

Monasteries rely on private donations to finance health care and education for the poorest

By Kerstin Winter

YANGON, 14 July—No health care facilities, limited infrastructure and the spread of diseases due to a lack of clean water are currently among the most urgent issues in Bilin Township in Mon state, which, like the majority of townships across the country, relies entirely on private donations from local monasteries to cover a fraction of the most basic needs.

Among the most active groups in Myanmar's private donor community is the Universities' Hiking and Mountaineering Association—Invitation of Nature Foundation, which visited Bilin Township from July 10 to 13 to donate cash and provide medical services to 15 remote monasteries, climbing mountains and hiking through dense forests to reach them.

"Hiking is our passion and we meet at least once a month for hiking trips around the country during which we always help out the locals. In the last three days we've raised K 3.2 million, and as we have many doctors and nurses among our club members we also provide medical assistance to the locals who wait for us at the monasteries," said U Myo Thant, Chairman of the association, following the end of the tour on Sunday evening.

The trip to Bilin township was joined by two doctors and six nurses,



Supporting monasteries with cash and meds as there would otherwise not be much improvement in rural areas: Universities' Hiking & Mountaineering Association-Invitation of Nature Foundation.

PHOTO: ammm

who treated 250 patients as part of their first aid programme, giving injections to locals with high fever and treating patients who

suffer from diabetes and high blood pressure. Meanwhile, the remaining members of the club, almost 200 hikers on this trip, were

collecting cash donations and handing out food and household items to villagers.

Although Mon state

of UNHCR has been conducting interviews with as many as 130,000 Myanmar refugees in all nine camps nationwide.

According to the reports, most of the Myanmar refugees who want to return home are elderly people; those who were born and raised in Thailand want to stay there; and some others want to resettle in third countries.

"After talking to all refugees, we divided them into three groups covering those who want to return

to Myanmar, the group that wants to stay in Thailand and the group that wants to resettle in third countries," the source said, adding the United States and some European countries expressed readiness to accept a yet unconfirmed numbers of refugees.

The UNHCR is making plans to provide land and financial support to the refugees, who want to return home, according to the report.

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is not amongst the poorest states in the country, most households in Bilin do not have electricity, have never seen a doctor or a nurse and are not able to send their children to school. "It is very sad for me having to send all these people away as we simply do not have enough funds to help them all," said Bhaddanta Theika, the head monk of Wee-wai KaWa Sa monastery in Taungzan village. Facing the reality that help from officials was not forthcoming, his monastery has been putting the poorest students through school since 2002 and founded the Garuna Centre, which provides medical help, in 2007.

"We do not have any equipment or medical staff based here, so we rely on nurses that sometimes come and visit our centre, like the medical team from the hiking club now. They supply us with medicine as well, and that's all we have to give to the locals. Right now we have 15 inpatients to look after," Bhaddanta Theika said, urging for more donations as the monastery needs at least K 1.5 million per month to help with health and education. "There are around 2,000 families in the surrounding areas, with many more villagers coming from other parts of the hills to seek help from us, so we constantly have to turn sick people away."

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Meteorology and Hydrology Dept. forecasts severe rain in several states on Tuesday

YANGON, 14 July—The Meteorology and Hydrology Department has forecast that regionally very heavy rain is likely to fall in Rakhine and Mon States, with isolated heavy rain in Yangon, Ayeyawady and Tanintharyi Regions and Kachin State on Tuesday.

The low pressure area over the Northwest

Bay of Bengal still persists and the monsoon is strong to vigorous in the Andaman Sea and Bay of Bengal, the weather department said.

U Tun Lwin, weather expert and ex-director-general of the MHD has warned of potential landslides in hilly regions due to the heavy rain.

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UNHCR supports Myanmar refugees in Thailand

By Aung Khin

YANGON, 14 July—The United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees is now helping Myanmar refugees in Thailand by taking part in a repatriation scheme by the National Council for Peace and Order, according to reports.

Myanmar refugees in the Kingdom were organized into three groups as part of a programme to send them home, according to a report by the Bangkok Post on Monday, quoting a Thai military source.

The combined team consisting of the military, the Mae Fah Luang Foundation and the office

Monasteries rely on private donations to finance health care and education...

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Education is the other costly issue for the monastery, with the monks paying K 30,000 per student per month to cover school fees, food and accommodation, as the children are forced to leave the township to obtain education. "Now we're paying for 70 middle and high school students and 31 who have entered universities, but not all of them will be able to finish their education, because we simply cannot afford it," Bhaddanta Theika said.

Many children in Bilin township will never go to

school, like the young boy with a deformed face, who, flanked by his friends, shyly turned his head away as the hiking club members approached the group of children.

"We might be able to help him, because some of our members work for NGOs with good contacts. We will get in touch with the boy's family via the monastery and also seek help from other donors to finance his treatment," said club chairman U Myo Thant. As the parents may not let the boy go to Yangon for an operation, the monks will have to provide

the necessary support to build trust. "The monasteries are the focal points of the local communities in Myanmar and that is why we help them, so they can support those who need it the most," said one club member, a university student, who was responsible for collecting money.

At the end of their three-day hike, often through pouring rain, chairman U Myo Thant said, he is "happy to have helped the local people and raised the morale of the young club members to continue doing community work, while enjoying the benefits of hiking."

The association has already planned its next trip for August to Dedaye in the Delta Region.



The medical team of the Invitation of Nature Foundation providing much needed health care services at a monastery in Bilin Township, which relies entirely on help from private donors to help locals.—PHOTO: ammm

UNHCR supporting Myanmar ...

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Although the National Council for Peace and Order adopted a plan to close all refugee camps in the Kingdom after removing them, the authorities will now focus on humanitarian standards and the refugees' repatriation preferences under UNHCR monitoring of the operation.

Some NGOs said that insufficient infrastructure

will be a problem for the returnees in rebuilding their lives in their homeland.

Another report also said that Thailand's La-

bour Department will open six one-stop service centres in Bangkok Tuesday for registrations of all migrant workers in the country.

Thai authorities estimate that each centre is expected to register at least

1,000 migrant workers, with each of the centres operating until August 14.

An estimated number of 2 million Myanmar migrant workers are working in Thailand.

NLM



Children play soccer in the Thai refugee camp of Mae La Oo, one of the nine refugee camps, near Myanmar-Thailand border.

PHOTO: WHITMAN
COLLEGE

Rowing federation to improve facilities for rowers at training camps



Union Minister for Sports U Tint Hsan meets male and female rowers at Myanmar Rowing Federation at Inya Lake in Yangon.—MNA

YANGON, 14 July— Union Minister for Sports U Tint Hsan on Monday visited Inya Lake, where the Myanmar Rowing Federation is located.

In meeting with officials of the federation, the Union minister stressed the need to improve the facilities for rowers at their

training camps. The gym will be repaired and more equipment provided, he said.

General Secretary of the federation U Pe Win reported on preparations of the rowers to take part in the 28th SEA Games and international rowing competitions, training of new

talent and supply of training equipment.

The Union minister inspected renovation of the gym of the training camp, the male and female hostels and hall. He also looked into construction of the Squash gymnasium in Kyaikkasan Grounds.

MNA

Yangon region gov't meets ahead of 67th Martyr's Day

YANGON, 14 July— A meeting of the Central Organizing Committee and the Working Committee of Yangon region government to mark the 67th Mar-

tyr's Day, was held here on Monday.

Myanmar celebrates the Martyr's Day on 19 July every year in commemoration of General Aung San and seven other leaders of the pre-independence interim government, who were assassinated on that day in 1947.

Union Minister for Culture U Aye Myint Kyu, chairman of COC, and Yangon Region Chief Minister U Myint Swe, chairman of WC, attended the meeting.

After the opening speech of the chairman of COC, the chief minister

said: "A lot of preparations have been made for holding the 67th Martyr's Day after the two meetings in the third week of June and the second week of July."

The new government has celebrated Martyr's Day three times since it took office in 2011.

Then deputy ministers Brigadier General Kyaw Kyaw Tun of Ministry of Home Affairs, U Pike Htway of Ministry of Information and U Than Swe of Ministry of Culture explained the preparations for the upcoming event.—MNA

Meteorology and Hydrology...

(from page 1)

The heavy rain on Saturday at mid-night caused landslides in Tachilek in eastern Shan State, leaving seven dead.

Rain or thundershowers will be scattered in lower Sagaing, Mandalay and Magway Regions, Kayah State, fairly widespread in Bago Region, Shan and Chin States and widespread in the remaining regions

and states, according to the forecast by the MHD.

Occasional squalls with rough sea will be experienced off and along the Myanmar coasts with surface wind speed in squalls reaching 40 m.p.h, according to the MHD.

Meanwhile, the coastal areas will experience continuation of increased rain, said the department.

NLM

Vice president discusses wide range of cooperation with prime minister of Singapore

NAY PYI TAW, 14 July — Vice President Dr Sai Mauk Kham, who is currently on a tour of Singapore, met with Prime Minister Lee Hsien Loong at Isata in Singapore on Monday to discuss studying the education and health care systems of Singapore for the reforms in Myanmar, as well as technological cooperation signed between the two countries, promotion of friendly relations and assistance for human resources development.

The vice president also met with Senior Minister Goh Chok Tong separately

and exchanged views on political, economic, social developments during the term of the new government and national reconciliation and development.

On Monday morning, the vice president visited Khoo Teck Puat Hospital in Singapore and viewed medical equipment, management system, the teaching of medical science, formation of the hospital, provision of health care services and treatments. In the afternoon, the vice president visited Tuas South Incineration Plant, which is generating electric

energy from waste.

Vice President Dr Sai Mauk Kham and delegation arrived at the Embassy of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar on Saturday.

Ambassador of Myanmar to Singapore U Htay Aung explained the arrangements to help Myanmar workers in Singapore and application for new passports.

The vice president also met with staff from the embassy and military attaché office and Myanmar students in Singapore.

MNA



Vice President Dr Sai Mauk Kham holds talks with Senior Minister Goh Chok Tong of Singapore.—MNA

Myanmar, Malaysia to cooperate in development of banking services



Vice President U Nyan Tun with Vice President of May Bank of Malaysia Mr Datuk Lim Hong Tat and party.—MNA

NAY PYI TAW, 14 July — Vice President U Nyan Tun received a delegation

led by Vice President of May Bank of Malaysia Mr Datuk Lim Hong Tat

at the Credentials Hall of the Presidential Palace in Nay Pyi Taw on

Monday.

They discussed cooperation opportunities for the development of banking services.

MNA

Pyidaungsu Hluttaw speaker attends coordination meeting on bills

NAY PYI TAW, 14 July — Speaker of Pyidaungsu Hluttaw and Lower House Thura U Shwe Mann delivered an address at the coordination meeting on bills at the meeting hall of Hluttaw complex in Nay Pyi Taw on Monday.

Chairmen of respective committees reported on the inland water transport bill, the Myanmar port authority bill, the Myanmar aviation bill, the bill amending the Myanmar Mining Law and the public service media service bill.—MNA



Speaker of Pyidaungsu Hluttaw and Lower House Thura U Shwe Mann speaking at coordination meeting on bills.—MNA

Military salute depends on wish of head of state: Upper House debate

NAY PYI TAW, 14 July — Whether the military salutes the president during a parade or not depends on the wish of the president, Deputy Minister for Defence Maj-Gen Kyaw Nyunt told the Upper House in Nay Pyi Taw on Monday.

He was answering the question raised by Upper House Representative U Hla Swe who wanted to know whether the military would salute the president as the head of the state during parades.

Deputy Minister Maj-Gen Kyaw Nyunt said that the first president of Myanmar Sao Shwe Thaik was saluted on the first anniversary of the Independence Day in 1949 during the parade by the army, the navy, the air force, the military police, the Yangon Police and the military band and the nursing corps and the amateur fire brigade, together with circling fighter planes in the sky.

On the sixth anniversary of the Independence Day in 1954, the then president, U Ba Oo, was saluted in the same fashion and successive

presidents from 1949 to 1962 including Sao Shwe Thaik, U Ba Oo and U Win Maung received military salutes on parade, the deputy minister added.

Instead of military parades, the Independence Day celebration have been held with other forms of activities, including performances depicting unity, peace and reconstruction since the 14th anniversary of the Independence Day in 1962, he pointed out.

However, the deputy minister said whether the military will salute the president as the head of state depends on the wish of the president.

Other topics discussed at the Upper House on Monday focused on prevention of smuggled goods and expansions of airports for small towns.

At the Lower House session on Monday, the representatives discussed withdrawal of charges against landless people in the Nay Pyi Taw Council Area and availability of a national planning record for parliamentary representatives.

MNA

Stationery, school uniforms provided to nuns, students in Tangyan

NAY PYI TAW, 14 July—Shan State Minister for Security and Border Affairs Col Aung Thu, Director-General of Progress of Border Areas and National Races Department U Htwe Hla, Tactical Operations Commander (Tangyan Base) Lt-Col Kyaw Swa Win and officials have donated nun robes to 368 nuns of Shwemaung Nunnery in Tangyan of northern Shan State.

They also presented one TV, copy books and stationery to the head of the nunnery.

At Weluwun monastic education school, they donated a TV, copybooks, stationery and school uni-



forms to 987 students, who would otherwise not be able to attend school.

They also provided rice for Weluwun and Kalingon monasteries and

Shwemaung nunnery in Tangyan.

MNA

Myingyan Township adds basic education middle school to its school list

MYINGYAN, 14 July —A basic education middle school branch was upgraded to a basic education middle school in Zeegan Village of Myingyan Township in Mandalay Region on Sunday.

Township Education Officer U Ba Thit handed

over a certificate of order to upgrade the school to Headmistress Daw Win Win Aye.

Village administrator U Kyaw San presented documents related to the new school building to the Township Education Officer.

Mandalay Region Minister for Planning and Economic U Aung San donated 50 dozens of copy books and U Shein and family of Township Development Affairs Committee, 50 dozens of copy books to the headmistress.

In the 2014-15 ac-

ademic year, the Ministry of Education has upgraded some basic education schools in Myingyan Township in an attempt to provide adequate facilities.

Zaw Min Naing
(Myingyan)



Old mortar shell found in Pyinmana

PYINMANA, 14 July—A mortar shell was found on Sunday in Ywakauk Ward, Pyinmana Township in the Nay Pyi Taw Council Area, sources said.

The 14 inches long and three inches diameter shell, which was found to be inactive, was discovered when U Kyaw Soe was opening the drain in front

of his house.

Township authorities, police and local military engineers of No 2 Ordinance Unit pronounced the shell inactive after examining it.

They handed over the shell to No 920 Field Battalion (Engineers).

Ko Myo
(Shwepaukkan)



Trade fair and market festival attracts locals of Kyunhla Township

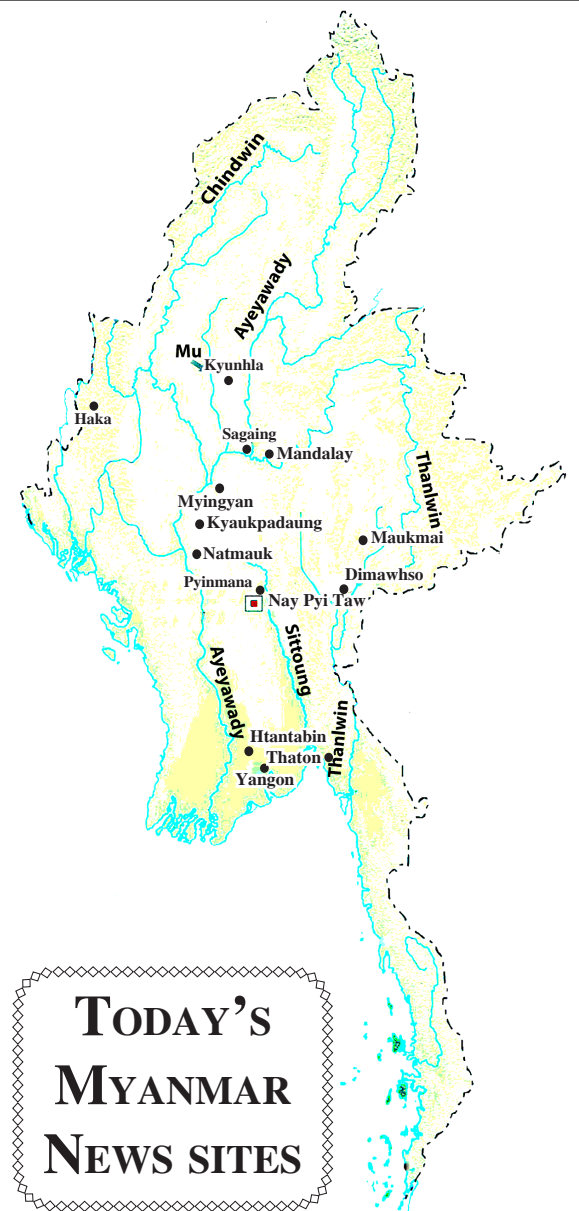
KYUNHLA, 14 July—Shwe Chintae Company Ltd organized a Trade Fair and Market Festival at Shwekyuntha Hall in Kyunhla of Sagaing Region on Monday.

Sagaing Region Hluttaw representatives, members of the Township

Development Affairs Committee and officials visited the booths at the trade fair.

Over 50 booths showcased various kinds of goods at the show which will wrap up on 19 July.

Myo Win Nyo (Kyunhla)



School environment day organized at Maukmai BEHS

MAUKMAI, 14 July — As part of implementing environmental conservation, teachers and students participated in school environment day on

Sunday.

Headmistress Daw Chaw Su Khaing, teachers and students grew teak, mango, jack fruit, tamarind and flower plants

around the fence of the school compound at the Basic Education High School in Maukmai of Shan State.

Sai Myo Thant (IPRD)



REGIONAL

Japan PM Abe wants to hold summit with China at APEC

TOKYO, 14 July — Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe said on Monday he wants to hold a summit with China at the APEC leaders meeting in Beijing in November to improve relations strained by territorial and security issues.

Abe has been in office since late 2012 and has yet to meet Chinese leaders, despite worsening ties over disputed islands in the East China Sea, China's declaration of an air defence identification zone in the area and Abe's visits to a Tokyo shrine seen as a symbol of Japan's past militarism.

"It is a great pity that we have not been able to have a leaders' summit," Abe told a parliamentary committee.

"We need to return to the basics of a strategic relationship of mutual respect. I would like to have



Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe delivers remarks during a tour of the Rio Tinto West Angelas iron ore mine in the Pilbara region of Western Australia, on 9 July, 2014.—REUTERS

a summit in Beijing this November at the time of the APEC meeting."

Abe also touched on the strong economic ties between the two nations and said that their relationship was unbreakable.

"While recognizing

that even if our ties are strained they cannot be broken, there will be problems between neighbours. For this very reason we need to maintain a relationship that keeps things under control," he said, repeating that the door for dialogue with China was always open.

Japan has been locked in a bitter territorial dispute with China over a group of tiny East China Sea islets, known as the Senkaku in Japan and the Diaoyu in China. Ships from both countries frequently shadow each other around the islands, raising fears of a clash.

Tensions escalated after China declared its air defence zone in the area in November, a move that also sparked concern from the United States and South Korea.

Abe's visit a month later to Tokyo's Yasukuni

Shrine, seen as a symbol of militarism because war criminals convicted by an Allied tribunal are honoured there along with war dead, infuriated China and even drew criticism from the United States.

In an interview with the *Mainichi Shimbun* daily published on Monday, Abe refused to rule out another visit to the shrine.

"In the future I hope to maintain my feeling of respect to honour those who have given their lives for the nation, but I would rather not say whether or not I will visit Yasukuni," he was quoted as saying.

Abe also brushed off reports that Masahiko Komura, a top ruling party official and former Foreign Minister, had told China he would not go to the shrine again. "That was Mr Komura's thought. I don't know about it," he added.—Reuters

Singapore council gives new spin to "prophetic" anti-gambling advertisement

SINGAPORE, 14 July—An anti-gambling council in Singapore on Monday gave a new spin to its anti-gambling advertisement that features a boy whose father bets the boy's money on Germany, the eventual winner of the tournament.

Germany defeated Argentina 1-0 to win the World Cup trophy on Sunday evening in Brazil.

The previous version of the advertisement, featuring a boy named Andy who told his friend that his father had bet the boy's savings on Germany, went viral online after Germany shocked Brazil in a dramatic 7-1 victory in the semifinals. Memes of the advertisement began circulating on social media, with some joking that the boy's father is getting rich.

United States talk show host Jimmy Fallon also made a joke on the advertisement, saying last Wednesday, "Cheer up kid,

your Dad's gonna be so rich you don't even have to go to college anymore!"

The advertisement also came with a sentence, "Often, the people who suffer from problem gambling aren't the gamblers. Kick the habit."

The National Council on Problem Gambling, which was set up in 2005 to address problem gambling after Singapore decided to legalize casino gambling and build two casino resorts known as integrated resorts, said that the advertisement would not be pulled. The new version appeared on the website of the council on Monday morning after Germany won the tournament. Another boy in a football suit asks, "Your dad's team won. Did you get your savings back?"

Andy replies, "No, dad never stops... he wants to bet one more time."

Xinhua

'Philippine leader's approval down on doubt over corruption effort

MANILA, 14 July — Philippine President Benigno Aquino's performance ratings have plunged to their lowest ever, two independent pollsters said on Monday, as a perception grew that he is not serious enough in efforts to fight corruption.

Aquino, the son of an assassinated opponent of dictatorship and his wife, a democracy hero and former president, won the presidency in 2010 on a promise of good governance and fighting graft but has struggled to rid the country of its image as the most corrupt in Asia.

A survey by independent pollster Pulse Asia, taken last month, showed Aquino's approval rating dropped from 70 percent in March to 56 percent. His trust rating also fell from 69 percent to 53 percent in the same period.

Another survey, by Social Weather Stations, also done last month, showed Aquino's net satisfaction ratings dropped to 25 percent from 45 percent in March, the lowest in four years. His highest was 67 percent in August 2012.

Aquino is ineligible for re-election under the constitution but the prospects for his Liberal Party's



Philippines President Benigno Aquino

candidate are likely to be damaged if his popularity is undermined in the run-up to a 2016 presidential election.

"This is the largest decline in both approval and trust and it's also his lowest performance thus far," Ana Maria Tabunda, Pulse Asia research director, said in a television interview.

People were disillusioned by widespread corruption in government, she said, adding that her poll was taken at the same time that the government arrested three senators on plunder charges for misuse of congressional funds and rising cost of rice and other food.

Tabunda said the survey was largely complete by the time the Supreme Court rejected an Aquino creation of discretionary funds, called a Disbursement Acceleration Programme, which has become the administration's worst crisis in four years.

Edwin Lacierda, the president's spokesman, acknowledged a "dip in enthusiasm" but said he was not alarmed.

"These numbers can be considered par for the course or average for this period," he said. "A healthy majority has expressed trust and confidence in the president."

Reuters

Cambodian military chopper crashes during training mission, killing five

PHNOM PENH, 14 July — A Cambodian military helicopter crashed on the outskirts of Phnom Penh, the capital of Cambodia, on Monday morning during a training mission, killing 5 military officers and seriously injuring one, senior officials said.

The accident happened at 9:30 am in Dangkor district on the outskirts of Phnom Penh when a military chopper carrying six military officers crashed into a large pond, said Chuon Narin, deputy po-

lice chief of Phnom Penh Municipality.

"Five died and one was seriously injured when the helicopter crashed into the pond and exploded," he told *Xinhua* after the accident. "All the victims were military personnel who conducted a flying training."

He said he did not know what caused the explosion as an investigation is underway.

According to Chuon Narin, the crashed chopper was a Chinese-made *Zhi-9*

(Z-9) utility helicopter.

He said there was no damage to any local residents since it fell into the pond.

The crashed site is located about 12 km south of capital Phnom Penh.

Deputy Prime Minister and Defence Minister Tea Banh said among the dead victims were Major General Uk Ponnaha, commander of military helicopter unit, and Brigadier General Ieng Vanrith, deputy chief of military helicopter technicians team.—Xinhua



Rescuers and journalists stand beside a part of crashed military helicopter in Dangkor district on the outskirts of Phnom Penh, Cambodia, on 14 July, 2014.

XINHUA

China, Greece agree to enhance comprehensive strategic partnership

RHODES, (Greece), 14 July—Visiting Chinese President Xi Jinping on Sunday vowed to further enhance the comprehensive strategic partnership with Greece.

In a meeting with Greek Prime Minister Antonis Samaras, Xi said Greece is a friendly and reliable friend of China in the European Union (EU), and that the two countries have enjoyed deep friendship as they showed mutual understanding and support on matters relating to each other's core interests and major concerns, and help each other in times of difficulty.

"The Chinese side will continue to support Greece on sovereign debt issues and efforts to promote economic recovery," said the Chinese president. "China is ready to share its development opportunities with Greece and further enhance the bilateral comprehensive strategic partnership."

The two sides, said Xi, should maintain close high-level exchanges and focus on cooperation in

transportation infrastructure, maritime, energy and green economy.

The Chinese side supports Chinese companies to properly manage

the Piraeus port project and actively participate in the technical renovation of Greek railways, making Greece an important bridgehead of China-EU cooperation.

China attaches great importance to Greece's important position in the Mediterranean Sea and Southern Europe, said Xi, hoping that China-Greece cooperation would spearhead China's cooperation with other countries in the region.

Moreover, China is ready to strengthen communication and coordination with Greece in international affairs, jointly promote the democratization of international relations, safeguard world peace and promote common development, said Xi.

The Chinese president stressed that Beijing firmly supports Europe's integration and stands ready to build peace, growth, reform and civilization partnerships with Europe.

Xinhua



Chinese President Xi Jinping meets with Greek Prime Minister Antonis Samaras on the Rhodes Island in Greece, on 13 July, 2014. — XINHUA

N Korean missiles fired to counter US-S Korea drills: lawmakers

BEIJING, 14 July — North Korea recently fired missiles into the Sea of Japan to counter upcoming military exercises between South Korea and the United States, not to send a message to Japan, a group of Japanese opposition lawmakers said on Monday following a visit to Pyongyang. "We asked if the missiles were fired because of Japan. They said that wasn't the case," lawmaker Taro Yamada told reporters at Beijing's international airport on his return from North Korea, where he and other legislators met with veteran North Korean diplomat Kang Sok Ju.

He said Kang, who has strong influence over Pyongyang's foreign policy, described the launches as "countermeasures" against the annual South Korea-US joint military exercises, which are scheduled to start on Wednesday.

Pyongyang has launched a number of rockets and guided missiles off its east coast over the past several weeks, firing two as

recently as Sunday.

Yamada traveled to North Korea as part of a delegation led by Diet member and ex-pro wrestler Antonio Inoki, who visited the country in preparation for a wrestling exhibition to be held in Pyongyang in August. Inoki has traveled to North Korea almost 30 times since 1994.

Naoto Sakaguchi, who also joined the trip, said the North Koreans told the group that they are "working with all their might" to resolve the remaining questions surrounding the fates of Japanese citizens kidnapped by Pyongyang in the 1970s and 80s.

The legislators did not, however, receive any updates on the investigation, which was reopened following talks between Tokyo and Pyongyang in Stockholm in May.

Tokyo agreed to ease unilateral sanctions on Pyongyang in early July following the announcement of the new probe into the abductees' fates.

Kyodo News

US concerned foreign fighters in Syria are working with Yemenis

WASHINGTON, 14 July — US Attorney General Eric Holder said he is concerned fighters from Europe and the United States who are supporting violent insurgents in the Syrian civil war are joining forces with Yemeni bomb makers.

"In some ways, it's more frightening than anything I think I've seen as attorney general," Holder said on ABC's "This Week," broadcast on Sunday.

US intelligence agencies estimate around 7,000 of the 23,000 violent extremists operating in Syria are foreign fighters, mostly from Europe.

Holder, who last week met with European justice ministers in London, said the worry is not only about the actions of foreign fighters in Syria, but when they return to their home countries.

Extremists have tried to recruit Westerners and send them back home with a mission. US Homeland Security Secretary Jeh Johnson has said Syria has become a matter of home-



US Attorney General Eric Holder speaks at the US ambassador's residence in Oslo on 8 July, 2014.—REUTERS

land security.

The FBI has dozens of investigations under way on American fighters who have gone to Syria and made their way home, Holder said.

Intelligence that bomb makers in Yemen have been joining forces in Syria with the foreign fighters is particularly concerning, he added.

"That's a deadly combination, where you have people who have the technical know-how along with

the people who have this kind of fervor to give their lives in support of a cause that is directed at the United States and directed at its allies," Holder said in the interview that was recorded last week.

A Nigerian man who attempted to detonate explosives on a flight from Amsterdam to Michigan in 2009, and who became known as the underwear bomber, was linked to an extremist group that operates in Yemen.

Last week, Holder urged countries in Europe and elsewhere to do more to keep their citizens from traveling to Syria to fight, saying they could learn from US efforts to conduct undercover sting operations.

Holder said Sunni extremists flowing into Iraq from Syria who have seized towns in the North do not yet represent a threat to the West. But that could change. "If they are able to consolidate their gains in that area, I think it's just a matter of time before they start looking at the West and at the United States in particular," he said.

Earlier this month, a Denver woman accused of trying to fly to Syria to support insurgents there was arrested in the United States, and last month two men in central Texas were arrested on similar charges.

One of the Texas men was charged with "attempting to provide material support to terrorists," violating a law that Holder urged other countries to copy.

Reuters

WORLD

Merkel and Putin call for stronger peace effort in Ukraine



Russian President Vladimir Putin (R) meets with German Chancellor Angela Merkel in Rio de Janeiro on 13 July, 2014.—REUTERS

RIO DE JANEIRO, 14 July — German Chancellor Angela Merkel and Russian President Vladimir Putin, meeting briefly on Sunday before the World Cup soc-

cer final in Brazil, called for a stepping-up of peace efforts in Ukraine, Putin's spokesman said.

The pair have been in regular telephone contact over the Ukraine crisis, with Merkel urging Putin to use his influence with pro-Russian separatists to help bring about an end to fighting in the east of the former Soviet republic in which hundreds of people have been killed. Putin's spokesman Dmitry Peskov said Merkel and the Kremlin leader agreed the situation 'has a tendency toward degradation'.

"Both Putin and Merkel stressed the necessity to urgently resume the work of a contact group on Ukraine, possibly in the format of a video conference. It is their common opinion that, in order for the contact group to resume its work, a ceasefire needs to be declared as soon as possible," Peskov said.

A separate statement released by Merkel's office said effective controls along Russia's border with Ukraine and an exchange of prisoners were key prerequisites for a ceasefire.

Reuters

Russia warns Ukraine after shell crosses border



Ukrainian troops are pictured in the eastern Ukrainian town of Seversk on 12 July, 2014.—REUTERS

DONETSK, (Ukraine/Moscow), 14 July — Russia threatened Ukraine on Sunday with "irreversible consequences" after a Russian man was killed by a shell fired across the border, while Kiev said Ukrainian warplanes struck again at separatist positions in the east of the country, inflicting big losses.

Although both sides have reported cross-border shootings in the past, it appears to be the first time Moscow has reported fatalities on its side of the border in the three-month conflict which has killed hundreds of people in Ukraine.

Kiev called the accusation its forces had fired across the border "total nonsense" and suggested the attack could have been the work of rebels trying to

provoke Moscow to intervene on their behalf. The rebels denied they were responsible.

Ukrainian President Petro Poroshenko, who earlier turned down an invitation to attend the World Cup soccer final in Brazil where he may have met Russia's Vladimir Putin, accused Russian forces of crossing the border and attacking Ukrainian servicemen.

In a telephone conversation with the European Union's Herman Van Rompuy, he called on the EU to consider "the illegal crossing of the Russian-Ukrainian border of heavy military equipment and an attack by Russian soldiers on the positions of Ukrainian servicemen," his website said.

His comments were linked to an earlier report on Sunday by the government's "anti-terrorist operation" that a convoy of about 100 separatist armored vehicles and trucks had crossed into Ukraine carrying rebel fighters from Russia. A Ukrainian military spokesman said Ukrainian artillery had destroyed the column.

Combat has intensified dramatically in Ukraine since a rebel missile attack killed dozens of government troops on Friday.

Ukrainian forces said their warplanes on Sunday carried out five air strikes on rebel bases near Luhansk airport, at Izvarino on the border and against Chechen fighters who it said had occupied a National Guard base at

Lysychansk.

"The enemy suffered significant losses of men and equipment," a statement from the "anti-terrorist operation" said, adding the attacks had sown "fear and panic" among the rebels.

Rebels controlling Luhansk, on the border with Russia, said Ukrainian forces had now begun to storm the town with about 50 tanks and attack planes. There was no word of this from the Ukrainian side.

In other incidents, local officials said 18 civilians had been killed in shooting in Luhansk and Donetsk, the region's main city, which is also controlled by separatists. There were no details of these incidents.

Reuters

Spain's embattled Socialists elect new leader



New secretary general of Spain's Socialist Party (PSOE) Pedro Sanchez (L) is congratulated by outgoing leader Alfredo Perez Rubalcaba (R) after being elected at PSOE's headquarters in Madrid on 13 July, 2014.—REUTERS

MADRID, 14 July — Spain's opposition Socialists, besieged by upstart leftist movements and struggling to win back voters, on Sunday chose economist Pedro Sanchez to lead the party and try and revive its chances in a looming election.

Pedro Sanchez, 42, a telegenic parliamentarian who only burst into the limelight in recent weeks, was elected by party members as the Socialists bid to overturn a dramatic decline.

Support for Spain's two dominant political forces, including the center-right People's Party (PP) now in power, has plummeted after a six-year economic downturn and corruption scandals.

New anti-austerity and anti-establishment

Obama, Cameron discuss world situations over phone

WASHINGTON, 14 July — US President Barack Obama on Sunday spoke with British Prime Minister David Cameron to discuss the situations in Ukraine, Afghanistan, and Iraq, as well as the ongoing talks on Iran's nuclear programme.

Obama and Cameron expressed concern about the increasing tensions and ongoing violence in eastern Ukraine and agreed upon the need for Russia to take immediate steps to de-escalate the situation, the White House said in a statement.

The leaders agreed Europe and the United States should take further coordinated measures to impose costs on Russia if it does not take immediate steps toward de-escalation, according to the statement.

On Afghanistan, Obama and Cameron welcomed recent progress toward resolving the election impasse and agreed to continue to urge all parties to play constructive and helpful roles leading to the peaceful and democratic transition of power in Afghanistan, it said.

The election standoff ended on Sunday after two days of intense talks between two rival candidates and visiting US Secretary of State John Kerry. The candidates agreed to an audit of all ballots cast during 14 June presidential runoff.

Obama and Cameron also called on Iran to take the necessary steps to assure the international community that its nuclear programme will be exclusively peaceful and reaffirmed their commitments to make progress toward a sustainable agreement.

With regard to Iraq, the two leaders agreed to keep working with all parties to form an inclusive and representative government that can work to promote the interests of all Iraqis, said the statement.—Xinhua

PERSPECTIVES

Tuesday, 15 July, 2014

Enforcement of Consumer Protection Law crucial for health

By Aung Khin

Myanmar has approved its first Consumer Protection Law in March, guaranteeing the prevention of unsafe foods and services. The law stipulates that anyone who sells unsafe and low quality goods, or expired goods to consumers

will face a jail term of up to three years, or a fine of K 5 million, and both in serious cases.

However, some consumer advocacy groups are still insisting the country needs stricter enforcement of this law to make it efficient. Before the establishment of the ASEAN Economic Community in 2015, the country should introduce more systematic measures to control substandard products.

The products should be safe not only for people, but also for the environment and animals. Crops sprayed with low quality pesticides can cause loss of lives and spread deadly diseases such as cancer, even if the amount of contamination is small.

Negligence of food safety measures is a crime which can harm generations of a country in terms

of health, education and economy. While toxic foods cause chronic illnesses, unhygienic foods can pose danger for school children. This will then turn into a burden for the country.

Experts suggested both law enforcement and educative programmes are important in this matter. Whatever action is taken, safety of life is a top priority. Both government departments and NGOs should put more efforts into this matter, and producers or manufacturers of products should emphasize on the betterment of the state.

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.

Entrepreneurs urged to strive for development of tourism industry

NAY PYI TAW, 14 July—The government, local and foreign entrepreneurs and local people are to work in concert for development of tourism industry, Union Minister for Hotels and Tourism U Htay Aung said at a meeting with departmental officials of Hpa-an and Myawady Districts, hoteliers and tourism entrepreneurs at the hall of Kayin State Government in Hpa-an and Myawady of Kayin State on Saturday.

Entrepreneurs and departmental officials discussed ways to develop the tourism industry.

In Mawlamyine of Mon State, the Union minister met departmental officials, entrepreneurs and



Union Minister for Hotels and Tourism U Htay Aung talks about development of tourism industry in meeting with entrepreneurs.—MNA

townselders, emphasizing improvement of tourist destinations and develop-

ment tasks.

He visited the war road of Japan in Thanbyu-zayat and 21 Paradise Hotel in Setse Beach.—MNA

Awarding scholarship for outstanding students discussed

MANDALAY, 14 July—Director-General Dr Soe Win of Higher Education Department (Upper Myanmar) received a four-member delegation led by Vice President Mr Wang Xingzui of China Foundation for Poverty Alleviation (CFPA) of China at the HED Head Office on 80th street between 34th and 35th streets in Mandalay on Monday.

The vice president of

the foundation discussed education, health and rural development sector and humanitarian assistance of the foundation.

The director-general also discussed academic and teaching systems at the universities, degree colleges and colleges, awarding of scholarship for outstanding students and stipends for poor students.

HED/NLM

GOLD PRICE, FE RATE (14-7-2014)

Yangon Gold Price

Buying K681,600 per tical: Selling K682,600

Mandalay Gold Price

Buying K681,600 per tical: Selling K682,600

FE RATE

USD Buying	K967	-	Selling	K972
SGD Buying	K776	-	Selling	K784.5
Euro Buying	K1313	-	Selling	K1328

Making a Difference with Insight

By Kyi Mun

Making a difference means generating an effective impact or getting some important desired results. INSIGHT means SEEING THROUGH—seeing the core or essence or content by penetrating the form, the colour or the outer sphere.

For a significant difference to be made, the difference of impact between the following ideas should be earnestly considered:

- | | | |
|----------------|----|--------------|
| • Selling | vs | Telling |
| • Asking | vs | Barking |
| • Showing | vs | Crowing |
| • Dealing | vs | Freewheeling |
| • Paying | vs | Playing |
| • Playing | vs | Straying |
| • Walking | vs | Talking |
| • Fixing | vs | Wishing |
| • Doing | vs | Brooding |
| • Gripping | vs | Slipping |
| • Smiling | vs | Beguiling |
| • Heavy Hitter | vs | Easy Quitter |
| • Game Plan | vs | Blame Plan |

- A forefinger is pointing at the moon. What do you mainly see, the forefinger or the moon? You have insight if you see the moon. If you just look at the forefinger, and do not see the moon, you are still far from

INSIGHT.

- If you just read the Signpost directing the way to the City, and don't follow it, you won't get to the City.
- If you just read the Menu, and do not order a certain dish, you won't get the taste and you won't fill your stomach.
- If you just TALK and do not WALK you won't be able to deliver the goods/the results.
- If you behave like NATO-NO ACTION, TALK ONLY, you don't deliver.

It is essential that you have got to see the WHOLE while doing just a PART of the WHOLE, to be able to make a difference.

So, in order to make a difference, you have got to see:

- the CAUSE in relation to an EFFECT
- the MEANS in relation to the END
- the difference between the RIGHT and the WRONG
- the difference between the GOOD and the EVIL
- the RELATION between YIN and YANG
- the RELATION between THEORY and PRACTICE
- both the UNITY and STRUGGLE of Opposites

To be able to make a difference, you have got to substitute:

- A BURNING DESIRE to replace COMLACENCY
- An INDOMITABLE MIND to replace APATHY
- An UNYIEDLING EFFORT to replace INERTIA

- INSIGHT WISDOM to replace IGNORANCE

To make a difference, you have got to be:

- **ACTIVE** instead of being **PASSIVE**
- **DYNAMIC** instead of being **STATIC**
- **POSITIVE** instead of being **NEGATIVE**
- **PROACTIVE** instead of being **REACTIVE**
- **Transformational Change-Driven** instead of being **Status quo-Driven**

If you want to STANDOUT FROM THE CROWD, you have got to be OUTSTANDING like a HAMSÁ in a group of DUCKS, or like a DIAMOND AMONG the PEBBLES or like a PEARL in a heap of sand.

In short, if you want to make a difference in your life, in your job, and in your relationships, you have got to have FIRE in your guts and in your heart; FIRE being;

F for Fortitude
I for Iron Mind
R for Resilience
E for Earnestness

In order to be able to make a good difference, this FIRE in your heart should be guided by the GOD in your head, the GOD being:

G for Goal
O for Obsession
D for Daring

With FIRE in your heart and with GOD in your head, you will certainly be UNBEATABLE.

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

LOCAL NEWS

Model plot of Palethwe paddy harvested in Dimawhso Tsp

DIMAWHSO, 14 July—Paddy harvesting of summer Palethwe hybrid paddy was conducted on a two-acre model plot with the use of a harvester in Hopeik Village of Dimawhso Township in Kayah State on Monday.

At the ceremony, the model plot produced 241.92 baskets of paddy per acre.

Local people of Hopeik Village cultivated Palethwe hybrid paddy on 72.50 acres of farmlands in the village in the 2013-14 cultivation season.

The harvesting task was supervised by Kayah State Minister for Agriculture and Livestock Breeding U Poe Yei Yan Aung and departmental officials.—*Township IPRD*



Agricultural technology explained to local farmers

SAGAING, 14 July—A course on agricultural technology kicked off at the hall of Sagaing District Agriculture Department on Monday.

During his address, Commander of District Police Force Police Lt-Col Myint Swe, who is member of the District Management Committee, stressed the need for the trainees to place emphasis on studying lectures and practical works.

Assistant Director U Aung Min Zaw of the head office of the agriculture department and other officials gave lectures on the prevention of pests of horticultural crops, paddy, maize and vegetables, technology on soil improvement, post-harvesting technology, techniques on rice processing, production of quality seeds and tasks of quality control.

The one-day course was attended by 30 farmers

and 106 agricultural staff, officials said.

Zaw Min Naing

2,500 saplings grown for environmental conservation

NATMAUK, 14 July—As Natmauk Township is located in a hot and dry area of Magway Region, departmental officials gave talks to local people on how to conserve the en-

vironment.

Natmauk Township Forest Department organized a monsoon tree planting ceremony at the Basic Education High School Branch in Kalashin Vil-

lage of the township on Sunday.

Township departmental officials, teachers and students participated in the planting of 2,500 saplings.—*U Nay*



Officials discuss supply of power from Haka 66 KV Sub-power Station

HAKA, 14 July—A ceremony to clarify supply of electricity from Haka 66 KV sub-power station of Gangaw-Haka 66 KV power grid was held at the city hall in Haka of Chin State on 11 July.

Chin State electrical engineer U Ohn Kyaw

clarified progress of power supply and instructions for consumers and replied to queries raised by townelders, with officials of Chin State Electricity Supply Enterprise distributing pamphlets on the systematic use of electricity.

Chin State IPRD

Stipends granted by Thida Shwesin family provided to students

KYAUKPADAUNG, 14 July—U Maung Maung and wife Daw Khin Si of Thida Shwesin family of Kyaukpadaung present-

ed stipends for poor students for the fifth time on Sunday at the hall of No 1 Basic Education High School in Kyaukpadaung of Mandalay Region for the 2014-15 academic year.

Township Education Officer Daw Khin Nyo welcomed the stipend granted by the donor family. Wellwisher U Maung Maung and daughter Ma Myo Thida explained the purpose of granting the stipend for the students, giving cash to the students for the entire 2014-15 academic year, with headmistress Daw Khin Than Win presenting gifts to the donor family.

Children from poor families are largely excluded from education and rely entirely on private donors to get access to middle or high school.

Although the electrification committee expects to supply power to about 1,600 houses from five village-tracts, so far, about 1,200 houses have enlisted for electricity supply.—*Thet Oo (Thaton)*

Ko Nay (Kyaukpadaung)

Thaton Township to get electricity supply in the next season

THATON, 14 July—Self-reliant electrification for five village-tracts in Tha-

ton Township of Mon State has been completed by 50 percent, with electricity sup-

ply planned to be ready in the coming season, said an official.

“All the tasks of electrification will be completed in December. Lamp-posts have been erected along the roads and power lines are being installed. The electrification committee designated K500,000 per house for the supply of power as villagers cannot afford to pay the fee, because they invested their capital in farming. But after the harvest, they will have to pay the fees,” said U Tin Win, secretary of the electrification committee.

Around 700 concrete lamp-posts have been erected and 11.43-mile long 11 KV power line and 15.5-mile long 400 V power line were installed among Ma-



Taleban survivor Malala, in Nigeria, pledges to help free girls

ABUJA, 14 July — Pakistani rights activist Malala Yousafzai, who survived being shot in the head by the Taleban for campaigning for girls' education, pledged while on a trip to Nigeria to help free a group of schoolgirls abducted by Islamist militants.

On Sunday, Malala met parents of the more than 200 girls who were kidnapped by the militant group Boko Haram from a school in the northeastern village of Chibok in April.

Boko Haram, inspired by the Taleban, say they are fighting to establish an Islamic state in religiously mixed Nigeria. The group, whose name means "Western education is sinful", has killed thousands and abducted hundreds since launching an uprising in 2009. Some of the parents broke down in tears as Malala spoke at a hotel in the capital Abuja on Sunday. "I can see those girls as my sisters ... and I'm



Pakistani schoolgirl activist Malala Yousafzai speaks during a meeting with the leaders of the #BringBackOurGirls Abuja campaign group, in Abuja on 13 July, 2014. — REUTERS

going to speak up for them until they are released," said Malala, who was due to meet President Goodluck Jonathan on Monday, her 17th birthday.

"I'm going to participate actively in the 'Bring back our girls' campaign, to make sure that they re-

turn safely and they continue their education."

The girls' abduction drew unprecedented international attention to the war in Nigeria's northeast and the growing security risk that Boko Haram poses to Nigeria, Africa's leading energy producer.

cumstances under which you are suffering," Malala said. "It's quite difficult for a parent to know that their daughter is in great danger. My birthday wish this year is ... bring back our girls now, and alive."

Several weeks on, the hostages have not been freed and media interest has waned. Around 200 Nigerians gathered in the Unity Fountain park in central Abuja on Sunday to call on authorities to explain what they are doing to get the girls out.

"Nobody has told us anything about where the girls could be, what they are doing to try to rescue them. In three months, we've heard nothing," said Haruna Fetima, one of the parents at the gathering. "We live in Chibok, and we haven't seen any soldiers or police in the area since the attack." Boko Haram, now considered the main security threat to Nigeria, is growing bolder.

Police said on Saturday they had uncovered a plot to bomb the Abuja transport network using suicide bombers and devices concealed in luggage at major bus stations.

Pakistani Taleban militants shot Malala for her passionate advocacy of women's right to education. She survived after being airlifted to Britain for treatment, and has since become a symbol of defiance against the militants operating in the tribal areas along the Pakistan-Afghanistan border.

She has won the European Union's prestigious human rights award and was nominated for the Nobel Peace Prize last year.

Some see Nigeria's local #BringBackOurGirls campaign as a rare, albeit small, piece of civil activism in a nation famous for its shoulder-shrugging indifference in the face of atrocities or bad governance. — Reuters

South African metalworkers' union rejects pay offer, threatens wider strike

JOHANNESBURG, 14 July — South Africa's metalworkers' union NUMSA rejected the latest pay offer from engineering and steel sector employers on Sunday, saying black workers were still underpaid, and threatened to widen its two-week old strike.

Industrial action by 220,000 NUMSA members, which followed on the heels of a crippling five-month strike in the platinum sector, has already forced General Motors to close its assembly plant in the southern city of Port Elizabeth.

Other companies affected are construction

companies Murray & Roberts and Aveng Ltd, which are working on the construction of two major power plants for state power utility Eskom.

NUMSA is demanding a 12-15 percent annual wage increase for its members and on Sunday rejected employers' latest offer of a 10 percent increase this year, 9.5 percent in 2015 and 9.0 percent the year after that. Irvin Jim, general secretary of the National Union of Metalworkers of South Africa, said NUMSA would not accept anything less than a 10 percent annual rise over three years at the very least.

"While we are fully aware of the state of the industry in the metals and engineering sectors we are also very acutely aware of the miserable conditions of life of the majority of the black and African working class who ... survive on extremely low, colonial and very inferior racist-inspired wages," Jim told reporters.

"We are making a very clear statement that the strike continues and we call on our members to intensify the strike."

That could mean calling 100,000 NUMSA members in other industries to join the strike as well. — Reuters



Members of the National Union of Metal Workers of South Africa (NUMSA) protest on the streets of Durban on 1 July, 2014. — REUTERS

Yemeni leader demands Shi'ite group give up captured city



Yemen's President Abdu Rabbu Mansour Hadi stands during a reception ceremony on the occasion of the holy fasting month of Ramadan at the Republican Palace in Sanaa on 7 July, 2014. — REUTERS

SANAA, 14 July — Yemen's president on Sunday demanded the withdrawal of Shi'ite Muslim tribesmen from a captured provincial city, in a stand-off that threatens to intensify turmoil in the Arab country.

The Houthis, named after their tribal leader, had handed back an army camp to the Yemeni government on Saturday to try to defuse tensions caused by their capture last week of Omran, some 50 km (30 miles) north of the capital Sanaa.

But President Abd-Rabbu Mansour Hadi signaled the government's patience was running out.

"Everyone has to understand very well that there will be no negotiation over the exit of the Houth-

is with their weapons from Omran," he was quoted as saying by state news agency SABA, in comments he made at a lecture at a military college.

The fall of Omran has drawn condemnation from the UN Security Council and a threat of military action by Hadi, who has ordered the army to raise its preparedness level to "carry out any tasks that may be assigned to it".

The fighting has killed at least 200 people, displaced more than 35,000 and renewed fears for Yemen's stability.

The US-allied country is still trying to recover from a political crisis that started with mass protests in 2011 and forced Hadi's predecessor to step down.

It is also struggling with a southern secessionist movement and a local wing of al-Qaeda.

"Unfortunately, some understood our wisdom and patience in dealing with the problem in Omran and other areas as a kind of weakness and foregoing of responsibility and tried to make use of our willingness to end the conflict in a peaceful manner in a cheap way," Hadi said. "From now on, the state will not let this conflict continue."

The Houthis captured Omran last Tuesday after days of fighting against government soldiers and allied Sunni tribal fighters, in clashes that had threatened to turn into a sectarian conflict.

Hadi said Houthis and other armed groups must leave with their weapons and give up the arms they had seized. He demanded they also hand over bodies and release prisoners.

The fall of Omran came less than a week after the collapse of a ceasefire, for which both sides blamed each other.

The Houthis have said their fight was against rivals loyal to the Islamist Islah party, and that they have no intention of attacking Sanaa.

Reuters

SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY



A Supermoon is seen over the Rideau Canal in Ottawa on 12 July, 2014. — REUTERS

Debut summer 'supermoon' hangs in the summer sky

NEW YORK, 14 July — A "supermoon" rose above cities from Los Angeles to London on Saturday night, the first of three times this year the full moon will orbit nearer the earth and appear unusually large and bright.

The supermoon is technically known as a "perigee moon," and occurs when the moon is full as it reaches perigee, the point of its orbit closest

to the earth, The National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) said in a statement. It looks largest when it's closest to the horizon — an optical illusion.

"However, if it gets people out and looking at the night sky and maybe hooks them into astronomy, then it's a good thing," Geoff Chester of the US Naval Observatory, said on NASA's website.

A 2013 supermoon was 14 percent bigger and 30 percent more luminous than the average full moon of that year, NASA said.

Two additional supermoons are expected in 2014, one on 10 August and another on 9 September, NASA said.

August's supermoon is expected to be the most remarkable of the year.

Reuters

Text more to reduce binge drinking

WASHINGTON, 14 July — Text messages can motivate young adults to reduce their binge drinking by more than 50 per cent, according to a new study.

Young adults who screened positive for a history of hazardous or binge drinking reduced their binge drinking by more than 50 per cent after receiving mobile phone text messages following a visit to the emergency department, the study found.

"Each day in the US, more than 50,000 adults ages 18 to 24 visit ERs and up to half have hazardous alcohol use patterns," said Brian Suffoletto, of the University of Pittsburgh School of Medicine in Pittsburgh.

"More than a third of them report alcohol abuse or dependence. The emergency department provides a unique setting to screen

young adults for drinking problems and to engage with them via their preferred mode of communication to reduce future use," Suffoletto said.

Researchers enrolled 765 young adult emergency patients with a history of hazardous drinking in the study.

For 12 weeks, one-third received text messages prompting them to respond to drinking-related queries and received text messages in return offering feedback on their answers.

The feedback was tailored to strengthen their low-risk drinking plan or goal or to promote reflection on either their drinking plan or their decision not to set a low-risk goal.

One-third received only text message queries about their drinking and one-third received no text messages. — PTI

US cargo ship blasts off with supplies for space station

CAPE CANAVERAL, (Florida), 14 July — An unmanned Orbital Sciences Corp Antares rocket blasted off from a seaside launch pad in Virginia on Sunday, sending a Cygnus cargo ship on its way to the International Space Station, a NASA Television broadcast showed.

The 133-foot-tall (41-metre-tall) rocket lifted

off at 12:52 pm EDT/1652 GMT from a commercially operated launch pad at NASA's Wallops Island Flight Facility on the Virginia coast. Perched on top of the rocket was a Cygnus spacecraft, built by Orbital Sciences in partnership with Italy's Thales Alenia Space, a joint venture of Thales SA and Finmeccanica SpA.

The freighter was loaded with more than 3,660 pounds (1,660 kg) of food, science equipment and supplies for the space station, a \$100 billion research laboratory that flies about 264 miles (425 km) above Earth. The capsule was slated to reach the orbital outpost on Wednesday. The mission is the second of eight station cargo

runs by Orbital Sciences under a \$1.9 billion contract with NASA.

Orbital Sciences made its first cargo run to the station in January.

It has not yet announced other customers for its medium-lift Antares rocket, a two-stage booster that relies on Russian-built AJ-26 engines to power its first stage. — Reuters

YouTube weighs funding efforts to boost premium content — sources

LOS ANGELES, 14 July — YouTube has embarked on a new round of discussions with Hollywood and independent producers to fund premium content, two sources with knowledge of the talks told Reuters, a move that could bolster a three-year-old multimillion-dollar effort that has had mixed success so far.

Over the past two months, YouTube executives have begun making the rounds, talking to Hol-

lywood producers to explore the kinds of support it could offer its content creators and produce more must-see programming, according to the two people.

Executives did not lay out exactly how a program would be structured. One of the two people said the site may offer between \$1 million and \$3 million to pro-

duce a series of programs, and might contribute marketing funds as well.

The second person said the site was interested in videos shorter than the 30-minute, TV network-quality Web shows that Amazon.com Inc and other online sites have recently funded.

Reuters

Insurers struggle to get grip on burgeoning cyber risk market

PARIS / BOSTON, 14 July — Insurers are eagerly eyeing exponential growth in the tiny cyber coverage market but their lack of experience and skills handling hackers and data breaches may keep their ambitions in check.

High profile cases of hackers seizing sensitive customer data from companies, such as US retailer Target Corp or e-commerce company eBay Inc, have executives checking their insurance policies.

Increasingly, corporate risk managers are seeing insurance against cyber crime as necessary budget spending rather than just nice to have.

The insurance broking arm of Marsh & McLennan Companies estimates the US cyber insurance mar-

ket was worth \$1 billion last year in gross written premiums and could reach as much as \$2 billion this year. The European market is currently a fraction of that, at around \$150 million, but is growing by 50 to 100 percent annually, according to Marsh.

Those numbers represent a sliver of the overall insurance market, which is growing at a far more sluggish rate. Premiums are set to grow only 2.8 percent this year in inflation-adjusted terms, according to Munich Re, the world's biggest reinsurer.

The European cyber coverage market could get a big boost from draft EU data protection rules in the works that would force companies to disclose breaches of customer data

to them.

"Companies have become aware that the risk of being hacked is unavoidable," said Andreas Schlayer, responsible for cyber risk insurance at Munich Re. "People are now more aware that hackers can attack and do great damage to central infrastructure, for example in the energy sector." Insurers, which have more experience handling risks like hurricanes and fires, are now rushing to gain expertise in cyber technology.

"It is a difficult risk to price by traditional insurance methods as there currently is not statistically significant actuarial data available," said Robert Parisi, head of cyber products at insurance brokers Marsh.

Reuters



A lock icon, signifying an encrypted Internet connection, is seen on an Internet Explorer browser in a photo illustration in Paris on 15 April, 2014. — REUTERS

Israel holds off on escalating Gaza barrage; West wants truce

GAZA/JERUSALEM, 14 July — Israel appeared to hold off on a threatened escalation of its week-old Gaza Strip barrage on Monday despite balking at Western calls for a cease-fire with an equally defiant Hamas.

On Sunday, the Israeli military had warned residents of the northern border town of Beit Lahiya to leave or risk their lives when, after nightfall, it planned to intensify air strikes against suspected Palestinian rocket sites among civilian homes.

A UN aid agency said around a quarter of Beit Lahiya's 70,000 residents fled, fearing Israeli attacks which, according to Gaza officials, have killed more than 166 people, most of them non-combatants, since the cross-border shelling war began.

But other than a lone air strike on farmland outside the town, which the Palestinians said caused no casualties, Beit Lahiya was largely quiet in the early hours of Monday. Israel said one rocket was fired from Gaza without inflicting damage.

There have been more than 940 such launches by Gaza's dominant Hamas and other factions in the



An explosion is seen in the northern Gaza Strip after an Israeli air strike on 13 July, 2014.—REUTERS

past week, Israel says.

It has not suffered fatalities, due in part to the success of its Iron Dome rocket interceptors, but the salvos have disrupted life in major cities, paralyzed vulnerable southern towns and triggered Israeli mobilization of troops for a possible Gaza invasion if the air campaign failed to curb Hamas.

US Secretary of State John Kerry, whose bid to broker a wider peace deal collapsed in April when Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu called off negotiations with Western-backed Palestinian

President Mahmoud Abbas over his power-share with Islamist Hamas, offered on Sunday to help secure a Gaza truce.

The call was echoed by France and by Germany, which will send its foreign minister to the region on Monday. But with the United States and European Union, like Israel, shunning Hamas as a terrorist group, Middle Eastern intermediaries were mooted.

A US official said that Kerry, in a phone conversation with Netanyahu, "described his engagement with leaders in the region to help to stop the rocket fire

so calm can be restored and civilian casualties prevented, and underscored the United States' readiness to facilitate a cessation of hostilities, including a return to the November 2012 ceasefire agreement".

MEDIATION

That referred to an Egyptian-mediated accord that doused the last big Gaza flare-up. Cairo is now again seeking calm. Hamas, said it also received US overtures through Abbas and Qatar. Turkey has sought to intercede as well, Israeli media said.

Netanyahu's spokesman declined to discuss

the conversation with Kerry. Another Israeli official played down the truce talk.

"We are not considering this-or-that proposal," the official, who declined to be named, said late on Sunday.

While allowing that a diplomatic solution could eventually be found, the official said Israel would, for now, pursue its military offensive "to restore quiet over a protracted period by inflicting significant damage to Hamas and the other terrorist groups in the Gaza Strip". Hamas and Islamic Jihad, the second-most potent Gaza faction, made clear they would not accept a mere "calm for calm" where both Palestinian fighters and Israeli forces stand down.

"Netanyahu began this crazy war and he must end his war first," Hamas leader Izzat Al-Reshiq told Al-Arabiya television.

"There can be no ceasefire unless the conditions of the Resistance are met," he added, saying Israel had to stop blockading Gaza and free hundreds of Palestinians it rounded up in the occupied West Bank last month while searching for three Jewish seminary students who it said were kidnapped by Hamas.

Rocket fire from Gaza had increased during the West Bank dragnet. Tensions were further inflamed when the three teens' bodies were discovered, after which suspected Israeli avengers abducted and killed a Palestinian youth from East Jerusalem.

Hamas neither confirmed nor denied responsibility for the West Bank kidnappings, which came as it struggled to parlay the unity deal with Abbas into economic relief for Gaza, whose other border with Egypt has been sealed off by a Cairo government that considers the Palestinian Islamists a security threat.

Islamic Jihad welcomed Egypt's intercession.

"There can be no settlement or mediation without an esteemed Egyptian role in compelling the (Israeli) enemy to cease fire," the group's leader, Ramadan Shallah, told Al Jazeera. He added that "the battle will not end unless the (Gaza) siege is ended".

The Gaza Health Ministry said at least 166 Palestinians — among them about 138 civilians, including 30 children — have died during six days of warfare, and more than 1,000 wounded.—Reuters

Iraqi factions hit new delay in forming government

BAGHDAD, 14 July — Iraq's parliament failed on Sunday to break a political deadlock that is holding up the formation of a new government to tackle an Islamist-led insurgency raging less than 50 miles (80 km) from Baghdad.

After a brief session, parliamentary officials put off until Tuesday efforts to reach agreement between Shi'ite, Sunni and Kurdish politicians on the posts of prime minister, president and parliamentary speaker.

Prime Minister Nuri al-Maliki, whose State of Law coalition is the largest individual list in parliament, is seeking a third term but faces opposition from Sunnis and Kurds who say he has ruled for the Shi'ite majority at the expense of minority communities. Even rival Shi'ite parties want to unseat him.

The political impasse has been given added urgency by the Islamist-led insurgency which swept

through Sunni provinces of northern Iraq last month, encouraging Maliki's opponents to try to force his departure.

Bomb attacks struck the capital and its outskirts after the inconclusive session.

A blast near a busy street in the southwestern district of Bayaa killed three people and wounded seven, police and hospital sources said. In Yusifia, 15 km (10 miles) south of the capital, a bomb went off near a crowded market, killing another three people, medics and police said.

The disagreement over Maliki's future appeared to be blocking progress on the other political posts.

Sunni politicians said the main Sunni bloc put forward Salim al-Jabouri, a moderate Islamist, as their candidate for speaker, but accused Maliki of effectively torpedoing their proposal by linking it to their



An off-duty Shi'ite volunteer from brigades loyal to radical cleric Muqtada al-Sadr takes up position with his weapon on a vehicle while returning home, in Samarra, on 13 July, 2014.—REUTERS

acceptance of his bid for a third term.

"We have presented our candidate for speaker and done what we should do," said outgoing speaker Osama Nujaifi. "We hold the other blocs responsible for the delay."

"Once we manage to complete the democratic process to form the government, this would help to stop the great destruction happening in Iraq, which is

jeopardising the country's unity."

An arrest warrant on terrorism charges was issued in 2011 against Jabouri, who was serving on parliament's human rights committee at the time. He had confronted Maliki over abuses against prisoners in special jails in the fortified Green Zone of central Baghdad where parliament is also located.

Reuters

UN temporarily moves some international staff out of Libya

UNITED NATIONS, 14 July — The United Nations said on Sunday it had temporarily relocated some of its international staff out of Libya after heavy fighting broke out between rival militias vying for control of Libya's main airport.

The fighting killed at least seven people and forced a halt to all flights in the worst violence in the capital in six months.

"We can confirm a temporary relocation for security reasons," UN spokesman Farhan Haq

said, without giving figures.

If the security situation continued to deteriorate, UN sources did not rule out a temporary relocation of all remaining international staff in Libya. One UN source said UN staff had been "significantly reduced."

The United Nations Support Mission in Libya, or UNSMIL, has some 200 national and international staff, according to its website.

Reuters



Smoke rises near buildings after heavy fighting between rival militias broke out near the airport in Tripoli on 13 July, 2014.—REUTERS

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Consignees of cargo carried on MV ANAN BHUM VOY NO (108) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 14.7.2014 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of M.I.P where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

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

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

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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.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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AGENT FOR: M/S EVERGREEN SHIPPING
LINE**
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CLAIMS DAY NOTICE**MV BANGSRIMU ANG VOY NO (123)**

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

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

**SHIPPING AGENCY DEPARTMENT
MYANMA PORT AUTHORITY
AGENT FOR: M/S WONGSAMUT OCEAN
SHIPPING CO LTD,**
Phone No: 2301186

The Government of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar**Ministry of Education****Department of Higher Education****(Lower Myanmar)****Patheingyi University****Invitation to the First Myanmar-Japan Symposium**

A symposium by the researchers from Patheingyi University and Japan Universities, namely Hokkaido University, National Institute of Technology and Evaluation (NITE), Tottori University, Yamanashi University and Tamagawa University will be held at Patheingyi University, Ayeyarwady Region.

The research papers on the following fields or areas will be presented and discussed at the symposium.

1. Agricultural Science and Environmental Science (Agriculture, Chemistry, Zoology, Botany, Geography, Geology, Mathematics and Physics)
2. Marine Science (Fisheries Science)
3. Microbiology/ Biotechnology

Venue and Date for the Symposium

Venue - Convocation Hall

Date - 30th November, 2014 (Sunday) &
1st December, 2014 (Monday)

Invitation to the researchers

The researchers from all universities in Myanmar, other ministries, private enterprises and various companies concerned with the areas mentioned above are cordially and warmly invited to the symposium.

Those who are interested in these areas and who would like to present their researches have to submit the hard and soft copy of the abstract of the research paper to Dr. Than Soe, the Pro-Rector of Patheingyi University, not later than on 30th September, 2014.

Detailed information can be obtained from the Pro-Rector, the Head of the Academic, and Professors and Heads of the Department of Chemistry, Botany and Zoology of Patheingyi University.

Secretary

The Committee of Myanmar-Japan Symposium

Air India flight returns to New Jersey airport after engine trouble

NEWARK, (NJ), 14 July — An Air India flight with 313 passengers on-board was forced to return to Newark Liberty International Airport on Sunday after an engine on the *Boeing 777* appeared to overheat and catch fire, according to airport officials. The officials previously said a bird strike may have caused the fire but later ruled that out after conducting an investigation, said Erica Dumas, a spokeswoman for the Port Authority of New York and New Jersey.

A few minutes after taking off, the pilot of Air India Flight 144 reported flames coming from an engine on the left side of the aircraft, Dumas said. The plane returned to the airport about half an hour after taking off. The pilot requested that an ambulance wait at the terminal but there were no reported injuries, Dumas said. She added that the flight bound for Mumbai had multiple blown tires that may have been caused by the brakes overheating.—Reuters

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Weather report**State of the Sea**

Occasional squalls with rough sea will be experienced off and along Myanmar Coasts. Surface wind speed in squalls may reach (40) m.p.h.

Jacqueline Fernandez lost oodles of weight for Kick

MUMBAI, 14 July — As Jacqueline Fernandez, who is gearing up for the release of her first solo big project *Kick*, says she had to gain weight to look convincing in her role.

The 28-year-old Sri Lankan beauty had to look like a college girl in the film and she said, During *Race 2*, I had to thin down completely because there were a lot of action scenes. For this film, I was asked to gain weight. I am playing a college girl."

"I could not afford to have the zero size body. I was 51 kg and now 56 kg for *Kick* and I am very happy with my body," she added.

Post the medium budget psychological thriller *Murder 2*, this is Jacqueline's big film in terms of budget and cast, paired with none other than Salman Khan.

in the movie which will release on 25 July. Her last releases *Race 2* and *Housefull 2* were films with multiple stars.

When asked if this brought any pressure on her, she said, "There was a lot of pressure, but my main concern was not to disappoint Sajid Nadiadwala. He must have seen something in me that he



Jacqueline in a still from *Kick*.—PTI

offered me the film. When he showed confidence in me, I didn't want to disappoint him."—PTI

'Planet of the Apes' climbs to top of US box office charts



LOS ANGELES / NEW YORK, 14 July — "Dawn of the Planet of the Apes," a sequel about highly intelligent apes that battle with humans for dominance, has topped the giant "Transcendence" robots out of the top spot on US and Canadian movie charts. The 3D "Apes" movie collected \$73 million in weekend sales from Friday through Sunday, according to Rentrak. The film's predecessors: *Age of*

ruled the box office the two previous weekends, dropped to second place with takings of \$16.5 million. "Tammy," a Melissa McCarthy comedy about a fast-food worker who gets fired, claimed the No 3 spot with \$12.9 million.

"Apes" picks up the story of 2011 film "Rise of the Planet of the Apes" 10 years later. Andy Serkis returns as Caesar, a brainy ape who leads his species and negotiates their interactions with the few humans who survived

a deadly virus. The films are reboots of the franchise that began with the 1968 classic film about apes that launch a revolution.

"Dawn" debuted stronger than 2011's "Rise," which grossed \$54.8 million during its opening weekend. "Dawn" also exceeded pre-weekend forecasts for a debut of \$63 million to \$70 million at North American theaters.

"Apes" added another \$31 million in international markets for a global debut of \$104 million, according to 20th Century Fox, the unit of 21st Century Fox which released it.

Critics applauded the new installment, with 91 percent of reviews on the Rotten Tomatoes website recommending the film.

Reuters

Pamela Anderson getting close to ex-flame?



LOS ANGELES, 14 July — Pamela Anderson has sparked rumours that she is back with ex-flame Chuck Zito after picture of both getting cozy with each other has emerged.

The 47-year-old singer, who has filed for divorce from Rick

Solomon, was spotted with the 'This Thing of Ours' actor, 61 on 11 July night and the two were clicked sharing an intimate hug, reported TMZ.

Anderson first married Solomon in 2007 and the couple was together only a few months before having the union annulled. The singer had revealed

she again started seeing him in last October and the two got married six months ago. Anderson was also previously married to rockers Tommy Lee and Kid Rock, while Solomon became infamous for co-starring in Paris Hilton's sex tape, 'One Night in Paris'.—PTI

Selena Gomez suffers wardrobe malfunction

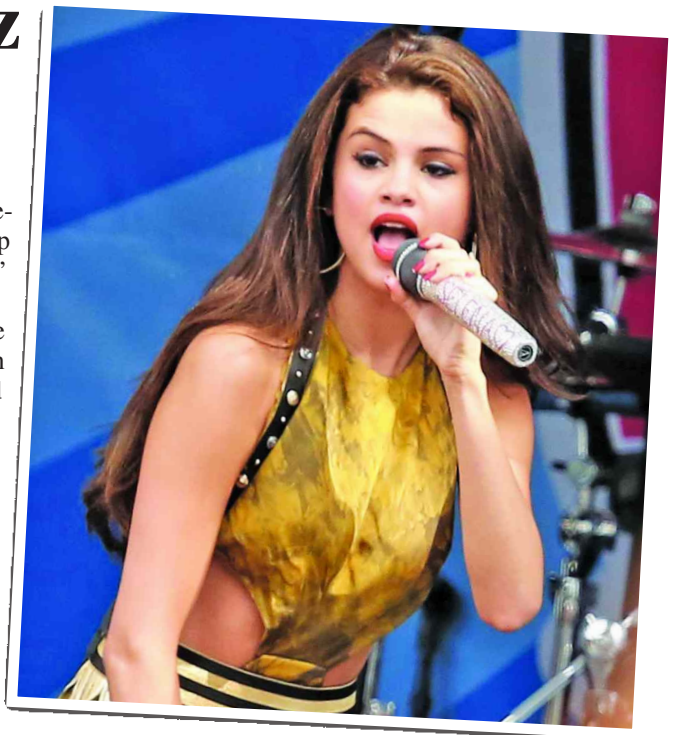
LONDON, 14 July — Singer-actress Selena Gomez forgot to zip her black play suit up while taking a stroll with 'Spring Breakers' director Harmony Korine in Miami Beach.

With her brunette hair tied back, the 21-year-old former girlfriend of Justin Bieber showed off her bare back, reported *Daily Mirror*.

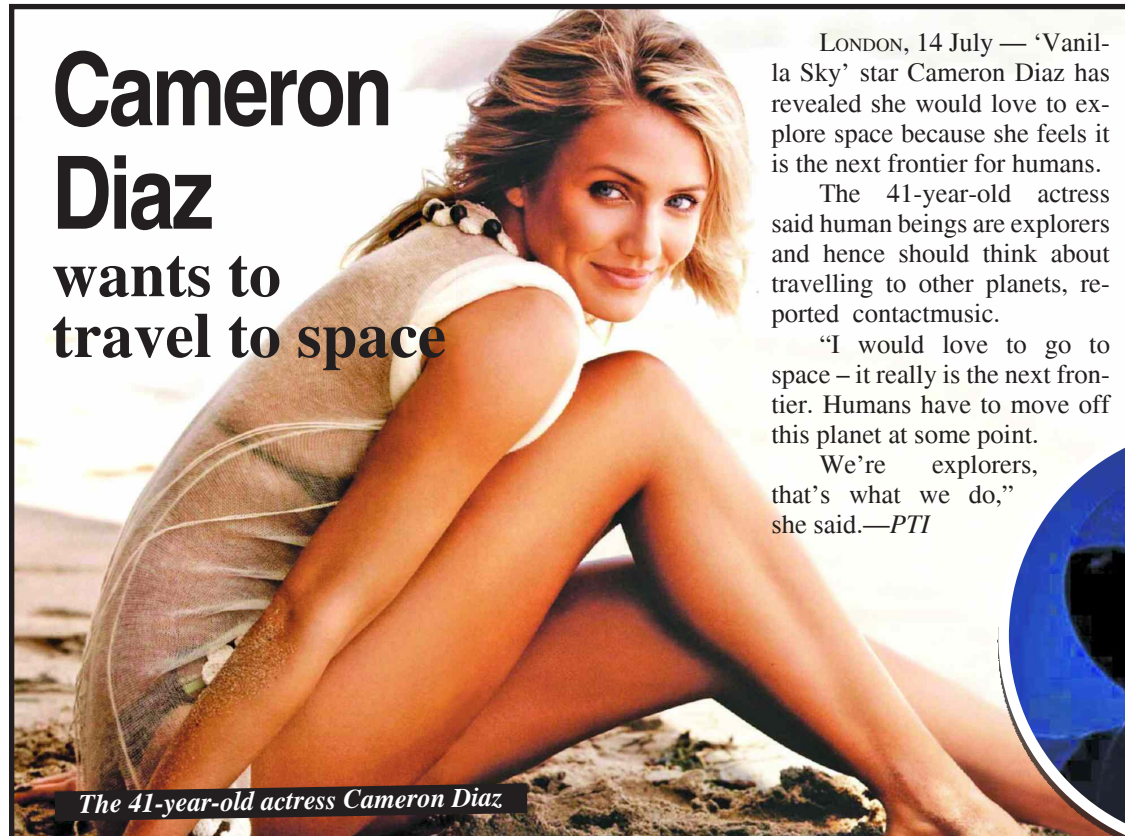
Her long legs took centre stage next, as she wore chunky black boots for the meeting, although it's still unclear if it was business or pleasure meeting with the filmmaker.

The former Disney star has been flaunting her body a lot these days and even appeared to have accidentally shown the world her private part on Instagram.

PTI



Cameron Diaz wants to travel to space



The 41-year-old actress Cameron Diaz

LONDON, 14 July — 'Vanilla Sky' star Cameron Diaz has revealed she would love to explore space because she feels it is the next frontier for humans.

The 41-year-old actress said human beings are explorers and hence should think about travelling to other planets, reported contactmusic.

"I would love to go to space — it really is the next frontier. Humans have to move off this planet at some point.

We're explorers, that's what we do," she said.—PTI

will.i.am bags 10th number one single in British charts

LONDON, 14 July — US rapper will.i.am secured his 10th number one in the British singles charts on Sunday, going straight in at the top spot with "It's My Birthday", the Official Charts Company said.

will.i.am, whose track features 17-year-old US singer Cody Wise, earned his first UK chart topper in 2003 as part of The Black Eyed Peas. He had four more number one singles with the group, a track record he has now matched as a solo artist.

US singer-songwriter Ariana Grande's "Problem", featuring Iggy Azalea, dropped one place to number two, with former TV talent show contestant Ella Henderson also sliding one spot to number three with "Ghost".

In the albums chart, British singer-songwriter Ed Sheeran topped the bill for a third week running with his album "X", while Welsh band Manic Street Preachers were the highest new entry, at number two, with "Futurology".

Fresh from her appearance at the Glastonbury music festival last month, Dolly Parton climbed one place to number three with "Blue Smoke", making it the highest charting UK album of the US singer's career. —Reuters



will.i.am

GENERAL

Dolls become conversation partners for elderly



Photo taken 14 May, 2014 shows Nobu Komatsu, who lives by herself in Tokyo's Itabashi Ward, holding "Oshaberi Makun," a talking doll with the voice of a 5-year-old boy.—KYODO NEWS

TOKYO, 14 July — Talking dolls are gaining popularity among elderly people who live alone and may help stave off mental decline.

"After spending about a month with this boy, I started to feel affection for him and cannot leave him alone," said Nobu Komatsu, 86, who lives by herself in Tokyo's Itabashi Ward, while patting her doll's

head.

Partners Inc, a Tokyo-based maker of toys and daily goods, developed the 5-year-old boy doll called "Oshaberi Makun" (Talking Ma-kun) that recognizes certain words and gives a limited range of responses in the recorded voice of a real 5-year-old boy.

The doll can have a total of 19 different conver-

sations. It will also speak out on its own once every 20 to 30 minutes, saying things like "I love you very much" or "Please pat my head," if switched to monologue mode, according to Partners.

The doll is priced at 18,000 yen and about 4,000 units have sold in six months since its launch in November 2013.

Komatsu, who spends most of her time alone, said, "I'm startled whenever he says to me 'Please hold my hands' or 'Please hold me in your arms.'"

"I guess this may help prevent me from suffering dementia," she said. "Ever since Ma-kun came to spend time with me, I started to feel more positive and talk more often."

Some experts have acknowledged the dolls' positive effects on elderly people's minds.

Kimihiro Yoneyama, a neurologist and writer familiar with medication for elderly people, said, "The act of uttering words is the easiest way to stimulate your brain."

"It is more desirable to hold face to face conversations with other people, but the dolls may provide an alternative solution to those who are unable to do so very often," Yoneyama said.

Among other talk-

ing dolls are T-Arts Co's "Yumenoko Neruru" (Child of Dream Neruru) that can sing 50 songs, Bandai Co's "Primopuel" that calls owners by their name or nickname, and Pip Co's "Unazuki Kabochan" (Nodding Kabo-chan).

Bandai said it originally developed Primopuel targeting women in their 20s, but the doll unexpectedly became popular among elderly people too.

Officials of the companies explained that in many cases, their dolls are given to elderly people by their children who live far away and are unable to visit them often.

According to a survey released by the National Institute of Population and Social Security Research in April, single people are expected to account for 37.7 percent of households headed by those aged 65 or older in Japan in 2035, up from 30.7 percent in 2010.

Another survey for fiscal 2011 conducted by the Cabinet Office showed, meanwhile, that 28.8 percent of men and 22.0 percent of women aged 60 or older who live alone held conversations less than once every two to three days, even including phone conversations and exchanges of text messages.

Kyodo News

MYANMAR TV

(15-7-2014, Tuesday)

- 6:00 am**
 - * Paritta by Hilly Region Missionary Sayadaw
- 7:20 am**
 - * People Talks
- 8:00 am**
 - * News/ International News
- 8:30 am**
 - * TV Drama Series
- 9:30 am**
 - * Documentary
- 10:00 am**
 - * News
- 11:20 am**
 - * Musical Programme
- 12:00 pm**
 - * News / International News / Weather Report
- 12:30 pm**
 - * Myanmar Video
- 3:00 pm**
 - * News
- 3:50 pm**
 - * Myanmar Traditional Cultural Performing Arts Competitions
- 4:40 pm**
 - * University of Distance Education (TV Lectures) -Second Year (Chemistry)
- 5:00 pm**
 - * News
- 5:15 pm**
 - * Business News
- 6:20 pm**
 - * Kyae Pwint Myaye Yin Khone Than
- 7:25 pm**
 - * TV Drama Series
- 8:00 pm**
 - * News/ International News/ Weather Report
- 8:45 pm**
 - * Current Affairs
- 9:00 pm**
 - * News
- 9:30 pm**
 - * Documentary
 - * Mono Classical Songs
 - * Teleplay

MYANMAR INTERNATIONAL

(15-7-14 07:00 am~ 16-7-14 07:00 am) MST

- * Local News
- * Those Who Never Give Up: Zaw Win Myint (I)
- * World News
- * Those Who Never Give Up: Zaw Win Myint (II)
- * Local News
- * Travelling in Shan Mountain Ranges: (Inle Phaung Daw Oo Pagoda Festival)
- * World News
- * In the Studio : "Na Di Htike"
- * Local News
- * Architecture: "Yatana Theinga City and Shwe Bo Yatanamingalar Palace"
- * World News
- * Trishaw Man
- * Local News
- * A Day Out With Sarah (Episode-3)
- * World News
- * Welcome to the Southern Most Part of Myanmar
- * Local News
- * Myanmar Traditional Art Bronze Casting
- * World News
- * General Aung San Museum
- * Local News
- * Travelling in Shan Mountain Ranges: (Inle Phaungdaw Oo Pagoda Festival) (Part -1)
- * World News
- * Exquisite Myanmar Silk
- * Local News
- * Taste of Myanmar: Noodle Salad
- * World News
- * Writer
- * Local News
- * A Day Out With Sarah (Episode-2)
- * World News
- * Kyaukhteyoe: Mountain Drivers

Messi wins Golden Ball, Rodriguez top scorer

RIO DE JANEIRO, 14 July — Argentina captain Lionel Messi won FIFA's "Golden Ball" award as the best player of the World Cup after leading his team to Sunday's final and Colombia's James Rodriguez finished as the tournament's top scorer with six goals.

Germany goalkeeper Manuel Neuer, who kept a clean sheet as his side beat Argentina 1-0 in extra time to claim their fourth World Cup, was awarded the "Golden Gloves" as the tournament's top keeper.

Four-times world player of the year Messi had a quiet game by his standards on Sunday but was the driving force behind Argentina's push to their first World Cup final since 1990.

He scored four of their six goals in the group stage, set up Angel di Maria's winner in the last 16 against Switzerland and shouldered the burden of slotting home



Golden Glove winner Germany's goalkeeper Manuel Neuer (L) congratulates Golden Ball winner Argentina's Lionel Messi (10) after their 2014 World Cup final at the Maracana stadium in Rio de Janeiro on 13 July, 2014.—REUTERS

Argentina's first penalty in their shootout win over the Netherlands in the semi-finals. Messi also won four successive man-of-the-match awards against Bosnia, Iran, Argentina and Switzerland.

A despondent Messi took little consolation in

the award. "It's a sad prize which I won, because we wanted to lift the World Cup trophy for Argentina."

While some pundits thought Messi looked jaded after the group stage and did not influence his team as much, Argentina coach Alejandro Sabella said he was a

deserving winner. "I think Lionel reached the pantheon of the greats a while back," Sabella told reporters. "Yes, I think he deserved it. He played a great World Cup to get us where he did."

"I think it's very deserved." Germany forward Thomas Mueller was runner-up to Messi and Netherlands winger Arjen Robben was third.

Mueller also came runner-up behind Rodriguez for the Golden Boot award. The Germany forward finished with five goals, one behind the Colombian attacking midfielder.

France midfielder Paul Pogba was named young player of the tournament, while Colombia took the Fair Play award after receiving just five yellow cards in five matches in Brazil.

FIFA also praised their positive play and the behaviour of their players and officials.—Reuters

1st commercial hydrogen station for vehicles built in western Japan

OSAKA, 14 July—The first hydrogen charging station in Japan for fuel cell vehicles has been built in western Japan, with a completion ceremony held on Monday. The operator Iwatani Corp said the station in Amagasaki, Hyogo Prefecture, will start retail sales of hydrogen after fuel cell vehicles hit the market, with their debut expected by next March.

The retail price will be set at similar levels as gasoline in terms of automobile running costs, according to Iwatani.

The major provider of industrial gases invested about 500 million yen in the station, which can fill up a regular-size tank within three minutes. The facility, built adjacent to the company's research center, will be used for training purposes until the commercial operation begins.

The facility "marks the opening of a hydrogen-energy society," said Masao Nomura, president of Iwatani. "We will make further efforts to realize a safe and stable supply of hydrogen."—Kyodo News

Jubilant Germany become world champions again

RIO DE JANEIRO, 14 July —Germany are champions of the world again after snatching victory against Argentina in the soccer showpiece with a superb extra-time goal from baby-faced Mario Goetze to lift the trophy for the first time since 1990.

Hatched from the agony of their recent near-misses, Germany's triumph secured a fourth World Cup title — their first since the country was reunited 24 years ago — with a nail-biting 1-0 win in Sunday's final at the sprawling Maracana.

The win, sealed by substitute Goetze's brilliantly taken strike in the 113th minute, marked the first time a European country had won the sport's greatest prize in the Americas, although this World Cup was ultimately a triumph for all.

"We have been together for 55 days but the work started 10 years ago with (former national team manager) Juergen Klinsmann," said Germany coach Joachim Loew.

"We did everything to experience this day. The team really deserved it. No one deserved it more than us."

The Argentina team, their homeland still recovering from a crippling debt crisis, were brave in defeat and with a bit more luck might well have won the greatest prize in sport.

They squandered a string of chances but lost no admirers in a match that was full of end-to-end action and unrelenting tension over two hours.

"I am very proud. The boys played an extraordinary World Cup," said Argentina coach Alejandro Sabella.

"Over and above the



Germany's players pose for pictures as they celebrate with their World Cup trophy after winning their 2014 World Cup final against Argentina at the Maracana stadium in Rio de Janeiro on 13 July, 2014.—REUTERS



Germany's Mario Goetze (2nd R) scores a goal past Argentina's Martin Demichelis (L), Ezequiel Garay (2nd L) and goalkeeper Sergio Romero during extra time in their 2014 World Cup final at the Maracana stadium in Rio de Janeiro on 13 July, 2014.—REUTERS

pain of a defeat, they can look each other in the eye, they can look in the mirror and know they gave their all for Argentina."

Carnival Atmosphere

Hosts Brazil did not make the final, finishing fourth as they buckled un-

der the weight of expectation with two humbling losses, including a 7-1 semi-final thrashing by Germany, but never has the samba nation shone so brightly on the world stage.

Magnanimous in defeat, Brazil proved all



Germany's players celebrate as referee Nicola Rizzoli (C) of Italy signals the end of the extra time in their 2014 World Cup final against Argentina at the Maracana stadium in Rio de Janeiro on 13 July, 2014. REUTERS

the doubters wrong by delivering a World Cup in which some breathtaking action on the pitch was matched only by the contagious carnival atmosphere that infected everyone in the country from the favelas to the golden sands of

Copacabana Beach and the jungles of the Amazon.

Brazilians put aside their complaints about the \$11 billion price tag by embracing the month-long tournament, welcoming thousands of visitors to their home in a spectacular

dress rehearsal for the 2016 Olympics in Rio de Janeiro.

The finals set a host of records for global television audiences and social media activity, with even the United States President Barack Obama getting swept up in the excitement, tweeting about the tournament from Air Force One after watching the Americans qualify for the second round.

The US did not go any further but their time may come. More than any other World Cup, the tournament in Brazil was a massive hit in the Land of the Free, whose irreverence to the global game is now a thing of the past.

Americans were among the biggest and most enthusiastic supporters of an event that saw almost 3.5 million spectators come through the gates, including A-List celebrities LeBron James, Tom Brady and his wife Giselle Buendchen, Mick Jagger, David Beckham, Ashton Kucher and Rihanna.

On the pitch, the outstanding tournament produced 171 goals to equal the record set at the 1998 finals in France.

Classic Showdown

While teams like Costa Rica, Colombia, the US, Belgium and Algeria all made the knockout rounds, the new kids on the block will have to wait for glory, with Sunday's final producing a showdown between two of the game's traditional powerhouses.

Germany and Argentina were meeting in the final for the third time, with the South Americans winning 3-2 in Mexico City in 1986 then the Europeans triumphing 1-0 in Rome four years later in what was their last appearance as West Germany. — Reuters

Zwegabin triumphs with 2-0 win over Zeyar Shwe Myay

Zwegabin FC thrashed Zeyar Shwe Myay with a 2-0 win in the 14th match of the Myanmar National League at Aung San Stadium on Monday.

Monywa Ground of Zeyar Shwe Myay is under repair, forcing Zeyar Shwe Myay to play its home match at Aung San Stadium losing to the opponent. Zwegabin FC secured three points, showing off its skills.

In the eighth minute of the first half, Aziz scored an opening goal through Naing Naing Kyaw. The second goal for the Hpa-an based club came from Naing Naing Kyaw in the 84th minute. Zeyar Shwe Myay missed the chance to translate it into the winning goals.

After the 14th fixture, Yadanabon is still leading the league with 31 points, followed by defending

Champion Yangon and Kanbawza in the second positions with 27 each. Magway and Nay Pyi Taw secured 25 points each and Ayeyawady 22 points.

Nyi Myat Thawda

Strikers of both Zwegabin and Zeyar Shwe Myay trying to control football in 14th fixture of Myanmar National League.—SOE NYUNT

