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UN WARNS MYANMAR TO EXPECT HIGHER DEATH TOLL FROM FLOODS, LANDSLIDES

YANGON, 2 Aug — The United Nations warned Friday that the death toll from flash floods and landslides in Myanmar is set to be higher.

The worst-hit areas have not yet been reached by assessment teams, meaning the number of people affected may be “significantly higher,” according to a statement of the coordination of humanitarian affairs (OCHA).

President U Thein Sein promised that the government would make utmost efforts to provide aid to flood victims across the country, with declaration of worst-hit four states and regions — the Magway and Sagaing regions and Chin and Rakhine states — disaster zones.

Relief aids were shipped to Rakhine State on Sunday where has been hit by floods a few days ago resulted by the cyclonic storm Komen.

Landslides triggered by torrential rain in Chin State stopped on Sunday, according to a resident.

However, the hilly state has been left cut off from surrounding areas, he added.

Landslides severely damaged Haka, the capital city of Chin State, leaving around 700 homes destroyed.



Tatmadawmen uploading relief supplies on board the aircraft of Air Force to provide them to flood victims in Rakhine State.—RAKHINE STATE IPRD

There was no casualties in the disaster as residents had to managed themselves to escape from landslides, said a resident.

The government would expedite efforts to clear roads and send emergency goods to the Chin State.

Many parts of the

country have been hit by flooding and landslides over the last few weeks, resulting from monsoon rains throughout July.

Conditions worsened considerably after Cyclone Komen brought strong winds and heavy rains when it made landfall earlier this week.

Meanwhile, most of the country’s rivers have reached above and at their danger level, said the Meteorology and Hydrology Department.

The weather bureau also forecast that regionally heavy rainfalls are expected over the country.

Ministry of Live-

stock, Fisheries and Rural Development announced Sunday that if necessary, it would cooperate with UN agencies and other organizations to assist in providing emergency aids to the country’s livestock breeding sector.

In its announcement, the ministry said it has

formed teams to carry out preventive measures against infectious diseases among drought cattle and given vaccines to them.

Vaccines and medicines have already sent to the flood-hit areas, the announcement said.

GNLM

Lifeboats, lifejackets arrive from Singapore

NAY PYI TAW, 2 Aug — Authorities discovered 2 big lifeboats, 4 small lifeboats and 100 life jackets for flood victims on Flight 8M230 of Singapore Airway at Yangon International Airport at 2.45 pm on Saturday and contacted Daw Yin Yin

Wai who received the relief assistance on Sunday morning.

There is no shipment of relief items by sea but arrangements are underway to hand over relief assistance properly.

MNA

Emergency aid distributed to flood victims

NAY PYI TAW, 2 Aug — The Ministry of Livestock, Fisheries and Rural Development said Saturday that it has distributed emergency aid to flood victims in affected areas.

The Livestock Breeding and Vet-

erinary Department, the Department of Fisheries and the Department of Rural Development provided over K 128.4 million worth of aid, including foodstuffs, animal foods and veterinary medicines.

MNA

Ms. Yanghee Lee visits Myanmar

YANGON, 2 Aug — Ms Yanghee Lee, special rapporteur on the situation of human rights in Myanmar, visited Myanmar as her third time with reason of collecting data report to United Nation Human Rights Council; at 2:30 pm today, with PG-707 flight landed at Myanmar International Airport.

She was warmly welcomed by responsible persons from Myanmar Foreign Ministry, Yangon Region Government and UN agencies.

She will spend her time meeting with members of President's political, economic and legal advisory groups; the speaker of the Pyidaungsu Hluttaw; bill

committees of two Hluttaw; Basic Rights Committee; the Chief Justice of the Union; Attorney General of the Union; the Chairman of Union Election Commission; Union Ministers and visit some regions.

While in Myanmar from 2 to 7 August, she will hold a press conference on her visit on August 7th.

During July 2014, she first ever visited and also January 2015 was her second visit to Myanmar with same reasons of collect data for her human rights report to United National Human Rights Council, according to her message to President U Thein Sein.—MNA



Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights in Myanmar Ms Yanghee Lee arrives at Yangon International Airport.—MNA

My Friend campaign promotes harmony across religious divide

By Khaing Thanda Lwin

YANGON, 2 Aug — An International Friendship Day event in Yangon promoting harmony between Myanmar youths from diverse religious backgrounds was a resounding success, drawing many more people than expected, one of the organizers said Saturday.

As part of the My Friend campaign, peace-loving Myanmar youths have been combating discrimination by sharing photos of themselves alongside friends

from different faiths.

Employing the slogan, "Friendship has no boundaries," organizers of the campaign have been encouraging the young people to post their "selfies" to Facebook.

A large crowd braved bad weather to attend the event Friday at People's Park, campaign coordinator Thinzar Shoon Lae Yi said.

"We expected that about 200 people would come to the event due to downpours of rain, but we could share our message with about 1,000 people," she told The

Global New Light of Myanmar.

Over 100 people have so far taken part in a selfie contest, with the organizer planning to soon announce a winner at www.facebook.com/myfriendcampaign, she added.

Wai Wai Nu, a peace activist said, "Our campaign aims to promote understanding, tolerance and respect among youths."

She said the group held weekly activities and was planning to hold one at a teashop in front of Yangon City Hall next Sunday.



Former information minister Thiripyanchi U Aung Kyi presents prize to an outstanding student.—MNA

Air KBZ comes with generous donation for flood rescue missions

YANGON, 2 Aug — Two local airlines have come to reinforce rescue efforts, providing free transportation of emergency aid to inundated areas across the country.

In partnership with the Republic of the Union of Myanmar Federation of Chambers of Commerce and Industry (UMFCCI), Air KBZ and MAI employed their aircraft to transport life jackets, clothes, foodstuffs, medicines, bottled water and financial assistance to flood victims in affected areas.

Kanbawza Bank, also known as KBZ Bank, provides assistance to philanthropic services engaged in flood-hit areas to increase the effectiveness and efficiency of rescue operations.

KBZ Bank Group has so far spent over K1.67 billion on its rescue missions. —GNLM



Official of KBZ Bank presents relief supplies to local people in flood-affected areas.—KBZ

Health Ministry plans to refill emergency medical supplies to disaster-hit areas

NAY PYI TAW, 2 Aug — To prevent diseases in the aftermaths of monsoon flooding, the Health Ministry plans to refill emergency medical supplies to the area which have been severely affected by floods.

500 disaster kits, 30 bottles of bleaching powder, 500 com-modes and traditional medicines

are scheduled to soon send to Sagaing and Magway regions, and Rakhine and Chin states.

The health ministry has already provided necessary medical equipment including chlorine tablets, bottles of snake venom and medicated mosquito nets to every regions and states.

According to the campaign manager, My Friend started in May, "and we will extend the campaign to villages."

Friday's event also raised more than K200,000 for flood victims across the country, Thinzar Shoon Lae Yi said. She said the group was discussing further activities to help people affected by the flooding.

GNLM

President urges local authorities to fulfil needs of flood victims



NAY PYI TAW, 2 Aug — President U Thein Sein urged local authorities to fulfil the daily requirements of victims of severe floods being accommodated at relief camps in western Myanmar, at a meeting held at the hall of Regional Control Command (Kalay) Sunday.

He stressed the need to systematically keep accounts of relief and rehabilitation tasks, adding that citizenship cards and other important documents should be distributed to the flood victims as soon as possible.

He also noted the need to provide food to the people who return home from the relief camps.

The president met with flood victims accommodated at Taungphila Tawya monastery in Kalay where he donated provisions to Buddhist monks led by Agga Maha Ganthavacaka Pandita Bhaddanta Rajinda.

MNA

President U Thein Sein meets local people at relief camp in the precinct of Taungphila monastery in Kalay.—IPRD

Vice President U Nyan Tun meets landslide, flood victims in Haka



Vice President U Nyan Tun views location of landslides in Haka, Chin State. IPRD

NAY PYI TAW, 2 Aug — Vice President U Nyan Tun, together with Deputy Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services and Commander-in-Chief (Army) Vice-Senior General Soe Win, Commander of North-West Command Maj-Gen Min Naung and officials, left Kalay for Haka in Chin State by Tatmadaw helicopter on Sunday morning.

The vice president and party were welcomed by Chief Minister U Hone Ngai of Chin State and officials.

The vice president met with local people at Haka Baptist Church.

Afterwards, the vice president met with officials at Pyidaungsuyeiktha and heard reports on situations of natural disasters and relief assistance.

After hearing reports, the vice president attended to the needs.

Later, the vice president and party inspected relief camps in a church and in a high school and comforted the flood victims before providing them with cash and relief assistance.

Then, the vice president inspected the houses destroyed by landslides in Haka and presented offertories to monks at Haka Myoma Missionary Monastery.

In the afternoon, the vice president and party arrived at Yazana Guest House in Tamu and heard reports on situation of floods and relief measures before inspecting Kangyiwa Bridge washed away by floods.

Tamu district was severely hit by heavy rains and 12 bridges were destroyed there. A total of 5,225 people from 910 families have been evacuated to relief camps.

The vice president and party also inspected the release of water from spillways of Yazagyo Dam and gave necessary instructions.—MNA

Amyotha Hluttaw speaker attends upgrading of school

NAY PYI TAW, 2 Aug — Speaker U Khin Aung Myint of the Amyotha Hluttaw attended the ceremony to upgrade the affiliated middle school in Ywatha Village in Pyawbwe Township on Saturday.

The speaker, MPs, District Education Officer U San Htay Maung and town elder U Man Lwin formally opened the ceremony.

At the ceremony, the speaker

said that wisdom means knowledge that can help predict the future correctly.

Then, he urged educators to inspect dilapidated school buildings and repaired them and teachers to teach students properly.

In conclusion, the speaker thanked local people who exerted efforts for upgrading the school.

After the ceremony, the speaker warmly greeted the local people.—MNA

Ngamoeyeik dam releases no excess water

YANGON, 2 Aug — Water in Ngamoeyeik Dam in Hlegu Township has not reached its maximum storage capacity of 180,000 acres and the water level in the dam stood at 175,000 acre

on 2 August. As the water level in the dam stood at 107 feet while the dam is 120 feet high, there is no release of water from spillway nor overflow on its embankments, according to officials.—MNA

Floodwater causes havoc in some parts of Sagaing Region

KALAY, 2 Aug — Weeks of heavy rain has caused rivers and creeks to swell in Sagaing Region, flooding some townships in the upper reach of the Chindwin river, officials said.

It has been pouring with rain in the region since 22 July, prompting local authorities to open 11 relief camps in flooded areas to provide emergency aid including healthcare services to

thousands of victims.

Floodwater has submerged tens of thousands of acres of farmland, causing extensive damage to people's property, transport and irrigation facilities, with telecommunication circuits breaking down.

Plans are under way to repair damaged telecommunication base stations when the floods recede.—MNA

Chinese military paper warns a corrupt army does not win wars

BEIJING, 2 Aug — The Chinese military's official newspaper warned on Sunday that a corrupt army would not win wars, three days after the government announced a former senior officer would be prosecuted for graft.

Serving and retired Chinese military officers as well as state media have questioned whether China's armed forces are too corrupt to fight and win a war.

President Xi Jinping has made weeding out corruption in the armed forces a top goal and several senior officers have been felled, including two of China's most senior former military officers, Xu Caihou and Guo Boxiong.

The government said on Thursday that it would prosecute

Guo for corruption. Xu died of cancer in March.

"If we allow the growth and spread of corruption, the guns will rust, the pillars will collapse," the People's Liberation Army Daily said in a front-page editorial.

"History has repeatedly proven that if corruption is not eliminated, we will defeat ourselves even before a war."

High-ranking officers such as Xu and Guo affected the morale of the people and had a severe impact on the soldiers' beliefs and convictions, the paper said.

State media had previously focused on how corruption was a key reason for China's defeat to Japan in the waning years of the Qing dynasty.

China stepped up a crackdown on corruption in the military in the late 1990s, banning the People's Liberation Army from engaging in business. However, analysts have said the military has been involved in commercial dealings in recent years due to a lack of checks and balances.

The buying and selling of senior jobs in the military, an open secret, has worried reformers who say it leads to those with talent being cast aside and damages morale.

Xi's graft crackdown has coincided with increased efforts to modernize forces that are projecting power across the disputed waters of the East and South China Seas, although it has not fought a war in decades. —Reuters



China's Central Military Commission former Vice Chairman General Guo Boxiong shakes hands with military officers in Shijiazhuang, Hebei province, China, February 1, 2007. —REUTERS

Vietnam receives 2 more Kilo-class submarines

HANOI, 2 Aug — Vietnam on Saturday held a commissioning ceremony for two more Russian-made Kilo-class submarines at central Cam Ranh port, some 1,300 km south of capital Hanoi.

Speaking at the ceremony, Rear Admiral Pham Hoai Nam, commander of the Vietnam Peo-

ple's Navy, said these submarines will mark a new development of the navy in particular and the Vietnam People's Army in general, reported Vietnam's state-run news agency VNA.

The two newly-received submarines, named after two Vietnamese coastal cities of Hai Phong and Khanh Hoa, are out

of six 636 Kilo-class submarines that Vietnam ordered from Russia.

Last year, Russia handed over the first two called Hanoi and Ho Chi Minh City submarines to Vietnam.

The 636 Kilo-class submarines have an over 3,000-ton displacement, and are able to

operate at a maximum depth of 300 meters and at a speed of 20 nautical miles per hour with over 50 crew members. They are said to be equipped with six 533 mm torpedo tubes, torpedoes and 3M-54 Klub submarine-launched anti-ship missile on board, according to VNA.

Xinhua



Photo taken on Aug. 1, 2015 shows a commissioning ceremony held at Cam Ranh port, Vietnam's south central Khanh Hoa province. Vietnam on Saturday held a commissioning ceremony for two more Russian-made Kilo-class submarines at Cam Ranh port, some 1,300 km south of capital Hanoi. XINHUA

Summer heat continues, with central Japanese city recording 39.9 C

TOKYO, 2 Aug — Japan continued to experience extreme summer heat nationwide on Saturday, with the city of Tajimi, Gifu Prefecture, in central Japan logging the season's highest temperature of 39.9 C.

A 65-year-old man in Yamanashi Prefecture died after collapsing at home and an 89-year-old woman in Hyogo

Prefecture died after collapsing in a field, apparently due to heatstroke, according to local authorities. The heat wave, coupled with unstable weather conditions, is expected to continue Sunday and the Japan Meteorological Agency has warned of sudden thunderstorms from the northern to western areas in the country. According to the agency, over 220 of the

928 weather observation points nationwide saw their highest temperature exceed 35 C on Saturday. The temperature in the city of Tatebayashi in Gunma Prefecture rose to as high as 39.4 C. The temperature in the city of Toyota in Aichi Prefecture rose to 38.6 C and that in the city of Kyoto to 38.5 C.

Kyodo News

Malaysia seeks assistance from Reunion Island's surrounding territories

KUALA LUMPUR, 2 Aug — Malaysian Transport Minister Liow Tiong Lai said Sunday that Malaysia is seeking assistance from several aviation authorities in territories within the vicinity of Reunion Island in the Indian Ocean.

"This is to allow the experts to conduct more substantive analysis should there be more debris coming on to land, providing us more clues to the missing aircraft," he said in a statement.

He said the flaperon discovered on Reunion Island has been officially identified as being part of a Boeing 777 aircraft, which was verified by French authorities together with aircraft manufacturer Boeing, U.S. National Transportation Safety Board (NTSB) and the Malaysian team comprising the Department of Civil Aviation, Malaysia Airlines, and Malaysian ICAO Annex 13 Safety Investigation Team for MH370.

Liow said Malaysia, the United States, China, France and Boeing will send representatives to participate in the verification of the flaperon in Toulouse on Wednesday. —Xinhua

Largest China-Russia navy drills to be staged

BEIJING, 2 Aug — The navies of China and Russia will hold their first ever joint landing drills during a large-scale naval exercise later this month in the Sea of Japan.

Experts say this reflects the deepened military cooperation between the two sides.

The two countries will conduct their largest joint Pacific exercise from August 20 to 28.

According to the plan, phase II of Joint Sea Exercise 2015 will be held in both the Sea of Japan and off the coast of Russian re-

gion of Primorsky - about 250 miles away from Japan.

Military commentator Song Xiaojun says the location of the exercise is of strategic significance.

"The situation in the Sea of Japan has become volatile especially after US President Barack Obama announced the so-called Return to Asia plan three years ago and enhanced assistance to Japan. Taking into account Japan's latest move to lift the ban on the right to collective defense that strengthens the Japan-US alliance and

Russia-US confrontation in East Europe, tensions in the sea area may escalate. Meanwhile, the area neighbors Russia's sparsely-populated Far East and China's northeast that is undergoing rejuvenation, so both China and Russia want to enhance defense there."

Joint exercises between the two navies have become regular in recent years as part of the bilateral efforts for closer ties.

Last year saw the largest series of exercises that involved 14 surface ships, two submarines, aviation

assets and special operation forces from the two sides.

The Pacific drills follow the first ever joint Chinese-Russian exercise in the Mediterranean Sea during the Joint Sea Exercise 2015 phase I this May.

The smaller exercise involved three warships from China and six from Russia and featured supply and escort drills.

Russian Pacific Fleet spokesman Roman Martov earlier said that the maneuvers this time will for the first time involve a joint amphibious assault drill with the participation of

carrier-based aircraft.

Navy expert Yin Zhuo says the larger drills result from the higher military cooperation level between the two sides.

"The joint drills show that China and Russia are trying to deepen their military cooperation. Generally speaking, more specific joint trainings bring more difficulties. Units from the two sides will operate under unified tactics, with their weapons to be regrouped and warships reorganized. It requires a smooth data connection and a unified command

system. And only with that, could joint anti-submarine and landing exercises be conducted."

The drills will involve from both sides about 20 warships and support vessels of various class.

The final planning conference for the drills has ended in Vladivostok with the signing of an exercise protocol.

During the Chinese fleet's visit to Vladivostok port, cultural programs and sports competitions will also be held between the two navies.

Xinhua

Abe aide wants Cabinet approval of PM's war anniv. statement

TOKYO, 2 Aug — Prime Minister Shinzo Abe should seek Cabinet approval for his upcoming statement on the 70th anniversary of the end of World War II, his adviser said Sunday, a position that contrasts with the view that Abe aims to highlight the personal nature of the statement.

Abe will release the

closely anticipated statement this month, with China and South Korea calling on him not to water down apologies issued by Japan's previous governments for the suffering it inflicted on its Asian neighbors through its colonization and wartime brutality.

"It should be primarily a statement aimed at Japanese nationals and then at the

international community," Koichi Hagiuda, Abe's special adviser, told a program on Fuji TV. "We'd better have it approved by the Cabinet."

When the government formally expresses its positions on certain issues, they are normally agreed to by all Cabinet ministers.

Abe's statement is ex-

pected to be released before the Aug. 15 anniversary of Japan's surrender.

While looking back at the wartime past, the statement should also stress the path Japan has taken as a member of the international community in the 70 years since, as well as the roles it should play in the future, Hagiuda said.—Kyodo News

Pakistan releases over 160 Indian fishermen: officials

ISLAMABAD, 2 Aug — Pakistan on Sunday released over 160 Indian fishermen as a goodwill gesture amid tensions with India over cross-border fire exchanges in recent weeks.

The authorities in the port city of Karachi freed a group of 164 Indian fishermen, including an eleven-year-old boy who was taken into custody with his uncle when they had intruded into Pakistani water for

fishing.

Prime Ministers of the two countries agreed last month in a meeting in Ufa, Russia, that they will release all fishermen in two weeks. However the release was delayed for some days due to escalations along the border.

Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif and his Indian counterpart Narendra Modi had also agreed to reduce tensions along the Line

of Control in the disputed Kashmir and Working Boundary, the international border.

The two leaders had also agreed that Pakistan security adviser Sartaj Aziz will visit India to discuss several key issues including anti-terror cooperation.

The Indian fishermen are likely to be handed over to the Indian officials at the Wahga border on Monday.

Pakistan and India rou-

tinely catch fishermen who cross water boundaries for illegal fishing.

Groups working for the welfare of the fishermen say the fishermen mistakenly enter other's water as the two nuclear rivals have not yet reached an agreement on maritime boundaries.

The freed Indian fishermen told reporters that they had been treated well by the jail authorities in Pakistan.—Xinhua

Iran's parliament has no power over nuclear deal, top negotiator says

DUBAI, 2 Aug — Iran's parliament does not have authority over the nuclear agreement signed with world powers last month, the Islamic Republic's top nuclear negotiator was quoted as saying on Saturday. The comments from Ali Akbar Salehi, the head of Iran's atomic energy agency, are the latest volley in a lengthy battle between Iranian officials supportive of the deal, and hardliners who are sceptical of it.

The conservative-dominated parliament in June passed a bill imposing strict conditions on any nuclear deal, such as barring international inspectors from Iran's military sites.

Under the terms of the final deal, however, Iran must provide access to suspect sites including at its military facilities within 24 days, or risk sanctions being



The Head of the Iranian Atomic Energy Organization
Ali Akbar Salehi

reimposed. "It is absolutely not the case that the government must bring before parliament any agreement it wants to sign with a foreign country," Salehi was quoted as saying by state news agency IRNA.

"The Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action is not a treaty or a convention, and I don't know under what definition it would go to parliament."—Reuters

38 killed, 23 missing as landslides rock Darjeeling



DARJEELING, 2 Aug — Rescue operations taken up jointly by Sahastra Sena Bal (SSB) and the state police officials have been affected due to the heavy downpour. A series of landslides triggered by overnight heavy rain left at least 38 people dead, 23 missing and more than 500 displaced in West Bengal's Darjeeling district on Wednesday. The landslides at 25 places in Darjeeling, Kalimpong and Kurseong sub-divisions also washed away portions of highways, including a bridge, cutting off the road link to the region.

According to officials in the state disaster management department, 22 deaths occurred in Mirik, where 13 people were also reported missing. The remaining 17 died in Kalimpong, Lava, Sukhia and Gorubathan areas, they said. Twenty persons were reported injured and 15 missing at 8 Mile and 11 Mile areas in Kalimpong, sources said, adding that extensive damage has occurred to NH-10 and NH-55. —Reuters

Rescue operations were underway in three subdivisions of Darjeeling district where multiple landslides have claimed 38 lives besides washing away highways and damaging homes.
(Source: Express photo by Subham Dutta)

Germans fret over Europe's future but still believe

BRUSSELS, 2 Aug — The battle for Europe will be won or lost in Germany.

On some days recently, it has looked like it might be lost. But that is to underestimate the deep German commitment to the success of European integration based on the rule of law.

If the European Union falls apart, it will likely be due to a return of nationalism and a refusal by the French, British and Dutch to share more sovereignty, rather than to German insistence on fiscal discipline and respect for the rules.

"If the euro fails, then Europe fails," Chancellor Angela Merkel has repeatedly warned parliament.

The aftermath of the euro zone's ugly all-night summit on the Greek debt crisis that ended on July 13 with a deal on stringent, intrusive terms for negotiating a third bailout has sent shockwaves across Europe, especially in Germany.

It was the second time in weeks that EU leaders had clashed over fundamental problems they seem unable to solve, after an acrimonious June summit on how to cope with a wave of migrants - many of them refugees from conflict - desperate to enter Europe.

And it has prompted intensive head-scratching in Berlin about how to strengthen European institutions and underpin the



German Chancellor Angela Merkel and Finance Minister Wolfgang Schäuble attend the session of Germany's parliament, the Bundestag, in Berlin, Germany, July 17, 2015.—REUTERS

euro more durably - an intellectual ferment unmatched in most other EU capitals.

"When you tour European countries, there aren't many that are thinking as hard as Germany about how to make an integrated Europe work better," says a senior German official.

Perhaps due to its World War Two history, Berlin is more open than most EU nations to offering shelter to war victims and accepted the largest quota of asylum seekers.

Nor was Merkel as tough as creditors such as Finland, the Netherlands, Latvia, Lithuania and Slovakia in insisting on humiliating conditions for any further assistance to Greece.

Yet like all leaders, Germany cops most of the blame. And due to its past, that is often laced with ref-

erences to the Nazi tyranny that make present-day Germans cringe.

That outcry was compounded when German Finance Minister Wolfgang Schäuble breached a taboo by suggesting that Greece should leave the euro zone, at least temporarily, if it could not meet the conditions.

After decades of trying to be an unobtrusive team player in Europe or co-steering integration through the Franco-German tandem, Berlin was catapulted into an unwelcome solo leadership role by the euro zone debt crisis that began in 2010.

That extra burden of responsibility, due more to French weakness and British indifference than Teutonic ambition, has weighed heavily on Germans who fear it means others trying

to pick their pockets without doing their own fair share.

Keynsian economists excoriate Germany's export prowess and domestic frugality; southern Europeans resent its prescription of harsh austerity policies; the Americans, British and French deplore its refusal to become more of a military power; and the French lament its reluctance to pay for "more Europe".

The firestorm of criticism that has rained down on Berlin since the Greek debt deal has triggered a mixture of self-righteous defiance, soul-searching and a quest for new solutions among the German establishment.

Unsurprisingly, the debate is mostly focused on how to ensure better respect for agreed fiscal rules and economic policies rather than how to rebalance current accounts or share wealth or risk between richer and poorer areas of the euro area.

Germans may consider the EU, in the words of ex-chancellor Helmut Kohl, a community of destiny ("Schicksalsgemeinschaft"), but most don't want it to become a community of liability ("Haftungsgemeinschaft").

The government's council of independent economic advisers, in a weighty 58-page special report last

week, proposed an orderly insolvency mechanism for states in the euro zone leading to an exit from the currency area "as a last resort".

The panel also called for adding new padlocks to the EU treaty's "no bailout" clause to exclude any transfer of liability from one member state to another, and ruled out any joint euro zone budget or common unemployment insurance benefit.

"In a currency union, the basic rules must be adhered to and for this reason the exit of a member state should not be taboo, for otherwise partners are susceptible to blackmail," council member Lars Feld told reporters. There is, however, more creative thinking afoot, even in such bastions of orthodoxy as the German Finance Ministry.

Schäuble, a lifelong European integrationist uneasy at being fingered as the man who tried to force Greece out, let it be known via the magazine *Der Spiegel* that he could imagine a finance minister for the euro zone under European parliamentary supervision and with his own budget.

Those ideas are olive branches to France which wants a stronger economic government for the 19-nation currency area, a euro zone parliament and a fiscal shock-absorber to support

countries that hit on hard times.

Schäuble's ministry denied a report in the conservative *Frankfurter Allgemeine Zeitung* that he had proposed stripping the European Commission of key powers to regulate competition and the EU single market.

His concern is to put a body less susceptible to political influence than the Commission in charge of applying the bloc's budget rules - a swipe at Commission President Jean-Claude Juncker and his Economics Commissioner Pierre Moscovici, seen as too soft on Greece and on France.

German officials are open to the idea of a specific parliament for the euro zone to make decisions more democratic - either a sub-set of the existing European Parliament or a hybrid of the EU legislature and members of national parliaments.

Typically for her cautious leadership style, Merkel is observing and possibly encouraging this debate to ease pressure from the Greece crisis, without showing her own preferences yet.

That may come in October when EU leaders discuss a report by Juncker and the heads of other EU institutions for strengthening the governance of the euro zone.—Reuters

Canada PM set to call Oct 19 election, focus on sluggish economy

OTTAWA, 2 Aug — Canadian Prime Minister Stephen Harper was set to call a parliamentary election for Oct 19 on Sunday, kicking off a marathon 11-week campaign likely to focus on a stubbornly sluggish economy and his decade in power.

Harper's office said in a statement he is due to visit Governor General David Johnston - the representative of the Queen, Canada's head of state - at 9:55 a.m.

Harper is expected to seek the dissolution of Parliament, triggering the start of the campaign.

Polls indicate that Harper's right-of-centre Conservative Party, which has been in office since 2006, could well lose its majority in the House of Commons.

That would leave Harper at the mercy of the two main centre-left opposition parties, who could unite to



A combination picture shows (L-R) New Democratic Party (NDP) leader Thomas Mulcair, Conservative Party leader and Canadian Prime Minister Stephen Harper and Liberal leader Justin Trudeau attending the Calgary Stampede in Calgary, Alberta, July 3, 2015.—REUTERS

bring him down. Minority governments in Canada rarely last more than 18 months. Harper, 56, says only he can be trusted to manage an economy that is struggling to cope with the after-effects of below-par global growth and a plunge in the price of oil, a major Canadian export.

The Conservatives are

trailing slightly behind the left-leaning New Democrats (NDP), who have never governed Canada. The Liberals of Justin Trudeau are well behind in third.

Both parties say Canada needs a change from Harper, who has cut taxes, increased military spending, toughened the country's criminal laws and stream-

lined regulations governing the energy industry.

Five of Canada's last six election campaigns have lasted the minimum length of just over five weeks.

The Conservatives have deep pockets and the campaign - the longest in modern Canadian history and the third longest on record - will allow them to run

a wave of attack ads. Opposition parties say this is an abuse of the system.

Ipsos Public Affairs pollster John Wright said the chances of the Conservatives winning any kind of government were 50 percent, down from 88 percent last year.

"This really is a very competitive," he said.

Harper has dismissed opposition calls for increased government spending to stimulate the economy. Data released on Friday showed gross domestic product shrank in May, the fifth decline in a row. The figures suggest the economy was likely in a technical recession in the first half of 2015.

At time of dissolution, the Conservatives had 159 seats in the 308 seat House of Commons, the NDP 95 and the Liberals 36. The new House will contain 338 seats.—Reuters

Five found shot to death in Mexico City apartment

MEXICO CITY, 2 Aug — Four women and a man were found dead in a middle-class neighborhood in the Mexican capital on Friday, a rare occurrence in the city despite drug violence hot spots elsewhere in the country.

Three of the women found shot to death lived in the apartment in the middle-class Narvarte neighborhood in the southern part of the city, the local prosecutor's office said in a statement on Saturday.

Among the dead was photojournalist Ruben Espinosa, who worked for leading Mexican magazine *Proceso* as well as the Cuartoscuro photo agency, local media reported.

Reuters

Two security forces killed, 31 wounded in PKK suicide attack in east Turkey



A demonstrator holds a portrait of Kurdistan Workers Party (PKK)'s jailed leader Abdullah Ocalan during a march in solidarity with him in Diyarbakir, Turkey, 1 August, 2015. —REUTERS

ISTANBUL, 2 Aug — Two security force members were killed and 31 were wounded in a suicide bombing attack overnight by the Kurdistan Workers Party (PKK) in Turkey's eastern province of Agri, the local governor's office said in a statement on Sunday.

The attack was carried out with a tractor loaded with two tonnes of explosives on a gendarmerie outpost located in the

Dogubeyazit district of eastern Agri province, bordering Iran, the governor's office said.

One soldier was also killed in Turkey's southeastern province of Mardin when a military vehicle detonated a mine, local media reported. Eight soldiers were also wounded.

Armed attacks by PKK militants in southeastern Turkey have increased since mid-July, much

more so since Turkey began a campaign of air strikes on PKK camps in northern Iraq on July 24.

In what prime minister Ahmet Davutoglu has called a "synchronized fight against terror", Ankara has granted access of its bases to the U.S.-led coalition battling Islamic State, however so far the majority of Turkey's air bombardment has been on PKK

U.S., Egypt begin strategic dialogue, first since 2009

CAIRO, 2 Aug — The United States and Egypt began strategic dialogue talks on Sunday, their first since their relationship was strained by the military ouster of President Mohamed Mursi after mass protests against his rule in 2013.

Despite U.S. lawmakers' concerns that Egypt is lagging on democratic reforms, Egypt remains one of Washington's closest security allies in the region.

"The launching of the strategic dialogue today is a serious chance for the two sides to review the different parts of the Egyptian-American relationship, politically, militarily and economically and assessing this relationship in all respects," Egyptian Foreign Minister Sameh Shukri said in his opening remarks.

Shukri said he hoped the dialogue would "deepen" bilateral cooperation between the two countries.

Relations had cooled after Mursi of the Muslim Brotherhood was overthrown by the military in 2013 after mass protests against his rule, but ties with former general Abdel Fattah al-Sisi, who was later elected to succeed him, have steadily improved. The countries last held wide-ranging strategic talks in Dec. 2009.—Reuters

targets.

Turkish officials have said the strikes against the PKK are a response to increased violence. Sunday's attacks have brought the number of security forces killed in attacks blamed on the PKK to at least sixteen, since July 20.

Western allies, including NATO and the United States, have supported Turkey's actions but several have also urged it not to use excessive force or to let years of peace efforts with Kurdish militants collapse.

Turkish President Tayyip Erdogan initiated negotiations in 2012 to try to end the PKK insurgency, largely fought in the predominantly-Kurdish southeast and which has killed 40,000 people since 1984. The ceasefire, though fragile, had been holding since March 2013.

On Tuesday, Erdogan said the process had become impossible and urged parliament to strip politicians with links to the militants of immunity from prosecution.

The leader of Turkey's pro-Kurdish opposition has accused Erdogan of launching air strikes in Syria and Iraq to prevent Kurdish territorial and political gains, and of using the war against Islamic State as a cover.

Reuters

Kurdish militia in Syria accuses Turkey of "provocative" attacks

BEIRUT/ISTANBUL, 2 Aug — Kurdish militia fighting Islamic State in Syria accused Turkey on Saturday of targeting it at least four times in the past week, calling the attacks provocative and hostile.

Turkey began a campaign of air strikes on Kurdistan Workers Party (PKK) camps in northern Iraq and Islamic State fighters in Syria last Friday, in what Prime Minister Ahmet Davutoglu has called a "synchronised fight against terror".

The campaign has raised suspicions among Kurds that Ankara's real agenda is checking Kurdish territorial ambitions rather than fighting Islamic State.

The president of Iraq's Kurdistan region on Saturday condemned Turkey's bombardment of Zargala, a village there which he said had killed civilians, and called for a return to the peace process between Ankara and the PKK.

Turkey's foreign ministry said the allegations would be investigated in a joint inquiry with the government of Iraq's Kurdistan.

"It is known that there are no civilians in the Zargala terrorist camp but senior PKK members were present during the air strikes," the ministry said in a statement.

"Meanwhile it is a fact that the terrorist organisation unfortunately uses civilians as human shields," it said.

The Syrian Kurdish YPG said in a statement on its website that it came under cross-border fire on four occasions in the past week and described sightings of Turkish jets over northern Syria.

The militia, which regularly coordinates with U.S.-led air forces bombing Islamic State, said it had nothing to do with conflict between the PKK and Turkey.

"We consider recent movements of the Turkish military as provocative and hostile actions," the statement said.

"We ask our partners in the U.S.-led international coalition against ISIS to clarify their approach towards these actions of the Turkish military."

Turkey made a turnaround last week by granting U.S.-led forces fighting Islamic State access to its air bases.

Pentagon spokeswoman Laura Seal said they had seen reports of the attacks on the YPG. "We note that the Government of Turkey has clarified that its military action is directed solely at ISIL inside Syria, and, in response to PKK attacks in Turkey, against PKK encampments in Northern Iraq," she said in a statement.

Seal said the United States supports various groups fighting Islamic State "while also encouraging them to respect the multi-ethnic makeup of areas they have cleared from ISIL."—Reuters

Five killed in clashes near oil port in eastern Libya

BENGHAZI, 2 Aug — Five people were killed and 12 wounded during clashes in eastern Libya between forces loyal to its internationally recognised government and Islamist groups, medics said on Sunday.

Fighting broke out on Saturday in the town of Ajdabiya, near the oil port of Brega, and a war plane attacked suspected Islamist positions to the south of the town, residents said.

It was unclear whether the Islamist fighters were affiliated to Islamic State militants, who on Friday attacked a checkpoint manned by troops loyal to the official government outside Ajdabiya, killing five soldiers.

Two more soldiers were killed when the government sent reinforcements, and another 15 have been missing since.

Islamic State has exploited a grow-

ing security vacuum in Libya, where two administrations - each with its own government and parliament - are fighting for control four years after the toppling of Muammar Gaddafi.

The official prime minister has been based in the east since a rival group seized the capital Tripoli. He has been working with his cabinet from hotels in the city of Tobruk, about 270 km (167 miles) from Ajdabiya.

Both sides have several former anti-Gaddafi rebel groups fighting for them. After Gaddafi's ouster, the various factions split along political, regional and tribal lines.

Militants loyal to Islamic State, the group which has seized much of Syria and Iraq, has taken over the central city of Sirte, to the west of Ajdabiya.—Reuters

Saudi killed in shelling from Yemen

CAIRO, 2 Aug — A Saudi citizen was killed in shelling fired across the border from Yemen into the southwest of Saudi Arabia on Sunday, the official SPA news agency reported.

A shell fell on a house around dawn in Najran province, civil defence department spokesman Ali bin Omair al-Shahrani was quoted as saying.

SPA did not say who carried out the shelling, but Houthi rebels and forces loyal to former Yemeni president Ali Abdullah Saleh have carried out similar attacks since war erupted in Yemen four months ago. A Saudi-led Arab alliance launched a military campaign on March 26 to end Houthi control over much of Yemen and to return President Abd-Rabbu Mansour Hadi from exile.—Reuters

PERSPECTIVES

Monday, 3 August, 2015

Act your age

By Kyaw Thura

There is nothing new about people doing trivial things and sometimes scandalous things in their lives, with misery just befalling them and their families. But for people in a position of responsibility, their slipshod comments tend to have greater impact on society. They should have come to the realization that self-illusion is synonymous

with self-destruction.

In an organization, the personal stupidity and greed of fat cats will be considered a constant source of mistrust and disrespect for the workers, thereby shaking the foundations of office politics. Similarly, it will be bold to suggest that parliamentarians of this kind are generally held in great public contempt by people of every kind in all walks of life.

It should be noted that age is just a number and that position is no more than a responsibility. In this instance, being senior in age or position does not necessarily imply that one knows and can do better than one's juniors. In addition, the belief that you are better than others is a dangerous illusion.

On the whole, the ordinary people in our

country are likely to be optimistic about bad luck. When bad luck befalls them, they put the blame on themselves in the thought that they might have committed some wrongdoing in one of their past existences. From a religious point of view, abandoning ourselves to fate is regarded as an act of sheer folly.

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

Shwedagon Pagoda Great Wonder

Htun Tin Htun

(Continued from 2-8-2015)

"Wonderful, indeed, it is to subdue the mind, so difficult to subdue, ever swift, and seizing whatever it desires. A tamed mind brings happiness." (Dhammapada Verse No. 35). In the 11th Century AD, is the figure of Ashin Arahan who began his propagation of Theravada Buddhism in Bagan in 1056 AD. Thus the images span a time period of more than 1500 years from the 6th century BC to the 11th century AD. They include not only those associated with the commencement of Theravada teachings in the Mon State but the transmission of these teachings from the southern to the central part of the country, from the Mon State to the later capital of Bagan. (Text and New Contexts: Shwedagon and Kyaikhtiye today Elizabeth Moore, University of London "Texts and Contexts" December 2001 Conference, Universities' Historical Research Centre, Yangon University)

Outlook of Myanmar Classical Architect from "The Ancestral Stupas of Shwedagon" point of view is briefly mentioned below. The Shwedagon is the most glorious and the most famous pagoda in Myanmar, which is situated at Yangon, the port city of Myanmar. A stupa 326 feet high on top of a hillock is completed coated with thin sheets of real gold plates, brilliantly shining in the sun light. According to the old Shwedagon Pagoda chronicle, it is said that, this stupa existed since the very earlier time, contemporary to that of the Lord Buddha, enshrining the holy hair relic of the Buddha, which were given to two merchant brothers of Uk-kalar-pa by the Lord Buddha; a few days after his Enlightenment. Not only the hair relic of

Gautama Buddha, but also the other holy relics, such as the robe, the walking stick and the water filter of the previous Buddhas, Kaku-sanna, Kona-gamana and Kasapa were enshrined inside the relic chamber of Shwedagon Pagoda.

Nothing is impossible to one with 4 Ws (will (mind), work-hard (effort), wish-to-do and wisdom) (4 Bases of Success) to build back better. There is a will there is a way for advancement, betterment, comfort, development and enhancement (AB-CDE). Prevention is better than cure. The most inner stupa, built by king Uk-Kalar-Pa and two merchant brothers, was only 66 feet high. The stupa was frequently enlarged, at least seven times, by the later Mon Traditional architect and individual archaeologist, Mandalay, Myanmar. The Ancestral Stupas of Shwedagon were found and placed on the outer platform of Shwedagon Pagoda. Kings, including the Queen Shin Saw Pu, raised up to the height of 302 feet by encasing a new one on top of another. The Shwedagon Pagoda was situated at the lower Myanmar country, mostly ruled by the Mon Kings, many kings from the upper Myanmar also used to renovate the Shwedagon Pagoda, when the stupa was damaged or collapsed by earth quakes.

Donation (Generosity-Saga) of general public from all walks of life is crucial and of paramount importance for building and renovation of pagodas in Myanmar. King Bayint Naung from Hamsawady, and his son King Nanda, Anauk-bet-lun-min from Innwa, King Alaung Paya from Shwebo and his descendant kings of Kone-Baung dynasty up to the King Min Don, used to renovate the pagoda by donating colossal bells and by putting new golden umbrellas, decorated with thousands of valuable precious stones. Out of three colossal

bronze bells, donated by the kings, the bell of king Dharmaditya was lost and later only two bells found, the bell of king Thar-yar-wady and the bell of King Singu-min.

Existing architectural design of Shwedagon Pagoda is very popular among a lot of monks and Buddhist people, not only in Myanmar, but also in foreign countries, who copy the replica stupas of Shwedagon Pagoda in various sizes, starting from a small model to the life-sized copy of the Shwedagon Pagoda. (Paper presented at the International Buddhist Conference, held in Brastaji, Indonesia, October 2010 by U Win Maung (Tampawady), Classical Architect, Myanmar:- Source: website).

Recognized by all visitors from around the world and local visitors, the Shwedagon Pagoda will surely fulfil your wishes, tranquillity, peace and happiness. There are some outstanding wonders of the pagodas built or placed on the Shwedagon. (1). The Padamya Myetshin Tawagu (Wish Fulfilled) Ruby Buddha, situated directly on the east of upper reliquary; (2). the Weitzar Zaw Gyi at Saturday corner; (3). At the northwest corner of the Pagoda is the wish-fulfilled Shinsaw Pu Buddha Image; (4). Shin-Ma-Htee Buddha image on north side of Naung Taw-Gyi Pagoda; (5). The Shin-Iz-Za Gaw-Na Buddha inside the praying hall, (6) the Hsan-Taw-twin Buddha image facing the prayer hall on the Pagoda's northern side is the place where the Buddha's hair relic were washed before they were enshrined and the pagoda built over them; (7). On the eastern (in between East and North) side you will come across and find the Boe Boe Aung's wishful Buddha Image; (8). There is also Let-Pet-Let (La-bamu-ni) Buddha image in the prayer hall on the eastern side; (9). Pya Dar Shin Buddha image

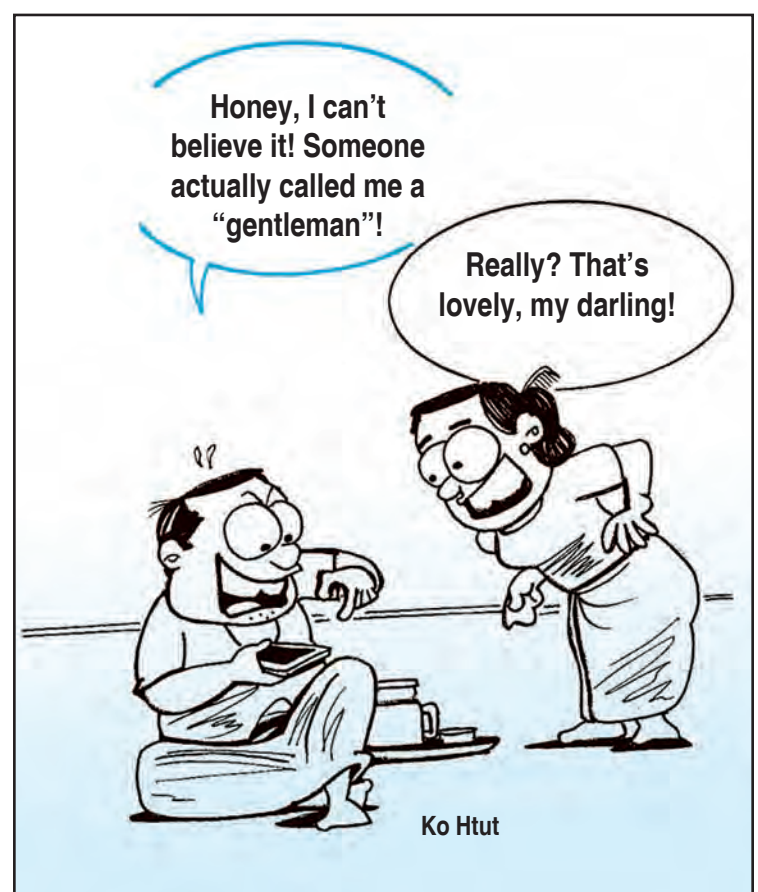
and it is believed that all these (9) Buddha images are very holy obsessing inner power and thus these places are designated as nine holy and auspicious places that can fulfil one's wish and therefore, it is named as the (9) wonders of the Shwedagon Pagoda. On the pagoda platform there are (9) Victorious Land Plots; (9) Main Determination Places; (9) Mindful Unique Statues; and (9) Must Know Places (like bells, inscriptions, footprint, Bodhi tree etc.) on Shwedagon Pagoda too. On the platform of the Pagoda nearby Chan-Thar-Gyi Tazaung adjacent to North Gateway, there is the victorious land plot or Aung-Myay is situated and to the east of Aung-Myay there is Padauk Waing Image and this image

turned its eyes towards persons paying homage to it which is really fascinating. The Shwedagon is the most pious and most wonderful pagoda and most renown. Because of systematic architectural work in accordance with right ratios in different parts of the Pagoda, even though it is very high, it is firm and elegant therefore, just by sitting in front of this huge Pagoda and gazing at it, you will get the pleasure and feeling that you never can find anywhere. The traditional Myanmar architectural works of arts stands proof of how Myanmar build this great wonder of the world which is internationally known throughout the Globe, in other words, the Shwedagon Pagoda is a unique wonder of the world. (from websites)

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LOCAL NEWS

Five star Sheraton hotel to emerge in 2017 in Yangon

YANGON, 2 Aug — Sheraton Hotel Yangon project at five star level has been completed by 45 percent in Yangon.

US-based Star Wood Hotels and Resorts Company and Family Business Group Hotel Ltd plan to spend US\$30 million on construction of the hotel with 375 suits on a 1.23 acres of land. A plan is underway to operate the hotel in February 2017. The hotel will have a basement car park for 200 vehicles and be installed with 12 lifts and three escalators.—Soe Win (SP)



Mandalay Mayor inspects prevention of flood along bank of Ayeyawady River



MANDALAY, 2 Aug—Mandalay Region Minister for Development Affairs Mayor U Aung Moun on Sunday inspected laying sand bags along the bank of Ayeyawady River for prevention of flooding and sluice gates in Mandalay.

At Gawwein jetty, officials reported on recession of water level in the river and preventive measures of flooding along the bank.

The minister instructed officials to take care of weather forecast from the Department of Meteorology and Hydrology.

He also inspected flood prevention at Ma-

yanchan jetty on the strand road, the sewerage draining plant and sluice gates of Mandalay City Development Committee.

Tin Maung (Mandalay)

Ayeyawady River swollen at Mandalay

MANDALAY, 2 Aug — Heavy rains in upper Myanmar area caused swollen Ayeyawady River daily. If heavy rain is weak in the upper Myanmar area, Ayeyawady River will not reach danger

level in Mandalay, according to the observatory station in Gawwein port.

Ayeyawady River reached 1342cm of water level in Mandalay in 1974 and 1382cm in 2004 as significant records. But, the water level set one more record as 1316 cm in 2007.

At present, ships and boats which recently berthed Gawwein and Ma-yanchan jetties moved to Strand Road. Local authorities assigned volunteers for water sentry along the bank.

Tin Maung (Mandalay)

Detour to ease traffic congestion in downtown Meiktila

MEIKTILA, 2 Aug — A 14-mile-long detour is under construction to ease traffic congestion in downtown Meiktila, Mandalay Region.

Minister for Transport U Kyaw Hsan said the Mandalay Region government assigned construction companies to build the detour with a target completion date of October.

“At present, earthen works and installation of conduits are being undertaken on the road,” he said.

Thawtawin Company is building a 9-mile-long section from Thabyewa junction to Meiktila-Thazi Road near Pyintha village, while Yuzana Company is building a 5-mile-long section from Pyintha village to the junction in Myayeway village.—Chan Thar (Meiktila)



TODAY'S
MYANMAR
NEWS SITES

Region gov't to open tender for tube-wells in Natogyi Tsp

NATOGYI, 2 Aug — Mandalay Region government plans to invite tender proposals for sinking 100 tube-wells for farmlands in Natogyi Township.

The township's Water Resources and Utilization Department has sunk more than 500 tube-wells for underground water tapping over a five-year period.

Thanks to the tube-wells, local farmers have been able to expand their croplands.

The region government has a plan to sink 780 tube-wells in six townships in fiscal 2015-16.

Khin Zar Mon Myint (Law)



Lloyds shareholders question government's sale plan

LONDON, 2 Aug — Shareholders in Britain's Lloyds Banking Group (LLOY.L) are calling on the government to rethink plans to sell down its stake in the lender to ensure taxpayers get the best deal.

Chancellor George Osborne has pledged to sell part of the government's remaining shares in the bank to ordinary Britons in a sale reminiscent of the 1980s privatisations of British Gas and British Telecom under former prime minister Margaret Thatcher.

But investors argue an offer to retail investors, which would need to be made at a significant discount to the market price, would not represent best value for taxpayers.

Instead, they say the government should allow UK Financial Investments (UKFI), which manages the stake, to continue with a trading plan which enables Morgan Stanley to sell the government's shares daily on the stock market.

"I do think it would be an awful lot simpler and less costly to sell the remainder of the shares in



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

the market than execute a retail sale at some fixed discount," Richard Buxton, head of UK equities at Old Mutual Global Investors, told Reuters.

UKFI has sold a 10 percent stake in the bank so far this year at a profit to the government's 73.6 pence buy-in price. The government has raised more than 13 billion pounds (\$20.3 billion) from its shares so far.

Lloyds already has the largest number of retail investors of any FTSE-100

stock and fund managers have questioned the logic of selling more at a lower price than they could be sold for to financial institutions.

"When we are dealing on behalf of our clients, we have a duty of best execution, to make sure we are getting the best possible price whenever we are buying or selling stock," Eric Moore, an income fund manager at Miton, told Reuters.

"It begs the question, is this best execution for

the government? It probably isn't," he said.

Lloyds was rescued by the government during the 2007-09 financial crisis at a cost of 20.5 billion pounds to taxpayers, leaving the government with a 43 percent stake.

Its performance has since been turned around by Chief Executive Antonio Horta-Osorio, who has simplified operations to focus on lending to British businesses and households. Lloyds is now the third-biggest bank in Eu-

rope by market value.

Its attractiveness to retail investors was boosted on Friday after it said it will look to return surplus capital to shareholders from the end of this year having already resumed dividend payments.

One factor behind the government's enthusiasm for a retail share offer may be the impending sale of its 78 percent stake in Royal Bank of Scotland (RBS.L), a significant chunk of which may be sold to retail investors, industry sources say.

Sources with knowledge of government thinking say the finance ministry is keen for investors to buy Lloyds' shares and benefit from the bank's turnaround as that may encourage them to buy RBS shares, too.

RBS is still counting the costs of past misconduct and has yet to pay a dividend. However, Osborne has set a target of selling at least three-quarters of the stake in the next five years.

"The Treasury won't be able to get the RBS disposal programme done without retail and if you're

going to sell RBS shares to retail in the future it would be nice to have a successful transaction concluded where retail participated and felt good about it," one source said.

RBS was bailed out at a cost of almost 46 billion pounds to taxpayers and the government's stake is worth about 31 billion at current share prices, meaning a potential loss of 15 billion pounds from its investment.

Other fund managers have said they would not object to a Lloyds retail sale especially if it offered the fastest route to full private ownership but only if it was done at a 3-4 percent discount which would be comparable to those typically offered in placings of large volumes of stock.

"Without a block placing, then you are looking at least another year before all the stake is sold. We'd be supportive of any mechanisms to speed that up, within sensible parameters. It is all about the terms," said Mike Fox, senior fund manager at Royal London Asset Management.—Reuters

Four dead, 65 sick in New York City Legionnaires' disease outbreak

NEW YORK, 2 Aug — A deadly outbreak of Legionnaires' disease, a severe type of pneumonia, has now killed four people and sickened 65 in the Bronx section of New York City since July 10, New York City health officials said on Saturday.

This wave of Legionnaires', which officials have called unusual, is now more than five times the number of cases recorded in the last outbreak, in which 12 people in the Bronx fell ill in December 2014.

The disease is caused by Legionella, a bacteria found in certain plumbing systems, including hot tubs, humidifiers, cooling towers and hot water tanks. It is spread by breathing in mist from water, and can-

not be spread from person to person.

The illness is most common in the summer and early fall, according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. Symptoms include fever, cough, headaches and muscle aches.

In response to the outbreak, the city's health department has inspected 22 buildings in the Bronx, 17 of which have cooling towers. Five buildings, including the historic Opera House Hotel, Lincoln Medical Center and the Concourse Plaza mall and movie complex, tested positive for Legionella.

Disinfection efforts are ongoing or have already been completed at all five sites.

Julio Vargas, general manager of the Opera House Hotel, said the water in the

cooling tower used by the hotel has been treated and disinfected, and there have been no reports of hotel guests falling ill.

The people who died from the disease were older adults with underlying medical problems, according to a city press release.

The department said the city's drinking water supply, fountains and pools have not been affected.

The disease earned its name following a 1976 outbreak among people who attended a Philadelphia convention of the American Legion, a veterans organization.

Between 8,000 and 18,000 people are hospitalized with the disease each year in the United States, according to the CDC.

Reuters

Better tea prices spur more tea gardens in Bangladesh



Woman pick tea leaves at a tea garden in Tetulia, Bangladesh, Aug. 1, 2015. Many new tea gardens are expected to be added due to relatively better prices of tea.—XINHUA

Osaka's Kansai International Airport opens overnight rest area

OSAKA, 2 Aug — Kansai International Airport on Friday opened a 24-hour rest area to accommodate passengers arriving late at night or leaving early in the morning.

The service area with dedicated staff, benches that can seat around 300

people and five coin-operated shower booths is located on the second floor of the Aeroplaza restaurant and shopping section. Blankets are also available for free from 11 p.m. until 6 a.m.

The international gateway for Osaka, Kyoto, Kobe and other western Japan cit-

ies has been increasing flights mainly from other Asian cities. Paid lounges with showers have seen people queued up after planes arriving late in the evening or before early morning flights.

Kyodo News

SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY

Minority Report-type insect robots jump on water

SEOUL, 2 Aug — The spider robots that invade the bath of Captain John Anderson, played by Tom Cruise, were one of the highlights of iconic 2002 film *Minority Report*. Now a team of international researchers has created a similar insect android that can launch itself easily from the water.

"I'm just fascinated by how the water striders can jump on water and I'm really excited to see that we were able to extract the principles from nature to re-create one of the most fascinating locomotion of nature, the water jumping," said Kyujin Cho, professor of mechanical engineering at Seoul National University. The prototype robot weighs just 68 milligrams and has a two centimeter long body.

The researchers from Seoul National University and Harvard University, studied how water striders (Gerridae) jumped on water, to create a robot that could successfully launch itself from the surface of water. They noticed that the creature's long legs accelerate gradually, so that the water surface doesn't retreat fast and lose contact with the legs.

The authors theorized

that the maximum force of the striders' legs is always just below the maximum force that water surface tension can withstand. In their robot they used a torque reversal catapult (TRC) mechanism to generate a small initial torque and gradually increase, without exceeding the water's surface tension.

High-speed camera footage of the insects also revealed that the water strider sweeps its legs inward to maximize the time they can push against the surface of the water, thus maximizing the overall momentum. They then applied this concept to help them achieve lift off.

If the water surface is not broken, it can endure 16 times the body weight of the robotic jumping insect. The robotic insects can jump as high on water as on hard ground.

In addition to Cho, the multi-disciplinary research team included biologists Professors Piotr Jablonski and Sangim Lee and fluid dynamics Professor Ho-Young Kim, all from Seoul National, and Harvard biorobotics Professor Robert Wood. Their work is published in the journal *Science* on July 31.—Reuters

Saving rhinos in a lab

SAN FRANCISCO, (California), 2 Aug — Matthew Markus, of biotech company Pembient, is holding up a rhinoceros horn worth thousands of dollars on the black market because a poacher had to risk his life to kill an endangered species to obtain it.

At least that is what Markus would have you believe. The truth is this horn wasn't cut off a rhino in the African savannah, it was bioengineered in lab in San Francisco.

Rhino horns are comprised primarily of keratin, a family of proteins that make up hair and nails. It is highly sought after in parts of Asia where it's used as an ingredient in conventional medicine. Markus and his partner George Bonaci obtained a real rhino horn and are using the latest techniques in biotechnology to replicate it so perfectly that it passes as the real thing.

"There is going to be some differences still. We are not bio-identical yet, though that is the goal. One

of the interim goals is to make it more costly to test the object than the objects worth, and I think we are pretty much getting to that territory now," said Markus.

If they perfect the science, the idea is to sell the lab grown horns. Markus he sees current day poachers as his best customers.

"We can't really control what happens to our horn once it leaves our distribution points. So there is potential that people will take our horn and re-label it as wild horn," said Markus.

"There are rangers, there are patrols, there is sometimes shoot to kill policies in place. We want to make it such that people (poachers) may not want to go out there and do this particular work anymore because it will not have this very lucrative payday for them," he added.

The big winners here are rhinos. Now that the technology to replicate their horns exists, the hope is that the incentive to hunt and kill them ends. — Reuters

Newly built science ship seen in C China's Wuhan



Newly built science ship Xiangyanghong 03 is seen in Wuhan, capital of central China's Hubei Province, July 31, 2015. Xiangyanghong 03, a science ship costing around 500 million yuan (about 80.5 million US dollars) was finished by Wuchang Shipbuilding Industry Group Co Ltd in Wuhan on Friday. —XINHUA

Philae lander shows there's more to comets than soft dust

BERLIN/FRANKFURT, 2 Aug — The comet lander Philae may be uncommunicative at the moment, but the pictures and measurements it took after it touched down on a comet in November have shown scientists that the comet is covered with coarse material, rather than dust, and is harder than expected.

European scientists celebrated an historic first when Philae landed on a comet called 67P/Churyumov-Gerasimenko in November after a 10-year journey through space aboard

the Rosetta spacecraft.

As it landed, Philae bounced and ended up in shadow, where its batteries soon ran out. But it still gathered unprecedented data, some of which the DLR German Aerospace Center said "amazed" scientists. A report on its findings will be published on Friday in a special edition of the journal *Science*.

"The experiments conducted on site have led to new and, at times, unexpected insights into the nature of the comet," Ekkehard Kuehrt, a planetary

researcher at the DLR, said in a statement on Thursday.

For example, pictures taken by Philae as it came in to land showed the surface of the comet was covered with coarse debris, rocks and pebbles, measuring up to five meters across, rather than the dusty deposits expected.

Scientists suspect the surface is partly shaped by a form of hail that occurs when gas ejections from the comet push out coarse particles that then fall back to the ground.

The surface of the com-

et, which the lander tried to drill into, also proved to be much harder than expected. Under a few centimeters of dust, the lander's hammer encountered solid ice.

"This ice is similar to firm on Earth, which is old, solid snow that evaporates and re-freezes," said Tilman Spohn, planetary researcher at DLR.

Scientists hope samples drilled by Philae from the roughly 3-by-5 km comet will unlock details about how the planets - and possibly even life - evolved. The rock and ice that make up comets preserve ancient organic molecules like a time capsule.

According to the DLR, Philae's systems found a total of 16 organic molecular species, including four never before encountered in comets.

Philae woke up last month when more sunlight started falling on its solar panels as the comet approached the sun, but scientists have been unable to establish a reliable communication link.

With an eye to possible future comet missions, Stephan Ulamec from the DLR said one important lesson had been learned: "Bouncing is a bigger problem than a possible sinking into the ground." —Reuters



Andrea Accomazzo (R) Spacecraft Operations Manager (SOM) of the European Space Operations Centre (ESOC) seen on a video projection behind a model of the Philae lander, reacts after the successful landing of the Philae lander on comet 67P/Churyumov-Gerasimenko. —REUTERS

Closer cooperation between Serbia, OAS



Serbia and the Organization of American States (OAS) want to improve relations and strengthen the cooperation in mutual interest, Serbia's Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Ivica Dacic and OAS Secretary General Luis Almagro said on Saturday.— TANJUG

BELGRADE, 2 Aug — Serbia and the Organization of American States (OAS) want to improve relations and strengthen the cooperation in mutual interest, Serbia's Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Ivica Dacic and OAS General Secretary Luis Almagro said on Saturday.

At a joint press conference after meeting Almagro, Dacic said he was glad to welcome in Belgrade the man who has been a great friend of Serbia since his term of office as Uruguay's foreign minister, and today he is at the helm of the organization that brings together 34 countries of North and Latin America, the Caribbean, and has over 60 for-

eign observers, including Serbia.

A considerable number of OAS member states have not recognized the unilaterally declared independence of Kosovo, and Serbia is thankful for that, Dacic said.

Serbia wants the closest possible relations and cooperation with all these countries at bilateral level, but also multilateral, through the OAS, he said.

Dacic said that with Almagro he also discussed the cooperation between the OSCE and OAS, and that they agreed to sign a memorandum of cooperation, which he described as a very important step.

Tanjug

Ex-soldier takes 20 years to overcome nightmares from war experience

UTSUNOMIYA, (Japan), 2 Aug — A former Imperial Japanese Navy soldier took some 20 years after the end of World War II to overcome nightmares from his experience in the Battle of Leyte.

Yoshiaki Waku, 91, was assigned to a fleet of 10 ships in November 1944 to transport army soldiers to Leyte in the Philippines from Manila. He was tasked with monitoring enemy ships.

At around noon a few days after departure from the Philippine capital, the fleet was suddenly attacked by U.S. aircraft when an arrival port came into sight. Waku and others jumped into the sea as their ship was hit hard. Other Japanese ships also sank one after another.

Waku and four others climbed aboard a wooden pallet they found floating nearby in the late afternoon of the day. The pallet was used to load mines.

One of the five men could not resist drowsiness and fell off the pallet into the sea and it was too late for others to save him.

At dawn the following day, two Filipino men approached them with two canoes and brought them ashore. The four could not enjoy the relief because they were immediately attacked by locals, who possibly wanted monetary



Yoshiaki Waku, a former Imperial Japanese Navy sailor, recounts his experience of drifting in waters off the Philippines during World War II in an interview at his home in Nasukarasuyama, Tochigi Prefecture, northeast of Tokyo, as seen in this photo taken on March 6, 2015.—Kyodo News

rewards from the U.S. military for capturing Japanese soldiers.

The four fought back and escaped to the sea. Waku and a fellow navy soldier found some 10 army soldiers clinging to a long log and joined them. But only Waku and the navy soldier eventually survived overnight, possibly because army soldiers were

not trained for such a situation, he said.

"I was also close to running out of energy without eating and drinking...(But) fortunately, the sea was warm," Waku recalled.

The two were saved by an army ship in the late afternoon of the day and brought to Cebu Island. The fellow navy soldier later died of tetanus resulting from a head injury received while fighting Filipinos.

As U.S. troops landed on Cebu in the spring of 1945, Waku and other Japanese soldiers wandered in jungles until the end of the war. In the process, Waku often saw dead bodies of Japanese soldiers but felt nothing.

Back in Japan, however, the memory returned as nightmares, said Waku, a resident in Nasukarasuyama, Tochigi Prefecture.

"Wars are tantamount to killing each other in reality. Since the end of the war, I had tried to beguile myself by devoting my energy to agricultural work, but I continued suffering from war experiences as they even came to me in dreams."

"I regained a sense of peace some 20 years after the war because I talked with fellow former soldiers about our experiences," he said.—Kyodo News

Former teenage soldier hatches millions from Chinese egg futures

SHANGHAI, 2 Aug — A decade ago Zhang Xiongjie was a teenage infantryman patrolling China's bleak border with North Korea.

Now he stays in swanky hotels and drives a Mercedes Benz CLS - a remarkable rags-to-riches journey achieved in part by dominating one of the most obscure corners of China's unruly financial markets: egg futures.

The story of how he earned so much money, so fast - 600 million yuan (\$96.63 million), he says, in 2014 - highlights the casino-like nature of China's nascent futures markets, and the vulnerability of such markets to a destabilizing rout.

Zhang trades on his own account and Reuters was not able to independently verify his earnings.

"Us poor people, when we are born, we're impoverished and uncultured. If we have such opportunity, why would we not take it?" said the smiling, soft-spoken 27-year-old in an interview.

The opportunity Zhang saw was very spe-

cific: to borrow a lot of money quickly to produce high profits in a poorly understood market.

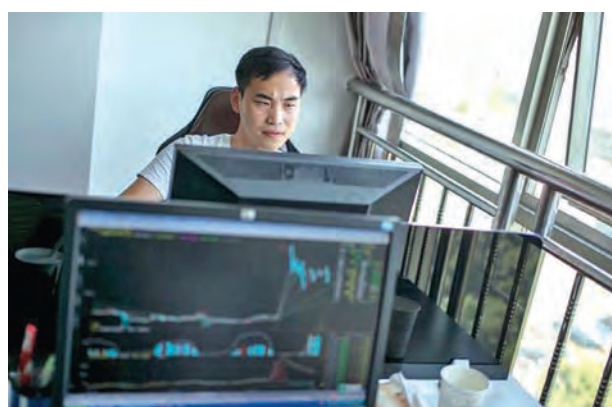
"The leverage is high in futures," Zhang said, who is spoken of as a celebrity by other Chinese traders. "You can make a fortune overnight."

But the high concentration of leveraged retail investors chasing overnight fortunes is a growing concern for China's regulators after recent turmoil in the country's stock market.

The speed of a stocks slide that began in mid-June was exacerbated by the snowball effect of investors who had used borrowed funds to buy shares being forced to sell to meet margin calls.

Zhang, whose trading now ranges well beyond egg futures, himself has already experienced massive busts, saying he lost as much as 400 million yuan in two days on bad calls last year.

Beijing has flitted back and forth between allowing futures - a financial instrument obliging the purchase of an asset at a certain date - the space to grow, and



Zhang Xiongjie looks at a computer screen as he works at his office in Hangzhou, Zhejiang province, July 27, 2015. REUTERS

reining in excesses.

In 1998, China closed 14 futures exchanges, citing "illegal engagement in overseas futures," "market manipulation" and "poor regulation," as reasons, according to an official government website.

But in a bid to open up its markets, China plans to allow trading in more asset classes, aiming to launch crude oil futures around September.

It was Beijing's decision to launch the egg futures market in November 2013 that allowed Zhang, from a poor family in the southeastern port city of Ningbo, to earn his reputation as the trader who

dominated the exchange last year.

"If I let it fall, it fell, if I wanted it to rise, it rose," said Zhang, who at the time worked in a specialist consultancy in Wuhan, which collected daily information from across the country on eggs.

Many agricultural commodities trade on futures markets, which developed to allow farmers to hedge against fluctuating prices, although China is currently the only country that trades egg futures, according to the Dalian Commodity Exchange.

Last year, the volume of egg futures traded increased 1,703.3 percent

from 2013, making it the 9th largest futures market in the world by volume, according to figures from the Futures Industry Association.

At its peak last year, 1.5 million metric tons of eggs were traded in one day according to the Dalian Commodity Exchange.

Now though, Zhang has outgrown egg futures, saying he has made - and lost - more money playing other markets.

"I only made 30 million yuan from eggs, now I lose that much in just one day," he said, adding that he now trades in steel rebar and iron ore futures, again using leverage.

Just like China's stock markets, the country's futures exchanges are dominated by retail investors, who are more flighty and likely to borrow from shadow lenders which demand high levels of interest.

In 2013, individual investors made up 97.4 percent of trading accounts in the futures markets, according to data from the official China Futures Association, and around 97 percent of the country's bourse according to data

from the securities regulator.

Although a minimum initial sum of 500,000 yuan is needed to buy equity futures, there are many asset markets where the initial outlay can be as little as 3,000 yuan - and the market is expanding.

Total volume in 2014 increased by around 10 percent on-year, according to data from China Futures Association.

"In theory, risks are higher for futures than for stocks ... principally because investors' access to leverage is too free," said Jiahe Chen, chief economist at Cinda Securities. "So taking a non-rational investment approach is more commonplace."

For Zhang, who patrolled the North Korean border for two years earning 1,000 yuan a month as a Chinese soldier to get a place in university, the ease of access to leverage in the futures market means he can dream big.

"The goal is to have the hedge fund with the highest return in the world, with capital of around 100 billion yuan," he said.

Reuters

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THE REPUBLIC OF THE UNION OF MYANMAR
MINISTRY OF ENERGY
MYANMA OIL AND GAS ENTERPRISE
(INVITATION FOR OPEN TENDER)
(12 / 2015)

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

Sr.No	Tender No	Description	Remark
(1)	IFB-037(15-16)	Derrick Shaker Screens (6) items Ex 7J 50D Drilling Rigs	US\$
(2)	IFB-038(15-16)	Gun Drill Reammer (2) Nos	US\$
(3)	IFB-039(15-16)	Spares for EMSCO Drive Group (3) Items	US\$
(4)	IFB-040(15-16)	Spares for HDD Rig (19) Items	US\$
(5)	IFB-041(15-16)	Spares for Rotating Accessories (13) Items	US\$
(6)	IFB-042(15-16)	Spiral Integral Blade Stabilizer and Inside BOP (3) Items	US\$
(7)	IFB-043(15-16)	Assorted Sizes of Rotary and Hydraulic Hoses (11) Items	US\$
(8)	DMP/L-006(15-16)	Oil Suction and Discharge Hose Pipe (2) Nos	Ks

Tender Closing Date & Time - 1-9-2015, 16:30 Hr

Tender Document shall be available during office hours commencing from 3rd August, 2015 at the Finance Department, Myanma Oil and Gas Enterprise, No(44) Complex, Nay Pyi Taw, Myanmar.

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

Fire continues on ferry off Hokkaido, 1 crew member still missing

SAPPORO, 2 Aug — A fire continued to smolder on a car ferry off Japan's northernmost main island of Hokkaido on Saturday after it broke out the previous day, hampering the search for a missing crew member.

Rescuers continued their search for 44-year-old Kunihiko Orita, a junior officer who went missing after attempting to extinguish the fire, according to the Japan

Coast Guard. High temperatures on the car deck where the fire broke out forced the rescuers to temporarily suspend their operations.

The 11,401-ton Sunflower Daisetsu, operated by MOL Ferry Co., caught fire in the Pacific Ocean about 55 kilometers off Tomakomai port in southern Hokkaido on Friday afternoon.

All of the 71 passengers, and 21 other crew

members and captain were evacuated.

According to MOL Ferry, the fire may have started on one of three or four refrigerated trucks parked on the car deck.

Power had been supplied to the trucks to maintain refrigeration aboard the ferry and it may have something to do with the cause of the fire, MOL Ferry said.

Kyodo News

Obama to unveil more ambitious climate change plan

WASHINGTON, 2 Aug — President Barack Obama will unveil on Monday the final version of his plan to tackle greenhouse gases from coal-fired power plants as he aims to cement his legacy on climate change, a senior administration official said.

The revised Clean Power Plan will seek to slash carbon emissions from the power sector 32 percent from 2005 levels in 2030, a 9 percent increase over a previous proposal.

The regulation will usher in a sweeping transformation of the U.S. electricity sector, encouraging an aggressive shift toward more renewable energy away from coal-fired electricity.

Industry groups and some lawmakers from states that have relied on coal-based energy have said they will challenge it in the courts and through

Congressional maneuvers, accusing the administration of a regulatory assault that will drive up energy prices.

The White House was defiant, and said the release of the plan was "the starting gun for an all-out climate push" by the president and his cabinet.

"My administration will release the final version of America's Clean Power Plan, the biggest, most important step we have ever taken to combat climate change," Obama said in a video posted by the White House Sunday at midnight.

He said there have been no federal limits to date on carbon pollution from power plants, the biggest source of U.S. greenhouse gas emissions.

The plan will be central to the United States' contribution to a United Nations agreement to tackle climate change, in which



U.S. President Barack Obama prepares to sign a federal Highway Trust Fund bill into law in the Oval Office at the White House in Washington July 31, 2015.—REUTERS

the Obama administration has vowed to play a leadership role. Each state will be required to submit a plan to the Environmental Protection Agency next year, spelling out how it will meet an emission-cutting goal assigned to it.

Five governors who

have opposed the rule have already said they will not comply. The final version will accelerate the deployment of renewable energy based on updated projections that the share of renewable energy generation capacity in 2030 will be higher at 28 percent, com-

pared to 22 percent in last June's version.

The Obama administration also changed its projection about the share of natural gas in the U.S. power mix in 2020, avoiding what it said would be an "early rush to gas" away from coal.

"Instead, the rule drives early reductions from renewable energy and energy efficiency, which will drive a more aggressive transformation in the domestic energy industry," according to a senior administration official.

The revised rule contains two new measures the administration said will "cut energy bills for low-income families" and drive down renewable energy technology costs, pre-empting arguments by opponents that plan will be too costly.

It will create a Clean Energy Incentive Program to reward states that take early action to deploy renewable energy project before the regulation kicks in 2022. It will also reward states that invest in energy-efficiency projects in low-income communities in 2020 and 2021.

Reuters

WEATHER REPORT

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

FORECAST VALID UNTIL EVENING OF THE 3rd August, 2015: Rain or thundershowers will be fairly widespread in Sagaing, Mandalay and Magway Regions, Kachin and Chin States and widespread in the remaining Regions and States with likelihood of isolated heavy falls in Shan, Kayin and Mon States. Degree of certainty is (100%).

STATE OF THE SEA: Squalls with moderate to rough sea are likely at times off and along Mon – Taninthayi Coasts. Surface wind speed in squalls may reach (35) m.p.h. Sea will be moderate elsewhere in Myanmar waters.

OUTLOOK FOR SUBSEQUENT TWO DAYS: Likelihood of decrease of rain in the Rakhine Coasts.

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Nepal expresses gratitude to China for support

KATHMANDU, 2 Aug — Nepal appreciated the assistance of its northern neighbor China as a valued development partner and a reliable friend in the wake of the Diamond Jubilee commemoration of the establishment of diplomatic relations between the two countries.

Addressing a commemorative reception hosted by the Nepal government here Saturday evening, Nepalese Prime Minister

Sushil Koirala thanked the Chinese government for continued goodwill and support to development endeavors of Nepal.

"We are grateful for the spontaneous, generous and prompt support from the government and people of China in the wake of April 25 earthquake and its substantive pledge for reconstruction", PM Koirala said.

China has pledged 3 billion yuan (about 480 million U.S. dollars) in aid

for quake-stricken Nepal's reconstruction process.

Stating that China's emergence as global powerhouse has created unprecedented opportunities to the neighborhood and beyond, the prime minister expressed confidence that Nepal-China relations will gain further momentum for the interest of people of both countries and world peace and prosperity.

Echoing the prime minister's statement, Nepalese Foreign Minister Mahendra Bahadur Pandey expressed gratitude to the Chinese government for its cooperation in diverse areas. "Nepal-China relationship is time-tested and multi-dimensional which

has reached a new height in these 60 years," Foreign Minister Pandey said.

Nepal and China established the diplomatic relations on Aug. 1, 1955.

In response, Chinese Ambassador to Nepal Wu Chuntai said China and Nepal share the best friendship and it's beneficial to both countries.

Quoting the saying "A friend in need is a friend indeed," the ambassador said, "Our relation is a good example based on the five principles of peaceful co-existence."

On the occasion of 60th anniversary, the Nepal government also published commemorative postal stamps.—Xinhua

Bobbi Kristina Brown funeral draws crowd of onlookers



Bobbi Kristina Brown

ALPHARETTA, 2 Aug — Dozens of onlookers gathered on Saturday near a Georgia church for the funeral of Bobbi Kristina Brown, the 22-year-old daughter of late singer Whitney Houston, who died this week, months after she was found unresponsive in a bathtub.

Brown's funeral at St. James United Methodist Church in Alpharetta, an Atlanta suburb, was private and closed to the public, but dozens of well-wishers

stood behind police barricades outside.

Brown died on Sunday at a hospice, six months after suffering irreversible brain damage in a still unexplained incident at her Roswell, Georgia, home.

She was found face down and unresponsive in a bathtub by her boyfriend, Nick Gordon, and a friend in January in an eerie echo of her mother's death. Whitney Houston was found drowned in a bathtub at a Beverly Hills hotel in 2012.

The Grammy Award winner scored numerous hits including "I Will Always Love You" and "Greatest Love of All," making her one of the most popular R&B artists ever.

Brown, whose father was R&B singer Bobby Brown, is expected to be buried on Monday next to her mother at a New Jersey cemetery.

Bobby Brown and singer Cissy Houston, the grandmother of Bobbi Kristina, were seen arriving at the funeral.

"My heart goes out to the family and I want them to see when they drive by that people really do care," said Maria Corkern, an Alpharetta resident among the crowd.

Adriane Gregory traveled from Connecticut with her husband and children to be near the funeral.

"We're die-hard fans of Whitney Houston and Bobby Brown, we just wanted to be near as we could be," Gregory said.

An initial autopsy this week found no obvious underlying cause for Brown's death but investigators are still looking into the case, which is under review by the Fulton County District Attorney's Office. No criminal charges have been filed.

Reuters

I want to be Beyonce: Michelle Obama



"I would be Beyonce. I've got the hands," Michelle Obama said demonstrating her moves. PTI

LOS ANGELES, 2 Aug — First Lady Michelle Obama has joked that she wants to be Beyonce Knowles.

When asked by rapper Wale, while promoting their Reach Higher campaign, what she would like to do if she had a different

occupation, Michelle gave the surprising answer, reported People magazine.

"I would be Beyonce. I've got the hands," she said demonstrating her moves.

Beyonce, 33, even performed at 51-year-old Michelle's 50th birthday

last year.

She also performed at the Neighborhood Ball celebrating the president's inauguration in 2009.

President Obama has previously noted that his wife and the singer, 33, share a similar charisma.

PTI

J J Abrams broke his back helping injured Harrison Ford

LONDON, 2 Aug — Filmmaker J J Abrams says he suffered a broken back trying to help Harrison Ford after the actor's leg was trapped under a prop door while filming "Star Wars: Episode VII – The Force Awakens".

The "Mission: Impossible III" director said he was stunned the way Ford handled the accident, which involved

his character Han Solo's spacecraft, reported Contactmusic.

"The guy is like a real-life superhero. We actually were filming a scene and there was an accident on set, there was a hydraulic door that went down.

"He was pushed down and his ankle goes 90 degrees. And he's down there and he's toughing it



Filmmaker J J Abrams says he suffered a broken back trying to help Harrison Ford after the actor's leg was trapped under a prop door while filming "Star Wars: Episode VII – The Force Awakens".—REUTERS

out. He's a super human being and he's literally lying there making jokes," Abrams said.

The 49-year-old filmmaker was diagnosed with a fracture in his lower back, and spent the next few weeks wearing a "really silly back brace," which he hid under his normal clothing in a bid to keep his injury a secret.

Abrams said, after

the accident, due to which the 73-year-old actor had to take an extended break from filming, he realised even he had hurt himself while trying to lift the door.

"I heard a 'pop' and I'm like, 'Uh, that's weird.' So I go to the doctor a couple days later and he goes, 'Oh, you have a broken back'."

PTI

Rapper Snoop Dogg stopped in Italy airport with \$422,000 in cash



Rapper Snoop Dogg performs in Uppsala, Sweden, July 25, 2015.—REUTERS

ROME, 2 Aug — Italian police stopped California rapper Snoop Dogg on Friday as he prepared to board a private plane bound for Britain with \$422,000 in cash in his Louis Vuitton luggage, said an Italian

lawyer representing the entertainer.

In the European Union, the maximum amount of undeclared cash one can take on board a plane is 10,000 euros (\$10,986.00). Snoop Dogg, who has been

touring Europe after releasing the album "Bush" earlier this year, will have to pay a fine, said Andrea Parisi, his lawyer.

"We clarified everything from a legal point of view. The money came from concerts he had performed around Europe.

There was no crime; it was just an administrative infraction," Parisi told Reuters on Saturday.

Half of the cash was given back to Snoop Dogg, whose real name is Calvin Broadus, while the other half is being held by Italian authorities until the amount of the fine is determined, Parisi said.

Reuters

LONDON, 2 Aug — Model Gigi Hadid has compared singer friend Taylor Swift's star-studded "Bad Blood" music video to her hit film franchise "The Hunger Games".

The 20-year-old beauty starred in her Swift's promotional clip alongside fellow models Cara Delevingne, Karlie Kloss, Lily Aldridge, Cindy Crawford, Martha Hunt, actresses Jessica Alba, Hailee Steinfeld, Ellen Pompeo, Selena Gomez, Lena Dunham, Serayah, and singers Kendrick Lamar, Hayley Williams, Ellie Goulding and Zendaya.

She found the experience "absolutely epic."

"What people don't understand about how massive it was is that

Taylor Swift's 'Bad Blood' was like 'Hunger Games': Gigi Hadid



Model Gigi Hadid has compared singer friend Taylor Swift's star-studded "Bad Blood" music video to her hit film franchise "The Hunger Games".—PTI

none of those were green screens, they're all real sets. It was like the super-

model 'Hunger Games'," said Hadid.

PTI

GENERAL

Athletes shrug off pollution issues at Rio Olympic test



A boat is pictured with the Sugarloaf Mountain in the background, at the Guanabara Bay in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, 30 July, 2015.—REUTERS

RIO DE JANEIRO, 2 Aug — Athletes, coaches and organizers at a major test event for next year's Olympic Games shrugged off a simmering dispute over safety at watersports venues by diving into the controversial waters off Copacabana Beach on Saturday.

The first day of the triathlon world championship event saw para-athletes swim in the Atlantic waters and bike and run in the streets nearby.

"I'm not concerned about the water," said Alison Patrick, a blind British ath-

lete who won the P-5 women's triathlon in partnership with her sighted guide Grace France. "The thing I noticed most was that the water was warm. I'm from Scotland and I'm used to much colder water."

The waters will be used for triathlon, ocean swimming and sailing events during next year's Olympics in Rio de Janeiro, the first to be held in South America.

Elite men's and women's triathlon events, scheduled for Sunday, offer qualifying spots for

next year's Games.

Concern over the athletes' health in the waters arose last week after an Associated Press report showed viral and bacterial levels in the water are equivalent to those in raw sewage.

Rio de Janeiro's state environmental agency declared some waters near the swimming site unsuitable for bathing on Friday but the worries did not seem to bother most competitors.

Rodrigo Garcia, director of sports for the Rio Olympic Organizing

Committee said bacteria levels in the water is within Brazilian and international standards.

Garcia said the committee has backup plans if heavy rains wash sewage into the venues.

Doug Hiller, medical officer for the International Triathlon Union said he was giving no special recommendations to athletes about Rio water quality.

"If I didn't have to work so hard today, I'd be in the water myself," he said.

Patrick and France said they took antibiotics and vitamins before the event and gargled with mouthwash afterward.

Some athletes, though, just ignored their concerns and fought through to the finish.

Blind U.S. triathlete Patricia Walsh of Austin, Texas who came in third in the P-5 event, was most concerned about the waves.

"The chop worried me most," she said. "It was hard to hear my partner, we usually only get to train in calmer waters," she said.

Her sighted guide Missy Kuck was less sanguine.

"I wasn't really concerned," Kuck said. "But let's be honest, the water was nasty."—Reuters

WWII museum opens in northeast China

HARBIN, 2 Aug — A museum on World War II has opened in northeast China's Heilongjiang Province, as the country marks 70 years since the conflict's end.

The museum houses a range of historical materials presented in multimedia forms. More than 200 items, collected from home and abroad, are being displayed in public for the first

time, curator Liu Chunjie said on Sunday.

Liu said the exhibition aims to teach the public about the history of World War II and remind people to cherish the peace and prosperity that Chinese soldiers fought so hard for.

A variety of activities are being held across China to mark the war anniversary.

Xinhua

Fashion show of graduation works from art school held in Beijing



A model presents a creation by graduates from the MGP Image Design Art School during a show of graduation works at 798 Art Zone in Beijing, capital of China, 29 July, 2015.—XINHUA

mitv Myanmar International

(3-8-2015 07:00 am~4-8-2015 07:00 am) MST

- | | |
|--|---|
| * News | * Sai Htee Hseng Or |
| * The Rising Glory Of Myanmar Arts | An Exceptional Music Star From Shan |
| * Wholesale Fish | Plateaus (Ep-4) |
| * News | * Fortune Teller: "Yan Moe Aung" |
| * The Writer: Chit Oo Nyo | * News |
| * Black Gold (Part- I) | * Trend Of Kachin Dress |
| * News | * We Love U-20 |
| * The Treasures in a Small Village (Part-1) | * News |
| * Orchid Lover | * A Street Vendor Spreading Knowledge |
| * Paper Flower | * News |
| * News | * A Journey To Southern Shan State (Ep-3) |
| * YUFL | * A Pilgrimage To Prominent Pagoda In Pakokku |
| * Development Momentum Of Sittway | * Modifying Natural Thanakha Bark into Ready-Made Skin Care Product |
| * News | * News |
| * Food Trip (EP-4) (Part-2) | * Tea Leaves |
| * Welcome to the Southern most part of Myanmar | |
| * News | |

MRTV News Channel in Brief

(3-8-2015, Monday)

- | | |
|--|---|
| 6:00 am | 12:30 pm |
| • Paritta by Venerable Min Gun Sayadaw | • Head Line News |
| 6:00 am | 12:35 pm |
| • Documentary (Min Gun Sayadaw) | • Tasty Trip |
| 7:00 am | 1:05 pm |
| • News/ Weather Report | • Gitadagale Phwintbarohn |
| 7:30 am | 3:30 pm |
| • Head Line News | • Head Line News |
| 7:35 pm | 3:35 pm |
| • Weekly Entertainment | • People's Talks |
| 8:30 am | 4:00 pm |
| • Head Line News | • News/ Weather Report |
| 8:35 am | 4:30 pm |
| • Documentary (Women in Myanmar Society) | • Head Line News |
| 9:00 am | 4:35 pm |
| • News/ International News | • University of Distance Education (TV Lectures) — Third Year (Physics) |
| 9:30 am | 4:50 pm |
| • Head Line News | • Teleplay |
| 9:35 am | 5:30 pm |
| • Documentary (ASEAN) | • Head Line News |
| 10:00 am | 6:00 pm |
| • News/ International News | • News/ Weather Report |
| 10:30 am | 6:30 pm |
| • Head Line News | • Head Line News |
| 11:00 am | 6:35 pm |
| • News | • Socio Economic Scenes |
| 11:35 am | 7:00 pm |
| • MRTV's Youth Programme | • News |
| 12:00 noon | 8:00 pm |
| • News/ International News/ Weather Report | • News / International News / Weather Report |
| | 8:30 pm |
| | • Documentary |
| | 9:00 pm |
| | • News |
| | • Pyi Thu Ni Ti |
| | • TV Drama Series |



Entertainment Channel

(3-8-2015, Monday)

- | | |
|------------------------|---------------------|
| 6:00 am | 8:55 am |
| • Mono Classical Songs | • Musical Programme |
| 6:20 am | 9:10 am |
| • Myanmar Series | • Fashion Show |
| 7:05 am | 9:25 am |
| • TV Drama Series | • Pyi Thu Ni Ti |
| 7:50 am | 9:40 am |
| • TV Drama Series | • ASEAN Programme |
| 8:40 am | 9:40 am |
| • Pyi Thu Ni Ti | • Myanmar Video |
| | 12:00 am |
| | • Close Down |

Artists from various fields join football tournament



MANDALAY, 2 Aug — The quadripartite football tournament with participation of artists from film, music, comedian and model fields kicked off at Mandalay Thiri Stadium in Chanmyathazi Township on 1 August.

Mandalay Region Minister for Social Affairs Dr Win Hlaing, Minister for Development Affairs U Aung Moun and officials greeted the players.

In the first match, film team beat comedian team 4-3 while model team routed musician team 5-0 in the second match.

Ve Ve Cup football tournament was arranged by Myanmar Media 7.

Tin Maung (Mandalay)

Rome does not plan referendum for 2024 Olympics bid

KUALA LUMPUR, 2 Aug — There will be no referendum to decide whether Rome's 2024 summer Olympics bid should go ahead despite the city's withdrawal of a previous bid in 2012 over financial concerns, Italian bid officials said on Sunday.

Rome campaigned briefly for the 2020 summer Olympics but the government pulled the plug on the bid saying the country's difficult economic situation at the time would prevent it from offering the necessary financial guarantees.

The Italian capital has since launched another bid to land the 2024 Olympics but is not planning to hold

a public vote over it, the chairman of the country's Olympic Committee said.

"No, no referendum," CONI President Giovanni Malago said when asked by Reuters if he would follow the lead of some other bidders.

"This does not mean that we do not want to involve public opinion," he said, though did not elaborate.

Rome is bidding along with Paris, Budapest and Germany's Hamburg for the Games with Boston's short-lived candidacy scrapped by the United States Olympic Committee this week over a lack of support from the city.

Hamburg has pledged to hold a referendum on

Nov. 24 while Boston also wanted a state-wide vote over their bid.

Other cities are also considering the move after four of six bidders for the 2022 winter Olympics pulled out in mid-race due to public opposition or financial concerns.

One of those four — Poland's Krakow — dropped out after a referendum showed the majority of city residents were against it. Bids from St Moritz and Munich for the 2022 winter Games also failed to materialize following defeats in local referendums.

The size and cost of the Games has been ballooning in recent decades putting a strain on host countries' finances.—Reuters

Beaten Man City let in four goals in Stuttgart friendly

STUTTGART, (Germany), 2 Aug — Manchester City conceded four goals in 36 hapless minutes on Saturday as they slumped to a 4-2 defeat by VfB Stuttgart in a pre-season friendly.

The Bundesliga club took full advantage of a shambolic defensive display by the visitors in the first half. Serbian midfielder Filip Kostic struck after 14 minutes and further goals followed from midfielder Daniel Didavi after 30 and fellow German striker Daniel Ginczek who netted twice in the 35th and 36th.

A week before the start of the Premier League season, City manager Manuel Pellegrini selected a strong, if adventurous, lineup in which 20-year-old George Evans was chosen to hold the midfield behind five forwards.

Ivory Coast midfield-

er Yaya Toure and City's South American players did not feature at all.

Pellegrini withdrew captain Vincent Kompany at halftime, replacing him with fellow Belgian Jason Denayer in a reshuffle that saw Ivory Coast striker Wilfried Bony replaced by 18-year-old Nigerian striker Kelechi Iheanacho.

Argentine Bruno Zuculini also came on for Evans and City hit back with two goals in the final eight minutes. The lively Iheanacho grabbed the first and late substitute Edin Dzeko notched the second, the Bosnian target man converting from close range in what may be his final appearance before joining AS Roma.

According to media reports, the two clubs have agreed a fee of 14 million pounds (\$21.88 million) for Dzeko.—Reuters



Daniel Ginczek scores the fourth goal for Stuttgart during Pre Season Friendly at The Mercedes-Benz Arena, Stuttgart, Germany on 1 August, 2015.—REUTERS

Lampard makes losing MLS debut for New York City FC

NEW YORK, 2 Aug — Former Chelsea and England midfielder Frank Lampard had an unhappy Major League Soccer debut on Saturday when his new club New York City FC were beaten 3-2 by the Montreal Impact.

The 37-year-old received a rousing ovation from the Yankee Stadium crowd when he came on as a substitute in the 69th minute, with New York FC already 2-1 behind.

Montreal went further ahead when Ignacio Piatti scored from the penalty spot

in the 84th minute, his second goal of the game, before New York FC managed a consolation through Thomas McNamara one minute later.

It was a satisfying away win for the Impact over a New York team that also included Spaniard David Villa and Italian Andrea Pirlo.

More than a year has passed since New York City, a new team in their first MLS season announced they had signed Lampard, who spent 13 years with Chelsea.

Lampard however

played for English Premier League team Manchester City, who are majority owners of the New York side, for the 2014-15 season, before joining the MLS though his debut was further delayed by a calf injury.

Montreal are sixth in the Eastern Conference on 27 points, three ahead of New York City, who have played three more games.

On a day of high scoring, DC United increased their lead atop the East to nine points with a 6-4 home win over Real Salt Lake. The 10-goal total was just

one shy of the MLS record.

Salt Lake went 2-0 up early, before Chris Rolfe scored a neatly-taken goal for DC just before the break and added a penalty in the 54th-minute to level the scores.

Defender Taylor Kemp put United ahead with a 20-yard rocket in the 59th minute.

Salt Lake's Aaron Maund then equalised at 3-3 before Fabian Espindola gave DC the lead again.

Abdoulie Mansally tied the score at 4-4 five minutes later before Perry Kitchen

and Nick DeLeon clinched the three points for DC in a second half that produced seven goals.

Goals were also plentiful in Florida, where Orlando City beat the Columbus Crew 5-2 behind a brace by striker Cyle Larin, who increased his season total to 11.

The Los Angeles Galaxy posted their first away win in almost a year, beating the Colorado Rapids 3-1, with Ireland striker Robbie Keane scoring the final goal deep in stoppage time.

Reuters



New York City FC midfielder Frank Lampard (8) warms up prior to the match against the Montreal Impact at Yankee Stadium, New York, NY, USA on 1 August, 2015.—REUTERS