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'JUST A RUMOUR'

CBM QUASHES SPECULATION ABOUT BANK CLOSURES

By *Ye Myint*

YANGON, 18 Aug — The Central Bank of Myanmar refuted rumours Tuesday about the impending closures of some banks resulting from large numbers of customers withdrawing their savings.

In a press release, the Central Bank of Myanmar quashed the rumours purporting that the CBM was planning to shut down some banks, stating it had no such plans.

The CBM said stories circulating about bank closures "are just a rumour," as all banks in Myanmar are kept under close scrutiny of the CBM.

"If a bank run happens to private banks, they will be fully provided with necessary assistance in accord with the law," the CBM statement said.

All banks operate under the regulatory framework of the CBM, U Set Aung, CBM Deputy Governor, told the media at a press conference in Nay Pyi Taw on Tuesday.

"In addition to daily financial reporting to the CBM by private banks, quantitative methods are also being applied," he said.

To allay concerns, the deputy governor reiterated that the CBM would lend money to any banks during a run on deposits if the banks were unable to acquire additional cash elsewhere.

Rumours about bank closures in the wake of leadership changes in the country's ruling party have circulated on social media for several days, leading some depositors to rush to withdraw their savings.

Seeking to counter the speculation, U Ye Min Oo, a former senior official in the country's private banking industry, wrote a Facebook post stating that internet rumours about possible bank closures had been frequent since late 2010 and followed significant events in the country.

GNLM

A customer makes a deposit at a bank branch in Yangon. —PHOTO: YE MYINT

Marionette troupe aims to keep art form alive

By *Khaing Thanda Lwin*

YANGON, 18 Aug—The Htwe Oo Myanmar marionette troupe is preparing new stories to present at its recently opened performance theater in downtown Yangon, art director U Htwe Oo said recently.

"In an attempt to attract more local audiences, the troupe is performing a special show at 4 p.m. every weekend with a discount price of US $5 per person," U Htwe Oo told The Global New Light of Myanmar. "Normally, a show ticket costs $10 for adults and $5 for children."

Established in 2006, the Htwe Oo Myanmar marionette troupe, run by U Htwe Oo and his wife Daw Tin Tin Oo, aims to resurrect one of the country's traditional art forms.

The troupe received the best puppet animation award at the Harmony World Puppet Carnival in Bangkok last year.

"We are planning to perform two ordinary shows at 6 p.m. and 8 p.m. daily from September, because many tourists may come to the country after the end of the rainy season," U Htwe Oo said.

The troupe will also present free shows for street children, with plans to share knowledge of the art form, he added.

Puppetry has traditionally been one of Myanmar's most popular folk arts and is commonly seen at pagoda festivals. Researchers date the origin of Myanmar marionettes to the 1870s.

(See page 2)

State of emergency, military administrative order extended in Kokang

YANGON, 18 Aug — The President Office released two ordinances Tuesday to extend a state of emergency and a Military Administrative Order in Shan State's Kokang self-administered zone until 17 November.

The region remains unable to return to normalcy in terms of administration, peace and tranquility and rule of law, according to the ordinance.

The new ordinance will last for 90 days and continues the state of emergency imposed under a prior ordinance that expired on Monday.

The initial declaration of the state of emergency was made on 17 February after the region was plunged into instability following attacks by Kokang rebels earlier that month.

GNLM

Pyidaungsu Hluttaw grants extension of Kokang region's emergency order

Pyidaungsu Hluttaw

Representatives attend Pyidaungsu Hluttaw session that resumes on 18 August 2015.—MNA

Nay Pyi Taw, 18 Aug — The Pyidaungsu Hluttaw on Tuesday approved a bill to extend the emergency order in the Kokang self-administered zone.

The combined houses of parliament also dealt with four other bills, including those concerning the appointment of two union ministers, approvals for foreign loans, and signing of international agreements.

The speaker urged representatives to work through bills as quickly as possible before the elections.

The session also discussed bills for marriage of Myanmar Buddhist women, radio and television broadcasting and preservation of ancient buildings.

Deputy ministers U Tin Ngwe and U Aung Than Oo explained foreign loans to the session including U.S. $90 million for electrification in Nay Pyi Taw Council Area and U.S. $300 million for expansion of the national grid.—*MNA*

Pyithu Hluttaw

12th Pyithu Hluttaw session resumes in Nay Pyi Taw

Deputy Minister for Rail Transportation U Chan Maung.—MNA

Deputy Minister for Finance Dr Lin Aung. MNA

Nay Pyi Taw, 18 Aug — The Pyithu Hluttaw resumed its 12th session Tuesday, discussing a motion to suspend the current sitting of the Lower House to allow MPs to respond to the flood crisis and prepare for the 8 November general election.

After discussing the motion, representatives raised questions on timely allocation of budgets to state and region governments and delays in issuance of registration books for motorcycles.

Concerning the budget allocation, Deputy Minister for Finance Dr Lin Aung said funds for states and regions were transferred to local governments in a timely manner and local authorities were required to spend them in accordance with the guidance of the president office.

Deputy Minister for Rail Transportation U Chan Maung said it was impossible for the ministry to issue registration books to motorcyclists if companies selling vehicles failed to pay for number plates.

Afterwards, Deputy Minister for Construction U Soe Tint filed a bill amending the law on use of roads and bridges.—*MNA*

Marionette troupe aims …

(from page 1)

Compared to its heyday, the art form now has relatively few practitioners. At present, around 20 professional puppeteers remain in the field, the majority of them in Yangon and Mandalay.

Opened in June, the Htwe Oo troupe's 25-seat theater is open to the public from 9 a.m. to 9 p.m. daily at No. 174/176 Sule Pagoda Road, Kyauktada Township.

Bookings for private shows with the troupe to can be made by phoning 01 245 676, 09 79 8888 790, 09 7247 2222 or visiting the website http://www.easymyanmartravel.com.—*GNLM*

Enthusiasts enjoy control of puppets in dual dances.—Htwe Oo Myanmar

Amyotha Hluttaw

MPs submit proposals to suspend Amyotha Hluttaw session

U Kyi Tun of Magway Region Constituency No 1.—MNA

Dr Win Myint Aung of Sagaing Region Constituency No 4.—MNA

Nay Pyi Taw, 18 Aug — The Amyotha Hluttaw accepted proposals Tuesday to discuss suspending the current parliamentary session in order to allow MPs to carry out flood relief works in their constituencies and prepare for the 2015 general election.

U Kyi Tun of Magway Region Constituency No 1 and Dr Win Myint Aung of Sagaing Region Constituency No 4 submitted the urgent proposals at the 74th session of the Upper House. A member of the Bill Committee read out reports on the monogamy and arbitration bills sent back by the Pyithu Hluttaw with amendments and sought approval of the Hluttaw.

MNA

Joint Bill committee discusses bill on recalling Hluttaw representatives

Nay Pyi Taw, 18 Aug — Pyidaungsu Hluttaw's Joint Bill Committee held a meeting on Tuesday to discuss the bill on recalling Hluttaw representatives, with a speech by Chairman of the Joint Bill Committee Deputy Speaker of Pyidaungsu Hluttaw U Nanda Kyaw Swa.

Vice chairmen of the committee U T Khun Myat and U Khin Maung Yi participated in the discussions.

It was also attended by representatives from 20 political parties, independent MPs and Defence Services personnel representatives.—*MNA*

Flood rehabilitation committee holds first meeting

Nay Pyi Taw, 18 Aug — The coordinating committee on rehabilitation of disaster-hit regions held its first meeting Tuesday at the Ministry of Construction in Nay Pyi Taw.

Union Minister U Kyaw Lwin, who is also the chairman of the coordinating committee, called for participation of all, including film and music stars, as well as traditional dancers, for the success of relief and rehabilitation efforts.

The Union minister also highlighted the importance of the role of region and state governments for ensuring accuracy in facts and figures and stressed the need for distribution of local and international aid to people affected by flooding.

Deputy Minister for Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement U Phone Swe later made a presentation of relief and rehabilitation programmes for flood-affected people.—*MNA*

39 dams and reservoirs in good condition

Nay Pyi Taw, 18 Aug — Volunteers are assigned at dams and reservoirs not to break embankments across the nation.

A total of 39 dams are in good condition with releasing excess water through spillways, according to the Ministry of Agriculture and Irrigation.

MNA

Vice-Senior General Soe Win and party visit religious buildings in Lao PDR

NAY PYI TAW, 18 Aug—Deputy Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Commander-in-Chief (Army) Vice-Senior General Soe Win and party arrived at Wattay International Airport, Lao People's Democratic Republic, on Tuesday.

The vice-senior general and party paid homage to Pha That Luang stupa in Vientiane.

They also visited stupas and emerald temple and donated cash to the fund for renovation of the emerald temple. The vice senior general signed the visitors' book at the temple.

In the evening, the vice-senior general met families of military attaché office and presented gifts and foodstuffs to them.

Myawady

Vice-Senior General Soe Win and party pose for documentary photo with Pha That Luang stupa in background in Vientiane, Lao PDR.—MYAWADY

New railway overpass to get extra tributary

Photo shows a site to build new tributary at recently-opened Insein railway overpass.—PHOTO: TUN AUNG KYAW

By *Ko Moe*

YANGON, 18 Aug—Myanma Railways plans to build an additional tributary of the recently-opened Insein railway overpass, senior engineer U Myo Zaw Htoo of Myanma Railways said.

"The main overpass leads to Sawbwagyigon and its first tributary to Insein Park and football ground," he said. "Due to requests of the people, we will build one more tributary of the overpass leading to Mingyi Road."

A survey is being conducted for construction tasks, the senior engineer said. The new tributary will be 522 feet long and 16 feet wide. The government will allot K1.5 billion for construction of the overpass tributary in 2016.—*GNLM*

IKBZ pays compensation for Shwe Li Oo express bus crash

NAY PYI TAW, 18 Aug—International Kanbawza Insurance Co., Ltd has paid K3 million each in compensation to the estates of nine passengers who died aboard the Shwe Li Oo express bus that overturned on the Yangon-Mandalay expressway on 10 August.

IKBZ has also paid K100,000 each to 25 passengers injured in the crash.

IKBZ representatives vowed to provide further compensation to the injured passengers depending on their hospitalization requirements.

GNLM

MNA launches maiden flight to Singapore

YANGON, 18 Aug—Myanmar National Airlines launched its maiden flight from Yangon to Singapore on Monday, marking the first international service of the state-run airlines in its 23-year history.

Union Minister for Transport and for Rail Transportation U Nyan Tun Aung gave a speech at the launch ceremony at Yangon International Airport.

The Boeing-737 800 NG left Yangon at 10:30 a.m. and arrived at Changi International Airport in Singapore at 2 p.m.

The return flight departed Singapore for Yangon at 5:30 p.m.—*MNA*

Myanmar, China discuss construction of Ruili-Kyaukpyu economic corridor

NAY PYI TAW, 18 Aug—Union Minister for Commerce U Win Myint received Chinese Ambassador to Myanmar Mr. Hong Liang and party at the ministry on Tuesday.

They cordially discussed further strengthening friendly relations, export of livestocks and marine products in addition to rice, cooperation in combating illegal trade and construction of Ruili-Kyaukpyu economic corridor.

MNA

Myanmar, Israel eye cooperation in forestry research

NAY PYI TAW, 18 Aug—Union Minister for Environmental Conservation and Forestry U Win Tun received Israeli Ambassador Mr Daniel Zohar Zonshine and CEO of Greenforest Consulting Ltd and Former National Forest Commissioner Dr Nir Atzmon at the ministry, here, Tuesday to hold talks on forest establishment system.

They also discussed establishment of private plantation and forests on a commercial scale, development of forest research and University of Forestry, environmental conservation and cooperation in forestry research.

MNA

Myanmar Embassy warns citizens to avoid parts of Bangkok

NAY PYI TAW, 18 Aug — The Myanmar Embassy in Bangkok on Tuesday warned its citizens to avoid 10 areas of the city it considers high-risk, the day after a bombing in the Thai capital killed at least 20 people and injured more than 120.

The bombing Monday night at a major intersection near the Erawan Hindu shrine killed and injured several foreign nationals, including Chinese and Philippine citizens. Several large hotels are located in the area, which is popular with foreign tourists.

No Myanmar nationals have been reported among the casualties.

A statement on the embassy's website warns Myanmar citizens to avoid Ratchaprasong intersection, Pathuwan intersection, Silom Road, Khao San Road, Narathiwat intersection, Victory Monument, Tuek Chai intersection, Benjasiri Park, Soi Thong Lar and Sukhumvit Road.

More information is available at www.myanmarembassybkk.com.

MNA

Thai PM says chooses new cabinet, sends to king for approval

Thailand's Prime Minister Prayuth Chan-ocha

Bangkok, 18 Aug — Thai Prime Minister Prayuth Chan-ocha said on Tuesday he had chosen new cabinet members and submitted the names to the country's king for approval. "I have submitted the names and am waiting for royal approval," Prayuth told reporters without giving precise details on the date of the imminent reshuffle. He did not give any names of new cabinet members on Tuesday.

Prayuth, who as army chief led a May 2014 coup after months of street protests, was appointed prime minister in August 2014 by a hand-picked legislature. He has come under pressure over Thailand's sputtering economy and increasing pressure to reshuffle his cabinet.

News of the cabinet change comes a day after a bomb exploded in central Bangkok killing 22 people, including eight foreigners.

Reuters

Small explosive thrown from bridge over river in Bangkok

Bangkok, 18 Aug — A man threw a small explosive from a bridge in central Bangkok on Tuesday, police said, but it caused no injuries, a day after a bomb at a city shrine killed 22 people, including nine foreigners.

The unidentified man threw the explosive near a busy pier on the city's Chao Phraya river and it landed in a canal, said Colonel Natakit Siriwongtawan, deputy police chief of Klongsan district.

"If it did not fall in the water then it certainly would have caused injuries," he said.

Reuters

Malaysia group vows to go ahead with anti-government rally despite rejection

Kuala Lumpur, 18 Aug — A Malaysian pro-democracy group vowed to go ahead with a rally later this month demanding the prime minister's resignation, setting the stage for a showdown with authorities after the group's application for a protest permit was rejected.

Kuala Lumpur City Hall suggested the civil society group Bersih delay the rally as official celebrations for independence day were scheduled for Aug. 31 at the same venue, according to news portal The Malaysian Insider.

Mayor Amin Nordin Abdul Aziz was not available for comment. Bersih said the demonstration would take place in Kuala Lumpur from Aug. 29 to Aug. 30.

"We have lost confidence in the present leadership and therefore the prime minister must resign and give way to reform," said Maria Chin Abdullah, chief of Bersih. At the centre of the political row is troubled state investment fund 1Malaysia Development Berhad (1MDB). With debts of over $11 billion, 1MDB is being investigated over allegations of graft and financial mismanagement. Prime Minister Najib Razak sits as the chair of its advisory board. Najib has reined in dissent within his party and government by sacking his deputy and replacing the attorney general amidst a probe into 1MDB.

Authorities are also clamping down on public dissent. The government suspended two newspapers and a website reporting on 1MDB, and this week said it was seeking help from social media and Internet companies to "curb" content for public safety.

Reuters

Cambodia beefs up security after Bangkok bomb blast

Phnom Penh, 18 Aug — Cambodia has tightened up security after a bomb exploded in Bangkok, Thailand Monday night, killing at least 20 people, National Police spokesman Lieutenant General Kirt Chantharith said Tuesday.

"I just made a verbal statement to all municipal and provincial police chiefs to beef up security and to pay attention to collecting all information related to security in order to avoid such issue," he told Xinhua via telephone.

Ang Kim Eang, president of Cambodia Association of Travel Agents, which is consisted of 230 tour and travel companies as its members, said tightening security is essential to make tourists feel safe while they are staying in Cambodia.

"I don't think the blast in Bangkok will affect tourism in Cambodia, but it is necessary to enhance security to make tourists feel safe to stay in Cambodia," he said.

A bomb exploded in downtown Bangkok Monday night, leaving at least 20 people dead and 125 others injured, according to the Thai National Police.

Cambodian foreign ministry's spokesman Chum Sounry said the ministry has advised its embassy officials in Bangkok to warn Cambodian citizens after the blast.

"We are closely monitoring the situation in Bangkok and have not yet made any statement over the bomb explosion," he told Xinhua, adding that so far, there was no report of any Cambodian among the victims.

Lieutenant General Kirt Chantharith said that police discovered an explosive device early Tuesday on the way to the Angkor world heritage site in northwestern Cambodia's Siem Reap province.

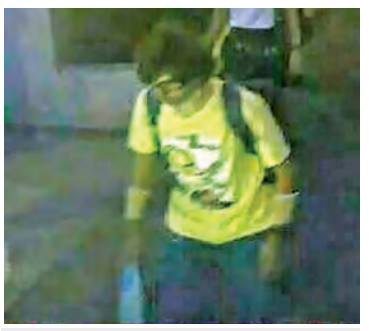
"We have CMAC (Cambodian Mine Action Center) to inspect and remove it already, it is an unused bomb, maybe, someone threw it away or accidentally dropped it," he said, adding that an investigation is underway.

"However, we can conclude that it is not an attempt to explode the bomb," he said.

Xinhua

Thai authorities say looking for suspect seen in CCTV footage at blast site

Experts investigate the Erawan shrine at the site of a deadly blast in central Bangkok, Thailand, August 18, 2015.—Reuters



A man wearing a yellow T-shirt and carrying a backpack is seen walking near the Erawan shrine, where a bomb blast killed 22 people on Monday, in Bangkok, Thailand in this handout still image taken from closed-circuit television (CCTV) footage, released by the Thai Police on August 18, 2015. —Reuters

Bangkok, 18 Aug — Thai authorities said on Tuesday they were looking for a suspect seen on closed-circuit television (CCTV) footage near a renowned shrine where a bomb blast killed 22 people, including nine foreigners from several Asian countries.

The government said the attack during the Monday evening rush hour, in the capital's bustling commercial hub, was aimed at destroying the economy. No one has claimed responsibility.

National police chief Somyot Pumpanmuang said the suspect was wearing a yellow shirt and could be Thai or a foreigner.

"That man was carrying a backpack and walked past the scene at the time of the incident. But we need to look at the before and after CCTV footage to see if there is a link," Somyot told a news conference.

Police earlier said they had not ruled out any group, including elements opposed to the military government, for the bombing at the Erawan shrine on Monday evening, although officials said the attack did not match the tactics of Muslim insurgents in the south.

Prime Minister Prayuth Chan-ocha also referred to the man as a suspect without giving details. He said there were "still anti-government groups out there", although he did not elaborate.

Police were deployed to the blood-splattered site on Tuesday, some wearing white gloves and carrying plastic bags, searching for clues to an attack that could dent tourism and investor confidence. The Thai baht THB=TH fell 0.57 percent to 35.57 baht, its weakest in more than six years, on concern the bombing may scare off visitors. Thai stocks .SETI fell as much as 3 percent.

Police said the death toll was 22, with 123 people wounded. They said the blast was caused by a pipe bomb.

"Police are not ruling out anything including (Thai) politics and the conflict of ethnic Uighurs who, before this, Thailand sent back to China," Somyot said.

Thailand forcibly returned 109 Uighurs to China last month.

Hundreds, possibly thousands, of the Turkic-speaking and largely Muslim minority have fled unrest in China's western Xinjiang region, where hundreds of people have been killed, prompting a crackdown by Chinese authorities. Many Uighurs have traveled through Southeast Asia to Turkey. The Erawan shrine, on a busy corner near top hotels, shopping centers, offices and a hospital, is a major attraction, especially for visitors from East Asia, including China. Many Thais also worship there. Four Chinese, including two people from Hong Kong, were among the dead, China's official Xinhua news agency said. Two Malaysians, a Singaporean, an Indonesian and a Filipino were also killed, officials said. Scores of people were wounded, including many from China and Taiwan.

In Washington, the U.S. State Department said it was too soon to tell if the blast was a terrorist attack. Spokesman John Kirby said authorities in Thailand had not requested U.S. help.

Reuters

Early results in Sri Lanka vote show Rajapaksa falling short

COLOMBO, 18 Aug — Former president Mahinda Rajapaksa's bid to stage a political comeback in Sri Lanka appeared destined to fail as early general election results on Tuesday showed the alliance that toppled him making gains.

If initial trends are confirmed, the results would mark a triumph for President Maithripala Sirisena, who beat Rajapaksa in a presidential election in January and called early parliamentary polls to secure a stronger mandate for reforms.

Defeat for Rajapaksa would keep Sri Lanka on a non-aligned foreign policy course and loosen its ties with China, which during his rule pumped billions of dollars into turning the Indian Ocean island into a maritime outpost.

Results from six out of 22 districts showed Prime Minister Ranil Wickremesinghe's United National Party (UNP) gaining seats in the 225-seat parliament while the alliance led by Rajapaksa's Sri Lanka Freedom Party (SLFP) lost ground.

In downbeat comments to Reuters, Rajapaksa, 69, said he was unlikely to lead the next government.

He stopped short of conceding defeat ahead of full results expected at around midday (0630 GMT).

Sri Lanka's former President Mahinda Rajapaksa (3rd R) arrives at a polling station during the general election in Medamulana August 17, 2015.—REUTERS

"I will support good policies and oppose bad things," the two-term president said by telephone from his southern home in Hambantota.

A senior Rajapaksa ally was more fatalistic: "We have lost the election," Udaya Prabhath Gammanpila, who was contesting in Colombo, said in a Facebook post.

He forecast that the UNP would win 11 districts — enough to form a minority government. The SLFP-led alliance would win nine districts and the Tamil National Alliance, a regional minority party, three.

The nationalist strongman has set his sights on becoming premier of an SLFP-led government but Sirisena, who succeeded him as the party's leader in January, has ruled that out and purged Rajapaksa loyalists from senior posts.

Their bitter power struggle has overshadowed the election in a country which, since independence from Britain, has had a history of political feuding that has often spilled over into violence and even the assassination of its leaders.

A strong result for the UNP would likely see Wickremesinghe confirmed as prime minister of a centre-right government that would seek to revive stalled reforms to make the government more open and accountable.

Aides to Sirisena say he wants to form a broad-based national unity government, with his own loyalists from the SLFP, that would be able to muster a two-thirds majority in parliament to pass crucial constitutional reforms.

Reuters

UN Secretary-General's Message on World Humanitarian Day

19 August 2015

On World Humanitarian Day, we honour the selfless dedication and sacrifice of workers and volunteers from around the world who devote themselves — often at great personal risk — to assisting the world's most vulnerable people.

This year, more than 100 million women, men and children need life-saving humanitarian assistance. The amount of people affected by conflict has reached levels not seen since the Second World War, while the number of those affected by natural and human-induced disasters remains profound.

On this Day we also celebrate our common humanity. The families and communities struggling to survive in today's emergencies do so with resilience and dignity. They need and deserve our renewed commitment to do all we can to provide them with the means for a better future.

Each one of us can make a difference. In a world that is ever more digitally connected, each of us has the power and responsibility to inspire our fellow human beings to act to help others and create a more humane world.

On this World Humanitarian Day I urge everyone to show solidarity as global citizens by signing up to the #ShareHumanity campaign. By donating your social media feeds for just one day you can promote humanitarian action and help to give a voice to the voiceless by sharing their stories of crisis, hope and resilience.

Next May, Istanbul, Turkey, will host the first World Humanitarian Summit. The Summit will provide a platform for Heads of State and Government and leaders from civil society, the private sector, crisis-affected communities and multilateral organizations to announce bold new partnerships and initiatives that will vastly reduce suffering and at the same time reinforce the 2030 agenda for sustainable development.

I count on the support of all sectors of society to make the World Humanitarian Summit a success. Together we can and must build a more humane world with a stronger commitment to life-saving humanitarian action.—*UNIC/ Yangon*

Pakistani opposition lawmaker shot, wounded in Karachi attack

KARACHI, (Pakistan), 18 Aug — A Pakistani opposition lawmaker was shot and wounded and his driver was killed on Tuesday in the port city of Karachi, police said, as sensitive political negotiations involving his party began.

Abdul Rashid Godil, a member of the city's powerful Muttahida Qaumi Movement (MQM), was attacked while in his car, Deputy Inspector General Munir Shaikh said.

"Mr Rashid has suffered multiple gunshot wounds. He is being treated at a private hospital," Shaikh told Reuters, adding that Rashid's driver died in the attack.

The MQM dominates Karachi politics and has over decades developed a reputation for at times violent rivalry with other parties and criminal gangs.

But recently it has been targeted by law enforcement agencies seeking to exert their control over Pakistan's largest city.

Tuesday's attack took place as talks began at MQM's Karachi headquarters with intermediaries trying to convince the party's lawmakers to withdraw their resignations from parliament that were submitted last week in protest against the crackdown. Another police official, Superintendent Abid Qaimkhani, said a 9 mm pistol was used in the attack.—*Reuters*

2 Koreas agree to raise wage for N. Korean workers in industrial zone

SEOUL, 18 Aug — North and South Korea have agreed to raise the minimum wage for North Korean workers at a joint industrial zone in the North's border town of Kaesong by 5 percent, the South Korean Unification Ministry said Tuesday.

The accord was reached Monday at a meeting between the two sides at Kaesong, settling a wage dispute created by the North's demand made in February to raise the wage by 5.18 percent for some 54,000 North Korean workers hired by about 120 South Korean companies.

Under the new agreement, North Korean workers will receive $73.87 a month, up from $70.35, retroactive to March 1, the ministry said.

The two sides also plan to hold a meeting of a joint committee in charge of running the industrial zone to discuss other issues, including labor guidelines.

The development came as military tensions are running high on the Korean Peninsula after the South accused the North last week of planting land mines in the border area and seriously injuring two South Korean soldiers. North Korea has denied involvement in the blasts.

The joint industrial zone was established in 2004, combining South Korea's capital and technology with North Korea's cheap labor.

Kyodo News

Bangladesh arrests 3 Islamists over killings of secular bloggers

DHAKA, 48 Aug — Bangladesh's elite forces said on Tuesday they had arrested three suspected Islamist militants, including a British citizen of Bangladeshi origin, for masterminding the killings of two secular bloggers in the Muslim-majority nation. Touhidur Rahman, 58, and two active members of outlawed Islamist group Ansarullah Bangla Team were arrested in Dhaka on Monday night, said Maksudul Alam, a spokesman for the Rapid Action Battalion (RAB) force. "Rahman is a Bangladeshi origin British citizen and we suspect he is the main planner of the killings of U.S. blogger Avijit Roy and Ananta Bijoy Das," he told Reuters. In February, machete-wielding assailants killed a U.S. citizen of Bangladeshi origin and critic of religious militancy, Avijit Roy, and seriously injured his wife and fellow blogger, Rafida Bonya Ahmed. Another secular blogger, Ananta Bijoy Das, was hacked to death on May 12. Militants have targeted secularist writers in Bangladesh in recent years, while the government has tried to crack down on hardline Islamist groups seeking to make the South Asian nation of 160 million people a sharia-based state. Last week, police arrested two members of Ansarullah Bangla Team for alleged involvement in the killing of blogger Niloy Chatterjee on Aug. 7, the fourth such killing of an online critic of religious extremism in less than six months, spurring calls by human rights groups for a swift and thorough investigation. On March 30, Washiqur Rahman, another secular blogger who aired his outrage over Roy's death on social media, was killed in a similar fashion.—*Reuters*

State Department refers 305 Clinton emails for review: court filing

U.S. Democratic presidential candidate Hillary Clinton speaks at the Iowa Democratic Wing Ding dinner in Clear Lake, Iowa, United States, August 14, 2015.—Reuters

Washington, 18 Aug — The U.S. State Department has so far identified 305 emails from Hillary Clinton's private server used while she was secretary of state to be reviewed for potentially classified information, the agency said in a court filing on Monday.

It said the emails referred for review came from a sample of about 20 percent of the Clinton emails screened to determine if they can be released publicly.

Last December, Clinton, the front-runner for the Democratic Party nomination in the 2016 presidential election, handed over about 30,000 emails she sent and received while America's top diplomat. Clinton's use of her private email while secretary of state from 2009 to 2013 came to light in March and drew fire from political opponents who accused her of sidestepping transparency and record-keeping laws.

The FBI was looking into the security of the federal records and classified information contained among Clinton's emails. The U.S. government considers federal records to be government property.

The Justice Department has said the FBI investigation began after a government watchdog said at least four emails out of a sample of 40 he inspected contained classified information, including two that contained information deemed "top secret," the highest classification level. Clinton has said she did not send or receive any secret information using that account.

The government forbids the sending of classified information outside unsecured networks because it could harm national security if intercepted.

After months of pressure, Clinton last week gave the FBI her private email server and a thumb drive of work-related emails from her tenure. Asked about the additional emails being reviewed by intelligence agencies, State Department John Kirby told a media briefing on Monday: "It's a healthy thing."

"It doesn't mean that all 300 are going to end up at some level of (classification upgrade). I suspect some will and I suspect some won't," Kirby said.—*Reuters*

UK inflation ticks up in July, core inflation hits five-month high

London, 18 Aug — British inflation edged up in July, official figures showed on Tuesday, helped by smaller discounts to clothing compared to this time last year, while core inflation hit a five-month high.

Consumer price inflation ticked up 0.1 percent in July year-on-year after slipping back to zero in June.

Economists in a Reuters poll had expected inflation to stay flat at zero, after rising slightly in May and falling below zero for the first time since 1960 in April.

On a monthly basis, inflation fell 0.2 percent in July, the figures from the Office for National Statistics showed.

"The slight (annual) increase is mainly due to clothing, with smaller price reductions in this year's summer sales compared with a year ago," said ONS statistician Richard Campbell.

"Food and motor fuel prices continue to fall and have helped stop a larger rise in the rate of inflation."

A recent rise in sterling and fall in oil prices has curbed inflation in Britain.

In its latest economic outlook, the Bank of England stressed that these factors would push down inflation until at least the middle of 2016 and said the impact of the rise in sterling could persist even longer.

While low inflation has boosted Britons' purchasing power, it has also made it more difficult for the BoE to exit its ultra-easy monetary policy of recent years. A BoE official said on Sunday that waiting too long to raise interest rates could undermine Britain's economic recovery.

An underlying measure of inflation, which strips out increases in energy, food, alcohol and tobacco, rose to 1.2 percent in July — the highest yearly increase since February — from 0.8 percent in June.

BoE officials are increasingly looking at this measure to assess the timing of the first rate hike in over seven years, as it excludes more volatile items.

Data also released by the ONS on Tuesday showed that factory gate prices fell by 1.6 percent in annual terms, compared with economists' predictions of a 1.5 percent fall.

Separate data showed house prices rose 5.7 percent in the year to June, up from 5.6 percent in May.

Markets recently pushed back expectations for the timing for a rate hike after only one member of the rate-setting committee voted to increase interest rates, against expectations that two or more would do so.

Reuters

A shopping trolley is pushed around a supermarket in London, Britain May 19, 2015.—Reuters

Office of Minnesota dentist who shot Zimbabwe lion reopens without him

Minneapolis, 18 Aug — The dental practice of a Minnesota hunter whose killing of Zimbabwe's best-known lion, Cecil, sparked widespread criticism from animal lovers around the world reopened on Monday without him, the practice said in a statement.

The River Bluff Dental practice in a Minneapolis suburb had been closed since late July and became a centre of protests when Walter Palmer, 55, was identified publicly as the hunter who killed Cecil, a well-known 13-year-old rare black-maned lion.

Operations resumed on Monday without Palmer present, River Bluff Dental said in a statement that declined further comment.

"We are dental professionals committed to serve our patients and clients," the statement said. "Our office is private property, we ask the press to stay off the property and respect the peace of mind of our patients and clients."

Palmer, a big game bow hunter, killed Cecil in early July while on a hunt in Zimbabwe. He has released a statement in which he said he "deeply regrets" killing a "known, local favourite" lion and believed the hunt was legal.

A K-9 Unit Bloomington Police dog sniffs at stuffed animals blocking the doorway of River Bluff Dental clinic in protest against the killing of a famous lion in Zimbabwe, in Bloomington, Minnesota July 29, 2015. Reuters

The killing of Cecil ignited a global firestorm on social media and Palmer has received threats.

Demonstrators in late July built a small memorial of stuffed animals at the door of his practice and protested, demanding that he be charged and extradited to Zimbabwe. Vandals spray-painted "lion killer" at his Florida vacation home.

Zimbabwe has requested Palmer's extradition as a "foreign poacher."

A professional hunter in Zimbabwe has been charged with breaching hunting rules in connection with the hunt. He has denied any wrongdoing.—*Reuters*

White House, Cuba work to resume scheduled commercial flights: WSJ

Washington, 18 Aug — The White House is seeking an agreement with Cuba to begin scheduled commercial flights between the two countries as soon as December, the Wall Street Journal reported on Monday, citing officials.

The Obama administration is also examining ways of loosening U.S. congressional restrictions on travel by Americans to the Communist-ruled island, the newspaper reported.

On Friday, U.S. Marines hoisted the American flag at the U.S. Embassy in Cuba for the first time in 54 years at a ceremony led by Secretary of State John Kerry that marked the restoration of diplomatic relations between Washington and Havana.

A bill is pending in the U.S. Senate to remove the travel ban on Americans and a more ambitious measure to rescind the decades-old U.S. economic embargo. But the steps face strong opposition from the Republican leadership in control of the Senate and the House of Representatives.

Americans currently going to Cuba for authorized reasons such as family or business visits travel there generally on charter flights.

The Journal said the administration and the U.S. airline industry were united behind efforts to resume scheduled airline service to Cuba.

"We're committed to it, there's good will on both sides and we're continuing to talk," the newspaper quoted a State Department official as saying, adding that a deal by the end of the year "is certainly our hope."

The White House and State Department did not immediately respond to requests for comment.—*Reuters*

Saudi-led coalition bombs Yemen 'aid port' Hodeida

Smoke billows from the site of a Saudi-led air strike in Yemen's western port city of Houdieda August 16, 2015. —Reuters

Sanna, 18 Aug — Jets from a Saudi-led coalition targeted rebel Houthi positions in Yemen's Red Sea port of Hodeida early on Tuesday, port officials said, destroying cranes and warehouses at a main import hub for critical aid supplies to the country's north.

There were also clashes further south overnight in Yemen's third city, Taiz, Arab television stations reported, as local groups opposed to the Houthis attempted to consolidate recent advances to take the city.

As well as retaining a foothold in Taiz, the Houthis and allied army units loyal to former president Ali Abdullah Saleh control the northern highlands and Red Sea coastal plain as far south as Ibb, where coalition-backed forces advanced last week.

Ibb is around 50 kilometers (30 miles) north of Taiz and 200 kilometers southeast of Hodeida. The port, which lies almost due west of the capital Sanaa, has become a focal point of Yemen's humanitarian crisis, which The International Committee of the Red Cross said last week the country was "crumbling" under.

Aid groups have previously complained that a coalition naval blockade has stopped relief supplies entering Yemen. The coalition, led by Saudi Arabia with a big military role played by the United Arab Emirates, has accused the Houthis of commandeering aid shipments for war use. Anti-Houthi groups helped by the coalition have pushed the northern militia out of some southern provinces since late July, but while that has allowed aid to reach Aden in the south, the humanitarian crisis elsewhere remains critical. Besides advancing from the south, coalition-backed forces are also fighting the Houthis and Saleh's troops on a second front around Marib, northeast of Sanaa. Saudi Arabia fears a victory for the Houthis would be used by its main regional foe Iran to encircle Gulf states and undermine their security.

The UAE condemned in a statement on the state news agency what it described as the occupation of its embassy in Sanaa by the Houthis on Sunday. The UAE said earlier this year it was shutting the embassy after Yemen's capital was seized by the Houthis.—*Reuters*

Iraq's Abadi, in reform push, reduces ministerial adviser positions

Iraqi Prime Minister Haider al-Abadi speaks during the International Youth Day in Baghdad, August, 12, 2015. —Reuters

Beirut, 18 Aug — Iraqi Prime Minister Haider al-Abadi said on Tuesday he was cancelling the positions of advisers hired as contractors in ministries and limiting the number of advisers for himself, the president, and the parliamentary speaker to five each.

It was not immediately clear how many positions would be affected by the decision, which was announced in a post on Facebook. The sackings are the latest in a sweeping reform campaign launched last week aimed at reducing graft and incompetence in government, which critics say have deprived Iraqis of basic services while undermining government forces in their battle against the Islamic State group.

Abadi's ambitious reform plan follows weeks of street protests in Baghdad and southern cities demanding better government services and a call by leading Shi'ite Muslim cleric Grand Ayatollah Ali al-Sistani to "strike with an iron fist" against corruption. It is the biggest move yet by Abadi to strengthen his hand, even as large swaths of Iraq have fallen to ultra-hardline Sunni Muslim militants from Islamic State, and as the central government faces a financial crisis from the collapsing price of its oil exports. Abadi sacked a third of his cabinet on Sunday, reducing the number of ministers to 22 by eliminating positions or combining some ministries with others. He moved earlier to eliminate the three vice president positions, cut politicians' security details and other perks, encourage corruption investigations and give himself the power to fire provincial governors and regional officials.—*Reuters*

Syrian government recaptures villages on strategic plain

Beirut, 18 Aug — Syrian government forces recaptured four northwestern villages on Tuesday in a counter-attack on insurgents threatening strongholds of President Bashar al-Assad, a monitor said.

Government planes launched dozens of air strikes overnight into the morning on parts of the Sahl al-Ghab plain seized by rebels in an advance this month, the Britain-based Syrian Observatory for Human Rights said. Clashes between insurgents and state forces backed by allied militias raged on Tuesday, the monitor and officials added. "The army is advancing in the area," a Syrian military source told Reuters on Tuesday. At least four people were killed in one village, said Abu al-Baraa al-Hamawi of the Ajnad al-Sham rebel group, using a nom de guerre as he spoke via an internet-based messaging service. This month's insurgent advance into the plain had brought rebels including the al Qaeda-linked Nusra Front to the eastern edge of mountains that form the historical heartland of Assad's Alawite people. Last week, a military source said the army had retreated to new defensive lines in the area.—*Reuters*

South Sudan's president declines to sign proposed peace deal

Addis Ababa, 18 Aug — South Sudan President Salva Kiir declined to sign a peace deal proposed by regional leaders on Monday, saying he required more time, the mediator of the crisis said.

South Sudan, which gained independence from Sudan in 2011, descended into chaos in December 2013 when a political row between Kiir and his deputy Riek Machar spiralled into armed conflict that reopened ethnic faultlines. Seyoum Mesfin, the mediator for IGAD, the East African bloc leading the talks, said Kiir's side required two weeks before signing the peace deal that was accepted by the South Sudanese rebels. "In the next 15 days, the government will come back to Addis Ababa to finalise the peace agreement," Seyoum said. No one from the government was immediately available to comment. The U.S. State Department said it deeply regretted the government decision, urged it to sign within 15 days and renewed a threat to raise pressure on those opposing the peace proposal.

Numerous rounds of negotiations have failed to end fighting that has killed over 10,000 people and displaced more than 2 million, with both sides engaging in a war of attrition despite signing ceasefire deals. Last month, IGAD set Aug. 17 as the deadline to end the drawn-out talks, outlining proposals for ending the fighting.

The proposal designates a 30-month transition period with Kiir as president, with a first vice president post allocated to the rebels, IGAD said.

Elections would be held two months after the close of the interim period. Both Kiir and Machar would be eligible to run.

A member of IGAD's mediation team told Reuters Kiir had reservations over the proposal's plan to demilitarise the capital, Juba, and also sought to scrap a provision that calls for consultations with Machar on "powers, functions and responsibilities" he would exercise. Kiir's delegation has also criticised other aspects of the proposal, including an 18-month deadline for the integration of armed forces, saying this must be done in less than six months.

Machar said he was satisfied with the agreement. "We do not have any reservations on the ceasefire. We have no reason to continue fighting," he told reporters. "There is no reason why he (Kiir) requested for more time. He has got a good agreement." Seyoum said the government's delay did not mean it was not committed to the search for a settlement, but western diplomats urged Kiir to accept it swiftly.

"The humanitarian catastrophe in South Sudan is huge. We need the guns to fall silent," Tobias Ellwood, Britain's minister for Middle East, North Africa and Central Asia, told journalists.

In Washington, U.S. State Department spokesman John Kirby echoed President Barack Obama's July 27 threat to weigh putting more pressure on the parties if no deal was signed by Monday.

"We are going to work with our regional and international partners on the next steps and on ways to increase pressure, especially against those that are undermining the peace process or opposing this agreement," Kirby told reporters.

Reuters

PERSPECTIVES

Wednesday, 19 August, 2015

Build trust with your own fate

By *Myint Win Thein*

IT is very common in Myanmar for rumours of impending bank collapses to send people scrambling en masse to withdraw all of their deposited money. Sometimes, the Central Bank of Myanmar has to issue statements to keep the situation under control. The dilemma nonetheless usually goes on for some time. The Myanmar banking sector witnessed such a situation only a few days ago.

Such mass withdrawals of cash from banks stoke great concern not only among the general public but among businesspeople too. Banking operations and business activities are hindered and people are worried whenever bank-collapse rumours spread. Sometimes, such incidents can even lead to chaos in markets.

However, it is very easy to find the key to the question. The problem is that people lack trust in their fates. It cannot be said that they lack trust in banks, as they have already entrusted them with their money for some time.

Despite guarantees from the highest financial authority in the country, they cannot trust their own fates and withdraw their money from banks whenever the rumours come. The Myanmar people need to build trust between themselves and their own fates.

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TRANSLATOR'S DILEMMA

Maung Hlaing

THE Global New Light of Myanmar of 5-8-2015 issue carried a very interesting news story under the title of "PPE, NICT sign MoU on Translation by machine".

According to the news, Printing and Publishing Enterprise (PPE) under the Ministry of Information signed an MoU on translation by Machine with National Institute of Information and communications Technology of Japan at the hall of PPE (Yangon Headquarters) on 4 August, 2015. Managing Director of PPE U Aung Myo Myint and Vice Chairman of NICT Dr. Shinro Mashiko extended greetings. NICT signed the three-year term MoU with Myanmar as 10th country in 2011-2015.

We know that thanks to the MoU, both sides can exchange staff visits and research, information exchange, upgrading of research and holding technological meetings and workshops. The MoU aims to ease language difficulties between the countries.

The news will be a great encouragement to the Sarpay Beikman, or Palace of Literature formerly known as BTS: Burma Translation Society which is one of the branches of the Printing and Publishing Enterprise. The news also reveals that the officials of PPE and the Ministry of Information never lose sight of translation works. It reminds me of a talk by U Thant, Former UN Secretary-General (Then Secretary of Information) at the British Council on the 5th April, 1950. An excerpt from his talk will be given:-

"The Burma Translation Society was founded in August, 1947, sponsored by Premier Thakin Nu, who is himself a writer and translator of no small merit. In fact, the Burma Translation Society was the child of his life-long dream and it was his idea to make modern and scientific knowledge available to the country at large by means of translation."

In adopting the aims and objects of the Burma Translation Society, the two points—(1) to undertake the translation into Burmese of any publication in English or other foreign language which is likely to be conducive to the intellectual and cultural development of the indigenous races of Burma; and (2) to undertake or encourage the translation into any foreign language of any of the standard works in the Burmese language or any of the languages of Burma" are included in the rules of BTS (From "The Rules of the Burma Translation Society").

The Burma Translation Society, indeed, is the result derived from the 1947 Sorrento Villa Conference. At the conference, Bogyoke Aung San, the architect of the national independence, pointed out the need to form a translation association for public education promotion. Because of his urge, the Burma Translation Society (BTS) was founded on 26 August in 1947. The society, once upon a time, was the acme of earlier movements which intended to make available good published materials in Myanmar. However, the name of BTS was changed because its programme far outgrew the original intention of its founders to simply "translate" the world knowledge.

Anyhow, the MoU on translation by machine may give a clarion call to the translation industry which is still making efforts for emergence of a booming or boosting enterprise. However, translators want to know the puzzles. "Can a machine outdo a man who is a translator? Can it overcome a dilemma in translating?"

Today, almost everything is changing. Science and technologies are improving or advancing at an alarming rate. But, according to Sayagyi Thakin Ba Thaung, translation is an art. As for a translator, he may face a dilemma in translating.

Once writer C.T.Aung (U Aung Chan Tha, a retired diplomat) revealed the difficulties in translating Shwe Thway, a bilingual weekly children's journal, published by Sarpay Beikman—

"On one occasion, I came across the expression 'Karuna Dosa'. This is very well-known among the Burmese but I had a fairly difficult time looking for a suitable English equivalent. A comic journal by its very nature contains many informal words and expressions. Every living language changes and some erstwhile slang words come to be accepted as regular ones. I'd been somewhat out of touch with some of the latest expressions (particularly those used by the young) but the present duty has compelled me to overcome this failing as much as possible. (The Guardian Magazine, Vol.27, No.5, May 1980, P.20).

What he said was quite true. When I joined the Sarpay Beikman and became an editor of Shwe Thway, I came to know the difficulties. In those day, the translators are Sayagyi U Win Pe (Mya Zin), U Ko Ko (Motley Ko Ko), U Aung Chan Tha (C.T.Aung), Mr. Paul Aung Khin (P.Aung Khin) and U Paw Htin (Jimmy Paw Htin). Later, Guardian U Kyaw Min (Min Kyaw Min) and U Khin Maung Aye (KMA) became translators for Shwe Thway. Now, the writer of this article and U Khin Maung Lay (KML) who worked as Executive Editor of Shwe Thway for a long time are engaged as translators.

Although the veteran translators were well-versed in English, they did not want me to use high words. On one occasion, when I translated the word "ဘုရားစင်" as "Household Shrine", they asked me to use "Payazin". In order to translate from Myanmar into English, one needs to be able to express oneself in the latter fairly well. A translator's main job is only to translate but there are time when he come across some slangs, argots and street words such as "မိုက်တယ်" "အာလူးလာမပေးနဲ့" "ပဲများနေတယ်" "မြွေဖမ်းနေတယ်" "ဖလန်းဖလန်း" and so on.

Sometimes, we find that although we are able to translate some speech or artical into English within a short time, we have to take time to translate the stories of Shwe Thway. It is simply because translation must be according to the context, which is a constant headache to us.

We cannot deny that there are only a handful of efficient translators. Among them, those who translate the literary works of Myanmar into English are few and far between. I do not mean that there are no translators who translate the works of Myanmar into English but we can count them on our fingers. According to my experience, there is no translator who does not face a dilemma in translating. Translators have to make the same efforts to translate a literary work whether it is difficult or easy. Now is the time when new generation of translators are trying their best to catch up with the senior professional translators. In such a time, translation by machine may contribute much to novice translators and veterans alike.

I for one, machine is machine and man is man. It is quite different. Please don't forget three Ms—Man Matters Most!

Myanmar youths represent at World Science Conference in Israel

YANGON, 18 Aug—The Embassy of Israel in Yangon Monday issued a press release that this week, Israel is hosting in Jerusalem over 400 young science masterminds—the future generation of world scientists—from over 70 countries worldwide and 15 Nobel laureates, for the first World Science Conference—Israel, between August 15 to 20 in Jerusalem, (ESCI-2015).

Initiated by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the State of Israel in collaboration with the Hebrew University of Jerusalem, Nobel Laureate Prof. Roger Kornberg, and the Ministry of Science & Technology, the WSCI is bringing young students from all round the world for an intensive one week program. During the conference the participants will have a chance to attend lectures, to interact, and to be inspired by Nobel Laureates of various fields, Wolf Prize & Fields Medal winners as well as other leading scientists from around the world.

Myanmar also participates in this year WSCI-2015 among the participants from 70 countries worldwide. A delegation of four young students from Technological University (Monywa), Technological College (Shwebo), Chindwin College, accompanied by a representative of Mandalay Technology Co., Ltd, representing the country in the event. The ambassador of Israel saw the group off before they left to Israel on Friday at Yangon International Airport.

GNLM

Steel-fixing course aims to improve livelihoods of youths

NAY PYI TAW, 18 Aug — The Ottara District Rural Development Department conducted a basic masonry and steel-fixing course Monday in Seinsabin village, Zeyathiri Township.

Head of District Rural Development Department U Win Myint urged the trainees to apply themselves in the course and improve their livelihoods.

Altogether 20 trainees are attending the 10-day course up to 26 August.

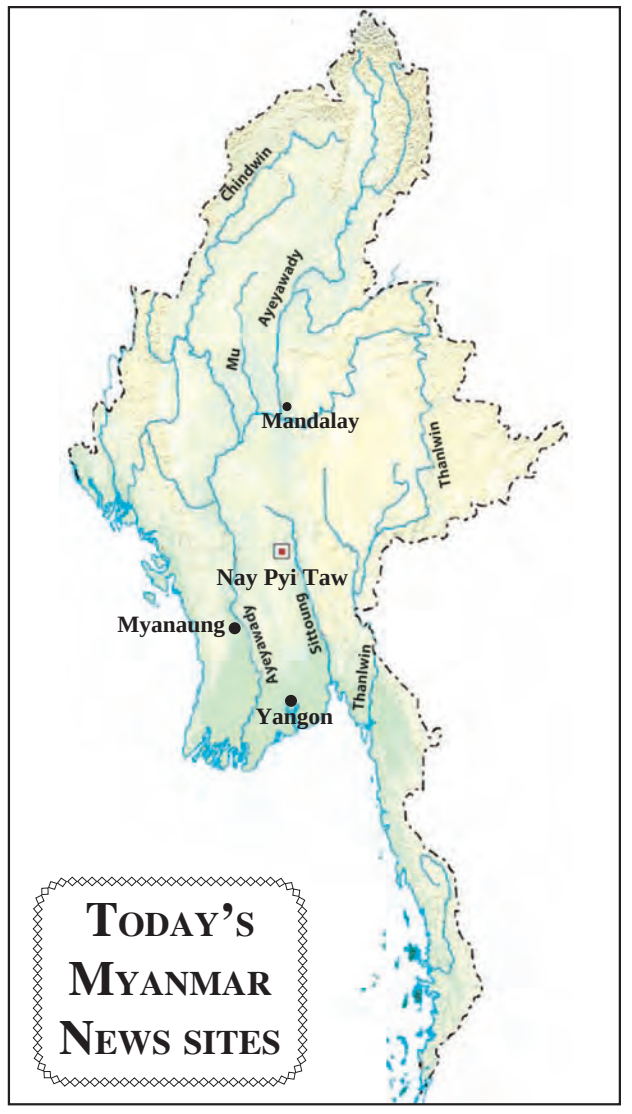
Shwe Ye Yint

Mandalay trade association hosts U.S. delegation

MANDALAY, 18 Aug — The Mandalay Region Chambers of Commerce and Industry hosted talks Monday on Myanmar-U.S. economic cooperation and investment opportunities at its hall in Chanayethazan Township.

Chairman of MRCCI U Aung Than and officials held talks with Mr James Golsen, ASEAN Region Senior Economic Officer of the U.S. Department of Trade, on investment opportunities in Mandalay Region, export of organic fruits to U.S. markets and progress of the upper Myanmar market.

Thiha Ko Ko (Mandalay)



Htoo Foundation gives medical treatment to villagers

MYANAUNG, 18 Aug — A Htoo Foundation medical team together with the head of the Township Traditional Medicine Department and staff provided treatment Sunday to local residents at the monastery in Myoma Yaylekyun village and Ayekataya village in Ayeyawady Region's Myanaung Township.

Deputy Managing Director U Tin Maung Toe of Htoo Company Headquarters and health officials provided treatment to more than 200 villagers.—*Win Bo (Myanaung IPRD)*

Officers learn techniques for training special police

MANDALAY, 18 Aug — A trainer course for special police was opened at the hall of Mandalay Region Police Force on 17 August.

Altogether 63 officers from district and township police forces, including seven police captains, are attending the course up to 21 August. Under the supervision of the Ministry of Home Affairs, special police will be assigned from 15 October to 13 November 2015 to take security measures for successfully holding the 8 November general elections.

The trainer officers will give lectures on rules and regulations for the special police, electoral laws and norms of international human rights.

Thiha Ko Ko (Mandalay)

Railroad damage bill more than K3.8 bil.: gov't

YANGON, 18 Aug — Reconstruction of damaged railroads in flood zones across the nation could cost more than K3.8 billion, according to the Ministry of Rail Transportation.

The damage bill stands at more than K1.3 billion in Rakhine State and Sagaing, Magway, Ayeyawady and Bago regions. Temporary train services have cost more than K900 million, according to the ministry.

The Mandalay-Myitkyina railroad was temporarily reopened on 16 August, after being cut off for two months. "Depending on the special fund of the government, we will repair damaged railroad sections," General Manager (Civil) U Tin Soe of Myanma Railways said.

In the aftermath of flooding, Hsipaw Bridge in Shan State and the Kuni-YeU-KhinU railroad section in Sagaing Region have recently been reopened. Myanma Railways is still working to reopen the Kalay-Gangaw and Kyangin-Pakokku sections.—*Soe Win (MLA)*

Asian shares hit two-year lows as China woes, dollar firm

TOKYO, 18 Aug — Asian shares fell to a two-year low on Tuesday on worries that cooling demand in China will weigh on the trade-reliant region, while the dollar held firm after strong U.S. housing data offset concerns from a weak manufacturing report.

But spreadbetters expected better sentiment in Europe, with Germany's DAX .GDAX, Britain's FTSE .FTSE and France's CAC 40 .FCHI all seen up 0.3 percent.

The MSCI's broadest index of Asia-Pacific shares outside Japan .MIAPJ0000PUS fell 0.4 percent, hitting its lowest level since August 2013, while Japan's Nikkei .N225 dipped 0.2 percent.

"Investors are becoming cautious ahead of a likely U.S. rate hike, which they haven't seen for a long time. Concerns that the slowdown in China will hurt other Asian countries with close link to China are weighing as well," Masahiro Ichikawa, senior strategist at Sumitomo Mitsui Asset Management.

Thai shares .SET hit a 1-1/2-year low and the baht fell to six-year low after a bomb blast in Bangkok on Monday killed 19 people, including three foreign tourists.

Wall Street shares rose on Monday though two highly contrasting U.S. economic indicators left many market players scratching their heads on the state of the U.S. economy and added to uncertainty over when the Federal Reserve will begin raising interest rates.

The New York Fed's Empire State general business conditions index tumbled from 3.86 in July to -14.92 in August, its lowest since April 2009, due to steep drops in new orders and shipments.

But a later report from the National Association of Home Builders showed U.S. homebuilder sentiment rose in August to its highest level since a matching reading almost a decade ago.

Wall Street shares rose in the end, with the S&P 500 Index .SPX gaining 0.5 percent. But U.S. bond prices also gained, with the benchmark 10-year yield slipping to 2.162 percent US10Y-T=RR.

U.S. interest rate futures <0#FF:> <0#ED:> hardly budged, with markets still not fully convinced the Fed will raise rates in September.

A man walks past a display showing stock prices in Tokyo August 12, 2015.—REUTERS

Most investors, however, are certain a rate hike will occur by the end of year but any subsequent rate hikes will come very slowly, given the fragile state of the global economy.

That outlook is enough to set the dollar apart from other currencies which are likely to be capped by continued or further monetary easing.

The dollar index against a basket of currencies .DXY held firm after three days of gains to stand at 96.953. It has risen over 1 percent from a one-month low of 95.926 hit last Wednesday following China's surprise devaluation of the yuan.

"It's not that China is trying to intentionally lower the yuan long-term. It has just brought down the yuan in line with realistic levels as the yuan had been kept in a way artificially high," said Shuji Shirota, head of macro economic strategy group at HSBC in Tokyo.

"The impact of the yuan move on global markets isn't large," he said.

China's central bank on Tuesday set the yuan's midpoint CNY=PBOC near Monday's closing price. But the yuan edged down 0.2 percent to 6.4090 to the dollar CNY=CFXS, raising some concerns that it could fall further.

The euro eased 0.2 percent to $1.1058 EUR=, extending its losses. The dollar traded at 124.47 yen JPY=, up slightly from late U.S. levels.

Commodity prices remained under pressure from worries about slower growth in China. Indonesia reported a much deeper than expected drop in its July exports, with sales to China down 10.7 percent from a year earlier.

Brent oil futures LCOc1 fell 0.4 percent to $48.55 per barrel, edging closer to a six-month intraday low of $48.24 touched last week.

Copper futures CMCU3 fell 0.5 percent to $5,089.50 per tonne, edging near a six-year low of $5,062 set last week.

Reuters

Planned Parenthood seeks injunction against Florida health agency

A Planned Parenthood clinic is seen in Vista, California, August 3, 2015.—REUTERS

MIAMI, 18 Aug — Planned Parenthood sought an emergency legal injunction on Monday against Florida health officials to block the use of what it says are new and unpublished standards to define pregnancy gestation periods.

The legal move filed in circuit court in Tallahassee came after Florida Republican Governor Rick Scott ordered a probe last month of the state's 16 Planned Parenthood locations, resulting in three clinics being cited on Aug. 5 for illegally performing abortions in the second trimester.

Planned Parenthood said the abortions in question were first-trimester abortions and that the state appeared to have arbitrarily shortened its measurement of the first trimester.

Republican presidential candidates and lawmakers have called for Planned Parenthood to be investigated and its federal funding eliminated after the appearance of videos that critics said showed the reproductive healthcare group involved in the illegal sale of aborted fetal tissue.

Planned Parenthood, which provides healthcare services to millions of women at hundreds of centers nationwide, has denied any wrongdoing.

Florida's Agency for Health Care Administration said its inspection found no fetal organs being sold.

A spokeswoman for AHCA said Planned Parenthood had "self-reported" the unauthorized abortions. "The Agency looks forward to litigating this matter," she added.

The vice president of Planned Parenthood Federation of America, Dawn Laguens, said in a statement on Monday the allegation that it performed unlicensed procedures "is completely false."

The group accused the state of moving the goalpost by using different standards from ones AHCA had used over the past decade to calculate first- and second-trimester abortions.

Planned Parenthood said AHCA had long agreed to define the first trimester of a pregnancy as the first 12 weeks of pregnancy or the first 14 weeks following the last normal menstrual period.

The group noted that AHCA's new definition was made without any prior announcement and noted the political timing of the citations that were issued two days before the Republican presidential debate.

"We have been doing things the same way for 10 years without incident. We really are surprised by this," said Barbara Zdravecky, chief executive officer of Planned Parenthood of Southwest and Central Florida.

U.S. Representative Bob Goodlatte, a Virginia Republican who chairs the Judiciary Committee and U.S. Representative Trent Franks, an Arizona Republican who chairs the Constitution and Civil Justice Subcommittee, called on the Department of Justice on Monday to provide further information into potential violations of the Partial-Birth Abortion Ban Act by Planned Parenthood.

Planned Parenthood focuses on family planning and pregnancy prevention, with abortions comprising 3 percent of its services, according to its website.

Reuters

Olympus warned over endoscope linked to 'superbug' infection in U.S.

NEW YORK, 18 Aug — Olympus Corp. has been issued a warning by U.S. regulators for failing to promptly report a "superbug" bacterial infection linked to one of the company's endoscopes and told to take remedial steps.

The Food and Drug Administration issued the warning in a letter to the Japanese firm's U.S. unit Olympus Medical Systems Corp., dated last Wednesday and released on the agency's website Monday.

The letter blamed Olympus for, among other things, failing to report to the agency within the required 30 days after it became aware in May 2012 that an endoscope it sells may have caused a superbug outbreak. Olympus only reported the case to FDA in 2015, according to the letter.

It urged the company to notify the FDA of corrective measures taken within 15 business days after receiving the letter of warning.

The Japanese medical device maker said it is "reviewing the FDA's warning letter so that we can provide the required response in a timely manner."

The firm's notification procedures lack "internal systems that provide for timely transmission of complete medical device reports," the FDA said in the letter.

The agency's action is based on inspections it conducted at U.S. and Japanese facilities of Olympus between March and April.

The firm's duodenum endoscope has been linked to outbreaks of antibiotic-resistant bacteria due to an apparently complex design that impedes effective cleaning and sterilization.

A number of patients and their families have reportedly filed lawsuits against Olympus' U.S. arm seeking compensation over superbug infections.

FDA has also issued warning letters to Hoya Corp., another Japanese maker of endoscopes, and Fujifilm Medical Systems U.S.A. Inc., a unit of Fujifilm Holdings Corp., citing problems with product designs and quality control.

Kyodo News

U.N. says expects states to respect privacy after AT&T spying report

UNITED NATIONS, 18 Aug — The United Nations said it expects member states to respect its right to privacy and is assessing how to respond to a report that telecommunications company AT&T Inc helped the U.S. National Security Agency spy on the world body's communications. The company gave technical assistance to the NSA in carrying out a secret court order allowing wiretapping of all Internet communications at the headquarters of the United Nations, an AT&T customer, the New York Times reported on Saturday. The New York Times cited newly disclosed NSA documents that date from 2003 to 2013 and were provided by fugitive former NSA contractor Edward Snowden.

"We obviously have security and safety measures in place including through ... our information and technology department. We are looking at this and how best to respond," U.N. spokeswoman Vannina Maestracci told reporters.

"The United States authorities had previously given us assurances as to the fact they are not and were not monitoring our communications," she said.

A man walks past the AT&T store in New York's Times Square, June 17, 2015. —REUTERS

The United Nations said in 2013 that the United States had pledged not to spy on the world body's communications after a report that the National Security Agency had gained access to the U.N. video conferencing system.

"The inviolability of the United Nations is well established under international law and we expect member states to act accordingly and to respect and protect that inviolability," Maestracci said. The 1961 Vienna Convention governing diplomatic relations protects functions of the United Nations, diplomatic missions and other international organizations.—*Reuters*

Human bones in Pennsylvania thought to be from 1918 flu pandemic

SCHUYLKILL HAVEN, 18 Aug — Forensic archaeologists on Friday began excavating a highway embankment in eastern Pennsylvania, looking for more bones believed to be from impoverished victims of the worldwide Spanish flu pandemic in 1918.

The state highway department, known as PennDOT, received reports of bones in what appeared to be an impromptu burial site beneath a broad meadow that had once been the site of a poorhouse, said Bob Rescorla, a PennDOT inspector at the site.

"There were rumors it was a mass grave here," Rescorla said of the burial ground along State Highway 61 in Schuylkill Haven, about 100 miles northwest of Philadelphia.

Historians say the Spanish flu pandemic touched all parts of the world and claimed tens of millions of lives. The flu could kill quickly, sometimes in less than a day.

In Schuylkill County, the Pottsville Republican-Herald newspaper reported that some 17,000 residents were sickened and several thousand died during the pandemic, leaving as many as 3,000 children orphaned.

PennDOT workers had shaved the embankment for a road widening project earlier in the week, Rescorla said, and heavy rains later caused part of the cut to collapse, exposing bones.

Kevin Mock, an archaeologist with PennDOT, told Reuters on Friday he could see leg bones and part of a jaw bone protruding from the embankment. He said there were no coffins.

Schuylkill County Deputy Coroner Joe Pothering points to human bones in embankment along Route 61 in Schuylkill Haven, Pennsylvania August 14, 2015. —REUTERS

His research found the connection of the meadow to the Spanish flu pandemic.

Most victims, Mock said, were buried without coffins. He thought it unlikely there could still be active H1N1 flu pathogens — the strain that caused the 1918 pandemic — in the bones or soil given the passage of time and the usual practice of sprinkling lye over buried without coffins.

A team of professors and students from Mercyhurst University in Erie, Pennsylvania, arrived at the site on Friday afternoon along with the Schuylkill County Coroner's Office and cadaver dogs.

The Mercyhurst team set up a sieve for screening soil for bone fragments, and marked visible bone fragments protruding from the embankment with small red flags.

Dr. David Moylan, the Schuylkill County coroner, said the team would not excavate the entire field, but will remove remains near the highway. They will be taken to Mercyhurst University for medical examination and possible DNA extraction.

After that, Moylan said, they will be cremated and buried in a modern cemetery for the unidentified or unclaimed maintained by the county.

Reuters

Twitter says to accelerate push for content partnerships in Asia

SINGAPORE, 18 Aug — Twitter Inc said on Tuesday it plans to accelerate its push for content partnerships in Asia Pacific and the Middle East.

It has appointed a Singapore-based executive, Rishi Jaitley, to boost teams in major markets such as Australia, India, and Japan as well as to expand into Greater China and Southeast Asia, the company said in a statement. Jaitley was previously Twitter's market director for India and Southeast Asia.

Twitter has been aggressively expanding its capabilities to carry pictures, video and interactive content.—*Reuters*

"We are not alone in the universe," says Chris Hadfield

SYDNEY, 18 Aug — "We are not alone in the universe," said former Canadian astronaut Chris Hadfield who believes it would be conceited to think otherwise.

"We always guessed that we're not alone in the universe," Hadfield told local media in Sydney on Tuesday.

"We'd like to think that we're the center of the universe, we'd like to think that we're the only life in the universe but with every big telescope we build, the more we can look. The more we can realize how insignificant we are." Hadfield is in Australia for a series of talks called "A Spaceman's View Of The Earth" to help answer questions currently facing the world. Hadfield said the astronomical advancements humanity has made in recent years have brought us closer to finding life elsewhere. Astronomers have found thousands of planets over the last decade, with at least five being earth-like, Hadfield said.

"We don't know if they have life or not but they are similar to earth — the same sort of distance from the sun, the same sort of heat," Hadfield said.

Hadfield conceded to local media however that distances from earth to planets with the potential for life, though it is only a matter of time before humanity discovers life in the universe.

"The odds are overwhelming that we're not alone but we haven't found any evidence yet. And that's part of the reason we're exploring the universe to find out are we alone or not," the former astronaut said.—*Xinhua*

Indonesian rescuers say no survivors at wreckage of crashed plane

The head of Indonesia's National Search and Rescue Agency (Basarnas) Bambang Soelistyo speaks with family of the passengers from the missing Trigana Air flight at the airport in Sentani, near Jayapura, Papua province, Indonesia August 17, 2015 in this photo taken by Antara Foto.—Reuters

Jakarta, 18 Aug — All 54 people on board a Trigana Air aircraft were killed in a crash two days ago in Indonesia's Papua province, the latest in a string of aviation disasters in the Southeast Asian archipelago, officials said on Tuesday.

Major-General Heronimus Guru, operations director at Indonesia's National Search and Rescue Agency, told a news conference in the capital that the passengers' remains were being put into body bags and recovered.

Officials have declined to comment on the cause of Sunday's crash until the results of an investigation by the national transport safety committee, but Guru said the terrain in Indonesia's easternmost province may have been a factor.

"There's a possibility the aircraft hit a peak and then fell into a ravine because the place that it was found is steep," he said.

Treacherous terrain of forest-covered ridges hampered rescuers' efforts to reach the site where the Trigana Air Service ATR 42-300 plane came down.

The aircraft's black box flight recorder, which should provide investigators with some answers, was found in the early afternoon, Transport Ministry spokesman Julius Arivada Barata told Reuters by text message.

There were 44 adult passengers, five children and infants and five crew on the short-haul flight from provincial capital Jayapura south to Oksibil town.

The twin turboprop aircraft was also carrying about $470,000 as part of a village assistance program.

Poor infrastructure in the province means aid money is often flown in by air, said Abu Sofjan, spokesman for the national postal service, four of whose workers were among the passengers. There was no suggestion the money was somehow linked to the crash.

Reuters

Nagasaki A-bomb survivor working for end to nuclear weapons

Nagasaki, 18 Aug — Sumiteru Taniguchi was a 16-year-old postal worker delivering mail in the city of Nagasaki when an atomic bomb exploded 1.8 kilometers away.

Sumiteru Taniguchi, 86, recalls his battle for life in hospital for three and a half years during treatment for burn injuries on his back following the 1945 atomic bombing of Nagasaki during an interview in the southwestern Japanese city on June 23, 2015.
His ordeal caught global attention after a photo of radiation-caused burns all over his back, taken by the U.S. military, was distributed by the press throughout the world in 1970.—Kyodo News

Taniguchi was blown off the ground with his bicycle and incurred serious burns on the whole of his back and left arm. As his skin peeled off, he thought he would die. "But at the same time I encouraged myself by telling myself I should not die," he said. "Strangely, I did not feel pain."

The hospital where he was brought was initially in total confusion. He stayed there for three years and seven months. For the first year and nine months, he lay in bed face-down on the brink of death.

His chest muscles weakened as a result of being confined to bed for so long, with the result that his bones exerted unbearable pressure on his heart and lungs.

His pain was so severe that Taniguchi kept yelling out, "Kill me!" He recalls the doctors and nurses often whispering among themselves in surprise that he was still alive.

After being discharged from hospital, Taniguchi started a campaign for the abolition of nuclear weapons with another atomic-bomb survivor he met during his hospitalization.

A photo of his seriously burned back, taken by a U.S. military photographer and distributed throughout the world in 1970, had a great impact on opinion. Journalists flocked to him for interviews and Taniguchi repeatedly went abroad to talk about his experiences.

Taniguchi still cannot take deep breaths or speak loudly because of the pressure on his chest. Without fat under his skin or sweat glands in his back, he feels unusually hot in summer and cold in winter.

He said he sometimes feels a twinge of pain from remaining "cicatrixes" — scars or thin tissues that form over a healing wound — even now.

As cicatrixes crack when they dry, Taniguchi's wife rubs an ointment into his back every other day or so, "just like a placebo," he said.

He has undergone more than 20 surgeries on his left arm and face as well as his back to remove big and small stone-like lumps.

"The atomic bombing brought me nothing but suffering and made my life difficult," Taniguchi said. "But I was delighted to marry and have a family. I am fortunate because (marriage) was difficult for atomic-bomb survivors, who were discriminated against."

Now 86, Taniguchi, as head of the Nagasaki Atomic Bomb Survivors Council since 2006, still shows up at the organization's office every day.

He visited the United States in April to call for the elimination of nuclear weapons.

Taniguchi, though in weakening health, continues to work for the cause in order to "prevent people being born today from becoming atomic-bomb victims" in the future.

Kyodo News

With fist-bump and autographs, Trump fulfills jury duty

U.S. Republican presidential candidate Donald Trump waves as he arrives for jury duty at Manhattan Supreme Court in New York August 17, 2015.—Reuters

New York, 18 Aug — Billionaire Republican presidential candidate Donald Trump completed his jury duty in New York in one day on Monday, signing autographs and giving a fist-bump to a supporter amid a swarm of media.

Trump, the front-runner in a crowded Republican field, arrived at Manhattan Supreme Court earlier in the day in a black limousine to join fellow New Yorkers to possibly be selected to cast a verdict in a trial.

He was released along with other jurors early in the afternoon as court officials reported no juries were needed for the few cases eligible for trial in the less-busy month of August.

Trump was greeted by a throng of reporters and television crews numbering around 100 people. He left for a lunch through an even larger crowd, signing autographs and taking questions while walking down the courthouse steps to his limo.

Leaving the court at the end of the day, Trump said: "It was an amazing time. I met some really incredible people."

The real estate mogul's jury service came after a state judge this year fined him $250 for failing to respond to summonses to serve jury duty five times since 2006.

Trump's representatives say the fine was ultimately waived and the prior summonses had been sent to a wrong address for the former star of NBC's "The Apprentice."

His jury service on Monday drew at least one protester, Bill Johnsen of Staten Island, who contended that Trump was only reporting for duty as a public relations stunt. "If he wanted to disregard the notice, I'm sure he could do something," Johnsen said.

Trump's representatives said that Trump took his civic responsibilities seriously. Trump said could have fought against serving but decided against it.

"People are surprised that I agreed to do this," Trump said. "I'm not surprised."

Trump, 69, sat in the jury room with some of the 172 potential jurors who came Monday to possibly serve on civil trials.

With the presidential candidate in a front-row seat, a jury supervisor, Irene Laracuenta, reminded those in attendance of their responsibilities, noting "everyone has some other place they want to be."

During a break, Trump made phone calls in a sequestered hallway, guarded by two officers.

"Everyone has a right to their own privacy," Dennis Quirk, president of the New York State Court Officers Association, told reporters.

As the break finished, Trump took a selfie with a lawyer and autographed a court artist's sketch. Going back into the jury room, he waved as someone shouted: "Mr. Trump, save this country, will you?"

Back in the jury room, Trump followed the pattern of fellow potential jurors, crossing his arms across his chest and appearing to doze off for several minutes.

In the afternoon, he spent time talking to reporters about everything from politics to his neckties and his love for Oreo cookies, as well as his respect for the jury system.

"It's a very professional process," Trump said. "Very impressive."

Reuters

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MYANMA OIL AND GAS ENTERPRISE
(INVITATION FOR OPEN TENDER)
(13/2015)

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

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Tender Closing Date & Time - 14-9-2015, 16:30 Hr

Tender Document shall be available during office hours commencing from 17th August, 2015 at the Finance Department, Myanma Oil and Gas Enterprise. No(44) Complex, Nay Pyi Taw, Myanmar.

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2. Tender Closing Date & Time - 15 - 9 - 2015, 12:00 Hrs
3. Tender documents are available at our office starting from 19 - 8 - 2015 during office hours and for further detail please contact: Phone :067-411487.

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Myanma Petroleum Products Enterprise
Ministry of Energy, No(6) Complex, Nay Pyi Taw

NOTICE TO MEMBERS OF CITY GOLF RESORT FOR PAYMENT OF MONTHLY FEES

It is found out that some members (Myanmars/Foreigners) of the City Golf Resort, Yangon City Development Committee, have failed to pay their monthly fees for various reasons. According to paragraph (9) of the rules and regulations of the City Golf Resort, those members (Myanmars/ Foreigners) who fail to pay their monthly fees for a period of one year and over shall cease to be a member of the Resort, and so they are notified to come and clear their outstanding dues by 30-9-2015 at the latest.

General Manager
City Golf Resort

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

MV THAI BINH 688 VOY NO (-)

Consignees of cargo carried on MV THAI BINH 688 VOY NO (-) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 19.8.2015 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of A.I.P.T where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

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U.S. Army troops mobilized to help fight Western wildfires

Smoke rising from the TePee Springs fire in the Payette National Forest is seen in an aerial picture taken by the McCall Smokejumpers near Riggins, Idaho August 17, 2015.—Reuters

Salmon, (Idaho), 18 Aug — The U.S. Army mobilized soldiers on Monday to reinforce civilian firefighters stretched thin by dozens of major wildfires roaring largely unchecked across the West, with more than 100 homes reduced to ruins in several states. The 200 troops deployed from Joint Base Lewis-McChord near Tacoma, Washington, are to be organized into 10 firefighting crews of 20 each, all of whom will be sent to a single fire yet to be determined, according to the National Interagency Fire Center in Boise, Idaho.

Fire managers requested the mobilization — the first of its kind since 2006 — as crews from federal, state and local agencies struggled to contain many of the wildfires that have charred more than 1 million acres (405,000 hectares) of the West amid a heat wave gripping the drought-parched region.

More than 29,000 civilian fire personnel already were deployed throughout the West, most of them on front-line ground crews. Property losses were concentrated in Idaho, Oregon and Washington, with 108 homes confirmed as destroyed among those three states alone since Friday, authorities said.

Among the areas hardest hit was northern Idaho, where an elderly evacuee was killed and at least 50 homes were leveled by a cluster of fires that have raged along the Clearwater River in and around the Nez Perce Indian Reservation since last week.

The so-called Clearwater Complex of fires has scorched more than 50,000 acres (20,000 hectares) of timber and brush and prompted the evacuation of more than 100 homes from the vicinity of the logging towns of Orofino and Kamiah, authorities said.

The fatality was identified as Cheryl Wissler, 70, who was trying to secure her backyard chickens before fleeing with her husband when she fell and hit her head, according to Idaho County Sheriff Doug Giddings.

Two nights later, loggers and farmers came to the assistance of volunteer firefighters battling to save property and livestock in Kamiah and surrounding communities.

"I saw guys, just farmers and ranchers who'd come in from other towns to help, running through flames to cut open barbedwire fences and opening barns to let animals out," Undersheriff Jim Gorges said.—*Reuters*

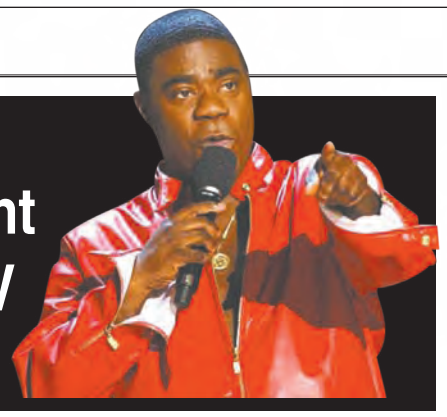
Vietnam's HCM City to establish special economic zone

Ho Chi Minh City, 18 Aug — Viet nam's Ho Chi Minh City is set to create a special economic zone spanning four districts to boost development, local online newspaper Tuoi Tre (Youth) News reported Tuesday.

The proposed special economic zone will be located in the four districts of 7, Can Gio, Binh Chanh and Nha Be to"leverage the potential and advantages for growth of Ho Chi Minh City,"said the municipal People's Committee Chairman Le Hoang Quan.

The zone will help attract investment, boost growth, improve infrastructure, generate jobs and strengthen import-export activities, he noted. Once the proposal to set up the special economic zone is completed, the municipal administration will have to obtain approval for it from the municipal People's Council and Party Committee, before seeking permission from the prime minister.—*Xinhua*

Tracy Morgan to host 'Saturday Night Live' in return to TV after crash



Actor Tracy Morgan speaks during the taping of the Spike TV special tribute ''Eddie Murphy: One Night Only'' at the Saban theatre in Beverly Hills, California in this November 3, 2012 file photo.—Reuters

New York, 18 Aug — Comedian Tracy Morgan, who has not performed since suffering serious injuries in a car crash last year, will host an episode of sketch show "Saturday Night Live" this fall, television network NBC said on Monday.

Morgan, 46, a former cast member of "Saturday Night Live", has not performed since the June 2014 highway accident that left him in a coma and another passenger dead.

He will host the show on Oct. 17, NBC said in a statement.

Morgan, who also starred in comedy series "30 Rock," suffered broken bones and a brain injury in last year's crash. In a television interview two months ago he was seen wiping away tears and holding a black cane, saying he needed more time to heal. Morgan's friend and comedian James "Jimmy Mack" McNair was killed and nine other people were injured in the incident along a New Jersey highway. The National Transportation Safety Board last week held a speeding Wal-Mart truck driver who had been awake for 28 hours responsible for the accident.

The NTSB also said that Morgan and other passengers were not wearing seat belts, which exacerbated their injuries.

NBC also announced on Monday that comedian Amy Schumer, star and writer of the summer movie "Trainwreck," will host "Saturday Night Live" for her first time on Oct.10. The comedy franchise will return for its 41st season on Oct.3 with pop star Miley Cyrus making her third appearance as host.—*Reuters*

U.S. actor Emile Hirsch

gets 15 days in jail for festival assault

Salt Lake City, 18 Aug — Actor Emile Hirsch will serve 15 days in jail after the "Into the Wild" star pleaded guilty on Monday to a misdemeanor assault charge for putting a female movie executive in a headlock during a film festival, a court official said on Monday.

Hirsch, 30, had initially faced a felony count of aggravated assault related to the Jan. 25 attack on Daniele Bernfeld, which took place at the Tao nightclub in Park City, Utah, during the Sundance Film Festival.

The actor could have faced up to five years in prison on that charge. But under a plea deal with prosecutors, he appeared in court on Monday and pleaded guilty to the reduced misdemeanor count.

Hirsch was taken to the Summit County Jail to begin serving his sentence, said Nancy Volmer, spokeswoman for the Utah State Courts. He must also pay a $4,750 fine and perform 50 hours of community service, she said.

He must not use alcohol or illegal drugs, Volmer added, and could serve a full year in jail if he violates the plea deal.

Hirsch apologized to Bernfeld for what he had done, and restitution will be determined later, Volmer said.—*Reuters*

Emile Hirsch poses for a portrait ahead of the release of his film "The Motel Life" in New York, in this file photo from November 5, 2013. —Reuters

'Future' came less than two weeks before Justin Bieber releases his highly-anticipated new single "What Do You Mean".—PTI

Justin Bieber

reunites with Khalil for new track

Los Angeles, 18 Aug — Pop star Justin Bieber and his friend Khalil have collaborated with rising singer/songwriter Kehlani for a new single "Future". The track, arriving online over the weekend, was produced by Rex Kudo and Charlie Handsome, reported Aceshowbiz.

The jam starts with a brief intro from Khalil before Bieber and Kehlani take the spotlight as they ask themselves what is wrong with their respective relationship while looking forward to better tomorrows. "Future" came less than two weeks before Bieber releases his highly-anticipated new single "What Do You Mean". The track is scheduled to come out on August 28 as a preview of the Canadian singer's third album that Is arriving on November 13.—*PTI*

Chris Evans to star in Marc Webb's 'Gifted'

Los Angeles, 18 Aug — Actor Chris Evans is on board for director Marc Webb's next venture, "Gifted".

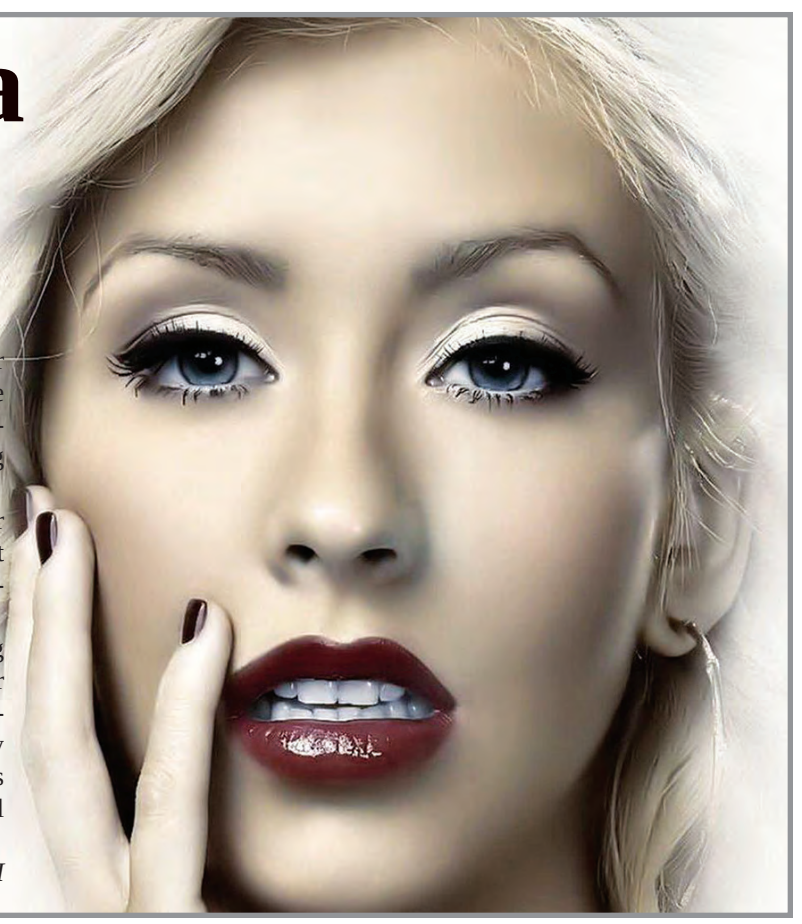
The 34-year-old "Captain America" star will portray a man, who tries to raise the bright young daughter of his dead sister but battles over the child's custody.

The Fox Searchlight project is penned by "Highboys and Lowboys" writer Tom Flynn.

Webb last big screen outing was 2014's "The Amazing Spider-Man 2".—*PTI*

Christina Aguilera

dedicates song to fiance



Los Angeles, 18 Aug — Singer Christina Aguilera paid a special tribute to her fiance Matthew Rutler by dedicating a song to him during a fundraising concert.

The 34-year-old "Dirrty" hitmaker hit the stage in the Hamptons event at The Creeks, the estate of billionaire philanthropist Ron Perelman.

She performed tracks including "Lady Marmalade" and "Ain't No Other Man" for guests including Jack Nicholson, Mary-Kate Olsen, comedian Jimmy Fallon, US presidential candidate Chris Christie and New York City Mayor Bill de Blasio, reported People magazine.

PTI

Rupert Friend shot himself during filming of 'Hitman'

New York, 18 Aug — Actor Rupert Friend shot himself in head with a blank while filming "Hitman: Agent 47."

The 33-year-old actor accidentally fired a blank which bounced up off the floor and hit him while working on the action movie, reported the New York Post.

"I shot myself in the head. You fire blanks, but the guns eject real brass, hot cartridges. They're like 400 degrees… The cartridge ejected, hit the ground, bounced up and cut my head open," Friend said. The "Homeland" actor was left "amazed" as he did not need any stitches on the wound and the take ended up in the final draft of the movie. "It was fine in the end, which I'm amazed about, because I've had head wounds before and they bleed like all hell."—*PTI*

Messi, an unpleasant decade in Argentinean national team

BUENOS AIRES, 18 Aug — Lionel Messi's start in the national Argentinean team lasted less than two minutes as he was sent off, shortly after coming on as a substitute against Hungary in August 2005. Since then, however, the last 10 years have been more unpleasant than festive for Messi where the national team is concerned.

It was a hot night in Budapest's Ferenc Puskas when then trainer, Jose Pekerman, sent on Messi to replace Lisandro Lopez. However, a clash with Hungarian defender Vilmoz Vanczcak saw referee Markus Mark show Messi the red card, spoiling the future prodigy's debut.

Ten years on, Messi has not been able to replicate the success of a career in the country's youth teams, where he won the U-20 World Cup in Spain in 2005 and the Beijing 2008 Olympic Games, with the U-23 squad. His first appearance outside of friendlies came in a 2006 World Cup qualifier against Paraguay, and featured throughout the qualifiers. In Germany, he appeared in three matches and scored one goal. However, he was enraged when Pekerman failed to play him during the quarter-final against Germany, which Argentina lost on penalties.

Messi truly began to shine for his country under the management of Alfio Basilo, particularly in the 2007 Copa America in Venezuela. He scored two goals during the tournament before Argentina fell to Brazil 3-0 in the final. Growing to become the uncontested leader of the team, Messi entered the 2010 World Cup in South Africa, under the tutelage of legend Diego Maradona. Messi played all five games his country had in the tournament but disappointment reigned again as he scored no goal and the team was eliminated once more against Germany in the quarter-finals, losing 4-0. Maradona soon left his post and another 1986 World Cup winner, Sergio "Checho" Batista took on the reigns. He had won the Beijing Olympics, leading Messi's team of youngsters, and was seen as a strong choice to help the team win the 2011 Copa America on home ground. Again, the Barcelona ace failed to perform, even in front of his countrymen. He scored no goal in four games and the team crashed out on penalties against Uruguay in the quarters.

The nomination of Alejandro Sabella to manage the squad led to a new objective, building a team from the ground up around Messi. This tactic seemed to work in the qualifiers for the 2014 Brazil World Cup, which Argentina sailed through, leading it to be seen as one of the favorites for the tournament. Messi certainly had his best ever international tournament in Germany but the team would ultimately lose 1-0 in extra time against their usual boogeymen, Germany, in the final. The curse would still not be lifted since Messi's Argentina would again lose out on penalties against Chile in the final of the 2015 Copa America. Messi only managed to score a solitary penalty during the tournament.—*Xinhua*

El Nino nearly certain to last until end-2015 — Australian weather

A father with his children walk over the cracked soil of a 1.5 hectare dried up fishery at the Novaleta town in Cavite province, south of Manila May 26, 2015.—REUTERS

SYDNEY, 18 Aug — An El Nino weather pattern has strengthened over the last two weeks, the Australian Bureau of Meteorology (BOM) said on Tuesday, with now only a "small chance" the event will be over by the end of this year.

Tropical Pacific Ocean temperatures are well above El Nino thresholds, the Australian weather bureau said, alongside consistently weakened trade winds.

The BOM said three of five models monitored expect a positive Indian Ocean Dipole in addition to the El Nino.

A positive Indian Ocean Dipole indicates warmer sea surface temperatures in the western Indian Ocean relative to the east.

While an El Nino will typically bring dry conditions to Australia's east coast, when associated with an positive Indian Ocean Dipole, drought-like conditions are seen across more of the country, often with greater intensity - data from the Australian Weather Bureau shows.

The last El Nino and positive Indian Ocean Dipole was recorded in 2006.

Reuters

mitv Myanmar International

(19-8-2015 07:00 am~20-8-2015 07:00 am) MST

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* Myanmar Puppet
* News
* Size Does Matter (Ep-3) Human-Elephant Conflict, "Existing Laws"
* A Worth Studying Site For Ancient Myanmar Heritages
* News
* A Journey To Southern Shan State (Ep-1)
* Today Myanmar: Impacts of Social Media
* News
* Pride of Myanmar - Bagan arts and handicrafts
* Art Students: Theatrical Art
* Local Tour Guide: Pho Khant
* News
* Today Myanmar & ICT "Sectorwise Integration with ICT"
* Art Students: Their Dream
* Parents' Day
* News
* The Legend Of An ambulatory Surgeon (EP- 2)
* Culture Shows: Composer Ma Mya Lay
* News
* Choral Dance (Duel)
* Crab Business (Part-II) Soft Shell Crab
* Amazing: Magician Sak Kaw Ma
* News
* The Mountain with antique stone sculptures & Mural Painting
* Mahar Thakya Atula Man Aung - Nga Htat Kyee

MRTV Entertainment Channel

(19-8-2015, Wednesday)

6:00 am
- Mono Classical Songs

6:20 am
- Myanmar Series

6:45 am
- Myanmar Fashion (Dance)

7:00 am
- TV Drama series

7:50 am
- TV Drama series

8:35 am
- Musical Programme

8:40 am
- Catch Asia News

9:00 am
- Pyi Thi Ni Ti

9:20 am
- (60th) Myanmar Japan Symphony Orchestra-2014

9:45 am
- Myanmar Movie (Back & White)

12:00 noon
- Close Down

THE GLOBAL NEW LIGHT OF MYANMAR

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Wednesday, 19 August, 2015

Bilbao hold off Barca to claim Spanish Super Cup

Athletic Bilbao's players celebrate with the cup after their Spanish Super Cup second leg soccer match against Barcelona at Camp Nou stadium in Barcelona, Spain, on Aug. 17, 2015. The match ended with a 1-1 draw and Athletic Bilbao won 5-1 on aggregate.—XINHUA

BARCELONA, 18 Aug — Athletic Bilbao claimed their first silverware in more than three decades when they wrapped up a 5-1 aggregate win over 10-man Barcelona to win the Spanish Super Cup on Monday and unleash ecstatic celebrations in the Basque city.

Bilbao, who only field players of Basque origin, last secured a major trophy when they won Spain's traditional season opener in 1984 and Friday's 4-0 drubbing of the Spanish and European champions in the first leg at the San Mames left Barca with too much to do at the Nou Camp.

After waves of sustained pressure, Lionel Messi gave the home side a 1-0 second-leg lead shortly before halftime when he chested down a clever Luis Suarez layoff and clipped a close-range volley into the net. Barca's hopes suffered a blow 10 minutes into the second half when centre back Gerard Pique was shown a straight red card after he strode angrily over to the side of the pitch and shouted in the referee's assistant's face to protest a decision. The incident seemed to give Barca renewed energy and Pedro and Ivan Rakitic immediately had chances to make it 2-0 before Suarez fired wildly over when through on the left.

However, the home defence left a gaping hole at the back 16 minutes from time and Aritz Aduriz, who netted a hat-trick in the first leg, was able to score at the second attempt past Claudio Bravo sending the travelling fans inside the giant arena into raptures.

Not even a late red card for substitute Kike Sola could tarnish Bilbao's joy as they ended Barca's hopes of repeating their 2009 feat when they won all six competitions they contested: the Champions League, La Liga, the King's Cup, the European Super Cup, the Spanish Super Cup and the Club World Cup.

"If you wrote the script it's impossible it would turn out like this," an emotional Aduriz said in an interview with Spanish television.

"For us, for what it means to win a title for Bilbao, it's the greatest thing that could happen and against Barca as well," he added.

"We have to compete against the rest of the world and it's an incredible thing."

Barca need to recover quickly for Sunday's trip to face Bilbao again in their opening La Liga match of the campaign, when they begin their bid for a sixth title in eight years.—*Reuters*

Myanmar, New Zealand to meet in fundraising football match

YANGON, 18 Aug—The Myanmar national team will play a friendly against New Zealand in Yangon on 7 September, the Myanmar Football Federation has announced.

MFF President U Zaw Zaw met the deputy chief of mission from the New Zealand embassy Monday at the Youth Training Centre in Yangon, where they arranged to provide proceeds from the match to flood victims.

They also discussed holding a tune-up match of former selected footballers, artists, U-20 and U-23 players before the friendly.

The New Zealand team will arrive in Yangon on 31 August.

The Myanmar national team, including players from the U-20 and U-23 sides, is scheduled to play a tune-up match against the United Arab Emirates later this month ahead of the New Zealand friendly.—*MFF*

Tennis federation seeks next generation of talent

By *Ko Moe*

YANGON, 18 Aug — The Myanmar Tennis Federation will recruit 170 talented young players each from 60 townships across the country, an MTF official said Monday.

The recruitment process has already begun, U Toe Min Kyaw of the federation told The Global New Light of Myanmar.

"We hope to nurture around 10,000 tennis players from 60 targeted townships in Myanmar," U Toe Min Kyaw said.

Playing tennis in other Southeast Asian countries begins at the age of 5, whereas most players in Myanmar first pick up a racquet at 8, he added.

According to the official, towns with tennis clubs and courts have been registered as part of the recruitment programme. —*GNLM*

Monfils defeat marred by 'tanking' accusations

CINCINNATI, 18 Aug — Gael Monfils was accused of "tanking" during his first-round defeat at the Western and Southern Open in Cincinnati on Monday when the 14th-seeded Frenchman lost to Poland's Jerry Janowicz 6-4, 7-5 in 75 minutes on Monday.

Monfils served so quickly in the second set that ball boys barely had time to get into position after each point before play resumed.

At one stage, television commentators joked that they thought Monfils was in such a hurry because he had a tee time booked to play golf.

During one rally, he turned his back on his opponent briefly, prompting disbelief in the commentary box.

"To not give 100 percent and be so blatant about it, I think it's disrespectful," two-time U.S. Open champion Tracy Austin said on the Tennis Channel.

"It looked like exhibition tennis. We've seen that way too many times with him. "With Gael, it's so difficult to watch because you know his upside ceiling could be so big but he just goes away and doesn't even try."

Despite his apparent indifference, Monfils actually had a set point in the second before succumbing to the big-serving Pole.

Monfils' 10th-seeded compatriot Gilles Simon was also sent packing after losing 6-4, 6-7(3), 6-3 to Croatia's Ivo Karlovic, who blasted 35 aces and outlasted the Frenchman in a long match that was extended by a rain delay.

In later action, Thanasi Kokkinakis won a three-set battle against Fabio Fognini 4-6, 6-2, 6-3 as his tennis did the talking after his name made controversial headlines last week.

Aug 10, 2015; Montreal, Quebec, Canada; Gael Monfils of France hits the ball against Fabio Fognini of Italy (not pictured) during the Rogers Cup tennis tournament at Uniprix Stadium. — REUTERS

Fellow Australian Nick Kyrgios taunted opponent Stan Wawrinka in a Rogers Cup match in Montreal that Kokkinakis had slept with the Swiss player's girlfriend, drawing a fine and the ire of the tennis world.

Kokkinakis, who himself had a verbal spat with American Ryan Harrison in qualifying for this event, was critical of his compatriot's comment.

Other winners on Monday included 13th seed David Goffin along with Americans Mardy Fish and Jack Sock.

World number one Novak Djokovic, who had a first round bye, will face Frenchmen Benoit Paire in the second round while Fish takes on Rogers Cup champion Andy Murray.

Roger Federer and Rafa Nadal also received first round byes.

Reuters

Honda strikes, assists in Milan's Italian Cup win

MILAN, 18 Aug — Keisuke Honda scored and set up another in AC Milan's 2-0 win over second-tier Perugia in the third round of the Italian Cup on Monday.

Honda, who started in the hole and was replaced midway through the second half, struck in the 10th minute before creating Luiz Adriano's first goal for the club after 28 minutes. Milan are away to Fiorentina in their Serie A opener on Aug. 24.

"He played well today," manager Sinisa Mihailovic said of Honda. "I'm pleased with his performance."—*Kyodo News*

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