

ASEAN Lifetime Achievement Award conferred on Daw Aung San Suu Kyi

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AID REACHES FLOOD VICTIMS

President visits flood hit areas in Magway Region



President U Htin Kyaw presents aid to an elder woman in Minbu.
PHOTO: MNA

PRESIDENT U Htin Kyaw went on an inspection tour of flood-ravaged areas in the Magway Region to ensure relief was provided to victims yesterday.

Magway Region Chief Minister Dr Aung Moe Nyo briefed the president on ongoing rescue and relief operations, the impact of the disaster on irrigation facilities and recovery plans.

The president called for systematic supervision through sympathy and cooperation in re-

lief work, urging officials at all levels to make sure that aid and assistance distributed by different agencies and organisations reached the victims.

The president flew in military helicopter to Minbu, where he paid homage and gave relief to the members of the Sangha led by Presiding Sayadaw Bhaddanta Sasanadhaja at the Hmankin monastery.

He spoke words of encouragement to the flood victims who

were forced to take temporary shelter at the monastery.

President U Htin Kyaw also visited the Phayagyi monastery in Pwintphyu township, where he paid homage to the members of the Sangha led by Presiding Sayadaw Bhaddanta Nandaka and donated offertories to the monks.

The president then proceeded to Pakokku to similarly pay homage and donate offertories to the monks led by Presiding Sayadaw

Bhaddanta Candobhassa of the Shwetheindaw Dhamma Centre.

The president gave relief and provided aid to flood victims at all three places he visited.

In his meetings with the flood victims, the president expressed his delight at seeing the government, the army, the police force, local residents and civil society standing united with the victims in difficult times. He pledged to continue the government's assistance to the plight of the victims.

Incessant rain has been battering the Magway Region for two months, prompting authorities to evacuate over 30,000 households from 360 villages in 15 townships to monasteries and schools in safe villages. The government and well-wishers have distributed sustenance, including rice, oil, salt, canned fish, beans and pulses, dried noodles, bottled water and cash and kind worth K2.2 billion (US\$185,500).
—Myanmar News Agency

Health specialists rush to Sagaing after reports of 38 deaths

REPORTS of deaths from an unknown disease in some villages of the Sagaing Region has prompted public health officers to rush to the areas.

Twenty-five people were reported dead in Htankhawlama village of Lahel township between 6

June and 4 August, with the health workers saying that the symptoms included fever, coughing, headache, stomach ache and rash.

The village is located 40 miles away from Lahel and it takes two days to reach the village from the township. The ages of

the dead ranged from 1 to 94, but health workers said the most vulnerable are those between 1 and 12 years of age, adding that there was no report of deaths from its nearby villages.

Medical camps have been set up to give treatment to the

sick villagers. Sample blood tests performed at the National Health Laboratory in Yangon on 5 August revealed that three patients were diagnosed with measles. Measles is now considered to have reached epidemic proportions in the region, with local authorities

making all-out efforts to carry out vaccinations against the disease and contain the pandemic. The vaccinations were undertaken under the supervision of specialists from the Public Health Department and local hospitals.

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Message from His Excellency U Htin Kyaw, President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar, on the occasion of the 49th Anniversary ASEAN Day

(8th August 2016)

Esteemed Citizens,

Today marks the forty-ninth anniversary of the founding of the Association of South East Asian Nations (ASEAN) a regional grouping of ten South-East Asian countries. On this auspicious day, I have the pleasure to extend my warmest greetings and best wishes to the people of Myanmar and the peoples of the Member States of ASEAN.

ASEAN, which was founded by five original members forty nine years ago aimed at developing cooperation in the economic, social, cultural, technical, education and other fields, has now become a rules-based ten-member regional organization with its own Charter and legal personality.

ASEAN is making good progress in community building by intensifying its efforts to make the region more politically cohesive, economically integrated and socially responsible.

Like other regional organizations, ASEAN has its internal and external challenges. Notwithstanding these challenges, ASEAN has demonstrated its

strength and resilience in addressing issues of common interest and concern.

As we celebrate this special day, I pay tribute to the farsighted leaders of founding member of ASEAN who signed Bangkok Declaration forty nine years ago.

Esteemed Citizens,

ASEAN Leader announced the establishment of the ASEAN Community on 31st December 2015 and adopted the ASEAN Community Vision 2025 and its three Blueprints at the 27th ASEAN Summit in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia last year. The year 2016 is not only the first year of the ASEAN Community, but also the beginning of process to fulfil the objectives of the ASEAN Community Vision 2025. Myanmar takes pride for its contribution towards the establishment of ASEAN Community during its chairmanship in 2014.

Lao PDR's ASEAN Chairmanship 2016 takes place at a time ASEAN is strengthening the Community efforts by implementing the ASEAN Community Vision 2025. In this respect, we support Lao PDR's theme

"Turning Vision into Reality for Dynamic ASEAN Community".

Peace and stability, and socio-economic achievements in the region have elevated ASEAN's stature in the international arena. ASEAN region has today become the centre of growth in the Asia Pacific region and ASEAN in playing a vital role in maintaining and promoting peace, security and stability and development in the region and beyond.

Over the past years, growth and development in ASEAN member states have contributed greatly in reducing poverty, improving health services, education and access to information, enhancing disaster preparedness, narrowing of development gaps within and among ten-member countries. ASEAN, today with a total population of 625 million and a combined GDP of approximately two and half trillion US dollars, is the third largest economy in Asia and the seventh largest in the world.

Growth and development have also contributed towards enhanced integration of ASE-

AN. A process that has started with the ASEAN Free Trade Area Agreement in 1992, has now transformed ASEAN to be the only regional grouping that has concluded free trade agreements with all major and middle economies in the world. ASEAN is in the process of negotiating the Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership (RCEP), when concluded, will create the biggest single market accounting for half of the world's population and one third of the world's GDP.

Esteemed Citizens,

The ASEAN community that we envision in ten years is an integrated community of a politically cohesive, economically integrated, socially responsible, and a truly people-oriented, people-centred and rules-based ASEAN.

This bold, visionary, progressive and forward-looking vision will be achieved with the concerted efforts and dedication of all stake holders in the ASEAN Community.

As we are striving to build an ASEAN Community where

people are bound together in friendship, cooperation, peace, freedom and prosperity, it is incumbent upon every citizen of ASEAN to perform his or her duties well. To enable to fulfill this mission, governments of ASEAN are also creating favourable conditions for their citizen to do their duties. ASEAN's success will ultimately be judged by its peoples. In this respect, I would like to encourage all of our citizens to support us in the nation building that will contribute towards the success of ASEAN. As this is the first year in the ASEAN following the formation of a new government, I wish to inform our citizens that our commitment to work for the development of the rules-based ASEAN is firm and resolute.

As we will be marking the fiftieth anniversary of ASEAN in the coming year, let us redouble our efforts in ASEAN Community building, and I send best wishes to the peoples of Myanmar and the ASEAN Member States for the continued success and prosperity of ASEAN Community.

The first affordable housing rolled out in Mon State



Affordable apartment buildings being seen. PHOTO: MYITMAKHA NEWS AGENCY

THE first affordable housing projects in Mon State will reportedly be rolled out in Chaungzone and Thanbyuzayat Townships in the wake of the current rainy season, according to the Mon State government.

U Wunna Kyaw, Mon State Minister of Planning, Finance and Immigration, has announced sales of units within the affordable housing estates will be prioritized to the lower-working class and homeless, highlighting how it is anticipated that each unit will be sold for between K5-10million.

"Land is ready in the two

towns to begin building the affordable housing. The land in question is void of any claims or disputes. It's as such that these two towns have been prioritized for the initial implementation of affordable housing in Mon State, with other provincial towns to follow slowly afterwards," said the minister.

U Min Min Oo, Chief Minister for Mon State, publicly announced back on 25 July that Mon State would be prioritized during the tenure of the new government for the rolling out of affordable housing projects to meet the needs

of the homeless, government staff and the lower-working class.

However, it hasn't been enough to entirely placate public anxiety towards the initiative. Mawlamyine resident, Daw Zin Cho Win, expresses that while she believes the plan to construct affordable housing to benefit the public is a good one, she raises concerns that not only must quality be the primary focus during construction, the homeless who express interest in purchasing any of the finished units need to be scrutinized as to ascertain whether their claims of homelessness

are indeed genuine or not.

"I don't want a repeat of what happened with the Thiri Mingalar Affordable Housing Estate; the housing must be built to a proper quality and efforts must be made to mitigate corrupt businessmen from using the identities of the poor to buy up all the housing units," she exclaimed.

The Thiri Mingalar Affordable Housing Estate was built in the Mon State capital of Mawlamyine during the tenure of the erstwhile government to provide housing for civil servants with housing units, priced at K10 million each, being sold through payment installments. However, only a few of the civil servants selected for the opportunity to purchase the units through a system of random selection actually purchased any property, seeing the majority of it being bought up by businessmen who then rented it back out to tenants, say local residents.

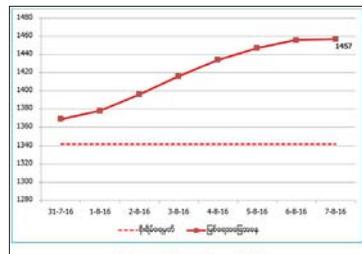
Furthermore, a lucky-draw will reportedly take place this August 9 to allocate 64 housing units to currently employed and retired government civil servants from within a rental housing estate constructed in the Mawlamyine Township village of Kyetthungone by the Department of Urban and Housing Development during the previous 2015-16 fiscal year. —Myitmakha News Agency

DSW to bestow K3.2 billion worth support to CSOs

THE Department of Social Welfare for Yangon Region has announced they will bestow a total sum of K3.2 billion to 70 recognized civil society organizations during the current 2016-17 fiscal year.

The sum was reportedly procured from the Yangon regional government, with the funds to be issued from this coming September. "We will start to issue the 70 non-government social charity groups recognized by the Department of Social Welfare this September. The financial support will be distributed according to three stipulated criteria," said U Myo Hset, director of the aforementioned department. Of the 70 organizations, which include refuges for children and kindergarten schools, those which have been established for a year fall under the first criteria and will receive support in the form of rice. Those in operation for at least two years fall under the second criteria and will receive three types of support: rice, together with food and clothing expenses. Those organizations which have been running for five years or more, however, are categorized under the third criteria and will be given the same support as those under the second criteria but with the added bonus of stipends for heads of staff. —Myitmakha News Agency

Embankment broken, 1,500 acres of paddy field submerged in Ingapu, Ayeyawady Region



Water level of the Ayeyawady River in Hinthada, Ayeyawady Region.

A DYKE was breached yesterday when a flash flood caused a river to overflow its banks in Ingapu, Ayeyawady Region, submerging about 1,500 acres of paddy fields.

There were no casualties nor damage to homes in the incident, according to local reports.

Employees from the Irrigation Department and local residents fought back the floodwaters by laying sand bags at the broken 50-ft section of the embankment that links two villages in Ingapu Township.

Meanwhile, local authorities and residents in Maubin Township are also laying sand bags along the Toe River, which is posing a threat to the area as its

water level rises.

Dr Tun Lwin, the former Director-General of the Department of Meteorology and Hydrology, warned in a Facebook post yesterday that low-lying areas in Bago Region should expect flooding due to heavy rainfall and down stream water.

The Department of Meteorology and Hydrology issued a flood warning yesterday, noting that the water level of the Bago River in Bago is expected to reach its danger level today. The warning advised residents in low-lying areas to take special precautions.

The flooding began in mid-July, causing more than 358,000 people to be moved to shelters as of yesterday.



Water overflows the embankment linking two villages in Ingapu Township. PHOTO: INGAPU TOWNSHIP INFORMATION AND PUBLIC RELATIONS DEPARTMENT

The number of people affected by flooding is expected to continue to rise in lower Myanmar, according to the Department of Relief and Resettlement.

Kachin, Sagaing and Magway saw a slight drop in their respective water levels yesterday.

Continued torrential rain early last month caused major flooding, sweeping across western Rakhine state and affecting about 10,000 people.

The flooding also submerged

Kyauktaw, Mrauk-U and Minbya townships and destroyed several dwellings, bridges and roads due to overflowing water from the Laymyo and Kaladan rivers.

The flooding began in mid-July, causing more than 358,000 people to be moved to shelters as of yesterday.

Kachin, Sagaing and Magway saw a slight drop in the water level in their areas, allowing some of the flood victims to return to their homes.

The Ministry of Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement spent more than K336 million on providing relief aids to residents affected by the flood.

Meanwhile, authorities have started to allow the flow of the water in 22 dams through respective spillways in order to reduce the water level behind them.

The dams are also kept under watch by the Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock and Irrigation.—GNLM

ASEAN Lifetime Achievement Award conferred on Daw Aung San Suu Kyi



Union Minister for Commerce Dr Than Myint accepts ASEAN Lifetime Achievement Award. PHOTO: MNA

STATE Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi was conferred with an ASEAN Lifetime Achievement Award by the Asian Strategy and Leadership Institute at the 13th ASEAN Leadership Forum in Vientiane, Laos, on 6 August.

The award was accepted by Union Minister for Commerce Dr Than Myint on behalf of the state counsellor, who is also the Union Minister for the President's Office and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. The ASEAN Lifetime Achievement Awards were also conferred on Cambodian Prime Minister Samdech

Techo Hun Sen and Malaysian Deputy Prime Minister Dato Seri Dr Ahmad Zahid Hamidi.

Union Minister Dr Than Myint joined the 13th ASEAN Leadership Forum held in the capital of Laos from 6 to 7 August. During the forum, the union minister attended a round-table discussion held under the theme "Leading ASEAN Towards 2025 - Making ASEAN Community Work".

The round-table talks drew industry and commerce ministers from Laos, Malaysia, Cambodia, the Philippines and Viet Nam.—Myanmar News Agency

Health specialists rush to Sagaing after reports ...

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In another incident, 13 deaths, mostly children, were reported in Nanyun township between 28 July and 2 August. Health workers, including specialists, have launched investigation into the outbreak of

the disease. More field surveys are expected to be carried out with the help of military helicopters when the weather improves.

A team of five specialists, including Dr Soe Lwin Nyein, the Director-General of the Public

Health Department, and Dr Than Lwin Tun, head of the Sagaing Region Public Health Department, visited the virus-affected areas to cooperate with local health workers in providing health care.—Myanmar News Agency

MNA to begin Mandalay-Bangkok flights

MYANMAR National Airlines announced yesterday that the carrier's maiden flight services between Mandalay and Bangkok will be launched on 31 August.

The state-owned Myanma Airways, the former name of the Myanmar National Airlines before its corporatization, operated flights between Yangon and Bangkok from 1950 to 1993.

After corporatization, the MNA resumed the flights with Boeing 737-800 aircrafts between Yangon and Bangkok on 20 February.

"For the convenience of people in upper Myanmar, MNA operates Mandalay-Bangkok flights," said Captain Than Tun, the CEO of MNA, at the ceremony yesterday.

The Yangon-Manda-



Myanmar National Airlines will begin maiden flight services between Mandalay and Bangkok on 31st August.

lay-Bangkok flights are scheduled on Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays.

The flight that departs Yangon at 3.10 pm will arrive in Mandalay at 4.50 pm. It departs Mandalay at 5.05 pm and will

arrive in Bangkok at 7.20 pm. For the return flights it will leave Bangkok at 9.20 am and will arrive in Mandalay at 10.35 am. It will leave Mandalay at 11.35 pm and will arrive in Yangon at 12.30 am.—Kay Khaing

Soldiers perform sanitation duties in Yedashe Township

TATMADAW Members of the Yayni Station Region of the Southern Command carried out collaborative sanitation work inside and outside of the Shwesedi Monastery and the Basic Education Middle School in Yayni town, Yedashe Township, Bago Region on Saturday 6 August.

The Tatmadawmen cleaned up rubbish, trimmed the bushes and branches of trees and unblocked the drains to allow for proper flow of water.—Office of the Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services



Tatmadawmen seen performing sanitation duties. PHOTO: OFFICE OF THE COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF OF DEFENCE SERVICES

Mobile ICT to soon start in Yangon

A plan to launch a mobile ICT education system in a suburban township in Yangon will begin this year, said U Myo Min, secretary of the Yangon Region Computer Professionals Association (YRCPA).

In cooperation with the Myanmar Computer Professionals Association, the YRCPA schedules to initiate its pilot project next month in Htantabin, one of the remote suburban townships in Yangon, to promote knowledge on information and communications technology among rural communities. Under the new system, students will have a learning opportunity of the ICT-related technology in a safe place. The organizers will use 20-ft long classroom installed with 16 computers and other electronic equipment as a learning center.

Well-trained teachers will share their knowledge and experiences to students through a one and a half month-course in different places in the township.

Plans are underway to expand the new programme to other townships in the city, if the pilot project is deemed successful.—200

Mandalay City Development Committee receives 36 applications

THE Mandalay City Development Committee (MCDC) received over 36 membership applications from Maha Aungmye and Aungmyethazan townships between 1 and 5 August, the commission's spokesperson said.

Eleven committee members were relieved of their duties by the MCDC, including the dep-

uty mayor and secretary under the order 19/2016 released on 7 July. New membership applications were invited from residents across the city earlier this month. Under the committee's rules, five will be chosen from the former members.

The committee sold 54 application forms, from which 36

applications have been submitted.

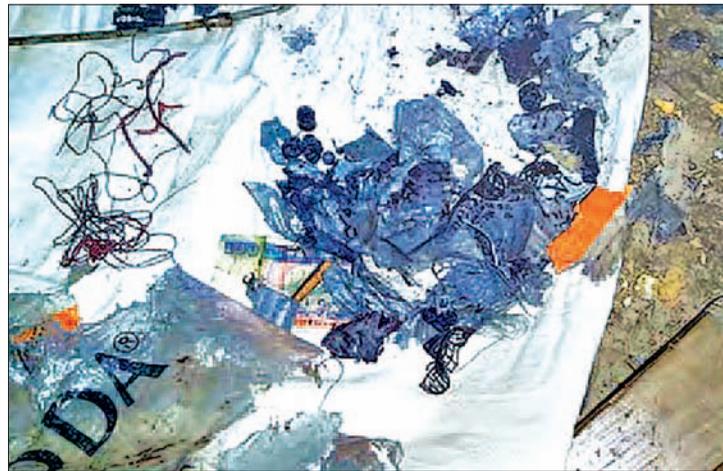
A majority of applicants are from Maha Aungmye Township, followed by Chanayethaza Township with seven applicants and Chanmyathazi with six applicants. Pyigyitagun and Amrapura townships have fewer than three. Among the applicants,

only one woman, from Aungmyethazan Township, submitted a membership application to the MCDC.

The regional government has the authority to directly appoint five members. The rest will be selected in the September through a voting system.—Aung Thant Khaing

Crime NEWS

Man dies in explosion in Kalay



A 28-year-old man was killed in an explosion yesterday that occurred beside Kalay-Tamu Road about nine miles from Kalay, a town in Sagaing Region, on Friday, according to a police report.

The explosion happened as two people—Ko Aye Ko and Ma Tin Mar Cho, were conversing at a shop owned by U Hla Yin in Mawleikkalay Village at around

8 p.m.

Aye Ko died instantly, while one other person sustained multiple injuries to her face. Tin Mar Cho is receiving medical care at the town hospital.

Investigators say that pieces of copper wire and battery were discovered in a bag allegedly belonging to Aye Ko. Police are investigating the case.—Ju Nine

Two men charged with killing fish

Two men have been charged for allegedly killing fish in a lake owned by U Khin Maung of Sattawgon Village in Indaw Township, Katha District, Sagaing Region, on Friday.

According to investigators, Aung Lwin, 47, and Win Hlaing, 23, put the roots of an intoxicat-

ing plant in the channel linked to the lake on the evening of 29 July that killed a large number of fish in the lake. The lake owner submitted the information to the district fishery department to take action against the suspects on 5 August. Police are investigating the case.—U Ye (Katha)

Men charged with seven counts of bike theft

Five people have been charged with stealing motorbikes from the Dekkhina District in Nay Pyi Taw, police said yesterday.

Local police on routine patrol first arrested a motorcyclist named Ye Naing Tun (aka Chit Min Oo), 19, on the road between Yangon and Mandalay near

Yathetaung Ward on 2 August when he was unable to provide documents proving ownership of the motorcycle.

After an initial investigation, police uncovered seven cases relating to the theft of motorbikes around the Nay Pyi Taw area, arresting four other people on sus-

picion of motorbike thefts.

According to the investigators, the five suspects—Shar Wai, Naing Lin Tun, Aye Min Oo, Than Min Aung and Ye Naing Tun (aka Chit Min Oo)—planned to sell the stolen bikes in Kyikehto Township in Mon State.—Min Min Latt (Mann Takatho)

Six men arrested for drug dealing cases

An anti-drug squad found a cache of about 1,800 yaba pills and heroin weighting nearly 17 kilos from drug dealers in several different locations on Friday, arresting six suspects involved in the case.

Acting on a tip, the squad from Mohnyin on Friday searched a motorbike being driven by Phoe Zaw en route from Moekaung to Lonekhin in Hpakant, a town in Kachin State. They found 16.8 kilos of raw opium.

Similar cases occurred in Dawei District in Taninthayi Region and Tachilek Township in Shan State on the same day. In these cases, police arrested five drug smugglers after they were found in possession of a cache of about 1,800 yaba tablets.

The six people, including Phoe Zaw, Min Min Soe, Nay

Lin Naing, Hnin Hnin Aye, Eike La and Tee Maung are facing charges under the current Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Law.

Police also seized over 60,000 'WY' variety yaba pills and three bombs from people in connection with drug trafficking ring on 3 August.—Kyemon



Phoe Zaw seen with a cache of yaba pills. PHOTO: KYEMON

LOCAL Business



Workers are making gold foils at an industry in Mandalay.
PHOTO: AUNG THANT KHINE

China's gold foils make Myanmar's gold foil makers suffer

MYANMAR'S gold foil makers are being adversely affected by the higher price of gold and competition from Chinese-made gold foils that have entered the domestic market, said the proprietors of gold foil businesses in Mandalay.

Myanmar's gold price hit a record high of over Ks850,000 per tickle, resulting in high losses by domestic makers of gold foil. The main market of gold foil businessmen are the pagodas across the nation. Several times a year, the pagoda board of trustees invites a tender to purchase

the gold foils. Most of the gold foil makers receive an order at a prevailing market price of Myanmar's gold when the tenders are invited. Currently, the handicraft gold foil makers cannot compete with China's cheaper, machine-printed gold foils printed that are penetrating into the domestic market, said one proprietor who is engaged in the gold foil making business in the Myetpayat area.

A member of the Sule Pagoda board of trustees said the Chinese gold foils are not of good

quality. Some Chinese manufacturers reduce the size of the gold foil from the traditional two-inch-square folds.

Gold foil businesses in Myanmar can be found only at Myetpayat in Mandalay. There are over 100 businessmen who are engaged in gold foil making on a commercial scale and over 50 on a manageable scale. Pure gold of 16 carats has to be used in making Myanmar's gold foils. About 2,200 gold foils in two-inch-squares can be manufactured with one tickle of gold. —200

Vacant plots in Myotha industrial zone on sale in second week of August

VACANT plots from Myotha Industrial Park (MIP) in Ngazun Township, Mandalay will go on sale starting from 9 August with the cooperation of Mandalay-Myotha Industrial Development Public Company Limited (MMID) and Mandalay regional government, said an official

from MMID.

This MIP was built on 10,000 acres of land in 2013. A total of 600 40x60-foot plots of land along Semekhon jetty at MIP will be sold at three different prices.

In addition, a hundred plots of land near MIP will be sold

at Ks12million per plot whereas those near Semekhon jetty, at Ks13million, and, 400 plots of land between MIP and Semekhon jetty, at Ks10million. Those investors who want to be engaged in enterprises can purchase these plots of land in installment.—200

Diamond, gold and petroleum to be permitted as legal export

DIAMOND, gold and petroleum will be legally permitted as export products with a tax levied on those products, said an official from the Ministry of Commerce. The products were previously restricted from export.

The effort is part of a commerce ministry initiative to triple the export volume from that of previous years. Out of a total of 12 restricted export

goods categories, three products -- diamond, gold and petroleum -- will now be permitted to export. The ministry is currently negotiating how much tax will be levied in accordance with Myanmar Mines Law and related regulations. Among the products that are still restricted are ivory, buffalo, oxen, elephants, horses, endangered species, ammunition and antique goods. —200

Fish-prawn farming lakes from lower Myanmar need preventive measures from Aug to Sep

THE fish and prawn farming lakes require preventive measures from August to September, when the river water surges in the Upper and Middle areas of Myanmar, said a responsible person from Myanmar Fish Federation (MFF).

The rising river water prompted precautions to be sent out to is the breeders of fish and prawns. The precautions are essential to prevent the fish and prawn farming lakes from being damaged by possible flash

floods, which cause the fish and prawns to die.

In addition to the loss of fish and prawns, the price of feed and other products for farmed fish can also rise, the MFF said.

About 35,000 acres of fish and prawn farming lakes in Ayeyawady, Yangon and Bago regions and over 58,000 acres of prawn breeding lakes in Rakhine were stricken by floods because of the torrential rain in 2015, causing losses of Ks55billion. —200

Local, foreign investments created over 10,000 job opportunities

A TOTAL of 10,650 job opportunities have been created from local and foreign investments during the first three weeks of the fiscal year 2016-2017, it was learnt from the Directorate of Investment and Company Administration (DICA).

Currently, construction businesses and garment enterprises are mostly permitted to invest whereas the industrial manufacturing businesses are also

permitted. Myanmar Investment Commission (MIC) has granted permission for 22 investment businesses out of over 90 businesses which MIC needs to have granted permissions since April.

A sustainable effort is being exerted to fulfil the requirements in infrastructure and to reduce the price of real property in order to receive more investments during this year, it is learnt from DICA. —200



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Majority of Thais accept junta-drafted constitution

BANGKOK — A large majority of Thais voted in favour of the military-drafted constitution, according to the early results of Sunday's national referendum announced by the Election Commission of Thailand.

With about 80 per cent of votes counted nationwide, preliminary results show that around 61 per cent of voters support the draft charter while 38 per cent do not.

As for the second question in the referendum on whether junta-appointed senators can take part in choosing the prime minister, 58 per cent voted "yes" while 41 per cent voted "no."

Voting in the referendum was held from 8am to 4pm, with counting beginning immediately afterward. Unofficial results are expected around 9pm, but official results will be revealed in a few days, according to the Election Commission.

There are some 50 million eligible voters, and the commission earlier expected voter turnout of around 80 per cent, compared to 57.6 per cent in 2007, when the previous national referendum on a draft constitution was held.

Despite the expected high turnout, observers have noted that a ban by the Election Commission on campaigning for or against the draft constitution has led to insufficient awareness by the public of what is at stake.

Voters were asked whether they accept the draft constitution drawn up by a military-appointed committee. In addition, they were asked whether, in certain situations, junta-appointed senators can take part in choosing the prime minister. Under the previous charter, only members of the House of Representatives are allowed to do so.

After the polling stations closed, the results of opinion surveys conducted before the referendum were released. A survey conducted by the state-run National Institute of Development Administration showed 76.87 per cent of voters surveyed approved the draft constitution, while 18.68 per cent rejected it.

On the second question, 58.35 per cent gave the green light for appointed senators to elect the prime minister, with 38.26 voted against the proposal.

Another poll conducted

by private Bangkok University also showed 57.3 per cent approved the draft while 42.7 per cent rejected it.

The NIDA poll was conducted nationwide from Tuesday to Saturday with 5,849 respondents, while the Bangkok University survey was conducted from 5 July to Wednesday with more than 9,000 respondents.

Prime Minister Prayut Chan-o-cha cast his vote at a polling station near his residence in the morning. After doing so, he called on Thais to exercise their voting rights in the referendum, saying it is the way to set the direction of the country's future.

"I want to urge you (voters) to sacrifice for our nation by voting with a landslide turnout, voting in referendum is international democracy," Prayut said.

On Saturday night, at least 10 small explosions were reported in the Muslim-majority southern provinces of Narathiwat and Yala, which the authorities said were intended to create fear and discourage people from leaving their homes to vote. However, the commission's chairman Supachai Somcharoen gave assurances that the security appara-



Election officials count votes in Bangkok on 7 August 2016, after polling stations close across Thailand in a referendum on a draft constitution put forward as part of the transition back to democracy promised by the ruling junta. PHOTO: KYODO NEWS

tus can oversee the referendum in the south, where a long-running separatist insurgency continues.

He also said the latest attacks were just a symbol of opposition to the referendum. If the draft constitution is approved by a majority of the voters, it will become the country's 20th charter since it transformed from absolute monarchy to democracy in 1932. However, the draft has been criticized on several key points, particularly the provision stating that the military government, known as the National Council for Peace and Order, is empowered to select 250 senators in the first five years of the

transitional period. More importantly, the appointed senators could participate in electing the prime minister if the voters give their approval in the referendum.

The NCPO led by Prayut, who was the army chief in 2014, staged a coup toppling the democratically elected government at that time. Although he has become the prime minister in the interim government, Prayut still holds the position as the NCPO's chief.

The controversial issue on the appointed Senate has drawn strong criticism from various civic groups and political parties. Some critics have said allowing the

NCPO's appointed senators to choose the prime minister is clearly seen as "staging a coup" without using force.

The draft constitution also empowers the Constitutional Court to call a special meeting with other agencies' leaders, including the prime minister, the opposition leader and judicial leaders, if the country faces a political deadlock. Key political rivals including former Prime Minister Abhisit Vejjajiva and ousted Prime Minister Yingluck Shinawatra have said they would vote to reject both the draft constitution and the participation of the Senate in selecting the premier.—Kyodo News

THE GLOBAL NEW LIGHT OF MYANMAR

Chief Executive Officer - Nakagawa Kiyoshi

ceo@globalnewlightofmyanmar.com

Chief Editor - Khin Maung Aye

ce@globalnewlightofmyanmar.com

Deputy Chief Editor - Aye Min Soe

dce@globalnewlightofmyanmar.com

Chief Proof Reader & Translator - Ye Myint

Expatriate Consultant Editors

Alec Wilmot

cousultanteditor2@globalnewlightofmyanmar.com

Mark Angeles

markangeles@gmail.com

Chief Translator & Editor

Kyaw Thura,

editor2@globalnewlightofmyanmar.com

Editor

Ye Htut Tin (Local News)

editor1@globalnewlightofmyanmar.com

International Editors

Tun Tun Naing (Editor)

intlnews@globalnewlightofmyanmar.com

Nwe Nwe Tun (Sub-editor)

Translators

Khaing Thanda Lwin,

reporter1@globalnewlightofmyanmar.com

Hay Mar Tin Win,

translator@globalnewlightofmyanmar.com

Ei Myat Mon, Tin Nwe Lynn

Chief Reporter

Tun Aung Kyaw, reporter2@globalnewlightofmyanmar.com

Reporters

Soe Soe Yu, Thein Ko Lwin (Nay Pyi Taw Bureau),

Khin Mg Win (Mandalay Bureau)

Computer Team

Tun Zaw (Chief of Computer Team), Thein Ngwe,

Zaw Zaw Aung, Ye Naing Soe, Nyi Zaw Moe,

Hnin Pwint, Kay Khaing Win, Sanda Hnin, Zu Zin Hnin

Circulation & Advertising

San Lwin (+95) (01) 8604532

Ads and subscription enquiries:

subscription@globalnewlightofmyanmar.com

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Philippines president Duterte steps up name-and-shame anti-drugs campaign

MANILA — Philippines President Rodrigo Duterte on Sunday identified about 160 serving and former town mayors and executives, judges, and policemen allegedly linked to the illegal drugs trade, stepping up a name-and-shame campaign in his five week war on drugs.

Duterte read a list of those he said "destroy the country" during a visit to an army base in his hometown

Davao city.

The list included two of the five police generals he identified last month as protectors of drug syndicates and a town major who has recently surrendered to police.

"You are the (law) enforcers and you allow yourselves to be used," said Duterte, the former Davao city mayor who became president in a landslide election victory on 9 May, vow-

ing to wipe out drugs gangs and end crime.

Duterte did not say what he would do with the list. Hours later, two mayors on the list, one from Iloilo and another from Bulacan, turned themselves in to police, denying any involvement in the drug trade.

Last Friday, three mayors from the Muslim region on southern Mindanao island also gave themselves up to police to clear their

names, promising to cooperate with law enforcement authorities.

On Friday, Duterte reiterated his "shoot-to-kill" order against drug dealers resisting arrest. He said he would be accountable for what has been a bloody anti-narcotics crackdown.

As many as 770 to 800 have been killed in police operations against illegal drugs since Duterte was sworn in as president on 30 June, including more than 200 killed by vigilante groups.

He has repeatedly hit back at those raising the alarm over a surge in the killing of suspected drug traffickers, saying human rights should protect dignity, not let criminals destroy the country.

Last week police commandos killed six bodyguards of a town mayor who had turned himself in over links to the illegal drug trade, signalling the shift in Duterte's anti-drug war from street peddlers to officials.—Reuters



Philippine President Rodrigo Duterte speaks in between military officials, at the wake of a soldier killed in an encounter with communist rebels at a military Camp Panacan in Davao city, in southern Philippines on 7 August 2016. PHOTO: REUTERS

Australian man charged with planning terror attack following raids

MELBOURNE — A 31-year-old man appeared in an Australian court on Sunday charged with planning a terror attack, following a series of counter-terrorism police raids.

Phillip Galea was charged with acts done in preparation for a terrorist act and collecting or making documents likely to facilitate a terrorist act, after being arrested in police raids in Melbourne on Saturday. Police did not give details of the target but said it was in the southern state of Victoria.

“I will be fighting these charges and I believe they are a conspiracy against the patriot movement,” Galea told a Melbourne Magistrates’ Court hear-

ing during in a brief appearance on Sunday according to the Australian Associated Press.

Australian media outlets reported Galea had links to far-right organisations Reclaim Australia and True Blue Crew. Reclaim Australia posted on Facebook that it had no links to the arrested man and that it “always denounced violence”.

Far-right political parties opposed to Islam and Asian immigration are on the rise in Australia.

Reclaim Australia and True Blue Crew, which are not political parties, have previously been involved in violent clashes with pro-immigration groups at rallies in Melbourne.—*Reuters*



Performers wearing Pokemon’s character Pikachu take part in a parade in Yokohama, Japan, on 7 August 2016. PHOTO: REUTERS

Japan protests over China’s radar unit near disputed waters

TOKYO — Japan has filed a protest to Beijing after the discovery that China installed radar equipment in a gas exploration platform close to disputed waters in the East China Sea, a Japanese foreign ministry spokesman said on Sunday.

Japan fears that the radar, a type commonly found on patrol ships and not necessary for gas field development, could be a sign that China intends to use gas exploration platforms in the disputed waters as military stations, Japanese media said.

According to the spokesman, Japan discovered the radar in late June and issued a protest on Friday through its embassy in

China, urging Beijing to explain the purpose.

Japan has been calling on China to halt construction of oil-and-gas exploration platforms in the East China Sea, accusing it of unilateral development despite a 2008 agreement to maintain cooperation on resources development in the area, where no official border between them has been drawn.

On Saturday, Japan issued another protest to Beijing after Chinese coastguard ships and about 230 fishing vessels sailed close to what Tokyo considers its territorial waters around disputed islets in the East China Sea.—*Reuters*

Former Philippine President Ramos to leave for Beijing Monday for talks

MANILA — Former Philippine President Fidel Ramos will leave for Beijing on Monday to start initial talks with Chinese officials, the state-run Philippine News Agency reported on Sunday.

President Rodrigo Duterte has named Ramos as a special envoy to repair soured ties between China and the Philippines in the wake of Manila’s unilateral move to bring the South China Sea dispute to an ad hoc arbitral tribunal. This will be Ramos’ first trip to Beijing as the envoy.

China has dismissed a biased ruling issued on 12 July as “null and void with no binding force.”

The Chinese government said it stands ready to contin-

ue to resolve relevant disputes peacefully through negotiation and consultation with the states directly concerned on the basis of respecting historical facts and in accordance with international law.

The report said Ramos’ office has confirmed the planned trip. The 88-year-old former leader will be accompanied by former Interior and Local Government Secretary Rafael Alunan, journalist Chito Romana and his grandson Sam Jones.

“No other details were disclosed about Ramos’ trip to China,” it said. Presidential spokesperson Ernesto Abella said on 29 July that Duterte had asked

Ramos to start direct talks with China, giving the former president “principles of wisdom about how to go about the conversation (with China).”

Abella said Duterte wanted Ramos “to start with things they agree on and not necessarily begin from an adversarial or instant position.”

The presidential palace has yet to issue a statement on Ramos’s scheduled departure for China on Monday.

Aileen Baviera, a professor of Asian Studies at the University of the Philippines familiar with Chinese affairs, said Ramos is “a good person” to deal with the China at this point.—*Xinhua*

South Korea presidential office says China ‘out-of-place’ on THAAD



A Terminal High Altitude Area Defence (THAAD) interceptor is launched during a successful intercept test, in this undated handout photo provided by the US Department of Defence, Missile Defence Agency.

PHOTO: REUTERS

SEOUL — South Korea’s presidential office rebuked on Sunday China’s criticism of its decision to deploy an advanced anti-missile defence, urging Beijing to instead play a stronger role against North Korea’s provocations on the peninsula.

The statement by President Park Geun-hye’s office marked an escalation of diplomatic tensions between South Korea and China, which has sharply criticised Seoul’s move to host a Terminal High Altitude Area Defence (THAAD) unit with the US military.

Park’s senior press secretary, Kim Sung-woo, said in the statement recent commentary carried by China’s state media was “out of place” in blaming South Korea for raising tension on the Korean

peninsula with the move to deploy a THAAD unit.

“Rather than taking issue with our purely defensive action, China should raise issue in a stronger manner with North Korea which is breaking peace and stability on the Korean peninsula and Northeast by conducting four nuclear tests and, just this year, launching more than 10 ballistic missiles,” it said.

South Korea and the United States began discussions to deploy a THAAD unit in the South after the North’s fourth nuclear test in January and a long-range rocket launch in defiance of UN sanctions.

South Korea has said the move is purely to counter growing missile threats from the North and was not intended to target

China, but Beijing has protested it would destabilise regional security balance.

On Wednesday, China’s *People’s Daily* in an editorial said: “It is impossible for South Korea’s leader not to know America’s strategic plot. (She) is well aware of the real direction of the THAAD anti-missile system.”

“(She) has no hesitation about undermining regional stability and flagrantly damaging the security interests of neighbouring powers,” it said.

North Korea has launched a series of missiles in recent months, the latest on Wednesday when one ballistic missile that flew about 1,000 km (600 miles) landed near Japanese-controlled waters.—*Reuters*

Opinion

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

In search of a better governance

Khin Maung Aye

IT is worth noting that there are several theories of governance as discussed by Jon Pierre and Guy Peters (2000). They are traditional authority; autopoiesis and network steering; cybernetics and steering or system theory; policy instruments; institutional analysis; rational choice; network and policy communities or policy network theory; interpretive theory; and organization theory.

The traditional authority approach is usually seen as 'top down' authority vested in the state. Under this model, the technique of governance is law and coercion; any challenge to the authority is considered unacceptable. This 'top down' approach is less compatible with the system in most of the small European states where there is the history of compromise, coalition and conflict management.

On the other hand, the autopoiesis and network steering approach is an alternative view of power residing in the state. Its argument is that the government is becoming increasingly powerless in its relation to society. According to this approach, the society and market have developed the ability for self-organization as well as for the evasion of any control by the government. This approach is found in states like the Netherlands, where the government has a history of accommodating the social interest as the society has a history of having a rich organizational culture.

Another form of the steering process argues that the government is receptive towards change in the environment and exerts efforts to maintain equilibrium for certain key indicators. Karl Deutsch developed a model of the government as a cybernetic system. According to him, governments ought to attempt to become more cybernetic and be more responsive to the environment with an assumption that the government can steer themselves and society rather well should they merely develop the information processing capabilities.

The argument of policy instrument approach is that the choice of tools will not only have an impact on the policy area, but also a secondary impact on the economy and society. This approach is not much concerned about the relationship between the state and the society unlike the two earlier approaches.

Concerning the institutional theory, the institutional question related to the civil society organizations (CSOs) is a major concern in finding the best strategy for the governing process, whereas rational choice theorists believe in the principal-agent idea of public bureaucracy in which principal like the political executive of some sort is trying to control his or her agent through contracts or any other arrangements. These agents, who can be agencies or individual bureaucrats, have incentives to pursue their own goals and to shirk control from the principals.

All the aforementioned approaches inclusive of policy network, interpretive and organization theories are consistently debated to find a better governance, which has become a very important process that would foster the democratic spirit, accountability, transparency and management of resources in a better way.

The Root Cause of Unprecedented River Rise

Khin Maung Myint

THE monsoon had not fully reached its peak yet, but most parts of the country, which lie along the paths of the major rivers, namely: the Ayeyarwady, Chindwin, Dotehtawady, Ngawun, Sittaung and Bago rivers are being seriously inundated. The most noteworthy is the news of the level of the Ayeyarwady River at Nyaung Oo, which had been recorded as the highest in fifty years.

Some may call these natural disasters, but from my point of view, these are in reality the consequences of humans' disregard for the environments. Humans had abused the eco-system by over-exploitations of its resources, especially the trees and forests. One may be curious, what those had to do with the flooding. Of course they have plenty to do with it. The depletion of the trees and hence the forests is the root cause of the flooding.

It is common knowledge that the trees absorbs the rain water and stored them so that they could thrive. Thus, if there are no trees to absorb the rain water, where would they go? I don't think it would be necessary for me to say that they would drain off to the lower levels. In doing so they would drag the loose top soils and gravels along. Also the absence of trees or forests make the top soils more vulnerable to erosions, as there are no tree roots to retain them in place.

These loose soils and gravels brought down by the rain water are deposited into the rivers and streams. This process give rise to a situation called silting. The silting causes the river to become shallow as the silts and gravels raise the level of the river bed. Thus, during the monsoons, the rain water draining into the rivers and streams caused them to overflow into the low-lying areas, or in other words the floodplains



A station hospital in Yesagyo located near the confluence of the Ayeyarwady and Chindwin rivers is submerged on 3rd August 2016. PHOTO: PE TUN ZAW

grow wider. When there are heavy rainfalls, and if the floodplains cannot be contained by dykes or embankments built along the banks of the major rivers, the flooding would occur.

So, what caused the depletion of the forests? The wild fires, started by thunderbolts, human negligences or intentional cases of arson, slash and burn agricultural practices, minings, industrializations, development projects and last but not least, the over-extractions of timber, legally or otherwise, should be held accountable. Apart from the wild fires caused by the thunderbolts, which can be blamed on the nature, other causes are man-made, which should be preventable.

As the trees also play a major role in the control of carbon emissions that are causing the global warming, which is behind the climate changes that are plaguing the whole world with extreme high temperatures and freak weather conditions, more trees should be grown. The reforestations and conservations of whatever forests remain should also be systematically carried out. In due course of time, when all the barren hills and mountains due to deforestations are reforested, the soil erosions and silting would be reduced. That condition, combined with the systematic river trainings and regular dredging would deepen the rivers and would retract the floodplains and also facilitate the rapid draining of

the rivers into the sea. This would, hopefully, prevent and mitigate devastating floods to a certain extent in the future.

Last year, immediately after the unprecedented flooding that affected over a million people and damages and losses were great, I had contributed an article titled "What Triggered the Unprecedented Flood?" (15/08/2015 GNLM). In that article I had discussed, at length, the causes of flooding, deforestations and the necessity to ban logging to prevent the forests from further depletions and the importance of reforestations. Recent news of the banning of loggings is a very positive step in the right direction to conserve our forests.

Again in June of this year, in an article titled "Have We Overcome the Severest El Nino?" (24/06/2016 GNLM), I had ventured to predict that this year's flooding would be more severe than that of the last year's. By the look of it, my predictions may be right, which I have been wishing to be proven wrong. Last year's flooding was made severe by the heavy rains brought on by the cyclone Komen. However, although it was not associated with a cyclone, but just a depression in the Bay of Bengal, we are getting heavy rainfalls that caused the present floods, which I presume to be the works of the severe El Nino or may be the La Nina weather condition, that is expected to fol-

low in its wake, had a hand in it too.

Whatever the reasons may be, we should be prepared for the worst and hope for the best. Fortunately the number of people affected by the floods this year is far less than that of last year. The response to prevent and mitigate the effects of the floods are also timely in most places and so the losses are not as great as last year.

According to the latest media reports, the water level of the Ayeyarwady River at Mandalay had receded a few inches. However, the water in the Taungthamann lake, home of the world famous U Pein bridge, would still be a problem. In the old days, before the bund road was built across the southern part of the lake as a bypass for traffics to reach the Mandalay-Yangon highway directly from the Ava bridge, the water from the rising Ayeyarwady and the Dotehtawady rivers could rapidly fill and easily empty the lake. As there are lack of enough and adequate floodgates along that road, it had turned into a large reservoir. During the floods, the water had overflowed the high bund road, making the filling faster. However, it is only natural, in such situations, that the receding of the water level there would take some time.

We should be vigilant and be prepared for more flooding. As the present flood is caused by the second rise of the three regular river rises in our country, we should be expecting for another one before the monsoon is out. From the past experiences, the last of the three river rises are seldom as high as the two preceding rises.

However, if there should be a cyclone coinciding with the third river rise, there could be severe flooding again. Thus, I would like to caution the farmers not to be in much hurry to sow paddy again, if the first batch had been swept away by the floods. Otherwise, if the next river rise should destroy the second crop, they would be left empty-handed.

POEM:

Screw the mind up

One who's able to make
My sunrise and my sunset

One who grasps my hours
Clinging on my cloud of thought

One who makes
My poetry and music palpitate

One who's able to console
My three shadows well

How I bring myself out
Of your spell
Tho' three seasons create
their curves beautifully
I'd like to read
An already written book called 'life'
With you together

Yin Nwe Ko (Linn)

People's Forum

Letter to the Editor

Education Can Resolve or Reduce Many Problems

State counsellor Daw Aung SanSu Kyi stressed the importance of vocational education while addressing Technical Vocational Education Training (TVET) Forum in Nay Pyi Taw recently. She also emphasized the need to raise public understanding that vocational education is first-class education. It is true. Vocational education is first class education as it can enhance the livelihood and the lives of all citizens.

As we all know there are basic education level and higher education level in our education system. When we compare the number of students who pass matriculation examination in basic education high schools and have opportunities to pursue university education with those who fail in the examination and unable to attend the college or university it is found that the number of the latter who fail to get into the university is much more than the former. Therefore more vocational training schools or institutes are needed to be opened for them in our country. By establishing vocational training centres skilled workers and medium technicians will be produced. To run a successful economy skilled workers and medium technicians are essential. So extension of vocational schools or institutes and upgrading of them are required to implement. As skilled workers and technicians are foundation of economy skilled workers and technicians should be produced more.

To achieve development in vocational education sector the attitude of students on their learning and skill of teachers should be improved. Although the skill of teachers is important successful learning mostly depends upon the students themselves. As a teacher in a vocational institute I find that most students come to the institute for their certificates but not for the knowledge offered by the institute.

They do not know the value of learning their subjects thoroughly and they do not work hard to attain knowledge in their respective subject. So correct outlook of the students on their learning is most important. To change this situation so that students will work hard in their learning it is advisable to test their competency or knowledge of the subjects they have learned when they are to be appointed in their job.

Producing skilled workers and technicians establishing business companies or industries are the key to eliminating poverty. Poverty elimination is the first priority to implement for development of economy. By setting up the businesses and industries in eligible villages and towns and creation of job opportunities there the problems of migrant workers will have been reduced to some extent.

To achieve fully development in various sectors we must establish an education system that provides us with technical know-how for physical development and wisdom with reasoning power for mental development. In lower basic education level students should be taught ethics in addition to reading and writing for mental development that is imbued with good character. As young students are easy to shape ethics is needed to teach them so that they will become good citizens.

Education is a source of physical and mental development. With physical development it can fulfil the basic needs of people. With the mental development it can build peaceful society.

U Han

China Foundation for Poverty Alleviation to provide scholarships to 600 university students in Myanmar

CHINA Foundation for Poverty Alleviation (CFPA) launched its office in Myanmar on Friday to provide scholarship to 600 university students in the country as part of its Paukphaw Scholarship Project.

CFPA will provide four years of scholarship aid to 600 students from Yangon University of Economics, East Yangon University, West Yangon University and Dagon University who have poor economic backgrounds. Each student will be provided with about 253 US dollars per annual.

Thein Win, director general of the Higher Education Department of Myanmar, Chen Chen, minister Counselor of the Chinese Embassy in Myanmar as well other officials and distinguished guests attended the launching ceremony themed "For the Students, For the Future".

Thein Win welcomed the launch of the project and urged the scholarship recipients to study diligently in order to contribute to the society and the close ties between the peoples of China and Myanmar.

Chen Chen expressed his hope that more Chinese non-governmental organizations will establish offices in Myanmar to undertake humanitarian work to demonstrate the goodwill of the Chinese people.

CFPA was registered to Myanmar's Ministry of Home Affairs in order to operate as an international non-governmental organization in Myanmar.

During the past decade, CFPA has raised 100 million RMB for projects in 15 countries and regions.—Xinhua



Chen Chen (6th R), minister Counselor of the Chinese Embassy in Myanmar, and Thein Win (4th R), director general of the Higher Education Department of Myanmar, pose for a group photo with Myanmar university students during the launching ceremony of the China Foundation for Poverty Alleviation (CFPA)'s Myanmar office and Paukphaw Scholarship Project in Yangon, Myanmar, 5 August, 2016. PHOTO: XINHUA

Trump ends difficult week by focusing on Hillary Clinton

WINDHAM (N.H.) — Republican Donald Trump on Saturday ended a tough week for his campaign in the state that launched him toward the presidential nomination and he did what Republicans have been urging him to do: Keep the focus on Democrat Hillary Clinton.

“Her greatest achievement is getting out of trouble,” Trump told supporters.

Trump’s victory in the 10 February Republican primary in New Hampshire put him in position to win the party’s nomination, but he trails Clinton in the state by 15 points in the latest WBUR/MassINC poll, 47 per cent to 32 per cent.

Trump came to New Hampshire after a troubled week in which he tangled with fellow Republican leaders and sparred verbally with the parents of a Muslim soldier who died fighting for the United States in Iraq in 2004.

Clinton, getting a lift from the Democratic National Convention, took advantage of Trump’s stumbles to surge into the lead in national polls and in many battleground states.

Now Trump has begun heeding the advice of Republican officials who say he needs to take the fight to Clinton to give the party a chance to win the White House on 8 November.



Republican US presidential nominee Donald Trump attends a campaign event at Windham High School in Windham, New Hampshire on 6 August 2016. PHOTO: REUTERS

Trump seized on Clinton’s comments Friday that she had “short-circuited” when she said a week ago that FBI Director James Comey had said she had been truthful to the American people in her use of a private email server while US secretary of state from 2009 to 2013.

In fact, Comey had concluded that Clinton was “extremely careless” with classified emails. He directly contradicted many of the statements Clinton had made about her use of the server.

Trump spent the lion’s share

of a campaign speech in a crowded high school gymnasium to go after Clinton on the subject in trying to raise questions about her trustworthiness.

“I think the people of this country don’t want somebody who is going to short circuit,” Trump said.

Trump also sought to turn the tables on Clinton, who has consistently accused the New York developer of being temperamentally unfit to be president.

“She is a totally unhinged person,” Trump said.—Reuters

Leader of Germany’s liberal party compares Turkey coup reaction to Nazis

BERLIN — The leader of Germany’s liberal Free Democrats (FDP) likened Turkish President Tayyip Erdogan’s purge of state institutions to the actions of the Nazi party in the 1930s in comments published on Sunday.

FDP leader Christian Lindner said he saw parallels between Erdogan’s behaviour and aftermath of the Reichstag fire in 1933 portrayed by the Nazis as a Communist plot against the government and used by Adolf Hitler to justify massively curtailing civil liberties.

“We are experiencing a coup

d’etat from above like in 1933 after the Reichstag fire. He is building an authoritarian regime tailored solely to himself,” Lindner told the Bild am Sonntag.

“Because the rights and freedoms of the individual no longer play a role, he cannot be a partner for Europe,” he added.

His comments echo those of Austria’s far-right Heinz-Christian Strache who said on Saturday that Erdogan’s use of the failed putsch in July to crack down on his opponents was reminiscent of Hitler’s use of the Reichstag blaze to amass

greater power.

Erdogan has angrily rejected suggestions that he or his government might have been behind the failed coup, which he has blamed on the followers of a US-based Muslim cleric. Erdogan narrowly avoided capture and possible death on the night of the attempted coup.

The FDP are not currently represented in Germany’s Bundestag but have previously governed as a junior coalition partner to Chancellor Angela Merkel’s conservatives (CDU) and are a potential ally for them after federal elections in autumn 2017.

However, Lindner criticised Merkel’s response so far to the crackdown on Erdogan’s opponents in the army, civil service, academia and media.

“It disgusts me that the EU accession talks (for Turkey) have not been ended long ago. But Mrs Merkel is only cautiously urging ‘proportionality’,” he said.

Germany’s foreign minister on Friday resisted a push by Austria to halt the talks with Turkey on joining the European Union, saying the bloc needed to think more broadly about how to frame its relationship with Ankara in troubled times.—Reuters



Christian Lindner, chairman of the liberal Free Democratic Party FDP addresses the media in Berlin, Germany, on 14 March 2016. PHOTO: REUTERS

NEWS IN BRIEF

Armed man barricades himself in restaurant in southwest Germany

BERLIN — An armed man drenched in blood barricaded himself into a restaurant in Saarbruecken in southwest Germany on Sunday, a police official said.

The official said the man seemed to be in an “exceptional psychological situation” and there were no indications that this was a terrorist-related incident. The man is thought to be the son-in-law of the owner of the restaurant, the official said. He is originally from Macedonia but has lived in Germany for many years, he added.

He also said the man was not believed to be holding anyone hostage and a special team of negotiators were trying to speak with him. It remained unclear how he injured himself.

Bild newspaper said that the man had run into the restaurant “Dubrovnik” in the town centre and shouted that everyone should leave.—Reuters

Iran executes nuclear scientist for spying for US

DUBAI — Iran has executed an Iranian nuclear scientist detained in 2010 when he returned home from the United States, after a court convicted him of spying for Washington, a spokesman for the judiciary said on Sunday.

“Through his connection with the United States, (Shahram) Amiri gave vital information about the country to the enemy,” Gholamhossein Mohseni Ejei told a weekly news conference, state news agency IRNA reported.—Reuters

Pistorius denied injuries caused by suicide attempt — prisons official

JOHANNESBURG — South African Paralympic gold medallist Oscar Pistorius, who was sentenced last month to a six-year jail term for killing his girlfriend, was treated in hospital for injuries to his wrists on Saturday and was returned to prison, an official said on Sunday.

“Oscar Pistorius denied speculations of a suicide attempt. As a policy principle we cannot further discuss a particular offender’s personal condition in the public domain,” said Manelisi Wolela, a spokesman at the Department of Correctional Services.—Reuters

At least 15 died in Macedonian flash floods

SKOPJE — Fifteen people died in flash floods overnight in the Macedonian capital of Skopje and six more were missing, state news agency MIA quoted police as saying on Sunday.

Cars were underwater and the ring road around Skopje was severely damaged by the floods, with some suburbs hit particularly hard.

The rain had stopped on Sunday morning but more rain was forecast for the evening.

“It is very sad, there are several victims,” a police official told Reuters. He could not confirm the exact numbers quoted by the state news agency.—Reuters

India to hold exhibition to boost economic ties with Brunei: official

BANDAR SERI BEGAWAN — The Indian government will organise an investment exhibition in Bandar Seri Begawan this September to boost economic ties with Brunei.

According to a local news report Sunday, Indian High Commissioner Nagma Mallick said the expo, dubbed “India Investrade”, will feature a large business delegation from Kolkata.

“We have two big business delegations that will be coming to Brunei this year. In September we will have a big exhibition ... and later in October or November a large delegation from the Confederation of Indian Industry in Delhi, they will hold meetings to explore investment opportunities in both India and Brunei,” she said while interviewed Saturday. Representatives of Indian companies from various sectors such as healthcare, pharmaceuticals, solar energy and engineering are expected to meet Bruneian businessmen to build up trade and investment ties. There are many opportunities to be found in Brunei as it is centrally located in the ASEAN region, Mallick said, and India is keen to use its vast experience in agriculture and IT to help the Sultanate diversify its economy.—Xinhua

Intense fighting as Syrian rebels break through Aleppo siege

BEIRUT — Syrian rebels broke through to besieged opposition-held areas in eastern Aleppo on Saturday in an assault on a major government military complex meant to end a month-long siege, insurgents and a monitoring group said.

Pro-government media outlets denied the siege had been broken and a US State Department official said the situation was “too fluid” to comment. The heavy fighting and air strikes reported from the area seemed to indicate any passage that may have been opened would be far from secure enough for civilians to travel through.

Rebels have been trying to break through a thin strip of government-controlled territory to reconnect insurgent areas in western Syria with their encircled sector of eastern Aleppo, in effect breaking a government siege begun last month.

The offensive against the government’s Ramousah military complex, which contains a number of military colleges, began on Friday. Taking control of Ramousah and linking up with eastern Aleppo would isolate government-held western Aleppo by cutting the southern route out toward the capital Damascus.

It would also give rebels access to armaments stored in the base the Syrian army has used in the five-year conflict as a strategic platform from which to shell opposition targets.

Two rebel groups and a mon-



Rebel fighters prepare their weapons in an artillery academy of Aleppo, Syria, on 6 August 2016. PHOTO: REUTERS

itor said on Saturday they had broken the siege, but pro-government media outlets denied the claim and said the Syrian army was in fact regaining recently taken territory from rebels.

“We’ve seen reports but the situation is fluid and we aren’t

going to provide battlefield updates,” the State Department official told Reuters.

Jabhat Fatah al-Sham, formerly the al Qaeda-affiliated Nusra Front, said in an online statement: “Fighters from outside the city met their brother fighters

from inside the city, and work is under way to establish control over remaining positions to break the siege.”

A commander from more moderate rebel group also told Reuters the siege had been broken but said it was early days and mat-

ters were “not easy”. The United Kingdom-based Syrian Observatory for Human Rights, which monitors the war, said intense fighting and heavy air strikes meant no secure corridor had yet been established between the two rebel-held territories.—Reuters

South Africa’s ANC suffers worst election since taking power

JOHANNESBURG — The African National Congress lost its grip on local government in Tshwane, home of the South African capital Pretoria, as results on Saturday gave the opposition Democratic Alliance a second big win in the ANC’s worst election since the end of apartheid.

The results of Wednesday’s voting have reshaped the political landscape in South Africa, where the ANC has ruled virtually unopposed since it ended white-minority rule in 1994, led by Nelson Mandela.

Unemployment, economic stagnation and scandals around President Jacob Zuma led voters to punish the ANC, changing the outlook for national elections in 2019 and potentially emboldening Zuma’s rivals within the ANC to challenge him.

Saving some pride, the ANC won in Johannesburg, South Africa’s economic and financial hub, taking 45 per cent of the vote to the DA’s 38 per cent, but will have to form a coalition to govern.

Wins in Tshwane and in Nelson Mandela Bay, which includes

the manufacturing hub Port Elizabeth, are a watershed for the DA, which also held Cape Town, a municipality that it has controlled since 2006.

Last year it elected its first black leader, Mmusi Maimane, as it tries to shake off an image of a party mainly serving white interests.

“It signals to everyone that the tide in our country is turning,” Maimane told reporters on Saturday.

The ANC still won the most votes overall, and was working to form coalitions in the municipalities where it lost its majority.

“We are into negotiations as we speak,” said Paul Mashatile, the ANC chairman in Gauteng province, which includes Tshwane and Johannesburg.

“It’s quite clear that our people, our traditional supporters, are still with us but maybe not too many people came out to vote so we need to go back and find out why.”

The DA will also need to form coalitions to govern in both Tshwane and Nelson Mandela

Bay. In his first public remarks since the vote’s outcome, Zuma said South Africa was a “democracy where differences of political opinion and diverse political preferences are allowed to flourish”.

The ANC has lost support among voters who feel their lives have not improved, and the opposition has accused Zuma of mismanaging the economy. Millions of urban voters are now looking beyond its liberation struggle credentials and focusing on an economy teetering on the edge of a recession.

Zuma rattled investors in December by changing finance ministers twice in a week, sending the rand plummeting. The currency has since recovered and received a boost from the lack of violence during the local elections.

The president survived an impeachment vote in April after the Constitutional Court said he had broken the law by ignoring an order to repay some of \$16 million in state funds spent on renovating his private home. Zuma has since said he will repay some of the money, as ordered by the court.—Reuters

Islamic State militants claim capture of US weapons in Afghanistan

KABUL — Militants linked to Islamic State have released photos that purport to show weapons and equipment that belonged to American soldiers and were captured by the group in eastern Afghanistan.

The photos, which came to light on Saturday, show an American portable rocket launcher, radio, grenades and other gear not commonly used by Afghan troops, as well as close up views of identification cards for a US Army soldier, Specialist Ryan Larson.

The US military command in Kabul denied any suggestion the soldier had been captured, saying he “has been accounted for and remains in a duty status within his unit.”

American special operations troops have been fighting alongside Afghan forces in a renewed offensive against militants who claim allegiance to Islamic State in Nangarhar Province, which borders Pakistan.

“SPC Larson was attached

to a unit conducting a partnered (operation) with Afghan Forces,” US military spokesman Commander Ron Flesvig said in an emailed statement on Sunday. “The soldier’s ID and some of the equipment were left behind after the (operation). The loss of personal identification is unfortunate.”

In July, US commanders said at least five special forces were injured in fighting in the province.

The website that published the photos speculated that the equipment and weapons were left behind during that engagement, but Flesvig said American officials are still trying to determine exactly when and how it was lost.

The push in Nangarhar came after President Barack Obama cleared American troops to take a more active role in fighting militants in Afghanistan.

Besides advising work and special operations missions, American aircraft deployed at least 545 weapons in the first six months of 2016.—Reuters

Indonesian SMEs encouraged to tap into myriad benefits of digital technology

JAKARTA — With a myriad of business opportunities awaiting in an increasingly digitalized world, players in the Indonesian Small-Middle Enterprises (SMEs) sector are being encouraged to seize the opportunities from such beneficial conditions in order to further boost their businesses.

Despite its dominating portion in the structure of the nation's economy, the number of SME players in Indonesia extensively using digital instruments to expand their markets is still deemed insignificant, business observers have noted.

According to data released by Indonesia's Industry and Commerce Chamber (Kadin), only 30 per cent of SME businesses in the country are already using digital instruments and tools to expand their markets.

This figure is put into perspective when compared to the fact the sector comprises more than 60 per cent of the country's overall Gross Domestic Product (GDP).

Indonesian President Joko Widodo has initially set a target of 8 million SMEs business in the country "going online" by 2020.

Business consultant agency McKinsey Global Institute has said that intense involvement of dig-

ital instruments in SMEs business may boost the nation's economic growth by 2 per cent each year.

The agency also said that the use of e-commerce through digital instruments would further spur SME businesses by as much as 80 per cent.

As such, becoming cognizant about the huge potential from becoming proficient with and using digital instrument technology in the Indonesian SME sector, comes highly recommended to business people to expand their respective markets and sales.

"The supporting technology exists at present. The access and acquisition of this technology is also relatively affordable, especially for SMEs," Regional Head of Commercial Payments MasterCard Asia Pacific, Singapore, Philip Glickman told Xinhua.

"The key is getting the right people in the right position with the knowhow to use that specific technology," Glickman said in an exclusive interview recently, during the 12th World Islamic Economic Forum held here.

He added that Indonesia already has a strong foundation, resources and the right economic environment for SMEs to grow further.

"With an abundance of resources and the po-

tential of young people, Indonesia is perfectly positioned to take advantage and grow. Technology plays an essential role in SMEs and these businesses will eventually drive the economy," he said.

Philip encouraged Indonesian SMEs to partner with other companies to fill in the gaps in their business deliveries, saying that once SMEs know how to choose a partner correctly and how to use data effectively, they can chart a vertical course to success.

Another expert, Eddy Lee, Managing Partner of the Singapore-based Coffee Ventures, told Xinhua exclusively that a new phenomenon is the expanding use of smartphones in Indonesia, which are sometimes used to run SME businesses.

"Through smartphones, which have become less expensive and more secure, Indonesian SME business people can now reach and do business with thousands of potential new customers and markets across the country through social networking platforms like WhatsApp and Facebook applications," Lee told Xinhua.

He added that Indonesia has many talented young people who have skills in programming and web design who can be partnered with SMEs

so as to provide more interesting, attractive and complete information landscapes that can appear in their digital website's instruments.

In addition, establishing such partnerships with talented, creative professionals is highly recommended to assure that the SMEs can run effectively to attract and grab potential customers and gain more and deeper access to the markets they are targeting.

"They can help you with modern digital tools and finding the right people who can deliver like this can lead your business to enter digital trade in a cost-effect manner," Lee said.

The Indonesian government through its economic reform packages has provided massive facilities to help kickstart more SME businesses that include swifter administration and export procedures, better financing access to banks, and provisions for partnering with foreign investors.

The SME sector is highly expected to boost the economy at the grass roots level that will eventually contribute to boosting the nation's economic growth, thus reducing the unemployment rate as the sector's continued expansion will accommodate a significant number of new workers.—Xinhua



Police place handcuffs on Paul O'Neal, 18, after he was shot in this still image from video taken from a body camera released by the Chicago police in Chicago, Illinois, US on 28 July 2016. PHOTO: REUTERS

Chicago police may have violated policy in fatal shooting

CHICAGO — Chicago Police Superintendent Eddie Johnson said on Saturday that videos of the police shooting of a black man in the city last month indicate three officers may have violated the department's policies.

Johnson told a news conference it was against departmental policy to fire at or into a moving car when the vehicle was the only potential use of force by a suspect, and police were taking a hard look at training and tactics following the shooting.

Authorities on Friday released videos that captured the moments before and after police shot Paul O'Neal, 18, on 28 July, but not the shooting itself because a police officer's body camera was not recording. No firearms were found on O'Neal, who was shot in the back, according to police.

Johnson was named in March to lead the department, which is facing accusations of racism and a federal investigation into

its practices after the city waited more than a year to release video of a separate 2014 fatal shooting by officers.

On Saturday, he said the ongoing investigation prevented him from discussing details about the O'Neal shooting.

"I was concerned by some of the things that I saw on the videos and that is why we took such a swift action that we did last week to relieve the three officers of their police powers," Johnson said.

The video footage released on Friday shows two officers firing at a stolen car driven by O'Neal after it sped past them, the car crashing into a police car, and O'Neal running into a backyard where he was shot. It does not show the shooting. Johnson said the lack of a body-camera video of the O'Neal shooting is under investigation, though he noted that the officers in that police district had the cameras for only about a week before the shooting.—Reuters

THE REPUBLIC OF THE UNION OF MYANMAR MINISTRY OF ELECTRICITY AND ENERGY MYANMA OIL AND GAS ENTERPRISE (INVITATION FOR OPEN TENDER) (10 / 2016)

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

Sr.No	Tender No	Description	Remark
(1)	IFB-031(16-17)	Wild CAT 330(AMC) (4000) Litres	US\$
(2)	IFB-032(16-17)	Spares for KB-150 Well Servicing Unit (1) Item	US\$
(3)	IFB-033(16-17)	Spares for FLC 504 Derrick Shaker Units (6) Items	US\$
(4)	IFB-034(16-17)	Spares for S-250 Series Shaker Screen Ex ZJ 70L SR I & II (6) Items	US\$
(5)	IFB-035(16-17)	Spares for Derrick Shaker Units (Derrick FLC 2000) Ex ZJ 50D SR I & II (6) Items	US\$
(6)	IFB-036(16-17)	2" & 3" ERW Steel Line Pipe, API 5L Grade A (2) Items	US\$
(7)	IFB-037(16-17)	Spares for F-1600 Pump Ex ZJ 70L Drilling Rig (2) Items	US\$
(8)	IFB-038(16-17)	Spares for EMSCO Rotating Equipment (6) Items	US\$
(9)	DMP/L-011(16-17)	Mud Testing Equipments (7) Items	Ks

Tender Closing Date & Time - 1-9-2016, 16:30 Hr

Tender Document shall be available during office hours commencing from 8TH August, 2016 at the Finance Department, Myanma Oil and Gas Enterprise, No (44) Complex, Nay Pyi Taw, Myanmar.

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

Bangladesh issues arrest warrants over killing of Japanese citizen

DHAKA — A court in Bangladesh issued warrants on Sunday for the arrest of four suspected members of a banned group, Jamaat-ul-Mujahideen Bangladesh (JMB), in connection with the killing of a Japanese citizen last year, a prosecutor said.

Kunio Hoshi, 65, was gunned down in October by masked men on a motorcycle while on his way to visit a grass farm project in the northern district of Rangpur, less than a week after an Italian aid worker had been killed in a similar

way in Dhaka's diplomatic quarter.

The court issued the arrest warrants after deciding to press ahead with proceedings against four other suspected members of the outlawed group, public prosecutor Nayan Noor Rahman told reporters.

Police believe that the group, which has pledged allegiance to Islamic State, carried out a 1 July attack on a cafe in which 22 people were killed, mostly foreigners, before security forces ended a 12-hour siege, killing five gunmen.

Islamic State and al Qaeda have claimed a series of killings of liberals and members of religious minorities in Bangladesh in the past year.

Islamic State also claimed responsibility for the cafe attack but the government has dismissed suggestions the group has a presence in Bangladesh.

While authorities blame the violence on domestic militants, security experts say the scale and sophistication of the cafe attack suggested links to a trans-national network.—Reuters

International USA Car Festival marked in N Hungary



A monster truck crushes two cars during the International USA Car Festival in Komarom, northern Hungary, on 6 August, 2016. PHOTO: XINHUA

Police detonate backpack near finish line of Rio Olympic cycling race

RIO DE JANEIRO — A loud blast shook the media seats near the finishing line of the men’s cycling road race on the first day of the Rio Olympics when Brazil’s bomb squad detonated an unattended backpack on Saturday, amid tight security at South America’s first Games.

A Reuters witness reported seeing bomb squad agents in protective clothing operating near the area where media were seated on the boulevard of Copacabana beach. That followed the detonation of another unattended bag near the same spot on Friday evening during the opening ceremony for the Games.

A spokeswoman for the public security department said that officials believe the bag may have belonged to a homeless man, but protocol requires any unattended objects to be destroyed.

The controlled blast occurred at 1:45 pm (1645 GMT), the spokeswoman said.

Lorie Schmetterling, who travelled from Moorestown, New Jersey with her husband Eric to cheer on their daughter

Laura, who is rowing for the US Olympic team, had not heard the blast but was disturbed to learn it had occurred just a few hundred metres from where she was staying.

“You hear all these terrible things about how it is going to be and then you get here and it seems fine,” she said. “Then this happens and you feel it, you go on high alert again.”

Schmetterling said the incident would not alter her plans in Rio.

A security source said that officials were particularly concerned about this bag because it was close to the Russian hospitality site for the Games.

In recent days, bomb squad members have detonated several unattended bags in controlled explosions around Rio amid high security.

Brazil detained 12 people for suspected links to Islamic State last month but it has insisted that the risk of an attack at the Games is minimal.

Brazil has deployed some 85,000 police and military to guard the Games, roughly twice the number at the 2012 London Olympics.—Reuters

Zimbabwe drafts law to crack down on social media abuse

HARARE — The Zimbabwean government is drafting a law to penalize the “abusive” usage of social media with five-year jail terms in its latest measures to regulate the cyber space law and order, state media reported Sunday.

According to the draft, any person staying either in Zimbabwe or overseas shall be found guilty of intention-

ally generating, possessing and distributing an electronic communication with the intent to coerce, intimidate, harass, threaten, bully or cause emotional distress to another person.

The state-run Sunday Mail said the legislation, Computer Crime and Cyber Crime Bill, together with two supporting bills on information technology, is

to manage the cyber space, which has “for long been abused to foment social disobedience and attack private citizens.”

The legislation came after political dissents organized a series of job boycotts and protests in recent weeks via social media, notably Whatsapp, Youtube and Facebook, mobilizing thousands of followers to take ac-

tion to vent their frustration over a failing economy and alleged rampant corruption. One of the activists, Pastor Evan Mawarire, who organized #ThisFlag and #ShutdownZimbabwe movements, has fled to South Africa after being accused by the Zimbabwean authorities of collaborating with foreign governments to destabilize the state.—Xinhua

Six dead in Mexico as remnants of Earl trigger landslides



Residents survey the damage from a mudslide following heavy showers caused by the passing of Tropical Storm Earl in the town of Temazolapa, in Veracruz state, Mexico, on 6 August 2016. PHOTO: REUTERS

MEXICO CITY — Six people died in eastern Mexico on Saturday after they were buried in landslides caused by intense rainfall from the remnants of now-downgraded Tropical Storm Earl, an emergency services official said.

The six deaths involved two separate families in eastern Veracruz state, emergency services

spokesman Manuel Escalera said.

He added that local authorities were continuing to monitor rising rivers and saturated soil that could trigger additional landslides.

Earl’s maximum wind speed dropped to 30 mph (48 kmh) by Saturday afternoon, according to the Miami-based National

Hurricane Centre.

It was located approximately 105 miles (169 km) east of Mexico City, after pounding portions of Central America and crossing Mexico’s Yucatan Peninsula over the past couple days.

Forecasters were still warning that the storm could produce dangerous flash floods and mudslides with rainfall up to 18 inches (30 cm) in some areas in the Mexican states of Guerrero, Hidalgo, Oaxaca, Puebla, Tlaxcala and Veracruz.

The Mexican government discontinued the tropical storm warning and there were no coastal warnings or watches in effect.

Before crossing into Mexico, Earl battered Belize, smashing car windows and punching holes in the roofs of Belize City’s wooden houses.

It also downed trees and flooded parts of the coast.—Reuters

ကွန်ပျူတာ စနစ်ဖြင့်ထိန်းသော
MECHANICAL CAR PARKING

Side View: 14'4" height, 18' width, 7'2" depth.
Front View: 7'2" width, 7'2" depth.
Plan View: 21'6" width, 7'2" depth.
Front View: 14'4" height, 21'6" width, 7'2" depth.

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: 09.259.81.46.46

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Angelina Jolie to teach at Georgetown University

LOS ANGELES — Hollywood actress-filmmaker Angelina Jolie is set to take up a teaching position at the Georgetown University in the US.

This stint will be similar to her visiting professor role at the London School of Economics, reported *Us* magazine.

It was previously announced that the actress and human rights campaigner has joined the London School of Economics as a visiting professor and now it is reported that she “will do the same guest spot at LSE’s sister school, Georgetown”.

No details about her position at the US institution have been revealed but Georgetown Institute for Women, Peace and Security



Hollywood actress-filmmaker Angelina Jolie. PHOTO: REUTERS

Ambassador Melanne Verveer held talks with the 41-year-old actress in May. “I was pleased to meet with Angelina Jolie during my recent trip to London on ways we at Georgetown University can continue the collaboration between our sister programmes on both sides of the Atlantic,” Verveer said in a statement. We look forward to welcoming Angelina and former foreign secretary Hague to Georgetown in the future.” At LSE, Jolie will give a series of lectures to students of the new one-year MSc course on women, peace and security, which will run from the beginning of the 2017 academic year.—PTI

Cara Delevingne opens up about mother’s addiction

LONDON — Supermodel and actress Cara Delevingne has opened up about her mother’s struggle with heroin addiction during her childhood.

Speaking to *Esquire*, Cara, 23, described how her mother Pandora used to be in and out of hospital when she was a child, something which she only found out the reason behind years later, reported *Contactmusic*.

“She was sick a lot, in hospital a lot. And there were times when she would leave for quite a long time and I wouldn’t know where she was,” she said.

Cara went on to describe how her mother’s absence caused her to stop eating at eight years old.

“I didn’t feel like I had any control of anything in my life so I just kind of went on a food strike. I was like, ‘I’m not going to eat until someone tells me where she is,’ she said.

Eventually Cara found out what was wrong with her mother, through her older sister Poppy.

“My mum feels a lot of guilt for everything. She was an incredible mother, she always had so much love. And I felt like when I was a kid I was kind of like her confidante. I really felt like I understood her and how she was feeling and why.”

When asked if her mother was doing okay now Cara said, “She is now. But it’s a constant up and down. She’ll never be cured, she’ll never be fixed. It’s about all of us learning to communicate about it and constantly support each other”.—PTI



Supermodel and actress Cara Delevingne. PHOTO: REUTERS

Tyga gifts USD 200k car for Kylie Jenner

LONDON — Rapper Tyga has presented girlfriend Kylie Jenner a USD 200,000 Mercedes-Maybach as an early 19th birthday present.

Reality TV star Jenner revealed about the gift in a Snapchat video.

She posted a short video fea-

turing the car and said: “Happy early birthday to me. Yay! I love you, T.”

She added a picture of the interior and wrote: “Almost too boss for me.” Tyga’s present came just days after Kylie treated herself to a new luxury custom-made Land Rover.—PTI



Actress Sophie Turner. PHOTO: REUTERS

‘Game of Thrones’ star Sophie Turner dyes hair blonde

LOS ANGELES — Actress Sophie Turner, who plays red-haired Sansa Stark on “Game of Thrones”, has surprised her fans by dyeing her hair platinum blonde.

The 20-year-old British beauty showed her new hair colour off on Instagram. “I did a thing...,” she wrote in the caption of an image of her freshly dyed locks.

The followers of the popular fantasy drama cannot help speculating about what will happen to Turner’s character in season seven of the HBO series as the actress ditched her red locks, re-

ported *Aceshowbiz*.

“ok so is she a targaryean?!” one of her followers commented. “You become a Lannister!!” another speculated. “what about sansa!” another fan added, while another simply wrote, “Nooooo oooooooooooooooooooooooooooooo.”

While fans may know Turner as a red-haired Sansa, the actress is naturally blonde. She and other cast members of “Thrones” are not going to start filming season 7 until later this summer, so she may have dyed her hair platinum just for fun during the break.—PTI

Hollywood is my next plan: Esha Gupta

MUMBAI — Actress Esha Gupta might be taking slow steps to establish a strong footing in the Hindi film industry but the “Raaz 2” star is already eyeing Hollywood and says it is next on her wishlist.

The 30-year-old actress, whose looks have long been compared with Hollywood star Angelina Jolie’s, says she is hoping to begin a career in the West soon.

“I would really love to do a Hollywood film. I have not tried anything now. Not even given any audition or meeting but I am looking forward to it. I think that’s my next plan,” Esha told PTI. Heaping praise on Bollywood stars Priyanka Chopra and Deepika Padukone, who are gearing up for their big Hollywood debuts, Esha said the two actresses have taken India to the

next level, globally. “I respect Priyanka and Deepika, where they have reached. They have taken not only themselves but India on a different level of map. We have sportsmen who are known and otherwise there are film stars who are more famous than anyone,” she said.

“People may not know who is the PM but they will know which country a particular star comes from. Now, people are going to say Priyanka and Deepika are from India.”

Esha will be next seen in Akshay Kumar-starrer “Rustom”, which hits theatres on 12 August.

Her other forthcoming ventures include Vipul Amrutlal Shah’s “Commando 2” and Milan Luthria’s next directorial venture “Baadshaho”, alongside Ajay Devgn and Emraan Hashmi.—PTI

'Scary' Lucille Ball statue replaced in her New York hometown

NEW YORK — Lucille Ball fans can rest easy. A new statue honouring the "I Love Lucy" star was set to be unveiled on Saturday in Celoron, New York, on what would have been Ball's 105th birthday, after residents of her hometown made it clear they did not "love" an unflattering previous version.

The life-size bronze artwork was created by the well-known sculptor Carolyn Palmer, whose proposal was selected from more than 60 submitted by artists around the world.

The statue at Lucille Ball Memorial Park will replace another that was installed seven years ago.

Critics panned the sculpture, saying it looked nothing like the iconic redhead, and it eventually became known as "Scary Lucy."

Palmer spent nine months working on the project, including watching countless episodes

of "I Love Lucy" and hiring models to pose in 1950s-style dresses.

"I not only wanted to portray the playful, animated and spontaneous Lucy, but also the glamorous Hollywood icon," Palmer said in a statement.

Palmer has sculpted a number of other famous figures.

Her marble statue of Pope Francis stands at the papal residence in New York City, where the pope blessed it during his visit last year.

A bronze version of that statue is being produced for St. Patrick's Cathedral in New York.

"I Love Lucy" aired in the 1950s and is considered one of the greatest television comedies ever.

Ball played the wife of bandleader Ricky Ricardo, who was portrayed by her real-life husband, Desi Arnaz. —Reuters



A life-sized bronze sculpture of actress Lucille Ball entitled "Lucy" by artist Carolyn Palmer is seen in an undated picture taken in Celoron, New York. PHOTO: REUTERS

100 women from Chengdu visit Thailand to join the female oriented tourism campaign

BANGKOK — A ceremony to welcome over 100 Chinese ladies from Chengdu upon their arrival in Bangkok was staged Thursday, as they are joining in Thailand's special month for female tourists.

The Chinese delegates had all taken up promotional packaged tours in Thailand, which had been specially put together by the Tourism Authority of Thailand (TAT), THAI Airways and Chengdu-based tour companies to meet the needs of women travellers. Their trips cover three routes taking in Bangkok, Pattaya, Kanchanaburi, and Phuket respectively.

The trips featured a range of excursions and activities geared toward female tourists including beauty treatments, relaxation and wellness, spa and massage, and the chance to experience local culture and traditions.

"Thailand offers a great deal to women in terms of activities and attractions and our Women's Journey Thailand 2016 campaign is promoting the best of these. Our visitors from Chengdu got the chance to experience health and beauty treatments and to relax in some of the kingdom's most sublime tropical destinations. We understand the stress of modern life and feel that the charms of Thailand can help women to relax and feel invigorated after a break here." Said Runjuan Tongrut, TAT Executive Director of the East Asia Region said,

According to TAT, the visit of the 100 Chengdu women is expected to generate over 20 million Baht (570 thousand USD) and is just one of the many events planned for the Women's Journey Thailand campaign that will continue throughout the month of August 2016.—Xinhua



(L-R) Cate Campbell (AUS) of Australia, Bronte Campbell (AUS) of Australia, Brittany Elmslie (AUS) of Australia and Emma McKeon (AUS) of Australia pose with their gold medals and the Australian flag at 2016 Rio Olympics, Swimming Victory Ceremony, Women's 4 x 100m Freestyle Relay Victory Ceremony, Olympic Aquatics Stadium in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil on 6 August 2016. PHOTO: REUTERS

Golden start for Australia on day of records

RIO DE JANEIRO — Hungary's Katinka Hosszu ended her long wait for Olympic victory and Australia captured two gold medals in an exhilarating first day of swimming competition that saw three world records smashed in Rio on Saturday.

Hosszu, five times a world champion but without a medal from three previous Olympics, demolished the world record by 2.07 seconds in the final of the women's 400 metres individual medley.

Australia's women retained their Olympic title by winning the 4x100m freestyle relay in world record time, with sisters Bronte and Cate Campbell swimming the last two stages to overhaul the United States, despite the efforts

of Katie Ledecky on the anchor leg. Mack Horton's victory in the men's 400 freestyle also meant Australia had already doubled their gold medal tally from a disappointing showing four years ago.

The day's record spree began with Britain's Adam Peaty, who broke his own world mark of 57.92 in the heats of the 100 breaststroke when he clocked 57.55. Tipped to become the first British man to win an Olympic gold since 1988, he then swam 57.62 in the semi-finals. In the first of four evening finals, Japan's Kosuke Hagino won the men's 400m individual medley, the grueling discipline that combines butterfly, backstroke, breaststroke and freestyle.—Reuters



Entertainment Channel

(8-8-2016, Monday)

<p>06 : 00 pm</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Weather Report Music Programme <p>06 : 25 pm</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Cartoon Programme "Ah My Goddess" (Part-1) <p>07 : 15 pm</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> International Drama Series <p>07 : 55 pm</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> International Drama Series <p>08 : 30 pm</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> MRTV Entertainment Music 	<p>08 : 45 pm</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Taung Byone Nat Festival (Part-1) <p>09 : 15 pm</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> International Movie Songs — Bagan Trip (EP-2) <p>09 : 25 pm</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Pyi Thu Ni Ti <p>09 : 45 pm</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Horse Cart Driver <p>09 : 55 pm</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Myanmar Video
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From 8-8-2016 (Monday) 6:00 pm
To 9-8-2016 (Tuesday) 6:00 pm



mitv Myanmar International

(8-8-2016 07:00am ~ 9-8-2016 07:00am) MST

<p>Today Fresh</p> <p>07:03 Am News</p> <p>07:26 Am Exquisite Myanmar Silk</p> <p>07:45 Am MONASTERY (Bargayar Kyaung)</p> <p>08:03 Am News</p> <p>08:26 Am Travelogue: A Tour in Korea (Ep-1)</p> <p>08:42 Am Chanmyay Yeiktha Meditation Centre-Hmawbi</p> <p>08:54 Am Guiding Star of Song Birds</p> <p>09:03 Am News</p> <p>09:26 Am History And Mystery Behind The Caves</p> <p>09:51 Am The Green Corner "Jellyfish"</p> <p>10:03 Am News</p>	<p>10:26 Am Gardener: Rose Plantation</p> <p>10:32 Am The Beauty In The North Of Myanmar</p> <p>10:48 Am Beauties Of Makyee Island — Island of Tamarind Tree</p> <p>(11:00 Am ~ 03:00 Pm) - Sunday Repeat (07:00 Am ~ 11:00 Am)</p> <p>(03:00 Pm ~ 07:00 Pm) - Today Repeat (07:00 Am ~ 11:00 Am)</p> <p>Prime Time</p> <p>07:03 Pm News</p> <p>07:26 Pm Food Trip (Ep-3) (Part-2)</p> <p>07:49 Pm Beach Food Delivery</p> <p>08:03 Pm News</p> <p>08:26 Pm Taste of Myanmar (Shan Noodle Salad)</p> <p>08:42 Pm Myanmar Traditional Art Bronze Casting</p> <p>08:48 Pm A Simple And Peaceful Life</p> <p>(09:00 Pm ~ 11:00 Pm) - Today Repeat (09:00 Am ~ 11:00 Am)</p> <p>(11:00 Pm ~ 03:00 Am) - Sunday Repeat (07:00 Am ~ 11:00 Am)</p> <p>(03:00 Am ~ 07:00 Am) -Today Repeat (07:00 Am ~ 11:00 Am)</p> <p>(For Detailed Schedule – www.myanmaritv.com/schedule)</p>
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Venus Williams knocked out in Rio upset

RIO DE JANEIRO — Former Olympic champion Venus Williams was eliminated in the first round at the Rio Games on Saturday after Belgian underdog Kirsten Flipkens mounted a spirited fight back to cause the biggest upset of the opening day.

Another notable casualty on the first day of competition was former world No.1 Ana Ivanovic, who surged ahead in the first set against world No.12 Carla Suarez Navarro but lost 2-6, 6-1, 6-2 after two error-strewn sets.

With US Secretary of State John Kerry and gymnastics gold medal favourite Simone Biles looking on, seven-times grand slam winner Williams won the first set but became frustrated as the match wore on, losing 4-6, 6-3, 7-6(5) to the world number 62.

Flipkens collapsed on to the court after winning the final set tie-breaker and the rowdy Brazilian crowd serenaded her with chants of “ole, ole, ole”.

Flipkens later thanked the “amazing” Brazilian crowd for helping her pull off one of the

biggest wins of her career.

“To beat Venus Williams on the centre court, one of the biggest champions in our history, that (gave me) goosebumps all over the place,” she told reporters.

The loss will not be the end of the competition for 2000 Sydney Games champion Williams, however, as the 36-year-old is bidding to win her fourth doubles gold medal with sister Serena.

Former French Open winner Ivanovic rued letting her chances slip away.

“I had a chance to come back in the third set but every time I came close to pegging her back, I missed the opportunity,” said the world No.26.

Ivanovic’s match, like all the others on center court, was played in a stadium that was more than half empty, something likely to disappoint organisers.

But the size of crowds did not bother Japan’s Kei Nishikori, who opened the men’s singles tennis tournament on center court by knocking out Spain’s Albert Ramos-Viñolas with ease, win-

ning 6-2, 6-4 in two sets.

Some players said conditions were tricky due to soaring temperatures and a strong breeze drifting across from the ocean.

“Here it’s very difficult to play because it’s fairly open, there is constantly some kind of wind,” said Croatia’s Marin Cilic, who beat Bulgaria’s Grigor Dimitrov 6-1, 6-4.

One player who thrived in the Rio sun was Australia’s John Millman, who became the first Olympian to win a men’s singles match without losing a game.

Millman’s “double-bagel” 6-0, 6-0 victory came against Lithuania’s Ricardas Berankis. The Australian, who has battled back to fitness after several shoulder surgeries that threatened his career, took part in Friday’s late-night opening ceremony, which many Olympians competing early on Saturday skipped.

“That was a really stirring moment for me. It’s hard to explain the emotions I got walking into that stadium, and obviously that carried over to today,” said the 27-year-old.—Reuters



Venus Williams (USA) of USA reacts during her match against Kirsten Flipkens (BEL) of Belgium at 2016 Rio Olympics, Women's Singles First Round at Olympic Tennis Centre, Rio de Janeiro, Brazil on 6 August 2016. PHOTO: REUTERS

Marta stars for five-star Brazil

RIO DE JANEIRO — Brazil striker Marta laughed off comparisons with Neymar on Saturday after she scored twice in Brazil’s 5-1 victory over Sweden at the Rio Olympics.

With the home fans chanting ‘Marta is better than Neymar,’ five-times World Player of the Year Marta led her side to their second consecutive win in front of 43,000 fans in Rio de Janeiro.

Barcelona forward Neymar carries the hopes of the home nation on his shoulders in the men’s competition as they seek to win Olympic gold for the first time, while Marta will be no less key to Brazil’s chances of success in the women’s tournament.

“We know Neymar is our best player right now and he is fantastic, we support him and he supports us but we’ll leave the comparison to the fans,” Marta said. “We have Marta, we have Neymar, we have Cristiane, we’re all Brazilian.”

While Brazil’s men failed to impress in a laboured 0-0 draw against South Africa on Thursday, home fans delighted in the football played by the women’s team, who outclassed Sweden despite being two places below them in the world rankings.

Brazil, ranked eighth in the world, opened the scoring through Beatriz after 21 minutes when she ran through on

goal, outmuscled a defender and poked the ball home.

Sweden had a goal disallowed shortly after then fell 2-0

behind in 24 minutes when Marta crossed the ball along the six-yard box and Cristiane’s clever flick took a deflection on its way

to the net.

Marta got the third from the penalty spot just seconds before half time and then scored Brazil’s fourth with 10 minutes remaining when she slotted home from eight yards after playing a fortunate one-two off a Swedish defender.

Beatriz got her second in the 86th minute when she created a yard of space in the box and curled the ball into the far corner of the net.

Lotta Schelin got a consolation goal for the Swedes with two minutes remaining.

The only blip for Brazil, who have scored eight in two games after beating China 3-0, was seeing Cristiane carried off with a thigh injury after 66 minutes.

While Brazil have already sewed up a place in the next round, Marta said they would not hold back against South Africa in their next group game.

“This means we are calmer but we can’t let that influence us and relax,” she said.

“We were delighted that we had the same performance as in the first game and that is our challenge, to keep that going all the way to the final.” —Reuters



Beatriz (BRA) of Brazil fights for the ball against Nilla Fischer (SWE) of Sweden and Elin Rubensson (SWE) of Sweden at 2016 Rio Olympics, Preliminary, Women's First Round at Olympic Stadium, Rio de Janeiro, Brazil on 6 August 2016. PHOTO: REUTERS