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FLOOD PROTECTION

VP pledges to assist in rehabilitation of flood victims in Ayeyawady Region

VICE President U Henry Van Thio pledged to assist in the rehabilitation of flood-affected people in the Ayeyawady Region and stressed the need to step up preparedness to fight such disasters in future.

At a meeting with flood-affected people sheltering at a monastery in Nyaungdon the vice president called on locals to cooperate with the government in disaster preparedness matters as the country is experiencing flooding nearly every year.

During his tour of Ayeyawady Region, Vice President U Hnery Van Thio visited flood-affected people sheltering at temporary relief camps in Ngathaingchaung, Laymyatnar, Hinthada, Zalun, Danubyu and Nyaungdon and presented aid to them.

The vice president also inspected dams and dykes.

The flooding hit nineteen townships in the region, displacing more than 120,000 residents.

Local authorities have established more than 680 shelters for the peoples in the areas affected by flooding.

Vice President U Henry Van Thio assists in preparedness to the flooding in Danubyu, Ayeyawady Region. PHOTO: MNA

The flooding has reportedly submerged more than 202,000 acres of farmland with paddy plants, according to the General Administration Department of Ayeyawady Region.

The flooding has also forced schools to shut their doors in the region.

Meawhile, three rivers which are currently exceeding their flooding danger level are expected to fall back to safer levels over the next two days, according the Department of Meteorology and Hydrology Department. —*Myanmar News Agency*

Reviewing of political dialogue framework : steps to all inclusiveness

The tripartite meeting in progress to review the political dialogue framework. PHOTO: PHOE HTAUNG

THE three-day meeting to review the political dialogue framework ended yesterday in Yangon and outcomes of the discussion will be put forward to the meeting of the Union Peace Dialogue Joint Committee meeting in Nay Pyi Taw on Monday.

The tripartite meeting was participated in by representatives of the government, 16 armed ethnic organisations and UPDJC-member political parties.

"We see the dawn of the peace and we are on the middle of the road to the federal union," said Khu Oo Reh, Head of the Delegation for Political Negotiation (DPN), to reporters after the meeting.

"We can build the Federal Union only when we all are in unity," he added.

He, on behalf of the non-signatories to the Nationwide Ceasefire Agreement, stressed the need to take time for those groups to reach consensus on facts in the political dialogue framework as they have not yet clearly understood the framework because they are new faces at the meeting.

During the three-day meeting the DPN discussed ways for the non-signatories to the NCA to be able to participate in the Union Peace Confernece-21st Century Panglong.

"The proposal of the DPN and ways for non-signatories to NCA to participate in the Union Peace Conference will be decided at the UPDJC meeting on 15 August." said U Hla Maung Shwe, Secretary of the Preparation Committee for Holding the Union Peace Conference— 21st Century Panglong.

The three-day meeting saw progress and some issues remained to be discussed, said U Hla Maung Shwe.

"The road to negotiation is open to all and we will continue discussions with the DPN" he added, "we are also in negotiations with them to hold discussions again around 20th August. That's the way the peace process is moving."—*Ye Khaing Nyunt*

2nd batch of detained Myanmar workers returns to Yangon from Malaysia

THE second batch of detained Myanmar citizens in Malaysia arrived back to Yangon on Friday via charter flight.

The return of the group comprised of 137 Myanmar citizens was sponsored by private donors: The Mother Trading and Construction Co Ltd, Pho La Min Co Ltd and the Miba Gonye foundation.

Of 700 detained workers who have already received a Certificate of Identity, 275 have been brought back home, it has been reported.

The first batch, comprised of 138 workers, returned on 8 August under the arrangement of the Kanbawza's Brighter Future Myanmar Foundation-BFM.

The remaining citizens will also be brought home by charter flight, according to the BFM.

According to sources, 2,294 Myanmar citizens were detained for various reasons in 11 camps in Malaysia.—*Myanmar News Agency*

Second batch of detained Myanmar workers arrives back in Yangon from Malaysia. PHOTO: MNA

Nearly a million acres of paddy planted in Yangon Region

OVER 900,000 acres of monsoon paddy have been successfully put under cultivation across the greater Yangon Region this rainy season, according the Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock and Irrigation.

U Myo Tint Htun, assistant secretary of the ministry, told the Myitmakha News Agency that they have anticipated 1.2 million acres will be planted before the rainy season comes to a close. "Monsoon paddy was planted in areas of Yangon, which first see the rains, around the end of May. All paddy will have been planted by September. We're presently providing training on the usage of re-planting machines to encourage farmers, in areas where farmhands are in short supply, to utilise the machines," he said.

As well as eight northern Yangon townships such as Insein, Shwepyithar and Hlegu which plant monsoon paddy, a large number of those townships in the south of the region, such as Thanlyin, Kayan, and Dala also cultivate the seasonal paddy.

"Planting paddy doesn't cause us much grief. We use about ten bushels worth of monsoon paddy to plant an acre of paddy, and we plant a minimum of around ten acres. Our township was flooded but our paddy escaped the worst of it." said U Hla Myaing, a farmer from Kawhmu Township. The planting of monsoon paddy within Yangon Region during the previous 2015-16 fiscal year reportedly produced over 8.7 million bushels of rice.—*Myitmakha News Agency*

Hailing the Union Peace Conference-21st Century Panglong

Over 600kg of relief supplies to Naga remains stuck in Mandalay airport

MORE than 600 kg of relief supplies to be airlifted to measles-stricken Naga still remains stuck at the airport in Mandalay Region, according to relief workers.

An airlift of food and medical supplies to the remote town was arranged because other means of transportation would take a week, said U Ke Jung of the Naga National Council. Nearly 1,000 kilograms of relief supplies had been stuck at the airport for three days, he said, adding that passenger flights were the only options.

"There is no cargo plane here, so passenger flights take the supplies bit by bit," he said.

Only three airlines ply between Mandalay and Hkamti. Some 400 kg of the supplies have so far been transported to Naga by air.—*Aung Thant Khaing*

Efforts to curb illegal logging in Bago Region undermined

IN just four months since the new NLD-lead government came to office, legal action has been taken against over 300 individuals for illegal logging, and more than 1,800 tons of illegally logged timber has been confiscated, within Bago Region, says the local Department of Forestry.

A total of 128 vehicles were caught illegally transporting the confiscated timber, which is reportedly comprised of over 700 tons of teak, 500 tons of hardwood and 600 tons of other miscellaneous varieties of wood.

"Our crackdown on illegal logging activities in the region gathered pace during the new government's 100 day projects initiative. In comparison with last year, the magnitude of confiscated timber was similar, but the number of vehicles caught transporting it has doubled. The reason for this can be analysed as illegal loggers using a variety of ways to evade the authorities by changing up their methods of transportation; smaller loads transported more frequently with smaller, less attention-drawing vehicles," said U Zaw Win Myint, director of the Department of Forestry for Bago Region.

Aided by the Bago regional government, a concerted effort was made by government departments concerned to collect information on, and to reveal the whereabouts of illegal logging activities in the region; before conducting parameter sweeps in large groups to arrest, and press legal charges, against the perpetrators.

Local police and forest rangers seize illegal timber in Bago. PHOTO: MYITMAKHA NEWS AGENCY

"Illegal logging is carried out by gangs, known for their hostilities towards staff of the forestry department," continued U Zaw Win Myint. "It's difficult to root-out the criminals who orchestrate illegal logging as they don't partake in it personally, instead getting local residents to do their dirty work for them. Alternatively livelihood initiatives should be created for villagers who survive off their involvement in illegal logging."

The ineffectiveness of the law to mitigate the easy availability of unlicensed cars, motorcycles and chainsaws is reportedly to be the among the main causes which allow illegal logging to continue unhindered.

"We proposed, to regional government, for an increase in forest security, police vehicles and man power in order to better crack down on illegal logging activities. The trading of unlicensed chainsaws is being closely monitored. Plans are also in place to conduct a series of surprised inspections [on areas where logging activities are taking place], and to conduct educational awareness campaigns with the general public in a bid to persuade them to play a part in helping tackle the problem," said U Kyaw Min, Bago Region Natural Resources, Forestry and Environmental Conservation Minister.

According to Section 43(a) of the 1992 enacted Forestry Law, anybody caught logging or transporting teak wood, or in possession of illegally logged teak, can face either seven years in prison, a fine of K50,000, or both. While Section 42(b) of the same laws stipulates those caught transporting or in possession of other forbidden timber, without a permit, could find themselves with either a two year prison sentence, a K20,000 fine, or both.—*Myitmakha News Agency*

The historic building belonging to Burma Oil Corporation (BOC) during the colonial era is chosen for the new location for the National Library. PHOTO: MNA

Designs, decorations to new National Library discussed

A coordination meeting took place in Yangon yesterday to discuss the relocation of the National Library to the headquarters of the Myanma Oil and Gas Enterprise in the centre of downtown.

Present at the meeting were Religious and Cultural Affairs Union Minister Thura U Aung Ko, Permanent Secretary Dr Nandar Hmun, departmental officials, researchers, librarians and invited guests.

Thura U Aung Ko said the library had to be relocated as its current location was not convenient for visitors. The union minister called on researchers and librarians to pool ideas for turning the library into a more impressive and more significant place for visitors.

Department of Historical Research and National Library Deputy Director General U Aung Myint gave a briefing on elaborate designs and decorations to be made at the new location.

The National Library has a large collection of books, periodicals, manuscripts and other rare books, holding 172,556 books, 435,580 periodicals, 12,323 palm-leaf manuscripts, 345 letters, 25,468 rare books and other literary materials.

The Bernard Free Library was handed over to the Ministry of Culture in 1952 and renamed State Library, which was opened at the Jubilee Hall in Yangon on 1 June the same year. After being renamed National Library, the facility was moved to a building in Pansodan Street and then to Yangon City Hall. The library was moved to two new locations before settling in Tamwe township.

The library building in Tamwe suffered some damage from the Cyclone Nargis in 2008 and as a result was moved to Yankin township.—*Myanmar News Agency*

State Counsellor to pay official visit to China

Daw Aung San Suu Kyi, State Counsellor of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar, will pay an official visit to the People's Republic of China at the invitation of His Excellency Mr. Li Keqiang, Premier of the State Council of the People's Republic of China, in the near future.—*MOFA*

CPC official calls on Patron of NLD

MR Song Tao, Minister of the International Department of the Communist Party of the People's Republic of China, called on U Tin Oo, Patron of the National League for Democracy, at the party's headquarters in Yangon yesterday.

During the meeting the two representatives discussed matters relating to the current peace process, exchange programmes between the two parties and assistance in achieving stability and development in Myanmar.

Also present at the call was the NLD's Central Executive Committee member U Nyan Win, U Han Thar Myint, U Soe Win, U Aye Kyu (a) Monywa Aung Shin, a member of the information team of the NLD and U Thein Oo, the head of the office.—*Ko Latt (MNA)*

General Aung San's photograph to adorn schools and government offices across Kayin State

THE Kayin State Hluttaw has reportedly approved a proposal by U Thant Zin Aung, MP for Myawady Constituency, who proposed portraits of General Aung San be hung in schools and government offices throughout the state.

"Three proposals were discussed during the last session of the Hluttaw. The third of which was a proposal urging the government to pay respects to national hero General Aung San by having his photograph hung up in schools and government departmental offices.

This third proposal was successful in being passed," said U Saw Chit Khin, speaker of the Kayin State Hluttaw.

The statement was made during an inaugural meeting on the matter between state government, Kayin State Hluttaw MPs, civil society organizations and members of the general public at the Taw Win Yadana Hotel in Hpa-an on 7 August.

"Photos of General Aung San should be hung across the entire country, not just within the confines of Hluttaws. I'm happy to hear of the Hluttaw passing the proposal and I want to thank the MP who put it forward." said U Kyi Htay, a resident of Hpa-an Township's Kawhlaing village.

The proposal was originally proposed to the Kayin State Hluttaw during a regular session on 20 July.—*Myitmakha News Agency*

Myanmar's film industry to seek government support

THE Myanmar Motion Picture Organization will reportedly make efforts to submit a proposal to Hluttaw by the end of the year to entreat government support for the difficulties and requirements of the country's motion picture industry.

U Lu Min, chair of the organization, explained to Myitmakha News Agency how the submission to Hluttaw will be a document of compiled of the difficulties faced by the industry, and requirements needed to overcome them, that will come out of a motion picture industry forum to be held this August.

"Our aim is to be ready to make a submission to Hluttaw by the end of the year. We'll ask the advice of those in the industry during the soon-to-be-held forum. A document to submit to Hluttaw will only be put together after the forum," he said.

The chairman added that while those in motion picture industry need to cooperate in developing Myanmar's industry, they don't have the capacity to do it alone; assistance is also required from state government.

U Zagana, director, actor and comedian, emphasizes the importance of putting together a systematic framework of demands so the proposal to government for assistance can be as efficient as possible.

"In the past, we just used to take whatever the government threw at us. Now, though, and we must also rely on our ourselves and our own efforts.

The government will only know what difficulties one is encountering if you let them know.

That said, I'm not a fan on complete dependence on government assistance. If we ask the government for something, there's also the onus on us to take responsibility. If they give us something, we must ask what we can give in return," he said.

The motion picture industry in Myanmar currently suffers from a dearth of film studios in which to shoot motion pictures as well as venues in which to showcase them, as movie theaters and cinemas are forced to close for a lack of revenue, or are being bought out by developers.

The ubiquitous presence of pirated DVDs across the country is also reportedly a contributing factor in the industry's demise.—*Myitmakha News Agency*

Value of peanuts fall in Monywa as Chinese trade dries up

PEANUTS in wholesale centers within the Sagaing Region town of Monywa have depreciated in price since the end of July with the drying up of trade with China, wholesalers have told Myitmakha News Agency.

The recent dearth in business with China is reportedly a combination of transportation difficulties and an absence of fresh peanuts within Monywa markets.

"It's difficult to read the situation of Chinese traders. Trade was good this time last year, but this year the peanut business has slumped. It's probably because the peanuts for sale in local markets aren't fresh anymore. The market could pick back up when the next batch of peanuts are harvested," said Ko Kyi Hlaing, a peanut trader from Monywa.

A weight of 1.2 bushels of white and red peanuts fetched a reportedly good price of K48,000 and K64,000 respectively in 2015, while this year the value of these quantities of the groundnut have depreciated to K40,000 for white peanuts and plummeted to a meager K41,600 for red peanuts.

"We plant both white and red varieties of peanut of which there is more demand for red peanuts. We can get a good price for red peanuts. The poor state of the peanut market at the moment will see peanut farmers incur losses this year," said Myo Myint Soe, a peanut farmers from the town of Butalin, Sagaing Region.

Peanut traders says the groundnuts from Monywa are mainly transported to the country's major urban centers of Yangon and Mandalay, and exported to neighboring China to the north.—*Myitmakha News Agency*

Free vaccines for animals in flood-hit areas being distributed

THE Livestock Breeding And Veterinary Department is providing free medical treatment to animals in flood-hit areas of Sagaing region, it has been learned.

Local officer Dr. Aye Aung and staff provided free vaccination shots to animals in Mya Shwe Si and Bein Nwe Chaung villages, Yinmabin township, on Friday.

The department provided vaccines against foot-and-mouth disease to 25 animals in Mya Shwe Si and 102 animals in Bein Nwe Chaung. The department also performed blood tests on 15 animals. The mobile veterinary team plans to go to other flood-affected villages in the region.

U Soe Naing, a farmer in Bein Nwe Chaung village, expressed his gratitude to the vets. – *District IPRD*

Military members provide relief and healthcare services to flood victims in Nyaungdon

Military personnel carrying foodstuff for flood victims, and a military mobile medical team offering medical check-ups to Buddhist monks and local residents of Nyaungdon Township. PHOTO: C-IN-C'S OFFICE

LOCAL military members donated foodstuff to flood victims in the villages of Nyaungdon township, Ayeyawady Region, yesterday.

A mobile military medical team gave medical treatment to the residents in Myenu village of Nyaungdon. —*Office of Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services*

Crime NEWS

Woman killed by falling tree in Yangon

Members of the rescue team clearing up the falling tree. PHOTO: KYAW SOE MOE (MINGLATAUNG NYUNT)

A 62-year- old woman died on Friday when an old tree fell on her near the Myawaddy housing estate, Minglataung Nyunt township, Yangon region.

The accident occurred at around 9:30 pm.

The police identified the woman as Daw Eidrawei Hlaing. – *Kyaw Soe Moe (Minglataung Nyunt)*

Concrete floor collapse kills construction worker

A MALE construction worker was killed after a concrete floor collapsed at a building site on the grounds of the Ears, Nose and Throat Hospital in Tamway Township yesterday.

The fifth-floor gave way while under construction, causing the collapse of scaffolding at around 11:20 am.

Tun Lin Naung, 32, was pulled from the scaffolding by firefighters about two hours after the accident but was confirmed dead upon arrival at hospital.

Two other workers received injures, a witness said. Local police are investigating. —*GNLM*

Man dies following bizarre road rage incident

SEVEN men have been arrested on suspicion of murder after a 33-year-old man died following a quarrel near Lae Kyin Kwit village two weeks ago.

According to an investigation a 12-wheel vehicle carrying bean bags was being driven by one Ye Lin Htet, 33, with Thit Aye on board when the two men got into an altercation with a motorcycle driver who tried to overtake them. The truck driver reportedly asked the motorcyclist if he "wanted to die"

The truck later stopped near Lae Kyin Kwit village where the driver argued with six men on three motorcycles over the previous incident. The six suspects became belligerent and beat the driver with sticks.

The driver succumbed to his injuries at the local hospital on 3 August. Police have filed a murder charge against Hein Min Htet, Htet Naing Soe, Zaw Myo Paing, Tun Tun Naing, Tint Soe, Chit San Maung and Myint Aung. — *Soe Win (Nawngkhio)*

Fire breaks out at hydrogen peroxide factory in Chauk

A FIRE broke out at a hydrogen peroxide (H2O2) factory near Yaydwin village, Chauk township, Magwe region on Thursday, it has been learned.

According to an investigation, factory employee U Win Zaw and his group were welding a gas pipeline when remaining gas inside the pipe became ignited.

The fire brigade sent nine fire engines to put out the fire. Police have filed charges against U Win Zaw. — *Township IPRD*

Two men arrested for stealing winning lottery ticket

POLICE arrested two suspects identified as Tun Tun and Aung Paing on Friday for stealing a winning lottery ticket in Nyaung Gone village, according to Mohnyin Township police.

According to an investigation, Daw Khin Hnaung from Nyaung Gone village bought the winning ticket last month. After word got out regarding the win the two suspects visited her at home and allegedly swapped the winning ticket with a worthless one before trying to claim the prize for themselves. Daw Khin Hnaung reported the matter to police when she discovered the ticket missing.

Police said that the suspects attempted to claim the price which was K50 million. Police have charged the suspects with fraud. —*Mang Ngai*

Yaba, raw opium and heroin seized

A culprit together with yaba pills seized being seen. PHOTO: MPF

AN anti-narcotics suppression squad comprising policemen from Tachilek seized yaba from a home on Myat Lay road, Makarhokam road, Tachilek town on Friday. Acting on a tip-off police searched the home of one Kan Toe and discovered 39,950 yaba pills.

On the same day police stopped and searched a truck on Muse-Mandalay road and found 1,000 yaba pills in the possession of one Ma Nyein Htay, 47.

Similarly, police seized heroin weighing 398 grams and 1976 yaba pills from motorcycle driver Nadar Marlar at milepost 79.

A combined investigation team comprising policemen from Kung Tung searched the home of one Kyakar at 28 mile village, Mong Lar township and discovered 564 yaba pills and raw opium weighing 135 grams. All suspects have been charged under the Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Law.—*Myanmar Police Force*

LOCAL Business

American-based Norwegian cruise line to recruit Myanmar seafarers

An American-based Norwegian cruise line will recruit more Myanmar seafarers after they initially hired more than 100 Myanmar seamen earlier this year, it was learnt from the maritime recruitment service agency.

Myanmar seamen are known to be hardworking with skilled manners, making them ideal employees, officials said. The cruise lines plan to recruit again during this year. Myanmar seafarers enjoy the rights provided by the Norwegian cruise line. Therefore, this is a win-win situation for both sides, said Ko Wai Min from maritime recruitment service agency.

The seamen who will be employed by the Norwegian cruise line will provide services on the luxury cruise liners that sail around the globe. These seamen will be hired from US$500 to US$1,800, depending on their rank. The maritime recruitment service agency will start to recruit Myanmar seamen starting the last week of August.

Myanmar seafarers will work together with those from European countries as well as Indonesia, The Philippines and Singapore. Those interested can visit the website of this cruise line via https://www.ncl.com/ for further information—*200*

An american-based Norwegian cruise. PHOTO: REUTERS

Nearly 280 outbound tour licenses granted by MoHT

THE NUMBER of outbound tour licenses issued by the Ministry of Hotels and Tourism till Tuesday has reached nearly 280, according to the ministry's official figures.

Since December 2015 the ministry has granted insurance of outbound tour license to tour operators under the permission of the Union government, with plans to expand the licensing services in accordance with the ministry's rules and regulations to promote the country's tourism industry, a spokesperson of the Directorate of Hotels and Tourism said.

Since 2011 the country has seen a massive influx of tourist year on year. It hosted over 4.6 million foreign visitors last fiscal year. That number increased by 52 per cent compared with 2014. The ministry estimates that the number will increase to 5.5 million this FY.

International tourist arrivals in Myanmar are likely to reach 7.5 million by 2019 said U Thint Thwin, director-general of the Ministry of Hotels and Tourism at a recent meeting.

Efforts are being made to boost the country's tourism sector with the exploitation of new tourism destinations including Myeik Archipelago in Taninthayi Region.—*GNLM*

Price of palm oil could fall

THE palm oil price is likely to turn downward in Yangon markets because of the decline in world's palm oil price and the approaching of the cargo ship at Yangon Port, said U Yee, a shopkeeper from Lanmadaw Township.

The price of world palm oil was US$650 per FoB tonne on 2 August, whereas that price has increased up to US$680 per tonne on 5 August. The original purchase price of the palm oil at the port were around Ks1,455 per viss at the end of July and then, has risen Ks1,513 per viss on 5 August, it has been learnt. The wholesale price of the palm oil in Yangon markets is Ks1,490-1,495 per viss at the end of July. However, the wholesale price has reached up to Ks1,615 per viss on 5 August, it was learnt from Ko Myo, in-charge of edible oil at Seinpan Street. The wholesale price of palm oil per viss at the Yangon market is Ks100

higher than the price offered at Yangon port. The price gap is possibly due to the decrease in the number of cargo ships entering Yangon at that time, it is learnt. The world palm oil price had surged for four days as of 3 August, but after that period the price began to fall.—*Khin Hsaing (MAL)*

Over K6 B in taxes expected to be collected from sale of stamps this FY

THE Internal Revenue Department expects to collect over K6 billion worth of taxes through the sale of stamps this fiscal year, its spokesperson said.

The department granted nearly 100 licenses to sell stamps to applicants in 33 townships in Yangon earlier this month.

A total of 99 applicants passed an examination organised by The Internal Revenue Department which provided training in the relevant tax stamp laws, rules and regulations.

Authorised stamp dealers will enjoy 4 per cent of the profit made through stamp selling. They must sell the stamps at a fixed price. Serious action will be taken against those caught breaking the rules, according to the department.

Twenty-five kinds of stamps have been issued by the government. These stamps are available at revenue departments in each township as well as at Myanmar Economic Bank branches.

The Internal Revenue Department has been collecting 4 kinds of taxes and duties, namely income tax, commercial tax, stamp duty and state lottery tax from the 2011-12 fiscal year onwards.—*200*

$370 million worth of FDI entered Myanmar last month

OVER US$370 million worth of foreign direct investment flowed into Myanmar last month, according to the Directorate of Investment and Companies Administration.

Foreign companies from China, Brunei, Germany, Hong Kong, Japan, Korea, Singapore, Thailand, the United Kingdom and Taiwan have invested in the country's livestock and fishery sector, transportation and communication and other services business.

The country did not receive any investment between April and May. The total FDI over the past four months reached $38.490 million.

Myanmar attracted a record foreign direct investment total of US$9.4 billion last fiscal year for 217 projects in 11 sectors—agriculture, livestock and fishery, mining, manufacturing, energy, oil and gas exploration, transportation, communication, hotels and tourism, real estate industry and other services business.

The country received $8 billion FDI over the 2014-2015 FY, compared with $4.1 billion over the 2013-2014 FY. —*GNLM*

200 H.S coded imported products to become licence free

THE Ministry of Commerce has plans to grant import permission for 267 H.S coded products without licence, it has been learned. The Harmonised System (HS) of tariff nomenclature is an internationally standardised system of names and numbers to classify trade products.

According to an announcement released by the Ministry of Commerce in 2015, a total of 4,405 H.S codes are required for importers to seek a licence. The Commerce ministry has since been attempting to relax taxes to facilitate trade, said an official from the Ministry of Commerce at the ceremony of the International Trade Supply Chain Working Group at UMFCCI recently.

The Commerce ministry is planning to submit this relaxation to the Union Government. We expect to issue an official announcement this month, said an official from the Ministry.

Ministries concerned and entrepreneurs, including Union of Myanmar Federation of Chambers of Commerce and Industry (UMFCCI), have been negotiating to be able to grant over 300 more H.S codes as a second step.

There are 909 H.S commodity codes with automatic license and 3,496 H.S codes with non-automatic license.—*GNLM*

Japan's UN envoy receives South Korean state medal

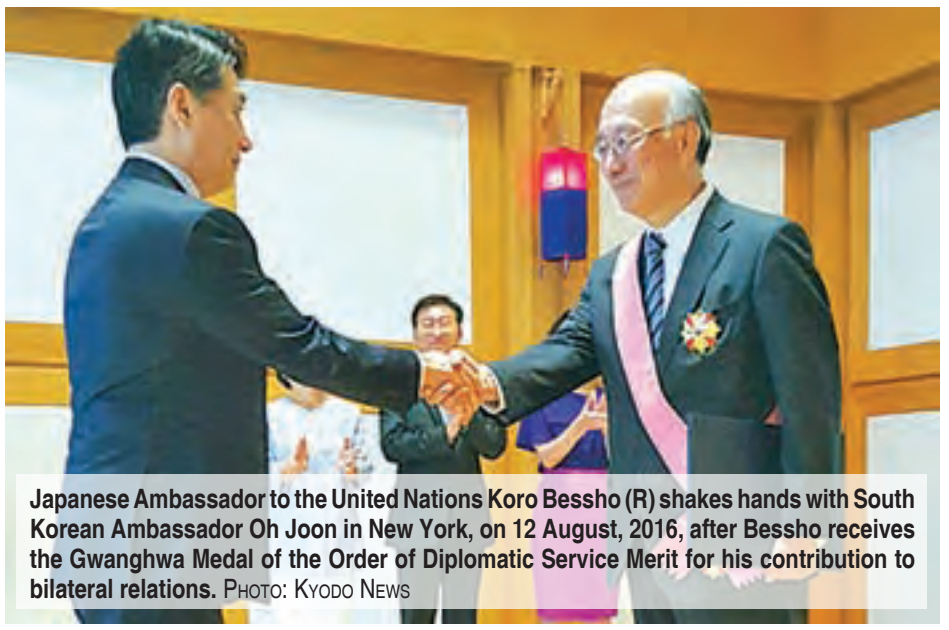
NEW YORK — Japanese Ambassador to the United Nations Koro Bessho received a medal from South Korea on Friday for his contribution to bilateral relations.

South Korean Ambassador Oh Joon awarded the Gwanghwa Medal of the Order of Diplomatic Service Merit to Bessho in a ceremony at the country's mission to the United Nations in New York.

The medal is the highest honour in the Order of Diplomatic Service Merit.

Prior to taking up the post of UN envoy in June, Bessho served as ambassador to Seoul for nearly four years from September 2012, contributing to a landmark agreement last December to resolve the issue of Korean women forced into wartime brothels for the Japanese military.

The Japanese ambassador told reporters that he was "greatly honoured" to receive the medal and would continue to work hard on improving ties between the two countries. —*Kyodo News*



Japanese Ambassador to the United Nations Koro Bessho (R) shakes hands with South Korean Ambassador Oh Joon in New York, on 12 August, 2016, after Bessho receives the Gwanghwa Medal of the Order of Diplomatic Service Merit for his contribution to bilateral relations. PHOTO: KYODO NEWS

Philippine gov't, Moro rebel group reiterate commitment to peace process

KUALA LUMPUR — The Philippine government and the Moro Islamic Liberation Front (MILF) rejuvenated the peace process in the Southern Philippines on Saturday by launching the implementing phase of the peace agreements.

The meeting held in the Malaysian capital is the first under President Rodrigo Duterte, two years after the signing of the Comprehensive Agreement on the Bangsamoro (CAB) between the Philippine government and MILF in 2014 facilitated by Malaysia.

Philippine presidential adviser on the peace process Jesus Dureza hailed the entering of implementation phase as another milestone in the peace process, stressing the commitment by the new Philippine administration to honor previous peace agreements.

Manila's commitment was partly demonstrated by the high level delegation at the meeting, including cabinet members like Foreign Secretary Perfecto Yasay and senior lawmakers.

Murad Ebrahim, chairman of MILF, said continuing the peace process remains the only reasonable and viable pathway that could bring progress, development and lasting peace to the Philippines.

He said MILF would welcome Moro National Liberation Front (MNLF) led by Nur Misuari as well as other factions to participate in the peace process.—*Xinhua*

Nepal to strengthen inspections for pilots to ensure air safety

KATHMANDU — As human errors have been pointed out as a major reason for increasing air accidents in Nepal, the Nepalese authorities have said that they would strengthen inspections for "health and behavior" of crew members.

The Himalayan country witnessed six air accidents in the last one year, killing 36 passengers and crew members. Speaking at Committee for Good Governance and Monitoring of Nepalese Parliament on Friday, Sanjeev Gautam, director general of Civil Aviation Authority of Nepal (CAAN), said that the CAAN has now decided to focus on addressing human behavior issue of the crew members. "We don't understand why the pilots are repeatedly entering clouds as it is a violation of the standard operating procedure," he said.

Gautam told the lawmakers that the CAAN has issued a circular to airline operators telling them that if any pilots were found entering into cloud during the monsoon season, their licenses would be withdrawn immediately. Secretary of Ministry of Culture, Tourism and Civil Aviation Prem Kumar Rai also said that the government would implement the policy of regular health check for pilots before they start a flight.

Nepalese lawmakers said that if the current safety issues are not corrected immediately, anyone could be a victim. They said that repeated air accidents have spread the bad image of Nepal as a risky country for travel.—*Xinhua*

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Cambodian PM urges DPRK to return to six-party talks

PHNOM PENH — Cambodian Prime Minister Samdech Techo Hun Sen on Friday urged the Democratic People's Republic of Korea (DPRK) to return to the six-party talks in order to maintain peace and stability in the Korean peninsula, a Cambodian senior official said.

Hun Sen made the remarks during a meeting with newly-appointed DPRK Ambassador to Cambodia Jang Yun Gon, according to Kao Kim Hourn, minister attached to the prime minister.

"The prime minister had called on the DPRK to comply with all relevant resolutions of the United Nations Security Council and urged the resumption of the six-party talks in order to maintain peace in the Korean peninsula," Kao told reporters after the meeting.

"The prime minister underlined that what Cambodia wanted to see is peace and stability in the Korean peninsula," he said.

Cambodian Prime Minister Samdech Techo Hun Sen (R) meets with the Democratic People's Republic of Korea (DPRK) Ambassador to Cambodia Jang Yun Gon in Phnom Penh, Cambodia, 12 August 2016. Hun Sen on Friday urged the DPRK to return to the six-party talks in order to maintain peace and stability in the Korean peninsula, a Cambodian senior official said. PHOTO: XINHUA

The six-party talks began in August 2003 as a forum focusing on the DPRK's nuclear programme and were halted in April 2009 when the DPRK announced that it would no longer take part in the talks in a reaction to the international condemnation of its long range missile test.

The countries directly involved in the six-party talks are South Korea, the DPRK, China, Russia, the United States and Japan. —*Xinhua*

Thaksin's party denies role in Thai blasts as police hunt suspects

Officials check the scene after bomb blasts in the southern province of Surat Thani, Thailand, on 12 August 2016. PHOTO: REUTERS

BANGKOK/HUA HIN (Thailand) — The Thai political party whose governments have been overthrown by the country's ruling generals denied on Saturday having any role in the bomb attacks on popular tourist destinations that killed four people and wounded dozens.

The blasts on Thursday and Friday in five of southern Thailand's internationally known resorts came days after Thais voted to accept a military-backed constitution that paves the way for an election at the end of 2017.

Analysts say suspicion would inevitably on fall on enemies of the ruling junta beaten in the referendum or insurgents from Muslim-majority provinces in the south of the mostly Buddhist country.

Fears that followers of former prime ministers Thaksin Shinawatra and his sister Yingluck Shinawatra, including an opposition movement sympathetic to the Shinawatras known as the "red shirts", could be blamed prompted a senior figure in their Puea Thai Party to issue a sharp denial.

"People, through social media, are sending messages saying Thaksin Shinawatra is behind these events," Noppadon Pattama, a former foreign minister, said.

"This is slander and defamation. Anyone who is a former prime minister is worried about the country and would not do such evil," said Noppadon, who served in both Thaksin and Yingluk's cabinets.

No group has claimed responsibility for the wave of bombings, which sent shudders through the tourism industry, one of the few bright spots in Thailand's sluggish economy.

For more than a decade Thailand has been divided between populist political forces led by Thaksin, who was toppled in a 2006 coup, and the royalist and military establishment, which accuses him of corruption. His sister Yingluk swept to power in an election in 2011, before being ousted in another coup in 2014.

At last Sunday's referendum voters in Thaksin's northeast stronghold voted to reject the constitution, which opponents of the junta said would entrench the military's power and deepen divisions.

Voters in three mostly Muslim southern provinces, where separatists have been fighting with the military for than a decade in an insurgency that has cost 6,500 lives, also voted against the new constitution, while the rest of the country accepted it. The bombs on Thursday and Friday went off in the upscale resort of Hua Hin and beach destinations in the south including Phuket, Phang Nga and Surat Thani, a city that is the gateway to popular islands in the Gulf of Thailand.

Police and Thailand's foreign ministry initially ruled out links to Islamist terrorism and foreign terror groups, though national police chief Jakthip Chaijinda later told reporters that the devices were similar to those used by Muslim separatists.

Pongsapat Pongcharoen, a deputy national police chief, told reporters on Saturday that no arrests had been made, but DNA samples collected at the blast sites would be compared with DNA samples stored in databases in the southern Muslim provinces.

The attacks came on a busy weekend for tourism as domestic and international visitors flocked to seaside resorts on a long weekend for a public holiday.

Hua Hin, an easy weekend getaway for residents of Bangkok, was returning to normal on Saturday — though most businesses in the vicinity of the Thursday night explosions remained closed, a Reuters witness said.—*Reuters*

China to use tougher environmental standards to tackle capacity glut

SHANGHAI — China will use the stricter enforcement of environmental, safety and energy efficiency standards as well as tougher credit controls to help fight against overcapacity in key industrial sectors, the government said.

The world's second-largest economy has identified overcapacity as one of its key challenges and it has already pledged mass closures in the steel and coal sectors, but it has so far fallen behind on its targets.

The Ministry of Industry and Information said on Friday in a draft policy document published on its website (www.miit.gov.cn) it would "normalise the stricter implementation and enforcement of mandatory standards" to tackle overcapacity in sectors such as steel, coal, cement, glassmaking and aluminium.

It would implement a "differential credit" policy that would allow lenders to extend loans to help firms restructure while cutting off funding for poorly performing enterprises targeted for closure.

Firms that fail to comply with new energy efficiency targets would be given six months to rectify and would be closed if they fail to make progress.

Those that continue to exceed air and water pollution standards would be fined on a daily basis and in serious cases ordered to shut.

It said authorities would cut off power and water supplies, and even demolish the equipment of firms that fail to meet environmental and safety standards. Facilities could also be sealed off to prevent them from going back into operation.

The ministry also repeated a previous pledge to implement differential and punitive power pricing policies to force firms to toe the line.

Beijing is concerned that some local governments have not been acting with enough urgency when it comes to dealing with overcapacity problems. On Thursday, the state planning agency singled out regions such as Inner Mongolia, Fujian and Guangxi for failing to make progress.

China plans to close 45 million tonnes of annual crude steel capacity this year, and 250 million tonnes of coal production, but only a third of the closures were completed by the end of July, the National Development and Reform Commission said. —*Reuters*

An employee works at a steel factory in Dalian, Liaoning Province, China, on 27 June 2016. PHOTO: REUTERS

Woman found in Cambodian jungle reunited with Vietnamese family

PHNOM PENH — A woman who was found in the jungle in Cambodia's northeastern province of Ratanakiri in 2007 was reunited with her Vietnamese family on Saturday, a member of her adoptive family told Kyodo News.

Rochom P'ngieng, 39, was reunited with family in Gia Lai, a province in Viet Nam which borders Ratanakiri, according to the woman's adoptive younger brother, Rochom Kamphy.

He said that during the almost 10 years since she was found naked in a jungle, his family had raised Rochom P'ngieng well and that he was "so sorry to lose her."

However, since legal documentation was provided to Cambodian authorities proving her father was a Vietnamese man identified as Peo, the family in Cambodia had no choice to but to accept the news and allow her to return.

Rochom Kamphy, who is a police officer in O'Yadao district in Ratanakiri Province, said Peo, 70, handed over documents in July to Cambodian authorities in the district, claiming Rochom P'ngieng was his daughter, and that she had gone missing in 2006 due to mental health problems. Peo reportedly said he only realized that it was his daughter through seeing recent Facebook posts.

On 21 February 2007, about a month after Rochom P'ngieng was found, Kyodo News went to her adoptive family's home in Ratanakiri, at which time a man claiming to be her father, Sal Lou, said the woman was his missing daughter.

Speaking, at that time, Sal Lou claimed that Rochom P'ngieng, then 27, had gone missing in 1989 while walking two buffalos.

Also in 2007, Ngeth Sothea, police chief of the terrorism office in Ratanakiri Province, said he had heard Sal Lou's story in 1993 and had helped him search for his daughter for two years, but found no trace. In an interview with Kyodo News in 2007, a Spanish psychologist who had visited the family on three consecutive trips said he had no interest in searching for any real story of how she lived in the jungle, but rather was helping Rochom P'ngieng adapt back to a normal, social and family life. Also in that year, Kyodo News observed the woman's appearance and actions.

Rochom P'ngieng was then unable to communicate with anybody, including her adoptive brothers, sisters and parents, except to smile and laugh. —*Kyodo News*

Opinion

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 ***ce@globalnewlightofmyanmar.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.

Ground information is vital to effective disaster response

Aye Min Soe

NATIONWIDE flooding, which began in mid-July and has so far killed six people, has also affected more than 420,000 people in 98,000 households, according to the Ministry of Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement.

Bago, Ayeyawady and Yangon regions are still experiencing flooding, while some regions, including Kachin State and Sagaing, Mandalay, Magway regions shut down shelters as floodwaters receded.

The government, philanthropic organisations and the Tatmadaw have made strenuous efforts since the disaster hit the country, providing relief aid to the areas and carrying out evacuation there.

During the post-flooding periods, disasters such as diseases and famine can happen in the flood-hit areas. It can make the victims lack the spirit to face the challenges of responding to disasters.

The situation in the areas surely need support from outside for their rehabilitation. Ground information in the disaster areas are sine qua non for quickly response to the disasters and rehabilitation of the people affected by the disasters.

Therefore, it is required to send ground information such as which diseases outbreak in which areas and which areas are suffering famine.

Besides, the information from the flood-hit areas are surely very helpful for the government so that it can make short-term and long-term plans for rehabilitation of the victims in a short time.

Geographic data and tools are essential in all aspects of emergency management: preparedness, response, recovery, and mitigation. During emergencies time is of the essence and the risks associated with volunteered information are often outweighed by the benefits of its use.

Now and going into the future we should all focus on gaining on-the-ground information in order to plan against disaster but also effectively combat its results when it does inevitably strike.

Teacher education forum

Dr. Myo Win
Yangon University of Education

A forum on teacher education was held in Community Zone, Gold Camp in Nay Pyi Taw, from 4 to 5 August 2016. Participants were different stakeholders of education such as ministers, rectors from different universities, teacher educators from Yangon University of Education, Sagaing University of Education and University of Development of National Races, principals from Education Colleges, international organizations, etc. In this forum, 9 papers were submitted and discussed. In the morning section of the first day, 4 papers were read and they were discussed in the afternoon. The other papers were read and discussed on the second day. The objectives of this forum are:

1. To discuss developing advanced teaching methods for academic, educational and co-curricular subjects, teacher competency standards framework and future plans
2. To discuss teacher quality according to education law
3. To discuss future plans for upgrading courses on teacher education

To fulfill these objectives, 9 papers were submitted and they are as follows:

Paper 1 - Upgrading the present education colleges with a 2-year training programme to education degree colleges with a 4-year training programme

Paper 2 - Proposed curriculum framework for 4 year education degree colleges

Paper 3 - Teacher certification system and teacher licence

Paper 4 - English proficiency courses for in-service teachers

Paper 5 - Quality assurance of in-service teachers

Paper 6 - Teacher competency standards framework

Paper 7 - Learning opportunities for teachers for upgrading teacher education

Paper 8 - Investigation into KG teachers' understanding on KG curriculum

Paper 9 - Promotion system and teacher salaries

The main purpose of paper (1) is to upgrade present education colleges to 4-year education degree colleges. Teacher education systems of some ASEAN countries are also presented in the paper. According to the proposed plan, education colleges will be upgraded to 4-year education degree colleges and affiliated with local universities and colleges.

In Comprehensive Education Sector Review (CESR) (phase1), some key findings in analysis of Teacher Education include:

A. Teaching competency is not specifically recognized, and the teacher education curriculum requires significant strengthening.
B. Time for qualified practice teaching at ECs is inadequate, and teaching contents are not specialized.
C. Teacher educators at teaching institutes should be well-qualified if these institutions are to be upgraded to international level.

Major recommendations include:

A. Formulate a Teacher Competency Framework according to the levels set by the Government or revise the present draft, as well as prepare a skill-centred teacher education curriculum.
B. Upgrade the present two-year training at ECs to a four-year degree, including the teaching of specialized education subjects.
C. Promote Teacher Competency and Services ranks to Educationist level 1, 2 and 3 at each school level, based on a teacher's academic degree, and ensure that this system is practised.
D. Reorganize the Teacher Education Supervisory Committee to ensure that members are qualified educationists. Establish a Department of Teacher Education under the MoE.

It is, therefore, found that proposed upgrading programme is based on the recommendation of CESR.

In discussion section, some suggest that there may be some issues of insufficient material resources and human resources in upgrading 22 education colleges to 4 - year education colleges simultaneously. Therefore, some suggested to upgrade only some education colleges in big towns as a pilot project. Some suggested education colleges should be affiliated with universities of education.

Paper (2) is proposed curriculum framework for 4 year education degree colleges. In the introduction of this paper, it is stated that teacher education should be reformed according to the reports of CESR, JICA, STEM, etc. As in paper (1), teacher education training programmes of some ASEAN countries are also stated. In this proposed framework, educational subjects, academic subjects, co-curricular activities and practicum are stated in terms of semesters.

Paper (3) is concerned with teacher certification system and teacher licence. According to this paper, there will be three types of certification.

1. 1-year basic course + 3-year primary teacher education primary teacher certificate
2. 1-year basic course + 3-year junior teacher education junior teacher certificate
3. 1-year basic course + 3-year senior teacher education senior teacher certificate

In type 3 of this proposed certification system, a trainee can become a senior teacher after attending only four years. But the present universities of education offer 5-year courses for the senior teachers. Then there will be a question if four year course is sufficient to produce a senior teacher while other age-old universities of education still take 5 years to do so.

Paper (4) is discussed for the English language proficiency of in-service teachers. Paper (5) is for the quality assurance of in-service teachers. This paper suggests not to appoint primary teachers without teacher training. It also suggests to revise entrance system for selecting trainees for education colleges, not only to consider academic qualification, but to include attitude on teachers. This paper also suggests to establish Department of Teacher Education under the Ministry of Education. It is found that this suggestion is line with one of the recommendations of CESR.

In paper (6), teacher competency standards framework is discussed. Paper (7) suggests some learning opportunities for the quality assurance of teacher education. Paper (8) is research-based paper which investigates the understanding of the KG teachers on KG curriculum. Findings are based on the responses of questionnaire.

Paper (9) is concerned with promotion system and teacher salaries. In this paper, promotion systems and pay scales of some countries are included. For instance, it is stated that income of primary teachers in Japan, Britain, America and Singapore is higher than that of other professions in these countries. Promotion system is based not only on services but also on work performance. Based on these findings, some suggestions for changing present salary and promotion system are suggested.

It is an undeniable fact that education plays an important role for the development of a nation. Successful education system depends on teacher education system. Therefore, this forum is important for the country. This forum can be said to be a milestone in an attempt to reform teacher education system of Education Colleges.

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Tens of thousands of fish released into Yayzin Dam

Senior General Min Aung Hlaing and his wife Daw Kyu Kyu Hla release fish into Yayzin Dam.
PHOTO: C-IN-C' OFFICE

TENS of thousands of fish were released into the Yayzin dam yesterday morning by families of the Office of the Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services led by the Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Senior General Min Aung Hlaing and his wife Daw Kyu Kyu Hla.

At the ceremony, sixty thousand Ngamyitchin (Labeo rohita) fish were released into the dam by Commander-in-Chief (Army) Vice Senior General Soe Win and his wife, the Union Minister for Defence Services and wife, the Union Minister for Border Affairs and wife, the Chief of General Staff (Army, Navy, Air) and Commander-in-Chief (Air) Gen Khin Aung Myint and wife, the Commander-in-Chief (Navy) Gen Tin Aung San and wife, high-ranking military officers and their wives and other ranks and their families. *—Office of the Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services*

Securing an export market for WPC could mitigate deforestation: MPIA

THE Myanmar Plastic Industries Association (MPIA) has made it known they are currently searching for an international market to export wood-plastic composites (WPCs), a substitute for timber which could reportedly mitigate deforestation.

"WPCs can protect against deforestation. It's not a material which inflicts upon the environment. The sale of a ton of WPCs could mitigate against the sale of a ton of timber. It's a material that can also provide an income from abroad. It's currently being produced domestically, with efforts being made to find a foreign market for export. Rather a lot of foreign countries utilise [WPCs]," said U Htun, president of the MPIA.

The market price for a ton of WPCs within Myanmar of K1.7 million is just half of the current value of such a quantity internationally of K3.4 million. U Htun says that as well as this allowing Myanmar to export WPCs at competitive prices, it could mitigate against deforestation of Myanmar's woodlands if export business proved to be a success.

WPCs are comprised of seventy percent sawdust and thirty percent plastic and produced as a substitute for timber. It is water, termite and mold resistant and reportedly comes with a twenty year guarantee.

"It's good that WPCs could protect against the chopping down of trees. That said, it needs to be able to withstand heavy weight. It can be utilised for aesthetic purposes, but I doubt it could be used as flooring or to stack goods." said Maung Soe, a carpenter from Yangon's Hlaingthaya Township.

WPC is currently being manufactured in Myanmar with German technology. Myanmar representatives will reportedly travel to plastic emporiums in Taiwan and Thailand over the next couple of months to showcase the WPC in the hope of securing a foreign market for export.*—Myitmakha News Agency*

MYEA delegation attends ASEAN-China Young Entrepreneurs Forum 2016

A 9-member delegation from the Myanmar Youth Entrepreneurs' Association left for Malaysia yesterday to attend the 8th ASEAN-China Young Entrepreneurs Forum 2016 .

The delegation, led by MYEA Vice-Chairman U Aung Soe Than, was seen off at Yangon International Airport by responsible persons of the association.

The 8th ASEAN-China Young Entrepreneurs Forum 2016 is set to last for three days until Sunday. — *MYEA*

MYEA delegation poses for a group photo before leaving for ASEAN-China YE Forum 2016. PHOTO: MYEA

People's Forum

Letter to the Editor

RECENT announcement by the Department of Post and Telegraph (PTD) under the Ministry of Transport and Communications, to register the phone SIM cards had caused some dissatisfactions among some users. In my opinion it is necessary and is also important to register. In fact when the private operators were allowed to provide mobile phone services, it was necessary for the users to register the SIM cards they purchased right away. I remember I had to provide a copy of my Citizen ID, name and address and if I remember correctly, a copy of Form 10 to the dealer.

Later, it wasn't the users' fault, but the dealers didn't bother to register the cards they sold. It should have been taken actions against the dealers and the operators for not obeying the regulations set by the department concerned. Thus this present situation could have been avoided if all parties--the PTD and the operators such as the MPT, Telenor and Ooredoo had observed the regulations in the first place.

As for the users, they should try to understand that this is not a new regulation but has been in place right from the start. This is a normal practice in every country.

It is now more important than ever, to have the SIMs registered as the security of the countries in the region are under threat from terrorist groups.

Some people are posting on the social media that it isn't required in Thailand to register the SIMs. They are wrong. I had noticed long time ago, that every SIM bought had to be registered. Thailand had even gone a step further to tighten the security of their country by requiring every foreigner entering their country to use the tracking SIMs so as to be able to monitor their movements and locate their whereabouts at anytime.

I would like to suggest to the PTD through your esteemed daily to consider introducing the tracking SIMs for the foreigners.

I remain Sir.
Yours truly,
Khin Maung Myint

POEM:

Before rainy season

* In South wayward wind
Moving and swaying young reeds
While their heads up
Drizzle of rains showers
In the evening's beauty.

* Long poem and trip of twelve months
Is it far ?
Is it long ?
Leaves of willow facing their breasts
And smile.

* That poem is wanted
Not to be lost
According to the law
To take action to those who accept
In among multi-coloured trees
And greenish clouds
Hand the rhymes out
Umm. . ., for the poet
There's just incessant rain
On half of his breast.

Yin NweKo (Linn)

Trump backs off ISIS comments; party head appears at rallies in show of unity

Republican US presidential nominee Donald Trump visits McLanahan Corporation headquarters in Hollidaysburg, Pennsylvania, on 12 August 2016. PHOTO: REUTERS

ALTOONA (Pa.) — Republican Donald Trump on Friday backed away from comments calling President Barack Obama and Democratic nominee Hillary Clinton the founders of the militant group Islamic State, while the Republican Party sought to project unity behind their candidate.

A new poll showed Trump, whose unfiltered speaking style has repeatedly landed him in hot water, losing ground in three crucial states ahead of the 8 November general election against Clinton.

In a surprise appearance, Republican National Committee Chairman Reince Priebus, who in private expressed fury over some of Trump's actions earlier this month, introduced the candidate at a campaign event in Erie, Pennsylvania, and the two hugged onstage.

"We're so honoured to be working with Donald Trump and the campaign," Priebus told thousands of Trump supporters.

"And don't believe the garbage you read. Let me tell you something. Donald Trump, the Republican Party, all of you, we're going to put him in the White House and save this country together."

Republican sources earlier this month said Priebus was furious over Trump's failure to endorse House of Representatives Speaker Paul Ryan and his feud with the parents of a Muslim American soldier killed in Iraq. Trump did endorse Ryan a few days later.

Trump brought Priebus on stage later at another rally, in Altoona, Pennsylvania, to thank him for the work he has done as he insisted there is great unity in the party.

"I have to say we have great unification," Trump said.

Trump on Friday told the rallies in Altoona and Erie that his remarks earlier this week calling Obama and Clinton the founders of ISIS, as Islamic State is also known, had been sarcastic.

"I have been saying because it's true, but somewhat sarcastically, that he's the founder of ISIS and she's a close second," Trump said in Altoona.

Trump first made the unfounded claim on Wednesday and repeated it through the week.

Trump claimed sarcasm in July as well after he was heavily criticized for inviting Russia to dig up tens of thousands of "missing" emails from Clinton's time as US secretary of state.

A Wall Street Journal/NBC News/Marist poll released on Friday suggested support for Trump is eroding among voters in three battleground states.

Such states are hotly contested because their populations can swing either to Republicans or Democrats and thus play a decisive role in presidential elections, which are ultimately decided by the state-by-state tally of the Electoral College.

The poll found Clinton widening her lead in Colorado, Virginia and North Carolina, while holding her advantage in Florida.

Clinton released her tax returns on Friday, painting the move as a sign of transparency that her campaign says Trump lacks.

US presidential candidates are not required to release their tax returns, but it has become a common custom.

Trump has cited an audit by the Internal Revenue Service in refusing to release his returns. Trump also has said his taxes are no one's business and that they reveal little.

Trump scheduled a speech in Warren, Ohio, on Monday that will focus on how he would handle the threat posed by Islamic State. Trump has said he would "knock the hell out of ISIS," without offering details.

Trump has been mired in repeated controversies in recent days. He drew heavy criticism after he suggested gun rights activists could take action against Clinton, a statement he later said was aimed at rallying votes against her.

Nearly one-fifth of registered Republicans now want Trump to drop out of the race for the White House, according to a Reuters/Ipsos poll released on Wednesday.

Republicans frequently trace the birth of Islamic State to the Obama administration's decision to withdraw the last U.S. forces from Iraq by the end of 2011.

But many analysts argue its roots lie in the decision of George W. Bush's Republican administration to invade Iraq in 2003 without a plan to fill the vacuum created by Saddam Hussein's ouster. It was Bush's administration that negotiated the 2009 agreement that called for the withdrawal of all US forces from Iraq by 31 December, 2011.

At his Erie event, Trump seemed to acknowledge he is facing a formidable opponent in Clinton as well as a difficult electoral path.

"The Republicans have a tougher path — not my fault," he said. He said Clinton's campaign is smart to keep her out of the spotlight.

"She doesn't talk to reporters very often. ... She doesn't expose what's going on up here, which isn't good," he said, meaning her brain. "She's doesn't expose her mind to questions. What they want to do is try to fake it through."

Trump also said in Altoona that the only way he could lose Pennsylvania to Clinton is if "cheating goes on."

He said he wants authorities to monitor the voting closely. "I know what's happening here, folks. She can't beat what's happening here."—*Reuters*

NEWS IN BRIEF

Russia says Lavrov, Steinmeier to meet on Ukraine, Syria

MOSCOW — The Russian and German foreign ministers, Sergei Lavrov and Frank-Walter Steinmeier, will meet on Monday to discuss the conflicts in Ukraine and Syria, Russia's Foreign Ministry said on Saturday.

Tensions between Russia and Ukraine escalated this week after President Vladimir Putin accused Ukraine of sabotage plans in Crimea, the peninsula Russia annexed from Ukraine in 2014.

The meeting follows Turkish President Tayyip Erdogan's visit to Russia this week where he discussed the Syrian conflict with Putin, in their first meeting following a diplomatic rift after Turkey shot down a Russian warplane in November.—*Reuters*

Malaysia arrests Islamic State suspects for grenade attack on bar in June

KUALA LUMPUR — Malaysian police have arrested nine militants, including two suspected of carrying out a grenade attack, claimed by Islamic State, at a nightspot on the outskirts of Kuala Lumpur in June, the country's police chief said on Saturday.

A known Malaysian IS fighter in Syria, Muhammad Wanndy Muhammad Jedi, had said in a posting on his Facebook page that the group had carried out the 28 June attack on a bar in the Puchong neighbourhood that wounded eight people.

If the claim was genuine it would have been the first attack by IS on Malaysian soil. Inspector-General of Police Khalid Abu Bakar said in a statement the two men who carried out the attack had been caught in the northeastern state of Kelantan, where they had been awaiting instructions from Wanndy to carry out further attacks.—*Reuters*

IS leader in Afghanistan killed in US drone strike

WASHINGTON — The head of Islamic State in Afghanistan was killed in a US drone strike last month, the Pentagon said on Friday.

Hafiz Saeed Khan was killed on 26 July in the Achin district of Afghanistan's eastern Nangarhar province, said Pentagon Deputy Press Secretary Gordon Trowbridge in a statement.

Khan, a former senior leader of the Pakistani Taliban, was appointed head of the IS's branch in Afghanistan in January 2015 after pledging allegiance to IS leader Abu Bakr al-Baghdadi, according to a US Treasury sanctions notification last year.

Khan helped establish training camps in western Afghanistan for the IS and was responsible for a series of suicide attacks that killed up to 30 people in Jalalabad in April 2015, the Pentagon said.—*Xinhua*

Seven injured in refinery flash fire in Texas

HOUSTON — Seven people were injured on Friday after a flash fire broke out at a refinery in Port Arthur, a city about 146 km east of Houston in the US state of Texas.

The fire happened at the Sunoco refinery, the largest oil refinery in the United States with a maximum production capacity of 636,500 barrels per day.

The Jefferson County police confirmed the blaze, but did not say when the fire occurred and what caused the fire, which sent the seven people with burns to a local hospital, according to local TV station ABC13. There is no danger to the surrounding area, the police said, adding that authorities are on the scene to investigate the accident. —*Xinhua*

Kurz thanks Serbia for helping reduce migrant wave

VIENNA — Austrian Foreign Minister Sebastian Kurz on Friday thanked Serbia for its contribution to a reduction of the migrant wave through the closure of the Balkan route.

Following a meeting with a Serbian delegation headed by Prime Minister Aleksandar Vucic, Kurz said Serbia was maintaining excellent cooperation with Austria in dealing with the refugee crisis.

At the same time, Austria is faced with an increased migrant flow via Italy and measures must be taken to reduce it, he said.

The issue of migrants was one of the key topics in the discussions, Serbian Foreign Minister Ivica Dacic said after the meeting.—*Tanjug*

US-backed forces wrest control of Syria's Manbij from Islamic State

BEIRUT — US-backed forces have seized full control of the northern Syrian city of Manbij near the Turkish border after the last remaining Islamic State fighters, who had been using civilians as human shields, left, a spokesman for the group said on Friday.

Syria Democratic Forces (SDF) were now sweeping the city after the departure of a last remaining group of militants who had been holed up in the city. They had freed over 2,000 civilian hostages who had been held by the militants, Sharfan Darwish of the SDF allied Manbij Military Council told Reuters.

"The city is now fully under our control but we are undertaking sweeping operations," Darwish said, adding militant sleeper cells in the city were still a threat.

The SDF, with heavy air support from a US-led coalition, said last week they had taken almost complete control of Manbij, where a small number of IS fighters had been holed up.

The SDF's offensive, which began at the end of May, aims to remove Islamic State from areas it controls along the Turkish border.

The Manbij operation in which US special forces have played a significant role on the ground marks the most ambitious advance by a group allied to Washington in Syria since the United States launched its military campaign against Islamic State two years ago.

A Syria Democratic Forces fighter helps civilians who were evacuated by the SDF from an Islamic State-controlled neighbourhood of Manbij. PHOTO: REUTERS

Manbij's loss to the militants is a big blow as it is of strategic importance, serving as a conduit for transit of foreign jihadists and provisions coming from the Turkish border.

Earlier the alliance of Kurdish and Arab fighters grouped in the SDF said Friday's operation was "the last operation and the last assault."

Darwish said earlier roughly 100 Islamic State fighters were left in the city centre using civilians as human shields, some of whom were killed trying to flee.

Reuters pictures showed residents being released from an Islamic State-held neighbourhood on Friday and being welcomed by SDF forces.

Kurdish sources and the Syrian Observatory for Human Rights, which monitors Syria's five-year-old conflict, later said around 500 cars had left Manbij carrying Islamic State members and civilians. They were heading northeast towards Jarablus, a town under Islamic State control on the Turkish border, the Observatory said.

The convoy carried the final Islamic State members leaving the city, under an agreement between the fighting parties that would not be announced officially, Kurdish sources and the monitor said, marking the end of the operation.

The SDF's campaign quickly captured the countryside surrounding Manbij, but slowed once fighting entered the city. The SDF said it had been avoiding a large-scale assault inside Manbij out of concern for civilians.

Dozens of civilians, including children and women from Manbij who had fled the city at the height of the aerial strikes, were killed in suspected US coalition air strikes last month, residents and monitors said. US officials have said once the Manbij operation is completed, it would create the conditions to move on the militant group's de facto capital of Raqqa. US officials anticipate a tough battle. —*Reuters*

Afghan Taliban free six crew of Pakistani helicopter captured after crash

ISLAMABAD — Five Pakistanis and a Russian who were captured by the Afghan Taliban after their government helicopter crashed in eastern Afghanistan have been released and returned to Pakistan, the foreign ministry said on Saturday.

The Russian-made transport helicopter belonging to the Punjab provincial government was en route from Peshawar in northwest Pakistan to Uzbekistan for maintenance on 4 August, when it suffered a technical failure and crash-landed in the Taliban-held Logar Province in eastern Afghanistan earlier this month.

The crew's release was arranged through a handover between tribes in the border region, from where they were transferred to Islamabad by helicopter, the ministry said in a statement.

"The six member crew of Punjab government helicopter that went missing in Afghanistan on 4th August 2016 has been recovered and arrived in Islamabad today," it said.

Whereas Pakistan acknowledges that it wields some influence with the Afghan Taliban, it denies Afghan and US accusations that it provides support and sanctuary for the Afghan Taliban and its leaders.

Pakistan says it has been a victim of terrorism, much of it from groups based in Afghanistan, for years.

Initial reports after the crash had indicated that there were seven passengers but Foreign Ministry spokesman Nafees Zakaria said on Saturday that it turned out there were only six on board.

One of the seven people listed on the flight manifest had been unwell and decided not to fly, a ministry official said on condition of anonymity. —*Reuters*

Fighting in Yemen kills over 3,700 civilians since March of last year: UN

GENEVA — Ground battles and airstrikes in Yemen have killed 3,704 civilians and injured 6,566 since March of 2015 when Saudi Arabia led a military coalition against the Houthis and Saleh's forces, a UN official said on Friday. Ravina Shamdasani, spokesperson for the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights, told a press briefing here on Friday that the number of civilian casualties in Yemen has been steadily mounting over the past few weeks.

"Despite the cessation of hostilities, between 11 April and 11 August of this year, we have documented 815 civilian casualties, including 272 deaths and 543 injured," she said, adding that of these 49 civilians were killed and another 77 injured in just the past week. She told reporters that only several days ago, on 9 August, an airstrike hit Al Khafifa food factory in the Al Nahdhah district of Sana'a, killing 10 civilians, including three women who worked in the factory. According to her, a journalist was reportedly struck by two shells on 5 August.

Yemen has been locked in a civil war since the Houthis seized power and overturned the Yemeni government in late 2014. In March 2015, the Saudi-led coalition launched a bombing campaign to restore the legitimacy of the government. However, the military intervention has deepened the conflict and crises across the country.—*Xinhua*

UN Security Council approves adding peacekeeping forces in South Sudan

NEW YORK — The UN Security Council adopted a resolution Friday to add about 4,000 soldiers to its peacekeeping operations in South Sudan amid deteriorating public safety.

The resolution, supported by 11 countries, with four including Russia and China abstaining, will increase the number of peacekeeping forces in the northeast African country to 17,000. The council decided to send additional forces to enhance protection of civilians and personnel of the UN Mission in South Sudan or UNMISS from increased threats in Juba, the capital. A cease-fire agreement was reached last month between forces loyal to President Salva Kiir and antigovernment forces but there are reports of alleged rapes and looting by soldiers.

South Sudan's Ambassador to the United Nations Akuei Bona Malwal rejected the resolution, saying it does not take his country's views into consideration and goes against the basic principle of UN peacekeeping operations. The council will consider imposing an arms embargo on South Sudan if the government does not accept the additional troops. UNMISS was established in 2011 when the country gained independence from Sudan. But ethnic clashes swept the country in 2013, pitting those loyal to the president against antigovernment forces.—*Kyodo News*

Global polio eradication hopes hang in the balance after Nigeria setback

LONDON/GENEVA — After two years in which the disease appeared beaten in Africa, polio eradication hopes hang in the balance with two cases of paralysis in Nigeria suggesting the virus has fought back, UN experts said on Friday.

Many more cases of polio paralysis could come to light as investigators go into areas of northeastern Nigeria where the country's first cases in the two years were confirmed on Thursday.

"There could very well be more cases," Michel Zaffran, head of polio at the World Health Organisation, told reporters in a series of briefings.

He said health authorities would be carrying out detailed surveillance in the state of Borno and surrounding areas to see whether and how many other children might have been affected.

"If this virus has been circulating for several years, there's a risk many more children have been paralysed. We need carry out intensive and active surveillance to identify them."

The polio virus, which invades the nervous system and can cause irreversible paralysis within hours, spreads rapidly among children, especially in unsanitary conditions in war-torn regions, refugee camps and areas where healthcare is limited.

Volunteer Health officials wait to immunise children at a school in Nigeria's capital Abuja in 2010. PHOTO: REUTERS

Experts estimate that for every case of polio that paralyses its victim, 200 silent infections go undetected.

The WHO said it is planning a large, rapid response to the disease's re-emergence in Nigeria, beginning next week with emergency vaccination campaigns in four local government areas near the two confirmed cases.

The Islamic extremist group Boko Haram is active in Borno and instability in the northeastern state has hampered efforts to get vaccines to children at risk. But Zaffran said health authorities would work with local religious and community leaders to try to ensure better access

Beyond that, emergency national immunization rounds will also be carried out in Nigeria and neighboring countries of Chad, Cameroon, Niger and the Central African Republic.

"There is a very active response being planned to ensure that we interrupt this outbreak and do not allow it to spread to neighbouring countries," Zaffran said.

The Nigerian cases are a serious setback to efforts to eradicate polio across the world.

In Pakistan and Afghanistan, the last two countries where polio currently remains endemic, a total of 19 polio cases have been reported so far this year, the lowest-ever annual tally. Until these latest infections, Nigeria's previous polio case was in July 2014.

Polio experts had earlier this year said that stopping all transmission of the contagious viral disease was possible within 2016, and full, official, global eradication could then be declared by the end of this decade.

"I believe we're still on target to do that," Zaffran said. "But of course the risk has increased that the targets might slip if we are not able to interrupt transmission in Nigeria."

The Global Polio Eradication Initiative (GPEI) said in a statement it was "deeply concerned" by the Nigeria cases

"Despite significant progress against the virus in Nigeria and the entire continent of Africa, these cases further demonstrate that governments, partners and the GPEI must work together and redouble efforts to stop polio for good," it said. —*Reuters*

Zambia's opposition leader takes narrow early lead in election

LUSAKA — Zambia's main opposition leader Hakainde Hichilema took an early lead over President Edgar Lungu on Saturday in a tight election battle fought as the key copper producer's economy stutters due to weak commodity prices.

The Electoral Commission of Zambia (ECZ) delayed announcing the first results on Friday, saying audits were taking longer than expected mainly due to a large voter turnout.

It denied charges by Hichilema's United Party for National Development (UPND) that it was dragging its feet because it was trying to manipulate the results in favour of Lungu's Patriotic Front (PF).

Data from eight of Zambia's 156 constituencies showed businessman Hichilema in the lead with 47,706 votes after Thursday's election, against 41,572 for lawyer Lungu.

Voter turnout currently stood at 57.55 per cent, far above the 32 per cent recorded early last year when Lungu narrowly won an election to fill the vacancy left by the death of then president Michael Sata.

If no candidate fails to win more than 50 per cent this time, Zambia will have to hold a second round of elections.

Patriotic Front (PF) Presidential candidate Edgar Lungu and his wife Esther Lungu leave a rally in Lusaka in 2015. PHOTO: REUTERS

Campaigning for this week's vote centred on the economy, after months of rising unemployment, mine closures, power shortages and soaring food prices in Africa's No. 2 copper producer.

Supporters of the two main parties clashed in what is generally one of the continent's most stable democracies.

Hichilema says the president has mismanaged the economy but Lungu, whose government has been negotiating a financial support package with the International Monetary Fund, blames weak growth on plunging commodity prices.

The electoral commission said final results from the elections, in which Zambians also chose members of parliament, mayors, local councillors, and whether or not to accept proposed changes to the constitution, would not be in by late Saturday or early Sunday as initially anticipated. —*Reuters*

Brazil sets final impeachment trial date for suspended president

BRASILIA — Brazil's Supreme Court announced on Friday that the final impeachment trial of suspended President Dilma Rousseff will be held on 25 August.

On 10 August, the Senate voted 59-21 to move ahead with the trial, after a recommendation to do so by its impeachment committee.

Next week, Ricardo Lewandowski, the president of the Supreme Court, will meet with leaders of different political parties to determine the procedure of the trial and voting. He will seek to broker a deal about the length of the sessions, the intervals and the time each senator will have to speak before casting their vote.

Expectations among analysts are that the trial will last under five days, although allies of interim president Michel Temer are seeking to reduce this period further.

A vote by two-thirds of the 81 senators (54 votes) are needed for Rousseff to be impeached and permanently removed from office. —*Xinhua*

Changing Cuba pays homage to Fidel Castro ahead of 90th birthday

HAVANA — Cuba is awash with official tributes to former leader Fidel Castro ahead of his 90th birthday on Saturday, even as its people and leadership have begun to look beyond the legacy of the Communist-ruled state's founding figure.

Dotted around Havana, flags read "Gracias, Fidel" and billboards cite his best-known phrases, while state media churns out stories about the man who toppled a US-backed dictator in 1959 and went on to rule Cuba for nearly half a century.

Thousands are expected to attend street concerts over the weekend in honor of Castro, who is revered by many for freeing Cuba from US domination and bringing universal healthcare and education, but loathed by others for his long grip on the island.

"Fidel is an example for the whole world, he is a large personality because of all he did for our country," said Yoelmis Mengana, a shop owner, after touring an exhibition of photos of Fidel in Havana's grandiose Hotel Nacional.

The birthday celebrations hark back to an era when "El Comandante" nationalized the economy and ruled almost single-handedly, but Cuba has changed since Fidel's brother, President Raul Castro, officially took the reins of power in 2008.

The younger Castro, 85, has brought detente with "eternal enemy" the United States and pushed through market-oriented reforms to the Soviet-style command economy, while also offering more internet access and fewer restrictions on travel.

Hundreds of thousands of Cubans now work for themselves or for small private businesses and a jump in tourism, likely to accelerate with the start of regular commercial flights to and from the United States later this month, has fueled a new sense of openness and economic opportunity on the island.

In public comments, Fidel has lent only lukewarm support to his brother's initiatives, but his influence has waned externally as well as at home.

On his 80th birthday, Fidel Castro was frail from an intestinal ailment that nearly killed him, but his ideas were enjoying a revival among a bloc of leftist presidents resisting the traditional domination of the United States in Latin America.

A decade later, that bloc is crumbling. In Brazil and Argentina, a shift to the political right has toppled Fidel's friends.

Venezuela's socialist President Nicolas Maduro will visit Cuba for Fidel's birthday, local media reported. But Venezuela, an important ally of Cuba under late left-wing populist Hugo Chavez, is in crisis and has slashed the exports of subsidized oil that Havana long depended on.

It is not clear whether Fidel, who has not been seen out and about for months, will make a public appearance.—*Reuters*

Children perform under an image of Cuba's former President Fidel Castro during an event organised by 10-year-old Castro admirer Marlon Mendez (not pictured) to celebrate the 90th birthday of Castro, in San Antonio de los Banos, Cuba, on 10 August 2016. PHOTO: REUTERS

At least two dead, two injured as rains pound US Gulf Coast

BATON ROUGE (La) — Torrential downpours in parts of Louisiana and Mississippi caused flooding on Friday that killed at least two men, left two people injured and forced residents to evacuate homes throughout the region, officials said.

Pounding rain over the past two days led Louisiana Governor John Bel Edwards to declare a state of emergency, and forced the closure of schools, government offices and many roads.

The National Weather Service issued a flash flood watch into the weekend for parts of southern Mississippi and southeastern Louisiana, including New Orleans.

The severe weather comes five months after March flooding in Louisiana and Mississippi that left at least four dead and thousands of homes damaged.

The body of a 68-year-old man was recovered near Baker, Louisiana, near the state capital of Baton Rouge, after he drowned while attempting to evacuate, said William "Beau" Clark, coroner in East Baton Rouge Parish.

In northern Louisiana, the body of an unidentified man was recovered from a pickup truck that had been swept off a highway near the town of Greensburg, the St. Helena Parish Sheriff's Office said.

Officials advised area residents to boil water and imposed a curfew, the sheriff's office said.

In Mississippi, water rescues were conducted throughout the day and two people were reported with minor injuries in Harrison County, where roads were reopened by the afternoon, the state's Emergency Management Agency said.

Two counties, Pike and Amite, were experiencing flash and river flooding after being inundated with more than 10 inches (25.4 cm) of rain since midnight, said Mississippi Emergency Management Agency Executive Director Lee Smithson.

The Tangipahoa, Biloxi and Pearl rivers all were flooding, he said.—*Reuters*

Verot School Rd is seen covered in floodwaters in this handout picture taken by the Louisiana Department of Transportation and Development in Lafayette Parish, Louisiana, US on 12 August 2016. PHOTO: REUTERS

Turkey criticises UN rights boss for comments on failed coup

ISTANBUL — Turkey on Saturday criticised a top UN human rights official for saying Ankara should stem its "thirst for revenge" after a failed coup attempt and denied people's rights were being violated in a purge of officials and professional ranks.

UN High Commissioner for Human Rights Zeid Ra'ad Al Hussein called on Ankara this week to uphold the rights of detainees held since the 15-16 July abortive putsch.

Authorities have suspended, detained or begun investigating tens of thousands of soldiers, police, judges, journalists and civil servants.

Turkish foreign ministry spokesman Tanju Bilgic, in a statement, said Zeid's comments were unacceptable.

"It is at best an unfortunate statement for a UN official tasked with guarding human rights to say 'he has no sympathy' for coup plotters instead of condemning these terrorists who have attempted a bloody coup," Bilgic said.

Western allies worry that President Tayyip Erdogan is using the putsch and the purge that has followed to tighten his grip on power.

But many Turks are angered by what they see as a lack of Western sympathy over a violent coup attempt by a rogue faction in the Turkish military using fighter jets, helicopters and tanks in which 240 people died. —*Reuters*

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

MV EVER ABLE VOY. NO ( )

Consignees of cargo carried on MV EVER ABLE VOY NO ( ) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 14.8.2016 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 Claim's 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 EVERGREEN SHIPPING LINE

Phone No: 2301185

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

MV ANAN BHUM VOY. NO ( )

Consignees of cargo carried on MV ANAN BHUM VOY NO ( ) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 14.8.2016 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 Claim's Day now declared as the third day after final discharge of cargo from the Vessel.

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

SHIPPING AGENCY DEPARTMENT
MYANMA PORT AUTHORITY
AGENT FOR: M/S COSCO CONTAINER LINES

Phone No: 2301185

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

MV ESM CREMONA VOY. NO ( )

Consignees of cargo carried on MV ESM CREMONA VOY NO ( ) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 14.8.2016 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 Claim's 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 ORIENT OVERSEAS CONTAINER LINES

Phone No: 2301185

22nd Sarajevo Film Festival kicks off

SARAJEVO —The 22nd Sarajevo Film Festival (SFF) officially opened on Friday night with a red carpet ceremony.

The festival was officially opened by two-time Oscar-winning US actor and producer Robert De Niro during a ceremony at the National Theater.

After the opening ceremony, Robert De Niro was presented with the first Honorary Heart of Sarajevo — Lifetime Achievement Award in front of an audience of more than 3,000 people at the Open Air Cinema.

Then, the audience enjoyed Martin Scorsese's legendary "Taxi Driver" which has been restored for its 40th anniversary in which De Niro starred. In the following eight days, tens of thousands movie lovers will be able to watch 222 films from 61 countries and regions around the world.

The Sarajevo Film Festival, launched in 1995, has become a leading cultural event in the Balkan region. Some 100,000 fans were expected to visit Sarajevo during the event, according to organisers.—*Xinhua*

Actor Robert De Niro poses with the Heart of Sarajevo honorary award during the 22nd Sarajevo Film Festival in Sarajevo, Bosnia and Herzegovina, on 12 August, 2016. PHOTO: REUTERS

Johnny Depp's family wants him to reunite with Vanessa Paradis

Johnny Depp's family wants Depp to reunite with ex-wife Vanessa Paradis. PHOTO: PTI

LOS ANGELES — Actor Johnny Depp's family and friends are reportedly rooting for him to reunite with ex Vanessa Paradis, amid his stalled divorce with Amber Heard. The 53-year-old actor and the Paradis, 43, were together for 14 years before they separated in 2012, reported Aceshowbiz.

"Vanessa has been there for Johnny throughout the entire mess. We're all rooting for them to get back together! Lily probably blames Amber for breaking up her parents and she'd love for them to get back together — they both would," said Heather Rassel, who was once married to Depp's nephew. The former couple have two children, daughter Lily-Rose Depp and son John Depp III together.

The "Black Mass" actor is currently caught in a bitter divorce with Heard, whom he married in February 2015 after they met on the set of "The Rum Diary". The 30-year-old actress filed for divorce in May this year and has accused Depp of abuse.

"We always suspected it was reverse psychology. Her pointing the finger at him for things that she did," Rassel said on the abuse claim. Heard recently missed a deposition, after she was reported crying and screaming while refusing to testify under oath last weekend. She was scheduled to attend an emergency hearing on 12 August, but couldn't make it.—*PTI*

My celebrity crush is Meryl Streep: Idris Elba

LOS ANGELES — Actor Idris Elba says he has a huge crush on veteran actress Meryl Streep.

The 43-year-old "Star Trek Beyond" actor said he became so nervous when he met her that he couldn't utter a word.

"My celebrity crush is Meryl Streep. When I met her, my tongue swelled up in my mouth," Elba said.

Apart from Streep the actor said he is a big fan of Denzel Washington and would love to work with him.

"I want to work with Denzel Washington one day. He's a hero of mine."

Elba, who is also a DJ, opened up about his love for music saying he started deejaying when he was just eight years old.

"When I was 8 years old, I deejayed for my mom's and dad's birthday parties and house parties. I felt like a big man.

I deejay. I'll shamelessly plug that I just dropped a record of my own called 'Spectacle,' which I edited," he said.—*PTI*

Dolly Parton never wants to retire

LONDON — Veteran singer Dolly Parton says she has no plans to retire from music.

The 70-year-old country star said 'retirement' doesn't appeal to her and she doesn't want to miss on the love fans shower on her, reported Digital Spy.

"Why would I ever do that?! That word doesn't register with me. I cannot possibly imagine retiring. What would I retire to? For me not to think that I would have something to do, that I would miss out on all the excitement and all the fans. All these dreams and creative ideas that I have. There is no way that I would ever retire," Parton said.

The "Unlikely Angel" singer said only bad health can hold her back from creating music.

"The only thing that would lay me low or even slow me down would be if I were sick or if my husband was sick and needed me. But I intend to work for as long as I can.

"If I'm lucky enough to live to 100, I hope to be like Betty White and Bob Hope and George Burns. I want to be working. And Tony Bennett, he is doing pretty good! I want to be like that!" she said.

Parton released her 43rd studio album "Pure & Simple" this month.—*PTI*

Singer Dolly Parton poses backstage with her Tex Ritter Award at the 51st Academy of Country Music Awards in Las Vegas, Nevada, on 3 April 2016. PHOTO: REUTERS

Jackie Chan to lend voice to 'Lego Ninjago Movie'

LOS ANGELES — Chinese action star Jackie Chan, Dave Franco, Kumail Nanjiani and Michael Pena are among the actors who will lend their voices to the latest Lego animated film, "The Lego Ninjago Movie", Warner Bros announced.

Justin Theroux, Fred Armisen, Abbi Jacobson, Olivia Munn and Zach Woods also are part of the voice cast, according to The Hollywood Reporter.

The plot, per the studio, revolves around the battle of Ninjago City and "calls to action young Lloyd, aka the Green Ninja, along with his friends, who are all secret warriors and Lego Master Builders.

Led by kung fu master Wu, as wise-cracking as he is wise, they must defeat evil warlord Garmadon, the worst guy ever, who also happens to be Lloyd's dad.

"Pitting mech against mech and father against son, the epic showdown will test this fierce but undisciplined team of modern-day ninjas who must learn to check their egos and pull together to unleash their true power," the studio description added.

Chan will voice Master Wu, while Franco will voice Lloyd. Theroux is playing Garmadon and Munn is taking on the role of Lloyd's mother. The ninjas will be voiced by Armisen, Jacobson, Nanjiani, Pena and Woods.

The film is being directed by Charlie Bean ('Tron: Uprising') and produced by Dan Lin, Phil Lord, Chris Miller and Roy Lee. Maryann Garger also is producing.

"The Lego Ninjago Movie" will release on 22 September. —*PTI*

Spain's Nadal and Lopez win gold in men's doubles

RIO DE JANEIRO — Rafa Nadal and Marc Lopez of Spain won the Olympic men's doubles tennis title on Friday, beating Romania's Florin Mergea and Horia Tecau to secure their country's third gold medal of the Rio Games.

Nadal and Lopez defeated the Romanians 6-2, 3-6, 6-4 while American duo Steve Johnson and Jack Sock beat Canada's Daniel Nestor and Vasek Pospisil 6-2, 6-4 to clinch bronze.

The doubles win sets up Nadal for a potential golden double in the men's events at the Rio Games as he is still alive in the singles draw.

Nadal, who won singles gold in Beijing eight years ago and missed the 2012 London Games due to a knee injury, will play Argentina's Juan Martin del Potro in the semi-finals on Saturday.

Nadal said his partner was a close friend even though they had little experience of playing together and were tested by a experienced Romanian pair.

Rafael Nadal (ESP) of Spain and Marc Lopez (ESP) of Spain celebrate after winning their match against Florin Mergea (ROU) of Romania and Horia Tecau (ROU) of Romania. PHOTO: REUTERS

"It is a privilege to be able to share this moment with one of my best friends," he told reporters.

Nadal and Lopez claimed Spain's fifth overall medal, following others in swimming, canoe slalom and weightlifting.

A gruelling match lasting two hours and 26 minutes was a challenge for Nadal who has had an exhausting schedule and cited fatigue when he pulled out of the mixed doubles on Thursday.

After two matches on Friday, the second of which stretched into the night, Nadal will have little time to recover before the singles semi-final at mid-day on Saturday.

"I will be at a disadvantage, but the scheduling is just something you have to accept," he said.

Nadal has struggled with a wrist injury this year and the left-hander, more known for his sweeping ground stokes than the serve and volley play typical of doubles, arrived in Rio having not played since withdrawing from the French Open in May.

"Just 25 days ago I couldn't even train," Nadal said, adding that he was unsure until days before the Games whether he would compete at all.

Tecau and Mergea, both 31 years old, are doubles specialists and each rank among the world's top 15 in the pairs event. —*Reuters*

Soccer: We lost to 'cowards', US keeper says

RIO DE JANEIRO — US goalkeeper Hope Solo called Sweden "a bunch of cowards" after they knocked the United States out of the Olympic women's football tournament on penalties on Friday.

"I think we showed a lot of heart," Solo told Sports Illustrated after the Europeans moved into the semi-final 4-3 on penalties. "We came back from a goal down. I'm very proud of this team.

"But I also think we played a bunch of cowards," she said. "The best team did not win today," she told the sports magazine, later confirming in a Tweet that she had made the comments after the match in Brasilia.

"Sweden dropped off. They did not want open play. They didn't want to pass the ball. They didn't want to play great soccer," she said.

"Losing sucks. I'm really bad at it," Solo said in her tweet confirming and resending the comments she made to Sports Illustrated.

The United States were the better team throughout but Alex Morgan and Christen Press missed penalties after the game ended 1-1 after extra time.

It was the first time that the United States have not reached the Olympic final.

"The best teams in the world have to deal with inferior opposition that bunkers in and defends," former US men's captain Alexei Lalas said in a tweet. "But they don't call them cowards."

Solo has regularly courted controversy and Friday's incident was not even her first in these Olympics. The Washington-born keeper was booed mercilessly by Brazilian fans angry at her comments on the Zika virus.

Several athletes chose not to come to Brazil citing Zika scares and Solo posted pictures on social media wearing a mosquito mask over her face and carrying industrial quantities of repellent.

She also indulged in what appeared to be blatant gamesmanship on Friday by calling for a new set of gloves immediately before Sweden's decisive penalty.

Solo, who played her 200th international last week, played well in her opening two games, with wins over New Zealand and France, but had a nightmare in the 2-2 draw against Colombia and was at fault for both goals.

She had little to do against Sweden as the United States struggled to break down their opponents, who tried to hit them on the break. Stina Blackstenius put Sweden ahead on Friday after 61 minutes but the United States equalised 16 minutes later through Alex Morgan.

Stina Blackstenius (SWE) of Sweden (not pictured) scores a goal past goalie Hope Solo (USA) of USA during Women's Football Tournament Quarterfinal at Mane Garrincha Stadium in Brasilia, Brazil, on 12 August 2016. PHOTO: REUTERS

Neither side could find a winner in extra time and the Swedes qualified to meet either Brazil or Australia in the semi-final.—*Reuters*

MRTV Entertainment Channel

(14-8-2016, Sunday)

06 : 00 pm
- Weather Report
- Cartoon "Garfield's Gets Real" (Part-I)

06 : 45 pm
- MRTV Entertainment Music

07 : 00 pm
- Myanmar Video

08 : 45 pm
- MRTV Entertainment Music

08 : 55 pm
- Sai Htee Hseng Or An Exceptional Music Star From Shan Plateaus (Ep-4)

09 : 25 pm
- International Movie Songs

09 : 35 pm
- To The Land of Countless Temples - Bagan Trip (Ep-2)

10 : 00 pm
- Music Programme

10 : 10 pm
- The Green Corner "Jellyfish"

10 : 20 pm
- Myanmar Movie

* 09 : 20 pm Live: Premier League " Arsenal Vs West Liverpool"

From 14-8-2016 (Sunday) 6:00 pm
To 15-8-2016 (Monday) 6:00 pm

mitv Myanmar International

(14-8-2016 07:00am ~ 15-8-2016 07:00am) MST

Today Fresh

07:03	Am	News
07:26	Am	Yangon Markets: Nyaung Pin Lay Market
07:33	Am	Adventurous Young Photographer
07:52	Am	Graffiti: Portraiture
08:03	Am	News
08:26	Am	Tour of national heritages and archeological sites
08:49	Am	Colourful Threads
08:57	Am	H.El.P (7) Use any means to share information where the elephants are
09:03	Am	News
09:26	Am	"Myanmar's Beauty and Nature" Beach
09:51	Am	Sagaing: Guitars
10:03	Am	News
10:26	Am	A Real Dream Of Accidental Gift
10:50	Am	A Tea Business: Pankwan (Part-1)

(11:00 Am ~ 03:00 Pm) - Saturday Repeat (07:00 Am ~ 11:00 Am)
(03:00 Pm ~ 07:00 Pm) - Today Repeat (07:00 Am ~ 11:00 Am)

Prime Time

07:03	Pm	News
07:26	Pm	Travelogue "To the coastal region (Myeik - Kawthoung)" (Part-2)
07:42	Pm	Today Myanmar: Union Peace Conference (21st Century Panglong)
08:03	Pm	News
08:26	Pm	The Stories Of The Great Souls (Mar Mar Aye) (EP-2)

(09:00 Pm ~ 11:00 Pm) - Today Repeat (09:00 Am ~ 11:00 Am)
(11:00 Pm ~ 03:00 Am) - Saturday Repeat (07:00 Am ~ 11:00 Am)
(03:00 Am ~ 07:00 Am) - Today Repeat (07:00 Am ~ 11:00 Am)

(For Detailed Schedule – www.myanmaritv.com/schedule)

THE GLOBAL NEW LIGHT OF MYANMAR

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Murray, Nadal both squeak into semi-finals

RIO DE JANEIRO — London Olympic champion Andy Murray reached the semi-finals of the men's tennis on Friday after winning a third-set tie-break to scrape through a testing encounter against American Steve Johnson.

Spain's Rafa Nadal also secured a spot in the semi-finals with a hard fought victory against local favourite Thomaz Belucci of Brazil, rallying back after losing the first set.

Britain's Murray, the world number two, edged into the last four with a 6-0, 4-6, 7-6(2) victory but was pushed to the limit by the 22nd-ranked Johnson.

The players traded service breaks and blazing passing shots in the final set but Murray showed steady nerves to win the tie-break, closing out the match with a deftly placed overhead smash.

"It was a very tough match and I just managed to turn it around in the end," Murray told reporters. "For me it has nothing to do with having won the gold in London. For me it's about trying to win more medals for the country and the team."

Andy Murray (GBR) of Britain celebrates after winning his match against Steve Johnson (USA) of USA at Olympic Tennis Centre in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, on 12 August 2016. PHOTO: REUTERS

Murray will face Japan's Kei Nishikori who edged out France's Gael Monfils 7-6(4), 4-6, 7-6(6) in a tense third set tie-break after facing repeated match points.

Nadal, ranked fifth in the world, was tested by No. 54-ranked Belucci in a centre court stadium filled with passionate Brazilian fans, but found his rhythm in the final two sets, to clinch the 2-6, 6-4, 6-2 victory.

"The atmosphere was tough, but at the same time I enjoy it," Nadal told reporters. "I managed to come back in some tough situations."

Nadal will take on Argentina's Juan Martin del Potro, who advanced with a 7-5, 7-6(4) win over Spain's Roberto Bautista Agut, drawing enthusiastic chants from rafters packed with blue-and-white clad fans from neighbouring Argentina.

Nadal will also team up with Marc Lopez in the men's doubles final against Romania's Florin Mergea and Horia Tecau.

In the first women's singles semi-final, Puerto Rico's Monica Puig beat Petra Kvitova of the Czech Republic to give her the chance to win her country's first Olympic gold medal.

The 34th-ranked Puig won a decisive third set to go through 6-4, 1-6, 6-3. She will compete in the final for what may be her country's first medal of the Rio Games.

"It would be unbelievable and it would be the biggest honour in the world," Puig told reporters about the prospect of winning gold.

"The island is full of such bad news all the time, so every time there's a Games and somebody from the island wins a medal everything stops and I know how happy people get."

Puerto Rico, which has been facing a deep financial crisis, has won just eight medals at past Games, mostly in boxing.

Puig will take on Australian Open champion Angelique Kerber in the final after the German beat Madison Keys 6-3, 7-5 in the other semi-final. —*Reuters*

Messi back for Argentina after reversing decision

Argentina midfielder Lionel Messi. PHOTO: REUTERS

BUENOS AIRES — Lionel Messi has announced that he will play on for Argentina, reversing his decision in June to retire from international football.

The Barcelona forward said he would not play for Argentina again after the team lost to Chile in the final of the Copa America in the United States.

However, in a statement on Friday, Messi explained that he wanted to continue representing his country as he preferred "to help from within".

"I consider there to be a lot of problems in Argentine football and it's not my intention to create another one," the 29-year-old said.

"There are a lot of issues that need to be resolved in Argentine football but I prefer to help from within and not to criticise from the outside. "A lot of things went through my mind on the night of the final and I gave serious thought to quitting but my love for my country and this shirt is too great," the player said.

A few hours later Messi was named in new coach Edgardo Bauza's squad to face Uruguay and Venezuela in 2018 World Cup, South American qualifiers to be held in the first week of September. Bauza, who replaced Gerardo Martino after he quit in July over the FA's failure to prepare a strong under-23 team for the Rio Olympics, was in Barcelona on Thursday for a meeting with his team captain.

Messi, who has scored a national record 55 goals in 113 appearances, has lost four major finals with Argentina, three in the last two years including the 2014 World Cup final to Germany in Brazil.

The June reverse in New Jersey was the second successive Copa America penalty shootout defeat by Chile in 12 months.

Messi, unhappy with the Argentine FA's running of the team, planned to speak out after the Copa final but felt he could not after they were beaten.

His return will be a relief for the FA, mired in an economic and management crisis and administered by a so-called regularisation committee appointed by world football's governing body FIFA. Messi's decision in June sparked demonstrations in Buenos Aires and calls for him to change his mind.—*Reuters*

Singapore euphoric over first ever Olympic gold medal

SINGAPORE — Singapore received its first ever Olympic gold medal on Friday, as Singaporean swimmer Joseph Schooling clinched victor in the 100m butterfly event at the Rio games.

Schooling, 21, won with a time of 50.39 seconds, beating other contenders including giants of the sport, such as American swimmer Michael Phelps.

The victory also marks the first ever gold medal by a Southeast Asian male swimmer.

Thousands of Singaporeans cheered Schooling on while watching the event live on their TV sets or online, while some groups gathered at public places to cheer and celebrate the victory.

Singapore's Prime Minister Lee Hsien Loong immediately posted a congratulatory message online, saying, "You made us very proud today."

Schooling, who is studying at the University of Texas at Austin, left Singapore in 2009 to train for his swimming career in the United States.

Singapore's main English language newspaper said, "Joseph Schooling's single-minded, seven-year chase of his Olympic dream" showed to "the world — and his countrymen back home — what a small country like Singapore is capable of at sport's pinnacle."

Despite being Southeast Asia's most economically advanced economy, Singapore had historically suffered from lackluster performances in the international sporting arena, lagging behind its regional neighbours, which have accumulated more Olympic medals.

Joseph Schooling of Singapore shows his 100-meter butterfly gold medal at the Rio de Janeiro Olympics on 12 August, 2016. PHOTO: KYODO NEWS

Before the Rio games, Singaporean athletes had won only two silver and two bronze medals in the entire history of the games.

Singapore's first Olympic medal was in 1960 when Tan Howe Liang won a silver for weightlifting in Rome. This was followed by a vacuum until 2008, when a silver in table tennis was won in Beijing.

The two bronze medals came in table tennis at the 2012 London games.—*Kyodo News*

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