



President visits dam project in southern Shan state

(News on page 3)



Authorities can not yet confirm the exact number of victims in the tragedy in which the bridge across the Dohtawady River in Thibaw Township, Shan State, was destroyed by floods on Saturday as rescue operation is underway.—MNA

6 DEAD AS SEVERE FLOODING HITS THABEIKKYIN TSP, MANDALAY REGION

YANGON, 25 July — Flash flood caused by torrential rains left six people dead and several homes destroyed Saturday in Mandalay Region, according to local authorities.

The dead were residents of Taungle village in Thabeikkyin Township where the flash flood occurred in the river and destroyed seven houses amid downpours that began Friday night.

Another four houses in the township were destroyed by landslides.

Meanwhile, raging floodwaters destroyed a bridge spanning the Dohtawady River in Shan State's Thibaw Township on Saturday, killing three people, witnesses reported.

A number of people were on the more than 100-year-old bridge

watching the swollen river when the tragedy happened around 12.30 pm, according to a posting on the Ministry of Information website.

A team comprising

firemen and Red Cross members is currently conducting search and rescue efforts with the use of machinery. Floods in Mogok, Mandalay Region,

(See page 8)

Gov't, ethnic negotiators hopeful of breaking impasse in August talks

By Ye Myint

YANGON, 25 July — The government and ethnic armed groups expressed optimism Saturday about breaking an impasse on a draft national ceasefire deal at the next round of talks, despite holding different views on the number of signatories

to the truce deal.

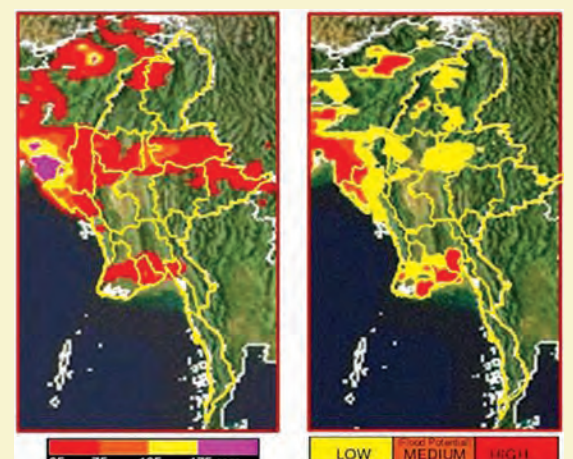
Government and ethnic negotiators the previous day decided to take a recess until the first week of August in order to seek approval from their respective leaderships about unresolved issues in the negotiations, including the number of ethnic armed group to sign the ceasefire.

P'doh Saw Kwe Htoo Win, a member of the senior delegation of ethnic armed organizations, said at a press conference on the final day of talks that negotiations were set to continue for seeking an acceptable and practicable way on a compromise to get out of the stalemate.

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The observation at 9.30 am on 25 July, 2015 by NASA, heavy rain brings high flood potential to northern part of Rakhine State, South-western part of Chin State and southern parts of Ayeyawady, Bago and Yangon Regions.

Ref: NASA



Farmers at work



NAY PYI TAW, 25 July — Farmers in Nay Pyi Taw Council Area are currently preparing to cultivate monsoon paddy.

Hybrid strains provided by the agriculture department are among the crops they will plant. Although there are floods and inunda-

tion in some parts of Sagaing Region in upper Myanmar, paddy fields in Nay Pyi Taw Council Area are free from such natural disasters.

As the area is located in the centre of the country it gets enough rain water to grow crops.—Ko Pauk (Okkamyay)

Officials provide aid to villagers affected by riverbank erosion

MANDALAY 25 July — Officials and members of the public recently provided assistance to villagers affected by riverbank erosion in Kondangyi village in Mandalay's Madaya Township.

Preventive measures are now underway to prevent erosion of the River Ayeyawady's banks.

Parliamentarian U Ko Lay, responsible for the township, officials and donors went to the village and provided the victims with K50,000 for each for over 50 households.—Tin Maung (Mdy)



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HONG KONG WOMAN SURPRISED BY MYANMAR MAN'S HONESTY: Mrs Edith Chan, a Hong Kong resident, on 23 July, informed the Tourist Security Station in Mingun, Sagaing Region, in upper Myanmar, that she had lost her mobile phone during a visit to the famous Mingun Bell. While the police of the station were investigating the case, a man named Ko Min Thant Oo residing in Mingun village reported that he had found the handset by chance and handed it over to the police, who returned it to the Hong Kong woman.—TIN MAUNG (MDY)



Professors to revise curricula of nursing university

MANDALAY, 25 July — Professors and academics from Yangon and Mandalay nursing universities are planning to revise the curricula of the teaching institutions to ensure their curricula are of international standard. They met to discuss possible revisions to curricula based on models used overseas.—Tin Maung (Mdy)

MUSE, 25 July — Emergency services are on standby in Muse, northern Shan State, amid flooding that has caused one death and endangered several households.

Flood waters have inundated corn and paddy fields, as well as the border gates between Myanmar and China, while damaging a bridge on Muse-Namkham Road.

The inundation caused a wall to collapse, killing Maung Kyaw Min Thant. The Muse-Namkham Union Road was closed temporarily and police, fire-fighters and Red Cross members are preparing to provide assistance.

MUSE District IPRD

1 dead in Muse, northern Shan State, following torrential rain, floods



U.S. gov't body discusses election security with police command

NAY PYI TAW, 25 July — Myanmar Police Force Commander Zaw Win met Tuesday with Mr Steve Hege from the United States Institute of Peace and discussed matters including security measures for the upcoming general election and the role of law enforcement in ballots conducted overseas.

The representatives of

the USIP — a non-partisan body backed by Congress — also met with the MPF deputy commander and senior officers.

The MPF, in cooperation with the USIP, is making preparations for the election in November. It has dispatched offers to Nepal, Cambodia and Indonesia to share experiences with their counterparts.—MPF

President visits dam project in southern Shan state



President U Thein Sein inspects the Myogyi dam project in Ywangan Township, southern Shan State.—MNA

NAY PYI TAW, 25 July— President U Thein Sein on Saturday inspected the Myogyi dam project aimed at irrigating the Meikhitla plain and generating electricity for surround-

ing parts of southern Shan State.

The dam in Ywangan Township has a water drainage area of 725 square miles and will deliver electricity produced by two 15

MW turbine power generators. The Irrigation Department aims to complete the project within the current fiscal year. Director General U Kyaw Myint Hlaing explained details of the construction project, including

electricity generation and irrigation systems provided by Chinese experts from the Yunnan Machinery & Equipment Import & Export Co., Ltd.

The department is also about to complete construction of the Yazagyo and Myithar dams in the area.

The earthen Myogyi dam will collect water drained from Zawgyi and

Kyinekham dams to generate 30 MW hydropower, irrigating 82,000 acres of land under the Zawgyi irrigation system and 33,000 acres of land on Meikhitla plain.—MNA

Amyotha Hluttaw speaker opens new school building in Yamethin

NAY PYI TAW, 25 July— Amyotha Hluttaw Speaker U Khin Aung Myint on Saturday opened a new building at the school in Tugone village in Mandalay Region's Yamethin Township.

The primary school, opened in 1981, has been upgraded to the post-primary level as part of the government's increasing support for the rural education sector.

tion sector.

The speaker noted that the education sector needs more support, as only 10 percent of kindergarten children reach matriculation level, while the passing rate at this level is just 30 percent.

The opening ceremony of new school facility was attended by U Kyaw Myint, Minister for Electricity and Industry of Mandalay

region, U Ko Ko Naing, Pyithu Hluttaw's Legal Affairs and Special Cases Assessment Commission and U San Htay Aung, District Education Officer.

U Khin Aung Myint also attended a certification ceremony for a Buddhist cultural exam organized by the Association for the Protection of Race and Religion of Yamethin Township. —MNA

Defence Services C-in-C Office offers Waso robes to Members of the Sangha

NAY PYI TAW, 25 July — The Office of the Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services offered robes to Members of the Sangha Saturday to mark the start of the rain retreat of Buddhist monks.

At the ceremony held

in Nay Pyi Taw, Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Senior General Min Aung Hlaing and wife Daw Kyu Kyu Hla presented robes and offertories to the Members of the Sangha.

A total of 63 Members of the Sangha led by Sayadaw Bhaddanta Kumara Bivumsa, the chairperson of the State Sangha Maha Nayaka Committee, received the offertories from the congregation.—MNA

Volunteers donate blood at 100-bedded hospital

NAY PYI TAW, 25 July— Young volunteers donated their blood at the 100-bedded hospital in Zabuthiri Township here on Saturday morning.

The 105 members from social welfare association namely Pay-Set-Thu-Myar, along with 10 young per-

sons from Zabuthiri Rural Youth, donated the blood to commemorate the third anniversary of their group. The blood donors were fed on eggs, banana, milk and soft drinks before they took part in sanitary works in the compound of hospital.

IPRD

Gov't, ethnic negotiators...

(from page 1)

Despite the ethnic side's insistence that the signing of the truce deal must involve at least 16 members of the Nationwide Ceasefire Coordination Team plus the All Burma Students Democratic Front, the government side has sought to sign the NCA with the 15 groups with which it has

already reached bilateral agreements.

U Hla Maung Shwe, senior adviser at Myanmar Peace Centre, emphasized the importance of strict adherence to the deal, which has seen very lengthy negotiations, after its signing. The government keeps reiterating its opinion that ways and means are to be sought for the inclusion of

other groups in the peace process, he added.

The MPC senior adviser stressed the need to compromise on the issue.

Pu Zing Cing, a deputy leader of the ethnic delegation, said the August talks are expected to smooth the path to the prospective treaty.

But the divergent views between the two sides on how many groups

should sign the ceasefire deal could be an obstacle to whether the NCA is signed before the 8 November election, he added.—GNLM

Thura U Shwe Mann meets locals in Magway townships



Pyithu Hluttaw Speaker Thura U Shwe Mann meets local people in Taungdwingyi. MNA

PYAY, 25 July— Pyithu Hluttaw Speaker Thura U Shwe Mann met locals in Taungdwingyi and Sinbaungwei townships, Magway region, on Saturday, explaining the tasks of parliament and the importance of upcoming general elections slated to be held in November 8 this year.

Thura U Shwe Mann said to the residents in

Taungdwingyi Township that parliamentarians of respective constituency are fulfilling their best before dissolution of parliament in January 2016. He also said apart from officials of election commissions, people, political parties and township supporting committees are responsible for preparing to hold the general elections.

The speaker then discussed plans for increasing life expectancy, health-care programmes and taking measures on sufficient household water supply in the area.

Thura U Shwe Mann also visited a paddy cultivation field in Myothit Township near Nay Pyi Taw-Magway highway.

He proceeded to Sinbaungwei Township in the afternoon and met the parliamentary representatives and the township supporting committees, with the locals presented education, health and development programmes in the area.

MNA

China's top political advisor visits Thailand, further cooperation highlighted

CHIANG MAI, (Thailand), 25 July — China's top political advisor Yu Zhengsheng on Friday concluded his four-day visit to Thailand, during which the two countries pledged to enhance Sino-Thai cooperation in various areas including infrastructure, trade and law enforcement.

Yu, chairman of the National Committee of the Chinese People's Political Consultative Conference, met with Thai Princess Maha Chakri Sirindhorn, Prime Minister Prayut Chan-o-cha and President of the Privy Council Prem Tinsulanonda on separate occasions during his stay in Bangkok, and held talks with President of the National Legislative Assembly Pornpetch Wichitcholchai.

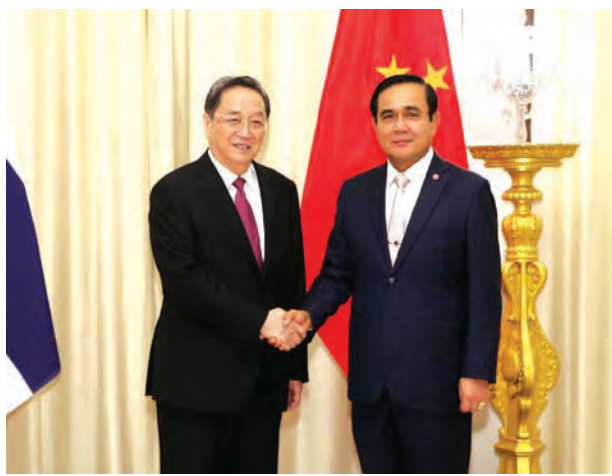
In his meeting with

Princess Sirindhorn, Yu spoke highly of the significant contribution that the Thai royal family, including the princess, has made to the Sino-Thai friendship.

They both expressed willingness to increase mutual understanding, promote across-the-board cooperation and maintain close contacts between the two countries and peoples.

While meeting with the Thai premier, Yu said that China attaches great importance to Sino-Thai relations, and is ready to make joint effort with Thailand to implement various consensus reached by leaders of the two countries.

China is willing to partner with Thailand to bring together the China-proposed Belt and Road Initiative and Thailand's strategy



Yu Zhengsheng (L), chairman of the National Committee of the Chinese People's Political Consultative Conference, meets with Thai Prime Minister Prayut Chan-o-cha in Bangkok, Thailand, on 21 July, 2015. Yu Zhengsheng paid an official visit to Thailand from on 21 to 24 July.—XINHUA

to develop transportation infrastructures, Yu stressed.

The Belt and Road Initiative, proposed by China in 2013, is a trade and in-

frastructure network that includes the Silk Road Economic Belt and the 21st Century Maritime Silk Road to connect Asia, Eu-

rope and Africa.

China expects more fruitful cooperation with Thailand in railway development, trade of agricultural products, trade and finance, while promoting bilateral cooperation in law enforcement and security, deepening exchange in such areas as science and technology, education and tourism, Yu said.

Prayut said Thailand is willing to seek continuous and steady development of Thailand-China ties, and boost bilateral cooperation in economy and trade, infrastructure construction, agriculture, law enforcement, security and culture.

Both Yu and Prayut vowed to make joint efforts to further enhance the strategic partnership between China and the Association

of Southeast Asian Nations.

Yu also paid a visit to a royally-launched project in northern Chiang Mai Province, in which China has also participated.

The project, initiated by Thai King Bhumibol Adulyadej and Queen Sirikit in 1969, aims at eradicating narcotics and improving the local people's livelihood by cultivating cash crops like fruit and vegetables instead of poppy.

Yu said China will continue to participate in the project and bring benefit to the local people.

While visiting a bilingual school in Chiang Mai, where teaching is conducted in Thai and Chinese, Yu urged students to make their own contribution to China-Thailand friendship in the future.—Xinhua

Abe's war statement should respect China's feelings: Chinese diplomat

TOKYO, 25 July — China's top diplomat, State Councilor Yang Jiechi, has urged Tokyo to respect the feelings of the Chinese people in the statement issued by Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe in August to commemorate the 70th anniversary of the end of World War II, a government source said on Friday.

"We want (Tokyo) to consider the feelings of (Chinese) citizens," Yang said during a meeting with Shotoaro Yachi, Abe's close aide, last week in Beijing.

During over five hours of talks on 16 July 16, Yang did not specifically ask that certain words such as "aggression" and "apology" be used in Abe's war anniversary statement.

The content of the

statement is drawing close attention from China and South Korea, which suffered Japanese wartime aggression or colonization before and during World War II.

They are watching to see whether Abe waters down apologies issued by previous Japanese governments.

Abe will put the final touches to the statement ahead of 15 August, the day Japan surrendered to the Allied forces in 1945, based on input to be provided by a panel of experts.

During the meeting, Yachi, the first secretariat head of Japan's National Security Council, requested Beijing resume negotiations toward signing a treaty on a joint gas development project in the East China Sea in line with a

2008 accord.

Japan has criticized China for unilaterally building new gas rig-like structures in the waters despite the 2008 agreement. Yang replied, "It is fine for us to resume (the talks), but time is not ripe yet," according to the source.

On Wednesday, the Japanese government made public a map and aerial photos of 12 offshore structures as evidence of China's unilateral gas field development near the median line in the East China Sea between the shorelines of China and Japan, prompting Beijing to protest.

During his three-day trip to the Chinese capital through 18 July, Yachi also held talks with Chinese Premier Li Keqiang.

Kyodo News

mostly at Naha airport in Okinawa's capital, and Japan Airlines 17 flights.

At 7 pm, the year's 12th typhoon was about 60 km south-southwest of Amami, Kagoshima Prefecture, and moving north-northwest at 20 kph, packing winds of up to 162 kph with an atmospheric pressure of 975 hectopascals near its centre.—Kyodo News

Children miss school, fear abuse after Nepal quake — aid groups



Children stand on the remains of houses which were destroyed by earthquakes in Sindhupalchowk District, Nepal, on 13 May, 2015.—REUTERS

LONDON, 25 July — Inadequate shelter, school closures and a lack of safe water and sanitation are the three biggest concerns of Nepali children affected by two huge earthquakes, said a major survey published on Saturday, the three month anniversary of the first quake.

Children interviewed by aid agencies in the aftermath of the disaster also expressed worry about the lack of privacy and space, with younger children fearing attacks by wild animals, and girls feeling vulnerable to sexual harassment.

"Living under the sky increases our exposure to abuse," an adolescent girl from Sindhupalchowk, a district hit by the earthquakes, told an aid worker.

At least 2.8 million people, around 10 percent of Nepal's population, need urgent help according to a UN report published earlier this month. Almost 9,000 people were killed by the quakes on 25 April and 12 May.

Nearly 2,000 children were interviewed by four charities, in what they described as one of the largest ever child consultations ever undertaken following a disaster.

"Tens of thousands of children are living in inadequate shelters, said Lucia Withers, author of the report. "It is still a race against time to provide basic needs of shelter, sanitation and protection."

Withers is humanitarian adviser for Save the Children, which conducted

the survey alongside Plan International, UNICEF and World Vision.

Separate research carried out by Oxfam in Dhadhing district to the west of capital Kathmandu found that women and adolescent girls feel at risk of physical and sexual abuse in temporary shelters which are often overcrowded.

The situation is particularly bad for single women, often widows and divorcees, who tend to be isolated and receive little in the way of community support, Oxfam said on Saturday.

"After living through two massive earthquakes, this situation is only compounding their trauma," said Cecilia Keizer, country director for Oxfam in Nepal.

Reuters

Strong typhoon approaches Japan's southwestern islands

TOKYO, 25 July — A strong typhoon brought fierce winds, heavy rain and high waves to Okinawa and a nearby island chain in southwestern Japan on Saturday, causing dozens of flights to be cancelled.

Typhoon Halola is moving northward, and expected to pass to the west of Japan and lose strength on Sunday.

Winds up to 157 kilometres per hour were recorded on Minamidaito Island, a remote isle to the east of Naha, on Saturday morning, and 68.5 millimeters of rain per hour deluged the village of Kunigami in Okinawa on Saturday afternoon, according to the Japan Meteorological Agency.

All Nippon Airways cancelled 56 flights

Greek bailout talks to start on Monday after delay



Greek Finance Minister Euclid Tsakalotos looks on before a parliamentary session in Athens, Greece on 22 July, 2015.—REUTERS

ATHENS, 25 July — Talks between Greece and its international creditors over a new bailout package should go ahead on Monday after logistical issues that delayed meetings this week are resolved, a Greek official said on Saturday.

The meetings with of-

ficials from the European Commission, European Central Bank and International Monetary Fund had been expected to start on Friday but were delayed by organizational issues including the location of talks and security.

The finance ministry

official said talks were now expected to get underway formally on Monday after the logistical issues were resolved. The official, who spoke on condition of anonymity, denied that the government was trying to keep the lenders' team away from government departments.

"We don't have any problem with them visiting the General Accounting Office," the official said.

Greeks have viewed inspections visits by the lenders in Athens as a violation of the country's sovereignty and six-months of acrimonious negotiations with EU partners took place in Brussels at the government's request.

Asked if the government would now allow EU, IMF and ECB mission chiefs to visit Athens for talks on

a new loan, State Minister Alekos Flabouraris said: "If the agreement says that they should visit a ministry, we have to accept that."

The confusion around the expected start to the talks on Friday underlined the challenges ahead if negotiations are to be wrapped up in time for a bailout worth up to 86 billion euros to be approved in parliament by 20 August, as Greece intends.

Already, Prime Minister Alexis Tsipras is struggling to contain a rebellion in his leftwing Syriza party that made his government dependent on votes from pro-European opposition parties to get the tough bailout terms approved in parliament.

One of Tsipras' closest aides warned that the understanding with the opposition

parties could not last long and a "clear" solution was needed, underlining widespread expectations that new elections may come as soon as September or October.

"The country cannot go on with a minority government for long. We need clear, strong solutions," State Minister Nikos Pappas told the weekly Ependysi in an interview published on Saturday.

Tsipras, who is by far the most popular politician in Greece according to opinion polls, has said his priority is to secure the bailout package before dealing with the political fallout from the Syriza party rebellion.

According to a poll by Metron Analysis for *Parapolitika* newspaper on Saturday, 61 percent of Greeks had a positive view

of Tsipras against 36 percent who disapproved. An overwhelming majority - 78 percent - still wanted Greece to stay in the euro zone against 19 percent in favour of going back to the drachma.

Tsipras insists there is no viable alternative to the bailout but has been wary of striking out against his party opponents in a bid to keep it together, at least while talks proceed.

Flabouraris called on Syriza rebels to drop their opposition.

"They are still my comrades and I urge them to get back to their senses even at the last moment," he told Skai television. "They should realise that the Left movement is now in power. It's not an opposition party. Now we have to discuss the new landscape."—Reuters

US's Biden welcomes heavy weapons-free zone proposal for Ukraine — White House

WASHINGTON, 25 July — US Vice President Joe Biden on Friday welcomed Ukrainian President Petro Poroshenko's proposal to create a 30-km (17-mile) zone free of tanks, ar-

tillery and mortar systems along the line of contact in eastern Ukraine, the White House said.

Biden and Poroshenko, who spoke by telephone, agreed that Russia and Russian-backed sepa-

ratists had still failed to implement the Minsk agreement calling for a ceasefire and the removal of heavy weapons from the line of contact, the White House said in a statement.

Reuters



US Vice President Joe Biden delivers remarks at the US-Ukraine Business Forum in Washington on 13 July, 2015.—REUTERS

Kerry says Israeli action against Iran would be 'huge mistake'

WASHINGTON, 25 July — US Secretary of State John Kerry said on Friday it would be a huge mistake if Israel decided to take unilateral military action against Iran over its nuclear programme in the future.

Kerry was asked in an NBC "Today" show interview if the nuclear deal reached last week would make it more likely that Israel might attempt a military or cyber attack on Teheran.

"That'd be an enormous mistake, a huge mistake with grave consequences for Israel and for the region, and I don't think it's necessary," Kerry said. He warned later on Friday that if Congress failed to approve the deal agreed last week between world powers and Iran to curb Iran's nuclear programme then Israel could be worse off. Congress has until 17 September to approve or

reject the agreement.

"I fear that what could happen is if Congress were to overturn it, our friends in Israel could actually wind up being more isolated and more blamed," Kerry told the Council on Foreign Relations think tank in New York.

"We would lose Europe and China and Russia with respect to whatever military action we might have to take because we will have turned our backs on a very legitimate program that allows us to put their programme to the test over these next years," he said. Under the deal agreed in Vienna, US, EU and UN sanctions will be lifted in exchange for long-term curbs on Iran's nuclear programme that the West suspected was aimed at creating an atomic bomb, but which Teheran says is peaceful.—Reuters

UN to vote on MH17 tribunal; Russia says likely to block



People carry flowers outside the Dutch embassy to commemorate the victims of the downing of Malaysia Airlines flight MH17 in eastern Ukraine a year ago, in Kiev, Ukraine on 17 July, 2015.—REUTERS

UNITED NATIONS, 25 July — The United Nations Security Council is due to vote on Wednesday on a bid for an international tribunal to prosecute those suspected of downing a passenger airliner last year in Ukraine, but Russia said on Friday it was likely to block the move.

Malaysia last month circulated a draft resolution to form the tribunal. Russia last week proposed a rival

text that demands justice for the victims of Malaysia Airlines flight MH17, but does not establish a tribunal.

Flight MH17 was shot down in July 2014 with 298 passengers on board, two-thirds of them Dutch. It crashed in Ukrainian territory held by Russian-backed separatists.

The vote on the proposal by Malaysia, Australia, the Netherlands and Ukraine to create an inter-

national tribunal is set for Wednesday afternoon, according to New Zealand, president of the UN Security Council for July.

"Malaysia did include some language from our draft in their draft text but it did not go to the core of our concern, they kept insisting on the need to establish right now an international criminal court," Russian UN Ambassador Vitaly Churkin told Reuters on Friday.

"This is not a proper thing for the Security Council to do because it's not a case of a threat to international peace and security," Churkin said in a phone interview. Ukraine and Western countries accuse the rebels in eastern Ukraine of shooting down the plane with a Russian-made missile. But Moscow has rejected accusations it supplied the rebels with SA-11 Buk anti-aircraft missile systems.

Churkin said that while he had not received definitive instructions from

Moscow on how to vote on Wednesday, he said: "I have a very strong feeling that it's not going to lead to a result that will be satisfactory for the Security Council."

"We are against it," Churkin said. Russia is a Security Council veto power, along with the United States, Britain, France and China.

Several council diplomats, speaking on condition of anonymity, said they expected Russia to veto the resolution. Foreign ministers for Malaysia, Australia, the Netherlands, Belgium and Ukraine are expected to attend the planned vote on Wednesday, diplomats said.

Led by the Dutch, those countries are conducting a criminal inquiry in the downing of MH17. Separately, a final report on the cause of the crash is due in October from the Dutch Safety Board. On 21 July, 2014, the Security Council unanimously adopted a resolution that demanded that those responsible "be held to account and that all states cooperate fully with efforts to establish accountability."

Reuters



US Secretary of State John Kerry makes a statement to the media before a closed door briefing with House members on the recent Iran nuclear deal in Washington on 22 July, 2015.—REUTERS

Obama says entrepreneurs in Africa can give hope, deliver growth



US President Barack Obama (C) and Kenya's President Uhuru Kenyatta (L) arrive onstage to deliver remarks at the Global Entrepreneurship Summit at the United Nations compound in Nairobi on 25 July, 2015.—REUTERS

NAIROBI, 25 July — US President Barack Obama told African entrepreneurs in Kenya on Saturday they could help counter violent ideologies and drive growth in Africa, and said governments had to assist by ensuring the rule of law was upheld and by tackling corruption.

Obama was addressing a Global Entrepreneurship Summit at the start of the first visit by a serving US president to Kenya, his father's homeland and the biggest economy in east Africa, which has suffered attacks by Somali Islamist group al Shabaab.

Security was expected to top talks with President Uhuru Kenyatta at State House, where Obama received his official welcome with a gun salute. Kenyatta called the United States a "very strong supporter of Kenya" before closed

discussions.

The talks at State House were attended by Deputy President William Ruto, who is facing charges at the International Criminal Court that he fomented ethnic killings after Kenya's disputed 2007 election. He denies the charges. Kenyatta had faced similar charges, but the charges have since been dropped.

Obama is keen to boost business ties with Africa, where China overtook the United States as the continent's biggest trade partner in 2009.

"Africa is on the move. Africa is one of the fastest growing regions in the world," Obama told the conference, where he was greeted by applause when he began with the words "Jambo", the Swahili for "hello". "It is wonderful to be back in Kenya.

"Entrepreneurship of-

fers a positive alternative to the ideologies of violence and division that can all too often fill the void when young people don't see a future for themselves."

He said government had a vital role on issues such as establishing the rule of law and curbing corruption, citing two issues often cited by businesses as major obstacles. He said more had to be done to help new firms secure capital.

An array of technology and other companies have started up in recent years in Africa in a bid to shift the continent away from a traditional focus of commodity exports, but entrepreneurs often complain they cannot find affordable capital.

"Africa is open for business," Kenyatta said in his speech to open the entrepreneurship conference. "It is the time for a new

generation of Africans to promote inclusive prosperity."

Kenya's economy is expected to grow by about 6 percent this year. The economy of Ethiopia, Obama's next stop, is forecast to expand by more than 10 percent, although right groups say Addis Ababa's economic achievements are at the expense of free speech.

The annual US-sponsored conference was being held for the first time in sub-Saharan Africa at a UN compound in Nairobi.

After attending the conference, Obama laid a wreath to victims of the 1998 bombing by Islamist militants of the US Embassy. The site of the attack in central Nairobi is now a memorial park. The new mission is further from the centre.

On arrival in Kenya on Friday, Obama had dinner with relatives at the central Nairobi hotel where he is staying.

Some Africans complain that Obama, whose father is buried in western Kenya, has not paid enough attention to the continent in his presidency. Obama has sought to change that perception, in part by hosting African leaders in Washington last year.

One of Obama's initiatives, launched in 2013, was to boost electricity supplies across a continent where many are not on the grid. The goal is to add 30,000 megawatts (MW) of capacity. Deals to add 4,100 MW have been agreed so far, the White House said.—Reuters

Clinton emails contained classified material — US inspector



US Democratic presidential candidate Hillary Clinton speaks during an event at the New York University Leonard N Stern School of Business in New York on 24 July, 2015.—REUTERS

NEW YORK, 25 July — At least four emails from the private email account that former US Secretary of State Hillary Clinton used while in office contained classified information, according to a government inspector's letter that deepened the email controversy dogging Clinton's 2016 presidential campaign.

The inspector general of the intelligence community wrote in a letter to members of Congress on Thursday that a sampling of 40 of 30,000 Clinton emails found at least four that should have been classified as secret. The information in the emails was derived from the US intelligence community "and should have been handled as classified, appropriately marked and transmitted via a secure network," the inspector general, Charles McCullough, wrote. His letter was made available on Friday on a House of Representatives website.

Clinton's use of her private email account for her work as America's top diplomat came to light in March and drew fire from political opponents who accused her of sidestepping transparency and record-keeping laws.

The former first lady has said she sent no classified information on her private email account. The inspector general's comments left open the possibility that Clinton sent or received emails with classified material that she was not aware of.

The front-runner to represent the Democratic Party in the November 2016 election, Clinton has repeatedly said she broke no laws or rules by eschewing a standard government email account.

Clinton spokesman

Nick Merrill said in a statement she "followed appropriate practices in dealing with classified materials."

Clinton handed over some 30,000 emails from the private account to the State Department after she quit in 2013, but many thousands of others that she says are not related to her work were deleted.

"We are all accountable to the American people to get the facts right, and I will do my part," Clinton said at a speech in New York, noting she had handed over tens of thousands of pages of emails.

McCullough said State Department officials had told his office "that there are potentially hundreds of classified emails within the approximately 30,000 provided by former Secretary Clinton."

Republicans in Congress and on the presidential campaign trail have seized on the email scandal to portray Clinton as continuing secretive practices they say they also characterized President Bill Clinton's eight years in office.

While Clinton faces little competition for the Democratic Party's nomination, several recent polls have found a majority of voters find her untrustworthy, a perception exacerbated by controversy over her emails. The US Justice Department said on Friday it is weighing a request by two government inspectors to look into the possible mishandling of classified information from Clinton's private email account.

The department said earlier in the day it had been asked to treat the issue as a potential criminal matter, but later backtracked to drop a reference to any criminal investigation.

Reuters

Belgium arrests two ex-Guantanamo inmates on terrorism charges

BRUSSELS, 25 July — Belgium has arrested two former detainees of Guantanamo prison on charges of terrorism, saying the men are suspected of seeking recruits to fight in Syria, the federal prosecutor's office said on Friday.

The two men, who were held at the Guantanamo Bay US Naval base in Cuba between 2001 and 2005, were under police surveillance and were arrested in the early hours of Thursday in the Belgian city of Antwerp along with

three others.

"They were in a car, we believe waiting to commit a robbery," said Jean-Pascal Thoreau, a spokesman for Belgium's federal prosecutor.

Western fighters in Syria and Iraq have found some of their most willing recruits in Belgium, and per capita Belgium is the European country providing the highest number of citizens to fight with Syrian rebels in recent years, data shows.

Belgium is third only

to France and Britain, with nearly 300 citizens travelling to fight between late 2011 and December 2013, according to the International Centre for the Study of Radicalization.

The two men accused are Moussa Zemmouri, a 37-year-old Belgian of Moroccan origin, and an Algerian whom the prosecutor's office identified as Soufiane A and who is suspected of spending time in Syria.

Zemmouri was captured in the Kandahar region in southern Afghan-

istan following the 11 September, 2001 attacks. He was flown back to Belgium in April 2005 and later released after spending time in a Belgian prison.

Guantanamo was set up after the 11 September attacks for al-Qaeda and Taliban detainees. Obama vowed to close it within a year when he came to office in 2009. The White House said on Wednesday it was in the final stage of drafting a plan for closing the prison for foreign terrorism suspects.—Reuters

Turkey stages first air strikes on Islamic State in Syria



A Turkish Air Force A400M tactical transport aircraft (foreground) is parked at Incirlik Airbase in the southern city of Adana, Turkey, on 24 July, 2015.—REUTERS

ANKARA/ELBEYLİ, (Turkey), 25 July — Turkish warplanes pounded Islamic State targets in Syria for the first time on Friday, with President Tayyip Erdogan promising more decisive action against both the jihadists and Kurdish militants.

Hours after the initial attacks, fighter jets were launched in a second round against Islamic State, while

others targeted militants camps of the Kurdistan Workers Party (PKK) in northern Iraq, according to local media.

Reuters was unable to confirm the second round of strikes. An attack against PKK camps in Iraq would likely mark a major blow to Turkey's already stalled peace process with the Kurds.

Friday's operations followed a telephone conversation between Erdogan and US President Barack Obama on Wednesday, and were accompanied by police raids across Turkey to detain hundreds of suspected militants, including from Kurdish groups.

Ankara said it had approved the use of its air bases by US and coalition air-

craft to mount strikes against Islamic State, marking a major change in policy that has long been a sore point for Washington.

Turkey has been a reluctant partner in the US-led coalition against Islamic State, emphasising instead the need to oust Syrian President Bashar al-Assad and said Syrian Kurdish forces also pose a

grave security threat.

Erdogan said the crack down against Islamic State would be in tandem with an attack on the PKK, which Ankara describes as a separatist organization.

"In our phone call with Obama, we reiterated our determination in the struggle against the separatist organization and the Islamic State," Erdogan told reporters. "We took the first step last night."

Turkey told the United Nations on Friday that it started conducting air strikes in Syria against Islamic State militants because the Syrian government was neither capable or willing to tackle the radical Islamist group.

Turkey has faced increasing insecurity along its 900-km (560-mile) frontier with Syria. A cross-border firefight on Thursday between the army and Islamic State, which has seized large areas of Syria and Iraq, left five militants and one soldier dead. Turkey has also suffered a wave of violence in its largely Kurdish southeast after a suspected Islamic State suicide bombing killed 32 people, many of them Kurds, in the town of Suruc on the Syrian border this week.

Erdogan's critics say he is more concerned with

keeping Syrian Kurdish fighters in check, afraid that gains they have made against Islamic State in the Syrian civil war will embolden Turkey's own 14 million-strong Kurdish minority.

"Even though Erdogan has so far failed to achieve his goals in Syria — the overthrow of Assad — and Islamic State has become a problem, it is nevertheless a convenient instrument for him," said Halil Karaveli, managing editor of The Turkey Analyst, a policy journal. "Now he has all the excuses he needs to go after the Kurds and also it makes him look very good in the eyes of the US, which will be happy that Turkey is on board in the coalition."

Opposition lawmakers from the pro-Kurdish Peoples' Democratic Party said Erdogan is intent on "obstructing" the advances made by the Syrian Kurds against Islamic State.

"The real aim of today's operations is not the Islamic State, but the democratic opposition," they said in an e-mailed statement.

News of the military operations further unnerved jittery investors, helping send the lira TRY/TOM=D3 down nearly 4 percent on the week.—Reuters

Sorrow grips Egyptians over fatal shipwreck on Nile

CAIRO, 25 July — "Our family cemetery isn't wide enough for burial of our victims in one time," Moustafa Ali said when he stood outside the morgue room of Tahrir Hospital to receive corpses of his family members.

Ali has lost seven persons of his relatives including his wife and two children in two boats collision late on Wednesday.

Ali told Xinhua that two of his family's beloved are still missing, "I had to experience the grief of burial two times: we will hold a funeral and bury five bodies, then we will attend a second funeral for other two victims when retrieved."

Egypt's health ministry said on Friday that the death toll from a collision of cargo ship and a boat on the Nile carrying people celebrating the holidays of post-Ramadan feast on Wednesday has risen to 29, after several more bodies were retrieved from the river.

The death toll is to increase as the boat has car-

ried nearly 50 passengers, according to eyewitnesses. Rescuers were still searching for more bodies, medic sources added.

State-run Ahram website quoted a security source on Friday as saying Egypt Nile boat accident death toll rises to 37. Some 150m far from the coast, the front of the boat has appeared on the surface, with some of the remained ornaments and broken coloured lamps, and silent music speakers that never stopped playing popular songs in very loud voice, while the backward of the boat was still sinking.

Awaiting people in lines near the coast were staring cautiously at the rescue team who appears from time to time around and near the boat sometimes with victims and many times with empty hands.

Families in queues were standing near the Nile river coast on Friday, while others are searching among the recovered bodies in hospitals for their missed relatives.

Xinhua

Expulsion from Derna bastion may show limits for Islamic State in Libya

CAIRO / BENGHAZI, (Libya), 25 July — Islamic State jihadists have exploited widespread chaos to gain a foothold in Libya, but their ejection from an eastern city suggests they may not achieve a Iraq-style takeover due to strong local rivals and the absence of sectarian divisions.

Last month, local Islamist fighters reinforced by local civilians ousted Islamic State militants from Derna on Libya's eastern Mediterranean coast, one of two bastions the jihadists had established in the North African oil-producing country.

It was the first setback in Libya for the ultra-violent jihadist movement that has sent in combatants and clerics from Tunisia, Yemen and other Arab states to try repeat its success in Iraq and Syria, where it has captured vast territories and proclaimed a "caliphate" based on medieval religious precepts.

Islamic State (IS) has benefited from Libya's anarchy. Two rival governments are fighting each other and



Members of the Libyan pro-government forces stand on a tank during their deployment in the Lamluda area, southwest of the city of Derna, Libya, on 16 June, 2015.—REUTERS

unable to gain the upper hand while former rebel groups that helped topple Muammar Gaddafi in 2011 compete for power, creating a security vacuum.

But IS was driven out of Derna after seven people were killed at a protest against the influx of foreign jihadists and the killing of a commander of the local Abu Salim Martyrs Brigade, allied with a former anti-Gaddafi militia in the town.

A number of angry residents joined the Abu Salim Martyrs to help them expel IS from Derna, an Islamist hotspot even during Gaddafi's 42-year rule in which he suppressed political Islam.

The Sunni Islamic State has drawn considerable grassroots support in Iraq and Syria by milking longstanding Sunni-Shi'ite Muslim sectarian enmities. But this does not work in Libya, an exclusively Sunni coun-

try where local Sunni armed factions and tribes regard Islamic State as an infiltrator and competitor.

"People had had enough of Daesh," said a Derna resident, using a derogatory Arabic acronym for Islamic State, also known as ISIS and ISIL. "The Abu Salim Brigade has enjoyed some support going back to the (anti-Gaddafi) revolution."

Mattia Toaldo, policy fellow at the European Council on Foreign Relations, said Islamic State would now probably focus on its other Libya power base — Sirte, Gaddafi's hometown on the country's central coast where IS has won unusual support from Gaddafi loyalists opposed to Libya's jostling new rulers.

IS insurgents have attacked oil fields south of the central city and kidnapped some nine foreign workers. They also executed 21 Egyptian Christians near Sirte and stormed a luxury hotel in the capital Tripoli, killing five foreigners.

Reuters

PERSPECTIVES

Sunday, 26 July, 2015

Peace worth a fortune to Myanmar

By Aung Khin

Myanmar regained its independence from Britain 67 years ago. Since then, a number of ethnic minority groups have waged civil conflicts. The government has made shaky provisional ceasefires with some of them.

Fundamental questions at ceasefire talks included autonomy, federalism and self-determination. These concerns have not been solved,

although the country now has preliminary ceasefire agreements with several ethnic armed groups.

Internal conflict has been a constant backdrop to the development of Myanmar. Any country torn by civil war cannot properly develop. If all stakeholders fail to make agreements for internal peace, the country will lag behind neighbouring economies. They all need to demonstrate genuine will for national reconciliation.

Civil conflicts have been hampering many pivotal sectors of the country, including tourism, education, health and industry. Although Myanmar has abundant natural resources on land and at sea, development programmes have not been set up effectively due to civil conflicts. In turn, many ordinary people have to live under the poverty line.

After the three-day ceasefire talks between the government and the representatives of ethnic

armed groups on 24 July, the stakeholders are hopeful that the final agreement can be made in near future. They held marathon talks of more than 18 months.

Military power cannot assure lasting peace although it can threaten others. Mutual trust and willingness to develop a peaceful environment can guarantee prosperity, as well as the fortune of the country.

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

The Danger Of Dengue Fever

U Win Sein

Dengue fever is a mosquito-borne disease occurring in a condition by the bites of mosquito infected with dengue virus after it has bitten a person with dengue virus in his blood. It cannot spread directly from one person to another person. Infection rate is usually at peak in the raining season of July and August. Each year, an estimated 100 million cases of dengue fever occur worldwide, mostly are in the tropical areas. It is painful as similar to that of measles in children, and can cause a possible epidemic outbreak, which may lead to development of a life threatening dengue hemorrhagic fever from a large breeding ground of mosquitoes with stagnant water or from many vases of unused water.

As dengue fever is solely associated with the culprit

mosquito, once, we get rid of the mosquitoes, the disease will stop right there with it. So where there are no mosquitoes, there will be no dengue fever disease at all.

If my memory serve me right, I can remember that when I was serving as an auditor apprentice together with the senior auditors of Allan Charlesworth Co,Ltd, the auditing firm, we use to check the stock- books of companies that were kept at the warehouses of 39th and 40th street and whenever in the mid of our tiresome works and felt like stressing out our legs for rest by smoking a cigarette, so we came out in front of the warehouse where we could see the waste water flowing rapidly along the roadside waste water disposal trench with no blockade or overflowing of water at all. (that was the time during the parliamentary government era of 1960.) We just dropped

our spent cigarettes into the trench when finishing our smoking, the cast off cigarette butts were carried away by the steady current in the trench and thereby through the bigger trenches in the vicinity nearby, finally letting out into the Yangon River.

A few years back a team of four or five employees of Y.C.D.C, come to 39th street and started digging the long avoided rubbishes and dirt filled trenches on both sides of the street. It seemed to look like a good sign that the responsible departments have had finally paid attention to transform the waste water disposal tranches back to their former serviceable function of the good old days. However, about four or five days of re-digging, the job was almost half finished only. I was surprised to notice that the team has never returned after all and disappeared in mid- air without a trail.

department at 9.30 a.m. showed Momeik in Shan State and Mogoksaw record rainfalls over a 24-hour period, recording 101 millimetres and 170 mm, respectively.

The weather bureau predicts central Myanmar areas are expected to experience continuation of increase of rain next two days.—GNLM

being released through spillways in order to overflowing or breaking of dam embankments, the announcement stated.

The Meteorology and Hydrology Department on Saturday warned people, especially those living in hilly areas and near rivers, to be alert to possible landslides and flash floods.

An observation by the

Discussions are ongoing to hand over additional 159 verified Bangladeshi nationals

NAY PYI TAW, 25 July — Myanmar and Bangladesh have been coordinating in repatriation process of the boat people rescued by Myanmar on 21 and 29 May. A total of 342 Bangladeshi nationals were handed over in three batches to the Bangladeshi side, the ministry of foreign affairs said in its news release.

Discussions between the two sides are ongoing to hand over additional 159 verified Bangladeshi na-

tionals on 30 July 2015 out of the remaining 389 boat people who are temporarily sheltered at Taung Pyo (We').

Based on neighbourliness relations between Myanmar and Bangladesh, verification and repatriation process is continuing to send the boat people back to the place of origin expeditiously.

Assistance are being provided to the rescued persons based on humanitarian grounds.—MNA

Dengue prevention and control in Pyawbwe

PYAWBWE, 25 July—The Department of Health in the township of Pyawbwe, Mandalay Region, took preventive measures against dengue hemorrhagic fever under the programme of covering, emp-

tying and cleaning of domestic water storage containers.

Civil services organizations joined hands with the department in the effort to apply appropriate insecticides to water storage

containers.

"We put high-risk places under close watch," said Daw Amar Kyi, the in-charge of the township's maternal and child health centre.

Min Min Htwe

6 dead as severe flooding hits . . .

(from page 1)

destroyed five houses and damaged one monastery, inundating low-lying areas.

The Ministry of Agriculture and Irrigation announced Saturday that it is closely monitoring dams across the country.

Excess dam water is



ARTICLE & NATIONAL

Prevent hepatitis, act now

Dr Poonam Khetrpal Singh, Regional Director, WHO South-East Asia Region

Viral hepatitis kills nearly 4000 people every day and close to 1.5 million people every year worldwide. Globally, one in 12 people are infected with viral hepatitis. There could be millions more with viral hepatitis as it can persist undetected for many years before giving rise to symptoms and can lead to chronic liver damage, cirrhosis, liver cancer and death.

In the WHO-South-East Asia Region (SEAR) this life threatening disease claims around half a million lives each year that is more than malaria, dengue, and HIV/AIDS related deaths combined. There are 100 million people living with chronic hepatitis B and 30 million people living with chronic hepatitis C.

Almost three-quarter of these are unaware of their infection status. Additionally, many children and adults suffer from hepatitis A. Pregnant women in the Region are vulnerable to hepatitis E infection that is life-threatening in pregnancy.

While hepatitis A and E are transmitted through the faeco-oral route i.e., consumption of contaminated food and water, hepatitis B and C are transmitted through contact with infected blood through unsafe injections, medical procedures, blood transfusion, shaving blades, tattoos and piercing instruments and vertically from an infected pregnant mother to her unborn child.

All forms of hepatitis can cause serious complications — some more than others, depending on the baseline health status of

the individual. It is important to be aware and act early to prevent these infections, disability and deaths. It is important to ensure injection and blood safety, adequate hygiene and proper sanitation, vaccination for hepatitis A and B. Get yourself tested for hepatitis B and C especially if you are vulnerable — e.g. in high risk professions, requiring frequent blood transfusions, unvaccinated for hepatitis B, receiving frequent injections, etc. While there is no vaccine for hepatitis C yet, early diagnosis and treatment can prevent chronic liver damage, cirrhosis, liver cancer and reduce the risk of death.

While this disease has been around for quite some time, the policy and programme response has been lukewarm at best. Lack of reliable information on extent of infection, disease, disability and death due to viral hepatitis could be responsible for the relative

isolation of this disease. Also compounding the problem is the fact that it may take years before the signs and symptoms of the disease manifest especially for hepatitis B and C. Unlike HIV, hepatitis does not have vocal community voices demanding right to diagnosis and treatment. Treatment choices too have been limited. We have had treatment for chronic hepatitis B infection for some time and we now have a cure for hepatitis C. Towards the end of 2013, when the US FDA approved the directly acting anti-viral drugs that could cure hepatitis C, it was revolutionary. However, the astronomical price of drugs dampened the excitement. Relentless advocacy and concerted action especially on price negotiation have already resulted in reduction of prices by 90% for low and low-middle income countries. Further reductions with availability of

generics will happen in the not so distant future. It will be a treatment revolution for hepatitis C and only then we can dream of eliminating this dreaded disease.

Vaccination is one of the best things to happen for public health. Hepatitis B vaccine is effective. It is part of the routine immunization schedule for children in all countries. Additionally, WHO recommends giving hepatitis B vaccination to all newborns within first 24 hours of birth. This simple and cost effective strategy will give us a generation free of hepatitis B. Ideally, all children and adults who have not been vaccinated against hepatitis B should get tested and if not yet infected, should take the three doses of the vaccine. This is especially true for those at higher risk like health care workers, those needing frequent blood transfusions or dialysis. People who frequently inject and men who have sex with men are also at increased risk and should get tested and vaccinated.

The other pillar of prevention is avoiding risks — minimize use of injections, insist on safety of medical procedures, avoid tattoos, should you need, only use safe blood for transfusion. When in doubt, get tested. Be informed, be empowered.

This year's theme for World Hepatitis Day on July 28 is "Prevent hepatitis. Act now." This day was chosen to commemorate the birthday of Nobel Laureate Professor Baruch Samuel Blumberg, who discovered the hepatitis B virus and developed the first hepatitis B vaccine (HBV). The global focus this year will be on prevention for hepatitis B and C; we have vaccine and treatment for hepatitis B and cure for hepatitis C. Combating hepatitis is one of the indicators for the post 2015 health and development agenda. We can be ambitious and aim to eliminate hepatitis B and C- **together, we can do it.**

South Korea pledges help for Myanmar agricultural sector



Union Minister for Agriculture and Irrigation U Myint Hlaing signs agreement with the Korea Rural Community Corporation.—MOAI

Nay Pyi Taw, 25 July—Myanmar entered an agreement Saturday with the Korea Rural Community Corporation (KRC) as part of efforts to improve its agriculture and irrigation sector.

KRC will offer effective cooperation in rural

development projects in 100 villages, Union Minister for Agriculture and Irrigation U Myint Hlaing said, citing the agreement.

The minister stressed the need to implement the development projects phase by phase, with technical assistance and low-in-

terest loans to be provided by KRC.

Speaking at the signing ceremony, the minister called for creating a new level of cooperation in agricultural development between Myanmar and South Korea.

MNA

Rescue services in Rakhine floods

NAY PYI TAW, 25 July—Deputy Minister for Livestock, Fisheries and

Rural Development U Khin Maung Aye supervised rescue services for flood vic-

tims in Rakhine State and the reconstruction of transport infrastructure.—MNA

I'm tired from trying to make my supervisor think I'm working hard.

Don't pull that at home or you'll go hungry! You hear me!?



Maung Tagun

Nikkei's FT buy follows years of attempting to break into English news

Tokyo, 25 July — Nikkei's \$1.3 billion (838 million pounds) purchase of the *Financial Times* from Britain's Pearson PLC (PSON.L) marks the culmination of decades of attempts by the Japanese household name to break into mainstream English-language media.

The Japanese media group's flagship newspaper enjoys a must-read reputation for financial news in Japan and, with a circulation of more than 3 million, bills itself as the world's biggest selling business daily.

But it has remained unable to break out from its home shores since starting life in 1876 as a commodities pricing report published by a trading company.

The broadsheet rose to become Japan's premier economic daily, sponsoring — as the *Financial Times* once did — the country's main stock index, the *Nikkei* .N225.

The paper has struggled, however, to translate its dominance in Japanese-language business media into success among English-speaking readers in an international market.

It first published an English-language weekly paper in the 1960s but a plan to produce an English daily, hatched during Ja-



A logo of Japan's Nikkei newspaper is displayed atop of the headquarters building in Tokyo on 24 July, 2015.—REUTERS

pan's economic boom years of the late 1980s and early 1990s when it hired several English-language reporters and editors, faltered after the bubble burst.

The *Nikkei Weekly* newspaper continued but was rebranded, along with the corresponding website, as the *Nikkei Asian Review* in 2013, adopting a magazine format that last year had a circulation of around 12,000 copies a week, with more than 90 percent sold in Asia.

The *Nikkei Asian Review* won three prizes at the Society of Publishers in Asia this year, its debut appearance at the awards, including an award for report-

ing on the environment.

The *Nikkei* also had a years-long alliance with *Wall Street Journal* publisher Dow Jones, which came to an end in the last decade.

With deep ties to corporate Japan, the *Nikkei* is known among investors for market-moving previews of corporate earnings days in advance of companies' official announcements.

That pattern of widespread apparent leaks to the *Nikkei* attracted criticism at a time when Prime Minister Shinzo Abe's government has been advocating greater corporate transparency to attract foreign investment.

The *Nikkei*'s attempt to

break out of a stagnating domestic media market, in a country with an ageing and declining population, puts it among a group of Japanese companies, including insurers and financial institutions, seeking growth overseas.

Although the yen has fallen about 40 percent against sterling GBPJPY=R over the past four years — increasing the cost of British purchases — Abe's policies, including a programme of unprecedented monetary easing by the Bank of Japan, has made credit cheap and encouraged companies to acquire abroad.

Reuters

China progresses in hepatitis B vaccination, more treatment effort urged

BEIJING, 25 July — China has won praises from WHO after reaching its goal to control hepatitis B infection among children through immunization ahead of schedule, but more effort is urged for its adult patients.

The National Health and Family Planning Commission announced on Friday that the prevalence of hepatitis B surface antigen, a key index indicating hepatitis B virus (HBV) infection, for Chinese children in the 1-4 and 5-14 age groups both decreased by more than 60 percent from 2006 to 0.32 and 0.94 percent respectively.

This means the country has reached the goal set by the WHO to reduce HBV infection prevalence in children to less than one percent ahead of the deadline of 2017, making the current generation of children the first in the country's history to be almost hepatitis B-free.

Viral hepatitis is a severe health threat and the leading cause of cirrhosis of the liver and liver cancer. China has about 90 million people living with chronic hepatitis B. China started its hepatitis B vaccination programme in 1992, focusing on children

under 15.

"Slashing the rate of hepatitis B infection in children means China has drastically reduced this generation's chances of developing conditions like cirrhosis of the liver and liver cancer later in life. This is an extraordinary public health success story," said WHO China Representative Bernhard Schwartlander on Friday.

Meanwhile, Jia Jidong, a hepatopathy expert with the Beijing Friendship Hospital under the Capital Medical University, noted a large number of Chinese adults are infected by hepatitis B, citing problems including inconsistent treatments and high medicine cost.

"Many adult patients were not able to follow through long-term use of high-end drugs due to various reasons, which held back treatment," Jia said, adding that the country's hepatitis B prevention and control task is arduous.

Dr Schwartlander also called for "the same determined, evidence-based, public health approach which created China's highly successful hepatitis B vaccination programme" to be adopted for the treatments of the country's adult patients.—Xinhua

Brazil offers free early treatment for people exposed to AIDS

BRASILIA, 25 July — The Brazilian government has launched a programme to offer free early preventive medical treatment for those who have exposed themselves to the AIDS virus, in efforts to strengthen the fight against the deadly disease of AIDS.

Known as Post-Exposure Prophylaxis (PEP), the treatment programme helps to avoid infection taken within 72 hours after exposure to the risk of AIDS, with higher assurance within two hours, Brazil's official journal *Diario Oficial* reported, citing sources with Brazil's Health Ministry.

During the treatment, a mixture of antiretroviral medicine consisting of tenofovir, lamivudine, atazana-

vir and ritonavir, has to be taken for 28 consecutive days.

The medicine has been offered to health professionals since 1990. But victims of sexual violence and suspected infected persons didn't get access to the PEP until 1998 and 2011 respectively, while treatment regulations remained to be improved.

The government intends to provide extensive access to the PEP so that even in rural areas, patients can still be treated in clinics without medical specialists.

Apart from offering preventative treatment, Brazil has also provided a comprehensive health-care system offering AIDS-infected patients free treatment.

Xinhua

"Pepper"-installed housing showroom gives feel of living with robot

OSAKA, 25 July — What will it be like living with a humanoid robot that can read human emotions and exchange conversations with humans?

Softbank Group Corp began displaying its popular "Pepper" robots at a housing showroom in Osaka on Friday to give visitors a feel of it, with the round-eyed robots letting out friendly greetings such as "Hello" and "Did you have breakfast?"

Under a capital and business tie-up formed in May with Yamada Denki Co, Softbank is showcasing the robots, which sold out instantly when 1,000 units went on sale in June, at a showroom of Yamada Wood House Co, a subsidiary of the electrical appliance retailer.

Pepper can do more

than talk if it becomes a live-in companion, according to the telecommunication and Internet business group.

It is technically possible to use Pepper for keeping an eye on an elderly person and for security purposes.

Yamada Denki and Softbank are considering launching a package deal of selling a house and a Pepper together in the future.

After being displayed in showrooms in Osaka until Monday, Pepper will be featured in a housing showroom in Tokyo on 1-2 August.

The robot with a white body is claimed to be the world's first robot capable of reading emotions via its camera, touch sensors and microphone.



"Pepper" humanoid robots are on show at a Yamada Wood House Co housing showroom in Osaka, western Japan, on 24 July, 2015. Softbank Group Corp, which sells the robots, hopes visitors will get a feel of what it would be like living with a robot.—KYODO NEWS

Priced at 213,840 yen (\$1,725), the first batch of 1,000 units sold out in just one minute after they went on sale online on 20 June.

Softbank will sell another 1,000 units next Friday, accepting orders at its online shop from 10 am.

Kyodo News

Pivotal trade deal reached by WTO members on over 200 IT products

GENEVA, 25 July — WTO members came to a consensus on Friday regarding the inclusion of some 200 additional Information Technology (IT) products to the Information Technology Agreement (ITA) which hadn't been updated since its inception in 1996.

"The list is closed and that is the major conclusion of today's work," WTO Director General Roberto Azevedo told the press, referring to the list of 201 new products on which tariff barriers will be eliminated. "Eliminating tariffs on trade of this magnitude will have a huge impact. It will support lower prices, including in many other sectors that use IT products as



The World Trade Organization (WTO) logo is seen at the entrance of the WTO headquarters in Geneva, Switzerland on 24 July, 2015. WTO members representing major exporters of information technology products agreed on Friday to eliminate tariffs on more than 200 such products, according to WTO's press release. —XINHUA

inputs, it will create jobs and it will help to boost GDP growth around the

world," said Azevedo.

This agreement builds on an initial accord reached

by 54 WTO members on 18 July, which will be used as a basis for implementation

work to begin, while participating ministers have until December to finalize technical work ahead of the Nairobi Ministerial Conference at the end of the year.

WTO indicated that under the terms of agreement, the majority of tariffs on the products will be lifted within three years, with reductions starting as soon as 2016.

Valued at over 1.3 trillion US dollars in annual trade, the electronics products covered by this expansion include new generation semi-conductors, GPS navigation and medical equipment, as well as machine tools for manufacturing printed circuits, telecommunications satellites

and touch screens.

Though not all WTO members participated in negotiations, WTO indicated that all 161 member states will benefit from duty-free market access to those state markets committed to eliminating tariffs on the products.

Today's agreement is the fruit of negotiations which started in 2012 when countries realized that new categories of IT products were not covered by the existing agreement given the level of technical innovation which has taken place over the last 18 years.

WTO indicated that the terms of the agreement will be formally circulated to the full membership on 28 July.—Xinhua

Fiat Chrysler US to recall vehicles to prevent hacking

DETROIT/SAN FRANCISCO, 25 July — Fiat Chrysler will recall 1.4 million vehicles in the United States to install software to prevent hackers from gaining remote control of the engine, steering and other systems in what federal officials said was the first such action of its kind.

The announcement on Friday by FCA US LLC, formerly Chrysler Group LLC, was made days after reports that cybersecurity researchers used a wireless connection to turn off a Jeep Cherokee's engine as it drove, increasing concerns about the safety of Internet-enabled vehicles.

The researchers used Fiat Chrysler's (FCAU.N) (FCHA.MI) telematics system to break into a volunteer's Cherokee being driven on the highway and issue commands to the engine, steering and brakes.

The National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA) said on Friday it would investigate whether FCA's solution to upgrade software was

enough to protect consumers from hackers, although FCA said in its recall announcement that it was unaware of any injuries.

A spokesman for NHTSA said that it was the first recall of vehicles because of concerns about cybersecurity, and experts said they hoped it would send a shock through the auto industry and beyond it. The risks of increasing connectivity to physical devices extend far beyond cars and into hospitals and chemical plants and factories, they said.

"It's a huge problem, and it's an architectural problem with this Internet-of-Things concept," said Nicholas Weaver, a security researcher at the nonprofit International Computer Science Institute in Berkeley, California.

He said that at present there is a divide in terms of design, in that cars and other products could be accessible from a variety of sources, such as smartphones, as with the Cherokee, or else can be designed

to communicate only with a single authenticated server.

Products designed to be accessible by a range of means including smartphones leave a large "attack surface" that is easier to penetrate. But products that communicate only with a single authenticated server allow the company that owns the server to compile a raft of information about the user, increasing privacy concerns, Weaver said.

Ed Skoudis, an expert in securing connected devices, said the fact that the recall came so soon after publication of the FCA cybersecurity issue "is a shot across the bow of other IoT manufacturers that this could cost them a lot of money."

Skoudis said he hoped companies would reconsider what they spend on security earlier in the design process in order to avoid similar recalls, lawsuits and the threat of increased regulation.

Reuters



The 2014 Jeep Grand Cherokee is introduced at the North American International Auto Show in Detroit, Michigan on 14 Jan, 2013. REUTERS

NASA spacecraft shows Pluto wrapped in haze, ice flows

CAPE CANAVERAL, (Fla.), 25 July — A stunning silhouette of Pluto taken by NASA's New Horizons spacecraft after it shot past the icy orb last week show an extensive layer of atmospheric haze, while close-up pictures of the ground reveal flows of nitrogen ice, scientists said on Friday.

New Horizons became the first spacecraft to visit Pluto and its entourage of moons and so far has returned about 5 percent of the pictures and science data collected in the days leading up to, during and immediately following the 14 July flyby.

The latest batch of images includes a backlit view of Pluto with sun, located more than 3 billion miles away, shining around and through the planet's atmosphere. Analysis shows distinct layers of haze in Pluto's nitrogen, carbon monoxide and methane atmosphere. The haze extends at least 100 miles (161 km) off the surface.

"This is our first peek at weather in Pluto's atmosphere," New Horizons scientist Michael Summers, with George Mason University in Fairfax, Virginia, told reporters during a teleconferenced press briefing.

As the tiny particles fall to the ground, they may trigger chemical reactions that give Pluto its reddish hue, he added.

The haze layer, which extends five times farther than predicted by computer



This NASA's photo of Pluto was made from four images from New Horizons' Long Range Reconnaissance Imager (LORRI) combined with color data from the Ralph instrument in this enhanced color global view released on 24 July, 2015.—REUTERS

models, was not the only surprise. Pressure measurements show the total mass of Pluto's atmosphere has halved in two years.

"That's pretty astonishing, at least to an atmospheric scientist. That tells you something is happening," Summers said.

More details will come over the next year as New Horizons sends recorded data back to Earth.

NASA also released new images of Pluto's surface, with telltale signs of a wide range of geologic activities including a Plutonian version of glacial ice flows.—Reuters

First four-legged snake fossil discovered

BEIJING, 25 July —113-million-year-old four-legged snake fossil found in Brazil lately was estimated to be an ancestor of modern snakes.

According to the scientists, those snakes' had tiny arms and legs of 4mm and 7mm long respectively, but their fingers and toes were very long and skinny, showing that they were probably not used for walking but for grabbing its

prey. The fossil coils and writhes on its slab, which the researchers considered as a sign that it was able to squeeze its meals into submission. It was thus called huggy snake by Dr Longrich, one of the study's authors from the University of Bath.

"It would sort of embrace or hug its prey with its forelimbs and hindlimbs. So it's the huggy snake," he explained. The idea that

snakes developed from marine reptiles has been negated by researchers. Rather, it's the most primitive fossil snake known, and Nick Longrich is quite sure that it's not aquatic.

He explained that the shape of the creature's tail is not for swimming and no sign of fins has been found. At the same time, the long trunk and short snout were the typical signs of a burrower.—Xinhua

Bush but no Trump expected at August three Republican forum

WASHINGTON, 25 July — A Republican forum on 3 August in New Hampshire is growing in significance as 14 candidates have now agreed to participate.

The Voters First Republican Presidential Forum was set up to accommodate candidates who were not ranked in the top 10 in national polling and who are to compete in the first official Republican debate, moderated by Fox News on 6 August in Cleveland.

But now many in the top 10 are planning to show up for the New Hampshire forum as well. New York real estate mogul Donald



Republican presidential candidate Jeb Bush speaks during a town hall meeting campaign stop at the Medallion Opera House in Gorham, Massachusetts on 23 July, 2015. —REUTERS

Trump is not attending, the Union Leader newspaper of Manchester, *New Hampshire*, reported.

The Voters First Republican Presidential Forum is to be held at St. Anselm College in

Manchester.

The two-hour forum is intended to highlight the importance of New Hampshire's first-in-the-nation primary, along with the nominating contests in Iowa and South Carolina.

The Union Leader, one of the sponsors for the forum, said the candidates who have committed to attend include Jeb Bush, Scott Walker, Rand Paul, Marco Rubio, Carly Fiorina, Bobby Jindal, John Kasich and Chris Christie.

Also on the list are Rick Perry, George Pataki, Lindsey Graham, Ted Cruz, Rick Santorum and Ben Carson.—Reuters

China seizes 400 kg of milk formula made in Japan

BEIJING, 25 July — Chinese border quarantine officials have seized over 400 kilograms of milk formula produced in areas affected by Japan's Fukushima nuclear disaster, local media reported on Friday.

The products arrived in parcels mailed to Hunan Province between on 1 and 20 July, state-run *Xinhua News* reported, and constituted the province's largest ever haul of banned Japanese food products. The infant formula, *Xinhua* reported, was not contaminated with radioactive material. Following the 2011 Fukushima nuclear accident, China

placed a blanket prohibition on importing food produced in 10 Japanese prefectures affected by the disaster. Last month, officials from Japan's farm ministry met with a senior Chinese official in charge of food inspection to discuss easing the restrictions. Imported milk formula is a particularly popular product among Chinese consumers who were put off of domestic products after a 2008 food safety scandal where Chinese companies were found to have adulterated their products with the chemical melamine, leading to the deaths of six infants.

Kyodo News

Suspect in Louisiana theatre rampage had history of mental illness

LAFAYETTE, (La), 25 July — A 59-year-old man who had been committed to a hospital for psychiatric care was identified by authorities on Friday as the gunman who fatally shot two people in a rampage at a movie theatre in central Louisiana before turning the gun on himself as police closed in.

The gunman, John R Houser, had a volatile relationship with his family and railed against the US government online. He opened fire with a .40 calibre handgun about 20 minutes into the comedy film "Trainwreck," sending panicked theatregoers ducking behind seats and running for the exits. One woman pulled the fire alarm.

"This is a normal movie theatre in a normal part of a normal town.

This is Anywhere, USA," said Republican Governor Bobby Jindal,

a presidential contender who went to the crime scene in Lafayette. "This just shows these senseless acts of violence can literally happen anywhere."

Houser bought the gun legally from a pawnshop in Alabama in 2014, police said, despite a history of mental illness and having been denied a concealed-carry permit seven years before because of a domestic violence complaint against him and a prior arson arrest.

Police said Houser acted alone and appeared to have carefully planned his attack in advance with hopes of making a quick getaway. Before buying a ticket for the 7 pm show, Houser parked his blue Lincoln Continental near the theatre's emergency exit. He had switched its licence plates and stashed the keys on top of a tyre.

Disguises including glasses and women's wigs

were later uncovered in a local motel room where he was staying.

"It is apparent that he was intent on shooting and escaping," Lafayette Police Chief Jim Craft said, who described Houser as an unemployed "drifter" from Phenix City, Alabama.

Houser never made it back to his car. As police swarmed the Grand 16 Theatre, located along a main thoroughfare in Lafayette, he reloaded his pistol, re-entered the auditorium and fired several more rounds at the crowd before killing himself, Craft said. In addition to the gun, he was carrying two 10-round magazines of bullets.

Police said they did not know why the suspect launched the attack in Lafayette, roughly 55 miles (90 km) southwest of the state capital Baton Rouge.—Reuters

Deadly flash floods in Pakistan damage roads and crops

LONDON, 25 July — Flash flooding caused by torrential monsoon rains has killed at least 28 in Pakistan and affected hundreds of thousands of people, according to aid agencies, with further downpours expected in the coming days.

In Chitral in the northwest, roads, bridges and crops were badly damaged, with more than a quarter of a million affected, the EU's humanitarian office said. Pakistan's poorest province, Baluchistan in the southwest, was also badly hit. "Some villages have been cut off from the rest of the district," said Shah Fahad Ali Khan, 27, a university lecturer living in Zargrandeh, a village in Chitral.

People in flood-prone areas have been shifted to safer ground, he said on Friday in an online message. Heavy rains are expected over the weekend, which may cause more flash flooding and could trigger landslides in Khyber Pakh-



A bus passes through the flooded streets of Peshawar, Pakistan, on 23 July, 2015. —REUTERS

tunkhwa Province, which includes Chitral, Pakistan's meteorological department said earlier this week. The heavy rains started falling on 15 July, and continued over the next week throughout the country, causing some urban flooding in Lahore, Islamabad and Rawalpindi, the Pakistani Red Crescent said in a statement. Deadly flooding is common in Pakistan's monsoon season, which runs from June to September. Last September dozens of people in Punjab and Kash-

mir were killed when flash floods caused their homes to collapse. In 2010, the worst floods in memory affected killed more than 2,000 people in Pakistan, with damage to infrastructure running into billions of dollars, and huge swathes of crops destroyed as a fifth of the country was inundated. Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif has announced a \$5 million aid package for Chitral, and visited flood relief camps in Punjab province on Friday, local media reported.—Reuters

Canada's Harper targets scandal-plagued Senate as election looms

REGINA, (Saskatchewan), 25 July — Canadian Prime Minister Stephen Harper took aim at the scandal-plagued upper Senate chamber on Friday, saying he would not make any more appointments to an institution that has caused him major trouble.

The Senate's woes embroiled key Harper allies and could hurt the chances of the ruling Conservatives in an election set for October. Harper, in power

since early 2006, is seeking a rare fourth consecutive term in office.

Harper has long said he wants to reform or abolish the 105-seat chamber on the grounds that it is outdated and ineffective. Eliminating the chamber would need the agreement of all Canada's 10 provinces, who are split over what to do.

"We will have a moratorium on further Senate appointments," said Har-



Canada's Prime Minister Stephen Harper (R) meets firefighters at a command post near the Westside Road wildfire in Kelowna, British Columbia on 23 July, 2015. —REUTERS

er, who has not named any senators for the last two years. There are currently 22 Senate vacancies.

The official opposition left-leaning New Democrats, who recent polls show have a chance of winning power in October, have long called for the Senate to be abolished.

"Harper had ten years to fix the Senate. He failed," the party said in a statement.

Last month, an official

probe revealed that members of the Senate improperly spent almost C\$1 million (\$770,000) in just two years.

Mike Duffy, a former television journalist who became a popular Conservative party fundraiser once in the Senate, is currently on trial for fraud and bribery. Duffy was suspended along with two other Harper appointees after questions about their expenses came to light.—Reuters

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CLAIMS DAY NOTICE
MV MERATUS GORONTALO
VOY NO (108N)

Consignees of cargo carried on MV MERATUS GORONTALO VOY NO (108N) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 26.7.2015 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of H.P.T where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

SHIPPING AGENCY DEPARTMENT
MYANMA PORT AUTHORITY
AGENT FOR: M/S YANG MING LINE

Phone No: 2301185

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE
MV TOKYO TRADER VOY NO (1509)

Consignees of cargo carried on MV TOKYO TRADER VOY NO (1509) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 26.7.2015 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of M.I.T.T/M.I.P where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

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

Phone No: 2301185

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE
MV MARCLOUD VOY NO (00011S)

Consignees of cargo carried on MV MARCLOUD VOY NO (00011S) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 26.7.2015 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 CHINA SHIPPING LINES

Phone No: 2301185

ပြည်ထောင်စုသမ္မတမြန်မာနိုင်ငံတော်
ရန်ကုန်တိုင်းဒေသကြီးအစိုးရ
တင်ဒါစိစစ်ရွေးချယ်ရေးကော်မတီ (DICTCS)
Yangon Comprehensive Traffic Control System ဒီဇိုင်းရေးဆွဲခြင်း
တပ်ဆင်ခြင်းနှင့် လည်ပတ်ခြင်းဆိုင်ရာ စိတ်ပါဝင်စားမှု ဖော်ပြချက် (EOI)
ဖိတ်ခေါ်ခြင်း

၁။ ရန်ကုန်တိုင်းဒေသကြီးအစိုးရသည် ရန်ကုန်မြို့တော်တွင် ဒီဇိုင်းရေးဆွဲခြင်း၊ တပ်ဆင်ခြင်းနှင့် လည်ပတ်ခြင်းဆိုင်ရာ Yangon Comprehensive Traffic Control System (DICTCS) လုပ်ငန်းအတွက် အရည်အချင်းပြည့်စုံသော ပြည်တွင်း/ ပြည်တွင်းနှင့် ပြည်ပကုမ္ပဏီတို့ပါဝင်သော ဖက်စပ်လုပ်ငန်းများအား စိတ်ပါဝင်စားမှုဖော်ပြချက်အဆိုပြုလွှာ (EOI) တင်သွင်းရန် ဖိတ်ခေါ်ပါသည်။

၂။ DICTCS တွင် အောက်ပါတို့ ပါဝင်ပါသည်(ကန့်သတ်ထားခြင်းမဟုတ်ပါ။)-

(က) Traffic Signal and Control System

(ခ) Transmission Infrastructure

(ဂ) Command and Control Center including building

(ဃ) Data Collection System

(င) IP Video and Video Analysis

(စ) Public Information and Dissemination

(ဆ) Intelligent Transport and Public Surveillance

၃။ စိတ်ပါဝင်စားသည့် ကုမ္ပဏီများ တင်သွင်းသော EOI တွင် အောက်ဖော်ပြပါ အချက်အလက်များ ဖော်ပြပါရှိရပါမည်-

(က) ကုမ္ပဏီ(များ)၏ အဆင့်အခြေအနေနှင့် အသေးစိတ် အချက်အလက်များ၊ အစုရှယ်ယာဝင်များ၏ နိုင်ငံသားဖြစ်မှုဆိုင်ရာ အသေးစိတ်ဖော်ပြချက်များနှင့် ၎င်းတို့၏ ထည့်ဝင်ပိုင်ဆိုင်မှု ရာခိုင်နှုန်း၊ ကုမ္ပဏီမှတ်ပုံတင်အထောက်အထား(မှတ်ပုံတင်မိတ္တူ၊ ပူးတွဲတင်ပြရန်)

(ခ) ကုမ္ပဏီ(များ)အကြောင်းအရာ ဖော်ပြချက်များ (အင်္ဂလိပ်ဘာသာဖြင့်)

(ဂ) လွန်ခဲ့သော (၃)နှစ်အတွင်း ကုမ္ပဏီ(များ)မှ ချုပ်ဆိုခဲ့သော စာချုပ်များ၏ စုစုပေါင်းတန်ဖိုး

(ဃ) DICTCS နှင့် အလားတူ လုပ်ငန်းအတွေ့အကြုံ (ရှိခဲ့ပါက အသုံးပြုခဲ့သော နည်းပညာ၊ ဆောင်ရွက်ခဲ့သော ဒေသ)

(င) DICTCS အတွက် ကုမ္ပဏီ(များ)က တာဝန်ပေးအပ်မည့် အကြီးတန်း စီမံခန့်ခွဲမှုနှင့် ကျွမ်းကျင်မှုဆိုင်ရာပုဂ္ဂိုလ်များ၊ အင်ဂျင်နီယာများ၏ အမည်နှင့် အရည်အချင်း

(စ) လွန်ခဲ့သော (၃)နှစ်အတွင်း လျှောက်ထားသူ(များ)မှ တရားအမှုအခင်းတွင် ပါဝင်ခဲ့မှု သတင်းအချက်အလက်များ၊ အမှုတွင် ပါဝင်ပတ်သက်သည့် ပုဂ္ဂိုလ်အဖွဲ့အစည်းများ အမည်နှင့် ငွေကြေး ပမာဏ

၄။ EOI ကို အင်ဂျင်နီယာဌာန (လမ်းနှင့်တံတား) ရန်ကုန်မြို့တော်စည်ပင်သာယာရေးကော်မတီသို့ ၂၀၁၅ ခုနှစ်၊ ဩဂုတ်လ (၇)ရက်(သောကြာနေ့) မွန်းလွဲ ၁ နာရီ (ဒေသစံတော်ချိန်)ထက် နောက်မကျစေဘဲ Hard Copy and Soft Copy နှင့်အတူ လူကိုယ်တိုင် အရောက်ပေးပို့ရမည်။ သတ်မှတ်နေ့ရက်၊ အချိန် ထက် နောက်ကျတင်သွင်းသော EOI များကို ထည့်သွင်းစဉ်းစားမည် မဟုတ်ပါ။

၅။ တင်သွင်းလာသော EOI များအား စိစစ်၍ DICTCS အတွက် အရည်အချင်း ပြည့်မီသည်ဟု သတ်မှတ်ခြင်းခံရသည့် ကုမ္ပဏီများအား တင်ဒါဝယ်ယူတင်သွင်းနိုင်ရန် အမြန်ဆုံး ဖိတ်ကြားခြင်းပြုပါမည်။

တင်ဒါစိစစ်ရွေးချယ်ရေးကော်မတီ (DICTCS)

The Republic of the Union of Myanmar
Yangon Region Government
Tender Evaluation and Selection Committee (DICTCS)
Invitation for Expression of Interest (EOI)
on
Design, Installation and Commissioning of Yangon Comprehensive Traffic Control System (DICTCS)

1. Yangon Region Government, hereby invites competent Local / Joint Venture of Local and Foreign Company(ies) for submission of EOI on Design, Installation and Commissioning of Comprehensive Traffic Control System (DICTCS) for Yangon City.

2. The scope of DICTCS includes, but not limited to, the following :

(a) Traffic Signal and Control System

(b) Transmission Infrastructure

(c) Command and Control Center including Building

(d) Data Collection System

(e) IP Video and Video Analysis

(f) Public Information and Dissemination

(g) Intelligent Transport and Public Surveillance

3. EOI to be submitted by interested Companies shall include the following information :

(a) Details and status of Company(ies), detailed statement of the nationality of shareholder(s) and their holding(s)(%), evidence of Company Registration (Certified copy to be attached)

(b) Company Profile(s) (in English)

(c) Aggregate value of contracts executed by the Company(ies) over the last 3 years.

(d) Experience of works in a nature similar to DICTCS. (If any, applied technologies and location(s))

(e) Names and qualification of senior management and technical personnel, engineers to be assigned by Company(ies) for DICTCS.

(f) Information on any litigation in which the applicant(s) was involved during last 3 years and is involved at present including the names of the parties concerned and the amounts in dispute.

4. EOI in the form of hard copy and soft copy shall be delivered in person at Engineering Department (Roads and Bridges) YCDC, not later than 1 pm (local time) on 7th August 2015 (Friday). The EOI submitted later than the designated time and date will not be considered.

5. The Companies which have been determined as qualified for DICTCS will be invited for purchase and submission of tender as early as possible after scrutiny of EOIs submitted.

Tender Evaluation and Selection Committee (DICTCS)

Italy pilots' strike grounds planes on busy holiday weekend

ROME, 25 July — Pilots and flight attendants at Italian airline Alitalia went on strike across the country on Friday, forcing the company to cancel flights at the start of one of the busiest holiday weekends of the year.

The Anpac union called the 24-hour stoppage to push management to give guarantees over staffing levels and harmonise pay levels following Gulf carrier Etihad Airways' purchase of a 49 percent stake in loss-making Alitalia last year.

The airline cancelled 15 percent of Friday's scheduled flights and accused unions of showing a "lack of respect" to passengers, with the strike coming just as Rome's main Fiumicino airport struggles to return to full capacity after a fire in May. The strike has dealt a fresh blow to Italy's troubled transport system and follows weeks of chaos on the Rome metro, where drivers are staging wildcat strikes to protest at new requirements that they clock in and out of work.

Reuters



Passengers await their flight during a strike by Italy's national airline Alitalia workers at Fiumicino international airport in Rome, Italy on 24 July, 2015. REUTERS

Injured Japanese climber undergoes successful operation in Pakistan

ISLAMABAD, 25 July — A Japanese woman who was injured in an avalanche on Monday while climbing the world's 12th highest peak in Pakistan's Karakoram mountain range underwent a successful operation on Friday at a military hospital in Rawalpindi, her tour operator said.

Sumiyo Tsuzuki, who sustained a fracture in her left foot in the accident at

Broad Peak and was airlifted to hospital in Skardu by the Pakistan Army two days later, is expected to remain hospitalized at least through the weekend, according to Sultan Ali of Nazir Sabir Expeditions.

"The operation was successful and hopefully she would be able to resume her normal life," he said.

Kyodo News

WEATHER REPORT

BAY INFERENCE: Monsoon is moderate in the Andaman Sea and South Bay and strong elsewhere in the Bay of Bengal.

FORECAST VALID UNTIL EVENING OF THE 26th July, 2015: Rain or thundershowers will be scattered in Taninthayi Region, fairly widespread in Kachin and Kayah States and widespread in the remaining Regions and States with likelihood of regionally heavy falls in Lower Sagaing, Mandalay and Magway Regions, Chin and Rakhine States and isolated heavy falls in Upper Sagaing and Bago Regions, Shan State. Degree of certainty is (100%).

STATE OF THE SEA: Squalls with rough sea will be experienced in Deltaic, off and along Rakhine Coasts. Surface wind speed in squalls may reach (40) m.p.h. Sea will be moderate elsewhere in Myanmar waters.

OUTLOOK FOR SUBSEQUENT TWO DAYS: Continuation of increase of rain in the Central Myanmar areas.

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Chris Brown leaves Philippines after three days over payment dispute



Chris Brown performs during the 2015 BET Awards in Los Angeles, California on 28 June, 2015. REUTERS

MANILA, 25 July — Philippines authorities on Friday allowed award-winning American singer and hip-hop star Chris Brown to fly out of the country, three days after he was barred from leaving due to a dispute over fraud allegations.

A video showing Brown walking to his plane, saying goodbye to Manila and inviting people to party in Macau was posted on the website of *TMZ* entertainment news on Friday.

Immigration and airport authorities said Brown secured emigration clearance showing he had no legal liability in the country, allowing him to fly out on Friday night. On Thursday, Justice Secretary Leila de Lima said that a so-called lookout bulletin order that initially barred Brown from exiting the country was not enough to prevent him from leaving.

Brown and his promoter were accused of fraud by a company linked to a powerful local indigenous Christian organization, Iglesia ni Cristo (INC), after he canceled a New Year's concert in Manila in December. The organization said Brown and his promoter did not return money paid to them for the cancelled show.

Brown had posted several messages on Twitter earlier in the week, saying he was innocent of the allegation against him. He also uploaded videos on Instagram, pleading to be allowed to leave the country after his packed concert on Tuesday. The videos, including one where he appealed for help from US President Barack Obama and another showing him on his knees, have reportedly been taken down.—*Reuters*

Kelly Rutherford loses custody battle in California

LOS ANGELES, 25 July — Actress Kelly Rutherford has been dealt a bitter legal blow in her custody battle with her ex-husband after a California judge ruled she has no right to argue the case in the state.

The 46-year-old former “Gossip Girl” star has been locked in a six-year court battle with her ex-husband Daniel Giersch over the custody of Helena, six, and Hermes, eight, which began when their father's US visa was revoked and he was allowed to take the children to France to live with him in 2012, reported *People* magazine.

Rutherford has been protesting the ruling ever since, insisting the case should never have been heard in California in the first place — as neither she nor Giersch lived there at the time of the decision, and she recently scored a small victory when a Monaco judge agreed the youngsters should spend the summer with their mother in the US.—*PTI*

Cruise back with more stunts in ‘Mission: Impossible — Rogue Nation’



Tom Cruise waves to fans upon his arrival for the world premiere of “Mission: Impossible — Rogue Nation” in front of State Opera house in Vienna, Austria, on 23 July, 2015. REUTERS

VIENNA, 25 July — He's swung around skyscrapers and leapt off buildings, and now Tom Cruise is back in the blockbuster action-movie franchise “Mission: Impossible”. And in the latest instalment, he adds a new feat - clinging to the side of a plane as it takes off.

The 53-year old Hollywood star returns as Ethan Hunt in “Mission: Impossible — Rogue Nation”, his fifth stint as the secret agent, serving up the usual action-packed and nail-biting scenes.

When he's working on one of the films, “I think, what is going to entertain them, what is going to surprise them and what story are we going to come up with here and how to put these things in,” Cruise said at the film's world premiere on Thursday night when asked about the stunts.

“As a filmmaker, it is nice to sit back and dream of these things.”

It has been nearly 20 years since the first “Mission: Impossible” film came out, and Cruise said that while he now may be older, he keeps pushing himself.

“I just don't sleep, I just keep going,” he said.

In the film, the Impossible Mission Force has been disbanded and Hunt and his team face off with the sinister Syndicate organization. The film is partly set in Vienna, where Thursday's premiere was held.

“I think there are always big problems to solve and ways to figure it out and the sequences keep you on the edge of your seat ... it's funny and fun and it takes you to a different place,” Cruise said. “We have such fun characters in the movie.” The film also stars Simon Pegg, Jeremy Renner and Rebecca Ferguson.

“Mission: Impossible — Rogue Nation” is scheduled for release in US cinemas on 31 July. *Reuters*

Gyllenhaal finds ‘most adult’ role in complexities of ‘Southpaw’

LOS ANGELES, 25 July — Jake Gyllenhaal has had a penchant for the dark side in recent years, playing tormented and sometimes sociopath characters on the fringe, but the actor found himself playing the “most adult and most evolved” role to date as a professional boxer.

In “Southpaw,” out in US theaters on Friday, Gyllenhaal plays Billy Hope, a New York orphan who becomes a rags-to-riches boxing success, then spirals back into poverty and is unable to care for his young daughter after the sudden

death of his wife Maureen (Rachel McAdams).

“I don't know if he believes in himself as much as he pretends to believe in himself,” Gyllenhaal told *Reuters*. “Spending the money he's been given and holding onto things and believing that he earns them and deserves them, all of those things are quick to go.” Directed by Antoine Fuqua, “Southpaw” follows Billy as he mentally falls apart and struggles to pull himself out of a severe slump as his pre-teen daughter (played by Oona Laurence) disconnects with him.—*Reuters*

Reese Witherspoon to receive American Cinematheque award

LOS ANGELES, 25 July — Actress Reese Witherspoon is set to receive an honour from the American Cinematheque.

The 39-year-old “Wild” star will receive the annual award on 30 October, reported *Entertainment Weekly*.

“Reese Witherspoon's career is a perfect example of an actress flourishing in today's world... She has continued to impress with her varied choices, ranging from smaller roles in dramas such as ‘Mud’ to a



Actress Reese Witherspoon

tour-de-force, Oscar-nominated performance last year in ‘Wild’.

“The most appropriate role for Reese Witherspoon today is role model,” American Cinematheque chairman Rick Nicita said. Witherspoon is the 29th annual recipient and joins a long list of honorees that include Eddie Murphy (1986), Robin Williams (1988), Jodie Foster (1999), Robert Downey Jr (2011) and Matthew McConaughey (2014).

The American Cinematheque Award is typically awarded to an “extraordinary filmmaker in the entertainment industry, who is fully engaged in his or her work and is committed to making a significant contribution to the art of the motion picture.”

Besides her film work, Witherspoon is active in numerous charities, including Stand Up to Cancer and Children's Defense Fund, where she serves on the board.—*PTI*

GENERAL

Wildfire at Montana's Glacier National Park rages for fourth day



The Reynolds Creek Wildland Fire burns in Glacier National Park, Montana in this photo taken on 21 July, 2015. — REUTERS

MONTANA, 25 July — A wildfire in Montana's Glacier National Park raged for a fourth day through heavy timber on Friday during peak visitor season, while another blaze in Northern California charred the mountains above Napa Valley wine country, officials said.

The 4,000-acre (162-hectare) Reynolds Creek Fire in northern Montana broke out on

Tuesday and forced the closure of the main road through the eastern half of the park, which receives more than 2 million visitors a year.

The fire has forced the closure of the Rising Sun and St Mary campgrounds, a nearby motor inn and several trails, as well as a 20-mile (32-km) stretch of the picturesque Going-to-the-Sun Road which bisects the park.

The rest of Glacier National Park, which covers over 1 million acres (400,000 hectares) in northwestern Montana and straddles the Canadian border, remained open to the public. The park receives more visitors during July than any other month.

The fire is zero-percent contained, officials said.

"We are expecting a little more wind today, so that does create a new chal-

lenge," said Katie Liming, spokeswoman for the team handling the fire.

Evacuations were ordered along the western shore of Lower St Mary Lake, Liming said. A dozen people left homes in the area, which is in the Blackfeet Nation's reservation on the eastern edge of the park, said Robert DesRosier, the tribe's homeland security director.

The number of personnel assigned to battle the blaze rose to 300 on Friday, from 200 the day before, according to fire-tracking website InciWeb, which gathers information from multiple agencies. The cause of the blaze remains unknown.

On Friday, firefighters at Glacier planned complete a fireline around the head of the blaze near a site where prairie ground meets a mountain range, officials said on InciWeb.

Wildfires have raged across several states in the drought-parched US West in recent weeks.—Reuters

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New Bayreuth Wagner museum confronts family Nazi ties head on

BAYREUTH, (Germany), 25 July — A renovated Richard Wagner Museum opening in Bayreuth this weekend to coincide with the Bavarian city's annual Wagner opera festival puts the composer's anti-Semitism and his family's later ties to Adolf Hitler center stage for the first time.

Revamped and doubled in size at a cost of 20 million euros (\$21.92 million), the museum for the first time displays Wagner's anti-Semitic screeds, which he published in his youth anonymously, then under his own name before he died in 1883.

It also depicts the close ties his widow Cosima, who died in 1930, and his descendants forged with Hitler, who loved Wagner's music and regularly visited Bayreuth to hear operas in the "Festspielhaus" that Wagner designed and built in the 1870s.

"When the museum was opened almost 40 years ago it was not complete," museum director Sven Friedrich said during a press tour on Friday, before the public opening on Sunday.

"It should be not only about his music and his operas but also the reception of his work in later decades and the relations of his family with Hitler."

The complex of three buildings, the main one brand new, contains an array of opera costumes, audio-visual displays, a cinema and a cafe, and will have changing exhibitions.

Most of this is contained in a new glass-and-concrete, largely subterranean main building built alongside Wagner's Bayreuth home "Wahnfried", which he built in the 1870s and which suffered major damage in an Allied bombing

raid at the end of World War Two.

"Wahnfried" also has been restored with many original furnishings, but Friedrich said it was not a "composer Disneyland" and anything not original is draped in white cloth.

None of the famously quarrelsome Wagner descendants, including his great-granddaughter Katharina Wagner, director of the Bayreuth Festival, or her half-sister Eva Pasquier-Wagner, the outgoing co-director, had yet seen the new museum, but the family "have given pieces" for the renovation, Friedrich said.



A visitor takes a picture of a bust of German composer Richard Wagner at the Richard Wagner Museum in Bayreuth, Germany on 24 July, 2015.—REUTERS

Sharapova and Dimitrov reach break point



Maria Sharapova of Russia leaves Centre Court after the men's singles semi-final tennis match between Novak Djokovic of Serbia and Grigor Dimitrov of Bulgaria at the Wimbledon Tennis Championships, in London on 4 July, 2014.—REUTERS

SOFA, 25 July — Russian five-times grand slam champion Maria Sharapova has split with Bulgarian boyfriend Grigor Dimitrov after a nearly three-year relationship.

"Our paths split," 24-year-old Dimitrov, currently number 16 in the ATP rankings, told Bulgarian media on Friday. "We experienced wonderful moments together. I wish her much happiness and success in life and in tennis."

"Now I'm concentrated entirely on the game and I'm sure the results will soon be seen... This is the summer of the new beginning for me."

Dimitrov, who climbed to number eight in the world last year after reaching the Wimbledon semi-finals, has had a lean year and is still to reach a final.

Sharapova, 28, announced that her and Dimitrov were a couple in May 2013. —Reuters

Blatter is a victim and a brave person — Russian chief

ST PETERSBURG, 25 July — FIFA's embattled president Sepp Blatter is "a victim" and "a very brave person", the chief executive of the 2018 Russian World Cup organizing committee said on Friday.

Blatter is in St Petersburg for Saturday's World Cup qualifying draw, his first foreign trip since football's ruling body became the subject of criminal investigations into allegations of systemic corruption.

The 79-year-old Swiss is standing down in February as a result of the crisis.

"He has always been a friend of our country," Alexei Sorokin told the BBC. "We are

certain everything he's doing is for the good of FIFA to which he has dedicated his life.

"Unfortunately, he decided to take up responsibility himself for certain things which are not within his responsibility."

The bidding processes for the 2018 and 2022 World Cups are being investigated in the US and Switzerland, leading to media speculation that Russia and Qatar could be stripped of hosting the finals and a new vote ordered. Sorokin said the controversy was "casting shade on the most cherished FIFA product, the World Cup, without any grounds. "It's

a purely blown-up matter which hurts us," he added. "It keeps lingering on in the media and in

people's minds and that is really disappointing.

"We need to focus. It's time

to go on and stop rubbing it in and discussing this."

Sorokin also denied suggestions the Russian bid team destroyed computers when FIFA launched its own internal inquiry into the allegations of corruption.

"They (the computers) were not destroyed," said Sorokin. "The truth is they became obsolete and they were naturally discarded."

"I understand there is regrettable such an atmosphere created a long time ago around Russia that creates suspicions that we don't deserve."

"That is the biggest challenge that we live with, stereotypes, and part of our job is to overcome these stereotypes about Russia. We believe we are doing that," said Sorokin.

Reuters



FIFA President Sepp Blatter gestures during a news conference after the Extraordinary FIFA Executive Committee Meeting at the FIFA headquarters in Zurich, Switzerland on 20 July, 2015.—REUTERS



Jamaica's Usain Bolt

Workmanlike Bolt answers doubts with season's best

LONDON, 25 July — Usain Bolt answered questions over his fitness ahead of the world championships with a season's best of 9.87 seconds in the 100 metres with a workmanlike performance at the London Anniversary Games on Friday.

With just under a month to go before he defends his world 100 and 200 titles in Beijing, the Jamaican showed he had recovered from a pelvic injury that has disrupted his season, although he was left with plenty to ponder in the rain-lashed capital.

The world's fastest man shook off the rust from his layoff — this was his first 100 for over three months and first competitive race since mid-June — to win his heat and the final in the

same time, putting him equal sixth in the world this year.

But he had to eat up the ground in the second half of both races, winning the final by three-hundredths of a second ahead of American Mike Rodgers (9.90) and fellow Jamaican Kemar Bailey-Cole (9.92).

"In the final I got a really bad start, I kind of lost focus but I got it back," Bolt told reporters after a routine lap of honour by his own showman standards. "I know I could have gone faster if I had just got my start."

Asked about his fitness, Bolt added: "I'm good. I may go to see the doctor to make sure everything is fine but I'm feeling good. I'm still number one, I've never been number two."

Bolt gave Mo Farah a hug as he left the track, leaving the Briton to take centre stage and conjure memories of his 2012 Olympic triumphs in the same stadium.

Farah has been dogged by the doping allegations surrounding his coach Alberto Salazar but received a huge ovation before and after winning the 3,000 metres in 7:34.66, the fastest time in the world this year.

Farah, who has not been accused of any wrongdoing, imitated the 'Lightning Bolt' pose of the Jamaican and told reporters: "You can only do what you do best and that, for me, is running."

On a night when the soaking conditions made fast times difficult, American former world

champion Jason Richardson took the 110 metres hurdles spoils in 13.19 seconds. Olympic champion and world record holder American Aries Merritt could only finish fourth, while Cuban Orlando Ortega, the fastest in the world this year, was fifth.

Jasmin Stowers, who will not compete in Beijing after missing selection, led home an American 1-2-3 in the women's 100m hurdles, winning comfortably in 12.47 seconds ahead of Dawn Harper-Nelson (12.64) and world champion Brianna Rollins (12.65).

The grim conditions for competitors were underlined when the pole vault competition was postponed until Saturday.

Reuters

Willett leads way as storms lash European Masters

BERNE, 25 July — Britain's Danny Willett, who was tied sixth at last week's British Open, produced another brilliant performance to lead the way in the European Masters before thunderstorms ended play early at Crans Montana on Friday.

He chalked up nine birdies in a second-round 62 to take the clubhouse lead on 13 under par.

Sharing second place on 12 under were South Korean pair Baek Seuk-Hyun (63) and Yang Yong-Eun (63), the 2009 US PGA Championship winner.

Swedish amateur Marcus Kinhult was in fourth spot on nine under after posting a 66.

"I hit it well on the range this morning, got into a nice



rhythm early on and carried it through the whole round," Willett told reporters.

"Over these last two weeks I haven't been getting too far ahead of myself and every time I've got in trouble I've just taken my medicine and moved on to the next hole."

American Patrick Reed (69) was in a group on four under par, one better than Britain's Lee Westwood (69).

Spaniard Sergio Garcia faces an anxious wait before he discovers on Saturday if his one-under-par aggregate will be good enough to make the cut.

Twelve groups were unable to complete their rounds before the storms engulfed the Swiss Alps.

Reuters

Danny Willett of England watches his tee shot on the seventh hole during the third round of the British Open golf championship on the Old Course in St Andrews, Scotland on 19 July, 2015. REUTERS

Schedules for 2018 FIFA World Cup unveiled

SAINT PETERSBURG, 25 July — The match schedules for the 2018 World Cup in Russia was unveiled by FIFA here on Friday, one day ahead of the qualification draws for the competition.

The 2018 World Cup will be held at 12 stadiums across 11 host cities in Russia.

Luzhniki stadium in Moscow will host the opening game, where hosts Russia will be one side, along with a semi-final and the final. Saint Petersburg will host the other semi-final. Schedules for the 2017 Confederations Cup was also unveiled on Friday.

Saint Petersburg will host the Confederations Cup final on 2 July, 2017.—Xinhua

Hamburg sign Hoffenheim's Sven Schipplock

BERLIN, 25 July — With the signing of Hoffenheim's Sven Schipplock, Hamburg snapped up their second striker of the summer transfer window, both Bundesliga team confirmed on Friday.

The 26-year-old striker has put pen to paper on a three-year deal that keeps him with the "Rothosen" until June 2018.

Schipplock played from 2011 until 2015 for Hoffenheim where he provided 12 assists and 16 goals in 84 Bundesliga appearances. "I think it is a dream for a lot of player to play for such a great club like Hamburg. The same goes for me. It is an honour to get such an offer therefore I didn't have to think twice," Schipplock told the club's official homepage. The "HSV" kicks off the season against German record champions and titleholder Bayern Munich on 14 August.

Xinhua