



President U Thein Sein praises flood-prevention efforts in Ayeyawady Region

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SCHOOLS IN DISASTER-HIT AREAS NEED ASSISTANCE TO REOPEN

By Aye Min Soe

YANGON, 9 Aug — Schools forced to close their doors due to recent flash floods and flooding need urgent assistance in order to be reopened, Ministry of Education said.

The Ministry of Education appealed to private donors Sunday to assist in the reopening of more than 2,490 schools in the worst-hit areas.

The recent floods and landslides destroyed or damaged more than 3,060 schools, forcing them to close.

The ministry has already reopened 569 schools which were damaged during the disasters.

Meanwhile, the Ayeyawady Delta, the country's rice bowl, is at risk of a new flooding due to swollen rivers in the region.

The rising Ayeyawady and Ngawun rivers threatening to inundate Ayeyawady Region saw their levels drop slightly Sunday, but they still remained above their designated danger levels, the country's weather bureau said.

Authorities alerted residents in low-lying areas of the Ayeyawady Delta to possible flooding, urging them to move to designated shelters, as the Ayeyawady and Ngawun rivers remained above their danger levels in Hinthada, Nyaungdon, Zalun and Seiktha townships.

The nationwide death toll from severe flooding has risen to more than 100, and the number of people affected by floods since June reached nearly 1 million nationwide, according to an updated figure released by the Ministry of Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement.

The floods inundated more than 1.2 million acres of rice fields, destroying more than 439,400 acres, according to the Ministry of Agriculture and Irrigation.



Flood- and landslide-damaged schools in worst-hit areas in Sagaing Region struggle to reopen.—MNA

The Ministry of Agriculture and Irrigation announced Sunday that it has collected enough rice seeds to distribute to farmers, at a rate of one basket of seeds per acre.

Flash floods and landslides in recent memory forced more than 3,000 schools in the worst-hit areas nationwide to shut down.—GNLM

Fundraising photo exhibition to be held for flood victims

By Khaing Thanda Lwin

YANGON, 9 Aug—A charity dedicated to assisting flood victims is preparing to host an exhibition of works by members of the Myanmar Photographic Society, its joint-secretary said Sunday.

The fundraising show will be held

from 17 to 19 August at Dagon Centre II in Sangyoung Township in Yangon.

The society has already collected more than 100 colour and black-and-white photographs donated by its members, photographer Zaw Zaw Tun told The Global New Light of Myanmar.

"The works may cover a wide range

of subjects such as landscapes and ethnic traditions," he added.

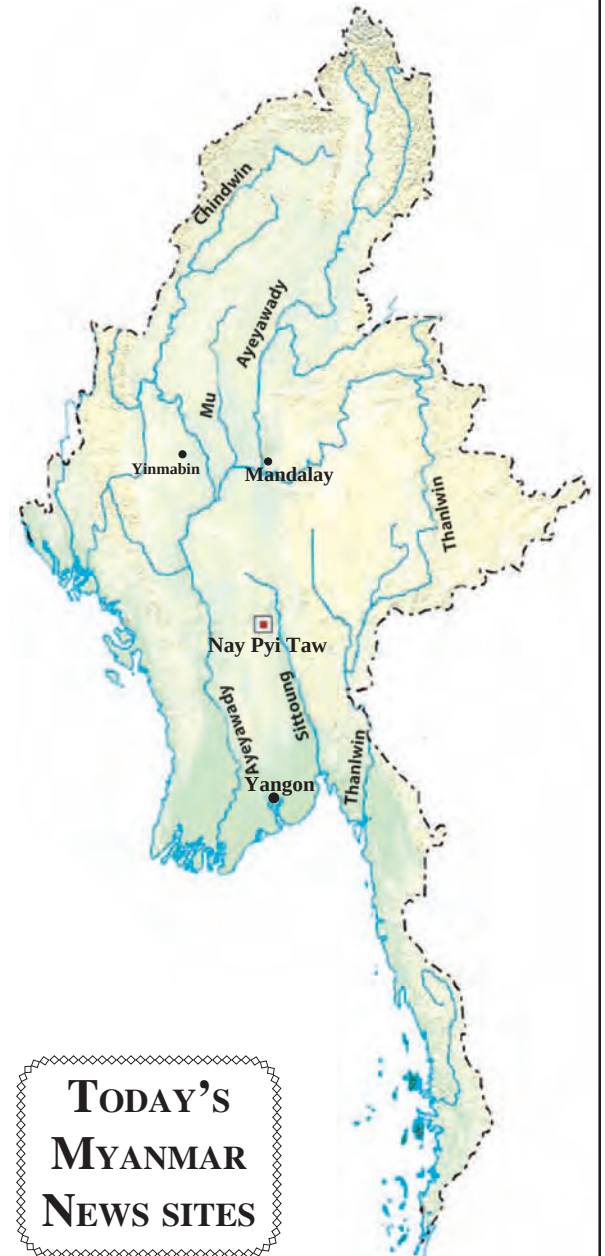
"Exhibited works will be selling for just 30,000 kyats (around US\$30) per photo," the 35-year-old photographer said. "This is an opportunity for collectors, as artists normally sell their works at a higher price."

"All proceeds from the event will go to the charity," said Zaw Zaw Tun, who donated three landscape photos for the event.

Torrential monsoon rains during June and July have caused floods and landslides across wide parts of the country, leaving more than 200,000 victims.—GNLM

Abbot Bhaddanta Nimala of Nanda Aungmyay Monastery from Leikpyakan Building in North Ngadatgyi Ward, Bahan Township, donated robes, umbrella, slipper, rice and foodstuffs including clothes worth K10 million for flood victims through an official recently.

MAUNG MAUNG THANT
(KYEMON)



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Yinnabbin Township reopens basic education schools



YINNABBIN, 9 Aug — Chairman of Yinnabbin Township Natural Disaster Management Committee U Soe Win and party provided rice, foodstuff, medicines and purified drinking water to 100 households from flood-affected villages as of 5 August.

Well-wishers donated 74 bags of rice, foodstuffs, instant noodle and clothes for people from 435 households from None, Kyaukhmaw, Saythu and Thanbo villages where Sagaing Region Minister for Security and Border Affairs Col Kyi Niang and officials met with flood victims.

As of 7 August, flooding is receding from Chindwin River. Local authorities supervised sanitation tasks of volunteers at schools, monasteries, roads, bridges and houses. Basic education primary schools reopened in five villages on 6 August and Kyaukhmaw BEHS on 7 August. Arrangements are being made to reopen six more schools in the township.

Tun Ko Ko (Yinnabbin)

US Professors visit water pump stations, sewerage plant

MANDALAY, 9 Aug — Professors from Northern Illinois University of the United States of America together with faculty members from Yadanabon University viewed water supply system and drainage of sewerage water in Mandalay recently.

They visited No 1 pump station (Malun) and No 8 pump station in Mandalay and drainage of

Shwege sewerage plant.

They held a meeting at the city hall in Mandalay, with Mandalay City Development Committee member U Tun Kyi and officials in attendance. They discussed water supply system in the downtown area of the city and drainage of sewerage.

Maung Pyi Thu
(Mandalay)



Bangladesh donates medicines worth \$800,000 to flood victims

YANGON, 9 Aug — An aircraft from Bangladeshi airline carrying medicines donated for flood-affected areas in Myanmar arrived at Yangon International Airport on 8 August.

Bangladeshi Ambassador Mr Mohammad Sufur Rahman handed over the donations to

Deputy Minister for Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement Daw Su Su Hlaing.

The ambassador said, "Our Prime Minister urged Bangladeshi people to donate cash and kind to flood victims of Myanmar. We arrange to donate makeshift tents and blankets for

the victims."

An official of Relief and Resettlement Department said that the department will distribute 40 medical kits worth US\$800,000 comprising 32 medical items to the flood-affected areas through Ministry of Health.—Min Thit

President U Thein Sein praises flood-prevention efforts in Ayeyawady Region

NAY PYI TAW, 9 Aug — President U Thein Sein on Sunday flew to flooded areas of Ayeyawady Region and praised rescue workers for their concerted efforts to prevent the towns from flooding.

In Nyaungdon, the president praised local people, military and departmental personnel and social organizations for laying sandbags on river banks as part of the effort to prevent flood water entering the town.

More funds would be asked from the Pyidaungsu Hluttaw to pile more sandbags up to five feet, he said before inspecting the distribution of water by a military water-purification vehicle.

At a relief camp where 630 flood victims are looked after, he recognized voluntary services in face of disaster, pledging timely assistance to the needs of education, health and agriculture.

The recovery activities

will include disbursement of paddy seeds and land preparation for cultivation of crops on damaged farmland.

In Hinthada, the president inspected the construction of a disaster management training centre, which is near completion. The centre is the first of its kind in Myanmar and its construction started in 2013-2014 fiscal year.

At a relief camp there, he presented relief supplies and K50 million for the flood victims through the region's chief minister.

The president also met members of China's Blue Sky Rescue team, who are here to engaged in rescue operations in Rakhine State.

The president flew to Bago Region, where he stopped for the night.

MNA

President U Thein Sein meets Tatmadawmen engaging in relief tasks in Nyaungdon.—IPRD



Senior General Min Aung Hlaing on tour of Sagaing Region, Chin State

NAY PYI TAW, 9 Aug— While the government is making arrangements for providing assistance to the flood-affected areas during a six-month rehabilitation period, the Tatmadaw will reconstruct these areas with might and main, Commander-in-Chief of

Defence Services Senior General Min Aung Hlaing told the ceremony to donate relief supplies to flood victims at the hall of Kalay Station Sunday.

The senior general and party viewed clearing of debris by Tatmadawmen on Kalay-Kalewa road Sunday

after visiting flood-affected regiments and units in Kalay and Cikon stations.

The senior general and party presented personal goods for the victims to officials. In Falam, Chin State, the senior general gave foodstuffs to the local people while wife of the senior

general Daw Kyu Kyu Hla presented cash assistance to Township Maternal and Child Welfare Association.

On arrival at the local battalion in Tiddim Township, they provided cash assistance and supplies to the family members.

Myawady

Historian Dr Thant Myint-U wins Fukuoka Grand Prize

YANGON, 9 Aug—Historian and Yangon heritage champion Dr Thant Myint-U on Sunday received the grand prize of Fukuoka Asian Culture Prize from Mr Soichiro Takashima, Mayor of Fukuoka City, Japan.



Fukuoka Prize is an award established by the city of Fukuoka and the Yokatopia Foundation to honor the outstanding achievements by individuals or organizations in preserving and creating unique and diverse cultures of Asia.

According to a post on Fukuoka website, Dr. Thant Myint-U is a truly worthy recipient of the Grand Prize of the Fukuoka Prize as he is a distinguished intellectual of 21st century Asia, narrating the voices of the people of Myanmar and connecting them with the wider international community.

Dr. Thant Myint-U is the grandson of former UN

Secretary-General U Thant. He was born in 1966 in New York City. After graduating from Harvard University, he enrolled at Johns Hopkins School of Advanced International Studies, from which he received a Master's Degree in International Relations and International Economics. In 1996, he received his Ph.D. in Modern History from the University of Cambridge.

Present at the prize award ceremony at Park-Royal Hotel in Yangon were Union Minister at the President Office U Soe Thane, Yangon Mayor U Hla Myint, ambassadors from the foreign embassies and officials.—Yi Yi Myint / Ohnma Thant / Photo: Zaw Min Latt

YHT installs blue plaque at Central Plaque

YANGON, 9 Aug — A ceremony to install a blue plaque at Central Press under the Ministry of Information was held at No 228 on Theinbyu Street, Botataung Township, here, Sunday.

Managing Director U Aung Myo Myint of Print-

ing and Publishing Enterprise, executive of Yangon Heritage Trust Dr Thant Thaw Kaung and Head of Branch of Yangon City Development Committee U Zaw Min Tun formally opened the ceremony.

Senior Architect Mr David Gole of YHT spoke

about tasks to be done at the Central Press.

The Central Press is installed with the blue plaque as the 7th installation of its kind in downtown Yangon. The plaque describes the relations between the historical persons and events in the public places. It is

one of the best ways to observe the history of Yangon City.

As of June 2013, YHT in cooperation with Royal Philips Corporation has installed blue plaques at the significant venues in Yangon.—Yi Yi Myint / Ohnma Thant

Tatmadaw provides relief supplies, medical treatment to flood victims

NAY PYI TAW, 9 Aug— Tatmadaw provides cash assistance and relief aid to flood-affected areas.

The commander-in-chief of Defence Ser-

vices on his tours donated K90 million, military commands and Myanma Economic Corporation, 1,045 bags of rice and relief supplies including 16 bags

of gram, foods, cooking oil, instant foods, purified drinking water, clothes and soft drinks to the flood victims.

A floating hospital

(Shwepazun) of Defence Services (Navy) gave medical treatment to 276 men, 671 women and 74 children in Hinthada and Kyangin townships.—MNA

As Singapore turns 50, a proud nation prepares to party

SINGAPORE, 9 Aug — Festooned with countless red and white flags, Singapore launched an extravagant celebration of its 50th anniversary on Sunday, an occasion of national pride the city state's ruling party is expected to exploit to call an election next month.

It will be the second time this year that Singaporeans have come together to reflect on the extraordinary success of a tiny nation, after they mourned the death of first prime minister Lee Kuan Yew in late March.

An island of 5.5 million people that sits just north of the equator, what was a post-colonial backwater at independence from Malaysia in 1965 is now a global business hub whose economic and social model is the envy of nations around the world.

The government intends to showcase its success in an elaborate parade that will include a flypast by fighter jets and fire-



The Republic of Singapore Air Force Black Knights aerobatics team performs a manoeuvre during an aerial display ahead of Singapore's Golden Jubilee celebrations along the southern coast of Singapore August 8, 2015.—REUTERS

works for an audience of 200,000 as well as millions watching on television from their living rooms.

"At 50 years, as we stand at a high base camp, we look back and marvel how far we have come. We are grateful to those who made it happen," Prime

Minister Lee Hsien Loong said in a televised speech on the eve of the national day.

"From this base camp, we can also look forward to new peaks ahead. The journey ahead is uncharted. But we must press on, because we aspire to do

better for ourselves and our children." Lee spoke at the Victoria Concert Hall, where his father, the country's first prime minister, Lee Kuan Yew, launched the People's Action Party in 1954. The party that has remained in power since independence.

The government has granted an extra day of public holiday, and handed out commemorative tote bags stuffed with national flags along with snacks and games from Singapore's yesteryear.

Regional leaders attending the festivities will include Malaysian Prime Minister Najib Razak and Australian Deputy Prime Minister Warren Truss.

The official logo for the celebration is a red dot, a symbol of pride and defiance since the 1990s when an Indonesian leader was reported to have referred to Singapore dismissively as "a little red dot" on the map. The image, with "SG50" in white characters, is ubiquitous, adorning banners, buses, cakes and a host of goods in shops.

A recording of Lee Kuan Yew reading the Proclamation of Independence, the document that announced Singapore's separation from Malaysia, was

played on radio and television channels at 9 a.m.

Prime Minister Lee, is widely expected to call the next election as early as September.

His party suffered its worst showing at the polls in the last parliamentary election in 2011 due to discontent over issues from a widening wealth gap, sky-rocketing property prices and an influx of foreign workers.

Political analysts expect Lee's party to win more votes this time, in part thanks to the patriotism and feelgood factor of the anniversary celebrations but also the government's efforts to address issues irking the public.

Still, when the banners are taken down, Singapore will return to debates over how to keep the economy growing while combating a low birth rate, anger over prices and a backlash over many years of liberal immigration policies.

Reuters

Typhoon Soudelor kills 12 in E China

WENZHOU, (Zhejiang Province), 9 Aug — Typhoon Soudelor, the 13th this year, has left 12 people dead and another 5 missing in Wenzhou City in east China's Zhejiang Province, the provincial flood control and drought relief headquarters said on Sunday.

Heavy downpours have caused mudslides and cave-ins in the city's rural areas, and several houses collapsed on Saturday night.

According to officials with the headquarters, the dead and

missing people may have been washed away by floods or buried under the collapsed houses.

After pounding Taiwan and leaving six people dead, Soudelor landed in the Chinese mainland Saturday night in Fujian Province and moved from there to neighboring Zhejiang and Jiangxi provinces.

In Wencheng county, under the jurisdiction of Wenzhou, precipitation within 24 hours hit 645 mm, the heaviest in a hundred years, officials said.

A total of 221,900 people

were affected in Wenzhou, with a direct economic loss of 248 million yuan.

Zhejiang Province issued an orange alert for rainstorms earlier Sunday.

Soudelor landed in Fujian Province at 10:10 p.m. Saturday in Putian county. As of 7 a.m. Sunday, precipitation in 16 cities and counties reached 250 mm. The city of Fuding experienced the heaviest downpour of over 501 mm.

In the provincial capital of Fuzhou, much of the downtown

area was waterlogged. More than 10,000 trees had fallen and traffic stalled on flooded streets.

A total of 163,200 people were evacuated to shore on Saturday night, according to the provincial flood control and drought relief office.

Power supply for more than two million households was affected, and was restored for 630,000 households as of Sunday morning after urgent repairs, according to State Grid Fujian Electric Power Co., Ltd.

Three airports in the province were closed, with more than 530 flights canceled. Six expressways were closed. Also canceled were 191 high-speed trains.

As the typhoon moved to east China's Zhejiang and Jiangxi provinces, the Fujian flood control and drought relief office downgraded the level-three typhoon emergency response to level-two.

Meanwhile, east China's Jiangxi Province launched a level-three emergency response as the typhoon was expected to land in the province around noon Sunday.

Soudelor landed in Taiwan earlier Saturday and left at least six people dead, four missing and 102 injured before it entered mainland China.

Xinhua

Empress undergoes checkup due to chest pain

TOKYO, 9 Aug — Empress Michiko underwent a scheduled medical exam Sunday at a Tokyo hospital after she complained of chest pain in recent months, the Imperial Household Agency said.

The 80-year-old wife of Emperor Akihito could be suffering myocardial ischemia, or insufficient blood flow to some heart muscle via the coronary arteries, which could lead to cardiac infarction, the agency said earlier.

She underwent a coronary computed tomography scan at the University of Tokyo Hospital.

Last month an electrocardiogram showed evidence of possible heart disease, prompting the agency to arrange for the empress to undergo a more detailed exam.

The empress has experienced chest pain since late June. She initially experienced pain several times a week, but the frequency has increased recently to several times a day, according to the agency. In myocardial ischemia, obstruction of a blood vessel can occur temporarily due to stress or simply advancing age. But it also could be evidence of more serious heart disease.

Emperor Akihito showed similar symptoms in 2011. He underwent heart bypass surgery in 2012 after being diagnosed as suffering from angina.

Kyodo News



Vehicles run on waterlogged roads in downtown Fuzhou, southeast China's Fujian Province, Aug. 9, 2015. Typhoon Soudelor stormed through Fujian after it landed in the province on Saturday night, causing urban waterlogging in the capital city of Fuzhou.

XINHUA

Text of Abe's A-bomb anniversary speech in Nagasaki



Doves fly over the Statue of Peace during a ceremony at Nagasaki Peace Park in Nagasaki, southern Japan Sunday, Aug. 9, 2015 to mark the 70th anniversary of the world's second atomic bomb attack. The atomic bomb attack on this city that left more than 70,000 dead and hastened the end of World War II exactly 70 years ago.—Kyodo News

NAGASAKI, 9 Aug — The following is the text of a speech delivered by Prime Minister Shinzo Abe at a memorial ceremony in Nagasaki on Sunday marking the 70th anniversary of the U.S. atomic bombing of the city.

Here today, at the opening of the Nagasaki Peace Memorial Ceremony on the 70th anniversary of the atomic bombing, I reverently express my sincere condolences

to the souls of the great number of atomic bomb victims.

I also extend my deepest sympathy to those still suffering from the aftereffects of the atomic bomb even now.

Seventy years have passed since the atomic bomb dropped that day reduced Nagasaki to ashes, devoid even of any vegetation. At that time some 70,000 people lost their precious lives. In this ca-

tastrophe, even those who survived were forced to live lives of hardships beyond description.

Yet despite this, the citizens of Nagasaki rose powerfully from amidst this misery to admirably build up an International Culture City blessed with World Cultural Heritage and a beautiful natural environment.

As we look around the city of Nagasaki that has achieved its pres-

ent-day restoration, we appreciate once more how precious peace is. I have also renewed my determination for Japan, as the only country to have ever experienced the horror of nuclear devastation in war, to take the lead in the international community's nuclear disarmament efforts, firmly upholding the "Three Non-Nuclear Principles" as we work towards the realization of a world free of nuclear weapons.

"Especially, this year is the 70th anniversary of the atomic bombings. Regrettably, a draft final document could not be adopted at the 2015 Review Conference of the Parties to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons (NPT), but Japan is determined to make even greater efforts towards realizing a world free of nuclear weapons as we continue to call for the cooperation of both nuclear-weapon States and non-nuclear weapon States. As an expression of that determination, the Government of Japan will submit a new draft resolution on the total elimination of nuclear weapons to the United Nations General Assembly this autumn.

At the end of August, the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty (CTBT) Group of Eminent Persons meeting and the United Nations Conference on Disarmament Issues will convene in Hiroshima. Not long after, the Pugwash Conference will be held here in Nagasaki in November. Then in 2016,

the G7 Foreign Ministers' Meeting will be convened in Hiroshima. Through these international meetings, we will send out our thoughts powerfully from atomic bombing sites as a message to the international community. Moreover, through world leaders and youth from around the globe becoming directly acquainted with the tragic reality of the atomic bombings, we will advance our efforts to realize a world free of nuclear weapons still further.

This year the average age of atomic bomb survivors is for the first time over 80 years old. It has also been 20 years since the Atomic Bomb Survivors Relief Law, enacted to provide support for aging atomic bomb survivors, came into effect. We will continue to develop thoroughly our comprehensive relief measures covering health and medical services and welfare.

In particular, giving consideration to the feelings of those who have applied for recognition as having an atomic bomb disease, we will expedite screenings of the applications so that recognition is granted at the earliest possible time.

I express my heartfelt prayers for the repose of the souls of the victims and my best wishes to the bereaved families and to the atomic bomb survivors, along with my sincere prayers for the inner peace of all the participants today and the people of Nagasaki City.

Kyodo News

Cargo stolen from Singaporean tanker hijacked in Malaysia waters

KUALA LUMPUR, 9 Aug — Fuel oil worth some 2.7 million ringgit (680,000 U.S. dollars) onboard a Singapore-registered tanker, which was briefly hijacked in the Malaysian waters, was stolen, authorities said on Sunday.

The MT Joaquim went missing Saturday night en route from Indonesia's Tanjung Pinang to Langkawi Island in Malaysia, said Malaysian Maritime Enforcement Agency

deputy director-general Ahmad Puzi Ab Kahar.

The tanker was found some 14 nautical miles east off Pulau Rupert, Indonesia, after Malaysian authorities dispatched dozens of ships, boats and aircraft for search and rescue operations.

Ten crew members, including 9 Indonesians and one Singaporean, were safe while two of them suffered minor injuries, according

to officials. However, the 3,500 metric tons of fuel oil was reportedly gone. The latest incident came after a tanker went missing off the east coast of Malaysia's southern Johor state in June. The tanker, which was carrying 6,000 tons of petrol worth some 21 million ringgit (5.6 million U.S. dollars), was later found near Vietnamese waters and at least eight pirates were arrested.—Xinhua

Government forces in East Timor kill ex-guerrilla leader in clash

JAKARTA, 9 Aug — A former guerrilla leader in East Timor has been killed in a security operation, the government said on Sunday, raising concern about unrest in Asia's youngest nation.

Mauk Moruk, widely considered a symbol of resistance against the independent government of the gas-rich but poor half-island nation, was killed in a joint police and military operation in the Fatulia area.

"Every effort was made during the operation to avoid this outcome," a government spokesman said in a statement, calling for calm. "Regrettably the operation was unable to avoid a confrontation resulting in an exchange of gunfire."

After decades under harsh Indonesian rule, when rag-tag rebels battled Indonesian forces from the hills, the former Portuguese colony has struggled to develop economically since independence in 2002.

Moruk often confronted another old guerrilla leader, Xanana Gusmao, the country's first president and later prime minister, challenging the government to do more about poverty and unemployment.

Despite gas production worth billions of dollars, about half the 1.2 million population live in poverty, according to the World Bank.

Indonesia invaded East Timor in 1975, after Portugal abruptly pulled out of a colony it had ruled for three centuries, and annexed the territory later that year, maintaining a heavy and at times brutal military presence. Indonesia later allowed a vote and East Timor opted for independence in a violence-plagued poll in 1999.

Independence hero Gusmao stepped down as prime minister this year. The government spokesman said the country's security commission was due to meet on Monday to discuss the situation.

Reuters

Ex-S. Korean first lady returns from trip to N. Korea

SEOUL, 9 Aug — The widow of former South Korean President Kim Dae-jung returned from North Korea on Saturday after a four-day visit that took place amid heightened tensions between the two Koreas.

Lee Hee-ho, 92, who arrived at Seoul's Gimpo airport on a chartered flight, did not have an opportunity to meet with North Korean leader Kim Jong Un during her trip, according to a member of her entourage.

"I followed the itinerary with a sense of mission to contribute to spreading the spirit of the joint declaration," Lee told reporters at the airport, referring to the inter-Korean agreement signed in 2000 by Kim Dae Jung and then North Korean leader Kim-jong Il at their landmark summit in Pyongyang.

"I held hands with children at a kindergarten in Pyongyang and felt that we should not hand down



Lee Hee-ho, 92, the widow of former South Korean President Kim Dae-jung, speaks at Seoul's Gimpo airport on Aug. 8, 2015, after returning from North Korea. KYODO NEWS

the pain of division to the next generation," she added.

Uriminzokkiri, a North Korean propaganda website, reported Lee's return to South Korea and said her visit "etched in people's minds once again the historical

significance and vital power of the North-South Joint Declaration."

There were no signs of easing of tensions between the two Koreas even as Lee made the visit just prior to the 70th anniversary of the Korean Peninsula's liberation from Japanese colonial rule on Aug. 15.

The South Korean government did not ask Lee to convey a message to North Korea on its behalf. Lee accompanied her husband when he visited Pyongyang in June 2000 for the inter-Korean summit. Kim Dae-jung died in 2009. She also met with Kim Jong Un in December 2011 when she traveled to the North Korean capital to express condolences over the death of Kim Jong Il, father of the current young leader.

During her latest trip, she also visited a maternity hospital in Pyongyang and Mt. Myohyang in North Pyongan Province, among other places.—Kyodo News

Greek government says discussing draft of third bailout deal



A Greek flag flutters outside the Athens stock exchange , Greece, July 27, 2015. —REUTERS

ATHENS, 9 Aug — Greek government officials discussed a draft of the country's third bailout agreement drawn up on the basis of discussions with EU/IMF lenders, a government official said on Saturday, boosting hopes a deal could be wrapped up in days.

Athens is racing to wrap up the bailout agreement of as much as 86 billion euros (\$94.35 billion) by as early as Tuesday in a bid to get the first disbursement of aid by Aug. 20, when it faces a debt payment to the European Central Bank.

Officials from European Union and International Monetary Fund lenders met Greece's finance and economy ministers in Athens on Saturday, the day after EU finance officials held a teleconference and noted progress in the talks.

The talks on Saturday fo-

cused on the so-called "prior actions" Greece must legislate to qualify for loans, and the two sides reached agreement on the issue, a senior government official said without giving details.

Talks will continue on Sunday to discuss more contentious issues, the official said.

"The agreement will be concluded comfortably before Aug.18," the official said.

Greece narrowly dodged a euro zone exit last month after months of acrimonious negotiations that culminated with Prime Minister Alexis Tsipras clinching a deal tied to stringent austerity and reform terms to avoid economic collapse.

Since then negotiations on the agreement itself - which will spell out details of the reforms and funds to be disbursed - have proceeded remarkably smoothly, with the lenders praising Greece

for its cooperation.

The view of EU officials on Friday's conference call was that talks are proceeding well and may be completed over the weekend, one source familiar with the matter said.

If a draft memorandum of understanding and an updated debt sustainability analysis are ready as planned on Tuesday, the Greek government and parliament would be expected to approve them by Thursday.

This would open the way for euro zone finance ministers to meet or hold a teleconference on Friday to endorse the up to 86 billion euro three-year loan program for Athens. Greece would be expected to enact another package of reform legislation before Aug. 20, in parallel with national ratification procedures to receive a first aid payment in time to meet the ECB payment.—Reuters

Argentines choose post-Fernandez path in presidential primary

BUENOS AIRES, 9 Aug — Argentina holds an open primary election on Sunday that will gauge the country's appetite for change after eight years of heavy state control of the economy and generous welfare spending under outgoing President Cristina Fernandez.

The front-runner ahead of the Oct. 25 general election is Daniel Scioli, governor of Buenos Aires province and a member of Fernandez's party.

Running second is Mauricio Macri, the business-friendly mayor of the capital city who wants to do well enough in the October vote to force a November run-off.

Both are former businessmen with more orthodox policies than Fernandez, whose high public spending has drained fiscal accounts and fuelled inflation while currency and trade controls slowed investment.

Macri promises to quickly free the markets. Scioli says "gradualism" is the best way to open the economy while preserving the strong social safety net weaved together by Fernandez since she first took power in 2007.

The primary is set up for each party to choose its presidential candidate, but with voters free to cross party lines, Sunday's vote will be a dry run ahead of the October election.

Argentine stock and bond prices will likely fall if Scioli comes out of Sunday's primary strong enough to win the

presidency in October's first round.

If Macri looks strong enough to force a run-off in November, markets are set to rise.

To win outright in October, a candidate needs 45 percent of votes cast or 40 percent with a 10-point spread over the second place candidate.

Scioli needs close to 40 percent of the primary vote to have a chance of a first-round win.

Ignacio Labaqui, who analyses Argentina for Medley Global Advisors, said Macri's coalition needs at least 30 percent on Sunday to stay in serious contention.

Macri vows to scrap currency controls and grains export curbs, and to negotiate an end to the U.S. court battle with holders of non-paying sovereign bonds that has hobbled Argentina's finances by keeping it in default.

Scioli has revealed few details of his programme, as he treads gingerly to lock in Fernandez's left-leaning base without alienating the wider electorate.

Fernandez's policies have fuelled one of the world's highest inflation rates, but poor voters who have benefited from state largesse over the last eight years remain loyal to her. While barred from running for a third consecutive term in October, Fernandez could return as a presidential candidate in 2019.—Reuters

Republicans pile on Trump as U.S. presidential campaign stumbles

WASHINGTON, 9 Aug — Rival Republican presidential candidates piled on Donald Trump on Saturday for his caustic remarks about a female debate moderator, and the billionaire celebrity candidate backpedaled in an effort to keep his campaign from unraveling.

Trump blasted Fox News anchor Megyn Kelly during a debate in Cleveland on Thursday when she questioned him about insulting comments he had made about women. The backlash to his exchange with Kelly has threatened to knock the wheels off the bandwagon of support that had Trump leading early polls in the race for the Republican nomination for the 2016 election.

Asked about Kelly on a CNN interview on Friday, Trump said: "You could see there was blood coming out of her eyes. Blood coming out of her wherever."

Trump was promptly dumped from a keynote speaking role on Saturday night in Atlanta at an important gathering of conservative activists put together by the RedState organization. Republican candidates Carly Fiorina, Scott Walker, Lindsey Graham, Rick Perry and George Pataki denounced the comments on Twitter or in statements.

RedState chief Erick Erickson said he disinvited Trump because of his remarks about Kelly on CNN.

The Trump campaign issued a statement clarifying that by "her wherever," Trump meant Kelly's nose.

"Mr. Trump made Megyn Kelly look really bad - she was a mess with her anger and totally caught off guard," the campaign said. Trump said 'blood was coming out of her eyes and whatever' meaning nose, but wanted to

move on to more important topics. Only a deviant would think anything else."

Erickson, who invited Kelly to replace Trump at the conference, said he revoked Trump's invitation because he did not "want someone on stage who gets a hostile question from a lady and his first inclination is to imply it was hormonal."

A campaign spokeswoman said on Saturday that Trump had fired senior political adviser Roger Stone, the second firing of a senior staffer over the past week. The reason cited was that Stone was using the Trump campaign for his own personal publicity. Stone denied being fired, saying he resigned over the direction of Trump's campaign.

Trump also took to Twitter on Saturday to renounce politically correct attitudes, as he had done at the debate.

"So many 'politically correct' fools in our country," he wrote. "We have to all get back to work and stop wasting time and energy on nonsense!"

Rival candidates, however, hammered on their doubts that Trump was ready to represent the Republican party in a presidential run.

"Enough already with Mr. Trump," said Graham, a senator from South Carolina. "As a party, we are better to risk losing without Donald Trump than trying to win with him."

He added: "Due to Donald Trump's unrelenting and offensive attack on Megyn Kelly and others, we are at a crossroads with Mr. Trump."

Without mentioning Trump's name, Jeb Bush made reference to him when he spoke to RedState. Bush, former governor of Florida, said the tough questions at the de-

bate were nothing compared to the challenges the next president will face.

"You think that's tough? How about dealing with (Russian President Vladimir) Putin? How about dealing with the challenges that exist in our country? This is nothing," he said.

Erickson read aloud some of the emails he had been getting from Trump supporters to protest his move, saying it appeared the Trump campaign had made his email address available to them.

In some of the emails, according to Erickson, the writers used a racial epithet to refer to President Barack Obama and made other inflammatory comments.

"I've got to tell you guys, I made the right decision," said Erickson. "These are the people I don't ever want at a RedState event."—Reuters

At least 12 dead as Mali siege ends, some U.N. workers freed

BAMAKO, 9 Aug — At least 12 people were killed during a nearly 24-hour siege of a hotel in central Mali seized by suspected Islamist gunmen that ended on Saturday as security forces stormed the building and released some of the United Nations workers trapped inside.

Four U.N. contractors were freed in the pre-dawn raid, but Mali's U.N. peacekeeping operation MINUSMA said five people associated with the mission had died, while Malian officials counted three hostages dead.

Five soldiers and four gunmen, including one who officials said had been strapped with explosives, were also killed, a Defence Ministry spokesman said.

The gunmen had seized the Byblos Hotel in the town of Sevare, around 600 km (375 miles) northeast of the West African nation's capital Bamako, early on Friday and held off government troops who quickly surrounded the building.

The attack was the latest in what appears to be a growing campaign against Malian

soldiers and U.N. personnel by remnants of an al Qaeda-linked insurgency and newly formed local Islamist groups.

Military spokesman Colonel Souleymane Maiga said the early suspicion was that the Massina Liberation Front, whose members are mainly drawn from central Mali's ethnic Peul community, had carried out the attack.

A Sevare resident living near the hotel told Reuters that the security forces had launched their raid between 4 and 5 a.m. (0400-0500 GMT), saying: "We didn't hear heavy weapons this time. There was just some small arms fire."

On Friday, Malian forces had used heavy weapons, including rocket-propelled grenades, in a failed attempt to dislodge the gunmen.

The resident and a Malian military source said a special unit of the Malian gendarmes had carried out Saturday's raid.

MINUSMA spokeswoman Radhia Achouri said four U.N. contractors - two from South Africa along with a Russian and a

Ukrainian - had been freed: "At no point were they discovered by the terrorists in the hotel. They were hiding."

She said the five personnel associated with the mission who had been killed were a Nepalese, a South African, two Ukrainians and a Malian.

South Africa's Foreign Ministry confirmed that two of its citizens were safe while a 38-year-old Pretoria resident working for an aviation company contracted to MINUSMA had died.

Malian military and government officials had earlier said three hostages, from South Africa, Russia and Ukraine, had died. Ukraine's Foreign Ministry also said in a statement that one of its citizens was believed to be dead while three others had escaped or been freed.

In Washington, the White House strongly condemned the attack and expressed its condolences to the families of the victims.

"That the victims came from different nations and faiths high-

lights the common cause that the United States and its partners must continue to make in the global effort to confront and defeat terrorists who have no regard for human life and diversity," the White House said in a statement.

Seven suspects were arrested in connection with the attack, according to a government statement released late on Friday.

A 2013 French-led military operation drove back Islamist fighters, who had taken advantage of an ethnic Tuareg rebellion and a military coup to seize territory in the north a year earlier. While the United Nations has managed to broker a tenuous peace agreement between the government and Tuareg separatists, Islamist fighters left out of the negotiations have mounted an insurgency.

Former colonial ruler France and other Western and regional nations fear Islamist fighters could turn the remote region into a launch pad for attacks further afield if they regain power there.

Reuters

22 dead, 12 injured in bomb attack in northern Afghanistan

ISLAMABAD, 9 Aug — At least 22 people, including police officers, died and 12 others were injured in a bombing in northern Afghanistan on Saturday night, local media reported Sunday.

The suicide attack took place in Kunduz Province where the police and local residents were discussing public safety measures, a day after a series of attacks in capital Kabul by the Taliban insurgency and other groups left about 50 people dead.

The Taliban also claimed responsibility for Saturday's attack, according to the Associated Press.

In July, the Afghan government and the Taliban held talks, raising hopes for peace through dialogue. But following the revelation of the death of Taliban leader Mullah Mohammad Omar, the Taliban released a message Aug. 1 by his successor Akhtar Mohammad Mansoor calling for continued jihad against the Afghan government.—Kyodo News



Iraqi Prime Minister Haider al-Abadi talks to Russian President Vladimir Putin (not pictured) during their meeting at the Kremlin in Moscow, Russia, May 21, 2015.—REUTERS

Iraqi PM bids to cancel posts of deputy PM and vice president

BAGHDAD, 9 Aug — Iraqi Prime Minister Haider al-Abadi called on Sunday for the multiple positions of vice president and deputy prime minister to be canceled, as part of an initiative to improve state finances and reduce corruption.

The measure, announced in an online statement, follows weeks of protests in Baghdad and southern cities demanding better government and a call on Friday by Iraq's leading Shi'ite cleric for Abadi to do more. Iraq's system of sharing

out government posts along sectarian lines has long been criticized for promoting unqualified candidates and allowing corruption.

Public anger at the state of politics could hamper efforts to rally support for the fight to push Islamic State militants from territory in the north and west of Iraq.

Abadi called for an end to sectarian and party quotas for government positions, the reopening of corruption investigations and the reassignment of officials' security details to the ministers of defense

and interior.

Iraq has three vice presidents, two Shi'ites and a Sunni, and three deputy prime ministers, a Shi'ite, a Sunni and a Kurd. The constitution gives Abadi the right to dismiss ministers with parliament's consent.

Shi'ite cleric Grand Ayatollah Ali al-Sistani pushed Abadi in a Friday sermon to "strike with an iron fist" against corruption and make appointments based on ability rather than party or sectarian affiliation.—Reuters

UN chief saddened to learn of death of five Rwandan peacekeepers in CAR

UNITED NATIONS, 9 Aug — UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon on Saturday said that he was "saddened to learn of the death of five Rwandan peacekeepers" in the Central African Republic (CAR), offering condolences to the bereaved families.

Ban, in a statement issued here Saturday night, said that the five fallen UN peacekeepers were serving in the United Nations Multidimensional Integrated Stabilization Mission in the Central African Republic (MINUSCA).

"A full investigation into the circumstances of this incident in which eight additional peace-

keepers were wounded is ongoing," the statement said, without disclosing any details on the deadly incident.

A Rwandan soldier serving under UN peacekeeping mission in CAR opened fire on comrades early Saturday, killing five of them and wounding eight others before shooting dead himself, Rwanda's Defence and Military spokesperson said Saturday.

"The secretary-general offers his deepest condolences to the bereaved families and to the government and people of Rwanda," the UN statement said. "He wishes a speedy recovery to the

injured."

The incident occurred on Saturday at around 5:45 a.m. local time in Bangui, at Rwanda Battalion Headquarters.

The casualties were immediately evacuated to hospital, spokesperson Brigadier General Joseph Nzabamwita said in a statement.

Since January 2014, Rwanda has deployed battalion of 800 soldiers to reinforce the MINUSCA in the CAR.

In addition, another special forces comprising of 140 Rwandan police officers, who are part of Rwanda's elite Police Unit,

have been deployed to Bangui to conduct patrols, ensure protection of VIPs, key installations and other escort duties.

Fighting has gripped the CAR since early 2013, when mostly Muslim Seleka rebels seized power in the capital Bangui, sparking reprisal attacks from Christian militias. The international peacekeeping operation in the landlocked CAR stems from the political violence.

France and African nations sent peacekeepers after a coalition of mostly Muslim rebels ousted President Francois Bozize in March 2013.

Christian and Muslim militias continued to battle for control before a tentative political transition began.

The violence prompted a humanitarian crisis, as hundreds of thousands of people fled their homes. Some sought refuge in neighboring countries, but many others were internally displaced, living in makeshift camps.

After the initial wave of peacekeepers, the UN Security Council in April 2014 formally set up the UN peacekeeping force of up to 11,800 troops, a force to which Rwanda contributes.

Xinhua

PERSPECTIVES

Monday, 10 August, 2015

From human blunder to human predicament

By Kyaw Thura

As an agricultural country, Myanmar still has to depend on its rivers, resulting in the construction of dams with the intention of providing irrigation water and generating hydroelectricity.

The construction of dams is not without environmental impacts. These facilities have the

potential to destroy the existing ecosystems as they change the circulation system of rivers, resulting in what is called 'climate change'. Environmental scientists have noted that it takes thousands of years for an ecosystem to come into existence, while some research has warned that dams can cause the disappearance of aquatic species, birds, forests, wetland and farmland, as well as erosion in coastal delta regions.

In the past few decades, hazards related to climate change have become more dramatically noticeable, with more and more people starting to take into consideration their upsides and downsides.

Tackling the matter of climate change is not an individual concern. Nor is it a societal concern. Nor is it an institutional concern. It is a national concern. More truly, it is a global concern. It is absolutely imperative for the government to

weigh up the pros and cons of building irrigation and hydropower projects.

As part of the ecology movement, the government and environmentalists should network and strategize better plans for future water and energy projects in the country. Now is the time to raise awareness about the impacts of dams and the value of free-flowing rivers.

Write for us

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

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

Don't waste the precious time of other people

When we were young, we wanted time to pass swiftly so that we would be old enough to do the things grown-ups do like riding a bicycle and driving a car. During term time, we would look forward to our summer vacation, and when it arrived, we wanted it to pass quickly because time seemed to stand still as we had so much time to kill and we wanted to be back at school and be with our friends. As we grew older and started working, we began to appreciate the value of time. We felt that we never had enough time to complete our tasks, or to have a bit of leisure. Later as we got married and had kids, we were pressed for time, as we had to divide our time between work and family obligations. Often, we think that time has passed without having been able to accomplish anything. Indeed, now at retiring time, we feel that the decades that have passed seem so short and that time had flown, and it is a matter of time when the long awaited end of our journey will arrive. In the meantime, without much work to do, we have all the time in the world to fret over little things.

A look at the sayings and phrases related to time shows that it is seen from different perspectives, but the majority of them take note of its value. To those who regard it as a scarce commodity, "time is precious". To those who can count the amount of money they earn by the minute, or even second, "time is money". To those who have to fit in many things in their day's schedule, "Time is fleeting". To those who see time from a philosophical point of view, "Time and tide wait for no man". To those who have experienced pain and sorrow and are slowly recovering, "Time is a great healer". Those who like to give advice to others, say, "There is a time and a place for everything". Those who want to chastise people who dilly and dally, point out that, "There is no time like the present" and that "Time is of the essence". For those with a lot of care and extra time, "Time hangs heavy" and for those who are enjoying life immensely, we enviously remark, "They are having the time of their lives".

However much experience tells us that time wasted cannot be made up, sometimes, we like to waste a lot of our valuable time over trivial pursuits. In Myanmar, there is a saying "bathing the cat as there is nothing better to do" to describe such activities. To any criticism about wasting our time, while it is all right to retort by saying, "It's none of your business how I spend my time," we cannot use any excuse to defend ourselves for wasting other people's time. But many people, because of lack of consideration for others, are wasting other people's time due to their actions, or inactions.

There is no doubt that daily, the majority of us encounter the boorish behaviours of others that rob us of a lot of our valuable time. The most common experience of those who have to leave their homes, either for work or to attend to other business, daily, whether by car, bus, or on foot is the irritating delays caused by the self-centredness of car drivers who park and even double park anywhere

they like, even at busy street corners, blocking the traffic. Some of them sit in their expensive cars without giving a thought about the traffic jam they are causing and the trouble they are creating to others. Trishaw men in groups also park their vehicles at intersections not to miss fares, thus making cars slow down so that they will not accidentally knock them down. The problem is compounded by house owners, shop owners, and roadside hawkers who are not only hogging the pavement at busy places but are also slowly invading the road, making pedestrians walk with great caution on the road to avoid being hit by cars, causing them to slow down their walking speed. Pedestrians themselves obstruct each other as some of them walk hand in hand with their lovers leisurely, as if they are in their own garden or in a park, blocking the path of those who are in a hurry to get to their destination. People waiting for buses in Myanmar do not have the habit of queuing and when a bus arrives, they all try to get onto the bus at the same time pushing and shoving each other, causing unnecessary delays and anger. Once they get on to the bus, if it is crowded, they stand near the entrance, again causing unnecessary delays to those getting on and off the bus. In the same way, during traffic jam, bus drivers do not stop at bus stops. They make passengers get down at any place convenient to them thus making passengers walk long distances to get to their destinations. Another cause for delays is the unrepaired pavements some of which are constructed over drains. These may have huge gaping holes so that pedestrians have to walk with great care to avoid falling into the drain. Similarly, people have to slow down their walking speed as they have to make their way through the rubbish and dog excrement littered all over the pavement and the road.

Time is also wasted at inefficient or non-caring organizations and offices. People have to wait for a long time to be attended to, either because the staff have not arrived on time, or are not at the office, or too few staff have been assigned, or because they are occupied with something else, including chatting on the phone or with their colleagues, or in these times, surfing the Facebook or playing computer games. Even when he has seen the officials concerned, a person may have to wait for a long time to get something done like obtaining the necessary recommendations. Sometimes, the person may be sent from one desk to another, to complete the business. There are also offices that do not provide all the necessary information about the papers a person need to bring and may ask him/her to return time after time, each time asking for a different paper. There are also big offices with no information desks and clients have to enter one room after another to find the person they need to meet. This is not just true for government offices and organizations. There are sales girls at shops that sell branded goods who ignore customers who they feel cannot afford to buy the

POEM:

The Best Times for a Breast-fed Baby

Aye Phyu

- # From an embryo to a fetus
Inside a world completely dark
For about nine months I stayed
While, with a rhythmic chant, time ticked away
- # Nowhere could I roam
When, with a sudden 'boom'
Crashed was my tiny cosy room
And I was thrown into a strange world soon
- # Silhouettes of all shapes
Clad mostly in long drapes
Not a single one could I gape
Far away, I wanted only to escape
- # Everything's extremely bright
The whole world full of light
Gripped with so much fright
I shut my eyes pretty tight
- # Stripped off warmth and security
In no time, feeling cold and hungry
I greatly yearned for anything
To bring those back to my feelings
- # Then I was handed onto someone
Who clasped me in her arms
Fed me from her bosom
For sure, kept me secured and warm
- # Mornings and evenings rush in and go
Nights and days I quickly came to know
Over time I started to grow
With bits of memories well in store
- # For me, the breastfeeding times are the best
The most memorable and the happiest
My secured feelings, warmest and coziest
Through all the tender cuddling and caresses
With the person of whom I'm fondest

expensive things in the shop and make them wait to be served. There are also restaurants, although they have a lot of staff, are slow at serving customers, either because they are inefficient, or they do not care about their customers.

At some schools and higher education institutions, there are teachers who do not take classes even though they are present, who take classes but spend the time talking about irrelevant things, or who after teaching for a few minutes give some tasks to students and then disappear without returning to give any feedback, thus wasting the valuable time of students, some of whom have to come from distant places. Due to parents being unsure about whether their children are being taught properly, they send their children (See pgae 9)

Journalists gather at 2nd conference



The 2nd conference of Myanmar Journalists Association in progress at UMFCI Office Tower in Yangon.—Ye Htut

YANGON, 9 Aug — New generation media persons are weak in journalism, accuracy, responsibility, accountability, unbiased activity and abiding by the ethics, Patron of Myanmar Journalists Association U Khin Maung Lay (Po Thaukkyar) (Kh-

it-Moe) told the opening ceremony of the 2nd conference of the association at the UMFCI tower, here, Sunday.

Chairman of the association U Ko Ko (Ko Ko-Sethmu Tekkatho) and Permanent Secretary of Ministry of Information U

Tint Swe spoke on the occasion.

Representatives read out the messages sent by various organizations to the conference.

The chairman and officials accepted K32.7 million from well-wishers.

The conference fo-

cused on the report of executive committee, financial report and amendment of the organizational setup.

The association which organized its first conference on 11 August 2012 is formed with more than 1,000 members. It holds prize awarding ceremony, respect paying ceremony, forums and talks, training courses and press conferences.

Win Win Maw

Coordination meeting focus on extension and renovation of YGH

YANGON, 9 Aug — Yangon General Hospital Renovation Work Committee and subcommittee held a meeting at Training Centre of the hospital, here, Sunday, with Chairman of the work committee Chief Minister of Yangon Region U Myint Swe in attendance.

Officials of the subcommittees reported on accomplishments for the guidance of Vice President Dr Sai Mauk Kham on his inspection tour on 17 July and financial matters.

Officials of Yangon Electricity Supply Corporation and Budget Department discussed budget allocation for construction of a 66-KV sub-power station.—MNA

KBZ Brighter Future Myanmar Foundation expands rehabilitation supports for disaster victims

SAGAING, 9 Aug — Kanbawza Brighter Future Myanmar Foundation on Sunday revealed its rehabilitation plans for flood victims in Kalay, Sagaing Region and Haka, Chin State.

Foundation Chairperson Daw Nang Lang Kham said the foundation will

continue its assistance for flood victims in those areas to rebuild their lives, especially in education, health and agriculture.

The foundation's rehabilitation aid covers medicines, hospital devices, personal use, food, education

equipment including school uniforms, financial assistance and basic needs of the victims.

The foundation has pledged to provide cash assistance for rice cultivation of farmers in those areas.

GNLM

New ATR arrives for Myanmar National Airlines

YANGON, 9 Aug — The ATR-72-XY-AJY of Myanmar National Airlines of the Ministry of Transport arrived at Mingaladon International Airport on Saturday.

It is the first of six new airplanes imported from ATR Company of France.

Deputy Minister for Transport U Han Sein and Chief Executive Officer Captain U Than Tun welcomed two pilots of the airplane.

The CEO and officials met media at the lounge.

The aircraft can give 70 seats to the passengers.—MNA



New ATR-72-XY-AJY of Myanmar National Airlines seen with crew members.—MNA



Don't waste the precious ...

(from page 8)

to tuition, some of which are run by the subject teachers themselves. Hence, time is wasted by students on learning the same lessons at tuitions, and having to go from one tuition to another. Similarly, there are doctors at private clinics who arrive long after the appointed time as they make the rounds of their numerous clinics, making their patients, some of whom are seriously ill, wait for them for a long time, sitting on uncomfortable benches in cramped rooms.

If we add to the above our time given to the frivolous TV programmes we watch, the meaningless chatter on the FM radios we listen to and the cheap journals we read, the phone calls we make and receive to trade gossips and to moan and groan, surf the Facebook, looking at the photos

of unknown persons enjoying themselves and pressing LIKE, and reading the banal misspelt comments, and play games on our cell phones, we will find that, daily, we are spending at least two to three of our waking hours on useless and unnecessary things.

The above are just a few of the things that the common people have to face or do, day in and day out, that waste their time. It is understandable if traffic jams are being caused by the inordinate increase in the number of cars and narrow roads in the city. But, if they are caused by things like illegal parking, the usurping of pavements and roads by shop keepers, hawkers, and trishaw men, then action needs to be taken against them by the authorities concerned for the good of all. Similarly, at a time when we are trying to be consumer/client oriented and trying to expand one-stop services for the convenience of the public, officials in charge of government offices should check regularly how people who come to their offices

are being treated and see that they get better and prompt services and the necessary information. Owners of stores and restaurants, big and small, should ensure that their staff are giving proper service and attention to their customers and not treating them disdainfully. A large section of our population is attending schools and universities and those in charge of education institutions need to ensure that students' time is not being wasted due to absentee, or inefficiency of teachers and lack of proper supervision by school heads. In addition, school children should be taught to be considerate to others, have self-discipline, better manners, be helpful to each other and learn to use their time efficiently so that when they grow up they will not waste their own and other people's time. We should also be more assertive and speak out when other people infringe on our rights and waste our time. Finally, we need to train ourselves to manage time so that we have adequate time for work, fun, relaxation, sleep and our family.

German trade surplus to rise to new record in 2015

BERLIN, 9 Aug — Germany's trade surplus is expected to rise to a new record in 2015 thanks to falls in the prices of imported oil and gas, *Der Spiegel* reported on Saturday.

The Finance Ministry is estimating a trade surplus of 8.1 percent of economic output after 7.6 percent last year, the magazine said, citing an internal ministry document.

The lower cost of imports of oil and gas is expected to boost the trade balance by around 1.2 percent alone, the document said. Without the decline in oil and gas prices, the trade surplus would have fallen compared with the previous year.

Germany has come under international pressure to reduce its trade surplus,

which critics say contributes to imbalances in the world economy.

In a report published last month, the International Monetary Fund said Berlin should focus on bolstering medium-term growth and reducing external imbalances.

The European Commission considers trade surpluses that are repeatedly over 6 percent of economic output as dangerous for stability and has urged Germany to undertake more investment to stimulate imports.

Despite a fall in exports in June, the larger net balance between exports and imports meant that the trade surplus widened to a record 24.0 billion euros (\$26.19 billion), data published on Friday showed.—*Reuters*



Shipping terminals and containers are pictured in the harbour of the northern German of Bremerhaven on the banks of the river Elbe, late October 8, 2012.—*REUTERS*

New York to clean cooling towers in outbreak area by Sunday

NEW YORK, 9 Aug — New York officials expect by Sunday to complete a city-ordered cleaning of cooling towers in the South Bronx that were tied to an outbreak of Legionnaires' disease that has killed 10 people, Mayor Bill de Blasio told reporters on Saturday.

The outbreak appears

to have peaked with no new cases diagnosed over the last four days, but the inspection and cleaning of cooling towers will continue as the city battles the Legionella bacteria, which thrive in warm water, de Blasio said.

Some 108 people were sickened in the outbreak, with 18 still hospitalized,

de Blasio said.

"This is literally uncharted territory ... We have never seen an outbreak of Legionnaires' like this in the history of New York City," he told reporters. "We also know that this is an emerging reality not just here in this city but around our state and nation."

New York had not previously attempted to list all of the estimated 2,500 cooling towers within its five boroughs. The towers, common on the rooftops of modern buildings, are used for heating, ventilation and air conditioning.

The city turned to a range of technologies from police helicopters to satellite maps available on the Internet to search them out.

Cooling towers in five buildings were identified as the likely origination points

for the outbreak, and another 161 buildings in the outbreak area were identified as potentially having cooling towers.

The city is working to have all of the remaining buildings in the area inspected and disinfected within the next 24 hours, de Blasio said.

Citywide, building owners have been ordered to disinfect their cooling towers within 14 days if they have not already done so within the last month. The state is also providing building managers and landlords with free Legionella testing through October.

Officials have stressed that drinking and bathing water are safe to use throughout the city, and using home air conditioning units are also safe.

Reuters

China under mounting pressure to ease policy as economy stumbles

BEIJING, 9 Aug — China is under growing pressure to further stimulate its economy after disappointing data over the weekend showed another heavy fall in factory-gate prices and a surprise slump in exports.

Producer prices in July hit their lowest point since late 2009, during the aftermath of the global financial crisis, and have been sliding continuously for more than three years.

Exports tumbled 8.3 percent in the same month, their biggest fall in four months, as weaker global demand for Chinese goods and a strong yuan policy hurt manufacturers.

"Policy focus is definitely the (producer) deflation at this stage," said Zhou Hao, economist at Commerzbank AG in Singapore.

He said China's central bank would likely need to further cut interest rates again, having already cut four times since November in the most aggressive easing in nearly seven years.

The gloom may only deepen in the coming week with a raft of economic data forecast to show renewed weakness in factories, investment and domestic spending.

The world's second-largest economy is officially targeted to grow at 7 percent this year, still strong by global standards, but some economists believe it is growing at a much slower

pace.

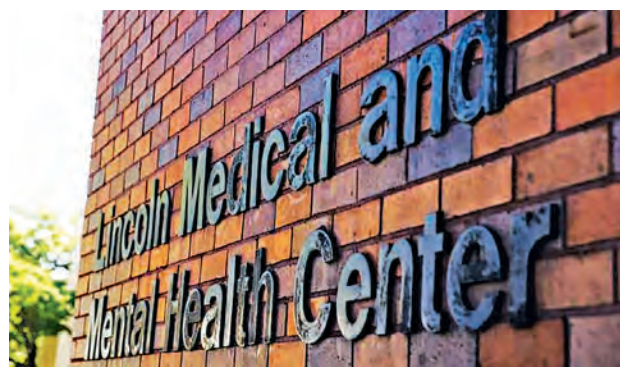
Economists expect the central bank to cut rates by another 25 basis points this year, and further reduce the amount of deposits banks must hold as reserves by another 100 basis points, according to a Reuters poll last month.

The producer price index fell 5.4 percent from a year earlier, the National Statistics Bureau said on Sunday, compared with an expected 5.0 percent drop. It was the worst reading since October 2009 and the 40th straight month of price decline.

Falling producer prices are worrying because they eat into the profits of miners and manufacturers and raise the burden of their debts. China's corporate debt stands at 160 percent of gross domestic product, twice that of the United States, according to a Thomson Reuters study of over 1,400 firms.

In line with the sluggish economy, annual consumer inflation remained muted at 1.6 percent despite surging pork prices, in line with forecasts and slightly higher than June's 1.4 percent.

A cooling housing market, uneven exports and weak investment have cooled annual economic growth, which will be slowest in a quarter of a century even if it hits Beijing's target this year.—*Reuters*



A sign hangs outside Lincoln Medical Center where a cooling tower has been tested and disinfected following a deadly outbreak of Legionnaires' disease in the South Bronx region, New York August 7, 2015.—*REUTERS*

Facing epidemic, Cincinnati hospitals test mothers, newborns for drugs

CINCINNATI, 9 Aug — Bubbly and athletic, Heather Padgett, raised in a loving family in the Cincinnati suburbs, would not fit the stereotype of a heroin addict.

But the 28-year-old former administrative assistant's addiction was so bad, she used heroin while pregnant. Her twin girls were born nine months ago while she was in treatment, and they suffered tremors from withdrawal.

"I never thought I'd be pregnant and using drugs," Padgett said. Until she got clean last August, she was part of what the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Pre-

vention has called a heroin epidemic — a 100 percent rise in heroin addiction among Americans between 2002 and 2013.

The sharp rise in heroin addiction, coupled with the risks of newborns developing withdrawal symptoms after they are sent home, has led a group of Cincinnati hospitals to try what they say is the first program of its kind in the United States: testing all mothers, or their infants, for opiates regardless of background, not just those who seem high-risk.

The aim, they say, is to catch as early as possible any infants at risk of suffering

from withdrawal because of their mothers' drug abuse. Known as Neonatal Abstinence Syndrome (NAS), infants can experience extreme irritability, poor feeding and diarrhea, all of which can show 48 to 96 hours after birth. By that time, many have already been taken home, where they could have seizures, or suffer abuse from parents faced with inconsolable crying.

"The key thing we wanted to do is identify these infants early on," said Dr. Scott Wexelblatt of the Cincinnati Children's Hospital Medical Center.

Between 2004 and

2013, the national admission rate to intensive care units for NAS increased almost 300 percent to 27 cases per 1,000 admissions, according to a report in the *New England Journal of Medicine*.

Ohio has seen a 760 percent increase in the number of babies diagnosed with NAS between 2004 and 2013, and an average of five dependent babies were hospitalized every day in 2013, according to a Ohio health department report in July. The average cost is nearly \$58,000 per hospitalization, which added up to \$97 million in 2013, the report said.

Reuters

Video gamers win millions of dollars in Seattle championship

SEATTLE, 9 Aug — Teams of video gamers playing characters ranging from wizards to monsters exchanged virtual punches, fireballs and lightning strikes over the past six days, battling at the main event of the Dota 2 International 2015 tournament in Seattle.

And by the end of Saturday's finals, five players, including a 16-year-old, became more than a million dollars richer.

Now in its fifth year and playing to a sold-out crowd in the 17,000-seat Key Arena, the International has grown every year in size, popularity and possible winnings for players. The tournament launched in 2011 with a then-ground-breaking grand prize of \$1 million and now offers an \$18 million prize pool.

Fans, handfuls of whom roamed the arena dressed as their favorite in-

game heroes, roared as the team "Evil Geniuses" secured the championship, wiping out their enemies with an earth-shaking smash and a devastating blast of frost.

Video games have long been a moneymaker for the tech sector, forecast to generate some \$111 billion in revenue this year by consultants Gartner Inc. But over the past several years, playing them has turned into a full-time job for a select few top-tier players, as interest and prize pools have ballooned.

According to Valve, the publisher of Dota 2, about 11.5 million users log on monthly to play the game, in which two teams try to destroy each other's bases in an online arena.

Players and teams came to the United States from China, South Korea, Ukraine, Russia and elsewhere to compete for a



Fans watch a competition during The International Dota 2 Championships at Key Arena in Seattle, Washington August 8, 2015.—REUTERS

share of the prize pool - with roughly \$6.6 million going to the winning five-player squad.

Though while the tournament was international in scope, the home team Evil Geniuses drew the most

support, with fans chanting "U-S-A" and "E-G" with each spectacular play. Syed Sumail Hassan, 16, who moved from Pakistan to Illinois chasing his dreams of being a professional gamer and is most known

for playing a powerful electricity-based champion for the team, said after winning the tournament: "It just meant everything to me." Tickets for this year's event sold out and hundreds have registered to at-

tend so-called "Pubstomp" viewing parties at bars and internet cafes in cities from Los Angeles to Sandy Springs, Georgia.

Hundreds of thousands of fans have tuned in daily this week to watch streams of the event on sites such as Twitch.TV, while thousands more have packed into the arena to cheer on their favorite players live.

Ben Mussett, 24, drove two days from his native Ohio in a car packed with friends. He said he found watching video games, which he and other young fans refer to as "eSports," more appealing than traditional spectator sports like basketball and football.

"Traditional sports are kind of boring," Mussett said, "eSports are the future." His pal, 24-year-old Becca Eagen, agreed: "I've never watched or enjoyed sports the way I've enjoyed this."—Reuters

Web portal chastised for pornography, harmful political information

BEIJING, 9 Aug — China's Internet watchdog on Friday ordered iFeng.com, one of the biggest web portals, to correct its practices after netizens complained the website has published pornography and harmful political information.

In a statement posted on its own website, the Cyber Space Administration of China (CAC) said a total of 1,330 complaints had been filed against iFeng.com this year. Among them, 38.1 percent were related to pornog-

raphy, 16 percent were political while 1.5 percent were about terrorism.

An affiliated unit under Hong Kong-listed Phoenix Satellite Television Holdings Ltd., the web portal was also accused of "illegally publishing news and scrambling to release untrue breaking news." If the website can not rectify its problems, its certification to provide online news services could be revoked, CAC said.

According to the statement, iFeng.com said it

would correct its practices, strive to spread positive energy and become a responsible web media outlet.

Calling in Internet firms' executives to urge them rectify problems has become the norm for the regulator to manage the Internet. Last month, the regulator reprimanded Sina and Tencent for their failure to prevent a sex video taken in a Uniqlo Beijing store fitting online.

Xinhua

UK mobile phone retailer Carphone Warehouse hacked

LONDON, 9 Aug — Up to 2.4 million customers' data of the British mobile phone retailer, Carphone Warehouse, might have been accessed in a recent cyber-attack, the company said on Saturday.

The breach was discovered on Wednesday, which involved the names, addresses, date of birth information and bank details of 2.4 million customers, and the credit card data of 90,000 customers, the company said in a statement.

The company has notified local police and hired



cyber-attack experts to investigate the breach.

The company said it has taken down affected websites and was trying to inform customers who might be affected by the

data breach.

The affected part of the company operates websites such as OneStop-PhoneShop.com, e2save.com and Mobiles.co.uk.

Xinhua

Twitter considers board shakeup, may include exit of Costolo — Bloomberg

NEW YORK, 9 Aug — Twitter Inc's (TWTR.N) board is weighing a shake-up that could involve the exit of former Chief Executive Dick Costolo, Bloomberg reported, citing people familiar with the matter.

The changes may be announced when the company names a permanent CEO, Bloomberg said.

The change is intended to make the board more diverse. The board may expanded or shuffled to represent directors from

diverse backgrounds, such as minorities and those with experience in adjacent industries, including advertising and e-commerce, the people familiar with the matter said.

Twitter declined to comment.

Costolo stepped down as CEO on July 1 and the company named co-founder Jack Dorsey as interim CEO.

Last week, Twitter said its number of monthly average users grew in the

second quarter at the slowest pace since it went public in 2013.

Aside from Dorsey, other possible candidates for CEO include former Yahoo Inc (YHOO.O) CEO Ross Levinsohn; Mike McCue, CEO of newsreader app company Flipboard; Instagram founder Kevin Systrom; and Evan Williams, CEO of blogging website Medium, according to SunTrust Robinson Humphrey.—Reuters

Japanese company sends whisky samples to Space Station

BEIJING, 9 Aug — Japanese distillery Suntory is sending variety of whisky samples to the International Space Station for getting a flavor liftoff, according to media reports Wednesday.

Scientists for the event believe that after storing one year in a microgravity environment, the taste of the whisky will become smoother via the aging and mellowing process.

The whisky samples that will be on board the Space Station are aged for 10, 18 and 21 years respectively. And their flavor will be assessed once they come back to Earth, according to the company.

However, the result of the study won't be used for commercial product at present, the spokeswoman of the company said.

Xinhua

U.S. urges S. Korea's Park not to attend China's war ceremony

WASHINGTON, 9 Aug — The U.S. government has urged South Korean President Park Geun Hye not to attend next month's ceremony in China to mark what Beijing calls its victory over Japan during World War II, sources close to the matter said Saturday.

The administration of President Barack Obama conveyed to South Korea that if Park attends the Sept. 3 ceremony in Beijing, that would send a false message to the world that China has cracked the U.S.-South Korea alliance,

the U.S. government and diplomatic sources said.

Along with other world leaders, China has invited Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe to the commemoration marking its wartime resistance against Japan's aggression.

Abe does not plan to attend the event partly because it includes a major military parade in Tiananmen Square. But Abe is considering visiting Beijing either before or after Sept. 3 for what could be his third meeting with Chinese President Xi Jinping.

The United States sees the ceremony as part of China's attempts to increase its presence in the international community as well as in Asia, on which Washington has placed increasing strategic importance, focusing on the trilateral alliance with Tokyo and Seoul, the source said.

The Obama administration has contacted the U.S. Embassy in Seoul and used other diplomatic channels to express its concerns about Park's possible attendance, according to the sources.

The United States and Japan also recently declined to join the China-led Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank, even though key allies including South Korea and Britain were among nearly 60 countries that did join it.

China and South Korea share the perception that Japan has not done enough to atone for its atrocities before and during World War II, causing the United States to worry that could affect its strategy in the region.

Kyodo News



Visitors look at demilitarized atom bombs, nicknamed "Little Boy" (L) and "Fat Man" (R), and the Bockscar B-29 bomber at the National Museum of the United States Air Force in Dayton, Ohio, Aug. 6, 2015. To accelerate Japan's surrender in World War II, the U.S. army dropped atom bombs "Little Boy" and "Fat Man" respectively to the Japanese cities of Hiroshima and Nagasaki in August 1945.—XINHUA

France opens bribery investigation into Gabonese official

PARIS, 9 Aug — France is investigating Gabon President Ali Bongo's chief of staff on suspicion of taking a bribe to help secure a contract, a judicial source said on Saturday.

French police had detained Maixent Accrombessi for questioning last Monday, a move sharply condemned by Gabon, but released him after finding that he had diplomatic immunity.

Accrombessi is suspected of accepting a bribe from Marck, a French firm that makes military uniforms, in connection with Gabon's award of a contract to Marck at the end of 2005, the source said.

For the man suspected of bribing Accrombessi, Marck chairman Philippe Belin, prosecutors have gone a step further by formally placing him under investigation, the source added. Marck did not immediately answer the phone or respond to an email seeking comment late on Saturday.

After returning home, Accrombessi, one of Bongo's closest advisers,

said on his Facebook page that he was at the disposal of the French justice system, provided Gabon's sovereignty and his rights were respected. He did not make an explicit denial.

Gabon's presidency had said Accrombessi's detention was "linked to an affair that has nothing to do with (his) capacities as chief of staff" and that it had been meant "to humiliate (him) and his public function".

Gabon had excellent relations with France for decades under a system known as "la Françafrique", where Paris granted political and military support to long-serving presidents in its former African colonies exchange for commercial favors.

But the friendship has cooled since Ali Bongo succeeded his father Omar as president in a disputed election in 2009, not least because France is investigating the Bongo family's assets.

France's Total is one of the biggest oil producers in Gabon, which pumps around 230,000 barrels per day.

Reuters

Protesters take to Ferguson streets to mark anniversary of Brown killing

FERGUSON, 9 Aug — More than 200 protesters carrying bullhorns, drums and signs demonstrated against police in Ferguson, Missouri, on Saturday night, with some placing the roasted head of a pig on a barricade in front of officers.

The protest in front of police headquarters took on elements of a street carnival ahead of the first anniversary of the fatal shooting of unarmed black teenager Michael Brown by a white officer in the city.

Demonstrators of all ages, with some children in the group, blocked traffic but were mostly peaceful. Some danced on cars and others stood on concrete barriers, cursing at officers through bullhorns.

Police mostly stayed

behind a barricade.

"The whole idea is for people to be able to vent, to express themselves," said Ferguson police Sergeant Dominica Fuller, one of five African-Americans on the 50-member police force.

"They are getting their message out," Fuller said.

One group of protesters carved up a barbecued pig and placed its head on the barricade in front of officers.

Civil rights activists, religious leaders and others from around the United States have converged on Ferguson, a mostly black community of about 21,000 people, to commemorate the life and death of 18-year-old Brown, who was unarmed when he was shot in a confrontation with a white police officer on Aug. 9, 2014.

The public events, many organized by Brown's father, include a moment of silence at midday on Sunday on the street where Brown died.

"I am out here because I never want what happened to Mike Brown to happen to a friend of mine or their kids," said Christopher Woods, a 34-year-old white Ferguson resident who said many of his friends are black.

The death of Brown and other African-American men in encounters with police sparked months of sometimes unruly protests in Ferguson and around the United States.

It also strengthened the "Black Lives Matter" movement that has cast a spotlight on long-troubled relations between police and minority residents of

many U.S. cities.

Ferguson Mayor James

Knowles has said the city has made many reforms in

the last year, though it still has more to do.—Reuters



Laura Charles performs with fire sticks during a protest outside the police department in Ferguson, Missouri August 8, 2015.—REUTERS

GENERAL



Photo taken on Aug. 7, 2015 shows a helicopter of Astro Air sitting parked on the top of an office building in downtown Shenzhen, south China's Guangdong Province. Astro Air Co. Ltd. Company in Shenzhen on Aug. 7 launched helicopter tours over a scenic part of the city, while saying it also plans to start an intercity "flying taxi" service. The tour over Nanshan District offers tourists a 25-minute ride for 2,598 yuan (about 418.78 U.S.dollars) per person. —XINHUA

Mother saves son from crocodile attack in Costa Rica

SAN JOSE, 9 Aug — A five-year-old Costa Rican boy was saved from the jaws of a crocodile by his mother, local media reported Saturday.

The boy, Kenner Gutierrez Navarro, was attacked on Friday afternoon outside his house near the Tortuguero National Park in the coastal province of Limon, said La Nacio daily.

His mother, Teresa Navarro, heard the boy's cries as he was being dragged by the crocodile toward the Parismina River. She rushed outside and fought with the crocodile until it released the child, who had bite wounds to the arm, leg and back.

The mother addressed the boy's wounds at home before rushing him to the provincial capital of Guacimo for treatment. Although it took over 90 minutes to reach a hospital in Guacimo, the boy is now in stable condition.

According to studies carried out by the National University of Costa Rica, the country's crocodile population has tripled in the last 15 years and 13 people have lost their lives in crocodile attacks.—Xinhua

Samurai Senbei has global ambitions for its rice crackers

SAPPORO, 9 Aug — A shop in Sapporo, Hokkaido, aims to crack an overseas market this fall with its hand-grilled "senbei" rice crackers made entirely from rice grown in Japan's northernmost prefecture.

"Samurai Senbei" has gained a strong local following since it opened in January and its 39-year-old founder is confident they are ready to win new customers abroad.

"We want the world to know how tasty Hokkaido rice is," said Masahiro Sampei.

Samurai Senbei's rice crackers have already met with approv-

al at food exhibitions in Malaysia and Hong Kong.

This fall, it will start selling in Chicago and has plans for a move on New York too.

The shop uses three different brands of rice produced in Hokkaido — "Yumepirica" for hard-baked senbei, "Fukkurinko" for thin senbei and "Oborozuki" for crunchy senbei.

The rice crackers come in some 20 different flavors, ranging from senbei standards such as soy sauce and wasabi to offbeat tastes including chamomile, truffle with salt and a soy sauce-balsamic vinegar combination.

The senbei start at 120 yen per piece. Sampei did not come new to the business. There has been a senbei shop on his mother's side of the family for five decades. As a child, Sampei remembers watching her make rice crackers for "Kamata Seika," a long-established store in Sapporo. He came up with the idea of using Hokkaido rice to make senbei about four years ago, but soon discovered why no one had done so before. Senbei makers favor more affordable rice for senbei, as using high-quality rice pushes up production costs.

He contacted countless fac-

tories, but they all refused to manufacture rice cracker dough using Hokkaido rice, saying it was "unprofitable."

But two companies in Yamagata Prefecture, northeastern Japan, finally agreed to join hands with Sampei, apparently giving in to his irrepressible enthusiasm.

"The quality of Hokkaido rice is top class," Sampei said, "and I think senbei made from it should be a success anywhere."

Hokkaido's self-appointed senbei salesman to the world is about to put his convictions to the test.—Kyodo News

Police investigate shinkansen electricity failure in Fukuoka

FUKUOKA, 9 Aug — Police on Sunday began looking into an electricity failure on a bullet train on the Sanyo Shinkansen Line the previous day caused by an aluminum plate falling off a train while it was running at a speed of 285 kilometers per hour.

Local police officers entered West Japan Railway Co.'s train depot in Fukuoka Prefecture, southwestern Japan, and examined the train, Sakura 561, suspecting a possible maintenance flaw and negligence resulting in injury. A passenger was injured in the incident.

The railway operator known as JR West said electricity failed between Kokura and Hakata stations

in the prefecture at around 5:30 p.m. Saturday, causing Sakura 561 to come to a sudden stop.

JR West checked the track and found the aluminum part in a tunnel. The 6.5-kilogram plate, 71 centimeters wide and 62 cm in height, had fallen off the second car of the eight-car train that was heading to Kagoshima Chuo Station from Shin-Osaka Station.

After falling off the train the plate hit both the tunnel wall and train, damaging the train in three places and a wire that supplies electricity to the overhead cables, according to the railway operator. The electricity is believed to have failed because the wire shorted out,

it said.

The train was almost full with about 500 passengers aboard.

A 26-year-old woman, a high school teacher from Kagoshima, sustained minor injuries to her left wrist and elbow, the police said.

The component had been examined in the past two days and JR West found no abnormalities in a check Friday, the railway operator said.

The incident caused delays of up to 97 minutes in 53 trains on the Sanyo Shinkansen Line, affecting about 15,100 passengers, at a time the whole system was congested due to the start of the Bon holidays.

Kyodo News

5.9-magnitude quake hits 271 km NE of Raoul Island, New Zealand — USGS

BEIJING, 9 Aug — An earthquake measuring 5.9 on the Richter scale jolted 271 km NE of Raoul Island, New Zealand at 04:46:20 GMT on Sunday (12:46:20 Beijing Time), the U.S. Geological Survey said.

The epicenter, with a depth of 10.0 km, was initially determined to be at 27.4098 degrees south latitude and 176.0989 degrees west longitude.

Xinhua

WEATHER REPORT

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

FORECAST VALID UNTIL EVENING OF THE 10th August, 2015: Rain or thundershowers will be scattered in Rakhine and Kayah States, fairly widespread in Lower Sagaing, Mandalay, Magway, Bago, Yangon and Ayeyarwady Regions, Shan and Kayin States and widespread in the remaining Regions and States with likelihood of isolated heavy falls in Lower Sagaing, Mandalay and Taninthayi Regions, Northern Shan and Mon States. Degree of certainty is (100%).

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

OUTLOOK FOR SUBSEQUENT TWO DAYS: Likelihood of increase of rain in the Lower Myanmar areas.

FORECAST FOR NAYPYITAW AND NEIGHBOURING AREA FOR 10th August, 2015: Isolated rain or thundershowers. Degree of certainty is (80%).

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Perrie Edwards loves One Direction's 'Drag Me Down' song

LOS ANGELES, 9 Aug — Former One Direction star Zayn Malik's former fiancée Perrie Edwards thinks the group's first single without him is "incredible".

The Little Mix singer, who recently split from Malik, said her favourite song of the summer is the four-piece's latest release, "Drag Me Down", reported Hollywood Life.

"I like One Direction's new song 'Drag Me Down'. It's incredible," Edwards said.

It was recently reported that the heartthrob broke up with the Edwards, 22, two weeks ago by text message.

"It's unbelievable, he's an immature little boy with no thought for anyone else's feelings. Perrie is one of the sweetest girls in the world and she's stood by him through thick and thin," a source said.

"But he ended their engagement with one text message and in the two weeks since there's been complete radio silence between them. Who does that? She's devastated, which



One Direction

Perrie Edwards

everyone understands, but is doing her best to focus on work and to put on a brave face in public."

One Direction to film video at NASA facility

Boyband One Direction will reportedly shoot the video for their new single "Drag Me Down" at NASA's Space Center in Houston, Texas.

The music group released their new single

"Drag Me Down" last week and are now planning to film an out-of-this-world video at the facility in Houston, Texas, to match the track, which is the first to be taken from their as-yet untitled fifth studio album, reported Contactmusic.

The intergalactic clip will feature plenty of gadgetry with band members Harry Styles, Louis Tomlinson, Liam Payne and Niall Horan gaining ac-

cess to training equipment, airfields and other areas located at the astronaut centre.

The track is the first to be released by the band since Zayn Malik quit earlier this year to pursue a solo career and Payne has since revealed they are planning to take a break from the band at some point after the release of their next LP, which is due later this year.

PTI

Justin Bieber to release next album in September



Pop sensation Justin Bieber

LOS ANGELES, 9 Aug — Pop sensation Justin Bieber has revealed that his highly-anticipated LP would come out in September.

The 21-year-old singer, who appeared during the second day of the 2015 iHeartMedia Music Summit in Burbank, California, described his new music as "very awesome", reported Ace Showbiz.

"I've been working really hard on it. I've been taking my time. I haven't put out an album in over three years," he said.

During the event, Bieber also treated the Music Summit crowd to "What Do You Mean" which has been confirmed as the first single off the yet-to-be-titled album that's marking his first since 2012's Believe.

PTI

A new 'Nightmare on Elm Street' film in works

LOS ANGELES, 9 Aug — New Line Cinema is in the early stages of developing a new instalment of the horror film "Nightmare on Elm Street".

The production house is hiring screenwriter David Leslie Johnson of

"Orphan" fame to pen an update of the landmark horror franchise, reported Entertainment Weekly.

The first "Nightmare on Elm Street" film, released in 1984, starred Robert Englund in the iconic slasher role as the child

murderer burned boogeyman Freddy Krueger who finds a villainous afterlife by turning up in the bad dreams of his victims.

Director Samuel Bayer previously attempted to reboot Wes Craven's brainchild with a 2010 remake

that starred Rooney Mara and featured Jackie Earle Haley (Watchmen) as Freddy. Johnson also wrote the upcoming "The Conjuring 2: The Enfield Poltergeist" and season two of the television series "The Walking Dead".—PTI



Jennifer Aniston's wore a cream dress on wedding?



Jennifer Aniston & Justin Theroux

LOS ANGELES, 9 Aug — "Friends" actress Jennifer Aniston reportedly ditched the typical white gown for her wedding to Justin Theroux and opted for a dress in "off-white, cream" shade.

Aniston, 46, and Theroux, 43, tied the knot on August 5 in a secret wedding at their Bel Air mansion.

She wore a fitted, simple and classy dress, reported People magazine.

"It was very simple, but beautiful. It wasn't a white colour — it was like an off-white, cream colour. Very classy, fitted well and simple," said a source.

Reps for Versace, Gucci and Vivienne Westwood confirmed they did not design Aniston's dress for nuptials.—PTI

Spice Girls to reunite without Victoria Beckham?



Spice Girls

LOS ANGELES, 9 Aug — Spice Girls are reportedly reforming for a world tour next year but without Victoria Beckham.

The "Spice Up Your Life" hitmakers celebrate 20 years since the release of their first single "Wannabe" next year, reported Ace Showbiz.

They allegedly plan to mark the occasion with a global concert series, but the fashion designer will not be joining Emma Bunton, Mel C, Geri Halliwell and Mel B on stage. "This will be one of the biggest pop reunions of all time. There is a huge demand for the Spice Girls to get back together, especially with the nostalgia around the two-decade anniversary of their first release next summer.

"Mel B flew into London last month to secretly agree the plan with the other three girls. They should each make more than ten million pounds from this," a source said.

Beckham took part in the group's 2007-2008 reunion tour and their appearance at the London Olympics closing ceremony three years ago.—PTI

GENERAL

Israel charges Swede with spying for Lebanon's Hezbollah

JERUSALEM, 9 Aug — Israel charged a Swede of Palestinian descent on Sunday with spying for Hezbollah, saying the Lebanese guerrilla group had tasked him with gathering information on Israeli military facilities that might be attacked in a future war.

The suspect, Khalil Hizran, was arrested on July 21 after flying into Tel Aviv, and confessed under interrogation to working for Hezbollah, Israel's Shin Bet security service said after a gag order on the case was lifted.

According to a Shin Bet statement, Hizran planned to

gather information on military sites in Israel, a mission it deemed "proof that Hezbollah is preparing for the next war with Israel and is marking out a 'target bank'".

Hizran's Israeli lawyer, Leah Tsemel, denied the charges. Speaking to *Reuters*, she said Hizran had met

with Hezbollah members during visits to Lebanon, where he was born to Palestinian refugees and from which he had emigrated to Sweden.

"But he refused any request to harm Israel's security," Tsemel said. Hizran made a previous visit to

Israel in 2009.

Hezbollah fought Israel to a standstill in the 2006 Lebanon war. Neither side appears eager to come to blows again but tensions remain high. Israel worries that Hezbollah has improved its rocket arsenal and other capabilities while helping

Syrian President Bashar al-Assad battle a four-year-old insurgency.

Hizran was indicted on three criminal counts. Officials at the Swedish embassy in Israel, and with Hezbollah in Lebanon, could not immediately be reached for comment.—*Reuters*

About 150 homes evacuated in fast-moving Arizona wildfire

PHOENIX, 9 Aug — A raging fire broke out on Saturday in a wildlife refuge in northwestern Arizona near the California border, forcing the evacuation of about 150 homes, fire officials said.

Authorities ordered the mandatory evacuations from homes in the rural area after the wildfire sparked on Saturday afternoon grew to 2,000 acres in the Havasu National Wildlife Refuge, said

Bureau of Land Management spokeswoman Dolores Garcia.

As of late Saturday, an undermined number of structures had been burned, Garcia added.

The American Red Cross had set up a shelter for displaced residents.

"This is a major one and we're aggressively trying to fight it," Garcia said of the fast-moving fire. About 300 firefighters were called in to battle the so-

called Willow Fire on the ground and in the air as the blaze roared through trees, grass and brush in Mohave Valley, south of Bullhead City, Arizona.

Billowing smoke from the fire was appearing on radar, officials said. There was no estimate for how long it would take to contain the fire, Garcia said, and no injuries have been reported. The cause remains under investigation.—*Reuters*

Nine killed in mortar attacks in Damascus on Saturday —monitor

BEIRUT, 9 Aug — At least nine people were killed and several wounded in a series of mortar bomb attacks on the Syrian capital Damascus, the Syrian Observatory for Human Rights said on Sunday.

The monitoring group said children were among those killed.

A Syrian source said a number of mortar bombs hit several residential areas in the capital on Saturday causing casualties among civilians. He did not give more details.

There was no claim of responsibility but insurgents based in the Eastern Ghouta region near Damascus have carried out rocket and mortar bomb attacks on the capital in the past.

Damascus, the seat of Syrian President Bashar al-Assad's government, came under heavy bombardment in late 2014 and early 2015 in the four-year-old civil war that has killed at least a quarter of a million people.—*Reuters*

Nishikori gets the better of Cilic in U.S. Open rematch

TORONTO, 9 Aug — Kei Nishikori exacted a measure of revenge against Marin Cilic when the Japanese world number five overcame the Croatian in the semi-finals of the Citi Open tennis tournament on Saturday in Washington D.C.

Cilic beat Nishikori in the U.S. Open final last year, but after a dismal start the Japanese prevailed 3-6 6-1 6-4.

"I had to make some changes," Nishikori said. "He was playing very well at the start. I raised my game in the second set."

Nishikori will meet American John Isner, who survived a tough challenge from compatriot Steve Johnson in the second semi-final.

Isner defeated the unseeded Johnson 6-3 3-6 7-6 (11-9).

In the third-set tie-break, Isner faced match point at 4-6, but managed to storm back for his eighth consecutive match win and back-to-back finals after his win in Atlanta last weekend.

The 25-year-old Nishikori will be chasing his third win of the year and is already assured of moving up a notch to fourth in the world rankings.

Nishikori fell behind 3-0 in the opening set and could not recover, but rebounded with a dominant second set to level the match against the eighth-ranked Cilic.

In the final set, Nishi-



Aug 8, 2015; Washington, DC, USA; Kei Nishikori celebrates after his match against Marin Cilic (not pictured) in a men's singles semi-final during day six of the 2015 Citi Open at Rock Creek Park Tennis Center. Nishikori won 3-6, 6-1, 6-4.—*REUTERS*

kori led 3-1 and 4-2 lead but Cilic battled back to draw level at 4-4 before the Japanese won the final two games to beat the Croatian in their first meeting since the Open final. Nishikori, who has now beaten Cilic

in six of their nine head-to-head matches, improved his match record this year to 42-9. Only Novak Djokovic (48-3) and Andy Murray (48-8) have more wins on the 2015 ATP World Tour.—*Reuters*

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MRTV Entertainment Channel

(10-8-2015, Monday)

- | | |
|------------------------|---------------------|
| 6:00 am | 8:35 am |
| • Mono Classical Songs | • Musical Programme |
| 6:30 am | 9:10 am |
| • Myanmar Series | • Pyi Thu Ni Ti |
| 6:55 am | 9:35 am |
| • Fashion Show | • My Dream |
| 7:05 am | 9:50 am |
| • TV Drama Series | • ASEAN Programme |
| 7:50 am | 10:15 am |
| • TV Drama Series | • Myanmar Video |

Cambodia seeing e-commerce grow due to more access to Internet

PHNOM PENH, 9 Aug — Investors have turned their eyes to the e-commerce sector in Cambodia as more people in the Southeast Asian nation have access to the Internet, businessmen and commerce officials say.

Cheat Thilong, a marketing officer with a Phnom Penh-based shopping website Shop168, which was launched more than two years ago, said e-commerce outlets are mushrooming here due to the increasing numbers of Internet users.

"Two years ago, there were only a few business-to-customer (B2C) shopping websites in Cambodia, but now the number has reached almost 20," he told Xinhua.

He said his online platform currently partners with 30 stores.

"E-commerce is going well, our sales on average grow about 10 percent every month," he said, attributing the growth to the increasing number of Internet surfers and customer confidence in

the company's products and services.

The Shop168 sells products merely in Cambodia, said the merchant, adding that customers in Phnom Penh can pay cash on delivery, while customers in provinces are required to pay cash first via mobile payment company Wing, then the company will send the products to them via logistic company Viettel Post.

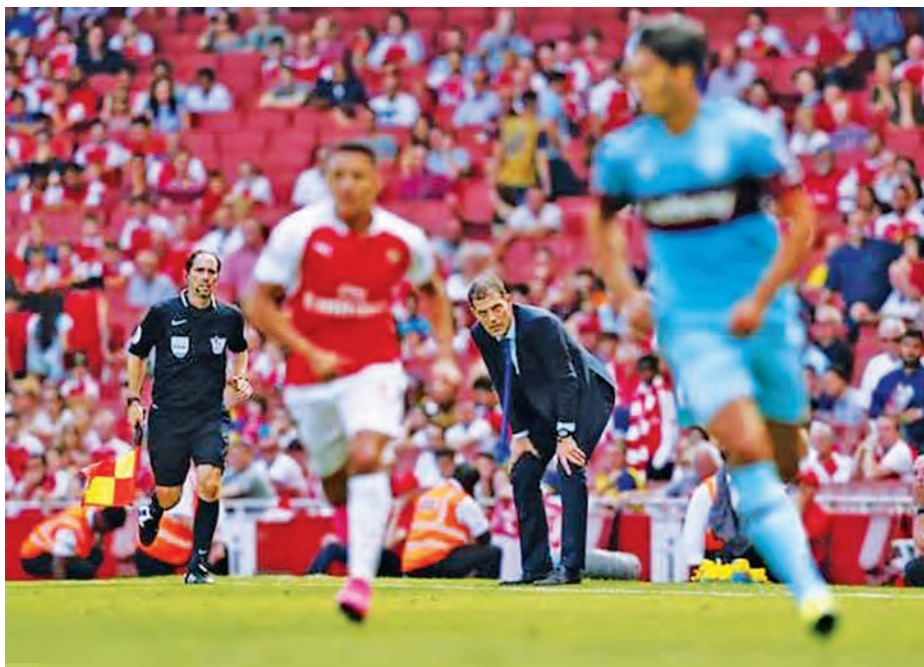
Figures from the Ministry of Posts and Tele-

communications show that more than 5 million of the nearly 15-million population in Cambodia have obtained access to the Internet as of 2014, most of whom get online via smart phones.

Minister of Posts and Telecommunications Prak Sokhonn said in April that in Cambodia, Internet penetration rate is currently just over 30 percent and is expected to reach almost 65 percent by 2020.

Xinhua

Arsenal optimism punctured as West Ham claim shock win



Arsenal v West Ham United - Barclays Premier League - Emirates Stadium - 9/8/15 West Ham manager Slaven Bilic.—REUTERS

LONDON, 9 Aug — West Ham United capitalised on two mistakes from Arsenal's new goalkeeper Petr Cech to claim a surprise 2-0 victory at the Emirates and bring the Gunners' early Premier League optimism down to earth with a bump on Sunday.

Cech, signed from Premier League champions Chelsea during the close season, came flying

out to punch Dimitri Payet's free kick just before halftime but was beaten to the ball by the head of West Ham's Cheikhou Kouyate.

Mauro Zarate doubled West Ham's advantage in the 57th minute when his low strike beat Cech at his near post as former West Ham player Slaven Bilic enjoyed victory in his first Premier League match as a manager.

Newcastle United also have a new manager in Steve McClaren and the former England coach's first league match in charge ended in a 2-2 draw against Southampton at St James' Park.

Later on Sunday, Liverpool have an immediate opportunity to avenge a 6-1 loss to Stoke City on the final day of last season with a return to the Britannia Stadium.—Reuters

Phelps beats world winning time in 100 metres fly

SAN ANTONIO, 9 Aug — Michael Phelps swam the fastest time in the world this year as he blew away the field to win the 100 metres butterfly at the U.S. championships in San Antonio on Saturday.

The most decorated Olympian of all-time led from start to finish, clocking a stunning 50.45 seconds.

Phelps's time, the second-fastest ever recorded in a standard swimsuit, bettered the 50.56 South African Chad Le Clos clocked to win the same event at the world championships in Russia only hours earlier.

Fellow American Ian Crocker swam 50.40 in 2005, before the introduction of high-tech swimsuits, which

were subsequently banned in 2010 after times improved so dramatically they made it impossible to compare eras.

Le Clos, after his victory, trash-talked Phelps, who declined to get involved in a slanging match when asked about the comments in a pool-side interview.—Reuters

AFF U-16 CHAMPIONSHIP 2015 (Final on 9-8-2015)

Myanmar U-16 0-3 Thailand U-16

Van Gaal wants United's best player De Gea to stay

LONDON, 9 Aug —Louis van Gaal was adamant on Saturday that he wanted to keep goalkeeper David de Gea at Old Trafford because the Spaniard was still Manchester United's best player.

As uncertainty continued to swirl around the future of the brilliant stopper, long linked with a move to Real Madrid, Van Gaal, who dropped him for United's opening Premier League win over Tottenham Hotspur, said: "We cannot let him go so easily."

After United's 1-0 victory in which De Gea's replacement, newly-signed Argentine Sergio Romero, played an impressive part, the Dutchman also made it clear that, if the Spain keeper does leave United will expect a proper reward for his signature.

De Gea was considered by Van Gaal not to be mentally ready for Saturday's match at Old Trafford because of all the speculation surrounding a possible move and the 24-year-old



ended up watching the game from the stands.

When asked if De Gea could ever play for the club again, Van Gaal had no hesitation in telling reporters: "Of course."

He added: "He's our best player for two years or three years, chosen by the fans, so we cannot let him go so easily."

"We have to pay a lot of money for all the players we want so we want to sell at the same level."

Romero, one of five United debutants, had an excellent afternoon, making some key saves, with 22-year-old keeper Sam Johnstone on the bench.

Reuters

Ten-man Chelsea held amid high drama, United win

LONDON, 9 Aug — Chelsea were embroiled in familiar Premier League high drama as the champions were reduced to 10 men and held 2-2 by Swansea City on Saturday in an entertaining start to the defence of their title at their home fortress.

The new season had earlier kicked off in unique fashion with a 22nd minute own goal by Tottenham Hotspur's Kyle Walker giving Manchester United a 1-0 victory in an undistinguished season opener at Old Trafford.

Never before had the competition begun with a player putting the ball into his own net but the day's late fixture at Stamford Bridge also featured an own goal, plus much, much more.

The rich entertainment included Chelsea goalkeeper Thibaut Courtois being sent off and the danger of that rarest of events — manager Jose Mourinho losing a home match to inspired op-



Chelsea v Swansea City - Barclays Premier League - Stamford Bridge - 8/8/15 Chelsea's Thibaut Courtois is shown a red card by referee Michael Oliver.—REUTERS

ponents.

The games involving the big guns, neither of whom were near their best, book ended a tough afternoon for the unfancied newcomers with Watford pegged back to a 2-2 draw at Everton after twice leading and Norwich City losing 3-1 at home to Crystal Palace.

Bournemouth, the romantics' favourites after their extraordinary six-year

march from near-bankruptcy to the Premier League, had their fairytale rudely interrupted at a vibrant, emotional Dean Court as Aston Villa defeated them 1-0 in their first-ever match in the top flight in 125 years.

Six minutes after Oscar had put Chelsea ahead with a 23rd minute free kick, Swansea's new signing Andre Ayew equalised only for the hosts to restore their lead

within 92 seconds thanks to a big, looping deflection off luckless defender Federico Fernandez from a Willian cross. The own goal, which left goalkeeper Lukasz Fabianski hopelessly stranded, seemed to have settled Chelsea only for Swansea to roar forward again, with Jefferson Montero in wonderful form, following the break.

After Bafetimbi Gomis beat the offside trap in the 55th, he was hacked down by Courtois on the edge of the penalty area. Referee Michael Oliver showed the Belgian keeper a red card and Gomis got up to slot the penalty past his replacement in goal, new signing Asmir Begovic.

As Swansea sniffed a similar sensation to when they beat Manchester United in last season's opening game, Gomis even had a goal disallowed for offside amid thrilling combat.

Though Oliver's sending off decision appeared debatable, Mourinho, un-

usually, declined to comment but was happy to defend his team's effort.

"To play 35 minutes with one player less in the first game of the season when our condition and sharpness is not at the top is even more difficult so, under the circumstances, I have nothing to say against my players," he said.

The marquee match of the day had seen Tottenham dominate early on until Walker's own goal enabled a new-look United to take the points even though they only had one shot on target.

A late attacking flurry from Spurs was repelled by the hosts' new Argentine keeper Sergio Romero.

Manager Louis van Gaal, on his 64th birthday, was impressed with Romero and United's four other expensive debutantes, including World Cup winner Bastian Schweinsteiger, who was booked for a foul in his 30-minute cameo.

"It's always difficult,

it's the first time they've played at Old Trafford," Van Gaal told BT Sport, saying he would celebrate his birthday in his favourite restaurant later. "But I like the performance, especially from Darmian."

Romero, replacing David De Gea, dropped because Van Gaal felt his mind would not be on the job amid speculation over his possible transfer to Real Madrid, made three late saves.

Spurs had been firmly in control until Nabil Bentaleb carelessly gave away possession in midfield allowing United to rampage down the right flank.

Ashley Young's cross looked to have put Wayne Rooney in at point blank range only for Walker to dash back madly to rescue the situation before his attempt to rob the United captain saw him nudge the ball into the corner of his own net.

Reuters