

President U Thein Sein attends hoisting of golden umbrella atop Laygyun Manaung Pagoda

Photo shows Laygyun Manaung Pagoda built in 1086 ME in Inwa Era in Sagaing.

MNA

NAY PYI TAW, 18 Aug—A ceremony to hoist golden umbrella atop Laygyun Manaung Pagoda built in 1086 ME in Inwa Era by the King Tanningway at Thawtapan Ward of Sagaing was held in conjunction with the consecration ceremony this morning.

President U Thein Sein and the congregation took the Nine Precepts from Zeyathin Pali Tekkatho Monastery Sayadaw of Sagaing.

The members of the Sangha recited Parittas. The President donated diamond orb, Buddha tooth relic and offertories to the Sayadaw.

The Chairman of Union Election Commission and party, members of the Pagoda

Board of Trustees offered pennant-shaped vane, jewellery items and alms to members of the Sangha.

The Rector Sayadaw of International Theravada Buddhist Missionary University delivered a sermon and shared merits gained together with the congregation.

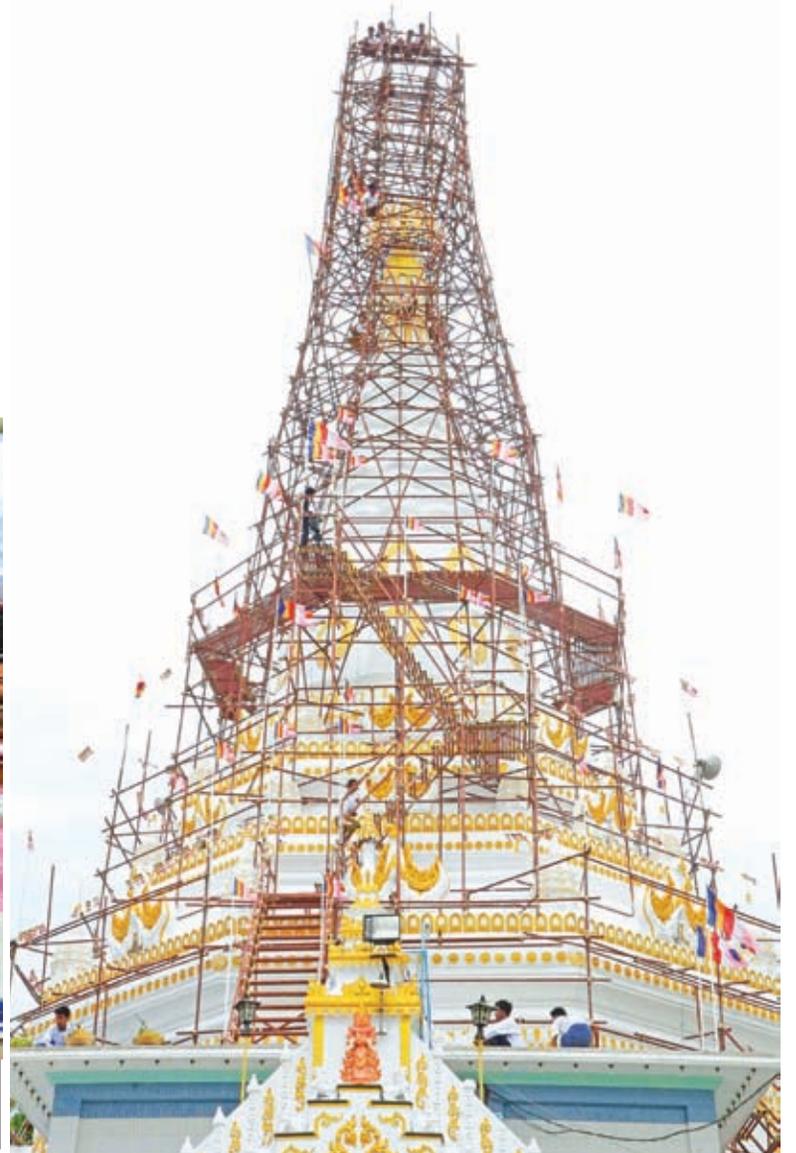
The President and party hoisted atop diamond orb, pennant-shaped vane and tiers of umbrella atop the pagoda and then offered flowers, water and oil lights to the Buddha image.

Members of the Sangha consecrated the pagoda.

(See page 8)



President U Thein Sein and party conveying diamond orb, pennant-shaped vane and tiers of umbrella.—MNA



Linzin Diversion Weir to benefit over 71000 local people in Salin Township



Linzin Diversion Weir and irrigation system were built in 1927 on Salin Creek near Linzin Village of Salin Township in Magway Region. Diversion weir, 750 feet long and seven feet high, is of concrete work. It has two 60x7.5 square feet sand sluice gates and three valves in 20x4.5 square feet size each.

In 2012, the irrigation facility could supply water to 32980 acres of monsoon paddy out of 34332 acres according to the statistics. A total of 1352 acres of farmlands of Linzin irrigated area in the farthest area of the diversion weir missed the chance to get the irrigation water.

Thanks to the

By: Pyin Oo Lwin Chit Swe

emphasis of the leaders of the State, the diversion weir is under repair from 2011-12 to 2013-14. In this regard, three miles long Salin main canal, 3.30 miles long two feeder canals, 4.20 miles long minor canals and 20 canal structures were repaired in 2011-12 fiscal year.

In 2012-13, 17 miles long Salin main canal, 33.03 miles long ten feeder canals, dredging of sand at the diversion weir and 62 canal structures were maintained. In 2013-2014, 10.03 miles long three feeder canals, four minor canals, 51 canal structures and placing

of gravel along 20 miles long main canal are being repaired.

Upon completion of all maintenance works, a total of 34332 acres of farmlands can be placed under paddy and over 2000 acres under crops at full capacity. Moreover, the diversion weir will benefit over 71000 local people from 116 villages in the irrigated area and increase their per capita income as a drive for implementation of rural area development and poverty alleviation schemes.

Myanma Alinn: 16-8-2013

Trs: TTA

Culture

Myanmar marionette team leaves for Thailand



YANGON, 18 Aug—A team comprising Maung Khaing Khant Tun and Maung Kaung Khant Cho led by Headmaster U Cho Aye of ACA Pyinnya Yeiknyein Private High School left here by air on 16 August. They will show off their brilliant skills on marionette in the Programme for

ASEAN International Camp 2013 to be held in Udon Thani of Thailand from 16 to 19 August.

They were trained by Saya U Shwe Kyi and U Maung Maung Min Kyi of Theatrical Drama Department of Yangon Culture and Fine Arts University.

Kyemon

Fire Prevention

Fire drill practised on platform of Shwesayan Pagoda

THATON, 18 Aug—With the aim of avoiding loss and damage of ancient pagodas and religious edifices in outbreak of fire in Thaton Township of Mon State, Township Fire Services Department and Shwesayan Pagoda Board of Trustees jointly organized the fire drill on the platform of the pagoda on 13 August noon.

Staff Officer U Saw Tun of Township FSD said, “We wish all the pilgrims should offer lights with the use of candle and oil lamps and joss sticks to the Buddha images systematically. Due to undisciplined acts,

the fire engulfed various kinds of property in many examples. The heritages of the ancient buildings lost in the fire. These loss and damages cannot be substituted with new ones. Therefore, we coordinated with the Pagoda Board of Trustees and demonstrated fire drills for enabling the pilgrims and shopkeepers to have knowledge on danger of fire. We will coordinate with Ovadaçariya Sayadaws, members of the Sangha and members of the Pagoda Board of Trustees to keep the water taps on the platform of the pagoda so as to quickly

put out the fire if the fire breaks out at any place of the pagoda.”

Shwesayan Pagoda is one of the most magnificent ones in Thaton Township. Stone inscription chamber, Buddhology Museum, Sasana Beikman, Dhammayon, Celestial Beings King Pagoda, Pitakat Pagoda and other stupas in addition to many ancient buildings are located in the precinct of the pagoda.

It is related to the history of Suwunnabhumi ancient city.

Kyemon-Thet Oo (Thaton)

Pilgrimage vehicle collides with passenger bus in Mandalay

MANDALAY, 18 Aug—A Light Truck collided with a Saloon at the corner of 35th street and 82nd street on 16 August.

The light truck carrying pilgrims bound for Mandalay from Myingyan collided with Shan Taungdan Passenger Transport Vehicle, destroying the front of the Saloon.

Authorities have filed lawsuit against those responsible for the collision.—MMAL-Tin Maung (Mandalay)



Accident

GEC Micro-Credit Cooperative Society holds AGM

NAY PYI TAW, 18 Aug—Government Employees Cooperative Ltd of the Ministry of Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement held the annual general meeting for 2012-2013 fiscal year at the assembly hall of the ministry at 2 pm on 16 August.

Chairman of the society U Nay Win and Director U Myint Aung of Cooperative Department made speeches.

Secretary Daw Myint Myint Aye read the executive committee report and managing director U Aung Zaw Min, the financial statement.

Auditor U Myo Myint Than submitted the audit report. Those present approved the reports.

The members of the cooperative society participated in discussion on future tasks.

Kyemon-Ko Ye

HRD

Students join extempore talks, story telling and poem recitation contests

TAUNGGYI, 18 Aug—The final stage of the Shan State level primary students’ extempore talks, debate, story telling and poem recitation was held at the

hall of Basic Education High School No 1 in Taunggyi on 12 August.

It was attended by officials of the Shan State Education Department, referees and members of the organizing committee, contestants and teachers.

After the competition, third standard student Maung Saw Pyae Tha of No 4 Basic Education Post-Primary School (Taunggyi) secured the first prize in the poem recitation.

On behalf of the organizing committee, Headmistress Daw Khin Ohn Myint presented prize to the winner.

First prize winner Maung Saw Pyae Tha was selected to take part in the Central Level Primary School Poem Contest to be held in Nay Pyi Taw.

Kyemon-Thaw Wai (Taunggyi)

Talks on environmental conservation given

YANGON, 18 Aug—Jointly organized by Ward 6 Administrator of Thakayta Township, Forest Department and Green & Clean Group, the collective tree growing ceremony was held in conjunction with talks on environmental conservation at Thakayta BEPS No 8 on 16 August.

Senior Forester U Tin Ohn gave lectures on environmental conservation to students. They then planted 60 saplings.

Kyemon-Nu Nu Yi

Health Care Activity

Free health care service provided in Namhsam

NAMHSAM, 18 Aug—Namhsam Township Medical Officer Dr Saw Thurein and party made field trips to Loikham Village of Ngunhsai Village-tract in Namhsam Township of Palaung Self-Administered Zone of Shan State on 14 August.

The medical team

provided free medical services to about 120 local people and transferred three patients to the hospital for intensive care, distributed about 80 mosquito nets and disseminated health knowledge to the local people.

Kyemon-Township IPRD

Conjoined twins born in Yekyi Township



YEKYI, 18 Aug—Siamese twins were born in a C-Section of a team of surgeons led by Dr Nay Win Tun in Konpyin Station Hospital in Kyonpyin Village in Yekyi Township in Patheingyi District and Ayeyawady Region on 15 August evening.

The conjoined baby girls were born to father U Zaw Moe Thet and mother Daw Aye Aye Moe.

They were referred to the Yankin Children’s Hospital on the same day and arrived there on 16 August morning.

MMAL-181

National Sports

Line-up of Myanmar U-16 announced for AFF U-16 Championship 2013

NAY PYI TAW, 18 Aug—The AFF U-16 Championship 2013 will be hosted at Nay Pyi Taw Wunna Theikdi Stadium from 20 August to 2 September with the participation of 10 football teams.

Myanmar U-16 selected team is constituted with the players from the Myanmar U-15 Team that has participated in the Fam Frenz ASEAN Championship 2013. Most of the players are products of Mandalay, Nay Pyi Taw and Patheingyi Football Academies.

The list of 20 footballers for the Myanmar U-16 team was announced on 16 August.

They are Goalkeeper Hsan Hset Naing, Saw Htay (Mandalay Academy), Phone Thitsa Min (Nay Pyi Taw FC Academy),

Defenders Soe Moe Tun, Ye Yint Ko, Ye Yint Aung, Hein Phyto Win (Mandalay Academy), Aung Phyto Tha, Ye Min Thu (Nay Pyi Taw FC), Midfielders Thiha Tun Kyaw, Kyaw Lwin Moe, Kyaw Zin Soe, Okkar Bo (Mandalay Academy), Min Thu (Patheingyi Academy), Moe Min Zaw (Mandalay Region), Forwards: Zwe Thet Paing, Aung Pyae Ko, Shwe Ko (Mandalay Academy), Aung Thet Soe and Hsan Thu Aung.

Myanmar U-16 team is under control of Manager U Win Thu Moe, team manager Japanese Coach Tashima, coach U Aung Aung Tun, Assistant Coaches U Khin Maung Htwe and U Aung Kyaw Zan and Goalkeeping Coach U Maung Maung Myint.—Kyemon-Maung Maung Zaw

WORLD

Bomb hits Iraq's main commodity port, traffic unaffected

BASRA, (Iraq), 18 Aug—A truck bomb exploded at Iraq's main commodities port near the oil-exporting southern city of Basra, wounding four people on Saturday, but officials said shipping traffic at the Umm Qasr docks was not affected. Umm Qasr port, near Iraq's border with Kuwait, sits at the top of the strategic Gulf waterway and does not export oil. Imports handled there include grain shipments and heavy equipment used in the energy industry.

The blast damaged an out-of-service Iraqi ship anchored there and wounded four porters, the head of the Basra provincial security

committee, Jabbar al-Saedi, told Reuters.

"It's a serious breach to the port security and a terrorist act targeting Iraq's economy," he said.

The truck had been parked near one of the port's unloading berths, he added. Shipping movements and unloading operations at the port were not disrupted by the explosion, said Mahdi Askar, an official with the state-run General Company for Maritime Transport.

The site is close to the city of Basra, about 420 km (260 miles) southeast of the capital Baghdad.

Iraq's economic infrastructure has been hit hard by frequent militant

attacks. An oil export pipeline between Iraq and Turkey has been bombed about 30 times since the start of the year, the oil ministry said last week. The pipeline was hit again late on Friday. Sunni Muslim militant groups, including al-Qaeda, have stepped up their insurgency against Iraq's Shi'ite-led government in the past four months.

More than 30 people were killed and scores wounded in Baghdad on Thursday after a series of car bombs, part of a wave of violence that has taken the monthly death toll to the highest levels in around five years.

Reuters

Four abducted Thai nationals freed in southern Nigeria

LAGOS, 18 Aug—Four Thai nationals abducted by unknown gunmen a week ago in southern Nigeria have been released, said authorities in the southern Rivers State on Saturday. Emmanuel Chindah, the state commissioner for agriculture, told Xinhua on phone that the four Thais were released at about 2 am local time in an undisclosed area by the gunmen. He said the Thais are basically



A woman and her son use a special breastfeeding seat on a bus in Zhengzhou, capital of Henan Province. The city is testing the seats on the No 906 bus and plans to expand the program if the service is well-received.

XINHUA

British police studying new information on Princess Diana death

LONDON, 18 Aug—British police said on Saturday they were assessing new information about the deaths of Princess Diana and her friend Dodi al Fayed in a Paris road crash

in 1997.

London's Metropolitan Police did not elaborate on the information, or its source, but Britain's Sky news television station said it had come from the parents-in-law of a former soldier and had been passed on by the Royal Military Police. Sky said it understood the new information included an allegation that the deaths of Diana, Dodi and their driver were caused by a member of the British military.

A royal spokeswoman said there would be no comment. The Metropolitan Police said in a statement that it was assessing the "relevance and credibility" of information into the deaths that it had recently received.

"This is not a re-investigation and does not come under Operation Paget," it said, referring to an inves-

tigation by a former head of the Metropolitan police, John Stevens.

Diana and Dodi and their chauffeur were killed when their car crashed in a road tunnel while pursued by photographers after the couple left the Ritz hotel in Paris on 31 Aug, 1997.

The untimely death of Diana, who divorced heir-to-the-throne Prince Charles in 1996, sparked an outpouring of public grief that culminated in huge crowds lining the streets of London for her funeral.

Dodi's father, Mohammed al Fayed, the former owner of Harrods department store, alleged that the couple had been killed on the orders of the British establishment. Stevens concluded there was no evidence of murder and said that driver Paul had been drunk and going too fast.

Reuters

Up to 100,000 face evacuation in Russia's flood-hit far east

MOSCOW, 18 Aug—As many as 100,000 people may be evacuated from their homes near Russia's border with China if the region's biggest floods for 120 years get worse, Russian media reported on Saturday. The floods, caused by a month of unusually heavy rain, are not expected to start receding until early September, the head of Russia's hydrometeorology monitoring service told news agency Ria Novosti.

Television footage showed residents rowing boats past half-submerged houses and military vehicles dumping gravel to counter the floodwater, which has already led to the evacuation of about 170,000 people from the Amur, Khabarovsk and

Jewish Autonomous regions.

"The damage is extensive, but the most significant achievement is there have been no casualties ... we cannot relax, there is still a lot of work to be done," Russian President Vladimir Putin said in a televised address. Water has swamped huge swathes of the countryside with 400,000 hectares of agricultural land submerged, causing potential damage of more than 2 billion roubles (\$60 million), Putin's envoy to the region Viktor Ishaev was quoted as saying. In 2012, flash floods killed 171 people and damaged more than 4,000 homes in southern Russia's mountainous Caucasus region.

Reuters



A truck remains suspended after it overturned on a road in the sandpits of the Costanera, north of Buenos Aires city, capital of Argentina, on 12 Aug, 2013. The truck overturned after colliding with a car.

XINHUA

Though silent, Israel remains worried by Egypt upheaval

JERUSALEM, 18 Aug—Israel has looked on at upheaval in Egypt largely in silence, keen to avoid disrupting strategic security cooperation with a military it sees as critical to curbing attacks by Islamist militants in neighbouring Sinai, officials and analysts said. Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu had aides instruct cabinet ministers to avoid public comment about Egypt, according to an official who spoke on condition of anonymity.

"Israel and the United States see the situation in Egypt very, very differently and justifiably the prime minister wouldn't want Israeli cabinet ministers to publicly criticise American policy," Giora Eiland, a former national security adviser, said on Channel 2 television. In private, one senior Israeli official expressed alarm at US Presi-

dent Barack Obama's condemnation of the bloodshed in Egypt and cancellation of a joint military exercise with Cairo.

"Eyebrows have been raised," the official said. Israel worries that any sign of wavering US support for Egypt's military may embolden Islamist militants sympathetic with the Muslim Brotherhood, ousted by the Egyptian army after a year in power. Eiland

backed the crackdown by Egyptian army chief General Abdel Fattah al-Sisi on the Brotherhood this week.

"Sisi in the situation he faced, had no choice but to do what he did," said Eiland, adding he thought Western outrage at the scale of the bloodshed was understandable. Almost 800 people have been killed so far. Israel wants to avoid any disruption of its security cooperation with Egypt,

which stems from a 1979 peace treaty — the first of only two such accords between Israel and Arab countries.

Military ties with Egypt have helped Israel strategically in a region where it is otherwise largely isolated, as well as rein in weapons smuggling to Palestinian militants in Gaza, which is ruled by Islamist group Hamas.

Reuters

Visitors take a close look at the model of Air Force One during its unveiling ceremony at the Richard Nixon Library & Museum in Yorba Linda, California, on 13 Aug, 2013. A new exhibition featuring a 1/20 scale, 7 feet model of Air Force One SAM 26000 was opened here Tuesday. Air Force One SAM 26000 was the plane on which former US President Nixon flew around the world. — XINHUA



SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY

Airtel plans 4G network expansion in Kolkata

KOLKATA, 18 Aug — Telecom major Airtel is considering expanding its existing 4G network in Kolkata that could attract an investment of Rs. 1,500 to Rs 3,000 crore. "Airtel officials had met me to increase fibre network coverage by anywhere between 500km and 1000km for expanding 4G services," Kolkata Municipal Corporation (KMC) mayor-in-council (engineering and health) Atin Ghosh said.

"We had provided Airtel the draft licensing agreement required for cable laying and they have said they will revert in the next 7-10 days," he said. "If they lay 1000 km of optical fibre for 4G, the investment will be in excess of Rs 3000 crore," Ghosh added.

The development comes after Mukesh Ambani controlled Reliance Jio Infocomm sought to start 4G network across the city and held a meeting with KMC to obtain right of way for some 750 km of optical fibre network.

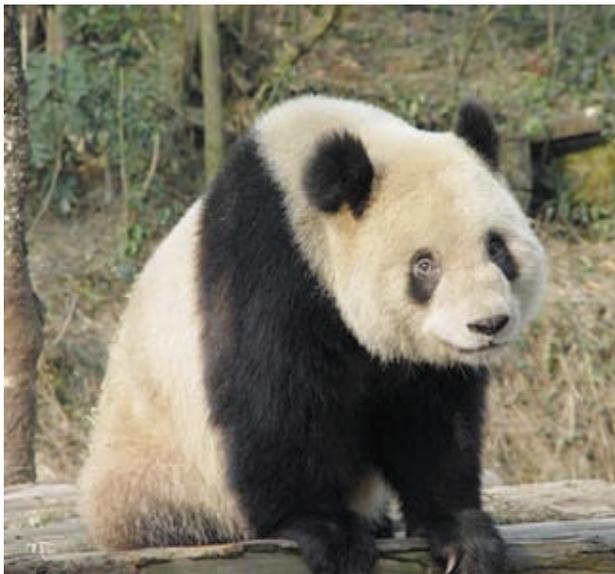
Airtel without divulging the subscriber base of 4G said they had launched the service in April and the coverage is only in the central business district of city and so far they invested Rs. 600 crore for the network in city.

PTI

Panda gives birth in semi-wild environment

CHENGDU, 18 Aug — A giant panda born in captivity gave birth to a cub in a semi-wild environment without human interference in a panda base in Ya'an City, southwest China's Sichuan Province, on Sunday. Through surveillance cameras in the semi-wild training center of the Bifengxia Panda Base, researchers were able to observe the mother, Princess, give birth to a cub at 1:46 am in the wild garden full of weeds.

Huang Yan, deputy chief engineer of the panda base, said on Monday that five to six cubs were born every year under the semi-wild training programme, which started in 2010 and is aimed at preparing captive giant pandas for going back to the wild. "Under the programme, we select qualified cubs and release the baby pandas to the wild along with their moms, so that they have a better chance of



survival there," Huang said.

Princess, 11, was the first giant panda in the world to be brought up by people right after its birth. Her mother refused to feed her. Similar problems arose when Princess delivered her first twin cubs in 2003. Experts used toys and VCDs to teach her how to nurse her cubs. Already experi-

enced in labour, Princess on Sunday held the cub and licked its body skillfully after delivery. Giant pandas are one of the world's most endangered species. About 1,600 of the animals live in the wild, mostly in the mountains of Sichuan, while more than 300 live in captivity.

Xinhua

Vienna giant panda couple give birth to third cub by natural conception

VIENNA, 18 Aug — A baby giant panda was born in Schoenbrunn Zoo on Wednesday, the third birth by a panda couple who have lived in Vienna for over 10 years, the zoo announced on Thursday. The baby panda, 10 centimetres in height and about 100 grams in weight, is now carefully taken care of by its mother Yang Yang in a

whelping box.

No one could approach the baby, therefore, the gender of the baby could not be identified yet. To protect the cub, the panda house are closed to visitors. The birth of the third baby giant panda marked a new record of natural conception of giant panda in Europe, since the couple in Vienna are the unique pair in Europe

which mated naturally and successfully had their babies.

The giant panda couple in Vienna zoo have given birth to 3 cubs by natural conception. Fu Long and Fu Hu, their eld children, have been sent back to China when 2 years old as per a loan agreement between China and Austria.

Xinhua

Facebook reveals daily users for US and UK, data aimed at advertisers



A smartphone user shows the Facebook application on his phone in the central Bosnian town of Zenica, in this photo illustration, on 2 May, 2013. — REUTERS

NEW YORK, 18 Aug — One out of three people in the United States — more than 128 million — visit Facebook every day, and about 24 million in the United Kingdom do the same, the company said on Tuesday, releasing regional data for the first time as a way of helping advertisers understand how people use the social network. It is also part of a larger push to go

after dollars earmarked for TV commercials, the top choice among advertisers when they launch campaigns.

"We would like to be able to be explicit and say this is the amount of people you can reach tomorrow, or the amount of people you can reach when you are launching a movie," said Carolyn Everson, Facebook vice president of global

marketing solutions. Consider that almost 6 million people tuned in to watch the mid-season premier of AMC's highly anticipated series "Breaking Bad" on Sunday. With more than 1 billion users, there is little doubt about the popularity of the world's No 1 social network, but advertisers often need much more data to make decisions.

Rebecca Lieb, a media and advertising analyst at Altimeter Group, said one billion is an abstract number. "As impressive and as big as Facebook is, by breaking it down more regionally we are getting more of an idea," she said. Facebook also released on Tuesday the number of active monthly and daily mobile users in the United States and the UK. Television commands

the largest share of advertising money spent in the United States at 39 percent, according to eMarketer research, which estimated that \$66.3 billion in ad dollars would go towards TV this year. Digital advertising represents about 25 percent of 2013 estimated advertising spend at \$42 billion.

Still, there is a shift occurring: the average time spent daily with digital media is expected to surpass TV viewing for the first time this year, according to eMarketer. Under-scoring the change taking place in people's habits, WPP founder and Chief Executive Martin Sorrell expects up to 45 percent of the agency's business to go towards digital within five years, he wrote in post on LinkedIn. — Reuters

UNSG's message for World Humanitarian Day

19 August 2013

Every year on August 19th, we mark World Humanitarian Day in honour of aid workers who have lost their lives in the line of duty.

We commemorate their sacrifice and reaffirm our commitment to the life-saving work that humanitarians carry out around the world, every day, often in difficult and dangerous circumstances where others cannot or do not want to go.

This year's commemoration marks the 10th anniversary of the attack on UN headquarters in Baghdad that killed Special Representative Sergio Vieira de Mello and 21 other United Nations colleagues and partners. That tragedy was among the inspirations for this Day.

Sergio was a vocal advocate of the values and mission of the United Nations. He touched the lives of all who met him, and helped millions of poor and vulnerable people in a life of service on several continents. His death was a great loss to the United Nations, but his legacy has motivated many people to pursue humanitarian work.

This year, our World Humanitarian Day campaign is calling on people to answer a question: What do you think the world needs more of? I urge people everywhere to go to www.worldhumanitarianaday.org and tell us, in one word, what you think.

My word is "teamwork." In a time of global challenges, people and countries need to work together in common cause for peace, justice, dignity and development. That is the humanitarian spirit. That is the humanitarian imperative of the United Nations.

UNIC/Yangon

Canada's telecoms to change tack in anti-Verizon crusade

TORONTO, 18 Aug — Canada's three biggest wireless companies plan to attack Verizon Communications Inc's role in the US government's electronic spying scandal, as they scramble to force Ottawa to rethink rules that encourage Verizon to set up in Canada, according to four sources.

The Canadian government has so far spurned an intense lobbying effort from the trio — Rogers Communications, BCE Inc and Telus Corp — by insisting its policies will cut Canadians' wireless bills.

The planned campaign, which has yet to get a final green light, will focus on how Verizon's entry into Canada could open the door to overreaching surveillance and a loss of privacy for Canadians, said the sources, who declined to be named as the plans are not yet public. If the companies sign off on the proposals, the ads will start appearing in newspapers, online and

on radio next week in the hope that they will swing public opinion behind the three players and persuade the government to change its mind.

Telus, BCE and Rogers declined to comment on any changes to the campaign. Under current rules, new entrant Verizon could bid in a 2014 auction for two of four prime blocks of the spectrum that wireless companies need to operate mobile services, while the existing big players can only bid for one block apiece. Verizon can also buy one or more of the smaller telecom firms, an option that is not open for the three Canadian firms.

Sources told Reuters in June that Verizon had offered between \$600 million and \$800 million for newcomer Wind Mobile and was in talks with another upstart, Mobilicity. Verizon has said only that it is exploring the possibility of a Canadian entry. — Reuters



A sign of Verizon Wireless is seen at its store in Westminster, Colorado on 26 April, 2009. — REUTERS

BUSINESS & HEALTH

Soft drinks linked to behavioral problems in young children

WASHINGTON, 18 Aug—US researchers said Friday children as young as five who consume soft drinks every day are more likely to have behavioural problems such as aggression, difficulty in paying attention and social withdrawal.

Previous studies have found that soft drink consumption is associated with aggression, depression, and suicidal thoughts in adolescents but the relationship had not been evaluated in younger children.

It the new study, the researchers from the Columbia University, the University of Vermont, and the Harvard School of Public Health assessed about 3,000 five-year-old children enrolled from 20 large US cities. Mothers reported their child's soft drink consumption and completed the child behavior checklist based on their child's behaviour during the previous two months. The researchers reported in the *Journal of Pediatrics* that 43 percent of the children

consumed at least one serving of soft drinks per day, and 4 percent consumed four or more.

Children who drank four or more soft drinks per day were more than twice as likely to destroy things belonging to others, get into fights, and physically attack people, they said. The kids also had increased attention problems and withdrawal behavior compared with those who did not consume soft drinks. "We found that the child's aggressive behavior score increased with every increase in soft drinks servings per day," Shakira Suglia, an assistant professor of epidemiology at the Columbia University's Mailman School of Public Health, said in a statement.

"Although this study cannot identify the exact nature of the association between soft drink consumption and problem behaviours, limiting or eliminating a child's soft drink consumption may reduce behavioral problems," Suglia said.—*Xinhua*

NTT West subsidiary begins interpretation service by smart phone app

OSAKA, 18 Aug—A call centre company which is a subsidiary of Nippon Telegraph and Telephone West Corp has started to offer interpretation services through a smartphone application for foreigners living in Japan.

The Osaka-based company, NTT Marketing Act, launched the service on 1 August in five languages—English, Chinese, Korean, Spanish and Portuguese.

The app for Android phones is designed to be used in situations such as procedures at government offices or conversations in hospitals for those who do not speak Japanese, the company said.

Users speak with the call centre staff through their smartphone in their native language and then pass them onto the other parties concerned for the staff to translate into Japanese, according to the company.

Kyodo News

New green policy gives industries a big boost

BEIJING, 18 Aug—China will speed up development of the energy-saving sector and make it a pillar of the national economy by 2015, top policymakers said on Sunday. The State Council vowed in a statement to spur technological innovation, expand demand for energy-saving products and boost the environmental-protection service industry.

According to the State Council, the value of the energy-saving industry's output will reach 4.5 trillion yuan (\$728 billion) by 2015, an average annual growth of 15 percent. Wang Xiaokun, an energy analyst at Sublime China Informa-

tion, a Chinese commodities consulting firm, said the policy gives clear direction to the industry and brings opportunities to investors, including private companies. The government will play a leading role and allow non-State capital to invest in energy-saving projects.

"The government encourages low-carbon and energy-saving development, which means business opportunities to the suppliers for such industries," said Wang. "For instance, the equipment manufacturers for power plants and grid will benefit from the policy." Ren Junming,

a commentator on Xinhua-net.com, said the policy is significant in terms of expanding domestic demand and promoting upgrading of traditional industries. China will invest 1.8 trillion yuan in the renewable energy industry during the 12th Five-Year Plan (2011-15) and spend another 2.3 trillion yuan on energy-saving and emissions reduction, Xie Zhenhua, deputy director of the National Development and Reform Commission, said in late July.

China has committed to reduce its carbon emissions per unit of GDP by 40 to 45 percent by 2020 from the 2005 level and raise

its non-fossil energy consumption percentage to 15 percent of its energy mix. From 2006 to 2012, China's energy consumption per unit of GDP was reduced by 23.6 percent, equivalent to a reduction of 1.8 billion metric tons of carbon emissions. Market share of high-efficiency energy-saving technology and equipment will rise from the current 5 percent to 30 percent by the end of 2015, Xie said.

"Facing the promising green and low-carbon markets, related companies should increase their investments in research, development and the application of low-carbon technology to strengthen their competitiveness in the global market," said Xie. "By coping with climate change and adapting to the new trend, companies can make profits and fulfill social responsibility at the same time." The market share of energy-efficient products will increase at least 50 percent by 2015, the State Council said. Urban sewage treatment capacity will also increase to 200 million cubic meters per day by 2015.

Xinhua



Habits linked to obesity may differ for boys and girls

NEW YORK, 18 Aug—Some behaviors, such as TV watching and eating school lunches, were linked to obesity among sixth grade boys and girls in a new study, but other risk factors were gender specific. Involvement in sports, for example, was tied to a lower risk of obesity in boys but not girls and drinking milk was linked to lowered risk among girls but not boys, according to researchers from the University of Michigan Health System in Ann Arbor. The study's authors, led by Dr Elizabeth Jackson, write in the journal *Pediatrics* that understanding obesity risk factors for specific gen-

ders may help target programmes aimed at weight loss or preventing weight gain in children.

The US Centres for Disease Control and Prevention estimates that about 17 percent of children and teens are obese. For the new study, Jackson and her colleagues used data collected between 2004 and 2011 from 1,714 sixth-grade students at 20 middle schools in and around Ann Arbor. Overall, about 18 percent of boys and 16 percent of girls were obese, which is defined as children who are in the top-fifth percentile of body mass index—a measurement of weight in rela-

tion to height. Among boys who were not obese, about 56 percent participated in at least 20 minutes of vigorous physical activity at least five times per week, compared to about 43 percent of boys who were obese. But there was no difference between the percentage of obese and non-obese girls who reported regular vigorous physical activity. Playing on at least one sports team was also linked to decreased risk of obesity for boys but not girls.

The lack of an association between obesity and physical activity in girls may be explained by girls not reporting some activities like cheerleading or dance, because children may not consider those activities sports, the researchers write.

They did find, however, that drinking two or more servings of milk per day was tied to about a 20 percent decreased risk of obesity among girls but not boys. One possible explanation is that milk is displacing sugary drinks in the girls' diets, Jackson's team writes. In addition to those gender-specific risk factors for obesity, the re-

searchers found that heavy TV-watching and regularly eating school lunches were each tied to an increased risk of obesity for both boys and girls.

Watching more than two hours of TV was linked to a 19 percent increased risk of obesity and almost always eating school lunches was linked to a 27-to-29 percent increased risk. The new study cannot prove that any of the children's habits caused their obesity. For example, the authors point out in their report, a child regularly eating school lunches might be eligible for the meals because of low family income—itsself a risk factor for obesity."

This isn't really showing that school lunches caused obesity, but it's appropriate to point out that the school lunch programme hasn't had the effect we would have liked," Daniel Taber, assistant professor at the University of Texas School of Public Health in Austin, said.

"It's pointing out that the school lunch programme needed improvement because it wasn't preventing childhood obesity," Taber said. The US

Department of Agriculture (USDA) set new standards for school lunches in January 2012 that set maximums for calories offered during lunch and mandate that only skim or reduced-fat milk are offered to students. Prior to 2012, the USDA only set minimum calorie counts for school lunches. Now, the agency requires school lunches to fall between 550 calories and 850 calories—depending on a child's grade level.

Earlier this year, Taber published a study that found stricter lunch standards—like the ones implemented in 2012—were tied to healthier body weights among students (see Reuters Health story of 8 April, 2013 here:.) "It's not that you want to steer kids away, you want to improve the school lunch programme, which is exactly what they've been doing this past year," he said. Jackson and her colleagues write that more research is needed to find out how much children may benefit from improving school lunches and reducing TV time, while also learning more about gender-specific risk factors for obesity.—*Reuters*



Women sit on a bench in New York's Times Square on 31 May, 2012.—REUTERS

WORLD

Wildfire threatens Idaho resort towns as 2,250 homes evacuated

SALMON, (Idaho), 18 Aug—A fast-moving central Idaho wildfire forced the evacuation of 2,250 homes near the tourist towns of Hailey and Ketchum as firefighters lost ground on Saturday against the blaze that also threatens the Sun Valley ski resort.

Blaine County Sheriff Gene Ramsey called for occupants on the outskirts of both towns to leave without delay. He expanded evacuation zones to include residential developments north of Ketchum.

The fast-moving wildfire has burned more than 92,000 acres (37,230 hectares) of sagebrush flats, pine forests and granite

canyons in the Sawtooth Range west of a highway that connects Hailey, a town of about 8,000 people, to Ketchum and Sun Valley to the north.

More than 1,000 people have fled upscale subdivisions on the southern outskirts of Ketchum, where some homes are worth tens of millions of dollars. The area features the vacation getaways of such celebrities as former California Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger and actor Tom Hanks.

The blaze has sent towering columns of smoke over the tourist towns nestled in a narrow mountain valley known for premier hiking, biking, fishing and

skiing. An animal shelter on the west side of Hailey, where flames enveloped a mountain ridge and raced toward a city park below, was safely emptied of dogs and cats, said Blaine County Deputy Sheriff Anita Selner. Hundreds of firefighters were battling to keep flames from crossing to the east side of the highway that links the threetowns and is the only developed road out of the valley.

The so-called Beaver Creek fire has claimed one primary residence, one bunkhouse and six other buildings since being sparked by lightning on 7 Aug, federal fire information officer Sandy Miller

said.

Roughly 30 people stayed overnight at an American Red Cross shelter in Hailey, where onlookers gathered as air tankers equipped with fire retardant and helicopters with water buckets flew overhead.

“A lot of people are just watching the fire and our customers are talking about nothing else,” said Alexis Sualéz, barista at Zaney’s River Street Coffee House in Hailey. “People are pretty worried.” The valley is crisscrossed by recreation trails and gated subdivisions of log mansions and luxury homes that border the Sawtooth National Forest.

Reuters



Citizens watch the houses at Lanzhou New Area in Lanzhou, capital of northwest China’s Gansu Province, 14 Aug, 2013. China’s State Council, the Cabinet, approved the establishment of Lanzhou New Area as the 5th State-level new area, the first such area in Northwest China, on 20 Aug, 2012. The infrastructure construction of Lanzhou New Area has been basically completed now. It is said the New Area has attracted many famous corporations from both home and abroad, resulting in a total investment of nearly 180 billion yuan.—XINHUA

Turkey’s Erdogan says Kurds have not withdrawn as agreed

ISTANBUL, 18 Aug—Turkish Prime Minister Tayyip Erdogan has said the separatist Kurdistan Workers’ Party (PKK) has failed to withdraw its fighters from Turkey as agreed, a condition for Kurdish rights to be expanded as part of a peace process.

Erdogan did not say what this meant for the process, seen by many as the best chance yet to end a conflict that has killed more than 40,000 people, mainly Kurds, since 1984, but indicated that a Kurdish rights package would be unveiled soon.

“The promises made by the PKK to withdraw from Turkish soil have not been fulfilled,” the newspaper *Vatan* quoted him as saying on his way back from Turkmenistan late on Friday.

“Only 20 percent have left Turkey, and they are mostly women and children.” The PKK feared its fighters, estimated at around 2,000, would be attacked as they withdrew to

bases in the northern Iraqi mountains, but so far a ceasefire declared in March has largely held. The PKK has not said how many of its fighters have left, but says clashes could resume if Ankara does not take concrete steps by the start of September.

Erdogan said on 8 Aug. that parliament may cut short its summer recess, due to end on 1 Oct, to pass the “democratisation package”. A senior Justice Ministry official told Reuters last week that the package would include provisions for wider Kurdish-language education.

But Erdogan, under pressure from nationalists for offering concessions to militants officially deemed terrorists, denied this, and said the measures would not “disturb the Turkish public”, *Vatan* reported.

He also ruled out any general amnesty for PKK fighters, who have been promised safe passage out of Turkey, but not rehabilitation.—Reuters

Afghan forces kill 36 Taliban fighters in 24 hours

KABUL, 18 Aug—Afghan police in coordination with the national army and the NATO-led troops have killed 36 armed Taliban militants across the country over the past 24 hours, Interior Ministry said in a statement released here on Saturday.

During the operations which had been carried out in Nangarhar, Baghlan, Zabul, Logar and Paktia provinces, five more militants sustained injuries and four others made captive. Police have also discovered and defused 31 different types of anti-personnel and anti-vehicle mines placed by the militants for destructive activities in Parwan, Kandahar, Ghazni and Helmand Provinces. However, it did not say if there were any casualties on the security forces. Taliban militants have not made any comments.—Xinhua



People visit the exhibition area of domestic automobile brands during the 2013 China Yinchuan International Auto Expo in Yinchuan, capital of northwest China’s Ningxia Hui Autonomous Region, on 12 Aug, 2013. Domestic brands have attracted many visitors’ attention in the expo.—XINHUA

Four Kenyan policemen killed in suspected al Shabaab raid

GARISSA, (Kenya), 18 Aug—Four Kenyan police officers were shot dead in the border county of Garissa when 40 heavily armed men, suspected of belonging to Somali militant group al Shabaab, attacked a police post, a senior regional government official said on Saturday.

The east African nation, which sent its troops into Somalia in late 2011 to pursue the al-Qaeda-linked militants, has suffered a string of gun and grenade attacks claimed by al Shabaab group as retaliation. “Four administration police officers were killed during the attack and we are now

preparing to transport their bodies from the scene,” Garissa County Commissioner Rashid Khatto said.

“Our initial assessment points to the attackers being al Shabaab militants who crossed over the border and carried out the hit and run attack,” he said.

Reuters

Bomb injures guard at Egypt’s mission in Benghazi, Libya

BENGHAZI, (Libya), 18 Aug—A bomb blast ripped through the garden wall of the Egyptian consulate in the eastern Libyan city of Benghazi on Saturday, injuring a security guard who needed hospital treatment, witnesses said.

They said at least five children were also cut by flying glass from the explosion, which blew out

windows and significantly damaged a building opposite the consulate and vehicles. There was no immediate claim of responsibility for the attack. Witnesses said the bomb had apparently been hidden inside a briefcase.

Police cordoned off the scene as investigators combed the area for clues. They later reopened the

street but posted extra police outside the consulate.

Egyptian security forces are conducting a crackdown on Muslim Brotherhood supporters following last month’s ousting of Islamist President Mohamed Mursi.

At least 800 people have been killed in three days of violence after security forces broke up

Brotherhood protest camps in Cairo set up to demand Mursi’s reinstatement.

Islamists across the Middle East have condemned the crackdown and some have staged protests in their own countries. Lawlessness has blighted large areas of Libya following the 2011 war that toppled Muammar Gaddafi.

Reuters



Visitors watch folding paper voice boxes during the 28th China Beijing International Gifts, Premium & Houseware Exhibition in Beijing, capital of China, on 14 Aug, 2013. The four-day exhibition, with the participation of 1,500 exhibitors from both home and abroad, opened here on Wednesday.—XINHUA

WORLD

Defiant Hezbollah leader says ready to fight in Syria

BEIRUT, 18 Aug — Hezbollah leader Sayyed Hassan Nasrallah accused radical Sunni Islamists on Friday of being behind a car bomb that killed 24 people in Beirut and vowed that the attack would redouble his group's commitment to its military campaign in Syria.

In a fiery speech to supporters, one day after the deadliest bombing in the capital since Lebanon's civil war ended two decades ago, Nasrallah raised the stakes by pledging to join the battle in Syria himself if needed.

Thursday's blast in the Shi'ite militant Hezbollah's south Beirut stronghold followed months of sectarian tension and violence in Lebanon fuelled in part by Hezbollah's intervention against Sunni Muslim rebels in Syria's civil war.

"It is most likely that

a takfiri group was responsible for yesterday's explosion," Nasrallah said, referring to radical Sunni Muslim factions linked to al-Qaeda, many of whom are fighting with Syrian rebels against President Bashar al-Assad. "If you think by killing our women and children ... and destroying our neighbourhoods, we would retreat from the position we took (in Syria) you are wrong," he said in a combative speech broadcast by videolink from a secret location to his supporters.

"If we had 100 fighters in Syria, now they will be 200. If we had 1,000, they will be 2,000. If we had 5,000 they will be 10,000. If the battle with these takfiri terrorists requires that I and all Hezbollah should go to Syria, we will go."

Thursday's blast came

a month after a car bomb wounded 50 people in the same district of the Lebanese capital — an attack that Nasrallah also blamed on takfiris, who consider all but the most radical Sunnis to be infidels whose blood can be spilt.

Defence Minister Fayez Ghosn said a Syrian man had been arrested for suspected involvement in

in its neighbours' conflict.

Lebanese Hezbollah fighters helped Assad's soldiers retake a strategic border town in June, while Sunni Muslims from Lebanon have joined the rebel ranks. The violence has spilled back into Lebanon, with bombings and street clashes in the Bekaa Valley and Mediterranean cities of Tripoli and Sidon.—Reuters



A boy tries in a new car during the 2013 Nanjing Auto Expo in Nanjing, capital of east China's Jiangsu Province, on 16 Aug, 2013. Many parents took children to visit the Expo. —XINHUA

African envoys seek solutions to rampant poaching

NAIROBI, 18 Aug—African Ambassadors accredited to Kenya began a two-day retreat at the Tsavo National Park in the southwest of Kenya on Friday to assess the impact of poaching in the East African nation.

The retreat, organized by Kenya's Mission to the UN Office at Nairobi (UNON), is intended to increase awareness of poaching and its negative impact on the country and region's prosperity and heritage.

"The retreat is part of a programme developed by the African Ambassadors where they travel regularly to different parts of Kenya and contribute to socio-economic projects," said a statement from Kenya's ministry of foreign affairs.

The retreat comes after conservationists have warned that poaching could eliminate elephants in the next 10 years unless measures are undertaken to curb this crisis.

Protecting Kenya's 38,000 elephant herd is both an ecological and economic imperative. Kenya has been identified as one of the leading transit routes for smuggling ivory out of Africa, with several incidents of ivory seizures and recovery of wildlife carcasses in recent days.

Kenya Wildlife Service (KWS) estimates that more than eight tonnes of raw and worked ivory have been seized since 2009. The

demand for ivory in the Far East has attracted criminal cartels to Kenya, who are feeding the insatiable demand.

Conservationists warn that unless the demand is extinguished, poachers will wipe out Africa's elephants.

The retreat whose theme is "Poaching and Prosperity The Challenges and Opportunities of Protecting Elephants and Rhinos" is expected to build synergies among the African representatives for the development of a common African position on poaching, particularly in elephants and rhinos.

"This is intended to help start a process in which African countries collectively increase their engagements with regional and global enforcement agencies in order to enhance the effectiveness of anti-poaching efforts," the statement said.

The Ambassadors, who also serve as their countries' Permanent Representatives to UNEP, will be taken through the challenges of poaching faced in Kenya, which are similar to the experiences of other African countries.

Professor Judy Wakungu, Cabinet Secretary for Environment, Water and Natural Resources spoke on the policies and mechanisms the Government has adopted to address the poaching crisis in the country.—Xinhua

Colombian rebel chief willing to shake president's hands

BOGOTA, 18 Aug — The top leader of the Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia (FARC) insurgent group, Rodrigo Londono Echeverri, said on Friday he would like to "shake hands" with President Juan Manuel Santos, despite the president having ordered his destruction.

Londono is better known by the nom de

guerre "Timoleon Jimenez" or "Timochenko."

Londono indicated in an interview aired on Friday by local media that he was looking forward to that moment once an agreement is reached between the government and the rebels to end five decades of armed conflict, but dismissed the possibility of a meeting between the two before on-

going peace talks conclude with a peace deal.

"If we reach a peace accord that is socially just, rest assured that from the oldest guerrilla fighter to the newest, they are going to back it," said Londono, promising that the rebels will lay down their weapons once a peace deal with the government is signed.

Still, Londono said he

was concerned by Santos' recent order to have him and other rebel leaders killed, while the two delegations continue to negotiate an end to the fighting.

"It's worrisome that Santos believes that to make progress at the talks in Havana, our bomb-felled bodies must be laid out on the negotiating table," Londono said.—Xinhua

Zuma's government pulls out of commemoration for mine killings

MARIKANA, 18 Aug — South Africa's ANC government pulled out at the last minute from a memorial ceremony marking the anniversary of the nation's bloodiest post-apartheid labour violence, drawing attention to the dominant party's loss of support among many mineworkers.

President Jacob Zuma's government had

planned a unifying day of prayer and reflection to commemorate the killings by police last year of 34 striking platinum workers at Lonmin's Marikana mine. The deadliest incident of its kind since the 1994 end of white-minority rule, it shocked South Africans and the world.

But just hours before the planned commemora-

tion went ahead on Friday at the mine northeast of Johannesburg, a government spokeswoman said no one from Zuma's government would appear. More than a dozen seats for cabinet ministers on the main stage were empty when ceremonies started.

Zuma, who faces an election next year, has come under fire from critics over the government's clumsy handling of what has come to be known as the "Marikana massacre", including questions over alleged police brutality.

The Marikana killings were among 60 deaths during a wave of illegal strikes and labour violence in the country's mines that started last year and spilled over into this year. The violence helped trigger credit downgrades for Africa's biggest economy and dented the image of the ANC government.

Zuma's ruling ANC said it would not participate in Friday's memorial because the event was being organized by a Marikana support group, which includes the hardline Association of Mineworkers and Construction Union (AMCU).

"We are not participating in this activity," ANC spokesman Ishmael Mnisi told Reuters. "People are taking advantage of a tragedy for their own political benefit."

Reuters

Bus plunges off cliff in Bolivia, killing 10, injuring 25

LA PAZ, 18 Aug — At least 10 people were killed and another 25 injured Friday when a passenger bus plunged into a ravine more than 100 meters deep in southern Bolivia, according to a preliminary report by transit authorities.

The bus belonging to the San Lorenzo company was traveling along the road linking the departments (states) of Cochabamba and Tarija when it plummeted off the ridge near Falda La Quenua, 50 kilometres from Tarija's capital.

The driver of the bus reportedly lost control of the vehicle before it veered off the road at around 9 am local time (1300 GMT), the report said.

The head of Tarija's Transit Department, Angel Mantilla, said rescue teams were searching for the bodies of the victims and attending to the injured.

A caterpillar tractor was being used to retrieve the bus from the bottom of the ravine, he added.

Several passengers were quoted by local radio stations as saying the driver had fallen asleep at the wheel.—Xinhua



Forensic inspectors examine the site of a car bomb that occurred on Thursday in Beirut's southern suburbs, on 16 Aug, 2013.—REUTERS



Crosses are placed at a hill known as the "Hill of Horror", during the one-year anniversary commemorations to mark the killings of 34 striking platinum miners shot dead by police outside the Lonmin's Marikana platinum mine in Rustenburg, 100 km (62 miles) northwest of Johannesburg, on 16 Aug, 2013.—REUTERS

PERSPECTIVES

Monday, 19 August, 2013

An important correlation

Because of raindrops all the plants grow and thrive well on Earth the only planet in this Universe that harbors life. Monsoon turns the environment green, with plants blossoming colorful flowers and bearing fruits sweet or sour. From a single plant and a single flower to forested areas and dense jungles rain is their life blood.

What's more, rains not only benefit the plants, but also the whole world supplying water for crops and supporting life on Earth. Rain is a blessing for flora and fauna and also for the mankind.

Fundamentally, more trees mean more precipitation. Rains support trees and vice versa. So there is correlation between trees and rains as they are relying on each other.

Beyond doubt, a place where trees flourish possesses a favorable climate. On the other hand an area with fewer trees is exposed to natural disasters like droughts and floods and even to desertification. In fact, forest depletion invites these disasters. Experts say that forest areas are dwindling at a rate of one acre per second while the damage rate is at 57 million acres per year. That's alarming.

Firewood requirements, burning forest for certain reasons and industrial invasion are some of the main sources of daily forest depletion which never comes alone but always with a more evil companion—global warming. The worst is that long-term forest depletion is even harming ecosystem.

As trees benefit mankind, we all are responsible for their existence and safety. We must avoid all acts including firewood cutting and forest burning that destroy trees. As there is correlation between trees and precipitation, rain will come as long as we have thriving forests. So, let's always protect and preserve this important correlation.

President U Thein Sein attends hoisting of golden umbrella atop Laygyun Manaung Pagoda...

(from page 1)

Also present on the occasion were Sagaing Zeyathein Pali Tekkatho Monastery Sayadaw Agga Maha Pandita Bhaddanta Paññasiri, Rector of ITBMU Sayadaw Bhaddanta Dr Nandamalabhivamsa and Dean of Patipatti Department Dhammaduta Sayadaw Professor Dr Ashin Çhekinda and



President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar U Thein Sein donates a diamond orb to a Sayadaw.—MNA

members of the Sangha, Chief of the General Staff (Army, Navy and Air) General Hla Htay Win, Union ministers U Aung Kyi, U Soe Maung, U Hla

wellwishers.

Pagodas and stupas in Mandalay and Sagaing Regions were struck by an earthquake on 11 November 2012. Therefore, the Union government, region government and people rebuilt and renovated the damaged pagodas and stupas. At that time, Laygyun Manaung Pagoda, 122 feet high, was also damaged in the earthquake.

At present, wellwishers led by Dhammaduta Sayadaw Professor Dr Ashin Çhekinda and local people has renovated the pagoda and held the golden umbrella hoisting ceremony.

Yesterday evening, the President and party paid homage to Maha Muni Buddha Image in Mandalay and applied gold foils on the Buddha Image.—MNA



Union Election Commission Chairman U Tin Aye offers pennant-shaped vane to a Sayadaw.

MNA

Union Industry Minister tours industries in Magway, Padaung Tsps

NAY PYI TAW, 18 Aug—Union Minister for Industry U Maung Myint yesterday morning heard reports on number of trainees and creating of job opportunities presented by the deputy principal of Automobile Technical Training School in Magway Industrial Region in Magway Region.

The Union Minister stressed the need to produce air bag system of automobile and viewed theoretical and practical works of trainees and teaching aid.

At No 13 Heavy Industry (Magway), the Union minister met the industry manager and officials and called for expanding the market of the product and

informing the people of the products through media. He then looked into production process of the industry and displays of heavy turbo trucks and gear boxes.

The industry manufactures about 1000 heavy turbo trucks and 500 truck gear boxes per year.

On arrival at No 23 Heavy Industry (Nyaungchedauk) in Padaung Township, the Union minister stressed the need to manufacture the

products depending on market demand. He said that it is necessary to manufacture the products in quality and quantity while trying to penetrate

the market.

The Union minister inspected production of machine tools, transformer, PVC wire, power cable and copper cables.—MNA



You see, countdown to the SEA Games is just 114 days.

Exactly! And it's a rare opportunity for us.

So, we must grab this opportunity well, while embracing every duty of the host and making preparations to serve as a responsible and hospitable host!

Cartoon Tha Byay

LOCAL NEWS

Mandalay Chief Minister visits Kuthodaw Pagoda



MANDALAY, 18 Aug—Mandalay Region Chief Minister U Ye Myint, accompanied by Region Minister for Forestry and Mines U Than Soe Myint, visited Mahalawkamara in Kuthodaw Pagoda at the foot of Mandalay Hill in Aungmyethazan Township on 13 August and inspected the maintenance tasks.

They also viewed the star-flower plants aged more than 100 years and urged the Director of Region Forest Department, the district deputy commissioner, the township administrator and members of Pagoda Board of Trustees to keep them alive. They also viewed round the sanitation and greening tasks in the precinct of the

pagoda. Stone inscriptions of Tipitaka developed by King Mindon have attracted more tourists. The chief minister called for maintaining the pagoda carefully as it has attracted more and more tourists. MMAL-Tin Maung (Mandalay Sub-Printing House)

Compensations presented to families of 14 missing seamen



YANGON, 18 Aug—Big Trans Shipping MV Harita Bauxite granted compensations to the 14 Myanmar seamen who had gone missing on 16 February 2012. Nine officers and seamen who could be rescued received the compensation of one-month salary. According to a survived seaman, they would receive

insurance about a year later as well. Families of the missing seamen accepted the compensations at the ceremony. The ship sunk after an engine failure in the sea. Two out of nine survived seamen were injured in the incident as the ship went afloat in the sea before sinking. Compensation for one missing seaman has been granted on 26 July. MMAL

insurance about a year later as well. Families of the missing seamen accepted the compensations at the ceremony. The ship sunk after an engine failure in the sea. Two out of nine survived seamen were injured in the incident as the ship went afloat in the sea before sinking. Compensation for one missing seaman has been granted on 26 July. MMAL

Spending over US\$ 1.6 million on socio-economic development contract signed

MANDALAY, 18 Aug—The contract signing ceremony of 2013 socio-economic projects by Myanmar-China oil and gas pipeline project was held at the oil and gas control station beside Yangon-Mandalay Highway in Amarapura Township on 16 August afternoon. Officials of SEAGP and SEAOP Companies and the companies which will implement 33 items of socio-economic development project signed the agreements. In the project, SEAGP Company will provide assistance for 18 tasks and

SEAOP Company, 15 tasks along its pipeline areas in Shan and Rakhine States and Mandalay and Magway Regions. Shwe natural gas project and Myanmar-China natural gas pipeline project have been completed by cent per cent. Natural gas is being transported as of 28 July. Oil pipeline has so far been completed by 95 per cent. A total of 400 million cubic-feet of natural gas of 500 million is being transported to China daily and 100 million cubic-feet of natural gas is being distributed to 20 cubic-feet million for Kyaukpyu, 57 million for Taungtha and 23

million for Yenangyoung for domestic consumption. In 2013-2013 fiscal year, US\$ 1,654,264 will be spent on 33 items of socio-economic development in the nation. The fund will be allotted to the pipeline area including nine schools and two orphanages in Shan State, two schools, two orphanages, two tube-wells and one village electrification in Mandalay Region, four schools, one school road, one inter-village road and one village dispensary in Rakhine State, three schools, one village dispensary and one building for home for the aged in Magway Region. Kyemon



Educative talks on insurance given

LOIKAW, 18 Aug—An educative talk on insurance was organized in Dimawhso Township General Administration Department in Loikaw District in Kayah State on 9 August. State in Charge of Kayah State Internal Revenue Department Daw

Aye Aye Myint briefed on the background history of Internal Revenue Department, insurance policies, available insurances and rules and regulations of insurance. The establishment of the department dated back 1952. Similar educative

talks on insurance were held in Fruhso on 16 August and will continue to be held in Bawlake, Pasawng and Mawchi in October, according to Kayah State Internal Revenue Department. MMAL-Kyee Myint Naing (Loikaw)

Health

MMA organizes extempore contest in commemoration of International Youth Day

YANGON, 18 Aug—Myanmar Medical Association Youth Development Programme

organized an extempore contest on youth and migration with the support of the United Nations

Population Fund and other UN agencies at Dolphin Restaurant in Natmauk street in Yangon on 12 August.



It was held in commemoration of International Youth Day and aimed at disseminating youth education. Ms Janet Jackson, Resident Representative of United Nations Population Fund, and Professor U Kyaw Myint Naing, Chairman of Myanmar Medical Association (Central) gave speeches. The paper reading sessions and the extempore

contests are yearly held to mark the International Youth Day. The chairman said it would boost the reading habits of the young people and widen their horizons. He said the information obtained in the sessions would contribute to the better future of the young people. It was participated by 250 young delegates. The Myanmar Medical Association is working in cooperation with UNFPA to distribute the reproductive health knowledge, teenage reproductive health knowledge and humanitarian aids. A youth development programme of UNFPA features a youth reproductive health project. MMAL-Sagawah

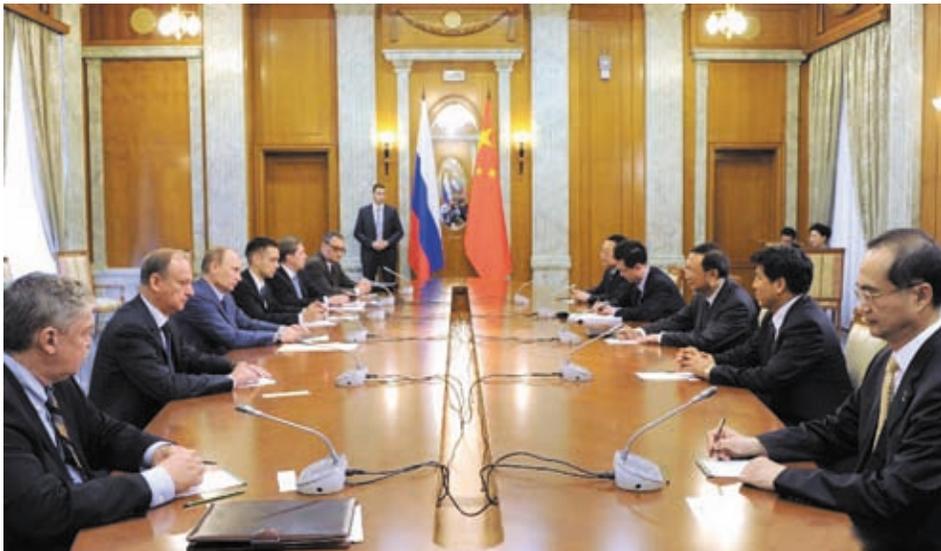
Finance

Revenue shared to Yangon City Development Committee's Fund

YANGON, 18 Aug—Internal Revenue Department in Ahlon Township in Yangon Region presented 5% share of taxes collected from residents in the township to the Yangon City Development Committee at its office on 12 August.

Head of Township Internal Revenue Department U Nay Lin Aung presented K 5,982,152 as tax to Assistant Manager of Township Development Affairs Committee U Maung Maung Oo. MMAL

China, Russia vow to strengthen strategic ties



Russian President Vladimir Putin (3rd L) meets with Chinese State Councilor Yang Jiechi (3rd R) in Sochi, Russia on 16 Aug, 2013. —XINHUA

SOCHI, (Russia), 18 Aug—Russian President Vladimir Putin met visiting Chinese State Councilor Yang Jiechi here on Friday, with both sides pledging to deepen their strategic ties.

Putin asked Yang to conveyed greetings to his Chinese counterpart Xi Jinping, noting that he and Xi had agreed to lift the Russia-China relationship to a new level.

Russia has the will and confidence to work with China to fully implement bilateral relations development

plans, keep close contact at top levels, and deepen pragmatic cooperation, strengthening coordination on international affairs, and safeguard global and regional peace and stability, he added.

"I'm eagerly expecting President Xi Jinping's visit to Russia next month for the Leaders' Summit of the Group of Twenty to be held in St. Petersburg and a meeting with him," Putin said, adding that they will exchange views on major international and regional issues and further push for-

ward major programmes of cooperation.

The two countries will continue joint efforts and contribute to a successful summit of the Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO) which is to be held in Bishkek, Kyrgyzstan, so as to safeguard regional security and stability, and promote common development among SCO member states, Putin said. Yang hailed Xi's state visit to Russia in March, during which the two heads of state set layout of bilateral ties.—Xinhua

Six killed, 30 wounded in separate attacks in Iraq

BAGHDAD, 18 Aug—At least six people were killed and 30 others wounded in separate violent attacks in Iraq on Friday, police said.

A roadside bomb exploded near a popular playground in the Gazaliya area in western Baghdad, killing five people and injuring 17

others, a police source told Xinhua on condition of anonymity.

Also one person was killed and six others were wounded when a roadside bomb went off near some shops in the Syidiya area in southwestern Baghdad, the police source said.

Seven policemen were

wounded when a roadside bomb targeted their patrol in Samurra, some 120 km north of Baghdad, he added.

Iraq is witnessing its worst eruption of violence in recent years, which raises fears that the country is sliding back to the full-blown civil conflict that peaked in 2006 and 2007,

when monthly death toll sometimes exceeded 3,000.

The UN Assistance Mission for Iraq recently reported that over 1,000 Iraqis were killed and more than 2,300 wounded in acts of terrorism and violence in July, the deadliest month in more than five years.

Xinhua



Syrian refugees who fled the violence in Syria, are seen at Arbat refugee camp, in the northern Iraqi of Province Sulaimaniya on 21 July, 2013.—REUTERS

according to the UNHCR which has urged all neighboring countries to keep open their borders to Syrians needing international protection.

The border between Syria and Iraq has been

largely closed since authorities of the Kurdish regional government shut the crossing on 19 May, apart from a single formal crossing point at Al-Wahid in Anbar Province.

Reuters

Syrian refugees pour into Iraq at new crossing, UN says

GENEVA, 18 Aug—Thousands of Syrian refugees poured into the Kurdistan region of northern Iraq on Thursday, taking advantage of a new bridge along the largely closed border, the United Nations said on Friday. Between 5,000 and 7,000 refugees followed a first group of some 750 people who crossed the pontoon bridge at Peshkhabour over the Tigris River, and more buses were seen dropping off families on the Syrian side, it said.

"Thousands of Syrians crossed into northern

Iraq yesterday (Thursday) in a sudden, massive movement," Adrian Edwards, spokesman of the UN High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), told a news briefing in Geneva.

Most were families with women, children and the elderly, mainly from Aleppo, Hassakeh and other embattled areas of Syria where fighting has intensified in the civil war, now in its third year, that has driven nearly 2 million refugees abroad. There are already more than 150,000 Syrian refugees registered in Iraq,

Israel's Livni sees peace talks aiding Arab world alliance shift

JERUSALEM, 18 Aug—Israel's top peace negotiator said on Friday newly resumed talks with the Palestinians also held a wider opportunity for Israel to seek alliances with Arab world moderates against militants in the Middle East.

The US-brokered talks were renewed last month after a three-year stand off, the latest session on Wednesday coming a row over new plans by Israel to expand its enclaves in territory Palestinians want for a state.

The sides have provided little detail about the talks, hoping a lower profile may help them reach Washington's ambitious goal of reaching a deal for Palestinian statehood in nine months, despite wide gaps over key issues.

Livni, speaking after a meeting about the negotiations with visiting UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon on Friday, declined to say whether any progress had been made.

She said the talks have provided an opening "not only to relaunch negotiations but also to change the

allies and alliances in the region."

"I believe there are parts in the Arab world that for them relaunching the negotiations can be an opportunity to support this and to work together against the extremists," she added, alluding to the turmoil in Egypt and Syria's civil war.

Palestinian President Mahmoud Abbas said at a meeting with Ban on Thursday, the negotiations with Israel had thus far dealt with "all the final status issues" but that it was "too early to say whether we've accomplished anything or not."

The Arab League, Jordan and Egypt's military-led government that deposed Muslim Brotherhood rulers last month have welcomed the resumption of peace talks, also with backing from the Arab League whose 2002 peace initiative remains on the table for possible recognition of Israel after the dispute is resolved.

Israel has peace treaties with two Arab countries, Egypt, signed in 1979 and Jordan, in 1994 but remains technically at war with much of the Arab world since the conflict over Israel's founding in 1948.—Reuters



Israel's Justice Minister Tzipi Livni arrives for talks with chief Palestinian negotiator Saeb Erekat and US Secretary of State John Kerry at the State Department in Washington, on 30 July 2013.

REUTERS

Ukraine mulls complaint to WTO over blocked exports to Russia

KIEV, 18 Aug—The Ukrainian government intended to decide by Monday whether to ask the World Trade Organization (WTO) to rule Russia's blocking of its products, local media reported on Friday.

"We will prepare a clear plan of action by Monday, but I can say it will definitely include such an option," Economic Development and Trade Minister Igor Prasolov told reporters.

He said that from now on all the certified Ukrainian products will undergo examination by domestic laboratories before they cross the Russian border.

Kiev has no plans to hamper imports from Russia, he said, adding that the two sides have not conducted official negotiations on the trade tensions yet.

The Russian Customs

Service stopped all Ukrainian imports on Wednesday for new and time-consuming checks on all Ukrainian cargoes. Restrictions that Moscow slapped on Ukrainian products left scores of trains and trucks queued at the border.

Ukraine's Federation of Employers has sounded the alarm bell, saying that Russia's move could incur losses up to 2.5 billion US dollars in the second half of this year.

Ukraine's exports to Russia in the second half of this year were expected to worth 8.5 billion dollars.

Analysts believe escalated trade tensions between Ukraine and Russia were waged by Moscow to discourage Kiev from signing a cooperation pact with the European Union scheduled for November.

Xinhua

WORLD



The 80 bridesmaids and a couple of page boys form the shape of a heart for the wedding of Katie Dalby, 26, a dance teacher and Norman Gooch, 37, a firefighter in Harwich, Essex. Dance teacher Katie Dalby picked all her pupils from Katie's Boogie Shoes Dance Academy to be bridesmaids aged two to 17, three sisters-in-law, a niece, a cousin and her best friend at her wedding.—XINHUA

Families clash in SE Turkey over land dispute, eight killed

ANKARA, 18 Aug — An armed clash between two families in southeastern Turkey on Saturday killed eight people and seriously wounded nine others, private *Dogan* news agency reported.

The incident took place in the Ciftlibahce Village of Hazro town, Diyarbakir Province, when members from the two families exchanged fire over a land dispute.

An investigation into the incident has been launched, the report added. On 27 July, eight people were killed and four others wounded in an armed clash caused by a land dispute between two families in the same province. — *Xinhua*

Chinese Vice Premier meets Cambodian King, OCA president

NANJING, (China), 18 Aug — Chinese Vice Premier Liu Yandong met here with Cambodian King Norodom Sihamoni and Sheikh Ahmed Al-Sabah, the President of the Olympic Council of Asia (OCA), respectively on Friday.

During the meeting with King Sihamoni, Liu extended warm welcome to him for attending the opening ceremony of the second Asian Youth Games in Nanjing and spoke highly of his efforts to further enhance the traditional friendship between China and Cambodia. Liu said that

Cambodian police arrests 4 suspects for distributing anti-government pamphlets

PHNOM PENH, 18 Aug — Cambodian authorities have arrested four people for producing and distributing hundreds of leaflets, aiming at inciting weapon violence to topple the government, a statement from the spokesman for the National Police said on Saturday.

“The arrest was made on Thursday when the suspects were producing and distributing hundreds of leaflets, appealing to armed forces to use weapons to overthrow the government,” said the statement.

“This action is a criminal offence that will be punished based on the Penal Code, and it is not the legal rights and freedom or political activity,” it said.

The Phnom Penh Municipal Police has sent the four suspects including

two females to the city's court for legal action.

“Making and distributing such leaflets is an intentional activity to create weapon violence and to cause serious social instability; thus, the perpetrators will be punished in accordance with the law in effect,” the statement said.

According to the statement, the suspects had given out those pamphlets at the behest of Suon Serey-ratha, president of the Khmer People Power Movement, which is a US-based, self-described “civil political movement” against the Cambodian government.

Suon Serey-ratha, who is currently living overseas, used to mobilize illegal armed forces and is wanted by Cambodian police for inciting criminal conduct.

Cambodia has been

Lifting self-defence stricture won't lead to military action

TOKYO, 18 Aug — Defence Minister Itsunori Onodera said on Saturday that lifting Japan's self-imposed ban on exercising the right to collective self-defence would not lead to overseas military deployment of Self-Defence Forces.

“We will never go to other countries for military actions,” Onodera said in a Tokyo Broadcasting System Television programme.

Japan “will also determine by itself if it should exercise the right to collective self-defence,” even if requested to do so by other countries, he added.

The remarks come as the government of Prime Minister Shinzo Abe plans to review its interpretation of the war-renouncing Constitution to pave the way for Japan to exercise its right to collective self-defence.

So far Tokyo has taken the position that while Japan has the right to come to the defence of an ally under armed attack, it cannot exercise the right because of the limits imposed by the country's pacifist Constitution.

Onodera said, “It would be extremely difficult under the current interpretation

to address a case in which a US warship deployed to protect Japan were to come under attack on the high seas,” apparently stressing the need to promote debate on the plan.

The plan has come under fire not only from opposition parties, such as the Japanese Communist Party and the Social Democratic Party, but also the New Komeito party, the junior coalition partner of Abe's Liberal Democratic Party, on the grounds that it will allow Japan to use force overseas.

Kyodo News



Readers select books in a Eslite Bookstore in Taipei, southeast China's Taipei, on 12 Aug, 2013. Eslite was established in Taipei in 1989 with a focus on art and humanities-related books. Now Eslite has a total of 43 branches, attracting locals and tourists.—XINHUA

Philippines suspends hunt for ferry disaster survivors; 32 dead, 170 missing

CEBU, (Philippines), 18 Aug — Worsening weather and sea conditions on Saturday forced the Philippines to suspend a search for survivors of a ferry disaster that killed at least 32 people and left 170 missing, authorities said.

The ferry sank on Friday after a collision just outside the central port of Cebu with a cargo vessel owned by a company involved in the world's worst peacetime maritime disaster nearly 30 years ago.

Divers will resume searching early on Sunday, Transportation Secretary Joseph Emilio Abaya told a news conference in Manila, after heavy rain brought by a typhoon and low pressure had reduced visibility at sea almost to zero.

“Diving operations stopped because of weather conditions,” Abaya said, adding that 661 of the 831 passengers and crew on the ferry had been accounted for. With 32 dead and 629 rescued, there are 170 missing. Just 17 of the dead have been identified.

“But we've got information that some bodies have been recovered, and we expect the number of missing to decrease, and we expect the casualties to increase.”

Many of the survivors were sick from swallowing oil and seawater, disaster officials said.

Scores, sometimes hundreds, of people die each year in ferry accidents in the Philippines, an archipelago of 7,100 islands with a notoriously poor record for maritime safety. Overcrowding is common, and many of the vessels are in bad condition.

The 40-year-old ferry was approaching Cebu late in the evening when it was struck by the departing cargo vessel, the Sulpicio Express 7, leaving two huge holes in the latter's bow. The ferry sank in minutes, about a kilometre off Cebu.

Small planes and helicopters also scoured the waters and coastal areas of Cebu island for survivors, officials said.—*Reuters*

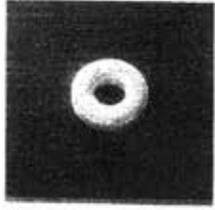


Participants compete in the 2013 Pokemon World Championships in Vancouver, Canada, on 10 Aug, 2013. This is the first Pokemon World Championship held in Canada. During the three-day event, players competed in various age categories for prizes such as scholarships, game expansion packages, travel funds and Pikachu championship trophy.

XINHUA

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(For. Domnern Somgiat & Boonma, Attorney at Law, Thailand)

Dated 19 August, 2013.

10 killed in Morocco after truck falls into river

RABAT, 18 Aug—Ten people were killed and 26 others injured on early on Friday after a truck drove off a bridge and plummeted into a river near the city of Chichaoua in central Morocco, local MAP news agency reported.

Among the injured, 14 are in serious conditions, said the report.

The accident occurred when the truck driver lost control of the vehicle when trying to overtake a taxi.

Morocco's roads are rated among the most dangerous in Africa, with accidents claiming 4,200 lives in 2011, according to the Transportation Ministry.

Xinhua

Nearly 100 trapped in central China floods

CHANGSHA, 18 Aug—Nearly 100 people in central China's Hunan Province have been trapped due to torrential rain that started hitting the province two days ago, local authorities said.

The trapped are from four villages in Lanshan County in the city of Yongzhou, according to the municipal government.

Precipitation in the past 36 hours has reached nearly 400 mm in some areas in the county. Water levels on the Shunshui River, which runs near the county, are above safe levels, the local government said.

Armed police and firefighters have been dispatched to rescue the trapped villagers.

Xinhua



People walk on a waterlogged road in Huadian City, northeast China's Jilin Province, on 16 Aug, 2013. Eleven people were killed and three others went missing in a flood that inundated a residential compound in Hongshi Township in the city of Huadian on Friday. Northeast China has been hit by the biggest floods in decades this summer.—XINHUA



A rider shoots on horse during the annual horse racing festival in the village of Dagdong, Doilungdegen County, southwest China's Tibet Autonomous Region, on 15 Aug, 2013.—XINHUA

Syrian rebels kill 11, mainly Christians, in checkpoint attack

BEIRUT, 18 Aug—Syrian rebels killed at least 11 people, including civilians, in an attack on a checkpoint west of the city of Homs on Saturday that official state media described as a massacre.

Most of those killed were Christians, activists and residents said. Some were from the National Defence Army, a militia which fights alongside President Bashar al-Assad's soldiers, and others were civilians, they said.

"Terrorists today committed a massacre, killing 11 people ... in Homs countryside," the state news agency SANA quoted an official as saying.

The Syrian Observa-

tory for Human Rights said rebel gunmen had attacked the checkpoint, killing five militia fighters and six civilians, including two women. It said the rebel fighters had also sustained losses.

A resident who visited the site of the overnight attack said he saw the remains of a destroyed checkpoint and two civilian cars nearby, whose passengers may have been caught up by chance in the fighting.

He said the checkpoint had been used as an artillery base to bombard the rebel town of Hosn, about 2 km (1 mile) away, which lies below the towering Crusader castle Crac des Chevaliers.

Many Christians flee-

Passengers escape death after airline engine catches fire in Ghana

ACCRA, 18 Aug—All passengers of a local airline in Ghana, Antrak Air escaped death after one of the engines of the airplane flying to Accra caught fire above ground immediately it took off at the Tamale Airport in northern Ghana on Friday morning.

This had caused one of the fans of the plane to stop functioning, compelling to make force landing to save the lives of the passengers, local media quoted Charles Nyaaba, one of the passengers on

the plane, as saying.

Frightened passengers prayed and screamed while the pilot steered the faulty airplane to land and save their lives, he said.

The airline is yet to comment on the incident but is expected to issue a statement on the incident soon.

A similar incident occurred last year when an Antrak Air plane travelling from Tamale to Accra nearly caught fire while it was about to take off.

Xinhua

German tourist killed in Venice gondola crash

ROME, 18 Aug—A German tourist was killed and his three-year-old daughter seriously injured when a gondola carrying them on Venice's Grand Canal collided with a ferry on Saturday.

The man appeared to have been crushed between the two boats near the historic city's famous Rialto bridge, a spokesman for Venice's fire brigade said.

The little girl suffered a head injury and was taken to a hospital in Padua for treatment, he added.

Reuters

Reuters

ENTERTAINMENT

Is Jennifer Lopez Simon Cowell's secret messenger?



Simon Cowell has gone incognito after the news of his relationship with Lauren Silverman surfaced.—PTI

LOS ANGELES, 18 Aug — Music mogul Simon Cowell is reportedly taking Jennifer Lopez's help to communicate with socialite Lauren Silverman, who is expecting his baby.

Cowell has gone incognito after the news surfaced about his relationship with Lauren, who is still married to businessman Andrew Silverman. "She and Lauren have met at least twice.

There have been quite a few phone calls between the two," *Sunday Express* newspaper quoted a source as saying.

"Lauren has come to regard Jen as her only lifeline to Simon. The arrangement has taken a lot of stress out of her situation. Jen has assured her Simon would never, ever leave her and their unborn child out to hang," a source added.

Lopez sympathises with Lauren's situation. "While Jen isn't altogether comfortable playing sob sister, she's come to understand how worried Lauren is and let her know she will continue to be there for her," a source said.

PTI

Mark Wahlberg wants to play Iron man



The actor wants to take over the franchise from Robert Downey Jr.—PTI

LOS ANGELES, 18 Aug — Actor Mark Wahlberg says he wants to take over

the role of Iron Man from Robert Downey Jr in the future.

The 42-year-old actor revealed that he almost starred in a Batman film and now he seems enthusiastic in filming Iron Man in which the title role is currently played by Downey Jr, reported *Ace Showbiz*.

"I would like to take over the Iron Man franchise for Robert Downey. But it's one of those things where I kind of like playing real people, so I've never been asked," he said. "Once I was kind of being talked about for the Robin role in *Batman Forever*," he added.

PTI

Akshay Kumar: I do movies according to market demand

NEW DELHI, 18 Aug — Bollywood superstar Akshay Kumar says his choice of films is dictated by the market demand and he does not mind playing regular action-comedy roles. Last year, the 45-year-old actor dominated the screens with his masala entertainers *Housefull 2*, *Rowdy Rathore*, *Joker*, and *Khiladi 786*. Akshay's previous movies *Desi Boyz*, *Tees Maar Khan*, *Khatta Meetha* and *De Dana Dan* were also in the comedy genre.

"Such films were running so what should I do! You have to do sometimes what people like. I do feel the need to change but I have to see what the

market wants. Whatever the demand is the product has to be the same. It is not my choice," Akshay said.

The actor seemed miffed to be asked about choosing similar looking roles lately but said he is breaking the mould with *Special 26* and his upcoming film *Once Upon A Time in Mumbai Dobaara!* where he is playing a negative role after his 2001 release *Ajnabee*. "It felt amazing to take out the gun and keep it on the hero's head. For the first time I got an opportunity to do that. I

about the film is that it has a hint of dark humour which wasn't there in the first part," he said. Akshay revealed that the makers have kept the film's ending open, hinting at a part three to the franchise.

"I think the producers want to make a part three so I run away in the end and don't get beaten up by the hero. They have kept the ending open. I don't know if there are any plans but if it happens I will surely be back."

His three films in the past have made it to the 100 crore club, which has

'Free Willy' actor August Schellenberg dies aged 77

LOS ANGELES, 18 Aug — Actor August Schellenberg, best known for playing Native American roles in films such as "Free Willy" and "The New World," has died after battling lung cancer, his manager said on Friday. He was 77. Schellenberg died at his home in Dallas on Thursday, manager Alan Mills said. The actor's family has not yet made arrangements for his funeral.

The Montreal-born Schellenberg was half Mohawk and half Swiss-Ger-



August Schellenberg, a cast member in the HBO film "Bury My Heart at Wounded Knee," arrives at the premiere of the film in Los Angeles, on 10 May, 2007 file photo.—REUTERS

man, and played a whale trainer in 1993's "Free Willy," reprising the role for the sequels. He also played Chief Powhatan in Terrence Malick's 2005 film "The New World," alongside Christian Bale and Colin Farrell. Schellenberg appeared in numerous television shows, most recently in "SGU Star-gate Universe" in 2011, and was nominated for a supporting actor Emmy award in 2007 for his role in HBO TV movie "Bury My Heart at Wounded Knee."—Reuters

Shah Rukh Khan: Rajinikanth likes 'naughty' Lungi Dance

MUMBAI, 18 Aug — Superstar Shah Rukh Khan was elated when Rajinikanth called him up and praised the "naughty" num-

ber *Thalaiva* tribute (*Lungi Dance*), a special track in honour of the legendary actor in *Chennai Express*.

"He (Rajinikanth) called

me three days back and he saw the video on YouTube. He said it's very good, very naughty, very sweet. He said, 'It's really nice that you have

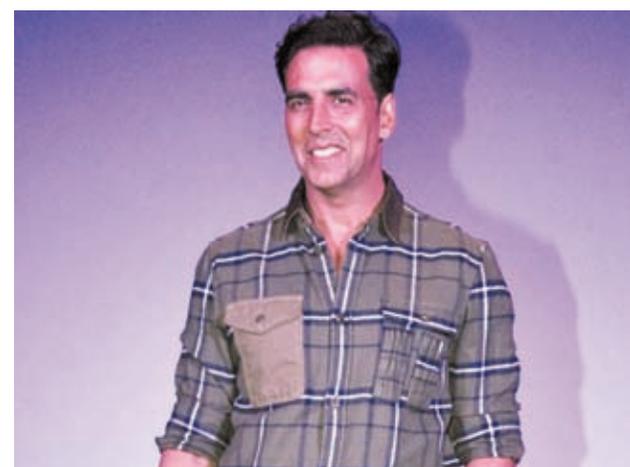
done this song'. I'm very happy that Rajini sir is happy with the song and the family is happy," Shah Rukh said. The 47-year-old actor said that he called Rajinikanth and his daughter Soundarya, and took his permission for the song, sung by rapper Yo Yo Honey Singh.

"As gracious, humble and sweet he is, he said, 'Why are you doing it, sir? You are such a big star yourself'. He said it so sweetly. I told him, 'I am sending you the song and please let me know how do you like it'. We shot the song in a day-and-a-half," said Shah Rukh.

"I thought the timing is good. If you don't pay a tribute to Rajini sir in a film called *Chennai Express*, then it is incomplete," he added. Directed by Rohit Shetty, *Chennai Express* also features Deepika Padukone.—PTI



The song is a tribute to Rajinikanth and has been sung by rapper Yo Yo Honey Singh.—PTI



Akshay dominated the screens with *Housefull 2*, *Rowdy Rathore*, *Joker*, and *Khiladi 786* last year.—PTI

honestly enjoyed it," Akshay said. A sequel to 2010 hit *Once Upon A Time In Mumbai*, the movie sees Akshay take on the role of Shoaib Khan, previously played by Emraan Hashmi. There were reports that Shoaib's role is inspired by Dawood Ibrahim but the actor denied any similarity between the real and the reel don.

"The characters are fictitious and it has no relation with any living person. It is a fictions and romantic story set in the backdrop of underworld. The good thing

become the new criteria for a Bollywood hit but Akshay is not worried about the business this time. "What will the result be? I can't say whether it will be a hit or a flop. But as an artiste you are very proud of some films and this is that one film for me. There are few films which I don't keep in my DVD collection but of *OuatimD* I can keep two copies." Directed by Milan Luthria and also starring Sonkashi Sinha and Imran Khan, *OuatimD* hits the theaters on 15 August.

PTI

SPORTS

Williams to face Azarenka for Cincinnati crown



CINCINNATI, 18 Aug—World number one Serena Williams fought her way to a 7-5, 7-5 win over defending champion Li Na to reach the final of the Western and Southern Open on Saturday and close in on one of the few titles to elude her.

The 31-year-old American can fill that hole in her resume on Sunday when

she takes on Belarusian world number two Victoria Azarenka, who was a 4-6, 6-2, 6-3 winner over 2009 champion Jelena Jankovic of Serbia.

Williams, who has been critical of her performance in Cincinnati despite making it to the final for the first time, was not at her dominating best against Li

but it was a good enough effort to put herself in line for a \$1 million bonus.

Her appearance in Sunday's final combined with a win last week in Toronto has put Williams at the top of the US Open Series bonus challenge and sends her to Flushing Meadows with a chance to compete for the largest payout ever awarded at the year's final grand slam.

Williams can pocket \$3.6 million, with the million-dollar bonus supplementing the \$2.6 million cheque for winning the women's singles at the US Open.

In a career that has generated 54 singles titles including 16 grand slams, Williams has won just about everything there is

to win in her sport but Cincinnati, one of the WTA Tour's most prestigious tournaments, is not among them.

"I definitely would not have predicted myself being in the final here at all," said Williams, who will be chasing a career-high ninth title in a single season on Sunday.

"I came in here not playing my best and then now I'm in the final. It's just almost weird."

"It was definitely a little scratchy but I was able to get through. I just tried to stay positive. "When I was down, I just got really relaxed and I felt like, you know, Serena, you don't really have much to lose. So just kind of relax and get through it."—Reuters

Nadal to meet Isner in Cincinnati final

CINCINNATI, 18 Aug—Rafa Nadal continued his perfect run on the North American hardcourts taming Czech Tomas Berdych 7-5, 7-6 (4) at the Western and Southern Open on Saturday to setup a final showdown with big-hitting American John Isner.

Earlier, unseeded Isner had blasted his way into the final with a 6-7 (5), 7-6 (9), 6-3 marathon win over Argentine Juan Martin Del Potro.



atically different look from what tennis fans might have hoped with the ATP Tour's 'big four,' world number one Novak Djokovic, number two Andy Murray, number three Nadal and five-time Cincinnati champion Roger Federer all featuring in the last eight.

But after a day of upsets that saw only Nadal survive, the partisan crowd still had plenty of reason to cheer as Isner carried the US flag into the semi-finals picking up his first career win in five tries

Problems for Wenger after openingday Arsenal defeat

LONDON, 18 Aug—An opening-day Premier League defeat, a growing injury list and the weight of an unspent transfer kitty hang heavily over Arsenal as they head into Wednesday's Champions League playoff clash with Fenerbahce.

Arsenal suffered a shock 3-1 home defeat by Aston Villa on Saturday, finding themselves unable to capitalise on Olivier Giroud's early goal as Christian Benteke scored twice and full back Antonio Luna grabbed a debut goal for the visitors.

Matters were made worse by injuries to Kieran Gibbs, after a clash of heads with Andreas Weimann, Alex Oxlade-Chamberlain, who came off second best in a challenge with Luna, and Bacary Sagna, Tomas Rosicky and Aaron Ramsey.

Influential midfielder Mikel Arteta is already out for around six weeks with a thigh problem while injuries kept Nacho Monreal, Thomas Vermaelen and Abou Diaby out against Villa.

Despite having up to 70 million pounds (\$109.29

million) to spend on new players, Arsenal have only brought in French youth international striker Yaya Sanogo in the close season.

Manager Arsene Wenger has also seen high-profile pursuits of Gonzalo Higuain, Luis Suarez and Luiz Gustavo, who made a strong debut for German club VfL Wolfsburg on Saturday, fall through.

Wenger again said he would splash some cash before the transfer window shuts on 2 September but fans at the Emirates Stadium made their feelings clear with calls of "spend

some money".

Should they lose the two-legged playoff against Fenerbahce and miss out on the Champions League for the first time, attracting big-name talent will become even harder.

Wenger acknowledged there were issues ahead of the first leg in Istanbul.

"It's a big disappointment to lose a game like that because we prepared well, apart from the fact the players were away on international duty," he told the club website (www.arsenal.com).

Reuters

Bolt completes sprint double with ease

Moscow, 18 Aug—Usain Bolt completed yet another crushing sprint double on Saturday and hardly needed to extend himself to achieve it as he took his third successive world 200 metres title in the year's fastest time of 19.66 seconds — easing down.

Fellow Jamaican Warren Weir improved on his Olympic bronze by taking silver in a personal best 19.79 from lane eight while Curtis Mitchell won bronze for the United States in 20.04, just preventing another Jamaican podium sweep as he beat Nickel Ashmeade by a hundredth of a second.

"When I entered the straight, I felt tired, my legs felt a little heavy. And my coach told me not to push too hard if it was possible, so I backed off a little," Bolt said.

"The 200m is my favourite event so this victory is very important for me. The atmosphere at the stadium was wonderful tonight.

"My goal is to defend (for a second time) my titles at the next Olympics as it hasn't been done before by anyone. And this world championships is a stepping stone towards that goal."

Bolt, the world record holder with his 19.19 from Berlin four years ago, won the 100 metres last weekend having completed the sprint double twice at the Olympics and also in the 2009 world championships.

He was always in command from lane four on Saturday and halfway round the opening bend he loomed over diminutive British teenager Adam Gemili in lane five like an ocean going liner swamp-



ing a dinghy, before disappearing into the distance.

After a slow start to the season when he was hampered by injury, Bolt has been on an upward curve in the last few weeks and his 19.73 in Paris six weeks ago was the fastest time of the year before Saturday's race.

American Tyson Gay, who ran 19.74 in June and was the last man to beat Bolt in a global 200 when

he won the 2007 world championships, was unable to challenge him again in Moscow having failed a doping test.

After winning the 10 metres gold Bolt will hope to complete another hat-trick in the 4x100m relay on Sunday, when gold would draw him level with American trio Allyson Felix, Carl Lewis and Michael Johnson with eight world titles.

Reuters

Rebounding nicely from a shock first round upset at Wimbledon, Nadal

has been in sizzling form picking up his 58th career title last week in Montreal while extending his hardcourt winning streak to 14-0 with a run to the final in Cincinnati. A win on Sunday in his first Cincinnati final would give the third ranked Spaniard his ninth title of the year and leave him the red-hot favourite heading into the US Open which begins on 26 August in Flushing Meadows. "It's a very nice feeling," said Nadal. "For me, this one is a tournament that I never was able to play very well.

"I said last week, in Cincinnati I never felt that I was playing well and this year the situation is different. "I am having the right feelings on court. I'm playing aggressive."

Nadal had the only break of a tight opening set to take the first set off the Czech in Cincinnati and grab a 1-0 lead. In the second, Berdych, battling to end a run of 13 straight losses to the Spaniard, broke to go up 4-2 only to watch Nadal break right back and go onto take the tiebreak (7-4) and the match.

A contest between the towering 6-foot, 10-inch (2.06m) Isner and the 6-foot, 6-inch (1.98m) Del Potro was always going to be a bruising baseline battle and the match more than lived up to predictions as the two giants slugged it out for 2 hours and 47 minutes. The semi-finals had a dra-

against the seventh seeded Argentine.

Isner, who delivered the biggest shock of the quarter-finals toppling Djokovic, has traditionally saved his best for the home crowd with 13 of the his 15 career ATP Tour final appearances coming in the US and he proved once again to be a crowd pleaser pounding 23 aces past his opponent.

Since retiring in the second round at Wimbledon with a left knee injury Isner has been in sizzling hardcourt form putting together a 15-3 match record while picking up his seventh career title in Atlanta followed by a runner-up finish in Washington. "I've been winning a lot of matches this summer but I feel like this tournament here is where I'm really starting to put it all together," Isner told reporters. "No offence to the other guys I've beaten prior to this but like you just said, I've beaten three top-10 guys in a row. "I have been playing well, really in pretty much all facets of my game.

"There's definitely some stuff I can always improve on, but I do think I'm playing well." In a tight opening set that failed to produce a break, it was Del Potro taking the initiative winning the tiebreak 7-5. The 2009 US Open champion had looked poised to end the contest in two sets serving for the match at 5-4 only to double-fault on match point opening the door for Isner.

The 28-year-old American seized his chance but it was not easy needing five set points before clinching the tiebreak 11-9.—Reuters

GENERAL



Contestants in waiter dress take part in a race to cover a distance of 1.8 km carrying a tray with water-filled glasses and bottles — without running and liquid spilling — in Geneva, Switzerland, on 11 Aug, 2013.—XINHUA

Iran has 18,000 uranium centrifuges, says outgoing nuclear chief

DUBAI, 18 Aug—Iran has installed 18,000 uranium-enrichment centrifuges, the country's outgoing nuclear chief was quoted as saying by Iranian media on Saturday. The US and its Western allies are pressing Iran to curb its uranium enrichment programme, which they suspect is aimed at developing a nuclear weapons capability, but Iran refuses and insists its nuclear activity is for purely peaceful purposes.

New Iranian President Hassan Rouhani, a former nuclear negotiator who oversaw a previous deal to suspend Iran's uranium en-

richment, has welcomed new talks with world powers over the programme but has insisted on Iran's right to enrich uranium. Iran has 17,000 older "first-generation" IR-1 centrifuges, of which 10,000 are operating and 7,000 are ready to start operations, the ISNA news agency quoted Fereydoon Abbasi-Davani, outgoing head of the Atomic Energy Organization of Iran (AEOI), as saying. A May report from the UN nuclear watchdog indicated that Iran had by then installed roughly 16,600 IR-1 machines in two separate facilities. Abbasi-Davani also said there were

1,000 new, more advanced centrifuges ready to start operations, in a reference to IR-2m centrifuges, which once operational would allow Iran to enrich uranium several times faster than the IR-1 machine. The IAEA in its last report in May said Iran had installed a total of 689 such centrifuges and empty centrifuge casings. Rouhani on Friday appointed Ali Akbar Salehi, Iran's previous foreign minister, to take over the AEOI. Salehi, who once headed the agency, is seen as a pragmatist, as opposed to the more hardline Abbasi-Davani.—Reuters

A veteran salutes during the National Peacekeepers' Day ceremonies at the Peacekeeping Monument in Ottawa, Canada, on 11 Aug, 2013. The National Peacekeeping Day is an official remembrance day for Canadian veterans of military peacekeeping, marked on August 9 every year but observed on the closest Sunday.—XINHUA



Mexico captures leader of cocaine-trafficking Gulf Cartel

MEXICO CITY, 18 Aug—Mexican security forces on Saturday caught the leader of the cocaine-trafficking Gulf Cartel, the second major gang boss capture in just over a month as President Enrique Pena Nieto fights cartel violence.

Mario Ramirez Trevino, known as X-20 or "The Bald One," was captured in Mexico's northern Tamaulipas state on Saturday morning, according to a government statement.

The government said it would give more information

about Ramirez' capture at a news conference on Sunday.

Ramirez had not long been the leader of the Gulf Cartel, whose former boss Jorge Costilla, alias "El Coss," was caught in

September. The Gulf Cartel's power has waned in recent years in a feud with Mexico's most brutal gang, the Zetas, which began life providing protection to the cartel's operations in north-eastern Mexico.

The US government had offered a \$5 million bounty for Ramirez, as Washington

says his cartel controls most of the cocaine and marijuana trafficking to the United States from Matamoros in Tamaulipas state. Mexico's marines last month arrested the leader of the Zetas, Miguel Angel Trevino, a few miles (km) from his hometown of Nuevo Laredo on the US border. More than 70,000 people were killed during former president Felipe Calderon's six-year offensive against drug cartels and over 6,000 have died since Pena Nieto took office in December.—Reuters

MYANMAR TV

(19-8-2013, Monday)

- | | |
|--|--|
| 6:00 am | 2:35 pm |
| 1. Paritta By Venerable Mingun Sayadaw | 19. Performance by State Traditional Orchestra |
| 6:20 am | 3:00 pm |
| 2. Physical Exercise | 20. News |
| 6:30 am | 3:15 pm |
| 3. Song & Dance of National Races | 21. Teleplay (Forest) |
| 6:40 am | 4:00 pm |
| 4. Documentary | 22. News/Weather Report |
| 7:00 am | 4:15 pm |
| 5. News/Weather Report | 23. Song & Dance of National Races |
| 7:20 am | 4:25 pm |
| 6. People Talks | 24. University of Distance Education (TV Lectures) -First Year (Law) |
| 8:00 am | 4:45 pm |
| 7. News/International News | 25. Documentary (SEA Games) |
| 8:25 am | 5:00 pm |
| 8. SEA Games Go For Gold (Woshu San shou) | 26. News |
| 8:50 am | 5:15 pm |
| 9. Teleplay (Health) | 27. Sweet Songs For You |
| 9:00 am | 6:00 pm |
| 10. News/International News | 28. News/Weather Report |
| 9:20 am | 6:20 pm |
| 11. Cartoon Series | 29. Teleplay (Htar) |
| 9:50 am | 7:00 pm |
| 12. TV Drama Series | 30. News |
| 10:00 am | 8:00 pm |
| 13. News | 31. News/International News/Weather Report |
| 10:15 am | 8:35 pm |
| 14. TV Drama Series | 32. People Talks |
| 11:00 am | 8:45 pm |
| 15. Documentary (ASEAN) | 33. Documentary |
| 11:10 pm | 9:00 pm |
| 16. New Melody | 34. News |
| 12:00 pm | 9:00 pm |
| 17. News/International News/Weather Report | 35. Hit Songs of Stars |
| 12:25 pm | 36. India Drama Series |
| 18. Myanmar Movies | |

MYANMAR INTERNATIONAL

(19-8-13 09:30 am ~ 20-8-13 09:30 am) MST

- * Local News
- * Taung Byone Nat Festival (Episode-4)
- * World News
- * Intricate Myanmar Silver Art
- * Local News
- * Home Grown Treasure (Part-1)
- * World News
- * Great Shwedagon-The Historic Bells
- * Local News
- * Diverse National Costumes & Their Fashion Trend (Episode-3)
- * World News
- * Beauties of Makyee Island (Island of Tamarind Tree)
- * Local News
- * Journey To Unimaginable Spots (Episode-6)
- * World News
- * The Night of Hearthrob Pho Chit
- * Local News
- * Taung Byone Nat Festival (Episode-3)
- * World News
- * The Beauty of Stylish Myanmar Dress
- * Local News
- * A Worth Studying Site For Ancient Myanmar Heritages
- * World News
- * Pagoda Forest in Pa-O Land
- * Local News
- * Shwe Kyet Yet-Shwe Kyat Kya's Boat Race Festival
- * World News
- * Pyin Oo Lwin Sweater
- * Local News
- * A Oasis Trip to Mt.Popa
- * World News
- * Colonial Buildings and New Yangon

Swiss horn blowers blast away world record on mountain

GORNERGRAT, (Switzerland), 18 Aug—More than 500 Alpine horn players blew away the world record for the largest ensemble of people playing the instrument on Saturday in the Swiss region of Zermatt, home to the Matterhorn mountain.

The musicians, clad in traditional Swiss costume, gathered on the Gornergrat ridge, more than 3,000 metres (10,000 feet) above sea level, to perform a piece specially composed for their wooden horns.

The 508 players broke a record set in 2009, when

366 musicians took part in a concert. The instrument, known as an alphorn and traditionally used for herding animals, can be up to four metres long. It has to be propped up on the ground and its player usually has to stand up to sound it because of its size.—Xinhua



People pose for photos with the sand sculpture during the 81st Annual Great Sand Sculpture Contest in Long Beach, California, on 11 Aug, 2013. XINHUA

English Language Competition for colleagans kicks off

NAY PYI TAW, 18 Aug—The Central Level English Language Competition for Students from Universities, Degree Colleges and Colleges opened at MICC here at 8 am today with an address by Union Minister for Education Dr Mya Aye.

Speaking on the occasion, the Union Minister said that English language competitions like essay, impromptu talk, round-table and debate competitions are held in the respective universities every semester.

Today's English language competition is more challenging than the previous one as it consists of three kinds of competition; essay, impromptu talk and round-table discussion. Under the rule of the competition,

the contestants must take part in all three kinds of competition.

A total of 16 postgraduate students and 24 undergraduate students are going to take part in this central level competition.

In this competition all contestants have to compete in three kinds of essay, round-table discussion and impromptu talk in English. They must answer the questions by four judges—one from the British Council and three from Australia.

Sky Net TV channel broadcasts this competition held today and tomorrow's live. Winners' demonstration and awarding ceremony will be held at 3:30 pm tomorrow.

MNA



Union Minister Dr Mya Aye views competition of the contestants.—MNA

MMPE, MMS hold talks over censorship principles, rules

YANGON, 18 Aug—To seek ways for encouraging creation and making attractive movies, Myanmar Motion Picture Enterprise and Myanmar Movies Society held a meeting, focusing on censorship principles and rules for films and videos at the MMPE's head office here today.

Deputy Minister for Information U Paik Htwe and responsible personnel of Myanmar Motion Picture Enterprise and Myanmar Movies Society attended the meeting.

Out of 10 censorship principles and rules of the film and video censorship board, four have been relaxed and the remaining ones are being considered and advised based on art creation since December 2011.

ULU Min, Chairman of Myanmar Movies Society, declined the fact that the society would protest against the board if it

tightens the censorship principals and rules.

He also stressed the importance of the voices of the people and called for freedom and accountability in creating films and videos.

During the meeting, film directors and responsible personnel discussed facts found when films and videos were censored and ways for encouraging artistic creativity in making films and videos.

The participants of the meeting also discussed the closed cooperation and coordination with trust between the Myanmar Motion Picture Enterprise and Myanmar Movies Society.—MNA

Artistes of IISY cultural troupe from Indonesia entertaining the audience with dance during Myanmar-Indonesia Joint Cultural show.

MNA

Build trust, understanding among faiths

YANGON, 18 Aug—Organized by Myanmar Muslim entrepreneurs, Eidul Fitr Get-Together dinner party was held at Strand Hotel on Strand Road yesterday evening, with an address by Union Minister for Religious Affairs U Hsan Hsint.

At the dinner, the Union minister requested mutual respect, trust and understanding among all faiths and urged those present to oppose the religious extremists. It was attended by Pyithu Hluttaw Deputy Speaker U Nanda Kyaw Swa and wife, Region Chief Minister U Myint Swe, Region Hluttaw



Union Minister U Hsan Hsint speaking at Eidul Fitr Get-Together dinner party at Strand Hotel in Yangon.—MNA

Speaker U Sein Tin Win, the ambassadors, region

ministers, departmental officials and religious leaders

from Interfaith Friendship Group.—MNA

Fertilizer Factory No 5 needs to send fertilizer to farmers timely

NAY PYI TAW, 18 Aug—Union Minister for Energy U Zeyar Aung inspected Fertilizer Factory No.5 of Myanma Oil and Gas Enterprise in Kanyidaunt Township on 16 August, calling for making efforts for running the factory at full capacity.

During the visit, the Union minister urged responsible personnel of the factory to make more efforts for transporting

fertilizer to farmers before the cultivation season and for achieving standard quality of the product of the factory.

He also inspected the production process of the factory and measures for safety at the work site.

During his tour of inspection, the Union minister also visited the Paper Factory (Thabaung) of Myanmar Paper and Chemical Industries under the Ministry

of Industry and assisted in making arrangements for getting the factory up and running again.

In the evening, the Union minister went to

the Liquefied Natural Gas Factory (Nyaungdon) and inspected the control room and LNG storage tanks and fulfilled the requirements.

MNA



Union Minister for Energy U Zeyar Aung at No.5 Fertilizer Factory in Kanyidaunt Township.—MNA

Police arrest a man who robbed a French tourist

NAY PYI TAW, 18 Aug—A French tourist Ms. Amilic Schaitt (23yrs) was robbed of her belt pulse by a Myanmar citizen near Hsulaygon pagoda on NyaungU-Bagan Myothit motor road in No. 7 Wetgyiinn Ward in NyaungU Township on 3 August evening. In the incident, the French tourist got injured in her left eye, neck and left hand and one passport, US\$ and Myanmar currency notes, one credit card and air ticket were taken away. With regard to the case, the owner of View Point guest house opened a file at NyaungU Myoma police station. NyaungU District police force members in cooperation with members of Tourist Security Police

squad investigated the case and arrested Ye Min Soe (a) Myo Min Oo, north Meelaungphyar village in MraukU Township who committed the crime at the junction on Bagan Myohaung-Chauk road. According to investigation, Ye Min Soe found the tourist near Hsulaygon pagoda and struck her three times and robbed of her belt pulse on 3 August. He found US\$ 234 in the pulse and exchanged US\$ 134 with Myanmar kyats with the help of his friend Ma Cho Nwe. The police force members seized one credit card near a place about one mile from the crime scene. It is reportedly that the case is under investigation to take action against Ye Min Soe (a) Myo Min Oo.—MNA

Myanmar-Indonesia joint cultural show performed

YANGON, 18 Aug—In commemoration of 68th anniversary Independence Day of the Republic of Indonesia, Myanmar-Indonesia Joint Cultural show was held at National Theatre on Myomakyaung Street, here, this evening.

First, Union Minister for Culture U Aye Myint Kyu and Indonesian Ambassador to Myanmar Mr. Sebastianus Sumarsono extended greetings.

The teachers and students from National Culture and Fine Arts University and IISY cultural troupe from Indonesia entertained the audience with dance and songs during show.

Afterwards, Dr Daw Khin Swe Myint, wife of the Union Minister, and the wife of Indonesian ambassador presented a flower basket to the artistes.

MNA

