

President U Thein Sein sends message of felicitations to Indonesia

NAY PYI TAW, 17 Aug — U Thein Sein, President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar, has sent a message of felicitations to His Excellency Mr. Joko Widodo, President of the Republic of Indonesia, on the occasion of the 70th Anniversary of the Independence Day of the Republic of Indonesia, which falls on 17 August 2015.—MNA



Myanma Railways launches new air-conditioned coaches to be used on Yangon's circular railroads.—MNA

Circular trains linked with air-con coaches

YANGON, 16 Aug — Myanma Railways on Sunday morning started to use two air-conditioned RBE (Rail Bus Engine) coaches and one rail barge truck (BRT) for the transport of passengers along the circular railroad in Yangon city.

Union Minister for Transport and for Rail Transportation U Nyan Tun Aung and officials cordially greeted passengers before launching the train.

An RBE coach worth JPY 10.2 million can accommodate 602 passengers including 210 passengers on seats. Ticket

prices for the BRT coach are set at K50, K100 and K200 per passenger while the ticket price for the RBE is K300 per passenger.

Passenger trains run 225 times a day along the circular railroad and Strand railroad to help ease the traffic congestion in

Yangon. All trains in Yangon city transport about 70,000 passengers, which is about half of the train passengers across the nation.

Myanma Railways of the Ministry of Rail Transportation bought 32 air-conditioned RBE coaches from Japan.—MNA



Patient with colon cancer receives treatment at day care chemotherapy center established by Golden Rose Cancer Foundation.—PHOTO: KHAING THANDA LWIN

Needy patients receive free chemotherapy

By Khaing Thanda Lwin

YANGON, 16 Aug — A newly opened chemotherapy centre in downtown Yangon has begun providing the cancer treatment free of charge to low-income patients.

In addition to chemotherapy, the non-profit Golden Rose Cancer Foundation will provide screening for a range of cancers at the centre in Botahtaung Township, foundation chairwoman Prof Daw Yin Yin Tun said.

“As of this month, we are opening the

centre three days a week for two hours per day,” she said.

“We are planning to offer a wide range of services including breast self-examination teaching and physical examination of breasts, oral cancer screening and advice on other cancer screening.”

Currently, only three patients—two with breast cancer and one with colon cancer—who have a high chance of survival are receiving treatment from the foundation.

The centre is treating them with essen-

tial cancer drugs approved by the World Health Organization for developing countries, Prof Daw Yin Yin Tun said.

Foundation General Secretary Dr Moe Aung Kyaw Naing said, “We will treat all types of cancer at their early stage, as this plays a vital role in saving the patients’ lives.”

Since its establishment in 2013, the foundation has helped cancer patients and conducted a wide range of cancer prevention activities. It plans to establish a cancer hospital in future.—GNLM

Non-formal primary education creates opportunity for students

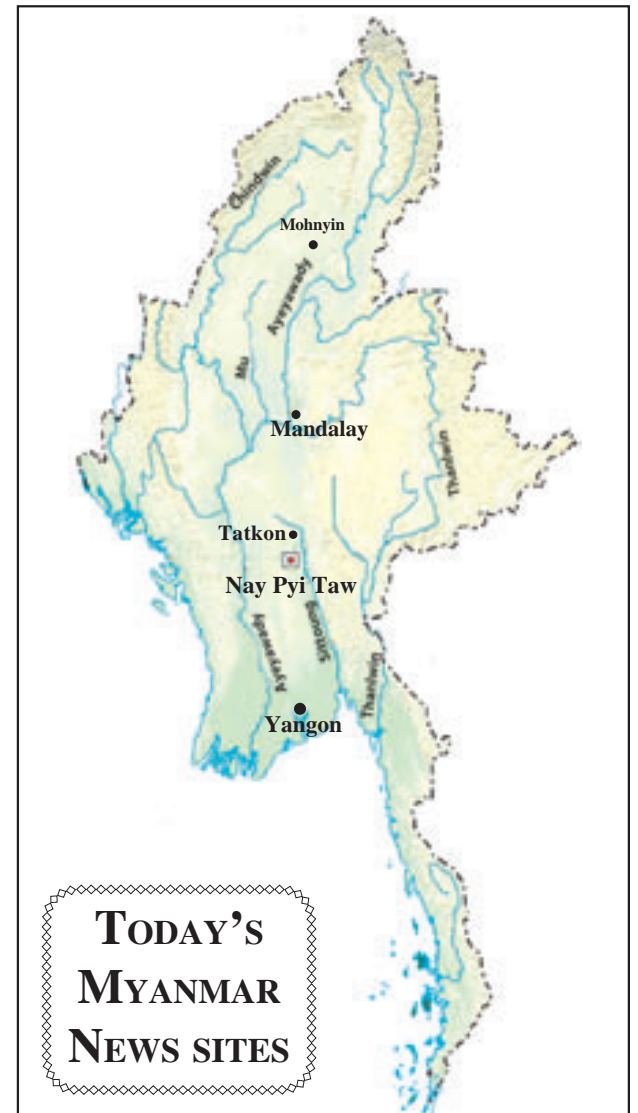


MANDALAY, 16 Aug — A ceremony to launch non-formal primary education for 2015-16 academic year was held at the hall of No 26 Basic Education High School in Chanmyathazi Township on 14 August, with a speech by

Chief Minister of Mandalay Region U Ye Myint. “Non-formal primary education programme was created for the children between aged 5 and 9 who had missed the chance for learning primary education,” the chief minister

said. Coordinator of Myanmar Literacy Supporting Centre U Aye Kyaing and Township Education Officer U Soe Myint spoke about process of non-formal primary education. In 2015-16 academic year, the non-formal edu-

cation programme is being implemented for 770 students in Aungmyathazan, Chanayethazan, Mahaangmye, Chanmyathazi, Pyigyidagun, PyinOoLwin and Thabeikkyin townships.—*Thiha Ko Ko (Mandalay)*



Puppet entertainment staged for rehabilitation of flood victims

MANDALAY, 16 Aug — Trainees from Daw Ma Ma Naing English school and those of puppet training course joined hands with artists from Myanmar Puppeteers Association performed puppet entertainments on 66th street in Chanayethazan Township on 14 and 15 August.

They decided to donate income obtained from the entertainments to the rehabilitation of residents from flood-affected areas along Ayeyawady and Mu rivers in Sagaing and



Magway Regions.

The audiences who enjoyed the puppet entertainments generously donated

cash to the fund for the rehabilitation.

Maung Pyi Thu (Mandalay)

Suspension bridge stretching across Monnawin Creek in Tatkon Tsp

TATKON, 16 Aug — Construction of a suspen-

sion bridge was undertaken crossing Monnawin Creek

in Shaukkon village, Tatkon Township as of 29 April.

Construction materials were donated by well-wishers from Switzerland and local people.

The suspension bridge was 150 feet in length and five feet in width.

As the bridge was complete in the first week of August, local people from seven villages are enjoying fruits of transport facilities.—*Tin Soe Lwin (Tatkon IPRD)*



Victims from flood-affected areas receive rehabilitation aid

YANGON, 16 Aug — Tawwin Development Foundation carries out rehabilitation tasks in Padaung, Bago Region.

“The foundation plans to spend K30 million on rehabilitation of the flood victims in Padaung Township,” an official of the

foundation said. “Arrangements have been made to continue the rehabilitation tasks in other regions together with Myanmar Construction Entrepreneurs Association by spending K70 million.”

The foundation donated relief supplies worth

K150 million in Rakhine State and Ayeyawady and Bago regions from 1 to 8 August. On 14 August, the foundation sent rice, food, personal goods and medicines to 496 households from Thayawady and Thonze townships.

Soe Win (MLA)



Vice Presidents send messages of felicitations to Indonesia

NAY PYI TAW, 17 Aug — Dr Sai Mauk Kham and U Nyan Tun, Vice Presidents of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar, have sent messages of felicitations to His Excellency Mr. Jusuf Kalla, Vice President of the Republic of Indonesia, on the occasion of the 70th Anniversary of the Independence Day of the Republic of Indonesia, which falls on 17 August 2015.—MNA

Candidates need to meet with election sub-commissions for scrutiny process

NAY PYI TAW, 16 Aug—The Union Election Commission on Sunday informed all political parties and candidates for scrutinizing their nominations.

The respective election sub-commissions will scrutinize the nominations from 18 to 27 August. Up to now, there are 1,772 candidates for Pyithu Hluttaw,

913 for Amyotha Hluttaw, 3,504 for region and state Hluttaw and 163 for ethnic affairs constituencies.

All candidates of political parties and independent candidates need to meet with the election sub-commissions in scrutinizing the nominations not to be delay the work process.—MNA

Nomination for Hluttaw candidates continues

NAY PYI TAW, 16 Aug—A total of 234 candidates for Pyithu Hluttaw, 126 candidates for Amyotha Hluttaw, 439 candidates for state/region Hluttaws and 12 candidates for state/region ethnic affairs submitted their nomination for 2015 General Election on 14 August.

From 20 July to 14 August, 6,189 candidates including 1,772 for Pyithu Hluttaw, 913 for Amyotha Hluttaw, 3,341 for state/region Hluttaws and 163 for ethnic affairs constituencies.

They represent 92 political parties while 232 of them are independent candidates. Detailed nomination process is available at www.uecmyanmar.org.—MNA

More than 170,000 acres of flood-affected farmlands put under crops

NAY PYI TAW, 16 Aug—Flooding from June to August has inundated about 1.43 million acres of farmlands across the nation, including more than 370,000 acres in Bago Region.

During the period, flooding caused damage to more than 920,000 acres of farmlands in regions and states. Among them, Rakhine State stood top on the table with more than 273,000 acres of damaged farmlands.

Local farmers in regions and states have recultivated crops on 175,777 acres of farmlands including more than 142,000 acres in Rakhine State, according to the Ministry of Agriculture and Irrigation.—MNA

Myanmar, Thai senior officials gather at drug control meeting

NAY PYI TAW, 16 Aug — The 18th Myanmar-Thailand Bilateral Meeting on Drug Control Cooperation kicked off here Sunday, with a 20-member Myanmar delegation and a 15-member Thai delegation in attendance.

They discussed efforts of both countries in drug control, exchange of information on drug fugitives, promotion on control of prohibited chemical precursors, trainings, meetings and workshops for drug control, excursion trips, alternative development projects, accomplishment of the minutes adopted by the 17th meeting held in Chiang Mai, Thailand in 2014 and future tasks.

The Myanmar delegation led by Secretary of Central Committee for Drug Abuse Control



Senior police officers of Myanmar pose for documentary photo with Thai delegation members at 18th Bilateral Meeting on Drug Control Cooperation.—MNA

Chief of Myanmar Police Force Police Maj-Gen Zaw Win was accompanied by Commander of Anti-Drug

Police Force Police Brig-Gen Kyaw Win and party and the Thai delegation by general secretary Mr Per-

mpong Chaovalit of Office of Narcotics Control Board, ONCB of Thailand and party.—MNA

KBZ Brighter Future Myanmar Foundation provides free healthcare services



YANGON, 16 Aug — Healthcare providers from SSC Hospital in cooperation with Kanbawza Brighter Future Myanmar Foundation have provided its free medical care services in flood-affected regions.

They recently provided care to about 300 victims from 18 villages in Pwintbyu and nearby areas in Magway Region, offering medicines, especially bottles of venom vaccine and water-purification tablets as well as women's healthcare products.

In addition, they donated rice, clothes and basic needs of those victims.

On Saturday, the members of foundation donated K500,000 each to 74 households in six villages in Kenglat of Tachilek District.

The foundation has spent millions of kyats on both rescuing and rebuilding the lives of victims.—GNLM

Flood victims receive foods, relief supplies worth more than K591 million from RRD

NAY PYI TAW, 16 Aug—Flooding caused more than 1.55 million people from 356,477 households homeless, leaving 117 dead in six regions and six states from 24 June to 16 August.

Relief and Resettlement Department provided foods, relief supplies, construction materials and compensation for dead persons worth more than K591 million.

MNA

Artists showcase paintings to raise fund for flood-affected areas

MANDALAY, 16 Aug — A fundraising arts show is kept open at the gallery at the foot of Mandalay Hill in Aungmyethazan Township as of 15 August.

About 150 artists from Mandalay, Yangon, Monywa and PyinOoLwin townships showcase 102 transparent water colour works, 34 acrylic colour works, 11 oil color works, 13 pastel colour works, six opaque water colour works and five max

medium works at the gallery.

Prices of artistic works are a half lesser than the original prices. A total of 38 arts works have been sold to the customers. The proceeds from the sales of paintings will be donated to the fund for rehabilitation of flood-affected areas.

The gallery is opened from 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. up to 19 August.

Tin Maung (Mandalay)



Fugitive Cambodian opposition senator Hong Sok Hour (C, front) is brought to Phnom Penh Municipal Court in Phnom Penh, Cambodia, Aug. 15, 2015. Fugitive Cambodian opposition senator Hong Sok Hour, who is wanted for allegations of treason, was arrested on Saturday, three days after Prime Minister Hun Sen ordered the arrest, an opposition spokesman confirmed.—XINHUA

Fugitive Cambodian opposition senator arrested

PHNOM PENH, 16 Aug — Fugitive Cambodian opposition senator Hong Sok Hour, who is wanted for allegations of “treason,” was arrested on Saturday, three days after Prime Minister Hun Sen ordered the arrest, an opposition spokesman confirmed.

“He (Hong Sok Hour) was arrested by police at 6:00 a.m. (local time) at a villa in Phnom Penh’s Sen Sok district,” opposition Cambodia National Rescue Party spokesman Ou Chanthirith told Xinhua via telephone.

A video clip posted on a

well-known Khmer website DAP News showed that the senator was escorted by heavy security forces out of a villa into a waiting police car.

Phnom Penh Municipal Police chief Chuon Sovann said that police officers would question the senator first before sending him to the court.

Hong Sok Hour, who holds both Cambodian and French citizenship, had been in hiding since Thursday after Prime Minister Hun Sen ordered police to arrest him for alleged treason over a fake treaty that the senator posted

on Facebook on Wednesday related to the Cambodia and Vietnam border.

The arrest was made even though the senator announced on Facebook late Friday that he would turn himself in to the police on Monday, Aug. 17.

Prime Minister Hun Sen, in a speech at a university graduation ceremony on Thursday, said the senator had committed a “national treason.” He also called on foreign missions in the country not to “accept this person.”

Xinhua

India wants UAE as top partner in trade, counter-terrorism

ABU DHABI, 16 Aug — Ahead of his talks with the Emirati leadership, Prime Minister Narendra Modi has said on Sunday the Gulf region is vital for India’s economic, energy and security interests and he wants to see the UAE as the foremost partner in trade and counter-terrorism.

Noting that both India and UAE have a range of common security and strategic concerns in the region, including terrorism and extremism, the Prime Minister said he is keen to foster a strategic partnership, particularly in the security, energy and investment sectors, with the fastest growing Arab economy and its visionary and pragmatic leadership.

Modi, the first Indian Prime Minister to visit UAE in 34 years, will have talks with Sheikh Mohamed bin Zayed Al Nahyan, Crown Prince of Abu Dhabi, and Sheikh Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum, the vice president and Prime Minister of UAE, a day after his arrival here.

“We have a range of common security and strategic concerns in the region, including terrorism and extremism. So India and the UAE have everything to be a top priority for each other. This is the way I look at the UAE. The Gulf region is vital for India’s economic, energy and security interests,” Modi said in an interview to Khaleej Times newspaper.

Noting that he has begun his regional engagement with the UAE which reflects the importance that he attaches to the country, Modi said he would like to see a truly comprehensive strategic partnership evolve between the two



Prime Minister Narendra Modi

countries.

“I want to see the UAE as our foremost trade and investment partner. We would build regular and effective cooperation in a full range of security challenges. Our armed forces would engage with each other more. We will work together more closely in international forums and in addressing regional challenges. There are no limits to our relationship,” Modi said.

Asserting that terrorism poses a grave danger to humanity, he said all those countries who believe in humanity, must stand together without delay as it was extremely necessary to challenge the forces of terrorism.

“As far as the Indian community is concerned, the languages that are spoken in India, are all spoken in the UAE! In a manner of speaking, the UAE is a ‘Mini India’. The way the two communities work together represents a special bond,” the Prime Minister said.

He said the Indian community was not only contributing to the progress and development of the host country, but also participating in the economic development of India through their remittances.

PTI

Manila flatters Japan’s Abe amid former comfort women’s protest

MANILA, 16 Aug — The Philippine government flattered Japan for its post-war behaviors while former Filipino wartime comfort women protested to demand justice upon the failure of Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe to offer a fresh apology for Japan’s World War II (WWII) atrocities.

Former Filipino comfort women, their children and grandchildren staged a protest in front of the Embassy of Japan in the Philippines on Friday, demanding the Japanese government’s recognition of and compensation for sexual slavery committed by Japanese aggressor troops in World War II.

Some 40 people from Lila Pilipina, an organization of former Filipino comfort women, participated in the protest. They

brought pictures of their deceased members, displayed placards reading “We were raped” or “We want justice”, and took turns telling their own stories.

In a statement released Friday to mark the 70th anniversary of the end of WWII, Abe shied away from assuming responsibility for launching the war of aggression upon other countries, saying Japan tried to “overcome its diplomatic and economic deadlock through the use of force.”

Instead of offering an unambiguous apology, Abe’s statement is rife with rhetorical twists like “maintain our position of apology.”

Instead of teaching the younger Japanese generations to draw lessons from the country’s war past, Abe said that it was unnecessary for them to keep apolo-

gizing in the future, which fully exposes his reluctance to face up to history and delivers a dangerous message to Japan’s young people.

He also failed to directly refer to the issue of “comfort women,” saying only “we will engrave in our hearts the past, when the dignity and honor of many women were severely injured during wars in the 20th century.”

Ironically, in an apparent effort to prevent any irritant between the two countries in response to Abe’s statement, the Philippine Foreign Affairs Department released a statement saying: “This 70-year history demonstrates to the world that through their relentless efforts, peoples of the two countries can attain a remarkable achievement in overcoming issues of the past and establishing strong

friendship.”

Filipino Deputy Presidential Spokesperson Abigail Valte, in an interview over a state-run radio station on Saturday, confined her comment to agreeing on Abe’s statement, saying, “we must never again repeat the devastation of war.”

She also noted that the Philippines-Japan relationship could be characterized by “trust and unfailing support in so many fields.”

Different from the government’s support for Abe’s statement, Filipino comfort women are still waiting for the peace of mind that will only come with Japan’s acknowledgment.

Rechilda Extremadura, executive of Lila Pilipina, said that the group are reiterating the urgency of recognition because the elderly fear they will not live long enough

to witness justice being served.

“Only a few of us remain to continue the fight. Many have died without the taste of justice,” said Lola Estelita, now 85 years old. Estelita was once a teenager when she was forced into wartime sexual slavery.

“After three generations, we are still fighting and demanding apology,” she said.

Extremadura also wished the Philippine government would take action on the issue instead of sitting there and doing nothing.

“Aquino has met with Prime Minister Abe on several occasions and he could have taken those opportunities to put forward the cause of comfort women,” she said.

“But he said nothing, not a single word about comfort women,” she added. —Xinhua

Sri Lanka's defeated president makes comeback bid

COLOMBO, 16 Aug — Seven months after his shock presidential defeat early this year, Sri Lanka's former President Mahinda Rajapaksa is making a determined bid to return to government as prime minister at a parliamentary election on Monday when over 15 million voters will elect the Indian Ocean republic's 16th parliament.

Rajapaksa narrowly lost the Jan. 8 presidential election to Maithripala Sirisena, who had served him as a Cabinet minister for 10 years but defected, after a presidential election had been called two years earlier than due, to run for president as the common opposition candidate.

As president, Sirisena appointed a minority government

headed by Ranil Wickremesinghe, the leader of the opposition rightist United National Party (UNP), to implement a 100-day program which included abolishing the country's powerful executive presidency before fresh parliamentary elections were called.

This was not possible in the event as Sirisena was unable to obtain the two-thirds majority needed in the legislature to push through the necessary constitutional amendment. But the powers of the president were pruned and those of the prime minister enhanced.

This is the office that Rajapaksa is trying to wrest as the candidate of the United People's Freedom Alliance (UPFA) led by the Sri Lanka Freedom Party

(SLFP) whose leadership was conferred on Sirisena after he became president.

Sirisena is determined to keep Rajapaksa, who changed the Constitution to enable him to run for a third term last January, and has a dynastic project going for his eldest son to become the country's leader, out of the prime ministry.

"I would have retired from politics after I lost the presidential election," the China-leaning Rajapaksa has told crowded election rallies. "But there is an overwhelming demand both from my party and the people that I come back."

Analysts say that the election is too close to call with most of the view that neither of the two

contending parties, the UNP and the UPFA, are likely to win 113 seats in the 225-member legislature to command an absolute majority.

Both sides have expressed confidence of victory or at least winning the most number of seats, enabling them to attract defectors and the support of smaller parties to form the government.

Since the January presidential election the minority UNP government has been offering various inducements to voters, including cheaper fuel and essentials and increased pay and pensions for government employees, with an eye on Monday's election.

Its prime ministerial candidate Wickremesinghe has re-

versed Rajapaksa's anti-western tilt in foreign policy and won friends in the west. Various corruption charges against Rajapaksa and his close family are under investigation.

But Rajapaksa, who denies these charges, continues to be popular. His campaign managers say he was defeated by a combination of opposition parties that are running at this election on their own and this will break up the vote that elected Sirisena.

They concede that minority Tamils and Muslims remain opposed to Rajapaksa. But many of them are running under their own parties instead of uniting behind Sirisena as they did at the presidential election.

Kyodo News

112 dead, 95 missing in Tianjin blasts

TIANJIN, 16 Aug — A total of 112 bodies have been found, and 95 people remained missing, including 85 firefighters, after massive warehouse explosions rocked north China's Tianjin city Wednesday night, officials said at a press conference Sunday morning.

Ten more bodies were found on Saturday night after the announcement of 104 deaths, but four mutilated remains were later confirmed as belonging to two victims, according to Gong Jiansheng, vice head of the city's publicity depart-

ment. Twenty four victims have been identified, Gong said.

The missing firefighters included 13 in active service, and 72 working for the Tianjin Port Group Co., he added.

Two huge explosions took place in a warehouse for hazardous chemicals at about 11:30 p.m. Wednesday following a fire.

A total of 722 people remained hospitalized, including 58 in critical or serious conditions, the rescue headquarters said on Saturday night.—Xinhua



Rescuers work at the explosion site in north China's Tianjin Municipality, Aug. 16, 2015. A total of 112 bodies have been found, and 95 people remained missing, including 85 firefighters, after massive warehouse explosions rocked north China's Tianjin city Wednesday night, officials said at a press conference Sunday morning.—XINHUA

Blast at Pakistani minister's home kills at least six: officials

LAHORE, (Pakistan), 16 Aug — Six people were killed and at least 20 were buried under rubble when a large blast destroyed the home of one of Pakistan's provincial ministers on Sunday, rescue officials said.

Police said the blast appeared to be a large bomb, and it had caused the roof to cave in as the home minister of Punjab province, Shuja Khanzada, held meetings with supporters in his hometown of Attock in northern Pakistan.

Punjab, Pakistan's biggest and wealthiest province, is the political heartland of Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif.

"There were between 20 and 30 people present when the blast took place," district information officer Shahzad Niaz told Reuters. "The roof collapsed."

Rescue workers at the scene said six bodies had been recovered

so far.

There was no immediate claim of responsibility. Pakistan, a nuclear-armed nation of 190 million people, is plagued by a Taliban insurgency, criminal gangs and sectarian violence.

Punjab has traditionally been more peaceful than other parts of Pakistan. Sharif's opponents have accused him of tolerating militancy in return for peace in his province, a charge he hotly denies.

Two weeks ago, Punjab police killed the leader of one of Pakistan's most feared militant groups, Lashkar-e-Jhangvi, along with his two sons, deputy, and 10 other supporters.

Police described the incident as a shootout as he sought to escape from custody, but many insiders say the shooting had the hallmarks of an extrajudicial killing.—Reuters

Indonesian plane with 54 people on board missing in remote Papua as night falls

JAKARTA, 16 Aug — An Indonesian twin-turboprop aircraft carrying 54 people lost contact with air traffic control on Sunday in the remote, forested eastern Papua region, the National Search and Rescue Agency (BASARNAS) said, with search efforts hampered by failing light as night falls.

"We can't confirm it has crashed. We can say contact has been lost with the plane," BASARNAS chief Bambang Soelystyo told Reuters by phone.

"It's a Trigana airline plane carrying 54 people including 5 crew. We are working to get more details." According to the official BASARNAS Twitter account, the aircraft, a short-haul ATR 42-300 airliner belonging to Trigana Air Service and built in France and Italy, was carrying 44 adult passengers, five crew and five children and infants.

The plane was flying between Jayapura's Sentani Airport and Oksibil, due south of Jayapura, the

capital of Papua province.

The agency's Jayapura office was coordinating the search, a separate tweet read as dusk set in the tropics. Air transport is commonly used in Papua, Indonesia's eastern-most province, where land travel is often impossible.

It was not immediately clear if search efforts would continue into the night in the densely forested mountainous region where the aircraft was traveling.

According to the Aviation Safety Network, an online database, the ATR 42-300 had its first flight 27 years ago. ATR is a joint venture between Airbus (AIR.PA) and Alenia Aermacchi, a subsidiary of Italian aerospace firm Finmeccanica (SIFI.MI).

Trigana has been on the EU blacklist of banned carriers since 2007. Airlines on the list are barred from operating in European airspace due to either concerns about its safety standards, or concerns about the regulatory environment

in its country of registration.

The airline has a fleet of 14 aircraft, according to the airfleets.com database. These include 10 ATR aircraft and four Boeing 737 classics. These have an average age of 26.6 years, according to the database. Trigana has had 14 serious incidents since it began operations in 1991, according to the Aviation Safety Network's online database. Excluding this latest incident, it has written off 10 aircraft.

Indonesia has a patchy aviation safety record and has seen two major plane crashes in the past year, including an AirAsia flight that went down in the Java Sea, killing all on board.

That crash prompted the government to introduce regulations aimed at improving safety.

Indonesia's president promised a review of the aging air force fleet in July after a military transport plane crashed in the north of the country, killing more than 100 people.—Reuters

Trump says he'd deport undocumented immigrants as U.S. president

WASHINGTON, 16 Aug — Republican presidential contender Donald Trump would deport all undocumented immigrants and rescind U.S. President Barack Obama's executive orders on immigration if he is elected to the White House, he said in an interview with NBC News that will air on Sunday.

"We're going to keep

the families together, but they have to go," Trump told NBC's "Meet the Press," according to an excerpt released on Saturday.

Asked by host Chuck Todd about illegal immigrants who might have nowhere else to go, Trump said: "We will work with them.

"They have to go ... we either have a country, or we

don't have a country," he added.

Trump, 69, also said in the interview he would need to rescind Obama's executive orders on immigration, including one that protects from deportation the children of parents who came to the country illegally.

The real estate mogul and television personality, who has rocketed to the top

of opinion polls among the 17 Republican contenders, has aroused controversy with his provocative comments on illegal immigration, including describing some undocumented migrants from Mexico as criminals and rapists.

There are an estimated 11 million illegal immigrants in the United States.

Reuters

Biden calls Chattanooga shooter a 'perverted jihadist' during memorial



U.S. Vice President Joe Biden

CHATTANOOGA, (Tennessee), 16 Aug — Vice President Joe Biden on Saturday called the man who fatally shot four U.S. Marines and a Navy sailor a "perverted jihadist" during a eulogy for the servicemen at a memorial in Chattanooga, Tennessee.

Biden told a packed arena that the ideology that drove Mohammad Youssuf Abdulazeez, a 24-year-old engineer, to go on a rampage at two local military facilities was no match for national character.

"When this perverted jihadist struck, everyone responded," Biden said. "We have a message for those perverted cowards around the world. America never yields, never bends, never cowers and never stands down."

Abdulazeez sprayed gunfire at a military recruiting center in a strip mall in Chattanooga, then drove to a nearby Naval Reserve Center, where he killed four Marines before he was shot to death on July 16, according to authorities.

Investigators have been

trying to establish whether Abdulazeez, a Kuwaiti-born naturalized U.S. citizen, was part of an organization or a "lone wolf" militant.

The Marine Corps identified the four slain Marines as Gunnery Sergeant Thomas Sullivan of Hampton, Massachusetts, Staff Sergeant David Wyatt of Burke, North Carolina, Sergeant Carson Holmquist of Polk, Wisconsin, and reservist Lance Corporal Squire Wells of Cobb, Georgia. Navy Petty Officer 2nd Class Randall Smith of Paulding, Ohio, also died in the shooting.

Biden described them as heroes and as "men of honor, men of faith, men of determination" who "had a sense of duty ... a sense of commitment." He said the servicemen typified the 4.2 million young people who joined the U.S. military forces after the Sept. 11, 2001, attacks on America.

"They were part of the remarkable 9/11 generation," he said. "The finest generation of warriors the world has ever known."

Reuters

Cuba's top diplomat for U.S. sees long road to normal ties

HAVANA, 16 Aug — Josefina Vidal receives a check from the United States for \$4,085 once a year, rent money for the U.S. naval base at Cuba's Guantanamo Bay.

But Cuba's government refuses to cash the checks, made out to a non-existent Treasurer, because it sees the U.S. occupation of Guantanamo as illegal.

Former leader Fidel Castro used to stuff them into a drawer and Vidal says they are now stored in archives "like a historical document," a symbol of the bitterness between the two countries for over half a century.

"I receive them personally, year after year," Vidal, the director of U.S. affairs for Cuba's foreign ministry and its lead negotiator in bilateral talks with Washington, told Reuters in an exclusive interview. "We have a collection."

With the two countries

now putting aside their Cold War-era rivalry and restoring diplomatic relations, many old bilateral conflicts are now being pulled out of storage for negotiation.

Both sides see a chance for quick progress on some relatively simple issues, possibly including a civil aviation deal, but others will take years and they may never reach an agreement.

On one side, Cuba wants back the 45 square miles (116 square km) of land at Guantanamo Bay in eastern Cuba.

It also wants an end to the U.S. economic embargo, no more radio and television signals with anti-communist programming beamed into Cuba, and a halt to U.S.-financed "democracy programs" that Cuba says are aimed at toppling the government.

U.S. President Barack Obama's administration says Guantanamo is not up for discussion, and its goal of



Josefina Vidal, director of U.S. affairs at the Cuban foreign ministry, talks to Reuters during an interview in Havana August 14, 2015.—REUTERS

lifting the embargo faces strong opposition inside a Republican-controlled Congress.

Washington will also press Cuba on issues of human rights, democracy and other personal freedoms.

Secretary of State John Kerry called on Friday for "genuine democracy" in Cuba and the United States wants the extradition of some U.S. fugitives living

on the island. What the United States frames as human rights, Cuba sees as internal security, and it insists it will only make political changes according to its own needs. It also says it cannot hand over fugitives who have been granted asylum.

Vidal recognizes the difficulties ahead but says Cuba is willing to tackle all the issues, no matter how hard.—Reuters

Canadian optometrist creates high-powered bionic lens to correct sights

VANCOUVER, 16 Aug — A Canadian optometrist and inventor has said he was on the brink of producing and marketing a bionic lens that could eliminate the need for laser eye surgery, contact lenses or eyeglasses within five years.

Dr. Garth Webb, an optometrist at the Ocumetix Technology Corp. in Abbotsford, a city about 100 km east of Vancouver,

has created the Ocumetix Bionic Lens. The device could boost a person's sight to three times better than the standard 20/20 vision "even at age of 100".

"It was initially designed to assist people with cataracts, who needed to have their lenses replaced. But we've refined the design and function of the lens so well that it appears to be a very desirable prod-

uct for anyone who is dependent upon eyeglasses," Webb said in a recent interview with Xinhua.

He said the surgery, which would take about eight minutes and correct sights immediately, would be painless and is similar to cataract surgery. It will only be available to people over 25, since eye structures aren't fully formed until that age.

Webb also noted that the bionic lens would last for life and never decay like our natural lenses and would never require surgical upgrades.

Webb and his team have spent the last eight years and about three million Canadian dollars (2.3 million U.S. dollars) researching and developing the bionic lens. He has been arranging internation-

al patents and setting up a manufacturing facility near Vancouver.

Webb said they are now ready to start the formalized clinical trials. "So we're right at the precipice of being able to put these into human eyes."

Once approved and in production, the bionic lens surgery would cost roughly the same as laser eye surgery of today.

The lens could be available in Canada, U.S., Asia and Europe within a few years, some within five years, Webb said.

"We believe that China and Asian countries are going to have first access to the product. They appear to be willing to shorten their approval process because of the huge demand in those countries," Webb said.—Xinhua

French policeman wounded by gunshot near Paris

PARIS, 16 Aug — A French policeman was slightly wounded by a gunshot on Sunday as he tried to apprehend two men who had broken into an Interior Ministry building just outside Paris, a ministry spokesman said.

The circumstance are not clear yet but the most likely hypothesis is a burglary, spokesman Pierre-Henry Brandet said.

Security has been tight in Paris since 17 people were

killed in January by Islamist gunmen in attacks on the Charlie Hebdo newspaper and a Jewish shop.

The policeman came upon the two men early in the morning as he was checking on the building in Pantin, northeast of Paris, that included a ministry garage where police cars are parked.

His gun was stolen from him, the spokesman said.

"There was a gun shot, the officer was slightly injured,

he is hospitalized," he said.

It was not yet clear why or how the two men had broken into the building or if they were specifically targeting police cars, he said. There is also a police practice shooting stand on the premises, with a small gun room.

The Defense Ministry announced last month plans to reinforce security at its military facilities after a theft of explosives.—Reuters

WORLD

Iraq's Abadi orders commanders to face trial over Ramadi withdrawal



Iraqi Prime Minister Haider al-Abadi walks to a meeting with the Senate leadership at the U.S. Capitol in Washington April 15, 2015. REUTERS

BAGHDAD, 16 Aug — Iraqi Prime Minister Haider al-Abadi approved on Sunday an investigative council's decision to refer military commanders to a court martial for abandoning their positions in the battle against Islamic State militants in Ramadi.

The announcement came as Abadi pushes ahead with a sweeping reform campaign aimed at combating corruption and mismanagement in the biggest shake-up in the governing system since the U.S. military occupation. Ramadi, the capital of western Anbar province, fell to Islamic State militants in May, dampening Baghdad's hopes of quickly routing them from the country's north and west following earlier victories in eastern provinces. The army's collapse in June 2014 in the face of Islamic State's takeover of the northern city of Mosul left the Baghdad government dependent on Shi'ite Muslim militias, many funded and assisted by neighbouring Iran, to defend the capital and recapture lost ground. Critics blamed the military's weakness on sectarian splits, corruption and politics.

The fall of Ramadi nearly a year later undermined Abadi's policy of keeping the militias on the sidelines in Anbar, the Sunni heartland, for fear of inflaming sectarian tensions. The militias are now fighting alongside the security forces in many places.—Reuters

Libya's government urges Arab air strikes against Islamic State in Sirte

BENGAZI, (Libya), 16 Aug — Libya's internationally recognised government has asked fellow Arab states to conduct air strikes against Islamic State in the coastal city of Sirte, a cabinet statement said on Saturday.

In the past few days, Islamic State has crushed a revolt by a Salafist Muslim group and armed residents trying to break its grip on the city. Dozens of people have been killed, according to residents.

The fighting typifies chaos in Libya, where two rival governments and parliaments, together with an assortment of Islamists, tribesmen and armed groups, are battling for control of cities and regions, four years after the ousting of veteran leader Muammar Gaddafi.

"Libya's temporary government urges... the Arab brother states... to conduct air strikes against positions of the Daesh terrorist group in Sirte," a cabinet statement said.

Daesh is an acronym for Islamic State, which has exploited a security vacuum to expand in Libya as it did in Syria and Iraq.

The official government has been based in eastern Libya since losing control of the capital Tripoli a year ago to a rival group, which set up its own

administration. Neither government has control of Sirte, Gaddafi's hometown.

Both governments have conducted air strikes against Islamic State in Sirte in recent days but their capabilities are very limited, relying on outdated warplanes and helicopters from the Gaddafi era

and lacking precision guns.

It was not clear how Arab states would respond. An Arab coalition led by Saudi Arabia launched air strikes in Yemen in late March in an effort to stop the Iran-allied Houth movement spreading across the country from the north.—Reuters



Libya Dawn fighters fire an artillery cannon at IS militants near Sirte March 19, 2015. REUTERS

Syrians begin boarding refugee ship on Greek island

Kos, (Greece), 16 Aug — Hundreds of Syrian migrants on the Greek island of Kos on Sunday began boarding a passenger ship that is to house and process them, in a bid to ease sometimes chaotic conditions onshore.

Greek officials had delayed the embarkation at the quayside in Kos for more than a day, working on plans to avoid disorder among the increasingly desperate migrants who have arrived on the island in dinghies and small boats from nearby Turkey.

The boarding of the car ferry Eleftherios Venizelos, which arrived in Kos on

Friday, began in the cooler night hours in an organised and orderly fashion.

After some minor disagreements among the migrants over who would go first, they queued up on the quayside and boarded in groups of 20.

The ship, chartered by the Greek government, is to provide accommodation for around 2,500 Syrians in its cabins and an area for processing paperwork.

As the Syrians are fleeing their country's civil war, they are treated as refugees. This gives them greater rights under international law than those from other coun-

tries regarded as economic migrants who have also crossed the narrow sea channel separating Kos from the Turkish coast.

Nearly a quarter of a million migrants have crossed the Mediterranean to Europe this year, according to the International Organisation for Migration. About half have come to the Greek islands, with numbers surging in the summer when calmer weather makes the voyage marginally less risky.

The Greek government chartered the vessel - which belongs to a company which ships tourists, cars and trucks to the Greek islands and across the Adriatic to Italy - to take some of the pressure off Kos.

Several thousand migrants are staying in hotels on the island if they can afford it, but more often sleep in tents, abandoned buildings or in the open.

On Saturday, about 50 migrants from Afghanistan, Pakistan and Iran fought each other outside the island's main police station, throwing stones and exchanging blows as tempers boiled over in the intense mid-summer heat. They have little chance of getting aboard the ship as they have not established themselves as refugees like the Syrians, who have priority.

On Tuesday, local police used fire extinguishers and batons against migrants after violence broke out in a sports stadium where hundreds of people, including young children, were waiting for immigration papers. About 40 riot police were subsequently sent to the island to keep order.

Reuters

4 killed in clashes between Turkish troops, PKK

ANKARA, 16 Aug — One soldier of the Turkish security forces and three members of the banned Kurdish Workers' Party (PKK) were killed and two soldiers wounded in clashes in northeastern Turkey on Sunday, local Hurriyet reported.

The clashes erupted when the security forces were staging a military operation in Kars province, according to the report.

The wounded were sent to hospital for medical treatment, the report said, adding that the Turkish security forces had launched a large-scale military operation against the PKK militants in the region.

On Saturday, one Turkish soldier was killed in clashes between the Turkish security forces and the PKK militants in Semdinli town of Hakkari province in southeastern Turkey, private Dogan news agency reported.

Tensions between Turkish security forces and the PKK are increasing following a tumultuous week which began with an Islamic State (IS) suicide bombing on July 20 killing 32 individuals and injuring 104 activists in the town of Suruc in the Sanliurfa province bordering Syria.

According to a statement by the Turkish prime minister's office, Turkish security forces have detained over 1,300 individuals with suspected ties to IS, PKK and leftist groups, whilst the military unleashed several rounds of air strikes on PKK posts in northern Iraq.—Reuters



Syrian refugees line up before boarding the passenger ship 'Eleftherios Venizelos' at the port on the Greek island of Kos, August 15, 2015.—REUTERS

PERSPECTIVES

Monday, 17 August, 2015

The regeneration of livelihoods in post-disaster recovery planning is key priority

By *Kyaw Thura*

Weeks of heavy monsoon rains in late July and early August brought major flooding to Myanmar, cutting a great swathe of destruction across 11 of 14 regions, flooding hundreds of thousands of acres of farmlands and claiming many lives of people and farm animals.

Most people blamed poor early warning sys-

tems for the devastating effects the flood water had on its way through. The people in affected areas were forced to flee to higher land, leaving behind their belongings.

It is still difficult for flood victims in the affected areas to restore their livelihoods, and as a result they are still living on relief supplies contributed by local and international aid agencies and philanthropic organizations.

What matters most to the government is to exercise its management muscle in bringing together local and international experts to perform recovery efforts in a more coordinated way. Now that the flood waters have receded in most inundated areas, farmers are reported to have resumed working the land with the government providing necessary assistance.

One thing for sure is that these farmers will in

no way be able to repay their agricultural loans as their harvests have been lost in the disaster. Now is the time for the government to show its magnanimity to those who have suffered huge losses in the recent unprecedented floods. Suspend their debts if not pardon them. Nothing is more important to them than to recover and rebuild their lives so as to return to normal.

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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.

Kaba Aye: Past and Present

Dr. Saw Mra Aung

Kaba Aye is not the name of a town but that of a considerably large area comprised of two residential quarters and some public places lying in the eastern part of Mayangon Township, Yangon Region. I am not sure whether it be an official term or a generic one. But, to my knowledge, it is so called after the Kaba Aye Ceti (World Peace Pagoda) standing on Sirimangala Hill occupying part of its western territory. It would be difficult to demarcate its clear-cut boundary. But it is generally accepted by locals that it extends as far south as the Chawdwingon Junction, as far north as Nawadei Junction, as far west as the western enclosure-wall of the Kaba Aye Pagoda's precinct and as far east as Vejayanta Road linking North Ukkalapa and South Ukkalapa Townships. Kaba Aye Pagoda Road running from the north to the south divides it in half- the Kaba Aye Pagoda's precinct, the Jade Emporium, the Office of the Ministry of Religious Affairs and the Head Office of the Meteorology and Hydrology Department being on the west and the two residential quarters on the east.

Kaba Aye is known particularly for the two sacred hills-Sirimangala Hill, which accommodates the State Pariyatti Sasana University, the Maha Passana Cave, the Kaba Aye Pagoda, the Office of the Ministry of Religious affairs, etc and Dhammapala Hill,

which accommodates the Buddha's Tooth-Relic Pagoda, the International Theravada Buddhist Missionary University, the Kalaywa Tawya Monastery, etc. The two residential quarters fall between the Kaba Aye Pagoda Road and Vejayanta Road which run parallel to each other. These two main roads are connected by Gandhama Road running from the east to the west. Mya-sa-bei Street, which runs parallel to the Gyo-pyu water pipe line laid along the city-circular rail-way and Vejayanta Road, links the bridge into North Ukkalapa Township with Parami Road running east-west.

I do not know exactly when Kaba Aye came into existence. It is, however, heard that before the First World War, the Naga Hlaingu Pagoda (near the former psychiatric hospital) on Dhammapala Hill was excavated and some Buddha images going as far back as the 5th century A.D and some ancient house-hold utensils were unearthed and that archaeologists, therefore, on the evidence of those findings assumed this area as the site of a very old city, probably that of Ukkalapa City founded by King Ukkalapa some two thousand years ago. Though it is an oral tradition, I never try to fabricate any excuse to fulminate against it. The Melahmun Buddha Image built in memory of Queen Melahmun, mother of King Ukkalapa, is not too far from this site, this suggesting the truth of this traditional claim. Anyhow, it might be the oldest in

Kaba Aye. Some elders who were born and bred in Kaba Aye interviewed by me replied that before the Sixth Buddhist Synod held in 1954, the whole Sirimangala Hill was densely clad in rubber and Mayan (Bouea burmanica) trees. At that time, apart from residences of a few British officers and well-off Indian merchants, all were wrapped in large rubber and Mayan trees intermingling with creepers, bushes and tall grasses. After the Sixth Buddhist Synod, the Kaba Aye Pagoda and other religious structures were built to commemorate this epoch-making event. It is said that some of the workers who contributed their physical labour to the construction of the religious buildings were the villagers who inhabited the neighbouring villages such as Yegu Ywama, Ywadan Shay, Tadagyi, Tadalay, Kanbe, Zwesone and Chawdwingon which had existed long before the Second World War and that some did not return to their native villages but settled down around the Kaba Aye Pagoda's precincts even after the completion of their construction works. The Yegu Ywama Monastery and the Zwesone Monastery which have existed so far were built no less than 100 years ago. The Yegu Water Pumping Station which has been running up to today was built by the British Government in the early 1920s. It is also said that as the Kaba Aye Pagoda was built in the site of the residence of a post-office

officer which had existed since the colonial period, one of the two bus-stops in front of the precinct of the Kaba Aye Pagoda was called "The Post-office Bus Stop (Sartaik Hmat Taing)". When South Ukkalapa and North Ukkalapa were founded in the late 1950s during the times of the Caretaker Government, the area what is today Kaba Aye became a stop-over between the new towns. Due to easier accessibility, more people migrated into this area. Thus might Kaba Aye have come into being since.

I moved to Kaba Aye some 15 years ago. When my family started to settle in Kaba Aye, it was then a sparsely populated area. Traffic along Kaba Aye Pagoda Road in those days was not as half heavy as that of today. Apart from the buses on their regular lines, others came few and far between. As evening set in, Gandhama Road used to empty of pedestrians and vehicles. So pedestrians often fell prey to hooligans or looters who were awaiting the chance to do their unscrupulous trades. The intersection of the Gandhama Road and the circular rail-way was said to be haunted at night. So let alone the chicken-hearted people, the brave ones avoided passing by it during the small hours. In the afternoon, the Kaba Aye Pagoda's precinct was green and pleasant with leafy trees, under which could be found astrologers all dressed in white or in Yogi colour (dark brown) wearing some strings of beads

This Crazy English

We'll begin with a box, and the plural is boxes,
But the plural of ox is oxen, not oxes;

One fowl is a goose, while two are called geese,
Yet the plural of mouse is never called meese!

You may find a single mouse or a whole set of mice,
But mind you, the plural of house is houses, not hice.

If the plural of man is always called men,
Then why shouldn't the plural of pan be called pen?

If I speak of a foot and you show me your feet,
And I give you a boot, would a pair be called beet?

If one is a tooth and a whole set are teeth,
Why should not the plural of booth be called beeth?

Then, one may be that, and three may be those,
But hat in the plural would never be hose;
And the plural of cat is cats, not cose.

We speak of a brother and also of brethren,
But though we say mother, we never say methren,

Then the masculine pronouns are he, his and him,
But imagine the feminine—she, shis and shin,

So English, I am sure you all will agree,
Is the funniest language you never did see.

(The stanzas are sent by our elder sister
Ma Than Htay.- Ed)

around their neck or counting the beads of the strings in their hands, sometimes reciting a certain Pali verse and sometimes doing their astrological calculation with the air of authority. Their regular customers were couples of lovers who came to their quiet rendezvous in the pagoda precinct. In their presence were sometimes seen anxious-looking lovers who wanted to know their fate in store sitting breathless in anticipation. The two big lakes behind the State Pariyatti Sasana University were full of clear water to their brim with their bunds shaded by many leafy trees

growing on them. Melancholy calls of cuckoos wafting from the tall trees atop on the summery afternoons and flapping sounds of the wings of various birds were common to the visitors. It would seem to them as if they were in wilderness. One storey-brick buildings with a small garden covered with multi-coloured flowers in front, built to accommodate Sayadaws and professors from the university, on the other side of the lakes took on a fantastic view. When the New Year Day fell, the people from different parts of Yangon (See page 9)

NATIONAL

Artists donate works for flood relief effort

By Khaing Thanda Lwin

YANGON, 16 Aug — Local artists are staging an exhibition at Yangon Gallery to raise funds for flood-affected families, donating more than 80 works for the event.

The exhibition, entitled “Save & Save”, features 39 artists and will run until 17

August, artist and organizer PannKyi said Saturday. Subject matters include traditional arts and culture, still life, landscapes and ethnic nationalities of Myanmar. “Before the opening day of the event, we sold more than 10 paintings,” PannKyi told *The Global New Light of Myanmar*.

He added all works

are available for sale at the gallery with prices ranging from US\$150 to \$2,000 but the collectors will receive a 30 percent discount, with 100 percent of net proceeds going to flood relief.

The Yangon Gallery is situated within the compound of People’s Park near the Planetarium Museum on Alon Road.—GNLM



China donates 100 lifeboats to Yangon Region

YANGON, 16 Aug— Chinese Ambassador to Myanmar Mr. Hong Liang handed over 100 lifeboats donated by the People’s Republic of China to Yangon Region Minister for Transport U Aung Khin on Saturday.

The rescue work committee is making arrangements for rapid distribution of 100 lifeboats to flood-affected areas across the nation.

The lifeboats installed with China-made petroleum engines arrived at Yangon International Airport on Saturday. The 10-person-capacity lifeboats can be used in search and rescue works.

MNA

Domestic airlines help transport relief supplies to disaster-hit regions

NAY PYI TAW, 16 Aug — Myanmar National Airlines and Kanbawza Airlines on Sunday transported relief supplies to Kalay Airport in Sagaing Region.

The relief aid covers clothes, rice, medicines, footwear, robes for monks, food, tarpaulin and household utensils. The Ministry of Transport has sent relief items donated by well-wishers through domestic airlines to flood-affected regions.—MNA



Kaba Aye: Past and Present

(from page 8)

thronged to these lakes with pomp and ceremony to free live fish. Therefore, they were known to people as the Nga-hlwuk-kan (Lakes where fishes are set free). There was still a sanctuary in it with some rare animals like deer, rabbits, etc. There was a regular ferry line between the Kaba Aye Pagoda and the Buddha Tooth’s Relic Pagoda for the pilgrims. Dyna and Hilux cars packed with the pilgrims including monks and lay men and women, especially from the country-side, plying along the part of Kaba Aye Pagoda Road, was a common sight in those days. The Kaba Aye Pagoda was the most crowded when the occasion of the Tabaung Pagoda Festival came on. Theatrical shows (Pwe) and feats of Chinlon staged on the three festive nights drew a large number of spectators. Rows of food-stalls were inundated with pwe-goers. The songs sung by male and female theatrical performers with the accompaniment of melodious sounds of drums and cymbals pierced into the stillness of the night. This did not annoy any of the inhabitants of Kaba Aye at all. Instead, they were active and agog with the celebratory mood.

Every morning, I strolled along the Vejayanta Road and Gandhama Road. Endless green water-cress plantations were still thriving lushly on the western side of the Vejayanta Road and on the right side of the Gandhama Road passing through the Ukkalapa Golf course and the Yegu

Broadcasting Station. I took physical exercises at a certain spot on the side of Gandhama Road across the Ukkalapa Golf Course from where I could see the Kaba Aye Pagoda, the Buddha Tooth-relic Pagoda, the micro-wave tower from the head-office of the Meteorology and Hydrology and a few high-rise buildings silhouetted against the sky-line of Mayangon and North Ukkalapa Townships. Gandhama Road on whose side I took physical exercises was hemmed in by Padauk (Pitrocarpus macrocarpus), Kukko (Albizia lebbek), Ngu (Cassia fistula), Yetamar (Cedrela febrifuga), Neem (Azadirachta indica), Banyan (Ficus obtusifolia), Sein-pan (Poinciana regia), Khamaung (Strychnos) and some fast-growing trees of unknown species covered with small violet flowers. Under my very nose across a stretch of water-cress was the vast compound of the Yegu Broadcasting Station fenced with low brick-walls, covering some hundred acres. Herons were standing with their tall legs above the water-cress eyeing the fish coming up to the water-surface. Sparrows were chirping away. Crows were cawing. Doves were murmuring. Mynas were making noises. Cool morning breeze was fanning. I felt as if I were enfolded in nature. My taking exercises breathing fresh air coming uninterrupted across the vast, green compound of the Yegu Broadcasting Station dotted with shrubs and enjoying the beauty of the trees of diverse species standing indi-

vidually or in groves enhanced my love for nature and aroused the sense of readiness to start a new day with renewed energy. Early every night, I used to sit at a pickled-tea leaf salad stall by the side of the Kaba Aye Pagoda Road just opposite the Head-office of Meteorology and Hydrology near the Nawadei Junction, sometimes alone and sometimes with my youngest sister. With the exception of the buses running on the regular lines, a few cars shot at a high speed now and then, with the noises of their engines dying away into the distance. In no time, silence reigned again. Enjoying the beauty and serenity of the road snaking in the neon light shed by the road-side lamp-posts and breathing the soft waft of cool night zephyr, I sat in the reflective mood at the stall late into the night. All in all, the people of Kaba Aye in those days, like me, could live in harmony with nature.

Over one and a half decades, considerable changes have taken place in Kaba Aye under my eyes. I am aware that changes became quicker during the office of the Union Government. The land price in Kaba Aye is sky-rocketing; Well-off business-men bought the houses of poor locals for the price higher than they had expected; their shabby houses were pulled down and high-rise buildings constructed. The Parami Private Hospital near the Chawdwingon Junction, the Gamon Pwint Supermarket on the Kaba Aye Pagoda Road across the Kaba Aye Pagoda’s Precinct, the Gandhama Supermarket at the junction of the Gandhama

Road and Yejayanta Road, the Jambusiri Sasana Beikman at Nawadei Junction, Myawadi Private Bank on Vejayanta Road and some car-showrooms and some 24-hour mini-markets on Kaba Aye Pagoda Road have appeared recently. After the Storm Nargis, most of large age-old trees in Kaba Aye were uprooted, especially those growing in the Kaba Aye Pagoda’s precinct. Road-side astrologers are no longer seen under the trees inside the precinct. To my disappointment, the water-level of the two large lakes behind the State Pariyatti Sasana University is being lower with the bunds dotted with heaps of rubbish sending forth bad smell and the water in the lake contaminated due to the rubbish thrown into it. For the better part of the day-time, Kaba Aye Road and Gandhama Road are full of endless streams of the vehicles of different sizes, shapes and types. Very recently, an over-pass linking the pavement in front of the Kaba Aye Pagoda’s precinct with the car-parking in front of the Gamon Pwint Supermarket has been built. Some well-off locals rented their houses out to entrepreneurs, local and foreign. They are running garment and rubber factories day and night in the highly-fenced compounds of the rented houses, degrading the environmental qualities of the quarters, increasing the risk of fires and making a lot of noises. The areas of water-cress plantations on the side of the Vejayanta Road and Gandhama Road are dwindling, some plantations turned into patches of land fenced by brick-walls. High-rise buildings, some

completed and some still under construction, are mushrooming on the Kaba Aye Pagoda Road.

Above all, during the time of the Union Government, Kaba Aye has become endowed with some characteristics of a city. Consequently, people from it have easier access to health-services and shopping-centres. More job-opportunities arise for its locals due to the increase in the number of commercial, health, transportation, social, educational facilities. Some roads are widened, some streets paved with concrete slabs and drainages repaired. However, green areas are shrinking and the number of houses increasing, with population density higher. With no large trees after the storm Nargis, it becomes hotter than before. I also notice that some high-rise buildings under construction on Kaba Aye Pagoda Road may be higher than the pinnacle of the Kaba Aye Pagoda when completed, causing a sacrilege. The contractors of these buildings should also ensure that they have sufficient space for car-parking and that the aquifers under the buildings not be exhausted due to the excessive use of underground water by those who are to live there. Mayangon Town was awarded the prize of being the most hygienic and cleanest out the towns lying in the boundary of the Yangon City Development Committee last year. This may be due partly to the cleanliness and greenness of Kaba Aye. At any cost, it is hoped by the author that Yangon city planners will continue to keep the existing ecological condition of Kaba Aye in the years to come.

Conjoined twins successfully separated in Colombia

BOGOTA, 16 Aug — Doctors at a private hospital in Colombia successfully separated two conjoined twins on Saturday.

The two boys were joined at abdomens but were successfully separated after a procedure lasting six hours at the San Vicente Foundation hospital in the northern city of Medellin.

Dr. Juan Pablo Guerrero, director of the pediatric hospital, announced that the two boys were in stable condition and recuperating in the intensive care unit.

The babies were born in the northeastern department of Choco a week ago and were brought to Medellin on Friday for surgery.—Xinhua

Japan Post, 2 units likely to debut on Tokyo bourse in Nov.

TOKYO, 16 Aug — State-owned Japan Post Holdings Co. and its two financial units will likely receive listing approval from the Tokyo Stock Exchange in early September and debut on the bourse in November, sources close to the matter said Friday.

The likely date of listing is Nov. 4, the sources said. Japan Post, Japan Post

Bank Co. and Japan Post Insurance Co. filed for listing on the bourse on June 30.

The listings will be the final stage of the privatization of Japan's postal system, which began under a reform law enacted in 2005 under the administration of then Prime Minister Junichiro Koizumi.

Kyodo News

FDA approves use of opioid painkiller in 11-16 year olds



A view shows the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) headquarters in Silver Spring, Maryland August 14, 2012.—REUTERS

WASHINGTON, 16 Aug — The U.S. Food and Drug Administration has approved the use of opioid painkiller OxyContin in patients aged 11 to 16

who have not benefited enough from alternatives.

The long-acting drug already treats adults suffering from around-the-clock pain, and has been refor-

mulated over the years to combat rising prescription drug abuse in the United States.

Unlike adults, doctors are to prescribe the medi-

cine only for children who can already tolerate a minimum dose of 20 milligrams of oxycodone, the active drug ingredient in OxyContin.

The warnings and precautions for pediatric patients are the same as those for adults, the agency said on its website on Thursday.

OxyContin maker Purdue Pharma LP, which had been asked by the FDA to evaluate the drug's use in children, will also conduct post-marketing studies.

The duragesic patch, which releases fentanyl, is the other long-acting opioid option for pediatric pain management.

The original formulation of OxyContin, which was first approved nearly two decades ago, was withdrawn due to its potential for abuse.

Reuters

Malaysia will not adopt fixed exchange rate: Second Finance Minister



A man exchanges Malaysian Ringgit at a money changer in Singapore's Raffles Place on Aug 14, 2015. Singapore dollar hits a new height at an exchange rate of 1 Singapore Dollar for 2.9 Malaysian Ringgit on Friday.—XINHUA

BEIJING, 16 Aug — Malaysian government has no intention to adopt a fixed exchange rate though ringgit has reached a historically low against the U.S. dollar, according to Malaysia's Second Finance Minister Ahmad Husni

Mohamad Hanadzlah.

The minister said late that the government predicts that ringgit will gradually be stable because the underlying fundamentals of Malaysia's economy remain sound.

Singapore dollar and Indonesia rupiah have also

been facing the challenges of devaluation, he said.

He stressed that the public should take a positive attitude towards the hardship the country is facing in economic development.

Xinhua

Sierra Leone lifts last major Ebola quarantine as cases recede

MASSSESSEBEH, (Sierra Leone), 16 Aug — Sierra Leone lifted its last major Ebola quarantine on Friday as President Ernest Bai Koroma expressed confidence that the country would soon be free of the virus.

The more than 500 residents of the northern village of Massessebeh gathered in the streets, singing and waving palm branches, after Koroma cut a piece of tape used as a cordon.

"I am sure within August we will start counting the first 21 days of zero (new cases)," said Koroma, referring to the incubation period of the virus. "I believe we cannot go back, we can only go forward."

Sierra Leone now has just two confirmed Ebola patients, he added.

The 18-month epidemic has killed more than

11,200 people in West Africa but case numbers have fallen sharply, with just one reported in Sierra Leone and two in Guinea last week.

Neighboring Liberia, which has the highest death toll from the epidemic, has no current cases.

Ya Amie Koroma, 85, no relation to the president, stood in front of her house and danced to celebrate the end of the three-week quarantine.

"All I want now is to see my great-grandchild," she said. The baby was born in a health facility outside the village.

Other Massessebeh residents say the quarantine period, imposed after just one resident died from the virus, has been gruelling despite daily provisions of food and water by the

United Nations children's agency UNICEF.

Ramatu Sankoh, 20, is one of three women who had to give birth in isolation during the quarantine.

"I did not feel good living under quarantine because I was pregnant and my husband, who would normally go out to fend for us, could no longer do so because of the restrictions," she told Reuters, clutching her newborn baby.

A 14-year-old girl, Emma Kamara, said she had not seen her parents for weeks, since they were out working at a mine when the quarantine was enforced.

Small communities of a few dozen people remain under quarantine in other parts of the northern Tonkolili district and in Sierra Leone's capital Freetown.

Reuters

Lock-up shares worth 45 bln yuan to become tradable

BEIJING, 16 Aug — Lock-up shares worth around 45 billion yuan (7 billion U.S. dollars) will become eligible for trade on China's stock market next week.

About 2.31 billion shares from 29 companies will become tradable on the Shanghai and Shenzhen bourses, data from Southwest Securities showed. The volume was down

from 55 billion yuan of shares unlocked this week.

Under China's market rules, major shareholders of non-tradable stocks are subject to one or two years of lock-up before they are

permitted to trade.

Beijing Urban Construction Investment and Development Co. will see non-tradable shares worth around 8.46 billion yuan become tradable on the

Shanghai Stock Exchange on Aug. 20, the largest amount to hit the market.

Chinese shares showed signs of improvement on Friday after the central bank's reassurance that the

yuan would not face long-term depreciation. The benchmark Shanghai Composite Index edged up 0.28 percent to close at 3,965.34 points.

Xinhua

Russian antivirus firm faked malware to harm rivals

SAN FRANCISCO, 16 Aug — Beginning more than a decade ago, one of the largest security companies in the world, Moscow-based Kaspersky Lab, tried to damage rivals in the marketplace by tricking their antivirus software programs into classifying benign files as malicious, according to two former employees.

They said the secret campaign targeted Microsoft Corp, AVG Technologies NV, Avast Software and other rivals, fooling some of them into deleting or disabling important files on their customers' PCs.

Some of the attacks were ordered by Kaspersky Lab's co-founder, Eugene Kaspersky, in part to retaliate against smaller rivals that he felt were aping his software instead of developing their own technology, they said.

"Eugene considered this stealing," said one of the former employees. Both sources requested anonymity and said they were among a small group of people who knew about the operation.

Kaspersky Lab strongly denied that it had tricked competitors into categorizing clean files as malicious, so-called false positives.

"Our company has never conducted

any secret campaign to trick competitors into generating false positives to damage their market standing," Kaspersky said in a statement to Reuters. "Such actions are unethical, dishonest and their legality is at least questionable."

Executives at Microsoft, AVG and Avast previously told Reuters that unknown parties had tried to induce false positives in recent years. When contacted this week, they had no comment on the allegation that Kaspersky Lab had targeted them.

The Russian company is one of the most popular antivirus software makers, boasting 400 million users and 270,000 corporate clients. Kaspersky has won wide respect in the industry for its research on sophisticated Western spying programs and the Stuxnet computer worm that sabotaged Iran's nuclear program in 2009 and 2010.

The two former Kaspersky Lab employees said the desire to build market share also factored into Kaspersky's selection of competitors to sabotage.

"It was decided to provide some problems" for rivals, said one ex-employee. "It is not only damaging for a competing com-



An employee works near screens in the virus lab at the headquarters of Russian cyber security company Kaspersky Labs in Moscow July 29, 2013. REUTERS

pany but also damaging for users' computers."

The former Kaspersky employees said company researchers were assigned to work for weeks or months at a time on the sabotage projects.

Their chief task was to reverse-engineer competitors' virus detection software to figure out how to fool them into flagging good files as malicious, the former employees said.

The opportunity for such trickery has increased over the past decade and a half as the soaring number of harmful computer programs have prompted security companies to share more information with each other, industry experts said. They licensed each other's virus-detection engines, swapped samples of malware, and sent suspicious files to third-party aggregators such as Google Inc's VirusTotal.

By sharing all this data, security companies could more quickly identify new viruses and other malicious content. But

the collaboration also allowed companies to borrow heavily from each other's work instead of finding bad files on their own.

Kaspersky Lab in 2010 complained openly about copycats, calling for greater respect for intellectual property as data-sharing became more prevalent.

In an effort to prove that other companies were ripping off its work, Kaspersky said it ran an experiment: It created 10 harmless files and told VirusTotal that it regarded them as malicious. VirusTotal aggregates information on suspicious files and shares them with security companies.

Within a week and a half, all 10 files were declared dangerous by as many as 14 security companies that had blindly followed Kaspersky's lead, according to a media presentation given by senior Kaspersky analyst Magnus Kalkuhl in Moscow in January 2010. When Kaspersky's complaints did not lead to significant change, the former employees said, it stepped up the sabotage.—Reuters

AT&T helped U.S. NSA in spying on Internet traffic

WASHINGTON, 16 Aug — Telecommunications powerhouse AT&T Inc has provided extensive assistance to the U.S. National Security Agency as the spy agency conducts surveillance on huge volumes of Internet traffic passing through the United States, the New York Times reported on Saturday, citing newly disclosed NSA documents.

The newspaper reported that the company gave technical assistance to the NSA in carrying out a secret court order allowing wiretapping of all Internet communications at the headquarters of the United Nations, an AT&T customer.

The documents date from 2003 to 2013 and were provided by fugitive former NSA contractor Edward Snowden, the Times reported.

The company helped the spy agency in a broad range of classified activities, the newspaper reported. The documents describe how the NSA's working relationship with AT&T has been particularly important, enabling the agency to conduct surveillance,



An AT&T Logo is pictured as a U.S. flag flutters in the foreground in Pasadena, California, January 26, 2015.—REUTERS

under various legal rules, of international and foreign-to-foreign Internet communications that passed through network hubs in the United States.

AT&T installed surveillance equipment in at least 17 of its U.S. Internet hubs, far more than competitor Verizon Communications Inc, the Times reported. AT&T engineers also were the first to use new surveillance technologies invented by the NSA, the Times reported.

"This is a partnership, not a contractual relationship," according to one NSA document describing the link between the agency and the company.

AT&T's "corporate relationships provide unique accesses to other telecoms and I.S.P.s," or Internet service providers, according to another NSA document.

AT&T started in 2011 to provide the NSA more than 1.1 billion domestic cellphone call-

ing records daily after "a push to get this flow operational prior to the 10th anniversary of 9/11," referring to the Sept. 11, 2001, attacks on the United States, the Times reported.

AT&T's providing of foreign-to-foreign Internet traffic has been especially important to the NSA because large amounts of the world's Internet communications pass across U.S. cables, the Times reported. The company gave access to contents of transiting email traffic years before Verizon started in March 2013, the Times reported.

Asked to comment on the Times report, AT&T spokesman Brad Burns told Reuters by email: "We do not voluntarily provide information to any investigating authorities other than if a person's life is in danger and time is of the essence. For example, in a kidnapping situation we could provide help tracking down called numbers to assist law enforcement."

Burns said AT&T would have nothing further to say on the report.—Reuters

India's Mars mission sends back beautiful shot of 5,000-km-long canyon system on Independence Day

NEW DELHI, 16 Aug — India's Mars Orbiter Mission has sent home three-dimensional images of the Valles Marineris, a 5,000-km-long canyon system on the Red Planet, on the occasion of the country's 69th Independence Day on Saturday.

The beautiful shot of the canyon system that has several valleys and is said to be the solar system's largest was captured with the Mars Color Camera from a height of nearly 2,000 km from the surface of the Red Planet and called the OpirChasma.

India successfully sent the Mars Orbiter Mission called Mangalyaan into space in September 2014 and it reached its destination in 15 months' time, becoming the only country after the U.S., Russia and Europe to have successfully undertaken missions to Mars in its maiden attempt. The state-owned Indian Space Research Organization is said to be planning another mission to Mars in the future.

Xinhua

Deutsche Telekom's Dutch mobile network hit by software problem

FRANKFURT, 16 Aug — Service on Deutsche Telekom's Dutch mobile network was restored on Saturday after a software problem disrupted it for al-

most 24 hours, the company said.

Deutsche Telekom is the third largest mobile phone provider in the Netherlands, serving 3.7 million customers.

Calls and internet access had been affected since around 1200 GMT (0800 ET) on Friday afternoon, Deutsche Telekom's unit T-Mobile Netherlands said on its

website. The outage, which dragged on for the whole night, had been resolved for about 90 percent of its customers at 0700 GMT, it added.—Reuters

THE GOVERNMENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF THE UNION OF MYANMAR
THE MINISTRY OF RAIL TRANSPORTATION
MYANMA RAILWAYS

NOTIFICATION

- For the "Consulting service for Optical Fiber Cable projects" which will be implemented for the Whole Railway lines of Myanmar, the Tender Invitation and Evaluation Committee led by Ministry of Rail Transportation selected the (9) short listed companies in, August, 2015.
- In line with our set criteria, the following (9) companies were short listed as Qualified Companies for submission of Request For Proposal:-
 - Moon Engineering Co., Ltd (Korea)
 - Myanmar Telecommunication Network (Public Co., Ltd) (Malaysia/Myanmar)
 - Pantel International Co., Ltd (Japan/ Myanmar)
 - Egis International Co., Ltd (France/ Myanmar)
 - Daeyeong & Gentel Co., Ltd (Korea)
 - Roland Berger Strategy Consultants Co., Ltd (Singapore/ Myanmar)
 - KPMG Advisory (Myanmar) Ltd (Singapore)
 - VDB — Loi (Myanmar/Singapore)
 - PM Link Consortium (Singapore)
- The Request for Proposal will be available at the cost of US\$2,000 (United States Dollar Two Thousands) from the date on 17th August 2015 during office hour at Deputy General Manager, Supply Department, Myanma Railways, Corner of Theinphyu Street and Merchant Street, Botahtaung Township, Yangon, Myanmar. Phone 95-1-291985, 291994, with the official letter of the respective company.
- The Request for Proposal shall be submitted to Deputy General Manager, Supply Department, Myanma Railways, Corner of Theinphyu Street and Merchant Street, Botahtaung Township, Yangon not later than 14:00 hr, on 16th October, 2015. Late submission shall be not entertained.
- Myanma Railways will select only one Consulting Firm which is mostly qualified. Enquiries can be made by calling telephones +95-67-77070, 77055, 77155 and also mail to bamyint25@gmail.com

Managing Director
Myanma Railways
Ministry of Rail Transportation

THE REPUBLIC OF THE UNION OF MYANMAR
MINISTRY OF ENERGY
MYANMA OIL AND GAS ENTERPRISE
(INVITATION FOR OPEN TENDER)
(13/2015)

Open tenders are invited for supply of the following respective items in United States Dollars and Myanmar Kyats.

Sr.No	Tender No	Description	Remark
(1)	OS-001(15-16)	24" Offshore Domestic Gas Pipeline (Nearshore Section) Acoustic Survey	US\$

Tender Closing Date & Time - 14-9-2015, 16:30 Hr

Tender Document shall be available during office hours commencing from 17th August, 2015 at the Finance Department, Myanma Oil and Gas Enterprise, No(44) Complex, Nay Pyi Taw, Myanmar.

Myanma Oil and Gas Enterprise
Ph . +95. 67-411097/411206 /411331

Two men dead in ultra light plane crash in Tokyo suburb



Police examine the wreckage of an ultra light plane that crashed at a golf course in Tsukuba city, about 50 kilometers northeast of Tokyo, on Aug. 16, 2015, killing the two men inside it. KYODO NEWS

Mito, (Japan), 16 Aug — Two men were confirmed dead Sunday after an ultra light plane crashed into a golf course in a Tokyo suburb, police said.

An employee of the golf course in Tsukuba city,

Ibaraki Prefecture, about 50 kilometers northeast of Tokyo, discovered the plane early Sunday morning, local police said.

The two-seater plane went missing after it took off from an airfield in the neigh-

boring city of Chikusei on Saturday afternoon.

The two occupants are believed to be a local male resident, 59, and his relative, a 57-year old man from Tokyo, according to the local police.—Kyodo News

WEATHER REPORT

BAY INFERENCE: Monsoon is weak in the Andaman Sea and Bay of Bengal.

FORECAST VALID UNTIL EVENING OF THE 17th August, 2015: Rain or thundershowers will be isolated in Lower Sagaing and Taninthayi Regions, scattered in Mandalay, Magway and Bago Regions, Chin and Mon States, fairly widespread in Yangon and Ayeyawady Regions, Shan, Kayah and Kayin States and widespread in the remaining Regions and States with isolated heavy falls in Upper Sagaing Region, Kachin and Shan States. Degree of certainty is (100%).

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

OUTLOOK FOR SUBSEQUENT TWO DAYS: Decrease of rain in the Taninthayi Region and Mon State.

FORECAST FOR NAY PYI TAW AND NEIGHBOURING AREA FOR 17th August, 2015: One or two rain or thundershowers. Degree of certainty is (100%).

FORECAST FOR YANGON AND NEIGHBOURING AREA FOR 17th August, 2015: One or two rain or thundershowers. Degree of certainty is (100%).

FORECAST FOR MANDALAY AND NEIGHBOURING AREA FOR 17th August, 2015: Isolated rain or thundershowers. Degree of certainty is (80%).

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U.S. civil rights leader Julian Bond dies at 75



Longtime civil rights activist Julian Bond and activists opposed to the Keystone XL tar sands pipeline project tie themselves to the White House fence during an environmental protest in Washington, February 13, 2013.—REUTERS

GEORGIA, 16 Aug — U.S. civil rights leader and former head of the NAACP Julian Bond, who also held elected office in Georgia for two decades, died on Saturday aged 75.

Bond died in Fort Walton Beach, Florida, the Southern Poverty Law Center announced in a statement. Bond was the civil rights organization's

first president.

"Julian was a visionary and tireless champion for civil and human rights," SPLC said of its former president who held the post from 1971 to 1979.

From 1998 to 2010 Bond was chairman of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People.

The son of a university

president and a librarian, Bond helped co-found the Student Nonviolent Coordinating Committee and was its communications director for five years in the early 1960s, canvassing the U.S. South to organize civil rights and voter registration drives and lead anti-segregation protests.

In 1965 he was one of several African Americans elected to the Georgia House of Representatives after the new Civil Rights Act and Voting Rights Act opened voter registration to blacks. Bond served four terms in Georgia's House and six terms in its Senate.

After losing a bid for the U.S. House of Representatives, Bond taught at several colleges and universities and became a published author. In later years he was a regular commentator for "The Today Show," and even hosted NBC's late night comedy show, "Saturday Night Live."

Bond was divorced and had five children, SPLC said. It did not give a cause of death.—Reuters

China FTZ city begins cargo train service to Poland

XIAMEN, 16 Aug — Xiamen City in east China's Fujian Province, located in the Fujian free trade zone (FTZ), opened a cargo train service to Poland on Sunday.

The direct cargo rail line, which goes through Kazakhstan, Russia and Belarus before reaching Poland, is the first linking a Chinese FTZ to Central Asia and Europe, officials said.

The service will depart Xiamen once each week and arrive in Poland within 15 days.

The trains will cut transportation time by half.

Fujian is a key province in China's 21st-Century Maritime Silk Road initiative.—Xinhua

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Journey of a lifetime

'Star Wars' land coming to Disney's California, Florida parks

ANAHEIM, (Calif) 16 Aug — "Star Wars" is being transported from a galaxy far, far away to California and Florida after Walt Disney Co announced plans for two theme park expansions that will bring the celebrated film franchise to life.

The 14-acre (6-hectare) "Star Wars" lands at Anaheim, California's Disneyland and Orlando, Florida's Walt Disney World will introduce a new planet from the intergalactic film saga, the company said on Saturday, commenting on one of Disney's largest park expansions.

The project will feature two new rides, including one where participants take control of the Millennium Falcon spaceship, as well as the Cantina, the infamous hub of rogue smugglers and traders in the films.

Construction will begin at Disneyland in 2017, while a start date for Disney World is not set.

Disney announced several other park upgrades at its annual D23 Expo, a fan convention. They include an 11-acre (4.5-hectare) "Toy Story" land at Disney's Hollywood Studios in Florida.

Disney did not comment on costs. The company spent \$1 billion to build



People wearing Star Wars-themed costumes eat pretzels in San Francisco, California July 21, 2015. —REUTERS

a 12-acre (5-hectare) Cars Land that debuted at Disney's California Adventure park in 2012. It will open a \$5.5 billion theme park in Shanghai next year.

The announcement of "Star Wars" lands, made by Disney Chief Executive Officer Bob Iger, comes as fans gear up for the December release of "The Force Awakens," the opening film in a new "Star Wars" trilogy. The first "Star Wars" movie was released in 1977 and became embedded in pop culture.

Harrison Ford, who re-

prises the role of Han Solo, received a standing ovation at the fan convention and led the cast of the new film, including Oscar-winner Lupita Nyong'o and British newcomer John Boyega.

"It's a great thing to be here with you, who made this whole thing happen. I couldn't be happier," Ford told about 7,500 fans.

Disney also showcased star talent to build buzz for other films. Johnny Depp swaggered through the hall dressed as his "Pirates of the Caribbean" character Captain Jack Sparrow,

as fans were told that Orlando Bloom's character, Will Turner, will return for 2017's fifth installment of the franchise, "Dead Men Tell No Tales." Nyong'o was joined by actor Ben Kingsley, newcomer Neel Sethi and director Jon Favreau for the upcoming computer-generated and live-action retelling of "The Jungle Book." Early footage showed scenery of Mowgli's jungle and Baloo the bear, voiced by Bill Murray, singing the movie's "Bare Necessities."

Reuters

Amitabh Bachchan, Deepika Padukone's 'Piku' wins best movie at Indian Film Festival of Melbourne



MELBOURNE, 16 Aug — The second day of Indian Film Festival of Melbourne (IFFM) 2015 ended last night with glamour and celebrating theme of "equality" through a spectacular fashion show and honouring the best of Indian cinema Down Under.

The gala event took place at the iconic National

Gallery of Victoria attended by several luminaries and high profile dignitaries including Australian High Commissioner to India Patrick Suckling, Indian High Commissioner Navdeep Suri, Australian billionaire Anthony Pratt, Consul General Manika Jain, Anil Kapoor, Bhumi Padnekar, Simi Grewal, Sonam Ka-

poor, film director Shoojit Sircar, Rajeew Masand, Victorian special minister Gavin Jennings.

The award ceremony, a special event of this year's festival, for the first time coincided with the 69th Indian Independence Day celebrations held at the iconic Federation square building in the morning where Anil

Bhumi Pednekar happy to win best actress at IFFM 2015

MELBOURNE, 16 Aug — Bhumi Pednekar is elated to win the best actress award for playing an overweight girl in "Dum Laga Ke Haisha" during a ceremony at the Indian Film Festival of Melbourne (IFFM) 2015 here.

The 25-year-old Indian actress, who made her Bollywood debut opposite Ayushmann Khurrana in the Sharat Katariya-directed drama, said this was her first award for her role. "My first for #dumlagakehaisha. There are so many people that have contributed to this. Thank you guys..." Bhumi posted on Twitter.

The film released in February and touched many hearts for its intriguing storyline and brilliant performances.—PTI



Bhumi Pednekar

Singer Cassandra Steen performs at Rheingao Music Festival



German-American singer Cassandra Steen performs at her concert during Rheingao Music Festival in Schloss Vollrads, Germany, on Aug. 15, 2015. The Rheingao Music Festival was held from June 27 to September 12.—XINHUA

China's 1st English-speaking sci-fi film "Lost in the Pacific" aims for worldwide release

LOS ANGELES, 16 Aug — "Lost in the Pacific", China's first English-speaking 3D sci-fi action adventure film, is aiming for a worldwide release at the end of 2015, according to its crew. Starring Brandon Routh (actor of "Superman Returns") and Chinese actress Zhang Yuqi, the film that is directed by Vincent Zhou, sets its story in 2020 when a group of elite international passengers embark on an inaugural luxury and transoceanic flight that later gets into a seemingly unexplainable catastrophe.

Filmed at Malaysia's Pinewood Studios in the spring of 2015, "Lost in the Pacific" is finishing visual effects by UFO Internationals. Its sound editing is supervised by Oscar-nominated Kami Asgar and Sean McCormack. Oscar-winning Mark Paterson did the final sound mixing for the film. Arclight Films, one of the world's leading international sales companies for theatrical, television and home entertainment, handles the film's rights outside China. It started the first round of sales in May at the Festival de Cannes 2015, and has garnered seven pre-order theatrical release deals in Asia, including Viswaas (India), Aqua Pinema (Turkey), Ram Indo (Vietnam), Pioneer (Philippines) and Pt Prima in Indonesia.—Xinhua

GENERAL

Canadian teenager Henderson on verge of joining elite group

TORONTO, 16 Aug — Brooke Henderson could become the third player in LPGA history to win a tour event before turning 18, after opening a five-stroke lead at the Cambia Portland Classic on Saturday.

The 17-year-old Canadian moved to the verge of a rare accomplishment when she fired a bogey-free seven-under 65 in the third round at Columbia Edge-water Country Club in Oregon.

She was at 18-under 198 with one round left, while American Morgan Pressel also shot 65 to move into second place on

13-under.

“I know it’s long from over and there’s a lot of great players behind me,” Henderson told reporters. “I saw a nine-under (score) on the board and a couple seven-unders, so it’s definitely doable on this golf course. I know I’ll have to put a solid round in.” If Henderson closes the deal on Sunday she will join Lydia Ko, of New Zealand, and American Lexi Thompson as LPGA winners before their 18th birthday. Ko was 15 when she first won, while Thompson was 16. Henderson had the 54-hole lead at the Swing-

ing Skirts Classic in San Francisco earlier this year, but finished third, one shot out of a playoff between Ko and Pressel that was won by Ko. In nine LPGA events this season, Henderson has three top-five showings, including equal fifth at both the KPMG Women’s PGA Championship and U.S. Women’s Open. A Henderson victory would also end a long Canadian drought. Nobody from her homeland has won an LPGA tournament since Lorie Kane claimed the Takefujji Classic in Hawaii in February 2001.

Reuters



Jul 12, 2015; Lancaster, PA, USA; Brooke Henderson tees off the second hole during the final round of the U.S. Women’s Open at Lancaster Country Club. —REUTERS

Estonian lacemakers gather in Narva to show works



Estonian lacemakers show their works at Narva Castle’s Northern Yard on Aug. 15, 2015. Estonian famous lacemakers gathered in Narva to show their works and held master classes of bobbin lace making. —XINHUA

Murray to meet Djokovic in Montreal final

MONTREAL, 16 Aug — Second Andy Murray breezed to a 6-3 6-0 semi-final victory over Kei Nishikori on Saturday to set up a final with Novak Djokovic at the Rogers Cup in Montreal.

Top seed Djokovic defeated unseeded Jeremy Chardy of France 6-4 6-4 in the earlier semi-final.

A three-time champion on the Canadian hardcourts, Djokovic has a 19-8 career record against Murray and has won their last eight meetings since the Scot beat Djokovic in the 2013 Wimbledon final. Murray has claimed two Canadian titles.

Djokovic, who received treatment on a sore right elbow several times during changeovers, showed no signs of distress on the court as he dismissed Chardy in a tidy one hour, 20 minutes to run his record to 10-0 against the Frenchman.

“I didn’t allow Jeremy to find his forehand too much; one break per set was enough to win the match, could have done some things better but a win is a win,” said Djokovic, who did not face a break point the entire match.

“It the (elbow trouble) comes

and goes, now is not very pleasant.

“Every day is a new day, I try to bury the pain, play with the pain, it is part of what we do.”

He said it was par for the course for every athlete in professional sport to have “something troubling” him.

Chardy, who needed three hours and three tiebreaks to get past John Isner in the quarter-finals, got the match off to a shaky start when he handed Djokovic a break, with the help of a couple of double faults, to open the match.

That was all Djokovic would need with Chardy unable to apply kind of any pressure.

Djokovic got the only break of the second set in the fifth game and then held serve as Chardy again left the court without taking a set from the Serb. It was a welcome low-stress match for the Serbian, who was pushed the brink of elimination in his Friday quarter-final, during which he survived two match points to beat 87th-ranked Latvian Ernests Gulbis. In the late semi-final, Nishikori appeared to be fatigued in the second set as Murray won 12 of the final 13 points.—Reuters



Aug 15, 2015; Montreal, Quebec, Canada; Novak Djokovic of Serbia hits a shot against Jeremy Chardy of France (not pictured) during the Rogers Cup tennis tournament at Uniprix Stadium.—REUTERS

mitv Myanmar International

(17-8-2015 07:00 am~18-8-2015 07:00 am) MST

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MRTV Entertainment Channel

(17-8-2015, Monday)

- 6:00 am
- Mono Classical Songs
- 6:15 am
- Myanmar Series
- 6:40 am
- Fashion Show
- 7:50 am
- TV Drama series
- 8:40 am
- Teleplay
- 9:40 am
- Musical Programme
- 9:50 am
- Pyi Thu Ni Ti
- 10:15 am
- My Dream
- 10:35 am
- Myanmar Video
- 12:00 noon
- Close Down

Youths participate in novice volleyball tournament



MANDALAY, 16 Aug —The Inter-township novice volleyball tournament 2015 kicked off at Bahtoo Gymnasium, here, on 15 August.

On behalf of the region chief minister, Minister for Social Affairs Dr Win Hlaing

opened the tournament.

After the opening ceremony, PyinOoLwin thrashed NyaungU 3-0; and Thazi beat Myittha 3-1 while Amarapura trounced Pyawbwe 3-0 as well as Patheingyi beat Natogyi 3-0.

The tournament will contin-

ue up to 19 August.

Among the spectators were region education director Dr Soe Myint Tun, Deputy Director of Sports and Physical Education Department U Wai Zin and officials.

Tin Maung (Mandalay)

Everton rout a wake-up call for Saints, says Yoshida



Southampton v Everton - Barclays Premier League - St Mary's Stadium - 15/8/15 Everton's James McCarthy in action with Southampton's Maya Yoshida.—REUTERS

LONDON, 16 Aug — Southampton manager Ronald Koeman is still hobbling around on crutches after an Achilles operation. His team are limping just as badly in the Premier League.

The south coast club have earned just a point from their first two games of the new season, with Saturday's 3-0 home drubbing by Everton highlighting the same defensive fragility exposed by Newcastle in last week's 2-2 draw at St James' Park.

The departures of right back Nathaniel Clyne and defensive midfielder Morgan Schneiderlin in the summer appears to have unsettled a defence that conceded just 33 goals in the league last season — second best only to champions Chelsea (32).

Defender Maya Yoshida

said the Saints must shake themselves out of their early season slumber, especially with a Europa League tie against Danish side Midtjylland coming up mid-week.

"Nobody expected it to go like this because it was our opening home game," Yoshida told Southampton's official YouTube channel. "We made completely the same mistake as last Sunday against Newcastle from the set-piece.

"The second goal was a mistake. It was too easy to concede the goals and I think Everton played like we wanted to play. They deserved to win the game."

After two straight seasons of selling their top talent to Premier League rivals, Southampton's early form suggests they will

struggle to match last year's seventh-placed finish.

"We have a game in the Europa League on Thursday so it's a very important wake-up alarm for us," added Yoshida.

"We have to concentrate to make a clean sheet. We need to be more compact, more solid physically and tactically we need to be more intelligent. We need to improve a lot of things.

"We will talk about the previous game, with the coaching staff and the team. We have to talk and I hope we can get our confidence back on Thursday."

Koeman, who had surgery to fix his Achilles injury just before the season began, said the changes to his defensive personnel could be behind the lack of cohesion.

Southampton signed central defender Steven Caulker on a season-long loan from relegated Queens Park Rangers late last month after Romanian Florin Gardos went down with a knee injury that could keep him out for seven months.

"Last week we received the second goal at Newcastle out of a corner kick. You can't do those kind of mistakes," Koeman told the club's website.

"We don't have a lot of options defensively at the moment and maybe that makes everyone a little bit more unsure than normal.

"We have to accept defeat, learn from it and keep going."

Southampton travel to Watford on Sunday for their next Premier League fixture.

Reuters

Swiss teen Bencic shocks Serena in Toronto

TORONTO, 16 Aug — World number one Serena Williams was dumped out of the Rogers Cup semi-finals 3-6, 7-5, 6-4 by rising Swiss talent Belinda Bencic, who will meet Simona Halep in Sunday's final after the Romanian second seed beat Sara Errani in straight sets.

Saturday's defeat was just the second in 45 matches this season for Williams, who has won the first three grand slams of the year and will be favourite for a fourth when the U.S. Open kicks off at the end of the month.

The unseeded Bencic, who also beat former world number ones Caroline Wozniacki and Ana Ivanovic in Toronto, wore a look of disbelief after the 18-year-old's forehand winner whizzed past Williams to seal the match. Bencic dropped her racket and covered her face with her hands before the tears started to flow.

"I can't believe it now," said Bencic said. "The first set was just too fast for me, I think. But then I adapted to the game in the second set, and then I was just fighting. I mean I had 5-1 (in the third set). I'm so happy. It's amazing."

Bencic will play for title against Halep, who beat Ital-

ian Errani 6-4, 6-4 in the other semi-final.

"I'm not thinking about the title right now," said Bencic. "I have to recover from today."

There looked to be little danger for Williams as she blazed to a 5-1 lead in the opening set and took it in just 33 minutes.

Bencic played much better in the final few games of the set, however, and carried that momentum into the second, where she took control after the score was tied at 3-3.

Bencic built a 5-1 lead of her own in the decider but Williams then won three games in a row. The Swiss composed herself and broke the 33-year-old American to win the match.

Halep, playing her first event since a shock first round exit at Wimbledon, was happy to escape with a straight sets win in one hour, 35 minutes.

"I'm completely dead now, it was a very tough match," said an exhausted Halep, who dropped to the court when Errani's return sailed long. "She played amazing, she was running everywhere for all the balls.

"I did everything I could to finish in two sets because in the third one I don't know what would happen."—Reuters



Aug 15, 2015; Toronto, Ontario, Canada; Serena Williams of the USA returns a ball to Belinda Bencic of Switzerland (not pictured) in her semi final match during the Rogers Cup tennis tournament at the Aviva Centre. Belinda Bencic won 3-6 7-5 6-4.—REUTERS



Aug 15, 2015; Toronto, Ontario, Canada; Belinda Bencic of Switzerland attempts to return a ball to Serena Williams of the USA (not pictured) in her semi final match during the Rogers Cup tennis tournament at the Aviva Centre. Belinda Bencic won 3-6, 7-5, 6-4. REUTERS