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President U Thein Sein felicitates Ukrainian counterpart, PM

NAY PYI TAW, 24 Aug—U Thein Sein, President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar, has sent messages of felicitations to His Excellency Mr Viktor Yanukovich, President of Ukraine and His Excellency Mr Mykola Azarov, Prime Minister of Ukraine, on the occasion of the Independence Day of Ukraine which falls on 24 August 2013.

MNA

Myanmar salt yet to penetrate the foreign market

NAY PYI TAW, 23 Aug—With regard to the question asking whether there is a plan to allow pawn of lands for production of salt at banks and whether there is a plan to assist in technology, capital and market for salt farmers who face losses year by year raised by U Zaw Tun of Labutta Constituency at today's 25th session of the Pyithu Hluttaw.

Deputy Minister for Finance Dr Lin Aung replied that disbursement of loans over the dried salt industries to salt farmers is not in line with the loan regulations of Myanma Economic Bank and it may be much possibility to lose. There is no plan to disburse loans for dried salt industry.

Deputy Minister for Mines U Than Tun Aung answered that region and state offices of Myanmar Salt and Marine Chemical Enterprise is providing technological assistance to salt industries. In 2012, 3134 tons of salt were exported to Bangladesh under the arrangement of Rakhine State government. Ayeyawady Region government cooperates



25th day session of Pyithu Hluttaw in progress.—MNA

with Ministry of Commerce to export salt to the foreign market. As Myanmar is located between giant salt producers China and India, Myanmar salt is yet to penetrate the foreign market. Investments in caustic soda factory and pulp factories can contribute to stability of market.

Regarding the answer of the deputy ministers, MP U Zaw Tun said, "The replies did not comprise the system to pawn the registered farmlands. The Ministry of Finance should issue

new bylaws as assistance for the salt industry. Salt farmers need technology and capital. They did not reply whether there is a plan of the government for uplifting the life of salt farmers."

Member of Bill Committee Dr Soe Moe Aung read the bill terminating the office of Hluttaw representative submitted by the Union Election Commission and the Hluttaw decided to suspend discussion of the bill while the Constitution

is being scrutinized.

Defence Services Personnel Representatives Col Yan Naing Lin, Col Myint Ko Ko and Col Tint Hsan urged the Hluttaw to go on the discussion over the bill and U Maung Toe of Minhla Constituency and U Ba Shein of Kyaukpau Constituency highlighted process should be undertaken on the schedule of Bill Committee.

The 26th day session of Hluttaw will continue on 26 August.

MNA

Amyotha Hluttaw approves to discuss Media Bill

NAY PYI TAW, 23 Aug—The Printing and Publishing Enterprise Bill and the Bill on Promoting Farmers' Interests were discussed by MPs at today's Amyotha Hluttaw session.

Regarding the Printing and Publishing Enterprise Bill, MP Daw Khin Waing Kyi of Yangon Region Constituency No.1 said that she approved Bill Committee's report. It is found that the bill is mostly coincided with Myanmar Journalists Association's

announcements and Myanmar Press Council (Temporary)'s suggestions, she added.

MP U Khin Maung Yi of Ayeyawady Region Constituency No.6 said that the Bill Committee has suggested that the Ministry only should take the post of the registered officer alternatively and abolish the registration division.

MP U Hla Swe of Magway Region Constituency No.12 discussed that Section 28

should be added as the green light should not be given only to one group or one organization for book



U Phone Myint Aung from Yangon Region Constituency (3).—MNA



U Khin Maung Yi from Ayeyawady Region Constituency (6).—MNA publications and TV and radio broadcasting.

Hluttaw Speaker U Khin Aung Myint decided



U Hla Swe from Magway Region Constituency (12).—MNA

to continue discussing the Bill on Promoting Farmers' Interests by the Bill Committee. Hluttaw approved to discuss the Media Bill which was submitted by MP U Phone

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New media model to be considered for media world

Dr Thida Tin

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Gas engines arrive in Kyaukpau



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Myanmar, Japan eye sector-wise cooperation



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Myanmar, Thai entrepreneur meet to discuss trade promotion in Mawlamyine Township



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Daw Khin Waing Kyi from Yangon Region Constituency (1).—MNA

Myint Aung of Yangon Region Constituency No.3.

The meeting came to an end in the afternoon, and 26th Day session will continue on 26 August.

MNA

Charity

CT Group Myanmar donates USD 30000 to victims

NAY PYI TAW, 23 Aug— Vietnam-based CT Group Myanmar made a donation worth USD 30000 for victims at the Ministry of Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement, here,

yesterday morning. At the donation ceremony, Union Minister for Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement Dr Daw Myat Myat Ohn Khin said that the donations will go

to the victims. The donations were 600 easy beds, 600 bed sheets, 600 mosquito nets, 600 pillows and 600 blankets. MNA



Myanmar, Japan eye sector-wise cooperation



NAY PYI TAW, 23 Aug— Union Minister for Energy U Zeyar Aung held a talk with Japanese Minister of Economy, Trade and Industry Mr Toshimitsu MOTEGI and party at the ministry, here, yesterday

morning. They discussed sector-wise cooperation between Myanmar and Japan, energy sufficiency for economic development of Myanmar, technological and investment cooperation of Japan, opportunity to join

inland and offshore oil and gas exploration industries, future plan between the two countries to uplift infrastructures and assistance for cooperation between East Asia and ASEAN-Japan. MNA

Myanmar, ROK discuss knowledge sharing program

NAY PYI TAW, 23 Aug—The meeting on Additional Pilot Study of Knowledge Sharing Program between Myanmar and the Republic of Korea was held at the meeting hall of the Ministry of National Planning and Economic Development, here, yesterday morning.

assistance to Myanmar under the Knowledge Sharing Program (KSP) 2013 with the help of Ministry of Strategy and Finance from ROK and Korean Development Institute (KDI), research programmes, human resource development courses and signing of MoU for KSP cooperation between NPED and KDI. MNA



Photo shows inundation along Strand Road in Latha Township on 22 August due to heavy rain.—TIN TUN AUNG (MNA)

Anti-Narcotic Drives

100 kilos of amphetamine, 200 litres of incense liquid seized in Loidawkham checkpoint in Tachilek



TACHILEK, 23 Aug— Members of Tachilek Anti-Drug Squad searched Tiger Hilux driven by Kya Htaw (a) Aik Mein from Tachilek to Monghsat at Loidawkham chechpoint in Tachilek of Shan State at 5.45 pm on 20 August. They seized 50 kilos of amphetamine and incense liquid to be used in making stimulant tablets in 200 litres, 100 kilos of amphetamine from four paper boxes and 200 litres of incense worth K 2000 million in the rear of the

Hilux. Tachilek Myoma Police Station opened files of lawsuit against Kya Htaw (a) Aik Tun, 45, Wa/Buddha of Yaungkha Village in Monghsat Township under Section 15/19(a) of Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Law and Auk Mein, 33, of Wa/Christian of Haungkha Village of Monghsat Township under Section 15/19(a) of Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Law.—MNA

Teak doors seized in Shwebo

NAY PYI TAW, 23 Aug—A combined team comprising staff of Shwebo Township Forest Department of Sagaing Region and Myanmar Police Force searched Shwe Khit Thit express bus running from Katha to Mandalay near the toll gate in Myaunggyi Village of Shwebo Township

on 14 August. The team seized 189 doors made of teak weighing 2.0184 tons owned by driver U Thant Zin (Mandalay) and conductors U Maung Htwe (Mandalay) and U Saw Han (Mandalay). Action was taken against them under the law. Kyemon

Stimulant tablets seized in Kalay

NAY PYI TAW, 23 Aug— Over 100 stimulant tablets and heroin were seized in Kalay of Sagaing Region on 20 August. A combined team led by IP Toe Naing of Kalay Anti-Drug Squad seized 120

pink stimulant tablets and 0.1 gram of heroin from the house of Malar Yint Sharmee at No 13 region of Tahan Ward of Kalay at 10.20 am on 20 August. Kyemon-Mahn Htar Aw

Disaster

Tawateintha Ward in Manaung flooded



MYANAUNG, 23 Aug— Due to lack of outlet drain, Tawateintha Ward of Myanaung Township was inundated on 21 August. Yearly, the sluice gate is shutted due to overflow of Ayeyawady River. A residence said, “Last

two years, the river did not rise water level. In the heavy rains, the ward was flooded due to lack of outlet drain.” Only when the water level of Ayeyawady River declines, will the flood subside.—Kyemon-Nay Win Zaw (Myanaung)

WORLD

Mugabe takes oath as Zimbabwe president to brace for challenges ahead

HARARE, 23 Aug — Zimbabwe's veteran President Robert Mugabe was sworn into office on Thursday for another five-year term against the backdrop of Western rejection of his election victory. Mugabe, 89, was sworn in at a grand ceremony that was strikingly different from the hastily arranged and small ceremony of 2008.

No foreign heads of state attended his inauguration in 2008, but this year, several heads of state and government attended the ceremony, including Equatorial Guinea's Teodoro Obiang Nguema Mbasogo, Mauritius' Rajkeswur Purryag, Mozambique's Armando Guebuza, Tan-

zania's Jakaya Kikwete, Namibia's Hifikepunye Pohamba and the Democratic Republic of Congo's Joseph Kabila.

Mugabe's re-election in the 31 July vote has been widely endorsed by countries in Africa and beyond, while the West led by the US and Britain has refused to accept his victory, alleging the elections were flawed. Mugabe declared on Thursday a national holiday to allow Zimbabweans to celebrate and attend the inauguration ceremony.

This time, he decided to take the oath in style by abandoning the traditional State House venue for an elaborate event at the 60,000-seat national stadium

in Harare. The occasion was not only graced by some former African leaders, but foreign musicians as well who added flavour and glamour to the occasion.

Mugabe's inauguration this year came after 18 days of being announced winner, nine more days after the stipulated inauguration day.

The delay was due to a legal challenge by his main rival Morgan Tsvangirai, who alleged vote rigging by Mugabe and his party.

Tsvangirai boycotted Mugabe's swearing in ceremony on Thursday.

With a new mandate to govern, several challenges surround Mugabe's new five-year term that include advanced age and as-

sociated health problems, a poor performing economy and strained relations with the West. In a speech after the inauguration, Mugabe bemoaned that the Western sanctions will remain in place for much longer and thus will continue to curtail the full economic potential of the country.

He, however, said he would intensify mineral exploitation to propel economic growth and improve living standards of people.

He said he will continue with the indigenization and economic empowerment programme to redistribute wealth to local people.

Under the programme, foreign owned firms including mines and banks



Zimbabwean President Robert Mugabe (R) is sworn in for another five-year term of presidency by Chief Justice Godfrey Chidyausiku at the National Sports Stadium in Harare, on 22 Aug, 2013.—XINHUA

are required to cede 51 percent shareholding to locals. Mugabe said the country's natural resources must come under total ownership of locals. "Our natural resources have not yet fully come our way. The time has now come for us to extend our dominion to all these

resources," he said.

While Mugabe has outlined how he plans to revive the economy battered by liquidity challenges, low investment levels and high unemployment, some believe the veteran ruler will find the task difficult to overcome.—Xinhua

Two Koreas begin working-level talks on family reunions



Photo taken at the inter-Korean transit office in northern South Korea on 22 Aug, 2013, shows vehicles carrying representatives of South Korean companies heading for a joint industrial zone in the North's border town of Kaesong.

KYODO NEWS

SEOUL, 23 Aug — Friday at the truce village of Panmunjeom to work out details on resuming reun-

ions of families separated by the 1950-1953 Korean War, according to South Korea's Unification Ministry.

The talks between Red Cross officials from the two sides came after the North agreed to accept an offer made earlier this month by South Korean President Park Geun Hye.

In a speech delivered on Liberation Day, on 15 August, marking national independence from Japan's colonial rule, President Park made the proposal for the next round of family reunions to be held on the occasion of Chuseok, the Korean Thanksgiving Day which falls on 19 September this year.

Kyodo News

Israel says bombed Lebanon in retaliation for rocket attack

JERUSALEM, 23 Aug — Israel's air force bombed a militant target in Lebanon on Friday in retaliation for a cross-border rocket salvo on Thursday, a spokesman said. An Israeli military

source said the "terror site" bombed was near Na'ameh, between Beirut and Sidon, but did not immediately provide further details.

Four rockets fired on Thursday caused dam-



An Israeli soldier walks past a car damaged by a barrage of Lebanese rockets fired at Israel, in Kibbutz Gesher HaZiv, near the northern city of Nahariya on 22 August, 2013.—REUTERS

age but no casualties in northern Israel. They were claimed by an al-Qaeda-linked Sunni Muslim group rather than Hezbollah, the Iran-backed Shiite militia that holds sway in south Lebanon. "Israel will not tolerate terrorist aggression originating from Lebanese territory," military spokesman Lieutenant Colonel Peter Lerner said in a statement announcing Friday's air strike.

Israel and Lebanon are technically at war. Israel briefly invaded Lebanon during an inconclusive 2006 conflict with Hezbollah. The Israelis now are reluctant to open a new Lebanese front, however, given spiraling regional instability.—Reuters

US, Russian diplomats to meet next Wednesday to discuss Syria

WASHINGTON, 23 Aug — Senior US and Russian diplomats will meet in The Hague next Wednesday to discuss ending Syria's two-year civil war, the State Department said on Thursday, in what would be the first such meeting since reports of a deadly chemical attack outside the capital, Damascus. While the meeting was previously announced, a date was never released.

The delegations will include State Department Undersecretary for Political Affairs Wendy Sherman, US Ambassador to Syria Robert Ford, and Russian deputy foreign

ministers Gennady Gatilov and Mikhail Bogdanov, the State Department said.

Ford will meet with Syrian opposition leaders in Istanbul, on Sunday, State Department spokeswoman Jen Psaki said. The United States, which supports moderate Syrian rebel groups, and Russia, an ally of President Bashar al-Assad and a supplier of arms to Damascus, have been discussing holding a peace conference that would bring together the warring sides.

A senior State Department official said chemical weapons would also be discussed.—Reuters

Pakistani ruling party wins more seats in by-elections

ISLAMABAD, 23 Aug — Unofficial results of Pakistan's by-elections suggest that the ruling Pakistan Muslim League (PML-N) has won more parliamentary and provincial assembly seats, the election authorities said on Friday.

By-elections were held on 41 seats including 15 National Assembly seats and 26 Provincial Assemblies seats across the country on Thursday. Counting continued till early Friday in some constituencies and officials said the PML-N secured 18 of the 39 National and provincial assembly seats.

The main opposition Pakistan Peoples Party won three National Assembly seats while the Pakistan Tehrik-e-Insaf (PTI) or

Justice Movement suffered a setback as it lost its two National Assembly seats to rivals. Both seats were won by PTI chief Imran Khan in the 11 May elections but he later vacated both and had vacated another seat.

In Islamabad, PTI retained its National Assembly seat, defeating candidate of the ruling PML-N with a small margin of nearly 5,000 votes.

The secular Awami National Party, which had fared poorly in the general elections despite being in the ruling coalition for five years, won the National Assembly seat from the northwestern city of Peshawar.

The Islamic party Jamaat ulema-e-Islam also showed poor performance

in the northwest and southwest, as the counting showed it lost in all constituencies where counting has been completed.

The election commission ordered re-polling in two National Assembly constituencies in the north-

west on a directive of the high court after reports that women had been barred from voting.

The by-election results will not affect the government in the centre and four provinces because of sound position.—Xinhua



A Pakistani polling officer marks a voter's thumb before casting vote at a polling station in northwest Pakistan's Peshawar, on 22 Aug, 2013.—XINHUA

SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY

Italian astronaut recounts near-drowning during spacewalk

CAPE CANAVERAL, 23 Aug—As his helmet filled with water, blurring his vision and cutting off radio communications, Italian astronaut Luca Parmitano says his thoughts quickly turned to the possibility of drowning during a recent spacewalk outside the International Space Station.

Parmitano gave a blow-by-blow account of the terrifying incident, which occurred on 16 July, in a blog published this week.

"I can't even be sure that the next time I breathe I will fill my lungs with air and not liquid," Parmitano wrote on the European Space Agency's website.

"It's vital that I get inside as quickly as possible ... but how much time do I have? It's impossible to know," he wrote.

NASA, which oversaw the spacewalk, is investigating the cause of Parmitano's helmet malfunction. Pieces of the failed space-suit are due to be returned to Earth for analysis aboard an upcoming SpaceX Dragon cargo ship or Russian Soyuz capsule, NASA spokesman Josh Byerly said.

Parmitano was setting up an internet cable between the space station's Unity connecting node and the Russian Zarya module when he noticed liquid collecting inside his helmet.

"The unexpected sensation of water at the back of my neck surprises me — and I'm in a place where

I'd rather not be surprised," Parmitano wrote.

NASA says the water did not come from a drink bag in the space suit. Engineers are focusing on the suit's backpack, which holds a water storage tank for a liquid-cooled undergarment.

A week before the incident, Parmitano had become the first Italian astronaut to walk in space.

In a far more routine spacewalk on Thursday, two Russian cosmonauts floated outside the \$100 billion research complex, which flies about 250 miles above Earth, to do some maintenance work.

Flight engineers Fyodor Yurchikhin and Alexander Misurkin left the Russian Pirs airlock at 7:34 am EDT (1134 GMT) for their second spacewalk in less than a week.

Their main goal was to remove a laser communications system from outside the Zvezda module, the crew's main living compartment, and install a swiveling platform for a future telescope.

Yurchikhin and Misurkin removed the laser system, which had been used since 2011 for high-speed data transmissions from Russian science experiments to ground stations. But they ran into a problem as they prepared to install a base for a pair of cameras that comprise the new telescope.—Reuters

Golden Calls: Will China embrace a champagne iPhone?

BEIJING, 23 Aug—If Apple hopes to woo more Chinese by adding a glitzy coating — some call it champagne, some gold — to its next iPhone, it may be in for a surprise.

While gold is hugely popular as a safe haven and a status symbol — China is set to overtake India as the world's biggest gold consumer this year — shoppers at an Apple store in Beijing weren't all convinced it should be coupled with that pinnacle of mobile gadgetry.

Ni Suyang, a 49-year-old worker at a Beijing state-owned enterprise, said that color mattered less to her than the glass surface and silver metallic finish.

"A gold colour looks high-end but is a little tacky," she said.

Gold and mobile phones are not strangers. Britain's Gold & Co makes

gold-plated iPhones, iPads and BlackBerrys which it also sells in India and China.

In Shenzhen many small local brands make gold-plated feature phones and smartphones. The less well-heeled can adorn their devices with jewel-studded and gold phone covers.

Apple's decision to add a champagne or gold covered iPhone to its range — confirmed by supply chain sources in Taiwan — would be a departure from its black and white norm.

Apple could be not reached for comment.

Commercially it makes sense, said Jerry Zou, Senior VP and Partner at FleishmanHillard, a public relations firm in Beijing. New colours would add "novelty and variety, both of which are key to winning over fickle Chinese consumers".

A champagne colour "would convey an image suggesting high-end luxury and subtle".

But browsers at Apple's Xidan store weren't so sure — even on which gender would like it.

"Gold is for guys, I think," said 22-year-old Meng Xiang, a retail buyer

working in Guangzhou, who said she preferred pink and white. "I would consider buying a gold iPhone for my boyfriend."

Cui Baocheng, a 48-year-old bank manager, disagreed. "I prefer black to gold," he said. "Men usually like black. Champagne might be very ugly."

Reuters



A visitor tries out an iPhone at an Apple store in Beijing on 2 April, 2013.—REUTERS

View of the interior of the Tesla Model S at the North American International Auto Show in Detroit, Michigan on 15 Jan, 2013.
REUTERS



Detroit carmakers wrestle with Silicon Valley VC model

DETROIT, 23 Aug—Detroit automakers General Motors Co (GM.N) and Ford Motor Co (F.N), trying to shake off decades

of insularity, are looking to California's Silicon Valley and beyond for innovative ideas and technology that could disrupt and even transform the car business.

Yet neither company appears to know what such a transformation would look like, nor are they close to commercializing a new product or process that longtime Valley venture capitalists would consider game-changing.

While the two carmakers are looking at a similar range of advanced technologies, from Internet and

mobile connectivity and infotainment to self-driving cars, GM is spending heavily; Ford is not.

Following the practice refined in Silicon Valley, northern California's traditional hotbed of innovation, GM established a corporate venture capital group in 2010. Now it is providing critical early-stage funding to entrepreneurs and offering to be the first customer to startups in a wide variety of sectors, from advanced materials to alternate fuels.

Reuters

In Indonesia, buzzers are not heard, but tweet for money

JAKARTA, 23 Aug—In Indonesia's capital Jakarta, a buzzer is not an alarm or a bell, but someone with a Twitter account and more than 2,000 followers who is paid to tweet. Jakarta is the world's tweet capital and

advertisers eager to reach the under-30 crowd are paying popular Twitter users to spread their word through social media, starting at about \$21 per tweet. While celebrity endorsements via Twitter are common world-

wide, Indonesia is unusual because advertisers are paying the Average Joes too.

These Twitter "buzzers" send short messages promoting brands or products to their followers, usually during rush hour, 7 to 10 am and 4 to 8 pm, when Jakarta's notorious traffic jams create a captive audience with time to scan their mobile phones.

Jakarta has more Twitter users than any other city in the world, according to SemioCast, a social media market researcher, and Indonesia is home to the world's fourth-largest population, with half the people under 30. All ingredients for a social media marketer's dream.

Reuters



Men are silhouetted against a video screen with a Twitter logo as he poses with a Samsung S4 smartphone in this photo illustration taken in the central Bosnian town of Zenica, on 14 Aug, 2013.—REUTERS

Cellphone users can halt automated calls, court rules in Dell loss

NEW YORK, 23 Aug—Consumers have a right under a federal law to revoke their consent to being contacted on their cell phones by automated dialing systems, a US appeals court decided on Thursday in a defeat for computer maker Dell Inc.

Reversing a lower court ruling, the 3rd US Circuit Court of Appeals in Philadelphia ruled in favor of a Pennsylvania woman, Ashley Gager, who complained that Dell hounded her with more than 40 calls in less than three weeks to collect a delinquent debt after she had sent a letter asking it to stop.

Circuit Judge Jane

Roth said Congress intended the Telephone Consumer Protection Act of 1991 to protect consumers from unwanted automated calls, a conclusion supported by a 2012 Federal Communications Commission ruling in an unrelated case.

She rejected Dell's argument that because the law did not address whether consumers may revoke consent to be contacted by an autodialing system, such a right to revoke did not exist.

"We find that the TCPA provides consumers with the right to revoke their prior express consent to be contacted on cellular phones by autodialing systems," Roth wrote for a

unanimous three-judge panel. "Because the TCPA is a remedial statute, it should be construed to benefit consumers." Dell, which is based in Round Rock, Texas, and its law firm did not immediately respond to requests for comment.

Cary Flitter, a lawyer for Gager, did not immediately respond to a similar request. According to court papers, Gager had in 2007 filled in her cellphone number in place of her home number on an application for a Dell credit line, which the Honesdale, Pennsylvania resident used to buy thousands of dollars of computer equipment.

Reuters

BUSINESS & HEALTH

Brazil central bank launches \$60 billion currency intervention

SAO PAULO, 23 Aug—Brazil's central bank announced a currency-intervention program on Thursday that will provide \$60 billion worth of cash and insurance to the foreign-exchange market by year-end, a move aimed at bolstering the country's currency, the real, as it slips to near five-year lows against the dollar.

The bank said in a statement it will sell, on Mondays through Thursdays, \$500 million worth of currency swaps, derivative contracts designed to provide investors with insurance against a weaker real. On Fridays, it will offer \$1 billion on the spot market through repurchase agreements. Both are designed to prevent companies and individuals with dollar obligations from scrambling to the market at the same time, afraid that waiting will force them to pay more to buy dollars. When that



A banner with the new Brazilian real currency notes is seen during a presentation ceremony in Brasilia on 3 Feb, 2010.—REUTERS

happens, the real tends to weaken further and faster.

"This shows the firm determination of monetary authorities to keep the exchange rate from slipping further," said Andre Perfeito, chief economist with Gradual Investments in São Paulo.

The programme starts on Friday and runs until December, the central bank said, adding it may announce additional auctions if it sees

fit. The move comes as the government seeks ways to control inflation and keep the real from sliding while at the same time trying to kick-start an economy that has stagnated despite a rapid expansion of credit. While a weaker real can help Brazil's export of commodities and manufactured goods, it makes raw materials and other imports more expensive, helping drive inflation higher.—Reuters

Small cities pivotal to property's support for China's growth

BEIJING, 23 Aug—A property glut in some smaller cities raises questions over how far China's decade-long housing boom can last at a time when the fragile economy is more vulnerable than ever to a possible retreat in the red-hot property market.

A flurry of housing investment over the past several years, fuelled in part by herd-like speculative buying, resulted in some developers building more housing than could be sold once the market began to slow.

Now, the concern is that the market could be cooling too quickly, and risk stalling one of the few engines in the economy that are still firing.

While new home prices in Beijing rose 14.1 percent in July from a year earlier and Shanghai prices were up 13.7 percent, smaller cities are lagging the major centers. The National Bureau of Statistics

data showed average new home prices in China's top 70 cities up 7.5 percent on the year.

"Dozens and dozens of small cities — still home to the majority of China's urban population — have more housing than they need," wrote Rosealea Yao, a principal analyst at GaveKal Dragonomics, a Beijing consultancy, in a report.

"This excessive supply will put a serious drag on national construction growth for several years." House prices have fallen for nearly two years in Wenzhou, a prosperous eastern city that had suffered fevered speculation before stringent controls on the property market took hold. In July prices in Wenzhou were down by an annual 2.4 percent in July.—Reuters



A general view of newly built houses at Dadun village of Lingshui ethnic Li Autonomous County, Hainan province, in this 18 Jan, 2013 file photo.—REUTERS



A woman walks past a screen showing market indices in Tokyo on 22 Aug, 2013.—REUTERS

Japan firms standing pat on hiring, brace for tax hit

TOKYO, 23 Aug—Most Japanese companies will not increase hiring in 2014 and more than one in six will take additional cost-cutting steps as a planned sales tax hike next year worsens economic conditions, according to a Reuters poll that underscores skepticism about Prime Minister Shinzo Abe's policies.

The results of the Reuters Corporate Survey offer a sobering mid-term report card on "Abenomics" as the focus shifts from early kudos for fiscal and monetary stimulus to worries about deregulation and efforts to tackle Japan's enormous public debt.

Abe has promised a decision on whether to move ahead with the proposed sales tax hike after a series of government hearings set

to begin next week with economists and business leaders such as Toyota Motor Corp's (7203.T) President Akio Toyoda.

The success of Abe's policies will hinge on whether Japan Inc can be convinced to hire more workers, lift salaries and invest more in their operations to move the economy towards sustainable growth and the 2 percent inflation targeted by the central bank. But the Reuters survey conducted between 2 and 19 August shows more caution than optimism among businesses.

Two-thirds of the 271 senior executives who responded to questions on the sales tax said that the planned hike to 8 percent from 5 percent next April would be negative for business.—Reuters

Quit smoking programme helps psychiatric patients, too

NEW YORK, 23 Aug—Patients in psychiatric hospitals who take part in smoking cessation programmes during their stay are more likely to be smoke-free after 18 months, compared to patients who don't participate in the programmes, says a new study.

What's more, researchers found that quitting smoking appeared to be safe for the patients and was tied to a decreased risk of being admitted back into the hospital.

"That's a new finding and it needs to be replicat-

ed, but we're excited that it didn't cause any harm and may have supported their recovery," said Judith Prochaska, the study's lead author from the Stanford Prevention Research Centre in California.

Prochaska and her colleagues write in the *American Journal of Public Health* that it's estimated people with mental illnesses use two to four times more tobacco than the general population.

The lives of people with serious mental illnesses are about 25 years

shorter than the rest of the population, on average, and the main causes of early death are tobacco-related diseases.

Most US hospitals have been smoke-free since 1993, but at least half of hospital psychiatric units allow smoking and sell cigarettes, according to the researchers.

"It used to be that people with mental illnesses had a waiver," Dr Steven Schroeder, the Distinguished Professor of Health and Health Care at the University of California, San

Francisco (UCSF), told Reuters Health.

Schroeder, who was not involved with the new research, said some people believed psychiatric inpatients were not ready or didn't want to quit smoking and that giving up smoking might make their conditions worse.

For the new study, Prochaska and her colleagues recruited smokers between July 2006 and December 2008 from an inpatient psychiatry unit on the UCSF medical school campus.—Reuters

Paralyzed Nasdaq opted for caution over speed in restoring trade

NEW YORK, 23 Aug—Thirty minutes into the crippling outage that hobbled the Nasdaq stock market on Thursday afternoon, stopping all trading in \$5.9 trillion worth of US equities, exchange officials had the problem fixed.

It was another two-

and-a-half hours, however, before they were ready to flip the switch and turn the all-electronic market back on.

Most of the 191 minutes that the exchange was dark was spent in sometimes frantic conversation with scores of banks, bro-

kers, investment companies and rival exchanges who wanted Nasdaq's assurance that a restoration of trading would be orderly and would not lead to panic.

"We had to make sure all the exchanges were connected to us successfully and if the firms on the outside could get in," said one Nasdaq official who spoke on condition of anonymity.

Meanwhile, banks' trading desks were cautioning Nasdaq, operated by Nasdaq OMX Group

Inc, not to rush to reopen, fearing that a restart full of technical errors would only sap more confidence from rattled markets, according to three sources at brokerages and banks who declined to be identified.

In the end, the reopening of trading did go relatively well.

Transactions first restarted at 3 pm EDT (1900 GMT) in a single microcap stock, Atlantic American Corp, a test case picked for its front-of-the-alphabet ticker. Twenty-five minutes later, the rest of the market opened, and, according to a Nasdaq statement, "The trading day finished in normal course."

Reuters



An emergency vehicle drives past the Nasdaq MarketSite in New York's Times Square, on 22 Aug, 2013. REUTERS

Boehner seeks to calm Republican clamour over how to stop 'Obamacare'



House Speaker John Boehner holds a news conference at the US Capitol in Washington on 21 March, 2013.

REUTERS

WASHINGTON, 23 Aug — House of Representatives Speaker John Boehner, struggling to ease Republican divisions over how to fight "Obamacare," vowed on Thursday to try to erode the healthcare law, but stopped short of weighing in on a push to deny it

funding. Boehner and other Republicans agree on their distaste for President Barack Obama's signature healthcare overhaul, but the party has been roiled by a debate over whether to threaten a shutdown of the government to try to gut the measure.

As a faction of conservative Republican House lawmakers pushed the shut-down strategy, the speaker held a conference call with rank-and-file members where he discussed Obamacare and his plan for handling an autumn budget standoff. But according to people on the call, Boehner did not address the idea of refusing to include funds for Obamacare in a broad spending bill Congress must pass within the next weeks.

If fresh legislation to fund the government is not passed by 1 October, the government would shut down. Boehner sketched out a plan in which Republicans would pass a short-term measure to fund the government while insisting

on keeping in place steep cuts in spending known as the "sequester."

When Congress reconvenes on 9 September after its summer break, Boehner said, "Our intent is to move quickly on a short-term continuing resolution that keeps the government running and maintains current sequester spending levels."

Earlier on Thursday, about a third of the Republican caucus sent a letter to Boehner and Majority Leader Eric Cantor urging them to oppose any annual spending bills that include funding for Obamacare.

Congressional Republicans have sought repeatedly to repeal the law, saying it will hurt job creation and saddle businesses with extra costs.—Reuters

UN Security Council holds urgent meeting on Syria chemical weapons

NEW YORK, 23 Aug — The UN Security Council held an urgent meeting on Wednesday to discuss reports of a major chemical weapons attack in Syria, calling for more information on the situation.

"There is strong concern among Council members about the allegations (on the use of chemical weapons) and the general sense that there must be clarity on what happened and that the situation has to be followed carefully," Security Council President Maria Cristina Perceval told the press after the closed-door meeting.

As the rotating president of the council, Argentine Ambassador Perceval

also explained that all 15 members agreed that "any use of chemical weapons by any side under any circumstances is a violation of international law."

Earlier in the day, Secretary General Ban Ki Moon, through his spokesperson Eduardo Del Buey, said that he was "shocked" to learn of the alleged attack.

A major Syrian opposition group said earlier Wednesday that over 1,300 people were killed in fighting near Damascus involving the use of chemical weapons. The Syrian military denied the claim in a statement aired by state-run television.

Kyodo News

Colombian VP dismisses ICJ ruling on maritime dispute with Nicaragua

BOGOTA, 23 Aug — Colombian Vice President Angelino Garzon said on Thursday that the ruling by the International Court of Justice (ICJ) on its maritime dispute with Nicaragua is "inapplicable."

The November verdict, which demands that Colombia transfer to Nicaragua the control over some 75,000 square km of Caribbean waters, failed to resolve the territorial row, Garzon said at a public event here. "The decision by the court is inapplicable in our country. It cannot be applied now, neither in five years, nor in 10 years," he

said.

"And, to top it all off, instead of helping to resolve the border conflicts between Nicaragua and Colombia, it made them worse," added Garzon.

Meanwhile, he said, the ruling is also bound to complicate Nicaragua's border issues with other Central American neighbours, since it violates existing border treaties not just with Colombia, but also with other adjacent countries.

"It goes against the spirit of the United Nations," Garzon said.

Last week, two of Colombian former vice presi-

dents, Andres Pastrana and Ernesto Samper, recommended President Juan Manuel Santos to ignore the ruling.

Nicaragua took Colombia to court in 2001 over their maritime dispute, and the ICJ, based in The Hague, handed out its ruling in November. Yet the Colombian government has rejected the verdict.

In July, Santos told Colombians that they had nothing to worry about, because "we have carefully prepared to face any new lawsuit or action that Nicaragua may prepare in its expansionist spirit."—Xinhua



Photo taken on 22 Aug, 2013 shows the Zhanqiao Bridge being under repair in Qingdao City, east China's Shandong Province. A renovation work has been started to repair the Zhanqiao Bridge, a landmark for Qingdao, since part of the bridge was hit and destroyed by thunderstorms and waves on 27 May. The renovation work is expected to be finished by October this year.—XINHUA

Egypt's ex-president Mubarak leaves prison to Maadi military hospital

CAIRO, 23 Aug — A military helicopter, carrying Egypt's ex-president Hosni Mubarak, has arrived in Maadi Military Hospital in the capital Cairo from Tora prison on Thursday, state TV reported on Thursday. Earlier, the Egyptian prosecution ordered the prison to release Mubarak, because he was cleared for his corruption cases.

In light of the state of emergency, interim Prime Minister Hazem al-Beblawi, the deputy military ruler, ordered to place Mubarak under home arrest. According to official news agency MENA, Mubarak chose to spend his period of home arrest in Maadi hospital, which is located in Maadi district in Cairo.



The file photo taken on 13 April, 2013 shows the former Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak at the trial in Cairo, Egypt.—XINHUA

"Mubarak was transferred to the Maadi Military Hospital upon his personal request," MENA quoted general Moustafa Bazz, assistant to Interior Minister for the prisons department sector, as saying. Mubarak is banned

from travelling abroad as he still faces a retrial on charges of involvement in the killing of protesters during the 2011 unrest that eventually toppled him. The next hearing is slated for Saturday.

Xinhua

Brazil's top court upholds sentence against former party treasurer

BRASILIA, 23 Aug — Brazil's Supreme Court (STF) on Thursday flatly rejected an appeal by the lawyers of the former treasurer of the ruling Workers' Party (PT) Delubio Soares, who was convicted in a legislative bribes-for-votes scheme known as the "mensalao," or "monthly payout." Soares was sentenced to eight years and 11 months in prison for corruption.

The appeal presented by Soares' defence argued that the trial's final document, issued at the end of 2012, was contradictory and lacked evidence proving he was involved in paying congressmen to vote in favour of proposed bills.

Minister Joaquim Barbosa, the current president of the STF and rapporteur of last year's mensalao criminal proceedings, rejected the appeal, arguing that the trial clearly proved the former treasurer "was one of the authors of the payments made to the congressmen."

Barbosa's vote was backed by all the other members of the court, and minor details in the draft of the final sentencing document were considered too irrelevant to modify Soares' sentence.

The "Trial of the Century", as the case was known, revealed a massive vote-buying scheme designed to ensure the ap-

proval of projects proposed by the administration of former President Luiz Inacio Lula da Silva (2003-2010).

Out of a total of 38 people accused, 25 were found guilty of taking part in the scheme, including Lula's former cabinet chief Jose Dirceu who was sentenced to 10 years and 10 months in jail.

Former PT president Jose Genoino was sentenced to six years and 11 months, while other political leaders, bankers and businessmen were given varied sentences.

All of the 25 people sentenced appealed to have their terms and fines reduced.—Xinhua

LOCAL NEWS

Tatmadaw-owned buildings leased to local firms

YANGON, 23 Aug—Two buildings owned by the Tatmadaw would be leased to two local firms in long-term BOT deals to operate as hotel and shopping center, according to Myanmar Investment Commission.

These buildings include Yawmingyi Yeiktha and Military History Museum in Yangon. Yangon Technical Trading Group won the bid for the Military History Museum and Paramount Inlay

Resources, for Yawmingyi Yeiktha.

Local firm Shwetaung Company and Singapore-based Hyday (South Pacific) Investment Pte Ltd also operating on the land of the former defence office in Dagon Township in Yangon in a BOT deal.

The joint venture between the two firms is developing international-standards hotel and office rooms on the land.

MMAL-Ma Cho



Pagodas created with various kinds of flowers in Pujaniya in Toungoo.

Flower pagoda festival organized in Toungoo

TOUNGOO, 23 Aug—Yadana Gone Myint Monastery in No (2) ward in Toungoo organized a yearly ceremony to consecrate flower and snack pagodas and offered provisions on the Fullmoon Day of Wagaung.

The ritual was led by

Shwe Linyone Sayadaw and residents of Toungoo downtown wards build pagodas replicas with flowers.

It was thronged with devotees, pilgrims, members of social organizations and donors.

MMAL-Thura (Toungoo)

Stakes driven for staff quarters in "Wa" Self-Administered Division

HOPANG, 23 Aug—Staff quarters for civil servants in "Wa" Self-Administered Division will be built on 4.32 acres of land owned by Hopang Settlement and Housing Development Department under the Ministry of Construction.

The stake-driving ceremony was held in the chosen site on 19 August

morning.

It was attended by the Chairman of the Leading Body of "Wa" Self-Administered Division U Khun Tun Lu and district-level departmental officials.

The construction of three RC facilities will be completed in 2013-2014 fiscal year.

MMAL-Township IPRD

Security of tourists discussed in NyaungU workshop



NYAUNGU, 23 Aug—A workshop on security of local and foreign visitors was organized in Anawrahta Hall in NyaungU on 19 August morning.

Daw Win Win Kyi acted as MC at the workshop. It

was attended by District Deputy Commissioner U Tun Tun Win, Township Administrator U Phyo Zaw Nyein, Mandalay Region Hluttaw Representatives U Htay Lwin and U Than Htay, departmental

personnel, townsenders, hotel entrepreneurs, slow vehicles owners, Pagoda Boards of Trustees, administrators from 17 village-tracts in the archaeological area, the chairman of Township Union Solidarity and Development Party and the chairman of the Township National League for Democracy, the chairman of Township National Unity Party and journalists.

Matters related to hospitality, security and solar lamp posts were discussed at the meeting.

The meeting mainly focused on safety of local and foreign travelers in the area.—MMAL-Kyaw Htay

Arts

Film script course kicks off at MMPO



Chairman of MMPO Actor U Lu Min.

YANGON, 23 Aug—British Council, Yangon Film School and Myanmar Motion Picture Organization are jointly conducting a script writing course to nurture high-class Myanmar scriptwriters.

U Lu Min, chairman of MMPO, said, "The purpose

of opening the course is helping Myanmar artists cope internationally by learning techniques from technicians and artists as the country undergoes transition. The trend we are to make film here today is to make them in the ways as we each other understand."

He underscored the need to learn international techniques to reach wider audience.

The students were selected jointly selected by British Council, Yangon Film School and Myanmar Motion Picture Organization. A total of 16 students are receiving lectures in the training and similar courses will continue to be opened.

Lead lecturer of the training British filmmaker-cum-writer Rachel Matthews is providing lectures at the Office of Myanmar Motion Picture Organization in Bahan Township in Yangon on 19-31 August.—MMAL-Myat Sandi Thin Zaw

Shan State Chief Minister discusses development of Monghsat

NAY PYI TAW, 23 Aug—Chief Minister of Shan State U Sao Aung Myat on 18 August met departmental personnel, management committee members, township development committee members, social organizations, political parties and local people at Myoma Gymnasium in Monghsat, Shan State.

The Chief Minister explained supply of electricity, water supply, agriculture, job opportunity, promotion of tourism and development of monetary

and trade and investment. Shan State ministers and officials reported on respective sectors done.

The Chief Minister of the state inspected the site chosen for construction of Monghsat Basic Education

High School, the site for digging drain to ensure proper flow of water at downtown, Monghsat Airport, monsoon paddy plantations and township people's hospital.

MNA

Nutrition Week launched in Hsipaw

HSIPAW, 23 Aug—As part of efforts for realizing the nutrition week campaign, refreshments were fed to 200 students at Basic Education Primary School in Kyaungthit

Village of Kyaungthit Village-tract in Hsipaw Township, Kyaukse District, Shan State on 19 August afternoon.

It was reported that the Township Administrator

and wellwishers, departmental personnel will provide milk and breads to the children at the BEPSs in the township every Monday.

Kyemon-Township IPRD

More 10,000-acre farmland to be reclaimed in Chin State

TIDDIM, 23 Aug—More than 10,000 acres of farmland would be reclaimed in Chin State within 16 years up to 2030, Deputy Minister for Agriculture and Irrigation U Khin Zaw said.

The Ministry of Agriculture and Irrigation transferred the management

of the farms to the regional authorities.

The deputy minister made the above comment in his answer at the Pyithu Hluttaw. Pyithu Hluttaw Representative U Hla Tun asked the government which plans were being initiated to transform the slash-and-burn

farming to high-land farming at the Pyithu Hluttaw session on 1 August.

The slash-and-burn farming caused land degradation and thereby caused damages to socio-economic status. Pyithu Hluttaw Representative U Hla Tun of Khamti Constituency

requested the subsidies for farmers in his question.

Chin State is the least developed state in 14 regions and states in Myanmar. The people in the isolated state are living below poverty time with less access to health and education.

MMAL-Nay Su (Chin Yoma)

Agriculture



NEW LAMP POST INSTALLED: Township electrical engineers and staff of the Electrical Department replaced the old wooden lamp post with the new concrete lamp post in Zeyawaddy in Pyu Township in Toungoo District in Bago Region on 18 August.—MMAL

NATIONAL

Constitutional Assessment Joint Committee holds meeting

PERSPECTIVES

Saturday, 24 August, 2013

Flood, a reminder of climate change

“July, August, Rain and Flood”, goes a Myanmar saying. Swollen are rivers and creeks across Myanmar as monsoon is in full swing causing flash floods in Ayeyawady, Yangon, Bago and Taninthayi regions and Kayin, Mon and Rakhine states.

Monsoon can be the ideal time for a good book or a thriller for some urbanites but it means the busy time for 70 per cent of the population who lives on cultivation. To see green leaves is encouraging but never with the gloomy clouds hanging over the sky. Water is the lifeblood for farmers but when there is plenty of it at a particular time, it is the curse and not the blessing.

While overflowing rivers have inundated large areas of farmland in various parts of the country, some areas in arid zone were facing drought until August. Tug-of-war games were even organized in some places in the hope of seeing rain. The 2013 monsoon has brought in both flood and drought, crippling the livelihood of farmers.

In retrospect, Myanmar was often described as a temperate region, but things started to change a few years ago. The impact of climate change is now everywhere across the country with many places seeing different climate patterns from year to year.

But Myanmar alone is not facing the evil consequences of climate change. It has been a global problem affecting every nook and cranny of the world. Man-made activities like deforestation, greenhouse gas emissions, over-exploitation of natural resources take the large part in the cause of environmental catastrophes.

Some pessimists argue the world would soon come to an end because of worsening global climate change while some pessimists and futurists argue technological advancement would help the world overcome those challenges. Whatever it is, the Mother Earth is already showing the sings of frustration over her earthlings’ actions towards her.

Myanmar, Japan discuss electricity distribution

NAY PYI TAW, 23 Aug— Union Minister for Electric Power U Khin Maung Soe met with Japanese Minister of Economic, Trade and Industry Mr. Toshimitsu MOTEGI at the ministry, here, yesterday evening.

They discussed upgrading of power plants and sub-power stations in Yangon and drawing of Myanmar electricity master plan through JICA, construction of 500 megawatts gas power plant project ahead of 2015 by Sumitomo Corporation with the loans of Nippon Export and Investment Insurance (NEXI) and plan for construction of 50

megawatt gas power plant and sub-power station in Thilawa SEZ and 500 KV grid project.

The Union minister said that maintenance for Beluchaung (2) hydropower plant spending ODA of Japan was urgently needed.

The Union minister said that the ministry is scrutinizing the proposal on construction of 500 megawatt gas power plant in Hlinethaya Township by Sumitomo Corporation. The Union minister invited Japanese companies to make investment in hydropower projects as Myanmar is rich in water resources.

MNA

NAY PYI TAW, 23 Aug— The 1/2013 meeting of Constitutional Assessment Joint Committee was held at the hall of Hluttaw Office, here, this afternoon.

First, Chairman of Constitutional Assessment Joint Committee Deputy Speaker of Pyidaungsu Hluttaw U Nanda Kyaw Swa and Vice-Chairman Deputy Speaker of Amyotha Hluttaw U Mya Nyein made speeches.

Then, Committee Chairman U Nanda Kyaw Swa announced the names of the secretary and joint secretary of joint committee.

Committee Secretary U Aye Mauk read out the term of committee, responsibilities, authority, rules and regulations and



U Nanda Kyaw Swa delivers an address at 1/2013 meeting of Constitutional Assessment Joint Committee.—MNA

rights (draft). committee members and representatives, Hluttaw With regard to the draft, made a concluding remark. reps from States and the committee chairman It was also attended Regions and officials. sought approvals from the by the Pyidaungsu Hluttaw MNA

Union ministers, deputy ministers meet media



Union Minister at President Office U Soe Thane and Union Ministers meet media persons.—MNA

NAY PYI TAW, 23 Aug—A meeting between Union ministers and deputy ministers and media was held at the meeting hall of Ministry of Industry here this morning.

It was attended by Union Minister at President Office U Soe Thane, Union

Minister for Immigration and Population U Khin Yi, Deputy Ministers U Ye Htut, U Aye Myint Maung, U Thaug Tin, Dr Tin Shwe, U Kyaw Kyaw Win, U Win Myint, U Thein Aung, U Zin Yaw and Dr Maung Maung Thein, departmental heads, reporters from Myanmar

Foreign Correspondents’ Club, those from press and broadcast media. The Union Ministers, deputy ministers and departmental heads replied to the questions on Ministry of Cooperatives’ micro finance, farmland affairs, government’s prioritized

tasks that can directly benefit the people, telephone operator licences, investment, media bill, skyrocketing prices of real estate, establishment of stock exchange, extended distribution of power, peace-making process and development of hotel zones. MNA

Gas engines arrive in Kyaukpyu



Gas engines at Asia World Jetty in Yangon.

MNA

NAY PYI TAW, 23 Aug—As the Ministry of Electric Power is engaged in distributing of natural gas from Kyaukpyu District in Rakhine State for domestic consumption through Shwe Natural Gas Project for the first step in mid-September, 12 containers including three 1.1 megawatt gas engines and accessories arrived at Asia World jetty in Yangon on 20 August.

The Burge carrying 12 containers left Yangon for Kyaukpyu this morning.

MNA

NATIONAL

New media model to be considered for media world

Dr Thida Tin

In building a new democratic nation, political, economic and social landscapes are to be tuned into the existing system the country is implementing. Likewise, media theories in practice worldwide are to be learnt to sort out the one best suited to the country in changing the media sector, the Fourth State. Firstly, it is required to define the media theory.

Media theory is a model indicating the interaction between media and real social status. Observing the theories providing a big picture of the role of media in different societies and its view, how media is viewed, controlled and interacts with can be learnt. Those media theories are authoritarian theory, communist theory, development theory, social responsible theory and libertarian theory.

Authoritarian theory was the media model practised by England in 16th Century. It emerged along with the development of printing industry and the majority had to follow the instructions of the ruling elite. Disagreement and dissidence was assumed as threat. The press was restricted through license, censor and selective printing and criticism of the government was punishable.

In communist theory, the media model is public media, aimed to support Marxism and to spread propaganda, mobilize and educate through media channels to achieve the objectives of the State.

The development theory is applied in countries with limited resources and less economic development, aimed at media freedom that can create favourable conditions for the State. The government manages the media sector, focusing on requirements for political, economic and social development.

This theory is intended to support the incumbent governing political institution with media for national economic development. If the government fails to bring about healthy development of the State and national economy, the media is required to act in support of the government rather than criticizing it.

Under this theory, the government needs to make certain intervention in the media sector. Such intervention includes formation of government agencies, providing training to journalists and supervising in license issuance, controlling the development of media organizations, regular scrutiny of facts and figures published in media outlets, and giving regular guidelines to media for their daily functions. Though certain degree of freedom is granted to the media, journalists are not vested with editorial independence without the direction and close supervision of the government authorities. Critics have described the development theory as the modified version of authoritarian theory. Though the development theory was invented by the developed countries, the developing countries

from Third World face its consequences more than the developed countries.

The social responsible media theory was first mentioned in a 1947 report of the Commission on the Freedom of the Press, known as Hutchins Commission. At that time, totalitarian regimes were mushrooming across the world, posing a grave threat to freedom enshrined in first amendment. A team led by head of Chicago University Mr Robert Hutchins, after seeking a solution to address the threat through 4-year long brainstorming, compiled a report under the title of "A Free and Responsible Press" comprising five instructions for social responsible media, in 1947. Those five points are as follows:-

- (1) a truthful, comprehensive and intelligent account of the day's events in a context which gives them meaning;
- (2) a forum for the exchange of comment and criticism;
- (3) a representative picture of the constituent groups in the society;
- (4) presentation and clarification of the goals and values of the society; and
- (5) full access to the day's intelligence.

The commission's report suggested that the government should intervene if the press fails to meet the news quality.

In 1956, Mr Siebert, Mr Peterson and Mr Schramm systematically developed social responsibility press theory. The three developed a systematic media theory adding their own words like "supporting further to

the public policy adopted by the government for media" to the brainchild concept of Hutchins. The basic of the theory of those persons is it is the responsibility of the media to use its certain force to present appropriate news to readers. Moreover, it also requires a mechanism that makes sure media performs that task without failure. In social responsible media theory, people need to have access to adequate information to made decision and if the media fails to do so, a government organizations shall make it to do so. What is crucial in the definition of the social responsible media theory formulated by Hutchin Commission and Mr Siebert and his colleagues is the concept of public interests highlighting the important role of mass communication in shaping public opinions and shaping societal attitudes, the social and political developments including activities of civil society organizations and election campaigns and their results.

Three ways to serve the interests of the people include promotion of harmonious interaction in dissemination of information with no monopoly, creation of public domain that tolerates diversity, and giving precedence to stimulation of public debates over control of mass communications in public domain.

These three aims gave guidelines for prerequisites to formation of ethical media. These are prevention against monopoly over information, adopting pluralism over one-way information flow which is commonly practiced in authoritarian countries and enabling the audience make their own judgments over issues through objective presentation from various aspects.

The social responsible theory is the concept that gave priority to the interests of the society than the interests

of individuals. The media outlets are duty-bound to criticize the government and promote democracy.

Their duties include providing accurate news to the public and responding to needs, interests and attention of the society. They includes not only safeguarding interests of the majority such as the government control over media in the interests of the people, drafting journalistic rules and regulations and ensuring the media to be a ground of freedom of expression rather than a commercial product but also policy development and safeguarding the minority rights.

Libertarian Theory is the concept branched off from the concept that media freedom of individual is absolute. The theory is based on zero control over media, defiance against top-down thinking and the assumption that the people have rationality. Media is seen as profit-seeking business in this ideology.

The accessibility of information from various aspects by citizens is as important as the distribution of information to every nook and corner of the country.

I would like to compare the forms of media that apply social responsible theory and those that apply libertarian theory. Despite the fact that the media freedom is granted in both cases, the social responsible media take approval of the society into account in practicing this freedom in social responsible theory.

In case of libertarian theory, media are absolutely free with no consciousness of social responsibility. In libertarian theory, "freedom" means "freedom from something". In social responsible theory, "freedom" means "freedom for the people".

News stories are presented in a way which does not consider impacts on the people. As regards media ethics, there are only prosecutions under defamation or libel laws

against misleading information.

There is no monitoring by councils such as journalists' council or media council. In social responsible media theory, the media are governed laws of media ethics and monitored by independent media organizations.

In libertarian theory, the news presentation is simply to satisfy demands of capitalist and mainstream audience. In social responsible theory, the media are responsible to bring about the good of the society and the quality should be considered.

The libertarian theory has no responsibility for diversity of opinion. It only needs wider circulation. In social responsible theory, diverse opinions need to be covered.

In libertarian theory, the funding comes from shareholders or an owner. In social responsible theory, **the funding for the public service media included in media outlets comes from taxes such as television license tax, alcohol tax and others.**

As regards accountability and transparency, the social responsible media outlets need to inform the public of its activities and accounts and are responsible to establish a channel for public complaints. The media in libertarian theory has no such responsibilities.

All in all, Myanmar is in democratic transition. In this transition period, a new form of media that best serves the interests of the State and people must be formulated.

It is important to opt the most appropriate form of media after weighing up capacity, available human resources, financial resources, technology, knowledge, expertise and maturity of the people to find the most appropriate answer.

Trs: TKK+HKA

"In libertarian theory, the funding comes from shareholders or an owner. In social responsible theory, the funding for the public service media included in media outlets comes from taxes such as television license tax, alcohol tax and others."

Japan's Kamakura replica Buddha Image built on Shukhintha Hillock in Sagaing



SAGAING, 23 Aug—Construction of Japan's Kamakura Replica Buddha Image will be completed soon on ShwetaungUmwaw Hill in Sagaing.

The Buddha image will be 24 feet high on seven feet

high throne. It is being built by sculptor U Soe Aung (Ein Mon Sculpture Studio).

Now is to cleanse the face of the Buddha image, offer painting, install steel rails and place floor.

From ShwetaungUmwaw

Hill, the people can enjoy scenic beauties of Shwektetyet and Shwekyetkya pagodas, panoramic view of Ayeyawady River, Yadanabon and Inwa bridges, scenes of Sagaing, Khaminwe and Shinpin Nankai hills.

"The Buddha image needs wellwishers for more decorations. Wellwishers may donate K 250,000 per 10 square feet steel rail and K 50000 per tile to ShwetawUmwaw Sayada (Tel: 09-2131402)," said ShwetaungUmwaw Sayadw Bhaddanta U Pannananda.

ShwedawUmwaw Hill is a destination for pilgrims.

Kyemon-Nandan Min Lwin

Business

Myanmar, Thai entrepreneur meet to discuss trade promotion in Mawlamyine Township



Myanmar and Thai entrepreneurs seen at the discussion.

MAWLAMYINE, 23 Aug—A ceremony to hold market festival and meet Mon State entrepreneurs and Thai entrepreneurs of Tak Province in Thailand for trade promotion between the two countries was held at Strand Hotel on Strand Road in Mawlamyine on 20 August afternoon.

It was attended by Mon State Minister for Bamar National Race U Thet Win and state ministers, Tak Province Administrator Mr Suriya Prasatbuntitya and entrepreneurs from 50 Thai companies, Chairman of Mon State Chambers of Commerce and Industry U Hla Shein and merchants.

At the meeting, history of Mon State and businesses, history of Tak Province and businesses were presented with the use of power point.

Speaking on the occasion, the administrator

of Tak Province said that Myanmar and Thailand are neighbouring countries. While exchanging traditions and customs between the two countries, they are engaged in businesses and tourism industries for their development, he said. He expressed his belief that the trade promotion programme would contribute to sharing of experiences in respective trade promotion tasks in 2015.

On behalf of the Mon State government, Mon State Minister for Bamar National Race U Thet Win delivered an address.

After that, those present visited the market festival displayed by Thai entrepreneurs and bought medicines, textiles, construction materials, cosmetics, plastic works and personal goods.

Kyemon-694

Two students honoured in Hsipaw

Hsipaw, 23 Aug—Ma Yu Ya Aung of 10th standard student of No 1 Basic Education High School in Hsipaw of Shan State (North) lost gold necklace and locket worth K 350,000.

Two honest school girls hand over the lost to owner student.

A ceremony to honour the two outstanding student was held at the Mya Nyila Hall of the BEHS No 1 on



20 August morning.

Headmaster U Kyi Min gave words of honour on the occasion.

In the presence of the headmaster and teacher, two honest students Ma Nan Hsu Yin Kham and Nan Eint Yadana Phyoo of 10th standard handed over the gold ware to owner Ma Yu Ya Aung.

Kyemon-Sai (Hsipaw)

Agriculture

Agricultural machinery driving course kicks off in Thaton



THATON, 23 Aug—The basic agricultural machinery driving course No 1/2013 was opened at No 88 Agricultural Mechanization Station in Thaton of Mon State on 21 August.

At the opening ceremony, Township Administrator U Tun Tun Naing made a speech.

Head of Mon State

Agricultural Mechanization Department U Maung Maung Hsan explained the purpose of course. Head of Township Department U Rakai Htang explained matters related to the machinery and usage of the machinery.

"In last four year, local farms ploughed farmlands with the use of farming cattle.

Now, the farmlands were

substituted with agricultural machinery. So, the department organizes driving course for the agricultural machinery," farmer U Myint Thein of Naungbo Village.

Altogether 40 farmers from 10 village-tracts in Thaton Township are attending the two-week course.—Kyemon-Thet Oo (Thaton)

HRD

Raising high pass rate of matriculation discussed

Hsipaw, 23 Aug—A discussion on raising pass rate in matriculation examination for 2014 was held at the hall of Basic Education High School No 1 in Hsipaw of Shan State (North) on 21 August.

Headmaster U Kyi Min spoke on the occasion.

He explained teaching system for matriculation examination.

It was attended by teachers and 242 students who will sit for the matriculation examination.

Kyemon-Sai (Hsipaw)



Water purifier donated to Mawlu Station Hospital

MAWLU, 23 Aug—A 1000-litre-capacity water purifier was donated to the station hospital in Mawlu region of Indaw Township in Katha District of Sagaing Region on 21 August.

With a view to enabling patients, doctors and staff to gey sufficiency of purified

drinking water, U Maung Soe (a) U Than Gyoung-Daw Htay Htay family of Gwaygyi Village in Mawlu Village-tract donated a 1000-litre-capacity water purifier to the hospital. The facility is worth K 1.7 million.

Weneyathukha Water Supply Association of Yangon donated K 700,000 to the fund of the water purifier.

So, the total value for the water purifier amounted to K 2.4 million.

Kyemon-Khin Maung Swe (Mawlu)

Two honest students hand over gold chain and locket in the presence of headmaster and teacher.

REGIONAL

Bilateral sessions continue as ministers seek progress in TPP talks

BANDAR SERI BEGAWAN, 23 Aug—Ministers of the 12 countries involved in the Trans-Pacific Partnership free trade negotiations held bilateral sessions on Friday in Brunei as they sought to push forward talks on tariff cuts and other key fields.

Japan's minister for the TPP Akira Amari met with his Canadian counterpart Ed Fast on the second day of the 19th round of talks, the first full round Japan can participate in after joining the more than three-year-old negotiations in July, while countries aim to conclude a deal by the end of the year.

"We need to summarize the discussions, and today is going to be an important day in terms of that," Amari told reporters.

Amari met with ministers of Brunei, Malaysia and Mexico the day before and was scheduled to hold a series of more bilateral sessions with Vietnam, Singapore and New Zealand before an overall ministerial meeting and a joint press conference in the afternoon.

Fast said before the bilateral session, "The key is for all the parties to bring more flexibility to the negotiating table."

"We have an ambitious negotiation agenda...and I am confident that with everyone showing a little bit of good faith and flexibility

we will be able to move these negotiations forward in a very significant way," he said.

Kyodo News

Akira Amari, the Japanese minister in charge of Trans-Pacific Partnership free trade negotiations, speaks to reporters in Bandar Seri Begawan, Brunei, on 23 Aug, 2013, the second day of the 19th round of negotiations for creating a regional free trade pact by 12 Pacific Rim countries.

KYODO NEWS



Canadian Minister of International Trade Ed Fast (L) and Akira Amari, the Japanese minister in charge of Trans-Pacific Partnership free trade negotiations, shake hands in Bandar Seri Begawan, Brunei, on 23 Aug, 2013, the second day of the 19th round of negotiations for creating a regional free trade pact by 12 Pacific Rim countries.—KYODO NEWS



Nuclear regulators visit Fukushima plant over toxic water leak

TOKYO, 23 Aug—Officials of the Nuclear Regulation Authority visited the crippled Fukushima Daiichi nuclear power plant on Friday to check a storage tank from which 300 tons of highly radioactive water is believed to have leaked.

The tank may not be the only source of leaked polluted water, as plant operator Tokyo Electric Power Co said on Thursday that it measured high radiation levels around the bottom of two more tanks of the same type, a sign that water may have oozed out from the containers.

As TEPCO continues to struggle with its clean-up efforts at the stricken plant, a memorial service for Masao Yoshida, who headed the plant when the nuclear crisis erupted there in March 2011, was held in Tokyo the same day.

Yoshida died of esophageal cancer at a hospital on 9 July, after stepping down as plant chief in December 2011.

The memorial service was organized by TEPCO. President Naomi Hirose praised Yoshida for "devoting his full strength" to a kind of emergency that no one had ever experienced.

Naoto Kan, who was at that time Japan's Prime Minister, told reporters after attending the event that "It is because of Yoshida that the situation (at the plant) did not further deteriorate."

TEPCO said Yoshida's radiation dose after the accident was 70 millisieverts, less than the 100-millisievert limit for nuclear workers over a five-year period, and believe there was little causal relationship between his disease and his exposure to radiation.—Kyodo News

Vietnam's social security fund may fall short by 2021

HANOI, 23 Aug—Vietnam Social Security Fund (VSS) could start having deficits by 2021 and experience depletion by 2034 if no reforms are made, said a report by the International Labour Organization (ILO) launched here on Thursday. The report, titled "Actuarial Valuation of the public pension scheme of the Vietnam Social Security Fund", provides financial projection of the present public scheme of the fund and analyzes possible reforms that could

increase the fund's sustainability.

Gyorgy Sziraczki, ILO Vietnam Director said that social insurance reform is like driving a big boat: the captain cannot wait until the last moment. Rather, he should start turning even before seeing the obstacles in front. Unfortunately, the ILO report shows that the obstacle is dangerously close. Government, employers and workers need to work together urgently and find the right balance to ensure pen-

sions now and in the future, Sziraczki added.

According to the ILO, Vietnam should gradually increase the retirement age to 65 for both men and women to ensure the fund's sustainability, considering there is and will be a substantial increase in life expectancy and a smaller ratio of the working population to pensioners.

ILO also points out that the country should extend the coverage of the VSS pension scheme and support the development of supplementary

voluntary pension schemes. At present, only one fifth of the total workforce in Vietnam has social insurance.

Pham Minh Huan, Vice Minister of Labor, Invalids and Social Affairs, stressed that in the 2020-2050 period, the rate of aging for Vietnam's population would expect to be among the fastest in Asia. ILO projects are critical for the ministry to have the ground for future development plan of the social insurance and retirement



Tourists ride camels on the desert of Shapotou scenery spot in Zhongwei, northwest China's Ningxia Hui Autonomous Region, on 21 Aug, 2013. Despite the heat wave, many tourists were attracted to Zhongwei to view the unique desert scenery.—XINHUA

Japan to send defence officials to gather security info in Africa

TOKYO, 23 Aug—Japan's Defence Ministry plans to send resident officials tasked with gathering military information to seven African countries and Brazil from fiscal 2014, a government source said Friday. The dispatch of such defence attaches to obtain information about terrorism and other security issues comes after dozens of foreign nationals, including Japanese, were taken hostage and killed at a gas plant in Algeria in January.

The seven African countries are Algeria, Morocco, Nigeria, Djibouti, Ethiopia, Kenya and South Africa, coming on top of Egypt and Sudan where officials have already been sent, the source said. The ministry will include necessary expenses in its budget request for fiscal 2014.

Kyodo News

Nepal's parties in principle agree to hold all-party conference

KATHMANDU, 23 Aug—The High Level Political Committee (HLPC), a mechanism of political parties that back the government and CPN-Maoist have agreed to call a all-party conference to meet the demands of poll-opposing parties, leaders said on Thursday.

Holding a roundtable conference or all-party conference is one of major demands of CPN-Maoist-led 33-party alliance that has threatened to boycott the 19 Nov election. Such

agreement was made during the talks between two sides on Thursday.

The meeting of two parties also decided to make preparations for holding such conference within two days. "The political parties in the dissolved Constituent Assembly will participate in such roundtable conference," CPN-Maoist Chairman Mohan Baidya told media persons after the talks. Though HLPC agreed to meet the demands it is not sure whether CPN-Maoist

joins the election process. The party has already started its campaign to disrupt the election.

The HLPC is trying to convince CPN-Maoist-led alliance to join in the election process but latter is refusing to come in the table.

The CPN-Maoist is insisting that the contentious issues of new constitution should be settled from an all-party conference before going for second Constituent Assembly (CA) election.

Xinhua



Vehicles are stranded on the damaged Wuping Highway linking Wuxuan and Pingnan counties in south China's Guangxi Zhuang Autonomous Region, on 22 Aug, 2013. Landslides and road accidents has disrupted the traffic since on 17 Aug, leaving 68 vehicles and over 130 people still trapped now on the highway.—XINHUA

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UN chief congratulates Mali's Keita on election win

UNITED NATIONS, 23 Aug — UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon on Wednesday congratulated Ibrahim Boubacar Keita on his election as the Malian president and pledged to help the country promote peace. In a telephone conversation, Ban also welcomed the peaceful manner in which the elections were conducted, Ban's spokesman said in a readout issued to the Press here.

"The Secretary-General pledged the support of the United Nations to the government of Mali in its efforts to address the root causes of the crisis, including through dialogue and reconciliation," the spokesman said. Mali's Constitutional Court on Tuesday confirmed the victory of Keita, who garnered 77.62 percent of the vote during the presidential run-off. According to the spokesman, the UN chief also offered support for organizing legislative elections, and for implementing the 18 June preliminary agreement between the Malian government and the National Movement for the Liberation of Azawad, a Tuareg separatist group. Monitored by over 100 observers from the European Union, Mali's elections were seen as an important step to restore order in the turmoil-torn nation.—Xinhua

13 killed in Nigeria Boko Haram attacks

MAIDUGURI, (Nigeria), 23 Aug—At least 13 people were killed by suspected Boko Haram insurgents in separate attacks in Nigeria's northern state of Borno, security sources told *Xinhua* on Wednesday.

Boko Haram, whose member was apprehended at Gamboru/Ngala area of the state last week by the youth volunteers, stormed the town of Maiduguri on Wednesday morning.

A member of Gwoza Emirate Council, who accompanied the Emir of Gwoza to Maiduguri to inform the state governor, said two policemen were killed in an attack on Gwoza Police Station at about 8:00 am local time.

He said seven of the insurgents also died in the

clash with policemen assisted by men of the Joint Task Force, who repelled the attack.

A security source also said the attack at Gamboru/Ngala occurred at about 2:00 am on Wednesday.

Residents said the Boko Haram men attacked the town to avenge the arrest of one of their members by youth volunteers, civilian JTF from Maiduguri who came to launch the volunteer group at Gamboru-Ngala.

A resident said four people were killed when the insurgents opened fire into a house. Eight people sustained injuries from gunshots.

Gamboru/Ngala is a bustling community about 135 km east of Maiduguri,

capital of Borno State. The town is also known as Boko Haram's stronghold.

The attack came after recent reports of the killing of several Boko Haram leaders.

The Nigerian military announced on Monday that the commander-in-chief of the sect, Abubakar Shekau, might have died in a recent fight with security operatives in Borno State.

Boko Haram, based in northeastern Nigeria, seeks to enshrine the Islamic sharia law in the Constitution, declaring war against Western education. Amid increasing casualties including women and children, President Goodluck Jonathan tried but failed to reach a ceasefire with the sect in April.—Xinhua



Photo taken on 21 Aug, 2013 shows the dried-up rice fields at Laowu Village of Duchang County, east China's Jiangxi Province. Continuous hot, dry weather has led to a lingering drought in the province. XINHUA

FARC sets conditions for political participation in Colombia

HAVANA, 23 Aug — The Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia (FARC) guerrilla group on Wednesday proposed concrete measures to ensure its political participation in Colombia, local media reported.

The rebel group, now in peace talks with the Co-

lombian government in Havana, Cuba, said such "material conditions" can serve as "guarantees" of political participation.

Among the measures is the creation of "urban councils" composed of members of other local and community councils, with the "main purpose" of "cre-

ating and promoting methods of self-governance in each respective region," the report quoted FARC representative Victoria Sandino as saying.

Another measure is the creation of a "compensation fund" to address social inequalities such as poverty and hunger in areas with levels of poverty higher than the Colombian national average, Sandino said.

"The fund will be allocated to the towns, zones and marginalized neighbourhoods that have the highest levels of poverty and misery," said Sandino, adding that the fund could be used to finance "extraordinary measures," such as large-scale nutrition programmes, job creation and the regularization of lots and neighbourhoods.—Xinhua

More Nepali youths seeking employment in South Korea

KATHMANDU, 23 Aug — In a clear manifestation of the country's alarming unemployment condition, Korean Employment Permit System (knows as EPS) in Nepal has received a flood of applications from Nepali aspiring candidates for the Korean language test, government officials said on Thursday. To go for employment in South Korea, it is mandatory to pass the Korean language test. Until Wednesday, EPS office received 17, 000 applications and the authorities say the number will go up in the coming days and the number is expected to go high.

Spokesperson at the Ministry of Labour and Foreign Employment Buddi Bahadur Khadka said applications were collected from different five locations

in the country. He informed that the number of the applications is likely to go above 70,000 within the four-day deadline. But the authorities say they are planning to select only 8,000 people for the employment in South Korea. A prolonged political instability has triggered slow economic development resulting in low level of employment opportunities inside the country. More and more unemployed youths are vying to go abroad for the employment.

Last year around 3,800 individuals went South Korea for the employment. South Korea is considered as an affordable and lucrative destination for Nepal migrant workers, where one can earn around 1,000 US dollars monthly. After passing this exam, other

process of flying to South Korea will begin. Young people who spent several hours for the submission of applications for language test said there are not any employment opportunities in the country. "Due to the political instability, the industries are being collapsed and there are not any opportunities for the employment in the country," Raman Kharel, who spent three hours for the submission of application, told *Xinhua*.

Thousands of youth queue up at the different area to submit the application spending several hours.

Meanwhile, around 6,000 youths who passed the Korean language test have not been able to go to South Korea for the employment due to different reasons.—Xinhua



A farmer checks crops at a paddy field in Tancheng County of Linyi City, east China's Shandong Province, on 21 Aug, 2013.—XINHUA

ENTERTAINMENT



Actor and director Ben Affleck accepts the Guy of the Year award at the seventh annual Spike TV's "Guys Choice" awards in Culver City, California in this on 8 June, 2013, file photo.—REUTERS

Ben Affleck to play Batman in 'Man of Steel' sequel

LOS ANGELES, 23 Aug—Actor Ben Affleck will play Batman in an upcoming Superman sequel that will see the two caped crusaders face off against each other, film studio Warner Bros Pictures said on Thursday.

Affleck, 41, will take on the role of reclusive billionaire Bruce Wayne, Batman's alter-ego, in director Zack Snyder's 2015 sequel to this year's Superman reboot "Man of Steel," starring 30-year-old British actor Henry Cavill.

"We knew we needed an extraordinary actor to take on one of DC Comics' most enduringly popular super heroes, and Ben Affleck certainly fits that bill, and then some. His outstanding career is a testament to his talent and we know he and Zack will bring new dimension to the duality of this character,"

Huge responsibility to be actor, says Assante

SARAJEVO, 23 Aug — To be a actor means a lot of responsibilities, and you have to do a lot of study and homework, said Hollywood star Armand Assante on Thursday.

During an interview with Xinhua News Agency, Assante said one must love story-telling and theatre performance to be a real actor.

"If you are interesting in being an actor, you must spend much time in theatre, in live performance," he said, "You must work with the author. The main role for an actor is to tell a story."

"It is a moral obligation (for actors)..... If you do not love story or story-telling, there is no point (to become an actor)" Assante noted. For those young people with an aim to embark on a

Greg Silverman, president of creative development at Warner Bros Pictures said.

The announcement that two iconic comic book heroes will face off against each other was made by Snyder earlier this year at San Diego's annual Comic-Con, a convention celebrating comic-book and pop culture.

"It's beyond mythological to have Superman and our new Batman facing off, since they are the greatest super heroes in the world," Snyder said.

The director's "Man of Steel" has been a successful reboot of the Superman franchise this year, making \$650 million at the global box office. The yet-to-be titled sequel, slated for release on 17 July, 2015, will reunite "Man of Steel" stars Cavill, Amy Adams, Laurence Fishburne and Diane Lane.—Reuters

career as actors, they must work very hard, he added.

The Hollywood celebrity, which came to Sarajevo as a special guest for the ongoing 19th Sarajevo Film Festival, recalled he read "a library of books" about Napoleon Bonaparte before he played the legendary French strongman in the movie "Napoleon and Josephine: A Love Story".

Assante, who is known to play bad guys in movies, jokingly said it is one of "great downfalls" for him to play different roles in movies.

The Hollywood actor, who has Italian and Irish blood in him, said he always feels lucky to live in New York. "I live in a liberal environment. In New York, I was exposed to every culture in the world right in my neighbourhood."—Xinhua

Stalker found living in Jennifer Lopez' Hamptons estate

NEW YORK, 23 Aug— A stalker lived in the pool house of Jennifer Lopez's Southampton, New York, mansion for a week while the entertainer was away, according to authorities.

Lopez already had a protective order against the man, John Dubis, 49, a retired firefighter from Rhode Island, before he was found by workers at her home at the beginning of the month, Southampton police said in

a statement.

Dubis was arrested and charged with burglary, stalking, criminal contempt and possession of burglary tools, according to police.

His next appearance in Southampton Justice Court is scheduled for 28 August, according to the chief court clerk, DeBorah Renee Brathwaite. In the meantime he is being held in the Suffolk County Jail on \$100,000 bail.



Singer and actress Jennifer Lopez blows a kiss at photographers as she poses on her star after it was unveiled on the Walk of Fame in Hollywood, California on 20 June, 2013 file photo.—REUTERS

China's movie market booms with local content, cinema expansion

HONG KONG, 23 Aug— In "American Dreams in China", Cheng Dongqing is giving a lecture in an abandoned factory in Beijing. Snow falls through the damaged roof and a power cut sends students reaching for their flashlights.

The movie, about how young Chinese in the 1990s tried every means to learn English so they could study overseas, is part of a boom in domestic productions that is outpacing foreign films at the box office in China — the world's second-largest market after the United States and Canada.

Revenues remain far smaller than in North America, but China looks set for another record year as screens are added rapidly, cinemas expand into more cities and themes switch from martial arts to depictions of ordinary people.

"The past half year has seen the Chinese audience identify with and feel proud of their own lives," Peter Chan, the director of "American Dreams in China", said in a recent newspaper interview. "They want to watch their own lives in the cinema, watch

realistic themes."

Based on real stories from Yu Minhong, founder of New York-listed New Oriental Education & Technology Group Inc, and his partners, "American Dreams in China" raked in more than 100 million yuan (\$16 million) in its first three days.

The fifth-highest-grossing film in China this year, it has helped total box office sales reach nearly 11 billion yuan (\$1.8 billion) in the first six months, according to the government agency that tracks all forms of media.

"This is a big boost to the market and it set the tone for the year-round rev-

"The court ordered an exam to determine if Dubis is fit to proceed in reference to the criminal charges," police said in the statement.

Dubis entered a not guilty plea after his arrest, police said.

Information on why Lopez has an order of protection against Dubis was not available.

Her publicist could not be reached for comment.

Lopez reportedly bought the eight-bedroom mansion in the Southampton hamlet of Water Mill in May. According to a listing from the real estate agency Corcoran, it sits on 3 acres, has about 8,500 square feet with 7.5 bathrooms, a pool and guest house, a media room and sauna. It was listed for \$9.995 million.

Known as the Hamptons, the villages and hamlets around Southampton and East Hampton on New York's Long Island have some of the most expensive residential real estate in the United States.—Reuters

Filmmaker Edgar Wright wraps apocalyptic trilogy at 'World's End'

LOS ANGELES, 23 Aug—After tackling zombies and killer cops, film director Edgar Wright melds British small town pub culture with a large scale alien invasion, an offbeat pairing that yielded "The World's End."

"The World's End," out in US theaters on Friday, bookends a flurry of summer films dealing with global catastrophes, from Brad Pitt's zombie-fest in "World War Z," giant aliens versus giant robots in "Pacific Rim" or Seth Rogen and celebrity friends fighting the Biblical rapture in "This Is The End."

Wright's film follows washed-up alcoholic Gary King, who reunites with his high school friends in his hometown to complete what they were not able to as teenagers: the ultimate



Writer, director and producer Edgar Wright arrives at the premiere of his movie "Scott Pilgrim vs. the World" at the Grauman's Chinese theatre in Hollywood, California, on 27 July, 2010 file photo.—REUTERS

pub crawl, drinking at 12 pubs in one night.

Played by Simon Pegg, Gary is a flawed hero who is stuck reminiscing about his teenage glory days. He is faced with acknowledging his own arrested development and alcoholism as he and his friends discover an alien invasion and must overcome obstacles to complete their quest at The World's End pub.

"We have a lot of compassion for him, and even though he does some terrible things throughout the movie, at key points he makes the right decision," Wright said.—Reuters



People wait for tickets at a ticket office of a movie theatre in Wuhan, Hubei Province, on 13 Aug, 2013.

REUTERS

Yao urges return to playing sports for joy

BEIJING, 23 Aug—Former NBA star Yao Ming is urging society to let sport return to its original function of bringing joy to children, as the country debates the recent failure of the Chinese basketball team in the FIBA Asia Championship. China's hoops icon Yao remained silent about the team's performance but stressed more attention should be paid to the game's fundamentals.

"Any sports competition originated from a kind of game, and games bring people happiness. That's the simple but profound function of sport — a simple thing that people tend to neglect," Yao told *China Daily* during the Yao Foundation Hope Primary School Basketball Season in Lu'an, Anhui Province, last week.

"On a higher level, the function will extend to more meanings like show-

ing a nation's prowess, which is widely promoted now. But what we lack is just the small joy at the foundation."

The Hope Primary School Basketball Season, a charitable programme, carries the star's commitment to benefit students in underprivileged areas through their participation in basketball, which can teach children the virtues of teamwork, leadership and socializing.

Initiated by the Yao Foundation and the China Youth Development Foundation last year, the event reached 79 hope schools (37 more than last year) over a two-month stretch, during which college volunteers instructed children in basketball skills and sports facilities were donated. As the finale of the season's eastern conference, a six-day training camp and exhibition game were held



Former NBA player Yao Ming (2nd L, back) cheers for little players during a basketball match of the eastern division of the Yao Foundation Hope Primary School Basketball Season, in Lu'an City, east China's Anhui Province, on 15 Aug, 2013.—XINHUA

at West Anhui University in Lu'an, with 370 students from 19 provinces, municipalities and autonomous regions joining to share

experiences. Yao visited the camp and organized a group birthday party the previous evening for students born in August.—Xinhua

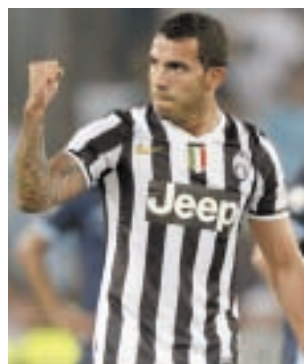
Tevez feels good partnering with Vucinic

MILAN, 23 Aug — Juventus new signing Carlos Tevez said he could form a potent strike partnership with Mirko Vucinic this season.

The Bianconeri head coach Antonio Conte looks set to field the duo at Sampdoria on Saturday given that Fernando Llorente, signed from Athletic Bilbao this summer, is struggling for form.

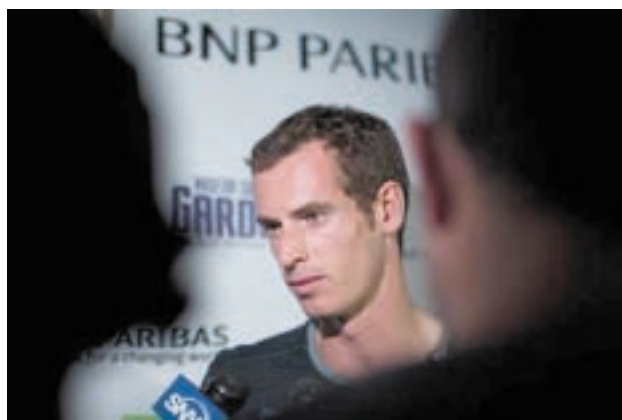
"I get on well with Vucinic," Tevez said. "He is a player who makes the difference."

"We only played for the second time together in Rome on Sunday and obviously we need to get to know each other better and refine our movements, but I'm already satisfied," he said.—Xinhua



Carlos Tevez

Holder Murray could meet Djokovic in US Open semis



Tennis player Andy Murray of Britain speaks with the media as he attends an event announcing his participation in the 7th annual BNP Paribas Showdown in New York on 19 Aug, 2013 file photo.

REUTERS

NEW YORK, 23 Aug—US Open champion Andy Murray faces the mouthwatering prospect of meeting top seed Novak Djokovic in this year's semi-finals after the draw for the season's final grand slam was announced on Thursday.

Murray, who is also the Wimbledon champion, landed in the top half of the draw for the 26 August- 9 September tournament in New York while second seed Rafa Nadal and five-times US Open champion Roger Federer were placed

in the bottom half. Scotsman Murray, who beat Serb Djokovic in an epic five-set final to claim last year's title at Flushing Meadows, was elated to be back at a venue where he has enjoyed considerable success.

"This is a huge tournament for me," Murray, 26, said after the official draw ceremony was completed at the Billie Jean King National Tennis Centre.

"I came here for the first time when I was 15. I got to my first grand slam final here, my first grand slam win here and I won the juniors here when I was 17 so I love coming back."

Murray will take on Frenchman Michael Llodra in the opening round while Djokovic launches his title bid against Lithuania's Ricardas Berankis.

Reuters

Tottenham Hotspur beat Dinamo Tbilisi 5-0 in Europa League play-off first leg

TBILISI, 23 Aug—A solo run by Andros Townsend 12 minutes into play and two of his later assists on Thursday helped Tottenham Hotspur to its scoring-spree away victory of 5-0 in Tbilisi in the first leg of the 2013-2014 Europa League playoff round.

With five unanswered goals, the Spurs now looked fully set to duplicate their 1973 triumph over Dinamo Tbilisi. Back then, the Spurs tied their away match 1-1 at Dinamo Arena in Tbilisi before winning 5-1 at White Hart Lane in London in the then UEFA Cup

third rounder. Brazilian international Paulinho, who earlier scared the Georgian goalie — Giorgi Loria — with an over-the-bar shot at the 10th minute in Tbilisi, headed in his first goal for the Spurs at the 44th minute from a cross from Andros Townsend.—Xinhua

Messi in Argentina squad missing four suspended players

BUENOS AIRES, 23 Aug—Argentina's injured captain Lionel Messi has been named in a squad missing the suspended Javier Mascherano and Gonzalo Higuain for next month's World Cup qualifier against South America's bottom side Paraguay.

Messi, who suffered a hamstring injury during Barcelona's 1-1 draw at Atletico Madrid in the first leg of the Spanish Super Cup on Wednesday, is expected to be fit by the time group leaders Argentina visit Asuncion for the match on 10 September.

Higuain, top scorer in the South American qualifying competition with nine goals in 11 matches, was sent off against Colombia while midfielder Mascherano was shown a red card versus Ecuador in Argentina's last two qualifiers in June.

However, striker Sergio Aguero is back after missing the 2-1 win over Italy in a friendly in Rome last week.

Coach Alejandro Sabella, who named an 18-man squad, is also without suspended first choice centre backs Ezequiel Garay

and Federico Fernandez who have two bookings in the competition.

Second-placed Colombia can catch Argentina at the top of the South American group if they beat Ecuador on 6 September while Sabella's team can secure a berth at the next year finals in Brazil with a victory in Paraguay four days later.

Argentina, who lead the standings on 26 points and have three matches to go, do not play on 6 September when the eight other nations have qualifiers, most of whom have four matches left.

Colombia have 23 points, Ecuador and Chile are on 21, while Uruguay and Venezuela have 16 in the nine-nation group. The top four qualify for the finals while the fifth-placed team goes into a playoff against an Asian qualifier for another spot. Paraguay, World Cup quarter-finalists in South Africa in 2010, have had a poor campaign and are bottom with eight points. However, they gave Germany a fright in a 3-3 draw in a friendly in Kaiserslautern last week on new coach Victor Genes's debut.—Reuters



Barcelona's Lionel Messi celebrates a goal against Levante during their Spanish First division soccer league match at Camp Nou stadium in Barcelona, on 18 Aug, 2013.—REUTERS

Real Madrid chase Brazilian striker

RIO DE JANEIRO, 23 Aug—Real Madrid have made a bid to sign Brazilian striker Henrique on a one-year loan deal, local media reported on Thursday.

The Spanish giants contacted Henrique's club, Botafogo, last week with a proposal to bring the 22-year-old to the Bernabeu before the end of the month, *Uol* reported.

Under terms of the deal, Real Madrid would not pay a transfer fee, being responsible only for the

player's wages.

The arrangement would be similar to the one agreed by Henrique's compatriot Casemiro last year.

The midfielder joined Real Madrid on a 12-month loan from Sao Paulo and impressed enough to be given a permanent contract in June.

Henrique has represented Brazil at both under 19 and under 20 level. He was named the best player at the 2011 under 20 World Cup in Colombia.

Xinhua

GENERAL

Yankees savor Ichiro's 4,000-hit milestone



New York Yankees relief pitcher Mariano Rivera (L) congratulates right fielder Ichiro Suzuki after they beat the Toronto Blue Jays in their MLB American League baseball game at Yankee Stadium in New York, 21 August, 2013.—REUTERS

Aug 23 — While the New York Yankees were playing the finale in a four-game homestand against the Toronto Blue Jays on Thursday, the entire team was still savoring the memory of Ichiro Suzuki's 4,000-hit milestone the previous night.

In the bottom of the first inning on Wednesday, outfielder Ichiro laced a line-drive single to left field off RA Dickey to become only the third player ever in professional baseball to reach the 4,000-hit plateau.

His team mates poured out of the first-base dugout to congratulate the 39-year-old Japanese and the crowd gave Ichiro a standing ovation at Yankee Stadium after he joined the elite company of Pete Rose and Baseball Hall of Famer Ty Cobb.

"It's an amazing feat," Yankees manager Joe Girardi told reporters. "It's a testament to how hard he's worked, how long he's been in the game, how he stays healthy, the way he goes about his business.

"He's a great player, and he's been a great player for a long time."

Even Dickey paid tribute to 10-time All-Star Ichiro, who collected 1,278 of his 4,000 hits during a standout nine-year career in Nippon Professional Baseball in Japan that began in 1992.

"You never want to be the guy that gives up the milestone, at least I don't," Dickey said. "That being said, what an incredible achievement, and the manner in which he has done it is equally as impressive. It couldn't have happened to

a more professional hitter."

Ichiro, who has logged 2,722 hits in Major League Baseball with the Seattle Mariners and Yankees since 2001, was taken aback by the reaction of both his team mates and the crowd.

"It was supposed to be a number that was special to me, but what happened, I wasn't expecting," he said through an interpreter. "When my team mates came out to first base, that was very special.

"The fans, I wasn't expecting so much joy and happiness from them. That's what made it very special; not just the number, but all the things that came with it were very special."

Ever humble, Ichiro played down his own achievement after earning membership in the elite 4,000 club where he joins Rose (4,256) and Cobb (4,191).

"It is a record that is adding two leagues into one; those guys did it in one league," said Ichiro, who won the Gold Glove Award 10 times with the Mariners. "I don't think you have to put me in that same category as them."

Helped by Ichiro's milestone hit, the Yankees completed a 4-2 victory over the Blue Jays on Wednesday and were aiming for a fourth straight win over the opponents at Yankee Stadium on Thursday.

Reuters

MYANMAR TV

(24-8-2013, Saturday)

6:00 am	Week's Hlut Taw News
1. Paritta By Venerable Mingun Sayadaw	2:25 pm
6:20 am	20. Documentary (SEA Games)
2. Physical Exercise	3:00 pm
6:25 am	21. News
3. Dance & Song of National Races	3:15 pm
6:50 am	22. TV Drama Series
4. Documentary	4:25 pm
7:00 am	23. Business News
5. News	4:40 pm
7:20 am	24. Song of National Races
6. Business News	4:45 pm
7:45 am	25. University of Distance Education (TV Lectures) -Third Year (Law)
7. Poem Garden	5:00 pm
8:00 am	26. News
8. News	5:15 pm
8:25 am	27. Documentary (SEA Games)
9. India Drama Series	5:30 pm
9:00 am	28. Game For Children
10. News/International News	6:00 pm
9:20 am	29. News
11. Mono Classical Songs	6:40 pm
9:40 am	30. TV Drama Series
12. Documentary	7:00 pm
10:00 am	31. News
13. News	7:15 pm
10:15 am	32. TV Drama Series
14. TV Drama Series	8:00 pm
11:00 am	33. News
15. Shwe Yin Khone Than	8:35 pm
11:30 am	34. Business News
16. Game for Children	9:00 pm
12:00 pm	35. News
17. News/International News/Weather Report	9:30 pm
12:25 pm	36. Myanmar Series
18. Round Up of The Week's TV Local News	37. Gitadagale Phwintbaohn
1:20 pm	
19. Round Up of The	

MYANMAR INTERNATIONAL

(24-8-13 09:30 am ~ 25-8-13 09:30 am) MST

- * Local News
- * Lampi Marine National Park
- * World News
- * A Visit To Today's Along-Daw-Kathapha
- * Local News
- * Food Trip (Episode-5) Part-2
- * World News
- * Product of Myanmar-Seashells Products
- * Local News
- * Myanmar Delicate Artistic Handy Creations (Goldsmith)
- * World News
- * Beautiful Sun Rise in MraukU
- * Local News
- * Journey To Unimaginable Spots
- * World News
- * Taking an Oath for Life
- * Local News
- * Applied Myanmar Traditional Martial Art (Part-2)
- * World News
- * Fortune Teller: "Yan Moe Aung"
- * Local News
- * Unique Pattern of Myanma...A Trend of Chin Traditional Dress
- * World News
- * Serene and Happy Rural Life in Myanmar
- * Local News
- * Myanmar Mega Factory- (Episode-1)
- * World News
- * Myanmar Masterclass: Impressionism
- * Local News
- * Products of Myanmar Bamboo Hat
- * World News
- * A Trip to Mon State "Mawlamyine"

Tour bus overturns in Los Angeles, injuring 50

LOS ANGELES, 23 Aug — As many as 50 people were injured after a tour bus overturned on a major highway in east Los Angeles on Thursday morning, authorities said. The bus rolled over around 10:00 am local time near Irwindale Avenue along the Foothill Freeway (Interstate 210), about 32 km east of downtown Los Angeles, Los Angeles County Fire Department said.

Six of those who suffered serious injuries were airlifted to trauma centres in nearby areas, but none of them were listed as life-threatening. At least 10 ambulances and four medical helicopters rushed to the scene to rescue the injured.

All lanes of the highway on both directions were

temporarily closed. An hour later, all westbound lanes and the eastbound carpool lane were reopened. The vehicle, belonging to the Da Zhen Travel Agency based in Monterey Park, was heading to the San Miguel Indian Bingo and Casino in San Bernardino at the time of the crash, local media reported.

The travel agency received a "satisfactory" rating during its last major review in 2010, according to US Department of Transportation records. Many of the victims spoke little English and need translators who spoke Mandarin or Cantonese to answer questions, according to California Highway Patrol authorities. An investigation into the cause of the accident is underway.—Xinhua

German students learn kung fu in Tianjin

BEIJING, 23 Aug — A group of 15 teachers and students from the Blue Dragon Martial Arts School in Munich, Germany traveled to the Tianjin University of Sport to study the martial arts for 14 days.

During their visit, students will gain professional training on martial art techniques such as using a machete, spear, sword, stick, along with boxing and free combat styles all based on their specialties.

The dean of the martial arts school in Germany, whose surname is Sayles, first visited the Tianjin University of Sport in 1988 and this is his 14th visit to China.

Sayles said he brought his students to Tianjin so they could learn authentic



A student from the Blue Dragon Martial Arts School in Munich performs one-handed sword skills in Tianjin, North China, on 21 Aug, 2013. —XINHUA

Chinese martial arts and receive guidance from the kung fu master Yuan Xi, who was Sayles' tutor.

Yuan Xi, 62, was a

teacher at the Tianjin University of Sport before he retired. During 1980s and 1990s, he was designated to be Sayles' martial arts

coach in Germany, which helped Sayles achieve outstanding accomplishments in the field of martial arts.

Xinhua

Pyithu Hluttaw Speaker attends coord meeting between committees, commission



Pyithu Hluttaw Speaker Thura U Shwe Mann attends coordination meeting between committees and commission.—MNA

NAY PYI TAW, 23 Aug—Pyithu Hluttaw Speaker Thura U Shwe Mann attended a work coordination meeting between the committees and commission at Zabuthiri hall of the Hluttaw building, here, this morning.

At the meeting, the Pyithu Hluttaw Speaker made an opening speech and officials reported on the minutes of the previous meeting. Then, the chairpersons and secretaries of the committees submitted reports on work progress

and commission members, the undertakings of the commission.

Those present took part in the discussion and the Pyithu Hluttaw Speaker made a conclusion remark.

Also present at the meeting together with the

Pyithu Hluttaw Speaker were Deputy Speaker U Nanda Kyaw Swa, Pyithu Hluttaw committee chairpersons and secretaries, commission members and officials of the Hluttaw Office.

MNA

Matriculation Exam application forms for 2014 available

NAY PYI TAW, 24 Aug—Department of Myanmar Board of Examinations announced today that the matriculation exam application forms for 2014 are available as of 2 September. The form is divided into two kinds of colours: green cards for combination subject Nos. 1, 5, 6, 7 and 8 and pink colour for subject Nos. 2, 3 and 4.

For the external examinees, stamps for

exam fees are available at respective township education officers' offices. And they will have to stick the stamp on the left top of the application form and then submit it to respective township education officers' offices from 2 to 30 September.

For the students from Basic Education High Schools, BEHSs (branch and affiliated) and private schools, the heads of from

these schools are to buy stamps and stick the stamps on each application form. And they will have to submit these forms to the Office of Department of Myanmar Board of Examinations from 2 September to 15 October.

Those who fail to submit the forms in time will not be entitled to the exam. The examinees are urged to fill their combination subjects on their forms correctly as they would not

be allowed to change to other subjects except the ones described in the application forms and cards.

Application forms and stamps are available at the Office No. 52, Nay Pyi Taw, Department of Myanmar Board of Examinations (Head Office), Department of Myanmar Board of Examinations (Zwegabin Hostel) in Hline University Campus, Hline Township, Yangon.—MNA

DSA holds monsoon tree-planting ceremony

NAY PYI TAW, 23 Aug—Monsoon tree-planting ceremony of PyinOoLwin Station was held this morning at the Department of Studies (2) of DSA.

Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Senior General Min Aung Hlaing and wife planted Cherry saplings at the designated places, and Commander-in-Chief (Navy) Vice-Admiral Thura Thet Swe,

Commander-in-Chief (Air) Lt-Gen Khin Aung Myint and wife, military officers from the Office of the Commander-in-Chief office (Army) and wives, and those present planted saplings in the ceremony.

A total of 2500 saplings—1500 Cherry, 500 Khartawhmi and 500 Pine—were grown in the today's monsoon tree-planting ceremony.

MNA



Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Senior General Min Aung Hlaing and wife plant Cherry saplings.—MNA

Union FM felicitates Ukrainian counterpart

NAY PYI TAW, 24 Aug—U Wunna Maung Lwin, Union Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar, has sent a message of felicitations to His Excellency Mr Leonid Kozhara, Minister for Foreign Affairs of Ukraine, on the occasion of the Independence Day of Ukraine which falls on 24 August 2013.—MNA

Seikkyi-Khanaungto people allowed passing suspension bridge



As various types of vehicles were allowed as of 14 August to pass Seikkyi-Khanaungto steel suspension bridge that has been completed by cent per cent, a total of 2949 cars, motorcycles, trawlergy and bicycles passed the bridge up to 19 August as loading trial, said Deputy Superintending

Photo shows motorbikes passing along Seikkyi-Khanaungto steel suspension bridge.

Engineer U Win Zaw of Bridge Construction Project Special Group No 1.

With the aim of developing socio-economic life of the local people in Seikkyi-Khanaungto Township and creating job opportunities for them, Bridge Construction Project Special Group No 1 of Public Works under the Ministry of Construction commenced construction of the suspension bridge on 13 February 2012 spending the regional development fund of the Yangon Region Government. Thanks to the bridge, the local people have

Byline: Saw Thein Win

easy access to Hlinethaya and Twantay by car.

Due to completion of the suspension bridge, the local people can take automobile for a seven-mile trip to Twantay Bridge and a four-mile trip to Hlinethaya Township conveniently, explained Assistant Engineer Daw Htay Htay Oo.

The facility has 1680 feet long with 30 feet wide approach bridges and 24 feet wide motorways on both sides. The motorway

is flanked by three feet wide pedestrian ways. The clearance of the bridge is 16 feet wide and 40 feet high. The water course is 422 feet wide under the bridge. The facility can withstand 36 tons of loads.

As the vehicles were allowed to pass the bridge on 14 August, the local people used 66 cars, 1460 motorcycles, 1390 bicycles and 33 trishaws in addition over 200 walkers.

Kyemon: 22-8-2013

Trs: TTA