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# Artifacts reveal Pyu civilization in China



Statues wear Bramar longyi in the traditional style of Khar-pone-sa-khya wut Nee, with the sheet of the longyi hanging in front of the lower body.

By Nat Ye Hla

WANDING, (Yunnan Province, China), 14 Aug — On a recent trip to China's Yunnan Province bordering Myanmar, I was surprised to see Pyu-era artifacts displayed at a museum in Wanding. I felt that I had come across our lost relatives in a foreign country.

Reeling with delight at seeing Pyu-era beads and earthen pots, I asked the curator of the museum, which displays artifacts of ancient ethnic minorities of China, how they were obtained. He replied that they were unearthed at the site of a hydro-electric power project in Yunnan Province in 2006.

Though the curator insisted the beads and earthen pots were used by ancient Jingpo, an ethnic minority of both China and Myanmar, I truly believed



Two wooden reliefs displayed at a museum in Wanding, Yunnan Province, are totally the same as two of the five dancing bronze statues of Brahmar called Pyu of Myanmar.

that they were artifacts of Myanmar's Pyu era of more than 1,500 years ago, having previously seen such items in Myanmar.

While the curator was conducting us around the museum, I also found two wooden reliefs, one depicting dancing and the other a traditional drum.

The curator said the wooden reliefs depicted the ancient ethnic Dai people in the city. But, I felt that these figures were familiar.

Upon arriving back in Myanmar, I showed the pictures of the beads, earthen pots and reliefs to Bhone Tint Kyaw, a prominent historian of the Pyu era.

"Yes, of course, the beads and earthen pots are artifacts of the Pyu era," Bhone Tint Kyaw said.

"The reliefs are... totally the same as two of the five dancing bronze statues of Brahmar called Pyu found near Pha-ra-mar pagoda in Sri Kestra city in central Myanmar."

The statues discovered in Myanmar are in Bramar longyi (sarong) but the Dai people in Yunnan Province do not wear longyi, he added.

(See page 2)

## Dollar's bounce back against kyat short-lived: market analyst

By Ye Myint

YANGON, 14 Aug — The U.S. dollar's bounce back against the kyat is unlikely to be prolonged, as aid-related inflows will increase supply of the green-back, an economic analyst said Friday.

The Central Bank of Myanmar set its reference foreign exchange rate at K1,256 to the dollar on Friday, up from K1,246 on Thursday and K1,234 earlier this month.

U Saw Naing of Applied Economics told *The Global New Light of Myanmar* that the dollar will not continue to rally, but rise and fall according to the market.

The kyat "will rise in value with strong demand for it following public donations for flood victims, while the supply of the dollar will increase with the inflow of international aid, curbing the recent jump in the exchange rate between the kyat and U.S. dollar," U Saw Naing said.

Any further rises in the dollar are likely to be short-lived, he added.

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Customers exchange currency at a Yangon money changer. The U.S. dollar bounced back against the kyat in recent days, widening the gap between official and unofficial rates.—PHOTO: YE MYINT

## Artifacts reveal Pyu...

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The artifacts unearthed at the hydro power station site in 2006 indicate that the Pyu people were living in Yunnan in the past.

Bhone Tint Kyaw also

quoted Chinese historical records, saying that Pyu people were living in Yunnan Province around 226 A.D. The ruins of the three Pyu city states in Myanmar were designated as a UN-

ESCO world heritage site last year, coinciding with an exhibition where some statues excavated from the Pyu sites were displayed for the first time at the Metropolitan Museum in New York.

In Myanmar, people mainly know of the three Pyu city states of Sri Kestra, Beikthano and Hanlin and their ruins, however, ancient Pyu cities were located across the country.

Ornaments and utensils made of stone, bronze, iron, gold and earth excavated from the ancient cities show the Pyu people possessed highly polished artistic skills that are now extinct.—GNLM



Pyu beads displayed at a museum in Wanding, Yunnan Province.

Pyu-era earthen pots and beads unearthed at the site of a hydro-electric power project in Yunnan Province in 2006.



## Flood death toll climbs to 106

YANGON, 14 Aug—The nationwide death toll from severe flooding has risen to 106, authorities said Friday.

The government repeated its request for donors wishing to distribute emergency aid in disaster areas to first seek safety advice from local authorities.

The announcement followed a number of fatal accidents in flooded areas of the Ayeyawady Delta.

Five people, including two Buddhist monks, died Wednesday night after the vehicle carrying them plunged into floodwaters.

They had been return-

ing home after distributing rice in a disaster area.

Three schoolgirls died after a motorboat carrying them to school capsized Monday in Yekyi Township, Ayeyawady Delta. The updated figure released by the

ministry on Friday showed that the death toll in Sagaing Region had increased from 11 to 14. The figure also showed that 56 people had perished in Rakhine State, 11 in Mandalay Region and nine in Shan State.—GNLM

## Farmers replant crops on more than 145,000 acres of farmland

NAY PYI TAW, 14 Aug—More than 1.4 million acres of farmlands were inundated in recent flooding across the nation.

Of them, the flooding receded in more than 1.08 million acres of farmlands including 3 million acres in Bago Region. Local farmers re-cultivated crops on more than 145,000 acres of farmlands in regions and states including over 110,000 acres in Rakhine State.—MNA

## Kanbawza's Brighter Future Myanmar Foundation donates relief supplies to Kyaukka Village



Kanbawza's Brighter Future Myanmar Foundation donates rehabilitation aid to flood victims.—KBZ

KALAY, 14 Aug—Kanbawza's Brighter Future Myanmar Foundation in cooperation with Kalay Lwin Pyin Rescue Aid Team on Thursday donated rehabilitation supplies

to victims in Kyaukka Village in Kalay Township of Sagaing Region, one of the worst-affected areas of the country.

Their donation covers rice, cooking oil, tarpau-

lins, 45-liter buckets, toilet commodes, hoes, spades and saws.

Moreover, the foundation offered K100,000 each to 169 households and a monastery.—GNLM

## BTMU donates more than K 19 million for flood-hit people

YANGON, 14 Aug—The Myanmar Red Cross Society said Friday that it received JPY 2 million which is equivalent to K 19,790,758 donated by the Bank of Tokyo-Mitsubishi UFJ, Ltd Thursday.

The donation aims to help people affected by the floods nationwide in recent memory to restart their lives, said the statement released by the MUFG on Friday.

BTMU is a member of Mitsubishi UFJ Financial Group, Inc. (MUFG).

GNLM



Mr Mitsuhiro Kimura, General Manager of BTMU Yangon Branch (Far Left) presents the donation of JPY 2 million which is equivalent to Kyats 19,790,758 to Professor Tha Hla Shwe, President of MRCS (Second from Right).—BTMU

## Freshwater breeding of giant sea perch meets success

By Ko Moe

NYAUNGDON, 14 Aug—Seafood companies have successfully launched commercial breeding of giant sea perch at freshwater fish farms in Nyaungdon Township, Ayeyawady Region.

Operators including United KMK Company started breeding of the fish, also known as barramundi or Asian sea bass, as of March 2015.

"We bred the fish in Myeik at first and conducted test breeding of giant sea perch in the fresh water in Samalauk village, Ayeyawady Region," United KMK Company manager U Shar Nyo said.

"After 100 days, we successfully caught the fish with set weight and size.

"Giant sea perch can be bred in any region, but breeders need to take care of feeding them at the right times."

Five entrepreneurs are engaging in fish breeding in Nyaungdon Township. Under the Sustainable Seafood Development Projects, USAID breeds fish in the ponds near Okkan, a northern town in Yangon Region.—GNLM

Fishing workers catch giant sea perch in fish farm.  
Photo: TUN AUNG KYAW



# President inspects Buddha images, relief aid

NAY PYI TAW, 14 Aug — President U Thein Sein paid homage Friday to Buddha images to be donated to flood victims and inspected arrangements for the distribution of rehabilitation aid at the Advanced Fruit Cold Storage and Packaging Factory.

Union Ministers U Khin Maung Soe and U Ohn Myint briefed the president on the sending of rehabilitation aid to the flood victims.

In the morning, 700 of the 9-inch-high Buddha images were sent to Tamu, while 100 containers, each with supplies for a five-member family, were sent to Kalay by car.—MNA



President U Thein Sein seen with Buddha images to be sent to Tamu.—MNA



President U Thein Sein inspects family kits for Kalay.—MNA



President U Thein Sein views equipment included in family kits to be sent to flood-affected Kalay Township, Sagaing Region.—MNA



## President announces three ministerial appointments

NAY PYI TAW, 14 Aug—Three union ministers have received new ministerial appointments, which they will fulfill concurrently with their existing posts, according to an announcement Friday signed by President U Thein Sein.

Union Home Affairs Minister Lt-Gen Ko Ko has been appointed as Un-

ion Minister for Immigration and Population, Union Transport Minister U Nyan Tun Aung as Union Minister for Rail Transportation, and Union Energy Minister U Zeyar Aung as Union Minister for Communications and Information Technology.

MNA

## Myanmar celebrates 48<sup>th</sup> ASEAN Day

NAY PYI TAW, 14 Aug—Myanmar on Friday celebrated the 48<sup>th</sup> ASEAN Day at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs here, with special entertainment programmes.

The ceremony was opened with the ASEAN Anthem sung by the artists from the Ministry of Culture, followed by remarks made by Union Foreign Affairs Minister U Wunna Maung Lwin, Union National Planning and Economic Development Minister Dr Kan Zaw, Union Culture Minister U Aye Myint Kyu, and on behalf of the current ASEAN Chair, Ambassador of Malaysia Mr Mohd Haniff Bin Abd Rahman.

Present at the ceremony were ministers

and officials from government ministries, Hluttaw members, heads/representatives and spouses of the ASEAN embassies and representatives from civil societies.

The Association of Southeast Asian Nations was established on 8th August 1967 and it has 10 member countries from Southeast Asia comprising Brunei, Cambodia, Indonesia, Laos, Malaysia, Myanmar, the Philippines, Singapore, Thailand and Vietnam.

According to the ASEAN Charter and the ASEAN community Building Roadmap, the ASEAN community will be established by the end of 2015.—MNA

## Dollar's bounce back against kyat . . .

(from page 1)

Despite the official exchange rate of K1,256 to the dollar on Friday, the selling rate was unofficially set as high as around K1,280 in the market.

Dr Soe Tun, President of the Myanmar Automobile Manufacturers and Distributors Association, remarked that the recent dollar

surge fuelled further increase in prices of imported goods. Suspension of rice exports, limited exports in the rainy season, and demand for the dollar to import construction materials and foodstuffs in the wake of flooding, as well as the greenback's strength on the global market, caused the sudden surge against the kyat, he said.—GNLM

## Young Myanmar scientists set to train in Japan

NAY PYI TAW, 14 Aug — The Department of Research and Innovation inked a deal Friday with the Japan Agency for Marine-Earth Science and Technology for young Myanmar scientists and researchers to undertake training in Japan.

The department, under the Ministry of Science and Technology, and the Japanese

agency signed a declaration of intent in a ceremony at the ministry.

Union Minister for Science and Technology Dr Ko Ko Oo said the young scientists and researchers would train at the agency, headquartered near Tokyo, under the Japan-Asia Youth Exchange Program in Science.—MNA

## Dead fish pollute Taungthaman Lake

MANDALAY, 14 Aug — Authorities in Mandalay's Amarapura Township are trying to combat pollution of Taungthaman Lake caused by fish poachers dumping their catches to avoid prosecution.

More than 70 poachers are engaged in illegal fishing at the lake each day, with up to 100 nets in use at a time, according to reports. Whenever authorities make surprise

inspections, the poachers flee, leaving their fishing nets, with the decomposing catch polluting the lake, a local resident said.

"Security personnel took fishing nets when they found the illegal fishermen but they did not take action against the illegal fishermen," the resident said. "The fishermen catch about 250 viss of fish at the lake daily."—Tin Maung (Mandalay)

## Abe reiterates Japan has expressed remorse, apology in WWII statement



Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe reads out his statement at a press conference in Tokyo on Aug. 14, 2015, to mark the 70th anniversary of the end of World War II. The statement mentioned Japan's aggression and colonial rule in the past. —Kyodo News

TOKYO, 14 Aug — Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe on Friday reiterated Japan has expressed deep remorse and apology over its past wartime actions in a statement issued to mark the 70th anniversary of the end of World War II.

"The most important message to be conveyed by the statement is that (Japan) will keep its pledge never to wage war again and continue to uphold the rule of law," Abe said at a press conference, where he read out the statement and explained the rationale behind issuing it.

The closely watched statement said, "Japan has repeatedly expressed the feelings of deep remorse and heartfelt apology for its actions during the war."

"In order to manifest such feelings through concrete actions, we have

engraved in our hearts the histories of suffering of the people in Asia as our neighbors," it said. "Such position articulated by the previous Cabinets will remain unshakable into the future."

Abe's statement upheld previous Japanese government apologies, including the 1995 landmark statement issued by Prime Minister Tomiichi Murayama on the 50th anniversary of the end of the war. But Abe stopped short of offering an apology of his own in the new statement.

Asian neighbors that suffered under Japanese militarism kept close tabs on the statement as they were concerned Abe may water down past apologies over Japan's wartime actions. China and South Korea, in particular, perceive that Japan has not sufficiently atoned for its

past atrocities.

Key phrases — "apology," "aggression," "deep remorse," and "colonial rule" — were included in the statement, which was approved at an extraordinary Cabinet meeting.

Referring to "aggression," the Abe statement also said the world "shall abandon colonial rule forever" and "shall never again resort to any form of the threat or use of force as a means of settling international disputes."

"With deep repentance for the war, Japan made that pledge. Upon it, we have created a free and democratic country, abided by the rule of law, and consistently upheld that pledge never to wage a war again," the statement said.

Regarding those who died in Japan and abroad, Abe said in the statement, "I

express my feelings of profound grief and my eternal, sincere condolences."

The premier also said in the statement that the world should "never forget that there were women behind the battlefields whose honor and dignity were severely injured."

Looking forward, he highlighted Japan's postwar path as a peace-loving nation. Abe's statement reflected a report presented last week by an advisory panel, referring to Japan's "aggression" in China before and during the war and its 1910-1945 "colonial rule" of Korea.

An English version of the statement was released at the same time. The Japanese government is also considering releasing the Chinese and Korean translations of the statement later, Japanese government sources said.

In the 1995 statement, Murayama said Japan, "following a mistaken national policy, advanced along the road to war...and, through its colonial rule and aggression, caused tremendous damage and suffering to the people of many countries, particularly to those of Asian nations."

The statement goes on to say, "In the hope that no such mistake be made in the future, I regard, in a spirit of humility, these irrefutable facts of history, and express here once again my feelings of deep remorse and state my heartfelt apology."

Kyodo News

## Indonesia's Widodo takes swipe at egos blocking economic progress



Indonesian President Joko Widodo addresses members of parliament in Jakarta, Indonesia August 14, 2015. REUTERS

JAKARTA, 14 Aug — Indonesian President Joko Widodo called on bureaucrats and politicians on Friday to set aside their egos and work together to kick-start economic reforms that have foundered amid slumping growth since he took office last October.

In his first state-of-the-nation address to parliament, he took a swipe at the bickering within government agencies and political parties that has hamstrung an administration whose failure to turn the economy around has disappointed investors. "To overcome the issues this country is currently facing we have to work shoulder to shoulder. We should not be divided by political or short-term interests," he said in the speech, delivered ahead of the Southeast Asian nation's 70th anniversary of independence from Dutch colonial rule.

"The erosion of a culture of mutual respect and tolerance in official institutions such as law

enforcement agencies, communities, media and political parties, is causing this country to be caught in a web of egos."

Indonesia's economic growth slipped to 4.7 percent, its slowest pace in six years, in the second quarter amid drooping domestic demand and sliding prices for coal and commodities, key earners for the country.

The first Indonesian president to come from outside the military or political establishment, the former furniture businessman won last year's election in large part because he was seen as someone who cared for issues facing ordinary people. But Widodo's ambitious plans to improve infrastructure have been tangled up in red tape, putting a further brake on the economy.

The rupiah has dropped by nearly 10 percent against the dollar this year to trade at 17-year lows and is Southeast Asia's worst performer after Malaysia's ringgit.

Reuters

## Air, water closely monitored after Tianjin blasts

TIANJIN, 14 Aug — Air and water quality near the site of Wednesday night's blast in north China's Tianjin are being closely monitored as conditions remain unclear. "So far, the air quality near the blast site remains normal and will not have a harmful effect on residents," Feng Yinchang, an environmental expert, said at a press conference Friday morning.

Some of the monitoring stations detected toluene, chloroform, methylbenzene and volatile organic compounds, all hazardous pollutants, between Wednesday night and noon on Thursday, but their concentrations were decreasing because of wind blowing toward the sea, Feng said. As of Thursday noon, all toxic gas indicators were within normal range. However, the quality of air and water will continue to be closely monitored, Feng added.

Discharge into the sea was closed on Thursday morning and rainwater drainage pipes were also closed in the af-



Firefighters examine the explosion site in Tianjin, north China, Aug. 14, 2015. The enormous blasts, which occurred late Wednesday night, killed at least 50 people, including 17 firefighters. A total of 701 were injured, of whom 70 are in critical condition. —XINHUA

ternoon, said Wang Lianqing, a senior engineer with the Tianjin Association of Environmental Protection Industry.

All contaminated water has been contained within a sewage plant, said Wang, and the plant has adopted a biochemical treatment system to process the polluted water. An expert team was working on-site to assess the best plan, he added. —Xinhua

## Park to visit China, but will skip military parade

SEOUL, 14 Aug — South Korean President Park Geun-hye has decided to make a visit to China early next month, but not to attend the military parade in Beijing on Sept. 3 to commemorate the 70th anniversary of victory in World War II, a Seoul daily reported on Friday.

The decision has been made in the belief it is not desirable for the president of South Korea, an ally of the United States, to attend a large-scale military parade in China, which could be seen as a show of military force, the Dong-A Ilbo said, citing multiple diplomatic sources.

South Korea's presidential office said earlier it was considering whether President Park would visit China.

China has invited world leaders to the military parade, which is set to be held in Tiananmen Square to highlight the 70th anniversary of Japan's defeat in World War II. It will be presided over by Chinese President Xi Jinping. —Kyodo News

# In another symbol of thawing ties, Kerry to raise U.S. flag at restored Havana embassy

HAVANA, 14 Aug — U.S. Secretary of State John Kerry travels to Cuba on Friday to raise the U.S. flag at the recently restored American embassy in Havana, another symbolic step in the thawing of relations between the two Cold War-era foes.

The ceremony, raising the flag over the building for the first time in 54 years, comes nearly four weeks after the United States and Cuba formally renewed diplomatic relations and upgraded their diplomatic missions to embassies.

While the Cubans celebrated with a flag-raising in Washington on July 20, the Americans waited until Kerry could travel to Havana.

Kerry, the first U.S. secretary of state to visit Cuba in 70 years, will

be accompanied by aides, members of Congress and three U.S. Marines who last lowered the flag there in January 1961. Washington severed diplomatic ties with Havana as relations soured soon after the 1959 Cuban Revolution.

The seven-story sea-front building in Havana and Cuba's mansion in Washington were closed from 1961 until 1977, when they reopened as interests sections.

Seeking to end the long hostilities, Cuban President Raul Castro and U.S. President Barack Obama announced last December they would restore diplomatic ties, reopen embassies and work to normalise relations.

Obama has also used executive power to relax some U.S. travel and trade



U.S. and Cuban flags are seen at the entrance of the U.S. Embassy in Havana, August 13, 2015.—REUTERS

restrictions, but the Republican-controlled Congress has resisted his call to end America's wider economic embargo.

The Obama administration says Washington's long policy of trying to force change in Communist-governed Cuba through

isolation did not work. Kerry told Univision television ahead of his trip he hoped to see a "transformation" begin to take place.

"More people will travel. There will be more exchange. More families will be reconnected. And hopefully, the government

of Cuba will itself make decisions that will begin to change things."

Kerry will meet Cuban dissidents at the U.S. embassy residence in Havana on Friday afternoon. Dissidents were not invited to the morning flag-raising in deference to the Cuban

government, which sees dissidents as U.S.-sponsored mercenaries.

Restored diplomatic ties mean U.S. diplomats can travel more freely and increase staff. Cuba has also reduced the number of security guards who keep on eye on Cubans going in and out.

The task of normalizing overall relations is more complicated.

Cuba wants the United States to end the embargo, return the U.S. naval base at Guantanamo Bay in eastern Cuba, and halt radio and television signals beamed into Cuba.

The Americans will press Cuba on human rights, the return of fugitives granted asylum and the claims of Americans whose property was nationalized after Fidel Castro came to power.

Reuters

## Russian deputy PM visits disputed island off Hokkaido

VLADIVOSTOK, (Russia), 14 Aug — Russian Deputy Prime Minister Yuri Trutnev on Thursday visited one of the Russian-controlled islands off Hokkaido claimed by Japan and attended a Russian-government organized patriotic event there.

Trutnev, who doubles as the presidential envoy to the Far Eastern Federal District, is on his second visit to the remote island region as deputy prime minister. The region is known as the Northern Territories in Japan and as the Southern Kurils in Russia.

In Tokyo, the Japanese government lodged a protest with the Russian Embassy over the visit to the island called Etorofu in Japan and Iturup in Russia, a senior Foreign Ministry official said.

The forum, aimed at promoting patriotism among youth, is being held in the disputed region for the first time. Attendance of a senior Russian government official such as Trutnev is seen as a way to relay Russia's effective control of the islands to the younger generations. His visit to the island could inflict a blow on bilateral



Russian Deputy Prime Minister Yuri Trutnev (R front) arrives on the island called Etorofu in Japan and Iturup in Russia which is one of the Russian-controlled islands claimed by Japan, on Aug. 13, 2015.—Kyodo News

work currently under way to realize Russian President Vladimir Putin's visit to Japan within this year. Tokyo hopes the Russian leader's visit will help move forward talks over the long-standing territorial dispute.

Last September, Sergei Ivanov, chief of staff of the Presidential Executive Office and a close aide to Russian President Vladimir Putin, visited the island, accompanied by Trutnev.

In July 2012, Russian Premier Dmitry Medvedev visited Kunashiri — another of the disputed islands that also include Shikotan and the Habomai islet group — despite warnings from Japan.

Medvedev was earlier reported to be planning to

visit Etorofu to attend the youth event. Local media on Sakhalin reported on Thursday he is expected to visit the island late next week.

The islands were seized by the Soviet Union after Japan's surrender in World War II.

Japan is seeking recognition of its ownership of them, while taking the position it would be flexible about how and when they are returned.

Russia has taken a position in line with the Soviet Union's 1956 joint statement with Japan that it agrees to return Shikotan and the Habomai islets following the conclusion of a peace treaty.

Kyodo News

## Severe 'food shocks' more likely due to extreme weather, experts warn

LONDON, 14 Aug — Extreme weather such as intense storms, droughts and heatwaves will cause more frequent and severe food shortages as the global climate and food supply systems change, British and American experts warned on Friday. The pressure on the world's food supplies is so great, and the increase in extreme weather events so rapid, they said, that food shortages on a scale likely to occur once a century under past conditions, may in future hit as often as once every 30 years.

"The chance of having a weather-related food shock is increasing, and the size of that shock is also increasing," said Tim Benton, a professor of population ecology at Leeds University who presented a report commissioned by the British government.

"And as these events become more frequent, the imperative for doing something about it becomes even greater." The report, prepared by the UK-US Taskforce on Extreme Weather and Global Food System Resilience, also warned that knee-jerk national responses to production drops, such as the imposition of export or import bans on certain foods or crops, risk exacerbating a problem and

fuelling spikes in food prices.

"If you put the worst case institutional responses together with a worst case production shock, that's when it starts spiralling out of control," said Rob Bailey, research director for energy, environment and resources at Britain's Chatham House think tank, the Royal Institute of International Affairs.

The experts looked at production of the world's most important commodity crops — maize, soybean, wheat and rice — and how droughts, floods and storms might impact it in future.

Since most of the global production of these four crops comes from a small number of countries such as China, the United States and India, extreme weather events in these regions will have the largest impact on

global food supplies, they said. And while greater interconnectedness reduces countries' vulnerability to local production shocks, it may also perversely increase vulnerability to large shocks in distant so-called "breadbasket" regions.

The report recommended drawing up international contingency plans, developing better modelling methods to accurately predict the effects of falls in supply, and identifying international trading 'pinch points' to try and minimise them.

It also said agriculture should do more to adapt to a changing climate and become more resilient in the face of extreme weather, while at the same time increasing productivity to meet an increasing global demand for food.— Reuters



Soy beans are seen in a field waiting to be harvested in Minooka, Illinois, September 24, 2014.—REUTERS

# Shortages push some Venezuelans to queue overnight for food

MARACAIBO, 14 Aug — As dawn breaks over the scorching Venezuelan city of Maracaibo, smugglers, young mothers and a handful of kids stir outside a supermarket where they spent the night, hoping to be first in line for scarce rice, milk or whatever may be available.

Some of the people in line are half-asleep on flattened cardboard boxes, others are drinking coffee. Almost all are bemoaning their situation.

With shortages of basic goods and looting on the rise, more Venezuelans say they are resorting to nighttime waits in front of closed stores.

"I can't get milk for my child. What are we going to do?" said Leida Silva, 54, breaking into tears outside the Latino supermarket in northern Maracaibo where she arrived at 3 a.m. on a recent day.

The food shortages in Venezuela, a major oil producer, stem from currency controls that restrict the availability of U.S. dollars for imports. Lower oil prices, a recession and rampant inflation have further darkened the economic outlook.

The Information Ministry did



People wait in a line to buy staple items outside a supermarket in Maracaibo 8 August, 2015.—REUTERS

not respond to requests for comment.

There have been scores of looting attempts this year, fuelling fears of worsening scarcity. Several states banned nighttime queues earlier this year, at times citing

problems with crime.

"I'm scared, of course, but it's the only way we can eat," said Ofenia Gonzalez, 46, spending the night outside a supermarket in the hopes of finding food for her nine children.

Soldiers with riot shields, tear gas canisters and rifles patrol lines in Maracaibo, a major city in the northwest.

Scarcity is particularly acute here because smugglers — taking advantage of the leftist govern-

ment's policy of fixing prices on some goods - buy products to sell for profit in nearby Colombia.

"We have to maintain control otherwise there would be chaos," said Lieutenant Carlos Barrera, 21, pushing back crowds at one supermarket.

Smugglers known as "bachaqueros," after a large leaf-cutter ant, are ubiquitous in nighttime queues. Working in groups, they swarm stores when goods arrive.

Some of those waiting in line in Maracaibo readily identified themselves to Reuters as smugglers.

President Nicolas Maduro, saying smugglers are depriving the poor, has vowed another crackdown. "What's a bachaquero?" he said during a speech on Tuesday. "It's a human being turned savage."

While there is resentment towards resellers in queues, more than 60 percent of Venezuelans blame shortages on the government, according to pollster Datanalisis.

"We want change. We need this government to collapse," said Yanet Moran, 19, after five hours queuing in the dark.—Reuters

## Pakistan President vows tensions-free ties with India

ISLAMABAD, 14 Aug — Pakistan President Mamnoon Hussain used his speech on the Independence Day on Friday to reiterate his country's quest for tensions-free relations with neighboring India.

Hussain's remarks come amidst tensions between the neighbors over the cross-border shelling in recent days that caused casualties on both sides.

Top national security advisers of Pakistan and India will meet in New Delhi later this month to discuss anti-terrorism cooperation including measures to check the escalation of tensions along the Line of Control in the disputed Kashmir region.

President Mamnoon Hussain said Pakistan desires peaceful coexistence with India and all other neighboring countries but any "threat to its security will be thwarted."

Addressing the National Flag hoisting ceremony to mark the Independence Day celebrations in Islamabad, he however regretted what he called the "acts of aggression" on the eastern borders with India.

Pakistan and India had

declared a ceasefire in 2003 and guns had relatively silent on the LoC that divide the two countries in Kashmir; however, both sides occasionally exchange fire. Both accuse each other of violation of the ceasefire.

"Pakistan is pursuing a bold and effective foreign policy as a result of which its image has improved in the comity of nations," President Hussain told a large-attended gathering.

Earlier, the president, along with Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif, hoisted the national flag. The flag hoisting ceremony featured national songs and documentaries on the progress made by the country in different sectors.

The ceremony was also attended amongst others by the federal ministers, parliamentarians, diplomats, military leaders.

Talking about the ongoing war on terror, the president said Pakistan is in the midst of a war against terrorism, adding the terrorists and those working on the agenda of foreign enemies are trying to sabotage the peace in the country.

Xinhua

## Fidel Castro celebrates 89<sup>th</sup> birthday with leftist allies



Cuba's former President Fidel Castro (R), Bolivia's President Evo Morales and Venezuela's President Nicolas Maduro sit together in a van in Havana, Cuba, 13 August, 2015, in this handout courtesy of the Agencia Boliviana de Informacion (ABI).—REUTERS

HAVANA, 14 Aug — Retired Cuban President Fidel Castro celebrated his 89th birthday on Thursday with two of his country's closest leftist allies from Latin America, a day ahead of a historic visit by the U.S. secretary of state.

Castro, who handed power to his brother Raul in 2008 because of failing health, met with Venezuelan President Nicolas Maduro and Bolivian President Evo Morales, both staunch supporters of Havana's Communist government.

Castro's birthday fell on the eve of U.S. Secretary of State John Kerry's trip to Havana. Kerry will preside over a ceremony to raise the U.S. flag at the recently restored U.S. embassy, the result of detente reached between Raul Castro and U.S. President Barack Obama last December. It will be the first visit by a U.S. secretary of state in 70 years.

Castro earlier marked his birthday with a newspaper column in which he castigated the United States for disrupting the world

economy in its favour by abandoning the gold standard and mentioned one of the differences still outstanding between Havana and Washington despite the two countries' rapprochement.

Castro repeated Cuba's demand for reparations worth "many millions of dollars" from the United States for past aggressions against Cuba such as the U.S. economic embargo imposed in 1962.

In pictures seen by Reuters, Castro was seated in a van alongside the two

Latin American presidents, wearing a baseball cap, a track suit and a plaid shirt. It was not known where they went. Castro rarely travels outside his Havana home.

"I wish Bolivia all the love and admiration of the world," Castro said in a poor-quality audio carried by Bolivian state radio. "Our island has remembered the children of the struggle, as you suffered."

Castro no longer holds office in the government or Communist Party but holds sway in the public view with the honorific title Historic Leader and writes occasional newspaper columns. It is not known how much he discusses policy with his brother, who has embarked on a cautious programme of economic reforms while vowing to preserve the political system.

After leading the Cuban Revolution of 1959, Fidel Castro drew Cuba into alliance with the Soviet Union, leading to decades of confrontation with the United States. Suffering from ill health, he stepped down provisionally in 2006 and definitively in 2008.—Reuters

## Egyptian military plane crashes near Libyan border, four dead

CAIRO, 14 Aug — An Egyptian military aircraft crashed near the Libyan border while on a mission against Islamist militants on Thursday, killing four people and injuring another two, the military said.

A statement said the crash in the Mediterranean coastal town of Marsa Matrouh was due to a “technical fault”. It did not make clear whether all the dead and injured were aboard the aircraft.

The Egyptian army and air force were conducting a joint operation against militants in the border area and destroyed four of their vehicles, a military spokesman said.

Egypt is facing an increasingly brazen insurgency based in the Sinai region that has killed hundreds of police and soldiers since the army ousted Islamist

President Mohamed Mursi after mass protests against his rule in 2013.

Security officials say militants operating from Libya to the west of Egypt have been trying to forge ties with Islamists in the Sinai on the east side of the country.

Sinai Province, Egypt’s most active jihadist group, swore allegiance last year to Islamic State, the ultra-radical Sunni militant group that has seized expanses of Iraq and Syria, drawing U.S.-led air strikes.

Egyptian jets bombed Islamic State targets in Libya in February, a day after the group there released a video showing the beheading of 21 Egyptian Christians, drawing Cairo directly into factional conflict across its border.

Reuters

## Iran plans subsidies for eco-friendly cars, looks to Japanese makers



Iranian Vice President Masoumeh Ebtekar

TEHRAN, 14 Aug — Iranian Vice President Masoumeh Ebtekar said Thursday the country plans to provide subsidies for hybrid cars and electric vehicles to make environmentally friendly cars widely available, and urged Japanese carmakers to look at building plants there.

In an interview with Kyodo News in the capital Tehran, Ebtekar, who doubles as head of Iran’s Environmental Department, said eco-friendly cars have a “great future in Iran,” and expressed hope that Japanese automakers will produce vehicles in Iran for export as well.

Iran can become an export hub for the whole region, Ebtekar said, noting its access to “open seas and land to export to regional countries such as Turkey or even Europe and Africa.”

Iran sees brighter economic prospects after it and six major

countries reached a deal to lift economic sanctions in return for Iran curbing its nuclear program.

The sanctions imposed by the United States, Japan and Europe had “very detrimental effects on different aspects of Iran life,” and impeded the country’s access to new environmental technology, Ebtekar said.

“After the sanctions, we have to look for green technologies to manage air pollution, water pollution, waste management” and other environmental pollutants, she said. “We are looking forward to a lot of investment in green technologies.”

To encourage sales of environmentally friendly cars, she indicated Iran may introduce subsidies for purchases of hybrid cars and create areas in major city centers where only eco-cars are allowed.

Kyodo News

## Islamic State attacks in and around Iraqi refinery town



A view of Baiji oil refinery, north of Baghdad, December 8, 2014.—REUTERS

BAGHDAD, 14 Aug — Islamic State militants attacked the outskirts of Iraq’s northern oil refinery town of Baiji overnight with car bombs and clashed with the army and Shi’ite militias in the town’s western districts, the local mayor and security sources said on Friday.

The town of Baiji and its refinery — Iraq’s largest — have been a battlefield for more than a year. The hardline Islamists seized the town in June 2014 as they swept through much of northern Iraq towards the capital Baghdad.

Control of Baiji neighbourhoods has changed hands many

times during the conflict. Authorities said last month they had recaptured most of the town, but the radical jihadist group attacked central neighbourhoods days later, forcing pro-government forces to pull back.

At least three militia fighters were killed on Friday when Islamic State launched car bomb attacks against a makeshift headquarters in al-Rayash, about 18 km (5 miles) south of Baiji, a militia leader and a source in the Salahuddin Operations Command said.

Mortars in an adjacent area killed two civilians, according to the source in the operations

command, the Iraqi military’s command centre for the province of Salahuddin, where Baiji is situated. Baiji Mayor Mahmoud al-Jabouri said Islamic State used 12 car bombs and more than 200 fighters in the offensive.

“The attack started at 2 a.m. (2300 GMT),” he said. “They came from the direction of Camp Speicher”, a former U.S. base outside the city of Tikrit.

Jabouri said “tens” of security forces and militia fighters were killed or wounded in the violence, which also saw ongoing clashes in Baiji’s western districts of Sikak and Tamim.

Reuters

## U.S. believes Islamic State likely used mustard agent in Iraq attack



Kurdish security forces gather at the site of a bomb attack in Erbil, the capital of Iraq’s Kurdistan region, April 17, 2015.—REUTERS

WASHINGTON, 14 Aug — The United States believes Islamic State militants likely used mustard agent in an attack on Kurdish forces in Iraq earlier this week, the first indication the militant group has obtained a banned chemical weapon, the Wall Street Journal reported on Thursday.

“We have credible information that the agent used in the attack was mustard,” a senior U.S. official told the Journal. Islamic State could have obtained the mustard agent in Syria, whose government admitted to having large quantities of the blistering agent in 2013, when it agreed to give up its chem-

ical weapons arsenal, the newspaper reported.

“That makes the most sense,” the Journal quoted a senior U.S. official as saying about the possibility that Islamic State obtained the mustard agent in Syria.

Islamic State could also have obtained the mustard agent in Iraq, the Journal reported.

The newspaper did not specify where or when the attack occurred, or whether it caused casualties.

The White House’s National Security Council said it was aware of the reports and was seeking more information.

“We continue to take these and all allegations of chemical weapons use very seriously,” spokesman Ali Baskey said in a statement. U.S. intelligence agencies have said in the past they believed Islamic State has used chlorine gas in attacks in Iraq, the Journal reported. Chlorine is not a banned chemical agent.

Reuters

## PERSPECTIVES

Saturday, 15 August, 2015

Mentoring, engagement  
crucial to reduce dropouts

By Kyaw Thura

**M**yanmar still finds itself lagging far behind many of its Asian neighbours in terms of education, let alone use of modern technology.

Researchers have pointed out some major factors linked to young students dropping out of school. These included lower incomes, unemployment, poor school performance, persistent lower

grades and disengagement from school. According to the researchers, students born to families with meagre incomes were more likely to drop out of school than students from well-to-do families.

It is widely accepted that higher dropout rates and higher crime rates go hand in hand. This highlights the importance of preventing early dropouts and the need to identify what causes students to leave school early and understand the characteristics and lives of students at risk of leaving school. Undeniably, it is hard to pinpoint the underlying factors relevant to young dropouts.

Typical complaints from dropouts are found to be connected primarily with school disengagement stemming from uninteresting classes and their family backgrounds. Most students who drop out of school do so in order to support their families. Some educationists have suggested school curricula and pedagogy need to reflect students' interests and arouse their

curiosity, and that engaging and motivating classroom activities will probably reduce dropout rates.

It is therefore imperative to inform parents about the importance of education in modern society and encourage them to get actively involved in their children's schooling. All in all, close mentoring of students at risk of leaving school, as well as monitoring of their out-of-school problems, will be able to reduce their chances of dropping out.

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

## What Triggered the Unprecedented Flood

Khin Maung Myint, MPT (Retired)

**T**hough it is still in the first half of the Monsoon season and there is still a long period before the Monsoon retreats from Myanmar, the country has already been hit by a devastating flood. The scale of damage due to flooding and landslides was unprecedented. Twelve out of the fourteen states and regions are inundated. Over a million people are affected. The scale of the damage to properties, loss of lives and loss of farm animals and business in various sectors, especially in the agricultural sector can be immense. The costs of the losses could be very high too. The consequences of these effects would definitely affect the economy. However, as I have no access to actual and comprehensive data and statistics, I will not be discussing that.

So, what triggered this unprecedented flooding and landslides? Heavy rainfalls and the cyclone Komen that ravaged Bangladesh should be blamed for causing the floods. For that matter, the global warming and climate change should take the blame too, as they are the ones that contribute to the heavy rainfalls. However, in my opinion they are not the main culprits for the extent of damages and losses inflicted. My reasoning is that, it is true we saw heavy rainfalls during the past two or three weeks, but it is not a record-setting one in our country's history. We had seen rainfalls that were, if not heavier, no less than the present downpours. As for the cyclone, the Rakhine area had been hit with

stronger ones in the past.

Then who or what factors are to be blamed? It is quite clear that the deforestations due to over extractions of timber, legally or illegally by unscrupulous persons, are the main culprits. I'm not accusing thus without proof or precedences. Some may argue that my statements are far fetched or irrelevant. I can prove them wrong. It is common knowledge that trees and bushes, even grass can hold and retain water and also the soil on mountains, hills and slopes. Without them the rain water would run down freely dragging away the top soils on the slopes and with heavy rains the mud layers beneath become melted and resulted in mudslides or landslide in hilly areas. Furthermore the earth and stands brought down from higher grounds are deposited into the rivers, streams and creeks as sediments, making their basins shallow. In other words the level of their beds is raised. Even if the rivers are discharging their normal volume of water, the river discharge will occupy a higher and larger area due to the sedimentations. However, when there is more river discharge due to the rainwater coming down the slopes supplement the normal volume, at the stretches of the river where there are heavy sedimentations, the river would overflow into the low lying areas, causing the flood plains to become more larger and higher.

Our major rivers are getting shallower in the dry seasons, due to the silting due to sedimentation. Even

the mighty Ayeyawady is not spared. People dwelling close to the rivers would tell you that it is a real fact. If no action is taken to halt the silting in time, we are bound to lose the valuable waterways in the dry seasons. However, if the rivers are dredged regularly to clear silts and make the rivers deeper to be able to allow more river discharge to flow more freely. This will check the river level from rising out of control and in turn prevent the flood.

To further strengthen my arguments, I would like to cite the consequences of the deforestations that Thailand had to suffer. Thailand has to face with severe flooding and mudslides every year, since over twenty years ago. The experts pointed out that they were the consequences of deforestations. Thus the successive governments strictly imposed the anti-logging law and enforced it diligently. Reforestation campaigns were carried out by the supervision and advice of the King himself. I had been to Thailand every year since my retirement in 1996 and used to stay there for two to three months at a time. During my stays, I had travelled to the remotest places in the North East region. In the earlier years, there were many bare hills without any large trees. After about five years later, those hills are crowned with lush green forest, and learned that they are the results of the Royal Sustainable Project to re-forest the depleted areas. Today, wherever you traveled in Thailand you'll see lush green tropical rain forest flourishing. Even with such drastic measures one may

ask whether Thailand is free from the floods. The answer is no. Although these stringent measures reduced the effects of the floods somewhat, some regions, especially in the South had to still face those disasters. However, on the whole they are making some progress, but slow, to ease the flood-woes. It would naturally seem to take long to regain the former conditions. However, if you take into account how long the forest had been exploited without any consideration for the destruction of the ecosystem, the rehabilitation period is nothing. As a layman, I guessed it would take no less than the time taken to gradually destroy the ecosystem, or even more. It is undeniable that deforesta-

tions are that root causes of extensive flooding and mudslides.

This disaster is a wake-up call for the authorities as well as the general population to be prepared for more such freak situations to encounter. In my opinion, we should be expecting some more to come even before the Monsoon is out. I am not saying this from my hunch or based on any meteorologists' and hydrologists' predictions, but based on my personal experiences with the river systems of Myanmar. I had piled up and down the Ayeyawady River many times in ships. The nature of my job required me to study and learn the nature of the rivers wherever I went. According to my observations, I came to know that the Ayeyawady and other main rivers of our country, rises three times a

year. The first rise being in July with the last is near the end of September or the beginning of October, with the second in between the two. My observations were made at Bhamo for two consecutive years, while I was stationed there with a ship during the Monsoon from mid-July to mid-October.

More floods are to be expected as this recent flood coincided with the first rising of the rivers, there are still another two risings for this year. We should be alert and prepared so as not to be caught by surprise next time around. Short and long term plans should also be implemented to ward off the disasters and at the same time, proper and efficient rescue and relief plans should be in place to be able to respond rapidly to such emergencies in the future.

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Japanese government grants funds for new  
school building in Ayeyawady Region

YANGON, 14 Aug—Ambassador of Japan to Myanmar Mr Tateshi Higuchi and the chairman of the committee from the region concerned, signed the grant contract of US\$188,794 for the project for construction of Innwin basic education primary school in Hinthada

Township in Ayeyawady Region.

Under Japan's grant assistance for grass-roots human security projects (GGP) scheme, the Japanese government will support construction of a two-storey R.C.C building with full furniture, walkway and lavatories, expect-

ing the project will benefit nearly 300 students of the school.

The school needs more classrooms as it is going to be upgraded to a post-primary school this year. Currently, students have to study in very congested rooms without ceilings.

GNLM



Japanese Ambassador to Myanmar Mr Tateshi Higuchi and officials seen with notes after signing ceremony.

LOCAL NEWS

## Htoo Foundation delivers rehabilitation aid to Myanaung Tsp

MYANAUNG, 14 Aug— domestic NGO dedicated cultural preservation, donated cash and rehabilitation aid Friday to flood victims in Myanaung, Ayeyawady Region.



Deputy Managing Director U Tin Maung Toe of Htoo Company presented aid for the flood victims to Township Administrator U Min Min Tun and officials.

The foundation donated five power-tillers, 500 bags of rice, 500 baskets of paddy seeds, clothes and tents to the victims. On 11 August, Patron of the foundation U Tay Za held discussions on assistance for the flood victims with township authorities in Myanaung and Kyangin townships.

Win Bo (Myanaung Township IPRD)

## Village homes receive solar panels



NAY PYI TAW, 14 Aug—Houses in Pyinmana Township's Laphettaung village, home to Kayin ethnic people, received solar panels at a recent ceremony.

Nay Pyi Taw council member and officials presented 48 solar panels to village officials.

Officials of the Rural Development Department and Pro-Engineering Co Ltd gave a briefing on usage of the panels.

After the ceremony, electricians from the company installed the 80-W solar panels and related equipment at all houses in the village.—Shwe Kokko

## New libraries aim to improve literacy in rural areas

NAY PYI TAW, 14 Aug— Three new village libraries officially opened Wednesday in Zeyathiri Township, Nay Pyi Taw Council Area.

Township Administrator U Myat Thein Tun and Deputy Director Daw Thin Thin Zin of the Information and Public Relations Department gave speeches at the opening ceremony for the libraries in Ale, Shan and Hteinbin villages.

Each library was built at a cost of K10.7 million allotted by the Nay Pyi Taw Council.

Shwe Ye Yint



## Restoration of Mandalay-Myitkyina train service under way

MOHNYIN, 14 Aug— Work is under way to restore train services on the Mandalay-Myitkyina railroad which have been suspended since 17 July due to damage caused by torrential rains and flooding.

Bridge No 281 on Zaw Creek between Kawlin and Kanbalu sustained the worst damage. Officials and workers of Myanmar Railways

have faced difficulties repairing the bridge, as flood waters did not recede until 12 August. "Officials arrange reconstruction of the bridge with the use of heavy machinery when flash flooding recedes," a Myanmar Railways official said. Five trains per day were running along the 340-mile route before the suspension.

GNLM-001

## New Insein overpass set to open 17 August

YANGON, 14 Aug— Myanmar Railways recently completed construction of the new Insein overpass at a cost of K6.178 billion.

The overpass will be opened at an inauguration ceremony on 17 August.

Load testing of the bridge was conducted on

12 August.

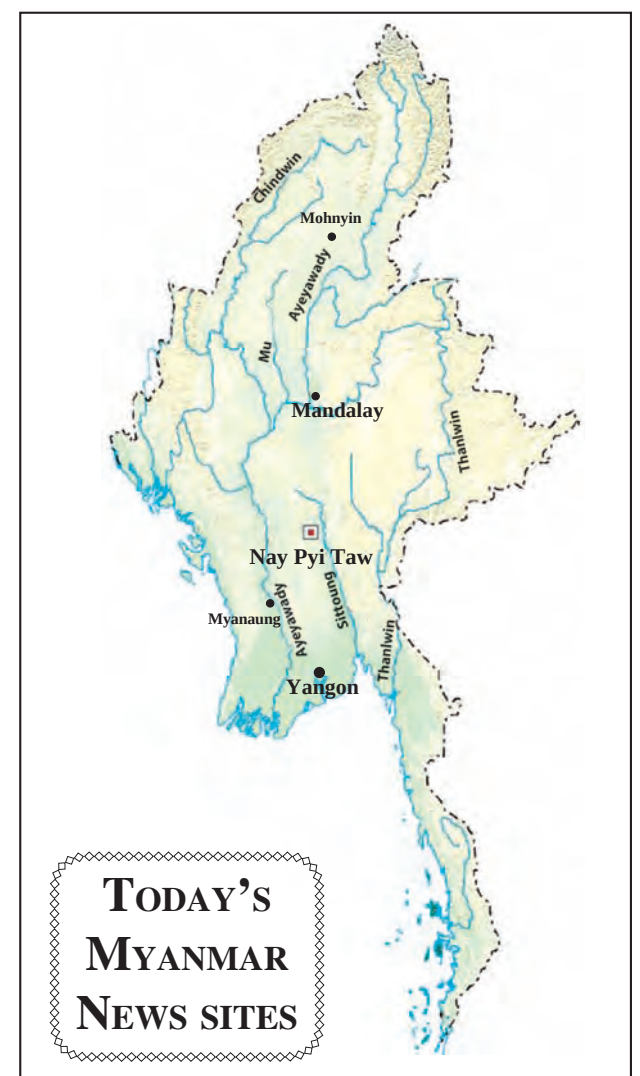
Senior Engineer U Myo Zaw Htoo of Myanmar Railways said, "We did load testing with 100 tons

of load, comprising two transporters and two excavators."

Upon completion, the overpass will help ease traffic congestion at Insein Park junction.

The overpass will be the 25<sup>th</sup> facility of its kind in Yangon Region, according to officials of Myanmar Railways.

An existing overpass built in 1989 will carry vehicles from Yangon to Insein and the new one will convey traffic in the opposite direction.—Soe Win (MLA)



TODAY'S  
MYANMAR  
NEWS SITES

# Asia shares on track for weekly losses; crude oil slumps

SINGAPORE / TOKYO, 14 Aug — Asian shares mostly fell on Friday, and were on track for a steep weekly losses in the wake of China's surprise currency devaluation on Tuesday.

Crude oil futures plunged to 6-1/2-year lows after data revealed a big rise in U.S. stockpiles.

Financial spreadbetters expected Britain's FTSE 100 to open flat to 1 point lower, Germany's DAX to open 7 to 14 points lower, or down 0.1 percent, and France's CAC 40 to open down 5 to 7 points, or 0.1 percent lower.

European shares are expected to have their biggest weekly loss in six weeks.

MSCI's broadest index of Asia-Pacific shares outside Japan reversed earlier gains to slip 0.2 percent, which left the index down 2.8 percent for the week.

Japan's Nikkei stock index ended down 0.4 percent, and was off about 1 percent for the week.

"This week's news from China has done some significant damage to overall sentiment in general, as the gains of the last two weeks have slowly dissolved," Michael Hewson, chief market analyst at CMC Markets in London, wrote in a note.

"The market's main

preoccupation now is how much lower can the yuan potentially go in the coming weeks, and what effect will it have on price inflation in the coming months?"

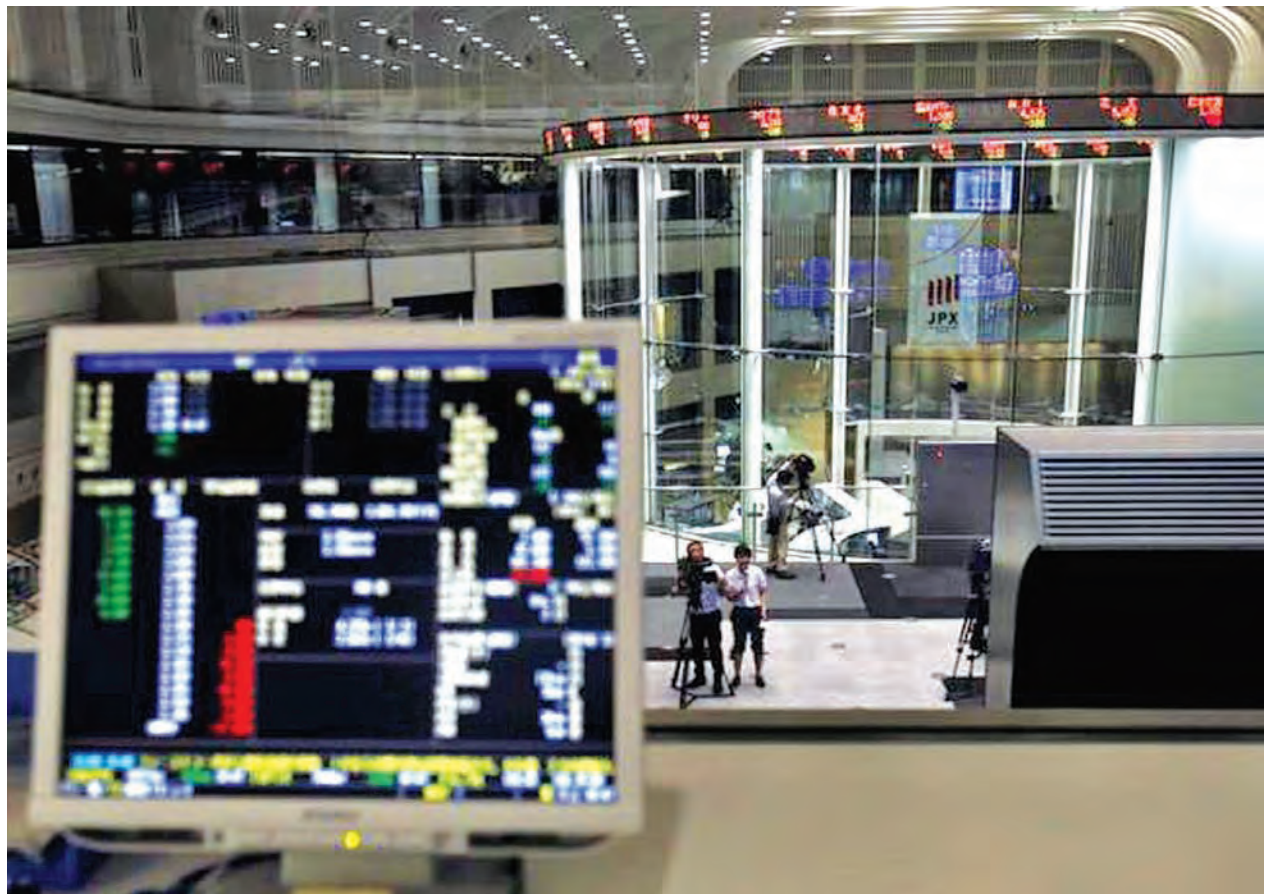
The People's Bank of China (PBOC) on Friday set its midpoint yuan rate at 6.3975 per dollar prior to the market's open, firmer than the previous day's fix of 6.401.

The spot market opened at 6.3990 per dollar and was changing hands at 6.4001 after suspected intervention by the central bank to get the volatile market to settle into a range and to curb expectations that the currency will fall into a depreciation cycle.

The PBOC reassured investors on Thursday, saying there was no reason for the yuan to fall further given the country's strong economic fundamentals.

The dollar was trading at 124.40 against its Japanese counterpart, up slightly from late U.S. levels and extending its recovery from this week's low of 124.21 yen. For the week, it was up 0.2 percent. The euro was little changed at \$1.1151, having gained 1.7 percent this week.

This week, the dollar came under pressure as the market instability caused by China's devaluation curbed expectations that the U.S.



A videographer films an electronic board showing the Japan's Nikkei average and related indexes is seen next to a computer showing the market indexes at the Tokyo Stock Exchange (TSE) in Tokyo, Japan, July 9, 2015.—REUTERS

Federal Reserve's long-awaited interest rate increase would come as early as next month.

But strong U.S. retail sales data on Thursday provided evidence in support of views that the Fed is on track to hike. U.S. retail sales rose in July and were revised up for June, while the trend of weekly jobless

claims pointed to a tightening job market.

"Every new data point continues to solidify the likelihood of a September rate hike," Angus Nicholson, market analyst at IG in Melbourne, wrote in a note. With good U.S. industrial production and producer price numbers tonight, "trading on Monday will

largely be driven by the prospect of further strengthening in the U.S. dollar."

In commodities trading, crude oil futures remained close to the lowest levels since early 2009, when the financial crisis was wreaking havoc on markets.

U.S. crude tumbled more than 3 percent to a

6-1/2-year low as a big rise in U.S. stockpiles intensified worries over a growing global glut.

U.S. crude oil was trading down 0.4 percent at \$42.05 a barrel at 0600 GMT, while Brent was steady at \$49.24, still some way off from their 2015-low of \$45.19.

Reuters

## Brazil to release its own dengue vaccine by 2018

RIO DE JANEIRO, 14 Aug — Brazil announced on Thursday that the vaccination against dengue developed by the country will be available by 2018 when all the tests are finished.

"We are currently hoping for a safe vaccine against dengue to be developed fully ... At best we will have the vaccine in 2018," said Brazil's Health Minister Artur Chioro in an interview.

The biomedical research centers, the Butantan Institute in Sao Paulo and the Fiocruz in Rio de Janeiro, are currently carrying out the tests.

The Butantan Institute last week received approval from the National Technical Commission for Biotechnology (CTNBio) to begin the vaccination's third phase of clinical studies.

This phase will be car-

ried out in cooperation with U.S. biomedical research facility, the National Institutes of Health (NIH).

The third phase is the final one before the product is evaluated by regulatory agencies.

The Dengue fever is a mosquito-borne viral infection. The global incidents of dengue have grown dramatically in recent decades and about

half of the world's population is now at risk, according to the World Health Organization (WHO).

Severe dengue is a leading cause of serious illness and death among children in some Asian and Latin American countries.

One recent estimate indicates 390 million dengue infections per year, of which 96 million are reported clinically, the WHO said.—Xinhua

## Canada finds 67 cases of vibrio parahaemolyticus infection

OTTAWA, 14 Aug — Canada has been investigating a total of 67 cases of Vibrio parahaemolyticus infections, according to the Public Health Agency of Canada Thursday.

The agency said that 48 cases and 19 cases have been confirmed separately in British Columbia province and Alberta province. Individuals became sick between June 1 and Aug. 7, 2015 and all reported consumption of raw shellfish, primarily oysters.

The agency is collaborating with provincial public health partners, the Canadian Food Inspection Agency, the Department of Fisheries and Oceans and Health Canada to investigate and determine the source and distribution of the sea food products.

Vibrio is a naturally-occurring bacterium

that can be present at high levels in coastal waters during periods of increased water temperatures. Most people come in contact with Vibrio by eating raw or undercooked shellfish, especially oysters.

People infected with vibrio can experience a wide range of symptoms. Some do not get sick at all, while others feel as though they have a bad case of stomach flu. Few people get seriously ill.

The risk to vibrio parahaemolyticus infection can be avoided if shellfish are cooked before being eaten. People with weakened immune systems, young children, pregnant women and older adults are at increased risk for developing complications if they get sick.

Xinhua

## Yuan opens firmer, spot market hugs guidance rate

SHANGHAI, 14 Aug — China's yuan firmed at open on Friday, after the central bank said on Thursday there was no reason for the yuan to fall further given the country's strong economic fundamentals.

The People's Bank of China set the midpoint rate at 6.3975 per dollar prior to market open, firmer than the previous day close 6.399.

The spot market

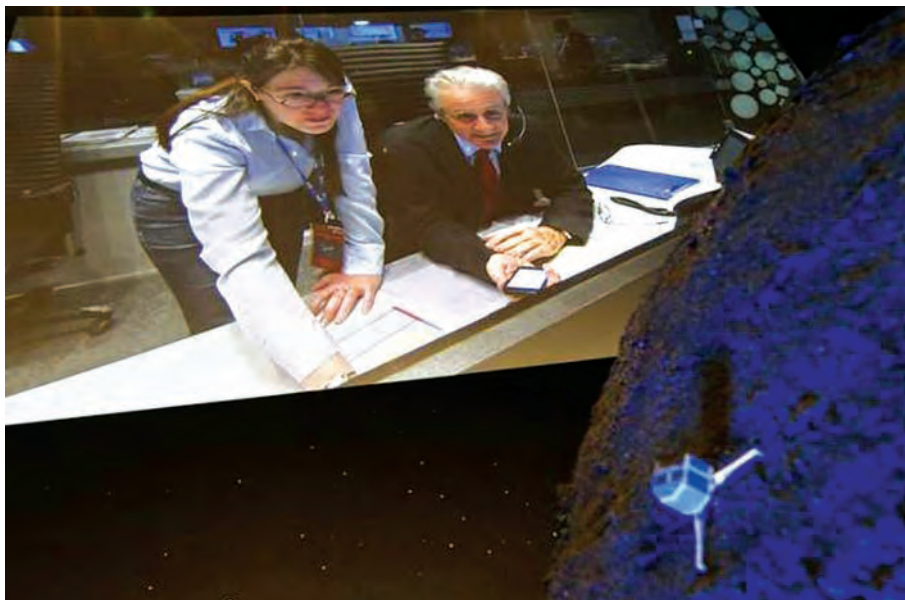
opened at 6.3990 per dollar and was changing hands at 6.3980 in the morning, -10 pips away from the previous close and 0.01 percent away from the midpoint. The spot rate is currently allowed to trade with a range 2 percent above or below the official fixing on any given day.

The offshore yuan was trading -0.82 percent away from the onshore spot at 6.451 per dollar.—Reuters



A customer holds a 100 Yuan note at a market in Beijing, August 12, 2015.—REUTERS

# Comet lander still silent, scientists shift focus to drilling



**Paolo Ferri (R) Head of Rosetta Mission Operations, seen on a video projection behind a model of the Philae lander, reacts after the successful landing of the lander on comet 67P/Churyumov-Gerasimenko, at the European Space Agency's (ESA) headquarters in Darmstadt.**  
REUTERS

BERLIN/FRANKFURT, 14 Aug — European scientists have revised their plans for the comet lander Philae and are now focusing on getting images and drill samples if communications are restored.

After coming to rest in the shadows when it landed on a comet in November, Philae woke up in June, delighting scientists from the European Space Agency, who came up with plans for several experiments they wanted

to run before working up to the most risky one — drilling into the surface.

But with the 100kg washing-machine size lander having been silent for over a month now, those plans have been revised.

“The problem is not power, but communications,” Aurelie Moussi from space agency CNES said in a webcast on Thursday. “We have to find something to do in a shorter duration.”

She said the priorities were now to get pictures from the surface and also to drill into the surface, which Philae was not able to do when it first landed in November. Scientists hope that samples from the surface of the comet 67P/Churyumov-Gerasimenko will help show how planets and life are created as the rock and ice that make up comets preserve organic molecules like a time capsule.

The Rosetta spacecraft, which is orbiting the comet and through which communications with Philae are relayed to Earth, has spent two weeks at a different part of the comet. But since Aug. 11, it has been back in an area where it should be able to communicate with Philae.

No contact has been established though and the data from the last communications shows one of the lander's transmitters is broken. Its two receivers are also not working as they should, Barbara Cozzoni, Philae operations engineer said.

The comet on Thursday passed the closest point to the sun on its orbit, about 185 million kilometers from the sun.

The comet's activity levels have been increasing as it approaches the sun and it's now shedding up to 1,000 kg of dust and enough water to fill two bathtubs every second.

When Rosetta first approached the comet last year, the comet was giving off only about two small glasses of water per second.

Scientists have also observed powerful gas jets, though Cozzoni said it was unlikely that Philae could be pushed off into space by a jet.—Reuters

## Samsung Electronics unveils high-end phones in search of sales boost

NEW YORK/SEOUL, 14 Aug — Samsung Electronics Co Ltd (005930.KS) unveiled a new Galaxy Note phablet and a larger version of its curved-screen S6 edge smartphone on Thursday, marking a fresh bid by the South Korean company to revive momentum in its handset business.

Samsung is the world's top smartphone maker but its market share fell in the second quarter when the company released its critically acclaimed S6 models, squeezed by Apple Inc's (AAPL.O) upscale iPhones and cheaper offerings from Chinese rivals such as Huawei Technologies Co Ltd [HWT.UL].

The manufacturer responded with S6 price cuts and moving up the Note unveiling from its usual early September spot, ahead of the latest iPhone launch expected in September.

The event announcing the new gadgets was attended by more than 1,000 people, almost filling the Alice Tully Hall at the Lincoln Center in New York.

Samsung has made several hardware changes for the new devices, including a faster processor for the Galaxy Note 5 and increasing the screen size of the S6 edge+ to 5.7 inches from 5.1 inches on the S6 edge.

Samsung has high hopes for the Note. “Each new version has been more popular than the last,” said Justin Denison, vice president of product strategy and marketing for Samsung Electronics America.

Both are powered by Samsung's Exynos chips, the company said.

The phones will go on sale on Aug. 21 in the United States and Canada. They will be available on the four major carriers: AT&T,

Verizon, T-Mobile and Sprint.

One expert said he was not sure how well the phones would help Samsung's efforts in the competitive smartphone market.

The phones were not different enough, said Jonathan Roubini, editor-in-chief of Lab Reviews, “So that's why it's very hard for them to gain that market share from Apple.” Roubini said that they may frustrate Android users. “The phone looks very cool, but you cannot change the battery, and you cannot add memory to it.”

Samsung shares closed at 1,140,000 won on Thursday, down 1.21 percent.

Samsung also said its mobile payment service Samsung Pay will launch on Aug. 20 in South Korea and Sept. 28 in the United States.

Samsung Pay lets users make payments by having phones send



**A man writes on a Samsung Galaxy Note 5 at the product's launch event in New York August 13, 2015.** —REUTERS

signals to existing magnetic stripe card readers, offering greater store coverage than Apple's Apple Pay service which requires retailers to install compatible equipment.

The payments service will expand to the United Kingdom, Spain and China, the company said, without giving dates.

Reuters

## Apple to delay live TV service to next year



**Customers enter the Apple store on 5th Avenue beneath an Apple logo in the Manhattan borough of New York City, July 21, 2015.**  
REUTERS

NEW YORK, 14 Aug — Apple Inc will delay its live TV service to at least next year, Bloomberg reported, citing people

familiar with the iPhone maker's plans.

The company had planned to introduce the service, which is delivered

over the Internet, this year.

Discussions with broadcasters such as CBS Corp and Twenty-First Century Fox Inc to license

programming are progressing slowly, and lack of content has led Apple to scrap plans to announce the service at a Sept. 9 event, Bloomberg said.

Apple also lacked the computer network capacity to ensure a good viewing experience, Bloomberg said. The company still plans to introduce a more powerful version of its Apple TV set-top box at the event, which will be held in San Francisco.

Apple was aiming to price the new service at about \$30 to \$40 a month, media reports have said.

Reuters

## Audi to develop batteries for electric SUVs with Samsung SDI, LG Chem

SEOUL, 14 Aug — German carmaker Audi said it will develop batteries for electrically powered sport utility vehicles (SUVs) that can run more than 500 kilometers per charge, in partnerships with South Korea's LG Chem Ltd and Samsung SDI Co Ltd. The South Korean companies will supply the batteries from plants in Europe, Audi

said in a statement on Thursday. Audi, Samsung SDI and LG Chem declined to give financial terms of the respective partnerships.

LG Chem's automotive customers include General Motors, Renault SA, and Daimler AG, while Samsung SDI supplies electric vehicle batteries to BMW and Volkswagen.

Reuters



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### WEATHER REPORT

#### BAY INFERENCE:

Monsoon is weak to moderate in the Andaman Sea and Bay of Bengal.

#### FORECAST VALID UNTIL EVENING OF THE 15<sup>th</sup> August, 2015:

Rain or thunder-showers will be scattered in Lower Sagaing and Mandalay Regions, fairly widespread in Magway Region, Shan and Kayah States and widespread in the remaining Regions and States with isolated heavy falls in Upper Sagaing, Yangon and Ayeyawady 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:

Continuation of increase of rain in the Upper Sagaing Region and Kachin State. **FORECAST FOR NAY PYI TAW AND NEIGHBOURING AREA FOR 15<sup>th</sup> August, 2015:** Isolated rain or thundershowers. Degree of certainty is (100%).

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

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

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### Journalist, five others killed in Mexico state of Veracruz

MEXICO CITY, 14 Aug — A journalist was among six people killed by armed men in a bar in the Mexican state of Veracruz, the state attorney general's office said on Thursday, days after the murder of another journalist based in the state sparked widespread outrage.

Five gunmen stormed the bar early on Thursday morning in the eastern city of Orizaba, the attorney general's office said. It said it had identified among the dead the bodies of journalist Juan Heriberto Santos and Jose Marquez, a suspected drug boss.

Two other journalists from a local newspaper who were in the bar at the time are in police custody, authorities said.

On July 31, Veracruz-based photo journalist Ruben Espinosa and four women were found dead in a Mexico City flat, prompting international outcry over the treacherous conditions for members of the media working in the state on the Gulf of Mexico.

At least 18 Veracruz journalists have been killed since 2000, according to advocacy group Article 19.—Reuters



Enthusiasts from 106 countries and regions practise bhakti yoga to create the "Most Nationalities in a Yoga Lesson" Guinness World Record in Kolkata, capital of eastern Indian state West Bengal, 13 Aug, 2015. XINHUA

## Man still dreams of saving mother after A-bomb blast in Hiroshima

TOKYO, 14 Aug — As a young boy, Mikiso Iwasa was greatly influenced by Japanese militarism, dreaming of dying proudly as a soldier.

Iwasa, who became head of his family at the age of 16 after his father died of illness in May 1945, thought such a death would be the best way to protect his mother and younger sister.

"I was a robot knowing no fears of death," he recalled of his days growing up in Hiroshima.

On the morning of Aug. 6, 1945, when an atom bomb was dropped on Hiroshima, Iwasa was in the garden of his home in the city only 1.2 kilometers from the epicenter. The sky was clear and he was expecting hot weather.

Then he was blown off the ground.

When the dark-colored dust had settled, he saw



Mikiso Iwasa, 86, recounts his experience of living as an orphan in the postwar era after losing his mother and younger sister in the 1945 atomic bombing of Hiroshima during an interview in Funabashi, Chiba Prefecture, east of Tokyo, on July 6, 2015. His father had died of illness in May 1945. —Kyodo News

the house and every other thing around him demolished. All he could see was rubble and wooden wreckage. Fires began to spread.

Iwasa called out to his mother and heard her voice under the rubble where their house used to be. He hastily removed roof tiles and found her lying on her back under a big beam from the collapsed house.

He desperately tried to remove the beam but in vain. The fires were coming

closer, and he called out for help, but amid the confusion nobody heard him.

"Get away quick," his mother told him before beginning to chant a Buddhist sutra. Iwasa had no choice but to leave her there. He vowed to follow her in death after "charging a U.S. battleship."

Iwasa visited his aunt's home some distance away the following day. When he saw her, he said he had killed his mother and burst

into tears. His 12-year-old sister had not been at home when the bomb was dropped as she had been sent out to work under the government's student mobilization program the previous day. He walked around the city trying to find her but in vain.

A few days later, Iwasa found the dead body of his mother.

"I survived without protecting them," Iwasa said. "I became an orphan with my mind torn apart."

The 86-year-old Iwasa, a representative member of the Japan Confederation of A- and H-bomb Sufferers Organizations who now lives in Funabashi, Chiba Prefecture east of Tokyo, said he often sees scenes from the ruined city in dreams.

Seven years ago, he remembers yelling in one such dream, "I will save you, mom, this time."

Kyodo News

### Japan promotes northeastern prefectures in H.K. food fair

HONG KONG, 14 Aug — The Japanese government is promoting food and tourism attractions from northeastern Japan at this year's annual food fair in Hong Kong to put away concerns of the aftermath of the 2011 earthquake, Japan's farm minister said Thursday.

"The great earthquake happened four years ago and Japan has fully recovered from it," Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries Minister Yoshimasa Hayashi said at the opening of the "Delicacies of Eastern Japan" exhibition. "Hong Kong is one of Japan's major food importers."

We ask for your continued support," he said at the exhibit organized by the Foreign Ministry.

Kyodo News

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## Jimmy Fallon extends deal as 'Tonight Show' host through 2021



LOS ANGELES, 14 Aug — U.S. broadcast television network NBC has locked in comedian Jimmy Fallon as host of "The Tonight Show" for six more years through 2021, NBC Entertainment Chairman Bob Greenblatt said on Thursday.

Fallon, 40, took over NBC's flagship late night show in February 2014 from Jay Leno, bringing in a younger audience and broadening the scope of the chat show with sketches and celebrity games.

"The Tonight Show" is currently the top-rated late night talk show on U.S. television with an average audience of 3.8 million people. It also has largest share of viewers in the time slot in the 18 to 49 age group most sought by advertisers.

Greenblatt called Fallon "the face of NBC in a lot of ways."

"The Tonight Show" has always been an institution, but he's remade it into a destination for the largest audience anywhere in late night," Greenblatt added in a statement.—Reuters

## NBC unlikely to repeat binge-watch test for 'Aquarius'

LOS ANGELES, 14 Aug — U.S. broadcast TV network NBC is unlikely to extend its binge-watching experiment for the second season of drama "Aquarius," the head of entertainment at the Comcast-owned network said on Thursday, though he would not rule out trying the approach for other series.

The success of Netflix Inc., with 65 million global subscribers, is pressuring traditional TV networks to try new approaches as they compete with online outlets for viewers, especially younger audiences

who watch video on mobile devices.

In a first for a broadcast network, NBC in May put all 13 "Aquarius" episodes online for four weeks right after the premiere aired on TV. The move was similar to Netflix's strategy of releasing entire seasons at once for binge watching.

NBC probably will not repeat that pattern for the show's second season, Bob Greenblatt, chairman of NBC Entertainment, said in an interview at the Television Critics Association press tour.

All episodes likely will not be filmed before the new season starts, he said, and

the approach is not popular with affiliate stations that rely on TV viewing.

"It's not going to become standard practice for the network," he said of the simultaneous release of episodes, unless the entire industry shifts in that direction. But he said NBC might try it again for "the occasional show."

NBC renewed the crime thriller starring David Duchovny despite mediocre ratings for the weekly episodes on TV. Greenblatt said he hoped online viewership would lead to bigger audiences for "Aquarius" when it returns to TV. Industry executives credit the availability of



Cast member Grey Damon speaks at a panel for the television series "Aquarius" during a NBC summer press day in Pasadena, California April 2, 2015.—REUTERS

AMC's hit "Breaking Bad" on Netflix with boosting TV viewership in later seasons.

About 94 percent of viewers watched "Aquar-

ius" on traditional linear television, and 6 percent online, Greenblatt said. The median age of online viewers was 35, about 15 years younger than the audience on the network.

"My instincts tell me those viewers who are much younger probably wouldn't have watched it in a linear way because our average age is so much higher on the network," he said.

In NBC's research, 50 percent of people who knew they could binge watch "Aquarius" said they were more likely to watch it, Greenblatt said.

Reuters

## Eva Longoria cannot travel without her pillow



Eva Longoria

LONDON, 14 Aug

— Actress Eva Longoria says she cannot go on trips unless she has her special comfort pillow with her.

The 40-year-old former "Desperate Housewives" star said she relies on her special head support to help her relax and feel secure when she is away from home, reported Female First.

The actress took to Twitter and shared a picture of her hugging her pillow.

"I never leave home without my travel pillow. I think my Eva Longoria Home collection needs one @JCPenney," the actress captioned the picture.

Longoria's home range is sold exclusively through US chain store JC Penney and features an extensive range of cushions and pillows as well as bedding and curtains.

The actress will be next seen on the upcoming comedy series "Hot & Bothered" which also stars Jencarlos Canela.—PTI

## Elvis jacket goes up for auction at singer's Graceland home

NASHVILLE, (Tenn), 14 Aug — A jacket worn by Elvis Presley in the 1964 film "Viva Las Vegas" and more than 150 other items belonging to the late singer were due to go up for auction on Thursday evening as part of Elvis Week events at his Graceland home in Memphis.

Potential bidders lined up on Thursday morning for \$20 tickets to get into the sale at the mansion where the man dubbed the king of rock 'n' roll died, said Jeff Marren, consignment director for Graceland Auctions.

"It's an exciting sale. I think it's going to do real well. It spans Elvis' life on screen and on stage. It could do as much as \$1 million," said Marren.

One highlight of the auction, which will take place in the Graceland Archives Studio on the estate grounds, is Elvis' bone-colored, three-button, no-lapel jacket from the "Viva Las Vegas" dance scene with Ann-Margret, expected to go for an estimated \$30,000 to \$50,000, according to Graceland Auctions.

Other items on the block include Elvis' personal Walther PPK handgun, engraved "Elvis" and "TCB," meaning "taking care of business." Auctioneers expect that to bring in between \$100,000 and \$125,000.

Reuters

## Elmo finds new home at HBO in 'Sesame Street' first view deal

NEW YORK, 14 Aug — The producers of long-running U.S. children's TV show "Sesame Street" have struck a five-year partnership with cable channel HBO that will bring much-needed funding for the future of the award-winning show, both companies said on Thursday.

The deal will make the next five seasons of "Sesame Street" available first on HBO and its on-demand and mobile services, and will allow the makers of the show to produce twice as much new content as they have done in previous seasons, the new partners said in a statement. The new episodes will start running on

HBO, a unit of Time Warner Inc., in the late fall this year.

Sesame Workshop, the nonprofit organization behind the 45-year old

show, said it will produce a Muppet spinoff series and develop a new educational series for children.

Jeffrey D. Dunn, Sesame Workshop's chief

executive officer, said the partnership with HBO "provides Sesame Workshop with the critical funding it needs to be able to continue production of

Sesame Street and secure its nonprofit mission of helping kids grow smarter, stronger and kinder."

"Sesame Street," had previously been broadcast in the United States on publicly-funded PBS, which is free of charge to TV viewers. Under the deal, new episodes of the show will run on PBS after a nine-month window.

Aimed at pre-schoolers, "Sesame Street" created Muppets like Elmo, Big Bird and Cookie Monster that have become cultural icons around the world. The show has won more than 150 Emmy awards and is broadcast in some 140 nations.

Reuters



Puppets Ernie (L) and Bert from Sesame Street are seen after they were donated to the National Museum of American History to the Smithsonian's National Museum of American History in Washington September 24, 2013.—REUTERS

## GENERAL

# Firefighters make progress against growing California blaze



Firefighters look on during the Jerusalem Fire along Morgan Valley Road in Lake County, California, August 12, 2015. —REUTERS

SAN FRANCISCO, 14 Aug — Firefighters kept battling blazes across drought-parched California on Thursday, and thousands of them made solid progress against a wildfire that has forced 150 people to evacuate homes outside of San Francisco. Firefighters had drawn containment lines around

about 33 percent of the so-called Jerusalem Fire, which grew overnight to cover 23,500 acres (9,510 hectares) by Thursday morning, according to the California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection (Cal Fire).

The inferno, which is charring ranch land north of Napa Valley wine country some 100 miles (160 km) outside of San Francisco, has displaced about 150 people and threatens at least 50 more houses and ranches, Cal fire said.

Cal Fire spokesman Steve Swindle said most of the fire's growth has been to the north, away from communities near Lake Berryessa. He said fire breaks in the area, installed by crews over the last several years, have served as a cushion against the blaze.

"We have worked furiously to put containment lines around there to keep those communities safe," Swindle said.

Firefighters have also been able to contain 95 percent of a behemoth 69,438-acre fire burning just to the north. The so-called Rocky Fire, California's

fiercest wildfire so far this season, destroyed 43 homes along with dozens of outbuildings and caused hundreds to flee their homes.

Swindle said cooler temperatures should help firefighting efforts in the region through Thursday, though winds could stoke fire activity.

Experts have predicted an unusually active and destructive wildfire season in California as the state grapples with a fourth year of crippling drought. The California fires were among dozens of blazes burning elsewhere across the U.S. West.

The Wolverine Fire in the northern Cascade mountains of Washington state has grown to cover 37,010 acres (14,977 hectares) and could grow further on Thursday amid dry and hot conditions, according to the InciWeb fire information center.

That blaze forced about 360 people to be evacuated from a camping area in the year round Lutheran retreat of Holden Village, fire officials said.

Reuters

## El Nino more likely to last into Northern Hemisphere spring: U.S. forecaster

NEW YORK, 14 Aug — A U.S. government weather forecaster on Thursday raised the likelihood that El Nino conditions would last into the Northern Hemisphere's early spring to 85 percent, boosting the probability that drought-stricken California could see increased rains.

The Climate Prediction Center, a National Weather Service agency, last month forecast an 80 percent chance that conditions would last through early spring. The CPC still says there is a more than 90 percent chance that El Nino conditions would last through the Northern Hemisphere winter.

The new forecast marginally raises the risk that the El Nino phenomenon, the warming of Pacific sea-surface temperatures, will unleash a period of extreme and potentially damaging weather across the globe.

Past instances have caused heavy rains and floods, hitting grain crops in South America, and scorching weather as far as Asia and East Africa.

But one potential El Nino beneficiary could be California, where record-low rainfall has prompted water usage restrictions and contributed to the spread of devastating wildfires.

"It definitely would increase the likelihood of heavy rains in the winter there, which would certainly improve their situa-

tion tremendously," said Donald Keeney, senior agricultural meteorologist with Maryland-based MDA Weather Services.

California could begin to get increased rainfall as early as October and definitely by November or December, Keeney said.

Rainfall will probably not increase in the Pacific Northwest states of Oregon and Washington, which are also suffering from droughts, although they could experience higher temperatures like much of the northern United States, Keeney said.

The CPC said the effects of El

Nino were likely to remain minimal across the contiguous United States for the rest of the summer but would increase into the late fall and winter.

El Nino would probably contribute to a below-normal Atlantic hurricane season, the CPC said. That would reduce the likelihood of storms disrupting energy operations in the Gulf of Mexico.

However, the agency said El Nino was likely to lead to above-normal hurricane seasons in both the central and Eastern Pacific hurricane basins.

Reuters



Dancers from southwest China's Sichuan Province perform during a performance gala by all the ethnic groups at the 10th National Traditional Games of Ethnic Minorities of China in Ordos, north China's Inner Mongolia Autonomous Region, Aug. 13, 2015. A series of activities were held during a performance gala by all the ethnic groups in Ordos Thursday. —XINHUA

## mitv Myanmar International

(15-8-2015 07:00 am~16-8-2015 07:00 am) MST

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- \* Great Minds of Myanmar (Anthropologist U Kyaw Win)

## MRTV

### Entertainment Channel

(15-8-2015, Saturday)

- 6:00 am**  
• Classical Songs
- 6:15 am**  
• Pyi Thu Ni Ti
- 6:20 am**  
• Fashion Music
- 6:55 am**  
• Myanmar Series
- 7:10 am**  
• Cassette Drama
- 8:30 am**  
• Dramatic Arts
- 9:55 am**  
• Myanmar Video

## Boxing tournament set to raise funds for flood relief

MANDALAY, 14 Aug — The Mandalay Region Myanmar Traditional Boxing Subcommittee will hold stage a fund-raising boxing challenge on 21 August. The event, to be held at Mingala Mandalay Gymnasium on 73rd Street in Chanmyathazi Township, will benefit flood victims. The event will include five-round, four-round and three-round matches. Boxers from Shwe Thaungyin, Swan Kay Kay, Aphyuyaung Thway Thit, Taunggale, Taungyeman, Minthiha, Sagaing and Anawa clubs will participate. Tickets for the boxing matches are available from U Thaung Shwe (phone 09-258999988), and Kima U Tin Win (phone 09-2005110 and 09-2009335). *Tin Maung (Mandalay)*

## West Ham loss a wake-up call, says Arsenal's Coquelin

LONDON, 14 Aug — A season opening upset defeat by West Ham United was a wake-up call for everyone, according to Arsenal midfielder Francis Coquelin.

Arsenal had an impressive pre-season winning all five games, including a 1-0 victory over champions Chelsea in the Community Shield, but stuttered on Sunday as the Hammers claimed a 2-0 win at The Emirates.

"It's been a wake-up call for everyone," the 24-year-old Coquelin told the club website. "Considering the recent results we had before that, going really well in pre-season, it's disappointing and it was not an Arsenal performance."

However, Coquelin was confident the FA Cup winners could respond immediately when they travel south to Selhurst Park for Sunday's fixture against Crystal Palace, who won 3-1 away at newly-promoted Norwich City last week.

"In bad things, good things can come out too. It's good that it happened in the first game so that now we can pull ourselves together with 37 games left," Coquelin said.

"We know the quality we have and we need to respond straight away. We've been working really hard in training and we need



Chelsea v Arsenal - FA Community Shield - Wembley Stadium - 2/8/15 Arsenal's Francis Coquelin.—REUTERS

to put all of the training effort into the game." Coquelin, who was loaned out to three different clubs before enjoying a breakthrough season last year, said the team knew they had to put in more.

*Reuters*

## Man United to continue without De Gea — Van Gaal

LONDON, 14 Aug — Goalkeeper David de Gea still "has the same problem" of not being in the right frame of mind and is out of the squad for Manchester United's second Premier League fixture of the season against Aston Villa, manager Louis van Gaal said on Thursday.

The Spaniard missed last weekend's season-opening 1-0 win over Tottenham Hotspur after Van Gaal felt the 24-year-old might not be focussed amid persistent media reports linking the goalkeeper with a move to Real Madrid.

"There's no difference. The transfer period is still open and he (De Gea) has still the same problem," Van Gaal told a news conference.

Sergio Romero, who signed for United last month on a free transfer from Sampdoria, is expected to continue in goal when Van Gaal's side travel to Villa Park on Friday.

Van Gaal also responded to comments from Hristo Stoichkov, who played under the Dutchman at Barcelona, after the former Bulgaria international said the United boss "destroys" clubs and urged Barcelona's Pedro not to



Manchester United v Arsenal - Barclays Premier League - Old Trafford - 17/5/15 Manchester United's David De Gea looks dejected after sustaining an injury before being substituted. REUTERS

move to Old Trafford.

"I always want to consider who is saying such things and then I know already why," Van Gaal said.

"It is not bothering me. He (Stoichkov) is one of the players I sent away (from Barcelona) and that is why he is doing that. I'm used to that."

Van Gaal endured a difficult start to life at Old Trafford last season as United claimed 13 points from 10 league matches.

United signed a host of players ahead of the current campaign and the Dutchman hopes the integration of his new recruits does not have a similar impact on early season results.

"You have to survive the start. You have new

players, a new team, a new team process, the team dynamics are different, so every team has to sustain this period because nobody is 100 percent fit and they have to play," he said.

"I think that we have to pay attention to it and develop, but it cannot cost as many points as last year."

Despite signing expensive recruits like Bastian Schweinsteiger, Morgan Schneiderlin and Memphis Depay, Van Gaal is still looking to strengthen his squad before the transfer window closes.

"Our aim is to improve our squad and when it is possible we shall do it," he said. "I have said more than once that we only buy when we think it is a contribution for our squad."—Reuters

## Djokovic advances to cheers, Kyrgios exits to boos

MONTREAL, 14 Aug — World number one Novak Djokovic, second seed Andy Murray and three-time champion Rafa Nadal were all cheered into the quarter-finals of the Rogers Cup on Thursday while controversial Australian Nick Kyrgios exited to boos and a hefty fine.

Djokovic, also a three time winner on the Canadian hardcourts, needed only 54 minutes to complete a 6-2, 6-1 demolition of American Jack Sock while Murray was equally economic in disposing of Luxembourg's Gilles Muller 6-3, 6-2 in just over an hour.

Nadal, finding his hardcourt footing coming off a clay court win in Hamburg, produced a snappy 6-3, 6-3 victory over Russian qualifier Mikhail Youzhny as Japanese fourth seed Kei Ni-

shikori rolled to a 6-4, 6-4 win over 13th seed David Goffin.

While there were plenty of cheers in be heard across the Montreal tennis complex on Thursday few were for Kyrgios who entered his match to boos and exited the same way after falling 7-5, 6-3 to big-hitting American John Isner.

The Australian had insulted Swiss opponent Stan Wawrinka on Wednesday during their second round encounter.

Prior to the match the ATP had fined Kyrgios \$10,000, the maximum penalty available, for remarks directed at Wawrinka about his girlfriend picked up by a court-side microphone.

With Isner serving for the match there were more boos for Kyrgios who lost his cool again engaging in a heated exchange with a spectator yelling "You're



Aug 13, 2015; Montreal, Quebec, Canada; Novak Djokovic of Serbia hits the ball against Jack Sock of the United States during the Rogers Cup tennis tournament at Uniprix Stadium. —REUTERS

so tough man, so tough".

It was all calm on centre court where Djokovic got off to a sluggish start but after breaking to go up 3-2 the 28-year-old Serb was in

complete control with the Sock managing just a single break chance, which he was unable to convert.

"At the beginning of the match I think we were

both a bit rusty," said Djokovic. "But I just managed to make the crucial break. That was the turning point, going up 3-2 in the first set. Then I was in control."

Djokovic continues to dominate at the ATP Tour's biggest events, running his Masters 1000 winning streak to 28 matches.

Coming off an opening match loss in Washington last week, Murray has also finding his footing on the Canadian hardcourts advancing to the final eight in singles but crashed out later in the doubles losing to his brother Jamie.

The doubles match won by Jamie Murray and Australian John Peers 6-4, 7-6(9) marked the first time the two Murray's played against each other as professionals.

"It's not ideal, not a situation I want to be in all of the time," Andy told reporters.

"Doubles is Jamie's career. I support him every single week."

*Reuters*