

DEATH TOLL CLIMBS TO NEARLY 100



Military personnel loading aid items onto an air force plane to ship them to flood-hit areas.—PHOTO: MOI WEBPORTAL

By Aye Min Soe

YANGON, 8 Aug — The nationwide death toll from severe flooding has risen to 96, authorities said Saturday, with rising rivers threatening to inundate Ayeyawady Region.

The updated figure released by the ministry showed 56 people had perished in Rakhine State, 11 in Mandalay Region, seven in Sagaing Region and six in Shan State.

Authorities alerted residents in low-lying areas of the Ayeyawady Delta to possible flooding, urging

them to move to designated shelters, as the Ayeyawady and Ngawun rivers remained above their danger levels in Hinthada, Nyaungdon, Zalun and Seiktha townships.

Floods since June have displaced than 600,000 people nationwide and inundated more than 1.2 million acres of rice fields, damaging more than 600,000 acres and destroying more than 367,000 acres, according to the Ministry of Agriculture and Irrigation.

Dr Tun Lwin, former director-general of the Meteorology and

Hydrology Department, predicted a low-pressure zone could form in the Bay of Bengal over the weekend, with 4 to 8 percent degree of certainty, due to the impact of Typhoon Soudelor, which is currently crossing Taiwan.

If the low-pressure zone were intensify to a storm, it would not be likely to move toward Myanmar, but would raise the likelihood of strong monsoon and further flooding in the country, the prominent weather expert wrote in a Facebook post.

GNLM

INSIDE

President U Thein Sein inspects storage of relief supplies

PAGE-3



FLOOD BULLETIN

(Issued at 13:00 hr M.S.T on 8-8-2015)

(1) Falling condition below danger levels

According to the (12:30) hr M.S.T observation today, the water levels of Ayeyawady River have exceeded by about 2 inches at Pyay, 1½ feet at Seiktha above their respective danger levels and may fall below their respective danger levels during the next few hours at Pyay and 2 days at Seiktha.

According to the (12:30) hr M.S.T observation today, the water level of Sittoung River at Madauk has exceeded by about 1½ feet above its danger level and may fall below its danger level during the next 3 days.

(2) Falling condition above danger levels

According to the (12:30) hr M.S.T observation today, the water levels have exceeded by about 3½ feet each at Hinthada and Zalun of Ayeyawady River above their respective danger levels. It may fall about 1½ feet during the next 2 days and may remain above their respective danger levels.

According to the (12:30) hr M.S.T observation today, the water level of Ngawun River at Ngathaing Chaung has exceeded by about 3½ feet above its danger level. It may fall about ½ foot during the next 2 days and may remain above its danger level.

It is especially advised to the people who settle near the river bank and low lying areas, to take precaution measure.

NPO plans survey to improve aid for street children

By Khaing Thanda Lwin

YANGON, 8 Aug — Non-profit organization Junior Dream will conduct a survey

of street children in four Dagon Myothit townships in October with the aim of improving its assistance to needy minors, its spokesperson said Saturday.



A child living on the streets sleeps at Botahtaung jetty in Yangon. PHOTO: JUNIOR DREAM

“The NPO has been providing care to 50 homeless children, with or without parents, living at railway stations, jetties and under the bridges in Botahtaung, North Okkalapa, Bahan and South Okkalapa townships,” said Eindaray Naynwe of JD.

“Every month our team usually goes to places where children are staying so as to provide them with healthcare, food and clothes, spending K500,000 to K1 million on monthly assistance,” she told The Global New Light of Myanmar.

The 20-member team was established in late 2014 to help street kids and youths through its programmes. It often stages musical performances to raise funds.

“We have to support their parents indirectly in addition to street children but the task of organizing parents is an uphill battle,” said Eindaray Naynwe. “Almost all parents have no desire to cooperate in

the sustainable development of their offspring.”

She said providing education to the children was not an easy task, as most were more focused on earning money than attending school.

Parents of only five of the 50 children receiving assistance from the NPO actively encourage their children to attend school, she said.

“A difficult challenge is building trust between the children and the team,” she said. “Now that we have their trust, they phone us when need healthcare and other help.”

Junior Dream is helping provide relief supplies to flood victims in Bago Region on Sunday, and plans to expand its support to Ayeyawady Region, one of the worst-hit areas, within a few days.

GNLM

Tatkon youths gather donations from well-wishers



TATKON, 8 Aug — Local youths of the Myitta Yeik social association have opened a centre to accept cash and goods for flood victims from donors

in Tatkon Township. “We have accepted rice, cooking oil, instant noodles, soft drinks, purified drinking water, slippers, medicines and other

items,” a member of the association said. “Nay Pyi Taw Council member U Myint Shwe and construction entrepreneurs donated

K2.6 million, while other well-wishers gave K11.2 million for the flood victims.”

Tin Soe Lwin (Tatkon IPRD)

Women’s vocational courses improve career prospects



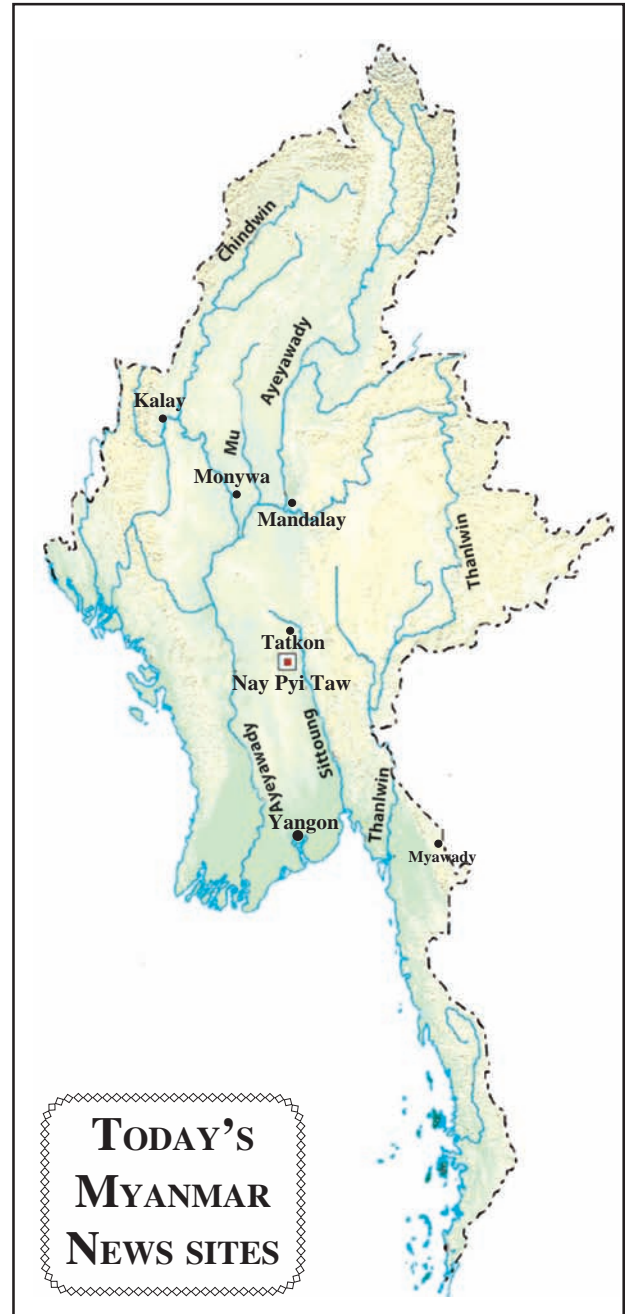
MYAWADY, 8 Aug — A basic domestic science course and an advanced tailoring course concluded at the Women’s Vocational Training School in Myawady, Kayin State, on 7 August. Deputy commissioner U Lwin Ko Oo of Myawady District spoke about the aim of the training courses to uplift livelihoods of local women. The deputy commis-

sioner and officials presented certificates and prizes to the trainees. Naw Mu Mu from Pawlaw village in Myawady Township finished top of the class in the basic domestic training course while Ma Shwe Yi Tun of Whayshan village of Myawady Township topped the advanced tailoring course. *Htein Lin Aung (IPRD)*

Kalay University students, faculty lend helping hand



KALAY, 8 Aug — Faculty members and students of Kalay University participated in relief and repair works in the flood-affected town on 7 August. A 120-member team cleared debris in the classroom of No 1 basic education high school in Kalay on 6 and 7 August. A second team comprising 130 students and faculty carried out sanitation at Kalay General Hospital from 3 to 5 August and washed hospital equipment. About 35 students collected donations for flood victims sheltering at a relief camp in the precinct of Taungphilar monastery.—*District IPRD*



MMCWA donates relief supplies for ChaungU, Salingyi

MONywa, 8 Aug — A ceremony to donate cash, clothes and foodstuffs to flood victims from Sagaing Region was held at the town hall in Monywa, on 7 August.



Myanmar Maternal and Child Welfare Association donated K10 million, as well as clothes, foodstuffs, purified drinking water and blankets to 727 flood victims from ChaungU

Township and 1,079 from Salingyi Township. The ceremony was attended by MMCWA Patron Daw Khin Than Win, President Daw Thazin Nwe and officials.—*Region IPRD*



President sends messages to Singapore

NAY PYI TAW, 8 Aug — On the occasion of the 50th Anniversary of the National Day of the Republic of Singapore, which falls on 9 August 2015. U Thein Sein, President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar, has sent messages of felicitations to His Excellency Mr. Tony Tan Keng Yam, President of the Republic of Singapore and His Excellency Mr. Lee Hsien Loong, Prime Minister of the Republic of Singapore.—MNA

President U Thein Sein inspects storage of relief supplies

NAY PYI TAW, 8 Aug —President U Thein Sein inspected relief supplies for flood victims at storage facilities on a 500-acre model farmland here on Saturday morning.

The prepacked relief items include solar light bulbs, bags of rice, tarpaulins, bags, raincoats, groundsheets, men's clothing, knives for office and household use, blankets, mats, brushes and tubes of toothpaste, soap and other items of personal use.

Officials spoke of measures to deliver relief supplies to flood victims and help them recover and rebuild their lives.—MNA

Relief supplies for flood victims at storage facilities on a 500-acre model farmland.—MNA



Armed forces chief encourages flood and landslide-hit victims, gives relief supplies in Chin State, Sagaing Region

NAY PYI TAW, 8 Aug — Commander-in-Chief of Defense Services Senior General Min Aung Hlaing and wife Daw Kyu Kyu Hla, and party on Saturday arrived in Kalay, Sagaing Region, and met flood victims in relief camps. The senior general encouraged them and explained about rehabilitation in cooperation with military, social association, and public

with the help provided at home and abroad.

He then delivered relief assistance donated by military to flood victims. And he observed flood affected area around Kalay Town. He later inspected Kalay-Gantgaw road situation between Zin Kalin village and Chin Saing village and ordered his officers to build Bailey bridge.

He later inspected

transportation of military ration and urged the officers to minimize loss and wastage.

The Senior General met local authorities in Haka and discussed damages and rehabilitation activities in Chin State. He pledged to give a helping hand to the victims. The C-in-C visited landslide-hit area on Haka-Gangaw road and sought ways to

build detour road near Haka cantonment area. He met officers of Kalay Station led by the commander of North West Command and gave instructions to them on helping people with goodwill to be able to refute the fault accusations. The commander-in-chief presented K 30 million for soldiers who are engaged in relief works.

Myawady

Nomination for Hluttaw candidates continues

NAY PYI TAW, 8 Aug — A total of 155 candidates for Pyithu Hluttaw, 53 candidates for Amyotha Hluttaw, 183 candidates for state/region Hluttaws and 8 candidate for state/region ethnic affairs submitted their nomination for 2015 General Election on 8 August.

From 20 July to 8 August, 3,822 candidates

including 1,081 for Pyithu Hluttaw, 558 for Amyotha Hluttaw, 2,071 for state/region Hluttaws and 112 for ethnic affairs constituencies.

They represent 74 political parties while 138 of them are individual candidates. Detailed nomination process is available at www.uecmyanmar.org.

MNA

Tenders for new town project to be opened on Sept. 22

YANGON, 8 Aug — Submitted tender forms for a new town plan for western outskirts of Yangon will be opened at the Yangon Region Government on 22 September.

The government has begun implementing a new town plan for the western

outskirts of the commercial capital, inviting tenders from Myanmar national developers in mid July.

The new town plan is one of the seven modern housing projects of the Greater Yangon Development Strategic Plan 2040 designed by the region

government and the Japan International Cooperation Agency.

The new town project, approved by Yangon Region Parliament, will be established on 11,716 acres between the Panhlaing River and the Twantay-Yangon Canal and

between the Hlaing River and Hlaingthaya-Twintay Road in western Yangon. The seven modern housing projects will be established on more than 100,000 acres of land on the outskirts of Yangon and accommodate more than 10 million people.—GNLM

Forever Group employees collect humanitarian supplies

YANGON, 8 Aug—More than 1,000 officials and staff of media conglomerate Forever Groupon Saturday gathered at Myanmar Event Park in Yangon to collect

and sorhumanitarian relief supplies for flood victims, a company official said.

Workers from the media group's 4TV channel contributed emergency

supplies to victims in Bago, Yangon, Ayeyawady and Magway regions from 5 to 7 August.

Supplies collected Saturday included medicines,

food, drinking water and essential goods such as candles and needles.

Union Information Minister U Ye Htut made a visit to the site.—MNA

Global New Light of Myanmar seeks experienced journalists

The Global New Light of Myanmar, the country's longest-running English-language newspaper, is looking for experienced journalists to join its expanding editorial team.

The GNLM currently has openings for copy editors and reporters at its newsroom in Yangon.

Copy editors must have English as a native language, excellent writing and proofreading skills, and ideally an extensive background in print or online media. Experience in newspaper layout and design is a major plus.

Reporters must be fluent in Myanmar and capable of filing clear, concise news copy in English. Experience writing for English-language print or online media is an advantage.

Applicants should send a cover letter and CV to Maung Maung Than at mnmnthn2@gmail.com, by 14 August, 2015, or phone 09 5088924 for further information.

ENTIRE NATION LEND HELPING HAND



Volunteers relaying donated drinking water and foodstuff to load a boat at a jetty of U Par Ye Pagoda in Hinthada, Ayeyawady Region.— HINTHADA IPRD



Government staff clear blocked trees on public street in Maungtaw, Rakhine State.— DISTRICT IPRD



Interfaith Myanmar gathers to pray for victims in flood-hit areas in the country.—MNA



A police officer and local residents participate in rehabilitation activities at a flood affected village in Yinmarbin Township, Sagaing Region.—HTUN Ko Ko



Electric engineer staff fix electrical cables and posts battered by Cyclone Komen in Maungtaw.—IPRD



Migrant workers relief group in Malaysia and Yangon youth philanthropists donate drinking water, medicine and food to flood victims in Pakokku Township.—SOE LIN NAING IPRD

PHOTO GALLERY

MYANMAR'S UNCONQUERABLE SPIRIT



UMS AUNG ZEYA BOUND FOR SITTWAY: Loaded with relief items on board UMS Aung Zeya of Myanmar Navy leaves Thilawa jetty on 8 August. She will arrive her destination on 9 August and distribute the relief supplies to victims immediately.—ZAW MIN LATT



Scouts collect donation from primary students at a primary school in Yangon to help flood victims.—KO LATT (MNA)



Ministry of Agriculture and Irrigation ship 100 Duong Phan brand power tillers and accessories from Shwe Mae jetty in Shwe Pyi Thar township to Minbya jetty in Rakhine State.—MNA



Monywa Aung Mya Than family's shipping business provides transportation service free of charge to ship relief aids to flood affected areas in Sagaing region and Chin State.—POE CHAN (MONYWA)



District and township road department repair landslides part at mile post No. 7 and 8 between Maungtaw and Buthitaung Townships.—IPRD

Myanmar joins treaty banning chemical weapons

NEW YORK, 8 Aug — Myanmar on Friday joined the treaty banning chemical weapons as the Chemical Weapons Convention took effect for the country following its application last month, the Organization for the Prohibition of

Chemical Weapons said. Myanmar is the 191st member of the treaty, leaving only five countries not party to the convention — Angola, Egypt, Israel, North Korea and South Sudan, the OPCW, based in The Hague, said.

“Myanmar’s accession brings the CWC closer to universal adherence and to achieving a world free of chemical weapons,” OPCW Director General Ahmet Uzumcu said in a statement. “It is essential that the states still outside

the CWC join as soon as possible. The convention bans the development, production and possession of chemical weapons. A member state is required to declare its existing facilities for chemical weapons production and destroy

them. The OPCW is a body tasked with overseeing the implementation of the convention.

The treaty had been signed by Myanmar back in 1993 but had not been immediately followed up with approval by the

parliament, according to the OPCW.

On July 8 this year, Myanmar filed an instrument for CWC ratification. The convention entered into force 30 days after this step.

Kyodo News

Powerful storm hits Taiwan, millions without power, six dead

TAIPEI/YILAN, 8 Aug — A powerful typhoon battered Taiwan on Saturday with strong wind and torrential rain, cutting power to 3.62 million households as the death toll rose to six.

Four people were missing and 101 were injured, authorities said. Hundreds of flights were delayed or canceled and more than 9,900 people were evacuated from their homes.

Television footage trees uprooted and power poles toppled over, a moped being swept into the air by wind and shipping containers piled on top of each other at a port.

“The storm will weaken but we expect more rain, particularly in southern Taiwan,” said Wang Shih-chien, an official with the island’s Central Weather Bureau.

The storm made landfall early on the island’s east-coast counties of Yilan and Hualien, bringing more than 1,000 mm (39 inches) of rain in mountainous areas and wind gusting up to 200 kph (124 mph).

Although the eye of Typhoon Soudelor passed Taiwan, and was heading toward mainland China, rain was expected to lash the island until Sunday morning.

“This is one of the worst typhoons I have ever seen,” said a sewage station engineer surnamed Jiang, who was inspecting pumping stations early on Saturday in eastern Taiwan.

“My car was shaking when I was driving. There are too many trees down, and I even saw six downed power poles.”

In the capital, Taipei, large steel sheets and rods were blown off a half-constructed stadium and city authorities shut down much public transport.

“The metal roof of the house next door to mine was completely blown away,” said resident Jack Lin. “I saw a car crushed to bits.” Authorities issued flood and mudslide alerts and television showed mud trapping people and murky water nearly covering the roofs of cars in some areas.



People walk against strong winds as Typhoon Soudelor approaches Taiwan in Taipei, August 7, 2015.—REUTERS

Among the dead was one person who drowned in his flooded home and another who was killed by a falling tree.

Earlier, authorities said one adult and one child had drowned at sea, while a foreign worker was killed by a falling sign and a rescue worker was hit by a car and killed while

clearing downed branches from a road.

Taiwan Power, the island’s main power company, said 3.62 million households had lost power. While some supplies had been restored, 1.5 million households were still without power on Saturday afternoon, it said.—Reuters

China urges Japan to reflect on WWII as Abe prepares statement

BEIJING, 8 Aug — China on Friday called on Japan to “squarely face and deeply reflect on” its wartime history, a warning that comes as Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe prepares to issue a statement on the 70th anniversary of the end of World War II later this month.

China wants the Japanese side “to issue a clear and correct message about the nature of the war and its responsibility for it,” Foreign Ministry spokeswoman Hua Chunying said in a statement posted on the ministry’s website.

“Only by doing this can Japan realize genuine reconciliation with its neighboring countries in Asia,” she said.

The comments came in response to a 38-page report released Thursday by a panel tasked with advising the Japanese leader on his statement.

The remarks have been nervously anticipated by countries throughout the region, concerned that Abe — who is sympathetic to right-wing views that downplay Japan’s responsibility

for the war — may take the opportunity to backpedal on previous government statements on the subject.

Countries such as China and South Korea have said they hope Abe would uphold his predecessors’ positions on the war, including a 1995 statement by then Prime Minister Tomiichi Murayama.

In particular, they are expecting Abe to repeat terms such as “heartfelt apology” and “colonial rule and aggression” found in the 1995 statement as well as in a 2005 statement by then Prime Minister Junichiro Koizumi.

In its report, the panel described Japan’s role in the war in terms of “aggression” and “colonial rule,” words eschewed by many Japanese nationalists, but stopped short of calling for a full apology.

Abe has spoken on the subject of war in recent speeches, including one to the U.S. Congress in April where he expressed “deep remorse” over Japan’s role in the war.—Kyodo News

Search for more MH370 debris continues off Reunion

BEIJING, 8 Aug — France Friday announced that hunts for more MH370 debris will continue for at least a week off la Reunion after a wing section was spotted near the island.

Dominique Sorain, administrator of the French overseas island, told reporters Friday that a military transport plane was patrolling the seas off the coast and a ship had departed for search.

He said there will also be forces combing the eastern part of the island where a flaperon confirmed by Malaysia as part of the plane was discovered last week.

“The plan will be developed in the coming days, but we will require a minimum of a week to conclude the search,” Sorain said.

He said the scrutinized area will span from the island up to a search zone under the control of Mauritius authorities.

“We have urged all ships, both fishing and commercial, to immediately contact Reunion’s Regional Operation Center for Surveillance and Rescue,” he added. The administrator said that new possible parts of a plane, some of them the

Dominique Sorain (C), La Reunion’s administrator, talks to media during a press conference on search plan for MH370 debris in Reunion Island, on Aug. 7, 2015. Authority of France’s overseas island La Reunion has confirmed the plan of search for more MH370 parts and said the search will last for at least one week.—XINHUA



size of a finger, have been submitted to authorities by local residents.

With regards to victims’ families who wish to come to the Reunion Island, Sorain said if necessary, he will contact the consular authorities of the concerned countries. “We have not received any official request,” he said.

Meanwhile, an official from the Maldives Police Service (MPS) told Xinhua that a police team along with aviation experts has started probing a piece of suspected plane debris found on the beach of a private resort in Maldives.

According to local media reports, the piece,

probably a plane part which is five to seven inches long, was discovered in May.

Graham Braithwaite, aviation security expert at Britain’s Cranfield University, told Xinhua that the search for the black box is still the core objective, as the data within it is key to solving all the mysteries.

In fact, as such a long time has passed, precisely locating the black box is already too hard, but the discovery of the debris at least indicates that the search is in correct direction, Braithwaite said.

Prior to the la Reunion discoveries, a massive surface and underwater hunt

had failed to locate the plane, which went missing in 2014 en route from Kuala Lumpur to Beijing. A total of 239 people were on board, most of them Chinese. Australia, the country that now leads the international search team, vowed it would continue the search efforts and maintain “a crucial role”, according to Australian Deputy Prime Minister Warren Truss.

Braithwaite suggested that Australia expand its current search area and called for a concerted effort that involves assistance from Malaysia, Britain, China and the International Maritime Satellite Organization.—Xinhua

Greece says cannot handle migrants; UNHCR calls crisis 'shameful'

LESBOS, (Greece) / GENEVA, 8 Aug — Greek Prime Minister Alexis Tsipras asked Europe to help in handling tens of thousands of refugees coming in from Syria, Afghanistan and other war zones, saying on Friday his cash-strapped country could not deal with them alone.

The influx has piled pressure on Greece's services at a time when its own citizens are struggling with harsh cuts and its government is negotiating with the EU and the IMF for fresh loans to stave off economic collapse.

Boatloads of migrants arriving every day had triggered a "humanitarian crisis within the economic crisis," Tsipras said after a meeting with ministers.

"The EU is being tested on the issue of Greece. It has responded negatively on the economic front - that's my view. I hope it will respond positively on the humanitarian front," he said.

The comments came as the United Nations refugee agency (UNHCR) called on Greece to take control of the "total chaos" on Mediterranean islands, where thousands of migrants have landed. About 124,000 have arrived this year by sea, many via Turkey, according to Vincent Cochetel, UNHCR director for Europe.

"The level of suffering we have seen on the islands is unbear-



A dinghy overcrowded with Afghan immigrants approaches the Greek island of Lesbos after crossing a part of the Aegean Sea between Turkey and Greece, August 6, 2015.—REUTERS

able. People arrive thinking they are in the European Union. What we have seen was not anything acceptable in terms of standards of treatment," Cochetel said after visiting the Greek islands of Lesbos, Kos and Chios.

"I have never seen a situation like that. This is the European Union and this is totally shameful," he added.

At a makeshift refugee centre at Kara Tepe, a hilltop about 5 km

north of Lesbos island's main town of Mytilene, about 50 white tents provided by the local council struggled to accommodate the waves of people coming in daily.

Rubbish littered the area and locals said 16 toilets were frequently blocked despite attempts by authorities to keep the area clean.

Up to 10 people could be seen sharing one of the tents, while others lay on pieces of cardboard, jostling for space under the shade of

olive trees in sweltering heat.

"The government had battles on plenty of fronts and probably could not give as much attention to the problem," the island's mayor Spiros Galinos told Reuters.

The UNHCR's Cochetel said Greece had to step up its response.

"We've told the Greek authorities that if it was a natural disaster, there would be mobilisation of other assets including from the ministry of defence," he said.

"It's easy, there are plenty of empty army barracks in Greece, there is plenty of uncultivated land that could be rented and sites could be developed."

Tsipras said the problem was a European issue and not just a Greek one. He said ministries would coordinate to help relieve the burden on distant islands and that a special unit would be set up to make use of dedicated EU funds to beef up border controls and integrate migrants into society.

"The immigrant flow to Greece is beyond of what our state infrastructure can handle," Tsipras said. "We have significant problems to face it and that's why we have asked help from EU."

The country, stuck in a seven-year financial crisis, has returned to recession again and narrowly averted bankruptcy this year by agreeing a bailout deal.

The European Union has sought to share the burden of the refugees across its member countries, but the response has been mixed. EU leaders have pledged to relocate 16,000 migrants over two years, which Cochetel called "far too little and too late".

Britain has said it will not participate. It is currently struggling with its own crisis as thousands of migrants seek to enter via the Channel Tunnel.—Reuters

Iran rejects accusations about military site as 'lies'

DUBAI, 8 Aug — Iran's foreign minister said on Saturday that accusations about activity at its Parchin military site were "lies" spread by opponents of its landmark nuclear deal with world powers clinched last month.

A prominent U.S. think-tank on Friday questioned Tehran's explanation for activity at its Parchin military site

visible in satellite imagery, saying the movement of vehicles did not appear related to road work.

"We said that the activities in Parchin are related to road construction," Foreign Minister Mohammad Javad Zarif was quoted on Saturday as saying by the IRNA state news agency.

"They (opponents of the deal) have spread these lies before. Their goal is to damage the agreement,"

he added. Parchin is a site to which the U.N. nuclear watchdog, the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA), requested access as part of the July 14 nuclear accord between Iran and six major powers, which include the United States.

The U.S.-based Institute for Science and International Security suggested Iran could be engaged in cleanup work before IAEA inspectors arrive at the site.

The speaker of Iran's parliament also dismissed the think-tank's suggestions.

"This is an artificial dispute to distract the world. There are some movements at Parchin but trying to expand those activities to the military facility and making a fuss about it is like some fairy tale," Ali Larijani was quoted on Saturday by the Fars news agency as saying.

"Israelis are not happy about the deal and they will do anything to stop it," he added.

Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu has been pushing U.S. lawmakers to oppose the nuclear agreement, which he considers a threat to his country's survival. Some pro-Israel groups have been spending millions of dollars on an advertising campaign to persuade members of the U.S. Congress to reject the deal in the autumn.

Reuters

Japan, British foreign ministers hold strategic dialogue

TOKYO, 8 Aug —The Japanese and British foreign ministers held a strategic dialogue on Saturday in Tokyo, with an eye on agreeing to a joint study on missile technology and defense equipment including chemical and biological protection suits, Japanese officials said.

Japanese Foreign Minister Fumio Kishida and British Foreign Secretary Philip Hammond are also expected to exchange opinions on China's growing assertiveness in the East China Sea and South China Sea, and the Ukrainian situation, the officials said.

Japan and Britain have been moving to enhance cooperation in the defense field. The two countries agreed in January during a "two-plus-two" meeting of foreign and defense ministers in London to enhance security cooperation including possible joint development of missile technology.

The two countries have already launched a joint study aimed at creating new equipment to protect personnel from biochemical weapons more effectively and preparatory research for the development of an air-to-air missile component. At Saturday's meeting, Kishida plans to seek Britain's understanding of security bills now pending in the Japanese parliament, they said. The bills are aimed at expanding the role of the Self-Defense Forces abroad and strengthening Japan's security alliance with the United States.

The Japan-British foreign ministers' strategic dialogue was launched in 2012 to discuss a variety of international issues. The latest meeting is the fourth of its kind.

After Japan, Hammond plans to travel on to Singapore, South Korea and China.—Kyodo News



A satellite image released by U.S.-based Institute for Science and International Security (ISIS) shows the status of the site at the Parchin military complex that has been linked to high explosive work related to the development of nuclear weapons in Iran in this July 19, 2015 photo released on August 6, 2015.—REUTERS

PERSPECTIVES

Sunday, 9 August, 2015

A touchstone for government's capability, leadership and management

By Kyaw Thura

Ayeyawady Region, dubbed as the rice bowl of Myanmar, is still at risk of flooding, with some of its townships being faced with inundation. Warnings of flash floods still remain active as heavy rains are expected in the region in September. Hundreds of thousands of volunteers together with relief workers are already

engaged in laying sand bags along the banks of rivers likely to swell above their danger levels.

According to the Ministry of Agriculture and Irrigation, weeks of savage flooding has so far inundated more than 1.2 million acres of rice plantations and caused serious damage to more than 967,000 acres of crop land and transport facilities. The severe flooding has destroyed fields and homes, washing away farm animals and threatening food security. Some 89 deaths have been confirmed so far, with 56 in Rakhine State alone.

In his radio address to the country on 7 August, President U Thein Sein pledged his government's dedication to the provision of emergency supplies for 237,000 flood victims across the country, stressing that humanitarian assistance will be drawn from available resources in the effort to bring about a return to normality in flood-affected areas.

It is encouraging to hear the president explain the government's rescue missions and recovery activities, which include the distribution of rice seeds and livestock to farmers in flood-ravaged areas. These measures will no doubt enable farmers to get back on track, but the government is yet to announce the size of its budgets for agricultural needs and recovery activities.

Write for us

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

The Spirit of Democracy

By Kyi Mun

We must have the resolute determination and the confident capability to turn heaven and earth upside down in order to win victory.

- Anonymous

Spirit means:

- (1) An individual (a brave spirit)
- (2) Disposition; mood (high spirits)
- (3) Vivacity, courage, etc.
- (4) Enthusiastic loyalty (school spirit)
- (5) True intention: the spirit of the law
- (6) An essential quality or prevailing tendency (the spirit of the times)

The Spirit of Democracy, here, means: Enthusiastic loyalty to democracy; animated courage for democracy; democracy spirit.

Democracy means:

- (1) (di mā́k' rasē) Greak *dēmos*, the people + kratein, to rule:
Meaning government by the people directly or through representatives.
- (2) a country, etc. with such government; (3) equality of rights, opportunity and treatment.

- Webster's Dictionary

Let's now explore some more meanings of SPIRIT as follows:

- S** for **Sincere Belief In Democracy**
P for **Passion For Democracy**
I for **Insight Into Democracy**
R for **Revolutionary Reforms For Democracy**
I for **Integrity-driven**
T for **Total Democracy Leadership**

SINCERE BELIEF IN DEMOCRACY

In establishing democracy, sincere belief in democracy is imperative. Sincere means without deceit or pretence. Sincere also means genuine. Belief means conviction that things are true. Belief also means religious faith. It can also mean trust or confidence. Some other meanings of belief are: a creed, tenet, an opinion, expectation.

So, all the people who really want to build democracy should have genuine conviction in democracy. They must have trust and confidence in democracy with all their minds, with all their hearts, with all their strengths. It said in the Bible that if you have faith as a grain of mustard seed, you can remove the mountain.

When you earnestly consider "how to get what you want", there are two parts: "What You Want"; and "How To Get". What you want is your objective. Objective means: something aimed at. So, your objective is your aim. To actually realize your aim, you must have the ways and means of getting what you want. That ways and means is called strategy. So, if you want democracy, you must also have the strategy of getting it. In other words, you have got to devise ways and means of establishing democracy.

PASSION FOR DEMOCRACY

After you have a sincere belief in democracy, you

should have the burning desire to get it. That tremendous desire to live and move and have your being in democracy is your passion for democracy. Passion for democracy means you must want to build democracy badly enough. It means you cannot rest until you get it. It means you live democracy and you breathe democracy. In other words, you must be crazy for democracy.

In building democracy, the following four factors of success must be brought into play:

- The burning desire for democracy
- The indomitable spirit to build democracy
- The unyielding effort to establish democracy
- Insight Wisdom to live in democracy

INSIGHT INTO DEMOCRACY

In establishing democracy, insight is very important. Insight means: the ability to see and understand clearly the inner nature of things. With insight, you can penetrate the forms and the colours and see through them the inner content or essence of things. With insight, you see through, you see the core, the spirit or the essential. With insight, you can distinguish between.

- Cause & Effect
- Means & End
- Seed & Fruit
- Light & Shade
- Right & Wrong
- Good & Bad
- Righteous & Wicked
- Compassionate & Cruel
- Wisdom & Ignorance

REVOLUTIONARY REFORMS FOR DEMOCRACY

With the sincere spirit of democracy, the following reforms should be achieved with might and main. Reforms, here, means: Correction of faults and weaknesses, and taking initiatives for improvements. Revolutionary means: the fervent will to make radical and basic transformational changes in:

- Political Reforms
- Economic Reforms
- Educational Reforms
- Socio-Cultural Reforms
- Technological Reforms
- Eco-environmental Reforms

INTEGRITY-DRIVEN

The spirit of democracy must be cemented by the genuine will to serve the people and the whole country. All the democratic forces at the vanguard of the democracy movement should be solidly embedded in:

- Patriotic Fervour
- Selfless Service
- Altruistic Spirit, ruthlessly destroying the egoistic passion for power, position, prestige, possessions and pride. All self-serving practices must be vehemently opposed and eliminated.

POEM:

Knot the Closest Tie through Breastfeeding

Aye Phyu

All expectant and new mothers

Be proud to breastfeed your babies and toddlers

Because it's believed to be the way best

To ensure their life-long health

Some scientists said breastfed kids

Get more insulin from their mothers milk

With a lesser chance to get 'diabetes'

Or any other related disease

A newborn is an addition to the family

For mothers, to bring it up properly

Childhood molding is utterly necessary

Through a special relationship gained from breastfeeding

Holding the baby in both arms

Cuddled and being fed in her bosom

With its secured and warm feeling running high

A mother creates the closest tie with her beloved child

For the babies growing on breastfeeding

Those precious moments have a special meaning

Forever to cherish and treasure

Full of tender love, fondling and pleasure

A period of nine months, a little less or more

Many favourite things a pregnant mom has to forgo

For the tiny one inside,

Looking after herself with great care,

Daily praying for the arrival of a baby proper and well

To the pregnancy care and sacrifice willingly made

Add a new extension you can take

To breastfeed and get the advantage

Of a mother - baby relationship so great.

All the democratic forces must:

- Serve the people and the country
- Love the people and the country
- Never hurt the people and the country
- Ever uplift the people and the country

TOTAL DEMOCRACY LEADERSHIP

With the tremendous spirit of democracy, total democracy leadership should be boldly launched with might and main for the following results:

- Personal democracy practices
- Interpersonal democracy practices
- Financial democracy practices
- Operational democracy practices
- Managerial democracy practices
- Organizational democracy practices
- National democracy practices

(See page 9)

ARTICLE

It is diplomacy that wins

U Khin Maung
(A retired diplomat)

It has been quite a pretty long time that “Iran nuclear programme” has drawn the entire world’s attention. And thus, the entire world has been watching it with great interest, but with a lot of worries and anxieties about this particular news item. Why? Simply because the world is very much anxious about whether Iran will become the latest state with nuclear capability. But, on its side, Iran insists that its nuclear programme is for peaceful purpose and not for developing nuclear weapons. The world in general, and the International Atomic Energy Agency and six major powers in particular, are doubtful about Iran’s claim. So, the IAEA and six major powers demand Iran to stop its nuclear programme or to accept thorough and unhindered inspection of its nuclear programme by IAEA. The IAEA plays a vital role in monitoring and verifying whether Iran is producing highly enriched uranium for developing nuclear weapons. In this regard, please allow me to present to you that there is a multilateral treaty organized and made by the United Nations. It is known as “Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons Treaty”. Iran is not a state party to this treaty.

And six major powers or P5+1 are “five permanent members of UN Security Council: Britain, China, France, Rus-

sia and the United States of America and Germany. According to news reports, this Iran-nuclear programme deal takes three years of diplomatic efforts, negotiations, compromises, adjustments, wisdom and patience from both sides. As regards this deal, the president of Iran, Hassan Rouhani said, “It is a win-win deal for all concerned. And Iran’s supreme leader praised the honest and hard endeavours of negotiating teams. US president Barack Obama said about the deal, “We can no verify Iran doesn’t develop nuclear weapons, when necessary, where necessary. No deal means greater chance of war in the Middle East.”

Iran and six major powers reached a landmark nuclear deal on 14th July 2015, capping more than a decade of on-off negotiations with an agreement that could potentially transform the Middle East. Under the deal, sanctions imposed by the United States, European Union and the United Nations would be lifted in return for Iran agreeing long-term curbs on a nuclear programme that the West has suspected was aimed at creating a nuclear bomb. It was learnt that the United Nations Security Council unanimously endorsed this deal.

As regards the agreement, the western diplomats said that under the final agreement Iran had accepted a “snap-back” mechanism, under which some sanctions could be reinstated in 65 days, if Iran vio-

lated the deal. And a UN weapons embargo would remain in force for 5 years and a ban on buying missile technology would also remain in force for 8 years. An Iranian diplomat told Reuters on condition of anonymity, “All the hard work has paid off and we sealed a deal. God bless our people.” However, hostility to the agreement from Washington’s closest ally in the Middle East, i.e. Israel was immediate. Israel’s Prime Minister Netanyahu called Iran nuclear deal “historic mistake”. Concerning this deal, Iran’s president Rouhani and US president Barack Obama, both have to win the support for the deal from hardliners at home. In the case of Iran, the deal must get final acceptance from the National Security Council and ultimately from Ayatollah Ali Khameni, Iran’s highest authority. He has withheld final judgment, saying the text must still be scrutinized and approved. As regards the United States, the deal has to be approved and ratified by Congress. And US President Obama said, “No deal means greater chance of war in the Middle East, the stakes are too high. So, I will veto any vote against this deal.”

Conclusion

Through the international media, we come to know that the entire world is pinning all its hope on this deal whether it will be approved by both sides, Iran, and six major world powers. However, up till

this stage, we could say that “diplomacy wins”. Why? Simply because, in this particular case, both sides have used the very first and normal method of diplomacy with a general attitude of friendliness and persuasion: the way of polite argument, of approach based on reason and interest. In this way both sides have accepted and adopted, with patience and politeness, with compromises and adjustments and of course, with diplomacy as the first line of defence. So both sides claim with pride and pleasure that it is not the threat or use of force, but it is diplomacy that wins. Well, however, we will have to wait and watch whether the deal will be approved and ratified by the competent authorities of both sides, invested with the power to ratify or reject the international treaty, under their respective constitutions. For this purpose, in the case of the United States, it is Congress and in the case of Iran it is the supreme leader Ayatollah Khameni and the national security council.

- Reference:(1) The Global New Light of Myanmar
(2) BBC World News
(3) Oxford Advanced Learner’s Dictionary
(4) Black’s Law Dictionary (Second Edition)

The Spirit of ...

(from page 8)

The Total Democracy Leadership should proactively follow and creatively practice the following Eight Principles of War or Contest:

- The Principle of Objective
- The Principle of Concentration
- The Principle of Offensive
- The Principle of Cooperation
- The Principle of Economy of Force
- The Principle of Security
- The Principle of Surprise
- The Principle of Mobility

In every hard struggle such as a struggle for life and death, the spirit or morale is very important. Besides a good strategy, patience, persistence and common sense, an indomitable spirit can be the deciding factor for success or failure.

In total democracy leadership the following are some of the maxims or sayings that can lift your spirit in time of trouble:

- My head is bloody but unbowed; I’m the master of my fate and I’m the captain of my soul.
- Be strong inside, permit no defeat and fight all you can.
- Never give up, never give in; stand up to it, and fight it

through to victory.

- Be resolute, fear no sacrifice and surmount all difficulties to win victory.
- Think the most, feel the noblest and act the best.
- To dare nobly, to will strongly and never to falter in the path of duty.
- Be strong and of good courage. Be not afraid, neither be thou dismayed.
- Be bold and mighty forces will come to your aid.
- Keep on keeping on, no matter how hard the going may be.
- To strive, to seek, to find and not to yield.
- This to me is life. That, if life be a burden, I’ll join to make it but the burden of a song.

CONCLUSION

The following are the Four Strands of War or Contest:

- The Quality and Capability of the Leadership
- The Quality and Capability of the Followers
- Morale
- Resources

All ends well that ends well. Long live democracy!

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

Dr FM receives officials from Four Paws International

NAY PYI TAW, 8 Aug—Dr Amir Khali, Director of the Project Development of Four Paws International from Vienna, Austria met with Deputy Minister for Foreign Affairs U Thant Kyaw at the ministry, here, Friday.

During the meeting, they discussed matters relating to rescue and rehabilitation efforts of animals that are suffered during the recent floods. The deputy minister coordinated with the relevant ministries and agencies on the matters.—MNA

Thailand donates 5 million baht for Myanmar relief

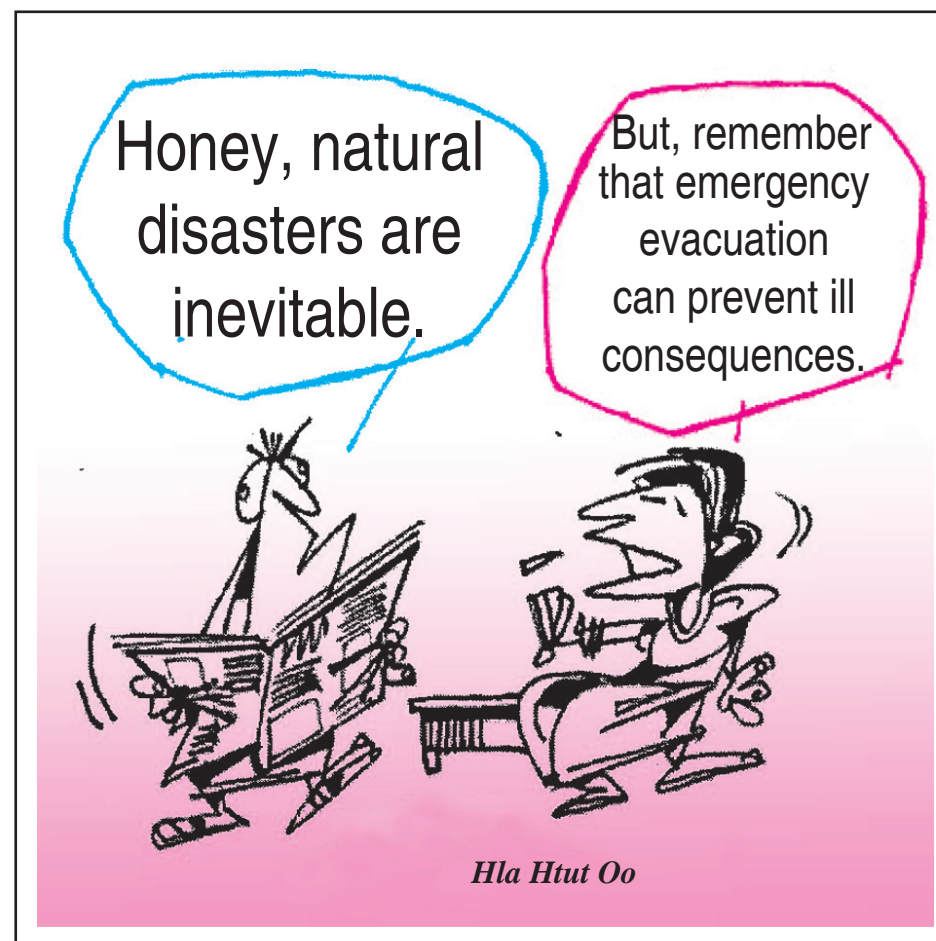
NAY PYI TAW, 8 Aug — The Thai government donated 5 million baht (US \$142,000) Friday for flood victims in Myanmar.

Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Tanasak Patimapragorn handed over a cheque to Myanmar Ambassador

U Win Maung at a ceremony to mark the 48th Anniversary of ASEAN in Pattaya, Thailand.

The donation has been transferred to a Myanma Foreign Trading Bank account for relief operations.

MNA



Hla Htut Oo

U.N. Security Council adopts resolution on Syria chemical weapons

NEW YORK, 8 Aug — The United Nations Security Council unanimously adopted a resolution Friday that calls for forming a joint investigative mechanism to identify individuals, groups and governments responsible for using chemical weapons in Syria.

The United Nations and the Organization for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons jointly oversaw the destruction of Damascus' chemical weapons stockpiles and production facilities.

The OPCW had no mandate to assign responsibility for those who have been engaged in chemical attacks, including reported cases of chlorine use.

Russia, which backs the Syrian government, also vot-



Members of the United Nations Security Council address a resolution to investigate the use of chemical weapons in Syria during a meeting at the U.N. headquarters in New York August 7, 2015.—REUTERS

ed for the resolution, coming after talks between Russian Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov and U.S. Secretary of State John Kerry on Wednesday in Kuala Lumpur.

Syria has denied the use of chemical weapons. At the Security Council meeting, Syrian Ambassador Bashar Ja'afari said, "The Syrian government and army have never used chemical weapons, they will never use chemical weapons."

The resolution requests that U.N. Secretary General Ban Ki-moon in coordination with the OPCW director general to submit their recommendations to the council within 20 days to establish the mechanism for one year with a possibility of further extension.—Kyodo News

United Nations employee among dead in attack on Mali hotel

BAMAKO, 8 Aug — A United Nations employee was among those killed on Friday when suspected Islamist militants attacked a hotel in central Mali used by U.N. staff, the country's peacekeeping mission MINUSMA said.

"Reports indicate that a member of the international personnel associated with MINUSMA was killed during the attack," the mission said in a statement. It did not give the victim's nationality.

Reuters

B-29 pilot asked pope to support Nagasaki atomic bomb victims

QUINCY, (Massachusetts), 8 Aug — The pilot of the U.S. bomber that dropped the atomic bomb on the city of Nagasaki on Aug. 9, 1945, asked Pope John XXIII privately in the early 1960s to offer support to the city, relatives of the pilot have told Kyodo News.

Charles Sweeney, a devout Catholic who piloted the B-29 Bockscar in the attack on Nagasaki, also made donations to a Catholic-affiliated orphanage in Nagasaki due to his concern for war orphans after visiting the city in September 1945, Sweeney's daughter and brother told Kyodo News ahead of the 70th anniversary Sunday of the atomic bombing of the city.

Before his death in 2004, Sweeney consistently claimed that the atomic

bombing was necessary as it brought World War II to an end.

But his actions, such as making the donations to the orphans, show that he "felt sorry for them deep inside his heart," said Anri Morimoto, professor at the International Christian University who specializes in religion and ethics.

Sweeney visited the Vatican with his wife around 1962 and asked Pope XXIII, who reigned from 1958 to 1963, for additional support for Urakami cathedral in Nagasaki, which was reconstructed after being destroyed by the atomic bombing, according to Sweeney's second-youngest daughter Marilyn Howe, 67.

Pope John XXIII is known for his efforts that helped the United States

and the Soviet Union to avoid a nuclear war during the Cuban Missile Crisis in October 1962. In the following year, he released "Pacem in terris," in which he said nuclear weapons must be banned.

A public relations official at the Vatican said it is difficult to confirm the meeting by official documents.

Howe, who said she often talked about the orphans in Nagasaki with her father between the late 1950s to early 1960s, said Sweeney made the donations to the cathedral as he wished for its reconstruction.

Sweeney's 74-year-old younger brother William said Sweeney was willing to send money to a Catholic facility in Nagasaki every year because there had been many casualties there.



File photo taken in December 1945 shows Urakami Church (C back) in Nagasaki, destroyed by the atomic bombing on Aug. 9 that year, and the surrounding area.—Kyodo News

It is hard to confirm the donations due to incomplete records and because they were often made anonymously, people close to the

church and Nagasaki said.

Sweeney also visited an orphanage near Hiroshima, the first city to be devastated by a U.S. atomic

bomb, between November and December 1989 and gave donations with a check.

Kyodo News

It's all about Trump at raucous Republican debate

CLEVELAND, 8 Aug — Donald Trump refused to rule out an independent White House bid and bristled at questions about his attitudes towards women, leaving his rivals struggling for attention on Thursday during a feisty first Republican presidential debate.

The nine other Republicans sharing the stage with Trump turned on one another at times but largely avoided direct challenges to the combative real estate

mogul who has rocketed to the top of opinion polls in the 2016 race.

Senator Rand Paul of Kentucky did take on Trump, confronting him after Trump kicked off the debate by refusing to pledge his support for the Republican nominee in the November 2016 election.

"I will not make the pledge at this time," said Trump, who for weeks has said he would not rule out an independent bid that would almost certainly

split the Republican vote and boost the chances of victory for the Democratic nominee.

Trump's response drew boos from the crowd and a rebuke from Paul, who said Trump was keeping his options open to support Democratic front-runner Hillary Clinton, a reference to his past friendship with both Clinton and her husband, Bill.

"He's already hedging his bets because he's used to buying politicians of all

stripes," Paul said.

Trump's veiled threat to bolt the party if necessary could risk his support among Republican primary voters and stall his momentum, although the billionaire reality television star has repeatedly defied predictions of political doom.

In a show of hands, participants in a Fox News focus group who supported Trump before the debate overwhelmingly indicated they had changed their minds about him, critical of

his refusal to commit to backing the eventual Republican nominee.

"I think he took out a gun and shot his campaign in the head," said Florida Republican strategist Rick Wilson.

No candidate emerged the clear winner from the two-hour debate, leaving the Republican race potentially more unsettled than ever. A record 17 candidates are vying for their party's nomination.

During a combustible

performance, Trump fired off insults at Paul, Fox News moderator Megyn Kelly, comedian Rosie O'Donnell, the Mexican government and an assortment of other targets.

He tangled with Kelly when she pressed him about past derogatory comments he had made about women, including calling them "fat pigs," "dogs," and "slobs," Trump dismissed the question as "political correctness."

Reuters

Attacks on army, police, U.S. special forces kill 50 in Kabul

KABUL, 8 Aug — A wave of attacks on Afghan army, police and U.S. special forces in Kabul on Friday killed at least 50 people and wounded hundreds, dimming hopes that the Taliban might be weakened by a leadership struggle after their longtime leader's death.

The bloodshed began with a truck bomb that exploded in a heavily populated district of the capital and ended with an hours-long battle at a base used by U.S. special forces. It became the deadliest day in Kabul for years.

The radical Islamist insurgents claimed responsibility for both the police academy attack and the battle at the U.S. special forces base, though not for the truck bomb.

The scale of the violence heightened obstacles to reviving the stalled peace process and conveyed a no-compromise message from the Taliban at a delicate time following last week's revelation of Mullah Mohammad Omar's death and an ongoing dispute over leadership of the radical Islamist insurgency.

"The question is, who is sending the message?" Thomas Ruttig of the Afghanistan Analysts Network said.

The number of casualties from Friday's attacks was expected to rise as details continued to emerge from the authorities.

On Saturday, NATO-led coalition forces confirmed that one international service member and eight Afghan contractors were killed in the attack on Camp Integrity, a base used by U.S. special forces near the main airport.

The blast outside the base



An Afghan man stands outside his damaged shop near the site of an attack after a overnight battle outside a base in Kabul, Afghanistan August 8, 2015. — REUTERS

was powerful enough to flatten offices inside, wounding occupants who were airlifted by helicopter to military hospitals during the night.

"There was a big explosion at the gate...(The gunfire) sounded like it came from two different sides," said a special forces member who was wounded when his office collapsed.

The initial blast caused by a suicide car bomb at the gate was followed by other explosions and a firefight that lasted a couple of hours, he said.

Camp Integrity is run by U.S. security contractor Academi, which was known as Blackwater before being sold to investors. Academi did not immediately respond to requests for comment.

"The helicopters went on for hours... medevacating people out," a U.S. contractor at a camp nearby said.

The Camp Integrity assault

followed a suicide bombing at a police academy on Friday evening that killed and wounded over 40 people, the Afghan interior ministry said on Saturday. A police source said the final tally was higher -- 26 killed and 28 hurt.

"The bomber was wearing a police uniform and detonated his explosives among students who had just returned from a break," a police official said.

Taliban spokesman Zabihullah Mujahid said the insurgents launched both the police academy and Camp Integrity attacks, but he earlier refused to comment on Friday's early morning truck bomb that tore through buildings in central Kabul, killing and wounding over 250 people.

The Taliban, who were toppled from power by the U.S.-led military intervention in 2001, rarely admit to attacks that kill a high number of civilians. —Reuters

IS militants abduct dozens of Christians in central Syria

DAMASCUS, 8 Aug — The Islamic State (IS) militants have snatched dozens of Syrian Christians, including women and children, in the town of Qaryateyn in central Syria, a monitor group reported Friday.

Dozens of Christians were among 230 civilians the IS captured in Qaryateyn in the southeastern countryside of the central province of Homs, said the Syrian Observatory for Human Rights.

The number includes 19 children, whose destiny is still unknown, according to the UK-based watchdog group.

It said the kidnapping of the Christians were according to a list of names the IS militants had.

A copy of the list were posted online with the names of the snatched Christians handwritten in red.

Other activists placed the number of the abducted Christians at 60, who are part of 100 families from the Syriac Christians in the town.

The IS militants stormed the town last Wednesday after carrying out several suicide car bombings at the outskirts of the town.

After storming the town, intense battles raged between the IS and the Syrian army, which was backed by the air force.

Reports said the army withdrew and repositioned to avoid losses while the air force and artillery were still shelling the town.

Syria's Christians, who take

up about 10 percent in the country's Sunni-majority population, have suffered from the expansion of the ultra-radical groups in different part of the Syria.

The Christians showed support to the embattled President Bashar al-Assad whose administration has boasted itself as a defender of the minority groups in Syria, which consists of a remarkable melange of sects and beliefs.

Christians in Syria were quite well off and some even hold senior positions in the government.

This might be one of the causes that have raised their concern over a possible government change.

It's common in Syria to see a mosque adjacent to a church not only in Christian neighborhoods but in every part of the country.

Damascus still contains a considerable proportion of Christians, with churches all over the city but particularly in the district of Bab Touma.

Masses are held every Sunday and civil servants are given Sunday mornings off to allow them to attend churches, even though Sunday is a working day in Syria.

In late 2013, Gregory III Laham, Patriarch of the Church of Antioch and all East, told Xinhua that Syria's long-term crisis displaced more than 450,000 Christian Syrians and killed more than 1,000 of them.

Xinhua

Turkey will not give Syrian refugees right to work — labour minister

ANKARA, 8 Aug — Turkey's Syrian refugees will not be granted special work permits, the labour minister said on Friday, explaining that such a programme would be unfair to Turks seeking work.

Hosting close to two million refugees from Syria at a cost of more than \$5 billion, Turkey has been praised internationally for its humanitarian response to the four-year conflict on its border. But with the vast majority of those fleeing war eking out a living outside well equipped refugee camps, the aid effort becomes more complicated.

Turkey meanwhile faces a stubborn unemployment rate of almost 10 percent and a slowing economy, and has repeatedly bemoaned Europe's reluctance to take its share of the refugee burden.

Currently those under temporary protection can work



A Syrian refugee holds onto his daughter as he waits to cross into Turkey at Akcakale border gate in Sanliurfa province, Turkey, June 15, 2015.—REUTERS

within the refugee community in Turkey, for example as doctors or teachers in camps, but Faruk Celik, Minister of Work and Social Security of Turkey, told Reuters

there were no plans to grant work permits under a general programme.

"There cannot be a general measure to provide them with

work permits because we already have our workforce ... we are trying to educate and train our unemployed so they can get jobs in Turkey," he said.

"It would be unfair to take away their jobs and give them to refugees," Celik said, adding that other countries should help solve the refugee problem if the conflict persists.

The minister said the government is studying how best to deal with the problem of informal labour.

Business groups and unions have called on the government to formalise the arrangement so working Syrians pay taxes and are protected from exploitation.

According to ORSAM (Center for Middle Eastern Strategic Studies) and TESEV (Turkish Economic and Social Studies Foundation) research, 200,000 Syrians are working in Turkey.

Communities in the border

areas, where the migrants are concentrated, have complained that Syrians working illegally accept lower wages and push Turks out of the labour market, resulting in animosity and sometimes violence between the communities.

However, the ORSAM/TESEV study of January 2015 found that Syrians are generally employed in areas that locals are not willing to work in and that they meet a demand for unskilled labour.

Under a Turkish and U.S. plan to provide air cover for Syrian rebels and sweep Islamic State from a patch in northern Syria, Turkish President Tayyip Erdogan said earlier that a "secure zone" would pave the way for the return of refugees.

But the United Nations cautioned against calling the area a "safe zone" unless there is a guarantee of protection.—Reuters

Abe, Okinawa chief vow to promote mutual understanding on base issue

TOKYO, 8 Aug — Prime Minister Shinzo Abe and Okinawa Gov. Takeshi Onaga agreed Friday their governments will promote mutual understanding on issues related to the planned relocation of a U.S. military base within Okinawa Prefecture through “intensive consultations” starting next week.

Speaking to reporters after a meeting at the prime minister’s office, Onaga quoted Abe as telling him the two sides “have locked horns until today, but I would like to deepen discussions during the consultations.”

The consultations are part of efforts to defuse tensions between the national and local governments over the U.S.-Japan plan to relocate the U.S. Marine Corps’ Air Station Futenma from a densely populated area in Ginowan to the less populated Henoko district of Nago.

The relocation is a key part of

a broader bilateral agreement to reorganize the U.S. military presence in Japan. Onaga has demanded that the Futenma base be relocated outside Okinawa.

While the state suspends work on the base relocation for a month from Monday, the two sides are planning to hold five rounds of talks, the first of which is expected to take place Tuesday in the Okinawa prefectural capital Naha between Onaga and Chief Cabinet Secretary Yoshihide Suga.

Onaga said he told Abe that his government “would like to discuss the background” of the burden that Okinawa has shouldered by hosting the bulk of U.S. forces in Japan.

The governor said that during the consultations, Okinawa wants to discuss issues such as its postwar history, how and why the Futenma base was built and the deterrence

power provided by U.S. forces.

“We have never held substantial discussions (with the state) about history and deterrence power,” he said. “We would like to discuss issues including geopolitical ones.”

Tokyo maintains that relocating Futenma to Henoko is the “only solution” for removing the dangers posed by the air station without undermining the deterrence of the Japan-U.S. alliance in the increasingly tense security environment in East Asia.

In 2004, a U.S. Marine Corps helicopter crashed at Okinawa International University, which is adjacent to the base. During Friday’s meeting, Abe told Onaga that the central government will make efforts to earmark 300 billion yen for Okinawa’s economic development in the state budget for fiscal 2016.—*Kyodo News*



Prime Minister Shinzo Abe (R) meets with Okinawa Gov. Takeshi Onaga at his office in Tokyo on Aug. 7, 2015. Onaga requested Abe earmark over 300 billion yen in the fiscal 2016 budget for developing Japan’s southernmost island prefecture. The plan to relocate a U.S. military base within Okinawa also remains a huge issue between the national and the prefectural governments.

KYODO NEWS

U.S. steps up efforts to meet Obama goal to close Guantanamo prison



A sign calling for the closure of the U.S. Guantanamo Bay prison in Cuba is seen at a rally next to the White House in Washington, 23 May, 2014. REUTERS

WASHINGTON, 8 Aug — The United States has secured commitments from a dozen countries to accept nearly half of the 52 Guantanamo prisoners already cleared for transfer, U.S. officials said on Friday, as the Obama administration tries to accelerate efforts to close the military prison.

But the moves will require the final signature of Defence Secretary Ash Carter, which could still delay the process, despite President Barack Obama’s push to empty the prison before he leaves office in 2017.

With the White House drafting a broader plan to shut the facility, the office of the State Department’s Guantanamo envoy has finalised deals with several foreign governments and is in advanced negotiations with others, the senior officials told Reuters.

They said the transfers from the prison at the U.S. Naval Base in Guantanamo Bay, Cuba, which has drawn international condemnation for the harsh treatment of foreign terrorism suspects held there, could take place by the end of the year, whittling down the current prisoner population of 116.

Obama has faced opposition from congressional Republicans who passed laws blocking any move to transfer Guantanamo inmates to prisons in the United States. The White House says it is crafting a detailed proposal it will present to Congress soon for shutting the facility.

The State Department is pushing ahead with one of the main thrusts of Obama’s strategy: sending home or resettling elsewhere as many as possible of the 52 prisoners who have been ruled safe for release.

One official, speaking on condition of anonymity, said there were “political commitments at various stages” with U.S. allies and partners around the world. Some have accepted detainees before and others will be doing so for the first time.

The main focus is on dozens of Yemenis no longer considered security risks. Washington has ruled out repatriating them because of the war in their homeland.

Much will depend on how fast the Pentagon is willing to do its part, as well as how quickly inter-agency reviews unfold.

The White House has pressured Carter to expedite approval of proposed transfers, essentially to act within 30 days on each case, a source close to the matter said.

By law, the defence secretary has the final say on moving a prisoner and is responsible if he returns to militant activities. The slow pace under Carter’s predecessor, Chuck Hagel, led to a falling-out with Obama’s White House. Hagel resigned in November.

So far this year, four Yemeni prisoners were sent to Oman and one to Estonia in January, and in June six Yemenis were flown to Oman.

U.S. officials say they hope to ramp up the transfers under the new State Department envoy, Lee Wolosky, to help cut down the prison population to an “irreducible minimum.” Accelerated reviews are planned for those deemed “too dangerous to release” to see if any can be added to the transfer list.

The plan being drafted will call for possibly dozens who remain to be moved to the United States and held in federal “Supermax” penitentiaries or military prisons, Obama’s counterterrorism adviser, Lisa Monaco, told a recent conference.

This proposal would set up a major fight with Congress.

White House spokesman Josh Earnest said work on the plan was continuing and that it would likely be presented to Congress after it returns from summer recess in early September.

The prison was opened by President George W. Bush, after the Sept. 11, 2001 attacks to house suspected al Qaeda and Taliban members rounded up overseas.

Obama has repeatedly pledged to close the facility, where most detainees have been held for more than a decade without trial. It now holds less than half of the number of prisoners it did when he took office in 2009.—*Reuters*

H.K. calls for joint investigation of tainted sandwiches with Taiwan

HONG KONG, 8 Aug — Hong Kong’s health chief on Friday called for a joint effort with Taiwan to investigate the source of contamination of one company’s sandwiches that left 86 people ill.

“Contamination could happen during the production, import or retail stages, as well as even after the consumers purchased these products,” Secretary for Food and Health Ko Wing-man said. “Hong Kong and Taiwan should cooperate in looking for the real source of contamination.”

Hong Kong authorities have banned the import and sale of Taiwanese Horng Ryen Jen sandwiches in the territory since Tuesday, after people reported illnesses including diarrhea, abdominal pain, vomiting and fever shortly after consuming them. Samples taken from at least 10 patients have tested positive for “Group D Salmonella.”

The famed sandwiches were sold online, in supermarkets and at food expos.

Ko said better controls and regulation of imported food through “parallel channels” are needed in future.

However, there is no concrete schedule for a joint investigation. A spokeswoman at Taiwan’s Food and Drug Administration said it has not yet received any request for a joint investigation from Hong Kong.

The FDA said in a statement no reports of food poisoning have been made in Taiwan over the sandwiches as of Friday, but two of the seven kinds of sandwiches on sale, namely “original cheese” and “whole wheat ham” sandwiches, had tested positive for nonpathogenic staphylococcus, while eight branches of the sandwich maker were found to be in violation of food hygiene regulations.

No test results for Group D Salmonella were reported.—*Kyodo News*

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Consignees of cargo carried on MV PANJA BHUM VOY NO (059N) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 9.8.2015 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of A.W.P.T where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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**U.S. Pacific
Fleet chief
tours New
Zealand**

WELLINGTON, 8 Aug — Commander of the United States Navy Pacific Fleet, Admiral Scott Swift arrived here on Saturday for a three-day visit and talks with Royal New Zealand Navy commanders.

The visit was part of a regional tour following last month's visit by the Commander United States Pacific Command, Admiral Harry Harris, said a statement from the New Zealand Defence Force.

Swift took command of the U.S. Pacific Fleet in May, and had his headquarters at Pearl Harbor in Hawaii.

New Zealand's Chief of Navy, Rear Admiral Jack Steer said he was hosting Swift.—Xinhua

**Train collides with
car in northwestern
France, killing three**

PARIS, 8 Aug — Three people were reportedly killed when a passenger train crashed into a car in northwestern France on Friday night.

The collision occurred at about 8:22 p.m. (1822 GMT) at Conde-sur-Huisne in the Orne region, according to French media reports.

Three people in the car were killed while a fourth woman passenger in it managed to escape from the vehicle before it was hit by the regional train (TER), which was travelling with 34 passengers from Le Mans to Paris, at a level crossing.

None of the passengers on the train were hurt. Xinhua

**Norway island youth camp reopens
four years after Breivik massacre**

UTOYA, (Norway), 8 Aug — More than 1,000 young activists gathered on Friday on the Norwegian island of Utoya for the official opening of their political party's summer camp, the first meeting there since a right-wing gunman killed 69 people in a rampage four years ago.

"It's good to be home again at Utoya," the president of the centre-left Labour Party youth organisation, Mani Hussaini, told a crowd sitting on a hill.

Some of the youths had crossed in the same ferry that took Anders Behring-Breivik, disguised as a policeman, to the island in July 2011 after he earlier had set off a car bomb outside the prime minister's office in the centre of Oslo. The bomb

killed eight people.

The killings were the worst atrocity in Norway since World War Two, traumatising a nation that prides itself on its reputation for peace and safety.

"All the things we had to go through and all the tough days. But this day will also be a part of Utoya's history," the Syrian-born Hussaini said from the stage to loud applause.

Small signs dot the island with names of victims engraved on steel plates fixed to trees.

Messages such as "Step by step we take our island back" and "We take good care of the memories" are written on notes and hang from a tree near the island's disused main building.

"To have the summer

camp here again with all the tents reminds me a lot of walking here together with the friends who are not here anymore," said Runar Kjellstad Nygaard, 23. Four years ago, Nygaard went home to Oslo just before the shooting.

"It was actually the plan to stay and sleep here, but then I dropped it because they warned of bad weather," he explained.

"I'm very happy for that today, but it is a very strange feeling to sit at home and get text messages from your best friend saying 'things are happening out here'".

Bullet holes could still be seen in a nearby pump house, situated between rocks where small hearts made of stone and steel have been attached. Fourteen peo-



Mathea Pedersen (R) and Ingrid Resell Krogstad set up camp at Utoya island, Norway August 6, 2015.—REUTERS

ple were killed there, while others survived by swimming from the island.

A circle of steel, symbolising eternity, engraved with the name and age of almost all the victims, has been erected on the island as a memorial.

At his trial, Breivik said he was trying to protect Norway from Muslim immigra-

tion and multi-culturalism. He called the teenage activists on Utoya traitors to the Norwegian nation.

In 2012, Breivik was sentenced in 2012 to the maximum time in prison of 21 years when judges declared him sane enough to answer for the murder of 77 people.

Reuters



Mushrooms are seen during the opening of the 30th Mushrooms of the surroundings of Morelia Exposition, in the Manuel Martinez Solorzano Natural History Museum, of the San Nicolas de Hidalgo University of Michoacan, in Morelia, Michoacan state, Mexico, on Aug. 7, 2015. On Friday the 30th Mushrooms of the surroundings of Morelia Exposition was opened, in presence of Carlos Armando Tena Morelos, director of the Biology Faculty of the University, and the founder of the exposition, Luz del Socorro Rodriguez Jimenez.—XINHUA

WEATHER REPORT

BAY INFERENCE: Monsoon is weak in the North Bay and strong to vigorous in the Andaman Sea and elsewhere in the Bay of Bengal.

FORECAST VALID UNTIL EVENING OF THE 9th August, 2015: Rain or thundershowers will be scattered in Magway Region and Kayah State, fairly widespread in Lower Sagaing, Mandalay, Bago, Yangon and Ayeyarwady Regions, Shan and Rakhine States and widespread in the remaining Regions and States with likelihood of isolated heavy falls in Mandalay, Ayeyarwady and Taninthayi Regions, Chin and Mon States. Degree of certainty is (100%).

STATE OF THE SEA: Squalls with moderate to rough sea are likely at times Deltaic, Gulf of Mottama, off and along Mon - Taninthayi Coasts. Surface wind speed in squalls may reach (35) m.p.h. Sea will be moderate elsewhere in Myanmar waters.

OUTLOOK FOR SUBSEQUENT TWO DAYS: Likelihood of increase of rain in the Upper Myanmar areas.

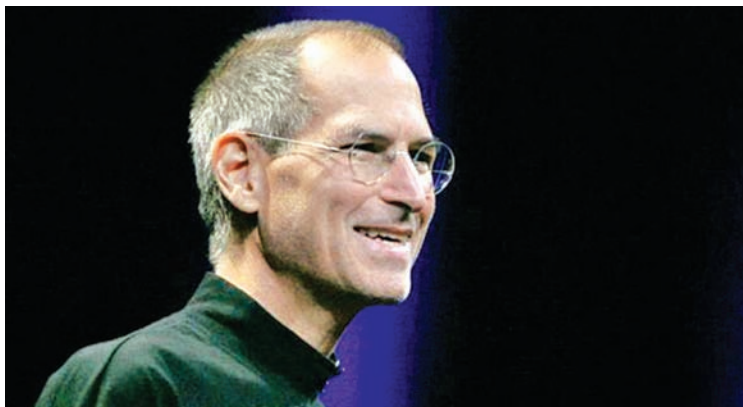
FORECAST FOR NAYPYITAW AND NEIGHBOURING AREA FOR 9th August, 2015: Isolated rain or thundershowers. Degree of certainty is (80%).

FORECAST FOR YANGON AND NEIGHBOURING AREA FOR 9th August, 2015: One or two rain or thundershowers. Degree of certainty is (100%).

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Steve Jobs opera in production

LOS ANGELES, 8 Aug — An opera based on the life of Apple Founder Steve Jobs is in the works. Bosses at the Santa Fe Opera in New Mexico have commissioned a production



Bosses at the Santa Fe Opera in New Mexico have commissioned a production called *The (R)evolution of Steve Jobs*. —REUTERS

called *The (R)evolution of Steve Jobs*, which will focus on the late tech mogul's career, as well as his relations with his wife, parents, and daughter, reported *The Los Angeles Times*.

A statement released by the opera company reveals the show "starts at a moment in Jobs' life when he must face his own mortality and circles back to the events and people in his past that shaped and inspired him."

The *(R)evolution of Steve Jobs* is slated to debut in 2017.

Jobs died in 2011, following a battle with pancreatic cancer. —PTI

I am a hopeless romantic: Cara Delevingne

LONDON, 8 Aug — Model-actress Cara Delevingne has confessed that she is a "hopeless romantic".

However, the 22-year-old *Paper Towns* actress, who is currently dating musician St Vincent, admitted to not have received a single romantic gesture in her life, reported BBC Radio 1. "I'm a hopeless romantic. I've done some outwardly romantic gestures. I've written songs for people, serenaded people with poems."

"I think it's always better to wait until someone does it to you. Because, to be honest, I don't think someone's done something super romantic for me," she said. —PTI



Cara Delevingne

Selena Gomez announces new single 'Same Old Love'

LOS ANGELES, 8 Aug — Singer Selena Gomez has made the formal announcement of the next single from her upcoming album "Revival".

Her label Interscope Records revealed that the new song by 23-year-old singing star would be titled, "Same Old Love", reported *Aceshowbiz*.

Charli XCX has reportedly penned the lyrics of the track co-produced by Benny Blanco and Stargate.

As of now, the official release date of the single is not de-

cidated but it will come as a follow-up to lead single "Good for You" that was released in June.

"Revival" is due for October 9 release. The project is Gomez's first studio product after her 2013 album "Stars Dance".

"I think that I am turning into a young woman, so this is the next phase in my life, and I think it is important for me to take control over it," Gomez recently said about her forthcoming album.

PTI



Singer Selena Gomez

Conductor Ozawa cancels opera appearance due to hip fracture



Photo shows Japanese conductor Seiji Ozawa. It was reported on Aug. 7, 2015, that the maestro has canceled plans to conduct an opera, scheduled in the central Japan city of Matsumoto on Aug. 24, 27, and 29, after he broke his hip when he collapsed in a bathroom. —Kyodo News

TOKYO, 8 Aug — Japanese conductor Seiji Ozawa has canceled his plan to conduct an opera later this month in the central Japan city of Matsumoto after suffering a hip fracture, its organizer said Friday.

Ozawa, 79, fell in a bathroom at a Tokyo hospital last Saturday where he was staying due to a cold, people close to him said. He was given a diagnosis of three weeks for the injury to be healed completely, they said.

Ozawa had planned to conduct the opera "Beatrice and Benedict" by Hector Berlioz on Aug. 24, 27 and 29 at the annual Seiji Ozawa Matsumoto Festival opera and concert event he directs.

The festival's organizer will replace Ozawa with American conductor Gil Rose for the opera program and give a partial refund, but Ozawa will conduct his birthday concert on Sept. 1 and an orchestra concert on Sept. 6 at the festival as planned. —Kyodo News

One Direction breaks streaming record as it tops UK chart

LONDON, 8 Aug — "Drag Me Down," One Direction's first single as a quartet following the departure of Zayn Malik in March, surged to the top of the British chart on Friday while a compilation album by Cilla Black, who died this week, made its first appearance in the Top 20 albums for over three decades.

One Direction's fourth number one single racked up a record 2.03 million plays in its opening week across chart-reporting streaming services such as Spotify, Deezer, Apple Music and others, the Official Charts Company said.

Calvin Harris and Disciples' "How Deep Is Your Love" jumped six places to second spot among the singles while last week's Number 1 "Black Magic" by Little Mix fell to three.

In the albums charts, London indie rock band The Maccabees claimed their first Number with their fourth studio album "Marks To Prove It."

British singer-songwriter Lianne La Havas was at number two with "Blood," just ahead of Years & Years' "Communion" at three.

Black, one of Britain's best-known singers and TV presenters who started her career at Liverpool's Cavern Club alongside the

Beatles, died from a stroke at her Spanish villa on Aug. 1 at the age of 72. Her "The Very best of" album was up at 14 as fans bought her records in tribute while her 1964 hit "Anyone who Had a Heart" rose this week to No. 41 in the singles charts.

Reuters



Members of the pop group One Direction pose for photographers at the Capital Summertime Ball at Wembley Stadium in London, Britain June 6, 2015. —REUTERS

GENERAL

Australian camel industry to export to China

SYDNEY, 8 Aug — Australian camel farmers are preparing to export boxed camel meat to China following an industry conference in Kazakhstan in June.

More than 1 million wild camels are estimated to be roaming Australia's deserts, covering 3.3 million square kilometers, Australia's national broadcaster has reported. Ngaanyatjarra council in Alice Springs, Australia's Northern Territory — Land and Culture Manager Alex Knight revealed a camel milk company from the far northwest of China wanted to hear about developments in Australia while the Chinese Bactrian camel association was meeting at the Kazakhstan conference.

"They are trying to develop an import protocol to import camel meat from Australia," Knight said.

Knight is currently in China furthering the development.

Somali butcher Abukar Hersi, currently residing in Melbourne, said camel meat is "one of the best things you can have" which is very rich and high in protein. "I think when Australians realize, we will see camel meat in every butcher and supermarket," Hersi said in Somali culture, the camel is worth more than gold.

"When you want to get married you have to give the best camels to the family. We're talking about 100 camels," Hersi said. "If there is fighting or a problem, to make conversation, you give a camel." Knight said they attended the conference in Kazakhstan to understand the commercial aspects of management, husbandry and disease eradication for camel farming. "There hasn't been much research in Australia on how to use camels commercially whereas the rest of the world has been moving on with it and developing their camel industry," Knight said. —Xinhua



Eugenie Bouchard of Canada hits the ball during her match against Ying-Ying Duan of China at the Wimbledon Tennis Championships in London, June 30, 2015.—REUTERS

Bouchard splits with another coach after poor run

TORONTO, 8 Aug — Eugenie Bouchard's coaching merry-go-round will take another turn after the Canadian announced on Friday she had split with Sam Sumyk following a six months blighted by injury and a succession of early exits from tournaments.

The 21-year-old will be coached temporarily by Serbian Marko Dragic at the Roger's Cup in Toronto as she seeks to rebound from her first-round loss at Wimbledon.

Bouchard parted ways with long-time coach Nick Saviano in November, ending a partnership which saw her reach the semi-finals of three of the four grand slams during last year's break-out season, including a maiden final appearance at Wimbledon.

But since a run to the quarter-finals at this year's Australian Open, the former world number five's ranking has slumped to 25 and she has been beaten in opening

matches at eight tournaments, including the French Open.

"I just feel like I haven't been quite myself, my confident, aggressive game lately and that's something that I've been working on very hard in practice," Bouchard told reporters at a pre-tournament media conference.

"I have the belief and I know my skills are still there and nothing can just vanish ... It's just about working hard to getting back on track."

Bouchard said she had no plans in place for a permanent coaching appointment.

"I'm looking for someone who can help me improve all areas of my game," she said. "I think it's very important to be able to address the technical side, the tactical side, the mental side and the physical side." Bouchard opens her Rogers Cup campaign against Swiss teen Belinda Bencic on Tuesday.—Reuters

Shakespeare's 'toad' Richard is Leicester's star draw

LEICESTER, (England), 8 Aug — Shakespeare portrayed King Richard III as a "poisonous bunch-backed toad" who was reduced to offering his kingdom for a horse before he was killed by the forces of Henry Tudor, crowned Henry VII soon after, at the Battle of Bosworth in 1485.

Little could Shakespeare, who wrote in Tudor times, have known that Richard would become a posthumous global celebrity and Britain's latest phenomenon in royal tourism.

Remains suspected to be those of the last king of the Plantagenet dynasty were discovered in 2012 in an unmarked grave beneath a car park in the east midlands city of Leicester. The grave was within the precincts of a Greyfriars monastery destroyed in Tudor times.

DNA testing confirmed their identity, while inspection showed Richard had not been a hunchback, though his spine was abnormally curved. In March his remains were reburied in an elegant limestone-and-marble tomb in Leicester Cathedral in a major public ceremony.

The cathedral, which prior to Richard's entombment would get a handful of visitors daily, had almost 2,000 people visit one day last spring, church officials said.

"We're getting used to being the place



Members of the public line up to view the coffin of King Richard III at Leicester Cathedral, central England, in this March 25, 2015 file photo.—REUTERS

that hosts King Richard III," said David Monteith, the Dean of Leicester.

The cathedral charges no admission and relies on volunteers to deal with the stream of visitors. The modestly priced souvenirs on offer include Richard III tea-cups and fridge magnets. Colombian Lil-

ian Pantoja drove from Liverpool, where she lives, to see the tomb and the nearby battlefield.

"The burial of a medieval king who is the last English king that died in battle, I thought that's amazing," she said.

Reuters



(9-8-2015, Sunday)

- 6:00 am
- Myo Ma Nyein Music Troupe
- 6:20 am
- Myanmar Video
- 7:55 am
- Game For Children
- 8:20 am
- Documentary
- 8:50 am
- Sing & Enjoy
- 9:40 am
- Myanmar Movie



(9-8-2015 07:00 am~10-8-2015 07:00 am) MST

- * News
- * Kayah Style
- * Family of Toys
- * The Photographer (Portiature) "Aung Kyaw Moe"
- * News
- * "Discovering Tribes" Kayaw: Their Life and
- Customs (Part- I)
- * Cosplayer
- * News
- * Snow Flakes...Scenic Confluence...To Kachin State
- * Myanmar Masterclass: Artist Win Pe Myint
- * News

- * Grow Back for Posterity "The dawn of development"
- * Sagaing: Youth Leader
- * ABU Song Festival
- * News
- * Food Trip (Ep-3) (Part-1)
- * Today Myanmar
- * News
- * The Great Po Sein
- * Myanmar Masterclass "Aung Thiha"
- * News
- * Great Shwedagon - Auspicious Grounds And Devotional Posts
- * Myanmar's Traditions and Culture "The Golden Land"
- * News
- * Lantern Floating Festival in Kyauk Kyi Township
- * The Beauty In The North Of Myanmar
- * News
- * Let's Cook (Episode- 10)
- * Independent Filmmaker
- * Sitagu International Buddhist Academy (Part-2)
- * A Tea Business: Pankwan (Part-1)
- * News
- * Discovering Tribes "Bwe"
- * Philatelic Pleasure

Lucas earns 10-man PSG winning start against Lille

PARIS, 8 Aug — Ten-man Paris St Germain got the defence of their Ligue 1 title off to a good start when Lucas's second-half strike earned them a 1-0 win at Lille on Friday.

The champions, who began the three previous seasons with a draw, had midfielder Adrien Rabiot sent off in the 28th minute for two bookings but Brazil midfielder Lucas secured all three points with a goal just before the hour.

PSG were without injured striker Zlatan Ibrahimovic but they still looked a cut above their opponents in the season curtain-raiser at the Pierre Mauroy stadium in northern France.

Laurent Blanc's PSG side were at times shaken by Lille but their defence held firm and they only needed one clear chance to take advantage despite going down to 10 men.

Youngster Rabiot was booked twice in seven minutes as PSG, with their new recruit from Manchester United, Angel Di Maria, watching from the stands,



Thiago Silva (L) of Paris St Germain fights for the ball with Lille's Sebastien Corchia during their French Ligue 1 soccer match at the Pierre Mauroy stadium in Villeneuve d'Ascq near Lille August 7, 2015.—REUTERS

dominated the early exchanges.

Edinson Cavani, operating as a lone striker, was again guilty of missing a clear chance in the 26th minute. It was Lille who had the first shot on target when Benjamin Corchia's long-range strike was blocked by Kevin Trapp, though that was as close as the hosts came to scoring.

PSG looked more comfortable in midfield after Blanc brought on the experienced Thiago Motta for Javier Pastore at halftime.

They clearly had the upper hand and in the 57th minute, Lucas controlled Blaise Matuidi's defence-splitting pass and rounded Vincent Enyeama before scoring into an empty net.

Looking to avoid another sending off, Blanc replaced Marco Verratti, the Italian having been booked, and handed Benjamin Stambouli his debut after his transfer from Tottenham Hotspur.

Last year's runners-up Olympique Lyonnais start their campaign on Sunday at home against Lorient.—Reuters

Sharapova withdraws from Toronto tournament



Maria Sharapova of Russia serves during her match against Serena Williams of the U.S.A. at the Wimbledon Tennis Championships in London.

NEW YORK, 8 Aug — Maria Sharapova's U.S. Open preparations took a major blow with the Russian world number two forced to withdraw from next week's WTA event in Toronto.

The 28-year-old Russian withdrew due to a right leg strain, tournament organisers said on Friday.

Sharapova has not played

since she lost to world number one Serena Williams in the Wimbledon semi-finals on July 9 and played just 10 tournament so far this year.

The Rogers Cup in Toronto is a key stop on the North American hardcourt circuit before the year's final grand slam at Flushing Meadows in New York from Aug. 31-Sept 13.—Reuters

Mourinho signs new four-year deal at Chelsea

LONDON, 8 Aug — Jose Mourinho has committed himself to Premier League champions Chelsea until at least 2019 after signing a new four-year contract as manager, the west London club said on Friday.

The 52-year-old, who had previously been in charge from 2004-2007, rejoined the Stamford Bridge outfit in 2013 and led Chelsea to the league title and League Cup success last season.

"I said when I returned here that I have a special feeling for this club and nothing changed," Mourinho told the club's website (www.chelseafc.com).

"I think this is a normal thing for me to sign a new contract. It is important we have this continuity and I hope we can enjoy more success in the future — for the fans, the players and the club.

"It is the club closest to my heart and I am very happy to know I will be staying here for a long time."

Mourinho's side won the league twice during his first spell in charge and lifted the FA Cup plus two League Cups before the Portuguese left the club and enjoyed more success at Inter Milan, who won the Champions

League in 2010.

Mourinho joined Real Madrid immediately after his European triumph with Inter — his second Champions League success after winning the trophy with Porto in 2004 — and won the King's Cup in his first season with the Spanish giants.

Real won their first La Liga title in four years in 2012 but the next season was turbulent as dressing-room divisions with established players, such as keeper Iker Casillas and defender Sergio Ramos, left Mourinho feeling unloved in the capital.

A welcome return to Chelsea soon followed and the London club finished third in the league under Mourinho in the 2013-14 season — four points behind champions Manchester City.



Chelsea manager Jose Mourinho during the press conference. REUTERS

Chelsea were rampant in their quest for the title last season, however, and won the league with three matches to spare as Mourinho ensured his 69 percent win rate was the best of any manager to have taken charge of 15 or more Premier League games.

"We are very happy that Jose has committed four more years to the club," Chelsea director Marina Granovskaia said.

"Since his arrival two years ago he has carefully developed the playing squad and brought trophies to Stamford Bridge.

"We look forward to the next four years and the continued success of the team."

Chelsea begin the defence of their Premier League title at home to Swansea City on Saturday.—Reuters

Ten year old makes a splash at world championships

KAZAN, (Russia), 8 Aug — Alzain Tareq won't be winning any medals at the world swimming championships but the pint-sized Bahraini did set an unlikely new record on Friday.

Just 10-years-old, Tareq became the youngest ever competitor to race at the world

championships when she competed in the heats of the women's 50-metre butterfly.

Hopelessly out of her depth, she finished a distant last among the 64 competitors, reaching the end of the pool in a time of 41.13 seconds, almost 16 seconds behind the leading qualifiers.

"I am so happy to be here," she told reporters.

"I want to be able to learn the techniques and how they swim." Although Tareq didn't come anywhere near the minimum qualifying times to compete at the world championships, she was allowed to compete because of a rule al-

lowing each nation to have some limited representation. "I am the fastest swimmer in Bahrain, and so they chose me," she said.

FINA does not currently have any minimum age limits for competitors but sources said that was likely to be reviewed in the future. Tareq's participation

in the sport's most prestigious global championship drew a mixed response.

British freestyle sprinter Fran Halsall, said she didn't "know what to make of it", adding: "She's tiny, but good on her to have a go. Bless her."—Reuters

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