a border town for several days this month, US officials said on Friday.

Lebanon, a country of about 4 million which borders Israel, has long been buffeted by the rivalries of regional and international powers including Iran and Saudi Arabia, who back its opposing politicians largely along sectarian lines.

But the threat of expansion by militants who want to build a "caliphate" stretching from Iraq to the Mediterranean has created an unusual common front among Lebanon's otherwise normally fractious political forces against radical Islamists.

In a statement, the US Embassy said the arms shipments started on Thursday and so far had included 480 anti-tank guided missiles, more than 1,500 M16-A4 rifles, and "many mortars".

It said that more mortars, grenade launchers, machine-guns and anti-tank weapons would arrive "soon" and that further ammunition and heavy weaponry would follow in the coming weeks.

Embassy officials told *Reuters* the cost of items delivered on Thursday was over $8 million, the total of items delivered Friday was $793,000 and the cost of deliveries set for early September was estimated at over $11 million. The press statement said the weaponry and ordnance was "paid for by the American people".

Early this month militant Islamists entered Lebanon from Syria and seized the town of Arsal along the mountainous border in the most serious incursion by the rebels into Lebanon since Syria's three-year-old war began.—*Reuters*

Putin hopeful Russia won't lose right to host 2018 World Cup

LAKE SELIGER, 30 Aug — President Vladimir Putin said on Friday he hoped Russia would not lose the right to host the 2018 football World Cup following Western calls to stop the country staging the tournament. Asked whether there was any risk that Russia could lose its right to hold the tournament due to the complicated political situation, Putin said: "I hope not. (World football's governing body) FIFA has already said football and sport are outside politics and I think that is the right approach." Senior FIFA members attending meetings in Monaco were unaware of Putin's remarks when approached by *Reuters*, and could not comment. FIFA's media department was not immediately contactable.

Moscow has faced calls for the finals to be moved elsewhere because of its role in the Ukraine crisis and its occupation of Crimea.

Republican US senators Dan Coates and Mark Kirk cited Yugoslavia's exclusion from the 1992 European Championship and 1994 World Cup over the wars in the Balkans when they pressed such demands in a letter to FIFA.

FIFA stated in July that it remained committed to the 2018 World Cup in Russia, saying a boycott would not be an effective way of reducing tensions in the region.

"History has shown so far that boycotting sport events or a policy of isolation or confrontation are not the most effective ways to solve problems," FIFA said.

A total of 2,593 people, including civilians as well as Ukrainian and separatist combatants, have been killed in fighting in eastern Ukraine since it erupted in mid-April, a senior UN human rights official said on Friday.

Following Russia's annexation of the Crimea in March, European football's governing body UEFA said it would not recognise any matches played by Crimean clubs under the auspices of the Russian Football Union (RFS). Russia will host the 2018 World Cup at 12 stadiums in 11 cities, including two venues in Moscow.

Reuters

Russian President Vladimir Putin talks to young soccer players during a visit to Spartak's stadium Otkritye Arena in Moscow on 27 Aug, 2014.
REUTERS

MYANMAR TV

(31-8-2014, Sunday)

6:00 am
* Paritta by Venerable Mingun Sayadaw

6:35 am
* Physical Exercise

7:00 am
* News/Weather Report

7:20 am
* MRTV's Youth Programme

8:30 am
* Documentary

9:00 am
* News/ International News

10:20 am
* Science and Techonology Programme

11:00 am
* Pyi Thu Ni Ti

12:30 pm
* Round Up of The Week's International News

12:45 pm
* Myanmar Movie

2:45 pm
* Myanmar Traditional Performing Arts Competition

3:00 pm
* News

3:45 pm
* Teleplay (Health)

4:15 pm
* (38) Phyar Minglars

4:30 pm
* University of Distance Education (TV Lectures) -First Years (Myanmar)

5:00 pm
* News

6:20 pm
* Documentary

7:00 pm
* News

7:20 pm
* Weekly Entertainment News

8:35 pm
* Documentary (Women in Myanmar Society)

9:00 pm
* News
* Monthly Weather Report
* Tamyethnar Takwetsar
* Teleplay

MYANMAR INTERNATIONAL

(31-8-14 07:00 am~ 1-9-14 07:00 am) MST

* Local News
* Shrinking Footprints
* World News
* Writer
* Local News
* Traditional Customs of Holy Waso
* World News
* Myanmar Movie Review "Everlasting Love"
* Local News
* A Dream A Destination (Hpa An)
* World News
* 19 Hours (Short Cuts)
* Local News
* The Rising Glory Of Myanmar Arts
* World News
* A Person with Faith
* Local News
* Great Shwedagon: The Architectural Heritage
* World News
* Talented Musicians
* Local News
* Myanmar Traditional Festival
* World News
* Myanmar Movies Review - The Goddess of the Golden Abode
* Local News
* Soft Crab Breeding Procedure
* World News
* A Short Trip to Sagaing
* Local News
* Flying Without Wings — My Great Limitless Adventure - Mandalay & Sagaing
* World News
* Snake Dancer

The New Light of Myanmar

Wenger watching market but says spending not crucial

London, 30 Aug — Arsenal manager Arsene Wenger is keeping a close eye on the transfer market but says finding a replacement for injured striker Olivier Giroud is not crucial to his team's hopes of mounting a Premier League title challenge. Frenchman Giroud is out until the new year, having had surgery on Wednesday after hurting his ankle in Saturday's 2-2 draw at Everton.

With the transfer window closing on Monday, Wenger says he will be "actively involved" in monitoring potential arrivals, but was not desperate to add to his squad despite losing Giroud, Arsenal's top scorer last season with 22 goals in all competitions. "I will be actively involved on the final day of the window and I will be on alert until the last minute of transfer deadline day," Wenger told reporters on Friday ahead of Sunday's trip to promoted Leicester City.

"It's harder to buy top, top, top players, yes. Many clubs are on the market and everybody knows each other. "The last few days are a poker games. There's a lot of lies there in the few days, everybody is interested in the same player even if you're the only one who wants the player.

"(When you are experienced) you can call it a bluff when it is a bluff." Having splashed out 42.5 million pounds on German midfielder Mesut Ozil a year ago, Wenger is not afraid of spending money late, but he is confident his attacking options are good enough to compete even if there were no further arrivals.—*Reuters*

Fun Run around downtown Yangon: More than 50 foreigners living in Yangon, country's commercial city, participate in a fun run on Saturday.—Photo: Ye Myint

Surprises galore for women at US Open, men steady

New York, 30 Aug — The US Open women's draw was blown wide open by a series of upsets on Friday but it was business as usual on the men's side with Roger Federer leading a parade of seeds into the third round at the year's final grand slam.

The shockwaves began early on another sunny day at Flushing Meadows with 32-year-old qualifier Mirjana Lucic-Baroni dismissing Romanian second seed Simona Halep 7-6(6), 6-2 to reach the fourth round.

Lucic-Baroni, who failed to build on her run to the 1999 Wimbledon semi-finals, was almost overcome by the victory.

"I mean, I'm a little bit emotional now. Sorry," she said, wiping away tears. "It's been really hard. "After so many years to be here again, it's incredible. I wanted this so bad. So many times I would get to ... a place where I could do it."

"Then I wanted it so bad that I'm kind of burned out. I'm so happy."

The tremors continued at the US National Tennis Centre as Swiss teen Belinda Bencic ousted sixth-seeded German Angelique Kerber 6-1, 7-5 to reach the round of 16 in her US Open debut.

The tournament also lost a fan favourite when Italy's Sara Errani posted her first career win over twice champion and 19th seed Venus Williams, coming out on top in an absorbing roller-coaster clash 6-0, 0-6, 7-6(5).

Sara Errani of Italy celebrates after defeating Venus Williams of the US during their match at the 2014 US Open tennis tournament in New York on 29 Aug, 2014.—Reuters

By the time fifth seed Maria Sharapova had closed out the action under the Arthur Ashe Stadium floodlights with a laboured 6-2, 6-4 win over Germany's Sabine Lisicki the top of the women's draw had lost four of the top eight seeds. The top 10 men's seeds, however, remain intact.

Federer, Spanish fourth seed David Ferrer, sixth-seeded Czech Tomas Berdych and seventh-seeded Bulgarian Grigor Dimitrov all advanced on Friday.

The highest-ranked casualty was Ernests Gulbis of Latvia, the 11th seed, who was ousted by 45th-ranked Dominic Thiem of Austria 4-6, 3-6, 6-4, 6-3, 6-3.

Federer, chasing an 18th grand slam title, served up a tidy 6-4, 6-4, 6-4 win over big-hitting Australian Sam Groth to ease into the third round. The former world number one has feasted on Australian opponents in grand slams over the years, piling up an 18-1 record against men from Down Under, and Groth, who was facing a top 10 opponent for the first time, proved little more than a distraction to the Swiss maestro.

Throughout the one hour and 48 minutes contest the Australian took his best shots at the 33-year-old, including booming serves of over 140mph. "The 142, honestly I hit it and I turned around," said Federer. "I didn't know if it went into the stands or the bottom of the net or on the other side. I just felt like I hit it clean.

"The 147 one I felt like I was there and felt like I had more control on it. "The difference between 142 and 147, there's none really in the racquet. I think once you pass the 135 range everything is just really fast." Ferrer reached the third round without lifting his racket when Australian Bernard Tomic withdrew with a hip injury, while Dimitrov breezed into the third round with a 6-1, 6-2, 6-2 win over Israel's Dudi Sela.

Berdych had a much tougher time, needing five sets and three hours 45 minutes to tame Martin Klizan of Slovakia 6-3, 4-6, 6-2, 3-6, 6-3. Richard Gasquet, seeded 12th, and Gael Monfils, 20th, advanced in straight sets to set up an all-French collision for a berth in the fourth round.

Working harder was 18th-seeded South African Kevin Anderson, a four-set winner against Jerzy Janowicz of Poland, while Spain's 19th seed Feliciano Lopez won a fourth-set tiebreaker to advance past Japanese qualifier Tatsuma Ito.

Reuters

Roger Federer of Switzerland celebrates defeating Sam Groth of Australia in their men's singles match at the 2014 US Open tennis tournament in New York on 29 Aug, 2014. —Reuters

Milan agree two-year Torres loan with Chelsea

Milan, 30 Aug — AC Milan agreed a two-year loan deal with Chelsea for misfit striker Fernando Torres on Friday but the Spaniard has yet to agree terms and decide to end his London nightmare.

Milan are desperate for a cut-price but big-name forward after selling Mario Balotelli to Liverpool while Chelsea have new frontman Diego Costa and returning old favourite Didier Drogba ahead of Torres in their pecking order.

Torres, 30, has had a largely forgettable time at Stamford Bridge since moving from Liverpool for 50 million pounds ($82.8 million) in 2011 but did help the Londoners win the Champions League the following year.

The pace and guile which electrified fans of boyhood club Atletico Madrid and supporters during his early years at Liverpool have long gone with his attempts to bulk up and become Chelsea's "new Drogba" doomed to failure.

Fallen giants Milan, who finished eighth in Serie A last term amid a series of cost-cutting measures from the previously cash-splashing Silvio Berlusconi, have offered Torres a less than glamorous way out as the striker mulls cutting his losses.

Reuters

Gmail thenewlightofmyanmar@gmail.com
www.facebook.com/thenewlightofmyanmar
The New Light of Myanmar
R/489 Printed and published by the New Light of Myanmar press in Nay Pyi Taw, the News and Periodicals Enterprise, Ministry of Information.