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President U Thein Sein inspects collection of emergency aid

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Maj-Gen Aung Soe appointed as Deputy Minister for Home Affairs

NAY PYI TAW, 11 Aug— The President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar has appointed Maj-Gen Aung Soe of the Office of the Commander-in-Chief (Army) as Deputy Minister for Home Affairs under section 234 of the constitution and section 17 of the union government law, with effect from 11 August.

MNA

MYANMAR, THAILAND START VISA EXEMPTION

By Aye Min Soe

YANGON, 11 Aug — A reciprocal agreement on visa-free visits between Myanmar and Thailand came into force Tuesday, raising hopes of an increase in tourist numbers to both countries.

The agreement allows citizens of the two neighbouring countries to receive visa waivers for visits of up to 14 days if arriving via airports.

Officials of both countries launched the scheme at Yangon International Airport, where they welcomed arriving Thai visitors.

The visa exemption would strengthen the bilateral friendship and boost the economies of both countries, Mr Pisanu Suvanajata, Thailand's Ambassador to Myanmar, told *The Global New Light of Myanmar*.

Thailand would try to expand the programme to Myanmar

citizens arriving at entry points other than airports in the future, he added.

Myanmar currently allows visa-free entry for citizens of seven countries.

Thai tourists represent the largest number of foreign visitors to Myanmar.

Shwedagon Pagoda, Sule Pagoda and Bago, a town about 50 miles northeast of Yangon, are among the top attractions for Thai visitors.

"The visa exemption will lead to an influx of Thai tourists to Myanmar via three main airports and boost the travel industry," Immigration Department Deputy Director U Aung Thiha said.

More than 122,407 Thais visited Shwedagon Pagoda in the first six months of 2015, according to the pagoda's board of trustees.—MNA



Myanmar's national landmark Shwedagon Pagoda is one of the key tourist attractions in the country. PHOTO: AYE MIN SOE

LOW PRESSURE PERSISTS OVER BAY OF BENGAL

YANGON, 11 Aug — A low-pressure zone is persisting over the northwestern and west central Bay of Bengal, the Department of Meteorology and

Hydrology said Tuesday.

The bureau has forecast occasional squalls with rough seas offshore and along the coast of the Ayeyawady Delta and south-

ern Rakhine State. Surface wind speed in squalls may reach 35 miles per hour, according to the observation at 3:30 pm.

The bureau warned boats to

stay alert to the strong monsoon.

The forecast for Wednesday predicts regionally heavy falls in Magway and Ayeyawady regions and Chin State, with 100 per cent

degree of certainty.

Northern Myanmar is expected to receive more rain fall in coming two days, the forecast said.—GNLM




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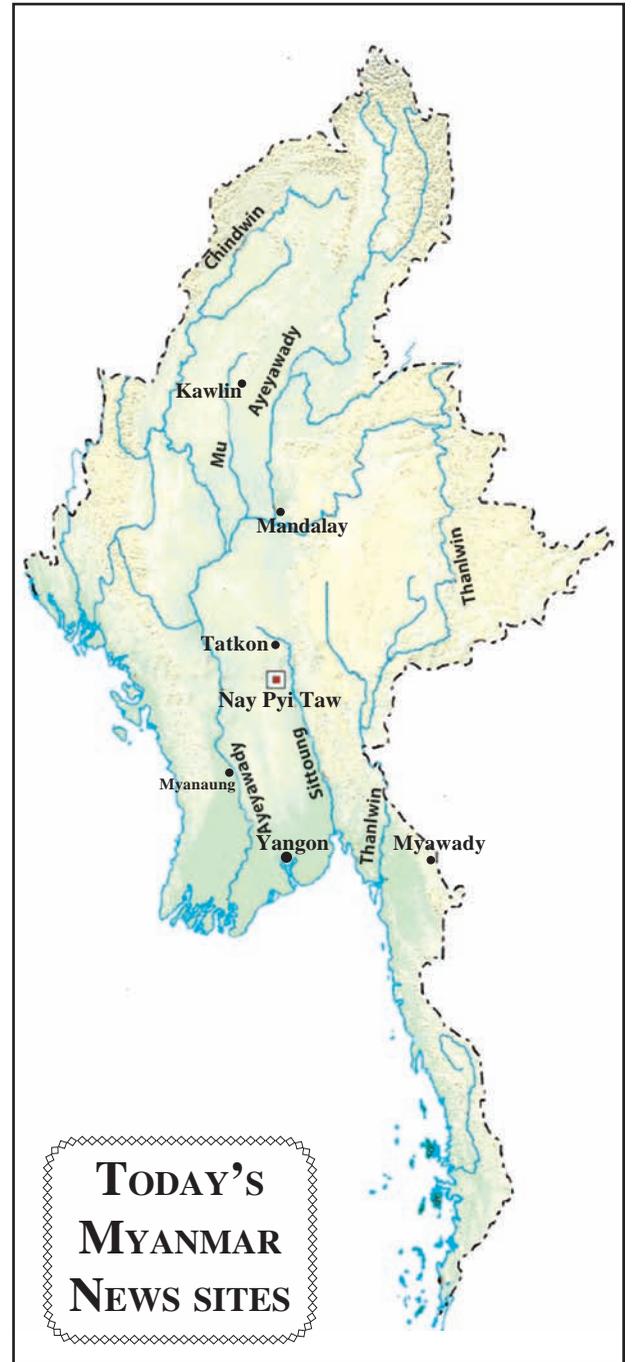
University students provide health care services to residents



NAY PYI TAW, 11 Aug — A total of 19 post-graduate students from Community Health University made field trips to villages in Pwintbyu Township to provide health care services to the flood victims recently.

They gave treatment to 180 people and chlorinated 87 wells. They also arranged construction of the fly-proof latrines in the villages.

Health Ministry



Navy officers donate emergency supplies in Myanaung

MYANAUNG, 11 Aug — A naval vessel led by commanding officer Lt-Cdr Soe Tun Win arrived at Myanaung, Ayeyawady Region, on 9 August.

Navy officers of the ship donated rice, cooking oil, purified drinking water, instant foods, clothes and medicines to flood victims in the township. Deputy Township Administrator U Aung Win accepted donations and spoke words of thanks.—*Win Bo (Myanaung IPRD)*

Senior assistant teacher Daw San Nwe presents first prize to Ma Shwe Wut Hmon U for second grade in 2014-15 academic year at annual meeting of parent-teacher association and prize presentation of Basic Education High School No 1 in Myawady recently. **TUN TUN Oo (MYAWADY TOWN)**



Kawlin Township starts rehabilitation of damaged areas

KAWLIN, 11 Aug—Local authorities are coordinating the rehabilitation of more than 3,000 acres of flood-affected land in seven villages of Kawlin Township.

Chairman of the Katha District Management Com-

mittee U Kyaw Kyaw Ohn and officials are prioritizing the cleaning of wells and repairing of roads and bridges, as well as the reopening of basic education schools. They have provided 11,822 baskets of paddy seeds for

replanting. The Agricultural Mechanization Department has ploughed farmlands free of charge.

Electrical workers of the township repaired a transformer to restore the electricity supply, while

also replacing 500 electric meters.

The Township Rural Development Department has repaired damaged roads and bridges in the rural areas of the township.

Ko Ko Nyein (Kawlin)

Dredging of lake improves water supply in Tatkon

TATKON, 11 Aug — A plan is under way to supply water to local residents in the urban area of Tatkon Township from

Byaing-in Lake, located one mile north of the township's Anawrahta Ward.

Dredging of the 22-

acre lake began Monday morning.

At a ceremony to mark the start of the project, officials of Nay Pyi

Taw Council and departments concerned spoke about regional development and the process of dredging the lake.

Upon completion, local residents from six wards in the urban area will have access to potable water from the lake.

Water from Mone Dam will flow into the lake via the main canal.

Tin Soe Lwin (Tatkon IPRD)



PRESIDENT U THEIN SEIN INSPECTS COLLECTION OF EMERGENCY AID

NAY PYI TAW, 11 Aug—President U Thein Sein, together with Vice President U Nyan Tun and union ministers, inspected the stockpiling of emergency aid for flood victims donated by the Union government and 4TV's Warmly Helping Hands programme here Tuesday.

The Union government donated 5,000 large plastic containers with 36 items each of household utensils, while the 4TV programme provided 1,000 large plastic containers, each with 33 items of household goods, as well as 1,000 small plastic containers of household utensils and 2,400 bottles of purified drinking water.

Officials will deliver the aid to flood victims from Haka in Chin State, Kalay and Tamu in Sagaing Region, Ingapu in Ayeyawady Region, and Minbya and MraukU in Rakhine State.

Plans are underway to



provide the rehabilitation aid to the victims in other flood-affected areas.—MNA

President U Thein Sein and Vice President U Nyan Tun view relief supplies for flood victims donated by Union Government and 4TV.—MNA

Central bank inks deal on sovereign rating assessment

NAY PYI TAW, 11 Aug—The Central Bank of Myanmar signed Sovereign Credit Ratings Advisory Mandate Tuesday.

In a speech at the Hilton Hotel in Nay Pyi Taw, Vice President U Nyan Tun said the sovereign rating would help determine Myanmar's real

economic position and assess its weaknesses.

Also present at the signing ceremony were Union Minister Dr Kan Zaw, Attorney General of the Union Dr Tun Shin, CBM Governor U Kyaw Maung Maung, Deputy Minister Dr Maung Maung Thein and officials.

After the vice president's speech, Standard Chartered Bank's chairman of Thailand and Greater Mekong and the Citibank resident representative for Thailand, Myanmar, Laos and Cambodia extended greetings.

The advisory bank representatives and CBM Dep-

uty Governor U Set Aung then signed the agreement. Foreign investors use sovereign ratings as a benchmark for transparency and trustworthiness. Economies with high sovereign ratings can gain easier access to foreign loans at lower interest rates.

MNA

Hluttaw sessions to resume 18 August

NAY PYI TAW, 11 Aug—Parliamentary sessions in all three Hluttaws will resume on 18 August in the capital, the government announced Tuesday.

The Pyithu Hluttaw and Amyotha Hluttaw will resume at 10 a.m. and the

Pydaungsu Hluttaw will resume at 1:30 p.m.

Sessions in both the upper and lower houses of parliament, as well as the combined house, had been postponed due to the flooding and landslide disaster across the country.—MNA

Daw Nan Shwe Hmon and party provide relief supplies to residents in Nyaungdon

NYAUNGDON, 11 Aug—Daw Nan Shwe Hmon, wife of Vice President Dr Sai Mauk Kham, and party cordially met with flood victims at The-ingu meditation centre in Nyaungdon

Township Monday.

They donated K5 million to the fund of the centre and K1 million and personal goods worth K1 million to local people.

Maubin District IPRD

Blue Sky members carry out relief tasks in Ayeyawady Region

YANGON, 11 Aug—Members of Blue Sky rescue team from China started their operations in flood-affected Ingapu and Hinthada, according to Myanmar-China Friendship Association.

The rescue team brought rubber boats in-

stalled GPS system and necessary equipment.

They will cooperate with local people in reconstruction tasks. Upon completion of all tasks, they will donate rescue equipment to Myanmar.

Min Thit

Patron of UMFCCI and party donate aid to flood victims

KALAY, 11 Aug—As for rehabilitation of flood victims in Kalay, Sagaing Region, patron of Republic of the Union of Myanmar Federation of Chambers of Commerce and Industry (UMFCCI) and patron of KBZ Brighter Future Myanmar Foundation U Aung Ko Win and party donated relief and rehabilitation aid including 25,032 school uniforms, 6,500 dozens of notebook, 6,500 dozens of pencils, 1,000 teachers uniform, 10,000 gallons of diesel, hospital equipment, food and medicines, 6,000 sacks of cement, corrugated iron sheets and 3,000 rice sacks. And the foundation pledged to keep donation in rehabilitation activities in corporation with authorities.—UMFCCI

Health Ministry making efforts for reopening facilities in flood-hit areas

NAY PYI TAW, 11 Aug—Medical teams are currently on field trips in flood-hit areas, giving health care to residents while the Health Ministry is making efforts for reopening of health care facilities there.

The flooding in recent memory destroyed and damaged medicines and health care facilities including six township-level hospitals, 10 station hospitals and more than 15 rural health centres

and its 118 branches nationwide.

The ministry is closely cooperating with the South-East Asian branch office of the World Health Organization to assist in reopening of the health care facilities while monitoring possible outbreak of infectious diseases in the disaster areas.

Meanwhile, private donors contributed cash, medicines and aid to the health departments in the flood-hit areas.

MNA

Protestors gather as nuclear reactor restarts in Japan

KAGOSHIMA, 11 Aug — Over 100 people rallied in front of a nuclear power plant in southwestern Japan on Tuesday to protest the country's reactivation of a nuclear reactor for the first time in nearly two years.

Blasting the restart as a hasty decision, the crowd at the gates of Kyushu Electric Power Co.'s Sendai complex in Kagoshima Prefecture called for abandoning nuclear power amid safety concerns.

Some residents, however, were hopeful that it would boost the local economy.

"We cannot live here without a nuclear plant. Once it is restarted, we would get money from the state and the town would thrive," said an 81-year-old man at a local shopping arcade.

The No.1 nuclear reactor at the Sendai plant became the first unit to go back on-line under a set of new, stricter regulations imposed after the triple reactor meltdowns at the Fukushima Daiichi nuclear power plant in the massive earthquake and tsunami that hit northeastern Japan on March 11, 2011.

People in Fukushima also have mixed feelings. While many in the prefecture devastated by the disaster oppose nuclear power, some admit the economic benefits of having a nuclear power plant.

"Why did they choose to restart it on the 11th when the reactivation itself is heart-wrenching enough?" said Haruko Kanai, who evacuated from Namie,



People stage a sit-in in front of Kyushu Electric Power Co.'s Sendai nuclear plant in Satsumasendai, Kagoshima Prefecture, on the morning of Aug. 11, 2015, prior to the resumption of the No. 1 reactor of the plant. Japan reactivated a nuclear reactor on the day for the first time in nearly two years despite strong safety concerns among the public following the catastrophe at the Fukushima Daiichi complex triggered by a powerful earthquake and tsunami in March 2011. *Kyodo News*

Fukushima Prefecture, following the nuclear disaster. "I feel a swirl of anger, sorrow and disillusionment," said the 66-year-old woman. "I don't want others to experience the same suffering that I have."

Fumio Iwakura, 67, who has been forced to suspend his work as an electrician and has lived in temporary housing in the Fukushima city of Nihonmatsu since the

meltdowns, was critical of the restart.

"It makes me wonder if they have really considered the seriousness of what happened in Fukushima," he said.

The Mayors for a Nuclear Power Free Japan network, comprised of incumbent and former chiefs of 37 prefectures, also released a statement of protest that said local people cannot live with a sense of

security under the current framework of allowing nuclear plant operation.

The statement said the effectiveness of the evacuation plan for municipalities in a 30-kilometer radius of the Sendai complex has not been verified and other surrounding municipalities are not receiving sufficient information from the utility, it said.

Kyodo News

Nepal Army's chief of General Staff promoted as acting army chief



Nepal Army Chief of General Staff Lieutenant General Rajendra Chhetri

KATHMANDU, 11 Aug— Nepal Army Chief of General Staff Lieutenant General Rajendra Chhetri assumed the post of acting Chief of Army on Tuesday ahead of the formal retirement of Chief of Army Staff (CoAS) Gaurav Sumsher Rana.

CoAS Rana, who is going on formal retirement on account of age from September, is on leave from Monday.

Rana handed over the responsibilities to his successor amid a special program organized here at the Army Headquarters

on Monday.

The Nepalese government nominated Chhetri as the acting chief of Nepal Army on Friday.

The outgoing chief Rana will formally retire on September 10.—*Xinhua*

Malaysian army chief visits Cambodia to promote military ties

PHNOM PENH, 11 Aug— Tan Sri Raja Mohamed Affandi bin Raja Mohamed Noor, chief of the Malaysian Army, is visiting Cambodia to bolster military relations and cooperation for the benefits of the two countries and peoples, a Cambodian military officer said.

Raja Mohamed Affandi met with Cambodian Deputy Prime Minister and Defense Minister Tea Banh on Tuesday and both sides pledged to enhance military

ties for mutual benefits, Major General Veng Sok Heng, deputy chief of the Defense Ministry's information department, told reporters after the meeting. "The army chief introduced the progress of Malaysia's defense industry to Deputy Prime Minister Tea Banh and wished to have cooperation with Cambodia in this sector," he said.

Tea Banh said as the same ASEAN member states, Cambodia was pleased to

see the progress of Malaysia's defense industry, saying that the country also wanted to cooperate with Malaysia in this sector, but it has no budget reserved for the purchase of defense equipment, according to Veng Sok Heng. Raja Mohamed Affandi arrived here on Monday for a three-day visit. Soon after his arrival, he held bilateral talks with Gen. Pol Saroeun, commander-in-chief of the Royal Cambodian Armed Forces.—*Xinhua*

China's first eco-friendly overwater highway opens to traffic

BEIJING, 11 Aug — An eco-friendly overwater highway opened this week in the mountainous Hubei Province, the first of its kind in the country.

The 10.9km-long highway, 4.4km of which is over water, splits into two as it meets a mountain along the route, a design chosen specifically to avoid damage to the mountain's ecology.

The 70-million-USD project has been dubbed "the most beautiful overwater highway" in China for the breathtaking views of the mountain, water and sky.

The highway is expected to boost logistics and tourism at its ending point in the remote village of Xingshan. Several locations around the village already enjoy developed tourism. It greatly reduces the driving time between bigger towns and cities and Xingshan, which is the hometown of Wang Zhaojun, known as one of the four beauties of ancient China.

"We can have development and still protect the environment," Twitter user "Shankar Sharma" said, giving a thumbs up in response to Xinhua's tweet about the highway.—*Xinhua*

Murder probe casts shadow over comeback bid by Sri Lanka's Rajapaksa

COLOMBO, 11 Aug — The exhumation of the remains of a star rugby player whose death is now the target of a murder investigation has cast a shadow over former President Mahinda Rajapaksa's comeback bid at Sri Lanka's general election next week.

Rajapaksa, 69, has denied allegations by the government that Wasim Thajudeen was tortured to death in May 2012 by members of his security team and did not die in a car crash as reported at the time.

"There are no bloodstains on our hands," the two-term president said after police last week obtained a court order to exhume Thajudeen's body on suspicion that he had been murdered.

Rajapaksa, who has set his sights on becoming Sri Lanka's next prime minister, said the investigation was timed to coincide with the Aug. 17 elections. He demanded an independent inquiry.



Sri Lanka's former president Mahinda Rajapaksa, who is contesting in the upcoming general election, speaks during the launch ceremony of his manifesto, in Colombo July 28, 2015.—REUTERS

Nobody has been arrested or charged, but the case has received sensational coverage in the local press that could mobilize voters resentful of Rajapaksa, who as Sri

Lankan leader built a close alliance with China.

"It's potentially very explosive - it might go right to the top," said analyst Paikiasothy

Saravanamuttu, who runs a policy think tank and election monitoring group.

Although still held in high esteem by much of Sri Lanka's majority Sinhala community for defeating a 26-year Tamil insurgency in 2009, Rajapaksa is reviled by others who accuse him of running a brutal dynastic regime.

According to a poll by Saravanamuttu's Centre for Policy Alternatives, most minority Tamils and Muslims back Prime Minister Ranil Wikremesinghe's reformist coalition.

Rajapaksa has a narrow edge among Buddhist Sinhalese — who make up seven in 10 voters on the strategically located Indian Ocean island of 20 million. In a one-on-one premiership contest, Wikremesinghe would have a 10-point lead.

Thajudeen's remains, wrapped in polythene, were exhumed on Monday on the order

of a court to establish whether his injuries were consistent with a police report that his car crashed into a wall on a quiet Colombo side street and caught fire.

Government spokesman Rajitha Senarathne alleged last week that three members of the presidential security guard had tortured and killed Thajudeen, who played for the national rugby side captained by Rajapaksa's second son, Yoshitha.

Officials also allege that the Rajapaksa administration suppressed a post mortem report which found that Thajudeen had suffered extensive injuries to his head, neck, pelvis and legs.

The autopsy's findings were only released after Maithripala Sirisena defeated Rajapaksa in a Jan. 8 presidential vote. Following the opening of the murder investigation, Sirisena has fired his security detail.

Reuters

Australia unveils emissions reduction target ahead of Paris talks

SYDNEY, 11 Aug — Conservative Prime Minister Tony Abbott on Tuesday announced cuts to Australia's greenhouse gas emissions that were immediately criticised by environmental groups and opposition politicians for lagging behind other advanced economies.

The world's largest exporter of coal and iron ore will cut emissions by 26-28 percent of 2005 levels by 2030, Abbott said, a target that will be submitted as part of negotiations on a global climate deal in Paris at the end of the year.

Australia is one of the largest carbon emitters on a per capita basis due to its reliance on coal-fired power plants, and critics say the move will do little to bring it in line with ambitious targets set by the United States and Europe.

Abbott is already facing criticism for his strong support for the coal industry and for scrapping an ambitious carbon tax and emissions trading plan last year.

"We've got to reduce our emissions but we've got to reduce our emissions in ways which are consistent with continued strong growth," Abbott told reporters.

"The last thing we want to do is strengthen the environment



Conservative Prime Minister Tony Abbott

and at the same time damage our economy."

Australia is currently aiming to reduce emissions by 5 percent from 2000 levels by 2020.

Critics accused Abbott of gaming the system by choosing 2005 instead of 2000 for the new benchmark. 2005 was an historically high year for emissions.

The government's independent expert body, the Climate Change Authority, said last month Australia needed to reduce emissions by 40 to 60 percent from 2000 levels by 2030 to meet an international agreement to limit global warming to two degrees Celsius over pre-industrial levels.

Abbott said the new target puts Australia in line with pledges from the United States, the EU

and Canada, but data compiled by the Climate Institute think tank puts Canberra's position below all three.

Washington has pledged a 26-28 percent drop on 2005 levels by 2025, or about 41 percent by 2030, while Brussels has promised to deliver 40 percent of 1990 levels by 2030, or about 34 percent based on 2005 levels, it said.

The Australian Conservation Foundation (ACF) said the target was out of step with international consensus.

"It's a defeatist target that shows no faith in the ability of Australians to adapt, innovate and make the transition to a clean economy," ACF head Kelly O'Shanassy said in a statement.

A poll released last week by the Climate Institute showed 63 percent of Australians wanted more action on climate change, up six percentage points from 2014.

Australia's main opposition Labor Party has seized on the shift in public opinion, pledging last month to reinstate the emissions trading scheme and raise the level of energy generated by renewable sources to 50 percent by 2030.—Reuters

Protests in Nepal over provincial boundaries see 2 killed

KATHMANDU, 11 Aug — Two protesters were killed after being shot by police on Monday in the Surkhet district in western Nepal.

One person was killed at the scene of protests over the proposed boundaries of federal provinces, while a second protester was injured and later died during treatment, police chief of the district Rajesh Kumar Lal Karna told Kyodo News.

An additional 12 protesters were injured in the shooting, he added.

The local administration in Surkhet had imposed curfew orders Monday afternoon after demonstrators protesting since Sunday turned violent and vandalized government offices as well as local offices of major political parties. Police fired on protesters who defied the curfew.—Kyodo News



A beer drinking contest is held in Wuhan, central China's Hubei province on Aug. 9. A participant finished a big bowl of beer in 2 minutes.—XINHUA

Mie Pref. to ban drone flights over 2016 G-7 summit venue

Tsu, (Japan), 11 Aug — The Mie prefectural government has drafted an ordinance banning drone flights over the venue for the Group of Seven summit to be held next year in the central Japan prefecture, local government

sources said Tuesday.

If enacted, Mie Prefecture will be the first of Japan's 47 prefectures to have such an ordinance.

The local government hopes to have the ordinance come into

force next March in time for the Ise-Shima summit scheduled for May 26-27, according to the sources. The ordinance will be in effect only from March 27 to May 28.

Use of drones will be banned

in areas 1.5 kilometers from the coast of Kashiko Island, a tiny resort island in a bay in Shima where the summit will be held, and other areas specified by the governor.

Kyodo News



Officers from the St Louis County Police Department and the Missouri Highway Patrol process demonstrators from the 'Black Lives Matter' movement, who had been arrested for protesting on Interstate 70, in Earth City, Missouri August 10, 2015.—REUTERS



A police officer holds his weapon as a protester is detained (rear) in Ferguson, Missouri, August 10, 2015.—REUTERS

Protests return to Ferguson streets, state of emergency declared

FERGUSON, 11 Aug — Police in riot gear clashed with protesters who had gathered in the streets of Ferguson, Missouri, early on Tuesday to mark the anniversary of the police shooting of an unarmed black teen whose death sparked a national outcry over race relations.

About 200 demonstrators, some waving flags, beating drums, and shouting anti-police slogans, marched along a street that was a flashpoint of riots that erupted last year after white police officer Darren Wilson shot dead 18-year-old black teen Michael Brown.

Police made several arrests, including nine people on Monday evening after a group of protesters briefly blocked the roadway.

Police carrying shields rushed into a crowd of protesters around midnight, many of whom started screaming and running from the area. Some protesters threw water bottles and rocks at officers, who used bullhorns to order people out of the street or face arrest.

Authorities declared a state of emergency on Monday for the St. Louis suburb and surrounding areas after police officers shot and critically wounded a man in an exchange of gunfire Sunday

night, marring what had been a day of peaceful demonstrations.

Ferguson resident Roberta Lynch, 51, was among the demonstrators on Monday evening. She said relations between police and the community had improved little over the past year.

"They are doing the same old stuff, taking our rights," Lynch said. "They need to give us our space." Monday's demonstrations capped a day of civil disobedience called by activists to protest against the shooting of Brown and other unarmed black men by police across the United States. Clergy and civil rights groups led a series of protests, staging a

demonstration at a courthouse in St. Louis where 60 people were arrested, including Princeton University professor and activist Cornel West, according to a protest organizer. Police arrested dozens of protesters who blocked rush-hour traffic on Interstate 70 a few miles from Ferguson hours later, according to a Reuters witness. The death of Brown and a grand jury's decision to spare the white officer from criminal charges led to a wave of demonstrations that boiled over into rioting and arson at times and spawned sympathy rallies across the country.

Reuters

Greece, lenders clinch bailout deal after marathon talks

ATHENS, 11 Aug — Greece and its international lenders clinched a multi-billion-euro bailout agreement on Tuesday after marathon talks through the night, officials said, raising hopes aid can be disbursed in time for a major debt repayment falling due in days.

After a 23-hour session that began Monday afternoon, exhausted Greek officials emerged in a central Athens hotel to announce the two sides had agreed details of the deal though a couple of minor issues remained to be ironed out.

"Finally, we have white smoke," a finance ministry official said. "An agreement has been reached. Some minor details are being discussed right now."

The pact is expected to be worth up to 86 billion euros (\$94.75 billion) in fresh loans for debt-ridden Greece, but there was no immediate confirmation of its size.

Greek officials have said they expect the accord to be ratified by parliament on Wednesday

Greek Finance Minister Euclid Tsakalotos leaves the Maximos Mansion after a meeting with Greek Prime Minister Alexis Tsipras (not pictured) in Athens, Greece August 9, 2015.
REUTERS



or Thursday and then be vetted by euro zone finance ministers on Friday. This would pave the way to aid disbursements by Aug. 20, when a 3.2 billion euro debt payment is due to the European Central Bank.

An agreement would close a painful chapter of aid talks for Greece, which fought against austerity terms demanded by creditors for much of the year before relenting under the threat of being bounced out of the

euro zone.

Still, popular misgivings run deep in Germany, the euro zone country that has contributed most to Greece's two bailouts since 2010, about funnelling yet more money to Athens.

During talks which dragged through the night, the sides agreed on final fiscal targets that should govern the bailout effort, aiming for a primary budget surplus — which excludes interest payments — from 2016, a

government official said.

Adapted from an earlier baseline scenario, the targets foresee a primary budget deficit of 0.25 percent of gross domestic product in 2015, a 0.5 percent surplus from 2016, 1.75 percent in 2017, and 3.5 percent in 2018, the official said.

Dealing with a mountain of non-performing loans (NPLs) in the banking sector were among the sticking points in talks. Athens wanted to set up a "bad bank" to take on the problem loans, while creditors want NPLs bundled and sold to distressed debt funds. It was not immediately clear how that was resolved.

Officials had also argued over how to set up a sovereign wealth fund in Greece designed to raise 50 billion euros from privatisations, three-quarters of which would be used to recapitalize banks and to reduce the debt.

Both sides had agreed to deregulate Greece's natural gas market, finance ministry sources said.

Reuters

Mexico governor to be questioned over killing of photojournalist

MEXICO CITY, 11 Aug — The governor of the Mexican state of Veracruz, Javier Duarte, will be questioned over the recent murder of five people in the country's capital, including a photojournalist, the mayor of Mexico City said on Monday.

The killings of photographer Ruben Espinosa and four others on July 31 in an apartment in central Mexico City have prompted an outcry from free speech organizations and human rights activists. Espinosa, 31, who worked for the weekly magazine Proceso and the photo agency Cuartoscuro, had sought shelter in Mexico City earlier this summer saying he had been followed and threatened in the eastern state of Veracruz.

"I have commented to him (Governor Duarte) that we are required to take a statement directly from the governor," Mexico City mayor Miguel Angel Mancera told reporters on Monday.

In a rare move for Mexico, a group of investigators from the city prosecutor's office will travel to Veracruz on Tuesday to take a statement from Duarte.

In a letter to Mancera posted on the state government's website, Duarte wrote that his government was at the "absolute disposal" of the authorities. He added, "we will provide whatever ... information is asked of us, in order to contribute to clearing up this multiple homicide." Nadia Vera, a Veracruz activist killed alongside Espinosa, had recently said in a video interview posted online that if anything happened to her or fellow activists, it would be Duarte and the state government's fault.

While official death statistics for journalists vary, the freedom of speech organisation Article 19 has said that Veracruz is the most dangerous place for freedom of expression in Latin America.

Reuters



A picture of photojournalist Ruben Espinosa hangs from a fence during a protest against his murder outside the Government of Veracruz building in Mexico City, August 5, 2015.—REUTERS

WORLD

Syrian authorities arrest relative of Assad after rare protest

BEIRUT, 11 Aug — Syrian authorities have arrested a relative of President Bashar al-Assad, the state news agency said on Monday, two days after protesters called for the man's punishment over his suspected killing of an army officer in a traffic dispute.

Hundreds of Syrians staged a rare protest on Saturday evening in the coastal city of Latakia, a stronghold of Assad and his Alawite sect, to demand the execution of Suleiman al-Assad, the son of the president's cousin Hilal.

State news agency SANA said the authorities had "arrested Suleiman Hilal al-Assad and transferred him to the relevant parties".

It gave no further details. Syria's state media had not reported the protest, the traffic incident or the reported killing.

Details of what happened vary. But according to the Britain-based Observatory for Human Rights and supporters of President Assad on social

media, Suleiman al-Assad was angered when Colonel Hassan al-Shaikh, who was in a car with his family, overtook his vehicle in a Latakia street, and so shot him dead nearby shortly afterwards.

In a video posted on social media, protesters at Saturday's rally chanted:

"The people want the execution of Suleiman." They also chanted slogans in support of the president.

The arrested man's father, Hilal al-Assad, was killed in battles with Islamist insurgents last year.

In Syria's four-year civil war, Alawites who make up roughly 10 percent of the 23 million population have largely backed Assad against mainly Sunni Muslim insurgents.

But opposition activists say dissent has been growing within Assad's Latakia regional heartland largely due to a high death toll among Alawite fighters and civilians — tens of thousands — in the conflict, as well as official corruption.—Reuters



Syria's President Bashar al-Assad

Iranian foreign minister's Turkey visit postponed — Turkish official



Iranian Foreign Minister Mohammad Javad Zarif waves after a plenary session at the United Nations building in Vienna, Austria July 14, 2015.—REUTERS

ANKARA, 11 Aug — Iranian foreign minister Javad Zarif's visit to Turkey, during which he was expected to discuss the Syrian conflict, has been postponed, a Turkish foreign ministry official said on Tuesday.

The official gave no further details.

Turkey and Iran back opposing sides in the wars in Syria and Yemen, but their economic interdependence has kept relations broadly on track.

Turkey has stepped up its involvement in Syria's civil war in recent weeks, calling for a protected zone that could relieve pressure on rebels fighting against forces loyal to President Bashar al-Assad, a close ally of Iran.

Zarif was expected in Beirut later on Tuesday. He was also expected to visit Moscow next week, Tass news agency quoted the Iranian embassy as saying on Monday.

Reuters

Islamic State claims Iraq car bombs that kill nearly 60

BAGHDAD, 11 Aug — At least 58 people were killed and more than 100 wounded on Monday in two blasts in eastern Iraq claimed by Islamic State in a province once considered mostly free of them.

In January Iraqi officials declared victory over the insurgents in Diyala province, which borders Iran, after security forces and Shi'ite paramilitaries drove them out of towns and villages there. But the militants have remained active.

An explosion at a market in Huwaidar, about 4 km (2.5 miles) north of the provincial capital of Baquba, killed 51 people and wounded at least 80, police and medical sources said.

"The attacker managed to pass a checkpoint by lining up with a wedding motorcade and then split off with his explosives-packed vehicle to blow it up in a crowded marketplace," said Diyala police captain Mohammed al-Tamimi.

Islamic State, which controls large parts of

northern and western Iraq, claimed responsibility for the attack in the mixed Sunni-Shi'ite Muslim province and said the target was "rejectionists", as the group refers to Shi'ites.

A separate blast to the east of Baquba killed a further seven people and wounded 25. Islamic State said it had targeted a checkpoint manned by the army and volunteers from the Hashid Shaabi — an umbrella group for mainly Shi'ite militias fighting the radical jihadist group.

The attacks took place less than a month after a bombing claimed by Islamic State in the nearby town of Khan Bani Saad, which killed more than 100 people and prompted riots by distraught mourners.

Security forces and militia groups are currently focused on routing Islamic State from the western province of Anbar, where they have been gearing up for an offensive to retake the sprawling Sunni heartland.

Reuters



Three boys walk among the debris after an airstrike by the Iraqi Air Force in Islamic State (IS) militants-seized city of Fallujah, some 50 kilometers west of Baghdad, Iraq, on Aug. 10, 2015. At least five people were killed and four others were wounded during the bombing.—XINHUA

Yemen 'crumbling' from war, desperately needs aid — Red Cross

GENEVA, 11 Aug — Yemen is "crumbling" under a deepening humanitarian crisis after months of civil war, the head of the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) said on Tuesday.

Peter Maurer, ending a three-day visit to the Arabian Peninsula country, called for free access to deliver life-saving food, water and medicines, while urging the warring parties to work towards a negotiated solution.

"The humanitarian situation is nothing short of catastrophic. Every family

in Yemen has been affected by this conflict...The world needs to wake up to what is going on," Maurer said in a statement.

Nearly 4,000 people have been killed and 1.3 million forced to flee their homes during the conflict, he said.

A political crisis in Yemen descended into civil war in March when Iranian-allied Houthi forces who had seized the capital Sanaa advanced south toward the main port of Aden, forcing President Abd-Rabbu Mansour Hadi to flee to Saudi Arabia.

A Saudi-led Arab military coalition began a bombing campaign against the Houthis on March 26 to restore Hadi and fend off what they see as Iranian influence in their backyard. Houthi forces have since been pushed back on several fronts.

"The compounded effects of intense fighting and import restrictions are having a dramatic impact on health care. Health facilities have been massively attacked as well as suffering collateral damage," said Maurer.

"Medicines can't get

in so patient care is falling apart. Fuel shortages mean equipment doesn't work. This cannot go on. Yemen is crumbling. As a matter of urgency, there must be free movement of goods into and across the country ... Much more needs to be done."

Since January, the ICRC — one of the few international relief agencies left in Yemen — has helped supply water to more than two million people and provided food and other essentials for more than 100,000, the statement said.—Reuters

PERSPECTIVES

Wednesday, 12 August, 2015

Support for disaster victims must be ongoing

By Myint Win Thein

IN the aftermath of devastating floods and landslides across the country, the authorities have promised victims that they will restore normal life in their communities as soon as possible. However, the longer a society takes to restore normalcy, the stronger the impact of the disaster.

It is therefore important for all to continue to support flood and landslide victims until they can really stand on their own feet again.

First of all, disaster victims need assistance to rebuild their livelihoods destroyed by disasters. Therefore, it is important for volunteers and government agencies to provide farmers with seeds, farm machinery, fertilizers and so on. Similarly, assistance should also be given to victims who work in other fields.

At the same time, important infrastructure damaged in the disasters must be repaired to restore the regular flow of goods into affected areas. Schools should be repaired so children can resume classes. There are still many other important things to be done for victims so that they can regain their peaceful lives from before the disasters.

Eventually, volunteers, donors and government agencies may even work together with local people for reforestation of watershed areas to reduce the impact of natural disasters in the future.

It is vital that volunteers, donors and government agencies continue to support the lives of disaster victims for some time so they can once again live normal lives.

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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.

Youth Civic Engagement

(Opinions expressed here are those of the author)

Htun Tin Htun

August the 12th is International Youth Day. It came about because the United Nations General Assembly wanted a day to celebrate the young people of the world. On December the 17th, 1999 the General Assembly declared International Youth Day at the World Conference of Ministers Responsible for Youth in Lisbon, Portugal. The aim of the day is to focus on youth issues around the world. The idea is simple. The world's youth make up over a sixth of the world population, therefore they need a special day. The UN defines a youth as anyone in the age group between 15 and 24 years old. Experts predict the number of youth in the world will greatly increase over the coming years, especially with a decrease in child mortality.

Outstanding young women and men are needed for the prevention, preservation and protection of our Planet "One World What We Want". Many different things happen on International Youth Day. There are activities and events all around the world. These are run by youth and for youth. The day promotes the benefits that young people bring to our world. There are youth conferences on issues like education and finding a job and many charity events. Other things include concerts, parades and educational workshops in schools. There is a different theme each year. The first was "Addressing Health

and Unemployment". Other themes have been on youth and sustainable development, youth and tackling poverty, and youth and climate change. The more this day is celebrated, the more responsible our young people will be.

This year, the theme of the IYD is "Youth Civic Engagement" and it serves as an annual celebration of the role of young women and men as essential partners in change, and an opportunity to raise awareness of challenges and problems facing the world's youth. Thematic discussions and information campaigns will take place on 12 August 2015 across the world, to engage both Member States and the general public to understand the needs of young people, to implement policies to help them overcome the challenges they face, and to encourage young people into the decision-making process. These objectives of the International Youth Day 2015 will also be addressed during the 9th UNESCO Youth Forum, taking place in the autumn of 2015.

Transversal Themes are set for IYD and we have been learning to live together. Young women and men have got the creativity, the potential and the capacity to make change happen – for themselves, for their societies, and for the rest of the world. UNESCO's work with and for youth is committed to empowering young women and men and helping them to work together to drive social innovation and change, participate fully in the development of their societies, eradicate

poverty and inequality, and foster a culture of peace. Youth are not just beneficiaries of this work – they are essential actors in finding solutions to the issues faced by young people in the world today. Their energy and leadership has been demonstrated across the world, and they must be fully engaged in social development themselves and supported in this work by their societies. The UNESCO Youth Programme works to create an enabling environment in which this goal can be achieved, by bringing youth voices to the fore and encouraging young people to come together to take action.

Hard Working (Effort), Will (Mind), Wish-to-do, Wisdom are four main requisites of victory to achieve our goal. We know that the experience of being young can vary enormously across the world, and that 'youth' is often a fluid and changing category. The context is always an important guide in UNESCO's definition of youth on specific occasions, and this definition is flexible and can vary between countries and regions.

Coming together is beginning, staying together is progress, working together is success, uniting together is significance. YOUTH is best understood as a period of transition from the dependence of childhood to adulthood's independence. That's why, as a category, youth is more fluid than other fixed age-groups. Yet, age is the easiest way to define this group, particularly in relation to education and employment, because 'youth' is often referred to a

person between the ages of leaving compulsory education, and finding their first job.

Integrated and holistic approach and actions are extremely needed to combat three Diseases (HIV/AIDS, Malaria and Tuberculosis) because our youth suffer a lot. Approximately half of new human immunodeficiency virus (HIV) infections are in youth aged 15 to 24 years and that no fewer than 6,500 young people are infected by the virus each day and a striking 76 per cent of young people (aged 15 to 24 years old) living with HIV are female.

It is learnt that there are more than 1.2 billion young people (defined by the United Nations as between 15 and 24 years of age) in the world today, the largest group in history. Young people are key agents for social change, and are providing the energy, creative ideas and determination to drive innovation and reform. Volunteerism is an important, and increasingly popular, mechanism for young people to bring about positive change in society, and it is becoming more and more relevant as a mechanism to engage young people in global peace and sustainable human development. For instance, as governments, United Nations entities and civil society organizations debate and articulate the post-2015 development agenda, there is a strong call for a bottom-up process in which young people's voices are included and youth are actively engaged in the process, and volunteering is a viable

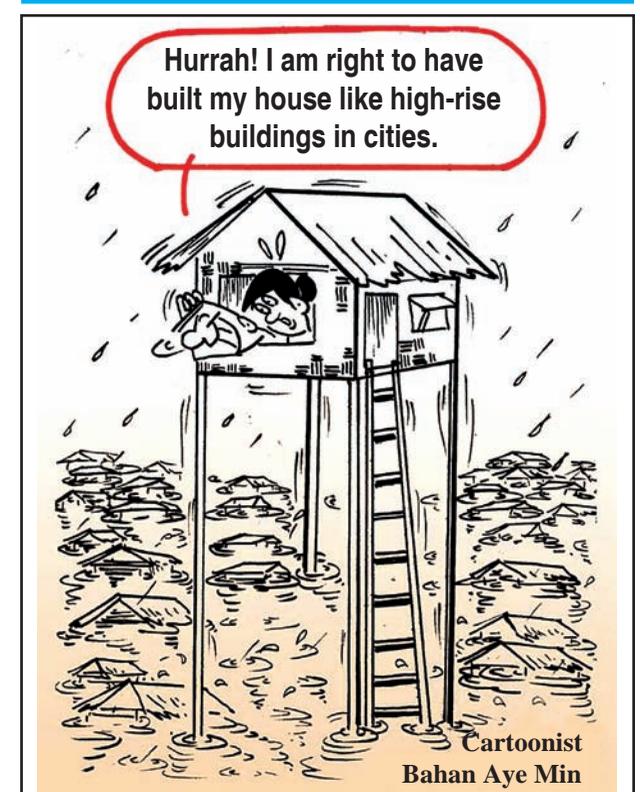
(See page 9)

POEM:

Make Every Child Count

Aye Phyu

- * Our children in this world
Black, white, yellow and all
Vulnerable as little flowers
Easy to blossom or to wither
- * Starting from pregnancy,
Mother and child healthy
Through safe motherhood program and care
No synergies and nothing be spared.
- * Children of all ages
Makers of new pages
In history of nations and the world
Should live, grow and on their feet, stand tall.
- * To give them a good start
Immunize they all must
Health and nutrition program added
From possible dangers, we protect.
- * Their early childhood years
Things that they see and hear
Most get ingrained in their little heads
Call for a healthy environment.
- * Parents plus all teachers
At preschools and day-care centers
Quality care and education
Fundamental life skills be given.
- * The rich and the poor
The have and the have-nots,
Join hands to create a better life
For all the children to thrive.



NATIONAL

Wa Special Region-2, Mongla Special Region-4 donate cash to flood victims

NAY PYI TAW, 11 Aug — U Aung Myint, central committee member from Wa Special Region-2 and U Kyaw Kyaw Aung, in-charge from Yangon branch of Mongla Special Region-4, donated K60 million each for rehabilitation of flood victims to vice chairman of Union Peace-making Work Committee U Thein Zaw at the Hlutaw complex Tuesday.—MNA

More than 57,000 acres of farmlands placed under crops

NAY PYI TAW, 11 Aug — Flooding from June to August caused damage to more than 740,000 acres of farmlands across the nation including over 210,000 acres of farmlands in Rakhine State.

After receding the flooding, more than 57,000 acres of farmlands have been placed under crops including more than 47,000 acres in Rakhine State.—MNA

Union Home Affairs Minister meets Chinese ambassador

NAY PYI TAW, 11 Aug — Union Minister of Home Affairs Lt-Gen Ko Ko met with Chinese ambassador to Myanmar Mr Hong Liang and party at the ministry, here, Tuesday.

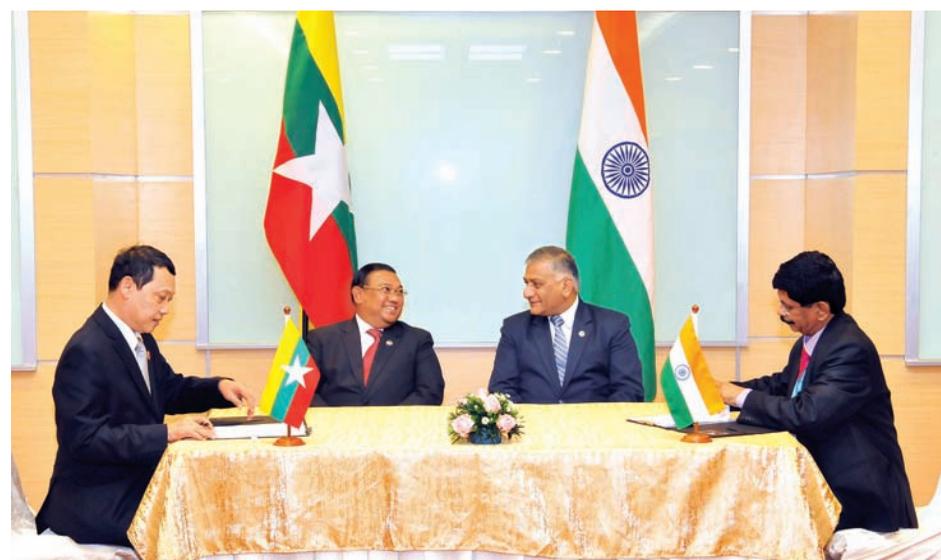
In the meeting, both sides cordially discussed rescue and relief of flood victims, border security affairs, and cooperation in transnational crime.

Also present at the meeting were Deputy Minister Brig-Gen Kyaw Kyaw Tun and officials.

MNA



India, Myanmar sign agreement for Centre of Excellence in Software Development and Training



Gen (Retd) V.K. Singh, Indian Minister of State for External Affairs and Union Minister U Wunna Maung Lwin attend signing of software development and training agreement.—MNA

YANGON, 11 Aug — Indian Embassy in Yangon issued a press release on Monday that Gen (Retd) V.K. Singh, Minister of State for External Affairs

of India and U Wunna Maung Lwin, Union Minister for Foreign Affairs for Myanmar witnessed the signing of an agreement for the setting up of a Centre

of Excellence in Software Development and Training (CESDT) in Myitkyina, Kachin State of Myanmar. The Agreement was signed by Dr B.K. Murthy, Exec-

utive Director, Centre for Development of Advanced Computing (C-DAC), NOIDA and U Aung Lynn, Permanent Secretary in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Union of Myanmar at a ceremony in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia on 6 August 2015.

The projects to be implemented by C-DAC, and envisages the setting up of a state of the art Information and Communication Technology Centre at Myitkyina, imparting intensive teachers training, extending support for ICT curriculum development, and will be accredited as an authorized Centre of C-DAC. The project will be set up with financial support through the ASEAN-India Cooperation Fund.—GNLM

Youth Civic Engagement

(from page 8)

mechanism for this. Young people increasingly feel that volunteerism complements formal education in teaching the skills that are required for the job market, such as leadership, teamwork, problem-solving, planning, management, creativity, communication and negotiation. This is especially important given the current global economic downturn, where competition for jobs is increasing.

Caring and sharing to engage and improve the community welfare and development is civic engagement of our young people in this planet. The United Nations entities working on youth issues encourage policymakers, communities and youth themselves to empower young people as a valuable but under-utilized resource. Volunteerism is defined by the United Nations as “an activity undertaken out of free will, for the general public good, and where monetary reward is not the principal motivating factor.” Youth contribute over \$35 billion per year in volunteer hours and are more likely than any other age group to have volunteered informally in the past years. Volunteering is associated with a 27% higher chance of employment, and the effect is especially strong for those without a high school diploma or who live in rural areas. Every year, more than 6,500 online volunteers between the ages of 18 and 30, representing 65% of all online volunteers, are mobilized.

“Getting youth civic engagement programmes moving” and “Moving youth civic engagement programmes forward” are our motto for our youth development. The engagement and participation of youth is essential to achieve sustainable human development. Yet often the opportunities for youth to engage politically, economically and socially are low or non-existent. More efforts are needed to raise awareness about the importance of youth civic engagement and its benefits to the individual and to society, including for sustainable development as well as resilience and wellbeing. The International Youth Day 2015 campaign aims at promoting civic engagement and participation of youth in politics and public life, so that young people can be empowered and bring a full contribution to society, development and peace.

Teamwork is effective and productive. Working together in a highly performance team can make a difference, success and significance. The words “Think global and Act local” and “Think big and Start small” are how we can initiate and begin our events and activities.

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U Tin Htun

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U Win Kyaing, General Secretary of the Myanmar Fisheries Federation, denounced alleged drug traffickers posing as fishery industry businessmen and distanced the federation from any illicit activities.
PHOTO: YE MYINT

YANGON, 11 Aug — The Myanmar Fisheries Federation said Tuesday none of its members were connected with a purported marine production company implicated in a massive haul of stimulant tab-

Peak fishery body distances members from alleged drug trafficker

By Ye Myint

lets seized in Yangon last month.

U Win Kyaing, general secretary of the federation told The Global New Light of Myanmar that the name of the company, Kaladan Basin Development Company, was not found in its lists of businesses dealing with exportation of marine products, ocean fishing, and fish and prawn breeding.

According to recent media reports based on police investigations, stimulant tablets were seized at two sites in Yangon con-

nected with the company, and investigations will be carried out to discover whether businessmen in the fishery sector are involved in that case.

“Those who are actually doing fishery-related businesses are disappointed with the news, and drug dealers who impersonate fishery businessmen damage the sector’s reputation,” U Win Kyaing said.

The MFF denounced anyone posing as marine businessmen to conceal their activities from police, and could affirm that members of federation would never be involved in drug

trafficking, the general secretary added.

During an MFF regular meeting on Tuesday, federation patron U Soe Win stressed the need to clear up possible misunderstandings of the sector by holding a press conference or releasing an official statement.

On 3 August, Myanmar authorities discovered a haul of stimulant tablets at a house in North Dagon Township’s 41st ward after seizing around US \$100 million worth of tablets found in an abandoned vehicle in Mingaladon Township on 26 July.—GNLM

U.S. dollar on the rise as China devalues yuan

SYDNEY, 11 Aug — The U.S. dollar lunged higher on Tuesday as China allowed its yuan to fall to three-year lows, a shift that heightened unease about the world's second-largest economy even as it promised a much-needed boost to exports.

Asian stocks slipped and sovereign bonds rallied as investors weighed the implications of the surprise move, which seemed to end months of officially sanctioned yuan strength.

China's central bank described the move as a "one-off depreciation" of nearly 2 percent, and said it was based on a new way of managing the exchange rate that better reflected market forces.

Investors reacted by selling the Australian dollar, often used as a liquid surrogate for the Chinese currency. The Aussie sank to \$0.7325, from \$0.7430 ahead of the news.

Other currencies in Asia also lost ground to the U.S. dollar as investors reasoned they would need to fall to keep exports competitive with China.

Singapore's dollar hit a five-year low, while the Malaysian ringgit and Indonesian rupiah trod ground last visited in the Asian financial crisis 17 years ago.

"As this event has boosted the U.S.



An investor is reflected in a window as he looks at boards displaying stock prices at the Australian Securities Exchange in central Sydney, Australia, 6 August, 2015.—REUTERS

dollar and dampened local currencies, it is likely to be welcomed by regional central banks," said Annette Beacher, chief Asia-Pacific macro strategist at TD Securities.

"Any policies that boost the outlook for Chinese growth are positive for the growth outlook more broadly."

Against a basket of currencies, the U.S. dollar gained 0.4 percent to 97.524. The euro eased to \$1.0971, while the dollar firmed to 124.75 yen.

Chinese share markets were choppy on the news and eventually turned lower. The CSI300 index was down 0.3 percent, while Shanghai stocks slipped 0.2 percent after scoring hefty gains on Monday.

MSCI's broadest index of Asia-Pacific shares outside Japan lost its early gains to be down 0.7 percent. Japan's Nikkei slipped 0.6 percent.

Sovereign bond markets seemed to catch a bid from the bout of market volatility and yields on 10-year U.S. Treasuries dipped 3 basis points to 2.199 percent.

There was even talk that worries over China combined with U.S. dollar strength could argue against a September rate hike from the Federal Reserve.

Sentiment had initially got a lift from a bounce on Wall Street. The Dow ended Monday with gains of 1.39 percent, while the S&P 500 climbed 1.28 percent and the Nasdaq 1.16 percent. Shares in Google jumped more than 5 percent, adding \$25 billion to its market value, after announcing a new holding company called Alphabet which will separate the core web advertising business from newer ventures. In commodity markets, the shift in Beijing's currency policy could be seen as a negative in the very near term as a lower yuan makes resources more expensive to Chinese buyers. Three-month copper futures were off 1 percent, and gold retreated to \$1,098.80 an ounce. Oil also eased back from Monday's highs. Brent crude was quoted 27 cents lower at \$50.15 a barrel, while U.S. crude eased 29 cents to \$44.67.—Reuters

Indigenous people worldwide face myriad health challenges: UN

UNITED NATIONS, 11 Aug — Indigenous people around the world suffer high levels of diabetes, drug and alcohol abuse, youth suicide and infant mortality, said UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon here on Monday.

Speaking at the launch of the State of the World's Indigenous People report on health, Ban said that "(Indigenous people) count among the world's most vulnerable and marginalized people," adding that this was despite the importance of their "history, traditions, languages and knowledge."

The new report found that the world's 370 million indigenous peoples "face a myriad of obstacles when accessing public health systems."

The report's co-author, Mukta Lama from Tribhuvan University in Nepal, described some of these obstacles at the launch, saying that they were "due to language barriers, due to geographic remoteness where they live, and also due to culturally insensitive approaches to health care systems taken by the government."

Speakers at the event gave examples of health challenges, from different Indigenous communities around the world.

"Among Inuit youth in Canada, suicide rates are among the highest in the world, 11-times the national average," said Ban.

"In Australia, many Aboriginal communities have a diabetes rate six times higher than the general population," he added.

Megan Davis, Chair of the Forum on Indigenous Issues, added that diabetes is a problem for Indigenous people around the world.

Xinhua

Pharmacy benefit manager CVS urges rewrite for U.S. heart guidelines

NEW YORK, 11, Aug — CVS Health Corp, the second-largest manager of drug benefit plans for U.S. employers and insurers, asked heart specialists on Monday to revamp guidelines for treating patients with high cholesterol after the launch of new, expensive medications.

The unusual move is the latest salvo in the war on escalating U.S. healthcare costs, with insurers using aggressive tactics to extract steep price discounts from drugmakers, even for the newest medications, and controlling patient access to the most expensive drugs.

CVS, in a letter published in the latest edition of the Journal of the American Medical Association, said current guidelines, which include a formula for assessing heart disease risk rather than specific targets for levels of "bad" LDL cholesterol, do not provide clarity on how to choose the best, and most cost effective, therapy.

CVS says LDL targets are needed now that the U.S. Food and Drug Administration has approved Praluent, a potent new drug from Regeneron Pharmaceuticals Inc and Sanofi SA that works by blocking a protein called PCSK9 that helps LDL

cholesterol stay in the bloodstream. An FDA decision on a second PCSK9 inhibitor, Amgen Inc's Repatha, is expected later this month.

CVS and other pharmacy benefit managers are concerned about the cost of the PCSK9s compared with older cholesterol fighters such as statins, which are available as generics for less than \$50 a month. Praluent, given by injection, has a list price of almost \$15,000 a year. Both Praluent and Repatha, in combination with statins, have been shown to lower cholesterol by around 60 percent compared with statins alone.

"The current cholesterol management guidelines do not provide clarity as to how these expensive new medications could fit in the treatment paradigm, potentially resulting in some scenarios where a prescriber could consider a PCSK9 inhibitor for a low-risk patient," Dr. William Shrank, chief scientific officer at CVS, said in a statement.

The latest treatment guidelines, issued in 2013 by the American College of Cardiology and the American Heart Association, overturned decades of practice in which doctors screened patients for high cholesterol, then sought to reduce LDL to a specific

level. The new guidelines dropped an emphasis on specific targets for LDL levels. Instead, they suggest that an individual patient's risk of developing heart disease rather than an LDL number should be used to determine the need for more intensive treatment.

Dr. Troyen Brennan, chief medical officer for CVS, said that if the guidelines are not changed, CVS will use its own targets, which will vary depending on patient history. "We expect patients to first use statins," he said. "If they can't use statins, or can't make (LDL) targets, then they would use PCSK9 inhibitors."

Some prominent cardiologists have questioned the 2013 guidelines, but the ACC and AHA have shown little appetite to return to LDL targets. "LDL may or may not correlate to cardiovascular outcomes," Dr. Kim Allan Williams, president of the ACC, told Reuters last week.

Williams said on Monday, "The potential of this new class of drugs is exciting, and we look forward to data from the clinical trials in progress that could demonstrate whether these new cholesterol-lowering drugs will benefit a wider group of patients.

In the meantime, ... any changes to them (guidelines) must be supported by evidence."

The AHA said in response to a request for comments, "We continually weigh our recommendations against current science and update our guidance accordingly."

When Praluent was approved last month, Williams said the ACC recommended that doctors limit prescribing PCSK9 inhibitors "to the very high risk, hard-to-treat groups approved by the FDA."

In addition, he said patients should otherwise follow the current cholesterol guidelines, which recommend lifestyle changes and, if needed, statins for most patients with or at risk of heart disease.

CVS estimates that about 73 million Americans have elevated cholesterol.

"PCSK9 inhibitors will be used chronically — generally for the remainder of the lives of treated patients," CVS said in its letter. "As a result, most payers, both government and commercial, are probably considering thoughtful ways to rationalize the use of these medications."

Reuters

Adobe joins tech industry push in increasing maternity, parental leave

NEW YORK, 11 Aug — Software company Adobe Systems Inc. (ADBE.O) said on Monday it is doubling the maternity leave it grants, making it the third company in the U.S. technology industry in a week to give new parents more paid time off.

New mothers at the California-based firm will receive 26 weeks of paid leave, up from 12 weeks, and primary caregivers and new parents will get 16 weeks of paid parental leave.

“We join an industry movement to better support our employees while striving towards increased workforce diversity,” said Donna Morris, Adobe senior vice president of People and Places.

Adobe has 13,500 employees globally, including 6,500 in the United States. About 30 percent are women.

In an interview, Morris said the new leave program had been in the planning stages for a long time and was not in response to



Adobe company logos are seen in this picture illustration taken in Vienna in this July 9, 2013 file photo.—REUTERS

announcements by video streaming company Netflix Inc. (NFLX.O) and Microsoft Corp (MSFT.O) last week. Netflix announced that its employees

could take up to a year of paid maternity or paternity leave in the first year after the birth or adoption of a child. It also offered the flexibility of returning to work

full or part time.

The move was seen as a game changer in the United States, which lags other developed countries in the amount of parental leave offered to employees. Paid maternity leave in the United States is usually about 30 days, according to Mary Tavarozzi, a senior consultant with benefit consultant group Towers Watson.

Microsoft Corp. also announced last week it was increasing benefits for parents, extending its fully paid leave for new parents to 12 weeks.

Morris said Adobe’s increased parental leave for new parents through childbirth, adoption, surrogacy and foster care, and maternity leave will become effective on Nov. 1.

She said the move was in line with changes in the tech industry, and aimed to increase the diversity of Adobe’s workforce and to support employees during major life changes.—Reuters

Twitter signs multi-year deal with NFL

VENTURA, (California), 11 Aug — The National Football League said it signed a multi-year partnership with microblogging site Twitter Inc (TWTR.N) to deliver video and other content to NFL fans on a daily basis.

Content, including in-game highlights from pre-season through Super Bowl 50, will be distributed across Twitter from the start of the 2015 season, the NFL said in a press release. The partnership expands on the NFL’s existing partnership with Twitter since 2013, and Twitter users will now have access to more official NFL content than in the past. Twitter’s shares rose 4 percent to \$28.11 in early trading.—Reuters



A portrait of the Twitter logo in Ventura, California December 21, 2013.—REUTERS

Cosmonauts complete spacewalk outside space station



Flight engineer 1, Danish astronaut Andreas Mogensen of the European Space Agency (ESA) attends a training examination at the Gagarin cosmonaut training centre outside Moscow, Russia, August 7, 2015.—REUTERS

Moscow, 11 Aug — A pair of Russian cosmonauts began their working week on Monday by cleaning the windows of the International Space Station (ISS), floating 250 miles (400 km) above the Earth’s surface.

Station commander Gennady Padalka and flight engineer Mikhail Kornienko closed the hatch on the station’s Pirs module at 1951 GMT (1551 EDT), completing the almost six-hour spacewalk to install new equipment and carry out maintenance tasks.

The cosmonauts finished the expedition 30 minutes ahead of schedule after breezing through their first task - installing equipment to help crew members manoeuvre outside the ISS.

They later completed maintenance on various experiments, photographed the Russian section of the space station and cleaned a porthole window to remove years of dirt left by exhaust fumes from visiting ships.

“They developed a (cleaning) tool kit with two swabs with

handles on them. The swabs are kind of a type of terry cloth,” spacewalk specialist Devan Bolch said in a NASA video published before the walk.

“It’s kind of similar to what you would use on your car headlights, when they get hazy, to clean them.” The success of the mission will boost spirits in Russia, whose once-pioneering space industry has suffered a string of accidents which have tarnished its reputation.

A Proton-M carrier rocket burnt up over Siberia minutes after launch in May, just weeks after technical faults forced Russia to abandon a \$51 million dollar ISS supply mission.

The expedition is the fourth ISS spacewalk this year and the 10th for Padalka, who has spent more time in space than any other person. It is Kornienko’s second venture outside the station, a \$100 billion research laboratory owned and operated by a partnership of 15 nations. While the two Russians floated outside the station, their international colleagues inside the ship harvested samples from an experiment to grow vegetable produce in space to support longer missions.

“(This) marks a milestone, the first space-grown lettuce that is actually consumed in orbit by ISS crew,” NASA mission commentator Rob Navias.

“Bon appetit,” quipped U.S. station flight engineer Scott Kelly before tucking into samples of the red romaine lettuce, garnished with oil-and-vinegar dressing.

Reuters

New tadpole disease affecting frogs across globe, scientists find

LONDON, 11 Aug — Tadpoles are contracting a new, highly infectious disease that may be threatening frog populations worldwide, British scientists have found.

A parasitic disease caused by single-celled microbes known as “protists” was found in the livers of tadpole samples taken from six countries across three continents, the scientists said in a study published in the Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences Journal on Monday.

The disease, which was found in both tropical and temperate sites, is a distant relative of oyster parasites, they said.

“Global frog populations are suffering serious declines and infectious disease has been shown to be a significant factor,” said

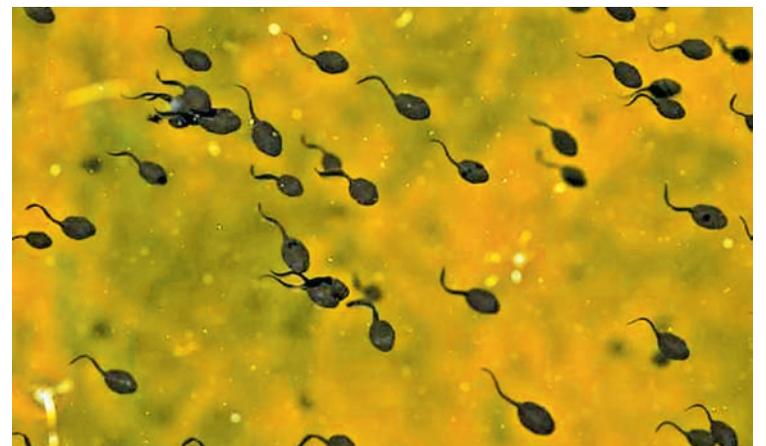
Thomas Richards of Exeter University, who co-led the study.

“We now need to figure out if this novel microbe causes significant disease and could be contributing to the frog population declines.”

Amphibians are among the most threatened of all animal groups. In 2008, 32 percent of frog species were categorized as threatened or extinct and 42 percent were listed as in decline.

Some scientists say falling populations of amphibians and other animals suggest the Earth is undergoing a sixth so-called “mass extinction event”, with extinctions happening so fast they rival the decline and death of the dinosaurs in just 250 years.

Reuters



Tadpoles wriggle in the Bressone pond at the Chalet-a-Gobet in Lausanne May 11, 2012.—REUTERS

Japan railway appoints another cat to succeed Tama the stationmaster



Nitama (Tama the Second), a five-year-old female cat, receives a letter of appointment to become the stationmaster of Kishi Station of Wakayama Electric Railway Co. on Aug. 11, 2015, at the station in Wakayama Prefecture, western Japan. Nitama succeeded Tama, a cat credited with rescuing the railway from financial difficulties before dying aged 16 in June 2015.—KYODO NEWS

WAKAYAMA, (Japan), 11 Aug — A local Japanese railway, which mourned the death in June of a cat credited with rescuing it from financial difficulties by serving as a stationmaster, appointed another cat as its successor Tuesday, hoping the feline legacy will continue attracting passengers.

Wakayama Electric Railway Co. issued a letter of appointment for Nitama (Tama the Second), a five-year-old female cat, to become the master of Kishi Station. Like her predecessor Tama, Nitama is a calico cat.

The railway also unveiled the Tama Shrine, a Shin-to shrine that enshrines Tama as a deity protecting the once-money-losing Kishigawa Line in Wakayama Prefecture, western Japan. "I hope (Nitama) will contribute to boosting local sightseeing and other businesses," said President Mitsunobu Kojima. At the funeral for Tama, who died aged 16, Kojima said she was a "savior" for not only his company but also for many other small railway operators struggling financially in rural parts of the nation.

Nitama had been Tama's subordinate since January 2012 when she was appointed acting master of the station.

Wearing a stationmaster's cap as she was held in the arms of the president, Nitama "offered prayers" to the shrine and "reported" her promotion to Tama's soul, now known as "Tama Daimyojin," while many fans looked on.

Yukako Nakahashi, a 42-year-old office worker from Saitama Prefecture near Tokyo, said Nitama "looked more dignified than when I saw her a few years ago, and she seems to have got more used to her job."

The shrine, which is located on a platform at the station, is equipped with two small bronze statues of Tama with beckoning paws, one for drawing passengers and another for money. In Japan, a cat is used as a figure for Maneki-neko, or beckoning cat, a good luck charm bringing prosperity to shop owners. Kishigawa Line had been losing passengers and on the edge of closure before Tama became the master of Kishi Station in January 2007.

Her cuteness and the novelty of a cat stationmaster attracted tourists from in and out of Japan, and the success sparked a trend of appointing rabbits, cats, dogs and other animals as stationmasters among local railways across Japan. The animals are kept at stations to delight passengers and tourists.—Kyodo News



People visit a photo exhibition marking Cuban former leader Fidel Castro's 89th birthday in Havana, Cuba, on Aug. 10, 2015. Castro was born on 13 Aug, 1926 in Biran of Cuba.—XINHUA

U.S. Coast Guard unloads \$1 billion in seized narcotics in San Diego

SAN DIEGO, 11 Aug — A U.S. Coast Guard cutter carrying \$1 billion worth of cocaine and heroin seized from narcotics smugglers at sea returned on Monday from a four-month mission off the Pacific Coast of Mexico, Central and South America. The 32 metric tons of cocaine and 2 tons of heroin were stacked on pallets at the bow of the new Coast Guard Cutter Stratton, the lead ship among three vessels that took part in its maiden operation from April through July.

The contraband was seized during some 30 separate interdictions of drug-running vessels, including two submarines and dozens of small outboard-powered boats called pangas, the Coast Guard said.

"Every one of these bricks of cocaine was headed for the United States," Coast Guard Admiral Paul Zukunft told reporters, adding that the United States consumes about 420 metric tons of cocaine each year.

The \$1 billion worth of narcotics unloaded at the U.S. Naval Base San Diego marked the largest haul from a single Coast Guard mission, he said.

The 32 tons of pure uncut cocaine aboard the Stratton would have been enough to produce street sales of the drug

roughly equivalent to 33 million "lines" for snorting, according to the U.S. Drug Enforcement Administration.

Zukunft said Coast Guard anti-smuggling operations have netted 59 tons of narcotics off the shores of Mexico and Central America during the past year, more than was seized during the three previous years combined.

The Stratton is part of the Coast Guard's new National Security Cutter fleet. Each one carries helicopters and small fast boats that are launched when a suspected smuggling vessel is spotted, Commanding Officer Nathan Moore said.

Captain Daniel Pickles said interdictions often become a race to board the drug-running vessels before the smugglers can dump their cargo overboard or scuttle their own vessels. "It's common to find the narcotics bales have been weighted so they sink when they're thrown overboard," he said. "It's part of the cat-and-mouse game."

Federal officials declined to identify the cartels suspected in the smuggling.

The seized narcotics, labeled with evidence tags, were to be moved to a secret location where they eventually will be destroyed, the Coast Guard said.—Reuters

Zimbabwe lifts hunting ban imposed after killing of Cecil the lion: U.S. report

NEW YORK, 11 Aug — Zimbabwe has lifted a ban on big game hunting outside a national park 10 days after imposing the moratorium following the illegal killing of the country's most prized lion, NBC News in the United States reported on Monday.

Authorities in Zimbabwe imposed an indefinite ban on Aug. 1 on hunting in areas surrounding Hwange National Park amid international outrage after a rare black-maned lion called Cecil was lured from the park and killed by an American hunter with a bow and arrow.

Zimbabwe Parks and Wildlife Management Authority said the ban had been lifted in all areas except the farmland where Cecil had been killed and several other areas where animals were illegally hunted, NBC News reported.

Bans in those areas will be reviewed following the trial of a local man accused of helping American hunter Walter Palmer lure Cecil out of the park.

Theo Bronkhorst has been charged with breaching hunting rules when he failed to stop Palmer, a dentist from Minnesota, from killing Cecil last month. Bronkhorst has denied any wrongdoing. Cecil's death sparked intense social media reaction against Palmer and days of protests outside his dental practice.



Cecil the lion is seen at Hwange National Parks in this undated handout picture received July 31, 2015.—REUTERS

Hunting lions is legal in many countries in Africa where supporters say that if it is properly regulated, it can generate much-needed revenue that can be used for conservation.

Palmer, who had paid guides for the hunt, said he believed the necessary permits had been in order.

Zimbabwe is seeking his extradition from the United States to be tried for poaching.—Reuters

ADVERTISEMENT & GENERAL

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Consignees of cargo carried on MV SILVER FERN VOY NO (00013S) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 12.8.2015 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of M.I.P where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

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

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

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AGENT FOR: M/S MCC TRANSPORT (S'PORE)
PTE LTD**

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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.

**SHIPPING AGENCY DEPARTMENT
MYANMA PORT AUTHORITY
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Reg. Nos. 8052/2009, 11442/2012, 8235/2015

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U Kyi Naing, LL.B., LL.M., (H.G.P.)

For Grünenthal GmbH

Tilleke & Gibbins Myanmar Ltd. No. 1608, 16th Floor, Sakura Tower, 339 Bogyoke Aung San Road, Kyauktada Township, Yangon, Myanmar

Email address: myanmar@tilleke.com

Dated: 12.8.2015.

HINDU FAMILIES WILL OFFER WASO ROBES AND SOON TO THE STATE SANGHA MAHANAYAKA SAYADAWS

Sanatan Dharma Swayamsevak Sangh, Hindu has Organized for Hindu Families a Donation Ceremony to offer "Soon", Waso robes to the State Sangha Maha Nayaka Committee Sayadaws and State Pariyatti Sasana University Sayadaws at Kabaye Hill "Mogok Soon Sa Kyaung" on Sunday 16th August 2015 from 9:00 a.m. onwards.

Hindu Families are cordially invited to participate and offer their Donations in this ceremony. They may contact Ph: 09-5179532, 09-43334445, 09-5108541, 09-450010762, 09-5000453, 09-73150779 for further information.

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Fiscal probe for Brazil's Rousseff poses impeachment threat

BRASILIA, 11 Aug — The biggest threat to Brazilian President Dilma Rousseff's hold on office may come not from a corruption scandal that has ensnared the country's business and political elite but from a less-heralded probe into accounting practices led by a computer science graduate turned lawyer.

Julio Marcelo de Oliveira, a prosecutor at Brazil's Federal Accounts Court, known as the TCU, says Rousseff broke the nation's fiscal responsibility law by systematically delaying repayments to Brazilian lenders for advancing money to pay for social programs such as unemployment insurance. The delay in repayments



Brazil's President Dilma Rousseff

resulted in the nation's fiscal account appearing to be healthier than it was.

The practice, known as "backpedaling," was intended to show spending wasn't as high as it was and bolster Rousseff's re-election bid. The TCU is Brazil's highest fiscal accounting court, in charge of reviewing public finances. The Brazilian constitution calls for the impeachment and removal from office of a president who breaches the fiscal responsibility law.

At issue is Olivier's claim that Rousseff's government dragged its feet in repaying some 40 billion reais (7.45 billion pounds) in social programme funding obtained from state-run lenders in 2012 and 2013. Though other Brazilian governments delayed payments in the past, it was never done to this magnitude, he said.

The government has denied any irregularities, arguing that it followed the law in its accounting practices last year. The government acknowledged it delayed repaying the state lenders because of limited cash flow at the time, just as other administrations did in the past without breaching the law. The government is paying those arrears, reducing its savings this year and forcing authorities to slash key fiscal targets.

"I never imaged this was going to turn into something this big," said Oliveira, 46. "I represented other cases that I thought were more important... but this has taken another political dimension."

The accusations have emboldened Rousseff's opponents to call for her impeachment in Congress.

"Without a doubt the TCU case is the most solid one of them all ... it serves as the basis for an impeachment," said Paulo Kramer, a Brasilia-based political consultant. "The political climate is deteriorating so fast that there is a real risk she will not finish her term."

The "backpedaling" is considered the main argument in an expected rejection of Rousseff's handling

of the public finances by the TCU in its annual review of the government's 2014 accounts.

The TCU's ruling is not judicially binding, but may help Congress decide whether Rousseff violated fiscal rules, paving the way for what would be the country's first effort to oust a sitting president since 1992. The TCU is expected to rule in late August.

There are 12 impeachment requests in Congress, but they all lack the legal basis to move forward, congressional aides told Reuters. The accounting case is different given that it would be based on a simple determination of whether Rousseff's government violated the country's fiscal responsibility law.

Though Rousseff holds enough support in Congress to avoid an impeachment for now, her sway over allied lawmakers is ebbing as dozens are probed in the bribery investigation dubbed "Operation Car Wash," named for a Brasilia gas station where some of the alleged money laundering took place. Some lawmakers have blamed Rousseff for allegedly directing the investigation against them.

Reuters

WEATHER REPORT

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

FORECAST VALID UNTIL EVENING OF THE 12th August, 2015: Rain or thundershowers will be scattered in Taninthayi Region, Kachin, Shan, Kayah, Kayin and Mon States, fairly widespread in Sagaing, Mandalay and Magway Regions, Rakhine State and widespread in the remaining Regions and States with likelihood of isolated heavy falls in Magway and Ayeyarwady Regions, Chin State. Degree of certainty is (100%).

STATE OF THE SEA: Sea will be moderate in Myanmar waters.

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

FORECAST FOR NAY PYI TAW AND NEIGHBOURING AREA FOR 12th August, 2015: Isolated rain or thundershowers. Degree of certainty is (80%).

Cannes-winning “Assassin” to hit Chinese mainland

BEIJING, 11 Aug — Martial arts arthouse epic “The Assassin,” for which Taiwanese auteur Hou Hsiao-Hsien won Best Director at Cannes in May, will open in mainland theaters on Aug. 27, the film’s distributor Huace Film & TV announced on Monday.

The film, based on a short wuxia (martial arts heroes in ancient China) story taking place in the ninth century, follows a skilled assassin played by Shu Qi, who is tasked with killing a key political figure who turns out to be her childhood love.

Though widely known for his poignant social-realist depictions of ordinary lives in the turbulent



contemporary history of Taiwan, Hou claimed that “The Assassin” resembled a genre he had long dreamed of tapping since he was a wuxia novel-addicted boy.

According to Hou, his screenwriting team did plenty of field work to hone the script, and characters in the film are crafted based on meticulous research in books from the Tang Dynasty.

Xinhua

‘Little House’ star Gilbert to run for U.S. Congress in Michigan

DETROIT, 11 Aug — Melissa Gilbert, best known for playing Laura Ingalls Wilder in the 1970s television drama “Little House on the Prairie,” has thrown her bonnet in the ring for a U.S. congressional seat in Michigan.

Gilbert, 51, who moved to Howell, Michigan, in 2013, said in a tweet on Monday that she was “excited to announce my run for U.S. Congress in Michigan’s 8th. Please join me in my fight for working families.”

“I believe building a new economy is a team effort, and we need to bring fresh voices to the table to get the job done. Please join my campaign, and together



Actress Melissa Gilbert answers a question during a panel discussion at the Television Critics Association press tour in Pasadena January 9, 2007. REUTERS

we can build that new economy for Michigan,” she said in a statement released on Monday by the Michigan Democratic Party.

Gilbert, who lives with her husband Timothy Busfield in Howell, about 60 miles (97 km) from downtown Detroit, has no political background but served two terms as president of the Screen Actors Guild from 2001 to 2005. She also wrote three books, including the New York Times Best Seller “Prairie Tale: A Memoir,” about her role in the show about a Minnesota farm family in the 1870s and 1880s.

The former child actress’s run as a Democrat

comes in a Republican stronghold district, the Detroit Free Press reported. Mike Bishop last year won the race to replace fellow Republican Mike Rogers, beating Democrat Eric Schertzing 54 percent to 42 percent. Rogers had decided not to seek re-election. The Daily Press & Argus newspaper in Livingston County, Michigan, reported last month that the Internal Revenue Service had filed a lien against Gilbert alleging she owed more than \$360,000 in back taxes. Her campaign office did not immediately respond to requests for comment on Monday.

Reuters

SHAKIRA’S HIT SONG ‘LOCA’ not plagiarism, U.S. judge rules

NEW YORK, 11 Aug — A case in which pop star Shakira’s 2010 hit single “Loca” was found to be an illegal copy of a Dominican songwriter’s work came crashing down on Monday when a U.S. judge said the songwriter had lied to the court and the cassette tape on which his claims were based is a fake.

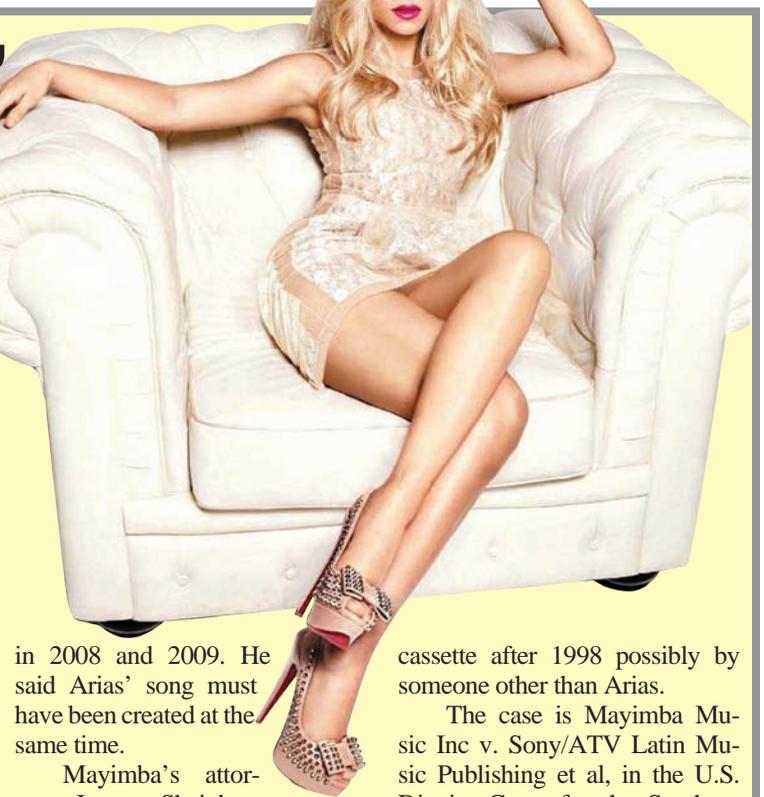
“[T]here was a basic issue of fraud in the trial,” said U.S. District Judge Alvin Hellerstein in Manhattan, dismissing the copyright infringement case against Sony/ATV Latin and Sony/ATV Discos. Last August, Hellerstein ruled that Shakira’s Spanish-language chart topper, and another song by a Dominican rapper known as El Cata, illegally

ripped off a recording by Ramon Arias Vasquez called “Loca con su Tiguer.” The judge found the Sony units liable for distributing the infringing songs. Shakira reached the top of the Latin Billboard charts with “Loca,” reportedly selling more than five million copies worldwide. New York-based Mayimba Music, which owns the rights to Arias’ work, sued Sony in 2012.

On Monday, Hellerstein said new Sony evidence offered “competent and substantial proof” that the cassette on which Arias allegedly recorded the song, which had been used to register a U.S. copyright, was not made in 1998 as claimed. As a result, he said, the copyright is invalid. A representative for Mayimba declined to comment

on Monday’s ruling. It’s not known if the company will appeal. Sony’s attorney Barry Slotnick said after the ruling, “we’re very pleased and gratified on behalf of Sony and the real writers, El Cata and Shakira.” Hellerstein had been set to rule on damages when Sony brought its 11th-hour evidence to the court. On Monday, the judge said he had lost faith in Arias’ testimony. He noted the photo on the cassette’s cover depicts an adult man named Jhoan Gonzalez. Gonzalez was born in 1989, and would have been only 9 years old if the tape was made, as claimed, in 1998.

Hellerstein also said other songs on the tape belonged to a Dominican band and were written



in 2008 and 2009. He said Arias’ song must have been created at the same time.

Mayimba’s attorney James Sheinbaum had earlier suggested the other songs could have been put on the

cassette after 1998 possibly by someone other than Arias.

The case is Mayimba Music Inc v. Sony/ATV Latin Music Publishing et al, in the U.S. District Court for the Southern District of New York, No. 12-cv-1094.—Reuters

Sixties series “The Man from U.N.C.L.E.” comes to silver screen



Cast member Henry Cavill gestures after his arrival to the Australian premiere of “Man of Steel” in central Sydney June 24, 2013. REUTERS

LONDON, 11 Aug — The secret agents from “The Man from U.N.C.L.E.” are back, this time on the silver screen in an action comedy movie based on the 1960s television series.

“Man of Steel” star Henry Cavill takes on the role of Napoleon Solo and “The Social Network” actor Armie Hammer plays Illya Kuryakin in the film set in the early 1960s. Putting aside their differences, the two agents join forces in

a mission against a criminal organisation which is seeking to develop nuclear weapons.

Cavill said he had not seen the original show, which ran from 1964 to 1968, as he wanted to make something new.

“I did not want to try to subconsciously start imitating someone else’s performance. We are doing a different thing,” Cavill said during a promotional interview for the film. “As much as we have el-

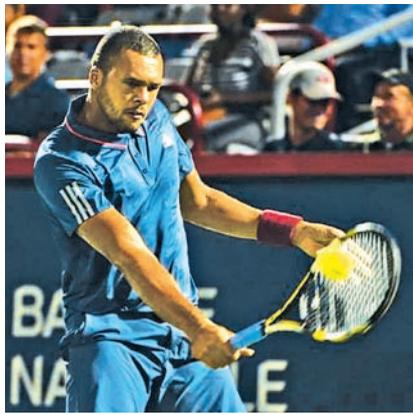
ements in this movie which people who watch the TV show will appreciate, it’s for a new generation as well. If you start imitating that kind of thing then you will create something which will alienate the modern generation.”

In the TV series, Solo worked for the global United Network Command for Law and Enforcement and Kuryakin originally for an organisation called THRUSH.

Reuters

GENERAL

Frenchman Monfils, Simon move on in Montreal



Aug 10, 2015; Montreal, Quebec, Canada; Jo-Wilfried Tsonga of France hits the ball against Borna Coric of Croatia (not pictured) during the Rogers Cup tennis tournament at Uniprix Stadium. REUTERS

MONTREAL, 11 Aug — The French flag flew proudly in Montreal on Monday as Gilles Simon and Gael Monfils advanced to the second round of the Rogers Cup.

Both Frenchmen enjoyed straight-sets victories while compatriot Jo-Wilfried Tsonga had his match delayed by rain in the final action of the day's first round.

Monfils needed just over an hour to dispatch Fabio Fognini 6-3, 6-1, denying the Italian a single break in the match.

"I wanted to start off this tournament well. It was not a great match, but I didn't play bad," Monfils told reporters.

"I played a solid match. It was important to me."

Ninth-seeded Simon extended his perfect record

against Andreas Seppi to 5-0 with his 6-2, 6-4 victory. Simon broke Seppi three times and he too never lost serve.

Tsonga was leading his opening set against Croatia's Borna Coric 2-1 when play was suspended.

Defending champion Tsonga has fallen to number 24 in the world, his lowest ranking since bursting onto the scene following the

2008 Australian Open.

In other games, Spain's Tommy Robredo overcome Feliciano Lopez 6-3, 3-6, 6-3, American Sam Querrey beat Martin Klizan 6-3 6-3, and Croatian Ivo Karlovic fired 18 aces past Poland's Jerzy Janowicz on the way to a 6-4, 7-6(6) victory.

Novak Djokovic, Rafa Nadal and Andy Murray all had first-round byes.

Reuters

Progress reported in fighting Arizona blaze as western fires rage

PHOENIX, 11 Aug — Firefighters battling a major wildfire in northwestern Arizona on Monday reported progress in containing the blaze that forced people out of about 1,000 homes and charred about 6,100 acres (2,468 hectares).

The Willow fire in the Mohave Valley, about 30 miles (48 km) southeast of Bullhead City, Arizona, was 40 percent contained by late Monday, officials said.

"We're definitely encouraged by what we're seeing right now," said Dolores Garcia, a Bureau of Land Management spokeswoman. "We're just waiting to see if the lines we have on the ground will hold."

The fire was one of dozens burning across the drought-parched U.S. West on Monday, many of them started by lightning strikes. In California, a firefighter died fighting a lightning-sparked blaze in the Sierra Nevada mountains near Lake Tahoe on Saturday.

Strong winds were expected to increase the risk of fire in Northern California for several days beginning Monday, the California Department of Forestry

and Fire Protection said. The agency responded to nearly 250 new wildfires last week, spokesman Kendall E. Bortisser said.

The fast-moving Willow fire started on Saturday and, aided by strong winds, has roared through salt cedar, mesquite, willow, grass and brush, forcing the evacuation of six housing subdivisions and other residences.

Fire officials said evacuation orders were lifted for all but about 75 dwellings on Monday.

An American Red Cross shelter has been set up at a nearby elementary school for affected residents.

The fire was sparked by lightning on Bureau of Indian Affairs land near the Havasu National Wildlife Refuge, said Robyn Broyles, a spokeswoman for the National Interagency Fire Center in Boise, Idaho.

Active blazes have also been reported in Washington and Oregon.

In Washington, the Wolverine fire has burned

28,725 acres in the northern Cascade mountains and is 20 percent contained. A camping area and 360 people have been evacuated from the year-round Lutheran retreat of Holden Village, Interagency Coordination Center spokeswoman Carol Connolly said.

In southern Oregon, firefighters have made significant progress on the massive Stouts Creek Fire. The blaze is about 40 percent contained, the Oregon Department of Forestry said.—Reuters



The Willow fire is shown burning across northwestern Arizona in this handout photo taken August 8, 2015 and released to Reuters August 10, 2015.—REUTERS

MRTV News Channel in Brief

(12-8-2015, Wednesday)

6:00 am	• Paritta by Hilly Region Missionary Sayadaw	12:35 pm	• TV Drama Series
6:15 am	• Documentary (Mingun Sayadaw)	1:25 pm	• Documentary (Classical Song)
7:00 am	• News	2:10 pm	• Teleplay
7:35 am	• Money Talk Myanmar	3:30 pm	• Head Line News
8:00 am	• News/ International News	4:35 pm	• University of Distance Education (TV Lectures) — Fourth Year (Mathematics)
8:30 am	• Head Line News	4:50 pm	• Teleplay
8:35 am	• People's Talks	5:30 pm	• Head Line News
9:00 am	• News/ International News	6:00 pm	• News/ Weather Report
9:35 am	• Science and Technology Programme	6:30 pm	• Head Line News
10:30 am	• Head Line News	7:00 pm	• News
10:35 am	• Meet The Successful	7:35 pm	• Documentary
11:00 am	• News / International News	8:00 pm	• News / International News / Weather Report
11:35 am	• MRTV's Youth Programme	8:30 pm	• Documentary
12:00 noon	• News/ International News/ Weather Report	9:00 pm	• News
			• Pyi Thu Ni Ti
			• Fine Arts-Bostom of Dramatic Performance

MRTV Entertainment Channel

(12-8-2015, Wednesday)

6:20 am	• Myanmar Series	8:35 am	• Musical Programme
6:45 am	• Myanmar Fashion (Dance)	8:45 am	• Catch Asia News
6:55 am	• Teleplay	9:35 am	• Myanmar Movie (Black & White)
7:05 am	• TV Drama Series	12:00 noon	• Close Down
7:50 am	• TV Drama Series		

mitv Myanmar International

(12-8-2015 07:00 am~13-8-2015 07:00 am) MST

* News	and a New Yangon	* News	* Delicacies From Magwe
* Wet Markets in Yangon: Shwe Pa Dauk Fish Market	* News	* Ngapali, Unique Spot To Relax	* News
* 19 Hours	* The Man and The Elephant	* Today Myanmar: Thilawa Special Economic Zone	* All About Orchids
* News	* Goldsmith	* News	* We'll Leave After 12 Passengers Are On Board
* Fantastic Orchid Garden From The Flower City	* Size Does Matter (Ep-2) Human-Elephant Conflict, "Avoid Collision"	* Myanmar Traditional Identity (EP-1) The Culture Of Pennant Pillar	* News
* Making Of Nawarat Rings	* History Of Kyaik Wyne Pagoda	* Bollywood Actress "Laila Khan" Born & Raised in Myanmar (Part-1)	* Choral Dance By Female Dancers
* Colonial Buildings		* News	* Shrinking Footprints
		* Climate Context: Signs of Climate Change (Episode-2)	* News
			* A bike ride in pursuit of Mural Art (Episode-2)
			* A Visit To Today's Along-Daw-Kathapha



Myanmar U-16 team which won silver medal and Fair Play Award in the AFF U-16 Championship 2015 held in Phnom Penh City, Cambodia, arrives back at Yangon International Airport on Monday.—MFF

16 young players join senior national football squad

YANGON, 11 Aug — Head coach Radojko Avramović has promoted six players from the Myanmar U-20 team and nine from the U-23 team to the senior national squad.

The Serbian coach chose Myo Min Latt, Aung Thu, Than Paing, Kyaw Min Oo, Nanda Kyaw and Maung Maung Lwin from the Myanmar U-20 team, as well as Kyaw Zin Phyo, Kyaw Zin Lwin, Ye Ko Oo, Sithu Aung, Shine Thura, Hline Bo Bo, Nay Lin Tun, Thiha Zaw and Su Chit Moe from the U-23 team that secured a silver medal in the last SEA Games. In addition, he called up goalkeeper Zaw Htet Lin of South-

ern Myanmar FC.

The national team will kick off training on 17 August for tune-up matches and World Cup qualifiers later in the month and in September.

The Myanmar Football Federation has assigned U Than Toe Aung of the Ministry of Construction as manager, U Kyi Lwin (Magway FC) as assistant coach, U Aung Thet (Hanthawady United FC) as goalkeeping coach, Croatian Mr Luka Kovacevic as physical training coach, medical officer Dr Aung Kyaw Oo, media officer U Zaw Min Htaik and physiotherapist U Tun Zaw.

MFF

Toure propels slick City to victory at West Brom

LONDON, 11 Aug — Yaya Toure's first-half double provided a timely reminder of his enduring class as Manchester City began their Premier League campaign with a slick 3-0 victory at West Bromwich Albion on Monday.

The Ivorian, linked with a move away from the Etihad in the close season after some inconsistent displays, gave the former champions a ninth minute lead following a fortuitous double deflection and added a sublime second with a wonderful curling finish after 24 minutes.

West Brom improved significantly after the break but were powerless to prevent City extending their lead through captain Vincent Kompany's thunderous 59th-minute header.

City handed a league debut to Raheem Sterling but the England winger spurned a one-on-one chance and was generally overshadowed by his dazzling team mates Toure and David Silva before he was withdrawn in the second half.

"I think for us we have something to prove as last season was below what we are used to," Kompany told Sky Sports.

"This is a team with a lot of intent.

"For us it was a good way to start our first game. We came out here today knowing we had a point to prove. As a team we all have to improve this season."

With title rivals Chelsea drawing and Arsenal losing at home, City had the perfect opportunity to make an early statement. Within minutes they were into their slick passing rhythm with Silva and Toure dictating proceedings as the latter's brace secured a deserved early two-goal lead — the first after a double-deflection off Silva and Baggies defender Craig Dawson.

Wilfried Bony started up front ahead of Argentine Sergio Aguero — still building up fitness following his Copa America exploits — and the Ivorian curled a shot narrowly wide before Sterling saw his tame effort beaten away by goalkeeper Boaz Myhill. Saido Berahino had an effort disallowed for offside moments before halftime and the hosts enjoyed their best period of the game immediately after the break but were unable to break down City, who finished eight points behind champions Chelsea last season.

Reuters

Chelsea appeal against Courtois red card



Chelsea v Swansea City - Barclays Premier League - Stamford Bridge - 8/8/15 — Chelsea's Thibaut Courtois is shown a red card by referee Michael Oliver. REUTERS

LONDON, 11 Aug — Premier League champions Chelsea have decided to appeal against the red card shown to Belgium goalkeeper Thibaut Courtois in the 2-2 draw against Swansea City, according to several media reports on Monday.

The 23-year-old was dismissed in the 52nd minute at Stamford Bridge on Saturday after bringing down Bafetimbi Gomis

as he raced through on goal in the opening-day fixture.

France forward Gomis went on to equalise from the resulting penalty.

If the appeal is unsuccessful Courtois will be replaced by close-season signing Asmir Begovic for Sunday's trip to Manchester City who finished second in the league last season.—Reuters

Nadal says mental strength has returned



MONTREAL, 11 Aug — Rafa Nadal says his mental stability has returned after a topsy-turvy year for the former world number one.

The 29-year-old Spaniard arrived in Canada last week for the start of the North American hardcourt swing having picked up his third title of the year in Hamburg.

He will now hope to build on that as he attempts to claim a fourth Rogers Cup title.

"It's always about adapting your tennis," Nadal, beaten by lowly-ranked

Dustin Brown in the second round at Wimbledon, told the ATP's website about the challengers in store over the next few weeks leading up to the U.S. Open.

"There's a different way of hitting the ball, but at the end of the day it's tennis. Hamburg had been a positive week for me.

"Mentally I was stable all week, something that I wasn't able to do very often this season.

"My mental powers have been up and down more. Hamburg was not the case and I'm working well."

Twice U.S. Open champion Nadal, seeded seven, faces a potential quarter-final in Montreal with world number four Kei Nishikori who opened his hardcourt season with the title in Washington at the weekend. World number one Novak Djokovic is the top seed.—Reuters

Aug 9, 2015; Montreal, Quebec, Canada; Montreal Impact midfielder Ignacio Piatti and Rafael Nadal of Spain shake hands after a stunt tennis match during the Rogers Cup tennis tournament at Uniprix Stadium. REUTERS