

Myanmar to accelerate birth registration with technical, financial support from UNICEF, EU

By Ye Myint

YANGON, 28 July — A forum on accelerating birth registration in Myanmar took place on Monday, with the aim of seeking ways and means through consultations to ensure all children get registered in the country.

Following the participation of a Myanmar delegation at the Asia-Pacific civil registrars meeting in Thailand in July, a coordination committee was established for birth registration to develop public awareness on birth registration and to register all children after birth.

In his opening address, Deputy Minister for Immigration and Population U Kyaw Kyaw Win announced that a birth registration week will be organized with the help of technical and financial support from the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) and European Union (EU) in Magway Region and Chin and Mon States as a pilot project before nationwide coverage of birth registration.

He quoted from UNICEF's data that Myanmar, a signatory to the Convention on the Rights of the Child, has 72.4 per cent of under-five children holding birth certificates, which is more than 65 per cent globally.



Forum on accelerating birth registration in Myanmar in progress for seeking ways to, for now, register children with no birth certificates in 44 townships of Chin and Mon States and Magway Region.

PHOTO: YE MYINT

In her welcome remarks, Ms. Shalini Bahuguna, UNICEF Myanmar deputy representative, acknowledged Myanmar's remarkable progress in the registration of children. She, however, pointed out that around 1.6 million children have not officially been recorded in Myanmar.

Expressing her expectations from the forum, she stressed the need to address challenges in registering children over five and offspring of migrants. Regarding the planned birth reg-

istration week, which will see a huge public awareness campaign, as many as 400,000 children in the pilot areas could benefit from this, she said.

The first-ever process of providing a solid foundation for the existence of the child under the law to enjoy civil, political, economic, social and cultural rights and have access to services such as health and education, will be undertaken by departments concerned including the Health Department, Immigration

and Population Department, Central Statistics Organization and General Administration Department.

In implementing the coverage of birth registration in a total of 44 townships in Magway, Chin and Mon, a computerized database will be used for creating electronic records of registered children.

During the three sessions of the forum, officials made presentations highlighting the insufficient number of midwives in areas with a higher rate of un-

registered children, which was cited among the difficulties in identifying children unregistered at birth.

According to official data, around 10,000 midwives are helping women during delivery in the country's rural areas.

As children without birth certificates are at greater risk of being trafficked for forced labour or sexual slavery, the implementation of a birth registration process is a must for all children to ensure their protection.— NLM

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World Hepatitis Day marked in Yangon

By Khaing Thanda Lwin

YANGON, 28 July—Union Minister for Health Dr Pe Thet Khin said on Monday that the government has increased over K150 billion this financial year, more than K500 billion of previous year to improve the public health sector, with the ministry claiming it has been using the money in an effective way, at the celebrations to mark World Hepatitis Day 2014 in Yangon, organized by the Liver Foundation.

He also urged social, state-run and UN organiza-

tions, as well as health foundations and the general public to participate in raising awareness on health issues to develop the country.

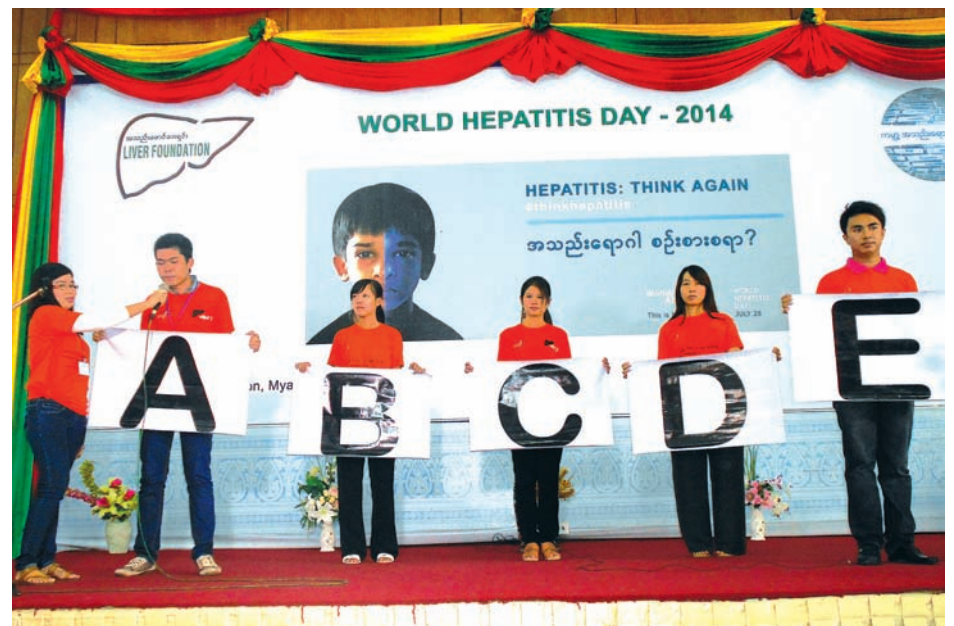
Myanmar needs to educate on the hepatitis virus and raise funds for the public health sector as there are not enough treatment facilities, especially in rural areas, the Union minister added.

Liver Specialist Professor Dr Than Sitt said that practising good hygiene and sanitation also help prevent infections

with the hepatitis A and E viruses.

He also explained measures to help prevent Hepatitis B and C that are the most common causes of liver diseases all over the world. Hepatitis B is a viral infection that attacks the liver and can cause both acute and chronic diseases. The virus is transmitted through contact with blood or other body fluids of an infected person.

Hepatitis C is a contagious liver disease that ranges in severity from a mild illness lasting a few (See page 2)



World Hepatitis Day held in Yangon to educate on hepatitis virus and raise funds for the public health sector.—PHOTO: KHAING THANDA LWIN

Parliament seeks solution to approve national education bill and bill on aircraft equipment

NAY PYI TAW, 28 July —The Pyidaungsu Hluttaw Joint Bill Committee held a meeting on approval for the national education bill and international-interest-in-aircraft equipment bill that have led to a difference in opinions between the Pyithu Hluttaw and the Upper House, at the committee's office in Nay Pyi Taw on Monday.

Taw on Monday.

Chairman of Joint Bill Committee Deputy Speaker of Pyidaungsu Hluttaw U Nanda Kyaw Swa and members of committees and commissions of the Hluttaws discussed the remaining parts of the bills to approve those at the Pyidaungsu Hluttaw session.—MNA

Minister for Livestock, Fisheries and Rural Development tours Meiktila

NAY PYI TAW, 28 July —Minister for Livestock, Fisheries and Rural Development U Ohn Myint visited Ale Village in Meiktila on 25 July to inspect implementation of electricity projects in Myanmar, saying that most villages in the country still do not have electricity.

He also inspected the sinking of tube-wells, maintenance of the water storage lake and installation of solar lights in the village.

The union minister then proceeded to Thaphan multi-purpose livestock breeding farm in Meiktila Township and explained

arrangements for the dissemination of livestock breeding technologies.

He also visited Wundwin and Amarapura townships on his inspection tour.—MNA

Union Minister U Ohn Myint views sinking tube-well for water supply in Meiktila Township.—MNA



Union Attorney-General's Office holds seminar to develop government procurement law

NAY PYI TAW, 28 July — A 'High-level Seminar on Best Practices for Developing a Law on Government Procurement in Myanmar' was held here on Monday.

The Union Attorney General's Office and the U.S. Agency for International Development USAID jointly organized the two-day seminar which is the first of its kind in the country since President U Thein Sein's government took office in 2011.

Dr. Tun Shin, Attorney General of the Union said: "Procurement of equipment for the government

should be carried out systematically. The systematic practices in this matter could help develop the economy of the country, ensure market competition, manufacture quality products, acquire after-sales services and tackle the inflation rate in the country."

He also suggested the development of laws in the trading sector should be carried out in accordance with international laws after studying the Federal Acquisition Regulation of the United States, the Public Procurement and Disposal Act 2005 of Kenya and the Procurement Law

of Vietnam.

The seminar will discuss to ensure transparency and basic principles of market economy in procurement programmes of the government.

Chris Milligan, Mission Director of USAID agreed with the suggestions of the Attorney General of the Union and urged for the betterment of procurement programmes.

The seminar was attended by Union Minister for Mining, Deputy Minister for Electric Power, Deputy Minister for Industry and Minister for Telecommunication and Informa-

tion, representatives from USAID and Commercial Law Development Program (CLDP), law experts from World Bank and senior government officials.

MNA



Union ministers inspect sites for industrial zone, main power station



Preparations being made for construction of Hsatyoekeya Bridge in Sittway Township for better transport of local people.—MNA

NAY PYI TAW, 28 July — Union Minister at the President Office U Soe Thane, Union Minister for Immigration and Population U Khin Yi and Rakh-

ine State Chief Minister U Maung Maung Ohn inspected the geographical conditions in Ponnagyun Township in Rakhine State on Monday to construct an

industrial zone.

They heard reports on arrangements for construction of an industrial zone by officials and urged them to also construct affordable

housing for locals.

The Union ministers and the chief minister also inspected a site near Ponnagyun Township to construct a main power station there for "further development of the state."

The officials also visited the Basic Education High School in the township and met with the headmaster, teachers and students to discuss renovation of old school buildings and ways to achieve a higher pass rate in the school, among other topics.

They looked into maintenance of Hsatyoekeya Creek by Directorate of Water Resources and Improvement of River Systems in Sittway. Reddressing the creek will prevent landslides on both banks of the creek and floods in Sittway and it will ease arrival of passenger boats.—MNA

World Hepatitis Day marked in Yangon

(from page 1)

weeks to a serious, lifelong illness that attacks the liver. It results from infection with the Hepatitis C virus (HCV), which is spread primarily through contact with the blood of an infected person.

At the celebration, Dr Daw Khin Pyone Kyi, President of the Liver Foundation, clarified the functions and activities of the foundation and invited the attendees to register as a member of the foundation to get more information on liver damage.

Famous film actor Lu Min, member of the Liver

Foundation, said the rate of new Hepatitis B or C infections are increasing day by day in the country but there is no sufficient treatment here, adding that artists should also participate in activities to raise public health awareness.

According to a survey, there are about 170 million people with Hepatitis C and about 400 million people living with Hepatitis B virus all over the world. In Myanmar, it is estimated that about 10 per cent of the population is infected with Hepatitis B and two to five per cent of people with Hepatitis C.—NLM

Attorney-General of the Union Dr Tun Shin with delegates to High-level Seminar on Best Practices for Developing a Law on Government Procurement in Myanmar.

MNA

NATIONAL

Economic sanctions lead to increase in cultivation of opium poppy: defence services personnel representative

NAY PYI TAW, 28 July—Cultivation of opium poppy has risen since 2006 as economic sanctions have created poverty, an defence service personnel representative said at the Upper House on Monday.

Elimination of poppy cultivation was comprehensively discussed at the Upper House session today as a representative submitted a proposal to urge the union government to combat the practice of cultivation, trafficking and abuse of opium with the participation of the people.

In addition, the representative said cultivation of opium poppy was a bad legacy of colonialists who permitted poppy cultivation in Shan and Kachin States during the colonial period.

Although successive governments after the independence from the British have tried to eliminate poppy cultivation as a national cause, it still persists, he added.

Impact of the economic sanctions was not visible in urban areas, but in rural areas, with farmers forced to resort to poppy cultivation as it was easy money, according to the representative.

Another representative suggested that a solution must be found concerning the increase in cultivation, trafficking and abuse of opium, despite successive governments' strategies, projects and operations to root out the practice.

The Upper House session approved the proposal.

Other topics discussed

at the session included low-cost housing projects for retirees from the army and cash assistance for township level committees.

The Lower House session on Monday focused on arrangements for unclaimed lottery rewards, property prices for taxation and a proportional representation system.

MNA

Lower house session debates whether to use proportional representation system for future elections in Myanmar.—MNA



Upper House speaker presents prizes to outstanding students

NAY PYI TAW, 28 July—“Teachers should con-

sider their work as a nation building task”, Upper

House Speaker U Khin Aung Myint said at a prize

presentation ceremony to outstanding students in the matriculation exam in the 2013-14 academic year held at No 1 Basic Education High School in Yamethin on Monday.

He also attended a ceremony to mark the upgrading of an affiliated high school into a high school in Ywathit West Village in Pyawbwe.

At the prize presentation ceremony, he awarded prizes to outstanding schools and students in Yamethin and Pyawbwe Townships.

He handed over K 1 million each to the two townships and over 4,500

dozens of exercise books for students in schools with the highest pass rate in examinations.

Deputy Minister for Education Dr Zaw Min Aung presented prizes to outstanding students and explained the education reform programmes carried out by the ministry.

Government departments in Yamethin and Pyawbwe donated K 3.7 million for the ceremony and the National Development Company donated K 16 million for stipends for poor students and the ceremony.

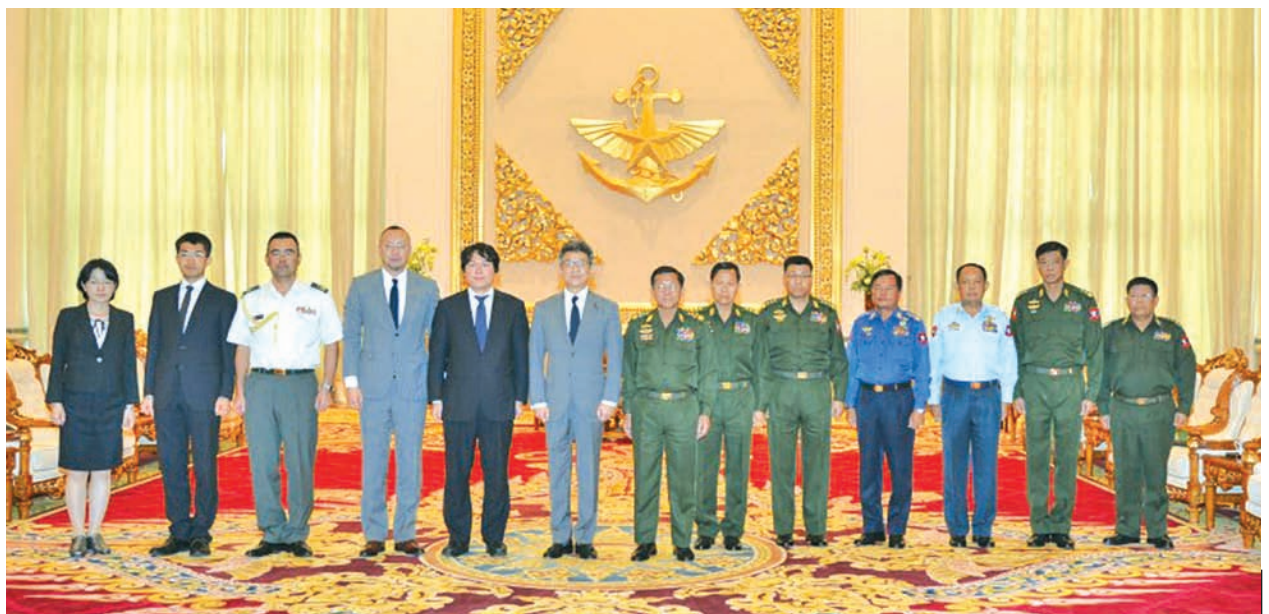
MNA



Upper House Speaker U Khin Aung Myint views round book exhibition in Mandalay Region on his tour of high schools.

MNA

Myanmar, Japan to further strengthen friendly ties



Senior General Min Aung Hlaing and Senior Vice-Minister for Defence Mr Ryota Takeda of Japan agree on further military cooperation between the two countries.—MNA

NAY PYI TAW, 28 July—Senior General Min Aung Hlaing, Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services, received Senior Vice-Minister for Defence Mr Ryota Takeda of Japan at Zeyathiri

Beikman Hall in Nay Pyi Taw on Monday to hold talks about further strengthening friendly ties between the two armed

forces of Myanmar and Japan, cooperation in peace and stability in the Asia-Pacific region, sending of scholarship students

and giving language training, and cooperation in prevention against natural disasters.

Myawady

Curfew further eased in Mandalay

MANDALAY, 28 July—The curfew imposed in seven townships in Mandalay District since the beginning of the month has further been eased, according to an injunction issued on Monday.

No one is allowed to go outside with permission from 10 p.m. to 3 a.m., the order said. At first, the curfew was im-

posed from 6 p.m. to 6 a.m. and later eased from 9 p.m. to 3 a.m.

According to the order, Mandalay District General Administration Department reduced the curfew hours as the security situation in the district has improved.

The order will come into effect from 10 p.m. on Monday.—MNA

Instructor Course for Disaster Risk Reduction underway



MANDALAY, 28 July—Union Minister for Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement Dr Daw Myat Myat Ohn Khin delivered an address at the opening ceremony of the Volunteer Youths Instructor Course

No. 11/2014 for Disaster Risk Reduction at the City Hall in Mandalay on Saturday.

The Union minister visited the Youth Training School of the Social Welfare Department on 12th

street in Upokdaw Ward in Aungmyethazan Township to witness the learning process of youths at the training course that will last one week.

She also attended the opening ceremony of the

School for Children with Disabilities in Mandalay of the SWD on 26th street between 59th and 60th streets in Aungmyathazan Township on Sunday.

The school admits 78 children with disabilities under 18 years old.

Thiha Ko Ko (Mandalay)

Makeup performer contest, Mandalay Lifestyle and Women's Fashion Show 1-4 August

MANDALAY, 28 July—A makeup performer contest and the Mandalay Lifestyle and Women's Fashion Show will be held in Mandalay at the corner of 26th and 71st streets in Chanayethazan Township from 1 to 4 August.

Cosmetics, kitchen utensils, clothes and fashion wares, ornaments,

household electronics, sanitary equipment and women's fashion wares will be sold at the show.

"About 60 contestants will take part in the makeup performer contest, and makeup professional Khin San Win and artists will act as a panel of judges. The show will include a model show, magic programmes,

music entertainment and games. A lucky draw programme will be carried out as well," said organizer Ko Kyaw Min Htet.

Any visitor can attend the makeup performer contest and the Mandalay Lifestyle and Women's Fashion Show, organizers said.

Thiha Ko Ko (Mandalay)

U-20 Inter-Township Football Tournament held



MANDALAY, 28 July—The Mandalay Region Chief Minister's Trophy Men's U-20 inter-township football tournament 2014 started its second round knockout matches at the Bahtoo Stadium and Shwemantaung Sports Ground in Mandalay on 25 July.

In the debut of the knockout level, Singaing Township thrashed Chanmyathazi Township 3-1 at Bahtoo Stadium, and Chanayethazan Township hammered Natogyi Township 5-2 at Shwemantaung Sports Ground.

On 26 July, PyinOoLwin routed Kyauk-

padaung Township 4-1 at Bahtoo Stadium, while Madaya Township beat Myittha Township 2-1 at Shwemantaung Sports Ground.

The final match will be held at Bahtoo Stadium on 1 August.

Maung Pyi Thu (Mandalay)

Educative week activities performed at Toungoo University

TOUNGGOO, 28 July—Toungoo University held the educative talks, extempore talks and subject-wise exhibition in commemoration of the education week activities for 2013-14 academic year, aimed at uplifting intelligence of the students and improving innovative measures.

Rector Dr Tin Tun of the university attended the ceremony.

The education week activities feature display of subject-wise books and research papers from Zoology Department, in-



sects, fish, snakes, turtles, bats and their fossils found near Toungoo University, posters and doc-

umentary photos of the department in addition to the exhibitions of other departments.—NLM-017

Business Development Management course to be conducted in Mandalay

MANDALAY, 28 July—The Mandalay Branch of the Trade Promotion Department will open a Business Development Management course in the second week of August, aimed at sharing experience and knowledge about future business programmes and management skills to youths.

"Experienced trainers will give training to those applying for an international academic system, with manuals for managers issued to the trainees. Officials will present BDM certificates—Reference

Course of BDA, Cardiff Singapore," an official of the Trade Promotion Department of the Ministry of Commerce said.

Upon completion, the trainees may be able to better compete on the job market, and work in management, human resource development, sales & marketing, and the trade sector.

The training will be conducted from 9 am to 4 pm from 14 to 17 August at the Trade Promotion Department at the corner of 35th and 65th streets in Mandalay.

Thiha Ko Ko (Mandalay)



REGIONAL

Cambodian parliament officially accepts opposition leader as lawmaker-elect

PHNOM PENH, 28 July — The National Assembly of Cambodia on Monday held an extraordinary session to officially confirm the validity of opposition leader Sam Rainsy as a lawmaker-elect.

“The National Assembly announces to recognize Sam Rainsy, president of the Cambodia National Rescue Party (CNRP), as a lawmaker-elect for Kampong Cham province instead of CNRP’s lawmaker-elect Kuoy Bunroeun, who has stood down,” Heng Samrin, president of the National Assembly, announced during the session.

The National Election Committee (NEC) barred Rainsy from standing as a parliamentary candidate for a national election in July last year, citing his absence from the country’s voter list due to criminal convictions.

Rainsy, who spent nearly four years in self-imposed exile to avoid an 11-year jail term on charges of disinformation and destruction of public property, received a pardon from King Norodom Sihamoni and returned to Cambodia just two weeks before the election on 28 July last year.

In October, he was allowed to re-register as a voter so that he is eligible to replace another law-

maker on the CNRP’s list.

Speaking to reporters after the parliamentary session, Sam Rainsy announced that a year-long political crisis over last July’s election results was over.

“I’d like to inform the compatriots that the political crisis has ended,” he said. “Now, it is a new stage in the history of Cambodia to strengthen national unification, to protect national interest, to defense territorial integrity, and to improve living conditions of the people.”

Briefly spoke to journalists after the session, Prime Minister Hun Sen, vice-president of the ruling Cambodian People’s Party (CPP), said political environment is good and officials from the two parties are working together to resolve the remaining issues.

CNRP announced to end its nearly year-long boycott of parliament last week after the CPP agreed to its requests for an overhaul of NEC, power sharing in the parliament and a TV license.

The CNRP’s 55 lawmakers-elect will soon be sworn in at the parliament, where they will join the CPP’s 68 lawmakers to amend the Constitution in order to enshrine the autonomy of a new NEC.

Xinhua



Chinese Foreign Minister Wang Yi (R) meets with his Bhutanese counterpart Rinzin Dorje in Beijing, capital of China, on 28 July, 2014. —XINHUA

Japan’s PM Abe attends dinner with PM Persad-Bissessar



Japan’s Prime Minister Shinzo Abe attends a dinner with Trinidad and Tobago Prime Minister Kamla Persad-Bissessar in Port of Spain, Trinidad and Tobago, on 27 on July, 2014. Abe visited the country during his five-nation trip to Latin America. — KYODO NEWS

Kerry to woo Modi’s India, but quick progress unlikely

WASHINGTON, 28 July — US Secretary of State John Kerry visits India this week as Washington tries to revitalize ties it sees as a counterbalance to China’s rising power, but rapid progress is unlikely, despite the reformist reputation of India’s new leader.

The visit by Kerry, and a trip by Defence Secretary Chuck Hagel next month, follow the resounding election win of Prime Minister Narendra Modi in May and are meant to create a good climate for Modi’s planned visit to Washington in September.

Analysts say it is only once Modi meets President Barack Obama that the United States may have a more realistic hope for progress on big defence projects, on removing obstacles to US firms’ participation in India’s nuclear



India’s Prime Minister Narendra Modi.

power industry, and for firmer statements of shared interests in Asia.

“India will play a much greater role in Asia under the Modi administration, but it will do so for its own reasons and under its own terms,” said Ashley Tellis of Washington’s Carnegie Endowment for International Peace think tank. Four years ago, Obama declared the US-India relationship would be “one of the defining partnerships of the 21st century” and last week the State Department called it one of “enormous

strategic importance.”

But while the two countries are in many ways natural allies, as big democracies with shared concerns about Islamist militancy and the rise of China, the relationship falls far short of Obama’s rhetorical billing. Disputes over protectionism and intellectual property rights have soured the business climate and India has remained cautious about committing to US strategic designs, given concerns that US power, eroded by domestic budget battles, may be waning.

The relationship took a dive last year after an Indian diplomat was arrested in New York on charges of mistreating her domestic help, an episode that provoked outrage and resentment in New Delhi.

Modi, whose Hin-

du nationalist Bharatiya Janata Party swept to an overwhelming victory after years of shaky Indian coalitions, has yet to make clear how closely he plans to work with Washington.

The potential for tension was always high. He was banned from visiting the United States after Hindu mobs killed more than 1,000 people, most of the Muslims, while he was chief minister of his home state of Gujarat. The Obama administration sought to turn a new page by quickly inviting Modi to Washington after his election, and was pleased by his quick positive response.

Kerry will be heading the US team at the annual Strategic Dialogue with India on Thursday, and will be accompanied by US Commerce Secretary Penny Pritzker. — Reuters

16 killed, 13 hurt in S Philippine ambush

MANILA, 28 July — Sixteen people were killed and 13 others, including nine children, injured in an ambush believed to be staged by members of the rogue group Abu Sayyaf on Monday morning, a

military official said.

Brigadier General Martin Pinto, commander of the 2nd Philippine Marine Brigade, said the victims were aboard two jeeps when they were waylaid by some 50 Abu

Sayyaf bandits led by Idang Susukan and Sibih Pisi in Talipao town, Sulu province.

Pinto said all the victims were all civilians who were on their way to another area to celebrate

Eid al-Fitr, a Muslim holiday which marks the end of Ramadan.

Pinto said the authorities could not yet establish the motive behind the Abu Sayyaf’s attack. —Xinhua

GAZA / JERUSALEM, 28 July — Israel sees no need for another Gaza ceasefire, an Israeli official was quoted as saying on Monday, as tensions between Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu's government and Washington flared over US mediation to end the almost three-week-old war.

Fighting had subsided over the weekend, with the battered Palestinian enclave's dominant Hamas Islamists endorsing a UN call for a 24-hour halt ahead of Monday's Eid al-Fitr festival.

Yet Israel balked, having abandoned its own offer to extend a 12-hour truce from Saturday as Palestinian rocket launches persisted. Netanyahu's security cabinet met into the early hours of Monday to debate proposals including for an escalation of the Gaza offensive in which almost 1,100 people have died.

US Secretary of State John Kerry visited the region last week to try to stem the bloodshed, his contacts with Hamas — which Washington formally shuns — facilitated by Egypt, Turkey, Qatar and Western-backed Palestinian President Mahmoud Abbas.

Israel wants Egypt, which also borders the

US-Israeli tensions rise as hostilities in Gaza subside



An Israeli soldier stands atop a tank near the border with Gaza on 27 July, 2014.—REUTERS

Gaza Strip and views Hamas as a security threat, to take the lead in curbing the Palestinian Islamists. It worries about Doha and Ankara championing Ha-

mas demands to open up the blockaded territory.

A flurry of media leaks by unnamed Israeli officials damning a draft agreement attributed to Kerry as too

accommodating of Hamas was challenged by a US official who, also anonymously, told reporters the top diplomat's efforts had been mischaracterized.

But US President Barack Obama, phoning Netanyahu on Sunday, put pressure on Israel to hold fire unconditionally and appeared to link its core

demand for Hamas to be stripped of cross-border rockets and infiltration tunnels to a peace accord with the Palestinians that is nowhere on the diplomatic horizon.

"The President stressed the US view that, ultimately, any lasting solution to the Israeli-Palestinian conflict must ensure the disarmament of terrorist groups and the demilitarization of Gaza," the White House said.

It added that while Obama wanted any truce to be along the lines of an Egyptian deal that ended the last Gaza war, in November 2012, the United States also supported "regional and international coordination to end hostilities". Israel did not immediately respond nor publish what, if anything, was decided at the overnight security cabinet session.

But Israel Radio quoted an unidentified government official as saying: "There is no need for any more ceasefires. Let Hamas stop firing first."—Reuters

UN Security Council calls for humanitarian ceasefire in Gaza

UNITED NATIONS, 28 July — The UN Security Council agreed on a statement on Sunday urging Israel, Palestinians and Islamist Hamas militants to implement a humanitarian truce beyond the Muslim holiday of Eid al-Fitr and engage in efforts to achieve a durable ceasefire.

The statement expresses strong support for "an immediate and uncondition-

al humanitarian ceasefire, allowing for the delivery of urgently needed assistance" in Gaza, where Israeli troops and Hamas have been fighting for nearly three weeks. All 15 council members had agreed on the statement, diplomats said, and it would be formally adopted at a mid-night meeting on Sunday.

Gaza Strip residents and Reuters witnesses said Israeli shelling and

Hamas missile launches slowly subsided on Sunday, suggesting a de facto truce might be taking shape ahead of the Eid al-Fitr holiday, which begins on Monday.

The Security Council statement, drafted by Jordan, "urged all parties to accept and fully implement the humanitarian ceasefire into the Eid period and beyond" and "calls on parties to engage in efforts to achieve a durable and fully respected ceasefire, based on the Egyptian initiative." Diplomatic efforts led by US Secretary of State John Kerry to end the conflict have shown little sign of progress. Israel and Hamas have set conditions that appear irreconcilable.

The council commended the efforts of Kerry and United Nations Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon, who spent last week in the Middle East trying to help broker an end to the fighting.

Reuters



A Palestinian man salvages belongings from damaged buildings in the Shejaia neighbourhood, which witnesses said was heavily hit by Israeli shelling and air strikes during an Israeli offensive, in Gaza City on 27 July, 2014.—REUTERS

Pakistan mob kills woman, girls, over "blasphemous" Facebook post

ISLAMABAD, 28 July — A Pakistani mob killed a woman member of a religious sect and two of her granddaughters after a sect member was accused of posting blasphemous material on Facebook, police said on Monday, the latest instance of growing violence against minorities.

The dead, including a seven-year-old girl and her baby sister, were Ahmadi, who consider themselves Muslim but believe in a prophet after Mohammed. A 1984 Pakistani law declared them non-Muslims and many Pakistanis consider them heretics.

Police said the late Sunday violence in the town of Gujranwala, 220 km (140 miles) southeast of the capital, Islamabad, started with an altercation between young men, one of whom was an Ahmadi accused of posting "objectionable material".

"Later, a crowd of 150 people came to the police station demanding the registration of a blasphemy case against the accused," said one police officer who declined to be identified.

"As police were negotiating with the crowd, another mob attacked and started burning the houses of Ahmadi."

The youth accused of making the

Facebook post had not been injured, he said.

Under Pakistani law, Ahmadi are banned from using Muslim greetings, saying Muslim prayers or referring to his place of worship as a mosque.

Salim ud Din, a spokesman for the Ahmadi community, said it was the worst attack on the community since simultaneous attacks on Ahmadi places of worship killed 86 Ahmadi four years ago.

"Police were there but just watching the burning. They didn't do anything to stop the mob," he said. "First they looted their homes and shops and then they burnt the homes."

The police officer said they had tried to stop the mob.

Accusations of blasphemy are rocketing in Pakistan, from one in 2011 to at least 68 last year, according to the Human Rights Commission of Pakistan. About 100 people have been accused of blasphemy this year.

Human rights workers say the accusations are increasingly used to settle personal vendettas or to grab the property of the accused.

Reuters

WORLD

Fighting complicates Ukraine crash probe, US, EU prepare Russia sanctions

DONETSK (Ukraine), 28 July — Fierce fighting in eastern Ukraine where a Malaysian airliner was downed further complicated an investigation on Sunday as Europe and the United States prepared economic sanctions on Russia over the conflict.

At least 13 people were killed in clashes between Ukrainian troops and pro-Russian rebels that raged in five areas around the wider region.

International monitors said they had abandoned plans to visit the crash site because of fears it was not safe, even though Malaysia said earlier that rebels had agreed to provide access.

Ukraine said it was trying to dislodge the rebels, but denied it was fighting near the crash site, saying the separatists had put the monitors off by falsely claiming that the army was operating nearby.

Russia dismissed US allegations it was about to hand over more missiles to the separatists, who Western leaders say almost certainly shot the airliner down by mistake with a Russian-supplied surface-to-air missile. The separatists deny any involvement and Moscow says it has not supplied them, suggesting Ukrainian forces were to blame.

“Kiev is trying to destroy the evidence of a



Russian sailors march during celebrations to mark Navy Day in the Crimean port of Sevastopol on 27 July, 2014.
REUTERS

crime by its army,” separatist leader Aleksander Borodai said, referring to a Ukrainian army offensive some distance from the site on Sunday.

With European states trying to minimize the impact of any future sanctions against Russia on their own economies, the US State Department sought to bolster the case for robust action by releasing images it said showed Russian forces had fired across the border

at the Ukrainian military in the last week.

The images, which show marks on the ground at what the State Department said were launch sites and impact craters around Ukrainian military locations, indicated fire from multiple rocket launchers, the department said.

It also said the images offered evidence that Russia-backed separatists inside Ukraine had fired on Ukrainian forces using

heavy artillery supplied by Russia. The Russian Foreign Ministry said Foreign Minister Sergei Lavrov and US Secretary of State John Kerry had agreed on the need to ensure a swift ceasefire in what it described as an “internal conflict”. But the State Department said Kerry did not accept Lavrov’s denial that heavy weapons from Russia were contributing to the conflict and urged him “to stop the flow of heavy

weapons and rocket and artillery fire from Russia into Ukraine, and to begin to contribute to deescalating the conflict.”

Kerry also underlined US support for a mutual cease-fire verified by the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe and reaffirmed Washington’s “strong support for the international investigation” into the downed airliner, the State Department statement added.— Reuters

G-7 should make concerted effort in plane crash probe



Chief Cabinet Secretary Yoshihide Suga (R) discusses the situation in Ukraine with Canadian Foreign Minister John Baird (L) in Tokyo, Japan on 28 July, 2014. KYODO NEWS

TOKYO, 28 July — The Group of Seven major nations should work closely in a multinational probe into the recent shooting down of a Malaysia Airlines passenger jet, Japan’s top government spokesman said Monday.

“The G-7’s concerted effort is needed to solve this problem,” Chief Cabinet Secretary Yoshihide Suga said in a meeting with visiting Canadian Foreign Minister John Baird at the prime minister’s office in Tokyo.

Suga also expressed Japan’s condolences to Canada for losing a citizen in the plane crash in eastern Ukraine on 17 July.

Baird expressed support for Prime Minister Shinzo Abe’s economic policies, dubbed Abenomics, and his plan to have Japan defend its allies under armed attack when Suga briefed him on them.

Kyodo News

China says may have citizens fighting in Iraq

BEIJING, 28 July — Muslim extremists from China’s far western region of Xinjiang have gone to the Middle East for training and some may have crossed into Iraq to participate in the upsurge of violence there, China’s special envoy for the Middle East said on Monday. China has repeatedly expressed concern about the upsurge in violence in Iraq and the march of the Islamic State of Iraq and the Levant (ISIL), which has seized much of the north of the country as Baghdad’s forces there collapsed.

ISIL has renamed itself the Islamic State and proclaimed the establishment of a caliphate on land it has captured in Syria and Iraq.

Wu Sike, who has recently returned from the region, told reporters that China was extremely worried about the role of extrem-



Tribal fighters take their positions to secure an area from militants of the Islamic State, formerly known as the Islamic State in Iraq and the Levant (ISIL), in the Hamrin mountains in Diyala Province on 25 July, 2014.— REUTERS

ist groups in the fighting in Syria and Iraq.

“Several hot spot issues in the Middle East have provided living space for terrorist groups, in particular the crisis in Syria has turned this country into a training ground for extremists from many countries,” he said.

“These extremists come from Islamic countries, Eu-

rope, North America and China. After being immersed in extremist ideas, when they return home they will pose a severe challenge and security risk to those countries,” added Wu, who has 40 years of diplomatic experience in the Middle East and speaks Arabic.

Xinjiang, home to the Muslim Uighur people who

speak a Turkic language, has been beset by unrest for years, blamed by Beijing on Islamist extremists who want to establish an independent state called East Turkestan.

While many experts outside of China doubt these groups have anywhere near the abilities Beijing accuses them of, some Uighurs have made their way to Afghanistan and Pakistan in recent years. Wu would not put a number on how many Chinese citizens may be in the Middle East either fighting or being trained, saying that he understood from foreign media reports the figure to be about 100. “Mostly they are East Turkestan elements,” Wu said, adding that this was one of the topics he talked about on his trip, especially when he was in Turkey, which is home to a large exiled Uighur population.

Reuters

Australian, Dutch police try again to reach MH17 crash site

SYDNEY, 28 July — Australian Federal Police (AFP) together with their Dutch counterparts will on Monday attempt for the second time to reach the crash site of Malaysia Airlines flight MH17.

The team was forced to abandon investigating the site on Sunday after fighting erupted between local rebels and Ukrainian troops who were attempting to recover the territory where the crash site was.

AFP Deputy Commissioner Andrew Colvin told a Press conference on Monday that the safety of the unarmed team was paramount. “As you know the mission was aborted overnight due to the intensity of the fighting occurring both on the route into the crash site as well as at the crash

site itself,” he said.

“The decision was made on advice from the (Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe) along with our Dutch colleagues that we wouldn’t attempt to gain access to the site last night.”

“I recently got off the phone from our commander in Ukraine about the activities expected again for today and again in company with our Dutch counterparts and the OSCE monitors we will attempt again to gain access to the site today.

“Of course it is a highly volatile area and I should stress that safety is paramount in our minds, safety of the Australian and Dutch officials and the OSCE officers as well.”

Xinhua

PERSPECTIVES

Tuesday, 29 July, 2014

Myanmar should handle trans-border migration issue well

By Aung Khin

Illegal migrations from poorer to richer countries account for a problem to both, the country of origin and destination country. Recent research has shown that the public in most countries, both developed and developing, favour increasing restrictions on immigration.

The trans-border migration problem needs to be tackled with comprehensive global rules or in-

stitutions. Migration policies are now being adopted unilaterally or bilaterally between economically-better-off host countries and the poorer countries of origin.

Actually, migration has both costs and benefits to the countries concerned, and it has become a source of growing political controversy in these countries.

While illegal immigration refers to the migration of people across national borders in a way that violates the immigration laws of the destination country, the term refugee describes any person who has a well-founded fear of being persecuted in his home country on basis of race, religion, nationality, membership of a particular social group or political opinion, according to the UN Convention Relating to the Status Refugees of 1951 with its additional protocol of 1967.

Many illegal immigrants arriving here, for instance, through porous borders have tried to illegal-

ly settle here in various ways, adding to the social and economic problems in Myanmar.

Illegal migration often has its root causes in population density and poor livelihood, with people hoping for a better life across the border.

Enforcement of border security and immigration policies are very important to prevent illegal migrations.

While Myanmar is generally friendly toward foreigners, worries about an increasing population due to illegal immigrants, who do not deserve refugee status, is on the rise.

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.

The Vision of Nibbāna Dātū

Kyi Mun

The Meaning of Nibbāna

Nibbāna or Nirvana means, it is learnt, as follows:

- The complete elimination of mental defilements such as **sensual desires, hate & anger, sloth & torpor, mental distraction & regret, doubt, ignorance**, on the one hand, and
- The utmost fulfillment of Enlightenment Factors such as spiritual strengths, serenity, a sense of wellbeing and a sense of service to humanity and the world, on the other.

The official definition of Nibbāna Dātū according to “**A Manual of Abhidhamma**” by Nārada Mahā Thera is as follows:

Nibbāna however is termed supramundane, and is to be realized by the wisdom of the Four Paths. It becomes an object to the Paths and Fruits, and is called Nibbāna because it is a departure (ni) from cord-like (vāna) craving. Nibbāna is onefold according to its intrinsic nature. According to the way (it is experienced) it is twofold namely, the element of Nibbāna with the substrata remaining and the element of Nibbāna without the substrata remaining. It is threefold according to its different aspects namely, Void (60), Signless (61), and Longing-free (62).

Great seers who are free from craving declare that Nibbāna is an objective state (63) which is deathless, absolutely endless, non-conditioned (64), and incomparable. Thus, as fourfold, the Tathāgatas reveal the Ultimate entities:-consciousness, mental states, matter, and Nibbāna.

If your constant, vivid VISION is Nibbāna Dātū, your MISSION, GOAL, OBJECTIVES, STRATEGY, and TACTICS will be as follows:

- * **VISION** Nibbāna Dātū
- * **MISSION** Liberation, Enlightenment, Emancipation, Deliverance, Vimutti Rasa, etc.
- * **GOAL** Unconditioned by :
 - The Eight Winds (Loka Dhamma)
 - Sorrow, Mental Defilements and Insecurity
- * **OBJECTIVES** Sila (Morality), Samadhi (Concentration), and Paññā (Wisdom)

The Eightfold Paths

- | | | |
|------------------------|------------------|--------------------------|
| 1. Right Understanding | (Sammā-ditthi) | } III. Wisdom
(Paññā) |
| 2. Right Mindedness | (Sammā-sankappa) | |
| 3. Right Speech | (Sammā-vācā) | } I. Morality
(Sīla) |
| 4. Right Bodily Action | (Sammā-kammanta) | |
| 5. Right Livelihood | (Sammā-ājīva) | |

- | | | |
|------------------------|-----------------|----------------------------------|
| 6. Right Effort | (Sammā-vāyāma) | } II. Concentration
(samādhi) |
| 7. Right Attentioness | (Sammā-sati) | |
| 8. Right Concentration | (Sammā-Sāmaḍhi) | |

* STRATEGY Insight Into :

- Impermanence (=The Law of Anicca)
- Imperfection (=The Law of Suffering)
- Impersonality (=The Law of Anatta, No-Soul, No-Self)

* TACTICS The (37) Requisites of Enlightenment :

- The Four Foundations Mindfulness,
- The Four Right Efforts,
- The Four Roads to Power,
- The Five Spiritual Faculties,
- The Five Mental Powers,
- The Seven Factors of Enlightenment,
- The Eightfold Paths

Ref : A Manual of Abhidhamma by
Nārada Mahā Thera
Fundamentals of Buddhism by
Nyanatiloka
A Dictionary of Buddhist Terms by
U Myint Swe (M.A. London)

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

Second last old capital city “Amarapura” Part I

Maha Saddhamma Jotika dhaja Sithu Dr. Khin Maung Nyunt

(Continued from yesterday)

Amarapura urbanization used the system which its predecessor Inwa had used with alternation and adjustment to its own topographical features. Unlike Inwa which was an vest area of drained off and land filled five lakes, Amarapura was just an elongated level land between two aquatic bodies of Taung Tha Man Lake and Ayeyawaddy River. It rearranged the system it copies from Inwa. The Sus, the Yats, the Tans and the Wins were the terms of organizational and compositional forms and sizes of

quarters. The Sus were the largest quarters, the Yats came next, followed by the Tans and the Wins respectively. The Parabeiks [folding papers and maps of Amarapura urban plans shows 20 Sus on the sites around the Palace city and 32 Yats, 21 Tans and 4 Wins in the Capital.]

Villages, islands, holy recluses already existed before the founding of the Capital were allowed to exist status quo keeping their green environment un-disturbed.

Though generally speaking, residents of these separate quarters lived in their own quarters, owing

to the socio-cultural contacts in their daily life, there emerged mixed living through inter marriages. As there were no caste or clan system, no gender discrimination and Buddhism being most tolerant faith, providing religious freedom, inter marriage proliferated regardless of ethnic and religious origin or social status, in Myanmar society.

The urban population of Amarapura increased and the Myo Wun [the Mayor of Amarapura] had to look for space to extend the urban boundary to accommodate the increase. The Census taken in the year 1783 showed there were 11,472 servicemen and 3,585 traders totalling 15,457-quite a sizeable

number, judging by the then standard of town population. But the same census records that alone town which was the native town of King Bodawpaya had 7734 traders and 9684 servicemen totalling 17418 exceeding the Amarapura population by over 2000. It was so, because Alone town was the fief of King Bodawpaya and it was economically developed and prosperous. Besides, lands were granted to royal service men to live on and to grow crops for consumption and export.

There were four big bazaars (markets) or Zeygyi where booth wholesale and retail transactions were conducted daily. They were (1) Tagun Taing Zeygyi to the south

corner (2) Hsein Kyone Zeygyi to the north-east corner (3) Nyaung Bin Zeygyi [or Yodaya Zeygyi] to the south near the Ayeyawaddy River and (4) Kathe Zeygyi to the south west corner of the Capital.

At these markets were offices of inspectors, supervisors, and informants appointed to maintain law and order to check weights, measurements and qualities of goods bought and sold according to the standards set by royal order and to settle dispute in transactions. These offices were on day and night duty by turn. Daily, weekly, monthly and yearly reports on prices of goods at home and abroad were reported to the King. Trade news from harbours, jetties, out-

posts and brokerage centres were reported to the offices which transmitted for public notice. Each of these four markets was meant to serve nearly 150,000 residents and sellers and buyers from far and near.

Among four capital cities of two Konebaung dynasties, Shwebo, Inwa, Amarapura and Mandalay, Amarapura lasted longest 60 years.

During this long career many important events took place under five successive kings who ruled at Amarapura. These events at home and abroad with far-reaching impacts upon Myanmar history will be the subject matter of subsequent installments of this article.

(To be continued)

LOCAL NEWS

Training provided to gov't officials for improvement of human resources

YEDASHE, 28 July—To improve the skills of government officials and improve human resources in the future, a capacity enhancement course—organized by the Ministry of Environmental Conservation and Forestry—was held at Training School No 1 of Myanma Timber Enterprise in Nanchun of

Yedashe Township in Bago Region on Monday.

An official urged the 50 trainees to become more professional and try to support new staff in order to build up human resources.

The second course will be conducted on 4 August, with the third course taking place on 11 August.

Ko Lwin (Swa)



Commander of Myawady District Police Force Police Lt-Col Aung Myint presents K340,000 as cash awards to three distinction-winning students, received by Police Sgt Myint Lwin Oo at the office of the district police force on Sunday.
TUN TUN Oo (MYAWADY TOWN)

State-run newspapers now delivered on time



YANGON, 28 July—After years of delays in delivery, three State-run papers namely Myanma Alinn, Kyemon and The New Light of Myanmar dailies are now being delivered in the early morn-

ing in townships of Yangon Region, officials said.

“Copies of the three newspapers arrive at Tamway Bridge in Thimgangyun Township at about 6 a.m. daily. Customers have said they are

Opening of animal care centre in Mandalay celebrated with sports contests



MANDALAY, 28 July—To celebrate the opening ceremony of a Mandalay animal care centre, the Nature's Life Equestrian Club organized the first Mandalay Region Sports and Physical Education Committee Chairman's Cup 15,000-m mountain bike contest, air rifle contest, archery demonstration and a golden retriever pet dog show at the Nature's Life equestrian club in Yayhtwet Village of Patheingyi

Township of Mandalay Region on Sunday.

Officials of Sports and Physical Education Department presented the first prize to Asai, the second to Thin Chan Myae Thu and the third to Min Min Han in the mountain bike cycling contest.

Ko Maung Maung won the first prize, Ko Myo the second and Aung Kyaw Kyaw the third in the men's air rifle contest; Hnin Myat Nwe secured the first prize, Moe Moe Min Swe the second and Khaing Mon Kye-in the third in the women's air rifle contest.

The region minister for Agriculture and Livestock Breeding, the commander of Central Command and officials opened the Mandalay Animal Care Centre and watched several of the contests.

Tin Maung (Mandalay)

Township committees coordinate undertaking of community-based regional development projects

PAKOKKU, 28 July—Officials from the Township Management Committee, Township Development Affairs Committee and Township Development Supportive Committee held a meeting on community-based regional development at the hall of the Township general Administration Department in Pakokku of Magway Region on Sunday.

Township Administrator U Myint Khaing explained political, economic, social progress of the township, Chairman of Township DAC U Tin Win, plans for 2014-15 fis-



cal year and U Aung Min Naing of Action Aid, progress in compilation of a village manual.

Commander of Township Police Force Police Major Maung Maung Htwe discussed crime reduction

and drug elimination and Chairman of Township DSC U Ye Htut, the development of the region and lists of people to borrow loans from the Cooperative Department.

Aung (Mann Tekkatho)

Ambulance donated to philanthropic association

MYANAUNG, 28 July—A ceremony to donate an ambulance to the Volunteer Youth Philanthropic Association was held at its office in Letpankwin Village in Myanaung Township of Ayeyawady Region on Sunday.

The association formed with over 60 members in June 2013 carries out funeral and social services to the people, maintenance of roads and bridges, paying respects to the aged and necessary assistance for devotees at monasteries

in Taungyoe Station.

Wellwishers from the station donated the ambulance to the association to transport emergency patients to the hospital in time.

Nay Win Zaw (Myanaung)

Young Canadian reunites Haitian 'orphans' with parents

MIAMI, 28 July — Morgan Wienberg, a slight 22-year-old from Canada, was only 18 when she joined the wave of volunteers who flew to Haiti to help out after the catastrophic earthquake in 2010.

Unlike most volunteers she has returned, putting off a medical career to fulfil what she now calls a life mission to rescue abused Haitian children exploited by unscrupulous orphanages.

"I am flabbergasted by her story. It's simply outstanding what she is doing, and nothing fazes her," said Alison Thompson, an Australian nurse and veteran relief worker who ran a camp for earthquake victims in Haiti and now runs rape clinics there.

Wienberg was living in Whitehorse, the capital of Yukon, Canada's westernmost territory, when her plans to study medicine at McGill University took a detour.

She had considered spending the summer work-



Ysaac Jeudy, 14, of Les Caynes, Haiti walks past a hand-painted mural at the Little Haiti Cultural Center in Miami, Florida on 19 July, 2014. — REUTERS

ing with animals or children in Africa, but quickly signed up as a volunteer to teach English to earthquake victims and help in a prosthetics lab.

"I had never really thought about Haiti. The earthquake drew me to thinking it was the place I

could make a difference," she said during an interview in Miami where she was overseeing medical care for one of her charges.

In Haiti she also volunteered at an orphanage. Appalled by the conditions, she quickly discovered that almost all the children

were not orphans but were being used to milk donations from unwitting charities, including American churches.

"There were 75 children, all starving, lying in vomit and diarrhoea," she said. Beatings were common for petty infractions;

a deaf boy was abused constantly.

When groups of Americans visited with suitcases of toys and clothes, the owner made sure the children were washed and clothed. They never received the donations, which were sold.

"The real turning point was when I realized the children all had families," said Wienberg. "They were there because their families were so poor they couldn't afford to look after them."

Wienberg discovered that the orphanage owner recruited children on trips to impoverished rural areas where parents often were willing to give up their children for the hope they might get a better life in the city, and perhaps an education.

"Many orphanages in Haiti are primarily a business," said Wienberg. "They use the children to make money from foreigners."

She gathered evidence and went to the police and Haiti's social services insti-

tute to report the abuse.

Legitimate children's homes exist in Haiti, such as NPH International, which operates a children's hospital in Port-au-Prince and a chain of orphanages across Latin America. But the government of Haiti has begun to crack down on the corrupt places, working with UNICEF to create an official registry of the 725 orphanages and child-care centres.

Of these, 40 have already been shut, including the orphanage where Wienberg worked, though officials say the social services institute, which has a staff of 200, lacks the resources to properly monitor abuses. So far there are no reliable figures for the total orphan population.

Terre des Hommes International Federation, a European umbrella group dedicated to children's rights, is working with UNICEF and the Haitian institute to replace orphanages with a nationwide host-family program.

Reuters

Associate of dead S Korea ferry boss arrested, children due to give evidence

ANSAN, (South Korea) 28 July — A close associate of the man whose web of business holdings included a ferry that sank and killed more than 300 people in April was arrested

only by her last name, Kim.

Another woman, the wife of Yoo's driver who was thought to have been with him during his final days at large, also turned herself in to police.

some of the students who made it out of the ferry alive were due to take the stand at the trial of 15 crew members who fled the vessel.

Passengers on board

their escape triggered outrage across South Korea.

Yoo heads the family that owned the ferry operator.

His associate, Kim, had been wanted for helping Yoo evade arrest. Her arrest came three days after police stormed an apartment on the outskirts of Seoul and found Yoo's elder son, Dae-gyun, who was wanted for embezzlement.

Yoo Dae-gyun is one of two sons who co-owned the holding company at the centre of a network of business interests that included the ferry operator.

He was not believed to have been as actively involved in management as his younger brother, who is believed to be in the United States.

Yoo Dae-gyun said he only learned of his father's death from police.

A badly decomposed body found by a farmer at an orchard last month was identified only six days ago as that of Yoo Byung-un. An autopsy and DNA testing failed to show how he died and how he came to be at the site where he was found because of extensive decomposition.

Reuters

Costa Concordia completes its voyage to the scrap yard

GENOA, (Italy) 28 July — The wrecked *Costa Concordia* cruise liner limped into its last port on Sunday, when it was towed to the northern Italian city of Genoa to be broken up for scrap, two-and-a-half years after running aground and sinking with the loss of 32 lives.

After a four-day journey from the Tuscan island of Giglio, where it sank on 13 Jan, 2012, the 114,500-tonne hulk was maneuvered into place and secured at the conclusion of one of the largest and most complex maritime salvages ever attempted.

Prime Minister Matteo Renzi flew to Genoa to hail the completion of the operation which restored some pride to Italy after a disaster that was widely interpreted as a national humiliation as well as a human tragedy.

"This isn't a day for showing off or creating a spectacle, but it's a mark of gratitude from the prime minister for getting something done which everyone said would be impossible," Renzi told reporters on the dock, saluting the work of the salvage engineers from Italy and around the world.

"We have had a terrible page to turn, but Italy isn't a country destined for the scrap heap," he said.

In contrast to the night when the *Concordia* ran aground and capsized during a display sometimes performed by cruise ships known as a "salute", the salvage operation has been a resounding technical success. After hours of preparation, dockworkers fixed the wreck in place in the industrial port of Voltri, just outside the main harbour in Genoa. — Reuters



South Korean rescue workers operate near floats where capsized passenger ship *Sewol* sank on 16 April, in the sea off Jindo on 22 April, 2014. — REUTERS

ed on Monday, a week after the ferry owner's badly decomposed body was identified.

The woman, who was believed to have been instrumental in helping Yoo Byung-un elude South Korea's largest manhunt, turned herself in on Monday. Police identified her

The ferry *Sewol* capsized on a routine trip on 16 April, one of South Korea's worst civilian maritime disasters. Many of those killed were children from the same school on a class trip.

The detention of the two women, confirmed by a prosecutor, comes as

the ferry, many of them children, had been told to stay on board while it was sinking.

The 15 surviving crew members, including the captain, face charges ranging from homicide to negligence for abandoning the ship ahead of the passengers. Video footage of



Tug boats tow the *Costa Concordia* ship as they arrive outside Genoa's port, in northern Italy, where the ship will be broken up for scrap on 27 July, 2014. — REUTERS

SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY

Prime Minister Modi launches portal for citizen contribution in governance

NEW DELHI, 28 July — Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Saturday launched a website MyGov that aims to help citizens contribute in governance by giving their opinions and views on important issues like clean Ganga or skill development. The inauguration of the people-centric platform also marks the completion of 60 days of the new government.

The Prime Minister said in the past 60 days, the experience of his government was that there were many people who wanted to contribute towards nation-building and devote their time and energy, an official statement said.

Modi said MyGov (mygov.nic.in) is a technology-driven medium that will provide citizens an opportunity to contribute towards good governance, the statement added.

“The platform would bridge gap between people and government. Democracy cannot succeed without people’s participation in government and this participation should not be limited only during elections,” the Prime Minister said. Besides Modi, Communications and IT Minister Ravi Shankar Prasad, Cabinet Secretary Ajit Seth, DEITY Secretary R S Sharma were also present at the launch of the portal.

National Informatics Centre (NIC) of the Department of Electronics and Information Technology (DeitY) will implement and manage the platform.

There are multiple theme-based discussions on MyGov where a wide range of people can share their thoughts and ideas with the government, Sharma told reporters after the launch.



“It is also an initiative to build a digital knowledge library. We will guide the people on the topics of national importance on which the government would like to know their views and ideas,” he added.

The platform presents an opportunity for the citi-

zens to both ‘Discuss’ and ‘Do’, Sharma said, adding, any idea shared by a contributor will also be discussed on the discussion forums, allowing constructive feedback and interaction.

At present, there are six groups on the platform

— Clean Ganga, Girl Child Education, Clean India, Skilled India, Digital India and Job Creation.

“Citizens can also volunteer for various tasks and submit their entries. These tasks would be reviewed by other members and experts. Once approved, these tasks

can be shared by those who complete the task and by other members on MyGov,” Sharma said.

Each group consists of online and on-ground tasks that can be taken up by the contributors. The objective of each group is to bring about a qualitative change in that sphere through people’s participation, he said.

“We will review the working on MyGov in three months and over time the number of groups, tasks and discussions will increase. The platform will also be used as a comprehensive knowledge repository,” Sharma added.

The portal can even be extended to act like public audit platform for government projects like citizens giving feedback on status of completed infrastructure projects or availability of various social sector programmes, he said. —PTI

JDcom to sell Microsoft’s Xbox One games console in China



A file photo shows an Xbox One is seen on display at the Wal-Mart Supercentre in the Porter Ranch section of Los Angeles on 26 Nov, 2013.—REUTERS

BEIJING, 28 July — JDcom Inc, China’s second-biggest e-commerce company by market share, will accept pre-orders for Microsoft Corp’s Xbox One games console in China from 28 to 30 July, the firm said on Monday.

The pre-orders will be taken via Tencent Holdings’ mobile social networks Mobile QQ and WeChat, known as Weixin in China, JD.com said in a statement. Tencent holds a 17.6 percent stake in JD.com.

The Xbox One will be the first gaming console to be released in mainland China since the government banned console sales in 2000, citing games’ effects on mental health.

On Friday, China Telecom, the country’s smallest wireless carrier, said it would sell the Xbox One when released in September.

In September last year, Microsoft reached a deal with Chinese Internet TV set-top box maker BesTV New Media Co Ltd to form a joint venture to manufacture the consoles in Shanghai’s Free Trade Zone.

Released in November, the Xbox One has trailed in sales to Sony Corp’s PlayStation 4, launched around the same time. —Reuters

Amazon’s spending spree raises margin concerns

NEW YORK, 28 July — Amazon.com Inc’s heavy investment in content and technology to fight off deep-pocketed rivals is proving to be more costly than many had expected, raising fears that operating earnings will remain under pressure indefinitely.

Amazon’s shares fell 12 percent to \$314.76 in early trading on Friday, wiping out about \$18 billion from its market value.

At least 13 brokerages cut their price targets on the stock, by as much as \$60 and to a low of \$340, after the company reported a bigger-than-expected second-quarter loss on Thursday. At least two downgraded ratings to the equivalent of “hold”. Amazon is engaged in “a massive eco-



system war” with Apple Inc, Google Inc and Microsoft Corp Macquarie Research analyst Ben Schachter said. “Within that context, it is clear that this ... is going to be expensive and will impact margins,” he wrote in a note to clients. Chinese e-commerce giant Alibaba Holdings Group Ltd also

looms as a threat to Amazon as it expands in the US market, Schachter and others say. Amazon is spending billions of dollars to expand its network of warehouses, build up its business in China and India, and to buy digital content to help its Prime online video service take on Netflix Inc.—Reuters

Internet to drive future growth with enhanced productivity

SHANGHAI, 28 July — Internet could contribute up to 22 percent of China’s GDP growth through 2025, via increased productivity and adoption of internet application across a number of sectors, according to the latest research by consultancy McKinsey.

The booming internet sector has provided momentum in China’s attempt to wean the economy off investment and export, and rely more on consumption

and innovation for growth.

This is happening as the world’s second-largest economy sets to embark on a digital transformation to boost productivity and economic growth.

Based on McKinsey’s calculation, the internet took up 4.4 percent of China’s economy last year, a share placing the country among the world’s most advanced economies.

The consultancy predicts the internet could



contribute up to 22 percent of GDP growth from 2013 to 2025, provided support-

ive policies are put in place and businesses are aggressive in adopting the Internet

in their practices.

McKinsey argues the Internet’s ability to boost productivity is crucial for sustaining China’s growth as the nation is facing dwindling labour pool and rising labour cost.

The report also shows increased adoption of the internet by the country’s financial sector, through big data and online channels for example, will lead to more efficient use of capital.

This, McKinsey says,

will grant China’s small and medium-sized firms with more access to financing. These firms account for 70 percent of China’s GDP, according to China’s National Bureau of Statistics.

They also boast higher return on assets, at 8.2 percent, compared with 6.6 percent for larger firms.

Aside from growth, the report finds the internet is changing China’s labour market.

Xinhua

Spending scandal besetting Aquino could hurt Philippines' economy

MANILA, 28 July — The biggest political crisis that Philippine President Benigno Aquino has faced in four years in power could damage his image as a crusader against corruption and undermine his ability to deliver on reforms to sustain strong economic growth.

The Supreme Court this month declared partly illegal a 145 billion pesos (\$3.34 billion) economic stimulus fund that Aquino created in 2011 from budget savings, sparking a storm of controversy that has distracted the government from its work.

Economists are also concerned the controversy is slowing public spending because officials are more wary about accusations of recklessness and are subjecting decisions to more scrutiny, putting at risk big infrastructure projects.

"If this leads to a slow-down in spending, the risk to growth is on the downside," Shanaka Jayanath Peiris, International Monetary Fund resident repre-

sentative in the Philippines, said on Friday.

The IMF on Friday cut its Philippine growth forecast to 6.2 percent from 6.5 percent set in March, partly because of slower spending after the stimulus scandal broke. The government has set a target of 6.5 to 7.5 percent gross domestic product growth this year, after 7.2 percent last year.

First quarter GDP growth was at its slowest in two years, in part because of weaker state spending which grew an annual 2 percent in the period against 10 percent growth a year earlier.

Henry Schumacher, vice president at the European Chamber of Commerce of the Philippines, said any more delays to much-needed infrastructure would be a "disaster".

"There is an over-carefulness in a number of government offices not to move before they are absolutely sure that every angle where integrity could be compromised has been looked at," Schumacher said.



Philippine President Benigno Aquino claps as he attends the conference "Daylight Dialogue: The Good Governance Challenge" at the presidential Malacanang Palace in Manila on 15 July, 2014.

REUTERS

Jose Rene Almendras, secretary to the cabinet, told a local television station last week the Supreme Court ruling on the stimulus fund had "a chilling effect on everyone".

Under the stimulus facility, Aquino spent funds saved from canceled projects on housing and relocation of slum residents, radars for the weather bureau and infusing capital to the

central bank to help it with its market intervention, among other activities.

A portion of the funds was distributed to senators to use on projects of their choice.

The Supreme Court said aspects of the stimulus were unconstitutional. It did not call any actions criminal, though lawyers say the ruling could open the way for complaints alleging wrongdoing.

Critics said the allocation of funds to senators for their projects cast doubt on Aquino's commitment to stamp out corruption. And the controversy is having an impact on how officials proceed.

"Everyone who has to sign a document now has to be doubly sure," Almendras said in the television interview.

Aquino is the only son of highly respected parents: an assassinated opponent of dictatorship and a democracy hero who became the country's first woman president.

Reuters

Cambodian defence minister flies to Thailand for official visit

PHNOM PENH, 28 July — Cambodian Deputy Prime Minister and Defence Minister Tea Banh flew to Thailand on Monday for a two-day visit to strengthen bilateral ties and cooperation.

Tea Banh is accompanied by Gen Meas Sophea, deputy commander-in-chief of the Royal Cambodian Armed Forces, Admiral Tea Vinh, commander of the Royal Navy, and Gen Soeung Samnang, commander of the Royal Cambodian Air Force.

During the visit, he will meet with Thai Army Chief Gen. Prayuth Chan-ocha, head of the National Council for Peace and Order, Supreme Commander Gen Tanasak Patimapragorn and Defence Ministry permanent secretary Gen Surasak Karnchanarat.

Xinhua

Boko Haram kidnaps wife of Cameroon's vice PM, kills at least three

YAOUNDE, 28 July — Nigerian Boko Haram militants kidnapped the wife of Cameroon's vice prime minister and killed at least three people on Sunday in a cross-border attack involving more than 200 assailants in the northern town of Kolofata, Cameroon officials said.

A local religious leader, or lamido, named Seini Boukar Lamine, who is also the town's mayor, and five members of his family were also kidnapped in a separate attack on his home.

There was no immediate claim of responsibility.

Boko Haram, an Isla-

mist group which made international headlines with the abduction of 200 Nigerian schoolgirls in April, has stepped up cross-border attacks into Cameroon in recent weeks. Cameroon has deployed troops to its northern region, joining international efforts to combat the militants.

"I can confirm that the home of Vice Prime Minister Amadou Ali in Kolofata came under a savage attack from Boko Haram militants," government spokesman Issa Tchiroma, who is also communications minister, told Reuters by telephone.

Reuters

Japan, Colombia to cooperate on natural resource development

MEXICO CITY, 28 July — Japanese and Colombian leaders are expected to agree on Tuesday that the countries will cooperate in promoting Japanese investment in developing the Latin American country's natural resources, a Japanese delegation source said on Sunday.

In a joint statement to be released after talks in Bogota between Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe and Colombian President Juan Manuel Santos, the leaders will also express a desire to accelerate negotiations to conclude a bilateral free trade agreement as soon as possible, the source said.

Abe, currently on a five-nation trip to Latin America, will become the first incumbent Japanese prime minister to visit Colombia, whose economy is experiencing faster growth.

With the agreement on developing Colombia's abundant natural resources

such as oil and coal, that nation could become the second-largest base for Japanese companies in South America after Brazil, a senior Japanese Foreign Ministry official said.

A draft joint statement also states that Japan will support its businesses in laying an optical fiber network in Colombia and the leaders welcome deeper bilateral cooperation regarding intellectual property, including acceleration of the patent examination process.

Abe and Santos are also expected to agree on the need to reform the United Nations Security Council as well as the importance of respecting the rule of law, with an eye toward China's growing assertiveness in the East China Sea where Beijing claims the Japanese-controlled Senkaku Islands, known as Diaoyu in China.

Kyodo News

N Korea marks war anniversary



Women wearing traditional outfits dance in Pyongyang on 27 July, 2014, the 61st anniversary of the signing of the armistice agreement ending the Korean War. North Korea celebrates the day as it considers it won the war.—KYODO NEWS

New rules on military awards to take effect

BEIJING, 28 July — China's first regulations on military awards and commendations will go into effect on 1 August. The rules stipulate that the number of awards and commendations should be controlled and awarded based on improvement of combat abilities, the People's Daily reported on Monday.

The regulations are meant to consolidate rules on awards and commendations, which were previously contained in multiple documents, according to the report.

Complaints about the

large number of awards and commendations given have also been a factor leading to the rules, according to the report. The new rules stress that more awards and commendations should be offered to combat troops, major operations and troops serving in remote areas or places where life is difficult. The regulations were jointly written by the Chinese People's Liberation Army (PLA) general departments of staff, politics, logistics and armament and endorsed by Xi Jinping, chairman of the Central Military Commission.—Xinhua

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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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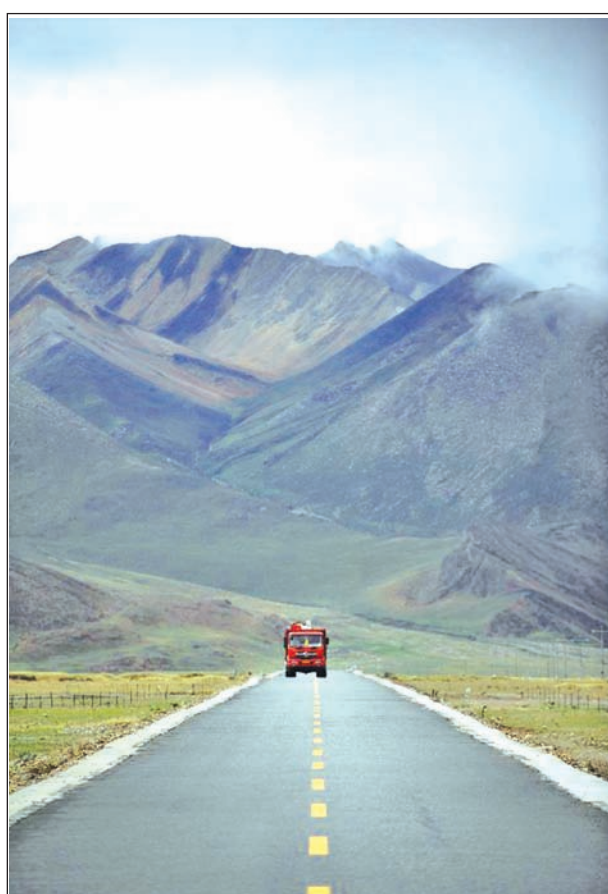


Photo taken on 6 July, 2014 shows a highway in Zhongba County, southwest China's Tibet Autonomous Region. China's Ministry of Transport said in a recent guideline that China aims to expand highways in the autonomous region to 110,000 kilometers by 2020. XINHUA

Rainy season ends in Tohoku and Hokuriku regions

TOKYO, 28 July — The rainy season is believed to have ended in the Hokuriku region of central Japan and the Tohoku region in the northeast, the weather agency said on Monday, ending this year's wet period in Japan.

The season ended four days later than the average year for the Hokuriku region, which faces the Sea of Japan, and three days later for the southern Tohoku region, though in northern Tohoku, it ended as usual, according to the Japan Meteorological Agency.

The season lasted 11 days longer than the aver-

age year for Tohoku, eight days for northern Tohoku and 10 days longer for southern Tohoku.

The heaviest rainfall in Tohoku during the season was measured in the city of Fukushima, Fukushima Prefecture, at 389.5 millimeters, and that in Hokuriku was recorded in Sado Island in Niigata Prefecture at 392.5 mm, both 100 mm or more than the average year.

The agency says these regions are likely to see sunny days for much of the next week because of the high pressure enveloping the regions.

Kyodo News

Sri Lankan asylum seekers arrive in Australia after weeks held at sea

SYDNEY, 28 July — A group of 157 Sri Lankan asylum seekers who were held at sea by Australian authorities for almost a month, sparking a legal challenge against their detention, have arrived at a detention camp on mainland Australia, government officials said on Monday.

Indian consular officials are due to begin interviewing members of the group, whose boat was intercepted by the Australian navy several weeks ago after setting sail from India. The group was taken to the remote Curtin Detention Centre in outback Western Australia on Sunday and Monday.

The interception and detention of the group has thrown a spotlight on Australia's controversial and secretive policies dealing with asylum seekers, under which the government has pledged to turn back boats carrying potential refugees.

Such policies have faced growing international scrutiny and criticism from rights groups, *The New York Times* editorial board and the United Nations, as well as legal challenges in Australia's courts.

The group of Sri Lankan men, women and children are the first asylum seekers travelling by boat to reach mainland Australia in seven months, an appar-

ent setback for the government's policies.

Conservative Prime Minister Tony Abbott's government had boasted of its success in deterring asylum seekers from taking the perilous journey, often in unsafe boats after paying people smugglers in Indonesia, issuing updates on how long it has been since the last boat arrival in Australia. Australia normally uses offshore detention centres in Papua New Guinea and the tiny South Pacific island nation of Nauru to process would-be refugees who arrive on boats.

While the group of Sri Lankans will be processed

at the Curtin camp, Immigration Minister Scott Morrison has stressed they will not be resettled in Australia and has released little information about them.

India has agreed to take back any of its nationals among the group but a lawyer asked to represent the Tamils said they should first be interviewed by Australian authorities to establish any claims for asylum. "Now these people are in Australia, the ordinary protections of Australian law must be afforded to these people," human rights lawyer David Manne told Australian Broadcasting Corp (ABC) radio.

Reuters

Century-old church burns down in fire

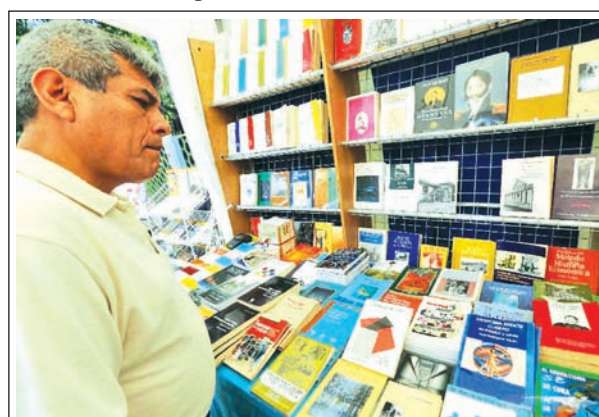
NINGBO, 28 July — A fire destroyed one of China's oldest cathedrals in the early hours of Monday in the east China city of Ningbo, with no casualties reported, local firefighting authorities said.

The fire broke out at 12:50 am in the gothic-style Jiangbei Cathedral. The cathedral was built in the Jiangbei District of Ningbo, Zhejiang Province by a French bishop in 1872.

More than 50 firefighters spent two hours putting out the fire, but only the frame of the main building survived, according to the firefighting division under the city's public security department.

"The inside of the building is totally destroyed. It's a great loss. The church is such a beautiful building," a firefighter told *Xinhua*.

Xinhua.



A man reads a book during the 2014 Caracas Book Fair, in the Museums Square, in Caracas, Venezuela, on 27 July, 2014. The fair will be open from 25 July to 3 August, according to local Press. — XINHUA

Weather report

FORECAST VALID UNTIL EVENING OF THE 29th July, 2014: Rain or thundershowers will be isolated in Lower Sagaing Region, scattered in Mandalay and Magway Regions, Kayah State and widespread in the remaining Regions and States with likelihood of isolated heavy falls in Upper Sagaing and Taninthayi Regions, Kachin, Rakhine and Mon States. Degree of certainty is (100%)

STATE OF THE SEA: Squalls with moderate to rough sea are likely at times off and along Myanmar Coasts. Surface wind speed in squalls may reach (35-40) m.p.h.

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Aishwarya Rai Bachchan vouches for stem cell banking

CHENNAI, 28 July — Bollywood actress Aishwarya Rai Bachchan on Sunday reiterated the importance of stem cell banking by mothers and the situation that led to her decision to go in for stem cell banking for her daughter.

“The decision to bank umbilical cord cell had to be taken at a time when I was taking baby steps to parenthood. And on our part, we did some research, spoke to friends and our families, of course. We were informed about it,” said Ash, a young mother herself.

Donning a red saree and black blouse with a string of fragrant jasmines decorating her hair bun — the traditional attire of women from the South, Ash looked elegant and aptly dressed for the day — Parents’ Day.

On being informed it was Parents’ Day, the mother of two-and-a-half year old Aaradhya said, “Every day is Parents’ Day. We are meant to have such a beautiful experience in our lives and let us celebrate that emotion every week and day in our lives.”

Describing the situation that led to her decision to go in for stem cell banking for her daughter, she said “Knowledge can be very very useful and once we were aware of the potential of stem cell banking, the decision was natural and we recognised how stem cells are such a precious gift that can be given to our children.”

“I think that every expecting parent in our country should become aware of stem cell banking. Stem cells

from the umbilical cord is a nature given resource. That needs to be preserved,” she said. Ash

was here to celebrate the milestone achievement of LifeCell’s preserving of 1,00,000 umbilical cord stem cell units.—PTI



Daniel Radcliffe stopped from entering US due to visa problems

LOS ANGELES, 28 July — ‘Harry Potter’ star Daniel Radcliffe was initially denied entry to the US due to visa problems.

The 25-year-old British actor was stopped by American border guards while returning to the US for Comic-Con after attending a premiere of his new movie ‘What If’ in Toronto, reported Ace Showbiz.

Radcliffe was in the process of upgrading his current P-2 visa to an O-1 visa. P-2 visa is designed for foreign actors as well as entertainers and gives the performers residency right for the time they’re working on a project but cannot exceed a year.

The actor fortunately managed to get his visa upgraded and arrive on 2 am in San Diego. He was in time for a scheduled Comic-Con panel later on 25 July afternoon with his co-star Juno Temple and director Alexandre Aja to discuss his film ‘Horns’.—PTI

New ‘King Kong’ film to release in 2016

LONDON, 28 July — Legendary Pictures has announced a new ‘King Kong’ movie titled ‘Skull Island’. The studio revealed a 16 Nov, 2016 release date for the blockbuster during its panel at Comic-Con International, reported Digital Spy.

Legendary, now partnered with Universal Pictures after launching with Warner Bros in 2005, will add ‘King Kong’ to its monster properties after ‘Godzilla’ and ‘Pacific Rim’. The first ‘King Kong’ movie was released in 1933 and brought its monster to life us-

ing stop-motion animation.

A high-profile remake, starring Jeff Bridges and Jessica Lange, was released in 1976, with a Linda Hamilton-led sequel following in 1986.—PTI



The first ‘King Kong’ movie was released in 1933.—PTI

From virtual reality to stars, five highlights from Comic-Con

SAN DIEGO, 28 July — Every year, around 130,000 comic book fans and entertainment enthusiasts trek to San Diego’s Comic-Con International, where thousands of booths and hundreds of panels are set up by industry outlets to cater to attendees.

With the 2014 convention wrapping up on Sunday, here are five highlights from the packed four-day event.

Experiencing death in virtual reality

Ever wondered what it’s like to be killed by a giant alien or a blazing fireball? Movie and television studios harnessed the virtual reality capabilities of the Oculus Rift headset to allow fans to enter the worlds of films and shows with numerous simulations.

For HBO’s “Game of Thrones,” fans could experience actual death — a terrifying experience for anyone with vertigo — as they ‘travelled’ up the Wall and stood at the

very top, only to be attacked and fall to their inevitable demise. In Legendary’s “Pacific Rim” experience, fans were ‘placed’ inside a giant robot that is attacked by an alien monster.

Homer Simpson stops by

From the giant ‘Homerdom’ of Homer’s head to Marge Simpson’s makeup range launched at the MAC cosmetics store, Fox’s hit animated television show “The Simpsons” celebrated its 25th anniversary by making appearances throughout the convention. On Saturday, show creator Matt Groening was joined on stage by a life-size hologram of Homer making quips about the convention, Stephen King and making Groening do a little dance.

Stepping into “Mockingjay”

“Mockingjay — Part 1,” the third instalment of “The Hunger Games” franchise, was recreated in part with Samsung Galaxy to allow fans to step into the stark world of Panem.

An all-white room provided activities from making customized

T-shirts to sitting in President Snow’s chair and trying baked goods from Peeta’s Bakery. The film’s latest trailer also premiered during the convention and fans were able to watch it on tablets in comfort in pod chairs.

Star power

Despite a much more muted Comic-Con in comparison to 2013 — not surprising given that last year, the studios brought together major ensemble casts such as those of “X-Men: Days of Future Past,” and “The Hunger Games” franchise — there were still some fan favourites in attendance.

Benedict Cumberbatch and Daniel Radcliffe both made their Comic-Con debuts, Matthew



Actor Benedict Cumberbatch, who voices “Classified”, poses with the character “Skipper” at a Press line for the movie “Penguins of Madagascar” during the 2014 Comic-Con International Convention in San Diego, California on 24 July, 2014.—REUTERS

McConaughey dropped by the Paramount panel to chat about “Interstellar,” and the superheroes of “Avengers: Age of Ultron” including Robert Downey Jr, Chris Hemsworth and Chris Evans added star power to the Marvel film panel.

Glitzy industry networking

While Comic-Con is a haven

for comic enthusiasts, it is also an opportune place for high-powered industry shindigs. The cast of A&E’s horror show “Bates Motel” mingled with Playboy bunnies at a party that looked like the inside of the iconic motel and NBC hosted a rooftop soiree with stars of “Constantine,” “Grimm” and “Hannibal.”

Entertainment Weekly’s annual celebration hosted Comic-Con’s high-profile attendees, including those from “The Hobbit,” “Game of Thrones” and “American Horror Story,” who mingled over drinks and a photo booth session featuring the Iron Throne from “Game of Thrones.”

Reuters

SPORTS

Sumo: Goeido to be promoted to ozeki rank

NAGOYA, 28 July — Sekiwake Goeido has all but gained promotion to the ozeki rank after getting his 12th win in a victory over ozeki Kotoshogiku on Sunday, the final day of the Nagoya Grand Sumo Tournament, Japan Sumo Association Chairman Kitanoumi said.

The JSA directors board, which offers opinions on ozeki promotions, will hold a meeting to finalize the decision this week, Kitanoumi said.

JSA's referee board, which is in charge of determining who is recommended for promotions, had indicated the same day it would make a request to Kitanoumi that the 28-year-old Goeido get the green light for sumo's second-highest rank with his 12th victory.

"I spoke with everyone (in the board)," referee



Sekiwake Goeido holds his trophy for Shukun sho (outstanding performance prize) at Aichi Prefectural Gymnasium on 27 July, 2014. — KYODO NEWS

board director Isegahama said before Goeido's bout. "He has some room to get stronger, and a promotion seems appropriate."

Goeido has the dubious distinction of holding the sekiwake rank the longest (14 consecutive tournaments) since the Showa period from 1926-1989.

What's more, he has not gotten double-digit wins in consecutive basho while at sekiwake, and has registered losing records twice during the span. He had just a passing grade with an 8-7 mark at the summer basho in May. Sunday's victory gave Goeido a total of 32 wins in his three most recent tournaments — just one win away from the 33 wins prescribed as one of the rough guidelines for ozeki promotion.

Kyodo News

Alonso keeps Ferrari sweet with second place

BUDAPEST, 28 July — Fernando Alonso gave himself an early birthday present, and kept Ferrari sweet, after finishing second in Sunday's Hungarian Grand Prix.

The result was the

Spaniard's best result of the year, after a third place in China, and came at the circuit where he took his first win in Formula One with Renault back in 2003.

Last year Alonso earned himself a rebuke

from Maranello on his 32nd birthday, the day after he finished fifth at the Hungaroring and told reporters he wanted the car the other drivers had.

Asked at the same time what he planned to do over

the August break, the Spaniard had replied: "I will pray".

Those remarks led to a sharp telephone conversation with Ferrari president Luca di Montezemolo, in which the driver's ear was officially 'tweaked', and came after speculation about Alonso's future with the team.

The double world champion can expect a more effusive conversation with the big boss this time after steering well clear of any such controversy on Sunday.

"I am extremely proud of the team, extremely proud of the job we did today and very, very happy," declared the Spaniard, whose 33rd birthday is on Tuesday.

Reuters

MYANMAR TV

(29-7-2014, Tuesday)

- 6:00 am**
 - * Paritta by Hilly Region Missionary Sayadaw
- 6:20 am**
 - * Physical Exercises
- 7:20 am**
 - * People Talks
- 8:30 am**
 - * TV Drama Series
- 9:00 am**
 - * News/ International News
- 9:30 am**
 - * Documentary
- 10:00 am**
 - * News
- 10:20 am**
 - * TV Drama Series
- 12:00 pm**
 - * News/International News/ Weather Report
- 12:25 pm**
 - * Myanmar Video
- 3:15 pm**
 - * Myanmar Traditional Performing Arts Competition
- 4:00 pm**
 - * News
- 4:25 pm**
 - * University of Distance Education (TV Lectures) -Third Year (Maths)
- 6:20 pm**
 - * Kyae Pwint Myaye Yin Khone Than
- 6:50 pm**
 - * TV Drama Series
- 8:00 pm**
 - * News/ International News/ Weather Report
- 8:35 pm**
 - * Current Affairs
- 9:30 pm**
 - * Documentary
 - * Mono Classical Songs
 - * Teleplay

MYANMAR INTERNATIONAL

(29-7-14 07:00 am~ 30-7-14 07:00 am) MST

- * Local News
- * Those Who Never Give Up: In pursuit of a dream
- * World News
- * Short Cut: Made of Jade
- * Local News
- * A Day Out With Sarah (Episode-6)
- * World News
- * Waso on the Buddhist Lent
- * Local News
- * Architecture: Anada Gu Phaya
- * World News
- * Art Students: Theatrical Art
- * Local News
- * People: A Life in The Ring
- * World News
- * Kayah
- * Local News
- * Myanmar Delicate Artistic Handy Creations-The Making Procedure of Goldsmith
- * World News
- * A Tourist Destination of Shan State
- * Local News
- * Myanmar Mega Factory (Episode-1)
- * World News
- * Distinguished Myanmar Ladies "Tin Moe Lwin"
- * Local News
- * Taste of Myanmar: Rakhine Monte Ti
- * World News
- * Moving Meditation: Aikido
- * Local News
- * People....: The Great Po Sein
- * World News
- * Director: Thiha Kyaw Soe



Winner Red Bull Formula One driver Daniel Ricciardo of Australia stands with Red Bull's Chief Engineer Paul Monaghan between second placed Ferrari Formula One driver Fernando Alonso of Spain (L) and third placed Mercedes Formula One driver Lewis Hamilton of Britain (R) after the Hungarian F1 Grand Prix at the Hungaroring circuit, near Budapest on 27 July, 2014. — REUTERS

Experience the key for next South Korea coach- KFA

SEOUL, 28 July — Experience is the top priority for choosing the next coach of South Korea's national football team, the new head of the KFA's technical committee said on Monday.

Lee Yong-soo told reporters the organization was in no hurry to appoint a successor to Hong Myung-bo, who resigned following the Koreans' woeful World Cup campaign in Brazil, despite the looming Asian Cup in January. South Korea, who picked up a single point in Brazil and finished bottom of their group, also have

two friendlies in September and Lee said an interim coach could oversee those games against Venezuela and Uruguay.

"Personally, I think experience is the top priority, whether at the World Cup or at club level," South Korea's *Yonhap News Agency* quoted Lee as saying.

He added that the committee would be looking at both domestic and foreign candidates for the job.

Neil Lennon, the former manager of Celtic, has been linked with the post in various media reports. Lennon worked with South

Korean players Ki Sung-yueng and Cha Du-ri at the Scottish champions.

Other names mentioned are former Dutch international Frank Rijkaard and the former Tottenham Hotspur and Fulham coach Martin Jol.

"I cannot give you names at the moment, although several have been mentioned in media," Lee said. "The ideal coach is someone who has not only delivered good performances but also has a vision that can make positive changes for young players."

Reuters



South Korea's players react after losing to Belgium during their 2014 World Cup Group H soccer match at the Corinthians arena in Sao Paulo on 26 June, 2014. — REUTERS

South African Tim Clark wins Canadian Open golf



Tim Clark with the trophy after winning the RBC Canadian Open at Royal Montreal GC - Blue Course.—REUTERS

ILE BIZARD, (Quebec), 28 July — South African Tim Clark clinched his second PGA Tour title when he sank a six-foot par putt to beat American Jim Furyk by one stroke at the Canadian Open on Sunday.

Clark knocked his clutch putt in dead centre to edge Furyk in a battle between two players who badly needed a victory to shed the bridesmaid tag.

Clark has finished second 12 times on tour and had major elbow surgery in 2011, so he exuded a mixture of excitement and relief as he greeted his Canadian wife and two young children next to the 18th green at Royal Montreal.

“Any national Open to me is special and it’s an honour for me to be the Open champion,” Clark told reporters after storming home in 30 strokes with five back-nine birdies, one-putting eight holes in a row on his way to a five-under-par 65.

He finished at 17-under 263,

while Furyk shot a 69 for second place on 16-under.

Furyk has won 16 times on tour but is winless in his last seven attempts when leading (or co-leading) into the final round.

This was his sixth runner-up finish since his most recent tour victory nearly four years ago, and the latest near-miss clearly stung.

He had a 15-foot birdie chance at the last to force, at the very least, a playoff, but read too much break and missed on the high side.

That took some pressure off Clark, whose long first putt had come up well short, and he pounced on the opportunity.

Earlier, Clark was four strokes behind after bogeying the first hole but the slow start perhaps eased some of the pressure.

“The front nine I was a little out of sorts but making the turn I was only three back,” he said. “At that point there’s nothing to lose and suddenly I got hot with the putter.—Reuters

Gold the best remedy for England’s suffering Trott

GLASGOW, 28 July — England’s double Olympic champion Laura Trott, who has been suffering with a kidney infection, claimed gold in a dramatic women’s 25km points race at the Commonwealth Games on Sunday.

“I can’t believe it. I felt so bad at times and I’m so glad. I’m not even 100 per cent, I’ve not eaten properly for the last two days and I’ve been living off porridge. I’m not a porridge fan,” she told the BBC.

The 22-year-old Trott and Wales’ Elinor Barker were tied on 37 points but the English rider was awarded gold after being placed higher in the final sprint at the Chris Hoy Velodrome.

Scotland’s Katie Archibald took the bronze.

Having been diagnosed with the kidney infection Trott went out early in the individual pursuit and was 11th in the 10km scratch race, but she could barely contain her excitement at winning her first Commonwealth medal.

“After the week I’ve had it is right up there with the Olympics because of the way I have had to come into it after the disappointment of the last two days,” she said.

While Trott’s face was a picture of joy on Sunday, Australia’s Anna Meares suffered



England’s Laura Trott holds her gold medal after winning the women’s 25km points race finals cycling race at the 2014 Commonwealth Games in Glasgow, Scotland on 27 July, 2014.—REUTERS

disappointment in her bid for a sixth Commonwealth gold after compatriot Stephanie Morton got the better of her in the women’s sprint.

In the men’s keirin, Matthew Glaetzer ensured Australia took

away a second gold, defeating New Zealand’s Sam Webster by the narrowest of margins but Shane Archbold gave the Kiwi’s something to smile about after winning the men’s 20km scratch race.—Reuters

Bayern Munich beat Wolfsburg 3-0 to lift Telecom Cup

BERLIN, 28 July — Bayern lift the Telecom Cup for the second time in a row as they beat Wolfsburg 3-0 at the final on Sunday.

Bayern Munich showed a faultless performance as they defeated Wolfsburg 3-0 at the preparations tournament mean-

while Hamburg clinched the third place with a 3-1 victory over Monchengladbach.

Robert Lewandowski’s brace and Sebastian Rode’s goal sealed the deal within twenty minutes as the “Wolves” lacked in penetration. The Bavarians needed just four minutes to break the deadlock

when Franck Ribery crossed into the box to see Lewandowski heading home into the top right corner. Sebastian Rode doubled the lead at the 15th minute, following a one-two with Claudio Pizarro, beating Wolfsburg’s goalkeeper Max Grun into the bottom left.—Xinhua

Liverpool sign defender Lovren from Southampton

LONDON, 28 July — Liverpool’s raid on Britain’s south coast continued with the capture of Southampton’s Croatian defender Dejan Lovren on Sunday for a reported 20 million pounds.

“The 25-year-old Croatian international today put pen to paper on a long-term deal with the Reds after completing his medical,” the Premier League club’s website (www.liverpoolfc.com) said.

Liverpool, runners-up to Manchester City last season and preparing for a return to the Champions League after an absence of nearly five years, have also signed striker Rickie Lambert and midfielder Adam Lallana

from Southampton.

“It’s a dream come true. I’m happy and glad to be here. I’m proud and can’t wait to start. I know we have millions and millions of supporters — Liverpool is more than a club,” Lovren, whose career began at Dinamo Zagreb, said.

“After I played at Anfield last season, I said to myself: ‘One day I hope I’ll be able to play here for Liverpool’. The fans will know from the first minute that I’m a player that will give 100 percent on the pitch.”

Lovren was part of the Croatia squad for this year’s World Cup finals in Brazil and was un- luckily adjudged to have tripped Brazil striker Fred to concede a

controversial penalty in the opening match when the score was 1-1.

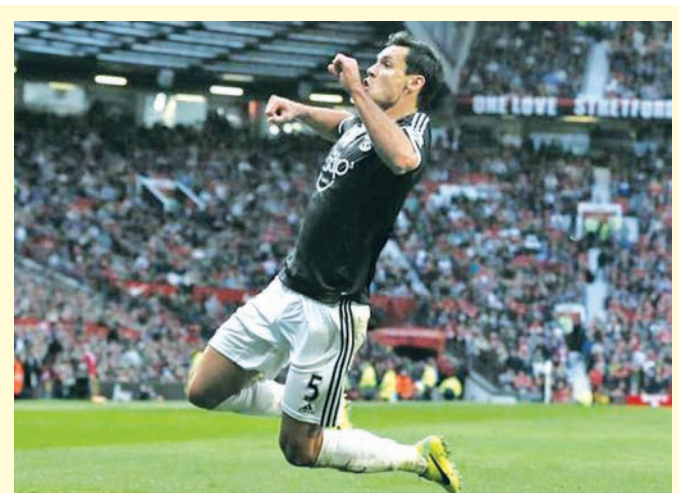
Croatia eventually lost 3-1 and bowed out in the group stage.

Liverpool have been on a spending spree this off-season after they recouped around 81 million euros (\$108.77 million) by selling striker Luis Suarez to Barcelona this month.

They reportedly pulled out of signing France striker Loic Remy from promoted Queens Park Rangers earlier on Sunday after a medical exam.

Lovren made 31 appearances for Southampton since signing from French club Olympique Lyon last year.

Reuters



Southampton’s Dejan Lovren celebrates after scoring a goal against Manchester United during their English Premier League soccer match at Old Trafford in Manchester, northern England on 19 Oct, 2013.—REUTERS