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AIRPORT PROJECT DELAYS

Hanthawaddy airport project completion postponed to 2022



A conceptual design of Hanthawaddy International Airport by Yongnam CAPE-JGC Consortium.
PHOTO: SUPPLIED BY DCA

By Ko Moe

YANGON, 27 Aug — The construction of Hanthawaddy International Project will be commissioned into service by 2022 – four years after the previous target date – due to hold-ups in obtaining Official Development Assistance, according to the Department of Civil Aviation.

During a press conference held at the DCA's office in Yangon on Thursday, Deputy Director-General U Min Lwin said that investors need to seek ODA loans to inject into the US\$1.5 billion project. It was initially slated for completion by 2018, which was then pushed back to 2020.

The airport is projected to handle up to 12 million passengers a year and is located in Bago Region, which is around 48 miles northeast of Yangon and takes 90 minutes to reach by car.

The deputy director said that Yangon International Airport is being upgraded to handle higher

volumes of visitors while Hanthawaddy International Airport is under construction.

The number of tourist arrivals in Myanmar has been increasing year by year, reaching 0.79 million in 2010, 1.06 million in 2012, 2.04 million in 2013 and 4.4 million in 2014.

Myanmar is expecting to receive more than 6 million tourists in 2017.

The Hanthawaddy International Airport project is the largest of three airport upgrade projects being undertaken to accommodate the growing numbers of foreigner travellers to Myanmar. It will be constructed on more than 9,000 acres on a site on which the Japanese army built an airport during World War II.

A consortium of Yongnam and Changi Airport Planners and Engineering (CAPE) from Singapore and Japan's JGC Corporation won the tender to build Hanthawaddy International Airport in Bago Region.—GNLM

Myanmar to fall short of 2m tonne rice export target

By Ye Myint

YANGON, 27 Aug — Although the suspension on rice exports is set to end in mid-September, Myanmar will miss the 2 million tonne rice export target for 2015, according to an official from Myanmar Rice Federation Thursday.

"We cannot meet this year's rice export target," Dr Soe Tun, MRF's vice chairman, told *The Global New Light of Myanmar*.

He said that Myanmar's annual export figure has been revised to between 1 and 1.5 million tons in 2015.

MRF's vice chairperson said that prior to the six week export freeze, 400,000 metric tonnes of rice had been exported since the start of the financial year.

Myanmar exported 1.83 million metric tonnes of rice last year, at a value of US\$644 million. According to Dr Soe Tun,

CEC members of the national rice industry body decided to resume exports on 15 September during a meeting held on Wednesday.

Lifting of the suspension in mid-September is viable as prices have begun to fall after almost doubling in certain areas immediately after the floods.

The vice-chair also said that as the harvesting of the monsoon paddy is about to begin, the planned resumption of exports will help protect farmers from the loss they'd incur from selling rice off below production rates.

"[Resuming exports] will help farmers to benefit from the monsoon rice yield, leading to price stability in the local market thanks to the demand for exports."

U Hla Oo, a rice mill owner, welcomed MRF's decision to recommence exports, saying that he found it hard to keep his staff as he was unable to offer them any work.—GNLM



A Myanmar farmer plants seeds in a paddy field.—PHOTO CREDIT: WORLD BANK MYANMAR

MYANMAR GAZETTE

NAY PYI TAW, 27 Aug—The President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar has confirmed the appointment of following heads of service organizations on expiry of the one-year probationary period.

Name	Appointment
(a) U Myint Swe	Director-General Planning and Administrative Department Ministry of Foreign Affairs
(b) Prof. Dr Daw Myat Thanda	Rector University of Nursing (Yangon) Department of Health Professional Resource Development and Management Ministry of Health

The President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar has appointed the following persons as heads of service organizations shown against each on probation from the date they assume charge of their duties.

Name	Appointment
(a) U Myint Htwe	Director-General Myanma Radio and Television Ministry of Information
(b) U Khin Maung Win	Director-General Pension Department Ministry of Finance
(c) Daw Cherry Lwin	Managing Director Myanmar Investment and Commercial Bank Ministry of Finance
(d) Prof. Dr Khin Maung Lwin	Rector University of Medicine (Mandalay) Department of Health Professional Resource and Management Ministry of Health
(e) Prof. Dr Daw Hsan Hsan Win	Rector University of Dental Medicine (Mandalay) Department of Health Professional Resource Development and Management Ministry of Health

Republic of the Union of Myanmar Union Election Commission Notification No. 51/2015

12th Waxing Day of Wagaung, 1377 ME
(27 August, 2015)

Daingnet Ethnic Development Party allowed to register as political party

The Union Election Commission announced Thursday that Daingnet Ethnic Development Party headquartered at No. 593 on Min Saw Mon Street in No 4 Thabyegon Ward, Buthidaung, Rakhine State, has been allowed to register as a political party as of 27 August in line with Section 9 of the Political Parties Registration Law.

The party's registration number is 100.

By order,
(Tin Tun)
Secretary
Union Election Commission

Pyidaungsu Hluttaw

Pyidaungsu Hluttaw (Union Parliament) Roundup

NAY PYI TAW, 27 Aug—Union Peace-Making Work Committee Vice Chairman Union Minister U Aung Min discussed the government's ongoing efforts to achieve a nationwide ceasefire agreement at the Pyidaungsu Hluttaw session on Thursday.

He said that despite attempts by successive governments to end armed struggles in Myanmar since the country won its independence, the complex political roots of various conflicts has made it difficult to find a solution. Therefore, President U Thein Sein has invited ethnic armed groups to take part in political dialogue with the aim of reaching a consensus for achieving peace. Union Minister U Aung Min also noted that the president

has formed the Union Peace-Making Central Committee and Union Peace-Making Work Committee to speed up peace efforts. He praised the government for reaching 39 bilateral agreements with 15 ethnic armed groups.

He went on to say that the Nationwide Ceasefire Coordination Team of the ethnic armed groups is currently negotiating the terms of a nationwide ceasefire agreement after signing Deed of Commitment for Peace and National Reconciliation.

After 17 months of negotiations, the two sides reached an agreement over the approved draft of the agreement but discussions stalled when ethnic groups demanded another 13 points, ac-

ording to the union minister. The government has agreed to discuss these further demands of ethnic groups with the aim of reaching a final agreement, he said.

When an agreement has been signed by all parties, the union government will submit it to the Pyidaungsu Hluttaw, he concluded. Representatives then discussed various aspects of the anticipated truce.

Yesterday's session also put up appointments of state/region security and border affairs ministers and invited representatives to discuss the bill on monogamy, the signing of the maritime labour convention 2016 and the ASEAN-Korea framework agreement on economic cooperation.—MNA

Pyithu Hluttaw

Pyithu Hluttaw session successfully concludes

NAY PYI TAW, 27 Aug—Pyithu Hluttaw approved the amendment for the Industrial Bill at the Thursday's session.

Pyithu Hluttaw's bill committee read out the salient points in the canal bill for mercantile marine transportation submitted by the Ministry of Transport.

The Ministry of Transport also submitted the bill amending Myanmar Lighthouse Act while the Ministry of Rail Transportation presented the bill amending road transport.

Speaker Thura U Shwe Mann announced successful completion of the Pyithu Hluttaw

session after explaining the tasks of the 12th regular session of the Hluttaw.

In the session, union level officials replied to 1,666 questions of 1,793. MPs have discussed 80 bills of 96 while there remain 16 bills in discussion process.—MNA

Appointment of Ambassador agreed on

NAY PYI TAW, 28 Aug—The Government of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar has granted Agreement to the appointment of Mr K.W.N.D Karunaratne as the Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the Democratic Socialist Republic of Sri Lanka to the Republic of the Union of Myanmar.

Mr K.W.N.D Karunaratne was born in 1953. He holds a Bachelor of Arts majoring in

Mathematics, Economics, Geography and Higher Diploma in Surveying and Mapping and Post Graduate Diploma in Rural Area Development from University of Colombo. He served as a Tax Officer from 1978 to 1979 at Department of Inland Revenue, as an Assistant Superintendent/Superintendent and Deputy Surveyor General from 1979 to 2004 and as a Senior Deputy Surveyor General from 2004 to 2009 at De-

partment of Surveys as well as an Additional Surveyor General in Charge of all land surveys from 2009 to 2013. He served as Private Secretary to H.E Maithripala Sirisena, the then Minister of Health from 2013 to 2014. He is currently serving as Coordinating Secretary to H.E Maithripala Sirisena, President and Minister of Defense of Sri Lanka. He is married with two children.

MNA

Thai medical team arrives in flood-hit delta region

By Ko Moe

YANGON, 27 Aug—A medical team from Thailand arrived at Mindaladon airbase on Thursday morning and flew to Hinthada to provide healthcare assistance for flood victims in the delta region over the next week.

The team includes surgeons,

pediatricians, specialists, GPs, nurses and 29 other health staff and it will work in cooperation with the Ministry of Health.

The team will treat patients at Kyatkun Station Hospital, Dabi Station Hospital as well as in Zalun, Myanaung, Laymyethna, Ingapu and Kyangin Townships.

Thailand's Ambassador Mr Chainarong Keratiyutwong said that Thailand will soon provide rehabilitative care to victims of the flood. On 17 August, the Thai princess and members of the public sent donations to Myanmar's flood victims, who number more than a million.—GNLM



Thai medical team poses for a group photo at Mindaladon Airbase.—TUN AUNG KYAW

NATIONAL

Myanmar moves to fight poverty through community-based projects

NAY PYI TAW, 27 Aug — A seminar on the Union-level Comprehensive Community-based Year Two Project took place at the Myanmar International Convention Centre-2 in the capital on Thursday.

Speaking at the seminar, Vice President U Nyan Tun reaffirmed his government's commitment to ending armed conflicts, shifting the country from least developed to middle-income status, eradicating poverty, promoting rural development and raising living standards.

Over the past two years,

the government has spent K 9.36 billion on 1,822 development projects which benefitted 2.48 million people in rural areas.

Tangible results prompted Italy's government and the World Bank to provide 20 million euros and US\$400 million respectively for projects in 62 townships, with the vice president saying that the financial assistance would deliver much needed support to around seven million people.

Union Minister for Livestock, Fisheries and Rural Development U Ohn

Myint gave a brief on the measures being taken for the development of socio-economic infrastructure in rural areas through community-based development projects.

According to the ministry's statistics, the development gap between the rural and urban areas has been narrowed down, with a gradual drop in poverty rates from 32 percent in 2005 to 26 percent in 2010. The country has been making efforts to reduce the poverty rate to 16 percent in 2015, in line with the United Nations Millennium De-

velopment Goals.

At another event, Vice President U Nyan Tun met a delegation led by Ms Izumi Nakamitsu, Assistant Secretary General of the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) as well as the Director of the Crisis Response Unit.

They discussed ways to create new levels of co-operation in disaster preparedness, recovery plans, financial and technological assistance to Myanmar flood victims, and greater transparency in the distribution of international donations.—MNA



Vice President U Nyan Tun presents best village-tract prize to officials.—MNA

Speaker Thura U Shwe Mann meets Indian Ambassador

NAY PYI TAW, 27 Aug — Pyithu Hluttaw Speaker Thura U Shwe Mann met with Indian Ambassador to Myanmar Mr. Gautam

Mukhopadhaya at Pyithu Hluttaw Building on Thursday.

Also present at the meeting were Chair-

man of International Relations Committee of Pyithu Hluttaw U Hla Myint Oo and officials.—MNA



Speaker Thura U Shwe Mann receives Indian Ambassador Mr. Gautam Mukhopadhaya.—MNA

Vice-Senior General Soe Win and party arrive back Yangon

NAY PYI TAW, 27 Aug — From Bangkok's Suvarnabhumi Airport, on 27 August, Deputy Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services and Commander-in-Chief (Army) Vice-Senior General Soe

Win and party arrived back at Yangon International Airport and warmly welcomed by Yangon Command commander Brig-Gen Myo Zaw Thein and senior military officers, Japanese, Laotian and Thai

diplomats. Members of the delegation Triangle Region Command Commander Birg-Gen Aung Zaw Aye and senior military officers also arrived back on the same flight.—Myawady

Commander-in-Chief meets with Thailand's PM

NAY PYI TAW, 27 Aug — Senior General Min Aung Hlaing, the Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services, held talks on bilateral relations with Thailand's Prime Minister General Prayut Chan-o-cha on Thursday in Bangkok.

Senior General Min Aung Hlaing arrived in Bangkok the same day to participate in the 3rd Thailand-Myanmar High Level Committee Meeting.

During the talks, the

Commander-in-Chief expressed his willingness on behalf of the Tatmadaw (army) to cooperate with Thailand for maintaining stability in both countries.

He also expressed thanks to General Prayut Chan-o-cha for Thailand's aid to Myanmar people in flood-hit areas and expressed sympathy for the deadly bomb blast in Bangkok last week. Thailand's prime minister expressed his hope for opening industrial zones in

border towns in Myanmar, saying that Thailand is ready to operate industrial zones in its border areas with Myanmar. He also pledged to step up efforts for bilateral cooperation in regards to the registration of migrant workers from Myanmar and security in border areas.

Senior General Min Aung Hlaing also called on General Prem Tinsulanonao, Privy Council President of Thailand, whilst in Bangkok.—GNLM

Party political broadcasts to be aired from 8 Sept

NAY PYI TAW, 27 Aug — The Union Election Commission announced on Thursday that it will allow party political broadcasts on radio and television between 8 September and 6 November.

The commission demanded in its announcement that Political parties are required to submit full transcripts of broadcast materials for approval from the

commission at least seven days ahead of the scheduled slots. The commission has set the maximum length of radio and television broadcasts at 15 minutes and will shortly decide on the rotation of political parties. Broadcasts may be made either in Myanmar or ethnic minority languages.

The UEC will scrutinise scripts in coordination with the Ministry of Infor-

mation and reserves the right to deny broadcasting rights to political parties. It will provide reasons for its refusal to do so.

Broadcasts deemed to have a detrimental effect on national consolidation, security, the rule of law, the dignity of the armed forces, racial, religious or individual rights or is in violation of existing laws will not be aired.—MNA

Nutritional Promotion Week Campaign held in Yangon

YANGON, 27 Aug — The Nutritional Promotion Week Campaign on Thursday was launched at No. 4 Basic Education High School in Ahlon Township here with the aim promot-

ing nutritional status of the population by educating and practising balanced diet.

After the ceremony, Vitamin A supplements was administered to pre-

school children. Then, healthcare providers distributed iron supplements and Vitamin B1 tablets for pregnant and breast-feeding mothers in the Township.—MNA

Correction

Please read 47th AEM meeting in the headline "Myanmar strengthens economic ties at 29th AME meeting" on page 3 of this daily issued on 27-8-2015.—GNLM

Daw Maw Maw presents Credentials to King of Norway

NAY PYI TAW, 28 Aug — Daw Maw Maw, Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar to the Kingdom of Norway, presented her Credentials to His Majesty King Harald V of Norway on 20 August 2015, in Oslo.—MNA

Union FM receives UNDP official

NAY PYI TAW, 27 Aug — Ms Izumi Nakamitsu, Assistant UN Secretary-General for the United Nations Development Programme and Director for Crisis Response Unit called on U Wunna Maung Lwin, Union Minister for Foreign Affairs at the ministry, here, Thursday.

They discussed ongoing cooperation between Myanmar and UNDP regarding crisis response and recovery efforts in relaying to the recent floods in Myanmar.—MNA

Fujiwork to conduct Forklift Safety Training Program at Thilawa SEZ



Scale model of Fujiwork Myanmar Thilawa SEZ Vocational Training Center. —FUJIWORK

YANGON, 27 Aug — As the development of Thilawa SEZ accelerates, the demand of forklift at the industrial park, port terminals and logistics facilities is expected to expand. Since forklift operation is deemed to be hazardous job, it is indispensable for employers to offer proper safety training program to forklift operators. With this end in view, the Fujiwork Co., Ltd. which obtains the Investment Permit from Thilawa SEZ Manage-

ment Committee, and established in February, 2015, has commenced providing various training programs since June 2015. The forklift safety training programme is among them.

The training is a five-day course covering safety training, employer responsibility, skill practice, daily check up and examination. During the training forklifts of Toyota Industries Corporation will be used. After completion the

five-day course, the trainees will receive course completion certificates presented by Fujiwork.

Investing USD 5,000,000, the Fujiwork is authorized to conduct vocational training for workers and staff including students; provide outsourcing services of employee training for manufacturers and other industries; provide related services; provide HRD programmes; provide private employment agency services and others.—GNLM



Hsedawgyi Dam delivers

PATHEINGYI, 27 Aug — Hsedawgyi Dam has supplied adequate levels of irrigated water to farmlands in Patheingyi Township via a 42-mile canal, which has resulted in the successful cultivation of paddy crops in north and south Nanda farmlands. August is the final month for the cultivation of paddy, which means that farmers are racing against time to complete the farming works in the next few days.

Thiha Ko Ko (Mandalay)



Mandalay News

MCDC improves sanitation and road conditions in municipal area

MANDALAY, 27 Aug — Mandalay Mayor-cum-Region Minister for Development Affairs U Aung Mounng inspected development projects in the city on 26 August.

Mandalay City Development Committee (MCDC) been carrying out sanitation projects and drain dredging along 89th street in Aungmyethazan Township.

As the mayor inspected the asphalt MCDC has laid along 41st Street and 59th Street in Mahaangmye Township, he urged officials to complete all road works projects on time and to meet quality standards.

The mayor also inspected progress on repairs to a five-storey staff quarters building on 58th Street in Chanyathazi Township, as well as the cleaning of debris from drains along 62nd and 69th streets in Mahaangmye Township.—Thiha Ko Ko (Mandalay)

Yamethin Township upgrades five basic education schools

MANDALAY, 27 Aug — A basic education school in Myaingthaya village in Yamethin Township became a Basic Education Middle School Branch on 25 August. A BEPS branch was also opened in Kyaukchaw village and Nyaungbintha village.

Another three basic education schools were upgraded to Basic Education Primary Schools in Thabyesan, Shwenattaung and Nataydwin villages in Yamethin Township, Mandalay Region, on 24 August.

Mandalay Region Minister for Electricity and Industry U Kyaw Myint attended the opening ceremonies and donated funds to the schools. The upgrades of the school mean that children in the surrounding villages can attend both primary and middle school without needing to travel long distances.—Thiha Ko Ko (Mandalay)

Masonry and Steel-making course delivered to 20 rural youth trainees

NAY PYI TAW, 27 Aug — A basic masonry and steel-making course concluded at the Dhammayon of Maha Aungmyebon Yadana Monastery in Seinsabin village, Zeyathiri Township, on 26 August.

Ottara District Rural Development Department conducted the training course with the aim of improving livelihoods of rural people by expanding their skills set.

The head of the district department U Win Myint said in his remarks to the 20 trainees that applying their newfound skills and experiences will enable them to improve their living standards.

The Head of Nay Pyi Taw Council Area Department U Tin Maung Oo presented the trainees with certificates.—Township IPRD

Thai police look into Turkish connection in Bangkok blast

BANGKOK, 27 Aug — Thai police on Thursday said they were looking at arrivals of Turkish nationals in the days before a Bangkok bomb attack that killed 20 people, but said they had not ruled out any group or possibility.

Police and some security analysts have raised the possibility of a connection to the Uighurs - a Turkic-speaking Muslim minority from the far west of China. They complain of persecution by Beijing.

China's treatment of the Uighurs is an important issue for many Turks, who see themselves as sharing a common cultural and religious background.

Last month more than 100 Uighurs were deported from Thailand to China - a move that prompted widespread condemnation by rights groups and sparked a protest outside Thailand's consulate in Istanbul.

National police spokesman Prawut Thavornsiri told reporters police had checked arrivals of Turkish nationals who entered Thailand around two weeks before the blast.

"There are probably more Turkish coming into Thailand than that. We investigated

groups which may have come into the country," said Prawut, in response to whether police had investigated 15 Turkish nationals.

"We checked, but not 15 people," Prawut said, adding that police have not ruled out any group or nationality.

"We are not focused on the nationality but the individual," he said, without giving further details.

The main evidence police have for the blast at the Hindu Erawan Shrine popular with Asian tourists is security camera footage.

The footage shows a man with a yellow shirt and dark hair removing a backpack after entering the shrine and walking away from the scene before the explosion.

Twelve of the 20 dead in Monday's attack were foreigners, including nationals from China, Hong Kong, Britain, Indonesia, Malaysia and Singapore.

Anthony Davis, a Bangkok-based security analyst with IHS-Jane's, speaking at the Foreign Correspondent's Club of Thailand on Monday, said there were three "likely groupings"

which have the motive and the capability to pull off the attack.

The most likely perpetrators of the bombing were militant members of a right-wing Turkish organization called the Grey Wolves, a pan-Turkic, extreme

right-wing organization, he said.

Davis said their motive may have been revenge for Thailand's deportation of ethnic Uighurs to China.

"The Uighur cause is something they've latched onto in a

big way," he said, adding that the Grey Wolves were "at the front of the queue" during an attack on the Thai consulate in Istanbul last month by a mob protesting Thailand's decision to extradite the Uighurs.—Reuters



Thai government officials attend a religious ceremony at the Erawan shrine, the site of Monday's deadly blast, in central Bangkok, Thailand, August 21, 2015.—REUTERS

Indonesia to launch policy package to strengthen rupiah

JAKARTA, 27 Aug — The Indonesian government will unveil a policy package to be effective next week to lure foreign currencies to come in to help prop up the weakening rupiah, a senior minister said here Thursday.

Coordinating Minister of Economics Darmin Nasution said that the policy included tax holi-

day for investors and deregulation.

The rupiah hit a fresh 17-year low of 14,135 against the US dollar on Thursday.

"The president has asked for and detailed big policies that must be at least some of them issued next week," Nasution said after a limited cabinet meeting led by Indonesian President Joko Widodo

at the State Palace.

"This policy relates to the real sector, financial sector, deregulation and tax holiday. The purpose of this policy is to make the economic activity smoother and to lure foreign currencies to come in. We need it now (to settle) the problem of the rupiah," said Nasution. The Indonesian central bank

scaled down earlier this week its GDP growth forecast to 4.7 to 5.1 percent this year from the initial estimate of 5 to 5.5 percent.

The biggest economy in Southeast Asia grew at the lowest pace in six years to 4.71 and 4.67 percents for the first and second quarters this year, respectively.—Xinhua

Philippine Senator Marcos may follow president father's footsteps

MANILA, 27 Aug — Senator Ferdinand Marcos, Jr., popularly known in the Philippines by his nickname Bongbong, has announced that he will seek a higher post in next year's national election.

"The discussions I have been having with different groups, with other individuals, have really centered on higher office," Marcos, 57, said in a television interview on Wednesday.

Asked directly if he would run for vice president or president, Marcos said, "It's extremely difficult to make a decision at this point."

But political observers here said he is definitely going to run for president since his supporters have already activated the old political party machine of his family.

Legally, Marcos can still run for re-election as senator for another six-year term but his avid supporters, particularly in the Ilocos Region in the north of the country, his political bailiwick,

said it is about time that Marcos should follow the footsteps of his father, the late president Ferdinand E. Marcos.

His mother, Imelda Romualdez-Marcos, 86, is still representing the province of Ilocos Norte in the lower house of the Philippine Congress, has openly urged her son to run for president.

Under what he termed as "constitutional authoritarianism," Marcos' father ruled the Philippines for two decades until February 1986, when his government was toppled.

After he was deposed, Marcos and his family, including the young Bongbong, fled to the United States. Three years later, the Marcos patriarch died in Hawaii in 1989. Aging supporters are saying that during his long tenure, Marcos was able to lay the foundation of a strong economic base in the country.

It was Marcos who established diplomatic ties with China.

Unlike his father who was a

brilliant lawyer, the son is an economist by training.

He has taken up Business Administration at Wharton School of Business in the University of Pennsylvania in the U.S. and has an undergraduate special diploma in social studies at Oxford University in England.

Bongbong Marcos was elected senator in July 2010. Before that, he was governor and congressman of his home province of Ilocos Norte. Marcos, who now heads of the Senate committee on local government, has recently filed Senate Bill No. 2894, a substitute bill for the proposed Bangsamoro Basic Law (BBL).

The BBL, which is the brainchild of Philippine President Benigno Aquino III, has been assailed for its unconstitutional provisions and for disregarding the interest of other sectors in Mindanao in the southern Philippines such as the Christians and the indigenous people.

Marcos said his substitute bill

was filed "in accordance with the provisions of the 1987 Philippine Constitution and the aspirations of the Muslim Filipinos and all indigenous cultural communities for local self-governance."

Although he has been lagging behind other presidential candidates in surveys, his diehard supporters are saying that another Marcos can still become president of the country.

But it will definitely be an uphill fight for Marcos in the May 2016 elections since he will be running against formidable opponents, such as Vice President Jejomar Binay of the opposition United Nationalist Alliance and Interior Secretary Mar Roxas of the ruling Liberal Party, who is being backed up by President Aquino.

Other possible presidential contenders are Senator Grace Poe, Senator Miriam Defensor-Santiago, former Senator Panfilo Lacson and Davao City Mayor Rodrigo Duterte.—Xinhua

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China media slams Western “hype” over economic slowdown

BEIJING, 27 Aug — China is showing “rare courage” to reform in the face of economic troubles, the country’s top newspaper said, deriding foreign media for fanning fears that recent stock market turmoil could herald the end of China’s model of economic governance.

Plunging stock markets have exacerbated worries about China’s faltering economy, with share prices dropping 25 percent in little more than a week before the central bank cut interest rates and further loosened bank lending on Tuesday.

The ruling Communist Party’s official People’s Daily slammed foreign doomsayers for suggesting the country’s economic system would be shaken to its core in a commentary published on Thursday under the pen name “Zhong Sheng”, meaning “Voice of China”.

“Some people around the world have rather impatiently spoken of the so-called end of the China model, or of a hidden financial crisis in China,” The People’s Daily said.

“Of course, Chinese people are already unsurprised by the selective thinking in Western public opinion,” the paper said, noting



An investor looks at an electronic board showing stock information at a brokerage house in Beijing, August 27, 2015. —REUTERS

that commentators on the US economy were far less alarmist when the dot-com bubble burst in the early 2000s.

“China is devoting rarely seen courage to comprehensively deepen reform. The world also needs to reform its perspectives on China,” the paper said.

The central bank’s latest moves have yet to convince in-

vestors of Beijing’s ability to jolt the economy out of its slowdown, with some economists estimating the current level of growth may be half of the government’s 7 percent target.

Chinese state media English-language commentaries, which typically target foreign audiences, also lashed out at Western alarmism over China’s economy.

The Global Times, a popular and influential tabloid published by the People’s Daily, said in an editorial that any notion that the slowdown would impair the party’s legitimacy was a “delusion”.

“The stock market’s sharp fall is like a fever, but foreign media describes it as a cancer. If so, the market plunge seven years ago would have ended the China

model,” it said.

The official Xinhua news agency in its own English-language commentary on Wednesday said that “market jitters will not last long” and China optimists need more time to prove they are right.

“Only those investors who have grasped an objective picture of the Chinese economy can weather the turmoil and reap their gains,” Xinhua said.

But a commentary circulated widely last week in state media, including by China Central Television and the Guangming Daily, a party paper aimed at intellectuals, pointed to domestic resistance over the government’s handling of the economy and broader reforms.

People must be more conscious that President Xi Jinping’s push to reform will inevitably touch upon deep issues in China’s politics, economy, society, military and diplomacy, and deals with the basic question of making “the lifeblood of this enormous economy” healthier, the commentary said.

“The enormity of the difficulty” and the fierceness and complexity of opposition to reform, “possibly exceeds people’s imagination,” it said.—Reuters

India deploys army to stop caste-related violence in Gujarat

AHMEDABAD, 27 Aug — The Indian army patrolled riot-hit areas of Prime Minister Narendra Modi’s home state of Gujarat on Thursday after the death toll rose to seven in two days of caste-related violence.

Clashes spread after police arrested a young leader of the influential Patel clan who led a huge rally on Tuesday to demand more government jobs and college places for members of his community.

The breakdown of law and order revived memories of serious rioting in 2002 in which more than 1,000 people, most of them Muslims, died. Modi, chief minister of Gujarat at the time, has faced criticism for doing too little to halt the bloodshed.

“Six protesters and a police officer have lost their lives and 18 people are critically injured,” said Keshav Shah, a senior police officer in the state capital Gandhinagar.

“Schools, business and private offices will not open today. The mood is tense and no one should venture out,” he said, adding that a curfew would remain in force.

Modi has called for calm in the state that he ran for more than a decade before leading his



Army soldiers patrol after clashes between police and protesters in Ahmedabad, India, August 26, 2015. —REUTERS

nationalist Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) to victory in last year’s general election.

The Patels, or Patidar community, make up 14 percent of the population in Gujarat. A relatively affluent group of land- and business-owners, they had been a bulwark of support for Modi.

Members of the Patel community said they will continue to demand changes to policies that, they argue, unfairly favour

groups at the lower end of India’s social order.

“We will not let the government suppress our demands. They can kill as many Patels as they want,” said 21-year-old activist Hardik Patel. The young leader drew a crowd of half a million to a rally on Tuesday in the city of Ahmedabad. His detention there led to clashes between police and protesters across the state, forcing authorities to release him.—Reuters

DPRK urges advancement of relations with South Korea

PYONGYANG, 27 Aug — Both the Democratic People’s Republic of Korea (DPRK) and the Republic of Korea should value the spirit of the agreement reached at the recent contact and advance inter-Korean relations, a senior DPRK official has said.

“It was very fortunate that the recent contact helped to defuse the danger of the touch-and-go situation ... and offered an opportunity of a dramatic change in achieving peace, stability, reconciliation and cooperation between the North and the South,” Kim Yang Gon, secretary of the Central Committee of the Workers’ Party of Korea told the official KCNA news agency on Thursday. “We are pleased over the fact that the North and the South sat face to face ..., had an exhaustive discussion to reach an agreement on issues of common concern, thus opening up an epochal phase for turning misfortune into blessings in the North-South relations,” he added. He stressed that both sides should value the spirit of the agreement and further develop inter-Korean relations in order to achieve reunification. “It is of priority importance to keep afloat and develop the present trend of situation in which the North and the South put on track of detente with much effort,” he said. He warned that both sides should be vigilant against forces that are unwilling

to see the rapid development of inter-Korean relations.

The two sides need to look to the future and join hands to repair the ties instead of being bound to the past, he said, adding that the DPRK’s stand to bring about a change in North-South relations and open up a road to independent reunification is consistent. The two sides reached an agreement Tuesday to defuse rising tensions on the peninsula following a 43-hour dialogue.

Attendants at the closed-door meeting were Kim Kwan-jin, chief security advisor to South Korean President Park Geun-hye and Unification Minister Hong Yong-pyo on the South Korean side; Hwang Pyong So, top military aide to DPRK leader Kim Jong Un and director of the General Political Bureau of the Korean People’s Army, and Kim Yang Gon, on the DPRK side. Under the six-point agreement, the two sides agreed to hold an inter-governmental dialogue in Pyongyang or Seoul at an earliest possible date to improve ties and to go ahead with talks and negotiations in various areas. The two sides agreed to hold a working-level Red Cross contact in early September for the reunion of families separated by the 1950-1953 Korean War. Seoul and Pyongyang also agreed to facilitate wide-ranging private-sector exchanges.—Xinhua

Virginia TV journalists killed by suspect with 'powder keg' of anger

MONETA, 27 Aug — Two television journalists were shot to death during a live broadcast in Virginia on Wednesday, slain by a former employee of the TV station and who called himself a "powder keg" of anger over what he saw as racial discrimination at work and elsewhere in the United States.

The suspect, 41-year-old Vester Flanagan, shot himself as police pursued him on a Virginia highway hours after the shooting. Flanagan, who was African-American, died later at a hospital, police said.

The journalists who were killed were reporter Alison Parker, 24, and cameraman Adam Ward, 27. Both journalists were white, as is a woman who they were interviewing. The woman was wounded and was in stable condition, a hospital spokesman said.

Social media postings by a person who appeared to be Flanagan indicated

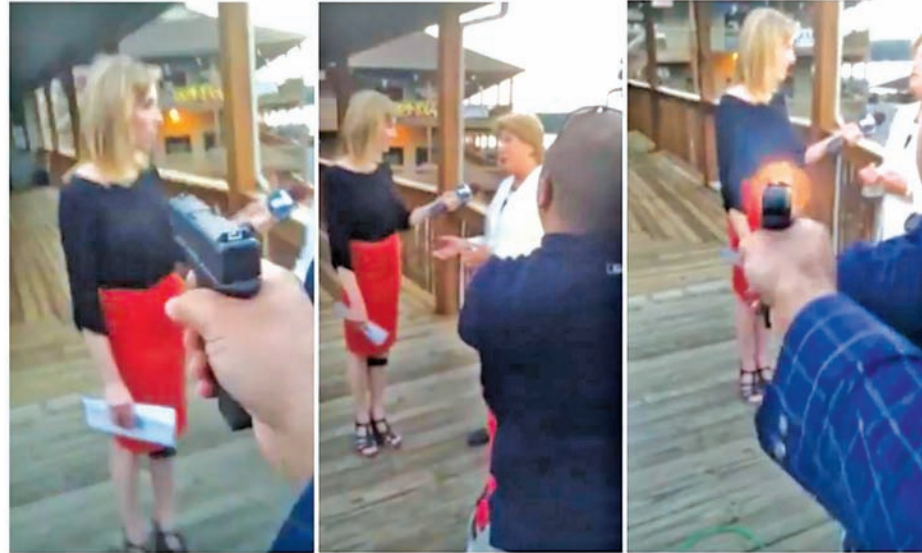
the suspect had grievances against the station, CBS affiliate WDBJ7 in Roanoke, Virginia, which let him go two years ago.

The person also posted video that appeared to show the attack filmed from the gunman's vantage point.

Flanagan sent ABC News a 23-page fax about two hours after the shooting, saying his attack was triggered by the June 17 mass shooting at a black church in Charleston, South Carolina, the network said. Nine people were killed, and a white man has been charged in that rampage.

The network cited Flanagan as saying he had suffered racial discrimination, sexual harassment and bullying at work. He had been attacked by black men and white women, and for being a gay black man, he said.

"The church shooting was the tipping point ... but



WDBJ reporter Alison Parker (L) is pictured interviewing Vicki Gardner in Moneta, Virginia August 26, 2015 moments before she was shot, in this combination of still images from video posted to the Facebook account of Bryce Williams. —REUTERS

my anger has been building steadily," ABC News cited the fax as saying. "I've been a human powder keg for a while ... just waiting to go BOOM!"

The on-air shooting occurred at about 6:45 a.m. EDT at Bridgewater Plaza, a Smith Mountain Lake

recreation site about 200 miles (320 km) southwest of Washington.

The broadcast was abruptly interrupted by the sound of gunshots as Parker and the woman being interviewed, Vicki Gardner, executive director of the Smith Mountain Lake Re-

gional Chamber of Commerce, screamed and ducked for cover.

Hours after the shooting, someone claiming to have filmed it posted video online. The videos were posted to a Twitter account and on Facebook by a man identifying himself as

Bryce Williams, which was Flanagan's on-air name.

The videos were removed shortly afterward. In one video, a handgun was clearly visible as the person filming approached the female reporter.

The person purporting to be Williams also posted, "I filmed the shooting see Facebook" as well as saying one of the victims had "made racist comments."

In the fax to ABC News, Flanagan praised shooters who had carried out mass killings at Virginia Tech University in 2007 and at Colorado's Columbine High School in 1999.

ABC News said Flanagan called the network shortly after 10 a.m. Flanagan said he had shot two people and that police were after him, and then hung up. ABC News then contacted authorities and turned over the fax, which had arrived about 90 minutes earlier, the network said.—Reuters

Investment, immigration reform will boost rural economies — Clinton

ANKENY, (Iowa), 27 Aug —Democratic presidential candidate Hillary Clinton on Wednesday said she would bolster rural economies by encouraging investment, boosting family farms' profitability, increasing clean energy production and improving access to education and healthcare.

Clinton's first stop in the early-voting state of Iowa on Wednesday was at the Des Moines Area Community College, where she toured a tool and die lab before addressing a crowd of about 200.

Clinton said she chose to roll out her plan to improve farm-area economies at the community college instead of in front of a barn or a bale of hay to "emphasise the changing face of rural Iowa."

"Iowans are in the future business, that is what all Americans should be in," Clinton said.

Clinton spends a lot of time campaigning in Iowa, which holds the first party-nominating contest ahead of the general election in 2016. The Democratic front-runner often praises the state's use of wind energy pledging to



Democratic presidential candidate Hillary Clinton speaks during a town hall meeting in Las Vegas, Nevada August 18, 2015. —REUTERS

create incentives for other areas to make similar investments.

Clinton was introduced by US Secretary of Agriculture Tom Vilsack, a former Iowa governor whose endorsement she secured late Tuesday.

The move by the Obama administration cabinet

member was seen as significant given speculation about a potential campaign by Vice President Joe Biden. Clinton also recently picked up the endorsement of the state's former longtime US Senator Tom Harkin.

Clinton's plan to improve rural communities

would involve everything from increasing access to capital via a Farm Credit Administration programme to simplifying regulations on small community banks to making permanent a tax credit for new investments in rural areas, according to her campaign.

Roughly 46 million US residents — about 15 percent of the population — live in rural areas, Clinton's campaign said.

Clinton also said immigration reform would be a component of her effort to boost agriculture production, criticizing recent remarks by Republican presidential candidates on the subject.

"From the orchards of California to the processing plants of Iowa to the groves of Florida," Clinton said, farms cannot find the workers they need. "We're talking about billions of dollars of income lost because of a farm worker shortage."

Details were not immediately available about how Clinton would pay for the rural investment proposals outlined in a two-page fact sheet.—Reuters

Obama tells Merkel he appreciates her leadership on migrant crisis

WASHINGTON, 27 Aug — President Barack Obama in a phone call with German Chancellor Angela Merkel on Wednesday voiced appreciation for her leadership in dealing with the migration crisis in Europe, the White House said.

Obama particularly cited Merkel's recent decision to ease the burden on

other countries by providing haven to Syrian refugees, the White House statement added.

The surge in migrants seeking refuge from conflict or poverty in the Middle East, Africa and Asia has confronted Europe with its worst refugee crisis since World War Two.—Reuters

Net migration to Britain hits record high

LONDON, 27 Aug — Net migration to Britain has risen to a record high, official data showed on Thursday, underscoring the challenge Prime Minister David Cameron has on his hand to convince voters that his immigration policy will work.

Cameron, who was elected for a second term in May, is under pressure to deliver on a promise made in 2010 to reduce annual net migration to Britain to below 100,000. The pledge was aimed at assuaging voter concerns about the strain being placed on public services.

But data from the Office for National Statistics

(ONS) showed a net 330,000 people moved to Britain in the year ending March 2015, compared to 236,000 in the same period a year ago.

The ONS said the number surpassed the previous record of 320,000 seen in the year ending June 2005.

Business lobby group the Institute of Directors criticised the target, saying it is unachievable and that the search for new measures to help meet it was creating instability for companies.

Along with think-tank British Future, they called for a comprehensive review of the immigration strategy.—Reuters

PERSPECTIVES

Friday, 28 August, 2015

When silence is no longer golden

By Kyaw Thura

MOST people tend to stay mum during difficult times and simply say to themselves: 'Well, life can be tough.'

However, if this behavior continues over a prolonged period, the person in question will begin to lose their self-confidence. In short, they abandon

themselves to their fate. We must remember there are other options out there and that nothing can destroy a person's sense of self-worth.

We also often associate silence with fear. In this respect, it is worthwhile to remember that fate does not favour those who entertain fear. However fate isn't always linked to negative emotions or outcomes. Sometimes it is only fear that can unlock abilities we didn't know we possessed. As the saying goes, fortune favours the brave. Nobody is going to come and give us the things we secretly long for. We must be brave enough to know what we want and how to ask for it. Only then will we become the master of our own destiny.

Our country stands poised at a crucial juncture, with the general elections some 70 days away. We are in a position to shape our future, with the people we trust the most. The time has come to ask ourselves

whether we shall decide our fate or let others do so for us.

It is time to acknowledge that silence is no longer golden because the fate of our country rests in our hands.

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.

Communicating Parliament

Tobias Flessenkemper

Myanmar is preparing for the momentous elections on November 8, 2015. The elections will return a new Parliament and new Members of Parliament. The Hluttaws have seen an impressive institutional growth which will allow to move into a new phase. Since 2011, several organisations such as the UNDP, Westminster Foundation and the Inter-Parliamentary Union (IPU), have also supported capacity training for the staff of Hluttaws. Motivated, competent and trained staff is an important factor for the success of the parliamentary work. The staff and the experts working in Parliament have an important role assisting MPs to communicate to the citizens how Parliament is working. Providing public information on parliamentary work is essential for the participation of citizens not only in election day but also for good governance in general. Today, the Hluttaws are well positioned to harness the best of global trends and good practice in parliamentary communication. There are three global trends in public information by Parliaments. First, most Parliaments worldwide have gained a lot of good experience for receiving visitors in the Parliament buildings in the capital city and by organising information events in the constituencies by using mobile stands and travelling exhibitions. This direct interaction with people builds bridges with the communities. Second, public information products like explanatory brochures for citizens from young to old and information package for teachers and community leaders have been developed by many countries. These product are more and more targeted to specific groups using a variety of styles, from detailed academic writing, colourfully illustrated brochures to cartoons for children. Third, Parliaments communicate across all forms of media: print, TV, radio and the internet, including through live streaming sessions and providing video on demand services. Of-

ten the information is used across-channels and stimulate debate.

During 2015, staff from all three houses of Hluttaw dealing with public information have participated in a training programme and learned about these trends. The programme was developed by elbarlament, an independent organisations providing technical assistance to parliaments world-wide. We were drawing from examples and experiences of the German, the European and other Parliaments. Already since 2013, elbarlament has brought experts from different Parliaments in Europe to Nay Pyi Taw to train their peers. We also hosted study programmes for Hluttaw staff in Germany. This experience can help the new Hluttaws to develop a comprehensive public information approach for the next legislature.

One development is unique chance for Myanmar; the mobile communication technology! Hluttaws and citizen have opportunity to directly to harness all the benefits of mobile communication without having to invest in obsolete technical solutions. Already today more data than speech is transmitted through smart phones in Myanmar. With data packages becoming available to more and more people audiovisual and written information will soon be in reach to a majority of citizens in their palms. For Parliament and MPs this offers an important chance to create strong mutual bonds and maintain a continuous conversation about the future of the country, also beyond election day. A communicating Parliament gives credence to the Parliament's motto "people's voice-Hluttaw's voice" also after the votes have been counted.

About the author:
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A Day's Visit to Thanlyin

Dr. Saw Mra Aung

Thanlyin, a sleepy old town across Yangon, is rich in legends and oral traditions. To me, it is a mystic town charged with the living souls of Shin Hmwe Lun and Min Nanda, who turn out to be exemplars among the Myanmar young people engrossed in romantic affairs. The group of us, dubbed as so-called local historians by other friends- some in a blunt manner and some in a mocking tone, had long decided to retaliate against them by ransacking this old town for as many historical sites having connections with the legends and oral traditions as possible when an occasion offered to us. The previous 19th July, the Martyr Day, coincided with a Sunday. This two-fold holiday was a long-awaited opportunity for us to make our retaliation. So we had to avail ourselves of it. On the day of our visit, our mini-bus, due to down-pour, could leave the "Spot Cafeteria" on Kaba Aye Pagoda Road where we grouped for the trip one hour later than we had planned. But as the traffic of Yangon was unusually lighter that morning and the experienced driver took short-cuts, weaving through residential quarters, our mini-bus came to the Thanlyin Bridge just before 8:30 am.

Although I had not reached the bridge for about ten years, I found it did not change tangibly except some coats of paint fainter due to weathering. Both lanes of the bridge were almost empty of vehicles. The turbulent Yangon River was lingering under it, sparkling and gleaming in the rising sun. I down on the right side of the bridge saw a boat loaded with a pile of fishing implements and nets and two persons, one being a man rowing the boat lazily and the other a woman lying on her side on the prow of the boat. On the left

down some distance from the bridge were a sand-bank and a small island covered with green tall grass. As the bridge lowered gradually towards its end, when our mini-bus neared the other side, the tops of the tall trees growing in a line starting from the water-edge appeared to be rising up quickly towards our bus running on the bridge. After our bus had crossed the junction at the entrance of Thanlyin, we caught the glimpse of the arched gate-way into the precinct of the Shin Hmwe Lun Pagoda some distance on the right. Since we had been to it before, we just followed the path winding up the high land, passing by it. But this reminded me of the romance between Princess Shin Hmwe Lun, a daughter of king of Thanlyin and Prince Min Nanda, a son of king of Ukkalapa (Mingaladon). I felt a great pity for Prince Min Nanda who died in the mouth of Crocodile Ngamoeyeik on his return from his lover and Prince Shin Hmwe Lun who died of a broken heart at the news of her lover's death. To me, the Shin Hmwe Lun Pagoda, which is said to have been built by her in remembrance of his departed lover, seemed to be emitting a sort of romantic feeling. I am not sure whether their story was true or not. But their romantic affair is still current among Myanmar people.

When our bus went on along the path up the hill for another five minutes, it arrived at a dilapidated Armenian church standing aloft and alone on a mound on the roadside. It is learnt that it was built just after the First Anglo-Myanmar War (A.D1824-26). Long before the war, the Armenians had come and settled in Myanmar to serve Myanmar kings as customs-officers or interpreters in doing commercial transactions with westerners. The church no longer had the roof, doors and windows. Only four walls made of bricks decorated with false arched windows remained. There was a shed at the centre of the church in which a

tomb with an epitaph was lying. The epitaph said that the tomb was the burying site of a 40-year aged Armenian woman. As it was at the height of the monsoon, the bushes and grass around the church were luxuriant and strong, some of which covering and some yellowish green vines climbing up the brick-walls of the church. Some groves of tall bamboo growing behind the church were swaying to and fro in the wind, producing a series of creaks and groans. Looking at the church, I had a feeling of presence of an invisible one. The road which passed by the church was leading into a quarter on the high land. There was no pedestrian on it. The houses on this road were old — some in good condition and some in ruin — standing in large compounds fenced with old brick-walls with plaster moulding flaked off at some places. I saw no trace of residents inside them. Most of the compounds were overshadowed by large leafy perennial trees. While looking at them from the top of the road, I remembered an old house one of whose wall penetrated into by a branch of an old bending tree standing nearby, with some black ravens perching on the verandah, cawing now and then I had found in this quarter during my visit made about 10 years ago. This thought gave me the creeps. It is heard that these houses were those either of British officers of the Burma Oil Company during the colonial period or even the Portugueses during Nyaung-yan Period. This quiet quarter cast a chill of fear over our party. So we left it at 9 am, with no words and comments exchanged among us.

Our mini-bus again made its way along the Kyaik Khauk Pagoda Road. On the either side of the road were modern neatly-built houses, most of which were preceded by flowering gardens. Off and on, a few colonial buildings made of bricks or wood in wide compounds could be seen

(See page 9)

OPINION

A Day's Visit to Thanlyin

(from page 8)

amongst the large Sein-pan (Poinciana regia) trees laden with twigs of red flowers, withered ones of which whirling down like butter-flies. I noticed that Thanlyin was a hybrid of an old town and a new one. While looking at this scene, I recalled some novels of Tekkatho Phone Naing, a reputed fictional novelist of our time, whose plots were set in Thanlyin. At the same time, I also remembered the different claims about the name "Thanlyin" I have read in some traditional chronicles and history books saying thus: Thanlyin was so named after Maung Thanlyin who founded it while it derived from "Mya Thanlyin," a princess who ruled over it and that it was corrupted from "Thanlyat" meaning "scepter" by which King Narasena subdued invaders who went up Taringa Hill. Apart from them, I still called to mind that some sources referred to Thanlyin as Sihadipa, meaning "Island of Lion".

I was aware that the driver of any vehicle in Thanlyin did not try to overtake others' frantically. So the traffic of Thanlyin was much lighter than that of Yangon. So we did not face any traffic congestion. When our bus passed through Aung Chan Tha ward, we on the road-side found public buildings in wide compounds and pagodas and monasteries in large precincts and some plantations. At about 9:30 am, our mini-bus reached Uttaringa Hill where the Kyaik Khauk Pagoda stands majestically. We went up the hill by the eastern covered stair-way. On both sides of the stair-way were rows of stalls selling flowers, joss-sticks, Buddhist artifacts, books, snacks, etc. We went round the pagoda clock-wise and paid homage to it for three times. Around the pagoda platform were buildings such as rest-houses, Nat-shrines, Dhamma halls which housed some Buddha images, seated and standing. They all were crowded with pilgrims, some paying obeisance to the Buddha images, some having breakfast brought together with them in tiffin carriers, some looking at the neighbouring areas down the hill. I looked towards the direction of Yangon. I espied the gilded Shwedagon Pagoda standing on Singuttara Hill and a few high-rise buildings silhouetted against the sky-line of the city, some housing-estates under construction near the Thanlyin Oil Refinery and some ships and boats inching their way for their destinations along the Yangon River. The origin of the Kyaik

Khauk Pagoda is shrouded in uncertainty. But legend has it that it was built by King Culasirimasoka, one of 56 Thaton kings under the auspices of Hermit Khaw Laka with the enshrinement of six hair-relics of the Buddha in the year 241 Sasana Era and that the original title of this pagoda thus became "Khaw Laka", that those two words which formed the title were later assimilated as "Khauk" and that it was then prefixed with Kyaik meaning "Pagoda" in Mon, thus becoming "Kyaik Khauk" Pagoda. It had been renovated successively by many Myanmar and Mon kings throughout history – by King Anawratha in A.D 1062, by King Banna U in A.D 1354, by King Rajadhirit in A.D 1416, by King Bayint Naung in 1562 and by King Sinpyu Shin A.D 1768. King Sinpyu Shin raised the height of the pagoda to 108 cubits and when it collapsed due to the earth-quake in AD. 1830, it was renovated collectively by wealthy lay people and its height uplifted to 123 cubits.

After spending a few minutes on the pagoda platform, we went down the hill by the northern covered stair-way and observed the Nat Shin Naung tomb encased by a temple surmounted by a square-tower at the foot of the hill. It is said that there was a small stupa over the square-tower some years ago. Although the temple was fenced by some wood bars by the Archaeological Department, it was in a devastated condition, covered in thick moss. As the footpath leading to it was overgrown with thick bushes, we had no chance to study it at the close range. So we had to content ourselves with just looking at the temple at the distance of some yards. Nat Shin Naung was the eldest of the three sons of Toungoo King Min Ye Thiha Thu. He was born in A.D 1578 and his childhood name was Min Ye Kyaw Zwa. However, as he had been equipped with physical and mental calibers since childhood, his grandfather Toungoo King Minkhaung conferred the title of Nat Shin Naung on him. At the age of 25 years, he as crown-prince of Toungoo got married to Princess Dhatukalyar, who was 18 years older than him. Unfortunately, eight months after their marriage, Dhatukalyar died unexpectedly. One year after his accession of the throne of Toungoo, King Mahadhammaraja, ruler of Inwa, made attacks against Toungoo. For the sake of his people, he had to surrender to Inwa king. Then, as he, in company with Thanlyin Myosa Nga Zinga, tried to rebel against Inwa king, the lat-

ter besieged Thanlyin and arrested Nat Shin Naung and Nga Zinga. At the order of Inwa king, both of them were impaled to death on hard wooden bars with pointed ends. After his death, at the request of his younger brother Prince Min Ye Kyaw Htin, Inwa king, as a gesture of honouring a royal blood, had his tomb built and then encased by a temple at the northern foot of Uttaringa Hill. I gazed longingly at the temple. In fact, Nat Shin Naung was soft-minded gifted poet. Through the irony of fate, he happened to keep bad company and met with a tragic end.

At about 10 am, we got to the tomb of Wungyi Padesaraja, a well-known minister and laureate of Second Inwa Period, about some hundred yards to the north of Uttaringa Hill. The tomb was housed in a square-shaped brick-building which assumed a modern style due to the renovation given in a subsequent period. The brick-building stood serenely in a grove of large shady trees. It could be employed as a suitable place for meditators, for it had quietude and aloofness from the hustle and bustle of town-life. Wungyi Padesaraja was born in Inwa in about A.D 1672 during the reign of King Anga and served a line of four kings as a good official. Although he was a royal bard, he composed many epics and poems not only on royalties but also on idyllic life. Due to his brilliant literary contributions, the titles of "Letwe Shwetaung Bhaya Kyaw Thu" and "Min Ye Min Hla Kyaw Htin" were accorded to him. When crown-prince of Hamsavati conquered Inwa in A.D 1752, he was taken away from Inwa together with the king to Hamsavati. So he passed away peacefully in Thanlyin that year. I saluted the tomb of the great poet for his literary gift and contributions.

Then our bus proceeded to the Kyaik Hmaw Wan Pagoda. When it was about half past ten, we reached the entrance into Kyauktan. Near the entrance, we found a multitude of people standing with their head bowed down to the Independence Stone Pillar with wreaths of flowers in their hands, to commemorate the fallen leaders who sacrificed their lives on 19 July about 68 years ago for the country. Looking at the sight, I wished that selfless and qualified national leaders like those fallen ones would emerge in our country. Soon, our bus got to the ferry-port on the bank of the Hmaw Wun Creek, in the middle of which the Kyaik Hmaw Wan Pagoda was located. There were

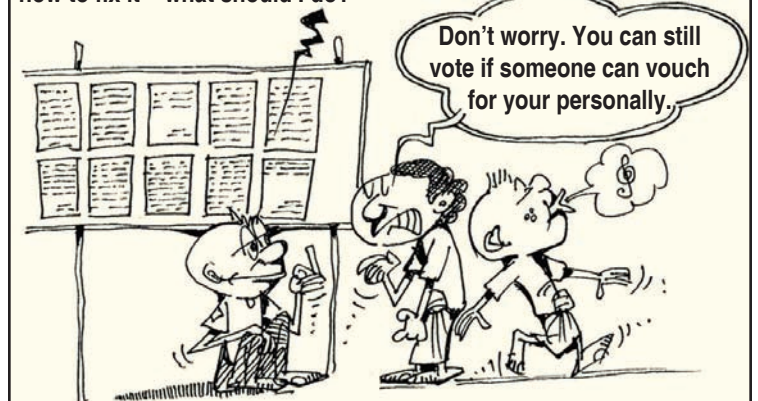
many pilgrims waiting for the ferry-boats which would take them to the islet where the pagoda stood. To save time, we hired a motored-boat for 3000 kyats. When we reached the islet, we found there many pilgrims from different walks of life, some feeding food to the big fishes coming to the pagoda with the currents and some paying homage to the wish-fulfilled marble Buddha image in the shrine-room. By the side of this Buddha image, I noticed a standing Buddha image of Pyu style with its right hand assuming the Jhanamudra and the left hand the Bhesajamudra holding a medicinal herb in it. It is said that it was unearthed in a certain place in Kyauktan Township a few years ago. I also saw the statue of Venerable Upagutta in a brass shrine near the shrine-room. Legend has it that the Kyaik Hmaw Wun Pagoda was built by King Bhogasena, ruler of Pada Kingdom in the year 238 Sasana Era, that its original height was seven cubits and that King Tutta Naga, the tenth of his descendants, enshrined in it one hair-relic of the Buddha and other relics brought from Sri Lanka. It was uplifted to the height of 34 cubits in 1909 and given renovation in 1948 and 1989 respectively. We left that pagoda at 11: 15 am. On the way back, we dropped in on the Ngathat Pada Gyi Buddha Image. There, we paid homage to the gigantic Pada Gyi Buddha Image, went round the precinct and found a stone foot-print (Pada) of the Buddha at a certain spot and many pictures depicting the history of this Buddha image and Pada Kingdom hung on the walls of the shrine-hall. It is learnt that that Buddha image was made by one of the lines of the kings who had been ruling over Pada Kingdom, that Pada Kingdom was established by one daughter and three sons of a Thaton king and that the kings of Pada Kingdom made contacts with Sri Lanka for the cause of the Sasana. Then, at about 11: 40, we bade fare-well to trustees of the pagoda and left.

At about noon, we had our lunch at the house of Daw Maw

Maw Win, a staff from the Myanmar Post and Telecommunication, which was situated in the large compound of the office of the Satellite Ground Station on the road from Thanlyin and Kyauktan. Due to a long bus-ride all morning, we all were overcome with hunger. The lunch, therefore, seemed more delicious than that served at a famous restaurant. We all heartily thanked Daw Maw Maw Win and her niece, Sayama Daw Pyae Pyae, who was a member of our group. At about 1 pm, we said good-bye to Daw Maw Maw Win and her family members and left for Thilawa Port. Our bus came to the Myanmar International Terminals Thilawa at 1:20 pm. We saw some ships and ocean-liners docking at the jetties and many cars of different sizes, types and colours with no number parking in a large stretch of land. On the right side of the road were lots of factories, mills and office-buildings of the Thilawa Special Economic Zone. It is known that the programme of the Thilawa Special Economic Zone was initiated on 9 November 1997, that it covered an area of 6000 acres and that it was 16 miles from Yangon.

On the way back, I noticed the road we took passed through such villages such as Kyaung Kan Kwin, Let Yat San, Pyin Htaung Kyaung, Alay, Myaing Tha Model Village, etc. About 3 pm, we departed from Thanlyin, tired from the long bus-ride but elated in the thought that we could now retaliate against our friends who mock at our enthusiasm for history by relating how we had hunted for the historical sites in such a dreamy town all day. Anyhow, the trip was really exhilarating, exploratory one for us. At the same time, I think that there are some more sites in Thanlyin unexplored, that if they are explored and excavated systematically, they can draw the attention of many historians, archaeologists, other scholars and local and foreign tourists and that, as a consequence, Thanlyin will be contributory to promotion of tourism of Myanmar.

My birthday is wrong on the electoral register. I don't know how to fix it – what should I do?



Hmat Kyi (Aungpinlei)

Rescuers save 3,000 migrants in Mediterranean, 55 dead

ROME, 27 Aug — Rescuers saved about 3,000 migrants but found more than 50 dead on boats near the coast of Libya on Wednesday, the Italian coast guard said.

Tens of thousands of people, mainly from Africa and the Middle East, have put to sea this year in the hope of reaching Europe, often dangerously packed into small vessels that were never designed to cross the Mediterranean.

Rescuers on the Swedish ship Poseidon, mobilised under the European Union's rescue mission Triton, found 51 corpses in the hold of one boat which was also carrying 439 survivors.

Three women were found dead on a rubber boat carrying a further 120 people. One person rescued along with more than 100 others on another boat died shortly afterwards.

The coast guard did not say what caused the deaths, which add to a toll already thought to have exceeded 2,300 so far this year, according to the International Organisation for Migration.

The influx of migrants, many of whom are fleeing con-



A boat full of migrants is seen next to Swedish ship Poseidon during a rescue operation in the sea off the coast of Libya in this still image taken from an August 26, 2015 video. —REUTERS

flict and poverty, has confronted Europe with its worse refugee crisis since World War Two, stirring social and political tensions.

A spokeswoman for the Italian coast guard said earlier on Wednesday that the boat carrying the migrant who died shortly after the rescue had already partially deflated by the time the

emergency services arrived.

The coast guard in Rome coordinated a total of 10 rescue operations Wednesday, responding to emergency calls which the spokeswoman said all came from boats in difficulty in an area around 30 miles (50 km) from the Libyan coast.

Vessels from the Italian coast guard and navy, the Mal-

ta-based Migrant Offshore Aid Station, humanitarian agency Doctors Without Borders, and the Irish navy all carried out rescues.

The coast guard said a merchant ship which had gone to the rescue of 225 people was heading for the Greek island of Crete, where the survivors would disembark.—Reuters

Policeman injured in Palestinian stabbing attack in Jerusalem

JERUSALEM, 27 Aug — An Israeli policeman was stabbed Wednesday by a Palestinian in a suspected "terror attack," Israeli officials said.

Police spokesperson Micky Rosenfeld told Xinhua that the suspect, armed with an ax or a knife, attacked a border police officer near the Damascus Gate in Jerusalem's Old City.

"He was shouting as he ran towards a group of policemen, stabbing one of them. Police units arrested him at the scene," Rosenfeld said.

Israeli rescue service said the policeman was injured in his leg. The incident occurred amidst surging violence between Israelis and Palestinians in the city, mainly due to tensions around the al-Aqsa mosque, the third-holiest site for Muslims and the holiest site for Jews, who revered it as the Temple Mount.—Xinhua

Saudi Arabia holding main suspect in 1996 Khobar Towers bombing — report

DUBAI, 27 Aug — The main suspect in the 1996 bombing of the Khobar Towers residence at a U.S. military base in Saudi Arabia has been captured after nearly 20 years on the run, a Saudi-owned newspaper reported on Wednesday.

Asharq al-Awsat said Ahmed al-Mughassil, leader of the Hezbollah al-Hejaz who had been indicted by a U.S. court for the attack that killed 19 U.S. service personnel and wounded almost 500 people, had been captured in the Lebanese capital Beirut and transferred to Ri-

yadh.

Saudi authorities said they were looking into the report but did not provide further information. A Lebanese security source said that Mughassil, a Saudi national, had been detained in Lebanon and transferred to Saudi Arabia around two weeks ago and that he was considered by Riyadh as the top suspect in the case.

The militant group Hezbollah Al-Hejaz confirmed Mughassil was stopped by security officials at Beirut airport on August 7 and blamed the Saudi govern-

ment and the Lebanese political party led by Saad Hariri, son of the assassinated former prime minister of Lebanon, Rafic Hariri. "We hold the Saudi regime and (Hariri's) Future bloc responsibility for this treacherous action and we assert the inevitability of the safety of the leader, the group said in a statement received by Reuters.

Saudi Arabia and the United States have accused Iran of orchestrating the truck-bomb attack. Iran has denied any responsibility for the attack.

Asharq al-Awsat quoted

official Saudi sources as saying Saudi security personnel had received information about the presence of 48-year-old Mughassil in Beirut.

"The discovery of Mughassil and his arrest in Lebanon and his subsequent transfer to Saudi Arabia is a qualitative achievement, for the man had been in disguise in a way that made it hard to identify him," Asharq al-Awsat said, without elaborating on when he was captured and who captured him.

In 2006, a US federal judge ordered Iran to pay \$254 million

to the families of 17 US service personnel killed in the attack in a judgment entered against the Iranian government, its security ministry, and the Revolutionary Guards after they failed to respond to a lawsuit initiated more than four years earlier.

The 209-page ruling had found that the truck bomb involved in the attack was assembled at a base in Lebanon's Bekaa Valley operated by Hezbollah and the Revolutionary Guards, and the attack was approved by Iran's Supreme Leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei.—Reuters

Gas station blast kills 5 in Syria's Homs

DAMASCUS, 27 Aug — At least five people were killed and over 30 wounded Wednesday when an improvised rocket struck a gas station in Syria's central city of Homs, state news agency SANA reported.

The rocket is believed to have been fired by the rebels in the town of Talbiseh in the countryside of Homs into the district of Insha'at, where it struck a gas station, according to SANA.

Citing official sources, SANA said the rocket struck a fuel tanker while emptying its load in the station, which

caused the blast.

Meanwhile, the Syrian Observatory for Human Rights confirmed the blast, saying that it wasn't immediately clear whether the fuel tanker exploded by itself or a rocket struck it.

It said the death toll could rise due to the large number of severely wounded people.

The UK-based watchdog group said the Syrian forces opened their fire at rebel-held areas in the area of Houleh in the northern countryside of Homs, without information on casualties.—Xinhua

Two-day ceasefire begins in three Syrian towns

BEIRUT, 27 Aug — A two-day ceasefire between warring sides in Syria came into force on Thursday in a rebel-held town near the border with Lebanon, and two Shi'ite villages in the northwest, the UK-based Syrian Observatory for Human Rights said.

It is the second ceasefire in a month in these areas between the Syrian army and the Lebanese group Hezbollah on one hand, and Syrian insurgents on the other. The ceasefire came into force at 6 a.m. (0300 GMT).

Sources close to negotiations on both sides earlier told Reuters agreement had been reached on a new ceasefire in the town of Zabadani and the two villages of Kefraya and al

Foua in the northwestern province of Idlib. "Implementation has started.

There is calm in Kefraya, al Foua and Zabadani," Rami Abdulrahman, who runs the Observatory, told Reuters.

The negotiations have been led on the insurgent side by Ahrar al-Sham, a conservative Sunni Islamist insurgent group. The ceasefires are in the western portion of Syria, beyond the main strongholds of Islamic State fighters.

A similar ceasefire this month in the same areas, organised with help from Iran and Turkey, broke down after a brief extension, and fighting has raged since.

A fighter on the side of

government forces in Zabadani said clashes had intensified prior to the latest planned ceasefire.

The previous ceasefire, which began Aug. 12, was intended to give a chance for negotiations aimed at a more lasting cessation of hostilities in both areas.

Iran and Turkey back the Syrian government and insurgents, respectively.

That ceasefire also aimed to secure the withdrawal of rebel fighters from Zabadani and of citizens from the two villages.

Ahrar al-Sham blamed the failure of that round of talks on the Iranian delegation with which it was negotiating, saying it was trying to effectively exchange one area for another.—Reuters

Surgeon performance unaffected by fatigue from overnight work: study



Professor Jan Pirk (L), doctor Marian Urban and suture nurse Diana Vapenkova (R) perform a heart surgery at the Institute of Clinical and Experimental Medicine (IKEM) in Prague, June 28, 2012. —REUTERS

NEW YORK, 27 Aug — Going without sleep the night before does not affect the performance of doctors doing elective surgery the next morning, according to a new Ontario study that runs contrary to research demonstrating that sleep-deprived physicians pose a hazard to patients.

The odds of having a surgery-related problem were 22.2 percent when the doctor had been treating patients between midnight and 7 a.m. and 22.4 percent when the doctor had, presumably, received sufficient sleep.

The senior author of the study, Dr. Nancy Baxter of the University of Toronto, told Reuters Health in a telephone interview that the new results argue against proposals calling for doctors to inform their patients if they are sleep-deprived.

But the study didn't directly measure how much sleep the doctors actually received, said Dr. Charles Czeisler, chief of the division of sleep and circadian disorders at Brigham and Women's Hospital in Boston. He was not connected with the research.

According to a 2009 study that he and his colleagues published in the *Journal of the American Medical Association (JAMA)*, once the actual amount of sleep is taken into consideration, the odds of a

serious mistake nearly triple.

"Given the increased risk that we've seen with just one night of insufficient sleep, patients have the right to know if their doctor has been awake for one night, two nights, or even three consecutive nights," he told Reuters Health by phone.

The Baxter study, released Wednesday in *The New England Journal of Medicine*, was based on data from 147 hospitals in Ontario. It looked at nearly 39,000 cases performed by 1,448 experienced surgeons.

The researchers tracked 12 widely-varying types of operations, from bypass surgery and hip replacement to hysterectomy and angioplasty, done during a five-year period. A billing code database told them whether the doctor had worked from midnight to 7 a.m. the night before the operation.

Thirty days after surgery, the odds of death were 1.1 percent whether or not the doctor had worked during the early morning hours before the operation. The readmission rates were 6.6 percent if the surgeon had been up late and 7.1 percent if he or she had not. The 30-day complication rate was 18.1 percent in the overnight group and 18.2 percent when overnight work was not a factor. In both groups, half the patients went home in three days or

less.

The type of hospital, the doctor's age and the type of operation made no difference.

Czeisler said he and his colleagues reported similar results in their 2009 study of 4,471 cases, which is online here: bit.ly/1NBkEkv.

But simply looking at whether a doctor did any work overnight doesn't tell you if the physician was actually sleep deprived, he said. For example, an hour-long procedure might be done at midnight and the doctor may not have to be back at work until late the next morning.

So in their *JAMA* study, the Czeisler team went further. They calculated the actual time between the overnight procedure and the morning procedure.

When the doctor had only six hours or less to sleep, the complication rate was 170 percent higher than when the doctor had the opportunity to sleep more than six hours.

He said the Baxter study didn't go far enough because, "If you don't know if the person is sleep deprived, you can't evaluate it." He also faulted the study for assuming that doctors who worked anytime from midnight to 7 a.m. hadn't received a full night's sleep. Surgeons often start their day before seven. —Reuters

Scientists aim to develop drugs to eliminate pancreatic cancer

HOUSTON, 27 Aug — Researchers, including those from India, are aiming to develop drugs that will allow physicians to prolong patient survival and possibly, even eradicate the deadly pancreatic cancer by targeting specific proteins.

"Our research on the role of Liver X receptors (LXR), or LXRs, in pancreatic cancer cells points to a promising target and strategy in the treatment of pancreatic cancer," said cancer biologist Chin-Yo Lin, an assistant professor with the University of Houston Center for Nuclear Receptors and Cell Signaling (CNCRS).

"We examined the levels of LXRs in patient tumour samples and studied the effects of candidate drug compounds targeting LXRs on cultured pancreatic cancer cells. Liver X receptors are important regulators of cholesterol, glucose metabolism and inflammatory response modulation," Lin said.

Another goal is to test the effects of the drugs on pancreatic tumors in murine models that are very similar to those found in humans. Ultimately, they plan to use the knowledge from these studies to develop better drugs to target LXRs in pancreatic cancer, as well as other types of malignancies. The research team has already carried out some preliminary studies of LXR expression in patient tumour samples and is preparing to analyze more samples.

Recent studies showed that chemical compounds targeting LXRs can slow the growth of tumors in murine models transplanted with human tumour cells.

"Our findings point to a class of receptors that can be precisely targeted by drug compounds and are expected to stimulate both basic and translational research on their functions and application as a drug target," Lin said.

"Long-term goals are to develop additional drug compounds and clinical testing in human subjects, which will require several more years of research," Lin added.

A number of students participated in these studies, including PhD students Sridevi Addanki and Husna Karaboga Lakshmi Reddy Bollu.

Their research was funded by Golfers Against Cancer and a pilot study grant from the Cancer Prevention and Research Institute of Texas (CPRIT).

Pancreatic cancer is extremely deadly and often has a poor prognosis. Ranked as the fourth deadliest cancer in the US and poised to move up within the next few years, pancreatic cancer is very difficult to detect in its early stages.—PTI

Taiwan city reports worst dengue fever outbreak

TAIPEI, 27 Aug — Tainan City in southern Taiwan has seen 2,152 cases of dengue fever this summer, the highest concentration of dengue cases in Taiwan.

The first confirmed case was on May 16. Four people, who were all over 70, have died, according to the city government on Wednesday.

Tainan has seen 80 percent of the island's cases of dengue, while Taipei had the highest number of people with dengue that had caught it elsewhere, authorities said. Dengue fever is transmitted by mosquitoes. It causes headache, fever, exhaustion, severe muscle and joint pain, swollen glands, vomiting and rash. Residents have been urged to clear waste water in or near their homes, rooftops and construction sites, and to take precaution when traveling abroad. —Xinhua



PICTURE OF THE DAY



Syrian migrants run after crossing under a fence as they enter Hungary, at the border with Serbia, near Roszke, August 27, 2015. Hungary made plans on Wednesday to reinforce its southern border with helicopters, mounted police and dogs, and was also considering using the army as record numbers of migrants, many of them Syrian refugees, passed through coils of razor-wire into Europe.—REUTERS

South Africa's Tutu expected home from hospital next week

CAPE TOWN, 27 Aug — Veteran South African anti-apartheid activist, Archbishop Desmond Tutu, was responding well to a two-week intravenous antibiotic course and could be discharged from hospital at the end of next week, Tutu's daughter said on Thursday.

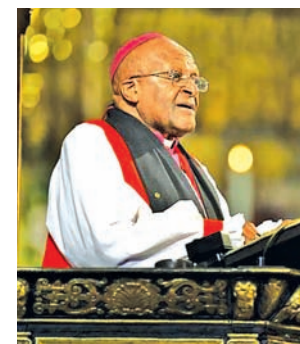
The 83-year-old, who used the pulpit to preach against apartheid, was ad-

mitted to hospital for the second time in a month for treatment of an "inflammation".

Tutu was released from hospital earlier in August after being treated for a recurring infection unrelated to the prostate cancer he has been fighting for 18 years.

"The family remains concerned, obviously, and keen to see him home to rebuild his strength. We hope that he will be able to return home at the end of next week," Reverend Mpho Tutu told reporters.

Tutu, a Nobel peace laureate, retired from public life in 2010 but has kept speaking out in a wide range of issues, including corruption among South Africa's political elite.—Reuters



Archbishop Desmond Tutu

Policeman shot to death and three women stabbed, one fatally, in Louisiana



A Louisiana State Police SWAT officer responds to a barricaded suspect following stabbing and shooting incidents in Sunset, Louisiana, August 26, 2015.—REUTERS

SUNSET, (Louisiana), 27 Aug — Police firing tear gas stormed a grocery market in southwestern Louisiana on Wednesday to arrest a man accused of shooting a police officer to death and stabbing three women, one fatally, before barricading himself inside the store, authorities said.

The suspect, identified as Harrison Lee Wiley Jr., was captured about an hour after the violence began in the small town of Sunset, about 70 miles (112 km) west of the state capital, Baton Rouge, the St. Landry Parish Sheriff said.

Wiley is accused of stabbing his wife and two other women in a "domestic disturbance," then fatally shooting the officer who was the first to arrive on the scene, Sheriff Bobby Guidroz told reporters.

Wiley, described by responding officers as "highly intoxicated," then jumped into an automobile and drove about three blocks before crashing the vehicle into a JR Food Mart, the sheriff said.

"It went to hell in a hand basket from there," Guidroz said.

The grocery's owner, a customer and an employee

who were inside the store, escaped, and the suspect holed up inside an inner office while police converged on the area and surrounded the building.

Officers fired volleys of tear gas into the building, then forced their way inside to arrest the suspect, who "resisted" before he was subdued and taken into custody, the sheriff said.

"I was told by officers responding that he was high on some sort of narcotic," Guidroz said. "We're going to do a thorough investigation as to what he was high on," he said.

The slain Sunset police officer, initially reported to have survived his gunshot wounds, was identified as Henry Nelson, 51. One of the stabbing victims, Shameka Johnson, 40, was also pronounced dead, the sheriff said. Johnson's sister, Surlay Johnson, and Wiley's wife, Courtney Jolivet, were hospitalized with stab wounds, the sheriff said.

The Johnson women are siblings of the mayor of the neighboring town of Grand Coteau, the sheriff added. Their relationship, if any, to the suspect, was unclear.—Reuters

British hacker for Islamic State killed in US drone strike in Syria

WASHINGTON, 27 Aug — A British hacker who US and European officials said became a top cyber expert for Islamic State in Syria has been killed in a US drone strike, a US source familiar with the matter said on Wednesday.

It was the second reported killing of a senior Islamic State figure in the last eight days after the group's second-in-command was killed in a US air strike in Iraq on Aug. 18. The source indicated that the US Defense Department was likely involved in the drone strike that killed British hacker Junaid Hussain, a former Birmingham, England, resident.

A CSO Online report said the strike took place on

Tuesday near Raqqa, Syria. Hussain, 21, moved to Syria sometime in the last two years.

US and European government sources told Reuters earlier this year that they believed Hussain was the leader of CyberCaliphate, a hacking group which in January attacked a Twitter account belonging to the Pentagon, though the sources said they did not know if he was personally involved.

While the American sources said they were confident he was killed in the strike, some people disputed that view. Two Twitter accounts that US intelligence experts say are connected to Islamic State reported that his wife had said he was still

alive. Seamus Hughes, a former US government counterterrorism expert now affiliated with George Washington University, said that while the reports came from Twitter accounts known to be connected to Islamic State, it was not possible to determine whether they were accurate.

"It could be a concerted attempt to deceive," Hughes said. Cyber security experts have said they believe that Hussain and other hackers working for Islamic State lack the skills needed to launch serious attacks such as ones that could shut down computer networks or damage critical infrastructure.

"He wasn't a serious threat. He was most like-

ly a nuisance hacker," said Adam Meyers, vice president of cyber security firm CrowdStrike. "It was his involvement in recruitment, communications and other ancillary support that would have made him a target."

In 2012 he was jailed for six months for stealing former British Prime Minister Tony Blair's address book from an account maintained by a Blair adviser.

Hussain recently had become a subject of considerable US interest. However, the sources denied a British news report that he was No. 3 on a drone target list, saying other Islamic State commanders were regarded as far more dangerous.—Reuters

China, Malaysia to hold joint military drill

BEIJING, 27 Aug — China and Malaysia will hold a joint military exercise from mid-to-late September in the Malacca Strait and its surrounding area, according to the Chinese Defense Ministry on Thursday.

Spokesman Yang Yujun said the drill, codenamed "Peace and Friendship 2015", will include joint escort, joint search and rescue, saving hijacked vessels, use of weapon, humanitarian aid and disaster relief.

This will be the first joint drill between the two armed forces, Yang said, adding that 1,160 Chinese

participants, two Chinese destroyer-frigates, one hospital ship, four transportation aircraft and three shipboard helicopters will be involved in the exercise.

The two sides will set up a joint command post to coordinate the air, land and sea forces, according to the spokesman.

The military drill aims to cement the China-Malaysia all-round strategic partnership, enhance bilateral military exchanges, improve capabilities to address security threats, and jointly safeguard regional maritime security, Yang said.—Xinhua

ADVERTISEMENT & GENERAL

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MV BANGSAOTONG VOY NO (173)**

Consignees of cargo carried on MV BANGSAOTONG VOY NO (173) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 28.8.2015 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of S.P.W(2) 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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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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**INVITATION FOR OPEN TENDER (6/2015)
[TENDER NO. MPPE/ HSD / T / 1 (2015 — 2016)]**

1. Open Tender is invited for the Myanma Petroleum Products Enterprise, Ministry of Energy for the supply of High Speed Diesel (752,000 ± 10% Barrels)
2. Tender Closing Date & Time - 9 - 9 - 2015, 12:00 Hrs
3. Tender Opening Date & Time - 9 - 9 - 2015, 13:00 Hrs
4. Delivery Time - October 2015 to January 2016
5. Tender documents and details information are available at the Department of Finance, Myanma Petroleum Products, Nay Pyi Taw, during our office hours commencing 26 - 8 - 2015 on payment of Myanmar Kyat One Hundred Thousand (Kyat 100,000.) per set.
6. Only bid from tenderer who has purchased tender document officially from Myanma Petroleum Products Enterprise will be accepted for evaluation.

Managing Director
Myanma Petroleum Products Enterprise
Ministry of Energy, No(6) Complex, Nay Pyi Taw
Contact Phone No.
067-411487/411486/411280

WEATHER REPORT

BAY INFERENCE: According to the observations at (15:30) hrs M.S.T today, the low pressure area over West Central Bay and adjoining Northwest Bay of Bengal still persists. Monsoon is moderate in the Andaman Sea and South Bay and strong elsewhere in the Bay of Bengal.

FORECAST VALID UNTIL EVENING OF THE 28th August, 2015: Rain or thundershowers will be isolated in Lower Sagaing, Mandalay and Magway Regions, scattered in Kayah State, fairly widespread in Upper Sagaing and Bago Regions, Shan and Chin States and widespread in the remaining Regions and States with isolated heavy fall in Kachin and Mon States. Degree of certainty is (100%).

STATE OF THE SEA: Squalls with moderate to rough sea are likely at times Deltaic, off and along Rakhine Coasts. Surface wind speed in squalls may reach (35) m.p.h. Sea will be moderate elsewhere in Myanmar waters.

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PICTURE OF THE DAY



A reveler pours tomato pulp over a couple after the annual "Tomatina" (tomato fight) in Bunol, near Valencia, Spain, August 26, 2015. Tens of thousands of festival-goers hurled 170 tonnes of over-ripe tomatoes at each other on Wednesday to celebrate the 70th anniversary of the massive food fight in the small village of Bunol in eastern Spain.—REUTERS

11 officials accused of negligence in Tianjin blasts that killed 139

BEIJING, 27 Aug —Chinese prosecutors have accused 11 officials of negligence in relation to massive explosions at a chemical warehouse in the port city of Tianjin earlier this month that killed 139 people, state-run media reported Thursday.

The reports also said police have detained the chairman, vice chairman, three deputy general managers and 7 others from Tianjin Ruihai International Logistics Co., the private firm that managed the warehouse, on suspicion of illegally storing dangerous materials there.

The Aug. 14 blasts, one of which reportedly had the force of more than 20 tons of TNT, also injured hundreds of people and displaced thousands more after their homes were damaged.

The officials accused of negligence had "clear knowledge" that the hazardous chemicals were being stored at the warehouse in

violation of safety regulations, Xinhua News said, citing a statement by China's top prosecutor.

Regulations forbid such materials being warehoused within 1 kilometer of residential complexes, state media has reported.

The accused include a wide range of officials from Tianjin, including those responsible for the city's transportation, local customs clearance and work safety regulations, Xinhua reported.

Also among them is Zheng Qingyue, president of state-owned Tianjin Port Holdings Co., who participated in a press conference held five days after the blasts and denied any connection to the incident.

Xinhua said police have opened an investigation into a second company that is believed to have assisted the Tianjin Ruihai in illegally acquiring safety documents.—Kyodo News

“Go Away Mr. Tumor” continues to lead China’s box office sales



Actor Daniel Wu (R) and actress Bai Baihe attend the press conference of movie “Go Away Mr. Tumor” in Beijing, on March 15, 2015. —XINHUA

BEIJING, 27 Aug — Tear-jerking romance “Go Away Mr. Tumor” ruled China’s box office in the week ending Aug. 23, pulling in 225 million yuan (35 million U.S. dollars).

The film, which centers on a woman’s fight against cancer, has grossed 422 million yuan since opening on Aug. 13.

“Terminator Genisys”, the fifth sequel

in the series, came in at a respectable number two, making 168 million yuan in its opening week.

Domestic rom-com “Bride Wars” came in third, pulling in 151 million yuan after opening on Aug. 20, China Film News reported Wednesday.

The domestic live action animated film “Monster Hunt”, the highest-grossing

Chinese film of all time, was at number four. “Monster Hunt” took in 116 million yuan in the week, taking its total box office earnings to 23.3 billion yuan on Aug. 23 since its debut on on July 16. Rounding out the top five was “Cities in Love”, a domestic romance set in cities including Paris, France, and Prague, Czech Republic, with 50.7 million yuan.—Xinhua

My dad wants me to use my popularity in right direction: Alia



Alia Bhatt

MUMBAI, 27 Aug — “Highway” star Alia Bhatt says her filmmaker father Mahesh Bhatt advises the actress to use her popularity for the right causes.

“My father says I should use my popularity in the right direction and not just restrict it to films. I have been in the industry for three years and I try and do things like this,” Alia told reporters here at the launch of a short film “Girls Rising”.

The film, supporting the cause of girls, is helmed by Academy Award-nominated director Richard E Robbins.

The 22-year-old “Humpty Sharma Ki Dulhania” actress has learnt from her mother to help others.

“My mother used to pay for education of the daughters of sweeper, watchman and others. This is something I saw happening at home and I want to take it up when I run my own house,” Alia said.

She said through her film “Highway”, they tried to portray how physical abuse happens at home.

“The cause that we tried to talk about is sometimes physical abuse happens in your own home, it is a harsh reality which we don’t want to face. It was deeply disturbing as I got to play that character and to understand what a girl might go through in her own house,” said Alia, who finds such incidents disappointing and shocking.

“I am happy I did the film. There are girls who told me that after watching the film they opened up about their experiences,” she said.

Alia is part of campaign “Girl Rising”, through which she is trying to raise awareness about girl education.

“We want girls to fly in the right direction and spirit and with the right heart. This will happen when people in our country understand that it is necessary for girls to study,” she said.—PTI

DEAD RATS ANYONE? Hollywood gets creative to promote movies



Actor Matt Damon (C) who stars as NASA Astronaut Mark Watney in the film “The Martian,” smiles after having made his hand prints in cement at the Jet Propulsion Laboratory (JPL) Mars Yard, while Mars Science Lab Project Manager Jim Erickson (L), and NASA Astronaut Drew..—REUTERS

LOS ANGELES, 27 Aug — Want to create buzz for a space movie? Take journalists to a real NASA lab. Promoting a horror film? Order up taxidermied rats and have zombies deliver them.

Hollywood studios are going to ever more creative lengths to attract attention in a jam-packed entertainment market where social media plays a key role in promoting content.

For Matt Damon’s October film “The Martian,” in which an astronaut is stranded on Mars, 20th Century Fox Studios hosted a media day last week at the US National Aeronautics and Space

Administration’s Jet Propulsion Laboratory in Southern California just to promote a trailer.

Journalists got a sneak peek at the first 50 minutes of the film, toured the lab and interviewed Damon at its Mission Control which is usually reserved for scientists working on operations such as landing the Curiosity rover on Mars in 2012.

“We’re in a world with a very crowded marketplace,” said “The Martian” producer Aditya Sood. “We want to make sure that people get the message that the movie’s coming out.”

After the media day, “The Martian” trailer became one of the top entertainment news stories, garnering 4.8 million views on Facebook and 3.3 million views on YouTube in just 48 hours.

“It makes sense for studios to spend money to get journalists to tweet and use social media because they believe it somehow will turn into box office dollars,” said Entertainment Weekly film reporter Nicole Sperling.

Trailers are becoming the fast, bite-size way to attract an audience at a time when five or more movies a week are released in the United States.—Reuters

GENERAL

Chicago fire destroys Second City comedy offices, spares theater

CHICAGO, 27 Aug — A fire destroyed the Second City comedy offices, but largely spared the theater of the sketch and improv company in Chicago that has helped launch the careers of many comedians, the Chicago Fire Department said.

Two firefighters sustained minor injuries battling the blaze investigators believe started in a kitchen in the first-floor restaurant in a three-story building next to the theater building, the fire department said. The fire spread quickly through vents all the way to the roof of the building, Fire Department spokesman Larry Langford told a news conference.

Second City's main stage, adjacent to the office building, was not damaged by the fire. No historic memorabilia was stored in the offices, according to the theater company. The fire department said the theater area was in good shape with a small amount of water in the lobby and damage to other areas.

"Everyone in the building was safely evacuated," Second City said in a statement. The theater known for hosting legendary improv shows, opened in December 1959. Among the numerous comedians that have honed their skills at Second City include Bill Murray, Tina Fey and Stephen Colbert.—Reuters

Japan to cut cost for Olympic stadium by third



A truck leaves the construction site of Japan's new National Stadium in Tokyo July 17, 2015. —REUTERS

TOKYO, 27 Aug — Japan plans to slash construction costs for a new national stadium, the centerpiece of the Tokyo 2020 Olympics by a third from the previous estimate of \$2.1 billion, several ruling party lawmakers and senior government officials said on Thursday.

The government plans to put a cap for the stadium's construction costs at around 160 billion yen (\$1.3 billion), compared with the previous plan, scrapped in July amid public anger over sky-rocketing costs, of spending 252 billion yen.

The stadium will be designed to house about 68,000 people, big enough for the opening and closing ceremonies of the Olympic Games, said the lawmakers and officials, who declined to be named because an official agreement has yet to be made.

Its capacity will be expanded to 80,000 spectators if Japan wins to host World Cup soccer finals, they said.

The government is still divided over whether to install air-conditioning facilities in the stadium, and the final figure for the cap will likely move between 154 billion yen and 164 billion yen, depending on that decision, they added.—Reuters

Milan show depicts drama of modern motherhood

MILAN, 27 Aug — A 1896 film of a woman plucking babies from a cabbage patch marks a whimsical start to a Milan exhibition that examines artistic representations of motherhood, but the mood turns more sinister as the show moves into the 20th century.

"The Great Mother" recounts a turbulent period in the history of women through more than 400 paintings, photographs, drawings, sculptures, short films, and artefacts, including a flyer advertising the first abortion clinic.

Also featured are a model of a full-body torture machine based

on a description written by Franz Kafka in 1914, and Jeff Koons's voluptuous red sculpture "Balloon Venus". In "Amazing Grace" by Jamaican artist Nari Ward, 280 empty prams found on the street are arranged around a pathway of flattened fire hoses in a gloomy room, accompanied by a gospel rendition of the eponymous hymn.

Curator Massimiliano Gioni, whose partner gave birth on Saturday, joked at a news conference that the show might have been "sweeter" if his son had arrived before the project was finished.

The exhibition, which opened on Wednesday at Milan's Palazzo

Reale, traces a period in which "darker and more irrational and instinctive facets" began to emerge, the venue's director Domenico Piraina said. A photograph of Sigmund Freud with his mother Amalia points to the role the father of psychoanalysis plays, with several of the artists presented offering critical interpretations of his theories about the human psyche. A 1974 photograph of U.S. artist Lynda Benglis posing naked with a model of a phallus is described in the catalogue as a "candid taunt to Freudian theory" that "assigns women a fixed psychological identity based on anatomical

distinction". The fight for women's suffrage is commemorated with a brooch calling for "Votes for Our Mothers" and a newspaper photograph of a suffragette prisoner on hunger strike being force-fed.

"This exhibition is about the regenerative power of the mother, but also about the power denied women," said Beatrice Trussardi, president of the Nicola Trussardi Foundation, a non-profit cultural organization that co-produced the show. The exhibition runs to Nov. 15 and is one of thousands of events coinciding with the 2015 Expo World Fair.—Reuters

mitv Myanmar International

(28-8-2015 07:00 am~29-8-2015 07:00 am) MST

Today Fresh

07:03	am	News
07:27	am	Moe Ne' Keeps Its Tradition Alive
07:52	am	Ngapali Beach: Fishing Villages
08:03	am	News
08:27	am	The Precious Lands Of Myanmar (Mandalay Region)
09:03	am	News
09:26	am	Myanmar Charitable Labour Association
09:39	am	Myanmar Masterclass "Artist Win Pe Myint"
09:52	am	The Storytellers
10:03	am	News
10:27	am	Taung Byone Nat Festival (Ep-3)
10:47	am	A village where old traditions prevails

(11:00 Am ~ 03:00 Pm) - Monday Repeat (07:00 Am ~ 11:00 Am)
 (03:00 Pm ~ 07:00 Pm) - Today Repeat (07:00 Am ~ 11:00 Am)

Prime Time

07:03	pm	News
07:26	pm	Pagoda Forest in Pa-O Land
07:48	pm	Grow Back for Posterity "The dawn of development"
08:03	pm	News
08:27	pm	A Glance At A Naga Family Life
08:45	pm	All About Orchids

(09:00 Pm ~ 11:00 Pm) - Today Repeat (09:00 Am ~ 11:00 Am)
 (11:00 Pm ~ 03:00 Am) - Monday Repeat (07:00 Am ~ 11:00 Am)
 (03:00 Am ~ 07:00 Am) - Today Repeat (09:00 Am ~ 11:00 Am)

(For Detailed Schedule - www.myanmaritv.com/schedule)

MRTV Entertainment Channel

Entertainment Channel

(28-8-2015, Friday)

- 6:00 am
- Mono Classical Songs
- 6:20 am
- Pyi Thu Ni Ti
- 6:45 am
- Analysis of Myanmar Movies
- 7:05 am
- TV Drama Series
- 7:50 am
- TV Drama Series
- 8:35 am
- Myanmar Video
- 9:25 am
- Musical Programme
- 9:40 am
- Myanmar Video
- 12:00 noon
- Close Down

MRTV News Channel in Brief

(28-8-2015, Friday)

- | | | | |
|------------|--|-----------------|--|
| 6:00 am | • Paritta by Hilly Region Missionary Sayadaw | 12:35 pm | • Hluttaw Image |
| 6:45 am | • Documentary | 1:10 pm | • Talk On Old Film (Part-1) |
| 7:00 am | • News/ Weather Report | 2:00 pm | • Teleplay |
| 7:35 am | • People's Talks | 3:30 pm | • Head Line News |
| 8:00 am | • News/ International News | 4:35 pm | • University of Distance Education (TV Lectures) — Fourth Year (Maths) |
| 8:30 am | • Head Line News | 5:30 pm | • Head Line News |
| 8:35 am | • Current Affairs | 6:35 pm | • Hyper Sports |
| 9:00 am | • News/ International News | 7:00 pm | • News |
| 9:35 am | • Weekly Entertainment | 7:35 pm | • The Farmer |
| 10:30 am | • Head Line News | 8:00 pm | • News / International News / Weather Report |
| 10:35 am | • Science & Technology Programme | 9:00 pm | • News |
| 11:00 am | • News / Weather Report | • Amazing World | • Fine Arts-Bostom of Dramatic Performance |
| 12:00 noon | • News/ International News/ Weather Report | | |

AFF U19: Timor score in first minute, Myanmar level in the last

VIENTIANE, 27 Aug — It was a stunning start as Timor Leste blasted the fastest goal of the AFF Under-19 Championship when they shot ahead in the very first minute. Myanmar, however, scored in the last minute to walk away with the precious draw at the National Sports Complex Stadium today.

Timor Leste's goal was scored by striker Gelvanio Alberto while Aung Zin Phyto equalised for Myanmar.

The one point goes a long way for Myanmar as they now moved up a slot into second position behind Malaysia who top Group B with six points. Today's point was

Timor's first of the tournament after they lost their first two matches to Malaysia and Vietnam. The standings could likely change after the second game later this evening between Malaysia and Vietnam.

Officials and fans, and probably the Myanmar players, had not yet settled down when the referee from Laos, Xaypaseuth Phongsannit, blew for a goal. They were stunned looks all round as the Timor Leste players celebrated.

Nelson Vegas received a fine pass from his teammate in the middle, raced down the left past the surprised Myanmar defenders and crossed into the box. Gelvanio Alberto timed his slide to perfec-

tion and connected the ball just 43 seconds into the game.

Fired up by the goal, the Timor players continued pressing their opponents. In the 11th minute, the skilful Henrique Wilson burst down the centre, cut to the right and slammed his shot which the goalkeeper managed to clear. A few minutes later, Nelson curled his shot towards the far corner but it was just off the mark.

After the break, it was all Myanmar as they took control and dictated terms. Timor Leste were left to wait for breaks to launch their attacks, and there were not many of those. Myanmar on the other hand threw everything they had at their opponents. They knew they needed at least a draw to keep their hopes alive.

After several misses, Myanmar had their best chance in the 88th minute. Aung Zin Phyto crossed into the box with Aung Kaung Mann racing in from the rear. He had a good shot but it came off the bar to the utter despair of the team. Just when it all looked over, Zin Phyto headed the ball over an out-of-position Timor goalkeeper to score the all-important equaliser.—*aseanfootball.org*



Rooney runs riot to seal United group stage berth

BRUGES, 27 Aug — Manchester United ended their one-year Champions League hiatus in emphatic style when Wayne Rooney struck a hat-trick in a 4-0 destruction of Club Brugge that sent the three-times winners through 7-1 on aggregate on Wednesday.

As the playoffs for Europe's elite club competition reached their climax, Bayer Leverkusen,

BATE Borisov, CSKA Moscow and Astana joined United in securing the final places in Thursday's draw for the lucrative group stage.

Astana became the first Kazakh team to qualify when they netted a late equaliser to draw 1-1 at APOEL Nicosia for a 2-1 aggregate success and Leverkusen thumped visiting 10-man Lazio 3-0 on the night to go through 3-1.

Serbian midfielder Nemanja Maksimovic grabbed the crucial goal for Astana six minutes from time as Kazakhstan became the 32nd country to be represented in the group stage.

BATE of Belarus lost 2-1 at Partizan Belgrade but advanced on away goals after the tie ended 2-2, while CSKA Moscow eliminated Sporting Lisbon 4-3 on aggregate.—*Reuters*

Dibaba and Kiprop coast, holder Reese out of long jump

BEIJING, 27 Aug — Ethiopia's Genzebe Dibaba eased through to the finals of the women's 5,000 metres on Thursday to stay on course for a world athletics championships double, while American Brittney Reese saw her six-year long jump reign end. The 24-year-old Dibaba, who won the 1,500m gold on Tuesday in dominant fashion, was untroubled in the opening heat of the 5,000 as she won in a time of 15 minutes 20.82 seconds on another hot and sunny morning at the Bird's Nest stadium.

Dibaba crossed the line just ahead of Kenyan Mercy Cheron (15:20.94), while compatriot Almaz Ayana, who won bronze two years ago in Moscow, put down a marker for Sunday's final by recording the fastest time of the day, 15:09.40, in the quicker sec-

ond heat. "As everyone knows, Mercy Cheron and Almaz Ayana are challengers. We've been running together many times," Dibaba told reporters.

"Winning the 1500m gold medal gave me confidence, but you never know what is going to happen in the final."—*Reuters*

Dibaba showed her pace in the 1500m final by taking the lead with two laps to go and blowing clear with ease. She said a world record was possible in Sunday's 5,000 final.

"If I keep my good performance I can run faster than the current world record," she said.

Asbel Kiprop of Kenya also showed his class in the heats for the men's 1500m, coasting through to Friday's semi-finals in a time of 3:38.97 after winning the second heat.



Genzebe Dibaba of Ethiopia (C) leads to win the women's 1500 metres final at the 15th IAAF World Championships at the National Stadium in Beijing, China August 25, 2015.—*REUTERS*

The defending world champion, who won Olympic gold at the Birds Nest at the 2008 Beijing Games, played down his display. "My plan was just to be in the top six and to go on to the semi-final," the 26-year-old said.

No competition for U Zaw Zaw in MFF president elections

YANGON, 27 Aug— Myanmar Football Federation's incumbent president U Zaw Zaw is so far the only person to submit an application to take part in the upcoming MFF presidential elections, according to MFF's election commission.

"We opened the application process on 27 July but have only received the one candidacy proposal to date," said Commission Chairman U Zaw Min Sein.

He added that if U Zaw Zaw is still the only candidate by the time the deadline for submissions closes, the election process will not go ahead and U Zaw Zaw will be announced as having won another term during a MFF press



Myanmar Football Federation's incumbent president U Zaw Zaw

conference scheduled for 26 September.

The Myanmar Football Federation was founded in 1947 as the Burma Football Federation. It is responsible for overseeing the men's national team, women's national team, youth national teams as well as national football championships and professional club competitions.—*GNLM*

Talent scouts look to recruit from school cricket comps

By Ko Moe

YANGON, 27 Aug — Talent scouts will attend Yangon Region's inter-basic education school cricket competition in October with an eye for recruiting outstanding players to the Yangon Region team, according to the Myanmar Cricket Federation.

The competition will take place at Shwe Pinlon sports ground in Dagon Myothit (North) Township in the final week of October.

"Regardless of age, only

students enrolled at basic education schools are eligible to play in the competition," said MCF's U Michael Kyaw Min.

MCF plans to hold more competitions in future so that talent scouts from Myanmar's national team have the opportunity to recruit exceptional performers. An additional competition has already taken place in Mandalay.

The federation currently holds inter-basic education school cricket competitions on an annual basis.—*GNLM*

triple defending champion and Olympic gold medallist Reese missed out on a spot in Friday's long jump final after finishing 24th in qualifying with a disappointing 6.39 metres.

It was a better day for Briton Katarina Johnson-Thompson at the pit as she booked a spot in the final with an effort of 6.79m after three long jump fouls cost her a heptathlon medal on Sunday.

Olympic champion Anna Chicherova of Russia was among a group of experienced high jumpers to secure passage through to Saturday's final.

The 33-year-old cleared the required 1.92 metre mark along with 31-year-old double world champion Blanka Vlasic of Croatia and Spain's 36-year-old European champion Ruth Beitia.—*Reuters*