

Diplomats and international organizations briefed on Myanmar's reform process



Union Minister U Soe Thane elaborates on the achievements and challenges regarding the reform process in Myanmar, with foreign experts briefed on the tasks ahead.—MNA

YANGON, 24 July— Myanmar has pledged to continue democratic reforms without fail and the government, the parliament and the judicial branch are determined to overcome the challenges of the reform process, Union Minister U Soe Thane told diplomats and officials from international organizations at the Wunzin Minyaza Hall of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in Yangon on Thursday.

The union minister said there have been some achievements in establishing good governance and a clean government, despite the challenges and difficulties. The union minister continued to say that there

are many tasks to be carried out to reform the four sectors simultaneously, namely politics, socioeconomics, administration and private sectors.

Emphasis is placed on poverty reduction, rural development, rule of law, human rights, freedom of speech, freedom of expression and anti-corruption, he added.

At the same time, the government is taking measures to enable Myanmar to stand as a responsible and accountable country in the international community, and it is evident that certain development in the education and health sectors has been witnessed, according to the union minister.

The fact that Myanmar was recognized as one of the EITI members within a short time is proof that

democratic reforms are being carried out, with Myanmar able to climb up 15 places on the list of the most corrupt countries within one year, he pointed out.

In conclusion, the union minister urged the attendees to understand the weaknesses in the reform process as Myanmar has to develop democratic practices and has to carry out reforms at the same time.

In other matters, Union Minister U Khin Yi talked about immigration tasks, arrangements for visas on arrival, departure forms, online visas, e-visas, a permanent residence system, citizenship registration, the census process, measures to ensure stability in Rakhine State and the reconciliation process between ethnic groups.—MNA

Commerce Ministry and Myanmar Rice Industry Association to draft rice trading policy for the protection of exporters

YANGON, 24 July — The Ministry of Commerce is planning to draft a policy for rice trading with the aim of guiding rice exporters through safety procedures, according to the Trade Promotion Department of the Ministry.

The rice trading policy is aimed at guaranteeing profits for Myanmar exporters who have so far been making losses in rice trading due to lack of policy, an official of the department said.

The Ministry of Commerce is working together with the Myanmar Rice Industry Association to draft the rice trading policy, which will include rules for rice trading, he added.

Myanmar has the potential to more than double its rice exports by diversifying and increasing rice production, opening its rice milling sector to direct foreign investments, and reducing export procedure costs, and thereby helping many rural people to escape poverty, according to



Rice farmers in Bago region can hope for improvement of their situation if the government follows the advice by the World Bank to provide more accurate market information on production, consumption, exports, and prices in order to allow a smooth functioning of the rice market and enable more informed policy decisions.—PHOTO: AYE MIN SOE

a new report by the World Bank and the Livelihoods and Food Security Trust Fund (LIFT) of Myanmar,

titled Myanmar: Capitalizing on Rice Export Opportunities.

The current rice ex-

port strategy favors the production of low quality rice, which is largely sold (See page 3)

Tat Hong Intraco Heavy Equipment Co. Ltd established to carry out rental and distribution of cranes

YANGON, 24 July— Singapore-based Tat Hong Holdings Ltd and Intraco Ltd joined hands with Myanmar businessman U Aung Moe Kyaw to establish Tat Hong Intraco Heavy Equipment Co. Ltd to carry out the business of rental and distribution of cranes in the country.

According to an official, there are more than 1,600 units of 50- to 100-ton crawlers and mobile cranes in Tat Hong, of which seven units of crawler cranes arrived in Yangon and they are ready to be rented out, distributed and sold to local customers, officials said.

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Border Affairs ministry meets for development programmes

NAY PYI TAW, 24 July— Lieutenant General Thet Naing Win, Union Minister for Border Affairs, on Wednesday held a meeting here for development of projects at border areas.

He said that rural development programmes are essential for the livelihoods of ethnic people, and that the projects must be accomplished in time to ensure national unity.

The minister added that the ministry needs to make plans for the 2015-2016 fiscal year for respective areas in advance.

U Htwe Hla, director general at Progress of Border Areas and National Races Department, explained the implementations of projects and previewed the plans for the next fiscal year.

The union minister then urged to ensure a solid foun-



Union Minister Lieutenant General Thet Naing Win delivers speech at development of projects at border areas.—MNA

dation for a new democracy to take root and a higher living standard for people in line with the Third Wave

Reform plan and poverty alleviation programmes of the government.

MNA

Thailand and Myanmar to promote footwear industries and business in Myanmar

YANGON, 24 July— The Thailand-Myanmar Business Networking meeting was held at Chatrium Hotel in Yangon on Wednesday to promote economic cooperation and the footwear industry in particular.

“Myanmar and Thailand have been now entering a more challenging time when collaboration especially in trade and investment are the essential forces for sustainable economic growth. We are looking forward to today’s event being fruitful in terms of further enhancing our bilateral cooperation on trade and investment,”

according to a statement released at the meeting.

Thailand is a key trade partner of Myanmar, standing in second place in terms of in Foreign Direct Investment in 73 projects, and is a major shareholder in Myanmar Special Economic Zones, of which there are three—Thilawa, Dawei, Kyaukphyu.

According to statistics by the Thai Ministry of Commerce, trade value between Myanmar and Thailand for the period of 2010-2013 had been increasing continuously, from about US\$ 4.886 billion in 2010 to US\$ 7.821 billion in 2013.

The ceremony was attended by U Aung Min chairman of Myanmar Footwear Clusters, U Aye Lwin, Joint Secretary of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar Federation of Chambers of Commerce and Industry UMFCCI and President of Thai Footwear Industrial Promotion, delegations of industries and footwear industries from Thailand, delegates from the Department of Foreign Trade DFT, Ministry of Commerce (Thailand), Minister-councilor commercial of the Thai embassy.

Thant Zin Win



Thailand-Myanmar Business Networking meeting was held at Chatrium Hotel in Yangon.—THANT ZIN WIN

Market opportunities for Myanmar’s agricultural products discussed

NAY PYI TAW, 24 July—Union Minister for Agriculture and Irrigation U Myint Hlaing received Dr. Kavita Prakash-Mari, Special Advisor to the World Economic Forum-WFF and party on Wednesday at his office in Nay Pyi Taw to discuss investment in Myanmar’s agriculture sector and creating market opportunities for the country’s agricultural products.

Dr. Kavita Prakash-Mari said agriculture plays a crucial role improving the food security not only in Myanmar, but across the globe. He also discussed the development of ASEAN countries and their

markets.

The Union minister also said that the government is carrying out agricultural development tasks to reduce poverty and is inviting both local and foreign investment to develop agribusiness and create a solid market.

He pledged that the ministry will fulfill the requirements of investors who can help to raise the living standards of local farmers.

Following the meeting, they took a tour of the organic fruits and vegetables showrooms, sugarcane and dairy farms in Nay Pyi Taw.

MNA

Rural development minister inspects demonstration farm

NAY PYI TAW, 24 July— U Ohn Myint, Union Minister for Livestock, Fisheries and Rural Development, on Thursday inspected a demonstration farm at the University of Veterinary Science in Yezin.

The minister looked into the dairy farm and cultivation of grass for the cows.

U Ohn Myint and de-

partmental officials then arrived at a poultry farm set up with a cooling system, and were greeted by the final-year students at the training centre there.

He talked to the students about the development programmes of the ministry, including the Millennium Development Goals, poverty alleviation, development of better live-

lihoods for the rural population and narrowing the development gap between cities and rural areas.

The ministry is now cooperating with local and foreign organizations in these projects, and implementing people-centred projects and the Emerald Village Plan in more than 4,000 villages across the country.—MNA

Myanmar, ROK sign framework agreement on providing Economic Development Cooperation Fund



Deputy Minister Dr Daw Lei Lei Thein and ROK Ambassador Mr. Lee Baek-Soon exchange notes on providing an Economic Development Cooperation Fund-EDCF.—MNA

NAY PYI TAW, 24 July—Deputy Minister for National Planning and Economic Development Dr Daw Lei Lei Thein and Ambassador of the Republic of Korea to Myanmar Mr. Lee Baek-Soon signed a framework agreement

on providing an Economic Development Cooperation Fund-EDCF on Thursday at the Ministry in Nay Pyi Taw.

The agreement is aimed at ensuring to implement the country’s development projects in

electrification, communication and the transportation sectors.

Under the agreement, the Republic of Korea will disburse US\$500 million in loans with low interest rate to Myanmar.

MNA

NATIONAL

Retirement age among top topics in Lower House debate

NAY PYI TAW, 24 July — A clarification was sought at the Lower House on Thursday on the alleged change of the retirement age from 60 to 63, sources said. U Kyaw Thu, Chairman of the Union Civil Services Board, responded that the retirement age for government employees is the day when they turn 60, citing the Government Service Personnel Rules.

Regarding a question of who is responsible for supervising work projects undertaken by ministries and regional government bodies and writing reports on them, Deputy Auditor-General U Myo Myint

explained that the Project Appraisal and Progress Reporting Department under the Ministry of National Planning and Economic Development shoulders those responsibilities.

Regarding a request for drafting a border security bill, Brig-Gen Kyaw Kyaw Tun, Deputy Minister for Home Affairs, told the Upper House on Thursday that a committee has been assigned to draft a bill on the Myanmar border guard police forces, who he said will assume overall responsibility for security and rule of law in all the border areas of the national territory.—MNA



U Kyaw Thu, Chairman of the Union Civil Services Board.

MNA



Deputy Auditor-General U Myo Myint.

MNA



Brig-Gen Kyaw Kyaw Tun, Deputy Minister for Home Affairs.

—MNA

Development of banking sector in Myanmar discussed

NAY PYI TAW, 24 July—Speaker of the Pyidaungsu Hluttaw and the Lower House Thura U Shwe Mann accepted a call with a delegation led by Mr. Wee Ee Cheong, Deputy Chairman and CEO of UOB Bank of Singapore, on Thursday at the Hluttaw complex in Nay Pyi Taw to discuss the country's banking sector development.

Also present at the call were chairpersons and members of the Lower House Committees and Commissions and officials.—MNA



Speaker of the Pyidaungsu Hluttaw and the Lower House Thura U Shwe Mann in a meeting with delegates of UOB Bank of Singapore at the Hluttaw Complex in Nay Pyi Taw.—MNA

UN special rapporteur clarifies human rights awareness campaigns to Myanmar officials

NAY PYI TAW, 24 July — Ms Yanghee Lee, United Nations Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights in Myanmar, called on U Tun Tun Oo, Chief Justice of the Union, at the Supreme Court here on Thursday, sources said.

Ms Lee also met Dr Pe Thet Khin, Union Minister for Health, Dr Tun Shin, the Attorney General of the Union, U Htay Oo, Chairman of the Upper House Committee for Citizens' Fundamental Rights, Democracy and Human Rights, U Saw Maw Tun, Secretary of the Lower House Committee for Citizens' Fundamental Rights, Democracy and

Human Rights; U Nanda Kyaw Swa, Deputy Speaker of the Pyidaungsu Hluttaw, the legislative, political and economic advisors to the President, U Mya Thein, Chairman of the Constitutional Tribunal of the Union, U Tin Aye, Chairman of the Union Election Commission, and U Tin Oo Lwin, Deputy Minister for Foreign Affairs.

During the talks, the UN special rapporteur discussed with them matters related to cooperation with international organizations, campaigns to raise awareness on human rights, and human resources nurturing.

MNA

Commerce Ministry ...

(from page 1)
to Africa and China. Consequently, farmers have earned minimal profits and agribusinesses have skipped necessary investments. The situation is worsening as the global demand for low quality broken rice is shrinking,

the report said.

According to rice trading sources in Myanmar, some rice exporters suffered losses in exporting rice to China, which is a large net importer of Myanmar rice, as they are trading with China not in accordance with the law,

but often merely through underhand dealings.

The actual rice export has reached only about 1.3 million tons over the past years, lagging behind the government's target of exporting two million tons of rice this year and four million tons by 2020, according to the World Bank.

The most acute problems are low productivity and poor rice quality at farm level. The average paddy yields of 2.5 tons per hectare are only half of those realized by other exporters in the region, the World Bank said.

NLM

Tat Hong Intraco Heavy Equipment ...

(from page 1)
The company also welcomes customers who

provide heavy equipment services with a full range of crawler, rough terrain,

all terrain, hydraulic truck and tower cranes, with or without operators, an official said.

NLM



Opening ceremony of Tat Hong Intraco Heavy Equipment Co. Ltd held at Sule Shangri-La Hotel in Yangon.

MNA



U Tun Tun Oo, Chief Justice of the Union, meets United Nations Special Rapporteur Ms Yanghee Lee at the Supreme Court in Nay Pyi Taw.—MNA

Two statues of independence struggle leaders need maintenance



MAGWAY, 24 July— The statues of the leader of farmers Saya San and work leader Alawaka Thakin Po Hla Gyi, who were leading activists in the independence struggles against the imperialists, are in need of

renovation, officials said.

The statues are located at the top of Yin Creek Bridge beside Magway-Taungdwingyi Road at the monument park, and have been severely damaged due to lack of maintenance and bad weather. Locals have urged authorities to place emphasis on the maintenance of the two statues before their condition further deteriorates.

The farmers uprising (1930) was led by Galon Saya San in Thayawady District of Bago Region. He died in Thayawady at aged 55 on 28 November 1931. Thakin Po Hla Gyi and leaders of the workers who marched from the oil fields of central Myanmar to Yangon were arrested by the imperialists in Magway.

Kyaw Swa (Magway)

Yinkyar nationals in southern Shan State adjusted to Myanmar culture

NAMSANG, 24 July— Yinkyar national, one of over 100 ethnic groups in the nation, live in Namlit and No 5 village-tracts in Namsang Township of Loilem District in southern Shan State, with about 4,000 Yinkyar nationals staying in the villages, said U Aik Pyar of Loisan Village.

They make a living from crops cultivation, growing paddy, pineapple, maize, pigeon and ginger on a commercial scale.

They have their own language, but speak the Shan language fluently as they are living among Shan nationals. Most of them can speak Shan, Pa-O and Myanmar languages as they are trading goods at the markets in urban areas.

They believe in Buddhism, and hold the same festivals like Buddhists in other regions and states on respective months of the Myanmar lunar calendar.

Moe Lwin Oo (Loilem)

Parts of Bago Township flooded

BAGO, 24 July—As heavy rains have been hitting Bago region in July, low-lying wards in Bago namely Kyaukkisu, Mazin and Kyunthaya wards are flooded, with local people using boats for transport in the area.

“In the last years, relief camps were opened for flood victims from June. This year, the region government carried out works to ensure proper flow of water at drains and creeks in the region. Therefore, floods and inundation have not yet caused major damage in the township, according to a local person. According to records, Nilar Street in Kyunthaya Ward is inundated under 4.5 feet deep water.—Myo Thein



Mawlamyinegyun Tsp grows saplings for second time



MAWLAMYINEGYUN, 24 July — The authorities of Mawlamyinegyun Township organized a second tree planting ceremony at the compound of the People’s Hospital in the northern ward

of Mawlamyinegyun in Ayeyawady Region on Wednesday.

Local authorities and departmental officials supervised cultivation of saplings, participated by members of social organi-

zations, departmental personnel and local people, totalling over 300.

They planted 440 saplings at the ceremony. The township has so far planted 62,500 saplings.

Mawgyun Myint Aung

Immigration staff issue citizenship cards, household registration



MAUKMAI, 24 July— Staff of Maukmai Township Immigration and National Registration Department issued over 100

certificates of household registration and 125 citizenship scrutiny cards to eligible citizens in Kadulay Village of Maukmai Township in southern Shan State on Wednesday.

Issuance was supervised by Township Administrator U Tin Maung Soe and Shan State Hluttaw MP U Sai Soe Htaik.

As Moe Pwint Plan No 6 is being implemented by the Ministry of Immigration and Population, township department officials will make field trips for issuance of the CSC cards and households registrations to all villages in the township.

Sai Myo Thant (IPRD)

Locals in Natmauk improve income by making brooms

NATMAUK, 24 July— In Natmauk Township of Magway Region, the people from Zay Ward are manufacturing brooms made of coconut as part of their traditional works and to raise a better income.

“We need bamboo and palm leaves of coconut plants as raw materials for making brooms. Depending on the skills, the workers can produce 10 brooms a day. Each workshop must produce 80-100 brooms to be sent to the market, where they fetch K1,500-K1,800 per broom,” said a broom workshop owner, adding that business was good as brooms are essential for carrying out sanitation at houses, pagodas and monasteries.

Phu Pwint Nay Chi (Magway)



REGIONAL

India bids to reassert influence in Nepal with power pact

NEW DELHI/KATHMANDU, 24 July — India is set to offer Nepal a landmark pact to help develop its huge hydro-electric power potential as the South Asian giant takes another step to re-assert influence among smaller neighbours where China has been forging closer ties.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi, who went to Bhutan last month on his first overseas trip since coming to power, will soon visit Nepal, which has recently been questioning its position in India's sphere of influence.

Modi's foreign minister, Sushma Swaraj, heads to Kathmandu on Friday to prepare the way for Modi's August visit, the first by an Indian prime minister in 17 years. The deal to kick-start energy power projects stalled since the Himalayan country drifted into civil war in 1996 will be

squarely on the agenda of her talks.

But India's push on energy has ruffled some feathers. Both Nepal's opposition Maoists, who have long sought to check Indian influence, and members of the ruling Nepali Congress party say the Indians are trying to lock them into an unequal treaty designed to shut out China to the benefit of Indian companies.

"The draft impinges on the sovereign right of Nepal to allow investors other than India in the development of hydropower and renewable energy," said a former Nepali water resources minister, Lakshman Ghimire.

Modi came to power on a promise to make India an economic and military power and his invitation to all South Asian leaders to attend his inauguration was a signal of his regional aims.—Reuters

Contact lost with Air Algerie plane carrying 116 people from Burkina Faso



A Swiftair MD-83 airplane is seen in this undated photo. Authorities have lost contact with an Air Algerie flight en route from Ouagadougou in Burkina Faso to Algiers with 110 passengers on board, Algeria's APS state news agency and a Spanish airline company said on Thursday.—REUTERS

ALGIERS, 24 July — Authorities have lost contact with an Air Algerie flight en route from Ouagadougou in Burkina Faso to Algiers with 110 passengers on board, Algeria's APS state news agency and a Spanish airline company said on Thursday.

APS said authorities lost contact with flight AH 5017 an hour after it took off from Burkina

Faso, although other officials gave other timings, adding to confusion about the fate of the flight and where it might be.

Spanish private airline company Swiftair confirmed it had no contact with its MD-83 aircraft operated by Air Algerie, which it said was carrying 110 passengers and six crew.

The company said in a notice posted on its web-

site that the aircraft took off from Burkina Faso at 0117 GMT (2117 ET) and was supposed to land in Algiers at 0510 GMT but never reached its destination.

An Algerian aviation official said the last contact Algerian authorities had with a missing Air Algerie aircraft carrying 116 people from Burkina Faso to Algiers was at 0155 GMT when it was flying over Gao, Mali.

Aviation authorities in Burkina say they handed the flight to the control tower in Niamey, Niger, at 1:38 am (0138 GMT). They said last contact with the flight was just after 4:30 am (0330 GMT).

Burkinabe authorities have set up a crisis unit in Ouagadougou airport to provide information to families of people on the flight.

A diplomat in the Malian capital Bamako said that the north of the country — which lies on the plane's

likely flight path — was struck by a powerful sandstorm overnight.

Issa Saly Maiga, head of Mali's National Civil Aviation Agency, said that a search was under way for the missing flight.

"We do not know if the plane is Malian territory," he told Reuters. "Aviation authorities are mobilized in all the countries concerned - Burkina Faso, Mali, Niger, Algeria and even Spain."

Whatever is the fate of the flight, the loss of contact is likely to add to jitters in the airline industry after a Malaysia Airlines plane was downed over Ukraine last week, a TransAsia Airways crashed off Taiwan during a thunderstorm on Wednesday and airlines canceled flights into Tel Aviv due to the conflict in Gaza.

Reuters

Philippine province proves mass storm deaths can be avoided

MANILA, 24 July — Nearly 100 people were killed in the Philippines last week when Typhoon Rammasun roared through, raising doubts about efforts to end the heavy tolls from storms that are only expected to get more intense as the global climate changes.

But in Albay Province, which bore the brunt of the strongest storm in the new typhoon season, no one was killed, proving that deaths can be prevented provided there is the will to force people to do what is necessary to save their own lives. "Tools of leadership are lacking," Joey Salceda, the three-term governor of Albay told Reuters when asked about the tally of casualties in other provinces.

About 20 typhoons hit the Philippines every year, and recently they have been getting stronger. Meteorologists say that as ocean temperatures rise, storms will get more dangerous.

Late last year, Typhoon Haiyan became the strongest storm to hit land anywhere, killing more than 6,100 people, most along the east coast of central Philippine islands as it whipped up tsunami-like storm surges.

Since the shock of Haiyan, the central govern-

ment and its agencies have been more active in their risk assessments and recommendations of pre-emptive measures.

But Salceda says it is up to provincial governments, not the central government, to use their powers to force people to take steps to save themselves, and if that is to happen, provincial authorities have to get to grips with what has to be done. "Local executives need more training, they are still struggling to grasp what it really takes to make people act," he said. "It's a failure to communicate, failure to ensure household compliance."

Salceda's efforts clearly work, as the clean sheet on deaths attest, even as the storm destroyed 6.2 billion



Residents lift a house damaged by Typhoon Rammasun (locally named Glenda) in a coastal village of sea gypsies, also known as Badjaos, in Batangas city, south of Manila, on 17 July, 2014.—REUTERS



Evacuees take shelter at Albay Central School as Typhoon Rammasun, locally named Glenda, battered Legaspi city, south of Manila, on 15 July, 2014.—REUTERS

pesos (\$143 million) worth of crops and property in his province.

Salceda says he has at times used "shock therapy" to get people moving to avoid the storms that regularly roar in from the Pacific Ocean.

He described the bemused reaction of citizens to his order to close schools while skies were clear, a day before a typhoon was

due to strike.

He uses relief supplies as a tool, offering residents of low-lying areas emergency rice packs but only if they moved into shelters.

The UN Office for Disaster Risk Reduction designated Albay a role model for disaster risk reduction in 2012, highlighting its massive communications campaign in preventing casualties.—Reuters

Two Ukrainian fighter jets shot down over rebel-held territory

KIEV, 24 July — Kiev said two of its fighter jets were shot down over the rebel-held territory in eastern Ukraine on Wednesday, and the missiles that brought them down might have been fired from Russia.

A spokesman for Ukraine's military operations said the planes were shot down near Savur Mogila, not far from where a Malaysian airliner was brought down last week, killing all 298 passengers on board.

Ukraine's Security Council said the military jets were hit at the altitude of 5,200 metres by missiles that, according to preliminary information, were launched from Russia.

"They were shot down very professionally. The terrorists do not have such professionals," said Andriy Lysenko, the council's spokesman, referring to pro-Russian rebels fighting the government forces in eastern Ukraine.

The rebels said they



Ukrainian troops are pictured in the eastern Ukrainian town of Druzhkovka on 21 July, 2014.—REUTERS

shot down the plane themselves.

In Washington, the Pentagon it was aware of news reports of two Ukrainian SU-25 "Frog-foot" ground attack aircraft being shot down, but it could not immediately confirm the incident independently. "We're continuing to work with the

Ukrainians and through our own channels to determine the exact circumstances surrounding that incident," Army Colonel Steve Warren, a Pentagon spokesman, told reporters.

Fierce fighting raged on Wednesday near the rebels' two main centres in Donetsk and nearby Luhansk, where they have

been pushed back in recent days by Ukrainian government forces, who have regained control of villages and suburbs around the cities.

A train from Luhansk brought many people fleeing the violence to Kiev early on Wednesday afternoon.

"It's impossible to live

there right now. Fights are going on, apartment buildings are being destroyed, people are being killed," said Galina Berezina, an elderly resident of Luhansk. "Why else do you think I'd flee my own home at my age?"

Kiev said the separatists were leaving their positions on the outskirts of Donetsk on Wednesday and retreating towards the city centre.

Residents said the rebels, who rose up in April to demand independence from Kiev in the mainly Russian-speaking east, had dug trenches in downtown Donetsk outside the main university, where they have been living in student dormitories.

"In Donetsk, rebels abandoned their positions en masse and went towards the central part of the city," according to a statement from the headquarters of what Kiev calls its "anti-terrorist operation".

"It cannot be ruled out that the appearance of such

movements could suggest the spread of panic and attempts to leave the place of warfare."

Residents said they had heard shelling during the night and a shell struck a chemical plant in the city, causing a fire.

Rebels said two journalists had been missing in Donetsk since late on Tuesday. The separatist military commander, Igor Strelkov, a Muscovite, issued an order banning media from operating in combat areas.

Local health officials said 432 people had been killed and 1,015 wounded since hostilities began in the Donetsk region. The uprising started when a Ukrainian president sympathetic to Moscow was forced out of office and Russia then annexed the Crimea region.

Both Kiev and the West accuse Russia of supporting the separatist rebellion, including by providing fighters, arms and financing. Moscow denies the charges.—Reuters

Germany calls for quick decisions on further EU sanctions over Ukraine

BERLIN, 24 July — The German government on Wednesday expressed support for EU decisions to introduce further sanctions over Ukraine situation and called for quick decisions on this issue. In a government statement issued on Wednesday, Deputy Government Spokesman Georg Streiter said despite some progress, the German government did not see "full cooperation" of militants in eastern Ukraine in clarifying the Malaysian Airlines flight crash and ensuring international experts unhindered access to the crash site, as well as in recovering bodies and securing plane wreckage and retrieved belongings of the victims.

As a result, German Chancellor Angela Merkel supports decisions of the meeting of EU foreign ministers on Tuesday, which saw "a substantial package of sanctions" if Russia does not exert its influence at the required level, according to Streiter. The European Union (EU) said Tuesday it would introduce a new package of further sanctions over Ukraine situation on Thursday.

The EU called its executive branches to finalize

preparatory work on possible targeted measures and to present proposals for taking action, including on access to capital markets, defense, dual use goods, and sensitive technologies, including in the energy sector. For the chancellor it is necessary to come to "quick decisions" and she supports foreign ministers' efforts to reach an agreement on this issue, Streiter noted.

"Also the European Council is ready for a special meeting on this issue if necessary," he added.

Speaking of a council meeting over Ukraine crisis last week, the spokesman said the implementation process of its decisions, which saw an extension of sanctions to companies, would be accelerated.

"Further decisions on restrictions of investment and trade with Crimea will be introduced before the end of July."

He stressed the Contact Group, which is comprised of representatives from the OSCE, Russia and Ukraine, were making efforts to make a direct meeting with separatist groups reality in order to reach a bilateral ceasefire in Ukraine.

Xinhua

S Korean President Park to meet Tokyo governor on Friday

SEOUL/TOKYO, 24 July — President Park Geun Hye will meet with Tokyo Gov Yoichi Masuzoe on Friday, a South Korean government official said Thursday, in a move that appears to reflect the South Korean policy of building ties with local Japanese authorities despite strained state-to-state ties.

The meeting will be

Park's first with a Japanese politician since a trilateral summit with Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe and US President Barack Obama in March in the Netherlands.

"Although Korea-Japan relations remain strained, (we) hope good exchange and cooperation between local authorities of the two countries will continue so as

to contribute to the promotion of friendship between the two peoples," Park's spokesman Min Kyung Wook told reporters, according to *Yonhap News Agency*.

During Friday's meeting, arranged at the request of the Tokyo governor, Masuzoe is expected to convey Abe's message that the Japanese leader hopes to

improve bilateral ties with South Korea, a Tokyo metropolitan government source said.

"It's not bad for us to have dialogue through various channels," even as difficult challenges exist between Japan and South Korea, Chief Cabinet Secretary Yoshihide Suga told a news conference.—Kyodo News

Malaysian airliner's voice recorder in good condition, says ICAO

OTTAWA, 24 July — The cockpit voice recorder of the Malaysian airliner shot down over Ukraine is in good condition, the UN civil aviation body said on Wednesday, adding that it was holding talks with airlines and states on how to assess the danger posed by conflicts. Malaysian Airlines flight MH17 was shot down by a missile over eastern Ukraine last week, killing almost 300 people. The plane crashed in territory held by Russian-backed separatists, raising fears the wreckage might be tampered with.

Officials from the Montreal-based International Civil Aviation Organization are helping Ukrainian and Dutch authorities probe the crash. Most of the victims on the Amsterdam-Kuala Lumpur flight were Dutch.

"The cockpit voice

recorder is in good condition ... the digital flight data recorder is still under review," ICAO said in a statement.

The Dutch Safety Board, which is leading the international inquiry into

the crash, said earlier in the day there was no evidence the voice recorder had been tampered with.

Britain said on Wednesday it had taken delivery of the two recorders, a day after a senior rebel

leader in Ukraine handed them over to Malaysian experts. ICAO, which groups 191 countries, has no operational role and does not issue advisories about the dangers of armed conflict.—Reuters



A mother and her daughter reflect at the gate of the Korporaal van Oudheusden barracks, after bringing flowers to remember the victims killed in Malaysia Airlines Flight MH17 plane disaster, in Hilversum on 23 July, 2014.—REUTERS

WORLD

US lifts ban on flights to Israel as Gaza toll tops 700

GAZA/JERUSALEM, 24 July — Israel won a partial reprieve from the economic pain of its Gaza war on Thursday with the lifting of a US ban on commercial flights to Tel Aviv, while continued fighting pushed the Palestinian death toll over 700. A truce remained elusive despite intensive mediation efforts. Israel says it needs more time to eradicate rocket stocks and cross-border tunnels in the Gaza Strip and Hamas Islamists demand the blockade on the enclave be lifted.

An Egyptian official said on Wednesday that a more limited humanitarian ceasefire may go into effect by the weekend, in time for the Eid al-Fitr festival, Islam's biggest annual celebration that follows the fasting month of Ramadan.

But the United States, whose Secretary of State John Kerry is spearheading the indirect negotiations, was more circumspect.

"It would not be accurate to say that we expect a ceasefire by the weekend," said a senior US official, who spoke on condition of anonymity. "We are continuing to work on it, but it is not set at this point."

The death toll in Gaza rose above 700 on Thursday as Israeli tank fire be-



Smokes rises during an Israeli ground offensive in the east of Gaza City on 23 July, 2014. — REUTERS

fore dawn killed 16 people in the Hamas-dominated coastal territory, including six members of the same family, Palestinian health officials said.

Israel has lost 32 soldiers to clashes inside Gaza and with Hamas raiders who have slipped across the fortified frontier in tunnels. Rocket and mortar shelling by Hamas and other Palestinian guerrillas has killed three civilians in Israel.

Such shelling surged last month as Israel cracked down on Hamas in the occupied West Bank, trigger-

ing the on 8 July air and sea barrage in Gaza that escalated into an invasion a week ago. Though Israel's Iron Dome rocket interceptor has shot down most of the rockets fired from Gaza, one that came close to Tel Aviv's Ben Gurion Airport on Tuesday prompted the US Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) to bar American flights there.

The ensuing wave of cancellations by foreign airlines emptied Israel's usually bustling international gateway and hurt its hi-tech economy at the height of

summer tourist season. It was hailed as a "victory" by Hamas, and prompted an appeal by Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu on Kerry to intervene.

Saying it had reviewed the security situation, the FAA canceled the ban late on Wednesday, and Israel predicted take-offs and landings by US carriers would resume on Thursday though European airlines might take longer to follow suit.

"The Europeans did not really deliberate over this, but acted more as a

follow-up to the American decision," said Gadi Regev, chief of staff for Israel's Civil Aviation Authority.

In what appeared to be let-up in Palestinian attacks, the Israeli military said on Thursday only one rocket had been launched from Gaza overnight. It fell wide, causing no damage.

Israel's security cabinet released no decision after meeting late into the night on a proposed humanitarian truce under which fighting would cease immediately but negotiations for terms for an extended deal would begin only in several days' time.

An Israeli official briefed on the deliberations said the army required four of five days to destroy cross-border tunnels and rocket arsenals, but acknowledged Palestinians were unlikely to hold fire while those missions continued on the ground.

Hamas leader Khaled Meshaal said his fighters had made gains against Israel and voiced support for a humanitarian truce, but only if Israel eased restrictions on Gaza's 1.8 million Palestinians, who are also under an embargo by next-door Egypt.

"Let's agree first on the demands and on imple-

menting them and then we can agree on the zero hour for a ceasefire ... We will not accept any proposal that does not lift the blockade ... We do not desire war and we do not want it to continue but we will not be broken by it," Meshaal said on Wednesday in Qatar.

Israel also came under criticism from the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights Navi Pillay, who said there was "a strong possibility" Israel was committing war crimes in Gaza, where 703 Palestinians, mostly civilians, have been killed in the fighting.

Pillay also condemned indiscriminate Islamist rocket fire out of Gaza, and the United Nations Human Rights Council said it would launch an international inquiry into alleged violations. Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu reacted furiously.

"The decision today by the HRC is a travesty," he said in a statement. "The HRC should be launching an investigation into Hamas's decision to turn hospitals into military command centers, use schools as weapons depots and place missile batteries next to playgrounds, private homes and mosques."

Reuters

Islamic State says carried out Baghdad suicide bombing

BAGHDAD, 24 July — Islamic State militants claimed responsibility on Wednesday for an overnight suicide bombing in a Shi'ite district of Baghdad which killed 33 people, one of the deadliest recent attacks in the Iraqi capital.

The hardline Sunni Islamist group which has led an offensive through northern and western Iraq said the explosion in Kadhimiya, site of a major Shi'ite shrine, was carried out by a fighter it named as Abu Abdul-Rahman al-Tunisi (the Tunisian).

Officials initially put the death toll from the bomb at 23, but hospital and morgue officials said on Wednesday morning it had risen to 33, with more than 50 wounded.

The Islamic State has claimed responsibility for a wave of bombings in Baghdad, including several blasts on Saturday which killed 27 people.



Residents gather at the scene of a car bomb attack in Baghdad on 19 July, 2014.

REUTERS

Sunni fighters led by the Islamic State swept through most of Iraq's Sunni Muslim provinces towards Baghdad last month, their advance halted less than 100 km from the capital.

Government forces launched a counter-offensive a week ago to recapture Tikrit, home city of executed former president Saddam Hussein, but withdrew within hours after coming under fierce

onslaught from the militants.

On Wednesday morning an air strike by government forces on a civilian neighbourhood in the town of Sharqat, north of Tikrit, killed 12 people, a hospital source said.

Security forces also found the bodies of eight Iraqi soldiers 3 km (2 miles) outside Samarra, the most northern city under full government control.

Attack on bus in Iraq kills 51 prisoners, nine policemen

A shooting and bombing attack on a bus in Iraq killed 51 prisoners and nine policemen on Thursday, Ministry of Justice and medical sources said. The bus was transporting prisoners from a military base in the town of Taji to Baghdad when it was hit by roadside bombs, the sources said.

Reuters

Israel PM calls UNHRC decision on war crimes "travesty"

JERUSALEM, 24 July — Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu said on Wednesday that the United Nations Human Rights Council's (UNHRC) decision to form an inquiry committee into possible Israeli war crimes in Gaza is "a travesty."

"(The decision is) a travesty and should be rejected by decent people everywhere," Netanyahu said, according to a statement from his office.

The prime minister said that the UNHRC should investigate Hamas 'actions, which he said was committing a double war crime, firing rockets at Israel and hiding behind Palestinian civilians. "By failing to condemn Hamas' systematic use of human shields and by blaming Israel for the deaths... the UNHRC is sending a message to Hamas and terror organizations everywhere that using civilians as human shields is an effective strategy," Netanyahu said.

The UN committee met in Geneva earlier on Wednesday and its chairwoman Navi Pillay said that Israel may have committed war crimes by killing civilians and shooting at houses and hospitals in the Gaza Strip.

Earlier on Wednesday, Israel Defence Forces (IDF) attacked targets at the Al-Wafa hospital compound, charging that Hamas militants fired at Israeli soldiers from the premises. The hospital's director told the *Ha'aretz* daily that the hospital has been empty since last week.

More than 600 Palestinians have been killed in the past two weeks and more than 4,000 were wounded, most of whom civilians. On the Israeli side, 32 soldiers have died since Israel's ground incursion started on Thursday, one soldier is missing but presumed dead by the IDF, and three civilians were killed by rocket attacks from Gaza.—Xinhua

PERSPECTIVES

Friday, 25 July, 2014

No winners without responsible business practices

By Myint Win Thein

Most businesses in Myanmar are still unaware of responsible business practices such as policies on human rights, health, safety and environment programmes, organizational transparency and anti-corruption efforts, according to a recent re-

port by the Myanmar Center for Responsible Business.

Myanmar is a complete stranger to responsible business practices, and the lack of such practices has led to human right violations, health, safety and environmental problems and corruptions. Although there are laws for conducting business, these laws fail to include corporate social responsibility or responsible business practices as a prerequisite.

As a result, some businesses in Myanmar thrive in the short term while the public suffers unrecoverable losses and faces dangers. It is evident that many problems faced by Myanmar now have their origins in the lack of responsible business practices.

The lack of responsible business practices will lead to an ever widening gap between the rich

and the poor which will in turn cause social instability in the future. Social instability will hurt the economy of the country and will hinder the development. Inclusive development will never be materialized without responsible business practices. Eventually this will lead to the utter collapse of the economy in which no businesses can thrive.

It is about time responsible business practices were enforced.

Write for us

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

Effective Management

Kyi Mun

Effective Management is here analytically defined as follows:

M = **MAKING THINGS HAPPEN** by doing the **RIGHT** things which means **EFFECTIVENESS**; and **GETTING THINGS DONE** by doing the things **RIGHT**, which means **EFFICIENCY**. Doing the right things is Leadership : Strategic Direction Giving, and doing the things right is Management : Tactical Performance.

A = **ACTION PLAN** : Establishing Organizational Goal, Business Objective and Functional Targets. For example, Organizational Goal: To be the Undisputed Market Leader; Business Objective : To Deliver Best Value to Customer; and Functional Target; Market Penetration by staging a Sales Blitz in the unpenetrated areas in the existing market.

N = **NETWORKING** : Strategically establishing communications in the important market segments, by organizing marketing campaigns deploying mainly direct marketing activities, highlighting the Brand Image. For example, Getting the Lists of existing customers and the potential Prospects; Making Offers that are very attractive in terms of competitiveness; Giving Creative messages such as Quality, Differentiation and Value; Establishing a Market-Position in the marketplace by positioning oneself as **the Best Choice for Best Value**.

A = **ACCOUNTABILITY**, Everybody in the organization must have Commitment, Involvement, Participation and Contribution in the Performance of the Organizational Movements-(Popular CIPC) as follows:

- Commitment to Total Quality Management-TQM.
- Involvement in the business activities of the company.
- Participation in Fulfilling the Functional Targets of the Departments.
- Contribution to the attainment of the Business Objective.

G = **GOAL-DRIVEN** : The whole organization from top to bottom along the entire length and breadth of the company must be driven by the planned GOAL. Every activity, every movement must be GOAL-FOCUSED, GOAL-CENTERED and GOAL-ORIENTED. The agreed GOAL must be constantly pursued as a life and death problem. If the goal is to be the market leader, the entire or-

ganization must go all-out to become the Market Leader.

E = **EXCELLENCE** : It means to take utmost care to be excellent in :

- Strategy
- Cutting Edge
- Distinctive Capabilities
- Morale and
- Resources

These are the (5) Areas in which Excellence must flourish sustainably for Peak Performance. It is the most important aspect of organizational effectiveness to have excellence in Technological Skills, Knowledge & Talent; in Conceptual Skills, Knowledge & Talent; and in Interpersonal Skills, Knowledge & Talent in order to be able to beat the competition.

M = **MISSION-MINDED** : The entire organization must be MISSION-MINDED. It means all the PEOPLE in the company must thoroughly understand and believe in the MISSION of the Company. It means the Main Purpose of the Business. It means THE REASON FOR BEING IN BUSINESS, or simply the Reason for its existence. First of all, the leadership must define its business: What Business Are We In ? For example, are we in Rail Road Business ? or In TRANSPORTATION ? Are we in Petroleum Business ? or in ENERGY Business ? Are we in Cinema Business ? or in ENTERTAINMENT Business ? Are we in Hotel Business ? or in HOSPITALITY Business ? Are we in Newspaper Business ? or in INFORMATION & COMMUNICATION BUSINESS ?

E = **ENABLING** : One of the priority jobs of an Effective Management is TO ENABLE THE PEOPLE. The entire mass of the employees of the company must be ABLE & WILLING PEOPLE. There can be Four Categories of Employees:

- Able & Willing
 - Unable but Willing
 - Able but Unwilling
 - Unable & Unwilling
- The management must be RUTHLESS in STAMPING OUT the Elements of the UNWILLING MINDSET. The H/R policy should be : **“To Recruit for Talent and to Train for Skills”**. So, all forms of unwillingness such as unwillingness to cooperate or to submit to Team Discipline must be ruthlessly rooted out. The clarion call should be: **“To Unite Together to Turn Heaven & Earth Upside Down!”** So, PEOPLE DEVELOPMENT must be high in the company’s policy. PEOPLE should be of very

High Caliber in Quality and Capability. This is a Tall Order, but it is quite essential.

N = **NEVER-SAY-DIE** : Management, especially Effective Management must :

“Be Strong Inside, Permit No Defeat and Fight All You Can”.

Effective Management must :

“Never Give Up, Never Give In; Stand Up to it; Fight It Through !”

To be effective, Management should :

“Be Strong and Of Good Courage: Be Not Afraid, Neither Be Thou Dismayed!”

Effective Management should : **“Be Resolute, Fear No Sacrifice and Surmount All Difficulties to Win Victory.”**

Effective Management should be : **“Bold, Strong and Prudent”**.

It should be surrounded by a High-Caliber **“Master-Mind”**— People with Masterful Minds.

T = **TALENT : Talent means:**

- **T** = tough-minded or single-minded, totally -dedicated
- **A** = Action-Oriented : Audacious Pursuit of the Organizational Goal
- **L** = Learning-biased : Always Learning to Lead
- **E** = Energetic : Earnest Endeavour
- **N** = Networking-focused : Information & Communication Sharing
- **T** = THINK-AND-WIN-ATTITUDE, Can-Do-Spirit

In short, Effective Management must have the will and the determination as well as the capability to strategically achieve the following five international best practices:

- Financial Viability
- Operational Efficiency
- Managerial Effectiveness
- Customer and Employee Satisfaction
- Competitive Advantage

U Kyi Mun residing in Yangon is a consultant of NAING Group Capital Co.,Ltd.

GOLD PRICE, FE RATE (24-7-2014)

Yangon Gold Price

Buying K674,400 per tical: Selling K675,200

Mandalay Gold Price

Buying K674,200 per tical: Selling K675,000

FE RATE

USD Buying K971 - Selling K976

SGD Buying K779 - Selling K788

Euro Buying K1300 - Selling K1318

LOCAL NEWS

Myanmar and international software companies to cooperate

YANGON, 24 July—The MCC-SAP Day was organized by the MCC Group, which is the largest ICT group of companies in Myanmar, at Parkroyal Hotel in Yangon on Tuesday.

SAP is one of three greatest software companies across the world in producing enterprise solutions to Microsoft, Oracle and other companies.

SAP North Consulting Group and MCC Group will give services of enterprise resource planning software to the ICT companies of Myanmar.

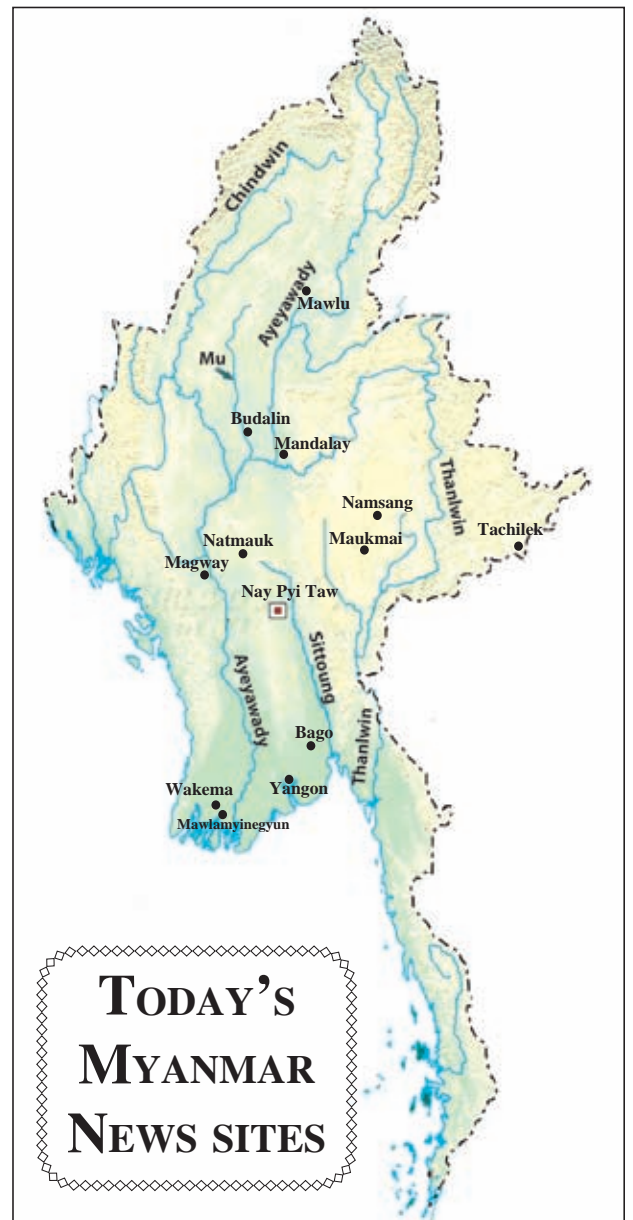
At the ceremony, Chairman of MCC Group U Tin Win Aung discussed transformation of Myanmar business, taking it into



the 21st century. A panel discussion on the significance of strategy & systems governance in Myanmar's development roadmap followed with participation of Managing Director Dr Sanda Tun of Shwe Taung Property Management Co., Ltd, CEO U Win Than of Ayeya Shwewah Group of Companies and Managing Director Mr Liher Urbizu Sierra of SAP Indochina.

Managing Director Mr Liher Urbizu Sierra of SAP Indochina and Chairman of MCC Group U Tin Win Aung then signed the agreement on the use of SAP Enterprise Resource Planning software at MCC Group.

Aung Thura



TODAY'S MYANMAR NEWS SITES

UMFCCI to hold AGM on 9 August

YANGON, 24 July—The Republic of the Union of Myanmar Federation of Chambers of Commerce and Industry-UMFCCI will hold its 23rd Annual General Meeting at its office tower on Minye Kyawswa Street in Lanmadaw Township of Yangon at 1.30 pm

on 9 August.

The annual report and financial report will be sent to members, and these reports will be posted at www.umfcci.net of the federation. The executive committee invites all members to attend the meeting.—Aung Thura

Entrepreneurs urged to renew work licences

MANDALAY, 24 July—The Sanitation Department of the Mandalay City Development Committee has informed entrepreneurs to renew their work licence at the department for the 2014-15 fiscal year, not later than 26 June 2014. However, there remain 2,279 entrepreneurs to renew their work licences.

MCDC informed that the entrepreneurs who fail to renew the licences until 26 September 2014 will be fined K30,000 for the first time, and second-time offenders who do not renew the licence by September will be fined K50,000 and works will be terminated. Action will be taken against entrepreneurs who

do not abide by the law.

A combined team comprising officials of MCDC and Development Affairs Police Corps are checking entrepreneurs without work

licences in the townships and action has been taken against 60 entrepreneurs from 1 to 22 July.

Thiha Ko Ko (Mandalay)

Ambulance donated to social association in Budalin Township

BUDALIN, 24 July—A ceremony to donate an ambulance to ThadaU social association was held at the rural health branch in Dantaing Village of Budalin Township in Sagaing Region on Wednesday.

Wellwisher U Tun Lwin and wife Daw Yi Yi Swe and family donated a Super Custom ambulance worth K5 million to the association with the aim of transporting patients to hospitals or clinics.

Anyone from villages in Budalin Township may ask help from the association at anytime, dialing 09-256574874.

Tun Ko Ko

Wakema Township to build village library

WAKEMA, 24 July—The government allotted funds to the villages of Ayeyawady Region, including K2 million to the construction of a village library in Kyabyu Village of Wakema Township for the 2014-15 fiscal year.

Head of Township Information and Public Relations Department Daw Myint Myint Kyi and officials visited the village to view the place for the library on Tuesday.

The place for the library was donated by village ad-

ministrator U Win Myint with the aim of raising the literacy rate in rural areas.

The officials of Township IPRD met village elders and urged them to participate in construction of the library for its development.

Township IPRD

Gifts, toys given to pre-primary children, national race girls



TACHILEK, 24 July—Shan State Maternal and Child Welfare Supervisory Committee Patron Daw Phyu Phyu Nyunt and Chairperson Daw San San Win met pre-primary children, pregnant women and girls from ethnic groups in Tachilek of eastern Shan State on Tuesday.

They presented milk powder, breads and toys to 33 children at ShweliU pre-primary school in Yanaungmyay Ward of Tachilek and

donated K100,000 to the fund of the school.

They also gave nutritious foods and medicines to 25 pregnant women at the delivery room of Township MCWA in Macaokham Ward. At the administrative office of Wamkaung Ward, they gave talks on prevention against trafficking in persons to 30 ethnic girls and gifts and cash assistance to them.

Mawgyi (Triangle Region)

MANDALAY, 24 July—Chief Minister of Mandalay Region U Ye Myint and region ministers made an inspection tour of Myohta Industrial City construction project in Ngazun Township of Myingyan District and Hsimeekhon (Ayeyawady) jetty construction project in Myingyan Township on 21 July.

Upon completion, the region will gain development momentum, creating job opportunities for the local people, he said, urging officials to complete the

Myohta Industrial City construction project under implementation



projects as soon as possible.

The region chief minister and his delegation

inspected maintenance of road sections and construction of bridges along the Myohta-Chaungkh-

wa-Umin-Dwehla-Kyaukse Road.

Thiha Ko Ko (Mandalay)

Seleka to sign ceasefire, drops call for Central African Republic split

BRAZZAVILLE/DAKAR, 24 July — Central African Republic's mainly Muslim Seleka rebels will sign a ceasefire with 'anti-balaka' Christian militia on Wednesday, having dropped their demands for the country to be split in two along religious lines, Seleka officials told Reuters.

Seleka's call for the country to be officially partitioned into a Muslim north and a Christian south risked derailing talks in Congo Republic aimed at ending religious violence that has killed thousands of people and forced 1 million to flee their homes. "We will be signing the cessation of hostilities agreement this afternoon," Colonel Youssouf Ben Moussa, a senior Seleka official, said by telephone from the Seleka-controlled north of Central African Republic.

"Our demand for the partition of the country has been dropped. That demand



Seleka fighters take a break as they sit on a pick-up truck in the town of Goya on 11 June, 2014.—REUTERS

is obsolete now: what we have agreed to is the sharing of power," Moussa added.

Most Muslims have fled the south of the former

French colony, creating a de-facto partition, but Seleka leaders had pushed for this to be formalized. Members of Seleka's negotiating team in

Congo Republic confirmed the information. They said they would provide further details after the signing of the deal in Brazzaville,

where delegates from the armed groups, transitional government and civil society have held three days of talks.

Reuters

Suicide bombs in Nigeria's Kaduna kill 82, ex-leader Buhari targeted

KADUNA, 24 July — At least 82 people were killed on Wednesday in two suicide bombings in the north Nigerian city of Kaduna, one aimed at opposition leader and ex-president Muhammadu Buhari and another at a moderate Muslim cleric about to lead a crowd in prayer.

The attacks bore the hallmarks of Islamist militant group Boko Haram, which considers all those who do not share its views to be enemies. But it may also have been linked to politics before the 2015 elections.

In the deadliest attack, a bomber in a car full of explosives hurtled towards Buhari's convoy at the crowded Kawo market, his son told Reuters on the scene and police said later. A Red Cross official said at least 50 people were killed there. Buhari was the main opposition party contender against President Good-



Workers pick items at the scene of a bombing in Kaduna on 23 July, 2014.—REUTERS

luck Jonathan in the 2011 election and remains a key figure in the opposition alliance. He was riding in an armor-plated sport utility vehicle and was not wounded.

A crowd gathered at the scene of the explosion until the military dispersed them by firing shots in the air. Smoke rose from an-

other vehicle destroyed in the blast. "When I came out of my car I saw many dead bodies littered around," Buhari said in a statement, calling the attack "mass murder" and "clearly an assassination attempt".

Earlier, a suicide bomber on foot, targeting a moderate cleric, killed at least 32 of his congregation

on a busy commercial road.

Thousands were gathered for prayers with Sheikh Dahiru Bauchi in Murtala Muhammed square. When his convoy pulled up, the bomber lunged at him before being stopped by his private security, witnesses and police commissioner Shehu Umar Ambursa said.—Reuters

US condemns bomb attacks in Nigeria

WASHINGTON, 24 July — The United States on Wednesday condemns the twin bombings in Nigeria, which have killed 82 people.

The United States deplores the attack targeting Shaykh Dahiru Usman Bauchi, one of the Nigeria's

most respected Muslim scholars, State Department spokeswoman Marie Harf said in a statement.

Two bomb blasts rocked Nigeria's northern state of Kaduna, killing 82 persons and security sources, eyewitness said on Wednesday. Shehu Umar,

the state police commissioner, put the official death toll at 39.

The United States is also concerned about reports that these blasts may have also targeted former head of state General Muhammadu Buhari, Harf said. "We call on Nigerian

authorities to fully investigate these attacks," Harf said. The United States also urges all Nigerians to avoid reprisals and continue to practice the interfaith cooperation that violent extremists seek to undermine, the spokeswoman added.

Xinhua

Sudanese Christian convert woman flying to Italy — government official

ROME, 24 July — A Sudanese woman who was spared a death sentence for converting from Islam to Christianity, and then barred from leaving Sudan, was due to arrive in Italy on Thursday, an Italian government official said.

Mariam Yahya Ibrahim, 27, was on a plane accompanied by Italy's vice minister of foreign affairs, Lapo Pistelli, according to the official who asked not to be named.

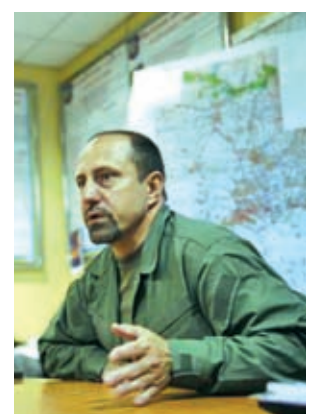
"Mariam, the young Christian woman held in Khartoum after being condemned to death for apostasy, should be arriving in Italy on a government flight," the official said in a text message, without specifying when the flight had left.—Reuters

Ukraine rebel commander acknowledges fighters had BUK missile

DONETSK, 24 July — A powerful Ukrainian rebel leader has confirmed that pro-Russian separatists had an anti-aircraft missile of the type Washington says was used to shoot down Malaysia Airlines flight MH17 and it could have originated in Russia.

In an interview with Reuters, Alexander Khodakovsky, commander of the Vostok Battalion, acknowledged for the first time since the airliner was brought down in eastern Ukraine on Thursday that the rebels did possess the BUK missile system and said it could have been sent back subsequently to remove proof of its presence. Before the Malaysian plane was shot down, rebels had boasted of obtaining the BUK missiles, which can shoot down airliners at cruising height. But since the disaster the separatists' main group, the self-proclaimed People's Republic of Donetsk, has repeatedly denied ever having possessed such weapons.

Since the airliner crashed with the loss of all 298 on board, the most contentious issue has been who fired the missile that brought the jet down in an area where government forces are fighting pro-Russian rebels.



Rebel commander Alexander Khodakovsky of the so-called Vostok battalion — or eastern battalion — speaks during an interview in Donetsk, on 8 July, 2014.—REUTERS

Khodakovsky accused the Kiev authorities for provoking what may have been the missile strike that destroyed the doomed airliner, saying Kiev had deliberately launched air strikes in the area, knowing the missiles were in place. "I knew that a BUK came from Luhansk. At the time I was told that a BUK from Luhansk was coming under the flag of the LNR," he said, referring to the Luhansk People's Republic, the main rebel group operating in Luhansk, one of two rebel provinces along with Donetsk, the province where the crash took place.

Reuters

SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY

LG Electronics beats second-quarter estimates as mobile division turns profit

SEOUL, 24 July — LG Electronics Inc reported on Thursday its strongest quarterly profit in more than three years, beating analyst estimates thanks to a pickup in television sales and a turnaround in its mobile phone business.

The world's second-largest TV maker after local rival Samsung Electronics Co Ltd said profit at its TV arm improved in April-June from a year earlier, while its smartphone shipments rose 20 percent to a record 14.5 million handsets.

The global TV market is showing signs of life as demand from advanced markets picks up, with sales of larger-sized ultra high-definition (UHD) TVs widely seen as a potential boost. But LG and market analysts said a likely rise in marketing costs by TV makers may limit the extent of any earnings boost.

"The results were bet-



A sales assistant uses his mobile phone in front of mock LG electronics smart phones displayed at a store in Seoul on 22 July, 2014.—REUTERS

ter than expected," said HMC Investment analyst Greg Roh. "A key factor to watch is how well the G3 smartphone fares in the United States, but the outlook appears to be bright given the second-quarter numbers."

For the April-June pe-

riod, LG Electronics reported an operating profit of 606 billion won (\$589.04 million), compared with a 524 billion won mean estimate of 39 analysts polled by Thomson Reuters I/B/E/S.

That was LG's best operating profit since at least

2011. The company restated its earnings last year due to accounting changes and did not have new figures available for 2010 or earlier, said a company spokeswoman.

Shares of LG Electronics were trading up 4.6 percent as the wider market

traded flat, extending gains following the company's earnings disclosure.

LG's TV division reported operating profit of 154.5 billion won, up from 93.7 billion won a year earlier on an improved product mix and lower fixed costs.

The mobile phone division turned an operating profit of 85.9 billion won, from a 61.2 billion won profit a year prior. The company said sales of smartphones featuring Long-Term Evolution (LTE) communication technology rose sharply due to new products including the G3 high-end smartphone.

The G3 smartphone launched in late May to generally positive reviews, boosting hopes for a turnaround for the handset division as the product began selling in major markets such as the United States and Europe earlier in July.—Reuters

Facebook beats Wall Street targets, stock hits record high

SAN FRANCISCO, 24 July — Facebook Inc's fast-growing mobile advertising business helped drive a 61 percent increase in revenue during the second quarter, beating Wall Street's financial targets and sending shares to a record-high in after-hours trading on Wednesday.

The world's No 1 Internet social network said on Wednesday that it saw increased interest from both advertisers and from users during the second quarter, while the company's profit margins expanded. Facebook now counts 1.5 million advertising customers and the company's ad business saw strong growth across all of its geographic regions, Chief Operating Officer Sheryl Sandberg told Reuters in an interview on Wednesday.—Reuters

AT&T, Chernin Group close to deal to buy YouTube network Fullscreen — tech blog



An AT&T sign is shown on a building in downtown San Diego, California on 18 March, 2014.—REUTERS

SAN FRANCISCO, 24 July — AT&T Inc and the Chernin Group are close to buying a majority slice of Fullscreen, in a deal that will value the popular YouTube video network at \$200 million to \$300 million, said tech blog Re/code, citing sources familiar with the target company.

Otter Media, a joint venture between the telecom carrier and the investment group headed by media entrepreneur Peter Chernin, beat out several unidentified prospective buyers in past months, the blog reported on Wednesday.

AT&T, Fullscreen and

the Chernin Group were not immediately available for comment.

The acquisition would follow on the heels of Walt Disney Co's \$500 million acquisition of Maker Studios earlier this year, which cast a spotlight on the potential value of fast-growing original content channels on Google Inc's YouTube.

Time Warner Inc, Yahoo Inc and Relativity Media LLC are among the companies that have reportedly eyed or held talks with Fullscreen, which caters to a younger-skewing audience and claims some 3 billion monthly video views from more than 400 million subscribers.

Otter Media was set up this year with \$500 million in capital investment from AT&T and the Chernin Group.—Reuters

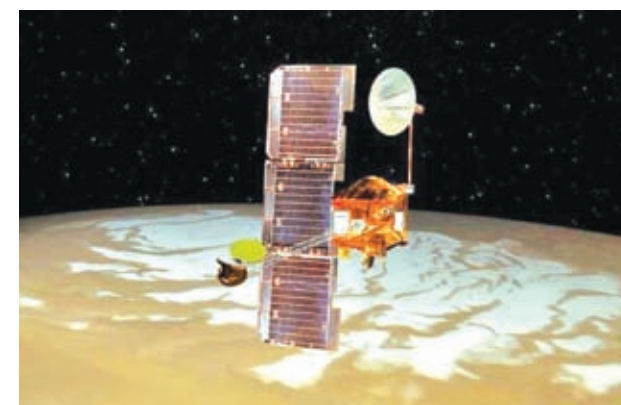
NASA puts out call for satellite communication services — on Mars

CAPE CANAVERAL, 24 July — In what may be the ultimate in long-distance telephone service, NASA on Wednesday put out a call for a commercially owned and operated satellite network on Mars.

The US space agency needs to keep in touch with its rovers, landers and orbiters that have been chipping away at studies and experiments to learn if the planet most like Earth in the solar system ever supported life.

The robotic probes, however, are useless if they cannot relay their results, and the two communication satellites currently in orbit are getting old. The Mars Odyssey spacecraft was launched in 2001. Mars Reconnaissance Orbiter followed in 2005.

The aging of NASA's Mars communications sys-



NASA's Mars Odyssey spacecraft passes above Mars' south pole in this artist's concept illustration handout released by NASA on 24 July, 2012.—REUTERS

tem comes as the United States, Europe, Russia and India mount a fresh wave of science campaigns, including two atmospheric probes slated to arrive at Mars in September and two life-hunting rovers due to launch in 2018 and 2020.

"There is a potential communications gap in the

2020s," NASA wrote in its solicitation, which was posted on the agency's procurement website.

"With that in mind, NASA is interested in exploring alternative models to sustain and evolve the Mars relay infrastructure," the solicitation said.

Reuters

US scientists to map interior of Mount St Helens volcano

SEATTLE, 24 July — A series of explosions set off by a team of scientists were expected to rattle Washington state's Mount St Helens on Wednesday as researchers map the interior of the volcano, whose 1980 eruption was the deadliest in US history.

Mount St Helens, about 95 miles (150 km)

south of Seattle and 50 miles (80 km) north of Portland, erupted in an explosion of hot ash in May 1980, spewing debris over a wide area, killing 57 people and causing more than a billion dollars in damage.

Scientists from across the United States are trying to get a better handle on the magma stores and internal

workings of the 8,300-foot (2,530-meter) volcano to improve warning systems prior to eruption.

"Mount St Helens and other volcanoes in the Cascade Range threaten urban centers from Vancouver to Portland," lead scientist Alan Levander of Rice University in Houston said in a statement.—Reuters



Mount St Helens emits a plume of steam and ash on 1 Oct, 2004, from an area of new crevasses in the crater glacier south of the 1980-86 lava dome.—REUTERS

Investigators discover new leak clues in US nuclear site

HOUSTON, 24 July — A lead-laden glove left in a waste container might have triggered a chemical reaction and led to February's radiation leak at the Waste Isolation Pilot Plant (WIPP) in southeastern New Mexico, local media reported on Wednesday.

The New Mexican said Nan Sauer, an official with leading nuclear weapons manufacturer Los Alamos National Laboratory, revealed the new information had come to light during an internal investigation.

Underground nuclear waste repository WIPP in Carlsbad has been shut down since on 14 February. Investigators have been working since to discover the cause of the leak.

A prior leading theory had been that a change of

kitty litter, used to absorb moisture in nuclear waste, caused a chemical reaction inside a container.

Officials have so far been tight-lipped about the anticipated cost of rehabilitating WIPP following the shutdown, but have previously said it could take the federal government two years or more to seal off the underground rooms, while full resumption of operations could take up to three years.

WIPP stores transuranic waste left over from nuclear weapons research and testing from the nation's past defence activities. Such waste materials include clothing, tools, rags and other debris contaminated with radioactive elements, largely plutonium.

Xinhua



Photo taken on 23 July, 2014 shows the Old Post Office in Washington DC, the United States. A groundbreaking ceremony for the Trump International Hotel on the site of the Old Post Office was held on Wednesday. —XINHUA

Billionaires in Singapore expanded to 26 this year: Forbes Asia

SINGAPORE, 24 July — Singapore's richest got even richer. The billionaires club in Singapore has expanded to 26 this year, up from 21 in 2013, said *Forbes Asia* on Thursday.

The combined net wealth of Singapore's 50 richest in 2014 is 97.13 billion US dollars. The richest in the city-state again goes to property tycoon Robert and Philio Ng, the brothers who own hotel and mall conglomerate Far East Organization and Sino Land. They added 2.2 billion US

dollars to their fortune on rising values of their companies, pushing up their net worth at 12.8 billion US dollars.

Chairman of City Developments, Kwek Leng Beng and his family seized the second place with a net wealth of 7.8 billion US dollars. And the Khoo family, which takes charge of Goodwood Group of Hotels, ranked the third with a net wealth of 7 billion US dollars.

Other biggest gainers include Eduardo Saverin,

co-founder of Facebook, who has gained almost 1.6 billion US dollars since August 2013 with the climb in the value of Facebook shares, pushing his total net wealth to 4.2 billion US dollars this year.

Among the seven newcomers of the 50 richest list, two entered the list after taking their companies public: shipping veteran Pang Yoke Min of Pacific Radiance, an offshore vessel supplier, and Lim Chap Huat of property group Soilbuild.

US Air Force base locked down over "suspicious individual"

HOUSTON, 24 July — A US Air Force base in Arkansas was briefly placed on lockdown Wednesday because of a "suspicious individual," the base said in a statement.

Little Rock Air Force Base in Jacksonville, Arkansas was locked down on Wednesday noon after officials received reports of a potential danger. The base said the lockdown was "in the interest of protecting all base members and resources from a suspicious individual." The statement did not detail the individual

concerned. Nor did it specify how or where the individual was spotted.

The Arkansas Democrat-Gazette reported the base had been scheduled to undergo emergency response exercise on Tuesday and Wednesday. A base spokesman told reporters that officials had been in training mode when a "real world" situation prompted the lockdown.

Later in the day, the base said in an updated release that the four-hour lockdown has been lifted.

Xinhua



Devotees carrying holy water from river Ganga return to their respective destinations through Grand Trunk Road in Ghaziabad, Uttar Pradesh around 20 kms from New Delhi, India, on 23 July, 2014. Devotees will pour the sacred water on Lord Shiva on the occasion of Shivaratri festival. —XINHUA

Iran nuclear talks to resume in early September

DUBAI, 24 July — Iran said on Wednesday nuclear talks with six world powers would resume in early September, according to state television, after both sides agreed to continue talking for four more months to try to reach a final agreement on Teheran's nuclear programme.

The preliminary accord had been due to expire on Sunday but was extended with some adjustments, after the two sides failed during negotiations in Vienna to meet a self-imposed 20 July deadline for a long-term deal to end the decade-old

nuclear standoff.

"The extension of talks shows this is a positive atmosphere," Iranian foreign ministry spokeswoman Marzieh Afkham said during a weekly Press conference.

She said the biggest difference between both was in enrichment capacity.

Iran says it is only refining uranium to fuel nuclear power plants or research reactors, not to develop a nuclear weapons capability as the West suspects.

The six powers — the United States, France, China, Russia, Germany

and Britain — want Iran to reduce its uranium enrichment programme significantly to make sure it cannot produce nuclear bombs.

Some other issues that have yet to be agreed upon include the heavy water Arak reactor, sanctions relief and the Fordow enrichment site, said Afkham. Iran wants sanctions on the oil-dependent economy to be lifted as soon as possible.

French Foreign Minister Laurent Fabius said last week that talks would resume in September but gave no further details.

Reuters

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Weather report

FORECAST VALID UNTIL EVENING OF THE 25th July, 2014: Rain will be isolated in Lower Sagaing Region and Kayah State, scattered in Mandalay and Magway Regions, fairly widespread in Upper Sagaing Region, Kachin, Shan and Chin States and widespread in the remaining Regions and States with likelihood of isolated heavy falls in Yangon, Ayeyawady and Taninthayi Regions, Rakhine, Kayin and Mon States. Degree of certainty is (100%).

STATE OF THE SEA: Squalls with moderate to rough sea are likely at times off and along Myanmar Coasts. Surface wind speed in squalls may reach (35-40) m.p.h.

Britain's first urban cable car eyes more international tourists

LONDON, 24 July— Britain's first urban cable car service, which flies over various landmark tourist attractions across the River Thames in London, is bracing for more international visitors during the peak tourism season in summer.

The Emirates Air Line, also known as the Thames cable car, is a ten-minute gondola lift cable link above the River Thames.

Serving both as a transport facility for commuters and a leisure attraction, the gondola lift offers spectacular views of London's iconic buildings, including the St Paul's Cathedral, the Royal Observatory Greenwich, the Olympic Stadium, the Old Royal Naval College and the Shard, which is a 95-storey Skyscraper and

the tallest building in western Europe.

The cable car service, first opened in 2012 and operated by Transport for London (TfL), is introducing new packages this summer for international tourists and domestic commuters alike to help them explore "a unique part of London," said Danny Price, TfL's head of the Emirates Air Line.

He said that the service, with nearly half of its passengers being Londoners, is exploring more options to encourage international visitors. The Emirates Air Line has teamed up with Thames Clippers, a popular river bus service in London, to create attractive joint packages to fly over and glide down the River Thames.—Xinhua

**CLAIMS DAY NOTICE
MV E.R. TURKU VOY NO (050)**

Consignees of cargo carried on MV E.R. TURKU VOY NO (050) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 25.7.2014 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of A.W.P.T where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

**SHIPPING AGENCY DEPARTMENT
MYANMA PORT AUTHORITY
AGENT FOR: M/S HANJIN SHIPPING LINES**
Phone No: 2301185

**CLAIMS DAY NOTICE
MV EVER APEX VOY NO (431)**

Consignees of cargo carried on MV EVER APEX VOY NO (431) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 25.7.2014 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of H.P.T where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

**SHIPPING AGENCY DEPARTMENT
MYANMA PORT AUTHORITY
AGENT FOR: M/S EVERGREEN SHIPPING LINE**
Phone No: 2301185

CORRIGENDUM

The correct registration number of **GRIPTORIX** under GlaxoSmithKline Biologicals S.A. appeared in the Trademark Caution on December 21, 2013 (The New Light of Myanmar, Page No.12) should be read as **IV/8965/2013** instead of **IV/8957/2013**.

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Leaders of Taiwan, China offer condolences for 48 dead in plane crash

TAIPEI, 24 July — The leaders of China and Taiwan expressed condolences on Thursday for victims of a TransAsia Airways turboprop plane that crashed during a thunderstorm the previous day killing 48 people including two French nationals.

The plane, a 70-seat ATR 72, crashed near the runway while trying to land on the small island of Penghu, west of Taiwan island, with 54 passengers and four crew on board. Ten people were injured and taken to hospital.

"Today is a very sad day in the history of Taiwan aviation," Taiwan President Ma Ying-jeou said in a statement.

"All of Taiwan is grieving."

China's president, Xi Jinping, who is on a Latin America tour, felt "deeply grieved" after learning the tragedy has caused heavy casualties, the mainland's State Council Taiwan Affairs Office, said in a statement, according to the *Xinhua news agency*.

The mainland and Taiwan have been rivals for decades, with the mainland regarding Taiwan as a renegade province, though commercial relations have grown in recent years.

Of the 48 victims, two were French nationals, the French foreign ministry said in a statement. The aircraft took off from



Rescue personnel survey the wreckage of a TransAsia Airways turboprop plane that crashed, on Taiwan's offshore island Penghu on 24 July, 2014. —REUTERS

Taiwan's southern city of Kaohsiung, headed for the airport of Makong, but crash-landed in Huxi township of Penghu County, the main island of the chain also known as the Pescadores.

No one on the ground was hurt.

Typhoon Matmo hit Taiwan on Wednesday, bringing heavy rain and strong wind, shutting financial markets and schools. It later passed the island and headed into China, downgraded from typhoon to tropical storm.

Taiwan's civil aviation authorities said the weather on Wednesday had been suitable for flying and they were trying to determine

the cause of the crash.

"There were nine flights on the same route between 2 pm and 7 pm yesterday. Only the TransAsia flight crashed," said Jean Shen, director of the Civil Aeronautics Administration.

"The weather reports showed it was totally OK for landing. We can not say for sure what went wrong at this point. The flight safety committee has opened an investigation .. They will complete an official report within a year."

Shares of TransAsia Airways fell 7 percent at the opening bell and were down 5 percent at noon. The main index was up 0.1 percent.

Taiwan has had a poor record for aviation safety over the last two decades, though it has improved recently after the government tightened up safety measures.

TransAsia and bigger rivals, China Airlines and Eva Airways, have been facing pressure from higher energy prices and the increasingly popular budget airlines. TransAsia Airways is a Taiwan-based airline with a fleet of around 23 Airbus and ATR aircraft, operating chiefly short-haul flights on domestic routes as well as to mainland China, Japan, Thailand and Cambodia, among its Asian destinations. —Reuters

Shia Labeouf does not want to look unfit to Brad Pitt



NEW YORK, 24 July — Troubled star Shia Labeouf is reportedly taking his alcohol addiction therapy seriously as he does not want to look unfit in front

of Brad Pitt during promotional events of their film 'Fury'. The 28-year-old 'Transformers' star, who was arrested last month for his alleged disorderly

conduct and harassment at a theatre, does not want to embarrass himself in front of the Hollywood superstar, reported *The New York Post*.—PTI

'Weird Al' Yankovic parodies his way to top of Billboard chart

LOS ANGELES, 24 July — "Weird Al" Yankovic, the parody singer and cult figure, on Wednesday earned his first No 1 album on the weekly US Billboard 200 album chart on the strength of several viral videos released online.

Parodying pop hits such as Pharrell's "Happy" ("Tacky") and Lorde's "Royals" ("Foil"), Yankovic's "Mandatory Fun" album sold 104,000 copies in its debut week, according to figures compiled by



"Weird Al" Yankovic

Nielsen SoundScan. Billboard said it is the first comedy album to top the chart since 1963, adding that "Mandatory Fun" had the most weekly sales for a comedy album since 1994.

Reuters

Post 'Mary Kom', Priyanka Chopra had to tone down for 'girly role' in 'Dil Dhadakne Do'



Priyanka Chopra

MUMBAI, 24 July — Actress Priyanka Chopra says director Zoya Akhtar wanted her to lose weight for her next film "Dil Dhadakne Do".

Priyanka is essaying the role of boxing champion Mary Kom in a biopic for which she had to build muscles. Her next is Zoya's "Dil Dhadakne Do".

"Zoya had warned me to lose all the muscles. I was not muscular but had acquired bulked-up physique. I had to be in right shape as I was playing a girly role. I had to work for it ... go on a crash diet and

lose shape," Priyanka told reporters here at the trailer launch of 'Mary Kom'.

"Dil Dhadakne Do" also features Ranveer Singh, Farhan Akhtar, Anushka Sharma, Anil Kapoor and Shefali Shah among others. The film revolves around a dysfunctional family on a cruise trip and is set to release on June 5 next year. Priyanka even revealed that for her special song in Sanjay Leela Bhansali's 'Ram Leela', her 'Mary Kom' avatar posed a problem. "He had told me I should not shoot in this shape for the song. I had put sleeves (on choli) so that I didn't look muscular," she said.—PTI

Adele wins damages over paparazzi photos of son

LONDON, 24 July, — 'Skyfall' hitmaker Adele and her partner, Simon Konecki have won a privacy case over the paparazzi photos of her two-year-old son Angelo Adkins.

The Oscar-winning singer had brought the case against photo agency Corbis Images UK Limited over pictures of the child's "milestone moments". The agency has now agreed to pay a five-figure sum in damages, legal costs. They have also agreed not to use Angelo's photos, which were taken in June and November last year, again.

Adele's solicitor, Jenny Afia, told the High Court in London that the sing-

er was emphatic that her son was not and must never be public property, reported BBC. "It is a matter of profound sadness that many of his milestone moments, such as his first family outing and his first trip to playgroup, were photographed and published worldwide expressly against his family's wishes," said Afia.

PTI



Oscar-winning singer Adele



Paris Hilton

Paris Hilton compares herself with Albert Einstein

LOS ANGELES, 24 July — Socialite Paris Hilton has revealed that her zodiac sign, Aquarius, has some kind of cosmic link to the German physicist Albert Einstein.

Einstein, according to the calendar, was a Pisces and not an Aquarian, reported *Us* magazine. "We are social butterflies, humanitarians, geniuses: Einstein was one," she said.

The 'Come Alive' singer, 33, says she has developed a thick skin over the years, with friends as well as strangers. "So many people have bad intentions, so many girls want to hang out to be someone. I weed those people out of my life. I call them hungry tigers," she said.

She also feels guilty about her famous sex tape with then-boyfriend Rick Salomon, which went viral in 2004.

"It was devastating because that was someone I was with for a few years. I don't think I'll ever be able to fully trust any man again after that. It was just the most hurtful and awful thing that anyone could do to a little girl. I was very young, it wasn't my fault."—PTI

GENERAL

CONDOLENCE

We are deeply saddened and express our heartfelt condolences to the bereaved family members of G. Janardhan Rao, the Secretary of the Shree Kali Temple Trust on His sad and sudden demise on 21.7.2014.

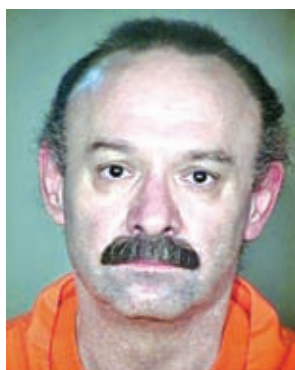
We all share our grief with you all during this mourning period.

His selfless service and unstinted devotion towards the betterment of the Temple will be missed and remembered for ever. May His soul rest in peace.

Shree Kali Temple Trust
Yangon

Arizona inmate takes nearly two hours to die in execution

PHOENIX, 24 July — An Arizona inmate took almost two hours to die by lethal injection and his lawyers said he “gasp[ed] and snort[ed]” before succumbing in the latest botched execution to raise questions about the death penalty in the United States. The execution of convicted double murderer Joseph Wood began at 1:52 pm local time at a state prison complex, and the 55-year-old was only pronounced dead at 3:49 pm, the Arizona attorney general’s office said.



Joseph Wood is pictured in this undated handout booking photo courtesy of the Arizona Department of Corrections.—REUTERS

During that time, his lawyers filed an emergency appeal in federal court that sought to have the execution halted and their client given life-saving medical treatment. The appeal said Wood had been “gasping and snorting for more than an hour,” and that the procedure violated his constitutional right to be executed without suffering “cruel and unusual punishment.”

Wood had been one of six death row inmates who sued Arizona last month arguing that secrecy surrounding the drugs used in other botched executions in Ohio and Oklahoma

violated their rights.

But on Wednesday the Arizona Supreme Court cleared the way for him to be put to death, lifting a hold after reviewing a last-minute appeal that involved demands for more information about the lethal drug cocktail to be used in the execution.

The execution had previously been put on hold by the 9th US Circuit Court of Appeals, which said on Saturday that Wood could suffer “irreparable harm” unless the state divulged information about the drugs and the qualifications of the medical staff conducting the execution.—Reuters

Dogs can be jealous too



WASHINGTON, 24 July — Dogs can feel jealous if they think you pay more attention to other dogs, a US study said on Wednesday.

Scientists generally view jealousy as an emotion requiring complex cognition, but some research suggests there may be a more basic form of jealousy, which evolved to protect social bonds from interlopers.

Some researchers predict that jealousy might even exist in other social species, like the cognitively sophisticated dog.

Since there had been no prior experiments on dog jealousy, researchers from University of California San Diego modified a test used to assess jealousy in six-month-old human infants.

Thirty-six dogs were individually tested and videotaped while their owners ignored them in favor of a realistic looking stuffed dog, a jack-o-lantern pail or a book.

The three tests were set up to test whether dogs’ behaviours were indicative of jealousy or a more general negative affect due to the loss of the owner’s attention. The dogs’ behaviour was then analyzed for aggression, attention seeking, and/or interest in the owner or object.

The researchers found that dogs were about twice as likely to push or touch the owner when the owner was interacting with the faux

dog (78 percent) as when the owner was attending to the pail (42 percent). Even fewer (22 percent) did this in the book condition.

About 30 percent of the dogs also tried to get between their owner and the stuffed animal. And while 25 percent snapped at the “other dog,” only one did so at the pail and book.

“Our study suggests not only that dogs do engage in what appear to be jealous behaviours but also that they were seeking to break up the connection between the owner and a seeming rival,” said lead author Christine Harris of the University of California San Diego.

“We can’t really speak to the dogs’ subjective experiences, of course, but it looks as though they were motivated to protect an important social relationship,” Harris said.

These results, published in the US journal *PLOS ONE*, supported the idea that jealousy may have some primordial form that exists in human infants and in at least one other social species: dogs.

The findings also supported the view that jealousy evolved to secure resources, not just in the context of sexual relationships, but also in any of a wide-range of valued relationships, such as competing for parental resources such as food, attention, care, and affection.

Xinhua

China plans railway to India, Nepal borders by 2020

BEIJING, 24 July — China plans to extend a railway line linking Tibet with the rest of the country to the borders of India, Nepal and Bhutan by 2020 once an extension to a key site in Tibetan Buddhism opens, a state-run newspaper reported on Thursday. China opened the railway to Tibet’s capital Lhasa in 2006, which passes spectacular icy peaks on the Tibetan highlands, touching altitudes as high as 5,000 meters (16,400 feet) above sea level, as part of government efforts to boost development.

Critics of the railway, including exiled Tibetans and rights groups, say it has spurred an influx of long-term migrants who threaten Tibetans’ cultural integrity, which rests on Buddhist beliefs and a traditional herding lifestyle.

The Global Times, published by the ruling Communist Party’s official *People’s Daily*, said that an extension to Shigatse, the traditional seat of Tibetan Buddhism’s second-highest figure, the Panchen Lama, would formally open next month.

That link is scheduled for its own extension during the 2016-2020 period to two separate points, one on the border of Nepal and the other on the border with India and Bhutan, the newspaper cited Yang Yulin, deputy head of Tibet’s railways, as saying, without providing details.

China has long mooted this plan, but the difficulty and expense of building in such a rugged and remote region has slowed efforts.

Reuters

MYANMAR INTERNATIONAL

(25-7-14 07:00 am~
26-7-14 07:00 am) MST

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- * Travelling In Shan Mountain Ranges: (Ya Za Gyi Village)
- * World News
- * One of the Useful Purposes of Bamboo
- * Local News
- * Simple and Peaceful Life: Shan Novices to be
- * World News
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- * Up Against The Tide

Elvis’ library card, movie script to be auctioned at Graceland



Elvis Presley’s “1975 Martin D-28” guitar is shown in this photo courtesy of Elvis Presley’s Graceland released to Reuters on 23 July, 2014. REUTERS

NASHVILLE, (Tenn), 24 July — A library card signed by Elvis Presley in seventh grade is expected to be among the hottest items at an auction of the late singer’s possessions at his Memphis mansion next month, Graceland officials said on Wednesday.

The card, which contains Elvis’ earliest known authentic signature, is one of 72 items featured at Graceland’s 14 August auction, according to Angie Marchese, Graceland director of archives.

“It takes us back to a

time where we can identify with Elvis,” Marchese said of the card. “We were all kids, and we all signed our library cards.”

Other treasures of the “King of Rock’n’Roll” include a script for his “Love Me Tender” 1956 movie debut and a gold lion’s-head pendant, encrusted with 24 diamonds, two emeralds and a ruby, that Elvis wore on his famous Oval Office visit with President Richard Nixon in 1970.

Fans can start perusing items at the Graceland.

com/auction site on 1 August and make early bids. The auction will be live-streamed.

The items are not part of the Graceland collection but belong to a private Australian collector, Greg Page, a founding member of “The Wiggles” children’s music group. Marchese said she has authenticated that every item did indeed belong to Elvis, and the estate may make its own bids.

The auction is the first on Graceland’s grounds, and it will be part of “Elvis Week,” which this year



Elvis Presley’s “Love Me Tender” script is shown in this photo courtesy of Elvis Presley’s Graceland released to Reuters on 23 July, 2014. REUTERS

runs from 9-17 August. Thousands of fans visit Memphis every year to mark the anniversary of Presley’s death on 16 Aug, 1977.

Other items up for auction include a maroon-and-silver 1976 Cadillac Seville, the last-known Cadillac purchased and driven by Elvis; a 1969 written agreement for the singer to be paid \$100,000 a week for shows at the old International Hotel in Las Vegas; and a 1975 Martin D-28 acoustic guitar.

Reuters

Tartan-tastic ceremony opens Glasgow Games



The Commonwealth flag is carried into the stadium during the opening of the 2014 Commonwealth Games at Celtic Park in Glasgow, Scotland, on 23 July, 2014.—REUTERS

GLASGOW, 24 July — Glasgow welcomed a large part of the world and remembered recent tragedies as a diverse and colourful opening ceremony signalled the start of the 20th Commonwealth Games at Celtic Park on Wednesday.

As the sun set on the hottest day of the year in Scotland's biggest city, a vibrant display of tartan-clad dancers, pipe bands and kilted entertainers kicked off 11 days of sporting endeavour.

Famed singers Rod Stewart and Susan Boyle, along with over 3,000 volunteers, helped provide the entertainment for a packed

stadium as they welcomed the 6,500 athletes from 71 mostly former British colonies.

The opening ceremony drew to a close after two hours when the Queen's Baton Relay entered the stadium at the end of its 190,000-km journey around the Commonwealth.

"The baton relay represents a calling together of people from every part of the Commonwealth and serves as a reminder of our shared ideals and ambitions," said Britain's Queen Elizabeth, the head of the Commonwealth.

"And now, that baton has arrived here in Glas-

gow, a city renowned for its dynamic cultural and sporting achievements, for the warmth of its people, for this opening ceremony of the friendly games."

Scotland is hosting the multi-sport event for the third time after 1970 and 1986, when they were held in Edinburgh, but this edition of the gathering will be the biggest sporting event ever held in the country.

Celtic Park, more usually decked out in green and white of one of the city's two major football clubs, was awash with the sights, sounds and colours of the Commonwealth as the athletes entered the arena.

India, home to more than half of the people in the Commonwealth, led the parade of nations and each contingent was guided around the stadium by their own Scottish terrier dog.

To honour to the victims of their national airline's two recent tragedies, Malaysian athletes wore black armbands and carried their nation's flag at half staff.

The 298 people who died when flight MH17 crashed in Ukraine on 17 July were also remembered

with an impeccably observed minute of silence.

GOOD WISHES

Images of great athletes from competing nations such as Scotland's six-time Olympic champion cyclist Chris Hoy and Indian cricketer Sachin Tendulkar flashed up on a 100-metre wide screen — the largest in Europe — urging spectators to make donations to the charity Unicef.

The biggest cheer of the night came unsurprisingly for the 310 Scottish athletes, who marched into the stadium behind the Cross of St

Andrew kitted out in their controversial pastel tartan kilts and shawls.

Malaysia's Prince Tun-ku Imran, President of the Commonwealth Games Federation, brought a temporary halt to proceedings and much amusement to the crowd when he struggled to open the baton, which contained the Queen's speech.

Goodwill was the overriding sentiment of the evening, though, and loud cheers from the crowd greeted the baton's eventual opening before the British monarch declared the

Games open. "To you, the Commonwealth athlete, I send my good wishes for success in your endeavours," she said.

"Your accomplishments over the coming days will encourage us all to strengthen the bonds that unite us."

After an opening night of celebration, the sporting action begins on Thursday with the first gold of the Games up for grabs in the women's triathlon. The closing ceremony will be held at Hampden Park on 3 August.—Reuters



Dancers perform during the opening ceremony for the 2014 Commonwealth Games at Celtic Park in Glasgow, Scotland, on 23 July, 2014.—REUTERS

Barcelona to sign defender Mathieu from Valencia



Valencia's Jeremy Mathieu celebrates after he scored against Sevilla during their Europa League semi-final second leg soccer match at the Mestalla stadium in Valencia, on 1 May, 2014.—REUTERS

BARCELONA, 24 July — Valencia's French defender Jeremy Mathieu will join Barcelona for a fee of 20 million euros (15.8 million pounds), the Catalan club said on Wednesday. "Mathieu will sign a contract with FC Barcelona for the next four seasons plus a further optional," Barca said in a statement.

"The cost of the transfer is 20 million euros and the buy-out clause will be 50 million euros (39.5 million pounds)." The 30-year-old Mathieu will bolster the centre of Barcelona's defence after they missed out on any major trophies last season and their porous backline was a significant factor.

The Frenchman, who can also play at left back, continues the restructuring of the squad under new coach Luis Enrique. Striker Luis Suarez, midfielder Ivan Rakitic and keepers Marc-Andre ter Stegen and Claudio Bravo have also been signed. Midfielder Cesc Fabregas and forward Alexis Sanchez have left for Chelsea and Arsenal respectively.—Reuters

Newcastle lead the Premier League jet-setters

LONDON, 24 July — By the time Newcastle United kick off their Premier League campaign at home to champions Manchester City in little less than a month's time the squad would have clocked up an astonishing 24,687 pre-season air miles.

Globe-trotting West Ham United will not be far behind while five other clubs would have covered distances in excess of 12,000 miles as they take their brands to far-flung destinations.

Gone are the days, it seems, when a few trips up and down the English motorways was as adventurous as it got for many of the clubs in the top tier of English football.

Whereas games against lower league clubs in England were once the norm, matches that provided much-needed gate receipts for the country's lesser lights, now it is all about the elite maximising revenue and trying to sell more shirts in south east Asia, Australasia and north America.

According to figures widely reported in British media this week, the

20 clubs in the Premier League will travel a combined 175,000 air miles in the weeks leading up to kickoff on 16 August.

Newcastle are currently in New Zealand — a tour that made headlines in Britain after two of the club's fans were among the victims of the Malaysian Airlines disaster as they made their way to support their team.

West Ham also travelled to New Zealand.

Long-haul tours may please the club's marketing departments, but managers are not always so keen.

New Manchester

United manager Louis van Gaal earlier on Wednesday sounded less than enthused by his club's commitments which begin against LA Galaxy in Pasadena and then continue with at least three more matches in Denver, Washington and Detroit as part of the International Champions Cup.

"We have to prepare the season and when you have commercial activities and dreadful distances, having to fly a lot and the jet lag, it is not very positive for a good preparation," he told British media.

Should United reach the final to be played in Mi-

ami they will return home with 13,478 miles on the clock.

Some clubs, however, have travelled less this year.

Arsenal, who play in New York, will fly 6,930 miles compared to the 19,626 they amassed before last season during a pre-season trip which included Vietnam, Indonesia and Japan.

Liverpool have also scaled back, with the eastern seaboard of the US their furthest venture this year, compared to Indonesia, Australia, Thailand and Norway this time last year.

Jose Mourinho's Chelsea will stay in Europe after last pre-season's world tour, playing RZ Pellets in Austria on Wednesday. They will also go to Slovenia, Germany and Hungary.

However, the majority of players in the Premier League will have spent many hours at 36,000 feet by the end of the English summer, with even newcomers Leicester City getting in on the act with an 11,898 round trip to Bangkok.

Reuters



New Manchester United manager Louis Van Gaal speaks to the media during a news conference at the club's Old Trafford Stadium in Manchester, northern England, on 17 July, 2014.—REUTERS