

UEC urges Pyidaungsu Hluttaw to work for bill revoking duty of representative

NAY PYI TAW, 13 Aug — The Union Election Commission urged the Pyidaungsu Hluttaw to adopt the bill revoking the duty of a Hluttaw representative on Thursday.

The UEC has sent it to the speaker of the Pyidaungsu Hluttaw for four times, according to sources.

According to the state constitution, the Pyidaungsu Hluttaw is responsible for enacting a law that allows voters in a constituency to revoke a representative in accordance with a law.

The Pyidaungsu Hluttaw discussed the bill on 21 and 23 July but could not approve it then.—MNA

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DONORS URGED TO TAKE SAFETY MEASURES IN FLOOD ZONES

By Aye Min Soe

YANGON, 13 June — Following some fatal accidents in flood zones, the government on Thursday urged well-wishers seeking to distribute emergency aid to flood victims to consult local authorities before embarking for disaster areas.

More than four people including two monks died in an accident when a four-wheel vehicle they were on board plunged into floods while moving along a flooded road in Sittway, Rakhine State, Wednesday.

A motorized boat carrying students capsized Monday en route to school due to strong winds in Yekyi Township, Ayeyawady Region, leaving three students dead. The nationwide death toll of the

floods that hit the country as from June reached 103, according to an announcement of the Ministry of Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement on Thursday.

The disaster affected more than 1.3 million people nationwide.

The rising Ayeyawady river threatening to inundate Ayeyawady Region saw their levels drop slightly these days, but they still remained above their designated danger levels, the country's weather bureau said Thursday.

The floods in recent memory inundated more than 1.2 million acres of rice fields, damaging more than 773,000 acres and destroying more than 515,000 acres, according to an updated figure released by the Ministry of Agriculture and Irrigation.

So far, more than 123,000 acres have been put under rice, the ministry said.

Continuing rainfall and surging floodwaters increase the risks to children and their families, said UNICEF, in a statement released Thursday.

Flood waters are now inundating the country's Bago and Ayeyawady regions.

The number of children and families affected by floods continues to rise with the total now at 1.1 million people, of which nearly 390,000 are children, the statement said.

More than half of the affected are women, including more than 21,000 pregnant women and over 20,000 lactating women, according to the statement.

GNLM

Falling condition below danger level

NAY PYI TAW, 13 Aug — According to the 12.30 hr MST observation today, the water level of Ngawun River at Ngathaingyoung has exceeded by about 2 feet above its danger level and may fall below its danger level during the next five days, said Department of Meteorology and Hydrology.—MNA

MRF sells rice at retail, wholesale shops



MANDALAY, 13 Aug — The Myanmar Rice Federation has opened 19 retail and wholesale shops in district level cities including Yangon and Mandalay to enable local people and social organizations to buy rice at fair prices.

The MRF and Mandalay Rice Brokerage jointly opened a shop in West Aungmye Ward in Chanayethazan Township, on 10 August. Officials spoke about plans to sell various kinds of rice to be donated to flood victims.

The federation sells rice at prices ranging from K21,500 to K33,000 per bag to residents and social organizations.

Thiha Ko Ko (Mandalay)

Volunteers clean classrooms to reopen schools

TAUNGTHA, 13 Aug — Basic education schools in Taungtha Township have been closed due to flooding since the Ayeyawady River burst its banks on 1 August.

After the water level of the river receded on 12 August, officials of the Township Disaster Management Committee arranged to reopen the basic educa-

tion schools in villages.

Township officials joined hands with local residents, fire-fighters and volunteers from social organizations to cleaned the classrooms in preparation to reopen the schools as soon as possible.

Kyaw Myo Naing (Taungtha)



Electricians reinstall power lines following flood suspension

NYAUNGDON, 13 Aug — Electricians in Nyaungdon, in Myanmar's southwestern Ayeyawady Region, have recently been reconnecting residential electrical supplies that had been shut off due to flood danger.

With the Ayeyawady River rising to dangerous levels in Nyaungdon, township electrical workers shut down the power lines and electrical meters at residences for safety.

With the water level re-

ceding in the township as of 10 August, the electricians have been reinstalling the power lines and electric meters at residences under the supervision of Township Electrical Engineer U Phyo Kyaw.—*Tun Kyaw (Nyaungdon)*

Yinmabin Township authorities rehabilitate rural areas

YINMABIN, 13 Aug — Township authorities supervised repairing of roads, monasteries and schools in some villages in Yinmabin Township on 11 August after flooding receded.

Engineer U Nway Oo Maung of the Township Development Affairs Committee and officials led firefighters and workers in repairing a 300-foot-long



road section of Myapin-si-Sonkyin Road.

Township medical officer and health staff chlo-

minated wells in the villages for supply of potable water to residents. Township authorities plan to upgrade the

road linking Myapin-si and north Sonkyin villages to a gravel road.

Tun Ko Ko (Yinmabin)

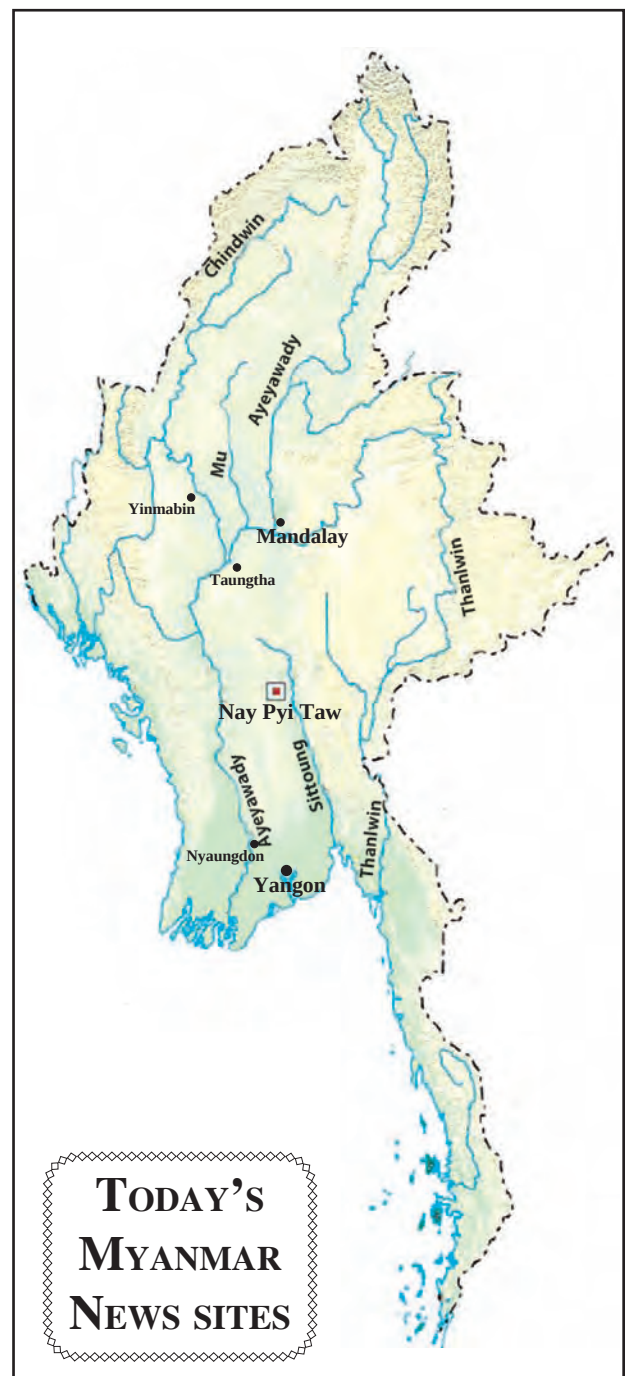


BED officials deliver stationery to students in Taungtha Tsp

TAUNGTHA, 13 Aug—The Basic Education Department recently provided stationery to students from flood-affected schools in Taungtha Township, Mandalay Region.

The township disaster management committee delivered thousands of notebooks, pens and pencils to 1,112 primary, middle and high school students throughout the township.

Kyaw Myo Naing (Taungtha)



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SME development key for growth, living standards: vice president

NAY PYI TAW, 13 Aug — The government has placed a heavy emphasis on developing small and medium enterprises to boost national economic growth and enable the people to enjoy higher living standards, Vice President U Nyan Tun told a meeting here on Wednesday.

The Work Committee for Development of Small and Medium Enterprises had a meeting at the Ministry of Industry in the capital city of Nay Pyi Taw.

The government's economic policies are designed to produce equitable development in all states and regions, with the vice

president urging all stakeholders to make concerted efforts and seek ways to overcome barriers to SME growth by the time the ASEAN Economic Community (AEC) takes effect in late 2015.

The committee is now working in cooperation with international partners to acquire knowledge and experience, and develop human resources.

In connection with low-interest loans to SMEs, U Nyan Tun spoke of the government's plans to get loans from international financial institutions.

The vice president said SMEs must establish links



Vice President U Nyan Tun addresses speech at meeting to develop SME.—MNA

with universities, colleges and vocational schools to develop human resources, urging higher learning institutions to design curricula that encourage entrepreneurship.

Union Minister U Maung Myint gave a briefing on assistance provided to SMEs and efforts to create a better economic environment.—MNA

Amyotha Hluttaw members donate cash, goods for flood victims

NAY PYI TAW, 13 Aug — Members of the Amyotha Hluttaw held a ceremony to donate cash and goods to flood victims for the second time Thursday.

Upper House Speaker U Khin Aung Myint, Deputy Speaker U Mya Nyein and Amyotha Hluttaw representatives attended the donation ceremony held at the Ministry of Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement in Nay Pyi Taw.

During the ceremony, Union Minister

for Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement Dr Daw Myat Myat Ohn Khin received cash donations from well-wishers, including K8.4 million from Amyotha Hluttaw representatives and clothes worth K 10 million from Dr Khin Shwe, chairman of the Amyotha Hluttaw committee for relief and resettlement.

Deputy Minister U Phone Swe also accepted cash donations including K 60 million each from Wa special region (2) and Mongla Special Region (4).—MNA

LOA between ministry and Serge Pun & Associates expires

NAY PYI TAW, 13 Aug — The Ministry of Livestock, Fishery and Rural Development recently announced that a letter of agreement between the ministry and Serge Pun & Associates (Myanmar) Ltd to do maintenance tasks at UHT milk factory and produce UHT milk products.

The letter of agreement was signed on 20-12-2013 and it expired on 19-6-2014, according to the ministry.

The ministry informed the company of the expiry of the agreement, a statement from the ministry said.—MNA

Nomination for Hluttaw candidates continues

NAY PYI TAW, 13 Aug — A total of 148 candidates for Pyithu Hluttaw, 51 candidates for Amyotha Hluttaw, 281 candidates for state/region Hluttaws and 7 candidates for state/region ethnic affairs submitted their nomination for 2015 General Election on 13 August.

From 20 July to 13 August, 5,408 candidates including 1,546 for Pyithu Hluttaw, 791 for Amyotha Hluttaw, 2,921 for state/region Hluttaws and 151 for ethnic affairs constituencies.

They represent 89 political parties while 232 of them are individual candidates. Detailed nomination process is available at www.uecmyanmar.org.—MNA

Loi Hein Company donates more than 300,000 bottles of purified water daily

YANGON, 13 Aug — Loi Hein Company Ltd daily donates more than 300,000 bottles of Alpine brand purified drinking water to flood-affected areas through social organizations.

"I have a plan to participate in rehabilitation tasks while donating more than 300,000 bottles of purified drinking water worth K60 million daily," Chairman of the company Dr Sai Hsam Tun said. "I have donated more than 1.5 million of water bottles worth more than K300 million from 5 to 11 August."

Those wishing to donate Alpine brand purified water may apply for their donations at the company on Wadan Street.—Aye Ko (MNA)

Commander-in-Chief Senior General Min Aung Hlaing witnesses army corps selection



Senior General Min Aung Hlaing meets cadets at mess hall of Defence Services Academy in PyinOoLwin.—MYAWADY

NAY PYI TAW, 13 Aug — Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Senior General Min Aung Hlaing on Wednesday witnessed the selection of an army corps from the 58th intake

of Defence Services Academy, with highest-ranking officers from the army, the air forces and the navy supervised the selection process.

The commander-in-chief also in-

spected the construction of the sports stadium and gave instruction.

On Thursday, Senior General Min Aung Hlaing enjoyed lunch together with cadets.—Myawady

Electricity Supply resumes in Rakhine State

NAY PYI TAW, 13 Aug — Tower No. MP-96, MP-60 and MP 61 which supply electricity to An, MraukU, Ponnagyun and Sittway townships has collapsed by the

storm on July 30 so that the electricity was cut off.

Attempting by 220 staffs from Ministry of Electric Power renovated and repaired those electricity sup-

ply towers, started from Thursday evening, the electricity is now available in Sittway, Kyauktaw, Ponnagyun, and MraukU, according to Ministry of Electric Power.—MNA

Malaysia's central bank completes 1MDB probe, submits recommendations

KUALA LUMPUR, 13 Aug — Malaysia's central bank has completed a probe into troubled state fund 1MDB [TERRN. UL] and a report asking for "appropriate enforcement action" has been submitted to the attorney general, Governor Zeti Akhtar Aziz said on Thursday.

1MDB, or 1 Malaysia Development Berhad, which owns property and energy assets and whose advisory board is chaired by Prime Minister Najib Razak, has been dogged by controversy over its \$11 billion debt and alleged financial mismanagement.

Several institutions including the central bank, the anti-graft agency and the police have been investigating the organisation.

The central bank said in June it had launched a formal enquiry into 1MDB to examine whether there had been any violation of rules.

"The bank has submitted its investigation papers to the attorney general with the recommendation for the appropriate enforcement action," Zeti told reporters.

She said investigations were completed this week but the central bank could not discuss details publicly.

Seven central bank officials were also being investigated by the police over a leak of information, she added.

The financial problems of 1MDB have become a burden on the country's finances and have weighed on its currency, the ringgit, which is the worst-per-

forming emerging Asian currency this year, although better-than-expected second-quarter GDP data brought some relief.

"There is uncertainty on the domestic front and I don't need to enumerate. Everyone is highlighting if you have a highly leveraged entity, that creates uncertainty," she said, about domestic problems affecting the economy. Rumours that Zeti might resign before the end of her term next May have added to the negative sentiment in the market but she insisted she was carrying on. "Right now, I have said I want to ride it through. Upon retirement I would have been in office for 16 years ... I have already done what I wanted to do," she said.—Reuters

Thai PM Prayuth confirms imminent cabinet reshuffle, says will appoint outsiders



Thailand's Prime Minister Prayuth Chan-ocha

BANGKOK, 13 Aug—Thai Prime Minister Prayuth Chan-ocha confirmed an imminent cabinet reshuffle on Thursday, adding that he would change some ministers and appoint outsiders to the posts.

"I will change ministers according appropriateness," Prayuth told reporters. "There will be outsiders and some will have to leave."

Prayuth, who as army chief led a May 2014 coup after months of street protests, was appointed prime minister in August 2014 by a hand-picked legislature.

Since then he has ruled largely unchallenged despite sporadic protests but has come under increasing pressure over Thailand's sputtering economy.—Reuters

India to hold high-level strategic, commercial dialogue with U.S. next month

NEW DELHI, 13 Aug—India will hold its first-ever high-level strategic and commercial dialogue with the U.S. in Washington next month, local media reported Thursday.

"The Strategic and Commercial Dialogue (S&CD) will be held in Washington DC in six to seven weeks," visiting U.S. Under Secretary of Commerce for International Trade Stefan M. Selig was quoted by the media as saying in the Indian capital Wednesday.

Selig said these dialogues will revolve around four areas -- ease of doing business, innovation and entrepreneurship, smart cities with a specific focus on renewable energy and harmonization of standards to increase trade.

"These steps can also be seen as four ambitious and important goals. The first goal is perhaps the most ambitious -- to increase bilateral trade five-fold from 100 billion U.S. dollars today to 500 billion USD annually."—Xinhua

China Focus: 44 killed, 520 hospitalized in massive Tianjin blasts

TIANJIN, 13 Aug — The death toll rose to 44, including 12 firefighters, from massive warehouse blasts in the northern Chinese port of Tianjin as firefighters continue to battle flames still blazing at the blast site.

A total of 520 people have been hospitalized, including 66 critically injured, according to the rescue headquarters.

The Tianjin fire brigade said it has sent 1,000 firefighters and 143 fire engines to the warehouse, which contained dangerous goods. The volatility of the goods has made the fire unpredictable and dangerous to approach.

Firefighters told Xinhua that the road leading to the blaze remains blocked, and they have only been able to spray dry powder and foam from a distance. Armed police are also standing by at the site.

A firefighter told Xinhua that a dozen fire engines have driven into the site, and more firemen will enter to put out the flames and make way for search and rescue efforts.

Xinhua reporters saw at least 200 armed police officers around the warehouse.

Lu Yun, head of Teda Hospital, which admitted about 150 injured people, told Xinhua that most of the injuries were from broken glass or stones. Some of the injuries are serious.

A list of injured people admitted to the hospital obtained by Xinhua reporters shows 38 patients ranging in age from 19 to 63 were being treated in the hospital's intensive care unit and osteology, neurology, surgery and other departments as of 9:00 a.m. Thursday.

Schools and other sites near the warehouses opened on Thursday to help the injured. An aquarium further away also put up a statement on Thursday saying its service center, washrooms and parking lot will be open to the public around the clock through the end of this week for aid distribution and blood donations.



Damaged cars are seen as smoke rises from the debris after the explosions at the Binhai new district in Tianjin, China, August 13, 2015.—REUTERS



Firefighters work at the site as smoke and fire rise from the debris after the explosions at the Binhai new district in Tianjin, China, August 13, 2015. REUTERS

Rail links connecting downtown Tianjin to the Binhai New Area were suspended after shockwaves from the blast damaged the Donghai Road Terminal.

The office building of Chinese supercomputer Tianhe-1, one of the world's fastest supercomputers, suffered damage. Sources at Tianhe-1 told Xinhua the computer is not damaged, but they have shut down some of its operations as a

precaution.

Tianhe-1 provides data services to more than 300 organizations across China, including several universities and banks.

Volunteers have arrived at hospitals for blood donation, and taxi drivers and private car owners offered help to transport the wounded to hospitals. Several hotels have provided free accommodation to residents displaced by the blast.—Xinhua

Iranian-Americans forge a rare bond to support nuclear deal

WASHINGTON, 13 Aug — On the day U.S. and Iranian negotiators reached a historic nuclear agreement last month, Hadi Partovi threw an impromptu party in his backyard outside Seattle, setting in motion a rare expression of solidarity among the country's most prominent Iranian-Americans.

Partovi, who has invested in or advised some of the most well-known global companies, including Facebook (FB.O), Airbnb, and Uber, invited fellow Iranian-Americans to his home to celebrate the agreement, which if implemented, would restrict Iran's nuclear program in exchange for lifting economic sanctions on the country.

"Roughly 100 strangers I'd never met came to my house to celebrate, and I realized this was a unique moment for Iranian-Americans to stand up together," said Partovi, who immigrated to the United States as a child in 1984.

Afterward, Partovi organized the drafting of a public letter to the American people from prominent Iranian-Americans in technology, business, literature, the arts and entertainment.

Published this week as an advertisement in The New York Times, the letter - signed by current and former executives from Twitter (TWTR.N), Google (GOOGL.O), Dropbox and Citigroup (C.N), among others - expressed support for the nuclear agreement as a "unique opportunity for Americans and Iranians to connect."

The 24 original signers spanned the political spectrum



A staff member removes the Iranian flag from the stage after a group picture with foreign ministers and representatives of United States, Iran, China, Russia, Britain, Germany, France and the European Union during the Iran nuclear talks at the Vienna International Center in Vienna, Austria July 14, 2015. REUTERS

and would likely disagree on other issues, Partovi said. By Wednesday, the list of signatories had swelled to 1,500.

The letter, in part, read: "Diplomacy with Iran has the potential to do much more than prevent a war. ... It creates a chance for Americans and Iranians to create a brighter future that benefits all of our children."

The nuclear deal between Iran and six world powers is a major achievement for President Barack Obama and could reset Iran's relations with the West, but it has opponents in the U.S. Congress, where Obama has work to do. (Graphic, link.reuters.com/vuf45w.)

The letter's organizers and signers said it was significant for

being perhaps the first unified, non-partisan statement of its kind by Iranian-Americans, who can be reticent about embracing their background and speaking up on political issues.

"We wanted to make this personal," said Hamid Biglari, 56, a former executive at Citicorp, who helped organize the letter. "What struck many of us was the massive campaign that was being waged against the deal by many lobby groups, and we felt that much of that campaign was misguided."

Biglari said he returned to Iran in 2014 for the first time in 35 years, following the election of President Hassan Rouhani, a moderate elected on a platform of lifting sanctions on Iran and

improving its relations with the world.

"I came to the conclusion that this was real and that the time had come to break through this logjam that had existed for so long," Biglari said. "If this opportunity goes by we will always regret it."

Estimates of the Iranian-American population range from half a million to 1 million, according to the Public Affairs Alliance of Iranian Americans, an advocacy group.

Significant communities reside in southern California, the San Francisco Bay area and New York. Many came to the United States after the 1979 Islamic revolution. In interviews, signers of the letter said the community is deeply fractured over Iranian politics.

"We don't mention in the letter President Obama, because some of the people signing the letter are not fans of President Obama," Partovi said. "It was very important to me to not make it a letter by Democrats or by fans of any regime or any single political point."

Those who have added their names to the letter include the inventor of LASIK eye surgery, a state senator, a NASA engineer, start-up founders and professors.

Maz Jobrani, a comedian who signed the letter, said it was one of the first times so many Iranian-Americans had come together. "There are Republicans and Democrats, scientists and performers, all kinds in this," he said.

Another signer, Mark Zandi, chief economist at Moody's

Analytics and who has advised both the Obama administration and Republican Senator John McCain's presidential campaign, said that while he comments often on economic affairs, this was the first time he was venturing into foreign policy.

"I signed on because I think the deal is in the best interest of the United States," said Zandi, who is a registered Democrat and whose father is Iranian.

"It's not a perfect deal, but it's infinitely better than no deal, and will significantly reduce the odds that Iran will obtain or even want a nuclear weapon in the future," he said.

Congress has until Sept. 17 to act on the agreement. If lawmakers disapprove it, they could take away Obama's ability to waive many U.S. sanctions and implement key provisions.

Anti-deal activist groups are expected to spend millions of dollars lobbying lawmakers on the deal.

Dara Khosrowshahi, chief executive of online travel company Expedia Inc (EXPE.O), said he does not normally take public political stances but this issue had special personal resonance for him. He immigrated to the United States from Iran in the late 1970s.

"For the Iranian people not to have the chance to experience what America has to offer, the spirit and the openness, would be a real shame," said Khosrowshahi, 46. "There is a chance to open the dialogue between the people of Iran and the West, and it's a point in time that's unique."

Reuters

S. Korea's Park to hold summit with Obama on Oct. 16 in Washington

SEOUL, 13 Aug — South Korean President Park Geun Hye will hold talks with U.S. President Barack Obama in Washington on Oct. 16, her office said Thursday, with topics such as North Korea-related issues expected to be on the agenda.

Seoul and Washington originally planned to hold a summit on June 16 in the U.S. capital but a major out-

break of Middle East Respiratory Syndrome in South Korea since late May forced Park to postpone her U.S. trip. Yonhap News Agency quoted presidential spokesman Min Kyung Wook as saying in a statement that the summit "is expected to serve as an occasion to reaffirm the strong, dynamic and evolving alliance between South Korea and the United States."

The White House said Obama and Park are expected to talk about the need to enhance relations in fields such as "environment, energy, space, health and cyber security."

Obama and Park will also discuss the current security situation on the Korean Peninsula in the face of the continued threat from North Korea, the White House said.—Kyodo News

Bus accident kills 12 and injures 24 others in Cambodia

PHNOM PENH, 13 Aug — At least 12 people were killed and 24 others injured in a traffic accident in Cambodia that took place on Thursday near the Thai border.

Men Ly, the police chief of Udor Meanchey province, said the accident took place at 11:30 a.m. when a bus carrying 36 people, all Cambodians, fell from a moun-

tain road along the Cambodia-Thailand border.

All of the victims, mostly women in their 50s and 60s, were from Phnom Penh and were making religious visits to various pagodas along the border. Men Ly said the cause of the accident is being investigated.—Kyodo News

Pakistan's top adviser to attend security talks in India

CHINA, ISLAMABAD, 13 Aug — Pakistan top national security adviser Sartaj Aziz confirmed Thursday that he will be visiting India later this month for security talks between the two countries.

Pakistani Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif and his Indian counterpart Narendra Modi agreed last month at their meeting in the Russian city of Ufa that National Security Advisers of the two countries should meet to "discuss all issues connected to terrorism."

"I can confirm that I will proceed to India on August 23 for the talks of the National Security Advisers," Sartaj Aziz said while responding to a question at a joint press conference with visiting Iranian Foreign Minister

Mohammad Javad Zarif. India abruptly suspended high level diplomatic talks with Pakistan in August last year after the Pakistani envoy in New Delhi met Kashmiri leaders.

The talks known as the "Composite Dialogue" were also stopped by India following the 2008 Mumbai attacks.

"Although the security talks are not the revival of the Composite Dialogue, the meeting would be an 'Ice-breaking' as we will hold discussions on some important issues," the Pakistani adviser said.

"Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif believed that dialogue is the only option to peacefully resolve issues," Aziz added. India had suggested Aug. 23-24 for the security talks in line

with the meeting of the two prime ministers on July 10. Pakistan Foreign Ministry spokesman Qazi Khalilullah said his government is working in agenda for the security talks.

The Pakistan and India talks are deemed very significant after the recent cross-border shelling has left civilian casualties and escalated tensions between the two nuclear neighbors.

The prime ministers had also agreed on meetings between senior officials of the border security forces and chiefs of the Military Operations.

Both countries accused each other of violating the 2003 ceasefire along the Line of Control that divide the two countries in the disputed Kashmir region.

Xinhua

Riot-torn Ferguson, Missouri to remain in state of emergency: officials

FERGUSON, 13 Aug — The St. Louis suburb of Ferguson, Missouri, the site of a year of occasionally violent protests over the police killing of an unarmed black teen, will remain under a state of emergency for at least another night, county officials said on Wednesday.

The state of emergency, which gives county police oversight of security in the city of 21,000 people, was declared following a shooting incident at a protest Sunday night to mark the one-year anniversary of the death of 18-year-old Michael Brown on Aug. 9, 2014.

The decision came after two nights of relatively peaceful protests, with the St. Louis County police reporting no arrests or reports of injuries during a small demonstration by several dozen people Tuesday night into Wednesday morning.

"I am pleased to report our law enforcement officers have established order while preventing further acts of violence in Ferguson," said County Executive Steve Stenger, in a statement. "It is be-

cause of their ability to maintain order that I find it prudent to continue the state of emergency for at least the next 24 hours."

A crowd of several dozen protesters took to West Florissant Avenue, which has borne the brunt of the rioting, on Tuesday night. Demonstrators occasionally attempted to block traffic and threw rocks at police, but the conflict was defused, and no injuries to civilians or police were reported, county police said early Wednesday.

Police shot and critically wounded an 18-year-old black teen they said had fired at them during Sunday night's protests, when windows of businesses along the commercial stretch were smashed.

Police on Tuesday released a video of that shooting that they said showed the teen, Tyrone Harris, drawing a pistol from his pants. Harris has been charged with four counts of assault on law enforcement, five counts of armed criminal action, and one count of shooting at a vehicle. Bond for Harris, who is black, was set at



A protester sits in her car waiting to see what happens during another night of demonstrating in Ferguson, Missouri August 11, 2015.—REUTERS

\$250,000.

Harris' father has denied that his son had a gun. Others in Ferguson have said he might not have realized that he was firing on plainclothes police officers.

Brown's death and similar police killings that followed in Baltimore; North Charleston, South Carolina; Cincinnati; and

Arlington, Texas, sparked a year of protests and debate across the United States about race, justice and law enforcement's use of force.

A grand jury and the U.S. Justice Department found Darren Wilson, the officer who shot Brown, broke no laws in the shooting. A separate Justice De-

partment report found that the police department in Ferguson routinely violated the rights of black citizens, who make up two-thirds of the city's population.

Wilson has since left the force. The officer who killed a 19-year-old black Texas college football player last week was fired on Tuesday.—Reuters

Brazil's president says not resigning despite calls for impeachment



Brazil's President Dilma Rousseff speaks at the closing ceremony of the "March of the Daisies" at the Mane Garrincha Stadium in Brasilia August 12, 2015.—REUTERS

SAO PAULO, 13 Aug — Brazilian President Dilma Rousseff said on Wednesday she would not consider quitting despite calls for her impeachment from opponents in Congress as the economy sinks and her popularity hits record lows.

In an interview with SBT channel, Rousseff said the ongoing political crisis should not weigh down efforts to revive Brazil's flagging economy that she believes will improve by year-end.

"I would never consider quitting," Rousseff said. "The coup-mongering culture exists, but there are no conditions for that to

happen." Rousseff, a technocrat who had never run for public office before ascending to the presidency in 2011, is struggling to contain a rebellion in Congress that threatens her hold on office.

With only seven months into her second term, Rousseff has suffered a rash of defeats in Congress that has complicated efforts to re-balance public accounts to avoid losing Brazil's investment-grade rating. Some of her opponents have said Rousseff should step down due to allegations of illegal campaign financing and attempts to doctor the national budget last year.

In the interview, Rousseff said she does not believe the country will lose its investment grade and that the country's debt burden will not surpass the 70 percent of GDP mark. Brazil's gross debt has jumped to 63 percent of GDP in June from 59 percent just six months prior. Facing a rapidly deteriorating economy, Rousseff succeeded in striking a deal with the Senate this week to seek a market-friendly agenda to counter an open rebellion in the Lower House of Congress. Despite the easing political tensions her administration is bracing for a nationwide demonstration on Sunday calling for her impeachment.—Reuters

Argentine front-runner Scioli would seek bond holdout deal — advisor



Daniel Scioli, Buenos Aires' province governor and presidential candidate, waves an Argentine national flag in Buenos Aires, early August 10, 2015.—REUTERS

BUENOS AIRES, 13 Aug — Argentina's presidential front-runner wants to settle a financially hobbling suit with bondholders, woo new investors, cut inflation and could revise energy subsidies to put the country's fiscal house in order, his economic advisor said.

Buenos Aires Governor Daniel Scioli may represent the party of outgoing President Cristina Fernandez, whose currency and trade controls have slowed the economy, but his policies may veer away from hers if he wins the October election.

A shift towards orthodoxy could help untangle Argentina's relationship with the global bond market and attract foreign companies eager to exploit the country's natural resources.

Gustavo Marangoni, head of Banco de la Provincia and advisor to Scioli since he started in politics

18 years ago, used words like "flexibility" and "pragmatism" when asked in a Wednesday interview how Scioli's policies might differ from Fernandez's.

He declined to outline direct policy contrasts, but said Scioli would "negotiate in good faith" with New York hedge funds suing in U.S. courts for full repayment of bonds that Argentina defaulted on in 2002. Fernandez refuses to offer the funds anything other than the terms of Argentina's 2005 and 2010 restructurings, in which 93 percent of holders accepted about 30 cents on the dollar. The legal battle has kept the country in default. "Daniel's challenge will be to engineer a leap forward in economic development, and that means investment. Daniel is clear about the importance that investment will play in the period ahead," Marangoni said.

Scioli won Sunday's ruling primary elections. Second was Mauricio Macri, the business-friendly mayor of Buenos Aires who bills himself as the only candidate the markets can trust to shape up Argentina's economy.

Needing to appeal to the wider electorate while not alienating Fernandez's left-leaning base, Scioli has been vague about any planned policy changes. Marangoni hinted that Scioli would reform costly nationwide electricity subsidies. "Look at what we did in the province," he said. "Our policy is one of fairness. Those who need electricity subsidies continue to have them. Those who do not need subsidies had them cut."

Fernandez is barred from running for a third consecutive term in October, but could return as a candidate in 2019.

Analysts say consumer prices are currently rising at close to 30 percent per year. Scioli says he would reduce inflation to single digits by the end of his first four-year term.

Investment has lagged in part because the government limits the amount of profits that foreign companies can send home. Oil companies say this has kept them from investing in Argentina's vast but barely tapped shale oil resources in Patagonia.—Reuters

Iraq PM sacks cabinet officials, says reform drive under threat



**Iraqi Prime Minister
Haider al-Abadi**

BAGHDAD, 13 Aug — Iraq's prime minister dismissed his cabinet secretary on Wednesday as part of an ambitious reform drive he

said was under threat from corrupt politicians and Shi'ite militia leaders who use their armed followers for political ends.

A year in office, Haider al-Abadi has launched the biggest overhaul of the political system since the end of U.S. military occupation, enacting a risky package of measures designed to enhance his own power and strip authority from political chieftains who have run Iraq since the fall of Saddam Hussein.

Lawmakers unani-

mously voted on Tuesday to eliminate a layer of senior government posts, scrap sectarian and party quotas for state positions, reopen corruption investigations and give Abadi power to fire regional and provincial bosses. The bold moves will strip some of Iraq's most powerful people of official titles, including Abadi's predecessor Nuri al-Maliki, whose post of vice president is one of those to be abolished.

An official in his media office described Abadi's

decision on Wednesday to sack his cabinet secretary and his aides as "part of a push to cut unnecessary government jobs".

Abadi's reform package has garnered public praise from across party and sectarian lines as well as from Western governments. It is also backed by Iraq's most influential cleric, Shi'ite Grand Ayatollah Ali Sistani.

But in a televised speech, Abadi said on Wednesday he still expected resistance from benefi-

ciaries of the old system.

"The corrupt will not sit idly by," said Abadi. "Those with interests and privileges will defend their interests and privileges. Some of them will even fight for them. They will attempt to sabotage every step we take towards it."

While he did not name those he accused of plotting sabotage, he issued a warning against the politicisation of Shi'ite militias, whose leaders have become far more powerful over the past year as their forces

have played the main role in battling Islamic State militants that seized northern and western Iraq.

"We should remove the Hashid Shaabi from the political field," he said, referring to a government body that acts as an umbrella for the militias.

Abadi, who on Tuesday evening visited troops in western Anbar province gearing up for an offensive to retake the Sunni heartland, has struggled to consolidate his authority.

Reuters

Mali gunmen attack police post in capital

BAMAKO, 13 Aug — Two gunmen wearing turbans attacked a bus station in the Malian capital late on Wednesday, seriously wounding a police officer and another person, security sources and a witnesses said.

An intelligence source earlier told Reuters that two police officers had died in the attack. There was no official comment from the government.

The raid is likely to

raise tension in Mali, a country that has seen a growing number of attacks by Islamists linked to al Qaeda and new militant groups that appear to be mounting a campaign against the U.N. mission and Mali's security forces.

"I saw two men wearing turbans on foot firing in the air and walking in the direction of the police post (at the bus station)," said a witness who declined to be identified. "They entered the

police post firing. Then they left and fired inside the deserted bus station. Everyone had fled," the witness said.

Security forces cordoned off the area and searched cars on a nearby main road, residents said.

Mali's northern region has seen a resurgence of attacks by armed groups as well as Islamist militants who briefly held the area until they were scattered by a French military intervention in 2013.

Malian authorities also blame a new armed group called the Massina Liberation Front for attacks in the central Mopti region.

Militant group al-Mourabitoun, which is linked to al Qaeda, on Monday claimed responsibility for a hotel siege in central Mali at the weekend in which 17 people died. The United Nations has brokered a tenuous peace between Tuareg separatists and the government.—*Reuters*

Head of scandal-hit U.N. Central Africa force resigns — U.N. chief

UNITED NATIONS, 13 Aug — The head of the United Nations peacekeeping mission in Central African Republic has resigned after a fresh round of allegations of sexual abuse and excessive use of force by peacekeepers, U.N. Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon said on Wednesday.

"Today I have accepted the resignation of my special representative Mr. Babacar Gaye, head of the United Nations Multidimensional Integrated Stabilization Mission in the Central African Republic, MINUSCA," Ban told reporters at U.N. headquarters in New York.

Gaye, a general from Senegal, submitted his resignation at Ban's request. The announcement comes after Amnesty International accused MINUSCA peacekeepers of raping a 12-year-old girl and killing a boy and his father during an operation in the country's capital Bangui this month.

Ban said Gaye worked "so honourably" for many years but he wanted to "to show a strong example." He plans to brief the U.N. Security Council on Thursday.

He added that he was convening a special meeting with all U.N. envoys, police commissioners and force commanders on Thursday to ensure they take appropriate action.

Such action would include education and training to prevent crimes

but if crimes occur then an immediate and thorough investigation should take place.

"Ultimate responsibility rests with governments who send their people," Ban said. This responsibility was not only for human rights education and training but also for ensuring justice if crimes are committed, he said.

Allegations of misconduct by U.N. troops are not new. The United Nations cannot itself punish soldiers and rights groups complain that troop-contributing countries rarely take action, creating an atmosphere of impunity in peacekeeping missions.

U.S. Ambassador to the United Nations Samantha Power backed Ban's call for justice.

"Member states who contribute troops and police to U.N. missions must ensure that when their nationals are accused of such horrific crimes, their national legal systems swiftly investigate the allegations and hold perpetrators accountable," Power said in a statement.

Dujarric said 57 allegations of misconduct have been reported since MINUSCA began in April 2014, including 11 cases of possible sexual abuse. He said those cases were being investigated.

The behaviour of international troops recently came under fresh scrutiny due to charges of sexual abuse by soldiers from France, Chad and Equatorial Guinea in Central African Republic in 2014 before the creation of MINUSCA.—*Reuters*

Truck bomb kills at least 60 in Baghdad's Sadr City

BAGHDAD, 13 Aug — At least 60 people were killed and 200 wounded in a blast on Thursday at a market in Baghdad's Sadr City district, police and medical sources said, one of the largest attacks on the capital since Prime Minister Haider al-Abadi took office a year ago.

There was no immediate claim of responsibility for the bombing in the Shi'ite Muslim neighborhood, but Islamic State, Sunni militants who seized swathes of northern and western Iraq last year, regularly send bombers into the capital.

"A refrigerator truck packed with explosives blew up inside Jamila market at around 6 a.m. (0300 GMT)," police officer Muhsin al-Saedi said. "Many people were killed and body parts were thrown on top of nearby buildings."

The market in the northeastern suburb is one of the biggest in Baghdad selling wholesale food items. A Reuters witness at the site saw fruit and vegetables mixed with shrapnel littering the blood-soaked blast crater.



Residents gather at the site of a truck bomb attack at a crowded market in Baghdad, August 13, 2015.—REUTERS

Smoke rose from charcoaled bits of debris. Rescuers pulling bodies from the rubble waded through sheet metal that had formed the walls and roofs of vendors' stands.

Angry people gathered at the site of the explosion, some crying and shouting the names of their missing relatives and others cursing the government.

"We hold the government responsible, fully re-

sponsible," witness Ahmed Ali Ahmed said, calling on the authorities to dispatch the army and Shi'ite militias to man checkpoints in the capital.

Abadi took office last summer following the army's collapse in Islamic State's takeover of the northern city of Mosul that left the Baghdad government dependent on the militias - many funded and assisted by neighboring Iran

- to defend the capital and recapture lost ground.

Security forces and militia groups are targeting Islamic State in Anbar province, the sprawling Sunni heartland in western Iraq, while Abadi has fixed his attention in recent days on a sweeping reform agenda aimed at the largest overhaul of the political system since the end of U.S. military occupation.

Reuters

PERSPECTIVES

Friday, 14 August, 2015

Will drug scourge cause crime wave in Yangon?

By Myint Win Thein

Authorities recently came across stimulant tablets worth over US \$130 million near an industrial zone in Yangon. According to some news sources, it was the largest amount of stimulant tablets ever seized in the city. Unfortunately, the police have not been

able to uncover the drug traffickers who were thought to be distributing the tablets.

However, the police were able to seize other large hauls of stimulant tablets while trying to expose the drug traffickers. The police found K50 billion (about US \$50 million) and K30 billion worth of stimulant tablets, respectively, in Yangon's North Dagon and Thakayta townships.

The drug traffickers appeared to have abandoned the contraband in order to avoid being caught red-handed. Despite the police seizing the stimulant tablets, no culprit has been brought to trial. As a result, it is difficult to estimate the amount of stimulant tablets smuggled into the city.

As trafficking in and abuse of narcotic drugs can be a source of various criminal activities, if

authorities fail to expose the drug traffickers, Yangon may see more criminal activities later. Even now, Yangonites have already witnessed previously unknown crimes like daylight robbery at a downtown money exchange centre in the former capital. Does the scourge of drugs threaten to turn Yangon into a city of crime?

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.

Value & Beauty of Democracy

Kyí Mun

Value is derived from the Latin word valere meaning : Be Worth Value, therefore, means: (1) the worth of a thing in money or goods : (2) estimated worth. (3) Purchasing power. (4) the quality of a thing that makes it more or less desirable, useful, etc. (5) social principles and standards (6) relative duration, intensity.

Beauty is also derived from the Latin word: bellus, meaning pretty. So, beauty means: (1) the quality of being very pleasing in form, color, tone, behavior, etc. (2) a thing having this quality. (3) good looks. (4) a very good looking woman.

-Oxford Dictionary

Now, let's explore for some more meanings of **VALUE & BEAUTY** as follows:

- V for Vision & Values**
- A for Advantages of Democracy**
- L for Loving Democracy**
- U for Unity in Diversity**
- E for Equality of Condition, Opportunity & Treatment**
- &**
- B for Benefits of Democracy**
- E for Executive, Legislature & Judiciary**
- A for Accountability**
- U for Universal Suffrage**
- T for Transparency**
- Y for Your Choice**
- ❖ VISION & VALUES**

Under democracy, you can dream freely. You can aim at becoming the president of the State. You can have a vision of become a very rich businessman. You can set the goal of become a celebrity or a very successful professional. Under democracy, the sky is the limit for your ambition.

The values of a democratic governmental system are:

- Freedom, Sovereignty, Independence
- Separation and independence of the Executive
- Legislature and Judiciary
- Liberty, Equality, Fraternity
- Human Rights, Justice & the Rule of Law
- Continuous National Development & Modernization

❖ ADVANTAGES OF DEMOCRACY

Some of the advantages of democracy are:

- Freedom of Speech
- Freedom of Assembly
- Freedom of Publication
- Freedom of Faith & Religion
- Freedom of Movement
- Freedom of Economic Pursuit
- Freedom of Educational Pursuit
- Equality of Condition, Opportunity & Treatment

❖ LOVING DEMOCRACY

As human beings, we all want to live and move and have our being in freedom, peace, progress and prosperity. No human being loves tenancy, despotism, oppression, dis-

crimination, racial segregation, cronyism, neoplasm, war, conflict, political and economic insecurity.

If we really love democracy, we must decisively leave the COMFORT ZONE and valiantly enter into the COMBAT ZONE. The characteristics of the two zones are:

- | | |
|---------------------|----------------------|
| Comfort Zone | Combat Zone |
| • Complacency | • Burning Desire |
| • Apathy | • Indomitable Spirit |
| • Inertia | • Unyielding Effort |
| • Ignorance | • Insight Wisdom |

❖ UNITY IN DIVERSITY

The value and beauty of democracy culminate in PEACE, UNITY AND FRATERNITY. The British colonialism has left us many vestiges of war, conflict, distrust, racial perfidies, even hatred among the national races. If we are going to build democracy in Myanmar, all the negative mental attitudes of the past must be thoroughly wiped out and start building trust, confidence and the spirit of fraternity among all the national races. In this case, the principles of democratic liberty, equality and fraternity must decisively prevail.

❖ EQUALITY OF CONDITION, OPPORTUNITY & TREATMENT

Manlaë Sayadaw famously wrote the Magadeva from which a little piece of excerpt is:

"Nobility and Servility
Do not exist in reality
Between man and man.
The only difference is
Between man's Aware & Wisdom."

Under democracy, equality of condition, opportunity and treatment must prevail. Every human being is born innocent. Every newly-born human being is mentally, emotionally and spiritual innocent and pure. So, every human being must be treated equally. Politically, economically, educationally, socially, culturally and religiously.

❖ BENEFITS OF DEMOCRACY

Some of the benefits of democracy are Peace and Progress nationally and internationally in:

- Political Development & Modernization
- Economic Development & Modernization
- Educational Development & Modernization
- Technological Development & Modernization
- Socio-cultural Development & Modernization
- ICT Development & Modernization

But the world as a whole still lagging in the development of morality, maturity and magnificence of mind. The whole wide world is predominantly afflicted with arrogance, greed, hatred, prick, dogma, extremism, terrorism, etc.

❖ EXECUTIVE, LEGISLATURE & JUDICIARY

Under democracy, in order for the Human Rights, Justice and the Rule of Law to prevail, the three spheres of power must be independently separated into the Executive, Legislature and Judiciary. They should supplement, support and complement each other for the maximum impact on the peace, progress and prosperity of the mass of the population. They must just act as instruments of peace, pro-

gress and prosperity for People, Planet and the Posterity.

❖ ACCOUNTABILITY

One aspect of the value and beauty of democracy is accountability which means: responsibility for your decisions or actions and expected to explain them when you are asked. e.g. Politicians are ultimately accountable to the voters. The TROIKA for good governance is composed of: Responsibility + Accountability + Transparency. In the final analysis, every human being is ultimately accountable for his/her thought, speech and deed.

❖ UNIVERSAL SUFFRAGE

One of the aspects of the value and beauty of democracy is the system of universal suffrage. Suffrage means the right to vote in political elections. Universal suffrage means the right of all adults to vote. For the universal suffrage to be meaningful, an election should be free and fair. The voter's right, life and dignity should be respected. For no account, should one's right to participate in the voting process must be violated. Universal suffrage must be registered, respected and responded.

❖ TRANSPARENCY

Transparency means: (1) The quality of something such as an excuse or a lie that allows somebody to see the truth easily. (2) The quality of something such as a situation or an argument, that makes it easy to understand. So, transparency in this case means no cover-up, no fraud no evil design, no intention to get undue personal gain out of one's duty. So, transparency means working or doing duties above board.

❖ YOUR CHOICE

It is up to you, me and all the people to add value and beauty to democracy. It is your choice whether you will be genuinely committed to establishing democracy in your own country.

Every morning, drink hot coffee or drink hot tea; burn your lips and think of DE.

All's well that ends well.

Long Live democracy!

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



NATIONAL

MYANMAR GAZETTE

NAY PYI TAW, 13 Aug — The President of the Republic of Union of Myanmar has confirmed the appointment of Director-General U Win Aung of Financial Regulatory Department of Ministry of Finance on the expiry of one year probation period.

Germany helps flood victims in Myanmar with Euro 500,000 (680 million Kyat)

YANGON, 13 Aug — The German Government has decided to respond to the appeal of the Myanmar Government for international assistance. Additional to the assistance of the European Union (Euro 4.5 million or 6 billion Kyat) the Federal Republic of Germany provides EURO 500,000 (about 680 million Kyat) in emergency support in order to alleviate the suffering of those affected by the disaster. The contribution will be channeled through the World Food Pro-gram (WFP).—GNLM

Union Minister for Foreign Affairs U Wunna Maung Lwin and wife being welcomed by Singaporean Ambassador to Myanmar Mr Robert Chua and wife at the reception to mark the National Day of the Republic of Singapore at Sedona Hotel in Yangon on 12 August.

MNA



Union S&T minister holds talks on intellectual property issues

NAY PYI TAW, 13 Aug — Union Science and Technology Minister Dr Ko Ko Oo met Wednesday with international legal advisers to discuss intellectual property strategies and policies for Myanmar.

The minister met with

Ms Liew Woon Yin, retired Director-General of the Intellectual Property Office of Singapore (IPOS), Mr Ian Crawford Heath, retired Director-General of the Intellectual Property Office of Australia (IPOA) and party, led by Mr Ye Min Than,

World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO) Asia-Pacific senior program officer. The meeting covered the development of IP strategies and policies, human resource development, and the establishment of an IP office.—MNA



Union Minister Dr Ko Ko Oo receives officials of World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO).—MNA



Safety practice: Editorial and admin staff from The Global New Light of Myanmar Daily take part in a fire drill with firefighters of Bahan Township Fire Brigade at the newspaper's printing plant in Yangon on Thursday.— PHOTO: GNLM

More than 120,000 acres of farmland put under crops

NAY PYI TAW, 13 Aug — More than 1.4 million acres of farmlands fell under flooding across the nation from June to August 2015, according to the Farmland Management

and Statistics Department under the Ministry of Agriculture and Irrigation.

Flooding receded from more than 1 million acres in regions and states, including more than

290,000 acres of farmland in Rakhine State. Among them, local farmers have put over 120,000 acres of farmlands under crops.

MNA

Authorities make another stimulant tablet seizure in North Dagon tied to massive drug haul in Mingaladon Tsp

NAY PYI TAW, 13 Aug — Linked to the massive narcotic drugs seizure last month, police seized an additional 1.5 million stimulant tablets worth about K 7.5 billion during their raids on the head office of Kaladan Delta Development Co. Ltd in North Dagon Township on 3 August.

Police discovered the haul of drugs packed in five bags at the head office. The company's branch office and houses of its managing director and members of the board of directors in

Mayangon Township were also found locked and they are believed to have fled, police said.

Police identified the managing director and members of the board of directors as Min Oo Khaing, Kyaw Aye Hlaing (a) Khaing Aung Soe and Win Hlaing.

Following the seizure of 26.7 stimulant tablets worth around K133.5 billion in an abandoned vehicle in Mingaladon Township last month, further investigations led the po-

lice to a house in ward 43 of North Dagon Township where they found documents related to the company.

According to the find in the house, the owner of the abandoned vehicles police found in Mingaladon Industrial Zone (Zaygabar compound) and near a traffic light on No (3) road in Mingaladon Township is Hla Maung (a) Aung Lin (a) Pyae Soe, the police added.

According to the Ministry of Home Affairs, bags

of stimulant tablets seized at the head office of the company were also packed similarly to bags found in Mingaladon Township, and charged filed against Min Oo Khaing, 29, Kyaw Aye Hlaing (a) Khaing Aung Soe, 30, Win Hlaing, 33, Hla Maung (a) Aung Lin (a) Pyae Soe, 26, Aye Than, 26, Than Myint, 30, Shwe Thee Maung, 28, and Than Tun, 26.

Investigation and search for the suspects is ongoing, it said.

MNA



Narcotic drugs seized from KALADAN DELTA DEVELOPMENT Co.Ltd in North Dagon Township.—MNA

SoftBank acquires more Sprint shares for \$87 million

TOKYO, 13 Aug — SoftBank Group Corp. said Thursday it has purchased an additional 0.58 percent of shares in its struggling U.S. mobile unit Sprint Corp. for \$86.91 million (about 10.86 billion yen).

The Japanese telecoms group now owns 79.99 percent of Sprint, which SoftBank bought in 2013 as part of efforts to expand its global reach. The share buying was made through subsidiary Galaxy Investment Holdings Inc.

SoftBank said in a press release it is “confident in Sprint’s future prospects,” apparently dispelling speculation it could sell the wireless carrier, which has been revamping its network, reducing employment and losing subscribers to its larger rivals.

SoftBank President Masayoshi Son told a press conference on Aug. 6 that he intends to improve Sprint’s businesses over the next two years.

Kyodo News

UNICEF strives to keep schools in West Africa Ebola-free



UNITED NATIONS, 13 Aug — The UN Children’s Fund (UNICEF) and its partners are helping to carry out measures to make schools in Guinea, Liberia and Sierra Leone safe from Ebola transmission, said a UN spokesman at Wednesday’s daily briefing here.

Both UNICEF and its partners are working to make sure that students and school staff have their temperatures taken as well as handwashing stations are

available in schools, said Stephane Dujarric, spokesman for the UN secretary-general.

They also have distributed soap and chlorine, and have trained tens of thousands of teachers and administrators on maintaining safe hygiene practices and standards.

An estimated 5 million children lost months of education as schools remained closed from July 2014 until the first few months of this year as a result of

an Ebola outbreak in the three Western African countries, according to Dujarric.

Ebola was first reported in December 2013 in Guinea, which shares the borders with Liberia and Sierra Leone. A total of 27,609 cases and 11,261 deaths had been reported worldwide as of July 5.

“Response is definitely getting better,” World Health Organization Assistant Director General Bruce Aylward said of the efforts to combat Ebola earlier this month, adding that though many challenges remain, eliminating the deadly disease is possible in the near future.

Ebola virus disease, a severe, often fatal illness in humans, is transmitted to people from wild animals and spreads in the human population through human-to-human transmission.

The average fatality rate is around 50 percent, according to the World Health Organization website. —Xinhua

Toy sales to rise in Argentina with Children’s Day ahead



An employee paints the eyes of PVC dolls in toy factory Turby Toy on the eve of Children’s Day, in the town of San Martin, 20km away from the city of Buenos Aires, Argentina, on Aug. 12, 2015. According to information issued by the Argentina Association of Toys and Allied Workers, toy sales estimated for the celebration of Children’s Day of Argentina on Sunday will be between 4,000 and 5,000 million of Argentines pesos this year. —XINHUA

Vietnam lifts MERS-CoV health declaration for visitors from S. Korea

HANOI, 13 Aug — Visitors from South Korea to Vietnam after Aug. 15 will be exempted from MERS-CoV health declaration, the Vietnamese Ministry of Health said on Wednesday.

Based on the MERS-CoV situation in South Korea, the ministry to stop health declaration at international border gates for persons coming from South Korea since Aug. 15 following

the announcement of the South Korean government over the epidemic’s ending.

However, health declaration applying for visitors from the Middle East remains effective as the epidemic situation in countries there is still complicated.

Vietnam started to require health declaration by visitors from South Korea on June 3 af-

ter the epidemic outbreak in the country.

South Korean Prime Minister Hwang Kyo-ahn on July 28 declared the de-facto end of the Middle East Respiratory Syndrome outbreak as all MERS suspects were freed from quarantine as there had been no report of new infection case for more than three weeks.

Xinhua

Japan machinery orders tumble in June, add to second-quarter GDP contraction fears

TOKYO, 13 Aug — Japan’s core machinery orders tumbled the most in over a year, adding to fears of an economic contraction in the second quarter as exports slumped and consumer spending slackened.

The 7.9 percent fall in the key gauge of capital spending followed a recent run of soft indicators - including exports and factory output - which led analysts to forecast a second-quarter contraction when economic growth figures come out on Aug 17.

Policymakers see little chance of a return to recession, expecting the economy to stay on track for a moderate growth in the current

quarter. Weak data though could raise doubts about the economic outlook in the face of China’s slowdown, adding yet more pressure on the Bank of Japan to trim its rosy projections and prompting calls for fresh stimulus to support expansion. Companies surveyed by the Cabinet Office have forecast that core machinery orders, a highly volatile data series seen as an indicator of capital spending in the coming six to nine months, will rise 0.3 percent in July-September.

Core orders, which exclude those of ships and electric power utilities, grew 2.9 percent in April-June from the prior three months,

which was the fourth straight quarterly gain.

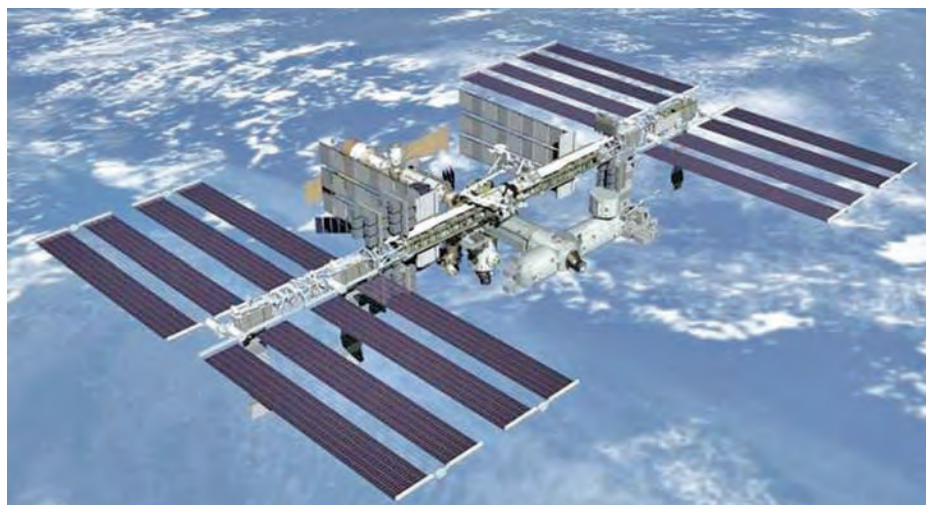
The Cabinet Office stuck to its assessment of machinery orders as “picking up”, suggesting that the monthly decline may be a one-off.

“June’s decline was due to a big drop in manufacturers’ orders, which came as reaction to gains in the prior month in sectors such as steel,” said a Cabinet Office official.

Capital spending holds the key to Japan’s drive for a virtuous cycle of business investment, household income growth and consumer spending to pull the economy out of nearly two decades of deflation.—Reuters



Excavators are parked in a machine yard in Tokyo, December 11, 2014.— REUTERS



Backdropped by Earth, the International Space Station is seen in an image taken by a crew member onboard the space shuttle Endeavour in this undated NASA handout photo. REUTERS

Orbital ATK buys second Atlas rocket launch for space station run

CAPE CANAVERAL, 13 Aug — Orbital ATK Inc is buying a second Atlas rocket launch to fly supplies to the International Space Station for NASA while it redesigns its Antares booster following a launch accident last year, the aerospace company said on Wednesday.

The Oct. 28 accident, which occurred seconds after launch from Virginia's Wallops Island, destroyed a Cygnus capsule filled with cargo bound for the space station. A final report on the accident is pending.

In December, Orbital said it had bought an Atlas rocket launch from United Launch Alliance, a partnership of Lockheed Martin Corp and Boeing Co, to help fulfill its \$1.9 billion cargo delivery contract with NASA while it recovers from the accident.

Terms of the contract were

not disclosed. The launch is targeted for early December from Cape Canaveral Air Force Station in Florida to the space station, a permanently staffed, \$100 billion research laboratory that flies about 250 miles (400 km) above Earth.

After the accident, Orbital also advanced plans to replace Antares' troubled Soviet-era engines with new Russian-made RD-181 motors. The refurbished rocket is expected to be ready to fly in early 2016, with one or two more missions to follow that year, Orbital said.

The purchase of a second Atlas launch for a station resupply mission in 2016 will give Orbital some flexibility to deliver the maximum amount of cargo to the station under terms of its NASA contract, said Orbital spokeswoman Trina Helquist.

Both the Atlas and the revamped Antares rockets can carry heavier loads than the original Antares, so Orbital expects to be able to fulfill its contract with fewer than the eight launches called for in its original agreement with NASA. Orbital completed two station cargo runs prior to last year's accident.

NASA has a second space station resupply contract with privately owned SpaceX, which is recovering from an unrelated June 28 launch accident of its Falcon 9 rocket.

A third supply line to the station operated by Russia reopened last month following a botched Soyuz rocket flight on April 28. A fourth cargo ship flown by Japan is due to launch on Sunday. Europe's ATV cargo ships have been retired.

Reuters

Music boosts recovery from surgery, reduces pain

LONDON, 13 Aug — Listening to music before, during and after surgery reduces patients' pain, eases anxiety and lessens the need for painkillers, British scientists said on Thursday.

After reviewing evidence from around 7,000 patients, the scientists said people going for surgery should be allowed to choose the music they'd like to hear to maximize the benefit.

But they also warned that the music should not interfere with the medical team's communication during an operation.

"Music is a non-invasive, safe, cheap intervention that should be available to everyone undergoing surgery," said Catherine Meads from Brunel University, who co-led the research.

The team conducted a meta-analysis of all published randomized trials looking at how music compares with standard care or other non-drug interventions such as massage and relaxation in effecting recovery of adults after operations. The results, published in The Lancet journal, found patients were significantly less anxious after surgery and reported more satisfaction after listening to music. They also needed less pain medication and reported less pain compared with controls.

While the study found listening to music at any time seemed

effective, there was a trend for better outcomes if patients listened to music before surgery rather than during or after.

And when patients selected their own music, there was a slightly greater reduction in pain and in use of pain relief.

"We have known since the time of Florence Nightingale that listening to music has a positive impact on patients during surgery, by making them feel calmer and reducing pain," said Martin Hirsch of Queen Mary University of London, who co-led the work. "However, it's taken pulling together all the small studies ... into one robust meta-analysis to really prove it works." Paul Glasziou of Australia's Bond University said the results held a clear message: "Music is a simple and cheap intervention," he wrote in a comment in The Lancet. "A drug with similar effects might generate substantial marketing." The team now plans to follow up with a pilot scheme introducing music at The Royal London Hospital for women having Caesarean sections and women having hysteroscopy.

Patients will submit their playlist on a device of their choice to be connected to a pillow with inbuilt loudspeakers, and the researchers will then analyze the effectiveness of rolling this out in practice.—Reuters

Retailer-backed mobile wallet to rival Apple Pay set for test

CHICAGO, 13 Aug — A retailer-backed rival to Apple Inc's Apple Pay mobile wallet will be tested with customers in a handful of stores in the next few weeks, ratcheting up competition in an increasingly cluttered market.

CurrentC was developed by a consortium of retailers under the Merchant Customer Exchange, which includes Wal-Mart Stores Inc, Target Corp and Best Buy Co Inc.

The mobile wallet will appear in stores of about half a dozen retailers in Columbus, Ohio, MCX Chief Executive Officer Brian Mooney told Reuters.

"We are currently in a beta with several of our merchants and employees, and we will now extend that beta to the public in the next few weeks," Mooney said. He did not provide specifics about timing or name the participating retailers.

CurrentC lets shoppers pay

for items with their phones and pulls up a scannable code to initiate transactions. It has been in development for nearly three years and is the latest entrant in a segment increasingly dominated by Apple, Google Inc and others.

Customer demand for mobile wallets has been slow, and analysts agree that they are used for only a tiny percentage of U.S. retail transactions.

Verifone Systems Inc and Wakefield Research's online survey released in January found that mobile wallets accounted for about 4 percent of overall payments for U.S. in-store retail transactions.

Many payment experts said they were skeptical that the retailer-backed system could gain traction, let alone thwart the easier-to-use Apple Pay system.

Apple Pay relies on a fingerprint scanner that can process a payment without requiring the



An Apple iPhone 6 with Apple Pay is shown in this photo illustration in Encinitas, California June 3, 2015.—REUTERS

customer to unlock the phone or open an app. Those steps, which CurrentC uses, have slowed adoption of other mobile payment systems.

Mooney said CurrentC hopes to improve customer adoption rates by offering shoppers loyalty rewards every time they use their phone to make a payment, a feature that most of its competitors do not offer.

MCX also hopes to find broader adoption among merchants, which could link the app with checking accounts, gift cards and their own private-label cards.

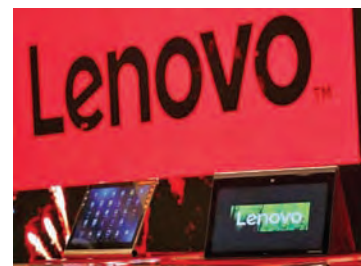
Doing so saves money by eliminating the 1 percent to 3 percent fee that retailers pay every time they process a credit card transaction via the existing networks.—Reuters

Lenovo faces Motorola hangover, cuts 3,200 jobs as sales slide, profit tumbles

BEIJING, 13 Aug — China's Lenovo Group Ltd (0992.HK) will lay off 10 percent of white-collar staff after sales of Motorola handsets fell by a third, raising doubts over the personal computer giant's bet that a money-losing brand it bought for nearly \$3 billion will help it become a global smartphone leader.

Shares in the world's biggest maker of PCs slid nearly 9 percent on Thursday after it said its quarterly net profit was halved as its mobile division lost nearly \$300 million. Lenovo, which uses the U.S. dollar in operations rather than the recently devalued Chinese yuan, said it plans to cut about 3,200 non-manufacturing jobs with a one-time cost of \$600 million.

Beijing-based Lenovo said the restructuring would yield savings of about \$1.35 billion on an annual basis. But the difficulty in selling handsets, combined with a continuously shrinking global



A Lenovo ultrabook and a tablet are displayed during a news conference in Hong Kong, China May 21, 2015. —REUTERS

market for PCs, meant the firm was facing its "toughest market environment in recent years", Chief Executive Yang Yuanqing warned.

"I still believe mobile is a new business we must win," Yang told Reuters in an interview, saying Lenovo's ambition to rival Apple Inc (AAPL.O) and Samsung Electronics Co (005930.KS) in smartphones remains undimmed.

Reuters

Announcement of YSX's Listing Criteria

Yangon Stock Exchange (YSX) hereby issues the following Criteria for a Public Company to list on YSX in accordance with the Article 41 – (b) of Myanmar Securities and Exchange Law

1. It shall be a registered company limited by shares in accord with the Myanmar Companies Act, conducting the business in line with the public company's features and procedures.
2. It shall have at least 100 shareholders and above.
3. Paid-up capital shall be the minimum of kyat 500 million on the date of application.
4. It shall have the profit at least 2 years during the period of before the date of application.
5. The business shall have the stable basic income and conduct in accordance with the existing laws.
6. The Board of Directors and the heads of the company shall be in good character and have had not been having any punishment by a court, in addition, have not been facing any lawsuits. They shall perform their duties and responsibilities with well-prepared, in good-faith and fairly in line with the laws.
7. The Board of Directors and the heads of the company shall not act any deceptive manners by the public for the interest of the company and self-interest.
8. Each Director of the public company shall not do any business which has the same interest carrying out by the public company, except with the approval of Shareholder meeting.
9. The company, the Board of Directors and the heads of such company shall not be included in the black list of any public and government organizations.
10. Book-keeping of accounts and auditing of the company shall be undertaken in accordance with the Myanmar Accounting Standards and Myanmar Standards on Auditing.
11. The company shall fulfill tax duties in accordance with existing tax laws of Myanmar.
12. The disclosure of relevant corporate information and the facts that the public should be known, shall be disclosed and submitted to the Securities Exchange Commission of Myanmar and Yangon Stock Exchange, besides it shall be disclosed and announced to the public by means of easy understandable and best suitable ways in timely manner. For disclosure of corporate information, it shall prescribe especially and precisely on the matters which have a considerable impact on investment decisions of the investors, such as the risk factors for the potential loss and the basic potential business activities.
13. It shall set up an effective system to comply with laws, rules and regulations by appointing the compliance officer.
14. It shall have business plan containing business design, business process environment and the risk factors.
15. It shall set up a system to prevent the insider trading.
16. It shall continuously operate and manage stably without any influence by keeping soundness of good corporate governance, internal management and internal control system.
17. It shall have rational expectation to get a profit base upon stable revenue.

The criteria above are minimum standards to be referred as a general guideline for public companies. YSX will grant listing permission only after YSX receives listing application submitted by a public company and YSX confirms the company's eligibility of listing in term of protecting interests of general public through conducting examination.

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CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

MV DA ZHONG VOY NO (128)

Consignees of cargo carried on MV DA ZHONG VOY NO (128) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 14.8.2015 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of A.I.P.T where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

**SHIPPING AGENCY DEPARTMENT
MYANMA PORT AUTHORITY**

AGENT FOR: M/S COSCO SHIPPING CO LTD.

Phone No: 2301186

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

MV BEHSHAD VOY NO (SCY1002)

Consignees of cargo carried on MV BEHSHAD VOY NO (SCY1002) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 14.8.2015 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of M.I.T.T where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

**SHIPPING AGENCY DEPARTMENT
MYANMA PORT AUTHORITY**

**AGENT FOR: M/S LAND AND SEA SHIPPING
LINE**

Phone No: 2301185

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

MV ESM CREMONA VOY NO (130W)

Consignees of cargo carried on MV ESM CREMONA VOY NO (130W) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 14.8.2015 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of M.I.P where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

**SHIPPING AGENCY DEPARTMENT
MYANMA PORT AUTHORITY**

**AGENT FOR: M/S ORINET OVERSEAS
CONTAINER LINES**

Phone No: 2301185

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

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Consignees of cargo carried on MV DYNAMIC OCEAN 18 VOY NO () are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 14.8.2015 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of A.I.P.T where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

**SHIPPING AGENCY DEPARTMENT
MYANMA PORT AUTHORITY**

AGENT FOR: M/S G LINK EXPRESS PTE LTD

Phone No: 2301191 / 2301178

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

MV E.R. TURKU VOY NO (078W)

Consignees of cargo carried on MV E.R. TURKU VOY NO (078W) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 14.8.2015 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of A.W.P.T where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

**SHIPPING AGENCY DEPARTMENT
MYANMA PORT AUTHORITY**

AGENT FOR: M/S HANJIN SHIPPING LINES

Phone No: 2301185

WEATHER REPORT

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

FORECAST VALID UNTIL EVENING OF THE 14th August, 2015: Rain or thundershowers will be scattered in Lower Sagaing, Mandalay and Magway Regions, fairly widespread in Shan, Chin and Kayah States and widespread in the remaining Regions and States with isolated heavy falls in Upper Sagaing and Ayeyarwady Regions, Kachin, Rakhine and Mon States. Degree of certainty is (100%).

STATE OF THE SEA: Sea will be moderate in Myanmar waters.

OUTLOOK FOR SUBSEQUENT TWO DAYS: Increase of rain in the Northern Myanmar areas.

FORECAST FOR NAY PYI TAW AND NEIGHBOURING AREA FOR 14th August, 2015: Isolated rain or thundershowers. Degree of certainty is (80%).

Sri Lanka's torture of Tamils persists despite war's end — charity

LONDON, 13 Aug — The torture of minority Tamils in Sri Lanka by the police and military remains a major problem six years after the end of the civil war with victims beaten, burned and sexually abused, a UK-based charity providing medical care to survivors said.

In a report released on Thursday, Freedom from Torture said that in 2014, for the third year in a row, Sri

Lanka was the top country of origin of those the charity helped.

The report, published ahead of elections next week in which wartime president Mahinda Rajapaksa hopes to reclaim power, was based on medical evidence relating to 148 Sri Lankan torture survivors, 94 percent of them Tamils.

Eight months after he was ousted as president, Ra-

japaksa is challenging the reformist coalition that replaced his government and that enjoys the broad support of Sri Lanka's Tamil and Muslim minorities.

"All this will be addressed after the final report of the U.N. Human Rights Commission will be made available," Prime Minister Ranil Wikremesinghe told Reuters on Thursday when asked about Freedom from

Torture's findings.

Wikremesinghe was referring to a U.N. investigation into civil war atrocities whose publication has been delayed until after the Aug. 17 vote.

All the victims, who had been tortured between 2009 and 2013, had been beaten, some with pipes filled with cement or pistol butts, Freedom from Torture said.

Nearly 80 percent had been burned with cigarettes or heated pieces of metal and 71 percent had suffered sexual violence. Some were subjected to waterboarding or suffocated with the fumes of burning chillies or petrol, the report added.

"Despite the fact the civil war ended in May 2009, torture has been ongoing in Sri Lanka in every year since, right up to the

present time," Sonya Sceats, Freedom from Torture's policy and advocacy director, told the Thomson Reuters Foundation.

"As an organisation we've continued to receive very high volumes of referrals of Sri Lankans and in fact, we've had a couple of cases of torture this year after the change of president," she added.

Reuters

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Journey of a lifetime

Mark Ronson, Bruno Mars accused of stealing 'Uptown Funk'

LOS ANGELES, 13 Aug — Mark Ronson and Bruno Mars have been accused of plagiarism.

The British producer and his collaborator are said to have stolen their hit "Uptown Funk" from a Serbian singer named Viktorija aka Snezana Miskovic, reported Ace Showbiz.



Miskovic claims that "Uptown Funk" sounds too similar to her 1984 song titled "Ulice Mracne Nisu Za Devojke", which translates as "Dark Streets Are Not for Girls".

"Their song 'Uptown Funk' contains 80 percent of my tracks. How much of it are you allowed to take as

inspiration for your song?" she said.

Miskovic, however, has no plan to sue Ronson and Mars at the moment. Instead, she wants the musicians to simply give her the recognition she deserved.

"I'm in no hurry to sue them, these processes take

a long time, and my life and careers does not depend on lawsuits. For these lawsuits, there should be a lot of money, the lawyers are working on a percentage.

"If I still decide to sue them and I win, I have to figure out what to do with that money."

PTI

Uggie, canine star of Oscar-winning movie 'The Artist,' dies in Los Angeles



The dog Uggie, featured in the film "The Artist", is pictured after leaving his paw prints in cement in the forecourt of the Grauman's Chinese theatre in Hollywood, California June 25, 2012. —REUTERS

LOS ANGELES, 13 Aug — Uggie, the energetic Jack Russell terrier who captured hearts when he appeared in the Oscar-winning silent movie "The Artist," has

died in Los Angeles at the age of 13, his owner said on Wednesday.

The white and tan dog, who charmed audiences and the media in red car-

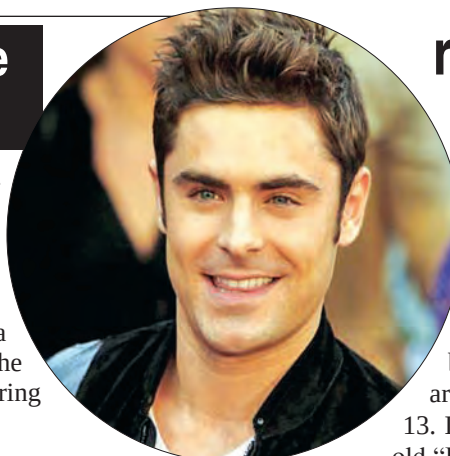
pet appearances to promote the movie, had a prostate tumor and died last week. "We regret to inform to all our friends, family and Uggie's fans that our beloved boy has passed away," Uggie's owner and trainer Omar Von Muller said in a Facebook posting. "Uggie had a cancerous tumor in the prostate and is now in a better place not feeling pain. Thank you for your support, I will not be reading any comments for a while as it is too painful at the moment," he added. Uggie starred as

"The Dog" alongside French actor Jean Dujardin in the 2011 movie which won five Oscars, including best picture. Fans of Uggie conducted an unsuccessful campaign to have him nominated for an Oscar in his own right. His stunts and tricks led to numerous television appearances and in 2012 he became the first dog to have his prints cemented outside Grauman's Chinese Theatre in Hollywood, alongside acting legends such as Elizabeth Taylor, John Wayne and Judy Garland.—Reuters

Zac Efron says new 'Baywatch' movie to be raunchy comedy

LONDON, 13 Aug — Former teen idol Zac Efron, who rose to fame in the Disney "High School Musical" franchise, says the upcoming "Baywatch" movie in which he will co-star with Dwayne "The Rock" Johnson will be almost nothing like the 1990s TV series about lifeguards.

Although the movie is in preliminary stages, Efron said he was looking forward to it departing from the TV show that starred David Hasselhoff and Pamela Anderson and almost always featured a rescue at sea, no matter how tangential to the plot. "It's going to be R-rated and it's going to be badass," Efron told Reuters, referring to the Hollywood classification for movies containing adult material. —Reuters



Tribeca film gala organizers invite submissions for 2016

NEW YORK, 13 Aug — Organizers on Wednesday announced the 15th Tribeca Film Festival (TFF) will be held in New York City from April 13-24, 2016, while publishing specific dates of the deadline for submitting U.S. and international films in four major categories.

During the festival, which has been served as a platform for original story-

telling, creative expression, and immersive entertainment, attendees will gather for innovation events, parties, Tribeca Talks panels, juried showcase of interactive storytelling and lineup, said the organizers.

The organizers said in the new year, they would also present a special prize named after the legendary filmmaker and writer

Nora Ephron — The Nora Ephron Prize — for the third year, awarding 25,000 U.S. dollars to one special female filmmaker in a bid to encourage women filmmakers. TFF was founded by a group of people including American actor and producer Robert De Niro in 2001 following the terrorist attacks on the World Trade Center, with the purpose of

advancing economic and cultural revitalization of the Lower Manhattan District through an annual celebration of films, music and culture. More than 1,600 films from more than 80 countries have been screened since the Tribeca Film Festival was first held in 2002, with an international audience of more than 5.4 million people in attendance. —Xinhua

Britney Spears to guest star on 'Jane the Virgin'

LOS ANGELES, 13 Aug — Pop star Britney Spears will guest star as herself on the second season of romantic comedy-drama TV series "Jane the Virgin". The 33-year-old "Oops!... I did it again" hitmaker took to Twitter and said she will be making an appearance on her most "favourite" show, reported US Weekly.

"See u at the Marbella Hotel soon, @hereisgina @jaimecamil! Guest starring on one of my favourite shows EVER @CWJaneTheVirgin #Dream-ComeTrue," Spears said.

Spears will appear in the fifth episode of the second season, which premieres on October 12. "We are so thrilled that Rogelio's 'nemesis' — Britney Spears — has agreed to appear on 'Jane The Virgin'," creator Jennie Snyder Urman said. "Personally, after hearing about their longstanding feud (from Rogelio's point of view), we are eager to hear Ms Spears' side of the story, which we assume is quite different. #TeamBritney," Urman added.

Spears' acting credits include hit TV sitcom "How I Met Your Mother", popular show "Will & Grace" and 2002 film "Crossroads".—PTI



Pop star Britney Spears

Justin Bieber to release new album on November 13?

LOS ANGELES, 13 Aug — Pop star Justin Bieber's highly-anticipated yet-to-be-titled album will reportedly arrive on November 13. It will be the 21-year-old "Baby" hitmaker's first album after 2010 hit "Believe", reported Billboard.

Previously, the album was announced to come out sometime in September. Bieber himself predicted the release month during an appearance at last week's iHeartMedia Music Summit in Burbank, California.

At that time, he also talked about his new music a little bit, describing it as "very awesome." He said, "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."

The forthcoming record will be led by the single "What Do You Mean" that will be out on August 28.

PTI



Pop star Justin Bieber

GENERAL

Players brace for 'Beauty and the Beast' at PGA



Aug 12, 2015; Sheboygan, WI, USA; A course worker mows the lawn on the 8th green before a practice round for the 2015 PGA Championship golf tournament at Whistling Straits -The Straits Course. —REUTERS

KOHLER, (Wisconsin), 13 Aug — The stage is set for Thursday's opening round at the 97th PGA Championship being held this week for a third time at Whistling Straits, which is viewed by the players both as a 'Beauty' and a 'Beast'.

Measuring 7,514 yards off the back tees, the links-style layout is lush, green, beautifully manicured and stunningly located on the shores of Lake Michigan where eight of the holes are adjacent to the water.

Yet with its soaring sand dunes and more than a thousand bunkers dotted around the course,

the par-72 Straits Course will provide a daunting challenge for the game's best players over the next four days.

"It's major championship ready, the greens are as healthy as I've seen in a long time and they putt extremely well," Masters and U.S. Open champion Jordan Spieth told reporters on Wednesday. "I think we're all very, very excited.

"The bunkers are hazards out here, and there's a lot of them. You almost have to approach it like an Open Championship (British Open), where ... the ball can squirt out in different directions

based on the type of sand.

"You have to approach them as hazards and definitely stay away from them."

For Australian world number five Jason Day, who tied for 10th in the 2010 PGA Championship played at Whistling Straits, length off the tee will be a huge advantage.

"It's definitely helping if you're a bomber of the golf ball," he said.

"You have to drive the ball well here, because there's some spots on the golf course where I might try to hit it 30 yards off line rather than a yard off line because then you're chipping out (because) the rough is so thick.

"From there, placement on the greens is huge, making sure that you're on the right quadrant and you are giving yourself a chance at birdie."

Though recent rain has softened the ultra-long layout, gusting winds of up to 25 mph (40.2 kph) have been forecast for Thursday's opening round, which will give the Straits Course extra bite.

"If the wind is up again, that will be the teeth of the course," said Spieth. "If the wind's down, there's certainly plenty of scorable holes and lower scores will be shot." Designed by veteran architect Pete Dye, Whistling Straits is a triumph of imagination and

modern golf course construction.

The terrain, once flat, wind-swept and featureless, accommodated a military base before being targeted as a possible site for a nuclear power plant.

It has since been transformed through Dye's vision, the finance of Herbert V. Kohler Jr. and 170,000 dump-truck loads of quarried sand.

Three of the par-four holes at Whistling Straits are in excess of 500 yards, and the undulating course is one of the longest in major championship history.

"You get on a Pete Dye golf course, especially Whistling Straits, and it visually assaults you as soon as you get on the first tee," said former world number one David Duval, working this week as an analyst with Golf Channel. "It is intimidating."

From a relative distance, it is the beauty and near-perfect presentation of Whistling Straits that catches the eye.

"The golf course is in beautiful shape," said American world number three Bubba Watson, who was beaten in a playoff for the 2010 PGA Championship by Germany's Martin Kaymer.

"The rough is thick and healthy, and fairways are in perfect shape. I haven't seen greens run this good in a long time."

Reuters

Japan House to be set up in Rio's Cidade das Artes

TOKYO, 13 Aug — The Japanese delegation for next year's Rio de Janeiro Olympics will be based at the city's biggest cultural-arts complex, sources told Kyodo News on Wednesday.

The Japan House will be located in the western Rio district of Barra, where the Olympic Park is and convenient in terms of access. The house will be used to stage not only press conferences and receptions, but also to showcase Japan as a country in cooperation with the ministries and Tokyo metropolitan government.

The area last Wednesday held the one-year countdown to the Summer Games, and is a 5- to 10-minute drive from the Olympic Park and the athletes' village.—Kyodo News

California wildfire grows as crews work to protect communities

SAN FRANCISCO, 13 Aug — A wildfire running rampant through drought-parched vegetation in northern California grew by several thousand acres overnight into Wednesday, as firefighters worked to stop the flames from spreading toward communities.

The so-called Jerusalem Fire, which was sparked on Sunday, has grown to cover 16,500 acres (6,677 hectares) of dry and rural ranch land north of Napa Valley wine country and is only 6 percent contained, the California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection said.

The fire has displaced about 150 people and threatens at least 50 more houses and ranches, de-

partment spokesman Steve Swindle said.

He said that while the burn area is sparsely populated, firefighters were working to keep flames from spreading south and threatening the communities around Lake Berryessa.

Overnight, firefighters merged part of the fire's northeastern edge with a southwestern stretch of a behemoth 69,636-acre (28,180 hectare) blaze nearby known as the Rocky Fire, as a way of burning through combustible vegetation, Swindle said.

"There is a lot of unburned fuel between those two fires," he said.

Letting the vegetation burn



Flames from the so-called Jerusalem Fire erupt in Lake County, California, August 12, 2015. —REUTERS

through between the two fires will create a safe zone, Swindle said.

The Rocky Fire, the state's fiercest wildfire so far this season, stayed at around 88 percent containment on Wednesday morning, state fire officials said. That inferno has destroyed almost 100 buildings, roughly half of which were homes, and sent hundreds of people fleeing.

Strong and erratic winds were expected to increase the risk of fire in Northern California for several days this week, according to state forestry officials.

The two blazes were among at least two dozen burning across the American West.

Reuters

mitv Myanmar International

(14-8-2015 07:00 am~15-8-2015 07:00 am) MST

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- * News
- * Lawka Nandar Wildlife Sanctuary And Its Rare Star Tortoises
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MRTV Entertainment Channel

(14-8-2015, Friday)

- 6:00 am**
 - Mono Classical Songs
- 6:20 am**
 - Myanmar Series
- 6:45 am**
 - Song Programme
- 7:05 am**
 - TV Drama Series
- 7:55 am**
 - TV Drama Series
- 8:40 am**
 - Musical Programme
- 8:50 am**
 - Myanmar Video
- 10:00 am**
 - My Dream
- 10:05 am**
 - Myanmar Video

City seek early psychological lift against Chelsea

LONDON, 13 Aug — The destination of the Premier League trophy will not be decided when current champions Chelsea meet their immediate predecessors Manchester City on Sunday, but the winners will get a welcome psychological boost for the long campaign ahead.

The meeting between two of the main title contenders has come early in the season but three points are three points whether they are won in August or May. If Manchester City take them they will already be five clear of Chelsea whereas last season they never got their noses in front of Jose Mourinho's side.

City began their campaign with an easy 3-0 win at West Bromwich Albion on Monday with Yaya Toure looking back to his imperious best, scoring the best goal of the season so far with City's second from the edge of the box.

Toure's excellent display and an equally emphatic statement of intent from City's captain Vincent Kompany were both in contrast to many of their performances last season.

"I know what I have to do and I don't care what people say about me. I'm not back — I've always been there," a defiant Toure said at the Hawthorns.

His manager Manuel Pellegrini, who has just signed a new deal with the club, did say Toure had



West Bromwich Albion v Manchester City - Barclays Premier League - The Hawthorns - 10/8/15 Yaya Toure celebrates with Bacary Sagna after scoring the second goal for Manchester City. REUTERS

had problems last season following the death of his brother Ibrahim, when Toure struggled in matches against the top sides.

So he will be under scrutiny when Chelsea visit on Sunday. Chelsea made an indifferent start with a 2-2 draw against Swansea City at Stamford Bridge but much of the focus since has been on the curious aftermath of the match with Mourinho banning the club's first team doctor Eva Carneiro from the bench.

Mourinho was unhappy that Carneiro and physio Jon Fearn went on the pitch to treat Eden Hazard near the end.

Chelsea were down to 10 men following the dismissal of goalkeeper Thibaut Courtois and because the medics had come on to the pitch, Hazard had to go

off before he could resume playing, leaving Chelsea with nine men on the field.

That incensed Mourinho and his banning order has made headlines since but what should concern him more was the way his team played.

Courtois will miss Sunday's game with newly-arrived deputy Asmir Begovic taking his place.

Petr Cech, Chelsea's first choice goalie for much of the past decade, is now at Arsenal and he will be hoping to put his miserable debut for the Gunners to the back of his mind at Crystal Palace on Sunday.

Cech was at fault for both goals as Arsenal were shocked 2-0 at home by West Ham United on Sunday. Palace meanwhile go into the game after an impressive 3-1 win at promot-

ed Norwich City.

Palace have only beaten Arsenal three times in 37 meetings since they first clashed over 80 years ago and Arsenal have not lost a league match at Palace since 1979.

Arsene Wenger's men, who won the FA Cup last season and started this season with a Community Shield victory over Chelsea, will be looking to bounce back immediately.

The weekend starts with the re-introduction of a televised Friday night match with Aston Villa meeting Manchester United at Villa Park.

Both teams won their opening matches last weekend so whoever wins on Friday will go top, at least until the rest catch up on Saturday and Sunday.

Reuters

Nishikori cruises into 3rd round at Montreal Masters

MONTREAL, 13 Aug — Japan's world No. 4 and fourth seed Kei Nishikori cruised past Spaniard Pablo Andujar on Wednesday to book a spot in the third round at the Montreal Masters.

Nishikori, who opened his summer hard court season by capturing the Citi Open in Washington on Sunday, improved to 4-1 in his career against his 48th-ranked opponent with a 6-3, 6-3 victory.

"I am fit again and I was aiming to finish him in two sets, so I'm glad," said Nishikori, who is playing in his second tournament since he withdrew from Wimbledon with a calf injury. After dealing with the difficult serves of towering American John Isner in the Washington final, Nishikori was barely challenged by Andujar. "It's been a long time since my opponent wasn't a

big server. My game started with my returns and grew from there," said Nishikori, who has yet to win a masters event — although he came close last year in Madrid, where he was whipping Rafael Nadal in the final before withdrawing due to injury.

"It (a masters) is more condensed than a Grand Slam. All the best players are there so it's hard, but because the matches are three sets, there's always a chance. I'm eager to win one of these soon."

Nishikori now faces a third-round match against 13th seed David Goffin. The Belgian, currently ranked 14th in the world, has lost both of his career matches to Nishikori, who beat him in two sets on the hard court at the Miami Masters this spring and then in three sets on clay in Madrid.

Kyodo News



Kei Nishikori of Japan returns a shot against Pablo Andujar of Spain in the second round of the Rogers Cup in Montreal, Canada, on Aug. 12, 2015. World No. 4 Nishikori won 6-3, 6-3. —KYODO NEWS

Murray and Nadal win but other seeds tumble in Montreal



Aug 12, 2015; Montreal, Quebec, Canada; Andy Murray of Great Britain hits a shot against Tommy Robredo of Spain (not pictured) during the Rogers Cup tennis tournament at Uniprix Stadium. —REUTERS

MONTREAL, 13 Aug — Andy Murray and Rafael Nadal were winners but six seeds were beaten in a day of upsets in the second round at the Rogers Cup in Montreal on Thursday.

Number two seed Murray, who received a first-round bye, avoided the fate of so many other seeds, though he was extended by Spain's Tommy Robredo before coming through for a 6-4, 7-5 win.

Robredo looked poised to force a second-set tiebreak, up 30-0 on serve at 5-6, only to lose four straight points and fall to the Scotsman.

The Spaniard made three consecutive mistakes to gift Murray match point, before the former

U.S. Open and Wimbledon champion closed out the match after a 26-stroke rally with a drop shot that caught the top of the net and toppled over.

"Today was the best I hit the ball on the hard courts since I started playing on it again," said Murray, who was ousted in his first match in Washington last week on the same surface.

"I felt like I was returning (serve) a little bit better, which is important for my game."

Next up for Murray is unseeded Gilles Muller of Luxembourg, who beat 15th seed Gael Monfils of France in a third-set tiebreak 6-3, 3-6, 7-6(4).

Other seeds to fall

were Czech Tomas Berdych (number five), Croatian Marin Cilic (six), Canadian Milos Raonic (eight), Frenchman Gilles Simon (nine) and Bulgarian Grigor Dimitrov (14).

But number seven Nadal, in his first hard-court appearance since March, showed few signs of rust as he used a dominating first serve to dust off Sergiy Stakhovsky of Ukraine 7-6, 6-3.

Fourth seed Kei Nishikori also advanced with a 6-3, 6-3 win over Spaniard Pablo Andujar.

Nishikori is coming off victory Sunday at the ATP event in Washington, where he beat Cilic in a rematch of last year's U.S. Open final. —Reuters