

President discusses development programmes with delegation of US-ASEAN Business Council

NAY PYI TAW, 30 July—President U Thein Sein on Wednesday met the delegation of the US-ASEAN Business Council led by Chairman Alexander C. Feldman.

During the meeting at the Credentials Hall of the Presidential Palace, senior government officials and delegates discussed economic cooperation, more investments, development programmes in the education and health sector, job opportunities, the human resource sector and small and medium-scale enterprises sector.

The members of the delegation include the representatives of companies which are doing investment in Myanmar in power distribution, oil and natural gas exploration, supply for hygiene water, import and manufacturing



of automobiles and their engines, as well as cultivation and production of crops.

The meeting was

also attended by Union ministers U Wunna Maung Lwin, U Soe Thane, U Myat Hein, U Zeyar Aung, U Maung

Myint, U Win Myint, U Win Shein and Dr Kan Zaw and senior government officials.

MNA

President U Thein Sein holds talks with US-ASEAN Business Council Chairman Alexander C. Feldman about investment in Myanmar in power distribution, oil and natural gas exploration.—MNA

Viber, popular chat app, hosts local media, with announcement to build foothold in Myanmar

By Ye Myint

YANGON, 30 July—Viber, a popular mobile application for Myanmar's smartphone users in making free calls and sharing text messages and pictures, hosted local media in Yangon, with Crystal Lee, Viber Philippines country manager announcing its future plans for the country with high potential for mobile phone subscriptions.

Viber hopes to increase its presence in Myanmar and is working on localization plans and in discussions to deliver a quality-content partnership, said Viber in a press release Wednesday.

Being free and simple to use has resulted in gaining popularity and reaching five million registered users in Myanmar in 2014, Viber officials told reporters in its first event in Myanmar, saying that Viber establishes

its foothold in this country where Viber is the favorite messaging and chat application of almost two-third of users.

“We plan to have a lot more localized content that reflects local market and culture for Myanmar this year,” said Mark Hardy, chief marketing officer of Viber via Viber group chat with media.

Despite no specific plans at the moment, we will make sure to talk with them as well based on our experiences in other markets, Michael Shmilov, Viber's head of product, responded to a question on Viber's plan with the two new telcoms coming on the Myanmar mobile market. “Our first focus is to optimize the Viber experience for the lo-

cal users,” he added.

Viber, a smartphone, desktop and tablet messaging app for over 370 million users in 193 countries, was initially launched in 2010 and became a company of Japanese Internet giant Rakuten in 2014. According to officials, Viber had only three users in Myanmar in 2011.

NLM

Fully air-conditioned trains to soon start service in Yangon

NAY PYI TAW, 30 July—Two trains with ‘fully air-conditioned carriages’ will commence service soon along the Yangon circular railways, according to an announcement of Myanma Railways on Wednesday.

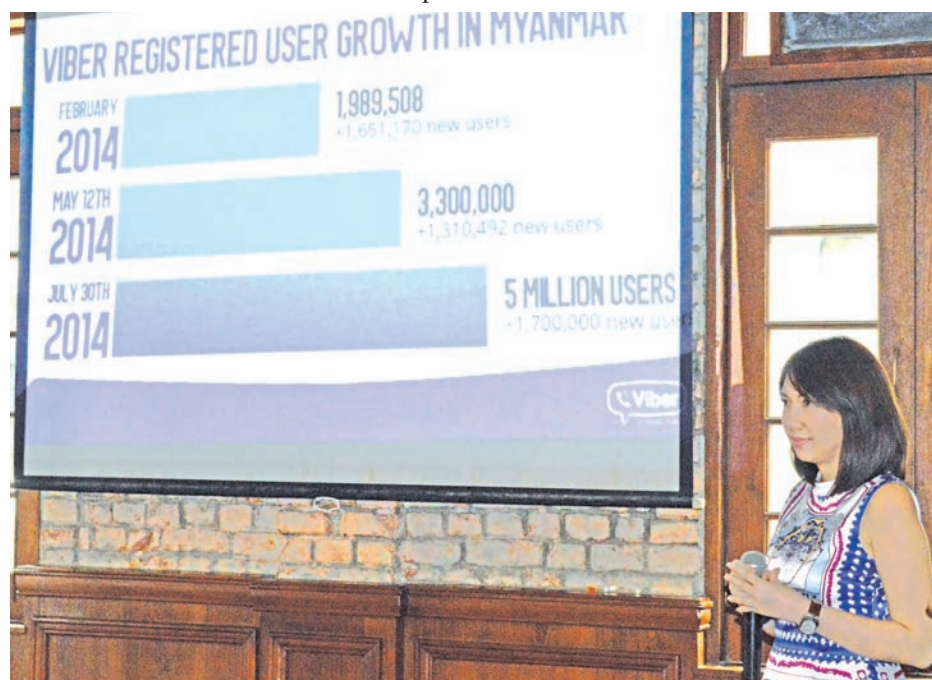
Each train will have five RBE coaches recently imported from Japan.

MR upgraded its circular railway system with air-conditioned RBE coaches in February and November 2013 and in January 2014, with the MR

planning to reduce ticket fees for the RBE trains and two other ordinary circular trains.

The Ministry of Rail Transportation has purchased 20 RBE trains, including 10 air-conditioned trains from Yangon to solve traffic-congestion problems and to attract more passengers in the city.

The two RBE trains with 4 coaches each will also substitute two outdated trains for the route of Mandalay-Bagan, starting on 5 August.—MNA



Crystal Lee, Viber Philippines country manager, announces that Viber now has five million registered users in Myanmar.—PHOTO: YE MYINT

INSIDE

Union ministers seek approval to borrow from ADB and to buy farming machinery from South Korea

PAGE-3

Workshop on land utilization held in Nay Pyi Taw

PAGE-3

Union ministers inspect waterway conservations in western Myanmar

PAGE-3

Forging a strong bond among family members

PAGE-8

MOGE signs two Improved Petroleum Recovery Contracts

NAY PYI TAW, 30 July — Myanmar Oil and Gas Enterprise under the Ministry of Energy signed Improved Petroleum Recovery Contracts with MPRL E & P Pte Ltd, registered in the British Virgin Islands, and Myanmar Petroleum Exploration & Production Company Ltd, at the Lake Garden Hotel in Nay Pyi Taw on Wednesday.

In the presence of Union Minister for Energy U Zeyar Aung, Managing Director U Myo Myint Oo of MPGE, Country Manager Mr Terence John Howe of MPRL E&P Pte Ltd and General Manager U Myo Tin of Myanmar Petroleum Exploration & Production Co., Ltd signed the contract notes. The contract signing



Union Minister U Zeyar Aung attends signing of Petroleum Recovery Contracts between MOGE, MPRL E & P Pte Ltd and Myanmar Petroleum Exploration & Production Company Ltd for earning foreign currency.—MNA

is to implement the tasks of IOR 4 and OIR 6 blocks of 16 inland blocks. The ministry received US\$13.81 million as signature bonus

from signing two contracts.

Foreign oil companies will conduct the environmental impact assessment (EIA) and Social impact

assessment (SIA) in the respective blocks and cooperate with local authorities in development of the regions, officials said.—NLM

Talks on Human Trafficking given at Yangon Institute of Education

YANGON, 30 July—Educative talks on Trafficking in Person and Risks, organized by the Department of Basic Education to mark World Day against Trafficking in Persons, was held at the Yangon Institute of Education on Wednesday.

Police Major Roland and Police Captain Maung Maung Oo of Kamayut Police Station said most victims of human trafficking are women, while children and men are also trafficked into other countries, mostly to Thailand, China and Malaysia.

The officers said many girls end up as sex workers or are sold as brides, with men and children forced to work as labourers.

Many people in rural areas are easy prey as they are desperate to escape poverty, with most victims eagerly believing the promises made to them, the officers said. While some women are trafficked by their own relatives, others are trafficked by agents who married them pretending they were in love.

In 1997, Myanmar started prevention tasks against human trafficking

and set up rehabilitation centres in border towns such as Muse, Kaungthaung and Myawady, said Police Major Roland.

Some victims go to other countries legally, while others go abroad illegally in search of jobs. Those who illegally go to other countries also face illegal immigration charges. As Thailand and Myanmar are cooperating to combat human trafficking, authorities in Myanmar have requested Thai officials not to charge those who are trafficked.

The steps in human trafficking include recruitment, trafficking and exploitation. Legal action is taken against human traffickers under the Anti-Trafficking in Persons Law. Some victims are infected with HIV and other sexually transmitted diseases due to forced prostitution or work in the porn industry.

Those who work in other countries should not lose contact with parents and relatives at home, the police officer advised before donating books to combat human trafficking to the library of the YIE.

Thant Zin Win



Commander of Yangon Command Maj-Gen Hsan Oo and officials among the spectators who watch a hockey friendly match between the Defence Services hockey team and the Indian Armed Forces hockey team on Theinbyu turf hockey pitch in Yangon on Wednesday.—THAN SWE (PABEDAN)

Free funeral provider calls for safety measures and improved hospitals to reduce death toll

By Aye Min Soe

BAGO, 30 July—The free funeral and ambulance service society in Bago has called on the local government to enforce safety measures in various sectors and to upgrade a station hospital in Phayagyi Town to save more lives.

Phayagyi Town is located at a strategic place, sitting at the junction of the roads to Mandalay and Mawlamyine, only about five miles away from the Yangon-Mandalay Highway and 10 miles from Bago.

“We are prepared to donate blood and oxygen to patients and victims, but the hospital should be upgraded and improved,” said Soe Myint Khaing, the chairman of the ‘Cetanashin’ Free Funeral and Ambulance Service Society. Most of the patients transported by the society

to hospital are people who were bitten by snakes or who were injured during hard labour, he said.

The free funeral and ambulance service society in Phayagyi Town has carried out 1,000 funeral ser-

vices and transported about 900 patients, including victims injured in traffic accidents, in the five years of its

operation.

The voluntary society has to transport five victims and bodies per month on

average from the accidents on the Yangon-Mandalay Highway to hospital, according to the Cetanashin Free Funeral and Ambulance Service Society.

“We are on alert around the clock. Whenever a citizen or the police call us, we go there to help them,” said Ko Min Aung, Secretary of the association.

The society has two ambulances, two cars for funeral services and one vehicle for transporting dead bodies from the location of the accident to hospital. There are about 100 members of the society, who contribute cash on a monthly basis to the society, with several young people volunteering.—NLM

Ambulances are ready for service in Phayagyi Town.

PHOTO: AYE MIN SOE



NATIONAL

Union ministers seek approval to borrow from ADB and to buy farming machinery from South Korea



**NPED Deputy Minister
Daw Lei Lei Thein.**

MNA



**Deputy Minister for Finance
Dr Linn Aung.**

MNA



**Union Minister for Construction
U Kyaw Lwin replies to question
on budget used in road upgrading
projects.—MNA**



**Union Minister for Cooperatives
U Kyaw Hsan explains plans of the
ministry to sell machinery to
farmers in installment.**

MNA

NAY PYI TAW, 30 July—The Ministry of Construction and the Ministry of Cooperatives sought the approval of the Pyidaungsu Hluttaw to borrow US\$ 80 million from the ADB and to buy farming machinery from a South Ko-

rean company at the Pyidaungsu Hluttaw Session on Wednesday.

The Ministry of Construction will spend the money on upgrading the Maubin-Kyaiklat-Pyapon road in Ayeyawady Delta.

The upgrading work is

estimated to cost US\$ 88 million and the government will provide the remaining US\$ 8 million, Union Minister for Construction U Kyaw Lwin told the Pyidaungsu Hluttaw.

The union minister added that it is essential to

upgrade the road for the planned Maubin Industrial and economic recovery of local people in the area which was worst hit by Cyclone Nargis in 2008.

If upgraded, the road will not be flooded in the future and serve as an evac-

uation route in the event of disastrous cyclones like Cyclone Nargis, according to the union minister.

He also said that the road will enable students from other towns to commute to universities and schools in Maubin, contributing to the welfare and health of local people. Purchasing farming machinery from Daedong Company of South Korea will contribute to the materialization of the objective of reducing poverty to 16 percent in 2015 and implementation of the millennium goal of the United Nations, according to Union Minister for Cooperatives U Kyaw Hsan.

The union minister told

the Pyidaungsu Hluttaw that The Ministry of Cooperatives will have to pay two percent interests rate to the company for the purchase and the ministry will sell the machinery to farmers in installments.

Other topics discussed at the Pyidaungsu Hluttaw included nomination of two union ministers, the international-interest-in-aircraft-equipment bill, and approval to spend the allocated budget for other purposes. The session also approved to lend K 291.387 billion to the Ministry of Electric Energy and K 3 billion to the Ministry of Industry from state-owned banks.—MNA

Workshop on land utilization held in Nay Pyi Taw



**Union Minister at the President Office
U Tin Naing Thein talks about drafting policies,
laws, rules and regulations for effective land
management.—MNA**

NAY PYI TAW, 30 July—Union Minister at the President Office U Tin Naing Thein urged the workshop on land utilization for respective sectors to draft policies, laws, rules and regulations for simple and effective land management on Wednesday.

The workshop was organized at the Ministry of Environmental Conservation and forestry in Nay Pyi Taw.

At the workshop, Union Minister for Environmental Conservation and Forestry U Win Tun told the participants that national land utilization policy (draft) is to be based on

objectives such as perpetuation of sovereignty and territory of the State, development of socioeconomic life of the people, rural and urban development, national food security, conservation of traditions, cultural heritages, natural habitats, biodiversity and watershed areas, local and foreign investment, sustainable land resource management and drafting national land resource bill.

Union ministers, deputy ministers, presidential advisors and officials participated in the discussions and presidential advisor Dr Zaw Oo reviewed the discussions.—MNA

CBM Governor, US-ASEAN Business Council Chairman discuss monetary affairs

NAY PYI TAW, 30 July—Governor of the Central Bank of Myanmar U Kyaw Kyaw Maung received a delegation of the US-ASEAN Business Council led by Chairman Alexander C. Feldman at the CBM in Nay Pyi Taw on Wednesday.

Responsible persons from McKinsey Company, VISA Company and CITI Bank of the US discussed present and future plans, with the Governor of CBM explaining economic progress, monetary affairs and relaxation of the rules.—MNA



Union ministers inspect waterway conservations in western Myanmar

NAY PYI TAW, 30 July—Union Minister at the President Office U Soe Thane and Union Minister for Immigration and Population U Khin Yi on Monday looked into conservation works of waterways in Sittway, Rakhine State of western Myanmar.

The two union minis-

ters, together with Rakhine State Chief Minister U Maung Maung Ohn arrived at the conservation site of Myo Lal creek which will be connected with Kaladan river.

The conservation plans, which will commence in the second week of August, include construction of a concrete wall to prevent mud sliding from the bank into the creek.

The ministers then inspected waterway conservation works at Sat Yoe Kya creek, which will also be linked with Kaladan river. The project is targeted to be finalized in December this year.

MNA



Sacred relics found from pagoda built by King Kyansit of Bagan era

NYAUNGU, 30 July—Local people found religious objects enshrined at a pagoda identified as Shinbin Guni Pagoda built by King Kyansit in the Bagan era, in Thitdauntmyauk Village in NyaungU Township of Mandalay Region recently.

As officials cleaned the throne of the pagoda, they found ancient objects such as various sizes of wooden images, small sizes of bronze images and two three-foot high statues of a Bagan lady and man

in the cave of the pagoda. Some other images were found in dark corners of the cave.

Officials of the Archaeology and National Museum Department ordered them to close the cave of the pagoda.

However, many local people have expressed the wish to keep the ancient Buddha images, taken out from the cave of the pagoda, for the public to be able to worship them.

*Kyaw Htay
(NyaungU)*



**TODAY'S
MYANMAR
NEWS SITES**

Ooredoo Company launches trial sales of K1,500-SIM cards in Nay Pyi Taw



NAY PYI TAW, 30 July—To improve information and telecommunication technology, the government is inviting foreign direct investment to all sectors, officials said.

As a test period, Ooredoo Mobile Telephone Company is selling SIM cards at Shwe Moe Mobile Shop and other shops in Nay Pyi Taw Myoma Market from 29 July to 14 August.

During the test period, customers can get 900 minutes for free local calls among Ooredoo phones

and 90 minutes for other different telephone network calls. They have the opportunity to get 20MB Internet free of charge.

Top-up cards of Ooredoo are available as of 15 August. The calls between Ooredoo phones will be charged K25 per minute and the calls with other phone networks K35 per minute. Ooredoo Internet will cost K25 per 1 MB.

Shwe Moe Mobile Shop sells 400 SIM Ooredoo cards at Nay Pyi Taw Myoma Market.

*Ko Pauk
(Okkar Myay)*

KYAIKTO, 30 July —Members of Shwedagon Thukhakari Association held the 23rd special sanitation at the platform of Kyaikhtiyoe Pagoda in Kyaikto Township of Mon State on 27 July.

Members of the association cleaned the prayer halls of the platform, corridors, 9,000-lamp Dhammayon, archways, the banner post and other religious edifices from 8 a.m. to 12 noon.

In the afternoon, they cleansed the Buddha Images. Officials of the association donated 60 Waso robes to members of the Sangha, K150,000 to the fund of monasteries and K250,000 to the Kyaikhtiyoe pagoda board of trustees.

Khin Maung Myint

Special sanitation and missionary tasks at Kyaikhtiyoe Pagoda



Cultivation of sesame substituted with CP maize in Maukmai Tsp

MAUKMAI, 30 July—Due to climate change, the late monsoon brings rains in Maukmai Township of southern Shan State

this year.

In consequence, local farmers joined their farming works very late, focusing on the cultivation of CP

maize plants in the places of sesame saplings.

“The rain feeds monsoon sesame plantations in late June. Most of the

plantations are thriving now. But, farmers are worried about showers in the time of harvesting sesame plants. Media forecasts the late monsoon would be heavy in the region. Therefore, some local farmers consider to grow CP maize in the places of sesame to be able to pay back agricultural loans to the government,” said local farmers.

Farmers do their work depending on rainwater and irrigated water. CP maize does not need too much rainwater in cultivation. The farmers buy K8,500 per kilo of maize seeds for cultivation and produce 3,200 kilos per acre, fetching K400 per 1.6 kilo.

Sai Myo Thant (IPRD)



REGIONAL

Cambodia sees 55 pct rise in landmine casualties in half year

PHNOM PENH, 30 July — Cambodia on Wednesday reported 101 landmine casualties in the first six months of 2014, an increase of 55 percent from 65 casualties over the same period last year.

The report from the Cambodian Mine Action and Victim Assistance Authority showed that from January to June this year, 14 persons were killed, up from eight deaths over the same period last year.

In addition, 87 others were either injured or amputated during the first half of this year, up from 57 injuries over the same period

last year.

Eighty-nine percent of the victims were male.

Cambodia is one of the countries in the world that suffer the worst from mines. An estimated 4-6 million landmines and other munitions have been left over from three decades of war and internal conflicts that ended in 1998.

Heng Ratana, director general of the Cambodian Mine Action Centre, said that the country is seeking about 50 million US dollars a year until 2020 to completely eliminate all types of anti-personnel mines.

Xinhua

Cambodian defence minister flies to Thailand for official visit



Thai Army Chief Gen Prayuth Chan-ocha (R, front) meets with visiting Cambodian Deputy Prime Minister and Defence Minister Tea Banh (L, front) at Royal Thai Army headquarters in Bangkok, Thailand, on 29 July, 2014. — REUTERS

S Korea launches largest-ever parliamentary by-elections

SEOUL, 30 July — South Korean voters went to the polls for the country's largest-ever parliamentary by-elections, where 15 seats are up for grabs, the election management agency said on Wednesday.

As of 1 pm local time, voter turnout was 22.2 percent in 15 electoral districts nationwide, according to the National Election Commission (NEC). The voting, which started from 6 am, will continue until 8 pm local time.

It included the early voting turnout of 7.98 percent, the highest for parliamentary by-elections. The early voting was conducted

for two days from 25 July.

The by-election was seen here as a mid-term referendum on President Park Geun-hye's administration, which was reeling from the deadly ferry disaster.

The government was criticized for botched response to the country's worst maritime disaster in decades, contributing to rising death tolls.

The ferry *Sewol* capsized and sank off the southwestern coast on 16 April, claiming lives of 304 people, the vast majority of high school students.

The body of Yoo Byung-eun, who controlled the sunken ferry operator

Chonghaejin Marine, was found, but the cause of death was not determined as police viewed it first as the body of a homeless person.

The belated autopsy and DNA testing came after the body was badly decomposed, causing another criticism for police, prosecutors and the government.

The by-elections were not expected to bring a clear-cut result as both ruling and main opposition parties claimed a clear lead in only three constituencies each. The remaining nine districts were expected to be neck-and-neck.

The ruling Saenuri

Party is now holding 147 out of the 285 seats in the 300-member parliament. If the party wins more than four seats among 15 seats, it will have an absolute majority and lead political situation.

The main opposition New Politics Alliance for Democracy (NPAD) asked voters to cast ballots for its candidates to judge the Park administration that failed to respond properly to the ferry disaster.

The rival parties failed to win a clear-cut victory in the recent June 6 local elections, where around 4,000 officials were elected.

Xinhua

Australian police issues arrest warrant for Sydney terrorists

SYDNEY, 30 July — Arrest warrants were issued on Wednesday for two alleged Sydney terrorists who boasted of beheading "infidels" in Iraq and posted gruesome images of severed heads on Twitter.

The Australian Federal Police (AFP) said Sydney-based Khaled Sharrouf and Mohamed Elomar, who are reportedly fighting for Islamic State in Iraq, would be arrested and charged with terrorism offenses if they

returned to Australia.

The AFP issued a statement confirming that the men would be arrested on arrival in Australia should they seek to return.

"The warrants relate to alleged terrorism related activity," the statement said.

"As these matters are ongoing, and yet to be tested before a court, it would not be appropriate for the AFP to comment further," the statement added.

Xinhua



Tourists view the animal from the cruise at Singapore's River Safari on 30 July, 2014. The river cruise of Singapore's River Safari will open to public on 1st August. — XINHUA

Philippine gov't hopes to resume talks with rebels

MANILA, 30 July — The Philippine government on Wednesday expressed hope that the release of the four policemen who were held captive by leftist rebel group New People's Army (NPA) in southern Philippines would jump start stalled peace negotiations with the Communist Party of the Philippines (CPP).

Presidential Spokesman Edwin Lacierda said the Philippine government looks forward to the return of the National Democratic Front (NDF), the CPP's negotiating arm, to the nego-

tiating table.

"This is a welcome development on the part of the NDF to release these four policemen. Certainly, we hope this is a groundbreaking event where the CPP-NPA-NDF would look forward to resuming the peace process without any conditions," said Lacierda.

Presidential Adviser on the Peace Process Teresita Quintos Deles said she views the release of the four policemen as a "potential building block" for the resumption of peace

negotiations between the Philippine government and the NDF.

"We reiterate our openness and serious intent to pursue peace negotiations with the CPP-NPA-NDF on the basis of a time-bound and doable agenda," said Deles.

The four policemen were on their way to provide reinforcement to a police station in Alegria town, Surigao del Norte province following an attack by leftist rebels when they were captured by NPA guerrillas. — Xinhua

Kerry presses India on WTO deal ahead of arrival



US Secretary of State John Kerry (L) arrives to board a plane to New Delhi at Andrews Air Force Base outside Washington on 29 July, 2014. —REUTERS

NEW DELHI, 30 July — US Secretary of State John Kerry, on his way to India for an official visit, has pressed New Delhi to drop its opposition to global trade reforms, saying it was a test of the country's commitment to advance trade and investment liberalization.

Kerry made the call in a newspaper article, penned along with US Commerce Secretary Penny Pritzker, hours ahead of his arrival for talks aimed at revitalising ties that have been mired in disputes over trade, intellectual property rights and climate change.

India has threatened to block a worldwide reform

of custom rules, saying it must be accompanied by a parallel agreement allowing developing countries more freedom to subsidise and stockpile foodgrains.

The deadline for the deal, which economists say could save members of the World Trade Organisation more than one trillion dollars eventually, is Thursday. Kerry said India stood to gain by setting up a level playing field instead of erecting trade barriers.

"In this regard, as we work with our trading partners around the world, India must decide where it fits in the global trading system. Its commitment to a rules-based trading order and its

willingness to fulfil its obligation will be a key indication," he said in the article in *The Economic Times*.

India and the United States have already clashed at the WTO, with Washington saying Delhi's 11th hour resistance could kill a deal that could create 21 million jobs. Kerry is arriving in New Delhi later on Wednesday for an annual strategic dialogue, the first engagement with the government of Prime Minister Narendra Modi that took power in May promising to put India back on a high growth path.

So far, the new administration has moved slowly on reforms and its harden-

ing of stance at the WTO suggests a more nationalist response on key issues than the Congress party's centre-left government.

Kerry said India and the United States were on the cusp of an "historic transformation" in their relationship and that Washington stood behind New Delhi's rise as a political and economic power.

"We are coming to India to deliver a single message: that the US is prepared to be a full partner in this effort. We will work hand in hand with Prime Minister Narendra Modi and his government to promote open and liberal trade and investment, jobs training and closer strategic ties," Kerry and Pritzker wrote.

Such rhetoric, including calls to build India as a counterweight to China, have however fallen short of concrete progress in the past. Disputes over protectionism and intellectual property rights have soured the business climate and India has remained cautious about committing to US strategic designs in the region. 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.

Reuters

No safe haven in China's corruption crackdown: People's Daily

SHANGHAI, 30 July — China will not allow exceptions in its corruption crackdown, its main official newspaper said on Wednesday, a day after news of a probe into former domestic security chief Zhou Yongkang, one of China's most influential politicians of the last decade.

The People's Daily, the mouthpiece newspaper of the Communist Party, said the probe into Zhou reflects the party's ability to

self-regulate. It added that everyone is equal in the face of party rules and no one has special privileges.

On party discipline, the paper said "no one should bet on the odds of escape and entertain the illusion that there is some kind of safe box".

Zhou, 71, is the highest-profile figure caught up in President Xi Jinping's crackdown on corruption since the party swept to power in 1949.

Reuters



China's then Public Security Minister Zhou Yongkang attends the Hebei delegation discussion sessions at the 17th National Congress of the Communist Party of China at the Great Hall of the People, in Beijing in this 16 Oct, 2007 file photo. — REUTERS

Islamic State video wages psychological war on Iraqi soldiers

BAGHDAD, 30 July — Islamic State, the al-Qaeda spin-off that seized wide swathes of Iraq almost unopposed last month, has released a video warning Iraqi soldiers who may still have some fight in them that they risk being rounded up en masse and executed.

Iraq's army unraveled when the Sunni insurgents staged a lightning advance through northern towns and cities, building on territory their comrades captured earlier in the west of the country, a major OPEC oil producer.

Thousands of soldiers fled, prompting Iraq's top cleric to call on compatriots to take up arms against the radical faction that has declared a mediaeval-style caliphate in parts of Iraq and Syria and aims to march on the capital Baghdad. The 30-minute video clip, circulated during the holiday that marks the

end of the fasting month of Ramadan, sheds light on what tactics the Islamic State is likely to employ as it presses ahead with its campaign. After sweeping through a town with quick-

hit raids, the militants are filmed standing over dozens of terrified, handcuffed Iraqi soldiers.

One fighter mocks a soldier for wearing civilian clothes over his uniform

out of fear of being identified and killed. He pleads for mercy, to no avail.

Then dozens of soldiers are led to a sandy desert pit. They are executed one by one — bullets

from AK-47 assault rifles pumped into their heads.

Not satisfied that all are dead, an Islamic State fighter makes one last round, opening fire again, one by one.

Others are led to the edge of a river. Each one is shot in the head with a pistol and then shoved in, the executioner standing in a large pool of blood.

The mission begins with an Islamic State commander firing up militants with promises that paradise in heaven awaits them if they take the city of Samarra, which is 100 km (62 miles) north of Baghdad and would be their next target in a southward push.

He tells them that God "made us proud when he permitted us to go to jihad". It was not clear where or when the video was filmed.

The footage features night-vision sequences, then shows fighters moving into a city in flat-bed

trucks, and US-made Humvees seized during their surge through the north last month.

The Islamic State convoys filmed include small tanks and heavy machine guns transported on trailers. Some fighters are on foot, darting towards government buildings on sandy roads. As the Islamic State gains ground small units in trucks pull up beside vehicles during daytime and open fire on passengers who lose control of their vehicles.

Several militants walk up to a van and empty their AK-47s through the windows, to make sure the job is done. Then the camera focuses on Iraqi security forces in watchtowers. One by one they are picked off by Islamic State snipers, who seem to avoid heavy clashes and rely instead on quick, small operations combined with psychological warfare. — Reuters



A fighter of the Islamic State of Iraq and the Levant (ISIL) holds an ISIL flag and a weapon on a street in the city of Mosul, on 23 June, 2014. —REUTERS

WORLD

Obama says strains over Ukraine not leading to new Cold War with Russia

WASHINGTON, 30 July — President Barack Obama escalated US economic sanctions against Russia on Tuesday for its aggression against Ukraine but dismissed suggestions the growing chill in US-Russian relations marked the start of a new Cold War.

The United States and the European Union, in a carefully coordinated action, announced targeted new sanctions against Russian banks, energy and defence firms.

It was the West's most serious response yet to what it calls Russian instigation of and continuing support for the separatist uprising in the east and the shootdown of a Malaysian passenger jet on 17 July over eastern Ukraine.

Obama, speaking at the White House, said the sanctions would have a "greater impact on the Russian economy than we've seen so far" in a drive to force Moscow to stop backing the separatists.

Until now, Europe had stopped short of tougher steps against Russia for fear of retaliation.

Obama said the new sanctions were a sign of "the waning patience Europe has with nice words from President (Vladimir) Putin that are not matched



US President Barack Obama speaks to reporters about new sanctions imposed on Russia as he departs the White House in Washington on 29 July, 2014. — REUTERS

by actions."

Senior US officials voiced growing alarm about a Russian troop buildup on the border with eastern Ukraine and a continued

supply of heavy weaponry to the separatists.

These are signs that, so far at least, the sanctions are not forcing Putin to back down despite the

damage the sanctions are doing to the Russian economy. "It's not a new Cold War," Obama told reporters. "What it is, is a very specific issue related to

Russia's unwillingness to recognize that Ukraine can chart its own path."

Still, Obama did not seem inclined to provide lethal military aid to Ukraine,

saying the Ukraine military was "better armed than the separatists" and the issue at hand was "how to prevent bloodshed in eastern Ukraine."

But Republican Senator Marco Rubio, while applauding the new sanctions, voiced hope that Obama, along with European allies, "will also significantly increase our assistance, including military support, to the Ukrainian government."

"Russia's continued aggression against Ukraine cannot go unanswered, and we need to do much more to make clear that we and the rest of the free world stand with the people of Ukraine at this important moment," Rubio said in a statement.

The new targets for sanctions included VTB, the Bank of Moscow, the Russian Agriculture Bank and the United Shipbuilding Corp, the Treasury Department said.

The sanctions on the three banks prohibit US citizens or companies from dealing with debt carrying maturities longer than 90 days, or with new equity.

Five of the six largest state-owned banks in Russia are now under US sanctions.

Reuters

Russia's Kalashnikov sends 'condolences' to sanction-struck US consumers



A gold plated Kalashnikov is seen on display at the 'Top Secret' Spy Museum in Oberhausen, on 10 July, 2013. — REUTERS

Moscow, 30 July — The Russian arms maker Kalashnikov expressed its sympathies on Tuesday to US consumers who cannot

buy the company's famous weapons because of US sanctions over Ukraine.

US sanctions have struck some of Russia's

most famous arms companies.

And they may wipe out a deal Kalashnikov signed at the beginning of

this year to deliver 80,000 to 200,000 guns a year for the next five years to the US. "Kalashnikov regrets that consumers are faced with such a problem," said spokeswoman Yekaterina Boni.

"The current situation shows once again that our weapons are very popular among Americans and the implementation of sanctions goes against their very own interests."

The conflict in Ukraine has left relations between Russia and the West at their worst since the Cold War.

Washington introduced rounds of sanctions against Russian individuals and companies and the European Union looks likely to follow suit after a Malaysian airliner was downed over territory held by Russian-backed rebels in East Ukraine.

Reuters

East Ukraine rebels deny threat to ban OSCE from crash site

KIEV, 30 July — Rebels in eastern Ukraine on Tuesday denied they had threatened to ban the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE) from the crash site of Malaysian flight MH17.

The self-proclaimed "Donetsk People's Republic" (DNR) said in a statement that information published in some media that it was refusing to cooperate with the European rights and security body was not true. "The DNR government has long been working effectively with the OSCE mission," a statement said, adding that areas of cooperation included investigation into the plane crash and ceasefire talks.

Earlier the rebels issued a statement saying they were going to halt cooperation with the OSCE, until now the main body

tasked with negotiating access to the crash site for international experts, saying it was serving US and Ukrainian interests. The OSCE did not immediately comment.

International experts, including the OSCE as well as Dutch and Australian police, have already been struggling to reach the site to recover the remaining body parts and investigate the downing of the plane.

Fierce fighting in the wider area surrounding the crash site prevented the experts from reaching it for the third successive day on Tuesday, with Kiev and the pro-Russian rebels accusing each other of blocking access. Kiev and the rebels also trade accusations over responsibility for the downing of the airliner, in which all 298 people on board were killed.

Reuters

PERSPECTIVES

Thursday, 31 July, 2014

Forging a strong bond among family members

By Aung Khin

Maternal love is instinctive, while paternal love also has a major impact on children. Parental love is a very fundamental need in raising children. Strong family ties can create a haven of peace and rejoicing.

Some babies grew up in the hands of babysitters while both parents are away from home to earn money. When children cannot ful-

ly enjoy genuine parental love, they are under the influence or examples of babysitters. Finding a good nanny is, however, a matter of chance.

Actually, parental love is a true altruism or complete love. A home with weak family ties can lead the offspring to severe personality disorders, anti-social behaviour and most often, mental illness. It is very important for the child to be loved. The love they experience in childhood will shape them for the rest of their life.

When kids feel they're not loved by their parents, they can eventually turn into a danger for society. From a psychological point of view, parental love helps the children set up for future friendships and relationships and for when they are parents themselves.

The kids will grow up understanding love and spread that love only if they received their parents' love.

The cuddle of parents is a sweet gesture for the children. It contributes to the mental, social, emotional and physical health of the child. According to a developmental psychology researcher, a skin-to-skin contact is essential for proper mental development in infancy. Another research has also found that babies who received more maternal affection at 8 months old were more emotionally resilient as adults.

Thus, parents should not neglect to show their love to their offspring as strong family ties plays a key role in a civilized society.

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 Daily Mail says Irrawaddy "hot ticket" for cruises

By Kyaw The-ein

The 12 July issue of The Daily Telegraph, one of the dailies in the United Kingdom, stated that until a few years ago, river cruising meant temples and tombs on a voyage down the Nile in Egypt, or Christmas markets along

the Rhine and Danube. Now, many people travel on the Rhone and Seine in France, the Douro in Portugal and along the Russian waterways, on an itinerary that goes from Moscow to St Petersburg and across lakes with time for sightseeing included. More exotic but increas-

ingly popular rivers include the Yangtze in China, the Mekong in Vietnam and Cambodia. The Irrawaddy in Myanmar is this year's hot ticket—Sanctuary Retreats, Ama Waterways and Avalon Waterways will all be part of cruise itineraries this year and next, the paper wrote.



Dinga hotel opens in Mandalay

MANDALAY, 30 July—The government is urging the hotel industry to provide more professional service to local and foreign visitors as a new hotel has opened in Mandalay.

On Tuesday, the Dinga Hotel where visitors have a scenic view over Mandalay, was commissioned into service on 35th street between 72nd and 73rd streets in Chanayethazan Township of Mandalay.

From the Sky View on the top floor of the hotel, the visitors have panoramic views of Mandalay Hill, Mandalay moats and Shan



mountain ranges.

A total of 44 suites are classified into superior and

deluxe at the hotel, with a superior suite costing K45,000 per night and a de-

Union minister inspects progress of rural development in Sagaing Region



Union Minister U Ohn Myint views round artifacts of the Pyu era displayed at Hanlin Archaeological Museum for preservation of cultural heritage at Hanlin Archaeological Museum.—MNA

NAY PYI TAW, 30 July—Local people should cooperate with departmental personnel in preserving the ancient cultural heritages of the Pyu in Hanlin period, Union Minister for Livestock, Fisheries and Rural Development U Ohn Myint said at a meeting

with departmental officials in Hanlin region of Wetlet Township in Sagaing Region on 27 July, where he took a tour to inspect implementation of projects.

The Union minister looked at artifacts of the Pyu era displayed at Hanlin Archaeological Museum and also visited the mounds of Pyu cemetery, royal palace, Pyu traditional building and roads and the natural hot springs.

On his inspection

tour, the Union minister explained his plans to fulfill requirements in salt mining, agriculture and livestock breeding tasks and generating job opportunities for the people.

At the Fisheries Training School of Sagaing Region, the Union minister stressed the need for introducing the emerald green project, model village project and development of meat and fish sector to the local people.

MNA

GOLD PRICE, FE RATE (30-7-2014)

Yangon Gold Price

Buying K673,000 per tical: Selling K673,800

Mandalay Gold Price

Buying K672,900 per tical: Selling K673,700

FE RATE

USD Buying K970 - Selling K974

SGD Buying K779 - Selling K786

Euro Buying K1300 - Selling K1315

Thiha Ko Ko
(Mandalay)

LOCAL NEWS

e-Government knowledge disseminated to departmental staff

MANDALAY, 30 July—The Mandalay Region e-Government Work Committee organized the opening of e-Government course No 2 at the office of Mandalay Region Computer Professionals Association at Shwephayu Plaza in Chanayethazan Township of Mandalay on Wednesday.

Mandalay Region Minister for Transport U Kyaw Hsan said that the training course was aimed at helping government officials to work more effective and to familiarize them with the e-government process.

Patron of the region CPA U Thein Htut explained matters related to the e-Government process in detail.



A total of 30 trainees from departments in the region are attending the one-week course.

Thiha Ko Ko (Mandalay)

Agricultural machinery sold through installment in Patheingyi Tsp



MANDALAY, 30 July—In Mandalay Region, departments concerned are disbursing loans to local farmers to be able to transform manual to mechanized farming.

On Tuesday, a cere-

mony to sell agricultural machinery to local farmers was held through installment in Nerinzaya Village of Patheingyi Township in Mandalay Region, attended by Mandalay Region Chief Minister U Ye Myint.

The Mandalay Region Planning and Economic Minister handed over 97 items of agricultural machinery worth K768.481 million to the chairman of Mahlaing Township Cooperative Syndicate for 58 township cooperative societies from nine townships. Cooperative officials will sell machinery to local farmers through installment. The Region Chief Minister and his delegation viewed a demonstration on the use of agricultural machinery.

Thiha Ko Ko (Mandalay)

Seed sales at festival in Mingun of Sagaing

SAGAING, 30 July—The annual Shwekyunbin annual spiritual beings festival has kicked off in Mingun Village, with villagers getting the opportunity to sell seeds to a larger crowd than usual.

People from villages in the western part of Min-wun mountain range and those from villages along the banks of Ayeyawady River are now also selling various vegetables at the festival.

During the festival, farmers from rural areas buy seeds of crops to be cultivated in their farmlands when the water level of the Ayeyawady River declines.

“We sell seeds of vegetables and maize at the festival. We can sell up to

two bags of seeds during the festival,” said a local from Taungyin Village of Sagaing Township.

“I sell packets of seeds

of various species, K500 per packet,” said a woman from Yaylekyun Village of Madaya Township.

About 20 vendors

from various villages gathered at a small mall for sales of seeds not far from the festival area.

Nanda Min Lwin



Cultural talks given to students of National University of Arts and Culture (Mandalay)

MANDALAY, 30 July—The talk on Myanmar women and traditional costumes was given at the National University of Arts and Culture of the Ministry of Culture in Ohnchaw Village of Patheingyi Township in Mandalay Region on Tuesday.

Rector of the university Daw Khin Kyi Pyar extended greetings and Leader of Social and Culture Working Group of

Myanmar Women's Affairs Federation Professor Dr Khin Swe Myint gave talks about Myanmar women and traditional costumes, and cultural capacity of students from the National University of Arts and Culture. After the talk, the leader of the working group donated cash to the fund and 100 books to the library of the university.

Tin Maung (Mandalay)



Pajero, Landcruiser cars donated to monastery in ChaungU Township

CHAUNGU, 30 July—A ceremony to donate one

Pajero and one Landcruiser to the station hospital and monastery was held in Thonpanhla Village of ChaungU Township of Sagaing Region recently.

U Ye Naung and wife Daw Thi Thi Oo of Lashio in northern Shan State donated one Pajero car to Thonpanhla Station Hospi-

tal and one Landcruiser to Phayagyi monastery of the village.

Donation of vehicles will help with the transport of patients to the station hospital that will then transfer them to the general hospitals, officials said.

Ei Ei Soe (ChaungU)

Reform and mid-term review on cooperative sector discussed

THANLYIN, 30 July—A meeting on reforms and mid-term reviews on the cooperative sector was held at the hall of Cooperative University in Thanlyin of Yangon Region on Wednesday.

Rector Dr Thein Tun explained the strong and weak points in the reform process of the cooperative sector, successful imple-

mentation for the practical works and the role of cooperatives in rural development.

Pro-Rector (Academic) Daw Htay Htay Lwin and Deputy Director U Aung Thauang Myint of Yangon Region Cooperative Department discussed the reform process for the cooperative sector.

Than Win (Thanlyin)

At least 43 Palestinians killed as Israel maintains pressure on Gaza

GAZA/JERUSALEM, 30 July — Israeli fire killed at least 43 Palestinians in the Gaza Strip early on Wednesday as the Jewish state said it targeted Islamist militants at dozens of sites across the coastal enclave, while Egyptian mediators prepared a revised ceasefire proposal.

Israel's Channel Two TV said progress was being made to achieve a deal in Cairo, where a Palestinian delegation was expected to arrive for discussions.

Israeli tank shells and air strikes on houses and a school in Jebalya in northern Gaza killed at least 43 people and wounded many others, including 20 in a UN school, health ministry spokesman Ashraf Al-Qidra said. Among the dead were a medic and an infant. An Israeli army spokeswoman said she was checking for details.

Eight people, including five members of the same family in Jebalya, were killed in other strikes, Gaza officials said.

Hospital officials put the total number of Palestinians killed in the conflict at 1,224, most of them civilians. On the Israeli side, 53 soldiers and three civilians have been killed since the start of the offensive on 8 July.

Israel launched its of-



Palestinian rescue workers search for victims as people gather atop the remains of a house, which witnesses said was destroyed in an Israeli air strike, in Khan Younis in the southern Gaza Strip on 29 July, 2014. —REUTERS

fensive in response to rocket salvos fired by Gaza's dominant Hamas Islamists and their allies.

UNRWA, the main UN relief agency in Gaza, said it was at "breaking point" with more than 200,000 Palestinians having taken shelter in its schools and buildings following calls by Israel for civilians to evacuate whole neighbourhoods before

military operations.

The agency acknowledged that it had found a cache of rockets in one school, but blamed no particular party. The body's spokesman, Chris Gunness, condemned those responsible for placing people in harm's way.

"We condemn the group or groups who endangered civilians by placing these munitions in our

school. This is yet another flagrant violation of the neutrality of our premises. We call on all the warring parties to respect the inviolability of UN property," Gunness said in a statement. The Israeli assault intensified after the deaths of 10 soldiers in Palestinian cross-border attacks on Monday. Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu warned of a long conflict

ahead. The security cabinet convenes again on Wednesday to assess the situation in the conflict and consider future steps.

The army said it needed about a week to complete its main mission of destroying cross-border infiltration tunnels and there has been strong Israeli public support for holding course. Diplomatic pressure also mounted, with

Chile and Peru saying they were recalling their ambassadors to Israel.

Chile, a non-permanent member of the United Nations Security Council, is home to one of the world's largest Palestinian communities outside the Middle East, as well as a sizeable Jewish community. "Chile observes with great concern and discouragement that the military operations — which at this point appear to be a collective punishment to the Palestinian civil population in Gaza — don't respect fundamental norms of international humanitarian law," its foreign ministry said.

In a bid to boost Palestinian spirits and demoralize Israel, Hamas TV aired footage it said showed the group's fighters using a tunnel to reach an Israeli army watchtower on Monday.

They are seen surprising an Israeli sentry, opening fire and storming the watchtower compound to surround a fallen soldier.

Mohammed Deif, the shadowy leader of Hamas's armed wing, said in a recorded message on television that Palestinians would continue confronting Israel until its blockade on Gaza — which is supported by neighboring Egypt — was lifted. — Reuters

Yoko Ono asks youth to spread Hiroshima A-bomb peace message to world

HIROSHIMA, 30 July — Artist Yoko Ono on Wednesday urged youngsters gathered at a peace event in Hiroshima to help teach the world about the experiences of the city that was devastated by a US atomic bomb attack in 1945.

The 81-year-old widow of former Beatle John Lennon, told the roughly 300 participants, "No more Hiroshima' is a global issue. I want you to spread the experiences of Hiroshima to the world as much as possible." The event was planned by college students in the western Japan prefecture who believe it is young generations' responsibility

to build a peaceful world by inheriting their forebears' experiences, according to organizers.

Terue Toda, 82, a victim of the atomic bombing, lamented the current situation, saying at the event, "Many people seem to be forgetting" the A-bomb attack. Nao Fukuoka, a 21-year-old Hiroshima University student whose grandfather lived through the attack, said, "My roots are in Hiroshima. I can empathize with sad incidents taking place all over the world." Fukuoka has taken part in a voyage across the globe with A-bomb victims. — Kyodo News

Three killed in car bomb in Cairo

CAIRO, 30 July — Three people were killed in a car bomb blast in Giza, on the outskirts of Cairo, Egypt's state-run Nile Television said on Wednesday.

Another state news outlet, Al-Ahram, quoted a police officer who said those killed were inside the car and were likely to have been on their way to carry out a "terrorist operation". — Reuters

Bombs in Syria's Aleppo kill 13 pro-Assad fighters

BEIRUT, 30 July — Opposition forces in Syria exploded bombs in tunnels under Aleppo late on Tuesday and killed at least 13 fighters loyal to President Bashar al-Assad in the northern city, a group tracking the violence said.

The bombs were placed in two tunnels running under historic parts of the city close to an old police station, said the Observatory, a Britain-based group which reports on Syria, using a network of sources on the ground.

The attack appeared to have been carried out by Islamic brigades fighting Assad, it said. The blast killed government soldiers and other forces fighting alongside them, the Observatory added, without giving details. Syria's state news agency made no mention of the attack.

Aleppo is one of Syria's main contested cities and government forces took strategic ground around it in June, squeezing the main



People assist an old woman at a site hit by what activists said was an airstrike by forces loyal to Syria's President Bashar al-Assad in Duma in eastern al-Ghouta, near Damascus on 29 July, 2014. —REUTERS

rebel supply line into the city after months of battlefield gains by Damascus.

The government advance was backed by fighters from the Lebanese Shi'ite Muslim group Hezbollah, an ally of President Bashar al-Assad, sources close to the group told Reuters earlier this month.

Rebels advanced into Aleppo, once Syria's commercial hub, in 2012 from the north and took districts in the center of the city. The army has since mainly held the west and south of Aleppo, but has been unable to push out opposition fighters.

Forces loyal to As-

sad now control most of Damascus, along with the main highway from the capital through to Homs and the western Mediterranean coast. Opposition fighters, including a powerful al-Qaeda offshoot Islamic State, control much of the desert in the north and east.

Reuters

SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY

BlackBerry buffs up security credentials with Secusmart deal

NEW YORK, 30 July — BlackBerry Ltd (BBRY.O) (BB.TO) is buying a privately held German firm that specializes in voice and data encryption, it said on Tuesday, in a bid to burnish its credentials with highly security-conscious clients like government agencies.

The Waterloo, Ontario-based smartphone maker did not disclose the terms of its deal to acquire Secusmart GmbH, which specializes in encryption and anti-eavesdropping services for governments, companies and telecommunications service providers.

The acquisition is the latest by the smartphone pioneer to build on niche areas in an attempt to reinvent itself under new Chief Executive John Chen and recover ground ceded to Apple Inc's (AAPL.O) iPhone and Samsung Electronics Co's (005930.KS) Galaxy

devices. "It is a really reassuring sign that BlackBerry is now less focused on fire-fighting and more focused on identifying and building for the long-term into enterprise services," said CCS Insight analyst Geoff Blaber.

Still, BlackBerry shares fell 4 percent to \$9.54 on Nasdaq and C\$10.45 on the Toronto Stock Exchange.

Chen wants to remain a competitor in the smartphone segment, but is focused on building on BlackBerry's strong mobile device management abilities by beefing up its security and corporate app offerings.

Secusmart's technology is being used to protect the devices of government officials in both Canada and Germany, including the BlackBerry device used by German Chancellor Angela Merkel in the wake of



Chief Executive Officer of BlackBerry Ltd John Chen holds up the unreleased BlackBerry Passport device at their annual general meeting for shareholders in Waterloo in this file photo taken on 19 June, 2014. BlackBerry is set to announce the acquisition of a German firm focused on voice and data encryption, burnishing its image in the eyes of ultra security conscious clients like government agencies. —REUTERS

the US spying scandal last year.

"Everybody wants to talk about eavesdropping, but it really isn't just that. Both governments and enterprises are now more and more focused on security in the mobile world," Chen

said in an interview, adding that the Secusmart deal gives BlackBerry yet another leg up on the competition in relation to device security.

Besides the new line of BlackBerry 10 devices, Secusmart's technology is

also used to secure the land-line phones of corporations and government agencies.

"This is going to be where monetization is really going to lie for BlackBerry in the future and they have to start building value," CCS's Blaber said. "That first and foremost is the most reassuring sign from this acquisition."

Chen said the company, which has gone through a rough and extended restructuring process over the last two years, will be soon getting back on a growth footing with the last of its lay-offs likely to be completed by the end of July.

"We are already starting to turn on our machine to now hire people," said Chen, adding that any headcount growth is likely to be moderate for now.

"I want to make sure that we don't get carried away and get ourselves into trouble again financially,

but then again, we do need to invest in certain areas, if we want to compete in the future," said Chen, a well regarded turnaround expert in the technology industry, who took the reins at BlackBerry some nine months ago. The firm has also been expanding its enterprise sales team.

Chen said he expects the company's revenue to grow midway through the next calendar year after the firm rolls out its Passport and BlackBerry Classic devices, and an updated version of its mobile device management software.

"Knock on wood. I feel pretty good about where we are in terms of the turnaround," said Chen. "We still have worked to do, so I wouldn't say we've completed the turnaround, but the tough decisions and the tough thinking have already been taken or are done." —Reuters

Facebook to shut down Gifts service in latest e-commerce shift



A portrait of the Facebook logo in Ventura, California on 21 Dec, 2013. —REUTERS

SAN FRANCISCO, 30 July — Facebook Inc will shut its 2-year-old Gifts shop on 12 August, as the world's largest social network tests other ways to let consumers buy products on its website.

"We'll be using everything we learned from Gifts to explore new ways to help businesses and developers drive sales on the web, on mobile, and directly on Facebook," the company said in an emailed statement on Tuesday.

Facebook Gifts opened in 2012 as a way for users to buy gifts such as socks and teddy bears. But the service stopped selling physical goods after a year, offering only gift cards from more than 100 merchants including Starbucks Corp, Best Buy Co Inc and Barnes & Noble Inc.

Earlier this month Facebook said it was testing a special "buy" button for products advertised on the social network.

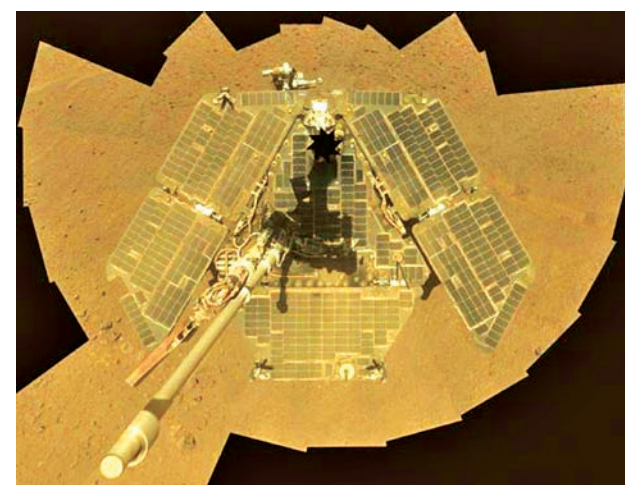
Reuters

NASA's Mars rover sets off-Earth, off-road distance record

LOS ANGELES, 30 July — NASA's decade-old Mars rover *Opportunity* has set a new off-Earth, off-road distance record, logging just over 25 miles (40 km) on the surface of the Red Planet to surpass the benchmark set in 1973 by a Russian probe on the moon. *Opportunity*, which arrived on Mars in January 2004, a few weeks after its now-defunct rover twin Spirit, was built to drive only about a single kilometre but has continued to operate far beyond its design capabilities. Earlier this year, the aging but intrepid rover, a six-wheeled vehicle about the size of a golf cart, found evidence that fresh water once pooled on the surface of Mars, reinforcing

similar discoveries made by a newer, larger probe *Curiosity*, on the other side of the planet. On Sunday, the robot rover advanced another 157 feet (48 meters) as it continued along the rim of a Martian crater, putting *Opportunity's* total odometreat 25.01 miles (40.25 km), according to NASA's Jet Propulsion Laboratory near Pasadena, California.

By comparison, the Soviet Union's *Lunokhod 2* rover drove about 24.2 miles (39 km) in less than five months after landing on Earth's moon on 15 Jan, 1973, JPL said. The manned lunar rover driven by astronauts of the Apollo 17 mission logged 22.2 miles (35.7 km) in 1972. —Reuters



NASA's Mars Exploration Rover Opportunity is shown in this handout photo released to Reuters on 29 July, 2014. —REUTERS

Applied Micro ships microserver chips in challenge to Intel

SAN FRANCISCO, 30 July — Applied Micro Circuits has begun shipping a new kind of low-power server chip that might challenge heavyweight Intel in cutting-edge data centres.

The Sunnyvale, California, company disappointed Wall Street on Tuesday with first fiscal quarter revenue and second-quarter revenue outlook that missed expectations due to a declining legacy business, sending its shares 4 percent lower after hours.

But Applied Micro Circuits also announced it is shipping its new X-Gene "microserver" chips, made with intellectual property licensed from ARM Hold-

ings, whose low-power technology is widely used in smartphones.

In the quarter that ended in June, Applied Micro Circuits recognized its first revenue from the chips — about a \$1 million — and the company said it expects "meaningful" revenue from the chips in the quarters ending in December and March as shipments build.

"There is backlog today on the books for X-Gene, both in the September quarter and December quarter, as well as the March quarter," Chief Executive Officer Paramesh Gopi told analysts on a conference call.

While microservers

have yet to be meaningfully adopted, proponents say data centers can be made more cost effective and energy efficient by using them instead of Intel's brawny server chips.

Intel dominates the server market and it stands to lose if server chips based on a rival architecture catch on, even if only a few percentage points of market share.

"While we don't take any competition lightly, the much-hyped threat of ARM servers getting any significant market segment share any time soon has been vastly overplayed," said Intel spokesman Bill Calder.

In January, Facebook Inc hardware guru Frank Frankovsky lauded low-power server technology and said he looked forward to greater choice of processors.

Microservers at first will be most suited to data centers run by major Internet companies and for use in high-performance computing, proponents say.

Intel executives in the past have said microserver chips being developed by Applied Micro Circuits, Advanced Micro Devices and other small rivals were unproven and not a serious threat to its server chip business.

Reuters

Last survivor of 12-member Enola Gay bomber crew dies at 93



Theodore Van Kirk

NEW YORK, 30 July — The last survivor of the 12-member crew of the Enola Gay, the US bomber that dropped an atomic bomb on Hiroshima in the final days of World War II in 1945, has died at the age of 93, the *Associated Press* reported on Tuesday.

Theodore Van Kirk, the navigator on the B-29 Superfortress that dropped the world's first atomic bomb on 6 August 1945, died Monday of old

age at a retirement home in Georgia, *AP* said, quoting his son Tom Van Kirk.

All crewmembers of the Bockscar, the B-29 that dropped an A-bomb on Nagasaki three days later, have already died.

Van Kirk joined the US Army Air Forces in 1941 and took part in several bombing missions before becoming part of the crew that dropped the bomb on Hiroshima.

Van Kirk left the military in 1946, and worked afterward at DuPont, a major chemical company.

In his 2012 memoir, he said dropping the A-bomb had been necessary to end the war and prevent US and Japanese casualties from increasing. He said he did not regret his action but urged that nuclear weapons should never again be used.—*Kyodo News*



File photo taken in April 2010 at the Smithsonian National Air and Space Museum near Washington, the United States, shows the Enola Gay, the US bomber that dropped an atomic bomb on Hiroshima in 1945. Theodore Van Kirk, the last survivor of the 12-member crew of the B-29 Superfortress has died at the age of 93.—*KYODO NEWS*

Thailand puts high-speed trains back on agenda

BANGKOK, 30 July — Thai military junta, or the National Council for Peace and Order (NCPO), has approved two high-speed train projects intended to link Thailand and southern China, local media reported on Wednesday.

A 737-km route from northeastern Nong Khai province to Map Ta Phut in eastern Rayong Province and a 655-km one from Chiang Khong in northern Chiang Rai province to Ban Phachi in central Ayutthaya province will be constructed, *Bangkok Post* quoted permanent secretary for transport Soithip Traisuth as saying. The two routes, on which trains will be operated at a maximum speed of 160 km per hour, lowered from 200 km/ph, will cost 741.4 billion baht (23.3 billion US dollars) in total, Soithip said.

Xinhua

Hato Bus to beef up popular Tokyo ghost story bus-ship tours

TOKYO, 30 July — Tokyo sightseeing bus operator Hato Bus Co said on Wednesday it will offer more bus-ship tours that take tourists to famous haunted places accompanied by a professional storyteller in response to the tours' popularity.

On 18 July, professional storyteller Shunyo Kanda, 43, narrated "Tokaido Yotsuya Kaidan," a story of betrayal

and murder as well as ghostly revenge involving a woman named Oiwa in the early Edo Period (1603-1868).

Some 30 people, including invited reporters, listened to Kanda narrate the story aboard the ship as it halted below Minato Bridge on the Nihombashi River in downtown Tokyo's Chuo Ward.

In the story, Oiwa, who was

killed by her husband Iemon, became a ghost and took revenge on him.

Hato Bus launched bus tours to temples in which ghost stories were narrated in 1999. It launched the bus-ship sightseeing service last year, with tours on six days in the month of August.

One tour will take guests to the Oiwa-Inari-Tamiya shrine in the Yotsuya district in To-

kyo's Shinjuku Ward where the legendary figure of Oiwa is honored.

Another tour will take participants to a mound in Chiyoda Ward where the head of Taira-no-Masakado, a samurai in the Kanto region, was once said to be buried according to folklore. The warrior was killed during the Heian Period (794-1185) after he rebelled against the Kyoto-based

central government.

Five storytellers are scheduled to narrate ghost stories on different days, the tour operator said.

Hato Bus will offer tours on 11 days this August, between 5 and 9 August and between 19 and 24 August. The cost is 9,980 yen (about \$98) per person, with up to 36 participants per tour.—*Kyodo News*

Sniffer dog warning sends Australian jet passengers on a rush to flush

SYDNEY, 30 July — Australian budget airline Jetstar apologised on Wednesday after a crew member told passengers on a flight from the Gold Coast tourist strip, including some returning from a popular music festival, to flush away "anything you shouldn't have".

The warning from the flight attendant that sniffer dogs and quarantine officers were on standby in Sydney prompted a rush to the plane's toilets, *News Ltd* reported.

Jetstar, owned by Qantas Airways Ltd, said it discussed the matter with the crew member involved, who made the announcement over the plane's PA system.

The airline said the flight attendant had taken a routine announcement about Australia's strict quarantine regulations, which prevent some plant and fruit materials being transported between states, too far.

"Our procedures allow cabin crew to deliver the quarantine message through a public announcement and on this occasion the crew member elected to do so," Jetstar said.

"The crew member's words were poorly chosen and are plainly at odds with the professional standards we'd expect from our team," it said in an emailed statement.

The indie music festival Splendour in the Grass, the largest of its kind in Australia over winter, is held over three days near the tourist haven of Byron Bay, about an hour's drive south of the Gold Coast across the Queensland state border.—*Reuters*



Local residents ride on a waterlogged road in Zhengzhou, capital of central China's Henan Province, on 29 July, 2014. Zhengzhou witnessed rainfall on Tuesday, which lessened current drought here.—*XINHUA*

ADVERTISEMENT

TRADEMARK CAUTION

Notice is hereby given that MYANMAR DISTILLERY COMPANY LIMITED of No. 33, Pyay Road, 6 ½ Mile, Hlaing Township, Yangon, Myanmar, is the Owner and Sole Proprietor of the following trademarks: -

GOLDEN ISLAND

(IV/4179/2014)

JAZZ wine cooler (PINK)

(IV/4196/2014)

HERO WHISKY

(IV/6346/2014)

GRAND ROYAL SPECIAL RESERVE WHISKY

(IV/4171/2014)

GRAND ROYAL WHISKY

(IV/4201/2014)

GRAND ROYAL SPECIAL RESERVE WHISKY

(IV/6345/2014)

HERO WHISKY

(IV/4198/2014)

ROYAL SPECIAL LONDON DRY GIN

(IV/4191/2014)

Eagle (Thailand Word)

(IV/4188/2014)

"Alcoholic Beverage (International Class 33)."

IBTC Bottle Design Logo

(IV/4177/2014)

IBTC

(IV/4195/2014)

IBTC

(IV/4190/2014)

ROYAL®

(IV/4200/2014)

IBTC Bottle Design Logo

(IV/4180/2014)

GRAND ROYAL SPECIAL RESERVE WHISKY

(IV/4173/2014)

LONDON GIN

(IV/4189/2014)

"Meat, fish, poultry and game; meat extracts; preserved, frozen, dried and cooked fruits and vegetables, jellies, jams, compotes; eggs; milk and milk products; edible oils and fats (International Class 29); Coffee, tea, cocoa and artificial coffee; rice; tapioca and sago; flour and preparations made from cereals; bread, pastry and confectionery; ices; sugar, honey, treacle; yeast, baking-powder; salt; mustard; vinegar, sauces (condiments) spices; ice (International Class 30); Alcoholic Beverage (International Class 33)."

JAZZ wine cooler (BLACK)

(IV/4185/2014)

Eagle Premium Drinking Water

(IV/4175/2014)

GRAND ROYAL WHISKY (90ml)

(IV/4176/2014)

CHAMPION

(IV/4174/2014)

HERO purified Drinking Water

(IV/4178/2014)

GRAND ROYAL Premium Drinking Water

(IV/4168/2014)

GRAND WHISKY (700ml, 350ml, 175ml)

(IV/4187/2014)

CHAMPION Whisky Premium Quality

(IV/4183/2014)

JAZZ wine cooler (RED)

(IV/4202/2014)

JAZZ wine cooler (RED)

(IV/4169/2014)

Eagle Special Blended Whisky

(IV/4203/2014)

GRAND ROYAL®

(IV/4199/2014)

Enjoy life

(IV/4172/2014)

JAZZ

(IV/4167/2014)

GRAND ROYAL Signature Whisky

(IV/4184/2014)

Grand Royal Smooth Whisky (700ml, 350ml, 175ml)

(IV/4181/2014)

JAZZ wine cooler (PINK)

(IV/4193/2014)

JAZZ wine cooler (RED)

(IV/4197/2014)

"Meat, fish, poultry and game; meat extracts; preserved, frozen, dried and cooked fruits and vegetables, jellies, jams, compotes; eggs; milk and milk products; edible oils and fats (International Class 29); Coffee, tea, cocoa and artificial coffee; rice; tapioca and sago; flour and preparations made from cereals; bread, pastry and confectionery; ices; sugar, honey, treacle; yeast, baking-powder; salt; mustard; vinegar, sauces (condiments) spices; ice (International Class 30); Beers; mineral and aerated waters and other non-alcoholic beverages; fruit beverages and fruit juices; syrups and other preparations for making beverages. (International Class 32); Alcoholic Beverage (International Class 33)."

GRAND ROYAL

(IV/4192/2014)

"Textiles and textile goods, not included in other classes; bed covers; table covers (International Class 24); Clothing, footwear, headgear (International Class 25); Meat, fish, poultry and game; meat extracts; preserved, frozen, dried and cooked fruits and vegetables, jellies, jams, compotes; eggs; milk and milk products; edible oils and fats (International Class 29); Coffee, tea, cocoa and artificial coffee; rice; tapioca and sago; flour and preparations made from cereals; bread, pastry and confectionery; ices; sugar, honey, treacle; yeast, baking-powder; salt; mustard; vinegar, sauces (condiments) spices; ice (International Class 30); Beers; mineral and aerated waters and other non-alcoholic beverages; fruit beverages and fruit juices; syrups and other preparations for making beverages. (International Class 32); Alcoholic Beverage (International Class 33)."

LONDON

(IV/4186/2014)

"Paper, cardboard and goods made from these materials, not included in other classes; printed matter; bookbinding material; photographs; stationery; adhesives for stationery or household purposes; artists' materials; paint brushes; typewriters and office requisites (except furniture); instructional and teaching material (except apparatus); plastic materials for packaging (not included in other classes); printers' type; printing blocks (International Class 16); Textiles and textile goods, not included in other classes; bed covers; table covers (International Class 24); Clothing, footwear, headgear (International Class 25); Coffee, tea, cocoa and artificial coffee; rice; tapioca and sago; flour and preparations made from cereals; bread, pastry and confectionery; ices; sugar, honey, treacle; yeast, baking-powder; salt; mustard; vinegar, sauces (condiments) spices; ice (International Class 30); Alcoholic Beverage (International Class 33)."

IBTC

(IV/4194/2014)

"Paints, varnishes, lacquers; preservatives against rust and against deterioration of wood; colorants; mordants; raw natural resins; metals in foil and powder form for painters, decorators, printers and artists (International Class 2); Machines and machine tools; motors and engines (except for land vehicles); machine coupling and transmission components (except for land vehicles); agricultural implements other than hand-operated; incubators for eggs; automatic vending machines (International Class 7); Household or kitchen utensils and containers; combs and sponges; brushes (except paint brushes); brush-making materials; articles for cleaning purposes; steelwool; unworked or semi-worked glass (except glass used in building); glassware, porcelain and earthenware not included in other classes (International Class 21); Textiles and textile goods, not included in other classes; bed covers; table covers (International Class 24); Meat, fish, poultry and game; meat extracts; preserved, frozen, dried and cooked fruits and vegetables, jellies, jams, compotes; eggs; milk and milk products; edible oils and fats (International Class 29); Coffee, tea, cocoa and artificial coffee; rice; tapioca and sago; flour and preparations made from cereals; bread, pastry and confectionery; ices; sugar, honey, treacle; yeast, baking-powder; salt; mustard; vinegar, sauces (condiments) spices; ice (International Class 30)."

JAZZ wine cooler (PINK)

(IV/4204/2014)

GRAND ROYAL

(IV/4170/2014)

"Beers; mineral and aerated waters and other non-alcoholic beverages; fruit beverages and fruit juices; syrups and other preparations for making beverages. (International Class 32); Alcoholic Beverage (International Class 33)."

GRAND ROYAL PLANET

(IV/4182/2014)

"Beers; mineral and aerated waters and other non-alcoholic beverages; fruit beverages and fruit juices; syrups and other preparations for making beverages. International Class 32; Alcoholic Beverage. International Class 33; and Education; providing of training; entertainment; sporting and cultural activities. International Class 41."

U WIN NAINGLL.B., LL.M.ZICOLaw Myanmar

No. 33, 7 Mile Avenue, Parami Road
(Corner of Pyay Road and Parami Road)
Mayangone Township, Yangon, Myanmar
TEL: + 95 1 654928, +95 1 654086
FAX: + 95 1 654927

For MYANMAR DISTILLERY CO., LTD.

ADVERTISEMENT & ENTERTAINMENT

**THE REPUBLIC OF THE UNION OF MYANMAR
MINISTRY OF ENERGY
MYANMA OIL AND GAS ENTERPRISE
(INVITATION FOR OPEN TENDER)
(16/2014)**

Open tenders are invited for supply of the following respective items in United States Dollars.

| Sr.No | Tender No | Description | Remark |
|-------|-----------------|--|--------|
| (1) | IFB -072(14-15) | Assorted Sizes of Ball Valves and Accessories (6) Items | US\$ |
| (2) | IFB -073(14-15) | Spares for L-Type /ZW-Type Compressor and Dispenser (56) Items | US\$ |
| (3) | IFB -074(14-15) | Steel Wire Ropes for Sand Line and Casing Line (3) Items | US\$ |
| (4) | IFB -075(14-15) | Spares for KB 150 Well Servicing Truck (10) Items | US\$ |
| (5) | IFB -076(14-15) | 14" ERW API 5L Grade X-46, 3LPE Coated Steel Line Pipe (45) Miles & Hot Bends | US\$ |
| (6) | IFB -077(14-15) | 3.25mm/4mm/4.8mm Electrode(E 6011)(18) Tons | US\$ |
| (7) | IFB -078(14-15) | 14" Ball Valve Complete Set (2) Sets | US\$ |
| (8) | IFB -079(14-15) | Heat Shrinkable Sleeve and Closure Patches | US\$ |
| (9) | IFB -080(14-15) | 100 KW Diesel Engine Driven Generating Set (1) Set | US\$ |
| (10) | IFB -081(14-15) | Spares for Kenworth Truck (15) Items | US\$ |
| (11) | IFB -082(14-15) | Spares for ATLAS COPCO Compressor (1) Lot | US\$ |
| (12) | IFB -083(14-15) | 30" Foam Pigs (15) Nos | US\$ |
| (13) | IFB -084(14-15) | NDT Services for 30" Domestic Gas Pipe Line | US\$ |
| (14) | IFB -085(14-15) | Cathodic Protection System Installation for 30" Domestic Gas Pipe Line | US\$ |
| (15) | IFB -086(14-15) | Nitrogen Purging Services for 30" Domestic Gas Pipe Line | US\$ |

Tender Closing Date & Time - 25-8-2014, 16:30 Hr.

Tender Document shall be available during office hours commencing from 30th July, 2014 at the Finance Department, Myanma Oil and Gas Enterprise, No (44) Complex, Nay Pyi Taw, Myanmar.
Myanma Oil and Gas Enterprise
Ph: +95 67 - 411097/411206

Adele to take vacation before new album release?



Singer Adele has reportedly planned a holiday with family ahead of the release of her new album.—PTI

LONDON, 30 July — Singer Adele has reportedly planned a holiday with family ahead of the release of her new album.

The 'Rolling In The Deep' singer has rented a villa in Ibiza for a relaxing holiday before promoting her new album, reported Contactmusic.

"Adele has chosen a lovely house to give her privacy. But it is also near the nicest beaches," a source said.

The 26-year-old singer is getting ready to release her third album but wants to take some time out before hitting the publicity trail. She plans to spend a month travelling back and forth between the luxurious six-bedroom villa, which has a pool, and her home in the UK.—PTI

James Brown biopic 'Get On Up' revels in drama and dance moves



Musician Mick Jagger attends the premiere of 'Get on Up' in New York in this file photo taken on 21 July, 2014. REUTERS

NEW YORK, 30 July — At first Oscar-winning actress Octavia Spencer thought she was seeing early concert footage of James Brown but then was told it was a screen test by Chadwick Boseman to play the "Godfather of Soul" in the new biopic "Get On Up."

From the gliding, intricate footwork to the hunched shoulders and fluid movements, Boseman had nailed Brown's singular mannerisms and raspy voice.

"It was just him from the back, and then from the side, and it was all in silhouette with the hair. I

could not believe it, and he had only been learning the dance for three days," said Spencer, 44, who plays Brown's no-nonsense, knife-wielding Aunt Honey in the film, which opens in US theatres on Friday.

Spencer, the 2012 Academy Award winner for "The Help," said Boseman immersed himself in the role of the three-time Grammy winner, who died on Christmas Day in 2006 at the age of 73.

"Things happen when they are supposed to. This was supposed to be Chadwick Boseman's role," Spencer said.—Reuters

Holocaust victim, artist Charlotte Salomon's life premieres as opera

SALZBURG, (Austria), 30 July — The Berlin-born Jewish artist Charlotte Salomon left behind a body of watercolors and text she called "Life? or Theatre?" before she was killed at Auschwitz in 1943 at age 26, carrying her unborn child.

Salomon's life, which has inspired films, plays and a musical, was turned into an opera that plumbed the depths of human emotion in its premiere on Monday at the Salzburg Festival in Austria.

With music by French composer Marc-Andre Dalbavie, staging by Swiss director Luc Bondy and libretto by German-Jewish author Barbara Honigmann, who used 85 percent of Salomon's own text, the work was the season's most anticipated opera at the prestigious festival in the city of Mozart's birth.

It did not disappoint.



Singers Frederic Antoun as Amadeus Daberlohn and Marianne Crebassa as Charlotte Kann perform on stage during a dress rehearsal of Marc-Andre Dalbavie's opera 'Charlotte Salomon' in Salzburg on 24 July, 2014. — REUTERS

Although a gang of uniformed Nazi toughs appeared at strategic moments as a reminder of the inevitable ending, the opera focused more on the difficult emotional and intellectual problems Salomon faced as a young woman.—Reuters



Eric Clapton performs during the "12-12-12" benefit concert for victims of Superstorm Sandy at Madison Square Garden in New York, in this on 12 Dec, 2012 file photo.—REUTERS

Eric Clapton pays musical tribute to long-time friend JJ Cale

LONDON, 30 July — A year after the death of American cult singer-songwriter JJ Cale, his close friend Eric Clapton has launched a tribute with an album and documentary featuring the likes of Willie Nelson and Mark Knopfler.

"The Breeze: An Appreciation of JJ Cale" features 16 interpretations of Cale's typically laid-back repertoire and is named after a 1972 release "Call Me The Breeze". The documentary is being shown on US cable networks.

Cale, who died on 26 July, 2013 at the age of 74, was one of those musicians who, although not a household name, was highly influential with his peers and closely followed by groups of aficionados.—Reuters

GENERAL

Record-equalling England make it a Proud night in pool

GLASGOW, 30 July — Benjamin Proud said he had surpassed his wildest dreams after landing a second win to guide England to a record-equalling gold tally as the swimming event ended in thrilling style at the Commonwealth Games on Tuesday.

The 19-year-old edged out Australians Cameron McEvoy and James Magnussen in the 50 metres freestyle in a time of 21.92 seconds to add to the 50 butterfly gold he won on Friday.

On a night where Games-best times, record-breaking medal hauls and exhilarating relays brought the curtain down on the event, the session belonged to England and it was a sparkling performance that stood out.

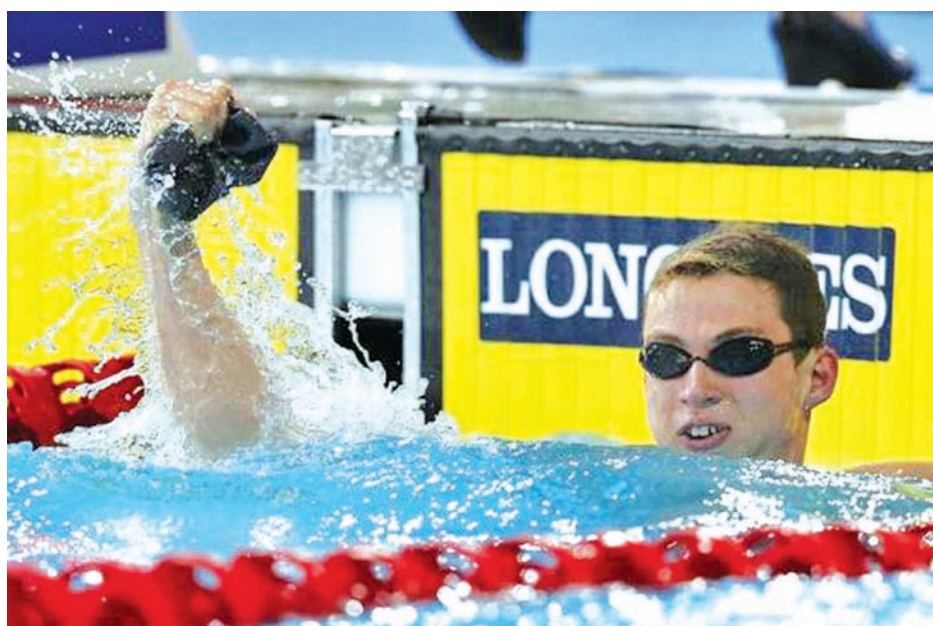
Proud, who also won a bronze in the 4x100 freestyle relay, had never reached a final at a major competition before arriving in Glasgow.

"I couldn't have asked for anything more," he told *Reuters*. "Coming into these Games it was all about preparation and trying to learn as much as I could."

"There are some great swimmers here and I didn't expect to make a final, let alone get a medal. To become the Commonwealth champion for the second time is unreal."

"It's given me that confidence boost I need for Rio 2016," said Proud in reference to the Olympics. "I just need to make sure I step up when it's needed -- it's a big learning curve for me."

In addition England



England's Benjamin Proud reacts after winning the Men's 50m Butterfly at the 2014 Commonwealth Games in Glasgow, Scotland, on 25 July, 2014.

REUTERS

beat Australia to the men's 4x100 relay crown in a Games-best time to snatch a 10th gold in the pool, matching their best total from Manchester 2002.

Wales also enjoyed a good night, capturing a gold, silver and bronze.

The country's 40-year wait for a female swimming champion at the Games was ended on Monday when Jazz Carlin won the 800 freestyle.

A day later compatriot Georgia Davies captured the 50 backstroke title in a Games record 27.56 seconds, making it the first time Wales have clinched multiple swimming golds in the competition.

The 23-year-old had already won a silver in the 100 on Saturday and secured another medal by overcoming her rival and friend Lauren

Quigley of England.

"I'm so happy especially with the two of us battling against each other. Now we stand on the podium next to each other having both smashed the old British record," Davies told the BBC.

"It is back to training tomorrow but I don't want to stop swimming now because I want the fast times to keep coming."

Carlin added another silver for Wales when she finished behind New Zealand's Lauren Boyle in the 400 freestyle, a reversal of the 800 result the previous day.

Buoyed by his compatriots, Daniel Jarvis picked up the bronze in the 1,500 freestyle to take Wales' medal haul to seven, their best-ever swimming display in the Games.

Canadian champion

Ryan Cochrane successfully retained his 1,500 title while Mack Horton finished second for Australia.

As if to put things in perspective, South African Olympic 200 butterfly champion Chad le Clos matched Wales' total when he won bronze in the 200 individual medley and team bronze in the 4x100 medley to take his personal medal haul in Glasgow to seven.

Both 4x100 medley relays provided a spectacular end to the evening as the crowd roared the teams on in two frantic races matched only by the atmosphere at the Tollcross Swimming Centre.

Australia took the women's race on the last leg to set another Games record time ahead of England and Canada.

Reuters

MYANMAR TV

(31-7-2014, Thursday)

6:00 am

* Paritta by Hilly
Region Missionary
Sayadaw

6:30 am

* Physical Exercises

7:20 am

* People Talks

8:30 am

* TV Drama Series

9:00 am

* News/
International News

9:30 am

* Shwe Yin Chone
Than

10:00 am

* News

11:00 am

* Sing & Enjoy

12:00 pm

* News/International
News/ Weather
Report

1:25 pm

* Documentary

2:10 pm

* Fine Arts Bosom
of Dramatic
Performance

3:15 pm

* Documentary

4:00 pm

* News

4:40 pm

* University of
Distance Education
(TV Lectures)
-First Year
(Oriental)

5:00 pm

* News

6:20 pm

* Approaching
Science Discovery
World

7:00 pm

* News

8:35 pm

* Current Affairs

9:00 pm

* News
Documentary
Monthly Weather
Report
Pyi Thu Ni Ti

MYANMAR INTERNATIONAL

(31-7-14 07:00 am~
1-8-14 07:00 am) MST

- * Local News
- * Masterclass:
Impressionism
- * World News
- * A Girl Guide
- * Local News
- * Rakhine The Land of
Sublime Pagodas
- * World News
- * Kay Tu Mar Lar "The
Decision"
- * Local News
- * Product of Myanmar -
Stone of The Heavens
- * World News
- * Black Gold (Part - I)
- * Local News
- * Director: Maung Myo
Min (Yin Twin Byit)
- * World News
- * A Way of Life:
Karate-do
- * Local News
- * The Legend of an
Ambulatory Surgeon
(Episode-1)
- * World News
- * A Traditional Doctor
- * Local News
- * Myanmar Martial Art
(Episode-1) (Bando)
- * World News
- * Beauties of Makyee
Island — Island of
Tamarind Tree
- * Local News
- * Wedding Planner
"Aye Thida Win
Aung"
- * World News
- * Traffic Police
- * Local News
- * People: The Stories of
The Great Souls
(U Pyae Son)
- * World News
- * Indian Footsteps

Tevez father kidnapped, released after ransom paid

BUENOS AIRES, 30 July — The father of Juventus striker Carlos Tevez was kidnapped in Buenos Aires on Tuesday before being released following the payment of a ransom, according to local media.

Reports said the footballer had initially looked to fly from Turin, where he is in pre-season training, to Argentina on hearing the news of the kidnapping but he remained in Italy.

Tevez said on Twitter that his father had been released without harm.

"I thank everyone for their support always. I'm able to tell you my father is ok, safe and sound. That's

what's most important," he said on his Twitter account (@carlitos3210).

"I also thank... the Buenos Aires and Federal and Anti-kidnapping police (forces) for their support for my family." The amount paid for Segundo Tevez's release was not revealed but media reports said it was 400,000 Argentine pesos (28,824 pounds).

Tevez's brother Diego told local radio station La Red that at first his father only had his vehicle stolen and was immediately released, but they went back for him when they saw his name on its registration.

"When they realised

he was the father (of Carlos Tevez) because of the 'green card' they went back for him and asked for the ransom," Diego Tevez said.

The daily *La Nacion*, quoting sources close to the police operation, reported that the kidnappers had told Tevez's father: "We admire your son, but we have to do this to work."

Despite being in brilliant form in Serie A for Juventus last season, Tevez was not chosen by Argentina coach Alejandro Sabella for the World Cup finals in Brazil. Argentina lost 1-0 to Germany in the Rio de Janeiro final two weeks ago.

Reuters



Argentine Security Secretary Sergio Berni (C) leaves the home of Juan Alberto Cabral, father of Juventus' soccer player Carlos Tevez, in Buenos Aires on 29 July, 2014.—REUTERS

Golden boy Bailey-Cole steps out of Bolt's shadow

GLASGOW, 30 July — Usain Bolt's training partner Kemar Bailey-Cole took advantage of the Olympic champion's absence to coolly grab 100 metres gold at the Commonwealth Games on Monday but Veronica Campbell Brown failed to seal a Jamaican double.

With the six-time Olympic champion and world record holder Bolt only competing in the 4x100 relay after an injury-hit season, the 22-year-old Bailey-Cole seized his chance and sped to victory in a time of 10 seconds flat at Hampden Park.

"I didn't feel any pressure, I just went out there and executed my own race, but it wasn't that perfect," he told reporters.

"I train with Usain Bolt but the friendship is not that close."

Bailey-Cole made a slow start on a blustery Glasgow evening but his long stride helped him claw his way back into the main group and he powered past England's Adam



Kemar Bailey-Cole (C) of Jamaica finishes first place ahead of Adam Gemili (R) of England, and Jason Livermore of Jamaica during the men's 100m final at the 2014 Commonwealth Games in Glasgow, Scotland, on 28 July, 2014. —REUTERS

Gemili, who finished second in a time of 10.10 seconds. Jamaican Nickel Ashmeade claimed

bronze. "From the start it wasn't good but the rest of it was OK,"

added the lanky Bailey-Cole, whose running style is not dissimilar to Bolt. "The coaches

out there just told me to go out and win and I did exactly that.

"I just listened to the coach, who says even if I don't get a good start just hold my composure and drive right through.

"The aim was to come out here and win and I did just that. I said to myself, 'these guys can't beat me'".

Campbell-Brown, cleared in February of a doping violation which had led to a suspension, was beaten by Blessing Okagbare in the women's 100 final.

The blonde Nigerian stormed to victory in a Games record 10.85 seconds ahead of Campbell-Brown and fellow Jamaican Kerron Stewart.

"It is an honour and the reaction back home is going to be absolutely amazing," Okagbare said.

"All my preparations have been based on these Commonwealth Games so I had expected to run a fast time and I am so happy I can't explain.

"Everything has come together, it all just fell in place."

There was, however, further glory for Jamaica when O'dayne Richards scooped gold in the men's shotput while Sultana Frizell of Canada hurled herself to glory in the women's hammer. — Reuters

Excited Drogba aims to end Chelsea's five-year title wait

LONDON, 30 July — An excited Didier Drogba is back at Chelsea to try to help the former European champions end a five-year wait to land the Premier League title, he said on Tuesday.

The 36-year-old Ivory Coast striker signed a 12-month deal last week to return to Stamford Bridge after having left the club immediately after their 2012 Champions League final victory over Bayern Munich.

"Five years is a long time not to win the Premier League so I want to win it," Drogba told the club website (www.chelseafc.com).

"To lift the Premier League trophy is a fantastic feeling and we haven't experienced it for a few years, too long for a club like ours.



Ivory Coast's Didier Drogba (L) jumps for the ball with Greece's Jose Holebas during their 2014 World Cup Group C soccer match at the Castalao arena in Fortaleza on 24 June, 2014. —REUTERS

"I missed the Premier League, which for me is the best in the world. It's true the German

league is on the way up but the English league has been the best over the last decade and I'm real-

ly looking forward to playing the first game."

Drogba won the top-flight crown three times in his first spell at Chelsea, in 2005, 2006 and 2010, and also lifted the FA Cup four times and the League Cup twice.

"It's amazing to be back, a great feeling," he said. "I'm happy to be back here and I'm looking forward to seeing the best fans.

"It was an easy decision to make, it's very difficult to say no to (manager) Jose (Mourinho) and to Chelsea. I have so many good memories with the club."

Drogba, who has scored 157 goals in 341 appearances for Chelsea, was one of Mourinho's first signings when the Portuguese first joined the club in 2004.

"He said to me that a player like me, who has history with the club, should come back one day," said the Ivorian, who had short spells in China with Shanghai Shenhua and in Turkey with Galatasaray during his time away from Stamford Bridge.

"I agree with him because even if I left I was still a Chelsea player because of the eight years I spent here. No offence to the teams I was with during those two years but that's just the way it is.

"He's the one who gave me a chance to play in the Premier League. We won so many trophies together and so many matches," added Drogba, who will wear the same number 15 shirt he sported when he first joined Chelsea in 2004.

Reuters

Sabella quits as Argentina coach

BUENOS AIRES, 30 July — Alejandro Sabella, who steered Argentina to the World Cup final in Brazil, has decided to quit as national team coach, Argentine media reported on Tuesday.

The reports said the 59-year-old Sabella, whose side lost the Maracana final to Germany 1-0 after extra time, had told Argentine FA

president Julio Grondona that he was standing down.

Argentina begin preparations for their next major tournament, the 2015 Copa America in Chile, with a friendly against Germany in Duesseldorf on 3 September.

Sabella's agent Eugenio Lopez said two days before the World Cup final that the coach was unlikely to carry

on and Sabella himself said on his return to Buenos Aires with the team that he was unsure he had the energy to give his best any longer.

"You have to fill the energy tank which sometimes gets empty. I have to think if I'm in condition to give 100 percent," Sabella told reporters two weeks ago. —Reuters

Argentina's national soccer team coach Alejandro Sabella poses for a picture with children during a ceremony in Sabella's honour at the Argentine Congress in Buenos Aires, on 22 July, 2014. REUTERS

