

President U Thein Sein sends messages of felicitations to Mongolia

NAY PYI TAW, 11 July—On the occasion of the National Day of Mongolia, which falls on 11 July 2015, U Thein Sein, President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar, has sent messages of felicitations to His Excellency Mr. Tsakhia Elbegdorj, President of Mongolia and His Excellency Mr. Chimed Saikhanbileg, Prime Minister of Mongolia.

MNA

YCDC to build six new footbridges in Yangon this year

YANGON, 10 July—The Yangon City Development Committee is planning to construct six new footbridges in the commercial capital this year, according to officials.

Two bridges will be built in the downtown area, three on Pyay Road, and one in Bahan Township.

A senior official said the YCDC is conducting pre-engineering works for the projects and is studying the feasibility of including escalators at the footbridges.

A pedestrian who was asked about footbridges said commuters faced difficulties crossing roads due to vehicles not slowing down for foot traffic.

Social service advocates have called for the new footbridges to be accessible for disabled persons.

The YCDC official said vendors will not be allowed to sell goods on the bridges.

YCDC built four footbridges on Pyay Road, Kaba Aye Pagoda Road, Strand Road and downtown last fiscal year.

GNLM

An overpass on Strand Road helps ease traffic congestion in downtown Yangon City.

Photo: benbansal.me



China's stock slump poses limited risk to Myanmar: analysts

By Ye Myint

YANGON, 10 July — While China's recent stock market crash wiped out more than US \$3 trillion in "paper wealth" from the country, analysts say there will be limited impact on Myanmar, despite its reliance on the world's No. 2 economy as an investment source and export destination.

"China's stock market is being plunged into chaos, rather than collapsing," economist U Saw Naing told The GNLM on Friday.

"There will be no direct impact on Myanmar, as the country has no link with the stock market and related developments in China."

The economist said recent outbreaks of fighting on export routes within Myanmar were a real situation which had triggered a slowdown in trade.

Dr Soe Tun, vice-chairman of Myanmar Rice Federation, however, said there were concerns for border trade, especially in rice and agricultural produce, stemming from China's bursting stock market bubble.

"Bad debts are likely to be seen in border trade if Chinese companies go bankrupt," the vice-chairman said.

Most rice exports to China are sold through a credit system, he added, saying some payments had yet to be made on roughly 300,000 tons of rice.

Dr Soe Tun said a gradual decline in export volume to China was likely.

U Saw Naing said some Chinese buyers could use the stock market crash as an excuse to avoid mak-

ing payments.

According to another economic observer, China's stock market and related developments are not yet seen as posing systematic risks, and wealth effects from equity price changes in China are likely to be limited.

However, Myanmar should diversify its export markets and improve its business environment to attract more FDI from a wider range of sources in a broader variety of sectors, the observer said.

(See page 2)

Port authority compensates farmers displaced by Thilawa SEZ

By Ko Moe

YANGON, 10 July — Myanmar Port Authority paid compensation Friday to eight farmers displaced by development of the Thilawa Special Economic Zone.

A total of K42.21 million in compensation was paid to the farmers for land plots 25 and 26 of the economic zone, at K 6.7 million per acre, according to local farmers.

"I have already received compensation and

now I again got K13.4 million from MPA for two acres of my land," local farmer U Zaw Win said, adding he was pleased with the payment.

U Soe Maung, a volunteer who helped the farmers win compensation said the claim process was difficult. When compensation was initially paid, farmers received K7 million for land and K100,000 for rent from companies, but rates were now a little lower, he said.

(See page 2)

INSIDE

New lecture hall opens at Lashio University

PAGE-3

UEC issues guidelines for voting outside constituency

PAGE-3

Government tender policies questioned at Pyithu Hluttaw

PAGE-2

Exhibition puts spotlight on Toungoo artists

PAGE-2

Let your name be your fame

PAGE-8

EMBRACE DEMOCRACY

PAGE-8

Government tender policies questioned at Pyithu Hluttaw

NAY PYI TAW, 10 July — U Kyi Tha of the Gwa constituency asked the Pyithu Hluttaw on Friday about the government's tender policies and procedures, with the deputy minister responding to the query.

Daw Lei Lei Thein of the Ministry of National Planning and Economic Development explained directives on tender procedures for procurement, construction, services, and rental, adding that government departments invite tenders for procurement of lower monetary value, but

open tenders are required when higher costs are involved.

Tender systems differ from ministry to ministry, she said.

Dr Win Myint of the Hlaing constituency queried the number of SIM cards sold, annual earnings and taxes from foreign mobile operators.

Licences have been issued to Myanma Posts and Telecommunications, Ooredoo Myanmar Ltd and Telenor Myanmar Ltd.

Deputy Minister for Communications and Information Technology U

Win Than in response said MPT, in partnership with KSGM Co Ltd, sold over 8.66 million SIM cards from September 2014 to June 2015, earning K9.154 billion with commissions deducted and K574.967 billion from calls, mobile data and recharges.

Ooredoo is required to pay U S\$1.010 billion in tax in three installments for its 15-year mobile services in the country. It has paid K741.653 billion (US \$757.5 million), which is 75 percent of the total sum. It will pay the remaining \$252.5 million



Deputy Minister for Communications and Information Technology U Win Than.—MNA

this fiscal year. Telenor has paid K363.155 billion (US \$375 million), 75 per-

Pyithu Hluttaw



Deputy Minister for National Planning and Economic Development Daw Lei Lei Thein. MNA

cent of US \$500 it owes to the ministry, with the remaining payment of \$125 million to be made this fiscal year.

MPT does not have to pay the tax, the deputy minister noted.

MPT is licensed for 15 years from 24 March 2014 to 23 March 2030, while



U Kyi Tha of the Gwa constituency. MNA

Ooredoo and Telenor are licensed from 5 February 2014 to 4 February 2029, with the ministry hinting at possible extension in accordance with the communications laws, rules and regulations.

The Pyithu Hluttaw approved the Red Cross society bill, the evidence act amendment bill and the oil well bill.

MNA

China's stock slump poses limited risk to ...

(from page 1)

During a press briefing on the World Economic Outlook (WEO) update Thursday in Washington, Mr Olivier Blanchard, IMF Economic Counsellor and

Director of Research Department, said although China is experiencing difficulties, the IMF should not assume it will have an immediate impact on the global economy.—GNLM



Port authority compensates farmers ...

(from page 1)

"The more the farmers get, the better it is for the future," U Soe Maung said.

MPA has not paid compensations for land plots 22, 23 and 24 yet, according to the local farm-

A local farmer explains compensation of MPA for farmlands. TUN AUNG KYAW

ers. The MPA did not comment on the compensation.

The first phase of the Thilawa Special Economic Zone Project in Yangon Region covers 400 hectares of land. The first phase of the project covering 189 hectares will be commissioned in September.

Myanmar owns 51 percent of the project while Japan holds the remaining 49 percent.—GNLM

Exhibition puts spotlight on Toungoo artists

By Khaing Thanda Lwin

YANGON, 10 July — River Ayeyawady Gallery will host a collective exhibition in mid-July showcasing works depicting Myanmar's beautiful landscapes, founder U Nay Min Latt said Friday.

At the exhibition, entitled "WathanU," painter U Win Sein will display four oil and acrylic creations.

"One of the objectives of the expo is to explore the artistic skills of unknown artists," U Win Sein said.

The five-day exhibition aims to give particular exposure to artists from Toungoo of Bago Region, where there are no galleries, he told The Global New Light of Myanmar.

The event is scheduled to open to the public from 18 to 22 July, and is set to feature roughly 80 artworks by 19 artists from Yangon, Mandalay and

Bago regions in a variety of media and styles.

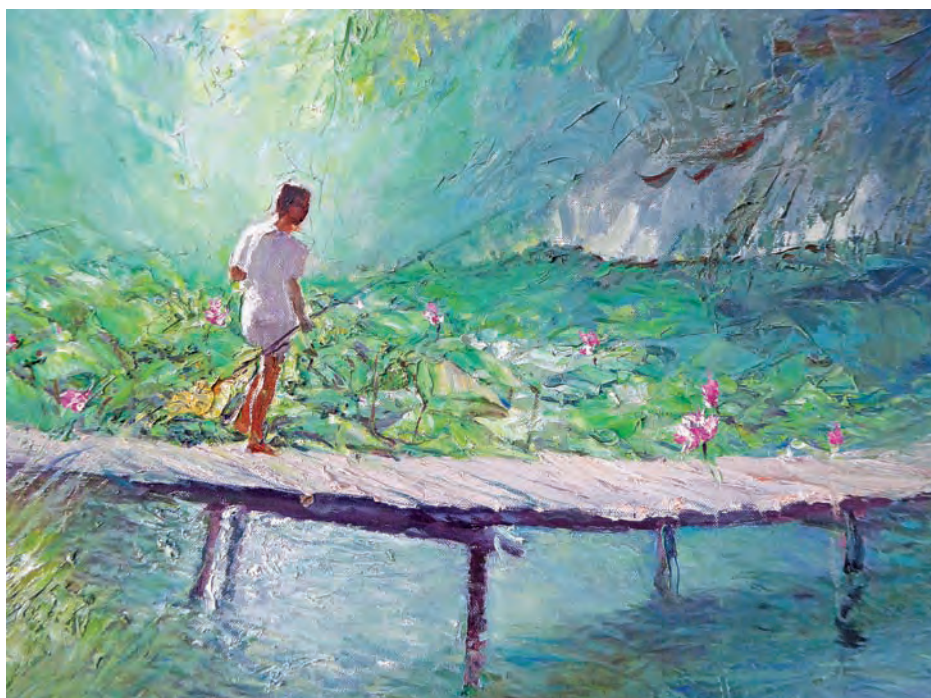
Subjects include still life, ethnic nationalities, traditional arts and culture.

All work will be on sale at reasonable prices, U Win Sein said. The gallery is located on 35th Street (Middle Block) in Kyauktada Township in Yangon.

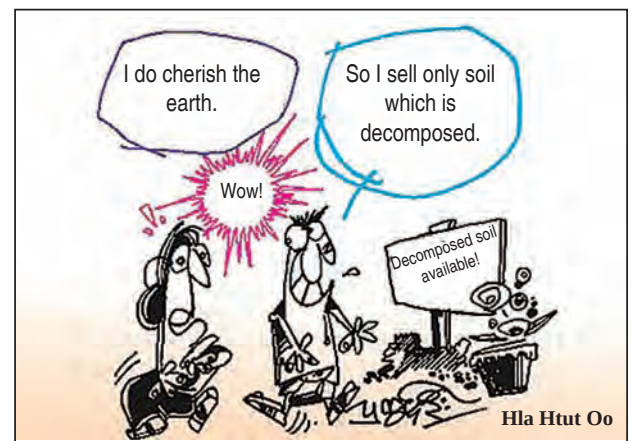
River Ayeyawady Gallery founder U Nay

Min Latt said the gallery will also host a series of upcoming art exhibitions, including another group show this month and a solo exhibition and watercolour event next month.

GNLM



A painting by Star Mya Than, displayed at a previous group exhibition to mark the one-year anniversary of River Ayeyawady Gallery from 26 June to 3 July.—PHOTO: KHAING THANDA LWIN



Sarpay Beikman hall allowed to be used for literary affairs

YANGON, 10 July

— The Ministry of Information issued an announcement on Friday that journalist and librarian organizations will be allowed to use Sarpay Beikman Hall equipped with sound system and chairs on Merchant Street in Yangon to host enthusiasts for literary talks, paper-reading sessions, workshops and literary seminars and shows

free of charge.

The organizations and enthusiasts may send applications attached to type of literary ceremony, attendance, date of ceremony, name of organizer, telephone number, e-mail and address to the managing director, Printing and Publishing Enterprise, Ministry of Information and call 067-412206.

GNLM

NATIONAL

New lecture hall opens at Lashio University

LASHIO, 10 July—Lashio University needs a long-term plan for the construction of lecture halls, staff quarters and student housing, Vice President Dr Sai Mauk Kham said Friday during a meeting with faculty and students.

The vice president attended an opening ceremony for a new lecture hall at the university where Chief Minister of Shan State U Sao Aung Myat, Deputy Minister Dr Zaw Min Aung, Shan State Minister for Social Affairs Dr Myo Tun and Rector Dr Maung Maung cut the ribbon to open the new lecture hall.

In speech, the vice president said it was impor-

tant to ensure the longevity of the university. He later presented cash assistance to Shan, Palaung, Myaungzee, Wa, Kachin and Kokang literature and cultural troupes.

The three-storey U-shape lecture hall includes 30 classrooms for undergraduate courses, post-graduate qualification courses in addition to offices, academic departments and meeting hall. The vice president and party returned to Nay Pyi Taw in the afternoon.—MNA

Vice President Dr Sai Mauk Kham meets students and officials at Lashio University.

MNA



National Spatial Development Plan essential for country: union minister



The meeting on implementation of National Spatial Development Plan in progress.—MNA

NAY PYI TAW, 10 July—The National Spatial Development Plan is essential for the advancement of the country, Union Minister at the President Office U Tin Naing Thein said at a meeting Friday in Nay Pyi Taw.

The plan covers agriculture, industrial and all round development, the union minister said at a

coordination meeting on drafting the plan, as well as manufacturing development in Myanmar.

The plan is still at the conceptual stage, and a master plan must be drafted and submitted to the Union Government and the Hluttaws, the union minister added.

Union Minister for National Planning and

Economic Development Dr Kan Zaw later explained requirements for the plan.

Afterwards, Union Minister at the President Office U Soe Thane explained the efforts of the government for economic development and poverty reduction during its term, saying it was necessary to cooperate with civil society organizations including

UEC issues guidelines for voting outside constituency

NAY PYI TAW, 10 July—The Union Election Commission on Friday issued guidelines for registration of voters who have been living outside their constituencies for at least 180 days.

Those who do not wish to return to their

permanent constituencies to cast votes in the general election may apply for voter's registration at their temporary constituency.

Applications must be submitted with a reference from an employer or government official at least 30

days before the election, the notification said.

The ward or village tract election sub-commission shall register the voter at the temporary constituency if an application is properly submitted, it said.

MNA

the Republic of the Union of Myanmar Chamber of Commerce and Industry.

Officials then reported work being carried out for development.

Present at the meeting were union ministers U Soe Thane, U Tin Naing Thein and Dr Kan Zaw, deputy ministers and officials from states and regions.

MNA

Union FM sends message of felicitations to Mongolia

NAY PYI TAW, 11 July—On the occasion of the National Day of Mongolia, which falls on 11 July 2015, 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 Mr. Lundeg Purevsuren, Minister for Foreign Affairs of Mongolia.—MNA

Nay Pyi Taw to host national health forum

YANGON, 10 July—The Ministry of Health will host the inaugural Myanmar Health Forum in Nay Pyi Taw later this month.

The two day event will start 28 July, and provide a

platform for discussing the development of the country's health sector, including the goal to ensure universal health coverage by 2030. Some 700 attendees are expected to take part in discussions

Experts will talk about critical issues ranging from the impact of health sector reform to development needs during the event at Myanmar International Convention Centre (2).—GNLM



Chief Minister of Yangon Region U Myint Swe and wife being welcomed by Egyptian Ambassador Mr Hany Riad Moawad and wife at the reception to mark National Day of Egypt in Yangon on 9 July.—MNA

India, Pakistan to hold security meet in a thaw in ties



India's Prime Minister Narendra Modi (R) and his Pakistani counterpart Nawaz Sharif smile in New Delhi on 27 May, 2014.—REUTERS

NEW DELHI, 10 July — India and Pakistan have agreed to hold a meeting of their national security advisers in New Delhi to discuss terrorism, India's foreign secretary said at a regional security summit in Russia on Friday.

The announcement came after Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Pakistan Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif held talks on the sidelines of the

summit. The leaders of the nuclear-armed neighbours also agreed to help expedite the trial of the 2008 Mumbai attack blamed on Pakistan-based gunmen, for long a stumbling block in ties.

Modi also accepted Sharif's invitation to attend a meeting of South Asia leaders in Pakistan in 2016, Foreign Secretary Subrahmanyam Jaishankar said.

Reuters

Singapore's train services operator may face 50 mln SGD fine

SINGAPORE, 10 July — Singapore's train services operator SMRT may face a 50 million Singapore dollars (37.1 million US dollars) fine for Tuesday's unprecedented train service disruption, Maybank Kim Eng Securities said in a report on Friday.

On how the estimated amount came out, the report said that the Bill, passed by the parliament on 17 Feb-

ruary, 2014, increased the maximum fine for every rail disruption to 10 percent of an operator's annual fare revenue for the relevant rail line.

SMRT's FY3/15 rail revenue was 644 million Singapore dollars (477.5 million US dollars) for its North-South, East-West, and Circle Line, which suggests a maximum fine of 64.4 million Singapore dollars

(47.75 million US dollars) for its entire rail network.

As disruptions occurred during evening peak on Tuesday didn't affect the Circle Line, the maximum fine could be closer to 50 million Singapore dollars, said the broker.

Singapore's two main Mass Rapid Transport (MRT) lines came to a complete halt simultaneously during the evening

peak on Tuesday, resulting in approximately 250,000 stranded passengers along the two lines. The disruption last about three hours, which was possibly the worst public transport disruption Singapore has experienced.

The cause of the disruption has not been identified yet, according to a statement by Singapore's Land Transport Authority released on Thursday.—Xinhua

Indonesia closes five airports due to volcanic activities in E Java

JAKARTA, 10 July — Indonesia on Friday closed the operation of five airports following the escalating volcanic activities of Mount Raung in Bondowoso, East Java.

The airports are Ngurah Rai International Airport, Lombok International Airport, Selaparang Air-

port, Blimbingsari Airport and Notohadinegoro Airport, all located in three provinces of Bali, West Nusa Tenggara (NTB) and East Java.

"The closure was based on five NOTAM (Notice to Airmen) issued by the Air Transport Director General," JA Barata, a

spokesperson at the Transportation Ministry said in a statement.

According to the NOTAM, closure on those five airports was conducted at different times. Ngurah Rai Airport was closed until 6:30 Central Indonesian Time (WITA). The airports in NTB province, Lombok

International and Selaparang were closed until 9:00 WITA.

Meanwhile, the airports in East Java province, Blimbingsari and Notohadinegoro in cities of Banyuwangi and Jember were closed until 12:00 and 8:00 Western Indonesian Time (WIB).—Xinhua

Malaysian investigators say looking into PM's wife bank account

KUALA LUMPUR, 10 July — Malaysian investigators are looking into bank transactions by the prime minister's wife, a statement by a special task force said on Friday, following media reports that large sums of cash were deposited into her account.

"The task force knew about this (transactions into Rosmah Mansor's bank account) before the (media) expose and an investigation is being conducted," said the task force probing allegations of misappropriation of funds from state investment fund 1Malaysia

Development Bhd [TER-RN.UL] (1MDB).

Activist website Sarawak Report said in a story on Thursday that 2 million ringgit (\$523,000) in cash had been deposited into Rosmah's account in Affin Bank Bhd [AFFIB.UL] earlier this year.

An Affin Bank spokesperson said it is unable to comment or disclose information in relation to the bank's customers and accounts.

Rosmah's spokesman declined immediate comment.

Reuters

Thailand says rejected China request to deport all Uighur Muslims

BANGKOK, 10 July — Thailand said on Friday that it had rejected a request from Beijing to deport all Uighur Muslims held in detention camps back to China, two days after the deportation of nearly 100 Uighurs sparked international criticism.

Beijing's request was denied based on the grounds that the Uighurs' nationalities had to be "verified" by Thai authorities first, Colonel Weerachon Sukhondhapatipak, deputy Thai government spokesman, told reporters.

"We did this according to international agreement and international law and keeping in mind human rights," said Weerachon.

"This decision was difficult to make. It is not like all of a sudden China asks for Uighurs and we just give them back. China asked for all Uighur Muslims in Thailand to be sent back but we said we could not do it," he said.

More than 170 Uighurs were identified as Turkish citizens and sent to Turkey from Thailand over the past month, said Weerachon, while nearly 100 were sent back to China. Fifty others still need to have their citizenship verified.

Thailand's decision to deport nearly 100 Uighurs from

several immigration detention centres in Bangkok late on Wednesday was condemned by the United States and the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) who strongly urged China to ensure proper treatment of the Uighurs.

Hundreds, possibly thousands, of Uighurs have fled unrest in China's western Xinjiang region where hundreds of people have been killed, prompting a crackdown by Chinese authorities. They have travelled clandestinely through Southeast Asia to Turkey.

China's treatment of its Turkic language-speaking Uighur minority is a sensitive issue in Turkey and has strained bilateral ties ahead of a planned visit to Beijing this month by President Tayyip Erdogan. Erdogan plans to raise the plight of the Uighurs during his trip.

The deportation of the Uighurs has sparked protests in Turkey. Police used tear gas on Thursday to disperse about 100 protesters at the Chinese Embassy in the capital Ankara after they knocked down a barricade and protesters attacked Thailand's honorary consulate in Istanbul late on Wednesday, smashing windows and breaking in.

Thai Prime Minister Prayuth

Chan-ocha has raised the possibility of shutting the Thai Embassy in Ankara, but on Friday said he wanted to maintain good relations with both Turkey and China.

"Thailand and Turkey are not rivals and we do not want to destroy trade and commerce with Turkey," Prayuth told reporters in Bangkok. "At the same time, we do not want to destroy the relationship between China and Thailand."

Turkey has vowed to keep its doors open to Uighur migrants fleeing persecution in China. Some Turks see themselves as sharing a common cultural and religious heritage with their Uighur "brothers" and Turkey is home to a large Uighur diaspora.

Human Rights Watch called on Thailand to halt the deportation of Uighur Muslim migrants to China in a statement on Friday, fearing they could face ill-treatment.

The New-York based rights group said the risks to Uighurs forcibly returned to China were "grim and well established."

"Thailand should make it clear it won't further violate international law by immediately announcing a moratorium on additional deportations of Turkic people to China," said Sophie

Richardson, China director for Human Rights Watch.

On Friday, the *Global Times*, an influential tabloid published by China's ruling Communist Party's official newspaper, said China's Ministry of Public Security confirmed that police "successfully repatriated" more than 100 people from Thailand.

The newspaper said the people were mostly from China's Xinjiang region, the heartland of the Muslim Uighur people who call the region home, and were "illegal immigrants" or members of gangs involved in people smuggling.

"Many among them planned to reach Turkey through Southeast Asian countries and then head to Syria and Iraq to participate in terrorist groups," the newspaper said.

The Ministry of Public Security did not respond to a request for comment.

Beijing denies restricting the Uighurs' religious freedoms and blames Islamist militants for a rise in violent attacks in Xinjiang in the past three years in which hundreds have died.

China is home to about 20 million Muslims spread across its vast territory, only a portion of whom are Uighurs.

Reuters

Philippine new military chief assumes post

MANILA, 10 July — Philippine President Benigno S. Aquino III has named incumbent Army commander as the new chief of staff of the 140,000-strong Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP).

Outgoing military chief General Gregorio Pio Catapang turned over the post to Lieutenant General Hernando Delfin Carmelo Iriberri, 55, on Friday during a ceremony at AFP headquarters in Quezon City, Metro Manila.

Catapang retired from the military service on his 56th birthday, the mandatory retirement age of men in uniform.

Iriberri, member of the Philippine Military Academy Class of 1983, is the 46th AFP chief.

Aquino, in his message during the turnover ceremony, ordered Iriberri to continue the reforms that Catapang has pursued in the military.

With the upcoming elections next year, he said that part of Iriberri's work is to ensure peaceful and clean polls.

Xinhua

As deadline looms, Kerry says US in no rush to get Iran deal

VIENNA, 10 July — The United States and other major powers are not in a rush to reach a nuclear deal with Iran, US Secretary of State John Kerry said on Thursday, suggesting an accord was unlikely hours ahead of a deadline set by the US Congress for a quick review.

Adding to signs that a deal was not close at hand, a top adviser to Iran's supreme leader was quoted by Iranian news agency *Tasnim* as saying Teheran's "redlines" should be respected in talks aimed at a deal under which Iran would curb its nuclear program in exchange for sanctions relief.

"A deal can be reached only if our redlines are respected," said Ali Akbar Velayati, the adviser to Supreme Leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei. He also accused Kerry of making comments that were "part of America's psychological warfare against Iran."

Velayati's reported remarks came after a sen-

ior Iranian official in Vienna accused the United States and others nations of shifting their positions and backtracking on an 2 April interim agreement that was meant to lay the ground for a final deal.

"We're here because we believe we are making real progress," Kerry told reporters in the Austrian capital. "We will not rush and we will not be rushed."

However, Kerry said Washington's patience was not unlimited. We can't wait forever," he said. "If the tough decisions don't get made, we are absolutely prepared to call an end to this." He did not say how much longer the talks could continue. Shortly after Kerry spoke, the White House said the talks would not likely drag on for "many more weeks."

Briefing reporters on condition of anonymity, the senior Iranian official sought to put the onus on the West for any failure to reach an agreement.

"There have been

changes of position ... particularly since last night," said the official, "Suddenly everyone has their own red lines. Britain has its red line, the US has its red line, France, Germany ..."

The official also said that Iran was looking forward to seeing whether the United States would "abandon its obsession with sanctions."

Negotiators have given themselves until the end of the day on Friday. But if a deal is not reached by 6:00 am in Vienna (0400 GMT), the sceptical Republican-led US Congress will have 60 days rather than 30 days to review it, extra time US President Barack Obama's administration worries could derail it. The central bargain of an interim deal struck on 2 April in Lausanne, Switzerland as well as of the final deal that the two sides are now trying to work out is to limit Iran's nuclear work in return for easing economic sanctions crippling its economy.



US Secretary of State John Kerry

Iran's Deputy Foreign Minister Abbas Araqchi has said the main text of a final agreement, as well as five technical annexes, were "around 96 percent complete."

While the lifting of sanctions was largely agreed, Araqchi said Teheran's demand for an end to a UN Security Council arms embargo was among the most contentious unresolved points.

Other sticking points in the negotiations have included Iran's research and development on advanced centrifuges and access to

Iranian military sites and nuclear sites.

Teheran says a UN embargo on conventional arms has nothing to do with the nuclear issues and must be lifted in any deal. Western countries do not want allow Iran to begin importing arms because of its role supporting sides in Middle East conflicts.

Iran has powerful support on this issue from Russia. Foreign Minister Sergei Lavrov said at a summit of BRICS countries — Brazil, China, India, Russia and South Africa — that the UN arms embargo should be among the first sanctions lifted.

Over the past two weeks, Iran, the United States, Britain, France, Germany, Russia and China have twice extended deadlines for completing the long-term nuclear agreement.

In a sign that the Friday morning US congressional deadline was likely to be missed, Energy Secretary Ernest Moniz, a key

member of the US negotiating team, was due to fly to Portugal on Friday to accept an honour and make a speech, returning on Friday evening.

Western countries accuse Iran of seeking the capability to build nuclear weapons, while Teheran says its programme is peaceful. A deal would depend on Iran accepting curbs on its nuclear programme in return for the easing of economic sanctions imposed by the United Nations, United States and European Union.

A successful deal could be the biggest milestone in decades towards easing hostility between Iran and the United States, enemies since Iranian revolutionaries stormed the US embassy in Teheran in 1979.

It would also be a political success for both Obama and Iran's pragmatic President Hassan Rouhani, who both face resistance from powerful hardliners at home.—*Reuters*

Abe wants stronger Japan-S Korea ties, tells nations' lawmakers

TOKYO, 10 July — Prime Minister Shinzo Abe told Japanese and South Korean parliamentarians on Friday that he wants to see better bilateral ties, as the two countries seek to hold a summit between him and South Korean President Park Geun-hye.

In a message sent to the parliamentarians during their joint meeting in Tokyo, Abe called for "building a new era" for their countries and said, "I would like to work together with President Park Geun-hye (to such an end)."

Abe's remarks were read before a gathering of a Japan-South Korea parliamentarian group and its South Korean counterpart that took place after their nations commemorated separately late last month in Tokyo and Seoul the 50th anniversary of the normalization of diplomatic relations in commemorative events. The joint meeting is seen as a step toward accelerating efforts for an Abe-Park summit at an early date, political watchers say.

Abe and Park have yet to hold a formal one-on-one summit meeting since they took office, Abe in 2012 and Park in 2013, due to disagreements over territory and



A joint meeting of Japanese and South Korean parliamentarians is held in Tokyo on 10 July, 2015. In a message read at the gathering by a government spokesman, Prime Minister Shinzo Abe expressed hope for better bilateral ties.— KYODO NEWS

perceptions of wartime history. Among the topics discussed on Friday were the "comfort women" including Koreans who were procured for wartime brothels for the Japanese military.

The lawmakers also discussed ways to cooperate during the 2018 Winter Olympics in Pyeongchang, South Korea, and the 2020 Tokyo Olympics and Paralympics. Fukushima Nukaga, a former Japanese finance minister, heads the nonpartisan Japan-South Korea parliamentarian

group, while the South Korean parliamentary group is led by Suh Chung Won.

Ties between Japan and South Korea have been soured over historical and territorial disputes including the comfort women issue. Tensions also grew due to a spat over Japan's move to have the "Sites of Japan's Meiji Industrial Revolution" added to the World Cultural Heritage list.

South Korea initially opposed this, saying Koreans had been forced to work at seven of the sites when

the Korean Peninsula was under Japanese colonial rule from 1910-1945.

But on 21 June, the countries' foreign ministers agreed in Tokyo to work together to get each other's sites added to the World Cultural Heritage list, and the following day, Abe and Park issued forward-looking messages on bilateral ties. The UNESCO World Heritage Committee unanimously decided on Sunday to add the sites in Japan and South Korea to the heritage list.

Kyodo News

Millions more of Americans hit by government personnel data hack

WASHINGTON, 10 July — Data breaches at the US government's personnel management agency by hackers, with suspicions centering on China, involves millions more people than previously estimated, US officials said on Thursday.

The Office of Personnel Management (OPM) said data stolen from its computer networks included Social Security numbers and other sensitive information on 21.5 million people who have undergone background checks for security clearances.

That is in addition to data on about 4.2 million current and former federal workers that was stolen in what the OPM called a "separate but related" hacking incident. Because many people were affected by both hacks, a total of 22.1 million people were affected, or almost 7 percent of the US population.

The breach had already been considered one of the most damaging on record because of its scale and, more importantly, the sensitivity of the material taken.

Those exposed included 19.7 million who applied for the clearances — cur-

rent, former, and prospective federal employees and contractors — plus 1.8 million non-applicants, mostly spouses or co-habitants of applicants, the agency said.

Lawmakers from both parties demanded OPM Director Katherine Archuleta's removal. House of Representatives Speaker John Boehner, a Republican, said President Barack Obama "must take a strong stand against incompetence in his administration and instil new leadership at OPM."

"The technological and security failures at the Office of Personnel Management predate this director's term, but Director Archuleta's slow and uneven response has not inspired confidence that she is the right person to manage OPM through this crisis," added Virginia Democratic Senator Mark Warner.

Archuleta said neither she nor OPM chief information officer Donna Seymour would be resigning. "I am committed to the work that I am doing at OPM," Archuleta told reporters during a conference call. "I have trust in the staff that is there." The White House said Obama retains confidence in Archuleta.—*Reuters*

Greeks hope for deal after latest bailout proposals

ATHENS, 10 July — Greeks awoke on Friday hoping their government would finally seal a cash-for-reforms deal with its international creditors after Prime Minister Alexis Tsipras offered last-minute concessions to try to save the country from bankruptcy. The Greek parliament will vote on whether to throw its weight behind the new proposals and two senior figures from the ruling Syriza party sounded an optimistic note on Friday morning on securing the lawmakers' backing.

The creditors have not commented on the merits of the latest Greek offer, which included plans for more tax hikes and pension reforms. The lenders' backing is crucial for euro zone leaders to support the proposals at a summit on Sunday.

Before that, finance ministers of the 19-nation euro area will meet on Saturday to decide whether to recommend opening negotiations on a third bailout programme for Athens despite widespread exasperation at the five-year-old Greek debt crisis.



A pensioner (R) stands outside a National Bank branch as others line up to receive part of their pensions in the city of Thessaloniki, Greece on 9 July, 2015.—REUTERS

European markets rallied on the improved prospects for a last-ditch deal to keep Greece in the currency area, with Eurostoxx futures up 1.7 percent.

Greece asked for 53.5 billion euros (\$59 billion) to help cover its debts until 2018, a review of primary surplus targets in the light of the sharp deterioration of its economy, and a "reprofiling" the country's long-term debt.

But the plan could cause trouble for Tsipras at home, from hardliners in his own party as well as his junior coalition ally. Any new deal would also have to be endorsed by national parliaments including in Germany, where attitudes towards giving Greece more money have hardened. Tsipras has called a snap vote in parliament on Friday asking for its backing to negotiate a list of

"prior actions" — measures his government would take to convince creditors of its intent for an aid deal, and to secure the first disbursement.

Asked if there would be a deal, Syriza's parliamentary spokesman Nikos Filis told journalists: "Certainly. Today we are speaking in parliament."

Interior Minister Nikos Voutsis was also upbeat, telling reporters ahead of a

Syriza party meeting that he was optimistic that a good deal for Greece could be reached. The latest offer also included defence spending cuts, a timetable for privatising state assets such as Piraeus port and regional airports, hikes in VAT for hotels and restaurants and slashing a top-up payment for poorer pensioners.

"The prime minister seems to have made the right choice between his party and the interest of Greece," an editorial in the centre-right daily Kathimerini said.

"His decision to accept a tough package of measures will ensure the country stays in the euro. This is not the time for gripes and assessing the damage, what's most important is securing the country's interests and its place in the euro zone."

Greek banks have been closed since 29 June, when capital controls were imposed and cash withdrawals rationed after the collapse of previous bailout talks. Greece defaulted on an IMF loan repayment the following day and now faces a critical 20 July bond

redemption to the ECB of 3.49 billion euros, which it cannot make without aid.

The country has had two bailouts worth 240 billion euros from the euro zone and the IMF since 2010, but its economy has shrunk by a quarter, unemployment is more than 25 percent and one in two young people is out of work. Germany, Athens biggest creditor, made a small concession on Thursday by acknowledging that Greece will need some debt restructuring as part of the new programme to make its public finances viable in the medium-term.

"What is most important is that the package of measures will have the parliament's authorisation, not only from the two ruling parties but also the other three pro-European parties of the opposition — New Democracy, Potami and PASOK," the Greek newspaper Ethnos said.

"It is a consensus that has been delayed for five years, costing Greek people a lot. But what really counts is that it came about at last, perhaps at the most appropriate time." —Reuters

Britain warns against travel to Tunisia as tourists head home

LONDON, 10 July — Britain's Foreign Office (FCO) advised against all but essential travel to Tunisia on Thursday, telling Britons to leave the North African country and warning that further terrorist attacks were "highly likely" there.

Thirty Britons were killed by an Islamist gunman in Tunisia on 26 June 2015, the worst loss of British lives in such an incident

since bombings in London in July 2005.

The FCO said it was working with tour operators including Thomas Cook and TUI Travel, to bring holidaymakers back to the UK. British authorities did not believe that the security measures put in place in Tunisia were sufficient to keep holidaymakers safe, Foreign Minister Philip Hammond said in a statement. "Since the attack in Sousse

the intelligence and threat picture has developed considerably, leading us to the view that a further terrorist attack is highly likely," he said.

Britain had already said Islamist militants could launch further attacks on tourist resorts.

Thomas Cook said in a statement on Thursday it was working to bring home 2,000 British and Irish guests currently at its

resorts in Tunisia on 10 flights scheduled for the weekend.

Both Thomas Cook and TUI, which operates Thomson and First Choice holidays, said they had cancelled all future bookings to the country up until the end of October. TUI said it did not currently have any customers in the country.

A total of 38 people were killed when Saif Rezgui opened fire on holidaymakers at the resort of Sousse two weeks ago. In March, two gunmen killed 24 people dead, 21 of them foreign tourists, in an attack at the Bardo museum in the Tunisian capital Tunis.

The cancellation of holidays to Tunisia could prove costly for TUI and Thomas Cook.

Holidays in North Africa account for about 10 percent of their total passengers, with Tunisia about a third of that. Shares in the two tour operators have fallen over the last two weeks, hurt mainly by the deadly attack on tourists at Sousse and the cost of cancellations and rebooking.—Reuters

Two shot dead in southern Germany, police arrest suspect



Police vehicles block a car at a petrol station in Bad Windsheim, Germany in this 10 July, 2015 handout courtesy of Windsheimer Zeitung.

REUTERS

BERLIN, 10 July — A man shot and killed two people near the town of Ansbach in northern Bavaria and the suspect was under arrest, German police said on Friday.

The gunman shot a woman from his silver Mercedes convertible in Leutershausen-Tiefenthal and later shot a cyclist in nearby Rammersdorf, police in southern Germany said.

The man also appears to have shot at two other people, a farmer and another motorist, but they were unhurt, police said.

Local media reported that the suspect was detained at a petrol station in Bad Windsheim, several kilometers (miles) to the north of Ansbach.

Police plan to hold a news conference on Friday afternoon.

Reuters



Tourists queue to leave Tunisia at the Enfidha international airport, on 27 June, 2015. Picture taken through a window.—REUTERS

Turkey warns next wave of Syrian refugees may end up in Europe



Kurdish Syrian immigrant Sahin Serko cries next to his 7 year-old daughter Ariana minutes after crossing the border into Macedonia, along with another 45 Syrian immigrants, near the Greek village of Idomeni in Kilis prefecture on 14 May, 2015. —REUTERS

ISTANBUL, 10 July — Turkey would struggle to cope with a new influx of refugees from Syria's civil war, and many of them would likely end up trying to get into Europe, Turkey's EU Affairs minister warned in comments published on Friday.

Turkey is already sheltering close to 2 million Syrian migrants, more than any of the war-torn country's other neighbours, making it the world's leading host of refugees. It now fears fighting around the northern Syrian city of Aleppo could push as many as 1 million more over its borders.

"Turkey has reached its total capacity for refugees. Now, there is talk that a new wave of refugees may emerge. That would exceed Turkey's (capacity), and it would put the EU face to face with more migrants," Volkan Bozkir told the newspaper *Hurriyet* during a trip to Brussels.

Europe is already struggling with an immigration crisis, and European states cannot agree how to cope with it. More than 135,000 refugees and migrants have arrived in Europe by sea in the first half of this year, and almost 2,000 have died this year trying to cross the Mediterranean.

Many of them are fleeing war, repression and poverty in Africa and the Middle East. A large number are Syrians, some of whom try to cross the waters between Turkey and Greece.

Bozkir said the amount Turkey had spent on refugees — it has established a string of camps along its 900 km (560-mile) border with Syria — dwarfed the contribution from the European Union, which Turkey wants to join.

"We have spent \$6 billion (3.89 billion pounds) so far. The total amount that the EU has provided is 70 million euros and it is still just a promise, it has not yet arrived with us," he said.

Reuters

UN says Yemen's warring factions agree to humanitarian truce

DUBAI / SANAA, 10 July — Yemen's warring factions confirmed their agreement on Thursday to a temporary humanitarian ceasefire set to begin on Friday night, United Nations envoy Ismail Ould Cheikh Ahmed said.

The pause in the fighting will last about a week until the end of the Muslim holy month of Ramadan and aims to allow the delivery of assistance to some of the 21 million Yemenis in need.

The UN has worked intensively to broker a ceasefire to halt more than three months of many-sided fighting inside the country and Saudi-led air strikes against the Houthis and their army allies that have killed more than 3,000 people.

"For the humanitarian pause, we are going to start tomorrow evening and we have assurances from all the parties, and we are quite optimistic it will be respected," Ould Cheikh Ahmed told *Reuters* by phone from Ethiopia, after finishing discussions in the Houthi-held

Yemeni capital Sanaa.

"We have agreed to go ahead, based on two major points. The first is the commitment of all parties not to violate this ceasefire, this humanitarian pause. The second is that humanitarian assistance can reach all parts of Yemen," he added.

Relief agencies say the fighting and a near-blockade imposed by an alliance of Arab states, aimed at stopping weapons deliveries to the Houthis, have caused a humanitarian disaster in Yemen, with over 80 percent of its 25 million people now needing some form of emergency aid.

Rights groups have also condemned local blockades by armed groups on supplies headed for war-torn civilian areas.

Yemen's president Abd-Rabbu Mansour Hadi, in exile in Saudi Arabia, has asked the UN for "guarantees" to help the truce succeed, which include prisoner releases by the Houthis and withdrawals from vast areas

as where it is battling local fighters.

Implementing more thorny political points, the envoy said, would not happen immediately and required more discussion, but the Houthis have released a top pro-Hadi politician in Sanaa and allowed the shipment of 50 aid trucks to the embattled southern city of Aden to buttress the truce.

A senior Western diplomat said the intensity of battles raging nationwide would render a swift calm difficult. "It is still going to be a challenge to have this call heeded within the next 24 hours because of the entrenched fighting on the ground," the diplomat told *Reuters*.

News of the expected truce helped lift the Saudi stock market. The index closed 2.5 percent higher.

Saudi Arabia and an Arab coalition have been bombing the Houthis and their allies in Yemen's army in an effort to restore Hadi and bolster armed opponents of the Iran-allied Houthis.

The Houthis, who took over the capital Sanaa last September, deny Saudi accusations that they are an Iranian proxy and describe their armed advance throughout Yemen as a revolution against a corrupt government backed by the West.

The group has previously said it welcomed any ceasefire but has yet to accept a UN Security Council Resolution passed in April which recognises Hadi as

the legitimate president and calls on them to quit seized land.

The United States fears the turmoil will strengthen al-Qaeda in the Arabian Peninsula, the deadliest branch of the global militant group.

AQAP's new leader Qassim al-Raymi, appointed after his predecessor was killed in US drone strike last month, called for attacks on the United States in a taped speech released on Thursday. —*Reuters*



Houthi militants man a checkpoint on a street leading to the site of a car bomb attack near a mosque in Yemen's capital Sanaa on 7 July, 2015. —REUTERS

Syria says Islamic State bomb set fire to government HQ in north

BEIRUT, 10 July — A mortar round fired by Islamic State militants caused a major blaze at a Syrian government head-

quarters building in the northeastern city of Hasaka and firefighters had put it out, state television said on Friday.

The ultra hardline jihadists hit a civilian ID and passport office building in Hasaka, where the army has fought off several

major incursions in recent weeks.

Earlier a Syrian army source said the militants had blown up a third explosive-laden car in the eastern part of the city. It said there were casualties and gave no further details.

Reuters

Iraq's top Shi'ite cleric urges neighbours to curb militants

BAGHDAD, 10 July — Iraq's top Shi'ite cleric Grand Ayatollah Ali al-Sistani said on Friday regional states were not doing enough to stop the flow of militants into Iraq, and warned that the fighters would return one day to threaten their home countries.

Islamic State has at-

tracted Sunni Muslim fighters from across the world to its self-declared caliphate in parts of Syria and Iraq. Large numbers have fought on the front line or carried out suicide bombing missions.

Sistani's representative Sheikh Abdulmehdi al-Karbalai said the prominent role of foreign fighters was a sign

of international negligence.

"The continuation of this policy of indifference and the intentional or non-intentional ignoring of the flow of these members to Iraq will increase the peril of these gangs to the country and entire region," Karbalai said in a Friday sermon.

"It will pose a real threat

to their home countries. It is possible that they will return to them in the future to form terrorist cells that will participate in disturbing the safety and security of those countries."

A growing number of attacks in the Middle East have been claimed in the name of Islamic State supporters, particularly in North Africa and Gulf Arab countries.

"The neighbouring and international countries that these terrorists come from are invited to take serious measures to prevent the enlisting of new members to this terrorist organization," Karbalai said. —*Reuters*

12 migrants drown, 500 rescued in Mediterranean off Libya

ROME, 10 July — Twelve migrants died on Thursday when their overcrowded rubber dinghy sank off the coast of Libya, the Italian Coast Guard said, while some 500 were rescued in the latest episodes in the Mediterranean migrant crisis.

The corpses of the victims were found in the sea by the Coast Guard ship *Dattilo* some 40 miles north of Libya, a Coast Guard spokesman said. The *Dattilo* saved 106 people from the same dinghy, which was "half submerged" when help arrived.

The *Dattilo* is still involved in other rescue operations involving boats in difficulty, the spokesman said.

A total of 393 other migrants were saved in four different operations carried out by the *Dattilo* on Thursday. Another 106 migrants were saved by two Coast Guard frigates operating off the southern Italian island of Lampedusa.

No details were available on the nationalities of the victims or those rescued.

Tens of thousands of migrants fleeing war and hunger in Africa and the Middle East have crossed the Mediterranean to Italy and Greece this year, with the vast majority departing from the coast of Libya. More than 2,000 are estimated to have drowned.

Reuters

PERSPECTIVES

Saturday, 11 July, 2015

Let your name be your fame

By Kyaw Thura

Nothing in the world is as certain as death. We are sure to leave something behind when we die. So it is important to carve our good names on the hearts of others known and unknown alike.

Most importantly, it should be noted that

a single bad deed is powerful enough to dilute all good deeds we have performed throughout our lives. Another important thing to remember is that the evil we commit lives after us. It is the good that is buried in our bones.

From the religious point of view, our days are numbered. In the short span of our lives, we should not spend precious time arguing over small stuff. Instead, we should put our efforts into the betterment of all mankind. It is necessary for us to understand that what we leave behind when we take our last breath is not in our possessions, but in how we live.

In this age, it has become a lot easier to shoot to wealth through wicked means. Unfortunately, growing numbers of people these days have come

to associate power with wealth and fame.

What we do and how we live before death will determine how we will be remembered after death. After all, we would only have ourselves to blame if our names were mud.

Write for us

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

Due to limitation of space we are only able to publish "Letter to the Editor" that do not exceed 500 words. Should you submit a text longer than 500 words please be aware that your letter will be edited.

EMBRACE DEMOCRACY

Kyí Mun

Why should we embrace democracy? Simply because democracy is very loveable, desirable, admirable and obtainable. Another reason is everybody deserves to enjoy democracy and is, by birthright, entitled to embrace it. Democracy, in fact, is our natural right to enjoy, just as we can naturally enjoy, without incurring any cost, sunshine, air, and rainwater, if there is no artificially contrived human obstructions, exploitations and oppressions of all sorts. Since Myanmar is a very loveable country and its citizens very simple and respectable, we all must rise up as one man and embrace democracy with all our minds, with all our hearts, with all our souls and with all our strengths.

Now, let us engage in an honest soul-searching manner how we can embrace democracy as follows:

E = Establish Democracy

M = Motivate the People

B = Be bold

R = Respect Freedom and Human Rights

A = Accountability

C = Commitment

E = Economic Development

ESTABLISH DEMOCRACY

Myanmar citizens are, indeed, very simple, honest, hardworking, friendly and religious. Most of the people of Myanmar nation have been brought up under the influence of Loving-kindness, Compassion, Sympathetic Joy and Equanimity. Myanmar people have also the righteous pride of nationalism which had been shown brilliantly in their fight for liberation from the British colonialism and Japanese Fascism. Myanmar people, just like the people all over the world, love and cherish national independence, freedom, liberty, equality, fraternity and so on. Establishing democracy in Myanmar is a historical necessity. It is high time democracy has got to be established throughout the length and breadth of Myanmar before it is too late. Myanmar has got the imperative national task of catching up with the rest of the region. Myanmar cannot afford to be left behind economically, technologically, educationally any longer. Myanmar can advance to the regional level if we have resolute determination to develop and modernize the beloved country dynamically and vehemently.

MOTIVATE THE PEOPLE

Establishing democracy is not an event; but it is a process. In fact, building democracy takes time, because certain conditions are necessary for democracy to flourish. We need internal peace, national unity, political will, political and economic security, awakening of the broad masses of the people to the dawn of democracy, patience, tolerance and maturity of the dominant classes and international understanding and cooperation. It is very important for establishing democracy to have the broad-based participation of the entire people of all the races in Myanmar. The broad masses of the people must be brought into the movement for democracy politically, economically, educationally, so-

cio-culturally and morally.

BE BOLD

In establishing democracy, it is very important to be bold, brave and benevolent. It is said in the Bible: "Be bold, and mighty forces will come to your aid." It is also said in the Bible: "Be strong and of good courage; be not afraid, neither be thou dismayed." We should be resolute, fear no sacrifice and surmount all difficulties to win victories.

In establishing democracy, we have got to have hope and courage. It is said in the Bhagavad Gita that: "Hope is the shield and Courage the sword." It is also said in it that: "We must fight straight from our shoulders." I would like to add to the shield and the sword the word Chariot, which is, of course, wisdom. If we are bold at heart and hopeful and wise in mind and in common sense, we will surely be victorious in our struggle for democracy.

We should never give up our struggle for democracy; we should never give in to the obstacles; we should stand up for democracy and we should fight it through to victory.

RESPECT FREEDOM & HUMAN RIGHTS

In establishing democracy, we should have genuine respect for:

- ◆ The whole wide world
- ◆ The entire Myanmar nation
- ◆ The entire people of Myanmar

Thus, we must stand for, fight for, live and move and have our being for genuine democracy by nurturing, cultivating, developing and safeguarding:

- ◆ Freedom of Speech
- ◆ Freedom of Assembly
- ◆ Freedom of Publication
- ◆ Freedom of Religion
- ◆ Freedom of Belief
- ◆ Freedom to enjoy civil liberty, equality, fraternity
- ◆ Human Rights, the Rule of Law & Justice

ACCOUNTABILITY

As a human being, everyone is accountable for oneself and for what he or she does. In establishing democracy, everyone must have not only accountability, but also he or she must have:

- ◆ Responsibility
- ◆ Proactive Mindset
- ◆ Positive Mental Attitude
- ◆ Transparent Due Diligence
- ◆ Morality, Morale and Magnanimity of Mind

In embracing democracy, those who do the job of governing should have the following attributes:

- Regarding themselves they should be:
 - ◆ Authentic
 - ◆ Innovative
 - ◆ Reliable
 - ◆ Visionary
 - ◆ Constructive; and
- Regarding the governed, the governing people should purposely be:
 - ◆ People-persons preferring to use soft power,

- ◆ People-developers enabling people to advance with better & higher expertise, and
- ◆ Values guardians

Democracy should be built with the firm belief of: "One for All and All of One".

COMMITMENT

Commitment means: You are true to yourself,

You are true to job, and

You are true to relationships.

In establishing democracy, all of us must be totally true to:

- ◆ Our Nation
- ◆ Our People
- ◆ Our Culture
- ◆ Our Faith
- ◆ Ourselves, always adhering to the democratic values, norms and practices

We all must have the unwavering commitment:

- ◆ To dare nobly
- ◆ To will strongly, and
- ◆ Never to fatter in the path of duty.

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

Economic conditions are the infrastructure. All the rest of the nation's sectors are the superstructure, such as the political systems, socio-cultural conditions and the educational levels. In a democracy, economic conditions should be strong at the base, and the middle income levels should be progressive and prosperous with science, technology and general education as their backbone. The top level should have the political will to have the cutting edge in competition which enables them to add value to the industry and to create wealth for the society. Unemployment and underemployment should be manageable. For a developing country such as Myanmar, economic infrastructure must be widely and strongly built, taking agriculture as the stable base from which industrialization must spring forth as a strong priority. Scientific, technological and all-round education must be strategically developed and modernized. The socio-cultural standards of the broad masses of the people must be meticulously raised continuously. Concurrently, nature must be conserved, environmental conditions must be optimally corrected and maintained or preserved. Although human living conditions are tactically sophisticated and modernized, they must be strategically grounded in mother nature. Natural environment must be highly respected.

CONCLUSION

To be democratic is to be basically humane. Democracy is rightfully the birthright of the people who have got to be equipped with:

- ◆ Discipline & Diligence for Physical Strength
- ◆ Vision & Strategy for Mental Strength
- ◆ Passion & Values for Emotional Strength
- ◆ Service & Selflessness for Spiritual Strength
- ◆ Character & Competence for Achievement Strength

So, long live the democratic practices and long live the democratic values.

U Kyí Mun residing in Yangon is a consultant of NAING Group Capital Co.,Ltd.

Myoma band to mark 90th anniversary with singing contest



MANDALAY, 10 July — Mandalay's Myoma amateur band held a meeting Thursday at its Aungmyethazan Township office to organize a singing contest in commemoration of the band's 90th anniversary.

Region minister for finance Dr Myint Kyu, Chairman of the band Dr Hla Khaing and officials participated in the discussions.

Officials of the band will choose songs composed by Nandawshae Saya Tin, A-1 Saya Hnyar, Myoma Nyein, U Bo Khin, U Ba Than and Myoma Ko Paw for the contest.

Thiha Ko Ko (Mandalay)



SPEI wins inter-club football tournament

MANDALAY, 10 July — The Institute of Sports and Physical Education Mandalay emerged winners of the Thanlwin Myanmar Cup Men's Novice Inter-Club Football Tournament in a 5-4 victory over Star-45 Club at Bahtoo Stadium, here, on 9 July.

Director U Khin Maung Htay of Thanlwin Myanmar Trading Co Ltd and Vice Chairman of Region Football Subcommittee U Sein Win Gyi presented medals to the winners and runners-up.

Htet Min Thant of Star-45 won the award for best player, while U Thurein Win was present-



ed the award for most progressive referee.

Thanlwin Myanmar Trading Managing Direc-

tor Daw May Myat Nwe presented the championship trophy and cash prize to the winning team.

Tin Maung (Mandalay)

MPC, Nippon Foundation distribute aid in Kayin State

HPA-AN, 10 July — The Myanmar Peace Centre and Nippon Foundation distributed solar lamps, mosquito nets and rice to local residents at the Kayin State government office in Hpa-an recently.

Chief Minister of Kayin State U Zaw Min and Mr Matsushima of Nippon Foundation presented more than 2,000 bags of rice, nearly 600 solar lamps and

around 600 mosquito nets to officials.

The donation ceremony was also attended by the deputy speaker of Kayin State Hluttaw, the state minister for security and border affairs, departmental officials, representatives of ethnic armed groups, and officials of the Nippon Foundation.

Nay Myo Lwin (IPRD)

Lack of funding hampers IDP camps in Kachin State



MYITKYINA, 10 July — Camps for internally displaced people (IDPs) in Kachin State face difficult times during the rainy season due to a lack of funding from local NGOs and stricter budgetary controls

for UN agencies, according to an aid programme coordinator.

There are more than 40,000 IDPs at 70 camps managed by the Kachin Baptist Convention and other charitable organiza-

tions, the Myitkyina-based church's Programme Officer Ko Bwam Kharan said. "In 2015, funds of local social organizations are declining day by day. UN agencies strictly scrutinize the assistance for the IDPs."

The camps are ill-equipped to handle any increase in numbers, according to Ko Bwam Kharan.

"If the number of IDPs rises unexpectedly due to fighting, the organizations cannot give any assistance to new victims," he said.

Many school-age camp residents lack basic access to education.

GNLM-001



China stocks jump again after Beijing puts floor under market

SHANGHAI, 10 July — Chinese stocks rose strongly for a second day on Friday, buoyed by a barrage of government support measures, but worries persist about the long-term impact that four weeks of stock market turmoil may have on the world's second-largest economy.

Over the past two weeks Chinese authorities have cut interest rates, suspended initial public offerings, relaxed margin lending and collateral rules and enlisted brokerages to buy stocks, backed by cash from the central bank.

Some analysts predict further moves to come from the central bank, which often makes policy announcements over the weekend, such as another rate cut or relaxation of the amount of cash banks must hold as reserves.

The frantic efforts to stem the market slide finally began to gain traction on Thursday, when shares rose around 6 percent after the securities regulator banned shareholders with large stakes in listed firms from selling.

The CSI300 index .CSI300 of the largest listed

An investor watches an electronic board showing stock information at a brokerage office in Beijing, China, on 9 July, 2015.

REUTERS



companies in Shanghai and Shenzhen rose another 6.1 percent on Friday, while the Shanghai Composite Index .SSEC gained 5.4 percent.

"Chinese investors move in herds," said Samuel Chien, a partner of Shanghai-based hedge fund manager BoomTrend Investment Management Co "After panic selling drove the market down to the extreme, prices are now starting to move in the other direction."

At the depths of their slump earlier this week Chinese shares had fallen more than 30 percent from their mid-June peak, and for some global investors China's market turmoil had become a greater concern than the crisis in Greece.

Analysts at Bank of America Merrill Lynch said in a research note they expected the ripple effect to

eventually hit the real economy and corporate earnings.

"We expect this will likely hurt consumption down the road," the note said. "More critical is a potential distortion to credit flows due to the impairment to financial institutions' balance sheets."

While Beijing's efforts appear to have put a floor under the stock market for now, it was still far from functioning normally.

Around 1,300 of China's listed companies — nearly half the market — remained suspended after a scramble by firms earlier in the week to escape the carnage by having trading in their stock halted. About 60 companies resumed trading on Friday.

Many of those that remained trading, meanwhile, were propped up by state-di-

rected buying.

On Friday Shanghai Securities News reported that insurers had brought 112.3 billion yuan (\$18.1 billion) of equity since the rout began.

The plunge in China's previously booming stock markets, which had more than doubled in the year to mid-June, has created a major headache for President Xi Jinping and China's top leaders, who are already grappling with slowing growth.

Many investors say China's unprecedented attempts to arrest the slide have undermined its commitment to give markets a "decisive" role in pricing assets.

"They can probably stabilize the market, but it will be a political decision, as they will have to compel government, state agencies, banks, pension funds, insurance companies to buy," said Ashok Shah, investment director at London & Capital.

"Essentially the political decision is: to transfer the potential losses from private investors ... to the state in some manner."

Reuters

IMF lowers global growth forecasts, cites US weakness



The International Monetary Fund (IMF) logo is seen at the IMF headquarters building during the 2013 Spring Meeting of the International Monetary Fund and World Bank in Washington, on 18 April, 2013.—REUTERS

WASHINGTON, 10 July — The International Monetary Fund on Thursday trimmed its forecast for global economic growth for this year to take into account the impact of recent weakness in the United States.

But the global financial institution said growth prospects for next year remain undimmed, despite Greece's debt crisis and recent volatility in Chinese financial markets.

In an update to its World Economic Outlook report, the IMF said the global economy should expand 3.3 percent this year, 0.2 percentage point below what it predicted in April. Growth should speed up to 3.8 percent next year, it said, unchanged from earlier forecasts.

The IMF pinned much of the blame for the lower growth forecast on the United States. The US economy contracted in the first quarter, hurt by unusually heavy snowfalls, a resurgent dollar and disruptions at West Coast ports.

The IMF said it expected the US economy to grow 2.5 percent this year — it lowered the US growth forecast last month from 3.1 percent in April. The IMF also said US economic sluggishness had spilled over to Canada and Mexico.

"(But) for the most part, it was a series of accidents ... and the rest of the year should not be very much affected," Olivier Blanchard, the IMF's chief economist,

said in a Press conference.

The IMF maintained its forecasts for a pickup in growth in the euro zone, despite Greece moving closer to the edge of default and an exit from the currency bloc as it races to find a last-minute third bailout.

"The stress tests of the last 10 days (around events in Greece) reassure us and make us think that if things go badly in Greece ... the rest of the world would probably survive quite well," Blanchard said.

In developing economies, the IMF said growth had been dampened by lower commodity prices, tighter financial conditions tied to economic rebalancing in China and geopolitical factors.

Chinese stock markets have tumbled by more than 30 percent over the last month, prompting regulators to impose heavy-handed intervention to stem the rout.

The IMF said the market crash suggests China could face difficulties as it tries to move from an investment-led economic growth model to one focussed on domestic consumption.

The Fund also repeated its warning that asset price shifts and financial market volatility could disrupt predictions, though it expects geopolitical tensions tied to Russia and the Middle East to calm down next year.

Reuters

New analysis of smoking and schizophrenia suggests causal link



A man smokes in his car in London on 16 Nov, 2011.—REUTERS

LONDON, 10 July — In research that turns on its head previous thinking about links between schizophrenia and smoking, scientists say they have found that cigarettes may be a causal factor in the development of psychosis.

After analyzing almost 15,000 tobacco users and 273,000 non users and their relative rates of psychosis — where patients can experience delusions, paranoia and hear voices in their heads — the researchers said cigarette smoking appears to increase risk.

"While it's always hard to determine the direction of causality, our findings indicate that smoking should be taken seriously as a possible risk factor for developing psychosis," James MacCabe, a psychosis expert who co-led the research at King's College London's Institute of Psychiatry, told reporters. He added, however, that tobacco was only one of many factors, including certain genetic, diet, lifestyle and other influences, raising a person's risk of developing schizophrenia.

Schizophrenia, a severe

psychiatric disorder that affects around one in 100 people, typically begins in early adulthood. Its most common symptoms are disruptions in thinking and perception, and patients often have psychotic experiences.

Although the link between smoking cigarettes and schizophrenia has been noted before, until now many doctors have followed a self-medication hypothesis whereby patients smoke to counteract the stressful symptoms of schizophrenia or the side-effects of antipsychotic medication.

For this study, McCabe's team analyzed rates of smoking in people presenting with their first episode of psychosis and found that 57 per cent of these individuals were smokers.

People with a first episode of psychosis were three times more likely to be smokers than those in the control groups.

Robin Murray, a professor of psychiatric research at

King's who worked with McCabe, said activity in the brain's dopamine system might be one explanation of a possible causal link between smoking and psychosis.

"Excess dopamine is the best biological explanation we have for psychotic illnesses," he told the briefing. "It's possible that nicotine exposure, by increasing the release of dopamine, causes psychosis to develop."

Previous studies, some by Murray, have also linked cannabis use to psychosis. But there is much debate about whether this is causal or whether there may be shared genes which predispose people to both cannabis use and schizophrenia.

McCabe said the new results on smoking suggest "it might even be possible that the real villain is tobacco, not cannabis" — since cannabis users often combine the drug with tobacco.

Reuters

SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY

China's ZTE to partner with Softbank on 'pre-5G' technology in Japan



The company logo of ZTE is seen through a wooden fence on a glass door during the company's 15th anniversary celebration in Beijing on 18 April, 2013.

REUTERS

HONG KONG, 10 July — Chinese telecommunications equipment maker ZTE Corp said on Friday it has struck a deal with Soft-Bank Corp to deploy its "pre-5G" technology in Japan, with a commercial trial to begin early next year.

ZTE has touted its "pre-5G" technology as providing faster speeds on 4G network. It sees it as intermediate step between current 4G technology and 5G, the next generation of networks that the wireless industry is hoping to have up and running by 2020.

ZTE's Vice President Li Cui said ZTE plans to set up a research and development centre for wireless

technologies in Tokyo by the end of 2015, but declined to say how much it planned to invest in Japan.

Globally, the company plans to invest 200 million euros (\$220 million) in 5G and mobile communication technologies between 2015 to 2018.

"Our goal is to utilize core 5G technologies on existing commercial networks...so users can enjoy the 5G-like experience ahead of time," she told Reuters in an interview.

Shenzhen-based ZTE posted a 42 percent rise in quarterly net profit in April as strong global demand for 4G infrastructure boosted sales.—Reuters

Most US smartphone owners check devices at least hourly: survey

NEW YORK, 10 July — More than half of US smartphone owners check their devices a few times an hour or more, and most Americans have their smartphones with them all day and many all night, according to a Gallup report released on Thursday.

Eleven percent of respondents said they check their smartphone every few minutes and 41 percent said they check a few times an hour, Gallup said. Another 20 percent said they check about once an hour and 28 percent check less frequently.

The Gallup survey included responses online or through the mail from

15,747 US adults who own smartphones in all 50 states from 17 April to 18 May. It had a 1 percent margin of error.

The report did not address how respondents are

using their smartphones, whether for email, texting, the Internet, etc.

Young Americans checked their smartphones most frequently, Gallup said. Twenty-two percent

of respondents from 18 to 29 years of age said they checked their smartphones every few minutes, compared to 3 percent of people 65 or older, Gallup said.

More than four out of five owners, 81 percent, said they keep their smartphone nearby almost all the time while they are awake and 63 percent said they keep the phone near them while sleeping, Gallup said.

Gallup said the close proximity at night may be for people checking it before going to sleep and upon waking, or may reflect the phone's use as an alarm clock.

Reuters



A man uses a smartphone in New York City, in this picture taken on 6 Nov, 2013.—REUTERS

Nobel medal to be auctioned to help train scientists

LONDON, 10 July — A Nobel Prize Medal for medicine awarded to German Jewish refugee Hans Krebs is to be auctioned by Sotheby's to raise money to train scientists, the auction house said on Thursday.

Krebs won the medal in 1953 when the Nobel Prize for Physiology or Medicine was divided equally between Krebs, for his

discovery of the citric acid cycle, and Fritz Lipmann, for work on enzymes.

The Krebs medal will be offered for sale on 14 July and has a pre-auction estimate of 250,000-300,000 pounds (385,000-\$462,000), Sotheby's said.

The proceeds are to be used by The Sir Hans Krebs Trust for its work "to provide grants for the support of refugee scien-

tists and the training of young scientists in the biomedical sciences," Sotheby's said.

Krebs fled Nazi Germany in the early 1930s and settled in Britain, where he received assistance to resume his work as a scientist.

Krebs's son John, a member of Britain's House of Lords, said in a statement that he was sure his father would have sup-

ported the sale of the medal to provide funds for a similar purpose.

"My father was a passionate believer in the importance of training the next generation. I believe that he would have thoroughly approved of the creation of the Trust by the sale of his Medal," Krebs is quoted as saying in the statement.

Reuters

China fears propel Apple shares toward five-day losing streak

SAN FRANCISCO, 10 July — Apple Inc's (AAPL.O) stock was heading toward its first five-session losing streak since January on Thursday as investors worried about the economic health of China, a key market for iPhones.

Apple shares were down 2 percent at \$120.15 in afternoon trade and have lost about 4 percent since 1 July.

In the first three months of the year, for the first time, Apple sold more iPhones in China than in the United States, a trend

expected to grow as Chinese consumers upgrade from less expensive handsets.

But with around 30 percent knocked off the value of Chinese shares since mid June, some investors fear that the turmoil could hurt consumer demand and the Chinese economy as a whole.

Individuals account for a major chunk of stock investing in China and the market selloff may curb their disposable incomes.

"China is poised to be Apple's high-octane fuel for the next few years, especially for iPhones," said FBR analyst Daniel Ives. "Given a lot of the dark clouds we are seeing in China, that has spooked investors."

Also rattling investors was a report this week by research firm Slice Intelligence that sales of the Apple Watch have dropped since its launch in April. Apple has not disclosed sales of the devices.

The Apple Watch is not seen as significant for profits in the short term but the wrist-worn gadget is Chief Executive Tim Cook's first major product and its failure would be poorly received by Wall Street.

Apple's stock was also within 1 percentage point of falling below its 200-day moving average, an indicator watched closely by traders, for the first time since April 2014.—Reuters

Chinese woman receives 3D-printed sternum implant

XI'AN, 10 July — Chinese doctors have successfully implanted a 3D printed titanium alloy sternum into a woman to replace her tumour-affected breastbone, the first such operation in the country.

The 54-year-old patient surnamed Gu has been recovering without complications since the surgery in late June at Tangdu Hospital affiliated with the Fourth Military Medical University in Xi'an, capital of Shaanxi Province.

A retired worker in Luoyang City, Henan Province, Gu was diagnosed with a sternum tumour last year. The tumour was six to seven cm in diameter before the operation, said Wang Xiaop-

ing, a senior thoracic surgeon with the hospital.

Typically, when the sternum is removed, a patient's heart will lose its protection, seriously affecting breathing and safety, said Wang.

Doctors spent half a month designing a sternum for Gu and asked a key laboratory at Northwestern Polytechnic University to print it using 3D technology.

"I feel well now," said Gu at the hospital.

Doctors around the world have increasingly turned to 3D printing. Last month, the technology helped doctors in Shanghai separate three-month-old twin sisters who were conjoined at the hip.

Xinhua



The Apple Watch is seen on display at the Apple retail store on 5th avenue in New York on 17 June, 2015.

REUTERS

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**CLAIMS DAY NOTICE
MV ANAN BHUM VOY NO (134N)**

Consignees of cargo carried on MV ANAN BHUM VOY NO (134N) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 11.7.2015 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of H.P.T where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

**SHIPPING AGENCY DEPARTMENT
MYANMA PORT AUTHORITY
AGENT FOR: M/S OCSCOS CONTAINER
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Incomplete applications will not be considered.

24 taken to hospital after expressway pileup in Tokyo

TOKYO, 10 July — Twenty-four people were taken to hospital on Friday morning after a police vehicle carrying detainees apparently caused a four-car pileup on an expressway in central Tokyo, police said.

The police van, carrying 16 detainees and several police officers, apparently rear-ended a line of backed-up vehicles on the expressway's Inner Circular Route at around 9 am, according to the police.

The police vehicle, driven by a 34-year-old male senior officer of the Metropolitan Police Department, was on its way to the Tokyo District Public Prosecutors office. The 24 people are believed to have sustained minor injuries.

In a statement, an official in charge of detention administration at the police said they will make all-out efforts to prevent similar accidents.

Kyodo News

**CLAIMS DAY NOTICE
MV JRS CARINA VOY NO (1507-18N)**

Consignees of cargo carried on MV JRSCARINA VOY NO (1507-18N) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 11.7.2015 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of A.I.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.

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Consignees of cargo carried on MV TIAN SHAN VOY NO (CHOO94) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 12.7.2015 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of M.I.T.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.

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MYANMA PORT AUTHORITY
AGENT FOR: M/S SPRING SHIPPING &
LOGISTICS CO LTD.**

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**CLAIMS DAY NOTICE
MV FRISIA ALSTER VOY NO (1527)**

Consignees of cargo carried on MV FRISIA ALSTER VOY NO (1527) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 11.7.2015 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of M.I.T.T/M.I.P where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

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

Phone No: 2301185

**CLAIMS DAY NOTICE
MV KULTHARA VOY NO (07/15)**

Consignees of cargo carried on MV KULTHARA VOY NO (07/15) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 12.7.2015 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of S.P.W (1) 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 KULNATEE CO**

Phone No: 2301186

North Korea drought easing after June rainfall

SEOUL, 10 July — North Korea received enough rainfall in June to ease drought conditions that had been described by Pyongyang as the worst in a century, although parts of the country remain acutely short of water, the South Korean government said on Friday.

The North's official media said in mid-June the country had been hit by the worst drought in 100 years.

The lack of rain is believed to have compounded chronic food shortages in North Korea, which has seen external aid decline in recent years.

"We believe the drought was eased considerably in June," South Korea's Unification Ministry spokesman Jeong Joon-hee told a news briefing. "Rainfall in June rose to almost 90 percent of the average year so it should have eased considerably."



North Koreans farm in the field, along the Yalu River, in Sakchu county, North Pyongan Province, North Korea, on 20 June, 2015.
REUTERS

Jeong said rainfall in May was about half the average year.

The North's KCNA news agency said in June that paddies around the country — including in the main rice farming regions of Hwanghae and Phyongan provinces in the south — were drying up due to the lack of rainfall, causing great damage.

Jeong said drought continued in Hwanghae and some of the northern provinces.

The shortage of rainfall in May prompted the UN resident coordinator for North Korea, Ghulam Isacai, to warn of a looming food crisis, especially after rains in 2014 were the lowest in records going back 30 years.

North Korea's farm production periodically suffers from droughts and floods in the summer, but experts said the state has learned to cut damage and starvation by updating farming methods and allowing the emergence of grassroots markets and an unofficial economy that promotes food trade.

Reuters

Earthquake measuring 7.0 strikes off Solomon Islands — USGS

SYDNEY, 10 July — A strong earthquake with a magnitude of 7.0 struck off the Solomon Islands in the South Pacific on Friday, the US Geological Survey said.

The quake was also relatively shallow at a depth of about 20 km (12 miles), the USGS said. There was no immediate indication of a tsunami warning being issued, according to the Hawaii-based Pacific Tsunami Warning Centre. — *Reuters*

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The Republic of the Union of Myanmar Ministry of Energy Myanma Petroleum Products Enterprise

Invitation to interested parties regarding a Joint Venture for the
Importation, Storage, Distribution of Petroleum Products

1. The Myanma Petroleum Products Enterprise (MPPE) is a state-owned enterprise which is responsible for carrying out the retail and wholesale distribution of petroleum products under the Ministry of Energy (MOE) in Myanmar. The enterprise operates storage facilities, conducts sales and distributes petroleum products through four (4) main fuel terminals, twenty four (24) sub fuel terminals and twelve (12) gas stations in the Republic of the Union of Myanmar.
2. In order to better serve customers in the importation, storage, distribution and sales of petroleum products in Myanmar and to improve the management of the business while conducting environmentally friendly operations, interested foreign companies are invited to submit a bid to form a joint venture.
3. Interested parties may enquire at the following address for the details, rules and requirements of the tender starting from the date of this announcement.
4. The Invitation to Tender documents shall be available for purchase on 20-07-2015 at the address listed below.
5. The application must be submitted in person and shall be submitted not later than 1:00 pm on the 20-10-2015.

Managing Director
Myanma Petroleum Products Enterprise
Ministry of Energy
Office Building No. 6
Nay Pyi Taw
Tel : +95 67 411488, +95 67 411053, +95 67 411119,
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THE REPUBLIC OF THE UNION OF MYANMAR MINISTRY OF ENERGY MYANMA OIL AND GAS ENTERPRISE (INVITATION FOR OPEN TENDER) (11/2015)

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

Sr.No	Tender No	Description	Remark
(1)	IFB-031(15-16)	Electrical Spares for ZJ 50D Drilling Rigs (36) Items	US\$
(2)	IFB-032(15-16)	Spares for CNG Retest Factory (36) Items	US\$
(3)	IFB-033(15-16)	Spares for Oxygen Generator, Oxygen Purifier and Oxygen Compressor (10) Items	US\$
(4)	IFB-034(15-16)	13 5/8" x 5K Double Ram BOP (1) Unit	US\$
(5)	IFB-035(15-16)	Spares for Mack Oil Field Truck (21) Items	US\$
(6)	IFB-036(15-16)	Spares for Hydraulic Power Station	US\$

Tender Closing Date & Time - 5-8-2015, 16:30 Hr
Tender Document shall be available during office hours commencing from 17th June, 2015 at the Finance Department, Myanma Oil and Gas Enterprise, No (44) Complex, Nay Pyi Taw, Myanmar.

Myanma Oil and Gas Enterprise
Ph: +95 67 - 411097 / 411206



Edwin Fujinaga (R), who ran Las Vegas-based investment firm MRI International Inc before its business license expired in 2014, and his lawyer are seen in Las Vegas on 9 July, 2015, after the first hearing of his trial at the US District Court in Las Vegas. Fujinaga, indicted the previous day for his alleged involvement in a \$1.5 billion Ponzi scheme targeting Japanese, pleaded not guilty to a series of fraud charges and was released pending the next hearing in September.—KYODO NEWS

WEATHER REPORT

BAY INFERENCE:

According to the observation at (15:30) hrs MST yesterday, the low pressure area over North-west Bay of Bengal has moved to the West Bengal (India). Monsoon is moderate to strong in the Andaman Sea and South Bay and moderate elsewhere in Bay of Bengal.

FORECAST VALID UNTIL EVENING OF THE 11th July, 2015:

Rain or thundershowers will be widespread in Upper Sagaing and Taninthayi Regions, Kachin and Chin states, fairly widespread in Shan, Rakhine and Mon States and scattered in the remaining Regions and States with likelihood of isolated heavy falls in Upper Sagaing Region. Degree of certainty is (100%).

STATE OF THE SEA:

Squalls with moderate to rough sea are likely at times Deltaic, Gulf of Mottama, off and along Mon - Taninthayi Coasts. Surface wind speed in squalls may reach (35-40) m.p.h. Sea will be moderate elsewhere in Myanmar waters.

Keith Richards to release first solo album since 1992



Keith Richards of the Rolling Stones performs during their "14 on Fire" show at Waldbuehne in Berlin on 10 June, 2014. REUTERS

LOS ANGELES, 10 July — Rolling Stones guitarist Keith Richards said on Thursday he is releasing his first solo album in more than 20 years.

"Crosseyed Heart," which will feature rock, reggae and country songs, will be released on 18 September, Richards said on his website. "Trouble," the first single, will be released

on 17 July.

Richards, 71, plays electric and acoustic guitars, bass, and piano and sings vocals on the 15-track album. It includes collaborations with singer Norah Jones, keyboardist Ian Neville and guitarist Waddy Wachtel. Richards wrote most of the songs on the album with drummer and co-producer Steve Jordan.

"There's nothing like walking into a studio and having absolutely no idea what you're going to come out with on the other end," Richards said.

Richards has two previous solo albums — "Talk is Cheap" in 1988 and "Main Offender" in 1992. He is currently on tour with the Rolling Stones until 15 July. Reuters

Superhero "Ant-Man" a normal, relatable guy, actor Rudd says



Actor Paul Rudd

LONDON, 10 July — Superhero "Ant-Man" makes his debut on the silver screen this month, a character Hollywood actor Paul Rudd describes as "normal and relatable" but unique to the Marvel cinematic universe.

A familiar face from comedies like "Anchorman" and "This is 40", Rudd dons the superhero suit for the first time in the film about a thief who can shrink in size but grow in power.

His character, Scott Lang/Ant-Man, needs to help his mentor Dr Hank Pym, played by Michael Douglas, safeguard his Ant-Man suit and the two plan a heist to save the world.

"The thing I love about this character is that he is completely unique to the Marvel universe," Rudd said at the movie's European premiere on Wednesday night.

"He is a very relatable, normal guy, who discovers this extraordinary suit and I think that what he can do is different than everybody else."

Marvel Comics fans are used to seeing superheroes such as Iron Man, Captain America and others in their own movies as well as the "Avengers" films.

"It is an intimate movie," director Peyton Reed said. "At the centre is the story of these two fathers and their daughters and nothing in this heist ... is going to succeed if they don't resolve their issues. That's a different dynamic for a Marvel movie."

Douglas was also at the premiere, accompanied by his wife, actress Catherine Zeta-Jones, and their children. "It was ... my first of the superhero comic book characters, so I am not used to it," he said. "It is a little overwhelming, it is a huge production but everybody was pretty well grounded."

"Ant-Man" hits US and UK cinemas on 17 July. Reuters

Jennifer Lawrence and 'Mockingjay' cast take final Comic-Con bow

SAN DIEGO, (Calif), 10 July — "Make no mistake, the game is coming to its end," President Snow tells Katniss Everdeen in the first official "Mockingjay — Part 2" trailer, released on Thursday, as Jennifer Lawrence led "The Hunger Games" stars in their final Comic-Con bow.

"Mockingjay — Part 2," due in theaters on 20 November, will conclude the popular dystopian young adult "Hunger Games" film franchise that follows heroine Katniss Everdeen (Lawrence) as she leads a revolution against oppressive leader President Snow.

The trailer shows sweeping scenes of the Capitol of Panem burning

as Katniss brings war to the city and glimpses of all her relationships, from her sister Prim, who started her on the journey, to Plutarch, played by the late Philip Seymour Hoffman.

"What I like about these movies is that they take the entire world, and they condense it into this one continent, and they take all of these issues and one girl, who took it in her hands," said Lawrence.

Movie studio Lionsgate has showcased "The Hunger Games" franchise prominently at San Diego's Comic-Con over the last four years, drumming up buzz among the convention's 100,000-plus fans of films and pop culture.

It has also led the way in making trailer releases events in themselves, teasing glimpses and asking fans to take part in activities for early access to the panels.

On Thursday, drummers dressed in white banged up a storm walking through the crowd of 6,000-plus people ahead of the film's leading cast members, director and producer.

Lawrence, 24, and co-stars Josh Hutcherson, Liam Hemsworth and Willow Shields said filming the last installment of the four-part franchise was emotional.

"The changes that happened in my life from doing these movies are so permanent that I don't think I'll



Cast member Jennifer Lawrence poses at a press line for "The Hunger Games: Mockingjay — Part 2" during the 2015 Comic-Con International Convention in San Diego, California, on 9 July, 2015. —REUTERS

ever really say goodbye, it'll always be a part of me," said Lawrence.

"The Hunger Games" franchise, which has taken some \$2.2 billion at the global box office since

2012, helped make Lawrence one of Hollywood's most sought-after actresses. She won an Oscar for 2012 comedy "Silver Linings Playbook."

Reuters

Harper Lee's new novel big as 'Harry Potter' in Amazon pre-orders

NEW YORK, 10 July — "Go Set a Watchman," the much-anticipated second novel by "To Kill a Mockingbird" author Harper Lee, is the most pre-ordered print title on Amazon.com since the last book in the "Harry Potter" series, Amazon said on Thursday.

The online retailer said the novel, to be published on 14 July, 55 years after Lee's classic "To Kill a Mockingbird," was already the No 1 best-selling book on the website.

It is the most pre-ordered book on Amazon. com since JK Rowling's "Harry Potter and the Deathly Hallows" in 2007 — the seventh and final novel about the British teenage boy wizard.

Amazon did not provide figures for either book

but publisher Harper, an imprint of HarperCollins, said it had ordered an initial US print run of 2 million for "Go Set a Watchman."

Harper astonished the literary world in February when it announced it would publish a book that only a few people knew existed.

Harper said at the time that the manuscript came to light recently after Lee's lawyer discovered it in a safety deposit box with the original manuscript of "To Kill a Mockingbird."

It was written in the 1950s before Lee, now 89 and in an assisted-living facility in her home state of Alabama, penned her 1960 Pulitzer Prize-winning masterpiece. She then largely retired from public life.

"Watchman" features

lawyer Atticus Finch 20 years after the events depicted in "Mockingbird" as his adult daughter Scout returns to visit him in the fictional town of Maycomb, Alabama.

"To Kill a Mockingbird," about racism and injustice in the American South, became an instant best-seller and has sold an estimated 40 million copies worldwide. It was also made into an Oscar-winning film starring Gregory Peck as Atticus Finch.

Lee's home town of Monroeville, Alabama, is marking Tuesday's publication by recreating a 1950s feel and organizing walking tours of the town that inspired the two novels. US bookstores are holding readings and some are opening at midnight.



Former US President George W Bush (L) awards the Presidential Medal of Freedom to American novelist Harper Lee (C) in the East Room of the White House, on 5 Nov, 2007. —REUTERS

Lee, who suffered a stroke in 2007 and is reported to have difficulty seeing and hearing, is not expected to appear to promote the book.

The Wall Street Jour-

nal, which like HarperCollins is owned by News Corp, will publish an advance first chapter of "Watchman" on Friday, along with Britain's Guardian newspaper. —Reuters

Willie Nelson adds Gershwin Prize to storied music career

LOS ANGELES, 10 July — Country singer Willie Nelson was named on Thursday as the 2015 recipient of the Gershwin Prize for Popular Song, joining the likes of Paul McCartney, Billy Joel and Carole King in one of the highest US music honours.

The Library of Congress

said Nelson, whose career spans six decades, would be given the prize, which recognizes lifetime achievement, at a ceremony in Washington, DC, in November. Librarian of Congress James Billington described Nelson in a statement as a "musical explorer" who has "helped make country music one of

the most universally beloved forms of American artistic expression."

Nelson, 82, said he was honored to be chosen for the award, which was established in 2007 and named for composers George and Ira Gershwin. "I appreciate it greatly," Nelson said. Texas-born Nelson has recorded

more than 60 albums, written songs such as "Crazy," and appeared in more than 30 movies and TV shows.

His most recent album, a collaboration with Merle Haggard called "Django and Jimmie," made its debut at No 1 on the Billboard Country Album chart in June. —Reuters

GENERAL

Yamanaka to make 9th defence of bantam title in September

TOKYO, 10 July — Shinsuke Yamanaka will make the ninth defence of his WBC bantamweight title against former WBA bantamweight champion Anselmo Moreno of Panama, his Teiken Gym announced on Friday.

The fight will take place at Ota Ward Gymnasium in Tokyo on 22 September.

The 30-year-old Moreno defended his WBA title 12 times between 2008 and 2014. He has a record of 35 wins (12 by knockout)



WBC bantamweight champion Shinsuke Yamanaka poses for photos in Tokyo on 10 July, 2015. His Teiken Boxing Gym said the same day that Yamanaka will make his ninth title defence in the Japanese capital on 22 Sept, against former WBA bantamweight super champion Anselmo Moreno of Panama.

KYODO NEWS

against three losses and one draw.

“There is a risk of me losing but I am happy that I am able to fight against one of the top fighters (in the bantamweight division),” said the 32-year-old Yamanaka. “If I beat this opponent I think it will prove my ability,” he added.

Yamanaka improved to 23-0, (17 KOs) with two draws after defeating Diego Santillan of Argentina in his last title defence in April.

Kyodo News

mitv Myanmar International

(11-7-2015 07:00 am~12-7-2015 07:00 am) MST

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Residents in soggy Seattle rebel against the sun



The Space Needle and Mount Rainier are pictured at dusk in Seattle, Washington on 12 March, 2014. —REUTERS

SEATTLE, 10 July — Seattle’s mayor is losing sleep over the unusually hot, dry weather that is causing a run on air conditioners and fans in the famously rainy city.

Washington state’s largest metropolis sweated through its hottest June on record, going fortnights without even a drizzle. Seattleites jokingly refer to the month of “Juneuary” for the wet and cold they usually endure before longer, dryer

sunny days arrive in July, typically persisting into September.

This summer, however, they have shrugged off the rain gear and flannel and taken to drinking “iced” lattes. Many, including Mayor Ed Murray, find themselves oddly yearning for the cloud cover on which Rain City’s identity was forged.

Murray said the heat has kept him up at night in

his brick Tudor-style house, which he has nicknamed the “little Dutch oven.”

“Obviously people in Seattle love a little more sun but also nothing is built for it,” Murray said. “I miss my rain.”

With an estimated 662,400 residents, the Emerald City, as the city is nicknamed, lies between the brackish Puget Sound and the Cascade Mountains which squeeze moisture out

of east-bound fronts moving over the city.

It is so dry in the state that a wildfire is burning in a rainforest on the Olympic Peninsula and Governor Jay Inslee issued a state-wide drought emergency in May as the snowpack in the mountains fell to historic lows.

Seattle-Tacoma International Airport received just 0.23 inches (0.58 cm) of rain for June, down from the normal 1.57 inches (3.98 cm). To be sure, drought conditions are affecting cities down the US West Coast, which is embroiled in a particularly fierce wildfire season that has prompted water-use and burn restrictions.

Seattle’s public utility downgraded the water supply outlook from “good” to “fair” on Wednesday amid higher-than-usual water consumption and record-low stream flows into reservoirs, urging residents to limit plant-watering.

Reuters

Officials test for possible toxic algae in Oregon river

PORTLAND, (Ore), 10 July — Tests are underway to determine if a green film shimmering on the surface of Portland’s Willamette River may mark the return of toxic blue-green algae that could be dangerous to both people and animals, officials in Oregon said on Thursday.

The concerns come as dozens of people from across the country have signed up to participate in the 10.7 mile Portland Bridge Swim at the weekend, said Travis Williams, executive director of Willamette Riverkeeper, a non-profit that reported algae concerns to public health

officials.

“From a preliminary look conducted in Portland, it looked like microcystis, the toxic blue-green algae, but that’s totally unofficial,” Williams said.

Oregon Health Authority officials said on Thursday they were unable to provide information about when official test results might be available.

Until last year, when riverside homeless camps were cautioned to avoid the water and a rowing regatta was canceled, state public health authorities had not previously spotted toxic algae in Portland’s Willamette River, which bisects the city

and is a hub of recreation and industry.

Toxic algae blooms have been a growing problem in the US Pacific Northwest during the past several years, a trend scientists attribute to warming waters.

But typically, microcystis is found in still water, like lakes and ponds, not fast-flowing rivers. And last year’s algae blooms were not detected until September, after snow from nearby mountains had fully melted, river levels had dropped and water had begun to warm.

“This is indicative of unusual conditions this year, especially this early in the year,” Williams said. “We

have low water flows, which makes the lower Willamette very lake-like. The water temperatures are high, and nutrient levels could feed algae.”

Swallowing or inhaling water contaminated by the toxic algae can cause numbness, digestive distress or fainting, and skin contact can cause a rash. Filtering the water will not make it safe, and fish or shellfish from the river could be dangerous to eat, according to the Oregon Health Authority. Dogs are particularly vulnerable, and can die within an hour of contact, according to the agency.

Reuters

MRTV Entertainment Channel

(11-7-2015, Saturday)

- | | |
|-------------------|---------------------|
| 6:00 am | 9:30 am |
| • Classical Songs | • Pyi Thu Ni Ti |
| 6:10 am | 9:50 am |
| • Myanmar Video | • Musical Programme |
| 7:30 am | 10:00 am |
| • Cassette Drama | • Myanmar Video |
| 8:30 am | 12:00 am |
| • Dramatic Arts | • Close Down |

Mexico rout Cuba, Trinidad beat Guatemala in Gold Cup

CHICAGO, 10 July — Striker Oribe Peralta scored a hat-trick as Mexico ended a seven-match winless streak with a 6-0 rout of Cuba in the CONCACAF Gold Cup on Thursday.

Trinidad and Tobago also won easily in the other Group C match, dispatching Guatemala 3-1. Six-times Gold Cup winners Mexico dominated from the start, scoring four goals in the first half at a packed Soldier Field.

It was difficult to tell whether the result was proof of a Mexican resurgence, however, given that six members of the Cuban squad were unable to obtain visas to enter the United States, while another reportedly defected once the team arrived in Chicago. The Cuban coach also could not get a visa. Mexico wasted little time in putting Cuba to the sword, going 4-0 up in the first half with goals from Peralta (2), Carlos Vela and Andrés Guardado.

Peralta completed his

hat-trick with a scrappy goal in the 61st minute, before Giovanni Dos Santos capped the rout.

Mexico are likely to get a sterner test on 15 July when they meet Trinidad, who scored three goals inside the first 25 minutes against Guatemala. Sheldon Bateau scored from a corner in the 11th minute before Cordell Cato doubled the lead three minutes later following horrendous defending by Guatemala. Joevin Jones made it 3-0 shortly afterwards, before Carlos Ruiz pulled one back for Guatemala in the second half. “From the start, we had to press high, press hard, stop Guatemala from getting into their rhythm and basically we compounded on their mistakes and got three goals pretty early,” said Trinidad striker Kenwyne Jones.

The Gold Cup, played every two years, is the regional championship for North and Central American and the Caribbean.—Reuters

Tiger too old to regain invincibility — Cowen



Tiger Woods reacts on the 2nd green in the second round of the 2015 US Open golf tournament at Chambers Bay.

REUTERS

GULLANE, (Scotland), 10 July — Tiger Woods is too old to ever regain the invincibility he once enjoyed but everybody in golf should be grateful for the contribution the 14-times major champion has made to the game, highly-regarded coach Peter Cowen has told Reuters. Woods, who will be 40 in December, has been struggling for form heading into next week's British Open at St Andrews, where he won the Claret Jug by eight shots in 2000 and only a slightly less commanding five strokes in 2005.

Those days of dominance are now long gone, however, and Cowen, who has tutored some of Europe's best golfers including Henrik Stenson and Lee Westwood, thinks it is too late for the American to ever get them back.

"If there is one important thing that makes any sportsperson look ordinary and that is age," Cowen told Reuters at the Scottish Open. "You can't do anything about a person's age. That invincibility diminishes with age and it has to. But then once you lose that invincibility how do you get it back? "In all my years of coaching, I have not seen one player get back that invincibility." Cowen said that the younger players no longer feared Woods and that the generational shift in golf is taking place more quickly than it did when the turnover at the top of the game happened every two decades or so.—Reuters

MFF gives Avramović new contract as national head coach

YANGON, 10 July — The Myanmar Football Federation on Friday extended Radojko Avramović's tenure as national team head coach, agreeing to a new 17-month contract.

An existing contract between the MFF and the Serbian coach will expire at the end of the month.

In addition to leading the senior national team,

Avramović will provide technical assistance to the Myanmar U-22 and U-23 teams.

Head coach U Kyi Lwin, who led Myanmar's U-23 team to a silver medal at this year's 28th SEA Games, will join the national team as an assistant coach. U-20 goalkeeping coach U Aung Kyaw Kyaw will also move to the senior national team.—MFF



Serena dishes out inevitable defeat to Sharapova



Spain's Garbine Muguruza returns a ball to Poland's Agnieszka Radwanska during their women's semi-final match on day ten of the 2015 Wimbledon Championships at The All England Tennis Club in Wimbledon, southwest London, on 9 July, 2015. Muguruza won 2-1.—XINHUA

LONDON, 10 July — When all Serena Williams had to do was stand and watch poker-faced while Maria Sharapova banged down two double faults in a row to surrender the first game of their Wimbledon semi-final a sense of inevitability descended over Centre Court. So what if the duo went on to contest another 17 games, or that Sharapova burst some eardrums with her ear-splitting shrieks — the result was never in doubt as Williams brokered a 17th successive win over the clueless Russian to set up a final with fresh-faced

Spaniard Garbine Muguruza.

So commanding was Williams's performance that not a single strand of her cascading black hair, spilling out of a high ponytail, looked out of place as the top seed twirled around in triumph following the brisk 6-2, 6-4 workout.

The result propelled her into a 25th grand slam final but more importantly for the American, she now stands one win away from completing what she calls a "Serena Slam" by winning all four majors currently.



Serena Williams of the USA shakes hands with Maria Sharapova of Russia after winning their match at the Wimbledon Tennis Championships in London, on 9 July, 2015. —REUTERS

If Williams pulls off the feat for the second time in her career, no one can accuse her of taking the easy route to glory as Sharapova became the third former world number one, after sister Venus and Victoria Azarenka, she has beaten this week. "Whenever I have to play Maria, I know I have to be focussed because she wasn't the best in the world for no reason," said the 33-year-old, who will be gunning for her 21st grand slam title on Saturday.

While seeing Williams on the world's most famous tennis stages come finals day has become a familiar sight in the past 15 years, standing on the opposite side of the net will be a little-known Venezuelan-born Spaniard who once hated playing on grass. The 20th-seeded Muguruza

became the first Spanish woman in 19 years to reach the title showdown after Agnieszka Radwanska discovered the perils of on-court coaching that led to a botched Hawk-Eye challenge in the last game of her 6-2, 3-6, 6-3 defeat. With the Spaniard serving for the match at 5-3, 40-40 up in the third, Radwanska stopped the next point mid-rally after hearing cries of "out, out" from people in her players' box who were convinced Muguruza's backhand landed behind the baseline.

Radwanska hit the ball back over the net before calling out to the umpire for a late Hawk-Eye challenge as the Spaniard hit her next shot out, leaving Muguruza and the Centre Court crowd bewildered and wondering what was going on.

When Hawk-Eye showed its verdict there

was no mistaking that the gamble had backfired — the ball had clipped the threadbare baseline, glared at her box, Muguruza punched the air in relief and seconds later she was flat on her face celebrating victory.

"I did it because I'm the one to decide if I challenge or not. Nobody can do that for me," Poland's 2012 Wimbledon runner-up said. "It was 50/50 call. I decided to challenge. It wasn't a really good decision."

Muguruza was mightily relieved the decision had gone her way. "I heard some people were saying 'out, out' but I was just praying the ball was on the line," 21-year-old Muguruza said as she looked forward to renewing hostilities with Williams having beaten the American in the French Open second round last year. No amount of praying or divine intervention could save Sharapova on Thursday. On the eve of her 20th meeting with her American nemesis, the 2004 champion had declared she "would love to check out the trophy again to make sure my name is still there." Williams shattered that dream in 79 brutal minutes and Sharapova once again had to settle for a consolation handshake from an opponent she has not defeated in 11 years.

So what does the Russian have to do to beat a woman who is on the verge of hoisting the Rosewater Dish for a sixth time? "A lot more than I'm doing," snapped Sharapova, who did not even get within touching distance of earning a break point.—Reuters