



President U Thein Sein inspects post-flood rehabilitation progress in Sagaing Region

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NARROWING THE GAP

Official dollar exchange rate moves closer to market price

By Ye Myint

YANGON, 21 Aug — The gap between official and market exchange rates for the U.S. dollar narrowed Friday in Myanmar, with currency traders selling the greenback slightly above the Central Bank reference rate of K1,285, market sources said.

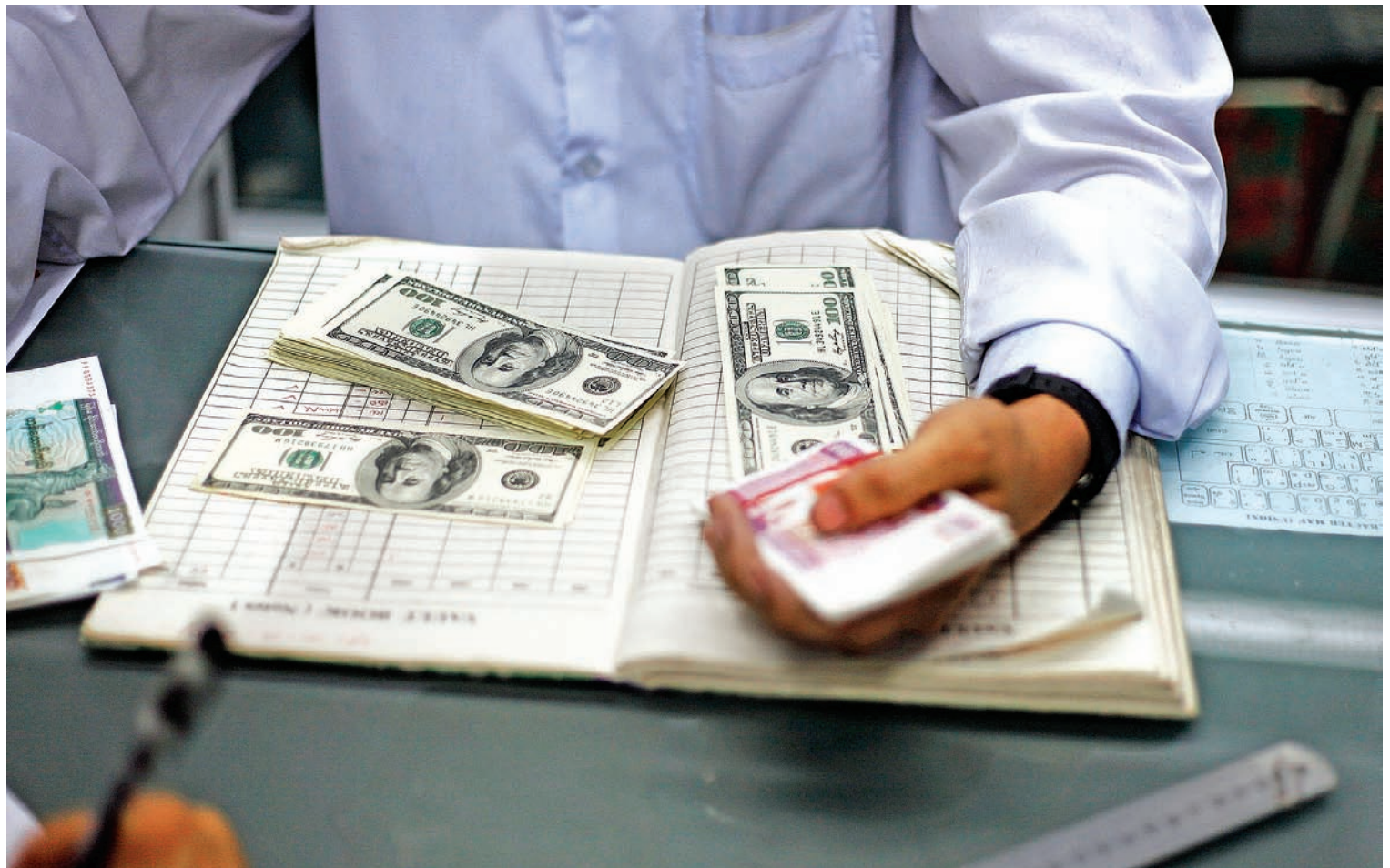
The average market price dropped to around K1,290 on Friday, compared to K1,300 on Thursday, the sources said.

The CBM set the rate at K1,283, K1,275 and K1,266, respectively, on Thursday, Wednesday and Tuesday.

Since the dollar's bounce back against the kyat beginning 10 August, the central bank began a move to bring the official price closer to market value.

In a recent interview with Myanmar News Agency, CBM Deputy Governor U Set Aung said the central bank is taking measures to prevent exchange rate fluctuations between the kyat and the dollar in the market.

Following China's yuan devaluation, currencies of most countries have dropped against the dollar, including significant declines in the Indonesian Rupiah and Malaysian Ringgit, the deputy governor said, adding that the kyat was also affected.



A man counts US dollars and Myanmar kyats at a money changer in Yangon.—REUTERS

According to sources, a bounce back in the value of the dollar against the kyat coincided with China's move to devalue its currency last week, as the market value and official rate were close during the period from 20 July to

10 August.

U Saw Naing, who has written a number of monetary policy articles under the pen name Saw Naing, echoed the CBM's position, telling *The Global New Light of Myanmar* that the jump

in the dollar-kyat conversion had accelerated since the devaluation of the yuan.

Another factor for the dollar's recent surge against the kyat is frequent rumours and market manipulations by those

seeking to benefit from chaos in the country, the economic analyst said.

However, he reiterated the dollar's bounce back against the kyat was likely to be short-lived.

GNLM

NGO seeks support for children of leprosy patients

By Khaing Thanda Lwin

YANGON, 21 Aug — A local charity is seeking public support for its programmes to assist the children of leprosy patients which have been affected by a shortfall in funding, the group's chairman said recently.

The non-government Myitta Ah Marn Association helps offspring of needy leprosy patients gain equal access to education, chairman Dr Myo Win told *The Global New Light of Myanmar*.

"Normally, the association provides those children with assistance in the back-to-school season, but this year we could not do

it on time due to the shortage of funds," Dr Myo Win said.

The NPO expects to disburse its annual educational funding to students this year between September and October, he said.

The NPO spends K1.4-1.5 million on average assisting around 20 students each year, he said. Currently its assistance goes to children in leprosy resettlement villages in Yangon, Mandalay, Magway and Sagaing regions as well as Shan State.

The association was established in 2005 with the aim of improving the social image of persons affected by leprosy in the community. Since then, it has pro-

vided assistance through a range of development programmes.

Myanmar achieved a WHO leprosy elimination target of less than one case per 10,000 people in 2003.

But it remains in the top 17 countries where leprosy is endemic, according to a 2013 WHO survey. There are still around 3,000 new cases diagnosed across the country each year, including more than 100 child cases.

According to doctors, some children living together with their leprosy-affected parents do not become infected with the disease, but face discrimination nonetheless.—GNLM

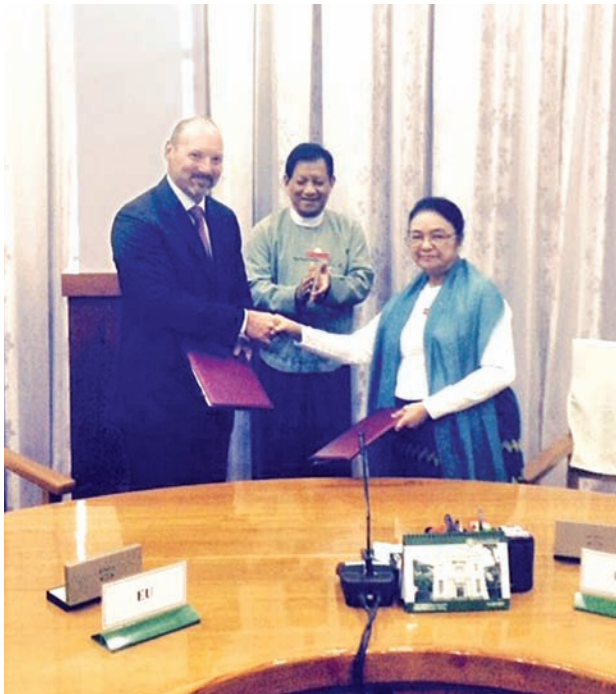
Cinema reopens in Hlinethaya Tsp



Waziya (2) Cinema in Hlinethaya Township.—YI YI THANT

(NEWS ON PAGE 2)

EU, Myanmar sign agreement on deployment of EU mission to observe elections



UEC Chairman U Tin Aye attends MoU handing over ceremony between EU Ambassador to Myanmar Mr Roland Kobia and Union Election Commissioner in charge of International Observation, Dr. Daw Myint Kyi.

NAY PYI TAW, 21 Aug—The European Union (EU) and Myanmar Friday signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) on the observation of the forthcoming elections planned for 8th November 2015.

The document provides for the deployment of a full EU Election Observation Mission (EOM) in Myanmar as part of the EU's support

to the country's democratic transition process. The decision to deploy an EOM follows an official invitation extended by the Myanmar authorities and enjoys the support of many other political and civil society actors.

At the Union Election Commission (UEC) on Friday, EU Ambassador to Myanmar Mr Roland Kobia, and Union Election

Commissioner in charge of International Observation, Dr. Daw Myint Kyi signed the Memorandum of Understanding to facilitate the deployment of the EOM, witnessed by Chairman of the Union Election Commission U Tin Aye.

The EU is a leading global actor in election observation and has successfully deployed more than 120 EOMs worldwide over the past decade. The EOM will comprise more than 100 short and long-term observers from many of the Member States of the European Union in addition to observers from Canada, Switzerland and Norway and diplomats from embassies of EU countries accredited to Myanmar. The EOM will remain in Myanmar until the electoral process is completed. Its long-term presence will help provide an in depth-assessment of the process in line with international standards. The EU provides substantial technical and financial assistance to Myanmar and has earmarked 10 million euros (14.5 billion Myanmar Kyats) to support the country's electoral process.

GNLM

Public Health Dept lends a hand to flood victims in Sagaing

NAY PYI TAW, 21 Aug—Emergency response squads from the Public Health Department and specialists from Kalay General Hospital provided healthcare services to local residents in flood affected areas of Kalay Township in

Sagaing Region on Thursday.

Wells and tanks were chlorinated, along with other works aimed at improving sanitation levels.

Meanwhile, members of the Traditional Medicine Department treated resi-

dents in Sagaing region, in addition to those in Chin and Rakhine states and Magway and Ayeyawady regions.

Since the flash floods began in July, the Ministry of Health has responded by opening 149 temporary

dispensaries and 189 mobile health clinics. It has also distributed chlorine powder, mosquito nets, water purification tablets and dengue fever test kits to flood affected communities.

MNA



Agriculture and Irrigation Ministry outlines bean cultivation trial

Pyithu Hluttaw



Deputy Minister for Agriculture and Irrigation U Ohn Than.—MNA

NAY PYI TAW, 21 Aug—Myanmar has planted over 200 acres of star bean on a trial basis and has plans to export the crop, Deputy Minister for Agriculture and Irrigation U Ohn Than told the Pyithu Hluttaw on Friday.

Responding to a question on cultivation of the crop, the deputy minister told the Lower House that farmers had permission to

grow the crop, also known as the winged bean.

In other matters, the deputy minister said the ministry was in the process of transferring a plot of land in Mandalay, including a construction site, to the government.

Representatives discussed two bills during the session, passing the bill on roads and bridges.

MNA



Union Minister for Culture U Aye Myint Kyu and wife being welcomed by Indonesian Ambassador to Myanmar Dr Ito Sumardi and wife at the reception to mark the Independence Day of the Republic of Indonesia at Novotel Hotel in Yangon on 21 August.—MNA

UEC postpones scrutiny of candidature

NAY PYI TAW, 21 Aug—The Union Election Commission announced Friday that it has postponed the scrutiny of candidate nominations for the upcoming general election, from 18 to 31 August.

It is difficult for incumbent members of parliament to undergo the scrutiny process, the announcement said.—MNA

Dredging targets dengue mosquitoes in Mandalay

MANDALAY, 21 Aug—The Mandalay City Development Committee dredged drains in Chanayethazan and Mahaangmye townships Thursday to improve the flow of water and reduce the risk of mosquito-borne disease.

They cleaned drains along 76th and 81st streets spanning the two townships as part of a campaign

to prevent the breeding of mosquitoes that spread dengue haemorrhagic fever.

Secretary of MCDC U Khin Maung Tin and officials inspected progress of the dredging and urged local residents to assist departmental officials with their sanitation efforts.

Maung Pyi Thu
(Mandalay)

Cinema reopens in Hlinethaya Tsp

YANGON, 20 Aug—The cinema formerly known as Waziya (2) reopened as Mingalar Waziya Cinema on Friday in Hlinethaya Township. It was renovated by Mingalar Company and now features a Christie Digital Cinema Projector, 5.1/7.1 Dolby Digital Surround Sound and screens 2D and 3D films.

The cinema has five screenings a day, can seat 615 people in total and is fully air-conditioned. Ticket prices range from K800 to K2,000.—Yi Yi Thant

President U Thein Sein inspects post-flood rehabilitation progress in Sagaing Region

NAY PYI TAW, 21 Aug— President U Thein Sein and union ministers and officials inspected the progress of road repairs and drain dredging along along Kalay-Kalewa Road in Kalay, Sagaing Region on 21 August. The region was one of the worst hit by the flash floods that began July.

The president met with local authorities and residents in Cikon village to discuss various post-flood rehabilitation projects in Kalay. Union and region governments have provided assistance for rebuilding villages and houses, restoring electricity access and helping the agriculture and livestock breeding sectors to get

back on their feet.

The president welcomed the donation of relief supplies for flood victims by the Sagaing Region government.

The president also observed soldiers carrying out drills at Kalay station, before visiting Kalay University of Computer Studies, Kalay Technological University and Ayethaya village.

At Kabar Yankin monastery (south) in Chinsaing village, the president viewed free supply of purified drinking water to local residents at the water purifier by Trendy Myanmar Company Ltd.

The president cordially met with flood victims in Paukkhon and YayleU villages.—MNA



President U Thein Sein meets local residents in Ayethaya village, Kalay Township.—IPRD



President U Thein Sein poses for documentary photo with faculty members and students at Kalay Technological University.—IPRD

Democracy cannot thrive without peace: Senior General

NAY PYI TAW, 21 Aug— Peace is essential if democracy is to succeed, Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Senior General Min Aung Hlaing said Friday during a meeting here with European Union Ambassador to Myanmar Mr Roland Kobia.

National development can only be achieved in the presence of the stability brought by peace, the senior general said.

The EU ambassador praised the military personnel and the people for their quick response to the recent floods. They also

exchanged views on the country's peace process and the coming election.

In the morning, Senior General Min Aung Hlaing met Mr Makoto Igarashi, head of Japan's Asahi Shimbun newspaper in Yangon.

In the interview, the commander-in-chief explained the army's role in the country's politics, the coming election, the progress of the nationwide ceasefire agreement, rescue efforts by the defence services, and military-to-military relationships among nations.

Myawady

Speaker and EU Ambassador discuss general election



Speaker of Pyithu Hluttaw Thura U Shwe Mann holds talks with EU Ambassador Mr Roland Kobia.—MNA

NAY PYI TAW, 21 Aug—The Speaker of the Pyithu Hluttaw (Lower House) Thura U Shwe Mann discussed Myanmar's upcoming elections with EU Ambassador Mr Roland Kobia in Nay Pyi Taw on Friday.

Points of discussion included Myanmar's ongoing process of democratization, a shared desire for a smooth and transparent general election and national reconciliation among the country's ethnic minority groups. Also present at the meeting was the chairman of the Lower House International Relations Committee, U Hla Myint Oo.—MNA

Wickremesinghe sworn in as Sri Lankan prime minister



Sri Lanka's United National Front (UNF) leader Ranil Wickremesinghe (1st R) takes oath as the nation's new prime minister before President Maithripala Sirisena (C) at a special ceremony held at the Presidential Secretariat in Colombo, capital of Sri Lanka, on Aug. 21, 2015. —Xinhua

COLOMBO, 21 Aug — Ranil Wickremesinghe was sworn in on Friday as Sri Lanka's prime minister after winning a general election, and agreed with President Maithripala Sirisena's party to form a national unity government to push ahead with reforms.

Wickremesinghe, 66, took the oath of office in a Buddhist ceremony in the presence of Sirisena, cementing an alliance between the two that successfully fought off a comeback bid by ex-president Mahinda Rajapaksa.

His centre-right United National Party (UNP), which won Monday's poll but fell seven seats short of an outright majority, will team up with Sirisena loyalists in the Sri Lankan Freedom Party (SLFP).

"A broad-based consensus at political level will create the kind of political stability and policy stability that we need," said Sirimal Abeyratne, a professor attached to Colombo University's Economics Department. The formation of the

broad coalition will put Sirisena into a position to advance reforms begun when he quit Rajapaksa's government and in January defeated the nationalist strongman's bid to win an unprecedented third term as president.

These include changes to the constitution to make the government more open and accountable on the Indian Ocean island of 21 million, and to simplify its complex election rules.

An unlikely veteran of the cut-throat world of Sri Lankan politics, Wickremesinghe campaigned on a pledge to create one million new jobs in five years.

The pro-Western lawyer is backed by the business community but, as head of the minority government formed in January, pursued more people-friendly policies in line with Sirisena's push to overcome the legacy of a civil war that ended in 2009. Wickremesinghe has served twice before as prime minister, in 1993-94 and from 2001-04.—Reuters

N. Korea declares "quasi-state of war" as tensions rise with S. Korea

BEIJING/SEOUL, 21 Aug — North Korea said Friday frontline areas have entered a "quasi-state of war" amid escalating tensions with South Korea, causing serious concerns in the region, as the two rival countries have shown no inclination to back down.

North Korean Ambassador to China Ji Jae Ryong told a hastily-arranged press conference in Beijing that forces in the border areas were readied as scheduled a day after South Korea said the two countries exchanged fire at their western border.

Earlier in the day, North Korea's official media reported that leader Kim Jong Un convened an emergency meeting of the ruling party's central military commission Thursday night and ordered the army to be fully prepared for war operations against South Korea. Kim has designated the border areas as being in a "quasi-state of war" from 5 p.m. Friday North Korean time, according to the Korean Central News Agency.

North Korea has declared a "quasi-state of war" at least four times in the past, most recently in 1993 in opposition to joint military drills by South Korea and the United States.

The meeting of the Workers' Party of Korea discussed the situation and measures for military action if South Korea does not halt

its anti-Pyongyang propaganda campaign as a "semi-war state has been declared in the area along the front," KCNA said.

South Korea recently resumed the transmission of propaganda messages across the border using loudspeakers. North Korea's military has denied South Korea's claim that Pyongyang fired against the South on Thursday afternoon and called Seoul's firing of 36 rounds in response a serious "military provocation."

South Korea's military said Thursday that North Korea fired on the country twice — the first being a single anti-aircraft artillery shell and the second being several 76.2-millimeter shells — and that it retaliated with "tens" of 155-mm shells toward the North Korean side of the border. Both sides said there were no casualties.

The two countries, divided by one of the world's most heavily fortified borders, are still technically in a state of war as the 1950-53 Korean War ended in an armistice, not with a permanent peace treaty.

The latest round of tensions began after two South Korean soldiers were wounded in early August by a landmine explosion on the South Korean side of the demilitarized zone, which Seoul said was carried out by Pyongyang.

South Korea subsequently re-

sumed anti-Pyongyang propaganda broadcasts using loudspeakers in border areas for the first time in 11 years. North Korea has denied planting landmines in the demilitarized zone and said it has been irked by the resumption of the propaganda campaign.

It has warned of military action unless South Korea stops the campaign within 48 hours from 5 p.m. Thursday.

South Korea, which earlier this week began its annual military exercises with the United States, has said it has no plans to accept the North Korean demand.

On Friday, South Korean President Park Geun-hye visited an army headquarters in charge of the western part of the border and ordered the military "to make thorough and stern responses against any provocation by North Korea," according to a statement from her office.

South Korea's Defense Ministry also said it has sent a letter to North Korea urging it to "completely give up reckless acts" and saying that Seoul is "ready to strongly retaliate" against any type of attack from Pyongyang.

South Korea and the United States say the annual exercises are entirely defensive in nature, but North Korea claims they are aimed at preparing for a war with the country.—Kyodo News

MH370 debris exposes divisions over air crash investigations

PAIRS, 21 Aug — Air crash investigators risk being sidelined in a tussle to unlock the secrets of lost flight MH370, fuelling concerns that their role in making flying safer could be diminished.

By drifting on to Reunion Island, the barnacled remains of a Boeing wing part from the Malaysia Airlines jet have given the

upper hand to a French judicial investigation, exposing for the second time this year how civil crash investigations struggle to compete with police-led probes.

For decades, reconstructions of disasters by specialist safety investigators have been seen as crucial to making aviation safer, with accident rates at historically

low levels. But in dozens of countries, notably France, they exist in uneasy co-habitation with separate criminal inquiries.

Simmering tensions over the sharing of evidence between civil and judicial investigators came into the open after the crash of a Germanwings jet into the French Alps in March.—Reuters

Thailand increases reward for bombing suspect

BANGKOK, 21 Aug — Thai authorities have tripled to \$85,000 a reward for information leading to the arrest of the main suspect in the country's worst ever bombing.

The government said progress in the investigation was being made but declined to give details or offer evidence they were closer to determining who carried out the Monday evening attack at one of Bangkok's top tourist attractions.

Twenty people were killed in the blast at the Erawan shrine, 14 of them foreigners including seven from mainland China and Hong Kong.

The only solid

evidence seems to be grainy security camera footage showing an unidentified young man with shaggy hair and dressed in a yellow shirt leaving a backpack at the scene.

Officials have speculated that the man, last seen on video footage disappearing into the night on the back of a motorcycle taxi, could be foreign, or a Thai man pretending to be foreign.

The reward for information leading to his arrest was raised to 3 million baht (\$85,000), a police spokesman said.

Initial speculation that the plot could be the work of an international terror network has for now been



People pray at the Erawan shrine, the site of Monday's deadly blast, in central Bangkok, Thailand, August 20, 2015.—REUTERS

set aside.

And on Friday, police chief Somyot Pumpanmuang appeared to backtrack on his suggestion the previous day that the

bomber was probably part of a network of at least 10 people who spent a month planning the attack.

"We still have no information on international

terror groups and think that there is no link to international terrorism," Somyot told reporters after attending a multi-faith prayer ceremony outside a shopping centre near the shrine in central Bangkok.

"What is clear is that it was intended to discredit the government, destroy confidence and make tourists scared and not travel to Thailand," he told reporters.

Asked about his suggestion that 10 plotters were probably involved, Somyot said there might only have been two.

The Erawan shrine, dedicated to a Hindu deity, is hugely popular with tourists from China.

The government has said Chinese tourists were not believed to have been specifically targeted. Announcements about the investigation have been broadcast in both Mandarin Chinese and English.

Two men spotted at the shrine on CCTV and suspected of being the bomber's accomplices have been cleared, but police were now suspicious of a woman dressed in black in the footage, said police spokesman Prawut Thawornsiri.

"Police are asking anyone who is in that CCTV footage to come forward with information and tell us what they observed that night," he said.—Reuters

Obama lays out case for Iran nuclear deal in letter to Congress



EDGARTOWN, (Mass), 21 Aug — U.S. President Barack Obama laid out his case for lawmakers to back the nuclear deal with Iran in a letter released by the White House, the latest step by the administration to gain support for a deal critical to the president's legacy.

In an Aug. 19 letter to Representative Jerrold Nadler, a Democrat from New York, Obama spelled out arguments he has made repeatedly in recent weeks: that the deal with Tehran was a good one, that Washington was enhancing its security cooperation with Israel, and that the United States would maintain its ability to punish Iran for destabilizing activities in the Middle East.

"Should Iran seek to dash towards a nuclear weapon, all of the options available to the United States — including the military option — will remain available through the life of the deal and beyond," Obama wrote.

The White House is seeking support from Democrats in Congress for the deal to give Obama backing to sustain a veto if Republicans and some Democrats reject it as expected.

"The President and senior members of his team have been in regular consultation with Members of Congress, including Representative Nadler, to ensure they have the information they need to judge the deal on its merits," a White House official said. "The letter reaffirms the Administration's stalwart commitment to our regional allies, chiefly Israel."

Obama is currently on vacation on the Massachusetts island of Martha's Vineyard. He and his staff have been pressing Democrats in Congress for their support for weeks.—Reuters

Dozens of Clinton emails were classified from the start, U.S. rules suggest

NEW YORK, 21 Aug — For months, the U.S. State Department has stood behind its former boss Hillary Clinton as she has repeatedly said she did not send or receive classified information on her unsecured, private email account, a practice the government forbids.

While the department is now stamping a few dozen of the publicly released emails as "Classified," it stresses this is not evidence of rule-breaking. Those stamps are new, it says, and do not mean the information was classified when Clinton, the Democratic frontrunner in the 2016 presidential election, first sent or received it.

But the details included in those "Classified" stamps — which include a string of dates, letters and numbers describing the nature of the classification — appear to undermine this account, a Reuters examination of the emails and the relevant regulations has found. The new stamps indicate that some of Clinton's emails from her time as the nation's most senior diplomat are filled with a type of information the U.S. government and the department's own regulations automatically deems classified from the get-go — regardless of whether it is already marked that way or not.

In the small fraction of emails made public so far, Reuters has found at least 30 email threads from 2009, representing scores of individual emails, that include what the State Department's own "Classified" stamps now identify as so-called 'foreign government information.' The U.S. government defines this as any information, written or spoken, provided in confidence to

U.S. officials by their foreign counterparts.

This sort of information, which the department says Clinton both sent and received in her emails, is the only kind that must be "presumed" classified, in part to protect national security and the integrity of diplomatic interactions, according to U.S. regulations examined by Reuters.

"It's born classified," said J. William Leonard, a former director of the U.S. government's Information Security Oversight Office (ISOO). Leonard was director of ISOO, part of the White House's National Archives and Records Administration, from 2002 until 2008, and worked for both the Bill Clinton and George W. Bush administrations. "If a foreign minister just told the secretary of state something in confidence, by U.S. rules that is classified at the moment it's in U.S. channels and U.S. possession," he said in a telephone interview, adding that for the State Department to say otherwise was "blowing smoke."

Reuters' findings may add to questions that Clinton has been facing over her adherence to rules concerning sensitive government information. Spokesmen for Clinton declined to answer questions, but Clinton and her staff maintain she did not mishandle any information. "I did not send classified material, and I did not receive any material that was marked or designated classified," Clinton told reporters at a campaign event in Nevada on Tuesday. Although it appears to be true for Clinton to say none of her emails included classification markings, a point she and her staff have emphasized, the government's standard nondisclosure



U.S. Democratic presidential candidate Hillary Clinton

agreement warns people authorized to handle classified information that it may not be marked that way and that it may come in oral form.

The State Department disputed Reuters' analysis but declined requests to explain how it was incorrect.

The findings of the Reuters review are separate from the recent analysis by the inspector general for U.S. intelligence agencies, who said last month that his office found four emails that contained classified government secrets at the time they were sent in a sample of 40 emails not yet made public. The State Department has said it does not know whether the inspector general is correct. The Federal Bureau of Investigation has launched an investigation into the security of the copies of the emails outside the government's control.—Reuters

Japan demands Russian prime minister not visit disputed island

TOKYO, 21 Aug — Japan demanded Friday that Russian Prime Minister Dmitry Medvedev not visit one of four Russian-held, Japanese-claimed islands off Hokkaido.

"Should he visit, it would be incompatible with Japan's position and hurt national sentiment," Chief Cabinet Secretary Yoshihide Suga said at a press conference. "We would never accept this." Suga, the top government spokesman, said Japan has conveyed its position to Moscow "at various levels." Speaking to reporters separately, Foreign Minister Fumio Kishida said that if Medvedev visits Etorofu, "It would not be in line with the agreement between the leaders of the two countries to promote political dialogue in a calm environment."

According to Russian media reports, Medvedev plans to visit Etorofu Island, called Iturup in Russia, soon — possibly this weekend — to attend a government-affiliated forum for young people to discuss the prospects of development in the region.

Russia's Far East development minister Alexander Galushka

also plans to visit Etorofu on Saturday to attend the forum, according to his ministry. Russian media reports said Galushka and Deputy Prime Minister Yuri Trutnev are accompanying Medvedev, who began a tour of the Russian Far East on Friday. One of the reports said Medvedev, who visited Russia's Amur Oblast on Friday, may also visit Etorofu during the latest tour.

Security is reported to have been boosted on the island, possibly gearing up for the prime minister's visit. Trutnev visited Etorofu on Aug. 13. Medvedev's potential visit would come at a sensitive time when Tokyo and Moscow are making preparations for a trip to Japan by Russian President Vladimir Putin later this year.

Etorofu and the other islands — Kunashiri, Shikotan and the Habomai group of islets — were seized by Soviet forces following Japan's surrender in World War II in 1945, and the ensuing territorial dispute has prevented the two countries from concluding a post-war peace treaty.—Kyodo News

China demands Japan face history after Abe's wife visits Yasukuni Shrine

BEIJING, 21 Aug — China again demanded Japan squarely face its aggressive past and reflect upon it after Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe's wife visited the controversial Yasukuni Shrine.

Akie Abe wrote on her Facebook page on Tuesday that she visited the war shrine in Tokyo earlier in the day, which honors 14

Class-A convicted war criminals among 2.5 million Japanese war dead of WWII.

"Japan should make a clean break from militarism and do more that will promote trust and reconciliation with its neighbors," Foreign Ministry spokesperson Hua Chunying said.

Yasukuni Shrine is regarded as a symbol of the past Japanese militarism. Visits to the infamous shrine by Japanese leaders and officials have sparked strong criticism from China and the Republic of Korea.

Xinhua



Japanese lawmakers visit the Yasukuni Shrine in Tokyo, Japan, Aug. 15, 2015. XINHUA

Rumours fed unrest following St. Louis police shooting — alderman



Police line up to block the street as protesters gathered after a shooting incident in St. Louis, Missouri August 19, 2015. —REUTERS

ST. LOUIS, 21 Aug — About 200 people attended a vigil in St. Louis on Thursday near where a black teenager was killed by police a day earlier, sparking angry clashes between residents and officers amid rumours the victim was only 13 years old, a city alderman said.

Thursday's vigil was peaceful following a night of unrest on Wednesday, when officers reported they had been targeted with bricks and bottles and used tear gas to disperse angry crowds, said a St. Louis Metropolitan Police Department spokeswoman.

St. Louis Alderman Antonio French posted images on his Twitter page of people at the vigil holding candles, hugging and making buttons that call for unity in the community.

Wednesday's shooting came less than two weeks after the St. Louis area was flooded with protesters from around the country

marking the anniversary of the Aug. 9, 2014, police killing of unarmed black teenager Michael Brown by a white police officer in nearby Ferguson, Missouri. Brown's death was one of a series of police killings of unarmed black men and teens across the United States that sparked a newly energized civil rights movement under the banner "Black Lives Matter".

St. Louis police said the officers involved in the latest shooting used their service weapons after 18-year-old Mansur Ball-Bey pointed a gun at them. Ball-Bey was struck four times and killed, police said. The officers were serving a search warrant in a crime-ridden neighbourhood when they saw two young black men flee the house, and a short chase ensued, police said.

The gun Ball-Bey pointed at officers was one of several stolen firearms

recovered at the scene, along with crack cocaine, said St. Louis Police Chief Sam Dotson.

French said protests that broke out as word of the shooting spread had been driven partly by talk that the teen killed was only 13. Small groups often stage peaceful demonstrations nightly in Ferguson but others, not part of organised groups, can be unpredictable, he said.

"There was a lot of misinformation out there. Many arrived angry because they heard a 13-year-old kid was killed," said French, a prominent voice in the community who regularly posts information about demonstrations on his social media feeds.

Mistrust of police accounts of Wednesday's shooting also helped stoke the unrest.

Some protesters expressed doubt over the police account of Ball-Bey pointing a gun. St. Louis

police do not wear body cameras, but St. Louis Police Chief Sam Dotson said some officers videotaped the protests, during which shots were heard.

Dotson said a car was torched, some businesses reported robbery attempts and nine people were arrested. Debate over largely white police treatment of minorities has become a hot-button political and social issue in America.

Republican senator and presidential candidate Marco Rubio said on Thursday the issue cannot be ignored.

"It's a reality that in many communities in this country the relationship between minority communities and the police and law enforcement agencies is terrible," Rubio told the Detroit Economic Club.

Police need to do more to allow for peaceful protests rather than escalate them into violence, said Amnesty International USA senior campaigner Jamira Burley, who was critical of the actions taken by St. Louis police on Wednesday.

Ferguson and St. Louis County police came under heavy criticism for their handling of the Ferguson protests, which included use of riot gear, tear gas and heavy armoured vehicles, tactics many in the community said only inflamed tensions.

Images of heavily armed police aiming weapons at citizens prompted U.S. President Barack Obama to tighten restrictions on police use of military equipment.—Reuters

Far left splits from Tsipras as Greece heads to elections

ATHENS, 21 Aug — Rebels opposed to Greece's international bailout walked out of the leftist Syriza party on Friday, formalising a split after its leader Alexis Tsipras resigned as prime minister and paved the way for early elections.

Greece's president gave the conservative opposition a chance to form a new government following Tsipras's resignation on Thursday, but the country appears almost certain to be heading for its third election in as many years next month.

Tsipras is hoping to

Far left Syriza members, who oppose the promises of yet more austerity and economic reform that Tsipras made to secure 86 billion euros (\$97 billion) in bailout loans, broke away to form a new party.

A deputy speaker of parliament announced the new party would be called Popular Unity and headed by former Energy Minister Panagiotis Lafazanis, who was fired by Tsipras earlier this year for refusing to back the government.

One of the new party's members, lawmaker and



Greek Prime Minister Alexis Tsipras (L) meets with Greece's President Prokopis Pavlopoulos in Athens, Greece, August 20, 2015.—REUTERS

strengthen his hold on power in a snap election after seven months in office in which he fought Greece's creditors for a better bailout deal but had to cave in and accept more onerous terms.

One day after money began flowing from Greece's third bailout programme, a much-needed period of political and economic certainty remained as elusive as ever, drawing concerned calls from the euro zone that Athens must stick to commitments given under the rescue deal.

economist Costas Lapavistas, noted Greeks had voted overwhelmingly in June against a bailout deal offered by the euro zone and IMF. But soon after the referendum, Tsipras performed a U-turn to save the financial system and Greece's future in the euro zone.

"We want to give a voice to the 62 percent of the people who said 'No' and do not want bailouts," Lapavistas told ERT TV. "We see strong support from the people who feel betrayed."

Reuters

Former U.S. President Jimmy Carter says cancer has spread to his brain

ATLANTA, 21 Aug — Former U.S. President Jimmy Carter said on Thursday that his cancer has spread to his brain and he will start radiation treatment for it later in the day, adding that his fate was "in the hands of God."

Carter, 90, held a news conference on his condition barely a week after announcing he had undergone surgery for liver cancer.

Appearing calm and lucid, the former president said he will cut back dramatically on his schedule to receive treatment every three weeks after doctors detected four "very small spots" of melanoma on his brain.

Carter served as president from 1977 to 1981 and became

active in humanitarian causes and monitoring elections after leaving office. He won the Nobel Peace Prize in 2002.

His one term in the White House was defined by national economic struggles and the embarrassing Iran hostage crisis.

Asked on Thursday if he had any regrets, Carter said he wished he had sent one more helicopter in the failed attempt to rescue the Iran hostages, adding that he would have been re-elected had the effort succeeded. Republican Ronald Reagan defeated Carter, a Democrat, in the 1980 presidential race.

In a break from tradition, Carter chose to deliver the news about his illness to the media himself. He



Former U.S. President Jimmy Carter takes questions from the media during a news conference about his recent cancer diagnosis and treatment plans, at the Carter Center in Atlanta, Georgia August 20, 2015.—REUTERS

arrived at the news conference at the nonprofit Carter Centre in Atlanta walking normally, smiling and wearing blue jeans.

"I am perfectly at ease with whatever comes," Carter said, noting his deep Christian faith. "Now I feel this is in the hands of God."

He said he was pleased that he did not become angry or despaired.

"I am ready for anything and looking forward to a new adventure," Carter added. "I have had an exciting and venturous and gratifying existence." Earlier this month, doctors removed about one tenth of his liver. A biopsy revealed it was a melanoma, a form of skin cancer that is believed to have originated elsewhere in his body and spread to the liver, he explained.

He announced at that time that his prognosis was excellent, though he was rearranging his schedule to

receive treatment at Emory Healthcare in Atlanta.

It was shortly after the liver surgery that doctors found the spots of melanoma on his brain, Carter said on Thursday.

The cancer was "likely to show up in other places in my body" he said, without addressing whether doctors had told him how long he could expect to live.

Initially after receiving the brain cancer diagnosis, Carter said, "I thought I had just a few weeks left," but he added that he remained "hopeful." His doctors were consulting with other cancer experts, and he said he did not currently feel any weakness or disability.—Reuters

Britain to reopen embassy in Tehran this weekend

LONDON, 21 Aug — Britain will reopen its embassy in Iran this weekend nearly four years after protesters ransacked the elegant ambassadorial residence and burned the British flag.

The move to restore full diplomatic relations marks a thawing of ties with Iran since it reached a nuclear deal with the United States, China, Russia, Germany, France and Britain.

“The foreign secretary (Philip Hammond) will travel to Iran to reopen our embassy there,” a British diplomatic source told Reuters on Thursday.

After more than a decade of casting the Islamic Republic as a rogue power seeking to sow turmoil through the Middle East, Britain has sought to improve ties with Iran, whose natural gas reserves are larger even than Russia's.

Hammond will travel to Iran this weekend for the formal opening of the embassy on Sunday. He will take a small group of business leaders, including representatives from Royal Dutch Shell (RDSa.L) and other companies, with him on the trip, according to the source.

The British minister will have meetings with Iranian President Hassan Rouhani, Ali Akbar Velayati, who is a senior adviser to Iranian Supreme Leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei, and with Foreign Minister Mohammad

Javad Zarif.

With the business delegation, Hammond will meet the Iranian ministers of industries and business, petroleum and transport.

With the prospect of an end to sanctions, foreign businesses are already jockeying for business in Iran, a nation of 80 million whose economy has withered. Officials have even laid on bus tours for visiting executives looking to refurbish Iran's creaking oil refineries.

While the nuclear deal is seen by its backers as an opportunity for improved relations between Iran and the West, hardliners in Washington and Tehran have opposed it, as has Israel.

Until a new ambassador is announced, the embassy will be led by Ajay Sharma, until now the non-resident chargé d'affaires.

There are worries that the building may not be electronically secure. Four years ago, the protesters removed lap top computers, phones and other equipment.

Iranian protesters stormed two British diplomatic compounds in Tehran in November 2011, smashing windows, torching a car and burning the British flag in protest against nuclear-related sanctions imposed by London, long-regarded as the “Old Fox” in Iran for its perceived malign influence in regional affairs.

Reuters

Israel says kills Palestinian rocket crew in Syrian Golan

AMMAN / JERUSALEM, 21 Aug — Israel said it killed at least five Palestinian militants in an air strike on the Syrian Golan Heights on Friday, after cross-border rocket fire from there prompted the heaviest Israeli bombardment since the start of Syria's four-year-old civil war.

An Israeli defence official said the people killed were Palestinian militants from the Iran-backed Islamic Jihad. “We now know of five or six Palestinian Islamic Jihad terrorists killed,” the official said.

A Syrian army source said the strike, at 10.30 am (0730 GMT), hit a car in a village in the Syrian Golan, killing five civilians. State television quoted the source as saying it took place near Quneitra, close to the Israeli-occupied side of the Golan.

It followed heavy overnight strikes by Israel against Syrian army posts in the border area in retaliation for what Israel said were rockets fired from Syria by Islamic Jihad.

The rockets landed near an Israeli village, setting off fires but causing no casualties.

Islamic Jihad denied involvement in Thursday's rocket salvo and said those killed in Friday's air strike were not its own.

“These are all lies ... Islamic Jihad has no armed presence outside of Palestine,” group

spokesman Dawoud Shehab said, referring to Israel, the occupied West Bank and the Gaza Strip.

Islamic Jihad's leadership is based in Damascus and it has a following among Syria's Palestinian refugee community.

Israel's overnight retaliation killed one Syrian soldier and wounded seven, the Syrian army source said, although it appeared to be the heaviest Israeli bombardment for years, with dozens of raids against Syrian targets.

Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu said Israeli forces “struck the squad that carried out the firing and the Syrian forces that enabled it to”.

He also blamed Iran for ordering Thursday's rocket fire, underlining Israel's concern that a

nuclear deal between Tehran and six world powers had emboldened the Islamic Republic.

“Those countries hastening to embrace Iran should know that an Iranian commander gave sponsorship and instruction to the squad that fired on Israel,” Netanyahu said in a statement.

A British-based monitor and defence experts who track Syria said the Israeli raids on Thursday were the heaviest attacks on Syrian army targets since the start of Syria's crisis in 2011.

Israeli media said the overnight exchange was the first shelling of Israeli targets from Syria since a 1973 Middle East war, and the most intensive Israeli shelling of Syria since then as well.—Reuters



Israeli soldiers patrol near the smoke from a fire caused by a rocket attack on the Golan Heights near the Lebanese border, on Aug. 20, 2015.—XINHUA

Syrian refugee ship arrives on Greek mainland, migrants move on

PIRAEUS, (Greece), 21 Aug — A car ferry carrying just over 2,400 Syrian refugees arrived on the Greek mainland on Thursday as a wave of migrants fleeing conflict and poverty continued unabated, straining a country already in economic crisis.

Many of the Syrians made ‘V for victory’ signs as they disembarked in the port city of Piraeus from the ship, chartered by the Greek government to ease conditions on islands in the eastern Aegean, where migrants are arriving on inflatable dinghies and small boats from nearby Turkey.

Greece has been found largely unprepared to deal with the migrant crisis in recent weeks, prompting criticism from aid agencies. Arrivals in July totalled 50,000, far outstripping the figure for the whole of 2014.

But many of the Syrians who arrived at Piraeus, which is part of the sprawling Athens conurbation, said they had no intention of staying in Greece as they flee civil war at home. They planned instead to head almost immediately to the northern border via the second city of Thessaloniki, hoping to move on to other European countries. Thessaloniki is close to the borders of Macedonia

and Bulgaria, and the Macedonian government, also unable to cope with the influx, declared a state of emergency on Thursday.

“Which is the bus to Thessaloniki?” asked 28-year-old Jwan from the Syrian city of Aleppo as he and hundreds of others milled on the Piraeus quayside, before

heading into central Athens. Trains and buses depart from there to Thessaloniki, which lies close to the Macedonian and Bulgarian borders.

Jwan had travelled with his two sisters from Turkey to the island of Lesbos. “We don't want to stay in Greece, we want to go to

Germany,” he said.

Macedonia is already overwhelmed by migrants trying to get to northern Europe where they hope to find more help, opportunities and jobs. Many of those have been massing at the French port of Calais in recent months to try to force their way across the Channel

to Britain, disrupting both heavy goods and train traffic.

Britain and France announced new measures on Thursday to prevent undocumented migrants entering the Channel Tunnel, while stepping up joint police operations against the people smugglers who profit from their desperation.

The Greek car ferry Eleftherios Venizelos had left Kos on Wednesday and stopped at several other islands to pick up more refugees from the Syrian civil war on the voyage to the mainland.

Another ship was expected to head out to pick up fresh arrivals from the islands on Friday, the semi-official Athens News Agency reported — but not the thousands of migrants from Asia, Africa and elsewhere in the Middle East, considered economic migrants, who are also sleeping in abandoned buildings or in the open on some islands.

Even for the Syrian refugees landing in Piraeus, no guidance seemed to be available on where to go next, apart from buses to take them from the port to the nearest metro station. Some of the refugees showed tickets, for which they had paid 60 euros (\$67), for a journey directly to Thessaloniki.—Reuters



Policemen watch the arrival of ‘Eleftherios Venizelos’ passenger ship, carrying hundreds of Syrian refugees onboard at the port of Piraeus near Athens, Greece, August 20, 2015.—REUTERS

PERSPECTIVES

Saturday, 22 August, 2015

SME development can lift living standards

By Kyaw Thura

Nations around the world are increasingly focused on the development of small and medium enterprises and it is an example our country should follow.

Fostering SMEs has been shown to help people, especially those lower on the income scale, improve their quality of life.

SMEs constitute more than 99 percent of the

world's businesses and account for 55-95 percent in gross domestic product. In addition, more than 50 percent of the world's workforce is employed by small and medium firms.

Professor U Aye Kyaw, principal of private business school Myanmar Human Resources, highlighted these points during a seminar in Yangon.

U Aye Kyaw, who is also a country program director of the Centre for Strategic and International Studies (CSIS), stressed the need to broaden the sources of economic growth and sustain growth momentum. He emphasized that helping SMEs to grow can help create new job opportunities, thereby alleviating poverty.

It is therefore important for organizations, as well as the government and political parties, to identify the right people for the right jobs. Simply put, it is time for these institutions to come to the

sense that their main strength lies within their workforce.

After all, facilities, technologies and services are all imitable, whereas people are not. Similarly, creativity, decision-making skills and analytical skills are not the preserve of organizations but of individual humans. Nothing works without human resources.

Write for us

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

Reforestation made easy

By Khin Maung Myint (MPT Retired)

IN my previous article, which appeared in the 15 August issue of GNLM, I had discussed how deforestations triggered the flooding. However, the adverse effects of the deforestation do not end there. They are one of the driving forces that causes global warming and climate changes that are threatening the whole world without exception for super rich and advanced countries. In fact the most modernized and industrialized nations are the worst hit.

Because of the extensive industrializations, increase in number of vehicles and modern ways of living consuming large amount of electricity, the use of the fossil fuel have drastically increased, leading to excessive carbon emissions in the world today. This in turn led to the Ozone depletion, creating black holes in our atmosphere. The carbon emissions also give rise to the green house effects. The green house effect, which combined with the Ozone depletion causes the global warming resulting in climate change. We had been witnessing the climate change getting more and more worse. The temperatures soared, unprecedented snowfalls, severe droughts in some places while some other places are reeling under heavy downpours resulting in unprecedented flooding and the tropical storms are getting more frequent and stronger, causing havoc in their paths. The weather patterns had drastically changed over the decades and getting more difficult to predict unless equipped with advanced and sophisticated equipment and instruments.

Now, let us see where the role of the deforestation fits-in, in that process of climate change. The function the trees played is to help reduce the level of carbon present in the atmosphere by absorbing them. Due to the depletion of trees, or in other words the deforestation, the carbon level can-

not be put under control and thus the chain reactions that lead to the climate change is set in motion.

Various measures are being used today, to curb the carbon emissions. However, I will not be stressing on each and every one of those measures as the objective of this article is to promote awareness of the importance of the trees and hence, the forest. Thus, I would be discussing the reforestation methods that are simple, easy, inexpensive, viable and are proven to be successful. Before proceeding further, I think it would be necessary to know what cause the deforestations.

What Cause the Deforestation?

There are various causes that lead to deforestation. For the purpose of clarification, I will classify them into two categories:-

1. Natural Disaster
2. Man-made Disaster

Natural Disaster. Destruction of the forest by the forces of natural can be deemed as being caused by natural disasters. However, taking into consideration the human involvement in the causing of the global warming and the climate change, some disasters that are deemed as naturally inflicted are not what they seemed to be. For instance, the flooding is said to be caused by natural forces. However, if observed with an open mind and rational outlook, one is bound to see the human involvement. Likewise all the other natural disasters too have the human actions, either directly or indirectly, involved. However, if I choose to discuss along that trend, there would be controversies, and as this article is not about deforestation but reforestation, I will accept, as universally accepted, that the natural disaster that could destroy a forest constitute wild fires or forest fires caused by natural forces. Due to the global warming causing the temperatures to rise or for other biological reasons, some trees died and turned into tinders

waiting to be ignited. The most common cause of ignition is by sparks from trees rubbing vigorously against one another under strong windy conditions. The sparks can also be produced by falling boulders striking one another. Thunder strikes are also sources of ignition and on rare occasions by falling meteorites falling from outer space.

Man-made Disaster. These could be caused by numerous means. The most common and most devastating is by excessive timber extraction, legally or illegally. Slash and burn farming, which originated in the Stone Age and still being practiced by 200-300 million people worldwide, also add to the deforestation. Mining, industrialization, construction of dams, highways and fuel pipelines of large scales involve clearing of large areas of lush green forest. Environmentalist used to say that modernization and industrialization come at a cost—the destruction of the forest and hence the ecosystem too. Thus it is advisable that Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) should be systematically carried out by competent independent organization and the authorities should pay heed to its findings and recommendations before giving green light to implement large scale projects. Wild fires caused by negligence or arson also contribute to the process of deforestation.

As it is not a scientific paper, but written to instigate awareness, it may not be comprehensive and lacks scientific authenticity.

Reforestation the Easy Way

Here, I will attempt to describe two very simple and inexpensive reforestation techniques. The first is to plant a few saplings atop the barren hills or mountain range during the tree growing season. The saplings are spaced strategically so that when they had grown to maturity and started to shed seeds, they are scattered down the slope evenly and densely to a lower level. These seeds will sprout and grow in the natural

way and thus the propagation follows the natural process. These second generation trees will, in turn, scatter their seeds to another lower level and thus the natural process of the propagation continues down the slopes. The tree line gradually crept lower year after year and eventually the whole mountain is reforested again. It is a very clever idea that is copied from the nature. This technique is being applied very successfully in Thailand. It is one of the innovations of His Majesty the King of Thailand. The King had made many useful innovations that benefit the people and the country. His innovations are recognized internationally and some are being awarded patent rights by foreign patent registration offices.

The Himalayan Kingdom of Bhutan is also enjoying the success of this technique. The young King of that country is a great admirer of the Thai Monarch since he was a Crown Prince. He used to attend the Thai Monarch's birthday ceremonies every year and on such occasions he visited the various Royal Projects in Thailand. He requested permission from the Thai Monarch to implement some of the techniques in his country and to my knowledge the natural propagation of the forest is one of them and is flourishing.

The second method is very

interesting too. I am not sure whether it is one of the Thai Monarch's invention. There are many national parks in Thailand. The Thais are fond of visiting those parks and go on trekking tours on holidays to avoid the hustles and bustles of the city life. In some parks one might come across a strange sight. Giant slingshots or catapults are fixed in the ground. The visitors can enjoy shooting at nearby steep slopes, using large seeds piled at the ready, by the forest department employees. It is another clever idea. The visitors, old or young, male or female do not need urging to try their hands at shooting the seeds onto the nearby steep slopes. These slingshots are very popular attractions. They served many purposes—entertain the visitors and at the same time the seeds are scattered onto the barren slopes without any labour cost and also instill awareness to the public, the importance of the trees.

We should try out the first method. I do not know whether that is patented or not. Even if it is patented I hope the Thai King would not mind using his technique. As for the second method, I am not sure whether our National Parks could attract much visitors and whether there are trekking trails for the trekking enthusiasts and ready for such arrangements.

There seem to be fewer complaints these days.

That's because complaining doesn't work!

You don't say!



Hla Htut Oo

LOCAL NEWS

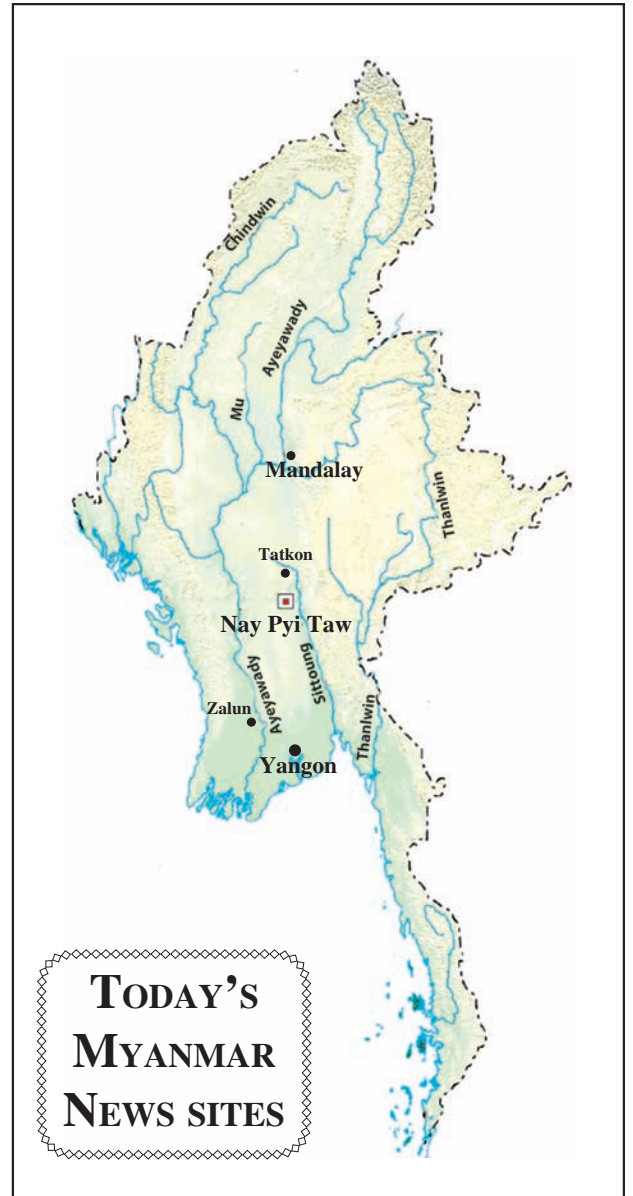
Teenagers attend talks on health, development

TATKON, 21 Aug—The Tatkon Township Maternal and Child Welfare Association and Child Welfare Association gave a talk on adult health at No. 1 basic education high school recently.



Chairwoman of the District Maternal and Child Welfare Supervisory Committee Daw Kyi Kyi Yin gave an opening speech, after which health worker Daw Thin Thin Hlaing and MCWA member Daw Khaing Khaing Tun spoke about teenage health and development, mental and behavioral changes, culture and patriotism, and prevention of HIV/AIDS.

The talk was attended by MCWA members, teachers and matriculation students.—*Tin Soe Lwin (Tatkon)*



Construction begins on Mandalay Region Hluttaw

MANDALAY, 21 Aug—Chief Minister of Mandalay Region U Ye Myint laid cornerstones Thursday for the new Hluttaw building in Aungmyethazan Township.

Speaker of the Mandalay Region Hluttaw U Win Maung placed a plaque

with a stone inscription, while officials also laid cornerstones for the new building.

The main two-storey building of the regional parliament will be 290 feet long and 100 feet wide.

Thiha Ko Ko (Mandalay)

Social assoc. hosts disaster management talk

MANDALAY, 21 Aug—A seminar on disaster management took place at the hall of Byamaso social association in Chanayethazan Township, here, on 19 August.

U Nyein Kyaw Kyaw Latt of Sympathy Hand spoke about preparedness for natural disasters, rescue works and rehabilitation tasks.

Similar talks will be held in Kalay, Sagaing Region, and Ayeyawady Region.

Tin Maung (Mandalay)



Tram, train carriages arrive at Thilawa terminal

YANGON, 21 Aug—Seven tram carriages imported by the Union government and six air-conditioned “rail bus engine” coaches donated by Japan arrived Thursday at the Myanmar International Thilawa Terminal.

Construction of Yangon’s tram line, scheduled

to open this year, is “75 percent complete”, according to Myanmar Railways Manager U Kyaw Soe Lin.

“We expect trams to start running in October,” he said.

Each RBE air-conditioned coach is worth about K100 million, according to Assistant General Manager

U Tun Nwe of the Myanmar Railways rail bus engine workshop.

“We will station all six coaches at the level crossing near Thilawa,” he said. “We need to prepare all the coaches so they conform with the transport system in Myanmar.”

Myanmar Railways will

cooperate with the Japan International Cooperation Agency to upgrade Yangon City’s circular railroads under the long-term urban transport project.

Soe Win (MLA)

Non-formal education programme starts in Zalon Tsp

ZALUN, 21 Aug—The non-formal primary education programme for the 2015-16 academic year kicked off recently in Zalon Township, Ayeyawady Region.

Township Administrator U Tun Hsan Win and retired deputy director-general U Tun Kyi explained the functions of the non-formal primary education programme.

U Tun Kyi presented awards to students who achieved outstanding results in the 2014-15 academic year, while the Township Administrator and Township Education offices donated K300,000 for the programme.—*Ngwe Than*



Novartis buys remaining rights to GSK treatment in deal up to \$1 billion

ZURICH, 21 Aug — Swiss drugmaker Novartis said on Friday it had agreed to buy all remaining rights to Ofatumumab, which is being developed for relapsing remitting multiple sclerosis and other autoimmune indications, from Britain's GlaxoSmithKline.

Basel-based Novartis will make an initial upfront payment of \$300 million (191 million pounds) to GSK for the acquisition of the compound and a

further \$200 million (£130 million) payable following the start of a phase III study in MS by Novartis.

Payments of up to \$534 million (340 million pounds) may be made if pre-agreed milestones are met, Novartis said in a statement.

Novartis will also pay royalties of up to 12 percent to GSK on any future net sales of Ofatumumab in autoimmune conditions.

Reuters



Swiss drugmaker Novartis' logo is seen behind scaffolding at the company's plant in the northern Swiss town of Stein January 27, 2015. REUTERS

German private sector growth picks up in August — PMI

BERLIN, 21 Aug — Stronger-than-expected growth among manufacturers helped Germany's private sector expand at a faster rate in August, a survey showed on Friday, suggesting Europe's largest economy is on track for a solid third quarter.

Markit's flash composite Purchasing Managers' Index (PMI), which tracks manufacturing and services activity that accounts for more than two-thirds of the economy, inched up to 54.0 from 53.7 in July.

This was comfortably above the 50 mark that separates growth from contraction and marked the 28th consecutive month of economic expansion. "Germany's private sector economy shifted into a higher gear in August with output and new orders both increasing at the sharpest rate in four months," Markit economist Oliver Kolodseike said.

The German manufacturing index rose to 53.2 from 51.8 in August, marking the highest level in 16 months and comfortably beating a Reuters poll consensus for



An employee shows fifty-euro notes in a bank in Sarajevo, Bosnia and Herzegovina, in this March 19, 2012 file photo.—REUTERS

51.7. Despite concerns over a cooling global economy, new export orders for goods producers rose to their highest level in 1-1/2 years, with demand coming from Britain and the United States in particular.

The sub-index for services slipped slightly to 53.6 after 53.8 last month. The polled analysts had forecast a reading of 53.9.

The German economy grew by 0.4 percent in the three months

to June and Kolodseike said the PMI pointed to a similar rate of growth in the third quarter. Alongside strong domestic consumption, growth has been supported by a pick-up in foreign trade thanks to a moderate recovery in the euro zone and strong price competitiveness.

Detailed PMI data are only available under licence from Markit and customers need to apply to Markit for a licence.

Reuters

Birth control pills may offer lasting endometrial cancer protection

NEW YORK, 21 Aug — Women who use oral contraceptives during their reproductive years may gain long-term protection against endometrial cancer, a review of previous research suggests.

Researchers analyzed 36 studies including more than 140,000 women from around the world. They found that every five years of taking birth control pills was linked to a 24 percent reduction in the risk for endometrial cancer, even more than three decades after women stopped using the contraceptives.

"Our results show clearly, for the first time, that the protective effect of the pill on endometrial cancer lasts for over 30 years," senior study author Valerie Beral of Oxford University in the U.K. said by email.

The most commonly prescribed oral contraceptives contain man-made versions of the natural female hormones estrogen and progesterone. Past research has already linked these pills to a reduced risk of endometrial and ovarian tumors, but also an elevated risk for breast, cervical and liver malignancies, according to the U.S. National Cancer Institute (NCI).

Cancer of the endometrium,

which is the lining of the uterus, typically strikes women around age 60, after the end of their reproductive years, according to NCI. Risk factors include obesity, never giving birth, starting menstruation at a younger age, entering menopause at an older age and taking estrogen therapy to ease menopause symptoms.

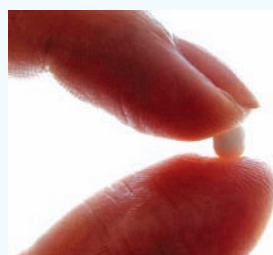
Since the first oral contraceptives were introduced in the 1960s, about 400 million women in high-income countries alone have used the pills, the researchers note in *The Lancet Oncology*.

To understand the connection between endometrial cancer and oral contraceptives, Beral and colleagues examined data on 27,276 women who got these tumors and another 115,743 who didn't.

They drew on previous research done in what they described as high-income countries, including the U.S., Europe, Japan, China, Australia and South Africa.

Half the women in the analysis were at least 63 years old, and among those with cancer, half were diagnosed by 2001.

Among the women who did get endometrial tumors, roughly one third had used birth control pills, typically for around three years. Almost 40 percent of the



An illustration picture shows a woman holding a birth control pill at her home in Nice January 3, 2013.—REUTERS

women who didn't get these malignancies took the pills, and they generally stayed on them for more than four years.

The risk reduction tied to contraceptives varied by tumor type. Oral contraceptive use was associated with 31 percent lower lifetime risk of developing endometrial carcinomas, which are more common. The pills were also associated with a 17 percent lower risk of less common sarcomas, which start in the uterine muscle and supportive tissue.

In the studied high-income countries, use of birth control pills was linked to a reduction in the risk of getting endometrial cancer by age 75. Among pill users, that meant 1.3 women in every 100 would get uterine cancer, compared with 2.3 women in every 100 who didn't use the pill, the researchers estimated.

Over the past 50 years, up to 400,000 out of an estimated total 3.4 million endometrial cancers might have been prevented by oral contraceptive use in the study countries, the authors conclude.

More research is needed to understand why the pills appear to protect against cancer long after women stop taking them, the researchers note.

"Oral contraceptives typically work by preventing ovulation," said Dr. Nicolas Wentzensen of the NCI. "We know that factors that reduce the number of ovulations during a woman's lifetime are associated with a reduced risk for both uterine and ovarian cancers."

Even though the amount of estrogen in birth control pills declined over the course of the 1960s, 1970s and 1980s, the study didn't find differences in risk reduction for endometrial cancer over time, Wentzensen wrote in an editorial accompanying the study.

"These findings suggest that there is a threshold effect, i.e. a low level of estrogen is sufficient for the cancer-protective effects and higher levels do not further increase these effects," he said by email.

Reuters

Most women's gymnastics injuries don't sideline college athletes

WASHINGTON, 21 Aug — Fewer than half of injuries in women's collegiate gymnastics are serious enough to sideline athletes for more than one day, a U.S. study suggests.

Researchers analyzed injury data from 11 college varsity programs for five years starting with the 2009 – 2010 school year. Out of 418 injuries, only 164 were serious enough to require the women to stop participating in gymnastics for more than a day.

Equipment changes, such as shock-absorbing mats to soften landings and a new vaulting table with a larger, cushioned push-off surface may have helped limit serious injuries, said lead author Zachary Kerr of the Datalys Center for Sports Injury Research and Prevention in Indianapolis, Indiana.

Athletic trainers can also minimize the risk of serious injuries, Kerr added.

"By having athletic trainers on site, organizations may be able to reduce the severity of injury because diagnosis and management of the injuries occur almost immediately," Kerr said by email.—Reuters

Massive Aztec human skull rack found in Mexico City



Eduardo Matos Moctezuma, an archaeologist from Mexico's National Institute of Anthropology and History (INAH) points to a drawing of the Templo Mayor Aztec complex, during a news conference at the Anthropology Museum in Mexico City August 20, 2015.—REUTERS

MEXICO CITY, 21 Aug — Archaeologists have discovered a massive ceremonial skull rack from the heyday of the Aztec empire in the heart of Mexico City, a find that could shed new light on how its rulers projected power by human sacrifice, the team said on Thursday.

The skull rack, known as a tzompantli in the Nahuatl language of the Aztecs, was used to display the bleached white craniums of sacrificed warriors from rival kingdoms, likely killed by priests atop towering temples that once stood nearby.

Dug up behind the capital's colonial-era cathedral, the as yet partially uncovered skull rack was likely built between 1485 and 1502 and may have been

about 112 feet (34 meters) long and 12 meters (40 foot) wide, lead archeologist Raul Barrera said.

Hundreds of skulls would have been arranged neatly on the wooden poles of the racks, which served to inspire fear and awe.

"The tzompantli had a very specific symbolism," Barrera told reporters. "With more study, we expect to learn that many of these skulls belong to (Aztec) enemies, who were captured, sacrificed and decapitated in order to be displayed there."

The warlike and deeply religious Aztecs ruled a sprawling empire that at its height stretched from the Gulf of Mexico to the Pacific Ocean before the Spanish conquest of 1519-1521.—Reuters

HP revenue falls on weak PC sales, lower demand for services

SAN FRANCISCO, 21 Aug — Hewlett-Packard Co (HPQ.N) reported a drop in revenue for the fourth straight quarter, hurt by weak PC sales and lower demand from corporates for its services.

Shares of the world's No. 2 PC maker, which also forecast full-year adjusted profit largely below estimates, fell as much as 4 percent in extended trading on Thursday.

Chief Executive Meg Whitman said the factors pressuring the PC market were expected to continue through the fourth quarter and well into the next fiscal year.

The 76-year-old company, which has struggled to adapt to mobiles and online computing, is splitting into two listed companies later this year, separating its computer and printer businesses from its faster-growing corporate hardware and services operations.

HP is nearing the end of a multi-year restructuring under Whitman, who has been cutting costs and focusing on higher-margin sales. The plan includes the elimination of about 55,000 jobs.

Chief Financial Officer Cathie Lesjak said the company expects the number of job cuts to increase by up to 5 percent by the end of October.

A relentless decline in PC sales has hurt the company hard — HP has reported a drop in



An attendee at the Microsoft Ignite technology conference walks past the Hewlett-Packard (HP) logo in Chicago, Illinois, May 4, 2015. REUTERS

quarterly sales in 15 of the last 16 quarters.

The decline in global PC sales was exacerbated in the second quarter of 2015 as customers awaited the release of Windows 10 in July.

As a result, revenue at HP's personal computer and printer businesses, its largest, fell 11.5 percent in the third quarter ended July 31.

Enterprise services division sales dropped 11 percent, while revenue at the enterprise group rose 2 percent.

For the full-year ending October, the company said it expected adjusted profit of \$3.59-\$3.65 per share, largely below the average analyst estimate of \$3.64 per share.

Total revenue fell 8.1 per-

cent to \$25.35 billion in the third quarter, also hurt by a strong dollar.

The dollar .DXY had risen about 19.5 percent in the 12 months to the end of July against a basket of major currencies. HP gets nearly two-thirds of its revenue from outside the United States.

Excluding items, the company earned 88 cents per share.

Analysts on average had expected a profit of 85 cents per share and revenue of \$25.44 billion, according to Thomson Reuters I/B/E/S.

Up to Thursday's close, the stock had dropped nearly 32 percent this year, compared with a 1.1 percent fall in the S&P 500 index .SPX.

Reuters

Microsoft files antitrust suit against InterDigital in patent feud

NEW YORK, 21 Aug — InterDigital Inc has violated U.S. antitrust law by failing to keep its promise to fairly license its technology considered essential to mobile phone communications, Microsoft Corp said in a lawsuit on Thursday.

The complaint against InterDigital, filed in federal court in Wilmington, Delaware, deepens a long-standing fight over patent licensing between the two companies.

It comes as the U.S. International Trade Commission is set to rule this month on whether Microsoft smartphones should be banned from being imported into the United States for infringing two of InterDigital's patents.

Wilmington is the home base of InterDigital, which makes money through the licensing of patents.

The lawsuit concerns patents considered to be critical to technologies that may be widely adopted in an industry. Owners of these kinds of patents typically commit to offering them to competitors at a reasonable rate and on fair terms.

Microsoft alleged InterDigital's "abusive licensing practices" over its patents that are essential for companies to make

cellular devices violate federal anti-monopoly laws.

InterDigital "falsely promised" to license these patents on reasonable terms so they would be accepted as industry standards but then charged exorbitant rates,

Microsoft said in the complaint.

A spokesman for the Redmond, Washington-based software giant said this "violates its commitments and hurts consumers and competition."

A representative for InterDigital had

no comment.

According to the complaint, InterDigital is also using the prospect of an import ban to coerce Microsoft into paying the price InterDigital wants for access to its technology.

In April, an ITC judge said Microsoft infringed two of InterDigital's patents related to moderating a mobile phone's power to reduce signal interference, and recommended that Microsoft's devices be blocked from import.

The full commission is scheduled to make a final ruling on the matter later this month. Companies often sue at the ITC to win an import ban and in federal court to win damages.

The ITC judge also said there was evidence Microsoft had engaged in "reverse patent holdup," a situation where a company uses technology covered by a patent but refuses to pay for a license. The judge said Microsoft has refused to negotiate with InterDigital in a meaningful way.

In the new lawsuit, Microsoft said that because of InterDigital's "monopolistic conduct," the court should triple any damages it awards, and order InterDigital to stop enforcing its patents.—Reuters



A Microsoft logo is seen at a pop-up site for the new Windows 10 operating system at Roosevelt Field in Garden City, New York July 29, 2015.—REUTERS

Kyushu Electric reactor problem halts plan to increase output

TOKYO, 21 Aug — Kyushu Electric Power Co. said Friday a nuclear reactor at its Sendai station that came back online last week has experienced problems, prompting the utility to stop increasing its output.

The Sendai No. 1 reactor, located in southwestern Japan, became the first unit on Tuesday last week to be reactivated under upgraded safety regulations adopted in the wake of the 2011 Fukushima meltdowns.

Kyushu Electric will push back its plan to run the reactor at full capacity from next Tuesday after beginning generating and delivering electricity last Friday. According to the utility, an alarm went off at the plant on Thursday afternoon signaling a problem near the water pumps. Shinjiro Yuge, a senior official at Kyushu Electric's Tokyo branch, said seawater may have entered inside condensate pumps — which circulate cooling water — through a hole in one or more of the pipes running through equipment called a condenser. The company will not halt the operation of the reactor itself, but it will conduct equipment checkups for about a week, Yuge said. The Sendai No. 1 reactor had been offline since May 2011, when the unit was halted for mandatory regular checkups.

Some nuclear experts have said reactors could face severe safety problems after they have been mothballed for a long time.—*Kyodo News*



File photo taken Aug. 11, 2015, shows Kyushu Electric Power Co.'s Sendai nuclear power plant in Satsumase, Kagoshima Prefecture. Kyushu Electric Power said Aug. 21, that a nuclear reactor at its Sendai station that recently came back online has experienced problems, prompting the utility to stop increasing its output.—*KYODO NEWS*

Macedonia cracks down on flow of migrants under emergency decree



Migrant sits on the Greek-Macedonian borderline, August 20, 2015.
REUTERS

GEVVELIJA, (Macedonia), 21 Aug — Macedonia moved to cut off the flow of migrants pouring over its southern border with Greece on Thursday, deploying riot police in armoured vehicles and calling out the army under a state of emergency.

Authorities said official border crossings remained open, but that they would “reduce illegal border entry to a minimum”.

A Reuters reporter near the border town of Gevgelija said a column of riot police armed with tear gas and armoured vehicles had shut off passage for several thousand people now stranded in no-man's land.

“No more Macedonia,” one officer said in English to a Syrian

man requesting passage.

The flow into Gevgelija, which has hit 1,500 to 2,000 a day, suddenly stopped. The shutdown came after days of desperate scenes at the local railway station as thousands of people pressed to board trains to Serbia, young children being passed through open carriage windows.

Macedonia acted as a Greek car ferry docked in Athens carrying 2,400 Syrian refugees from the island of Kos, just some of the 50,000 Middle Eastern, African and Asian migrants and refugees who arrived in Greece in July alone. Many will take buses north, heading for Macedonia, then Serbia and Europe's borderless Schengen zone in Hungary.—*Reuters*

S. Korean man who set himself on fire near Japan embassy dies

SEOUL, 21 Aug — An 80-year-old South Korean man who set himself on fire in front of the Japanese Embassy in Seoul last week died Friday, according to the Hallym University Medical Center in Seoul.

Choi Heon Yeol died at around 6 a.m. at the hospital where he was being treated.

He set himself on fire in front of the embassy on Aug. 12 while about 1,000 people held a weekly protest rally for South Korean women procured to work in brothels for Japanese soldiers during World War II and was taken to hospital after people nearby put the fire out.

In a note left behind, he criticized Japan for moving toward militarism.

The man, a native of the southwestern city of Gwangju, has been involved in supporting court trials of former South Korean women conscripted into forced labor by Mitsubishi Heavy Industries Ltd. during Japan's colonial rule of the Korean Peninsula, according to a member of the supporting group.

The incident came just three days before South Korea commemorated the 70th anniversary of its liberation from Japan's 1910-1945 colonial rule of the Korean Peninsula.

Kyodo News

As refugee crisis worsens, Merkel and Hollande want EU to move faster

BERLIN, 21 Aug — Germany and France will press the European Union to move faster and with more unity to deal with the worsening refugee crisis, amid complaints from Germany that it is shouldering too big a burden.

Chancellor Angela Merkel and French President Francois Hollande will meet in Berlin on Monday to discuss how to speed up relief for thousands of migrants, many of whom risk dangerous sea voyages to reach southern Europe before making their way across the continent.

German Interior Minister Thomas de Maiziere told a news conference on Thursday with his French counterpart Bernard Cazeneuve that the EU must move more quickly as migrant numbers across the EU have surged in recent months.

“It's unacceptable for European institutions to continue

working at the pace they are currently operating at,” said de Maiziere, one day after he said Germany will receive a record 800,000 refugees and asylum-seekers this year.

De Maiziere said he and Cazeneuve agree Italy and Greece need considerable EU help to set up “waiting areas” for newly arrived refugees. Countries bordering the EU will also need EU support to counter smugglers as well address the causes of mass migration, he said.

“It's obvious that Italy and Greece will need help and that will cost a relatively large amount of EU money,” said de Maiziere, a close ally of Merkel, who earlier on Thursday complained Germany has taken in 40 percent of the EU's refugees.

“That is too many for the long run,” he told German TV.

De Maiziere told the news

conference that the EU Commission needs to apply far more pressure on countries outside the EU, especially those seeking to join the EU in the Balkans, to take back refugees failing to qualify for asylum.

Merkel, who called it “extremely unsatisfying” that Germany is taking in a disproportionate numbers, said earlier this week that the EU urgently needs to come up with joint policies in the face of the worsening humanitarian crisis. She said the issue would become more pressing for Europe than the euro zone crisis.

“We need a common European asylum policy,” she said.

Britain said on Thursday it will contribute 10 million euros to increased French humanitarian assistance and a fast-track asylum process for thousands of migrants camped in Calais in the hope of crossing the Channel.

The measures were announced by British Home Secretary Theresa May and Bernard Cazeneuve during a joint visit to the northern French port city of Calais.

In Istanbul, the head of Turkey's relief efforts Fuat Oktay told Reuters that Europe does not grasp the magnitude of Syria's refugee crisis and should open its borders to shoulder a responsibility Turkey has been bearing alone.

Tens of thousands of migrants are arriving in Italy and Greece each week.

Germany has become a magnet for refugees fleeing war, violence and poverty in Asia, Africa and the Middle East as 218,221 people arrived seeking asylum in the first six months. That led Germany to raise its full-year forecast to 800,000 from the original January forecast of 300,000 and May's 450,000.—*Reuters*

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Consignees of cargo carried on MV BC SANFRANCISCO VOY NO (0012W) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 22.8.2015 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of M.I.P where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

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

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

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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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Suspected Japanese WWII bomb kills two farmers, injures five

ZHENGZHOU, 21 Aug — Two farmers were killed and five others were injured by a bomb thought to be abandoned by the Japanese during WWII in central China's Henan province, said local sources on Friday.

Seven villagers were digging a water cellar in Nanzhai township in Huixian city on Wednesday afternoon when the blast occurred.

Wang Baixing, a bomb expert, believes the explosion was caused by a small aerobomb left by Japanese invaders after World War II. The blast was triggered by villagers using an excavator. Water and air quality at the site remained normal. Local elderly villagers said the Chinese army stationed in Nanzhai during the war and there was a military hospital. Therefore, Nanzhai was often bombed by Japanese planes.

Wang warned people to be cautious using diggers. "One needs to know whether there might be bombs before starting construction," he said. "Ring the police if you find a bomb, and let specialists handle it."—Xinhua

63 children made to work on farms in Mexico rescued

MEXICO CITY, 21 Aug — At least 63 minors, who were made to work long hours in a vegetable packing company in the northern Mexican state of Coahuila, were rescued Wednesday, officials said on Thursday.

The children were found in poor conditions, sleeping on the floor and in various states of malnutrition, Coahuila secretary of government Victor Zamora said.

Six people were arrested and they confessed that the children, of whom the youngest was eight years old, were tricked into be-

ing taken to the El Higo community in the town of Ramos Arizpe, about 70 km southwest of the city of Monterrey, and forced to pick vegetables on a farm there.

The minors told authorities that they were given two meals a day and had only a half-day off each week and were paid 100 pesos (6 U.S. dollars) a day, slightly higher than the minimum wage of about 70 pesos (4 dollars).

The illegal child exploitation was discovered when one of the fathers of the children denounced the

operation to the police.

Reports said the minors were recruited through advertisements. It is still unknown to what extent the parents agreed, or knew, about the conditions their children would be working in.

Zamora stipulated that more than 100 children were working in such conditions but that many ran away during the raid, with only 63 being taken in. The children are now being taken care of in various shelters, with the authorities seeking to bring them back to their homes.

Xinhua



Activists take part during a protest held in Sao Paulo, Brazil, on Aug. 20, 2015. At least 18 people were dead during attacks by armed groups in the cities of Osasco and Barueri outskirts of Sao Paulo last Friday. Protestors demanded an investigation on the crimes.—XINHUA



Officers of the Bolivarian National Guard stand guard at the Simon Bolivar international bridge in San Cristobal, state of Tachira, Venezuela, on Aug. 20, 2015. The Venezuelan government ordered part of frontier with Colombia closed for 72 hours early Thursday. XINHUA

WEATHER REPORT

BAY INFERENCE: Monsoon is strong in the Andaman Sea and Bay of Bengal.
FORECAST VALID UNTIL EVENING OF THE 22nd August, 2015: Rain or thundershowers will be scattered in Lower Sagaing, Mandalay and Magway Regions, fairly widespread in Upper Sagaing and Bago Regions, Kachin, Shan and Chin States and widespread in the remaining Regions and States with regionally heavy falls in Taninthayi Region, Rakhine and Mon States and isolated heavy falls in Yangon and Ayeyarwady Regions, Kayin State. Degree of certainty is (100%).
STATE OF THE SEA: Squalls with moderate to rough sea are likely at times off and along Myanmar Coasts. Surface wind speed in squalls may reach (35) m.p.h.
OUTLOOK FOR SUBSEQUENT TWO DAYS: Strong monsoon.
FORECAST FOR NAYPYITAW AND NEIGHBOURING AREA FOR 22nd August, 2015: One or two rain or thundershowers. Degree of certainty is (100%).

Josh Duggar admits cheating on wife after Ashley Madison hack

LOS ANGELES, 21 Aug — Former reality TV star Josh Duggar on Thursday admitted cheating on his wife after reports that he had subscribed to the Ashley Madison affair website, apologizing for being “the biggest hypocrite ever.”

“While espousing faith and family values, I have been unfaithful to my wife,” Duggar, 27, a former campaigner for family values who appeared on the TLC show “19 Kids and Counting,” said in a statement posted on his family’s website.

“The last few years, while publicly stating I was fighting against immorality in our country I was hiding my own personal failures,” he added, calling himself the “biggest hypocrite ever.”

The Discovery Communications-owned network last month canceled “19 Kids,” after disclosures in May that Duggar had sexually abused four of his sisters when he was a teenager, one of whom was under 10 years old

at the time.

Duggar apologized in a statement, saying he “acted inexcusably,” and resigned from his job at Christian lobbying group Family Research Council.

In an earlier version of Duggar’s statement posted on the family’s website and reported by People magazine and BuzzFeed, he said “I have secretly over the last several years been viewing pornography on the internet and this became a secret addiction and I became unfaithful to my wife.”

The reference to pornography was removed in an updated version of the statement.

Duggar’s parents, conservative Christians Jim Bob and Michelle Duggar, said on Thursday they were dismayed over the Ashley Madison reports concerning their son.

“When we learned of this late last night our hearts were broken,” they said in a statement.

Hackers this week dumped

a batch of data stolen from the Ashley Madison website detailing millions of members. The site’s tagline is “Life is short. Have an affair.”

Duggar is so far the highest-profile person found among the site’s clientele.



Josh Duggar speaks at the Family Leadership Summit in Ames, Iowa August 9, 2014.—REUTERS

A link to the statement was posted on the Duggar family’s Facebook page but deleted after a barrage of comments from fans criticizing Josh Duggar for his actions. On Twitter, Duggar became a trending topic as users expressed their disapproval.—Reuters

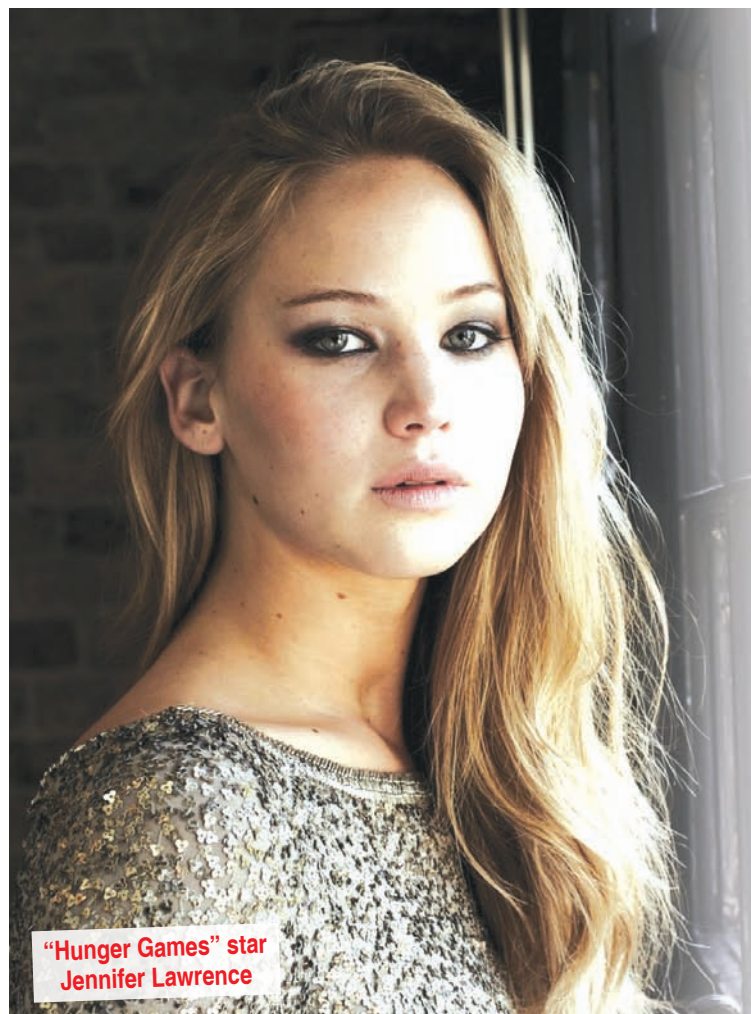
I cry on film’s set: Anne Hathaway

LONDON, 21 Aug — Oscar-winning actress Anne Hathaway has revealed she often breaks down on the sets of her movies but does not consider it a “big deal.”

The 32-year-old actress spoke about her emotional nature in an interview to a magazine about her upcoming comedy film “The Intern”, which also features Hollywood icon Robert De Niro.

Hathaway’s character is the founder and CEO

of a fashion based e-commerce company. She agrees to a community outreach program where a senior, Ben Whittaker (De Niro), will intern at the firm. “I felt strongly that my character should cry at work. I cry all the time. Granted, I’m an actress, so I kind of get a pass, but what’s the big deal if you cry and then get yourself together and move on?”—PTI



“Hunger Games” star Jennifer Lawrence

Jennifer Lawrence ranked highest-paid actress but men still prevail

NEW YORK, 21 Aug — “Hunger Games” star Jennifer Lawrence on Thursday topped a Forbes list of the world’s highest-paid actresses, earning some \$52 million in the past year but still far behind the best paid actor.

Lawrence, who won an Oscar in 2013 for her role in “Silver Linings Playbook,” also had income for being the face of French fashion and beauty company Dior but her combined earnings came nowhere close to the estimated \$80 million of “Iron Man” star Robert Downey Jr. He topped Forbes list earlier in August of the highest paid male actors. Lawrence, 25, made headlines last year when hacked Sony Pictures emails revealed she earned a lower cut of profits from the movie “American Hustle” than her male counterparts.

Forbes noted that only four of the women on this year’s highest-paid list, which takes into account earnings from movies, television, endorsements and other sources, made more than \$20 million while 21 male actors reached that level.

Lawrence towered above Scarlett Johansson, second on the actress list with an estimated \$35.5 million, and “Mike & Molly” star Melissa McCarthy with \$23 million, Forbes said.

Actresses rounding out the top five on the Forbes list were China’s Bingbing Fan who appeared in “X-Men: Days of Future Past” (\$21 million), and former “Friends” star Jennifer Aniston (\$16.5 million), who also earns money from promoting cosmetics and bottled water. Last year’s top-earning actress, Sandra Bullock, saw her payday drop to \$8 million from \$51 million after a quiet 12 months.

Reuters

Christian Bale to star in Michael Mann’s ‘Ferrari’ biopic

LOS ANGELES, 21 Aug — Actor Christian Bale is touted to play the titular character in Michael Mann’s “Ferrari”.

The biopic about Italian car maker Enzo Ferrari would follow the rise of Ferrari as the iconic car brand in the 1950s, reported Deadline.

This movie will reunite Bale, 41, with Mann, who directed him in 2009’s “Public Enemies”.

For Mann, this is a passion project which he had tried to make come true in the last 15 years. At one point, he was working with the late director Sydney Pollack. Mann himself is the perfect fit to helm the film.

He directed the 2008 promotional video for Ferrari’s California sports car and used to race in the Ferrari Challenge. “Ferrari (2017)” takes place in 1957, a year where passion, failure, success and death and life all collided.—PTI

Hrithik Roshan is perfect superhero of Bollywood, says Karan Johar

MUMBAI, 21 Aug — Bollywood filmmaker Karan Johar heaped praise on actor Hrithik Roshan saying he would be apt to play a superhero on screen.

The “My Name is Khan” helmer hopes to see Hrithik in the avatar of a different superhero, donning the green costume

and carrying the deadly bow and arrow of the infamous vigilante “Arrow”.

“Arrow”, an American television series developed by writer/producers Greg Berlanti, Marc Guggenheim, and Andrew Kreisberg, is based on the DC

Comics character Green Arrow,

a costumed crime-fighter created by Mort Weisinger and George Papp. The 43-year-old director along with Bollywood actress Alia Bhatt are co-curators of Viacom18’s English entertainment channel Colors Infinity.

“As “Arrow” I think Hrithik Roshan is the perfect superhero,

you can make him do anything. So be it Arrow, or be it any other kind of avenger, he would be amazing,” Karan was quoted as saying in a statement here.

Hrithik has played the role of a superhero in “Krissh 3”. Karan and the “Jodhaa Akbar” protagonist share a great equation. Hrithik

acted in remake of “Agnepath”, produced by Karam while Karan had filmed him in “Kabhi Khushi Kabhi Gham”.

The two were going to work on “Shuddhi” but things did not move ahead. “Arrow” will premiere on August 23 on Colors Infinity.—PTI

GENERAL

Firefighters face high winds stoking deadly blazes in U.S. Northwest

SEATTLE, 21 Aug — Crews battling a flurry of wildfires raging unchecked across the Pacific Northwest contended with high winds on Thursday, a day after three firefighters were killed and four others were injured in Washington state.

Authorities late on Wednesday ordered the evacuation of about 4,000 homes threatened by fire in the riverfront towns of Twisp and Winthrop in the Methow Valley, nestled in the foothills of the Cascade mountains in north-central Washington.

The Twisp-area blaze, part of a larger cluster of fires dubbed the Okanogan Complex, has blackened 7,873 acres (3,194 hectares) of rural brush and dry timber about 115 miles (185 km) northeast of Seattle since erupting on Wednesday, said Rick Scriven, a spokesman authorized to speak about the blaze.

As of late Thursday afternoon, crews had yet to establish firm containment lines around the blaze, Scriven said, adding that suppression efforts across

the Northwest had been complicated by “sporadic and erratic winds” throughout the day.

The blaze near Twisp was burning in the same county as last July’s massive Carlton Complex fire, the state’s largest on record, which destroyed about 300 homes as it blackened 250,000 acres (100,000 hectares). The Twisp blaze is just one of more than 70 large wildfires or clusters of fires under full-scale attack in several Western states, the bulk of them in Washington, Oregon, Idaho, California and Montana, the National Interagency Fire Centre in Boise reported.

Those fires have collectively scorched some 1.3 million acres (5,260 square kilometres) in the drought-parched region.

The Twisp blaze has also proven the deadliest. Three U.S. Forest Service firefighters in an engine crew perished on Wednesday while battling the flames, which overtook their position after they were involved in a vehicle accident, Okanogan County Sheriff Frank Rogers said.

Among the dead was Thomas Zbyszewski, a physics major and actor at Whitman College in south-eastern Washington.

Four other firefighters were injured, he said, one of them hospitalized in critical condition with burns over 60 percent of his body.

U.S. wildland blazes have claimed the lives of at least 13 firefighters and support personnel so far this year, four more than died in the line of duty during all of 2014, the interagency fire centre said.

This year’s toll also is the highest since 2013, when 34 wildland firefighters were killed nationwide, including 19 members of an elite “hotshots” team in Arizona.

About 50 miles (80 km) south of Twisp, the so-called First Creek fire was posing a renewed threat to populated areas after engulfing more than 68,000 acres (27,000 hectares), with 39 homes and 28 out-buildings destroyed days ago near the resort town of Chelan, according to sheriff’s spokesman Rich Mag-nussen.—Reuters

Serena cruises into Cincinnati quarters



Aug 20, 2015; Cincinnati, OH, USA; Serena Williams (USA) answers questions from the media after defeating Karin Knapp (not pictured) on day six during the Western and Southern Open tennis tournament at Linder Family Tennis Center. —REUTERS

CINCINNATI, 21 Aug — Defending champion Serena Williams cruised into the quarter-finals of the Western & Southern Open with a 6-0, 6-2 win over Italy’s Karin Knapp on Thursday while Swiss teenager Belinda Bencic’s remarkable run came to an end.

Williams, who was upset by Bencic last week in the semi-finals of the Rogers Cup in Toronto, needed 54 minutes to get by Knapp and set up a showdown with Serbian Ana Ivanovic in what will be a rematch of last year’s final.

“When you’ve done well somewhere it gives

you confidence and also takes pressure off,” said Williams, who has won 41 straight matches on U.S. hardcourts since losing to Victoria Azarenka in the 2013 Cincinnati final.

“Playing at home in America is great.”

Sixth seed Ivanovic advanced after beating American Sloane 2-6, 6-4 6-1. The Serb has beaten Williams only once in nine meetings with the only win coming at in a last-16 clash at the 2014 Australian Open.

Rogers Cup champion Bencic took an eight-match winning streak into her last-

16 clash with Lucie Safarova but the 18-year-old Swiss was forced to retire with a muscle strain after her seventh-seed opponents took the first set 6-2.

“First of all, I don’t think it’s very serious,” Bencic told reporters. “I just wasn’t 100 percent today, and to beat Lucie or even compete against her, you need to be 100 percent.”

Bencic will meet with her team before deciding whether she can play in the Connecticut Open next week, the final tournament before Aug. 31-Sept. 13 U.S. Open.

Bencic began her match against Safarova by breaking her opponent, but Safarova broke right back to win with ease and will next face either Ukrainian 14th seed Elina Svitolina or Frenchwoman Caroline Garcia in the quarter-finals.

Unseeded Russian Anastasia Pavlyuchenkova also advanced to the quarter-finals when Azarenka retired despite leading the match 6-1, 0-3.

Serbian Jelena Jankovic and Slovak qualifier Anna Karolina Schmiedlova also advanced to the quarter-finals.

Reuters

Gatlin the form horse but don’t write off Bolt — Greene

BEIJING, 21 Aug — Inform American Justin Gatlin should beat Usain Bolt to win both the sprints at the world championships but it would be foolhardy to write off the Jamaican, three-times world 100 metres world champion Maurice Greene said on Friday.

Bolt has dominated the 100m and 200m at major championships since winning both in world record times at the 2008 Beijing Olympics, only a false start

in the short sprint final at the 2011 world championships preventing him from a clean sweep.

Joint problems have hampered the 29-year-old’s season, however, and he returns to the Bird’s Nest stadium for the 100m heats on Saturday with best times of 9.87 and 20.13 seconds for each sprint.

Gatlin, although he has yet to go head-to-head with Bolt this year and has beaten the Jamaican only once

in seven attempts over the 100m, has not been beaten in either sprint for two years.

The 33-year-old owns the best times of the year in both events with a personal best of 9.74 in 100m and 19.57 in the 200m.

“Right now, if I have to go by what’s happening right now you would say Justin is going to win,” Greene told Reuters.

“But the biggest problem is you never know what Usain is going to come out

with because, you have to remember, he’s been where nobody has been before. “So who knows if he’s going to come back with something like that? It’s very well possible so you can never count him out. “Bolt don’t ever run a lot. It doesn’t matter if he’s run four races or 12 races, you’re gonna get a race.”

Reuters



Entertainment Channel

(22-8-2015, Saturday)

- 6:00 am
- Classical Songs
- 6:20 am
- Pyi Thu Ni Ti
- 6:35 am
- Fashion Music
- 6:50 am
- Cassette Drama
- 7:05 am
- Musical Programme
- 8:20 am
- Dramatic Arts
- 9:55 am
- Myanmar Video
- 12:00 noon
- Close Down

Justin Gatlin of the U.S. takes a selfie with supporters after winning the 100 meters men event at the IAAF Diamond League Herculis meeting at the Louis II Stadium in Monaco, July 17, 2015.—REUTERS



Myanmar International

(22-8-2015 07:00 am~23-8-2015 07:00 am) MST

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Yadanabon University students join sports activities



Sports and Physical Education team receive championship trophies in annual track and field championships of Yadanabon University.—TIN MAUNG (MANDALAY)

MANDALAY, 21 Aug—Yadanabon University students took part in the annual track and field championships at Mandalay Sports and Physical Education Institute on Thursday.

The Sports and Physical Education team won the most points overall, with the Mathematics team coming second and Physics, third.

Mandalay SPEI officials and

department deans awarded individual medals, while Pro-Rector Dr Aung Aung Min handed over this year's championship trophy to the winning team.

Tin Maung (Mandalay)

Taekwondo coaches to attend training in S Korea

By Ko Moe

YANGON, 21 Aug—The Myanmar Taekwondo Federation has selected two coaches to attend an international training program in South Korea.

The course aims to increase the popularity of Taekwondo, which emerged in South Korea in the 1940s, across the ASEAN region.

The two coaches are U Aung Naing from the Ministry of Environmental Conservation and Forestry and U Win Tun Lin from the Yangon City Develop-

ment Committee. The pair will leave for South Korea on 29 August.

Chief Coach U Kyaw Than Oo of Myanmar Taekwondo Federation said, "The SEA Games motivated Myanmar to boost the skills of its Taekwondo coaches — and indeed many other sports."

Coaches from Thailand, Malaysia, Laos and Cambodia will also attend the training course in South Korea.

Four Myanmar coaches took part in the program last year.—GNLM



Officials awarding first prize to bodybuilder in inter-subject bodybuilding and physical culture contest at Dagon University on 21-8-2015.—EDUCATION

Federer cruises as fellow top seeds struggle

CINCINNATI, (OH), 21 Aug — Defending champion Roger Federer cruised into the quarter-finals of the Western & Southern Open with a 6-1, 6-1 demolition of South African Kevin Anderson on Thursday on an otherwise tough day for the top seeds that saw Rafa Nadal eliminated.

Swiss second seed Federer needed just 55 minutes to register his easy win but top seed Novak Djokovic, third seed Andy Murray and fifth seed Stan Wawrinka were all taken the distance in their matches at the U.S. Open

warm-up event in Cincinnati.

Playing in his first tournament since losing the Wimbledon final to Djokovic last month, Federer looks fresh and rested and advanced to a last eight encounter against Spain's Feliciano Lopez, who upset 2013 Cincinnati champion Nadal 5-7, 6-4, 7-6(3).

"I think the first break always gives you a bit of a boost and right then I felt conditions weren't that fast and I could probably get some more balls back than maybe a day session," Federer told reporters of his win

over the big-serving Anderson.

"Then it was just important to keep it up with my serving. I did that very well tonight, so I am really pleased it was a rock solid performance.

"It's only quarter-finals, I know it's a good result so far and I'm playing great tennis but hopefully I can keep it up tomorrow."

Djokovic looked in danger when he dropped the opening three games of the final set against 13th-seeded Belgian David Goffin, but roared back for a 6-2, 2-6, 6-3 win to set up a French Open final rematch against Stan Wawrinka.

The Swiss claimed his second grand slam title with a four-set victory over Djokovic in Paris and beat Croatia's Ivo Karlovic 6-7(2), 7-6(5), 7-6(5) to book a showdown against the top seed.

The Serbian world number one ran into trouble when his 24-year-old opponent broke in the first game of the second set, which resulted in a frustrated Djokovic destroying his racket with three smashes against the hard court.

Goffin went on to win eight of the next 10 games to put himself in position for a massive upset but Djokovic found his groove in time to prevail.—Reuters



Aug 20, 2015; Cincinnati, OH, USA; Roger Federer (SUI) returns a shot against Kevin Anderson (not pictured) on day six during the Western and Southern Open tennis tournament at Linder Family Tennis Center. REUTERS

Kane hopes to punish Foxes on return to Leicester

LONDON, 21 Aug — Tottenham Hotspur striker Harry Kane will look to rediscover his scoring touch against Leicester City at the King Power Stadium on Saturday, with the England international hoping to open his account against a defence he breached four times last season.

Kane, who bagged 31 goals for Spurs in a breakthrough campaign, has yet to find the net in two Premier League games this season but will be back in familiar surroundings, having spent three months on loan with the Foxes in 2013.

The striker scored in less than 60 seconds when Spurs visited Leicester last December and followed that up with his first Premier League hat-trick in the return fixture in March as Tottenham completed a league double over Saturday's opponents.

"Obviously, I scored once away and got a hat-trick at home last season so hopefully I can continue that form against them," the 22-year-old said.

"I spent a bit of time at Leicester so I know a few faces there and it will be good to see them... I enjoy playing against them."

Tottenham will also be

seeking their first win of the season after losing their opening fixture 1-0 to Manchester United and drawing 2-2 at home to Stoke City on Saturday.

Leicester, meanwhile, have enjoyed a dream start under new coach Claudio Ranieri, claiming back-to-back wins over Sunderland and West Ham to plunder a maximum six points from two matches.

"I think we've been a bit unlucky in the last two games, but we've been playing some good football so we want to start the game at a high tempo this weekend, keep the ball, create some chances and hopefully get some goals," Kane told the club website.

"The points are the most important thing and three of them will be massive for us on Saturday."

Spurs winger Andros Townsend has been ruled out of the clash after picking up an ankle injury, adding to manager Mauricio Pochettino's woes after the 24-year-old was sidelined with a shoulder problem that kept him out of action for three weeks.

"Andros' shoulder is okay but he now has a minor problem in his ankle," Pochettino said.

Reuters