



The swollen Ayeyawady River rises past its designated danger level in Nyaungdon, where residents are on alert.
MOI WEBPORTAL

RISING RIVER DANGER FLOOD WARNING ISSUED FOR AYEYAWADY REGION

By Aye Min Soe

YANGON, 4 Aug — Authorities have issued a yellow alert for flooding in Nyaungdon, Ayeyawady Region, where the Ayeyawady River has risen to its designated danger level, the Information Ministry said Tuesday.

Elderly people, women and children have begun evacuating from vulnerable areas in the

township to designated shelters, the ministry said.

Meanwhile, local authorities in Hinthada town in Ayeyawady Region issued a flood warning Tuesday, urging residents to move to shelters as the Ayeyawady and Ngawun rivers had exceeded their danger levels there.

However, some people ignored the warning, choosing to stay at their homes rather than

move to crowded shelters.

Around 15 shelters have been set up in Hinthada.

Meanwhile, prominent weather expert Dr Tun Lwin, the former director general of the government's weather bureau, warned Tuesday that Ayeyawady Region was prone to flooding as water from severely flooded areas in central and northern Myanmar flowed downriver to the country's

delta areas.

Four dams — Nankathu, Kanyin, Ma Mya and Kunchaung — in Ayeyawady Region have been draining excess water from spillways, according to the Ministry of Agriculture and Irrigation.

The Meteorology and Hydrology Department alerted residents of low-lying areas in Chauk, Magway Region, to possible floods as the Ayeyawady Riv-

er was likely to exceed its danger level there by 10 a.m. Wednesday.

The UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs reported Tuesday that water levels had receded in the main town in worst-hit Sagaing Region in the northwest. But it warned that as water moved downriver, floods were likely to expand and affect other areas.—GNLM

Final talks on ceasefire deal set for 6 Aug.

By Ye Myint

YANGON, 4 Aug — Peace negotiating teams from the government and ethnic armed groups will conclude mediation on 6 August in Yangon over three points left pending after the previous round of talks, a senior adviser at the Myanmar Peace Centre said Tuesday.

With the talks over a draft National Ceasefire Accord in the final stage, both sides will finalize the truce pact at the ninth round of talks, MPC senior adviser U Hla Maung Shwe told The Global New Light of Myanmar.

He described the three unresolved points set to be finalized in the upcoming round as “meeting agreements”.

“I have an understanding that negotiations will proceed smoothly, reaching compromise solutions over who the NCA signatories and international witnesses should be,” the MPC senior adviser said.

“International witnesses and signatories to the deal were among the topics between the President and leaders of four eth-

nic armed groups in Nay Pyi Taw on Monday.”

During the July talks, the ethnic side proposed international organizations including the United Nations, ASEAN and the European Union, as well as seven countries including the United States, the United Kingdom, Norway, Japan, China, India and Thailand, be set as international witness to

the signing of the NCA.

But, whether or not the signing will be “all-inclusive” remains a point of contention between the leaders of the two sides, he added.

The ethnic side's demand for the inclusion of all armed groups in the signing process was a source of disagreement at the previous round.—GNLM

Japanese gov't pledges emergency aid shipments

YANGON, 4 Aug — The Japanese government has pledged US \$150,000 worth of emergency relief aid for flood victims across Myanmar.

A press release of the Japanese Embassy in Yangon on Tuesday said Tokyo

decided to provide emergency relief goods including blankets, sleeping pads and plastic sheets through the Japan International Cooperation Agency. The good will arrive at Yangon International Airport on 5-7 August, according to the embassy.

The severe flooding across the country has affected more than 217,000 people, leaving 46 dead, according to the Ministry of Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement. Japanese Prime Minister Mr Shinzo Abe and Japanese Foreign Minister

Mr Fumio Kishida sent sincere condolences Tuesday to President U Thein Sein and Foreign Minister U Wunna Maung Lwin, respectively, for the flood victims, wishing a return to normality in Myanmar as soon as possible.—GNLM

PPE, NICT sign MoU on translation by machine



Signing ceremony of MoU between Printing and Publishing Enterprise and National Institute of Information and Communications Technology of Japan in progress.—MNA

YANGON, 4 Aug — Printing and Publishing Enterprise under Ministry of Information signed an MoU on translation by machine with National Institute of Information and Communications Technology of Japan at the hall of PPE on Theinbyu Road, here, Monday.

Managing Director of PPE U Aung Myo Myint and Vice Chairman of NICT Dr Shinro Mashiko extended greetings.

NICT signed the three-year term MoU with Myanmar as 10th country in 2011-2015.

Thanks to the MoU, both sides can exchange staff visits and research, information exchange, upgrading of research and holding technological meetings and workshops. The MoU aims to ease language difficulties between the countries.—MNA

Appointment of ambassador agreed on

NAY PYI TAW, 5 Aug — The Government of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar has agreed to the appointment of H.E. Mr. Patrick Simiyu Wamoto as Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the Republic of Kenya to the Republic of the Union of Myanmar with residence in Bangkok.

Mr. Patrick Simiyu Wamoto was born in January 1961. He graduated with Upper 2nd Class Honours Bachelor of Arts degree in Political Science from the University of Nairobi. He also received Post-Graduate Diploma in Diplomatic Studies from Oxford University, UK and Post-graduate Diploma in Multilateral Diplomacy from the Graduate Institute of International Studies in Geneva, Switzerland. In 1983, he joined the Ministry of Foreign Affairs as an Assistant Secretary III and was promoted to the position of Political and Diplomatic Secretary. He served in various capacities at the Ministry of Headquarters and Kenya Missions abroad as Permanent Secretary, First Secretary, Deputy Head and Director. He also represented Kenya in various international meetings and conferences. He was conferred with the Order of the Burning Spear, 2nd Class (Elder of the Burning Spear-EBS) by the President of the Republic of Kenya in December, 2010 for his exemplary contribution to Kenya's diplomacy. He is married with three children. He was further appointed as High Commissioner of Kenya to South Africa with concurrent accreditations to the Kingdoms of Lesotho and Switzerland in May 2013.

H.E. Mr Patrick Simiyu Wamoto will serve as Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the Republic of Kenya to the Republic of the Union of Myanmar with residence in Bangkok.—MNA

Republic of the Union of Myanmar Union Election Commission Nay Pyi Taw

Notification No. 42/2015

4th Waning Day of Second Waso, 1377 ME
(4 August 2015)

Union Farmer Force Party allowed to register as political party

The Union Election Commission announced Tuesday that Union Farmer Force Party headquartered at No. 478, 1st Nandawgon Street, Nandawya Ward, Bago, Bago Region, has been allowed to register as a political party as of 4 August in line with Section 9 of the Political Parties Registration Law.

The party's registration number is 99.

By order,

(Tin Tun)

Secretary

Union Election Commission

UN Special Rapporteur visits Insein Prison, MNHRC, MPC

YANGON, 4 Aug —The United Nations Special Rapporteur on human rights in Myanmar, Ms Yanghee Lee, visited Yangon's Insein Prison on Tuesday.

The Special Rapporteur interviewed prison officials and inmates before meeting with Myanmar National Human Right Commission Chairman U Win Mra at his office to discuss the country's human rights situation.

In the afternoon, she visited the Myanmar Peace Centre and met with its technical team to discuss the peace process.—MNA



Special Rapporteur Ms Yanghee Lee meets officials of Myanmar Peace Centre.—MNA

Water treatment technology on show in Yangon



By Khaing Thanda Lwin

YANGON, 4 Aug — A trade show in September will bring the latest in water treatment technology to Myanmar, one of the event's organizers said Monday.

UBM Asia will hold Myanmar Water 2015 from 17 to 19 September at Myanmar Event Park in Yangon. It will feature a wide range of technologies, services and supplies for the industry.

It will run alongside two other trade shows, one for renewable energy technology and the other for refrigeration and ven-

tilation, the organizer said. Organizer Mr M Gandhi of UBM said: "Thousands of industry professionals are expected to participate in the event to exchange knowledge and expertise in providing solutions to tackle the emerging challenges faced by the country."

Myanmar Engineering Society President U Win Khaing said the trade show would help improve the country's water industry by exchanging experiences among international experts.

The event also highlights the importance of renewable energy in the current market of Myanmar for future development

Corrigendum

Please read Maybank Group Chief Strategy Officer Michael Foong, instead of Maybank CEO Mr Soon Su Long, in third paragraph of the story "Malaysian lender opens first branch in Yangon" on Page-2 of this daily issued on 4-8-2015, and USD 10K instead of USD 11,000 in the fourth paragraph of the same story.—GNLM

plans, MES energy and renewable energy committee chairman U Thounng Win said.—GNLM



Vice President Dr Sai Mauk Kham views new fire trucks for Lashio Township.—IPRD

Equipping people's hospitals priority for gov't: vice president

NAY PYI TAW, 4 Aug — The union government is giving priority to providing medicine, equipment and staff to people's hospitals, Vice President Dr Sai Mauk Kham told officials Tuesday at the Nurse and Midwifery Training School in Lashio.

He promised to ensure the construction of staff quarters at the Public Health Department in Lashio.

An official reported on

preparations for construction of offices and servant housings.

In the afternoon, the vice president attended a ceremony to hand over six fire trucks to Lashio Township Fire Services Department.

The six fire trucks donated by New Star Light Company and well-wishers will be distributed to fire stations in Wards, 3, 4, 7 and 8 and Hopeik and Nampaung villages.—MNA

Vice president attends disaster management meeting, meets Petronas head

NAY PYI TAW, 4 Aug — Vice President U Nyan Tun on Tuesday said subcommittees are coordinating rescue, rehabilitation and reconstruction operations in flood-affected areas.

Speaking at the National Disaster Management Committee at his office, he stressed the need to assess losses in these areas to calculate requirement for cash and materials, urging region and state natural disaster management committees to coordinate their responses.

In the morning, the Vice President received Malay-

sia-based Petronas Company President and CEO Datuk Wan Zulkiflee Wan Ariffin and party at the Credentials Hall of the Presidential Palace to hold talks on cooperation in the oil and natural gas sector.

They also discussed investment in the energy sector and future development plans.

After the meeting, the Petronas chief donated US \$150,000 for flood victims in Myanmar to Vice President U Nyan Tun.

Also present at the meeting were deputy ministers U Thant Kyaw and U Aung Htoo.—MNA

Vice President U Nyan Tun discusses rescue, rehabilitation and reconstruction operations in flood-affected areas.—MNA



Pyithu Hluttaw speaker inspects flood prevention measures in Bago Region

THAYAWADY, 4 Aug—Pyithu Hluttaw Speaker Thura U Shwe Mann, together with Chief Minister of Bago Region U Nyan Win and officials, inspected flood prevention tasks in Monyo Township in Bago Region.

First, the speaker met with flood victims in Thayetgon Vil-

lage in Minhla Township and attended to their needs.

Then, the speaker and party attended the meeting of government departments, social organizations and local people and urged them to exert effort to prevent the embankment of the Ayeyawady River from be-

ing damaged by floods. Thura U Shwe Mann also thanked volunteer organizations from other parts of the country that help strengthen the embankment of the Ayeyawady.

He also greeted the local people warmly.

MNA



Speaker Thura U Shwe Mann meets rescue members in Monyo Township.—MNA

Ministries, UNFPA provide disaster relief supplies

NAY PYI TAW, 4 Aug—Deputy Minister for Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement U Phone Swe, secretary of the National Disaster Preparedness Central Committee, accepted two bales of clothes and K198 million for flood victims, here, Tuesday.

Well-wishers also donated K2.685 million and various relief supplies for flood victims to the Yangon Region Department of Relief and Resettlement from 29 July to 2 August.

Sagaing Region Social Welfare Department provided kits for women donated by the UNFPA to flood victims in Ayadaw, Kanbalu, Kyunhla, YeU, Budalin, Kawlin and Salingyi townships.

The Ministry of Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement had delivered K160 million worth of rice, emergency foods and construction materials, including compensation for 46 dead persons, to more than 230,000 flood victims in six regions and six states as of Monday.

The ministry of border affairs distributed relief supplies and cash K11.8 million in total to flood victims in Sagaing and Magwag regions, Rakhine, Mon and Kayin states. The ministry has provided K93.457 million to the people.

Rehabilitation of Rakhine State ravaged by flood is being undertaken through K3.216 billion from the special fund of the president.—MNA

Thai province donates goods for Kayin State flood victims

MYAWADY, 4 Aug — The Tak Province, Thailand, Chamber of Commerce youth group donated purified drinking water, foods and toothpaste worth more than K3.3 million for flood victims in Ward 2 and 5 in Hpa-an, Kayin State, on 3 August.

The Immigration and Customs Departments of Tak Province also donated purified drinking water, canned fish and instant noodles worth K598,000.

Township Administrator U Khin Maung Zaw and officials accepted the donations at the Thaungyin Hall of the Township General Administration Department.—*Tun Tun Oo (Myawady Town)*



Monasteries, school provide relief shelter in Myanaung Tsp

KYANGIN, 4 Aug — About 1,600 residents from flood-affected areas in Myanaung Township moved to relief camps being opened at Abayagiri monastery, Bavana monastery and the local basic education primary school recently.

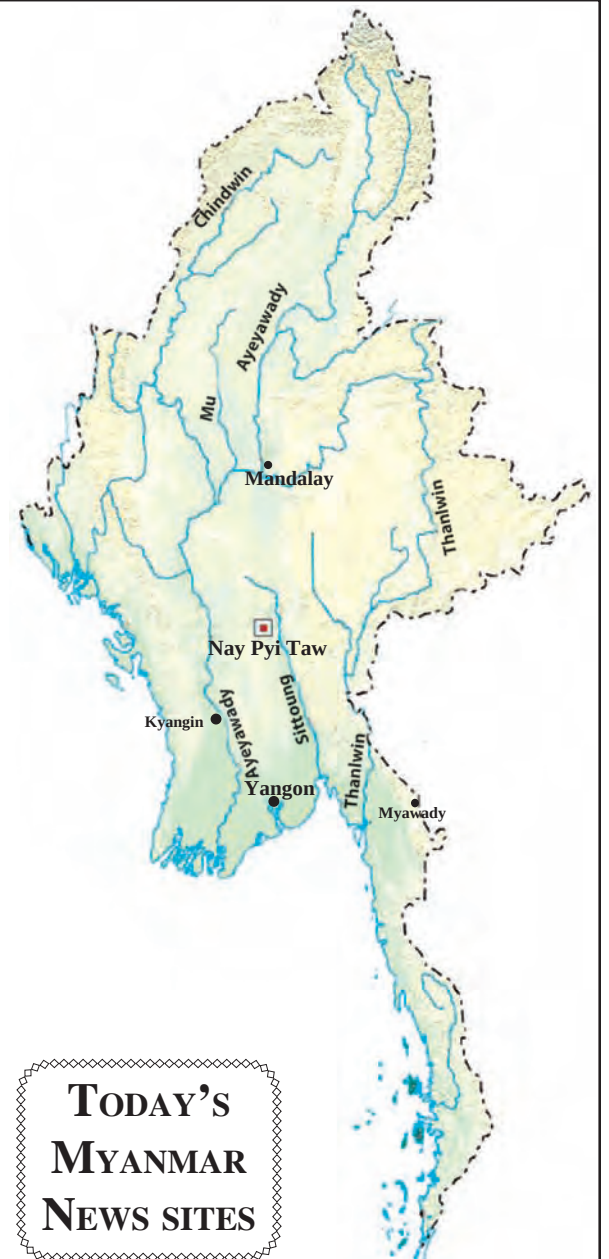
Members of the Sangha and volunteers distributed foods, snacks and drinking water to the flood evacuees.

According to local people, Thabyegon-Myanaung Road faces flooding if the Ayeyawady River rises further.—*Ayeya U Thar*

Border Affairs Ministry gives cash assistance to university students

NAY PYI TAW, 4 Aug—Under the guidance of the president, the Ministry of Border Affairs arranged cash assistance for university and college students in Monywa.

On 3 August, Pro-Rector U Thein Htay of the University for Development of National Races (Sagaing) presented K100,000 each to 254 students from Monywa University, Monywa University of Economics and Monywa Education College whose families were affected by floods.—*MNA*



District authorities emphasize regional development in Myawady Tsp

MYAWADY, 4 Aug — District deputy commissioner U Lwin Ko Oo and township officials on Sunday inspected construction of school buildings and paving of the local road in Shwe Kokkomyaing ward 5 in Myawady, a border town of Kachin State.

After hearing reports on regional development tasks, the deputy commissioner coordinated with officials to meet the education, health, transport and other needs of local people.

—*Htein Lin Aung (IPRD)*



Singapore magazine names Myanmar top destination



YANGON, 4 Aug — Singapore-based tourism magazine TTG Travel Trade Publishing has chosen Myanmar as its Destination of the Year for 2015.

An award ceremony will be held 1 October in Bangkok.

TTG Travel Trade Publishing has been awarding winners in four categories for Asia and Pacific regions since 1989.

GNLM

Poor families, monks receive free medical treatment

MANDALAY, 4 Aug — A medical team from the Aara Foundation performed free medical checkups on poor families residing along Strand Road between 33rd and 34th streets in Chanayethazan Township, on 2 August.

On 1 August, they also provided health care services to Buddhist monks, nuns and local residents in Mingun Region, Sagaing Township.

—*Thiha Ko Ko (Mandalay)*



REGIONAL

48th ASEAN Foreign Ministers' Meeting kicks off in Malaysia



(L-R) Myanmar's Foreign Minister Wunna Maung Lwin, Philippine's Foreign Secretary Albert del Rosario, Singapore's Foreign Affairs Permanent Secretary Chee Wee Kiong, Brunei's Foreign Minister Mohamed Bolkiah, Laos' Foreign Minister Thongloun Sisoulith, Malaysia's Foreign Minister Anifah Aman, Malaysia's Prime Minister Najib Razak, Vietnam's Foreign Minister Pham Binh Minh, Thailand's Foreign Minister Tanasak Patimapragorn, Cambodia's Foreign Minister Hor Namhong, Indonesia's Foreign Minister Retno Marsudi and Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) Secretary General Le Luong Minh pose for a photograph at the 48th ASEAN foreign ministers meeting in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia, August 4, 2015.—REUTERS

KUALA LUMPUR, 4 Aug — The 48th ASEAN Foreign Ministers' Meeting opened here Tuesday, drawing foreign ministers and representatives from 10 Southeast Asian countries to focus on the establishment of the ASEAN Community by the end of this year.

The 10-nation bloc is in its final spurt to realize the goal of establishing a single community by the end of 2015, which

involves a plan to create a common economic, political-security and socio-cultural region.

"This will be a huge step towards making the ASEAN motto 'One Vision, One Identity, One Community' a reality," said Malaysian Prime Minister Najib Razak at the opening ceremony.

Established in 1967, ASEAN comprises 10 Southeast Asian countries, Brunei, Cambodia, Indonesia, Laos, Malaysia,

Myanmar, the Philippines, Singapore, Thailand and Vietnam.

The ASEAN Community's Post-2015 Vision, the bloc's roadmap for the next 10 years, is also expected to be adopted this year.

By establishing the ASEAN Community, the region is hoping to enhance its role as a global player and be more active in the international community, according to Najib.

ASEAN on course to be world's fourth largest economy by 2050: Malaysian PM

KUALA LUMPUR, 4 Aug — Malaysian Prime Minister Najib Razak said here Tuesday that an increasing integrated ASEAN is on course to be the world's fourth largest economy by 2050.

"Some even estimate that we could be the fourth-largest market after the EU, U.S. and China by 2030 — only 15 years from now," Najib said when addressing the 48th ASEAN Foreign Ministers' Meeting.

The prime minister said that ASEAN has the third biggest workforce, only after India and China, and it is realistic for ASEAN to see itself as a "Third Force" in Asia. Referring to reports of several renowned institutions and some experts' remarks, Najib said that ASEAN is facing great opportunities and has made a lot of achievements, adding that ASEAN should play a more active role on the global arena.

Since the First ASEAN Ministerial Meeting, held in Bangkok in 1967, Najib said ASEAN has had an admirable record in preserving harmony in one of the most diverse parts of the world.

Najib said that the ASEAN Community Vision 2025 will be adopted at the 27th ASEAN Summit in November, and a single community for ASEAN will be established by the end of the December.

"But being a community also means placing appropriate emphasis on the development agenda," he said, adding that work must be done to narrow the gaps among the 10 member states which are at different stages.

"It is essential if we are to build a truly integrated ASEAN, which is why inclusiveness and sustainability must be at the heart of our policies going forward," he added.—Xinhua

India's Congress party protests against suspension of 25 MPs

NEW DELHI, 4 Aug — India's main opposition Congress party's lawmakers Tuesday staged a massive protest on the premises of the parliament against the suspension of 25 of its MPs.

Congress chief Sonia Gandhi, her son Rahul Gandhi and former prime minister Manmohan Singh led the protest of parliamentarians, wearing black badges.

"Democratic voices have been muzzled," Rahul Gandhi told the media, reacting to the suspensions of 25 of its parliamentarians.

Parliamentary speaker Sumitra Mahajan Monday suspended 25 Congress lawmakers for five days for "persistently, wilfully obstructing" the Lower House (Lok Sabha).

"It is a dark day for democracy," Sonia Gandhi said, after the suspensions.

The Congress, which has 44 members in Lok Sabha, have been disrupting the parliament everyday since the monsoon session began.

The party has been demanding the resignations of three top leaders of the ruling Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP), including External Affairs Minister Sushma Swaraj, caught in scandals.

Swaraj has been accused of helping the country's former cricket boss Lalit Modi, now a fugitive in London for alleged money laundering, secure travel papers in Britain. Swaraj has denied the allegations.—Xinhua

"It is timely for ASEAN's united voice to be heard more frequently at multilateral fora," he said, citing global issues such as the rise of radicalization and extremism, and irregular movements of persons, which cannot be resolved by one nation alone.

He expressed belief that an increasingly integrated ASEAN is on course to be the world's fourth largest economy in 2050 and it is time for ASEAN to fulfill its potential.

"We should be confident about our future and we should be vocal about our confidence," he said.

At the 48th AMM, ASEAN's foreign ministers will take stock on the progress of the implementation of the Roadmap for the ASEAN Community.

"The unity between our nations has never been stronger," said Malaysian Foreign Minister Anifah Aman at the opening ceremony, who also showed great optimism. What will be achieved in the next few months will set the course of ASEAN for decades to come, he said.

A series of related meetings will be held following the foreign ministers' meeting, in which ASEAN's dialogue partners, including China and the United States, will take part and exchange views on regional issues with the bloc.

Chinese Foreign Minister Wang Yi is here to attend the foreign ministers' meetings from Aug. 4 to Aug. 7 at the invitation of Anifah Aman.—Xinhua



Firefighters spray water on burned forest area in Pekanbaru of Riau province, Indonesia, Aug. 3, 2015. Indonesia's National Disaster Mitigation Agency (BNPB) has come up with measures to prevent forest fires that occurred in past years in plantation areas in Sumatra and Kalimantan. The fires cause haze that ran through neighboring countries of Singapore, Malaysia and part of Thailand.—XINHUA

N. Korea sends invitation to widow of Kim Dae Jung

SEOUL, 4 Aug — North Korea sent an invitation Monday to the widow of former South Korean President Kim Dae Jung who has expressed her wish to visit the country, the South Korean group arranging the trip said.

Officials of the Kim Dae Jung Peace Center said the North's Asia-Pacific Peace Committee, which handles matters related to South Korea, invited Lee Hee Ho to visit the country.

The committee had said early last month that it was uncertain whether Lee can visit Pyongyang in early August as earlier agreed to by the two entities, blaming South Korea's conservative media for spreading misinformation about her trip and hurting the dignity of Pyongyang's supreme leadership.

Lee and her 18-member entourage are planning to visit North Korea from Wednesday, leaving on a chartered plane from Seoul's Gimpo airport to Pyongyang airport for a stay through Saturday.

Lee previously visited Pyongyang in December 2011 to express condolences over the death of then North Korea leader Kim Jong Il and met with his son and successor Kim Jong Un.

Attention is on whether she will be able to meet with Kim Jong Un this time when inter-Korean relations remain tense.

The South Korean government does not plan to have Lee bring a message on its behalf.—*Kyodo News*



Flames rise from the site of an explosion that occurred during the graduation ceremony of new agents of security of the National Penitentiary Institute (INPE), in the constitutional province of the Callao, Lima department, Peru, on 3 Aug, 2015. The explosion of a plastic object Monday morning left four people injured in the National Centre for Criminological and Prison Studies (CENECP, for its acronym in Spanish), located in the constitutional province of the Callao, 14km west of Lima.—XINHUA



Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe

TOKYO, 4 Aug — Prime Minister Shinzo Abe urged the United States on Tuesday to look into allegations raised by the WikiLeaks anti-secrecy website that it spied on the Japanese government and companies.

"If (the alleged spying) were true, Japan, as an ally (of the United States), would find it extremely

Abe urges U.S. to look into alleged spying on Japan gov't, firms

regrettable. I'd like to continue to strongly urge (Washington) to check the facts," Abe told a committee in the House of Councillors.

Referring to the WikiLeaks website posts on Friday, the premier also said, "We will not respond immediately to a release by a private entity. It is important that we first check the true intentions of the United States, our ally." Abe's remarks indicated his reservations about convening a National Security Council meeting to discuss the matter.

On Monday, Chief Cabinet Secretary Yoshihide Suga said the government has asked U.S. Director of National Intelligence James Clapper to look into the facts. U.S. State Department deputy spokesman Mark Toner said in a press conference Monday the U.S.

and Japanese government are "in touch" on the issue.

Without revealing the contents of the discussions, Toner said, "I would just again reiterate the fact that Japan is a stalwart U.S. partner and ally in the region."

Japanese Deputy Prime Minister and Finance Minister Taro Aso, meanwhile, stressed the need for ministries and other government organizations to strengthen efforts to protect information.

"Although (the United States is) an ally, companies (of the two countries) are competing against each other. Such an allegation is possible," Aso told a press conference.

Economy, Trade and Industry Minister Yoichi Miyazawa said that the government would "need to take actions" if the allegations

were true.

WikiLeaks posted what it says are U.S. National Security Agency reports and a list of 35 Japanese targets for telephone intercepts, including the Japanese Cabinet Office, the Bank of Japan, and the country's finance and trade ministries, as well as major Japanese trading companies.

The telephone intercepts dated back at least to the time of Abe's first government launched in 2006, and targeted internal Japanese discussions on international trade and climate change policy, according to WikiLeaks.

WikiLeaks has also released similar reports about the United States spying on Germany, France and Brazil that have strained diplomatic relations with those countries.—*Kyodo News*

Blast in Korean DMZ wounds two South Korean soldiers

SEOUL, 4 Aug — Two South Korean soldiers were wounded by an explosion on Tuesday, possibly caused by a landmine, in the heavily fortified Demilitarised Zone (DMZ) that divides North and South Korea, military officials said.

The two soldiers, described as officers, were conducting a routine search operation inside the zone, which has divided the two Koreas since the end of the Korean War in 1953, when the so-far unexplained blast happened.

One military official, who asked not to be identified, said the incident possibly involved a landmine and was being investigated.

The blast happened near the town of Paju, close to the border with North Korea, about 50 km (30 miles) north of Seoul.

Military officials said both men had been wounded in the legs but their wounds were not life-threatening. Defence Ministry spokesman Kim Min-seok expressed his sorrow over the incident.

The DMZ is a 4-km (2.5-mile) wide buffer fortified with landmines and barbed wire stretching across the Korean peninsula, with more than a million soldiers and heavy military equipment deployed on both sides.

There are telephones on the South Korean side for defectors from the impoverished and reclusive North to call seeking help, although it was not immediately clear if Tuesday's incident involved North Korea.—*Reuters*

China's First Heavy chairman commits suicide amid anti-graft probe — Xinhua

BEIJING, 4 Aug — The chairman of China First Heavy Industries committed suicide while the heavy machine maker was under investigation by the country's anti-graft watchdog, the official Xinhua news agency said on Tuesday.

Wu Fusheng, 51, was found hanging in his office in Qiqihar city in the northeastern province of Heilongjiang around midnight on Sunday, the news agency said, citing police.

First Heavy announced Wu's "sudden death" in a brief statement to the Shanghai Stock Exchange on Monday, without providing details.

The Communist Party's graft

watchdog, the China Central Commission for Discipline Inspection, sent inspectors to First Heavy's parent company on July 6, a First Heavy executive told Reuters, speaking on condition of anonymity as she was not authorised to speak to foreign reporters.

The inspection, which is part of the anti-graft agency's investigation of central government-controlled state-owned enterprises, is expected to finish on Sept. 5, the executive added, without elaborating.

Chinese President Xi Jinping has mounted a sweeping campaign against deep-seated corruption

since assuming power three years ago, saying it threatens the party's very survival.

Scores of senior officials in the party, the government, the military and state-owned enterprises have been brought down by the campaign, including the former security tsar, Zhou Yongkang, and PetroChina's vice chairman Liao Yongyuan.

China's anti-corruption watchdog has targeted a roving campaign of inspections at government agencies and state-owned enterprise conglomerates this year, focussing on strategic industries.

"We need to sharpen the

'Sword of Damocles' hanging above those in power and use inspections to keep them in awe," watchdog head Wang Qishan was quoted as saying in February.

First Heavy makes heavy equipment for nuclear power and petrochemical plants, among others.

Wu, also a deputy Communist Party boss at First Heavy's unlisted parent, had been the chairman of the listed firm since 2008, according to the executive.

First Heavy's shares ended limit up on Tuesday, leading a 3.7 percent gain of the benchmark index.—*Reuters*

WORLD

Obama administration faces criticism over human trafficking report

WASHINGTON, 4 Aug — Several U.S. politicians sharply criticized the Obama administration on Monday over an annual global report on human trafficking in response to a Reuters article chronicling how senior U.S. diplomats had watered down rankings of more than a dozen strategically important countries.

Democratic Senator Bob Menendez called the account “alarming & unacceptable if true”, tweeting that “we must get to the bottom of this” at a Senate hearing set for Thursday to review the 2015 Trafficking in Persons report.

A Reuters examination, based on interviews with more than a dozen people in Washington and foreign

capitals, showed that the State Department office set up to independently grade global efforts to fight human trafficking was repeatedly overruled by senior diplomats and pressured into inflating assessments of 14 countries in this year’s report.

Among the countries that received higher rankings than recommended by the Office to Monitor and Combat Trafficking in Persons were Malaysia, Cuba, China, India, Uzbekistan and Mexico, the sources said.

“It’s shameful that President Obama allowed a bunch of political hacks to alter the administration’s human trafficking report to the benefit of perennial

U.S. President Barack Obama delivers remarks at the Young African Leaders Initiative (YALI) Mandela Washington Fellowship Presidential Summit in Washington, August 3, 2015. REUTERS



violators like Cuba and Malaysia,” said U.S. Senator Marco Rubio, who is also a Republican presidential candidate.

Rubio called it a “dangerous precedent”. He sits along with Menendez on the Senate Foreign Relations Committee, which this week will question Sarah

Sewall, who oversees the anti-trafficking office as Undersecretary of State for Civilian Security, Democracy and Human Rights.

Former Florida governor Jeb Bush, another Republican presidential candidate, also weighed in. “Obama and State Dept should be ashamed of their

purely political manipulation of Cuba’s human trafficking issues,” he tweeted.

Analysts in the anti-trafficking office, or J/TIP, as it is known within the U.S. government, disagreed with U.S. diplomatic bureaus on ratings for 17 countries, the sources said.

The analysts, who are specialists in assessing efforts to combat modern slavery - such as the illegal trade in humans for forced labor or prostitution - won only three of those disputes, the worst ratio in the 15-year history of the unit, in the report published on July 27, according to the sources.

Cuba, Malaysia and Uzbekistan were upgraded, despite J/TIP’s objections,

from the lowest ranking in the report that publicly shames the world’s worst offenders in human trafficking.

The Malaysian upgrade could smooth the way for an ambitious proposed U.S.-led free-trade deal with the Southeast Asian nation and 11 other countries.

The number of rejected recommendations suggests a degree of intervention not previously seen by top State Department diplomats in a report that can lead to sanctions.

Human rights groups and some former State Department officials have expressed concern that such unearned higher grades undermine the credibility of the annual report.—Reuters

Dacic: Good relations with Iran very important to Serbia



Ivica Dacic, Serbia's Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister

TEHRAN, 4 Aug — Ivica Dacic, Serbia’s Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister, stated on the first day of his visit to Tehran that it is very important for Serbia to enhance the traditionally good and friendly bilateral relations with Iran.

For Serbia, Iran is a country presiding over The Non-Aligned Movement and a traditional friend which has not recognized the unilaterally proclaimed independence of Kosovo-Metohija. Its stance on the issue is of great impor-

tance for a number of other Islamic countries when it comes to Kosovo, Dacic stressed on Monday.

Also, it is very important that the two countries’ ministries maintain regular political consultations and that Serbian and Iranian foreign ministers exchange visits regularly every year, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs issued in a statement.

On the other hand, it is important to activate a mixed committee between Iran and Serbia and work on the economic cooperation, Dacic said, adding that a meeting between ministers of agriculture is expected to take place as well. A number of agreements are ready to be adopted, in the field of economy, science, culture, education, and possible visa abolishment between the two countries would bring more Iranian tourists to Serbia, the Serbian foreign minister noted.—Tanjug

Dutch crane collapse demolishes houses, injuring at least 20



Two collapsed cranes are seen in Alphen aan de Rijn, the Netherlands August 3, 2015. Two cranes hoisting a massive section of bridge collapsed in a western Dutch town on Monday, flattening a row of houses and injuring at least 20 people, authorities said.—REUTERS

AMSTERDAM, 4 Aug — Two cranes hoisting a massive section of bridge collapsed in a western Dutch

town on Monday, flattening a row of houses and injuring at least 20 people, authorities said.

Dramatic videos of the accident in Alphen aan den Rijn showed the section of roadway swinging out of

control and falling onto the homes, to the screams of onlookers.

Several buildings were practically flattened and rescue workers were searching for anyone trapped underneath, Dutch broadcaster NOS reported.

Emergency responders in Alphen aan den Rijn confirmed the accident on Twitter, but provided no details. Dozens of emergency vehicles were at the scene.

The bridge, over the Old Rhine river was being renovated after surveys in 2010 had shown that its steel superstructure was in poor condition. The renovation, which began in the spring was expected to last the whole summer.

The accident took place as the vast steel ramp that forms the central span of the swing bridge was lowered into place.—Reuters

Russia’s Lavrov meets Hamas chief, invites him to Moscow: official

GAZA, 4 Aug — Russian Foreign Minister Sergei Lavrov met Hamas leader Khaled Meshaal in Qatar on Monday and invited him to visit Moscow, a Hamas official said, extending a diplomatic welcome to the Palestinian group shunned by the West.

Meshaal, who is based in Doha, last traveled to Moscow in 2010, four years after his first official visit to the Russian capital.

In a statement released in Gaza, the Hamas official said a delegation led by



Russia's Foreign Minister Sergei Lavrov

Meshaal briefed Lavrov on conditions in the Gaza Strip, which the Islamist movement rules, in the aftermath of last summer’s

war with Israel. Meshaal also discussed with Lavrov “Zionist terrorism in the West Bank and its assaults on Muslim and Christian

sites in Jerusalem”, the official said, three days after an arson attack by suspected Jewish militants killed a Palestinian toddler.

“The (Russian) foreign minister extended an invitation to the leadership of (Hamas) to visit Moscow and the movement accepted the invitation and the date will be determined later,” the official said.

Russia is one of the four international sponsors, along with the United States, the European Union and the United Nations, of an Israeli-Palestinian peace

process opposed by Hamas. Peace talks have been suspended for more than a year. Hamas is shunned in the West over its refusal to recognize Israel, accept existing Israeli-Palestinian interim peace deals and renounce violence. Russia says it should not be isolated.

In Doha, Lavrov was to meet U.S. Secretary of State John Kerry, who is in Qatar for talks with the six countries of the Gulf Cooperation Council on the nuclear agreement Western powers reached last

month with Iran. U.S. officials said Kerry’s meeting with Lavrov, which will also be attended by Saudi Foreign Minister Adel al-Jubeir, will focus on the civil war in Syria.

Russia has been trying to bring about rapprochement between the Syrian government and regional states, including Saudi Arabia and Turkey, to forge an alliance to fight Islamic State militants who have taken large amounts of territory in the Syrian conflict.—Reuters

PERSPECTIVES

Wednesday, 5 August, 2015

Donors, volunteers need accurate information

By Myint Win Thein

AS people around the country mobilize to help flood victims, including evacuees in emergency relief camps, it is important that accurate information about the situation in disaster zones is made available.

Information about whether camps are experiencing shortages or surpluses for different categories of emergency relief supplies can help volunteers and donors do their work more effectively.

For example, donors who bring bags of rice to camps where rice is abundant, but where medicines are in short supply, are not helping victims effectively. Their efforts are wasted while those in need of rice elsewhere miss out.

Lists of relief camps experiencing supply shortages or disease outbreaks due to lack of medicines can also help donors and volunteers identify requirements for relief efforts.

The information should be exact and should

be updated every hour as the situation on the ground is always changing. It is therefore important for authorities to provide accurate disaster information online to help ensure effective distribution of relief supplies around the entire country.

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

Nobody is above and beyond the law

By Tommy Pauk

WE, humans know why law is the most essential guidelines for us to live, behave, and deal among ourselves not only in a particular society, but also in any other societies across the world. Prevalence of law and order or rule of law controls us in order that we can enjoy peace, harmony, tranquility, justice and equality.

In this 21st century, the absolute monarchy or autocracy is no longer in existence, whereas constitutional monarchies are existing in the world. In this regard, the power of monarchs is controlled by the sets of laws and basic principles. So, the constitutional monarch, as a head of state, has limited powers. The ruling system is established by the formal agreement between the vast majority of people and the government concerned. Whatever term is used for the ruler and government in the globalized era, they ought to serve the interests of their own people with patriotic spirit. The state is also the main provider of welfare. All citizens are to serve their country in close collaboration with the government in order to implement the policies and plans effectively, actively and efficiently. All heads of states or governments across the world recognize the effect of Globalization and they do not handle or act against the will or aspiration of their countrymen. They do realize that the original state power belongs to the people concerned. In a period of the beginning of the 21st century, positive changes and development in economy, trade, international relations, political reforms, telecommunications and diplomatic relations are hugely significant around the world. Besides, the relations between the government and the people become transparent, candid and cordial in several countries. People around the world nowadays have obtained basic human rights and they can

express constructive criticism on the conduct of the governments concerned. The governments also listen to the people's voice and criticism willingly and carefully so that they can fulfill the people's requirements or correct their mistakes made in public affairs management. In this modern age, we can see that head of states or leaders or the governments treat their peoples kindly and cordially. The dominant ideology of Asian societies says that the rulers or leaders or the governments are the guardians of the peoples. Myanmar culture also depicts the rulers or leaders or the governments are the parents of Myanmar people. In other words, the rulers or leaders or the governments are regarded as biological parents of the people. Anyway, for any society on earth, the governments are represented as the guardians of the peoples concerned. The relationship between the ruler and people must be laid down with love, understanding, trust, equality and harmony. Apart from cultural norms and taboos, everybody in the respective societies has to adhere to enacted or prescribed laws—both domestic laws and international laws. Basically, laws are written by humans to enjoy justice and equity among themselves in human society. We, all civilized humans must not try to gain benefits and privilege above and beyond the law under any circumstances in our society. Rule of law must prevail in every society so as to be able to enjoy human rights, opportunities and equal treatment. Everybody must abide by law in any society. Everybody here indicates head of state, leader, government and people as a whole. The constitutional monarchs, head of states, leaders and governments must be ideal persons or noble persons in complying laws and discipline laid down for the society concerned. Furthermore, they must rule the country lawfully and treat their countrymen cordially and kindly. They

must not act recklessly or arrogantly above the law or beyond the law while exercising the power. In this IT age, the global people have to obey and comply the promulgated or enacted International laws.

A maxim pertaining to law says; 'Ignorance of law is no excuse'. Law does not discriminate and it does protect the innocent. Judiciaries, law-enforcement agencies and legal practitioners must behave with integrity at all times. Also those responsible personnel are obligated to perform their respective duties and authorities precisely and correctly. They must be the models of rectitude and their positions are not above the law as well. Most importantly, they must avoid partiality, taking-bribe and miscarriage of justice. When rule of law prevails in the society, nobody is above and beyond the law. Any power or authority must be exercised in line with regulations or in accordance with prescribed laws properly. The aforesaid society can achieve political, social and economic stability as the existing laws are used to generate justice and equality effectively. Since head of states or presidents or governments are conferred or awarded the power or authority

by the vast majority of electors, they ought to serve the public services humbly and honestly. Also they are not supposed to take advantage or exploit the ordinary people or general public. It is absolutely imperative for the people to make living in accordance with the laws and to pay regular tax to the state concerned.

The motto: 'Nobody is above and beyond the law', warns everybody to obey the law in any society. In other words, all people in any society have to behave or conduct in compliance with the law. The phrase "All people" here "denotes all people from the persons of humble birth to the head of state in the society. If somebody or a group of people conduct or show great disdain for the law, they will have to face with harsh penalties. Nobody can avoid the judgments of law if they break or disdain or misuse the state power. It is a universal concept that law safeguards the civilized humans for peaceful survival and justice, whereas law punishes scoundrels, thugs, stooges, criminals and outlaws. Inevitably, the decision for guilt and innocence are judged or measured by commonly-accepted laws in any society in the world. Besides, nobody can efface or obliterate their crimes they have committed. He or she cannot stay away from justice. There is no

way the criminal or bad guys can escape from either just retribution in human life on earth or divine retribution in an eternal life. Eventually, the law enforcement agencies can bring the criminals to justice. Since then, the criminal have to pay for their sins or misdeeds. Breaking the laws, defying the laws and violating the laws are offences in any society.

Whoever acts against the law or violates the law shall be punished in accordance with the provisions of law. If somebody or some groups of people are above and beyond the law, the innocent and simple people under these circumstances are badly hurt. Seriously, they wish or aspire to the rule of law so that they can enjoy justice, peace and equal rights in the society. Therefore, we wish all the global people to work together with respective governments under the law solidly, honestly, justly and lovingly forever!!!!

Tommy Pauk is the pseudonym of U Thein Swe, who is B.A (English) and (Registered Law) R.L I. degrees holder. He has English Teaching experience at Yangon University English Department and Workers' college in Yangon, and now is working as freelance writer and English Teacher cum Translator/Interpreter for foreign firms.

Well-wishers invited for flood-hit monasteries, nunneries

NAY PYI TAW, 4 Aug—Wellwishers are invited to donate robes, prerequisites and other offertories for monks and nuns in flood-affected areas in regions and states.

They may call Director U Htein Lin, Department of Promotion and Propagation of the Sasana, Nay Pyi Taw on 067-406014, 09-8304796 and fax:067-406162; Director U Win Naing, State Pariyatti Sasana University (Yangon), on 01-661275, 09-5557778 and fax:01-661-416 and Director U Khin Maung Win (SP-SU-Mandalay) in Aungmyethazan Township on 02-611113, 09-20000100 and fax:02-66903.—MNA

Mother! The big bowl we use to store water during times of shortage is still useful in times of flood.



NATIONAL

Senior General Min Aung Hlaing meets armed ethnic group leaders

NAY PYI TAW, 4 Aug—Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Senior General Min Aung Hlaing met leaders of four ethnic armed groups Tuesday in the capital.

Dialogue promotes trust, while exchanging views advances peace, the senior general told Karen National Union Chairman Saw Mutu Sae Po, Saw Yin Nu of KNU/KNLA (PC), Saw Mo Shae of the Democratic Karen Benevolent Army and Sai La of the Restoration Council

of Shan State/Shan State Army.

At the meeting, the senior general said the Tatmadaw wished for peace and held the view that national development tasks could only be carried after the country was stable.

Afterwards, the ethnic armed group leaders, all signatories to the Union Day deed of commitment, and senior Tatmadaw officers discussed political, military and social issues.

Myawady



Senior General Min Aung Hlaing poses for documentary photo with leaders of four armed ethnic groups.—MYAWADY

Thai Deputy Prime Minister arrives at Nay Pyi Taw

NAY PYI TAW, 4 Aug—To attend the Fourth Myanmar-Thai Joint High-level Committee Meeting on Dawei Special Economic Zone (Dawei SEZ), Thai-

land's deputy prime minister M R Pridiyathorn Devakula arrived at Nay Pyi Taw International Airport Tuesday.

The Thai delegation

was warmly welcomed by union minister U Aye Myint, the Thai Ambassador to Myanmar and responsible persons.

MNA

Myanmar, Thailand meet in Dawei SEZ meeting

NAY PYI TAW, 4 Aug—The Dawei Special Economic Zone and related project implementation work committee held the 6th meeting, here, Tuesday.

It was attended by Myanmar side led by Un-

ion Minister U Aye Myint, Thai side led by General Secretary Mr Arkhom Termpittayapaisith of National Economic and Social Development Board-NESDB and experts.

They discussed conces-

sion agreements and supplementary matters to the tripartite MoU, assistance of the management committee for the pilot project, proposal for financial matters, and participation of Japan in the project.—MNA

Chinese Ambassador donates relief supplies to flood victims in Rakhine State

YANGON, 4 Aug—Chinese Ambassador Mr Hong Liang donated relief goods worth US\$120,000 to flood victims in MraukU, Rakhine State, Tuesday.

The ambassador explained his plan that rescue

members of the People's Republic of China will provide training to fire fighters in Rakhine State on Wednesday.

Relief supplies for the victims are being transported with the use of aircrafts

of Air Force and naval ships, said Chief Minister of the state U Maung Maung Ohn.

Well-wishers also donated relief aid worth more than K5 million to the victims.—MNA

Armed group members surrender to Tatmadaw



Armed group members from Kyaw Thet and Saw San Aung return to the legal fold.—MYAWADY

NAY PYI TAW, 4 Aug—Seven former members of armed groups led by Kyaw Thet and Saw San

Aung surrendered to government forces on Monday, following the surrender of three others three



days earlier.

While Tatmadaw columns and Border Guard Forces were combing the Kawkareik area, they captured another

Nomination for Hluttaw candidates continues

NAY PYI TAW, 4 Aug—A total of 150 candidates for Pyithu Hluttaw,

73 candidates for Amyotha Hluttaw, 286 candidates for state/region Hluttaws and 12 candidate for state/region ethnic affairs submitted their nomination for 2015 General Election on 3 August.

From 20 July to 3 August, 1,586 candidates including 458 for Pyithu

Hluttaw, 228 for Amyotha Hluttaw, 849 for state/region Hluttaws and 51 for ethnic affairs constituencies. They represent 46 political parties while 56 of them are individual candidates. Detailed nomination process is available at www.uecmyanmar.org.

MNA

Voter registration cards to be issued for voters

NAY PYI TAW, 4 Aug—The Union Election Commission announced that it had taken measures to allow voters who lost their citizenship scrutiny cards, family registrations and other documents due to recent floods to vote in upcoming elections, according to an announcement released by the commission on Tuesday.

The commission said that it would issue voter registration cards to voters about one week ahead of the elections and the document would allow voters who lost citizenship scrutiny cards or family registrations.—MNA

Ministry for border affairs supports relief aids to victims in Rakhine State

NAY PYI TAW, 4 Aug—U San Shwe Aung, permanent secretary of Ministry for Border Affairs and party provided rice, foodstuff and clothes to 23 villages in Minbya Township, five villages in MraukU Township and

five villages in Kyauktaw Township from 2 to 4 August.

The Ministry continues sending 1,117 bags of rice and foodstuff to flood-affected areas in Rakhine State.

MNA

Sales of new stamps to mark Joint Stamp Issue of ASEAN Community

NAY PYI TAW, 4 Aug—Myanmar Postal Service of the Ministry of Communications and Information Technology will sell two new stamps worth K100 and K500 to mark Joint Stamp Issue of ASEAN Community at

post offices in regions and states as of 8 August.

The stamps will be sealed as special programmes at Nay Pyi Taw General Post Office, Yangon and Mandalay Post Offices on 8 August.

MNA



Myawady

Mitsubishi Aircraft opens U.S. facility, aims for 2,500 jets in world

SEATTLE, 4 Aug — Mitsubishi Aircraft Corp. has opened a U.S. facility to advance the development of its regional jet, Japan's first indigenously built small jet, by facilitating flight testing and analyses, starting next year.

"Our aim is to make the best use of the resources and skill set of aircraft experts and professionals of Seattle, which is a global hub of the aviation industry," President Hiromichi Morimoto said at a ceremony held Monday in Seattle to officially inaugurate the Seattle Engineering Center.

Referring to the Mitsubishi Regional Jet, the president stressed that the "MRJ is developed and made with the state of Washington and the United States."

Gov. Jay Inslee of Washington, which also hosts aircraft manufacturer Boeing Co., said, "We are so proud to have MRJ to the list of aircraft we've helped to

develop and bring to the world."

"Gambare!" he said, using a Japanese expression of encouragement as he expressed enthusiasm for the center.

President Morimoto, meanwhile, said that his company is envisioning delivering 2,500 Mitsubishi Regional Jets in the next 20 years by overcoming a setback from delays in its flight tests and delivery schedule.

In an interview with Kyodo News last week, Morimoto said Mitsubishi Aircraft "would like to garner around half" of the global market for small jets, which it estimates to total 5,190 planes in the period through 2034.

The market covers jets with 70-100 seats. The MRJ has a standard configuration of 76 or 88 seats.

So far, the company has received orders totaling 407 jets and is aiming to secure more. In Asia, Morimoto



Hiromichi Morimoto, president of Mitsubishi Aircraft Corp., speaks in an interview in New York on July 30, 2015. The company opened a research and development site in Seattle on Aug. 3, 2015, for its Mitsubishi Regional Jet, Japan's first self-developed small jetliner.—Kyodo News

indicated that companies in Indonesia, the Philippines, Malaysia, Vietnam and India have expressed interest in the MRJ, with some "quite serious."

In Europe, where no orders have been received for the MRJ, the president said negotiations are "underway with several parties" such as

airlines and aircraft leasing companies.

In June, Morimoto traveled to France for the International Paris Air Show, one of the world's largest aviation spectacles, to promote the MRJ, hoping to sign up more orders for the jet under development.

But he came home

empty-handed, feeling frustrated that his firm's chief competitor Embraer SA of Brazil had received a large volume of orders at the show.

"I grew to understand that if I were a client, I wouldn't probably feel like buying one before (the aircraft) flies, no matter how hard sales pitches are made," Morimoto said.

In April, the Japanese company announced a further delay -- the fourth -- in the MRJ development plan, pushing back the maiden flight of a test aircraft in Japan to the September-October period from late May.

But Mitsubishi Aircraft has not changed the schedule of the first delivery of the MRJ to All Nippon Airways Co. in the second quarter of 2017 as it expands its flight test program in the United States. The current delivery schedule, however, is already four years behind the initial plan for 2013.

Mitsubishi Aircraft has been struggling to overcome the void in technology and engineering know-how created in Japan by the more than 50-year gap since Japan ceased the postwar development of the YS-11, a domestically built turboprop passenger plane.

Executive Vice President Masao Yamagami said, "We are paying for not doing anything for half a century."

The company will undertake about 70 percent of the flight testing totaling around 2,500 hours in the United States with a fleet of four jets, one more than initially planned.

For flight evaluation scheduled to start in the April-June quarter next year in the United States, the Seattle Engineering Center will be responsible for formulating test plans at an airport in the state of Washington and analyzing tests results.

Kyodo News

"Brain training" iPad game may assist schizophrenia treatment: study



LONDON, 4 Aug — A 'brain training' iPad game developed and tested by researchers at the University of Cambridge might improve the memory of patients with schizophrenia, according to a study published Monday in the Journal Philosophical Transactions of the Royal Society B.

Schizophrenia is a long-term mental health condition that causes a range of psychological symptoms, ranging from changes in behavior through to hallucinations and delusions. The symptoms are reasonably well treated by current medications; however, patients are still left with debilitating cognitive impairments, including in their memory.

The researchers said the iPad game, called Wizard, was the result of a

nine-month collaboration between psychologists, neuroscientists, a professional game-developer and people with schizophrenia. It was aimed at improving an individual's episodic memory, so as to help Schizophrenia patients to overcome some of their symptoms.

The memory task was woven into a narrative in which the player was allowed to choose their own character and name, and the game rewarded progress with additional in-game activities to provide the user with a sense of progression independent of the cognitive training process, said the researchers.

Episodic memory is the type of memory required when you have to remember where you parked your car in a multi-storey car park after

going shopping for several hours, for example. It is one of the facets of cognitive functioning to be affected in patients with schizophrenia.

The researchers assigned twenty-two participants, who had been given a diagnosis of schizophrenia, to either the cognitive training group or a control group at random. Participants in the training group played the memory game for a total of eight hours over a four-week period, while those in the control group continued their treatment as usual.

At the end of the four weeks, the researchers tested all participants' episodic memory using some standard methods. They found that the patients who had played the memory game performed better.

It is not clear exactly how the apps also improved the patients' daily functioning, but the researchers suggest it may be because the cognitive training may have had an indirect impact on functionality by improving general motivation and restoring self-esteem.

Slow progress was being made towards developing a drug treatment, so this proof-of-concept study was important because it demonstrated that the memory game could help where drugs had so far failed, said Prof Barbara Sahakian, who led the study.—Xinhua

UK house prices edge up in July — Nationwide

LONDON, 4 Aug — British house prices rose last month after a fall in June and appear to be stabilising at close to the long-term pace of earnings growth which could encourage more home-building, mortgage lender Nationwide said on Tuesday.

Nationwide said house prices rose by 0.4 percent on the month in July - in line with economists' forecasts and compared with a fall of 0.2 percent the previous month.

That pushed the annual rate of growth to 3.5 percent from 3.3 percent in June.

"After moderating

over the past 12 months, there are tentative signs that annual house price growth may be stabilising close to the pace of earnings growth, which has historically been around 4 percent,"

Nationwide economist Robert Gardner said.

Other measures of house prices have suggested that Britain's housing market is picking up again after slowing in 2014 when new rules on mortgage lending were introduced.

Finance minister George Osborne has said he wants to tackle a shortage of housing -- one of the factors that have pushed

prices to record highs and out of reach of many households -- by making it easier to build new homes on land formerly used for industrial and commercial purposes.

Gardner of Nationwide said it remained unclear whether enough new homes could be built to catch up with demand.

"The number of new homes under construction has started to pick up, albeit from historically low levels, and further increases are required if a sustainable recovery in the housing market is to be maintained over the longer term," he said.

Reuters



Sold new build homes are seen on a development in south London June 3, 2014. REUTERS

US drones capture breath samples from humpback whales in study



A humpback whale is seen near the coast of Mazatlan 17 Jan, 2012.—REUTERS

BOSTON, 4 Aug — Researchers at the Woods Hole Oceanographic Institute in Cape Cod have begun using a helicopter-style drone to monitor humpback whales off the coast, collecting breath samples from their

blowholes and taking aerial pictures.

The scientists first deployed the 32-inch “hexacopter” drone in July to help assess the health of whales living in the Stellwagen Bank National Marine Sanctuary,

about 45 miles (72 km) east of Boston, where there is significant ship traffic and pollution, Woods Hole said in a release on Monday.

“Rigged with a specialized camera system, the unmanned airborne vehicle flew 125 to 150

feet above sea level to get full-body photographs of 36 animals. It swooped down to 10 feet above seal level to collect 20 breath samples from 16 whales,” according to the release.

The breath samples provided scientists with DNA and hormone and bacteria measurements, Woods Hole said.

Researchers plan to use the drone next winter to collect samples from the same whale species living near the Antarctic Peninsula, which is relatively pristine, it said.

“This will give us a new understanding of the relationship between whale body condition and health in the context of habitat quality,” said Michael Moore, director of the institute’s Marine Mammal Center. Humpback whales are among the world’s largest at up to 60 feet long (18.29 m), and migrate thousands of miles between their summer and winter feeding grounds. They were listed as an endangered species in 1970 after decades of fishing caused their populations to plummet.—Reuters

Samsung glamor days over as it fights to save mobile market share

SEOUL, 4 Aug — For four years Samsung Electronics Co Ltd has basked in the success of its Galaxy smartphones, making billions of dollars competing with Apple Inc in the premium mobile market.

The coming years are set to be more somber for the South Korean tech giant, as it is forced to slash prices and accept lower margins at its mobile division in order to see off competition from rivals including China’s Huawei Technologies Co Ltd and Xiaomi Inc in the mid-to-low end of the market.

Behind Samsung’s reality-check is the fact it is stuck with the same Android operating system used by its low-cost competitors, who are producing increasingly-capable phones of their own.

“The writing has long been on the wall for any premium Android maker: as soon as low end hardware became ‘good enough,’ there would be no reason to buy a premium brand,” said Ben Thompson, an analyst at Stratechery.com in Taipei.

Margins at Samsung’s mobile division fell to 10.6 percent from 15.5 percent a year earlier during the second quarter of 2015, despite the April launch of its critically acclaimed Galaxy S6 range.

It remains the world’s biggest

smartphone maker but it is Apple that is reaping most of the rewards.

While the U.S. giant’s smartphone sales in its last financial quarter fell short of market expectations, it is still estimated by some analysts to earn 90 percent or more of the industry’s profits.

Samsung said last week that it will continue trying to maximize profitability and market share, disclosing plans to launch new larger-screen premium phones as well as more bargain-priced handsets.

Investors and analysts say the group is right to dig its heels in for a business that continues to generate piles of cash and drives sales for its components divisions.

But they say Samsung will not be able to compete with Apple in the premium market based on hardware and will continue to trail the U.S. firm in the absence of a major technological breakthrough.

“Some still seem to think that a well-made product will sell well, but the Galaxy S6 showed that assumption is wrong,” said IBK Securities analyst Lee Seung-woo, who predicts Samsung’s mobile division margins will fall to 9.3 percent this year - the lowest since before the first Galaxy S phone launched in 2010.

Reuters

German carmakers buy Nokia maps to fend off digital rivals

FRANKFURT, 4 Aug — German carmakers BMW (BMWG.DE), Audi (VOWG_p.DE) and Mercedes (DAIGn.DE), will pay around 2.5 billion euros (\$2.8 billion) to buy Nokia’s maps business, beating out high-tech rivals for location services seen as key to the future of self-driving cars.

Germany’s three premium carmakers will hold equal stakes in the business, known as HERE, clubbing together to keep the assets away from Internet rivals such as Uber [UBER.UL] of Silicon Valley and China’s Baidu (BIDU.O) and Tencent (0700.HK).

The deal has an enterprise value of 2.8 billion euros, including liabilities of nearly 300 million euros, for which Nokia will compensate the carmakers, the Finnish company said on Monday. The transaction is expected to close in early 2016.

The purchase allows automakers to offer new premium features, like autonomous driving, in luxury cars, shaking up the pecking order between car makers, their parts suppliers and software rivals like Uber, Google (GOOGL.O) or Apple (AAPL.O).

“With the joint acquisition of HERE, we want to secure the independence of this central service for all vehicle manufacturers, suppli-



A view of Nokia's annual general meeting in Helsinki, Finland, on May 5, 2015.—REUTERS

ers and customers in other industries,” said Chief Executive Dieter Zetsche of Daimler, which invented the motor car in 1886.

But it is unclear how other HERE customers, including rival carmakers, may respond to Germany’s carmakers owning map technology, which many in the automotive, Internet and logistics industries see as key to their own strategies.

“There is a risk that the other automakers will be pushed further into the arms of Google,” said Richard Windsor an independent financial analyst who tracks major tech players. HERE’s primary

China’s Airbnb-like Tujia raises \$300 million to expand overseas

HONG KONG, 4 Aug — Tujia, a Chinese vacation rental company similar to home rental firm Airbnb Inc, said on Monday it had raised \$300 million from a group of investors to expand its business overseas, increase marketing and offer new products.

The deal values Tujia at more than \$1 billion, the Chinese company added without disclosing the size of the stake the investors bought. By comparison, Airbnb, which operates around the world, is valued at \$20 billion.

Hong Kong-based All-Stars Investment Ltd, which has invested in Chinese smartphone maker Xiaomi Inc and taxi hailing app Didi Kuaidi, led the funding round.

Other investors included existing Tujia shareholders and The Ascott Ltd, a serviced residence business owned by Singapore’s CapitaLand Ltd, which will invest \$50 million.

The Ascott will also form a \$40 million joint venture with Tujia to operate serviced apartments in China, CapitaLand said in a separate statement. CapitaLand, Southeast Asia’s largest property developer, aims to add 6,000 new units in China by 2020, up from the 14,000 it owns there now. China Renaissance Partners was sole financial adviser to Tujia.—Reuters

competitor is Google Maps.

Intelligent mapping systems like HERE’s are the basis on which self-driving cars linked to wireless networks can perform functions such as recalculating a route to the nearest electric charging station or around a traffic jam or accident.

They are also used in everything from consumer smartphone navigation to local transport services.

At a later stage, the carmakers will invite private equity firm General Atlantic to join the consortium as an investor and potential mediator, two sources familiar with the matter said.—Reuters



Kosovo Deputy Prime Minister
Branimir Stojanovic

Stojanovic: Adoption of amendments of great importance

BELGRADE, 4 Aug — Kosovo Deputy Prime Minister Branimir Stojanovic said he is satisfied that amendments that will pave the way to establish a special court dealing with the crimes of the so-called Kosovo Liberation Army have been adopted by the Kosovo Parliament, adding this is a big and important thing.

Stojanovic told Belgrade-based B92 late on Monday that the decision (on the amendments) was significantly influenced by the international community. Commenting on the threats directed at Kosovo MPs from the Serb (Srpska) List, he said he is not scared, adding that the obligation of Serb politicians is to defend the interests of their people. Stojanovic noted there is an investigation into the threats, and voiced hope there will be results.—*Tanjug*

Australian children discover 70 crocodile heads in freezer

SYDNEY, 4 Aug — Dozens of crocodile heads have been found dumped and left to rot in a freezer in a small town in northern Australia, local media reported on Tuesday.

A group of children made the find when they investigated a freezer that had been left behind a local shop at the small town called Humpty Doo, 40 kilometers southeast of Darwin in Australia's Northern Territory (NT).

Authorities on Tuesday said at least 50 crocodile heads — but as many as 70 — had

been stuffed inside the freezer. NT national parks and wildlife officers have joined the investigation. Crocodiles are considered a protected species in Australia, with anyone convicted of killing the animal facing a fine of 76,500 Australian dollars (55,779 U.S. dollars), or five years in jail. A limited number of permits are issued each year for local hunters to kill or remove problem crocodiles that pose a danger to the community.

Crocodile skin is incredibly valuable in the global fashion industry.—*Xinhua*

Japan to suspend work over U.S. base relocation in Okinawa for month

TOKYO, 4 Aug — Japan said Tuesday it will suspend work over the planned relocation of a U.S. military base within Okinawa Prefecture for a month from Monday as part of efforts to defuse tensions with local authorities.

During the period through Sept. 9, the state plans to hold "intensive consultations" with the Okinawa prefectural government in an attempt to resolve the



File photo taken in March 2015 shows the Henoko coastal area of Nago, Okinawa Prefecture, where a U.S. Marine Corps air base is planned to be relocated. The Japanese government said on Aug. 4 that it will suspend work on the relocation for a month through Sept. 9, a move apparently aimed at defusing tensions with local authorities. KYODO NEWS

South Korea replaces health minister criticised over MERS outbreak

SEOUL, 4 Aug — South Korean President Park Geun-hye removed her minister of health on Tuesday after criticism over the handling of an outbreak of Middle East Respiratory Syndrome (MERS) which killed 36 people as it spread through hospitals.

Minister of Health and Welfare Moon Hyung-pyo, an economist and expert on welfare policy, was criticised for a decision to withhold the names of hospitals that had handled MERS patients in the early stage of the outbreak, fuelling confusion and fear.

The outbreak has dealt a major blow to an already weakened economy, knocking second-quarter growth to its slowest in more than six years as it closed thousands of schools, kept consumers at home and scared off foreign tourists.

Park's public support dipped to the lowest point in her single five-year term as the MERS virus spread.

Park appointed Chung Chin-youb, an orthopaedic surgeon and public health expert, as the new health minister, said her spokesman, Min Kyung-wook. He did not give a reason for Moon's removal.

Last week, South Korea declared it was effectively out of danger from MERS, two months after the first case was reported. The outbreak was brought in to South Korea by a businessman who returned in early May from a trip to the Middle East,



Women wearing masks to prevent contracting Middle East Respiratory Syndrome (MERS) walk at Myeongdong shopping district in central Seoul, South Korea, July 9, 2015. REUTERS

where the virus was first identified.

The outbreak grew to become the largest outside Saudi Arabia, infecting 186 people and putting nearly 17,000 in quarantine.

The MERS virus is of the same family of coronaviruses that triggered a deadly outbreak of Severe Acute Respiratory

Syndrome in 2003. Twelve people remain in hospital in South Korea for MERS although only one is still testing positive for the virus, the Health Ministry said.

No new cases have been reported since July 4. Health experts say the virus has an incubation period of about two weeks.—*Reuters*

13 Indians joins IS, 6 got killed: report

NEW DELHI, 4 Aug — Some 13 Indians reportedly joined the Islamic State (IS) in the past one-and-a-half years and six of them have been killed.

"Of those alive, our input indicates only one is in a combat role. The others are in ancillary roles like cooks, drivers and helpers," a Home Ministry official was quoted by local TV channel 'NDTV' as saying.

The seven IS recruits who are alive include two from a group of four that left the country in May from Mumbai, and three young Indian men who lived in Australia, Oman and Singapore, the report said.

During the weekend, the Indian government held a high-level meeting to discuss the growing threat of IS, a terror group that controls much of Iraq and Syria.—*Xinhua*

The announcement came ahead of a planned meeting between Prime Minister Shinzo Abe and Okinawa Gov. Takeshi Onaga on Friday in Tokyo. The governor has pledged to take every measure possible to prevent the relocation plan from going forward.

The relocation of the Futenma base from a densely populated area in Ginowan to the less populated Henoko District of Nago is a key part of a broader bilateral agreement to reorganize the U.S. military presence in Japan.

The state maintains that moving Futenma to Henoko is the "only solution" for removing dangers posed by the air station without undermining the deterrence offered to Japan through its alliance with the United States.

Onaga demands the Futenma base be relocated outside Okinawa, saying that U.S. military facilities in the country are concentrated in the small prefecture and that their presence has been a burden on its people.—*Kyodo News*

standoff over the planned relocation of the U.S. Marine Corps' Futenma air station within the island prefecture, Chief Cabinet Secretary Yoshihide Suga said at a news conference.

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CLAIMS DAY NOTICE**MV LANTAU ACE VOY NO (007N)**

Consignees of cargo carried on MV LANTAU ACE VOY NO (007N) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 5.8.2015 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of H.P.T where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

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

Phone No: 2301185

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE**MV MERATUS GORONTALO****VOY NO (109N)**

Consignees of cargo carried on MV MERATUS GORONTALO VOY NO (109N) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 5.8.2015 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of A.W.P.T where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

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

Phone No: 2301185

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE**MV MARITIME FIDELITY****VOY NO ()**

Consignees of cargo carried on MV MARITIME FIDELITY VOY NO () are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 5.8.2015 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of M.I.P.L where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

**SHIPPING AGENCY DEPARTMENT
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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

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE**MV SEA PALACE VOY NO (11)**

Consignees of cargo carried on MV SEA PALACE VOY NO (11) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 5.8.2015 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of A.I.P.T-2 where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

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Eight killed in building collapse near Mumbai

NEW DELHI, 4 Aug — At least eight people were killed and seven others injured after a three-story building collapsed in Thane near India's financial hub Mumbai early on Tuesday morning.

Local TV channel Times Now reported that the incident took place in Naupada in the old Thane city at 2:45 a.m. local time. It was the second building collapse in the same city within two weeks.

Meanwhile, more than 15 persons are feared to be trapped under the debris of the building, said the report.

The residential building was in a dilapidated state and was declared dangerous for occupancy.

At least six people were killed in another building collapse in Thane last month.

Xinhua

Global New Light of Myanmar seeks experienced journalists

The Global New Light of Myanmar, the country's longest-running English-language newspaper, is looking for experienced journalists to join its expanding editorial team.

The GNLM currently has openings for copy editors and reporters at its newsroom in Yangon.

Copy editors must have English as a native language, excellent writing and proofreading skills, and ideally an extensive background in print or online media. Experience in newspaper layout and design is a major plus.

Reporters must be fluent in Myanmar and capable of filing clear, concise news copy in English. Experience writing for English-language print or online media is an advantage.

Applicants should send a cover letter and CV to Maung Maung Than at mmnthn2@gmail.com, or phone 09 5088924 for further information.

WEATHER REPORT

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

FORECAST VALID UNTIL EVENING OF THE 4th August, 2015: Rain or thundershowers will be scattered in Lower Sagaing and Magway Regions, Chin State, fairly widespread in Upper Sagaing and Mandalay Regions, Shan and Rakhine States and widespread in the remaining Regions and States with likelihood of isolated heavy falls in Yangon and Taninthayi Regions, Shan, Kayin and Mon States. Degree of certainty is (100%).

STATE OF THE SEA: Squalls with moderate to rough sea are likely at times Gulf of Mottama, off and along Mon - Taninthayi Coasts. Surface wind speed in squalls may reach (35 - 40) m.p.h. Sea will be moderate elsewhere in Myanmar waters.

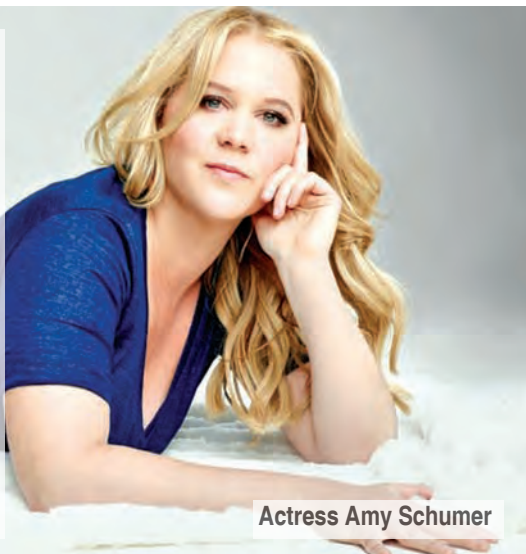
OUTLOOK FOR SUBSEQUENT TWO DAYS: Likelihood of decrease of rain in the Central Myanmar areas.

FORECAST FOR NAYPYITAW AND NEIGHBOURING AREA FOR 4th August, 2015: One or two rain or thundershowers. Degree of certainty is (100%).

FORECAST FOR YANGON AND NEIGHBOURING AREA FOR 4th August, 2015: Some rain or thundershowers. Degree of certainty is (100%).

FORECAST FOR MANDALAY AND NEIGHBOURING AREA FOR 4th August, 2015: Isolated rain or thundershowers. Degree of certainty is (80%).

Actor Amy Schumer calls for gun control after 'Trainwreck' shooting



Actress Amy Schumer

NEW YORK, 4 Aug — Two weeks after a gunman killed two women in a Louisiana screening of the movie "Trainwreck," the film's screenwriter

and star, Amy Schumer, joined her cousin U.S. Senator Charles Schumer on Monday in calling for increased gun control.

The pair's joint appear-

ance in New York marked the first time Amy Schumer has spoken out about gun violence since police say John Houser killed two women and then himself at a

Lafayette, Louisiana, movie theater on July 23, using a gun he was able to purchase legally even though a 2008 court order sent him to a mental health facility.

Federal law prohibits the purchase of guns by anyone who has been involuntarily committed to a mental health facility, but it does not ban gun purchases by someone who has volunteered for treatment or successfully argued against commitment.

Amy Schumer called on Monday for a more thorough background check system as she shared details about the lives of shooting victims Jillian Johnson, 33, and Mayci Breaux, 21.

"My heart goes out to Jillian and Mayci, to the

survivors, to the families and everyone who was tied to the tragic, senseless and horrifying actions of this man who shouldn't have been able to put his hands on a gun in the first place," Amy Schumer said during the news conference. "I'm not sure why this man chose my movie to end these two beautiful lives and injure nine others, but it was very personal for me," she said.

Senator Schumer, a New York Democrat, said he is introducing legislation that will reward states for submitting all necessary records to the background check system and punish those that do not.

The pair also urged Congress to provide full federal funding to the Sub-

stance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration, which faces a proposed 4.4 percent cut of \$159 million. They also asked the Department of Justice to publish a report comparing state standards for involuntary commitment.

Amy Schumer's comments followed calls by fans of the actor to use her celebrity and influence to take a stand against gun violence.

"The time is now for the American people to rally for these changes," she said. "These are my first public comments on the issue of gun violence, but I can promise you they will not be my last."

Reuters

Banderas depicts ordeal of trapped Chilean miners in 'The 33'



Spanish actor Antonio Banderas (L) poses with former miner Mario Sepulveda during an official ceremony at the presidential palace in Santiago January 31, 2014.—REUTERS

NEW YORK, 4 Aug — Spanish actor Antonio Banderas is bringing the ordeal of 33 Chilean miners trapped underground for more than two months to the cinema screen, five years after the drama of their rescue gripped TV viewers around the world.

The men were trapped 700 meters (2,300 feet) underground after their gold and copper mine collapsed in Chile's northern Atacama Desert.

They were feared dead until on the 17th day, knocking was heard on a drill head which had reached the depths of the mine. Rescuers then found a note attached to the drill reading: "The 33 of us in the shelter are well." After 69 days underground, they were lifted out individually to the surface.

At a Santiago news conference, Banderas, who portrays miner Mario Sepulveda in "The 33", recalled how viewers around the

world watched the rescue operation unfold on television.

"In other countries, it was seen as a great achievement by a country, that's the reality," he said.

Brazilian actor Rodrigo Santoro said it was challenging to tell the complex story in just a few hours and that focusing on a handful of characters was a good choice.

"The movie is based on the story of the miners, the 33. So I think that it must be synthesized, a few characters must be chosen to tell the entire story," he said.

The film also stars French Academy Award winner Juliette Binoche and American actor James Brolin.

Cast and crew met Chile's President Michelle Bachelet before the film's release there on Aug. 6.

"The 33" is scheduled to hit U.S. cinemas in November.—Reuters

Jill Scott scores Billboard No. 1; Apple Music joins chart providers

LOS ANGELES, 4 Aug — R&B singer Jill Scott scored her second No. 1 album on the U.S. Billboard 200 with her new entry "Women" topping the chart this week, as streaming data from Apple Music joined the list of providers who make up the chart.

"Women," Scott's fifth studio album, sold some 60,000 units in its first week, according to figures from Nielsen SoundScan.

The Billboard 200 chart tallies album sales, song sales (10 songs equal one album) and streaming activity (1,500 streams equal one album). Apple Music, which launched on June 30, joined Spotify, Amazon Prime, Google Music and other music providers for the first time this week.

Scott edged out last

week's chart-topper, rap artist Future's "DS2" album, which sold 53,000 units. Scott's other No. 1 album was 2011's "The Light of the Sun." Rock band Lamb of God's album "VII: Sturm und Drang" made its chart debut in the No. 3 slot, while the music from boxing movie "Southpaw," which features tracks from rappers Eminem, 50 Cent and The Notorious B.I.G., came in at No. 4.

Taylor Swift's best-selling album of 2014, "1989," slipped to the No. 5 spot after 39 weeks on the chart and another favorite, Ed Sheeran's "X," finished in sixth place on its 57th week on the Billboard 200.

On the Digital Songs chart, which tallies digital single downloads, "Can't Feel My Face" by Canadian



Actress Jill Scott arrives at the HBO after party after the 70th annual Golden Globe Awards in Beverly Hills, California January 13, 2013.—REUTERS

R&B artist The Weekend narrowly topped OMI's summer reggae hit "Cheer-

leader" from the top spot, with 148,200 downloads.

Reuters

Joe Jackson, father of Michael and Janet, out of Brazil hospital



Joe Jackson, patriarch of the Jackson family of musical performers holds a Brazilian soccer club Corinthians jersey during a visit to Corinthians training center in Sao Paulo, Brazil, July 24, 2015.—REUTERS

SAO PAULO, 4 Aug — Joe Jackson, patriarch of the Jackson family of musical performers, was discharged on Monday from the Sao Paulo hospital where he had been treated following a stroke.

Jackson, who came to Brazil to celebrate his 87th birthday, was diagnosed with a stroke associated with cardiac arrhythmia on July 27, the Albert Einstein hospital said last week.

A press representative for the hospital said on Monday that Jackson's health had improved enough to warrant his release.

Joe was estranged from Michael - who was one of the world's most successful and best-known performers - before the pop star's 2009 death.

He also strayed apart from his wife, Katherine, and many of his other eight children.

Reuters

GENERAL

U.S. judge blocks extradition of Russian to Poland over Nazi looted art

NEW YORK, 4 Aug — A Russian art dealer accused by Polish authorities of illegally acquiring an 18th-century painting stolen during World War II by the Nazis cannot be extradited from the United States, a Manhattan federal judge ruled on Monday.

U.S. District Judge Jed Rakoff dismissed the extradition case against Alexander Khochinskiy, 64, saying no evidence had been presented to show he knew when he acquired the painting that it was stolen from Poland.

Rakoff said evidence corroborated Khochinskiy's claim that he inherited the painting and only learned of Poland's claim to it in 2010 after having for years openly displayed the painting in his Moscow gallery and listed it in catalogs.

"This behavior is inconsistent with someone who knows his property is sought by a foreign government," Rakoff wrote.

U.S. authorities at Poland's request arrested Khochinskiy, who now lives in an apartment in Manhattan, in February. He was later released on a \$100,000 bond pending the extradition proceedings. Christopher Flood, Khochinskiy's lawyer, welcomed the ruling, saying his client "looks forward to resuming normal life with his family."

A spokeswoman for Manhattan U.S. Attorney Preet Bharara, whose office pursued the extradition at Poland's request, declined comment. The Polish embassy did not immediately respond to a request for comment. "Girl with a Dove" is one of 63,000 pieces that the Polish Ministry of Culture and National Heritage says were lost in World War II.

According to authorities, the painting was bought in 1931 by the Wielkopolska Museum in the Polish city of Poznan and taken during a looting by the German Nazis in 1943. Artworks from the museum were found by the Russian Army in 1945 and were brought back to the former Soviet Union, authorities said.

While some works were returned, the whereabouts of "Girl with a Dove" became unknown, and Interpol came to list it as stolen. In 2010, Khochinskiy contacted Poland about selling the painting, which he had by then been displaying in his gallery, saying he had learned the country believed it was stolen.

Khochinskiy claimed he inherited the painting from his father, a former Soviet soldier who hung the painting for years in his apartment in Leningrad and died in 1991.—Reuters

Indian rapper goes viral with toxic waste gibes at Unilever



A pedestrian walks past the Hindustan Unilever Limited (HUL) headquarters in Mumbai January 19, 2015.—REUTERS

MUMBAI, 4 Aug — An Indian rapper has gone viral with a music video calling on consumer products giant Unilever to clean up alleged toxic waste from a forested southern hill station and compensate residents.

Sofia Ashraf's video, posted online by a nongovernmental organization called Jhatkaa, or "shock" in Hindi, has had more than a million views on YouTube, drawing attention to accusations against a thermometer factory in the town of Kodaikanal that closed down 14 years ago.

Hindustan Unilever, the Indian subsidiary of the consumer goods company, has denied wrongdoing. It disputes claims of former workers who say their health has been damaged by exposure to mercury.

"There was no adverse impact on the health of employees or the environment," the company said in a statement on its website.

The company said it shut down the factory in 2001 when environmental activists including Greenpeace "brought to Hindustan Unilever's attention the fact that glass scrap containing mercury had been sold to a scrap dealer about three kilometres away from the factory".

The company did not immediately respond to an email seeking comment on the video.

Set to the beat of Nicki Minaj's "Anaconda", and retweeted by Minaj herself, Ashraf asks Unilever to compensate workers.

"Kodaikanal won't step down, until you make amends now," she raps.—Reuters

Chinese music streams delete 2 mln songs

California water officials seek penalties in Santa Barbara oil spill



Workers continue to clean the sand and rocks south of Refugio State Beach where an oil spill on May 19, 2015 sent as much as 2,400 barrels of oil into the Pacific Ocean in Santa Barbara County, California July 30, 2015.—REUTERS

SACRAMENTO, 4 Aug — California water quality regulators have asked state Attorney General Kamala Harris to consider enforcement action against the owner of an oil pipeline that ruptured near Santa Barbara in May, spilling petroleum onto beaches and the Pacific Ocean.

The Central Coast Regional Water Quality Control Board said on Monday that it had referred the incident near Refugio State Beach to the state's top prosecutor, who under the law could seek penalties of up to \$25,000 per day of violation, plus \$25 for every

gallon of oil spilled.

"The Water Board will work closely with the Attorney General's office to make sure all those responsible for the Refugio spill face the strongest enforcement measures allowed by law," Board Chair Jean-Pierre Wolff said in a news release.

The owner, Plains All American Pipeline LP, said it had worked alongside federal, state and local authorities to help clean up the spill and would continue to do so.

"As the cleanup phase nears completion and activities in-

volved with the restoration of the environment and the investigation into the cause come more to the forefront, we will continue cooperating with the agencies involved," spokeswoman Meredith Mathews said.

Refugio State Beach, about 20 miles (32 km) west of Santa Barbara, was closed along with nearby El Capitan State Beach after they were fouled when an underground pipeline that runs along the coastal highway burst on May 19. Both have since been reopened.

Reuters

mitv Myanmar International

(5-8-2015 07:00 am~6-8-2015 07:00 am) MST

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- * Natural Mineral Water

BEIJING, 4 Aug — China's copyright regulator said on Monday that the online music copyright situation has improved since it ordered music providers to remove unlicensed songs in July.

Music steaming services had removed more than 2.2 million

unlicensed songs as of Friday, said the National Copyright Administration (NCA).

Internet companies have also improved their efforts in copyright cooperation, said the NCA.

The regulator will help music streaming services find a suitable

way to pay royalties and will continue to check for violators.

As part of "Sword Net 2015", the anti-piracy campaign aims to improve online copyright management, protect royalty holders and restore confidence in the copyright system.—Xinhua

Muse Township authorities award winners in football, Sepak Takraw tournaments

MUSE, 4 Aug —Township Sports and Physical Education Department organized the football and Sepak Takraw tournaments under the township development programme.

Recently, Homon Ward won the champion by beating Market Ward 1-0 in the final match. Mongyu-105 Mile stood third. Officials presented K500,000 to the champion team

and K300,000 to the runner-up.

More than, officials gave K100,000 to first prize winner Double Star and K70,000 to second prize winner Turbo in the Sepak Takraw event.

Local authorities and well-wisher provided cash assistance to youths who will attend the Sports and Physical Education Institute.

Ko Mong (IPRD)



Man City hand teenager Barker new five-year deal

LONDON, 4 Aug — Manchester City have given 18-year-old winger Brandon Barker a new five-year contract to keep the promising English teenager at the club until 2020.

Barker was one of City's best academy players last season and has been at the club since the age of nine.

His new deal is a four-year extension on the remaining year he had left on his current contract.

"The talks have continued over the summer and this was the perfect time for me to sign the new contract," Barker, who was included in the first team squad for City's pre-season tour of Australia and Vietnam, told the club's website (www.mfc.com).

"The manager has told all the young players that if we impress him, we will be given an opportunity.

"I need to impress in training and, just like the other lads coming through at the club, I need to take the chance when it comes along."—Reuters



Guardiola raises doubts over Schweinsteiger's fitness

MUNICH, 4 Aug — Bayern Munich manager Pep Guardiola has cast a doubt on Manchester United's new midfielder Bastian Schweinsteiger by saying his former player was never fully fit during the last three seasons.

Guardiola said the 31-year-old Schweinsteiger can only be a success at the Premier League club if he can shake off his injury

problems.

"When he does not have injury problems, I am completely convinced he will do very well at Manchester United," Guardiola was quoted as saying by the British media. "He is a top, top player.

"Unfortunately, during the last three years he was

never in good condition.

He is going to play really good there (at United). I really hope that is going to happen."

German World Cup winner Schweinsteiger, who has been plagued by ankle and knee injuries throughout his career, spent 17 years at Bayern before joining United in the summer.

Reuters



MURRAY returns to DC tournament for 1st time since 2006

WASHINGTON, 4 Aug — Andy Murray is back on hard courts for the first time in four months and back at the Citi Open for the first time in nine years.

The two-time Major is seeded No 1 at the US Open tune-up that began Monday, getting his game in gear on the surface on which he won his first Grand Slam title at Flushing Meadows in 2012.

Like other seeded players, Murray received a first-round bye,

and his initial match in Washington, where he has not played since he was the 2006 runner-up, comes Wednesday against Benjamin Becker or Teymuraz Gabashvili.

That will be Murray's first competition on a hard court since losing in the final at Miami to top-ranked Novak Djokovic in early April.

"It does take a while, especially coming from the grass.

This morning was the first time when I hit and started to feel more comfortable on the courts, feel like I'm starting to get used to them again. Obviously the condi-

tions here, when compared with Wimbledon, is completely different. Extremely humid. Very high-bouncing courts," said the third-ranked Murray, who lost to No. 2 Roger Federer in the semifinals at the All England Club last month.

In the Citi Open's first completed match, Louisa Chirico beat Heather Watson 6-3, 6-0. It was Watson's first tournament appearance since she pushed eventual champion Serena Williams to three sets in the third round at Wimbledon.

PTI

Watanabe win women's 200 IM silver at world championships



Hungarian swimmer Katinaka Hosszu (R) and Kanako Watanabe of Japan attend a medal ceremony after winning gold and silver, respectively, in the women's 200-meter individual medley at the world championships in Kazan, Russia, on Aug. 3, 2015. Hosszu set a world record. *Kyodo News*

KAZAN, (Russia), 4 Aug — Kanako Watanabe gave Japan its first medal in the swimming competition in taking the silver in the women's 200 meters individual medley at the world championships in Russia on Monday.

The 18-year-old Watanabe clocked a national record time of 2 minutes, 08.45 seconds to give Japan its first medal in the discipline at either a world championships or Olympics. Hungary's Katinka Hosszu powered to the gold medal in a new world record time of 2:06.12, while the bronze medal went to Britain's Siobhan-Marie O'Connor, who clocked 2:08.77. "I had my eye on the positions and I thought just maybe I would get second but I am really surprised at the (Japanese record) time," said Watanabe, who shaved 1.16 second off the previous national record she set in the semifinals on Sunday.—Kyodo News