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UEC announces preliminary candidate lists

By Ye Myint

YANGON, 20 Aug — The country's two main political parties — the ruling Union Solidarity and Development Party and the opposition National League for Democracy — will each field more than 1,000 candidates in the 8 November general election.

According to preliminary candidate lists announced this week by the Union Election Commission, 93 political parties have nominated a total of 5,866 candidates. The ruling party accounts for 1,134 and the opposition 1,151, topping the candidate list.

The NLD did not take part in the previous general election won by the USDP in 2010.

Of the ruling party candidates, 318 will seek seats in the Pyithu Hluttaw (Lower House), 165 in the Amyotha Hluttaw (Upper House) and 651 for region and state hluttaws.

NLD candidates will contest 325 seats of the Pyithu Hluttaw, 167 in the Amyotha Hluttaw and 659 for region and state hluttaws.

The National Union Party will field the third-highest number of candidates with 763 — 208 for the Pyithu Hluttaw, 98 for the Amyotha Hluttaw and 457 for region and state hluttaws.

The NUP fielded more than 900 candidates in the previous election but won only 17 seats.

Including 323 independents, the total number of candidates who have registered for the election stands at 6,189.

According to a UEC announcement last month, 330 constituencies will be contested in the Pyithu Hluttaw, 168 in the Amyotha Hluttaw, 644 for region and state Hluttaws and 29 for national race representatives.

The UEC is currently scrutinizing the nomination of candidates from the political parties, and a list of candidates who have passed the scrutiny process is expected to be announced late 27 August.—GNLM



Myanmar to hand over 126 more verified Bangladesh nationals to country of origin

NAY PYI TAW, 20 Aug—Myanmar and Bangladesh have been closely cooperating in repatriation process of the boat people rescued by Myanmar in May 2015. A total of 501 Bangladesh nationals were handed over in four batches to the Bangladesh side.

As a result of coordination between the two side, additional 126 verified Bangladesh nationals out of the remaining 228 persons who are temporarily sheltered at Taung Pyo (Let We) are planned to be handed over to the Bangladesh side on 25 August 2015, according to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs.—MNA

Irrawaddy dolphin spotted outside normal habitat range

YANGON, 20 Aug—Fishermen and boat operators have reported sightings of a rare Irrawaddy dolphin at the Sar Phyu Gyi Confluence of the Ayeyawady Delta, in an area where the aquatic mammals are not normally found.

"I have been seeing him for a year," fisherman U Myo Gyi said. "His body and beak is not the same as others."

Boat transportation line owner U Kyaw Naing said he had seen the dolphin while en route to Yangon.

"During pleasant weather, there are more chances to see him," U Kyaw Naing said. "It would be safer for him if the authorities took care of him."

General Secretary of the Myanmar Fisheries Federation U Win Kyaing said it was unusual for an Irrawaddy dolphin to be seen in the area.

(See page 2)

North and South Korea exchange artillery fire

SEOUL, 20 Aug — South Korea fired tens of artillery rounds towards North Korea on Thursday after the North launched shells to protest South Korea's anti-Pyongyang propaganda broadcasts along the border, as tension escalated on the peninsula.

North Korea did not return fire but later warned Seoul in a letter that it would take military action if the South did not stop the loudspeaker broadcasts within 48 hours, the South's defence ministry said.

In a separate letter, Pyongyang said it was willing to offer an opening to resolve the conflict even though it considers the broadcasts a declaration of war, South Korea's Unification Ministry said.

A South Korean military official said the broadcasts, which began on Aug. 10, would continue.

South Korea said the North fired a 14.5 mm anti-aircraft shell at 3:52 p.m. (0652 GMT), then fired multiple shells from a 76.2 mm direct fire weapon at 4:15 p.m. No damage or injuries were reported in the South.

South Korean President Park Geun-hye told top defence officials to "react firmly" to North Korean provocations, a spokesman quoted her as saying.

South Korea's military, which said it fired 155 mm artillery rounds in response, raised its alert status to the highest level.

"Our military has stepped up mon-

itoring and is closely watching North Korean military movements," South Korea's defence ministry said.

There was no mention of the firing in isolated North Korea's state media, which does not typically make immediate comment on events.

The first North Korean shell landed in an area about 60 km (35 miles) north of Seoul in the western part of the border zone, the defence ministry said. Nearly 800 South Korean residents living close to the border were ordered to evacuate and stay in shelters, according to officials from Gyeonggi province and the city of Incheon.

The exchange of fire was the first between the two Koreas since last October.—Reuters



South Korea's President Park Geun-hye (C) presides over a special National Security Council meeting at the Presidential Blue House in Seoul, South Korea, in this handout picture provided by the Presidential Blue House and released by News1 on August 20, 2015.—REUTERS

Pyidaungsu Hluttaw

NAY PYI TAW, 20 Aug— The Pyidaungsu Hluttaw on Thursday decided to suspend discussion on the recall bill, with members of parliament voting 264 in favour and 235 against the bill.

Defence services representative Brig-Gen Tint Hsan called for rapid enactment of the bill, saying the Constitution provided all citizens with the right to recall their representatives considered as dishonest.

He also stressed that legislative bodies were responsible for protecting the fundamental rights of the citizens.

U Aung Kyi Nyunt of the Magway Region constituency suggested a broader discussion of the differences between the Amyotha Hluttaw and the

Pyithu Hluttaw in line with the remarks proposed by the Joint Bill Committee, warning that prompt approval of the bill would affect national reconciliation.

U Nay Win Tun of the Shan State constituency and Daw Khin San Hlaing of Pale constituency argued in favour of further discussion.

During the session, the parliament put on record the monogamy bill and the religious conversion bill, with Deputy Minister Daw Lei Lei Thein expounding the possibility of Myanmar signing the third protocol to amend the Agreement on Trade in Goods under the Framework Agreement on Comprehensive Economic Cooperation between ASEAN and South Korea.

MNA

Pyidaungsu Hluttaw suspends discussion on recall bill



Pyidaungsu Hluttaw representatives discuss recall bill.—MNA

MP criticizes suspension of recall bill

NAY PYI TAW, 20 Aug— A well-known member of parliament at the Pyidaungsu Hluttaw on Thursday criticized the decision to suspend the recall bill, complaining that the parliament is heavy with self-seekers.

In an interview, MP U Hla Swe said that voters do have the right to recall the representatives who fail to bring about development in their region.

“That law is essential for the electorates to punish their representatives,” he

said, adding that it is awful that the suspended bill will not be able to bring back silent parliamentarians.

The motion to enact the bill to recall members of parliament was defeated by 264 votes to 235.

MNA

Money Expo 2015 commences at Tatmadaw Convention Hall

YANGON, 20 Aug— With the aim of helpful for Myanmar economic development, Myanmar Promotional Services Co., Ltd. organized the Money Expo 2015 at Tatmadaw Convention Hall on U Wisara Road, Thursday. U Myint Swe,

Chief Minister of Yangon Region and party visited the shows.

A total of 30 local companies from financial sectors showcased service documents and machinery on banking insurance, stock exchange, credit card,

debit card, point of sale, automated teller machine, tele-banking, M-banking, e-Banking, digital banking, banking software, securities at 130 showrooms.

The expo will run up to 23 August.

MNA

Spouses of ASEAN Navy Chiefs observe maternal, child development activities

NAY PYI TAW, 20 Aug—The spouses of

ASEAN Navy Chiefs and party on Thursday visited

Myanmar Maternal and Child Welfare Association's office here to observe the programmes run by the association.



During their visit, Secretary of MMCWA Daw Tin Tin Win clarified the functions and duties of the association as well as its wide range of development programmes for maternal and child.

They also visited a clinic established by the association to improve maternal and child health care.

MNA

Officials of MMCWA meet with spouses of ASEAN Navy Chiefs.—MNA

Pyithu Hluttaw

No extension of pension scheme planned: Ministry of Finance

NAY PYI TAW, 20 Aug — The government has no plans to extend the pension payment scheme for civil servants who retired as of 1 April 2015 to those who retired before the date, Deputy Minister for Finance Dr Lin Aung told the Pyithu Hluttaw on Thursday.

The deputy minister made the statement in response to a question raised by Dr Soe Yin of Kamayut Constituency during the 12th regular session of the Lower House.

Pyithu Hluttaw Speaker Thura U Shwe Mann announced that the Hluttaw received the bill amending the Law Relating to the Election of the President and Vice Presidents and the bill amending the 2012 Pyithu

Hluttaw Law sent back from the Amyotha Hluttaw.

Deputy Minister for Construction U Soe Tint submitted bills amending the Road Law and Highway Law.

MNA

Workshop teaches techniques for counselling flood victims

YANGON, 20 Aug— The Myanmar Psychology Association opened a workshop Thursday for local social organizations and charity workers supporting flood victims.

The psychosocial support training workshop will run for two days, and will be one of six such workshops conducted by

the MPA.

Led by Prof Dr Nilar Kyu, 30 teachers and students from the psychology department of Yangon University and two teachers from Magway will conduct field visits in Sedoktara and Pwintbyu Townships from August 23 to 29.

MNA

Irrawaddy dolphin spotted outside normal habitat range

(from page 1)

“The Irrawaddy dolphin can be seen upper in parts of Myanmar such as Tagaung and Katha,” he said.

“It is not normal to see him there. We need to take care of him and promote local awareness for dolphins.”

According to records, there were only 60 Irrawaddy dolphins left in Myanmar in 2014.

A 72-kilometre stretch of the Ayeyawady River from Mingun in Sagaing region to Kyaukmyaung is a designated dolphin protection area.

Thiha Thu

Vice president encourages int'l educational ties

NAY PYI TAW, 20 Aug—Vice President Dr Sai Mauk Kham addressed students and faculty Thursday at Kalay University, Sagaing Region, where he encouraged the building of ties with foreign universities in order to keep up with global education trends.

While in Kalay, he visited the Nursing and Midwifery Training School.

In the afternoon, the vice president met with departmental officials and local residents at the hall of Pwintbyu Township General Administration Department where officials reported on progress of relief and rehabilitation tasks in Pwintbyu and Sedoktara townships.

The vice president said the Union government and Magway region government will coordinate assistance for flood victims.

Dr Sai Mauk Kham and party then visited Pwintbyu Basic Education High School and People's Hospital.—MNA



Vice President Dr Sai Mauk Kham poses for documentary photo with faculty members and students at Kalay University.—MNA

U Myint Naung concurrently accredited as Ambassador to Romania

NAY PYI TAW, 21 Aug—The President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar has appointed U Myint Naung, Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar to the Italian Republic, concurrently as Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar to Romania.—MNA



CBM staff, foreign banks donate cash, rice for flood victims

NAY PYI TAW, 20 Aug — Service personnel of the Central Bank of Myanmar along with foreign bank officials donated cash and rice for flood victims here on Thursday.

CBM Governor U Kyaw Kyaw Maung handed over the donations to Vice President U Nyan Tun.

CBM deputy governors U Set Aung, Daw Khin Saw Oo and U Soe Min also handed over \$100,000 donated by Siam Commercial Bank, \$30,000 by United Oversea Bank, \$10,000 by SMBC, \$10,000 by Kookmin Bank and \$2,550 by ANZ Bank to Union Minister for Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement Dr Daw Myat Myat Ohn Khin.

Vice President U Nyan Tun accepts K7 million for flood victims by personnel of Central Bank of Myanmar.—MNA

The vice president, who serves as Chairman of the National Natural Disaster Management Committee, expressed thanks for the donations on behalf of the people.

Thursday's donations by 23 foreign bank branches for flood victims amounted to \$348,850 and K42 million, including K7 million and 50 bags of rice from CBM personnel.

The vice president received Chairman of the Board of ANA Holding Inc of Japan, Mr Shinichiro Ito, at the Credential Halls of the Presidential Palace in the morning.

They exchanged views on cooperation in development of aviation between Myanmar and Japan, and training for development of human resources in aviation services, and investment in infrastructure development including aviation sector. Also present at the meeting were deputy ministers U Thant Kyaw and U Zin Yaw.—MNA

Senior General meets ASEAN naval chiefs ahead of 9th ANCM

NAY PYI TAW, 20 Aug — Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Senior General Min Aung Hlaing on Thursday received a call by regional naval commanders ahead of a meeting to be hosted by Myanmar.

The country will host the 9th ASEAN Naval Chief Meeting under the theme "Fostering ASEAN Naval Teamwork in Regional Maritime Security."

Senior General Min Aung Hlaing told the ASEAN naval chiefs that the consolidation among ASE-

AN countries has become the envy of the international community.

He pointed out the importance of coordinated efforts in maritime security, referring to the Strait of Malacca between the Malay Peninsula and the Indonesian island of Sumatra.

At 10 a.m., Chinese Ambassador to Myanmar Mr Hong Liang paid a courtesy call on Senior General Min Aung Hlaing. They discussed further cementing the relationships between the two governments and the two armed forces and pledged to inten-

sify bilateral anti-drug control and cooperation in education, health, culture and sports. Myanmar and China have held diplomatic relations for 65 years.

At 11.30 a.m., the commander-in-chief gave Radio Free Asia (RFA) an interview about the role of the defence services in the country's peace process, explaining how the army is modernizing, as well as its role in national politics and prevention of terrorism.

Myawady

Vice-Senior General Soe Win and party arrive in Tokyo

NAY PYI TAW, 20 Aug — Deputy Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Commander-in-Chief (Army) Vice-Senior General Soe Win and party left Lao People's Democratic Republic for Japan via Suvarnabhumi International Airport in Thailand Wednesday.

They arrived at Narita International Airport in Tokyo where they were welcomed by Major General Harada of the Japan Self-Defence Forces and wife, Myanmar Ambassador U Win Aung and wife, Military Attaché Brig-Gen Win Ko Ko and officials.

The vice-senior general and party proceeded to New Otani Hotel in Tokyo Thursday.—Myawady

UN hands over original map to Cambodia for border line verification

PHNOM PENH, 20 Aug —The United Nations delivered an original map to Cambodia on Thursday after Prime Minister Hun Sen requested it last month to verify the authenticity of the map his government is using to demarcate border line with Vietnam.

Mereani Keleti Vakasisikakala, acting president of the UN's Dag Hammarskjöld Library, handed over the map to Cambodian Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Hor Namhong at a ceremony here.

Hun Sen borrowed the map from the UN to verify with the map his government is using to demarcate border line with Vietnam after lawmakers of opposition Cambodia National Rescue Party (CNRP) have accused the government of using a wrong map to demarcate border line with Vietnam.

Hor Namhong said the map verification was to clear all doubts and to show the public that the map the government is using is authentic.

After the handover ceremony, the map from the UN and the government's map had been verified whether they were identical or different.

"We all have seen that all the maps are exactly the same," Hor Namhong announced after a two-hour map verification, "This clearly shows that the government's map is authentic."

Opposition CNRP's spokesman Ou Chanrith, who attended the ceremony, told reporters after the event that it was too



Mereani Keleti Vakasisikakala (L), acting president of the United Nations Dag Hammarskjöld Library, hands over a map to Cambodian Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Hor Namhong (R) in Phnom Penh, Cambodia, Aug. 20, 2015. The UN delivered an original map to Cambodia on Thursday after Prime Minister Hun Sen requested it last month to verify the authenticity of the map his government is using to demarcate border line with Vietnam. —XINHUA

early for the party to conclude if the map from the UN and the government's map are identical or different.

Border issue between Cambodia and Vietnam has become a sensitive topic in Cambodia in the last few months after CNRP's lawmakers have accused the Phnom Penh government of using a wrong map to demarcate border line with Vietnam and

led their supporters to inspect disputed border areas. Some trips ended up with violent clashes between civilians of the two countries.

Cambodia shares a 1,270 km border in the east with Vietnam. To date, about 83 percent of the border demarcation between the two neighbors has been completed.

Xinhua

New Zealand aiming for ASEAN-wide open skies agreement

WELLINGTON, 20 Aug — The New Zealand government on Thursday welcomed an open skies air services agreement with Cambodia as another step to an aviation accord with the 10 countries of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN).

Transport Minister Simon Bridges said the agreement with Cambodia would provide improved air links between the two countries. "ASEAN is one of our most important regional partners. Good air links with other member countries help improve New Zealand's connectivity with the region and boost visitor arrivals," Bridges said in a statement. "A significant number of people from ASEAN countries live in New Zealand, including many international students, and they are also beneficiaries of improved air links," he said.

New Zealand now had air services agreements with eight of the 10 members of ASEAN and was working on agreements with the remaining two: Laos and Myanmar.

"We are also looking at the possibility of a comprehensive air services agreement with ASEAN as a whole," said Bridges.

In the year ended June this year, New Zealand had received 48,500 visitors from ASEAN countries, a 57-percent increase on the same period in 2010. Air New Zealand's code-share services to Cambodia were expected to further increase the numbers, said Bridges.—Xinhua

International terrorists 'unlikely' responsible for Thai bomb

BANGKOK, 20 Aug — International terrorists were not suspected of a bomb attack in Bangkok this week that killed 20 people and China was not the target, Thai authorities said on Thursday, as police said they believed at least 10 plotters were involved.

There has been no claim of responsibility for the Monday evening attack on a

famous shrine crowded with tourists, which the government has said was designed to wreck the economy. Authorities have not blamed any group for carrying out Thailand's worst bombing.

"Security agencies have cooperated with agencies from allied countries and have come to the preliminary conclusion that the incident is unlikely to be linked to

international terrorism," said Colonel Winthai Suvaree, a spokesman for the country's ruling junta, known as the National Council for Peace and Order.

The Erawan shrine is particularly popular with tourists from China and other East Asian countries, and 11 foreigners were among the dead, including six from mainland China and Hong Kong, but

Winthai said Chinese tourists were not believed to have been the target.

He did not elaborate or say who might have been responsible.

China is an important ally and trade partner for Thailand and the biggest source of foreign tourists.

Police said on Wednesday a young man who was caught on grainy security camera footage planting the backpack bomb was believed to be European or Middle Eastern.

The apparent elimination of foreign militant involvement will feed speculation that either Muslim separatists waging a low-intensity insurgency in southern Thailand, or domestic political activists, were involved.

Police said at least 10 people were suspected of involvement in the attack and they appealed to Interpol for help in finding the man caught in the video footage.

National police chief Somyot Pumpuang said the investigation showed the attack was planned at least a month in advance and a "big network" was involved.

"This includes those who looked out on the streets, prepared the bomb and those at the site and ... those who knew the escape route. I believe there must have been at least 10 people involved," Somyot told reporters.

He did not say who he believed the plotters were or elaborate on the investigation.

Reuters



A police officer on patrol speaks with tourist at a bar in central Bangkok, Thailand, August 19, 2015. —REUTERS

Sirisena's party offers to form coalition government in Sri Lanka

COLOMBO, 20 Aug — The Sri Lanka Freedom Party (SLFP) offered on Thursday to form a coalition government with this week's winner of parliamentary elections, in a move that will pave the way for President Maithripala Sirisena to restart his stalled reform agenda.

Sirisena had called the elections early after loyalists of former President Mahinda Rajapaksa, also from the SLFP, had blocked some of his reforms to make government more accountable and simplify Sri Lanka's complex election rules.

Rajapaksa, still revered by many for ending a 26-year Tamil insurgency in 2009, headed the SLFP-led opposition alliance in Monday's election.

But days before the elections, Sirisena purged Rajapaksa's allies from the SLFP, consolidating his power in the party.

Prime Minister Ranil Wickremesinghe's United National Party (UNP) won the most seats



Ranil Wickremesinghe (R), leader of Sri Lanka's United National Party (UNP), waves next to his wife Maitree Wickremesinghe at the Prime Minister's official residence in Colombo August 19, 2015.— REUTERS

in parliamentary elections, but fell seven seats short of an outright majority.

SLFP's acting secretary, Duminda Dissanayake, said the party had decided to form a gov-

ernment with the UNP for at least two years.

It has appointed a five-member committee to work on forming a national unity government with UNP, he said.—Reuters

Cyanide in waters near China blast site 277 times acceptable level — government report



A pool of unknown liquid is seen as smoke rises from damaged shipping containers at the site of Wednesday night's explosions in the Binhai new district of Tianjin, August 15, 2015. REUTERS

SHANGHAI, 20 Aug — Chinese authorities warned that cyanide levels in the waters around the Tianjin Port explosion site had risen to as much as 277 times acceptable levels although they declared that the city's drinking water was safe.

The local government also said it would relocate chemical plants away from the area, where thousands of nearby residents were forced to evacuate after toxic chemicals were detected in the air due to the explosions last week, which killed 114 people.

A report from the Tianjin Environmental Protection Bureau issued on Wednesday said that tests conducted the day

before showed that cyanide levels in the river, sea and waste water in the evacuated area surrounding the explosion site had risen sharply since the deadly blasts. One testing site at the mouth of a rain water pipe recorded cyanide levels 277 times above acceptable standards.

Drinking water in Tianjin, however, met national standards, according to a separate statement from health authorities on Tuesday.

The government has confirmed there were about 700 tonnes of the deadly chemical sodium cyanide in the warehouse that blew up late last Wednesday.

Tianjin, the world's

10th-busiest port, will relocate chemical plants from the Tianjin Binhai New Area where the blasts occurred to the Nangang Industrial Zone, 25 km (15.5 miles) away, according to the official China Daily, citing Tianjin Mayor Huang Xingguo.

The Communist party's anti-graft watchdog promised to crack down both on corruption and on those responsible for violating laws and regulations which had led to the explosions but stressed the importance of maintaining political stability, according to a statement on the Central Commission for Discipline Inspection website on Thursday.

Reuters

IAEA says access to Iran's Parchin military site meets demands

VIENNA, 20 Aug — The United Nations nuclear watchdog said it is satisfied with access Iran will grant it to the country's Parchin military site, suspected by some states to have in the past hosted atomic bomb-related experiments.

Without International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) confirmation that Iran is keeping promises enshrined in a landmark nuclear deal reached with world powers on July 14, the country will not be granted much-needed relief from sanctions.

According to data given to the IAEA by some member states, Parchin might have housed hydrodynamic experiments to assess how specific materials react under high pressure, such as in a nuclear blast.

Asked if Iran would be allowed to conduct inspections itself to address concerns about Parchin, the IAEA said it was legally bound to keep its arrangements with Tehran confidential.

"The separate arrangements of the roadmap are consistent with the IAEA verification practice and they meet the IAEA requirements," Serge Gas, a spokesman for the agency, said in a statement.

Under a roadmap agreement Iran reached alongside the political deal, Iran is required to give the IAEA enough information about its past nuclear pro-



The flag of the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) flies in front of its headquarters in Vienna, Austria, May 28, 2015.— REUTERS

gramme to allow the watchdog to write a report on the issue by year-end.

For months, Iran had been stalling an IAEA investigation into the possible military aspects of its past nuclear activities, relating mostly to the period before 2003, saying the agency's data for its investigation was fabricated.

Iran says its nuclear programme has no military dimensions.

The IAEA says it repeatedly asked for access to Parchin.

Republican U.S. Senator Lindsey Graham, who chairs a committee overseeing his country's financial contribution to the IAEA, has said he would push to stop such money if the agency does not publish its arrangements with Iran.

Reuters

All bodies from crashed Indonesian plane transferred to operation center

SENTANI, (Indonesia), 20 Aug — The operation center for searching and evacuating victims of the crashed ATR 42 Trigana plane said Thursday that all the bodies of those aboard the ill-fated plane had been recovered.

A total of 50 bodies arrived in the operation center in the morning, transported by two ATR 42 Trigana planes and one Mi-17 helicopter, it said.

Ambulances have been arranged for transferring the bodies to Bhayangkara hospital for further identification.

The Indonesian search team managed to locate and found passengers, crews and one black box of the plane two days after the plane was reported to have lost contact during its flight from Sentani to Oksibil in the mountainous area of Papua Sunday afternoon.

The Cockpit Voice Recorder (CVR) found has been handed over to the National Transportation Safety Committee for further investigation. The search for the Flight Data Recorder (FDR) is still underway.

"This (Thursday) morning 20 searchers from the National Search and Rescue Agency went to the crash location to find the FDR," Operation Commander of Sentani Air Forces base Lieutenant Colonel Herry Purwanto told Xinhua in the operation center.

The FDR and CVR, commonly known as black boxes, are essential elements to identify factors that lead to an airplane accident.

The Trigana plane hit the slope of a mountain near its destination town of Oksibil, killing all of those on board.

Xinhua

More racial unrest in St. Louis after police kill black suspect



A woman prays in the street as police advance on Page Ave. to try to disperse a crowd that gathered after a shooting incident in St. Louis, Missouri August 19, 2015.—REUTERS

ST. LOUIS, 20 Aug — St. Louis police fatally shot a black teenager on Wednesday who they say pointed a gun at them, and later faced angry crowds, re-igniting racial tensions first sparked by the killing of an unarmed black teen in another Mis-

souri town a year ago.

St. Louis Police Chief Sam Dotson said the shooting took place when young black men ran out the back door of a house where officers were carrying out a search warrant.

Officers ordered the pair to stop in an alley behind the house. One suspect pointed a gun at officers who then fired four times, killing him, Dotson said.

“Detectives were looking for guns, looking for violent felons, looking for people that have been committing crimes in the neighbourhood,” he said.

Police identified the slain suspect as Mansur Ball-Bey, 18. The second youth fled.

Crowds gathered at a nearby intersection shortly after the shooting and then again in the evening.

Dotson said at a late Wednes-

day press conference some protesters threw bricks and glass bottles at officers, who used shields to protect themselves and then tear gas to disperse the crowd. A car was set on fire and some local businesses had reported robbery attempts, he said.

Nine people were arrested on charges of impeding traffic and resisting arrest, police said.

St. Louis Alderman Antonio French posted on Twitter that a vacant house was burning.

Dotson told reporters Ball-Bey’s gun was one of three stolen firearms recovered from the scene and said officers recovered crack cocaine. St. Louis police said the officers involved in the shooting were white, aged 33 and 29, each with about seven years on the force. They are on administrative leave. A 93-year-old member of the Tuskegee Airmen, a black

aviation unit from World War Two, was robbed and carjacked in the neighbourhood on Sunday. A woman was also killed in the area this week.

The shooting came 10 days after St. Louis was flooded with protesters marking the anniversary of the killing of unarmed black teenager Michael Brown by a white police officer on Aug. 9 last year in Ferguson, not far from St. Louis.

Brown’s death helped spark a nationwide movement against what protesters say is police violence against minorities.

Wednesday’s shooting also came as activists were in the area to mark the anniversary of the police shooting of another black man in St. Louis, Kajieme Powell. Police say officers shot Powell when he approached them with a knife.

Reuters

Brazil Senate passes austerity bill in win for Rousseff

BRASILIA, 20 Aug — Brazil’s Senate approved a bill to roll back payroll tax breaks on Wednesday that is a key measure in President Dilma Rousseff’s efforts to reduce a gaping fiscal deficit and restore confidence in her government’s accounts.

The Senate voted 45-27 to pass the bill. It was received from the lower house with no changes, so it will go to Rousseff to be signed into law without delay.

The vote puts an end to months of heated debate over the final major piece of legislation in Rousseff’s fiscal austerity plan aimed at saving Brazil’s threatened investment grade credit rating.

Though a victory for Rousseff, the bill was watered down in the lower house, where lawmakers voted to maintain tax breaks for several businesses, such as call centres, transport companies and the poultry industry, among others.

These changes to the government’s original bill reduced the generation of new fiscal revenues to 10 billion reais (\$2.8 billion) a year from the planned 13 billion reais.

Rousseff has struggled to pass austerity measures through a rebellious Congress, with the lower house approving bills that raise spending introduced by Speaker Eduardo Cunha, who broke with her coalition and defected to the



Brazil’s President Dilma Rousseff waves during a meeting with governors at Alvorada Palace in Brasilia, July 30, 2015. —REUTERS

opposition last month.

Rousseff, who was narrowly re-elected last year, made a policy U-turn in February and announced she was going to double the social security tax rate on corporate gross revenue, reducing payroll tax breaks for 56 business sectors.

The roll-back is part of her effort to undo fiscal measures that were aimed at stimulating the economy during her first term but which eroded the government’s accounts and raised fears about the country’s financial health.

Other government measures that reduced pension and unemployment benefits have cleared Congress, but they were also diluted by lawmakers, reducing their effect on fiscal savings.

Reuters

France and Britain target traffickers in migrant policing push

CALAIS, (France), 20 Aug — Britain and France announced new measures on Thursday to prevent undocumented migrants entering the Channel Tunnel, while stepping up joint police operations against the people-smugglers who profit from their desperation to reach Britain.

Both countries will contribute police resources to a shared “command and control” centre in the northern French port city of Calais, Britain’s Home Office said in a statement.

The new joint command will “find and disrupt organised criminals who attempt to smuggle migrants into northern France and across the Channel”, it said.

For Britain and France, Calais is the focus of a wider migration crisis fuelled by conflict, persecution and poverty that has sent hundreds of thousands out of Syria, Libya and other Middle Eastern

and African states. Tens of thousands of migrants are arriving in Italy and Greece each week, while Germany expects the number of asylum applications to quadruple to a record 800,000 this year, the government said on Wednesday.

Thousands of migrants are holed up in makeshift encampments in Calais, with many trying each night to jump onto trucks or trains, or even walk the 31-mile (50-km) undersea tunnel to Britain. Some are killed in the attempt.

Led by senior French and British police commanders, the new centre will report to both interior ministers. Home Secretary Theresa May and her French counterpart Bernard Cazeneuve are to outline the plans at a 1015 GMT news conference in Calais.

New measures include increased French police numbers and British-funded fencing, CCTV and other security equipment to protect

the tunnel entrance in Calais, the Home Office said.

Operator Eurotunnel (GETP. PA) will receive unspecified “support” to deploy more security guards at the site, it added.

The growing refugee crisis will also feature in talks between French President Francois Hollande and German Chancellor Angela Merkel on Monday, as southern European states bearing the brunt of the influx press for a concerted EU-wide response.

“This is an absolute human tragedy, with people who are dying and people who are in terrible situations,” French Foreign Minister Laurent Fabius said on Thursday. France wants to set up processing centres for speedier treatment of asylum applications at Europe’s main entry points and use development policy to enlist better cooperation from transit countries, Fabius said.—Reuters



French police patrol as migrants walk on a street near the makeshift camp called ‘The New Jungle’ in Calais, France, August 19, 2015. REUTERS

Saudi-led alliance wins Yemen battles, but peace remains elusive

SANAA / DUBAI, 20 Aug — Emirati tanks heave across southern Yemen's stony wastes and Apache helicopters from a Saudi-led coalition, dubbed "black genies" by local media, rule its skies, helping fighters loyal to the exiled government win the initiative against an Iran-allied militia.

The advanced weapons deployed by Gulf Arab states have powered the local fighters into territory controlled by the Houthis group, reversing the tide in a civil war linked to a regional power struggle between Sunni Muslim states and Iran.

But some Yemenis now fear that the coalition's desire for a knock-out blow on the battlefield may trump chances of a compromise that could piece back together the shattered state and spare the ancient capital Sanaa from a devastating showdown.

"Everyone's afraid that the war will soon arrive," said Mohammed al-Awadi, a storekeeper in the city, chewing narcotic qat leaves, a national pastime and a welcome distraction from the problems which rack the nation.

"People are hoarding food or else fleeing to the countryside and there are Houthi fighters everywhere in the streets."

Yemen's foreign minister in exile has upped the ante, saying the war may soon end with the violent downfall of the Houthis' leader and their ally, ex-president Ali Abdullah Saleh.

"As for the deposed president, I'm sure he'll go through something awful. Either he'll flee to another country or meet



Houthi militants gather in front the offices of the education ministry's workers union, destroyed by Saudi-led air strikes, in Yemen's northwestern city of Amran August 19, 2015.—REUTERS

Gaddafi's fate, killed in a ditch or basement. Abdul Malik al-Houthi, I think he'll flee to Iran or some mountains that will then turn into a combat zone," Riyadh Yaseen told the Saudi newspaper al-Okaz.

Forging an unlikely alliance, Saleh and the Shi'ite Muslim Houthis put aside years of enmity to seize the capital in September and march on the southern city of Aden in March, triggering the Saudi-led intervention and hundreds of air strikes.

The kingdom feared the Houthis' ties to Tehran meant its southern neighbour would fall

under Iranian influence, but the militia denies being beholden to the Islamic republic and says it is trying to save Yemen from jihadists and Western imperialism.

Battle lines barely budged after war erupted on March 26, but Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates bided their time in training and arming the southern fighters loyal to the exiled government who ejected the Houthis from the port last month.

Though advances towards the capital have been made on three fronts, winning the northern home turf of the Shi'ite militia may prove a tougher fight for the

mostly Sunni opposition.

"(There is) a need to ensure that there isn't a reckless military momentum that develops which ignores the obvious dangers of pushing on," a diplomat in the Gulf who focuses on Yemen told Reuters.

"The coalition's military objective of correcting the balance on the ground in such a way that political talks could resume with the government in a position of strength has been achieved. It's therefore important to ... convert the military momentum into political momentum."

Reuters

Turkish jets hit PKK targets on Iraqi border

ANKARA, 20 Aug — Turkish security forces have further intensified their fight against terror after militants of the banned Kurdish Workers' Party (PKK) killed eight soldiers in Siirt province in south-eastern Turkey early Wednesday, local Sabah daily reported.

Turkish F-16 warplanes bombed the PKK camps in the Karacali area in northern Iraq near the Turkish-Iraqi border for one hour, according to the report.

The fighters, which took off from Diyarbakir province in south-eastern Turkey, targeted PKK shelters along the border, the report said.

Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan vowed last Tuesday to continue military operations against the PKK until its disarmament.

"We will persevere in our struggle until they lay down and bury their arms, and until the last terrorist leaves the country," Erdogan said.

Tensions between Turkish security forces and the PKK are increasing after an Islamic State (IS) suicide bombing on July 20 killed 32 people and injured 104 others in the town of Suruc in the Sanliurfa province bordering Syria.

The Turkish authority has said that security forces had detained over 1,300 individuals with suspected ties to the IS, the PKK and leftist groups, while the military unleashed several rounds of air strikes on PKK posts in northern Iraq.—Reuters

U.N. says air strikes on Yemen port could worsen aid crisis

UNITED NATIONS, 20 Aug — United Nations aid chief Stephen O'Brien said on Wednesday that air strikes by Saudi-led coalition airplanes on Yemen's Red Sea port of Hodeida were unacceptable and could worsen the country's humanitarian crisis.

Hodeida, controlled by Iranian-allied Houthi forces, has become a focal point of efforts to resupply the impoverished Arab state, battered by five months of war that has killed over 4,300 people.

"These attacks are in clear contravention of international humanitarian law and are unacceptable," O'Brien said of the Tuesday attacks on the port during a briefing to the 15-member U.N. Security Council.

"I am extremely concerned that the damage to the port of Hodeida could have

a severe impact on the entire country, and would deepen humanitarian needs, making more people food insecure, leaving them without access to water or medicines, which could also mean the spread of disease," he said.

The United Nations has raised Yemen to its highest level humanitarian crisis, placing it alongside emergencies in South Sudan, Syria and Iraq. It has said more than 21 million people in Yemen need help, some 80 percent of the population.

O'Brien told the U.N. Security Council that Saudi Arabia had not yet made good on an April pledge of \$274 million for the world body's aid appeal for Yemen, which he said needs at least \$1.6 billion and is only 18 percent funded.

Reuters

Blast near Cairo state security building wounds 29 — state television



A damaged car is seen at the site of a bomb blast at a national security building in Shubra Al-Khaima on the outskirts of Cairo, Egypt August 20, 2015.—REUTERS

CAIRO, 20 Aug — A car bomb near an Egyptian state security building and courthouse wounded at least 29 people early on Thursday, state television said.

Security sources who inspected the site of the blast in Shubra al-Khaima, a Cairo suburb, said there was a burned-out

vehicle and crater. Comments on Twitter indicated the blast, which heavily damaged the face of the state security building, was heard in several parts of the Egyptian capital.

Shopkeeper Mohamed Ali said he saw a man park a vehicle that exploded after he stepped away from it.

Militants based in Sinai, who support the Islamic State group that controls parts of Iraq and Syria and have a presence in Egypt's neighbour Libya, have previously claimed responsibility for attacks on security forces.

Hundreds of soldiers and police have been killed since the army toppled Islamist President

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Hundreds of soldiers and police have been killed since the army toppled Islamist President

Mohamed Mursi in 2013 after mass protests against his rule.

Egyptian President Abdel Fattah al-Sisi has vowed to eradicate militancy, which he has said is an existential threat to the Arab world and the West.

Egyptian authorities have mounted the toughest security crackdown against militants in the country's history, drawing criticism from human rights groups who accuse the government of stifling dissent.

This month Sisi approved an anti-terrorism law that sets up special courts and protects its enforcers in the face of a two-year-long Islamist insurgency that aims to topple his government.

The law has come under fire from human rights groups that accuse Sisi of rolling back freedoms won in the 2011 uprising that toppled Hosni Mubarak.

Reuters

PERSPECTIVES

Friday, 21 August, 2015

Stable policies before stable politics

By Kyaw Thura

IT is no exaggeration to say that policy stability is a pressing need for our country at a time when the general election is just over two months away. In other words, policy stability is more important than political stability.

A glance at the country's politics will reveal that changes in executive, legislative or judicial powers tend to entail some policy changes.

Gradually, people from all walks of life have come to show greater interest in democracy and good governance in the hope that these two fundamental entities will contribute to the all-round development of the country.

The point is that our country is in urgent need of stable policies and transparent processes.

In this context, parliaments play a vital role in ensuring that democracy and good governance give rise to clean, responsible and accountable government. In addition, they are required to play their representational role in developing laws and policies that respond to the expectations

of the general people.

In a sense, the government and the parliament must understand that they have nothing more important to do than to serve the interests of the people, simply because they are the elected representatives of the people. After all, the country is none but the people themselves.

Write for us

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

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

Foundation for the Future Force

(Tekathou Maung Myo Min)

A large block of stone, a foundation stone, is put at the base of an important new public building because there is a need for the solid underground base of the building.

Likewise, in any circumstances, maybe implementing plan, program, project, etc., a principle, an idea or a fact that something is based on and that it grows from. Moreover, it must be concrete and unshakeable.

There is a saying that the first responsibility of a leader is to define reality. So, the democratically elected government of Myanmar led by President U Thein Sein implements measures to bring about Good Governance and Clean Government. This being so, Political Reform, Economic Reform, Administrative Reform and Private Sector Development are being implemented.

These ambitious targets are not going to be an easy task but it can be seen that there are good and strong-political-will and it can take an enough time—Rome was not built in a day. Reforms are on the way, moreover, cannot be denied, and the key political administrative-questions such as how we are moving towards these targets and what the evaluation process is, can be examined.

Myanmar, a developing country, is included in the list of Least Developing Countries according to the three criteria: *Income criterion*, *Human Assets Index (HAI)* and *Economic Vulnerability Index (EVI)*, can be studied. Nowadays, the 'development' of developing countries is a subject of important international discussions. It draws the attention of the international community to the twin issues of 'nation building' and 'socio-economic development'. This National Development is the goal and center of politics of the developing countries. It is a point that Govern-

ments in these countries have long realized that Effective Public Administration Systems are essential to the achievement of National Development Objectives. So these Governments use its administrative authority in achieving national development tasks through public organizations or Bureaucracy Mechanism.

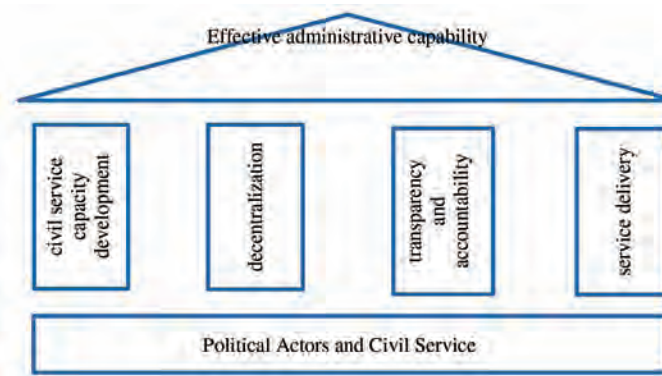
But there is a problem that implementing all large-scale action programmes of Government will be useless if there is no effective administrative capability in public organizations or Bureaucracy Mechanism, can be assumed. For instance, a government is like a head of human and public organizations or Bureaucracy Mechanism are like hands, legs and body of human, and so the government itself cannot do it alone if there are no good legs, hands and body. On the other hand, strong political support is needed for developing public organizations or Bureaucracy Mechanism and political actors must act in accordance with laws.

According to the international experience and context of Myanmar, effective administrative capability in public organizations or Bureaucracy Mechanism is needed in our mother land. The effective capability only can bring good service delivery for public.

After that, the images of the country and government will be good in international community can be said. That is why, the importance of transforming the Administration into an effective provider of public services cannot be underestimated.

There is a question that how the effective administrative capability can be developed. It may be an answer that there are four main areas—civil service capacity development, decentralization, transparency and accountability, and service delivery for developing and enhancing the effective administrative capability in line with the context of Myanmar, can

be studied. The administrative capability will be effective if these areas are developed and enhanced can be said. Moreover, the democratization process will only be successful when good governance and clean government are developed and these areas look like pillars as follows can be considered.



These areas should be implemented under the same roof without Clash of Programmes from a strategic view. In addition, the need for coordination and cooperation between stakeholders and an exact timeframe for implementing national comprehensive activities can be recognized. Technically speaking, a framework is needed. The framework should be called as 'National Framework for Administrative Reform'.

What areas or activities are considered in the Framework can be studied. So, all stakeholders examine and explore the current situations of Myanmar, it is assumed that.

Firstly, a new administrative system must be established by revising older laws, rules and regulations that were not in line with reform processes, and by promulgating new laws, rules and regulations. Secondly, in modern days, administrative works and processes are more complex and complicated than the olden days. So the role of information and communication technology (ICT) and e-government system are rec-

ognized and acknowledged in Myanmar to reduce needlessly time-money-and-labor-consuming procedures or red tapes, and providing education and health-care for all. Nevertheless, there is a technical question—why do ICT projects have a high failure of rate in the developing countries?

Thirdly, operating budget, loan, and foreign aids in line with national planning and monitoring

ship can all place pressures on administrative reforms. These challenges are not easy to be solved but strong-political-will can lead towards the desired goals in the comparative study of administrative reforms, can be said.

Furthermore, the administrative reform processes can be costly and time consuming although the desired result is reasonable and appropriate in accord with the context of nations. Some governments have shown, however, an enlightened degree of sensitivity towards administrative reform. If Studies reveal various opportunities, strengths, weaknesses, and challenges, Government will recognize the need for greater public interest. And then, their reform programs should focus on an existing universe of public administration and they seek to deal with government-wide problems. But Administrative reform efforts are difficult to implement because the efforts can generate uncertainty and insecurity among those who prefer the status quo and they deny the reform to avoid the uncertainty and insecurity resulting from the implementation of the reform.

In a nutshell, there is no standard blue print or best model in administrative reform but every government will do it in good faith, can be argued. It can be noted that, moreover, good faith and strong-political-will can change not only the structure and procedures of the public bureaucracy but also the attitudes and behavior of the public bureaucrats and politicians involved in order to promote the effective administrative capability such as organizational effectiveness and national competitiveness, and attain national, regional and global interest under the same roof. The roof can be called National Framework for Administrative Reform or Foundation for the future force. The effective future force can only bring the modernized and developed nation among international communities, moreover, can be strongly believed.

all financial procedures in governmental offices should be in accordance with the concept of transparency and accountability. It is because public finance management is concerned with all functions of governmental sectors, and a foundation of public administration, can be noted. It is also bridge-building between citizens and politicians.

Nonetheless, there are technical questions such as how do we effectively allocate State Budget among different purposes for public interest? , and what is the best way to monitor and evaluate operating budget in transaction period?

In addition, according to a bird's eye view, administrative reform is a continuous process in all nations. It is always undergoing reform in this sense. In highly developed and developing nations, political will, old laws, rules and regulations, reducing red tapes, administrative works and processes are more complex and complicated than the olden days. So the role of information and communication technology (ICT) and e-government system are rec-

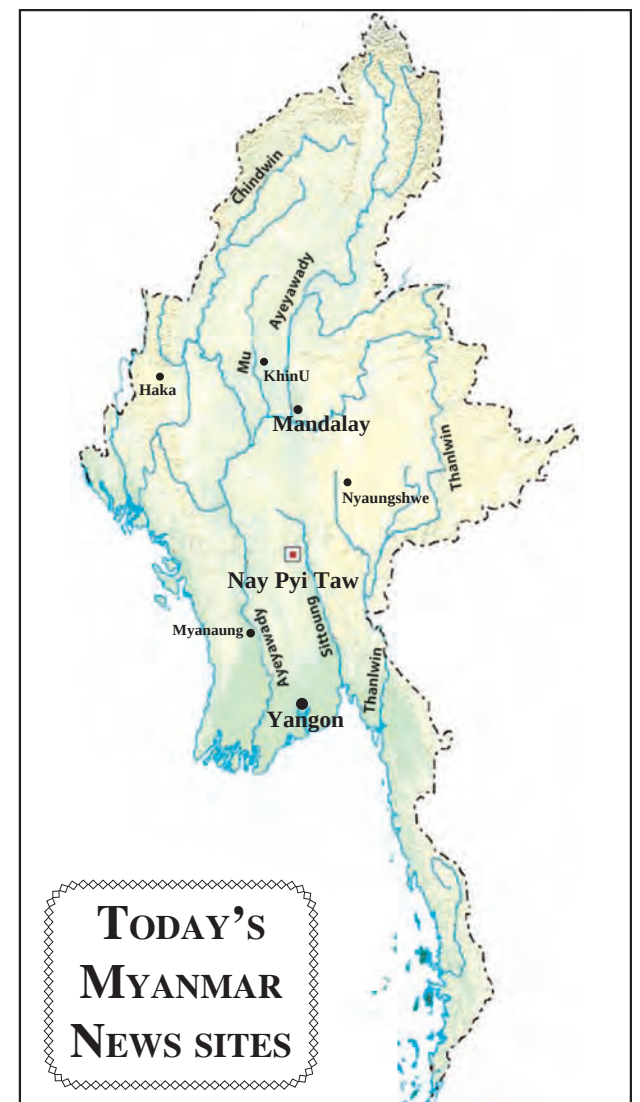
LOCAL NEWS

Chin State government gives shelter to landslide victims

HAKA, 20 Aug — More than 800 houses have collapsed in recent natural disasters including landslides and flooding in Haka, Chin State.

The state government opened seven relief camps in the town to provide food and shelter to more than 5,000 local residents. Moreover, the state government is erecting 34 temporary dwellings and 30 tents in Rahmon sports ground in Myothit Ward, Haka.

Haka District IPRD



River embankment under repair in KhinU Township

KHINU, 20 Aug—The overflowing of Mu creek in Sagaing's Region's KhinU Township in recent heavy rains led to the flooding of Myothit, Pyin-

htaung, Kinpyit and Thayetkon villages and the destruction of 83 acres of farmland. On 19 August, departmental officials held a meeting on preparations for

overflow of the creeks in the township next year and participation of local residents in flood prevention. Assistant Director U Saw Thet Khaing Win of

District Irrigation Department said the department will repair damages of embankment along the creek. *MOI Webportal Myanmar*

Flood-affected villages receive cattle vaccines



MYANAUNG, 20 Aug—The Animal Care Group donated vaccines for cattle in flood-affected villages in Myanaung Township, Ayeyawady Region, on 19 August.

Phyo Sithu Company and the Township Live-

stock Breeding and Veterinary Department have been helping administer the vaccinations.

Officials and LBVD staff vaccinated more than 1,800 cattle in the villages during flooding period.

The Ministry of Live-

stock, Fisheries and Rural Development distributed 170 bags of feedstuff for cattle to the flood-affected villages in Myanaung Township, a department official said.

Win Bo (Myanaung Township IPRD)

Ceramic merchants prepare for toy pot festival

MANDALAY, 20 Aug — The annual toy pot festival will take place in Padamyataw Ward, Aungmyethazan Township, here, on 23 August.

Merchants from TadaU, Inwa, Singu and Kyaukmyaung townships in Mandalay and Sagaing regions will sell a variety of toy pots and glazed

earthenware.

The festival, held on one evening each year, is popular with local residents.

Tin Maung (Mandalay)



Farmers learn monsoon paddy growing techniques

NYAUNGSHWE, 20 Aug — Department of Agriculture officials recently demonstrated cultivation of monsoon paddy in Nantet village, Nyaungshwe Township.

The department is encouraging local farmers to grow the crop in place of illegal opium poppies. The officials also handed over dragon fruit plants and fertilizers to the farmers.

Nay Myo Thurein



Working long hours increases stroke risk: study

LONDON, 20 Aug — Working 55 hours or more a week can increase the chances of suffering a stroke by a third compared to a 35-40 hour work week, a large new study involving over 500,000 people has warned.

Mika Kivimaki, Professor of Epidemiology at University College London, UK, and colleagues did a systematic review and meta-analysis of published studies and unpublished individual-level data examining the effects of longer working hours on cardiovascular disease up to August 20, 2014.

Analysis of data from 25 studies involving 603,838 men and women from Europe, the US, and Australia who were followed for an average of 8.5 years, found a 13 per cent increased risk of incident coronary heart disease (a new diagnosis, hospitalisation, or death) in people working 55 hours or more per week compared with those putting in a normal 35 to 40 hour week, even after taking into account risk factors including age, sex, and socioeconomic status.

Analysis of data from 17 studies involving 528,908 men

and women who were followed up for an average of 7.2 years, found a 1.3 times higher risk of stroke in individuals working 55 hours or more a week compared with those working standard hours.

This association remained even after taking into account health behaviours such as smoking, alcohol consumption, and physical activity, and standard cardiovascular risk factors including high blood pressure and high cholesterol.

Importantly, the researchers found that the longer people

worked, the higher their chances of a stroke.

For example, compared with people who worked standard hours, those working between 41 and 48 hours had a 10 per cent higher risk of stroke, and those working 49 to 54 hours had a 27 per cent increased risk of stroke.

Although the causal mechanisms of these relationships need to be better understood, the authors suggest that increasing health-risk behaviours, such as physical inactivity and high alcohol consumption, as well as repetitive triggering of the stress

response, might increase the risk of stroke.

“The pooling of all available studies on this topic allowed us to investigate the association between working hours and cardiovascular disease risk with greater precision than has previously been possible,” Kivimaki said.

“Health professionals should be aware that working long hours is associated with a significantly increased risk of stroke, and perhaps also coronary heart disease,” said Kivimaki.

The study was published in The Lancet journal.—PTI

U.S. consumer prices up slightly, airfare weighs

WASHINGTON, 20 Aug — U.S. consumer prices rose only slightly in July as airline fares recorded their biggest drop since 1995, but tame inflation pressures will probably not discourage the Federal Reserve from raising interest rates this year.

The Labor Department said on Wednesday its Consumer Price Index edged up 0.1 percent last month, with gasoline and food prices increasing marginally. July's rise marked a sixth straight monthly increase.

While inflation remains soft, a strengthening economy, marked by a tightening labour market and a firming housing sector, should give the U.S. central bank confidence it will gradually move towards its 2 percent target, economists said.

“Fed officials made clear that they do not need to see higher inflation before hiking. They just need to have reasonable confidence it will return to mandate,” said Michelle Girard, chief economist at RBS in Stamford, Connecticut.

Most economists have been expecting the Fed to raise its short-term interest rate next month for the first time in almost a decade.

Futures markets on Wednesday trimmed bets for a September liftoff after minutes of the Fed's July 28-29 meeting showed policymakers remained concerned about weak inflation and tepid wage gains, even as an improving job market had drawn them closer to a rate hike.

U.S. stocks briefly turned pos-



Shoppers ride escalators at the Beverly Center mall in Los Angeles, California November 8, 2013.—REUTERS

itive after release of the minutes before ending almost 1 percent lower as concerns about China's economy continued to weigh. Treasury prices rose and the dollar fell against a basket of currencies.

“It was a mixed message, but it still seems inevitable that we will get higher rates,” said Macrae Sykes, analyst at Gabelli and Co in Rye, New York. In the 12 months through July, the CPI climbed 0.2 percent.

It was the second month the annual CPI increased after plunging crude oil prices pushed it into

negative terrain in January.

Signs of an ebb in the disinflationary trend, combined with easing labour market slack and a pick-up in economic growth are likely to be welcomed by policymakers.

Any monetary tightening by the Fed is likely to be gradual given the dampening effect on inflation of a strong dollar, renewed weakness in oil and other commodity prices, and China's devaluation of the yuan, which should push down import prices.

“The low inflation profile will certainly keep the Fed communi-

cating a gradual glide path, but little in the July CPI report suggests that hikes should be delayed,” said Gennadiy Goldberg, an economist at TD Securities in New York.

Goldberg noted that the six-month annualised pace of the CPI accelerated to 2.9 percent from 1.3 percent in June.

Although the so-called core CPI, which strips out food and energy costs, rose only 0.1 percent last month, that was largely because of the 5.6 percent decline in airline fares.

Reuters

New disease-carrying mosquito found in Australia

SYDNEY, 20 Aug — An aggressive, disease-carrying species of mosquito regarded as a public health threat has been discovered in far north Queensland.

The Asian tiger mosquito, or *Aedes albopictus*, drinks blood to survive and lives in a variety of climates. The Australian Broadcasting Corporation reported on Tuesday that it spreads dengue fever, Ross River virus and chikungunya.

All of these illnesses cause long lasting malaise, muscle ache, joint swelling and other pains.

Australian state and federal authorities have been trying to keep the mosquito out of mainland Australia through a monitoring and trapping program at international seaports. Dr Roscoe Taylor from Queensland Health's Tropical Public Health Service said an adult female mosquito was caught next to a berth for international vessels in the port of Cairns on August 12.

“(It) very probably came from one of three ships that visited the port in the preceding week or so,” he said. The Asian tiger mosquito has not been found on the mainland since April last year when it was detected in Perth.

“This is a significant mosquito for Australia because we don't want it on our mainland; it already exists in the Torres Strait,” Taylor said.—Xinhua

1.8 million children estimated to suffer from malnutrition in Yemen

UNITED NATIONS, 20 Aug—The United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) said Wednesday that 1.8 million children in Yemen are likely to suffer from malnutrition by the end of this year.

Anthony Lake, UNICEF's executive director, released the figure in a statement, while expressing his concerns about the current humanitarian situation in Yemen, especially the challenges facing the children.

UNICEF estimates that the education of over 1.8 million children has been interrupted by school closures and more than 20 million people are struggling to get the safe water and sanitation they need, according to Lake.

“No nation, no society, can afford to lose its children to conflict -- whether from direct attacks, from malnutrition, from disease, from lack of education, or from the traumas of the horrors they wit-

ness,” he said.

In addition, Lake condemned an air strike on a teachers' office in Amran, Yemen Tuesday night which killed 13 educators who gathered to prepare exams for thousands of children who had missed the end of their school year because of the brutal conflict across the country.

“A selfless activity, turned in a moment into senseless bloodshed,” he said. Lake said the awful attack

on the eve of World Humanitarian Day violates the values the world is celebrating today.

The World Humanitarian Day, annually observed on Aug. 19, honors those who have lost their lives in humanitarian service and also seeks to draw attention to humanitarian needs worldwide and the importance of international cooperation in meeting these needs.

“Surely, this World Humanitarian Day should be the last on

which we have to mourn the death of so many children, and those who serve them -- their lives lost to bloody conflicts not of their making,” he added.

As Yemeni conflict drags on, UN humanitarian wings have warned of deepening impact of the continued conflict on civilians, with four in five Yemenis requiring humanitarian aid, and nearly 1.5 million people being internally displaced.—Reuters

Rovio seeks 'Angry Birds 2' Asia growth by going local

LOS ANGELES, 20 Aug — Finnish mobile gaming company Rovio Entertainment, best known for its high-flying "Angry Birds," is hoping to rebound from a tough 2014 and to expand in Asia by tailoring its games to draw local consumers.

After reporting a 73 percent drop in its 2014 earnings due to a decline in the licensing of the "Angry Birds" brand, and cutting about 110 jobs, Rovio is focusing on going local, the company's chief commercial officer Alex Lambeek told Reuters this week.

"(We have the) building capability to scale into parts of the world where we haven't been strong in the past and a big part of that is actually working with partners, not trying to do everything ourselves," said Lambeek, who joined the company from Fox International Channels in April.

"Angry Birds," which was released in 2009 as a mobile game and fast became a hit, al-

lowed players to fling an array of birds at pigs using a virtual slingshot.

"Angry Birds 2," released last month, adds more characters, high-definition scenes, options to pick which bird to fling and the ability to compete with friends.

China accounts for a third of the nearly 40 million downloads of "Angry Birds 2" since July 30, making it the top market. That is in line with the first "Angry Birds," which Rovio said has seen nearly one billion Chinese downloads, out of what the company says is a total of 3 billion game downloads since 2009.

For Birds 2, Rovio partnered with Chinese mobile gaming company Kunlun Inc to make changes within the prompts and language used to target the way Chinese players are used to gaming, Lambeek said.

Chinese customers "want to be spoken to and listened to in their own language with their own specific humor," he said.



An employee works inside an office of Rovio, the company which created the video game Angry Birds, in Shanghai June 20, 2012. —REUTERS

One example was recruiting Chinese actor-singer Li Yifeng, 28, to market the game and offer fans who have a Kunlun login the opportunity to play against him. In Taiwan, players can log into the game using Facebook and Yahoo accounts.

Last week, Rovio appointed a new director to oversee the company's expansion into India, where around 500,000 users have downloaded "Angry Birds 2." Lambeek said Rovio will be working with India's mobile phone operators to draw consum-

ers who may have lower disposable income, by making in-game purchases more affordable.

Rovio hopes the new game renews interest in the brand ahead of May 2016's "The Angry Birds Movie."

Reuters

Japan cargo ship embarks on International Space Center supply mission

CAPE CANAVERAL, (Fla), 20 Aug — After three botched missions to resupply the International Space Center since October, an unmanned cargo ship blasted off from southern Japan on Wednesday with food, water and gear needed to keep the research station and its crew functioning.

A 19-story H-2B rocket lifted off from the Tanegashima Space Center at 1150 GMT and put the HTV capsule into orbit 15 minutes later, a NASA Television broadcast showed.

It will take the capsule five days to reach the station, a \$100 billion laboratory that flies about 250 miles (400 km) above Earth.

Japanese astronaut Kimiya Yui, who arrived at the outpost last month, will use the station's robot arm on Monday to pluck the capsule from orbit and anchor it to the Harmony module.

The 9,500 pounds (4,309 kg) of cargo aboard the freighter will help the 15-nation station partnership recover from launch accidents that claimed three cargo ships.

The two U.S. supply ships, operated by Orbital ATK and privately owned SpaceX, remain grounded following launch accidents on Oct. 28 and June 28, respectively.

Russia's Progress freighter, one of which failed to reach the station in April, resumed flights last month.

"We're in good shape right now, but if for some reason HTV didn't get here, we get pretty low on certain consumables probably in late September, early October," NASA astronaut Scott Kelly said during an inflight interview on Monday.

In addition to refilling the station's pantries, HTV carries spacesuit gear, water filters, a galley and science instruments, including a telescope to measure cosmic rays, particles with the highest energy in the universe.

Scientists are interested in the composition of the rays and why they have such high energy levels.

"Cosmic rays come at you from all directions and all the time," John Wefel, a Louisiana State University astrophysicist, said in a NASA TV interview. "Every time one of these high-energy cosmic rays comes at us and starts triggering the instrument, we record it."

The telescope, which will be mounted outside the station, is expected to operate up to five years.

Reuters

California prosecutors say Uber's background checks missed convicts

SAN FRANCISCO, 20 Aug — California prosecutors have broadened their civil lawsuit against popular online ride-sharing service Uber, alleging that its background checks missed people previously convicted of murder and sex crimes, court records show.

The district attorneys of San Francisco and Los Angeles filed an amended complaint against Uber Technologies Inc on Tuesday, which said "systemic failures in Uber's background check process" came to light after their initial December filing.

The new complaint said registered sex offenders, identity thieves, burglars, a kidnapper and

a convicted murderer had passed the firm's screening process and were driving for the company until they were cited for providing illegal rides.

"I support technological innovation. Innovation, however, does not give companies a license to mislead consumers about issues affecting their safety," San Francisco District Attorney George Gascon said in a statement on Wednesday.

San Francisco-based Uber said in a statement its screening system has been as effective, and at times more effective, than a different system used by taxi companies. "We continue to work on

improving safety for riders and drivers before, during and after the trip," it said.

The company added that last year it had rejected more than 600 people who had applied to become taxi and livery drivers in Los Angeles, San Diego and San Francisco because they had been convicted of violent and drunken driving crimes. In the complaint filed in December, prosecutors contended that Uber drivers work at airports without obtaining authorization and have charged an extra \$4 fee to passengers traveling there without paying anything to the airport.

One of the fastest-growing sharing-economy companies, Uber operates its ride-share program in 57 countries and has an estimated value of more than \$40 billion.

The firm has been fighting in courts elsewhere in the United States. Earlier this month Uber won the dismissal of a racketeering lawsuit brought by 15 Connecticut taxi and limousine companies seeking to stop Uber from doing business in the state.

Reuters



An Uber car is seen parked with the driver's lunch left on the dashboard in Venice, Los Angeles, California, United States July 15, 2015. REUTERS

Malta's airport introduces new detection technology

VALLETTA, 20 Aug — Passengers who travel from Malta International Airport (MIA) could have their hand luggage and electronic devices checked for traces of explosive material using specialized detection technology as from September this year.

MIA, the archipelago's only aeronautic gateway, has invested in the technology to improve the se-

curity screening procedure in compliance with newly enacted EU regulations.

"Ongoing structural works at the central security screening area, as well as the new equipment installed, are intended to make sure this procedure meets the new regulatory demands set out by the EU," said MIA's head of security Patrick Murgo. In addition, the airport has

also invested other resources and high-service orientation training for existing employees to enable this process to be executed as efficiently as possible. MIA has so far this year put its money toward security equipment and infrastructure. This includes explosive trace detection machines, anti-return gates, and central screening area improvements.—Xinhua



Image taken on June 29, 2011 shows a man practicing rowing at Puerto Madero in Buenos Aires city, capital of Argentina. Buenos Aires, the capital city of Argentina, was chosen as the best city to live in Latin America, according to a ranking prepared by the Economist Intelligence Unit, of the British magazine The Economist. According to local press, in this ranking Buenos Aires occupies position 62 among 140 cities.—XINHUA

Huge fire breaks out in northeast Paris, slightly injuring 2 firefighters

PARIS, 20 Aug — A huge fire broke out in the small hours of Thursday at the Cite des Sciences, northeast Paris, local media reported.

As many as 120 firefighters are on site to put out the fire, among them two are slightly injured by heat and smoke, according to BFMTV. They were called around 02:30 local time.

The building on fire is still under construction, and firefighters are working in very difficult conditions due to the size of the fire, explained commander Gabriel Plus, spokesman of Paris Fire Department, to BFMTV.

“The alarm was raised by security teams ‘rather late’,” he added. So far, the cause of the fire is still unknown, and the traffic is normal except that the tramway 3b, which passes just several hundred meters from the fire, is temporarily shut down.—Xinhua

Two Filipino coast guards held hostage for three months escape during raid

MANILA, 20 Aug — Two members of the Philippine Coast Guard taken hostage by al Qaeda-linked militants three months ago have escaped captivity during a raid by U.S.-trained commandos on a remote southern island, an army spokesman said on Thursday.

Four other hostages, including two businessmen from Malaysia and South Korea, held at the same location in the jungle near Indanan town on Jolo island have still not been accounted for, army spokesman Captain Antonio Bulao said.

He said security forces had killed 15 members of the Abu

Sayyaf group late on Wednesday during the rescue operation.

The two coast guardsmen took advantage of the confusion during the firefight and escaped.

“They are here with us and having a meal right now,” Bulao told reporters by phone from an army base on Jolo. “They are in high spirits but tired after hiding all night before they were found today.”

“We have no word if the other four captives were able to run away from the rebels,” he said, adding the offensive on Jolo to free all hostages, including another Malaysian, a Dutch national and a Japanese national,

would continue. “The order from headquarters was to rescue all of them.”

Abu Sayyaf has been blamed for bomb attacks in the south, kidnappings-for-ransom and beheading of captives, including an American citizen in 2001. The rebels are led by Yasser Igasan, seen as having close links to al Qaeda. Since 2002, a small U.S. military contingent has been training and advising Philippine forces in fighting Abu Sayyaf and two other militant groups — the Bangsamoro Islamic Freedom Fighters and a small group claiming affiliation with Islamic State.—Reuters

Park to visit China for WWII anniversary in early Sept.

SEOUL, 20 Aug — South Korean President Park Geun-hye will visit China in early September for celebrations to mark the 70th anniversary of the end of World War II, the presidential office said Thursday.

While Park is set to attend an event in Beijing on Sept. 3 to commemorate China’s victory in what it calls its war of resistance against Japanese aggression, she is still considering whether to be present at a military parade scheduled the same day, the office said.

China is preparing for the military parade through Beijing’s

vast Tiananmen Square area as the highlight of its anniversary celebrations and has invited world leaders to the event.

The United States has urged South Korea to forego Park’s attendance due to concerns over China’s growing might in Asia.

But with the Chinese leadership under President Xi Jinping strongly calling for her presence, South Korea decided on Park’s visit on Sept. 2-4, placing importance on its relations with China with which it has been enhancing economic and security ties.

Kyodo News

Three firefighters killed battling Washington state wildfire

SEATTLE, 20 Aug — Three firefighters in Washington state were killed and four injured while battling a wildfire threatening the town of Twisp, officials said on Wednesday, as more than a dozen major blazes burned in parched Western U.S. states.

The deaths came as a fast-moving wildfire forced authorities late on Wednesday to order the evacuations of about 4,000 homes in Twisp and Winthrop, towns in the foothills of the Cascade mountains of north-central Washington, an emergency management team said on

Facebook. “I was just told that three firefighters died while battling the Twisp fire and four were injured,” Washington governor Jay Inslee said in a statement.

The local county sheriff in Okanogan, Frank Rogers, said the firefighters had been in a car accident before flames probably overtook the vehicle.

Fires have blackened more than 1 million acres (400,000 hectares) across the arid Western region, prompting fire managers to call in help from the U.S. Army and abroad to reinforce civilian crews. Okanogan County officials

were continuing to expand the evacuation zones late on Wednesday, and warned residents that forecasts over the next two days indicated strong winds that could fan the flames across dried-out forest. Oregon Governor Kate Brown toured the fire area in her state on Wednesday and joined Idaho Governor C.L. “Butch” Otter in calling up state National Guard troops backed by military aircraft to help combat blazes in their respective states.

Based on “extreme fire danger”, Washington state’s Department of Natural Resources said

on Wednesday it was moving to shut down all industrial forest activities, including timber harvest operations and road construction, across almost all of its eastern forested areas, believed to be the first such action in more than 20 years.

Inslee said he requested a federal emergency declaration, which would free up resources to help cover firefighting costs.

This week, the national year-to-date tally of area burned passed 7 million acres (2.9 million hectares). That figure had not been reached so early in the year for two decades.

To the south of the Twisp blaze, firefighters had dug containment lines around about half of a wildfire burning on the outskirts of Chelan, Washington, a resort town, fire information officer Lorena Wischart said.

In central Oregon, wildfires near the rural community of John Day had destroyed three dozen homes and threatened many others. In the mountains of north-central Idaho, blazes that grew to 100 square miles (260 square km) forced evacuations on Tuesday from dozens of homes near the small town of Weippe.—Reuters

ADVERTISEMENT & GENERAL

**CLAIMS DAY NOTICE
MV TAUNG GYI STAR
VOY NO (SAB-009W)**

Consignees of cargo carried on MV TAUNG GYI STAR VOY NO (SAB-009W) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 21.8.2015 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of M.I.P where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

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MYANMA PORT AUTHORITY
AGENT FOR: M/S CONTINETAL SHIPPING
LINE PTE LTD**

Phone No: 2301185

**CLAIMS DAY NOTICE
MV SINAR BIAK VOY NO (442N)**

Consignees of cargo carried on MV SINAR BIAK VOY NO (442N) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 21.8.2015 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of H.P.T where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

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

Phone No: 2301185

**Ministry of Energy
Myanma Petroleum Products Enterprise
Invitation for Open Tender (5/2015)**

1. Open tenders are invited for supply of Aviation Lubricating Oil and Grease (4)Items (Open Tender No. MPPE/AV(LUB)/T/2(2015-2016)) in United State Dollars (CIF Yangon).
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.

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

**Request for Proposal (RfP) for Myanmar
Satellite System**

The Ministry of Communications and Information Technology (MCIT) has issued a Request for Proposals (RfP) to obtain proposals for the lease of multiple satellite transponders through a consodasat agreement.

Following questions from bidders, MCIT has responded to a first batch of questions (All remaining questions will be answered on due date). MCIT answers to questions (Batch 1) and RFP files in Microsoft Word format can be downloaded from http://www.mcit.gov.mm/tenders_listing.

Following the postponement of the date of submission, proposals must arrive at the MCIT by 5:00 P.M on September 8th, 2015.

**CLAIMS DAY NOTICE
MV MARCLOUD VOY NO (00013S)**

Consignees of cargo carried on MV MARCLOUD VOY NO (00013S) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 21.8.2015 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of M.I.P where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

**SHIPPING AGENCY DEPARTMENT
MYANMA PORT AUTHORITY
AGENT FOR: M/S CHINA SHIPPING LINES**

Phone No: 2301185

**CLAIMS DAY NOTICE
MV KOTA RESTU VOY NO (RSU-473)**

Consignees of cargo carried on MV KOTA RESTU VOY NO (RSU-473) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 21.8.2015 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of A.W.P.T where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

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**Ministry of Energy
Myanma Petrochemical Enterprise
Invitation Tenders for Consultancy and Advisory Services for
Five Joint Venture Projects**

1. Myanma Petrochemical Enterprise (MPE), a State-owned Enterprise of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar under the Ministry of Energy announces Invitation Tenders for consultancy and advisory services from local or foreign consultant firms for the following five Joint Venture Projects:

Sr No.	Tender No.	Description
1	1(TP)/Consultant for CPMDD JV/HQ/MPE/ 2015-2016	Coastal Tankers, River Crafts and Barges under Crude and Petrochemical Movement and Distribution Department(CPMDD)
2	2(TP)/Consultant for KZ JV/ HQ/ MPE/ 2015-2016	No.3 Fertilizer Factory (Kyawzwa)
3	3(TP)/Consultant for Laboratory/HQ/MPE/ 2015-2016	Laboratory Services for analyzing the specification and qualification of the Petroleum Products
4	4(TP)/Consultant for LPG Supply Chain/HQ/MPE/ 2015-2016	New Construction of LPG Terminal and Jetty in NO(1) Refinery (Thanlyin)
5	5(TP)/Consultant for MLT/ HQ/ MPE/ 2015-2016	LPG Importation, Storage, Distribution and Marketing by using the existing facilities of Myanmar Liquefied Terminal (MLT) in NO(1) Refinery (Thanlyin)

2. Each tender document can be purchased by 50,000 Kyats (Fifty thousand Kyats) at the Finance Department, MPE during office hours commencing from 25th Aug, 2015.
3. Applicants shall submit the proposals in accordance with the specifications set forth in the Tender Documents to the following address not later than 24th Sept, 2015 at 12:00 noon.
4. Submission of proposals from an applicant shall not be allowed for more than two out of five joint venture projects. If the proposals submitted are more than two projects from an applicant, all proposals shall not be considered.
5. For more information, please contact the following address:
Managing Director
Myanma Petrochemical Enterprise
Building No. 44, Nay Pyi Taw, Myanmar
dplmpe@energy.gov.mm, mpeict@gmail.com
Fax: +95 67 411124, +95 67 411126
6. Late inquiry or inquiries via telephone will not be answered.

**THE REPUBLIC OF THE UNION OF MYANMAR
MINISTRY OF ENERGY
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.

Sr.No	Tender No	Description	Remark
(1)	OS-001(15-16)	24" Offshore Domestic Gas Pipeline (Nearshore Section) Acoustic Survey	US\$

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.

Myanma Oil and Gas Enterprise
Ph . +95. 67-411097/411206 /411331

WEATHER REPORT

BAY INFERENCE: Monsoon is moderate in the Andaman Sea and Bay of Bengal.
FORECAST VALID UNTIL EVENING OF THE 21st August, 2015: Rain or thundershowers will be widespread in Taninthayi Region, Rakhine and Mon States, fairly widespread in Upper Sagaing, Bago, Yangon and Ayeyarwady Regions, Kachin, Chin and Kayin States and scattered in the remaining Regions and States with isolated heavy falls in Chin and Rakhine States. Degree of certainty is (100%).
STATE OF THE SEA: Sea will be moderate in Myanmar waters.
OUTLOOK FOR SUBSEQUENT TWO DAYS: Increase of rain in the Mon State and Taninthayi Region.
FORECAST FOR NAY PYI TAW AND NEIGHBOURING AREA FOR 21st August, 2015: One or two rain or thundershowers. Degree of certainty is (100%).
FORECAST FOR YANGON AND NEIGHBOURING AREA FOR 21st August, 2015: One or two rain or thundershowers. Degree of certainty is (100%).
FORECAST FOR MANDALAY AND NEIGHBOURING AREA FOR 21st August, 2015: Isolated rain or thundershowers. Degree of certainty is (80%).

Matt Damon recruits NASA to simulate life on Mars in 'The Martian'



PASADENA, 20 Aug — When Matt Damon needed to play an astronaut stranded on Mars, he and director Ridley Scott were able to turn to U.S. space agency NASA to make the extreme circumstances of "The Martian" as scientifically accurate as possible.

"We're kind of on the cusp of being able to do everything that happens in the movie," Damon told Reuters, speaking of space exploration.

"With the right funding and the right attention, these are the kinds of things that we will be exploring in the very near future and this is going to be a part of our kids' lives."

"The Martian," based on Andy Weir's 2011 novel of the same name, follows Astronaut Mark Watney (Damon) who is stranded on Mars after his team, led by actress Jessica Chastain's Captain Lewis, presume he is dead in the aftermath of a powerful Martian storm.

With no means of communicating and the next manned mission to Mars four years away, Watney tries to survive on the deserted lands of Mars, using his skills as a botanist to grow food using Martian soil.

On Wednesday, Fox released the second trailer for the film, which

highlighted Watney's determination to survive on Mars as well as his dry wit, while unknown to him, the National Aeronautics and Space Administration must decide whether to try to rescue him.

"(Weir) really got this guy with this great sense of humor, really smart and really capable guy, but somebody who has that great kind of gallows humor that people who do this kind of work tend to have," Damon said. To mark the release of the trailer, Fox hosted an event on Tuesday with Damon at NASA and its Jet Propulsion Laboratory in Pasadena, California, which specializes in

planetary science and launched the Mars Curiosity rover in 2011.

Journalists were given tours of the facilities and given explanations why "The Martian" could reflect how humans could live on Mars in the near future.

"As soon as Ridley contacted us and we recognized that he wanted to paint that really accurate picture, it was easy for us to endorse the movie and then provide whatever kind of consultation and advice he needed to be able to execute on it," said Jim Green, director of NASA's planetary science arm.—Reuters

Rebecca Ferguson joins The Girl on the Train movie adaptation



Actress Rebecca Ferguson is the latest star to board the forthcoming adaptation of "The Girl on the Train".—PTI

LOS ANGELES, 20 Aug — Actress Rebecca Ferguson is the latest star to board the forthcoming adaptation of "The Girl on the Train".

The 29-year-old "Mission

Impossible: Rogue Nation" actress joins Emily Blunt in the DreamWorks film, which will be directed by The Help's Tate Taylor, reported Deadline.

Ferguson will play Anna, the current wife of Rachel's (Blunt) ex-husband.

Rachel is a divorced woman with an alcohol problem, who fantasises about the perfect life of a family whose house she passes on her daily commute.

But after seeing something shocking, she finds herself pulled into their lives and the problems that follow.

The third main female role has yet to be cast.

Last month, it was confirmed that the big-screen adaptation of Paula Hawkins's novel will take place in New York City, abandoning the book's English setting.—PTI

Kristen Stewart, Taylor Lautner reunite at 'American Ultra' premiere



Kristen Stewart and Taylor Lautner were all smiles when posing for photographers at the screening of 'American Ultra'.—PTI

LOS ANGELES, 20 Aug — Actor Taylor Lautner attended the LA premiere of his "Twilight" co-star Kristen Stewart's upcoming movie "American Ultra". The duo was all smiles when posing for photographers at the screening, which took place on August 18, reported Aceshowbiz.

Stewart, 25, looked chic in

a floral short jumpsuit by Zuhair Murad with a deep plunging neckline. She sported catseye eyeliner and donned black Jimmy Choo shoes. Lautner, 23, opted for a semi-casual style with a white shirt, a blue suit and black pants.

Stewart was also joined by her "American Ultra" co-stars at

the red carpet event. She posed together with Jesse Eisenberg, Connie Britton, Tophér Grace, Tony Hale and John Leguizamo for a group photo. Eisenberg and Grace looked relaxed in jackets and jeans, while Britton showed off her fit body in a long white dress with sheer panels. Grace also brought along his fiancée Ashley Hinshaw.

"American Ultra" centres on Mike (Eisenberg), a seemingly hapless and unmotivated stoner whose small-town life with his live-in girlfriend, Phoebe (Stewart), is suddenly turned upside down.

Unbeknownst to him, Mike is actually a highly trained, lethal sleeper agent. In the blink of an eye, as his secret past comes back to haunt him, Mike is thrust into the middle of a deadly government operation and is forced to summon his inner action-hero in order to survive.—PTI

Miley Cyrus' next album will be 'experimental'?

LOS ANGELES, 20 Aug — Pop star Miley Cyrus' follow-up to her 2013 set "Bangerz" will reportedly be "expreminetal" and "not very good." It is also being said Cyrus will produce the album, reported Aceshowbiz. Previously, Cyrus said in an interview with Marie Claire that she planned to release what will be her fifth full-length for free. Her manager Adam Leber confirmed the plan and was quoted as saying, "If RCA wasn't down the gratis plan, she was prepared to buy herself out of the label." So far, there is still no official word on when the still-untitled album will hit the stores.—PTI



Pop star Miley Cyrus

Actress Shannen Doherty battling breast cancer: People magazine

LOS ANGELES, 20 Aug — U.S. television actress Shannen Doherty, best known for her roles in "Beverly Hills, 90210" and "Charmed," is currently undergoing treatment for breast cancer, celebrity publication People magazine said Wednesday.

Doherty, 44, told People that she is focusing on her recovery. The magazine also cited legal documents from a recent lawsuit filed by the actress that disclosed her illness, saying she was first

diagnosed with the cancer in March this year.

A representative for the actress could not be reached by Reuters for comment.

Doherty is best known for playing Brenda Walsh in the early 1990s series "90210," which followed the lives of Southern California teens, and Prue Halliwell on late 1990s series "Charmed," which followed three sisters with magical abilities.

Reuters



Actress Shannen Doherty takes part in a panel discussion for the reality show "Shannen Says" at AMC's TCA Winter Press Tour in Pasadena, California January 14, 2012.—REUTERS

GENERAL

Woods comforted by short Wyndham Championship course



Tiger Woods hits his tee shot on the 9th hole during the second round of the 2015 PGA Championship golf tournament at Whistling Straits August 14, 2015. —REUTERS

GREENSBORO, (North Carolina), 20 Aug — Tiger Woods is approaching his first appearance at the Wyndham Championship with eager anticipation for a reason that would have been inconceivable a few years ago.

Woods was delighted to discover during Wednesday's pro-am that players will not need to rely on their drivers very often at Sedgefield Country Club in Greensboro, North Carolina, which is rather short by today's standards.

And for Woods, who ranks near last on the PGA Tour for driving accuracy, the knowledge that the course requires mostly three-

woods and two-irons off the tee is nothing but good news.

"This is fun. We play hardly any golf courses anymore in the States that I get (to use) my two-iron. This is one of those courses," Woods said after playing the pro-am with Chris Paul of the National Basketball Association's Los Angeles Clippers.

"My biggest concern is learning the greens so fast. I hadn't putted on Bermuda greens this fast in a very long time." Woods, 39, decided to play in Greensboro for the first time because he is 187th in the FedExCup standings and needs a victory here to qualify for the lucrative four-event playoff series that

starts next week.

He entered the event just before the deadline last Friday, but after missing the cut at the PGA Championship a day later, hedged his bets on whether he would play.

"I just wanted to see, first of all, how my body was going to be feeling after grinding it out trying to play Whistling Straits (and) if I was ready to go make a push to try and get in the playoffs," he said ahead of Thursday's opening round.

Woods has been surpassed on the course by a new breed of talented young players. His world ranking has plunged to 286 and he is clearly past his prime but

remains the man the fans want to see.

"He still draws the crowd and I think that's just a testament to his career and what he's been able to do," 2012 U.S. Open champion Webb Simpson said of the 14-times major winner. "He's kind of like the Arnold Palmer of our generation. No matter how he plays, people want to follow him."

Woods will be paired with Hideki Matsuyama and Brooks Koepka for the first two rounds. Australian world number 12 Adam Scott is the highest-ranked player in the field while Colombian Camilo Villegas is defending champion.

Reuters

Wawrinka's mind wanders, but advances in Cincinnati

MASON, (Ohio), 20 Aug — World number one Novak Djokovic cruised through his opening match at the Western & Southern Open in Cincinnati on Wednesday, while Stan Wawrinka had to dig deep to beat Borna Coric and conceded his thoughts had been far from tennis over the past few days.

Andy Murray, who beat Djokovic in the Rogers Cup final on Sunday and moved up to second in the world rankings, had a tough second round outing against Mardy Fish but came through 6-4, 7-6(1), while Rafa Nadal also advanced after beating Jeremy Chardy.

French Open champion Wawrinka said he had yet to receive an apology

from Nick Kyrgios for the Australian's incendiary comment during their match last week.

Kyrgios, 20, drew the ire of the tennis world in Montreal after he insulted Wawrinka at the Rogers Cup, saying that another Australian player, Thanasi Kokkinakis, had slept with Wawrinka's girlfriend.

Though Kyrgios later apologised via Twitter for his comments, he was slapped with two separate fines by the ATP who also raised the possibility the Australian could be suspended.

Wawrinka did not hear the comment at the time, only learning later that it had been audible on television. He admitted after his victory on Wednesday that the past

week had been difficult. "For the past few days for sure my head was not really into the tennis," Wawrinka told Sky Sports television after his 3-6, 7-6(3), 6-3 win over Croatian teen Coric.

"What happened people don't see exactly what the consequences are for everybody so I'm trying to put away.

"Today I'm happy with the way I fight. I was playing really bad tennis but most important is the win."

Wawrinka was then asked if he was happy with the way that Kyrgios, who lost his opening match in Cincinnati, had apologised for the incident.

"He didn't apologise so no, but I prefer not to talk about him, thank you," said Wawrinka.—Reuters

Florida treasure hunters find \$4.5 million in rare Spanish coins

ORLANDO, (Fla.), 20 Aug — Florida treasure hunters found a trove of \$4.5 million worth of Spanish gold coins 300 years to the day after a fleet of ships sunk in a hurricane while en route from Havana to Spain, the salvage owner said Wednesday.

The 350 coins found on July 30 include nine rare pieces, known as royal eight escudos, which were being transported to the King of Spain, according to Brent Brisben. His compa-

ny, 1715 Fleet — Queens Jewels, owns the rights to the wreckage.

Only 20 such coins were known to exist prior to the recovery of the nine royals, Brisben said.

"The gold looks like it fell into the water yesterday," said William Bartlett, 51, the diver who spotted the haul.

Bartlett was part of a three-man crew aboard Brisben's boat S/V Capitana when it found coins in shallow waters off Vero Beach,

Florida. The search site was picked because it was close to a previous discovery.

On the same day in 1715, a hurricane tossed 11 treasure-laden Spanish galleons on to reefs off Florida's East Coast, sinking them in the early hours of the following morning. Today, the wreckage is scattered over a wide area. The coins found by Bartlett are part of the now-scattered treasure transported by the galleons, which have since broken up.—Reuters



Aug 19, 2015; Cincinnati, OH, USA; Novak Djokovic (SRB) returns a shot against Benoit Paire (not pictured) on day five during the Western and Southern Open tennis tournament at Linder Family Tennis Center. —REUTERS

mitv

Myanmar
International

(21-8-2015 07:00 am~22-8-2015 07:00 am) MST

- | | |
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MRTV
Entertainment
Channel

(21-8-2015, Friday)

6:00 am

• Mono Classical Songs

6:30 am

• Pyi Thu Ni Ti

6:45 am

• Song Programme

7:00 am

• TV Drama series

7:50 am

• TV Drama series

8:40 am

• Myanmar Video

9:25 am

• My Dream

9:35 am

• Myanmar Video

12:00 noon

• Close Down

Patheingyi Tsp victorious in volleyball tournament



MANDALAY, 20 Aug — Patheingyi Township emerged victorious in Mandalay Region's inter-township volleyball tournament on 19 August. Patheingyi beat Thazi 3-1

in the final at Bahtoo Gymnasium in Mandalay.

Officials presented medals and K50,000 each to best player award winners.

Mandalay Region volleyball

subcommittee vice chairman U Myo Kyaw Win and Deputy Director U Wai Zin of Region Sports and Physical Education Department gave medals to players from third prize winning Amarapura and second prize winning Thazi townships, while principal of Mandalay Sports and Physical Education Institute U Myo Myint Aung presented gold medals to players of champion Patheingyi Township.

On behalf of the Mandalay Region Chief Minister, Region Minister for Social Affairs Dr Win Hlaing gave K500,000 cash and the championship trophy to Patheingyi Township.

Tin Maung (Mandalay)

Chess federation on lookout for young talent

By Ko Moe

YANGON, 20 Aug—The Myanmar Chess Federation is looking to identify talented young players at a youth tournament starting Friday in Mandalay.

The federation is holding the youth championship at

Bahtoo Gymnasium in conjunction with the Sports and Physical Education Department under the Ministry of Sport. The event will run alongside the Mandalay Open chess tournament.

The youth chess championship will include age categories ranging from U-10 to U-20.

"The youth chess tournament

aims to turn out a new generation of players," federation official U Myo Zaw Min said.

The federation will award K300,000 for first prize, K200,000 for second and K100,000 for third prize in the Mandalay Open tournament.

GNLM



Basketball Open Championships 2015 tips off

By Ko Moe

YANGON, 20 Aug — Warriors trounced Legacy 88-12 in an opening round men's match of the Basketball Open Championships 2015 which tipped off Thursday at Aung San Gymnasium.

In the other matches, Best

Jewels thrashed NBA (Bago) 94-24 while Snow Leopard defeated Titans 59-36.

In the U-19 men's tournament, Yadana Sandaw beat Step Up 52-13 while PyinOoLwin beat Jaguar 50-24 in the U-19 event.

A total of 19 basketball teams from regions and states are

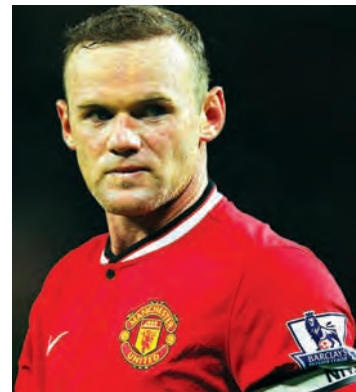
taking part in the open class men's tournament and three in the women's event. Eleven men's teams and four women's teams are participating in the U-19 tournaments.

The Basketball Open Championships 2015 will run until 28 August.

GNLM

Rooney sure he will rediscover scoring touch for United

LONDON, 20 Aug — Wayne Rooney believes the criticism directed at him for the lack of goals for Manchester United is unwarranted and is confident he will soon rediscover his scoring touch.



The England striker has drawn a blank in each of United's three games against Tottenham Hotspur, Aston Villa and Club Brugge, despite being deployed as a central striker by manager Louis Van Gaal.

Rooney has not found the back of the net in eight Premier League games for his club, and last scored in their 3-1 win over Aston Villa on April 12.

The striker said it is just a

matter of time before he starts scoring again.

"It's early on in the season — we're just three games in. I've experienced this criticism before and the goals will come, I know that," the 29-year-old said.

"I understand I have to be the one who's going to lead that line for us and try and find the goals for us," the England captain added.

"My mind is clear. I know how to play the role.

"It's just a case of getting the chances and taking them, which I'm hopefully going to do soon," Rooney, who notched 12 Premier League goals last season from a slightly deeper position, said.

The striker was also unhappy with the criticism over his recent performances.

"I've had one bad game this season and everyone's all over it. I've had that throughout my career but hopefully at the weekend I can get off the mark," he said.

"I'm an honest guy. I know when I don't play well and against Aston Villa I was below my standards."

Reuters

Barca facing tough task to retain La Liga title

MADRID, 20 Aug — Champions Barcelona begin their bid for a sixth La Liga title in eight years at Athletic Bilbao on Sunday knowing that fellow heavyweights Real Madrid could, unusually, be just one of several challengers for their crown.

Under new coach Rafa Benitez, Real are desperate to recover from a 2014-15 season when they failed to win major silverware and will be looking to FIFA Ballon d'Or holder Cristiano Ronaldo to break more scoring records and hoping world record signing Gareth Bale can rediscover his best form.

Atletico Madrid proved they are genuine contenders by winning Spain's top flight in 2013-14 and inspirational Argentine coach Diego Simeone has overseen some canny business in the latest transfer window, including luring Colombia striker Jackson Martinez from Porto.

And it would be no great surprise if Valencia, flush with cash following last year's takeover by Singapore billionaire Peter Lim, and Europa League champions Sevilla, who gave Barca a mighty scare in this month's European Super Cup, are in the mix at the top of the table come May.

"In Spain we don't just have Barcelona," Benitez told daily El Pais this week.

"There is Atletico, Valencia, Sevilla, who are all performing very well," added the much-travelled 55-year-old, who began his coaching career in Real's academy after his nascent playing career was ended by injury. "But it's true that Barcelona are the champions and the reference point."

Bilbao showed Barca are vulnerable when they thrashed them 4-0 in the first leg of the Spanish Super Cup last week, going on to seal a 5-1 aggregate success in the return on Monday, and the pressure on the Catalan club to match last term's haul of Champions League, La Liga and King's Cup titles will be immense.

Much will depend on the form of talismanic forward Lionel Messi, who with strike partners Neymar and Luis Suarez rattled in a Spanish record 122 goals in all competitions last term.

Andalusian rivals Sevilla and Malaga get the new season under way on Friday when they clash at the Rosaleda (1830 GMT), before Atletico host promoted Las Palmas (1830) and Valencia play at Rayo Vallecano (2030) on Saturday.

Reuters