

Greater transparency of revised contract, corporate social responsibility activities in the project area imperative

NAY PYI TAW, 3 Aug—In his speech at the coordination meeting of the committee for implementation of the investigation commission's report on Latpadaungtaung Copper Mining Project at Win Unity Hotel in Monywa yesterday, Chairman of the committee, Union Minister at President Office U Hla Tun called for fulfillment of requirements for local people in the project areas after seeking ways and means as quick

as possible and reviewing the difficulties and needs regarding the ongoing regional development tasks.

He recounted the undertakings of the committee during the past four months that verifying the project area, returning unused lands to farmers, paying compensations for confiscated lands, perennial crops and wells and reclamation of farmlands, accounting for nearly 50 per cent of the whole task.

He added that environmental conservation works were being underway in order to be a project which is least harmful to the environment meeting international standards while the project was in progress; and that US\$ one million would be used for corporate social responsibility activities when the construction works began in accord with the revised contract.

He highlighted that two per cent of the profit is slated to be used in

regional development when production process of the project started, contributing to betterment of the sectors of education, health, socio-economic and environment in the region. He vowed to implement the tasks with the sense of sympathy and understanding on local people and called on work committees to cooperate with the region government and local people.

Next, Vice-Chairman of the committee Sagaing Region Chief Minister U

Tha Aye elaborated on environmental conservation, social, economic, administrative and religious matters. Then, Vice-Chairman of the committee Adjutant-General Lt-Gen Khin Zaw Oo discussed works to be done in accord with the revised agreement.

Member of the committee Union Minister for Home Affairs Lt-Gen Ko Ko explained measures to be taken for the Rule of Law in the project area.

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Staff, entrepreneurs urged to develop livestock breeding

NAY PYI TAW, 3 Aug—Union Minister for Livestock and Fisheries U Ohn Myint on 1 August morning met staff and livestock breeding entrepreneurs at the hall of Animal Disease Control Lab of Livestock Breeding and Veterinary Department in Lashio.

He inspected the laboratory and avian influenza disease checking room.

The Union minister inspected breeding of domestic cows, pigs and poultry farms in Man-aing and Napha villages.

Yesterday, the Union

minister attended the coordination meeting on protection of flooded villages and animals against natural disasters in Mon and Kayin States at the hall of the ministry in Nay Pyi Taw.

At the meeting, the Ministry of Livestock and Fisheries Natural Disaster Preparedness Management Committee formed the Mon/Kayin flood rescue teams.

In the afternoon, he visited the flooded areas to supervise rescue works and animal protection and welfare tasks.

MNA



Union Minister U Ohn Myint visits laboratory of LBVD in Lashio.—MNA

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Further relaxation of one-child policy still being mullied

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Freshwater fish breeding

One of the objectives of Fisheries Department under the Ministry of

Livestock and Fisheries is to distribute pedigree fishes and prawn fingerlings.

Freshwater fish breeding stations under Fisheries Department have been



distributing enough fingerlings to fishery industries throughout the country. In addition, the department undertakes the distribution of indigenous fish species and researches on new fish species.

Apart from Rakhine State and Taninthayi Region, there are 30 freshwater fish hatching stations in other regions and states in which hatching of indigenous fish species and researches on foreign fish species are being carried out.

With the aim of increasing fish production in Nay Pyi Taw Council Area, Yezin Fish Breeding Station in Nay Pyi Taw is engaged in extension of fish breeding pounds, breeding of indigenous

fishes from Bago and Mandalay Regions and test breeding of freshwater prawn from Yangon Region in accordance with the guidance of the Union Minister.

In 2012-2013 FY, the Yezin Fish Breeding Camp can distribute various kinds of fishes to University of Veterinary Science and local people, and has achieved success in freshwater prawn breeding.

Dissemination of knowledge on *Cirrhina mrigala* hatching and small-scale fish breeding in villages in Upper Myanmar and Nay Pyi Taw are being undertaken so as to help implement poverty alleviation tasks and farmers earn extra

Byline: Than Oo Wai (Livestock)

incomes at a time when they stop doing their farming.

Freshwater fish breeding stations annually hatch 700 million of fingerlings. About 150 million of fingerlings are put into Ayeyawady River; 100 million into the dams across the country and 100 million into rivers and creeks; and 3 million into the dams in Nay Pyi Taw and nearby regions.

Trs: MT

Myanma Alinn (3-8-13)

RISK RESPONSE

Relief supplies reach heavy downpour-hit areas in Kayin State

Hpa-an, 3 Aug— Prolonged monsoon rains have wreaked havoc vast swathes of Kayin State, fallen victims to floods and forcing them to end up in



relief camps.

A total of 800 people from 150 households have been evacuated to Shweyinhmyaw relief camp in Hpa-an, 294 from 56 to Islam Parahita school, 1160 from 241 to a stadium, 130 from 48 to Mya Kyemon Hall of BEHS, 96 from 38 to Gyartawya monastery, 576 from 115 to BEPS-6 (Branch), 341 from 64 to Aung Thanlwin gymnasium, 136 from 48 to BEHS (3), 102 from

15 to Koe Sit monastery in Myaingalay, 1102 from 262 to seven relief camps in Kawkareik, 1250 from 273 to six relief camps in Kyondoe sub-township, 2710 from 552 to six relief camp in Kyar-in Seikkyi and 2500 to relief camps in Myawady.

They are being provided with foodstuff and health care service. As landslides occurred at 24 spots on Myawady-Kawkareik road, heavy machinery from Nay Pyi Taw were sent to

the landslide-hit areas and reconstruction is underway. Members of social organizations and officials concerned are distributing relief supplies and providing necessary assistance to flood victims.

Many people in the region are severely affected by flash floods unleashed by torrential downpours that left some people dead in some areas, it is learnt.

Kyemon-Naing Naing Tun (Kyondoe)



Police, foresters spoil attempts to transport of Illegal teak in Hlegu

Yangon, 3 Aug — A Htaukkyant police station and combined team comprising officers and staff of Hlegu, Hlegu police station, Mingaladon and Insein Forest

CRIME

Departments seized two vehicles carrying 2.372 tons of illegal teak near Ngwenanttha Model Village in Hlegu Township at about 3.15 pm on 29 July. Two suspects among five who fled while the combined team was conducting a search of the two vehicles were arrested.

They were identified as Htay Naing, 43, and Kaung Htet, 21, of Shwenanttha Model Village in Mingaladon Township.

Hlegu police station charged the two suspects and investigation still remains to arrest the remaining suspects who are still at large.

Kyemon-037



AGRICULTURE

Paunglaungkan Village in Pakokku in transition to mechanized farming



Pakokku, 3 Aug— A small village, Paunglaungkan, on Pakokku-Yezago motorway is enjoying the benefits of Kyeeywa river water pumping project that provides adequate water for cultivation of various kind of crops including monsoon and summer paddy in it. The village surrounded by thriving paddy and crop plantations is situated three miles from Pakokku in Magway Region.

“Summer paddy is being harvested when monsoon paddy is in initial stage of nurturing,” said a Paunglaungkan man. He added that the village puts summer paddy on 250 acres

and monsoon paddy on 2000 acres each year. In winter, paddy growing cannot be carried out as water supply is unavailable.

One of the villagers introduced a combine harvester to the village recently, giving service at the price of K 45000 per acre.

“Use of farm machinery in the harvest is not only good for time saving but also ensuring output growth and avoiding possible danger of snakebites,” a local said.

Now, the whole village is in the transition from conventional farming to mechanized one with the use of farm equipment in farm works. The agriculture mechanization department

is selling power-tillers to the farmers in three-year installment for K 1.5 million a unit. A power-tiller for hire is K 5000 an hour. The village sees more growing of Manaw Thukha paddy strain that can produce 80 baskets per acre. A basket of paddy is priced at K 4800 and that of rice at K 15000.

“Adequate water supply for agriculture purpose is essential for us all. As two transformers of the river water-pumping station is not working at the same time, I am afraid of having insufficient irrigated water,” said a local farmer. — *Kyemon-Nay Oo Maung (Pakokku)*

NATIONAL SPORTS

Return home of victorious Myanmar Sepak Takaraw sports team

Yangon, 3 Aug— Gold-medal winners of Myanmar Sepak Takaraw sports team arrived back here by air on 31 July after taking part in Malaysia Invitational Sepak Takaraw tournament.

Myanmar beat Malaysia (A) in the final match and won a gold medal of the tournament in which five teams from four

countries— Malaysia (A), Malaysia (B), Myanmar, Indonesia and Singapore — participated.

Although Myanmar Speak Takaraw team was defeated by Malaysia (A) team in its first match of the tournament, Myanmar met again the latter in the final match after three straight wins over Singapore,

Indonesia and Malaysia (B). In the final match, Myanmar gained a thrilling 2-1 win over Malaysia (A) and grabbed the gold medal at the tournament.

The victorious Myanmar Sepak Takaraw team consisted of U Kyaw Zin Moe, team leader, U Aung Kyaw Moe, manager, U Aung Cho Myint, coach, and 12 players.

Kyemon-Po Thaw Zin & Soe Nyunt



WORLD

Insurgents attack Indian consulate in eastern Afghanistan



Afghan policemen walk at the site of a suicide attack in Jalalabad Province on 3 Aug, 2013.—REUTERS

KABUL, 3 Aug— A suicide bomber attacked the Indian consulate in the eastern Afghan capital of Jalalabad on Saturday, Indian officials and local police said, killing six people and wounding 22.

Gunfire resounded through the area for at least an hour following the 10

a.m. blast near the consulate entrance.

All the casualties were civilians, except for one wounded Afghan soldier, said Baz Mohammad, a senior health official in Nangarhar Province.

“Explosion in front of India’s Consulate in Jalalabad. All Indians officials

safe,” Indian Ministry of External Affairs spokesman Syed Akbaruddin said on Twitter.

The attack followed a world-wide travel alert issued by the United States on Friday, saying that Al-Qaeda could be planning attacks in August, particularly in the Middle East and North Africa. The United States has ordered the closure of 21 embassies and consulates on Sunday, including its Kabul mission.

Nangarhar police chief Mohammad Sharif Amin told *Reuters* a bomber detonated a car packed with explosives outside the consulate and an adjacent mosque. The consulate was the intended target, he said, but most casualties were from the mosque.

Roads near the Indian

consulate remained blocked as gunfire rattled through the area, deputy provincial police chief Masoom Khan Hashimi said.

Indian diplomatic missions have been targets of previous attacks in Afghanistan.

The eastern border Province of Nangarhar, and its capital Jalalabad, have long been a hotbed of insurgent activity.

On Friday, a five-hour battle between Afghan security forces and Taliban fighters in the province’s Shirzad District killed dozens of Afghan police and insurgents, officials said.

Reuters

Japan, China officials to discuss N Korea in Beijing next week

TOKYO, 3 Aug — A senior Japanese Foreign Ministry official plans to discuss North Korean issues with Wu Dawei, China’s special representative for Korean Peninsula affairs, during a visit to Beijing from Sunday to Tuesday, the ministry said on Friday. Junichi Ihara, director general of the ministry’s Asian and Oceanian Affairs Bureau, may also meet with other Chinese officials to discuss bilateral ties, which have soured over competing claims to the Japanese-administered Senkaku Islands, which are called Diaoyu by China.

Wu serves as chairman of the six-party talks aimed at ending North Korea’s nuclear ambitions. The multilateral talks, which involve North and South Korea, China, Japan, Russia and the United States, have been stalled since late 2008 following disagreement over an aid-for-denuclearization deal. In the meeting with Wu, Ihara is likely to convey Japan’s position that North Korea must take concrete action toward denuclearization before any dialogue between North Korea and other members in the six-party talks.

Kyodo News

US issues global travel alert, cites al-Qaeda threat

WASHINGTON, 3 Aug — The United States issued a worldwide travel alert on Friday warning Americans that al-Qaeda may be planning attacks in August, particularly in the Middle East and North Africa.

The State Department travel alert was based on the same intelligence that prompted it to close 21 US embassies and consulates on Sunday, 4 August, chiefly those in the Muslim world, a US official told *Reuters* on condition of anonymity.

“The Department of State alerts US citizens to the continued potential for terrorist attacks, particularly in the Middle East and North Africa, and possibly occurring in or emanating from the Arabian Peninsula,” its statement said. “Current information suggests that al-Qaeda and affiliated organizations continue to plan terrorist attacks both in the region and beyond, and that they may focus efforts to conduct attacks in the period between now and the end of August,” it added, saying the travel alert would expire on 31 August.

Among the most prominent of Al-Qaeda’s affiliates is Al-Qaeda in the Arabian Peninsula, a Yemen-based group whose attempted attacks included the Christmas Day 2009 attempt to blow up a North-

west Airlines flight from Amsterdam to Detroit. US security sources, speaking on condition of anonymity, said the threat was related to AQAP but there was not a specific target. They also said that it was aimed at Western interests, an assessment later confirmed by the top US military officer.

“The intent is to attack Western, not just US interests,” General Martin Dempsey, chairman of the US Joint Chiefs of Staff, told ABC News in an interview to be broadcast on its “This Week” programme on Sunday.

“There is a significant threat stream and we’re reacting to it,” he said, adding that the kind of potential attack was “unspecified.” Britain said it would close its embassy in Yemen on Sunday and Monday. “We are particularly concerned about the security situation in the final days of Ramadan and into Eid,” Britain’s Foreign Office said in a statement, referring to the Muslim holy month which ends on Wednesday.

A US official who spoke on condition of anonymity said the threat was serious and that the US government had reacted in such a dramatic manner “because we have some specificity but not enough.” On Thursday, the State Department said US embassies that would normally be open on Sun-

day — chiefly those in the Muslim world — would be closed that day because of security concerns, adding that they might be shut for a longer period.

The embassies in the following countries will be closed: Afghanistan, Algeria, Bahrain, Bangladesh, Djibouti, Egypt, Iraq, Jordan, Kuwait, Libya, Mauritania, Oman, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, Sudan, the United Arab Emirates and Yemen. The consulates in Arbil, Iraq; Dhahran and Jeddah, Saudi Arabia; and Dubai, United Arab Emirates will also be shut.

The US Embassy in Tel Aviv, which is normally closed to the public on Sunday, said all its facilities would be shut on Sunday and workers not essential for the building’s security had been told not to come in.

It also said the American Centre in Jerusalem and the Haifa Consular Agency would be closed on Sunday. While the US State Department routinely releases what it describes as a “Worldwide Caution” warning US citizens of the general potential danger of attacks around the world, Friday’s travel alert was based on more specific information, said one US official who spoke on condition of anonymity. The previous “Worldwide Caution” was issued on 19 February.—*Reuters*

Britain’s Conservatives hire Obama campaign chief in election role



Campaign manager Jim Messina speaks with the media as he walks through President Barack Obama’s new campaign headquarters in Chicago on 12 May, 2011.—REUTERS

LONDON, 3 Aug — Britain’s governing Conservative Party has hired US President Barack Obama’s former campaign manager as part of its election team ahead of polls due in less than two years, the party said. Jim Messina, a lifelong Democrat, is the latest ap-

pointment by Prime Minister David Cameron in a bid to win the party’s first overall majority in over 20 years, against a weak economic backdrop and poor poll ratings.

Currently the chairman of a group that has raised millions of dollars to sup-

port Obama’s legislative programme, Messina is regarded as the mastermind behind the president’s comfortable re-election in 2012 through the use of social media and voter information. Confirming the move, a Conservative Party source told *Reuters* on Friday that Messina would report to senior Conservatives, including recently hired Australian election strategist Lynton Crosby.

“He will act as a campaign strategy adviser ahead of the next general election,” the source said. Formerly Obama’s deputy chief of staff, Messina helped push Congress to overturn a ban on openly gay military personnel serving in the US military.—*Reuters*

Ospreys to arrive in Okinawa Sat evening as opponents rally at base

GINOWAN, (Japan), 3 Aug—The US Marine Corps in Okinawa said on Saturday that some of a batch of 12 *Osprey* tilt-rotor aircraft will arrive in its Futenma Air Station in Okinawa Prefecture in the evening from its Iwakuni base in western Japan. The *Ospreys* were expected to fly out of Iwakuni Air Station in Yamaguchi Prefecture on Saturday morning but the US military has delayed their departure, saying that requirements for the flight have yet to be met. But it denied there has been any technical trouble with the aircraft.

The 12 *Ospreys*, which can take off and land like a helicopter and fly like an airplane, are the second

batch to be deployed in Japan, following arrival of the first dozen last summer. The arrival of the aircraft will enable the US military to deploy a total of 24 *Ospreys* to replace aging CH-46 helicopters in Okinawa, which hosts the bulk of US military forces in Japan. According to the US Marines, two or more *Ospreys*

will fly to Futenma and the rest of them will also be moved to Japan’s southernmost island prefecture soon. Okinawa Governor Hirokazu Nakaima has repeatedly called for the cancellation of the deployment in the prefecture due to the aircraft’s history of crashes.

Kyodo News





Photo taken on 31 July, 2013 shows an unusual astronomical phenomena above the sky in Bo'ao Town of Qionghai City, south China's Hainan Province.

XINHUA

Time Warner Cable posts weak Internet numbers, sparks deal talk

NEW YORK, 3 Aug—Time Warner Cable Inc reported quarterly revenue below analysts' estimates as it added less than half the number of subscribers for high-speed data services that analysts had

On Thursday, Chief Executive Glenn Britt, who will be retiring at the end of the year, said the speculation swirling over Time Warner Cable "is really an endorsement of the value of our assets." Britt will be



expected.

Shares still rose 3.2 percent on Thursday as analysts said the cable company's management did not necessarily rule out a merger or takeover during a conference call.

Time Warner Cable, which ranks second to Comcast Corp in the US cable market with about 12 million customers, has attracted takeover interest from John Malone's Liberty Media Corp.

Malone, whose media holding company has an investment in cable provider Charter Communications Inc, recently made an offer for Time Warner Cable but it was rejected, Reuters previously reported.

replaced by Time Warner Cable's second in command, Rob Marcus.

Britt said that building value "for the cable industry as a whole through consolidation is a worthwhile endeavor, but our objective is-and will continue to be-to build value for our shareholders."

While Britt's comments are in line with what Time Warner Cable's management has said about consolidation, ISI analyst Vijay Jayant said that executives "seemed open to any M&A opportunity that creates value for Time Warner Cable shareholders" and that the "tone of the call sounds like they are amenable."—Reuters

T-Mobile Austria challenges spectrum auction terms

VIENNA, 3 Aug—T-Mobile Austria has filed a challenge to the terms of an auction due to be held in September for frequencies that will enable operators to build fourth-generation (4G) networks, its lawyer said.

The move may create uncertainty around the auction for the 4G Long-Term Evolution (LTE) networks, which aims to raise at least 526 million euros (\$698 million) and is necessary before 4G networks can be rolled out nationwide.

Europe, which led development of the globally used GSM standard in the 1980s, now lags the United States, Japan and South Korea in next-generation mobile technology - with the exception of Scandinavia where the first LTE networks were built.

Neelie Kroes, who is vice-president of the European Commission and in charge of its digital policy, last week said delays to 4G spectrum auctions that were supposed to have happened at the beginning of the year were hurting the economy.

T-Mobile, a unit of Deutsche Telekom (DTEGn.DE) and the second-biggest of Austria's three mobile carriers, says the regulator has no right to sell the frequencies as set out in the auction terms because some of them still belong to T-Mobile.

Some of the spectrum is being made available from 2016, but T-Mobile says it has rights to use this spectrum until the end of 2019. The frequencies have a book value of several million euros (dollars).

Lawyer Ewald Lichtenberger, who is acting for T-Mobile, told Reuters this week: "This is an issue that I believe must be clarified before the auction because later it would create big problems."

He said a request to the broadcasting and telecoms regulator had been filed some weeks ago.

A T-Mobile Austria spokesman also confirmed that the complaint had been filed.

The regulator declined to comment. It has six months to respond to the complaint - taking it past the auction date.

Austria's biggest mobile operator, Telekom Austria, (TELA.VI), and smaller Hutchison Drei Austria (0013.HK) also own spectrum that is being offered for sale. Both declined comment.

T-Mobile Austria is also fighting a legal battle to wind back the allocation of frequencies resulting from Hutchison's takeover of Orange Austria at the start of this year, which it said put it at a disadvantage in building 4G networks.

Reuters

US seeks tighter control over Apple in e-book case

NEW YORK, 3 Aug—Apple Inc is headed for a showdown with the US government and dozens of states, which on Friday urged that tough new restrictions be imposed on the company for illegally conspiring to raise e-book prices. The changes proposed by the US Department of Justice and 33 US states and territories are designed to stop Apple from committing further antitrust violations after US District Judge Denise Cote said on July 10 Apple had a "central role" in a conspiracy with five major publishers to raise e-book prices.

But the proposed changes extend beyond e-books, potentially limiting Apple's ability to negotiate for such content as movies, music and TV shows, and increasing regulatory oversight of

other business areas such as the company's App Store. In a court filing, Apple called the proposed injunction a "draconian and punitive intrusion" into its business that would hurt consumers and competition, and was "wildly out of proportion" to the harm it was meant to address.

"The resulting cost of this relief - not only in dollars but also lost opportunities for American businesses and consumers - would be vast," it said. Federal and state regulators disagreed. "Under the department's proposed order, Apple's illegal conduct will cease, and Apple and its senior executives will be prevented from conspiring to thwart competition," said Bill Baer, head of the Justice Department's antitrust division.

Reuters

The following is a reproduction of an article published in Myanmar Hotels and Tourism Guide 2013.—Ed



Religious Ceremonies Monastic Schools

For centuries, monks at urban or rural monasteries have taught children to read and write. A monastic education ensured literacy skills. This is one reason why the literacy rate has always been high in Myanmar. Although girls in rural areas may not move on to a tertiary institution as often as their brothers, parents appreciate the importance of education, which is held in high esteem.

Some monasteries teach meditation to both monks and laypeople and some are schools for monks who are studying for the Buddhist exams that are equal to the bachelor, masters and doctorate degrees of secular universities. Many monasteries serve as orphanages for boys.

Nunneries

Many nunneries serve as orphanages for girls. Orphans become nuns {or novices, if they are boys} but entering the Order is not a lifetime commitment and they are free to leave when they come of age. Nuns also study for higher religious education.

Soon kyway or alms-giving

On sacred days or special occasions, breakfast or lunch is offered to monks, nuns and novices because they are not allowed to eat solid or semi-solid food after noon. The donor also offers gifts such as umbrella, fans or slippers. Gifts of money are presented in envelopes because the rules of monastic deportment forbid monks to handle cash. Sutras are recited after the meal. Hundreds of guests are often invited to these ceremonies and they are invited to eat after the monks have departed.

Obeisance Ceremony

October marks the passing of the monsoon as well as the end of Buddhist Lent, which lasts three months, and is the time when festivals and weddings resume for the next nine months.

A tradition of Thadingyut, or October, is that younger members of the family or the office or schools pay obeisance {'Kadaw'} to their elders and teachers. They pay obeisance by kneeling on the floor, holding their joined palms to the forehead and bending down three times to touch the floor, in the same manner as respect is paid to an image of the Buddha. This ritual is also performed on the traditional New Year, which falls in April. It is normal for children to 'Kadaw' their parents every night before they go to bed or before leaving on a journey.

Becoming a Novice

Every Myanmar Buddhist boy is proud to become a novice, and when he turns twenty he will enter the Order again as a monk, for as long as he wishes. It is common for a man to re-ordain as a monk more than once during his life. A formal novitiation ceremony involves a parade around a pagoda on the first day with the boys dressed as princes. In the afternoon their head will be shaved and they will enter the Order. On the same day or the next there will be a feast for monks and invited guests. Sometimes a feast is held on both days. Feasts can go on for a week or be simple affairs with no guests. For girls, the most important ceremony in her life apart from her wedding is having her ears pierced. The ear-piercing ceremony usually coincides with a brother's novitiation rite, and both boy and girl will be dressed in formal court attire.

BUSINESS & HEALTH

Berkshire profit rises 46 percent, helped by economy

NEW YORK, 3 Aug — Warren Buffett's Berkshire Hathaway Inc (BRKa.N) (BRKb.N) on Friday said second-quarter profit rose 46 percent, boosted by improved demand in such businesses as car insurance, energy and railroads, as well as gains from investments and derivatives.

Operating results topped analyst forecasts, reflecting how many of Berkshire's more than 80 businesses are benefiting from growth, however modest, in the US economy.

"It's about as good as you could expect," said Jeff Matthews, a Berkshire shareholder and author of "Secrets in Plain Sight: Business and Investing

Secrets of Warren Buffett." "Berkshire's earnings are very similar to the economy - not shooting the lights out but still growing."

Buffett, who turns 83 later this month, has run Omaha, Nebraska-based Berkshire since 1965, and favors businesses with consistent earnings power.

In June, he spent \$12.3 billion to buy part of H.J. Heinz Co, the maker of ketchup and Ore-Ida potato products. A month earlier, the world's fourth-richest person told shareholders at that in looking for companies to buy, "we're going to find most of our opportunities in the United States."

Quarterly net income for Berkshire rose to \$4.54

billion, or \$2,763 per Class A share, from \$3.11 billion, or \$1,882 per share, a year earlier.

Operating profit rose 5 percent to \$3.92 billion, or \$2,384 per Class A share, from \$3.72 billion, or \$2,252 per share.

Analysts on average expected operating profit of \$2,170 per share, according to Thomson Reuters I/B/E/S.

Revenue rose 16 percent from a year ago to \$44.69 billion. Book value per Class A share, Buffett's preferred measure of growth, rose 2 percent from the end of March to \$122,900.

Profit rose 10 percent at the Burlington Northern Santa Fe railroad to \$884 million as higher revenue from ship-



Berkshire Hathaway shareholders walk by a video screen at the company's annual meeting in Omaha on 4 May, 2013.—REUTERS

ping consumer products, industrial products and coal offset lower revenue from agricultural products.

Rising prices and higher customer loads helped drive a 10 percent increase in profit from its MidAmerican Ener-

gy utilities and energy unit to \$279 million.

Meanwhile, pretax underwriting gains more than doubled at the Geico car insurance unit to \$336 million, as premiums earned grew by 11 percent while underwrit-

ing expenses fell.

Businesses benefiting from growing sales included the NetJets corporate plane unit, the Clayton Homes manufactured housing unit, and the Forest River recreational vehicle unit.—Reuters

FDA issues new rules for labelling 'gluten-free' foods



WASHINGTON, 3 Aug — Labels declaring foods to be "gluten-free" will need to meet new standards set by the US Food and Drug Administration.

The standards, announced on Friday, are designed to protect patients with celiac disease, an inflammatory condition of the intestine triggered by gluten, a protein found in wheat, barley and rye. It affects about 3 million people in the United States.

Under the new rules, any food bearing a gluten-free label must have less than .002 percent of gluten. The European Union and Canada have implemented the same gluten-free standards.

Food manufacturers have one year to comply with the rule. Labels that boast "no gluten," "free of gluten" and "without gluten" must also meet the standard.

"It's enormously im-

portant for these people to have as much variety to choose from as possible," Michael Taylor, the FDA's deputy commissioner for foods and veterinary medicine, said in an interview.

The FDA believes most foods with a gluten-free label currently meet the standard, Taylor said.

Gluten-free labeled foods have not previously been subject to a legal standard, posing a danger for many celiac patients, said Francine Fazio, vice president of the Celiacs Resource Group, a support group for celiac patients.

"It's so hard to go through the aisles and buy foods that are safe and tasty," Fazio said. "Now we can buy food with confidence that's safe to eat, just like the general public."

Reuters

Exercise no help against hot flashes

NEW YORK, 3 Aug — Getting regular exercise doesn't seem to reduce the amount or severity of hot flashes among women going through menopause, according to a new study.

Researchers found that women who exercised had a small drop in the number of hot flashes they experienced per day, but the drop was no greater than what was seen in a group of women who didn't exercise.

The study's senior author said the findings should not keep women from exer-

cising, because those who worked out reported better sleep and less depression.

"If the sole reason that you start exercising is to reduce hot flashes, you may be disappointed, but there are other reasons people should be exercising," Bette Caan, of the Kaiser Permanente Division of Research in Oakland, California, said.

Previous studies that looked at whether exercise helps reduce hot flashes — when blood vessels near the skin enlarge and blood flow increases — have found

mixed results.

"Many (of the studies) show no effect, some show a small protective effect but the ones that have been well done have showed really no effect," Caan said.

"We did this study because we wanted to do a really good controlled trial," she added.

For the new study, published in the journal Menopause, the researchers randomly assigned 248 women from three US medical centers to one of two groups.

Women in one group

NEW YORK, 3 Aug — For newborn babies, taking ethnicity into consideration may help determine how small is too small, according to Canadian researchers. They found that birth-weight standards based on population averages did not predict which babies born at or near full term were likely to suffer problems associated with being small for their gestational ages.

"The results are not necessarily surprising, but there has been controversy regarding whether customizing growth distributions is necessary," said lead author Gillian Hanley of the School of Population and Public Health at the University of British Columbia in Vancouver. Based on these results, adjusting the standards may be necessary, she told Reuters Health.

Many factors influence

exercised three times per week for 12 weeks on a treadmill, elliptical or stationary bicycle. Those in the second group stuck to their usual activity.

All of the women were going through or had already gone through menopause and had frequent hot flashes at the start of the study.

Participants used daily diaries to track the number and intensity of their hot flashes. They also answered questionnaires about sleep quality and depression.

Reuters

birth weight, including a mother's weight and height, whether she has given birth before and her ethnicity. Conditions that restrict a baby's growth during pregnancy can also cause a newborn to be smaller than usual. Babies who are not premature, but still small compared to other full-term infants are at higher risk for longer hospital stays, infections and other problems.

Hanley and her coauthor Patricia Janssen looked at data on more than 100,000 singleton babies born in Washington state between 2006 and 2008, 93,000 of whom were born at a healthy weight based on general population averages and ethnicity-specific standards. The infants belonged to white, Chinese or South Asian ethnic groups.

The researchers used the babies' weights to try to predict complications after birth, including an Apgar score — which measures

heart rate, breathing, muscle tone, reflexes and color — of less than 7 out of 10 at five minutes after birth.

They also examined admissions to the neonatal intensive care unit, the need for ventilation, extra long hospital stays, hypothermia, low blood sugar and infection, all of which indicate newborn distress.

Newborns considered small at birth, meaning they were in the lowest 10 percent of birth weights for the whole group, tended to have the most problems in their first days, the team reports in *the American Journal of Obstetrics and Gynecology*.

But based on size alone, the researchers were only able to predict a baby's risk of hypothermia and needing to stay in the intensive care unit after birth, whereas considering size in combination with ethnicity predicted all of the potential problems.

Reuters

US family spending, income up in June

WASHINGTON, 3 Aug — US family incomes continued to rise in June and boosted their spending, a positive sign for economic recovery, US Commerce Department said on Friday.

US personal income rose 0.3 percent in June, after a 0.4 percent gain in May, said the department.

US personal consumption expenditures (PCE) rose 0.5 percent in June,

after an increase of 0.2 percent in May.

The US savings rate, personal saving as a percentage of disposable personal income, edged down to 4.4 percent in June from 4.6 percent in the previous month, but remained well above the 2.1 percent average savings rate for all of 2007 before the financial crisis.

Reuters

Iranians mark Al-Quds Day in support of Palestinians

TEHERAN, 3 Aug—Hundreds of thousands of Iranians rallied on Friday across the country to mark Al-Quds (Jerusalem) Day in solidarity with the Palestinians, condemning Israel's continued occupation of Palestinian lands. In Teheran, the participants chanted slogans and carried banners in the rally, underscoring the return of dislocated Palestinians to their homeland and holding of democratic referendum as the way to solve the Palestinian issue.

Iranian government officials and military commanders also participated in the rallies in Teheran. Al-Quds Day, an annual event that began in Iran in 1979, is observed on the last Friday of the Muslim holy month of Ramadan in the Islamic republic as well as in several Arab countries.

On Friday, Iran's president-elect Hassan Rouhani said that the Islamic world should unite to confront the "Zionist regime" of Israel, semi-official ISNA news agency reported.

Rouhani told reporters on the sidelines of a rally here marking Al-Quds Day that "International Quds Day is a day to demonstrate the unity of the Muslim world and resistance against oppression and aggression." He further described the occasion as "a reminder that Muslims will never forget their historic right to resist oppression and aggression."

Also, Iran's outgoing President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad said Friday the Palestinian issue cannot be solved through dialogue, referring to the resumption of peace talks between Israel and Palestinians in the past



Iranian President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad addresses a crowd gathered at Teheran University at the end of the annual Al-Quds (Jerusalem) Day rally in Teheran, Iran, on 2 Aug, 2013. Hundreds of thousands of Iranians rallied on Friday across the country to mark Al-Quds (Jerusalem) Day in solidarity with the Palestinians and condemnation of Israel's continued occupation of Palestinian lands.—XINHUA

days, Press TV reported. Earlier this week, Israeli and Palestinian negotiators restarted their direct talks in Washington after more than two years of suspension. The two sides have agreed to start final status talks within two weeks either in Israel or the Palestinian territories.

However, Ahmadinejad said it would be "naive"

to think that the issue of Palestine could be resolved through "talks and divvying up a territory," adding that Israel is a platform for the West to dominate the Middle East. He said the Western supporters of Israel are sowing discord in Syria and Egypt in line with their efforts to establish a new Middle East.—Reuters

US declares new push to defuse Egyptian crisis



Riot police take up positions as members of the Muslim Brotherhood and supporters of ousted Egyptian President Mohamed Mursi flee from tear gas and rubber bullets fired during clashes near a television production complex in Six October City in Giza, south of Cairo on 2 Aug, 2013.—REUTERS

CAIRO, 3 Aug — The United States said on Friday it would work with other nations to resolve Egypt's crisis peacefully, injecting new energy into a push to end a bloody standoff since the overthrow of Islamist President Mohamed Mursi. A day after saying the army had restored democracy by removing Mursi, US Secretary

of State John Kerry urged Egyptian authorities to give demonstrators the space to protest in peace — a warning against dispersing pro-Mursi sit-ins.

"We will work very, very hard together with others, in order to bring parties together to find a peaceful resolution that grows the democracy and respects the

rights of everybody," Kerry said before a meeting United Arab Emirates Foreign Minister Sheikh Abdullah bin Zayed in London. The meeting appeared to signal a new diplomatic effort to end the crisis in which more than 300 people have been killed. The army removed Mursi and his Muslim Brotherhood from power on 3 July in response to mass protests against his rule. With the European Union already mediating, the new push will rely on the United Arab Emirates to work with the army-backed interim government and Qatar, which supported the Mursi administration, to liaise with the Brotherhood.

Analysts say civilian

members of the interim cabinet are trying to promote a political solution despite resistance from security services that want to crack down on the Brotherhood, encouraged by an outpouring of public anger at the movement. Mohamed ElBaradei, vice president in the new administration, said he was lobbying for talks with the Brotherhood, while others advocated crushing it.

"People are very angry with me because I am saying, 'Let's take time, let's talk to them'. The mood right now is, 'Let's crush them, let's not talk to them'," he said. "I hope the Brotherhood understands that time is not on their side.—Reuters

China, US hold dialogue on human rights

BEIJING, 3 Aug—China and the United States on Wednesday held a dialogue on human rights issue in Kunming, capital city of southwest China's Yunnan Province, according to a Foreign Ministry Press release on Friday evening. The Chinese delegation is headed by a Foreign Ministry official and the US delegation is led by a State Department official.

The two sides conducted frank, in-depth, comprehensive and constructive discussions on the protection of human rights and national concerns, international cooperation in human rights, justice and

human rights, freedom of expression and privacy rights protection, according to the press release. The Chinese side introduced the country's achievements in democracy and the rule of law, improvement of people's livelihood, protection of minority rights, promotion of the coordinated development of civil and political rights and economic, social and cultural rights, it said. The US side fully affirmed China's progress in promoting economic and social development and poverty alleviation, the Press release said.

The Chinese side said that the dialogue on

US diplomat Burns visits Egypt to urge peaceful transition

CAIRO, 3 Aug—US Deputy Secretary of State William Burns arrived in Egypt's capital of Cairo on Friday evening to help facilitate a peaceful political transition, official news agency MENA reported. It is Burns' second visit to Egypt since the ouster of Islamist Egyptian president Mohamed Morsi. In a press release on Friday, US Department of State said that Secretary of State John Kerry asked his deputy Burns to visit Egypt again "to discuss with Egyptian leaders the importance of avoiding violence and helping to facilitate a peaceful and inclusive political process."

"The United States looks forward to seeing a peaceful transition to a democratically-elected civilian government that protects the rights of all Egyptians," the statement said. The statement noted that Burns will be joining officials from the European

Union and others in the region, "who share our goal for a successful transition in Egypt." On Friday, thousands of pro-Morsi protesters took to the streets, joining a rally dubbed "Egypt against Coup," in a defiant step against the interior ministry's call to evacuate squares and prioritize national interests.

Interior ministry spokesman Hani Abdel-Latif promised "safe exit" and "full protection" for Morsi's supporters who would respond to this call and leave the sit-ins. On the other hand, the US Embassy in Cairo has decided to close door and halt services on Sunday in light of Friday's protests. In a message, the US Embassy said it would take precautionary measures to preserve the life of US citizens in Egypt, adding that the embassy might remain closed for extra days based on its analysis of the situation.

Xinhua



A visitor tries a recurve bow during the 37th annual Hunters Extravaganza at Reliant Centre in Houston, the United States, on 2 Aug, 2013.

XINHUA

Britain to close embassy in Yemen on Sunday, Monday

LONDON, 3 Aug—Britain will close its embassy in Yemen on Sunday and Monday driven by "increased security concerns" as a precautionary measure, media reports quoted foreign officials as saying on Friday.

The Foreign Office said it has withdrawn a number of staff from Yemen and advised British nationals against all travel there as security situation was particularly concerned in the final days of Ramadan.—Xinhua

relationship between major powers, calling on the two sides to effectively deal with differences and conduct pragmatic cooperation. The dialogue should be guided by mutual respect, equality, mutual non-interference in internal affairs, according to the Chinese side. China's human rights situation is in the best period in history and China is a country ruled by law, the Chinese side stressed, urging the US side to respect China's judicial sovereignty and stop bothering China on some isolated cases.

The Chinese side raised

the issues of racial discrimination, lack of protection of indigenous rights, the use of torture against terrorism, poor prison conditions and other issues within the United States, according to the Press release. Besides the talks, the US delegation on Tuesday visited a minority village, a women's prison, a mosque and a temple in Yunnan, and visited on Thursday the United Front Work Department of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of China, the Supreme People's Court and the State Bureau of Religious Affairs in Beijing, said the Press release.

Xinhua

LOCAL NEWS

CONSTRUCTION

Upgraded school, new gravel road opened in Ngazun Township



MANDALAY, 3 Aug—The opening ceremony of upgraded Basic Education Middle School (Branch) from Basic Education Primary School in Sindat village in Ngazun Township in Myingyan District in Mandalay Region was organized in front of the school on 30 July.

Mandalay Region Chief Minister U Ye Myint delivered an address at the ceremony.

Region minister U Aung Zan, Region Hluttaw Representative U Kyaw Tin, Township Administrator U Tin Win and Village-tract Administrator U Tha Tin cut the ribbon to open the upgraded school.

The region chief minister

and party also attended the opening ceremony of upgraded Basic Education Middle School (Branch) from Basic Education Primary School in Sindat village in Ngazun Township in Myingyan District in Mandalay Region was organized in front of the school on 30 July.

The chief minister called for cooperation of the villagers for sustainability of the road, saying the region government vowed to make all-out efforts for development of rural areas.

Township Development Affairs Committee Executive Officer U Hla Oo elaborated

on construction of the road.

On behalf of the local people, Region Hluttaw Representative U Myat Thu spoke words of thanks. Officials presented commemorative gifts to the chief minister and ministers.

Region Development Affairs Minister U Aung Moun, Region Hluttaw Representative U Myat Thu and Township Administrator U Tin Win formally opened the new road.

They then posed for documentary photo.

MMAL-Tin Maung (Mandalay)

CRIME

Myanmar entrepreneur files lawsuit against 'Korean firm'

YANGON, 3 Aug—A Myanmar entrepreneur filed a lawsuit against a Korean firm for breaching a contract. U Aung Kyaw Oo of Botahtaung Township in Yangon Region signed the contract worth USD 155,800 with the company which he identified as 'MS Myoung Shin Industry' of South Korea on 17 January to buy a printing machine and spare parts after email correspondence.

He remitted USD 120,000 to Mr Yoon, chairman of the industry, through bank and the machine was agreed to deliver by the end of May.

As the company failed to deliver the printing machine, U Aung Kyaw Oo filed a lawsuit against Mr Yoon at Pazundaung Police Station.

MMAL-Soe Win (SP)

Teaching orientation course concludes

MEIKTILA, 3 Aug—The concluding ceremony of teaching skills orientation course No (9/12) of Meiktila Education College was held at Pinyinna Yadana Hall on 30 July.

District Deputy Commissioner U Tin Maung Soe and Principal

of Education College U Bo Myint delivered addresses and presented honorary certificates and awards to outstanding teachers and students. The diploma course was attended by 428 trainees from Shan State (North), Mandalay Region and Bago Region.—MMAL-435

NATURAL DISASTER

Preventive measures against erosion carried out in Mohnyin Tsp

MOHNYIN, 3 Aug—Village-tract administrator U Hmway of Pinlon village, members of village primary school Board of Trustees and townselders volunteered in the efforts to overturn the water course to prevent erosion of Pinlong village primary school in Mohnyin Township Kachin

State.

"Nearly 200 ft of the football grounds and 10 columns of the school fence were eroded at the southeast corner of the school. The water course is being overturned with back hoe of U Kyaw Soe Lwin," member of Pinlon village school Board of Trustees U

Maung Naing said.

"If we could not prevent it, our primary school of Pinlon village would be eroded. The cooperation for the villagers in the preventive measures against erosion," the village-tract administrator U Hmway said.—MMAL-Khin Maung Swe (Mawlu)

Over 5500 acres of farmland affected by inundation in Kyauktan Tsp

KYAUKTAN, 3 Aug—Due to heavy rain for several years and swelling river and creeks, farmlands in Kyauktan Township of Yangon Region are deluged with flood.

More than 5500 acres of farmlands from 22 village-tracts in Kyauktan Township in Yangon Region were flooded by heavy rainfall in late July and rising water level of Hmaw Wun and other creeks.

"More days under water, there would be somewhat losses. We have planned to re-do the farms if the water level in Hmaw Wun Creek dwindles," a local farmer of Kanpyhaung village said.

MMAL-Ko Yin Aw (Hmaw Wun)



ENVIRONMENTAL CONSERVATION

Tree planting ceremony held in Mandalay



MANDALAY, 3 Aug—Taw Win Myanmar Private School in Mahaaungmye Township in Mandalay organized a tree-planting ceremony in the school yard yesterday.

The ceremony was participated by officials and students of the private school. Perennial trees, shade trees and vegetable patches were planted at the ceremony.—MMAL-026

Concrete guarders installed on railway bridge



NAY PYI TAW, 3 Aug—Myanma Railways Division (5) replaced old sleepers with concrete ones on bridges on Yangon-Mandalay railway in Toungoo on 1 August for smoothness of train transportation.

It put concrete guarders into place at a bridge between Yeni and Myohla railway stations. The No. 339 bridge has the length of 20 feet.

Myanma Railways'

civil engineering staff carried out the tasks.

MMAL-Min Min Latt (Mandalay University)

NEW TRANSFORMER FOR VILLAGES: A new 5 MVA transformer is being installed in Taungtha Township for electrification of more villages. MMAL-LIN LET KYEI (TAUNGTHA)

PERSPECTIVES

Sunday, 4 August, 2013

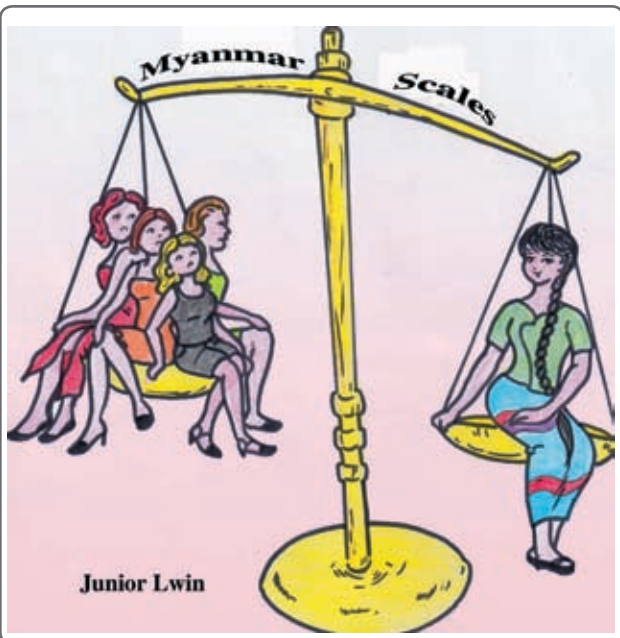
Strong commitment of efforts from all

Water level of major rivers and tributaries had risen above the danger levels due to incessant rains during the past few days in the country. Eastern part of the county reeled under flash flooding that left loss of lives and properties and disrupted traffic and livelihoods of the people in the flood-hit regions. As riverbank erosions escalated along the flooded rivers, mandatory evacuations were carried out at riverside villages, forcing local dwellers to move to safer places. Moreover, emergency measures were taken to move ethnic Kayins and Mons to relief camps at safe places.

The Department of Meteorology and Hydrology predicted that some regions and states would experience large amounts of rainfall in this year's monsoon. A meteorologist said that prolonged monsoon rains could leave some parts of the country in disruptive weather. The situation of encountering inundations each year during the monsoon period proves that Myanmar is listed as one of the countries with economic vulnerability to natural hazards. It is a shattering blow to an agro-based country with 70 per cent of farmer population.

Although disasters occurred across the globe are portrayed as acts of a natural order, they are key evidence of climate change which is widely attributed to some man-made factors like urbanization, excessive exploitation of natural resources, a lack of sense of looking after the environment and rivers while making great strides in pursuit of wealth. How to effectively and measurably reduce the increased vulnerability and continued exposure to disasters is a huge challenge for a country with the high aim of alleviating poverty in rural regions.

That's why, the government is committed to the processes of prevention, preparation, risk reduction and rehabilitation step-by-step with the formation of National Natural Disaster Preparedness Central Committee to overcome the challenge. But, all measures cannot be taken by the government alone. The four steps to counter the challenge require a strong commitment of efforts from regional authorities, local communities, donors and NGOs.



Junior Lwin

Greater transparency of revised contract, corporate ...

(from page 1)
While committee member Union Minister for Mines Dr Myint Aung reported on the matter to make public the fact included in the revised deal in a transparent manner, the committee chairman made a supplementary explanation.

Next, leaders of work committees, region ministers and responsible persons of Union of Myanmar Economic

Holdings Limited and Myanmar-Wenbao Co., Ltd reported on their respective matters.

In his conclusion remarks, the committee chairman stressed the need for a greater transparency of the revised contract and corporate social responsibility activities in the project area and collaborative efforts among officials concerned.—MNA

German's research, advanced education informed



Deputy Minister for Education Dr San Lwin delivers an address at Research and advanced education of Germany.

MNA

YANGON, 3 Aug— Research and advanced education of Germany was informed at the Arts Hall of Yangon University, here, today.

Rector of Yangon University Dr Tin Tun

extended greetings. Deputy Minister for Education Dr San Lwin and Deputy Minister for Science and Technology Dr Ba Shwe delivered addresses on the occasion.

MNA

Free clinic for children under five years opened in Yekyi

YEKYI, 3 Aug— Opening ceremony of free clinic for health development of children under five years under

the supervision of Yekyi Township Health Department, Pathein District, here, on 1 August.

The ceremony was

NAY PYI TAW, 3 Aug— Due to heavy rains from 28 to 30 July, creek water was swollen at Panpukwin and Uyingon village in Panpukwin Village-tract in Ngathaingyoung Sub-Township in Ayeyawady Region. About five feet deep inundation hit at low-lying areas of two villages, and the floods subsided there on 1 August.

Servicemen of local battalion and local people participated in clearing of debris and silt on the roads of villages.

A medical team from the Field Medical Battalion of Pathein provided health care services to 215 local people of the villages. Commander of South-West Command Brig-Gen Lu Aye and officials viewed health

care services for the people yesterday morning.

Myawady

POEM:

MAY THE GOLDEN DOVE MELODIOUSLY COO!

- * In the world...
Where people are residing,
May the moon be brightly shining.
- * In the world...
Where people are residing,
May food grains be abounding.
- * In the world...
Where people are residing,
May truth and compassion be prevailing.
- * In the world...
Where people are residing,
When grudge and anger ignite
People create horrible fights
People from all walks of life will be worrying
With anxieties and troubles in profusion
Due to the danger of wars raging
People will leave their homes and kins
Feel like fish out of water for nothing.
- * In the world...
Where people are residing,
When kindness and love are diminishing,
Cruelty and hostility are on the stocks
Nations and peoples will surely be lost
Entire world will be the Holocaust again
And Doomsday will be within range.
- * In the world...
Where people are residing,
When truth, love and goodwill are prevailing,
Purity and love without grudge and hostility
Make the global village enjoy amity;
Let amity be eternal
Let enmity be ephemeral
Longing for the benefits to come through
May the golden dove melodiously coo!!

attended by Head of Ayeyawady Foundation Yekyi Township Health Department Dr Thaung Dan Oo and staff, members of Yekyi Township MCWSC and township-level in-charges of Ayeyawady Foundation. The Ayeyawady Foundation provided one packet each of nourishment powder to 67 children. Then, staff of Township Health Department provided health care services to the children.—Kyemon-697

Sanitation carried out at flood-hit Villages



Servicemen from local battalion lending a helping hand in clearing debris.—MNA

LOCAL NEWS

BUSINESS

Thai, Myanmar entrepreneurs meet in Myeik



MYEIK, 3 Aug—A meeting between Thai entrepreneurs and businessmen from Myeik District was held at Mya Seesein Hotel in Myeik on 1 August afternoon.

Chairman of Thailand Trade Representative of Thailand Mr Olarn Chai-pawat extended greetings. Assistant Director U Aung Zaw Moe of Trade and Con-

sumer Affairs Department explained matters related to trade.

Vice-Chairman of Myeik District Chambers of Commerce and Industry U Tun Tun Win extended greetings.

Then, Thai and Myeik entrepreneurs introduced themselves and exchanged gifts.

Next, the entrepreneurs on both sides cordially discussed trading process.

After the meeting, the Thai entrepreneurs visited In-lay Myaing Industrial Zone, Cold Storage of Pyae Phy Tun Company, the dock, plywood factory, fish meal factory and soft crab lake in Myeik.—*Kyemon-Myeik District IPRD*

Knowledge about anti-human trafficking shared in PyinOoLwin

PYINOO LWIN, 3 Aug—PyinOoLwin Township Anti-Human Trafficking Section of Mandalay Region held the talks on prevention against trafficking in person to ward/village administrators and clerks, totalling 116 at the hall of Township General Administration Department on 31 July afternoon.

IP Kan Win of the squad explained the duty and functions of the community-based surveillance teams.

SIP Aung Min Oo explained that trafficking in person was the act of violating the human rights. He said that the United Nations Secretary-General condemned the human trafficking and urged the international community to cooperate in anti-human trafficking activities. Therefore, he continued that Myanmar



signed the regional projects to participate in combat human trafficking as a national duty. He added that the government is joining hands with the Myanmar Police Force, NGOs, INGOs, Women's Affairs Organization and Maternal and Child Welfare Association in preventing against trafficking in person with added momentum.

The squad also gave talks at department, basic education schools, private schools and factories and distributed pamphlets to those present and local people.

Kyemon-Nay Lin

Take preventive measures against DHF

AGRICULTURE

Compensation for crops given in Meiktila

MEIKTILA, 3 Aug—Myanma Oil and Gas Enterprise and PTTEP Oil Exploration Company held the ceremony to present compensation for crop plantations and dykes of farmers that are located on the area of oil exploration work in Hsuyittan and Ywadan villages of Zayatkon Village-tract of Meiktila Township, at Hsuyittan Village on 31 July afternoon.

Mandalay Region Hluttaw representative U Kyaw Aye, Chairman of Township Farmland Management Committee U Myo Hlaing, Secretary



U Thein Tun Zaw and members, and responsible persons of PTTEP Company explained the purpose of giving compensation for crops and presented K 1,031,923 to 30 farmers.

The oil exploration company has presented K

270 million for crop compensation to farmers for their plantations located on the oil exploration area in Yamethin, Kyaukpadaung, Natmauk, Taungdwingyi, Hsinbaungwe, Myothit and Aunglan townships.

Kyemon-579

Talks on agricultural development in Kyaukse

KYAUKSE, 3 Aug—With the aim of uplifting livelihoods of farmers, producing quality products and providing necessary assistance and technology to farmers, the talks on agricultural technology for development of agriculture sector was held at the hall of Kyaukse District Agriculture Department on 1 August.

Agricultural educative team No 1 leader Deputy Head of Mandalay Region Agriculture Department U Hla Myint, Staff Officer Daw Myint Myint Aye of Agricultural Education Branch (Head Office), Staff Officer Daw Aye Aye Mya of Crop Protection (Head Office), Assistant Director Daw Tin Tin Cho of Vegetables and Fruit Research and Development Centre, Staff Officer Daw Ni Ni San of Land Utilization and Staff



Officer Daw Soe Soe Yi of Seeds Branch gave talks on good agricultural patterns, systematic use of natural and chemical fertilizers, fertilizer law, systematic prevention against pests and systematic use of pesticides, pesticide law and rules, cultivation techniques of mango, water melon, musk melon and other crops, production process of quality seeds and preservation of

quality of seeds.

The Agriculture Department holds the agricultural educative talks yearly.

The talks in Kyaukse was attended by Head of Kyaukse District Agriculture Department U Yin Tun and 109 staff from the departments in Kyaukse, Singaing, TadaU and Myittha townships.

Kyemon-District IPRD

HRD

Basic Librarian Course conducted in Kyikha Sub-Township

KYIKHA, 3 Aug—Kyikha Sub-Township Information and Public Relations Department opened the basic librarian course No 1./2013 at the hall of Township General Administration Department in Chin State on 18 July.

The training course is aimed at ensuring durability and development of self-reliant village libraries and enabling the librarians to do their works systematically.

On the occasion, Sub-Township Administrator U Min Aung made a speech.

Head of Sub-Township IPRD U Ciin Za Kham explained the purpose of conducting the training course and process of the course.

The opening ceremony was attended by the chairman of the Village Library Committee and members, totalling 29.

Kyemon-Zo Hay Hsa (Chin Hill)

CRIME

Gamblers arrested in Kyaukme

KYAUKME, 3 Aug—A combined team comprising SIP Htin Kyaw Oo of Kyaukme District Special Crime Reduction Squad and Police Sgt Kyaw Soe Win and party, acting on tip off, searched the house of Tiin Tun in region 14 of Ward 8 in Kyaukme on 1 July morning.

They seized documents related to using illegal two-digit lottery, ledger books, one mobile phone and K 200,000.

Moreover, the squad

also raided the house of Kyaw Swa Tint, 21, in region 10 of Ward 3 in Kyaukme.

They also seized ledger books used in illegal two-digit lottery, K 92000 as gambling act and one mobile phones.

With regard to the cases, Kyaukme Myoma Police Station opened files of lawsuit against Tin Tun, 49, son of U Tin Maung and Kyaw Swa Tint, 21, son of U Khin Maung Tint under the Gambling Act.—*Kyemon-Maung Maung (563)*

Additional aid approved for Texas fertilizer plant blast

HOUSTON, 3 Aug — The US Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) approved additional funding on Friday to help rebuild a central Texas town where an April fertilizer plant explosion killed 15 people and leveled homes and schools.

FEMA initially denied Texas' application for major disaster funding, preventing the town from accessing widespread assistance money typically available to victims of tornadoes, hurricanes and other natural disasters, the website of the *Houston Chronicle* said.

FEMA reversed its decision and approved the additional funding. State Governor Rick Perry welcomed the move in a statement on Friday calling the reversal "great and welcome news for the people of West."

The White House said in a statement on Friday that President Barack Obama "declared a major disaster exists in the State of Texas and ordered Federal aid to supplement state and local recovery efforts in the area affected by an explosion during the period of 17-20 April, 2013."

Federal funding is available to "state and eligi-

ble local governments and certain private nonprofit organizations on a cost-sharing basis for emergency work and the repair or replacement of facilities damaged," the statement said. It was unclear how much the additional funding would be. Reports said FEMA has already provided millions of dollars in aid to West and its residents.

The blast, ignited by a fire at the plant on 17 April, killed 15 people and wounded over 200 others. It was one of the most tragic accidents in Texas in recent years.

Xinhua

Tents, garages, shops: Syria refugees hide in Lebanon shadows



TRIPOLI, (Lebanon), 3 Aug — Atop a mountain lined with olive and cypress trees overlooking the Lebanese city of Tripoli, a disused shopping centre houses nearly 1,000 refugees who have fled Syria's civil war. In the space of a few months the once-empty four-storey complex has become one of more than 360 informal settlements of refugees surging into Lebanon, a country overwhelmed by a sudden

influx from its larger neighbour's civil war.

"We have become like a small state," said Um Mohamed, who fled the Syrian city of Homs and became the first person to move into a vacant shop in the Tripoli mall, settling in the empty building with her three children in October. Since then, it has become a bustling indoor town. Empty shops have been fitted with plywood facades

and bedsheets for doors. Laundry hangs across the inner courtyard where men recline on foam cushions and dozens of children roam about. A young man cuts boys' hair while veiled women on the second storey sell carrots, lemons and watermelons.

"People are finding it increasingly hard to find adequate shelter, and even the shelter that they're finding and they're renting is not adequate, so people are really becoming desperate," UNHCR representative in Lebanon Ninette Kelley said. The number of Syrian refugees in the region has doubled in the last four months as a two-year-old conflict entered a particularly bloody phase, and the brunt of the exodus is now being born by tiny Lebanon, a fragile country that shares the sectarian divisions that



Venezuelan Foreign Minister Elias Jaua (front R) and his Colombian counterpart Maria Angela Holguin (front L) head a meeting of the high-level working commission between Colombia and Venezuela at the Yellow House in Caracas, capital of Venezuela, on 2 Aug, 2013. Venezuela and Colombia resumed their former rhythm of bilateral cooperation with a meeting held Friday to install a new bi-national commission to handle issues in energy cooperation, trade and security.—XINHUA

Fiji, Costa Rica establish diplomatic ties

tore its neighbour apart.

Unlike other countries in the region, Lebanon refuses to let Syrian refugees move into formal camps, a step which would allow them to put down roots and more easily receive systematic aid. Syrians are seeking shelter wherever they can find it: in garages, abandoned buildings, and makeshift tented settlements. According to UN refugee agency UNHCR, 666,000 refugees have registered or are waiting to register in Lebanon, compared with 513,000 in Jordan, 431,000 in Turkey and more than 100,000 each in Iraq and Egypt. Including those who are not claiming refugee status such as migrant laborers and their families, 1 million Syrians are now living among a population of just 4 million Lebanese.

Reuters

SUVA, 3 Aug — Fiji and Costa Rica have formalized diplomatic relations at a ceremony at the Fiji Mission to the United Nations in New York, the Fijian government announced on Saturday.

The Permanent Representative of Costa Rica to the UN, Ambassador Eduardo Ulibarri and his Fiji counterpart, Ambassador Peter Thomson, signed a joint communique establishing diplomatic relations between the two countries on Saturday.

According to Fiji's Ministry of Information, the communique expresses the desire of both countries to establish their diplomatic relations in accordance with the provisions of the Vienna Convention on Diplomatic Relations, guided by the principles and purposes of the United Nations Char-

ter and international law.

The communique calls for the promotion and strengthening of bonds of friendship and cooperation between Costa Rica and Fiji in political, economic, cultural, humanitarian and other fields.

Following the formalization ceremony, Ulibarri and Thomson held talks on areas of common interest between their two countries. Thomson reported on the progress of the Fiji Roadmap towards the achievement of sustainable democracy with parliamentary elections to be held in Fiji in 2014.

In concluding the meeting, the ambassadors assured each other of the mutual support of their missions in the furtherance of common causes in multilateral affairs.

Xinhua

Charity, teachers help pupils to be optimistic about future

BEIJING, 3 Aug — Liu Liping was busy trying to coax her student, "Little Monkey", to take his cold medicine. The 9-year-old had a fever from sleeping under an air conditioner and almost burst into tears when he was told he might have to sit out a class trip to a theme park. Liu has good reason to be cautious about the boy's health. Just like his 25 other classmates, "Little Monkey" is HIV-positive.

The students from Red Ribbon School in Linfen, Shanxi Province, were among 103 youngsters from around China who recently enjoyed a six-day tour of

Beijing's historic sites, parks and museums. China Red Ribbon Foundation, a charity that helps people with HIV/AIDS, organized the event to raise awareness against discrimination. Zhang Ying, chairman of the Fuyang AIDS Orphan Salvation Association, led more than 70 children from Anhui Province, and about half were HIV-positive.

Twelve-year-old Gao Jun, who appeared in the Oscar-winning documentary *The Blood of Yingzhou District*, was one of them. Life has improved since 2004 when the association began to help the boy, who

lost his parents to AIDS, Zhang said. He is also in a video released by the national health authorities on Dec 1 that calls for elimination of discrimination against HIV carriers.

"It's hard to tell how many people the public service advocacy and the documentary he took part in have influenced, but becoming famous hasn't changed his life much," said Zhang, adding that now the boy lives in a place provided by the association together with four other HIV-positive orphans. The association hired nurses to take care of them.—Xinhua



A plane sprays water in the area of Markopoulos, 50 kilometres from the center of Athens, on 2 Aug, 2013.

Authorities in eastern Attica prefecture were put on alert on Friday for first time this summer, as a wildfire which broke out in a forested zone near two seaside resorts in the afternoon was still raging after sunset. No injuries have been reported. However, the Fire Brigade has announced damages in a yet unidentified small number of houses and warehouses at a distance of some 30 km from Athens and locals expressed agony of a possible catastrophe if the blazes are not contained in coming hours.—XINHUA

REGIONAL

Hun Sen confident of forming new gov't despite opposition boycott



Prime Minister Hun Sen

PHNOM PENH, 3 Aug—Prime Minister Hun Sen said on Friday his Cambodian People's Party has sufficient support in parliament to form a new government even if the main opposition party, which contests the results of last Sunday's election, tries to block the process.

Speaking to villagers in Kandal Province, Hun Sen said that even if law-

makers of the opposition Cambodian National Rescue Party boycott the opening session of the National Assembly, "there will be no deadlock" as the CPP has an absolutely majority in the legislative body.

He said boycotting the session would only show that "they are against the king and the will of the people." "It means you abandon your parliamen-

tary seats and as a result your seats will be given to the CPP," he warned. According to the Constitution, a new National Assembly shall be convened no later than 60 days after the election and shall be chaired by the king.

The CPP has announced it won 68 seats in the 123-seat National Assembly, with the remaining 55 seats going to the CNRP, and its claim to victory is backed by the National Election Committee. Hun Sen said a new government can be formed by a simple majority with a vote in favor by 63 lawmakers. The CNRP, claiming it won 63 seats against 60 seats won by the CPP, has also warned that mass demonstrations will be organized if election irregularities are not investigated.

Kyodo News

Further relaxation of one-child policy still being mulled

BEIJING, 3 Aug—China is still deliberating whether to further relax the country's one-child policy by allowing a couple in which only one party is an only child to have two children, a spokesman for the country's health and family planning authority said on Friday. Mao Qun'an, spokesman for the National Health and Family Planning Commission, made the statement in response to media attention on China's population policies. The current policy requires that to have a second child, the father and the mother must be both only children.

Mao reaffirmed that China must adhere to the basic state policy of family planning for a long period of time. He explained that because the country's basic conditions still include a huge population, weak eco-



nomical foundations, sparse per capita resources and insufficient environmental capacity, the population will continue to put pressure on and strain the economy, society, resources and the environment.

However, Mao said that one of the recently restructured commission's major tasks lies in improving the family planning policy. It is organizing surveys and

studies on the correlations between the size, quality, structure and distribution of China's population. To improve population policies, Mao said, China must maintain the current low birth rate while also taking into consideration the public's needs, social and economic development, and changes in the population structure.

Xinhua

Malaysia finishes report on high-speed rail between Kuala Lumpur, Singapore

SINGAPORE, 3 Aug—Malaysia has finalized its full report on the proposed high speed rail link between Kuala Lumpur and Singapore, local TV Channel NewsAsia reported on Saturday. Mohd Nur Ismail Mohamed Kamal, CEO of the Malaysia Land Public Transport Commission, said the two sides will meet after the Aidil Fitri celebrations at the end of the month.

"The base line alignment and all that is done. But of course, minor changes can still happen. We are just starting the process of engagement and discussion with the Singapore side, with the joint ministerial committee meeting up after Hari Raya," he said. Speaking exclusively to Channel NewsAsia, Mr Nur Ismail said details of the project, including the modality and funding, will be made pub-

lic after discussions with Singapore officials.

With an estimated cost of 10 billion US dollars, the high-speed rail link is expected to be completed by 2020. It is set to cut travel time between both cities to 90 minutes and has attracted keen interest from various international companies, including those from China, Japan, France and Spain. Mr Nur Ismail said industries can expect competitive bidding once open tenders begin next year.

"There's enough room for everyone. The key thing is that both countries will benefit, the conglomerates benefit, the key development along the alignment. We're looking forward to the economic development side of it, the social aspect, the broader macroeconomic growth that will happen because of the link being there," he added.—Xinhua



A Chinese woman shows how to make tea during the Swedish Chinese Festival in Stockholm, on 2 Aug, 2013. The three-day event kicked off on Thursday.—XINHUA



A sick school children receives medical treatment at a hospital in Bihar, India, on 2 Aug, 2013. More than 50 children fell ill after drinking water at their school in Sitamarhi district of Bihar.

XINHUA

Tropical storm Jebi lands in S China

HAIKOU, 3 Aug—Strong tropical storm Jebi landed in south China's Hainan Province on Friday evening, bringing intense rain and strong gales that have grounded flights and halted maritime traffic. The ninth tropical storm to hit China this year, Jebi made landfall in Longlou Township, Wenchang City, at 7:30 pm, packing winds of up to 117 km per hour near its center, meteorological authorities said.

Affected by the storm, many parts of the island province reported heavy rain on Friday, including Haikou, capital of Hainan, where many city roads were badly waterlogged. In hard-hit Longlou Township, strong winds felled trees and knocked down billboards. Many roadside stores were closed and few pedestrians were seen on

the streets. "It was just like pouring water outside. The trees were shaking wildly, and motorbikes parked at the roadside were all blown down," said Huang Liangjin, a security guard at a restaurant in Longlou.

The storm has forced operations to cease on the island's high-speed railway, and shipping services on the Qiongzhou Strait, which connects Hainan and Guangdong provinces on the mainland, were also halted Thursday. More than 6,000 passengers were stranded in Sanya Phoenix International Airport in the tourist city of Sanya, with over 110 flights scheduled to take off or land at the airport canceled as of 4 pm. All of the island's 26,900 fishing vessels have returned to port out of safety concerns, marine officials said.—Xinhua

Armed militia kills six people in Syria's Homs

DAMASCUS, 3 Aug—Armed groups opened fire on six people in Syria's central province of Homs on Friday, killing all of them, pro-government Sama TV reported. The gunmen opened fire at unarmed civilians at the Talkalakh town near the borders with Lebanon, the report said, adding that the shooters stripped the victims of their IDs and belongings before gunning them down.

Two of the victims were killed immediately while the other four passed away in a hospital due to the wounds, according to the report. The central province of Homs has witnessed intense fighting between government troops and Western-backed rebels, as the Syrian administration resolves to route the rebels out of the central region. Homs also houses a

remarkable melange of sects and beliefs intractably overlapped in allies and lanes in the strategic province.

A day earlier, several rockets slammed a number of areas in the southern part of Homs, causing a huge explosion in one of the arms depots of the Syrian army and killing three people, according to the official account. The Syrian Observatory for Human Rights, however, placed the death toll of the rocket attack at 20. Experts said the army is working on securing southern and central areas in Syria before launching a large-scale offensive to recapture the northern province of Aleppo, which has largely spiraled out of the government's control into the hands of al-Qaida-linked groups, mainly the Nusra Front.—Xinhua



Army vehicles drive on the street in front of the al-Sabeen Square during a protest demanding salaries in Sanaa, Yemen, on 2 Aug, 2013. At least one soldier was killed and several others were injured when the Yemeni presidential forces fired at angry soldiers demanding salaries in the capital Sanaa on Friday, soldiers and witnesses said.—XINHUA

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MV KOTA RAJIN VOY NO (803)

Consignees of cargo carried on MV KOTA RAJIN VOY NO (803) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 4.8.2013 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of H.P.T where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

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MYANMA PORT AUTHORITY
AGENT FOR: M/S ADVANCE CONTAINER
LINES**

Phone No: 256908/378316/376797

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

MV SINAR BIMA VOY NO (164)

Consignees of cargo carried on MV SINAR BIMA VOY NO (164) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 4.8.2013 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of A.W.P.T where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

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

Phone No: 256908/378316/376797

China urges recall of tainted milk products from New Zealand

BEIJING, 3 Aug — China's top quality watchdog said late Friday that Chinese importers purchasing dairy products from New Zealand company Fonterra should immediately initiate recalls of potentially contaminated products, according to a press release on its website on Saturday.

Fonterra said on Friday that some whey protein produced in May 2012 was found with clostridium botulinum, which can cause botulism. China's General Administration of Quality Supervision, Inspection and Quarantine (AQSIQ) has demanded the New Zealand side to act immediately to prevent the tainted products from harming the health of Chinese consumers.

AQSIQ has told quality agencies nationwide to strengthen inspection over milk products from New Zealand. — Xinhua



Tourists react when they pose for photos at the Alexanderplatz Square in Berlin, Germany, on 2 Aug, 2013. People enjoyed themselves in the summer's heatwave as the temperature in Berlin soared to 35 degree Celsius on Friday.
XINHUA

Death toll from alcohol poisoning in Cuba rises to 11

HAVANA, 3 Aug — The death toll in Cuba from alcohol poisoning rose to 11 after another victim died here, health officials said on Friday.

A television report said the 11th victim died in San Miguel del Padron, a neighbourhood in eastern Havana, from ingesting methyl alcohol, also known as methanol.

Another four patients remain in serious condition, and two of them are receiving hemodialysis to draw the toxins from their bloodstream, said Efren Acosta, deputy director of Havana's Regional Healthcare Office.

Since the outbreak of alcohol poisoning symptoms on Monday, at least 60 people have been hospitalized, with five allowed to go home, and another 10 having recovered enough to leave hospital.

"Most of those hospitalized are in stable condition and under observation," Acosta said. The victims suffered from "nausea, headaches, vomiting, weakness and distorted vision," officials said.

According to preliminary investigations, all the victims were from the western neighborhood of Havana, La Lisa, where a resident brewed the bootleg liquor with methanol, a reactive agent used in labs and research centres as well as in industry to make anti-freeze.

The toxic chemical, which can lead to blindness and death, was stolen by two employees from a warehouse belonging to the Havana Food and Pharmaceutical Institute, according to local media reports.

Xinhua

Four missing after bridge collapse in Tibet

NYINGCHI, (Tibet), 3 Aug — Four people went missing after part of a bridge deck in Tibet collapsed on Friday night, local authorities said on Saturday. The accident occurred at about 11:27 pm on Friday on the Tongmai suspension bridge on the Sichuan-Tibet highway in Bomi county, disrupting traffic on the major road in the southwestern autonomous region, the county government officials said.

A truck with two local villagers aboard fell into the river and went missing. Meanwhile, another two hikers, a 24-year-old woman from Jiangsu Province and a 25-year-old man from Anhui Province, were also missing, the officials told Xinhua at the site. Traffic police at the two sides of the bridge have blocked the traffic and were directing and dispersing vehicles and personnel.

It would take at least one month before the traffic could be resumed, local transport authorities said, asking vehicles to choose other roads during the period. The bridge, 258 meters long and 31.5 meters high, only allowed one vehicle to pass at a time. The transport authorities also advised that drivers and passengers guard against frequent occurrence of natural disasters on the Sichuan-Tibet road in the raining season.

Xinhua

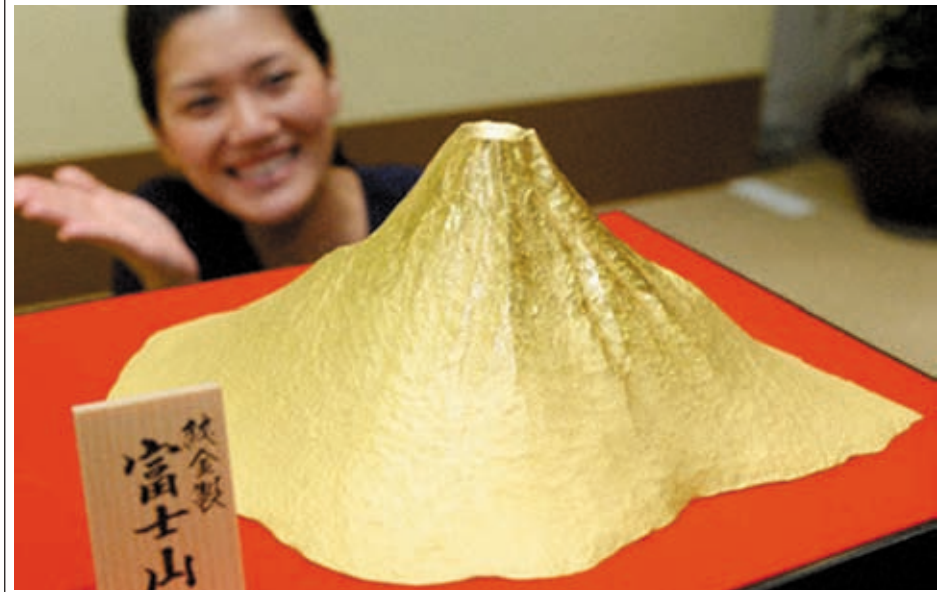


Photo taken on 2 Aug, 2013, shows a model of Mt Fuji unveiled in Nagoya, central Japan, by Tanaka Kikinzoku Jewelry K.K. It was made of 3,776 grams of solid gold, following Japan's highest mountain's height of 3,778 metres. — KYODO NEWS

ENTERTAINMENT



No Happy New Year with Shah Rukh Khan for Katrina Kaif

MUMBAI, 3 Aug—For those who have been waiting to see Shah Rukh Khan-Katrina Kaif re-unite for Happy New Year after Jab Tak Hai Jaan, there is bad news. The actress won't be able to do the film due to prior commitments.

There were reports that the two are coming together again in Farah Khan's directorial venture Happy New Year, but according to reliable sources, "it is not true".

As Katrina has signed two new films — Kabir Khan's directorial venture for producer Sajid Nadiad-

wala with Saif Ali Khan and Abhishek Kapoor's adaptation of Charles Dickens's "Great Expectations", she has no room this year for any other film.

Said a friend of Katrina: "She would have loved to do Farah's film, but we believe Farah initially wanted to sign a completely new girl for Happy New Year. She zeroed in on Katrina recently when Katrina had already said yes to other projects.

"Katrina and Farah are very fond of each other ever since they worked together in Tees Maar Khan. The film's

failure did not affect their mutual fondness. To be in Farah's next and that too with Shah Rukh with whom Katrina really hit off during Jab Tak Hai Jaan, would have been fabulous.

"However much Katrina would like to do Happy New Year, she cannot as she is committed to finishing Vijay Krishna Acharya's Dhoom 3 and Siddharth Anand's Bang Bang before going into Abhishek Kapoor's film with Sushant Singh Rajput and Kabir Khan's film with Saif."

PTI

Katrina was last seen opposite SRK in Yash Chopra's Jab Tak Hai Jaan.—PTI

George Clooney takes aim at Sony investor Loeb over spin-off plan

LOS ANGELES, 3 Aug—Actor-producer George Clooney criticized the growing influence of hedge fund head Daniel Loeb, a big Sony Corp shareholder who wants the conglomerate to spin off part of its entertainment division. Clooney said in an interview published Friday by film trade publication Deadline Hollywood that

Clooney co-founded production company Smokehouse Pictures, and signed a production agreement with Sony Pictures Entertainment in 2009. The studio will distribute Smokehouse's upcoming film "The Monuments Men," starring Matt Damon. Smokehouse was the company behind the 2012 Iran hostage thriller



US actor George Clooney reacts with the German Media Award 2012 after he was honoured during a ceremony in Baden Baden on 26 Feb, 2013.—REUTERS

Loeb, the billionaire head of Third Point LLC, was "a hedge fund guy who describes himself as an activist but who knows nothing about our business."

A spokesperson at Third Point, which has a 6.9 percent stake in Sony Corp, said the company had no comment. Clooney's publicist, Stan Rosenfield, said the actor had no comments to add to those in the interview about Loeb. The A-list actor's remarks came after Sony Corp CEO Kazuo Hirai said on Thursday that the company was carefully considering Loeb's proposal to spin off its entertainment assets, which include movies, television and music.

"Argo," which won Best Picture at the Oscars earlier this year. In the interview, Clooney accused Loeb of being "a carpetbagger, and one who is trying to spread a climate of fear that pushes studios to want to make only tent poles," referring to high-profile, big budget films.

Deadline said that Loeb had increased pressure on Sony to spin off its entertainment arm and criticized Sony Pictures Entertainment co-chief executives Amy Pascal and Michael Lynton for the poor box office performances of Sony's big-budget summer films "After Earth" and "White House Down."

Reuters

Jennifer Aniston: Justin Theroux has amazing parental instincts

LOS ANGELES, 3 Aug—Jennifer Aniston says she already feels married to fiance Justin Theroux. Aniston, 44, who will tie the knot with Theroux soon, said he has got amazing parental instincts, reported Radar online.

"... Justin, for instance, has extremely amazing paternal instincts. Because (growing up) he had to sort of become the parent. I think when you have to become the parent when you're a younger person, you learn those instincts," she said.

Aniston said she finally understood what all she needs in life.

"You actually deserve to have a family. And once you meet yourself, and



Jennifer Aniston and Justin Theroux will tie the knot with soon

truly love yourself, then I mean, the two of us have loving, open people," she said.—PTI

Sonam Kapoor auditions for Pirates Of The Caribbean 5



Sonam Kapoor reportedly had a video conference with the film's representatives.—PTI

NEW DELHI, 3 Aug—Sonam Kapoor may just be getting her inner savvy on

with Captain Jack Sparrow well. The makers of the Caribbean film if all goes

franchise are reportedly

looking for an Indian face and approached a celebrity management company who, in turn, reached out to Anil Kapoor. Reports suggest that the actor asked his daughter to audition for the role.

According to a report by The Times Of India, the audition was held in Mumbai and a source told the daily that Sonam had a video conference with representatives from Walt Disney and Jerry Bruckheimer.

It's early days yet but the eyepatch and cutlass not to mention the presence of a certain Mr Depp may do for Sonam what The Pink Panther 2 failed to do for Aishwarya Rai Bachchan.

The fifth installment of Pirates Of The Caribbean is slated to go on floors in 2015.—PTI

SPORTS



(L-R) Gold medalists Ryan Lochte, Conor Dwyer, Ricky Berens and Charles Gipson Houchin of the US pose with their medals at the men's 4x200m freestyle victory ceremony during the World Swimming Championships at the Sant Jordi arena in Barcelona on 2 Aug, 2013.—REUTERS

Frenetic Lochte inspires golden day for US

BARCELONA, 3 Aug —American Ryan Lochte produced one of the most inspired day's swimming in world championship history to claim his second and third golds of the week and set a personal best in qualifying for the 100 butterfly on Friday.

He has played second fiddle to compatriot Michael Phelps for the majority of his career but with the most decorated swimmer in history now in retirement, Lochte seized his moment to help make it another glittering day for the United States at the Palau Sant Jordi in Barcelona. Dig-

ging deep into his energy reserves and ignoring the pain on the day before his 29th birthday, he cruised to victory in the 200 meters backstroke, adding to Thursday's gold in the 200 individual medley.

An hour later he was back in the pool qualifying for Saturday's 100 butterfly final with the fastest time of his career and just over half an hour later he crowned a stunning day's work with a key contribution to the US victory in the 4x200 meters freestyle relay. He is the first swimmer to win two world championship golds in one day on three separate oc-

casions, taking his tally of world titles to 15 compared with 26 for Phelps. His triumph in the 200 backstroke was his third in a row and he is only the second man to win three straight titles in the event after compatriot and world record holder Aaron Peirsol.

Lochte is also the first swimmer to win five world championship golds in one relay. Friday's victory was the fifth in succession for the US in the 4x200 freestyle since 2005 and their eighth in 15 championships since the inaugural edition in Belgrade in 1973.

Reuters

Rodriguez homers in rehab game, vows to fight on

NEW YORK, 3 Aug— For a few moments on Friday, it was just like old times for Alex Rodriguez. He was standing at the plate, with a fastball coming toward him, and he swung his bat with all his might, smashing the ball 350 feet over the wall. As the crowd rose to their feet, he jogged around the bases for a two-run homer. Reality then set in.

He made an early exit from the game in the fifth inning to face the media and answer more questions

all season because of injury but hopes to be back playing with the Yankees later this week, and did provide some cause for optimism with his homer over left. "It's probably the best I've felt since we started this process," he told reporters. "I feel like I'm there. I'm ready to go." "A lot of people cheered when I hit that home run," Rodriguez, however, knows that his chances of rejoining the Yankees soon are likely to be determined more by what happens off the field rather than on it.



New York Yankees' Alex Rodriguez stands in the batting cage while working out at the teams minor league complex during a rehab assignment in Tampa, Florida on 31 July, 2013.—REUTERS

about his future, which remains uncertain with Major League Baseball set to announce their decisions in their investigation into alleged doping. Rodriguez began by talking about his performance in Friday's game. Major League Baseball's highest-paid player had been assigned to participate in two rehabilitation games, the second scheduled for Saturday, with the Trenton Thunder, a New Jersey-based affiliate of the New York Yankees.

He has been sidelined

The 38-year-old is among a handful of MLB players being investigated over their links to a Florida clinic accused of supplying performance enhancing drugs. All face the possibility of suspensions in accordance with the sport's rules on doping. Speculation about the length of the penalties and when they will be announced has dominated American sports media for the past week, even though the MLB has remained silent while the investigation continues.—Reuters

Firestone record not in Tiger's top 10

KRON, (Ohio), 3 Aug —Tiger Woods matched his lowest ever score on the PGA Tour with a sizzling nine-under-par 61 at the WGC-Bridgestone Invitational on Friday, but said he had produced several rounds of greater quality. "Top 10 rounds? I don't know about that," the American world number one told reporters after charging a staggering seven shots ahead of the elite field in the second round at Firestone Country Club.

"It's up there; how about that? Certainly it's up there, but I don't know about top 10." Woods, who equaled the course record at Firestone which he had

previously tied in the second round in 2000, cited his four rounds in the 2000 US Open at Pebble Beach and three more at the 1997 Masters, where he clinched his first major title.

"So we're at seven (better rounds) right there," the 14-times major champion beamed broadly. "I felt I was in total control of my game today. "Obviously things like that don't happen every day, and it's fun when it all comes together and I was able to take advantage of it, especially on a golf course like this.

"And the fact that I was able to shoot what I shot today, I'm very proud of that," added Woods, who carded



Tiger Woods

his fourth career round of 61 on the PGA Tour. For a while on a damp afternoon at Firestone where huge galleries watched his every

move, a magical 59 seemed to be on the cards as Woods got to nine under after 13 holes before running out of steam.—Reuters

Franklin takes second shot at record-matching 5th gold

BARCELONA, 3 Aug— American teenager Missy Franklin has another shot at a record-equaling fifth gold when she starts as the hot favorite in the 200 meters backstroke at the world championships on Saturday. The 18-year-old has two relay titles and golds in 200 freestyle and 100 backstroke already this week and if she manages a fifth triumph she would match a feat achieved only by American Tracy Caulkins and Australian Libby Trickett.

Franklin, who is also due to represent her nation in Sunday's 4x100 medley relay, suffered her first setback of the championships when she was fourth in Friday's 100 freestyle having won all four of her previ-

ous finals. "I really hope to medal in the 200 back and our team has a really good chance in the relay on Sun-

day," she said after the 100 freestyle. There are four other finals on Saturday. Franklin's compatriot Katie

Ledecky can win her fourth title of the week in the 800 meters freestyle after golds in the 4x200 freestyle relay and the 400 and 1,500 freestyle, when she smashed the world record.

If she wins as expected, Ledecky will be the second woman to claim the 400, 800 and 1,500 golds in the same championships after Hannah Stockbauer of Germany in 2003. Florent Manaudou of France looked in top form as fastest qualifier for the 50 freestyle, while Jeanette Ottesen Gray was quickest in the women's 50 butterfly semi-finals. Ryan Lochte can add his fourth gold this week with victory in the 100 butterfly, with South African Chad le Clos also strongly fancied.—Reuters



Missy Franklin of the US adjusts a clip in her nose before competing in the women's 200m backstroke semi-final during the World Swimming Championships at the Sant Jordi arena in Barcelona on 2 Aug, 2013.

REUTERS

GENERAL



Bulgarian model wins 23rd WMO Super Model Contest crown.— XINHUA

Boat sinks in southern Vietnam, nine missing

HANOI, 3 Aug — A boat carrying 30 passengers, including two American experts, sunk on Friday night on the Soai Rap River in Vietnam's southern Ho Chi Minh City, leaving nine people missing, local on-line VNExpress reported on Saturday.

The report quoted chairman of Can Gio District People's Committee, Huynh Cach Mang as saying the accident happened about 9 p.m. local time Friday night, when the boat was on its way from

Go Cong Dong of southern Tien Giang province to Vung Tau City. On board are two American experts and workers of the Vietnam petroleum steel-tube manufacturing share-holding company.

Due to strong wind, the boat capsized on the portion of Soai Rap River that crosses Long Hoa village in Can Gio district of Ho Chi Minh City. Shortly after the incident was reported, the Vietnam Maritime Rescue Center (MRC) started rescue op-

erations by sending a ship to find the victims. As of 1:45 am local time Saturday, 17 passengers were rescued, and three hours later four more were found safe. The sunken boat was also found and kept for later investigation.

Rescue forces are trying to find the remaining 9 missing passengers. Doctors from the Can Gio District Hospital said the 14 rescued passengers are receiving treatment in the First Aids Faculty.

Xinhua

Bolt on board for worlds hit by withdrawals

LONDON, 3 Aug — A year after athletics was at the heart of London 2012 the sport's biennial world championships is in danger of losing its luster after a series of doping and injury withdrawals have robbed the Moscow event of much of its stardust. True, Usain Bolt is still on board flying the flag and will ensure massive interest but after Tyson Gay and Asafa Powell were ruled out through doping violations and reigning 100m champion Yohan Blake pulled out injured, it seems only a repeat of his false start in Daegu two years ago can prevent the Jamaican taking the title.

Should Bolt fail again, the International Association of Athletics Federations (IAAF) faces the nightmare scenario of twice-banned

doper Justin Gatlin being crowned world champion to cap off an horrific summer doping deluge that has again dragged the sport into the gutter. Olympic 1,500 meters champion Asli Cakir Alptekin is one of dozens of Turkish athletes to fail recent tests while host nation Russia has more than 40 currently serving bans — as well as several more back in action having served their time for positives.

Olympic champion and world 800 record holder David Rudisha will be watching from home as he nurses a knee injury but, according to Kenya's former Olympic champion Kip Keino, several of the country's other leading athletes are also opting to sit out the championships to stay fresh for potentially



Jamaica's Usain Bolt reacts after winning the men's 4X100m relay event for the Racers Track Club at the London Diamond League 'Anniversary Games' athletics meeting in east London on 27 July, 2013. — REUTERS

more lucrative appearances in the Diamond League and city road races. Also missing will be Britain's Olympic heptathlon champion Jessica Ennis-Hill who has failed to recover from an Achilles tendon injury, with Russian world champion Tatyana Chernova also out injured.

All of which focuses the

MYANMAR TV

(4-8-2013, Sunday)

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|-----------------|---|-----------------|---|
| 6:00 am | 1. Paritta By venerable Min Gun Sayadaw | 12:35 pm | 19. Myanmar Movies |
| 6:15 am | 2. Physical Exercise | 3:00 pm | 20. News |
| 6:30 am | 3. Dance & Song of National Races | 3:15 pm | 21. Documentary |
| 6:40 am | 4. Documentary | 3:35 pm | 22. Teleplay (Health) |
| 7:00 am | 5. News/Weather Report | 4:00 pm | 23. News/Weather Report |
| 7:20 am | 6. Media Talk | 4:25 pm | 24. University Of Distance Education (TV Lectures) -Second Year (Chemistry) |
| 7:50 am | 7. Teleplay | 4:35 pm | 25. Dance of National Races |
| 8:00 am | 8. News/International News | 4:40 pm | 26. Performance With Song |
| 8:25 am | 9. Amazing World | 5:00 pm | 27. News/Weather Report |
| 9:00 am | 10. News/International News | 5:15 pm | 28. Sing A Song |
| 9:20 am | 11. Mono Classical Songs | 6:00 pm | 29. News/Weather Report |
| 9:35 am | 12. Documentary (ASEAN) | 6:20 pm | 30. Cartoon Series |
| 9:50 am | 13. TV Drama Series | 6:50 pm | 31. TV Drama Series |
| 10:00 am | 14. News | 7:00 pm | 32. News |
| 10:15 am | 15. TV Drama Series | 7:25 pm | 33. TV Drama Series |
| 11:00 am | 16. Gitadagale Phwintbaohn | 8:00 pm | 34. News/International News/Weather Report |
| 12:00 pm | 17. News/International News/Weather Report | 8:35 pm | 35. Media Talk |
| 12:25 pm | 18. Round Up of The Week's International News | 9:00 pm | 36. News |
| | | | 37. Tamyetmar Takwetsar |
| | | | 38. New Melody |

MYANMAR INTERNATIONAL

(4-8-13 09:30 am ~ 5-8-13 09:30 am) MST

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M5.1 quake jolts central Japan

TOKYO, 3 Aug—An earthquake with a preliminary magnitude of 5.1 hit the central Japan prefectures of Shizuoka and Aichi on Saturday morning, the Japan Meteorological Agency said.

No tsunami warning was issued following the 9:56 quake, which registered 4 on the Japanese seismic scale of 7 in the cities of Hamamatsu, Kosei in western Shizuoka, as well as in the cities of Toyohashi and Shinshiro in eastern Aichi.

No abnormalities have been observed at nuclear facilities at the Hamaoka nuclear power plant in Shizuoka Prefecture, according to its operator Chubu Electric Power Co.

The plant is one of several that have been shut down across the country at the request of the government over safety concerns following the Fukushima catastrophe. The focus of the quake was in waters off the coast of Hamamatsu at a depth of 40 kilometres.

Kyodo News

Drive Safely

Union Industry Minister looks round Kyaukse Industrial Zone



(36) Heavy Industry, No (2) Plastic factory, advanced Fire Brick factory, bicycle factory, sewing machine factory, shoes factory and No (9) textile factory at the briefing hall of No (33) Heavy Industry in Kyaukse Township of Mandalay Region yesterday. The officials reported matters on historical background of the factories, production and distribution to the Union minister.

The Union minister urged them to strike a balance between production and sales and ensure better service as well as quality and price as market economy is in full swing.

The Union minister called for timely production of the goods in demand at the market, minimizing loss and

Union Minister for Industry U Maung Myint at Textile factory in Kyaukse Industrial Zone in Kyaukse Township.—MNA

NAY PYI TAW, 3 Aug— U Maung Myint met the officials of No (33) Heavy Industry (Kyaukse), No

NAY PYI TAW, 3 Aug— Myawady-Kawkareik motor road was closed temporarily starting from 28 July as landslides, inundation and bridges damage occurred along the road due to incessant rains as of 26 July in Kayin State.

Thanks to efforts for clearing the wreckages and bridge maintenance works made by the State government, Tatmadawmen from local battalions and officials, the road was reopened yesterday. The passengers and commodities are being transported regularly and the Tatmadawmen are carrying out works for safety

Myawady-Kawkareik motor road reopens



passengers in the inundated sections of the road. Myawady

Tatmadawmen clearing fallen trees on Myawady-Kawkareik motor road.—MNA

Thai PM to introduce measures to resolve political conflict

BANGKOK, 3 Aug—Thai Prime Minister Yingluck Shinawatra announced on Friday she will introduce measures aimed at resolving political conflict and promoting reconciliation in Thailand, following the government's decision to impose the Internal Security Act in three districts of the capital Bangkok to control anti government protesters. In a speech broadcast on television, Yingluck said the political rift among Thais would affect the entire country, particularly social and economic development.

"It is regrettable that some groups want to cre-

ate a street movement. It is undemocratic because they use provocative ways, they even call for a coup," she said. The government on Wednesday decided to impose the Internal Security Act — a security law implemented in 2008 to control demonstrators — in Dusit, Pom Prap Sattru Phai and Phra Nakhon districts over 10 days from 1 August to tighten security around the parliament compound.

Several antigovernment groups are expected to demonstrate in front of parliament in the coming days to voice their opposition to an amnesty bill proposed by the ruling Pheu Thai Party,

which could also pardon government officials who were responsible for crackdowns on demonstrators. Yingluck voiced concern about the planned rallies, calling on all citizens to find an alternative solution. "I would like to propose a sustainable solution for our country by opening a forum to brainstorm ideas from social representatives...this mechanism could be called a task force," she said.

According to Yingluck, members of political parties, as well as academics and private sector representatives will be invited to participate in the forum. The Thai premier reiter-

ated that the government "sincerely wants to end conflicts and set future directions for the country, which would be a key instrument to move Thailand forward." To maintain order and security at the expected rallies, nearly 3,000 police will be deployed around parliament in addition to imposing the ISA.

"There are several groups planning to rally at the parliament, so we have to maintain order and prevent violence that could be committed by those who want to see political change", National Security Council chief Paradon Patanatabut said.

Kyodo News

Repayment period for agricultural loans to be deferred: Union A & I Minister

Minister

NAY PYI TAW, 3 Aug—Union Minister for Agriculture and Irrigation U Myint Hlaing met farmers from Natogyi Township and members of the agricultural supervisory committee from Myingyan, Taungtha and Ngazun Townships at

Dhammayone in Lonetaw village of Ywagyi village-tract in Natogyi Township, Mandalay Region yesterday. The Union Minister on losses and damages of crops in four townships of Mandalay Region. The State will provide farmers with crops free of charge and help them in polughing, he added.

Then, the Union minister looked round No (33) Heavy Industry that manufactures cement, No (36) Heavy Industry that produces glass, No (2) Plastic factory, Fire Brick Factory, sewing machine factory, No (9) garment factory and No (10) textile factory (Taungtha). He also called for seeking ways to make partnership cooperation with private, joint venture with private, short or long-term rent to private and privatization.

Then, the Union Minister looked into damaged sesame plantations between Lonetaw village and Thayagone village and coordinated in-time substitute-growing of sesame there.

MNA

MNA

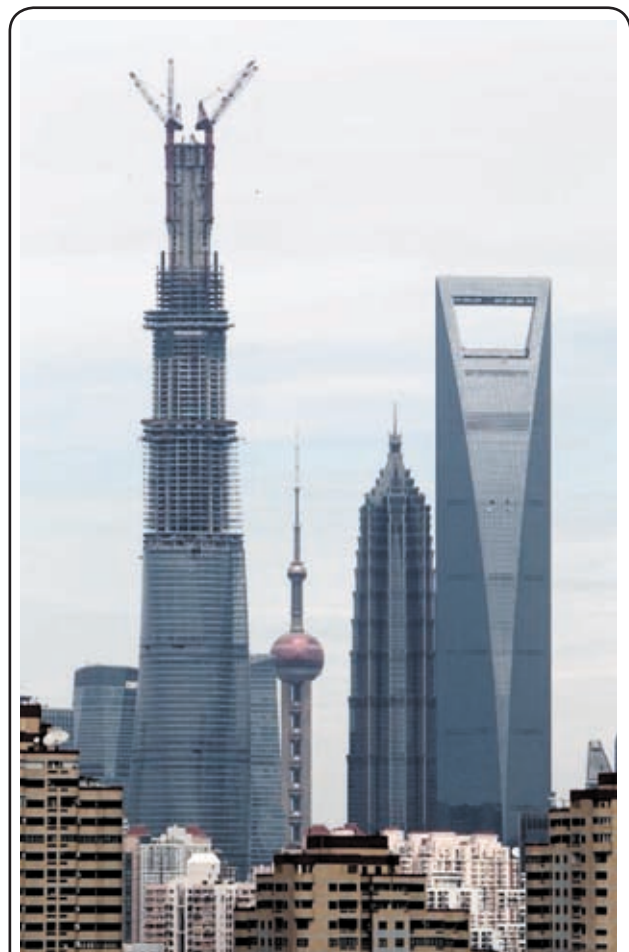


Photo taken on 3 Aug, 2013 shows the Shanghai Tower (L) under construction in Shanghai, east China. A topping-out ceremony was held Saturday for the Shanghai Tower, China's tallest building, which remains under construction until its scheduled completion in 2015. The 125-storey building, now 580 meters high, is scheduled to reach a final height of 632 meters upon completion in 2015.—XINHUA