

President meets Myanmar artistes in Yangon

NAY PYI TAW, 12 July — President U Thein Sein met with Myanmar artistes Saturday in Yangon and donated money for veteran professionals from the country's entertainment industries.

During the meeting at the Myanmar Peace Centre at Shwe Li Road in Kamayut Township, U Thein Sein urged the artistes to contribute their efforts in the development of the country, saying, "Fashions and styles of the famous artistes could influence other people, including me. Therefore, characteristics of those celebrities could lead the ways of living for our citizens."

He added the government will support with a 20-acre land plot for the construction of a movie studio in PyinOoLwin in the Mandalay Region to promote the Myanmar motion picture industry.

The president also pledged that loans will be



President U Thein Sein friendly greets Myanmar artistes from music, dancing and acting in Yangon.—MNA

given for joint production of movies with foreign companies.

U Thein Sein also noted the government will ensure strict law en-

forcement against copycat crimes on VCDs as such counterfeiting, which are problems for the entertainment industry.

He then urged the

artistes to play "model roles" for national unity through their entertainment programmes.

The president also gave K3 million to three

representatives of the motion picture, music and dramatic arts industries at the event attended by more than 100 artistes.

MNA

INSIDE

A & I Minister, agricultural experts visit modern cultivation plots

PAGE-3

Construction starts on Infinity Condo in Yangon

PAGE-3

Mandalay chief minister receives Japanese delegation

PAGE-3

Women have vital role to play, contributing unique skills and leadership to the country's development

By Khaing Thanda Lwin

YANGON, 12 July — C HtamZi, Ruth Khin Aung and Nay Moe Sett won the song composition contest for advancing opportunities for women, each taking home K600,000 on Saturday at the prize awarding ceremony in Yangon.

Organized by Oxfam in Myanmar and Women's Organizations Network-WON, the contest was aimed at putting women's rights at the heart of all people.

"The project helps women to realize their potential by raising awareness and promoting their role in leadership and decision-making," Stephanie de Chassy, associate country director of Oxfam in Myanmar, said.

"Women have a vital role to play, contributing unique skills and leadership to the country's de-

velopment. They must not be left out if Myanmar is to reach its full potential," she added.

Winner Ruth Khin Aung said women must be placed in decision-making positions without delay.

According to a survey, women are facing significant barriers to positions of leadership across all levels of society.

Thirty-three composers participated in the contest in February and the judges chose three winners, two of them women, said composer Myint Moe Aung, adding that he worried about the women participants, but he saw their quality was better than the men.

Famous vocalist Sung Thin Par said women have their own rights. The right to make decisions for our own life is essential for all

women and women must be cautious.

The government and other decision-makers need to prioritise and ensure budget is provided for the national Strategic Action

Plan for the advancement of women, and to establish and implement a strong Anti-violence against Women Law, according to the press release of Oxfam and WON.

Recordings of the winning songs will be available for FM radio stations to broadcast to the public, and at the end 2014 a music concert will be held in Yangon, Nay Zin Latt,

NLM



Award-winning Myanmar women pose for a group photo together with representatives of Oxfam Myanmar and Women's Organizations Network.—PHOTO: KHAING THANDA LWIN

France helps Mandalay urbanization

MANDALAY, 12 July—The Mandalay City Development Committee has entered an agreement with France's Ministry of Economy, sources said.

The agreement was signed at MCDC's office on 10 July. Under the agreement, France will provide assistance in garbage disposal, transportation services and water supplies.

Reports said French FASED (SAFEGE) will offer an aid of US\$1.3 million for urban development projects in Mandalay.

The Asia Development Bank (ADB) and the Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) are reported to have been providing financial assistance and technical skills for the same reason.

Thiha Ko Ko (Mandalay)

Wi-Fi connection retrieved at Meiktila District Information and Public Relations Office

MEIKTILA, 12 July—Free Wi-Fi Internet connection has been got back at the District Information and Public Relations Office here.

A staffer said: "People can use free Wi-Fi Internet connection at our district office. We have set up ADSL internet though we used Sky Net internet in the past, upgrading from 1 megabyte to two megabytes for better connection."

Visitors to the Meiktila District Information and Public Relations Office can use their laptops, mo-

bile phones and tablets to browse internet launched by the office.

Chanthar (Meiktila)

Pale Township municipal committee repairs bridge

PALE, 12 July—Municipal committee of Pale Township, Sagaing Region, is repairing a bridge with the estimated cost of K3 million.

The renovation of wooden bridge with 50 feet-width, 15 feet-length and 10 feet-height is expected to complete by

20 July.

U Myint Wai, a member of Pale Township municipal committee, said: "The bridge is located across the Shwe U Daung creek, and the renovation works were started on 30 June. We have finished 75 percent of construction works."

Carpenter U Shwe of this bridge said: "Residents in this area are using this bridge for their education, health and social matters. At the completion of renovation works, the bridge will be safer for the people."

Myint Thein Soe (IPRD)



Primary schools promoted to middle ones in West Bago



A primary school in Swetaw village is promoted to a middle school.—MNA

BAGO, 12 July — Primary schools in Pantaung Township of Pyay District, Bago Region were promoted to middle schools on Thursday.

The extended middle schools in Swetaw model village and Nga Sal Pay villages were set up with more facilities to accom-

modate the increasing number school children.

The school buildings were opened by regional minister for the National Planning and Economy, officer of township administration department and district education officer.

Aung Myint (042)



A primary school in Nga Sal Pay village is opened as a middle school after being promoted.—MNA

Mandalay takes measures to prevent landslides



MANDALAY, 12 July—Five villages from three townships in Mandalay took preventive measures against possible landslide in case the Ayeyawady River swells, sources said.

According to reports, the villages spent nearly two billion kyats, with the Union Government and the regional government pumping their funds into the natural disaster prepar-

edness.

Similar prevention measures against landslide were taken in other nine villages, spending 1,406 billion kyats.

To ensure the clear

waterways in the river, the Union Fund contributed 458 million kyats to building training banks and dredging the river.

Maung Pyi Thu (Mandalay)

NATIONAL

Rakhine State Chief Minister donates Waso robe to monks in Rakhine State

SITTWAY, 12 July—Rakhine State Chief Minister U Maung Maung Ohn and wife together with departmental officials donated Waso robes and offertories to the monks on Friday in Sittway of Rakhine State.

The Chief Minister also donated day meal to the monks after supplicating the religious affairs to the Abbot.—*State IPRD*

Rakhine State Chief Minister U Maung Maung Ohn offers Waso robes and monastic items to Sayadaws.



A & I Minister, agricultural experts visit modern cultivation plots

NAY PYI TAW, 12 July— Union Minister for Agriculture and Irrigation U Myint Hlaing, agricultural experts and farmers on Saturday visited the modern cultivation plots here.

Rector of Yezin Agricultural University, director generals, teachers from agricultural institutes and farmers from the nearby townships witnessed the cultivation plots under the programme of 'One Village One Product'.

A foreign expert from Big-M company, U Zaw Min Tun of the Green and Fresh Company and U Ye Myint Maung of Myanmar Bell Company explained the cultivation of most demanded crops in foreign markets.



Union Minister for Agriculture and Irrigation U Myint Hlaing inspects the crop yields at a modern cultivation plots.—MNA

The Union minister and the visitors viewed the crops at the modern cultivation plots.

U Myint Hlaing then urged the agricultural experts to provide support to the farmers. He also suggested to promote the role of private firms in agricultural sector of the country.

MNA

Mandalay Chief Minister receives Japanese delegation

MANDALAY 12 July—Mandalay Region Chief Minister U Ye Myint on Saturday received a Japanese delegation led by Kozoyamamoto, an official from the Nippon Koei Co., Ltd and a member of the House of Representatives of Japan and Secretary General of Japan-Myanmar Friendship Parliamentary League at the office of regional government.

The meeting was attended by regional agricultural minister U Myint Than, social welfare min-

ister Dr Win Hlaing and government officials.

Both sides discussed the creation of job opportunities through cultivation of herbal plants, economic development programmes, and production of medicines from herbal plants.

The Mandalay region Chief Minister, the government officials and the Japanese delegates also discussed manufacturing and distributions of medicines by using modern technologies.

Tin Maung (Mandalay)

English language proficiency course for teachers opened in Mandalay

MANDALAY 12 July—Regional Chief Minister U Ye Myint on Saturday delivered a speech at the English language proficiency course for teachers launched at the No (16) State High School of Mandalay.

The Chief Minister said that a good education could help the activities of government and will have direct effects on daily lives of the people.

English language efficiency of teachers could promote the qualities of students, he said.

U Ye Myint also urged the teachers to develop modern teaching methods



Mandalay Region Chief Minister U Ye Myint and teachers gather for a group photo at the opening of English Language Proficiency Course.—MNA

with the awareness on the changing trend in education sector.

Ambassador U Thit Linn Ohn presents Credentials to President of PRC

NAY PYI TAW, 12 July — U Thit Linn Ohn, Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar to the People's Republic of China, presented his Credentials to His Excellency Mr. Xi Jinping, President of the People's Republic of China, on 8 July in Beijing.

MNA

Construction starts on Infinity Condo in Yangon

NAY PYI TAW, 12 July — A stake-driving ceremony for construction of Infinity Condominium by KHG Development took place on Kaba-Aye Pagoda Road in Bahan Township, Yangon on Saturday.

It was attended by Union Minister for Commerce U Win Myint, Yangon Region Chief Minister U Myint Swe and ministers and

officials.

During the ceremony, responsible persons of KHG Development donated K 10 million to be used in education, health and social sectors of the region to the Yangon Region government.

Upon completion, the 28-storey condominium will have 148 apartments.—MNA

Mandalay region govt donate Waso robes to monks

MANDALAY, 12 July—The ceremony to donate Waso robes to the Buddhist monks was held at the office of regional government on Friday.

A total of 15 monks, including Sayadaw Bhaddanta Sasana Bhivamsa, the leading monk of Mya Taung Monastery, attended the ceremony.

Chief Minister U Ye

Myint, Speaker of Regional Parliament U Win Maung and government officials observed nine moral precepts delivered by Bhandanta Arinda Bhivamsa of Maha Vijitron Monastery.

Then the devotees donated alms-foods to the monks, and shared the merits of meritorious deeds.

Tin Maung (Mandalay)

The three-month course is attended by 180 teachers from Mandalay

district and PyinOoLwin Township.

Tin Maung (Mandalay)

China's top paper says no place for a 'new cold war' with US

SHANGHAI, 12 July — China and the United States must avoid a “new cold war” in their international relations, China's top newspaper said on Saturday, in the wake of high level talks in Beijing between senior leaders of the world's two largest economies.

China and the United States agreed on Thursday to boost military ties and counter-terrorism cooperation during annual talks in Beijing, but there was little immediate sign of progress on thorny cyber-security or maritime issues.

“Both China and the United States realize that today's world has already undergone profound changes, and there is no longer a market for a “new cold war”, the *People's Daily*, the ruling communist party's official paper, said in a commentary.

It was published

Thailand's expected reform council to represent 11 groups

BANGKOK, 12 July — Thailand's national reform council, which is expected to start operation in October, will consist of 250 members to represent 11 social groups, the military junta leader said on Friday.

Each of the 11 groups will nominate 50 candidates while 76 other representatives will be chosen from 76 provinces, and then the 626 people will vote among themselves to fill the 250 seats in the council, Prayuth Chan-ocha said in his weekly televised address.

The voting has to comply with the condition that the 11 groups will be represented in the council, the chief of the National Council for Peace and Order (NCPO) stressed. Prayuth also said an interim charter that was expected to be promulgated this month would have 50 articles.

The charter will balance the power of the NCPO and an interim government that will take shape in September, he said.

The NCPO will stay on to handle security affairs while the government will be in charge of administering the country, he said.

Xinhua



A member of staff from Chinese government adjusts US and Chinese national flags before a news conference for the 6th round of US-China Strategic and Economic Dialogue at the Great Hall of the People in Beijing, on 10 July, 2014.—REUTERS

under the pen name “Zhong Sheng”, meaning “Voice of China”, often used to give views on foreign policy.

The commentary said

that the gravest risk to relations between the two countries was “misunderstanding”, and called for both sides to strengthen

channels of communication as they looked to shake off a “hazy” period of bilateral relations.

The US Department of

Justice charged a Chinese businessman on Friday with hacking into the computer system of airplane maker Boeing Co and other companies to obtain data about military projects, the latest in a string of spying allegations between the two countries.

The commentary added that complex Sino-US ties were unlikely to get easier to manage any time soon. Positive steps would include boosting bilateral investment, deepening co-operation on environmental issues, strengthening military ties and making travel easier between the two countries.

“If we deal with (the relationship) well, it could benefit both sides. But if we deal with this badly, that could be a slippery slope to terrible competition and even conflict,” the commentary said.

Reuters

Children's deaths spark call for tougher law

BEIJING, 12 July — Experts are calling for legislation and tougher punishment to better regulate school bus services after 11 were killed in an accident in Hunan Province.

“China's school bus safety rules are just administrative regulations, lacking the enforcement power that laws have,” said Yu Yafeng, an education and school safety professor at Beijing Normal University.

“Without sufficient legal clout and adequate supervision, recommended safety protocols, vehicle quality criteria and driver training rules are usually poorly implemented,” Yu added. Eight of the 11 killed in the Hunan accident were kindergartners. They died when the minivan taking them home on Thursday afternoon fell into a pond, near Changsha, capital of Hunan, police confirmed on Friday. The eight-seat minivan, hired by Lelewang Kindergarten in Xiangtan, was carrying 11 people, including a driver and two teachers. The wreck, in a remote, sparsely populated mountainous area was not immediately discovered.

“We thought it would be safe with a teacher taking one or two extra kids,

even though the van was slightly overloaded,” Lelewang Kindergarten teacher Zhou Aicun said on Friday.

An investigation is still underway, but Yuan Dianfan, deputy head of Xiangtan's Yuhu district, said some safety supervision lapses must have played a role.

Since 2010, China has been rocked by several fatal crashes involving modified and often overcrowded vehicles carrying schoolchildren.

Following a series of school bus accidents in 2011, the State Council,

China's Cabinet, released school bus regulations in 2012, setting standards on such matters as vehicle safety equipment, driver certification and service qualifications.

But those regulations have not always been strictly heeded, said Wang Jingbo, a public policy professor at China University of Political Science and Law.

“Most of the serious school bus accidents happened in rural areas, where schools or local authorities have limited budgets for vehicle upgrades. More

government funds must be provided, or third-party service providers encouraged with preferential policies,” Wang said.

In July 2011, a nine-seat minivan carrying 64 kindergarten students and teachers from Zhengning county, Gansu Province, crashed with a truck. Twenty-two passengers were killed. Five months later, a modified bus tumbled into ditch, killing 15 of 47 students from Shouxian Primary School in Xuzhou, Jiangsu Province. Both accidents happened in rural areas.—Xinhua



A kindergarten bus is hauled out of a pond at the mountainous Ganzi Village in the Yuelu District of Changsha, capital of central China's Hunan Province, on 11 July, 2014.—XINHUA

M6.8 quake causes small tsunami on Japan's northeastern shores

TOKYO, 12 July — A strong quake struck off the Pacific coast of Japan's northeast on early Saturday morning, sending small tsunami shoreward in the region that was devastated by huge tsunami after a massive quake in March 2011.

Three people were injured in Fukushima Prefecture, while a total of about 26,000 people in Pacific coastal areas of Iwate and Miyagi prefectures were advised to evacuate following tsunami warnings.

Electric power companies and local officials said there were no reports of any new problems at nuclear power plants in the region including the Fukushima Daiichi plant crippled by the disaster three years ago.

The quake, with a preliminary magnitude of 6.8, occurred at 4:22 am around 140 kilometres east of the coast of Fukushima Prefecture and roughly 10 km underground, the Japan Meteorological Agency said.—Kyodo News

DPRK denounces US, S Korea for joint naval drill

PYONGYANG, 12 July — The Democratic People's Republic of Korea (DPRK) has denounced the United States and South Korea for their planned joint naval exercise in the southern waters off the Korean Peninsula, the official KCNA news agency reported Saturday.

The upcoming drill defies Pyongyang's repeated appeals of late for ending political and military hostilities and improving north-south ties, the KCNA quoted an unnamed spokesperson of the National Defense Commission as saying. “The planned reckless military actions ... are another open challenge to the sincere efforts of the army and people of the DPRK to defuse tension on the peninsula and create peaceful atmosphere,” it said.

Xinhua

WORLD

UN asks Europe to take Syrian refugees as region saturated

GENEVA, 12 July — Europe must open its doors to more Syrian refugees, having welcomed only a “miniscule” number while Syria’s neighbours have reached “saturation point”, the UN refugee agency UNHCR said on Friday.

Syrian refugees, whose numbers are set to pass 3 million in the next few weeks, are almost all in Lebanon, Jordan and Turkey, with smaller numbers in Iraq and Egypt. But that is changing, said UNHCR chief spokeswoman Melissa Fleming.

“The trend is obvious now, they’re moving beyond the neighbouring countries. The neighbouring countries have reached saturation point. And many Syrians are now seeking refuge in Europe and we’re asking Europe to do more.”

In more than 3 years of war, very few Syrians have made it to continental Europe. There have been 123,600 asylum requests, mostly in Sweden and Germany, but that figure includes double counting, since some have asked for



Children, who are internally displaced due to the fighting between rebels and the forces of Syrian President Bashar al-Assad, play inside Al-Tah camp in the southern Idlib countryside on 4 July, 2014. —REUTERS

asylum in several countries.

“Relative to the 2.9 million refugees in the countries immediately surrounding Syria, these numbers are small, in fact they’re miniscule. They represent only 4 percent of Syrian refugees,” Fleming told a news briefing in Geneva.

“Just to put this into perspective, Europe has a population of 670 million people. Contrast that to Lebanon, which has a population of 4.4 million people and has received 1.1 million refugees.”

Syria could potentially produce millions more refugees, since more than 6.5 million people are dis-

placed within the country and there is no end in sight to the war.

Although the European Union (EU) has been a leading donor for the humanitarian aid effort in Syria, some countries on the continent have “terrible” conditions for receiving refugees. Some detain them, and some —

Bulgaria, Spain and Greece — have tried to reject them before they land in unseaworthy boats.

“There was one case in which survivors claim their boat was being turned around by an official boat and in the process of being turned around it capsized and many of the passengers died. This is unacceptable,” Fleming said.

A UNCHR report said that happened near the Greek coast of Farmakonisi on 20 January this year, and 12 women and children from Syria and Afghanistan died.

One country in Europe — Russia — has sent 12 refugees back to Syria, breaking an international law principle that no would-be refugees should be sent back to a place where their life or liberty would be at risk, the report said.

Russia — an ally of President Bashar al-Assad — has not granted refugee status to a single Syrian, although it granted 1,193 temporary asylum requests in 2013, it added.

So far 17 European countries have offered to resettle 31,800 of the most needy refugees, but UNHCR wants the continent to host 100,000 such cases, an average of about 3,000 per country.

Fleming told *Reuters* that European countries should go further and admit everyone who needed international protection and who wanted to come, without specifying a number.

She said most refugees would want to remain closer to home in an Arabic-speaking community.

“Some people, when we offer to resettle them, have turned it down.”

She blamed tabloid newspapers for “awful and distorted headlines claiming that floods of Syrians were about to arrive”.

“We’re asking for other forms of protection which include family reunification, extending student visas, offering scholarships, all kind of different mechanisms that could allow for the admission of more Syrians.”

Reuters

Putin pledges to help Cuba explore for offshore oil

HAVANA, 12 July — Russian President Vladimir Putin pledged to help revive Cuba’s struggling offshore oil exploration on Friday at the start of a six-day tour of Latin America as Russia aims to reassert its influence on the communist-ruled island.

Putin was joined in Havana by close ally and so-called Russian oil czar Igor Sechin, the chairman of state oil company Rosneft, to finalise a deal to explore for oil off Cuba’s northern coast.

The Russian president also promised to reinvest \$3.5 billion of Cuban debt with Russia into development projects on the island, part of a deal in which Russia forgave 90 percent of Cuba’s debt, or almost \$32 billion, most of it originating from Soviet loans to a fellow communist state.

Both measures inject much-needed foreign investment into Cuba and demonstrate an act of defiance against the United States, which maintains a 52-year-old economic embargo that effectively shuts out many Western companies from doing business in Cuba.

“We will provide sup-

port to our Cuban friends to overcome the illegal blockade of Cuba,” Putin said.

Putin’s journey to the back yard of the United States comes as he is under pressure from the West to help restrain pro-Russian separatists in Ukraine and urge them to find a negotiated solution.

Sechin is one of the Russian executives the United States has targeted for economic sanctions over the Ukraine crisis. The United States has blacklisted individuals believed to be part of Putin’s inner circle, and Sechin is among the most influential people in Russia. Putin will also visit Argentina and Brazil for bilateral talks, and while in Brazil he will participate in a summit of the so-called BRICS nations of Brazil, Russia, India, China and South Africa on Tuesday and Wednesday.

On his first stop in Cuba, the Cold War ally of the former Soviet Union situated only 90 miles (145 km) from the United States, Putin met with former President Fidel Castro and current President Raul Castro before receiving the Medal of Jose Marti, Cuba’s highest decoration. —*Reuters*

Ukraine scrambles fighter jets above rebel positions as missile attack resumes

KIEV, 12 July — Ukraine scrambled jet fighters to strike at rebel positions early on Saturday, after separatists resumed missile attacks on government forces near the frontier with Russia, the border guard service said.

In a night of violence in several areas of eastern Ukraine following a missile strike by separatists on Friday that killed at least 23 government servicemen, Ukrainian forces also used artillery to respond to rebel

fire, the military said.

Ukrainian President Petro Poroshenko had pledged to “find and destroy” the pro-Russian rebels responsible for the missile attack at Zelenopillya, which also wounded nearly 100.

At least two more Ukrainian soldiers were killed and about 20 injured on Saturday in a mortar and missile bombardment by the rebels of army checkpoints at Dyakove and Nyzhnoderevechka near

Luhansk, the government’s “anti-terrorist” operation said.

Luhansk, like the main industrial city of Donetsk, is controlled by pro-Russian separatists who set up ‘people’s republics’ in Russian-speaking areas and declared a wish to join Russia in response to a pro-Western revolt in the capital Kiev.

Rebel fighters meanwhile said that Ukrainian fighter planes had carried out air strikes on

Saturday in the eastern town of Horlivka.

“There were a series of powerful explosions. Details are being clarified,” a separatist representative, Konstantin Knyrik, was quoted as saying by Russia’s *Interfax* news agency.

The Grad missile strike on Friday on a motorized brigade at Zelenopillya was one of the deadliest against government forces in three months of fighting since the separatist rebellions erupted following Russia’s annexation of Crimea.

Poroshenko, whose forces had recently seemed to be prevailing over the rebels, said they would pay for the strike in their “scores and hundreds”.

The border guard service in a statement said army and border guard units had again come under missile attack in several areas near the border just after midnight.

“The Ukrainian armed forces returned artillery fire. On the defence minister’s order, fighter jets went up to patrol Ukraine’s air space and be ready to deflect further possible attacks,” it said.

Reuters



Ukrainian army soldier from battalion ‘Aydar’ guards local residents as they leave the village of Metalist near the eastern Ukrainian city of Luhansk on 11 July, 2014. —REUTERS

Iran preparing to start plant needed for interim nuclear deal

VIENNA, 12 July — Iran has taken preparatory action to start up a uranium conversion plant it needs to fulfil an interim nuclear agreement reached with six world powers last year before the accord expires this month, diplomatic sources said.

The launch of the facility would show Teheran's commitment to the landmark on 24 November deal as it holds talks with the United States, Russia, France, Germany, Britain and China on a long-term settlement of the dispute over its atomic aims.

The major powers want Iran to significantly scale back its nuclear programme to deny it any capability to quickly produce atomic bombs. Iran says its activities are entirely peaceful and want crippling sanctions lifted as soon as possible.



European Union Foreign Policy Chief Catherine Ashton (L) and Iranian Foreign Minister Mohammad Javad Zarif wait for the begin of talks in Vienna on 17 June, 2014. —REUTERS

In view of still wide differences in positions, some diplomats and experts believe the negotiations — and the preliminary agreement — may need to be extended. But a spokesman for European Union for-

eign policy chief Catherine Ashton, who leads the negotiations on behalf of the powers, said they remained determined to try to get a comprehensive agreement by a self-imposed 20 July deadline.

"We see seriousness also on the other side," Michael Mann told reporters. "It is difficult, there are still significant gaps, but that is not a surprise. We are talking about very complicated technical issues and also

very complicated political issues. So we are working hard to try to narrow those gaps."

Under the initial accord that runs for six months until 20 July, Iran is supposed to convert a large amount of low-enriched uranium gas into an oxide form that would be less suitable for processing into nuclear bomb material. It was one of the terms of the deal that won Teheran some easing of sanctions.

To be able to do that, it has been building a facility near the central city of Isfahan for turning the gas into powder.

After months of delays, the UN International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) in May said the plant's commissioning had begun, but it was still not operating.

Reuters

Kurds seize Iraq oilfields, ministers pull out of government

BAGHDAD/KIRKUK, 12 July — Kurdish forces seized two oilfields in northern Iraq and took over operations from a state-run oil company on Friday, while Kurdish politicians formally suspended their participation in Prime Minister Nuri al-Maliki's government.

The moves escalated a feud between the Shi'ite-led central government and the autonomous Kurdish region driven by a Sunni insurgency which threatens to fragment Iraq along sectarian and ethnic lines three years after the withdrawal of US troops.

The Kurdish forces took over production facilities at the Bai Hassan and Kirkuk oilfields near the city of Kirkuk, the oil ministry in Baghdad said. It called on the Kurds to withdraw immediately to avoid "dire consequences".

Kurdish forces took control of nearby Kirkuk a month ago after Iraqi troops withdrew in the face of a lightning assault by Islamic State militants, who have seized large parts of northern and western Iraq.

The two oilfields have a combined production capacity of 450,000 barrels per day but have not been producing significant volumes since March when Baghdad's Kirkuk-Ceyhan export pipeline was sabotaged. —Reuters

Russia likely to prolong asylum for fugitive Snowden

MOSCOW, 12 July — Russia will most probably extend former US intelligence contractor Edward Snowden's temporary asylum on the grounds that "his life is endangered", an official close to the country's Federal Migration Service (FMS) was quoted as saying on Friday.

Snowden fled to Russia after leaking details of secret state surveillance programmes and Moscow granted him a year-long

asylum on 1 Aug, 2013, upsetting Washington which wants to try the American at home on charges including espionage.

The presence of Snowden in Russia has strained relations between Moscow and Washington, also at odds over the crises in Syria and Ukraine as well as human rights, security and trade issues.

"I see no problem in prolonging the temporary asylum. The circumstan-

ces have not changed. As before, Snowden's life is endangered so the FMS has grounds to extend his status," Vladimir Volokh, head of an advisory body to the migration authorities, told the *Interfax* news agency.

Russia's Federal Migration service refused to comment and Snowden's Russian lawyer, Anatoly Kucherena, was not available for comment, his assistant said. —Reuters



Protesters hold masks depicting former US National Security Agency contractor Edward Snowden during a demonstration in Berlin on 22 May, 2014. —REUTERS

Erdogan, launching presidential bid, vows 'pioneering new Turkey'



Turkey's Prime Minister and presidential candidate Tayyip Erdogan makes a speech during a meeting to launch his election campaign in Istanbul on 11 July, 2014. —REUTERS

ISTANBUL, 12 July — Tayyip Erdogan outlined his vision for a "pioneering new Turkey" on Friday, pledging to re-write the constitution, forge a

more prominent role on the world stage and deepen democracy if he becomes the country's first popularly-elected president.

Launching his cam-

paign for an August election he is almost certain to win, the man who has dominated Turkish politics for more than a decade cast his bid for the presidency as part of a historic path of change, breaking the shackles of a status quo he said had held Turkey back for decades.

"The old Turkey is in the past now. The gates of the old Turkey are closed. People's will to change has found its voice," Erdogan, 60, told several thousand supporters in an Istanbul conference hall, in a speech lasting almost two hours.

"The new Turkey is a grown, developed and strong Turkey. The new Turkey will serve international peace better ... The

new Turkey will be grand and pioneering," he thundered, his rhetoric characteristically impassioned, if short on detail.

The combative prime minister has endured one of the most challenging periods of his political career, facing down widespread anti-government protests and a corruption scandal over the past year, as well as contending with a deepening security threat posed by chaos in neighbouring Iraq and Syria.

His seemingly inevitable ascent to a presidency he says will be imbued with greater authority by the direct nature of the vote — previous incumbents have been chosen by parliament — has raised fears among

his opponents that his autocratic instincts will only increase.

"The president is head of the family and shouldn't be a man with a stick beating everyone over the head," Erdogan's main challenger Ekmeleddin Ihsanoglu, 70, said late on Thursday as he unveiled his strategy at a markedly more reserved event.

"It's the 21st century. The times of foot whipping are long gone," said Ihsanoglu, a former head of the Organisation of Islamic Cooperation who is the joint candidate for the CHP, the party of Mustafa Kemal Ataturk, founder of the modern secular Turkish state, and of the nationalist MHP.

Two polls late last month suggested Erdogan would comfortably win the election in the first round on 10 August, giving him 55-56 percent of the vote, a 20-point lead over Ihsanoglu, his nearest challenger.

If no candidate wins more than 50 percent in the first round, a runoff vote will be held on 24 August.

Erdogan has made little secret of his desire to create an executive presidency in Turkey, something that would require a constitutional change which his ruling AK Party could push through if it secures a wider majority of at least two thirds in parliamentary elections due next year.

Reuters

WORLD

Hamas wing says it will target Israel's main airport

GAZA, 12 July — Hamas's armed wing said on Friday it intends to fire rockets from the Gaza Strip at Tel Aviv's Ben-Gurion International Airport and warned airlines not to fly to Israel's main gateway to the world.

The airport has been fully operational since Israel began an aerial offensive on Tuesday in the Gaza Strip and Palestinian militants intensified their cross-border rocket fire.

International airlines have continued to fly in, despite now-daily rocket salvos at Tel Aviv that either have been intercepted by Israel's Iron Dome missile defence system or hit areas where they caused no casualties.

"The armed wing of the Hamas movement has decided to respond to the Israeli aggression, and we warn you against carrying out flights to Ben-Gurion airport, which will be one of our targets today because it also hosts a military air base," said a statement by the Islamist group's Izz el-Deen al-Qassam Brigades.

The group, which said



El Al planes are seen parked at Israel's Ben-Gurion International Airport near Tel Aviv, during a strike by airline workers, on 21 April, 2013. —REUTERS

it had issued the warning to airlines so that injury to their passengers could be avoided, announced earlier that it had already fired at least one rocket towards the airport on Friday.

A spokesman for Is-

rael's Airports Authority said a siren had sounded at Ben-Gurion and that all activity had stopped for about 10 minutes, but that it was part of a general alert in the Tel Aviv area and not a direct threat to the airport.

Projectiles launched by Gaza militants are largely inaccurate and there have been no reports of any landing in or close to the airport, located in an area covered by the Iron Dome system.

But the rockets have been striking deeper into Israel, reaching areas more than 100 km (60 miles) north of the Gaza Strip.

At the start of the Israeli offensive on Tuesday, takeoffs and landings at

Ben-Gurion were re-routed to more northerly flight paths. At least 88 Palestinians have died during Israel's four day-old air and sea offensive on Gaza as it attempts to halt the rocket fire.—Reuters

Netanyahu says more than 1,000 targets hit in Gaza, sees "more to go"



Israel's Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu

JERUSALEM, 12 July — Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu said on Friday Israel has attacked more than 1,000 targets during a four-day-old offensive against Gaza militants and that "there are still more to go".

In remarks to reporters, he said he saw no international pressure on Israel to halt its campaign.

He also would not rule out the possibility of expanding the campaign of mostly aerial attacks into a ground war in Gaza, answering when asked whether such a move was possible that "we are weighing all possibilities and preparing for all possibilities."

Reuters

UN assembly president-elect keen to attend Hiroshima ceremony next year

TOKYO, 12 July — Sam Kutesa, incoming president of the UN General Assembly, expressed his desire Friday to attend the ceremony next year to mark the 70th anniversary of the atomic bombing of Hiroshima. "If time permits and there is an invitation, it's good to see," Kutesa said in an interview with *Kyodo News* about visiting the western Japan city for its annual ceremony to commemorate the US atomic bombing on 6 August, 1945.

Kutesa, Uganda's foreign minister who will assume the rotating presidency of the 193-member General Assembly for one year from September, said the annual ceremony is meaningful "because it reminds us of the dangers of nuclear weapons." Vuk Jeremic attended the Hiroshima ceremony in 2013 when he was General Assembly president. UN Secretary General Ban Ki Moon attended the ceremony in 2010.

Kutesa said he had never visited Hiroshima but had been to Nagasaki, which was devastated by a US atomic bombing three days after Hiroshima.

As president of the General Assembly, Kutesa said he will actively pursue nuclear nonproliferation.

"We all look towards a nuclear weapon-free world. We must work towards it because of the devastating nature of the nuclear weapons," he said.

Kyodo News



Sam Kutesa, Uganda's foreign minister and incoming president of the UN General Assembly, is interviewed by *Kyodo News* in Tokyo on 11 July, 2014. In the interview, Kutesa expressed his desire to attend the ceremony in 2015 to mark the 70th anniversary of the atomic bombing of Hiroshima.

KYODO NEWS

Kerry pushes for a deal in second day of talks on Afghan vote crisis

KABUL, 12 July — US Secretary of State John Kerry scrambled to produce a deal by the end of Saturday to end Afghanistan's election crisis, meeting for the second day with the country's two presidential candidates and incumbent President Hamid Karzai.

The deadlock over the 14 June election run-off between the leading contenders, Abdullah Abdullah and Ashraf Ghani, has raised concerns in Washington about a smooth transition of

power in Afghanistan just as US troops are withdrawing.

Kerry and his aides met throughout the night, following talks on Friday with both Abdullah and Ghani, as well as with Karzai and UN special envoy to Afghanistan Jan Kubis. He met again with Abdullah and Ghani at the US compound on Saturday and will meet Karzai at the presidential palace later. A news conference is scheduled for Saturday afternoon before

Kerry flies to Vienna for talks between world powers and Iran on Teheran's nuclear programme. Preliminary results from the runoff vote put Ghani, a former World Bank official, in the lead by almost one million votes. Abdullah rejected the result, claiming widespread fraud and calling the outcome a "coup" against the Afghan people.

The United States has urged the Independent Electoral Commission not to release the final vote tally

until a thorough review of the votes. It also urged the camps of both Ghani and Abdullah not to declare victory. As talks unfolded behind closed doors, the rival camps were tight-lipped on the progress.

"In this meeting they both exchanged ideas," said Mahmoud Saikal, a key member of Abdullah's camp, speaking about the Friday meeting. "John Kerry wanted more information about all electoral problems."—Reuters



US Secretary of State John Kerry is greeted by Afghanistan's President Hamid Karzai (L) as he arrives for a dinner at the presidential palace in Kabul, on 11 July, 2014.—REUTERS

PERSPECTIVES

Sunday, 13 July, 2014

Keeping conscious awareness on climate changes

By Aung Khin

Experts on meteorology and hydrology have observed that Myanmar's climate is changing at an alarming rate. Despite possessing some of the most pristine jungles in East Asia, the deforestation rate in the country has been noticeable over the last six decades.

According to the United Nations Programme on Reducing Emissions from Deforestation (UN-REDD), Myanmar has lost about 466,000 hectares of forest a year. The forest-cover area has declined by 18 percent between 1990 and 2005. Many experts remarked that this was because of

deforestation resulting from commercial logging—legal and illegal—and firewood extraction for household use.

The vivid results of climate change in Myanmar include an increase in mean temperature, an increase in overall rainfall in some areas and a declining trend in some other areas, late onset and early termination of the southwest monsoon. Other effects include increasing extreme weather events and a rise in sea level.

The United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) and the United Nations Human Settlements Programme (UN-Habitat) have agreed to help Myanmar prepare for climate change impacts, including droughts, cyclones and flash floods.

The UN agencies will contribute their efforts to raise awareness among government ministries, civil society, researchers and the private sector, to coordinate grassroots planning for climate change, and to pilot activities that will build resilience in coastal and delta regions.

Myanmar, with different geographical areas, has many challenges in different kinds of natural disasters. The Delta region could suffer from the impact of cyclones and coastal floods, while Rakhine State in northwest of the country is under the threat of cyclones, river and coastal flooding and earthquakes. The central plain along the Ayeyawady River is at risk of flooding and earthquakes.

Knowledge in climate change, communication and advocacy strategy is needed at both national and sub-national levels for disaster preparedness measures. Policy planners and decision makers, civil society, journalists and the private sector should also take part in this programme to prevent serious damage and loss of lives.

Write for us

We appreciate your feedback and contributions. If you have any comments or would like to submit editorials, analyses or reports please email wallace.tun@gmail.com with your name and title.

Customer is business

Kyi Mun

“Strategy takes shape in the determination to create value for customers”

Kenichi Ohmae

Customer is business; without customer, there would be no business. Some variations of this marketing maxim are :

- Customer is king
- Customer is queen
- Customer is princess
- Customer is key
- Customer is root
- Customer is lifeblood
- Customer is foundation
- If the business is fish, Customer is water.
- If the business is night, Customer is the moon, bright.

Customer Is Revenue

In any business, Customer is the only Revenue Provider. All the other sectors of the business are Cost Centres. To cover all the expenditures of the business, there must be a sure source of income. That very crucial source is Customer — the big Cus and the small tomer — Customer!

The first duty of a business is to GET CUSTOMERS.

The second duty of a business is to KEEP CUSTOMERS.

The third duty of a business is to **INCREASE the number of CUSTOMERS.**

For this, you have to satisfy the Customers. You have to DELIGHT them.

Simply because, without students, there would be no school; without patients, there would be no hospital. Even more important for a business is to build a strong and wide Customer Base for long-term survival and prosperity.

Make the Customer Happy

So, a business is obliged to make the Customer happy with it. The important thing is : How can a business make its Customers happy ? It depends. It depends on the Customer Strategy of the business. The most widely deployed Customer Strategy is :

“To meet or exceed Customer's Expectations.”

To meet or exceed the needs, wants and expectations of the Customers, the business must be able to give maximum value for money, which is calculated as follows:

Customer Value

- Product Value
- Service Value
- People Value
- Image Value

Total Customer Value = X

Customer Cost

- Monetary Cost
- Time Cost
- Energy Cost
- Psychic Cost

Total Customer Cost = Y

$X / Y = \text{Net Value for the Customer}$

So, the aim and object of the Customer Strategy is to maximize the Customer Value (the total value that the customer receives) and to minimize the Customer Cost (the total cost that the customer has to pay)

Value for Money is defined as : Quality of the product/service divided by the price.

$$VfM = \frac{\text{Quality}}{\text{Price}} = \text{Product Value}$$

But, the Customer is usually not fully satisfied with just the Product Value. As the Payer of Money, Customer demands more value in the forms of :

- Product Value
- Service Value
- People Value
- Image Value
- Differentiation Value
- Brand Value

The ultimate determination of your success with any customer is the Customer's PERCEPTION of the VALUE YOU DELIVER.

Ref : *Bottom-Line Selling*

by

Jack Malcolm

U Kyi Mun residing in Yangon is a consultant of NAING Group Capital Co., Ltd.

Myanmar ISIS holds paper reading session on “Myanmar's Prospects for Middle Power Status”

By Sayar Mya

The Myanmar Institute of Strategic and International Studies (MISIS) hosted a paper reading session at MISIS Building, No. 37 Tantam-an Road in Dagon Township, where Associate Dean Dr. Jonathan H. Ping of Bond University in

Dr. Jonathan H. Ping, Associate Dean of Bond University, Queensland, Australia, making presentation at Myanmar ISIS Building.—PHOTO BY SAYAR MYA



Australia read out a paper with the title “Middle Powers and Myanmar's Prospect of Achieving Middle Power Status”. The talk was attended by diplomats, defense attaches, scholars, faculty members, researchers, students and interested persons.

Dr. Ping, in his power point presentation, outlined that Myanmar is uniquely positioned in time, place and history to grow rapidly to become a natural middle power. However, understanding the history, structure and power relations of the contemporary global political economy is essential to Myanmar's ability to de-

velop. In the paper, Dr. Ping provided an overview of the sub-discipline global political economy, identified the unique characteristics of great, middle and small powers. He also pointed out why Myanmar is a natural middle power which must create a unique form of statecraft to achieve its potential.

As he specializes in the study of governance, his talk included “statecraft” in the development of Myanmar in achieving middle power status. He elaborated “hybridization theory”, which he has developed as the first unifying theory of the middle power concept. He told the audience that the concept is presented in his book “Middle Power Statecraft”.

With much optimism, Dr. Ping hoped that Myanmar would achieve middle power status in 20 to 40 years, with correct vision and the right path to step forward. The salient points of his one-hour talk would be presented in the shortest possible form in the next article by this writer.

The participants raised questions in the context of the presentation, which Dr. Ping responded with much enthusiasm.

Before the end of the talk, former Deputy Foreign Minister U Khin Maung Win spelt out his observation that the talk was indeed inspiring and stimulating for audience as well as the stakeholders in the country, especially the new generation.

LOCAL NEWS

Mahlaing Township hospital upgraded to 50-bed facility

MAHLAING, 12 July — Mahlaing Township hospital was upgraded to a 50-bed facility with the aim of meeting the demand on health care services for the increasing population in the township.

Following the green light given by the government to upgrade the 25-bed hospital of Mahlaing Township, a 25-bed building that cost K125 million was built and handed over to the Ministry of Health on 28 June. Wellwishers at home and abroad funded construction of the new building in the compound of the hospital and donated an ambulance, an X-ray machine and an ECC machine for the newly-opened building.



The old 25-bed hospital was built in 1958

when Mahlaing Township had a population of about 100,000. Now the township's population has

increased to more than 160,000.

Tin Hlaing (Meiktila)

Mandalay Region govt to take actions against squatters

MANDALAY, 12 July— Authorities of Mandalay Region government is taking actions against illegal cultivation and construction of houses in the areas of reserve forest and protective forest.

According to the government statistics, squatters have been living on nearly 70 thousand acres of lands in these areas of Mandalay region for 10 to 15 years.

A total of 3 thousand acres has been cancelled

from the list of reserve forest and protective forest in the first phase, and additional 2 thousand acres will be allowed for settlement in the second phase.

However, Mandalay Region government's Forest and Mining Ministry has warned on 10 July that the local government will take actions against the squatters who try to live on these areas without permission.

Thiha Ko Ko (Mandalay)

Katha Home for the Aged receives cash and kind assistance



KATHA, 12 July — A social organization, Mitta Kyelsin, provided cash and medicine assistance to the Home for the Aged here on Friday, sources said.

The ceremony took place at the Home for the Aged, with an address by U Kyaw Kyaw Ohn, chairman of the management committee for Katha district.

In his address, he appreciated the role social organizations play in helping the needy, saying "We can overcome hardship facing us by looking after one another".

U Kaung, vice chairman of Mitta Kyelsin, gave a brief account of the formation of his organization as well as donations the organization has made.

Mitta Kyelsin's generosity prompted departmental officials, local maternal and child welfare associations, and guests present on the occasion to contribute their cash and kind to the Home for the Aged.

Aye Lwin (Katha)



Second-phase loans disbursed to cooperatives in Wetlet

WETLET, 12 July — The cooperative association in Wetlet township, Sagaing Region, disbursed loans to its subordinate cooperative associations as the second phase here on 10 July, sources said.

Reports said that the Sagaing Region Cooperative took out loans from China and re-disbursed them to its subordinate cooperatives.

According to a cooperative official, the Chinese loans were given out to member farmers in villages in the region at a monthly interest rate of 1.5 kyats per 100 kyats. Under the

history of hospital and modern equipment, as well as healthcare activities in the region.

Then MPs and government officials witnessed the medical treatments to the patients by using modern diagnosis equipment.

Tin Maung (Mandalay)



loan plan, K100,000 was each. loaned to 5090 members

Nan Myint

Waso robe offering ceremony held in Wa region

NAY PYI TAW, 12 July — The 17th Waso robe offering ceremony of Wa region took place in Panhsang, Shan State on Thursday.

The ceremony was attended by the director-general of the Department for Development of Border Areas and National Races, U Shauk Mi Hlyan of Wa

Special Region (2) and officials.

During the ceremony, officials presented Waso robes and provisions to monks in the region.

An opening of a two-storey Sangha hospital built with the contributions of wellwishers was also held on that day.

MNA

Mandalay Region MPs visit General Hospital

MANDALAY, 12 July— Speaker and Vice-Speaker of regional parliament and government officials on Friday visited Mandalay

General Hospital.

Speaker U Win Maung, Vice Speaker U Aung Htay Kyaw and regional Transport Minister

U Kyaw San were welcomed by Medical Superintendent Dr Maung Win of the hospital.

The doctor briefed on



Mustaches may raise burn risk with home oxygen therapy



Facial hair increases the risk of burns for people who use home oxygen therapy, a new study warns.

NEW YORK, 12 July — A new case report from US doctors suggests that men who use home oxygen therapy should consider a clean-shaven look to reduce their risk of serious facial burns.

“If you’ve ever tried to start a campfire, you always start with some dry little twigs and once that starts — and that’s kind of the mustache — then that oxygen tubing lights on fire, it’s like a blow torch

shooting up their nose,” said Dr Andrew Greenlund of the Mayo Clinic in Rochester, Minnesota. “So, if we can prevent it, it would be good.”

People with lung conditions that impair their ability to get enough oxygen from normal air may use home oxygen therapy, which delivers a steady stream of oxygen-rich air from a portable metal tank through tubing that fits into the nostrils.

After noticing that three of his patients, all with mustaches, had suffered facial burns while using their home oxygen therapy, Greenlund and his team decided to investigate.

“We looked through all the literature out there in the last 20 years and no one had noted that more people with facial hair and home oxygen were having burns than people without facial hair,” he told Reuters Health.

Narrowing their search to their own institution, the doctors identified nine patients who had suffered home oxygen therapy-related burns and eight of those men had mustaches.

Greenlund said that NASA has demonstrated how flammable human hair is under normal conditions and how it ignites much more readily in the presence of higher oxygen concentrations. But no one had looked at the issue in the context of home oxygen therapy.

To test their theory that facial hair places oxygen therapy users at a higher risk for burns, the researchers set up mannequins with and without human hair mustaches, outfitted them with the nasal tubing and exposed them to a spark.

The tubing on the mustached models ignited while those without mustaches did not, suggesting that concentrated oxygen together with kindling in the form of facial hair is a dangerously flammable combination.

Reuters

GM’s Cadillac at a crossroads — again

DETROIT, 12 July — Incoming Cadillac President Johan de Nysschen — the brand’s third boss in two years — faces a daunting task that his predecessors failed to complete: How to reposition General Motors Co’s 112-year-old premium brand as a true competitor to BMW and Mercedes-Benz.

De Nysschen will have more autonomy and authority than previous Cadillac chiefs. He may need it.

In a rising US car market, Cadillac is being pummeled by the German luxury marques, which have blanketed the sector with mainstream and niche models and are outselling their Detroit rival by 2-1.

GM has laboured for

recalls this year on virtually every model that is currently available in Cadillac showrooms.

These and other issues have fueled a revolving door at the top of Cadillac. De Nysschen was recruited from Nissan Motor Co Ltd’s Infiniti brand to replace Robert Ferguson, who this week was named GM’s senior vice president of global public policy.

Ferguson had headed Cadillac since October 2012. His predecessor, Don Butler, departed GM last August, two weeks after the company dismissed Cadillac sales chief Chase Hawkins.

Cadillac dealers on Friday said the brand needs two things to succeed:



A Cadillac logo is pictured at the Jacob Javits Convention Center during the New York International Auto Show in New York on 16 April, 2014.—REUTERS

years to rebuild Cadillac into a global brand, but it has constantly stumbled to re-establish Cadillac’s stature in its home market.

De Nysschen needs to douse several fires immediately that have bruised the brand’s image. There are too many cars sitting on US dealers’ lots, and yet not nearly enough of the right products to blunt the Germans’ assault. He also must contend with heavy discounting by Cadillac dealers, including up to \$20,000 off the 2014 ELR electric coupe. On top of that, the company has issued a plethora of safety

Consistency of leadership and the opportunity to function as a stand-alone entity within GM. Howard Drake, owner of Casa de Cadillac in Sherman Oaks, California, and a member of Cadillac’s national dealer council, said the brand needs “its own team, its own resources, its own profit and loss accountability.”

“Cadillac is struggling with some brand perception issues and Johan is a master brand builder,” Drake said, adding that GM President Dan Ammann told dealers he plans to give de Nysschen “a lot of autonomy.”

Reuters

Volkswagen sales boosted by European, Chinese demands in 2014 first half

BERLIN, 12 July — German auto giant Volkswagen delivered nearly 6 percent more vehicles worldwide in the first half year of 2014 than during the same period of 2013, said the company on Friday, referring to strong demands from Europe and China.

From January to June, 4.97 million vehicles were sent to global customers, 5.9 percent more than in the first half year of 2013, said the Wolfsburg-based

Volkswagen Group.

The biggest sales volume was recorded in the Asia-Pacific region with 2 million vehicles. China remained Volkswagen’s largest single market with a delivery of 1.81 million units, and saw a year-on-year growth of 17.5 percent.

In Europe, Volkswagen delivered 1.99 million cars in the first half year, compared to 1.87 million vehicles during the first six



months in last year. Among the new vehicles, 1.05 million units were sent to customers in Western Europe. In its home market of Germany, 613,200 cars were delivered.

In its North and South American markets,

Volkswagen suffered sales losses, with declines of 3 percent and 22.1 percent respectively.

“The Volkswagen Group showed satisfactory development in the first half year even though market conditions were at times difficult,” said Volkswagen’s sales chief Christian Klingler, adding “Economic environment on some world markets remains tense.”—Xinhua

Singing familiar songs may help prompt Alzheimer’s patients to speak

NEW YORK, 12 July — With advanced Alzheimer’s disease, language deteriorates and patients spontaneously speak less and less. In a small study from Israel, group music therapy sessions using tailored songs helped people with middle-to late-stage Alzheimer’s strike up communication.

The study may be small, but it nicely demonstrates what music therapists and gerontologists have known for a while, said

Alicia Ann Clair, director of the Music Education and Music Therapy Division at the University of Kansas in Lawrence, who wasn’t part of the study.

“It’s one of those things that’s kind of known but has not been researched so it’s great this was done,” Clair told Reuters Health.

In her experience, singing is a great way to engage with some people with advanced dementia. People who may not otherwise be able to communicate may

start to spontaneously sing along, otherwise vocalize, make eye contact or simply calm down, she said. “But (the new study) was done with people who had a history of singing and enjoying it and being part of a singing culture. If you try to do this with non-singers I don’t know if they would engage,” she noted.

For the study, six patients ages 65 to 83 attended group music therapy sessions twice a week for a month. Four of the patients

were born in Israel; the other two were born in Eastern Europe and immigrated to Israel in their early teens.

The patients were not able to consent to the study due to their cognitive state, so their legal guardians or main caregivers gave consent.

Ayelet Dassa, a music therapist and the lead author of the study, selected 24 songs popular in Israel between 1930 and the late 1950s for the sessions.

“In Israel especially for

this group, they came here or were born when the state was becoming independent,” Dassa told Reuters Health. The songs she chose were part of the foundation of the patients’ adult identity, which was tied to their country and their heritage, she said.

The music sessions led to spontaneous conversations about the songs, memories the songs triggered and about the act of singing as a group. Some participants talked about life on

the Kibbutz many decades ago, or about learning certain songs in school with their music teachers. Others expressed pride at being able to remember lyrics to the songs and participating as part of a group.

Dassa published the study in the *Journal of Music Therapy* as part of her doctoral dissertation with the help of her advisor, Dorit Amir, in the music department of Bar Ilan University in Ramat-Gan, Israel.

Reuters

SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY

Chinese icebreaker heads for 6th Arctic expedition

SHANGHAI, 12 July — China's icebreaker *Xuelong*, or "Snow Dragon," kicked off the country's sixth Arctic expedition from its Shanghai base on Friday.

It is estimated that the vessel, capable of breaking ice 1.2 metres thick, will travel over 11,057 nautical miles during its 76-day voyage, said Qu Tanzhou, the team leader and head of the Chinese Arctic and Antarctic Administration.

The icebreaker will follow its traditional route through maritime areas including the Bering Sea, Bering Strait, Chukchi Sea and the Canada Basin. And it will be helpful for comparison of the results against its previous scientific expeditions.

Its tasks will focus on the Arctic's quickly chang-

ing condition and its influences on China's climate and environment.

The highlights of the expedition will be analysis of the Arctic's marine hydrology and meteorology, marine geology, as well as marine life and ecology.

"By studying and comparing the two cold poles, people will get a better understanding of the chief influencing factors of climate change, which are critical to meet this world-wide problem," said Qu.

"We will make efforts to collect more original data to improve the overall evaluation and understanding of the Arctic environment," he added.

In mid-April, *Xuelong* docked in Shanghai, wrapping up the country's 30th scientific expedition to Antarctica. — Xinhua



China's icebreaker *Xuelong*, or "Snow Dragon," leaves the dock in east China's Shanghai, on 11 July, 2014. The icebreaker kicked off the sixth Arctic expedition on Friday. It is estimated that the vessel will travel over 11,057 nautical miles during its 76-day voyage. — XINHUA

Top Alibaba execs, investors may expand board after IPO

SAN FRANCISCO, 12 July — A group of 27 top executives and investors in Alibaba Group Holding Ltd, including co-founder Jack Ma, can appoint another two directors to the company's board once it goes

the world's second-largest economy, and handled more transactions in 2013 than Amazon.com Inc and eBay Inc combined.

In its updated prospectus filed with the US Securities and Exchange Com-

mission, a PayPal-like affiliate established in 2004.

Ma started Alibaba in his one-room apartment in 1999 and has since branched out into areas as diverse as e-payments and financial investment. But

"This governance structure and contractual arrangement will limit your ability to influence corporate matters, including any matters determined at the board level," Alibaba wrote.

Ma's group already planned to designate four of Alibaba's nine directors prior to its IPO. With the new disclosure, the group can name six of 11 directors if they expand the board.

Ma has an 8.9 percent stake in Alibaba. Other investors in Alibaba include SoftBank Corp with a 34.3 percent stake and Yahoo Inc, which owns 22.5 percent.

In the updated filing, Alibaba said it needed to spin out Alipay and turn it into a domestic entity in 2011 to prevent delays in obtaining an operating license under newly issued Chinese regulations.

Alibaba spun out Alipay to a group that includes Ma, who holds a 46 percent stake in Alipay through another company, Zhejiang Alibaba E-Commerce Co. Alipay provides the lion's share of payment services for the company's retail marketplaces.

"This action enabled Alipay to obtain a payment business license in May 2011 without delay and without any detrimental impact to our China retail marketplaces or to Alipay," Alibaba said. — Reuters

Seven new dwarf galaxies discovered

WASHINGTON, 12 July — Astronomers have used a new type of telescope to discover seven new dwarf galaxies.

Yale University astronomers used a new type of telescope made by stitching together telephoto lenses and discovered the seven celestial surprises while probing a nearby spiral galaxy.

The previously unseen galaxies may yield important insights into dark matter and galaxy evolution, while possibly signalling the discovery of a new class of objects in space, researchers said.

Pieter van Dokkum, chair of Yale's astronomy department, designed the robotic telescope with University of Toronto astronomer Roberto Abraham.

Their Dragonfly Telephoto Array uses eight telephoto lenses with special coatings that suppress internally scattered light.

This makes the tele-

scope uniquely adept at detecting the very diffuse, low surface brightness of the newly discovered galaxies.

"These are the same kind of lenses that are used in sporting events like the World Cup. We decided to point them upward instead," van Dokkum said.

He and Abraham built the compact, oven-sized telescope in 2012 at New Mexico Skies, an observatory in Mayhill. The telescope was named Dragonfly because the lenses resemble the compound eye of an insect.

The Yale scientists will now tackle a key question: Are these seven newly found objects dwarf galaxies orbiting around the M101 spiral galaxy, or are they located much closer or farther away, and just by chance are visible in the same direction as M101?

If it's the latter, Merritt said, these objects represent something entirely different. —PTI



People play in a hall inside Alibaba's headquarters in Hangzhou, Zhejiang Province, on 23 April, 2014. — REUTERS

public, according to a US regulatory filing on Friday.

The move would expand the Chinese e-commerce company's board to 11 members from nine and cement the group's control over the board after Alibaba's initial public offering on the New York Stock Exchange later this year.

Alibaba is expected to execute what could be the largest US technology IPO in history. It powers four-fifths of all online commerce conducted in China,

mission, Alibaba boosted its estimated value to \$130 billion, up from more than \$116 billion in earlier filings.

The figures, which fall short of several analyst estimates of the company's worth, were calculated to set employee compensation and do not necessarily represent the IPO price.

The company also gave a more detailed explanation of its controversial decision in 2011 to spin out its Alipay payments ser-

vice, a PayPal-like affiliate established in 2004. Ma started Alibaba in his one-room apartment in 1999 and has since branched out into areas as diverse as e-payments and financial investment. But

its complex governance structure and Ma's outside investments have raised questions about potential conflicts of interest and investors' ability to sway Alibaba's strategy and direction. He and 26 other Alibaba co-founders and senior executives at the company and its affiliates are part of a powerful group dubbed the "Alibaba Partnership." Alibaba has said the interests of the partnership may conflict with those of investors.



Dragonfly Telephoto Array uses eight telephoto lenses with special coatings that suppress internally scattered light. —PTI

Seattle's attorney apologizes for taking bags of marijuana to the office

SEATTLE, 12 July — Seattle City Attorney Pete Holmes on Friday apologized for violating workplace rules by bringing bags of marijuana he purchased from newly-opened Washington state pot shops back to his office. Holmes was one of the first people in line earlier this week as the first few marijuana retail shops opened across Washington state, where voters in 2012 sanctioned the sale of cannabis to adults for recreational use under a steeply taxed and regulated system.

"When I brought the unopened marijuana to City offices — trying to keep up with a busy schedule — I nonetheless violated the City's rules," Holmes said in a statement on the city's website.

"At the end of the business day, I took the marijuana home and left it there, still unopened, before I participated in the second Community Walk of the Mayor's Summer of Safety."

Holmes on Friday apologized, volunteered to donate \$3,000 to a downtown homeless shelter, and voiced his on-going support for the state's landmark initiative. On Tuesday, a suit-and-tie clad Holmes could be seen holding up a brown paper bag carrying marijuana he bought minutes before at Seattle's first pot shop for a sea of journalists.

"The most important take away here is that today marijuana sales became legal and I'm here to personally exercise myself this new freedom," Holmes told media.

"I bought two two-gram bags of OG Pearl, which was recommended. I'm keeping one bag for posterity and one for personal enjoyment at some point when it's appropriate," said Holmes, who was elected in 2009. The drugs-at-work violation reflects a thorny reality for users in Washington state in that marijuana is still considered illegal by the US government and Holmes said in his statement that Seattle is a "drug-free workplace" under federal law.

"Not only are controlled substances (like marijuana) banned from city offices, City employees cannot possess them while on City business," Holmes wrote on Friday.—Reuters

Ebola deaths surge in Sierra Leone and Liberia



Health workers take blood samples for Ebola virus testing at a screening tent in the local government hospital in Kenema, Sierra Leone, on 30 June, 2014.—REUTERS

GENEVA, 12 July — Ebola continues to spread in Sierra Leone, Liberia and to a lesser extent in Guinea, with a combined 44 new cases and 21 deaths between 6-8 July, the World Health Organization (WHO) said on Friday.

This brought the total in West Africa's first outbreak of the deadly viral disease to 888 cases including 539 deaths since February, the United Nations agency said.

"The epidemic trend

in Liberia and Sierra Leone remains precarious with high numbers of new cases and deaths being reported," the WHO said.

Just one confirmed new case had been reported during the past week in Guinea, where the WHO said it was closely monitoring the situation. There has been resistance among some communities to measures recommended to control the outbreak, such as precautions during traditional burial ceremonies.

Ebola causes vomiting and diarrhoea, impairs kidney and liver function and may cause internal and external bleeding. It kills up to 90 percent of those infected and is spread by close contact with the blood, body fluids and tissues of infected people. There is no treatment or vaccine.

The Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) set up an Ebola solidarity fund at a summit in the capital of

Ghana on Thursday in a bid to back a regional approach to the epidemic. Nigeria committed \$3.5 million (£2.04 million) to affected states.

"We must do everything within our means and power to defeat this deadly disease. We must exercise vigilance and caution and avoid any panic or misinformation," Ghanaian President John Mahama, who is chairman of ECOWAS, said in a speech in Accra.—Reuters

Underage fighters drawn into Iraq sectarian war

BAGHDAD, 12 July — The video on his phone shows the boy firing a heavy machine gun mounted on a tripod through a hole in a crumbling building, his slender body shaking from the kickback.

"We were kind of nervous, not because we are cowards, because it was our first fight and we were still young," said the youth, a former teen soccer star from Baghdad.

He says he was 15 when an Iraqi Shi'ite militia first sent him to Iran for training by the Revolutionary Guards in hills outside of Teheran in March. He spent his 16th birthday four months ago in Syria fighting on the frontline near Damascus.

Now, he says he is back in Iraq fighting against Sunni insurgents.

"We got some mili-

tary experience in Syria with raiding, and skills we learned in Syria help us in Samarra," he said, referring to a frontline Iraqi city where Shi'ite paramilitaries helped government forces halt an advance by Sunni militants.

No one knows for certain how many underage fighters are participating in Iraq's civil war. The official recruitment age for Iraq's army is 18. Shi'ite militia which fight alongside government force also say they do not recruit children.

But with Sunni insurgents sweeping across the country and thousands of Shi'ites answering a cleric's call to take up arms against them, there is anecdotal evidence that child fighters are being sucked into Iraq's sectarian war.

Witnesses say they have frequently seen

adolescents among the Sunni fighters at checkpoints in the north.

The Shi'ite youth, who spoke to Reuters in Baghdad

during what he described as a few days respite from the battlefield in Samarra to visit his family, says he was drawn to the war to save his

fellow Shi'ites from the Islamic State, a Sunni group that says all Shi'ites are heretics who must repent or die.—Reuters



Shi'ite volunteers, who have joined the Iraqi army to fight against militants of the Islamic State, formerly known as the Islamic State of Iraq and the Levant (ISIL), sit together during training in Baghdad, on 9 July, 2014.—REUTERS

Four killed and 57 hurt as Casablanca buildings collapse

RABAT, 12 July — At least four people were killed and 57 injured on Friday when three buildings collapsed in Casablanca, Morocco's biggest city, the state news agency MAP reported. Rescuers used dogs to search for survivors and pull people from the rubble. The residential buildings, four to five floors high and set close together, collapsed before dawn in a neighbourhood built in the 1960s and 1970s.

Building collapses and accidents are common in Casablanca and highlight the strain on the infrastructure of one of North Africa's biggest and most densely populated cities.

The state news agency gave no details on the cause of Friday's incident.

Reuters

ADVERTISEMENT & GENERAL

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

MV E.R. TURKU VOY NO (049)

Consignees of cargo carried on MV E.R. TURKU VOY NO (049) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 13.7.2014 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of H.P.T where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

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

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CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

MV SHAHR E KORD VOY NO ()

Consignees of cargo carried on MV SHAHR E KORD VOY NO () are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 13.7.2014 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of M.I.T.T where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

**SHIPPING AGENCY DEPARTMENT
MYANMA PORT AUTHORITY
AGENT FOR: M/S LAND AND SHIPPING
LINE**

Phone No: 2301185

INVITATION TO OPEN TENDER

Sealed tenders are invited by the Department of Health, Central Medical Stores Depot for the supply of Medical Equipment.

Tender documents are available during office hours at the office. Commencing from (15.7.2014).

Sealed bids are to be submitted to the office, not later than (16.8.2014) 14:00 hour, after which no bid will be accepted. No telegraph/telex proposal will be accepted.

For detail information, please contact the Deputy Director (Medical Stores) Phone No. 371969, 372362, 371284.

Central Medical Stores Depot
Department of Health

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**The Government of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar
Ministry of Energy
Invitation to Tender
Thanlyin Refinery Joint Venture Project (TRJVP)
Tender No. (1-TRJVP/2014-2015)**

The Myanmar Petrochemical Enterprise (MPE), a State-owned Enterprise of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar, operating under the Ministry of Energy, announces an Invitation to Tender for the Thanlyin Refinery Joint Venture Project (TRJVP). The purpose of the TRJVP, which will be licensed under the Foreign Investment law, is to operate and carry out the rehabilitation of No. 1 Refinery (Thanlyin) to improve its production capacity. In addition, the TRJVP will undertake the importation, distribution and storage of a wide range of petroleum products.

All interested eligible parties are cordially invited to lodge a submission in accordance with the tender documents.

1. The documentation related to the TRJVP ("the Tender Documents" as further detailed below) can be purchased by any interested parties starting 14th July 2014 upon submission of evidence of payment of a non-refundable fee of 3,000,000 Kyats (Three Millions Kyats) to MPE. The detailed payment information is available in the Ministry of Energy's website (<http://www.energy.gov.mm/index.php/en/information/announcement>).

Any question in relation to the payment of the non-refundable fee can be sent to email address below.

2. The Tender Documents comprise the following:

- General Rules and Requirements
- Invitation to Tender
- Proposed Joint Venture Agreement
- Proposed Land Lease Agreement
- Information Memorandum including selected detailed financial/operating/importing information with respect to No. 1 Refinery (Thanlyin)

3. Eligibility information is also available on the website of the Ministry of Energy.

4. Eligible applicants shall submit the proposal in response to the tender and in accordance with the specifications set forth in the tender documents to the following address no later than **13th October 2014 at 12:00 noon;**

Myanmar Petrochemical Enterprise,
Building No 44, Nay Pyi Taw, Myanmar

5. There will be opportunity for applicants to perform due diligence and seek written clarification in relation to the TRJVP from 14th July until 12th September 2014.

6. For more information, please contact the following address;

Managing Director
Myanmar Petrochemical Enterprise
Ministry of Energy
Building No. 44, Nay Pyi Taw, Myanmar
TRJV.Project@gmail.com
Fax: +95 67 411124, +95 67 411126

7. Late inquiries or inquiries via telephone will not be answered.



Young participants fly their paper airplanes during the paper airplane flying competition at the Vancouver International Airport in Vancouver, Canada, on 11 July, 2014. Residents and tourists participated in the 2nd annual paper airplane workshop and competition. This is a part of the program of the Vancouver International Airport's summer promotion campaign to promote local retail businesses.—XINHUA

**Germany calls
on US to stop
spying after
expulsion
order**

BERLIN, 12 July — German politicians on Friday called on the United States to stop all spying activities against Germany and to work together to revive bilateral ties on the basis of honesty. This latest German plea follows Thursday's expulsion of the US intelligence chief in Berlin.

German Justice Minister Heiko Maas told the Passauer Neue Presse on Friday that the United States should disclose all its espionage activities in Germany and stop all related practices immediately.

"The Americans must now actively help clarify the allegations," Maas said. "This includes a clear statement on any other cases of espionage which we may not know about yet. Above all, we need a binding assurance from Washington that these activities will be stopped once and for all," he added. Foreign Minister Frank-Walter Steinmeier said Friday he would discuss the transatlantic spy row with US Secretary of State John Kerry when both attend Iran nuclear talks in Vienna this weekend.

Steinmeier said Germany's expulsion of the US intelligence chief was an "unavoidable consequence after the breach of trust," adding that German-American cooperation must be built "on trust but also on mutual respect."

He noted the partnership and friendship between the two countries should be "revitalized on the basis of honesty." "This will be the message I will deliver to my American colleague John Kerry when we met at the weekend in Vienna," the minister said.

The German government on Thursday asked the representative of US intelligence agencies to leave Germany after months of frustration at the lack of cooperation by the United States to clear up the NSA spying scandal as well as the latest uncovering of two alleged US spies working in German intelligence and the German Defence Ministry.

Xinhua

**Weather
report**

**Bay
Inference**

According to the observations at (12:30) hrs MST today, the low pressure area over Northwest Bay of Bengal still persists. Monsoon is strong to vigorous in the Andaman Sea and Bay of Bengal.

Want to do only challenging roles now: Dipannita Sharma



Dipannita Sharma

NEW DELHI, 12 July — “I want to do challenging roles now. I did loads of glamorous parts in the past but now I won’t do. In ‘Take it Easy’, I am playing a mother. She is a middle class housewife. Whereas, in ‘Pizza’ I am playing a paranormal character. It’s is refreshing to play such characters,” Dipannita told PTI.

Model-turned-actress Dipannita Sharma says she wants to come out of her comfort zone to do challenging roles.

The 37-year-old actress is playing a paranormal character in supernatural thriller ‘Pizza’ and is shedding her glamorous image to portray a middle-class housewife and mother in ‘Take it Easy’.

“I want to do challenging roles now. I did loads of glamorous parts in the past but now I won’t do. In ‘Take it Easy’, I am playing a mother. She is a middle class housewife. Whereas, in ‘Pizza’ I am playing a paranormal character. It’s is refreshing to play such characters,” Dipannita told PTI.

Being directed by theatre personality Sunil Prem Vyas, ‘Take it Easy’ marks his entry in Bollywood. Dipannita started her career in films with action spy thriller ‘16 December’. But she did only handful of films including ‘Dil Vil Pyar Vyar’, ‘My Brother... Nikhil’, ‘Ladies vs Ricky Bahl’ and ‘Jodi Breakers’ in her 13-year-old career. Dipannita says she does not want to do a film just to be in the limelight. “I don’t want to do a film just to have a release every year.

I am not that kind of a person who meets people for work. Breaks in career do not matter to me,” she said.—PTI

Taylor Swift meets with Steven Spielberg

NEW YORK, 12 July — Country star Taylor Swift was spotted meeting with Steven Spielberg and his family at East Hampton Grill earlier this week.

The 67-year-old director was at the eatery with his wife Kate Capshaw, stepdaughter Jessica Capshaw and some of his staffers when Swift arrived with an entourage, reported the *New York Post*. The restaurant’s staff put two tables together to accommodate the group.

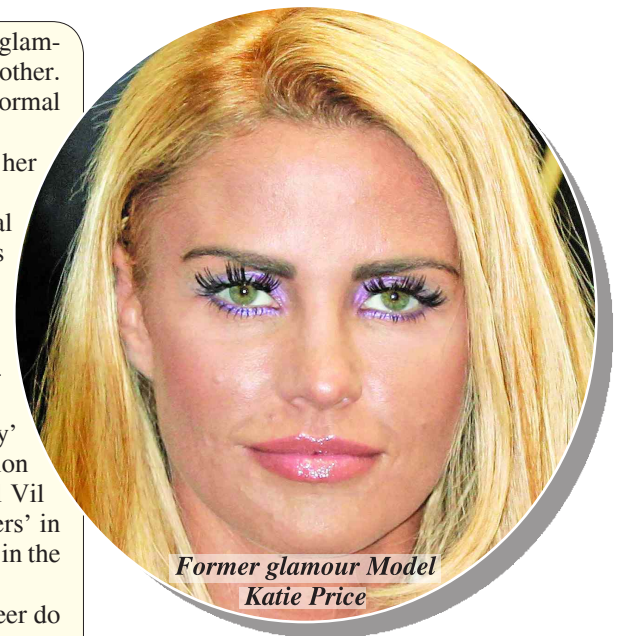
“Taylor and Steven were in deep conversation the whole time,” a source said. Swift, 24, recently filmed ‘The Giver’ for the Weinstein Company, co-starring Meryl Streep, Katie Holmes and Jeff Bridges.

Spielberg had previously met Swift, 24, at a Beverly Hills charity gala.



PTI

Country star Taylor Swift



Former glamour Model
Katie Price

Electra would be the possible name for my baby: Katie Price

LONDON, 12 July — Former glamour model Katie Price has revealed that she would be naming her fifth child Electra.

The 36-year-old model, who is expecting her second child with husband Kieran Hayler, said she is a big fan of the former ‘Baywatch’ actress Carmen Electra.

“Carmen Electra is a fine filly. Rolling back the years, she recently did a shoot in a swimsuit at 42 and she’s still the ultimate professional in modelling.

“I worked with Carmen many years ago and I love it — I still have a Poloroid from the shoot. Oh, and I like Electra as a possible name for my baby,” she added.

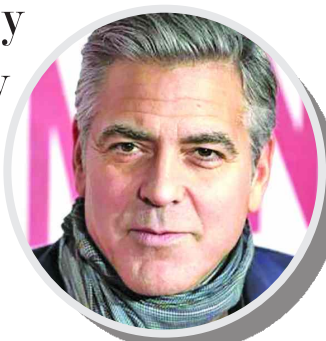
Price is already a mother of 10-month-old Jett with Hayler, as well as Junior, nine and Princess, seven, with her ex-husband Peter Andre and 12-year-old Harvey from her relationship with footballer Dwight Yorke.

PTI

George Clooney rejects apology for UK story on upcoming marriage

NEW YORK, 12 July — George Clooney refused to accept an apology from Britain’s *Daily Mail* after it published what he said was a false story “insinuating religious tensions” by saying his future mother-in-law opposed his marriage to human rights lawyer Amal Alamuddin.

The Oscar-winning actor said the apology showed that the Mail knew the online story about Alamuddin’s mother preferring her daughter to marry within the family’s Druze



Actor and director George Clooney arrives for the UK premiere of a film in London on 11 Feb, 2014.

REUTERS

religion was a lie when it published it on Monday.

“What separates this from all of the ridiculous things the Mail makes up is that now, by their own admission, it can be proved to be a lie. In fact, a premeditated lie,” Clooney, 53, said in a statement published in the newspaper *USA Today* on Friday.—Reuters

‘Fast and Furious 7’ finishes shoot, Paul Walker remembered

LOS ANGELES, 12 July — The shooting on ‘Fast and Furious 7’, is complete and the team thanked fans for supporting the movie after Paul Walker’s tragic death. The producers took to Facebook to share their journey of 15 years which began with the first movie in the action drama.

“We made it. Today we completed the last shot in the production of ‘FAST & FURIOUS 7’. We wanted to take this moment to express how thankful we are for your support. We felt the love and strength from our fans throughout this journey, and it’s because of you that we got here,” said a post on the film’s official Facebook page.

The film took a four-



The producers took to Facebook to share their journey of 15 years which began with the first movie in the action drama.—PTI

month hiatus after Walker’s death. The actor had completed most of his scenes but not all. “There was a time when we didn’t

know how we could go on, or even if we should. But we listened to you, and you inspired us not only to keep going but to try and make

the best FAST & FURIOUS movie yet,” the post read, referring to Walker’s tragic car crash that halted the shooting.—PTI

GENERAL

Benesse customer info may have leaked to multiple companies

Tokyo, 12 July — Customer information apparently stolen from a group company of Benesse Holdings Inc, Japan's biggest provider of correspondence education for children, was sold to several name-list traders, suggesting the information may have ended up in the hands of multiple companies, one trader said on Saturday.

Data believed to have

been stolen from a Benesse affiliate in late 2013 and sold to a name-list trader by around early 2014 was already found to have been used by software developer Justsystems Corp. But a separate Tokyo-based name-list trader said it had also been offered data on 8 million children around April. The Tokyo trader said it bought the data despite not knowing its origin

because it was on offer for 200,000 yen, or less than its market value.

But the Tokyo trader disposed of the data without selling it on after discovering it may have contained Benesse's customer information. Rumours later began to spread among traders about a large-scale leak from Benesse, with several competitors selling the data, according to the Tokyo

trader. Bulk data on children had rarely been obtainable since the government fully implemented a personal information protection law in 2005. Tokyo police are questioning name-list traders on how the data was stolen and subsequently changed hands. The leak of Benesse data has led the government to seek to revise the law to tighten regulations.— *Kyodo News*

EU adds 11 people to sanction list over Ukraine situation

BRUSSELS, 12 July — The Council of the European Union on Friday decided to add 11 more people to its list of sanctions over Ukraine situation, bringing the number of people on its Ukraine-related blacklist to 72.

According to an EU statement the 11 persons, who are responsible for actions "undermining Ukraine's territorial integrity, sovereignty and independence", will be targeted with a travel ban and a freeze of their assets within the EU.

At the same time, two confiscated entities in Crimea and Sevastopol remain under asset freeze.

The legal texts with the list of persons concerned will be published tomorrow in the EU *Official Journal* and will enter into force at the same time.

Xinhua

MYANMAR TV

(13-7-2014, Sunday)

- 6:00 am**
 - * Paritta by Hilly Region Missionary Sayadaw
- 7:20 am**
 - * MRTV's Youth Programme
- 8:00 am**
 - * News/ International News
- 8:30 am**
 - * Amazing World
- 9:30 am**
 - * Documentary (ASEAN)
- 10:00 am**
 - * News
- 11:15 am**
 - * Gitadagale Phwintbarohn
- 12:00 pm**
 - * News/ International News/ Weather Report
- 12:35 pm**
 - * Myanmar Movie
- 3:00 pm**
 - * News
- 3:30 pm**
 - * Documentary
- 4:15 pm**
 - * 38 Phyar Mingalar
- 4:30 pm**
 - * University of Distance Education (TV Lectures) -Third Year (Myanmar)
- 4:45 pm**
 - * Sing & Enjoy
- 5:00 pm**
 - * News
- 6:00 pm**
 - * News/ Weather Report
- 6:20 pm**
 - * Cartoon Series
- 8:00 pm**
 - * News/ International News/ Weather Report
- 8:35 pm**
 - * Documentary
- 9:00 pm**
 - * News

MYANMAR INTERNATIONAL

(13-7-14 07:00 am~ 14-7-14 07:00 am) MST

- * Local News
- * Home Made: Product of Myanmar - Pottery Business
- * World News
- * The Art of Sand Painting and Its Creator's life
- * Local News
- * The Rising Glory of Myanmar Arts
- * World News
- * Maha Muni Pagoda
- * Local News
- * To The Land of Countless Temples - Bagan Trip (Episode-1)
- * World News
- * In the Studio "Khin Su Shin"
- * Local News
- * Odd Jobs....: Snake Dancer
- * World News
- * Entrepreneur "Kalayar Pyi Wai Shan"
- * Local News
- * Great Shwedagon—Auspicious Grounds and Devotional Posts
- * World News
- * Serene and Happy Rural Life in Myanmar
- * Local News
- * Waso Festival, Auspicious Occasion of Myanmar
- * World News
- *Changes
- * Local News
- * Young Artist Pann Kyi
- * World News
- * Green Grocer
- * Local News
- * Kachin Land: Lannakha Waterfall



Classical boats are displayed during the 2014 China (Zhoushan Archipelago) International Boat Show in Zhoushan, east China's Zhejiang Province, on 11 July, 2014. — XINHUA

Two killed in Egypt's pro-Morsi protests

CAIRO, 12 July — Two people were killed and three others injured on Friday during clashes between security forces and protesters who support ousted former Islamist President Mohamed Morsi in the capital Cairo, a Health Ministry official told *Xinhua*.

"The two fell dead in Cairo's Matariya neighbourhood after being injured during the violence,"

the official said, noting the injuries included cuts, fractures and cartouche shots.

Also on Friday, a number of pro-Morsi marches were staged in various provinces across the country, including Cairo's neighbouring city Giza, Menia, Beheira and Beni Sweif, where official media said Morsi's supporters set four police vehicles on fire. A number of protesters

were arrested.

Since Morsi's removal by the military in July last year, his loyalists have been holding constant anti-government protests, denouncing his removal as "a military coup."

Over the past 10 months, security crackdown on Morsi's loyalists has left more than 1,000 killed and thousands others arrested. — *Xinhua*

Hagel calls Israeli defence minister on events in Israel, Gaza

WASHINGTON, 12 July — US Defence Secretary Chuck Hagel spoke by phone with Israeli Defence Minister Moshe Yaalon on Friday to discuss events unfolding in Israel and Gaza, a Pentagon spokesman said in a statement.

Carl Woog, assistant Press secretary of US Defence Department, said that Hagel reiterated his condolences on the recent kidnapping and murder of three Israeli teenagers and expressed US condemnation of continuing rocket fire into Israel by Hamas and other terrorist organizations.

"The secretary reaffirmed Israel's right to defend itself against these attacks," Woog said in the statement summarizing the call.

"He also expressed concern about the risk of further escalation and emphasized the need for all sides to do everything they can to protect the lives of civilians and restore calm," he said.

The two leaders agreed to speak again soon and to continue working closely on the broad range of security issues facing the United States and Israel, according to the statement.— *Xinhua*

British 'Harry Potter' actor David Legeno found dead in US park



British 'Harry Potter' actor David Legeno

NEW YORK, 12 July — British actor David Legeno, who appeared as a werewolf in the "Harry Potter" films, was found dead by hikers in a remote area of Death Valley, California police said on Friday.

The Inyo County Sheriff's Office said the body of Legeno, 50, was found early on Sunday morning and a helicopter was used to transport it from the area. "It appears that Legeno died of heat related issues, but the Inyo County coroner will determine the final cause of death. There are no signs of foul play," the sheriff's office said in a statement.

The burly, London-born, professional boxer and martial arts expert played Fenrir Greyback the ferocious werewolf in several of the "Harry Potter" films. He also appeared on television and in a string of movies, including "Snow White and the Huntsman," "Snatch," "Centurion" and "Batman Begins."

Reuters

Seasoned Germany expect to edge past Argentina

RIO DE JANEIRO, 12 July — Germany expect the experience that runs through their team to give them the edge over Argentina in Sunday's World Cup final after admitting they restrained themselves when they thumped Brazil in the semi-finals.

Germany ruined the samba nation's dream of winning the World Cup when they hammered Brazil 7-1 on Tuesday but forward Thomas Mueller revealed it could have been worse.

The Europeans were leading 5-0 at halftime and decided during the break that they would not embarrass the hosts by showboating with fancy passes or trick shots.

"With the score the way it was, we said we should avoid being arrogant and to refrain from humiliating the opponent," Mueller said on Friday.

"There was this agreement and it came from the players themselves."

Mueller, one of 10 names short-listed for the Golden Boot award given to the best player of the tournament, said Germany were anticipating a much tougher match from Argentina so could not afford to

let up at any stage against the South Americans.

"I'm not expecting that we'll be ahead 5-0 at halftime again like against Brazil even though that would be nice," he said.

"It could end up being a tight match like against Algeria or France. But it doesn't matter. We know what we have to do."

Germany captain Philipp Lahm also said there was no room for sentiment in the final, adding that his team was single-minded in their approach to the game.

"We're here to win the World Cup," he told reporters at Germany's secluded training camp at Santo Andre. "The experience we've got all the way through our team is definitely an edge for us."

Regardless of the result, Sunday's match will mark the end of the road for Argentina manager Alejandro Sabella, who is stepping down, according to his agent.

A former midfielder who was capped eight times by Argentina, Sabella got involved in coaching after he retired as a player in 1989 and took on the national job in 2011.

"He's going. He's



Germany's national soccer team player Philipp Lahm (L) and his teammates run during a training session in the village of Santo Andre north of Porto Seguro on 10 July, 2014. The picture shows from L to R: Philipp Lahm, goalkeeper Ron-Robert Zieler, Erik Durm, Matthias Ginter, Christoph Kramer and Sami Khedira.—REUTERS

leaving whatever happens. Whether they are champions or not, a cycle is ending," agent Eugenio Lopez said.

Argentina were fined 300,000 Swiss francs (\$336,000) by FIFA on Friday for failing to bring players to four pre-match news conferences during the World Cup.

However, the sport's world governing body did

pick three of their players — Lionel Messi, Angel Di Maria and midfielder Javier Mascherano — for the Golden Boot shortlist.

Germany had four players selected, Mueller and Lahm plus Mats Hummels and Toni Kroos, while Colombia midfielder James Rodriguez, Netherlands forward Arjen Robben and Brazil's Neymar, who was injured in the quarter-fi-

nals, were also nominated.

Italian Nicola Rizzoli, a 42-year-old architect, was chosen as the referee for Sunday's showpiece game at the Maracana while Algeria's Djamel Haimoudi will take charge of Saturday's third-place playoff between Brazil and the Netherlands in Brasilia.

The future of Brazil manager Luiz Felipe Scolari remains the source of

widespread speculation in his homeland in the wake of the country's record World Cup defeat by Germany.

Scolari, who led Brazil to their fifth world crown in 2002, has not revealed his long term plans but Marco Polo Del Nero, the president-elect of the Brazilian Football Confederation, said he should keep his job because of the good work he did during his 19 months in charge.

"To me, he stays," Del Nero told the *Estado de Sao Paulo* newspaper. "What happened was a tactical error. That was the problem. But we all make mistakes. It can happen to anyone."

Netherlands coach Louis van Gaal, who will be definitely leaving his post to become manager of Manchester United, has changed his tune on the importance of the third-place playoff. Initially critical of the match, Van Gaal has now told his players a win would see them the end the tournament undefeated after they were eliminated in a penalty shootout by Argentina.

"It would be wonderful to close this World Cup by winning but we still won't be satisfied," he said.

"It will be part of my speech that this is my last match and the players may want to give me a present in the form of victory so we can finish the tournament undefeated." —Reuters

Barcelona add teeth to attack



The Catalan club will bolster their attack by signing Suarez on a five-year contract for a transfer fee that media reports put at 81 million euros (\$111 million).—REUTERS

BARCELONA, 12 June — Barcelona who already have Lionel Messi and Neymar up front, will boast an even more fearsome strike force next season after agreeing to buy disgraced Uruguayan Luis Suarez from Liverpool on Friday. After enduring a first campaign without major silverware in six years, the Catalan club will bolster their attack by signing Suarez on a five-year contract for a transfer fee that media reports put at 81 million euros (\$111 million).

If the price is confirmed, it would be the third most expensive deal in soccer history after Barca's arch rivals Real Madrid paid 100 million euros for Gareth Bale and 94 million for Cristiano Ronaldo.

"Suarez will travel to Barcelona next week for a medical and sign a contract for the next five seasons," Barca said on their website (www.fcbarcelona.es). Suarez, 27, EPL's top scorer last season with 31 goals, will not be able to play for his new team until the end of October. He was expelled from the World Cup in Brazil last month and given a nine-match international ban as well as a four-month suspension from any soccer-related activities for biting Giorgio Chiellini.

After initially denying he bit the Italy defender, the Uruguay international later issued a carefully-worded statement admitting his offence, the third time he has bitten an opponent during a match, and vowed there would be no repeat.

Suarez will work under Luis Enrique, who took over from Gerardo Martino as coach at the end of last season. While Barca look to have completed their forward line-up, they are still looking for at least one centre back to shore up a defence that woefully underperformed last term.—Reuters

Messi, Mueller, Rodriguez among contenders for World Cup's best

RIO DE JANEIRO, 12 July — Four Germans, three Argentines, and one player each from Brazil, Colombia and the Netherlands were short-listed on Friday for the "Golden Ball" award to the World Cup's best player.

The top ten list included World Cup finalists Germany's defender Mats Hummels, right back Philipp Lahm, midfielder Toni Kroos and forward Thomas Mueller who has scored five goals.

For their opponents in Sunday's final, Argentina, winger Angel Di Maria, midfielder Javier Mascherano and — inevitably — four-goal striker and cap-

tain Lionel Messi made the list.

Also included was Colombia's attacking midfielder James Rodriguez, widely considered to be the revelation of the tournament and top scorer so far with six goals in his team's run to the quarter-final where they were beaten by Brazil.

The other two players short-listed were Dutch forward Arjen Robben who tormented defences throughout and scored three in the Netherlands' progress to the semi-final, and Brazil's Neymar who had played superbly and bagged four goals before being injured.

World governing body FIFA will announce the winner after Sunday's final. Uruguay striker Diego Forlan was named best player of the South African tournament four years ago.

Up for the "Golden Glove" award for best goalkeeper are Germany's Manuel Neuer, Argentina's Sergio Romero and Costa Rica's Keylor Navas who underpinned the Central Americans' fairy-tale run into a first ever World Cup quarter-final.

The award for best young player is between France's Paul Pogba and Raphael Varane, and the Netherlands' Memphis Depay.—Reuters

World Cup 2014 Brazil			
 Germany	Final	 Argentina	
Match-64	1:30 MST (14.7.2014)		