

## President U Thein Sein visits flood-hit areas in Sagaing Region



**President U Thein Sein and Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Senior-General Min Aung Hlaing encourage military service personnel volunteering for repairing a dam which was damaged by the flood caused by torrential rain in Sagaing Region recently.—MNA**

NAY PYI TAW, 20 July — President U Thein Sein arrived Monday in Sagaing Region to inspect areas hit by severe flooding.

Sagaing Region received a record 7.83 inches of rain from 14-18 July, with more than 40,000 acres of farmland damaged.

The president and party were welcomed at TadaU International Airport by Chief Minister U Ye Myint, Central Command Commander Maj-Gen Soe Htut and officials.

At the hall of the airport, Vice Chairman Mr Futoshi Hiroi and General Manager Mr Yosuke Shigemori of MJAS presented K3 million for flood victims to the union ministers.

The president and party proceeded to Kanbalu by helicopter where they were greeted there by Sagaing Region Chief Minister U Thar Aye, Commander of North-West Command Maj-Gen Min Naung, town elders and local peoples.

Afterward, the president and party arrived at Minmyin Dam and thanked members of the Tatmadaw from Shwebo Station working to repair the overflowed dam.

The president and party presented gifts to Tatmadaw members before meeting local people near the dam.

Union Minister U Myint Hlaing, the chief minister of Sagaing Region and officials reported to the president on evacuation procedures and disaster

prevention efforts.

After hearing reports, the president said it was an unusual natural disaster and urged officials to be prepared for further heavy rains and to inspect dams and reservoirs country-wide.

He praised the region government, local people and members of the Tatmadaw for their work to prevent damage to Minmyin Dam.

Later, the president and party continued to Thaphanseik Dam, where

Union Minister U MyintHlaing, the chief minister and officials reported to the president on water supply and electricity generation.

The current water level in the dam is still under its storage capacity of 2,880,000 acres, according to sources.

Later in the afternoon, the president and party viewed flood-damaged areas in Kyunhla and met with Hluttaw representatives, town elders, members of the town-

ship management committee, members of the development supporting committee, members of development affairs committee, officials and local people.

The president was accompanied on his trip by Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Senior General Min Aung Hlaing, Union Ministers U Myint Hlaing and U Ohn Myint, Lt-Gen Myint Soe of the Office of the Commander-in-Chief (Army) and deputy ministers.—MNA



**President U Thein Sein and Senior General Min Aung Hlaing attend K3 million donation ceremony of Vice Chairman Mr Futoshi Hiroi and General Manager Mr Yosuke Shigemori of MJAS for flood victims.—MNA**

### Media, CSOs can help keep companies honest: business watchdog

By Ye Myint

YANGON, 20 July — Local media and civil society organizations need to help identify companies that are failing to deliver on their promises to the public, the head of the Myanmar Centre for Responsible Business said Monday.

More thorough coverage would enable the public to “compare what (company) websites say with media reporting and voices of CSOs,” MCRB Director Ms Vicky Bowman said at the launch of the Pwint Thit Sa project’s Transparency (See page 9)

### Myanmar negotiates release of fishermen detained by India

NAY PYI TAW, 20 July — Myanmar officials are arranging the repatriation of fishermen detained for illegally entering Indian waters, the Myanmar News Agency reported Monday.

India has agreed to use its coast guard ships to transport the detained Myanmar fishermen after monsoon to Cocogyun Island in Myanmar waters.

Earlier this year, 411 Myanmar fishermen were returned from India by air after being released from Port Blair prison in the Andaman and Nicobar Islands.

The fishermen currently held by India have been moved from the prison to the nearby Open Distress Camp.

The Myanmar Embassy in New Delhi and India’s Ministry of External Affairs are coordinating the repatriation. As part of the verification process,

(See page 9)

### Corrigendum

Please read “Tax should be assessed based on actual income earned and expenditures spent. There should not be an ‘advance tax’ of 2% on income for contract manufacturing businesses” instead of “by giving tax breaks to garment businesses” under the heading of Global brands voice support for minimum wage proposal on front page of this daily issued on 16 July, 2015.—GNLM

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# Graffiti mural honours martyrs

MANDALAY, 20 July — Youth artist Zwe Ko Naing created a graffiti mural depicting the national martyrs on a wall of the Nawarat housing complex in Chanayethazan Township on 19 July.

The artist painted the portraits of the martyrs with permission from officials of the housing complex located on 35<sup>th</sup> Street between 68<sup>th</sup> and 69<sup>th</sup> streets. Local people have complimented the artwork.

*Maung Pyi Thu  
(Mandalay)*



## More than 200 youths apply for special police in Taungtha Tsp



TAUNGTHA, 20 July — Taungtha Township Police Force in Mandalay Region invited applications for special police for security of polling stations.

The youths who passed the eighth standard examination may apply for the posts of special police.

Till 18 July, a total of 231 youths have applied for the posts. Commander of Township Police Force Police Major Maung Maung and departmental officials scrutinized the applicants.

Youths may apply for the special police at police stations and township police force, said officials.

*Kyaw Myo Naing  
(Taungtha)*

## Mandalay to host Upper Myanmar Interfaith Conference

MANDALAY, 20 July — A coordination meeting focused on holding the Upper Myanmar Interfaith Conference at the Oriental House in Mandalay recently.

While General Secretary Dr Thar Nyan of the Interfaith Committee (Central) spoke about procedures for the conference, Chairman of the Mandalay Region Interfaith Committee Thiha Thudamma Manijotadhara U Kyaw Win explained formation of work committees to successfully hold the conference.

Work committee members discussed preparations for the conference and progress of works.

The conference will be held on 25 July in Mandalay with participation of religious representatives of



Hindu, Buddhism, Christianity and Islam from Shan and Kayah States, Magway and Mandalay Regions.

The conference will discuss extended establishment of the committee, future tasks, working together with avoiding hate speech, and paper-reading sessions on peaceful

co-existence for realizing friendly relations of

interfaith activities.

*Tin Maung (Mandalay)*

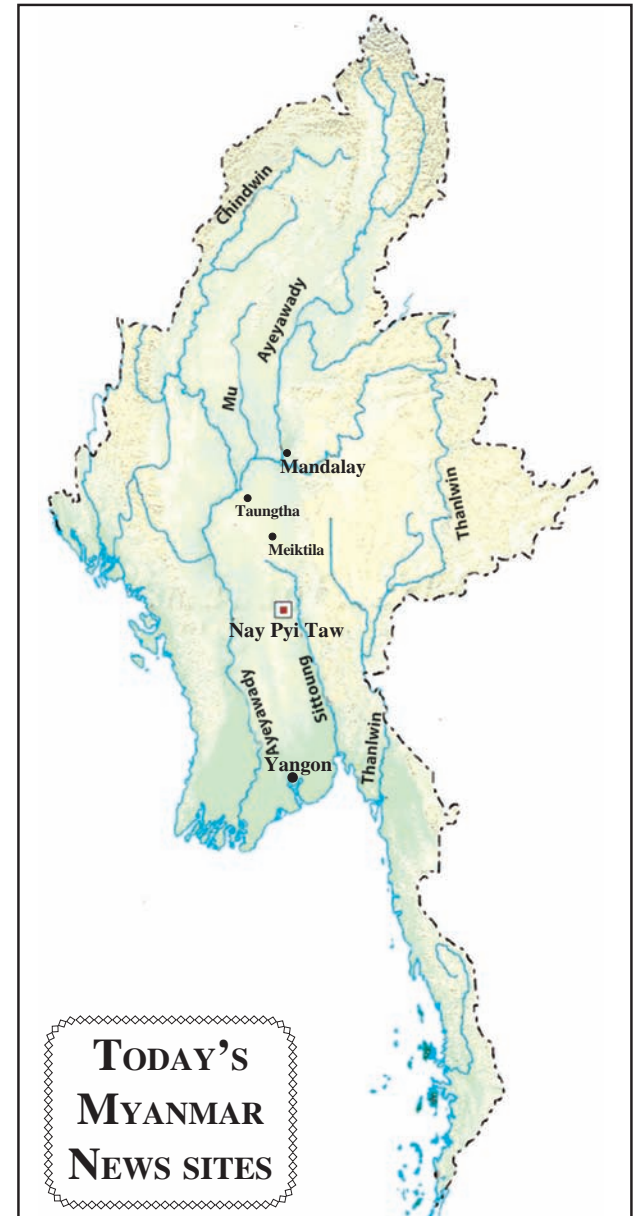
## Residents work together to electrify village

MEIKTILA, 20 July — Local residents in Dahattan village in Meiktila Township, Mandalay Region, have a reliable source of electricity following the installation of two 315 KVA transformers.

Dahattan village is home to more than 2,300 residents. One transformer is positioned at the entrance to the village and another at its centre. Villagers have erected 120 lamp-posts to illuminate roads.

Local people have spent K140 million on electrification of homes.

*Chan Thar (Meiktila)*



## Traditional medicine practitioners treat villagers



NAY PYI TAW, 20 July — Traditional medicine practitioners from Dekkhina District gave free treatment to local residents in Wegyi and Kadoseik villages in Pyinmana Township on 19 July.

U Hla Maw, head of the district's Traditional Medicine Department,

gave talks on herbal plants to be used as emergency treatment for patients and distributed pamphlets on traditional medicines for common diseases.

They provided health care services to 175 local people from two villages.

*Maung Kyaik Latt  
(IPRD)*

NATIONAL

## President U Thein Sein sends messages of felicitations to Belgium

NAY PYI TAW, 21 July—U Thein Sein, President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar, has sent messages of felicitations to His Majesty King Philippe, King of Belgium and His Excellency Mr. Charles Michel, Prime Minister of the Kingdom of Belgium, on the occasion of the National Day of the Kingdom of Belgium, which falls on 21 July 2015.—MNA



UEC Chairman U Tin Aye delivers speech at meeting with civil society organizations.—MNA

## Union Election Commission, civil society organizations meet

YANGON, 20 July — said UEC Chairman U Tin Aye. He called on the CSOs to cooperate with the UEC, putting their efforts in the election process for the success of the upcoming general elections. He also urged the election monitoring groups to write a report on whether the commission, political parties and media behaved well in the elections in line with the law, not to interfere in the process. List of candidates and campaign period will be announced after verifying the list, he added. During the meeting, the CSO made suggestions regarding the use of rubber stamps in voting and valid and invalid votes. Next, the UEC chairman and members answered queries raised by those preset. MNA

## Japanese experts read papers on development of rice mill, income improvement

NAY PYI TAW, 20 July—Yezin University of Agriculture and Mitsui Co Ltd and Tokyo University of Agriculture of Japan held a paper-reading session on agriculture at the hall of university, here, Monday.

Chairman of Myanmar-Japan Friendship Association U Saw Hla Min extended greetings.

Dr Eiichiro Sakaguchi read a paper on development of rice milling computer simulation model for cooling and sake brewing while Mr Masayuki Iwai submitted a paper on for the income improvement of Myanmar farmers.

Director-General Dr Tin Htut of Agricultural Planning Department, Director-General



Rector Dr Myo Kywe of Yezin University of Agriculture reads out speech delivered by Union Minister for Agriculture and Irrigation U Myint Hlaing at paper-reading session.—MNA

Dr Ye Tint Tun of Agricultural Research Department and guests participated in discussions. The paper reading session was also attended by officials of Japanese companies and JICA Myanmar. MNA

## Union FM sends message of felicitations to Belgium

NAY PYI TAW, 21 July—U Wunna Maung Lwin, Union Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar, has sent a message of felicitations to His Excellency Mr. Didier Reynders, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs, Foreign Trade and European Affairs on the occasion of the National Day of the Kingdom of Belgium, which falls on 21 July 2015.—MNA

## MRTV, VOV agree to boost broadcast sector cooperation

NAY PYI TAW, 20 July — Myanma Radio and Television and Voice of Vietnam signed a momentum of understanding on cooperation in the broadcast sector Monday in Nay Pyi Taw.

Permanent Secretary U Tint Swe of the Ministry of Information and Mr Vu Hai, Vice Chairman of VOV, gave speeches before the signing ceremony at the Yadana Theinga Hotel. MRTV Acting Director-General U Win Kyi and the VOV Vice Chairman inked the MoU and exchanged notes. Both sides held discussions on matters related to boosting cooperation in the sector through the MoU. MRTV and VOV began broadcast sector cooperation in 1999. — MNA

**Permanent Secretary U Tint Swe of Ministry of Information attends signing of MoU between MRTV and VOV.—MNA**



Departmental personnel and volunteers evacuate flood victims to safe places in Kawlin Township, Sagaing Region. (News on page 1)—MNA

## China's Xi tells army to learn from uncorrupt past

BEIJING, 20 July — China's military must learn from the glorious, uncorrupt example of its revolutionary forebears and thoroughly banish the deep-rooted, pernicious influence of the army's worst corruption scandal in decades, President Xi Jinping has told officers.

Xi, who heads the military, has made weeding out corruption in the armed forces a top goal. Several senior officers have been

felled, including one of China's most senior former military officers, Xu Caihou. Xu died of cancer in March.

Meeting soldiers in the northeastern city of Changchun, Xi said there can be no ambiguity when it comes to fighting graft.

"The damage caused by Xu Caihou's discipline and law-breaching activities is all-encompassing and deep-rooted," Xi said, according to a Defence

Ministry statement late on Sunday. Xu, who had been a vice chairman of the powerful Central Military Commission which Xi leads, died before he could be brought to trial.

The government said in October Xu had confessed to taking "massive" bribes in exchange for help in promotions.

"Thoroughly clear away the influence of the Xu Caihou case in thinking, politics, organization

and work style. Return to, hold on to, and carry on the glorious traditions and excellent working style of the old Red Army," Xi said, using an informal term for Communist forces who won the Chinese civil war in 1949.

His remarks were carried in all major state-run newspapers on Monday. *The Global Times*, an influential tabloid published by the Communist Party's official *People's Daily*, said

it was the first time Xi had mentioned Xu in public since the Xu's death.

Retired and serving officers have warned that the graft problem in the army is so serious it could affect the military's ability to wage war.

China intensified its crackdown on corruption in the military in the late 1990s, banning the People's Liberation Army from engaging in business. But the military has been



China's President Xi Jinping

involved in commercial dealings in recent years due to a lack of checks and balances, military analysts have said.—Reuters

## Malaysia blocks website critical of PM and state fund



Malaysia's Prime Minister Najib Razak speaks at a presentation for government interns at the Prime Minister's office in Putrajaya, Malaysia on 8 July, 2015.—REUTERS

KUALA LUMPUR, 20 July — Malaysian authorities have blocked access to a website critical of Prime Minister Najib Razak's government, saying the British-based news portal had violated a local internet law in a move condemned by opposition lawmakers.

Sarawak Report, a website run by a British woman based in London, has been publishing reports and documents that allegedly include graft and mis-

management by the state investment fund 1Malaysia Development Berhad (1MDB).

The Malaysian Communications and Multimedia Commission (MCMC) said the site had breached a law under the Communications and Multimedia Act 1998, prohibiting people from using a website to provide content "that is indecent, obscene, false, menacing, or offensive in character with intent to an-

noy, abuse, threaten or harass any person".

"MCMC decided to block a website that could threaten the country's stability, namely Sarawak Report, for publishing contents with unproven veracity and that are under investigation, after receiving complaints from the public," the commission said in a statement on Sunday evening.

The site's editor Clare Rewcastle-Brown said it was "a blatant attempt to censor our exposures of major corruption".

"This latest blow to media freedom only brings further discredit upon the present administration, who have proven unable to counter the evidence we have presented in any other way," Rewcastle-Brown said in a statement.

Opposition lawmaker Lim Kit Siang, from the Democratic Action Party, decried the action as diminishing the government's credibility.

"My advice to Najib is to allow common sense to prevail, that blocking access

to Sarawak Report is not going to end his 1MDB woes but the opposite, plunging his credibility and legitimacy to even unimagined depths, which is not good for him as prime minister and for the nation as well," said Lim.

1MDB, with debts of over \$11 billion, is being investigated by authorities in Malaysia for financial mismanagement and graft. The state-owned firm's advisory board is chaired by the prime minister.

*The Wall Street Journal (WSJ)* reported earlier this month that investigators looking into 1MDB had traced close to \$700 million of deposits into personal bank accounts belonging to Najib, according to documents from the probe.

Reuters has not verified the WSJ report.

Najib has denied taking any money for personal gain and said the corruption allegations are part of a malicious campaign to force him out of office. He is weighing legal options against the WSJ.—Reuters

## Abe aims to quintuple engineers in marine resource development

TOKYO, 20 July — Prime Minister Shinzo Abe on Monday announced a target of quintupling the number of engineers engaged in the development of marine resources by 2030, as Tokyo hopes to expand the economy by better utilizing



Prime Minister Shinzo Abe

such resources. The target, revealed at a ceremony commemorating Japan's Marine Day holiday on Monday in Tokyo, is also aimed at securing the nation's interests in marine resources as China continues gas development in the East China Sea, observers said. Abe said the number of such engineers should be increased from the current 2,000 to around 10,000 by 2030 through cooperation among the government, academia and related industries.

"Various kinds of resources, including methane hydrate, exist around Japan," Abe said. "In the sea, there are resources and (the potential for creating) jobs."

He also warned against aggressiveness in pursuing marine resources, apparently with China's land reclamation work in disputed areas of the South China Sea in mind.

"Any disputes should be solved peacefully based

on international laws, without the use of force and threats," he said.

Later in the day, Abe visited a base for patrol vessels of the Japan Coast Guard in Tokyo's Koto Ward and observed a drill in Tokyo Bay based on the need to seize a vessel with terrorists on board.

He then moved to the JCG's disaster prevention base in Yokohama near Tokyo and provided encouragement to JCG members there. Referring to Chinese ships' entry into Japan's territorial waters around the Japanese-controlled Senkaku Islands in the East China Sea, Abe said, "The environment surrounding isolated islands and territorial waters has become more severe than ever."

"I pay my respects to you for fulfilling your duties under constant pressure," Abe said. China calls the Senkaku islets Diaoyu and claims them as its own territory.

Kyodo News

## Cambodia's Khmer Rouge court says Vietnam, Thailand fail to cooperate

PHNOM PENH, 20 July — The United Nations-backed tribunal for trying former Khmer Rouge leaders said on Monday that Vietnam and Thailand have failed to cooperate with its investigations despite repeated requests.

In a statement, the Office of the Co-Investigating Judges of the Extraordinary Chambers in the Courts of Cambodia said it had written several letters to Vietnam and Thailand, asking them to provide relevant documents as well as access to archives that may contain such documents.

"Unfortunately, these efforts have proved futile," the statement said. "To date neither...Vietnam nor...Thailand have cooperated with the Office of the Co-Investigating Judges."

The office asked the two countries for cooperation in investigating two of the cases it handles involving a combined five suspects over a series of alleged violation of Cambodian penal law, international humanitarian law and custom, and international conventions recognized by Cambodia during the late 1970s.

Under existing rules of the tribunal, the office can ask countries that are not a party to the agreement between the United Nations and Cambodia to provide assistance to its investigations.

The office sent letters to Vietnam and Thailand in November 2013, requesting each for documents related to the investigations and access to archives, and wrote again to both governments in 2014 and 2015 to urge them to respond to its earlier requests.

As neither country has provided cooperation yet,

the office urged them "in the interests of justice, to comply fully with the outstanding requests for assistance."

The tribunal, established in 2006, has so far convicted and completed all proceedings against one Khmer Rouge leader, Kaing Guek Eav, also known as Duch, who headed the notorious S-21 prison. He was sentenced to life in prison.

The Khmer Rouge is blamed for the deaths of at least 1.7 million Cambodians from 1975 to 1979.

Kyodo News

# Obama sends Iran deal to wary Congress, Israel urges rejection

TEHRAN / WASHINGTON, 20 July — President Barack Obama's administration sent a nuclear agreement with Teheran to Congress on Sunday and Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu urged US lawmakers to reject a deal he said would only feed an "Iranian terror machine".

In a first concrete sign of European determination to quickly rebuild economic and political ties with Iran after a 12-year standoff, German Economy Minister Sigmar Gabriel arrived in Teheran with an economic delegation. Other European powers were expected to follow.

Obama has promised to exercise his veto if Congress rejects the deal, which curbs Iran's nuclear programme while allowing an easing of economic sanctions.

Overriding it would require a two-thirds majority of both the House of Representatives and Senate, so the administration is work-



US President Barack Obama

ing to win over enough of Obama's fellow Democrats to offset strong Republican opposition.

In an unusual move, Obama took three Democratic congressman golfing with him: Joe Courtney of Connecticut, Ed Perlmutter of Colorado and John Yarmuth of Kentucky. The president more often taps aides and friends for weekend golfing.

"I think the right thing to do is merely not to go

ahead with this deal," Netanyahu said on CBS's "Face the Nation" as he continued a string of US media interviews denouncing the deal reached on Tuesday between Iran and six major powers.

"There are many things to be done to stop Iran's aggression and this deal is not one of them," he said.

US Defence Secretary Ash Carter, arriving in Israel on the first visit by a US cabinet official since the

agreement, told reporters on his aircraft: "I'm not going to change anybody's mind in Israel. That's not the purpose of my trip."

"Friends can disagree but we have decades of rock-solid cooperation with Israel."

Carter is also touring Jordan and Saudi Arabia, which both eye the prospect of increasing Iranian influence in the region with some suspicion.

Teheran denies Western and Israeli accusations it has been using a research programme as cover for ambitions to develop atomic weapons. President Hassan Rouhani said on Saturday he expected the deal would lead to closer relations with Teheran's neighbours in the Gulf region, while Supreme Leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei said Iran remained at odds with the West.

It was on Khamenei's words that Netanyahu seized, speaking to his cab-

inet on Sunday.

"The Iranians are not even trying to hide the fact they will take advantage of the hundreds of billions they will receive via the agreement to arm their terror machine," he said. "And they say explicitly they will continue their struggle against the United States and its allies, Israel of course above all."

Germany's Gabriel, due to meet President Hassan Rouhani and several ministers, told German newspaper *Bild* he would use his three-day trip to suggest Germany could serve as a mediator between Iran and arch-enemy Israel. He said he would insist the Iranian government recognise Israel's right to exist.

"Really stable, good relationships with Germany will only be able to develop if this is accepted in Iranian politics. I will keep making that clear during my trip to Iran," Gabriel said in comments due to be published

on Monday.

British Prime Minister David Cameron said world powers could now press Teheran on other issues such as its involvement in Syria in support of President Bashar al-Assad. "We shouldn't be naïve or starry eyed in any way about the regime that we're dealing with," he said in an interview with NBC News.

Opponents of the deal argue it does not provide enough supervision of Iran's nuclear programme.

Secretary of State John Kerry, who led the US delegation to the talks with Iran, was asked on "Fox News Sunday with Chris Wallace" why the deal did not provide for inspections anywhere anytime. "The fact is, that in arms control, there is no country anywhere on this planet that has 'anywhere, anytime'," he said. "There is no such standard. There is no such standard within arms control inspections."

Reuters

## New Zealanders back curb on junk food marketing to children: survey

WELLINGTON, 20 July — Most New Zealanders would back government actions to restrict the marketing of unhealthy food to children, according to the results of a survey out on Monday.

The independent poll showed 73 percent of adults supported controls in New Zealand, which has no government regulation of the marketing of sugary and junk food to children and has the third highest rate of childhood obesity among wealthy countries. The poll of 1,620 New Zealanders, commissioned by the University of Auckland's School of Population Health, asked if they would be in favor of stronger restrictions on advertizing and promotion to children.

Forty-one percent said they would be strongly in favour and 32 percent somewhat in favour of restrictions.

It also found strong majorities in favour of regulating of unhealthy food and drink promotions in television advertizing, website games and competitions, and in children's sports activities.

"This finding is not surprising," Prof Boyd Swinburn said in a statement.

"Parents do not like having to say 'No' to their children all the time. The pester power that the marketing to children creates really undermines parents' efforts to give their children a healthy diet."

The cost of obesity in New Zealand was estimated at 1 billion NZ dollars

(651.5 million US dollars) per year for healthcare and lost productivity caused by obesity related illnesses such as diabetes, heart disease and some cancers.

Regulation was usually one of the top cost-effective strategies to reduce childhood obesity, said Swinburn.

A World Health Organization (WHO) Commission to End Childhood Obesity, led by the New Zealand Prime Minister's chief science advisor, Prof Peter Gluckman, had issued an interim report calling for much stronger government-led restrictions, and WHO Director General Dr Margaret Chan had also called for "regulatory and statutory approaches" to food marketing.

Xinhua

## Australia sights first asylum vessel in two years off west coast: media

SYDNEY, 20 July — A small vessel believed to be carrying asylum seekers was seen off Australia's remote west coast on Monday, the Australian Broadcasting Corp (ABC) reported, the first sighting of a boat carrying would-be refugees close to shore in two years.

Australia has vowed to stop asylum seekers reaching its shores, turning boats back to Indonesia when it can and sending those it cannot to camps in impoverished Papua New Guinea and Nauru in the South Pacific for long-term detention.

Australia's Department of Immigration routinely does not comment on "on water" operations, so it was not immediately possible to verify the ABC report.

The ABC cited a source within the federal government confirming the sighting of the boat near Dampier,

about 1,500 km (930 miles) north of Perth. A police boat was being sent to intercept the vessel, it reported.

The last asylum-seeker vessel to come so close to the Australian mainland was a boat carrying 17 people from Vietnam, which arrived in late July 2013 at a floating oil platform located about 200 km (125 miles) from Dampier.

Those asylum seekers were the last to be taken to the Australian territory of Christmas Island for processing before former Labour prime minister Kevin Rudd declared a new policy of offshore processing.

Asylum seekers have long been a lightning-rod political issue in Australia, although it has never received anywhere near the number of refugees currently flooding into Europe in an effort to flee growing insta-

bility in North Africa.

No one processed for asylum in Nauru or Papua New Guinea is eligible to be settled in Australia, even if they are found to be a genuine refugee, under the harsh policies introduced by Rudd and strengthened by the current conservative government.

The United Nations and human rights groups have criticized Australia over its tough asylum-seeker policies. Conservative Prime Minister Tony Abbott has defended the measures as necessary to stop deaths at sea.

In June, reports that Australia paid people-smugglers bound for Australia thousands of dollars to turn their boat back to Indonesia caused tensions with Jakarta, plunging relations to their lowest point in more than a year.—Reuters

## Japan, N Korea had secret talks on abduction issue in May in Mongolia

ULAN BATOR, 20 July — Japan and North Korea held secret talks in mid-May in Ulan Bator over North Korea's abductions of Japanese nationals decades ago, a diplomatic source in Mongolia said on Sunday.

Officials of the two countries met secretly before what Japan viewed

as the one-year deadline on 4 July for completing the North Korean probe. North Korea told Japan on 2 July it needed more time to complete the investigation, according to the Japanese government.

The investigation is the third that Pyongyang has promised to conduct, following probes in 2002

and 2004 that Japan found unconvincing.

Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe sent an aide to Mongolia in mid-May to seek its help in getting North Korea to clarify what became of Japanese nationals it abducted in the 1970s and 1980s, a source familiar with Japan-North Korea relations said.

Chances are high that the aide, one of Abe's executive secretaries, joined the secret talks.

In July last year, North Korea launched a comprehensive investigation into all Japanese residing in the country in return for Tokyo lifting some sanctions. The probe included a reinvestigation into the

12 Japanese citizens officially listed by Tokyo as abduction victims who are still missing.

On Sunday, Shota-ro Yachi, Abe's key foreign policy adviser who heads the secretariat of Japan's National Security Council, held talks in the Mongolian capital with Tsagaandari Enkhtuvshin,

secretary of Mongolia's National Security Council.

The Mongolian official told reporters he promised Yachi that Ulan Bator will continue to serve as a mediator for the settlement of the abduction issue. Mongolia has diplomatic ties with North Korea, while Japan does not.

Kyodo News

## US, Cuba quietly open historic new chapter in post-Cold War ties

WASHINGTON, 20 July — The United States and Cuba quietly ushered in a new era of post-Cold War relations on Monday, formally restoring diplomatic ties severed more than five decades ago and re-establishing embassies in each other's capitals.

Just past the stroke of midnight, the two countries reached a new milestone in the historic thaw that began with a breakthrough announcement by US President Barack Obama and Cuban President Raul Castro on 17 December.

Foreign Minister Bruno Rodriguez will preside around 10:30 am (3.30 pm BST) over the raising of the Cuban flag for the first time

in 54 years over a mansion that will again serve as Havana's embassy in Washington.

The hugely symbolic event will be followed by a meeting at the State Department between Secretary of State John Kerry and Rodriguez, the first Cuban foreign minister on an official visit to Washington since the 1959 Cuban Revolution.

While the Cubans hold their ceremony, the US Embassy in Havana will also reopen. But no American flag will fly there until a visit by Kerry expected next month. "We wanted the secretary to be there to oversee these important events," a State Department official said.



A tricycle taxi with a US flag is parked on a street in Havana on 19 July, 2015.—REUTERS

Differences remain and efforts toward full normalization between the United States and the Communist-ruled island are expected to proceed slowly. Monday's steps culminated more than two years of negotia-

tions between governments that had long shunned each other.

More than 500 people will attend the Cubans' festivities in Washington, including members of Congress. No invitations went

out to hardline anti-Castro lawmakers. The US delegation will be headed by Assistant Secretary of State Roberta Jacobson.

Kerry and Rodriguez last met in April at the Summit of the Americas in Panama, where Obama and Castro also held talks. Aides see the outreach to Cuba as a boost to Obama's legacy.

The re-establishment of embassies, agreed to on 1 July, opens a new chapter of engagement by easing government contacts heavily constrained since the United States broke off relations in 1961.

A full-service US mission in Havana could offer some reassurance to compa-

nies interested in investing in Cuba and also help seed the way for more — although still heavily restricted — travel to the island by American citizens.

The normalization process has been slowed by lingering disputes, including over human rights, as well as Havana's desire to keep a tight rein on its society and state-run economy. A US economic embargo against Cuba will remain in place, and only Congress can lift it. Even so, before dawn on Monday, the State Department planned to hang a Cuban flag in its lobby among the banners of other countries with which Washington has relations.—Reuters

## Greek banks reopen as Tsipras eyes return to normal

ATHENS, 20 July — Greeks queued outside banks on Monday as they reopened three weeks after closing to stop the system collapsing, the first cautious sign of a return to normal after a deal to start talks on a new package of bailout reforms.

However limits on withdrawals will remain and payments and wire transfers abroad will still not be possible — a situation which German Chancellor Angela Merkel said on Sunday was "not a normal life" and warranted swift negotiations on a new bailout, expected to be worth up to 86 billion euros.

The stock market will also remain closed until further notice. Increases in value added tax agreed under the bailout terms have also taken effect with VAT on food and public transport jumping to 23 percent from 13 percent.

The bank closures were the most visible sign of the crisis that took Greece to the brink of falling out of the euro earlier this month, potentially undermining the foundations of the single European currency.

Their reopening followed Tsipras acceptance of a tough package of bailout demands from European partners but a party revolt has threatened the stability of his government and government officials have said that new elections may be held as early as September or October.

Queues formed outside bank branches in central Athens as long-suffering Greeks waited to take care of business frozen during the three week-long bank holiday. "Things are better than the last few weeks. Thank God we didn't end up with the drachma!" said 62-year-old pensioner Maria Papadopoulou. "I came to pay bills and my taxes today. Last week I couldn't and all of this is very tiring for the older people like me."

Limits on cash withdrawals have been made slightly more flexible, with a weekly limit of 420 euros in place of the daily 60 euro limit previously.

"Capital controls and restrictions on withdrawals will remain in place but we are entering a new stage

which we all hope will be one of normality," said Louka Katseli, head of the Greek bank association.

Greeks will be able to deposit cheques but not cash, pay bills as well as have access to safety deposit boxes and withdraw money without an ATM card.

Bankers said there may be minor disruptions after the three-week interruption to services but they expected services to resume largely as normal.

"I don't expect major problems, our network and the network of our competitors are ready to serve our clients," said a senior official at Piraeus Bank, one of the big four lenders. "There might be lines because many people will want to withdraw money from their deposit boxes," the official said. After European authorities agreed last week to provide emergency funding assistance, Athens is expected to meet a payment deadline for 4.2 billion euros, including interest payments, due to the European Central Bank on Monday.

Reuters

People make transactions at a counter inside a Piraeus Bank branch at the city of Iraklio in the island of Crete, Greece on 20 July, 2015.  
REUTERS



Admiral Scott Swift

SEOUL, 20 July — A top US Navy admiral said he joined a routine surveillance flight over the disputed South China Sea on Saturday and that the US was committed to freedom of navigation in the region.

Admiral Scott Swift, commander of the US Pacific Fleet, confirmed at a press roundtable in Seoul on Monday that he had been aboard the seven-hour flight of a Boeing P-8 surveillance plane, but gave no specific details about the flight. In May, Beijing called a P-8 surveillance flight carrying a CNN team over the South China Sea "irresponsible and dangerous". Swift said his flight was routine, like the earlier CNN flight, and did not say if China responded to Saturday's patrol.

China's defence and

## US Admiral says his South China Sea surveillance flight 'routine'

foreign ministries did not immediately respond to a request for comment.

"We have forces deployed throughout the region to demonstrate the United States commitment to freedom of navigation," said Swift, adding the flight allowed him to see "first-hand" new operational capabilities in the fleet.

Swift said communications with China at sea were "positive and structured". "They're normalized, if you will," he said. China has almost finished building a 3,000-metre-long (10,000-foot) airstrip on one of its artificial islands in the disputed Spratly archipelago of the South China Sea, according to satellite imagery of the area. Beijing claims most of the South China Sea, with the Philippines, Vietnam, Malaysia and others holding overlapping claims.

Washington has demanded China halt land reclamation and militarization

of the disputed area and to pursue a peaceful resolution according to international law. China stepped up its creation of artificial islands last year, alarming several countries in Asia and drawing criticism from Washington. Beijing says the outposts will have undefined military purposes, as well as help with maritime search and rescue, disaster relief and navigation.

"There are forces of instability at play in the region, and that's generating uncertainty," said Swift, without giving details.

"I wish I had a crystal ball that I look into the future and see. I am concerned about the forces of detribalization that appear to be more current here in the theater," he said. "And that's what I hear from my friends in the region as I communicate with them... The lack of certainty - the growing uncertainty of those countries in the region".—Reuters

## EU regulations cost UK asset managers two billion pounds a year

LONDON, 20 July — Complying with European Union regulations costs British asset managers 2 billion pounds (\$3.13 billion) a year and the EU should find ways to cut managers' costs when they sell their funds across the bloc, a report said on Monday. EU regulations allow fund managers to sell their products across national borders, which is positive for both the asset managers and investors, the report from think-tank Open Europe and fund management trade body New City Initiative said. But it said the start-up and running costs of the so-called "passport" system were a deterrent for some

fund managers.

"The EU should ensure that European asset managers are not bogged down by disproportionate EU regulation and can take full advantage of the single market without facing extra costs when distributing their funds across the 28 EU member states," the report said.

The report estimated that a UK-based fund manager marketing and distributing in all the other 27 EU member states plus Switzerland would face total initial costs of over 1.5 million euros (\$1.63 million).

On-going costs could approach 1.4 million euros a year, it added.

The report recommended removing these "national hurdles" to the marketing of funds across Europe, for instance by cutting the requirement to appoint local paying agents in member states or to translate investor documents into local languages.

It also opposed EU proposals to ban fund managers from receiving brokers' investment research as part of the dealing commissions they pay, which are then charged to the funds' clients.

"An outright ban would have a disproportionate impact on smaller asset managers — and may even force some of them out of business." —Reuters

## WORLD

## Briton jailed in US for supporting Taliban is released

LONDON, 20 July — A British man who was last year sentenced by a US court to 12-1/2 years in prison after pleading guilty to running a website that supported the Taliban, has been released, his family said on Sunday.

Babar Ahmad's sentence included 10 years he had already served. US prosecutors had said his crimes included recruiting fighters for the Taliban and al-Qaeda in the run-up to the 11 September, 2001, attacks on New York City and Washington.

But the judge who sentenced Ahmad said she

had not given him the maximum penalty of 25 years as she did not believe he had been directly involved with al-Qaeda and was not at risk of being involved in future crimes.

"We, the family of Babar Ahmad, are delighted to announce that ... Babar has returned home to us after 11 years in prison," his family said in a statement.

Ahmad was extradited from Britain in 2012 along with a second man, Syed Talha Ahsan. Both were charged in Connecticut as authorities argued they used an Internet service provider in the state to run

at least one of their websites. Ahmad's lawyers had argued that while he tried to help Muslims under attack in Bosnia and Chechnya through his publications in the 1990s, he regretted supporting the Taliban and condemned the 11 September attacks.

"Eleven years of solitary confinement and isolation in ten different prisons has been an experience too profound to sum up in a few words here and now," Ahmad said. "In time, I look forward to sharing reflections on my experience to help inform others."

Reuters



Babar Ahmad (R), a British national accused of operating a website that promoted jihad and supported al-Qaeda, is pictured in this courtroom sketch in the US District Court in New Haven, Connecticut on 10 Dec, 2013. —REUTERS

## US troops mistakenly attack Afghan army checkpoint, killing eight

KABUL, 20 July — At least eight Afghan army soldiers were feared killed and five others wounded after US forces of the NATO-led Resolute Support mission attacked a security checkpoint mistakenly by an air raid in eastern Logar Province on Monday morning, local sources said.

"Helicopters of the US forces bombed an army security checkpoint in Chelton locality of Baraki Barak district at wee hours of the day, causing eight soldiers killed and five others wounded," a provincial source told *Xinhua* anonymously.

The incident occurred as a result of a "friendly fire and that the reality is that while unlucky, this is always a risk during compound combat situations during

fighting against insurgents," the source said, adding that details will be unveiled following an ongoing investigation into the incident.

General Zahir Azimi, Afghan defence ministry spokesman, said on his twitter account that "a number of national army personnel were killed and wounded after a checkpoint was destroyed in Baraki Barak of Logar as a result of coalition forces' firing."

He also said a joint investigation was launched following the attack in the province with Pul-e-Alam as its capital, some 60 km south of Afghan capital. The Province has been the scene of heavy clashes between security forces and Taliban militants over the past couple of months.—*Xinhua*

## Libyan planes sink ship, attack another near Benghazi

BENGHAZI, 20 July — Libyan war planes on Sunday sank one ship and attacked a second vessel near the eastern city of Benghazi, military spokesmen for the country's internationally recognized government said on Monday.

There was no eyewitness report or independent confirmation for the strike near the town of Mareesa that was also reported by the Dubai-based Al-Arabiya television network.

"The vessel was sunk because it had loaded fighters, weapons and ammunition to support terrorism in the eastern region," air force spokesman Nasser al-Hassi

said early on Monday.

Mohamed El Hejazi, a spokesman for Khalifa Haftar, top army commander of the official government based in eastern Libya, said the strike had also targeted a second vessel which had been carrying weapons in the same area.

A *Reuters* reporter had on Sunday war heard planes circling above Benghazi, which is about 20 km (12 miles) from Mareesa.

Tripoli-based state oil firm NOC has accused the eastern government of having three times bombed oil tankers that the eastern forces had said carried weapons and ammunition.—*Reuters*

## Houthi bombardment in Yemen's Aden kills 43 — exiled government

ADEN, 20 July — A bombardment in Aden by the Houthi militia and forces loyal to former president Ali Abdullah Saleh killed 43 people and injured 173 on Sunday, the health ministry of Yemen's exiled government said two days after declaring the city had been liberated.

Clashes continued in the city's northern districts of Dar al-Saad and Sabr, and in Maashiq in Crater district as local fighters backed by the Riyadh-based government

and a Saudi-led Arab coalition pushed to seize remaining parts of Aden.

Those fighters and Yemeni army forces loyal to exiled President Abd-Rabbu Mansour Hadi seized Aden's airport and other central areas in a sudden advance last week that broke months of deadlock in the city.

Their advance was aided by Gulf efforts to train and equip Yemeni army forces loyal to Hadi and transport them to Aden, Yemen's second largest

city and home to the main seaport.

Local fighters in Aden have been supported by coalition air strikes for nearly four months, but often fly the flag of a southern Yemen separatist movement rather than voicing loyalty to Hadi's exiled government. The Saudi-led coalition began its campaign on 26 March, bidding to reverse months of advances by the Houthis after they moved from their northern stronghold last year, capturing the capital Sanaa and

pushing south to Aden.

Riyadh fears its main enemy Iran will use its alliance with the Houthis to project influence into the kingdom's southern neighbour, ultimately threatening the Saudi border.

It also believes the advance of the Shi'ite Muslim Houthis will aggravate sectarian violence in Yemen, further undermining the country's stability and allowing jihadist groups like al-Qaeda to consolidate there before targeting Saudi Arabia.—*Reuters*

## Six foreign jihadists killed in Syria air strike — Observatory

BEIRUT, 20 July — One senior Tunisian Islamic State leader alongside five other foreign jihadists were killed in an air strike near the northeastern city of Hasaka, the Syrian Observatory for Human Rights reported on Monday.

The Observatory, which gathers its information from an activist network on the ground, said the fighter jets hit a car carrying the foreign militants in a location near a village called Faouj al-Maylabeih in the southern countryside of the city.

The monitor said it was not clear whether the air strike in Hasaka province was carried out by the Syrian army or a US-led

coalition that is mounting a separate aerial campaign against Islamic State in Syria.

The United States said earlier this month it had intensified an aerial campaign against Islamic State in Syria with a wave of strikes in and around Raqqa city, the de facto capital of the militants' self-declared caliphate in parts of Syria and Iraq.

The Syrian army and militia fighting alongside it are mounting a separate campaign against Islamic State in the region that borders Turkey to the north and Iraq to the east.

The ultra-hardline Islamic State is fighting in Hasaka Province against

both pro-government forces and Syrian Kurdish fighters who have received air support from the US-led coalition.

They have also continued to stage lightning attacks inside the city of Hasaka, although they were driven out of some districts after they mounted a major offensive that failed last month.

That offensive attempted to capture the provincial capital of the oil and grain producing province of Syria.

The city is divided into zones run separately by the government of President Bashar al Assad and a Kurdish administration.

Reuters

## Four Italians kidnapped in Libya: Italy foreign ministry

ROME, 20 July — Four Italian citizens have been kidnapped in Libya, the Italian foreign ministry said on Monday. The four employees of construction company Bonatti were kidnapped near a compound owned by Italian oil and gas group Eni in the Mel-litah area, the ministry said in a statement. Italy closed its embassy in Libya in February as the North African country sunk further into violence, with two rival governments operating their own armed forces under separate parliaments, four years after a civil war that ousted leader Muammar Gaddafi.—*Reuters*

## PERSPECTIVES

Tuesday, 21 July, 2015

## Farmers need agricultural insurance policies

By Aung Khin

**T**orrential rains in many areas of Myanmar pose problems for residents. Although natural disasters cannot be prevented, their consequences can be reduced through response and recovery programmes, as well as rehabilitation projects.

Local government emergency services are responsible for the initial response to disasters with the help of state and volunteer agencies, followed by the contributions of respective departments, providing search and rescue, elec-

tricity, food, water, shelter and other fundamental needs.

Heavy rains have persisted from the second week of July in many areas of Myanmar and have caused floods in some regions and states. Flooded areas have been evacuated and evacuees provided with accommodation at temporary relief camps.

Locals will suffer certain consequences from disasters in varying degrees. While there have been no deaths reported, farmlands are sure to be left damaged after floods. To help farmers hit by floods, a crop insurance scheme should be launched in Myanmar at a reasonable price. This programme should be set up by the respective ministries and financial institutions to prevent a monopoly by a private firm.

In some neighbouring countries, insurance policies on paddy fields cover damage incurred from natural disasters, as well as pests and epidemics. In these countries, farmers purchase crop insurance to protect themselves against either the

loss of their crops due to disasters such as drought and floods, or from other sources of damage, such as wild elephants.

Insurance policy for in-season paddy fields should be compulsory to all farmers who receive subsidies for fertilizers. For example, farmers who purchase fertilizers may be required to pay a compulsory premium to become a policy holder of the insurance scheme.

Such an insurance scheme should be included in the recovery plan for farmers to reduce their burdens caused by natural disasters.

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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.

## LEADERSHIP FOR DEMOCRACY

Kyri Mun

Not the cry, but the flight of the wild duck prompts the flock to fly and to follow.

- A Chinese Proverb

Democracy means:

Greek: demos, the people; kratein, to rule: meaning Government by the people.

Leadership means: (1) The position of being the leader of a team, organization etc.

(2) Burns took over the leadership of the party. The quality of being good at leading a team, organization, country etc. e.g. *someone with vision and leadership*. (3) All the people who lead a group, organization etc. e.g. *The party leadership are in agreement on this matter*. (4) The position of being in front of others in a competition. e.g. *the company's leadership in robot technology*.

Now, let us explore for some more meanings of leadership in the following manner:

**L for Love of the country as the Ruling Passion**  
**E for Economic Development & Modernization**  
**A for Able & Willing Participation of the People**  
**D for Dynamic Mobilization of the Resources**  
**E for Educational & Environmental Development**  
**R for Revolutionary Reforms**  
**S for Strategic Core Competency Building**  
**H for Higher Purpose of Building Democracy**  
**I for Integrity-driven**  
**P for Peace, Progress, Prosperity for People, Planet & Posterity**

## LOVE OF THE COUNTRY AS THE RULING PASSION

The leadership at the vanguard of the democracy movement should have the love of the country as a ruling passion. They should also have the attributes of patriotism, altruism, loving-kindness and compassion for the people, especially for the poor and the haves-less. They should have the characteristics of high emotional intelligence and maturity of mind, such as passion and values, discipline and diligence, selflessness and service, and character and competence. It would be all the better if they have vision and strategy, too.

## ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT &amp; MODERNIZATION

The basic requirements of human existence are food, shelter, clothing and medicine. Economic development, here, means the development of the satisfaction of the material needs of people. One of the underlying reasons for building democracy is raising the living standards of the broad masses of the people including the national races and ethnic groups and communities. There is a popular saying in Myanmar to the effect that: "Only when your stomach is full, will you be able to have good morality". So, the leadership must be resolute, fear no sacrifice and surmount all

difficulties to win victories.

## ABLE &amp; WILLING PARTICIPATION OF THE PEOPLE

Without the broad-based involvement of the broad masses of the people, democracy movement cannot be successful. People will be the main beneficiaries of democratic rule. So, the people must be the main driving force behind the democracy movement. The broad masses of the people must be mobilized, organized, educated, and led in the culture of democracy in a big way. Democracy building should be people-centered and people-oriented, because the government under democracy must be government of the people, by the people, for the people.

## DYNAMIC MOBILIZATION OF THE RESOURCES

At the end of the day, the leadership must take the responsibility of dynamically mobilizing the national as well as the international resources of:

- Human resource
- Financial resource
- Technological resource
- Organizational resource
- Information (ICT) resource
- Material resource

The leadership should leave no stone unturned in going all out for attracting the international and regional: technical cooperation, development assistance and (FDI) investment in economic, finance, technological areas for the modernization of the country.

## EDUCATIONAL &amp; ENVIRONMENTAL DEVELOPMENT

The caliber of the leadership is very important in the national development and modernization endeavour. It is of utmost importance to awaken and educate the people. The broad masses of the people must be dynamically inspired to rise up and try to join the ranks of the economically and culturally developed countries of the world. Human conditions have to be transformed by the renewal of the people's minds.

## REVOLUTIONARY REFORMS

Revolution means: A great change in conditions, ways of working, beliefs etc. that affect large number of people: a cultural/ social/ scientific etc. revolution; *A revolution in information technology is taking place*.

Reform means: (1) To improve a system, an organization, a law etc, by making changes to it. (2) To improve our behavior; to make somebody do this. (3) Change that is made to a social system, an organization etc., in order to improve or correct it.

Revolutionary reforms must be made dynamically in the following areas:

- Political Reform
- Economic Reform
- Technological Reform
- Educational Reform

- Socio-cultural Reform
- Eco-environmental Reform

## STRATEGIC CORE COMPETENCY BUILDING

One of the most strategically important responsibilities of the leadership is to build The Core Competency of the People. Myanmar people must be made clear that they have got to leave the comfort zones in their lives and start entering into the combat zones of the winners. All the Myanmar People must leave behind:

- Arrogance
- Greed
- Complacency
- Myopia
- Inconsistency
- Apathy
- Inertia
- Ignorance

And start cultivating:

- A Burning Desire for Success
- Indomitable Spirit
- Unyielding Effort, and
- Insight Wisdom

## HIGHER PURPOSE OF BUILDING DEMOCRACY

The higher purpose of building democracy is: To help make all the Myanmar people: Decent People, enjoying decent living standards with peace, progress and prosperity. It is the ultimate responsibility of the leadership.

## INTEGRITY-DRIVEN

The entire leadership must be formed with the dynamic belief:

- To Serve the People with all their mind, with all their heart and with all their strength
- To Serve the Country with all their mind, with all their heart and with all their strength
- To Serve the Planet with all their mind, with all their heart and with all their strength

Properly taking into account the human and social responsibility of protecting the planet from all harmful afflictions.

## PEACE, PROGRESS &amp; PROSPERITY FOR PEOPLE, PLANET AND POSTERITY

The leadership must possess the sincerest spirit of pursuing to the best of their utmost abilities Peace, Progress and Prosperity for the People, Planet and Posterity! This should be the leadership's strategic vision. The whole leadership must go all-out and aim high in this historical mission, giving every bit of themselves, holding nothing back.

## CONCLUSION

The leadership for democracy must have the resolute determination and the ardent capabilities to turn heaven and earth upside down in leading Myanmar into a fully developed and modernized democratic country.

All's well that ends well.

Long live democracy!

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



NATIONAL

## Kyaukpadaung Tsp lays gravel on two earthen roads

KYAUKPADAUNG, 20 July — The Kyaukpadaung Township Rural Development Department is laying gravel on two earthen roads as part of its programme to improve transport infrastructure.

The department has spent K85 million upgrading the 2-mile Kyaukpadaung-Myingyan-Natkanle Road, commencing work in July 2014.

Work to upgrade the

3-mile Kyanay-aing-Kan-gon Road begins at the end of this month. The department allocated K128 million for road works to link Kyaukpadaung-Myingyan Road.

Recently, Head of Township Rural Development Department Daw Myint Win and officials inspected progress of upgrading tasks on the two roads.

*Ko Nay (Kyaukpadaung)*



## Media, CSOs can help keep companies ...

(from page 1)  
in Myanmar Enterprises second report 2015 in Yangon.

“I would like to call on local media and CSOs to do check whether the promises have been delivered well or broken, and inform the MCRB of the findings,” the director told the The Global New Light of Myanmar.

According to the centre’s second report, Serge Pun and Associates (SPA) was listed as the most open Myanmar company while second and third place belonged to Max Myanmar and KBZ companies.

The report said SPA jumped to first place from ninth last year, Max Myanmar moved to second from

third, but KBZ, which was previously ranked first, fell to third place.

The leading transparent companies made actual financial data including taxes and environmental and social impact assessments available to the public, it said.

The MCRB said its study compared public information on 100 major companies and scored them on corporate governance and business practices concerning anti-corruption, organizational transparency and human rights, health, safety and the environment.

It bases scores on information published by the companies, and is not an assessment of their actual performance, added the MCRB.

“Thirty-nine of 100 companies surveyed have no website and around 40 more who have group to

subsidiary websites publish little or no corporate governance and sustainability information,” said Ms Bowman, formerly the British Ambassador to Myanmar.

Smart, Parami, and Myanmar Petroleum Resources Limited (MPRL) in the country’s oil and gas service sector are showing themselves to be transparency leaders among their Myanmar peers, she said.

The MCRB also made a recommendation to the government for non-financial information to be pub-

lished by larger Myanmar companies and an annual sustainability report by investing companies granted permits by the Myanmar Investment Commission, she added.

The MCRB, a Yangon-based initiative funded by a number of European countries, aims to improve knowledge, capacity and dialogue concerning responsible business in Myanmar. Its first report on transparency came out in 2014, and it expects to repeat its survey in 2016.

GNLM

Officials of Rural Development Department inspect upgrading of road.

## Myanmar negotiates release of ...

(from page 1)

two representatives from the Myanmar Embassy in New Delhi and the Myanmar Consulate in Kolkata will go to the camp to verify the identities of fishermen held there.

Thanks to the collaborative efforts of the Ministry of Home Affairs, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the Ministry of Labour, Employment and Social Security and International Organization of Migration (IOM), a total of 514 trafficked Myanmar citizens earlier this year returned home from Indonesia’s Benjina Island.

MNA

## National forum targets universal health coverage by 2030

By Khaing Thanda Lwin

YANGON, 20 July — A national conference in Nay Pyi Taw later this month will discuss strategies toward implementing universal health coverage in Myanmar by the year 2030, one of its organizers said Monday.

The first-ever Myanmar Health Forum will take

place 28-29 at Myanmar International Convention Centre II, Health Ministry permanent secretary Prof Thet Khine Win said.

The forum will highlight the need for huge investments in the health sector, he said, adding it will provide an opportunity for those involved in the sector

to have their say.

Experts will share their experience and views on development of the health sector through plenary talks.

Around 700 people from the health ministry and related ministries, international development partners, INGOs, NGOs and civil society organizations, are expected to attend the two-day forum, a health

ministry official said.

Local and foreign CSOs are holding a civil society consultation meeting ahead of the forum from 20-22 July in Yangon.

“The results of the meeting will be presented to the health forum,” said Dr Sid Naing of Marie Stopes International, an NGO focused on current health situation in Myanmar.

Dr Theingi Myint, Director of the Maternal and Reproductive Health Unit, Public Health Department, said Myanmar has seen a drop in the number of infectious disease outbreaks, but maternal and child mortality rates remain high.

Myanmar’s infant mortality rate is 62 per 1,000 live births while the mortality rate for children under five is 72 per 1,000 live births according to the 2014 nationwide census. The highest mortality rates are reported in Magway and Ayeyawady regions, as well as Chin State.

“An inadequate number of medical staff is one of the major challenges Myanmar is facing,” Dr Theingi Myint said.

## Myanmar signs International Covenant on Education, Social and Cultural Rights

NAY PYI TAW, 20 July — Myanmar signed a core international human rights treaty namely International Covenant on Education, Social and Cultural Rights (ICESCR) on 16 July 2015.

The signing ceremony was held at Legal Affairs Department at the United Nations Headquarters in New York and it was signed by Ambassador U Kyaw Tin, Permanent Representative of Myanmar to the United Nations.

According to the UN data, a total of 164 countries have already ratified the convention, to date.

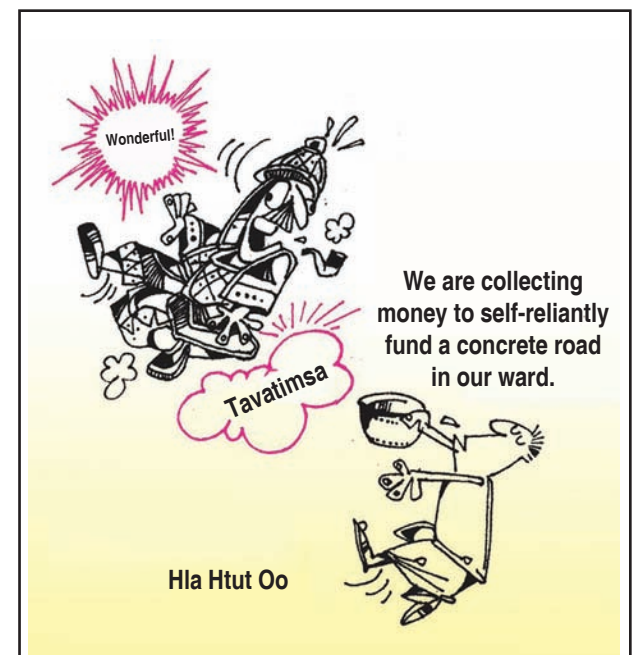
Since Myanmar has already signed the convention, ratification process will be done accordingly. Necessary domestic process for the implementation of the obligations deriving from the convention will be carried out in line with the national interest. It was learnt from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs.—MNA



Local and foreign CSOs and officials from the health ministry gather at a civil society consultation meeting on health.

PHOTO: KHAING THANDA LWIN

GNLM



Hla Htut Oo

# Dollar on the rise, gold melts to five-year low

SYDNEY, 20 July — The US dollar held firm in Asia on Monday as investors looked ahead to higher interest rates from the Federal Reserve, while gold slumped to five-year lows as a lack of global inflation left little to hedge against.

The precious metal ran into a wave of selling in Asia that drove it down almost 4 percent at one stage to as deep as \$1,088.05 an ounce. It was last at \$1,107.70.

“It looks like someone was taking advantage of the low liquidity environment at the moment. It’s a bit of speculative selling going on,” said Victor Thi-anpiriya, analyst at ANZ Bank in Singapore.

Nearly 900,000 lots were traded on a key con-

tract on the Shanghai Gold Exchange, compared to less than 27,000 lots on Friday, *Reuters* data showed. Prior to Monday, volume for July had averaged less than 30,000 lots.

Activity was light elsewhere with Japan on holiday and a dearth of major data in the diary, leading to a cautious session for stocks in Asia. Financial spreadbetters expected European bourses to open with gains of 0.1 to 0.2 percent.

Australia’s main index edged up 0.2 percent, but MSCI’s broadest index of Asia-Pacific shares outside Japan slipped 0.5 percent.

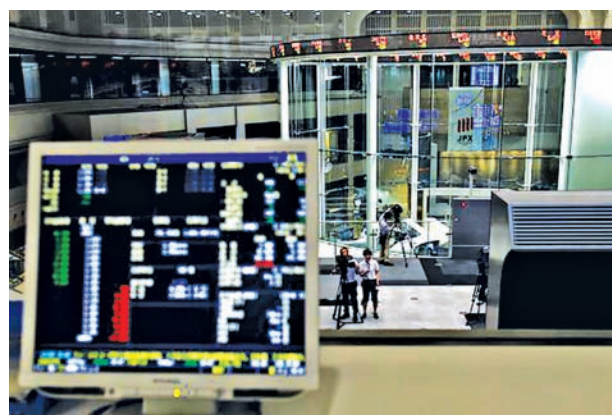
There was better news from China where home prices rose for a second month in a row in June,

suggesting government efforts to boost the struggling property sector have started to gain traction.

China stocks seem to have pulled out of their recent nosedive amid a barrage of measures from regulators and buying by brokerages and mutual funds.

The Shanghai Composite Index was all but flat on the day, while the CSI300 index of the largest listed companies in Shanghai and Shenzhen dipped 0.6 percent. Greek banks are set to reopen on Monday after a three-week shutdown, while German Chancellor Angela Merkel called for swift aid talks so Athens could also lift withdrawal limits.

With Greece fading



A videographer films an electronic board showing the Japan's Nikkei average and related indexes is seen next to a computer showing the market indexes at the Tokyo Stock Exchange (TSE) in Tokyo, Japan, on 9 July, 2015.—REUTERS

from the limelight, markets focussed on the relative outperformance of the US economy and nudged the euro near to its lowest in seven weeks at \$1.0822.

A break of the May

trough around \$1.0818/19 would likely embolden bears to head for the April lows at \$1.0521. “For now, with an agreement on the cards and Greece currently adhering to creditors’ de-

mands, it appears markets can move on and focus on other things,” say analysts at ANZ. “Solid US data and further easing of global market stresses has driven expectations that the Fed could start to normalise rates this year.”

That helped the dollar up to 124.15 yen, near its highest in around three weeks, while the dollar index of 97.998 is on ground last visited in April.

In commodity markets, oil was burdened by the prospect of increased exports from Iran now a deal has been struck to ease sanctions on the country. Brent crude was off 17 cents on Monday at \$56.93 a barrel, while US crude fell 25 cents to \$50.64.

*Reuters*

## Iowa chicks sent as far away as Brazil to evade deadly bird flu



Chicks free of the bird flu virus await purchasing at a feed and farm supply store in Houston, Texas, in this 24 Feb, 2004 file photo.—REUTERS

WEBSTER CITY, (Iowa), 20 July — Less than 24 hours after a deadly infection of bird flu was confirmed at a turkey farm north of Des Moines, Iowa, Bud Wood packed about 3,500 rare baby chicks into boxes and put them in the back of a truck.

With the delicate birds just hours old, the president of Murray McMurray

Hatchery hit the road around 1 am on a Saturday to drive through the night to a friend’s farm in Texas “just to have them in a safe place,” he said. Breeding chickens that are the valuable genetic source for egg-laying hens have gone into hiding as the outbreak of bird flu in poultry has developed into the worst animal-health emergency

in US history. Some have been relocated as far away as Brazil.

Wood’s breeding stock includes chickens with genetic lines that date back to the early 1900s. Some of the breeds are so rare, he said, that if they were ever wiped out by the flu, “even to find them and build them back up to bigger numbers would take a long time.”

So when turkeys about 13 kilometres (8 miles) from Wood’s hatchery in Webster City, Iowa, were infected, he scrambled to relocate his most precious birds. Wood made a “Noah’s Ark” list of breeds he had to move to safety, including male and female White Cochins which look like snowballs with masses of downy feathers, and Anconas, a breed with lustrous black plumage that originated in Italy. He plans to keep the chickens in Texas through next spring while he monitors the virus in the Iowa epicenter.

Bird flu has killed more than 48 million chickens and turkeys since December, with most of the losses affecting egg-laying hens in Iowa, the top egg-producer in the United States.

US egg prices have soared as a result. China halted imports of all US poultry products this year because of the outbreak, while other global buyers have imposed more limited restrictions on trade.

*Reuters*

## Oil edges lower as Saudi crude exports fall, US cuts drill rigs

SINGAPORE, 20 July — Oil prices edged lower on Monday as data showed Saudi Arabian exports fell to the lowest in five months despite record output, while a resurgence in US drilling activity seen earlier this month seemed to fizzle out.

Both international and US crude futures posted their third consecutive weekly losses last week on expectations of increased exports from Iran following a deal to ease sanctions against the OPEC producer.

Brent September crude LCOc1 was 14 cents lower at \$56.96 a barrel by 0708 GMT. The benchmark fell nearly 3 percent last week and more than 10 percent for the month.

US crude futures CLc1, also known as West Texas Intermediate (WTI), were down 7 cents at \$50.82 on Monday, after falling more than 3 percent last week and more than 14 percent in July. The August contract expires on Tuesday.

Saudi Arabia’s crude oil exports fell in May to their lowest since December, with official data showing daily shipments stood at 6.935 million barrels a day (bpd) compared with 7.737 million bpd in April.

The decline came despite record high output of over 10 million bpd as the Kingdom — traditionally the world’s biggest exporter of crude — transforms into one of the largest oil refining centres. In the United States,

drillers cut seven oil rigs last week, according to a closely watched report by Baker Hughes Inc (BHL.N).

“At current prices, shale is supremely challenged and demand could pose an upside surprise,” Barclays said in a note to clients.

Analysts at Goldman Sachs said that should WTI get back to a level seen last month around \$60 a barrel, “US producers will ramp up activity given improved returns with costs down nearly 30 percent and producers increasingly comfortable (with the current economics).” Schlumberger NV (SLB.N) said it is betting on an uptick in demand in coming quarters for oilfield services in North America, a market that has been battered by the steep drop in oil prices. Money managers cut their net long US crude futures and options positions in the week to July 14, the US Commodity Futures Trading Commission said on Friday.

Russian Energy Minister Alexander Novak said he will meet OPEC Secretary-General Abdullah al-Badri in Moscow on July 30 to discuss oil markets and the Iran situation. Britain’s North Sea Buzzard oilfield began ramping up on Friday after an outage on Wednesday. The outage was supportive to Brent as oil from the field contributes to the calculation of the futures price.—*Reuters*

## Kansai Electric eyes LNG tie-up with GDF Suez of France

OSAKA, 20 July — Kansai Electric Power Co. plans to join hands with French energy giant GDF Suez in procurement and marketing of liquefied natural gas, a source with knowledge of the matter said Monday.

The move, aimed at

lowering LNG procurement costs for Kansai Electric amid swelling fuel imports in the wake of the nuclear crisis triggered by the March 2011 earthquake and tsunami, is in the final stage of talks between the two companies and is expected to be an-

nounced as early as Tuesday, according to the source.

The planned tie-up is expected to cover extensive cooperation between Kansai Electric and GDF Suez, including joint operation of LNG ships and obtaining gas concessions,

the source said.

Kansai Electric, which inked an LNG sales and purchase agreement with a Singaporean affiliate of Britain’s BP plc. in May, plans to expand overseas LNG sales into a new pillar of its growth strategy.—*Kyodo News*

## SCIENCE &amp; TECHNOLOGY

## Toshiba accounting probe set to prompt board reshuffle, possible fines

TOKYO, 20 July — A probe into an accounting scandal at Toshiba Corp is expected to find that top management were responsible for failures on a company-wide scale, setting the stage for a board overhaul, results restatements and potentially hefty fines.

The summary report by an independent committee, due on Monday at 9 pm (1200 GMT), is likely to show faulty book-keeping led to profits being overstated by close to 170 billion yen (\$1.4 billion) over several years, people briefed on the probe said last week. That would be more than three times Toshiba's initial estimate.

It is also likely to lead eventually to 300-400 billion yen in charges related to overstated profits and various writedowns, other people familiar with the

matter said, although it was unclear how much of that would be booked for the business year that ended in March. Such numbers would significantly dent Toshiba's results. The semi-conductors-to-nuclear conglomerate reported just 50.8 billion yen in net profit for the previous financial year.

A Toshiba spokesman said the company was still waiting for the report and had not yet compiled estimates. The company is scheduled to hold a news conference on Tuesday.

Toshiba has not been able to close its books for the latest year because of the probe, which also forced the company to cancel its annual dividend.

The investigation comes as Japan's Prime Minister Shinzo Abe is trying to improve the country's corporate governance in or-

der to attract more foreign investors. This is the country's biggest business scandal since camera and medical-equipment maker Olympus Corp's 13-year cover-up of \$1.7 billion in losses blew up in late 2011.

The scandal also shakes a stalwart of Japanese industry, which has regularly supplied leaders to Japan's biggest business lobby. Toshiba remains Japan's 10<sup>th</sup>-biggest company by assets and market value despite its stock price falling 26 percent since the scandal surfaced in early April. It is Toshiba's second probe in less than two years. In October 2013 it announced it had found that subsidiary Toshiba Medical information Systems had overstated results for several years.

Company officials initially expected smaller overstatements than now appear likely, and had briefly considered an extraordinary dividend to make up for the missed payout. That now looks unlikely given the mounting problems.

Investigators have focused on the theory that executives, worried about the impact of the 2011 Fukushima disaster on its nuclear business, set overly aggressive targets for new operations such as smart meters and electronic toll booths, encouraging irregular book-keeping, according to sources. — Reuters



The logo of Toshiba Corp is seen as people are reflected on a window at the company's Hydrogen Energy R&D Center after its opening ceremony in Tokyo on 6 April, 2015.—REUTERS

## Seattle's long-broken tunnel-boring machine set to resume 23 November



Workers look on as they lift the machine head from Bertha, the world's largest tunnel-boring machine, from an access pit for repairs in Seattle, Washington on 30 March, 2015.—REUTERS

SEATTLE, 20 July — The world's largest-diameter tunneling machine could resume drilling under downtown Seattle in late November after repairs are completed, allowing a central part of a years-delayed highway project to go forward, Washington state officials said on Friday.

The broken machine, known as Bertha, stopped working in December 2013 after digging just 10 percent of a planned tunnel to replace an aging waterfront highway. It was stuck for more than a year underneath downtown Seattle.

The new timeline for replacing the busy Alaskan

Way Viaduct and opening it to drivers is now spring 2018, Washington state Department of Transportation said in a statement. The viaduct was damaged in a 2001 earthquake and is nearing the end of its lifespan.

"Tunneling is slated to resume in late November, with the machine emerging at the north end of downtown approximately one year later," the Transportation Department said. "The state is not able to verify the contractor's schedule."

Previously, project contractor Seattle Tunnel Partners said it hoped to have Bertha drilling again by August, but it pushed

that estimate by nearly four months to 23 November, according to a timeline provided to the state. In March, crews hoisted Bertha's 2,000-ton front end from a pit in an attempt to assess damages and make repairs and improvements, which are scheduled to wrap up in the fall.

Bertha's breakdown and other unexpected construction issues have left the \$3.1 billion project two years behind schedule and sparked concern about even greater cost overruns. The project had initially been slated to cost \$2 billion and be completed by 2015.

Reuters

## Huawei's first-half revenue up 30 percent year-on-year at \$28 billion

HONG KONG, 20 July — Huawei Technologies Co Ltd [HWT.UL], one of the world's largest telecom equipment makers, on Monday posted a 30 percent increase in first-half revenue to 175.9 billion yuan (\$28.3 billion) and

said it would achieve "effective growth" in 2015.

The Shenzhen-based company, which competes with Sweden's Ericsson (ERICB.ST) for the top spot in the global market for communications towers and other infrastructure, posted

an operating margin of 18 percent in the first six months of 2015, compared with 18.3 percent in the previous half-year. The private company did not elaborate in its brief statement.

"Huawei achieved stable and healthy growth in all

of its three business segments," Huawei CFO Meng Wanzhou said in the statement, referring to the company's telecom, consumer device and enterprise business segments.

"We are confident that we will maintain effective

growth and steady and healthy development in all business segments in 2015." Huawei earlier this year set a target of 20 percent growth in global revenue for 2015. Last year, Huawei reported a 19 percent rise in its first-half revenue. The company

reported an operating margin of 11.9 percent in 2014.

Huawei had targeted overall revenue of \$70 billion by 2018, which translates as roughly 10 percent annual growth. It posted 21 percent revenue growth last year.—Reuters

## Microsoft to buy Israeli cyber security firm Adallom: report

TEL AVIV, 20 July — Microsoft Corp plans to acquire Israeli cyber security company Adallom for \$320 million, the Calcalist financial newspaper reported on Monday. Adallom, which develops cloud security platforms, is expected to become the center for Microsoft's cyber security business in Israel, the newspaper said.

Adallom could not be reached for comment and officials at Microsoft in Israel declined to comment. The US technology company has made several recent acquisitions in Israel, including security software developer Aorato for a reported \$200 million. It also bought text analysis firm Equivio and the technology of digital pen maker N-trig.

Adallom has raised about \$50 million from venture capital funds Sequoia Capitol and European Index Ventures as well as EMC Corp and Hewlett-Packard, among others, Calcalist said. Adallom was founded in 2012 has 80 employees at its offices in Israel and the United States.

It offers users information security technology on remote servers. It can secure information stored on Salesforce's, Microsoft's or Google's cloud services and protect it from cyber attacks.—Reuters

## China finds new evidence for use of fire by "Peking Man"

BEIJING, 19 July — New evidence has been found in an archeological site in Beijing suggesting that the ancestor of modern man was able to use fire more than 600,000 years ago.

The findings were announced Friday, after archeologists spent three years excavating the Zhoukoudian fossil site in the western suburbs of Beijing.

According to Gao Xing, research fellow with the Institute of Vertebrate Paleontology and Paleoanthropology of the Chinese Academy of Sciences, a fire site, sintering soil, and burned

rocks and bones were uncovered at the site.

"Some of the animal bones were entirely carbonized, turned black both outside and inside," Gao said. "It is safe for us to conclude that this is the result of burning."

They also found fire sites encircled by rocks and lime resulting from the burning of limestone, Gao added.

Fossils of Peking Man were discovered in the 1920s, including an entire cranium that earned Zhoukoudian fame as one of the birth places of humans.

Ashes, burned bones and rocks, as well as charred seeds were also found in 1929, according to Gao, leading many archeologists to agree that Peking Man knew how to use fire.

However, there has always been skepticism that they resulted from natural fire.

"The evidence this time is more convincing," Gao said. "It has been found under the earth untouched, without weather damage." "This shows us that Peking Man could not only keep kindling, but knew how to control fire," he said. — Xinhua

## France returns 32 cultural relics to Chinese museum

LANZHOU, 20 July — Thirty-two gold ornaments stolen from ancient Chinese tombs and held by French collectors were formally handed over to northwest China's Gansu Provincial Museum on Monday.

Li Xiaojie, head of the State Administration of Cultural Heritage, presented a gold ornament to Liu Weiping, Gansu provincial governor, at a hand-over ceremony on Monday morning, marking the relics' return.

It was the first time cultural relics have been successfully returned to China following bilateral negotiations between the Chinese and French governments. They were returned by French private collectors Francois Pinault and Christian Deydier earlier this year.

The 32 gold items came from tombs in Dabu-



Photo taken on 20, 2015 shows gold ornaments displayed at a public exhibition of Chinese cultural relics returned by French private collectors, at Gansu Provincial Museum in Lanzhou, capital of northwest China's Gansu Province. —XINHUA

zishan in Lixian County, Gansu Province dating back to the Spring and Autumn period (770 BC-476 BC). The tombs were badly looted during the 1990s

and a large number of relics, including the gold ornaments, were smuggled abroad.

A public exhibition of the relics also opened on

Monday and will last until 31 October. After that, they will be permanently displayed at the Gansu Provincial Museum.

Xinhua

## Police start onsite probe into electric fence accident in Shizuoka



Photo taken from a Kyodo News helicopter on 20 July, 2015, shows police officers conducting onsite investigations into the cause of an accident the previous day in a river in Shizuoka Prefecture, central Japan, that left two men dead and five women and children injured after making contact with an electrified fence protecting flower beds. The two electrocuted men were on a picnic with their families at the time of the accident.

KYODO NEWS

SHIZUOKA, 20 July — Police on Monday began onsite investigations into the cause of an accident the previous day in Shizuoka Prefecture, central Japan, that left two men dead and five women and children injured after making contact with an electrified fence protecting flower beds.

The two electrocuted in a river were identified as Masatomo Ozaki, a 42-year-old resident of Kawasaki, and Tomohiro Iwamura, 47, of Zushi, both of Kanagawa Prefecture, south of Tokyo, according to local police.

The Ozaki and Iwamura families were on a picnic at the time of the accident.

The one-metre-high wire fence was set up on a riverside in Nishi-izu town by local residents to guard a plantation of hydrangea flowers from wild deer. Part of the fence was damaged and a piece of wire was in the water.

Electricity was supplied to the fence from a 100 volt outlet in a farm supply shed nearby, an investigative source said.

The police will inves-

tigate whether appropriate safety measures were in place as government regulations require the installation of an earth leakage breaker around electric fences carrying charges of 30 volts or more.

A transformer was installed in the line, but it could have been out of order, according to the source.

Around 4:30 pm on Sunday, Ozaki, his son Raiku, 8, and Iwamura's son Kaio, 8, were heard screaming while playing in the river. Ozaki's wife Yuka, 43, Iwamura and his wife Takako, 42, as well as Sumie Yamamoto, a 75-year-old local resident, were also electrified after entering the water to save the three.

Takako Iwamura and son Kaio were severely injured, while Yuka Ozaki and son Raiku as well as Yamamoto suffered slight injuries.

The accident took place about 25 km southeast of Shuzenji Station on the Izu Hakone Railway. It was not raining at the time of the accident.

Kyodo News

## Mitsubishi Materials makes historic apology to ex-POW forced labourers



James Murphy, a 94-year-old veteran and POW who survived working at Mitsubishi's Osarizawa Copper Mine and the infamous Bataan Death March in the Philippines, reacts after a Mitsubishi Press conference apology in Los Angeles on 19 July, 2015. —KYODO NEWS

LOS ANGELES, 20 July — A top executive from Japan's Mitsubishi Materials Corp delivered on Sunday a historic apology to former American prisoners of war who were used as forced labour during World War II.

Hikaru Kimura, senior executive officer at the company, said through a translator that the company expressed "our most remorseful apology" to the nearly 900 former US POWs "subjected to hard labour during World War II when they worked in mines operated by Mitsubishi Mining Co Ltd, the predecessor of Mitsubishi Materials."

"We cannot help feeling a deep sense of ethical responsibility for this past tragedy," he said during the ceremony held at the Simon Wiesenthal Centre's Mu-

seum of Tolerance in Los Angeles.

He continued, "I also told them that Mitsubishi Materials intends to never allow such a thing to happen again."

James Murphy, a former POW forced to work at a Mitsubishi copper mine near Hanawa, northeastern Japan in 1944 and 1945, accepted the apology on behalf of former American POWs. "I listened very carefully to Mr Kimura's statement of apology and found it very, very sincere, humble and revealing," the 94-year-old said. "This happens to be the first time we heard those words and they really touch you at the heart."

He added, "I know we can trust these words that were spoken here today."

Kimura and Murphy, along with Rabbi Abraham

Cooper, associate dean at the Simon Wiesenthal Center, and Yukio Okamoto, outside board member of Mitsubishi Materials and a special advisor to Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe, smiled and shook hands, marking the occasion.

A number of other former POWs and families of former POWs were also in attendance.

Chuck Johannsen, 81, attended the ceremony on behalf of his late older brother, Fred Johannsen, a POW captured in Bataan in the Philippines and held by Japanese forces for over three-and-a-half years.

"It's heartwarming," Johannsen said of the apology. "I never thought anything like this would ever happen and was definitely very surprised."

Stanley Gibson, the son of a former British POW who was liberated at the same time as Murphy, even flew in from Scotland for the ceremony after learning about it in the news.

Kimura said if the opportunity presents itself, the company would also consider extending apologies to other people in different countries. Prior to the ceremony, the Japanese officials and former POWs spoke in a private meeting.

"I entered the room with a heavy heart seeking forgiveness," Okamoto

said. "Instead of grievances, I was met with forgiveness and generosity."

He also apologized "for not apologizing earlier," acknowledging that many former POWs have already died.

This year marks 70 years since the end of World War II in 1945.

Rabbi Cooper highlighted Kinue Tokudome, founder and director of the US-Japan Dialogue on POWs, for her efforts advocating for Japanese companies to apologize to former POWs.

Tokudome approached several major Japanese companies about offering an apology, prompting Mitsubishi Materials to act.

Murphy and others urged other Japanese companies to follow Mitsubishi Materials' lead to apologize for the forced labor of the US and other countries' POWs.

Jan Thompson, daughter of a POW and president of the American Defenders of Bataan and Corregidor Memorial Society, said, "Mitsubishi Materials should be applauded by everybody in the world right now." "I hope others will come forward because there are other companies out there who should...acknowledge what they did during World War II," she said.—Kyodo News

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MV VEGA FYNEN VOY NO (1525)**

Consignees of cargo carried on MV VEGA FYNEN VOY NO (1525) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 20.7.2015 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.

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

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

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

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

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

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**CLAIMS DAY NOTICE  
MV YANTRA BHUM VOY NO (959N)**

Consignees of cargo carried on MV YANTRA BHUM VOY NO (959N) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 20.7.2015 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.

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

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Consignees of cargo carried on MV KULNATEE VOY NO (05/15) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 21.7.2015 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of S.P.W(7) 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 KULNATEE CO**

Phone No: 2301186

**CLAIMS DAY NOTICE  
MV PHUONG NAM 69 VOY NO (-)**

Consignees of cargo carried on MV PHUONG NAM 69 VOY NO (-) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 21.7.2015 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of S.P.W-3 where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

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**CLAIMS DAY NOTICE  
MV INDUSTRIAL CHAMP  
VOY NO (510293)**

Consignees of cargo carried on MV INDUSTRIAL CHAMP VOY NO (510293) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 21.7.2015 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of A.I.P.T where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

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KUALALUMPUR**

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**WEATHER REPORT**

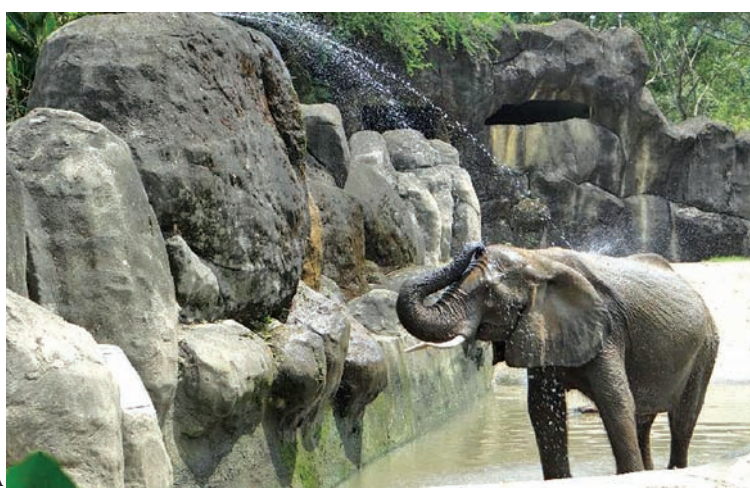
**BAY INFERENCE:** Monsoon is strong in the Andaman Sea and South Bay and moderate elsewhere in the Bay of Bengal.

**FORECAST VALID UNTIL EVENING OF THE 21<sup>st</sup> July, 2015:** Rain or thundershowers will be scattered in Magway Region, fairly widespread in Sagaing and Mandalay Regions, Kachin, Shan and Chin States and widespread in the remaining Regions and States with likelihood of regionally heavy falls in Taninthayi Region and Mon State, isolated heavy falls in Bago, Yangon and Ayeyawady Regions, Rakhine and Kayin States. Degree of certainty is (100%).

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July, 2015.  
Taipei Zoo  
gave animals  
some special  
cooling treats  
due to the  
weather these  
days.—XINHUA*



## Box Office: 'Ant-Man' tops with \$58 million, 'Trainwreck' impresses with \$30.2 million

LOS ANGELES, 20 July — Marvel's "Ant-Man" landed with a solid \$58 million at the weekend box office, while "Trainwreck's" Amy Schumer put her own raunchy spin on romantic comedies to the tune of a \$30.2 million debut.

It marks Marvel's 12<sup>th</sup> consecutive first place opening, although "Ant-Man" isn't at the level of other, bigger-name costumed heroes like Captain America, Thor, and Iron Man, all of whom performed better out of the gate with their solo adventures. Going into the weekend, some analysts expected "Ant-Man" to top \$60 million, but its opening is similar to "The Incredible Hulk," which earned an initial \$55 million on its way to a \$134 million US haul.

Disney distribution chief Dave Hollis admitted that he wished the movie had done a little better, but still praised Marvel as a model of consistency.

"No one else could take what is really an obscure character and launch it in such a big way," said Hollis. "It's a sign that they're doing so much right and that it's a brand that has overwhelming momentum."

Universal's "Trainwreck" bested initial projections which had it debuting to roughly \$20 million. The story of a commitment-phobic woman who falls for a sports doctor got a boost from strong reviews and a long and winding promotional tour that saw Schumer doing everything from posing provocatively with C3PO to sexting Katie Couric's husband.

"Amy Schumer is absolutely a star," said Nick Carpou, Universal's domestic distribution chief. "Based on exit polling, after the humor, she's the second biggest reason people went out to see the film."

"Trainwreck" kicks off Schumer's film career on a high note and marks the second biggest opening for director Judd Apatow, behind only "Knocked Up's" \$30.7 million debut. Crowds were primarily comprised of women, as females represented 66% of ticket buyers. Universal produced the comedy for a modest \$35 million, so it should make a healthy return on its investment.

That's a fraction of the \$130 million that Marvel spent on the story of a thief (Paul Rudd) who becomes

a hero after donning a suit that gives him the powers of an arthropod. The superhero film will lean heavily on foreign crowds as it looks for profits. Internationally, "Ant-Man" opened in 37 markets, including Mexico, the UK, France, and Russia, pulling in \$56 million.

"Ant-Man," which employs a more tongue-in-cheek, lighter tone than most superhero movies had hoped to pull in younger crowds. To that end, the domestic audience for "Ant-Man" was 28% comprised of families. Fifty eight percent of ticket buyers were male, 59% were adult, and 13% were teens.

In its second weekend, Universal and Illumination Entertainment's "Minions" captured runner-up status, pulling in \$50.2 million. The "Despicable Me" spin-off has racked up \$216.7 million stateside since it debuted, while selling boatloads of merchandise.

In milestone news, "Jurassic World" became just the fourth film in history to top \$600 million domestically. The dinosaur thriller added \$11.4 million to take fifth place on the box office chart and propel its North American total to

\$611.1 million.

Meanwhile, "Inside Out" pushed past \$300 million domestically, joining "Toy Story 3" and "Finding Nemo" as the third Pixar film to reach that mark. Domestically, "Inside Out" racked up \$11.6 million for a fourth place finish, bringing its North American gross to \$306.4 million.

Among art house releases, Woody Allen's "Irrational Man" pulled in \$188,115 on five screens during its first weekend, for a per screen average of \$37,623. Also opening, "Mr Holmes" with Ian McKellen as an aging super sleuth, grossed an estimated \$2.5 million on 363 screens, for a per screen average of \$6,856.

Overall box office numbers are still being tallied, but it looks like ticket sales will be up more than 30% over the same period last year. It marks the sixth consecutive weekend of gains, a sign that business is booming at the multiplexes. That cuts both ways, as Disney and Marvel discovered.

"It's great for the business, but what it means is that it's more competitive," said Hollis.

Reuters

## Body of dead man found in Demi Moore's swimming pool



Actress Demi Moore

LOS ANGELES, 20 July — The body of a 21-year-old man was found in the swimming pool at the Los Angeles home of actress Demi Moore, a spokeswoman for the film star and police said on Sunday.

"I am in absolute shock," Moore said in a statement through a representative. "I was out of the country traveling to meet my daughters for a birthday celebration when I got the devastating news."

"The loss of a child is an unthinkable tragedy and my heart goes out to this young man's family and friends," Moore added. *The Los An-*

*geles Times* newspaper cited the county coroner's office as saying the man drowned and was found early Sunday morning floating in the deep end of the pool at the Beverly Crest residence.

Friends and family told authorities he did not know how to swim. Sgt A Bone of the Los Angeles Police Department told the *Times* newspaper that Moore was not home at the time, "nor were there any family members associated with the celebrity at the location." "From what I understand it was a staff member" who had drowned, he said.

Reuters

## John Boyega teases fans with a picture of him and Chewbacca



John Boyega is seen lining up with Chewbacca as both aim their weapons against an unseen foe.—PTI

LONDON, 20 July — Actor John Boyega gave "Star Wars: The Force Awakens" fans a sneak-peek into the upcoming movie as he posted a picture of himself with Chewbacca on Instagram.

The 23-year-old "Attack the Block" actor will be playing Finn in the new film. He is seen lining up with Chewbacca as both aim their weapons against an unseen foe, reported Digital Spy.

"Star Wars Episode VII: The Force Awakens"

directed by JJ Abrams is the seventh installment in the episodic Star Wars film series.

Starring stars John Boyega, Daisy Ridley, Adam Driver, Oscar Isaac, Andy Serkis, Domhnall Gleeson, and Max von Sydow, with Harrison Ford, Carrie Fisher, Mark Hamill, Anthony Daniels, Peter Mayhew, and Kenny Baker the film is scheduled to release in December this year.

PTI

## Want to be a mum but not for next 2-3 yrs: Kareena



MUMBAI, 20 July — Bollywood actress Kareena Kapoor, who married Saif Ali Khan in October 2012, has expressed her desire to become a mother but not in the next two-three years. "As of now there are no plans (to have children) and I am very clear about it. Of course I will be a mother someday but not for the next two three years. It is not even a thought," Kareena, who is basking in the success of "Bajrangi Bhaijaan" told PTI.

After getting married to Saif, the 34-year-old actress continued working in all kind of films. The duo tied the knot after a five-year courtship. "Despite being married, I chose to do good entertaining films including commercial films. It is difficult to balance. It is important for an actress to do everything," the "Jab We Met" star said.

Kareena, daughter of Randhir Kapoor and Babita, has been in the industry for 15-16 years. She said when she looks back at her career, she feels proud of her journey in film. "Playing Anil Kapoor's wife (in "Bewafa") to Arjun Kapoor's partner in director R Balki's upcoming film, for me it is a journey. I am still working with all the Khans in the industry. I was working from very young age," she said. According to Kareena, she thinks that she is the only actress. who balances commercial and off beat films and says she will continue to experiment. After scaling heights in her career Kareena wants to set an example for others. "I am not an insecure person. I am happy that after so many years I am still working, I am happy, I am independent, I am married. I would like to be an example for many young girls ...that they can be married and still flourish in their career," Kareena said.

"I don't have any fear apart from the fact that I have to lose my loved ones. I don't care about my position and all that but family does matter," the actress added.—PTI

## U2 revive old hit 'October For First Night' in New York

LOS ANGELES, 20 July — Irish rock band U2 served up a treat for their die-hard fans during the opening night of Eight at New York's Madison Square Garden by playing a song "October For First Night", which the group had not performed live since 1989.

Bono and his bandmates eliminated the 1981 tune after the New Zealand leg of their Lovetown tour in November, 1989, but decided it was time to perform it again, reported *Rolling Stone* magazine.

And among the fans who enjoyed the track — and the rest of the group's set — were Salman Rushdie, Jon Bon Jovi, Christy Turlington and chef Mario Batali. U2 are using their Innocence + Experience tour to revisit a few old tracks — they performed "In God's Country" for the first time in 14 years on stage in Phoenix, Arizona.—PTI

GENERAL

# Australian Fanning escapes shark attack in J-Bay final

JEFFREY'S BAY, (South Africa), 20 July — Australia's triple champion Mick Fanning survived a shark attack in Sunday's final of the World Surf League's J-Bay Open, fighting off the circling predator with his fists before returning safely to shore.

Fanning was paddling out to ride his first wave when the unidentified species of shark surfaced next to him, knocking the 34-year-old off his board.

"I was just sitting there and I felt something just get stuck in my leg rope, and I was kicking trying to get it away," Fanning, nicknamed 'White Lightning', told Fox Sports. "I punched him in the back".

"I instantly just jumped away. It kept com-

ing at my board and I was kicking and screaming. I just saw fins. I was waiting for the teeth."

After the shark apparently swam away, the shaken three times world champion headed towards the beach and was picked up by a support craft.

The incident, which was broadcast on live TV, led to the cancellation of the final against compatriot Julian Wilson.

"We are incredibly grateful that no one was seriously injured today," the World Surf League (WSL) said in a statement.

"Mick's composure and quick acting in the face of a terrifying situation was nothing short of heroic and the rapid response of our water safety personnel was commenda-



*Mick Fanning of Australia is seen shortly before being attacked by a shark during the finals of the J-Bay Open in Jeffrey's Bay, South Africa, in this 19 July, 2015 handout courtesy of World Surf League.*

REUTERS

ble.

"The safety of our athletes is a priority for the WSL and, after discussions with both finalists, we have decided to cancel the remainder of competition at the J-Bay Open."

South Africa's waters are among the most shark-infested in the world. A swimmer was killed by a Great White shark at Albatross Point close to Jeffrey's Bay in 2013.—Reuters

## mitv Myanmar International

(21-7-2015 07:00 am-22-7-2015 07:00 am) MST

- \* News
- \* Climate Context: Signs of Climate Change (Episode-1)
- \* Wet Markets in Yangon: Shwe Pa Dauk Fish Market
- \* News
- \* Entrepreneur: Nan Ei Ei Zar on the River
- \* News
- \* The Strokes of Myanmar
- \* Tea
- \* News
- \* Myanmar Toys... for your eye-catching
- \* Aesthetic Chinlone
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- \* A Day out with Sarah (EP-7)
- \* Kyeikhteeyoe: Welcome All
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- \* Taste of Myanmar (Rakhine Monte Ti)
- \* Youth Filmmaker "Kaung Sint"
- \* News
- \* Myanmar Traditional Identity "The Sphinx of Egypt and The Manousiha of Myanmar"
- \* History of Wishfulfilling Maimalamu Pagoda
- \* News
- \* Entrepreneur — Dr Thant Thaw Kaung
- \* Paper Products ... Plain but Pretty
- \* News
- \* Myanmar Betels
- \* ABU Song Festival
- \* Culture Show: Theatrical Make Up
- \* News
- \* Youth of The Future "Audio Mixer (Khy Htoo)"
- \* Philatelic Pleasure

# Up, up, and away: NZ drone makers target Hollywood

RAGLAN, (New Zealand), 20 July — Deep in New Zealand's dairying heartland, drone maker Aeronavics tests aircraft designed to corner the fast-growing emerging market for unmanned aerial vehicles in the film and television business.

The developer of drones used in the production of "Dr Who" and the "Twilight" films is one of a stable of New Zealand firms that are using the country's reputation for innovation in the film industry to stake out claims to what is expected to be a drone boom in Hollywood.

The relaxation of US rules for commercial drones late last year has sparked a race to develop flying camera platforms that — while priced upwards of \$100,000 each — will still cost significantly less to hire than the

jibs, cranes and helicopters studios currently use to capture swooping aerial shots.

Until now, cinematographers have bolted specialized add-ons like cinema-quality cameras to off-the-shelf drones that cost a few thousand dollars each. New Zealand's drone makers want to change all that, with sophisticated, purpose-built aircraft.

"A lot of drone technology companies got their start in the custom-build film and photography sector, and the New Zealand film industry has a global reputation as leading technology advances in film," said Chris Thomson, aviation manager at government technology incubator Callaghan Innovation.

New Zealand's drone makers are building on home-grown innovation including animation software

used in the "Lord of the Rings" and real-time motion capture technology that brought facial expressions to life in "Avatar".

Backed by "Avatar" director James Cameron, the New Zealand government is holding a competition for developers of drones for the film industry, focusing on criteria such as flight stability, noise reduction and weather-proofing. First prize is NZ\$50,000 (\$32,625.00) and an expenses-paid trip to next year's National Association of Broadcasters trade show in Las Vegas.

Aerospace and defense consultants the Teal Group expects the global drone industry to be worth \$91 billion by 2024 compared with \$6.4 billion in 2014.

Due to tight US drone regulations, drone use in feature films until recently



*An Aeronavics drone sits in a paddock near the town of Raglan, New Zealand, on 6 July, 2015.—REUTERS*

was limited to productions shot outside the United States, such as the rooftop chase scene in 2012's "007 Skyfall" filmed in Istanbul.

But the industry received a major boost late last year when Washington began to grant exemptions to the ban on commercial drone use on a case-by-case basis. Of nearly 700 exemptions issued by the Federal

Aviation Authority by the start of July, roughly half covered aerial photography.

Aeronavics was one of the first drone makers to receive permission to fly.

The Raglan-based company plans to launch a series of aircraft later this year specializing in capturing images for cinema, broadcasting and live sporting events.—Reuters

## MRTV

### Entertainment Channel

(21-7-2015, Tuesday)

- 6:00 am**
- Mono Classical Songs
- 6:25 am**
- Pyi Thu Ni Ti
- 6:40 am**
- Fashion Show
- 7:00 am**
- TV Drama Series
- 7:45 am**
- TV Drama Series
- 8:30 am**
- Myanmar Video
- 9:25 am**
- Musical Programme
- 9:35 am**
- Radio Drama
- 10:40 am**
- Myanmar Video
- 12:00 noon**
- Closed Down

# Rescue workers find man's body as Greek wildfires retreat

ATHENS, 20 July — Rescue workers found the burned body of a 47-year-old man as they brought under control wildfires that had broken out on Friday around Athens and in other parts of southern Greece, the country's fire brigade said.

The wildfires had

largely retreated on Sunday but firemen were still on the ground and the risk of more fires remained high due to strong winds, the fire brigade said in a statement.

The victim was an off-duty policeman who had gone missing after going for a walk in an area



*A firefighting helicopter operates over a raging wildfire at the Kareas suburb, east of Athens, Greece on 17 July, 2015.—REUTERS*

that was later hit by the fires, local media said. A 58-year-old died on Friday after inhaling fumes and suffering respiratory problems.

Separately, two men were arrested on Saturday on suspicion of starting a fire that broke out northeast of Athens. They had lit a fire to smoke bees out of their hives, police said.

Forest fires are common during summer in Greece. The fire brigade said 74 separate fires had broken out on several fronts in an area stretching

from the island of Evia, northeast of Athens, to the southern Peloponnese.

Most of the fires had retreated or were under partial control, but an undergrowth fire that started on Saturday on the Ionian island of Zakynthos was still raging.

The fires have added to the worries of Prime Minister Alexis Tsipras' government, which has been focused on its struggle to obtain a new financial bailout from foreign creditors.

Reuters

# Spieth makes his move, Dunne steals Open limelight

ST ANDREWS, (Scotland), 20 July — Jordan Spieth surged through a gridlocked British Open leaderboard as a third straight major title loomed large but he had to share the spotlight with Irish amateur Paul Dunne at St Andrews after a remarkable day's action on Sunday.

The 21-year-old American, bidding to become the first man to win the year's first three majors since Ben Hogan in 1953, began the delayed third round in the chasing pack and lost ground early on but he stormed home with a seven-birdie, six-under 66 for an 11-under total, one off the lead.

Dunne, a year older but inhabiting a different golfing planet to Masters and US Open champion Spieth, ended a crazy day

of low scoring in a three-way tie at the top on 12-under par 204 with Australian Jason Day and 2010 British Open champion Louis Oosthuizen.

Clearly on course for the amateur's silver medal after a nerveless 66, Dunne remains in serious contention to become the first amateur to win the British Open since Bobby Jones 85 years ago.

At this most unusual of Opens, anything seems possible, With flags hanging limp like damp tea towels — a huge contrast to Saturday's gales that wiped out the third round and forced a first Monday finish since 1988 — an eclectic mix of major winners, amateurs and nearly-men tucked into the Old Course birdie banquet with relish.

There were 37 sub-70 rounds, although the one notable exception was Spieth's fellow American Dustin Johnson, the overnight leader, who collapsed to the day's second-worst round, a miserable three-over 75.

Spieth struggled to make much headway early on and was clearly getting frustrated when he dropped a shot at the ninth.

But the Texan regained his already legendary composure to respond with three consecutive birdies at the 10<sup>th</sup>, 11<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup> and sunk another at the 15<sup>th</sup> before pocketing pars at the final three holes — smiling and joking his way round with Sergio Garcia who is nine under after a 68. "I kind of just wanted to stay patient today, let them come to me, and once



Jordan Spieth of the US lines up his putt on the sixth hole during the third round of the British Open golf championship on the Old Course in St. Andrews, Scotland, on 19 July, 2015. —REUTERS

I figured out my putting, it did," world number two Spieth, still on for an unprecedented calendar year grand slam, told a news conference.

Asked about the magnitude of what he is chasing, he added: "It hasn't come up in my head while

I've been playing yet.

"I can't speak for tomorrow given it's the last round, and if I have a chance coming down the stretch, if it creeps in, I'll embrace it. I'll embrace the opportunity."

Dunne's bogey-free six-under 66 means he

smashed the previous lowest 54-hole total for an amateur at the Open.

Incredibly, however, he was not the only player yet to join the paid ranks remaining in the hunt for the Claret Jug as American Jordan Niebrugge's 67 took him to nine-under.

"I saw that I was tied for first on the 10th green and I said to my caddie how cool is it to leave the Open on Sunday, even if it's a different type of Sunday," Dunne said.

"The golf ball still does what you ask it to do, it's just there are more people watching and more cameras." Day, whose US Open bid was scuppered by vertigo, made up five strokes during the day in a round of 67, as did Oosthuizen.

Reuters

## Panama and Mexico through to Gold Cup semi-finals



Mexico midfielder Andres Guardado (18) celebrates with teammates after kicking a penalty kick to score a goal against Costa Rica during stoppage time of the overtime period of a CONCACAF Gold Cup quarter-final match at MetLife Stadium, East Rutherford, NJ, USA on 19 July, 2015. Mexico won 1-0 in overtime.

REUTERS

FOXBOROUGH, (MA), 20 July—Panama and Mexico advanced to the semi-finals of the CONCACAF Gold Cup after their matches were forced into extra time and ultimately decided from the

penalty spot on Sunday. Mexico, the champions in 2009 and 2011, advanced to the last four following a controversial 124th minute penalty converted by captain Andres Guardado after Oribe Peralta was

bundled over in the box by Costa Rica's Roy Miller.

Television replays, however, showed minimal contact between the pair when Peralta was attempting a header.

Guardado then slotted the penalty to set up a semi-final against Panama, who reached the Gold Cup final in 2013.

Panama advanced to the last four after goalkeeper Jaime Penedo made the clinching save that allowed the team to outlast Trinidad and Tobago 6-5 in the ninth round of the shootout after their quarter-final had finished locked at 1-1 after extra time.

Luis Tejada scored in the 37<sup>th</sup> minute for Panama before Kenwyne Jones leveled it in the 54<sup>th</sup> for the Caribbean side.

Reuters

## FIFA meet to set date for vote on Blatter's replacement

ZURICH, 20 July — The leadership of crisis-hit world football governing body FIFA gathered at their Zurich headquarters on Monday to set a date for the vote to replace outgoing president Sepp Blatter.

Blatter and other top officials from around the world began an extraordinary executive committee meeting to set the timetable for a congress to vote on their next leader.

Also on the agenda are early plans for reforms in response to corruption scandals which have rocked FIFA.

Blatter and his general secretary Jerome Valcke will address the media following the meeting — the first time the president has faced the press since announcing he would stand down.

The organization was

left reeling before it's May congress after a dawn raid at a five-star Zurich hotel where seven officials, including FIFA vice-president Jeffrey Webb, were arrested. On Saturday in New York, Webb pleaded not guilty to a range of charges including racketeering, money-laundering and fraud and was released on a \$10 million bail.

FIFA is under investigation from the US Department of Justice as well as Swiss authorities, and also faces growing pressure from top sponsors, such as Coca Cola and McDonald's who have urged major changes.

The organization insists it is taking the need to reform seriously and is co-operating with investigators, but for many critics those claims will be greeted with scepticism until the man who has

ruled the body since 1998 is replaced.

Blatter was re-elected for a fifth term at the congress but then announced on 2 June that he would lay down his mandate at the 'extraordinary elective congress' which will likely be held between December and February.

The 79-year-old has repeatedly said that he will not stand again and while he has reneged on that promise before, saying his election in 2011 was his last before changing his mind, it would be a major surprise if he made another u-turn.

With FIFA rules stating candidates need to announce their intention to run four months ahead of a vote, the focus will quickly turn to who intends to run for the most powerful job in world soccer.

Reuters

## Messi needs a rest, says Barca coach

MADRID, 20 July — FC Barcelona coach Luis Enrique said on Monday that the club's star player Leo Messi is desperately in need of a rest.

Speaking at the start of Barca's summer tour of the USA, Luis Enrique looked back at the last 13 months which have seen Messi play the

World Cup, helping Argentina to the final of the tournament. His domestic season was also longer than almost everyone else as Barcelona played the final of the King's Cup and the Champions League, before Messi then competed in the Copa America, where Argentina again reached the final.

Barcelona meanwhile kick off their new campaign on 17 August when they face Athletic Club in the Spanish Supercup, whether or not Messi plays in that is still to be decided, but for the moment, Luis Enrique explained the player was having a well-earned rest. "Messi's season is al-

most never ending and he needs to rest," he said. "He is not in the United States because he needs his holiday and I am not going to deny him those no matter where we go on tour."

After leading Barca to the treble last season, it will not be easy to improve on the 2014-15 campaign but Luis Enri-

que continued to show his ambition.

"I want to win three more titles that in 2015," he commented. "I don't know if it is going to be a calm season or not, but my aim is to do something historic and to be able to do what nobody has done before."

He also hinted that summer signings Arda Turan and Alexis Vidal will not be sent out on loan for

the start of the campaign even though that they can't make their debuts until January because of a FIFA ban.

"It doesn't help us that they can't play until January, but I want them with us until then," said the Barca coach.

"I'd rather not have them because they bring more problems than benefits," added Enrique.

Xinhua