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“PAUK-PHAW” FRIENDSHIP

State Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi meets Chinese President

STATE Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi held talks with Chinese President Xi Jinping yesterday in Beijing, China.

During the meeting the State Counsellor thanked China for its support for Myanmar's economic and social development, and said Myanmar values the deep “pauk phaw” (“fraternal” in the Myanmar language) friendship between the two countries.

Myanmar is ready to maintain close high-level exchanges, strengthen the friendship between the two peoples and enhance mutually beneficial cooperation in various fields she said.

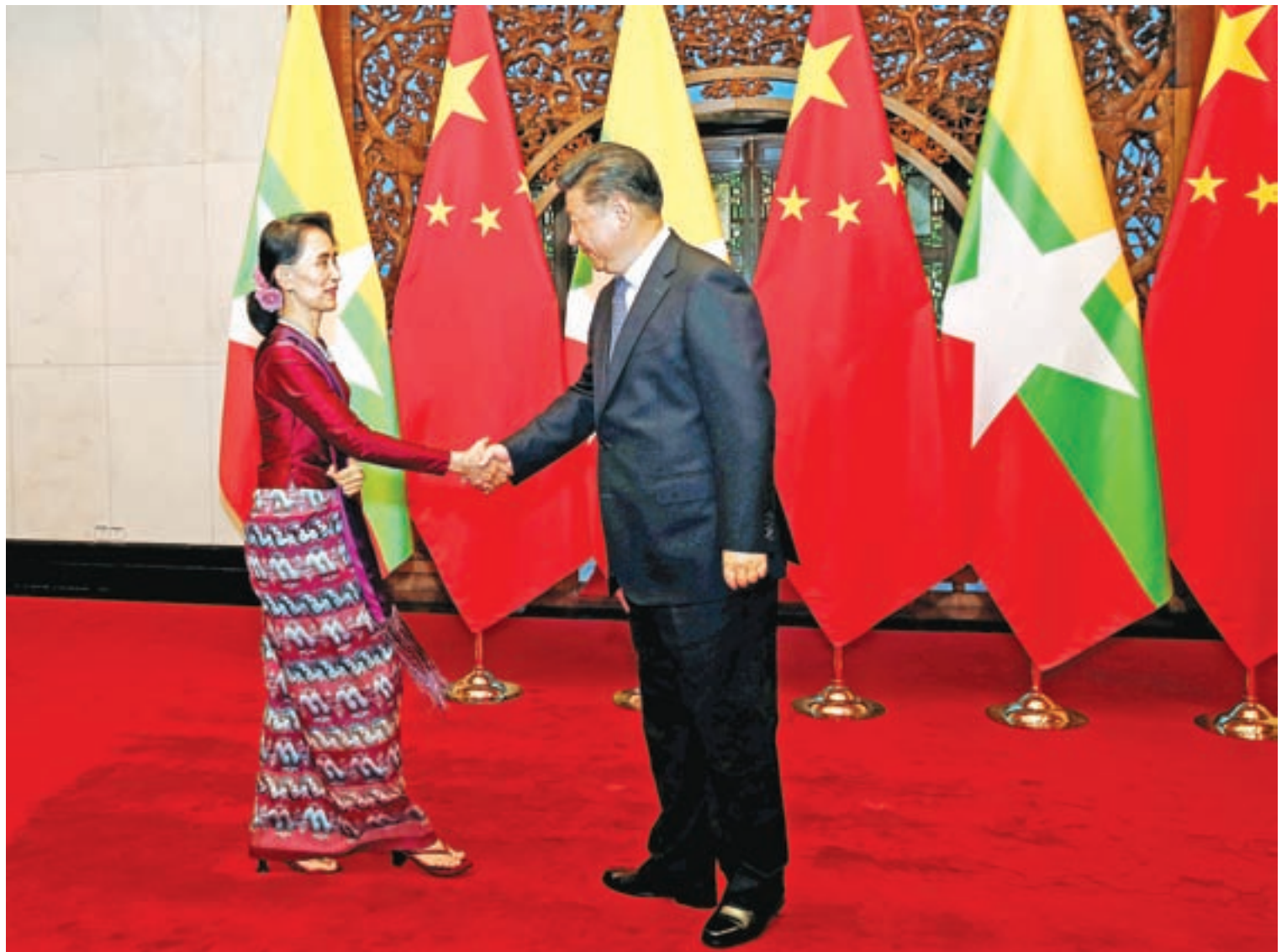
She pledged that Myanmar will work together with China to safeguard stability along the border based on the Five Principles of Peaceful Coexistence between the two countries.

She said Myanmar will not allow anything that could affect amicable ties with its neighbours, according to the *Xinhua News Agency*.

President Xi Jinping vowed to promote the China-Myanmar comprehensive strategic cooperative partnership and bring more tangible benefits to the people of both countries.

President Xi also welcomed Daw Aung San Suu Kyi's visit and praised her efforts to advance the China-Myanmar friendship, saying that China stands ready to work with Myanmar to ensure the two peoples will always be good neighbours, friends, brothers and partners.

According to Chinese media, Xi said China will continue to play a constructive role in promoting the peace process in Myanmar and make joint efforts with Myanmar to safeguard peace and stability



State Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi is welcomed by Chinese President Xi Jinping before a meeting at the Diaoyutai State Guesthouse in Beijing, China, August 19, 2016. PHOTO: REUTERS

along the border between the two nations. China stands ready to maintain high-level contact and people-to-people exchanges with Myanmar as well as to enhance communication and mutual trust,” Xi said,

The two countries should also integrate their development strat-

egies, he said, adding that China appreciates Myanmar's support for the Belt and Road Initiative.

China is willing to promote connectivity projects with Myanmar and boost bilateral cooperation in major areas such as energy and finance, he said, highlighting the importance of smooth operation of

ongoing large-scale projects.

During her visit, the State Counsellor also met with President of Asia Infrastructure Investment Bank-AIIB Mr Jin Lique and youths from the international affairs department of the Chinese Communist Party and attended a Chinese traditional tea party hosted

by Mr Song Tao, Minister for International Affairs of the Chinese Communist Party.

State Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi also held talks with Chairman of the National People's Congress-NPC Mr Zhang Dejiang yesterday evening.—GNLM with the *Xinhua News Agency*

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Union Ministers meet with heads of Chinese Corporations

UNION Ministers U Thant Sin Maung, U Pe Zin Tun and U Kyaw Win, who accompanied the State Counsellor on her visit to China, received the Senior Vice President of Huawei Technologies Co Ltd, Mr. Chang Zhenming, Chairman of CITIC Group Corporation and Mr. Tao Yang, Chairman of CIT-

IC Construction, separately at the Diaoyutai State Guesthouse in Beijing yesterday.

Likewise, Union Minister for Electricity and Energy U Pe Zin Tun held separate talks with the Vice Chairman of State Grid Corporation of China, Mr Wang Binghua, Chairman of State Pow-

er Investment Corporation (SPIC), and a delegation from the China National Petroleum Corporation (CNPC).

Union Minister for Transport and Communications U Thant Sin Maung held discussions with Mr. Si Furong, Chairman of the China Communications Services Corpo-

ration Limited and Mr. Liu Jian, Vice Chairman of ZTE Corporation separately. Union Minister for Planning and Transport U Kyaw Win also received Vice Chairman Mr. Chen Defang and a party of the China North Industries Corporation (NORINCO).—*Myanmar News Agency*

Pyidaungsu Hluttaw approves Government's Medium-term Debt Management Strategy

THE Pyidaungsu Hluttaw approved the President's message on the release of the Medium-term Debt Management Strategy following a parliamentary discussion and the deputy minister's response to discussions of the parliamentarians yesterday.

It is required that the Central Bank of Myanmar slow down foreign loans and to sell government treasury bonds and certificates on the domestic market in order to adjust for inflation, said U Soe Thane of Kayah State Constituency at the Pyidaungsu Hluttaw session yesterday.

Based on a medium-term debt management strategy the MP pointed out that the CBM's borrowing accounted for 42 percent of the country's external debt that totals US\$9.16billion



U Soe Thane of Kayah State Constituency. PHOTO: MNA

and 78 percent of domestic debt which is K13, 684billion.

The CBM's borrowing not only increases the money supply but also causes inflation,



Dr Daw Thet Thet Khaing. PHOTO: MNA

added the MP.

He called on the government to prepare foreign earnings measures for debt settlements, expressing hope that the government

would release its medium-term debt management strategy report annually and calling for effective implementation of loan-assisted projects to be beneficial to the country and its people.

Dr Daw Thet Thet Khaing of Dagon Constituency stressed the need for GDP growth along with an increase in local and foreign debts.

The MP suggested that the debt settlement plan should be redrawn by negotiating with creditors to manage refunding risks and highlighted the importance of measures to be taken for development of the domestic market.

Regarding discussions of the MPs, Deputy Minister for Planning and Finance U Maung Maung Win replied that arrangements are being made to reduce the borrowing by the CBM and ensure there is no further borrowing.

The government is striving for development of the country's capital market through various ways and means, added the deputy minister.

The deputy minister told the Pyidaungsu Hluttaw that rules and regulations of the auction were being drafted by the ministry in cooperation with the Asian Development Bank, the World Bank and experts.

During yesterday's Pyidaungsu Hluttaw session four parliamentarians debated the 2016-2017 Union Budget (Amendment) and the Bill amending the 2016 Union Budget Law.

Next, Union Minister for Education Dr Myo Thein Gyi elaborated on the country's efforts to become a member of the Convention on the Physical Protection of Nuclear Materials and Nuclear Facilities.—*Myanmar News Agency*

Film industry development discussed in Yangon

THE Myanmar Motion Picture Organisation held a forum on 'Creative Content industry development' in Yangon yesterday, with an address by its patron U Aung Lwin.

In his speech U Aung Lwin stressed the need for government assistance to the development of the film industry.

According U Thein Swe of the Amyotha Hluttaw, the amendment of the motion picture law was under discussion in

parliament. He spoke of plans to invite technicians and professionals of the film industry to the parliament's session for their advice and suggestions.

Daw Phyu Phyu Thin of the Pyithu Hluttaw said the parliament's Committee for Health and Sport Development was working on radical revisions to the law as the Motion Picture Law of 1996 was incompatible with the current trends of the film industry.

The organisation's chairman U Lu Min said the forum was designed to find solutions to the weaknesses of the film world and ask for the government's help as necessary.

Famous film directors and producers took part in discussions and gave suggestions on better processes for shooting, casting, producing and screening films.

The forum continues today. —*Yi Yi Myint and Ohnmar Thant*



A forum on 'Creative content industry development' in progress in Yangon. PHOTO: ZAW MIN LATT

Accreditation for 34th ASEAN Ministers on Energy Meeting to be held in Nay Pyi Taw

THE 34th ASEAN Ministers on Energy Meeting and related meetings will be held at the Myanmar International Convention Centre (2) and the Horizon Lake View Hotel in Nay Pyi Taw from 21-23 September, it has been learned.

Local and foreign correspondents will be allowed to

cover the opening ceremony, the holding of meetings and the releasing of a statement on the meeting.

Local media persons who wish to cover the events are to visit www.aebf2016.com to fill the media registration forms and send them to moe.irinfo@gmail.com (or) internal and external rela-

tions and information branch, the Ministry of Energy no later than 10 September. Media registration cards will be issued at the Media Centre inside the Horizon Lake View Hotel on 19 September.

For further information, please contact the Ministry of Electricity and Energy (Ph: 067 410270). —*Myanmar News Agency*

Myanmar delegation attends Conference in Malaysia



Myanmar Delegation is seen in Malaysia. PHOTO: MNA

A 10-member Myanmar delegation led by Dr Win Thein, Chairman of the Union Civil Service Board, attended an International Conference on Transforming Nations through Creativity and Innovation in Putrajaya, Malaysia from Tuesday until Thursday.

During the conference the Myanmar delegation took part in the 'Leaders' Summit: Transforming Nations through Crea-

tivity and Innovation' on Tuesday and the 'Young Leaders Forum' on Wednesday.

The UCSB chairman visited Urban Transformation Centres, iM4U, MaGIC and CRP Gemas together with leaders of the other delegations on Thursday.

The Myanmar delegation made study tours of civil service organisations in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia.—*Myanmar News Agency*

Mon State provided with K100-m fund for disaster preparedness by BFM

THE Mon State Government was provided K100 billion in funds for disaster preparedness by KBZ's Brighter Future Myanmar Foundation-BFM yesterday becoming the 13th state to receive such a fund.

The BFM has established such funds (K100 million apiece) since June and has spent K1.3 billion in the process

across 13 regions and states.

Mon State Chief Minister U Min Min Oo accepted the donation yesterday.

The assistance is aimed at giving a helping hand to regional governments to quickly respond to disasters in their respective regions as several regions and states are experiencing flooding.—*Thura Lwin*

Correction

Please read "... apartments for academic and admin staff being developed on a land plot owned by the ministry in Yangon." in the news story "Pyithu Hluttaw hears answers to parliamentary questions, discuss proposal" on page-2 of August 19 Issue of the Global New Light of Myanmar.—*Ed*

President U Htin Kyaw tours Ayeyawady Region, assists flood-affected people

PRESIDENT U Htin Kyaw met with flood-affected people sheltering at temporary camps in Ayeyawady Region yesterday, offering assistance in their livelihoods and rehabilitation.

The president and his entourage comprising Union ministers arrived at Patheingyi, Ayeyawady Region, yesterday via a special flight to the Tatmadaw.

They flew to Thabaung, a flood-hit township in the region and there met the local people sheltering at Kanyinchaung Monastery and presented relief supplies to them.

During the visit, President

U Htin Kyaw encouraged the flood-affected people, pledging that the Union government would assist in their rehabilitation.

He also spoke with members of the Ayeyawady Region Parliament on efforts pertaining to the rehabilitation of flood-affected people.

The president also went to Ngathaingchaung, Kyonpyaw, Patheingyi and Kangyidauk and provided relief supplies to the flood-affected sheltering at temporary relief camps.

The flood, which began in mid-June, has affected 504,471 people from 123,643 families in 19



President U Htin Kyaw inspects Yangon-Patheingyi Road during his tour of Ayeyawady Region. PHOTO: MNA

townships of Ayeyawady Region.

The Ayeyawady Region Government has set up 362 shelters for flood-affected people, provided 4,639 bags of rice and spent more than K140 million on aid.

Meanwhile, the Ayeyawady Region Relief and Resettlement Department has spent more than K145 million up to 18 August providing aid and construction materials.

The National Disaster Management Committee provided authorities with more than K200 million for the relief and rehabilitation of the flood-affected in the region.—*Myanmar News Agency*



State Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi is welcomed by members of the Youth League of the Communist Party of China on 19 August, 2016, in Beijing, China. PHOTO: MNA

Myanmar moves towards public library service development

Nanda Win, Myat Sandi

A MEMORANDUM of Understanding on the development of public libraries across the country under a five-year plan was inked in Yangon yesterday with the signing of the Information and Public Relations Department of the Ministry of Information, Myanmar Book Aid and Preservation Foundation and IREX, a US-based non-profit organisation.

According to the MoU signing ceremony, the five-year plan is aimed at helping libraries have access to information and technology, modernising libraries, training librarians to be equipped with knowledge about modern library services and turning the libraries into community-based learning centres. The plan will be implemented from this fiscal year until the 2020-2021 FY.

Acting Director-General U Maung Pe of the IPRD said that the MoU will pave the way in drawing public attention to libraries and upgrading them to be useful to the people.

According to the director-general, there are around 6,000 libraries including 414 opened by the IPRD.

Director Mr. Ari Katz of IREX said that information and technology will become important sector for the people of Myanmar with changes, adding that the IREX will help Myanmar carry the public library service.

Executive Director Dr Thant Thaw Kaung of the Myanmar Book Aid and Preservation Foundation said that the five-year plan is set to focus on capacity building for the libraries by making it an interesting destinations for the people.

Three more ministries hold press conferences on first 100-day work performance

THE third press conference on the new government's work performance for its first 100 days was held at the Ministry of Information yesterday with the three ministries giving press briefing and answering media questions.

Deputy Minister for Planning and Finance U Maung Maung Win said that the ministry carried out seven work programmes that include revising company registration fees, conducting training courses on planning, finance and investment in regions and states, preparing for the sale of K500 lottery tickets, spending 5 per cent commercial tax on prepaid phone cards for the education sector and the launch of the Myanmar Automated Cargo Clearance System-MACCS at ports



Press conference on undertakings in 100 days is in progress. PHOTO: MNA

and airport in Yangon, developing measures for swift clearance at ports and airport.

Permanent Secretary Dr Daw Nanda Hmun of the Ministry of Religious and Cultural Affairs explained that the ministry conducted nine works that

include major repair of Visakha prayer hall and dredging of Dagon Thiri Lake, raising assistance to teachers of monastic education schools, settlement of land dispute at Myaing Gyi Ngu, interfaith activities, coordination with Sanga organisations at various

levels and the region/state governments to promote Sasana, upgrading six monastic schools into high schools and supervision of boards of trustees of Pagodas.

Regarding policy implementation of the Fine Arts Department, a paper-reading session was held in May and a book on Myanmar string instruments was published and has gone on sale.

Moreover, the department organised a stage drama and dances at National Theatres in Yangon and Mandalay in June and July, submitted a nomination for the Bayintnaung Bell to be inscribed on the UNESCO's World Heritage List, set up a World Heritage Site Logo at the Mya Zedi (Razakumara) Stone Inscription and carried out the upgrading of

the General Aung San Museum in Yangon.

Deputy Permanent Secretary U Thet Naing Oo of the Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock and Irrigation also elaborated on 28 works related to agriculture and irrigation sector, livestock and fishery sector and rural development.

He said that the ministry lent about K3.5 billion to 489 farmers for the purchase of farming and fishing equipment and about 18.2 billion to members of agriculture and livestock cooperative societies for the purchasing of agricultural products.

The ministry provided clean water to 584 villages by digging 602 wells, he added.

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Joint Press Release between the Republic of the Union of Myanmar and the People's Republic of China

At the invitation of Premier Li Keqiang of the State Council of the People's Republic of China, Daw Aung San Suu Kyi, State Counsellor of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar, paid an official visit to China from 17th to 21st August 2016. During the visit, President Xi Jinping met with State Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi, Premier Li Keqiang held talks with the State Counsellor on bilateral relations, and Chairman Zhang Dejiang of the Standing Committee of the National People's Congress also met with the State Counsellor. The two sides had in-depth exchange of views and reached important consensus on carrying forward their traditional friendship and advancing their comprehensive strategic cooperative partnership in the new era.

Both sides spoke highly of the "Pauk-Phaw" friendship between the two countries, and agreed that as joint initiators of the Five Principles of Peaceful Co-existence, Myanmar and China have always adhered to the above principles and to work together for progress in bilateral relations on the basis of mutual respect, mutual trust, equality and mutual benefit. Both

sides affirmed that they would continue to uphold good neighbourly policy toward each other and to continue to attach priority to strengthening their bilateral relations for the mutual benefit of the two peoples and to promote greater stability and development in both countries. Both sides reaffirmed that they would always put the interests of the two peoples at the fore front, adopt a strategic and long-term perspective, and work to achieve new progress in their comprehensive strategic cooperative partnership.

Both sides agreed to maintain the tradition of close high-level contacts, to enhance strategic communication and to deepen exchanges on the experience of governance. They further agreed to increase friendly exchanges and cooperation at different levels, particularly between political parties and peoples.

The two sides agreed to promote rule of law in the border areas, and to enhance trade, economic cooperation and various forms of friendly exchanges that would contribute to the well-being of the peoples.

The two sides agreed to con-

tinue close coordination in the multilateral fora including the United Nations. They agreed to maintain close coordination on global issues concerning the pursuits and challenges of developing countries such as climate change,

The two sides agreed to promote rule of law in the border areas, and to enhance trade.

natural disasters and communicable diseases.

Myanmar welcomed China's "Belt and Road" initiative and the initiative of Bangladesh-China-India-Myanmar (BCIM) Economic Corridor. The two sides will continue to make good use of existing inter-governmental cooperation mechanisms including the economic and trade joint committee, agricultural cooperation committee and electricity cooperation committee, and enhance mutually beneficial cooperation in the fields

of economy and trade, agriculture, water, electricity, productivity and finance.

China appreciates Myanmar government's visions and policies to promote national reconciliation and improve people's living standard, and supports Myanmar in democratic transition following an all-inclusive development path in line with its own national conditions so as to ensure national reconciliation and peace, and promote economic development and social harmony. China is ready to continue providing help to Myanmar's economic and social development to the best of its ability, and to take concrete measures to support Myanmar's efforts in improving its people's living standard. Myanmar expressed its deep appreciation to China for providing support for Myanmar's endeavours for economic and social development. The Myanmar side expressed its readiness to work together with the Government of the People's Republic of China to further promote trade and investment that would create employment opportunities to reduce poverty and contribute to equitable development in Myanmar. Myanmar reaffirmed its ad-

herence to the one-China principle, and expressed its understanding and support of China's position on Taiwan, Tibet and Xinjiang.

The two sides decided to strengthen cooperation and to ensure prevalence of peace and stability in their border areas. China supported Myanmar to realize peace and national reconciliation through political dialogue. Myanmar thanked China for its active and constructive support to Myanmar's efforts for national reconciliation and peace process.

The State Counsellor conveyed the cordial invitation of President U Htin Kyaw to President Xi Jinping to pay a state visit to Myanmar, and President Xi Jinping expressed appreciation.

State Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi expressed her sincere appreciation to Premier Li Keqiang and the Government of the People's Republic of China for the warm welcome and exceptional hospitality accorded to her delegation during their visit, and extended an invitation to Premier Li Keqiang to visit Myanmar at a mutually convenient time in the near future, and Premier Li Keqiang expressed appreciation.

Three more ministries hold press conferences on first 100-day work performance

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The ministry also performed educative campaigns to disseminate knowledge of the measures used against the impact of excess heat and flooding in regions and states.

Director-General U Win Htain and Deputy Permanent Secretary U Win Zaw of the Ministry of Natural Resources and Environmental Conservation said that the ministry is developing a new Forestry Law.

The ministry completed drafting a National Climate Change Strategy and work programmes with the help of the UNEP and UN-Habitat and the suggestions of ministries concerned and CSOs. The ministry also developed Sectoral EIA Guidelines for the natural gas and oil sector and hydropower sector in cooperation with international organisations.

Representatives from the respective ministries responded to queries raised by journalists.

In connection with the budget surplus, Planning and Finance Deputy Minister U Maung Maung Win responded that budgeting involves estimating the upcoming revenues and expenditures. Not all estimates are precise, the deputy minister said, adding that some foreign loans were not received as had been expected.

Director General U Min Htut of the Internal Revenue Department explained the price gap of lottery tickets between the government and the wholesalers and

retailers, describing the price difference unavoidable in the practice of the open market system. The official price for a ticket is K200, meaning that the resellers will make a profit of K200 every sale of an 11-ticket pack, which the director general said was too small for a living. In a bid to control the price differences, the government has decided to raise the current price to K500 per ticket, with the official hinting at a series of possible price rises up to K2,000.

"This will prevent the price differences from widening," he said, adding that plans were under way to introduce e-lottery.

Regarding the use of K7.5 billion generated from telecommunications taxes in health besides education, the director general of the Budget Department responded that the budget for education received K1,631 b up from K381 b in the 2011-2012 fiscal year. The health sector received 4.1% of the total budget of this fiscal year with the official saying that the Ministry of the Office of State Counsellor and the Ministry of Ethnic Affairs received the smallest budget while the Ministry of Electricity and Energy received the biggest amount, 24.5% of the whole budget.

In response to a query regarding the growing numbers of companies, the deputy director of the Directorate of Investment and Company Administration said the change of registration fees saw the rise in the number of companies from 500 per month in the past to

over 1,000 per month at present.

In connection with the economic policy and the inflation situation, Deputy Minister U Maung Maung Win said the economic policy would determine the path the incumbent government would take in its tenure. The deputy minister described inflation as a normal process in the time of trade deficit, promising to control the inflation by the ministry in cooperation with the Central Bank of Myanmar.

In queries regarding the emerald green project, an official of the rural department said the project gave out a loan of K30m to each of 7,723 villages because 75% of rural people require capital.

In response to the alleged suspension of river water-pumping projects, an official of the Irrigation Department said these projects were financially going bad but they were intended for rural farmers to have easy access to irrigation necessary for their farming. However, the official confirmed the termination of 170 small-scale river water-pumping projects, saying that the country has a total of 3,793 irrigation projects.

Regarding the US\$700m loans from China Exim Bank, an official of the Cooperative Department responded that the loans drawn from the Chinese bank at an interest rate of 4.5 per cent were given out to rural farmers at 18 per cent interest. He added that despite the \$700m agreement, only \$400m had been taken from the Chinese bank.

"The amount is sufficient enough to help the rural farmers, so we don't need to take another \$300m."

The Department of Agriculture explained its plans to provide reserve grains to farmers whose farms were inundated in the floods in Ayeyawady and Bago regions. Deputy Director General U Aye Ko Ko said they had 130,000 baskets of paddy grains in reserve, plus 480,000 baskets in the hands of rice merchants.

In connection with the reorganisation of trustees boards at famous pagodas, the Ministry of Religious and Cultural Affairs responded that five trustees of the 13-member board at Shwedagon Pagoda were allowed to retire. According to an official of the ministry, the vacancies had been filled.

In relation to the land dispute in Myaing Gyi Ngu, the official said the union minister and the local chief minister negotiated with Christian leaders. The negotiations were successful. He said his ministry would uphold and promote interfaith cooperation.

Regarding the illegal construction of hotels and accommodations, the official said the construction of hotels in Bagan, which is now regarded as World Heritage Site, requires permission from the ministry. The construction of 25 hotels was found to be completed, he said, adding that the ministry would act in line with the law but consider the interests of the business people.

When asked about the financial support to monastic schools, he promised the increased financial supports to teachers at monastic schools depending on the mandate of the 2017-2018 budget allotment.

In connection with the Myitsone dam project, the Forest Department responded that the government had set up an investigation committee to look for an appropriate solution to the issue. The voices of the local residents, the people and the environmental impact should be taken into consideration in decision making, he added, calling for patience until the committee comes up with its findings.

As regards the landslide in Hpakant, the permanent secretary said no new mining blocks were permitted in the area, with no extension for the existing blocks. For the moment, 11 inspection teams have been assigned to supervise the damping, and severe action will be taken against violators. More than 2,000 mining blocks are in operation in Hpakant.

In response to illegal logging, an official replied that most illegal timber was exported to China while India officially bought timber the most.

In connection with the issues of jade scavengers in Hpakant, the official said it was too big a problem to be handled by a single ministry. He stressed the need for cooperation among ministries and local authorities in creating more job opportunities for local residents.—*Myanmar News Agency*

LOCAL Business

Land price high in Yangon's industrial zones

THE PRICE of land in industrial zones and nearby areas in the commercial hub of Yangon has steadily increased due to manipulators, industrial operators say.

Some industrial plot holders fail to begin the development of essential building infrastructure to operate their industrial businesses within the prescribed three months starting from the date they received the green light from the Public Works Department under the Ministry of Construction.

That is one of the reasons the price of industrial land has been increasing in the city, one local entrepreneur said.

U Naun Naung Latt, an industrial business operator, said that the current property price in the domestic market is unstable. Investors wishing to buy industrial land are facing the high price not only in industrial zones but in nearby wards, especially in the Hlaingthaya, Mingaladon, South Dagon and North Dagon industri-

al zones.

The government warned industrial leaseholders to lose ownership of properties if no business is done.

The 1,400-acre Hlaingthaya Industrial Zone, which is the biggest zone in Yangon Region, has over 700 industrial plots. Currently, a total of 660 manufacturing businesses are operating in the zone.

Since 1991, the government established industrial zones in

Yangon Region to help develop the country's production business.

There are nearly 30 industrial zones in Yangon where there are over 2,300 vacant industrial plots and about 1,300 empty warehouses in the zones, according to the official figures announced by the Yangon Region Industrial Zones Management Committee.

Land plots and warehouses occupy more than 4,418 acres of space in total, according to the committee.—Zar Zar

Indonesia shows interest in Myanmar's oil and gas sector

Ko Moe

INDONESIAN businesspeople are becoming interested in investing in Myanmar's oil and gas sector, said Dr. Myo Thet, vice chairman of Federation of Chambers of Commerce.

Indonesian businesspeople are more interested in investing in the oil and gas sector than other sectors in the country, he added.

Following the Indonesia-Myanmar Business Matching on Thursday Indonesian businesspeople expressed their willingness to invest in Myanmar and both countries will make gains if that happens, said Dr. Myo Thet.

Indonesia is a land rich in resources much like Myanmar, he added.

Indonesia has a leading role in the oil and gas sector and are also interested in other sectors such as insurance, banking and telecommunications, it has been learned.

With the aim of boosting bilateral trade and investment the Indonesian Embassy Yangon and Union of Myanmar Federation of Chamber of Commerce and Industry (UMFCCI) held an Indonesia-Myanmar Business Match-



Yedagun offshore natural gas rig. PHOTO: SUPPLIED BY MINISTRY OF ENERGY

ing Programme in Yangon.

More than 20 Indonesian and Myanmar businesspeople gathered at the business matching, discussing a wide range of topics including agriculture, real estate, education, health,

livestock and others.

"We invited them to invest in our country. We also explained the available one stop service in the Thilawa SEZ and other economic zones. I think they are interested," said U Kyaw Dewa,

CEC member of the UMFCCI.

According to the investment commission, Indonesia's investments in Myanmar amount to US\$254.6 million. The country stands 13th in Myanmar's foreign investment line-up.

Yumi Katsura International bridal store opens in Yangon



Yumi Katsura being greeted at the opening ceremony. PHOTO: GNLM

THE Yumi Katsura International company opened a bridal salon in Sule Plaza, Yangon, yesterday.

Yumi Katsura is a Japanese wedding dress designer with an international reputation for her artistry.

"I was fascinated by the traditional wedding dresses in Myanmar. While

the world is progressing toward the standardisation of wedding dresses, traditional

culture is alive in Myanmar. This luxurious longyi style should be kept. I want to support and preserve but also to modernise this traditional style using my design skills" She told the Global New Light of Myanmar.

The Yumi Katsura bridal salon, which is partnered with Myanmar Lion Myanmar International Inc, will both sell and rent out wedding dresses made in Japan while also providing wedding planning services.—GNLM

Foreign tankers to recruit new Myanmar seafarers

FOREIGN tankers have created job opportunities for greenhorn Myanmar seafarers starting from early August free of charge for employment service through the local maritime service agencies.

Usually, the local maritime agencies are not eager to recruit inexperienced seafarers. If they linked these seamen with foreign ocean liners, the service fees are often up to Ks3 to 4 million. Therefore, new seamen run up against

difficulties in getting work on ocean liners, the preferred type of employment.

But foreign cargo ships have recently been faced with a labour insufficiency. Therefore, they have decided to employ inexperienced Myanmar seamen without charging a service fee. This is a new opportunity for the new seafarers, said Ko Zaw Gyi, the director from a maritime service agency in South Okkalapa Township.—200

Value of trade via Muse border camp continues to decline

THE value of trade through the Muse border camp has continued to move downward as of early August, it is learnt from the trade promotion department.

The trade value as of 5th August in this fiscal year at the Muse border trade camp was US\$1,570.302 million, whereas the trade value in the similar period of last fiscal year was US\$1,644.909 million. Both the import and export volumes have dropped in this fiscal year when compared to the similar period of the last fiscal year.

The Muse border trade

camp had the largest trade volume among the 15 border trade camps, with a total trade of over US\$ 1 billion. Fifteen border trade camps have earned US\$2,277.247 million.

Myanmar exported agricultural products, livestock, mineral products, forestry products and industrial finished products while personal products, industrial raw materials and capital goods are imported to Myanmar.

The Myanmar export sector is dependent only on natural resources such as natural gas, teak, agriculture and fisheries, it is

learnt.

Myanmar has already entered into a contract with India, Thailand, China and Bangladesh for border trade. There are a total of 15 border trade camps: Muse, Lweje, Kanpik Tee, Chin Shwe Haw, Tamu, Reed, Myawady, Tachilek, Keng Tung, Kawthaung, Myeik, Htee Khee, Maw Taung, Sittwe and Maung Taw.

To promote border trade, the government has a plan to negotiate with the countries concerned to open more trade camps in the commercial areas.—GNLM

Australian treasurer formally rejects Chinese bids for state-owned Ausgrid

SYDNEY — Australian Treasurer Scott Morrison on Friday officially rejected bids by two Chinese companies in the A\$10-billion (5.84 billion pounds) sale of the country's biggest energy grid, Ausgrid, after they failed to overcome security concerns.

Last week, Morrison announced that neither State Grid Corp of China or Hong Kong's Cheung Kong Infrastructure Holdings, the preferred bidders, would be allowed to seal a deal.

Despite incurring the wrath of Australia's biggest trading partner, Morrison stuck by his decision on Friday, saying it was based on unspecified national interests.

"After due consideration of responses from bidders to my preliminary view of 11 August 2016, I have decided that the acquisition by foreign investors under the current proposed structure of the lease of 50.4 per cent of Ausgrid, the New South Wales electricity distribution network, would be contrary to the national in-

terest," Morrison said in a statement.

"This is consistent with the recommendation from the Foreign Investment Review Board."

The decision has caused a rift between Australia and China, just eight months after their A\$100 billion free trade agreement took effect.

China has accused the Australian government of bowing to protectionist sentiment by blocking the bid, as well as an earlier one by a China-led consortium to buy cattle company Kidman & Co.

Beijing's reaction mirrored comments made following a surprise move by new British Prime Minister Theresa May to review the building of a nuclear plant part funded by China, with Beijing questioning whether Chinese money was still welcome in Britain.

Australia's decision to reject the Ausgrid bids underscored the country's changing political climate since a handful of senators with protectionist leanings took power following elections last month.—Reuters

Kagoshima gov't to review evacuation plans for Sendai plant accident

KAGOSHIMA, (Japan) — Kagoshima Gov. Satoshi Mitazono, elected on an antinuclear platform last month, said on Friday that the prefectural government will review evacuation plans for local residents in the event of an accident at the Sendai nuclear power plant in the southwestern prefecture.

"I found problems with the roads, evacuation drills and other things. They should be tackled immediately," Mitazono told reporters during his visit to areas around the nuclear power station to examine the plans, ahead of his request to plant operator Kyushu Electric

Power Co. to halt two reactivated reactors in Satsumaseandai. The Nos. 1 and 2 units restarted last year, becoming the first two reactors to be brought back online under stricter safety rules introduced in the wake of the 2011 Fukushima Daiichi nuclear power plant disaster.

While a court ordered Kansai Electric Power Co. in March to suspend two reactors at its Takahama plant over safety concerns after they resumed operation earlier this year, the No. 3 reactor at Shikoku Electric Power Co.'s Ikata power plant was reactivated last week.

Mitazono defeated incumbent Yuichiro Ito, who

allowed the two reactors to be restarted, in the July 10 gubernatorial election.

A former TV Asahi Corp. commentator, Mitazono toured the cities of Satsumaseandai and neighbouring Ichikikushikino, which is located within 30 kilometres of the nuclear complex, to see evacuation routes, including bridges, and to get explanations from government officials about how residents would evacuate.

While exchanging views with the new governor, some residents of Satsumaseandai expressed concern about their evacuation route as they have only one narrow road to use.

Mitazono has expressed his intention to request by early September that Kyushu Electric temporarily halt the two reactors to check the safety of the facilities after strong earthquakes hit nearby Kumamoto and Oita prefectures in April.

While the governor is not authorized to suspend operation of the reactors, the utility is likely to seek the understanding of local residents regarding the safety of the plant. Regardless of the governor's request, the Nos. 1 and 2 reactors are scheduled to be taken offline for regular checks on 6 October and 16 December, respectively.—Kyodo News



Deputy National Police Chief Srivara Ransibrahmanakul (C) inspects a Hua Hin blast site, Thailand, on 17 August, 2016. PHOTO: REUTERS

Thai police name suspect in deadly blasts, working with Malaysia

BANGKOK — Police identified a Thai man on Friday as a suspect in their investigation into attacks that killed four people and wounded dozens in a wave of bombings in Thailand's south a week ago.

Deputy national police spokesman Kissana Phatanacharoen identified the suspect as Ahama Lengha from Narathiwat Province near Thailand's border with Malaysia.

A Thai military court issued an arrest warrant on Tuesday for a then unidentified suspect for attempting to bomb a beach in the tourist island of Phuket.

Kissana said Ahama has not yet been taken

into custody and it was not known if he was still in the country.

"We have only issued one arrest warrant in relation to the bomb attacks, and that is for Ahama. It's because it is clear that he is linked to what happened," Kissana told reporters.

No group has yet claimed responsibility for the bombings, which came days after Thais voted to accept a military-backed constitution. Police and the government ruled out any link to foreign militants within hours of the attacks and insisted the perpetrators were home-grown.

National police chief Jakthip Chaijinda said the

attacks could be linked to the referendum but has not given further details.

Suspicion has fallen on domestic political groups including supporters of ousted former Prime Minister Thaksin Shinawatra, who was forced from office in 2006.

While Thaksin's supporters have not been blamed outright, police said last week the attacks were carried out simultaneously by one group on the orders of one person, but gave no further details.

Lawyers for Thaksin have been instructed to file complaints against those accusing him of orchestrating the blasts.

Thai Defence Minister Prawit Wongsuwan said on Monday the attacks were "definitely not an extension" of an insurgency in the southern provinces that border Malaysia and where Malay-Muslim insurgents are fighting a bloody separatist war.

However, some security experts have noted that southern insurgent groups have a track record for carrying out coordinated attacks.

Kissana said police were working with Malaysia to track down other suspects.

"We have received some answers from Malaysia that are useful and move the case forward," he said.—Reuters

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
counslanteditor2@globalnewlightofmyanmar.com

Mark Angeles
markrangeles@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

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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Merkel sees no end to EU sanctions against Russia

BERLIN — There is no reason to lift the European Union's sanctions against Russia as Moscow has not fulfilled all of its commitments under the Minsk peace plan, German Chancellor Angela Merkel said in an interview published on Friday.

Merkel told the RedaktionsNetzwerks Deutschland (RND) that Russia had caused a major crisis by annexing the Black Sea peninsula of Crimea in 2014 and with its support for separatists in eastern Ukraine.

"Europe had to react against this violation of basic principles," Merkel said.

She added that she and



German Chancellor Angela Merkel. PHOTO: REUTERS

French President Francois Hollande were working "with all one's strength" to urge Ukraine and Russia to implement the

Minsk ceasefire agreement despite all the difficulties.

"This is and remains the yardstick for the future of the sanctions," Merkel said.

The EU agreed in June to extend energy, financial and defence sanctions on Russia over the conflict in Ukraine until the end of January next year.

German Foreign Minister Frank-Walter Steinmeier and other leading Social Democrats, the junior partner in Merkel's ruling coalition, have struck a more conciliatory tone by saying that the EU should gradually phase out sanctions against Russia if there is progress in the peace process.—Reuters

Trump says he regrets past remarks that 'caused personal pain'

CHARLOTTE (N.C.) — Republican presidential nominee Donald Trump apologised on Thursday for past remarks that "may have caused personal pain" as he sought to refocus his message in the face of falling opinion poll numbers in his first speech since shaking up his campaign team this week.

"Sometimes, in the heat of debate and speaking on a multitude of issues, you don't choose the right words or you say the wrong thing," Trump told a crowd in Charlotte, North Carolina. "I have done that, and I regret it, particularly where it may have caused personal pain. Too much is at stake for us to be consumed with these issues."

Trump did not cite any examples of such remarks. The New York businessman has made his "tough talk" and brash style a selling point of his campaign for the 8 November election, rarely apologising in the face of criticism even from within his own party for own party for comments insulting women, Muslims and Mexican immigrants.

In his presidential announcement speech last year, he described some Mexican immigrants as "criminals and rapists." He recently faced a barrage of criticism for belittling the family of a Muslim American soldier who died in Iraq in 2004, after the soldier's father spoke out against Trump at the Democratic National Convention last month.

The campaign for his Democratic rival, Hillary Clinton, quickly dismissed Trump's apology, saying: "Donald Trump literally started his campaign by insulting people."

"We learned tonight that his speechwriter and teleprompter knows he has much for which he should apologise," the campaign said in a statement. "But that apol-



Republican presidential candidate Donald Trump speaks to police gathered at Fraternal Order of Police lodge during a campaign event in Statesville, North Carolina, US, on 18 August 2016. PHOTO: REUTERS

ogy tonight is simply a well-written phrase until he tells us which of his many offensive, bullying and divisive comments he regrets — and changes his tune altogether."

Trailing Clinton in national opinion polls, Trump has tried to reset his campaign, announcing on Wednesday a shake-up of his senior campaign staff for the second time in less than two months. In the past week, he has abandoned his free-wheeling style of campaigning, instead using a teleprompter at every rally.

Trump also began adding non-rally events to his campaign schedule, visiting a police lodge on Thursday afternoon and hosting a roundtable on Wednesday morning. Previously, Trump had eschewed such events that historically comprise a significant portion of a candidate's time.

Trump's speech on Thursday night, echoing remarks earlier in the week in Wisconsin, reached out to minority voters and accused Clinton of being dishonest.

"So while sometimes I can be too honest, Hillary Clinton is the exact opposite: She never tells the truth," Trump said. "In this journey, I will never lie to you. I will

never tell you something I do not believe."

Trump's new campaign manager, Kellyanne Conway, promised on Thursday he would stick to a more disciplined and uplifting message to voters in the final dash to Election Day without crimping his freewheeling style.

Conway said the candidate's White House bid could preserve his "authenticity" and still move past a long string of controversies to focus on issues.

"We would like to take an uplifting, optimistic, policy-centric message directly to the American people," Conway told CBS's "This Morning," adding she was confident the former reality television star could stick to a sharper message.

Wednesday's campaign reshuffle also brought on Steve Bannon, a combative conservative who headed the Breitbart News website, as chief executive officer, in a move seen as giving Trump a chance to emphasise his unconventional style. Conway said the more disciplined approach by Trump, who has never held elective office, would not mean jettisoning his more off-the-cuff and unpredictable style.—Reuters

NEWS IN BRIEF

Five migrant bodies recovered in Mediterranean, 534 rescued — Italy coastguard

ROME — The bodies of five migrants were recovered and 534 others were saved on Thursday following an array of rescue operations in the Mediterranean sea, Italy's coastguard said.

The migrants were picked up from two large rubber dinghies and nine other smaller boats, the coastguard said, giving no details about how the deaths occurred.

Vessels from the Italian and German navy joined four ships run by humanitarian groups in the various rescue missions.

Latest data from the International Organisation for Migrants, released on 9 August, said some 100,244 migrants have reached Italy by boat this year, many of them setting sail from Libya. An estimated 2,742 men, women and children have died over the same period trying to make the journey.—Reuters

Los Angeles human trafficking sweep leads to nearly 300 arrests

NEW YORK — Nearly 300 people have been arrested in a human trafficking sweep in Los Angeles, where authorities discovered ten victims who had been forced into prostitution, police said on Thursday.

All but two of the victims found in "Operation Summer Rescue" were under 18 years old, police said.

More cases of human trafficking have been reported in California than in any other US state, according to the National Human Trafficking Resource Centre. Nearly one in five calls last year to the Center's hotline came from California, where more than 500 sex trafficking cases have been reported this year, it said.

More than 4,000 cases of sex trafficking were reported nationwide last year, it said. The large-scale, three-day sweep led to 286 arrests, most of them on charges of prostitution, police said.

"The significant number of arrests sends a clear message to the community that human trafficking is not tolerated," police said in a statement.—Reuters

Firefighters gain ground on California wildfire

LOS ANGELES — Firefighters were gaining ground on Friday against a wildfire burning in a Southern California mountain pass that has forced some 80,000 residents to flee their homes and has consumed dozens of structures.

The Blue Cut fire, named for a narrow gorge near its origin in the Cajon Pass about 75 miles (120 km) northeast of Los Angeles, has blackened 35,969 acres of drought-parched heavy brush and chaparral after breaking out on Tuesday.

Officials said firefighters were able to carve containment lines around 22 per cent of the blaze as of Thursday night — up from just four percent earlier in the day — despite dry, hot and windy weather conditions and treacherous terrain.

But the intensely burning blaze, producing cyclone-like whirls of flame, continued to threaten some 34,500 homes and other structures in communities including the ski resort town of Wrightwood, fire officials said.—Reuters

Russia says fires Iskander-M ballistic missile during training exercise

MOSCOW — The Russian Defence Ministry said on Friday it had successfully fired a ballistic missile from an advanced Iskander-M mobile launch system as part of a training exercise in the country's Far East.

"The missile successfully hit its targets in one of the polygons in the Amur Region, traveling about 300 kilometers (186 miles)," the ministry said in a statement on social media.

"Thanks to a direct hit, several facilities were destroyed, including a simulated enemy's command post."

The Iskander, a mobile ballistic missile system codenamed SS-26 Stone by NATO, replaced the Soviet Scud missile. Its two guided missiles have a range of up to 500 kilometers (about 300 miles) and can carry either conventional or nuclear warheads. The Amur Region is located in Russia's Far East, in eastern Siberia.—Reuters

Opinion

Write for us

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

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

Remember to factor the environment into economic growth

Kyaw Thura

SEVERE flooding across the country over two consecutive years has sounded the alarm by pinpointing the importance of conserving and enhancing biodiversity to sustain healthy ecosystems. In the past few decades poor management has prioritised economic recovery to the detriment of rich ecosystems. We have had enough of the ill consequences of our collective failure obsessed with the arrogance of

humanity.

Huge is the value of the diversity of plant and animal life which keeps the environment balanced. We should no longer remain blind to this crucial issue. Instead, we need to rise to the challenge of disaster management. In our world, we should no longer consider environmental protection as peripheral to national development.

The environment does not necessarily belong to the pres-

ent generation. We have a responsibility to make the environment a better place for posterity. Instead of lamenting the destruction of floods due to biodiversity loss, the government must be in the vanguard of the environmental conservation by enlisting the cooperation from civil society and other agencies. We must all come together with urgent and renewed commitment to effect a significant reduction in the rate of biodiversity loss if we

are to ensure sustainable development in the future.

The sooner we correct our collective failure, the safer and healthier our ecosystems will become. The more rich areas of biodiversity we have, the less negative impacts of climate change we face. Now is the time for all of us to tackle the challenge of climate change by making our planet more secure, our economy more sustainable and our future more promising.

Developing Creative Thinking in English Classes

Dr. Myo Win
Yangon University of
Education

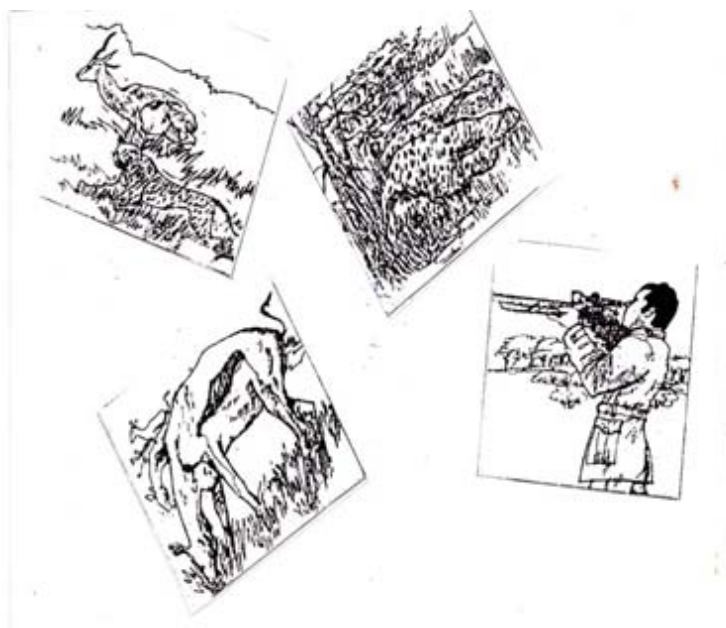
M TESOL Workshop: Teaching English in Public Schools was held in Learning Hub, Yangon University of Education on 7th August, 2016. Five workshops were conducted in the morning section. The workshop on Child Protection was conducted by Nicola Edwards and Ohnmar Htway from the British Council. The workshop titled "Developing Creative Thinking in English Classes" was conducted by Dr. Myo Win from Methodology Department, Yangon University of Education. Rhona Davis from Mote Oo Education conducted the workshop on "Making the Most of your Textbook." Fiachra McCleary from the British Council lead the workshop titled "Teaching for Success Continuing Professional Development for Teachers". Po Po Thauang Win from the Teacher Tree conducted her workshop on "What is a Successful Teaching Activity? Making ECRIF Come Alive in the Classroom." At 12 noon, there was a lunch break.

At 1 o'clock, the workshop resumed. In the afternoon section, there were four workshops. Daw Thet Htar Hlaing from Yangon University of Education conducted the workshop on "My Students, My Resources." The workshop titled "Creating a more Communicative Classroom" was lead by Gray Reinhart from Bob Htaw Education Empowerment Programme. The workshop on "Portfolio Assessment of Students' Writing in English was

conducted by Dr Khin Pyone Yi from Yangon University of Education. A.K Gomes from the British Council held a workshop on "Learner Training".

In the workshop on "Developing Creative Thinking in English Classes", some classroom activities are done to develop creative thinking. In the first activity, the participants are shown a figure like a "circle" and asked to name this figure in different ways within two minutes. Out of 60 participants, only one can give 8 different names within two minutes. Most of them can give 4 different names. Most of the name given to this figure is "circle". 25 participants named this figure "zero" and "moon". Strange and unusual names for this figure are elastic ring, life circle, an over-look of a bowl and pizza. According to the data, it can be interpreted that most of the participants are convergent thinkers. In other words, very few are divergent thinkers.

The second activity is to create new figures by using a given figure. The participants are shown a triangle. Some new figures they created are hat, house, umbrella, table lamp, arrow, signpost, mountains, Christmas tree etc. Participants are older than seventeen. But they are very happy to create new pictures. These two activities using pictures are the first step in encouraging learners to have different viewpoints on one thing. In the third activity, participants are given the following picture. Their task is to arrange them into proper orders. This task is done as a group work activity. Using the same picture, different groups have different



orders. When the presenter asked the participants what happened to the leopard, almost all of them said it died. No one said it may lie or sleep. According to the picture of a leopard, it cannot be definitely say that the leopard died. This picture can be interpreted in different ways, at least, three ways-the leopard either died or slept or lay. Based on these alternative answers, the arrangement may also be different. The reason why the leopard was thought to die may be because of the picture of a man with a gun.

The alternative answers for this picture are as follows:

1. A leopard chased a deer. The man shot the leopard. The leopard died. The deer went back to grazing.

2. A leopard was asleep. Deer were grazing. They heard a man shooting. The leopard woke up, saw the deer, chased them and killed one of them.

3. Leopards used to chase and kill deer so few left. The man

came and killed the leopards. Most leopards were dead. Now deer lived peacefully.

4. The man shot the leopard. The leopard pretended to be dead. When the man left, it got up and saw the deer grazing. Then it chased them.

In the last activity, participants are given a set of four situations for which they have to find the solution. This activity is also conducted as a group work activity. As in activity 3, different groups had the different solutions for the same situations. Thus, participants realized that one thing can be seen in different ways.

SITUATION 1

While you are reading a passage to the class, you see a student sleeping.

WHAT WOULD YOU DO?

SITUATION 2

You are an English teacher. While the students are reading aloud, you notice that Kyaw Kyaw's pronunciation is bad.

WHAT WOULD YOU DO?

SITUATION 3

You are a student. Your teacher gave you a Grade A on a test by mistake.

WHAT WOULD YOU DO?

SITUATION 4

While you are teaching, a tiger escaped from the zoo comes into your classroom.

WHAT WOULD YOU DO?

This activity is suitable when conditional clauses are taught to the class. Traditionally, the teacher explains the structure which composed of two clauses- if clause and main clause. To understand the structure, the teacher gives example sentences. For example, the teacher writes the sentence — If you try, you will pass and explains how to construct this structure, based on the given example. Then, exercises are given to the students to remember the structure. In this teaching procedure, the teacher does not allow the students to use the language she has taught. By doing this activity 4, students have an opportunity to use the language in the classroom. In fact, students should have a chance to apply what they have learned for their real life situation.

At 10th International Conference on Thinking, 2002, Robert Fisher said:

"We need to educate pupils for jobs that don't yet exist."

To be able to do so, one of the ways is to develop students' creative thinking in the classroom.

Reference

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4th batch of detained Myanmar workers returns to Yangon from Malaysia

THE fourth batch of detained Myanmar citizens in Malaysia arrived back to Yangon yesterday via charter flight.

The return of the group comprised of 138 Myanmar citizens was sponsored by the Ministry of Defence for the second time.

They were welcomed back at the Yangon International Airport by the commander of the Yangon Command and senior military officers, officials of the Yangon Region Government and

ministries.

KBZ's Brighter Future Myanmar Foundation provided K100,000 each to the workers.

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

According to sources, 2,294 Myanmar citizens were detained for various reasons in 11 camps in Malaysia. International Organization for Migration (IOM) also provided them with food and clothes.—MNA



Fourth batch of detained Myanmar workers are being welcomed by the commander of Yangon Command and senior military officers at the Yangon International Airport. PHOTO: ZAW GYI

SWRR Ministry provided with K400 million by IGE for rehabilitation in flood-hit areas

THE Ministry of Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement was funded K400 million by IGE company on Thursday in order to assist the rehabilitation of people

affected by flooding nationwide.

Union Minister of Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement Dr Win Myat Aye accepted the donation in Nay Pyi Taw on

Thursday, expressing his thanks to the company.

"The displaced people in some areas have returned home as the water has receded but some areas are still experiencing flooding and local farmers have seen losses as their rice fields were damaged" said Dr Win Myat Aye.

Following recent flooding which caused a huge impact on people's livelihoods, health and dwellings, IGE decided to assist people in tackling the challenges through the Ministry of Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement, which is mainly carrying out relief and rehabilitation for them, according to U Than Win Swe, Deputy Managing Director of the IGE Group of Companies.

IGE has also funded programmes to tackle water scarcity, improve education and provide rehabilitation to disaster-hit areas.—GNLM



U Than Win Swe of IGE Group of Companies presents K400 million to Union Minister Dr Win Myat Aye. PHOTO: MOSWRR

Six dead from encephalitis in northern Shan

SIX people in northern Shan State have recently died from encephalitis and Japanese encephalitis, as the viral infection continues to spread, according to the Public Health Department (PHD) of Lashio.

The first signs of the virus in the region were reportedly recorded during the second week of July, and of the 39 people infected by the virus since, the encephalitis strain has proven fatal for four people with the Japanese encephalitis strain killing two individuals, as of August 18.

"About 30 of the 39 infected are under the age of 15 years-old. In some other areas, many of the children infected are below five years-of-age. Parents in these parts believe that if they tie and carry their infants on their backs,

they won't get bitten by mosquitoes," said Dr Htin Lin, head PHD for Shan State.

The doctor continued by stating that, as one of the ways of contracting the encephalitis virus is through being bitten by mosquitoes, their department is currently carrying out measures to rid areas of the dangers posed by such insects. They are also administering encephalitis immunization to the elderly as they are reportedly most at risk from contracting the virus. She added that the public must also play their part by taking care not to put themselves at unnecessary risk from getting bitten.

"Once we found out these virus can be contracted from mosquitoes, we're constantly making sure, night and day, that our

children don't get bitten. We've also followed the directives of the health department by putting mosquito killing agents in our water tanks. Now we know how scary this disease is, we're being more aware," said Daw Mun Ei, a housewife and mother.

The numbers of those infected by both forms of the encephalitis virus augmented heavily between August 14-18 from 24 to 39 individuals. The highest numbers of cases per region have been seen in Lashio and Laukkaing where nine people have contracted the virus in each township, although the those infected by the virus are widespread with cases reported in such townships of Hsipaw, Hopang, Kutkai and Pangsang.—Myitmakha News Agency

Community-based Tourism comes to Chin State

In a bid to developed community-based tourism (CBT) in western Myanmar's Chin State - a mountainous and windswept region, largely untouched by tourism - the Chin State government has passed a policy which requires CBT enterprises to be established in at least three villages a year between 2016-20.

The policy reportedly includes a strategy that will see local government, tourism companies, and civil society organizations working together to implement the CBT initiatives.

Salai Isac Khin, Chin State's Municipal/Electricity and Industry Minister, wrote on his social media page that Hsawlaung village in Kampal Township, Laingloe village in Tiddem Township, and Tar-yun village in Falam Township have been selected for this year's CBT programs.

Tour guides are also reportedly expecting the numbers

of travelers to augment as improvements to basic road infrastructure have made the state's beautiful mountains, rare bird species, traditional cultures and customs, together with the famous heart-shaped Rih Lake, more accessible.

"Road infrastructure has improved [in Chin State]; trips which took eight hours in the past now only take about six. One could say the roads have become less hazardous. Foreigners are interested in the region's natural beauty and lesser-seen bird species. There aren't many that venture out to Rih Lake yet, though," said Ko Nyi Nyi, a tour guide.

According to the Chin State government, they have drawn up a five-year long master plan to develop tourism within the region, the agenda of which reportedly includes a total of 13 different programs.—Myitmakha News Agency



Dr Aung Thu, Union Minister for Agriculture, Livestock and Irrigation, is being welcomed by Indonesian Ambassador to Myanmar Dr Ito Sumardi at the reception to celebrate the 71st Independence Day of Indonesia in Yangon on 19 August, 2006. PHOTO: MYANMAR NEWS AGENCY

Passengers provided with transit services after bridge on Mandalay-Lashio rail route damaged

PASSENGERS on the Mandalay-Lashio rail line are currently being provided with transit services as the bridge between Thine Chone train station and Ht-one station on the Mandalay-Pyin Oo Lwin route requires some rebuilding. The 50 foot bridge was damaged by flooding on Wednesday.

“The department of train engineering is repairing the bridge

and the bridge is expected to be ready within a week.

The travel schedule of the train will remain normal albeit with alternative transport between those two stations,” said U Tint Wai, regional assistant general manager of Myanmar Railway (MR).

The bridge is located between Mandalay and Lashio. —Aung Thant Khaing



The destroyed bridge is being repaired by workers. PHOTO: SUPPLIED

Crime NEWS



A vehicle overturns in Myeik, causing some passengers injured. PHOTO: TOWNSHIP IPRD

Vehicle overturns in Myeik

A VEHICLE with pilgrims on-board overturned between mileposts 11/2 and 12/3 near Ahlae Chaung village on Thursday.

According to an investigation the pilgrim's vehicle was being driven by Nay Lin Aung with 14 passengers on board

when it overturned due to the driver losing control.

Some passengers, including the driver, sustained minor injuries in the accident. The injured are undergoing medical treatment at Myeik general hospital.—Township IPRD

Yaba, opium oil and heroin seized in Taze and Nawnghkio

AN anti-narcotics suppression squad comprising policemen from Mandalay police station seized yaba from a vehicle on the Taunggyi-Meiktila road, Yinnarbin village, Taze township on Wednesday. Acting on a tip-off police stopped and searched the vehicle which was being driven by one U Sai. The search revealed 135,000 yaba pills.

On the same day a combine team comprising officers and staff from Lashio police station seized yaba and heroin from a passenger near the Oriental toll

gate. Acting on a tip-off police searched a passenger bus and discovered heroin weighing 11 grams and 1,020 yaba pills on a passenger identified as Kyaw Min Thein.

Finally, local police seized opium oil weighing 0.5 litres from a motorcycle rider en route to Pwin — Oo-Lwin from Lashio.

The rider was identified as one San Maung with Ma Chin Yan Shin on board. Police have filed charges against all suspects under the Anti-Narcotic Law. —MNA

Anti-narcotics police officer charged over K2.3m bribe

THE Anti-Corruption Commission has filed charges against a narcotics officer for allegedly demanding and taking K2.3 million in bribe money from the parents of a man convicted of drug use in Kyaikto, Mon State.

According to the commission, Police Sub-inspector Than Zaw, lead officer of the Thaton district anti-narcotics special force in Mon State, demanded the bribe money in two installments with the first installment being

made on 10 August, 2013 and the second installment on 25 July, 2014. The money was transferred from the parents of the convicted offender to the officer via a third party.

The second bribe was paid with a request from the parents of the offender not to send their son to the Wet Htee Kan Drug Abuse Rehabilitation Centre in Pyay, added the commission.

The suspect absconded after being charged under section 56

of the Anti-graft Law on 11 November, 2014 and was declared ‘wanted’ after being charged the following day. The suspect was later arrested and found to be in possession of narcotic drugs in Thingan Nyinaung, Kayin State on 10 May, 2015, and was sent to Hpa-an prison.

The commission pressed their charges with the suspect present in court at the Mon State High Court on 11 August.—Myanmar News Agency

Fire destroys female hostel in Myingyan

A FIRE broke out in a female hostels in ward 1, Myingyan town, Mandalay region, yesterday.

The fire began at around 2:20 a.m when a transformer overheat-

ed. The fire was put out by firemen with nine fire engines.

A final year student identified as Yu Zin Myint, 22, died due to smoke inhalation in her room while Daw Aye Aye That

was seriously injured.

The police have taken action against the person responsible for the building under 304-A/337/285 of the Penal Code.—U Zaw Min Naing (Myingyan)

Group of thieves arrested by police

FIVE members of a gang have been charged with snatching a mobile phone on the bus on Wednesday. The incident occurred on the 213 bus line and involved a woman whose mobile phone was snatched from her bag. Realising the phone was missing the woman followed the bus to the station and set some nearby police officers on whom she suspected were the perpetrators.

The thieves, now rumbled, tried to make good their escape however two were caught at the scene with the help of nearby



Aung Ko Latt and Zaw Lin. PHOTO: TIN WIN LAY (KYIMYINEDINE)

do-gooders.

The arrestees are Aung Ko Lat and Zaw Lin aisa Kalar alsias Kapalee. The police found eight

mobile phones on the suspects. Police are searching for the remaining pilferers.—Tin Win Lay (Kyimyinedine)

Funding cuts, insurgency hamper Afghan goal to clear mines by 2023

SALANG PASS, (Afghanistan) — Afghanistan's campaign to clear millions of landmines left by the Soviet invasion and ensuing civil war is in danger of stalling, as international aid slumps and militant violence makes more of the country inaccessible.

The mammoth task, vital to the country's economic recovery, was to have been completed by 2013, and nearly four fifths of the country is now considered mine free.

But slowing progress means the deadline set by the international community was pushed back 10 years, and even that looks a tall order in a country that remains one of the most heavily mined in the world.

"The longer these minefields last, the higher the human cost," said Mohammad Shafiq Yosufi, chief of the Afghan government's Directorate of Mine Action Coordination.

"They kill and maim people, prevent economic growth, investment, and tourism, hurt livelihoods and cause psychological fear that cannot end until they are gone."

Nearly 600 square km of old minefields and battlefields remain to be cleared, encompassing more than 3,000 known sites and affecting 1,570 communities, according to the United Nations.

One such area lies near the Salang Pass, some 80 km (50 miles) north of Kabul, where earlier this month mine clearers dressed in bulky blue kevlar armour and protective face masks lumbered slowly across fields waving metal detectors before them.

When they hear a warning beep, they painstakingly scrape layers of soil and rock away by hand until the metal object is revealed. Sometimes it is an old



A member of a demining organisation uses a metal detector to search for unexploded ordnance in Salang district of Parwan province, Afghanistan, on 1 August 2016. PHOTO: REUTERS

drinks can. Here it is more likely to be a rusty mortar shell or old Soviet land mine.

"I choose this profession to serve my country and feed my family," said Abdul Wakil, a deminer working for a company contracted by the government.

Standing on a hill where any step could be his last, Wakil shrugs off the risk.

"There are dangers, but we have to cope with it to provide a better environment for our people."

Recently the crew made a potentially deadly find: a 30-year-old

landmine connected by trip wire to a grenade.

From April to June, at least 28 people were killed and 53 wounded by landmines and other unexploded ordnance in Afghanistan, according to the government.

That is sharply down from the average of 507 casualties per quarter recorded in 2001, when the Taliban regime was toppled by a US-led military operation. But it is an increase over the same period last year, when 38 civilians were killed or injured.

Nearly 80 per cent of casualties from landmines and other ex-

plosives this year were children, the United Nations said.

"It is like one war on top of another," said Abdul Qadir Halimi, a liaison between the Afghan government and demining organizations, as he dropped a shattered hunk of metal back into a pile of grenades, mortar shells, and bullets that testify to ferocious battles that haunt these hills. Demining has always been a dangerous job, but increasing insurgent violence around the country has meant clearance operations are limited to fewer areas, and deminers face more risks.—Reuters

UN welcomes Russian words on Aleppo truce, trucks 'ready to move'

GENEVA — Russia said on Thursday it would support a 48-hour ceasefire in Aleppo, a move the UN Syria envoy said would allow aid to reach besieged areas soon, as long as all sides respect the temporary truce.

As pictures of a dazed child pulled from the rubble in heavily bombed rebel-held eastern Aleppo captured the plight of the city's civilians, Moscow said it was ready to start the first "humanitarian pause" next week.

Western diplomats gave cautious welcome to the announcement, while raising questions about Moscow's motives and stressing the United Nations must be in charge of a sustained aid operation.

UN Special Envoy Staffan de Mistura has long called for a 48-hour halt in fighting each week to allow aid delivery and medical evacuations from both rebel-held eastern and government-controlled western Aleppo.

He welcomed the Russian defence ministry announcement and said the UN humanitarian team "is now set to mobilise itself to respond to this challenge."

"Our plan is to collectively work out the operational details, and be ready for delivery as soon as possible," de Mistura's office said in a statement.—Reuters

Video of small boy saved from Aleppo rubble sparks social media storm

BEIRUT — Video of a small boy, bloodied and covered in dust, who was rescued after an apparent air strike in the Syrian city of Aleppo, sparked outrage and concern on social media on Thursday.

Sitting alone in an ambulance, the boy — identified by doctors as 5-year-old Omran Daqneesh — looked dazed and shocked, staring silently as he tried to wipe the blood off his head, seemingly unaware of his injuries.

Twitter user Charlene Deveraturda @malasadasbooks posted an image of the boy and wrote: "Poor baby. Near my grandson's age. I cannot imagine. The image does not leave my mind. #syrianboy #Syria #peace"

The hashtag #Syrianboy was one of the top trending topics in the United States and Britain. More than 10 tweets posted every

minute on Twitter with the hashtag, according to social media analytics company Zoomph. Many linked images of the child with a picture of Aylan Kurdi, a Syrian boy whose body was found on a beach in Turkey last year.

The video of Omran and other children being pulled from the rubble caused widespread upset and condemnation over the harrowing reality of Syria's five-year-old civil war.

Twitter user Malcolmite (@Malcolmite) wrote: "It's not important if it goes viral, what's important is what is going to be done about it? #syrianboy"

Sara Assaf (@SaraAssaf) tweeted: "So if this terrorized little boy turns into a terrorist one day ... Who is to blame? #SyrianBoy #Aleppo #Injustice"

Aleppo, split into rebel- and government-controlled areas, has

become the focus of the fighting in Syria.

Rebel-held areas suffer heavy air strikes daily as pro-government forces try to retake territory lost to rebels two weeks ago in the southwest of Aleppo.

The video, shot on Wednesday in the rebel-held al-Qaterji neighbourhood, shows an aid worker carrying the little boy out of a building and seating him inside the ambulance, before rushing back to the scene of the bombing.

The boy sits alone, stunned, before two more children are brought into the vehicle. A man with blood on his face then joins them.

Aleppo-based freelance photographer Mohammed Raslan Abu Sheikh, who was at the scene, said civilian rescuers and aid workers were elated as Omran was pulled from the rubble



Five-year-old Omran Daqneesh, with bloodied face, sits with his sister inside an ambulance after they were rescued following an airstrike in the rebel-held al-Qaterji neighbourhood of Aleppo, Syria, on 17 August 2016. PHOTO: REUTERS

alive with the rest of his family of six.

"He was in a state of shock, not even crying, he made us cry while he himself was silent, just watching us," Abu Sheikh told Reuters.

Last year, international sympathy for victims of Syria's war was heightened by a photo of a

drowned 3-year-old refugee from Syria, Aylan Kurdi, who washed up on a Turkish tourist beach. The image of Aylan, who died when a smugglers' boat taking his family and other refugees to a nearby Greek island capsized, swept across social media and was retweeted thousands of times.—Reuters

Mexico says police executed 22 on ranch, in 'grave' rights abuse

MEXICO CITY — Mexican police arbitrarily executed nearly two dozen suspected gang members on a ranch last year, the government's National Human Rights Commission said on Thursday, one of the worst abuses by security forces in a decade of grisly drug violence.

In May last year, federal police ambushed suspected members of the Jalisco New Generation Cartel (JNG) holed up at Rancho El Sol near the small town of Tanhuato in the violent western state of Michoacan and killed 42 men.

Only one policeman died in the fight, in which police backed by a Black Hawk helicopter attacked the cartel, a kill rate way higher than international norms, but not uncommon in Mexico's drug war. Only one injury was reported.

The one-sided toll was one of the highest since President Enrique Pena Nieto took office in 2012, pledging to end years violence.

"We established facts that imply grave human rights violations attributable

to public servants of the federal police," Raul Gonzalez, the president of the CNDH, told a news conference.

Gonzalez said police lied about their role during the incident, moved 7 bodies and shifted weapons to manipulate the scene. Police tortured two people they arrested, and burned two

bodies, Gonzalez added.

The CNDH was unable to clarify how another 15 of the victims were killed, he said.

The report is a fresh blow to Pena Nieto, whose approval rating is at an all-time low over perceptions he has not tackled rampant crime and corruption.

Rights groups say that although Mexico's security forces face grave dangers fighting often brutal cartels, it is vital they hold themselves to higher standards.

Earlier this year the Open Society Justice Initiative, a private human rights body, said incidents including Tanhuato constituted

crimes against humanity.

It said the International Criminal Court should step in if Mexico fails to resolve such cases.

"They should have been arrested, not murdered ...even if some of them were members of the cartel, that is no excuse," said Margarito Romero, father of one man who died that day.

In a news conference, Renato Sales, Mexico's national security commissioner, did not accept police carried out executions. He said the investigation was continuing, and urged Congress to pass laws on when security forces can fire weapons.

"In our view, the use of arms was necessary and proportional to the very real, imminent and lawless aggression," he said. "They acted in legitimate defence."

Mexico's federal police, the army and the navy have long been implicated in abuses since a drug war that has claimed more than 100,000 lives began in 2006.

"It's systematic and hopefully this will put a brake on the excesses and abuses by the federal police," said a senior Mexican

law enforcement official who declined to be named. "This is very serious, and a massive blow to the government."

Police killed 17 people for every officer lost in gunbattles in 2014, according to a study by Mexico's National Autonomous University, a number the study said was consistent with excessive force.

And in shootouts involving Mexican police between 2007 and 2013, the number of people killed for each person injured rocketed from 1.6 to more than 20, the study said.

In June, at least eight people died in confrontations between rebellious teachers and police in southern Mexico.

Most notoriously, 43 trainees from the Ayotzinapa teaching college in south-western Mexico were apparently massacred in 2014 after police snatched them. The same year, soldiers killed 22 suspected gang members. The army argued they acted in self-defence and three soldiers were acquitted of murder charges.—Reuters



The mother of a victim of a firefight with federal forces on 22 May 2015, lights a candle at the warehouse where her son was killed in a ranch in Tanhuato, state of Michoacan, Mexico, on 28 June 2016. PHOTO: REUTERS

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

MV BC SANFRANCISCO VOY. NO (036)

Consignees of cargo carried on MV BC SANFRANCISCO VOY NO (036) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 20.8.2016 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of M.I.P where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

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

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LINES**

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Clinton told FBI Colin Powell suggested she use private email

WASHINGTON — Democratic US presidential nominee Hillary Clinton told federal investigators that former Secretary of State Colin Powell suggested she use a personal email account, the *New York Times* reported late on Thursday.

Clinton has for over a year been dogged by questions about her use of a private email account while she was the nation's top diplomat.

The newspaper said the information came from notes the Federal Bureau of Investigation delivered to Congress on Tuesday, which contained details from a more than three hour interview the agency conducted with Clinton over her private email use.

The Times also cited an upcoming book that described a dinner conversation where Powell told Clinton to use her own email except for classified information. The newspaper also reported that Clinton asked Powell in a 2009 email

exchange about his use of email while serving under former president George W. Bush.

Reuters could not independently verify the report. Representatives for Clinton could not be immediately reached late on Thursday.

Colin Powell's office in a statement said he could not recall the dinner conversation. He did recall describing the system he used to her, but the statement did not say he suggested Clinton do the same.

"He did write former Secretary Clinton an email memo describing his use of his personal AOL email account for unclassified messages and how it vastly improved communications within the State Department," the statement said. "At the time there was no equivalent system within the department."

He used a secure department computer to manage classified information, the statement said.—Reuters

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

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

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CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

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

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

**SHIPPING AGENCY DEPARTMENT
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Phone No: 2301185



Residents survey flooding on Lee Street after heavy rains in Sorrento, Louisiana, US, on 17 August 2016. PHOTO: REUTERS

About 86,500 sought federal aid after Louisiana floods

IBATON ROUGE, (La) — Some 86,500 people have filed for federal aid after deadly flooding hit Louisiana in the past several days and damaged some 40,000 homes, Governor John Bel Edwards told a news conference on Thursday.

He said the death toll from the flooding stood at 13 people and about 30,000 people have been rescued from the floods. Rainfall hit historic levels in some parts of the state.

“In Louisiana, taking care of one another is a way of life. We are on our way from response to recovery,” Edwards said.

Waters have receded in many deluged areas with thousands of people returning to flood-hit homes to rip

out soaked carpet and dump water-logged mattresses.

Many residents said they lost almost everything they owned. As of Thursday, about 4,000 people were in shelters.

Rains that started last Thursday have dumped more than 2-1/2 feet (0.76 meters) of water on parts of Louisiana.

Although water levels are generally dropping in Louisiana, some areas around Lafayette, in the southwestern part of the state, are experiencing major flooding, said Kurt Van Speybroeck, a meteorologist with the National Weather Service, in Fort Worth, Texas.

“We reached record levels of flooding on several

river systems in south Louisiana,” he added.

The Federal Emergency Management Agency was on the ground and processing claims for help.

FEMA Administrator Craig Fugate said his agency was preparing for “a very large response” to help flood victims and the immediate issue was finding a safe place for affected residents to stay.

“A lot of people didn’t have flood insurance,” he said in an interview with MSNBC on Thursday, adding he had spoken on Wednesday with President Barack Obama about recovery efforts.

Louisiana Commissioner of Administration Jay Dardenne said on Thursday

the flooding has made it more likely the state would rely on a short-term bank loan to shore up government funding.

The state had anticipated the need for cash flow borrowing before the flooding, the governor’s office said.

Louisiana is grappling with years of unresolved structural budget deficits that have collided with a weakening state economy and a sharp drop in revenues from oil and gas extraction taxes.

The state believes it ended the last fiscal year with a deficit that must be closed this year. It is also grappling with a potential \$1.5 billion budget gap for the next budget year of 2018-19.—Reuters

Artificial intelligence can find, map poverty, researchers say

LONDON — A new technique using artificial intelligence to read satellite images could aid efforts to eradicate global poverty by indicating where help is needed most, a team of US researchers said on Thursday.

The method would assist governments and charities trying to fight poverty but lacking precise and reliable information on where poor people are living and what they need, the researchers based at Stanford University in California said.

Eradicating extreme poverty, measured as people living on less than \$1.25 US a day, by 2030 is among the sustainable development goals adopted by United Nations member states last year.

A team of computer scientists and satellite experts created a self-updating world map to locate poverty, said Marshall Burke, assistant professor in Stanford’s Department of Earth System Science.

It uses a computer algorithm that recognises signs of poverty through a process called machine learning, a type of artificial intelligence, he said. Results of the two-year research effort have been published in the journal *Science*. The system shows an image to a computer,

“and the computer’s job is to figure what the image is,” Burke said.

The computer was initially fed data from household surveys by five African nations — Uganda, Tanzania, Nigeria, Malawi and Rwanda — and nighttime satellite imagery of the same countries. Nighttime images are a basic tool to predict poverty because a higher intensity of nightlight is associated with higher levels of development.

The computer was asked to use the data to spot signs of poverty in a separate set of high-resolution daytime satellite images that contain information from poor regions that otherwise appear dark in night photos.

“The computer learns to find a lot of things that we think are correlated to poverty like roads, urban areas, farmlands and waterways,” said Burke. Burke said the team plans to create a world-wide poverty map that would be publicly available online.

“We hope our data will be directly useful by governments around the world ... to more effectively target their programs,” Burke said. The project improves upon use of household surveys which tend to sample villages randomly, he said. —Reuters

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Alloo Gobi Paratha 400gm

15000ks/kg

Blue Cheese Bik

3500ks

Brie / Camembert

2500ks

Blue Extra Creamy

3500ks

Buy 1 Get 1 275gm

Feta Cheese in Oil

5800ks

1/kg

Young Turkey Whole (2kg)

350ks

Shell Curry Puff 35gm

3900ks

Chicken Burger

2000ks

Chicken Burger 330gm

3900ks

Mix Dim Sum 400gm

1500ks

Salmon Fillet Trim C

Tuna Saku

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Obamas' first date inspires romantic movie 'Southside with You'

LOS ANGELES — We've heard their playlists, watched them dance together, and now Americans can see Barack and Michelle Obama on their first date in a film that follows the future president wooing his future wife over the course of a day.

"Southside With You" dramatizes the Obamas' first date in the summer of 1989 and sees Michelle Robinson, a 25-year-old lawyer from Chicago, going out with Barack Obama, a summer associate at her law firm.

Over the hours they spend together — which Michelle initially insists is not a date — the two attend an Ernie Barnes art exhibition, a community meeting, a screening of Spike Lee's movie "Do The Right Thing," have drinks and eat ice cream as they discuss their lives, ambitions and fears.

"You see in this film that they challenged each other, you know, and they walked in each other's shoes and that they spoke about their family, and I just think all that stuff is very real and accessible to people," said actress Tika Sumpter, who plays Michelle.

"Southside With You" takes details that the Obamas have shared about their first date in various interviews, and imagines the conversations they may have had.

Parker Sawyers, the actor who plays Barack Obama in the film, said he started off with a "strong impersonation" of the president,



US President Barack Obama waves to reporters as he walks out with First lady Michelle Obama from the White House in Washington, US, on 6 August, 2016 before departure for their summer vacation in Martha's Vineyard, Massachusetts. PHOTO: REUTERS

but then let the mannerisms and speech inflections of his character come naturally.

The rapport between the two is courteous and playful in the film, as Michelle feistily keeps her date at arm's length while he uses charm to bring her guard down.

Barack Obama, who turned 28 that summer, married Michelle in 1992, three years after their first date. The black community of Chicago's Southside serves as a backdrop to the story. Michelle gets a glimpse of the future US president's early leadership skills when he takes her to a community meeting to find a way to build a youth centre.

Later, the two momentarily clasp hands as they watch a harrowing scene in "Do The Right Thing," where a black man dies after being placed in a chokehold by a white policeman.

"They were seeing what was happening in Chicago, and obviously Chicago is still in the news and issues between the citizens and the police are still in the news, and the president has to deal with that everyday," said musician John Legend, an executive producer on the film.

Legend said the Obamas know about the film, adding "once they see it, if they haven't already, I think they'll love it." —Reuters

Kanye West takes 'Pablo' pop-up fashion stores global

NEW YORK — Rapper and fashion designer Kanye West is going global, opening pop-up stores in 21 venues this weekend to sell his "Life of Pablo" merchandise.

West, 39, announced the move on Twitter on Wednesday with a map of the stores that will be located in cities in the United States, Australia, England, Germany, South Africa and Singapore.

He gave no details but Vogue said the stores would be open for three days only and that the exact location would be announced 24 hours in advance on the musician's website.

West, currently on a US tour promoting his "The Life

of Pablo" album, has become a sought-after fashion designer, launching his latest collection of casual wear at New York's Madison Square Garden in February.

Prices for West's Yeezy line of sneakers have fetched 10 times their sticker price, with some pairs fetching more than \$4,000 in the re-sale market.

A New York pop-up store in March for the Pablo merchandise had shoppers lining up for hours to get a piece of the clothing.

Vogue said each city getting the pop-up stores this weekend will have its name spelled out on t-shirts and hoodies in gothic script in bold shades. —Reuters



Models present creations at Kanye West's Yeezy Season 3 Collection presentation and listening party for the 'The Life of Pablo' album during New York Fashion Week, on 11 February 2016. PHOTO: REUTERS

Amber Heard donates \$7 million settlement from Johnny Depp to charity

LOS ANGELES — Actress Amber Heard said on Thursday she is donating her \$7 million divorce settlement from actor Johnny Depp to charity.

Heard, 30, said in a statement that she is dividing the full settlement equally between the American Civil Liberties Union, specifically to prevent violence against women, and the Children's Hospital of Los Angeles.

"As described in the restraining order and divorce settlement, money played no role for me personally and never has, except to the extent that I could donate it to charity and, in doing so, hopefully help those less able to defend themselves," the actress said.

Depp's representative did not immediately respond to requests for comment. Heard and Depp, 53, privately settled their acrimonious divorce case on Tuesday, a day ahead of a court hearing on the status of a restraining order the actress had obtained

against her estranged husband.

The couple released a joint statement calling their relationship "intensely passionate and at times volatile but always bound by love," adding that "there was never any intent of physical or emotional harm."

The settlement ended the couple's 15-month marriage after weeks of highly publicized claims of domestic violence by Heard and counterclaims of financial blackmailing by Depp.

Depp, one of Hollywood's top actors and box-office draws with franchises such as "Pirates of the Caribbean," married Heard, known for "Friday Night Lights," in February 2015 after meeting on the set of the 2011 film "The Rum Diary."

Heard will be starring in Warner Bros' upcoming "Justice League" superhero film, while Depp will reprise his lead role in the next "Pirates of the Caribbean" film. —Reuters

I am done with Marvel movies: Natalie Portman

LOS ANGELES — Actress Natalie Portman has ruled herself out of next "Thor" films.

While discussing her future projects during an interview, the 35-year-old actress addressed her future in the Marvel Cinematic Universe, saying she does not expect to return in their film anytime soon, reported Ace Showbiz.

When asked whether she would ever reprise her role as Jane Foster, the love interest of Chris Hemsworth's Thor, she said, "As far as I know I'm done."

"I mean I don't know if maybe one day they'll ask for an 'Avengers 7' or whatever. I have no idea! But as far as I know I'm done."

While it was confirmed that she wouldn't appear in the upcoming "Thor: Ragnarok", the Oscar winner for Best Actress in "Black Swan" said, "That was all a great thing to be a part of." "Thor: Ragnarok" hits theatres on November 3, 2017. Taika Waititi directs the film from a script written by Stephany Folsom. It's based on characters created by Stan Lee, Larry Lieber and Jack Kirby. Kevin Feige is serving as producer. —PTI



PHOTO: REUTERS

US says sorry as swimmers leave Brazil to jeers

RIO DE JANEIRO — Two US Olympic swimmers flew home from Brazil on Thursday after a local crowd jeered them, calling them “liars” and “fakes”, and police accused them of fabricating a story about being robbed at gunpoint during the Rio Games.

Their departure marked what the US Olympic team hopes will be the closing stages of an incident that has embarrassed the host city, angered the police and government, unleashed a storm on social media, and dominated news coverage of South America’s first Olympics.

The US Olympic Committee (USOC) issued an apology after the departure of Gunnar Bentz and Jack Conger, who were among four US swimmers shown to have lied about being stopped by gunmen posing as police in the early hours of Sunday.

“We apologize to our hosts in Rio and the people of Brazil for this distracting ordeal in the midst

of what should rightly be a celebration of excellence,” USOC chief Scott Blackmun said in a statement.

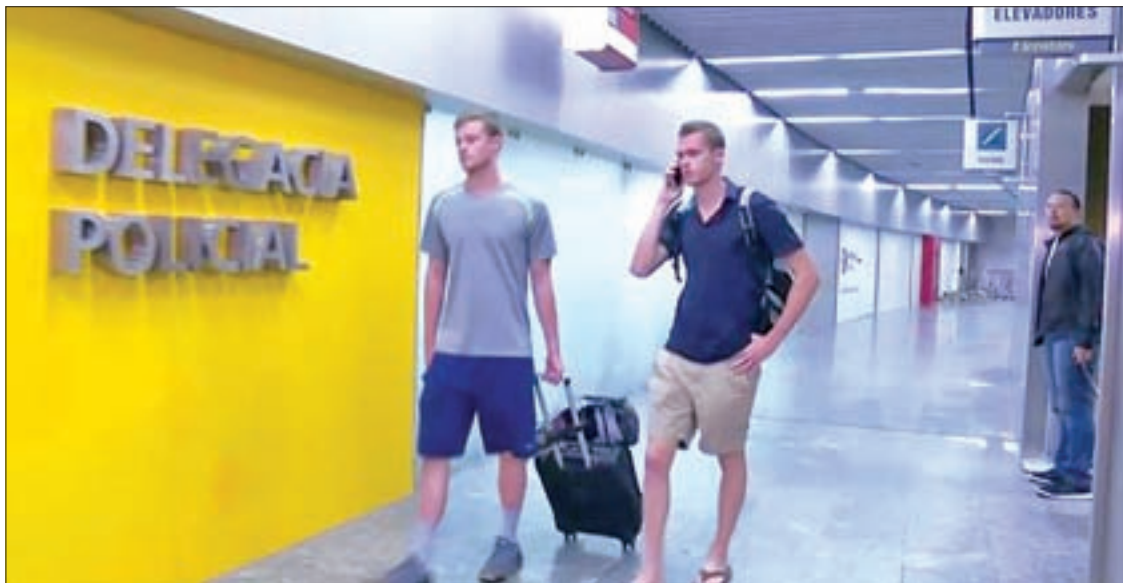
Apart from Bentz and Conger, the incident involved gold medalist Ryan Lochte, one of America’s most decorated swimmers and the most outspoken about the robbery, and Jimmy Feigen, who also won a gold medal in Rio.

Lochte returned to the United States on Monday. Feigen revised his police statement on Thursday in the hope of securing the release of his passport, the USOC said.

ABC News reported early on Friday that Feigen had agreed to pay \$11,000 to a Brazilian charity to avoid prosecution in the case, citing his attorney Breno Melaragno Costa.

The outlet said the dispute would be settled, his passport returned, and Feigen would be allowed to leave the country once payment was made to the Reaction Institute charity.

Reuters could not inde-



US Olympic swimmers Gunnar Bentz and Jack Conger walk to the airport police station office at Rio’s international airport in this still frame taken from video dated on 17 August 2016, in Rio De Janeiro, Brazil. PHOTO: REUTERS

pendently verify the report. Neither Feigen nor Lochte could be contacted for comment.

The USOC confirmed police accusations, including that one of the swimmers had vandalized the gas station after the group stopped there to use the bathroom during a taxi ride back to the Athletes’ Village from a late-night party in the city.

After days of standing by the swimmers’ story, the USOC also backed up other police evidence, including a security video showing the swimmers in an argument with staff at the Shell service station.

“An argument ensued be-

tween the athletes and two armed gas station security staff, who displayed their weapons, ordered the athletes from their vehicle and demanded the athletes provide a monetary payment,” it said, adding that the guards allowed the swimmers to leave once some cash had been handed over.

The USOC said it would further review the incident and assess any potential consequences for the athletes. USA Swimming said it could also take possible action.

During the two weeks of the Rio Games, the sporting action has been competing for headlines against a series of muggings and

armed robberies of high-profile athletes and visitors in Rio de Janeiro, including two government ministers.

None created more embarrassment for Rio than Lochte’s statement that a robber had at one point put a gun to Lochte’s forehead and demanding the group’s wallets.

Rio’s police chief denounced the story on Thursday.

“There was no robbery as the swimmers described it,” civil police chief Fernando Veloso told a news conference, adding that it would be noble and dignified if the swimmers were to apologize to the people of Rio.—Reuters

Betis to test Barca in high temperatures

MADRID — FC Barcelona kick off their defense of the BBVA Primera Liga at home to a much-changed Betis on Saturday evening.

A 18:15 kick off local time means the game is likely to be played in high temperatures and with high humidity that will do Barca few favors, coming less around 67 hours after the end of the second leg of the Spanish Supercup against Sevilla.

That game saw Barca emerge triumphant with a 5-0 aggregate over their rivals to win the first domestic title of the season.

However, the Supercup came at a price as Andres Iniesta (knee), Jeremy Mathieu (ham-

string) and Javier Mascherano all suffered injuries and are out for the weekend and probably next week as well.

Ter Stegen has also failed to recover from a knee injury which poses the question over whether Luis Enrique will favor Claudio Bravo, who looks to be on the verge of a move to Manchester City, or give a chance to third choice keeper Jordi Masip.

The Barca coach rested Luis Suarez, Gerard Pique and Sergio Roberto on Wednesday and they will all go straight into the side, while Arda Turan will continue on the left after producing his best performance in a Barca shirt.

Betis travel to Barcelo-

na after a busy summer which started with them naming Gustavo Poyet as their first team coach.

The former Brighton and Sunderland coach has been able to work with his new squad all summer and the arrival of players such as Charlie Musonda (who returns for a second loan spell), David Lopez and Antonio Sanabria promises to give the Seville based side a more competitive look this campaign.

As always all eyes will be on the Camp Nou when the game gets under way because as always when Barca go into action every action in the game is under the microscope.

—Xinhua

Serbia ends Americans’ Rio dream in women’s volleyball

RIO DE JANEIRO — Serbia made its first ever entry to an Olympic final by edging the United States 3-2 (20-25, 25-17, 25-20, 16-25, 15-13) in the Rio Olympic Games women’s volleyball semifinals at Maracanazinho on Thursday.

With the victory, Serbia achieved an unprecedented feat as its previous best was a joint-fifth finish at Beijing 2008.

The United States had a good start. Tied at 12-all, the United States was able to gain the momentum after four consecutive points, then Rachael Adams blocked Tijana Boskovic to close the set in favour of the Americans 25-20.

But Brankica Mihajlovic joined in the scoring frame in the second and third sets and the Serbia

team launched a strong comeback with brilliant service and blocking. Serbia built a large lead in the set at 24-15 and Boskovic sealed the set 25-17 with a hammer. In the third, Mihajlovic stood out again to score two points to gain the set point 24-20, Christa Harmotto Dietzen’s service error closed the set 25-20.

The Americans showed more focus in the fourth and forced the match into a tie-breaker with 25-16.

The United States took a 5-2 lead in the final set and Serbia managed to tie the score at 12-all. Milena Rasic turned things around with her ace to give Serbia its first taste of the lead in the set. Leading at 14-13, Boskovic’s attack sealed their magical match victory 15-13.—Xinhua



Entertainment Channel

(20-8-2016, Saturday)

06 : 00 pm	• Writer, Philanthropist: Daw Than Myint Aung (Part- I)
• Weather Report	
• Music Programme	
06 : 25 pm	09 : 15 pm
• Cartoon “The Girl Who Leapt Through Time”	• International Movie Songs
07 : 20 pm	09 : 25 pm
• Cassette Recordings	• Attractions around Hong Kong Hill Station
08 : 35 pm	09 : 35 pm
• MRTV Entertainment Music	• Myanmar Movie
08 : 45 pm	

* 08 : 20 pm Live: Premier League “West Borm Vs Everton”

From 20-8-2016 (Saturday) 6:00 pm
To 21-8-2016 (Sunday) 6:00 pm



Myanmar International

(20-8-2016 07:00am ~ 21-8-2016 07:00am) MST

Today Fresh

07:03	Am	News
07:26	Am	Great Shwedagon- The Religious Insignias of pagodas In Myanmar
07:45	Am	Mogok: The Colourful Land of Rubies
08:03	Am	News
08:26	Am	Come Beat Eggs For Fun & Reward
08:48	Am	To The Blue Ridge Mountains of Rhododendrons
09:03	Am	News
09:26	Am	Climate Context “Floods in Myanmar”
10:03	Am	News
10:26	Am	Next Generation “Saw Noel (Violinist)”

10:36 Am Aesthetic Chinlone

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

Prime Time

07:03	Pm	News
07:25	Pm	Bagan: The Land of Pagoda
07:50	Pm	Today Myanmar: Union Peace Conference (21st Century Panglong)
08:03	Pm	News
08:26	Pm	Bogalay Tint Aung: A Man of Versatility (Part- 2)
08:53	Pm	Myanmar Masterclass: Cubism

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

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

Peerless Bolt powers to 200m gold

RIO DE JANEIRO — The incomparable Usain Bolt once again proved utterly unbeatable on the Olympic track on Thursday, powering his way to a third straight 200 meters gold and remaining on course for an extraordinary “triple-triple” of sprint titles.

The Jamaican simply laid waste to the best of the rest in the sprinting world to win his eighth track gold medal in what he has said will be his last individual

race at the Olympics before his retirement next year.

Bolt's time of 19.78 seconds was the slowest of his four straight world championship and three Olympic triumphs over 200 meters but it certainly did not dampen the celebrations.

He struck his signature lightning bolt pose to a huge cheer from the crowd and draped Brazilian and Jamaican flags over his shoulders as he performed his

lap of honor to chants of “Usain Bolt! Usain Bolt! Usain Bolt!”.

“I don't need to prove anything else. What else can I do to prove to the world I am the greatest?” Bolt told reporters.

“I am trying to be one of the greatest. Be among (Muhammad) Ali and Pele. I hope to be in that bracket after these Games.”

His place in that pantheon is probably already assured but Bolt will return to the track for

the 4x100m relay on Friday - two days before his 30th birthday - looking to complete the sweep of all three sprint titles at three successive Olympics.

Canadian Andre de Grasse, who also won bronze behind Bolt in the 100m, finished second in 20.02 to claim his second sprint medal of the Games and establish himself as the heir apparent to the Sprint King.

“I love competing against

him,” the 21-year-old said of Bolt. “It's an honor to be a part of history, of what he's accomplished in his career ... but overall, if his time is up I guess a new person has to come in there.”

Christophe Lemaire of France was ecstatic with his bronze medal after edging out a shattered Adam Gemili of Britain in a photo finish. Both were awarded the same time of 20.12.—Reuters



Usain Bolt (JAM) of Jamaica crosses the finish line to win gold. PHOTO: REUTERS

Usain Bolt (JAM) of Jamaica poses after winning the gold during Men's 200m Final at Olympic Stadium, Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, on 18 August. PHOTO: REUTERS



Rafael Nadal
PHOTO: REUTERS

Murray sails on as Nadal, Wawrinka fall in upsets

CINCINNATI — Olympic champion Andy Murray restored some order at the Western & Southern Open by cutting down South African giant Kevin Anderson to reach the quarter-finals on an upset-filled Thursday in Cincinnati.

Rafa Nadal and Stan Wawrinka, two of the other headliners at the US Open warm-up event, fell to a pair of young guns on a hot and steamy day on the Ohio hardcourts.

Wimbledon champion Murray, who clutched at his right shoulder after going an early break down to trail 3-2 in the first set, soon snapped into focus to run off four

games in a row on his way to a 6-3, 6-2 victory.

Showing off his dazzling variety of shots and remarkable court coverage, Murray extended his winning streak to 20 with his 600th career victory on the ATP Tour.

The Scot said breaking back straight away was vital.

“It was big, obviously,” Murray said. “When you're playing against big servers they tend to be front runners, so for me to get the break back immediately was key and it got the momentum back.”

Third-seeded Nadal, showing fatigue following a busy Olympic schedule that included a gold medal in doubles, was a step

off the pace and paid the price against 19-year-old Borna Coric of Croatia, who reached the last eight with a 6-1, 6-3 win.

Elsewhere, Grigor Dimitrov eliminated sluggish second seed Wawrinka, the Bulgarian making the most of a single break of serve in each set to win 6-4, 6-4 and book his berth in the quarters.

Australian Bernard Tomic, 23, notched yet another upset with a 7-6(1), 7-6(5) win over fifth-seeded Kei Nishikori of Japan, who had won the bronze medal match in Rio over Nadal.

Tomic's next assignment will be against Murray, who owns a 4-0 advantage over the Australian in head-to-head encounters.—Reuters