

President U Thein Sein sends message of felicitations to Peru

NAY PYI TAW, 28 July — U Thein Sein, President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar, has sent a message of felicitations to H.E. Mr. Ollanta Moisés Humala Tasso, President of the Republic of Peru, on the occasion of the anniversary of the Independence Day of the Republic of Peru, which falls on 28th July 2015.—MNA

Nay Pyi Taw holds Waso robe-offering ceremony

The Union government held a Waso robe-offering ceremony at Uppatasanti Pagoda in Nay Pyi Taw . . .

News on page 3

WEATHER BUREAU WARNS OF FLASH FLOODS, LANDSLIDES ACROSS COUNTRY

By Aye Min Soe

YANGON, 27 July — A depression over the Bay of Bengal is likely to cause heavy rain, flash floods and landslides across the country over the next three days, the weather bureau warned Monday.

The upper Sagaing, Bago, Yangon and Ayeyawady regions, as well as Shan, Chin, Rakhine, Kayin and Mon states were expected to record more than 3 inches, or 77 mm, of rain within 24 hours from 2 p.m. Monday, the Meteorology and Hydrology Department said.

Mandalay, Magway and lower Sagaing regions were forecast to record more than 1.5 inches, or 38 mm, in the same period.

The department urged people, especially those living in hilly areas and near rivers, to be alert to possible dangers and fishing boats at sea to be wary of severe weather conditions.

The department said the depression was almost stationary and centered
(See page 2)



Firemen evacuate women through flood water in Muse on 25 July.—PHOTO: MUSE DISTRICT IPRD

Final meeting on minimum wage negotiations set for 1 August

News on page 2



Vietnamese tourists travel Myanmar in motorcade

By Ye Myint

YANGON, 27 July — A Vietnamese tourist group taking a motorcade tour in Myanmar for six days arrived in Nay Pyi Taw on Monday, the Ministry of Tourism said.

Marvelous Memory Travels and Tours Co., Ltd in cooperation with the ministry has conducted the

motorcade tour comprising 97 Vietnamese tourists in 23 cars. They entered Myanmar via Mae Sot, Thailand, last Friday.

Union Minister for Hotels and Tourism U Htay Aung welcomed the Vietnamese tourists and spoke to them about adventure and ecotourism in Myanmar, the ministry added.

(See page 2)

Electoral reporting workshop held in Nay Pyi Taw

YANGON, 27 July — Ministry of Information and DW Akademie are jointly holding a workshop on electoral reporting as a preparation to cover the news in line with rules and regulations of the Union Election Commission and the Myanmar Press Council (Interim).

Deputy Minister for Information U Pike Ht-way made opening remark on the two-day workshop started on Monday, with saying the journalists are to observe media ethics during their electoral reporting.

DW Akademie is Germany's leading organ-

ization for international media development, and it is working in 50 countries around the world.

A total of 29 representatives from state-owned media, its partner news agencies, radio stations and media trainees attend the workshop, with the discussions of officials from UEC and senior journalists from MPC, Mizzima, ABC, BBC Media Action, IMS and Internews.

U Maung Maung Su from Myanma Radio said, "The workshop provides us the knowledge how to cover the news during election period transparently."

Myat Thandar Maung

Vietnamese tourists travel ...

(from page 1)

During a day trip in Nay Pyi Taw, the motorcade visited Ngalike dam, Uppatasanti Pagoda and the Parliament complex.

The Vietnamese motorcade left for Yangon in the evening. After touring Yangon, the motorcade will return to Thailand's Maesot via Myawady in Myanmar on Wednesday.

According to the ministry, tourists motorcade visited Kyaik-hti-yoe Pagoda first before driving to Bagan on Sunday. Tourist arrivals to Myanmar continue to rise, even in the rainy season. —GNLM

A trainer gives lectures on electoral reporting to journalists from Ministry of Information and private media. —MNA



Final meeting on minimum wage negotiations set for 1 August

By Aye Min Soe

YANGON, 27 July — Yangon Region officials will hold a final meeting with employers to break a deadlock over the proposed minimum wage rate on 1 August, after which they will disclose the outcomes of negotiations, an official said Monday.

The previous meeting between the Yangon Region Minimum Wage Committee and factory bosses from some industrial zones over the proposed minimum wage of K3,600 for an eight-hour day were somewhat positive, the committee official told the Global New Light of Myanmar.

Legal amendments would be needed in order to settle some issues proposed by the employers, he added.

The committee is holding a series of meetings starting from Saturday with employers and workers, mostly from the garment industry, who objected to the minimum wage proposal.

The government's minimum wage body received more than 300 objections from factory owners, mostly from garment industry, and workers in Yangon after the committee issued a notification on the minimum wage proposal on 29 June.

Dozens of major global brands have backed the proposed minimum wage, calling for guaranteed pay rates as a means of promoting investment in the country's garment industry and lifting the living standards of its workers.

Both the Ethical Trading Initiative and the Fair

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

The Fair Labor Asso-



Vietnamese tourists speak with Union Minister U Htay Aung in Nay Pyi Taw — PHOTO: MINISTRY OF TOURISM

Weather bureau warns of flash floods, landslides ...

(from page 1)

about 90 miles west-southwest of Chittagong, Bangladesh, 140 miles west-northwest of Maungdaw and 190 miles northwest of Sittwe.

The monsoon is moderate to strong in the Andaman Sea and South Bay and vigorous elsewhere in the Bay of Bengal, according to the department.

The weather bureau, issuing a yellow alert, said the low pressure is not

likely to move towards Myanmar.

Squalls with rough seas could occur occasionally off and along Myanmar's coasts, with surface wind speeds reaching 45 miles per hour, the announcement said.

The Ministry of Agriculture and Irrigation announced Monday it was closely monitoring its 25 dams across the country.

The ministry was releasing excess dam water through spillways in order to avoid overflowing or breaking of dam embankments, the announcement said. More than 1,300 people in Ayadaw Township, Sagaing Region, have evacuated to shelters as floods hit some villages in the township Monday.

GNLM

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

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

GNLM



Eight members from an armed group led by Kyaw Thet and Saw San Aung arrested by KNU troops seen with arms and ammunition.

MYAWADY

Floods ravage farm fields

NAY PYI TAW, 27 July — Heavy rains and flooding inundated thousands of farm fields, and damaged hundreds of acres across the country in nearly two months.

Severe floods hit Kachin, Rakhine and Shan States, Sagaing, Bago, Yangon and Mandalay Regions. More than 13,000 acres of cultivation farms were destroyed, with the highest damaging toll of 11,452 acres in Sagaing region, according to official figure of Ministry of Agriculture and Irrigation on Monday.

MNA

Eight members from Kyaw Thet and Saw San Aung-led group arrested with arms and ammunition

NAY PYI TAW, 27 July — KNU troops from Battalion 17 handed over eight members from an armed group led by Kyaw Thet and Saw San Aung to

Tatmadaw columns in Miphanyar village in Kawka-reik district of Kayin State on Sunday.

They arrested the eight members with nine small arms, 270 bullets, 28 magazines and one walkie-talkie while combing Tayitakaung. The KNU's Battalion 17 is conducting combing operations in cooperation with Tatmadaw columns and Border Guard Force.

Myawady

Nay Pyi Taw holds Waso robe-offering ceremony

NAY PYI TAW, 27 July — The Union government held a Waso robe-offering ceremony at Up-patasanti Pagoda in Nay Pyi Taw on Monday.

President U Thein Sein and wife Daw Khin Khin Win, Vice Presidents Dr Sai Mauk Kham and U Nyan Tun and their wives, Amyotha Hluttaw Speaker U Khin Aung Myint and party offered Waso robes and provisions to members of the Sangha led by Chairman Sayadaw of the State Sangha Maha Nayaka Committee Abhidhaja Maharattaguru Abhidhaja Agga Maha Saddhammajotika Dr Bhaddanta Kumarabhivamsa.

During the ceremony, the President and the congregation received nine precepts from the chairman Sayadaw, and shared the merits gained.

After the ceremony, those present offered meals to the monks.—MNA



President U Thein Sein and wife Daw Khin Khin Win offer Waso robes to a venerable Buddhist monk.—MNA

Myanmar military delegation arrives in India



Senior General Min Aung Hlaing observes aircraft at Hawk Final Assembly.—MYAWADY

NAY PYI TAW, 27 July — A Myanmar military delegation led by Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Senior General Min Aung Hlaing arrived at Bangalore Airport in India on Sunday.

The commander-in-chief and party were welcomed at the airport

by Air Marshal Ramesh Rai VM, commander of Bangalore-based training command of the Indian Air Force, Myanmar ambassador to India U Aung Khin Soe and officials.

The Myanmar delegation later observed the manufacturing of light combat helicopters, vehi-

cles and electronics parts at Hindustan Aeronautics Limited.

The senior general and party flew to Goa in the evening and attended a dinner hosted by Rear Admiral Ravneet Singh, commanding flag officer for the Goa area.

Myawady

More candidates submit nominations for general election

NAY PYI TAW, 27 July — Six candidates for Pyithu Hluttaw, six candidates for Amyotha Hluttaw, seven candidates for state/region Hluttaws and three candidates for state/region ethnic affairs Hluttaws on 27 July

submitted their nomination as candidates are trying to nominate for General Election 2015.

A total of 68 candidates including 16 for Pyithu Hluttaw, 10 for Amyotha Hluttaw, 30 state/region

Hluttaw and 12 for state/region ethnic affairs have submitted their nominations to the Union Election Commission until 27 July. The detail process of nomination is available at www.uecmyanmar.org.—MNA

Yangon electric tramline to open in October

NAY PYI TAW, 27 July — Myanmar's Ministry of Rail Transportation and trading company West Corporation signed contracts Monday to operate electric tramcars along the Strand Road in Yangon.

The tram route will link

the Pansodan downtown area with Htawli intersection in the west by October this year in the first stage. The second stage, to be completed at the end of December, will connect to the Razadirrit Street in the east. Witnessed by Union Minister for Rail

Transportation U Than Htay and Vice President of West Corporation Miss Hoshino, the contracts were signed by Managing Director U Thurein Win from Myanmar Railways and Director U Soe Win Tun from West Corporation.—MNA



Union Minister U Than Htay attends signing of contracts between Ministry of Rail Transportation and West Corporation.—MR

Japanese farmers urge gov't to protect key items before TPP talks

TOKYO, 27 July — Some 1,500 farmers urged the Japanese government to protect five key agricultural products at a rally in Tokyo on Monday, a day before the start of the latest ministerial talks on a Pacific trade pact in Hawaii.

In negotiations on the Trans-Pacific Partnership, Japan aims to keep tariffs on what it calls “sensitive” products — rice, wheat, beef and pork, dairy products and sugar — to protect domestic farmers from an influx of cheaper foreign products.

But Toyokuni Kakurai, who leads the political campaign of the Central Union of Agricultural Cooperatives, known as JA-Zenchu, criticized the government at the rally for not disclosing enough



Japanese farmers raise their fists during a rally against the Trans-Pacific Partnership initiative in Tokyo on 27 July, 2015, ahead of a meeting beginning the following day in Hawaii between trade ministers from Pacific Rim countries for the region-wide free trade deal.

KYODO NEWS

information about the TPP talks.

“(The negotiations) have a great deal to do with our lives, but (information) has not been disclosed. Our dissatisfaction and anxiety have reached a limit,” Kakurai said.

Kazuhisa Shibuya, councilor of the Cabinet

Secretariat in charge of TPP negotiations, told the meeting that the government “has never forgotten Diet resolutions” adopted in April 2013 to protect Japan’s key farm products.

JA-Zenchu has consistently opposed Japan’s participation in TPP talks. The government led by the

Democratic Party of Japan expressed its intention to study whether to join the negotiations in 2010. Protest rallies have been held not only in Tokyo but also in other areas, drawing as many as several thousand farmers.

Ahead of the session involving ministers from

all 12 TPP countries starting on Tuesday on Maui Island, negotiation sources said Japan has proposed in bilateral talks to set a 50,000-ton zero-tariff quota for US rice and gradually increase the amount to 70,000 tons over 10 years or longer.

TPP involves the Unit-

ed States, Australia, Brunei, Canada, Chile, Japan, Malaysia, Mexico, New Zealand, Peru, Singapore and Vietnam. The parties cover some 40 percent of the global economy.

Kyodo News

Three killed, six wounded in S Philippine clash

DAVAO CITY, (Philippines), 27 July — One government troop soldier and two members of the leftist New People’s Army were killed while six others were wounded in a firefight in the southern Philippine province of Compostela Valley on Sunday noon, the military said on Monday.

The clash started when troops from the Army’s 71st Infantry Battalion met with about 50 leftist rebels while patrolling in Napnapan village in Compostela Valley province at Sunday noon, said Alberto Caber, public affairs officer of the military’s Eastern Mindanao Command.

The soldiers and the rebels exchanged gunfire for at least 30 minutes before the insurgents withdrew, Caber said.

Citing accounts of local civilians, two of the rebels were killed and six others were injured. The two killed NPA bandits were brought away by their companions while they escaped. Meanwhile, at least 30 rebels burned a security outpost of the Apex Mining in Maco town, also in Compostela Valley, at 7:30 pm on Sunday, said 10th Infantry Division public affairs officer 1Lt Alexandre Cabales. “The security post, manned by civilian security guards, was burned to the ground after the civilian guards had to abandon their post due to the overwhelming number of attacking NPAs,” Cabales said.

The troops are still on pursuit operations in the area, he said. The NPA, the armed wing of the Communist Party of the Philippines, was formed in 1969. Latest military estimates placed the NPA’s strength at more than 4,000.

Xinhua

China eyes new cruise link to disputed South China Sea islands

BEIJING, 27 July — Chinese authorities plan to start a second cruise ship link to the disputed Paracel Islands in the South China Sea, state media reported on Monday, in a move that may irk Vietnam, which also claims the islets.

China began cruises on the Coconut Princess on a trial basis from the southern island province of Hainan in 2013. More than 10,000

tourists have taken the trip so far, the official *China Daily* reported.

Officials hope a second ship will be in operation before the end of the year, and that more islands can be opened up for visits, the report said.

Those include Woody Island, where the Chinese government seat for administering the Paracels is located.

However, weather and poor facilities could hamper tourism efforts. The Paracels are often hit by typhoons and strong winds, the paper said.

“We need to take into account the capacity of the islets to handle tourists. Cruise ships cannot dock on some of them and the tourists have to be bought ashore by smaller ships,” Xie Zanliang, head of a

government tourism company promoting trips to the Paracels, told the newspaper. The deployment of a Chinese oil rig near the Paracels last year sparked a standoff with Vietnam and anti-Chinese riots. Taipei also claims the Paracels. China claims 90 percent of the potentially energy-rich South China Sea. Brunei, Malaysia, the Philippines, Vietnam and Taipei lay

claim to parts of the sea, through which passes about \$5 trillion of trade a year. Vietnam said last month it would offer its own cruises to the disputed Spratly archipelago, which lies south of the Paracels, a move that sparked anger from China.

Countries competing to cement their rival claims have encouraged a growing civilian presence on disputed islands.—Reuters

Thai PM hints at September cabinet reshuffle, economy weak

BANGKOK, 27 July — Thai Prime Minister and junta leader Prayuth Chan-ocha hinted on Monday he may reshuffle his cabinet in September as the government comes under mounting pressure to deal with a slow economy.

Southeast Asia’s second-largest economy has consistently missed government targets for growth since Prayuth led a military coup in May 2014, ending months of street protests that brought the country to the verge of recession.

“There may be changes in some cabinet members,” Prayuth told reporters. “The reshuffle may

come when the government has worked close to one year.”

The existing cabinet started work in September 2014, some four months after the coup.

Media has speculated for days on a reshuffle centered on positions related to the economy. Finance Minister Sommai Phasee on Wednesday denied a media report that he had resigned.

Prayuth warned that a cabinet reshuffle may not bring quick change to the economic performance.

“It’s not like the shuffle will mean the economy will get better instantly,” he said. “Don’t blame individuals

because the poor economy is due to many different factors — both internal and external.”

Thailand is heavily dependent on exports, which are worth about two-thirds of gross domestic product (GDP).

But a mixture of slow external demand and reliance on shipments of products that are becoming obsolete have hurt Thai exports.

Exports in June fell at the steepest rate in more than three years. Exports for the full year are expected to decline for the third consecutive year in 2015.



Thailand’s Prime Minister Prayuth Chan-ocha

Domestic demand is also slow amid record household debt and as farmers struggle with low incomes due to drought, weakness in international commodity prices and a sharp reduction in government subsidies.

For 2015, authorities and economists have steadily downgraded their growth projections.

The central bank in June cut its growth forecast to 3.0 percent for the year, down from 3.8 percent. Central Bank Governor Prasarn Trairatvorakul said on 16 July growth could miss the revised target because of drought.

The economy expanded just 0.9 percent in 2014, the weakest since flood-hit 2011.

A weak economy could undermine support for the government as frustration with restrictions on political activity simmers, particularly among younger voters and supporters of former Prime Minister Yingluck Shinawatra, whose government was ousted in 2014.

Prayuth has laid out a road map involving, among other things, the drafting of a new charter that he says will pave the way for elections some time in 2016.—Reuters

Japan upper house begins deliberations on security bills

TOKYO, 27 July — The House of Councillors started deliberations on Monday on controversial security bills to expand the role of the Self-Defence Forces abroad, with a majority of the Japanese public opposed to the legislation.

Citing an increasingly severe security environment surrounding Japan such as the activities of a nuclear-armed North Korea and an assertive China, Prime Minister Shinzo Abe said the government-sponsored bills are “indispensable” for the security of the nation.

“The government bears a responsibility to assume every kind of situation and be prepared to make a seamless response,” Abe told an upper house plenary session. “The legislation for peace and security is indispensable for (fulfilling) such a responsibility.”

Abe’s Liberal Democratic Party and its coalition partner, the Komeito party, pushed the bills through the House of Representatives on 16 July in the absence of voting by opposition parties, after a total of 116

hours of deliberations by the lower house special committee on security legislation.

Earlier Monday, Chief Cabinet Secretary Yoshihide Suga dismissed claims by some opposition lawmakers and news organizations that the bills would prompt the government to introduce conscription and allow the SDF to join a war to be waged by another country.

“Such claims are groundless,” Suga, the top government spokesman, said at a News conference. “We would like to thoroughly explain the bills during deliberations in the House of Councillors and try to remove such misunderstanding.”

Speaking separately, Katsuya Okada, leader of the main opposition Democratic Party of Japan, said the opposition camp “would like to conduct deliberations that would prompt the public to increase voices (of opposition) so as to force (the ruling coalition) to withdraw the bills.”

The proposed legislation would allow the SDF



Prime Minister Shinzo Abe (front) and Defence Minister Gen Nakatani attend a plenary session of the House of Councillors in Tokyo on 27 July, 2015, as the upper house began deliberations that day on controversial bills to expand the role of the Self-Defence Forces abroad. Opinion polls show a majority of the Japanese public oppose the legislation.—KYODO NEWS

to defend the United States and other closely related nations under armed attack when a situation “threatens Japan’s survival and poses a clear danger to fundamentally overturn people’s right to life, liberty and pursuit of happiness.”

It would also enable Tokyo to increase its contributions to international

peacekeeping efforts.

But opposition lawmakers and constitutional scholars argue that Japan’s exercising of the right to collective self-defence — or coming to the aid of allies under armed attack even if Japan itself is not attacked — would violate the war-renouncing Constitution.

Given the coalition’s control of more than two-thirds of the more powerful lower house, it appears likely that the legislation will be enacted by the end of the current extended Diet session on 17 September.

Under the Constitution, a bill rejected by the upper house can be passed into law by a second vote in the

lower chamber with a two-thirds majority, and such a vote can also be held if the upper house fails to put a bill cleared by the lower house to a vote within 60 days.

While Abe has expressed determination to get the legislation enacted during the current Diet session, public support for the security bills remains low.

A recent opinion poll conducted by *Kyodo News* showed 61.5 percent opposed the bills, while 27.5 percent supported them.

In the poll, 68.2 percent expressed opposition to enactment of the legislation during the current Diet session, while 24.6 percent expressed support.

Newspaper polls show the ruling coalition’s push to pass the bills through the lower house has sent the support rate for the Abe Cabinet to the lowest level since he returned to power in December 2012.

Observers say that poor handling of the bills in the upper house could risk a further fall in public support for the Cabinet.

Kyodo News

With nuclear deal done, Iran sets out to reassure wary Gulf Arabs



Iranian Foreign Minister Mohammad Javad Zarif

KUWAIT CITY, 27 July — Iran’s foreign minister called on Sunday for a united front among Middle Eastern nations to fight militancy, in his first regional trip since Iran reached an agreement with world powers on the country’s nuclear programme — an agreement that raised fears among its Gulf Arab neighbours.

“Any threat to one country is a threat to all ... No country can solve regional problems without the help of others,” Mohammad Javad Zarif said at a News conference hosted by the Iranian Embassy in Kuwait.

Zarif earlier met Emir Sheikh Sabah al-Ahmed al-Sabah and Kuwait’s foreign minister, Sheikh Sabah al-Khaled al-Sabah, who was not present at the News conference.

After Kuwait, Zarif travelled to Qatar, where he was to meet the Emir Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad al-Thani. He was due to go to Iraq next.

Most Gulf Arab states are worried that Iran’s 14 July accord will hasten détente between Teheran and Washington, emboldening Teheran to increase backing for Middle Eastern allies at odds with Gulf Arab countries.

“Iran stands behind the people in the region to fight against the threat of extremism, terrorism and sectarianism ... Our message to the regional countries is that we should fight together against this shared challenge,” Zarif added.

Most Sunni Muslim-ruled Gulf Arab states have long accused Teheran of interference in Arab affairs, alleging financial or armed support for political movements in countries including Bahrain, Yemen and Lebanon.

Predominantly Shi’ite Iran denies interference but says the nuclear agreement will not change its policies in the region.

Before his Gulf visit, Zarif said in a statement posted on his ministry’s website late on Friday that Teheran would continue supporting its allies in Syria and Iraq to fight against militant group Islamic State.

“The Iranian nation supports all oppressed nations,” Iranian President Hassan Rouhani said earlier, during a visit on Sunday to Iran’s Kurdistan Province:

“If it wasn’t for Iran, Erbil and Baghdad would have also fallen to the terrorists (of Islamic State) ... Just as we defended Dahuk, Erbil and Sulaymaniyah (in Iraqi Kurdistan), if any country in the whole region is a victim of aggression, the Iranian nation will defend the oppressed,” Rouhani added.

Bahrain said on Saturday it had foiled an arms smuggling plot by two Bahrainis with ties to Iran and announced the recall of the Gulf island kingdom’s ambassador to Teheran for consultations after what it said were repeated hostile Iranian statements.

Iran’s Foreign Ministry spokeswoman, Marzieh Afkham, called this allegation “baseless and repetitive,” saying Bahrain is only trying to “create tension in the region.”

“This approach is not constructive and it will not stop Iran’s trust-building policy to cooperate with regional countries to fight against extremism and terrorism,” Afkham was quoted as saying by state news agency, *IRNA*.—*Reuters*

China arrests, probes five former local officials

BEIJING, 27 July — The Anhui Provincial People’s Procuratorate in central China has announced the arrest of Jiang Changsheng, former head of the Organization Department of the Communist Party of China (CPC) Suzhou Municipal Committee.

Jiang is suspected of bribery, according to a government statement issued on Monday. The Anhui prosecuting authorities are also investigating Hui Zhigang, former vice general manager of the state-owned iron and steel giant Ma Steel, for the same crime.

Qinghai prosecuting authorities in northwest

China are investigating Zhu Jianping, former deputy head of CPC committee in the provincial State-Owned Assets Supervision and Administration Commission, and Yu Xiaoming, former director of the provincial energy bureau, for suspected bribery. Yu was also accused of holding huge wealth from unidentified sources, which is a crime for Chinese officials.

Zhao Changsheng, a senior municipal political advisor in central China’s Hubei Province is also being investigated for suspected abuse of power and bribery taking, according to the statement.—*Xinhua*

Rains, flash flood kill 51 people in Pakistan

ISLAMABAD, 27 July — At least 51 people have been killed, 21 others injured and 258,930 affected by rain-triggered accidents and flash floods over the last 12 days in Pakistan, local media quoted the national Disaster Management Authority (NDMA) as reporting on Monday.

Punjab, Khyber Pakh-

tunkhwa and Balochistan are the worst hit areas.

The flash floods have also damaged 1,648 houses, inundated 451 villages and destroyed standing crops on 233,688 acres of land.

Rescue and relief activities by the NDMA, provincial governments and army are continuing in the affected areas.—*Xinhua*

Obama in Ethiopia on Africa tour to boost security, other ties

ADDIS ABABA, 27 July — Barack Obama met the Ethiopian prime minister on Monday on the first visit by a serving US president to a nation with one of the fastest-growing economies in Africa but which has often been criticized for its rights record.

Talks with Prime Minister Hailemariam Desalegn are expected focus on security and the threat of the Islamist militant group al Shabaab in Somalia. Obama, who arrived from Kenya on Sunday, also wants to boost business ties with Africa. Ethiopia's ruling party, in power for quarter of a century, has turned the once famine-stricken economy around, but opponents say

it has been at the expense of political freedoms. The opposition failed to secure a single seat in a May parliamentary election.

On Obama's first stop in Kenya, his father's homeland, he urged Kenyans to deepen democracy, tackle corruption and end politics of exclusion based on gender or ethnicity. He also promised Kenya more security assistance.

"We are strongly committed to partnering with African countries to increase their capacity to address the immediate threats posed by terrorist organizations," the White House said in a statement on Monday. Ethiopia contributes troops to an African Union peace keeping



US President Barack Obama receives flowers from children as he arrives aboard Air Force One at Bole International Airport in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia on 26 July, 2015.—REUTERS

force battling al Shabaab in Somalia. The group has often launched attacks in Kenya, but diplomats say Ethiopia's state security apparatus has spared it sim-

ilar assaults.

Obama holds talks with regional leaders about the conflict in South Sudan late on Monday. Warring factions have ignored pres-

sure to end fighting, and talks may consider possible sanctions if an mid-August deadline is not met.

Obama, who many Africans claim as their son, is seeking to expand business links with the continent, where China overtook the United States as the biggest trade partner in 2009.

"Africa is on the move. Africa is one of the fastest growing regions in the world," Obama told a conference in Nairobi on Saturday that sought to encourage African entrepreneurs and match them with investors.

Ethiopia, brought to its knees by communist purges in the 1970s and famine in the 1980s, has won praise for pushing

growth into double digits and spreading development with a range of rural health programmes and other initiatives across the nation. But it has relied largely on state-led investment to drive growth, which economists say is squeezing out private business.

It remains one of the world's biggest recipients of aid and is still among Africa's poorest nations per capita.

The government has often turned to China to help build new roads, railways and dams in its bid to expand the industrial base in the largely agrarian economy. The new metro line that snakes through Addis Ababa was built by a Chinese firm.—Reuters

Greek PM Tsipras under pressure over covert Syriza drachma plan reports

ATHENS, 27 July — Some members of Greece's leftist government wanted to raid central bank reserves and hack taxpayer accounts to prepare a return to the drachma, according to reports on Sunday that highlighted the chaos in the ruling Syriza party.

It is not clear how seriously the plans, attributed to former Energy Minister Panagiotis Lafazanis and former Finance Minister Yanis Varoufakis, were considered by the government and both ministers were sacked earlier this month. However the reports have been seized on by opposition parties who have demanded an explanation.

The reports came at the end of a week of fevered speculation over what Syriza hardliners had in mind as an alternative to the tough bailout terms that Tsipras reluctantly accepted to keep Greece in the euro. Around a quarter of the party's 149 lawmakers rebelled over the plan to pass sweeping austerity measures in exchange for up to 86 billion euros in fresh loans and Tsipras has struggled to hold the divided party together.

In an interview with Sunday's edition of the *RealNews* daily, Panagiotis Lafazanis, the hard-line former energy minister who lost his job after rebelling over the bailout plans, said he had urged

the government to tap the reserves of the Bank of Greece in defiance of the European Central Bank. Lafazanis, leader of a hard-line faction in the ruling Syriza party that has argued for a return to the drachma, said the move would have allowed pensions and public sector wages to be paid if Greece were forced out of the euro.

"The main reason for that was for the Greek economy and Greek people to survive, which is the utmost duty every government has under the constitution," he said.

However he denied a report in the *Financial Times* that he wanted Bank of Greece Governor Yanis Stouranaras to be arrested if he had opposed a move to empty the central bank vaults. In comments to the semi-official *Athens News Agency*, he called the report a mixture of "lies, fantasy, fear-mongering, speculation and old-fashioned anti-communism".

In a separate report in the conservative *Kathimerini* daily, Varoufakis was quoted as saying that a small team in Syriza had prepared plans to secretly copy online tax codes. It said the "Plan B" was devised to allow the government to introduce a parallel payment system if the banking system was closed down.

In remarks the newspaper said were made to an investors' conference on 16 July, Varoufakis said

passwords used by Greeks to access their online tax accounts were to have been copied secretly and used to issue new PIN numbers for every taxpayer to be used in transactions with the state. "This would have created a parallel banking system, which would have given us some breathing space, while the banks would have been shut due to the ECB's aggressive policy," Varoufakis was quoted as saying.

Varoufakis, an outspoken academic economist who became deeply unpopular with other European finance ministers during his five months in office, stood down earlier this month to facilitate bailout talks. He has been a strident opponent of the deal ever since.

Under the plan, which the report said went back to before Tsipras was elected in January, transactions through the parallel system would have been nominated in euros but could easily change into drachmas overnight, he was quoted as saying.

Varoufakis denied the report. "So, I was going to 'hijack' Greek citizens' tax file numbers? Impressed by my defamers' imagination," he wrote on Twitter.

The center-right New Democracy party and the centrist To Potami and the Socialist Pasok parties, which all backed Tsipras in parliamentary votes on the bailout this month, demanded a response to the reports.

"The revelations that are coming out raise a major political, economic and moral issue for the government which needs in-depth examination," it said in a statement.

"Is it true that a designated team in the finance ministry had undertaken work on a backup plan? Is it true they had planned to raid the national Mint and that they prepared for a parallel currency by hacking the tax registration numbers of the taxpayers?"

To Potami said the reports of covert plans were worthy of a bad thriller.

The *Kathimerini* report said access to the Greek tax service's computer systems was under the control of inspectors from the "troika", the international creditors' group, and therefore inaccessible to the government. As a result, Varoufakis and an official in charge of information systems planned to copy taxpayer codes from online accounts and set up a shadow system. However, according to the report, he said the plan had never been approved by Tsipras.

Deputy Finance Minister Dimitris Mardas denied the government had ever discussed plans to take Greece out of the euro. "I have repeatedly said that such discussions have never taken place at a government policy level," he told Skai television.—Reuters

Cameron in southeast Asia visit to talk trade, Islamist extremism



Britain's Prime Minister David Cameron

LONDON, 27 July — Prime Minister David Cameron said on Sunday he wanted to use a four-day trade mission to southeast Asia to spur lucrative business deals and to forge new political alliances to counter Islamist extremism.

The trip, which begins in earnest on Monday, is expected to take in Indonesia, Malaysia, Singapore and Vietnam, and will be Cameron's first outside Europe since he won an unexpectedly convincing election victory in May.

Cameron, who will travel with a business delegation, has touted the visit as an example of how Britain must expand its trade links with the rest of the world to compensate for its dependence on trade with Europe, parts of which remain mired in an economic funk.

He hopes to use the opportunity to renew his image on the world stage after running an unusually parochial election campaign and presiding over a downgrading of Britain's military and diplomatic muscle during his first term in office.

He is expected to discuss the threat from Islamist extremism with President Joko Widodo of Indonesia, and later with Prime Minister Najib Razak of Malaysia. Around 500 people

from Indonesia, which has the world's largest Muslim population, and 200 from Malaysia are believed to have joined the extremists in Iraq and Syria. Speaking before his departure, Cameron said: "(Islamic State) is one of the biggest threats our world has faced. I think Britain can offer expertise on practical counter-terrorism work, dealing with the threat from foreign fighters and investigating potential terrorist plots.

"And I think Britain can learn from Indonesia and Malaysia on the work they have done to tackle the extremist ideology and to build tolerant and resilient societies." The threat posed by Islamist extremism is high on the political agenda in Britain after an Islamist gunman killed 30 British tourists at a Tunisian beach resort last month.

Britain is already taking part in US-led air strikes on Islamic State militants in Iraq and Cameron is keen to get parliament's backing later this year to extend those strikes to Syria.

The Sunday Telegraph reported Cameron and his advisers had also discussed what they could do to help defeat Islamist militants in Libya if a stable government there emerged, while The Mail on Sunday said the government had drawn up contingency plans to deploy troops on Britain's streets in the event of an attack by Islamists. Cameron has said the West faces a generational struggle against what he calls the "death cult" of IS.

Reuters

Yemen's Sanaa quiet as truce begins, clashes reported in south

SANAA, 27 July — A truce appeared to be holding on Monday in Yemen's capital Sanaa, the target of near-nightly air raids during a fourth-month-old war, with residents saying the city had passed a quiet night.

There were clashes early on Monday in Marib and Taiz provinces to the south, however, according to sources in militias opposed to Houthi forces. Details were not immediately available.

The Arab coalition fighting the Iranian-allied Houthi militia announced a ceasefire from 11.59 pm (9.59 pm BST) on Sunday evening for five days to allow for the delivery of humanitarian aid amid severe shortages of fuel, food and medicine.

Four months of air raids and war have killed more than 3,500 people in the Arabian Peninsula state. UN children's agency UNICEF says the death toll includes 365 children.

Aden and other southern provinces have been largely inaccessible to UN food aid, and about 13 million people — more than half the population — are thought to be in dire need of food.

UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon welcomed the ceasefire and urged all parties to suspend military operations during the pause and refrain from exploiting it to move weapons or seize territory.

Turkey arrests dozens more in sweep against Islamic State, Kurdish militants

ISTANBUL, 27 July — Turkish police detained dozens more suspected Islamic State and Kurdish militants in early morning raids on Monday, local media said, amid a crackdown on the armed groups and air strikes in Syria and Iraq.

Long a reluctant member of the US-led coalition against Islamic State, Turkey last week made a dramatic turnaround by granting the alliance access to its air bases and bombarding targets in Syria linked to the jihadist movement as well as detaining suspected members in Turkish cities. Turkish jets also attacked Kurdish insurgent camps in Iraq for a second night on Sunday, in a campaign that could end Ankara's peace process with the Kurdistan Workers Party (PKK).

Broadcaster CNN Turk said more than 800 suspected Islamic State and PKK members had been arrested in the past week in a domestic crackdown carried out alongside the air strikes. Some 500 police swept through the Haci Bayram district of the capital Ankara and detained 15 Islamic State suspects, 11 of them foreign, the pro-government Yeni Safak daily said. Operations also took place in the southeastern city of Adiyaman, where 19 people with alleged links to the PKK were detained, it reported. Turkey's air strikes on PKK camps in northern Iraq come despite negotiations with the rebels that were launched in 2012 to end a 30-year insurgency. The PKK has said the action has rendered the peace process meaningless. The Syrian Kurdish YPG, which has links to the PKK but which has coordinated with the United States in the fight against Islamic State in northern Syria, meanwhile said on Monday the Turkish army had shelled its positions on the outskirts of the Islamic State-held town of Jarablus.—Reuters

A worker with an AK-47 rifle stops the sale of petrol at a petrol station amid the fuel supply shortage in Yemen's capital Sanaa on 26 July, 2015. REUTERS



In a statement late on Sunday, Ban said he “appeals to all parties to exercise maximum restraint in cases of isolated violations and to avoid escalation.”

“The growing number of civilian casualties, including the disturbing reports of civilian deaths in Mokha on Friday evening, in the unfolding humanitarian catastrophe make a pause and an eventual extension an imperative.”

He was referring to a coalition air strike in western Yemen in which 80 people, mostly civilians, were killed, according to the Houthi-controlled *Saba* news agency.

Shortly before Ban's statement was issued, the head of the Houthi supreme revolutionary committee, Mohammed Ali al-Houthi, said in comments carried by *Saba* that the group had not been notified by the United Nations about the ceasefire and would not form a position towards it until then.

The Saudi-led coalition began a campaign on 26 March 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 the port city of Aden. The coalition, allied with southern secessionist

fighters, retook much of Aden last week in the first significant ground victory in their campaign to end Houthi control and restore exiled President Abd-Rabbu Mansour Hadi.

On Sunday, Yemeni forces allied with the coalition fought Houthi militia for control of the country's largest air base north of Aden. There was no word on the situation there on Monday.

Houthi fighters and army units loyal to former president Ali Abdullah Saleh captured Aden at the outset of the war, prompting Hadi to flee to Saudi Arabia, an ally along with the United States.

Reuters

Gunmen attack Afghan wedding party, killing 21, wounding eight

KABUL, 27 July — Armed men opened fire at a wedding ceremony in northern Afghanistan, killing at least 21 guests and wounding eight, provincial officials said on Monday.

Violence has increased sharply this year in most parts of Afghanistan, after US-led forces formally ended their combat mission at the end of 2014, leaving a small contingent of about 12,000 NATO troops to train Afghan forces.

It was not immediately clear what prompted the attack in the northern province of Baghlan, but insurgent activity has increased in the province over the past year and private militias have proliferated.

“There was a wedding party, which turned to a tragedy, after some armed men entered and opened fire on male guests,” Baghlan police chief General Abdul Jabar Pordeli told *Reuters* by telephone. “An investigation is ongoing and police will arrest all perpetrators,” added the police chief, who estimated there were 2,500 armed members of illegal groups in the province. Last year was the deadliest on record for non-combatants in Afghanistan, the United Nations has said, with at least 3,188 Afghan civilians killed in the intensifying war with Taliban insurgents. Weddings in rural Afghanistan start in the evening and parties follow a custom of keeping men and women guests apart.—Reuters

At least 13 dead in al Shabaab attack on Somali hotel

MOGADISHU, 27 July — The Somali militant Islamist group al Shabaab attacked a Mogadishu hotel on Sunday, driving a car packed with explosives through the hotel gate and killing at least 13 people, a first responder and the rebel group said.

A *Reuters* witness said blood and pieces of flesh were spattered around the site of the blast targeting the Jazeera hotel. Nearby was the wreckage of four cars.

“We have carried 13 dead people and 21 others who were injured, some seriously,” an ambulance worker Abdikadir Abdirahman told *Reuters*.

China's Foreign Ministry said that a Chinese national who worked doing security at its embassy in the country, which is located in the hotel, was among the dead, and that three

others received minor injuries.

A police officer, Major Nur Osoble, told *Reuters* a suicide car bomb had rammed the gates of the hotel, damaging the facade.

Al Shabaab, which said it was behind the blast, frequently stages bomb and gun attacks in the capital in its bid to topple Somalia's Western-backed government. The nation is trying to rebuild after two decades of conflict and chaos.

“It is a response to attacks and helicopter bombing against al Shabaab by AMISOM and the Somali government,” Sheikh Abdiasis Abu Musab, al Shabaab's military operations spokesman, told *Reuters*.

AMISOM, the African Union's force in Somalia, has been battling the Islamist rebels with the Somali army. Al Shabaab has been



Somali government soldiers stand outside the ruins of the Jazeera hotel after an attack in Somalia's capital Mogadishu on 26 July, 2015.—REUTERS

pushed into increasingly smaller pockets of territory by a military offensive this year.

The popular Jazeera hotel has been targeted on previous occasions. The blast on Sunday sent a plume of smoke rising above the coastal capital.

Sporadic gunfire was heard shortly after the attack.

Al Shabaab, which wants to impose its strict interpretation of Islam on Somalia, killed a lawmaker, his bodyguard and an official from the prime minister's office on two attacks on Saturday.—Reuters

PERSPECTIVES

Tuesday, 28 July, 2015

Opportunists must not influence reform plans

By Aung Khin

Reform plans are implemented to improve the operations companies, government and other institutions. Many stakeholders are often involved in the implementation of such plans.

Sometimes, the introduction of new plans creates opportunities for those involved in the planning process. When planners start thinking of their own benefit, the original aims of the reform can fall by the wayside.

Steadfast intentions are needed for a long-term reform plan to succeed. Involvement of opportunists can result in the reform plan doing more harm than good. Implementation of reform plans therefore needs continual monitoring.

Transition periods are often needed during times of significant change, especially in politics. While some people involved in reform processes may have credentials from past endeavours, it does not guarantee their suitability for the task at hand. Some have sincere views toward develop-

ment, while others seek to grasp opportunities from the reform process.

“Change” in politics should be synonymous with “development” or “evolution.” It should not represent a chance for opportunists who only consider their own interest.

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AM I NUMBER 12? BEWARE OF HEPATITIS

Dr Aung Soe (a) Aung Kyaw Moe
Retired State Medical Superintendent

28 July is world hepatitis day celebrated all over the world. “AM I NUMBER 12?” was the slogan for world hepatitis day 2008, while “Prevent Hepatitis, Act Now” is for 2015.

All the doctors and clinicians, no doubt are quite familiar with hepatitis. During my official career for more than 30 years across Myanmar in different states and regions at various capacities, as well as, as a United Nations Volunteer Medical Officer (UNV-MO) under the agency of UNDP abroad, I had to encountered hepatitis cases which prevail everywhere.

Although hepatitis cases include Hepatitis A, B, C, D and E, Hepatitis B and Hepatitis C are more virulent. Globally, 4 billion people are infected with Hepa-

titis B Virus (HBV) with 350 million carriers, while 200 million humans are infected with Hepatitis C Virus (HCV), resulting in 170 million carriers. Carrier means infected persons without signs and symptoms, some even more than 30 years, carrying and distributing germs to neighbouring persons, who may develop the disease. As such, carriers are potentially dangerous to contacts for development of scirrhosis and cancer liver.

In previous days, world hepatitis day was sponsored by World Hepatitis Alliance and celebrated on 19 May every year. Since one in every 12 persons in human population is infected with hepatitis virus, World Hepatitis Alliance choose the slogan AM I NUMBER 12 for public awareness and prevention

of deadly hepatitis through individual and community participation.

During the year 2011, United Nations World Health Assembly adopted July 28 as World Hepatitis Day, honouring Noble Laureate Professor Baruch Samuel Blumberg, who discovered HBsAg fragment of hepatitis B virus (HBV) which led create the hepatitis B vaccine, corner stone for prevention of hepatitis B.

Since Hepatitis B is a pre-cancerous yet a preventable disease, let me elaborate some salient points regarding this major public health problem.

HBV infection has an HBsAg prevalence rate of 1.3-12.7 percent in children below 15 years of age. Out of a total 43 million estimated HBV carriers, 10 percent are highly infectious. Those with chronic HBV infection are at risk for morbidity and mortality

associated with scirrhosis and hepatocellular carcinoma. Figures are of one neighbour country.

Hepatitis B virus (HBV) is a DNA containing double-shelled virus, 42 nm in diameter. The virus possess various antigens that may help in distinguishing the duration and state of HBV infection in the host.

Only serum, saliva and semen are truly infectious. Children usually acquire infection indirectly, through parenteral route from hepatitis B virus-contaminated blood transfusion. It may also be transmitted through sharing of contaminated hypodermic needles used for multiple doses of injection and shaving razors. Adolescent boys and girls may acquire the virus through sexual contact with an infected partner. It has not been possible to experimentally transmit the infection through fe-

minimal liver damage or follow an acute or chronic course.

Both anicteric and icteric manifestations are known. Spleen is palpable in 15 percent children. Complications and fulminant hepatitis are much more common. Extrahepatic manifestations are characteristic.

Rash, arthralgia and urticaria are usually present. It may be confused with rheumatoid arthritis. The symptoms last for less than a week. This symptom complex is seen in 2 percent of patients, usually in early incubation period.

Nevertheless, personal hygiene and environmental sanitation are key factor for prevention and control of all communicable as well as non-communicable diseases, and looking forward to prevent about Hepatitis C in future.

co-oral route.

HBsAg positive mothers may infect their fetus in the third trimester or during early post-partum period. Only 5-10 percent are infected in utero, rest at the time of delivery. Association of HBeAg in maternal blood is correlated with a high transmission rate.

The infective period extends over the period of acute illness. Man is the only reservoir. About 10 percent of patients may become carriers. This state may last from a few years to the lifetime of the person. The carrier may be asymptomatic or rarely may have active liver disease.

Incubation period is 60 to 110 days.

The onset is insidious. The loss of appetite is mild. Nausea and vomiting are uncommon. The illness may be asymptomatic with

Union tourism minister attends symposium on business, logistics management in Thailand

NAY PYI TAW, 27 July— Union Minister for Hotels and Tourism U Htay Aung attended an international symposium on business and logistics manage-

ment, which was held at Mae Fah Luang University in Chiang Rai, Thailand, from 23 to 24 July.

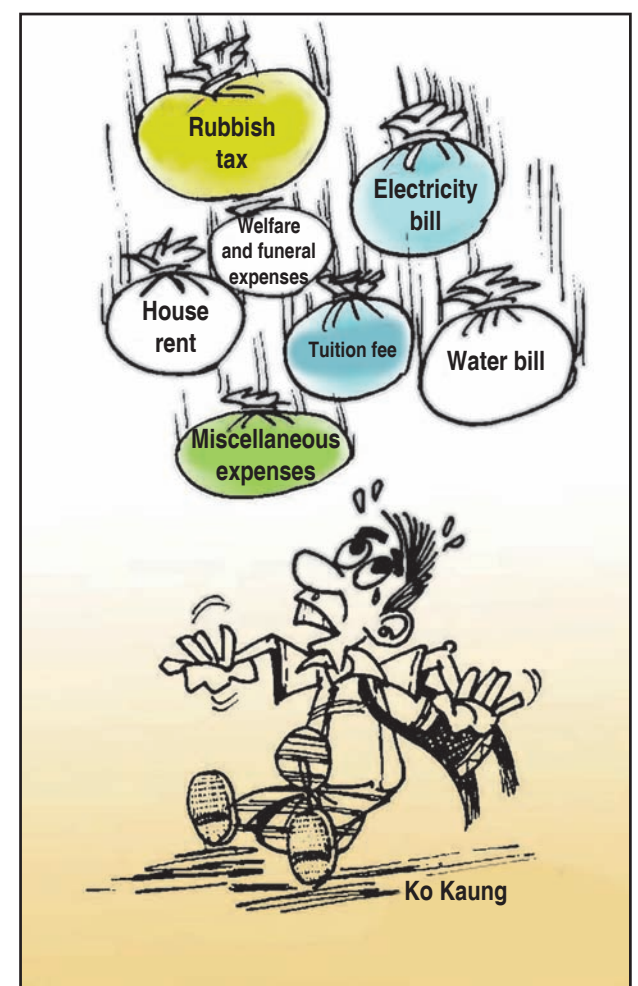
The International Symposium Next Genera-

tion ASEAN+3 Connectivity “Trends and Opportunities in Business and Logistics Management” was aimed to provide a forum for scholars, students,

entrepreneurs, government sector and private sector from neighbouring countries to share and gain experience in the issues of international business management, border trade and logistics and supply chain management in ASEAN+3 countries.

At the event, U Htay Aung discussed GDP increase of Myanmar, the World Travel and Tourism Council’s tourism development report on the country.

The conference was attended by Deputy Prime Minister Mr. Pridiyathorn Devakula, international experts, scholars and students.—MNA



Union Minister for Hotels and Tourism U Htay Aung delivers speech at international symposium: next generation ASEAN+3 connectivity.—H&T

LOCAL NEWS

Flood victims receive emergency supplies



KAWLIN, 27 July — Zaw Oo and officials at the Sagaing Region Minister for Transport U Aung week-end provided food, purified drinking water and clothes to flood victims in Inbintha village-tract, Kawlin Township.

The village-tract had inundated by floodwaters caused by heavy rain on 16 July. While meeting with flood victims in Kathitkon village, the minister called for farmlands to be ploughed when flooding recedes.

Township medical officer Dr Khin Maung Than spoke about common diseases in rainy season and treatment for snake-bite patients.

Township IPRD



Chairman of Myawady Golf Club U Khin Maung Myint and officials present prizes to winners in monsoon golf tournament at Myasandi golf course in Myawady, Kayin State, on 25 July.—TUN TUN OO (MYAWADY TOWN)

Electrification works under way in rural townships

MANDALAY, 27 July—Mandalay Region Minister for Electricity and Industry U Kyaw Myint and officials of Mandalay Electricity Supply Corporation at the weekend inspected substitution of underground cables and wooden lamp-posts in Aungmyethazan Township. The minister and party held discussions with local authorities on installation of five 315-KVA transformers at the main corners of roads in Chanayethazan and Mahaungmye townships to enable local residents to

use electricity. In Patheingyi Township, the minister met with members of the Bantkwe village electrification committee to discuss progress of the village electricity supply project.—Maung Pyi Thu (Mandalay)



Officials inspect maintenance of Thaungyin River's retaining walls

MYAWADY, 27 July—Local authorities manage maintenance of retaining walls for prevention of landslides along Thaungyin River in Myawady, Kayin State.

Myawady District's deputy commissioner U Lwin Ko Oo and township officials on Sunday viewed waterways, maintenance of retaining walls and banks of the river by boat.

Htein Lin Aung (IPRD)



MEHL to buy F&N stake in MBL for K500 billion

YANGON, 27 July — Myanmar Economic Holdings Limited (MEHL) said recently it welcomes an independent valuer's report ordered by an arbitral tribunal appointed to settle its dispute with Fraser & Neave (F&N) over the latter's 55% stake in Myanmar Brewery Limited (MBL).

The independent valuer estimated the fair value of F&N's 55% stake in MBL to be 500 billion kyat.

U Nay Wynn, Director of MEHL, said, "The conclusion of the valuation takes us one step nearer to a final closure of an unexpectedly long drawn process to protect our rights under the Joint Venture Agreement with F&N."

"MEHL stands ready and willing to conclude the sale and purchase of F&N's stake in MBL at 500 billion kyat within the 30-day period ordered by the arbitral tribunal."

In 2013, MEHL commenced arbitration to seek

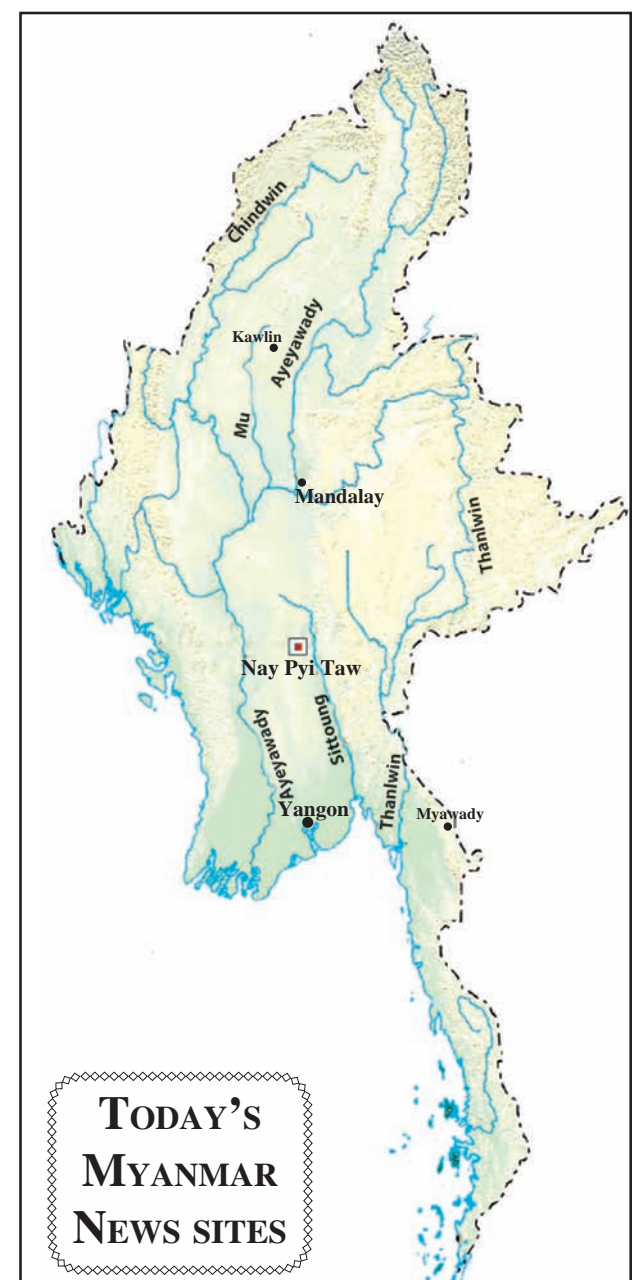
an order that F&N was obliged to sell its stake in MBL to MEHL following F&N's breach of obligations under the Joint Venture Agreement (JVA).

In October 2014, the arbitral tribunal allowed MEHL's claim and ordered F&N to sell its 55% stake in MBL to MEHL or its nominee at a valuation to be determined by an independent third party valuer.

While the latest valuation differs from the one carried out in 2013. MEHL noted that the 2013 valuation was undertaken by a third party in accordance with the provisions in the JVA and was also affirmed by an independent international accounting firm.

MEHL said it disagrees with F&N's position that the sale should take place in US dollars at the 2013 exchange rate.

GNLM



Mitsubishi Motors to end US vehicle production in late November



Tetsuro Aikawa, president of Mitsubishi Motors Corp, speaks to the press at its headquarters in Tokyo on 27 July, 2015. KYODO NEWS

TOKYO, 27 July — Mitsubishi Motors Corp said on Monday it will end motor vehicle production in the United States at the end of this November.

The Japanese automaker said it will consoli-

date its vehicle production at its plant in Okazaki, Aichi Prefecture, in central Japan, while seeking a buyer for its Illinois plant.

The company's board of directors will sign off on the plan on Thursday.

Mitsubishi Motors manufactures the "Outlander Sport" sport utility vehicles at the Illinois plant for the North American, Russian and Latin American markets.

In 2014, slightly more

than 60,000 vehicles were produced at the plant, roughly half of its annual output capacity of some 120,000 units, amid lackluster sales in North America and a sharp fall in sales in Russia.

The Tokyo-based automaker will export the SUVs from its Okazaki plant to North America, while planning to focus its management on growing Asian markets.

Mitsubishi Motors

began production of its vehicles in the United States in 1988 through a joint venture with Chrysler Corp and later acquired a full stake in the joint venture.

Kyodo News

Chinese scientists discover therapy to child obesity

BEIJING, 27 July — A research team led by Chinese scientists have discovered dietary modulation of gut microbiota can alleviate both genetic and simple obesity in children.

The findings of the team, led by Zhao Liping with Shanghai Jiaotong University, Yin Aihua with the Guangdong Province children's hospital, and Tang Huiru with Chinese Academy of Sciences, have been published on *EBio-Medicine*, a renowned medical journal co-sponsored by *Cell and The Lancet* in July.

The team identified bacterial genomes specifically for producing obesity-related metabolites, and said an improved gut mi-

crobiota can significantly help to treat genetic obesity such as Prader-Willi Syndrome (PWS).

Beginning in childhood, PWS affected kids develop an insatiable appetite, leading to chronic overeating and obesity.

The scientists used a diet therapy with beneficial gut bacteria on trial patients and found considerable diminished appetite, weight loss and improved health conditions on the patients.

The paper concluded dysbiosis of gut microbiota is highly related with both genetic and simple obesity in children, implicating dietary modulation of gut microbiota a potentially effective treatment method.

Xinhua



AstraZeneca sells rare cancer drug to Sanofi for up \$300 million



The logo of AstraZeneca is seen on medication packages in a pharmacy in London on 28 April, 2014. REUTERS

LONDON, 27 July— AstraZeneca, under pressure from falling sales of older drugs, is selling a medicine for a rare type of cancer to Sanofi as it continues a drive to raise cash by divesting certain assets.

Sanofi's rare diseases unit Genzyme will pay AstraZeneca up to \$300 million for global rights to Caprelsa, including an upfront payment of \$165 million and further milestone payments based on the drug's performance of up to \$135 million, the companies said on Monday.

Caprelsa is currently sold in 28 countries for treating medullary thyroid carcinoma and had sales last year of \$48 million.—Reuters

Patients with diabetes more likely to develop tuberculosis: Australian study

SYDNEY, 27 July— Patients with diabetes are much more likely to develop tuberculosis in the tropics than the general population, Australian scientists revealed on Monday.

A 20-year James Cook University (JCU) study, which looked at data from the Townsville Hospital in northern Queensland from 1995- 2014, has found the weakened immune systems of diabetics make them more vulnerable to tuberculosis (TB) than the general population.

Director of Microbiol-

ogy at Townsville Hospital, Dr Robert Norton said on Monday people with diabetes suffered from "immune dysregulation" and were more prone to contracting the deadly infection.

"You can have TB your whole life and not know it, but if you suffer from diabetes and your immune system is not functioning well, it can flare up," Norton said.

The study, published in *American Journal of Tropical Medicine and Hygiene*, showed that

while the overall numbers were lower, the proportion of diabetics developing TB was the same as in less-developed countries.

Scientists had assumed that higher standards of care for diabetic patients in Australia and the relative rarity of TB meant there was not as strong a link between the two ailments.

Norton said the findings support the view that there must be screening of patients with diabetes for latent TB in any setting.

"It is especially

important because the prevalence of type two diabetes is increasing at a very significant pace," Norton said.

Tuberculosis, which commonly affects the lungs, remains the leading cause of bacterial death worldwide despite improvements in sanitation and antibiotic coverage over the last century.

It is estimated that if diabetes could be reduced by 35 percent globally, 1.5 million TB deaths and 7.8 million infections could be prevented.—Xinhua

Asian shares broadly softer as Fed looms

SYDNEY, 27 July — Asian shares began the week on a plaintive note amid losses on Wall Street and worries over China, while investors braced for a Federal Reserve meeting that might take another small step toward lifting US interest rates.

Japan's Nikkei slipped 0.5 percent, while MSCI's broadest index of Asia-Pacific shares outside Japan lost 0.8 percent.

In China, the CSI300 index .CSI300 of the largest listed companies in Shanghai and Shenzhen

fell 1 percent, with sentiment still soured by a poor PMI survey on manufacturing. Australia's main index fell 0.2 percent as mining stocks struggled with the slump in global commodity prices.

Both copper and the Thomson Reuters CRB commodities index hit their lowest in six years. Early Monday, copper futures were off another 0.1 percent.

The Fed's policy-setting Open Market Committee meets on Tuesday and Wednesday and is considered highly unlikely to lift

interest rates just yet, though it does still seem set on a move in September.

"We expect Fed voters to pull the trigger in September, but for the path to interest rate normalization to be a long one given the global risk profile, the lack of inflationary pressure, and concerns over what moving too quickly may do to asset markets, particularly the dollar, and the wider economy," said analysts at Australia and New Zealand Banking Group.

Expectations of a hike ened the dollar's premium over the euro. Yields on two-year US notes pay



A videographer films an electronic board showing the Japan's Nikkei average (Top R) and related indexes at the Tokyo Stock Exchange (TSE) in Tokyo, Japan, on 9 July, 2015. —REUTERS

around 90 basis points more than German debt, near the widest since early 2007.

around 90 basis points more than German debt, near the widest since early 2007.

The single currency was a shade firmer at \$1.0990 on Monday, but not far from recent lows around \$1.0810.

The dollar was 0.1 percent lower against a basket of currencies at 97.146. It was steady on the yen at 123.68 having spent the past few sessions wandering aimlessly between 123.54 and 124.48.

A first estimate of US economic growth for last quarter is due on Thursday and is expected to show a rebound of 2.7 percent annualized, from the first quarter's weather-induced contraction.

Reuters

Apple Watch to be sold at Best Buy stores from August

NEW YORK, 27 July — The Apple Watch will be available at stores of Best Buy Co Inc, the largest US consumer electronics chain, starting 7 August.

The Apple Watch and Apple Watch Sport models will be sold at more than

300 Best Buy stores in time for the holiday shopping season, a spokeswoman for Apple Inc said.

“Customers love Apple Watch, and we are thrilled to begin offering it at Best Buy,” she said in an email.

Best Buy is the first retailer to sell the watch outside of the Apple retail store.

“The Apple Watch is an important addition to an emerging product category, and we know our customers want it,” Jason Bonfig,

senior category officer, said on the Best Buy website.

The company said the product will also be available on its online store BestBuy.com.

The Wall Street Journal first reported that the Apple watch was coming to Best Buy.

Apple Chief Financial Officer Luca Maestri told *Reuters* earlier this month that sales of the Apple Watch had beat the company's expectations. He said in the nine weeks since its launch in late April, the device had sold better than either iPhones or iPads over a similar period after their launch.—*Reuters*

Canon cuts outlook as weak camera sales hit second-quarter profit

TOKYO, 27 July — Japan's Canon Inc cut its earnings outlook for the full year and reported a 16 percent fall in quarterly profit as consumers, increasingly in the habit of taking photos with their smartphones, bought fewer compact digital cameras.

The world's largest camera maker said on Monday its second-quarter net profit fell to 68 billion yen (\$552 million) compared with 81 billion yen a year earlier. Analysts on average expected 65 billion yen, according to Thomson Reuters data.

The firm said it now expects full-year profit of 245 billion yen rather than the 255 billion it forecast three months ago.

Canon has been trying to offset weak growth in cameras with investments

in new businesses. Earlier this year it offered to buy video surveillance firm AXIS AB for \$2.7 billion.

“Despite firm sales in Japan, interchangeable-lens digital cameras continued to face severe conditions in other regions while sales volume for digital compact cameras decreased in most regions compared with the same period of the previous year,” Canon said in a statement.

It also said the weak yen was inflating operating costs. It expects the dollar to trade at an average of 125 yen for the rest of the year instead of 120 yen forecast three months ago.

Shares of Canon fell 0.75 percent ahead of the earnings release, compared with a 0.95 percent fall in the broader market.

Reuters



A man walks past a showroom of Japanese imaging and optical products manufacturer Canon in Tokyo on 27 July, 2015.—REUTERS



Apple Watches are seen on display at the Apple store on 5th Avenue in the Manhattan borough of New York City, on 21 July, 2015.—REUTERS

Facebook partnership a boon for video technology firm Bidalgo

TEL AVIV, 27 July — Facebook marketing partner Bidalgo targets a tripling in sales in 2015 as its new technology to automate the process of making personalized online video advertising benefits from Facebook's growing share of the video market.

Facebook is becoming a leader in the video market as users prefer to watch video ads over static images, said Peleg Israeli, general manager of Bidalgo's Israeli operations.

Videos are expensive to make and an advertiser usually makes only one or two

versions. The Bidalgo executive said his company's technology, called ADaptation, can automatically turn one video into as many versions as needed, so that targeted audiences will see images they respond to most. For example, a German audience might see a German flag in one video while users in France will see their flag.

The product should account for as much as half of Bidalgo's revenue in the coming year “and down the line much more than that,” Israeli said. He said automated videos will give Facebook an advantage over

Google's YouTube, as Facebook's core technology can identify users “in the most accurate way”. Google remains the leader in long-form video but is facing mounting competition from Facebook in the short-form market for videos that run up to several minutes.

Facebook has said it gets over 4 billion daily video views with more than 75 percent of that on mobile.

IHS senior advertising analyst Eleni Marouli said video is the next big project for Facebook, which needs video to lure branded advertising dollars away from TV.

“Dynamic creative ads are a new, experimental way of providing video advertising,” she said, adding that Facebook needs to partner with or acquire companies with this type of technology.

“The fact that they (Bidalgo) have dynamic ads which change based on gender or location can be a great asset,” she said.

A Google spokesman said growth in viewing time on YouTube is up 60 percent in the latest quarter, its fastest growth in two years, and that for the online video market to grow more players are needed.—*Reuters*

13 new spider species discovered in Australian tropics

SYDNEY, 27 July — A scientific expedition into remote Australian dry tropics on Queensland's Cape York Peninsula has discovered 13 new spider species, it was reported on Monday.

Researchers, teachers and indigenous rangers spent 10 days probing forests and soil in a largely unsurveyed area in a project sponsored by the government, mining company BHP and the Earthwatch Australia environment group.

The team used abalone knives to dig into hard earth to find silk-lined burrows.

A spokeswoman for the project told AAP the 13 new spider types included a brush-footed trapdoor spider and the newly named mouse spider, which lives in a stocking-shaped web. Then there were also new species of tarantulas.—*Xinhua*

China launches 2 satellites for independent navigation system

XICHANG, (Sichuan), 27 July — China successfully launched two satellites for its indigenous global navigation and positioning network at 8:29 pm Beijing Time Saturday, the launch centre said.

Launched from the Xichang Satellite Launch Centre in the southwestern China's Sichuan Province, the two satellites were the 18th and 19th for the Beidou Navigation Satellite system, China's homegrown navigation system.

They were sent into their preset orbits by a Long March-3B/Expedition-1 carrier rocket 3.5 hours after the launch, the centre said.

Expedition-1, or *Yuanzheng-1*, is an independent aircraft installed on the carrier rocket with the ability of sending one or more spacecraft into different orbits in space. The successful launch marks another solid step in building Beidou into a navigation system with global coverage, the centre said.

The two satellites will join the 17th one, which was launched in late March, in the mission of testing a new type of navigation signaling and inter-satellite links, and also provide navigation services as a part of the network, the centre said.

This launch was the 206th flight of China's Long March carriers.

China launched the first satellite for Beidou in 2000. The Beidou system began providing positioning, navigation, timing and short message services to civilian users in China and surrounding areas in the Asia-Pacific in December 2012.

The system has been gradually put into use in extended sectors including transportation, weather forecasting, marine fishing industry, forestry and telecommunications.—*Xinhua*



A Long March-3B/Yuanzheng-1 rocket carrying two new-generation satellites for the BeiDou Navigation Satellite System (BDS) blasts off from the Xichang Satellite Launch Center in the southwest China's Sichuan Province, on 25 July, 2015. China successfully launched two satellites for its indigenous global navigation and positioning network at 8:29 pm Beijing Time Saturday, the launch centre said.—XINHUA

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Class 16: printed publications; namely, comic books, fiction and nonfiction books on a variety of topics, general interest magazines on a variety of topics; posters, stickers, calendars, postcards, playing cards; **Class 38:** television broadcasting services, and the electronic transmission of text, data, audio and video via cable, wireless communications network and the internet; distributing programs and movies for showing on television; **Class 41:** entertainment services in the nature of live-action, comedy, musical and drama programs, documentaries, sporting events and animated television series; production of live-action, comedy, musical and drama programs, documentaries, sporting events and animated television series; distribution of live-action, comedy, musical and drama programs, documentaries, sporting events and animated television series; display of live-action, comedy, musical and drama programs, documentaries, sporting events and animated television series; entertainment services in the nature of live-action, comedy, musical and drama programs, documentaries, sporting events and animated motion picture theatrical films; production of live-action, comedy, musical, documentaries, drama and animated motion picture theatrical films; theatrical performances both animated and live action; distribution of live-action, comedy, musical, documentaries, drama and animated motion picture theatrical films; display of live-action, comedy, musical, documentaries, drama and animated motion picture theatrical films; providing entertainment information via a global computer network; providing educational information via a global computer network; electronic game services provided via a global computer network; electronic publications (not down-loadable); providing on-line publications; publication of electronic books and journals on-line; providing publications from a global computer network or the internet which may be browsed; publication and distribution of printed media and recordings; audio and visual entertainment and education services; movie studios; television entertainment; presentation of live performances; provision of live entertainment; production of live entertainment; production of entertainment shows featuring dancers and/or singers; providing entertainment in the form of live musical performances.

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**Daw La Min May, H.G.P
Kelvin Chia Yangon Ltd.,**

Level 8A, Union Financial Centre (UFC), Corner of Mahabandoola Road and Thein Phyu Road, Botahtaung Tsp, Yangon, The Republic of the Union of Myanmar.

For Time Warner Inc.,

By their Attorneys
Singh & Singh Lall & Sethi,
New Delhi – 110 049, India
Imm@kcyangon.com
Dated 28 July 2015

Earthquake of 6.9 magnitude strikes Alaska's Aleutians

SYDNEY, 27 July — An earthquake measuring magnitude 6.9 struck the Aleutian Islands in the US state of Alaska late on Sunday, the US Geological Survey (USGS) said.

The quake struck 100 km (60 miles) southwest of Nikolski, the USGS said, but there were no immediate reports of casualties or damage. The Pacific Tsunami Warning Centre said there was no tsunami threat.—Reuters

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE MV UBC CYPRUS VOY NO (59)

Consignees of cargo carried on MV UBC CYPRUS VOY NO (59) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 27.7.2015 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of M.I.T.T where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

**SHIPPING AGENCY DEPARTMENT
MYANMA PORT AUTHORITY
AGENT FOR: M/S THALAMAR SHIPPING
AG:**

Phone No: 2301186

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE MV GSS YANGON VOY NO (1036W)

Consignees of cargo carried on MV GSS YANGON VOY NO (1036W) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 27.7.2015 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of H.P.T where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

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Phone No: 2301185

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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.

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

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CLAIMS DAY NOTICE MV VEGA KAPPA VOY NO (1533)

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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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MYANMA PORT AUTHORITY
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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.

**SHIPPING AGENCY DEPARTMENT
MYANMA PORT AUTHORITY
AGENT FOR: M/S REGIONAL CONTAINER
LINES**

Phone No: 2301185

S Korea removes last person from quarantine over MERS

SEOUL, 27 July — South Korean health authorities said on Monday they lifted the at-home quarantine for a suspected case of infection with the Middle East Respiratory Syndrome coronavirus, leaving no one subject to isolation over MERS for the first time in over two months. The South Korean Health and Welfare Ministry said that as of Monday, 12 people remain hospitalized for MERS but only one of them has still tested positive for the coronavirus. With no new case of the disease reported in more than three weeks, the South Korean government is planning to tell its people Tuesday that the MERS outbreak has effectively ended, according to *Yonhap News Agency*. Based on the World Health Organization's standards that call for a four-week waiting period after the last MERS patient fully recovers, the formal declaration of the end of the outbreak in South Korea is expected to be made in late August. Since the first case of MERS infection was confirmed on 20 May in the country, 186 people were found to be infected, 36 of them died and a total of about 16,000 people had been subject to quarantine.—Kyodo News



People visit the Duanqiao Bridge in the West Lake scenic spot in Hangzhou, capital of east China's Zhejiang Province, on 27 July, 2015. Artificial spray is set to cool down the temperature around the Duanqiao Bridge in Hangzhou as from Monday.

XINHUA

ADVERTISEMENT & GENERAL

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Daw Yee Mon Aung, H.G.P

For **Mei Heong Yuen Food Industries Pte Ltd.**,
C/o **Kelvin Chia Yangon Ltd.**,
Level 8A, Union Financial Centre (UFC),
Corner of Mahabandoola Road and Thein Phyu Road,
Botahtaung Township, Yangon,
The Republic of the Union of Myanmar.

Dated 28 July 2015

yma@kcyangon.com

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Reg. No. 4/7422/2015 (10.6.2015)

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Daw La Min May, H.G.P

For **MILBON CO., Ltd.**, C/o **Kelvin Chia Yangon Ltd.**,
Level 8A, Union Financial Centre (UFC),
Corner of Mahabandoola Road and Thein Phyu Road,
Botahtaung Township, Yangon,
The Republic of the Union of Myanmar.

Dated 28 July 2015

lmm@kcyangon.com

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Level 8A, Union Financial Centre (UFC),
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Dated 28 July 2015

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Reg. No. 4/8000/2015 (23.6.2015)



Reg. No. 4/7999/2015 (23.6.2015)

All in respect of "Perfumery; essential oils; cosmetics; dentifrices; soaps; hair lotions" in **Int'l Class 3**.

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Daw La Min May, H.G.P

For **ROSETTE CO., LTD.**,
C/o **Kelvin Chia Yangon Ltd.**,
Level 8A, Union Financial Centre (UFC),
Corner of Mahabandoola Road and Thein Phyu Road,
Botahtaung Township, Yangon,
The Republic of the Union of Myanmar.

Dated 28 July 2015

lmm@kcyangon.com

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SUMITOMO HEAVY INDUSTRIES, LTD., a company incorporated in 1-1 Osaki 2-chome, Shinagawa-ku, Tokyo 141-6025, Japan, is the current owner of the Trademark described below, by virtue of the Deed of Assignment dated 24 June 2015 (Reg. No. 4/7998/2015) executed between **NIPPON STEEL & SUMITOMO METAL CORPORATION** (Assignor), and **SUMITOMO HEAVY INDUSTRIES, LTD.**, (Assignee), whereby Assignor, the original owner had registered the Trademark in Myanmar, assigned it to Assignee:



Reg.No.4/2329/1956 (12.12.1956)



Reg.No.4/1560/2009 (27.2.2009)

In respect of goods/services in **Classes 7 & 12**.
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Daw La Min May, H.G.P

For **SUMITOMO HEAVY INDUSTRIES, LTD.**,
C/o **Kelvin Chia Yangon Ltd.**,
Level 8A, Union Financial Centre (UFC),
Corner of Mahabandoola Road & Thein Phyu Road,
Botahtaung Township, Yangon,
The Republic of the Union of Myanmar.

Dated 28 July 2015

lmm@kcyangon.com

WEATHER REPORT

BAY INFERENCE: According to the observations at (13:30) hrs MST today, the depression over Northeast Bay of Bengal remains almost stationary and centered at about (90)miles West-Southwest of Chittagong (Bangladesh), (140)miles West-Northwest of Maungdaw (Myanmar) and (190)miles Northwest of Sittwe (Myanmar). Monsoon is strong to Vigorous in the Andaman Sea and Bay of Bengal.

FORECAST VALID UNTIL EVENING OF THE 28th July, 2015: Rain or thundershowers will be fairly widespread in Kachin State and widespread in the remaining Regions and States with likelihood of regionally heavy falls in Lower Sagaing, Magway and Bago Regions, Chin, Rakhine, Kayin and Mon States and isolated heavy falls in Upper Sagaing, Mandalay, Yangon and Ayeyawady Regions. Degree of certainty is (100%).

STATE OF THE SEA: Occasional squalls with rough sea will be experienced in Myanmar Coasts. Surface wind speed in squalls may reach (40 - 45) m.p.h.

OUTLOOK FOR SUBSEQUENT TWO DAYS: Continuation of strong monsoon.

FORECAST FOR NAY PYI TAW AND NEIGHBOURING AREA FOR 28th July, 2015: Some rain or thundershowers. Degree of certainty is (100%).

FORECAST FOR YANGON AND NEIGHBOURING AREA FOR 28th July, 2015: Some rain or thundershowers. Degree of certainty is (100%).

FORECAST FOR MANDALAY AND NEIGHBOURING AREA FOR 28th July, 2015: Some rain or thundershowers. Degree of certainty is (100%).

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Notice is hereby given that our client, **Diners Club International Ltd.**, a company incorporated in U.S.A, having its registered address at 2500 Lake Cook Road, Riverwoods, Illinois 60015, USA is the proprietor in several countries around the world of the following Trademarks:

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Myanmar Reg. No. 4/5718/2008 (5.9.2008)

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Myanmar Reg. No. 4/5719/2008 (5.9.2008)

DINERS CLUB INTERNATIONAL

Myanmar Reg. No. 4/5720/2008 (29.8.2008)



Myanmar Reg. No. 4/5721/2008 (1.9.2008)



Myanmar Reg. No. 4/5722/2008(5.9.2008)

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Daw La Min May, H.G.P

Kelvin Chia Yangon Ltd.,
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Botahtaung Township, Yangon
The Republic of the Union of Myanmar
lmm@kcyangon.com

For **Diners Club International Ltd.**,
By their Attorneys
Singh & Singh Lall & Sethi

D - 17, South Extension II, New Delhi - 110 049

Two injured in east China building collapse

HANGZHOU, 27 July — Two people were injured after a four-story residential building collapsed on Monday at noon in east China's Zhejiang Province, rescuers said.

The building in Fuyang district in the provincial capital of Hangzhou collapsed at 12:10 pm, according to the district government.

Rescuers pulled two people, who worked at a garment store on the first floor, from the debris and sent them to hospital. The search mission has concluded with no more victims found.

Xinhua

Japanese man finishes 10,000 km north-south Africa trek



Masahito Yoshida from Tottori, western Japan, expresses his joy upon reaching his goal at the Cape of Good Hope in South Africa on 19 July, 2015, after trekking with a two-wheeled cart over 10,000 kilometers across 10 African countries. Yoshida, 34, began the trip from the Egyptian port city of Alexandria in September 2014. He completed a round-the-globe trip across Europe, Asia, North America and Australia in the same manner in 2013.—KYODO NEWS

Tom Cruise says 'Top Gun' sequel 'would be fun'



LONDON, 27 July — Hollywood star Tom Cruise says he would be open to reprising his 1980s role as US Navy pilot Maverick in a possible sequel to action drama "Top Gun".

The 1986 blockbuster turned Cruise into a major box office draw. Last month, film producer and Skydance

media company Chief Executive David Ellison was quoted in media reports as saying work on a "Top Gun 2" screenplay was underway.

"It would be fun. I would like to get back into those jets," Cruise told Reuters at the London premiere of his latest action film

"Mission: Impossible — Rogue Nation" on Saturday night. "It would have to be practical. I don't want any CGI jets. I want to shoot it like how we shot the first one." Cruise, known for performing his own stunts, returns to the silver screen as agent Ethan Hunt in the fifth installment of the "Mission:

Impossible" action films.

The 53-year old has performed a range of stunts for the role, such as swinging off buildings and leaping off skyscrapers. In this movie, he holds onto the side of a plane as it takes off.

"Mission: Impossible — Rogue Nation" opens in cinemas next week.—Reuters

Japanese fans flock to Seoul hotel where S Korean actor Bae set to wed

SEOUL, 27 July — More than 100 people, mostly Japanese women, gathered outside a hotel in Seoul where a wedding ceremony for South Korean actor Bae Yong-joon and actress Park Soo-jin is set to take place on Monday evening.

Avid fans of Bae started arriving in the morning amid rain in the hope for a glimpse of the 42-year-old actor, whose wedding is scheduled to be a closed-door event.

The crowd cheered as a car carrying Bae entered the venue shortly after 1 pm, but some let out a sigh after it passed as the actor was hardly visible to many of

the fans. Before his arrival, Michiko Asada, a 57-year-old woman from Niigata Prefecture, had said, "He's a courteous person so he might open his car window and wave at us."

Kazuko Yamamoto, a 67-year-old woman from Tokyo who has been a fan of Bae since watching him in the TV drama "Winter Sonata," said, "He is like family so I am happy that he is finally getting married." She smiled as she expressed her appreciation toward Park, 29.

Bae, affectionately known as "Yon-sama" in Japan, helped spark the Korean cultural wave in



More than 100 Japanese fans wait in front of a Seoul hotel to see Korean star actor Bae Yong-joon before his wedding with singer-turned-actress Park Soo-jin on 27 July, 2015.—KYODO NEWS

Asia and other parts of the world with his starring role in "Winter Sonata," which originally aired in South Korea in 2002.

Kyodo News

Jennifer Lopez hosts star-studded birthday bash

LOS ANGELES, 27 July — Pop star Jennifer Lopez rang in her 46th birthday by celebrating with friends including Thalia And French Montana during a star-studded bash.

The "On The Floor" hitmaker marked her special day on 24 July and she kept the celebrations going on Saturday at the 10AK club in the Hamptons, New York, reported Ace Showbiz.

Lopez proudly showed off her curvy figure in a black cutout dress with an



Pop star Jennifer Lopez

open back and sheer paneling, as she entered the party hand-in-hand with her on-off dancer boyfriend, Casper Smart.

Guests Thalia and

Montana showed off snaps from inside the party on Instagram, sharing pictures of themselves alongside the birthday girl, who reportedly briefly took over for the DJ, and spent most of the night on the dance floor.

Other stars in attendance included British pop star Natasha Bedingfield and rapper Fat Joe, while Lopez's longtime manager Benny Medina paid a special tribute to his friend by bringing out a large cake for Lopez and giving her a touching toast.—PTI

Whitney Houston's daughter, Bobbi Kristina Brown, dead at 22



Bobbi Kristina Brown, daughter of the late singer Whitney Houston, poses at the premiere of "Sparkle" in Hollywood, California on 16 Aug, 2012.—REUTERS

ATLANTA, 27 July — Bobbi Kristina Brown, the only child of late singer Whitney Houston, died on Sunday at the age of 22, some six months after suffering irreversible brain damage in an incident at her suburban Atlanta home, her family said in a statement.

Brown, whose father is R&B singer Bobby Brown, was found face down and unresponsive in a bathtub in her home by her partner and a friend on 31 January. She was moved by her family to hospice care on 24 June.

"She is finally at peace

in the arms of God," her family said. "We want to again thank everyone for their tremendous amount of love and support during these last few months."

As news of her death became public, media crews and some fans gathered on a darkened cul de sac in the Atlanta suburb of Duluth, where ornate street lamps illuminated the ivy-covered brick nursing home where Brown died.

"We just wanted to show our respect," said Ali Joyner, 15, who persuaded her mom and a neighbour

to drive the 20 miles from their home in Dacula, Ga. "I just loved her mom, Whitney. And Bobbi is part of that."

Her death came three years after her Grammy-winning mother, who had battled substance abuse, drowned in a bathtub in a Beverly Hills hotel at age 48. Authorities said cocaine abuse and heart disease contributed to Houston's 11 February, 2012 death.

Bobbi Kristina Brown inherited her mother's fortune.

A \$10 million civil lawsuit filed last month accuses Bobbi Kristina Brown's partner, Nick Gordon, of causing her life-threatening injuries and of stealing from her bank account while she was in a coma. No one has been charged in the case.

Bobbi Kristina Brown was an aspiring singer who began performing with her mother as early as 1999, singing duets of "My Love is Your Love." In 2003 they recorded another duet of "Little Drummer Boy" for a holiday album.

Her father is a Grammy Award winner who started his career as frontman for the R&B group New Edition.

Houston and Bobby Brown both struggled with substance abuse and divorced when their daughter was 14. Houston described their 15-year marriage, which ended in 2007, as drug- and alcohol-fueled.

The couple's tempestuous relationship and often erratic behavior was chronicled in the short-lived television series, "Being Bobby Brown."—Reuters

Big B impressed with granddaughter's piano skill

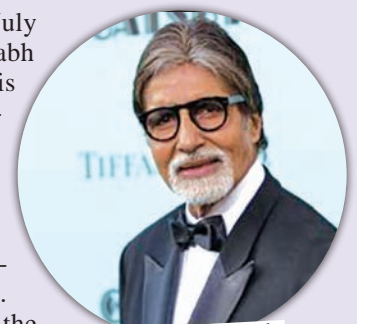
MUMBAI, 27 July — Megastar Amitabh Bachchan says he is proud of his granddaughter Navya Naveli Nanda's musical talent and is impressed to see the youngster play the piano with such finesse.

Navya Naveli is the daughter of the 72-year-old actor's first born Shweta and her Delhi-based businessman husband Nikhil Nanda.

"Look what took its place the entire day... The life to witness the gift of a grand daughter, of her accomplishments, of her talents... That is more than what many wish and possess.

"And yes the inner joy of admiration for Navya as she surprises us all with her hidden talent... The music and the keys of the piano, untrained, unread.

Just performing with the mind and what has remained with her somewhere, astonish-



Actor Amitabh Bachchan

ing," Bachchan posted on his blog.

The actor also shared several pictures in which he is seen sitting alongside Navya Naveli, who is playing the piano at her grandfather's home.

"That piano is the little space in my small little room.. a space that I occupy on occasion.. spend time with keys black and white.. life is made of just these two they say.. but there are so many other colours too.. and they bring joy and a brightness in us as well," Bachchan wrote.

PTI

GENERAL

Thompson wins Meijer LPGA Classic by one shot

LANCASTER, (PA), 27 July — Lexi Thompson surged past overnight leader Lizette Salas and held off a last-day charge by Gerina Piller to win her fifth career LPGA title by one shot at the Meijer LPGA Classic in Grand Rapids, Michigan on Sunday. Four strokes behind fellow American Salas heading into the final round, the long-hitting Thompson birdied five of the first eight holes on the way to a six-under-par 65 in bright sunshine at Blythefield Country Club.

Though she was briefly caught at the top by a red-hot Piller with eight holes to play, Thompson picked up two more shots over the closing stretch, along with a bogey on 17, to post an 18-under-par total of 266.

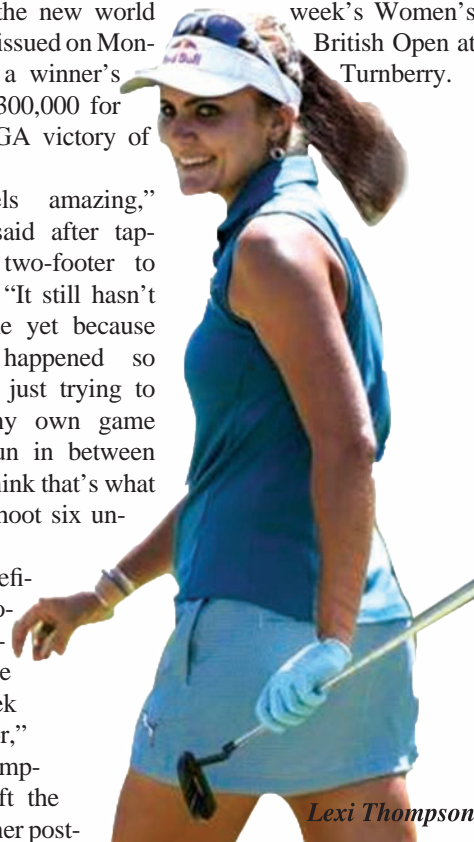
American Piller, bidding for her first win on the LPGA Tour, closed with an eight-birdie 64 to tie for

second with Salas (70). The 20-year-old Thompson, who will climb from 13th to sixth when the new world rankings are issued on Monday, earned a winner's cheque of \$300,000 for her first LPGA victory of the season.

"It feels amazing," Thompson said after tapping in a two-footer to par the last. "It still hasn't really hit me yet because everything happened so fast. "I was just trying to focus on my own game ... having fun in between shots and I think that's what helped me shoot six under today."

"It's definitely momentum going into the next week being a major," said Thompson, who left the course after her post-

round interviews for Detroit Metro Airport to board a plane for Scotland and next week's Women's British Open at Turnberry.



Lexi Thompson

Thompson, who won her first major title at last year's Kraft Nabisco Championship, made a sizzling start to the final round with birdies at the first, fourth and fifth to cut Salas' overnight lead to just one shot.

When Salas bogeyed the par-four seventh, she dropped back into a three-way tie at the top with Thompson and Piller, who had reeled off five birdies in the first eight holes. Salas' challenge effectively ended with another bogey at the 10th and Thompson took control of the tournament with further birdies at the 10th, 11th and 15th. South Korea's Ryu So-yeon (66) and American Kris Tamulis (68) finished joint fourth at 15-under while Korean world number one Park In-bee tumbled back into a tie for 44th after closing with a 76.—Reuters

mitv Myanmar International

(28-7-2015 07:00 am~29-7-2015 07:00 am) MST

- * News
- * Climate Context: Signs of Climate Change (Episode-2)
- * Gardener: Rose Plantation
- * News
- * Pleasant Waso
- * A Worth Studying Site For Ancient Myanmar Heritages
- * Will you feed the pigeons
- * News
- * Choral Dance (Duel)
- * Let's Enjoy Fish Crispy
- * All About Orchids
- * Dengue Fever
- * News
- * Myanmar Paper Toys
- * Htan Taw Drums (Part-II) "Dobat"
- * A Way of Life: Karate-do
- * News
- * A Day out with Sarah (EP-2)
- * Thin Byu Mat
- * News
- * Taste of Myanmar (Shan — Flat -Rice-Noodle Soup)
- * Up Against The Tide
- * News
- * Myanmar Traditional Identity (EP- 4) Tumbling Doll, Pyit Tine Htaung
- * A Journey To Southern Shan State (Ep-2)
- * News
- * Traditional Customs of Holy Waso
- *Shan Novices To Be.....
- * Art Students: Theatrical Art
- * News
- * Lucrative Businesses of Tanintharyi Region
- * The Iron Rider
- * Myanmar Puppet
- * News
- * Youth of The Future (Ep-10) Youth Film Maker (Sai Aung Tun)
- * Inspiration

France plans extension of green energy tax

PARIS, 27 July — The French government is considering a reform of the tax levied on power bills to fund renewable energy that would see it extended to natural gas and road fuels, a source close to the matter said on Sunday.

"A reform of the CSPE tax is planned, its basis will be widened to gas and road fuels," the source told Reuters, confirming an earlier report by the *Journal du Dimanche* newspaper.

Citing sources at the energy ministry, the paper said the government wanted to cut the CSPE tax, which accounts for about 15 percent of households' electricity bills and spread the 6 billion euros it costs annually to fossil fuels.

The source said it would take the form of a new tax that would contribute directly to the state's budget. The current CSPE tax is levied by utility EDF through power bills.

The source added that the reform would be introduced in the 2016 budget bill in September.

No one at the energy ministry was available for comment.—Reuters

US companies pledge financial, political support for UN climate deal

WASHINGTON, 27 July — Thirteen big name American companies on Monday were to announce \$140 billion in low-carbon investments to lend support to a global climate change deal in Paris in December, the White House said. Companies including General Motors (GM.N), Bank of America (BAC.N), Microsoft (MSFT.O) and Coca Cola (KO.N), were to join US Secretary of State John Kerry at the White House to launch the American Business Act on Climate Pledge to support the administration as it tries to secure a climate agreement.

Under the pledge, the companies announced measures they would take internally to reduce their own greenhouse gas emissions and deploy more clean energy. In addition to announcing a collective \$140 billion in new low-carbon investments, the companies announced they would bring at least 1,600 megawatts of new renewable energy on line, reduce water use intensity by 15 percent, purchase 100 percent renewable energy, and target zero net deforestation in their supply chains.

United Nations climate

change negotiators have called on the private sector to bolster public sector finance to aid efforts globally to reduce greenhouse gas emissions, especially in developing countries.

Securing long-term climate finance is seen as a crucial step for a deal in Paris.

The UN established a Green Climate Fund in 2010 in which developed countries had committed to raise over \$10 billion for four years from 2015.

The fund is the main vehicle to help countries meet a longer term goal to raise \$100 billion a year to support developing countries by 2020. But government financial pledges are at the mercy of domestic politics and competing priorities.

Apple (AAPL.O), one of the 13 countries, pledged to bring nearly 300 MW of renewable energy online in five states and the Sichuan province in China.

Berkshire Hathaway (BRKa.N) announced it will retire 75 percent of its coal-fueled generating capacity in Nevada by 2019.

The White House said it will announce additional company pledges later this year.—Reuters



News Channel in Brief

(28-7-2015, Tuesday)

- 6:00 am**
 - Paritta by Hilly Region Missionary Sayadaw
- 6:30 am**
 - Physical Exercise
- 7:00 am**
 - News
- 7:30 am**
 - Head Line News
- 8:00 am**
 - News/ International News
- 8:35 am**
 - Documentary
- 9:35 am**
 - MRTV's Youth Programme
- 10:35 am**
 - Science and Technology
- 11:00 am**
 - News
- 11:35 am**
 - Documentary
- 12:00 noon**
 - News/ International News/ Weather Report
- 12:35 pm**
 - TV Drama Series
- 1:50 pm**
 - Sing & Enjoy
- 2:35 pm**
 - Teleplay
- 3:35 pm**
 - Socio Economic Scenes
- 4:00 pm**
 - News/ Weather Report

- 4:35 pm**
 - University of Distance Education (TV Lectures) — Third Year (Maths)
- 5:00 pm**
 - News / Weather Report
- 5:30 pm**
 - Head Line News
- 5:35 pm**
 - Documentary
- 6:35 pm**
 - Money Talk Myanmar
- 7:00 pm**
 - News
- 7:35 pm**
 - Documentary
- 7:45 pm**
 - People's Talks
- 8:00 pm**
 - News / International News / Weather Report
- 9:00 pm**
 - News
 - Pyi Thu Ni Ti
 - TV Drama Series

Senior British lord quits post after drugs video

LONDON, 27 July — A senior British lord quit his post on Sunday and will face a police investigation after a tabloid newspaper released a video showing him semi-naked and snorting white powder through a banknote while partying with two women.

John Buttifant Sewel stood down from his post as deputy speaker of Britain's unelected House of Lords after *The Sun* on Sunday released the footage and accused him of using cocaine and of hiring

prostitutes.

Sewel, 69, who is married, could not be immediately reached for comment. Baroness Frances D'Souza, the upper chamber's speaker, said Sewel had decided to resign as deputy speaker and would be investigated by police. She did not say if he confirmed or denied the allegations. The imbroglio comes as Britain's politicians are still trying to regain voter trust after a far-reaching 2009 expenses scandal, and could fuel support for former fringe

parties who have styled themselves as anti-establishment. Ironically, Sewel's senior position in the House of Lords tasked him with ensuring fellow lords behaved properly. Packed with political appointees from all parties, its role is to scrutinize government legislation, but some politicians on the left believe it is an elitist anachronism and should be abolished. Sewel's behavior was "shocking and unacceptable", D'Souza said in a statement.—Reuters

Hsinywa Myinmu village victorious in football tournament

MANDALAY, 27 July — The Amarapura Township inter-village/ward men's football tournament concluded at the weekend, with Hsinywa Myinmu village emerging champion in a 3-2 victory over Laysu ward.

Township departmental officials presented individual medals to first and second prize winning teams and K10,000 to best player of the tournament.

Deputy Director U Wai Zin of Mandalay Region Sports and Physical Education Department gave K300,000 to the Hsinywa Myinmu village team and K200,000 to the Laysu ward team.

Twelve teams contested the tournament that kicked off on 4 July.

Tin Maung (Mandalay)



Myanmar U-19 team with 29 players under training

YANGON, 27 July — Myanmar Football Federation constituted tentatively selected Myanmar U-19 team with 29 players to take part in the ASEAN U-19 Championship to be held in Lao People's Democratic Republic in August. The team is under training and its selected players will be chosen before

the tournament.

The players came from various clubs from Myanmar National League and MFF U-18 team.

The U-19 team includes goalkeepers Phone Thitsa Min, Hsan Hset Naing (MFF Youth), Soe Arkar (Zwekabin) and Tun Aung Kyaw (Horizon), defenders Thurein Soe (Yangon), Kyaw Thu

Tun, Ye Yint Aung (MFF Youth), Win Moe Kyaw, Chan Myae Tun, Zin Myo Htet (Magway), Phyto Wai (Dagon), Lwin Min Thant (Horizon), Kyaw Ko Ko Oo, Ye Min Thu, Soe Moe Tun, Myat Min Thu (MFF Youth), midfielders Sit Min (Zeyar Shwemyay), Zin Phyto Aung (Zwekabin), Kyaw Thet Oo (Yadanabon),

Aung Phyto Phyto (Ayeyawady), Zaw Win Tun (Myawady), Soe Lwin Lwin and Zar Nayya Thu (MFF Youth), forwards Aung Zaw Phyto (Kanbawza), Arkar (Myawady), Kaung Chit Naing (Southern Myanmar), Aung Zin Phyto (Horizon), Aung Kaung Marn and Aung Pyae Ko (MFF Youth).—MFF

Man City striker Jovetic to have Inter Milan medical



Manchester City's Stevan Jovetic

LONDON, 27 July — Manchester City striker Stevan Jovetic will undergo a medical at Inter Milan this week ahead of a proposed transfer to the San Siro, the Italian Serie A club said on Sunday.

Inter did not specify whether Jovetic would sign on loan or on a permanent basis but British media reported that the 25-year-old Montenegro international will join on a two-year loan deal.

"Jovetic will arrive in Milan tomorrow (Monday) before undergoing a medical on Tuesday," Inter said on their Twitter page. Jovetic joined City from Fiorentina in 2013 for 22 million pounds (\$34.12 million) but the forward has struggled with injuries and scored only 11 goals in 43 games. Inter, coached by former City manager Roberto Mancini, finished eighth in Serie A last season.

Reuters

Argentine goalkeeper Romero joins Man Utd

LONDON, 27 July — Manchester United have confirmed the signing of Argentina goalkeeper Sergio Romero on a three-year deal, reuniting manager Louis van Gaal with a player who helped bring him a Dutch title but also caused him World Cup heartache.

The 28-year-old, who played under Van Gaal at Dutch side AZ Alkmaar, joins United as a free agent after leaving Sampdoria at the end of his contract.

"To play for the biggest club in the world is a dream come true for me," he told United's website.

"Louis van Gaal is a fantastic manager and I cannot wait to get started on this new and exciting challenge in my career."

Romero, who has an option for an additional year on his contract, has joined

United on their pre-season tour of the United States, where they beat Barcelona 3-1 on Saturday.

"Sergio is a very talented goalkeeper. He was a young keeper during my time at AZ Alkmaar and I am delighted he is joining Manchester United," Van Gaal said.

Romero and his new manager also crossed paths at last year's World Cup, where Argentina eliminated the Van Gaal-coached Netherlands in a semi-final penalty shootout.

"He had a fantastic World Cup last summer in Brazil, although that is something I have put to the back of my mind. He will be a great addition to the team and I am looking forward to working with him once again," Van Gaal added.

Romero's arrival is expected to herald the departure of United's backup Victor Valdes, who was left out of the tour party and told to leave the club due to a row with the manager.

Van Gaal said Valdes had refused to play for United's reserve team, a claim disputed by the Spaniard.

Speculation also continues over the future of first-choice United keeper David De Gea, who has been linked with a move to Real Madrid, with the La Liga team's defender Sergio Ramos heading to the English side as part of a swap deal.

"I know him (Romero) very well and I think in our situation, if De Gea is going or not going, it is always a threat and we have to take care, make sure that we are prepared and that is why I think it is very good that Sergio Romero is now a Manchester United player," Van Gaal added.

United cap their United States tour on Wednesday against Paris St-Germain, who are reportedly keen on signing the Premier League club's unsettled midfielder Angel Di Maria.—Reuters



Argentine goalkeeper Romero

Mexico beat Jamaica for CONCACAF Gold Cup

PHILADELPHIA, 27 July — Mexico spoiled Jamaica's first trip to the CONCACAF Gold Cup Final with a dominant 3-1 triumph on Sunday that gave them a record seventh Cup title.

Jamaica had become the first Caribbean team to reach the final, but El Tri stole the storyline at Philadelphia's Lincoln Financial Field by winning their third Cup championship from the last four played. Despite a fast and inspired start by the Jamaicans, Mexico quickly turned the tide and got goals from Andres Guardado, Jesus Corona and Oribe Peralta in the victory. Mexico will now play the United States on 9 October in a

playoff for the region's berth in the 2017 FIFA Confederations Cup.

Against Jamaica, Mexico weathered an early attack and took control in the 31st minute where Guardado took a cross and finished with a beautiful left-footed volley into the upper right corner. It was his sixth goal of the tournament, one less than Clint Dempsey of the United States, who took the tournament's Golden Boot Award.

Guardado won the tournament's Golden Ball Award as the top player. Jamaica defensive miscues by Michael Hector led to the next two goals from Mexico.

In the 47th minute, Corona took the ball from Hector and

finished it himself. In the 61st minute, Hector missed a chance to clear from in front of the goal and that led to Peralta's score.

Darren Mattocks scored Jamaica's only goal in the 80th minute, scoring for his second successive game. Despite the defeat, Jamaica remained proud of their accomplishment. "It's tough but I couldn't be more proud of my team right now," said Jamaica's Giles Barnes. "We have a lot to look forward to in the future." Mexico reached the final on some controversial penalty calls in their semi-final victory over Panama, but they proved their worth decisively in the final.—Reuters



Mexico celebrates with the Gold Cup after winning the CONCACAF Gold Cup final match against Jamaica at Lincoln Financial Field in Philadelphia, PA, USA. Mexico won 3-1.—REUTERS