

Vice president delivers aid to flood victims in Rakhine State

(News on page 3)

Gov't, ethnic armed groups set to resume negotiations toward ceasefire accord

By Ye Myint

YANGON, 16 July — Negotiators representing the Union government and ethnic armed groups will meet in Yangon on 22 July, aiming to strike a deal on the official signing of the national ceasefire accord, a senior adviser at the Myanmar Peace Centre said Thursday.

The planned talks in Yangon will involve the government's Union Peace-Making Work Committee and a senior delegation from the ethnic armed groups, said U Hla Maung Shwe, who held talks the previous day with ethnic delegates led by Naw Zip-porah Sein in Chiang Mai, Thailand.

"In meeting with the (ethnic armed organizations') senior delegates, a working team of the Myanmar Peace Centre informed them of Union Minister U Aung Min's call for finalizing the NCA at a stroke in Yangon," the senior ad-



Dr La Ja, deputy leader of a senior delegation representing ethnic armed organizations, speaks at a meeting with the Myanmar Peace Centre's working team in Chiang Mai on Wednesday.

PHOTO: NYO OHN MYINT

viser added.

"The (ethnic) senior delegation replied that they would try their best."

According to sources, the meeting next week will run for two days, focusing on finalizing the deal and

addressing the ethnic side's demand that the signing process be inclusive of all armed groups, including those currently not officially engaged in the negotiations. The talks will also discuss who should be the

NCA signatories, as well as international witnesses.

At the 2-3 July meeting in Chiang Mai between government negotiators led by Union Minister U Aung Min and the senior EAO delegation, the

government side proposed holding further talks to determine NCA signatories, while signing the ceasefire deal with 15 ethnic armed groups first.

U Hla Maung Shwe confirmed there will be

negotiations on a set of amendments to the NCA draft by the ethnic side at the Yangon talks, including a point about the signing process involving all ethnic armed groups.

Both sides have principally agreed to further talks in order to finalize and sign the NCA as soon as possible.

The planned Yangon meeting appears to be the first formal talks between the UPWC and a new 15-member senior negotiating team appointed by the ethnic groups at the Law Khee Lar summit in early June.

The NCA draft approved in Yangon in late March has yet to be signed due to its unexpected rejection by the ethnic side at the summit. The armed groups vowed not to sign the accord until further amendments were made, before appointing a new team for further talks with the government.

GNLM

INSIDE

Former Guardian newspaper building set to become writers' haven

PAGE-3

Religious, political figures share thoughts on Martyrs' Day

PAGE-8

Ownership of policy can ensure success

PAGE-8

UN official welcomes child soldier progress, says more must be done

By Aye Min Soe

YANGON, 16 July — A senior United Nations official on Thursday welcomed progress made by the Tatmadaw to stop its recruitment of child soldiers, but said stronger measures were needed to completely stamp out the practice.

Ms Leila Zerrougui, the Special Representative of the Secretary-General for Children and Armed Conflict, said it was "very positive" that the 2012 Joint Action Plan to end the Myanmar army's recruitment and use of children was making an impact.

However, the special representative at a press conference in Yangon said

there remained "gaps" in the implementation of the plan.

"For example, even two or three (child soldier) cases are gaps and we need to close the gaps," Ms Zerrougui said.

The special representative said robust age assessment must be applied within the centralized military recruitment process.

"A professional army does not need children," she said.

The army must also make measures to prevent violations against children a standard part of its curriculum and take action against military personnel or civilian brokers involved in underage recruitment.

Ms Zerrougui also



expressed concern about the detention of children alleged to have "deserted" the army.

(See page 2)

A young boy walks past a billboard promoting a "No Child Soldiers" campaign in Yangon.—PHOTO AYE MIN SOE

Pyidaungsu Hluttaw approves 3 amendment bills

NAY PYI TAW, 16 July — The Pyidaungsu Hluttaw on Thursday approved the third amendment bill of the Union Judiciary Law, the third amendment bill of the Constitutional Tribunal Law of the Union and the amendment bill of the Union Civil Services Board Law.

The parliament also approved the reformation of the Pyidaungsu Hluttaw's Joint Bill Committee.

Union Minister for Finance U Win Shein read out the second half-year Union Budgets Report 2014/2015

submitted by the central government.

The budget estimate for the second half of the financial year amounts to 96.91 percent of total earnings, with 97.91 percent as the total budget estimate of the whole financial year.

The union minister added that the statistics mentioned in the second half-year financial report are based on approximate budget allocations collected at the close of the fiscal year.

True figures will be announced soon after the

auditor's approval, he said.

According to Daw Sanda Min of the Zabuthiri constituency, the income-expense scrutiny from fiscal 2013-2014 to the first half-year of 2014-2015 revealed a loss of K22.699 billion, with the Ministry of Livestock, Fisheries and Rural Development alone still owing 31.793 billion to the Union.

She also urged the Ministry of Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement to explain to parliament how they spent their budget allotments.—MNA



MPs of Pyidaungsu Hluttaw discuss budget affairs.—MNA

Pyithu Hluttaw



Deputy Minister for Home Affairs Brig-Gen Kyaw Kyaw Tun.—MNA



Deputy Minister for Finance Dr Maung Maung Thein.—MNA

NAY PYI TAW, 16 July — Citizenship scrutiny cards have been issued to 6.4 million citizens, Deputy Minister for Immigration and Population U Win Myint told the Thursday's session of Pyithu Hluttaw.

In his response to the query on plan to easily de-

liver citizenship scrutiny cards to citizens who were born of two citizen parents without delay raised by U Soe Win of Kyauktada Constituency, the deputy minister said that as citizenship is an important role in the security of the nation, allowing citizenship to a

disqualified person would be harmful to the nation in the long run. According to the law, it will take a certain length of the time for foreign mixed races to get through the citizenship process.

U Than Myint of Salinyi Constituency asked

about plan to take deterrent action against drug traffickers and crime brokers to prevent abuse of narcotic drugs among the youths. Deputy Minister for Home Affairs Brig-Gen Kyaw Kyaw Tun said that Yinmar Plan was implemented as anti-drug campaign with various work

groups including Central Committee for Drug Abuse Control. Action is taken against the drug traffickers and those related to the narcotic drug cases, and drugs and related equipment were confiscated. Deputy Minister for Finance Dr Maung Maung Thein submitted the

bill amendment of foreign exchange management law. Pyithu Hluttaw Bill Committee member U Thein Tun Oo read out the report. The Hluttaw invited MP to discuss the bill. The Hluttaw approved the bills amending the insurance law and saving bank law.—MNA

UN official welcomes child soldier ...

(from page 1)

"These children should never been recruited in the first place," she said, "Detain the recruiters, not the children."

She also noted that since 2012, 646 former child soldiers had been released by the Tatmadaw,

expressing her hope that the UN and the government would finalize the Joint Action Plan soon.

During her five-day visit, Ms Zerrougui visited Nay Pyi Taw, Yangon, Mandalay and Myitkyina and held talks with key ministers. She also

met representatives from the Kachin Independence Army for the first time.

Ms Zerrougui had also made plans to meet with representatives of other ethnic armed groups including the Karen National Liberation Army and the Karenni National Progressive Party on the final day of her visit.

The special representative said the UN is engaging with the armed groups to gain more information about areas that are not easily accessible.

She also highlighted the importance of including child protection in the ongoing peace process between the government and ethnic armed groups.



"I call upon all parties to the conflict in Myanmar to immediately stop the recruitment and use of children under 18. By doing so, they will demonstrate their true commitment to peace."
Ms. Leila Zerrougui, Special Representative of the Secretary-General for Children and Armed Conflict.

PHOTO AYE MIN SOE

Excess relief goods sold at stalls in Rakhine: sources

SITTWAY, 16 July — Excess relief supplies provided to refugee camps in Rakhine State are being sold at roadside stalls, sources have reported.

International organizations, UN agencies and the Rakhine State Government have been supplying

Bengali refugee camps in Sittway Township with food, kitchenware, clothes, plastic sheets and items for women and children on a monthly basis.

The sources disputed reports of goods shortages by the media and the Organisation of Islamic Coopera-

tion, saying relief supplies were abundant in the camps.

Such relief items were being sold at roadside shops in the Bengali village of Darpaing, with many people flocking to buy the goods, which were selling at lower prices than in shops, they said.

Due to difficulty counting the refugees in Sittway Township, international organizations have been providing assistance based on numbers submitted by camp committees, leading to the oversupply of relief goods, the sources said.

MNA

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Relief items for Bengali camps are being sold at roadside shops in Darpaing (Bengali) Village in Sittway Township.—MNA

Vice president delivers aid to flood victims in Rakhine State



Vice President Dr Sai Mauk Kham views the site for drain to be dredged for proper flow of water in Thandwe Creek, Rakhine State.—IPRD

NAY PYI TAW, 16 July — Vice President Dr Sai Mauk Kham on Thursday inspected townships flooded by heavy rains in Rakhine State and presented relief assistance to local people.

The vice president,

who chairs the Central Committee for Reconstruction of Damage and Losses due to Floods in Rakhine State, inspected a road damaged by Taungup Creek in Taungup and presented relief assistance to victims at the town hall.

Efforts are being made to reconstruct buildings and infrastructure destroyed by the floods with the special reserved funds of the president, the vice president told them.

Chief Minister of Rakhine State U Maung

Maung Ohn then explained reconstruction tasks being undertaken.

The vice president and officials later presented food, clothes, mosquito nets, blankets and solar lamps for flood victims in villages.

In the afternoon, the vice president and party visited the district people's hospital in Thandwe and

inspected the wards, theatres, X-ray room and dental clinic.

The vice president and party later met with members of the Rakhine State government, Hluttaw representatives, officials, town elders and local people at the town hall.

At the meeting, the vice president sought advice from local people on

roads, bridges, schools and hospitals.

He then presented relief assistance for victims including solar lamps.

Later, the vice president and party proceeded to Dwayawadi Creek Bridge in Thandwe and inspected the site for a new canal to prevent flooding in Thandwe Creek.

MNA

Former Guardian newspaper building set to become writers' haven



Union Minister for Information U Ye Htut meets writers U Pe Myint, Ledwinthar Saw Chit (U Tin Hlaing) and party.—MNA

NAY PYI TAW, 16 July—The Ministry of Information and the Sarpay Yeikmyon Foundation met Thursday to discuss using the former Guardian newspaper building in Yangon as a creative space to promote Myanmar's literary scene.

The meeting at the ministry was attended by Union Minister U Ye Htut,

Permanent Secretary U Tint Swe and officials, together with writers U Pe Myint, Ledwinthar Saw Chit (U Tin Hlaing) and party.

They discussed drafting rules for usage and rental terms for the two-storey gazette branch building on Merchant Street, formerly the headquarters of the now-defunct domestic

newspaper.

The literary foundation plans to cooperate with international organizations to host readings, workshops, talks, exhibitions and contests to promote Myanmar literature. It plans to create offices for writers and literary groups, open book stalls and a café.

MNA

Dy Minister for Environmental Conservation and Forestry meets director of Wuntho Resources Co

NAY PYI TAW, 16 July—Deputy Minister for Environmental Conservation and Forestry Dr Thet Thet Zin received Director of Wuntho Resources Company Limited Mr

Richard Taylor and party at the ministry, here, Thursday.

They discussed survey to be conducted for various minerals, drawing of environmental manage-

ment plan for minimizing impacts on the standards inside and outside forest areas and environment and social impacts and carrying out the tasks meeting international norms.—MNA

Appointment of ambassador agreed on

NAY PYI TAW, 16 July—The Government of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar has agreed to the appointment of H.E Maxwell Ranga as Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the Republic of Zimbabwe to the Republic of the Union of Myanmar with residence in New Delhi.

Mr Maxwell Ranga was born in 1961. He received Diploma in Human Resources Studies in

1996, and MSc. Degree in Human Resources Management in 1998 from the University of Manchester, United Kingdom. From 2001 to 2004, he served as Under Secretary of Human Resources at the Ministry of Justice, Legal and Parliamentary Affairs. Then, he was appointed as Director of Human Resources from 2004 to 2011. He also served as Acting Permanent Secretary at the Ministry of Justice and Le-

gal Affairs from 2012 to July 2014. Since August 2014, he has been serving as Ambassador of the Republic of Zimbabwe to India. He is married with three sons.

Mr Maxwell Ranga will serve as Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the Republic of Zimbabwe to the Republic of the Union of Myanmar with residence in New Delhi.

MNA

Appointment of ambassador agreed on

NAY PYI TAW, 15 July—The Government of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar has agreed to the appointment of H.E Mr Berrah Mohamed as Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the People's Democratic Republic of Algeria to the Republic of the Union of Myanmar with residence in Hanoi, Vietnam.

Mr Berrah Mohamed was born on 16 October 1956. He received Law Degree in 1980, Post-graduation (Law) in 1982 and started the preparation

for Ph.D on the concept of international cooperation from 1982-1987. He was a Third Secretary in the MOFA in 1987. He then served as Second Secretary in charge of Bretton Woods Institutions in 1989. He had been temporarily posted to the Permanent Mission of People's Democratic Republic of Algeria to the United Nations in New York and represented Algeria in the Fifth Committee in 1990. From 1992 to 1996, he was a Counselor in the Algerian Embassy in Brussels. From 2001 to

2005, he also served as Minister Counselor in Algerian Permanent Mission in Geneva and in Algerian Embassy in Paris. Then he had been appointed as an Ambassador of Algeria to Uzbekistan, Tajikistan and Kirghizia. He is married with three children.

Mr Berrah Mohamed will serve as Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the People's Democratic Republic of Algeria to the Republic of the Union of Myanmar with residence in Hanoi, Vietnam.—MNA

Japan ruling camp rams security bills through lower house



Photo shows the plenary session of the House of Representatives convened in Tokyo on 16 July, 2015. The lower house is set to pass security bills on the day that would expand the role of the Self-Defence Forces abroad amid strong objections by opposition parties and rising concerns among the public.—KYODO NEWS

TOKYO, 16 July — Japan's ruling coalition pushed controversial security bills through the House of Representatives on Thursday, moving a step closer to achieving Prime Minister Shinzo Abe's goal of expanding the role of the Self-

fence Forces abroad for a firmer alliance with the United States.

Despite strong objections by opposition parties and rising concerns among the public, Abe's Liberal Democratic Party and its coalition partner, the Komeito party, railroaded

the bills through a lower house plenary session. The Democratic Party of Japan, the Japan Innovation Party and the Japanese Communist Party boycotted the vote in protest.

With their passage at the session, a day after a similar "forced passage" at

a lower house committee, the government-sponsored bills will be sent to the House of Councillors for further deliberations.

"The government would like to continue thorough explanations so as to win broader understanding from the people," Chief Cabinet Secretary Yoshihide Suga said, referring to deliberations in the upper chamber after a total of 116 hours of deliberations at the lower house panel on security legislation. "The government bears responsibility to ensure people's lives and peaceful living in an increasingly severe security situation surrounding our country, especially North Korea's nuclear and missile development," the top government spokesman told reporters, stressing the need to enact the bills.

The proposed legislation would allow Japan to defend the United States and other friendly nations under armed attack to cope with new security environments including a rising

China and a nuclear-armed North Korea.

It would also enable Tokyo to increase its contribution to international peacekeeping efforts.

Opposition lawmakers and constitutional scholars argue Japan's exercising the right to collective self-defence would violate the war-renouncing Constitution.

Abe dismisses such claims and defends a landmark Cabinet decision in July last year that reinterprets the Constitution to allow Japan to exercise the right to collective self-defence.

The prime minister has expressed determination to enact the bills by the 27 September end of the current extended Diet session. In an address to a joint session of the US Congress in late April, he promised to enact the bills "by this coming summer" as part of efforts to "provide a seamless response for all levels of crisis."

The LDP-Komeito coalition controls more than

two-thirds of the lower house and holds a majority in the upper house. Under Diet rules, even if the upper chamber fails to vote on the bills, a second vote in the lower chamber can pass them into law with a two-thirds majority.

But railroading the bills through parliament risks a further fall in public support for the government because opinion polls show a majority of the public opposes the bills and believes Abe has not explained them sufficiently. On Wednesday, Abe acknowledged such public sentiment. "It is true that the public has yet to gain sufficient understanding (of the bills). (We) would like to increase efforts so as to promote their understanding."

Rallies have been held across Japan in protest to the forced passage of the bills. A demonstration near the Diet building in Tokyo on Wednesday drew about 100,000 people, according to organizers.

Kyodo News

Hundreds protest around Diet as security bills passed by lower house



People stage a rally in front of the Diet building in Tokyo on 16 July, 2015, to show opposition to government-sponsored security bills that would expand the role of the Self-Defence Forces abroad. The House of Representatives is set to pass them the same day. KYODO NEWS

TOKYO, 16 July — Hundreds of people continued to rally around the Diet building in central Tokyo on Thursday, protesting against controversial security bills that were pushed through the lower house by Japan's ruling coalition.

Many of the participants carried placards with slogans such as "No to Abe's politics!" "Prevent war!" and "Don't destroy Article 9," referring to the section of the Constitution that renounces war. A 29-year-old woman teacher living in Tokyo who is on child-care leave said, "I don't want (Japan) to walk the path toward war, for the

sake of my child" who is less than one year old.

"I tried to spread news related to the security bills among my friends through Facebook postings, but found it difficult. So, I came here yesterday and today to convey my feelings (against the bills) by actually taking part in the rally," she said.

The protest followed a similar demonstration on Wednesday after the bills were forced through a House of Representatives panel.

In occasional rain, the protesters intensified their chants after the bills passed the lower house around 2:10 pm. "It is regrettable and,

at the same time, irritating to think Japan is turning in a strange direction," said Shinichi Kimura, a former member of the Odawara city assembly in Kanagawa Prefecture, southwest of Tokyo.

"I couldn't help but come here after I closely watched the deliberations (on the bills) yesterday on television, hoping my participation can be of help," said Kimura, 66, who does not belong to any political party.

"We still have some time before the end of the current extended Diet session in September. The Japanese people have to raise their voices in a protest that is strong enough to expel (Prime Minister Shinzo) Abe," Kimura said. The bills would allow Japan to exercise the right to collective self-defence, or coming to the aid of the United States and other friendly nations under armed attack even if Japan itself is not attacked.

If enacted, the legislation would mark a major shift in Japan's post-World War II exclusively defence-oriented security policy, paving the way for Japanese troops to be sent to fight abroad for the first time since the end of World War II.

Kyodo News



People stand near a broken bridge at Krueng Sabe, Aceh, Indonesia, on 16 July, 2015. A bridge was cut off due to flood when Muslim people moved to their hometowns to celebrate Eid al-Fitr in Aceh.—XINHUA

Four killed in NPA, Philippine military encounters

MANILA, 16 July — Three New People's Army (NPA) rebels and a government soldier were killed and two other soldiers were wounded in separate incidents in central Philippine provinces of Sorsogon and Masbate on Thursday morning, said military officials.

Angelo Guzman, spokesman of the Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP)' Southern Luzon Command, said the three rebels died following a

firefight with the Army's 31st Infantry Battalion in barangay Bacolod in Irosin town in Sorsogon.

Guzman said the soldiers were conducting house-to-house dialogue in the barangay when they were fired upon by NPA rebels at about 11:30 am.

The 15-minute firefight also resulted in the wounding of two soldiers.

At around 9 am, three NPA rebels gunned down a soldier in barangay Bagacay in San Jacinto town in

Ticao Island in Masbate.

"He was on his way to send money to his family when he was shot by the three NPA SPARUs (Special Partisan Unit members). They (rebels) withdrew using motorized banca after the attack," said Guzman.

The 4,000-strong NPA, armed wing of the Communist Party of the Philippines, has been fighting a leftist insurgency in 60 Philippine provinces since 1969.—Xinhua

Obama — Iran deal is only alternative to more Mideast war

WASHINGTON, 16 July — President Barack Obama, seeking to sell the Iran nuclear deal to sceptical US lawmakers and nervous allies, insisted on Wednesday the landmark agreement was the only alternative to a nuclear arms race and more war in the Middle East.

Obama made his case in a nationally televised news conference responding to critics at home and abroad after Iran and six world powers sealed an accord in Vienna on Tuesday to restrict Teheran's nuclear programme in exchange for sanctions relief.

"Without a deal," Obama said, "there would be no limits to Iran's nuclear programme and Iran could move closer to a nuclear bomb ... Without a deal, we risk even more war in the Middle East."

Obama, who must still overcome a congressional hurdle to enact the accord, said that if the United States does not seize the opportunity, "future generations will judge us harshly."

The agreement is a triumph for Obama, who has made outreach to America's

enemies a hallmark of his presidency, but it is also seen as his biggest foreign policy gamble since taking office in 2009.

In his first public comment, Iran's Supreme Leader, Ayatollah Ali Khamenei, said the deal should be scrutinized and legal procedures taken so the other side does not breach it.

In a letter to Iranian President Hassan Rouhani, Khamenei — whose ultimate backing was critical to securing the agreement — said some of the powers involved in the negotiations "are not trustworthy."

Obama is now spearheading an intense White House push to counter Republican critics in Congress and reassure jittery allies such as Israel and Saudi Arabia.

He sent Vice President Joe Biden to Capitol Hill on Wednesday to corral fellow Democrats who might be wavering. Defence Secretary Ash Carter will travel next week to Israel and Saudi Arabia.

Critics say the deal contains loopholes, especially in inspection procedures that



US President Barack Obama arrives at a news conference to discuss the recent nuclear deal with Iran at the White House in Washington on 15 July, 2015—REUTERS

Iran could exploit, and will provide Teheran with an infusion of unfrozen assets to fund its proxies in sectarian conflicts from Syria to Iraq to Yemen.

At Wednesday's news conference, Obama spoke in a lawyerly tone, at times mocking opponents of the deal, including Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu, for offering no viable alternative. He dismissed critics' objections one by one and even solicited others from journalists.

Obama contended the deal was sound and that a "snap-back" mechanism in it to restore sanctions if Iran cheated would ensure Teheran faced real consequences.

But he acknowledged that although he hopes the deal will encourage Iran to rein in its aggressive conduct in the region, he was not betting on a change.

Obama said without a deal other countries in the Middle East would feel compelled to pursue their own nuclear arms programmes.

"There really are only two alternatives here," he said, citing diplomacy or war, an appeal to war-weary Americans to back a negotiated settlement with Iran.

Under the agreement, sanctions imposed by the United States, the European Union and the United Nations will be lifted in return for Iran agreeing long-term curbs on a nuclear programme that the West has suspected was aimed at creating a nuclear bomb. Iran says the programme is peaceful. Obama has run into a storm of accusations from Republican lawmakers and Israel that he gave away

too much to Teheran.

Obama has vowed to veto any effort to block the deal and although he faces a tough challenge in the Republican-controlled Congress, he is expected to prevail.

He said he does not anticipate Republicans in Congress will rally around the pact but said that if lawmakers vote based on the facts, the majority should approve it.

The agreement, the biggest step toward rapprochement between Iran and the West since the 1979 Islamic Revolution, is a legacy-defining achievement for Obama as well as his best hope for salvaging an otherwise shaky Middle East record.

Netanyahu cried foul, however, convinced the deal will do little to curb Teheran's nuclear ambitions and leave Israel under greater threat.

His nuclear affairs minister said Israel was like the boy in the fairy tale who pointed out the emperor had no clothes, and emphasized Israel's right to unilateral self-defence.

"Israel is like the little

child that is pointing its finger and saying, 'the king is naked,' this agreement is naked'," said Yuval Steinitz.

Obama said Israel, widely assumed to be the Middle East's only nuclear-armed state, had legitimate security concerns but insisted that danger would be compounded if Iran acquired a nuclear weapon.

Obama's national security adviser, Susan Rice, told *Reuters* Washington would look at ways to deepen its security cooperation with Israel.

"We will ... be looking forward, if the Israelis are interested and willing — they haven't said so yet — to discuss with them how we might further deepen and strengthen our security and intelligence cooperation," she said.

Congress will have 60 days to review the agreement. Republicans would need the support of dozens of Democrats to sustain a "resolution of disapproval" that could cripple a deal. But the odds are slim that they could muster enough support to overrule an Obama veto.—*Reuters*

S Korea, DPRK meet in Kaesong to discuss wage issue

SEOUL, 16 July — Delegates of South Korea and the Democratic People's Republic of Korea (DPRK) met on Thursday in the DPRK's border town of Kaesong to discuss issues, including a wage hike for DPRK workers hired at the namesake factory park.

Five South Korean delegates crossed the inter-Korean land border to the Kaesong industrial zone, kicking off the first talks with DPRK counterparts in more than a year, according to Seoul's Unification Ministry. The talks began at about 10 am (0100 GMT).

After a five-month hiatus in operation of the factory park, Seoul and Pyongyang agreed in August 2013 to launch the joint management committee for the Kaesong industrial complex and hold the committee meeting regularly.

The meeting was suspended amid rising tensions on the Korean Peninsula since the last meeting was held in June 2014.

During the meeting, the two sides are expected to discuss the wage hike issue. Seoul and Pyongyang

have been in deadlock on the wage hike for DPRK workers in Kaesong.

The row came after the DPRK revised labour regulations in November 2014 without consulting with South Korea and unilaterally notified the South side of its decision in late February.

Under the revision, the DPRK raised minimum wages for workers in Kaesong from 70.35 US dollars to 74 dollars, topping the growth ceiling of 5 percent agreed upon by an inter-Korean agreement.

South Korea has called for the wage hike to be discussed through an inter-governmental dialogue, but the DPRK has claimed that it was a matter of internal affairs in which the South side cannot intervene.

The Kaesong industrial zone has been seen as one of the key symbols of inter-Korean economic cooperation.

Some 120 South Korean companies employing about 53,000 DPRK workers are operating in the park.

Xinhua

Chinese, Thai enterprises call for information platform to facilitate cooperation

BANGKOK, 16 July — An information-providing platform is urgently needed for Chinese and Thai enterprises to understand each other's demand and supply so that they can cooperate in the most effective way, a Chinese entrepreneur told *Xinhua*.

There are great prospects ahead for Sino-Thai economic cooperation and Chinese enterprises investing in Thailand, but an existing information gap has prevented enterprises in both countries from fully learning the demands, resources and strengths of each other, said Xu Genluo, president of the Thai-Chinese Rayong Industrial Zone, which is located in east Thailand's Rayong Province.

Enterprises from both

sides wish to have a platform that provides dynamic and comprehensive information regarding economic statistics, policies and regulations, investment environment, market demand, and projects of China and Thailand, according to the head of the industrial zone, which now houses more than 60 Chinese enterprises.

The platform is expected to serve as an information bridge that can effectively partner Chinese and Thai enterprises precisely based on their respective demand and supply, he added.

For instance, Xu said, as a tropical state, Thailand is a major grower and exporter of rice, cassava, rubber and fruit, while China happens to be a major importer of these agricultural products.

Currently, the Thai government attaches great importance to using advanced technologies to process and preserve meat, fruit, vegetables and food crops, and produce fruit beverage.

Both the Thai government and enterprises want to learn more about China's market conditions in relation to the above-mentioned products, in hopes of expanding cooperation with Chinese enterprises and increasing their share of the Chinese market, Xu noted. (Meanwhile, as ASEAN's largest producer of automobiles, Thailand aims to further strengthen its automobile industry. However, Thai enterprises have not got the know-how to manufacture sedan engines, transmissions and electronic control units,

where Chinese enterprises enjoy advantages, Xu said.

But both sides need to have enough information to detect investment opportunities in such industries and make cooperation possible, he stressed. In addition, the Thai government is encouraging foreign investment in projects related to high and new technologies, human resources, public and infrastructure facilities, pollution prevention and environmental protection, according to Xu.

With advantages in many of these projects, Chinese enterprises wish to be better informed of Thailand's preferential policies, tax incentives, legal system, labour cost and other related issues before investing, he said.—*Xinhua*

Typhoon approaches Japan's Shikoku, may make landfall at night

TOKYO, 16 July — A strong typhoon moved northward toward the Japanese island of Shikoku on Thursday and is expected to make landfall in the area soon, possibly at night, the weather agency said, warning of heavy rainfall and strong winds for hours to come.

As Typhoon Nangka made its way toward the Japanese archipelago, fears of landslides prompted the government of Kochi Prefecture on Shikoku to advise the same day over 4,000 of its residents to evacuate their homes.

Traffic has already been disrupted, mostly in

western Japan, with some flights and railway services being cancelled or suspended. West Japan Railway's Okayama office said it will suspend all non-rapid rail services in its area starting at 9 pm.

All Nippon Airways and Japan Airlines have cancelled a total of 110

flights for Thursday, including those connecting Tokyo and Shikoku.

Peach Aviation, a budget carrier, has cancelled nine flights departing from Kansai airport on Thursday and 29 departing from and arriving at the Osaka Prefecture airport on Friday.—*Kyodo News*

Castro sees Cuba, US breaking with past, coexisting in peace

HAVANA, 16 July — Cuba is prepared to break with the contentious past and peacefully coexist with the United States, Cuban President Raul Castro said on Wednesday as the two former adversaries are set to restore diplomatic ties.

“We are talking about forging a new kind of relationship between both states, different from our entire common history,” Castro, 84, told the Cuban National Assembly, according to official media.

Cuba and the United States will re-establish diplomatic relations on Mon-

day after a 54-year break and reopen embassies in each other’s capitals.

The United States and Cuba began secret negotiations on restoring ties in mid-2013, leading to the historic announcement on 17 December, 2014, when Castro and US President Barack Obama said they had swapped prisoners and would seek to normalize relations.

The previous deep freeze in US-Cuba ties dated to 1 January, 1959, when rebels led by brothers Fidel and Raul Castro toppled the US-backed government

of Fulgencio Batista. The Castros halted the longtime US-friendly business climate in Cuba and drew ever closer to the Soviet Union.

That led to a troubled history including a failed US-organized invasion of Cuba by a force of exiles in 1961 and a thrust to the brink of nuclear war in 1962 over Soviet missiles stationed in Cuba.

With diplomatic ties restored, the two countries separated by 90 miles (145 km) of sea will now begin the more difficult and lengthy task of normalizing overall relations.



Cuba’s President Raul Castro

“The revolutionary government is willing to advance toward the normalization of relations,

convinced that both countries can cooperate and co-exist in a civilized, mutually beneficial way, while contributing to peace, security, stability and development,” Castro said.

Since taking over as president for his ailing brother in 2008, Raul Castro, the longtime defence minister, has proven less bellicose toward America than his brother, now 88 and retired.

Castro said completely normal relations with the United States would be impossible as long as Washington maintains its

economic embargo against the island.

“We hope that (Obama) continues to use his executive authority to dismantle this policy,” Castro said.

Obama, a Democrat, has eased parts of the US embargo but would need the Republican-controlled Congress to lift it completely.

Castro also said normalization would require the return to Cuban sovereignty of the US naval base at Cuba’s Guantanamo Bay, although American officials have said Guantanamo is not a topic of discussion in talks with Cuba.—Reuters

Greece licks wounds after bailout vote, ECB move expected



Greek Prime Minister Alexis Tsipras arrives for a parliamentary session in Athens, Greece on 16 July, 2015.—REUTERS

ATHENS, 16 July — Greece awoke with a political hangover on Thursday after parliament approved a stringent bailout programme, thanks to the votes of the pro-European opposition, amid the worst protest violence this year.

The vote, vital to unlocking emergency financing from European partners as early as Thursday, left Prime Minister Alexis Tsipras weakened by a revolt in his leftist Syriza party but clinging to power for now.

The European Central Bank’s governing council, meeting in Frankfurt, was expected to ease its funding squeeze on shuttered Greek banks, the first step towards

permitting them to reopen after nearly three weeks’ closure while cash rationing and other capital restrictions will remain in place.

European finance ministers were to hold a conference call on Thursday morning to agree on a plan for 7 billion euros in bridging funds to enable Greece to meet its immediate debt service needs and avoid defaulting on the ECB next Monday.

All 28 EU countries are expected to contribute, despite the reluctance of non-euro members such as Britain and the Czech Republic, after a compromise was found to use euro zone funds to guarantee their ring-

fenced contributions.

Tsipras won 229 out of the 300 parliamentary votes in favour of the agreement he struck on Monday with euro zone partners on austerity measures and liberal economic reforms tougher than those rejected by voters in a 5 July referendum.

Some of the key measures, including an increase in value added tax, take effect immediately, although it will only be extended to hotels in October, after the tourist season.

But 32 out of his radical left Syriza’s 149 lawmakers voted against the plan, six effectively abstained and one was absent, leaving the government without a majority of its own supporters.

“Tsipras continues wounded, until further notice,” the front page of left-leaning Efimerida Ton Syntakton said. “Governments fall when they lose the support of the people, he says.”

Among the dissenters were four members of the government, one of whom resigned, the speaker of parliament, and outspoken ex-finance minister Yanis Varoufakis, who compared the Brussels deal to the 1919 Versailles Treaty that imposed unpayable reparations on a defeated Germany after World War One.—Reuters

US law enforcement, Mexico agents met on Guzman escape: Mexico official

MEXICO CITY, 16 July — US law enforcement officials met with agents of the Mexican attorney general’s office this week to share information related to the escape from prison of drug kingpin Joaquin “El Chapo” Guzman and coordinate efforts to apprehend him, a Mexican government official said on Wednesday.

Representatives from the US Federal Bureau of Investigation and the Drug Enforcement Administration met Mexican law enforcement officials in Mexico City on Monday, the government official said, speaking on condition of anonymity.

Mexico has long sought to maintain its independence from the United States on matters of national security, but has taken fire from critics for not having previous-

ly extradited Guzman to the United States.

US prosecutors had said they would seek his extradition, and media reports earlier this year citing unnamed sources suggested that Washington had made a formal request for Guzman’s extradition. But no announcement of a formal request was ever made public and the Mexican attorney general’s office said it had no plans to hand him over because he would serve his time in Mexico. Other sensitive issues have also bubbled beneath the surface.

Mexico’s Interior Minister Miguel Angel Osorio Chong this week denied media reports Mexico had been tipped off by US authorities ahead of time that Guzman was planning an escape.

The neighbouring

countries would be “cooperating permanently” to try and catch Guzman again, the Mexican official said, and were discussing everything relevant to the operation.

The official also said he had no information on the suspected whereabouts of Guzman, who headed the powerful Sinaloa cartel before his capture in February 2014 in the northwestern city of Mazatlan.

The cartel has smuggled billions of dollars worth of drugs into the United States and has been blamed for thousands of deaths.

On Wednesday, Mexican marines, who led the operation to capture Guzman last year, raided a house in Mazatlan as part of the effort to track him down, a spokesman for the Sinaloa state attorney general’s office said.

The kingpin’s escape on Saturday night from a maximum security prison through a tunnel leading into his cell has massively undermined President Enrique Peña Nieto’s efforts to crack down on organized crime. Mexican security chiefs were aghast and the government said the breakout could only have taken place with the help of prison guards and officials, and fired the prison’s director. Guzman previously broke out of prison in 2001.

Reuters



A view of the opening of a tunnel, which is connected to a warehouse, inside drug lord Joaquin ‘El Chapo’ Guzman’s cell in the Altiplano Federal Penitentiary, where he escaped from, in Almoloya de Juarez, on the outskirts of Mexico City, on 15 July, 2015.—REUTERS

France says foils jihadist attack on military sites

PARIS, 16 July — Security forces prevented an attack on French military installations this week by arresting four people whose leader had links to jailed jihadists, Interior Minister Bernard Cazeneuve said on Wednesday. According to a source close to the situation, the attackers had planned to act in January 2016 and were targeting a senior military official in the south of France. The four were aged between 16 and 23 and arrested in different places around France, the minister said. One was ex-military, he added. The announcement came as France is on high alert after 17 people were killed in attacks in and around Paris in January. Last month, a suspected Islamist beheaded his boss and tried to blow up a US-owned industrial gas plant in the suburbs of Lyon.

French authorities have also confirmed that two fires that broke out at a petrochemical facility near Marseille on Tuesday were started deliberately. No motive has been established for the arson attacks, and Cazeneuve said no link had been made between the incidents. The arrests were made at dawn on Monday, the day before Bastille Day, France’s national public holiday. “At the (Bastille Day) ceremony, the President reminded us that every week we prevent... terrorist acts,” Cazeneuve said. “That was once again the case this week.” Cazeneuve said the leader of the group was also known to have wanted to go and fight in Syria. He said security forces had now identified 1,850 people normally resident in France who were known to be involved in jihadist networks. Of those, about 500 were currently fighting with Islamists in Syria and Iraq. France had issued 118 prevention orders stopping people from leaving the country.—Reuters

WORLD

Israeli air strike hits Gaza Strip after militant rocket launch

JERUSALEM, 16 July — Israeli aircraft struck militant targets in the Hamas-controlled Gaza Strip early on Thursday after a rocket from the coastal territory landed in southern Israel, the Israeli military said.

A passerby was lightly hurt in the Gaza Strip, according to residents. No damage or injuries were reported in Israel after warning sirens sounded and the rocket struck open ground near the city of Ashkelon before dawn, the army said.

Rocket launchings have become an almost weekly occurrence from the coastal strip recently but no militant group took immediate responsibility for the attack.

“The repeated rocket fire at Israel ... is a deliberate decision to target civilians. No person should live under the threat of terrorism,” Israeli military spokesman Lieutenant-Colonel Peter Lerner said in a statement.

A group that sympathises with al-Qaeda, who have defied Hamas, has been blamed for other recent strikes, none of which caused injuries or damage.

The Israel-Gaza border area had largely been quiet since last year's July-August war, when Palestinian militants launched thousands of rockets and mortar bombs into Israel and Israeli shelling and air strikes battered the enclave.

More than 2,100 Palestinians were killed, most of them civilians, while 67 soldiers and six civilians were killed on the Israeli side.—Reuters

Some 2,700 migrants rescued at sea near Libya — Italy coast guard



Migrants are disembarked from the Italian Coast Guard vessel Dattilo in the Sicilian harbour of Palermo, Italy on 11 July, 2015.—REUTERS

ROME, 16 July — Around 2,700 migrants were rescued from 13 boats near the coast of Libya on Wednesday, Italy's coastguard said. A German navy vessel and a search and rescue ship deployed by medical charity Medecins Sans Frontieres participated in the rescues along with the Italian navy and coastguard.

A spokeswoman for the Italian coastguard said the rescues had all been carried out in an area around 35 miles (55 km) from the coast of Libya.

An estimated 150,000 migrants have reached Europe by sea so far in 2015, most of them in

Greece and Italy, the International Organization for Migration said. More than 1,900 migrants have drowned in the Mediterranean, twice the toll during the same period last year, said spokesman Joel Millman.

The United Nations refugee agency said on Friday that Greece urgently needed help to cope with 1,000 migrants arriving each day.

The vast majority of the migrants fleeing war and poverty in Africa and the Middle East depart from Libya, where human traffickers have taken advantage of a breakdown in order to build up a lucrative business.—Reuters

72 killed in clashes, airstrikes against IS in Iraq

BAGHDAD, 16 July — Iraqi security forces backed by Iraqi and US-led coalition aircraft continued their clashes with the Islamic State (IS) militants on Wednesday in the provinces of Anbar and Salahudin leaving a total of 72 people killed, security sources said.

In Iraq's western province of Anbar, the security forces and allied paramilitary militias known as Hashd Shaabi, or popular mobilization, launched three attacks from the west and the south of the IS-held provincial capital city of Ramadi, some 110 km west of Baghdad, a provincial security source told *Xinhua* on condition of anonymity. The troops fought fierce clashes with the IS militants near Ramadi and battles ended after three hours when suicide bombers detonated four truck bombs in the troops' positions, the source said.

The huge blasts left at least eight security members and militiamen killed and 17 others wounded, the source added. On Tuesday, Ali Dawood, mayor of Khaldiyyah town, just east of Ramadi, told *Xinhua* that the troops were making

slow progress in the open lands toward Ramadi because of stubborn resistance from the IS militants and dozens of roadside bombs planted by the extremist militants. Separately, at least eight Hashd Shaabi militiamen and two policemen were killed in the morning when a suicide bomber rammed his explosive-laden vehicle into a security checkpoint in Nekheib area, some 400 km south of Ramadi, the provincial security source said.

Meanwhile, international warplanes bombarded IS positions near the town of Khaldiyyah, some 80 km west of Baghdad, leaving at least 15 militants killed, the source said. Five IS militants were killed and five others wounded in an air strike by an army helicopter gunship on four neighbourhoods in the militant-seized city of Fallujah, some 50 km west of Baghdad, the source said, adding that four civilians were also killed by the attack and eight others wounded.

In addition, six people were killed and nine wounded when unknown warplane bombarded the town of Qaim, near the Iraqi-Syr-

ian border, the source added.

On Monday, the Iraqi authorities announced the start of a major offensive against IS militants to free key cities and towns in Iraq's largest province of Anbar Province from IS militants.

Earlier in the day, Iraqi security forces repelled an attack by IS militants, including a suicide bombing, in the oil refinery town of Baiji in the Salahudin Province, killing at least 12 IS militants and 12 security members.

The attack occurred in the early morning when a suicide bomber rammed his explosive-laden truck into the posts of the troops and Hashd Shaabi militias in the central part of the town of Baiji, 200 km north of the Iraqi capital of Baghdad, a security source from Salahudin Province anonymously informed *Xinhua*.

The powerful bomb blast was followed by the advance of dozens of IS militants towards the troops' posts, sparking heavy clashes lasting for hours, the source said.

“At least 11 soldiers and militiamen were killed and 10 others

injured, while 12 IS militants died,” the source said. Also in Baiji, a Shiite militia leader from the Hashd Shaabi, Hadrir al-Qaisi, was killed and three of his bodyguards were wounded when they entered a booby-trapped house which exploded during a search operation, the source added. The battle in Baiji comes about two weeks after security forces and allied militias, covered by Iraqi and US-led coalition aircraft, cleared most of the town following days of heavy clashes with extremist militants.

Sporadic clashes persist in Iraq's largest oil refinery nearby as security forces fight to drive IS militants out of the refinery, which militants have seized large sections of. The security situation in Iraq has drastically deteriorated since June 2014, when bloody clashes broke out between security forces and IS militants. The IS militants took control of the country's northern city of Mosul and later seized swathes of territories after Iraqi security forces abandoned their posts in Nineveh and other predominantly Sunni provinces.—Xinhua

US delivers Iraqi antiquities seized in raid on Islamic State

BAGHDAD, 16 July — The United States handed back to Iraq on Wednesday antiquities it said it had seized in a raid on Islamic State fighters in Syria, saying the haul was proof the militants were funding their war by smuggling ancient treasures. The Iraqi relics were captured by US special forces in an operation in May against an Islamic State commander known as Abu Sayyaf. They included ancient cylindrical stamps, pottery, metallic bracelets and other jewellery, and glass shards from what appeared to be a coloured vase.

The haul also included early Islamic coins.

Islamic State, a hardline Sunni Islamist group, has ransacked some of the greatest archaeological sites in northern Iraq, posting video footage of fighters destroying pre-Islamic monuments they

consider idolatrous. Iraqi officials have been unable to verify the full extent of damage at the sites under Islamic State control, but they have said that footage of the destruction was published in part to distract attention from the fact Islamic State is smuggling antiquities to raise cash.

“This is the first tangible evidence that Daesh are selling artefacts to fund their activities,” US ambassador Stuart Jones, said, referring to Islamic State by its Arabic acronym.

“Their goal is to sell these antiquities on the global black market,” he told reporters at Baghdad's national museum where the items were handed over.

Abu Sayyaf, who was killed in the raid, was described by US officials at the time as an Islamic State commander responsible for

the group's oil and gas sales.

He was killed south-east of the city of Deir al-Zor, near Syria's main oil fields and about 100 km (60 miles) from the Syria-Iraq border across which Islamic State declared its “caliphate”.

“Today's effort represents one success in the efforts to return Iraq's historic patrimony, but the campaign to return all of Iraq's treasures continues,” Jones said.

Islamic State fighters have desecrated ancient Assyrian and Graeco-Roman palaces in northern Iraq including the 2,700-year-old Assyrian capital of Khorsabad, the cities of Nimrud and Nineveh and the desert complex at Hatra.

Iraqi officials have appealed for international help to protect the sites, asking why the US-led coalition which has been bombing Islamic State bases and convoys



Recovered artifacts are seen at the National Museum of Iraq in Baghdad on 15 July, 2015.—REUTERS

across Iraq and Syria has not deployed its air power in defending the ancient treasures. Jones said that, in the absence of forces on the ground, aerial bombardment near the remains would have limited

effect and could be self-defeating.

“The coalition does not have boots on the ground and certainly using air strikes on targets like that can be damaging to the patrimony of Iraq,” he said.—Reuters

PERSPECTIVES

Friday, 17 July, 2015

Ownership of policy can ensure success

By Myint Win Thein

For a policy to be successfully implemented, all levels within an organization, from the leadership to the rank-and-file, must have a sense of ownership over it.

Generally speaking, policies are laid down by the leadership of an organization without in-

volvement of lower-level members.

However, it is necessary for all levels to work together for the success of the organization. A policy therefore should not be implemented without the contribution of lower-level members. Leaders should present it to all members and make ownership of it organization-wide.

To do so, it is necessary for leaders to include the rank-and-file in discussions, even before a policy is laid down. When this is done, all members of the organization will feel the policy is of their making and have a stake in ensuring it is implemented and followed.

When the rank-and-file feel like true stakeholders, they can be more productive and contribute to greater success for the organization.

In this sense, a policy laid down by all mem-

bers of the organization is better than one merely instituted from the top. It is clearly beneficial for organizations to invite the participation of all members before implementing a policy.

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Religious, political figures share thoughts on Martyrs' Day

By Khin Yadana; Photo: Bo Bo



NAY PYI TAW, 16 July—This 19 July, Myanmar will mourn the country's martyrs who died by assassination 68 years ago.

Martyrs including General Aung San were assassinated at 10:30 on the morning of 19 July 1947, while holding a meeting at the Secretariat Office in Yangon. The martyrs were assassinated at a crucial juncture in the struggle to free the country from colonial rule.

That day has since

been commemorated as Martyrs' Day across the country as a token of gratitude to their sacrifices for national independence.

Leading figures of religion and politics have shared their feelings about that momentous event.

"General Aung San is gone but his memory, his love for the country and the people, and our gratitude to him will go on forever. That is to say the

General will always be remembered in the hearts of good citizens," Venerable Sitagu Sayadaw Ashin Nyanissara told a centenary birthday celebration of General Aung San.

The Sayadaw defines martyrs as individuals who devote themselves entirely to the welfare of the people and the country at risk to their own lives.

U Ohn Pe, a driver for the Salvation Army, recounted the fateful day.

He drove an army officer to the Secretariat Office on the rainy day and waited at a garage there.

"I heard reports of guns fired, and I still visualize the sight of the blood-covered bodies of our leaders taken to hospital by ambulance."

Daw Aung San Suu Kyi, daughter of General Aung San, said that she was too young at that time to remember the details of what had happened.

"The day taught us a precious lesson that the violent approach to political issues never works,"

she said, describing peaceful negotiations as the best way to find solutions to political issues.

On 19 July, she holds a vigil for the murdered leaders of the country at her party's headquarters without missing a single year. In addition, she always lays wreaths at the Martyrs' Mausoleum.

She urged the people to continue marching on to the democratic goal set by her father, saying that "it is the right way to honour and respect the martyrs."

Students create portraits of General Aung San

NAY PYI TAW, 16 July—Gangaw private high school held a painting contest for portrait of General Aung San in commemoration of the 65th Anniversary of Martyrs' Day at its school in Yanaung Ward 2, Pyinmana Township, Nay Pyi Taw Council Area, on Wednesday.

Principal of the private school U Aung Khaing explained the history of martyrs' day to students.

Altogether 47 students from the 6th to 11 grades participated in the painting contest.

Maung Kyaik Latt (IPRD)



Students of Gangaw private high school in Pyinmana Township taking part in painting contest for portrait of General Aung San.



LOCAL NEWS

Myanmar Schools Project Foundation donates school building, equipment worth K50 million



MANDALAY, 16 July— Chief Minister of Mandalay Region U Ye Myint attended the opening of a school building at the basic education middle school branch in Nachangyigon

village, Kyaukse Township, recently. The Ahman Thit building was donated by the Myanmar Schools Project Foundation under the 100-school project for

development of education sector in the region. Mr John, a Canadian donor who provided more than 200 uniforms for the school, cut the ribbon at the opening. The foundation

provided the one-storey building, along with staff housing, toilets, and desks at a cost of K50 million.

Thiha Ko Ko (Mandalay)

Computerized mapping course gives surveyors new perspective

YANGON, 16 July — The Farmland Management and Statistics Department opened a computerized mapping course recently at the central land record development training school in Taikkyi Township, northern Yangon Region.

Principal U Myo Oo gave an opening address for the two-month course that will provide practical and theoretical lectures to 270 land surveyors from around the country.

Tun Hlaing (Myaing)



Medical gives checkups to factory employees



MANDALAY, 16 July — A Social Security Board medical team conducted checkups on employees at the Asahi Loi Hein Co. soft drink factory in Aung-

myethazan Township on Wednesday. The team gave checkups to 106 employees at the plant. "Members of the So-

cial Security Board have the opportunity to receive medical treatment at the clinics of the board free of charge," said Staff Officer Daw Shwe Mi of the branch. "If necessary, medical officers of the board will refer the pa-

Tin Maung (Mandalay)

MPT slashes landline installation cost



YANGON, 16 July — Myanma Posts and Telecommunications reduced its installation charge for telephone landlines from

K650,000 to K32,000 as of 15 July with the aim of widening access to information technology.

Businesses need land-

lines to access to the Internet through an asymmetric digital subscriber line (ADSL).

MPT currently provides 2G and 3G mobile networks across the nation. The state-run firm has signed an agreement with KDDI-Sumitomo of Japan for development of communication technology in the nation.

KDDI and Sumitomo of Japan has announced plans to invest US \$2 billion in communication sector of Myanmar.

Hsu Hnin Lei

KYAUKME, 16 July — Union Election Commission member Dr Sai San Win met officials of political parties from Kyaukme District at the hall of Township General Administration Department on 15 July to explain the electoral process.

He also held a meeting with officials of Kyaukme District, as well as Kyaukme, Hsipaw, Nawngkhio and Namtu township election sub-commissions, and spoke about tasks for the general election on 8 November.

Sub-commission officials reported on preparations for the coming general elections.

Myint Aung (KaMa)

UEC supervises election preparations in northern Shan State



British government's stake in Lloyds falls below 15 percent



A branch of Lloyds Bank is seen in the City of London on 16 Dec, 2014.—REUTERS

LONDON, 16 July — Lloyds Banking Group (LLOY.L) said on Thursday the UK government had reduced its stake in the bank below 15 percent as it moves closer to full privatization.

The latest sale, the second executed this month, has reduced Britain's finance ministry's stake to 14.98 percent from 15.9 percent earlier, the bank said in a statement.

Lloyds was rescued

during the 2007-9 financial crisis at a cost of 20.5 billion pounds (\$32 billion) to taxpayers, leaving the government with a 43 percent stake in the bank. Britain began selling off its stake in September 2013 and has so far recouped more than 13 billion pounds for the taxpayer, the treasury said in a statement.

Lloyds is on track to return to full private ownership in 2016.

Reuters

Asia shares tip-toe higher, dollar up on Yellen's remarks

TOKYO, 16 July — Most Asian shares edged up on Thursday after Greece approved a bailout plan and brought mild relief, while the dollar stood tall as Federal Reserve Chair Janet Yellen reinforced expectations for a US rate hike.

Spreadbetters expected a higher opening for Britain's FTSE, Germany's DAX and France's CAC after the Greek parliament approved a bailout plan that further lessens the likelihood of Athens exiting the euro zone.

Japan's Nikkei rose 0.7 percent, Australian shares were up 0.6 percent South Korea's Kospi also 0.6 percent.

And as of 0530 GMT, Shanghai stocks were up 0.7 percent and the CSI300 index gained 0.8 percent, clinging to positive territory after sinking earlier in the session.

Underscoring fragile sentiment after a big recent rout, China's mainland indexes had slumped the previous day despite positive gross domestic product data.

MSCI's broadest index of Asia-Pacific shares outside Japan was flat.

In her semiannual testimony to the US Congress on Wednesday, Yellen repeated her view that the Fed will likely hike interest rates this year if the US economy expands as expected, and cited improvement in the labour market.

"Yellen's comment gave no major news and did not change the widely perceived view that the Fed will likely raise rates sometime this year," said Takuya Takahashi, a strategist at Daiwa Securities in Tokyo.

"If the rates are increased in small increments while US fundamentals are improving, the stock market should take it as a positive thing, and that's what the market is expecting."

The Greek parliament passed a sweeping bundle of austerity measures demanded by European partners, a price to pay for opening talks on a multi-billion euro bailout package near-bankrupt Athens needs to stay in the euro zone.

The euro, already beaten down overnight against the dollar after Yellen, showed limited reaction to the Greek vote outcome which did not surprise many in the market.

The European common currency dipped 0.2 percent to \$1.0922. The dollar traded at 123.85 yen and in reach of a near three-week high of 123.97.

"Not only did Yellen confirm that rates will rise this year but it is her view that waiting too long would mean rates would have to rise at a faster pace later," Kathy Lien, managing director of FX Strategy for BK Asset Management, wrote.

"She prefers to start earlier to allow for a more gradual rate path. As a result every FOMC meeting this year including September is a live meeting at which the central bank could raise rates."

It was a different story for Canada, which saw its central bank on Wednesday cut key interest rates for a second time this year amid a flagging economy.

The Canadian dollar

was at C\$1.2936 to the greenback after touching C\$1.2958, its lowest since March 2009.

The New Zealand dollar slumped under a similar predicament after weaker-than-expected inflation data and plunging dairy prices cemented expectations for a rate cut there as early as next week.

The kiwi skidded to \$0.6498, a low not seen since July 2009.

In commodities, crude oil rebounded modestly after data showed that US crude inventories dropped and refinery demand was high.

US crude rose 0.7 percent to \$51.79 a barrel after dropping 3 percent on Wednesday when expectations that increased exports from Iran will add to a global supply glut. Brent gained 0.4 percent to \$57.42 a barrel.

Tuesday's nuclear agreement between six world powers and Iran is expected to result in the lifting of sanctions, which have limited sales of Iranian oil for several years.

Reuters

Restaurant food not much healthier than fast food

NEW YORK, 16 July — Home cooking is still the best way to control the calories, fat, sugar and other nutrients that families consume, a new US study suggests.

Researchers found that eating food from restaurants — whether from fast food places, or better establishments — led to increases in calories, fat and sodium compared to meals made at home. Public health interventions targeting dining-out behavior in general, rather than just fast food, may be warranted to improve the way Americans' eat, says the study's author.

Ruopeng An, a professor of kinesiology and community health at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, noted that people have previously equated fast food with junk food.

"But, people don't know much about the food provided by full-service restaurants and if it is better or healthier compared to fast food or compared to food prepared and consumed at

home," An told Reuters Health.

For his study in the *European Journal of Clinical Nutrition*, An used data from the National Health and Nutrition Examination Survey (NHANES), which regularly gathers health and dietary information from a representative sample of the US population.

More than 18,000 adults answered survey questions about what they'd eaten over a two-day period. About a third of participants reported eating fast food on one or both days, and one quarter reported eating full-service restaurant food on at least one day.

Compared to participants who ate food prepared at home, those who visited fast food restaurants consumed an average of 190 more calories per day, 11 grams more fat, 3.5 g more saturated fat, 10 mg extra cholesterol and 300 mg additional sodium.

Participants who dined at full-service restaurants consumed about 187 more calories per day compared to

those who ate food prepared at home, 10 more grams of fat, 2.5 g more saturated fat, almost 60 mg more cholesterol and over 400 mg more sodium.

The impact of fast food consumption on daily total calorie intake was largest among participants with the least education, while participants in the middle-income range were more likely to get their extra calories from full-service restaurants.

Participants who were obese were also more likely to consume extra calories from full-service restaurants

compared to people who were normal weight or overweight.

When An compared calorie and nutrient intake of restaurant food taken home to eat, he found there wasn't much difference between eating fast food out or at home, but full-service restaurant meals consumed at home had about 80 fewer calories, slightly less fat and about 80 mg less sodium.

The US Food and Drug Administration requires restaurants with 20 or more locations to provide calorie content and nutrient content

in the menu labeling, but that's not applied to most full-service restaurants, An pointed out. "So people who consume food at full-service restaurants are not aware of the calorie and nutrient content in the food served (and) are more likely to overeat and are less cautious about the extra calories they intake from the full-service restaurant."

Lori Rosenthal, a dietitian at Montefiore Medical Centre in New York City, was not surprised by the findings.

"When we prepare our own meals we know exactly what the foods we are eating contain," Rosenthal, who wasn't involved in the study, told Reuters Health by email.

"When dining out, we are leaving the ingredients to the chef or fast food chain," she said. "When we make our own, we are in control."

Rosenthal said cooking at home lets people make healthy substitutions, such as swapping out full-fat cheese for reduced fat versions.

She added that people are more likely to have

"cheat meals" or "splurges" in restaurants than at home, but certain habits can help curb the calories.

"Before heading to a restaurant look up the menu online," she said. "This helps to avoid succumbing to the pressure of ordering before reading all of the options."

Rosenthal also suggests, "Don't be afraid to ask how menu items are prepared and stick to those that are baked, broiled, grilled or steamed." Also, "Choose dishes that contain vegetables (i.e. veggie omelet, kabobs or pasta primavera) or request they be added." Vegetables bulk up a meal, so a person feels more satisfied without adding many more calories, she said.

Rosenthal advises asking for a to-go container and packing up half of a large meal right way, ordering an appetizer as a meal or sharing your food with a friend.

"Be mindful and slow down," she added. "Take the time to chew, taste and savor your food — you'll naturally eat less and enjoy your meal even more."—Reuters



Fish and chips are seen in a sea front cafe in Blackpool, northern England on 8 Sept, 2013.

REUTERS

SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY

EU opens two antitrust investigations against Qualcomm

BRUSSELS, 16 July — The European Commission said on Thursday it had opened two antitrust investigations into Qualcomm's possible abuse of its market dominance of semiconductors used in consumer electronic devices.

The first would examine whether Qualcomm, the market leader for baseband chipsets, offered financial incentives to customers on condition that they buy the baseband chipsets exclusively or almost exclusively from

Qualcomm.

The second will look into whether Qualcomm engaged in 'predatory pricing' by charging prices below costs with a view to forcing its competition out of the market.

"Many customers use electronic devices such as a mobile phone or a tablet and we want to ensure that they ultimately get value for money," European Competition Commissioner Margrethe Vestager said in a statement.

Reuters



A shadow is cast near a Qualcomm logo at the 2015 Computex exhibition in Taipei, Taiwan, on 2 June, 2015.—REUTERS

9-year-old Australian boy discovers new species of box jellyfish

SYDNEY, 16 July — Australian scientists have identified new species of box jellyfish that was discovered in a Gold Coast canal by a nine-year-old boy, however the discovery raises concerns about its deadly cousin.

Chiropsella Saxoni — named after Saxon Thomas, the nine-year-old Australian boy who discovered it in

2013 — also known as the "pygmy box jellyfish," is only about two-and-a-half centimetre long.

"It's a really, really little guy, cute as can be," Queensland Museum jellyfish expert Dr Lisa-Ann Gershwin told Australia's national broadcaster on Thursday.

Gershwin said there is no reason to believe it is lethal as the type of sting that it

would give would be very minor due to its size.

"I mean it probably hurts, but that's about it," Gershwin said.

However, Gershwin warned the discovery of the pygmy box jellyfish could be a sign that larger, potential lethal box jellyfish that is normally found in northern Australian waters is on the move.—Xinhua

Brazilian scientists discover Jupiter-like planet

RIO DE JANEIRO, 16 July — Brazilian scientists have led the discovery of a new Jupiter-like planet that raises the possibility of a second planetary system like ours, Brazil's G1 news website reported on Wednesday.

The "new planet has a mass similar to Jupiter and orbits a star with characteristics similar to the sun," G1 said, citing Jorge Melendez, an academic at the University of Sao Paulo who led the team that made the discovery.

Melendez said the discovery was made possible thanks to the High Accuracy Radial velocity Planet

Searcher, or HARPS, telescope at the European Southern Observatory (ESO) in northern Chile.

"More observation is needed to confirm ... the discovery," said Melendez, "but according to the ESO, the star, HIP 11915, is one of the most promising candidates so far to host a planetary system similar to our own."

In a "Science Release" titled "Jupiter Twin Discovered Around Solar Twin," the ESO said "the existence of a Jupiter-mass planet in a Jupiter-like orbit around a Sun-like star opens the possibility that the system of planets around this star may

be similar to our own Solar System."

According to the most recent theories, said the ESO, "the arrangement of our Solar System, so conducive to life, was made possible by the presence of Jupiter and the gravitational influence this gas giant exerted on the Solar System during its formative years."

Melendez, who also coauthored the paper on the discovery, said "the quest for an Earth 2.0, and for a complete Solar System 2.0, is one of the most exciting endeavors in astronomy. We are thrilled to be part of this cutting edge research."

Xinhua

Solar-powered plane grounded nine months in Hawaii by battery damage

HAWAII, 16 July — A solar-powered plane halfway through an attempt to circle the globe will be grounded in Hawaii for at least nine months because of battery damage sustained during its record 118-hour flight to Oahu from Japan, the project team said on Wednesday.

The spindly, single-seat experimental aircraft dubbed Solar Impulse is not expected to take off on the next leg of its journey — a planned four-day, four-night flight to Phoenix, Arizona — until late April or early May 2016, the team said.

Additional time is needed to repair the plane's four batteries, which store energy from the sun during daylight hours to keep the aircraft powered overnight, allowing it to remain aloft around the clock on extreme long-distance flights.

The repairs and testing will then push the next available window for completing the plane's trans-Pacific crossing to next spring, in terms of both weather conditions



The Solar Impulse 2 airplane, piloted by Andre Borschberg, prepares to land at Kalaeloa airport after flying non-stop from Nagoya, Japan in Kapolei, Hawaii, on 3 July, 2015.—REUTERS

and sufficient hours of daylight.

The batteries became overheated during the aircraft's initial climb after takeoff on 29 June from Nagoya, Japan, en route to Hawaii on the eighth and most challenging leg of the circumnavigation quest, officials for the mission team said.

Still, the pilot, Swiss aviator Andre Borschberg, and his team successfully completed the Japan-to-Hawaii leg, safely landing near Honolulu on 3 July after five days and five

nights, or 117 hours and 52 minutes, airborne.

The trip shattered the 76-hour world duration record for a nonstop, solo flight set in 2006 by the late American adventurer Steve Fossett in his Virgin Atlantic Global Flyer. It also set new duration and distance records for solar-powered flight.

Borschberg and co-founder of the project, fellow Swiss pilot Bertrand Piccard, are aiming to achieve the first round-the-world solar-powered flight, alternating turns at the con-

trols for each leg of the voyage.

A nine-month hiatus, while a setback for the crew, does not disqualify the team from claiming a place in the official world aviation record books if successful.

It merely adds to the total elapsed time for accomplishing the feat, said Art Greenfield, director of contests and records for the National Aeronautic Association, the US chapter of the Swiss-based Federation Aeronautique Internationale, or FAI.

Citing the world body's "sporting code" for solar-powered airplanes, Greenfield said the operative rule states: "Any time spent on the ground between the start and finish shall be counted as flying time."

Subsequent teams may end up doing it faster, but "everybody remembers the first," Greenfield said.

The Swiss team hopes eventually to cross the finish line in Abu Dhabi, where they started on 9 March.—Reuters

eBay nearing deal to sell enterprise unit for about \$900 million

NEW YORK, 16 July — E-commerce company eBay Inc is nearing a deal to sell its enterprise business to a consortium led by private equity firm Permira for about \$900 million, the Wall Street Journal reported.

The deal could be announced as soon as Thursday, along with the company's second-quarter results, the Journal reported, citing people familiar with the matter.

The people said there was no guarantee a deal would be reached, the newspaper reported.

Earlier this month, people familiar with the matter told Reuters that private equity firm Thomas H Lee Partners LP was in talks to buy eBay's enterprise unit for close to \$1 billion.

EBay said in January that it would explore a sale or public offering of the enterprise business, which did not fit neatly with its PayPal or



EBay signs are seen in an eBay office space in San Jose, California in a 28 May, 2014 file photo. REUTERS

marketplace divisions.

EBay's enterprise business, formerly known as GSI Commerce, helps retailers around the world beef up their online presence and e-commerce capabilities.

It generated \$288 million in revenue in the first quarter.

GSI Commerce was acquired by eBay for \$2.4 billion in 2011. It has lost

customers and seen sluggish growth in the past few years with clients moving their online operations in-house.

An eBay spokeswoman said the company does not comment on rumor or speculation.

Permira could not be reached for comment outside regular business hours.

Reuters

China says Japanese security changes must not harm regional peace

BEIJING, 16 July — China on Thursday questioned the motives of Japan's ruling bloc in pushing a raft of controversial national security legislation through the Diet, saying any changes to the country's defence policies must not affect regional stability.

Japan must "respect the major security concerns of its Asian neighbours," Foreign Ministry spokeswoman Hua Chunying said in a statement following the passage of the bills by the lower house of Japan's national legislature.

The action gives "people a reason to question whether Japan wants

to abandon its policy of self-defence, whether it wants to change the road of peaceful development that it has supported for a long time since the war," she said.

Any changes, she added, "should not damage China's sovereignty and its security interests or harm regional peace and stability."

Earlier in the day, Japan's Liberal Democratic Party, led by Prime Minister Shinzo Abe, and its coalition partner Komeito party pushed several bills through the country's House of Representatives intended to loosen restrictions on

Japan's armed forces, despite popular opposition to the moves. Since coming to office in late 2012, Abe has worked to allow the country's Self-Defence Forces to participate in "collective self-defence" with its allies and friends, an effort partly motivated by concerns about China's rising power.

China, which was invaded by Japan in the lead-up to World War II, has kept a wary eye on the changes, arguing that Abe intends to return the country to its imperialist ways.

The bills will be deliberated by Japan's upper house before they can become law.—Kyodo News



Air Warriors Drill Team (AWDT) of Indian Air Force (IAF) take part in a drill during an event in Srinagar, summer capital of Indian-controlled Kashmir, on 15 July, 2015. —XINHUA

Interoceanic railway project is Brazil's dream: minister

RIO DE JANEIRO, 16 July — The proposed interoceanic railway project has been Brazil's longtime dream, a Brazilian minister said here on Wednesday.

The Brazilian government will study the routes of the transcontinental railway that will connect

Peru's Pacific coast with Brazil's Atlantic coast, and minimize its impacts on Brazil's rain forests, Environment Minister Izabella Teixeira told a Press conference.

The federal government will discuss, with state governments, about

the routes of the railway which is expected to reduce the cost of transportation in Brazil, Teixeira said.

This will be a win-win situation for Brazil and the countries that buy Brazilian products, the minister said.

Highways have a much higher environmen-

tal cost than railways, Teixeira said.

"By working with railways, we are hoping to avoid the consequences of highways which lead to deforestation. Railways have a smaller impact when it comes to deforestation," Teixeira said.—Xinhua

Former US President George HW Bush fractures neck in fall at home

PORTLAND, (Maine), 16 July — Former US President George HW Bush suffered a neck fracture in a fall at his home in Maine on Wednesday, though he was listed in stable condition and his hospital stay was expected to be brief, his spokesman said.

Bush, 91, who served as America's 41st president, was last hospitalized in Houston for a week in December 2014 after experiencing breathing difficulties.

"41 fell at home in Maine today and broke a bone in his neck," spokesman Jim McGrath said in a statement posted on Twitter following the accident. "His condition is stable — he is fine — but he'll be in a neck brace."

Bush was taken to Maine Medical Centre in Portland. Matt Paul, a hospital spokesman, said in a telephone interview that President Bush was transported to the hospital on Wednesday afternoon.

"He was brought here earlier today and diagnosed with a fracture in his neck. He is in stable condition and will be wearing a neck brace."

Paul said the former president will remain in the hospital overnight, adding it was "too early to say when he will be released."

McGrath said Bush will stay in the hospital "as long as needed."

"But he is doing okay."

He's as tough as they get," he said.

Bush is the father of President George W Bush and of former Florida Governor Jeb Bush, who is now seeking the Republican nomination for the 2016 presidential election.

The elder Bush, a Republican like his sons, served as vice president for eight years during Ronald Reagan's two terms in the White House before being elected president, defeating former Massachusetts Governor Michael Dukakis, the Democratic nominee, in 1988.

Bush took office in 1989 and served four years in the White House, during which he organized the US-led military coalition that defeated Iraqi forces after Saddam Hussein invaded Kuwait.

He lost his 1992 re-election bid to Democrat Bill Clinton.

Bush previously served as a congressman, a UN ambassador, a US envoy to China and director of the Central Intelligence Agency before becoming Reagan's running mate in 1980. A Navy pilot during World War Two, he celebrated his 90th birthday on 12 June, 2014, by skydiving near Kennebunkport, Maine, with the Army's Golden Knight parachute team. He currently suffers from Parkinson's disease and cannot use his legs.

Reuters

United Airlines awards hackers millions of miles for revealing risks



United Airlines planes are seen on platform at the Newark Liberty International Airport in New Jersey, on 8 July, 2015. —REUTERS

NEW YORK, 16 July — United Continental Holdings Inc has awarded millions of frequent flier miles to hackers who have uncovered gaps in the carrier's web security, in a first for the US airline industry.

United confirmed with Reuters that it has paid out two awards worth 1 million miles each, worth dozens of free domestic flights on the airline. United did not confirm tweets from individuals who say they have been paid smaller awards as well. The Chicago-based carrier has hoped to trailblaze in the

area of airline web security by offering "bug bounties" for uncovering cyber risks. Through the programme, researchers flag problems before malicious hackers can exploit them. The cost can be less than hiring outside consultancies.

Three of United's competitors declined to comment on bug bounty programmes. A fourth was not immediately available for comment.

Trade group Airlines for America said in a statement that all US carriers conduct tests to make sure

their systems are secure.

United unveiled the approach in May just weeks before technological glitches grounded its entire fleet twice, underscoring the risks that airlines face. One incident locked the airline out of its reservations system, preventing customers from checking in, and another zapped functionality of the software United needed to dispatch its flight plan.

"We believe that this programme will further bolster our security and allow us to continue to provide

excellent service," United said on its website, declining additional comment.

Jordan Wiens, a researcher focussed on cyber vulnerabilities, tweeted last week that he received United's top reward of 1 million miles for exposing a flaw that could have allowed hackers to seize control of one of the airline's websites.

"It's really interesting that United did what they did," he said in an interview. "There actually aren't that many companies in any industry outside of technology that do bug bounties."

Wiens said it was normal for large companies such as United to have bugs in their websites.

Terms of the agreement prohibit Wiens from disclosing the bug he discovered. The terms also required that Wiens reveal the supposed problem to United without trying to exploit it, meaning he does not know how much information he could have accessed or manipulated.

Beyond the bounty, United said it tests systems internally and engages cybersecurity firms to keep its websites secure.—Reuters

ADVERTISEMENT & GENERAL

Ministry of Energy
Myanma Petrochemical Enterprise
Extension of the request for the Letter of Expression of Interest(LOEI)
Joint Venture Project of Laboratory Services and Supply Chain of LPG Business

Myanma Petrochemical Enterprise(MPE) had invited the interested party for the request of two LOEI regarding the Joint Venture Projects of Laboratory Services and Supply Chain of LPG Business from 22.5.2015 to 28.5.2015 in the national newspapers and to be submitted not later than (12:00) noon at the date of 15.7.2015.

MPE hereby announces that the submission of LOEIs shall be extended up to 23.7.2015 (12:00) noon from 15.7.2015.

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE
MV E.R TURKU VOY NO (076W)

Consignees of cargo carried on MV E.R TURKU VOY NO (076W) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 17.7.2015 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of A.W.P.T where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

SHIPPING AGENCY DEPARTMENT
MYANMA PORT AUTHORITY
AGENT FOR: M/S HANJIN SHIPPING LINES
 Phone No: 2301185

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE
MV ESM CREMONA VOY NO (128W)

Consignees of cargo carried on MV ESM CREMONA VOY NO (128W) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 17.7.2015 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of M.I.P where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

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

Phone No: 2301185

111,489 report medical conditions that could affect driving in Japan

TOKYO, 16 July — A total of 111,489 people reported medical conditions that could affect their driving in the year after Japan made it a legal requirement on 1 June, 2014, the government said on Thursday.

They were among some 22 million people who applied to get or renew driving license in the year, and included 1,415 whose licenses were rejected, cancelled or suspended for medical reasons, the National Police Agency said.

Most of those who reported such conditions were found to have only mild symptoms or have been already prescribed medicines, the agency said.

Eight were charged with failing to meet the legal requirement, including a man in his 20s whose failure to report a health problem was discovered when he had an accident after losing consciousness while driving in February in Nagoya. The legal requirement was included in the road traffic law after six elementary school pupils were killed by a crane truck in April 2011 in Tochigi Prefecture north of Tokyo, after the driver had an epileptic stroke.—Kyodo News

THE GOVERNMENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF THE UNION OF MYANMAR
THE MINISTRY OF RAIL TRANSPORTATION
MYANMA RAILWAYS
NOTIFICATION

- For the Dry Ports projects which will be implemented in Yangon Region (Ywathargyi) and Mandalay Region (Myitnge), the Tender Invitation and Evaluation Committee led by Ministry of Rail Transportation selected the (7) potential companies on 5th November, 2014 as prior position in the first step. In the second step, the developers competed undertaking the preliminary survey in accordance with their proposals. The (6) companies submitted the Feasibility Study reports to the committee on 9th January, 2015.
- In line with rules and regulations, the following (5) companies were evaluated and short listed as second step-potential developers by the committee.
 - KERRY Logistics Network
 - Resources Group Logistics Co.,Ltd
 - KMA Shipping Co.,Ltd
 - Malikha Automobile Co.,Ltd
 - UMG Logistics Co.,Ltd
- As the third step, the above mentions of short listed companies have to submit their detailed proposals and documents needed to proceed tender completion.
- The proposal forms (English/Myanmar) will be available at the cost of Ks 1,000,000 (One Million Myanmar Kyat) from the date on 20th July, 2015 during office hour at Deputy General Manager, Supply Department, Myanma Railways, Corner of Theinbyu Street and Merchant Street, Botahtaung Township, Yangon, Myanmar. Phone 95-1-291985, 291994, with the official letter of the respective company.
- The proposals must be submitted to Deputy General Manager, Supply Department, Myanma Railways, Corner of Theinbyu Street and Merchant Street, Botahtaung Township, Yangon not later than 14:00 hr, on 18th September, 2015. Late submission shall be not entertained.
- Myanma Railways will select the (2) potential developers which are mostly qualified. Enquires can be made by calling telephones +95-67-77005, 77025, 77024 and also mail to kampi.leitui@gmail.com
 Managing Director
 Myanma Railways
 Ministry of Rail Transportation



People have fun in a swimming pool in the Chimelong Water Park in Guangzhou, capital city of south China's Guangdong Province, on 15 July, 2015. The local meteorological authority degraded the alert for heat from orange to yellow on Wednesday. But the temperature in Guangzhou is expected to stay high.—XINHUA

Police can not use water cannons in London: Home Secretary

LONDON, 16 July — British Home Secretary Theresa May ruled out on Wednesday the use of water cannons by police forces in London, or any part of England and Wales.

The decision was greeted with regret in London where both the Metropolitan Police and Mayor Boris Johnson wanted to add water cannons to their police armory.

Currently the only part of Britain where water cannons are authorized for use is in Northern Ireland. Their use there was sanctioned at the height of the Irish troubles. May told the British House of Commons that following a series of riots and disturbances in English cities in the summer of 2011, police reviewed the range of tactics and equipment available to manage public disorder. The Metropolitan Police

Service identified water cannon as a potential option.

In March 2014 the Home Secretary was handed a formal request from 43 police forces covering England and Wales for German-made Ziegler Wasserwerfer water cannons to be made available as a policing tactic.

The Mayor of London's Office for Policing and Crime approved the purchase of three Ziegler Wasserwerfer 9000 water cannons from German federal police, which arrived in Britain in July 2014, but remained unused.

"Water cannons, without safeguards, have the capacity to cause harm. It is a police tactic that has not been used in Great Britain previously and some argue that its introduction would change the face of British policing," May told MPs.

The Home Secretary

contacted senior former chief constables to gain a better understanding of the operational context in which water cannons could be used, citing events such as Israeli Embassy demonstrations in London, student protests and the G20 protests in London in 2009, as well as the summer riots in 2011.

"I have decided not to authorize the Wasserwerfer 9000 water cannons as a policing tactic for operational use in England and Wales," said May. "I am acutely conscious of the potential impact of water cannons on public perceptions of police legitimacy. This country has a proud history of policing by consent and this is a decision which goes to its very heart." The London Evening Standard on Wednesday described the decision as embarrassing to Johnson because "it could turn the

German-built machines into a costly white elephant".

"They were bought second hand for 218,000 pounds (341,000 US dollars) last June, imported to Britain disguised as rubbish carts, and then treated to expensive adaptation and testing by the Met (Metropolitan Police)," reported the Standard which described Johnson's reaction as "crestfallen".

Labour's Shadow Home Secretary Yvette Cooper said water cannons would have "weaponized policing".

"Our model is based on nearly two centuries of policing by consent, with people becoming police officers to represent their communities and protect their communities. To further weaponize our model of policing would be to irrevocably damage our model of policing," he added.—Xinhua

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WEATHER REPORT

BAY INFERENCE:

Monsoon is strong to vigorous in the Andaman Sea and Bay of Bengal.

FORECAST VALID UNTIL EVENING OF THE 17th July, 2015:

Rain or thundershowers will be scattered in Mandalay and Magway Regions, Kayah State, fairly widespread in Lower Sagaing Region, Shan and Chin States and widespread in the remaining Regions and States with likelihood of regionally heavy falls in Rakhine State and isolated heavy falls in Sagaing and Tanintharyi Regions, Kayin and Mon States. Degree of certainty is (100%).
STATE OF THE SEA: Occasional squalls with rough sea will be experienced off and along Myanmar Coasts. Surface wind speed in squalls may reach (40) m.p.h.

Actor Johnny Depp's wife faces jail, fines for smuggling pet dogs into Australia



Johnny Depp and Amber Heard

SYDNEY, 16 July — Hollywood actor Johnny Depp's wife Amber Heard faces charges in Australia for breaching biosecurity laws which could bring a 10 year jail sentence and a 100,000 Australian dollar (74,000 US dollar) fine for smuggling their pet dogs into the country.

The Yorkshire terriers Pistol and Boo made widespread international headlines when it was discovered they had been smuggled into the country on a private jet by Heard who was visiting Depp on the set of the latest Pirates of the Caribbean film on Australia's Gold Coast.

Agricultural minister Barnaby Joyce threatened to have the dogs put down unless they were immediately taken back to the United States.

"They should bugger off back to America," he said at the time.

The story made Australia an international laughing stock for its stance but the country takes its quarantine laws very seriously.

But the issue was suddenly back on Thursday when it was widely reported actress Heard has been charged with two counts of a biosecurity breach and has been ordered to face a Queensland court in September.

The Commonwealth Director of Public Prosecutions issued a summons against Ms Heard.

Penalties include fines of up to 100,000 Australian dollars or up to 10 years imprisonment.

On Thursday it was reported Joyce again took an aggressive stance against Heard, saying it didn't matter she was a star with a big-star husband.

"I'm always pleased with the legal process — we are all equal before the law," Joyce told an interviewer.—Xinhua

Comedian Amy Schumer makes film screenwriter debut in 'Trainwreck'

NEW YORK, 16 July — Comedian Amy Schumer makes her big screen debut as first-time feature-film screenwriter as well as leading lady in "Trainwreck", a comedy about love, family and sport.

In the movie, Schumer's character, magazine journalist Amy, finds herself falling in love with the subject of a profile piece she is writing — sports physician Aaron, played by Bill Hader. Averse to monogamy, she learns about romance.

"I think this movie is kind of a love letter to my sister and the way that I realized that I was hurting myself and being destructive was through falling in love," Schumer said at the film's premiere in New York on Tuesday night.

Academy Award winning British actress Tilda Swinton plays Schumer's boss, Dianna.

Sports players are well represented in the movie. American basketball stars LeBron James and Amar'e Stoudemire have roles while former tennis pro Chris Evert and wrestler John Cena also make appearances. The film was directed by Judd Apatow, of "This is 40", "Knocked Up" and "The 40-Year Old Virgin" fame, who said he enjoyed guiding Schumer.

"I like the moment of discovery," Apatow said. "It's fun for me to help them try to crack the code of how they would work as a lead in a movie." "Trainwreck" opens in US cinemas on Friday.—Reuters



The Eagles, George Lucas, Carole King to get Kennedy Centre honors

LOS ANGELES, 16 July — The Eagles, singer-songwriter Carole King and acclaimed "Star Wars" director George Lucas are to be recognized at the 2015 Kennedy Centre Honors, one of the highest awards in American culture.

The annual honors, announced on Wednesday, celebrate lifetime contributions to US culture through the performing arts.



The Eagles band

Other honorees include Broadway actress Cicely Tyson, known for portraying strong female characters; classical music director Seiji Ozawa, who led the Boston Symphony Orchestra for 29 years; and veteran Puerto Rican actress Rita Moreno of "West Side Story" movie fame.

The awards will be presented at a gala at Washington DC's John F Kennedy Centre on 6 December, attended by President Barack Obama and first lady Michelle Obama.

Kennedy Centre president Deborah Rutter said this year's honorees were all "artists as history-makers, artists who defy both convention and category."

"Their individual paths to excellence are inspirational and their contributions to the fabric of American culture are equally permanent and timeless," Rutter said in a statement.

Previous Kennedy Centre honorees include Meryl Streep, Steven Spielberg, Oprah Winfrey and Elton John.—Reuters

Veloso and Gil bring Brazil fusion to Montreux stage

MONTREUX, (Switzerland), 16 July — Caetano Veloso and Gilberto Gil gave a pure and poignant concert at Switzerland's Montreux Jazz Festival on Wednesday, celebrating decades of Brazilian music and friendship.

The pair of singer-songwriters

sat on a bare stage at Stravinsky Auditorium, each playing an acoustic guitar, but without a back-up band, throughout the 100-minute concert that included two encores.

They opened with "Back in Bahia", the northeastern region where they are from, and played

standards in Brazilian Portuguese including "Tropicalia", emblematic of their influential movement in the late 1960s that blends Brazilian and African beats with rock.

Veloso and Gil, now 72 and 73, endured imprisonment by the military regime as "subversives" before being exiled to London in 1969. Decades later Gil became Brazil's culture minister under President Luiz Inacio Lula da Silva.

Billed as "Two Friends, a Century of Music", the sold-out show was a highlight of the 49th edition of one of Europe's most prestigious summer music festivals.

"It was incredible for me. It was very intimate, just two guitars and two singers," said Gabriela Adao, a Brazilian living near Geneva. "The atmosphere and quality of the music was great. They picked the right songs."

Veloso put aside his guitar during "Marginalia", joining in the vocals, and the duo teamed up for "E Luxo So", followed by "Sampa", about the city of Sao

Paolo.

"Terra" (Earth), Veloso's song about seeing images of the earth filmed from space, for the first time while he was in a prison, made some in the audience cry. "Tonada de Luna llena" by Gil, about the full moon, was also moving. For their encore, they sang "Desde Que o Samba e Samba", ending the night arm-in-arm on the famed stage.

The pair, who played in London two weeks ago, have dates booked later this month in Italy, Spain, France, and Portugal before returning to their homeland for gigs in August.

Duos have featured heavily in Montreux's line-up this year, led by Lady Gaga and Tony Bennett, going "cheek to cheek" in a mix of Cole Porter, Duke Ellington, Frank Sinatra and Edith Piaf to a sell-out crowd spanning generations.

Herbie Hancock and Chick Corea team up on Thursday. The 16-day festival ends on Saturday with a tribute to Paco de Lucia, the Spanish flamenco guitarist who died last year at 66.

Reuters

Super powers showcased in 'Fantastic Four' reboot trailer

LONDON, 16 July — The hotly anticipated reboot of "Fantastic Four" edged closer for fans, with the film's final trailer showcasing the characters' super powers.

"Fantastic Four" out next month, stars Miles Teller, Kate Mara, Jamie Bell and Michael B. Jordan as the Four who acquire strange and powerful abilities.

Mara's Sue Storm can be seen making herself invisible while Jordan's Johnny Storm/The Human Torch engulfs himself in flames.

The trailer, which was shown at comics fan convention Comic-Con International last weekend and released on Tuesday, also shows Bell as Ben Grimm/The Thing and a flashback to the childhood of Reed Richards, played by Teller, conducting scientific experiments before becoming Mister Fantastic. Full of special effects, the trailer also offers a glimpse of what the four are up against: hooded villain Doctor Doom.

Reuters



Brazilian musicians Caetano Veloso (L) and Gilberto Gil perform their 'Two Friends, a Century of Music' show during the 49th Montreux Jazz Festival in Montreux, Switzerland on 15 July, 2015.

REUTERS

GENERAL

Labour unions, human rights groups step up calls for FIFA reform

WASHINGTON, 16 July — Prominent labour union and human rights groups on Wednesday stepped up public pressure on world football body FIFA, which is currently mired in a corruption scandal, to agree to be reformed and clean up its act through an independent process.

Transparency International, Avaaz and the International Trade Union Confederation said they were joining with a reform campaign called “#NewFIFANow” to press for rapid “independent reform of FIFA led by an eminent person.”

The US national labour union federation AFL-CIO, on Wednesday also sent letters to three major FIFA corporate sponsors, Coca-Cola Co, Visa Inc and McDonald's Corp asking them to support the call for reform.

“As a major sponsor,

we urge you to demand an independent FIFA Reform Commission to restore transparency and integrity to international football, and ensure that major sporting events uphold the highest possible human rights standards,” said Cathy Feingold, the AFL-CIO's international director, in the letters to the CEOs of the three American companies. The human rights groups said they also support the creation of such a commission, whose task the groups said would include reviewing FIFA's current internal governance, membership and to conduct fresh elections. “There has to be an independent reform commission and FIFA has to change. No more false dawns, no more scandals, no more dawn raids,” said Transparency International Managing Director Cobus de Swardt, alluding to the arrest of seven FIFA offi-

cials or former officials by Swiss authorities on behalf of US prosecutors in an early morning operation at a hotel in Zurich in May. Prosecutors have indicted nine football officials and five marketing executives on a range of bribery-related offences. Alluding to allegations that workers involved in constructing facilities in Qatar for the 2022 World Cup had suffered abuses, Feingold said in the letters that “no worker should ever lose their life constructing stadiums or other infrastructure for such high-profile international tournaments, yet thousands of migrant workers in Qatar are at risk.” A representative of Amnesty International was expected to raise similar concerns at a US Senate subcommittee hearing on Wednesday afternoon focussing on “governance and integrity of international soccer.”—Reuters

MRTV Entertainment Channel

(17-7-2015, Friday)

6:00 am

• Mono Classical Songs

6:25 am

• Pyi Thu Ni Ti

6:40 am

• Song Programme

9:35 am

• ASEAN CULTURAL FAIR (2014)

9:40 am

• Myanmar Video

3:50 pm

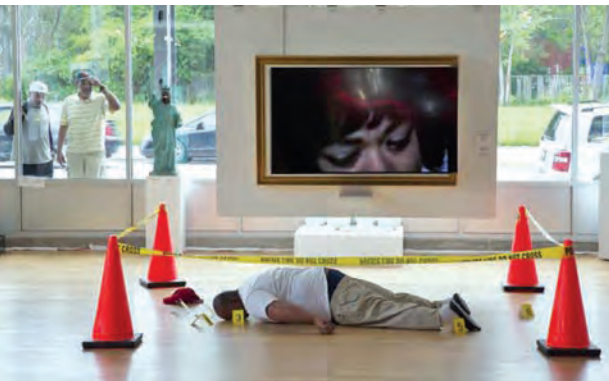
• MYANMAR NATIONAL LEAGUE (2015) (Hantharwady United FC Vs Yangon United FC)

mitv Myanmar International

(17-7-2015 07:00 am~18-7-2015 07:00 am) MST

- | | |
|---|---|
| * News | Thanlyin |
| * Pa O in the Union | * Parents' Day |
| * A Tea Business: Pankwan (Part-2) | * News |
| * News | * A Glance At A Naga Family Life |
| * Gold: King of All Metals | * Pyin Oo Lwin Sweater |
| * News | * Distinguished Myanmar Lady "Kyin Po" |
| * Wedding Planner "U Cho Gyi" | * News |
| * Myanmar Traditional Instruments — Myanma Harp (Episode-1) | * History And Mystery Behind The Caves |
| * Wholesale Fish | * Porcelain and Glass |
| * News | * News |
| * A bike ride in pursuit of Mural Art (Episode-1) | * An Oasis Trip to Mt.Popa |
| * Visiting A Serence Village In The Northwest of Myanmar | * Yangon Markets: Nyaung Pin Lay Market |
| * News | * News |
| * Moyingyi Wildlife Sanctuary | * Myanma Pottery |
| * A Day Trip To | * Beach Food Delivery |
| | * News |
| | * Mesmerizing Scenes or Image of Japan Part (2) |
| | * Hip-Hop and Design |

Chicago art exhibit stirs controversy with Ferguson replica



Two men look through a window at an art installation depicting the body of Michael Brown, made by artist Ti-Rock Moore, at Gallery Guichard in Chicago, Illinois, on 14 July, 2015.—REUTERS

CHICAGO, 16 July — It was an image that shocked and angered many: a dead, black 18-year-old left face-down for hours in the middle of a street after being shot multiple times by a white police officer, his red Cardinals baseball cap knocked

from his head by the fall.

Now a Chicago art exhibit has stirred controversy with a life-size silicone replica of Michael Brown after he was fatally shot on a street in Ferguson, Missouri, last year.

The mannequin,

dressed in white T-shirt and khaki pants, lies on the hardwood floor of Gallery Guichard, in the city's Bronzeville neighbourhood. A television screen above the body plays Eartha Kitt's 1956 song “Angelitos Negros,” (Little Black Angels), which is also the name of the installation.

Gallery curator and co-owner Andre Guichard, 48, said he has received death threats and racist phone calls about the Brown replica.

The installation is one of 50 works included in “Confronting Truths: Wake Up!,” an exhibit by Ti-Rock Moore, a white woman from New Orleans, that has attracted a trickle of visitors since it opened on Friday.

“The installation ... is the result of my desire to

mark the tragedy as one of historical significance, commemorate this young man, and call attention to the racial injustices that remain so devastatingly relevant today,” Moore said in an email, acknowledging that the likeness of the dead body was sensitive.

Other installations in the exhibit feature nooses, Saltine cracker boxes and a model Statue of Liberty with black face. Moore says her art explores white privilege.

“I feel that it is necessary for white people to take accountability for their role in the fight against racism, and advocacy on our behalf is absolutely necessary in getting anywhere. After all, we are the perpetrators. My race is pivotal to the conversation that revolves around

my work,” she said.

The exhibit runs through 10 August, one day past the anniversary of the day Brown was fatally shot by Darren Wilson, a white police officer with the Ferguson Police Department.

The circumstances surrounding the shooting were disputed, leading to riots in suburban St Louis and protests around the world. A grand jury decided not to indict Wilson, prompting further protests, and the US Department of Justice cleared Wilson of any civil rights violations.

Mary Watkins, 36, said she took the bus from Milwaukee to see the exhibit on Tuesday. “I wanted to come see it right now because it's so controversial,” said Watkins, a certified nursing as-

sistant and activist against police brutality. “I really hope people look at the exhibit as a whole instead of making a snap judgment ... without viewing the whole exhibit, you are not getting the full effect.”

Brown's father, Michael Brown Sr, told a Fox news affiliate he wanted the exhibit taken down. “I think it's disturbing, disgusting ... that picture is still in my head,” Guichard said a letter was sent to the Brown family, but only the teen's mother Lesley McSpadden received it. McSpadden attended the opening last week, but Brown did not, he said.

Guichard said he has reached out to the father, apologizing for the misunderstanding, but has not received a response.—Reuters

Akpom states Arsenal case with hat-trick in Singapore

SINGAPORE, 16 July — Rookie striker Chuba Akpom put forward his case for more playing time at Arsenal next season by scoring a hat-trick in a lopsided 4-0 win over a Singapore Select XI in the Premier League Asian Trophy on Wednesday.

The 19-year-old academy striker, who signed a long-term contract in February, has made only four substitute appearances in the Premier League for Arsenal and has been farmed out on loan to lower tier sides Brentford, Coventry City and Nottingham Forest in recent years for experience.

With striker Danny Welbeck not making the trip to Asia because of injury and first-choice forward Olivier Giroud, like most of the headline acts, given the night off by manager Arsene Wenger, it was left to Akpom to make the most of a rare opportunity to start.

After some nervy opening touches, he smashed home the opener at Singapore's National Stadium on the half hour mark after defender Baihakki Khaizan blocked Arsenal midfielder Jack Wilshere but could not clear adequately.

Wilshere then added

a second from the penalty spot in the 60th minute after Mathieu Debuchy had been brought down in the area.

The England midfielder was then taken off and Akpom given the chance to show his penalty prowess after substitute Jon Toral was hauled down by Singapore goalkeeper Izwan Mahbud in the 76th minute.

The Londoner confidently sent Izwan the wrong way and then completed his hat-trick three minutes later after nodding home a cross from the right by Hector Bellerin.

The striker, who joined

the club aged six and was playing under-18s football at 15, could have scored a fourth at the death but for a strong save by Izwan.

Wenger, who also offered game time to promising academy talents Alex Iwobi, Gedion Zelalem, Dan Crowley and Chris Willock, gave Akpom hope of more first-team chances.

“I sent him out on loan last year, because I thought he needed that and this season no, I plan to keep him with us,” the Frenchman told reporters.

“It's down to performance and attitude,” he



Arsenal's Chuba Akpom celebrates scoring his team's first goal against Singapore Select XI during Barclays Asia Trophy at National Stadium, Singapore on 15 July, 2015.—REUTERS

added of Akpom's chances of starting more. “Let's not forget it's a friendly, he is talented but he has to work.” Arsenal are through to Satur-

day's final where they will face Everton, who earlier beat Stoke City 5-4 on penalties after a drab goalless draw.—Reuters

Myanmar youth to participate in two invitational golf tournaments in U.S.

YANGON, 16 July — A Myanmar youth golfer team left for the United States of America on 14 July to take part in the Perfect Putter 1st Coast Junior Open 2015 to be held at Jacksonville Golf & Country Club, Florida on 20 and 21 July and the Daniel Island Jr Shootout at Daniel Island Golf Club in South Carolina on 28 and 29 July.

The team includes Zin Aung Min, Kaung Myat Kyaw, Min Thanlwin Aung, Sai Aung San Pha, Thin Wai Khaing, Pwint Phu Nadi Khaing and Wint Phu Nadi Aung.

They were seen off at Yangon International Airport by Joint Secretary U Myint Aung of Myanmar Golf Federation and officials.—GNLM



Myanmar youth golfer team seen at Yangon International Airport before departure for the United States of America.—GNLM

Southampton sign Clasie as Schneiderlin replacement

LONDON, 16 July — Southampton have completed a deal for Feyenoord midfielder Jordy Clasie after moving quickly to fill the void left by Morgan Schneiderlin's departure to Manchester United.

Clasie, who has 11 caps for the Netherlands, has signed a five-year contract, the Premier League club said on Wednesday. British media reports indicated the fee was in the region of 7

million pounds (\$10.95 million).

The 24-year-old will be reunited with Southampton manager Ronald Koeman, his former boss at Feyenoord where the midfielder has spent his entire professional career since making his debut four years ago.

Clasie is a direct replacement for the outgoing Schneiderlin, who packed his bags for Old Trafford in a deal reported to be worth 25 million pounds.—Reuters

Di Maria's United future still uncertain



Argentina's Angel Di Maria laughs during a training session in La Serena on 23 June, 2015. —REUTERS

LONDON, 16 July — Manchester United manager Louis van Gaal has done little to dampen speculation that Argentine winger Angel Di Maria could

leave the club, a year after moving to Old Trafford for a British record transfer fee.

British media have reported that Di Maria, who joined United

Trinidad tops group after thrilling draw with Mexico



Trinidad and Tobago celebrate after scoring a goal against Mexico late in the second half of CONCACAF Gold Cup group play at Bank of America Stadium. Mexico and Trinidad and Tobago played to a 4-4 tie.—REUTERS

CHARLOTTE, (North Carolina), 16 July — Trinidad and Tobago left it late to salvage a 4-4 draw against Mexico that secured top spot in Group C of the CONCACAF Gold Cup on Wednesday as both teams scored in stoppage time at the end of a thrilling encounter.

The game was locked at 3-3 after 90 minutes before Mexico appeared to have snatched a victory that would see them top the group when Trinidadian striker Kenwyne Jones scored an own goal in the first minute of added time.

However, Trinidad and Tobago responded well when Yohance Marshall rose to head home an equalizer from a corner kick seconds before the final whistle in the match played at the Bank

of America Stadium in Charlotte, North Carolina.

The draw enabled Trinidad and Tobago to finish top of the group on seven points, setting up a quarter-final against Panama in East Rutherford, New Jersey on Sunday.

Mexico, Gold Cup champions in 2011 and 2009, finished on five points and advanced to take on Costa Rica in the second game at the same venue on Sunday.

The Mexicans started well and led 2-0 after 51 minutes when Paul Aguilar and Carlos Vela scored either side of half time before Trinidad and Tobago rallied to take the lead with Keron Cummings netting twice and Jones once in a 12-minute spell.

Cummings' second goal had put Trinidad and Tobago ahead in

the 67th minute but Mexico drew level with an Andres Guardado blast with two minutes of normal time remaining.

In the early kickoff, Maikel Reyes scored the only goal of the game in the 73rd minute to lead Cuba past Guatemala and into the quarter-finals as one of the two best third-placed finishers at the 12-team tournament.

Reyes, who missed Cuba's first match due to visa issues, headed home his side's first goal of the tournament to set up a daunting last eight encounter against hosts and defending champions the United States in Baltimore, Maryland on Saturday.

Haiti will then take on Jamaica at the same venue in the other quarter-final.—Reuters

Manchester United to sell Valdes after reserves refusal — Van Gaal

LONDON, 16 July — Manchester United will sell goalkeeper Victor Valdes after the Spaniard refused to play in the reserves, manager Louis van Gaal said on Wednesday.

Speaking at a news conference in Seattle during United's pre-season tour of the United States, van Gaal made clear 33-year-old Valdes was on his way out after only six months at the Premier League club.

"He doesn't follow our philosophy. There is no place for someone like that," said the Dutchman. "The philosophy is how you play football, and how you maintain your match rhythm. For example, he refused last (season) to play in the second team. That's also one aspect of our philosophy but there are a lot of other aspects in the philosophy of how you have to play like a goalkeeper in Manchester United. When you are not willing to follow the principles of



Goalkeeper Victor Valdes

the philosophy, then there is only one way and that is out," continued van Gaal.

Asked directly if he was selling the player, the manager replied: "Yes. For us it is a big disappointment because we thought he would follow our philosophy."

"When you are not playing in the first selection, then you must play in the second selection. Every player has to do that and he refused to do that."—Reuters