

## ASEAN stands at a critical juncture of Community Building: President U Thein Sein

NAY PYI TAW, 6 Aug—The ceremony to commemorate the 47<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the establishment of ASEAN which falls on 8 August was already held on Wednesday at the Myanmar International Convention Centre with an address by President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar U Thein Sein.

In his address the president said, “Looking back at the past 47 years, we see that unity and cooperation have been the main strength of ASEAN’s significant progress in bringing peace, stability and prosperity in the region. It is the uniqueness of ASEAN that unity has been built through its vast diversities. I believe that this important spirit is the attribute of the common ASEAN values and principles. It has guided ASEAN to overcome the challenges and obstacles during hard times.”

The president said that the Asia-Pacific region is seen as a strategic region of importance, with the unity of ASEAN having become more prominent over the decades. ASEAN Community building, he stressed, is based on the achievement of unity. In this regard, Myanmar, as the Chair of ASEAN for 2014, has set the theme of “Moving forward in unity to a peaceful and prosperous community.”

“Today, ASEAN stands at a critical juncture of Community Building. ASEAN is now transforming itself to become a comprehensively integrated regional organization, sharing the same values and norms with the common goals of establishing a community, comprising the Political and Security Community, Economic Community and Socio-Cultural Community.

Nowadays, we see changes throughout the region. We see the increasing awareness of people on democracy and good governance. We see countries in the region becoming more interdependent. And we see the information and communication technologies becoming affordable to people. These changes made positive impacts on people’s daily lives. I am confident that the ASEAN community building process is capable of enhancing such improvements and will make them sustainable.”

For Myanmar as the current chair of ASEAN for 2014, we are “trying our best to establish the ASEAN community in the targeted time,” President U Thein Sein said.

“Myanmar strongly supports the people-oriented Community Building process to address poverty and economic disparity among the ASEAN member countries. This is also in line with Myanmar’s national policies which focus on eliminating poverty



President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar U Thein Sein delivers address at ceremony to commemorate the 47<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the establishment of ASEAN.—MNA

throughout the country, and with the United Nations Millennium Development Goals.

The Political and Security Community will lead to a peaceful, stable and prosperous region. The Political and Security Blueprint is a strong foundation for fostering cooperation on promoting peace and security in the region.

It has also led to a broader participation of various dialogue partners for a comprehensive partnership in combating non-traditional security matters and transnational

crimes, including human trafficking, money laundering, communicable disease, drugs, law enforcement and

managing natural disasters and also in promoting the rule of law.

(See page 3)

## “Unified Communications” seminar in Yangon introduces videoconferencing products

By Ye Myint

YANGON, 6 Aug —Organized by Yadanarbon Fiber Services, Patton Electronics Company, Aarenet and Lifesize, the “Unified Communications Yangon 2014” Seminar took place in Yangon on Wednesday, with officials making presentations on unified communications solution for enterprises and carriers and demonstrations of communication devices.

Topics given at the seminar included introduction of Patton VoIP products, Lifesize video-

conferencing products and Aarenet Virtual PBX&F-MC Solution Overview.

During the demonstration of Lifesize videoconferencing system and accessories, officials from Lifesize, providers of video teleconference services, elaborated on high quality videoconferencing solutions from Lifesize.

Lifesize, a division of Logitech, is a video and audio telecommunications company in the United States which provides high definition videoconferencing end points and accessories, infrastructure products and a cloud-based video

collaboration platform

As the Myanmar telecommunication market has a great potential, Patton intends to cooperate with Yadanarbon Fiber Services to bring its products to the Myanmar market, Martin Svozil, Vice President of International Development of Patton Electronics Co. told The New Light of Myanmar daily. Patton Electronics Company is a US-based manufacturer of communication products including Voice over IP (VoIP), Ethernet Extension, and high availability router technologies.

NLM



Lifesize’s videoconferencing equipment and Patton’s communication devices on display at Unified Communications Yangon 2014.—PHOTO: YE MYINT

## UPWC, NCCT hold informal meeting in Myitkyina

MYITKYINA, 6 Aug — An informal meeting between the Union Peace-making Work Committee led by Union Minister U Aung Min and the Nationwide Ceasefire Coordination Team led by U Naing Han Thar took place at Kachin State government office in Myitkyina on Sunday, with matters related to reaching a nationwide ceasefire agreement and points agreed at the Laiza conference discussed.

In his address, Union Minister U Aung Min, who is also vice chairman of the work committee, said that the people-centred peace process with a greater transparency is progressing. He called for participation of political parties in the peace process as the nationwide ceasefire is a step towards a political dialogue. Operations are underway for the resettlement and rehabilitation of

people currently living at IDP camps, he added.

The Union minister exchanged views on the peace process with officials from eight political parties in Kachin State who were present at the meeting.

Also present at the meeting were U Thein Zaw, vice chairman of the work committee, and Kachin State Chief Minister U La John Ngan Sai among other officials.

Kachin State IPRD

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## Upper House Vice Speaker urges students to abstain from narcotic drugs



Upper House vice speaker U Mya Nyein presents cash award to an outstanding student in Thongwa Township.

MNA

YANGON, 6 Aug — Vice Speaker U Mya Nyein of the Upper House urged students who passed the 2013-14 matriculation with distinctions at a ceremony in Thongwa on Wednesday not to try drugs.

The ceremony was attended by Yangon Region Social Affairs Minister Dr Myint Thein, parliament representatives, officials of social organizations, teachers and students in the township.

The vice speaker and

officials presented cash awards to a total of 83 distinction winners. Pyinmakan Affiliated High School won the award for the highest pass-rate in the matriculation in the township.

MNA

## Development of Myanmar's education sector discussed

NAY PYI TAW, 6 Aug — Dr Ko Ko Oo, the Union Minister for Science and Technology received Dr Bill Kennan, Vice-Provost of Radford University in Virginia of the US and delegation on Tuesday at his office in Nay Pyi Taw to discuss bilateral cooperation in development of Myanmar's education sector.

They also discussed signing a MoU on cooperation in information technologies between Radford University and the University of Computer Studies at Bahan Campus, as well as promotion of Myanmar's education.

MNA

**UNITING  
TO  
PREVENT  
DRUG  
ABUSE**

## Yangon-based overseas job agency faces lawsuit

By Khaing Thanda Lwin

YANGON, 6 Aug — A lawsuit has been filed against an overseas job agency based in Yangon by 20 job seekers who were reportedly cheated for agency fees in the hope to get jobs in Japan.

Those who lost their

money said that they have filed a lawsuit against the owner of the agency under sections 420 and 406 of the Penal Code at Sangyoung Myoma Police Station.

Nanda Zaw, one of the plaintiffs, said, "We signed a bond in March with the

chairman of this overseas job agency to do construction work in Japan within four months and they took K11 million each from us."

He added that the agency also took about K400 million from 300 other job seekers without fulfilling their promises.

"On 9 June, the chair-

man of the agency said that he will return their money to us as he canceled the agreement. He made appointments with us several times but he did not pay back the money. He turned off his mobile when we tried to contact with him," said another plaintiff.

They have already sent the complaint letters to the Ministry of Labour, Employment and Social Security, the Myanmar Overseas Employment Agencies Federation (MOEAF), the President Office, the Ministry of Home Affairs and the Bureau of Special Investigations (BSI), according to the plaintiffs who said they have strong evidence.

Notices have also been published in other state owned newspapers—the Myanmar Alinn and the Mirror on 27<sup>th</sup>, 29<sup>th</sup> and 31<sup>st</sup> July.

The Sangyoung Township Administrator closed the door of the company's office in the township on 3<sup>rd</sup> August.

NLM



Nanda Zaw together with plaintiffs makes clarification on their case to the attendees at Myanmar Journalists Network's office in Yangon.

PHOTO: KHAING THANDA LWIN

## Republic of the Union of Myanmar President Office (Order No. 20/2014)

11<sup>th</sup> Waxing of Wagaung, 1376 ME  
(6<sup>th</sup> August, 2014)

### Deputy Ministers reshuffled

Under sub-section (a) and (d) of Section 234 of the Constitution of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar, and Para (9), sub-section (b) of the Section 16 of the Union Government Law, the following deputy ministers have been transferred to the ministries shown below.

(1) U Kyaw Kyaw Win Ministry of President  
Ministry of Immigration Office (1)  
and Population

(2) Dr Win Myint Ministry of Health  
Ministry of President  
Office (1)

Sd/Thein Sein  
President

Republic of the Union of Myanmar

## Republic of the Union of Myanmar Union Election Commission

Nay Pyi Taw

Notification No. (31/2014)

11<sup>th</sup> Waxing of Wagaung, 1376 ME  
(6 August, 2014)

### Ten region Hluttaw representatives of Armed Forces substituted

According to a request made in accordance with Section 33 of the Region/State Hluttaw Election Law to substitute ten representatives of the Armed Forces who are parliamentarians, the Union Election Commission scrutinized and substituted the following ten region Hluttaw representatives announced under the Notification No.3/2011 of the commission dated 20-1-2011, Notification No. 48/2012 of the commission dated 15-11-2012, Notification No.14/2013 of the commission dated 12-6-2013 and Notification No.20/2013 of the commission dated 1-8-2013.

The region Hluttaw representatives to be substituted were nominated by the Commander-in-Chief of the Defence Services in the first multi-party general election on 7 November 2010.

#### Yangon Region

(1) Air 2552	Air 2854
Major Nay Lin Aung	Major Myo Min Tun
(2) BC 25253	BC 35906
Major Min Thu Zaw	Major Kaung Thant Kyaw

#### Shan State

(3) BC 34130	BC 35652
Major Thaug Hlaing	Major Kyaw Kyaw Wai
(4) BC 33077	BC 36201
Major Thet Zaw Tun	Major Myo Min Thu
(5) BC 29578	BC 33522
Major Myo Min Aung	Major Aung Zaw Myo
(6) BC 35560	BC 27425
Major Min Htet	Major Hla Tun Aung
(7) BC 33104	BC 32727
Major Thant Zin Oo	Major Myo Tun
(8) BC 34347	BC 26190
Major Thet Lwin Oo	Major Aung Myo Kyi
(9) BC 35132	BC 46317
Captain Khin Maung Win	Captain Myo Ko Ko Win
(10) BC 32469	BC 33804
Captain Than Myint	Captain Paw Lar

By Order,

(Tin Tun)  
Secretary

Union Election Commission



## NATIONAL

## ASEAN stands at a critical...

(from page 1)

To realize the ASEAN Economic Community by 2015, we aim to create this region to become a single market and single production base. The ASEAN Economic Community will effectively contribute to ASEAN's long term vision of narrowing the development gap and enhancing the equitable economic development among the ASEAN member states.

I believe that ASEAN's on-going efforts on the Master Plan on ASEAN Connectivity and the Regional Comprehensive

Economic Partnership will effectively contribute to this end.

The Socio-Cultural Community Blueprint formulates increasing co-operation among ASEAN member states in improving the ASEAN region through its cooperation measures on disaster management and humanitarian assistance, environment conservation, protecting and promoting the rights of women, children and migrant workers, addressing communicable diseases and promotion of education.

ASEAN's aspiration



Union Minister for Foreign Affairs U Wunna Maung Lwin gives prize to winner of quiz marked for 47<sup>th</sup> ASEAN Day.—MNA

## Yangon North District MCWSC donates provisions to monastic educations

YANGON, 6 Aug — The patron and party of Yangon Region Maternal and Child Welfare Supervisory Committee on Sunday donated provisions, exercise books and school uniforms to monastic education schools in Yangon North District, taking place at Shwemyay Monastery in Hmawby Township of Yangon Region.

They donated 60 bags of rice, 60 viss of edible oil, 125 viss of salt, 100 viss of gram, 125 umbrellas, 125 bottles of Astymin medicine, 300 dozens of copybook and 250 sets of school uniforms to the monastic education school.

At the hall of the Township General Administration

Department, they presented 1,000 pieces of treated mosquito nets, 500 tablets and cash assistance to the township associations of the district.

They also provided medicine, nutritious foods and clothes to 20 pregnant women at the delivery room of the township association.

Maung Yin Oo (Danubyu)

## Myanmar and India to cooperate in building Thermal Power Plant

TAMU, 6 Aug — Union Minister for Electric Power U Khin Maung Soe met Dr Nandakumar Nandran of the Indian Minister Councilor Office to the Republic of the Union of Myanmar and Economic and Industrial Minister of Manipur State Mr Govindas Konthoujam on Sunday in Tamu and discussed the

building of coal-powered Thermal Power Plant with the help of India. According to their discussions, the new power plant will be constructed in order to ensure efficient power supply. An Indian company will sponsor building of the plant and upon completion the plant will use coal from Kalewa coal mine

in Sagaing Region of upper Myanmar, to generate power.

At the top of the agenda of the meeting also were building of an Integrated Check Point, immediate release of six Manipuris detained by Myanmar and issuing of visa for Indian citizens upon arrival.

NLM-005



President U Thein Sein and senior government officials view handicrafts and documentary photos from 10 ASEAN member countries.—MNA

on the Community Building is targeted to be completed at the end of 2015. ASEAN is expediting efforts to reach this target in time. I believe that ASEAN will surely overcome any obstacle with its unity in spite of its diversity.

The people ASEAN faced profound sadness over the two tragic incidents which occurred recently. The loss of innocent lives with the downing of MH-17 and the typhoons Ramasun and Haiyan that caused a high death toll and loss of properties in the Philippines and Vietnam have been most tragic incidents. The

Government and people of Myanmar offer profound condolences and heartfelt sympathies to the families of the victims of the two tragic events.

To prevent such tragic incidents in the future, we must work together to enhance cooperation and mutual understanding.

We have come half way through Myanmar's chairmanship of ASEAN in 2014. Since the beginning of this year, we have been undertaking duties and responsibilities laid down by ASEAN. We have hosted Ministerial and Senior Officials Meetings. The 24<sup>th</sup>

ASEAN Summit in May ended with success. The 47<sup>th</sup> ASEAN Ministerial Meeting and related meetings will be convened in a couple of days in Nay Pyi Taw. The upcoming Ministerial Meetings involve broad participation from ASEAN's Dialogue Partners and I am confident that with the support of our fellow ASEAN member countries these meetings will be productive.

Let me reiterate once again Myanmar's commitment to undertake the obligations of ASEAN and uphold the value of ASEAN Centrality as a responsi-

ble ASEAN member state. With this note, I would like to express Myanmar's aspiration to move forward in unity with fellow members to realize our goal of establishing a peaceful and prosperous ASEAN Community."

Following the president's speech, Union Ministers awarded the winners of an essay contest to mark the 47<sup>th</sup> ASEAN Day, with the president and his international guests viewing round displays of traditional handicrafts from the 10 ASEAN member countries as well as documentary photos of ASEAN activities.—MNA

## MR-219 Hmawby-3 paddy plantation produces 170 baskets per acre

MADAYA, 6 Aug — A ceremony to harvest MR-219 Hmawby-3 paddy strain as summer paddy was held on 70-acre model plot in Mingan Village of Madaya Township in Mandalay Region on 1 August, producing over 170 baskets

of per acre.

The paddy strain was grown by Zeyadana paddy production of Mandalay as demonstration for cultivation of quality paddy strains and boosting production to the local farmers.

The combined harvest-

er was used in harvesting paddy plantation. The paddy was grown with the use of compound and urea fertilizers systematically.

The harvesting was attended by local farmers and agriculturalists.

Min Htet Aung





## New generation of midwives for Kachin State

MOHNYIN (KACHIN STATE), 6 Aug — As auxiliary midwives play an important role in maintaining the health of pregnant women and children under the age of five, midwives are to be nurtured before being dispatched to villages, said District Medical Superintendent Dr Win Win Htay at the opening of a midwifery course in Mohnyin of Kachin State in northern Myanmar on Monday. Local female trainees from 20 villages, that have no midwives, will attend the six months course – three months of theory and the remaining three for practical work. According to the medical superintendent, the course was conducted with



the support of the World Health Organization in previous years, but starting from this year the Health Department is arranging

the course. During the course, trainees are provided with a daily allowance of K 1,500 per day. Upon completing of the course,

they will serve as volunteers in their respective villages, said the medical superintendent.

NLM- 001



## Myingyan officials discuss manageable farming

MYINGYAN, 6 Aug — Staff from Myingyan District Information and Public Relations Department in central Myanmar discussed how to improve welfare tasks on Tuesday. District Staff Officer Daw Hinn Yi talked about measures to introduce manageable farm-

ing system and its benefits, with participants from Myingyan, Taungtha, Ngazon and Natogyi making suggestions based on regional needs. With monsoon in full swing, they are planning to start their work next month.

U Zaw Min Naing  
(Myingyan)



## Heroin, weapons and ammunition seized in a number of raids in Tachilek and Monghsat



NAY PYI TAW, 6 Aug — Operations to bust drug trafficking and manufacturing activities have been carried out in Tachilek and Monghsat in Shan State East since 14 July.

During one raid, a team searched a VIGO car driven by a suspect identified as Kya Bo, and a passenger named Nan San Khan near lower Panku Village in Maingyan Village Tract in Tachilek Township on 19 July, seizing 40 blocks of heroin, a pistol, two car-

tridges, fourteen bullets, two mobile phones and 650,000 Baht.

One heroin block and US\$ 11,000 were seized in another case from a man identified as Kyawin who lives in Sansai Ward-B in Tachilek on the same day.

On 28 July, authorities searched a VIGO car near Seikchan military post in Lwetawkhon Village Tract in Tachilek Township, seizing 404 blocks of heroin, two M-22 weapons, 217 bullets, 8 cartridges, two

**404 blocks of heroin, weapons and ammunition seized near Seikchan military post in Tachilek.**—MNA

M-16 weapons, 256 bullets, 13 cartridges, two pistols, 33 bullets, three cartridges, three grenades, three walkie talkies, three mobile phones and 3,1000 Baht from the two men in the car.

Acting on reports, authorities also searched the Pyayson Win drinking water factory owned by So-

moon on 30 July and seized 41,164 litres of ethyl ether liquid chemical stored in 177 plastic barrels for manufacturing narcotic drugs, with officials saying the owner of the factory managed to get away.

On 1 August, authorities exposed a place formerly used for manufacturing narcotic drugs and seized 60 kilos of caffeine powder,

197 packets of colouring agents, 1,200 WY stimulant tablets, five cups used in counting the tablets, one moulding machine, seven generators and paraphernalia.

During the period from 14 July to 4 August, a total of 445 blocks of heroin weighing 155 kilos, 2,516 stimulant tablets, over half a kilo of crystal meth, 60

kilos of caffeine, 41.164 litres of ethyl ether chemical liquid, 7 assorted weapons, 520 bullets, 26 cartridges, three grenades, three walkie talkies, and other narcotic drugs worth K 29,871 lakhs were seized and 14 suspects were arrested.

Anti-drug operations have been successful due to the cooperation of local battalions, local police, anti-drug forces and local people, according to the Ministry of Home Affairs.

MNA





## REGIONAL

# Cambodia reopens Freedom Park after opposition swears into parliament



Policemen remove razor wire from the Freedom Park in Phnom Penh, Cambodia, on 6 Aug, 2014. The Cambodian authorities reopened the Freedom Park, a protest-designated site, a day after the opposition's 55 politicians were sworn in as lawmakers. —XINHUA

PHNOM PENH, 6 Aug — The Cambodian authorities reopened the capital's Freedom Park, a protest-designated site, on Wednesday, a day after the opposition's 55 politicians were sworn in as lawmakers.

Dozens of police officers were seen removing barricades and razor wires, which were deployed around the park since January following violent clashes between opposition protesters and government forces.

"Seeing that the situation of security, safety, and public order has been restored to normalcy, the Phnom Penh Municipality decides to reopen the Freedom Park from now on," the City Hall said in a statement.

The opposition Cambodia National Rescue Party (CNRP)'s 55 politicians took their oaths as parliamentarians on Monday, ending their 10-month long boycott of the parliament over disputed election results after Prime Minister Hun Sen's ruling party agreed to CNRP's proposals for an overhaul of the National Election Committee (NEC), power sharing in the parliament and a television channel.

The opposition lawmakers will work with the ruling party's 68 lawmakers to elect the leadership of the parliament and to amend the Constitution in order to enshrine the autonomy of a new NEC on Friday.

Xinhua

## Indonesian court opens hearing on presidential election dispute



Indonesian presidential candidate Prabowo Subianto

JAKARTA, 6 Aug — Indonesia's Constitutional Court on Wednesday opened a hearing on a dispute over the results of the 9 July presidential election challenged by former army general Prabowo Subianto, who lost to President-elect Joko "Jokowi" Widodo.

Prabowo filed a judicial review last month over alleged "structural, systematic and massive" electoral fraud. During the hearing, Prabowo's legal team said the results "contain mistakes," alleging the General Election Commission as the organizer of the election stood on Jokowi's side.

They claim that Jokowi's vote tally was inflated by 1.5 million, while Prabowo lost by 1.2 million votes due to the fraud.

"I feel hurt by the fraud

practices, dishonesty and unfairness committed by the election's organizer," Prabowo, who showed up during the court proceeding, told the hearing. "If we are given a chance, we can present tens of thousands of witnesses to testify," he added. Prabowo also claimed that "foreign intervention" had a hand in determining the results of the election, but did not name any countries.

On 22 July, the General Election Commission declared Jokowi the victor of the presidential election, dubbed the most transparent one in the country's 69-year history. According to the commission, Jokowi received 70,997,833 valid votes, or 53.15 percent of the total, and Prabowo 62,576,444 votes, or 46.85 percent. —Kyodo News

## Philippine peace deal in jeopardy as Muslim rebels cry foul

MANILA, 6 Aug — An historic peace settlement in the southern Philippines is at risk of breaking down as Muslim rebels accuse the government of going back on its word over a proposed law to create self-rule for the war-torn region. The two sides, who signed the deal in March to end nearly five decades of conflict, are holding urgent talks this week to try to iron out the unexpected obstacles to what had been seen as one of President Benigno Aquino's landmark successes.

A breakdown would risk a return to violence and a blow to hopes for an economic revival for resource-rich Mindanao island as potential investors in sectors such as agriculture and mining wait on the sidelines for the peace deal to be implemented.

Large companies such as food processor Del Monte Pacific Limited, which has a pineapple plantation in Mindanao, had said they were considering expanding operations after the deal. But most major foreign companies have held back pending evidence of a lasting settlement.

Under the pact the main rebel group — the Moro Islamic Liberation Front (MILF) — agreed to disband its guerrilla force



Members of the elite Special Action Police walk next to an armoured vehicle as they reinforce soldiers battling Muslim rebels from the Moro National Liberation Front (MNLF) in Zamboanga city, in southern Philippines in this on 12 Sept, 2013 file photo. — REUTERS

and rebuild communities in exchange for wider powers to control the region's economy and society. A joint government-MILF panel agreed details of the region's powers and relations with the central government this year, submitting a draft law for approval by Congress.

But the hitherto smooth progress has stalled after Aquino's legal team made surprise, sweeping changes to the draft law which the MILF says contravene the earlier agreement and would place unacceptable limits on their autonomy.

"We cannot accept this proposed law as it is," Mohagher Iqbal, the MILF's chief negotiator, told

Reuters. "We will lose face if we agree to this. Their version clearly departed from the letter and spirit of the peace agreement, which was the basis in crafting the proposed law."

Iqbal's comments to Reuters are the first public indication that the agreement is close to collapse.

Iqbal said about 70 percent of the nearly 100-page draft "Bangsamoro" law was either deleted or revised by Aquino's lawyers, who reviewed the document for two months after it was submitted in late April for vetting.

A copy of the revised legislation seen by Reuters showed entire sections of articles on territory, re-

sources, and government structure had been deleted or revised.

The peace deal — including provisions on revenue-sharing between the new region and the national government — was the product of more than 17 years of negotiations, brokered by Malaysia since 2001.

Analysts say the law appears to have fallen victim to recent legal and political setbacks suffered by Aquino, whose approval ratings have dropped after his flagship economic stimulus fund was declared illegal by the Supreme Court last month. He faces three impeachment complaints in Congress. —Reuters



# Hiroshima marks 69<sup>th</sup> A-bomb day amid worries over Japan security role



*The Atomic Bomb Dome, a World Heritage site, is seen in the rain on 6 Aug, 2014, as people gather at the Peace Memorial Park for a ceremony marking the 69<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the US atomic bombing. —KYODO NEWS*

HIROSHIMA, 6 Aug — Hiroshima marked the 69<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the US atomic bombing on Wednesday amid growing concern over the Japanese government's move to expand the country's defense capabilities, with survivors, peace activists and dignitaries braving heavy rain to

attend an annual ceremony to remember the attack and those who perished.

In his Peace Declaration at the ceremony, Hiroshima Mayor Kazumi Matsui stopped short of directly addressing the issue of enabling Japan to exercise the right to collective self-defense. He said

instead, "We must continue as a nation of peace in both word and deed," as Prime Minister Shinzo Abe sat listening.

At a later meeting with local atomic-bomb survivors' groups, Abe was asked to repeal his Cabinet's decision last month to allow Japan's Self-Defence Forces to come to the aid of allies under attack by reinterpreting the pacifist Constitution, a move which was made despite polls showing wide disapproval among Japanese people. The premier said he will "make further efforts to gain public understanding" on the issue.

With the first rain in 43 years falling on the ceremony at Peace Memorial Park, just a few hundred metres from the hypocentre of the bombing, Matsui said, "Our government should accept the full weight of the fact that we have avoided war for 69 years thanks to the noble pacifism of the Japanese Constitution."

Referring to several accounts of atomic-bomb survivors who were children at the time, the mayor called nuclear arms an "absolute evil that robbed children of loving families and dreams for the future."

"Military force just

gives rise to new cycles of hatred. To eliminate the evil, we must transcend nationality, race, religion, and other differences, value person-to-person relationships, and build a world that allows forward-looking dialogue," he said.

Matsui also called on Abe's government to bridge the gap between nuclear weapons states and the rest of the world ahead of next year's review of the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty, the cornerstone of the international nuclear disarmament regime.

Matsui vowed that Mayors for Peace, an international antinuclear initiative with more than 6,200 members which he heads, will work with nongovernment organizations and the United Nations to stress the humanitarian impact of nuclear weapons and seek to outlaw them. The group aims for total abolition of such arms by 2020 through negotiations on a convention to ban them.

In his own speech, Abe pledged to "spare no efforts in working towards the total abolition of nuclear weapons and the realization of eternal world peace" ahead of the 70th anniversary of the bombings and the NPT review conference

next year so that the horrors seen in the attacks on Hiroshima and Nagasaki are not repeated.

"As the only country in human history to have experienced the horror of nuclear devastation in war, Japan bears a responsibility to bring about 'a world free of nuclear weapons' without fail. We have a duty to continue to convey to the

next generation, and indeed to the world, the inhumanity of nuclear weapons," the premier said.

A moment of silent prayer was observed at 8:15 am, when on 6 Aug, 1945 the atomic bomb "Little Boy" detonated at an altitude of about 600 meters, killing an estimated 140,000 by the end of that year. — Kyodo News



*People offer prayers at the Peace Memorial Park in Hiroshima, western Japan, at 8:15 am on 6 Aug, 2014, the exact time when the atomic bomb was dropped in the city 69 years ago, during a ceremony to mark the annual anniversary of the US atomic bombing.*

KYODO NEWS

## Argentina rights activist to meet kidnapped grandson after 36 years

BUENOS AIRES, 6 Aug — A leading human rights activist in Argentina will finally meet the grandson torn from her family 36 years ago when he was kidnapped by agents of the country's right-wing dictatorship. Guido was born in 1978 to an imprisoned mother who was executed shortly afterwards by the junta that ruled the South American country from 1976 to 1983, in a case that has come to symbolize the struggle of families riven by the US-backed dictatorship.

The junta ordered that hundreds of children of assassinated leftists be handed over to families more sympathetic to the dictatorship. One of them was the grandson of Estela de Carlotto, president of Abuelas de Plaza de Mayo, a group that works to reunite families.



*Estela de Carlotto, president of human rights organization Abuelas de Plaza de Mayo (Grandmothers of Plaza de Mayo), attends the inauguration of a cultural center at the former ESMA navy school on the 38<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Argentina's 1976 military coup in Buenos Aires, on 24 March, 2014. —REUTERS*

Guido, now a 36-year-old musician, approached the Abuelas organization asking for a DNA test due to persistent questions about his true identity, the group

said. His adoptive name and other details of his current life have not yet been released.

The white-haired de Carlotto, beaming before

the television cameras, spoke of "enormous joy".

"Now I have all my 14 grandchildren with me. The empty seat is no longer empty," said de Carlotto, one of Argentina's best-known rights activists. "We still don't know the whole story," she said. "But he's a good guy. An artist. And it was he who looked for me!"

The kidnap victim's mother, Laura Carlotto, was murdered by government agents two months after giving birth to her son in a makeshift government jail. She intended to name him after her brother Guido. "It's a positive match. We have found my nephew," said Guido Carlotto, Estela's son, Laura's brother and secretary of Buenos Aires province's human rights agency. — Reuters

## China's police chief vows tough anti-terrorist measures

BEIJING, 6 Aug — China's minister of public security has pledged severe punishment and tough measures to crack down on terrorism.

Guo Shengkun, also a state councilor, made the remarks during an inspection tour between 1-4 August of northwest China's Xinjiang Uygur Autonomous Region following a rash of deadly terrorist attacks there. He called for improved intelligence collection, integrated prevention and control measures, and better early-warning and emergency response capabilities so as to leave no loopholes for terrorists to exploit.

Guo visited local police and residents in Shache County, where 37 civilians were killed and another 13 injured in a terrorist attack on 28 July. Police gunned down 59 terrorists and arrested 215 others.

The minister urged officials to keep a clear mind on the grave, complicated and pressing nature of the current fight against terrorism.

He asked local authorities to rely on people in the grassroots, and to ensure that preventive and control measures are carried out in every household in every village.

Xinhua



## WORLD

# US general dead, German general wounded in Afghan attack

KABUL, 6 Aug — A US general was killed and more than a dozen people were wounded on Tuesday, including a German general, in the latest insider attack by a man believed to be an Afghan soldier, US, German and Afghan officials said.

The US Army said late on Tuesday the slain general was Major General Harold Greene, a senior officer with the international military command ISAF. He was the most senior US military official killed in action overseas since the war in Vietnam, military

officials said.

"These soldiers were professionals, committed to the mission," US Army Chief of Staff Ray Odierno said in a statement, referring to the soldiers killed and wounded in the attack.

Pentagon spokesman Rear Admiral John Kirby

told reporters that "many were seriously wounded," and the gunman was killed in the attack, which took place on Tuesday at the Marshal Fahim National Defence University, a training centre in Kabul.

The attack raised fresh questions about the ability of NATO soldiers to train and advise Afghan security forces as western nations gradually withdraw. The US and German generals were on a routine visit, the Pentagon said.

A US official said the gunman fired on the foreign soldiers using a light machine gun. Afghanistan's Defence Ministry described him as a "terrorist in army uniform."

The German military said its general was one of 14 coalition troops wounded in Tuesday's attack, adding that his life was not in danger. Seven Americans and five British troops were among the wounded, an Afghan official said.

Past insider attacks have eroded trust while straining foreign efforts to train Afghanistan's 350,000-strong security force and prepare them to fight the Taliban once most US and NATO forces depart.

US Defence Secretary Chuck Hagel spoke by phone with General Joe Dunford, who commands US and international troops in Afghanistan, about the incident, Kirby said. He said the shooting was being investigated jointly by Afghan authorities and the international military coalition that is winding down its long mission in Afghanistan.

The Afghan president was quick to condemn the attack, saying the delegation had been visiting the facility to help build the country's security forces.

The Taliban says insider attacks reflect their ability to infiltrate the enemy. International military



**US Army Brigadier General Harold J Greene**

coalition officials say the incidents often arise over misunderstandings or altercations between troops.

US military officials said it was too soon to say whether the high-ranking officers had been specifically targeted by the shooter.

"We remain committed to our mission in Afghanistan and will continue to work with our Afghan partners to ensure the safety and security of all coalition soldiers and civilians," Odierno said.—Reuters



**Afghan National Army (ANA) soldiers keep watch at the gate of a British-run military training academy Camp Qargha, in Kabul on 5 Aug, 2014.—REUTERS**

## Putin to chair high-level Russian talks in Crimea, defying West

Moscow, 6 Aug — President Vladimir Putin, senior government officials and many lawmakers will visit Crimea next week, two sources told Reuters, in a defiant show of support for Russia's annexation of the Black Sea region despite tough new Western economic sanctions.

Russia annexed Crimea from Ukraine in March after pro-Western protesters in Kiev drove from power a president with close ties to Moscow. The West condemned the move and imposed visa bans and asset freezes on some senior Russian officials. Last week, after months of worsening tension, the United States and the European Union announced much tougher economic sanctions against Moscow over what they say is its support for pro-Russian separatists in eastern Ukraine.

A source from the pro-Kremlin United Russia party said most of the 450 lawmakers from the State Duma lower house of parliament were expected to join Putin and Prime Minister Dmitry Medvedev in Crimea for talks on 14 August. A Kremlin source confirmed plans for the trip but would not elaborate, while a Kremlin spokesman declined comment. A government spokeswoman also declined to comment when asked whether Medvedev would join Putin in Crimea.

"The main message (of the trip) is political, to show that Crimea is an integral part of Russia and that there's no turning back despite the sanctions," the United Russia source said, adding that all 450 Duma deputies were unlikely to make the trip since the parliament will be in recess. — Reuters

## Ukraine keeps up anti-rebel offensive with nervous eye on Russia

KIEV, 6 Aug — Ukrainian government forces, backed by warplanes, kept up a military offensive to claw back lost territory from pro-Russian separatists on Tuesday while casting a nervous eye at Russian military exercises over the border. Kiev's military said government forces had clashed 26 times with separatists in the Russian-speaking east in the 24 hours up to Tuesday morning, while fighter jets had struck at rebel positions and concentrations of military equipment.

But it acknowledged that separatist forces had pushed it out of Yasynuvata, a railway junction near the main rebel-controlled city of Donetsk that it seized from separatists on Sunday.

Tension rose further with Ukraine denouncing Russian war games near the joint border as a "provocation" and alleging violations of Ukrainian air space by Russian warplanes and drones, as well as cross-border shelling from Russia. Defence



**Members of Ukrainian self-defence battalion "Donbass" prepare to relocate to another base in the eastern Ukrainian town of Popasna on 4 Aug, 2014.**

REUTERS

officials said separatists had also opened fire on unarmed Ukrainian soldiers on Tuesday as they crossed back into Ukraine from Russia, where they had taken shelter from fighting.

Ukraine acknowledged on Monday that 311 soldiers and border guards had been forced by fighting with separatists to cross into Russia. It said they had destroyed their weapons before crossing the border, but the rebels said they had left them behind, enabling separatists to seize them. A military spokesman said there had been no casualties from the attack, though

he said three Ukrainian soldiers had been killed and 46 wounded in action against the separatists in the past 24 hours.

Government troops have been battling the rebels since April in a war in the Russian-speaking east in which the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights says more than 1,100 people including government forces, rebels and civilians have died.

Ukraine and its Western allies accuse Russia of orchestrating the revolt and arming the rebels — something denied by Moscow.

The United States and the European Union have imposed sanctions on Russia. Fighting has intensified since the shooting down of a Malaysian airliner last month, killing all 298 people on board — an act the West laid at the door of the rebels. Russia and the rebels blame the disaster on Kiev's military offensive. Ukrainian forces say they have been making steady gains and have virtually encircled the separatists' second-largest stronghold of Luhansk, while rebels have declared a "state of siege" in Donetsk, the largest city they hold.—Reuters



## PERSPECTIVES

Thursday, 7 August, 2014

## Effective policies more important than individual decision makers

By Aung Khin

**P**ragmatic and effective policy is more important for any organisation than the capacity of individuals. Success is not always an open sesame to an organisation without having a good long-term plan.

Many successful business organisations have strategic planning and well-adopted policies which are appropriate with any political situation and changing trends. Times are changing. A far-sighted company management can create a policy that will work in the long run even without the same managers.

Moreover, policies should be adopted by experts and those with professional expertise in the respective sector. If successive managements change policies one after another, it will be very difficult to acquire a stable implementation. Instead it is better for the new management to implement the long-term plan adopted by experts.

At the state-level, the policy of a country can be recognized as a political system of that country. A country with strong policies or a

political system will not easily deviate from its path as the policy or system has been formed on common ground.

Therefore, every organisation, institution or country needs capable leaders who can sustain the momentum of development in their country under any circumstances. It is not about individuals — egos should stay behind to ensure policy for sustainable development.

## 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](mailto:wallace.tun@gmail.com) with your name and title.

## The Visionary Leadership

Kyi Mun

(Continued from 5-8-2014)

## The Components of Visionary Leadership

- **V** = Vision, Values & Valiance
- **I** = Insight, Inspirational & innovative
- **C** = Character, Competence & Commitment
- **T** = Teacher, Tenacity & Tough-mindedness
- **O** = Open-minded, Opportunity-focused, Objectives-Driven
- **R** = Responsibility, Relationship & Resilience
- **I** = Ideas, Initiative, Incentives
- **O** = Organizer, Original, Optimist
- **U** = Understanding, Undaunted, Unity
- **S** = Strategy, Strengths & Success

## Five Leadership Practices Common to Successful Leaders and Ten Commitments:

## (A) Challenge the process :

- (1) Search for Opportunities
- (2) Experiment and Take Risks

## (B) Inspire a shared vision :

- (3) Envision the Future
- (4) Enlist Others

## (C) Enable others to act :

- (5) Foster Collaboration
- (6) Strengthen Others

## (D) Model the way:

- (7) Set the Example
- (8) Plan Small Wins

## (E) Encourage the heart :

- (9) Recognize Individual Contribution
- (10) Celebrate Accomplishments

Source : The Leadership Challenge by

James M. Kouzes and Barry Z. Posner.

## Visionary Leadership and Cultivating A Strategic Mindset

- What are the biggest challenges facing the organization ?
- What are the biggest opportunities my organization can exploit ?
- What can I do to help my organization overcome the challenges and exploit the opportunities ?

Ref : A Question of Leadership: What Does the Organization Need Me to Do ?

(The AMA Handbook of LEADERSHIP)

by M. Goldsmith, J. Baldone, Sara McArthur

## Characteristics of Transformational Leadership

- Builds on man's need for meaning
- Is preoccupied with purposes and values, morals, and ethics
- Transcends daily affairs

- Is oriented toward meeting long-term goals without compromising human values and principles
- Separates causes and symptoms and works at prevention
- Values profit as the basis of growth
- Is proactive, catalytic, and patient
- Focuses more on missions and strategies for achieving them
- Makes full use of human resources
- Identifies and develops new talent
- Recognizes and rewards significant contributions
- Designs and redesigns jobs to make them meaningful and challenging
- Releases human potential
- Models love
- Leads out in new directions
- Aligns internal structures and systems to reinforce overarching values and goals

Source : Principle-Centered Leadership by Stephen R. Covey

## Visionary Leadership's Attributes in Common

- Broad education
- Boundless curiosity
- Boundless enthusiasm
- Belief in people and teamwork
- Willingness to take risks
- Devotion to long-term growth rather than short term profit
- Commitment to excellence
- Readiness
- Virtue
- Vision

Source : On Becoming A Leader by Warren Bennis

## To A Transformational Leader

- \* God grant you **good judgment** in all you decide, **enough self-assurance** to take charge in stride,
- \* God bless you with **courage**, to help you **adjust**, make bright, new beginnings, and **do what you must**,
- \* God help and inspire you, to **be the best you**, and fill you **with happiness** all your life through.

Anonymous

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

## Letter to the Editor

## “Two thumbs up for Myanmar Railway”

For the last 6 months, I've been talking to about 100 tourists at Mahar Bandula Garden as well as on the streets. Mostly Europeans, Americans and Japanese. They all don't mind to pay admission fees to go to places like, Shwedagon, Bagan, Inlay and public parks. Everybody has to pay some kind of fees to go to places like Empire State building in New York, Eiffel Tower in Paris and Taj Mahal in India. What they do mind is that, they have to pay higher charges to take Expresses (long distant buses), ferries, trains, boats and flights. No other country in the world charges extra to tourists for taking public transportations. In those transportations, they do not get special treatments, yet they are overcharged as much as 7600 kts on one trip to Bagan. (10400 kts for locals and 18000 kts for tourists).

Bangkok, Thailand has reached 16 millions tourists in 2014 despite of political unrest. Myanmar is anticipating to reach 3 million by the end of this year. Can you imagine that one tourist

would spend \$1000 while he/she is here? It would be 3 billion dollars foreign income for our country in 2014, spreading from guest houses, hotels, to street vendors, gift shops, restaurants and taxi drivers.

Some tourists asked me about, who are benefited those extra charges? Private bus company owners? Or the government? These are the facts I learned from tourists, 1. Myanmar is much cleaner and safer than India. 2. Myanmar people are kind, helpful, friendly and respectful. 3. They all want to come back again or recommend their friends to visit Myanmar.

Myanmar Railway (MR) took the first step and charges the same fare to locals or tourists on any trips. I am so proud of you Myanmar Railway for doing the right thing. And now the question is....When will the rest of those follow the suit ? After all we need to make these tourists keep on coming in order to get foreign income, don't we? Thank you Myanmar Railway. Let's do what we can to boost the economy.

Tony Teng, graduated from Rangoon Arts and Science University in 1972 (B.Sc zoology), went to the United States and back to Myanmar after 40 years, to retire about 7 months ago.

## GOLD PRICE, FE RATE (6-8-2014)

## Yangon Gold Price

Buying K669,500 per tical: Selling K670,500

## Mandalay Gold Price

Buying K669,500 per tical: Selling K670,500

## FE RATE

USD Buying K970 - Selling K974.5

SGD Buying K776 - Selling K783

Euro Buying K1295 - Selling K1310



## ARTICLE

## The second last Myanmar capital city “Amarapura” Part II

*Maha Saddhamma Jotika dhaja*  
*Sithu Dr. Khin Maung Nyunt*

Amarapura reached the height of its glory and greatness under the rule of its founder Bodawpaya [Badon Min] who lived longest 75 years and reigned longest, 37 years among the kings of both early and late Konebaung dynasties. Having established his capital city [Naypyitaw], built his palace city and residing palace itself much to his full satisfaction, Bodawpaya turned to full absolute monarchy standard.

But he was under the guidance of his mentors-tutor Amatkyi U Paw U whom he raised to the rank of Mingyi Thettaw Shey [live long minister]. But in spite of many awards, rewards, titles and properties and munificences, the king showered upon him for his wisdom, prudence, diplomacy, statecraft and tactics in settling difficult and delicate affairs of the state, U Paw U never failed to point out any mistake or wrong doing when his pupil king committed knowingly or unknowingly.

A collected supplications of U Paw U to King Bodawpaya regarding the state affairs and other matters were recorded and compiled in book form entitled “U Paw U Shout Htone” or “Kawi They Htu Myitzu Kyan” by Mingyi Minhla Maha Uzana. We can gain a clear picture of “Amarapura” of that time by reading this book.

To illustrate Bodawpaya’s attempt to rule like an absolute monarch according to his whims and fancy, and Amatkyi U Paw U’s guide to control the king and steer him on the right path, we may cite four cases in this article:

The first case was that when the king issued his order to use 8 lakhs of silver from Thathameda Revenue for making an emerald studded gold cradle for his grandson baby Prince Nyaungyan. U Paw U strongly protested. His royal master

was very much angry and so he dismissed U Paw U and exiled him to Theinni and kept him under detention. U Paw U did not lose his heart. He composed six stanzas of ratu poems in which he expounded different kinds of revenue and their proper uses. Thathameda revenue should not be used for personal matters. He quoted the Law Book “Raja Kama Anuthathani”. After reading U Paw U’s six stanzas of ratu supplication King Bodawpaya realized his mistake and returned the 8 lakhs of silver to Thathameda revenue. He admired U Paw U’s honesty and faithful service, rising his rank and life, dared to point out his royal master’s mistake. U Paw U was recalled and reinstated.

The second case was when U Paw U summoned King Bodawpaya to appear in the Law Court for a lawsuit in a land demarcation dispute in which the king was indirectly involved. In the district of Ratanatheinkha [Shwebo] some land surveyors mistakenly included commoners’ lands in the list of royal lands, and when land demarcations were carried out, commoners’ lands were confiscated. Some peasants and farmers who were distant relatives of King Bodawpaya came to the Naypyitaw and lodged a complaint to the court. No judge dared take up this complaint because royal surveyors represented the king and thus the king himself was involved. At this juncture, U Paw U stepped in. He issued a summon to the king to appear at the court for defence. The king did not show up, but he ordered that the complaint should be thoroughly looked into and the case be settled according to the precedents. After careful and thorough examination of the complaint U Paw U returned the confiscated lands to their owners. In these two cases U Paw U made

it known to everyone that “no one is above the law. Even absolute King Bodawpaya was under the rule of law.”

The third case was U Paw U’s settlement of Chinese merchants’ complaint and demand for compensation. Since the conclusion of the Sino-Myanmar wars in the time of King Hsinbyushin the Peace Treaty bilaterally signed required to exchange gifts and diplomatic missions every ten years, between the two kingdoms. The happy results of this treaty was that border trade prospered and the two countries faithfully carried out their exchanges of de-monial missions. One Chinese trade delegation with hordes of mules and caravans carrying merchandizes came to Myanmar from Yunnan Province. Near Mataya, or a town in the district of Mandalay they were looted by some highway men who fled into the forest. The Chinese merchants made a complaint to Bodawpaya and asked for compensation for their losses, and the capture and surrender of the looters. Bodawpaya ordered U Paw U to see to this case and settle it appropriately.

U Paw U received the Chinese delegation at the court and accorded them with due diplomatic treatment. After hearing their complaint and demand for compensation and surrender of the looters, he obliged them by repeatedly saying that all their demands be complied with and the matter would be settled fairly since the two countries were close neighbours and friendship was long lasting since ancient times. He asked the total value of their losses, including the value of their rice bowls, crockery and chopsticks which Myanmar side was ready to compensate.

Then U Paw U said to the Chinese delegates that two palace buildings were destroyed by fire which broke out at a Chinese restaurant owned by a Chinese named Shwe Kyi who had escaped for

fear of arrest. Since the two countries were friendly they should be mutual and reciprocal in their relations. The Chinese side should pay the compensation for the destruction of the two palace buildings by fire caused by the China-man Shwe Kyi and capture and surrender of Shwe Kyi. Myanmar side would meet all demands of the Chinese side. That would be a fair deal and proof of Paukphaw [Chinese]-Myanmar friendly relations on the basis of reciprocity whereupon the Chinese delegation put up to their government what U Paw U proposed.

The Yunnan Government told the Chinese delegates that the compensation for the fire destroyed palace buildings was manifold higher than the compensation for their looted properties and the capture and surrender of Chinaman Shwe Kyi was not easy, as he was at large. So Yunnan Government ordered the Chinese delegates to withdraw their complaint and close the case. U Paw U willingly accepted when the Chinese closed the case and told them that Myanmar side also withdraw the demand for compensation for the fire-destroyed the two palace buildings, and capture and surrender of Shwe Kyi, on the principle of friendship, reciprocity and Paukphaw Myanmar relation.

The fourth case proved for more skilful and correct timing of U Paw U’s diplomacy and tells us the court custom of Amarapura of Bodawpaya’s time. One day in mid-monsoon season, a sudden gust of wind blew down the two white umbrellas on either side of Sihasana Throne [Lion Throne] in the main assembly hall of the palace. The fall of white umbrella is taken as an ill omen predicting the downfall of the ruling king. So guards were always on duty to protect them. But that unfortunate event of the blowing down of the two white umbrellas must be

reported to the king. Who would do it? It was the “les majeste” of a sort. U Paw U was approached. He promised to report it to the king without trouble, given an appropriate time and favourable circumstances.

At one late evening royal audience, many state affairs were reported, discussed and resolved. It was a long and boring meeting. About midnight, everyone, including the king grew tired and drowsy. As the king was about to close the audience, U Paw U raised his voice with urgent tone saying that he had one very important matter to report to His Majesty. The king and the whole court turned to him with tense attention.

U Paw U began describing the unruly monsoon weather and the might and main and glory of King Bodawpaya at length. Then he told the story of the arrival of the wind god to the palace to pay homage to the king and in the darkness the wind god inadvertently knocked down the two white umbrellas in the Sihasana Throne Room. The wind god came to him to apologize to the king on his behalf.”

“Oh, Amatkyi U Paw U, your report lasted nearly an hour with your eloquent story-telling. It is already past midnight. Everyone and myself want to sleep. If the white umbrella fell down, just put them up. I announce this royal audience is close.”

Time, place and circumstances well chosen by U Paw U for reporting to the king such a serious les majeste case, without harm and trouble was indeed a diplomatic tour de force.

We can sketch the daily court life of Amarapura capital city by reading his “Shout Htone”. There are many cases of U Paw U’s prudence, skill, eloquence, statecraft, humour and jokes. His answers to royal questions, his reports and supplications, his decisions and settlements and his wise prompt responses

to the situations were recorded by court dispatchers and chroniclers. After serving three royal masters he passed away peacefully at the ripe age of 79 years.

As instructed by him, his surviving family members put his dead body in a coffin with two holes through which his two open hands were stretched out. His last royal master King Shwebo Min, who came to pay his last respect to his adviser, on seeing the funny position of his dead body, thought that the court jester U Paw U remains a jester in death. But Sasanabaing Sayadaw Head Monk explained to the king that “Amatkyi U Paw U was giving us “a dhamma lesson”. “When we die, we can take nothing in our hands!”

We can see U Paw U’s tomb in Amarapura. There is a middle size pagoda known as “U Paw U Phaya” near Tantze town near Shwebo. It is not guilt but copper plated.

Not only U Paw U’s “Shout Htone” depicted the court life of Amarapura, but also in the contemporary writings of Myanmar poets and chronicles Amarapura under five rulers – Bodawpaya, Bagyidaw, Thawawaddy, Bagan and Mindon was described and depicted. As Amarapura was the power house of five Koneboun kings as well as the commercial centre of the kingdom, envoys and merchants from east, southeast Asia and west came to present credentials to the king and to transact business. They left wonderful accounts of what they witnessed and experienced in Amarapura in their diaries and reports with illustrations of ink sketches. Christian missionaries, especially of Barnabite Order received special royal favour of free entry to the palace and closer interview with His Majesty. They wrote accounts of their long mission in Amarapura.

The next instalment of this article will give our readers the picture of Amarapura gleaned from their writings.



# Ceasefire agreed in Lebanese border town battle



*Lebanese army soldiers on armoured carriers and military vehicles advance towards the Sunni Muslim border town of Arsal, in eastern Bekaa Valley as part of reinforcements on 5 Aug, 2014.— REUTERS*

BEIRUT, 6 Aug — The Lebanese army and Islamist militants agreed a 24-hour ceasefire on Tuesday after four days of fighting triggered by the rebels' seizure of a border town, in the most serious spillover of Syria's three-year civil war into Lebanon.

A security source said the ceasefire would allow time for a mediator to in-

vestigate the fate of 22 soldiers missing since the militants seized the town of Arsal on Saturday and to help evacuate civilians, including those wounded in the conflict. "It is like a humanitarian ceasefire," he told *Reuters*. The ceasefire, which came into force at 7 pm (12:00 pm EDT), was broken briefly late in the evening when an army po-

sition came under fire but calm quickly returned, the source added.

"Clashes erupted but now they have ended. The ceasefire is still on, it did not collapse. What happened was to be expected due to differences between the fighters," he said.

The source said the militants had suffered big losses in the fighting,

adding he expected them to leave Arsal before the ceasefire had ended.

The militants have been identified by officials as members of the Nusra Front, al-Qaeda's branch in Syria, and of the Islamic State, which has seized large areas of Iraq and Syria.

Rebel sources told *Reuters* several members of the Islamic State had been killed in the Arsal fighting, including senior leader Abu Hassan al-Homsi, who had been in charge of setting up booby traps and explosions. Another leader of Jordanian origin was also killed in the fighting, the rebel sources said.

At least 17 Lebanese soldiers have been killed in the last few days of violence in and around Arsal, though there has been no sign of the conflict spreading to other border towns.

It is unclear how many militants and civilians have been killed, though death tolls given by security officials and a doctor indicate it is in the dozens.

*Reuters*

# Dutch firm Fugro to lead search for MH370 off Australia



*A woman writes a message on a dedication board for the victims of the downed Malaysia Airlines Flight MH17 airliner and the missing Flight MH370, in Subang Jaya outside Kuala Lumpur on 23 July, 2014. REUTERS*

SYDNEY, 6 Aug — Dutch engineering firm Fugro will lead the search of the Indian Ocean seafloor where missing Malaysia Airlines Flight MH370 is believed to have crashed, hoping to unlock the greatest mystery in modern aviation.

Australia on Wednesday awarded Fugro the lead commercial contract for the search, after months of hunting by up to two dozen countries revealed no trace of the missing *Boeing 777*.

The jetliner, carrying 239 passengers and crew, disappeared on 8 March shortly after taking off from Kuala Lumpur bound for Beijing.

Investigators say what little evidence they have to work with suggests the aeroplane was deliberately diverted thousands of kilometres before eventually crashing into the Indian Ocean off the coast of Western Australia.

The next phase of the search is expected to start within a month and take up to a year, focussing on a 60,000 sq km (23,000 square miles) patch of ocean some 1,600 km (1,000 miles) west of Perth.

Australian Transport Minister and Deputy Prime Minister Warren Truss said Fugro was selected after "offering the best value-for-money technical solution" for the seafloor search.

"I remain cautiously optimistic that we will locate the missing aircraft within the priority search area," he told reporters in Canberra.

Fugro will use two vessels equipped with towed deep water vehicles carrying side scan sonar, multi beam echo sounders

and video cameras to scour the seafloor, which is close to 5,000 m (16,400 ft) deep in places.

The Dutch company is already conducting a detailed underwater mapping of the search area, along with a Chinese naval vessel. "We haven't completed the mapping, so we are still discovering detailed features that we had no knowledge of, underwater volcanoes and various other things," said Martin Dolan, the head of the Australian Transport Safety Board, which is heading the search.

"We are finding some surprises as we go through."

Malaysia will provide four vessels and gear to aid seafloor mapping and the search of the storm-lashed and isolated area.

Truss said he would talk to his Malaysian counterpart later this month about sharing search costs. Australia has set aside up to A\$90 million (£49.6 million) and estimates a 12-month search of the area will cost around A\$52 million.

The search is already the most expensive ever undertaken.

China, which had 153 nationals on board MH370, has been heavily involved, providing ships, aircraft and satellite technology. One Chinese vessel will stay in the search area until mid-September, but Truss said China had shown no sign that it would cover any of the commercial search costs.

Dozens of ships and planes scoured vast areas of ocean in the months after the plane disappeared but found only rubbish.

*Reuters*

# Spying case heightens China-Canada tensions, reflects split in Ottawa

OTTAWA, 6 Aug — China's decision to investigate two Canadians for suspected spying highlights a sharp and unexpected deterioration in bilateral ties just months ahead of a trip by Canada's Prime Minister Stephen Harper to Beijing.

The detention of the couple, long-time residents in China who ran a coffee shop on the border with North Korea, could also make life tougher for the small group of Canadian government ministers who favour closer economic links with Beijing.

Chinese authorities are investigating the couple - Kevin Garratt and his wife Julia Dawn Garratt — for suspected theft of military and intelligence information and for threatening national security.

The detention came less than a week after Canada accused Chinese hackers of breaking into a key computer network, the first time it has ever singled out China for such a security breach. Beijing dismissed the allegations as "irresponsible." The two incidents look set to overshadow a visit by Harper to Beijing in November for a regional summit which could include a first meeting with China's President Xi Jinping.

Since taking power in early 2006, Canada's right-leaning Conservatives have adopted an inconsistent policy on China, reflecting splits between pro-business members and social conservatives who are suspicious of Beijing. "There is a deep division within caucus and within cabinet on how to respond ... there is a clear battle," said Paul Evans, a professor at the University of British Columbia and one of Canada's leading experts on China.

Evans said attempts by the cabinet to agree on a China strategy had failed in recent years.

An official in Harper's office declined to comment, saying merely that "we have a frank and mature dialogue on a variety of levels with the Chinese". Social conservatives are influential in the Western oil-rich province of



*Canada's Kevin Garratt (L), his wife Julia Dawn Garratt (2nd L) and his son Simeon (R) pose for a picture with his daughter Hannah during her graduation, in this undated handout provided to Reuters by Simeon.—REUTERS*

Alberta, which attracts around 80 percent of total Chinese energy investment.

The unofficial leader is Employment Minister Jason Kenney, who party officials say is very cautious about getting too close to China.

Government sources say Kenney is opposed inside cabinet by members such as Foreign Minister John Baird and Trade Minister Ed Fast, who favor more investment by China to boost a flagging Canadian economy.

"Some ministers are for, some are against, while the majority are wary," one veteran Conservative told *Reuters*. "Certainly no one is going to stand up right now and talk about the need for closer ties with China." — *Reuters*



## HEALTH &amp; BUSINESS

# Asia shares worn away by Wall St, oil near nine-month low

SYDNEY, 6 Aug — Asian stocks fell broadly on Wednesday while the US dollar held firm after a slump on Wall Street and tensions over Ukraine smothered markets with a mood of risk aversion.

Geopolitical concerns overshadowed upbeat US economic data which included a spike in service-sector activity to a nine-year peak and a surprisingly large increase in factory orders.

Yet there was potentially positive news for the global economic outlook as oil prices continued their slide, with Brent crude hitting its lowest in nine months. Higher energy prices essentially act as a tax on consumers and businesses, so the drop should give a fillip to spending power and demand.

For now, the drag from Wall Street was too much for regional markets and MSCI's broadest index of Asia-Pacific shares outside Japan slipped 0.4 percent.

Europe also looked like opening down, with spreadbetters predicting losses of between 0.7 per-



A woman holding her mobile phone walks past an electronic board showing Japan's Nikkei average outside a brokerage in Tokyo on 2 June, 2014. —REUTERS

cent and 1 percent for the FTSE 100, DAX and CAC 40.

German industrial orders posted their biggest monthly fall since September 2011 in June as geopolitical developments and risks made companies more cautious about taking out contracts, data from the Economy Ministry showed on Wednesday. In China, the CSI300 of the leading Shanghai and Shenzhen A-share pared its early losses to be down 0.2 per-

cent. Japan's Topix gave up 0.97 percent, while the Nikkei fell 1 percent. Index heavyweight SoftBank slid 3.6 percent on reports its US subsidiary Sprint had dropped a bid to acquire No 4 US carrier T-Mobile because of regulatory hurdles.

Sprint's shares slid 11 percent after hours, while T-Mobile Inc lost 8 percent. In another failed bid, Twenty-First Century Fox, the media company controlled by Rupert Murdoch,

said it had withdrawn its offer to buy Time Warner Inc.

Shares of Fox jumped, gaining 8.6 percent in after-hours action, while Time Warner shares fell over 11 percent.

The Dow had already dropped 0.84 percent on Tuesday, while the S&P 500 lost 0.97 percent and the Nasdaq 0.71 percent. All 10 S&P 500 sectors ended lower, led by a 2.1 percent drop in energy stocks. — Reuters

## Midlife high blood pressure tied to later-life mental decline

NEW YORK, 6 Aug — People with high blood pressure in middle age are more likely to experience cognitive decline — a common precursor of dementia — in their 70s and 80s, according to new research.

The US study spanning 20 years found steeper mental decline at the end of that period among people who started out with hypertension or even slightly elevated blood pressure — so-called prehypertension — in their 50s and 60s.

These new results strengthen a link experts already knew about, lead author Dr Rebecca F Gottesman told Reuters Health. High blood pressure has been tied to an increased risk of stroke and dementia in other studies.

"Basically the amount of decline we see associated with hypertension is pretty modest, but this amount is equivalent to being 2.7 years older at the start compared to not having it," noted Gottesman, from the neurology department at Johns Hopkins University School of Medicine in Baltimore, Maryland.

"Even having prehy-

pertension, which often isn't treated, was associated with some cognitive decline," Gottesman said.

She and her team used blood pressure and mental performance data from the early 1990s for over 13,000 adults between ages 48 and 67 years old. More than 5,000 remained alive and available for more testing between 2011 and 2013.

After the first round of mental tests and blood pressure readings in 1990-1992, the verbal, memory and math tests were administered two more times, in 1996-1998 and in 2011-2013.

Researchers divided the participants into three groups. Those with a reading of less than 120 millimeters of mercury (mm Hg) systolic and 80 mm Hg diastolic during the early-90s measurements were considered to have normal blood pressure. Those with blood pressure up to 139/89 mm Hg were considered to have prehypertension. Anyone above that reading and those with a prescription for antihypertensive medication were considered to have high blood pressure. — Reuters

## Second Ebola patient wheeled into Atlanta hospital for treatment

ATLANTA, 6 Aug — An American missionary stricken with Ebola in West Africa wore a protective white suit on Tuesday as she was wheeled on a stretcher into the Atlanta hospital where doctors will try to save her and a fellow aid worker from the deadly virus. Nancy Writebol, 59, arrived in the United States after being flown overnight from Liberia and will be treated by infectious disease specialists at Emory University Hospital, according to Christian mis-

sionary group SIM USA.

She will be in the same isolation ward as Kent Brantly, 33, an Ebola-infected American doctor who was able to walk into the hospital when he arrived by ambulance on Saturday.

The pair, who served on a joint team in Monrovia run by Christian aid groups SIM USA and Samaritan's Purse, are believed to be the first Ebola patients treated in the United States.

"We are tremendously relieved that our mother is

back in the US," Jeremy Writebol, one of the missionary's two sons, said in a statement.

Health officials have said the virus does not pose a significant threat to the American public.

There is no proven cure for the contagious hemorrhagic disease, which has killed nearly 900 people in Africa since February in the worst Ebola outbreak on record. The death rate in the current epidemic is about 60 percent, experts say. — Reuters



Medical workers roll patient Nancy Writebol into Emory University Hospital in Atlanta Georgia, on 5 Aug, 2014. —REUTERS

## UK shop prices fall in July at fastest rate since 2006

LONDON, 6 Aug — Prices in British shops fell last month at the fastest rate since records began seven-and-a-half years ago, the British Retail Consortium said on Wednesday, marking 15 months of sinking prices.

The BRC said retail prices in July were 1.9 percent lower than a year earlier, marking the largest decline in shop prices since the series started in December 2006. Prices had fallen by 1.8 percent in June.

Food prices rose just 0.3 percent, also the smallest rise on record, compared with 0.6 percent in the previous month. The BRC said there was deep and widespread discounting across grocery stores.

Prices for furniture, electrical goods and gardening tools fell at a faster rate in July, the BRC said.

"Against a backdrop of stable commodity markets, the stronger sterling making imports cheaper and wavering retail spending, current levels of deflation are expected to continue,"



Customers shop for vegetables at a Tesco Extra supermarket in Watford, north of London on 8 Aug, 2013. —REUTERS

said Helen Dickinson, the BRC's director general.

Official data last month showed consumer price inflation (CPI) increased to 1.9 percent in June, just below the Bank of England's 2 percent target, although economists said the rise was driven by one-off factors.

CPI measures a wider basket of goods and services than the BRC index, which covers 500 products commonly bought in shops.

Business surveys over the last week showed price

pressures were muted in services and manufacturing companies that comprise the bulk of Britain's economy.

The BRC said recent announcements from major supermarkets suggested shop price inflation would stay weak for the coming months.

Britain's four biggest grocers — Tesco, Sainsbury's, Morrisons and Wal-Mart's Asda — have been trying to win back market share that they have lost to discounters like Aldi and Lidl. — Reuters



# Japan's nuclear restart may be delayed until 2015



*Kyushu Electric Power's Sendai nuclear power plant is seen in Satsumasendai, Kagoshima prefecture on 3 April, 2014.—REUTERS*

TOKYO, 6 Aug — The long-awaited restart of Japan's nuclear power plants is facing yet another setback and may be delayed until 2015, Japanese media said on Wednesday, piling pressure on struggling utilities to push for fresh price hikes.

Kyushu Electric Power's two-reactor Sendai plant, located about 1,000 km (600 miles) southwest of Tokyo, is likely to be the first nuclear plant to be allowed to restart under tough new safety regulations after the 2011 Fukushima crisis.

The Sendai plant cleared the Nuclear Regu-

lation Authority's (NRA) initial safety hurdle last month, but the utility was supposed to hand in additional, detailed paperwork on specific safety features at the site and how they planned to construct them.

Japan's public broadcaster NHK and other media said that Kyushu Electric said documentation issues meant final deliberations on the restart would be pushed back by the regulator, delaying the restart until after winter.

A Kyushu Electric spokeswoman said that the company does not have a timeline for starting up the reactors and confirmed

comments by an executive that submission of additional documents may be delayed until late September or even October.

"We have been saying that we cannot say when the (restart) will be," the spokesman said.

The utility has said that restarting the two Sendai reactors would cut its fossil fuel purchases by 200 billion yen over a year.

Even after final approval by the nuclear regulator, Japan has said it will defer any final decision on restarting reactors to the local prefecture and host community where the plants are based.

All 48 of Japan's nuclear reactors were gradually taken offline and remain idled after an earthquake and tsunami set off a nuclear crisis at the Fukushima Daiichi plant in March, 2011. Their shutdown has forced utilities to import record amounts of liquefied natural gas and coal to run power stations.

Japan's electric utilities have racked up more than \$34 billion in losses in the three years since the disaster. Kyushu Electric, which reported a 41 billion yen (\$400 million) quarterly loss last Thursday following three annual losses, has received a government bailout this year.

Struggling utilities have sought to shore up finances by raising electricity prices and a delay in restarting Kyushu's Sendai plant may force the utility to also seek price hikes.

Hokkaido Electric Power, which also received a government bailout earlier this year, has requested government approval to raise household electricity rates by at least 17 percent from October.

Shares in Kyushu Electric were down 3 percent to 1,127 yen during morning trade, compared to the 0.8 percent slip in Tokyo's Nikkei benchmark index.—Reuters

# Moscow may force European airlines to fly around Russia

MOSCOW, 6 Aug — Russian Prime Minister Dmitry Medvedev threatened on Tuesday to retaliate for the grounding of a subsidiary of national airline Aeroflot because of EU sanctions, with one newspaper reporting that European flights to Asia over Siberia could be banned.

Low-cost carrier Dobrolyot, operated by Aeroflot, suspended all flights last week after its airline leasing agreement was cancelled under European Union sanctions because it flies to Crimea, a region Russia annexed from Ukraine in March.

"We should discuss possible retaliation," Medvedev said at a meet-

ing with the Russian transport minister and a deputy chief executive of Aeroflot.

The business daily *Vedomosti* reported that Russia may restrict or ban European airlines from flying over Siberia on Asian routes, a move that would impose costs on European carriers by making flights take longer and require more fuel.

*Vedomosti* quoted unnamed sources as saying the foreign and transport ministries were discussing the action, which would put European carriers at a disadvantage to Asian rivals but would also cost Russia money it collects in overflight fees.

Reuters



*Russia's Prime Minister Dmitry Medvedev chairs a government meeting in Moscow on 17 July, 2014. REUTERS*

# US-Africa summit garners over \$17 billion in investment pledges

WASHINGTON, 6 Aug — African leaders on Tuesday called for a deeper economic relationship with the United States, hailing investment pledges totalling more than \$17 billion (£13.47 billion) at a Washington summit as a fresh step in the right direction.

US and African companies and the World Bank pledged new investment in construction, energy and information technology projects in Africa at the US-Africa Business Forum, including several joint ventures between US and African partners.

"The United States is determined to be a partner in Africa's success," President Barack Obama said in a speech at the forum. "A good partner, an equal partner, and a partner for the

long term."

The US president also urged African officials to create conditions to support foreign investment and growth.

"Capital is one thing, development programmes and projects are one thing, but rule of law, regulatory reforms, good governance, those things matter even more," he said.

African leaders said they were optimistic of becoming full partners in a relationship worth an estimated \$85 billion a year in trade flows, as US business leaders eyed opportunities in the region, home to six of the world's 10 fastest-growing economies — even if they might be late to the party.

"We gave it to the Europeans first and to the Chinese later, but today it's



*US President Barack Obama (R) sits for an onstage interview with entrepreneur Takunda Ralph Michael Chingonzo (L), of Zimbabwe, during the US-Africa Business Forum in Washington on 5 Aug, 2014.—REUTERS*

wide open for us," said the chief executive of General Electric Co, Jeff Immelt, who on Monday announced

\$2 billion to boost infrastructure, worker skills and access to energy.

Tanzanian President

Jakaya Kikwete said Africa wanted to move away from a relationship of "aid donor and aid recipient" to one of

investment and trade.

Kikwete told the forum that with Obama and senior officials encouraging the business community "to take Africa seriously, I think this time we will make it."

More than 90 US companies participated in the forum, part of a three-day summit which has brought almost 50 African leaders to the US capital, including Chevron Corp <CVX.N, Citigroup Inc, Ford Motor Co, Lockheed Martin Corp, Marriott International Inc and Morgan Stanley. Many already have a foothold in the region, which is expected to have a larger work force than China or India by 2040 and boasts the world's fastest-growing middle class, supporting demand for consumable goods.

Reuters



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## CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

### MV SINGAPORE BRIDGE VOY NO (074)

Consignees of cargo carried on MV SINGAPORE BRIDGE VOY NO (074) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 7.8.2014 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of H.P.T where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

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**MYANMA PORT AUTHORITY**

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## Johnny Depp to feature on new Bob Dylan album



Johnny Depp

LONDON, 6 Aug — Superstar Johnny Depp will appear on a new album based on Bob Dylan's 'lost' lyrics. 'Lost On The River: The New Basement Tapes' is the result of Dylan handing a collection of unused songs over to producer T-Bone Burnett to find a use for, reported Digital Spy.

Marcus Mumford of Mumford & Sons, Elvis Costello, Jim James of My Morning Jacket, Rhiannon Giddens of the Carolina Chocolate Drops and Taylor Goldsmith of Dawes will all feature on the album. Depp, 51, will appear on the record, playing guitar on the track 'Kansas City' — something which occurred when Costello was unable to make a recording session due to a show.

Last month, Depp made a cameo appearance in Paul McCartney's music video for 'Early Days'. — PTI

## Jessica Alba feels confident in her shape



Jessica Alba

LOS ANGELES, 6 Aug — Actress Jessica Alba says she finally feels comfortable with her body and does not shy away from donning a bold avatar on screen.

The 'Sin City: A Dame to Kill For' star, who has two children with husband Cash Warren, said she never used to feel at ease starring in raunchy film roles, but is now confident about herself, reported E! Online. "I just have an ownership of my body and of myself as a woman that I didn't really have before. I was such a tomboy, and I would always kinda like try and do role-playing to try and do these sexy things, but now I'm very much woman."

"I know who I am, I'm confident in my sexuality and now it's not so much of a departure from myself when I have to do photo shoots or play a character," the 33-year-old actress said. — PTI

## Taylor Swift sings for young cancer patient



Country singer Taylor Swift

LOS ANGELES, 6 Aug — Country singer Taylor Swift surprised a young cancer patient by meeting him and singing her popular break-up song 'We are never ever getting back together'. Jordon Lee Nickerson, 6, who suffers from the rare Williams

Syndore, was diagnosed with leukemia last month, reported *People* magazine.

Swift stopped by the Boston Children's Hospital to cheer up her little fan, serenading him with her song and later sharing a game of air hockey. "I know you always sing

songs for people," a wide-eyed Jordan told Swift at the beginning of her visit. "I do, I love singing songs for people, but I want to sing a song for you more than all the other people," she responded. "Thank you!" he said, laughing. "Let's do it!" — PTI

## Will.i.am working on new Rita Ora album

LONDON, 6 Aug — Singer Rita Ora has been working with will.i.am on her one of the upcoming albums. The 23-year-old singer posted a picture from the recording studio on Instagram along with the caption, "Last night. What we cooking up in here!! So excited @iamwill."

will.i.am helped to produce Ora's debut record Ora back in 2012 as well as featuring on album track 'Fall In Love'. The rapper-producer joins the list of stars Ora has previously mentioned working with ahead of the new release, including Jay Z, Calvin Harris and Prince.

Her second studio album is due for release later this year. — PTI



Rita Ora's

## Rani Mukerji bats for martial arts training for girls in school

MUMBAI, 6 Aug — Actress Rani Mukerji, who is playing a tough cop in her upcoming film 'Mardaani', feels martial arts training to girls in schools should be made compulsory.

The newly married actress said it will help them to protect their honour.

"There is a need for women power to come forward in all the fields.... Girl students, who are symbolic

of shakti, should be given martial arts training besides their regular studies so that they can protect their pride and honour", Rani said while promoting the film here.

Rani, 36, believes that all the women in the country should have a reflection of Rani Lakshmibai, who was the queen of Jhansi, so that they can strongly face each and every problem coming their way.

In 'Mardaani', which will hit theatres on 22 August, her character of strong police officer wants every individual to think that his wife, daughter and sister should also be like her.

She also visited the historical Jhansi fort, ISKON temple, which was set up on the property donated by her family, besides meeting her relatives before leaving for Mumbai. — PTI





## GENERAL

# Nike has most Europe football deals, Adidas the most lucrative

BERLIN, 6 Aug — US sportswear group Nike will supply shirts to more teams in the top five European football leagues this season than Adidas, but the German firm has cornered the most lucrative clubs, a study showed on Wednesday.

Sports marketing research group Repucom said Nike had outpaced Adidas in Europe for the first time since the 2009/10 season to supply 26 of the region's top clubs, up five compared with last year. Adidas is supplying 18, down four from last year.

Although it has been a serious player in football only since 1994, Nike is now threatening Adidas's leadership in the sport. At the World Cup in Brazil, it supplied more teams for the first time and put its boots on more than half the players. Nike is ahead of Adidas in four of the five top European leagues.

The exception is the English Premier League, the most lucrative with more than 5 million shirts sold last season. Adidas has five English Premier sides, including Chelsea, compared with four for German rival Puma and three for Nike.

"Whilst Nike looks to



People walks past a Nike shop under the company logo at the Sanlitun shopping area in central Beijing, on 8 Aug, 2013.—REUTERS

maximise the number of teams it supplies, Adidas is going for the most popular, most followed and ultimately biggest selling clubs in the world," Repucom football expert Andrew Walsh said.

Nike has signed more top teams in Spain, Germany, France and Italy, a total of 23, compared with 13 for Adidas and five for Puma. Repucom said 3 million Spanish club shirts were sold last season, compared with 2.3 million for the Bundesliga and about 1.2 million in each of the top leagues in France and Italy.

"Adidas and Nike, with Puma in third place, have managed to keep a good headlock on the market," Walsh said, noting that US brand Under Armour had not managed to sign another top side after English Premier club Tottenham Hotspur.

Adidas last month struck a record \$1.3 billion (£770.21 million) shirt deal with Manchester United to oust Nike from the former English champions from the 2015/16 season, and it will also replace Nike at Italian champions Juventus next year.

Adidas expects record football sales of \$2.7 billion in 2014, topping the \$2.3 billion Nike reported for its financial year to end-May. While the periods are not directly comparable, Nike has suggested the US company could exceed the Adidas figure for 2014 in its 2014/15 financial year.

Puma, the world's no. 3 sportswear firm, has replaced Nike as the kit supplier at Arsenal from this season as part of a strategy to restore a reputation for performance gear after it shifted too far into fashion.

Reuters

## MYANMAR TV

(7-8-2014, Thursday)

- 6:00 am**
  - \* Paritta by Venerable Mingun Sayadaw
- 6:30 am**
  - \* Physical Exercise
- 8:30 am**
  - \* TV Drama Series
- 9:00 am**
  - \* News/International News
- 9:30 am**
  - \* Shwe Yin Chone Than
- 10:00 am**
  - \* News
- 10:20 am**
  - \* TV Drama Series
- 11:00 am**
  - \* Documentary
- 1:20 pm**
  - \* Joint Performance by State Orchestra and State Traditional Orchestra
- 1:40 pm**
  - \* Documentary
- 2:00 pm**
  - \* Musical Programme
- 3:20 pm**
  - \* Teleplay
- 4:00 pm**
  - \* News
- 4:15 pm**
  - \* Mono Classical Songs
- 4:35 pm**
  - \* University of Distance Education (TV Lectures) -Second Year (English)
- 5:00 pm**
  - \* News
- 6:20 pm**
  - \* Documentary
- 7:15 pm**
  - \* TV Drama Series
- 8:00 pm**
  - \* News/International News/Weather Report
- 8:35 pm**
  - \* Current Affairs
- 9:00 pm**
  - \* News
  - \* CLEVER
  - \* Teleplay

## MYANMAR INTERNATIONAL

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

- \* Local News
- \* Youth of the Future "Puppet"
- \* World News
- \* Myanmar Master-class: Contemporary Art
- \* Local News
- \* The Stories of The Great Souls (Daw Saw Mone Nyin-A Living Literary Legend of Myanmar)
- \* World News
- \* Made in Myanmar "Mixxo"
- \* Local News
- \* Natural Mineral Water
- \* World News
- \* Kyeikhteeyoe: Welcome All
- \* Local News
- \* Rakhine Land: Rakhine Tourist Area
- \* World News
- \* Writer
- \* Local News
- \* Myanmar Delicate Artistic Handy Creations-Lacquaware Making
- \* In the Studio: Sunee
- \* Local News
- \* Myanmar Iconic Person...: A Night of Dancing With Phoe Chit
- \* World News
- \* Cultural Shows: Theatrical Art
- \* Local News
- \* Jeyyanandi (A Day in the Life of a Nun)
- \* World News
- \* Culture Shows: Composer Ma Mya Lay
- \* Local News
- \* Martial Arts: Moving Meditation (Aikido)
- \* World News
- \* Lucrative Myanmar Rattan Industry

## New Scrabble dictionary picks up the language of the millennials



The word recession, made from letters of a scrabble game, is seen in this illustration picture taken in Ljubljana on 15 Nov, 2012.—REUTERS

LONDON, 6 Aug — Young players of the classic word game Scrabble, perhaps disenfranchised by its decade-old lexicon, can "chillax" now that this multi-generational favourite is being updated to speak the language of the millennials.

The fifth edition of the Official Scrabble Players

Dictionary, published by Merriam-Webster, goes on sale Wednesday and includes 5,000 new words that editors say will help the 66-year-old game stay relevant.

Some older players and Scrabble purists might find the inclusion of words like "bromance" and "selfie"

to be a "buzzkill" because some of the additions seem so fresh.

But most of the additions are likely to be long-studied and time-tested, with obvious staying power, said Grant Barrett, a San Diego dictionary editor and co-host of the nationwide public radio show "A

Way with Words."

"The list is, to me, a great step forward," Barrett said. "I think you've got to add the new words. Otherwise you risk this turning into an archaic game that nobody wants to play because the daily language isn't accepted there. It's got to keep up."

The publishing house this week released a sample of the new words, which add 30 pages to the dictionary last updated 10 years ago.

In addition to "bromance," "chillax," "selfie" and "buzzkill," the list includes terms like "hashtag," commonly used with Twitter; "dubstep," an electronic dance music that has gained popularity in the past few years; "texter," referring to one who texts; and "meh," an expression of ambivalence used on social media and in text messaging.

Reuters

## Ecclestone trial halted after F1 boss agrees to \$100 million settlement

BERLIN, 6 Aug — A German court on Tuesday halted a bribery trial against Bernie Ecclestone in exchange for his paying a \$100 million fee, under the terms of a settlement struck agreed by prosecutors and the chief executive of Formula One.

Such an agreement is possible in German law, depending on the charges. It means the 83-year-old Ecclestone preserves his innocence and is spared the prospect of a lengthy trial.

Judge Peter Noll told the court the suspicion of bribery against Ecclestone could not, by and large, be backed up in a trial. He gave Ecclestone one week to pay \$100 million - \$99 million to the state and \$1 million to a children's charity.

"The trial is temporary

ily suspended until you've honored your commitments and then it'll be permanently discontinued," Noll said. "If you don't honor your commitments, we'll continue the trial. I assume we'll only ever see each other again on TV." Ecclestone, 83, replied in English: "Thank you very much. I will honor my commitment." Ecclestone went on trial in April over allegations he paid a \$44 million bribe to a former German banker to facilitate the sale of a major stake in the motor sport business eight years ago.

Ecclestone, a former used car salesman who became a billionaire by building the sport into a global money spinner over the past four decades, denied any wrongdoing. —Reuters



# Mata says United believe in the Van Gaal way



Manchester United midfielder Juan Mata

MIAMI, 6 Aug — Manchester United's Spanish midfielder Juan Mata says the team have shown during their pre-season tour of the United States that they

believe in the new system introduced by Dutch coach Louis van Gaal.

United wrapped up their US tour with a 3-1 win over rivals Liverpool in the International Champions Cup final in Miami on Monday and after defeating Real Madrid on Saturday the mood among Van Gaal's squad is buoyant ahead of their 16 August Premier League opener against Swansea.

"It was a good tour for us, a good two or three weeks trying to get ready physically and mentally while trying to adapt to the new system," Mata told ManUtd.com. "Obviously, we didn't lose a game which is good for the confidence but the most important thing is that we believe in what we are doing."

United played in front of huge crowds in the

United States with 86,000 watching them beat LA Galaxy in California and a massive 109,000 in Michigan for a 3-1 win over Real Madrid as the club proved once again their global popularity.

"We take home a lot of love from the supporters. It was amazing from the first day until the last — in every stadium, in every training camp and in every hotel. I think (the highlights were) the support and obviously the new ideas that the manager has brought," said Mata.

Van Gaal's 3-5-2 formation has seen Mata, who scored a well-taken goal against Liverpool, employed in an advanced playmaker role and that appears to suit him well.

"I feel good and I feel comfortable in this position. I have to do what the manager wants me to do, both offensively and defensively, and I am trying to do that. It can be a good position for me to try to perform to my best," he said.

After a disappointing seventh place finish in the Premier League last year under David Moyes, United will be expected to be back in the title hunt and, at the very least, ensure a return to the Champions League with a top four finish.

"We are all excited to start the new season," said Mata, "Everybody wants to do better, we want to fight for the trophies and this club deserves that. We will try our best."—Reuters

## Neymar back injury healing 'satisfactorily'

BARCELONA, 6 Aug — Neymar's injured back is healing "satisfactorily" although there is no specific date for the Brazil forward to return to training, his club Barcelona said on Tuesday.

Neymar fractured a bone in his back following a challenge from Colombia defender Juan Zuniga in last month's World Cup quarter-final and was ruled out for the rest of the tournament.

The 22-year-old, who has targeted a return to action in a friendly on 18 August, had tests on his return to Barca after his post-World Cup holiday and the club said the results were "satisfactory".

"The player will follow a specific recovery programme," Barca said on

their website (www.fcbarcelona.es).

"The progress of the injury will determine when he returns to training," they added.

Barca play a friendly against Italian Serie A side Napoli in Geneva on Wednesday and said midfielder Xavi and defender Jeremy Mathieu, a new signing from Valencia, are unavailable due to minor muscle problems.

Argentina pair Lionel Messi and Javier Mascherano and Brazil full back Daniel Alves, who only returned to training on Tuesday, were not included in the squad for the trip to Switzerland.

Barca begin their La Liga campaign at home to Elche on 24 August.

Reuters



Brazilian soccer player and Barcelona forward Neymar waves as he wears a "Yukata", a casual summer Kimono, after receiving it as a souvenir from the organizer during a fan event in Tokyo on 31 July, 2014.

REUTERS



Eugenie Bouchard of Canada

MONTREAL, 6 Aug — The Rogers Cup lost power both figuratively and literally on Tuesday with hometown favourite Eugenie Bouchard suffering a second round defeat to American qualifier Shelby Rogers. The 20-year-old Bouchard, playing for the first time since losing in the Wimbledon final to Petra Kvitova last month, faltered badly in front of her native Montreal crowd.

Her 6-0, 2-6, 6-0 loss came after the event suffered a seven-hour power outage that shut down scoreboards and umpires' microphones. "I was feeling the pressure on the court and I was feeling kind of match rusty," Bouchard told reporters. "But I knew this coming into the match, so I can't use that as excuses. I knew it would be kind of a diffi-

cult situation."

Bouchard suffered her own issues from the outset as she struggled with her serve and failed to claim a game in the opener.

She rebounded to dominate the second set but fell away badly in the decider, ending home fans' hopes of an anticipated quarter-final showdown against top-ranked Serena Williams.

The in-form Bouchard is the only player to have reached the semi-finals of the first three grand slams of the season while defending champion Serena has won this tournament three times. Serena had the day off but her older sister Venus fought her way to a three-set victory against Anastasia Pavlyuchenkova 6-1, 3-6, 6-2 despite the electrical issues.

"It was like going

back to the southern California juniors," Venus told reporters of the power outages.

"But I tried to think of it as positive. It felt good to win the match and hopefully gain some momentum."

In other matches, Caroline Wozniacki made easy work of Daniel Hantuchova in a 6-1, 6-1 triumph, while third-seed Agnieszka Radwanska defeated Barbora Zahlavova-Strycova 6-4, 6-4 and ninth-seed Ana Ivanovic routed Timea Bacsinszky 6-1, 6-2.

Spain's 14th seed Carla Suarez-Navarro and 16th-seed Elena Vesnina also advanced to the second round after respective victories over Bojana Jovanovski and Camila Giorgi.

Reuters

## Tests show Nadal recovery from wrist injury on track

MADRID, 6 Aug — Rafa Nadal's recovery from a wrist injury that ruled him out of two US Open tune-up events is on track, the Spanish tennis federation (RFET) said on Tuesday after the world number two underwent tests.

Nadal sustained the injury during practice late last month and the 28-year-old Majorcan left-hander has been training with a cast on his right wrist.

He was forced to withdraw from this week's Rogers Cup in Toronto and next week's Cincinnati Open, putting in doubt his title defence at the year's final grand slam at Flushing Meadows in New York starting at the end of this month.

"Following a scan and clinical evaluation, his progress is on track, although he will still have tests from time to time," the RFET said on their website (www.rfet.es).

Reuters



Rafael Nadal