

UN SPECIAL ENVOY ANGELINA JOLIE MAKES FIRST VISIT TO MYANMAR

NAY PYI TAW, 29 July — United Nations' goodwill ambassador Angelina Jolie began an official visit Wednesday to Myanmar, meeting President U Thein Sein at the Presidential Palace in Nay Pyi Taw.

During the meeting, they discussed human rights, women's affairs and the prevention of sexual violence against women in conflicts.

The president and the Oscar-winning actress also spoke about measures to improve children's access to education. According to a press release issued by the British Embassy in Yangon, Ms Jolie is visiting Myanmar for four days "to learn more about the situation in the country and encourage efforts to build a peaceful and inclusive future for all its people."

Ms Jolie was quoted in the press release as saying she would meet many groups of people in Myanmar "to learn firsthand from them about their concerns and hopes for the future of their country."

"With elections on the horizon in November it is an important moment for people to exercise their democratic rights and help to address the fundamental issues critical to a peaceful future," she said.

(See page 3)

President U Thein Sein sends message of felicitations to Morocco

NAY PYI TAW, 30 July — U Thein Sein, President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar, has sent a message of felicitations to His Majesty King Mohammed VI of the Kingdom of Morocco, on the occasion of the National Day of the Kingdom of Morocco which falls on 30 July 2015.—MNA



President U Thein Sein welcomes United Nations' goodwill ambassador Angelina Jolie.—MNA

Weather bureau issues alert for deep depression over Bay of Bengal

YANGON, 29 July — The weather bureau warned Wednesday that the depression over the Bay of Bengal had intensified into a deep depression and was expected to cross Chittagong, Bangladesh, within 36 hours from 12 p.m. that day.

The Meteorology and Hydrology Department issued an orange alert, forecasting heavy rainfall, strong winds and flash

floods in Sagaing, Mandalay, Magway, Yangon, Ayeyawady and Bago regions, as well as Shan, Chin, Rakhine, Kayin and Mon states due to the deep depression.

As the weather system crosses Chittagong, Maungdaw District can expect strong winds with speeds of 50 to 60 miles per hour, while Sittway District can expect 45- to 50-miles-per-hour winds, the forecast said.—GNLM

INSIDE

Former movie director gets life sentence for murder

PAGE-9

Lower Myanmar fish farmers must prepare for disaster: federation

PAGE-2

Commander-in-Chief visits New Delhi for study tour

NAY PYI TAW, 29 July — Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Senior General Min Aung Hlaing arrived Tuesday in New Delhi, where he was welcomed at the airport by Air Vice Marshal Shouvik Roy of the Indian Air Forces, officials said.

The commander-in-chief toured the Army Base Workshop of the Del-

hi Cantonment after receiving a brief account of the background history of the military camp.

In the afternoon, he went to the Information Management and Analysis Centre (IMAC) in Gurgaon, where he observed simulation systems.

At Taj Palace Hotel, he attended a presentation on biometric systems.

Senior General Min Aung Hlaing separately met Myanmar's military attaches and their families at the hotel, as well as officials of the Embassy of Myanmar in India.

Myawady

Senior General Min Aung Hlaing and official of Army Base Workshop exchange gifts at Delhi Contoment in India.—MYAWADY



UEC chairman discusses election with visiting U.K. minister

NAY PYI TAW, 29 July—The United Kingdom's Minister of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs Mr Hugo Swire visited the office of the Union Election Commission here on Wednesday.

While meeting with UEC Chairman U Tin Aye, Mr Swire raised questions about errors in voter lists, preparations for the election and security measures at

polling stations.

U Tin Aye explained voter education programmes were being launched through media, that election monitoring groups would be allowed at voting stations, and military members would cast votes at their bases, except advanced voters. The chairman said the Ministry of Home Affairs was preparing security measures for the election.—MNA



UEC Chairman U Tin Aye receives Minister of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs Mr Hugo Swire and party of United Kingdom.—MNA

Lower Myanmar fish farmers must prepare for disaster: federation

YANGON, 29 July — The Myanmar Fisheries Federation voiced alarm Wednesday about the impact of continued flood-

ing on fish farming in the nation's upper part, urging aquaculture businesses in the lower country to be prepared for disaster.

MFF general secretary U Win Kyaing, said the direct impact on fish farming and disruptions to deliveries were the major

concerns for the sector.

"No damage to fish farms in the upper country has been reported yet, but fish farmers in the upper and lower country have been warned that flood waters are likely to rush into areas where clusters of farms are located, with potential for great losses," the MFF general secretary told The Global New Light

of Myanmar.

Damage to roads and bridges caused by recent flash flooding has disrupted the transportation of fish and shrimp to upper Myanmar, he added.

According to the MFF, most of the roughly 20,000 acres of fish farms in upper Myanmar are situated around the River Mu in Sagaing Region's Shwebo district, as well as Mandalay's Madaya Township and the surrounding areas.

Myanmar has nearly 220,000 acres of fish and shrimp farms, with around 120,000 situated in Ayeyawady Region. Other farms are located in the lower part of Bago Region and Yangon Region, the MFF said.

The general secre-

By Ye Myint

tary said fish farms in the country's Ayeyawady Delta region, as well as Bago and Yangon regions, could face flooding early next month if heavy downpours continued.

Weather expert Dr Tun Lwin warned Tuesday of heavy rains with flash floods in the Ayeyawady Delta region within four or five days, due to the influence of the persisting depression over the Bay of Bengal.

According to the expert, Maubin Township, which is the region's major fish farming area, is included in the list of towns facing flood risk.

GNLM



Fishmongers work at the Central Sanpya Fish Market in Yangon which is the centre point for transporting farmed fish from Ayeyawady, Yangon and lower part of Bago Regions to different parts in upper Myanmar.

PHOTO: CREDIT TO XINHUANET.COM

President U Thein Sein accepts credentials from Ambassadors of Azerbaijan, Chile, China



President U Thein Sein accepts credentials from Azerbaijan Ambassador Mr Qaley Aliyevich Allahverdiyev, Chilean Ambassador Mr Javier Andres BECKER-MARSHALL and Chinese Ambassador Mr. Hong Liang.—MNA

NAY PYI TAW, 29 July — Mr Qaley Aliyevich Allahverdiyev, the newly-accredited Ambassador of the Republic of Azer-

baijan, Mr Javier Andres BECKER-MARSHALL, the newly-accredited Ambassador of the Republic of Chile, and Mr. Hong Liang,

the newly-accredited Ambassador of the People's Republic of China to the Republic of the Union of Myanmar, presented their

Credentials to U Thein Sein, President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar at the Presidential Palace, here, Wednesday.

Also present on the occasions were Union Minister at the President Office U Thant Kyaw and Director-General U Thurain Thant Zin of the Protocol Department.

U Thant Kyaw and Director-General U Thurain Thant Zin of the Protocol Department.

MNA

Vice President addresses regional tourism ministers

UN special envoy . . .

(from page 1)

During her first visit to Myanmar, Ms Jolie also held talks with Thura U Shwe Mann, the Speaker of Pyithu Hluttaw, on the role of Myanmar parliament in implementing tasks of United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees.

She also met with Union Minister for Defence Lt-Gen Wai Lwin and discussed prevention of sexual violence and recruitment of minors as soldiers.

Ms Jolie is said to be planning visits to refugee camps in Sittwe, Rakhine State, on Thursday, and camps of internally displaced people in Myitkyina, Kachin State, on Friday. She will meet with non-governmental organizations in Yangon on Friday afternoon.

Ms Jolie arrived in Myanmar from Cambodia, where she inspected health, education and conservation projects funded by the Maddox Jolie-Pitt Foundation since 2003, and beginning preparations to direct the film *First They Killed My Father*, based on a child's experience of the years of turmoil in Cambodia.

Last year, Ms Jolie visited Karenni refugees at a Thai-Myanmar border camp in Thailand's Mae Hong Son province as a special envoy for the UNHCR. —GNLM

Pyithu Hluttaw Speaker meets President of ASPI

NAY PYI TAW, 29 July— Pyithu Hluttaw Speaker Thura U Shwe Mann received a delegation Wednesday led by Mr Kevin Rudd, Former Prime Minister of Australia and now President of the U.S.-based Asia Society Policy Institute (ASPI), at the same venue in the afternoon.

Also present at the meetings were members of the Pyithu Hluttaw Legal Affairs and Special Cases Assessment Commission and officials of Pyidaungsu Hluttaw and Pyithu Hluttaw offices.—MNA



Vice President U Nyan Tun poses for documentary photo together with ministers of CLMV and ACMECS tourism ministers.

MNA

NAY PYI TAW, 29 July — Vice President U Nyan Tun on Wednesday addressed Southeast Asian tourism ministers gathered in Nay Pyi Taw to discuss cooperative strategies to draw more visitors to the region.

The 3rd Cambodia, Laos, Myanmar and Vi-

etnam (CLMV) Tourism Ministerial Meeting and the 2nd Ayeyawady-Chao Phraya-Mekong Economic Cooperation Strategy (ACMECS) Tourism Ministerial Meeting began on Tuesday.

The meetings aim to boost visitor numbers and solve problems in the tourism industry. CLMV coop-

eration was initiated in 2004 to reduce the development gap in the region, and to encourage economic cooperation.

The vice president said Cambodia, Laos, Myanmar, Thailand and Vietnam will market the region as a single tourism destination by providing easier access for

visas and improving transportation networks.

U Nyan Tun said member countries would also focus on the emergence of a single-visa system to promote the tourism industry.

He congratulated tourism ministries from the respective countries on their cooperation.—MNA

Landslides, flooding hits hilly areas in Chin State



FALAM, 29 July — Landslides and flooding have caused significant damage in hilly areas of Chin State following nearly a week of heavy rains, local officials said.

A landslide Tuesday on Kalay-Falam-Haka Road, one mile from Tarl village, disrupted transport in Falam Township and surrounding areas. The road was reopened after the Department of Highways used heavy machinery to clear debris.

On 27 July, a 160-foot-long suspension bridge linking Hnarain village in Thantlang Township and Sathe village in Rezwa Town was damaged by the surging waters of the Bwenu River.

Floodwaters destroyed a 200-foot-long suspension bridge on the same river linking Lailin village and Tongthantlang village.

“A total of 80 bags of cement and sawn timber on the suspension bridge between Hnarain and Sathe villages were lost in the flooding,” a local villager said. “Moreover, three vehicles from a construction company sank into the river but one of them could be salvaged. At present, flooding has left about 15 acres of farmland along the Bwenu River under water.”—Township IPRD

Machinery hiring programme assists village farmers

SINGAING, 29 July — The Agricultural Mechanization Department is providing planting and harvesting assistance to local farmers at nominal rates in Meethwaybok village, Singaing Township, according to officials.

“Local farmers hire combine harvesters, tractors and power-tillers for farming works on 100 acres of farmland irrigated by the Shwehlanbo river water station,” head of Township AMD U Sithu Kyaw said.

“Use of agricultural machinery cuts time spent on farm work more than cattle,” a local resident said. “We do not need to worry about shortages of labour at cultivation and

harvesting time thanks to advantages of mechanized farming.”

Tin Tin Htwe (Singaing)



Singu Tsp to recruit more than 100 special police for general election

SINGU, 29 July — Police in Singu Township, Mandalay Region, are recruiting additional special officers as part of security preparations for the 8 November general election.

The township plans to open 103 polling stations, with a special police officer to be stationed at each one.

The Township Police

Force will recruit 31 special police for Singu area, 31 more members for the Htongyi area and 41 for the Letpanhla area.

“Training will be giv-

en to trainees from 1 to 15 September,” Commander of Township Police Force Police Major Ba Chit said “After the course they will be assigned at the polling stations from September to November. If necessary, the number of special police will be increased.”

Win Maung

Wooden bridge on Paunglaung Creek damaged in heavy rain

NAY PYI TAW, 29 July — A rural bridge across Paunglaung Creek linking

Nyaungbingyi village in Zeyathiri Township and Thanatpinseik village in

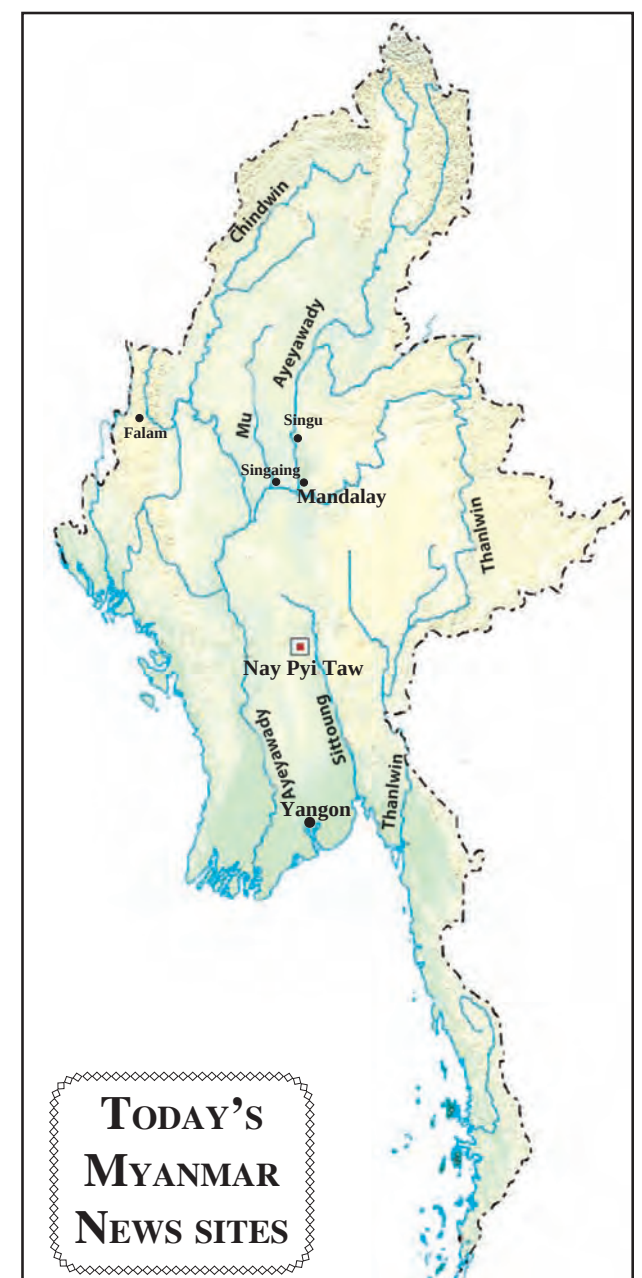
Pyinmana Township was damaged in heavy rains on 27 July, causing transport

difficulties for local people.

“The wooden bridge was built through cash donations of local people,” a local resident said. “We spend about K1.5 million on repairing the bridge yearly. As the bridge was cast adrift due to heavy rains, local people would struggle to rebuild it.”

Local residents and students who relied on the wooden bridge are using boats for transport from one village to another.

Maung Kyaik Latt (IPRD)



REGIONAL



Singapore's Prime Minister Lee Hsien Loong (3rd L) and British Prime Minister David Cameron (4th L) inspect the guard of honor during a welcoming ceremony at the Istana in Singapore, on 29 July, 2015. David Cameron is on the second day of a two-day official visit to Singapore.—XINHUA

Singapore, UK commit to enhance cooperation on cyber security

SINGAPORE, 29 July — Singapore and the United Kingdom have signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) on Cyber Security Cooperation during UK Prime Minister Da-

vid Cameron's visit to Singapore on Wednesday.

The MOU, signed between the Cyber Security Agency of Singapore (CSA) and the Cabinet Office of the United Kingdom,

vows to work together to ensure a secure cyberspace that supports innovation as well as economic and social development for both countries.

The signing ceremony was

held at the Istana and witnessed by Singapore Prime Minister Lee Hsien Loong and UK Prime Minister David Cameron.

The MOU covers cooperation in key areas including CERT to CERT (Computer Emergency Response Team) cooperation and exchanges to enhance cyber security incident response, cyber R&D collaboration with the funding 5.1 million Singapore dollars for cyber security academic research over three years.

Moreover, Singapore will also collaborate with UK Cyber Security Challenge for a Singapore edition of the new Massive Multiplayer Online Game (MMOG), which will make the city-state UK's first international partner to licence an area of the MMOG.

"This MOU paves the way for both Singapore and the UK to work closely together towards building a safe and reliable cyber space through enhanced research, talent development and information exchange. We look forward to bringing these initiatives to fruition in the coming months," David Koh, Chief Executive of CSA said.

Xinhua

Chinese navy conducts live firing drill in South China Sea

SANYA, 29 July — The Chinese navy on Tuesday conducted a live firing drill in the South China Sea to improve its maritime combat ability.

The exercise involves more than 100 naval vessels, dozens of aircrafts, several missile launch battalions of the Second Artillery Corps, as well as unknown number of information warfare troops, navy sources said. Dozens of missiles and torpedoes and thousands of shells and jamming bombs were fired during the exercise. The drill tested the navy's air defence and early warning system and improved its ability to react quickly, the sources said.—Xinhua

China-ASEAN trade growing on deeper integration

BEIJING, 29 July — Trade and investment between China and the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) have grown as mutual political trust has fostered deeper integration, a vice commerce minister said on Wednesday.

Trade between China and the ASEAN rose 1.6 percent year on year to reach 224 billion US dollars in the first six months of the year, accounting for 12 percent of China's total foreign trade, Vice Commerce Minister Gao Yan said.

Gao made the remarks at a press briefing of the 12th China-ASEAN Expo which will be held in the Guangxi Zhuang Autonomous Region between 18 and 21 September. Trade between China and the ASEAN reached 480 billion US dollars last year, up 8.23 percent. China has been the largest trading partner of the ASEAN since 2009, and the ASEAN has been China's third largest since 2010. The China-ASEAN Expo played an important role, Gao said.

Progress has been made in negotiations on upgrading the China-ASEAN Free Trade Area (CAFTA) since August, Gao said, adding that a deal is expected by the end of this year.

Launched in 2010, the CAFTA has become the world's largest free trade area among developing economies, covering a total population of 1.9 billion. In 2013, Chinese Premier Li Keqiang proposed a CAFTA upgrade, with the aim of expanding trade to 1 trillion US dollars by 2020. Talks on a Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership (RCEP) have been fruitful. "Remarkable progress" has been made in seven areas including goods and services trading, investment and IPR policies, Gao said.—Xinhua



Malaysian probe into fund scandal stalls after PM sacks deputy

Malaysia's Prime Minister Najib Razak speaks at a presentation for government interns at the Prime Minister's office in Putrajaya, Malaysia on 8 July, 2015.—REUTERS

KUALA LUMPUR, 29 July — A Malaysian parliamentary investigation into a graft scandal at a state investment fund embroiling Prime Minister Najib Razak has been put on hold as cracks in the long-ruling party appeared to widen on Wednesday.

The allegations of extensive graft at the debt-laden fund are the biggest threat to Najib's credibility since he took office in 2009 and could threaten the grip his United Malays National Organization (UMNO) party has kept on politics since independence in 1957.

Najib sacked his deputy on Tuesday after he called on Najib publicly to explain the situation around 1Malaysia Development Bhd (1MDB) [TERRN.UL], which has debts of more than \$11 billion and is being investigated for financial mismanagement and graft.

The man overseeing the parliamentary investigation into 1MDB, Public Accounts Committee (PAC) chairman Nur Jazlan Mohamed, was appointed a new deputy home minister on Tuesday

and said in a statement he would therefore resign from his committee post. "All proceedings that had been arranged for August, including 1MDB, will be halted until the new PAC line-up is announced at the next Dewan Rakyat sitting," he said, referring to parliament.

Members of the PAC are not allowed to hold any position in the cabinet. Parliament will choose new PAC members in October.

An opposition member of the PAC, Tan Seng Giaw, said the committee should continue its investigation in line with parliamentary rules, media reported.

Najib has denied taking any money for personal gain, saying the corruption allegations are part of a malicious campaign to force him from office. 1MDB has denied transferring funds to Najib and an interim government report has found nothing suspicious.

Sacked deputy prime minister Muhyiddin Yassin held a news conference on Wednesday amid speculation opposition to Najib within the ruling UMNO would

build around him. Muhyiddin was conciliatory, saying he would not be involved in efforts that would cause a break-up of the party. He said the party came first and he did not feel his position as UMNO deputy president was threatened. "I've been in the party for long. Though I am no longer hold a government post but I do not abandon my role in the party. I will still continue my part as deputy party president," he told reporters.

Asked if he would support an opposition call for a no-confidence motion against Najib, Muhyiddin said he would stick to the party line. "All theses are hypothetical. Until then... we wait. As a party member that is responsible. I will make a decision based on the whip of parliament." Several UMNO party leaders were reported to have visited Muhyiddin at his home on Tuesday after he was dropped from the cabinet.

Muhyiddin warned on the weekend that Barisan Nasional, the ruling coalition led by UMNO, would lose power if it did not do a

better job of explaining the scandal to the public. Najib responded in a televised statement on Tuesday by saying cabinet ministers airing differences in the open could turn public opinion against the government. Muhyiddin said later he accepted Najib's decision with an open heart, while maintaining his view on 1MDB. Muhyiddin had been a frequent critic of Najib, who was already under pressure from influential former prime minister Mahathir Mohamad, who has called for him to step down.

Mahathir, who has not commented on the scandal in recent days, said in April Muhyiddin would make a better prime minister than Najib, media has reported.

Among the politicians who visited Muhyiddin on Tuesday was Mahathir's son, Mukhriz Mahathir, media reported. UMNO deputy permanent chairman Mohamad Aziz said Najib's decision to drop Muhyiddin could destroy the party.

"If it happens we know who is to blame," he was quoted telling *The Star* newspaper.—Reuters

North Korea envoy at UN says nuke missile test not ruled out

NEW YORK, 29 July — A North Korean ambassador to the United Nations on Tuesday said that he is not precluding the prospect of a nuclear missile test when the country observes a milestone event of the ruling party in October.

Asked about reports of a possible nuclear missile test that month, Ambassador Jang Il Hun told a press conference in New York that he is expecting celebrations around the country when the Workers' Party of Korea marks the 70th anniversary of its founding on Oct. 10, adding that "we are free to do whatever we want."

"We are not bound by any treaty or any obli-



North Korean Ambassador Jang Il Hun attends a press conference at the country's mission to the United Nations in New York on 28 July, 2015. Jang said he is not precluding the prospect of a nuclear missile test when Pyongyang observes a milestone event of the ruling party in October.
KYODO NEWS

gations of any sort and we stated in the past that we will respond to the military deterrence and pressure of the United States with the modernization and expansion and strengthening of our nuclear forces, so I

will not rule out any possibility of doing one of these things," he said.

He added, however, that he is not in a position to say with confidence whether it will happen or not.—Kyodo News

JAL aircraft improperly accelerated on taxiway at Singapore airport

TOKYO, 29 July — A Japan Airlines aircraft nearly tried to take off from a taxiway at Singapore's Changi Airport on 12 July as pilots mistakenly thought the Boeing 767 jet was on a runway, an act that could have led to a crash with other planes, JAL said on Tuesday.

The aircraft, JAL flight 38 bound for Tokyo's Haneda airport, gathered speed to take off for a few seconds in the early hours of the day, although the act was prohibited.

The incident did not cause any injuries to 208

passengers and crew members. There were no other aircraft on the taxiway at the time.

The 58-year-old captain and a 50-year-old co-pilot of the aircraft failed to report the incident to JAL. The airline learned of it following a report from Singaporean authorities, the company said.

JAL suspended the two from working aboard aircraft and is considering punishing them, the company said, adding that the pilots did not think the incident was something worth reporting. On 12 July, the

plane received clearance for takeoff from the airport traffic controller when it was running near the end of a taxiway, located parallel to a runway, about 25 minutes behind schedule, according to JAL.

The pilots misunderstood that they were at the end of a runway, and ran for a few seconds using maximum engine power. But since the captain realized that the plane was running on the taxiway and after receiving an order to stop from the controller, the aircraft put on the brakes, JAL said.—Kyodo News

China says recovered 38.7 billion yuan in graft losses

BEIJING, 29 July — China has recovered 38.7 billion yuan (4 billion pounds) in losses from graft, state media reported, as the leadership pursues a campaign against pervasive corruption.

Corrupt officials had to return ill-gotten land and property to the state, the official People's Daily reported on its website, citing the ruling Communist Party's top anti-graft body.

The body said the

funds were recovered between a high-profile meeting of Party leaders in November 2012 and June this year. Favoured people and businesses who were illegally given tax breaks have also had to return the money, it added.

Since assuming power in late 2012, President Xi Jinping, who doubles as party and military chief, has pursued a relentless campaign against pervasive corruption, vowing to go after powerful "tigers"

as well as lowly "flies".

The biggest "tiger" snared so far is Zhou Yongkang, 72, who the government said last month had been jailed for life for bribery, leaking state secrets and abusing power following a closed-door trial in May.

The leadership has targeted a variety of sectors in its anti-graft campaign including state-owned enterprises, the energy sector and the military.

Reuters



A researcher shows relics excavated from the remains of Japan's notorious Unit 731 headquarters in Harbin, northeast China's Heilongjiang Province, July 28, 2015. Incineration pits and traces of explosives left by Japanese invaders destroying evidence have been found at the remains of Japan's notorious Unit 731 headquarters in Harbin. The new findings were part of an operation to destroy a bacteria lab and burn experimental facilities at the site. Unit 731 was a top-secret biological and chemical warfare research base established in Harbin in 1935 as the center of Japan's biological warfare in China and Southeast Asia during WWII. The retreating Japanese invaders blew up the base when the Soviet Union took Harbin in 1945. —XINHUA

Hollande invites Iran's Rouhani to visit France — ISNA Negotiations underway for Vietnam party chief's 1st visit Japan

DUBAI, 29 July — French President Francois Hollande has invited his Iranian counterpart Hassan Rouhani to visit France in November, Foreign Minister Laurent Fabius was quoted as saying by Iran's ISNA agency during a visit to Teheran on Wednesday.

"I am carrying a letter of invitation from Francois

Hollande, the president of my country, to Hassan Rouhani, president of Iran, to visit France in November," Fabius was quoted as saying by ISNA.

Fabius was speaking after a meeting with his Iranian counterpart Mohammad Javad Zarif and was due to meet Rouhani later on Wednesday.

Reuters



French President Francois Hollande delivers a speech for the opening of the Summit of Conscience for the Climate in Paris, France, ahead of the COP21 summit on 21 July, 2015.
REUTERS

Negotiations underway for Vietnam party chief's 1st visit Japan

HANOI, 29 July — The governments of Japan and Vietnam are making arrangements for Nguyen Phu Trong, general secretary of Vietnam's ruling Communist Party, to make his first visit to Japan, sources of both countries familiar with the matter said on Tuesday.

Sources connected with Vietnam's Communist Party indicated that the visit could take place as early as September. Trong outranks President Truong Tan Sang and Prime Minister Nguyen Tan Dung in the country's leadership hierarchy.

Trong visited the United States earlier this month, becoming the party's first chief to do so since the end of the Vietnam War. He met

with US President Barack Obama, and they shared concern about Chinese activities to press sovereignty claims in the South China Sea, viewed by both countries as not in compliance with international law.

The visit to Japan appears aimed at checking China, with which Vietnam has a tense territorial dispute in the resource-rich South China Sea.

The last leader of the Communist Party of Vietnam to visit Japan was Nong Duc Manh in April 2009. When Prime Minister Dung visited Japan earlier this month, he expressed Trong's desire to visit Japan.

Kyodo News

Singapore arrests man who tried to join Islamic State

SINGAPORE, 29 July — Singapore has arrested a 51-year-old "self-radicalised" man who tried to join Islamic State (IS) in Syria, under an internal security law that allows for detention without trial for two years, the Ministry of Home Affairs said

on Wednesday.

Singaporean Mustafa bin Sultan Ali was arrested in June after being deported from Turkey, from where he planned to cross into Syria.

His arrest comes as concern grows in countries around the world about in-

dividuals joining the cause of the IS. Mustafa tried to go to Syria to participate in armed violence by fighting alongside Islamic State, the MHA said.

He also said he was prepared to carry out Islamic State-directed terrorist attacks against Western

establishments in Singapore, it added.

Singapore detained two "self-radicalised" teenagers, one of whom wanted to join Islamic State militants, under the Internal Security Act, according to the MHA in May.—Reuters

Merkel's Bavarian ally says Grexit would cause 'utter chaos'



Bavarian State Premier Horst Seehofer looks on in front of the Medium Extended Air Defence System (MEADS) during a dynamical presentation at European Defence Group MBDA in Schrobenhausen near Ingolstadt, Germany on 25 June, 2015.—REUTERS

BERLIN, 29 July — A Greek exit from the euro zone would cause “utter chaos” but would have to be accepted if Athens was not willing to implement reforms, Chancellor Angela Merkel’s Bavarian ally Horst Seehofer told German newspaper Die Welt on Wednesday.

“No one can predict the consequences of a Grexit other than that a lot of Greece’s debts would have to be written off and at the same time monetary help would be necessary,” Seehofer, state premier of Bavaria, said to the paper.

“On top of that there would be utter chaos. If Greece were not prepared to reform, a path like that

would have to be accepted but one shouldn’t strive for it oneself or organize it.”

Seehofer’s Christian Social Union (CSU) has taken a tougher stance on Greece than Merkel’s party. Some CSU members have been among the most vocal in calling for Greece to leave the euro zone, with Bavarian finance minister Markus Soeder pleading last month for an “orderly” Grexit.

Seehofer said he shared Merkel’s view that a debt haircut for Greece should not be considered but that debt relief measures were “responsible”.

Asked about Finance Minister Wolfgang Schäuble’s proposal that Greece

could take a five-year “time-out” from the euro zone, Seehofer said he did not consider this to be an option.

Earlier this month German lawmakers gave the euro zone the green light to negotiate a third bailout for Greece, but there was a sizeable conservative rebellion.

Asked if the third bailout for Greece would be the last one, Seehofer said: “If what has now been decided works and is done, we have the problems under control.” He said Merkel would continue to have his full support as long as she continued to call for reforms in return for solidarity.—Reuters

Colombian president urges FARC to abide by ceasefire for peace deal

BOGOTA, 29 July— Colombian President Juan Manuel Santos said Tuesday that a peace deal would unlikely be reached if the Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia (FARC) guerrillas breaks the unilateral ceasefire declared on July 20.

Insurgents “must surrender their weapons” and be subjected to “some kind of justice” or there will be no peace agreement as people are losing their confidence in the ongoing peace process held in Havana, said the president.

On the other hand,

Santos denied allegations that he agreed a “hidden bilateral ceasefire” with the FARC when he ordered Saturday to suspend bombings against rebel camps across the South American nation, regretting that some opposition leaders had criticized him for such deci-

sion. After months of stagnation at the negotiating table and fighting on the battlefield, the Colombian government and FARC guerrillas resumed peace talks Thursday in Cuba, seeking to end the country’s 50-year conflict.

Xinhua

US Secretary of State John Kerry testifies before a House Foreign Affairs Committee hearing on the Iran nuclear agreement in Washington on 28 July, 2015. REUTERS



Kerry warns US Congress scrapping Iran deal would mean path to nuclear weapon

WASHINGTON, 29 July— Secretary of State John Kerry intensified efforts on Tuesday to beat back criticism of the Iran nuclear deal and convince US lawmakers that rejecting it would give Teheran a fast track to a weapon and access to billions of dollars from collapsed sanctions.

Days after tough questioning by lawmakers at an emotional Senate hearing, Kerry sharpened his response to criticism that the deal’s provisions were temporary and would not prevent Iran from obtaining a nuclear weapon in the long run.

“Iran has agreed to refrain from producing or acquiring highly enriched uranium and weapons-grade plutonium for nuclear weapons forever,” he told the House of Representatives Foreign Affairs Committee. “When it comes to verification and monitoring, there is absolutely no sunset in this agreement. Not in 10 years, not in 15 years, not in 20 years, not in 25 years — no sunset ever.”

Challenged even by some of his fellow Democrats, Kerry said: “If you kill the deal, you are not making America safer.”

Joined by Treasury Secretary Jack Lew and Energy Secretary Ernest Moniz, Kerry was part of the President Barack Obama’s effort to coax sceptical lawmakers into supporting the nuclear pact.

Congress has until 17 September to endorse or reject it. Rejection would prevent Obama from waiving most US-imposed sanctions on Iran, a key component of the deal. Under the 14 July pact, world powers agreed to lift sanctions in return for curbs on a nuclear programme the West suspects was aimed at creating an atomic bomb, but which Teheran says is peaceful.

Reuters

Part of Pentagon email network taken down over suspicious activity



An aerial view of the Pentagon in Washington on 31 Aug, 2010.—REUTERS

WASHINGTON, 29 July — An unclassified email network used by Army General Martin Dempsey and other members of the US military’s Joint Staff has been taken off line because of suspicious activity, a Pentagon spokeswoman

said on Tuesday.

Army Lieutenant Colonel Valerie Henderson said the unclassified email network for all users on the Joint Staff was taken offline by the Defence Department because of suspicious activity noted over

the weekend and is “currently down.”

“We continue to identify and mitigate cybersecurity risks across our networks,” Henderson said. “With those goals in mind, we have taken the Joint Staff network down and

continue to investigate.”

Henderson did not specify the nature of the suspicious activity on the network. She said the network was taken offline by the department, not by the activity or any outside party.—Reuters

PERSPECTIVES

Thursday, 30 July, 2015

Public attitude to politics changes over time

By Kyaw Thura

Politics has a tendency to move in cycles, with some more vicious than others. Despite this, there is truth in the assumption that good governance is impossible without good leadership.

With the passage of time, the public attitude to politics has changed. People will no longer place their trust in candidates who are generous with election promises. Nobody is stupid enough to believe twice in empty promises. This propels them to concentrate on more forward-looking alternatives. It would be totally wrong if they thought that the coming general election would be equal in scale to that of five years ago.

In the digital age, almost everything we want or need to know is just a few clicks away from us. In addition, social media has become not only an essential tool to satisfy people's thirst for information but also a channel to witness unfiltered outrage at social injustice.

The 2015 election, which is set for 8 November, will signal a potentially momentous shift in the history of our country. No matter what, it certainly looks that a party that can take a tough line against self-seekers and strike the balance between citizens and state is fit to run the country.

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.

Keep Our Moral Conduct Clean

Htun Tin Htun

Knowledge is power. "He is indeed virtuous, wise and righteous who neither for his own sake nor for the sake of another (does any wrong), who does not crave for sons, wealth or kingdom, and does not desire success by unjust means." (Dhammapada Verse No.84). In Buddhism there are three grades of defilement; namely 1). The grade to transgression or gross degree of defilement (vitikkama kilesa); 2). The grade of obsession or the intermediary degree of defilement (priyutthana kilesa); and 3). The grade of latent or inherent tendency, or the instinctive degree of defilement (anusaya kilesa). Just as there are three grade of defilement, so there are also three stages of knowledge of mental development in order to object to and cast off the defilements. In the Dhammapada the Buddha taught thus:- "Just as a tree though cut down, sprouts up again if its roots remain uncut and firm, even so, until the craving that lies dormant is rooted out, suffering springs up again and again" (Dhammapada Verse No. 338).

"Easy is life for the shameless one who is as impudent as a crow, is backbiting and forward, arrogant and corrupt". (Dhammapada Verse No. 244). Here the first grade, that of transgression similar to branches or leaves of a tree, can only be suppressed and dispelled by moral conduct or virtue (sila); second grade, that of obsession like the trunk, by concentration (Samadhi) and the third grade, that of latent tendency like the roots, by wisdom (panna). As a first step, the practitioner is therefore to abstain from all vicious and sinful deeds, and to be perfect in well-establishment of his

moral purity. This is called the purity of virtue (silavisuddhi), which actually means good morality and pure conduct of one's deeds.

"Exert yourself, O holy man! Cut off the stream (of craving), and discard sense desires. Knowing the destruction of all conditioned things, become, O holy man, the knower of the Uncreate (Nibbana)!" (Dhammapada Verse No. 383). As a matter of fact, the moral purity is so vitally important for one that is indispensable, and therefore the Buddha emphatically taught about this virtue in the Dhammapada. 1). "Of little account is the fragrance of rosebay (Tagara) or sandal, but the fragrance of virtue which pervades even amongst the gods is supreme" (verse No. 56); 2) "Though one should live a hundred years immoral and uncontrolled, yet better indeed is a single day's life of one who is moral and meditative" (verse No.110); 3) "Whose is perfect in virtue and insight, is established in the Dhamma, has realized the Truth and fulfils his own duties, people do hold him dear". (verse No. 217); 4). "He who is full of faith and virtue, possessed of fame and wealth, he is honoured everywhere, in whatever land he travels". (verse No.303); 5). "Happy is virtue till old age, good is faith that is steadfast, good is the acquisition of wisdom, and good is the avoidance of evil". (verse No. 333).

Putting Morality First is our urgent priority and is a requisite for the building of a developed, advanced, modernized and happy Nation. "People hold dear him who embodies virtue and insight, who is principled, has realized the truth, and who himself does what he ought to be doing" (Dhammapada Verse No. 217). In the Five Precepts and the

Noble Eight-fold Path the Buddha gave us spiritual guidelines on how to conduct a decent Buddhist way of life. The other important injunctions of the Buddha's to do good, to avoid evil, to purify one's mind, to practise loving kindness, to radiate compassion (in action), to endowed with appreciative joy (gladness) and equanimity must be added. This is most essential. The practice of Brahmavihara, radiating loving kindness and compassion, appreciative joy and equanimity, is the very essence of the Buddhist Teachings or way of life.

"Overcome the angry by non-anger; overcome the wicked by goodness; overcome the miser by generosity; overcome the liar by truth". (Dhammapada Verse 223). "One should give up anger, renounce pride, and overcome all fetters. Suffering never befalls him who clings not to mind and body and is detached." (Dhammapada Verse No. 221). "One who destroys life, utters lies, takes what is not given, goes to another man's wife, and is addicted to intoxicating drinks--- such a man digs up his own root even in this very world." (Dhammapada Verse No. 246-247). The Buddha also taught, in the Majjhima Nikaya. "If a Bhikkhu should wish, "may I be dear to my fellows in the life of purity and loved by them, held in respect and honoured by them," let him perfect the virtues.

Understanding the Dhamma and practising the teachings of the Buddha can be giving a practical guide to the Right Living. The sad state of affairs prevails today because man has chosen to take the wrong path in developing modern civilization. Man has defined materialism in the mistaken belief that materialism alone

can bring happiness. This is a fallacy. Man has gone wrong because he has willfully chosen to ignore the invaluable advice given by our spiritual leaders over the centuries. Whilst it is admitted that science can produce quick results and a measure of material gain, the resultant benefits from such material gain are illusory and short-lived. As against such illusory and short-lived gains, the benefits that we derive by following the noble teachings of our noble religious leaders are those of real lasting happiness and not illusory.

"Riches ruin only the foolish, not those in quest of the Beyond. By craving for riches the witless man ruins himself as well as others." (Dhammapada Verse No. 355). Material gain without spiritual solace does not provide true and lasting happiness. Spiritual backing is absolutely necessary for man's spiritual upliftment, leading to tranquillity of mind and everlasting happiness. If we study world history concerning man's behaviour in the past, we will readily agree that modern man's moral conduct is not better than that of his ancestors although we pretend to glorify our civilization.

"Month after month a fool may eat his food with the tip of a blade of grass, but he still is not worth a sixteenth part of those who have comprehended the Truth." (Dhammapada Verse No. 70). Some modern thinkers are of the opinion that evil is a natural part of man's make-up and trying to make him good and pure is simply an impractical and futile task. They point to the terrifying evil actions of murder, violence,

rape, pillage carried out by all types of people. They argue that in spite of efforts to "civilize" man, we have continued to witness the horrors of persecution in almost every country. Some-

times, we wonder how the small element of goodness has prevailed for so long in the face of so much evil.

"One truly is the protector of oneself; who else could the protector be? With oneself fully controlled, one gains a mastery that is hard to gain." (Dhammapada Verse No. 160). Buddhism accepts that there is evil in man, but it teaches that this evil can be eradicated by understanding and determination. Because people, especially government leaders and educationists, fail to understand the true nature of life, they do not attempt to teach their young the right values. In this century, education is based on the Darwinian concept of the survival of the fittest and of course this philosophy tends to lead the young to be suspicious, greedy, aggressive and self-seeking.

Realizing that "Wisdom never becomes perfect in one whose mind is not steadfast, who knows not the Good Teaching and whose faith wavers." (Dhammapada Verse No. 38). In a lovely book "Island" by Aldous Huxley we are shown that there is an alternative to the present education system where we are shown that survival is not guaranteed by selfishness but by sharing and giving. Our modern education system which aims at the material progress is responsible for the turning of the young to be aggressive and self-seeking. What we urgently need today is a code of ethics and morality which will guide people not to blindly seek material progress alone but to look for spiritual enlightenment, not just for self aggrandizement

but for the common wealth.

"A fool who knows his foolishness is wise at least to that extent, but a fool who thinks himself wise is called a fool indeed." (Dhammapada Verse No. 63). It is a positive quality of the enlightened mind which promotes a healthy ethical attitude. A person who extends to his fellow beings the love and affection similar to that extended by a mother to her only child and says with sincerity and feeling "May all beings be well and happy", finds no place in his mind for malice, hate, jealousy and envy. By the practise of loving kindness, he becomes incapable of indulging in killing, stealing, lying, slandering or using harsh and unseemly language. Not only does he avoid doing harm to others whether by thought, speech or action, but he also develops the tendency to do good, to be kind and compassionate and to engage himself in the task of relieving others of suffering and agony.

"Let none find fault with others; let none see the omissions and commissions of others. But let one see one's own acts, done and undone." (Dhammapada Verse No. 50). The perennial problems that beset human beings are due to our inability to subdue our emotions like hatred and to replace them with love and compassion. In practically every aspect of our lives, in family circles, in society, in communal, national and even international affairs, we find the ugly word "hatred" looming large in our vocabulary and in our dealings with one another.

(To be continued)

About the author:

U Tin Htun

Freelance Management and Development Consultant, former International UNV UNCHS/ILO/UNIDO Cooperative and Small Business Specialist in Malawi and Kiribati /UNDP Community Empowerment and Development Specialist in Bangladesh

NATIONAL

Korean navy ship visits Myanmar

YANGON, 29 July — Navy ship from the Republic of Korea on Wednesday arrived in Yangon for a three-day friendly visit to Myanmar.

ROKS Wang Geon (978) led by captain Kang Hee Won together with 33 officers and 267 members reached Myanmar International Terminals Thilawa at 2:35 pm.

The voyage is as part of co-operation between the navies.

MNA



ROKS Wang Geon (978) arrives at Myanmar International Terminals Thilawa.—MNA

Former movie director gets life sentence for murder



Min Oak Soe talks to press outside of the court.

PHOTO: TUN AUNG KYAW

YANGON, 29 July — A former actor and director received a lifetime prison sentence Tuesday for the murder of a magazine editor in December.

Min Oak Soe said he would not appeal the sen-

By Ko Moe

tence. "I have no complaint about the sentence," he said.

A judge from the Yangon West District court ruled on the case following 28 sessions and testimony from 14 plaintiff witnesses and three defence witnesses.

Ma Nu Nu Yin, also known as Tay Nu Yin, the editor of Tharapa magazine, died after being punched by Min Oak Soe, also known as Aung Naing Soe, during an argument at the actor's house in Bahan Township, Yangon.

Ma Thin Thin Mu, a cousin of the victim, said, "I agreed on this imprisonment term."

GNLM

More than 300,000 acres of farmlands inundated in heavy rains

NAY PYI TAW, 29 July — Heavy rains in June and July this year caused flooding in some regions and states.

According to the Ministry of Agriculture and Irrigation, a total of 314,543 acres of farmlands across the nation in-

cluding 109,958 acres in Sagaing Region as the largest flooded area were inundated in the heavy rains, damaging 24,102 acres in total.

Till today, 32 dams across the country can store rainwater.—MNA

Trafficked jades seized in Muse



Photo shows seized jade stones.

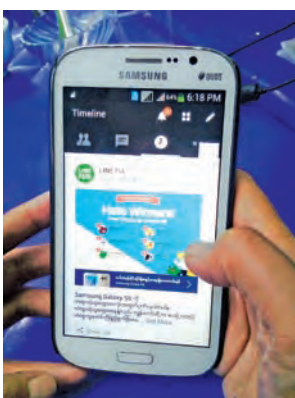
MUSE, 29 July — Jades supposed to be trafficked were seized at a toll gate near Muse in Shan State on 22 and 23 July, officials said.

A Toyota Vigo and an Isuzu D-Max coming from Mandalay were stopped and searched at Asia World Toll Gate near Muse on Pyiduangsue Road. The search resulted in seizures of jades worth over K1.4 billion.

Another seizure of jades worth nearly K11.6 million came from the search of a Mark II on the same road on 23 July.

L Soe (Muse)

MPT offers free data services for LINE app



By Khaing Thanda Lwin

YANGON, 29 July — Myanma Posts and Telecommunications and Japan's LINE Corporation launched a joint promotion Wednesday under which MPT will waive data usage fees for use of the instant messaging application.

At a press conference in Yangon, Mr Takashi

Shigeno, marketing manager of MPT-KDDI Summit Global Myanmar Co., said the promotion was aimed at customers using MPT's Swe Thahar plan.

"We will provide free data usage for main features of LINE Messenger and a free download of the application for all MPT Swe Thahar customers from 29 July to 30 September," Mr Shigeno said.

"Customers may take advantage of MPT's free data offering for chatting, sending and receiving stickers, making and receiving free video calls,

and photo sharing. Furthermore, users can download almost all LINE family apps."

MPT, under the Ministry of Communications and Information Technology, also launched its official account on LINE that day to provide the latest information and promotions to customers, according to U Tun Aye Maung, marketing strategy manager of MPT-KSGM.

The LINE app is available for download at www.line.me/my.

LINE is one of the world's most popular social

media and instant messaging applications. It is used in more than 230 countries by more than 205 million monthly active users, according to the company.

In cooperation with Japan's leading all-round telecom operator KSGM, MPT plans to double the number of base stations to more than 5,000 by the end of March 2016, Mr Takashi Shigeno said.

MPT and KSGM signed a joint operations agreement last July in order to expand and improve Myanmar's telecommunications network.—GNLM



US, Turkey weigh which Syrian rebels to support in border area

WASHINGTON, 29 July — The United States and Turkey have not yet agreed which Syrian opposition fighters they will support in a joint effort to help clear Islamic State from an area along the Turkish border, officials said on Tuesday, underscoring uncertainty surrounding the campaign plan.

Washington and Ankara this week announced their intention to provide air cover for Syrian rebels and jointly sweep Islamic State fighters from a strip of land along the border, with US warplanes using bases in Turkey for strikes.

But planning appears to be just getting under way and resolving crucial details, like which opposition groups will be supported on the ground, could stoke longstanding tensions between the United



Kurdish People's Protection Units (YPG) fighters take up positions inside a damaged building in al-Vilat al-Homor neighbourhood in Hasaka city, as they monitor the movements of Islamic State fighters who are stationed in Ghwayran neighbourhood in Hasaka city, Syria on 22 July, 2015. —REUTERS

States and Turkey about Syria strategy.

Also still to be resolved in talks with Tur-

key, officials say, are how deep into Syria the area might extend and how quickly US warplanes will

begin flying combat missions from Turkish bases.

President Barack Obama's administration,

wary of being dragged into Syria's messy civil war, has so far struggled to find enough partners on the ground to help claw back territory from Islamic State, relying heavily on Kurdish fighters.

Turkey, in turn, is wary of Kurdish fighters and might be less concerned than Washington about groups with some extremist links or with ambitions to broaden the fight to toppling Syrian President Bashar al-Assad.

"We have to sit down with the Turks and figure it out," a senior Obama administration official said in a briefing with reporters, speaking on condition of anonymity. The official acknowledged there were opposition groups in Syria "we absolutely will not work with."

The US military has

so far only trained about 60 Syrian rebel fighters, far below expectations, thanks in part to strict vetting requirements that, for example, weed out fighters whose primary aim is to overthrow Assad.

Derek Chollet, who was an assistant secretary of defence under the Obama administration, said decisions about which groups to support will never be easy and noted longstanding differences between Washington and Ankara over Syria strategy.

"While our cooperation has steadily improved and the urgent crisis seems to have pushed us even closer, our differences are likely masked rather than fully resolved," Chollet, now a senior adviser at the German Marshall Fund, said.—Reuters

Warplanes attack air base near Yemen's Aden Suicide bomber, clashes

SANAA/ADEN, 29 July — Warplanes attacked Houthi militia in control of Yemen's largest air base north of Aden on Tuesday, seeking to expand territorial gains made by Saudi-led coalition forces since they captured the southern port city last week.

Witnesses said big explosions were heard at the al-Anad base, 50 km (30 miles) from Aden, which has been held by the Iranian-allied Houthi movement for much of a fourth-month-old civil war and commands the approaches to Aden.

A Saudi-led Arab coalition allied with southern secessionist fighters retook much of Aden last week in the first significant ground victory in their campaign to end Houthi control over much of Yemen and restore exiled President Abd-Rabbu Mansour Hadi.

Once one of the world's busiest ports, Aden sits near the Bab al-Mandab shipping lane, a major energy gateway for Europe, Asia and the United

States via the Red Sea and the Suez Canal.

A ceasefire called by the coalition to start on Sunday evening fell apart almost immediately, posing problems for relief organizations seeking to expand deliveries of emergency aid amid severe shortages of food, fuel and medicine.

Reporting an apparent "friendly fire" incident, the Southern Resistance movement said in a statement that an unidentified plane had killed 12 of its fighters and wounded 40 near al-Anad on Monday, and asked the coalition to investigate urgently.

The resistance is a collection of southern secessionist forces who have received training from Gulf military instructors provided by the Saudi-led coalition in recent weeks, an effort that appears to have helped in the recapture of Aden.

In London, Oxfam said more than six million people in Yemen were on the verge of starvation, adding that months of war

and a blockade on imports were pushing an additional 25,000 people into hunger every day.

The International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement said the past two months had seen an increasing number of attacks against health-care workers and relief personnel.

It said that unidentified assailants had shot and killed two people inside an ambulance clearly marked with Yemeni Red Crescent Society insignia in central Taiz city on 23 July.

Meeting his military commanders in Riyadh, Hadi paid tribute to what

he called the forces of the popular opposition and their role in recapturing Aden from the Houthis, according to a report on his sabanew.net website.

Hadi called for all regions and cities to be freed from control by the Houthis and allied army units loyal to influential former president Ali Abdullah Saleh.

In Geneva, a spokesman for the World Health Organization, said that according to data from health facilities in Yemen, 3,984 people had been killed and 19,347 had been injured between 19 March and 19 July.—Reuters



A malnourished child lies in a bed at a hospital in Yemen's capital Sanaa on 28 July, 2015. —REUTERS

BENGHAZI, (Libya), 29 July — Nine Libyan soldiers were killed in the eastern city of Benghazi on Tuesday by a suicide bomber and in ensuing clashes between troops and Islamist fighters, medics and military sources said.

Forces loyal to Libya's internationally recognized government have been fighting Islamist groups in the country's second-largest city since last year, part of a wider struggle since Muammar Gaddafi was overthrown and killed in 2011.

A suicide bomber rammed a car laden with explosives into a group of soldiers during a street battle in the city centre near Benghazi's Mediterranean port, killing three soldiers and wounding eleven, medics said.

Shortly afterwards, Islamist fighters blamed by the army for the suicide bombing attacked troops

loyal to the official government in the same area. Six more soldiers were killed and 10 wounded in the fighting, medics said.

Clashes between Islamist fighters and government forces continued after nightfall in central Benghazi.

Army forces backed by armed residents have regained some areas in Benghazi lost to the Islamist brigades last year. But critics say their war planes and heavy guns have turned parts of the city into rubble without gaining much on the ground.

The Benghazi fighting highlights the chaos in Libya, where two rival governments are vying for control.

The official prime minister has been based in the east since the capital Tripoli was seized by a rival group that set up its own government.

Reuters

Escalating conflict in Yemen leaves some 4,000 people killed since March: UN reports

UNITED NATIONS, 29 July — The death toll in the war-torn Yemen is almost 4,000 since the conflict had escalated in mid-March, UN officials told reporters on Tuesday.

From 19 March and until 19 July, there were 3,984 deaths and 19,347 injuries, making a total of 23,331 deaths and injuries, the World Health

Organization (WHO) said, adding that these figures were based on what was reported from local health facilities.

The UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA) bases its figures on what WHO compiles on the basis of information from health facilities, the officials said.

According to Ravina Shamdasani, who spoke on behalf of the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR), the total number of civilians killed since March is 1,895 and 4,182 others have been injured.

At least 202 civilians, including 36 women, had been killed, and 353 oth-

ers injured between 16-27 July, according to Shamdasani. The most recent update from the UN Children's Fund (UNICEF) brings the number of children killed to 365, while 484 others have been injured.

"WHO reported that the largest single attack since the escalation of the conflict in March has killed

at least 55 civilians in Al Mukha District in the Taizz Governorate," UN spokesman Stephane Dujarric told reporters here. "The number is likely to increase as more bodies are recovered from the rubble, where an unknown number of people have been trapped for more than 36 hours since the attacks."—Xinhua

BUSINESS & HEALTH

MERS vaccine shows potential in animal tests

LONDON, 29 July — A potential candidate vaccine for the Middle East respiratory syndrome coronavirus (MERS-CoV) has demonstrated protection in non-human primates, according to a study published on Tuesday in the journal *Nature Communications*.

MERS-CoV was first discovered in 2012, which can cause

a viral respiratory disease in humans. Between 1,118 and 1,142 cases and 423 to 465 deaths have been attributed to the virus since its discovery. There is currently no cure for the disease.

The vaccine candidate made by a team of US researchers showed success in producing immunity in mice and macaques against the JordanN3 strain of the

virus, the research report said.

They said inoculating animals with DNA encoding one of the viral proteins and a truncated viral protein could elicit the production of a range of neutralizing antibodies in the blood of mice and macaques. Immunization of the macaques conferred protection against MERS-CoV-induced pneumonia.

This immunization strategy was the first to induce MERS-CoV neutralizing antibodies that targeted multiple structures, both inside and outside the virus, which might reduce the ability of the virus to avoid future detection by the immune system through mutation, the researchers said.

However, they also said MERS-CoV infection in primates

showed significantly milder disease progression than in humans so it was therefore unclear if the vaccine would be capable of protecting people from the symptoms associated with much more severe disease.

More research is needed to determine the safety and efficacy of this vaccine in humans, they added.—*Xinhua*

Gold wedged below \$1,100 ahead of Fed meeting outcome



A gold bar is displayed at the currency museum of Lebanon's Central Bank in Beirut on 6 Nov, 2014.—REUTERS

MANILA, 29 July — Gold steadied at just below \$1,100 an ounce on Wednesday, trading not far from a 5-1/2-year low, as investors awaited the outcome of the US Federal Reserve's meeting for more clues on the timing of this year's interest rate increase.

Gold has been stuck in narrow ranges this week ahead of the

conclusion of the Fed's policy meeting later in the day. Policymakers are expected to send more signals to the market that a US interest rate increase is certain this year as the economy recovers.

That rate hike, the first in nearly a decade, could happen as early as September, analysts say, suggesting more downside risk

for non-interest yielding gold.

"We still remain somewhat cautious about gold over the short-term, and suspect that the dollar could start to push higher over the balance of the week, possibly triggered by Wednesday's upbeat Fed policy statement," INTL FCStone analyst Edward Meir said.

"We also do not see any imminent upside price drivers for gold at the moment, with physical, investor and fund demand all being rather uninspiring."

Spot gold was up 0.1 percent at \$1,096.40 an ounce by 0232 GMT.

The metal touched \$1,077 last week, its weakest since February 2010, following a selloff in New York and Shanghai as investors cut their exposure on fears of further price declines.

US gold for August delivery was little changed at \$1,095.60 an ounce.

Global gold demand shrank to its lowest since 2009 in the second quarter as China poured

funds into its now troubled equities market and imports by India dropped to the lowest in five quarters, according to a report by GFMS, a division of Thomson Reuters.

Holdings of the largest gold-backed exchange-traded-fund, New York's SPDR Gold Trust, were unchanged at 21.87 million

ounces on Monday, the lowest since September 2008, following a seven-day slide.

In other metals, spot palladium gained 0.7 percent to \$623.22 an ounce and platinum rose 0.3 percent to \$984.40, both not far above multi-year lows. Silver was flat at \$14.68 an ounce.

Reuters

HP suspends production in St Petersburg, Russia

ST PETERSBURG, 29 July — PC giant Hewlett Packard (HP) on Tuesday announced its decision to suspend production on the outskirts of Russia's northern capital St Petersburg.

The company cited "economic reasons" for the move following a 44 percent downturn in the Russian computer market in the first quarter of 2015, according to local media.

"The cost of assembling a PC in Russia is now much higher than in Asia," a source close to HP told local media.

HP and Foxconn invested 50 million US dollars in a new production facility in Shushary, near St Petersburg, in 2008. As well as capitalizing on the growing Russian market, the goal of the investment was to export to Eastern Europe, the Baltic states and Scandinavia. Among the factors contributing to HP's decision were a struggling Russian economy as well as increasing demand for tablet devices, local experts said.—*Xinhua*

Volkswagen second-quarter profit grows on Europe, cost cuts

BERLIN, 29 July — Volkswagen (VOWG_p.DE) posted higher quarterly profit on a strengthening European autos recovery and cost cuts but lowered its sales guidance as demand in China slows.

Operating profit at Europe's largest carmaker rose to 3.49 billion euros (2.46 billion pounds), VW said, in line with the average estimate of 3.48 billion in a Reuters poll of analysts.

Full-year deliveries may be flat on last year's record 10.1 million sales, VW said on Wednesday, after previously guiding for a "moderate" increase.

Six-month sales eased 0.5 percent to 5.04 million cars, reflecting an accelerating decline in China though that was just enough to overtake Toyota (7203.T) as the world's largest carmaker.

"The difficult market environment and fierce competition, as well as interest rate and ex-

change rate volatility and fluctuations in raw materials prices all pose challenges," finance chief Hans Dieter Poetsch said.

VW stuck to its outlook for profit and revenue, saying the operating margin may come in 5.5 to 6.5 percent this year, after 6.3 percent last year.

Annual revenue may rise as much as 4 percent from 202.5 billion euros in 2014, VW said. Its second-quarter revenue rose by a bigger-than-expected 10 percent to 56 billion euros, benefiting from a weaker euro and other seasonal tailwind.

VW's second set of upbeat quarterly earnings since a leadership wrangle in April forced the ouster of patriarch Ferdinand Piech contrasts with a power vacuum at the top of the group which is looking for a new chairman and revamping the company's structure.

Reuters

LG Electronics Q2 profit slumps 60 percent on weak TV, smartphone sales



A model demonstrates LG Electronics' new smartphone G4 during its unveiling ceremony in Seoul, South Korea, on 29 April, 2015. REUTERS

SEOUL, 29 July — South Korea's LG Electronics Inc (066570.KS) said on Wednesday its quarterly profit skidded 60 percent, plummeting below estimates, as sales of televisions and smartphones buckled under weaker demand and intense competition from rivals.

LG, the world's No 2 TV maker after Samsung Electronics Co Ltd (005930.KS), said second-quarter operating profit fell to 244 billion won (\$211 million) from 610 billion won in the same period a year earlier. That was its weakest three-month profit since

fourth-quarter 2013, and well below a 395 billion won mean estimate from a Thomson Reuters I/B/E/S survey of 33 analysts.

"While the second quarter was more challenging than expected, LG is confident it can recover lost ground in the third quarter with new competitive products and more effective marketing initiatives," the company said in a statement. But as LG struggles to make its smartphones to stand out in an increasingly crowded field, many analysts have slashed forecasts for the firm in recent weeks, also citing slack global TV sales

and weaker emerging market currencies that sap profit margins.

The company's TV division reversed into a quarterly operating loss of 82.7 billion won its worst since fourth-quarter 2010 — compared with a 159 billion won profit a year earlier and a 6.2 billion won loss in January-March.

The mobile communications division eked out a 0.2 billion won profit as smartphone shipments shrank from a year earlier.

While LG launched its G4 flagship smartphone in South Korea in late April, analysts said the phone did not offer enough new features to stand out against competing devices, such as Apple Inc's (AAPL.O) iPhone 6 models and Samsung Electronics' Galaxy S6 models.

The company's stock touched its lowest level in more than 12 years last week, reflecting growing worries about the firm's business outlook. On Wednesday, the shares closed up 1.7 percent, before earnings were published, while the benchmark Seoul index ended 01 percent lower.—*Reuters*

Search for climbers missing after Mt Ontake eruption resumes



Photo taken from a Kyodo News helicopter shows search operations near the top of Mt Ontake in central Japan on 29 July, 2015, for six people who remain missing and are presumed dead after the volcano's eruption on 27 September, 2014. Aside from the six, the eruption killed 57 people. —KYODO NEWS

NAGANO, (Japan), 29 July—The search resumed Wednesday in central Japan for the six people still missing on Mt Ontake, which erupted in September last year, after search operations were suspended for about nine months due to snow.

After offering silent prayers,

search parties headed for the 3,067-meter peak straddling Nagano and Gifu prefectures, where they hope to find the bodies of the six, missing since the sudden eruption on 27 September.

None of the missing was found on the first day of search, which was cut short due to the

weather, officials said.

Fifty seven people have been confirmed dead as a result of the eruption, making it the nation's deadliest postwar volcanic disaster.

A total of 570 people, mostly police and firefighters, participated in Wednesday's operation from the Nagano side, according to the Nagano task force.

Some used metal detectors, while drones were used in inaccessible areas. Four temporary shelters have been set up near the peak for the search teams in case of a fresh eruption.

The initial search for the missing went on for about 10 days after the eruption, but operations were suspended on 16 October.

As the latest search is limited to areas around the peak, Nagano Gov Shuichi Abe said it should take less time to complete.

In June, the Japan Meteorological Agency lowered its eruption alert level from three to two on a scale of five, restricting access to areas around the crater, deeming it is unlikely that another eruption of the same or greater magnitude will occur.

Given the deadly eruption at Mt Ontake and intensifying volcanic activities elsewhere in Japan since last year, the Japan Meteorological Agency plans to start operating a new alert system from 4 August to prompt swift evacuation when a volcanic eruption is detected.

Alerts will be sent to municipalities' radio systems as well as smartphones within five minutes of an eruption.—Kyodo News

Mexican state hands down historic sentence for femicide

MEXICO CITY, 29 July — Five men in northern Mexico were sentenced to an unprecedented 697 years in prison for the gender-driven killing of 11 women, in a state where hundreds of young women have been murdered since 1990.

The sentence was the longest-ever given for a femicide, the killing of a woman due to her gender and was based on scientific evidence, said an official at the attorney general's office in the state of Chihuahua, home of the border city of Ciudad Juarez, which in 2008 recorded one woman missing each day.

"They used ploys to recruit young women into prostitution and drug distribution," Chihuahua's attorney general's office said in a statement. "Then, when they were no longer 'useful,' they took their lives and threw their bodies in the Navajo Arroyo, in the Valley of Juarez."

In addition to prison time of nearly 700 years each, those sen-

tenced also have to pay a total of 9 million pesos (£352,360.82) in damages to the families of the victims, whose bodies were found in 2012.

Authorities have prosecuted some of the cases but have not always handed down long prison sentences due to the ambiguity around declaring femicides, and also to the overall high rate of impunity in the country, where many crimes go unpunished.

Mexico's Supreme Court in March for the first time ordered that a case be probed as a femicide, after prosecutors in the State of Mexico initially labelled it a suicide, based on an investigation seen as plagued by anomalies.

The National Citizen Femicide Observatory, a coalition of human rights groups, believes that some 3,892 women were murdered in Mexico between 2012 and 2013, but only 16 percent of cases were investigated as femicides.—Reuters



Police officers stand guard as the six men accused of the kidnapping and killing of 11 women listen to the verdict at a courtroom in the Mexican border city of Ciudad Juarez, Mexico on 27 July, 2015.—REUTERS

Migrant dies in Channel Tunnel as British security body meets over crisis

LONDON, 29 July — A migrant died trying to cross to Britain from France early on Wednesday, French police said, adding to a number of recent deaths in the Channel Tunnel as British min-

isters and security chiefs were to meet over the crisis in Calais.

Freight and passenger traffic through the rail tunnel has been severely disrupted in recent weeks as large numbers of mi-

grants camped out in the Calais area have tried to board lorries travelling from France to Britain.

The Sudanese man who died on Wednesday was probably hit by a lorry exiting one of the

shuttles that transport vehicles through the tunnel, French police said. French media said he was the ninth migrant to die in the tunnel since early June.

There were about 1,500 attempts by migrants to access the tunnel on Tuesday night, a Eurotunnel spokesman said, after 2,000 attempts the previous night.

French Interior Minister Bernard Cazeneuve and his British counterpart Theresa May met on Tuesday to discuss the crisis, and May was due to chair a meeting of the government's emergency Cobra committee in London later on Wednesday.

Britain has agreed up to 7 million pounds of extra funding to help increase security at the tunnel's French terminal at Coquelles, officials said.

British authorities said they had agreed with the French to work together on returning the migrants to their countries of origin, particularly in West Africa,

although no details were given about how this would work.

The crisis at Calais has had a knock-on effect on road traffic on the British side and caused huge delays for freight lorries as well as holidaymakers trying to reach the continent.

Some sections of the British media and some politicians have criticised France's handling of the crisis, though the government has stressed the importance of co-operation.

"There's no point trying to point fingers ... of blame," British Prime Minister David Cameron told reporters during a visit to Singapore, adding he was "very concerned" about events in Calais.

"It's about working with the French, putting in place these additional security measures, adding in the investment where that's needed.... We know how important this is," he said.

Reuters



A high-speed Eurostar train enters the Channel tunnel in Coquelles, near Calais, northern France on 24 June, 2015.—REUTERS

ADVERTISEMENT & GENERAL

**CLAIMS DAY NOTICE
MV MOROTAI VOY NO (YF268R)**

Consignees of cargo carried on MV MOROTAI VOY NO (YF268R) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 30.7.2015 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of M.I.P where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

**SHIPPING AGENCY DEPARTMENT
MYANMA PORT AUTHORITY
AGENT FOR: M/S CMA CGM LINE**

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**CLAIMS DAY NOTICE
MV MCP HAMBURG VOY NO (HAMB 40)**

Consignees of cargo carried on MV MCP HAMBURG VOY NO (HAMB 40) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 30.7.2015 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of A.W.P.T where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

**SHIPPING AGENCY DEPARTMENT
MYANMA PORT AUTHORITY
AGENT FOR: M/S HARTMANN SHIPPING
ASIA PTE LTD.**

Phone No: 2301186

**CLAIMS DAY NOTICE
MV KOTA RESTU VOY NO (RSU-469)**

Consignees of cargo carried on MV KOTA RESTU VOY NO (RSU-469) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 30.7.2015 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of A.W.P.T where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

**SHIPPING AGENCY DEPARTMENT
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Floats with giant paper lanterns parade on July 24, 2015, on a street in Shari on the Shiretoko Peninsula jutting into the Sea of Okhotsk off Japan's northernmost main island of Hokkaido. The Shiretoko Shari Neputa festival took place amid a festive mood, celebrating the 10th anniversary of the peninsula's designation as a UNESCO World Heritage site. —KYODO NEWS

Chinese airport closed after arson attack aboard plane

BEIJING, 29 July — Chinese authorities have suspended operations at a small regional airport in the country's east, state media reported on Wednesday, after an arson attack aboard a local flight left two passengers injured.

A witness told state broadcaster China Central Television (CCTV) that a man had set fire to a curtain and newspapers in the first class cabin on the flight from the coastal city of Taizhou to the southern metropolis of Guangzhou.

The arsonist boarded the Shenzhen Airlines flight from Taizhou with a knife, lighter and gasoline, despite bans on carrying the items, the official Xinhua news agency reported, citing airport and witness reports.

Passengers and crew restrained the man after he tried to start the fire as the plane was landing on Sunday morning, reports said.

Authorities sacked two aviation officials in Taizhou over the incident, Xinhua reported, citing local government officials.

China's civil aviation authority shut down Taizhou's airport on Wednesday, citing "severe safety risks". Xinhua said the closure was temporary, and provided no further details.

The government has set up a blacklist for unruly air travellers after a string of incidents involving passengers disrupting flights. In some cases, Chinese passengers have attacked crew members in frustration at delays.—Reuters

Father of Colorado movie gunman pleads with jury for his life

CENTENNIAL, (Colo), 29 July — The father of the Colorado movie massacre gunman pleaded on Tuesday for his son's life, showing the jury photos of family vacations when he said James Holmes was "a really excellent kid" who became mentally ill and is not to blame for his July 2012 rampage.

Bob Holmes, who with his wife Arlene has attended the proceedings on the outskirts of Denver almost every day since they began in late April, made his long-anticipated appearance on the witness stand during the trial's punishment phase. Arlene Holmes is expected to testify on Wednesday.

The Holmes family lives near San Diego, California, and James had moved to Aurora, a Denver suburb, for graduate school.

On 16 July, the jury found the now 27-year-old guilty on all counts related to the attack in which he killed 12 people and wounded 70. The panel of nine women and three men must now decide whether the former neu-

rosience graduate student will be executed or serve life with no parole.

Bob Holmes, a statistician, said he and his wife had no idea their son was suffering from mental illness before the massacre. They did know he split up with his girlfriend and that he dropped out of graduate school.

"I assumed he might be depressed. That was our main concern," the shooter's father said, adding they had made plans to see their son.

Displaying photos of family gatherings and camping trips, and home movies of the defendant as a child surrounded by relatives, defence attorney Tamara Brady asked Bob Holmes if he still loved him.

The gunman's father replied that he did.

"Why?" Brady asked.

"Well, he's my son, and we always got along pretty well, and he was actually a really excellent kid," Bob Holmes said.

He added that he first learned of the mass shooting

via a phone call in the middle of the night from a journalist.

He said he initially believed his son must have been one of the victims. But before long, police, FBI agents and members of the media turned up at the family's front door.

"It never occurred to me that he might be the shooter," Holmes' father said. They later got to see their son in jail.

"He was clearly really messed up," he told the court. "He was able to talk to us, which was good, and he told us he loved us ... But I could see something was really wrong with him."

Holmes opened fire with a semiautomatic rifle, shotgun and pistol inside a theatre packed with 400 people watching a midnight screening of a Batman film. Before leaving for the multiplex in Aurora, he booby-trapped his apartment with explosives. He also donned a helmet, body armour and gas mask.

On Monday, the gunman's younger sister broke



**Colorado shooting suspect
James Eagan Holmes**

down and sobbed as she became the first of his relatives to testify at the trial, telling jurors her brother's murders were completely out of character and that she still loves him.

Last week, the jury found the prosecution had proved "aggravating factors" which, the state argued, made Holmes' crimes especially heinous and deserving of execution.

Defence attorneys are now calling witnesses in hopes they can prove mitigating factors outweigh the aggravating ones.—Reuters

WEATHER REPORT

BAY INFERENCE: According to the observations at (11:30) hrs MST today, the depression over Northeast Bay of Bengal has intensified further into a deep depression and it is centered at about (40) miles West-Southwest of Cox's Bazar (Bangladesh), (70) miles South-Southwest of Chittagong (Bangladesh), (65)miles Northwest of Maungdaw (Myanmar) and (110) miles Northwest of Sittwe (Myanmar). Monsoon is strong to Vigorous in the Andaman Sea and Bay of Bengal.

FORECAST VALID UNTIL EVENING OF THE 30th July, 2015: Rain or thundershowers will be widespread in the whole country with likelihood of regionally heavy falls in Lower Sagaing, Mandalay, Magway and Ayeyarwady Regions, Chin, Rakhine, Kayin and Mon States and isolated heavy falls in Upper Sagaing, Bago, Yangon and Taninthayi Regions, Shan State.

Degree of certainty is (100%).

STATE OF THE SEA: Frequent squalls with rough seas will be experienced off and along Myanmar Coasts. Surface wind speed in squalls may reach (45 -50) mph.

OUTLOOK FOR SUBSEQUENT TWO DAYS: Strong monsoon.

FORECAST FOR NAY PYI TAW AND NEIGHBOURING AREA FOR 30th July, 2015: Some rain or thundershowers. Degree of certainty is (100%).

FORECAST FOR YANGON AND NEIGHBOURING AREA FOR 30th July, 2015: Some rain or thundershowers which may be heavy at times. Degree of certainty is (100%).

FORECAST FOR MANDALAY AND NEIGHBOURING AREA FOR 30th July, 2015: Some rain or thundershowers. Degree of certainty is (100%).

Taylor Swift meets Jaime King's newborn son

LOS ANGELES, 29 July — Pop star Taylor Swift, who is the godmother of her friend Jaime King's son, finally met the newborn.

The 25-year-old "Blank Space" hitmaker smiled widely while visiting her godson Leo Thames less than two weeks after he was born. She shared the photos on Instagram, reported Ace Showbiz.

"Meeting my boy. @jaime_king @kyle_newman," Taylor captioned the photo of her staring into Leo's eyes while King smiled beside her. The "Shake It Off" songstress wore a white shirt and her trademark red lips. The "Sin City" actress, meanwhile, donned a beige knitted cardigan paired with matching tanktop.

King reposted the picture

along with caption, "My loves meet. Baby boy Leo Thames and his God Mother = Bliss. X."

Swift added a close-up picture of her finger being held by Leo's tiny fingers. She captioned the shot with a quote from her hit single "Never Grow Up", reading, "Your little hand's wrapped around my finger and it's so quiet in the world tonight..."

King gave birth to Leo on Thursday, 16 July. She announced the happy news on Instagram on 19 July with her husband Kyle Newman. King announced that Swift would hold the special title of her second child's godmother back in March.—PTI



'Demolition' with Jake Gyllenhaal to launch 40th Toronto film festival



Jake Gyllenhaal in a scene from "Demolition".
REUTERS

TORONTO, 29 July — The Toronto International Film Festival will kick off its 40th year with the world premiere of Canadian director Jean-Marc Vallée's "Demolition", starring Jake Gyllenhaal and Naomi Watts, organizers said on Tuesday.

The festival, a frequent launch pad for Oscar contenders, announced some 50 of the hundreds of films it will showcase between 10 and 20 September.

"Demolition" follows the unraveling of a successful investment banker after the death of his wife. It is the latest from Vallée, who won wide acclaim with his "Dallas Buyers Club".

Other movies making their world premieres include Ridley Scott's "The Martian", starring Matt Damon, and Stephen Frears' "The Program", with Ben Foster and Dustin Hoffman, which tracks the rise and fall of Lance Armstrong.

Making his return to screen after more than five years is Oscar-winning documentary director Michael Moore with "Where to Invade Next".

Peter Sollett's "Freeheld", starring Julianne Moore and Ellen Page, is based on the true story of a lesbian couple's struggle for equal rights after one is diagnosed with cancer and wishes to leave her pension to her partner.

Organizers said they have tweaked last year's controversial format of excluding films during Toronto's high-profile

opening weekend that have already been screened at the more intimate, industry-focused Telluride festival.

This year the limitation is that films shown at the three red-carpet venues during the first four days must be world or North American premieres. This allows moviegoers to catch buzzy films already shown elsewhere at other venues during the opening days.

"We've been consulting with filmmakers and film companies over the last several months," said Artistic Director Cameron Bailey. "We've come up with what we think is the best approach, and everyone that we've talked to in the film community has been happy with it."

The Toronto event, ranked among the world's top film festivals, has grown dramatically from its launch in 1976, when some 80 films screened in five theaters. It was Canada's only major film festival then. Today, some 350 films are showcased in more than 25 theaters.

The festival's top prize, the People's Choice Award, is voted on by festival attendees. The 1999 winner, "American Beauty", was the first to eventually win a Best Picture Oscar, and helped the festival generate greater attention. Six of the last seven audience favorites became Best Picture nominees or winners, including "Slumdog Millionaire", "The King's Speech" and "12 Years a Slave".—Reuters

Dr Seuss back in stores with newly discovered children's book

NEW YORK, 29 July — A new book by much-loved children's author Dr Seuss hit stores on Tuesday, 24 years after his death.

"What Pet Should I Get?" was discovered in November 2013 while the author's widow, Audrey Geisel, was going through boxes of old material in their California home.

Publishers said it is expected to be followed by least two other books based on material left by the prolific and award-winning author Theodor Geisel, who wrote under the pen-name Dr. Seuss and who died in 1991. "This book is all his drawings," said the Geisels' former secretary, Claudia Prescott.

"It's the only (book) we found that was complete — some of the verses had slipped off the

story boards because the scotch tape was so old it turned brown, so the Random House people went through and spent a lot of time getting them in the right order." "What Pet Should I Get?" is published by Random House Children's Books, a unit of Germany-based media group Bertelsmann SE & Co KGaA (BTG-Gg.F). Prescott, who has worked for the Geisels since 1972, said the author had many unfinished ideas, not all of which resulted in books.

"He called it the bone pile — he'd go and take something out of the bone pile," she said.

Cathy Goldsmith, the author's former art director, has said "What Pet Should I Get?" was probably written between 1958 and 1962.

It features the brother and

sister characters introduced in the Dr. Seuss book "One Fish Two Fish Red Fish Blue Fish," which was published in 1960, and centres on their trip to a pet store to pick out a new friend.

Geisel, who began publishing books as Dr. Seuss in 1931, wrote and illustrated more than 45 books, including "The Cat in the Hat," "Green Eggs and Ham" and "How the Grinch Stole Christmas," before his death at the age of 87.

More than 650 million copies of his works have been sold worldwide.

Three other books have been published since Geisel died, but this is only the second where all the work was done by Geisel — except colouring the characters, which was done by Goldsmith.

Reuters

Griswolds back on the road for family trip in 'Vacation'

LOS ANGELES, 29 July — More than 30 years after his father took him on a road trip to the Walley World theme park in "National Lampoon's Vacation", Rusty Griswold is back with his own family-bonding plans in "Vacation".

Starring "The Office" actor Ed Helms and "Anchorman" actress Christina Applegate, the film sees the Griswolds on the road again as an adult Rusty follows in his father's footsteps with an adventurous cross-country trip back to Walley World.

"There are a lot of conceptual elements that overlap but story-wise and joke-wise this is a really new endeavor," Helms said at the film's premiere in Los Angeles on Monday night.

"The character of Rusty Griswold as an adult is brand new so it really felt like a clean slate in a lot of ways." The original 1983 comedy hit starred Chevy Chase and Beverly D'Angelo, who reprise their roles as Clark and Ellen Griswold. The movie also stars "Thor" actor Chris Hemsworth and "This is 40" actress Leslie Mann.

"We are not re-doing, rebooting, having the audacity of trying to improve upon anything," Applegate said.

"We are completely different people, we're like a distant cousin. We just want people to have an enjoyable ride." "Vacation" is released in US cinemas on Wednesday.—Reuters



Cast member Christina Applegate and husband musician Martyn LeNoble pose during the premiere of the film "Vacation" at the Regency Village Theatre in the Westwood section of Los Angeles, California on 27 July, 2015. —REUTERS

GENERAL

Ennis-Hill to compete at world championships



Great Britain's Jessica Ennis Hill

LONDON, 29 July — Olympic heptathlon gold medallist Jessica Ennis-Hill has announced that she is to compete in the world athletics championships in Beijing next month. “My coach and I have made the decision that I’m going to make myself available ... for the world champs,” she said on her Twitter account on Tuesday. Ennis-Hill returned to the sport in May following the birth of her son. The 29-year-old produced her three best displays since the London Olympics when she featured at the Anniversary Games in the capital at the weekend. Ennis-Hill takes her place in a 62-strong British squad for the Aug. 22-30 event in China alongside the likes of fellow Olympic champions Mo Farah and Greg Rutherford.

Farah, who has been dogged by the recent doping allegations surrounding coach Alberto Salazar, will look to retain his world titles over 5,000 and 10,000 metres. He also won gold in the 5,000 metres in 2011. Olympic, Commonwealth and European champion Rutherford is aiming to add the only missing major gold medal to his long jump collection.—Reuters

mitv Myanmar International

(30-7-2015 07:00 am~31-7-2015 07:00 am) MST

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| * News | Drawing |
| * A Real Dream Of Accidental Gift | * Chef Life |
| * Culture Shows: Composer Ma Mya Lay | * “Thanakrit Chamnongbutr” |
| * News | * News |
| * Waso Charity Feast | *Changes |
| * Famous Pagodas of Sagaing | * Dawei - Tavoy, Travel To The Southern Part Of Myanmar |
| * A Nun’s Creation in Fruit Carving | * News |
| * News | * Waso or the Buddhist Lant |
| * Products Of Myanmar - Shin Ma Taung Thanakhar | * The World’s Largest Book |
| * Kyaikkasan Pagoda | * [Doctor] [Painter] |
| * News | * News |
| * Ruili City With Mon Yee | * Myanmar Masterclass: Artist Pann Kyi |
| * Farming: Duck Breeder | * Pet Fish Biz |
| * School for the Blind | * Marketable Goods (Myanmar Arts & Handicrafts) |
| * News | * News |
| * Cruising To Precious Islands (Part-1) | * Myanmar Alternative Medicine (Aloe Vera) |
| * Goldsmith | * Chinlone & The Dreams of the players |
| * News | * Kid’s Home |
| * Innovative Handiworks Based On The Art Of Line | |



News Channel in Brief

(30-7-2015, Thursday)

6:00 am

- Paritta by Hilly Region Missionary Sayadaw

7:00 am

- News/ Weather Report

7:30 am

- Head Line News

8:00 am

- News/ International News

8:30 am

- Head Line News

9:35 am

- Beautiful ASEAN

10:35 am

- Documentary

11:00 am

- News / Weather Report

11:35 am

- Science and Technology Programme

12:00 noon

- News/ International News/ Weather Report

12:35 pm

- Fine Arts-Bosom of

Dramatic Performance

1:20 pm

- Documentary

2:30 pm

- Head Line News

3:35 pm

- Weekly Entertainment

4:00 pm

- News/ Weather Report

4:35 pm

- University of Distance Education (TV Lectures)

— Second Year

(English)

5:00 pm

- News / Weather Report

5:30 pm

- Head Line News

5:35 pm

- Documentary

6:35 pm

- People’s Talks

7:00 pm

- News

7:35 pm

- Current Affairs

8:00 pm

- News / International News / Weather Report

9:00 pm

- News
- Clever
- Talks on Old Film (Part-1)



Entertainment Channel

(30-7-2015, Thursday)

6:00 am

- Mono Classical Songs

6:20 am

- Myanmar Series

7:10 am

- TV Drama Series

8:00 am

- TV Drama Series

8:45 am

- Musical Programme

9:00 am

- Pyi Thu Ni Ti

9:15 am

- Musical Programme

9:30 am

- Pyi Thu Ni Ti

9:45 am

- ASEAN Programme

10:00 am

- Myanmar Video

Fires in US West threaten thousands of structures

SAN FRANCISCO, 29 July — Fires burning in drought-parched California on Tuesday menaced thousands of structures as fire-fighters struggled to corral the blazes there and elsewhere in the US West, authorities said.

The so-called Lowell Fire north of the state capital, Sacramento, has injured four of the 2,277 firefighters battling it, according to the California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection (CalFire). One firefighter was hospitalized with serious burns, CalFire said.

Roughly a third of the 2,233-acre blaze was contained as of Tuesday morning, with low humidity and high heat expected throughout the day. Roads were closed and evacuation warnings were in place around the fire, which was threatening about 1,800 structures, CalFire said.

A 6,591-acre fire, dubbed the Wragg Fire, burning near Lake Berryessa outside of San Francisco prompted mandatory evacuations for some 200 residents on Tuesday afternoon after flames jumped across a containment line, CalFire said. Several nearby roads were also closed. To the south, a 1,739-acre fire forced the evacuation of campgrounds in the Sier-



Smoke plumes are seen along St. Mary's Lake from the Reynolds Fire in Glacier National Park in Montana in this photo taken on 21 July, 2015 and released to Reuters 27 July, 2015. — REUTERS

ra National Forest and threatened some 450 structures, including homes and vacation cabins, according to the US Forest Service's InciWeb online fire information center.

The blaze, known as the Willow Fire and located north of the central California city of Fresno, was only 5 percent contained as of Tuesday morning, according to InciWeb.

Experts have predicted an unusually active and destructive wildfire season in California as the state grapples with a fourth year of crippling drought.

In northwestern Montana's Glacier National Park, firefighters managed to draw containment lines around roughly half of the 3,170-acre Reynolds Creek fire, according to InciWeb. Firefighters were aided overnight by cooler

temperatures and rain in the area.

The blaze broke out last Tuesday, forcing the closure of campgrounds, a motor inn and several trails, as well as the picturesque Going-to-the-Sun Road that bisects the park, officials said. Most of the park, which straddles the Canadian border, was unaffected by the fire and remained open to the public, according to officials.

Reuters

Vidal completes \$44 million move from Juve to Bayern



Chile's Arturo Vidal, Bayern Munich's new signing, gives thumbs up as he tries out his new jersey at the Allianz Arena in Munich, Germany 28 July, 2015. Vidal has completed his transfer from Juventus to Bayern Munich by signing a four-year contract with the Bundesliga champions.—REUTERS

BERLIN, 29 July — Chile midfielder Arturo Vidal has completed his transfer from Juventus to Bayern Munich by signing a four-year contract with the Bundesliga champions.

No fee was disclosed but media reports put it at 40 million euros (\$44.23 million).

"I wanted to take another big step forward in my career," the 28-year-old Vidal told the Bavarian club's website (www.fcbayern.de) on Tuesday.

"I want to keep developing as a player and win important

trophies like the Champions League. I think the best opportunity to do so is with Bayern."

Vidal was a member of the Juventus team beaten 3-1 by Barcelona in last month's Champions League final at Berlin's Olympic Stadium.

He becomes Bayern's second major signing of the transfer window after Brazilian midfielder Douglas Costa joined from Shakhtar Donetsk at the start of July. Bayern have also sold Germany playmaker Bastian Schweinsteiger to Manchester

United.

Vidal is no stranger to the Bundesliga having played for Bayer Leverkusen for four seasons until 2011.

He also helped Chile win the Copa America title for the first time on home soil this month.

"I'm thrilled about playing in the Bundesliga again and obviously hope to win it this time," Vidal said.

"I didn't manage it with Leverkusen back then but with Bayern there's a very, very good chance."—Reuters

Victorious Myanmar youth golfers return home

YANGON, 29 July — Myanmar youth golfers participated in the perfect putter 1st coast junior open (Hurricane golf tour) in the United States of America on 20 and 21 July.

Ma Thin Wai Khaing stood first in the aged 11-14 event; Maung Kaung Myat Kyaw, second and Maung Min Than Lwin Aung, third

in the aged 11-12 event; Maung Zin Aung Min, fourth, Ma Wint Phu Nadi Aung, 5th and Ma Pwint Phu Nadi Khaing, 12th in the aged 15-18 event; and Maung Sai Aung Sai Pha, 7th in the aged 13-14 event.

The victorious players arrived back Yangon International Airport on Tuesday.

GNLM



Victorious youth golfers Kaung Myat Kyaw, Thin Wai Khaing and Min Than Lwin Aung seen with prizes in Hurricane golf tour.—GNLM

Zico seeks Brazil federation support for FIFA presidency

RIO DE JANEIRO, 29 July — Brazil great Zico has sought backing from the country's football federation (CBF) in his bid to become president of world football governing body FIFA.

The 62-year-old expressed his wish to run for the position in June, just days after Sepp Blatter announced his decision to resign.

An election to decide Blatter's successor is due to be held on 26 February.

"The first option is this: I am Brazilian, I gave my services to the Brazilian team for 10 years," Zico told Globoesporte on Tuesday.

"I sent a letter to the president (of the CBF)... laying out the reasons for my candidacy and now I'm just waiting for his reply to see whether he makes the commitment or not, if he accepts or not. But I won't wait long because time is passing rapidly and we have other options."

Zico, who was capped 89 times for Brazil and scored 66 goals, is currently the manager of Indian Super League outfit FC Goa.—Xinhua

UEFA head Platini to announce FIFA presidency bid

ZURICH, 29 July — Michel Platini, the head of European soccer's governing body UEFA, is to announce in the next few days that he will stand for the presidency of FIFA, a source close to the former France international told Reuters on Tuesday.

The 60-year-old Platini, a former France and Juventus midfielder, has been UEFA president since 2007 and had been widely expected to throw his hat into the ring to succeed Sepp Blatter, who announced his plan to stand down two months ago.

Platini's impending announcement, expected before the end of the week, is likely to prompt other contenders to confirm their plans to stand.

South Korea's Chung Mong-joon, a former FIFA



UEFA President Michel Platini

vice-president, is expected to announce his candidacy next month, while Jordan's Prince Ali bin Al Hussein, beaten by Blatter in May's presidential vote, is also considering running in next February's election.

The vote will be held at a special 'elective congress' in Zurich on 26 February.

Blatter, who has been president since 1998, was re-elected for a fifth term in May, but amidst the fall-out from the arrest of nine soccer officials, including

some senior FIFA and ex-FIFA officials, he said he was "laying down" his mandate.

Platini has long been the bookmakers' favourite to succeed Blatter and last week his supporters indicated that he has picked up widespread support from leaders of the continental confederations.

A former protege of Blatter's, Platini turned into one of his biggest critics and he has said FIFA's corruption scandal "disgusted" him and gave him "stomach trouble".

But the Frenchman's own critics will focus on his support for the 2022 World Cup to be held in Qatar.

Platini, part of the FIFA executive committee since 2002, voted for Qatar, despite FIFA's own technical report flagging up concerns about the searing heat

in the Gulf state.

That may be a difficult line of attack for his two possible Asian rivals to take however, given that Qatar is part of the Asian Football Confederation.

Three outsiders have also said they intend to run - Liberian FA chairman Musa Bility, former Brazil international Zico and ex-France winger David Ginola.

Ginola had intended to stand in May's vote but was unable to get the five nominations from football federations needed to be a candidate — a problem Zico has conceded he will probably encounter.

The deadline for candidates to formally present their nominations, with support, is 26 October and they will also have to undergo integrity checks, led by Domenico Scala, head of the ad-hoc election committee.—Reuters

Woods sees game coming together after 'frustrating' season

NEW YORK, 29 July — Time is fast running out for Tiger Woods to salvage what he describes as a "frustrating" PGA Tour season after three missed cuts, a withdrawal and just one top-25 finish in eight starts.

The former world number has plummeted to a mind-boggling 266th in the rankings, making him ineligible for next week's elite WGC-Bridgestone Invitational at Firestone Country Club in Akron, Ohio where he has triumphed a record eight times.

Woods attributes his woes to a "perfect storm" of trying to work through the latest swing change of his career while still recovering from back surgery, but he said on Tuesday things were "starting to come together".

"I didn't think that it would

take this long because I thought I would have my short game earlier," Woods told reporters at Robert Trent Jones GC in Gainesville, Virginia where he is hosting this week's Quicken Loans National.

Reuters