

President U Thein Sein sends messages of felicitations to Hungary

NAY PYI TAW, 20 Aug — U Thein Sein, President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar, has sent messages of felicitations to His Excellency Mr. Janos Ader, President of Hungary and His Excellency Mr. Viktor Orbán, Prime Minister of Hungary, on the occasion of the National Day of Hungary, which falls on 20 August 2015.—MNA

Dr Sai Mauk Kham inspects hospital, schools in Kalay

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Cattle in flood zone face food shortage

By Ye Myint

YANGON, 19 Aug — Cattle in Ayeyawady Region's flood-affected Ingapu Township are in urgent need of feed, as transport problems caused by the flooding have hampered delivery of emergency supplies, a local official said Wednesday.

"Worse flooding than in previous years has left herds of cattle in three parts of the township in urgent need of feed," Dr Sann Win, head of the Ingapu Township Livestock Breeding and Veterinary Department, told The Global New Light of Myanmar.

"Since 13 and 14 August, cattle feed stocks and bales of straw and hay have been shipped to the villages where cattle feed is seriously needed."

While the township sees flooding annually, this year's conditions have been much worse than usual, Dr Sann Win said.

To keep hay bales safe from floodwaters, villagers usually keep them, along with cattle, on raised platforms. This year's flooding, however, destroyed several of the platforms, he said.

The 88 Generation Peace and Open Society, a well-known civil service organization, said Wednesday around



Cattle are still widely used in Myanmar's agriculture sector. Volunteers have evacuated not only people but cattle from flood-affected areas across the nation.—HTAY AUNG

10,000 head of cattle face starvation unless feed and veterinary drugs can reach the township in Hinthada District within five days.

However, Dr Sann Win said the number of cattle in need of emergency feed was lower than the group's estimate.

He said feed had been trans-

ported by boat so far to three of five prioritized villages — Gwaytaukchaung, Sittkone and Thetkelkon.

Ayeyawady Region is one

of 12 states and regions affected by flooding in the country. Statistics show floods affected 485,683 people as of Tuesday in the region.—GNLM

Typhoons moving across Pacific

NAY PYI TAW, 19 Aug— Two typhoons are forecast to move westward and north-westward across the Pacific

Ocean, but it remains uncertain whether they will affect Myanmar, the emergency operation centre of Department of

Relief and Resettlement said Wednesday.

Typhoons Goni and Atsani originated in the western Pacific on 11 and 12 August, respectively.

Level-3 Goni has registered wind speeds around 100 miles per hour, while level-4 Atsani has been recorded at 120 mph.

MNA

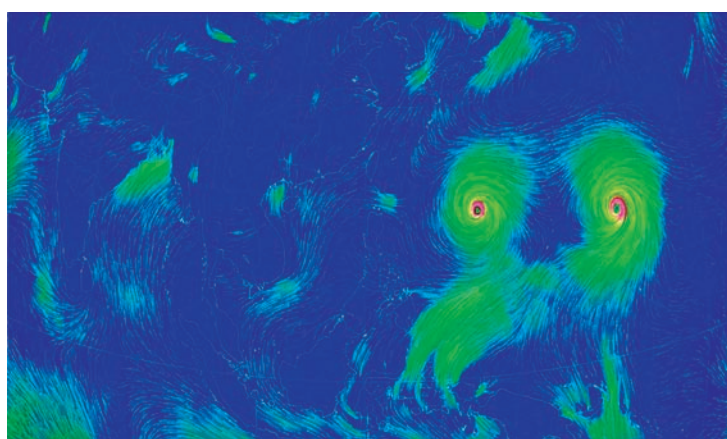


Photo shows weather map of two typhoons moving toward westward and northwestward across Pacific Ocean.

Regional control commander given executive, judicial powers in Kokang

NAY PYI TAW, 19 Aug — Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Senior General Min Aung Hlaing on Tuesday assigned Col Zaw Zaw Naing to exercise executive and judicial powers in the Kokang self-administered zone of Shan State, in a bid to ensure stability and rule of law in the unstable area.

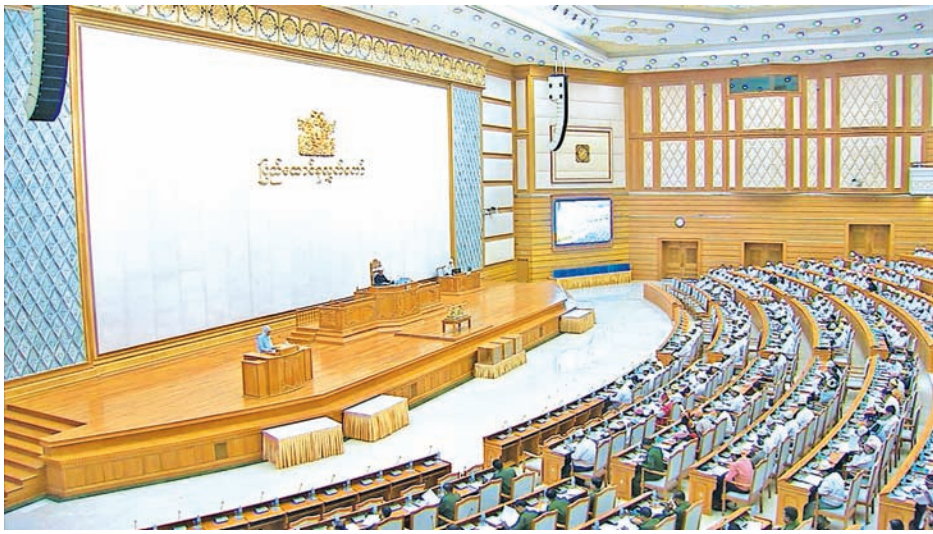
The assignment came following two ordinances released the same day by the President's Office to extend the period of the state of emergency and the military administrative order in the region for an-

other 90 days until 17 November.

According to the military administrative order, Col Zaw Zaw Naing will take charge of the regional authoritative bodies at all levels, with missions in security, social affairs, trade and transportation sectors.

Commander of the Regional Control Command (Laukkai) Col Zaw Zaw Naing is responsible for reporting to the commander-in-chief of defence services on the latest developments of the military administrative zone.

MNA



The 77th day session of Pyidaungsu Hluttaw in progress.—MNA

Pyithu Hluttaw

No plans to open currency trading centres at border areas



Deputy Governor of CBM U Set Aung.—MNA

NAY PYI TAW, 19 Aug — The central bank of Myanmar has no plans to open foreign currency trading centres in border areas, Deputy Governor U Set Aung of the CBM told the Pyithu Hluttaw Session on Wednesday.

As the government has



Deputy Minister for Commerce Dr Pwint Hsan.—MNA

permitted private banks and companies to open currency exchange centres across the country including border areas and there is no need to open currency trading centres in border areas, he added.

In addition, some local banks have been allowed

to run international banking operations and people can also enjoy international banking services there, he explained.

Deputy Minister for Commerce Dr Pwint Hsan responded to the question on export ban of surplus crops from Shan State. He said the government had previously permitted export of crops to China but it was suspected that crops in some areas were collected for Kokang and Wa areas, according to the deputy minister.

As a result, crops export from Mongla was banned but he promised to lift the ban if other relevant ministries approve the plan.

MNA

Pyidaungsu Hluttaw

Parliament to decide on recall bill in Thursday session

NAY PYI TAW, 19 Aug — The Pyidaungsu Hluttaw discussed the bill to recall of members of parliament Wednesday, with 19 political parties and independent representatives expressing their arguments.

Some MPs called for prompt action on the bill, on which the Pyithu Hluttaw and the Amyotha Hluttaw held different views, but many demanded more time, arguing that the one percent vote for the recall

petition was too small.

The speaker announced that the parliament would decide on Thursday whether the bill should become a law.

Regarding foreign loans, relevant ministries made clarifications on borrowing US \$260 million and 40 million euro from the Asian Development Bank (ADB), the ASEAN Infrastructure Fund (AIF) and the French Development Agency (AFD).

Deputy Foreign Minister U Thant Kyaw spoke about the likelihood of Myanmar signing the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child concerning the involvement of children in armed conflict.

The signing of the protocol will help remove the country from the list of nations notorious for using child soldiers, with the deputy minister stressing the need to sign it.—MNA

Amyotha Hluttaw

Amyotha Hluttaw backs motion to suspend parliament



Deputy Minister at the President Office U Kyaw Kyaw Win.—MNA

NAY PYI TAW, 19 Aug — Amyotha Hluttaw representatives on Wednesday

voted in favour of an emergency motion to halt the current parliamentary session.

A total of 128 representatives voted for the motion and 34 against.

Wednesday's session also passed bills on blood and blood materials, donation of organs, election of the president and vice presidents, the Pyithu Hluttaw and vehicles while the approval of the bill for conversion of religion by the Pyithu Hluttaw was

announced at the Amyotha Hluttaw.

During the session, a representative urged the union government to reduce the number of advertisements for liquors, beers and cigarettes.

Concerning the motion, Deputy Minister at the President Office U Kyaw Kyaw Win said tobacco contains over 4,000 toxic substances and measures would be taken to enact laws and rules to restrict it.

MNA

MITT presents awards to outstanding students of MMU



NAY PYI TAW, 19 Aug — Myanmar International Terminal Thilawa (MITT) has been awarding 10 outstanding students of Myanmar Maritime University

yearly. At the convocation of the university on Wednesday, MITT presented HPH gold medal of Hutchison Port Holding (Hong Kong) and US\$1000 to first prize

winner student of port engineering subject. Hutchison Port Holding has awarded the students for ten times.

This year, MITT presented US\$200 each to 10 port engineering students in 2015.

MITT provided US\$6,500 for the project of engineering departments of the university in 2014 and US\$5,500 in 2015.—MNA

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| <p>Republic of the Union of Myanmar Union Election Commission Nay Pyi Taw Notification No. (46/2015) 4th Waxing Day of Wagaung, 1377 ME (19 August, 2015)</p> <p>10 Defence Services Personnel Representatives from Region and State Hluttaw substituted</p> <p>According to a request made in accordance with Section 33 of the Region Hluttaw or State Hluttaw Election Law to substitute four representatives of the Armed Forces who are parliamentarians, the Union Election Commission scrutinized and substituted the following 10 Region Hluttaw and State Hluttaw representatives under the Notification No. 3/2011 of the commission dated 20-1-2011 and the Notification No. 15/2013 of the commission dated 17-6-2013.</p> <p>The Region Hluttaw or State Hluttaw representatives to be substituted were nominated by the Commander-in-Chief of the Defence Services in the first multi-party general election held on 7 November 2010.</p> | | <p>Chin State Hluttaw (2) BC 17616 Col Zaw Min Oo</p> <p>Sagaing Region Hluttaw (3) BC 16778 Col Kyi Naing</p> <p>Bago Region Hluttaw (4) BC 15946 Col Thet Tun</p> <p>Magway Region Hluttaw (5) BC 20904 Col Zaw Lin Aung</p> <p>Mandalay Region Hluttaw (6) BC 18799 Col Aung Kyaw Moe</p> <p>Mon State Hluttaw (7) BC 19327 Col Htay Myint Aung</p> <p>Yangon Region Hluttaw (8) BC 19484 Col Tin Win</p> <p>Shan State Hluttaw (9) BC 17461 Col Aung Thu</p> <p>Ayeyawady Region Hluttaw (10) BC 18872 Col Maung Maung Win</p> | <p>BC 21123 Col Kyaw Kyaw</p> <p>BC 16667 Col Kyaw Thant Naing</p> <p>BC 16438 Col Khin Maung Htay</p> <p>BC 20595 Col Naing Oo</p> <p>BC 21658 Col Myo Min Aung</p> <p>BC 19319 Col Win Naing Oo</p> <p>BC 20682 Col Tin Aung Tun</p> <p>BC 19729 Col Soe Moe Aung</p> <p>BC 25130 Col Kyaw Swa Hlaing</p> |
| <p>Kachin State Hluttaw (1) BC 17628 Col Than Aung</p> | <p>BC 20081 Col Thura Myo Tin</p> | <p>By order, (Tin Tun) Secretary Union Election Commission</p> | |

Dr Sai Mauk Kham inspects hospital, schools in Kalay

NAY PYI TAW, 19 Aug — Vice President Dr Sai Mauk Kham on Wednesday visited the General Hospital in Kalay, Sagaing Region, where he pledged immediate assistance to staff and gave encouragement to patients.

The vice president also went to No. 1 basic education high school in Kalay, where he inspected the classrooms and observed lessons.

At the town hall, the vice president urged officials to prioritize the needs of flood victims in carrying out recovery plans.

The vice president and officials presented relief supplies for flood victims.

IGE Company and the United Amara Bank donated K190 million, Shwe Taung Company, K100 million, and Myat Noe Thu Company, K45 million.

The vice president also visited a Buddhist monastery and the University of Computer Studies (Kalay).—MNA



Vice President Dr Sai Mauk Kham presents gifts to a patient at People's Hospital in Kalay.—MNA

Tatmadaw seeks better civil-military relations: armed forces chief

NAY PYI TAW, 19 Aug — The Tatmadaw is working to improve civil-military relations, Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Senior General Min Aung Hlaing said Wednesday in a meeting with British Ambassador to Myanmar Mr Andrew

Silas Patrick.

During the meeting in Nay Pyi Taw, the commander-in-chief emphasized friendly relations and cooperation between the Tatmadaw and government organizations, highlighting the extensive involvement of the armed

forces in flood relief operations

The British ambassador acknowledged that the Tatmadaw had won praise from international organizations and armed forces for its handling of the flood response.

The British ambas-

sador agreed that the Tatmadaw played a critical role in Myanmar's democratization process.

He said he was pleased to hear the military would continue cooperation with the government, regardless of election results.

Myawady

Voters can cast ballots outside constituencies: UEC

NAY PYI TAW, 19 Aug — Voters living outside their own constituencies will be able to cast ballots in the electorates where they reside, the Union Election Commission said Wednesday.

The voters need to apply for the voting rights at local election sub-com-

missions, the announcement said, adding that the permission applies only to voters who have been away from their own constituencies for at least 180 days.

Applications should be sent no later than 10 October, the UEC said.

MNA

Vice-Senior General Soe Win calls on Laotian PM

NAY PYI TAW, 19 Aug — Vice-Senior General Soe Win, Deputy Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services and Commander-in-Chief (Army), called on Prime Minister Mr Thongsing Thammavong of Lao People's Democratic Republic at the Lao Government office on Tuesday morning.

They discussed cementing diplomatic, military and ASEAN relations between armed forces of two countries, cooperation in solving drug and weapon trafficking and border disputes, exchange of in-

formation, border security, and peaceful relations between peoples of two countries.

The vice-senior general and party visited Lao-Thai friendship bridge near Vientiane.

Vice-Senior General Soe Win was welcomed by Deputy Laotian Defence Minister and Chief of Staff Department Maj-Gen Souyone Louangbounmy at the Ministry of Defence on Tuesday.

They held a meeting at the ministry in the morning to discuss further cementing friendly relations

between two armed forces, exchange of military trainees and information, cooperation in solving drug and weapon trafficking and border disputes, border security, exchange of sports and cultural delegations in addition to medical education.

The vice-senior general laid a wreath at the memorial to fallen soldiers.

In the evening, the deputy minister for defence of Laos hosted a dinner to the vice-senior general and party at Landmark Mekong Riverside Hotel.

Myawady

Myanmar moves to protect disaster victims from human traffickers

NAY PYI TAW, 19 Aug — The Central Body for Suppression of Trafficking in Persons held a meeting here Tuesday, with an address by its chairman, Union Home Affairs Minister Lt-Gen Ko Ko.

The meeting focused

on creating new levels of cooperation with UN agencies, neighbouring countries and international organizations in the fight against human trafficking. The discussions covered programmes for capacity enhancement in

partnership with international anti-human trafficking agencies.

Lt-Gen Ko Ko urged anti-human trafficking bodies to provide suggestions on how to protect disaster victims from human traffickers.—MNA

MMCWA to host Asia and Pacific health conference

NAY PYI TAW, 19 Aug — Myanmar Maternal and Child Welfare Association will host the 8th Asia Pacific Conference on Reproductive and Sexual Health and Right-APCRSHR in

Nay Pyi Taw in February 2016.

Deputy Minister for Health Dr Daw Thein Htay, patrons, president and officials of the association totalling 40

attended the coordination meeting to host the conference, here on Wednesday.

Officials of work committees discussed progress of works and adopted the future plans.—MNA

Post-reshuffle, Indonesia beset by renewed govt squabbles

JAKARTA, 19 Aug — Less than a week after Joko Widodo called on ministers to set aside their egos, the Indonesian president's new cabinet is beset by renewed squabbles, threatening to undo attempts to revive an economy growing at the slowest pace for six years.



Indonesian President Joko Widodo salutes during celebrations for Indonesia's 70th Independence Day at the Presidential Palace in Jakarta, August 17, 2015.—REUTERS

Rizal Ramli, the new coordinating minister for maritime affairs, drew a rare rebuke from Widodo after criticising Vice President Jusuf Kalla and State-Owned Enterprises Minister Rini Soemarno.

The president told Ramli to voice his concerns privately at cabinet meetings, the president's spokesman, Teten Masduki, said on Wednesday.

"The government is trying hard to attract investment. It must be solid and united," Masduki said.

Widodo has vowed to lift growth to 7 percent, but critics say the economy has actually gone into reverse because of sniping ministers and bureaucrats. In the second quarter, growth slipped to 4.67 percent, its slowest pace in six years, amid drooping domestic demand and sliding prices for coal and commodities. The rupiah has dropped 10 percent against the dollar this year to 17-year lows and is Southeast Asia's worst performing currency after Malaysia's ringgit.

Ramli, one of six new ministers brought into office in a cabinet reshuffle last week meant to assuage investors' concerns about policy muddles, challenged Kalla to debate the vice president's "unrealistic" plans to build 35,000 megawatts of power plants over five years.

"Actually the majority of this programme are JK's projects," Ramli told Metro TV, referring to the vice president by his nickname. "It would be enough if just one-third succeed."

Kalla responded by saying Widodo himself inaugurated the power programme, and that it is one of the government's signature policies. "That (comment) is playing down the president's authority," Kalla said.

A two-time minister under former President Abdurrahman Wahid, Ramli, who holds a doctorate from Boston University, is known for his strident and often nationalistic views on the economy.

Seen as close to Megawati Sukarnoputri, the head of Widodo's political party, Ramli oversees several ministries, including energy, transport and tourism.

"Ramli likes making a racket," vice presidential spokesman Husain Abdullah said. "Rather than helping the government, he makes things more complicated."

Ramli has also denounced plans by Indonesia's national airline, PT Garuda Indonesia Tbk, to buy 30 Airbus jets with \$44.5 billion in loans. Soemarno, the state-owned enterprises minister, told him to back off.

Analysts predict more ructions ahead.

"The major deficiency of the cabinet reshuffle is the return of Ramli to national office," political consultant Kevin O'Rourke wrote in a note. "Ramli is likely to continue provoking discord between ministers."—Reuters

Japan ruling party heavyweight — PM Abe set to win party election

TOKYO, 19 Aug — Japan's ruling party heavyweight said on Wednesday that Prime Minister Shinzo Abe was poised to win a party leadership election in September.

"The Liberal Democratic Party is quietly moving towards the re-election of Abe (as party leader).

Judging from my experience, there will be no doubt

Thai police hunt 'foreign' man, two others for Bangkok blast



Thai military personnel work with a detection dog on the Bangkok Skywalk August 19, 2015, as authorities step up security in the city after Monday's deadly blast at the Erawan shrine.—REUTERS

BANGKOK, 19 Aug — Thai police said on Wednesday that a suspect captured by CCTV cameras minutes before a bomb exploded at Bangkok's Erawan shrine was a foreigner, and his appearance suggested he might be from Europe or the Middle East.

Police spokesman Prawut Thawornsiri also said investigators were now convinced two other men seen on the grainy video footage were accomplices.

At least 20 people were killed in Monday's blast in the heart of the Thai capital. The government says the unprecedented attack on the city was designed to wreck the country's economy, which depends heavily on tourism.

No one has claimed respon-

sibility for the evening rush-hour bombing, in which 11 foreigners from several Asian countries died and more than 120 were wounded.

Prawut said in a televised interview that an arrest warrant had been issued for a "foreign man", a sketch of whom showed a fair-skinned youth with thick, medium-length black hair, a wispy beard and black glasses.

"He had white skin and must have been a European or have mixed blood, perhaps with Middle Eastern blood," Prawut said, without giving a reason for his assumptions other than the color of the man's skin.

The sketch was based on footage that showed a man dressed in a yellow T-shirt dumping a backpack inside the shrine

compound and walking away through a crowd of tourists about 20 minutes before the explosion.

Prawut earlier tweeted that police were offering a 1 million baht (\$28,100) reward for information leading to the arrest of the suspect.

He said two other men, one dressed in red and another in white, were seen milling around the first suspect, apparently shielding him from the view of the crowd as he placed the rucksack in front of a railing.

Earlier, police had said they were sure some Thais were involved in the attack.

The shrine, a blood-spattered scene of charred motorbikes and debris after the blast, was reopened on Wednesday.

Reuters

Thai PM says former finance minister Somkid to lead new economic team

BANGKOK, 19 Aug — Thai Prime Minister Prayuth Chan-ocha said on Wednesday former finance minister Somkid Jatusripitak would lead a new economic team in a reshuffled cabinet, as the military-government comes under mounting pressure to turn around the stumbling domestic economy.

Somkid will replace Deputy Prime Minister Pridiyathorn Devakula. "I have shifted Pridiyathorn to be an adviser and let Somkid take over instead. Somkid has helped me from the start, so there is not a problem," Prayuth told reporters.—Reuters



Thailand's Prime Minister Prayuth Chan-ocha answers questions from journalists after a cabinet meeting at Government House in Bangkok, Thailand, August 18, 2015.—REUTERS

Bangkok bomb blast to hurt Cambodian tourism industry: Cambodian minister

PHNOM PENH, 19 Aug — The Bangkok bomb blast will affect tourism industry in Cambodia because Thailand is a main gateway of international tourists to the country, Tourism Minister Thong Khon said Wednesday. "Generally, there are some spillover effects on our tourism industry

because about 40 percent of the international tourists enter Cambodia through Thailand," he told reporters. "We hope that the situation in Bangkok will return to normalcy soon." According to the minister, after the Bangkok bomb blast, security has been tightened in Cambodia, especially at tourist

destinations.

Tourism is one of the four pillars supporting the economy in Cambodia. Data revealed that Cambodia received about 2.3 million foreign visitors in the first six months of 2015, up 5.6 percent compared with the same period last year.—Xinhua

Defense chief defends SDF's perceived overreach over security bills

TOKYO, 19 Aug — Defense Minister Gen Nakatani on Wednesday defended a perceived overreach by the Self-Defense Forces for preparing an internal document on troop activities under a new security posture before bills effecting them clear parliament.

The minister defended the SDF action during a session of a House of Councillors committee whose deliberations on the controversial bills resumed Wednesday after a hiatus of more than a week.

The deliberations stopped on Aug. 11, when the existence of the document came to light at the committee, angering opposition lawmakers who saw the document as a sign of contempt for the legislature and a disregard of

civilian control by SDF officers.

The preparation of the document by the Joint Staff of the SDF “does not presuppose when the legislation will be enacted,” Nakatani said. Nor does the action violate civilian control, he added.

According to the minister, uniformed officers at the Joint Staff worked with civilian Defense Ministry officials in preparing the document under his instruction on May 15, a day after the Cabinet finalized the bills for submission to the Diet.

The document was used during a teleconference on May 26 in which some 350 people including commanders of the ground, maritime and air defense forces took part, he said.

The document was prepared

to “explain the content of the bills and organize issues that should be expanded on after the bills are passed,” Nakatani said, adding, “It is natural that as a matter of their mission, the Defense Ministry and the SDF analyze and study” the content of the bills.

The document says the legislation could be enacted in August and changes take effect next February, at the earliest. It also shows the government is eyeing an expanded role for SDF troops engaged in U.N. peacekeeping operations in South Sudan under the revised law.

The bills are pending in the House of Councillors. The envisioned schedule is already seen as impossible given the pace of deliberations in the chamber after the bills passed the House of



Defense Minister Gen Nakatani speaks in a session of a House of Councillors committee in Tokyo on Aug. 19, 2015, to defend a perceived overreach by the Self-Defense Forces for preparing an internal document on troop activities under a new security posture before bills effecting them clear parliament.—Kyodo News

Representatives last month.

The ruling coalition now hopes to see the legislation enacted by late September.

These bills would allow Japan to exercise the right to collective self-defense, or defending the United States or other friendly

nations under armed attack even if Japan itself is not attacked. Opinion polls indicate a majority of Japanese voters oppose the legislation, which opponents say would make it more likely for Japan to get involved in war.

Kyodo News

Poll victor to build Sri Lankan unity government



Sri Lankan newspapers with pictures of Prime Minister Ranil Wickremesinghe on their front pages are displayed for sale at a newsstand in Colombo August 19, 2015.—REUTERS

COLOMBO, 19 Aug — General election victor Ranil Wickremesinghe on Wednesday called on Sri Lankans to unite as he set about the task of forming a national unity government that will seek to heal the divisions of the past.

In his first major statement since his United National Party

(UNP) foiled ex-president Mahinda Rajapaksa's comeback bid, Wickremesinghe struck a note of reconciliation.

“I want everyone to come together now. Think of the country, think of the people,” he told a spray of television cameras on the lawn of his official residence.

“We can achieve unity, progress in this country if we work together.”

Wickremesinghe, 66, who has led a minority government since President Maithripala Sirisena beat Rajapaksa in a presidential election in January, said he expected to be sworn in as prime minister.

Rajapaksa accepted his defeat “with humility” but rebuffed calls by his opponents to retire from active politics.

“I will continue to engage in politics, in keeping with the people's mandate and I will function within parliament to safeguard the nation and the democratic system,” the 69-year-old said in a statement.

Although Wickremesinghe's center-right party fell tantalizingly short of a parliamentary majority, it can count on supporters of Sirisena from the opposition Sri Lankan Freedom Party (SLFP) to control parliament and push ahead with reforms.

Wickremesinghe said he would soon meet Sirisena to discuss the next government's makeup and policy agenda that will be presented to parliament when it convenes on Sept. 1.

In one key decision, Finance Minister Ravi Karunanayake told Reuters he expected to be reappointed to the post.

Sirisena had clashed with Rajapaksa, who ran for prime minister on an SLFP ticket, and a political realignment could leave the former president isolated in a rump opposition, as he and his allies face a series of corruption investigations.

Rajapaksa, whose alliance polled just three percent behind the UNP and who won the district in which he ran with more than 400,000 votes, is still revered by many for ending a 26-year Tamil insurgency in 2009.

Asked whether his call for unity included Rajapaksa, Wickremesinghe said: “It includes everyone.”—Reuters

Japan cultural expo with AKB48, others postponed after Bangkok blast

BANGKOK, 19 Aug — Japan Expo Thailand 2015, an event to promote Japanese culture featuring the all-girl pop group AKB48 and others, has been postponed in the wake of bombing attacks in Bangkok.

The expo had been scheduled for Aug. 28-30 at Central World, a huge shopping complex just across an intersection from Erawan Shrine, where the first blast took place Monday evening, killing at least 20 people and injuring 126 others.

On Tuesday afternoon, a small bomb exploded near a pier on the capital's Chao Phraya River but caused no injuries, according to police.

On their website, the event organizing team expressed their sympathies to the injured and condolences for those who lost their loved ones in the attack. “At this juncture, we would like to postpone this event until further notice,” they said.

The event would have included a concert by AKB48 as well as sales of Japanese foods and a fashion show.

Kyodo News

No cyanide in first rain after Tianjin blasts

TIANJIN, 19 Aug — No toxic cyanide was detected in rain that fell in the northern city of Tianjin, alleviating fears that precipitation might worsen pollution following last week's fatal blasts.

Tianjin on Tuesday morning saw the first rain after the two explosions occurred at a chemical warehouse on Aug. 12, leaving 114 people dead and 65 others missing. Cofferdams installed around the blast site were reinforced and air quality continued

to be closely monitored on Tuesday over fears that rain could react with sodium cyanide, one of the chemicals stored at the warehouse, and release toxic gas.

Tianjin bureau of environmental protection chief engineer Bao Jingling said no cyanide had been detected in rain samples collected 7 kilometers from the blast site, which is a populated area. None of the 18 air quality monitoring stations in the surrounding area of the blast site reported ex-

cessive cyanide on Tuesday, the same as Monday, while cyanide levels in water tested at eight of the 40 monitoring stations did exceed safety standards.

Responding to reports of “white foam” on the ground after the rain, Bao said ground water and soil from the reported location had been tested and was found to not contain excessive amounts of cyanide. “I was caught in the rain for about ten minutes yesterday ... but I had no feelings of dis-

comfort,” the official said, adding that none of his monitoring team reported any discomfort. “There have been no reports of civilians with chemical poisoning of any kind,” he added.

Soldiers and rescuers are decontaminating the site, but the team had to temporarily halt the work due to rain on Wednesday morning. Sodium cyanide releases the highly toxic hydrogen cyanide when it comes into contact with water.—Xinhua

Germany's Schaeuble says must give Greece chance for new start



German Finance Minister Wolfgang Schaeuble addresses a session of Germany's parliament, the Bundestag, in Berlin, Germany, August 19, 2015, prior to a vote on Greece's third bailout programme.—REUTERS

BERLIN, 19 Aug — German Finance Minister Wolfgang Schaeuble said there was no guarantee that Greece's third bailout would work, but stressed it would be irresponsible not to give the indebted nation the opportunity for a new start.

"Of course, after the experience of the last years and months there is no guarantee that everything will work and it is permissible to have doubts," Schaeuble told German lawmakers on Wednesday ahead of a vote on the bailout package. "But in view of the fact that the Greek parliament has already passed a large part of the measures it would be irresponsible not to use the opportunity for a new start in Greece," he added.

German lawmakers are expected to vote overwhelmingly in favour of Greece's third bailout on Wednesday, even though Chancellor Angela Merkel faces a rebellion in her own party ranks that suggests she cannot ask parliament to help Athens again.

Reuters

Tabloid editor remanded in detention over threatening Vucic

BELGRADE, 19 Aug — The Belgrade Higher Court remanded in detention on Tuesday editor of the Belgrade-based paper Tabloid Milan Malenovic, aged 52, who is suspected of having used social networks to voice threats against Prime Minister Aleksandar Vucic and certain ministers, while Belgrade lawyer Dejan Krstic, aged 44, who is suspected of the same criminal act, has been released pending trial.

The two suspects were arrested in separate police actions early on Tuesday.

Tanjug learnt in the Prosecutor's Office that Malenovic has been remanded in detention because of the circumstances that point to a chance of him repeating the crime.

The second suspect was arrested on Tuesday and was brought in for questioning in the Department of Hi-Tech Crime of the Belgrade Higher Prosecutor's Office, which proposed that he be placed in detention, but the judge from the previous proceedings rejected the proposition, Krstic's attorney Dragan Palibrk told Tanjug.—Tanjug

Tsipras yet to decide on early Greek elections — minister

ATHENS, 19 Aug — Greek Prime Minister Alexis Tsipras has yet to make up his mind on calling early elections, a government minister said on Wednesday, following a rift in the ruling party over the country's new bailout deal.

Ministers have spoken openly about the possibility of a parliamentary confidence vote leading to elections since Tsipras had to rely on opposition lawmakers to win approval on Friday for the 86 billion euro bailout deal.

But Deputy Culture Minister Nikos Xydakis played down speculation that Tsipras could move soon after Greece makes a 3.2 billion euro debt repayment to the European Central Bank on Thursday, using funds to be released under the bailout programme.

Xydakis pinned the timing on the first review of progress under the new bailout, which Greece's creditors will conduct in October. "There are two views in order to have a strengthened government - elections either before or after the first bailout review. It is a decision the prime minister will make," he told the state TV channel ERT.

Greece has already been bailed out twice since 2010 by the euro zone and International Monetary Fund. Tsipras secured the third programme by making commitments to impose reform and austerity policies that are so onerous that a sizeable number of lawmakers from his radical left Syriza party rejected the deal in parliament.

Some are now threatening to walk out of the party. This has led to opposition accusations that Tsipras, who remains



Greek Prime Minister Alexis Tsipras delivers his speech at the end of a night parliamentary session in Athens, Greece, August 14, 2015. REUTERS

popular despite his U-turn on resisting austerity, wants elections simply to deal with his own internal rebellion.

Xydakis said this should not be so. "What is most important at this phase is that the government serve the interests of the Greek people and not those of the party," he said. "Tsipras is the prime minister of 11 million Greeks, not of 30,000 members of the Syriza party."

Asked what would be the message if the government opted for early elections, he said: "Hope is coming," using Syriza's campaign slogan when it was elected in January.

The bailout programme faces one of its final hurdles on Wednesday when parliament in Germany - the biggest contributor to the bailouts - votes on it. They are expected to approve it overwhelmingly, but Chancellor Angela Merkel faces a rebellion in her own conservative party from lawmakers who oppose pouring yet more billions into Greece.

Greece came close to financial collapse before Tsipras negotiated the deal, forcing him to close the banks for three weeks and impose capital controls on money leaving the banking system which have since been eased slightly, but not removed.

The pressure is ebbing a little. The ECB cut emergency liquidity assistance for Greek banks on Tuesday, in line with a request from Athens, several sources said. This was a positive sign that lenders are stabilising their operations and building cash reserves.

Also on Tuesday, ratings agency Fitch upgraded its credit rating for Greece by one notch, saying the latest bailout programme reduced the chance of default.

It raised Greece's long-term rating to 'CCC' from 'CC', saying the Aug. 14 deal "reduced the risk of Greece defaulting on its private sector debt obligations" but added that risks to the programme's success "remain high".—Reuters

Brazil's Rousseff suffers fiscal setbacks in Congress

BRASILIA, 19 Aug — Brazil's Senate put off a vote on a key austerity bill on Tuesday and the lower house of Congress voted to increase the cost of a workers severance fund, two setbacks for President Dilma Rousseff's efforts to fight a gaping fiscal deficit.

A bill rolling back payroll tax breaks was delayed by negotiations to avoid changes that would require its return to the lower house of Congress where Speaker Eduardo Cunha has obstructed government proposals since defecting to the opposition last month, senators said.

The vote, now scheduled for Wednesday, is crucial to end Brazil's legislative gridlock, said Senate President Renan Calheiros, who has brokered a political deal with Rousseff's government to ease tensions with Congress and quieten calls for her impeachment.

In the lower house, Cunha succeeded in passing a bill that doubles the savings rate of the FGTS fund from 3 percent to 6 percent staggered over four years, adding to government costs.

The fund is used to finance

low-cost housing, and Finance Minister Joaquim Levy warned there would be less money available to build houses.

The bill raising payroll taxes was watered down by the lower house and is now expected to reduce revenues to 10 billion reais (\$2.88 billion) a year from 13 billion reais originally planned, complicating Rousseff's efforts to balance government accounts and avoid losing Brazil's investment-grade rating.

In February, Rousseff made a policy U-turn and announced she was going to double the social security tax rate on corporate gross revenue, reducing payroll tax breaks for 56 sectors.

The roll-back is part of Rousseff's effort to undo the fiscal measures aimed at stimulating the economy during her first term but which eroded the government's accounts and raised fears about the country's financial health. Other government measures that included reducing pension and unemployment benefits have passed Congress, but were also watered down by lawmakers, reducing the final savings.

Reuters



Brazil's President Dilma Rousseff waves during a meeting with governors at Alvorada Palace in Brasilia, July 30, 2015. REUTERS

Surge in new MERS cases recorded in Saudi capital Riyadh

RIYADH, 19 Aug — Saudi Arabia's Health Ministry has confirmed 58 new cases of Middle East Respiratory Syndrome (MERS) in the country since the start of August, data on its website shows, the highest rise in recorded infections since February.

The 10 new cases it announced late on Tuesday represented the biggest daily jump in confirmed new infections in Saudi Arabia since May 2014, a month in which 210 people were recorded contracting the disease at the height of its biggest outbreak.

MERS, first identified in 2012 and mostly found so far in Saudi Arabia despite outbreaks elsewhere, is a SARS-like disease that causes fever and coughing in some.

Although it does not pass easily between humans, the disease has a high mortality rate, with 480 of the 1,115 people Saudi Arabia has confirmed as having caught MERS since 2012 dying from it.

Almost all the new cases of MERS confirmed over the past week have occurred in Riyadh, and included some health care workers.

King Abdulaziz Medical City, a group of hospitals owned by the Saudi Arabian National Guard, has put its emergency and outpatient departments on alert after a surge in cases there, National Guard officials were quoted saying in Arab News daily.—Reuters



A man wearing a mask walks outside Prince Salman bin Abdulaziz hospital, in Riyadh June 6, 2014. —REUTERS



People gather on the rubble of a building destroyed by an air strike in Yemen's western port city of Hodeida August 18, 2015.—REUTERS

Saudi-led warplanes hit Yemeni port, aid group sounds alarm

SANAA, 19 Aug — Warplanes from a Saudi-led coalition hit Yemen's Red Sea port of Hodeida on Tuesday, and officials there said the raids destroyed cranes and warehouses in the main entry point for aid supplies to the north of the country.

Hodeida, controlled by Iranian-allied Houthi forces, has become a focal point of efforts to resupply the impoverished Arab state, battered by five months of war that has killed over 4,300 people.

"Fighting, critical fuel shortages and restrictions on importing relief supplies have already helped to create

one of the world's worst humanitarian crises," said Edward Santiago of aid group Save the Children.

"The bombing of Hodeida port is the final straw ... The impact of these latest air strikes will be felt most strongly by innocent children and families," he added. Officials said the raids destroyed the port's four cranes and also hit warehouses, bringing work to a halt. There was no information on what was in the warehouses.

Brigadier General Ahmed Asseri, spokesman for the Saudi-led coalition, said the strikes on Hodeida were directed not at the civilian port but at a

base where the Houthis had deployed anti-ship weapons.

"There is a naval base inside the port. This is where we struck last night," he said. He said the coalition had on Tuesday given permission to three aid vessels to travel to Hodeida's civilian port for humanitarian aid shipments. Aid groups have previously complained that a coalition naval blockade has stopped relief supplies entering Yemen. The coalition, in which the United Arab Emirates also plays a big military role, has accused the Houthis of commandeering aid shipments for war use.—Reuters

More than 1,000 children killed, injured in "brutal" Yemen conflict — U.N.

LONDON, 19 Aug — Months of brutal conflict in Yemen have killed or injured more than 1,000 children, and the number of young people recruited or used as fighters has soared, the United Nations children's agency UNICEF said on Wednesday.

Some 400 children have been killed and more than 600 injured - an average of eight casualties every day - since fighting escalated at the end of March, according to UNICEF.

A Saudi-led Arab coalition has been bombarding the Iranian-allied Houthi rebel movement - Yemen's dominant force - since late March in a bid to reinstate exiled President Abd-Rabbu Mansour Hadi, who has fled to Riyadh.

The war has killed more than 4,300 people, many of them civilians, and spread disease and hunger throughout the country.

More than 1.3 million people have been forced to flee their homes since March, and nearly 10 million children - 80 percent of the country's under-18 population - need urgent humanitarian aid, UNICEF said in a report released on Wednesday.



Girls demonstrate against the Saudi-led coalition outside the offices of the United Nations in Yemen's capital Sanaa August 11, 2015.—REUTERS

"Children are bearing the brunt of a brutal armed conflict which escalated in March this year and shows no sign of a resolution," the U.N. agency said.

"This conflict is a particular tragedy

for Yemeni children ... (they) are being killed by bombs or bullets and those that survive face the growing threat of disease and malnutrition," UNICEF Yemen representative Julien Harneis said.

The report Yemen: Childhood Under Threat said the number of children recruited or used in the conflict had more than doubled to 377 so far in 2015 from 156 in 2014.

All warring sides in Yemen are increasingly using teenage boys - who see fighting as a way to support their families financially - to swell their ranks, UNICEF said.

A quarter of Yemen's health facilities - around 900 - have closed since March, while shortages of medicines and medical supplies have disrupted those that remain open, according to the U.N. body, which said the health system was "crumbling".

More than 2.5 million children under the age of 15 are at risk of contracting measles, while nearly 2 million are likely to suffer from malnutrition this year, almost one million more than in 2014, UNICEF said.

"I would sell everything I have to ensure my children's wellbeing... what really disturbs me is how difficult it has become to get proper medical treatment," Umm Faisal, mother of an 18-month-old baby in Yemen, told UNICEF.

Reuters

PERSPECTIVES

Thursday, 20 August, 2015

Inefficient police force risks public safety

By Myint Win Thein

THE recent, tragic murder of a police officer on duty in Yangon Region has highlighted shortcomings and inefficiencies of the Myanmar Police Force that undermine public trust in those meant to protect the community.

At the time of his murder, the officer had been investigating a rape case in Insein Township which perhaps could have been prevented by police patrols.

The officer appeared to have been collecting clues about the case when a suspected rapist attacked him with a sword. Alone and apparently with no means of protecting himself, the officer died of sword wounds.

The incident shows that the Myanmar Police Force is understaffed and incapable of providing public security or even protecting its own officers. These factors contribute to people feeling less safe in Yangon than in the past.

Yangon is the biggest city in Myanmar and its population is growing rapidly due to urban migration. As a result, crime has become rampant.

How can an inefficient police force cope with criminal activities like rape, murder, robbery and extortion?

The Myanmar Police Force should be expanded and its capacity enhanced as soon as possible to combat crime in the future megacity. Failure to do so will create a public security nightmare for city dwellers.

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The plight of some elderly persons

By Myo Myint

While we are flushed with success, or flushed with anger after our failures when dealing with the daily challenges that enter through the front door during our middle age, old age creeps in uninvited from the backdoor. It settles in our house unnoticed, and begins to cast spells on us like a wizard with his magic wand. It begins by sprinkling our heads with a few grey hairs, drawing a few lines on our faces, and triggering slight pains and aches here and there in our bodies. Next, it siphons away all that we take pride in – our fantastic memory, our intellectual prowess, our good looks, and our physical strength. It does it so gradually that the changes are not noticeable until we reach three score years when it is time for us to forsake our workplace and seek solace in our homes. Then slowly it begins to take away our independence, by making our legs unsteady, our hands shaky, our eyesight dim and our movements clumsy. Old age thus unavoidably brings decrepitude, debility, disease, and deformity. It is also creates dependency on others – physically, psychologically, and financially. Old age also brings a sense of loneliness and isolation, as one slowly loses touch with society when one by one, death takes away relatives, friends, colleagues and familiar faces in one's surroundings. For those who are pessimists, old age is the time when we wait to follow those who have gone ahead of us. For those who view old age from a more positive perspective, it is the time to contemplate, meditate, and do meritorious deeds in preparation for the next round of rebirth and seek solace in religion for consolation, companionship, and contemplation. To those unencumbered by position, ambition and glory, and tamed by experience

and insight, old age also forms new qualities in us, such as, frankness, flexibility, fortitude, fearlessness, forbearance, forgiveness, and fellow feeling.

However we view old age, however old we are, and however much we dislike, we have to face the daily challenges it brings until the end of one's last breath. Some are fortunate enough to be living with their children or close relatives and being taken good care by them. Some, though having children and grandchildren, will feel that they are very fortunate if their offspring turn up at their house once a month to look up how they are. Some have children but are living in distant towns and even abroad, and they may not be able to visit them even during *Thadingyut* to pay respect to them. Some are childless with no one to support them like the old couple in their mid-seventies selling strands of sweet smelling jasmine and white and yellow ginger lilies at a small market. Each morning they get up early in the morning to buy flowers from a wholesaler and then travel about forty-five minutes by bus to the street market behind a Sangyoung high school to sell flowers. Since they have no stall, they stand at a place where a lot of people pass by. Probably drawn by their old age and the sweet smile on their faces, they have a number of regular customers and outsell their competitors and by about eight in the morning all the strands of flowers are sold out.

There are also parents who despite their advanced age have to take care of their grandchildren because their son, or daughter has passed away. One such person is the seventy-two year garbage collector who comes to my ward with his two grandsons every morning at about seven. The older one is fourteen years old but is of a built small enough to pass off of as a twelve year old and the younger is an equally small look-

ing nine years old. The older one helps his grandfather push the garbage cart while the younger one goes up to the upper floors of apartment buildings to collect the rubbish. They get paid by the number of garbage bags handed to them. The garbage collector was formerly a wrought iron worker making pagoda umbrellas and decorations but had to give up his work because of his failing eyesight. His wife has suffered a stroke and now cannot do much except cook a pot of rice. He has been taking care of the boys since his son died some eight years ago. The older boy had only attended school up to the third standard due to financial problems while the younger one is in the third standard at a monastic school. They live in a section of Kyimiyindine located across the Yangon River and they have to be back home by ten thirty so that the younger boy can attend school at eleven o'clock. Due to the sympathy of the people in the ward where they collect garbage, the grandfather and the grandsons earn enough to fulfil their daily needs.

There are also many childless couples, widows, widowers, spinsters and bachelors living by themselves, or if more prosperous, having the companionship of a poor relative or a domestic helper, such as the spritely eighty-six year old spinster living in the ground floor apartment of a building close to my house. She has been living with a cousin who is five years younger than her, ever since the death of her younger bachelor brother. However, as her cousin is hard of hearing and frailer than her, the older woman does all the shopping for food and household chores. Despite her frail looking appearance, the elder of the two old ladies seems to be quite healthy as her daily chores keep her fit. She appears to be quite contented with her life despite the lack of visitors and attention from relatives and friends. Like the aged people mentioned in this article, there are many aged people who despite their age and the daily challenges they face, such as financial hardship, family difficulties, and health problems, are still trying to maintain their dignity, independence, equilibrium and desire to go on living. They do not seek charity, sympathy, or attention and whatever

fears, disappointments and insecurities they have, they hide them well. They deserve admiration and moral support. Some may, one day, when they grow older need financial assistance from social organizations like the couple selling flowers, some may need assistance with the caring of family members such as support for education like in the case of the grandsons of the garbage collector, and some may not need financial assistance but they might need help with small chores like shopping for food, visit to the doctor and a bit of attention from their neighbours like in the case of the two old spinster cousins. As more and more people become involved in social work, it is hoped that people become more aware of the needs of aged people in their surroundings and try to assist them in whatever way they can to alleviate their plight, as they have, in one way, or another, contributed to the well-being of their community. It is also hoped that more social organizations focusing on the needs of aged persons will emerge as not only is the number of aged persons increasing in our society, but there is also a decrease in support from their younger family members and relatives.

UAB donates K300 million for flood victims



YANGON, 19 Aug—UAB Bank donated K300 million for rehabilitation of flood-affected 31 villages in Sedoktara Township from 14 to 16 August.

The bank donated K50,000 each, foodstuffs and medicines to more than 3,000 houses in the township.

CEO U Than Win Swe of the bank said, "We will emphasize relief and rehabilitation for flood victims."

Officials of the bank will make field trips to the flood zone for providing assistance to the residents.

Aye Ko (MNA)

Myanmar, Thai businessmen discuss investment

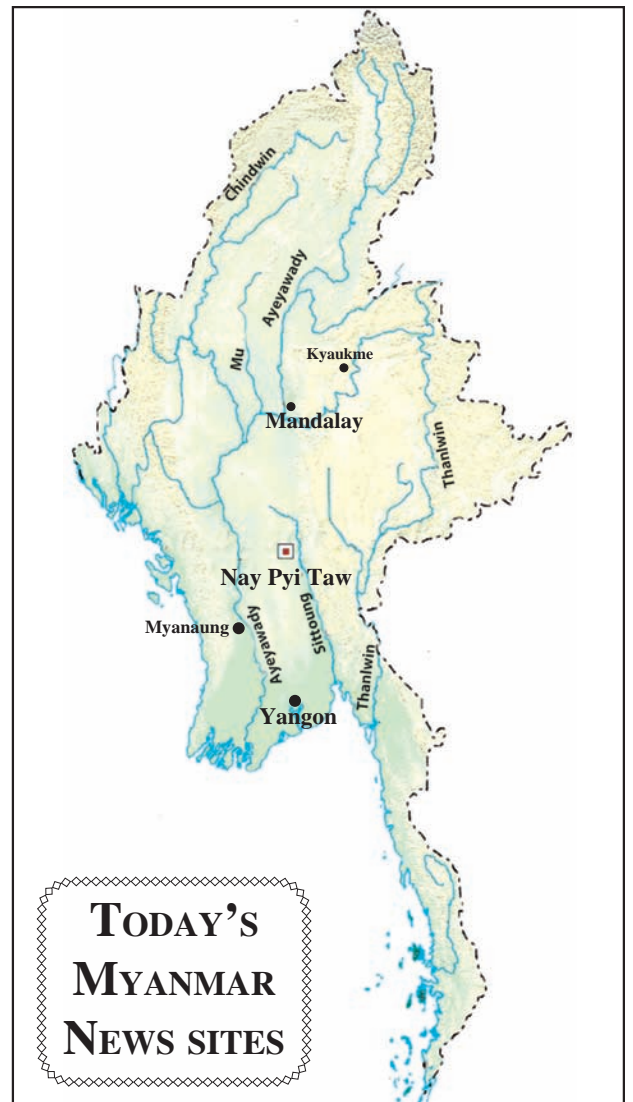


MANDALAY, 19 Aug — The Mandalay Region Chambers of Commerce and Industry held a meeting Tuesday with members of the Thailand Board of Investment and Bangkok-based businessmen to discuss economic cooperation.

MRCCI Secretary Dr Maung Maung spoke about the market situation and investment opportunities during the meeting at Mandalay Hill Resort

in Aungmyethazan Township. Director Mr Sak Chrt of the Thailand Board of Investment and Thai businessmen discussed food manufacturing, transport services, cooking oil production, manufacturing of auto parts, finished wood products and furniture production, and cooperation in the education sector.

Thiha Ko Ko (Mandalay)



Kyaukme Tsp opens gov't 'one-stop shop'

KYAUKME, 19 Aug — Residents of northern Shan State's Kyaukme Township can access a wide range of public services at a local government "one-stop shop" opened this week.

"Thanks to the OSS, local people can avoid red-tape in dealing with departments," Deputy Commissioner U Soe Naing said. "Moreover, departmental personnel can win the trust of the people without bribery."

Township administrator U Aung Lwin spoke about the organizational setup of the one-stop shop and participation of departments.

He said the shop formed with officials from seven departments will also incorporate the Basic Education Department, Myanma Posts and Telecommunications, Livestock Breeding and Veterinary Department, Forest Department and Rural Development Department in the future.

K Myint Aung



Taungthaman Bridge set to undergo maintenance

MANDALAY, 19 Aug — The Ministry of Culture and Mandalay Region government will jointly carry out K227 million worth of maintenance works on the 164-year Taungthaman Bridge from next month.

Around 100 wooden posts and 35 beams require replacement, while wooden railings and power lines will also be installed.

The maintenance works will start in early September. Technicians will ensure that the original character of the bridge is preserved.

Thiha Ko Ko (Mandalay)

Health officials share knowledge of water-borne diseases

MYANAUNG, 19 Aug — A team led by medical superintendent Dr Maung Maung Chit of the Myanaung Township Hospital made field trips to flood-affected villages in the township on Monday to provide healthcare services to local residents.

Mobile medical teams of the Township Public Health Department have treated more than 4,600 people following severe flooding.

They disseminated health knowledge about common water-borne diseases to residents. They also chlorinated wells and lakes, the medical superintendent said.

Win Bo (Myanaung IPRD)



Chinese slowdown sends ripples across Asian banks



People take photos with the skyline of the financial district of Singapore in the background April 14, 2014. —REUTERS

HONG KONG, 19 Aug — Asian lenders are seeing their loan books rapidly deteriorate across the region as China's slowing economy dampens trade and hurts companies that had borrowed heavily from the banks.

Among 23 major non-Chinese lenders, all but 6 reported an increase in soured loans in the first half of 2015, the strongest indication yet of how China's slowdown is infecting banks' balance sheets, data compiled by SNL Financial for Reuters show.

That trend accelerated in the second quarter, the banks' data show.

"Second-quarter results have seen banks across Asia suffer rising bad loans after a period of historic lows in NPL levels," said Josh Klaczek, JPMorgan head of Asia financials research.

"China's slowing growth has particularly hit shorter duration trade-related loans, but is likely to have a broader impact on commodity credit, given its importance as an end-user." The data indicate how banks

regionwide are suffering even when, like in Indonesia, they are not lending much directly to Chinese companies, as trade across Asia stutters. Indonesian banks saw provisions against bad loans as much as triple in the first half of 2015. "Most of the Indonesian banks said their increasing non performing loans (NPLs) are because of the mining and construction sectors, which have been hit the most by slowing demand from China," said analyst Syaiful Adrian at Ciptadana Securities.—Reuters

Japan's trade deficit shrinks 72% in July on year

TOKYO, 19 Aug — Japan logged a goods trade deficit for the fourth month in a row in July but the value shrank 72.3 percent from a year earlier to 268.1 billion yen (\$2.2 billion), the government said Wednesday, as imports were pushed down by declining crude oil prices.

The value of exports expanded 7.6 percent to 6,663.8 billion yen for the 11th straight monthly increase on the back of the yen's depreciation, but they dropped 0.7 percent on a volume basis amid a slowdown in the Chinese and other emerging economies.

"As for automobile-related exports, they have not been doing well in recent months on a volume basis compared with a year ago," a Finance Ministry official said.

The value of imports slid 3.2 percent to 6,931.8 billion yen, down for the seventh straight month, reflecting falling imports of crude oil and other energy-related products such as liquefied natural gas from the Middle East.

In July, imports of crude oil plunged 24.6 percent for the 12th straight monthly decline, as average oil prices fell 42.8 percent from a year earlier to \$63.9 per barrel, the Finance Ministry said.

Shipments to the United States, whose economy has been on a recovery track, grew 18.8 percent to 1,340.8 billion yen for the 11th straight monthly gain, while imports from the country rose 7.5 percent to 693.9 billion yen.

Kyodo News

Lack of experience with kids may lead to EMS errors

NEW YORK, 19 Aug — The main challenge in providing safe care to children in ambulances may be the limited experience many emergency medical service (EMS) providers have in treating kids, a U.S. survey of first responders suggests.

Though children make up almost one quarter of the U.S. population — or roughly 73 million kids — they account for just 13 percent of EMS transports and only one percent of rides requiring advanced life support, researchers report in the *Journal of Pediatrics*. Asked what factors may be most responsible for errors, EMS workers cited inexperience with airway management for tiny bodies, heightened anxiety working with children, and limited proficiency in pediatric skills requiring pint-sized equipment as the top culprits, the survey found.

The need for intense, complex care in these situations, and EMS workers' limited experience with them, "make the medical management of children's emergencies particularly challenging," said lead author Dr. Jeanne-Marie Guise, an emergency medicine researcher at Oregon Health and Science University in Portland.—Reuters

E-cigarettes are 95 percent less harmful than tobacco: UK study

LONDON, 19 Aug — Electronic cigarettes are around 95 percent less harmful than tobacco and should be promoted as a tool to help smokers quit, a study by an agency of Britain's Department of Health said on Wednesday.

E-cigarettes, tobacco-free devices people use to inhale nicotine-laced vapor, have surged in popularity on both sides of the Atlantic but health organizations have so far been wary of advocating them as a safer alternative to tobacco and governments from California to India have tried to introduce bills to regulate their use more strictly.

"E-cigarettes are not completely risk free but when compared to smoking, evidence shows they carry just a fraction of the harm," said Professor Kevin Fenton from Public Health England, which carried out the study.

Most of the chemicals that cause smoking-related diseases are absent in e-cigarettes and the current best estimate is that e-cigarette use is around 95 percent less harmful to health than smoking, the study said.

Passive inhalation from an e-cigarette was also much less harmful.

The publicly-funded study goes against

a 2014 report by the World Health Organization that called for stiff regulation of e-cigarettes and bans on their indoor use and sale to minors.

It also contradicts the finding of another study by researchers from the University of Southern California which said this week that U.S. teens who tried electronic cigarettes might be more than twice as likely to move on to smoking conventional cigarettes as those who have never tried the devices.

The Public Health England study said e-cigarettes, which are already the most popular quitting aids in Britain and the United States, could be a cheap way to reduce smoking in deprived areas where there remains a high proportion of smokers.

It criticized media campaigns that have called e-cigarettes equally or even more harmful than smoking that could serve as a "gateway" to tobacco cigarettes among teenagers.

"There is no evidence that e-cigarettes are undermining England's falling smoking rates," said Professor Ann McNeil who helped author the study.

"Instead the evidence consistently finds that e-cigarettes are another tool for



A woman exhales vapour from an e-cigarette outside the offices of British e-cigarette manufacturer Totally Wicked in Blackburn, northern England March 19, 2015. —REUTERS

stopping smoking and in my view smokers should try vaping, and vapers should stop smoking entirely," she added.

Almost all of the 2.6 million adults using e-cigarettes in Britain are current or ex-smokers who are using the devices to help them quit and only 2 percent of young people are regular users, the study said.

Tobacco companies such as Philip Morris International and British American Tobacco (BAT) have viewed e-cigarettes as a solution to declining sales in Britain and the United States and have bought makers of the metal devices.

Calling the study an "incredibly important milestone", a BAT spokesman acknowledged the risk posed by chemicals found in cigarette smoke and said increasing sales of e-cigarettes would greatly benefit their customers' health.

Reuters

Hackers dump data online from cheating website Ashley Madison

TORONTO, 19 Aug — Hackers dumped online personal details of more than a million users of infidelity website AshleyMadison.com, tech websites reported on Tuesday, the latest high-profile cyber attack that threatens to wreak strife in relationships across the globe.

After threatening to release salacious details on as many as 37 million customers of the website, which uses the slogan “Life is short. Have an affair,” hackers claimed to publish a huge cache of email addresses and credit card data stolen in July.

Reuters was not immediately able to confirm the authenticity of the posting. Avid Life Media, which owns Ashley Madison and Established Men, widely described as a “sugar daddy site,” did not verify the data was real, but said it was aware of the claim.



The homepage of the Ashley Madison website is displayed on an iPad, in this photo illustration taken in Ottawa, Canada July 21, 2015.—REUTERS

The hackers used the dark web which is only accessible using a specialized browser.

Still within hours, thousands of email addresses from North America and Europe including many linked to corporations and universities

sprouted up on other sites as people decrypted the database. It is possible to create an Ashley Madison account using someone else’s name and email.

The hackers have appointed themselves as “the moral judge, juror, and executioner, seeing fit to im-

pose a personal notion of virtue on all of society,” the company said in a statement.

“These are illegitimate acts that have real consequences for innocent citizens who are simply going about their daily lives,” it said.

The Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) is investigating the theft alongside the Royal Canadian Mounted Police and local police, it said.

The hackers, who call themselves The Impact Team, leaked snippets of the compromised data in July and threatened to publish names and nude photos and sexual fantasies of customers unless Ashley Madison and another site owned by Avid Life were taken down.

“Avid Life Media has failed to take down Ashley Madison and Established Men,” tech website Wired quoted The Impact Team as saying in a statement accompanying the online dump.

“We have explained the fraud, deceit, and stupidity of ALM (Avid Life Media) and their members. Now everyone gets to see their data,” the hackers

said, according to Wired.

Other higher-profile attacks such as those on big companies, like Sony Pictures Entertainment and Target, have seen credit card data of customers stolen, unleashing massive financial damage to individuals and companies.

But this data dump appeared to confirm that the hackers were not driven by blackmail or commercial motives, but rather ideological ones.

The intrusion into the private lives of individuals marked a watershed moment in cyber crime as the data spread across the web, said Ajay K. Sood, General Manager for Canada of cyber security firm FireEye Inc.

“These guys want as much notoriety as possible. This isn’t cyber terrorism. It’s cyber vigilantism,” he said.

Reuters

China tests carrier rocket’s power system

BEIJING, 19 Aug — Chinese scientists on Monday successfully tested the power system of a Long March-5 carrier rocket scheduled to serve the Chang’e-5 lunar mission around 2017.

Using non-toxic and non-polluting liquefied propellant, the engines of the rocket were fired on the ground.

This final ground test of

the power system was good preparation for tests on actually launching the rocket next year, said the State Administration of Science, Technology and Industry for National Defense.

With a payload capacity of 14 tonnes to geostationary transfer orbit, the largest carrying capacity in China, the rocket will greatly increase China’s ability to enter space.—Xinhua

Taxi app GrabTaxi raises \$350 million from CIC, others

SINGAPORE, 19 Aug — Taxi-booking app GrabTaxi Holdings Pte Ltd said it raised over \$350 million from investors including sovereign wealth fund China Investment Corporation, in the Southeast Asian company’s largest ever fundraising round.

Other investors include hedge fund Coatue Management LLC and China’s mobile car-ride hailing company Didi Kuaidi, GrabTaxi said in a statement, adding that it would use the funds to expand its private vehicle hire and motorbike booking services and invest in technology.

Singapore-headquartered GrabTaxi competes with the likes of Uber Technologies Inc [UBER.UL] and Rocket Internet’s Easy

Taxi in the city-state and some of the other Southeast Asian markets in which it operates.

The company, which counts Japanese telecoms firm SoftBank Corp and a unit of Singapore state investor Temasek Holdings [TEM.UL] as shareholders, has now raised about \$700 million since it was launched in 2012.

It was unclear, however, how much the latest fundraising valued the company.

The use of taxi-hailing apps is growing in Southeast Asia, especially Singapore, one of the most expensive places in the world to own a private car. Heavy traffic in cities such as Manila and Jakarta also makes finding taxis tough, benefiting these apps.—Reuters

Toshiba shakes up board with high-profile outsiders

TOKYO, 19 Aug — Japan’s Toshiba Corp (6502.T) proposed a new board on Tuesday dominated by outsiders, including three former chiefs of big Japanese companies, that it hopes will help to reform the conglomerate after a \$1.2 billion accounting scandal.

The appointments drew praise for tapping corporate heavy-hitters, including one with a record on governance reforms, although some investors remained skeptical whether they would have the ability or the motivation to make a difference.

“The impression one gets is that these newly appointed outsiders are simply taking a turn doing a task for the business community,” said Yasuo Sakuma, executive officer of equity investment management at Bayview Asset Management.

“It’s doubtful that they will think of themselves as people with skin in the game,” he said. “They’re stuck with the hot potato and must be at a loss as to what to do.”

Toshiba has drawn fire for Japan’s biggest accounting scandal since endoscope and camera maker Olympus Corp (7733.T) was caught four years ago in a \$1.7 billion

scheme to conceal two decades of investment losses. Olympus also responded by appointing outsiders as a majority of its board.

Toshiba said it would keep interim President Masashi Muromachi in his role for a longer period, maintaining stability but possibly disappointing some investors who hoped for a new leader.

“This is the biggest crisis in Toshiba’s 140-year history, and the first thing we have to do is improve corporate governance, internal controls and corporate culture,” Muromachi told a news conference on Tuesday. He did not say how long he would remain president but said it would not be a long time and the company would look for a younger replacement.

The new board members include Mitsubishi Chemical Holdings Corp (4188.T) Chairman Yoshimitsu Kobayashi, 68, who is also leader of the influential Keizai Doyukai group of corporate executives, as well as former Asahi Breweries President Koichi Ikeda, 75, and former Shiseido Co (4911.T) Chief Executive Shinzo Maeda, 68.

Maeda, who served as president of the cosmetics giant until 2014, oversaw the establishment of a board nomination advisory committee, increased the number of outside auditors and hired



Toshiba Corp interim President and CEO Masashi Muromachi arrives at a management renewal committee at the company headquarters in Tokyo, Japan, July 29, 2015.—REUTERS

outside directors. Toshiba named six new outsiders, replacing three who had come under criticism for lacking the experience or confidence to question top executives.

Following approval of the candidates at an extraordinary shareholders’ meeting in late September, Toshiba will have seven external directors on its 11-member board.

The Japanese government is trying to make companies more attractive to foreign investors by adopting governance guidelines for listed firms, including appointing multiple independent directors.

Toshiba shares ended flat ahead of the announcement of the board changes, which had already been reported in domestic media.

They have fallen nearly 30 percent since the start of the year, hovering near a two-and-a-half year low hit last month after Reuters reported that the company would face up to \$3 billion in charges over the scandal.

Toshiba said on Tuesday that it would take 127 billion yen (\$1.02 billion) in impairment charges for the latest financial year ended in March to reflect writedowns in its nuclear business as well as semiconductor and appliance units.

That will result in a net loss for the full year and an estimated 170 billion yen operating profit, below a previous projection of 330 billion yen that was pulled in May when it widened its accounting probe.

Reuters

Refugee ship leaves island for Greek mainland

ATHENS, 19 Aug — A passenger ship carrying Syrian migrants set sail from the Greek island of Kos on Wednesday, heading for the mainland as authorities struggle to cope with a wave of arrivals.

The Greek coast guard's office said the ship, which has acted as a floating accommodation and registration center since Sunday, was heading for the northern port of Thessaloniki, Greece's second biggest city.

On Tuesday, Athens appealed to its European Union partners to come up with a comprehensive strategy to deal with the migrant crisis after 21,000 people landed on Greek shores last week alone.

Many of the arrivals have escaped the Syrian civil war, making their way through Turkey before crossing the narrow stretch of water to Kos and other Greek islands in inflatable dinghies and small boats to seek refuge in the EU.

With conditions on

Kos becoming increasingly chaotic, the Greek government chartered the car ferry Eleftherios Venizelos last week to accommodate up to 2,500 Syrians and ease the pressure on the island. Thousands of other migrants from Asia, Africa and elsewhere in the Middle East are sleeping in abandoned buildings or in the open.

Many migrants have already made it to Thessaloniki, often crossing by foot into neighboring Macedonia. From there, they try to head for northern Europe in the hope of finding more help and jobs that are not available in Greece, which is gripped by economic crisis.

Last week's arrivals in Greece were equal to almost half the number for all of 2014 and bring the total for this year to 160,000. This has strained an ill-prepared reception system that relies heavily on volunteers. The Syrians got priority in boarding the ship as they are regarded as refugees due to their coun-



Migrants from Pakistan paddle a dinghy as one of them waves while they cross a part of the Aegean sea from the Turkish coast on the Greek island of Kos, August 19, 2015.—REUTERS

try's civil war.

Arrivals from other countries such as Iran, Afghanistan and Pakistan,

regarded as economic migrants, are camping out in filthy conditions, leading to sporadic clashes and

brawls.

A spokesman for the United Nations refugee agency UNHCR in Geneva

said Greece needed to show "much more leadership" in dealing with the crisis.

Reuters

Spain condemns cancellation of Jewish musician at reggae festival

MADRID, 19 Aug — The Spanish government condemned on Tuesday a Spanish reggae festival's decision to cancel a concert by an American Jewish musician after he failed to reply to a demand to clarify his position on Palestinian statehood.



Jewish reggae artist Matisyahu arrives at the 49th Annual Grammy Awards in Los Angeles February 11, 2007.—REUTERS

He failed to reply to a demand to clarify his position on Palestinian statehood.

The cancellation of Matisyahu at the week-long Rototom Sunsplash festival in eastern Spain - following pressure from supporters of sanctions against Israel over its policies towards Palestinians - prompted protests by Jewish groups.

Spain said it rejected boycott campaigns and any sign of anti-Semitism, while reiterating its support for an independent Palestinian state through bilateral negotiations.

"Imposing a public declaration (from Matisyahu), puts into question the principle of non-discrimination on which all plural and diverse societies are based," the Spanish foreign ministry said in a statement on Tuesday.

Matisyahu, who fuses reggae, hip-hop and rock with Jewish influences in his songs, had been due to perform at Rototom in Benicassim, Valencia, next Saturday.—Reuters

Japan, Iran to discuss investment pact after sanctions end: Nikkei

TOKYO, 19 Aug — Japan and Iran will start negotiations on an investment accord once sanctions are lifted following last month's landmark international deal on Tehran's nuclear program, the Nikkei reported on Wednesday, citing Japanese government sources.

Initial talks are being held between the two countries to prepare for the lifting of sanctions and begin formal negotiations, the business daily said, without identifying the sources.

Japan is keen to boost ties with Iran and invest in resource projects in the country, as well as return imports of Iranian oil to about 10 percent of the total from 5 percent now after sanctions forced Japanese refiners to cut purchases, it said.

Earlier this month,

Daishiro Yamagiwa, vice-minister of Japan's Ministry of Economy, Trade and Industry (METI), visited Tehran and met top government officials, accompanied by executives from the oil, gas and other industries.

Yamagiwa did not discuss an investment agreement, Shigetoshi Ikeyama, a director in METI's Middle East and Africa division, said when contacted by Reuters about the Nikkei report.

"Knowing that Japanese companies are interested in boosting economic ties in future, state minister Yamagiwa had general discussions on streamlining the environment for that, but did not discuss an investment pact in particular," Ikeyama said, adding that the Ministry of Foreign Affairs would take the lead on

any discussions on specific agreements.

"Another reason for Yamagiwa's visit was to avoid being beaten by European and U.S. companies," Ikeyama said.

Officials at the foreign ministry were not immediately available for comment.

Inpex Corp (1605.T), Japan's biggest energy explorer, JGC Corp (1963.T), an engineering company, and trading houses Mitsubishi & Co (8031.T) and Itochu Corp (8001.T) joined Yamagiwa on the visit, the Nikkei said.

A spokesman at Inpex, which in 2010 was forced to give up a stake in Iran's Azadegan oil field because of the sanctions, confirmed some of its officials had accompanied Yamagiwa and said the explorer was mon-

itoring the situation.

Itochu and JGC also confirmed they were in the delegation but Mitsui did not respond immediately to a query on the matter. A Mitsubishi official had said earlier that it planned to send an official along with Yamagiwa. Senior government ministers from Italy, France, Germany and Serbia have been among those making the trek since the July 14 accord, which raised the prospect of banking and trade sanctions on Iran being lifted, possibly by the end of this year.

Last month Iran outlined plans to rebuild its main industries and trade relations following the nuclear agreement with world powers, saying it was targeting oil and gas projects worth \$185 billion by 2020.

Reuters

1 dead, 7 hurt in U.S. hospital scaffold collapse

HOUSTON, 19 Aug — One construction worker was killed and seven others were injured after a six-story scaffold collapsed Tuesday in the U.S. state of New Mexico.

The scaffold, outside

a medical center in the city of Rio Rancho, buckled and collapsed from the top down, hurting eight workers, including one who died later, according to ABC News reports.

The scaffold had six

floors in total and most of the injured were on the fifth when it collapsed.

Nearly 240 workers were at the construction site when the accident happened, officials at Presbyterian Rust Medical Center

said, adding that the site is now closed and all workers have been sent home.

The cause of the accident was not immediately known and investigation is under way.

Xinhua

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**CLAIMS DAY NOTICE
MV ASIATIC GLORY VOY NO (010N)**

Consignees of cargo carried on MV ASIATIC GLORY VOY NO (010N) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 20.8.2015 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of H.P.T where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

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

Phone No: 2301185

**CLAIMS DAY NOTICE
MV PANJA BHUM VOY NO (060N)**

Consignees of cargo carried on MV PANJA BHUM VOY NO (060N) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 20.8.2015 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of A.W.P.T where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

**SHIPPING AGENCY DEPARTMENT
MYANMA PORT AUTHORITY
AGENT FOR: M/S WAN HAI LINES PTE LTD**

Phone No: 2301185

**CLAIMS DAY NOTICE
MV YANGON STAR VOY NO (7J038R)**

Consignees of cargo carried on MV YANGON STAR VOY NO (7J038R) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 20.8.2015 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of M.I.P where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

**SHIPPING AGENCY DEPARTMENT
MYANMA PORT AUTHORITY
AGENT FOR: M/S CMA CGM**

Phone No: 2301185

**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

**Ministry of Energy
Myanma Petroleum Products Enterprise
Invitation for Open Tender (5/2015)**

1. Open tenders are invited for supply of Aviation Lubricating Oil and Grease (4)Items (Open Tender No. MPPE/AV(LUB)/T/2(2015-2016)) in United State Dollars (CIF Yangon).
2. Tender Closing Date & Time - 15 - 9 - 2015, 12:00 Hrs
3. Tender documents are available at our office starting from 19 - 8 - 2015 during office hours and for further detail please contact: Phone :067-411487.

Planning Department
Myanma Petroleum Products Enterprise
Ministry of Energy, No(6) Complex, Nay Pyi Taw

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**3 killed in
S Philippine
clash**

MANILA, 19 Aug — Two members of Abu Sayyaf group and a government soldier were killed while seven others were wounded in a clash in southern Philippines on Wednesday.

Col. Rolando Bautista, commander of the military's Joint Task Group Basilan, said his men were conducting combat operation when they engaged some 60 terrorists in Sumisip town in Basilan Province.

"The firefight unfortunately resulted in one killed and one wounded on the government side while reportedly, two killed and six wounded on the enemy side," said Bautista.

The official could not give other details of the skirmish, saying: "As of now, the pursuit operation is ongoing so it's really hard to give exact details from troops who are on pursuit."

Founded in the 1990s with seed money from al-Qaida, Abu Sayyaf gained international notoriety for the worst militant attacks in Philippine history, including bombings and kidnapping Christians and foreigners for ransom.

Xinhua

**Small eruption
observed at Mt.
Sakurajima in
southwest Japan**

KAGOSHIMA, (Japan), 19 Aug — A very small eruption was observed at the Sakurajima volcano in southwestern Japan early Wednesday, the Japan Meteorological Agency said.

The eruption at 3:13 a.m. was the first observed at the 1,117-meter volcano near Kagoshima City in Kagoshima Prefecture

since the alert level was raised last week to 4 on a 5-point scale, indicating a major eruption could be imminent.

The agency said a phenomenon called volcanic glow, in which air above the crater looks red because of the reflection of magma and red-hot volcanic rocks, was observed early in the day along with the latest

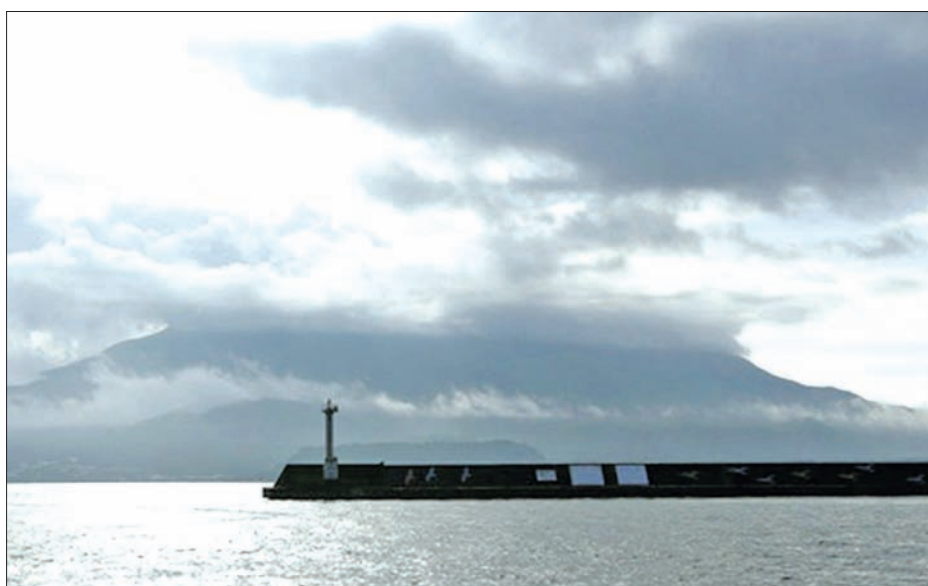


Photo taken Aug. 19, 2015, shows the Sakurajima volcano in southwestern Japan. The Japan Meteorological Agency said a very small eruption was observed at the volcano at 3:13 a.m. that day.—Kyodo News

eruption at the mountain's Showa vent.

The Sakurajima volca-

no has had more than 1,000 eruptions since the start of this year, and the latest was

one of the smallest among them, the agency said.

Kyodo News

Suicide bombing kills 10 Kurdish fighters in northern Syria

DAMASCUS, 19 Aug — At least 10 Kurdish fighters were killed Wednesday, when a suicide car bombing ripped through their position in northeastern Syria, the Syrian Observatory for Human Rights reported.

The Islamic State (IS) group carried out the suicide car bombing at one of the positions of the Kurdish security forces in Syria's

northeastern city of Qamishli, sending plumes of smoke bellowing over the area.

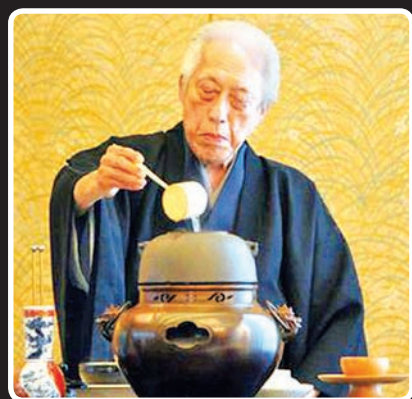
Qamishli-based activists said the a red truck exploded near a position of the Kurdish fighters in the al-Antariyeh district in Qamishli, leaving many civilians, who work in a nearby industrial city, wounded.

The blast left proper-

ty losses as shown in aftermath photos circulated online.

Kurdish fighters of the People's Protection Units, who are backed by the U.S.-led coalition, have been making strides in their battle against the IS in predominantly Kurdish areas in northern Syria along the border with Turkey.

Xinhua



Sen Genshitsu, the 92-year-old former grand master of the Urasenke school of tea ceremony, displays "the way of tea" during a ceremony wishing for world peace and friendship between Japan and the United States at the official residence of the Japanese ambassador to the United States in Washington on Aug. 18, 2015. The ceremony commemorated the 70th anniversary of the end of World War II.—Kyodo News

Beatles first record contract up for auction in New York

NEW YORK, 19 Aug — The first recording contract ever signed by The Beatles — during their early days in Hamburg, Germany — is expected to fetch about \$150,000 when it goes up for auction in New York next month, the company handing the sale said on Tuesday.

The contract, written in German and signed in 1961 by Paul McCartney, John Lennon, George Harrison and then-drummer Peter Best, is part of a 300 lot collection of Beatles memorabilia assembled by the late German record producer Uwe Blaschke.

Dean Harmeyer, consignment director at Heritage Auctions, called the contract “perhaps the most historically important Beatles document to ever appear at auction.”

The Blaschke collection includes photos, documents and autographs related to the time the band from Liverpool, England spent in Germany in the early 1960s before going

on to conquer the world.

The 1961 contract was for a record that didn't even bear the name of The Beatles. It was for an uptempo version of the traditional German children's song “My Bonnie” and was credited to Tony Sheridan & The Beat Brothers because the record company felt the name “Beatles” was unsuitable for the German market, according to the auction house.

“Without this contract, which directly led to their involvement with (manager) Brian Epstein, the Beatles may have never been able to achieve their later success as a recording group. And at the time it was a momentous career milestone — they'd finally secured an actual recording deal, something they had only dreamed of before ‘My Bonnie,’” Harmeyer said in a statement.

Other items for sale include an autographed copy of the group's first hit single “Love Me Do,” which is expected to fetch



Shoppers are reflected in a window as they queue at a HMV store for the launch of the game “The Beatles: Rock Band” in Liverpool, northern England, September 9, 2009.—REUTERS

\$10,000, and a snapshot of 17-year-old Harrison modeling his first leather jacket, taken in 1960 in Hamburg, with an estimated sale price of \$3,000.

Beatles memorabilia is in high demand by collectors. A guitar played by George Harrison in 1963 sold for \$485,000 in New York in May and a collection of John Lennon manuscripts and drawings for two books he wrote in the

mid-1960s sold for \$2.9 million at a Sotheby's auction in 2014.

The Beatles split up in 1970. Lennon was shot dead in New York in 1980 and Harrison died of cancer in 2001.

The Heritage Auctions event will be held in New York on Sept. 19 after a traveling exhibition of some items to Beverly Hills and Dallas.

Reuters

Luke Bryan outsells Dr. Dre's ‘Compton’ on U.S. Album Chart

LOS ANGELES, 19 Aug — Country star Luke Bryan's latest album, “Kill the Lights,” beat out Dr. Dre's buzzy “Compton,” the companion album to “Straight Outta Compton,” in the U.S. album sales race for the week ending Aug. 13, according to data from Nielsen Music.

Despite “Straight Outta Compton's” chart-topping performance at the box office in its opening weekend, Dre's album did not hit No. 1. “Compton,” the iconic producer's first album in 16 years, moved just shy of 295,000 units in its debut. The collection is available exclusively through Apple and iTunes for its first two weeks in release.

Dre bowed behind Bryan's “Lights,” which moved 345,000 units in its opening week. The country set had the third biggest sales debut for a

2015 album, behind Drake's “If You're Reading This It's Too Late” (535,000 units in February) and Kendrick Lamar's “To Pimp a Butterfly” (363,000 units in March).

Coming in at No. 3 is hit compilation “Now 55,” which moved close to 76,000 units in its debut. The collection includes cuts from Taylor Swift (“Style”) and Ed Sheeran (“Thinking Out Loud”) as well as Ellie Goulding, Jason Derulo and Fifth Harmony.

The fourth new album of the time frame finished in fourth place: Christian hip-hop artist TobyMac's “This Is Not a Test” moved nearly 38,000 units in its debut.

Taylor Swift's “1989” leads the popular holdovers on the chart, dropping from No. 3 to No. 5 with 33,000 units moved. Behind Swift is Ed Sheeran with “X,” which dropped from fourth to sixth place with just under 33,000 units moved. Sheeran's NBC concert special that aired Sunday fizzled in the TV ratings, pulling in 2.2 million viewers.

Future slid from No. 2 to No. 7 with “DS2,” moving 31,000 units. The rap album was down 16 percent in its fourth week of competition, after debuting at No. 1.

Slipping from the top spot to eighth place was the soundtrack to “Descendants,” Disney Channel's TV movie musical about the spawn of classic Disney villains. The album moved 30,000 units, down 27 percent from its No. 1 debut.—Reuters



Luke Bryan accepts the award for male video of the year for “Play It Again” during the 2015 CMT Awards in Nashville, Tennessee June 10, 2015.—REUTERS

Cate Blanchett puts Australian estate on sale for USD 20 mn

NEW YORK, 19 Aug — Oscar-winning actress Cate Blanchett has placed her palatial Australian estate on the market for USD 14.75 million.

The 46-year-old “Elizabeth” actress and husband Andrew Upton, 49, are ready to part with their five-bedroom waterfront property, reported the New York Post.

Overlooking the Lane Cove River in Sydney, the sandstone-faced mansion is set on a lush parcel of land in the exclusive suburb of Hunter Hills. Called “Bulwarra”, the estate was built in 1877.

Although initially constructed in the 19th century, the

home boasts many modern amenities, from a stainless steel kitchen island to streamlined balconies wrapping around the second floor, which provide nearly unobstructed views of the river. Solid American oak floors run throughout the impressive estate.

The master bedroom features a sky-lit dressing room and freestanding bath that boasts a sweeping view of the Australian landscape. Other amenities include a pool pavilion with large spa shaded by a pergola, a championship tennis court, a trampoline platform and a guesthouse.—PTI



Jennifer Hudson to star in Aretha Franklin biopic?

LOS ANGELES, 19 Aug — Actress Jennifer Hudson is reportedly in talks to star in the untitled Aretha Franklin biopic.

Hudson, 33, is in negotiations to play the R&B songstress, a lead role which was previously offered to Halle Berry, reported Aceshowbiz.

The casting is not final yet but Hudson's representative has hinted that there had been conversations about the role.

“Straight Outta Compton” producer Scott Bernstein is making the movie under his SMB Films banner.

PTI

I am dying to be in a comedy movie:

LUPITA NYONG'O

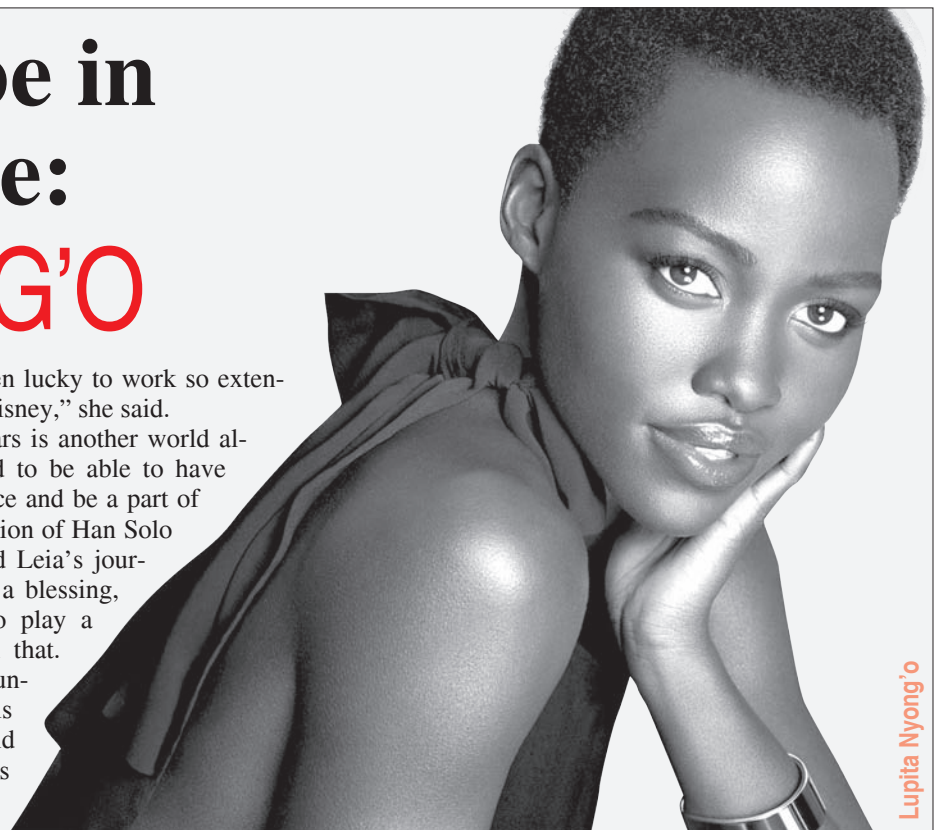
LOS ANGELES, 19 Aug — Oscar-winning actress Lupita Nyong'o, who is starring in three upcoming Disney films, says she wants to do a fun movie next.

“I'm really dying to be in a comedy. I'd love to be in a love story! How about some of that?” Nyong'o said on the sidelines of Disney's D23 Expo.

The 32-year-old actress was at the fan expo in Anaheim, California, to promote her roles in 2015's “Star Wars: Episode VII – The Force Awakens” and 2016's “The Jungle Book” and “The Queen of Katwe”, reported People magazine.

“I've been lucky to work so extensively with Disney,” she said.

“Star Wars is another world altogether. And to be able to have that experience and be a part of that continuation of Han Solo and Luke and Leia's journey is really a blessing, to be able to play a small part in that. And then Jungle Book is another world altogether as well.” —PTI



Lupita Nyong'o

GENERAL

California water prices set to rise next year: Fitch



A dry canal is seen running off the Colorado River Aqueduct, in Hayfield Lake, California, United States May 18, 2015.—REUTERS

SAN FRANCISCO, 19 Aug — Residents of drought-ravaged California can expect to pay more for water next year as utilities pass on the cost of mandatory conservation measures to customers, a survey released by rating agency Fitch on Tuesday said.

Seventy-eight percent of the 46 retail water utilities polled said rate increases would either begin next year or have al-

ready begun.

The median increase in 2016 will be about 5 percent, although the largest increase will be 31 percent, Fitch said.

Facing a record-breaking drought, California in May adopted emergency regulations requiring a statewide 25 percent reduction in water sales.

As a result many water utilities will

experience reduced financial margins in fiscal years 2015 and 2016.

“The persistence of this drought has begun to outstrip the tools utilities typically use to manage the state’s hydrological cycles,” said Kathryn Masterson, senior director at Fitch.

Raising water rates in California is not easy. State law requires utilities to notify all property owners in writing of the proposed change and hold a public hearing to receive protests.

It also requires water changes to be limited to the actual cost of service. Many California water utilities are currently engaged in cost-of-service studies, making rate actions likely during mid- to late fiscal 2016.

“Despite constitutional considerations and legal scrutiny of water rates, rate increases remain one of the most viable tools utilities have in the face of greater conservation and lower revenues,” Masterson said. In addition to rate increases, 52 percent of water utilities expect to offset lower revenues by cutting operating expenditures, 46 percent said they would dip into financial reserves, and 37 percent said they would divert from their planned capital spending, according to Fitch.

Fitch said that while fiscal 2015 will show lower financial margins for many utilities, fiscal 2016 may see modest improvements, with the full rate impact benefitting financial margins in fiscal 2017, even if the drought continues at its present level of severity.

Reuters

Actress Rosie O’Donnell says daughter missing from NY home found, safe



Actress Rosie O’Donnell arrives for the opening night of the play “Hamilton” on Broadway in New York August 6, 2015.

REUTERS

NEW YORK, 19 Aug — Rosie O’Donnell’s teenage daughter, who had been reported missing by the actress from their home in suburban New York, has been found and is safe, she said on Tuesday.

O’Donnell had said earlier in the day on her website that Chelsea O’Donnell, 17, had last been seen on Tuesday, Aug. 11, and that local police had been looking for her since Sunday in Rockland County, about 20 miles (32 km) north of Manhattan.

O’Donnell announced later on Twitter that her daughter had been found, tweeting “chelsea has been found and is safe in police custody.”

When she reported her daughter missing, O’Donnell said the teen had stopped taking her medication and needed medical attention.

A spokeswoman for O’Donnell, a former co-host of ABC’s “The View,” said the teen suffered from a mental illness.

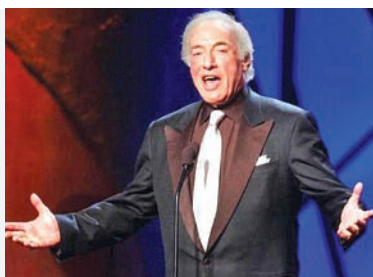
Reuters

Bud Yorkin, producer of ‘All in the Family,’ ‘The Jeffersons,’ dead at 89

LOS ANGELES, 19 Aug — Bud Yorkin, who directed and produced some of the most influential and memorable television shows of the 1970s, including “All in the Family” and “The Jeffersons,” has died of natural causes at his home in Los Angeles. He was 89-years-old.

Over the course of his long career, Alan “Bud” Yorkin won six Emmy Awards, a Peabody, a Sylvania and a Director’s Guild Award. “Yorkin directed and co-produced many of the most innovative hit sitcoms of the 1970s, shows that broke new ground by interjecting topical, real-world elements of class, race, politics and social change as well as previously unseen settings into comic situations,” his spokesman said in a statement. Yorkin was best known for developing the groundbreaking sitcom “All in the Family,” which introduced Americans to the

Bud Yorkin accepts the David Susskind Lifetime Achievement Award Television at the 14th annual Producers Guild Awards March 2, 2003 in Los Angeles.
REUTERS



openly bigoted, blue-collar worker, Archie Bunker, and the use of television comedy as a medium for social commentary. Yorkin was born in Pennsylvania in 1926. He served in the U.S. Navy during World War II and earned a degree in electrical engineering from Carnegie Mellon. He discovered his talent for writing and directing comedy while in the military, and went to work for NBC in the 1950s, directing hit shows of the era including the “Dinah Shore Show.”

In 1957, he wrote, directed, and produced “An Evening With Fred Astaire,” which earned 9 Emmys for

Best Writing, Best Direction and Best Musical Special.

He moved into production, and in the early 1970s he and partner Norman Lear developed “All in the Family,” based off the British BBC series “Till Death Us Do Part.”

“All in the Family,” considered one of the most successful and influential television series in U.S. history, used comedy as a sound-board for major social themes, including racism and sexism.

Yorkin went on to produce other hit shows, including “The Jeffersons” and the popular “What’s Happening,” a teen comedy.

Reuters

Myanmar International

(20-8-2015 07:00 am~21-8-2015 07:00 am) MST

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| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> * News * The Caves * Strolling Along A Memory Link - U Pein Bridge * News * Lucrative Myanma Rattan Industry *Changes * News * Products Of Myanmar - Strong And Stylish Pakokku Slippers * Myanmar Masterclass “Kyaw Phyu San” * Paper Flower * News * Amazing: May Phoo Han * On the River * News * A Journey To Southern Shan State (Ep-2) * Creative Costume of Kayah Nationals * News * Made of Jade | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> * A Life In The Ring * News * Yangon Markets: Mingalar Wholesale Market * Myanmar Agarwood * Farming: Duck Breeder * News * Shwe Maw Daw: The Glory Of Bago City * Gardener: Rose Plantation * News * Myanmar Masterclass: Artist Zay Yar Aye * Htan Taw Drums (Part-II) “Dobat” * Myanmar Puppet * News * Size Does Matter (Ep-3) Human-Elephant Conflict, “Existing Laws” * A Worth Studying Site For Ancient Myanmar Heritages |
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(20-8-2015, Thursday)

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| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 6:00 am • Mono Classical Songs 6:25 am • Pyi Thu Ni Ti 6:45 am • Fashion Show 7:05 am • TV Drama series 7:55 am • TV Drama series 8:40 am • Musical Programme 8:50 am • Myanmar Video 10:00 am • My Dream 10:05 am • Myanmar Video 12:00 noon • Close Down | |
|---|--|

ASEAN Football Federation to give best awards for 2014

YANGON, 19 Aug — Myanmar Football Federation will host the annual awarding of ASEAN Football Federation (AFF) and AFF Congress at Novotal Yangon Max, here, on 22 August.

On the occasion, AFF will present best awards for the year 2014 to the winners. AFF awards will be ASEAN Goodwill Award, AFF Life Service Award, Assistant Referee of the Year (Women), Assistant Referee of the Year (Men), Referee of the Year (Women), Referee of the Year (Men), Youth Player of the Year, Futsal Player of the Year, Futsal Team of the Year, Member Association of the Year, National Team of the Year (Women), National Team of the Year (Men), Coach of the Year (Women), Coach of the Year (Men), Player of the Year (Women), Player of the Year (Men), AFF Best XI 2014, and Best Goal in AFF Suzuki Cup 2014.—MFF

Myanmar win over Brunei 3-2

BANDAR SERI BEGAWAN, 19 Aug— Myanmar beat Brunei 3-2 in the Group (A) match of the AFC U-14 Regional Festival of Football 2015 held at the Balapan Track and Field of the Hassanah Bolkiah National Sports Complex, Bandar Seri Begawan, the capital of Brunei Darussalam, on Wednesday.

Winning goals for Myanmar team came from Wai Yan Soe, Khun Kyaw Zin Hein and Saw Win Aung. GNLM

Myanmar nat'l team approaches Sheffield Utd U-21 Kler Heh

By Ko Moe

YANGON, 19 Aug — The Myanmar Football Federation has approached Sheffield United U-21 talent Kler Heh about playing for the national team, MFF media director U Soe Moe Kyaw said Wednesday.

A member of the Kayin ethnic group, Kler Heh was born in a refugee camp at the Myanmar-Thai border. His family was resettled in Sheffield, England, in 2006.

"He replied to us he would like to represent Myanmar in football after coordinating with his family members and his agent," U Soe Moe Kyaw told *the Global New Light of Myanmar*. "We have many steps for him to join Myanmar national team."

The 19-year-old, who can play as a defender and a winger, signed a two-year deal with Sheffield United in 2013 and later a one-year extension.

Former Myanmar football captain U Soe Myat Min said the rising star would be an asset to the national side.

"If he (Kler Heh) joins us, the Myanmar national team will be stronger," U Soe Myat Min said.

Kler Heh previously expressed his desire to play for the Myanmar national team in a Facebook post and in an interview with the United Kingdom's Guardian newspaper.—GNLM



Photo: footballchannel.asia

Marcelo earns Real friendly win over Galatasaray

MADRID, 19 Aug — Real Madrid fullback Marcelo's struck a fine goal to earn a 2-1 victory at home to Galatasaray on Tuesday in their final friendly before they begin their La Liga campaign at the weekend with a trip to promoted Sporting Gijon.

Defender Nacho fired Real ahead in the 17th minute of the Santiago Bernabeu trophy invitational match when he nodded into the net from a Luka Modric corner before former Real midfielder Wesley Sneijder levelled eight minutes into the second half.

Marcelo settled the game in the 81st minute when he skipped past several opponents into the penalty area and clipped a neat low shot past goalkeeper Fernando Muslera. It was an unconvincing performance from the world's richest club by income, however, with Cristiano Ronaldo wasting several chances and winger Gareth Bale failing to convince before making way for Denis Cheryshev with about five minutes left.

Under new coach Rafa Benitez, Real are looking to improve on a disappointing 2014-15 season when they failed to win any major silverware, starting on Sunday against Gijon. The club announced earlier on Tuesday that they had made another addition to their squad with the signing of Croatia midfielder Mateo Kovacic from Inter Milan for a fee reported to be about 30 million euros (£21 million).—Reuters



Real Madrid's Marcelo celebrates his goal during their Santiago Bernabeu Trophy soccer match against Galatasaray at Santiago Bernabeu stadium in Madrid, Spain August 19, 2015.—REUTERS

Van Gaal wanted to 'kiss' Memphis after Bruges brace

LONDON, 19 Aug — Manager Louis van Gaal said he wanted to "kiss" Memphis Depay after the Dutch midfielder scored two and set up the third in Manchester United's 3-1 win over Club Bruges in the first leg of their Champions League playoff at Old Trafford on Tuesday.

Memphis, who was deployed in his favoured starting position on the left rather than as a traditional No. 10, showed the kind of form that led United to pay PSV Eindhoven a reported 25 million pounds (\$39 million) for the 21-year-old in May.

"When you score a goal then you are the hero," Van Gaal told reporters.

"I want to kiss him tonight, because when you score two goals and give an assist also, then normally in the world you are the hero," the manager added.

United left back Luke Shaw, who along with Memphis was one of the best players on the pitch, also praised his team mate's performance and first goals for the club.

"Of course I am really happy for him today," the England international said.

"Now he's off the mark, hopefully it can bring him many more goals.

"I think our relationship is starting to build up. We

have played a couple of games together and I am starting to understand how he wants to play," he added "It is great to be playing with him, he can beat a man and he likes the attacking support from me as well — which is something I like to do," the 20-year-old said.

Shaw also hailed the importance of Memphis's late assist for Marouane Fellaini, which ensured that United take a two-goal cushion into the crucial second leg.

"We knew that we needed one more goal to make us feel more comfortable when it comes to the next game," Shaw said.

"The Fellaini goal was massive for us, we are glad we got that and now we can look forward to next week," he added.

Fellaini acknowledged that his late header was important, but insisted that United still had work to do when they visit the Belgian club in the return leg on Aug. 26.

"I think it was important to score a third goal and we did, so that's fantastic," the 27-year-old Belgium international said.

"It's a win but now we have to be careful in Bruges. Normally it would be not easy, but we have the quality to win there as well," he added.

Reuters

Croatian international Kovacic joins Real Madrid

MADRID, 19 Aug — Spanish giants Real Madrid has signed Croatian international midfielder Mateo Kovacic from Inter Milan, the club announced on Tuesday.

"Real Madrid and Inter Milan have agreed the transfer of Mateo Kovacic, who will be tied to the club for the next six seasons," Madrid said in a statement.

Starting his professional career from Croa-

tian side Dinamo Zagreb, the 21-year-old Kovacic moved to Inter in 2013 and scored eight goals in 80 Serie A matches.

The promising playmaker has already earned 21 international caps for Croatia including representing his country at the 2014 World Cup in Brazil.

Xinhua