



President receives German parliamentary delegation

(News on page 3)

Global brands voice support for minimum wage proposal

By Aye Min Soe

YANGON, 15 July — Dozens of major global brands have thrown their weight behind Myanmar's proposed minimum wage, calling for guaranteed pay rates as a means of promoting investment in the country's garment industry and lifting the living standards of its workers.

Both the Ethical Trading Initiative and the Fair Labor Association — comprising companies sourcing from, or considering investing in, Myanmar — expressed their support for the minimum wage in letters to the Union Minister for Labour, Employment and Social Security and the Chair of National Committee on the Minimum Wage.

The Fair Labor Association counts sportswear giant Adidas and outdoor clothing manufacturer Patagonia among its members, while the Ethical Trading Initiative includes international retail heavyweights Tesco, H&M and Gap Inc.

In the letters dated 14 July, both bodies lauded the government for undertaking a transparent mechanism for setting the minimum wage in line with



Workers prepare clothing for export at a garment factory in the Hlinethaya Industrial Zone of Yangon.—PHOTO: AYE MIN SOE

International Labour Organization conventions.

They also raised concerns regarding lobbying by employers for exemptions from the minimum wage for the garment industry.

“Once the minimum wage has been set, companies will be in a position to accommodate that wage in

any independent negotiations relating to global supply chains sourcing from Myanmar,” the Fair Labor Association said in its letter.

It stated that “In our view, the suggestion made by trade associations that a higher minimum wage will discourage international investment is based on a false

premise.”

Both groups said a minimum wage set through consultations with relevant stakeholders would attract rather than deter international companies.

Myanmar garment factory owners on 2 July unanimously voted against the proposed minimum wage of K3,600 for an

eight-hour day.

About 30 factories with foreign investment expressed their intent to shut down if the proposed minimum wage takes effect on 1 September.

The closure of the factories would lead to hundreds of thousands of job losses, according to the garment industry.

The employers cannot agree to the proposed minimum wage because the garment industry does not depend on working hours but rather on productivity, said Daw Khaing Khaing Nwe, secretary of the Myanmar Garment Manufacturers Association, at a 2 July meeting of the garment factory owners.

She suggested the government bear some of the burden by making arrangements for the construction of housing quarters and provision of ferry services for workers, and by giving tax breaks to garment businesses.

The government's minimum wage body received more than 160 objections from factory owners and 11 from workers in Yangon after the committee issued a notification on the minimum wage proposal on 29 June.

U Maung Maung, the President of the Confederation of Trade Unions Myanmar and a member of the Governing Body of the International Labour Organization, has urged employers in Myanmar to consider the future of the country's garment industry.

GNLM

Discussions are underway to hand over 165 verified Bangladeshi nationals who are given temporary shelters at Taung Pyo (Letwe') on 22 July 2015

NAY PYI TAW, 15 July—Through the coordinated efforts with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Bangladesh on the repatriation of boat people who were rescued by Myanmar (Navy) on 21 and 29 May, a total of 187 Bangladeshi nationals were handed over to the Bangladeshi side in June.

At the same time, continued coordinated

efforts are being made to hand over the remaining 544 boat people who are currently given temporary shelters at Taung Pyo (Letwe'). As a result, discussions are underway to hand over the 165 verified Bangladeshi boat people on 22 July.

Along with the verification process, continuous efforts are being made for the remaining boat peo-

ple to be repatriated expeditiously back to the place of origin based on neighbourliness relations between Myanmar and Bangladesh.

Humanitarian assistance are being provided to the boat people who are temporary sheltered at Taung Pyo (Letwe'). It was learnt from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

MNA

No end in sight for kyat weakness against dollar: analyst

By Ye Myint

YANGON, 15 July — The U.S. dollar is likely to continue strengthening against the kyat due to persistent demand for the greenback in Myanmar, where it is the currency of choice for importers and exporters, market watchers said Wednesday.

The dollar may strengthen against the kyat until the end of the year, economic analyst U Saw Naing (Applied Economics) told The Global New

Light of Myanmar.

Strong demand for the dollar — which, along with gold, is much preferred to the kyat among investors — has caused a shortage of the U.S. currency in the market, which has further fuelled demand, he added.

Static foreign direct investment, declining exports and weakening income from oil and gas sales have also contributed to the dollar's strength, he said.

Dr Soe Tun, vice-chairman of the Myanmar Rice Federation, said low export

volume in the current rainy season and limited inflows of foreign capital in the run-up to the general elections will most likely contribute to a continued rise in the value of the dollar.

The Central Bank of Myanmar set its reference foreign exchange rate at K1,210 to the dollar on Wednesday, up from K1205 on Tuesday and K1200 on Monday.

The incremental increases came after the CBM moved the rate to K1200 on (See page 3)

Pyithu Hluttaw discusses regional development and endangered fish species

NAY PYI TAW, 15 July — U Tha Sein of the Kyauktaw constituency asked the Pyithu Hluttaw on Wednesday about plans for the extension of Main Strand Road linking northern Rakhine State with Chin State.

U Kyaw Kyaw Win, Deputy Minister at President Office, responded that the extension of the road was not covered in the lo-

cal budget allowance for 2015-2016 fiscal year. He added that local development committees are carrying out development tasks in order of importance.

He also responded a query raised by U Enn Phon San of the Machanbaw constituency calling for the dissolution of fishing tenders along the Malikka river between the Monlan Creek and Htondam vil-

lage and the designation of them as common fishing areas. The deputy minister said dissolving the fishing tenders was impossible. Regarding a query about plans to protect icefish from disappearing, he explained arrangements for research on their fertilization and spawning grounds. The Pyithu Hluttaw has reached an agreement to discuss at the Pyidaungsu



U Enn Phon San of Machanbaw constituency.—MNA



Deputy Minister U Kyaw Kyaw Win.
MNA



U Tha Sein of Kyauktaw constituency.—MNA

Hluttaw the attorney general of the Union amendment

bill, the auditor-general of the union amendment bill,

and the Nay Pyi Taw council amendment bill.—MNA

Amyotha Hluttaw



Deputy Minister for Home Affairs Brig-Gen Kyaw Zan Myint.
MNA



Deputy Minister for Electric Power U Aung Than Oo.
MNA

No plan to upgrade Panglong to township

NAY PYI TAW, 15 July — Deputy Minister for Home Affairs Brig-Gen Kyaw Zan Myint replied that there is no plan to upgrade Panglong Town to the township in southern Shan State at the Wednesday's session of Amyotha Hluttaw.

U Sai Kyaw Zaw Than of Shan State constituency No 2 asked about upgrading Panglong Town to a township. The deputy minister said that the town was upgraded from a

sub-township formed with four wards within administrative area of Loilem Township, adding that Shan State government did not recommend upgrading the town.

U Thaw Zin Oo of Magway Region constituency No 9 asked about a plan to extend installation of transformers in Ward 15 in Pakokku and upgrade load capacity of sub-power stations. Deputy Minister for Electric Power U Aung Than Oo replied that instal-

lation of transformers and power lines will depend on the additional budget of the region government in 2015-16 fiscal year.

The speaker of Amyotha Hluttaw informed the Hluttaw of sending back Myanmar Red Cross Society bill by Pyithu Hluttaw.

Amyotha Hluttaw will discuss the jails bill submitted by Deputy Minister

Brig-Gen Kyaw Zan Myint and the Bill Committee read out the paper on the bill.

While U Nyunt Tin of Yangon Constituency No 2 tabled a proposal calling for formation of National Transportation Safety Board, three MPs seconded it. The Hluttaw decided not to approve the proposal.

MNA

Women's Party (Mon), Rakhine Patriotic Party allowed to register as political parties

NAY PYI TAW, 15 July — The Union Election Commission on Wednesday announced that Women's Party (Mon) headquartered at No. 17, Bogyoke Aung San Street, Myaingthaya Ward, Mawlamyine Township, Mon State, with registration number 96 and Rakhine Patriotic Party headquartered at No. 32, corner of Zay Street and Tha Zan Hla Street, Kyaypyingyi Ward, Sittway Township, Rakhine State, with registration number 97 have been allowed to register as political parties as of 15 July 2015 in line with Section 9 of the Political Parties Registration Law.—MNA

Health workers attend TB seminar



NAY PYI TAW, 15 July — Pynmana General Hospital began a training course for health workers Wednesday on prevention and treatment of tuberculosis.

The Director of the Public Health Department in Nay Pyi Taw Council

Area spoke about symptoms of TB and the lack of public awareness around free drug and treatment programmes.

Altogether 70 trainees from Lewe and Tatkon townships are attending the three-day course until 17 July.—Shwe Ye Yint

Myanmar to host CLMV, ACMECS tourism meetings

NAY PYI TAW, 15 July — The Ministry of Hotels and Tourism is preparing to host the 3rd Cambodia, Laos, Myanmar and Vietnam Tourism Ministerial Meeting and

the 2nd Ayeyawady-Chao Phraya-Mekong Economic Cooperation Strategy (ACMECS) Tourism Ministerial Meeting in Nay Pyi Taw on 28 and 29 July.

The meetings are aimed at promoting tourism cooperation between CLMV and ACMECS countries, boosting visitor numbers and solving prob-

lems in the industry.

Myanmar is hosting the gatherings of tourism ministers from the regional groupings for the first time.

MNA

Swiss insurer looks into coverage for agricultural sector

By Ko Moe

YANGON, 15 July — Representatives of the Myanmar Rice Federation and Swiss Re Corporate Solutions Ltd met here Wednesday to discuss the introduction of agricultural insurance to the country.

Vice President and Senior Originator at Swiss Re Jeffrey Khoo said the company aimed to arrange insurance for farmers and millers.

MRF Secretary U Ye Min Aung welcomed input from an international firm, but warned that weather data could be hard to obtain, citing instances of incorrect data being collected in four townships.

"Insurance for crops

won't be an easy task," he noted.

In Myanmar, about 400,000 acres of farmland

are submerged by floods each year.

The country's insurance law will require for-

eign firms to buy insurance coverage from the Myanmar Insurance Enterprise.—GNLM



Vendors sell vegetables and fruits at a bazaar in Tatkon market.

PHOTO: AYE MIN SOE

NATIONAL

President receives German parliamentary delegation



NAY PYI TAW, 15 July— President U Thein Sein on Wednesday hosted a meeting with representatives of the German-ASEAN Parliamentary Friendship Group led by Bundestag member Dr Thomas Gambke.

During the meeting at the Diplomatic Hall of the Presidential Palace, the two sides discussed intergovernmental cooperation, support for Myanmar's reform process, human resources development, German investment, the upcoming general election and the situation in Rakhine State.

The meeting was attended by Union Ministers U Aung Min, U Khin Yi, Dr

Ko Ko Oo and U Ye Htut, as well as Deputy Minister U Tin Oo Lwin and senior government officials.

Dr Gambke made his first official visit to Myanmar in 2012 as a chairman of the parliamentary friendship group.

President U Thein Sein visited Germany in September 2014 to mark the 60th anniversary of diplomatic relations.

German President Joachim Gauck also made an official visit to Myanmar in February 2014 during which he launched the Goethe-Institut in Yangon and the Myanmar-Germany Economic Forum.

MNA

President U Thein Sein holds talks with Bundestag member Dr Thomas Gambke of German-ASEAN Parliamentary Friendship Group.—MNA



National Museum in capital opens first phase to public

NAY PYI TAW, 15 June — The first phase of the new National Museum opened here Wednesday, showcasing fossils, historical items and Myanmar arts and culture.

The museum is built on 34.79 acres of land and has five buildings. Two of the buildings are now open to the public.

In an address at the opening ceremony, Vice President Dr Sai Mauk Kham said the museum would highlight the historic

culture of the country and inspire a new generation to appreciate its prestige and integrity.

The museum has been under construction since fiscal 2010-2011, and is open to the public free of charge until 15 August.

The Ministry of Culture has set up state-level museums and libraries since 1952. The country has 30 museums to display both tangible and intangible cultural heritage.

MNA

Vice President Dr Sai Mauk Kham views weapons in pre-historic period at National Museum (Nay Pyi Taw).—MNA



No end in sight for kyat...

(from page 1) on 10 July, marking a high since the adoption of a

managed float exchange rate system.

IMF Mission Chief for Myanmar Mr. Yong-

zheng Yang welcomed the central bank's adjustment, saying it should help balance the exchange market by attracting more foreign currency.

IMF Resident Representative in Myanmar Ms. Yu Ching Wong said the international lender supported moves by the CBM to tighten monetary policy by scaling up deposit auctions.

"We welcome this development, which will help reduce credit growth, lower inflation pressure, and anchor exchange rate

expectations," she said.

Despite the CBM setting the exchange rate at K1210 on Wednesday, the selling rate was as high as 1,240 a dollar, according to a money changer in Yangon. Exchange counters at domestic banks had halted selling, with the buying rate set at K1215.

The country's low export volume and heavy reliance on imports, which triggered a \$5 billion trade deficit last fiscal year, contributed to the growing demand for dollars in the local market, according to

senior official Myanmar Fishery Federation U Hnin Oo.

"The demand for dollars is being driven by imports of goods for domestic consumption," said the official, adding that the small and medium enterprise sector needed to boost production.

The dollar appreciation will continue as the country cannot lower its imports and raise its production to increase foreign currency incomes, he added.

GNLM

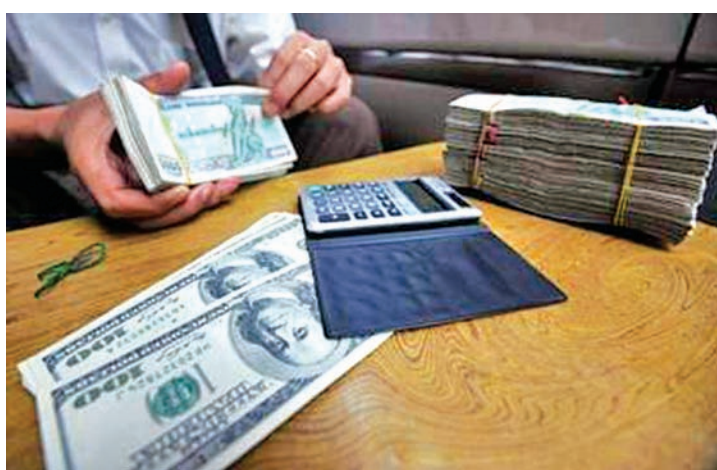


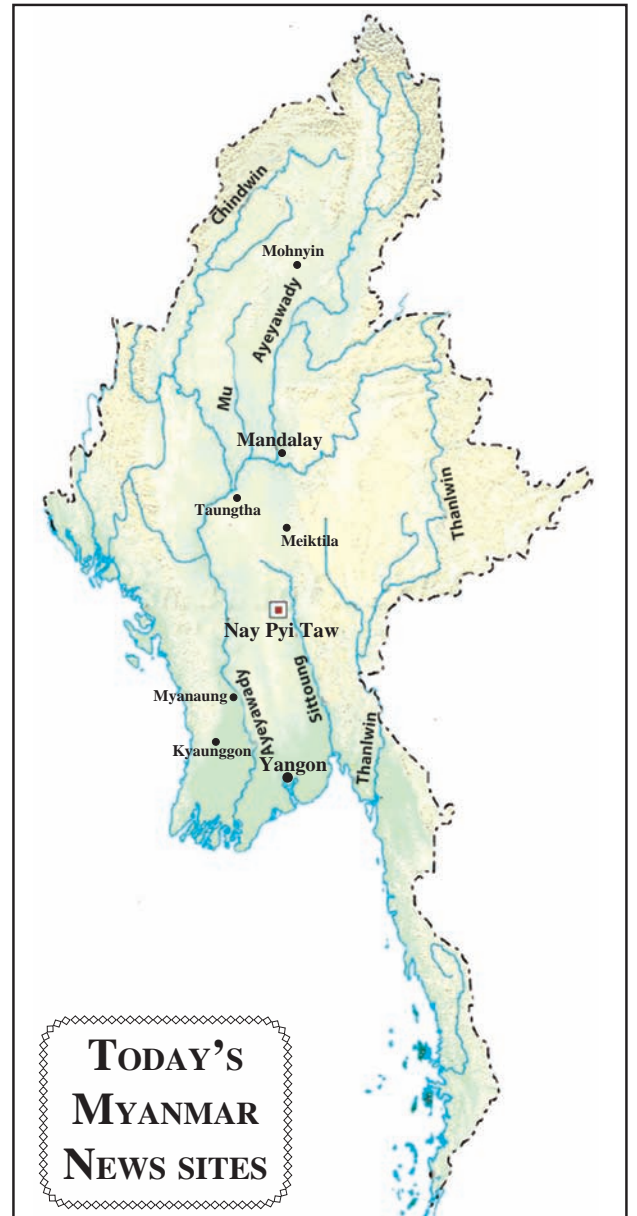
Photo of a money changer counter in Yangon. The kyat continues weakening against the dollar amid growing demand for the U.S. currency.

PHOTO: YE MYINT

Inter-village bridge to improve livelihood of locals

KYAUNGGON, 15 July — Head of Township Rural Development Department U Myint Aung and engineers inspected progress of a reinforced concrete bridge at a cost of K34.2 million in Yaytagyi Village-tract, Kyaunggon Township, Ayeyawady Region, recently.

Township Rural Development Department assigned Mega Resources Co Ltd to build the 60-foot-long, 14-foot-wide bridge in 2014-15 fiscal year. The bridge linking Yaytagyi-Yintaikngu villages will benefit transport of more than 6,000 local residents.—David-Kyaunggon



Chief Minister views public works in Mohnyin Tsp

MOHNYIN, 15 July — Kachin State Chief Minister U Lajohn Ngan Hsai and party recently inspected the progress of regional development tasks at Indawgyi Lake in Mohnyin

Township. In Nanmon Village, the chief minister donated cash to religious associations and Shwemyinzu Pagoda before inspecting construction of a 16-bed station hospital.

While in Hepu Village, he inspected construction of a bridge and rural dispensary and provided K200,000 to the township development supporting committee.—Ni Toe

Aspiring referees attend course in Myanaung Tsp

MYANAUNG, 15 July — A referee training course jointly conducted by the Myanmar Football Federation and Myanaung Township Football Subcommittee concluded recently at the hall of the Township Sports and Physical Education Department.

Township Administrator U Min Min Tun and international football referee U Than Win gave speeches at the closing ceremony for the course.

A total of 22 trainees attended the referee course. Win Bo (Township IPRD)

Road Dept outlines plans for construction projects

TAUNGTHA, 15 July — The Road Department of Taungtha Township under the Ministry of Construction, Mandalay Region, held a meeting on implementation of its plan for the fiscal year at its office in Taungtha on 14 July.

Assistant Director U Khin Maung Htay of Myingyan District Road

Department spoke about assignments for six construction companies that won project tenders.

Staff Officer U Htay Win said the department would build a three-mile road section in the township, while six companies would be assigned to build a 15-mile section, adding that the department had ac-

cepted K2.84 billion from the authorities for construction.

The department said it had saved more than K121 million through construction tenders and would spend the amount on improving Taungtha-Natogyi Road.

Kyaw Myo Naing (Taungtha)

Visitors glimpse Palaung ethnic culture in Zeditaung village

MEIKTILA, 15 July — The village of Zeditaung in Mandalay Region's Thazi Township has become a draw card for tourists seeking a glimpse of the traditional Palaung ethnic lifestyle.

Local Palaung people cultivate tea and orange plants, and are also engaged

in traditional rice milling. "Tourists can observe tea cultivation as the livelihood of the people, as well as traditional culture including customary clothing," a local resident said.

Most of the tourists who visit Zeditaung continue to Inlay region.

Chan Thar (Meiktila)

Ministry donates set-top boxes to low-income families

MANDALAY, 15 July — The Information Ministry donated set-top boxes to low-income families from PyinOoLwin, Mogok, Thabeikkyin and Tagaung townships in Mandalay Region on 13 July, providing access to TV and radio broadcasting.

Deputy Minister for Information U Pike Htway handed over 5,134 DVB T-2 set top boxes to officials of four townships through Mandalay Region Minister for Finance Dr Myint Kyu.

U Sein Oo of engineering section from Myanma Radio and Television demonstrated installation of DVB T-2 set top boxes. The ministry also do-

nated 327,863 DVB T-2 set top boxes worth U.S. \$4.92 million to low-income families across the nation last fiscal year. It has a plan to donate 79,698 boxes worth \$1.127 million this fiscal year.

The DVB T-2 set top boxes can receive 14 channels of MRTV and MWD channels in addition to FM radio.

Thiha Ko Ko (Mandalay)

Deputy Minister for Information U Pike Htway presents set-top boxes to Mandalay Region Minister for Finance Dr Myint Kyu.



REGIONAL

S Korea indicts military generals for 860 mln USD defence project corruptions

SEOUL, 15 July — South Korean prosecutors said on Wednesday that dozens of officials, including 10 former and current military generals, were indicted for corruption charges on defence projects.

The joint investigation team between the prosecution and the military, which was launched in November last year to eliminate irregularities in defense projects, unveiled an interim

probe result, local media reports showed.

The number of those prosecuted was 63, including 38 former and current military officers, six government officials and 19 businessmen and lobbyists. Among them, 47 were under restricted prosecution.

The 38 military officers included four-star generals such as the two former Navy chiefs of staff. Twenty-eight Navy officials were indicted, with six Air Force

officers and four Army officers being prosecuted. The military corruption amounted to 980.9 billion won (860 million US dollars), including forgery of documents, bribery, military secrets-related crimes.

The investigation team, composed of 18 prosecutors, eight military prosecutors and about 90 investigators, would continue its joint probe as 41 others are still under investigation.—Xinhua

China arrests Britons, South Africans for “terror” videos

BEIJING, 15 July — A group of 20 foreign tourists including Britons, South Africans and an Indian national, have been arrested in northern China, according to reports by Britain’s Foreign Office and a South African charity, on suspicion some had ties to a “terror group”.

China has agreed to release 11 of the tourists, but the rest will continue to be held without charge at a detention centre in Inner Mongolia, the South African charity, Gift of the Givers Foundation, said.

Chinese authorities said some of those arrested had been watching propaganda videos from a banned group in their hotel room, the charity added in its

statement. Five South Africans, three Britons and one Indian national make up the nine being held, it said. “Consular staff have visited the group to provide assistance and we are liaising with Chinese authorities,” a British Foreign Office spokesman told Reuters. The Chinese Foreign Ministry and the South African embassy did not immediately respond to a request for comment. An Indian embassy spokesman told Reuters he had no information on the matter.

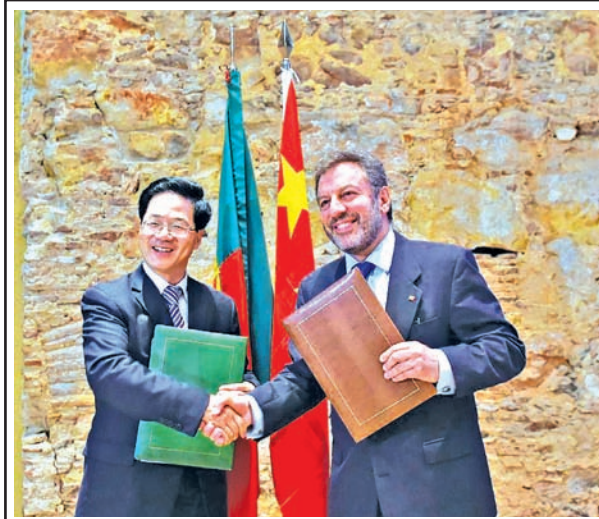
Chinese law enforcement authorities could not be immediately reached for comment. The group was on a 47-day tour of the country when they were detained at an airport in the Inner

Mongolian city of Erdos. Their tour operator realised something had gone “horribly wrong” on Sunday, two days later, the foundation said, when he hadn’t heard from them. “These individuals have no terror links, no criminal record in their country,” said Gift of the Givers, which has negotiated hostage releases.

“The families thank the South African government for their unwavering support and call upon the Chinese government to release the detainees immediately.”

Several of those detained are relatives of Shameel Joosub, chief executive of telecoms company Vodacom Group Ltd, the charity added.

Reuters



Portuguese Minister of Education and Science Nuno Crato (R) and Chinese Ambassador to Portugal Huang Songfu shake hands at the signing ceremony of an agreement of teaching Chinese at Portuguese secondary schools in Lisbon, Portugal on 14 July, 2015. Around 500 Portuguese secondary school students from 21 schools will start to learn Mandarin Chinese in the coming three years, according to an agreement signed here on Tuesday.

XINHUA

Indian leftwing rebels kill four policemen

NEW DELHI, 15 July — India’s leftwing rebels have killed four policemen they kidnapped in eastern Indian state of Chhattisgarh, said local media on Wednesday.

The policemen’s bodies were found in Chhattisgarh’s Bijapur District, *Indo-Asian News Service* quoted a state minister as saying in Raipur, the state capital of Chhattisgarh where there is a big presence of the Naxalite rebels.

State Home Minister Ramsewak Paikra called the murder a cowardice act in which the bodies of the policemen Jaydev Yadav, Raju Tela, Mangal Sodhi and Rama Majji were found near Gudma area of the district.

The four policemen were abducted on Monday night by the rebels, according to the report. The Naxalite rebels are active in about 10 states, mostly in poor rural areas in eastern and central part of India.—Xinhua

Seven people slain, dozens nabbed in S Philippine drug raid

DAVAO CITY, (Philippines), 15 July — At least seven people were killed and dozens others arrested in a massive anti-drug operation in a city in southern Philippines early on Wednesday, authorities said. Hundreds of policemen and anti-narcotics agents swooped down on several areas in the sprawling Davao City before daybreak, carrying out arrests and engaging in gunfights with armed suspected drug traffickers, said Antonio Rivera, spokesperson of the Southern Mindanao police regional office.

As of 11 am, at least seven suspects were killed and 35 others apprehended, and lawmen also seized over a dozen firearms and over 200 grams of methamphetamine hydrochloride, locally known as shabu, said Milgrace Driz, city police spokesperson. The city of over 1.2 million people is no strange to drug violence, with a similar raid early this year also resulting in the death of seven people and leading to the arrest of dozens others, including a South Korean.—Xinhua

Ruling camp rams security bills through lower house panel

TOKYO, 15 July — Japan’s ruling coalition pushed controversial security bills through a House of Representatives panel on Wednesday, paving the way for passage by the lower house as early as Thursday amid strong objections by opposition parties and rising concerns among the public.

The bills would allow Japan to exercise the right to collective self-defence, or coming to the aid of the United States and other friendly nations under armed attack even if Japan itself is not attacked, in what would represent a major change to Japan’s post-World War II exclusively defence-oriented security policy.

Prime Minister Shinzo Abe’s Liberal Democratic Party and its coalition partner Komeito rammed the bills through the lower house special committee on security legislation as opposition party lawmakers stood up and shouted slogans such as “Don’t railroad the bills” and “We will never forgive Abe’s politics,” throwing the voting in confusion.

Ruling party lawmakers said the coalition believes it is time to make a decision because

the special committee has spent more than 100 hours on the government-sponsored bills. The coalition holds a majority in both chambers of the Diet.

“While listening to criticisms (of the bills), we need to steadily advance this policy if we have firm faith in it,” Abe said at a final round of deliberations at the committee before the bills were put to a vote.

Earlier Wednesday, the secretaries general of the LDP and Komeito affirmed a plan to convene a lower house plenary session on Thursday to pass the bills and send them to the House of Councillors in the hope that they will be enacted by the 27 September end of the current extended Diet session.

However, opinion polls show that a majority of the public opposes the bills and thinks Abe has not explained them sufficiently.

Abe acknowledged the ruling camp “has yet to win full understanding from the public” on the proposed legislation and said he wanted to “increase efforts to promote understanding” of it through deliberations in the upper house.

The main opposition Democratic Party of Japan, the Japan Innovation Party and the Japanese Communist Party called for continuation of deliberations at the lower house.

DPJ Acting President Akira Nagatsuma demanded that the ruling camp withdraw a plan to push the bills through the lower chamber, saying, “Railroading (the bills) can never be accepted.”

Nagatsuma criticized Abe for promising in his speech at a joint session of the US Congress in late April that Japan will enact the security bills “by this coming summer” as part of efforts to “provide a seamless response for all levels of crisis.”

If passed, the legislation will put into effect a landmark Cabinet decision in July last year that reinterprets the Constitution to allow Japan to exercise the right to collective self-defence. It will also remove geographical restrictions on where the SDF can operate.

Opposition lawmakers and constitutional scholars have criticized the bills and said the envisaged security policy shift would violate the nation’s war-renouncing Constitution.

Successive governments have interpreted the Constitution to mean that Japan possesses the right to collective self-defence but cannot use it.

The government submitted the bills to the Diet on 15 May amid a changing security situation in the Asia-Pacific region propelled by China’s muscle-flexing in asserting territorial claims in the East and South China seas, as well as North Korea’s missile and nuclear weapons development.

The proposed legislation consists of a new permanent bill that would allow the SDF to provide logistical support to foreign militaries in international peacekeeping activities, and another that comprises revisions to 10 existing security-related laws.

Pushing the bills through the lower house at this point reflects the ruling camp’s desire to start deliberations in the upper house more than 60 days before the end of the current Diet session.

The LDP-Komeito coalition controls more than two-thirds of the 475-seat lower house, which would enable it to enact any bill deliberated in the upper house for more than 60 days.



Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe (C) heads to a vote on controversial security bills after a session of a House of Representatives special committee in Tokyo on 15 July, 2015. His Liberal Democratic Party-led ruling coalition pushed the bills through the panel, paving the way for passage by the lower house as early as the following day.—KYODO NEWS

In the so-called “60-day rule,” if the upper chamber fails to vote on a bill within 60 days of its passage by the lower chamber, the bill can be sent back to the lower house and enacted there with the approval of more than two-thirds of attending members.

Kyodo News

Iran deal reached, Obama hails step towards 'more hopeful world'

VIENNA, 15 July — Iran and six major world powers reached a nuclear deal on Tuesday, capping more than a decade of negotiations with an agreement that could transform the Middle East. US President Barack Obama hailed a step towards a "more hopeful world" and Iran's President Hassan Rouhani said it proved that "constructive engagement works". But Israel pledged to do what it could to halt what it called an "historic surrender".

The agreement will now be debated in the US Congress, but Obama said he would veto any measure to block it. "This deal offers an opportunity to move in a new direction," Obama said. "We should seize it."

Under the deal, sanctions imposed by the United States, European Union and United Nations will be lifted in return for Iran agreeing to long-term curbs on a nuclear programme that the West has suspected was aimed at creating a nuclear bomb.

Iran will mothball for at least a decade the majority of its centrifuges used to enrich uranium and sharply reduce its low-enriched uranium stockpile.

The agreement is a political triumph for both Obama, who has long promised to reach out to historic enemies, and Rouhani, a pragmatist elected two years ago on a vow to reduce the isolation of his nation of 80 million people.

Both face scepticism from powerful hardliners at home in nations that referred to each other as "the Great Satan" and a member of the "Axis of Evil".

"Today is the end to acts of tyranny against our



Chinese Foreign Minister Wang Yi, French Foreign Minister Laurent Fabius, German Foreign Minister Frank-Walter Steinmeier, European Union High Representative for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy Federica Mogherini, Iranian Foreign Minister Mohammad Javad Zarif, Head of the Iranian Atomic Energy Organization Ali Akbar Salehi, Russian Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov, British Foreign Secretary Philip Hammond, US Secretary of State John Kerry and US Secretary of Energy Ernest Moniz (L to R) pose for a group picture at the United Nations building in Vienna, Austria on 14 July, 2015.—REUTERS

nation and the start of co-operation with the world," Rouhani said in a televised address. "This is a reciprocal deal. If they stick to it, we will. The Iranian nation has always observed its promises and treaties."

Delighted Iranians danced in the streets of Teheran, where motorists sounded car horns and flashed victory signs in celebration after the announcement a deal they hope will end years of sanctions and isolation. For Obama, the diplomacy with Iran, begun in secret more than two years ago, ranks alongside his normalization of ties with Cuba as landmarks in a legacy of reconciliation with foes that tormented his predecessors for decades.

"History shows that America must lead not just with our might but with our principles," he said in a televised address. "Today's announcement marks one more chapter in our pursuit

of a safer, more helpful and more hopeful world."

Republicans lined up to denounce the deal. Presidential candidate Lindsey Graham, a senator from South Carolina, called it a terrible deal that would make matters worse. Senator Marco Rubio suggested he would re-introduce sanctions if elected to the White House next year.

The Republican-controlled Congress has 60 days to review the accord, but if it votes to reject it Obama can use his veto, which can be overridden only by two-thirds of lawmakers in both houses. That means dozens of Obama's fellow Democrats would have to rebel against one of their president's signature achievements to kill it, an unlikely prospect. Leading Democratic presidential candidate Hillary Clinton called the deal "an important step that puts the lid on Iran's nuclear programmes".

The Senate was not expected to vote on the deal before September.

While the main negotiations were between the United States and Iran, the four other UN Security Council permanent members, Britain, China, France and Russia, are also parties to the deal, as is Germany.

Enmity between Iran and the United States has loomed over the Middle East for decades. Iran is the predominant Shi'ite Muslim power, hostile both to Israel and to Washington's Sunni Muslim-ruled Arab friends, particularly Saudi Arabia. Allies of Riyadh and Teheran have fought decades of sectarian proxy wars in Syria, Lebanon, Iraq and Yemen.

But there are also strong reasons for Washington and Teheran to cooperate against common foes, above all Islamic State, the Sunni Muslim militant group that has seized swathes of Syria and

Iraq. Washington has been bombing Islamic State from the air while Teheran aids Iraqi militias fighting it on the ground.

British Foreign Secretary Philip Hammond told reporters that the deal was about more than just the nuclear issue:

"The big prize here is that, as Iran comes out of the isolation of the last decades and is much more engaged with Western countries, Iranians hopefully begin to travel in larger numbers again, Western companies are able to invest and trade with Iran, there is an opportunity for an opening now."

Still, Washington's friends in the region were furious, especially Israel, whose prime minister, Benjamin Netanyahu, has cultivated a close relationship with Obama's Republican opponents in Congress.

"Iran will get a jackpot, a cash bonanza of hundreds of billions of dollars, which will enable it to continue to pursue its aggression and terror in the region and in the world," he said. "Iran is going to receive a sure path to nuclear weapons."

His deputy foreign minister, Tzipi Hotovely, denounced an "historic surrender" and said Israel would "act with all means to try and stop the agreement being ratified", a clear threat to use its influence to try and block it in Congress.

In phone call with Netanyahu, Obama underscored the United States' commitment to Israel's security, the White House said. Some diplomats in Vienna said the strong Israeli response could actually help, by making it easier for Rouhani to sell the agreement back in Iran.

The National Council of Resistance, the exile Iranian opposition group that first exposed Iran's secret nuclear programme, said the deal "would neither block the mullahs' pathways to deception nor their access to a nuclear bomb".

While Saudi Arabia did not denounce the deal publicly as Israel did, its officials expressed doubt in private. "We have learned as Iran's neighbours in the last 40 years that goodwill only led us to harvest sour grapes," a Saudi official who asked to remain anonymous told Reuters.

Nor were hardliners silent in Iran: "Celebrating too early can send a bad signal to the enemy," conservative lawmaker Alireza Zakani said in parliament, according to *Fars News agency*. Iran's National Security Council would review the accord, "and if they think it is against our national interests, we will not have a deal".

It will probably be months before Iran receives the benefits from the lifting of sanctions because of the need to verify the deal's fulfilment. Once implementation is confirmed, Teheran will immediately gain access to around \$100 billion (£64 billion) in frozen assets, and can step up oil exports that have been slashed by almost two-thirds. The deal finally emerged after nearly three weeks of intense negotiation between US Secretary of State John Kerry and Iranian Foreign Minister Mohammad Javad Zarif—unthinkable for decades, since Iranian revolutionaries stormed the US embassy in Teheran in 1979 and held 52 Americans hostage for 444 days.

Reuters

Vucic: Serbia pursues policy of preserving peace, stability



Serbian Prime Minister Aleksandar Vucic

VRNJACKA BANJA, 15 July — Serbian Prime Minister Aleksandar Vucic stated that Serbia pursues a policy of preserving stability and peace in the region.

Serbia has no territorial aspiration against any neighbour, and it certainly

would not let anyone take its territory, Vucic told journalists in Vrnjacka Banja late Tuesday.

"We will continue to act in the same manner," the prime minister said, adding: "It is obvious that we have not allowed even the major powers to tamper with our country."

He also said that Serbia respects all others and pursues a policy of peace and stability.

"This is the policy we insist on, because there is no economic progress or better living standards without it," Vucic stressed.—*Tanjug*

Iran deal 'naked as emperor with no clothes', says Israel

JERUSALEM, 15 July — Israel's nuclear affairs minister said his country was like the boy in the fairy tale who pointed out the emperor had no clothes, heaping scorn on the Iran nuclear deal on Wednesday and emphasizing Israel's right to unilateral self-defence.

Tuesday's agreement between six world powers and Iran has left Israeli officials scrambling for leverage and crying foul, convinced the historic deal will do little to curb Teheran's nuclear ambitions and will leave Israel under greater threat. "Israel is like the little child that is pointing its finger and saying, 'the king is naked, this agreement is naked,'"

Yuval Steinitz, who is responsible for nuclear affairs in Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu's cabinet, told reporters. Despite months of trying to stall or derail the agreement — including Netanyahu denouncing it before a joint session of the US Congress in March — Israel has failed to exert influence on the United States, its closest ally, and is feeling exasperated.

Netanyahu spoke to Barack Obama on Tuesday evening and issued a lengthy statement afterwards that sought to explain that his poor personal relationship with the US president had had no bearing on the outcome of the

negotiations in Vienna.

"The claim heard from political elements to the effect that the personal relationship between myself and President Obama affected the nuclear agreement is absurd," he said.

"Even before I took office as prime minister, there was an intention on the part of the American administration to normalize relations with Iran," Steinitz described the deal, painstakingly negotiated over the past several years, including 17 straight days before Tuesday's signing, as full of loopholes, particularly when it comes to verification and Iran's "breakout" capability — the time it

would theoretically take it to develop a nuclear weapon. Israel is also agitated by the fact that Iran will have access to around \$100 billion of frozen assets as soon as the deal is implemented, which is expected to take six months. "Those who think that giving Iran \$150 billion will have no effect on the Middle East are naive," said Steinitz. "It's like pouring fuel on the burning Middle East." As well as the long-term nuclear threat, Israel's alarm stems from Iran's backing for militant groups in the region, including Hezbollah in Lebanon and parts of Syria, Hamas in Gaza and the Houthi rebels in Yemen.—*Reuters*

Reluctant Tsipras fights to pass reforms in Greek parliament



Greek Prime Minister Alexis Tsipras (R) arrives at his office in Maximos Mansion in Athens, Greece, on 15 July, 2015.—REUTERS

ATHENS, 15 July — Prime Minister Alexis Tsipras battled to win lawmakers' approval on Wednesday for a bailout deal to keep Greece in the euro, while the country's creditors, pressed by the IMF to provide massive debt relief, struggled to agree a financial lifeline.

Having reluctantly conceded to negotiating a third bailout from international lenders on stringent terms, Tsipras must face down a rebellion in his anti-austerity Syriza party to push sweeping pro-market reforms and spending cuts through parliament.

"It's a difficult deal, a deal for which only time will show if it is economically viable," his finance minister, Euclid Tsakalotos, told lawmakers during a debate on reforms.

Dozens of MPs, including senior Syriza figures and the government's junior coalition partner, may partially or fully reject the bailout, forcing Tsipras to rely on pro-European opposition lawmakers to carry the vote, which is expected after midnight.

A snap election could follow if the prime minister's majority collapses, and in an early sign of trouble in store, the deputy finance minister abruptly submitted her resignation and the energy minister said he would not back the deal.

"The choice between a bailout or catastrophe is a choice made in the face of terror," Panagiotis Lafazanis, who heads the far-left flank of Syriza, told reporters.

Adding to the uncertainty, a confidential study by the

Mexico shows security footage of Guzman moments before he disappeared into tunnel

MEXICO CITY, 15 July — Mexico's government on Tuesday broadcast security camera footage of fugitive drug lord Joaquin "El Chapo" Guzman in the final moments before he escaped from a maximum security prison through a tunnel in his cell on Saturday night.

National Security Commissioner Monte Alejandro Rubido showed a grainy video of a dressed Guzman pacing the room, looking behind the partition wall by his shower, sitting on his bed, then crouching again behind the wall, where he finally disappeared from view at 8:52 pm local time. "He changed his shoes, and went to the shower," Rubido said, explaining the footage. "You can't see what he's doing."

The partition wall blocked the camera's view of a roughly 50-cm (20 inch) by 50-cm entrance hole to the mile-long tunnel shown by Mexican television earlier on Tuesday. It was one of two blind spots for the security cameras in Guzman's cell. The escape of Guzman, Mexico's most notorious drug lord, is a major embarrassment for President Enrique Pena Nieto, and was the second time the drug kingpin had broken out of prison.

Up until his departure, Guzman's behaviour had been "normal" for a person who spent many hours in a small cell, Rubido said. The commissioner said the blind spots were designed to permit Guzman some privacy while he was washing. The video footage showed the partition wall was high enough to cover the lower half of Guzman's body while standing. The jail break occurred just as Pena Nieto began a four-day state visit to France. Guzman's first jail break was in 2001. —Reuters

International Monetary Fund, seen by *Reuters*, called for much more debt relief than European countries, particularly Germany, have been prepared to countenance so far.

That may cause a dilemma in Germany, which has poured more money than any other country into rescuing Greece and where, after months of bad-tempered negotiations with Athens, there is increasingly vocal opposition to yet another bailout.

Tsipras has described the deal as a "one-way street" imposed on Greece and the rest of his government shared his scepticism.

Berlin may wince at providing huge debt relief to a country it scarcely trusts to honor its promises, but insists on having the IMF in the negotiations to help keep Greece in line.

The European Commission published its own assessment of Greece's debt burden on Wednesday that also offered the prospect of debt relief. While ruling out any write-offs, the Commission said debt reprofiling was possible, as long as Greece implemented the reforms it has committed to.

Brussels has also proposed 7 billion euros in bridge financing to keep Greece afloat in July, when it must repay crucial loans to the European Central Bank. The plan could prove controversial as it would use the European Financial Stability Mechanism (EFSM), an EU-wide fund, roping in countries like Britain who balk at their taxpayers contributing to a rescue.

Washington has stepped up pressure on both sides to secure a deal with NATO member Greece. US Treasury Secretary Jack Lew is making a short-notice trip to Frankfurt, Berlin and Paris this week to press for a quick agreement.

Pointing to Washington's importance in the talks, Deputy Prime Minister Yannis Dragasakis said the deal Tsipras struck with creditors might never have happened without US pressure.

Although the bailout package is much tougher than the Greek people could have imagined when they resoundingly rejected a previous offer from the creditors in a referendum on 5 July, most want to keep the euro.

With banks shut and the threat of a calamitous exit from the currency bloc hovering over the country if it cannot conclude a deal, many Greeks see the package as the lesser of two evils.

"We are Europe's bankrupt child and as a child,

Europe has been supporting us for five years and told us what we needed to do to get out of this situation," Yannis Theodosia, a 35-year-old civil engineer. "We did nothing and now we are paying the consequences."

French Finance Minister Michel Sapin on Wednesday played down the significance of the IMF's call for more debt relief, saying that was already France's view.

"The IMF is saying the same thing as we are ... we cannot help Greece if we maintain the same debt reimbursement burden on the Greek economy," he told BFM TV. As he understood it, Sapin said the IMF was not calling for an outright haircut.

Tsipras will put the bailout package to parliament while grappling with noisy opposition from within his own ranks. Protests on the streets have so far been relatively muted although civil servants and pharmacists — who are a target in the reforms package — hold a strike on Wednesday and protest marches by leftwing anti-bailout groups are also planned.

The latest deal was a major capitulation from Syriza, which stormed to power promising an end to austerity. Other rebels also included the fiery parliamentary speaker and the party's parliamentary spokesman, who both announced they would vote against reforms. Such outbursts had one right-wing newspaper crowing over the "civil war" engulfing the party.

Syriza's junior coalition partner said it would vote only for certain clauses in the bill, rejecting those reforms that went beyond a previous vote in parliament that had given Tsipras a mandate to negotiate in Brussels.

In recent weeks, negotiations between Athens and its creditors became increasingly fractious, with each side accusing the other of blackmail. Greece painted European countries, particularly Germany, as bullies, while the creditors said their trust in the Greek negotiators had all but evaporated.

"We have improved. In the beginning we thought that by sending a minister and a few consultants we were negotiating, that was very insufficient," Deputy Prime Minister Dragasakis said in an interview with Sto Kokino radio.

"The crisis was ours, the crisis existed before the bailout memorandum, it was a crisis of the Greek capitalist system. The memorandums were the medicine to this crisis that proved to be worse than the illness it was supposed to cure." —Reuters

German court finds 'Bookkeeper of Auschwitz' guilty

LUENEBURG, (Germany), 15 July — A 94-year-old German man who worked as a bookkeeper at the Auschwitz death camp was convicted on Wednesday of being an accessory to the murder of 300,000 people and sentenced to four years in prison, in what could be one of the last big Holocaust trials. Oskar Groening did not kill anyone himself while working at the camp in Nazi-occupied Poland, but prosecutors argued that by sorting the bank notes from trainloads of arriving Jews he helped support the regime responsible for mass murder. White-haired Groening, who has been on trial since April, has admitted moral guilt but said it was up to the court to decide whether he was legally guilty.

He said earlier this month he could only ask God to forgive him as he was not entitled to ask this of victims of the Holocaust. The trial went to the heart of the question of whether people who were small cogs in the Nazi machinery, but did not actively participate in the killing of 6 million Jews during the Holocaust, were guilty of crimes. Until recently, the answer from the German justice system was no.

During his time at Auschwitz, Groening's job was to collect the belongings of the deportees after they arrived at the camp by train and had been put through a selection process that resulted in many being sent directly to the gas chambers.

Groening, who was 21 and by his own admission an enthusiastic Nazi when he was sent to work at the camp in 1942, inspected people's luggage, removing and counting any bank notes that were inside and sending them on to SS offices in Berlin, where they helped to fund the Nazi war effort.

The charges against

him related to the period between May and July 1944 when 137 trains carrying roughly 425,000 Jews from Hungary arrived in Auschwitz. At least 300,000 of them were sent straight to the gas chambers, the indictment says.

Many Germans are keen to draw a line under the Holocaust and seal the post-war democratic identity of their nation. Some find distasteful the pursuit of old men, often in poor health, for crimes committed nearly 70 years ago. Groening, who uses a walking frame, is frail and in May the court decided to limit the time he spent in court to three hours a day in view of his health problems, which had led to delays.

In past years, prosecutors in Frankfurt decided not to pursue the case against Groening and other concentration camp workers, saying there was no causal link between their actions and the killings that



Oskar Groening, defendant and former Nazi SS officer dubbed the 'bookkeeper of Auschwitz' arrives for his trial in Lueneburg, Germany, on 15 July, 2015. REUTERS

occurred around them.

Prosecutors in Hanover disagreed, emboldened by the case of Ivan Demjanjuk, who in 2011 was convicted of being an accessory to mass murder despite there being no evidence of his having committed a specific crime while a guard at the Sobibor extermination camp, also in Poland. Demjanjuk died in a German care home in 2012.

Reuters

PERSPECTIVES

Thursday, 16 July, 2015

Political issues need political solutions

By *Kyaw Thura*

IT is undoubtedly true that internal peace and national reconciliation are vital to achieving political stability in Myanmar. It can, however, be argued that nobody can be completely objective in their point of view, simply because humans naturally see things subjectively.

A glance at our historical record is enough

to reveal that our country is yet to overcome its political differences, which are responsible for it going nowhere, even in this age of globalization.

In this context, all stakeholders are required to establish new understandings of mutual respect so as to ensure the social, economic and political equality which would in turn bring about stability and lasting peace across the country.

In fact, politics is a national concern. It is possible to draw a tentative conclusion that we might stay away from politics but not from its effects. Despite this, a majority of people still hold deep-rooted reservations about getting involved in politics. On the other hand, we need to have ethical objections to dirty politics.

There is evidence that political stability is critical to national development. Judging from the political landscape of our country, political stability seems to go hand in hand with constitu-

tional amendment, which is now widely seen as a provider of a much-needed boost to democratic reform.

All in all, failure in constitutional change is not a thing of the past. From a different standpoint, we should presume that the time is not ripe enough for it.

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 "Letter to the Editor" that do not exceed 500 words. Should you submit a text longer than 500 words please be aware that your letter will be edited.

The Sacred Loka Chantha Abhayalabhamuni Buddha Image, which was built of the 500-ton flawless white marble rock of high quality measuring 37 feet in length, 24 feet in width and 11 feet in thickness, being respectfully paid homage in Insein Township, Yangon Region

Ba Sein (Religious Affairs)

According to the historical records of Buddhism of Myanmar, the Buddha Images which were carved from white marble rocks have been deeply paid homage by pious Myanmar Buddhist people for time immemorial. Those white rocks were obtained from Sakyin Hill, Madaya Township, Mandalay Region in Upper Myanmar. However, by nature it is difficult and rare to obtain flawless bigger white marble rocks of size measuring more than 12 feet high and 10 feet wide.

In the year 1086 of Myanmar Era (ME), during the reign of King Innwa Tainganwe, a white marble rock measuring 13 feet and 10 inches high was obtained from Sakyin Hill, and was conveyed to Sagaing. And then, a Buddha Image was carved from it and this Buddha Image was respectfully placed inside Laykyun Manaung Pagoda in Sagaing for public obeisance. It was called Kyauktawgyi Pagoda. And again, in the year 1093 of Myanmar Era (ME), during also the reign of King Innwa Taininganwe, a big white marble rock was obtained from Sakyin Hill and conveyed to Innwa and Buddha Image of 29 feet high was carved from it. During the reign of King Taininganwe's son of Hantawaddy, this Buddha Image was called Lokathara-

phu being paid homage inside the Okpyathat Kyaungdawgyi. It was not called Kyauktawgyi Pagoda. After that, in the year 1192 of Myanmar Era (ME), during the reign of King Bagyiaw of Konbaung Dynasty, a big white marble rock emerged and was conveyed to the capital, and a Buddha Image of 17 feet and 9 inches high was carved from it. This Buddha Image was called Mahasakkyaransi being paid homage inside the Anadapon Pagoda existing at eastern part of U Pein Bridge to the east of Taungthaman Lake in Amarapura Township, Mandalay Region. It was called Kyauktawgyi Pagoda or Taungthaman Kyauktawgyi Pagoda. It was the very first Buddha Image which was called Kyauktawgyi Pagoda.

In the year 1226 of Myanmar Era (ME), during the reign of King Mindon of Konbaung Dynasty, a big white marble rock of high quality was obtained from Sakyin Hill and conveyed to Mandalay and a Buddha Image of 27 feet high was carved from it. This Buddha Image was called Mahasakkyamarazein being paid homage at the foot of Mandalay Hill. It was the second Buddha Image which was called Kyauktawgyi Pagoda. This Mandalay Hill Kyauktawgyi Pagoda was the biggest and highest white marble rock Buddha

Image in the history of Buddhism of Myanmar.

Emergence of an immense flawless white marble rock

In the year 1362 of Myanmar Era (ME), 2000 CE, during the time of the Government of the State Peace and Development Council of the Union of Myanmar, an immense white marble rock which is flawless and of high quality measuring 37 feet long, 24 feet wide and 11 feet thick was found by stone sculptor U Taw Taw at Sakyin Hill, Madaya Township, Mandalay Region. U Taw Taw reported to the authorities concerned that he would like to donate this immense white marble rock to the State after being carved a Buddha Image from it. According to U Taw Taw's kind report, at that time the Government of the State Peace and Development Council of the Union of Myanmar sent a responsible official of the State to the Sakyin Hill where the immense white marble rock emerged. The official viewed and inspected the immense white marble rock and then he reported to the Head of the State that a sacred Buddha Image significantly should be carved from this immense white marble rock for public obeisance, and also, in this regard, the necessary instructions and guidelines of the most Ven. Mahatheras were sought. According to instructions and guidelines of the most Ven. Ma-

hatheras, the relevant tasks relating to carve the Buddha Image from white marble rock must be done in line with significant characteristic features of the Buddha and Buddhist traditions and rituals. And also, instructions and guidelines of the most Ven. Mahatheras were sought.

The sacred Loka Chantha Abhayalabhamuni Buddha Image

And now, the sacred Buddha Image called Loka Chantha Abhayalabhamuni Buddha Image has been carved from the 500-ton white marble rock of 37 feet long, 24 feet wide and 11 feet thick is being paid homage at the Sacred Mindhamma Hill, Insein Township Yangon Region. This white marble rock Buddha Image will be paid homage in the Buddhist world forever.

We all Buddhists who did meritorious deeds in our past existences have now a good chance again to contribute our meritorious deeds by making donations and paying deep homage to the this sacred Loka Chantha Abhayalabhamuni Buddha Image. We all Buddhists throughout the country are very much pleased and thankful to the previous Government of the State Peace and Development Council of the Union of Myanmar for conveying the Loka Chantha Abhayalabhamuni Buddha Image by waterway along the Ayeyawady River from

(See page 9)

POEM:

Behaviour Conducive to Traffic Congestion

Strange are the behaviours of fellow humans which seems to defy common sense, from some happenings to focus on observed daily in the City of Yangon.

It's bewildering to see in the centre of Yangon, sides of streets extended, purportedly to ease traffic congestion, occupied by hawkers and sellers without compunction, with the motorists and pedestrians in competition.

Some Bus drivers, not keeping to their lane, instead racing to pick up and drop passengers at the stop ahead defiantly throwing sense and caution to the wind oblivious of the motorists on it's side and behind halting at the stop almost in the middle of the street and driving off ere the passengers find their feet.

At traffic light line-ups, some motorists from the rear roar up from the other side of the centre line clear against on coming traffic, bent only on getting ahead to beat the traffic light, risking head-on collisions instead.

The pedestrians at Zebra and Over-bridge crossing, provided for their safety, but many not using but crossing the street weaving among the cars slowing traffic and risking accidents without care or fears.

In-spite of the numerous car showrooms selling used cars similar cars line the streets of busy commercial areas teeming with 'brokers' wheeling and dealing and clogging the street from traffic smoothly flowing.

Then there are the residents of ground floors of buildings on the narrow streets, their private cars parking slowing down traffic and people walking some even putting obstacles on the street siding 'reserving' the place for their car, preventing other motorists from the parking space using.

Taking "effective action" has not changed such behavior it's very unlikely that it will do so in the near future as it has become a habit for many of this generation. For the future, the answer may lie in early "Civics" education.

Lokethar

NATIONAL

Central bank vows transparency in setting reference exchange rate

NAY PYI TAW, 15 July— The Central Bank of Myanmar is making efforts to ensure greater transparency in its setting of reference exchange rates, the CBM said Wednesday. The bank said multiple exchange rates were the result of legal and illegal exchange of foreign currencies, and that un-sanctioned transactions widened the exchange divide. The International Monetary Fund has welcomed the Central Bank's move to reset the reference exchange rates, saying it is in conformity with external markets. One of the main responsibilities of the bank is to control soaring exchange rates. MNA

Police arrest 2 over attack on media group CEO's car

YANGON, 15 July— Police arrested two suspects here Wednesday in relation to a slingshot attack on a car driven by the prominent CEO of a media company the previous day in Bahan Township. According to the police, the two men were among a group who attacked the car driven by Eleven Media Group CEO Dr Than Htut Aung near the corner of U Chit Maung Road and Min Street at about 5:50 p.m. The attackers lay in wait in a grey Toyota Caldina taxi before firing about six metal wheel nuts at the black Lexus driving north along U Chit Maung Road, the police said. The attack damaged the front left window of the car, but Dr Than Htut Aung was unhurt, according to reports. The driver of the taxi, Ye Naing, also known as Ti Kaung, was caught at 9:20 p.m. In accordance with his statement, police arrested another suspect Myo Myint Aung, also known as Ahngae Lay and Sa Paik Tar, 27, near a guesthouse in North Okkalapa Township on Wednesday morning. He was earlier this year arrested for possession of a knife in a public place. Police are searching for further suspects in the attack.—GNLM



Painting by Artist U Win Sein will be showcased at River Ayeyawady Gallery from 18 to 22 July.—PHOTO: U WIN SEIN

The Sacred Loka Chantha...

(from page 8)
Madaya Township, Mandalay Region to Insein Township, Yangon Region. The auspicious ceremony for conveying the Loka Chantha Abhayalabhamuni Buddha Image took (12) days from 24 July to 5 August 2000. The noble task of conveyance of the 500-ton white marble rock Loka Chantha Abhayalabhamuni Buddha Image was carried out and supported by re-

spective ministries, previous Divisional Peace and Development Councils, Township Peace and Development Councils, Ward/Village-tract Peace and Development Councils, and cash and jewels were generously donated to the Image by multifarious Buddhist people. The white marble rock Loka Chantha Abhayalabhamuni Buddha Image arrived at its destination (Insein-Gyogon Jetty) on 5 August 2000. Con-

sequently, the auspicious ceremony for conveying the Loka Chantha Abhayalabhamuni Buddha Image to the sacred Mindhamma Hill started on 6 August 2000. It was learnt that on 28 August 2000, the white marble rock Loka Chantha Abhayalabhamuni Buddha Image was conveyed onto the throne at the sacred Mindhamma Hill where it will be paid homage. Pious Myanmar Buddhist people have got a good chance to pay homage to this sacred white

Military, BGF attack small wings of rebel group

NAY PYI TAW, 15 July— Government military columns and members of Border Guard Force jointly launched attacks on the two wings of small armed group Klohtobaw Karen Organization near Kawkaik Township, Kayin State, on Tuesday. The combined forces seized explosives, ammunition and vehicles, with seven insurgents were arrested and four bodies were found after some clashes and two members of rebel group entered legal fold at the local command in Taungkalay. Myawady



Photo shows arms and ammunition seized by Tatmadaw from remnant KKO.—MYAWADY

Art dealers face low demand in monsoon

By Khaing Thanda Lwin

YANGON, 15 July— Local art dealers are facing low demand for paintings in the rainy season, with some industry insiders attributing the cooling market to a drop in tourist numbers during the wet months. “Tourists arrivals usually decline during the rainy season. A decline in the number of tourists is one of reasons for the low demand,” U Nay Min Latt, founder of River Ayeyawady Gallery told *The Global New Light of Myanmar* on Monday. A 33-year-old artist,

however, said the drop in demand could also be tied to political uncertainty in the run-up to the general election. “Some buyers are still monitoring the 2015 elections that will take place in November,” he said. “Like the local market for paintings, the property market and other sectors are experiencing similar conditions.” Despite the cool market, current demand for paintings is higher than the same period last year, U Nay Min Latt said. While US \$500 per

painting is an affordable price for local collectors, Myanmar artists can command much higher prices on the international market according to painter Co Thiee, who mainly sells his works to buyers from England. He added, “Local demand has risen as hotels and businessmen collect more paintings than before.” The market is expected to go up before the end of October when the country's famous Thadingyut Lighting Festival will be held, U Nay Min Latt said. GNLM



Saudi-backed forces seize Aden airport in sudden advance



A view of the international airport of Yemen's southern port city of Aden after Southern Resistance fighters took it from Houthi fighters, on 14 July, 2015.

REUTERS

ADEN, 15 July — Yemeni forces recaptured Aden's international airport and some city districts from Houthi militia fighters on Tuesday, in a sudden advance after months of stalemate, the exiled government said.

Yemenis on social me-

dia reported celebrations in cities across the country's south, where refugees from Aden have fled, and in other areas where local fighters are still battling the Houthis and army units loyal to former president Ali Abdullah Saleh.

Houthi-run Maseera

television reported that the Houthis had chosen to quit the city after "cleansing it of al-Qaeda and Islamic State" in an apparent admission of the militia's retreat.

Photographs on southern Yemeni media, which Reuters could not imme-

diately verify, appeared to show a column of armoured vehicles advancing along a street in Aden, where the fighting has mostly involved guerrilla fighters in civilian clothes.

The fighting followed the collapse of a humanitarian truce brokered by the United Nations.

Local fighters aligned with exiled President Abd-Rabbu Mansour Hadi took control of Aden's central district of Khormaksar, and aid sources reported fighting around the port area.

Backed by air support from a Saudi-led coalition, the forces launched a wide-ranging assault in Aden this week to reclaim territory held by the Iranian-allied Houthis.

"Aden International Airport and Khormaksar have been cleared of Houthi and Saleh elements

by armed forces backing Yemen's legitimacy and the popular resistance forces, in coordination with and with direct support by the coalition," Yemeni government spokesman Rajeh Badi said.

He said he expected Aden to be cleared completely within the coming days.

A coalition of Arab states has been bombarding Houthi forces, Yemen's dominant power, since late March in a bid to reinstate Hadi. It has also run training programmes for Yemeni soldiers loyal to Hadi and dropped arms to local forces fighting the Houthis.

Hadi was ousted from power when the Houthis took over the capital Sanaa in September. He then fled to Riyadh as Houthi forces closed in on Aden, where he had sought refuge.

A UN-brokered cease-

fire to allow delivery of aid to a city desperately short of food, medicine and other necessities collapsed on Monday after Saudi Arabia said it did not recognize the truce and continued air strikes.

"The fighting in Aden began in the morning as the forces approached Aden from different positions," said Ali al-Ahmadi, spokesman for the Southern Popular Resistance, which is defending Aden from the Houthis.

"After violent clashes that continued for hours the forces were able to enter the airport and Badr base and they killed a large number of the militias."

The UN's World Health Organization managed to deliver medical supplies to Aden but it said food rations have been delayed.

Reuters

Civilian death toll tops 1,600 in Yemen since late March: UN Human Rights Office

UNITED NATIONS, 15 July — The UN Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights on Tuesday said that at least 142 civilians, including 36 children and 27 women, were killed in Yemen, and 224 others wounded from 3-13 July, a UN spokesman told reporters here.

"This brings the total civilian death toll since 26 March to 1,670. Another 3,829 people were injured during this period," UN spokesman Stephane Dujarric said at a daily news briefing here. "Civilian infrastructure has also suffered, with at least 187 sites partially or completely destroyed as a result of the armed conflict."

Meanwhile, the World Food Programme (WFP) reported that 13 trucks crossed into Yemen on Monday and 27 Tuesday, Dujarric noted. "In July so far, more than 127,000 people are confirmed to have received emergency food assistance in the southern governorates of Taiz and Lahj."

"This distribution happened through WFP's local partners, including the Yemen Ministry of Education," he added.

In Yemen, airstrikes and ground fighting have been underway despite a UN-brokered humanitarian ceasefire between Houthis, the Shiite rebels, and Yemen's internationally supported government and its allies.

"Obviously the secretary-general is very much disappointed that the humanitarian pause did not take hold over the weekend in Yemen," Dujarric told reporters here on Monday.

After the failed truce attempt, the secretary-general called on all sides on the ground to "prevent deterioration of the unfolding humanitarian catastrophe" in the conflict-worn country, he said.

Reports of airstrikes continued, including reports of a Saudi-led airstrike earlier Monday which, according to witnesses and medics, left at least 21 civilians killed and 45 others wounded in a residential neighbourhood in Yemen's capital of Sanaa.

The United Nations had hoped that the pause would allow humanitarian agencies to reach civilians with essential medicines, vaccinations, food and water. —Xinhua

Iranians dance in streets, thank Rouhani for nuclear deal

DUBAI/BEIRUT, 15 July — Young Iranian men and women danced in streets in parts of Teheran and motorists honked car horns to cheer an historic nuclear accord with world powers they hope will end years of economic sanctions and decades of international isolation.

Millions of Iranians had followed the talks closely for months with the anticipation that Tuesday's deal would allow the economy, battered by years of sanctions, to stabilize and make their daily lives easier.

In the capital's affluent north, motorists played loud music from car stereos and young people blew South African-style 'vu-

vuzela' horns, scenes that Teheran normally witnesses only when the country qualifies the football World Cup.

Residents said police turned a blind eye to the festivities, and some even joined in. A woman in Vanak Square in north Teheran told Reuters by phone that people were buying sweets and handing them out on the streets.

Some young people draped the national flag over their shoulders, brandished posters of President Hassan Rouhani, made victory signs and shouted "Rouhani, thank you!"

Some carried posters bearing the words "Never give up on hope", a slogan associated with Mir

Hossein Mousavi, one of two opposition politicians placed under house arrest in 2011 after protests by their supporters were crushed by the state.

Residents said public festivities were more subdued in less well-off south and east Teheran.

A news conference announcing the deal achieved in marathon talks in Vienna was broadcast live on state TV. So was a speech by US President Barack Obama, an event almost inconceivable until recent months. Iranians gathered around TVs at home and in shops to watch it.

"This is a first step to becoming a friend with the world," Bahar Ghorbani, 36, a housewife who lives

in Isfahan said.

"I think the biggest achievement of the nuclear deal is the victory of logic and dialogue over warmongering and violence," she said, contacted over Facebook.

The deal will mean an end to sanctions which have caused economic hardship, particularly over the past three years when Teheran was stripped of access to the international financial system, making it difficult to sell oil and pay for imports.

It was a triumph for Rouhani, a pragmatist elected overwhelmingly two years ago on a promise to reduce the isolation of the country of 80 million people.

"Today is the end to acts of tyranny against our nation and the start of co-operation with the world," Rouhani said in a televised address.

Voters who backed him said they now felt vindicated.

"Now people can see the result of their votes," Behrouz Janfada, head of an IT department at an education institute, told Reuters from Teheran. "Rouhani promised to solve the nuclear issue in his electoral campaign, people elected him and he managed to save Iran from the sanctions and the threat of a war. That brings hope, and the feeling that you have a say." —Reuters



Iranians celebrate the nuclear agreement in Teheran, Iran, on 14 July, 2015. The deal ushered in a new era for Iran's relations with the world. "If the deal is implemented, the wall of distrust between Iran and western powers will be gradually demolished," Iranian President Hassan Rouhani said. —XINHUA

AIDS targets of millennium development goal exceeded



GENEVA, 15 July — The world has exceeded the AIDS target of the Millennium Development Goal (MDG) — halting and reversing the spread of HIV — and is on track to end the AIDS epidemic by 2030 as part of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), said a report on Tuesday.

The report released on Tuesday by the Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS (UNAIDS), titled “How AIDS changed everything”, said the global response to HIV has averted 30 million new HIV infections and nearly 8 million AIDS-related deaths

since 2000, when the MDGs were set.

“The world has delivered on halting and reversing the AIDS epidemic,” said Ban Ki-moon, secretary-general of the United Nations, “Now we must commit to ending the AIDS epidemic as part of the Sustainable Development Goals.”

The report said that between 2000 and 2014, new HIV infections dropped from 3.1 million to 2 million, a reduction of 35 percent. Had the world stood back to watch the epidemic unfold, the annual number of new HIV infections would likely have risen to around six million by 2014.

In 2014, the report showed that 83 countries, which account for 83 percent of all people living with HIV, have halted or

reversed their epidemics, including countries with major epidemics, such as India, Kenya, Mozambique, South Africa and Zimbabwe.

In 2000, AIDS was a death sentence. People who became infected with HIV had just a few years to live and the vast majority of children born with the virus died before they reached their fifth birthday.

However, the pace of antiretroviral therapy scale-up increased, ensuring more people remained alive and well. By 2005, AIDS-related deaths began to reverse, falling by 41 percent from 2005 to 2014.

In 2014, 40 percent of all people living with HIV, roughly 15 million people, had access to antiretroviral therapy, a 22-fold increase over the past 14 years.

The report said ensuring access to antiretroviral therapy for 15 million people was an achievement deemed impossible 15 years ago. In 2000, fewer than one percent of people living with HIV in low and middle-income countries had access to treatment, as the sky-high prices of medicines — around 10,000 US dollars per person per year — put them out of reach.

“Fifteen years ago there was a conspiracy of silence. AIDS was a disease of ‘others’ and treatment was for the rich and not for the poor,” said Michel Sidibe, executive director of UNAIDS, “If we frontload investments and fast-track our efforts over the next five years, we will end the AIDS epidemic by 2030.”

Xinhua

Toyota recalls 625,000 hybrid cars globally for software glitch



A woman looks inside a Toyota Motor Corp's showroom in Tokyo, Japan on 16 June, 2015.

REUTERS

TOKYO, 15 July — Toyota Motor Corp said on Wednesday it would recall about 625,000 hybrid cars globally to fix a software glitch that could, in limited cases, shut down the hybrid system while the car is being driven.

Models affected are certain Prius v minivans, called Prius alpha and

Prius+ in some markets, among other models, produced between May 2010 and November 2014, the automaker said.

About 340,000 vehicles of the total are in Japan, 160,000 in Europe, and 120,000 in North America, it said, adding there had been no reports of crashes or injuries.

Reuters

10 pct of global population suffers from mental disorder amid insufficient workforce, resources

GENEVA, 15 July — Amid figures indicating that one in 10 people suffers from a mental health disorder worldwide, a World Health Organization (WHO) report revealed on Tuesday that only 1 percent of the global health workforce works in this sector, meaning that globally there is less than one mental health worker per 10,000 people.

While underlining the prevailing inequalities in access to mental health services, WHO's Mental Health Atlas 2014 also highlights the fact that global spending remains insufficient as low and lower-middle income countries spend less than 2 US dollars per capita per year on this sector.

Compared to over 50 dollars spent per person annually in high-income countries, this disparity is also evident in the unequal access to services. Figures show that in low and lower-middle income countries, an average of five mental health beds per 100,000 people are provided, compared to 50 beds in high-income countries.—Xinhua

GM to spend \$1.4 billion to modernize Arlington SUV factory



A General Motors employee inspects a SUV on the assembly line at the GM assembly plant in Arlington, Texas in this 18 Nov, 2008 file photo.—REUTERS

ARLINGTON, (Texas), 15 July — General Motors Co is raising the stakes on its bet that sales of fuel-thirsty sport utility vehicles will keep driving its global profits as Chinese and other markets sag.

GM said on Tuesday it plans to spend \$1.4 billion (896 million pounds) to modernize the factory in Arlington, Texas, that builds the Cadillac Escalade, Chevrolet Suburban and GMC Yukon sport utility vehicles. It's the largest single investment in a \$5.4 billion, three-year plant upgrade programme announced earlier this year.

GM Chief Executive Mary Barra has promised in-

vestors that the automaker will generate an average 20 percent return on its capital investments going forward, but the money spent on Arlington will deliver well in excess of that, people familiar with the company's plans say.

Though GM operates almost 400 factories around the world and sells vehicles in 120 countries under 11 different brands, the vehicles built in Arlington alone generate about \$3 billion or more in profits annually, or almost half of GM's \$6.5 billion operating profit last year, analysts said. Each of Arlington's 3,800 hourly employees could take credit for earning the company

about \$800,000 a year in profit, though they get the same profit sharing checks as every other US worker.

In part because its major rivals backed away from the large SUV market when US gasoline prices spiked in 2008-2009 and killed demand, GM now boasts a 64 percent share of the US large SUV market. Now that gas prices have fallen, US consumers are snapping up Escalades and Suburbans again. GM realizes operating profits of \$10,000 per vehicle on the Arlington SUVs, with higher end models at triple that rate or more, analysts estimate.

“The Escalade is just a machine to print money,”

Sam Fiorani, vice president of global vehicle forecasting at AutoForecast Solutions, said of the Cadillac large SUV. “When you're selling them for \$83,000 apiece and you have only 20 days supply, people are lining up to give you money.”

GM doesn't disclose profits by plant or model line. With China's auto market slowing down, sustaining profits from large SUVs and pickups will be critical to Barra's strategy for lifting GM's shares. In the first quarter, margins from Chinese operations fell to 9.9 percent of revenue from 11.2 percent a year earlier.

Barra promised investors this year that GM could deliver shareholders 20 percent returns on investment and a steady stream of cash. GM shares are trading below their \$33 a share initial public offering price, and the company is under pressure to prove to investors it can boost profits from North America to 10 percent of revenue or more. GM's global operating profit was 5.8 percent of revenue in the first quarter, while North American profits were 8.8 percent of revenue.

Despite Arlington's profitability, it's the only plant GM operates that builds big SUVs. Before the financial crisis, GM had three SUV factories in North America, including Janes-

ville, Wisconsin, and a plant in Mexico.

Much of the investment announced on Tuesday will be spent to install new production equipment and a new paint facility alongside current production lines. GM isn't planning to significantly increase total production capacity at the plant, it said.

One supplier source said the Detroit company has decided the next-generation big SUVs in 2019 will use more aluminium to reduce weight and boost fuel economy, which helps meet tougher federal fuel efficiency requirements and hedge against higher gas prices. Research firm LMC Automotive says fuel economy mandates could push large SUV prices higher, damping sales, but profits per vehicle should remain strong.

The Chevrolet Tahoe, GMC Yukon and the Cadillac Escalade not long ago were symbols of the company's failure to respond to change. Sales of the nearly-three ton vehicles collapsed during the financial crisis. When GM was restructured in a government-funded bankruptcy, President Barack Obama and the company's leaders touted high-mileage cars such as the Chevrolet Volt hybrid as symbols of the US auto industry's new direction.—Reuters

**Ministry of Energy
Myanma Petrochemical Enterprise
Extension of the request for the Letter of Expression
of Interest(LOEI)
Joint Venture Project of Laboratory Services and
Supply Chain of LPG Business**

Myanma Petrochemical Enterprise(MPE) had invited the interested party for the request of two LOEI regarding the Joint Venture Projects of Laboratory Services and Supply Chain of LPG Business from 22.5.2015 to 28.5.2015 in the national newspapers and to be submitted not later than (12:00) noon at the date of 15.7.2015.

MPE hereby announces that the submission of LOEIs shall be extended up to 23.7.2015 (12:00) noon from 15.7.2015.

Minister Mihajlovic, Patriarch Irinej on religious heritage

BELGRADE, 15 July — Serbian Deputy Prime Minister Zorana Mihajlovic and Patriarch Irinej of the Serbian Orthodox Church (SPC) discussed the role of the family in contemporary society, preservation of religious heritage and infrastructural projects.

Bearing in mind that the SPC has an important role in the Serbian society, the dialogue between government and the church is of great importance for preservation of spiritual tradition and encouragement of solidarity and tolerance as fundamental values of a

democratic society, Mihajlovic said when talking to the Patriarch on Tuesday.

She briefed the SPC Patriarch on the activities of the government's coordination body for gender equality she chairs, and the measures taken to prevent domestic violence.

Mihajlovic also pointed to the importance of preserving the SPC's spiritual and material heritage, and added that the government attentively considers the SPC's requests for restitution of nationalized church property.

Tanjug

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE MV EVER ABLE VOY NO (412N)

Consignees of cargo carried on MV EVER ABLE VOY NO (412N) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 16.7.2015 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of H.P.T where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

**SHIPPING AGENCY DEPARTMENT
MYANMA PORT AUTHORITY
AGENT FOR: M/S EVERGREEN SHIPPING
LINE**

Phone No: 2301185

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE MV GLOVIS MASTER VOY NO ()

Consignees of cargo carried on MV GLOVIS MASTER VOY NO () are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 15.7.2015 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of M.I.T.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.

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**SHIPPING AGENCY DEPARTMENT
MYANMA PORT AUTHORITY
AGENT FOR: M/S HYUNDAI GLOVIS
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CLAIMS DAY NOTICE MV SILVER FERN VOY NO (00011S)

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

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CLAIMS DAY NOTICE MV TAUNG GYI STAR VOY NO (SAB-006W)

Consignees of cargo carried on MV TAUNG GYI STAR VOY NO (SAB-006W) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 16.7.2015 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.

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Phone No: 2301185

Early election in Turkey would prolong economic risk — finance minister

ANKARA, 15 July — Uncertainty about the formation of Turkey's next government poses a risk to economic growth and the best scenario would be a strong coalition agreement rather than a fresh election, Finance Minister Mehmet Simsek said on Wednesday.

The ruling AK Party lost its majority for the first time in a parliamentary election on 7 June, forcing it to seek a junior coalition partner or face a re-run, and plunging Turkey into political uncertainty not seen since the 1990s.

"Everyone wants Turkey to have a strong coalition government," Simsek told a news conference in Ankara to announce June budget developments.

Coalition talks between the AKP and opposition parties entered a third day on Wednesday. The parties have until late August to agree on a working government or else President Tayyip Erdogan could call for a new election.

"Having an election



A lottery ticket vendor reads a Turkish newspaper published with an headline reads "downfall" and a portrait of Turkey's President Tayyip Erdogan in Ankara, Turkey on 8 June, 2015.—REUTERS

again is of course a negative scenario because another election means in a sense facing uncertainty through virtually the whole of 2015," Simsek said.

The central government budget showed a surplus of 3.2 billion lira

(\$1.21 billion) and a primary surplus of 4.9 billion lira in June, Simsek said, noting that a 15.8 percent rise in tax revenues in the first half had helped.

Inflation was likely to continue its fall this year if oil prices remain low and a

normalisation in food prices continues, Simsek said. He welcomed Iran's nuclear deal with world powers, saying it could reduce geopolitical tensions and help keep oil prices at a level beneficial to Turkey.

Reuters

Envoys from 96 nations to attend Hiroshima's 6 August A-bomb ceremony

HIROSHIMA, 15 July — The city of Hiroshima said on Wednesday representatives from a record 96 nations and the European Union are scheduled to attend an upcoming ceremony to mark the 70th anniversary of the US atomic bombing of the city.

The nations participating in the annual ceremony, to be held on 6 August at the city's Peace Memorial Park, will include recognized nuclear powers Russia, Britain and France, de facto nuclear weapons state Pakistan and Israel, suspected of possessing the Middle East's only nuclear arsenal.

China, another nuclear weapons state, will be absent from the ceremony, while the United States has not said whether it will send a delegate to the event. Afghanistan, Sri Lanka and three other countries will attend for the first time.

North and South Korea, and India, another de facto nuclear weapons state, are undecided, city officials said.

In 2010, representatives from a record 74 countries attended the ceremony. In 2014 delegates from 68 countries including the United States, France, Britain and Russia attended.

Individuals expected to participate in this year's ceremony include Yoko Morishita, an internationally renowned ballerina born to a survivor of the atomic bombing, and Japanese astronaut Soichi Noguchi.

Prime Minister Shinzo Abe is also making arrangements to attend the event. Some 2,200 people from a record 155 municipalities in the country are scheduled to participate.

The ceremony will begin at 8 am and last for 45 minutes, with a minute of silence observed at 8:15 a.m., when an atomic bomb dropped from the US bomber Enola Gay detonated over Hiroshima 70 years ago on 6 August, 1945, killing an estimated 140,000 people by the end of the year.

Kyodo News

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Dated 16 July 2015

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Dated 16 July 2015

yma@kcyangon.com

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WEATHER REPORT

FORECAST VALID UNTIL EVENING OF THE 15th July, 2015: Rain or thundershowers will be widespread in Taninthayi Region, Kachin and Mon States, fairly widespread in Upper Sagaing Region and Kayin State and scattered in the remaining Regions and States with likelihood of isolated heavy falls in Taninthayi Region and Mon State. Degree of certainty is (100%). STATE OF THE SEA: Squalls with moderate to rough sea are likely at times off and along Mon - Taninthayi Coasts. Surface wind speed in squalls may reach (35) mph. Sea will be moderate elsewhere in Myanmar waters.

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Korean carriers to resume Japan flights after suspension over MERS scare

Tokyo, 15 July — Korean Air and Asiana Airlines are planning to resume flights out of Seoul to local Japanese cities later this month after grounding them last month due to a sharp decrease in passengers amid the MERS virus scare, company officials said on Tuesday.

Korean Air is set to restart services to Aomori, Akita, Komatsu and Kagoshima by early August, while Asiana Airlines intends to reopen flights to Toyama and Matsuyama in late July.

The two major South Korean carriers fly to those Japanese cities from

Incheon International Airport that serves Seoul.

The airlines said they have decided on the resumption because travelers are returning after fears subsided over the Middle East Respiratory Syndrome, which killed more than 35 people in South Korea.—Kyodo News

Shanghai Disneyland plans Star Wars, Marvel attractions



Dancers perform during the groundbreaking ceremony of Shanghai Disneyland in Pudong on 8 April, 2011.—REUTERS

SHANGHAI, 15 July — Mickey Mouse, Peter Pan and Han Solo will beckon visitors to Shanghai when Walt Disney Co opens its first theme park in China in the spring of next year. The \$5.5 billion theme park, being developed with China's state-

owned Shanghai Shendi Group, will transport visitors to six themed "worlds" and offer other attractions based on "Star Wars" and the Marvel Comics' superheroes, including "Iron Man", "Spider-Man" and the "Hulk".

Bob Iger, chairman

and CEO of the iconic US entertainment firm, told a news conference in Shanghai on Wednesday that the park would be "authentically Disney and distinctively Chinese". The park will "not only showcase the best of Disney's story telling but also celebrates and incorporates China's incredibly rich heritage," Iger said at an ceremony in Shanghai, where the firm unveiled a miniature-sized model of the park.

Visitors will be able to pass along "Mickey Avenue", float through "Adventure Isle", "Fantasyland" and "Treasure Cove", before taking off for "Tomorrowland".

Disney, which opened its largest ever store in Shanghai in May, will be hoping it can tap into

growth in the world's second largest economy, despite China's recent slowdown.

Disney earlier this year delayed the opening of Shanghai Disneyland until the first half of 2016 from a scheduled start at the end of 2015 as it expanded plans for the park. The park is now scheduled to have a grand opening in spring next year.

The firm's park and resorts segment brought in \$15.1 billion globally last year, around a third of its total revenues. Disney is also tapping into China's film market, with the latest outing of its "Avengers" series taking the number two spot in country's 20.4 billion yuan box office for the first half of the year.

Reuters

Taylor Swift experiences stage malfunction

LOS ANGELES, 15 July — Country star Taylor Swift experienced a bit of a scare when the extendable stage in Nationals Park in Washington DC completely stopped working.

The "Shake It Off" hitmaker headed to the Nationals Park to deliver another sold-out concert to thousands of fans, reported E!Online.

"They just told me in my ear that I might be stuck up here forever," she told the crowd during her gig.

"This thing is broken. I was just thinking about how I was singing a song about rain and it rained today... It's not that funny... We're just gonna have to re-choreograph the entire show. It's fine. Whatever. It's gonna be a unique show DC!," she added.

Later, the technical difficulties regarding the stage were fixed allowing her to finish the show with true style. "I'm so happy, you guys! I didn't know what I was going to do!"—PTI



Harper Lee new novel deemed 'clunky,' 'distressing' as it hits bookstores

NEW YORK, 15 July — Bookstores opened early across the United States on Tuesday as Harper Lee's second novel, "Go Set a Watchman," went on sale to mixed reviews and widespread disillusion over the depiction of heroic lawyer Atticus Finch as a 1950s racist.

In Lee's hometown of Monroeville, Alabama, one of the author's old friends reported the writer was delighted with the response to her only published novel since her 1960 classic "To Kill a Mockingbird."

"She looked at the stack of reviews and her reaction was delight," Professor Wayne Flynt told reporters on Tuesday. He said he paid Lee, who has failing eyesight and vision, a visit on Monday evening as hundreds of townsfolk lined up to buy the book at midnight.

"She loves the spec-

tacle of this, everyone in town. I summarized the reviews, but I'll go back tonight and read them too her. She's processing this all in good humor. I think the world takes her more seriously than she takes herself," Flynt said.

Although widely billed as a sequel to Lee's tale of racism and injustice in the American South, "Watchman" was written before "Mockingbird" but is set 20 years after the events of her Pulitzer Prize-winning novel.

Lee, now 89, was advised by her editor in the 1950s to recast "Watchman," which features a grown-up Scout Finch and her aging father, Atticus Finch, and tell the story from a child's point of view. That reworking became "Mockingbird."

"Watchman"'s portrayal of the older Finch as a man



A customer purchases a copy of Harper Lee's book 'Go Set a Watchman' at a Barnes & Noble store in New York, on 14 July, 2015.—REUTERS

who has attended a Ku Klux Klan meeting and opposes racial desegregation has already grabbed headlines because of the stark contrast to the noble lawyer in "Mockingbird" who defends a black man wrongly accused of raping a white woman.

The character was immortalized in Gregory Peck's Academy

Award-winning performance in the 1962 film version. The Wall Street Journal's Sam Sacks described "Watchman" as "a distressing book, one that delivers a startling rebuttal to the shining idealism of 'To Kill a Mockingbird.' This story is of the toppling of idols; its major theme is disillusion."—Reuters

Ed Sheeran calls Adele LP 'really good'

LONDON, 15 July — Singer Ed Sheeran claims Adele's new album is "really good".

The 24-year-old singer said he is a good friend of the 10-time Grammy Award winner and although he is yet to hear her highly-anticipated third studio album, he has been told great things about it by mutual friends, reported Contactmusic.

"She's great, I really like her. She sent me a real-

ly nice text after the BRITs and she came down to the O2 to check out the gig and she's been really cool.

"I haven't heard [the record], but everyone I know who've worked on it is just like, 'Dude... That record!' Apparently it's really good!," he said.

The "Someone Like You" singer released her last album 21 back in 2011 but has remained tight-lipped on her plans for the follow-up collection.—PTI



Ed Sheeran & Adele

'Tonight Show's' Jimmy Fallon says almost lost finger in accident



Jimmy Fallon

NEW YORK, 15 July — Jimmy Fallon returned to host "The Tonight Show" on Monday after a two-week break and said he almost lost a finger in an accident at his New York apartment that turned out to be much more serious than first thought.

Fallon, 40, told his TV talk show audience on Monday that he needed six

hours of micro-surgery on his finger after catching his wedding ring in a kitchen countertop when he tripped and fell in June.

Doctors said he had suffered "ring avulsion" that almost pulled his finger off. They took a vein from his foot and re-connected it with tissue from his finger, the comedian said.

"Apparently the odds

aren't great with these things," said Fallon, brandishing a heavily bandaged hand. "Usually they just cut your finger off."

Fallon said he spent 10 days in intensive care and that he is not expected to get the feeling back in his finger for about two months.

Fallon thanked medical staff for his care and

fans for their well-wishes. The accident, he said, made him realize how much he loved his job.

"This is the meaning of my life. I belong on TV... This is my job. I'm here to make you laugh," he said to cheers from the audience.

Comcast-owned NBC ran repeats of "The Tonight Show" during Fallon's absence.—Reuters

GENERAL

In the eye of needle, tiny art work on display at “Antsibition”

LONDON, 15 July — Art work of tiny proportions goes on display in London this week, showcasing small-scale figurines at an “ant-sized” exhibition.

Ahead of Friday’s release of Marvel’s latest cinematic offering “Ant-Man”, micro-artist Willard Wigan has recreated the superhero, who can shrink in size but grow in power, on a very small scale — in the eye of a needle.



The figurine is so minute it has to be viewed properly through a microscope, as with most of Wigan’s work. At “Antsibition”, his tiny “Ant-Man” is on display alongside other pieces measuring only a few mi-

cromillimetres, such as a skateboarder on the end of an eye lash and a Harley motorbike, also sitting in the eye of a needle.

“I don’t enjoy doing this work because it drives me insane but I get pleasure

when I finish it,” Wigan told Reuters. “That’s the drive... the end result, the finish.”

Wigan began creating the tiny work at the age of five when he made houses for ants — one of which is also on display at “Ant-

sibition” in a gallery itself made up of a small room at London’s Old Street station.

He makes his own small tools — such as tweezers made from a dead wasp’s sting and paints with a fly’s hair.

“If you make a mistake as you’re painting... the whole thing will be a total shambles,” he said. “Anything I do, it’s microns of movement, I have to be a dead man working. Everything has to be so still, sometimes I find myself going cold.”

“Ant-Man”, which stars Paul Rudd and Michael Douglas, is released on 17 July.

Reuters

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- * News
- * History And Mystery Behind The Caves
- * Porcelain and Glass
- * News
- * An Oasis Trip to Mt Popa
- * Yangon Markets: Nyaung Pin Lay Market
- * News
- * Myanma Pottery
- * Beach Food Delivery
- * News
- * Mesmerizing Scenes or Image of Japan Part (2)
- * Hip-Hop and Design
- * News
- * A Famous Pagoda in the Sea
- * Kay Tu Mar Lar “The Family”
- * News
- * Pride of Myanmar — Bagan arts and handicrafts
- * We’ll leave after 12 Passengers are on Board
- * News
- * Chanmyay Yeiktha Meditation Centre-Chaw Dwin Gone
- * A Visit To Today’s Along-Daw-Katthapha
- * News
- * National Literary Icon and Guiding Light of Myanmar Literature: Sayar Zaw Gyi (Episode-3)
- * The Storytellers
- * News
- * Style of Mro and Thet
- * ANANDA GU PHAYA
- * News
- * Herbal Medicine By Thurein (Ta Bin Dine Mya Nan) (Vitis)

Russia dumps Capello as coach before World Cup finals

MOSCOW, 15 July — The Russian Football Union (RFU) said on Tuesday it had ended its contract with national team coach Fabio Capello, three years before the country hosts the 2018 World Cup finals.

It did not immediately name a successor for the 69-year-old Italian though local media have quoted sources as saying CSKA Moscow coach Leonid Slutski is likely to take over.

“The Russian Football Union and the head coach of Russia’s national team, Fabio Capello, have reached

an agreement to terminate the employment contract by mutual agreement,” the RFU said on its website.

Capello, who managed England at the 2010 World Cup, took over as Russia coach in July 2012 and had extended his contract until the end of the 2018 tournament.

He took the team to the World Cup finals in Brazil last summer but Capello’s side were knocked out in the group stages.

The team’s form has not improved since then and they suffered a disap-

pointing 1-0 loss at home to Austria in their Euro 2016 qualifier on 14 June, leaving them third in Group G with eight points from six games.

The RFU had been holding talks with Capello over his contract since late June. Russian sport news agency R-Sport on Tuesday put the level of the compensation at 930 million roubles (\$16.34 million).

Nikita Simonyan, the RFU’s acting president, said last week that all debts owed to Capello until the end of the 2014/15 season had been paid off.—Reuters



Russia’s coach Fabio Capello watches his team’s Euro 2016 Group G qualifying soccer match against Austria at the Otkrytie Arena stadium in Moscow, Russia, on 14 June, 2015.— REUTERS

Renewables outpace nuclear in economies making up 45 percent of world population

TOKYO, 15 July — Solar, wind and other forms of renewable energy besides hydro-electric dams now supply more electricity than nuclear in Japan, China, India and five other major economies accounting for about half the world’s population, an atomic industry report shows.

While nuclear stations on average produce about twice as much electricity as renewables annually for every kilowatt installed, the high growth of solar, wind and other renewables means atomic power is fast being eclipsed as nations turn away from the energy source after the Fukushima disaster in Japan.

This is one of the main observations of the World Nuclear Industry Status Report 2015, a draft copy of which was given to Reuters before the release of the document at 0900 GMT in the House of Commons in London. Nuclear power generation increased by 2.2 percent globally in 2014,

even with the first extended shutdown of Japan’s atomic industry for 45 years, but with solar power increasing 38 percent and wind power up by a tenth, energy from the sun, wind and other renewable sources is outpacing that from the atom.

Rising costs, construction delays, public opposition and aging fleets of reactors are hurting the chances of nuclear while falling costs, greater efficiency and better management of fluctuating renewable supplies, along with improved storage, are changing the face of energy production globally.

“The impressively resilient hopes that many people still have of a global nuclear renaissance are being trumped by a real time revolution in efficiency plus renewables plus storage, delivering more and more solutions on the ground every year,” Jonathon Porritt, co-founder and trustee of the Forum for the Future, wrote in a foreword to the report.

Reuters

Florida ‘Eco-Art’ project seeks to blend aesthetics and the environment

ORLANDO, (Fla), 15 July — In a growing trend that seeks to blend art with environmental restoration, a water filtration project was unveiled on Tuesday along a 575-foot sea-walled stretch of the intracoastal waterway in South Florida.

The new Living Shoreline, designed by Vermont artist Michael Singer, is billed as “Eco-Art,” which its patrons describe as “art with a job to do.”

The \$149,000 project grew out of Palm Beach County’s work to improve water quality in the Lake Worth Lagoon which, in typical Florida fashion, previously involved piling up rocks in front of seawalls to try to regenerate some of the natural marine habitat lost to development.

Singer’s proposal to improve the aesthetics in collaboration with biologists and marine engineers received a \$40,000 grant from the National Endowment of the Arts. The Living Shoreline featured a half-

moon shaped porous concrete planter for mangrove trees whose exposed root system naturally serves as a fish nursery. The planter is flanked on both sides by long shelves set at the optimum water level on the lagoon’s seawall to grow oyster beds.

Jason Bregman, a designer with Michael Singer Studios, said this kind of Eco-Art is underpinned by knowledge of scientific and

engineering requirements. In that way, it differs from other types of environmental art created to make a statement, or which uses the environment solely for the artist’s needs.

“The piece has to actively be doing something in the environment to make it better,” Bregman said, adding: “It’s a relatively new trend especially at this level where the public can

see it, and engage with it and understand it.”

An early example of Eco-Art was sculptor Mel Chin’s 1990 Revival Field, a toxic dump in Minnesota that he fenced off to look like a target and worked with a government scientist to grow plants to absorb the heavy metals in the soil.

More recently, supporters worked through a group called Eco-Art South Florida, which they said was the only organization dedicated to the interventionist style. Their work has been taken over by the Florida International University.

Among other projects supported by the group was Singer’s 40-foot sculptural Biofiltration Wall built on the Seminole Indian Tribe’s casino in Coconut Creek, just north of Fort Lauderdale. The wall filters 150,000 gallons of water a day from a nearby retention pond, removing nutrients that could cause algae blooms, which kill fish downstream.

Reuters



The new ‘Living Shoreline’ is shown in this 9 July, 2015 handout photo provided by Palm Beach County on 14 July, 2015 in Lake Worth, Florida.— REUTERS

MRTV Entertainment Channel

(16-7-2015, Thursday)

- 6:00 am • Mono Classical Songs
- 6:45 am • Fashion Show
- 7:00 am • TV Drama Series
- 7:45 am • TV Drama Series
- 8:30 am • Musical Programme
- 8:40 am • Myanmar Video
- 9:45 am • ASEAN China Cultural Show
- 10:05 am • Myanmar Video
- 12:00 noon • Close Down

US Open aces Wimbledon for top grand slam prize money



Winner Serena Williams of the USA and runner up Garbine Muguruza of Spain show off their trophies after their Women's Final Match at the Wimbledon Tennis Championships in London, on 11 July, 2015. —REUTERS

NEW YORK, 15 July — The US Open leapfrogged Wimbledon as the richest grand slam event in tennis as the United States Tennis Association announced on Tuesday a 10.5 percent prize money increase for next month's championship.

The purse for the US Open will hit \$42.3 million (£27 million), with the men's and women's singles winners each pocketing \$3.3 million.

The All England Club upped the Wimbledon prize money this year by seven percent to 26.75 million pounds (\$41.82m).

Singles winners Novak Djokovic and Serena Williams each received 1.88 million pounds, just under \$3m at the

current exchange rate.

With Tuesday's announcement, the US Open has inched ahead, based on the current exchange rate, in what has become something of a wage race.

Additionally, the top finishers in the Emirates Airline US Open Series of events leading up to the grand slam are eligible for bonus prize money.

In 2014, women's singles champion Serena Williams took home \$4 million, the biggest single payday in tennis history. She earned \$3 million as the US Open singles champion and a \$1 million bonus as the Open series champion.

"We continue our commitment to ensure that the US Open

offers one of the most lucrative purses in all of sports," USTA president and US Open chairwoman Katrina Adams said in a statement.

"As we have stated, total player compensation at the US Open will reach \$50 million by 2017." For 2015, the singles remuneration for each round will increase by at least 10 percent.

All 128 singles entrants are guaranteed \$39,500, with prize money almost doubling with each victory.

The payout for the doubles competition will increase by 8.4 percent overall, with the men's and women's doubles champions earning \$570,000, the most ever at the US Open.—Reuters

Sterling joins Manchester City for record fee

LONDON, 15 July — Manchester City made Raheem Sterling the most expensive English player in history when they completed a deal for the 20-year-old forward on Tuesday, rubber-stamping an acrimonious end to his Liverpool career.

City paid 49 million pounds for Sterling, according to media reports, with the England international signing a five-year contract at the Etihad Stadium.

The pacy winger will fly out to join his new team mates, who are on a pre-season tour in Australia.

"Raheem Sterling is one of the best attacking players in world football, and I am very much looking forward to him joining our squad out in Australia later this week," City manager Manuel Pellegrini said on the club website (www.mfc.com).

"He is a young player with outstanding ability, and I am sure the Manchester City fans will be very excited about seeing him in action for the team." Abu Dhabi-owned City did not confirm the transfer fee but said it was a record for the club.

The fee is also higher than the previous record for an English player, surpassing the 35 million pounds Liverpool paid Newcastle United for target man

Andy Carroll in 2011.

Sterling endured an acrimonious end to his career at Liverpool after making 129 appearances and scoring 23 goals, having moved to the Merseyside outfit from Queens Park Rangers in 2010 as a 15-year-old.

His relationship with Liverpool hit trouble in April as contract talks stalled and he gave an unauthorised interview to the BBC, denying being a "mon-

ey-grabber" and claiming he was motivated purely by ambition.

His outspoken agent Aidy Ward then angered the club and its supporters in May by saying the England player would not sign a new deal at Anfield — even for 900,000 pounds (\$1.40 million) a week.

With no City deal on the immediate horizon, the issue came to a head last week as the player did not fly out with Liverpool for their pre-season tour despite being named in the squad.

Liverpool, however, showed no bitterness in a short statement confirming his departure on their website.

"Liverpool Football Club can confirm Raheem Sterling has completed a transfer to Manchester City," the club said. "Liverpool FC wishes Raheem well."

Reuters



New Manchester City signing Raheem Sterling leaves the club's Etihad Stadium in Manchester, Britain, on 14 July, 2015. REUTERS

Barca to begin La Liga title defence at Bilbao

MADRID, 15 July — Champions Barcelona will begin their bid for a sixth Spanish league title in eight years when they play at Athletic Bilbao on the weekend of 22-23 August, while Real Madrid travel to promoted Sporting Gijon, Tuesday's La Liga draw revealed.

Barca, who won a treble of Champions League and domestic league and Cup titles last season, also play Bilbao over two legs for the season-opening Spanish Super Cup.

The first leg is at the San Mames on 14 August and the return at the Nou Camp three days later, the Spanish soccer federation (RFEF) said.

Barca and Real clash in the first 'Clasico' of the La Liga campaign at Real's Bernabeu stadium the weekend of 7-8 November, with Barca hosting their arch rivals, who finished two points adrift in second last term, at the beginning of April.

Unlike in other top Europe-

an leagues, the Spanish league typically publishes exact dates and kickoff times only a couple

of weeks before each matchday.

Barca will play La Liga rivals Sevilla, the Europa League

champions, in the European Super Cup in the Georgian capital Tbilisi on 11 August.—Reuters



Barcelona's coach Luis Enrique (C) talks to his players before their training session at Joan Gamper field at Sant Joan Despi, near Barcelona, Spain, on 13 July, 2015.—REUTERS

Tiger excited to be back at special St Andrews



Tiger Woods of the US smiles during a news conference ahead of the British Open golf championship on the Old Course in St Andrews, Scotland, on 14 July, 2015. REUTERS

ST ANDREWS, (Scotland), 15 July — Tiger Woods' love affair with St Andrews goes back 20 years and the former world number one cannot wait for romance to blossom again at the 144th British Open that starts on Thursday.

The 39-year-old American made his first appearance in golf's oldest major in the 1995 edition held at the Old Course and went on to win the prized Claret Jug when the championship returned to the iconic links in 2000 and 2005.

Woods is expecting the course to present a different kind of challenge this week but is licking his lips at the prospect nonetheless.

"I'm very excited to be back here at the Home of Golf," he told reporters on Tuesday. "I've always loved this course from the first time I played it... there's just something special about it."

"It's playing a little bit differently to previous Opens. I've played in. It's a little bit softer and it's going to get even softer with the (rain) forecast for Friday.—Reuters