THE GLOBAL NEW LIGHT OF MYANMAR

Volume [illegible] Number 97 | 11th Waxing Day of Second Waso 1377 ME | Monday, 27 July, 2015

President opens ceremony to mark 700th anniversary of founding Sagaing city, meets artists in Mandalay

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President U Thein Sein sends message of felicitations to Maldives

NAY PYI TAW, 26 July — On the occasion of the Independence Day of the Republic of Maldives which falls on 26th July 2015, U Thein Sein, President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar, has sent a message of felicitations to His Excellency Mr. Abdulla Yameen Abdul Gayoom, President of the Republic of Maldives.—*MNA*

Photo shows newly-inaugurated Green Asia Port Terminal (Thilawa).—TRANSPORT

Thilawa terminal gets new fuel port facilities

YANGON, 26 July — Oil storage and terminal are opened at Myanmar International Terminals Thilawa on Sunday, with new facility will be operated under a Build-Operate-Transfer (BOT) agreement between the Myanmar Port Authority and the Green Asia Port Terminal (Thilawa) owned by the Green Asia Services Co. Ltd.

The facility was opened by Union Minister for Transport U Nyan Tun Aung, Yangon region's Chief Minister U Myint Swe, Managing Director of Myanmar Port Authority U Kyaw Myint and Managing Director of the company U Than Myint.

MPA invited expertise and capitals to upgrade port services through BOT or JV systems after 1988, the union minister said.

Fuel storage and distribution officially operated by only a state-own agency was publicized in 2010.

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Results of nationwide liver disease survey to be released in next two months

By *Khaing Thanda Lwin*

YANGON, 26 July — The results of a nationwide survey of people infected with liver diseases, especially hepatitis B and C, will be revealed in the coming two months, Prof Win Win Swe, dean of the Department of Hepatology, North Okklapa General Hospital, said Sunday.

With the aim of bringing down the death toll and the virus infections, the health ministry and its partner organizations have conducted the survey on liver diseases throughout the country since mid-April, she said.

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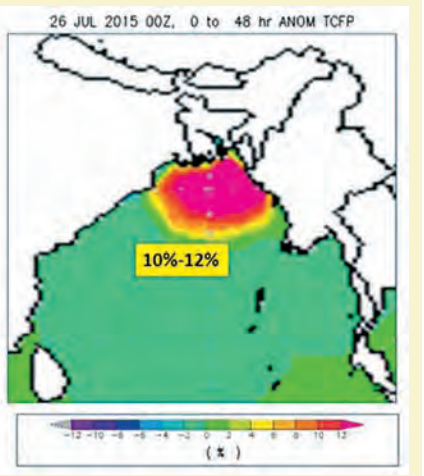
WEATHER NEWS

Depression forms over Bay of Bengal, not likely to move towards Myanmar



YANGON, 26 July — The Department of Meteorology and Hydrology announced Sunday that a low pressure zone over the northeastern part of the Bay of Bengal has intensified into a tropical depression.

The weather bureau, issuing a yellow alert, said the low pressure is not likely to move towards Myanmar.

Due to the depression, heavy rainfall, strong winds and flash floods are expected to occur in lower Sagaing, Mandalay, Magway, Yangon, Ayeyawady and Bago regions and Shan, Chin, Rakhine, Mon and Kayin states, the department's forecast said.

Squalls with rough seas can occur occasionally off and along Myanmar's coasts, with surface wind speeds reaching 45 miles per hour, the announcement said.

The weather bureau has urged fishing boats at sea to be alert to the severe weather conditions.

The weather bureau predicts that central Myanmar areas will experience a continuation or increase of rain in the next two days.—*GNLM*

Football tournament to turn out talented players

NATOGYI, 26 July — Natogyi Township Sports and Physical Education Committee recently organized a football tournament with the sponsorship of Calsome cereal.

Seinpagan village secured champion in the final match with a 1-0 win over Wetlu village.

Chairman of Township Sports and Physical Education Committee Township Administrator U Kyaw Naing presented K300,000 cash award and championship trophy to the first prize winning team.

Tin Maung (Mandalay)

New school building to accommodate more students

PYAPON, 26 July — A one-storey RC school building was commissioned into service at Basic Education Middle School Branch in Shankwingyi village, Pyapon Township, on 25 July.

The Chairman of Shwetaung Group and Sin Mian Company of Singapore donated K2.5 million for construction of a water tank while the chairman of Shwelinpan Industrial Zone presented 300 dozens of notebooks to the headmaster and officials.

Ayeyawady Region Minister for Agriculture and Livestock Breeding U San Maung, the Cambodian Ambassador to Myanmar and officials cut the ribbon to open the new school building.

It was the 83rd school building donated by Shwetaung Group.

MNA

Sagaing Region Govt to establish water amusement park in Monywa

MONYWA, 26 July — A plan is underway to build a water amusement park at international level at a cost of US$5 million in Monywa, the city of Sagaing Region.

Sagaing Region government and Media One Company Ltd will construct the buildings on a 5-acre land, hotel on a one-acre land and water tank on a 1.5-acre land. According to another plan, a low-cost housing will be constructed on a six-acre plot.

The housing will include 17 five-storey buildings with 340 apartments at a cost of US$10 million.

Sagaing Region Minister for Development Affairs U Tin Hlaing Myint submitted a proposal on construction project to the region Hluttaw on 22 July.

The project will create job opportunities for the local residents from Monywa and nearby regions and develop tourism industry.—*Myo Win Tun (Monywa)*

Largest boat kept at monastery in Yesagyo Tsp

YESAGYO, 26 July — Under supervision of abbot U Kelasa, a 105-foot-long, 3.5-foot-wide boat identified "Maha Zabukyaw" is kept in the precinct of Mya Yadana monastery in Kandaunt village, Yesagyo Township, said an official. "I think the boat would be more than 60 years old," said a local resident.

The boat made of single teak log can give seats to 56 people. The abbot keeps the boat under a shed. According to the local people, Maha Zabukyaw boat is the largest of its kind in Yesagyo Township.—*Ei Mon Swe*

Cherry ferries equipped with life jackets, lifebuoys for safety of passengers

YANGON, 26 July — Emergency life safety equipment are facilitated at Cherry ferries which run along Dala-Pansodan route, Township Manager U Hsan Tun of Pansodan Jetty said.

"We have prepared safety works for the route. Ferry officials equip life jackets for passengers depending on the climatic conditions," the manager said. Two Cherry ferries are running along Dala-Pansodan route daily. Each ferry facilitates 1,250 life jackets, 52 large lifebuoys and nine small lifebuoys for the passengers.

"One life jacket is one passenger only. A large lifebuoy can be used for 22 passengers and a small lifebuoy for four passengers," the manager explained.

Cherry ferries donated by Japan government launched their maiden trips on 16 December 2014. Each ferry can transport 1,200 passengers once. The two ferries give transport services to more than 27,000 passengers daily, said U Nyunt Win from Cherry-2.—*Kyemon-004*

President opens ceremony to mark 700th anniversary of founding Sagaing city, meets artists in Mandalay

NAY PYI TAW, 26 July — President U Thein Sein on Sunday inaugurated the bronze statue of King Athinkhaya Saw Yun at the opening ceremony to mark 700th anniversary of founding Sagaing city.

Ancient Sagaing city was the former capital of Myanmar's pre-eminent kingdom in 1315, just decades after the collapse of Bagan dynasty.

The ceremony was attended by Chancellor of Sitagu International Buddhist Academy Dr Ashin Ñanissara, Buddhist monks, Chief Minister of Mandalay region U Ye Myint, Chief Minister of Sagaing region U Tha Aye, senior military officers and the locals.

Dr Ashin Ñanissara then explained about the erection of King Athinkhaya Saw Yun Min who founded the city in 14th century.

President U Thein Sein and senior government officials then attended the opening ceremony held at the city's central playground together with the locals.

The president said at the ceremony that he appreciated the efforts of Sagaing residents to hold the grand event as a gesture of preservation and restoration of cultural heritages.

The president and government officials then visited Maha Sigongyi Pagoda, donated offertories to the pagoda, and Waso robes to the Buddhist monks before proceeding to Lay Kyun Marn Aung Buddha Image.

The ceremony will be held from 26 to 28 July, with holding memorial galleries and the offering of donations to Buddhist monks and nuns, as well as other entertainment programmes.

The president met artists from various fields led by Patron of Myanmar Thabin Association U Shwe Nann Tin and those of Myoma Band.

Vice Chairman of Fine Arts Centre implementation committee Director-General U Kyaw Myint Hlaing reported on project for the centre, structures of building and architectural designs.

The president said the fine arts centre will be built in Mandalay to preserve Myanmar cultural heritage for new generations. He said that a plan is underway to build a similar centre in Yangon to be able to stage performing arts entertainment, showcase artistic works and conduct training.

The Mandalay centre will be built on an 8.81-acre land between 73rd and 78th street in Chanmyathazi Township.—*MNA*

Sitagu Sayadaw, President U Thein Sein and party pose for documentary photo in front of King Athinkhaya Saw Yun bronze statue.—**IPRD**

Thura U Shwe Mann meets locals in western Bago region

Speaker Thura U Shwe Mann meets local residents in Gyobingauk.—**MNA**

NAY PYI TAW, 26 July — Pyithu Hluttaw Speaker Thura U Shwe Mann met locals in Pyay, Gyobingauk and Monyo townships of western part of Bago region on Sunday.

During the meetings, the speaker discussed with local authorities and development committees about education, health, electricity supply and environmental conservation.

The meetings were attended by Bago region's Chief Minister U Nyan Win, parliamentary representatives, chairmen of township development committees, NGO staff and the residents.

Thura U Shwe Mann and his wife Daw Khin Lay Thet also visited Shwesandaw Pagoda in Pyay Township this morning.

MNA

Union FM sends message of felicitations to Maldives

NAY PYI TAW, 26 July — On the occasion of the Independence Day of the Republic of Maldives which falls on 26th July 2015, U Wunna Maung Lwin, Union Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar, has sent a message of felicitations to Her Excellency Ms. Dunya Maumoon, Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Maldives.—*MNA*

Thilawa terminal gets new fuel . . .

(from page 1)

MPA has already leased its 420 acres of land at in Thilawa to 14 private companies through BOT for oil depots, tanks and terminals. Fuel imports through the Yangon Port and the MITT were 2.2 million tonnes in 2012-2013, 2.35 million tonnes in 2013-2014, 3.47 million tonnes in 2014-2015.

The minister added minimum security arrangements for ships and ports will be monitored in accordance with the International Ship and Port Facility Security (ISPS) Code in handling pot facilities.—*GNLM*

Results of nationwide liver disease . . .

(from page 1)

It is estimated that roughly 12 percent of the country's population have contracted the hepatitis B virus, while two to four percent are suffering from hepatitis C, she said.

"The number of hepatitis virus infections in the country would be lower than when the results come out as the healthcare providers are putting more effort into raising awareness of liver diseases through various activities," said Prof Win Win Swe.

"The ministry is planning to give vaccinations against hepatitis B free of charge to a group of people who are vulnerable to the virus, at Yangon's 500–bed Specialty Hospital and North Okkalapa General Hospital by the end of this year," she added.

Hepatitis B and C are the most common causes of liver diseases all over the world. According to research, one in 12 people are infected with viral hepatitis, which kills nearly 4,000 people each day worldwide.

Both hepatitis B and C have the potential to lead to chronic liver infections. They are transmitted through blood-to-blood contact, but more commonly transmitted through bodily fluids.—*GNLM*

Three killed as small plane crashes into homes in Tokyo suburbs

Firefighters work around the wreckage of a single-engine propeller aircraft after it crashed into homes in Chofu in the western suburbs of Tokyo and set five houses and two cars on fire on 26 July, 2015. Five people were aboard the plane. Two men pulled out of the wreckage and a woman rescued from a house hit by the plane died.—KYODO NEWS

TOKYO, 26 July — A small private aircraft crashed into homes in Chofu in the suburbs of Tokyo on Sunday morning, killing three people and injuring five others, police said.

The crash, involving a single-engine propeller aircraft with five people aboard, occurred around 11 am and set five houses and two cars on fire, according to the Tokyo Fire Department.

Two men pulled out of the wreckage and a woman rescued from a house hit by the plane died, while three other men aboard the plane and two other women on the ground were injured and taken to hospital, the police said.

Footage on public broadcaster NHK and images showed a gutted house, the tail section of a light aircraft turned almost upside down, and firefighters battling fires and trying to rescue people.

The area is located just southeast of Chofu airport which, with an 800-metre runway, is mainly served by small propeller aircraft. The Piper PA-46, owned by an individual, was on a training flight from the airport to Izu Oshima Island roughly 100 kilometres to the south, according to the transport ministry and the police.

"I saw the plane take off but didn't see it crash," a woman who lives in the neighbourhood said. "Immediately, though, I heard a loud boom and saw smoke rising."—*Kyodo News*

Filipino fishermen remove Chinese buoys near disputed, officials say

MANILA, 26 July — Filipino fishermen found several buoys with Chinese markings near the disputed Scarborough Shoal and towed the devices back to shore northwest of the capital, Manila, Philippines officials said on Sunday.

China seized control of the rocky outcrop in the South China Sea in 2012 after a three-month stand-off with Philippine coast guard ships, preventing Filipino fishermen from getting near their traditional fishing grounds.

The shoal is about 125 nautical miles (230 km) west of the Philippines.

"Yes, there are buoys there," said Desiree Edora, mayor of Masinloc town, which has jurisdiction over Scarborough Shoal.

"I already sent the chief of police to investigate the buoys," she told *Reuters*.

China claims almost the entire South China Sea, believed to be rich in energy deposits, where about $5 trillion in ship-borne goods pass every year. Brunei, Malaysia, the Philippines, Vietnam and Taiwan also have conflicting claims in the area.

Beijing has become increasingly assertive in the South China Sea. Rapid reclamation around reefs in the Spratly archipelago in particular has sparked concern, both in the region and in the United States.

On Saturday, nine Filipino fishermen said they had found three long, orange containment booms, used to control oil spills, floating about six miles (4 km) off Scarborough Shoal. It was the first time fishermen there had found such devices.

"The buoys have Chinese markings," one of the fishermen told the GMA television network in the area. "The markings showed the company that manufactured it. It even has phone numbers." The fishermen said they towed the buoys back to Masinloc to show officials there and turned them over to a coast guard detachment. They said they did not know why the buoys were there because there was no sign of any oil spills.

In late May, *Reuters* reported that the Philippine navy had found buoys in the disputed Reed Bank, where Manila has awarded a contract to an Anglo-Filipino consortium to explore for oil and gas in the area.

A steel marker was gone but some other buoys remained when the navy returned in mid-June.

Drilling in the Reed Bank was suspended early this year due to an ongoing arbitration case in The Hague. Manila wants to wait for a ruling before proceeding with the exploration work.

On Wednesday, China called on the Philippines to withdraw the case and return to bilateral negotiations.—*Reuters*

Fears for tribes, forests as India eyes Andaman island expansion

JIRKATANG, (India), 26 July — Bollywood music blares from a line of food stalls serving tourists outside the entrance to a thickly-forested tribal reserve on India's far-flung Andaman and Nicobar islands.

Beyond the barrier patrolled by police, a few hundreds members of the Jarawa tribe hunt the lush rainforest for turtles and pigs and shoot fish with bows and arrows, largely unseen and untouched by the outside world.

As Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi's government seeks to accelerate development on the islands to promote its military, trade and tourism, preserving the pristine environment and handful of unique tribes is likely to get harder.

"The islands are fragile, they are in a seismically active zone not far from Indonesia's Aceh coast," said Pankaj Sekhsaria of Indian environmental group Kalpavriksh.

"Above all, they are home to indigenous tribes. This is their land, their history. There are serious concerns about the impact of tourists ... If history is any indication, interaction between our world and their world has proved damaging for them."

Tourism is only part of New Delhi's vision for the Indian Ocean islands. Lying on a busy shipping route between mainland India and southeast Asia, they are seen as ideal for extending India's economic and military reach.

With that in mind, Modi's government is determined to push harder than previous administrations to develop the islands, while at the same time protecting tribes and landscapes.

"The support we have got from the central government over the last year has been phenomenal. They want things to happen," A.K. Singh, lieutenant governor of the Andaman and Nicobar Islands and India's top official there, told *Reuters*.

"We want comprehensive development of the islands and its people while protecting the interests of the tribes as well as the environment. Ours is a transparent, deliberate policy. There is nothing to hide."

The dark-skinned Jarawas, numbering around 400 and one of six tribes believed to have lived on the islands for up to 55,000 years, refused until recently to have any contact with the outside world.

"There are two schools of thought. One is to protect and preserve their cultural identity and avoid inter-mingling with the outside world," said DM Shukla, the islands' tribal welfare secretary.

"The other is to mainstream them into the outside world so that they enjoy the fruits of the development."

The latter argument is gaining momentum, with government officials saying economic development must not be held back.

Boosting tourism and other industries is not easy in a territory where over 90 percent of land is off-limits forest.

But already the military is lengthening runways at airfields in the north and south of an archipelago that generals believe is a key but long-neglected outpost to counter the Chinese navy's thrust into the Indian Ocean.

The civilian administration, energised by Modi's push to boost development, plans direct air links to Southeast Asia, an undersea cable to improve communications and a free port area.

State carrier Air India will begin flights this year between the Andaman capital Port Blair and Thailand's Phuket, which gets more tourists than all of India put together, according to island officials.

"If we get even a fraction of that traffic to our beaches, it would transform the islands," said the islands' chief secretary Anand Prakash.

A more ambitious plan to build a port in Great Nicobar island near the mouth of the Strait of Malacca, through which some 60,000 ships pass annually, is on hold because it would need vast amounts of land in an ecologically sensitive belt, Prakash added.

Vivek Rae, former chief secretary of the Andaman and Nicobar islands, said it was unrealistic to reserve 1,000 square km of forest for 400-odd Jarawas.

"While it is nobody's case that the entire land mass should be denuded of forest cover and the tribes relegated to the dustbin of history, there is surely a compelling case for clearing up some of the land for exploiting the economic and strategic potential of these islands," he wrote in *India Today*.

Some business leaders on the archipelago agree.

"Ours is a dole-based economy. Everything is subsidised, from our food to our travel to the mainland. How sustainable is that?" said Mohammad Jadwet, of the Jadwet Trading Company, one of the islands' oldest enterprises.

Proposed measures will put Delhi on a collision course with environmentalists and human rights groups who have long argued that the archipelago of 556 islands, 37 of which are inhabited, should be left undisturbed.

The dark green islands dotting an azure sea boast bird, reptile and butterfly species found nowhere else, as well as some of the finest corals in the world, Sekhsaria said.

At Jirkatang, tourists travel in convoy with police cars at the front and back, and no photography or contact with tribes is allowed in order to protect them.

But occasionally images are captured and food thrown to tribe members, and Survival International has called for the main road through the Jarawa reserve to be closed to tourists. It calls their activity there "human safaris."

Reuters

China says S China Sea drill shouldn't be "excessively interpreted"

BEIJING, 26 July — An ongoing Chinese navy drill in the South China Sea should not be a cause for concern by other countries, China's official media reported Saturday, quoting a navy spokesman.

Suggesting that "excessive interpretations" should be avoided, People's Liberation Army Navy spokesman Liang Yang said the drill is in line with international laws and practices, and the navy will continue to hold similar ones in the future.

"Holding sea drills is a common practice for navies with various countries. The annual, regular drill by the Chinese navy aims to test the troops' real combat abilities, boost their maneuverability, search and rescue power and the abilities to fulfill diversified military missions," he said.

China, which claims most of the South China Sea believed to be rich in oil and natural gas deposits, said last Wednesday that its navy had begun 10 days of military exercises there.

The move comes amid concerns over China's heavy-handed approach to maritime territorial disputes with neighbours such as Vietnam and the Philippines, as well as its massive land reclamation on and around formerly tiny features in the sea, some of which were under water, that have created a number of artificial above-water features. It is constructing facilities on these expanded outposts, including at least one air strip that looks to be the longest air strip in the Spratly Islands and capable of accommodating military aircraft.

Arguing that the Spratlys and nearby sea areas "have been a part of China's territories since ancient times," Liang complained that "some neighbouring countries have long been illegally occupying some of the islands, building facilities there such as airports and even deploying heavy offensive weapons."

In an apparent allusion to the United States, he said "some powerful countries outside the region" have intervened in the issue, deployed vessels and aircraft on reconnaissance missions and held various exercises with China as the imaginary enemy.

Such activities, he said, are "posing severe threats to our country's territory and sovereignty security and maritime interests while harming regional security, stability and the navigation freedom in the South China Sea." Washington has criticized China's reclamation work and its other actions in the South China Sea as posing a threat to regional peace and stability, saying they have raised concerns throughout the region about its strategic intentions.

Last weekend, the new commander of the US Pacific Fleet, Adm Scott Swift, joined a surveillance flight over the region, underscoring the importance Washington places on the issue. Last Tuesday, Japan also expressed strong concern about China's assertiveness in pressing its maritime territorial claims, saying such measures "include dangerous acts that could cause unintended consequences."

In its annual defense white paper, Japan's Defence Ministry accused China of uncompromisingly trying "to alter the status quo by coercive measures" based on its own unilateral claims, which is "incompatible with existing international law and order."

Reacting to that report, China's Foreign Ministry spokesman Lu Kang on Tuesday accused Japan of stirring up tensions and said China's construction on islands and reefs in the South China Sea "is fully within China's sovereignty and beyond reproach."

"China is committed to a path of peaceful development and national defence policy that is defensive in nature. China's strategic intentions are transparent. China's development of defence capacity is justified and poses no threat to any other country," he said.

The Chinese exercises come a month after exercises in the area involving the United States, the Philippines and Japan.

Kyodo News

Cambodia tells US not to interfere in its judicial affairs

PHNOM PENH, 26 July — Cambodia has urged the United States to stop interfering in its judicial affairs, saying that the country is a sovereign state, according to a statement of the government Press and Quick Reaction Unit.

"The US announcement to support the criminals and not to respect the court's decision is a completely wrong act and can be considered as an intention to increase anarchy and to destroy security and harmony in the whole Cambodian society," said the statement which was released on Saturday night.

It added that the Cambodian government could not interfere in the judicial system, which is an independent institution.

"Any order on the government to interfere in the judicial affairs is absolutely unacceptable and is against the principle of law, which was stated in the Constitution," the statement said, urging the US to "immediately stop violating the jurisdiction of the Cambodia's judicial system."

The Cambodian government's reaction came after the US Embassy in Phnom Penh said on Saturday that it was closely monitoring the case of the 11 opposition party activists convicted of " insurrection" arising out of the July 2014 protests in the capital city.

According to a statement of the US Embassy, the group, which includes Cambodian-American opposition member Meach Sovannara, " was summarily convicted and received sentences that many feel are inappropriate."

"The United States is deeply concerned by the process leading to these convictions. We urge the Cambodian government to carefully review its judicial processes to ensure that they are complete and transparent and in accordance with domestic law and international norms," the statement said.

A Cambodian court on Thursday convicted the 11 opposition Cambodia National Rescue Party members of leading or joining an " insurrection" during an anti-government protest a year ago and sentenced them between seven and 20 years in prison.

The protest at that time turned violent, leaving at least 39 security personnel injured.

Xinhua

The 20th Chinese naval escort fleet "Ji Nan" fleet left Mumbai port and headed back to the Gulf of Aden and Somali waters, ending a four-day friendly visit on local time on 24 July, 2015. — XINHUA

People attend a rally to protest against the security bills in front of the parliament building in Tokyo, Japan, ON 26 July, 2015. About 25,000 people took part in the demonstration. —XINHUA

Australian nurse charged with supporting Islamic State in Syria

MELBOURNE, 26 July — An Australian nurse was charged with supporting the Islamic State militant group fighting in Syria during a brief court appearance on Sunday, police said.

The nurse, who has been identified as 39-year-old Adam Brookman, was arrested in Sydney soon after he returned from Syria via Turkey on Friday night. He was transferred to appear in court in Melbourne, Australia's second-largest city, at the request of an anti-terrorism task force based there. "It will be alleged that the man, while in Syria, knowingly provided support to the terrorist organisation known as Islamic State," the Australian Federal Police (AFP) said in a statement.

The Sydney Morning Herald reported the charge carries a maximum sentence of 25 years in jail.

The charges also include "performing services with the intention of supporting a person to engage in a hostile activity in a foreign state", the AFP said.

Brookman, a father of five, has told Australian media he went to Syria on a humanitarian mission and had been forced to join the militant group after he had been wounded.

Australia is on high alert for attacks by radicalized Muslims, including homegrown militants returning from fighting in the Middle East. It has raised its threat level to "high" and launched a series of high-profile raids in major cities. Prime Minister Tony Abbott has said at least 70 Australians were fighting in Iraq and Syria, backed by about 100 Australia-based "facilitators".

Reuters

11 trapped China miners show signs of life

KUNMING, 26 July — Rescuers have found signs of life from 11 people who were trapped after a cave-in in a mine pit in southwest China's Yunnan Province on Saturday, local authorities said on Sunday.

As of 10 am on Sunday, rescuers excavated an 80-metre-long tunnel. Some ventilation equipments in the mine are still operating, said a spokesperson with publicity department of Lianghe County of Dehong prefecture.

The spokesperson said detectors have found life signs from the trapped miners.

The accident happened at around 1 pm at a stannum mine in Lianghe County on Saturday. Local authorities attributed the accident to continuous downpour in the county.

Large machines are unable to be used in the narrow mine. Nearly 500 rescuers are racing to save the miners.

Xinhua

Colombia's Santos orders halt to air raids on FARC rebels

Colombia's President Juan Manuel Santos

BOGOTA, 26 July — Colombia's President Juan Manuel Santos ordered a halt to air raids against FARC rebel camps as the government seeks to cool hostilities with the Marxist group while the two sides hammer out a peace accord to end five decades of war.

Santos's decision on Saturday came just days after a unilateral ceasefire by the Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia (FARC) went into effect, providing a breakthrough in talks threatened by a recent escalation of battlefield violence.

"This will mean fewer deaths, less suffering and fewer victims," Santos said in the coastal city of Cartagena.

"From today, any bombing raids will only be conducted with the explicit order of the president," he said. The two sides have been engaged in peace talks in Cuba for 2-1/2 years in an attempt to end Latin America's longest war, which has killed some 220,000 people and displaced millions over 50 years.

However, the negotiations have been overshadowed by an increase in fighting this year.

In March, Santos suspended bomb attacks against the FARC but resumed them a month later after the rebels broke their ceasefire and killed 10 soldiers.

Santos has said he would like to reach a peace agreement in 2015, but the five-point agenda remains complicated.

The FARC's latest unilateral ceasefire — its sixth — began on Monday and runs for a month. Santos has said he will analyse progress in four months to decide if talks will continue.

The FARC has long advocated a bilateral ceasefire, which the government has rejected saying the group has used previous attempts at such truces to rearm.

Santos has emphasized that the military's de-escalation of the conflict is not tantamount to a government ceasefire, and that the armed forces would respond based on FARC actions.—*Reuters*

Clinton: I did not send or get classified emails on private account

WINTERSET, (Iowa), 26 July — US presidential candidate Hillary Clinton said on Saturday that she did not use a private email account to send or receive classified information while she was secretary of state, in response to a government inspector's letter this week.

"I did not send nor receive anything that was classified at the time," Clinton said at a campaign stop in Iowa.

The email controversy has dogged Clinton's bid for the presidency, fueling worries that the frontrunner for the Democratic nomination has tried to sidestep transparency and record-keeping laws.

At least four emails from the private email account that Clinton used while secretary of state contained classified information, Inspector General Charles McCullough, who oversees US intelligence agencies, told members of Congress in a letter on Thursday.

Clinton said on Saturday she had "no idea" what were the emails mentioned in the letter.

McCullough's letter said a sampling of 40 of about 30,000 emails sent or received by Clinton found at least four that contained information the government had classified as secret.

The information was classified at the time that the emails were sent, McCullough said.

The use of her private email account, linked to a server in her New York home for work, has drawn fire from political opponents since coming to light in March.

Republicans have accused Clinton of trying to avoid disclosure laws through her use of private systems.

The frontrunner 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. 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 potentially exacerbated by controversy over her emails.—*Reuters*

Democratic US presidential candidate Hillary Clinton

Greek bailout talks pushed back by a few days on logistics — official

Greek Prime Minister Alexis Tsipras

ATHENS, 26 July — Talks between Greece and its international creditors over a new bailout package will be delayed by a couple of days because of organizational issues, a finance ministry official said on Saturday.

The meetings with officials from the European Commission, European Central Bank and International Monetary Fund were supposed to start on Monday after being delayed for issues including the location of talks and security last week. A finance ministry official, who declined to be named, said talks between the technical teams of the lenders will start on Tuesday, while the mission chiefs will arrive in Athens with a delay of a couple of days for technical reasons. "The reasons for the delay are neither political, nor diplomatic ones," the official added.

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.

Another finance ministry official denied earlier on Saturday that the government was trying to keep the lenders' team away from government departments and had no problem with them visiting the General Accounting Office..

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 (£60.93 billion) to be approved in parliament by 20 August, as Greece intends.

Already, Prime Minister Alexis Tsipras is struggling to contain a rebellion in his left-wing 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 said 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.

Apart from the terms of a new loan, Greece and its lenders are also expected to discuss the sustainability of its debt, which is around 170 percent of GDP. Greece has repeatedly asked for a debt relief and the IMF has said this is needed for the Greek accord to be viable.

European Commission Vice President Valdis Dombrovskis told Italy's *La Stampa* daily in an interview that a recent analysis on the issue "justified some concerns". He added a Greek exit from the euro was "certainly out of the question now". 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*

Chancellor George Osborne takes EU reform campaign to Paris

Britain's Chancellor of the Exchequer George Osborne speaks before the launch of the Conservative Party's manifesto in Swindon, western England, in this 14 April, 2015 file photo.
REUTERS

LONDON, 26 July — Chancellor of the Exchequer George Osborne will take Britain's case for European Union reform to Paris on Sunday, seeking support from his French counterpart for a deal the Conservative government can put before voters in a promised in-out referendum.

British Prime Minister David Cameron has pledged to renegotiate ties with the European Union ahead of a vote on the country's continuing membership by the end of 2017.

Osborne's trip to Paris, the first in a series of visits to European capitals, will seek to build on Cameron's meetings with all 27 leaders of the bloc earlier this year, the government said.

He will argue that with public support for reform rising across the EU, now is the time to deliver lasting change.

"The referendum in Britain is an opportunity to make the case for reform across the EU," he will say, according to excepts of his speech.

"I want to see a new settlement for Europe, one that makes it a more competitive and dynamic continent to ensure it delivers prosperity and security for all of the people within it, not just for those in Britain."

Cameron's promise of a referendum was made before national elections in May to neutralise a threat from the anti-EU UK Independence Party and to pacify Euro sceptics in his own party.

The possibility that Britain could leave the European Union as a result of the tactic has worried allies such as the United States and opposition parties in Britain.

US President Barack Obama said on Friday that a Britain within the European union gave Washington much greater confidence in the strength of the transatlantic union.

Some lawmakers were angered by his intervention in the debate, saying he was lecturing Britain.

Reuters

Syria's Assad announces amnesty for draft dodgers — Syrian TV

BEIRUT, 26 July — Syrian President Bashar al-Assad on Saturday announced an amnesty for men at home and abroad who have dodged conscription, to help bolster the ranks of an army severely depleted by four years of battling armed insurgents.

The decree, announced on state television, pardons those who violated Syria's conscription law, an offence punishable by imprisonment and sometimes death.

It underscores the government's difficulty in mobilizing men to help fight a protracted war in the face of a bloody insurgency.

The Syrian Observatory for Human Rights, a monitor that tracks violence, puts the number of draft dodgers at 70,000.

The decree gives one month for those inside Syria and two months for those abroad to turn themselves into authorities.

The Syrian army, one of the region's largest, has been over stretched by a four-year civil war where it is battling on several major fronts Islamist rebels and ultra-hardline jihadist militants who have seized large swathes of territory.

Many young men have fled the country or found ways to avoid conscription.

Although defence experts say the amnesty could encourage the draft dodgers to enlist, others say it may not be enough to attract young men opposed to the war.

The regular army's numbers have shrunk sharply to 200,000 from 350,000 before the crisis, according to the Observatory.

The army has become increasingly reliant on pro-government militias recruited in state-controlled provinces that are offered lucrative pay to fight alongside the regular army.

At least 80,000 Syrian army soldiers and officers had been killed since the conflict began, according to the Observatory.

Syria's President Bashar al-Assad

The army has been forced in recent months to withdraw from large parts of the northwestern province of Idlib in the face of an assault by a coalition of Islamist brigades and was unable to defend the desert city of Palmyra in central Syria, when it was overrun by Islamic State.

Some diplomats say the army now focuses on defending strategic areas such as Damascus, Homs and strongholds of Assad's minority Alawite sect in coastal areas.

With no end in sight to the war, the Syrian army's manpower shortages have been underlined in recent months by a growing reliance on foreign fighters.

Iranian military support for Assad has come in the form of backing for the Lebanese Shi'ite militant group Hezbollah, which is fighting alongside Assad's forces in the war, the deployment of Iranian military advisers and the mobilisation of Shi'ite fighters from elsewhere in the Middle East Syria's war has killed close to a quarter of a million people and driven millions more from their homes in one of the worst global refugee crises since World War Two.

Reuters

Iraqi forces clash with Islamic State militants at Anbar university

BAGHDAD, 26 July — Iraqi security forces entered the University of Anbar in southern Ramadi on Sunday and clashed with Islamic State militants inside the compound, the joint operations command said in a statement broadcast on state television.

"We announce to you the entry of the counter-terrorism forces into the University of Anbar. They are now engaging in battles to clean it up from the remains of Daesh and dismantling bombs and clear roads," the statement said, using a pejorative term for the radical Sunni insurgents.

Security forces and militia groups launched an offensive in April in the western province of Anbar, Iraq's largest, to retake the Sunni heartland from Islamic State.—*Reuters*

Yemen Houthi leader captured — Southern resistance

DUBAI, 26 July — A senior commander of Yemen's Houthi militia has been captured by southern secessionist forces allied to a Saudi-led coalition, the so-called Southern Resistance movement said on its official Twitter account.

The message said without elaborating the militia captured Houthi military commander Abdul-Khaliq al-Houthi on Saturday. Houthi officials could not immediately be contacted for comment. *Reuters* could not independently verify the information.

Yemenis say Abdul-Khaliq al-Houthi, a brother of Houthi leader Abdul-Malek al-Houthi, played an important role in the Iranian-allied militia's capture of the capital Sanaa in September. He was one of several Yemenis blacklisted by the UN Security Council in November 2014 for allegedly threatening Yemen's peace and stability and obstructing political reform efforts.

Reuters

Warplanes attack targets near Yemen capital — residents

SANAA, 26 July — Warplanes carried out raids near the Yemeni capital Sanaa late on Saturday and shortly after dawn on Sunday, residents reported.

The raid on Sunday near the Houthi-controlled city happened hours before a truce declared by a Saudi-led coalition was meant to start. The targets included a military base near the city, the residents said.—*Reuters*

Armed Houthi followers demonstrate against Saudi-led air strikes in Yemen's capital Sanaa on 24 July, 2015. **REUTERS**

Two Turkish soldiers killed, four injured in southeast blast — army

***Turkey's Prime Minister Ahmet Davutoglu (C) chairs a security meeting in Ankara, Turkey, in this 25 July, 2015 handout provided by Turkey's Prime Minister's Press Office.*—REUTERS**

ANKARA, 26 July — Two Turkish soldiers were killed and four were in injured by a car bomb and homemade explosives near the southeastern city of Diyarbakir overnight, the military said on Sunday.

The military blamed Kurdish militants for the attack and said operations in area the were ongoing.

The blast appears to be the latest attack by the outlawed Kurdistan Workers Party (PKK) in response to Ankara's crackdown on Kurdish militants this week which was launched in tandem with strikes against Islamic State.

On Saturday, Turkish fighter jets and ground forces hit Islamic State militants in Syria and PKK camps in Iraq in a campaign Ankara said would help create a "safe zone" across swathes of northern Syria.

The strikes against the PKK have raised concerns about the future of the shaky Kurdish peace process, which was started in late 2012 but has stalled recently.

The United States condemns recent attacks by the PKK in Turkey, a senior US diplomat said on Twitter, adding there was "no connection" between Turkey's strikes against the PKK and a deal to intensify the fight against Islamic State.

"There is no connection between these air strikes against PKK and recent understandings to intensify US-Turkey cooperation against ISIL," Brett McGurk, the deputy special presidential envoy for the coalition to counter Islamic State, said on Twitter.

Reuters

PERSPECTIVES

Monday, 27 July, 2015

Natural disasters are inevitable but preventable

By *Kyaw Thura*

If there is one thing Myanmar, as a developing country, should do in response to the outbreak of disaster, it would be none but to concentrate on building resilience and reducing vulnerabilities to the impacts of climate change.

Recent torrential rains have caused floods, river swelling and dam burst, affecting human life and property in some parts of the country and destroying religious buildings, schools and transportation facilities.

On the other hand, these incidents stressed the need to develop ecosystem management practices and establish institutional capacities for vulnerability assessment at national level. It will be better if the government can make efforts to integrate disaster preparedness measures into national development planning.

Natural disasters are inevitable, but their impacts can be mitigated by preventive measures, early warnings, timely evacuation efforts and prompt rescue services including healthcare and clothing.

Since forests and climate are entwined, deforestation has adverse effects on weather patterns. As a result, extreme weather patterns propel natural disasters. It is apparent that greedy business people and corrupt authorities should be held accountable for hillsides and mountain ranges denuded of trees for commercial reasons.

After all, there is a commonly-held view in the country that the country enjoys fine weather all the year round as long as the powers that be behave with great dignity.

Write for us

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

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

POWER POLITICS IN DEMOCRACY

U Kyi Mun

♦ Political power for aggrandizement is Machiavellian power politics, which plan, plot and make schematic stratagems for power, position, prestige, possessions and pride.

♦ Political power for national development is Gandhian power politics, which plan and strive for power, peace, progress, prosperity for the people and the planet.

Power means:
(1) Ability to do or act
(2) Vigor, force, strength
(3) Authority, influence (a) Legal authority (b)
(4) Physical force, energy (electric power)
(5) A person or thing having great influence, authority or force
(6) A nation, especially one dominating others

Politics means:
(1) The science of government
(2) Political affairs
(3) Political methods, tactics
(4) Political opinions, principles, etc.
(5) Factional scheming for power

Democracy means:
(1) Greek, demos meaning the people and kratein meaning to rule, or kratos meaning power, meaning government by the people, directly or by representatives.
(2) A country etc. with such government,
(3) Equality of rights, opportunity and treatment.

- Oxford Dictionary

Let us further consider the Power Politics in the following manner:

P *for* People-centred Power
O *for* Organs of Power
W *for* War & Peace
E *for* Ethical & Fair Power
R *for* Resources
P *for* Peace, Progress & Prosperity
O *for* Opportunities for National Development
L *for* Love of the Country
I *for* Integrity-driven
T *for* Total Democracy Development
I *for* Insight & Focus
C *for* Commitment
S *for* Strategy

❖ **People-centred Power**

In democracy, the ultimate source of power (State Power) is the broad masses of the people. In this world of ours, everything is transient. Nothing is permanent. In the impermanent, imperfect and insubstantial life in this world, what is of enduring, real value? In the oceans, the waves are transient; they just rise and fall. Only the waters are enduring and real. In the same way, leaders come and go; only the people remain; Only the people are enduring and substantial.

It is said that power grabbing is like chasing a mirage. A mirage means optical illusion produced by atmospheric conditions; an illusory thing.

We should always remember that when a man comes into the world, he brings nothing with him; and when he leaves the beloved world, he takes nothing with him, (with the exception of his karma/ kamma, of cource.)

❖ **Organs of Power**

The organs of the State Sovereign Power are:

♦ The Executive (government)
♦ The Legislature
♦ The Judiciary

The three entities must be separate, independent centres of power. The troika of power must exist as the instruments of check and balance to each other, always holding high the interests of the people and the country first.

❖ **War & Peace**

All the democratic forces are required to stop, avoid and abandon war on the one hand, and adopt, nurture and cultivate peace on the other. War is, in fact, an instrument of expansionist policy of the imperialists. In other words, war is a continuation of the expansionist policy by violent means. The forces of democracy always opt for peace, freedom and independence. In fact, peace is the original, natural condition of human beings.

❖ **ETHICAL & FAIR POWER**

In the game of Power Politics, most of the players believe that the end justifies the means. They choose not to distinguish between;

♦ Cause & Effect
♦ Means & End
♦ Good & Bad
♦ Right & Wrong
♦ Noble & Wicked
♦ Clean & Corrupt
♦ Pure & Contaminated
♦ Authentic & Copycat

In democracy, only ethical and fair power should prevail.

❖ **RESOURCES**

Without resources, there cannot be substantial powers. The source of human powers such as, political, economic, social or cultural ultimately lies in the endowment of the natural resources in addition to the human resource which is the source of the greatest power in the human affairs. All the nation's human and natural resources must be harnessed, nurtured, cultivated and developed for the country. If the natural resources in Myanmar could be relatively fully exploited by the intelligence and diligence powers of the Myanmar people, Myanmar would become a powerful country to be reckoned with in the international and regional arenas.

❖ **PEACE, PROGRESS & PROSPERITY**

ALL THE PLAYERS OF POWER POLITICS MUST BE PROACTIVELY POSITIONED ON PROMOTING PEACE, PROGRESS AND PROSPERITY OF THE PEOPLE. If you ask a person which would he/ she prefer from the following two alternatives, what do you think . . . . he/ she would answer?

♦ Peace or Prevalence of War/ Conflict
♦ Progress or Primitive Conditions
♦ Prosperity or Poverty/ Penury

I think every human being with a good, humane heart would choose the alternative of Peace, Progress and Prosperity of the People.

❖ **OPPORTUNITIES FOR NATIONAL DEVELOPMENT**

Democracy is the political system in which the opportunities for national development can be most practically available to explore and exploit to the most advantageous benefits for all the people as well as for the entire country. If you make some survey or research about the most advanced and developed countries in terms of peace, wealth, education, health, culture and stability, the top places of the list will be occupied by the most democratic countries in the world. Democratic countries have less obstructions and more opportunities for national development and modernization.

❖ **LOVE OF THE COUNTRY**

In the matter of power politics, love of the Motherland matters most. Machiavellian doctrine advocates the allurement of state power, and strategy and tactics of getting and keeping state power. But true democrats are no Machiavellians. True democrats are never power maniacs or power mongers. All the democracy advocates and supporters are great lovers of their Motherland. They love their Motherland with a ruling passion. Every citizen who has been born and brought up in the Motherland should love it with all his/ her mind, with all his/ her heart, with all his/ her strength. He or she should sing: "How do I love thee, Motherland? Let me count the ways!".

❖ **INTEGRITY-DRIVEN**

In power politics, it is said to the effect that "you don't hesitate to eat the tail or the head that is cooked". But there usually are sandalwood trees where there are more numerous various trees; and there are pearls of value as there are sand dunes. In Myanmar, there is a very commonly used saying that there are human bones in a cemetery, meaning people become honest only when they have been buried in a cemetery. Power, political or state, allures, entices, attracts, excites, charms the humans so much so that one will not think twice to excavate the forehead of one's own father for wealth or power, it is commonly said in Myanmar.

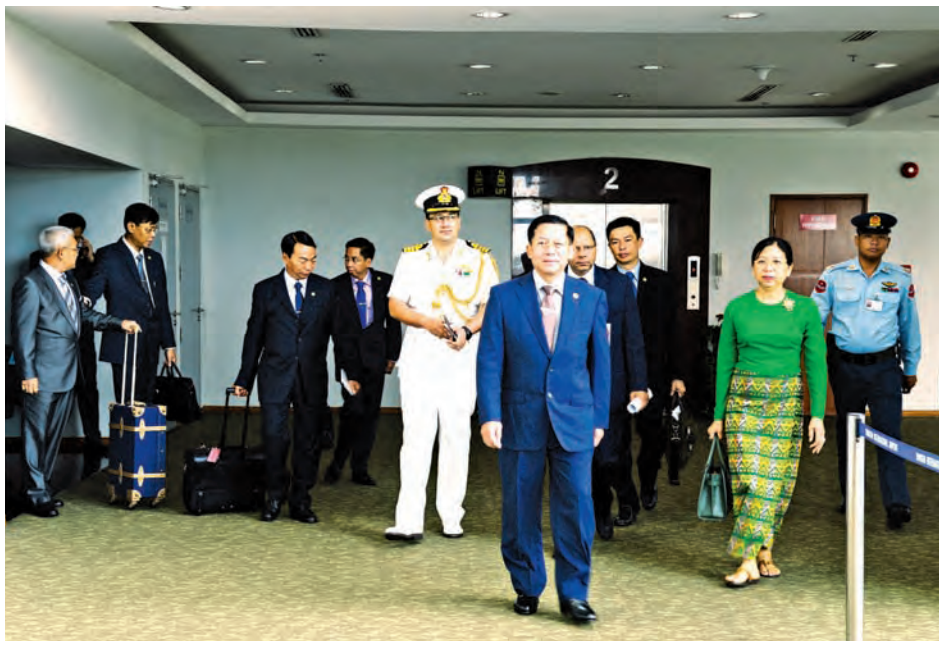
❖ **TOTAL DEMOCRACY DEVELOPMENT**

Total democracy development means:

♦ Personal democracy development
♦ Interpersonal democracy development
♦ Operational democracy development
♦ Managerial democracy development
♦ Organizational democracy development
♦ National democracy development

(See page 9)

Senior General Min Aung Hlaing pays goodwill visit to India



Senior General Min Aung Hlaing and party seen at Yangon International Airport before departure for India.—MYAWADY

NAY PYI TAW, 26 July — A military delegation led by Senior General Min Aung Hlaing, Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services, left Yangon International Airport Sunday for India at the invitation of Chairman of the Chiefs of Staff Committee of the Indian Armed Forces Chief of Air Staff Air Chief Marshal Arup Raha, PVSM, AVSM, VM of India.

The senior general was seen off at the airport by Commander of Yangon Command Maj-Gen Tun Tun Naung, Indian Ambassador Mr Gautam Mukhopadhaya and Indian Naval Attaché Capt Navy Manish Bhandari.

The delegation includes Daw Kyu Kyu Hla, wife of the senior general, Lt-Gen Myint Soe, Lt-Gen Khin Zaw Oo and Lt-Gen Mya Tun Oo of the Office of the Commander-in-Chief (Army), Chief of Staff (Navy) Rear-Admiral Tin Aung San and Chief of Staff (Air) Brig-Gen Maung Maung Kyaw.

During the trip, the senior general will hold meetings with officials from the Indian government and Indian armed forces to discuss cementing friendly relations and cooperation between the two countries and armed forces. Moreover, the senior general will visit the significant places and heavy industries.

Myanmar and India established diplomatic relations and military relationship on 4 January 1948. This is the second trip of the chief of Myanmar armed forces to India.

Myawady

46 persons submit their names for candidacy of Nov 8 elections

NAY PYI TAW, 26 July — A total of 46 persons of political parties and independent candidates submitted their names from 20 to 26 July to contest 2015 General Election which will be held on 8 November this year.

Seven political parties and independent candidates have proposed for 10 seats of Pyithu Hluttaw, 4 seats of Amyotha Hluttaw, 23 seats of State/Region Hluttaw and 9 seats of ethnic representatives at State/Region Hluttaw.

The names of persons and their proposed seats can be browsed at the Union Election Commission's website www.uecmyanmar.org.—*MNA*

Hundred thousands of stimulant tablets seized in eastern Shan state

Photo shows stimulant tablets and related equipment seized in Tachilek.

TACHILEK, 26 July — Nearly 200 thousands of stimulant tablets and 93.92 kilogram of its powder, 9 kilogram of methamphetamine (ice), 16 grams of heroin, 248 kilograms of caffeine, drug production equipment, and vehicles were seized in Tachilek Township of eastern Shan state on Saturday.

The confiscation was made as the house and the rubber plantation farm owned by Phar Pha in Mei Leik Parkaw village.

Illegal drugs are valued at more than three billion kyats, and the equipment over two billion kyats.—*District IPRD*

Military seizes weapons, ammunition from rebels

NAY PYI TAW, 26 July — Army troops and members of Border Guard Force in Kayin state confiscated weapons and ammunition after three clashes against a rebel group led by Kyaw Thet and Saw San Aung, former members of Karen Klo-Htoo-Baw Organisation (KKO) from 22 to 24 July.

While military columns were stepping up raids on hidden places of rebels on 24 July, three suspects were arrested with a grenade. Further raids were conducted after their tip-off, and more weapons and ammunition were confiscated around the hillside of Kaungmu Village in Kawkareik Township.

On Saturday, 17 members of rebel under the control of Kyaw Thet and Saw San Aung returned to the legal fold with weapons and ammunition.

Myawady

Weapons seized by Tatmadaw from Karen Klo-Htoo-Baw Organisation (KKO) on 23 and 24 July.—MYAWADY

17 members of a splited group from Kyaw Thet and Saw San Aung return to the legal fold along with arms and ammunition.—MYAWADY

POWER POLITICS IN …

(from page 8)

❖ **INSIGHT & FOCUS**

In building democracy, we must have the insight that the ultimate source of political and state power is the people. And in everything we do for the establishment of democracy we must be clearly focused on peace, progress and prosperity of the broad masses of the people. Machiavellian strategy of power politics is focused on wealth, power and armed might aiming for the aggrandizement of sovereign power. Gandhian strategy of power politics is clearly focused on people power, peace, progress and prosperity of the people.

❖ **COMMITMENT**

On the part of all the people who always steadfastly stand for the prevalence of democracy, total commitment to nurturing, cultivating and practicing democratic practices, democratic tradition, and democratic politics and social culture must be consistently maintained, strengthened and consolidated. All the people at the vanguard of the democracy movement must be clearly and dearly true to democracy and valiantly walk the talk.

❖ **STRATEGY**

The strategy of power politics in democracy should be:

- Faith in democracy,
- Focus on establishing democracy, and
- Fight for democracy

❖ **CONCLUSION**

Political power ultimately rests with the people. At the end of the day, the national and state sovereign power must be collectively exercised by the Troika of the National Sovereign Power by the Executive, the Legislature and the Judiciary on the principle of the government of the people, by the people, for the people.

All ends well that ends well.

Long live democracy!

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

Pearson says in talks to sell its 50 percent stake in The Economist

LONDON / MILAN, 26 July — Pearson (PSON.L) is in talks to sell its 50 percent stake in The Economist to the other shareholders of the weekly newspaper, with one, Italy's Agnelli family, confirming it wants to increase its stake.

The move comes on the heels of Pearson's sale of the *Financial Times* newspaper to Japanese media group Nikkei, announced this week as its focuses on its education business.

"Pearson confirms it is in discussions with The Economist Group Board and trustees regarding the potential sale of our 50 percent share in the group," the company said in a statement on Saturday.

"There is no certainty that this process will lead to a transaction."

Pearson did not name the potential buyers.

People familiar with the matter said, however, that the group of families and staff and former staff that own the remaining 50 percent are talking to Pearson but need to raise cash to fund the deal.

Italian holding company Exor (EXOR.MI), the investment company of the Agnelli family and a major shareholder in Fiat Chrysler Automobiles (FCHA.MI), said later on Saturday it was in talks about raising its stake, which stands at 4.72 percent, according to its website.

Any increased investment in The Economist Group would represent a minority shareholding and there was no certainty a deal would be concluded, it said in a statement.

A company logo hangs on the headquarters of the Financial Times newspaper in London, Britain on 23 July, 2015.—REUTERS

Fiat is a shareholder in RCS Mediagroup (RCSM.MI), which publishes newspaper *Corriere della Sera.*

As well as the Agnelli's, the owners of The Economist include other European dynasties such as the Cadbury, Rothschild and Schroder families.

The co-owners of the weekly publication, which had a paid circulation of 1.6 million at the end of 2014 and reported 67 million pounds in annual operating profit in June, have greater voting rights than Pearson, which holds only B shares.

Any change of ownership would need the consent of the holders of the A shares, an analyst told *Reuters* on Friday.

It would also need to be approved by trustees who are tasked with preserving the independence of the ownership of the company and the editorial independence of the title.

The families were unlikely to back any plans by Pearson to sell to a third party, industry bankers said.

Bernstein analyst Claudio Aspesi estimated the stake could be worth 300 to 400 million pounds, based on a multiple of 15 times its net income of 46 million pounds.

It is unlikely that any offer would reflect the same rich multiple that Nikkei agreed to pay for the *Financial Times*.

The Japanese company had been in competition with Germany's Axel Springer (AXSPY.PK) to win control of the trophy asset.

Beside The Economist itself, the group operates several subsidiaries including The Economist Intelligence Unit, Economist Events and Economist Corporate Network.

A deal would likely take several weeks to be agreed, a source close to the situation said on Saturday.—*Reuters*

India's reforms target labour anarchy, but too late for some

An employee works inside a garment factory of Orient Craft Ltd in Gurgaon on the outskirts of New Delhi, India, on 3 July, 2015.—REUTERS

NEW DELHI, 26 July — Last month, hundreds of workers went on the rampage at a factory belonging to garment exporter Orient Craft, torching vehicles and smashing windows in the gritty industrial fringes of Gurgaon, a Delhi satellite city.

Increasingly common in Indian workplaces, these violent outbursts could become a thing of the past under a bold round of labour reforms planned by Prime Minister Narendra Modi.

Many businesses cheer the plans, which they say will help make India a manufacturing hub. Taiwan's Foxconn, the world's largest contract electronics manufacturer, plans to set up 12 new factories in India and employ one million workers.

Yet Orient Craft, which has suffered three riots in three years, fears the changes will create as many problems as they solve by making the cottonwear it exports to global brands such as GAP and Marks & Spencer less competitive.

Like many other low-margin businesses in India, garment makers will gain from increased flexibility to hire, and fire, seasonal labour — reforms demanded by industry since India began to shift away from socialism in 1991.

But to make this more palatable for unions, Modi wants to also extend the social security net. The government expects that will reduce labour volatility, but it will also raise costs for companies like Orient Craft whose chairman Sudhir Dhingra fears losing clients to lower-cost rivals in Bangladesh.

Dhingra said the new flexibility will enable him to hire workers according to his business requirements, but only if Indian garments remain in demand. If they are priced out of business, the net benefit evaporates, he said. "Buyers are already moving to cheaper locations," said Virender Uppal, the head of India's Apparel Export Promotion Council. "If labour costs go up further, it's going to affect business."

Modi plans to take the amendments to parliament later this year.

The 20 June riot at the Orient Craft factory was sparked by an unfounded rumour that a worker had died from an electric shock. A similar rumour in February led to strife at another nearby apparel exporter, Richa Global.

Nobody was seriously hurt in these outbursts — unlike the 2012 riot at a Maruti Suzuki plant that left one executive dead and many injured.

Workers, labour officials and managers say the cost of living, low wages and conditions in slums where migrant workers stay keep Gurgaon's labourers on edge. They can easily turn on their bosses — even at firms like Orient Craft, known for its worker care.

Reuters

Sierra Leone launches Ebola recovery plan

FREETOWN, 26 July — Sierra Leone's President Ernest Koroma has formally launched his post Ebola recovery programme with emphasis on health, education, agriculture and social partnership.

According to the country's national broadcaster on Saturday, Koroma gave the background of the Ebola outbreak in Sierra Leone for the first time during which it caused thousands of deaths. It impacted the country's economy growth and reversed the country's gains.

The president said with the launch of the programme he has set up a delivery programme at the state house to ensure a proper coordination and the delivery of the programme.

Koroma urged his people that from now on, "support must reach those who need it, seeds must reach the farmers and medicines reach the sick."

He commended international community's efforts in assisting West Africa in fighting the deadly epidemic.

He called for the pledges to be delivered in time "for them to become facts on the ground." He said the generosity of the international community demonstrates the community's confidence in the country's fight against Ebola and its economic recovery programme.

On the Ebola situation in the country, Koroma said 10 out of the 14 districts in the country has gone for more than 90 days without a case while another three districts have not registered a single case of Ebola since the beginning of the year.

Xinhua

New Alzheimer's drug shows 4 times more effective than current pill: Australian researchers

MELBOURNE, 26 July — A promising new form of medication aimed at treating the degenerative brain disease Alzheimer's has showed early signs that it may be four times more effective than the current pill, donepezil, in preventing the onset and progression of the disease, Australian researchers said.

Preliminary results regarding the new wonder drug, known as Anavex 2-73 — presented by Australian researchers at the Alzheimer's Association International Conference (AAIC) in the US overnight — showed that out of the 12 patients in the Alfred Health trial, 10 recorded improved cognitive function.

Residents of the Australian state of Victoria will have first access to the drug, the researchers said.

The trial's head figure, associate professor Steve Macfarlane who is the director of aged care at Caulfield Hospital in Melbourne, told News Limited on Thursday he was "cautiously optimistic" following the drug's early positive signs.

"This drug seems to improve electrical markers by four times more than the current standard of care drug, which is a medication called donepezil (Aricept)," Macfarlane said.

Melbourne University laureate professor Colin Masters, a contributor to the research programme, was in attendance in Seattle, Washington for the conference announcement.

The amount of improvement in those tested in the 36-day programme was greater than that expected of a donepezil-taker after six months.

In fact, patients and carers involved in the study are actively seeking an extension of the trial in order to continue to take the new drug.

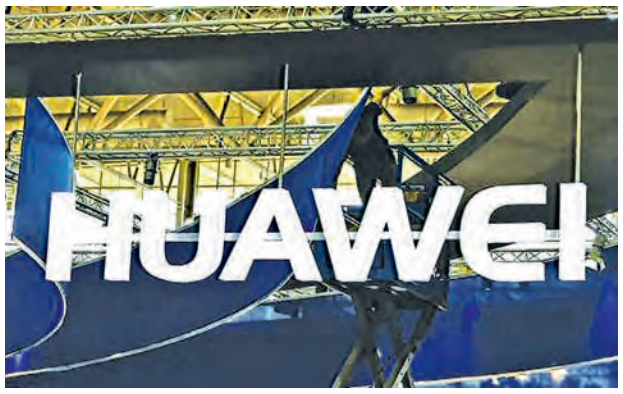
"We've also had patients and their carers reporting improvements in their thinking, increased alertness and improvement in their organization and independence," Macfarlane said.

It is estimated that more than 25 million people across the globe suffer Alzheimer's, which slowly deteriorates mental capabilities and is the leading cause of dementia.

The full results of the Australian trial are expected to be released at the end of the year.

Xinhua

China's Huawei to instal 4,000 km of fiber optics in Guinea



A worker adjusts the logo at the stand of Huawei at the CeBIT trade fair in Hanover on 15 March, 2015.
REUTERS

CONAKRY, 26 July — Chinese technology firm Huawei will roll out 4,000 km of fiber optic cable in Guinea over the next two years to offer high-speed Internet access to most of the West African nation's people, the Guinean presidency said in a statement on Friday.

Work on the $238 million project will begin this weekend and is due to be concluded by 2017, the statement said, adding that Guinea would become the first country in West Africa to benefit from such extensive coverage.

Africa's largest exporter of bauxite, Guinea has seen its $6 billion economy hit by a fall in commodities prices and the worst Ebola epidemic on record, which has killed more than 11,000 people in West Africa.

President Alpha Conde is running for a second term in elections due in October.

Reuters

2nd phase of Photovoltaic Solar Plant inaugurated in Bolivia

*Photo taken on 24 July, 2015 shows the view of the second phase of the Photovoltaic Solar Plant during its inauguration headed by Bolivian President Evo Morales, in the town of Villa Busch, pando department, Bolivia.—*XINHUA

Daimler to test self-driving trucks in Germany this year

*Daimler AG Chief Executive Dieter Zetsche attends the company's annual news conference in Stuttgart on 6 Feb, 2014.—*REUTERS

FRANKFURT, 26 July — German carmaker Daimler is planning to test self-driving trucks as early as this year, executive board member Wolfgang Bernhard told a German newspaper.

"We are positive that we will get approval for tests on German motorways within the next weeks," Frankfurter Allgemeine Sonntagszeitung quoted him as saying. "Then we will start immediately."

First tests of semi-autonomous trucks will take place in Daimler's home state Baden-Wuerttemberg while the start of production is 2-3 years away, Bernhard, who is in charge of Daimler's trucks business, told the paper.

"We are leaders in this technology and will stand up for ourselves," Bernhard said, acknowledging that Apple, Google and other companies were trying to position themselves in the promising business of autonomous driving.

He said that Daimler was unfazed by moves of companies like Apple to poach Daimler employees. "That is a clear sign of recognition if Apple decides that your business, cars — are so important to them that they want to be part of it."

Google earlier this month began testing its self-driving cars in Austin, Texas, expanding efforts to gather information on how the prototypes interact with traffic, road conditions and people.

Technology groups as well as automotive manufacturers and suppliers have said the technology to build self-driving cars should be ready by 2020.

Reuters

Scientists control mouse brain by remote control

WASHINGTON, 26 July — Scientists have successfully altered the neural networks of laboratory mice using a wireless controller; allowing them to study the effects of neural stimulation without invasive procedures and without test subjects tethered by wires.

The tiny implant, smaller than the width of a human hair, let the scientists determine the path a mouse walks using a remote control to inject drugs and shine lights on neurons inside the brain.

Neuroscientists have until now been limited to injecting drugs through larger tubes and delivering photostimulation through fiber-optic cables, both of which require surgery that can damage the brain and restrict an animal's natural movements.

The optofluidic implant developed by the team from Washington University School of Medicine and the University of Illinois was found to damage and displace much less brain tissue than the metal tubes, or cannulas, scientists typically use to inject drugs.

The device is mounted to the head of the mouse and is powered by a small battery, removing the need for it to be wired, and contains tiny reservoirs filled with the drugs to be administered during tests.

In one such experiment, mice were made to walk in circles after a drug that mimics morphine was injected into the region of the mouse's brain that controls motivation and addiction.

In other tests the scientists used a technique known as optogenetics, where mice have been modified so that their neurons are lights sensitive, to stimulate the mice's brain cells with miniature LEDs. The test subjects were made to stay on one side of a cage by remotely making the implant shine pulses of light on the specific cells. The mice were about three feet away from the remote antenna during the experiments.

The research, published recently in scientific journal *Cell*, could lead to the development of more minimally invasive probes to treat neurological disorders including stress, depression, addiction, and pain.—*Reuters*

Chinese IT giant Inspur to set up plants in California

JINAN, 26 July — Inspur, a major total solution and service provider of cloud computing in China, is to set up plants and research centers in California.

The Jinan-based IT company said on Saturday in a filing with the Shenzhen Stock Exchange, where it is listed in the Chinese mainland, that it will set up manufacturing plants and research and development centres in California for its server businesses. The move is expected to help the company tap the international — especially the American — market. The company will set up a fully-controlled subsidiary in British Virgin Islands and another one in the United States, and each investment will not exceed 10 million US dollars, according to the filing.—*Xinhua*

EU clears Nokia's acquisition of Alcatel-Lucent

BRUSSELS, 26 July — The European Commission said on Friday it had approved Finnish telecom equipment group Nokia's planned purchase of Alcatel-Lucent because the two were not close competitors and would still face strong global competition.

"The Commission found that, despite the merged entity having combined market shares around or above 30 percent for several specific types of equipment, the overlaps between the two companies' activities are effectively limited," the Commission said in a statement.

It added that Nokia had a strong presence in Europe, where Alcatel-Lucent was small, with the positions reversed in North America.

Nokia announced in April an all-share deal then worth 15.6 billion euros to buys its smaller French rival, building up its telecom equipment business to compete with market leader Ericsson.

*A view of Nokia's head offices in Espoo, Finland, on 15 April, 2015.—*REUTERS

The combined group would rank behind Ericsson, but ahead of Chinese rival Huawei [HWT.UL]. China's ZTE and Korea's Samsung are other competitors.—*Reuters*

Hundreds mourn for woman found dead in Texas jail cell

LISLE, 26 July — Hundreds of people on Saturday attended the funeral of Sandra Bland, a black woman found dead in a Texas jail cell days after she was arrested following a minor traffic offense, an incident said by activists to be yet another example of police brutality toward minorities.

Mourners including local politicians lined up for more than an hour outside the DuPage African Methodist Episcopal Church in Lisle, Illinois to file past an open casket and attend the funeral.

"This is not a moment of defeat, this is an hour of victory ... We are not funeralizing a martyr or a victim, we are celebrating a hero," said Reverend James Miller, who led the funeral service. He asked everyone to pressure the government for a federal investigation into Bland's death.

Bland, 28, was pulled over by a white Texas state trooper on 10 July near Prairie View, Texas, northwest of Houston, for failing to signal a lane change. After the stop escalated into an altercation between her and the trooper, Bland was taken into custody and charged with assaulting an officer. She was found hanging in her jail cell on 13 July with a plastic trash bag around her neck.

An autopsy preliminarily confirmed an initial finding by a medical examiner that Bland's death was a suicide.

Her mother and four sisters, however, have expressed strong doubts that Bland, passionate about civil rights and excited about a new job, would take her own life.

At the funeral, her mother, Geneva Reed-Veal, said she had recently travelled with her daughter, who had decided her purpose in life was to stop the injustice against blacks in the American South.

"That baby did not take herself out of here," Reed-Veal said. "I'm the momma and I still want to know what happened to my baby."

The trooper, who has been placed on desk duty for violating protocol in the arrest, pointed a stun gun at Bland and said he would drag her out of the car. Another video, taken by a bystander, showed the officer forcing Bland to the ground as they argued.

Illinois politicians US Senator Dick Durbin and US Representative Bill Foster spoke at the funeral and drew applause when they called for a full investigation of Bland's death.

An overflow crowd was directed to the church's basement to watch the funeral on a live video feed. Many sang, clapped and danced after viewing Bland's body.

A hearse carrying the casket of Sandra Bland leads a funeral procession to the burial in the Chicago suburb of Willow Springs, Illinois, United States, on 25 July, 2015.—REUTERS

Her former sorority sisters from her alma mater, Prairies View A&M University, read an obituary highlighting her religious faith and her blogs about social injustice, race politics and police brutality. Bland, originally from the Chicago area, had been about to start a temporary job at Prairie View A&M, when she was stopped by the trooper.

Bland's family acknowledged she had posted on social media about struggling with depression but has disputed the suicide ruling.—*Reuters*

FEATURE: Forester seeks greater use of wood to protect forests in postwar Japan

KIHOKU, (Japan), 26 July — Toru Hayami does not conceal his excitement when he talks about his "forest of 400 years" in Kihoku town in the central Japan prefecture of Mie. "They are 100 years old and will stay there for 300 more years," Hayami, 62, said, pointing at "hinoki" cypress trees as tall as 40 metres that are sparsely planted on a steep slope near the top of a mountain in the town facing the Pacific Ocean.

"I feel excited when I just imagine that the trees will be used to repair Horyuji in 300 years' time," said Hayami, referring to a seventh-century Buddhist temple in Nara Prefecture, western Japan, widely acknowledged to have one of the oldest existing wooden structures in the world. But that is not everything being pursued by Hayami, the ninth-generation head of a family business named Hayami Forest.

"I want houses and offices to use more wood to protect forests in Japan," he said, as the industry flounders and leaves forestland to degrade across the country amid poor demand and low timber prices. Bare mountains that were left in Japan after World War II as a result of massive wartime felling now have lots of cedar and hinoki trees 60 to 70 years old and ready for cutting. But many of those trees planted in the postwar era have been left unattended due to weak demand for timber.

Photo taken on 23 April, 2015 shows part of the "forest of 400 years" grown by Hayami Forest in Kihoku, Mie Prefecture. Photo by Ren Onuma. —KYODO NEWS

Unless trees are hewed down, grass fails to grow on mountains because sunlight cannot reach the soil and the mountains thus lose their water-retaining capacity, increasing the risk of rainfall causing landslides, Hayami says. The time-honored Hayami family, which entered the forestry business in the 18th century, expanded to other sectors such as drug sales and fishing before World War II, but Hayami's late father Tsutomu confined the scope to timber after the war. Even though Tsutomu learned forestry on his own, as his own father had died when he took over after returning from military service, the business thrived during his time, according to Hayami. High-quality hinoki trees Tsutomu produced aroused strong demand and were once priced 10 times higher than cedar trees, as he began so-called dense planting — the practice of growing trees with fewer knots because branches are rarely exposed to sunlight and thus drop naturally —and maintained leaves at the top of trees while cutting off lower branches, said the incumbent. "A French book inspired my father to plant hinoki trees, expecting that a lot of people would build homes with high-quality trees when Japan became affluent," Hayami said of one of many timber-related books of Tsutomu's still stored in a family warehouse. Inviting an expert from Europe, Tsutomu also built forest roads to transport logs by truck among other efforts to modernize the business. When Hayami, born in 1953, succeeded his father after graduating from Keio University and studying as a research student at the University of Tokyo's Faculty of Agriculture, however, circumstances were very different.

"Timber was a profitable business during my father's era," Hayami said. "Ironically, timber prices began to fall when I took over the business." To overcome the toughened market environment, Hayami needed a new way of doing business different from his father's.

Tsutomu promoted dense planting, grass cutting and tree thinning to produce high-quality hinoki trees. The work required more than 400 people per hectare of land to grow 30-year-old trees. Concluding it was impossible to involve so many workers in the face of falling timber prices, Hayami greatly omitted grass cutting and other operations so as to reduce the necessary workforce to less than 100 people per hectare. He also planted trees sparsely to reduce the frequency of thinning.

His mechanization of Hayami Forest's operations proved successful when a big typhoon hit Kihoku in 1990 as the firm could minimize damage by cutting all the fallen trees in six months.

Hayami used to purchase nursery trees but began cutting propagation, which contributed to making Hayami Forest capable now of producing 150,000 trees a year, he said. Hayami Forest, with a workforce of 14, owns and manages 1,070 hectares of woodland to produce hinoki trees of a variety called Owase, which derives from Kihoku's neighbouring city of Owase. The trees feature fewer knots and beautiful growth rings and stand upright. "We would like to create a forest that can impress people with its beauty," Hayami said.

"When trees are felled, grass grows on mountains, insects increase and birds eat them, and so help to create a diverse and deep forest," said the son of the "Pioneer of Forest Management" — a title adopted by newspapers in reporting on Tsutomu's passing away in September 2012 at the age of 93.

Kyodo News

Five Nepalis held, suspected of sacrificing 10-year-old boy

KATHMANDU, 26 July— Five people have been arrested and face charges of murdering a 10-year-old boy in southwest Nepal, police said on Sunday, in an incident media reports said was a suspected case of human sacrifice. Police official Nal Prasad Upadhyaya said the decomposed body of Jivan Kohar, who had been missing for three days, was recovered from a bush on Friday in Kudiya village in Nawalparasi district, which borders India. The boy's throat had been slit.

The Kathmandu Post said the father of a sick man had confessed to the killing "to chase away the evil spirits" from his ailing son after seeking advice from a village shaman. He lured the boy with the help of neighbours to an isolated place by offering biscuits and promising to pay him 50 US cents. He then performed a religious rite, killed the boy and dumped his body in a bush, media reports said.

All five will be charged with murder, Upadhyaya said. More than 80 percent of Nepal's 28 million people are Hindus. Many frequently sacrifice animals like goats, buffaloes and roosters to appease the gods.—*Reuters*

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REPUBLIC OF THE UNION OF MYANMAR
MINISTRY OF CONSTRUCTION
DEPARTMENT OF HIGHWAYS
Procurement Result of Maubin-Pyapon Road Rehabilitation Project (ADB Loan 3199-MYA)

Department of Highways, Ministry of Construction invited bids for Maubin- Pyapon Road Rehabilitation Project funded by the Asian Development Bank (ADB) on 13.9 2014 and the following table is shown the procurement result of the bids.

I. Contract ICB1-MP: Section km 00+000 to km 25+500

No.	Bidder	Bid Price MMK	Evaluated Price MMK	Remarks
1	Myat Eaindray and China Road and Bridge Corporation, Joint Venture	33,269,943,701	33,269,943,701	
2	Myanmar Shwe Ying Int'L Co.,Ltd and Sinohydro Corporation Co.,Ltd, Joint Venture			Bid not technically responsive.
3	China Petroleum Pipeline Bureau			Bid rejected. Bid security not submitted.
4	**Jung Heung Construction Co. Ltd**	**15,803,461,993**	**15,803,461,993**	**Successful bidder. Letter of Acceptance issued.**
5	Soil Energy Co;Ltd and No. 703 Construction and Investment Joint Stock Company, Joint Venture			Bid not technically responsive.
6	Full Strength Co;Ltd, Mann Pyi Dagon Co.Ltd, Primoris Service Corporation, Joint Venture			Bid not technically responsive.
7	Shwe Taung ,Wika, Tokyu, STK JV	17,729,669,170	17,729,669,170	
8	Lotte - A1 joint Venture			Bid not technically responsive.
9	FCGC-CGGC JV	28,983,709,243	28,983,709,243	

II. Contract ICB2-MP: Section km 25+500 to km 54+450
Bidders and bid prices

No.	Bidder	Bid Price MMK	Evaluated Price MMK	Remarks
1	Myat Eaindray and China Road and Bridge Corporation, Joint Venture	39,339,729,663	39,339,729,663	
2	China Petroleum Pipeline Bureau			Bid rejected. Bid security not submitted.
3	Full Strength Co;Ltd, Mann Pyi Dagon Co.Ltd, Primoris Service Corporation, Joint Venture			Bid not technically responsive.
4	**Shwe Taung ,Wika, Tokyu, STK JV**	**22,199,203,148**	**22,199,203,148**	**Successful bidder. Letter of Acceptance issued.**
5	Lotte - A1 joint Venture			Bid not technically responsive.
6	FCGC-CGGC JV	33,387,260,670	33,387,260,670	

III. Scope of Work

The project will rehabilitate 54.5km of the existing Maubin to Pyapon Highway in Myanmar's Ayeyarwady Region. The rehabilitation work includes widening the existing road and constructing a new two lane pavement with an asphaltic concrete surface. Several bridges will also be repaired or replaced.

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 အောက်ဖော်ပြပါအချက်အလက်များ ဖော်ပြပါရှိရပါမည်-
(က) ကုမ္ပဏီ(များ)၏ အဆင့်အခြေအနေနှင့် အသေးစိတ် အချက်အလက်များ၊ အစုရှယ်ရာဝင်များ၏ နိုင်ငံသားဖြစ်မှုဆိုင်ရာ အသေးစိတ်ဖော်ပြချက်များနှင့် ၎င်းတို့၏ ထည့်ဝင်ပိုင်ဆိုင်မှု ရာခိုင်နှုန်း၊ ကုမ္ပဏီမှတ်ပုံတင်အထောက်အထား(မှတ်ပုံတင်မိတ္တူ ပူးတွဲတင်ပြရန်)
(ခ) ကုမ္ပဏီ(များ)အကြောင်းအရာ ဖော်ပြချက်များ (အင်္ဂလိပ်ဘာသာဖြင့်)
(ဂ) လွန်ခဲ့သော (၃)နှစ်အတွင်း ကုမ္ပဏီ(များ)မှ ချုပ်ဆိုခဲ့သော စာချုပ်များ၏ စုစုပေါင်းတန်ဘိုး
(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)

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Bathing beach opens in central Tokyo, but with one proviso

Two girls play in the water at a beach in central Tokyo on 25 July, 2015, as it opened to the public for bathing. Issues remain over the quality of seawater at Odaiba Marine Park, the venue for the triathlon in the 2020 Tokyo Olympics and Paralympics, and swimmers were requested not to let their faces touch the water.
KYODO NEWS

TOKYO, 26 July — A beach designated for use during the triathlon in the 2020 Tokyo Olympics and Paralympics was opened to the public for bathing on Saturday, but with one proviso: Don't put your face in the water.

This is because issues remain over the quality of seawater at Odaiba Marine Park in Tokyo's waterfront as the number of microbes is known to rise after it rains because of water flowing in from nearby rivers.

During the two-day public relations event organized by a local municipal office, swimming is allowed within an area about 50 metres long and 100 metres wide. But swimmers are requested not to let their faces touch the water, while life vests are required for those under the age of senior high school.

A similar event was held at the same spot last year for the first time. About 300 people visited during the two-day period.

The Tokyo metropolitan government and Minato Ward are working to further improve water quality so all bathing restrictions can be lifted.

For decades, beaches in the capital were closed to swimmers due to pollution. But with improvement in the water quality of Tokyo Bay, another bathing beach was opened at Kasai Rinkai Park just east of Tokyo's central business district a week ago. There, people are allowed to immerse their faces in the water.

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 27th 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.

FORECAST FOR NAYPYITAW AND NEIGHBOURING AREA FOR 27th July, 2015: Some rain or thundershowers. Degree of certainty is (100%).

Johnny Depp's 'Black Mass' to premiere at Venice Film Festival

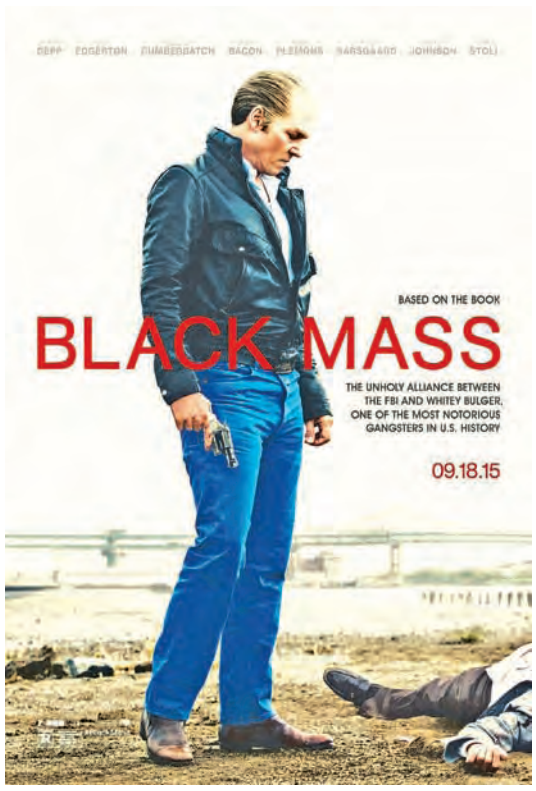
LOS ANGELES, 26 July — Johnny Depp-starrer "Black Mass", directed by Scott Cooper, will have its world premiere at the 72nd Venice Film Festival, out-of-competition, the fest has announced.

The film is scheduled for Friday 4 September screening, in the Sala Grande venue in the Lido's Palazzo del Cinema, reported Variety.

"Black Mass" is a biopic of Boston gangster James "Whitey" Bulger, played by Depp, who became an FBI informant and used this status to eliminate criminal competition during the 1970s, '80s, and early '90s. The film also stars Benedict Cumberbatch, Kevin Bacon, Joel Edgerton and Peter Sarsgaard in pivotal roles.

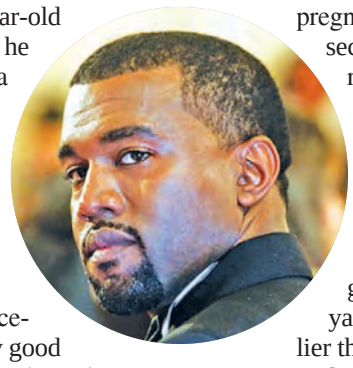
Based on the book of Dick Lehr and Gerar O'Neill, the screenplay of the film is by Mark Mallouk and Jez Butterworth of "Get on Up" fame. Director Baltasar Kormakur's mountain climbing thriller "Everest" starring Jake Gyllenhaal, will open the festival on 2 September.

The Venice Film Festival will run till 12 September.—*PTI*



I'm a bad celebrity: KANYE WEST

LOS ANGELES, 26 July — Rapper Kanye West says he thinks he is a "bad celebrity", but a pretty good artist.



The 38-year-old rapper has joked he doesn't make a great star because of his unusual behaviour but believes his music makes up for it, reported *Los Angeles Times.*

"I'm a bad celebrity, but a pretty good artist," West said while doing a talk with Steve McQueen at Los Angeles County Museum of Art to officially unveil a video to his tracks "All Day" and "I Feel Like That".

West, whose wife Kim Kardashian West is currently pregnant with their second child, also revealed why he asked the "12 Years a Slave" director to work on the nine-minute video, which was shot in a single take in a dockyard in London earlier this year.

"I elevated my palate. I wanted him to be in charge … It wasn't overly thought out … He came to our wedding, also."—*PTI*

Sandra Bullock

Sandra Bullock's 'Our Brand Is Crisis' to release in October

LOS ANGELES, 26 July — Sandra Bullock-starrer upcoming comedy-drama "Our Brand Is Crisis" will release on 30 October.

The film, produced by Warner Bros, is based on the 2005 documentary of the same name about the power of American political campaign marketing practices and its negative consequences, said *The Hollywood Reporter*.

Directed by David Green of "George Washington" fame, the movie also stars Billy Bob Thornton, Zoe Kazan, Anthony Mackie and Scoot McNairy.

"Our Brand Is Crisis" is written by Peter Straughan who earlier penned "Tinker Tailor Soldier Spy" and the adaptation of "How to Lose Friends & Alienate People".—*PTI*

'Supergirl' casts DC Comics villain Reactron

LONDON, 26 July — TV series Supergirl" is adding another familiar face from the DC comics — supervillain Reactron.

The character first appeared in a Supergirl comic published in 1983, and will take on Melissa Benoist's heroine in the new CBS TV series, reported *Digital Spy*.

Able to harness harmful radiation, recent comics have also seen Reactron equipped with a heart made of gold Kryptonite — able to render a Kryptonian powerless for 15 seconds.

In some versions of DC canon, Reactron is also responsible for the deaths of Kara's parents — making him one of the Maid of Might's greatest enemies.

He will make his live-action debut in the third episode of Supergirl — the series will premiere on 26 October on CBS.

Lucy Lane — sister of Lois Lane and ex-girlfriend of James 'Jimmy' Olsen (Mehcad Brooks) — will also recur on the show.

PTI

Monkey King overtakes Kung Fu Panda 2 as China's animation top earner

BEIJING, 26 July — China-made animated feature "Monkey King: The Hero is Back" had raked in 620 million yuan (99.8 million US dollar) as of 4:00 pm Saturday, snatching the throne of the highest grossing animated film in Chinese cinemas formerly held by "Kung Fu Panda 2."

"Monkey King," a 3D animated adaption of the classical epic "A Journey to the West," opened in the Chinese mainland on 10 July. Its latest box office figure was announced on Saturday by Liu Zhijiang, general manager of HG Entertainment, the film's production company.

Previously, "Kung Fu Panda 2" had maintained the box office record for animated features for four years with 617 million yuan earned in Chinese cinemas.

Xinhua

Leaving runways behind, Delevingne finds spotlight in 'Paper Towns'

LOS ANGELES, 26 July — As the lead of teen film "Paper Towns" and with a slew of upcoming high-profile roles under her belt, British supermodel Cara Delevingne is happy to leave the runway behind as she steps onto the big screen.

Delevingne, 22, the striking face of fashion houses and brands from Chanel to Topshop, plays the mysterious Margo in a film adaptation of John Green's young adult novel "Paper Towns," out in US theaters this week.

The model-turned-actress said she found herself drawing similarities between herself and her free-spirited teenage character.

"I'm more like her now than I was when I was her age," the actress told *Reuters*.

"I did take elements of myself (into the character) from when I was like a kid, like 12, because I was very fearless and brave. When I was 18, I wasn't that clever or great, funny or smart, intelligent."

"Paper Towns" follows high school teenager Quentin (Nat Wolff), who is enticed one night by Margo, his childhood crush whom he has drifted apart from, to play revenge-filled pranks on unsuspecting students.

In the morning, Margo disappears and the film touches on themes of identity and defies traditional coming-of-age tropes as Quentin embarks on a journey that has unexpected twists along the way.

For Delevingne, acting presented benefits such as staying put in one place for a longer period of time and building a camaraderie with co-stars, something she was not able to do in her modeling career.

"People are like, 'You must travel so much,' and I'm like, 'No, I don't see anything.' I've been to everywhere but I've never seen any of it," she said.

The actress will be appearing in five films over the next year, including Joe Wright's visually striking "Pan" and playing anti-heroine Enchantress in next year's "Suicide Squad."

With 16 million Instagram fans, the quirky Delevingne is already an established personality, embraced for championing the "embrace your weirdness" movement.

For Green, the author whose young adult cancer romance "The Fault in Our Stars" became a hit film last summer, he saw the complex, misunderstood Margo come alive in Delevingne, in part due to her own background as a celebrity. —*Reuters*

Cara Delevingne

"Guanyin Buddha" performed in 4th China Xinjiang Int'l Dance Festival

Artists perform a dance named "Guanyin Buddha", Buddhist goddess of mercy, during the 4th China Xinjiang International Dance Festival in Urumqi, capital of northwest China's Xinjiang Uygur Autonomous Region, on 25 July, 2015.
XINHUA

17 Chinese tourists injured in bus accident in Thailand's Phuket

BANGKOK, 26 July — A total of 17 Chinese tourists were injured after their tour bus overturned in south Thailand's Phuket province on Sunday, China's consular office in Phuket said.

The accident occurred at around 12 pm local time on the Bypass Road in the city of Phuket and one tourist was seriously injured, the consular office said.

All the injured have been rushed to a hospital, the office said, citing local police.

So far there is no report of death, the office added.

The police are investigating the cause of the accident.—*Xinhua*

Tokyo 2020 Olympic and Paralympic emblems unveiled

TOKYO, 26 July — The Tokyo 2020 Organizing Committee on Friday unveiled the official emblems of the Tokyo 2020 Olympic and Paralympic Games.

The Tokyo 2020 emblems were created to symbolize the power of unity as the world comes together for Tokyo 2020 to experience the joy of uniting as one team. The black colour of the central column represents diversity, the combination of all colours. The shape of the circle represents an inclusive world in which everyone accepts each other. The red of the circle represents the power of every beating heart.

These elements combine to create the emblems of both the Olympic and Paralympic Games. The Tokyo 2020 Olympic emblem is inspired by the T in Tokyo, Tomorrow and Team. The Tokyo 2020 Paralympic emblem is inspired by the universal sign of equality.

Tokyo 2020 President Yoshiro Mori said, "The moment we have all been waiting for has finally arrived. The Tokyo 2020 Games emblems are a wonderful work of art that represent the aspirations and the ultimate goal that athletes around the world aim to achieve — taking part in the Olympic and Paralympic Games."

"The emblems are also symbols behind which the whole of Japan can unite as a single integrated body and join the collective endeavors of the Tokyo 2020 Organizing Committee, the Tokyo Metropolitan Government, the national government, the Japanese Olympic Committee, the Japanese Paralympic Committee, the Japanese business community, as well as the Games volunteers and everyone who is assisting with the preparations for the 2020 Games."

International Olympic Committee Coordination Commission Chair John Coates said, "The Tokyo 2020 Olympic Games emblem is a powerful symbol of Tokyo's Games vision."

"By embracing the concept of unity in diversity, it shows the unique ability of the Olympic Games to bring together people from all over the world in peace and harmony. Its inclusiveness and its representation of the power of the human heart is testament to the spirit in which the Tokyo 2020 Olympic Games are being prepared."

"They will be a global celebration that we can all be a part of and enjoy." He continued, "Most importantly, this emblem represents Tokyo and its people. It reflects the vibrant nature of the city and the welcoming spirit of its citizens — two elements that the Olympic athletes in 2020 will fully appreciate.

I congratulate the Tokyo 2020 team on their work and believe that this emblem will have an important influence on the future of Olympic design." The designer of the emblems is Kenjiro Sano, who graduated from the Department of Graphic Design at Tama Art University and has won numerous awards including the Yusaku Kamekura Design Award, the Mainichi Design Prize, the New York ADC Gold Award, the Cannes Lions Gold and the London D&AD Black Pencil.

Kyodo News

Lion sighted in Milwaukee, police close streets in area

MIL WAUKEE, 26 July — Police closed off streets near a park in north Milwaukee on Saturday night after reports of a "lion-like animal," which came days after people said they had a seen a lion prowling city streets. Milwaukee police and the Department of Natural Resources responded to the area, at 30th and Fairmont streets, for what a police statement called "a confirmed sighting of a lion-like animal."

The animal was not located, it added, but police would maintain a presence throughout the night. Local residents reported earlier on Saturday they had seen a lion and her cub in a creek in the park.

"I ... said 'Let's go see it in person'," said Tracie Jackson, 53, an off-duty Milwaukee police officer who drove from her home about five minutes away.

About 15 people gathered by the park, where the streets were closed off by police tape, hoping for a sighting.

On Tuesday a white pit bull dog was shot in the paw after apparently having been mistaken for the lion reported to have been prowling city streets. It was expected to fully recover.

The shooting followed a Monday telephone call to police from a woman who reported seeing a lion in her neighbourhood. A cell phone video clip surfaced hours later showing a blurry image of a large cat-like animal strolling about, heightening fears and speculation.

Police subsequently received dozens of calls reporting lion sightings. The Milwaukee Zoo said via Twitter that all its lions were accounted for.

Reuters

MRTV News Channel in Brief

(27-7-2015, Monday)

6:00 am
- Paritta by Hilly Region Missionary Sayadaw

6:40 am
- Physical Exercise

7:00 am
- News/ Weather Report

7:30 am
- Head Line News

7:35 am
- Weekly Entertainment

8:00 am
- News/ International News

8:35 am
- Documentary (Women in Myanmar Society)

9:00 am
- News / International News

10:30 am
- Head Line News

10:45 am
- People's Talks

11:00 am
- News

11:30 am
- Head Line News

11:35 am
- MRTV's Youth Programme

12:00 noon
- News/ International News/ Weather Report

12:35 pm
- Tasty Trip

1:05 pm
- Gitadagale Phwintbarohn

1:45 pm
- Fine Arts-Bosom of Dramatic Performance (Part-1)

3:30 pm
- Head Line News

3:35 pm
- Fine Arts-Bosom of Dramatic Performance (Part-2)

4:00 pm
- News/ Weather Report

4:15 pm
- Documentary

4:50 pm
- People's Talks

5:00 pm
- News

5:15 pm
- Documentary

5:35 pm
- Documentary (Women in Myanmar Society)

6:35 pm
- Socio Economic Scenes

7:00 pm
- News

7:15 pm
- Documentary (Weather)

7:30 pm
- Head Line News

8:00 pm
- News / International News / Weather Report

9:00 pm
- News
- Teleplay
- TV Drama Series

mitv Myanmar International

(27-7-2015 07:00 am~28-7-2015 07:00 am) MST

* News
* Myanmar Traditional Identity (EP- 4) Tumbling Doll, Pyit Tine Htaung
* A Journey To Southern Shan State (Ep-2)
* News
* Traditional Customs of Holy Waso
* …….Shan Novices To Be……..
* Art Students: Theatrical Art
* News
* Lucrative Businesses of Tanintharyi Region
* The Iron Rider
* Myanmar Puppet
* News
* Youth of The Future (Ep-10) Youth Film Maker (Sai Aung Tun)
* Inspiration
* News
* Food Trip (EP-1) (Part-2)
* Art Students: Their Dream
* News
* Sai Htee Hseng or An Exceptional Music Star From Shan Plateaus (Ep-2)
* Green Grocer
* News
* Home Grown Treasure
* News
* Writer, Philanthropist: Daw Than Myint Aung (Part-II)
* Sagaing: Gold Leaf
* News
* Short Trip with Steve (Taungyi Trip)
* Egg Shell
* News
* Oboist and His Life
* Independent Filmmaker
* A Traditional Doctor

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Monday, 27 July, 2015

Misfiring Falcao can get back to his best at Chelsea — Costa

LONDON, 26 July — Chelsea loan signing Radamel Falcao can get back to his free-scoring best under Jose Mourinho and the Premier League champions will benefit from the Colombian's indifferent loan spell at Manchester United, strike partner Diego Costa has said.

The 29-year-old Falcao developed a reputation as one the most feared strikers in Europe, netting 72 goals for Porto in two campaigns and 70 goals in two seasons for Atletico Madrid before joining AS Monaco in 2013 for almost $80 million.

However, following an anterior cruciate ligament injury that ruled him out of the 2014 World Cup, Falcao joined Manchester United on loan last season but scored four goals in 29 games.

"Radamel knows the sort of manager Mourinho is: one who is liked by players because he trusts and backs them," Costa told reporters. "He doesn't sign a player just for the sake of it, it's because he has confidence in him and wants him to feature regularly.

"It's good for us that he didn't have the best of seasons as that's why he's now with us."

Falcao, who has joined Chelsea on a season-long loan from Monaco with an option to make the deal permanent, played alongside Costa at Atletico and the duo tormented Real Madrid in the 2013 King's Cup triumph.

"I spent a couple of seasons with Falcao and things went fairly well," Costa said.

"He did a lot for me and he's a great striker. Whether the manager chooses to play us alongside each other, that's up to him, but he is very talented."

Costa scored 20 goals for Chelsea in his debut season at Stamford Bridge after joining from Atletico for 32 million pounds ($49.63 million). However, the fiery Brazilian-born Spanish striker had his temperament called into question when he was banned for three matches for a stamp on Liverpool's Emre Can. "I won't change my style," Costa said. "I haven't done anything malicious."

"I've always played this way for all the sides I've been with and I've scored a lot of goals in this style."

"The key for me is to score goals and win trophies, if I change in any way, I'm not going to be the same player. The aim is to win the Champions League. We have a squad here capable of winning it."—*Reuters*

Radamel Falcao Garcia

Manchester United beat Barcelona 3-1 in friendly

Manchester United's Morgan Schneiderlin in action with Barcelona's Sergi Roberto during their International Champions Cup Pre Season Friendly Tournament at Levi's Stadium in Santa Clara, California, United States of America on 25 July, 2015.—REUTERS

SANTA CLARA, (California), 26 July — Manchester United kept up the positive momentum of their pre-season tour with a 3-1 victory over Barcelona in the International Champions Cup on Saturday in Santa Clara, California.

Wayne Rooney put the English club on top early by heading home a goal in the 10th minute before Jesse Lingard and Adnan Januzaj each added second-half goals.

Manchester United, who beat Champions League winners Barcelona in the title game of 2009 and 2011, have enjoyed a successful US tour with victories over Club America of Mexico and Major League Soccer club San Jose Earthquakes.

Barcelona, playing without standouts Lionel Messi and Neymar, along with Claudio Bravo, Javier Mascherano and Dani Alves, made it an exciting match but failed to cash in on a few prime scoring chances.

Luis Suarez twice hit the post on first-half shots for Barcelona and had another goal overturned by an offside call in the second half.

Manchester United seized a 2-0 lead in the second half when Lingard scored in the 65th minute.

Barcelona struck back in the 89th minute with a goal by Rafinha, but United answered with their third moments later, courtesy of Jacuzzi.

Barcelona were coming off a win against MLS side Los Angeles Galaxy on Tuesday and have one more match in the United States before they return to Europe.—*Reuters*

Spain and Italy paired in 2018 World Cup draw

ST PETERSBURG, (Russia), 26 July — Spain and Italy were placed in the same qualifying group for the 2018 World Cup in Russia, as were the Netherlands and France, but holders Germany were handed a kinder campaign with the Czech Republic their chief rivals in the draw made on Saturday.

Spain, world champions in 2010, and Italy, who won the last of their four titles in 2006, are favourites to fill the top two slots in Group G after being paired with Albania, Israel, Macedonia and Liechtenstein.

Only the group winners will automatically advance to the finals, however, with the eight best runners-up from nine groups fighting it out in playoffs for four other berths.

Things do not look so straightforward in Group A where the Netherlands and France face tricky opponents in Sweden, Bulgaria, Belarus and Luxembourg, Germany, who won the World Cup for the fourth time in Brazil last year, will face the Czechs, Northern Ireland, Norway, Azerbaijan and San Marino.

"I'm happy that we are not playing against Italy and France," Germany manager Oliver Bierhoff told reporters. "We can be satisfied about that."

England, whose only World Cup win came in 1966 but who have been regular qualifiers in recent years, again look well placed after being grouped with their oldest rivals Scotland in Group F, along with Slovakia, Slovenia, Lithuania and Malta.

"It is a draw that has made a lot of people happy," Scotland coach Gordon Strachan said.

"The coaching staff are happy because we've got a lot of teams we haven't faced recently and there are a lot of delirious fans here because it is a fantastic fixture and I think the whole of Scotland and England will be looking forward to it."

Wales will have high hopes of reaching the finals for the first time since 1958 having been placed, after the benefit of a rare top seeding, alongside Austria, Serbia, Ireland, Moldova and Georgia.

"We've really improved in the last three years and we fancy ourselves against anyone," Wales coach Chris Coleman said.

"We've had a bit of fun being in pot one. It's new for us. We've really enjoyed it."

The other groups look open, with Portugal, Switzerland and Hungary in Group B, Romania, Poland and Denmark in Group E, Belgium and Bosnia in Group H and Croatia, Iceland, Ukraine and Turkey in Group I.

Hosts Russia qualify automatically, meaning 14 European teams will be in the finals in three years' time.—*Reuters*

Former German soccer player Oliver Bierhoff holds up the slip showing "Spain'' during the preliminary draw for the 2018 FIFA World Cup at Konstantin Palace in St Petersburg, Russia on 25 July, 2015.—REUTERS

Ruthless Arsenal hit Lyon for six in friendly

LONDON, 26 July — Arsenal thrashed Olympique Lyonnais 6-0 as they continued preparations for the new Premier League season with a stylish demolition of their French opponents in the Emirates Cup on Saturday.

Olivier Giroud, Alex Oxlade-Chamberlain, Alex Iwobi and Aaron Ramsey scored within a nine-minute spell in the first half before Mesut Ozil and Santi Cazorla netted after the break.

"What you want in pre-season is to find your team playing at a good pace with good cohesion," manager Arsene Wenger told reporters at the Emirates Stadium.

"The goals were spread through the whole team which means collectively we are good."—*Reuters*

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Editorial Section — (+95) (01)8604529, Fax — (01) 8604305
Advertisement & Circulation — (+95) (01) 8604532
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www.globalnewlightofmyanmar.com
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"R/489 Printed and published at the Global New Light of Myanmar Printing Factory at No. 150, Nga Htat Kyee Pagoda Road, Bahan Township, Yangon, by the Global New Light of Myanmar Daily."