

Republic of the Union of Myanmar President Office

(Order No. 22/2014)

4th Waxing of Tawthalin, 1376 ME
(28 August, 2014)

Reshuffle of ministers of Rakhine State Government

Under Sub-section (f) of Section 262 of the Constitution of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar and Sub-Section (g) of Section 8 of the Region or State Government Law, the Rakhine State ministers shown against

respective ministries have been assigned duties as follows:-

- | | | |
|-----|------------------|--------------------------------|
| (1) | U Kyaw Thein | Finance Ministry |
| (2) | U Kyaw Khin | Forestry and Mining Ministry |
| (3) | U Mya Aung | Planning and Economic Ministry |
| (4) | U Maung San Shwe | Development Affairs Ministry |
| (5) | Dr Aung Kyaw Min | Social Affairs Ministry |

Sd/Thein Sein

President

Republic of the Union of Myanmar

President U Thein Sein to pay official visits to Germany, Switzerland, the Netherlands

NAY PYI TAW, 29 Aug—U Thein Sein, President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar will pay official goodwill visits to the Federal Republic of Germany, Switzerland and the Kingdom of the Netherlands in near future.

MNA

NAY PYI TAW, 28 Aug—Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Senior General Thayay Sithu Min Aung Hlaing attended the graduation parade of 1st Intake of Female Military Officer Training Course held at the parade grounds of Defence Services (Army) Officers Training School (Hmawby) on Thursday and delivered a speech.

In his speech, the senior general said that today is a day of renew vigour for the Tatmadaw and State as the newly graduated female military officers are going to fully apply their skills and capabilities in the defence and nation building endeavours of the Tatmadaw.

Myanmar women played a significant role in the Tatmadaw which is filled with fine traditions and some Myanmar women joined the army during the peace building period after regaining independence from the British, the senior general added.

The senior general said Tatmadaw, under the lead-

Senior general urges female cadets to participate in endeavours for peace and national unity



Senior General Thayay Sithu Min Aung Hlaing presents best cadet award to Cadet Lay Nwe Tun in 1st Intake of Female Military Officer Training Course.—MYAWADY

ership of the government, is actively participating in efforts for national unity and internal peace within

the legal framework and military personnel are people who loathe an unnecessary war most as they are

the ones who have to face it first and foremost when a battle breaks out. During a civil war caused by various

reasons, those who died in action are the national races of Myanmar.

In conclusion, the senior general urged the cadets to participate in the efforts for national unity and peace while defending the territory of the country and to strive to become reliable junior leaders who uphold the three main national causes.

Senior General Min Aung Hlaing presented the Best Cadet Award to Cadet Lay Nwe Tun.

The senior general and senior military officers met with the parents of cadets who won prizes.

Those present at the ceremony were Daw Kyu Kyu Hla, the wife of the senior general, chief minis-

ter of Yangon Region and wife, General Hla Htay Win and wife, and senior military officers.

Military Appointment-General Lt-Gen Win Myint presented certificate of appointment to the female cadets.

A total of 92 female officers were assigned duty at office and units under the Commander-in-Chief (Army), five at the units under the Commander-in-Chief (Navy) and three at the units under the Commander-in-Chief (Air).

In the evening, the Senior General and wife attended the graduation dinner of the 1st Intake of the female graduate officers.

Myawady

Myanmar seeks more investment from Japanese firms

By Yoshio Takahashi

TOKYO, 28 Aug—A Myanmar official in charge of foreign firms' investment on Thursday called on Japanese companies to invest more in the Southeast Asian country as the government is stepping up efforts to invite more foreign investments.

"We encourage Japanese investors to come and invest in Myanmar more and more," Cho Cho Wynn, deputy director general of the Directorate of Investment and Company Administration, said at a seminar on her country hosted by the Bank of Tokyo-Mitsubishi UFJ, the core banking unit of Mitsubishi UFJ Financial Group Inc.

The amount of Japan's investment in Myanmar ranks 10th, accounting for only 0.7% of the total foreign investment in the country, far behind the top three investors, China, Thailand and Hong Kong.

Japanese companies tend to take more time in conducting feasibility and other studies than other countries' investors before making a final decision, the official said. But once they decide on their investment projects, that is always huge contribution to the Myanmar economy, she added.

Myanmar emerged as the last untapped potential market in Southeast Asia after the country's military rulers gave way to a nominally civilian government in 2011, opening the resource-rich country to foreign investors.

(See page 2)

Bilateral trade between ASEAN, Russia reaches record high

NAY PYI TAW, 28 Aug—Trade between the Association of South-East Asian Nations and Russia hit a record \$19.9 billion in 2013.

"Bilateral trade between ASEAN and Russia was recorded an increase of 9.9 per cent, from \$18.2 billion in 2012 to \$19.9 billion in 2013," according to

the joint media statement of the third ASEAN Economic Ministers-Russia Consultations in Nay Pyi Taw on Thursday. ASEAN exports to Russia increased

by 7.5 per cent, from \$4.9 billion to \$5.2 billion over the same period.

ASEAN's imports from Russia also grew by (See page 3)



Economic ministers and delegates participate in AEM-Russia Consultations on promotion of trade sector.

PHOTO: AYE MIN SOE

Israeli Dy Minister signs agreement in fields of culture and sports with Dy Culture Minister

NAY PYI TAW, 28 Aug — Israeli Deputy Minister for Foreign Affairs Mr Tzachi Hanegbi called on Union Minister for Foreign Affairs U Wunna Maung Lwin, Union Minister at the President Office U Aung Min and Chairman of International Relations Committee of Pyithu Hluttaw U Hla Myint Oo on Thursday.

After meeting with Union Minister for Culture U Aye Myint Kyu, the Israeli Deputy Minister signed a cooperation agreement in the fields of culture and sports with Deputy Minister for Culture Daw Sanda Khin to provide the framework for future collaboration between the two countries.

During his meetings in Nay Pyi Taw, Mr Hanegbi discussed promoting the bilateral relations and investments between the two countries and expressed Is-



Israeli Deputy Minister for Foreign Affairs Mr Tzachi Hanegbi and Deputy Minister for Culture Daw Sanda Khin seen with Union Minister for Culture U Aye Myint Kyu after exchanging notes of agreement.—MNA

rael's support of the encouraging changes and reforms taking place in Myanmar, in the last three years. He also mentioned Israel's intention to extend the current

training programmes, in the fields of agriculture, health and education, provided by MASHAV-Israel's Agency for International Development and Cooperation,

of which hundred of Myanmar alumni, from the public, private and NGO's, have enjoyed in the last 60 years.

NLM

Myanmar seeks more investment...

(from page 1)

A fivefold growth in nominal gross domestic product over the last decade and the fifth-biggest population in Southeast Asia of over 60 million are attracting a number of companies from Asia, Europe and the United States.

Companies are also encouraged by a new foreign investment law enacted by the Myanmar government

in 2012 in an effort to clarify rules that foreign companies need to know when they look to invest in the country.

"Myanmar is beginning to face a dramatic change now," Takeshi Morimura, deputy president at BTMU, said in an opening speech at the seminar.

Among recent plans unveiled by Japanese firms

to enter the country, telecom company KDDI Corp. and trading house Sumitomo Corp. last month signed an agreement to jointly operate a mobile phone service in Myanmar with the state-run Myanmar Posts and Telecommunications.

BTMU, Sumitomo Mitsui Banking Corp. and Mizuho Bank also last month applied to the Myanmar government for banking licenses following a government policy

change allowing a limited number of foreign banks to operate in the country.

Mirroring high interest in Myanmar among Japanese companies, a total of around 1,000 businesspeople from small to large firms attended the seminar which was held for three days through Thursday in Osaka, Nagoya and Tokyo. It was a record number of attendees for such a seminar, according to BTMU.—Kyodo

Myanmar, ROK to cooperate in enhancing quality management capacity for development of diverse value-added agricultural products

By Ye Myint

YANGON, 28 Aug — Myanmar's Ministry of Commerce and ASEAN-Korea Centre of the Republic of Korea on Tuesday hosted a Seminar on Measures for Quality Management of Myanmar Agricultural Products to bring better understanding of measures needed to follow in exporting Myanmar's agricultural products to the ROK, invigorating cooperation in agricultural sector of the two countries.

The seminar held at Chatrium Hotel in Yangon was aimed at strengthening the development of value-added agricultural products and quality man-

agement capacity of Myanmar's agricultural companies, thereby contributing towards boosting trade and economic cooperation between Myanmar and the ROK.

Lectures given by Korean officials to Myanmar's agricultural entrepreneurs and officials from the departments concerned were Korea's import inspection & quarantine procedures for Myanmar agricultural products, measures for enhancing food safety and development of processed food suitable for the Korean market and introduction to organic certification procedures.

"Without trade promotion, economic success

could not be achieved in a certain country", Director-General U Toe Aung Myint of the Department of Trade Promotion told The New Light of Myanmar. Trade promotion will not be possible whatever growth of production we see if the products are not meeting standards set by our trade partners, he added.

In his opening remarks, the director-general called on Myanmar business people to share mutual interest in developing technology cooperation with the ROK for export of the country's cheap and fresh fruit and vegetables to South Korean markets.

"Necessary measures

are being made to allow Myanmar's mango export to the ROK where tropical fruit including mango have huge market potential", Secretary-General Mr. Cheng Hae-Moon of Korea-ASEAN Centre said in his greeting speech.

While giving a lecture on Korea's import inspection & quarantine procedures for Myanmar agricultural products, Mr. Young Tae Kim, Deputy Director for Department of Quarantine, Animal and Plant Quarantine of the ROK, Myanmar's mango export to South Korea was encouraged, saying that mango price in South Korea is about K12,000 per one. According to him,

MOFA arranges proficiency course for staff in Nay Pyi Taw

NAY PYI TAW, 28 Aug — As part of effort to accelerate the country's reforms, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs opened a proficiency course for staff for the second time on Thursday at its office here, with an open-

ing speech by Deputy Minister for Foreign Affairs U Tin Oo Lwin.

Altogether 40 trainees from the ministry are attending the two-day course, source said.

MNA

Gems and jade sales on 14-28 October

NAY PYI TAW, 28 Aug — Myanmar Gems Emporium Central Committee will hold the gems and jade sales at Mani Yadana Jade Hall in Nay Pyi Taw from 14 to 18 October.

The committee will check gems and jade stones, fixing the floor price and display of gems and jade to be coordinated with entrepreneurs from 23 September to 7 October.

Myanmar citizen gems entrepreneurs who have got permission for mining and jewellery production and trading, GTC licence holders and gem company registration and members of Myanmar Gems Entrepreneurs Association will be allowed to attend the sales.

Those who have got permission and licences under the law will be allowed to buy the gems and jade stones and they have to pay deposit and fees for

the sales. Foreign gems merchants are to take out permission to attend the sales at Myanmar Gems Entrepreneurs Association (Mandalay) from 22 September to 3 October and Myanmar Gems Enterprise (Nay Pyi Taw) from 6 to 13 October.

Applications are available at www.mining.gov.m of the Ministry of Mines and www.mge.gov.mm of Myanmar Gems Enterprise for pre-registration system.

For further information, contact the Myanmar Gems Emporium Central Committee, MGE Head Office (Nay Pyi Taw), Myanmar Gems Emporium (Yangon), Jade Mining Section (Lonkhin), Gems Mining Section (Mandalay, Mogok and Mongshu), jade mining units in Myitkyina, Hkamti and Mohnyin.

MNA

Korea imported 2,958 metric tons of Philippine mangoes in 2013.

Officials said the seminar was the second time this year following a similar seminar in March, 2004. Last year, such a seminar was held in cooperation with Myanmar Food Processors & Exporters Association to add values to Myanmar's farm products for having access to the markets in ROK.

Myanmar's agricultural products will be showcased in ASEAN Trade Fair 2014 to be held at COEX Building in Seoul, the Republic of Korea on 17-21 November, said the Ministry of Commerce in its press release.

According to sources, trade volume between Myanmar and the ROK reached about \$1.2 billion—Korea's exports to Myanmar was \$700 million while its imports from Myanmar was \$500—in 2013. Korea's main exports to Myanmar are steel products, industrial machines, fabric, etc. and its main imports from Myanmar are textile products, agricultural products, forest products, marine products, etc. Statistics in 2013 revealed that the Republic of Korea is Myanmar's sixth largest trade partner with a total investment capital of \$5 billion in Myanmar.

NLM

NATIONAL

Myanmar kick-starts its renewable energy development

NAY PYI TAW, 28 Aug — A memorandum of agreement (MoA) was signed between the Ministry of Electric Power and ACO Investment Group and Convalt Energy LLC, a US-based energy company, at the Myanmar International Convention Centre-2 here on Thursday, officials said.

Speaking at the signing ceremony, Union Minister U Khin Maung Soe said

that the project consists of two 150-megawatt solar facilities, one in Nabuai and the other in Wundwin, two towns in Mandalay Region.

The project is the first-ever solar energy development in the times of the Union Government, he noted.

US Trade Representative Mr Michael Froman, who led the signing ceremony on the US side, said that the two solar

power plants are valued at US\$480 million, adding that the plants are expected to account for 10 percent of the country's power generation.

According to ACO, the solar project is expected to create construction jobs in nearby areas.

As part of the country's policy to encourage renewable energy, the project is expected to be completed in 2016. —MNA



Union Minister U Khin Maung Soe attends MoA signing for project comprising two 150-megawatt solar facilities in Mandalay Region.—MNA

Bilateral trade between ASEAN, Russia

(from page 1)

10.7 per cent year-on-year amounting to \$14.7 billion in 2013.

Meanwhile, Russia's foreign direct investment flows into ASEAN have been growing rapidly and

nearly tripled in the past year, reaching \$540 million in 2013, according to the statement.

During the meeting, the ministers also welcomed the progress of the ASEAN-Russia Trade and

Investment Cooperation Work Programme, calling on senior economic officials of both sides to ensure timely implementation of the ASEAN-Russia Trade and Investment Cooperation Roadmap and Work Programme to further boost trade and investment relations between the two regions.—NLM

ASEAN-BAC recommends “ASEAN Line” at ASEAN’s major entries to break business travel barriers across region

By Aye Min Soe



UMFCCI President U Win Aung replies to queries on freedom of movement across ASEAN region. PHOTO: AYE MIN SOE

NAY PYI TAW, 28 Aug — The ASEAN Business Advisory Council has proposed a special “ASEAN Line” in its recommendations to ASEAN economic ministers to be introduced all major entries of ASEAN member states.

“It is also important to note that whilst there is now more freedom of movement across the region, there remain barriers of entries that hinder business travel across the region,” U Win Aung, chairman of the advisory council, said.

During the dialogue with ASEAN economic ministers Thursday in Nay Pyi Taw, ASEAN-BAC called on the ministers to support the council's implementation on past recommendations of ASEAN-BAC.

There remain a number of past recommendations of ASEAN-BAC that are still pending, according to the council.

The past recommendations of ASEAN-BAC, such as launching of the ASEAN Business Travel Card and the inclusion

of women entrepreneurs in the economic pillar of ASEAN's cooperation, need to be accelerated to be able to enhance trade and investment opportunities across the region, according to the business council.

The key areas prioritised by ASEAN-BAC this year are micro, small, and medium-sized enterprise, women and young entrepreneurs.

ASEAN-BAC will organise the ASEAN Business and Investment Summit and the ASE-

AN Business Award on 12–13 November in Nay Pyi Taw this year, focusing on MSMEs, women and young entrepreneurs, according to the chairman of ASEAN-BAC.

The council has recognized that many of these policy recommendations might require long-term investments on structural economic reforms and could serve as constructive inputs to complement the present and future process of ASEAN's economic integration initiatives.

NLM

Media skills training conducted for government staff



Union Minister for Information U Ye Htut addresses opening of Media Skills Training for staff related to media.—MNA

NAY PYI TAW, 28 Aug — The Ministry of Information and United Nations Development Program-UNDP jointly conducted the media skills training at Royal ACE Hotel in Nay Pyi Taw on Thursday, with an address by Union Minister for Information U Ye Htut.

Country Director Mr Toily Kurbanov of UNDP explained the purpose of conducting the training course.

Media experts Mr Moncef Bouhafa and Mr Kirk Tory of the U.S. and Mr Jean Frederic Bernard of France explained the plans

to give lectures on effective relations and cooperation of departmental personnel with media and public relations.

Senior officials of the central organizations and ministries concerning the information sector are attending the two-day course up to 29 August.—MNA

Tender for city expansion to be invited in transparent manner

YANGON, 28 Aug — Yangon Region Government has designated the area between the Pan Hlaing River and the Twantay Canal and between the Hlaing River and Hlainethaya-Twantay Road for expansion of the city, according to a statement released by Yangon Region Government.

Due to rapid increase in population and socio-economic development,

the government needs to expand the area of the city, the statement said.

The government of Myanmar has been organizing workshop, conducting public opinion surveys and feasibility tests for infrastructure and drafting conceptual plans for urban development while inviting investment from the private sector.

Without spending from the government budget, the

city expansion plan will be carried out through private investment of developers and the public.

At present, the plan has been submitted to the Union Government for approval in accordance with existing laws, rules, regulations and directives and tenders will be extended to potential developers in the near future in a transparent manner, the statement said.—NLM

More electricity for people

KAYAN, 28 Aug — Heads of Kayan Township Electricity Supply Enterprise installed one 200 KVA transformer on Ywama Street in Ward 11 of Kayan in Yangon Region on Wednesday.

The enterprise had installed one 250 KVA transformer in the area. Thus, Ward 11 has been facilitated with two transformers for supply of electricity to the local people. As of Wednesday evening, the local people enjoy electricity through transformers.

Ko Min (Kayan)



Myanmar-Thai friendship Buddha Pujaniya on 6 November

DAWEI, 28 Aug — Conveyance of 28 Buddha images will be held in Dawei of Taninthayi Region on 14th Waxing of Tazaungmone, 5 November 2014.

A total of 60 trainees will be sent to Kanchanaburi of Thailand on 2 September to attend the leadership course so as to make necessary preparations for holding the Myanmar-Thai friendship Buddha Pujaniya Dawei Tazaungdine festival.

The trainees are to study processing for accepting alms, lighting oil lamps, releasing hot-air lanterns, ceremony preparation and sanitation at a hotel in Thailand from 3 to 6 September.

During the period, they will observe the offering of rice to 1,000 Buddhist monks including 30 members of the Sangha of Myanmar and Thai Sangha at downtown Kanchanaburi and releasing hot-air lanterns and oil lamp ceremony, said the abbot of Myoma Yinngae Sasana Yeiktha monastery.

The trainees who have already attended the course in Thailand will give multiplier course to 1,500 trainees at the Myoma Yinngae monastery from 17 to 21 September. On the Fullmoon day of Tazaungmone, 6 November, the local people will offer rice to 3,000 Myanmar and Thai Buddhist monks on Azarni Street and enjoy releasing of 5,000 hot-air lanterns and lighting 1,000 oil lamps at Shwewei Thiri Sports Ground.—Dawei District IPR

Police of Myingyan District urged to implement Third Wave plan

MYINGYAN, 28 Aug — A clarification on Third Wave process for Myingyan District Police Force was held at its avenue in Mandalay Region on Tuesday.

Commander of Myingyan District Police Force Police Lt-Col Maung Win and police officers participated in discussions on responsibility and accountability for implementing the Third Wave.

Wireless Network Essentials Course 6-12 September

YANGON, 28 Aug — Yangon Region Computer Industrialists Association will organize the Wireless Network Essentials Course (WNE) No 9 at MCPA Lab Room of the Hall 9 at MICT Park in Hline Township of Yangon from 6 to 12 September.

The course will be opened on Saturday and Sunday from 3 p.m. to 6 p.m.

The course is suitable for networking engineers, IT officers and enthusiasts in wireless and students.

The course will admit 15 trainees. Further information, may dial 01-652276 and 09-73088300.—Aung Thura

It was attended by 120 policemen.

The district police commander urged them to carry out community-based policing process and reform process with responsibility, accountability and coordination.

Zaw Min Naing (Myingyan)

MCDC supplies drinking water to dwellers in Mandalay District

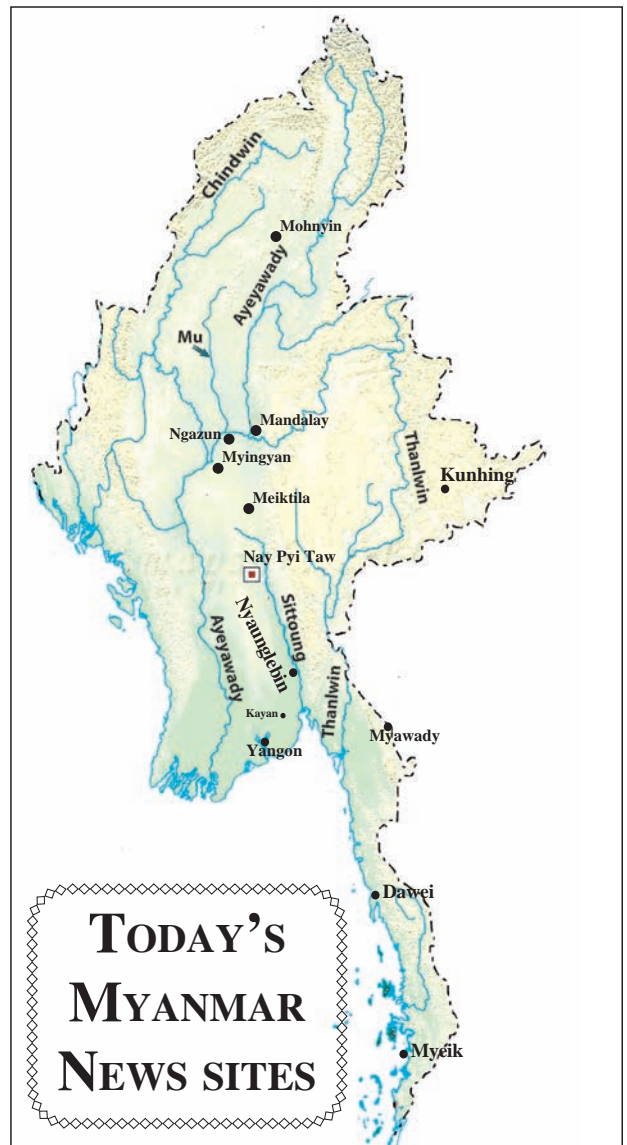


MANDALAY, 28 Aug — Mandalay City Development Committee places emphasis on supply of drinking water for the dwellers.

The committee sank an 8-inch diameter tube-well in Amarapura Township. As of 23 August, the committee laid 11,365 feet long water pipeline in Hsinswepuk, Ohdaw, Taunggyi and Laysu wards for supply of potable water to the people.

Likewise, pvc pipelines were also laid in Pyigyi Myethman Ward of Aungmyethazan Township of Mandalay.

Thiha Ko Ko (Mandalay)



Flood in Phakant cannot resume jademinig



MOHNYIN, 28 Aug — Heavy rains at the upstream Uru Creek caused flood in Phakant in Kachin State as of 25 August.

“The discarded soils from jade mines block the Uru creek, causing flood to the town yearly. This year, the creek overflowed the bridge. The local people

moved to the safe places,” said U Myint Than of Hmawwun Ward.

The jade mining that suspended for three years due to local security affairs will resume in September 2014. However, most of the entrepreneurs did not arrive there due to bad weather.

NLM-001

LOCAL NEWS

Upgraded BEHS opened in Ngazun Township

NGAZUN, 28 Aug — Mandalay Region Minister for Planning and Economic U Aung Zan opened the ceremony to inauguration of the upgraded Basic Education High School in Thakycin of Ngazun Township in Mandalay Region on 25 August.

Ngazun Township Pyithu Hluttaw representative Dr Mya Oo and officials formally opened the ceremony.

The attendees planted commemorative saplings.

Secretary of Pyithu Hluttaw Education Promotion Committee Dr Mya Oo, Deputy Director-General of No 2 Basic Education Department U San Aung and Region Hluttaw representative U Myat Thu made speeches. Headmaster U Myint Aung reported on the history of the school and presented commemorative pennants to the officials.—Zaw Min Naing (Myingyan)



Drains dredged along road section of Yangon-Myeik Road

MYEIK, 28 Aug—A two-furlong long road section on Yangon-Myeik Road in Annawa Ward of Ye Township is flooded in every heavy rain, causing damage to the road.

To ensure traffic safety for the people and vehicles, the local authorities and officials of Public Works supervised dredging of drains on both sides of the road section on Wednesday.

The drain will be three feet wide and three feet deep for proper flow of water.—Htut Htut (Ye)

Heavy machinery used in dredging drains on road section of Yangon-Myeik Road in Ye Township for proper flow of water to prevent damage of road.



Scholarship awards for outstanding students with disabilities

YANGON, 28 Aug — Edin Group of Companies and Myanmar Rice Federation jointly implemented MAB Eco Program and MRF Leadership Program as of 2013-14 academic year.

MRF awarded scholarship awards to 99 students with disabilities and Myanmar Apex Bank, 96 students.

In 2014-15 academic year, the sponsors will provide assistance for the stu-

dents with disabilities for learning further studies.

To be able to award the students, Nippon Foundation of Japan and MILI groups will give assistance and disburse loans for awarding the students.

The outstanding students will have the opportunities of school fee and other costs to be provided 100 per cent by Nippon Foundation and loans without interest by Edin Group of Companies. After

the graduation, MAB will make arrangements for the graduates to pay back the loans through five-year installment.

Applications are available at Myanmar Rice Federation, Myanmar Apex Bank and MILI offices during office hours and the applications are to be submitted to MILI Office at No 17 on Thayaaye Street in Ward 3 of Mayangon Township, not later than 31 October.—Aung Thura

Talk to introduce Myanmar's processed rice

YANGON, 28 Aug—Private entrepreneurs have been taking responsibility of rice and paddy sector as of 2003-04 fiscal years.

Up to now, the private sector is playing a key role in development of rice and

paddy industry in a decade.

As processed rice can be successfully produced on a wider scale in the country, a talk on nutritious value of processed rice and health status will be introduced at the hall on the first

floor of Republic of the Union of Myanmar Federation of Chambers of Commerce and Industry from 1 p.m. to 3 p.m. on 30 August. The enthusiasts are invited to attend the talk.

Aung Thura

Apartments allotted to fire victims in Meiktila

MEIKTILA, 28 Aug — Over 3,900 people of 677 households in Nandawgon and Chanayethaya wards of Meiktila in Mandalay Region became fire victims in the conflict on 20 March 2013.

The fire victims were accommodated at the offices of Department of Water Resources Utilization, Transport Department and Magyigon Monastery.

MM Youngnet Mosque and wellwishers donated 300 buildings, 27

feet long, 22 feet wide and 14 feet high, worth K7.8 million each for the victims.

Under the supervision of Meiktila District Deputy Commissioner U Tint Wai Thon, the township administrator and officials, apartments of the buildings were allotted to the fire victims.

The local authorities sank nine tube-wells and built two water tanks and supply electricity through solar panels.

NLM-018



Thai court dismisses murder charges against former PM, deputy

BANGKOK, 28 Aug — A Thai criminal court on Thursday threw out charges of murder and abuse of power faced by a former prime minister, Abhisit Vejjajiva, and his then deputy over a deadly crackdown on street protesters in 2010.

The decision, three months after the army seized power in a bloodless 22 May coup, is sure to spark the anger of Thailand's "red shirt" activists, who have spotlighted the country's long culture of impunity for holders of political office.

But with power firmly in the hands of military rulers who have quelled all dissent, the court's decision will hardly make a ripple in the country's political trajectory.

The court said it did not have jurisdiction to hear the case because the two men held public office at the time of the protest.

"The court has no jurisdiction to consider the

case because the two were a prime minister and deputy prime minister," a judge said on Thursday. "The charges relate to political office holders. The criminal court therefore dismisses the charges."

Thailand's public prosecutors had charged the two over the crackdown on protesters who were mostly from the red shirt movement, formally known as the United Front for Democracy Against Dictatorship (UDD). Both men have denied the charges.

Abhisit, head of the conservative, pro-establishment Democrat Party, faced popular opposition in 2010, after tens of thousands of red shirt activists demanding fresh elections took to the streets of the Thai capital, accusing his government of being elitist and army-backed.

The other man freed of charges on Thursday, Abhisit's former deputy



Democrat Party leader and former Thai Prime Minister Abhisit Vejjajiva (C) arrives at a Bangkok criminal court on 23 June, 2014.— REUTERS

Suthep Thaugsuban, quit the party last year and went on to lead months of street protests that culminated in the ouster of Prime Minister Yingluck Shinawatra and the May coup.

As deputy premier Suthep authorized securi-

ty forces to end weeks of protests that reduced parts of downtown Bangkok to battle zones. Since the May coup, he has become a Buddhist monk, and appeared in court wearing saffron robes. The red shirts broadly support fugitive former premier

Thaksin Shinawatra and his sister, ousted premier Yingluck. The army toppled Thaksin in 2006, after he won two landslide election victories, mostly on the back of support from voters in the rural north and northeast.— Reuters

Suspected leftist rebels kidnap two soldiers in S Philippines

MANILA, 28 Aug — Suspected members of the leftist rebel group New People's Army (NPA) abducted two soldiers in southern Philippines, a military official said on Thursday. First Lieutenant Norman Tagros, civil military operations officer of the Philippine Army's 8th Infantry Battalion, said a massive military operation has been launched after it was confirmed that the two soldiers were kidnapped in Buntun-gon village, Impasug-ong town in Bukidnon Province on 22 August.

Tagros said Private First Class Jerrel Yorong and Marnel Cinches, both detailed with the battalion, were aboard a motorcycle when they were intercepted by four armed men, wearing bonnets. The two were set to rejoin their team to undertake "peace and development activities" in the area.— Xinhua

India's Modi eyes breakthrough nuclear pact on Japan trip

NEW DELHI, 28 Aug — India is hoping to win Japanese backing for a nuclear energy pact during a visit by Prime Minister Narendra Modi, and lure investment into its \$85 billion market while addressing Japan's concern about nuclear proliferation.

India has been pushing for an agreement with Japan on the lines of a 2008 deal with the United States under which India was allowed to import US nuclear fuel and technology without giving up its military nuclear programme.

But Japan wants explicit guarantees from India, which has not signed the international Nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty, to strictly limit nuclear tests and to allow more intrusive inspections of its nuclear facilities to ensure that spent fuel is not diverted to make bombs. India, which sees its weapons as a deterrent against nuclear-armed neighbours China and Pakistan, has sought to meet Japan's concerns and over the past month the two sides have speeded up negotiations ahead of Modi's visit.



Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi waves as he leaves after the commissioning ceremony of warship, INS Kolkata at a naval base in Mumbai on 16 Aug, 2014.— REUTERS

"Serious efforts are being made to resolve any special concerns that Japan has. Whether it will be fully resolved and ready for signing before the end of the PM's trip is unclear," said a former member of India's top atomic energy commission who has been consulted in the drafting of the energy pact.

Modi and Abe will not seal an agreement at next week's summit, TV Tokyo reported on Thursday, but the meeting will be closely watched for any progress toward a pact.

Japanese officials were

tight-lipped about prospects for a nuclear deal.

Modi travels to Japan on Saturday for a five-day visit, his first major bilateral trip since taking over in May. The visit is being billed as an attempt by the two democracies to balance the rising weight of China across Asia. Modi and host Prime Minister Shinzo Abe are also expected to strengthen defence ties, speeding up talks on the sale of an amphibious aircraft to the Indian navy.

Abe is keen to expand Japan's network of security partnerships with countries

such as Australia and India to cope with the challenge presented by China.

The two leaders will agree to have their countries jointly produce mixed rare earth minerals and metals, key elements in defence industry components and modern technology, the Nikkei business daily said on Thursday. Another focus is infrastructure, with the Indian leader seeking Japanese backing for the high-speed 'bullet' trains he promised to voters in his election campaign.

But it is the nuclear pact that could transform ties in a way the deal with the United States did by establishing India as a strategic partner, although nuclear commerce with the United States has since foundered because of concern over India's liability laws.

Japanese companies are also reluctant to step in without clarity on nuclear disaster compensation, especially in the wake of the Fukushima catastrophe of March 2011, the world's worst since Chernobyl in 1986.

Reuters

Malaysia, Australia to share costs for latest phase of MH370 search

SYDNEY, 28 Aug — Malaysia on Thursday said it would share with Australia the cost of the latest effort to uncover signs of missing Malaysia Airlines Flight MH370, in the hope of unlocking modern aviation's greatest mystery.

Months of searches have failed to turn up any trace of the missing Boeing 777 aircraft, which disappeared on 8 March, carrying 239 passengers and crew shortly after taking off from the Malaysian capital of Kuala Lumpur, bound for Beijing.

Malaysian Transport Minister Liow Tiong Lai told a news conference in Canberra that the two countries would evenly split the costs of the new search phase, estimated at up to A\$52 million (\$48.65 million). "So it is important here that we would like to thank Australia for leading this search and we have so far committed and spent about A\$15 million and we are also going to match the Australians in the tender

cost for the search," he said.

The latest phase of the search is expected to start within a month and take up to a year, focusing on a 60,000-sq-km (23,000-sq-mile) patch of sea floor some 1,600 km (1,000 miles) west of Perth.

Australia this month awarded a contract to Dutch engineering firm Fugro to search the sea floor, and the company is already conducting a detailed underwater mapping of the search area, along with a Chinese naval vessel. Fugro will use two vessels equipped with side scan sonar, multibeam echo sounders and video cameras to scour the seafloor, which is close to 5,000 m (16,400 ft) deep in places.

Australia has set aside A\$80 million to A\$90 million for the search, already the most expensive ever undertaken. Malaysia Airlines has been hit this year by the loss of two of its airliners, after Flight MH17 was shot down over a conflict zone in eastern Ukraine.— Reuters

WORLD & UN

Shanghai Cooperation Organization officials to discuss regional military situation

BEIJING, 28 Aug — Chiefs of the General Staffs of the Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO) will meet in Beijing on Thursday to discuss regional security after withdrawal of the international contingent from Afghanistan.

“The military delegations will exchange their views about the military and political situation in the world and the region,



General of the Army
Valery Gerasimov

as well as ensuring security in Afghanistan after the International Security Assistance Force completes its withdrawal,” the press service of the Russian Defence Ministry told ITAR-TASS. The parties will also discuss more intensive cooperation in the field of defence within the SCO framework, it added.

On Friday, the chiefs of the SCO General Staffs

will monitor the final stage of joint anti-terrorist drill Peace Mission 2014. More than 1,000 Russian servicemen are taking part in the exercise. Russian military equipment includes tanks, armored vehicles, missile salvo systems, self-propelled artillery guns, four Su-25 attack aircraft, eight helicopters and two military transport planes.

Itar Tass

Ex-PM Fukuda shares “sense of crisis” with Xi over frayed ties

TOKYO, 28 Aug — Former Japanese Prime Minister Yasuo Fukuda revealed on Wednesday he met with Chinese President Xi Jinping during his visit to Beijing last month and that they shared a “sense of crisis” over the strained ties between their countries.

Publicly admitting for the first time that he held a secret meeting with Xi, Fukuda said at a forum in Tokyo that they both “have the same sense of crisis” about bilateral ties soured by territorial and historical issues.

Tensions between Tokyo and Beijing centre on the ownership of the Japan-controlled, China-claimed Senkaku Islands in the East China Sea. China calls the uninhabited islets Diaoyu. The two countries also remain at odds over

different perceptions of history.

Fukuda said there was a need for Prime Minister Shinzo Abe and Xi to hold talks on the sidelines of the summit of the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation forum to be held in November in Beijing.

If the meeting does not take place, Japan-China ties will be in a “pretty difficult situation,” Fukuda said.

No summit talks have been held since Abe assumed the premiership for the second time in December 2012.

Fukuda, recounting his meeting with the Chinese leader in late July, said Xi was eager to mend Japan-China relations and “did not say anything bad about Japan” during their talks.

Asked if he and Abe



Former Japanese Prime Minister Yasuo Fukuda makes a speech on 27 Aug, 2014 in Tokyo. Fukuda revealed he met with Chinese President Xi Jinping during his visit to Beijing in July and that they shared a “sense of crisis” over the strained ties between their countries. —KYODO NEWS

were on the same page over issues about China, Fukuda said he has communicat-

ed with Abe several times since last year.

Commenting on Fukuda’s remarks about his meeting with Xi, Chinese Foreign Ministry spokesman Qin Gang said in Beijing that Japan “must take concrete actions to remove the political obstacles that affect development of bilateral relations.”

Qin said China maintains a “consistent” position on improving and developing bilateral relations.

China has said there will be no summit talks with Japan unless Tokyo acknowledges a dispute over the Senkakus.

Beijing also says a pledge by Abe not to make any more visits to the war-related Yasukuni Shrine in Tokyo is another condition for an Abe-Xi meeting.—Kyodo News

UNSG’s message for the International Day against Nuclear Tests

29 August 2014

On this day in 1991, Kazakhstan closed the nuclear test site near Semipalatinsk. On that same date in 1949, the Soviet Union conducted its first nuclear test, followed by another 455 nuclear tests over succeeding decades, with a terrible effect on the local population and environment.

These tests and the hundreds more that followed in other countries became hallmarks of a nuclear arms race, in which human survival depended on the doctrine of mutually assured destruction, known by its fitting acronym, MAD.

As Secretary-General, I have had many opportunities to meet with some of the courageous survivors of nuclear weapons and nuclear tests in Hiroshima, Nagasaki and Semipalatinsk. Their resolve and dedication should continue to guide our work for a world without nuclear weapons.

On this International Day against Nuclear Tests, let us all take a fresh look at those survivors’ stories. Listen to their words and imagine the effects of these detonations as if they were experienced by each of us. Only then can we better understand the imperative to renew our commitment to a world free of nuclear weapons and nuclear tests.

I wish to appeal particularly to citizens of those States that have not yet ratified the Comprehensive Nuclear Test-Ban Treaty (CTBT), especially the eight remaining Annex 2 States whose ratification is required for the Treaty’s entry into force: China, the Democratic People’s Republic of Korea, Egypt, India, Iran, Israel, Pakistan and the United States.

Together, let us demand an end to all nuclear tests, get on with the unfinished business of achieving a world free of nuclear weapons, and usher in a safer and more prosperous future.

UNIC/ Yangon

US fighter plane crashes in Virginia, pilot’s fate unknown

WASHINGTON, 28 Aug — A Massachusetts Air National Guard F-15C fighter crashed in mountainous western Virginia on Wednesday and the fate of the pilot was unknown, officials said.

The fighter plane went down shortly after 9 am EDT (1300 GMT) in the George Washington and Jefferson National Forests about 100 miles (160 km) southwest of Washington, sending up a thick plume of smoke, a spokeswoman for the Augusta County Sheriff’s Office said.

“We have not located the wreckage or the pilot,” she said.

State and local police are trying to reach the crash site in mountainous terrain lacking cell phone coverage. There were no injuries on the ground, she said.

The single-seat plane was part of the 104th Fighter Wing of the Massachusetts Air National Guard,

stationed at the Barnes Air National Guard Base in Westfield, Massachusetts.

Senior Master Sergeant Rob Sabonis, a wing spokesman, said the plane was on a cross-country flight for a system upgrade and was not carrying munitions.

The pilot reported an “inflight emergency” shortly before the base lost radio contact, he said. The pilot was not identified.

Colonel James Keefe, the wing’s commander, said in a statement: “We are not going to speculate on what occurred or the status of the pilot. We are hopeful that the pilot is OK, and the pilot will be in our thoughts and prayers as the events of this incident unfold.” The F-15 is a twin-engine fighter designed by McDonnell Douglas, a unit of Boeing Co It has been in US service since the 1970s.—Reuters



Photo provided by Korean Central News Agency (KCNA) on 27 Aug, 2014 shows members of the young vanguard attend a grand march at the Kim Il Sung Stadium, Pyongyang, the Democratic People’s Republic of Korea (DPRK), to celebrate the Youth Day which falls on 28 August.—XINHUA

PERSPECTIVES

Friday, 29 August, 2014

Grow more food but fairly distribute

By Kyaw Thura

Man is said to be a unique creature that possesses the ability to adapt itself to change as necessary.

With the current population of the world reaching over 7.2 billion, scientists are finding ways to develop alternatives to natural resources. Some have claimed that most resources are consumable but non-renewable.

A growing population implies that more re-

sources are being used up at a faster rate than the world can support. Scholars have offered suggestions on how best to tackle the problem. They have come up with some ideas of reducing the cumulative impacts on the world's resources.

Strategies for sustainability and technological advances are seen as a way to diminish negative impacts on natural resources, promote efficient use of existing resources and preserve biodiversity through better management and fair distribution.

One thing to take into consideration is that the production of more food resources as an answer to feeding the growing population will not work in the long term. How to distribute these food resources is more critical.

It is clear that the world is witnessing a continuous growth of population, which demands new urbanizations and challenges economic prosperity and higher living standards. To satisfy

these requirements, more food resources and energy resources are in urgent need.

For the production of food sources, encouragement should be given to organic horticulture. Energy resources adequate enough for those in need should be extracted from such alternatives as solar, wind, nuclear, and hydroelectric sources.

Only then will there be fewer impacts on the environment.

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.

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

The United Nation's Initiative on Zero Hunger Challenge

By Bui Thi Lan, FAO Representative in Myanmar

The Zero Hunger Challenge was initially launched by the United Nations Secretary-General on the occasion of the Rio+20 Conference on Sustainable Development in Brazil in June 2012. It called on all societies in the world to join forces to end hunger and achieve sustainable development with the five objectives (i) 100% access to adequate food all year round, (ii) Zero stunted children under 2 years, (iii) All food systems are sustainable, (iv) 100% growth in smallholder productivity and income, particularly for women and (v) Zero loss or waste of food, including responsible consumption. These objectives fully coincide with those of FAO mandates which includes boosting smallholder farmers' productivity, establishing sustainable food systems and reducing food loss and wastes. The objectives are not ambitious but attainable in our lifetimes if broad collaborations are mobilized with strong political commitment and if food and nutrition security is treated as a priority at the top of national development agendas.

In responding to the call at global level, the message of the Zero Hunger Challenge was underpinned at the High Level

Consultation on Hunger, Food Security and Nutrition held in Madrid in April 2013, which called upon the world community to eradicate hunger, food insecurity and malnutrition by 2025 in a sustainable manner. The United Nations Regional Thematic Working Group on Poverty and Hunger in Asia and the Pacific (RTWG-PH), chaired by FAO and co-chaired by UNDP and ESCAP, set out the *Zero Hunger Challenge in Asia and the Pacific* which was officially launched by the United Nations Deputy Secretary-General on the occasion of the ESCAP's 69th Commission Session in April 2013. The Ministerial Conference on Regional Economic Cooperation and Integration in Asia and the Pacific, organized by ESCAP in December 2013 hosted a side event that presented the *Regional Guiding Framework for Achieving Zero Hunger in Asia and the Pacific*. This Regional Guiding Framework has been prepared in order to provide guidance to countries in the Asia-Pacific region for the formulation and implementation of actions to respond to the Zero Hunger Challenge towards attaining zero hunger in the region by 2025.

The Asia-Pacific region as a whole has made good progress in reducing

the proportion of the population suffering from chronic hunger and poverty. According to the latest revised estimates made by FAO, WFP and IFAD, the proportion of the undernourished in this region declined from 24.1 percent in 1990-92 to 13.5 percent in 2011-13 and the hunger target under MDG Number 1 will be met if the proportion declines further to below 12 percent by 2015.

However, the remaining 12 percent represents the most vulnerable and disadvantaged groups of people in the society who are to be targeted if "zero hunger" must be achieved. Very large numbers of people still suffer from chronic hunger in the Asia-Pacific region in 2011-13 (552 million), which constitutes about two-thirds of the developing world's total (827 million). Moreover, in Asia and the Pacific, it is estimated that more than 100 million children under the age of 5 were stunted as of 2010. It should also be noted that about 2 billion people (about 30 percent of the global population) suffer from micronutrient malnutrition, while some 1.4 billion people are overweight, about one-third of whom are obese and at risk of coronary heart disease, diabetes or other health problems. At the same time,

globally, over 1.3 billion tonnes of food (nearly one-third of annual food production) is lost and wasted every year. Food losses in developing countries of the region across the entire supply chain, including food consumption, are as high as 45 percent for fruits and vegetables and nearly 30 percent for cereals. Poorly functioning food supply chains and systems, as well as lack of awareness of the importance of reducing food waste and losses are some of the major causes of food loss and waste. Many Asian countries are struggling with the growing problem of food waste caused by retailers, the food service sector and consumers discarding edible food and left-over food into the garbage. One of the root cause of hunger is food insecurity which is a multidimensional challenge that needs to be addressed in an integrated manner through cross-sectoral solutions. Agriculture remains the primary key to addressing these challenges. To begin with, this sector is necessary to feed a population that is expected to exceed nine billion in 2050. Estimates point to the need of increasing agricultural output by 60 percent until then. Moreover, seventy percent of the world's undernourished live in rural areas in developing countries.

Billions of people de-

pend directly on agriculture for food and employment, including 500 million small-scale subsistence farmers who do not produce enough food to feed themselves. They are among the most important managers of natural resources. Sustainable agriculture can be used to promote win-win situations, driving inclusive growth and poverty reduction in economically depressed rural areas. For example, small scale production can be supported and social protection programs strengthened, such as cash for work and cash transfer programs. The extra income can be used to buy food locally produced by smallholders in the same community.

The Way Forward

The Zero Hunger Challenge is aimed at ensuring that everyone has year-round access to adequate food, that there are no stunted children under 2 years of age, that all food systems are sustainable, that small farmers double their productivity and income, and that there is zero loss or waste of food by 2025.

At regional level, the Guiding Framework is presented to senior officials of the UN Member States in the region on the occasion of the Ministerial Conference on Regional Economic Cooperation and Integration in Asia and the Pacific convened by ESCAP in December 2013. The Conference, in its Bangkok declaration, recognizes the importance of the Zero Hunger Challenge

for regional cooperation to assist countries with special needs, such as least developed countries, landlocked developing countries and small island developing States.

The ultimate goal of this Guiding Framework is to assist Member Countries in Asia and the Pacific in the formulation and implementation of zero hunger initiatives through the process of multi-stakeholder consultation and coordination at country level. It provides a desirable set of goals as well as guidance and support to translate the Challenge into concrete actions in the area of food security. Indeed, national-level actions are key for the success, which should be initiated as soon as possible. At the initial stage, a selected number of pilot countries may be identified to formulate a national action plan and implement the national Zero Hunger Challenge with the support from the UN team.

In January 2014, Timor-Leste became the first country to take on the national challenge. The Zero Hunger Challenge program in Timor-Leste was launched by the Prime Minister at a special session of the Parliament. It is a concrete example of country-level execution of the challenge including a National Action Plan and two fold coordination mechanisms for its implementation. Following Timor-Leste, Laos, Bangladesh, Nepal and Myanmar are now boarding on the National Zero Hunger Challenge.

NATIONAL

ASEAN talks business with US, EU business advisory councils



ASEAN and US officials discuss cooperation in competitive small and medium enterprises, market penetration and favourable business environment for innovation and technology at 2nd ASEAN-US Business Summit.—MNA

NAY PYI TAW, 28 Aug — The 2nd ASEAN-US Business Summit was started at Royal Ace Hotel here on Thursday, with addresses by Union Minister Dr Kan Zaw and US Trade Representative Mr Micheal Froman, sources said.

Discussions at the summit involved cooperation in competitive small-medium enterprises between ASEAN and the US, penetration of international market, and creation of favourable conditions for businesses in terms of

innovation and technology.

The 16th ASEAN-Mekong Basin Development Cooperation (AMBDC) Ministerial Meeting took place at the Myanmar International Convention Centre-1 here on Thursday, officials said.

The meeting discussed matters related to trade and investment, agriculture, forestry and mining, industry, tourism, human resources development, and science and technology.

AMBDC released a joint statement, which

says 22 projects have been agreed at an estimated cost of US\$338.8 million.

In other two events on Thursday afternoon, ASEAN economic ministers met the ASEAN Business Advisory Council, while ASEAN economic ministers held talks with the EU-ASEAN Business Council.

Similarly, a meeting took place between ASEAN economic ministers and the ASEAN-US trade representatives on the same day to discuss 'expanded

economic engagement and the implementation of the framework of trade and investment between ASEAN and the US. The meeting later issued a joint statement.

A press conference was held in connection with the 46th ASEAN Economic Ministers Meeting and related meetings the same day here, with Union Minister Dr Kan Zaw and the ASEAN Secretary-General responding to queries raised by media persons.—MNA

MYANMAR GAZETTE

NAY PYI TAW, 28 Aug — The President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar has transferred Rector Dr Tin Htut of the Yezin University of Agriculture under the Ministry of Agriculture and Irrigation as Director-General of the Agricultural Planning Department from the date he assumes charge of his duties.

The President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar has confirmed appointment of Managing Director U Myo Myint Oo of Myanma Oil and Gas Enterprise under the Ministry of Energy on expiry of the one-year probation period.

The President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar has appointed the following persons as heads of service organizations shown against each on probation from the date they assume charge of their duties.

Name	Appointment
(a) Dr Myo Kywe	Rector
Pro-Rector	Yezin University of
Yezin University of	Agriculture
Agriculture	Ministry of
Ministry of Agriculture	Agriculture and
and Irrigation	Irrigation
(b) Professor Dr Daw Myat Thanda	Rector
Pro-Rector (Admin)	University of Nursing
	(Yangon)
University of Medicine-1,	Medical Science
Yangon	Department
Medical Science Department	Ministry of Health
Ministry of Health	

Sixth CLMV Economic Ministers' Meeting held

NAY PYI TAW, 28 Aug — The sixth CLMV Economic Ministers' Meeting took place at Myanmar International Convention Centre-1 in Nay Pyi Taw on Thursday afternoon. Economic ministers of Cambodia, Laos, Myanmar and Vietnam, the ASEAN Secretary-General and delegates discussed the reports presented by senior economic officers of respective countries and work plans of Cambodia, Laos, Myanmar and Vietnam in 2015.—MNA

Oxfam briefing paper calls on government, donors, private parties to invest in Myanmar's small scale farming

By Ye Myint

YANGON, 28 Aug — Oxfam, a global confederation of 17 organizations working with partners and local communities in more than 90 countries, launched a report titled "Delivering Prosperity in Myanmar's Dry Zone" on Thursday, calling on the government, donors and private investors to realize the economic potential of the agriculture sector on which livelihoods of more than 70 % of the country's population rely.

The report, based on findings as the result of research into small-scale agriculture in the Mandalay and Magway Regions, said rural people employed in small-scale farming encounter many barriers to gaining benefits from the country's agriculture sector.

The information was revealed at Chatrium Hotel in Yangon where a launch ceremony for the Oxfam briefing paper was held in conjunction with a panel discussion on Myanmar's agribusiness with farmer representatives and those

from local and international organizations.

U Bobby, CEO of Network Activities Group that contributed its findings in Minbu to the report, said in the dry zone, where climate change causes a severe effect on the region's

rain-fed agriculture, soil ability to retain water is very low, farmers cannot generate more income due to a lack of job opportunities after the harvest is over and loan disbursement varies depending on the crops they grow.

Voices of farmers at the roundtable discussions indicated their current predicaments include possible a farm-worker shortage due to the population shift from rural to urban areas that is intensified by the low market price for rice, inadequate water for their small-scale farms and rising interest rates that makes it impossible to repay debts.

U Kyaw Hsan Lin, a farmer from Thazi Township in Mandalay Region, pointed out that climate change, financial constraints and some rules and regulations that provide ineffective protection for farmers could force farmers to leave for the cities.

"We are very willing to keep doing agribusiness, but a question I would like to ask is who will improve our livelihood. I would like all stakeholders to really be

aware of our problems and to provide us with effective protection," the Thazi farmer said.

The chairman of Myaungmya Farmers' Union criticized the system of contract farming because farmers have lost land they were living on due to the system, leaving them to end up squatting in the neighbourhood of a city.

According to the Oxfam briefing paper written in cooperation with its colleagues in Myanmar, parties concerned, including the government, donors and private investors, are encouraged to prioritize the needs of small-scale farmers rather than marginalizing and displacing them.

The right policies and investments could lead to success of the country's poverty alleviation and rural development scheme, it adds.—NLM



Rice farmers in Minbu in Myanmar's central dry zone where Oxfam conducted research on farm livelihood with the aim of delivering prosperity to the region.—PHOTO: CREDIT TO HEIN LATT AUNG/OXFAM

Singapore's Phillip Capital acquires Malaysian-owned Cambodian bank

PHNOM PENH, 28 Aug — The Singapore-based Phillip Capital Group has purchased a Malaysian-owned Hwang-DBS Commercial Bank in Cambodia for 40 million US dollars and rebranded it as Phillip Bank on Thursday, a bank's chief said.

Phillip Bank's chairman Lim Hua Min said the Phillip Capital Group, which is an Asian financial service provider, acquired the bank in March this year

after Hwang-DBS (Malaysia) Bhd decided to exit its business in Cambodia.

"Cambodia has a young population with much promise and potential," he said in a Press conference. "Beyond microfinance and banking, our group is keen to expand our participation in other financial services, such as leasing, life insurance and general insurance."

He said the group has also held stakes in three

microfinance institutions in Cambodia since 2009.

Neav Chanthana, deputy governor of the National Bank of Cambodia (NBC), said the presence of Phillip Capital Group clearly showed foreign investors' confidence in Cambodia's financial industry. "I have confidence that the new investment will bring new experience and technical expertise for the banking and financial development to the bank in

particular and to the banking sector in general," she said. The Southeast Asian nation has the population of about 14.8 million with 35 commercial banks in operations. According to the NBC, those banks are serving approximately 2 million borrowers and 3 million depositors. As of June this year, a total asset in Cambodia's whole banking system was up to 14.5 billion US dollars, said Neav Chanthana.—Xinhua

China's economy faces challenges despite steady performance

BEIJING, 28 Aug — China's economy is facing multiple domestic and international challenges despite its steady performance in the past seven months, said a senior economic official in Beijing on Wednesday.

China is dealing with complicated situations with strong uncertainty at home and abroad, said Xu Shaoshi, minister in charge of the National Development and Reform Commission, during the ongoing bi-monthly meeting of the country's top legislature.

Internationally, the internal drive of a global recovery has remained weak and a strong rebound may not happen in the near future despite positive signs so far this year, Xu said, elaborating on a report regarding national economic and social development.

China's economy is going through key adjustments with serious problems and conflicts that hinder its stability, he said.

"The foundation for stable economic growth is not solid enough and there are things to be worried about behind the positive signs," he said.

To tackle these problems, in the following months the central government will continue stable macroeconomic policies and adopt flexible microeconomic policies, he said.

The government will speed up reforms in removing administrative approvals, industrial barriers, budget management and pushing forward private bank trials, he said.

Measures will be made to improve public service and encourage private capital to further open up the service sector.

The government will try its best to guarantee a good harvest of farm produce this year.

As for the country's exports, Xu said the focus will be on updating its export-oriented industries, encouraging service exports and cross-border e-commerce.

In the first half of this year, the country's economy grew by 7.4 percent year on year with an unemployment rate of 4.08 percent, both of which met expectations, according to Xu's report.

The net income of rural residents per capita increased by 9.8 percent year on year in the first half of this year while the disposable income of urban residents rose 7.1 percent.

From January to July, a total of 8.58 million new jobs were added, 140,000 more than the figure released at the same time last year.

The consumer price index increased by 2.3 percent, lower than the annual target of 3.5 percent. — Xinhua

Persistent inflation hurting India's sovereign ratings — Moody's

MUMBAI, 28 Aug — India's sovereign ratings are constrained by persistently high inflation that is weighing on an otherwise promising economic recovery, Moody's Investors Service said in a release on Thursday.

"Recurrent inflationary pressures ... keep domestic capital costs high, erode domestic purchasing power as well as savings and lower international competitiveness," the rating agency said.

Moody's also said the supply response to inflation has been weak and the government-directed food distribution system has made worse the food supply constraints. Without a significant increase in food output, the risk from continued inflation could limit India's growth prospects, Moody's said. — Reuters



A vendor arranges lemons at his stall of vegetables at a market in Chennai on 14 July, 2014. — REUTERS

Ebola causing huge damage to West Africa economies

FREETOWN, 28 Aug — The worst ever Ebola outbreak is causing enormous damage to West African economies as foreign businessmen quit the region, the African Development Bank said, while a leading medical charity branded the international response "entirely inadequate."

As transport companies suspend services, cutting off the region, governments and economists have warned that the epidemic could crush the fragile economic gains made in Sierra Leone and Liberia following a decade of civil war in the 1990s.

At least 1,427 people have died of the deadly hemorrhagic virus since it was first detected in the remote jungles of south-

east Guinea in March and spread quickly to neighbouring Liberia and Sierra Leone. Five people have also died in Nigeria.

Air France, the French network of Air France-KLM said on Wednesday it had suspended flights to Sierra Leone after advice from the French government.

African Development Bank (AfDB) chief Donald Kaberuka said on a visit to Sierra Leone he had seen estimates of a reduction of up to 4 percent in gross domestic product due to Ebola.

"Revenues are down, foreign exchange levels are down, markets are not functioning, airlines are not coming in, projects are being cancelled, business



Health workers wearing protective clothing prepare to carry an abandoned dead body presenting with Ebola symptoms at Duwala market in Monrovia on 17 Aug, 2014. — REUTERS

people have left — that is very, very damaging," he told Reuters late on Tuesday. Liberia has already said it would have to lower its 2014 growth forecast, without giving a new one.

Sierra Leone Deputy Minister of Mineral Resources Abdul Ignosis Koroma said the government would miss its target of exporting \$200 million in diamonds this year because of the Ebola outbreak. It exported \$186 million of diamonds in 2013.

He said miners were too afraid to go to alluvial diamonds pits in the Ebola-stricken east and tough border controls to curb the spread of the virus were also hurting the trade.

Reuters

SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY

NASA says new heavy-lift rocket debut not likely until 2018

CAPE CANAVERAL, (Florida), 28 Aug — NASA's new heavy-lift rocket, designed to fly astronauts to the moon, asteroids and eventually Mars, likely will not have its debut test flight until November 2018, nearly a year later than previous estimates, agency officials said on Wednesday.

NASA is 70 percent confident of making a November 2018 launch date, given the technical, financial and management hurdles the Space Launch System faces on the road to development, NASA associate administrators Robert Lightfoot and Bill Gerstenmaier told reporters on a conference call.

NASA estimates it could spend almost \$12 billion developing the first of three variations of the rocket and associated ground systems through the debut flight, and potentially billions more to build and fly heavier-lift next-generation boosters, a July 2014 General Accountability Office report on the programme said.



NASA's Space Launch System (SLS) 70-metric-ton configuration is seen launching to space in this undated artist's rendering released on 2 Aug, 2014.

REUTERS

While the rocket might be ready for a test flight in December 2017, as previously planned, the new assessment showed the odds of that were "significantly less" than the 70 percent confidence level NASA requires of new programmes, Gerstenmaier said.

"We want to commit

to this (November 2018) date and show that we can meet it," added Lightfoot.

The schedule assumes flat annual budgets of about \$1.3 billion for the SLS rocket and another \$1.5 billion for Orion crew capsule and associated ground launch systems at the Kennedy Space Centre in Flor-

ida. The GAO report found that NASA's SLS rocket programme was about \$400 million short of meeting its December 2017 target.

The rocket is a modified version of the shuttle-derived, heavy-lift booster developed under NASA's previous exploration initiative known as Constellation. The US space agency spent about \$9 billion on Constellation, which included the Orion capsule, from 2005 to 2010, before President Obama axed the programme. Its goal was to return astronauts to the surface of the moon by 2020.

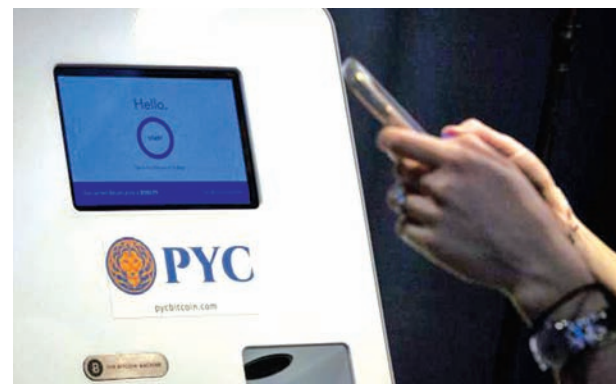
Instead, the White House and Congress approved a flexible path toward Mars, including a visit to an asteroid that will be robotically relocated into a high lunar orbit.

NASA did not say if the 11-month slip in the new rocket's debut flight, which will be an unmanned test run around the moon, would impact the second mission, slated for 2021, with a two-member crew.—Reuters

Bitcoin shows staying power as online merchants chase digital sparkle

NEW YORK, 28 Aug — Bitcoin is catching on at US online merchants including Overstock.com and Expedia, as customers use a digital currency that just a few years ago was virtually unknown but is now showing some staying power.

Though sales paid for in bitcoin so far at vendors interviewed for this article have been a fraction of one percent, they expect that as acceptance grows, the online currency will one day be as ubiquitous as the internet.



A customer prepares to use a Bitcoin ATM located in Flat 128, a boutique in New York's West Village on 22 Aug, 2014.—REUTERS

"Bitcoin isn't going anywhere; it's here to stay," said Michael Gulmann, vice president of global products at Expedia Inc in Seattle, the largest online travel agent. "We want to be there from the beginning." Expedia started accepting bitcoin payments for hotel bookings on 11 July. Until recently a niche alternative currency touted by a fervent group of followers, bitcoin has evolved into a software-based payment online system. Bitcoins are stored in a wallet with a unique identification number and companies like Coinbase and Blockchain can hold the currency for the user.—Reuters

US judge rejects Apple bid for injunction against Samsung



Apple's iPhone 5 (top) and Samsung Electronics' Galaxy S4 are seen in this picture illustration taken in Seoul on 13 May, 2013.—REUTERS

SAN FRANCISCO, 28 Aug — A US judge rejected Apple Inc's latest bid for a permanent injunction against Samsung Electronics Co Ltd in another sign of the diminishing impact of the smartphone patent wars.

Apple won a \$120 million jury verdict against Samsung earlier this year over three Apple patents. However, US District Judge Lucy Koh in San Jose, California, on Wednesday denied Apple's request to stop Samsung from selling infringing features on its smartphones related to those patents.

An Apple spokeswoman declined to comment. In a statement, Samsung said it welcomed the ruling. "We remain committed to providing American consumers with a wide choice of innovative products," Samsung said.

Until this year, the two leaders in mobile technology had been engaged in global patent litigation over Samsung's phones that use Google's Android operating system. However, Apple and Samsung agreed earlier this month to drop all patent lawsuits outside the United States.—Reuters

China supplier of Samsung, Lenovo denies using child workers

BEIJING / SEOUL, 28 Aug — A China-based supplier for Samsung Electronics Co Ltd and Lenovo Group Ltd said on Thursday it had never hired child labourers, denying allegations by a US-based activist group. Samsung Electronics also said it had found no children or students working on the Samsung production line at the Huizhou-based factory of supplier HEG Technology, which was cited as violating China's labour laws by the New York-based watchdog China Labor Watch.

A Lenovo spokeswoman said the company would look into the report.

In a statement, China Labour Watch said it had found more than 10 children working at the HEG factory during an investigation that took place in July and August. It also said the probe had found over 100 student workers who were not being paid overtime wages or a night shift subsidy.

The watchdog said it

had shared the evidence with Samsung last week and that Samsung demanded the supplier pay some students' wages. It did not say whether Samsung took any action on the matter of child labour or whether it had reached out to Lenovo with the information.

An employee sur-named Zeng at HEG Technology's human resources department told Reuters the company had never hired children, and that it had facial recognition systems in place to ensure workers were not underage.

For Samsung products, HEG employs workers aged 18 and over while the minimum age for workers on Lenovo's product lines is 16 years, she said. The company relies on an outsourcing company to hire students, she added.

In its statement, Samsung said it had proposed to China Labour Watch that they conduct a joint on-site investigation "for more precise verification" of the allegations.—Reuters

IBM launches Watson system for research, hopes for breakthroughs



Visitors walk past the IBM booth at the 9th China International Software Product & Information Service Expo in Nanjing, Jiangsu province on 6 Sept, 2013. REUTERS

WASHINGTON, 28 Aug — International Business Machines Corp on Wednesday launched a computer system that can quickly identify patterns in massive amounts of data, an ability that IBM said should hasten breakthroughs in science and medical research.

The computer system, Watson Discovery Advisor, understands chemical compound interaction and human language and can visually map out connections in data, the company said in a statement.

IBM will make the service available through the cloud. Some researchers and scientists have already been using Watson Discovery Advisor to sift through the sludge of scientific papers published daily.

Johnson & Johnson is teaching the system to read and understand trial outcomes published in journals to speed up studies of effectiveness of drugs.

Sanofi, a French pharmaceutical company is working with Watson to identify alternate uses for existing drugs.

Reuters

Russia sees chance to lift Iran sanctions through international talks



Iranian workers stand in front of the Bushehr nuclear power plant, about 1,200 km (746 miles) south of Teheran on 26 Oct, 2010.—REUTERS

Moscow, 28 Aug — Russia said on Thursday the possibility of lifting sanctions on Iran had emerged thanks to international talks on Teheran's nuclear programme and urged all countries involved to show political will to reach a deal.

Iranian Foreign Minister Mohammad Javad Zarif will meet his Russian counterpart Sergei Lavrov in Moscow on Friday to discuss the negotiations with world powers on a decade-old standoff over the Islamic republic's nuclear ambitions.

"Despite the difficult course of the negotiating process, a possibility is emerging to satisfy in full all integral rights of Iran as a member state of the Nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty, including the right to enrich uranium and lifting the sanctions regime," Russia's

foreign ministry said. "We presume all parties in the talks will show political will to reach a final, mutually acceptable agreement that would allow to fully restore the international community's trust in the exclusively peaceful character of Iran's nuclear programme." The six world powers — the United States, Russia, Germany, China, Britain and France — and Iran failed to meet a 20 July deadline to negotiate a comprehensive agreement under which Iran would curb its nuclear activities in exchange for an easing of sanctions that have crippled its economy.

However, they agreed to extend the talks by four months and the Russian ministry said in its statement it still hoped a deal was possible no later than November.

Reuters

Istanbul's water reserve alarming: experts

ISTANBUL, 28 Aug — Istanbul has launched a water-saving campaign as water levels of dams have hit a record low, Istanbul Water and Canalization Management (ISKI) announced on Wednesday.

With merely 16.31 percent of its water reserve left, according to ISKI, the 14 million people in Turkey's largest city have been warned not to wash their cars, balconies or carpets with pipes that enables water to flow continuously. The authorities have even asked people to close the water tap as they wash face or brush teeth, and take their shower short.

Periodic water cut in Istanbul began in June, and is expected to be more frequent as the water level keeps falling each day.

ISKI statistics show that the latest rain falls were far from filling the empty dams, leaving the current water reserve at a historic low of 142 million cubic meters, way below the 525 million cubic meters last year and that between 2009 and 2011.

Istanbul has been supplying its drinking water need from 10 different dams, of which Sazlikdere Dam, which is providing drinking water to the European side of Istanbul, has almost dried out with less than six percent of water reserve left. Although ISKI did not revealed how long Istanbul and its 14 million population can resist to the water shortage, experts said in early August that "Istanbul has almost 55 days of water reserves."—Xinhua

32 seriously injured as ferry catches fire in waters off Jakarta, Indonesia

JAKARTA, 28 Aug — As many as 32 people suffering from serious wounds have been rushed to hospitals after a ferry caught fire on its engine on Wednesday in waters off Jakarta, the capital of Indonesia, an official said here.

The accident occurred at midday when the ferry sailing from Muara Angke port in Jakarta, was about to arrive at Gusung Sekati island, still near the capital, Sutopo Purwo Nugroho, spokesman of the national disaster management agency said.

"As many as 32 people suffer from serious injury and are being treated at a nearby hospital at Pramuka island," he told Xinhua over phone, referring to an island not far from Gusung Sekati island.

A total of 79 people were on board, including the captain, 11 crew mem-



Medical workers carry a victim to the ambulance during the evacuation of ship KM PAUS SATU which caught fire on the sea of Thousand Islands in Jakarta, Indonesia on 27 Aug, 2014. The ship carrying 76 passengers and 11 crew got fire on Wednesday, injuring 36 people.—XINHUA

bers and 67 passengers, according to him.

Prior to the accident, 47 passengers had already exited from the ship at two

other islands, said Sutopo. Police are investigating the cause of the accident, he said. Ferry is a favourite transport means in the

archipelago country, but lack of safety standard has often caused accidents in the sea.

Xinhua

British police commissioner urged to resign amid child abuse scandal

LONDON, 28 Aug — Police commissioner of South Yorkshire has been severely criticized and urged to resign by political leaders since an inquiry exposed shockingly child sexual abuses in Rotherham on Tuesday.

According to an independent inquiry carried out by professor Alexis

Jay released on Tuesday, about 1,400 children in Rotherham, a large town in South Yorkshire, were sexually exploited from 1997 to 2013. The report said that children were raped by multiple perpetrators, trafficked to other towns and cities in the north of England, abducted, beaten, and intimidated. Some had

been doused in petrol and threatened with guns, and forced to witness violent rapes. "There was growing evidence that child sexual exploitation was a serious problem in Rotherham," it said, adding that the collective failures of political and officer leadership were blatant.

Roger Stone, leader

of Rotherham council, resigned on Tuesday in wake of the publication of the report. Shaun Wright, Police and Crime Commissioner of South Yorkshire refused to resign although leaders from different sections called him to stand down from his position on Wednesday.

Xinhua



People watch huge waves brought by Hurricane Marie at Seal Beach in California, the United States, on 27 Aug, 2014. The homes at oceanfront in Seal Beach have been inundated by a surge of rising seawater due to Hurricane Marie spinning off Mexico's Pacific coast.—XINHUA

ADVERTISEMENT & GENERAL

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

MV E.R. TURKU VOY NO (053W)

Consignees of cargo carried on MV E.R. TURKU VOY NO (053W) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 29.8.2014 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 ESM CREMONA VOY NO (105W)

Consignees of cargo carried on MV ESM CREMONA VOY NO (105W) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 29.8.2014 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of M.I.P where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

Damaged cargo will be surveyed daily from 8 am to 11:20 am and 12 noon to 4 pm to 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 ORINET OVERSEAS
CONTAINER LINES**

Phone No: 2301185

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

MV KOTA RAJIN VOY NO (RJN-877)

Consignees of cargo carried on MV KOTA RAJIN VOY NO (RJN-877) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 29.8.2014 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 ADVANCE CONTAINER
LINES**

Phone No: 2301185

Ministry of Energy

Myanma Petrochemical Enterprise Request for Letter of Expression of Interest (LOEI)

for Joint Venture Project of Coastal Oil Tankers, River Crafts and Barges

1. The Myanma Petrochemical Enterprise, Ministry of Energy of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar hereby announced an invitation to the interested local investors, companies, the organizations / foreign companies to submit the Letter of Expression of Interest (LOEI) for Joint Venture Project of coastal oil tankers, river crafts and barges under Crude Oil and Petrochemical Movement Department of Myanma Petrochemical Enterprise (MPE). This business will be carried out by classification in accordance with coastal oil tankers, river crafts and barges group and the interested applicants can propose by conducting individual group or more.

2. The required data for LOEI submission and information related to coastal oil tankers, river crafts and barges group are available in the Ministry of Energy Website (<http://www.energy.gov.mm/index.php/en/information/announcement>) as well as the following address in person during the office hours.

3. LOEI shall be submitted to Managing Director, Building No.44, Myanma Petrochemical Enterprise, Nay Pyi Taw in person not later than 12:00 noon at the date of 25.9.2014. No submission of LOEI can be allowed by fax or email.

4. Only the qualified LOEI proposals will be invited to conduct the tender process.

Director (Planning)

**Myanma Petrochemical Enterprise
Building No. 44, Nay Pyi Taw
Fax:-067 411124
Email:- cpmdjv@gmail.com**

Vacancy Announcement (For Myanmar Nationals Only)

Fostering Agricultural Revitalization in Myanmar (FARM) project will be launched by the International Fund for Agriculture Development (IFAD) loan and the interested candidates who are eligible for the following positions are invited to apply.

Project area : Nay Pyi Taw
Project duration : from 2014 to 2020 (6 years)

- | | |
|---|------------------------|
| 1. Project Manager and Agriculturalist | Male / Female (1) Post |
| 2. Finance Manager | Male / Female (1) Post |
| 3. Accountant | Male / Female (1) Post |
| 4. Procurement and Contract Management Specialist | Male / Female (1) Post |
| 5. Rural Finance Specialist | Male / Female (1) Post |
| 6. Monitoring and Evaluation Specialist | Male / Female (1) Post |
| 7. Community Development and Gender Specialist | Male / Female (1) Post |
| 8. Irrigation and Water Users Group Specialist | Male / Female (1) Post |

The salary for all the positions will be competitive basic with international organization and private sectors. The deadline of application is 31st August 2014.

Please note that: Qualified candidates may submit application with updated CV with one recent photo, certificate of the degree to the email farmmoai@gmail.com or the Director General, Department of Agriculture, Ministry of Agriculture and Irrigation, Office No.(15), Nay Pyi Taw, (Ph:067-410007/410016).

Detailed Terms of Reference and qualification for the position may be found on Ministry of Agriculture and Irrigation (MOAI) website: <www.moai.gov.mm/zg/index.php/doanoticboard> or Myanmar Information Management Unit website: <www.mimu.org> and can contact to the email farmmoai@gmail.com.

Haneda airport

opens more shops at international terminal



Photo shows newly opened shops in an expanded retail zone at the international passenger terminal of Tokyo's Haneda airport on 28 Aug, 2014. The shops are accessible to visitors who are not flying out of the airport.—KYODO NEWS

TOKYO, 28 Aug — Tokyo's Haneda airport opened more shops in an expanded retail zone at its international passenger terminal on Thursday.

The new area on the terminal building's fourth and fifth floors accommodates a grilled eel shop, a bakery and four other food outlets as well as mobile phone service shops.

The shops are accessible to visitors who are not flying out of the airport, according to Tokyo International Air Terminal Corp.

A Japanese-style cafeteria and two fast food shops — all open 24 hours a day — are scheduled to open on 12 September, raising the number of food and beverage shops to 35.

Kyodo News

Abe, Ishiba to discuss Cabinet, LDP executive changes on Friday

TOKYO, 28 Aug — Prime Minister Shinzo Abe plans to meet with Liberal Democratic Party Secretary General Shigeru Ishiba on Friday afternoon to discuss what position he may give to Ishiba when he reshuffles his Cabinet and LDP executive lineup next Wednesday, party officials said on Thursday.

Abe has asked Ishiba to assume the new post of state minister in charge of national security legislation, but the former defence minister will likely turn down Abe's offer in their meeting at the prime minister's office.

Attention will be focused on what Abe will do for Ishiba, who is concerned about some different views between the two on security policy that could be a target of criticism from opposition parties.

Ishiba hopes to retain his post in the LDP, while Abe is considering having someone replace him as secretary general, according to people close to them.

Kyodo News

Weather report

FORECAST VALID UNTIL EVENING OF THE 29th August, 2014: Rain or thundershowers will be scattered in Upper Sagaing Region and Kachin State, fairly widespread in Lower Sagaing, Mandalay and Magway Regions, Chin State and widespread in the remaining Regions and States with likelihood of isolated heavy falls in Mandalay, Yangon, Ayeyawady and Taninthayi Regions, Kayin and Mon States. Degree of certainty is (100%).

BAY INFERENCE: According to the observation at (15:30)hrs MST today, the low pressure area over West Central and adjoining Northwest Bay of Bengal still persists. Monsoon is strong in the Andaman Sea and South Bay and moderate elsewhere in the Bay of Bengal.

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) m.p.h.

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Katherine Heigl, Duane Reade end lawsuit over actress' photo

NEW YORK, 28 Aug — Actress Katherine Heigl and Duane Reade have come to an agreement in a lawsuit accusing the New York pharmacy of improperly posting to its social media accounts a paparazzi photograph of her leaving one of its stores.

A lawyer for Heigl, who starred in the film “Knocked Up” and television

show “Grey’s Anatomy,” confirmed on Wednesday a deal was agreed with the Walgreen Co.-owned chain to resolve the lawsuit, filed in April in New York federal court.

The terms are confidential, but a statement from Heigl’s lawyer Peter Haviland called it “mutually beneficial.”

As part of the deal, he said, Duane Reade will make a contribution to a foundation focused on animal welfare, established in 2008 after Heigl’s brother was killed in a car accident.—Reuters



Actress Katherine Heigl

Grand Theft Auto maker says

Lindsay Lohan sued to get attention



Actress Lindsay Lohan

NEW YORK, 28 Aug — The maker of the popular Grand Theft Auto video games said Lindsay Lohan’s lawsuit accusing it of basing a character on her without permission is frivolous and an effort by the actress to attract attention.

In papers made public on Tuesday in a New York state court in Manhattan, Take-Two Interactive Software Inc called Lohan’s claim “so legally meritless that it lacks any good-faith basis and can only have been filed for publicity purposes.” Take-Two wants to dismiss the 1 July lawsuit and have Lohan pay its legal fees.

A lawyer for Lohan did not immediately respond on Wednesday to requests for comment.

The 28-year-old “Mean Girls” star accused Take-Two and its Rockstar Games unit of basing the Lacey Jonas character in “Grand Theft Auto V” on her.

She said Jonas had a similar voice, image and clothing, and was also chased by paparazzi, and that “multiple people” had noticed a resemblance. Lohan’s lawsuit seeks unspecified damages.

Take-Two countered that Jonas did not look like Lohan, apart from being young and blond.

It also said “expressive works” such as video games are “fully protected” under the US Constitution.

Lohan has starred in a number of hit movies including “The Parent Trap” and “Mean Girls,” but has in recent years become known for multiple legal woes and visits to rehab clinics.—Reuters

‘Game of Thrones’ director wants to helm ‘Black Widow’ movie



LOS ANGELES, 28 Aug — ‘Game of Thrones’ director Neil Marshall is

keen to helm a film with strong female lead like the 1987 ‘Black Widow’.

‘Black Widow’ is a crime drama centred

around two women, played by Debra Winger and Theresa Russell.

Marshall, who has directed ‘The Descent’ and ‘Centurion’, also said he loved Scarlett Johansson’s characters in ‘Captain America’ and ‘Avengers’ films, said The Hollywood Reporter.

“I think I’d like to do a big movie with a strong female lead, whether or not she would be a superhero. I would love to do a Black Widow movie,” he said.

PTI

Wiz Khalifa knocks ‘Guardians’ from atop Billboard’s album chart

LOS ANGELES, 28 Aug — Rapper Wiz Khalifa knocked the “Guardians of the Galaxy” soundtrack from the top spot on the weekly US Billboard 200 album chart on Wednesday, scoring his first No. 1 album.

Khalifa’s “Blacc Hollywood” sold 90,000 copies in its first week, according to figures from Nielsen SoundScan.

It outpaced last week’s chart-topper, the retro “Awesome Mix Vol 1” soundtrack from Marvel’s “Guardians of the Galaxy” film, which sold 64,000 copies in its fourth week of release. The film climbed to the top of the box office over the weekend as well.

Country music artist Chase Rice debuted at No 3 with “Ignite the Night” selling 44,000 copies.

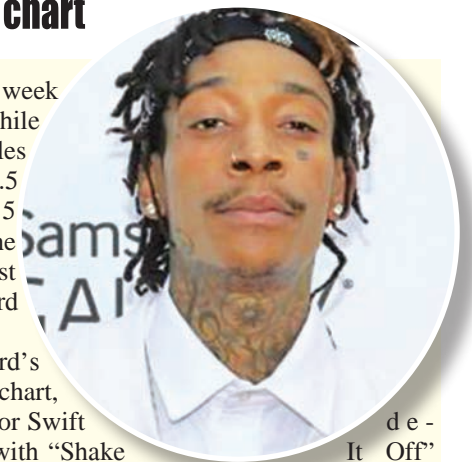
Other new entries in the top 10 included “Nashville Outlaws: A Tribute to Motley Crue,” a compilation of tracks featuring country music artists such as LeAnn Rimes, at No 5 and former Kiss musician Ace Frehley at No 9 with his solo album “Space Invader.”

For the week ending 24 August, total album sales clocked in at 3.97 million copies, down 19 percent from

the comparable week in 2013, while year-to-date sales stood at 154.5 million, down 15 percent from the same point last year, Billboard said.

On Billboard’s digital songs chart, pop singer Taylor Swift debuted at No 1 with “Shake It Off” selling 544,000 copies, the fourth biggest digital song debut behind Flo Rida’s “Right Round,” Swift’s own “We Are Never, Ever Getting Back Together” and Katy Perry’s “Roar.”

“Shake It Off” is the first single from Swift’s upcoming October album “1989,” and the singer performed it live at Sunday’s televised MTV Video Music Awards, or VMAs.—Reuters



GENERAL

FIFA and other groups sued in US over concussions



Journalists are reflected in a logo at the FIFA headquarters in Zurich on 4 Oct, 2013. — REUTERS

SAN FRANCISCO, 28 Aug — A group of parents sued several football organizations including the sport's international governing body FIFA, saying they have failed to do more about concussions among children.

The lawsuit, filed on Wednesday in a California federal court, says FIFA and other groups such as the American Youth Soccer Organization have not done enough to reduce preventable injuries from repetitive ball heading.

The risks of head injuries in sports has been a

recurring concern in the United States. Last month the National Collegiate Athletic Association agreed to settle a head injury lawsuit by creating a \$70 million fund for concussion testing. Some of the same lawyers involved in that case filed the football lawsuit.

"Younger players are typically not provided professional medical supervision, either during practices or at matches," the lawsuit said. The lawsuit seeks to institute a medical monitoring programme, as well as attorneys fees.

FIFA representatives could not immediately be reached for comment.

In a statement, the AYSO said its "highest priority is creating a safe

and nurturing environment where kids can play and have fun," adding that it requires any player exhibiting signs of a concussion immediately be removed for the remainder of the day.

"For many families soccer is seen as a terrific alternative to football," the lawsuit said. "Parents are often relieved when their children choose soccer. However, soccer ranks among the top sports in the number of concussions per game."

The case is Rachel Mehr et al. vs. Federation Internationale de Football Association a/k/a/ FIFA et al., in US District Court, Northern District of California No. 14-3879.

Reuters

MYANMAR TV

(29-8-2014, Friday)

6:00 am

* Paritta by Hilly Region Missionary Sayadaw

6:25 am

* Physical Exercise

7:00 am

* News/Weather Report

7:20 am

* Hyper Sports

8:30 am

* TV Drama Series

9:00 am

* News/ International News

10:20 am

* TV Drama Series

11:25 pm

* Remembrance to Daw May Shin

12:25 pm

* Myanmar Movie

2:25 pm

* Musical Programme

3:00 pm

* News

4:20 pm

* Documentary

4:40 pm

* University of Distance Education (TV Lectures)

-Second Years (Physics)

5:00 pm

* News

5:30 pm

* TV Drama Series

6:20 pm

* Amazing World

6:50 pm

* TV Drama Series

7:00 pm

* News

7:20 pm

* TV Drama Series

8:00 pm

* News/ International News/ Weather Report

8:35 pm

* Documentary

8:45 pm

* People Talks

9:00 pm

* News

* Hyper Sport

* Teleplay

MYANMAR INTERNATIONAL

(29-8-14 07:00 am~ 30-8-14 07:00 am) MST

- * Local News
- * A Cordial Welcome From Pantaung
- * World News
- * Kid's Home
- * Local News
- * Enchanting Rakhine Land
- * World News
- * The Hills of Phowintaung And Shwebat-aung
- * Local News
- * Diverse National Costumes & Their Fashion Trend (Episode-3)
- * World News
- * Myanmar Movie Review "By Coincidence"
- * Local News
- * Bago : A City of Famous Historic Pagoda
- * World News
- * Crocodile Keeper
- * Local News
- * Young with Colour (Toe Wai)
- * World News
- * Parents' Day
- * Local News
- * Myanmar Maga Factory - (Episode-4)
- * World News
- * The Pride of Myanmar "Traditional Handicraft"
- * Local News
- * "Myanmar's Traditions and Culture" Myanmar Pottery
- * World News
- * Tea
- * Local News
- * Bagan: The Land of Pagoda
- * World News
- * Fantastic Orchid Garden from The Flower City

Klitschko quickly reschedules Pulev fight to 15 November

BERLIN, 28 Aug — World heavyweight champion Vladimir Klitschko will fight Bulgarian Kubrat Pulev for the IBF title on 15 November, in Hamburg, after the Ukrainian postponed next month's bout due to injury, he said on Wednesday.

Klitschko, who also holds the WBO, WBA and

IBO belts and has won 62 of his 65 bouts, tore bicep muscles during training in Austria earlier this week and postponed the 6 September fight.

Pulev, 33, who has recorded 11 knockouts from 20 wins, became the IBF international champion in 2011 and European champion in 2012. — Reuters



Ukrainian heavy weight boxing World Champion Vladimir Klitschko attends a public training session in Going on 8 April, 2014. — REUTERS

One killed, 11 missing in SW China landslide

GUIYANG, 28 Aug — One person was killed, and eleven remain missing after a landslide struck a village in southwest China's Guizhou Province on Wednesday night.

The accident happened at around 8:30 pm, when

a landslide hit Yingping Village in Fuquan City, destroying around 20 houses.

Eleven people were injured, according to Fuquan's publicity department.

Rescue work is under way. — Xinhua

Eight dead after bus falls into valley

CHANGSHA, 28 Aug — Eight people were killed after a minibus fell into a valley on Thursday morning in Anhua County in central China's Hunan Province, said local authorities. Around 9:20 am on Thursday, the minibus fell about one hundred metres off a hillside near a road in Anhua County, said the county government.

Nine people, including the driver and a two-year-old child, were on board the bus. The surviving child has been rushed to a local hospital and was confirmed not to be at serious risk. Investigation into the accident is under way. — Xinhua

Senegalese WHO doctor with Ebola arrives for treatment in Germany



An employee of the World Health Organization (WHO), who contracted Ebola in Sierra Leone arrives at the 'Universitätsklinikum Hamburg-Eppendorf' (University Clinic Eppendorf- UKE) in an ambulance, in Hamburg, on 27 August, 2014. — REUTERS

HAMBURG, 28 Aug — A Senegalese doctor who contracted Ebola while working for the World Health Organization (WHO) in Sierra Leone arrived in Hamburg on Wednesday for treatment at a tropical medicine unit, becoming Germany's first patient with the disease.

At a news conference on Wednesday the clinic's tropical medicine specialist said the man would not be given new experimental drugs such as ZMapp but that his treatment would at first focus on managing his symptoms. The Senegalese doctor arrived in Germany on a specialist plane and was transferred to the university

clinic Hamburg-Eppendorf in a special isolation ambulance, accompanied by a police guard.

The WHO had approached the clinic on Saturday to ask if they would accept the patient, Rico Schmidt, health spokesman for Hamburg city senate told reporters. Doctors at the clinic declined to give details about the man's condition due to patient confidentiality, but said the fact he was able to enter the aeroplane himself suggested he was well enough to benefit from treatment.

The patient, who has not been named, had worked in a laboratory in Sierra Leone

that was testing for Ebola, the WHO has said. It shut the laboratory on Tuesday after he became infected. Hamburg-based tropical medicine specialist Stefan Schmiedel said they would not be using drugs such as ZMapp, which has been given to some Ebola patients including a British volunteer nurse recently repatriated to London.

Treatment would at first consist of managing the patient's vital functions, pain and fever levels. "We believe through these simple measures the threat of Ebola can be reduced," Schmiedel said.

Reuters

Bilbao oust shambolic Napoli, Arsenal qualify again

BERNE, 28 Aug — Athletic Bilbao took advantage of shambolic defending to beat Napoli 3-1 on Wednesday and reach the Champions League group stage for the first time in 16 years, leaving the Italians counting the cost of their premature exit.

Arsenal qualified for a 17th successive season with a nervy 1-0 win at home to Besiktas and Malmo made it for the first time with a 3-0 win over Salzburg, whose participation ended in the qualifiers for the ninth time in a row.

Ludogorets centre back Cosmin Moti, forced to go in goal after keeper Vladislav Stoyanov was sent off, saved two penalties as his team beat Steaua Bucharest 6-5 in a shootout to qualify for the first time.

Forgotten German striker Stefan Kiessling scored twice to help Bundesliga side Bayer Leverkusen storm past FC Copenhagen 4-0 to complete the line-up.

The group stage draw, featuring only two Italian teams following Napoli's exit, will be made in Monaco on Thursday.

Napoli's defensive nightmare will prove expensive as the group stage earned them around 38 million euros (30.25 million pounds) last season in appearance fees, performance bonuses and television rights.

It will also pile pressure on coach Rafael Benitez, whose expensively-assembled side did the bare minimum expected of them last season by finishing third in Serie A and winning the Italian Cup.

Held 1-1 at home last week, Napoli survived a difficult first half before taking the lead immediately after halftime when Marek Hamsik collected a headed clearance on the edge of the area and scored with a low shot into the corner.

But it all went wrong in the 61st minute when Aritz Aduriz escaped his marker at a corner to equalise.

It got worse for Napoli eight minutes later when a long ball out of the Athletic defence was completely misjudged by Raul Albiol, who collided with goalkeeper Rafael Cabral, allowing Aduriz to score into



Arsenal's Alexis Sanchez (L) scores a goal against Besiktas during their Champions League playoff soccer match at the Emirates stadium in London on 27 Aug, 2014.

REUTERS

an empty net.

Five minutes later, Unai Lopez's through ball caused more havoc in the Napoli defence and Ibai Gomez nipped in to drill the third past Rafael and seal Athletic's place in the group stage for the first time since 1998/99.

"We took the lead, but in a few minutes we made some significant mistakes

and lost control of the game," Benitez told Sport Mediaset. "We knew it could end up like this, we are all disappointed, but we have to look forward."

Arsenal squeezed past Besiktas in a tense and absorbing contest when Chile forward Alexis Sanchez slotted home a loose ball in first-half stoppage time.

Besiktas, held 0-0 in

the first leg, were always menacing and a nervy Arsenal had to sweat it out after Mathieu Debuchy was sent off in the 75th minute for a second booking.

"We needed to keep our nerves," Arsenal manager Arsene Wenger told Sky. "For us it is a weight off our shoulders because we can focus on the Premier League."

Malmo, runners-up in the old European Cup in 1979, raced to a 2-0 lead inside 20 minutes against Salzburg with a Markus Rosenberg penalty and a bizarre, looping left-foot volley by Magnus Eriksson.

Rosenberg struck again with six minutes left as Malmo became the first Swedish club to qualify since Helsingborg in 2000-01.

Ludogorets sent their tie against former champions Steaua into extra time when Brazilian Wanderson scored with a spectacular shot in the 90th minute to give them a 1-0 win on the night and make it 1-1 on aggregate.

There was more drama when goalkeeper Stoyanov was sent off for a professional foul in the final minute of extra time and, with the Bulgarians having made all three substitutions, Moti went in goal.

Having converted his side's first penalty, Moti saved Paul Pirvulescu's second attempt for Steaua and Cornel Rapa's sudden-death effort as Ludogorets won 6-5 in the shootout.

Reuters

Radwanska out, Sharapova survives Open threat



Maria Sharapova (RUS) hits to Alexandra Delgheru (ROU) on Ashe Stadium court on day three of the 2014 US Open tennis tournament at USTA Billie Jean King National Tennis Centre in New York on 27 Aug, 2014.

REUTERS

NEW YORK, 28 Aug — The US Open heated up on Wednesday with China's Peng Shuai upsetting fourth-seeded Agnieszka Radwanska and fifth seed Maria Sharapova averting an early exit on a sweltering day in Flushing Meadows.

French Open champion Sharapova lost the first set to 95th-ranked Alexandra Dulgheru of Romania, but the five-times grand slam winner bounced back to reach the third round with a 4-6, 6-3, 6-2 victory in warm breezes at Arthur Ashe Stadium.

Radwanska was not so fortunate as she fell 6-3, 6-4 to world number one doubles player Peng, who supplied a shock start to second-round play in Louis Armstrong Stadium.

Men's first-round play was completed with sixth-seeded Czech Tomas Berdych dismissing 2001 champion Lleyton Hewitt of Australia 6-3, 6-4, 6-3, and seventh seed Bulgarian Grigor Dimitrov a 6-2, 7-6, 6-2 victor over local wild card Ryan Harrison.

Other men's seeds reaching the second round

included Ernests Gulbis of Latvia (11), Marin Cilic of Croatia (14), South African Kevin Anderson (18) and Feliciano Lopez of Spain (19). Cilic and Lopez advanced in abbreviated fashion. Cilic was leading 6-3, 3-1 when Marcos Baghdatis of Cyprus retired with an ankle injury, while Lopez was at 1-1 in the fifth set when Croat Ivan Dodig could no longer continue due to cramping. World number two Simona Halep of Romania beat the heat by hurrying past Jana Cepelova of Slovakia 6-2, 6-1 to reach the third round.

Halep, who overcame US college champion Danielle Collins in the opening round after losing a first-set tie-break, wasted little time as temperatures soared.

"I started to be more aggressive and hit the ball," said second seed Halep, the French Open runner-up. "I feel great now that I could win so fast today because it's so hot outside."

Johanna Larsson of Sweden, ranked 96th, sent another seed to the exits with a 5-7, 6-4, 6-2 upset of 21st-seeded American Sloane Stephens, a 2013

Australian Open semi-finalist.

Peng used piercing, two-handed groundstrokes to put Radwanska on the defensive and claimed the biggest scalp of the tournament so far on her third match point with a backhand crosscourt winner that brushed the corner lines.

A winner in the Montreal hardcourt run-up event to the US Open and semi-finalist at this year's Australian Open, Radwanska was outplayed on critical points. Peng won three of five break points against Radwanska, who succeeded only once in seven break

opportunities. "Every game was pretty tight and a lot of rallies," lamented Radwanska. "Every game could go either way. But in the important moments, I think she was just playing a little bit better."

Sharapova looked in trouble after making a massive 22 unforced errors in losing the first set against Dulgheru, who had risen to a high ranking of 26 in 2011 before knee injuries set her back. But the 2006 champion recovered. Sharapova broke in the sixth game of the second set to lead 4-2 and served out to claim the second set and start a run

of five games in a row that took her to 4-0 in the third set and victory in the two hour 38 minute struggle.

It was a familiar formula for Sharapova, who leads the tour with 17 three-set victories this year.

"We started under the sun and finished under the lights. That's what you call the US Open, I guess," said Sharapova. "I'm very happy I was able to come back and come through and win this match."

As for being able to win the long matches, the Russian said: "A lot of hard work. You have to put in the hours and the miles, I guess." The 28-year-old Peng, the French Open doubles champion, had 28 winners in the 96-minute upset of Radwanska.

"I had two match points and didn't make it," Peng said about two backhand errors that prolonged the match.

"But I just said 'fight, fight' and it's an amazing time for me," added the 39th-ranked Peng, who in February became the first Chinese player to become a world number one in tennis.

Reuters



Peng Shuai of China hits a return to Agnieszka Radwanska of Poland during their match at the 2014 US Open tennis tournament in New York on 27 Aug, 2014.—REUTERS