

Vice President U Nyan Tun comforts flood victims in Bago Region

As Chairman of the National Natural Disaster Management Committee, Vice President U Nyan Tun on Friday gave support and encouragement to flood victims.

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PHOTO: FILE PHOTO/ MOI WEBPORTAL

A farmer prepares ground with a tractor for replanting monsoon paddy after flooding in Magway Region's Pwintpyu Township.

Farm assistance urgently needed: Rice Federation

By Ye Myint

YANGON, 15 Aug—Distribution of agricultural materials is as important as aid in restoring the livelihoods of flood-hit farming communities, an official of the Myanmar Rice Federation said Saturday.

“Paddy strains and urea fertilizers must be made available to the affected farmers so that their farmlands damaged by recent flooding will be rehabilitated,” MRF vice-president Dr Soe Tun told The Global New Light of Myanmar.

It would cost roughly US \$50 million to rehabilitate 500,000 acres, he estimated.

According to figures released Friday by the Ministry of Agriculture and Irrigation, torrential rains in June, July and August flooded 1,413,270 acres of farmlands across the country's 13 states and regions,

with 145,277 acres having since been replanted. The total area of farmland damaged or destroyed was 1,350,372 acres.

Paddy strains and power tillers have been delivered to areas where flooding has receded, with deliveries to be expanded as weather conditions allow, the ministry said.

The MRF official said it was uncertain how the flooding would impact the country's target of exporting 2 million tons of rice in 2015.

“It is too early to say whether recent flooding could severely affect the country's rice export target for

this year, as it depends on the extent of farming recovery efforts after the flooding,” Dr Soe Tun said.

While some affected farmers have resumed working the land with the help of the government, many are still waiting for the floodwater to recede.

In Bago Region, some 376,000 acres of farmland have been swamped, with only 387 acres replanted so far.

“We want to begin farming recovery as quickly as possible after the water recedes as our livelihoods depend on agriculture,” a local farmer said.—GNLM

REHABILITATION

Flooded paddy fields replanted in Rakhine State

NAY PYI TAW, 15 Aug — Torrential rain from June to August has destroyed 217, 246 acres of paddy fields in 15 townships in Rakhine State, according to government sources.

The government delivered 29,108 baskets of paddy seeds, with 118,517 acres replanted so far.

MNA

Ministry provides emergency feedstuff for animals

NAY PYI TAW, 15 Aug—The Ministry of Livestock, Fisheries and Rural Development on Saturday donated 14.355 tons of feedstuffs worth K4.31 million for farm animals in Ayeyawady Region and 6 tons of feedstuff worth K1.56 million for those in Bago Region.

The ministry has provided medicines and feedstuff for animals in flood-affected areas through its rescue team. Members of the public wishing to pledge a donation can do so by calling Livestock Breeding and Veterinary Department Director Dr Soe Win on 067 408175 or 09 4920 8725.—MNA

Yangon residents offer aid to monks from Bago Region

YANGON, 15 Aug — Donors from Yangon's Tamwe Township on Saturday offered relief supplies to flood victims in Bago Region.

The aid included robes, rice, bottles of purified drinking water, salt and other daily needs.

The victims included monks being accommodated within the compound of Ywamalaytha Monastery in western Thonese Township in Thayawady District.—Ko Chit

Family gives K100 million to Rakhine flood victims

YANGON, 15 Aug — A local family on Saturday donated K100 million for flood victims in Minbya and MraukU of Rakhine State through U San Shwe Aung, permanent secretary of the Ministry of Border Affairs.

The donation ceremony took place at the Rakhine community hall at the eastern part of Shwedagon Pagoda in Yangon.

U San Shwe Aung spoke about the current situation in the state and rehabilitation programmes, before Rakhine National Affairs Minister U Zaw Aye Maung thanked the donor family.—MNA



U San Shwe Aung, permanent secretary of the Ministry of Border Affairs, accepts cash assistance for flood victims donated by donor Daw Poe Phyu and family.—MNA

SEAGP Company provides K20 million for flood victims

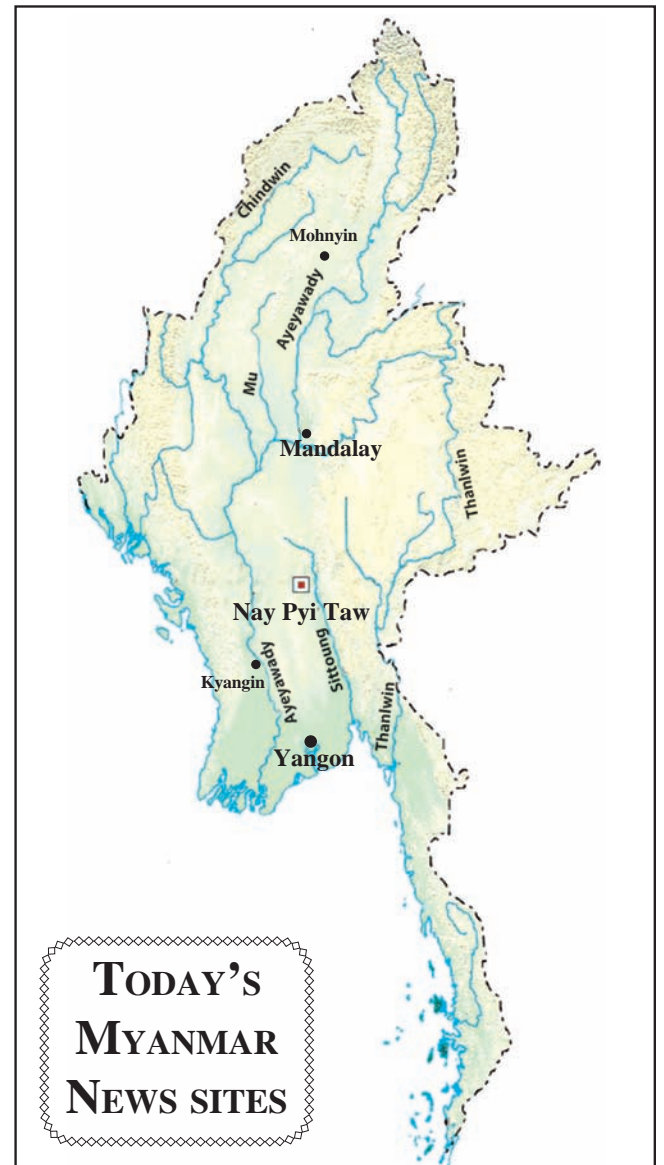


MANDALAY, 14 Aug — Myanmar-China Oil and Natural Gas Pipeline Company donated K20 million for rehabilitation of flood victims in Mandalay Region on Friday.

“Arrangements are being made to allot farmland to the flood victims from villages along the bank of Ayeyawady River,” Region Minister for Finance Dr Myint Kyu said.

The company plans to donate K100 million for Myanmar’s flood victims. It has donated K80 million for those in Magway and Mandalay regions and Rakhine State, and plans to donate K20 more million for victims in Shan State.

*Thiha Ko Ko
(Mandalay)*



2.6 Million USD Emergency Grant Aid to Myanmar in Response to the Flood Disaster

YANGON, 14 Aug — The Government of Japan decided to extend Emergency Grant Aid of 2.6 million USD (approximately 325 million JPY) to the Republic of the Union of Myanmar in response to the flood disaster.

This will be the largest contribution yet by the Government of Japan towards ongoing flood relief efforts in Myanmar.

Through this aid, emergency humanitarian assistance in such

areas as food, water and sanitation, shelter, and non-food items will be extended in cooperation through the World Food Programme (WFP)(1.3 million USD), the United Nations Children’s Fund (UNICEF)(0.65 million USD), the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC)(0.4 million USD) and the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC)(0.25 million USD). The WFP is also allotting a portion of the 8.33 million USD

worth of previously announced food assistance by the Japanese Government for flood relief efforts.

This assistance through the four organizations is decided in addition to the emergency relief goods already delivered to the Government of Myanmar from the Government of Japan on Wednesday, August 5, which include 6,000 blankets, 1,000 sleeping pads and 90 plastic sheets.

GNLM

Htoo Foundation donates humanitarian aid

KYANGIN, 15 Aug — A ceremony to donate emergency supplies to flood victims was held at Ayeya Oo Hall in Kyangin, Ayeyawady Region, on 14 August.

Deputy Managing Director of Htoo Company Headquarters U Tin Maung Toe presented the supplies to Township Administrator U Phyo Min Htaik and officials.

The foundation donated five power-tillers, 500 bags of paddy seeds, 50 bags of rice, clothes, purified drinking water, instant foods and tents.

Win Bo (Township IPRD)



IDPs receive aid and cash assistance



MOHNYIN, 15 Aug — Donors from Mohnyin Township provided rice, cooking oil and cash assistance Friday to 247 internally displaced persons who are being accommodated at Saint Patrick

Church in Aungthabye Ward, Mohnyin, Kachin State.

The IDPs have been taking shelter at the church since 19 March 2012 for security reasons. The well-wishers present-

ed rice and cooking oil to each IDP household and K3,000 each to 122 school-age children. On that day, they donated aid worth a total K1.03 million to the IDPs.

GNLM-001

Yunnan Province sends second relief convoy

MANDALAY, 14 Aug — A second convoy of 12 vehicles carrying relief aid for Myanmar flood victims from China’s Yunnan Province arrived in Mandalay on Friday.

The director of the province’s Foreign Affairs

Department led the convoy.

The director and the Mandalay-based Chinese Consul-General handed over the relief aid to Deputy Director-General U Aung Khaing of the Relief and Resettlement Depart-

ment.

Yunnan Province donated 150 ready-made houses, 10,000 packages of purified drinking water bottles, 880 bulbs, 2,000 T-shirts, 50 tons of rice and 1,000 emergency life-jackets.

Police and firefighters unloaded the relief aid from the vehicles.

Nine Chinese construction technicians will demonstrate installation of parts for the ready-made houses.—*Tin Maung (Mandalay)*

Vice President U Nyan Tun comforts flood victims in Bago Region

NAY PYI TAW, 15 Aug — As Chairman of the National Natural Disaster Management Committee, Vice President U Nyan Tun on Friday gave support and encouragement to flood victims in the district of Thayawady, Bago Region, officials said.

At three rescue camps in the district, the vice president spoke words of encouragement to the victims and provided them with medicines and supplies of food and drink.

After inspecting inundated plantations in a village, he was briefed by Bago Region Chief Minister U Nyan Win on damage caused by the recent floods, relief supplies, rescue camps and recovery measures.

Speaking at the briefing, Vice President U Nyan Tun pledged his government's assistance to the formation of natural disaster management teams at region level, stressing the need to manage local and international financial assistance.

The vice president also inspected the general hospital in the township of Zeegone and comforted patients there. —MNA



Vice President U Nyan Tun presents relief aids to flood victims sheltered at Mingalar Brick Monastery relief camp in Thayawady, Bago Region.—MNA

Discipline, obedience keys for military: senior general

NAY PYI TAW, 15 Aug—Senior General Min Aung Hlaing addressed officers and trainees Saturday at the Defence Services Academy in PyinOoLwin, stressing discipline and obedience as the two most important characteristics of the military.

“A great leader was once a great follower,” the commander-in-chief told the officers, urging

them to continue their military learning so as to build the Tatmadaw into a force trusted by the public.

He spoke of the defence services' role in the country's transition to democracy, and the prospects of signing a nationwide ceasefire agreement with ethnic armed groups.

He also pointed out the need

for military personnel to help with recovery activities in disaster-hit areas.

After the meeting, Senior General Min Aung Hlaing inspected construction works at the academy's football ground. He also went to the Defence Services Garment Factory in PyinOoLwin and gave instructions on production of high-quality clothing.—Myawady



Japanese insurer offers services in Thilawa SEZ

By Khaing Thanda Lwin

YANGON, 15 Aug — Japan's Tokio Marine and Nichido Fire Insurance Co is ready to provide services to investors in the Thilawa Special Economic Zone, the company announced Saturday at an inauguration ceremony.

Yangon liaison office chief representative Mr Kunio Asoka said the company's services include liability, marine and construction insurance.

The company, which provides both life and non-life insurance services in 50 coun-

tries, was granted an operating licence for Thilawa in May.

Mr Asoka said the firm plans to help develop the Myanmar's insurance industry including providing technical assistance to local insurers.

Three Japanese insurance companies have received approval to operate in the SEZ, Deputy Finance Minister Dr Maung Maung Thein said.

The Ministry of Finance is planning to allow local companies to offer marine cargo insurance services as of this month, he added.

GNLM

NGO to check voter lists for general election

YANGON, 15 Aug — The non-government People's Alliance for Credible Elections (PACE) will scrutinize voter lists for the upcoming general

election, the group's executive director U Sai Ye Kyaw Swar Myint said Saturday.

The observation process will take place in the run-up to the election and on polling day, he said.

PACE will dispatch one long-term observer each to 110 towns, in addition to 2,000 short-term observers, he added.

Ye Kaung/Myat Thandar

Senior General Min Aung Hlaing inspects Defence Services Garment Factory in PyinOoLwin.—MYAWADY

Sodium cyanide “possibly stored” in Tianjin blasted warehouse



A press conference is held to notify the Tianjin explosion event in Tianjin, north China, Aug. 15, 2015.—XINHUA

TIANJIN, 15 Aug — Specialists investigating Wednesday’s explosion in Tianjin believe sodium cyanide might have been stored at the site. At a press conference Saturday morning, Gao Huaiyou, vice head of the Tianjin bureau of work safety, said that chemicals stored in the warehouse possibly include sodium cyanide, but further confirmation is

needed. The containers were not open, and some were not even registered.

Some local media reported earlier that Rui Hai Logistics, owner of the warehouse, had as much as 700 tonnes of sodium cyanide, but Gao said it was not yet verified.

Measures have been taken to prevent secondary disasters, such as inviting

sodium cyanide producers to help at the site, using hydrogen peroxide to reduce the amount of sodium cyanide, sending a taskforce to locate and measure the contaminated area and prevent its spread in sewage. Some other dangerous chemicals likely to be stored include potassium nitrate and ammonium nitrate.

Xinhua

N. Korea sets new time zone to be free from Japan’s colonial legacy

PYONGYANG, 15 Aug — North Korea on Saturday set its new standard time zone, turning its clocks back by 30 minutes, to mark the 70th anniversary of Korea’s liberation from Japanese rule at the end of World War II.

The shift to what it calls “Pyongyang time” started from half an hour after mid-

night, with the sound of a bell and ships’ whistles in the country’s capital.

North Korea was in the same time zone as Japan and South Korea, nine hours ahead of Greenwich Mean Time. It was fixed during Japan’s colonization of the Korean Peninsula from 1910 to 1945. “I am happy as Ko-

reans to have this Pyongyang time,” a North Korean woman in Pyongyang said. “At first, there may be some confusion but I think we will get used to it soon or later.”

The new time zone may cause some troubles, especially in connection with Pyongyang’s relations with Seoul.—Kyodo News

Modi says pro-poor, stays quiet on big business in key address



Prime Minister Narendra Modi addresses the nation from the historic Red Fort during Independence Day celebrations in Delhi, India, August 15, 2015.—REUTERS

NEW DELHI, 15 Aug — Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Saturday sought to shed an image that he governs for big business, vowing to help the poor and create jobs in a speech aimed at bolstering

popularity rather than tackling setbacks to economic reform plans.

Modi took office just over a year ago on a wave of optimism that he would quickly revive India’s economic fortunes but despite

a number of victories, opposition to land and tax shake-ups has slowed his progress.

Modi’s independence day speech focussed on measures his “Team India” had rolled out to include millions of poor Indians in the banking and insurance systems, policies for workers and farmers and successes in the fights against inflation and corruption.

“Farmers need protection. For 60 years very little attention was paid to their welfare. We want to change this approach,” he said in his second annual address from the ramparts of the Mughal era Red Fort in New Delhi.

But he made no mention of his flagship “Make

Japan marks 70th anniversary of its surrender in WWII

TOKYO, 15 Aug — Japan marked the 70th anniversary of its surrender in World War II on Saturday, with the emperor and empress, the prime minister, and about 5,000 relatives of the war dead attending a ceremony to mourn those killed.

This year’s commemoration comes at a time when Prime Minister Shinzo Abe’s administration is seeking to pass security bills to bring about a landmark shift in Japan’s defense posture.

In his speech at the ceremony, Abe made no mention of Japan’s wartime aggression in Asia for the third consecutive year, while pledging not to repeat the tragedy of war.

“As we mark the 70th anniversary of the end of the war, we pledge ourselves never to repeat the horrors of war, to carve out the future of this country for the sake of the generation which is alive at this moment and for the generations of tomorrow,” Abe said at the government-sponsored ceremony at the Nippon Budokan hall in Tokyo.

His speech also came a day after he reiterated previous Japanese government apologies for the nation’s wartime actions in a closely watched statement marking the 70th anniversary of the war’s end. Abe did not offer an apology himself.

Abe said in the statement that force should never be used again to settle

international disputes.

Emperor Akihito also delivered a speech and used the expression “deep remorse” for the first time in his war memorial ceremony address.

“Reflecting on our past and bearing in mind the feelings of deep remorse over the last war, I earnestly hope that the ravages of war will never be repeated,” he said.

At previous memorial services, including those of the past two years, Abe did not mention remorse for the suffering Japan caused to the people of many countries, particularly in Asia, during the war, as Japanese premiers had done at the annual event since 1994. At the last two ceremonies, he also did not pledge that Japan would never go to war.

The controversial security bills, now under Diet deliberation, would

allow Japan to exercise the right to collective self-defense, or coming to the aid of the United States or other friendly nations under armed attack even if Japan itself is not attacked. If enacted, the legislation would be a major shift in Japan’s post-World War II exclusively defense-oriented security policy.

Constitutional scholars have criticized the bills as violating the nation’s war-renouncing Constitution and many citizens are concerned that the legislation would make it likelier for Japan to be involved in war again.

Following Abe’s speech, participants observed a moment of silence at noon for the 2.3 million Japanese military personnel and 800,000 civilians killed in the war, including in the U.S. atomic bombings and air raids on Japanese cities.—Kyodo News



Japan’s Emperor Akihito (L) delivers a speech next to Empress Michiko after they offer a moment of silence to the war dead during a memorial service ceremony marking the 70th anniversary of Japan’s surrender in World War Two at Budokan Hall in Tokyo August 15, 2015.—REUTERS

Repeatedly dabbing his face in the humid morning, Modi said he had done more for villagers than any other government.

Modi, himself from a poor family, said he was considering incentives for manufacturers to create more jobs and promised to make hiring of blue collar workers merit-based in a culture where it often depends on personal connections.

He coined the phrase “start-up India” in a pitch for more people to get entrepreneurial opportunities and called for states to provide electricity for all within 1,000 days - a vast project given that thousands of villages are not on the grid.

The slower-than-expected reform pace since Modi stormed to office with India’s first lower house majority for a conservative government has disappointed some who expected him to slash the red tape of India’s socialist past.

“One year later, it seems that caution characterizes the Modi government’s performance just as enthusiasm had defined Modi’s election promises,” the Washington-based Hudson Institute said this week. India’s celebrations to mark independence from Britain in 1947 are tinged with sadness because they also recall the bloody partition from Pakistan in which hundreds of thousands died.—Reuters

Russian, Iranian foreign ministers to discuss nuclear plan, Syria

Moscow, 15 Aug — Russian foreign minister Sergei Lavrov and his Iranian counterpart Mohammad Javad Zarif will meet on Monday to discuss the Iranian nuclear programme and peace efforts in Syria, Russia's foreign ministry said on Saturday.

The ministry said in a statement that the meeting would take place during a working visit by Zarif to Moscow.

Relations between Russia and Iran have warmed over recent years, with both countries sharing hostility to U.S. foreign policy and backing for Syria's President Bashar Assad in Syria.

Moscow sees the recent nuclear deal, which offers Iran relief from sanctions in exchange for curbing its nuclear programme, as opening the way to selling Tehran missile defence systems and winning lucrative new nuclear energy contracts.

The two ministers will discuss bilateral relations, "taking into account the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action for regulating the situation around the Iranian nuclear programme", the statement said.

"An exchange of opinions



Russia's Foreign Minister Sergei Lavrov attends a meeting with Saudi Foreign Minister Adel al-Jubeir in Moscow, Russia, August 11, 2015. REUTERS

will take place about key problems on the global and regional agenda, including overcoming the crisis in Syria."

Monday's meeting also comes amid a general diplomatic push by Russia in the Middle East, where Moscow is seeking to curtail U.S. influence and assert itself as an important peace-broker.

On Tuesday, Lavrov met with Saudi foreign minister Adel

al-Jubeir in Moscow, and earlier in the month he travelled to Qatar, meeting al-Jubeir and U.S. Secretary of State John Kerry.

The recent meetings also focused on efforts to forge an international coalition against Islamic State, which have floundered because of differences over Syria.

Whereas Russia and Iran support Assad, he is strongly opposed by the U.S. and Saudi Arabia.—Reuters

UK royals criticize "dangerous" attempts to photograph young Prince George

LONDON, 15 Aug — The British royal family criticized paparazzi on Friday for what it called their increasingly dangerous attempts to photograph the Queen's two year-old great-grandson Prince George.

Photographers have followed George and his nanny around London parks, have pursued cars leaving royal homes, and police found one hidden in a blacked-out car outside a children's play area visited by the prince, a statement said.

"In recent months, there have been an increasing number of incidents of paparazzi

harassment of Prince George and the tactics being used are increasingly dangerous," added the statement from the Kensington Palace residence of George's parents Prince William and Kate Middleton.

William, second in line to the throne, and his wife have tangled with the media before over the paparazzi's tactics and have said that they want their children to be able to play in public without being photographed.

"The vast majority of publications around the world — and all British publications — have refused to fuel the market for

such photos," the statement said.

But it added: "Despite this, paparazzi photographers are going to increasingly extreme lengths to observe and monitor Prince George's movements and covertly capture images of him to sell to the handful of international media still willing to pay for them.

"A line has been crossed and any further escalation in tactics would represent a very real security risk." The issue of harassment by the paparazzi is particularly sensitive for William whose mother Princess Diana was killed with her lover Dodi al-Fayed in Paris in 1997 when her limousine crashed into the wall of a tunnel as they tried to flee a posse of chasing photographers. He has been determined to protect his family from the press. George, third in line to the throne, was born to a global media frenzy in July 2013 but has spent most of his life since then out of the spotlight, with only a handful of public appearances.

The royals also complained about harassment of Kate Middleton before the couple married in 2011. A year after their wedding, European magazines printed topless pictures of her taken while she was on holiday in France.



Britain's Catherine, the Duchess of Cambridge, holds her son Prince George as they prepare to board a plane with her husband Prince William (not pictured) to depart Canberra April 25, 2014.—REUTERS

Reuters

Kerry urges 'genuine democracy' in Cuba as U.S. raises its flag

HAVANA, 15 Aug — U.S. Secretary of State John Kerry called for political change in Cuba on Friday, telling Cubans they should be free to choose their own leaders, as he watched the U.S. flag fly at the American embassy in Havana for the first time in 54 years.

Leading a ceremony to mark the restoration of diplomatic relations between the Cold War adversaries, Kerry declared a new era in U.S.-Cuban relations but pressed the Communist government on democracy and human rights.

"We remain convinced the people of Cuba would be best served by a genuine democracy, where people are free to choose their leaders," he said in a one-party state where the media is tightly controlled and political dissent is repressed.

"We will continue to urge the Cuban government to fulfill its obligations under U.N. and Inter-American human rights covenants," Kerry said, his words accurately translated into Spanish and broadcast live on Cuban state television. His comments drew a firm riposte from Cuban Foreign Minister Bruno Rodriguez, who

first visit to Cuba by a U.S. secretary of state in 70 years met for about an hour with some of the country's most prominent dissidents.

Cuba fiercely rejects such conditions and it declined to attend a U.S. reception where the dissidents were present.

Josefina Vidal, Cuba's lead negotiator in talks on restoring diplomatic relations, told Reuters that Cuba's sovereignty was not negotiable and Cuba has no interest in placating its enemies in the United States. "We are not going to make a decision to try to please or respond to people who don't want our well-being," Vidal said in an interview. "Cuba will never do anything, nor will it move its position one millimetre to try to respond."

While the tone in U.S.-Cuban relations has improved greatly since detente was announced in December, the blunt statements and rebukes underscored how far the two countries are from normal relations after decades of hostilities that outlived the Cold War. Both sides stressed Friday that the path towards normalization of overall relations would be



People stand on a sidewalk near the U.S. embassy in Havana, Cuba, August 14, 2015.—REUTERS

defended Cuba at a news conference with Kerry and criticized the United States' own record on rights, referring to racial strife and police brutality in America.

Speaking later with reporters, Kerry said the U.S. Congress was unlikely to lift a punishing economic embargo on Cuba unless human rights improved. "There is no way Congress is going to vote to lift the embargo if they're not moving with respect to issues of conscience," said Kerry, who in the

lengthy and suffer occasional setbacks. Cuba wants the United States to end its economic embargo of the island, return the U.S. naval base at Guantanamo Bay in eastern Cuba and halt radio and television signals beamed into Cuba.

The United States is seeking the return of fugitives granted asylum in Cuba and backs the claims of Americans whose property was nationalized in the years after Fidel Castro seized power in a 1959 revolution.

Reuters

Turkish nationalists reject minority government in blow to Erdogan

ANKARA, 15 Aug — Turkey's nationalist opposition made clear on Friday it would not roll over and back a minority government, making President Tayyip Erdogan's aim of taking the country to a snap election with the ruling party in control look increasingly difficult.

Talks on forming a grand coalition between the AK Party and the main opposition CHP broke down on Thursday, making an autumn election almost inevitable and leaving the ruling party having to turn to the nationalist MHP for support.

The uncertainty comes as the NATO member



Turkish President Tayyip Erdogan (C), accompanied by his wife Emine Erdogan (3rd R), prays during the opening ceremony of Kibledagi mosque in Rize, Turkey, August 14, 2015.—REUTERS

faces a confluence of national security threats, battling Islamic State insurgents on its borders and Kurdish militants at home.

The lira currency hit a record low on Friday and stocks were little recovered after sharp falls the previous session.

The AKP failed to hold onto its majority in an election on June 7, leaving it unable to govern alone for the first time since coming to power in 2002 and plunging Turkey into uncertainty not seen since the fragile coalitions of the 1990s.

Prime Minister Ahmet Davutoglu on Thursday urged parliament to call a new vote as soon as possible, apparently allow his government hoping for an agreement with the MHP that would stay in power until the new election takes place.

But the MHP said it had no interest in propping up an AKP minority administration.—Reuters

Greek mayor hands out aid as Kos sets up floating migrant centre

Kos, (Greece), 15 Aug — Overcome by emotion, the mayor of Kos handed out water, milk and food to hundreds of Syrian migrants on Friday as a huge passenger ship docked on the Greek island to serve as a floating reception centre and dormitory.

Greece, whose parliament on Friday approved an 85 billion euro (\$95 billion) bailout from foreign creditors, is struggling to cope with tens of thousands of desperate migrants from the Middle East, Africa and Asia even as it seeks to avoid financial meltdown.

Kos, within sight of Turkish shores, has found itself on the front line of the crisis as new migrants arrive in rubber dinghies at the rate of hundreds a day.

"We are gathering money, despite our limited capability. There are many anonymous Kos citizens, even poor people, who help the refugees despite their nearly non-existent resources," said Mayor Giorgos Kyritsis, fighting back tears.

Short of food and water, migrants have been sheltering from the intense heat in tents, cardboard boxes and a makeshift reception centre at a sports stadium, where scuffles broke out with police earlier in the week.

A cruise ship, the Eleftherios Venizelos, docked on the island on Friday to

house 2,500 to 3,000 people and process their papers, but the first migrants were not due to board it until Saturday.

The white-painted ANEK Lines vessel, paid for by the Greek government, will provide assistance exclusively to Syrians. Authorities said people fleeing Syria's civil war would be treated as refugees but those of other nationalities, including Africans, Iraqis, Pakistanis and many others, were considered migrants.

Mohammad Alliad, an English student from Syria, told Reuters earlier: "We hear a ship is coming but we have no information. We don't know when we should go and with what priority. We still wait for our papers."

"We are suffering here under the sun and sleeping in the open. We want to move the soonest possible." He showed reporters what he said were bullet wounds on his leg from the Syrian war.

The European Union is struggling to cope with a migrant crisis that has seen more than 100,000 arrive in Italy and an estimated 140,000 in Greece so far this year. The effects have been felt from the shores of the Mediterranean to the northern French port of Calais, which is linked by the Channel Tunnel to England.—Reuters

Bomb threat prompts evacuation of Stanford business school

SAN FRANCISCO, 15 Aug — A bomb threat prompted the evacuation of Stanford University's Graduate School of Business on Friday morning, the San Francisco Bay Area school said.

The threat was reported by the school in an

emergency notification at around 11 a.m. (2 p.m. EDT). The message said some 700 faculty and staff members in the Knight Management Center complex were affected and have been dismissed for the day, but classes were not in session at the time.

A spokeswoman for the school declined to provide any additional details on the threat.

The university said police had finished an initial sweep of the complex by early afternoon, but the area would remain closed for the rest of the day so

authorities could continue investigating. Several roads in the vicinity were closed, though the rest of the university was unaffected, the school said.

Stanford said the decision to evacuate was made "out of an abundance of caution."—Reuters

Norway wants to dump radioactive waste on island in Oslo Fjord

OSLO, 15 Aug — The Norwegian government wants to dump 1,200 tons of radioactive waste on an island in the Oslo Fjord against the will of the company which owns the disposal site, local media reported on Friday.

The government asked hazardous waste disposal company NOAH last year if it could receive the radioactive waste on the island of Langoya, about 50 km southwest of Oslo, according to the online edition of local newspaper VG.

The company said it made two technical evaluations and the conclusions were that it could not take the radioactive sludge from the Sove mines in the county of Telemark, which dates back to top-secret nuclear experiments in the

post war years. But the Ministry of Trade, Industry and Fisheries wants to push forward with the plan and has now hired the Swedish Defence Research Agency in Stockholm to carry out the assessment, VG reported.—Xinhua

Euro ministers give blessing to Greek bailout, wooing IMF on debt

BRUSSELS/ATHENS, 15 Aug — Euro zone finance ministers have agreed to lend Greece up to 86 billion euros (\$96 billion) after Greek lawmakers accepted their stiff conditions despite a revolt by supporters of leftist Prime Minister Alexis Tsipras.

Assuming approval by the German and other parliaments, 13 billion euros should be in Athens next Thursday to pay pressing bills and a further 10 billion will be set aside at the European Stability Mechanism, earmarked to bolster Greek banks' capital.

In all, euro zone governments will lend 26 billion euros in a first tranche of the bailout before reviewing Greece's compliance with their conditions in October.

One remaining



Dutch Finance Minister and Eurogroup President Jeroen Dijsselbloem shakes hands with Greek Finance Minister Euclid Tsakalotos (R) at the start of a euro zone finance ministers meeting in Brussels, Belgium, August 14, 2015. REUTERS

uncertainty — aside from Tsipras' ability to deliver sweeping budget cuts and privatisations opposed by many of his own party — is the role of the Interna-

tional Monetary Fund. After backing two previous bailouts, the IMF renewed its call for the Europeans to grant Athens debt relief — a bone of contention

between the Eurogroup and the Washington-based Fund.

Managing Director Christine Lagarde told the Eurogroup by telephone that she could not commit until the IMF board reviewed the situation in the autumn. Officials said the Fund needed more assurances and detail on Greek reforms, notably to pensions, and steps to persuade it that Greece's debt burden was sustainable.

But after deadlock since January that ravaged the already weak Greek economy and ended in a dramatic U-turn a month ago by the anti-austerity leftist government to avert Athens' expulsion from the euro, there was a cautious sense of optimism among ministers gathered in a Brussels deep in

summer holiday languor.

"After six months of very difficult negotiations with lots of ups and downs, we finally have an agreement," Greek Finance Minister Euclid Tsakalotos told reporters on Friday. His appointment by Tsipras six weeks ago in place of his abrasive predecessor has been hailed by counterparts as a mark of a new Greek "realism".

"After the changes in the government and the crises that we had, the co-operation with let's say the changed Greek government is very constructive, very well organised," Jeroen Dijsselbloem, the Dutch minister who chaired the meeting, told reporters.

Even Germany's Wolfgang Schaeuble, who last month floated a Greek

exit from the euro as Tsipras hesitated to agree terms with fellow leaders, sounded upbeat, if still wary of a new tone in Athens that caused an angry split in Tsipras' leftist party, with nearly a third of Syriza lawmakers rebelling in parliament.

"We will have to wait and see," said Schaeuble, who has become a hate-figure for rigid austerity among Greeks tired of five years of soaring unemployment. "This is an opportunity. But what is decisive is that Greece does what it says it will do."

Schaeuble was among numerous ministers who stressed they saw it as vital that the IMF take part in the third bailout, as it has in two programmes totaling 240 billion euros since 2010.—Reuters

Syrian rebel group says ceasefire over, talks collapse



Rebel fighters from the Ahrar al-Sham Islamic Movement fire grad rockets from Idlib countryside towards forces loyal to Syria's President Bashar al-Assad, who are stationed at Jureen town in al-Ghab plain in the Hama countryside April 24, 2015. —REUTERS

BEIRUT, 15 Aug — A Syrian rebel group said on Saturday a ceasefire was over between insurgents and the Syrian army and its Lebanese ally Hezbollah in a town near the Lebanese border and two villages in the northwest.

Ahmed Qara Ali, spokesman for the Ahrar al-Sham insurgent group,

said rebel groups had begun to escalate military operations after the collapse of negotiations between the warring sides brokered by Turkey and Iran.

There was no immediate word from Hezbollah, a Lebanese Shi'ite group backed by Iran, or the Syrian military. Ahrar al-Sham had been leading the

negotiations on behalf of the insurgents. The ceasefire had held since Wednesday morning in the town of Zabadani near the Lebanese border and two Shi'ite villages of Kefraya and al-Foua in the northwestern province of Idlib.

Zabadani has been the focus of a weeks-long offensive by Hezbollah and

the army against insurgent groups holed up inside.

Insurgent groups had in turned launched a parallel attack on the two villages. Insurgent shelling of the two villages early on Wednesday killed a child and wounded 12 more people, state TV reported.

Sources on both sides had said talks had been aimed at securing a withdrawal of rebel fighters from Zabadani and a withdrawal of citizens from the two villages. Qara Ali said: "The reason it has collapsed is we wanted the release of 40,000 prisoners, and the Iranians rejected it."

A rebel fighter in Zabadani said army warplanes were flying over the town.

Reuters

Egypt's deposed president Mursi appeals death sentence — lawyer

CAIRO, 15 Aug — The court-appointed legal team representing deposed Egyptian president Mohamed Mursi filed an appeal on Saturday at the country's highest court challenging sentences of life imprisonment and death handed down in June, Mursi's lawyer said.

The Cairo criminal court sentenced Mursi to death over a mass jail break during the 2011 uprising against Hosni Mubarak as well as life imprisonment for giving state secrets to Qatar. It also issued sweeping punishments against the leadership of the Muslim

Brotherhood, Egypt's oldest Islamic group.

The general guide of the Muslim Brotherhood, Mohamed Badie, and four other leaders were also handed the death penalty. More than 90 others, including influential cleric Youssef al-Qaradawi, were sentenced to death in absentia.

The sentences were part of a crackdown launched after an army takeover stripped Mursi of power in 2013 following protests against his rule. Hundreds of Islamists have been killed and thousands arrested.—Reuters

12.2 mln people need assistance in Syria: UN agency

GENEVA, 15 Aug — Humanitarian needs in Syria have increased 12 fold since the beginning of the crisis, now in its fifth year, with 12.2 million people needing humanitarian assistance, including more than 5.6 million children, a statement from the UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA) said Friday.

According to OCHA, half of the population has been displaced, making Syria the largest displacement crisis globally, and more than 4 million people have been registered as refugees.

OCHA's statement added that a high level of civilian casualties and increased violations of International Humanitarian and Human Rights Laws, by all parties, indicate the significant pro-

tection and access concerns.

UN humanitarian chief Stephen O'Brien is scheduled to visit Syria and Lebanon from Aug. 14 to 17 to see for himself the terrible humanitarian impact of the protracted conflict and violence.

O'Brien, also UN Under Secretary General for Humanitarian Affairs and Emergency Relief Coordinator to Lebanon and Syria, is expected to meet key officials in Damascus and Beirut to discuss ways of strengthening the aid operation to save lives and protect civilians.

The UN official plans to meet displaced and refugee families in Homs and the Bekaa Valley, and staff of humanitarian agencies and partners.

Xinhua

Iraqi effort to isolate, retake Ramadi advancing — U.S. military

WASHINGTON, 15 Aug — Iraqi troops are more than halfway through an operation to encircle Islamic State militants in Ramadi, after which they will launch a final offensive to retake the Iraqi city, a U.S. military spokesman said on Friday.

Air Force Colonel Pat Ryder, a U.S. Central Command spokesman, said Iraqi forces were making progress in the fourth week of their effort to isolate and cut off Islamic State fighters, who captured Ramadi three months ago in their biggest victory this year. "The objective here is to cut off ISIL's lines of communications to prevent or limit their resupply and reinforcement," Ryder, using an acronym for the militant group, said in a telephone

briefing with Pentagon reporters.

He said Iraqi troops were engaged in "tough, dangerous work" to encircle the city and then prevent Islamic State from bringing in more troops or supplies.

The militants were trying to slow or stop Iraqi forces with hidden explosive devices, improvised explosives in vehicles, suicide bombers and fighters, Ryder said. The Iraqis have used armoured bulldozers and other specialised equipment to remove explosives.

"The Iraqis are continuing to move forward, executing this complex operation as they had planned it," Ryder said. "They have ... a good plan. They're executing that plan at the

timeline they have set for themselves."

He said the aim was to completely encircle Ramadi before the operation's next phase: retaking the city, which is the capital of Anbar province.

Ryder said the U.S.-led coalition had supported the Iraqi military with air

strikes and by providing military officials to offer advice and assistance at joint operations centres. He said air strikes had targeted vehicles, weapons and equipment as well as enemy fighters.

Central Command is based in Tampa, Florida.

Reuters



Iraqi security forces fire warning shots to discourage Islamic State militants from approaching their position on the outskirts of Ramadi August 6, 2015.—REUTERS

Six people killed, eight wounded in attacks in Turkey's southeast

DIYARBAKIR, (Turkey), 15 Aug — Six people were killed and eight wounded on Friday as violence between Kurdish militants and Turkish soldiers flared up again in Turkey's southeast, security sources and the military said.

Fighting between the outlawed Kurdistan Workers Party (PKK) and the military has broken out almost daily over the last month. The PKK has been hitting military targets after Ankara resumed air strikes on PKK camps in northern Iraq in

what it calls a "synchronised war on terror".

Ankara has said its military campaign is also designed to tackle Islamic State militants in neighbouring northern Syria. However, it has so far focussed on the PKK, raising suspicions among Kurds that the main aim is to check Kurdish territorial ambitions rather than to rout the Islamist insurgents. Friday's bloodshed came a day before the 31st anniversary of the PKK's first attacks. The group,

deemed a terrorist group by both Washington and Ankara, has waged an insurgency for greater Kurdish autonomy that has left 40,000 dead. The latest violence has shelved a recent peace process with Ankara.

Three soldiers were killed and six wounded — one critically — in the southeastern province of Hakkari after PKK militants opened fire with long-range rifles and rocket launchers, the military confirmed in a statement. Security sources

earlier put the death toll at four soldiers.

In the eastern province of Bingol, a soldier was killed after a mine laid by militants was detonated remotely, the provincial governor's office said. Two PKK fighters were killed during an operation in response to the attack.

In a separate incident, youths linked to the PKK opened fire with rifles at a police vehicle in the town of Nusaybin bordering Syria early on Friday,

wounding two policemen, security sources said.

Earlier this week, Turkish warplanes pounded 17 targets in Hakkari, a border province, as part of the crackdown on the PKK, which has claimed responsibility for the bombing of a police station in Istanbul.

Speaking overnight in his ancestral hometown in northeast Turkey's Rize province, President Tayyip Erdogan said the operations against militants were not temporary and would con-

tinue. "Those who support them and lead them will be defeated sooner or later," he told a crowd in the town of Guneysu, his wife at his side. "Don't dare think they are strong ... They are condemned to fall ... There are terrorist groups behind them, whereas behind us there is God, there are the people."

Turkish security forces rounded up more than 2,000 people as part of the crackdown in raids against Islamists and Kurdish militants last month.—Reuters

PERSPECTIVES

Sunday, 16 August, 2015

Parental involvement vital to children's academic successBy *Kyaw Thura*

All parents dream of seeing their children become educated, but not all can realise this dream. People tend to hold schools accountable for their children's learning and development, praising them for every success and blaming them for every failure.

In fact, parents have a huge part to play in supporting and encouraging their children's academic achievement. There has been convincing evidence of a link between active parental involvement and children's achievement in school.

Despite this, those living hand-to-mouth often see no other option than taking their children out of school, viewing money and work as the key to survival. No parent would feel happy with their children forced out of school.

To break this cycle, we should all do everything we can to help underprivileged parents overcome their hardship. In this respect, the first thing we need to do is teach parents that education can change their lives for the better. This can't succeed, however, without the involvement of the government and social organizations.

There is every reason to believe that parental involvement can result in substantial benefits to children and society as a whole. Financial support and moral encouragement should be given to low-income families so that they can heighten their expectations for their children.

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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.

Check the electoral register and vote for the authentic people's representatives in the 2015 electionsBy *Tommy Pauk*

The five-year term of democratic government for the Republic of the Union of Myanmar elected by democratic general elections is going to expire soon. The free and fair elections were successfully held by the government of the State Peace and Development Council or junta government in 2010. The regime had paved the path to the democratic state in accordance with the political aspiration of the entire people of Myanmar. General public are getting familiar with the basic voting process at the polling stations and the specific method to cast the ballot systematically. Now, all the eligible voters of Myanmar citizens are in eager anticipation for voting in the upcoming elections.

Notably, Myanmar is a country or society characterized by having many ethnic groups. Myanmar language is widely used or spoken in Myanmar, but most of the eligible voters from ethnic minorities cannot read and write in Myanmar Language. Therefore, the names of the parties, candidates and instructions of the voting process in the polling stations must be written or stated in their ethnic languages so that they can cast the vote clearly, conveniently and smoothly. Otherwise, they will lose their franchise in democratic elections due to language barrier.

They value their right to vote in elections because they aspire for democratic culture and need to elect the right representatives for the Hluttaws. The 75% of Myanmar's total population is farmers and some of them cannot read and write Myanmar language. In this case, the election commission volunteers are required to assist some farmers in voting at the polling stations. Similarly, the volunteers will have to give guidance to other voters who are illiterate. The eligible voters of persons with disabilities and internally displaced persons should get access to cast the vote with the help local volunteers. We need to help UEC volunteers so that the elections can be held smoothly and successfully.

According to the constitution, the voters are given right to revoke or recall a representative of the Hluttaw. The Section 396 in the chapter (9) of the Constitution has prescribed 'Recalling a representative of the Hluttaw'.

The just elections and the authentic people's representatives work together for establishing a democratic society. The citizens are also responsible for not only choosing right

representatives but also for compliance on the set of democratic principles and norms. In addition, the government, citizens, parliamentarians must be able to practice democratic norms and principles properly, effectively and consistently.

The voters are no longer gullible and they do monitor what and how their representatives do, speak and agree in Hluttaws or parliament assembly .e.g putting forward motions, voting and rejection on some proposals on behalf of the people. The people's representatives must respect people from all works of life and loyal to the state. They should bear in mind that they are elected by the people for the interests and benefits of the people as well. The representatives are not supposed to be intoxicating with power or privileges or positions. They must be willing and daring to discuss or propose or demand or favor for people's interests and benefits in line with democratic rights. Unless they act, they cannot be regarded as people's representatives. They must stand firmly or seriously on people's desires or wishes which basically include solving unemployment problems, upgrading education system, upgrading public health care, upgrading the living standards of workers and farmers and tackling hike prices of commodities. These issues are to be addressed in the respective Hluttaws by the people's representatives in order to find the right, practical and effective solutions. Whenever the periodical Hluttaw assembly is over, they need to give feedback to their voters on the outcome of the discussion from the Hluttaws.

Undoubtedly, the upcoming Democracy General Elections in the country will be fair and square or free and fair. Now, every Myanmar citizen trusts on the Union Electoral commission and the present democratically-elected government. The voting age is 18 in Myanmar. The eligible voters of Myanmar citizens nationwide are so eager to choose the right candidates or representatives who are really determined to submit or materialize the needs and wants of the respective constituents to the parliament. Furthermore, people have great expectation to see free and fair election. The officially registered parties are busy canvassing for the vote nationwide. Generally, voters are gullible for the promise, pledge and commitment made by candidates in the period of election campaigns. The voters humbly think that the candidates would surely keep their words and promises for the interests and welfare of the communities concerned in the specific constituency.

The eligible voters vary in social classes

or educational status, but they ought to know the profile of the candidates for their constituency. Even then the voters have to see and check the electoral register or electoral roll before the election period or date. Unless some voters find their names on the voters' list before the event of election, they can complain about this to the Election sub-commission in their areas and ask the office personnel to putting their names on the list correctly and precisely. Human rights and rights of democracy are interdependent and they cannot be separated or split apart. Free and fair elections portray the political rights as well as sustainable development of democracy in this country. The voters are awarded political rights to choose the right eligible candidate for serving national politics as well as party politics democratically. Although these two terms are different, the goal of serving for our motherland - Myanmar - is the same.

The citizens who have legal rights to vote are Myanmar citizens, naturalized citizens and associate citizens. Obviously, the candidates are also pure citizens of Myanmar (inclusiveness of all national races residing in Myanmar) and they must be familiar with the locals - from grass root level to the elites. Also they must have learnt the requirements or necessities for socio-economic development of the regions or divisions or states. By any means, they are the peoples' representatives elected to talk or discuss or propose public affairs, public demands and public aspiration in respective parliaments.

They ought to represent farmers, workers and general public as well. On behalf of the farmers, the people's representatives must find the solutions and justice especially for land-grab issues. It is strictly prohibited that they are not allowed to create any personality cult of somebody in the parliament or Hluttaw assembly instead of working for the general public. Members of parliament are given rights to submit, express or talk about the people's actual feelings, comments, criticism and complaints concerning the public services and administration. As for an example; people want the public services and administration to be efficient and improved. The voice of the parliamentarians and the people's voice must be exactly the same. The types of eligible voters can be classified as ordinary voters, floating voters or swinging voters, members of political parties, government employees (inclusive of military service personnel).

According to 2008 constitution, the persons who are ineligible for voting in any

elections are: (a) members of religious orders; (b) persons serving prison terms; (c) Persons determined to be of unsound mind and stands so declared by a competent court; (d) persons who have not yet been declared free from insolvent; (e) persons disqualified by election law.

The citizens' political rights should be applied by casting ballot to elect the right and authentic representatives for the respective parliaments. In other words, this act reveals the participation of people in politics aiming at building democratic state. These days, we, Myanmar people are not politically naïve any longer. We are smart enough to assess the caliber of the representatives who are going to contest the elections. Besides, we are simple, but not gullible as we have learned the candidates profiled in the pamphlets precisely before the election period.

If there is widespread apathy among voters, something terrible must be wrong with either candidates or the electoral process. Moreover, disenfranchisement of voters can causes distrust on UEC and it threatens democracy. However, we believe that the upcoming electoral process will be easy, free, flawless and convenient for the eligible voters to cast vote for the people's representatives in the election. Also the eligible candidates are thoroughly scrutinized to be elected by the voters from respective constituencies across the country. It is learnt that more than 90 parties are registered to contest the upcoming general elections.

The voter education programs, scrutinizing eligible candidates and the integrity of the election process will undoubtedly help the authentic people's representatives win landslide victory in the election. In conclusion, people's representatives are democratically elected by the people for democratization in Myanmar. People, parliaments and democratic government will have to march towards genuine democratic state harmoniously and rhythmically. We, all citizens welcome free, fair, flawless and credible elections in Myanmar !!!

Tommy Pauk is the pseudonym of U Thein Swe, who is B.A (English) and (Registered Law) R.L.I. degrees holder. He has English Teaching experience at Yangon University English Department and Workers' college in Yangon, and now is working as freelance writer and English Teacher cum Translator/Interpreter for foreign firms.

ARTICLE

Yey-lei Pagoda in The-gon Town

Maha Saddhamma Jotika dhaja Sithu Dr. Khin Maung Nyunt

There is a town named The-gon [ထဲဂွန်မြို့] to the west of The-gon township in Paung-de sub-district of Pyay, in Bago Region, Myanmar. The town The-gon is accessible by rail from Yangon, a distance of 141 ½ miles, and from Pyay 19 and a quarter miles and a shorter distance by car on a good tarred road running between Yangon and Pyay and beyond.

The entire Pyay region is more undulating and less level, surrounded by low hill ranges of not more than 500 and above feet high, with the River Ayeyawady flowing by on the west. This mighty river is fed by tributaries of different sizes especially in high monsoon. Some lofty mountain ranges tower on the west of the river. The portion which faces the entire Pyay area is dotted with a scatter of religious monuments of some antiquity, whose legends are associated with the history of Pyay and neighbouring towns.

The-gon was originally a big thriving village, but being urbanized quickly because of its strategic location and agricultural hinterland. Its ground is even and the soil is fertile, thanks to the existence of natural aquatic bodies and good soil brought by streams and rivulets of Bago Yoma hills during rain. In its township there is a big lake called In-ma, ten miles long and four miles wide, and in good monsoon its water volume is 12 feet deep. But in severe summer its water diminishes to the point of a complete dry-up, providing fertile land for farming.

The census of 1931 showed that within an area of 299 square miles of The-gon township, there were 56 villages. But since then both population and villages have increased. Majority of The-gon inhabitants are Buddhist with few Kayin Christians and their main occupation is cultivation. In town are some traders and brokers of local agricultural products. Domestic craftsmen and artisans dwell in surrounding villages.

Paddy is the main crop grown both by wet cultivation in monsoon, and dry cultivation by irrigation through canals from In-ma lake, where fisheries are harvested on a large scale. Farms produce a variety of fruits and vegetables and home gardens in the backyard supply seasonal fruits for local bazaars.

Two noted religious monuments in The-gon town are Moe Kaung Zedi to the north and Maha Kan Lei Zeai to the east. It is the latter that should be included in the list of Yey-Lei Pagodas of Myan-

mar. Locally known as “Kantharyar Yei Lei Kyun Zedi Taw [the Pagoda on an island in the middle of a pleasant lake] this monument has gone through many changes, repairs and renovations in its long history.

The early history of the pagoda, like those of other yey-lei pagodas, is linked to the legends of the founding of Sre Kestra [Pyay]. The legend has it that:

“In the Buddha sasana year 101, King Duttabaung founded the city “Sre Kestra”. Being a patron king, he promoted Buddhism by building nine Buddhist pagodas in which he enshrined sacred relics. These nine pagodas were (1) Baw Baw (2) Nyi Nyi (3) The The (4) Yaw Yaw (5) Thaw Kya Mar (6) Thara Mar (7) Myinbar Hu (8) Myu Thi Zin and (9) Mya Thein Tan. Some of them still exist today.

To his queen of North Palace, Amaradevi, a son was born and he was named “Dwakasan”, and to his queen of Middle Palace, Peithano, a son was born and he was named “Dwakarit”. The two sons when grown up, renounced their mundane lives to become forest monks, who after long practice of the Buddha Dhamma attained sainthood. Dwakasan became Ashin Sandaseri and Dwakarit became Ashin Sandakarit. They resided at their forest recluses on the mountain called “Manithaylar” [today called Shwe Kyaung saung hill].”

The legend claims that King Duttabaung was the contemporary of King Kalasoka of the Kingdom of Vesali in India, who convened the second Buddhist Synod [council]. The city Sre Kestra [Yathe Myo] which Duttabaung built, comprised seven districts around it. The-gon was situated in one of the said seven districts collectively known as Moe Gok.

On his journey to visit his two saint sons residing at their forest recluses on Mt. Manithaylar, King Duttabaung made a stop and stationed at the place where Kan thar Lake today is, for some time. The king noticed a very pleasant hillock between the two ravines. The king build a pagoda of 7 cubits high, on the hillock, in which he enshrined sacred relics of the Buddha. A reservoir was constructed by blocking the two ravines with strong dykes. Heads of districts and villages in the neighbourhood contributed their labour in erecting the reservoir.

In volume 13, on page 180 of the Encyclopedia Britannica compiled in 1973, a small black and white photograph of this pagoda is found in connection with two photographs of insertion on The-gon Myo. The photograph presents a not so big nor not so small gilt pagoda on an island in the middle of a lake abounded with lotus flowers.

A roofed wooden bridge spanning the lake reached out to the pagoda against the background of green foliage.

Recently, the Board of Pagoda Trustees of Kan Thayar Yey-lein Kyun Zedi, The-gon town has compiled a three-page pamphlet dated 25 April 2010, Sunday in the form of a computerized handout. Thanks to Monk U Khemacara of Sitagu International Buddhist Missionary Centre, North Dagon, Yangon, Myanmar, the writer received a copy of the pamphlet with five photographs of the pagoda and its on-going repair and renovation works.

According to this pamphlet, the second repair and renovation works were undertaken in Myanmar Era 1270 [1908A.D.] what along interregnum between King Duttabaung’s time and the British colonial period, during which the lake and the pagoda might have remained in oblivion! Surely there must have been some records of the history of the lake and the pagoda in those long centuries, challenging the attention and interest of the researchers.

The pamphlet records that in 1908, U Shwe Da, the township officer of The-gon town and headmen of seven villages and headmen of 100 households [ya ein-gaungs] Pagoda Trustees, donors, devotees and well-wishers worked together to enlarge the original reservoir to a large circular water body of seven furlongs in circumference. U Saing and wife Daw Mei of Nyaung Kan village donated their fields and farms as glebe lands for the enlargement of the lake.

U Shwe Da, U Saing, Daw Mei, village headmen, head men of 100 households and pagoda trustees renovated the pagoda, raising its height to 15 cubits. Later, the Pagoda Trustees led by U Aye, the trader of The-gon town dredged and extended the lake. Annual pagoda festival was held in the month of Tazaungmon [November].

In the Myanmar Sakarit year 1289 [1927 A.D.] the height of the pagoda was again raised to 60 cubits encasing the original structure and the precinct of the pagoda was redesigned octagonal. The leading personnel who took the initiative and active participation in the work were U Hpo Saung, the Wundauk of Criminal Court, The-gon town [retired], and wife Daw Saw Shin, U Hlaing, township officer, The-gon town and wife Daw Sein, U Kyaw, Honorary Magistrate of The-gon town and wife, Daw Sein, U Hpo Thit, B.O.C Engineer of The-gon town and wife Daw Ngwe Hpyu, and U Ba Thein, bailiff clerk of The-gon town and wife Daw San Shwe.

Saya U Hpo Htun, master of bronze smithy of Pyay, who sculpt-

ed the hti [umbrella] for the pagoda, U Hpo Yin, the headman of Pauk Taw village, U Oh, the headman of Thein gon village, and wife Daw Aye Mei, U Taint the veterinary surgeon of The-gon town and Buddhist devotees of seven districts made their combined effort in raising the height of the pagoda to 60 cubits and re-shaping the platform to octagonal design.

The leading mason who renovated the pagoda was Saya Kywar of Pakokku town. He took the design of the first Phaungdaw U Zedi at Tat village. Wun-dauk U Hpo Saing advised him to study the architectures of pagodas in upper Myanmar. Master mason finally decided to copy the design of the said pagoda at Tat village. In the Myanmar Sakarit year 1291 [1929 A.D.] a hti [umbrella like crown] was super-imposed on the top of the pagoda with pomp and ceremony.

For the temporary residence of the pilgrims and visitors to the pagoda, there were six zayats [rest houses] built on the embankments – two zayats built by Nyaung Kan village, one by Tei Thee Pin village, one by Shwe Kyo Pin village and two by The-gon town.

In days of yore, pilgrims and visitors, putting up at rest houses on the four embankments had to use ferry boats and rafts to cross the lake to reach the pagoda. Donors of Tei Thee Pin village and Nyaung Kan village by turn offered free ferry service for them.

When the annual pagoda festival is held in the month of Tazaungmon, the villagers of Tei Thee Pin village celebrate the festival of Tavatimsa [Celestial kingdom of Saka Deva, the Thunder god], while the villagers of Nyaung Kon village celebrate Shin Malè festival by a procession around the town. On the lake are ceremonial procession of decorated Karaweik Barge followed by boats and rafts on which are staged performances of music and group dances. Spectators crowd on the banks of the lake to watch the spectacular displays of the festival on land and in the lake. In later years, the date of the yearly festival was changed from November to January. Since then the annual festival is held yearly without fail. The last festival held in January of the year 2010 commemorated its 49th anniversary. Now in current year 2015 January its anniversary has reached 54th.

In this sacred lake, five different kinds of lotus flowers [Kya Myo Nga Pa] bloom in profusion in the month of Thadinkyut [October]. They are (1) white lotus [Nymphaea alba] (2) Red lotus [Nymphaea Rubra] (3) Blue Lotus [Nymphaea stellata] (4) Padoma Lotus [Nelumbium speciosum] and (5) Poun Najei Kya [Ixora Arborea]. Today, around the rest houses on the west bank of the lake habitate bream fish [Rohtee

cotio]. In the immediate vicinities to the south of the pagoda in the lake are frolic populations of nga kyee [fresh water catfish (Heteropneustes fossilis)], nga khu [small catfish (clarius batrachus)], nga yant [banded snake headed fish (ophiocephalus striatus)]. Pilgrims and visitors feed these aquatic creatures with popcorn and other fish food available at the nearby stalls. Today Talavia fish, nga myit chin [carp: labeo rohita], nga kyin [Hamilton’s carp: cirrhina mrigala] and nga pyayma [climbing perch Anabastestudineus] thrive abundantly in the lake.

There was a severe drought in 1936 which nearly dried up the lake. Big wells were dug in the lake for the survival of the watery lives in it. In 1950, U Khin Aye and U Sein Htun, members of the Pagoda Trustees led the construction of a wooden bridge between the west bank, spanning the lake, and the pagoda platform. Though the bridge was roofed, a violent storm destroyed it. In 1959 the bridge was rebuilt of cement concrete. Thus pilgrims and visitors could easily and safely reach the pagoda, just by walking on the bridge.

All round development works have been taken since 1992. To the south of the lake, the place where the annual festival is held, a big cement concrete bridge named “Maggin 2” had been built reaching out to the pagoda precinct. To the east of the precinct, a dhamma sala [preaching hall] was built. To the north is a vihara for the residence of a monk. At the foot of the pagoda is a shrine to shelter the statue of Shin Upagutta. In front of the bridge to the west, an image house with Zina Man Aung Buddha Image in it, to the west of the lake are one zayat of bathrooms, one Aye Zedi in front of the bridge and one rest house [zayat], one nat spirit shrine for two nat-spirits brother and sister, guarding the lake and a shrine for Bodaw, the benefactor Grand Pa’s spirit.

Today, Kantharya Yey-lei Kyun Pagoda is undergoing renovations and development under the leadership and guidance of Sitagu Sayadaw Dr Ashin Nyanisara. With money, material and dedicated labour contributed by monk and lay disciples of Sayadaw, Buddhist devotees and well-wishers at home and abroad, the pagoda is being repaired and reinforced. At each of the octagonal corners, a dhamma sala [preaching hall] was built, thus totalling eight halls. In November 2010, all works were completed and hti hoising ceremony and the 49th Buddha Pujaniya were held on a grand scale.

It is hoped that the current disaster of cyclonic flood sweeping across the country would not badly destroy religious monuments and buildings around aquatic bodies in The-gon town, even if it could spare no mercy on them.

Bird flu spreads to third location in Ivory Coast



Workers from the Animal Protection Ministry cull chickens to contain an outbreak of bird flu, at a farm in the village of Modeste, Ivory Coast, August 14, 2015.—REUTERS

ABIDJAN, 15 Aug — Ivory Coast said on Friday that H5N1 bird flu had spread to a third location in the country, in the latest in a series of outbreaks in West Africa.

The case was discovered on a farm in the village of Modeste, about 15 km (nine miles) east of the commercial capital Abidjan.

Farm owner Moussa

Dicko said he had lost 27,000 chickens in the outbreak, including about 7,000 slaughtered by veterinary agents.

The H5N1 strain of the virus can be transmitted to humans, though such cases are rare.

Jonas Oulai, vice-director of animal health at the Ministry of Animals and Fisheries, told journalists that there was cause for concern about the

spread of the virus, which struck in Ivory Coast in April.

“We had thought we were able to contain the virus in Bouake (a central town) but we are being overwhelmed,” he said.

Nigeria, Burkina Faso, Niger and Ghana have been hit with the same virus over the last six months.

Reuters

Women who work or lift a lot may struggle to get pregnant

BOSTON, 15 Aug — Women who work more than 40 hours a week or routinely lift heavy loads may take longer to get pregnant than women who don't, a U.S. study suggests.

Researchers followed 1,739 nurses who were trying to get pregnant and estimated 16 percent of them failed to achieve this goal within 12 months, and 5 percent still hadn't conceived after two years.

Working more than 40 hours a week was linked with taking 20 percent longer to get pregnant compared to women who worked 21 to 40 hours.

Moving or lifting at least 25-pound loads several times a day was also tied to delayed pregnancy, extending the time to conception by about 50 percent.

“Our results show that heavy work, both in terms of physical strain and long hours, appears to have a detrimental impact on female nurses' ability to get pregnant,” lead study author Audrey Gaskins, a researcher at Harvard T.H. Chan School of Public Health in Boston, said by email.

Most healthy couples can conceive within three to six months, though the process can take longer for people who are older or who have fertility compromised by certain medical conditions or by smoking or

excessive drinking.

For the current study, Gaskins and colleagues reviewed data on women participating in a nationwide survey of nurses between 2010 and 2014 who at some point said they were trying to conceive.

Half of the women were at least 33 years old, about 44 percent were overweight or obese and 22 percent were current or former smokers.

The majority of the women worked exclusively days or nights, though 16 percent of them had rotating shifts at different times. About one third of the women were on their feet for at least eight hours a day, and 40 percent reported lifting heavy loads up to five times a daily.

Frequency of night shifts or the duration of rotating or non-rotating evening work wasn't linked to the time it took women to conceive, the study found.

When researchers excluded women who had irregular menstrual cycles, which can independently impair fertility, they still found that heavy lifting was linked to a 33 percent longer timeline to conception. The impact of heavy lifting was also more pronounced for overweight and obese women.

It's possible that certain working conditions might

make pregnancy more likely, and it's also possible that women who struggle to get pregnant may choose to work longer hours, the researchers acknowledge in *Occupational and Environmental Medicine*.

There also may be a much simpler explanation for the delayed times to conception for women who work more or come home more physically exhausted from lifting multiple heavy loads, said Courtney Lynch, a specialist in reproductive health at Ohio State University in Columbus.

“If this effect is real, it is likely due to the fact that these women are having less frequent intercourse due to their work demands,” Lynch, who wasn't involved in the study, said by email.

Couples who want to get pregnant faster should have sex at least twice a week, and not only on weekends, she advised. Women should also maintain a healthy weight, get enough exercise and avoid smoking and stress.

When women struggle to conceive, they may consider using devices that help track ovulation, Lynch added. Often sold as fertility monitors, some of these devices pinpoint ovulation by testing urine for spikes in certain hormones during that time of the month.

Reuters

Global stocks end week lower, bruised by China yuan weakness

NEW YORK, 15 Aug — Equities on world bourses ended the week lower on Friday after China's currency devaluation on Tuesday shook investors, though volatility declined late in the week, suggesting markets had absorbed Beijing's surprising actions.

For the week, the MSCI All World Index fell 0.4 percent, its second consecutive weekly decline. China's modest devaluation of its currency dominated market activity, as the yuan lost 3 percent on the week, and investors were left questioning whether the move will continue to pressure the Japanese yen and other Asian currencies.

U.S. stock indexes ended higher on the week, however, mostly on the strength of big gains on Monday. The S&P 500 finished the week up 0.7

percent. Oil prices rebounded from near six-and-a-half-year lows on Friday but were still expected to remain under pressure due to concerns about oversupply and weak global demand.

The Dow Jones industrial average rose 69.15 points, or 0.40 percent, to 17,477.40. The Standard & Poor's 500 Index was up 8.15 points, or 0.39 percent, at 2,091.54. The Nasdaq Composite Index was up 14.68 points, or 0.29 percent, at 5,048.24.

Crude oil prices slumped to the lowest since March 2009 before rebounding. Emerging market currencies slid to historic lows, with the Turkish lira and South African rand in the spotlight, as investors headed for the safety of developed world economies.

The People's Bank of China set its midpoint yuan

rate at 6.3975 per dollar before the market opened on Friday, slightly higher than the previous day's close of 6.3990. The yuan also strengthened in spot market trading, changing hands at 6.3908.

“The engineered part of the devaluation seems to be over, but since market forces are meant to play a larger role, the yuan would drift lower,” wrote analysts at Brown Brothers Harriman. “What we know is that the (People's Bank of China) will continue to manage the currency closely.”

Earlier on Friday, Greece's parliament voted to approve the country's third financial rescue by foreign creditors in five years. Prime Minister Alexis Tsipras still faces a confidence vote later this month.

European stocks had

their worst week in six, falling 2.9 percent, as shares of exporting companies with exposure to China fell after the yuan was devalued.

The FTSEurofirst 300 index of leading European shares fell 0.1 percent on Friday. The Euro STOXX 50 traded down 0.7 percent.

Economic growth in the euro zone slowed in the second quarter as France stagnated and Italy lost momentum, held back by an uncertain global outlook that is weakening investment even in powerhouse Germany. Crude oil futures fell to levels not seen since early 2009 before recovering slightly. U.S. crude oil settled up 27 cents at \$42.50 a barrel after hitting a 6-1/2-year low of \$41.35 a barrel due to a big increase in U.S. inventories. Brent was down 0.5 percent at \$49.00. The U.S. dollar fell 0.1



Traders work on the floor of the New York Stock Exchange August 13, 2015.—REUTERS

percent against the yen to 124.27 yen and rose 0.3 percent against the euro, which fell to \$1.1112.

The greenback came under pressure this week as China's devaluation curbed expectations the Federal Reserve's long-awaited interest rate increase would come as early as its Sept. 16-17 meeting. But strong U.S. retail sales data on

Thursday and good industrial production data on Friday backed the view that the Fed was ready to hike. The yield on 10-year U.S. Treasury notes rose to 2.20 percent after having fallen to a near four-month low of 2.04 percent on Wednesday. Gold prices were little changed on the day but up 1.9 percent for the week.

Reuters

Scientists researching brain disorders create super-clever mice

LONDON, 15 Aug — Scientists have genetically modified mice to be super-intelligent and found they are also less anxious, a discovery that may help the search for treatments for disorders such as Alzheimer's, schizophrenia and post traumatic stress disorder (PTSD).

Researchers from Britain and Canada found that altering a single gene to block the phosphodiesterase-4B (PDE4B) enzyme, which is found in many organs including the brain, made mice cleverer and at the same time less fearful.

"Our work using mice has identified phosphodiesterase-4B as a promising target for potential new treatments," said Steve Clapcote, a lecturer in pharmacology at Britain's Leeds University, who led the study.

He said his team is now working on developing drugs that will specifically inhibit PDE4B.

The drugs will be tested first in animals to see whether any of them might be suitable to go forward into clinical trials in humans. In the experiments, published on Friday in the journal

Neuropsychopharmacology, the scientists ran a series of behavioral tests on the PDE4B-inhibited mice and found they tended to learn faster, remember events longer and solve complex problems better than normal mice. The "brainy" mice were better at recognizing a mouse they had seen the previous day, the researchers said, and were also quicker at learning the location of a hidden escape platform.

They were also less able to recall a fearful event after several days than ordinary mice, and as PDE4B is also found in humans, this could be of interest in the search for treatments for brain conditions as well as mental decline linked to aging.

The experiments also showed that PDE4B-inhibited mice suffered less anxiety, choosing to spend more time in open, brightly lit spaces than normal mice, which preferred dark, enclosed spaces.

And while mice are naturally scared of cats, the modified mice responded less fearfully to cat urine, suggesting that inhibiting PDE4B could increase risk-taking behavior.—Reuters

Perseids meteor shower attracts thousands in Poland

WARSAW, 15 Aug — The Perseid meteor shower, one of the brightest meteor showers, which reached its peak during Aug. 12-14, brought together thousands of admirers in Poland.

Almost a hundred "falling stars" within one hour could be observed on Wednesday night. The meteor shower was observed throughout the country, however, the large-scale observations were held in Warsaw's Copernicus Science Center, where crowds gathered to watch the amazing spectacle together.

In order to make the spectacle as visible as possible, Warsaw's bridge, subway, stadium illuminations were turned off. The phenomenon has been slightly affected by clouds and pollution in some Polish towns.

The Perseids, named after the Greek mythology word referring to the sons of a hero - Perseus, are a prolific meteor shower associated with the comet Swift-Tuttle. They are most visible from mid-July, annually reaching its peak in activity in the middle of August.—Xinhua

Japan delays launch of transfer spacecraft due to weather

TOKYO, 15 Aug — Japan on Friday postponed the launch of a cargo transfer spacecraft that delivers supplies to the International Space Station (ISS) due to adverse weather conditions.

The Mitsubishi Heavy Industries, Ltd. and the Japan Aerospace Exploration Agency (JAXA) announced Friday that they "decided to postpone the launch of the H-IIB Launch Vehicle No. 5 with the H-II Transfer Vehicle 'KOUNOTORI' (HTV5) onboard from the Tanegashima Space Center, which was originally scheduled for August 16, 2015 (Japan Standard Time), as unfavorable weather is forecast."

The new launch date is set for Aug. 17, they said, adding that the launch date may be delayed further due to weather conditions.

Developed and built in Japan, the H-II Transfer Vehicle (HTV) known as "KOUNOTORI (white stork)" is an unmanned cargo transfer spacecraft that



delivers supplies to the ISS. The HTV will carry not only necessary daily commodities for the crew astronauts, but also experimental devices, samples, spare parts and other necessary research items for the ISS.

Currently, Japan, the United States and Russia operate cargo transfers to the ISS. "Among the supply vehicles, KOUNOTORI serves as the backbone of ISS operations with its world-leading supply capacity of approximate 6

metric tons, and is the only space liner capable of delivering large items of hardware," said JAXA.

According to the HTV5 Mission Schedule updated by JAXA on Friday, the launch window for HTV5 is Aug. 17-Sept. 30 and the launch time will be determined by the updated orbit of the ISS. The launch day and time during the launch windows shall be decided by the international coordination for ISS operations.

Xinhua

Beidou satellites begin autonomous operation in space

BEIJING, 15 Aug — After more than 10 days in space, China's 19th Beidou navigation satellite is working autonomously and has set up a link with another satellite.

The two satellites were launched on the same day by a Long March III-B rocket from the Xichang Satellite Launch Center in Sichuan Province, southwest China, on July 25.

Xie Jun, chief designer of the Beidou navigation satellite system, says China has successfully tested the autonomous control technology of the Beidou global navigation satellite constellation, an alternative to U.S.-operated GPS, marking a solid step toward building a system with global coverage.

China plans to set up a complete constellation of 35 satellites, achieving global coverage by 2020.

The "twin sats" surpass their predecessors in speed, accuracy and weight. "The biggest difficulty is the autonomous navigation technology," Xie said. "We need it to maintain the sustainable development of the project."

Wang Ping, another chief engineer on the project, says the inter-satellite link realizes communication and distance measurement among satellites, bringing autonomous control of the navigation system a step closer.

Autonomous navigation is the project's key to global operation. It enables satellites to work

independently, providing users with more accurate data.

Using the Chinese word for the plough, or the Big Dipper, constellation, the project was formally launched in 1994, some 20 years after the inception of GPS. The first Beidou satellite was launched in 2000. By 2012, a regional network had taken shape and was providing positioning, navigation, timing and short message services in China and other Asian countries.

Beidou is one of the world's four main navigation systems, along with GPS there is Russia's GLONASS, and the European Union's Galileo. All four use autonomous navigation technology.

Xinhua

Google has until Aug. 31 to reply to EU antitrust charges



A neon Google logo is seen as employees work at the new Google office in Toronto, November 13, 2012.—REUTERS

BRUSSELS, 15 Aug — Google Inc, the world's most popular Internet search engine, has been given an extra two weeks to counter European Union charges of abusing its market power in a dozen EU countries and stave off a possible billion-euro fine.

The European Commission has extended the deadline for replying to the charges to Aug. 31 from July 17, a Google spokesman said on Thursday.

This is the second extension for the company, which had originally been told to respond to the Commission's charge sheet, or statement of objections, by July 7. The Commission, which in

April accused Google of distorting web search results to favour its shopping service, confirmed that it had accepted the company's request for additional time to reply.

"In line with normal practice, the Commission analysed the reasons for the request. As a result, it has granted an extension allowing Google to fully exercise its rights of defence," Commission spokesman Ricardo Cardoso said.

Google will not ask for a closed-door hearing to defend its case, said a source familiar with the matter. Some antitrust experts said that such events, attended by

senior Commission officials and national competition regulators, rarely yield positive results for companies.

European Competition Commissioner Margrethe Vestager's charges in April escalated a five-year investigation that Google has tried to settle three times without success.

The company could face a fine set at a level sufficient to ensure deterrence if found guilty, according to the Commission's charge sheet seen by Reuters.

The EU antitrust authority can sanction wrongdoers up to 10 percent of their global turnover.

Reuters



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Journey of a lifetime

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE MV XETHA BHUM VOY NO (1055E)

Consignees of cargo carried on MV XETHA BHUM VOY NO (1055E) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 16.8.2015 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.

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

Phone No: 2301185

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE MV MERATUS GORONTALO VOY NO (110N)

Consignees of cargo carried on MV MERATUS GORONTALO VOY NO (110N) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 16.8.2015 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of A.W.P.T where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

SHIPPING AGENCY DEPARTMENT
MYANMA PORT AUTHORITY
AGENT FOR: M/S YANG MING LINE

Phone No: 2301185

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE MV LANTAU ACE VOY NO (008N)

Consignees of cargo carried on MV LANTAU ACE VOY NO (008N) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 16.8.2015 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of H.P.T where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

SHIPPING AGENCY DEPARTMENT
MYANMA PORT AUTHORITY
AGENT FOR: M/S YANG MING LINE

Phone No: 2301185

Angelina Jolie executively producing 'The Breadwinner'

LOS ANGELES, 15 Aug — Angelina Jolie is “delighted” to be joining the team working on the upcoming animation, “The Breadwinner”. The upcoming animated film is based on the young adult novel of the same name by Deborah Ellis, published in 2000, reported The Wrap. “The Breadwinner” follows a young girl, Parvana, who

lives with her family in Kabul during the Taliban era. After her father is arrested, Parvana has to disguise herself as a boy in order to provide for her family.

“Millions of young girls like Parvana are growing up today under oppression or conflict, and helping their families to survive in those conditions.

This story is a reminder of the immense value of their contribution,” Jolie said. “I am delighted to be working with a talented team of artists who I know will do justice to the richness, creativity and strength of Afghan culture and to little girls like Parvana,” she added.

Ellis has written the screen story and Anita Doron has penned the script. Irish animator, Nora Twomey, is set to direct. The film will be available in English and in Dari, the Afghan language. “The Breadwinner” is expected for release in 2017.—PTI

FKA Twigs releases surprise album with short film



LOS ANGELES, 15 Aug — Singer FKA Twigs unexpectedly released a new EP, accompanied by a short film which she directed.

The “Video Girl” star surprised fans by sharing her third EP, M3LL155X, featuring two previously released singles and three new tracks, and it came with a 16-minute music

video, reported Rolling Stone magazine.

In disturbing footage linked to her song “I’m Your Doll”, Twigs slowly transforms into a nude and blow-up doll.

In another scene to accompany the song “In Time”, the 27-year-old singer becomes pregnant and subsequently gives

birth to a multi-coloured scarf, which she later wraps around her body.

Fashion icon Michele Lamy makes a cameo in the short art film, which is described as an “an aggressive statement conceptualising the process of feeling pregnant with pain, birthing creativity and liberation”.—PTI



Hugh Jackman, Stephan Colbert to host 2015 Global Citizen Festival

LOS ANGELES, 15 Aug — Comedian Stephen Colbert and “Wolverine” star Hugh Jackman will co-host the 2015 Global Citizen Festival.

Colbert made the announcement on his show the “Late Show with Stephen Colbert” where he was joined, via FaceTime, by Jackman, from his home in Australia, reported Rolling Stone magazine.

Scheduled to take place on September 26 at the Great Lawn of New York City’s Central Park, the festival will be attended by Jackman’s wife, Deborah-Lee Furness, Salma Hayek Pinault, Kerry Washington and Olivia Wilde.

Pearl Jam, Beyonce, Coldplay and Ed Sheeran are slated to perform at the festival where Colbert and Jackman, along with the rest of the hosts, will encourage



Hugh Jackman & Stephen Colbert

people to get involved with the Global Citizen movement and help end extreme poverty by 2030. “All the world leaders are going to be there, plus Pearl Jam!” Colbert said in the video, to which Jackman replied, “I get to realise my lifelong dream of dancing in the mosh pit with Ban Ki-moon. It’s gonna be awesome.”

In February, Global Citizen announced that Chris Martin would produce and curate the festival through 2030.

In the past Neil Young and Crazy Horse, Foo Fighters, the Black Keys, Sting, John Legend, Jay Z, No Doubt and Tiesto have performed at the festival that began in 2012.—PTI

Hip hop mogul Dr Dre tops UK album chart after 16 year absence

LONDON, 15 Aug — U.S. hip-hop mogul Dr Dre topped the British album chart on Friday with “Compton”, his first record in 16 years, while “Marvin Gaye,” U.S. singer Charlie Puth’s collaboration with Meghan Trainor, climbed 89 places to become the highest-selling single.

Compton, which the 50 year-old rapper has dedicated to his Californian birthplace of the same name, outperformed its nearest competitors by over 28,000 combined chart sales, the Official Charts Company

said. Puth’s second British Number 1 finished the week with sales of over 94,000 after entering the tally the week before, and it marked another success for Trainor whose debut single spent four weeks at Number 1 last October. Calvin Harris and Disciples’ “How Deep Is Your Love” stayed firm at number two on the singles charts, having been streamed over 2.21 million times in the last seven days, and the Weeknd’s “Can’t Feel My Face” jumped five places to number three.—Reuters

GENERAL

ဦးအေးမောင်မောင် (၆၃) နှစ်

(Methodist English High School ကျောင်းသားဟောင်း)

B.A (Eng) Crewing Manager

(Bernard Schulte Shipmanagement) R.T.D

ရန်ကုန်မြို့ အမှတ် ၉၃ ရေတာရှည်လမ်းဟောင်း ဗဟန်းမြို့နယ်နေ၊ (ဗိုလ်မှူးကြီးမောင်မောင်) (ခေါ်မြင့်) တို့၏သား၊ (ဦးတိန်တင်) (ခေါ်သိန်းနု) တို့၏ သားသမက်၊ (ဦးယဉ်ကြူ) ခေါ်ခင်အေးကြူ၏ မောင်၊ ဦးကိုကို ခေါ်မိမိကြီး၊ ဦးညိုညို ခေါ်သိန်းသိန်းအေးတို့၏ ညီ (ဦးထွေးမောင်မောင်) ခေါ်ခင်မေသွင်၏ အစ်ကို၊ ခေါ်ခင်ဆွေတင်၏ ခင်ပွန်း၊ ကိုဝင်းမောင်မောင် (TCRC)၊ ကိုအောင်မျိုးသက်တို့၏ ချစ်လှစွာသော ဖခင် ဦးအေးမောင်မောင်သည် ၁၃. ၈. ၂၀၁၅ (ကြာသပတေးနေ့)တွင် ကွယ်လွန်သွားပါသဖြင့် ကြွင်းကျန်သော ရုပ်ကလပ်အား ကွန်လွန်သူ၏ ဆန္ဒအလျောက် ၁၃. ၈. ၂၀၁၅ ရက်နေ့တွင် ရေဝေးသူသန်၌ မီးသင်္ဂြိုဟ် ပြီးစီးခဲ့ပါကြောင်း ဆွေမျိုးမိတ်သင်္ဂဟများအား အကြောင်းကြားအပ်ပါသည်။ ကျန်ရစ်သူမိသားစု

Belgian designer files suit to halt use of Tokyo Olympic logo



Undated photo shows Olivier Debie, the designer of a Belgian theater logo who says his creation was plagiarized in the 2020 Tokyo Olympic symbol. Debie filed suit in Belgium seeking to get the International Olympic Committee to halt its use, his lawyer said on Aug. 14, 2015.—KYODO NEWS

stop using Sano's design. The letters also indicated legal action would be taken if the request were not met within eight days.

The theater logo is not registered as a trademark, but Debie claimed the Olympic logo resembles one he designed for the theater, asserting its copyright infringement.

International Olympics Committee Coordination Commission Chair John Coates had declared that the IOC and the Tokyo committee checked all registered trademarks before unveiling the logo.

In a statement issued Friday, the IOC said it and the IOC have responded to the lawyer and "underlined that the Tokyo 2020 design is an independent original creation."

"Its development reflects the values and messages of the Tokyo 2020 Games, as well as making a link with the emblem of Tokyo 1964 (summer Olympic games). We stand by this position and believe this should bring the discussion to a close," the IOC said.

On Aug. 5, Sano said at a press conference that he had never seen the theater logo, rejecting Debie's accusation of plagiarism.

Doubts have also been raised via the Internet that some of Sano's designs used for items to be handed out for a beverage promotional campaign closely resemble existing patterns.

Kyodo News

BRUSSELS, 15 Aug — The designer of a Belgian theater logo who says his creation was plagiarized in creating the 2020 Tokyo Olympic symbol filed suit in Belgium seeking to get the International Olympic Committee to halt its use, his lawyer said Friday.

The Japanese Olympic Committee has not retracted the Olympic logo created by Japanese designer Kenjiro Sano after Olivier Debie demanded it be withdrawn.

The suit was filed on Thursday, the lawyer said.

On July 31, Debie and the Theatre de Liege, whose logo it is claimed was plagiarized, sent letters to the IOC and the Japanese committee asking them to

Williams to face Swiss teen Bencic in Rogers semis

TORONTO, 15 Aug — World number one Serena Williams rolled into the semi-finals of the Rogers Cup on Friday with a clinical 6-4, 6-3 win over Italy's Roberta Vinci, setting up an intriguing showdown with Swiss teenager Belinda Bencic.

Williams, a three-time champion on the Canadian hardcourts, stretched her winning streak in Toronto to 14 matches but on a humid evening she was made

to sweat for her spot in the last four by her 53rd ranked opponent.

Playing her first event since winning Wimbledon, Williams will next meet 18-year-old Bencic, who took apart fifth seed Anna Ivanovic 6-4, 6-2.

"I don't feel like I'm at my best or anywhere near it," said Williams, who will go for the Grand Slam at the U.S. Open. "But I feel like I'm going in the right direction and I want to keep

that up.

"I definitely feel more positive today. I don't want to peak too soon."

An animated Williams struggled to get control of the first set but capitalized on her fourth break point with the Italian serving at 4-5 to claim it. In the second she got the decisive break to go up 5-3 before serving out the match.

"I think she just served really well, some big serves," said Williams, who also blasted 12 aces past the Italian. "She was number one in doubles for a really long time so she obviously has a great game."

Standing in the way of Williams' return to the final is Bencic, who has eliminated two former-world number ones, Caroline Wozniacki and former Rogers Cup champion Ivanovic.

The Serb beat the Swiss teenager's mentor, Martina Hingis, in the 2006 final.

"She (Hingis) knows her (Williams) well, I think

tomorrow I can go onto the court with a plan and just keep playing as I did today," said Bencic.

In other quarter-final action, second seeded Romanian Simona Halep sleepwalked through the first set before producing a remarkable comeback to record a 0-6, 6-3, 6-1 win over defending champion Agnieszka Radwanska.

After dropping the first seven games to Radwanska, Halep started to find her rhythm and at 3-3 in the second set shifted into high gear. Looking like a completely different player she stormed through the next eight games to level the match and pulled ahead 5-0 in the third before Radwanska could stop the slide, if only for one game, before the sixth seed was sent packing.

"At the beginning I could not move my legs. I felt very tired," said Halep. "I just kept focused on what I had to do and just tried to keep the ball in the court to make some longer rallies."—Reuters



Aug 14, 2015; Toronto, Ontario, Canada; Belinda Bencic (SUI) goes to return a ball against Ana Ivanovic (not pictured) during the quarter finals of the Rogers Cup tennis tournament at Aviva Centre.—REUTERS

Oregon cat is world's oldest at 26 years, 13 days

NEW YORK, 15 Aug — An Oregon cat with a fondness for sharp cheddar and catching mice has become the oldest pet feline in the world at 26 years and 13 days, Guinness World Records officials said on Thursday.

Corduroy lives in the rural community of Sisters, Oregon, about 100 miles (160 km) southeast of Portland, and spends plenty of time outside, the organization said in a statement.

Since kittenhood, Corduroy has lived with owner Ashley Reed Okura, who was only seven years old when the cat entered her life, Guinness officials said. "The secret has been allowing him to be a cat - hunting

and getting plenty of love," Reed Okura said in a statement. Aside from chasing mice, the cat also likes to eat cheddar cheese, according to Guinness officials. The previous record-holder was a San Diego feline named Tiffany Two, who was 26 years and 204 days old when she died on June 3, the officials said.

Kristen Ott, a spokeswoman for Guinness World Records, acknowledged that an older cat than Corduroy might be out there. To hold the record, an owner must submit evidence such as video recordings of a pet feline throughout the decades, as well as witness statements.

Reuters

WEATHER REPORT
BAY INFERENCE: Monsoon is weak to moderate in the Andaman Sea and Bay of Bengal.
FORECAST VALID UNTIL EVENING OF THE 16th August, 2015: Rain or thundershowers will be scattered in Lower Sagaing and Magway Regions, Chin State, fairly widespread in Mandalay and Taninthayi Regions, Kayin and Mon States and widespread in the remaining Regions and States with isolated heavy falls in Upper Sagaing, Mandalay and Ayeyawady Regions, Kachin and Rakhine States. Degree of certainty is (100%).
STATE OF THE SEA: Sea will be moderate in Myanmar waters.
OUTLOOK FOR SUBSEQUENT TWO DAYS: Moderate Monsoon.
FORECAST FOR NAY PYI TAW AND NEIGHBOURING AREA FOR 16th August, 2015: Isolated rain or thundershowers. Degree of certainty is (100%).
FORECAST FOR YANGON AND NEIGHBOURING AREA FOR 16th August, 2015: One or two rain or thundershowers. Degree of certainty is (100%).
FORECAST FOR MANDALAY AND NEIGHBOURING AREA FOR 16th August, 2015: Isolated rain or thundershowers. Degree of certainty is (100%).



(16-8-2015 07:00 am~17-8-2015 07:00 am) MST

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Nishikori downs Nadal in Montreal quarters

MONTREAL, 15 Aug — Kei Nishikori swept aside Rafa Nadal in the quarter-finals of the Rogers Cup in Montreal on Friday with a swift 6-2, 6-4 victory, while world number one Novak Djokovic saved two match points before beating Latvian Ernests Gulbis.

Japan's Nishikori, seeded fourth, took just 82 minutes to beat the Spaniard, a 14-times grand slam champion and a winner three times at the Rogers Cup. "I was close in Madrid, but today I was dominating everything," said Nishikori after getting his first win over Nadal in eight attempts. "I definitely needed to change some of my tactics when playing against Rafa. I had to play

100 percent to beat him."

Nishikori will next meet Andy Murray in the semi-finals after the Briton defeated defending champ Jo-Wilfried Tsonga of France 6-4, 6-4.

Nishikori won his third title of the season in Washington last week and is hitting his stride ahead of the U.S. Open. The 25-year-old reached the final at Flushing Meadows last year only to lose in straight sets to Marin Cilic.

"(Nadal) wasn't making many first serves to-night, so I knew I had to be more aggressive on the second serve," Nishikori said. "Everything was working well, so I am very happy to win today." Djokovic almost joined Nadal on the

way out but rallied from a set down to beat Gulbis 5-7, 7-6(7), 6-1, setting up a semi-final with Jeremy Chardy of France.

The Serb, who is looking for a fourth Canadian crown, said he would have had no complaints had Gulbis beat him.

"You have to give credit to (Gulbis) for playing an excellent match," Djokovic said. "He was always making me play an extra shot, and putting a lot of pressure on my second serve.

"I had a lot of chances and closed it out in the end, but he had a couple of match points and it would've been deserved if he had won this match tonight."

The win extended



Aug 14, 2015; Montreal, Quebec, Canada; Kei Nishikori of Japan and Rafael Nadal of Spain shake hands after their match during the Rogers Cup tennis tournament at Uniprix Stadium.—REUTERS

Djokovic's Master Series streak to 29 victories. He has not lost since Roger Federer beat him in Shanghai last year.

A victory in Montreal would be his record-tying fifth Masters Series title of the year, equalling his own mark in 2011 and Nadal's

from 2013.

Unseeded Chardy also clawed his way back from the brink, saving seven match points to beat American John Isner 6-7(9), 7-6(13), 7-6(4) and reach his first Masters Series semi-final.

"It was a crazy match," Chardy said. "We both served really well and we both had our chances, so I am happy that I won it in the end.

"On those match points, I was only thinking about where I wanted to hit my serve or how to play the point. Under pressure it's easy to get nervous and miss if you start thinking about the match point or the break point."

Reuters

Lukaku double fires Everton to victory at Southampton



Romelu Lukaku celebrates scoring the second goal for Everton.—REUTERS

LONDON, 15 Aug — Two excellent first-half goals by Romelu Lukaku inspired Everton to an emphatic 3-0 victory at Southampton in the Premier League on Saturday.

The powerful Belgian put the visitors ahead midway through the first half after a classic counter-attack ended with the former Chelsea striker heading home Arouna Kone's cross.

His second, just before halftime, was even better as he barrelled forward, exchanged passes with Ross Barkley and advanced to fire a shot low into the corner.

Southampton introduced new signing Oriol Romeu after the break for Dusan Tadic, but the home side were unable to apply any sustained pressure and Barkley's classy curling finish after 83 minutes sealed Everton's win.

Shortly before that Sadio Mane drew a fine save from Everton keeper Tim Howard with a dipping shot and the home fans cheered loudly when forward Jay Rodriguez came on as a substitute after 16 months out but it was a desperately disappointing display from Ronald Koeman's side.

Manchester United top the early table with six points, two more than Everton, after their 1-0 win at Aston Villa on Friday. West Ham United or Leicester could also move to six points when they meet at Upton Park later on Saturday.

Champions Chelsea are at Manchester City on Sunday.—Reuters

Januzaj rewards United faith with winner at Villa

BIRMINGHAM, (England), 15 Aug — Adnan Januzaj reminded Manchester United fans of his class as his 29th-minute goal earned a 1-0 win at Aston Villa and propelled them, after two humdrum triumphs, to the top of the table on Friday.

The precocious 20-year-old Belgian had been linked with a loan move away from Old Trafford but manager Louis van Gaal, who has said he is not for sale, was rewarded after giving the youngster a place in the Premier League side's starting lineup.

Januzaj, who came in for Ashley Young in the only change to the team that beat Tottenham Hotspur last week, ensured that a second 1-0 victory for United, despite another fairly ordinary performance, gave the 20-times champions a maximum six points.

United were shot-shy against Spurs, with just one effort on target, and this time only produced three as they often struggled to penetrate Villa's rearguard.

One fine team move, though, was enough to be decisive. Juan Mata slid a delightful probing ball into the box and Januzaj ghosted away from his marker and turned Micah Richards neatly before



Aston Villa v Manchester United - Barclays Premier League - Villa Park - 14/8/15. Manchester United's Adnan Januzaj in action with Aston Villa's Scott Sinclair.—REUTERS

slotting the ball into the far corner via a deflection.

The Belgium forward's quality in front of goal was a reminder of the talent that once saw him heralded as the most wanted item in international football before his flame dimmed a little.

Van Gaal, saying he wanted to try Januzaj in his favourite number 10 position, described the goal as "fantastic" and said he was not worried by United's inability to create opportunities.

"It doesn't bother me

because you only have to score one more than your opponent," the Dutchman told Sky Sports.

"We don't give many chances away and every game we have more chances than the opponents. We played better than last week...so I'm very happy."

Villa, who have not beaten United at home in the league for two decades, created the better chances after halftime only to finish wastefully.

Van Gaal withdrew Januzaj in the second

period, introduced Ander Herrera and new signing Bastian Schweinsteiger and the door at the back was locked.

Another United new boy, Memphis Depay, missed a glorious chance when Mata picked him out with another lovely pass.

United had a head start over their title rivals with a rare Friday kickoff after West Midlands Police requested the fixture change because an English Defence League march is planned in nearby Walsall on Saturday.—Reuters

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