

Poverty reduction, narrowing development gap, the main tasks of Community Building process

NAY PYI TAW, 8 Aug—The following is the full text of the message of President U Thein Sein on the occasion of the 47th Anniversary of ASEAN Day.

Dear Citizens of Myanmar,

The 47th Anniversary of the founding of the Association of the South East Asian Nations (ASEAN) falls on 8th August 2014. As ASEAN was established on 8th August 1967, I have the pleasure to extend, in commemoration of the 47th Anniversary of ASEAN, my warm-

est wishes to the peoples of Myanmar and ASEAN.

As we highlight this significant event, I have the honour to extend my warmest congratulations to the ASEAN Leaders for their leadership and commitment that have contributed greatly to the achievements of ASEAN. I would also like to take this opportunity to pay tribute to the

founding Leaders of ASEAN, whose great wisdom, leadership, strong commitment and far seeing vision had contributed for the betterment of Southeast Asian region and improved the livelihood of its peoples.

Dear Citizens of Myanmar,

Today, Asia Pacific region is a strategically important region in the world.

With the concerted efforts of all ASEAN member states, ASEAN is moving forward to achieve the goals of Community Building by the end of 2015.

ASEAN was born out of the spirit of cooperation and aspirations to build the Southeast Asia region as a peaceful, prosperous and unified region. ASEAN has passed through a long

history of cooperation, friendship and mutual understanding. Among significant milestone achievements of ASEAN, the first and foremost was the ASEAN Declaration, also known as the Bangkok Declaration, which has given birth to ASEAN in 1967. After that, the 1976 Treaty of Amity and (See page 3)

South China Sea issue, Korean Peninsula security and downing of MH 17 among main issues at 47th AMM: Myanmar DEP Director General of ASEAN Affairs Department



Delegates from 27 countries are attending the 47th ASEAN Foreign Ministers' Meeting, 21st ASEAN Regional Forum, 15th ASEAN Plus Three FMM and 4th East Asia Summit FMM in Nay Pyi Taw.—PHOTO: AYE MIN SOE

By K.Y. Winter

With Myanmar half way through its ASEAN chairmanship and the 47th ASEAN Foreign Ministers' Meeting (AMM) to be opened on Friday, U Myint Thu, Deputy Director General at the ASEAN Affairs Department of the Myanmar Foreign Ministry, said the hosts are satisfied with progress made on a number of sensitive issues, including trust-and-confidence building among ASEAN members on the South China Sea issue.

While the dispute between Vietnam and Chi-

na over a Chinese oil rig overshadowed the ASEAN Summit in May, U Myint Thu said, that "We now have what we can call stability in the region. Yesterday we had special SOM meetings with China, so things are progressing and we are working on the full implementation of the Declaration on the Conduct of Parties in the South China Sea as well as working on the Code of Conduct.

It will take time and we have to continue to build confidence between the concerned parties, but one day we will have the COC to resolve the issues peace-

fully."

Another regional security matter up for discussion will be the developments

on the Korean Peninsula. "There are several bilateral issues between the ASEAN Plus Three countries in

Myanmar Railways seeks public consultations on implementation of Yangon circular rail line upgrading

By Ye Myint

YANGON, 7 Aug—Myanmar Railways carried out discussions with parties concerned, including Yangon Region parliamentarians, local people and media people at a meeting in Yangon on Thursday.

The meeting was aimed at informing project-affected persons of

project benefits and potential impact on them, creating an understanding of public concerns and taking their voices into consideration to formulate the circular rail line project, stressing the need for greater transparency and accountability and ensuring smooth and speedy implementation of the project through conflict mitigation.

During the first meeting hosted by Myanmar Railways at the Asia Plaza Hotel to seek public consultations on implementation of the rail line, officials explained work to upgrade the circular rail line, railway stations, rail yards and the railway communications system, including fencing along the tracks of the circle line and

why environmental impact (EIA) and social impact assessments (SIA) are needed before the project's implementation.

While commenting on squatting on railway property during a question and answer session, U Tun Aung Thin, general manager of Myanmar Railways (Lower Myanmar) said (See page 5)

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also discuss ways to speak with one voice on these issues."ASEAN Plus Three cooperation is of utmost importance for chair Myanmar, according to the Deputy Director General at the ASEAN Affairs Department, adding that activities and projects under the APT, including the ASEAN Plus Three Emergency Rice Reserve, must be reviewed and discussed.

Other than regional issues, the developments in Gaza and eastern Ukraine, and the downing of MH17 are expected to dominate a series of discussions.

"Malaysia will say something about MH 17 and Indonesia will also be among the countries that want to discuss the issue as they, too, have lost many people in the incident, and the United Kingdom as well. Russia may wish to say something about that, but it is up to them," U Myint Thu said.

(See page 2)

U Myint Thu, Deputy Director General at the ASEAN Affairs Department of the Myanmar Foreign Ministry says the government is in the process of finalizing outcome documents covering the three pillars before handing over the chairmanship to Malaysia next year.

PHOTO: AYE MIN SOE

South China Sea issue, Korean...

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“We have post-ministerial conferences with each dialogue partner (PMC+1 Sessions), so each PMC includes the review of the ASEAN-and-dialogue-partner relations and exchange of views, and Ukraine will be one of the topics that will be deliberated in the ASEAN Russia post-ministerial conference, of course,” he added.

Stressing that the upcoming meetings, including the 21st ASEAN Regional

Forum, 15th ASEAN Plus Three Foreign Ministers’ Meeting and 4th East Asia Summit Foreign Ministers’ Meeting, are very much like a “mini ASEAN Summit” in preparation for the ASEAN Summit in November, U Myint Thu said his government is now working on a number of outcome documents to prove the success of Myanmar’s chairmanship.

“Next year we will be handing over the chairmanship to Malaysia and

we will continue to work with the incoming chair. The main task left is the post 2015-vision which sets out a new vision and the direction for ASEAN after we have established the ASEAN Community by December 2015. Next year is an important year as we will not only establish the ASEAN Community, but it will also be the 10th anniversary of the establishment of the East Asia summit, so we will have a number of outcome documents and one

is the ASEAN post-2015 vision.”

Regarding Myanmar’s prioritized ASEAN activities, U Myint Thu said, that “We are now particularly focused on completing outcome documents for Public Private Partnership, wildlife trafficking, and disaster resilience, to name a few. Regarding our outcome documents, we are working systematically through the three pillars of the ASEAN Community to prepare for the next summit and to make it a success.”

NLM

Chief Justice says judicial process must be fair and in accord with law



Chief Justice U Tun Tun Oo calling on judiciaries to pass judgements which are unbiased and unprejudiced at seventh work coordination meeting.—MNA

NAY PYI TAW, 7 Aug — The Supreme Court of the Union held its seventh work coordination meeting with its courts of regions and states here on

Thursday, with an address by Chief Justice U Tun Tun Oo, sources said.

The judicial process must be fair and in accord with law, with the chief justice calling on judiciaries to pass judgements which are unbiased and unprejudiced.

The judicial power is a power entrusted by the public to make sensible decisions after careful consideration, he reminded, urging judges to make collective efforts to bring about a judicial system that serves public interests and wins public trust.

The meeting will come to a close on 8 August.—MNA

Unilever introduces its world first health soap to Myanmar

By Khaing Thanda Lwin

YANGON, 7 Aug — Unilever Company officially launched its world first Lifebuoy-brand health soap in Myanmar as of Thursday, aimed at increasing public health through hand washing with soap, the company said at Lifebuoy launch event in Yangon.

Country Director of the Co., U Zaw Myo Hlaing said that the new soap can prevent ten infectious diseases and reduce 41 per cent of mortality rate of child.

In his speech on the occasion, Mr Sandeep Kohli, Vice-President of the Co., said that since 2010, the company has started a sustainable living plan of disseminating knowledge on hand washing with 183 million people across the

globe.

As part of its “help a child reach five campaign”, the company also successfully implemented hand washing programme in Kanthadwingyi Village in Sagaing Region of Myanmar which has high rates of diarrhea in the previous month and shared knowledge on changing behaviors around hygiene to the residents.

Unilever Co., will launch the programme in the country’s diarrhea-affected regions in September and it also has a plan to launch its another “School of five programme” at primary schools in Yangon, Mandalay and other major cities starting mid-August, aimed at improving health and hygiene of school chil-

dren and reducing diseases burden of child diarrhea.

At the event, Myanmar celebrity Chit Thu Wai, Health Ambassador of the Co., shared her experience of a time when she participated in the campaign and urged the attendees to take part in the campaign to become an infection free

country.

The company has a social mission to save lives by changing the hygiene behaviors of a billion people worldwide by 2020, official of the company said.

Unilever, which set up business in Myanmar 80 years ago and distributes of food, home and personal care products in over 190 countries.

NLM



Health Ambassador Chit Thu Wai together with child ambassador Htoo Htoo San from Kanthadwingyi Village and children pose for documentary photo.—KHAING THANDA LWIN

Appointment of Ambassador agreed on

NAY PYI TAW, 7 Aug — The Government of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar has agreed to the appointment of H.E. Mr. Daniel Zonshine as Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the State of Israel to the Republic of the Union of Myanmar.

He was born in Israel on 9 September 1958. He got Bachelor of Arts in Studies of the Land of Israel from Bar-Ilan University in 1987 and Master of Arts in Security and Political Science from National Defense College and Halfa University in 2009. He lives in Modi’in, Israel.

He served at Military Service of Israel Air Force from 1976 to 1987. He joined the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in 1990. He served at the Embassy of Israel in Lisbon, Por-

tugal from 1991 to 1995, was appointed as Head of Visual Arts Unit, Cultural and Scientific Division from 1995 to 1997, at the Palestinian Affairs Department from 1997 to 1998, at the Embassy of Israel, Brasilia, Brazil as counselor from 1998 to 2002, at the South America Department as Deputy Director from 2002 to 2005, as Consul General of Israel in Mumbai, India from 2005 to 2008 and as Director of Public Affairs and Branding Department, Ministry of Foreign Affairs from 2009 to 2014. He is married with three children.

H.E. Mr. Daniel Zonshine will serve as Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the State of Israel to the Republic of the Union of Myanmar.—MNA

Republic of the Union of Myanmar Union Election Commission

Nay Pyi Taw

Announcement (32/2014)

12th Waxing of Wagaung, 1376 ME
(7 August, 2014)

Four 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 four representatives of the Armed Forces who are parliamentarians, the Union Election Commission scrutinized and substituted the following four region Hluttaw representatives announced under the Notification No.3/2011 of the commission dated 20-1-2011, Notification No.47/2012 of the commission dated 6-11-2012, Notification No. 48/2012 of the commission dated 15-11-2012 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 held on 7 November 2010.

Ayeyawady Region

- | | |
|-----------------------|------------------------|
| (1) BC 49653 | BC 32572 |
| Captain Khine Myo Oo | Captain Nyein Chan Win |
| (2) BC 33688 | BC 53680 |
| Captain Min Zaw | Captain Zar Ni Aung |
| (3) BC 30766 | BC 33900 |
| Captain Win Naing Tun | Captain Tin Win Naing |
| (4) BC 48352 | BC 31283 |
| Captain Kyaw Thu | Captain Lin Thet Aung |

By Order,

(Tin Tun)

Secretary

Union Election Commission

NATIONAL

Poverty reduction, narrowing...

(from page 1)

Cooperation in the South-east Asia known as the (TAC) became the most significant norm of ASEAN in carrying out its aim for peace and stability of Southeast Asia and to engage with the countries in the world. Today, TAC continues to serve as the basis in forging friendship and cooperation with oth-

er countries outside the region. The Bali Concord 1 emerged in the same year and it aims at fostering broader partnership among the member states through political cooperation.

Dear Citizens of Myanmar,

Recently, ASEAN has been struck by tragic events which occurred either as a deliberate act of human

beings or as the way of natural disaster. Both are destructive to the human kind. Firstly, the entire world was terribly shocked by the tragic downing of Malaysian Airlines flight MH-17 on 17 July in eastern Ukraine. This tragic incident caused unspeakable loss of innocent lives amid escalating risks of human security as a result of internal conflict in a country. Secondly, the recent typhoon Ramasun

caused high death tolls and loss of properties in the Philippines and in Viet Nam.

Based on these incidents, we have come to a conclusion that only with close cooperation and understanding among countries we would be able to prevent and overcome the recurrence of such incidents and save our people. In this connection, I call on all the peoples to join hands to prevent, protect and save us from all kinds of disasters.

Dear Citizens of Myanmar,

All through these years, ASEAN has matured into a dignified organization with noble and justifiable objectives to further advance the profile of the peoples. The innovative idea on ASEAN Community Vision was first introduced in 1997. Since then, ASEAN has been building an ASEAN Community that comprises Political-Security, Economic and Socio-Cultural Communities.

These three communities will be setting the ASEAN's values and benchmarks within the region that will spread and thrive throughout the region. The adoption of the ASEAN Charter in 2008 was another important milestone as it significantly transformed ASEAN's image to a rules-based community. The Charter contributes effectively to promote the proactive role of ASEAN in the international arena and, also supports the Community Building process.

We are building our region to be a politically cohe-

sive, peaceful, and resilient and economically competitive region with equitable economic development. Toward this end, ASEAN must reduce the disparities among the member states and develop a socio-culturally sound region that would significantly enhance human development, social welfare and protection, social justice, human rights and sustainable environment.

We have been trying to work out necessary reform process under the frameworks of all three community pillars. As regional integration is one of the top priorities of the ASEAN Community Building process. We have been doing our best to fulfill all requirements to integrate our country into the Community.

As we approach the timeline to establish the ASEAN Community on the last day of 2015, it is very important for our people to be aware of the changing scenes in political, economic and socio-cultural sectors at national level. Making ourselves adaptable to the changing situations is an important quality in implementing the reform process. In this connection, I would like to encourage our people to be mindful and prepared to get the most benefit while developing our businesses compatible and adaptable to the changing trends.

In this regard, I would like to urge our citizens to have full confidence on ASEAN Community Build-

ing. I would like to assure you that we are doing our best to promote our business sector at a time we are fulfilling our duties to meet the targets of ASEAN Economic Community Blueprint. With our united efforts, we will succeed to develop our economy in the ASEAN Community.

Dear Citizens of Myanmar,

Our country is assuming the ASEAN Chairmanship since the beginning of this year. We have successfully convened the ASEAN Ministerial Meeting (Retreat) and the 24th ASEAN Summit in January and May respectively. At the same time, we are hosting many sectoral Meetings at Ministerial and Senior Officials' Levels throughout the year. We place great importance to the task of the ASEAN chairmanship and therefore have set the priorities of our chairman to fully realize the objectives of ASEAN Community and our national reform processes.

By assuming the ASEAN Chairmanship, we could implement our national objective of promoting peace, stability and well-being of our country and also enhance our national pride of being a responsible member undertaking the obligation of leading ASEAN on rotational basis.

With this note, I would like to express my deep appreciation and best wishes to our citizens for your vibrant role for building a peaceful and prosperous ASEAN Community.

Law students go on study tour of parliament



Thura U Shwe Mann in meeting with law students says main responsibility of parliament is to reflect public desires.—MNA

NAY PYI TAW, 7 Aug—Law students are responsible for striving to become legal experts who will help people see things realistically, Thura U Shwe Mann, Speaker of the Pyidaungsu Hluttaw and the Lower House, told a student delegation on its study tour of parliamentary functions on Thursday.

Dr Daw May Htar, professor of the law department at the Eastern University of Yangon, expressed her words of appreciation to officials for their permission to enable them to make a study of parliament, which is now adjourned.

In briefing the visiting delegation, Speaker Thura U Shwe Mann said that de-

veloped countries emphasize their study on law, a subject which he added is concerned with the whole citizenry. The speaker noted that there would be no democracy if there was no parliament, adding that parliament is key to the emergence of a multiparty democratic system and a market-oriented economy.

The executive system of today is a people-based one, so the main responsibility of parliament is to reflect public desires, the speaker said. —MNA

By-elections will be held late this year to fill vacant parliamentary seats

NAY PYI TAW, 7 Aug—Union Election Commission held a work coordination meeting with sub-commissions to discuss matters related to holding elections and compilation for the list of voters in Nay Pyi Taw on Thursday.

In his address, UEC Chairman U Tin Aye said by-elections will be held late this year to fill vacant parliamentary seats. He called for collaboration and coordination between sub-commissions and departments concerned to be able to hold free and elections.

Regarding the compilation of voting list, a directive to keep form (66) at ward/village administrator offices had been issued, he added.

The UEC chairman

called for the help of the Ministry of Education as polling stations will be opened at schools and polling duties assigned to teachers like at previous elections.

He highlighted the importance of security during the elections, urging the Ministry of Home Affairs to outline necessary security measures. He stressed the need of the real-time coordination between responsible persons of sub-commissions and departmental officials while election preparation is in progress.

After hearing the reports on preparatory works for holding by-elections and general elections by officials concerned, the UEC chairman delivered concluding remarks.—MNA

One killed as police try to rescue two men abducted and tortured by a mob

NAY PYI TAW, 7 Aug—While rescuing two people being abducted and tortured by a mob attacking the police, a member of the security forces in Sittway fired at an attacker to defend himself on Wednesday, resulting in the death of the attacker at the scene.

At about 7.45 pm on Wednesday, two people reported to No 36 Security Police Post in Sittway that Alularlon, aged 21, and Laba Huson, aged 13, sons of Sweta Hamad alias U Maung Sein, on their way to buy betel near Hmansi Relief Camp, were abducted at about 7 p.m., being tied

with ropes and tortured by a mob who accused the two abductees of habitual theft.

As the mob was committing the crime of illegal arrest that breaks Section 342 of the Penal Code, the police went to the scene to rescue the abductees, but about 70 people with swords, rods and catapults in the camp shouted abusive words at the police who were warning the mob to disperse.

The mob refused to disperse and pulled the two tied abductees into paddy fields. As the mob was committing attempted murder, the police fired five warning

shots to rescue the two abductees in accordance with Section 100 of the Penal Code. The police had to fire a shot of a 12-gauge gun used in controlling riots as the mob continued to pull the abductees to the paddy fields.

The mob then advanced and attacked the police with rocks. Finally, the police managed to rescue the two abductees when the mob dispersed after four more shots of the anti-riot gun. Then, while trying to control the situation, the police told Shaungshu Arlong, aged 30, Adukafu, aged 52, and Azu Marlid, aged 47,

who were wielding swords, to drop their weapons but Shaungshu Arlong tried to attack a member of the police with his sword. The police member fired at the attacker, killing him on the spot.

Sittway Myoma Police Station is taking necessary measures to take action against those who committed crimes including the two other men with swords, according to the law. Security personnel are handling riots and violence according to the law and rules and regulations, according to the Ministry of Home Affairs.—MNA

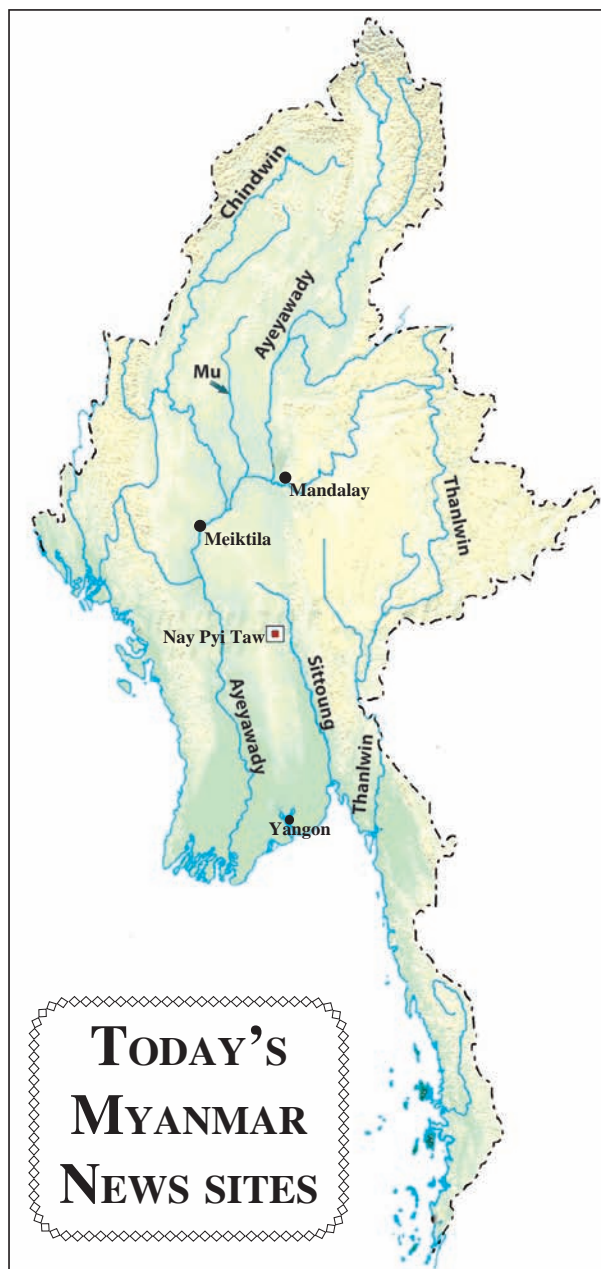
National Theatre (Mandalay) to stage traditional concert to attract foreigners



MANDALAY, 7 Aug — Mandalay Region Government is planning to stage Myanmar traditional dance once in every two weeks starting from 17 August said Minister of Finance of Mandalay Region Government Dr Myint Kyu. Mandalay is the culture hub of Myanmar and there are numerous cultural

heritages of ancient times. The concert will be stage based on these culture heritage, he said. According to his plan, the concert will focus on foreigners enabling them to enjoy the concert at night. The entrance fee will be 3 to 5 USD per head for foreigners and K 1000 for locals. These income will be spent on maintaining the theatre and awarding the artistes who will be from the Fine Arts Department as well as from music and traditional dance fields. Interpreters will explained the foreigners about the show. The show is aiming at disseminating knowledge about Myanmar traditional culture to foreigners.

Min Htet Aung



Meiktila fire victims to get new apartments

MEIKTILA, 7 Aug — Due to the riots in Meiktila last year, over 7000 people left homeless. Now permission has been granted to build houses in Thiri Mingalar Ward and Chan Aye Tharyar Ward. Altogether 40 Islam households who are needy are now granted permissions to build their house as they have no problems regarding ownership. Mandalay Islam Supporting Committee will

sponsor the building of the houses spending K 60 million.

With the support of donor families and MM Yaungnat Mosque, 300 apartments will be built. Assigned by local authorities, Incharges U Myint Htwe and U Khin Nan, altogether 222 houses have been built and the remaining houses will be completed this month.

NLM- 018



Role model breastfeeding mothers awarded

NAY PYI TAW, 7 Aug — As a gesture of hailing Breast Feeding Week which falls in this month, breastfeeding mother contest was held in conjunction with demonstration of cooking nutritious food at 50-bed Ottara Thiri Hospital in Nay Pyi Taw on Wednesday.

After the ceremony mothers who won prizes were awarded and pregnant women were provided with nutritious food. Children under the age of five were also given Vitamin A medicines.

Under the programme of Nutritious Week in August, systematic breastfeeding activities in the first week; providing nutritious foods to children under 5



and school children in the second week; introducing nutritious activities in the third week for pregnant

women; and anti-iodine deficiency programmes will be launched by Ottara Thiri health staff together with

members of township Maternal and Child Welfare Association.

Kyaw Thuya (NPW)

Meiktila University holds literary talks, shows photos, books, stages traditional costumes show



MEIKTILA, 7 Aug — Literary talks were held in Meiktila University on Wednesday. Professor Dr Htay Lwin of Myanmar Language Department gave talks on Myanmar national brethren — Kachin, Kayah, Kayin, Chin, Mon, Bamar, Rakhine and Shan and their historical backgrounds.

After the talks, photos and books were displayed. Traditional costumes show was also staged. The activities were aiming at raising awareness on national brethren among the colleagues.—*Chantha*

LOCAL NEWS

8th ASEAN-China forum on Social Development and Poverty Reduction held in Nay Pyi Taw



Minister for Livestock and Fishery U Ohn Myint posing for documentary photo together with delegates to 8th ASEAN-China forum.—MNA

NAY PYI TAW, 7 Aug — 8th ASEAN-China forum on Social Development and Poverty Reduction was held at the Grand Ballroom of the Thingaha Hotel in Nay Pyi Taw on Thursday.

It was attended by

Union Minister for Livestock and Fishery U Ohn Myint, Minister of the State Council Leading Group Office of Poverty Alleviation and Development of China (LGOP) H.E Mr Liu Yongfu, deputy ministers, the vice secretary-general

of the ASEAN and officials from ASEAN countries.

The union minister explained the measures taken for poverty alleviation in Myanmar at the meeting.

Minister of the LGOP, the vice secretary-general of the ASEAN, the country

director of the UNDP discussed poverty alleviation in the region.

The union minister exclusively met with the minister of LGOP at the hotel.

The meeting will continue until 9 August.

MNA

Deputy Home Affairs Minister meets NACC's delegation



Deputy Minister for Home Affairs Brig-Gen Kyaw Kyaw Tun shaking hands with Mr Panthep Klanarogran.

NAY PYI TAW, 7 Aug — Deputy Minister for Home Affairs Brig-Gen Kyaw Kyaw Tun accepted a call by a Thai delegation led by Mr Panthep Klanarogran of the Nation-

ality Anti-Corruption Commission of Thailand (NACC) on Thursday at his office in Nay Pyi Taw to discuss bilateral cooperation between Myanmar and Thailand.—MNA

Stimulants, smuggled liquor and beer seized

NAY PYI TAW, 7 Aug — A haul of stimulants was seized ownerless on a ferry en route from Sittway to Buthidaung on 9 July, sources said, with further investigation leading to arrests of four drug dealers. Police are still after eight other drug dealers who are connected with the seizure of stimulants.

On 4 August, border police forces, together with

local police forces, tipping on information, searched a fishing boat in Maungdaw township and found stimulants bearing letters WY on them, sources said.

According to officials, 80 cartons of liquor bottles branded Nantaw and 1,080 cans of beer branded Diabolo were seized ownerless.

Further investigation is under way to bring smugglers to justice.—MNA



A motorized boat carrying stimulant tablets seen after being seized.

MNA

Union FM hosts dinner to ASEAN FMs

YANGON, 7 Aug — Union Minister for Foreign Affairs U Wunna Maung Lwin, Chairman of the 47th ASEAN Foreign Ministers' Meeting and related Meetings, hosted a welcome dinner for ASEAN Foreign Ministers and the Secretary-General of ASEAN at the Grand Amara Hotel in Nay Pyi Taw.

Union Minister will

chair the 47th ASEAN Foreign Ministers' Meeting/Post Ministerial Conference/15th ASEAN Plus Three/21st ASEAN Regional Forum/4th EAST Asia Summit Foreign Ministers' Meeting to be held at Myanmar International Convention Centre-1 in Nay Pyi Taw from 8 August to 10 August 2014.

MNA

Number of smokers increases in developing countries: union minister

NAY PYI TAW, 7 Aug — Although developing countries including Myanmar are able to control epidemics, the incidents of death and prolong diseases caused by smoking and tobacco are increasing, Union Minister Dr Than Aung said at the meeting of the Central Committee for Control of Smoking and Tobacco on Tuesday.

Most of the smokers out of about one billion smokers all over the world live in Asia because people

in developed countries are well aware of the dangers of smoking but the number of smokers in developing ones is increasing, the union minister pointed out.

In conclusion, the union minister urged the attendees to implement laws controlling smoking and consumption of tobacco as Myanmar is the eleventh signatory to International Convention on Control of Smoking and Consumption of Tobacco.

MNA

Myanmar Railways seeks public...



Myanmar Railways undertakes public consultation to hear voices of parties concerned over implementation of the Yangon circular rail line upgrading project. —PHOTO: YE MYINT

(from page 1)
legal action will be taken against squatters, adding that several lawsuits against those who built apartments on MR property in some townships are underway. For some houses, shops and other buildings that will be included in the project area, MR has a plan to relocate and resettle project-affected people through appropriate ways and means for them and will launch a compensation plan.

On developing mitigation measures to address social and environmental

impact from the project, U Aye Thiha, managing director of E-Guard working for a JICA study team, said his consultant firm will take care of EIA and SIA studies that will start soon after finalizing a questionnaire and identifying project-affected people.

According to officials, the Da Nyin Gone-Yangon-Ma Hlwa Gone section is set as the priority section of the project.

Next consultation meeting will take place in the first week of upcoming month, officials said.

NLM

Antinuke bicyclists to take to Washington streets on Nagasaki anniv

WASHINGTON, 7 Aug—More than 100 bicycle riders will take to the streets in Washington on Saturday, the 69th anniversary of the atomic bombing of Nagasaki, in an event to call for the abolishment of nuclear weapons. Similar events will also take place in London, Berlin, New Delhi and Islamabad the same day, according to Global Zero, an international antinuclear

group which organizes the bicycle rides.

In the US capital the participants, including former Assistant Secretary of Defence Lawrence Korb, will start in front of the White House and cycle an 11-plus kilometre course passing the Congress building and Smithsonian museums. Some antinuclear events will take place around the bike run course,

the organizer said.

“We need more people to really step up and understand the fact that nuclear weapons still pose a threat to everyone, everywhere, including Washington DC,” John-Michael Donahue, a Global Zero campaign manager in Washington, said.

“We need everyone to understand that the only way for this (the nuclear at-

tack) to never happen again is to eliminate all nuclear weapons once and for all,” Donahue said.

The organizer said they based the course on a hypothetical calculation of an area in which buildings would be completely devastated should an atomic bomb similar to ones used in Hiroshima and Nagasaki be dropped on Washington.—Kyodo News

S Korea holds 1st session of preparatory committee for reunification with DPRK

SEOUL, 7 Aug—South Korea on Thursday held an inaugural session of the presidential committee to systematically prepare for reunification with the Democratic People's Republic of Korea (DPRK).

President Park Geun-hye chaired the session of the high-profile committee composed of 50 mem-

bers, including 30 private experts, two lawmakers, 11 government officials and six heads of the state-run think tanks. Those members were nominated last month, including two deputy chairmen Chung Chong-wook, former South Korean ambassador to China, and Unification Minister Ryoo Kihl-jae.

Park instructed the

committee at the session to draw up a blue print for reunification with the DPRK, mentioning the so-called Dresden Initiative.

Park travelled to the former East German city of Dresden in March, where she made the three-point initiative to the DPRK, including infrastructure development in the DPRK, broader inter-Korean ex-

change in non-political areas and humanitarian aid.

Park raised the issue of reunification with the DPRK in her New Year's speech in January, calling it a “bonanza” for the two Koreas and a blessing for the region and the world. She promised in January to form such a committee to prepare for peaceful reunification.—Xinhua

S Korea preparing for Asian Games



South Korean Special Weapons and Tactics (SWAT) personnel overpower a bus, which is presumed to have been hijacked, during an antiterror drill outside of Incheon Asiad Main Stadium, the main venue for the 19 Sept to 4 Oct Asian Games, in Incheon, South Korea, on 7 Aug, 2014.—KYODO NEWS

China says Japanese planes entered air defence zone

BEIJING, 7 Aug—China's Air Force said Japan's Self-Defence Forces aircraft conducted “extensive reconnaissance” in China's Air Defence Identification Zone earlier this week, state media reported on Thursday. China observed the planes in airspace over the East China Sea on Wednesday, Air Force Spokesman Shen Jinke told the Xinhua News Agency.

Shen said the Japanese F-15s twice attempted to

approach Chinese patrol planes engaged in “routine patrols.” The Chinese planes, he said, subsequently took “reasonable, proper and restrained measures.”

China established its ADIZ in November last year, provoking surprise and consternation from Japan and the United States who received no prior warning of the action.

The zone includes the Senkaku Islands, known as Diaoyu in Chinese, a group

of small islets administered by Japan. The airspace surrounding the islands has become the scene of several incidents among hot-dogging pilots from both countries, raising tensions in their bilateral relations. In June, the two traded recriminations following an incident where the countries' planes reportedly approached within 30 metres of each other. China subsequently released footage of the incident, which Japan

claimed was taken on a previous occasion.

Wednesday's incident closely follows the release on Tuesday of Japan's defence white paper, which raised concerns about China's behavior along its periphery. The report specifically mentioned China's establishment of the ADIZ as an example of “profoundly dangerous acts that unilaterally change the status quo in the East China Sea.”

Kyodo News

Tribunal sentences 2 Khmer Rouge leaders to life: verdict

PHNOM PENH, 7 Aug—The United Nations war crimes tribunal convicted two aging former top leaders of the Democratic Kampuchea, also known as Khmer Rouge, of atrocity crimes against humanity and sentenced them to life in prison, according to a verdict pronounced by the tribunal's president Nil Nonn on Thursday.

The two convicts are Nuon Chea, 88, the chief ideologue of the Communist Party of Kampuchea, also known as “Brother Number 2”, and Khieu Samphan, 83, the regime's former head of state.

The duo is among the few surviving top leaders of the regime that was responsible for the deaths of an estimated 1.7 million people from starvation, overwork, torture, execution, and massacre during the regime from 1975 to 1979.

“The trial chamber finds the accused Nuon

Chea and Khieu Samphan guilty of crimes against humanity of extermination, murders, political persecution, and other inhumane acts comprising forced evacuation and attack against human dignity committed between 1975 and 1977,” said the verdict read by Nil Nonn, president of the tribunal, formally known as the Extraordinary Chambers in the Courts of Cambodia (ECCC).

“The chamber sentences the accused Nuon Chea and Khieu Samphan to life imprisonment.”

The two ex-top Khmer Rouge leaders appeared in the courtroom to hear the pronouncement of the verdict, which was live broadcast on local television channels and radios.

The verdict came after a two-year trial of the two former senior leaders began in November 2011 and ended in October 2013.

Xinhua



Japan Maritime Self-Defence Force's PC3 surveillance plane flies around the disputed islands in the East China Sea, known as the Senkaku isles in Japan and Diaoyu in China, in this 13 Oct, 2011 file photo.—REUTERS

WORLD

Gaza ceasefire holds on second day, extension talks under way



Israeli machines (top L) work on destroying a tunnel, as Israeli soldiers return to Israel from Gaza (seen in the background) on 3 Aug, 2014.—REUTERS

GAZA / CAIRO, 7 Aug — A 72-hour Gaza truce held through its second day on Wednesday and Israel said it was ready to extend the deal as Egyptian mediators pursued talks with Israelis and Palestinians

on an enduring end to a war that devastated the Hamas-ruled enclave.

Egypt's intelligence chief met a Palestinian delegation in Cairo, the state news agency MENA said, a day after he conferred

with Israeli representatives. The Palestinian team, led by an official from Western-backed President Mahmoud Abbas's Fatah party, includes envoys from Hamas and the Islamic Jihad group.

"The indirect talks between the Palestinians and Israelis are moving forward," one Egyptian official said, making clear that the opposing sides were not meeting face to face. "It is still too early to talk about

outcomes but we are optimistic." Egyptian Foreign Minister Sameh Shukri told reporters his country was working hard for a deal and sought "solutions to protect the Palestinian people and their interests".

An Israeli official said Israel "has expressed its readiness to extend the truce under its current terms" beyond a Friday deadline for the three-day deal that took effect on Tuesday.

A senior Hamas political leader based in Cairo, Moussa Abu Marzouk, said on Twitter late on Wednesday night that "there is no agreement" to prolong the ceasefire.

"Extending the 72-hour calm for another period was not discussed (with Hamas in Cairo today)," said Sami Abu Zuhri, the Hamas spokesman in Gaza.

Earlier a senior official with the Islamist movement's armed wing threatened to quit the talks without progress towards achieving its demands to lift a Gaza blockade and free prisoners held by Israel.—Reuters

Obama backs Mideast truce efforts, seeks easing of Gaza isolation



US President Barack Obama leans out to listen to a question during a news conference at the conclusion of the US-Africa Leaders Summit at the US State Department in Washington on 6 Aug, 2014.—REUTERS

WASHINGTON, 7 Aug — President Barack Obama on Wednesday backed Egyptian efforts to broker a durable Israel-Hamas ceasefire in Gaza but also called for a longer-term solution that provides for Israeli security while offering Gaza residents hope they will not remain "permanently closed off from the world."

Obama said the short-term US goal is to make sure that a 72-hour truce holds and is extended beyond its Friday deadline, including the cessation of cross-border rocket fire by the Palestinian Islamist group Hamas, which controls the Gaza Strip. While condemning Hamas as "extraordinarily irresponsible" for launching rockets from population centers, Obama urged an eventual "formula" to ease hardships of ordinary Palestinians who have suffered in the latest conflict. Israel maintains a Gaza blockade that is supported by neighboring Egypt on the strip's southern border.

"Long term, there has to be a recognition that Gaza cannot sustain itself permanently closed off from the world and incapable of providing some opportunity — jobs, economic growth — for the population that lives there," Obama said at the end of a summit hosting African leaders in Washington.

The Gaza truce held through its second day on Wednesday, and Israel said it was ready to extend the deal as Egyptian mediators pursued talks with Israelis and Palestinians on an enduring end to a war that devastated the enclave. "We intend to support the process that's taking place in Egypt," Obama said.—Reuters

Russia bans all US food, EU fruit and vegetables in sanctions response; NATO fears invasion

MOSCOW / DONETSK, 7 Aug — Russia will ban all imports of food from the United States and all fruit and vegetables from Europe, the state news agency reported on Wednesday, a sweeping response to Western sanctions imposed over its support for rebels in Ukraine.

The measures will hit consumers at home who rely on cheap imports, and on farmers in the West for whom Russia is a big market. Moscow is by far the biggest buyer of European fruit and vegetables and the second biggest importer of US poultry.

RIA quoted the spokesman for Russia's food safety watchdog VPSS, Alexei Alexeenko, as saying all European fruit and vegetables and all produce from the United States would be included in a ban drawn up on the orders of President Vladimir Putin to punish countries that imposed sanctions on Russia.

Earlier, Alexeenko told Reuters bans on EU and US goods would be



Ukrainian servicemen are seen inside army vehicles on a road in Donetsk region on 6 Aug, 2014.—REUTERS

"quite substantial", and would specifically include US poultry, although he declined to give a full list of banned goods. He could not be reached again after the RIA report.

The war of economic sanctions has escalated even as fighting has intensified on the ground in eastern Ukraine in the three weeks since a Malaysian airliner was shot

down over territory held by pro-Russian rebels. NATO said on Wednesday Russia had massed around 20,000 combat-ready troops on Ukraine's border and could use the pretext of a human-

itarian mission to invade. It was the starkest warning yet from the Western alliance that Moscow could mount a ground assault on its neighbour.

Reuters

PERSPECTIVES

Friday, 8 August, 2014

Poverty is a national curse

By Kyaw Thura

“Give a man a fish and you feed him for a day; teach a man how to fish and you feed him for a lifetime”, so goes a Chinese axiom. If we give a man a fish, he might go hungry again in an hour, but if we show him how to fish, we do him a good turn for the rest of his life. It is more worthwhile to teach some-

one to do something than to do it for them.

The same thing can be said of poverty eradication and wealth creation. Poverty is a curse. It is widely accepted that education plays a crucial role in combating poverty. In addition, education is a key to wealth creation.

The poor have numerous disadvantages. They are less healthy, suffering from social deprivation and emotional stress. We need to direct our attention to breaking the vicious cycle of poverty and social exclusion. Poor children are found possessing little language skill, a factor which makes them unable to benefit from the school system in full.

Inadequate education will result in unemployment, instability, social upheaval, and poverty. Social justice depends on equitable access to quality education by people from all walks of life. It is quality education and training that can pave the way for economic, social and cultural devel-

opment. Without education, economic growth will remain a distant dream, thereby triggering political unrest and thwarting national development as a whole.

Educational transformation remains a top priority for our country to define more explicitly the role of education and the needs of children in our national efforts to reduce poverty. Only educated generation can make change in society and make the country a better, safer place which is on a par with other countries of the world in terms of 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 with your name and title.

Education and Technology

by Myo Myint

Nowadays, in developed countries, very few people debate the feasibility, effectiveness, cost, teacher competency, learner preparedness, or technology availability regarding the application of technology in education. Due to technological advancement, infrastructure availability, widespread use of technology at home, work and schools and availability of financial resources, technology and education may be said to have become integrated in these countries. Indeed, the following 10 items that Jim Scrivener (2011) mentions in the short list of some key technology in education in his book *Learning Teaching, the Essential Guide to English Language Teaching* (3rd edition) are widely exploited in teaching in developed countries:

- Interactive whiteboards (IWBs)
- The Internet
- Research tools: search engines, corpora, etc.
- PowerPoint and other presentation software
- Free or cheap software
- Tablet computers and notebooks
- iPods, music and podcast players
- Shared learning and social media: wikis, blogs, Twitter, Facebook
- Virtual Learning Environments ((VLEs), e.g. Moodle)
- Virtual worlds

The benefits derived from using technology are unlimited. Using the internet and relevant software can bring the world into the classroom and create better understanding and learning; it can promote equity since the same materials can be provided to all schools and students of the same level; it can promote communication skills as students and teachers can interact with their counterparts in other countries using video conferencing; it can create more stimulating lessons since seeing, hearing and doing can all be incorporated; it can promote independent learning as students can be given assignments based on the materials available on the Internet; it can provide new ideas to teachers since there are many free lesson plans and teaching materials available on the Internet and it can provide teachers to carry out professional development utilizing the many online programmes available via the Internet.

Let's take an example of how technology can be used in the classroom making teaching more effective and convenient for the teacher and making learning easier and more interesting for the student. The interactive whiteboard, which comes in the form of both fixed as well as portable, is able to integrate the functions of many separate devices such as the computer, OHP, LCD,

whiteboard, etc. As Scrivener (2011) states, by using interactive whiteboards, we would be able to write and draw with a special pen on it; we would be able to change or erase; we would be able to show images, documents, videos and other resources that are available on the computer; we would be able to access the Internet; we would be able to revisit saved digital boards/pages from lessons and print them out., etc., etc. Hence, it would be a joy to the teacher and students if interactive white boards are available if not in every classroom, at least in the multimedia classrooms.

In considering the use of technology in education in Myanmar, we need to develop a master plan and we need to address practical issues such as the following to ensure systematic and effective planning:

1. current status of Myanmar ICT in education: What kind of technology is being used in the education sector and what are the capacities of teachers and students to use it?
2. access: Can technology be made accessible to all the 40,000+ public schools and the 68 universities and colleges under the Ministry of Education?
3. affordability: How much funds can be allotted for technology?
4. availability of infrastructure and devices: To what extent are the necessary infrastructure and devices currently available in the country?
5. maintenance and replacement of malfunctioning and outdated equipment: Can the necessary funds be allotted for replacement and maintenance of equipment?
6. capacity of academic staff to prepare technology based lessons: To what extent are the academic staff able to design technology based lessons?
7. capacity of teachers to teach and manage these lessons: To what extent can teachers use ICT appliances with ease and confidence in teaching and assessment?
8. learner preparedness to assimilate technology based lessons: To what extent have learners been prepared to utilize technology based lessons and what kind of access do they have to technology?

Based on the answers we get from the questions and many others that may be posed by education technology specialists and teachers, we will need to devise an overall ICT plan for the whole education sector with timeframes and goals. To come up with a plan that is both feasible and effective, it is important that we get an accurate picture of the current status of the use of ICT in the education sector and future goals set within a time-frame.

In implementing the plan, the following matters will need to be taken into consideration. As technology

is very costly and develops at a swift pace, we need to be farsighted and to choose technology that is appropriate to our situation as well as serve as a firm foundation for developments to come in the future. Implementation needs to be done phase by phase and preparations need to be carried out for the implementation of the next stage of the plan so that there will be no hitches. Technology to be utilized at each level of basic education and higher education should be carefully selected and coordination made to ensure linkage and to avoid unnecessary repetition. Adequate human resource must be nurtured to manage, use and develop technology in education. There must be a regular monitoring system to find out the progress achieved and problems faced and to carry out the required follow-up tasks. There must be transparency about achievements and challenges in order to know the actual situation and to set realistic goals. Unrelenting effort is needed to ensure that the targets of the plan are achieved. Ownership must be assigned to ensure responsibility and continuous implementation of the plan. Collaboration must be expanded with local and overseas organizations and institutions to develop the use of technology in education. Once technology becomes fully integrated in the education sector, we must keep pace with new developments.

Many Myanmar teachers are well aware that using technology would benefit both the teacher and the learner and that it would assist in raising the quality of education. E-education was introduced in Myanmar over 13 years ago and a certain amount of facilities and training were provided to teachers. However, many teachers feel that they neither have the capacity nor the facilities to apply technology in education. Among the reasons may be the lack of a master plan, sustainability, follow up and feedback in the past. However, the drawing of a master plan to utilize technology in education, systematic implementation of the plan, regular follow up and the strong interest in raising the quality of education will hopefully lead to effective use of ICT in education and the promotion of effective teaching and learning in Myanmar.

GOLD PRICE, FE RATE (7-8-2014)

Yangon Gold Price

Buying K6717,00 per tical: Selling K672,500

Mandalay Gold Price

Buying K6717,00 per tical: Selling K672,500

FE RATE

USD Buying	K969	- Selling	K974
SGD Buying	K775	- Selling	K782
Euro Buying	K1292	- Selling	K1310

Language, Literature, development of reading habit among youths and Appreciation of Literary Works

Kin Mg Oo

Culture, customs and traditions, art, music, language and literature are a country's own characteristics. These can be categorized into one group collectively under the name, "Culture". Some were our own creations and some were adopted or adapted from alien ones. Socially unacceptable ideas used to and disappear from our memories and enduring cultures became deep-rooted in us, and these distinguish one nation from another. These cultures give us a variety of pleasures and enjoyments. Like and appreciate differ. I like some music but I cannot appreciate it. Some 10 years ago, I visited my native town, Tada-U. There one day, accompanied by my friend, I visited my brother-in-law living in Inwa. They both are teachers and they love music. While talking of one thing and another, they happened to sing, playing the mandolin. Much as I like music, musical instruments had never been touched with my fingers throughout my life. So I had no alternative but to listen to their singing. After enjoying ourselves at the music for a few hours, I had a chance to ask about classical old songs. During our conversation, I came to know the full meanings of some yester-songs I like best, whereupon I felt that the classical music became more familiar with and attracted to me. There was one thing I became aware of, on their faces. As small town-dwellers, most of them lead their peaceful lives. What is more, music seemed to have soothed the two. Their manners and speech were calm, relaxed and cheerful.

Here we need to know a slight difference between the two words—love and appreciation. In dictionaries, love is defined as the strong feelings of enjoyment that something gives you, and appreciation as pleasure that you have when you recognize and enjoy the good qualities of someone or something.

Since my childhood days, habits of reading books and listening to songs conceived in me. To put it simply, my father did not encourage us to listen to songs. Instead, he always let our reading habits grow bigger. From then on, I loved reading novels and poems. But my dad never allowed us to read novels. He seldom failed to put various kinds of cartoons and newspapers on the book-shelf. The then newspapers included stories written by the famous writers such as Duwon and U Yan Aung, etc. Thus, these stories planted the seeds of reading habits in us, before we recognized it. Being unable to be satisfied with perusing them only, we managed to buy novels with our own pocket money from our piggy banks, without the knowledge of our father. And I became very fond of committing poems to memory. Simultaneously, an aspiration to know English occurred to me as I wished to be able to read books written in English. Ridiculously enough, sometimes I recall my younger days when the books I borrowed from the school library returned to their original shelves, with pages unturned. Whatever it is, I was well convinced that reading could give us much pleasure and knowledge we need. There seems to be an element of hyperbole in such a claim that nothing I have ever done has given me half the pleasure I have found from reading books I wanted to read. In fact, the message I want to convey to our readers is that we need to make our younger minds develop reading habits in them. I want them to get pleasure from reading.

Perhaps someone will find it difficult to decide to make reading habits at first. The most important thing is to create a daily private hour for reading, and then to accomplish your plan through sheer determination. Once a habit develops in us for a month or so, I think we cannot get around the way we do now. Today's youths are blessed to have

an access to the knowledge bank and literary treasures into which we want to delve by using the Net. Much information is available in a few minutes, and we can search for reading materials from the digital library. One may ask which kinds of books we should choose. My stock reply will be like this, "All kinds are OK". All these literary writings are literature. In dictionaries, pieces of writing that are valued as works of art, especially novels, plays, and poems are defined as literature. And, it is also defined that pieces of writing and printed information on a particular subject is literature. The former gives us pleasure and enjoyment while the latter gives knowledge to the reader. Literature is, in reality, born out of a language. A language is the system of communication in speech or writing that is used by people of a particular country or area. At the advent of the emergence of a writing system, men might record only their findings and experiences in writing. With developing civilizations, they might try to create literature to express and share their feelings and desires. All these literary works are powerful weapons, which not only can give us moral lessons, strength, sense of humor, righteous ethics and many others, but also can bring us to a ruined state, simultaneously. That is to say, poisonous literary works are surrounding us, either. But we only need to guide them not to choose these indecent writings. Some people say that anyone, as a beginner, can read anything available nearby, and later they will be able to know which one is suitable or not, by themselves. It is heartening for us to see frequent literary talks with the literati in the readers' channel of the MRTV-4 Channel 7. They all urge youths to cultivate reading habits, to read all kinds of books and especially not to neglect Myanmar literature. Because in these days when most are eager to learn English and other languages like Chi-

nese, Japanese and Korean languages as top priorities, our mother tongue is desperately being set aside.

The other week, a girl student came to ask me a few questions. They are as follows:

1/ Is it appropriate to put excessive use of euphemistic language and idiomatic styles in writing?

2/ Can a language change into a new form? And, if so, will its literature in use today disappear and become an abstruse one?

First of all, I explained to her about histories of languages—English and our mother tongue, Myanmar, as far as I know from a layman's perspective, admitting that I had a scanty knowledge about them. As known by all, English is said to have originated from Proto-Indo-European. According to the researches made by many linguists, it took ages to reach the modern English, the present day's English we are using. To put it simply, I had never studied the English literature under the excellent guidance of learned teachers at the university. I had to give much time to study the story of English language as an extramural learning to satisfy my burning desire. I ever heard that even our savants sometimes found it difficult to render into our own language. Undeniably, all living languages will be changing with passing time. Due to increased literacy, travel and communication among nations, people will adopt foreign words and invent new words, hence the developing language and the increasing vocabularies in their language evolutionarily. We cannot stop this process. Unless we corrupt a language deliberately or otherwise, its longevity will last for ages, and then its literature will remain in the culturally dignified status. We are responsible to take necessary arrangements for our Myanmar language so as not to deteriorate. We acknowledge that there are well-read youths around us. At the same time, we see many face-book users writing

our Myanmar by using newly invented nonsensical words. The avant-garde is acceptable, but we should not misuse a poetic license. In other words, we should not besmirch the reputation of our national heritage. Our language's writing system itself is said to have originated from Brahmi, which flourished in India from about 500 B. C. to over 300 A.D. It is said that the earliest Myanmar writing is from the Bagan period of the 11th and 12th centuries. As for the younger generation with great potential, they should make our well-developed language and literature our forefathers cared for ages, develop more and more. Now is the time for us to launch a campaign to promote our language, literature and reading habits. Sometimes we have ironies. At the time when nationwide literary talks are being held and many talk shows are being broadcasted over televisions, regrettably, we found book-cases of many ward-libraries locked nearly all the time.

It will take me a few lines to answer another question asked by my student. Once, during my student life, there was an English language teacher I admired and emulated. The whole town acknowledged him to be well-versed in the language. He devoted his life to teaching English and reading books, helping us to improve our language skills. Knowingly that it was impossible for me to know English and to appreciate English literature like my beloved teacher, I had ever attempted to do so. However my attempt, such as it was, was nothing compared to my teacher's. Whatever it was, I only had a smattering of English and the literature. There were, at our childhood Alma Mater, sporadically issued school wall-chart bulletins, of which large portions were occupied by my ideal's bilingual writings. These still impressed themselves on my poor memory. Would that the teacher lived to educate and share his linguistic knowledge with me.

Let me introduce you to several lines of my teacher's writings, which were exemplary sentences for a middle school student.

1/ His name had been written in white ink in the exam result.

2/ I felt as if all the eyes in the world were watching me.

3/ Teacher has been looking at us over his glasses, like throwing the fishing net over a school of fish.

There can be simple and correct sentences like these found in his essays. At my request, the teacher explained the sentences' meanings to me at length. When I started reading novels, I learnt to notice and love sentences written by using literary techniques/devices. As to journalism, it is said that the most important thing a reporter needs to know about euphemisms is that they don't belong in news stories. As for me, a diletante of the language and literature, I am fond of all kinds of writing styles. In our Myanmar literature as well, all these kinds of literary devices have been being used, as in English literature. Just the thought of the fact reminds me of our greatest poets, U Ponnya, Ah Chote Tan Sayar Pe, Ledi Sayadaw, Sayargyi Thakin Kodaw Hmine and many others. Our country abounds with able English-educated scholars who are capable of rendering the invaluable works. When I was a boy, a foolish wish occurred to me, to translate the great poem, "An appealing letter for sympathy from bovine to carnivorous beings" by Ledi Sayadaw. It would be like an idiot trying to swim across the sea. More and more bi-lingual literati such as Sayargyi U Mya Zin, Sayar U Tha Noe, Saya Moe Hein(Thar Journal Kyaw) and Sayarmagyi Daw Khin Myo Chit are still coming into this field. With their help and other scholars' effort, we will be able to have our good works put on the international literary stage.

May our language and literature develop and live long forever!

Soldier who killed US general spent three years in Afghan army



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

KABUL, 7 Aug—The Afghan who opened fire on a high-ranking delegation visiting a military complex in Kabul, killing US Major General Harold Greene, had served in the army for three years, an Afghan defence official said on Wednesday.

In the immediate after-

math of Tuesday's attack, the Defence Ministry had described the gunman, who was also killed, as a "terrorist in army uniform", indicating its belief he was an Islamist militant who had infiltrated the army from outside.

While details about the identity of the soldier

and his motivation remain sketchy, the fact that he had spent so long in the army before turning on fellow soldiers is likely to be a major line of inquiry in an investigation launched on Wednesday.

"What motivated the shooting is still under investigation, but the shooter

was an army soldier, not a terrorist from outside the base," said the official.

Initial findings from the investigation were due to land on Afghan President Hamid Karzai's desk by the evening.

Greene was the most senior US military official killed in action overseas

since the war in Vietnam. A German general was also among 14 coalition troops wounded after the man opened fire with a light machine gun.

The attack has raised fresh questions about the ability of NATO soldiers stationed in Afghanistan to train local forces, and will undermine trust between them at a crucial time.

Most foreign soldiers plan to withdraw from the war-torn country by the end of 2014, but, recognizing the challenge Afghan forces face in battling a vicious insurgency led by the Taliban, a contingent could remain beyond the deadline in a training and counter-terrorism role.

At their peak in 2012, so-called "insider" attacks threatened the very foundation of the US-led mission in Afghanistan and prompted the coalition to bring in a host of measures to reduce interaction with their local allies.

The number of incidents fell from nearly 50 in 2012 to about 15 last year.

"Despite all security measures, such attacks by insiders can never be totally ruled out," a German de-

fence ministry spokesman said.

The coalition, called the International Security Assistance Force (ISAF), insisted the attack would not compromise their plans to train and assist Afghanistan's fledgling armed forces, built from scratch after the Taliban were ousted in 2001.

"We do not view the incident at Marshal Fahim National Defence University in Kabul yesterday as representative of the positive relationship which we have nurtured," it said in a statement.

According to a spokesman for the German forces' mission command in Potsdam, near Berlin, the shooting at the complex on the outskirts of Kabul came from a neighbouring building. "The ISAF delegation was listening to a speech in the open air on the premises of the Marshal Fahim National Defence University when somebody opened fire," he said.

The attack was initially believed to have taken place at the British-backed officer training academy nicknamed "Sandhurst in the Sand".—Reuters

Kurds, Islamic State clash near Kurdish regional capital

BAGHDAD, 7 Aug—Kurdish forces attacked Islamic State fighters near the Kurdish regional capital of Arbil in northern Iraq on Wednesday in a change of tactics supported by the Iraqi central government to try to break the Islamists' momentum.

The attack 40 km (25 miles) southwest of Arbil came after the Sunni militants inflicted a humiliating defeat on the Kurds on Sunday with a rapid advance through three towns, prompting Iraq's prime minister to order his air force for the first time to back the Kurdish forces.

"We have changed our tactics from being defensive to being offensive. Now we are clashing with the Islamic State in Makhmur," said Jabbar Yawar, secretary-general of the ministry in charge of the Kurdish peshmerga fighters.

The location of the clashes puts the Islamic State fighters closer than

they have ever been to the Kurdish semi-autonomous region since they swept through northern Iraq almost unopposed in June.

Shortly after that lightning advance, thousands of US-trained Iraqi soldiers fled. Kurdish fighters, who boast of their battles against Saddam Hussein's forces, stepped in as did Iranian-trained Shi'ite militias.

But the Islamic State gunmen's defeat of the peshmerga, whose name means "those who confront death", has called into question their reputation as fearsome warriors.

The Islamic State poses the biggest threat to Iraq's security since the fall of Saddam Hussein in 2003.

The group, which believes Shi'ites are infidels who deserve to be killed, has won the support of some Sunnis who don't agree with their ideology but share a fierce determination to topple Prime Minister Nuri al-Maliki.

Maliki, a Shi'ite, is seen as an authoritarian figure with a sectarian agenda whose alienation of Sunnis is destabilising.

Islamic State fighters extend gains in north Iraq

Islamic State militants extended their gains in

northern Iraq on Thursday, seizing three more towns after residents fled the area in fear, witnesses said.

The advance came

after the Sunni militants inflicted a humiliating defeat on Kurdish forces in a weekend sweep in the north. — Reuters



Smoke rises during clashes between Kurdish "peshmerga" troops and militants of the Islamic State, formerly known as the Islamic State in Iraq and the Levant (ISIL), on the outskirts of Sinjar, west of Mosul, on 5 Aug, 2014.—REUTERS

SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY

Spacecraft Rosetta catches up to comet after 10-year chase

FRANKFURT, 7 Aug — European spacecraft *Rosetta* became the first ever to catch up with a comet on Wednesday, a landmark stage in a decade-long space mission that scientists hope will help unlock some of the secrets of the solar system.

Rosetta, launched by the European Space Agency (ESA) in 2004, will accompany comet 67P/Churyumov-Gerasimenko on its trip around the sun and land a probe on it later this year in an unprecedented maneuver.

Scientists are now on a tight schedule to learn enough about the comet using data from *Rosetta* to safely land the spacecraft's probe on it in November.

"We know what the comet's shape is. But we haven't really measured its gravity, we don't know yet



A handout image of an artist's impression, not to scale, of the *Rosetta* orbiter deploying the *Philae* lander to comet 67P/Churyumov-Gerasimenko, released by the European Space Agency (ESA) on 3 Dec, 2013.

REUTERS

where the center of mass is," *Rosetta* Flight Director Andrea Accomazzo told *Reuters* ahead of the rendezvous.

As it neared 67P/Churyumov-Gerasimenko this year, *Rosetta* took pictures revealing that it

is not shaped, as had been assumed, like a rugby or American football, but rather comprises two segments connected by a neck, giving it an asymmetrical shape that has been likened to a duck.

Scientists hope data

the probe gathers on the surface of the comet will allow them to peek into a kind of astronomical time capsule that has preserved for millions of years clues about what the world looked like when our solar system was born.

It has taken *Rosetta* 10 years, five months and four days to reach the comet, a roughly 3-by-5 km rock discovered in 1969. On its way, the spacecraft circled the sun on a widening spiral course, swinging past Earth and Mars to pick up speed and adjust its trajectory. The mission performs several historical firsts, including the first time a spacecraft orbits a comet rather than just whizzing past to snap some fly-by pictures, and the first time a probe has landed on a comet.

Because the trip is so

long and took *Rosetta* so far from the sun's solar rays, the spacecraft was put in a deep sleep for 31 months and woken up earlier this year.

There is little flexibility in *Rosetta*'s schedule this year. The comet is still hurtling toward the inner Solar System at almost 55,000 km per hour, and the closer it gets to the sun the more active it will become, emitting gases that can make it difficult to predict the trajectory of *Rosetta* and its probe.

"We have a lot of time pressure to produce engineering models of a world that we don't know yet," said Accomazzo, based at the ESA's satellite operations in the German town of Darmstadt, south of Frankfurt, who has been working on the *Rosetta* mission since 1997.—*Reuters*

World's "most biologically rich" sea area gets New Zealand government protection

WELLINGTON, 7 Aug —

An area described as the world's most biologically rich ocean environment is to come under a series of New Zealand government protection orders that will restrict fishing and prohibit mineral exploration, the country's Conservation Minister Nick Smith said on Wednesday. The new marine protected areas of Kaikoura, at the top the South Island, would conserve whales, dolphins, seals, albatrosses, rock lobster, shellfish and finfish and other marine life, Smith said in a statement.

"Kaikoura has the most biologically rich ocean environment in the world at over 500 metres depth with its deep canyons so close to shore. This extraordinary marine environment needs the recognition and protection of these new reserves, sanctuaries and the tighter fishing limits that are being signed into effect tomorrow," Smith said.

The new protections would include a whale sanctuary covering 4, 696 square kilometres, providing protection for the sperm, humpback, southern right, blue, killer and other whales, and a fur seal sanctuary. It would also include the Hikurangi Marine Reserve, covering 10, 416 hectares and extending 23.4 km offshore. "No mining, fishing or harvesting of any kind is allowed in this fully protected area covering the deep canyons," Smith said.—*Xinhua*

Butt batteries: Scientists store energy in used cigarette filters

LONDON, 7 Aug — Scientists in South Korea say they have found a way of converting used cigarette butts into a material capable of storing energy that could help power everything from mobile phones to electric cars.

In a study published on Tuesday in the journal *Nanotechnology*, researchers from Seoul National University outlined how they transformed the used filters, which are composed mainly of cellulose acetate fibers and are considered toxic and a risk to

the environment when discarded.

"Our study has shown that used cigarette filters can be transformed into a high-performing carbon-based material using a simple one-step process, which simultaneously offers a green solution to meeting the energy demands of society," said professor and study co-author Jongheop Yi.

The end result is a so-called supercapacitor, which the scientists said stores more power, charges quicker and lasts longer

than available storage alternatives.

"Carbon is one of the promising materials considered for use in supercapacitors due to its low cost, high porosity, electronic conductivity and stability," the study added.

According to anti-smoking campaigners Americans for Non-smokers' Rights, cigarette butts are the most commonly discarded item worldwide, contributing more than 765,000 tonnes of waste annually.

Reuters



An ash tray with cigarette butts is pictured in Hinzenbach, in the Austrian province of Upper Austria, on 5 Feb, 2012.—REUTERS

Midnight tweets domain of the depressed

SYDNEY, 7 Aug — A groundbreaking study by Australian and Chinese researchers has found a link between depression sufferers and the last night use of social media tools.

The joint study by the Australia National University (ANU) and China's Harbin Institute of Technology (HIT) analyzed data from Chinese social media site Weibo to predict potential depression among users.

The results, released on Wednesday, suggest the

lure of social media in the silence of night is a magnet for people who suffer from depression betraying a far higher level of activity on social media between 11 pm and 3 am compared to other social media users.

"We found that in comparison to the control group, individuals with predicted Major Depression Disorder were more active on social media between 11 pm and 3 am," said co-researcher Jin Han, a PhD student with the ANU National Institute for Mental Health Research.

"Secondly, these people have a specific linguistic pattern. They are more likely to use negative words, such as death, depression, life, pain, and suicide."

Han said she hoped the study could be used to help organizations which work with people suffering depression. "The information could be provided to organizations such as Lifeline who support people with depression," she said.

"It could also be used to identify people who may be showing signs of depres-

sion but are less likely to reach out for help." Charmaine Yabsley, a social media and health expert writing for national health insurer BUPA, said that there are growing concerns for Australians online. "Social media can be a wonderful tool, helping us source information and communicate with friends around the world.

But what happens when we use social networking sites to be, well, less social and physically active in real life? For many

of us, social media has become part of our everyday lives. We tweet, blog, update and upload regularly — for work and personal reasons," he said.

Around 80 percent of the Australian population is online, ranking the nation as having one of the highest Internet penetration rates in the world. According to a recent Nielsen survey of 5,000 Australians aged 16 years and over, close to half of all online Australians participate in social media sites on an almost weekly

basis, spending around 22 hours on it every week.

Almost 70 percent of Australians log on many times a day.

The upshot for youth in a technological world is that it is easy to feel non-existent without being online.

Han presented the findings of the study during the two-day Studying the Chinese Internet workshop jointly organized by the ANU College of Arts and Social Sciences and the ANU College of Asia and Pacific.—*Xinhua*

Clinton trumps Christie for president in New Jersey voter poll



Hillary Clinton

WASHINGTON, 7 Aug — New Jersey voters favour Democrat Hillary Clinton over their own Governor Chris Christie in the 2016 US presidential race, according to a poll released on Wednesday.

Clinton, the former secretary of state and US senator from neighbouring New York, would be more fit as commander in chief than Republican Christie, said half of those polled by Quinnipiac University.

“As Gov Christopher

Christie traipses around the nation, his presidential potential seems alive, but former Secretary of State Hillary Clinton, the adopted girl next door, easily beats him in his home state,” Maurice Carroll, assistant director of the Quinnipiac University Poll, said in a statement.

Clinton was also the front-runner against other possible top Republican presidential contenders. She led former Florida Governor Jeb Bush by 54

percent to 34 percent, US Senator Rand Paul of Kentucky, by 55 percent to 35 percent and former Arkansas Governor Mike Huckabee by 57 percent to 34 percent.

The early look at the upcoming presidential race in the Garden State showed a broad gap between female and male voters.

While Clinton led the overall poll over Christie for the presidential race in New Jersey, 50 percent to 42 percent, women favored

her by 54 percent. Men chose Christie over Clinton 44 to 42 percent.

Clinton has generally been outscoring Republicans in the states polled by the university, including likely 2016 swing state Ohio, poll spokesman Pat Smith said.

The telephone survey of 1,148 registered voters in was conducted between on 31 July and Monday. It has a margin of error of plus or minus 2.9 percentage points. — Reuters

Woman rescued from debris three days after quake

LUDIAN, (Yunnan), 7 Aug — Rescuers from the People's Liberation Army pulled a survivor out of rubble three days after a 6.5-magnitude earthquake jolted southwest China's Yunnan Province.

Yan Li was buried up to her neck in debris from houses and rocks when the rescuers found her and her uninjured brother, Yan Rong, on Wednesday morning.

She had helped her pregnant sister-in-law exit the house after the earthquake occurred on Sunday but she was unable to escape, her brother said, add-

ing that he had fed her over the past three days.

Yan was losing consciousness at the time of rescue on Wednesday evening and was rushed to the hospital for treatment.

She is the first survivor found by rescuers after the 72-hour window that is considered to be the “golden period” for survival.

As of Wednesday morning, the death toll from the Yunnan tremor, the strongest quake in the region in 14 years, had risen to 589, with nine people still missing, the provincial civil affairs department said.—Xinhua

MH17 recovery mission suspended over security concerns

THE HAGUE / KIEV, 7 Aug — The recovery mission at the Malaysia Airlines MH17 crash site in eastern Ukraine was suspended until further notice due to the deteriorating security conditions in the area, Dutch Prime Minister Mark Rutte announced on Wednesday.

“The tension in the area increases and therefore, the experts cannot do their work in key parts of the area,” Rutte told reporters, adding that it does not make sense to continue the recovery and repatriation mission. The Netherlands, which leads the mission, also discussed the decision with its partners of Australia, Malaysia and the Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe (OSCE). The relatives have

also been informed. “We would love to have stayed longer to be able to do our work thoroughly,” Rutte said. “But the developments simply point in a different direction. We did what we could under the current circumstances, and everyone will agree with us that we cannot expose our people to unnecessary risks.”

A small team will remain in the region and so there remains an opportunity for locals to transfer personal belongings or human remains to this team.

The head of the recovery mission, Pieter-Jaap Aalbersberg, also confirmed in Kiev later Wednesday that the police personnel and experts would not search the crash area from Thursday.—Xinhua

Nine surrogate babies found in Bangkok condominium

BANGKOK, 7 Aug — Thai authorities are investigating the discovery of nine surrogate babies in a Bangkok condominium who are believed to share the same Japanese biological father, police said on Thursday.

The case is the latest to emerge after an Australian couple were accused of leaving a Down syndrome baby with his Thai birth mother, triggering global condemnation and calls for an overhaul of lax surrogacy laws.

Authorities acting on a tip-off raided the condominium in the Lat Phrao area of the Thai capital on Tuesday to find nine babies being looked after by seven nannies, with a pregnant 20-year-old living there.



Gammy, a baby born with Down's Syndrome, is held by his surrogate mother Pattaramon Janbua at a hospital in Chonburi Province on 3 Aug, 2014. — REUTERS

Police spoke to a Thai man who said he was the lawyer of a Japanese businessman who claims to be the babies' biological father, deputy national police chief Aek Angsanant said.

“We are questioning the nannies, as well as asking for cooperation from the Japanese embassy, to help conduct DNA testing,” Aek told Reuters.

He added: “If the Japanese man admits that all

the children are his babies, we would ask him why he wanted to have so many babies.” Reuters was unable to contact the Thai lawyer, Ratprathan Tulathorn, despite repeated attempts to reach him by telephone.

The latest case has raised fresh concerns over the ease with which foreigners can come to Thailand, which has no laws directly relating to surrogacy, to buy surrogacy services.

Although commercial surrogacy is barred by the code of conduct of the Medical Council of Thailand, the country is a top destination in Asia for fertility clinics and couples opting for surrogacy arrangements.

Reuters

Hawaii braces for Hurricane Iselle, with Julio right behind

HONOLULU, 7 Aug — Hawaiians braced for a one-two punch from a pair of major storms headed their way on Wednesday, as Hurricane Iselle bore down on the islands packing high winds and heavy surf and Julio, tracking right behind, was upgraded to hurricane status. Iselle was about 620 miles (997 km) east of Hilo, on the Island of Hawaii, at 11 am Hawaiian Standard Time on Wednesday and heading west-northwest at 15 miles per hour (24 km per hour) with maximum sustained winds of 90 mph (144 kph), according to the



The US Navy Sea-based X-Band radar leaves Pearl Harbor as two hurricanes approach the Hawaiian islands, in Honolulu, Hawaii, on 6 Aug, 2014.—REUTERS

National Hurricane Centre. Iselle was expected to weaken into a tropical storm before reaching the

islands on Thursday afternoon but forecasters said it could still bring high winds and 10-to-15-foot (3-to-

4.5-meter) surf to the tourist haven. State officials warned of the potential for flash floods, mudslides and power outages and Governor Neil Abercrombie signed an emergency proclamation, freeing up funds and other resources, in anticipation of its arrival.

“We want to make sure we are doing everything possible to protect the public,” Abercrombie said in a statement released by his office. “This proclamation improves the state's ability to respond quickly to any potential impacts from both storms.”—Reuters

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

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

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

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

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

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Weather report

FORECAST VALID UNTIL EVENING OF THE 8th August, 2014: Rain or thundershowers will be scattered in Lower Sagaing and Magway Regions, Kayah State, fairly widespread in Upper Sagaing and Mandalay Regions, Kachin, Shan and Chin States and widespread in the remaining Regions and States with likelihood of regionally heavy falls in Bago and Taninthayi Regions, Rakhine, Kayin and Mon States and isolated heavy falls in Yangon and Ayeyawady Regions. Degree of certainty is (100%).

Lebanese army surrounds border town, evacuates refugees



Lebanese army soldiers ride military vehicles, in Labwe in eastern Bekaa Valley on 6 Aug, 2014. — REUTERS

ON THE OUTSKIRTS OF ARSAL, (Lebanon), 7 Aug — Lebanon's army surrounded a border town occupied by Islamist militants on Wednesday as mediators reported progress in negotiations to end to the most serious spillover of Syria's civil war yet onto Lebanese soil. Soldiers arrested men and evacuated refugees from the hill town of Arsal on the border with Syria. One Syrian refugee said she had seen fighters' bodies lying in the streets.

"We saw death with our own eyes," said Mariam Seifeddin, a 35-year-old mother of nine, who said she had sheltered with about 50 others in a single room without food or water for three days amid intense fighting. Saudi Arabian King Abdullah granted \$1 billion to help the Lebanese army bolster security as they battle militants in Arsal on the Syrian frontier. Earlier, machine gun fire and shelling on the outskirts of the town breached the 24-hour truce, which came into force at on Tuesday and was extended on Wednesday evening, according to Sunni

Muslim clerics mediating between the combatants.

Political sources said the army was not planning immediately to retake Arsal but to evacuate civilians. A security official and a doctor in Arsal said many militants had fled into the surrounding mountains following the army bombardment.

Arsal is the first major incursion into Lebanon by hardline Sunni militants — leading players in Sunni-Shi'ite violence unfolding across the Levant — which threatens the stability of Lebanon by inflaming its own sectarian tensions.

While Lebanon has officially tried to distance itself from Syria's conflict, the country's powerful Shi'ite movement, Hezbollah, has sent fighters to aid President Bashar al-Assad.

Dozens of armoured-personnel carriers and tanks were seen on the road heading towards the area. Lebanese special forces were also being deployed on Wednesday, arriving at the nearby town of al-Labwa, where hundreds of soldiers are stationed.

Reuters

South Sudan humanitarian aid operations are world's largest — UN

UNITED NATIONS, 7 Aug — The scale of humanitarian operations in South Sudan is now the largest in any single country and the world's youngest nation is on the brink of catastrophe as a famine looms, the UN deputy peacekeeping chief said on Wednesday.

Ahead of a visit by UN Security Council ambassadors to Africa next week, Edmond Mulet told the 15-member council the dire situation could spark security concerns "as communities begin to compete for diminishing resources."

"After three years of independence, South Sudan is on the brink of a humanitarian catastrophe and a protracted internal conflict. This is a man-made crisis, and those responsible for it have been slow in resolving it," Mulet said.

At least 10,000 people have been killed since fierce fighting erupted in December, pitting President Salva Kiir's government forces against supporters of Riek Machar, his former deputy and long-



People walk through the mud in an internally displaced persons (IDP) camp inside the UN base in Malakal, on 25 July, 2014. —REUTERS

time political rival.

The conflict has reopened deep ethnic tensions between Kiir's Dinka and Machar's Nuer, in a country which won independence from Sudan in 2011. Kiir and Machar agreed in May to a ceasefire and to work out details for a transitional government, but little progress has been made.

Mulet said more than

one million people have been displaced by the violence and more than 400,000 have fled the country. He said the UN peacekeeping operation in South Sudan was sheltering nearly 100,000 civilians at its bases.

"With the prolonged presence of this considerable number of people at the facilities which were not built for such a purpose,

conditions have become extremely challenging," he said.

The UN Security Council almost doubled the mandated number of peacekeepers in late December to 12,500 troops and 1,323 police officers. Mulet said that as of Monday there were about 10,500 troops and 1,000 police on the ground.

Reuters

Superhero 'Turtles' swing back onto big screen in new mutation

LOS ANGELES, 7 Aug — The teenage mutant heroes in a half shell are battling their way back to movie screens with teen crushes, insecurity, rage and a hankering for pizza in a franchise reboot for a new generation.

"Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles," based on the 1980s comic book series that led to a television show and then a film in 1990, features four turtle brothers trained as fighters.

In the 2014 version out in US theatres on Friday, the amiable Turtles named after Renaissance artists are brought to life with new performance capture technology.

The restless teen Turtles are fighting the criminal Foot Clan as nighttime vigilantes, but as Foot Clan leader Shredder's evil plans threaten to obliterate the population of New York, the Turtles must leave the safety of their sewer lair to save the city.

Viacom-owned Paramount Pictures acquired the rights to the "Turtles" in 2009 and relaunched the "Turtles" TV series on Nickelodeon in 2012, bringing in a new youth audience to the characters. The film's budget is estimated at \$125 million by IMDB.com, and is projected by BoxOffice.com to earn \$39 million in its

opening weekend.

Reimagining the Turtles was a job entrusted to George Lucas' Industrial Light & Magic (ILM) team, which developed performance capture software to make the superheroes as photo-realistic as possible in the production led by Michael Bay and directed by Jonathan Liebesman.

The four relatively unknown actors that played the Turtles — Noel Fisher (Michelangelo), Pete Ploszek (Leonardo), Jeremy Howard (Donatello) and Alan Ritchson (Raphael) — wore helmets rigged with high-definition cameras capturing every facial movement.



Cast members Megan Fox and Will Arnett pose at the premiere of "Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles" in Los Angeles, California on 3 Aug, 2014.—REUTERS

"You want to make sure you entertain the individuality of every one of those characters," said Pablo Helman, the ILM visual effects supervisor behind

the film.

"They're all completely different from each other, but they're brothers and they all feel they don't belong in this world. That's

also why they're so big, it's a really good way to say they're too big for the world in which they live in."

Reuters

I want to be James Bond villain: Karen Gillan



Karen Gillan

LONDON, 7 Aug — Actress Karen Gillan says she would love to star as a villain in a James Bond movie. The 26-year-old 'Guardians of the Galaxy' actress joked that she hopes to use one of her unusual moves on series star Daniel Craig, reported BBC online.

"My dad used to tell me when I was younger, 'You don't want to be a Bond girl, you want to be a villain'. That stuck with me," Gillan said. The actress recently suggested that her role as Amy Pond on 'Doctor Who' helped her when it came to filming 'Guardians of the Galaxy'.

"There are actually a lot of similarities because it's sci-fi. There's a lot of green screen and reacting to things that aren't there, so I feel like I was trained up for it. "But the main difference is that everything is just bigger in scale. More set, more people, just a bigger budget," he added.—PTI

Katie Holmes almost took lead role in 'Orange Is the New Black'

LOS ANGELES, 7 Aug — Actress Katie Holmes was almost cast in the role of Piper Chapman in 'Orange Is the New Black'.

The Netflix show's creator Jenji Kohan revealed that she was a fan of Holmes and considered the former 'Dawson's Creek' actress for the lead, reported E! online.

"You know, I met with her. She had other things to do. And also in the beginning, no-one knew what this was," Kohan said.

Taylor Schilling, who plays prisoner Piper, added, "I'm a big fan of Katie Holmes. She could be friends with Lorna or like

Lorna's Boston sister."

Holmes has previously said that the Emmy-nominated show is one of her favourite series.

PTI



Actress Katie Holmes

I made very safe, boring choices as an actor: Jessica Alba

LONDON, 7 Aug — Actress Jessica Alba says she could have made more daring decisions in her career. The 33-year-old 'Sin City' star said that she was worried about receiving criticism for her movie roles, and often played it safe as a result, reported Digital Spy.

"I don't know if I was ever typecast, but I just made very safe, boring choices as an actor, and I take full responsibility for that," she said.

"It wasn't the roles. It was probably the way I translated them. I was afraid to be fearless and bold. I was young, I was afraid of being criticised, and I wanted to appease everyone."—PTI



Jessica Alba,

Veteran rockers and retro songs dominate Billboard 200 chart

LOS ANGELES, 7 Aug — Retro music and veteran rockers headed the weekly US Billboard 200 album chart on Wednesday, as rock band Tom Petty and the Heartbreakers notched its first-ever No 1.

Tom Petty and the Heartbreakers, which emerged in 1976 at the forefront of the heartland rock scene, topped the chart this week with "Hypnotic Eye" — its 13th studio album — selling 131,000 copies, according to figures from Nielsen SoundScan.

Veteran English guitarist Eric Clapton claimed



the No 2 spot with his latest collaboration, "The Breeze: An Appreciation of JJ Cale," which features John Mayer, Tom Petty and Willie Nelson, selling 61,000 copies.

At No 3 on the chart is "Awesome Mix Vol. 1," the soundtrack to Disney-Marvel's latest superhero box office hit "Guardians of the Galaxy," which is featured extensively

throughout the film and sold 60,000 copies.

The throwback 1970s mix, which is rogue hero Peter Quill's own soundtrack throughout the film, features tracks such as Blue Swede's "Hooked on a Feeling" and Jackson 5's "I Want You Back."

Last week's chart-topper, Australian boy band 5 Seconds of Summer's debut self-titled record, dropped to No 4 this week while 15-year-old Canadian social media star Shawn Mendes entered the chart at No 5 with his self-titled extended play.

Reuters

GENERAL

Sportives helping harmony on Britain's roads



Cyclists of all ages ride away from Trafalgar Square during the Prudential Ride London FreeCycle ride in central London on 3 Aug, 2013.—REUTERS

LONDON, 7 Aug — The rise and rise of cycling in Britain will scale a new peak on Sunday when 24,000 amateur riders take over the capital and a swathe of the countryside in the closed-road Prudential Ride London Surrey 100, the country's ultimate "cyclo-sportive".

The idea that British car drivers could be forced to take second place to cyclists would have seemed preposterous only a few years ago — and still is to many. And while there is a long way to go before the streets are routinely shared with a cheery wave as they are in large areas of continental

Europe, groups of cyclists out for a weekend spin are becoming more and more a part of the landscape.

Going hand in hand with Britain's professional cycling success, the sportive movement is the most visible manifestation of that growth over the past decade, exploding from a handful of events to more than 500 now. In essence a sportive is an organized ride where a few hundred, sometimes a few thousand, amateur riders follow a signposted course. Organizers provide numbering, signposting, maps, mechanical assistance, food and drink stops. They also provide timings, though are always keen to stress that their events are not races, which would require licensing and police liaison.

They usually take place

on quiet, country roads and lanes as riders enjoy the rarity of some "critical mass" where their numbers earn them some degree of safety.

For many it is also a chance to experience riding in a peloton for the first time, something that is an eye-opening experience and subsequently helps give a much better understanding of the tactics of professional racing.

"In the last seven or eight years there has been an incredible growth in sportives," Rob Spedding, editor of *Cycling Plus* magazine, told *Reuters*.

"I think British cycling success on the road and track helped spark the interest and it probably coincided with a period where there were more consumers with money to spend.—*Reuters*

"Shark whisperer" calls for shark conservation in Singapore

SINGAPORE, 7 Aug — Cristina Zenato, one of the few "shark whisperers" in the world who have the ability to induce "tonic immobility" of sharks, a very special hypnosis state of sharks, has come to Singapore to promote shark conservation on Wednesday.

With just a touch on head and face, Zenato can lead these dreadful man-eaters into a state of paralysis for an average of 15 minutes before it comes round. For visitors, it seems that the

sharks are falling asleep right in her lap. Born in Italy and grew up in the African rain forests until she was 15, Zenato said she found her talent just "by chance."

"We were working in the natural environment feeding the sharks, and the sharks came close and basically it was an instinct to push the sharks away, and instead of swimming away, some sharks just stopped in my hand," Zenato recalled. It was since then she started experimenting the skill and

finally mastered it.

Zenato said there are only "a dozen" shark whisperers like her in the world. Since the discovery of such phenomenon, scientists have been using it to study shark behavior, which is what Zenato has been doing these years.

She assists with the collection of DNA samples, and other vital data, check for parasites as well as to remove fishing hooks from these so-called "sea wolves."

Despite their fierce look, sharks, the ancient creatures which are as old as dinosaur, is declining sharply in number. A report released by Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species (CITES) in 2013 showed that global demand spurs the killing of up to 100 million sharks every year. The popularity of shark fin soup has decimated global shark populations by 90 percent or more in the last 50 years.

Xinhua

MYANMAR TV

(8-8-2014, Friday)

- 6:00 am
- * Paritta by Venerable Mingun Sayadaw
- 6:30 am
- * Physical Exercise
- 7:20 am
- * Hyper Sports
- 8:30 am
- * TV Drama Series
- 9:00 am
- * News/International News
- 9:30 am
- * Documentary (ASEAN)
- 10:00 am
- * News
- 11:25 am
- * Myanmar Traditional Performing Arts Competitions
- 12:25 pm
- * Myanmar Movie
- 2:45 pm
- * Hyper Sports
- 3:00 pm
- * News
- 3:15 pm
- * Teleplay
- 4:00 pm
- * News
- 4:30 pm
- * University of Distance Education (TV Lectures) -Second Year (Zoology)
- 5:00 pm
- * News
- 6:20 pm
- * Amazing World
- 7:20 pm
- * TV Drama Series
- 8:00 pm
- * News/International News/Weather Report
- 8:35 pm
- * Documentary
- 9:00 pm
- * News
- * Hyper Sports
- * Hit Songs of Stars

MYANMAR INTERNATIONAL

(8-8-14 07:00 am~9-8-14 07:00 am) MST

- * Local News
- * A Highland with Peace and Charm
- * World News
- * Guiding Star of Song Birds
- * Local News
- * An Aficionado of Alluring Antiques "U Sein Myint"
- * World News
- * Parents' Day
- * Local News
- * Kayah
- * World News
- * Myanmar Weaving
- * Local News
- * Food Trip (Episode-1)
- * World News
- * A Monk's Robe
- * Local News
- * Youth of the Future "Puppet"
- * World News
- * Myanmar Masterclass: 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

Colombia court bars rebels guilty of atrocities from public office

BOGOTA, 7 Aug — A Colombian high court ruled on Wednesday that Marxist rebels found guilty of atrocious war crimes cannot hold public office, a decision that may block some FARC leaders from entering politics and complicate negotiations to end five decades of war.

The ruling by the constitutional court throws into doubt agreements reached between the government and leaders of the Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia (FARC) that laid the groundwork for rebel political participation if the two sides agree on peace terms. President Juan Manuel Santos will be sworn in to office

on Thursday after winning a second term, mostly on the back of his bid to end the conflict that has killed more than 200,000 people and displaced millions.

Santos launched peace talks with the FARC at the end of 2012 with massive popular backing, but months of negotiations amid ongoing war and continued rebel attacks against civilian targets have dimmed support and left many questioning if the guerrillas should be allowed to hold office.

The court ruled that only rebels who have been involved in lesser crimes can seek election to political office. The interpretation of what constitutes atrocious

crimes and lesser crimes will be decided by Congress, Luis Ernesto Vargas, president of the court, told reporters. The decision may please some critics of the peace talks, most notably former president Alvaro Uribe, who has expressed outrage that FARC crimes could go unpunished and that rebel commanders may end up with seats in Congress.

"Even if crimes against humanity and genocide prevent participation, it's too bad other serious crimes make them eligible," Uribe, whose father was killed in a FARC kidnapping, said on his Twitter account.

Reuters



FARC rebels who were arrested by army troops in combat are pictured from behind alongside seized weapons at an army base in Tame, Arauca province on 21 July, 2013, in this handout photo provided by the Defence Ministry. —REUTERS

Myanmar Internal Golf Tournament 2014 kicks off in PyinOoLwin



PyinOoLWIN, 7 Aug — The fourth leg of the 2014 Internal Golf Tournament, jointly organized by the Myanmar Golf Federation and Myanmar PGA and mainly sponsored by the Myawady Bank Limited, was held at the PyinOoL-

win Golf Course here on Thursday, sources said.

Chairman of the Myawaddy Bank Limited Lt-Gen Khin Zaw Oo, Commander of PyinOoLwin Command Brig-Gen Myint Maw, Vice-president of the Myanmar Golf

Federation U Aung Kyi, Deputy-Managing Director U Yu Lwin and Chairman of PyinOoLwin Golf Club U Aung Zaw Latt teed off to open the first day of the 18-hole competition.

The competition drew 186 golfers, 30 at the pro-

fession level, 122 at men's amateur level and 34 at women's amateur level.

Co-sponsors are the Ayeyawaddy Bank Ltd, the United Amara Bank, the Asia Green Development Bank, and the Innwa Bank.—Nyi Nyi Soe Nyunt

Order restored as Sharapova, Serena advance in Montreal

MONTREAL, 7 Aug — Fourth seed Maria Sharapova rallied for a 4-6, 6-3, 6-1 second-round win over Spain's Garbine Muguruza while Serena Williams destroyed former US Open champion Samantha Stosur as order and power was restored to the Rogers Cup in Montreal on Wednesday.

A day after the tournament was left without power and its main attraction when Canada's Wimbledon finalist Eugenie Bouchard suffered a surprise opening-match loss, the event enjoyed a return to normalcy as the electricity was back on and Sharapova moved onto the third round.

World number one Williams, just days after bagging her fourth title of the year at Stanford, then joined her with a 6-0, 6-2 thrashing of 2011 Flushing Meadows champion Stosur in a touch under an

hour.

"It's been a few weeks since I've been in that competitive atmosphere," said Sharapova, who has not played since her fourth round loss at Wimbledon. "It's always quite different, no matter how much you train, you try to prepare for that."

"Once you step on the court, you feel a little bit more from the crowd, the energy. You get inspired by everything. But you're ultimately a bit rusty." The French Open champion was far from sharp in her return as the promising young Spaniard took advantage of several errors by the Russian to grab the opening set. But Sharapova, a three-time winner this season, was able to convert on the big points to stay on track for a first ever title on the Canadian hard courts.

Reuters

Bayern manager Guardiola angry after loss



Bayern Munich head coach Josep Guardiola reacts during the 2014 MLS All Star Game at Providence Park in Portland, on 6 Aug, 2014.—REUTERS

PORTLAND, 7 Aug — Angry Bayern Munich manager Pep Guardiola did not shake hands with his opposite number after his star-studded side lost to the MLS All-Star team in a fierce friendly in Portland, Oregon on Wednesday. The Spaniard gave Caleb Porter a one-fingered wave-off, apparently angry at some of the tackles by the MLS players as the German champions were beaten 2-1. Guardiola offered the refereeing panel a token handshake and quickly disappeared into the tunnel.

The acrimonious ending overshadowed a brilliant first half goal by Polish striker Robert Lewandowski that gave Bayern

the lead.

Lewandowski, who moved to the Bundesliga champions from Borussia Dortmund in the close season, struck a piledriver from just outside the box into the roof of the net that beat MLS keeper Nick Rimando with sheer pace. But substitute Bradley Wright-Phillips scored an equally impressive goal in the 51st minute when he latched onto a through ball and hammered a left-foot shot into the far corner from about 20 metres. Landon Donovan then snatched the win for the All-Stars with a right-foot shot from 10 metres in the 70th minute.

Most of the Bayern first-team regulars started on the bench in the team's sixth pre-season game.

In the 79th minute, four of Germany's World Cup-winning team — Bastian Schweinsteiger, Philipp Lamm, Thomas Muller and Mario Gotze — came on simultaneously in a mass substitution, though Schweinsteiger left the game before the end after a challenge that may have prompted Guardiola's subsequent ire.

"I understand he doesn't want his players to get hurt. They're not great tackles but they're not the worst tackles I've ever seen and I hope Schweini's not hurt," Donovan told ESPN.—Reuters

Germany's World Cup winner Goetze breaks silence

BERLIN, 7 Aug — Germany's World Cup hero Mario Goetze said he did not have time to think about what he was doing when he controlled the ball with his chest before sweeping a sweet volley past Argentina's Sergio Romero in the final. "You don't really think very much when you're in a situation like that," Goetze, 22, said in the *Bild* newspaper on Wednesday in his first interview since scoring the winning goal.

"I could try to describe what happened to you but only after taking a look at the replay myself. In the match it all happens intuitively," added Goetze whose extra-time strike gave Germany a 1-0 victory. The Bayern Munich forward dismissed suggestions he had a mediocre World Cup until coming on before extra-time in the final after staying on the bench for most of the knockout round.

He started Germany's first four matches but was replaced at halftime in the round of 16 match against Algeria. "Everyone wants to play as much as possible in the World Cup," said Goetze. "I think that I made a contribution to our winning the World Cup. Whenever I got my



Germany's Mario Goetze shoots to score a goal against Argentina during extra time in their 2014 World Cup final at the Maracana stadium in Rio de Janeiro on 13 July, 2014.—REUTERS

chances, my performance values were alright. I kept training hard (after being benched) and kept believing in myself."

Goetze said he did not want to give any interviews after the World Cup because he wanted to digest it all himself first. "To be honest I had to let it all sink in first," he said when asked why he had declined to give any interviews. "I wanted to savour the moment. I also wanted to avoid saying something in a moment of

euphoria that would stick forever. I'd rather stay down to earth. That's why I wanted to get away from it all for a while."

Goetze also took aim at the media for being unfairly critical of him for not wanting to comment at times. He said he could not understand, for instance, the criticism levelled at him for not celebrating more when he scored twice in Germany's 6-1 pre-tournament win in a friendly against Armenia.—Reuters