

President pledges to provide land plots for landless people

NAY PYI TAW, 15 Aug — Granting land to landless people is an important task in the process of socio-economic development and reducing poverty, President U Thein Sein said in his speech at the opening ceremony of a workshop on land resources management for rural and urban development projects on Friday in Nay Pyi Taw.

He said the government will be able to settle landless people on newly-developed plots in accordance with urban and rural development plans only after identifying the “real landless people” by examining their household member lists according to the law as “there are some people who settle in forestland, virgin land and urban areas illegally”.

The president urged the participants of the workshop to find out ways and means to simplify the laws, rules and regulations in order to solve land disputes swiftly.

Regarding some of



President U Thein Sein addresses a meeting that highlights land resources management for rural and urban development projects to enable people nationwide to enjoy higher living standard.—MNA

the main challenges in towns and villages, the president highlighted shortage of drinking water, lack of proper drain-

age and traffic congestions due to population increase, the influx of migrant workers, and an increase of hawkers and

squatters along roads and railway lines.

The president pointed out that socioeconomic and environmental prob-

lems can be solved by drawing rural and urban development plans in accordance with the law.

(See page 3)

UPWC, NCCT aim at ending dissent in draft nationwide ceasefire

YANGON, 15 Aug — The fifth meeting between the Nationwide Ceasefire Coordination Team

(NCCT) and the Union Peace-making Working Committee (UPWC) has been reported to mainly fo-

cus on ethnic issues, a major dissent in the blueprint of the nationwide ceasefire.

The meeting took

place at the Myanmar Peace Centre here on Friday, raising some hope of finalizing the truce.

U Aung Min, Union Minister and also UPWC Vice Chairman, said in his opening speech that the nationwide ceasefire, if successful, would be a brandnew milestone in the history of Myanmar, pledging to continue to lay down a firm foundation that will pave the way for political dialogue, which he said was critical to the ongoing peace process.

U Naing Han Tha, leader of the NCCT, said trust has been built through nationwide ceasefire talks, citing the Laiza summit which resulted in guidelines for ethnic groups to go by.

He continued to say that the fifth meeting would emphasize democratic practices, national equality, the establishment of federal

(See page 2)



Union Peace-making Working Committee Vice Chairman Union Minister U Aung Min explains nationwide ceasefire among ethnic armed groups.—MNA

INSIDE

Workshop on land resources management held in Nay Pyi Taw

PAGE-3

Myanmar to enhance military cooperation with Poland

PAGE-3

Yangon Region Chief Minister inspects flood-affected schools in Yangon

PAGE-3

Unemployment should no longer be a national burden

PAGE-8

Ministerial plans of action to be implemented for development of Rakhine State

NAY PYI TAW, 15 Aug — The Social Economy Development Work Committee for Rakhine State has been distributing quality paddy strain and fertilizer, farming machineries and provided assistance in the education, health and communication sectors, with further action to be taken to improve the development of the state, said Chairman of the Work Committee and Union Minister for Industry U Maung

Myint on Friday.

At a coordination meeting held at the ministry in Nay Pyi Taw, the union minister stressed the need for members of the work committee to implement action plans of respective ministries.

As part of the action plan, the committee said it would conduct vocational courses for local youth and focus on the improvement of other sectors.

MNA



CASH DONATED: Union Minister for Education Dr Daw Khin San Yi (R) presents certificate of honour to Mizuho Bank Ltd President and ECO Mr Nobuhide Hayashi of Japan for cash donation of the bank at the ministry on 14 August.

MNA

Promotion of relations between Myanmar, Poland discussed

NAY PYI TAW, 15 Aug — Chairman U Hla Myint Oo of the Lower House International Relations Committee held a meeting with Mr. Zenon Kuchciak, Polish Ambassador to

Myanmar, on Friday at the Hluttaw Complex in Nay Pyi Taw to discuss further strengthening relations and mutual cooperation between Myanmar and Poland.—MNA

Water levels at Khamti, Homalin, Madauk

NAY PYI TAW, 15 Aug — According to the 10:30 hrs MST observation on Friday, the water level of the Chindwin River at Khamti reached 165 cm, about 5.5 feet below a level marked as dangerous, with experts saying that level might be reached within the next 48 hours commencing this noon.

The water level of the Chindwin River at Homalin reached 140 cm, about

4.5 feet, below dangerous levels and maybe also reach problematic levels within the next 48 hours.

According to the 12:30 hrs MST observation, the water level of Sittoung River at Madauk exceeded 6 cm, about 2.5 feet, above its danger level, but might decline in the next two days, the Meteorology and Hydrology Department announced.

MNA

Meeting on progress of education sector held in Nay Pyi Taw



Union Minister for Science and Technology Dr Ko Ko Oo focuses on improvement of education sector at the workshop.—MNA

NAY PYI TAW, 15 Aug — Union Minister for Sci-

ence and Technology Dr Ko Ko Oo urged faculty members from universities, colleges, institutes and

schools to hold discussions on the drafts of the higher education law, the private university law and the technical and vocational education law, which have already been distributed to the attendees “to realize the country’s education reform process”, at Wednesday’s meeting in his office in Nay Pyi Taw.

The Union minister said that teachers have the responsibility to teach each subject without bias and treat all students equally. He also gave the advice to teachers to actively take part in literacy, culture and sports activities, before receiving reports on the reform process in the education sector.

MNA

UPWC, NCCT aim...

(from page 1)

republics, the formation of a joint committee that will organize the political dialogue after the signing of the nationwide ceasefire, and the handling of the plight of internally displaced persons on account of armed conflicts.

Maj-Gen Guam Maw, deputy leader No 2 of the NCCT, told media persons that the nationwide ceasefire will give rise to peace, which he described as a public desire.

MNA

Police, woman injured in scuffle between trespassers and police

NAY PYI TAW, 15 Aug — Trespassers who ploughed the field near Nyaung Wun Village in Singu Township attacked the police with rocks, rods and catapults, injuring 14 policemen and a village woman who sustained a slight gunshot wound on the left shin.

About 300 villagers attacked the police, who were in Nyaung Wun Village to detain the trespassers.

The woman was injured by an accidental shot while the mob was grabbing the rifle of a policeman.

MNA

Finance and Information ministries win quarterfinals of Inter-Ministry Football Tournament

NAY PYI TAW, 15 Aug — The Ministry of Finance defeated the Ministry of Rail Transportation 7-5 at the sports ground No 3, while the Ministry of Information beat the Ministry of Home Affairs 1-0 in the quarterfinal matches of the 7th Inter-Ministry Football Tournament in Nay Pyi Taw on Friday.

Tomorrow’s fixtures will be Electric Power Ministry vs. Ministry of Agriculture and Irrigation at the ground No 3 and Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement Ministry vs. Ministry of Defence at the ground No 4.

MNA

Botahtaung Pagoda’s one-storey market to be rebuilt in October



57 shops in Botataung pagoda market selling offertories in front of Botahtaung Pagoda which will be rebuilt in October 2014.—THANT ZIN WIN

YANGON, 15 Aug — The Botahtaung Pagoda Board of Trustees will rebuild the pagoda’s one-storey market in October within three months, according to a meeting between the pagoda board of trustees and 57 vendors on Wednesday.

“Now, this market is so old and dirty and not suitable for visitors, so it needs to be rebuilt at the end of rainy season,” said member of the pagoda board of trustees U Aung Hsu.

The new market building will be designed to attract more foreign visitors and improve the area as a whole. Officials have said they will arrange for temporary shops for shopkeepers on Botahtaung Pagoda street in front of the pagoda during the construction period, with local vendors saying the plan was “fair”.

Thant Zin Win

NATIONAL

President pledges to . . .

(from page 1)

As such problems are solved in other countries by enacting urban laws, the participants should come up with bills and plans at the workshop, the president suggested.

In conclusion, he urged the participants to invite the public to help draft rural and urban development plans, to implement them and to adopt systematic measures for land use in accordance with policies, laws, rules and regulations.

Those present at the meeting were Vice President U Nyan Tun, union ministers, chairmen of parliamentary committees, ambassadors and diplomats, officials of partner organizations and civil societies.—NLM

NAY PYI TAW, 15 Aug — Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Senior General Min Aung Hlaing received Mr. Zenon Kuchciak, Bangkok-based Polish Ambassador to Myanmar, in Nay Pyi Taw on Friday, which coincided with the Armed Forces Day of the Republic of Poland, to discuss matters related to enhancing bilateral relations and military cooperation between the two countries.

During the meeting, the senior general expressed his belief that the Polish experience in democratization could be useful for Myanmar and that the meeting could lead to enhanced military cooperation between the defence bodies of the two countries.

He highlighted the improved bilateral relations since late 2011, and also spoke of the long relations between Myanmar and Poland which will be celebrating the 60th anniversary of diplomatic ties next year.

Myanmar's Tatmadaw is viewed as a strong organization, playing a crucial role in transforming the nation, said the Polish ambassador. Despite some Western sanctions against Myanmar, Poland will continue to provide international aid to Myanmar, he voiced.

With military contacts enhanced, the two countries will be able to see further relations and cooperation, said the Polish ambassador, adding that the bilateral

Workshop on land resources management held in Nay Pyi Taw



Vice President U Nyan Tun explains how important land resources management to easing the livelihood for people of rural and urban areas.—MNA

NAY PYI TAW, 15 Aug — Vice President U Nyan Tun said on Friday at a workshop in Nay Pyi Taw that land resources

management plays a vital role in implementing sustainable development projects in urban and in rural areas.

“Land resources management should be more transparent and link social and environmental issues, solve land dis-

putes and set up a common goal for land-use, whilst remaining flexible in the face of globalization,” he added.

Those in charge of land resources management should take into consideration local requirements, the value of land, and alternative ways of land-use in order to develop an effective system.

At the workshop, eco-

nomics experts and officials from various ministries, including the Ministry of National Planning and Economic Development, the Ministry of Mines, the Ministry of Transport and the Ministry of Agriculture and Irrigation, also discussed socio-economic development, environmental conservation and land-related laws.

MNA

Myanmar to enhance military cooperation with Poland



Senior General Min Aung Hlaing (Fourth-L) with Mr. Zenon Kuchciak, Bangkok-based Polish Ambassador to Myanmar pose for a group photo after their talks focusing on bilateral cooperation in armed forces.—MNA

ties will be strengthened with the exchange of visits by military delegations this year.

As Myanmar is one of the ASEAN and Non-Aligned Movement's members, Myanmar's Tatmadaw keeps its door open to enhance amity and relations with the international community, including the neighbours and countries in the region, said the Commander-in-Chief, adding that the Tatmadaw has taken its role in national politics, upholding the national interest in accord with the course of history of the country. He asserted that the Tatmadaw has been standing on a righteous path from the time of the independence movement

to date.

During the meeting, Colonel Wojciech Golaszewski, the Polish military attaché, also stressed that Poland is willing to boost cooperation with Myanmar's Armed Forces.

Present at the meeting were Chief of the General Staff of (Army, Navy and Air) General Hla Htay Win, senior military officers from the Commander-in-Chief Office, and Mr. Jacek Perlin, Charge d' Affaires of the Yangon-based Polish Embassy.

Poland began its democratization in 1980 and became a member of the European Union in 2004. The country established diplomatic ties with Myanmar in 1955, showing

its support to Myanmar's democratization among other EU countries.

Myawady

Yangon Region Chief Minister inspects flood-affected schools in Yangon

YANGON, 15 Aug — Yangon Region Chief Minister U Myint Swe made an inspection tour of flood-affected schools in sub-urban areas of Yangon on Friday to assess which measures need to be taken to reopen the schools.

More than five primary schools in Hmawby and Hlegu townships closed their doors as they were affected by floods due to nonstop raining. Accord-

ing to an official, only some schools in Hmawby Township have recently reopened.

The Chief Minister also gave instructions to officials to check and repair damaged facilities in Hlegu Township before inspecting the progress on the dredging of drains with heavy machinery in Bala Village in the township.

MNA



Yangon Region Chief Minister U Myint Swe visits flood-affected school, where relief works are being carried out.—MNA

Students undergo medical checkups as school health activities



KYAUKPADAUNG, 15 Aug — As part of school health activities, talks on health and personal hygiene were given to students at Layywa Basic Education Middle School in Kyaukpadaung Township of Mandalay Region on Friday.

Dr Ohnma Swe of the School Health Unit of the Township Health Depart-

ment and Headmistress Daw Naing Naing Win of the school gave basic health tips for all.

The nurses and other team members then performed medical checkups on 617 students.

They also displayed documentary photos on school activities and nutrition to the students.

Ko Nay (Kyaukpadaung)

EU Ambassador meets flood victims in Bago Region



BAGO, 15 Aug—On 13 August 2014, EU Ambassador Roland Kobia of the European Union delegation to Myanmar went to Kamar Kale Ywar Oo Kyaung

Monastery at Kamar Kale Village in Kawa Township in Bago Region to meet with around 300 flood victims.

The European Union

in Myanmar has witnessed the sufferings of the victims of the recent floods across the country, including Bago Region and wanted to access the situation so the EU can effectively consider the needs of flood victims through its programmes across the country.

During the meeting with flood victims, Ambassador Kobia and peo-

ple from Kyauk Tan and Kamar Kale villages discussed the situation, needs and longer-term development difficulties of local people there. Ambassador Kobia also thanked the monks of the Kamar Kale Ywar Oo Kyaung Monastery in Kawa Township for hosting flood victims, providing shelter and food.

NLM

Vietnam paddy model plot harvested in Yinmabin Tsp



YINMABIN, 15 Aug—A ceremony to harvest Vietnam paddy strains was held on 1.5 acres of model plot in Yinmabin Township of Sagaing Region on Friday.

Township Administrator U Soe Min Htet, Head of District Agriculture Department U Myint Aung and officials watched the harvesting of paddy.

“With the assistance of the Township Agriculture Department, I grew high yield Vietnam paddy strain on 28 April for the

first time. The 1.5 acres of model plot produced 225 baskets of paddy per acre. Farmers U Khin Maung Nyo of Lengauk Village and U Shwe Win of Ngamoung Village also cultivated the same paddy strain. Quality paddy seeds are available at Township Agriculture Department at K8,000-K10,000 per basket. I would like to urge the farmers to choose Vietnam paddy strain,” said farmer U Myint Soe.

“We distributed Viet-

nam paddy strain to local farmers as of 20 March this year. The Agriculture Department gives priority to propagation of quality paddy for the local farmers,” said an official.

The Township Administrator stressed the need for local farmers to grow quality Vietnam paddy strain for boosting production and earning increased income for their families.”

Tun Ko Ko (Yinmabin)

Debate, impromptu, storytelling and poem recitation contests held in Dimawhso

DIMAWHSO, 15 Aug—With the aim of improving individual talents of students, township level debate, impromptu, storytelling and poem recitation contests took place at the town hall and Basic Education High School in Dimawhso of Kayah State on Friday.

A total of 87 students

at high school, middle and primary levels participated in the contests. The debate at the high school level was entitled “art is better science in building the nation”.

Township Education Officer U Khun Htet and officials supervised the contests.

Township IPRD



REGIONAL

India's Modi vows to fix broken government, but no big bang reforms

NEW DELHI, 15 Aug — Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi voiced dismay on Friday at the government in-fighting he found on assuming office in May and vowed to fire up the bureaucracy to deliver results in a country desperately in need of growth and development.

Delivering his first Independence Day speech, Modi emphasised the need for better governance but announced none of the sweeping market reforms that many who handed him India's biggest election mandate in three decades have been awaiting.

Critics say that Modi, who spoke for more than an hour from the ramparts of the 17th-century Red Fort, from where Mughal kings ruled Delhi for two centuries, scores high on oratory but has delivered on few of his election campaign promises.

He did, however, unveil an initiative on Friday to improve access to financial services for the two-



Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi (wearing turban), surrounded by his bodyguards, arrives to address the nation from the historic Red Fort during Independence Day celebrations in Delhi on 15 Aug, 2014.—REUTERS

fifths of Indians who lack a bank account and are often at the mercy of moneylenders who charge extortionate interest.

He also announced that he would replace the cen-

tral Planning Commission that for decades guided the country's socialist-style economy with a more modern institution.

The 63-year-old prime minister, a newcomer to

central government after running the industrialised western state of Gujarat for more than 13 years, bemoaned New Delhi's bureaucratic disarray.

"I saw that even in one

government there were dozens of governments. It was as if each had their own fiefdoms," he said, touching on a key concern for many Indians, who have come to revile the layers of bureaucracy and rampant corruption.

"The government is not an assembled entity but an organic entity. I have tried to break down these walls," Modi said.

The centre-left government led by the Congress party that was ousted in the election was seen as ineffectual and unable to carry out reforms as departments from finance to environment worked at cross-purposes.

Modi promised in his election campaign to revive economic growth that has fallen below 5 percent, choking off job opportunities for the one million people who enter the workforce every month, and dangled the prospect of new roads, factories, power lines, high-speed trains and even 100 new cities. —Reuters

Abe reiterates peace pledge on end-of-war anniversary

TOKYO, 15 Aug — Prime Minister Shinzo Abe reiterated his pledge on Friday to contribute to world peace at a ceremony marking the 69th anniversary of the end of World War II, amid concern that Japan may be shifting away from pacifism under his leadership.

The ceremony followed the decision of Abe's Cabinet on 1 July to approve reinterpreting the Constitution to allow the Self-Defence Forces to defend allies under armed attack through collective self-defence.

"Today is a day to reiterate that pledge toward peace," Abe said at the ceremony attended by Emperor Akihito, Empress Michiko and about 4,700 relatives of the war dead.

"We will make contributions to lasting world peace to the greatest possible extent and spare no effort in working to bring about a world in which all people are able to live enriched lives," he said.

But for the second year in a row, Abe did not mention Japan's wartime aggression in Asia and did not pledge not to fight a war, things Japanese premiers have done at the annual commemoration since 1994.

That was the year then Prime Minister Tomiichi Murayama expressed remorse over Japan's wartime brutality in Asia.

Since then, successive Japanese prime ministers had touched on the issue in their speeches at the government's annual ceremony, saying Japan inflicted "considerable damage and pain" on the people of other Asian nations. Abe also mentioned it in 2007 during his first stint as premier.

Abe's speech last year sparked controversy not only in neighbouring Asian nations but also in Japan.

The emperor also made a speech at the ceremony at Nippon Budokan in Tokyo. "I truly hope the horror of war will not be repeated," he said.

"With all Japanese citizens, I express my heartfelt sorrow over the war dead and pray for world peace and the further development of our country."

Kyodo News

South Korea suggests Northeast Asia nuclear safety group



South Korean President Park Geun-hye speaks during a ceremony marking the 69th anniversary of liberation from Japan's 1910-45 colonial rule, on Liberation Day in Seoul on 15 Aug, 2014.—REUTERS

SEOUL, 15 Aug — South Korean President Park Geun-hye on Friday urged the creation of a nuclear safety consultative group in Northeast Asia, given the high number of nuclear power plants in the region and public concerns over safety.

South Korea operates 23 reactors supplying about a third of the country's power, but Japan's 2011 Fukushima disaster, North Korean nuclear tests

and a series of domestic nuclear scandals have heightened public fears about nuclear radiation.

"Northeast Asia is a place where nuclear power plants are densely located," Park said in a televised speech for the National Liberation Day, noting safety has become a major issue for many people.

She suggested China, Japan and South Korea should lead the formation

of a nuclear safety consultation body along the lines of Europe's Euratom, which coordinates research and ensures the security of atomic energy supply.

The United States, Russia, North Korea and Mongolia could also join the group, she said.

Seoul has been under pressure to cut its reliance on nuclear power since late 2012 when a series of safety scandals led to the shutdown of some reactors to replace parts supplied with fake certificates. It also faces the disposal of a rising number of spent fuel rods, temporarily stored at nuclear power plants.

In January, South Korea formally adopted a lower target for nuclear power, but still plans to double its nuclear capacity over the next two decades.

South Korea's nuclear watchdog also plans to ask Japan to share information to prevent radioactive materials being transferred between countries after some steel scrap from Japan was found to be contaminated with radiation.

Reuters

Vietnam takes drastic measures against possible Ebola outbreak

HO CHI MINH CITY, 15 Aug — People from countries affected by the Ebola outbreak in the last 21 days, will have to sign a medical declaration before entering Vietnam starting from Friday, local media reported on Friday.

The decision follows an action plan issued by the Ministry of Health (MoH) to prevent the Ebola virus infection from entering and spreading in Vietnam.

The health ministry has asked the relevant ministries of public security, national defence, transport and foreign affairs to join hands in supervising the signing of the medical declaration by people entering the country at all border entrances, reported local *Vietnam News*.

To date, Vietnam is yet to record any case of Ebola virus infection, according to MoH. However, an alert has been issued that the virus could enter Vietnam via the Vietnamese people and other visitors arriving in Vietnam from the affected countries in West Africa. Therefore, the health ministry and relevant agencies are required to take actions to prevent the entry of the disease.

On 11 August, the MoH issued a decision on activating an emergency operations centre (EOC), which is assigned to gather, analyze and share information on the situation of emergency diseases with central and local agencies as well as domestic and international organizations and individuals. On 13 August, the MoH held a training course for staff of hospitals in the northern region on the prevention and treatment of Ebola, and another one in HCM City for the southern region on 15 August.

On 14 August, the ministry held a drill at the Pasteur Institute in Ho Chi Minh (HCM) City to get all local hospitals prepared for a possible Ebola outbreak, which attracted hundreds of doctors and medical workers from all over the southern metropolis.

The health ministry also warned that Vietnamese people should not go to Africa, especially areas affected by Ebola endemic, and advised people to practice good personal hygiene.—Xinhua

At end of round-the-world trip, Kerry's plane breaks down in Hawaii

HONOLULU, 15 Aug — The globe-trotting US Secretary of State John Kerry was forced to catch a commercial flight on Thursday after his US Air Force plane encountered technical difficulties before takeoff from Hawaii at the end of a nine-day round-the-world trip.

Kerry was returning to Washington after visiting Afghanistan, Myanmar, Australia and the Solomon Islands when his plane broke down at Hawaii's Hickman Air Force Base.

He had stopped for a day in Hawaii where he delivered a speech on increased US interests in Asia and the Pacific region.

"Finally some frequent flyer miles!" Kerry said on



US Secretary of State John Kerry speaks on his phone while his plane refuels at Ramstein Air Base in Ramstein-Miesenbach on 1 Aug, 2014.—REUTERS

hearing the news that he would have to catch a commercial flight along with his staff and a travelling Press corps.

Kerry has often expressed frustration with

his ageing plane, which has previously run into technical problems during his global travels that has made him one of the most travelled US secretaries of state. While waiting for

his flight, Kerry received a briefing from US Navy Admiral Samuel Locklear, commander of the US Pacific Command, and spoke with several administration and foreign officials, according to a spokesman.

Since assuming office in 1 Feb, 2013, Kerry has juggled priorities amid a virtually non-stop travel schedule that has left many around him often exasperated and exhausted.

He has already overtaken his predecessor Hillary Clinton in his first year as America's top diplomat, clocking up 519,136 miles (835,468 km) to 51 countries in 239 days, according to State Department figures.—Reuters

Russia masses military vehicles as aid convoy waits near Ukraine border

KAMENSK-SHAKHTINSKY, (Russia), 15 Aug — Dozens of heavy Russian military vehicles massed on Friday near the border with Ukraine, where a huge Russian convoy with humanitarian aid came to a halt as Moscow and Kiev struggled to agree on border crossing procedures.

Russia says it is carrying 2,000 tonnes of water, baby food and other aid for people in east Ukraine, where pro-Moscow separatists are fighting government forces.

Kiev and some Western officials have said they believe the convoy could be

there on Friday morning and a Reuters reporter at the scene saw a dozen armoured personnel carriers (APCs) on the move not far from the convoy.

Another Reuters reporter saw two dozen APCs moving near the border with Ukraine on Thursday night.

The Guardian reported on Friday its reporter saw several APCs crossing the border with Ukraine.

The newspaper said the move was unlikely to represent a full-scale official Russian invasion, but it was clear evidence that Russian troops are active



Russian military personnel sit atop armoured vehicles outside Kamensk-Shakhtinsky, Rostov Region, on 15 Aug, 2014.—REUTERS

a cover for a Russian military incursion — a claim Moscow has described as "absurd".

On Thursday, the convoy of some 280 trucks stopped in open fields near the Russian town of Kamensk-Shakhtinsky, about 20 km (12 miles) from the border with Ukraine.

It was still stationed

inside Ukraine's borders.

Kiev and NATO have said they fear Russia will invade east Ukraine after massing more than 40,000 troops near the border. Russia says it is conducting military exercises and has no plans to invade. It also denies supporting rebels in eastern Ukraine with arms and funds.

Reuters

Obama says Sinjar siege broken, some personnel to leave Iraq

EDGARTOWN, (MASS), 15 Aug — US President Barack Obama said on Thursday the Islamist militant siege of Iraq's Mount Sinjar had been broken and most US military personnel sent to assess the situation would be pulled out of Iraq in coming days.

He told reporters he did not expect the United States to have to stage an evacuation of the mountain, where thousands of members of the Yazidi religious minority had been trapped by militants, or to continue humanitarian air-drops.

"We broke the ISIL (Islamic State of Iraq and the Levant) siege of Mount Sinjar," Obama said.

"We helped innocent people reach safety and we helped save many innocent lives. Because of these efforts we do not expect there to be an additional operation to evacuate people off the mountain and it's unlikely that we are going to need to continue humanitarian airdrops on the mountain," he said.

Kieran Dwyer, spokesman for the UN Office for Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs, said it was

too early to declare the crisis over. Improved security had allowed large numbers of Yazidis to escape Mount Sinjar, he said, but "some thousands" still needed help. "The crisis on the mountain will not be over until everybody is able to come off that mountain to a safe and secure location in a safe and secure manner," Dwyer said. He was speaking to Reuters by telephone from the Kurdish capital Arbil.

Obama said the majority of military personnel who conducted the assessment of Mount Sinjar

would leave Iraq in coming days.

The United States sent 130 military personnel to Arbil to draw up options ranging from a safe corridor for the Yazidis to an airlift to rescue them. A team of fewer than 20 US personnel flew to Mount Sinjar to assess the situation.

The US Defence Department said it believed 4,000-5,000 people remained on the narrow strip of craggy high ground more than 40 miles (65 km) long, but said that up to 2,000 of them lived there and may want to stay.—Reuters

Iraq's Maliki finally steps aside, paving way for new government

BAGHDAD, 15 Aug — Nuri al-Maliki finally bowed to pressure within Iraq and beyond on Thursday and stepped down as prime minister, paving the way for a new coalition that world and regional powers hope can quash a Sunni Islamist insurgency that threatens Baghdad.

Maliki ended eight years of often divisive, sectarian rule and endorsed fellow Shi'ite Haider al-Abadi in a televised speech during which he stood next to his successor and spoke of the grave threat from Sunni Islamic State militants who have taken over large areas of northern Iraq.

"I announce before you today, to ease the

movement of the political process and the formation of the new government, the withdrawal of my candidacy in favour of brother Dr Haider al-Abadi," Maliki said.

Maliki's decision was likely to please Iraq's Sunni minority, which dominated Iraq under Saddam Hussein's iron rule but was sidelined by Maliki, a relative unknown when he came to power in 2006 with US backing.

Maliki had resisted months of pressure to step down from Sunnis, Kurds, some fellow Shi'ites, Shi'ite regional power Iran and the United States. He had insisted on his right to form a new government based on the results of a



People hold a portrait of Nuri al-Maliki and signs as they gather in support of him in Baghdad on 13 Aug, 2014. — REUTERS

parliamentary election in late April.

His stubborn insistence stirred concerns of a violent power struggle in Baghdad. But in recent

days, as his support was obviously crumbling, he told his military commanders to stay out of politics.

"From the beginning I ruled out the option of using

force, because I do not believe in this choice, which would without a doubt return Iraq to the ages of dictatorship, oppression and tyranny, except to confront terrorism and terrorists and those violating the will and interests of the people," Maliki said.

On Wednesday, his own Dawa political party publicly threw its support behind Abadi and asked lawmakers to work with him to form a new government. And Iranian Supreme Leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei, offered his personal endorsement to Abadi, distancing himself from Maliki.

US National Security Advisor Susan Rice commended Maliki for his de-

cision to support Abadi, and she noted a wide range of leaders from across the Iraqi political spectrum had committed to help Abadi form a broad, inclusive government.

"These are encouraging developments that we hope can set Iraq on a new path and unite its people against the threat presented by the Islamic State of Iraq and the Levant," Rice said in a statement.

US Secretary of State John Kerry described Maliki's decision as "important and honourable" and said "the United States stands ready to partner with a new and inclusive government to counter this threat" from the Islamic State.—Reuters

WORLD

Missouri takes control of security away from Ferguson police



A mother and daughter raise their hands in front of riot police while protesting the shooting death of teenager Michael Brown, in Ferguson, Missouri on 13 Aug, 2014.

REUTERS

FERGUSON, (Missouri), 15 Aug — Missouri's governor moved on Thursday to calm days of racially charged protests over the police shooting of an unarmed black teenager, naming an African-American captain of the Highway Patrol to oversee security in the St Louis suburb of Ferguson.

Captain Ron Johnson, who grew up in Ferguson, told reporters he would take a new approach after complaints that police have used heavy-handed tactics, arresting dozens of protesters and using

teargas and pepper pellets to break up crowds.

Ferguson, a mostly black town of 21,000 with a predominantly white police force that has been accused of racial profiling in the past, was bracing for a fifth straight night of protests on Thursday after a police officer shot and killed 18-year-old Michael Brown last weekend.

Since Sunday, there have been peaceful vigils and demonstrations — with hundreds of protesters holding their hands in the air and chanting

“hands up, don’t shoot” — as well as episodes of looting, vandalism and violence.

US President Barack Obama, seeking to defuse tensions in Ferguson, called on police to respect peaceful demonstrations.

“There is never an excuse for violence against police or for those who would use this tragedy as a cover for vandalism or looting,” Obama said.

“There’s also no excuse for police to use excessive force against peaceful protesters or to throw protesters in jail

for lawfully exercising their First Amendment rights,” he said in remarks broadcast from Edgartown, Massachusetts, near where he is vacationing with his family.

The protests have cast a spotlight on racial tensions in greater St Louis, where civil rights groups have complained in the past that police racially profiled blacks, arrested a disproportionate number of blacks and had racist hiring practices.

Governor Jay Nixon praised Ferguson on Thursday for being a diverse, hard-working community, but he said, “lately it has looked a little bit more like a war zone, and that is unacceptable.”

Police have pledged to do better but have also justified the tactics, saying they have responded to the threat of violence during protests.

“We are going to have a different approach,” Johnson said at the news conference where Nixon announced his role in directing Ferguson’s security. He said he would go to “ground zero” on Thursday evening, the area where Brown was killed and also where a convenience store was burned down on Sunday in riots.

Reuters

Russia, Ukraine, EU leaders to hold talks on gas, trade disputes

BRUSSELS, 15 Aug — The presidents of Russia, Ukraine and the European Commission have agreed to hold talks on disputes over gas and an EU-Ukraine free trade agreement, in parallel with efforts to stabilize the security situation in Ukraine, the EU said on Thursday.

The talks between Russian President Vladimir Putin, Ukrainian President Petro Poroshenko and European Commission President Jose Manuel Barroso are intended to be held in person, a European Commission source said, but it is not yet clear where or when.

Raising discussions of the disputes to the level of presidents appeared to offer hope of a possible easing of tensions over Ukraine, immersed in a crisis which has sent relations between Russia and the West plummeting.

Barroso spoke to Putin by telephone on Thursday to discuss ways to ease the crisis in Ukraine, the Commission said in a statement.

“It was agreed to hold consultations between the presidents of Russia, Ukraine and the European Commission on the issues related with the implementation of the (EU-Ukraine) Association Agreement as well as on the supply of gas, in parallel with the efforts to

stabilise the political and security situation.

“The concrete arrangements for these talks will be further discussed through the appropriate diplomatic channels,” the Commission said.

A series of three-way talks over a gas dispute bringing together the energy ministers of Ukraine and Russia and European Energy Commissioner Guenther Oettinger broke down in June, prompting Gazprom (GAZP.MM) to cut off gas supplies to Ukraine.

Since then, Oettinger has held bilateral talks with Ukraine’s energy minister and is scheduled to meet Russia’s energy minister on 29 August, to try to restart trilateral discussions on resolving Russia’s row with Ukraine over how much it pays for its gas.

So far, the disruption of Ukraine’s gas supplies has not had an impact on EU consumers, but Ukraine is a transit route for roughly half of the gas Russia ships to the European Union, which relies on Moscow for about a third of its energy.

The EU has also held talks with Russia to try to calm Kremlin fears over a wide-ranging free trade pact that Ukraine has signed with the 28-nation EU which Russia says will be harmful to its economy.—Reuters

Asia-Pacific rebalance remains central to strategy: Pentagon

WASHINGTON, 15 Aug — Despite recent events in the Middle East, US Defence Secretary Chuck Hagel and the Defence Department remain dedicated to the US rebalance to the Asia-Pacific region, Pentagon spokesman John Kirby said on Thursday.

“Given the fact that there’s a lot going on in the world, that we’re still making these visits and still having these discussions, speaks volumes about how important we believe the Asia-Pacific theater is,” Kirby said at a news conference.

With more than 350,000 American troops based in the Pacific — including the majority of

Navy assets — and with five of the seven US treaty alliances there, the US Department of Defence is very committed to the region, Kirby said.

However, “It doesn’t mean that we take our eye off the ball of the rest of the world,” he said. “We know we have security commitments around the world in the Middle East, in Africa and in Europe, and we continue to work mightily on those commitments. And there’s been no slackening in that regard.”

Kirby noted, if sequestration remains the law of the land, “it’s going to be harder and harder for us to meet those commitments.” Unless Congress acts to change the law, seques-

tration spending cuts will return in fiscal year 2016.

“The defence strategy that we put forward, which allows us to conduct this rebalance and still focus on those parts of the world, will be put in jeopardy” under sequestration, Kirby said. Hagel returned on Wednesday from a trip that included a stop in India, where he met with Prime Minister Narendra Modi and External Affairs Minister Sushma Swaraj to discuss the importance of continuing robust defense cooperation.

The department is looking forward to continuing to develop the defense relationship with India’s new government, Kirby said. — Xinhua



A Chinese doctor works at a clinic of the Kingharman Road Hospital in Freetown, Sierra Leone, 14 Aug, 2014. The hospital has been conducted an overall disinfection after receiving a patient with Ebola, who later died on the road to the Ebola treat centre. By far, Chinese doctors in the hospital keep on working as usual.

XINHUA

PERSPECTIVES

Saturday, 16 August, 2014

Unemployment should no longer be a national burden

By Kyaw Thura

Unemployment, poverty and crime go hand in hand. Unemployment is often described as a significant source of stress for the simple reason that this affects not only individuals but also families and communities as a whole.

Failure to address the problem of unemployment will cause the government and businesses to pay a high price. The government will increase taxation on businesses, which in turn will downsize their company structure, thereby trig-

gering more unemployment.

Like unemployment, underemployment poses another threat to the national economy. Underemployment means a situation in which people work part-time as they cannot find full-time work.

Another critical factor is vulnerable employment, which is a direct consequence of slow economic progress. People employed in vulnerable jobs are likely to become jobless once the economic condition of a country is not sturdy enough to keep them employed. Only when jobs are secured will the rate of employment become stable.

The unemployed are in no position to support their families, which will leave their children depressed. Depression in children and young people will have negative impacts on their lives, as well as causing academic problems, drug abuse, sexual abuse, health problems and the likelihood of suicide.

One imminent thing about unemployment is concerned with growing income inequality, which is

likely to be followed by social unrest and a sense of unfairness. When combined, these things will amount to social and political disorder.

However, the negative impacts of unemployment and underemployment can be lessened by means of social support. It is imperative to encourage training and education programmes.

The role the government should play is in strengthening its partnership with economic giants to ensure an excellent fiscal boost. The education system should not be left out in this respect, too.

It is strongly believed that the problems of unemployment and underemployment can be eradicated, if the government and civil society join hands.

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.

Business

Kyri Mun

The business of Business is creating wealth for the Stakeholders!

A Corporate Business Concept

The Job of Business is to Create Customer.

Peter F.Drucker

The Meaning of Business

Business is the process of anticipating, identifying and satisfying Consumers' needs and wants. Business is the whole series of processes by which "desirable things are extracted from the earth, fashioned and transformed by man, money, machine and method, moved from place to place and stored through time and delivered to customers who are willing to pay for them. It includes both commerce and industry. In essence, business aims at satisfying material needs and spiritual cravings of mankind. Business provides services as well as products."

The Components of Business

Business can be analytically understood as follows:

- * B = Benefits
- * U = Uniqueness
- * S = Service
- * I = Innovation
- * N = Networking
- * E = Excellence
- * S = Strengths
- * S = Strategy

Business Must Provide Benefits

Business is an economic activity engaged in creating value in the forms of:

- Product Value
- Service Value
- People Value
- Image Value

This value is a perceived value on the part of the buyer who pays a certain price in order to consume or own the benefits provided by the product, service, people and image, whether brand image or the product/service image. The Seller sells the **Benefits, Advantages and Features** which give satisfaction to the Buyer, who, in the final analysis buys the **VALUE** – value of the benefits, advantages and features in terms of the money paid. So, a business must focus on delivering the Most Benefits, Advantages and Features to the buyer who pays the money.

Business Should Be Unique

A business should never be a duck in the midst of a flock of ducks, or a mere star in the sky, or just a mountain in the whole range of mountains. A unique business should be a HAMSĀ among other ducks; a Dūwūn Star among numerous stars; and Mount Everest or even Mount Papa, among numerous mountains. A business must stand out from the crowd. The firm itself, its product, its service, its people, its image and its brand-name must be distinctive and

outstanding. All because, customers and consumers are becoming more and more sophisticated and options for choosing the brands are too numerous to count. So, a business has got to be as unique as possible in its product, service, people, image, brand-name and of course, in differentiation.

Business Must Give Memorable Service

In business, service is an indispensable ingredient. Service means the way you treat people, especially customers and clients. It is human nature to wish to be recognized, taken care of, and respected. So, all the people in the business must be civilized, courteous, open-minded, friendly and cultured. In the matter of Customer Service, the 7-S etiquette should be observed and always practiced:

- To be Sweet in the Heart as well as in the Face,
- To Smile not only with the lips, but especially with the Eyes,
- To be Smart in Personality, Dress and Personal Manners,
- To be Spirited with all one's heart and soul – to be Alive, Alert and Agile.
- To be Sincere in words, deeds and intentions.
- To be Savvy or Insightful in delighting Customers.
- To be Sizzling in anticipating long-term Customer-Relationship.

Business Must Engage in Innovation

Customer, Change, Competition and Complexity-the so-called Four C's of business-rule the business world. The taste, style and fashion of Customer Preference are always changing in trend after trend. Competition is hyper-intensive and as widespread as the globalization. Competition is so fierce that today's product can become obsolete tomorrow. So, a business has got to be flexible, agile, adaptable and of course, innovative. Innovation means innovation not only in design and features, but also in the content of benefits and advantages. Innovation should not be an event; it should be a sustainable long-term business process. To build a sustainable innovation culture, a business must dare to take risks, to invest in R & D and in people development, and of course, in Innovation Champions.

Business Has Got To Be Networking

Business means dealing with people – customers, prospects, suppliers, dealers, brokers, authorities, and other sectors of the public. So, one aspect of the business of Business is spreading the nets of proactive dealings and making and engaging in transactions. The art of business is organizing, attracting, persuading and winning people to patronize your wares, or service. Without customers, there would be no business. The most important job of a business is to create customers – to get customers and to keep customers. Business is a socio-cultural ART as well as the science of numbers and techniques. So, business, being a socio-cultural art concerning the human needs, wants and expectations, is a SOFT SKILL, with which to win over the hearts and minds of the people.

Business Should Pursue Excellence

It is human nature to like or prefer quality, excellence and uniqueness. In business, excellence reigns supreme in the matter of quality, differentiation and value. But these excellence in quality, differentiation and value are the results or the outcomes issuing forth from job/work performance. So, there must be excellence in all the phases of business performance. Excellence in performance must come from performance EFFECTIVENESS and EFFICIENCY. Effectiveness results from doing the right things and Efficiency comes from doing the things right. Again, both effectiveness and efficiency come from the RIGHT MENTAL ATTITUDE, RIGHT SKILLS AND KNOWLEDGE on the part of the PEOPLE. Excellence in Business means EXCELLENCE IN PRODUCTS, SERVICE, VALUE and RELATIONSHIP, all of which come from **Excellence in People**.

BUSINESS MUST BE BUILT ON STRENGTHS

In business, strengths in :

- Strategy
- Structure
- Systems
- Styles
- Skills
- Staff
- Shared Vision & Values

must be continuously developed.

In order words, STRENGTHS in Business mean strengths in :

The Quality & Capability of the Leader
The Quality & Capability of the People
Morale, and
Resources.

Business Must Have A Good Strategy

Strategy means the Art of the General, which means out-generally the enemy general, which in turn means PREVAILING OVER THE COMPETITION. So, in business, the following STRENGTHS must be continually built and developed:

- Strategy
- Cutting Edge
- Distinctive Capabilities
- Morale and
- Resources

Conclusion

The bottom-line of Business has all along been PROFIT, but nowadays, the enlightened business world has widely come to believe and accept that there are Triple Bottom-Lines in business: PEOPLE, PLANET AND PROFIT. This means that the ultimate care and concern of BUSINESS should be DEVELOPING PEOPLE, PROTECTING the PLANET AND EARNING PROFIT.

Ref : Business Organization and Management
by
M.C. Shukla

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

LOCAL NEWS



Bronze statue of Myanmar independence leader to be erected in Rakhine

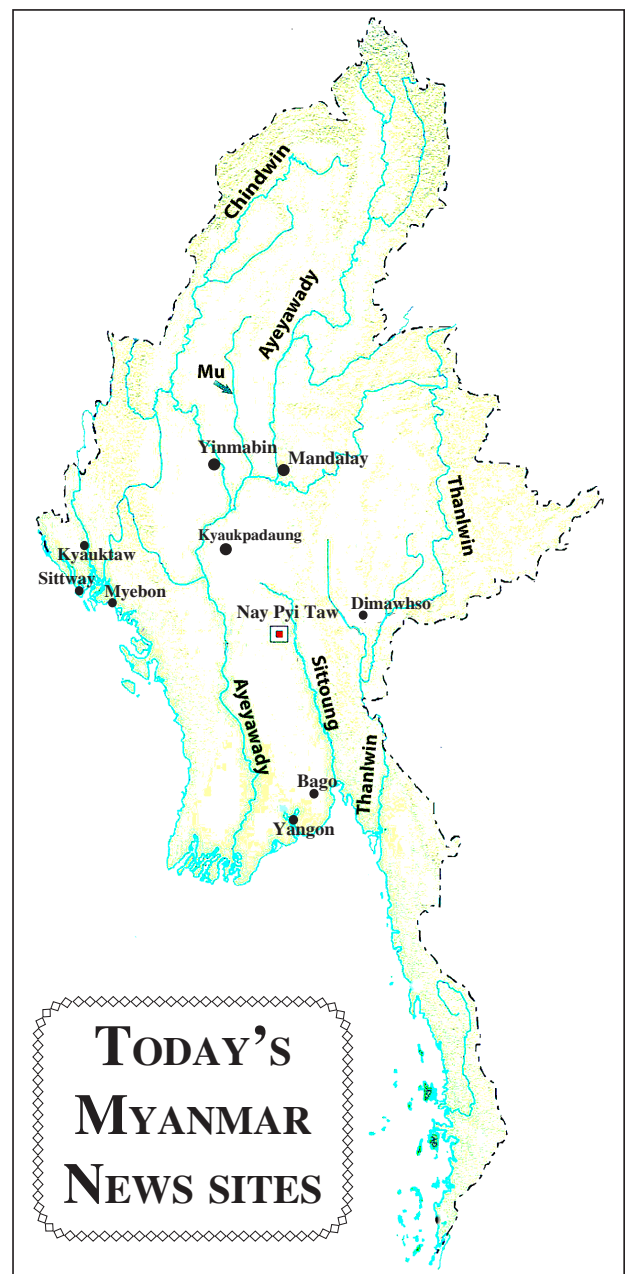
SITTWAY, 15 Aug— A ceremony to unveil the bronze statue of Buddhist monk Sayadaw U Uttama, one of Myanmar's independence leaders, will be held on a grand scale on 9 September in Anawma Park near Shitthaung Pagoda in MraukU of Rakhine State, U Uttama's native state.

According to Secretary U Maung Thein Nu of the bronze statue casting committee, the bronze statue was cast in January 2014 and is seven feet high

and cost K8.5 million, with the platform costing an additional K4 million. The statue was cast with 220 viss of bronze by Rakhine bronze cast technician U Kyaw Tha Nyunt and his team, who will soon erect the statue.

The Sayadaw, born on 28 December 1879 and died on 9 September 1939, was a patriotic leader in Myanmar's independence struggles during the British colonial rule.

Zaw Naing Tun
(IPRD)



Kyauktaw District WAO organizes talks on trafficking and social issues

KYAUKTAW, 15 Aug— Talks on prevention against trafficking in persons and the impact of foreign culture, organized by MraukU District Women's Affairs Organization, took place at No 1 Basic Education High School in Kyauktaw of Rakhine State recently.

Chairperson of the WAO Daw Naing Naing Aung explained the emergence of Myanmar Women's Day and the role of Myanmar women in society.

Head of Kyauktaw Myoma police station Police Captain Thein Kyaw gave talks on prevention against human trafficking, with Chairman of the Township WAO Daw Aye



Thanda Tun discussing the influence of foreign cultures in Myanmar.

Following the meet-

ing, the Chairperson and delegation of District WAO visited BEPS in Peinnechaung Village and donat-

ed school uniforms and stationery to 50 students.

Kyauktaw Township
IPRD

Procedure of citizenship law, citizenship scrutiny process explained



MYEBON, 15 Aug—An event to clarify procedures of the Myanmar Citizenship Law 1982 was held at the hall of Myebon Township General Administration Department in Rakhine State recently.

Director-General U Maung Maung Than of the Immigration and National Registration Department reported on citizenship scrutiny tasks in Myebon Township, and completion of the first phase and future plans.

Director of the department U Tin Chei reported on the citizenship scrutiny process for Bengalis in Rakhine State and matters re-

lated to the citizenship law.

State Hluttaw representatives, officials of State INRD, local authorities, departmental officials and social organization members discussed provisions of the Myanmar Citizenship Law 1982. The state minister and his delegation visited Taungpaw Bengali relief camp and explained key points of the Myanmar Citizenship Law 1982 to the Bengalis.

At the relief camp, the state minister viewed the process of citizenship scrutiny being undertaken by a seven-member departmental official team.

Rakhine State IPRD

Nutritious foods provided to pregnant women in Kyauktaw

KYAUKTAW, 15 Aug— To educate local women, District and Township Ma-

ternal and Child Welfare Associations have organized demonstration on nu-

tritious food cooking, provision of nutritious foods to pregnant women and selec-

tion of outstanding mothers at the hall of Kyauktaw Township General Administration Department in Rakhine State.

Officials of the Township Health Department explained systematic breastfeeding and use of nutritious foods, groups of nutritious foods and Head of Township Health Department Dr Khin Maung Yin, Japanese encephalitis disease.

Departmental officials presented prizes to three outstanding mothers and gave nutritious foods to 15 pregnant women.

Kyauktaw Township
IPRD



16 still trapped in flooded China mine 600 US soldiers to go to Poland for troop rotation



A miner (2nd L) is rescued from a flooded coal mine of privately-owned Anzhishun Coal Mine in Jixi, northeast China's Heilongjiang Province, on 15 Aug, 2014. Nine people have been rescued and 16 remained trapped in the flooded coal mine.
XINHUA

Jixi, (Heilongjiang), 15 Aug—Forty of 56 workers trapped in a flooded coal mine in northeast China's

Heilongjiang Province have now been plucked to safety, while rescuers are racing to reach the other

16. Water flooded the privately owned Anzhishun Coal Mine in the city of Jixi at 1:10 pm on Thurs-

day when 56 workers were in the shaft, said Fang Dongchu, head of the city's work safety department.

Twenty-five were still trapped early on Friday, but a further nine miners were lifted to the ground at about 10 am.

The rescued have been rushed to hospital for treatment. Fang said with the help of seven pumps, three professional rescue crews are working in four shifts a day, with 40 rescuers each shift.

They are also digging a tunnel to reach the workers, he said.

Xinhua

WARSAW, 15 Aug—The Pentagon on Thursday said approximately 600 soldiers will go to Poland as a part of a troop rotation for operation Atlantic Resolve, local media reported. The operation is a joint military exercise between the United States and four Eastern European countries, namely Poland, Lithuania, Latvia and Estonia. The new contingent of soldiers will carry out exer-

cises for three months and will replace the 173 Paratroops Brigade who have participated in the mission since April.

"These exercises of land forces, undertaken at the request of host countries, will help to improve operational coordination through training of small subunits and commanders," a Pentagon spokesperson said.

Xinhua

Egyptians protest on anniversary of bloody day, five dead

CAIRO, 15 Aug — Four protesters and a policeman were killed in Cairo on Thursday, the government said, one year after government forces killed hundreds of Muslim Brotherhood demonstrators in the worst bloodshed in Egypt's recent history.

The health ministry said four protesters were killed and 13 others wounded during clashes with security forces. Five people were injured in skirmishes outside the capital.

An interior ministry statement said a policeman was also killed and another one wounded. It said 114 members of the Brother-

hood were arrested across the country on Thursday for protesting and rioting.

Small, hit-and-run demonstrations are the most the group can muster after a fierce security crackdown has seen many thousands arrested and hundreds sentenced to death.

The Brotherhood, once Egypt's most organized political movement, was declared a terrorist organization last year, and its political wing was banned last week. Violence has polarised Egyptians since the army overthrew elected Islamist President Mohamed Mursi last year following

mass protests against his rule.

Hundreds of supporters of Mursi's Muslim Brotherhood have been killed and thousands arrested since he was ousted, with the largest number of deaths occurring one year ago on Thursday, when security forces stormed two protest camps in Cairo.

Militant attacks have also increased since Mursi was toppled, with Sinai Peninsula-based militants killing soldiers and police in an insurgency the government has struggled to quell. Human Rights Watch said this week that those killings were system-



Protesters, supporters of the Muslim Brotherhood, run from tear gas thrown by police, during a protest in the Matariya area in Cairo on 14 Aug, 2014.

REUTERS

atic, ordered by top officials and probably amount

to crimes against humanity. The rights campaigning

group called for a UN inquiry. —Reuters

Syrian army takes town near Damascus in blow to rebels



The wreckage of a burnt car is seen as people inspect a site hit by what activists said was a barrel bomb dropped by forces loyal to Syria's President Bashar al-Assad at Qadi Askar district of Aleppo 13 Aug, 2014.
REUTERS

BEIRUT, 15 Aug—Syrian government forces backed by Lebanon's Hezbollah took control of a town just outside Damascus from Islamist fighters on Thursday, a blow to the rebels who had held it for more than a year.

Syrian state television broadcast showed government soldiers in the streets of Mleiha, which lies on the edge of the eastern Ghouta region near Damascus airport and had been surrounded by President Bashar al-Assad's forces.

Buildings were damaged or reduced to rubble, and tanks patrolled the streets.

Mleiha, about 7 km (4 miles) from the heart of Damascus, has formed a base for rebel fighters to bombard the capital with mortars in Syria's three-

year-old civil war.

The Britain-based, pro-opposition Syrian Observatory for Human Rights said government warplanes attacked several areas in the town. A Syrian rebel source said government forces had taken most of Mleiha and were using planes to attack the last point of resistance. Some of the rebels pulled out to nearby villages.

"Everything here is now under the control of the Syrian Arab Army," a soldier standing near a damaged building told state TV.

"The town of Mleiha is the biggest in Ghouta and used to be a supply route for the gunmen. This will lead to the fall of other towns into the hands of the army," said an army commander.

Government forces have pushed back the

rebels around Damascus with help from Hezbollah, and consolidated Assad's grip over central Syria and along the border with Lebanon.

The main rebel factions have also lost territory to the Islamic State (IS), an al-Qaeda splinter group that has declared a caliphate on lands it has captured in both Syria and Iraq.

The group has been advancing in the northern region of Aleppo in the past 24 hours, seizing several towns and villages from rival Islamists and carrying out executions, the Observatory and opposition activists said.

Already in control of large areas of northern and eastern Syria, Islamic State's latest gains include the towns of Turkmen Barih and Akhtar, 50 km (30 miles) northeast of

Aleppo.

Late on Wednesday they advanced to nearby towns including Dabeg and Azizeyeh, now controlling a belt of towns close to the Turkish border.

Survivors from Akhtar told the Observatory that the group assembled the local men in the town square, looking for fighters who oppose them. They said nine men were beheaded.

Islamic State sympathisers posted on social media pictures of what they said were some of the group's fighters inside Akhtar. It showed two fighters with thick beards celebrating by burning a flag of a rival group. Two others raised the black and white flag of IS over what appeared to be a telecom tower. It was not possible to independently verify the accounts.—Reuters

HEALTH & BUSINESS

Evidence suggests Ebola toll vastly underestimated: WHO

CONAKRY, 15 Aug — Staff with the World Health Organization battling an Ebola outbreak in West Africa see evidence the numbers of reported cases and deaths vastly underestimates the scale of the outbreak, the UN agency said on its website on Thursday.

The death toll from the world's worst outbreak of Ebola stood on Wednesday at 1,069 from 1,975 confirmed, probable and suspected cases, the agency said. The majority were in Guinea, Sierra Leone and Liberia, while four people have died in Nigeria.

The agency's apparent acknowledgement the situation is worse than previously thought could spur governments and aid organisations to take stronger measures against the virus.

"Staff at the outbreak sites see evidence that the numbers of reported cases and deaths vastly underes-

timate the magnitude of the outbreak," the organization said on its website.

"WHO is coordinating a massive scaling up of the international response, marshalling support from individual countries, disease control agencies, agencies within the United Nations system, and others."

International agencies are looking into emergency food drops and truck convoys to reach hungry people in Liberia and Sierra Leone cordoned off from the outside world to halt the spread of the virus, a top World Bank official said.

In the latest sign of action by West African governments, Guinea has declared a public health emergency and is sending health workers to all affected border points, an official said.

An estimated 377 people have died in Guinea

since the outbreak began in March in remote parts of a border region near Sierra Leone and Liberia.

Guinea says its outbreak is under control with the numbers of new cases falling, but the measures are needed to prevent new infections from neighbouring countries.

"Trucks full of health materials and carrying health personnel are going to all the border points with Liberia and Sierra Leone," Aboubacar Sidiki Diakité, president of Guinea's Ebola commission, said late on Wednesday.

As many as 3,000 people are waiting at 17 border points for a green light to enter the country, he said.

"Any who are sick will be immediately isolated. People will be followed up on. We can't take the risk of letting everyone through without checks."

Sierra Leone has de-



A UN convoy of soldiers passes a screen displaying a message on Ebola on a street in Abidjan on 14 Aug, 2014. —REUTERS

clared Ebola a national emergency as has Liberia, which is hoping that two of its doctors diagnosed with Ebola can start treatment with some of the limited supply of experimental

drug ZMapp.

Canada's Tekmira Pharmaceuticals Corp is also exploring making more of its experimental Ebola treatment, Chief Executive Officer Mark Mur-

ray said.

Nigeria also has declared a national emergency, although it has so far escaped the levels of infection seen in the three other countries.—Reuters

Modi invites foreigners to invest, manufacture in India



Prime Minister Narendra Modi

NEW DELHI, 15 Aug — Foreign investors should invest in India and manufacture goods here, as manufacturing is key to development and overall economic growth, Prime Minister Narendra Modi

said on Friday on the occasion of the country's 68th Independence Day.

Delivering his first Independence Day speech since being elected in May, Modi vowed to encourage the country's manufacturing sector, while he urged manufacturers to focus more on making good quality products without harming the environment.

"Let there be made-in-India products in every corner of the world," he said.

In his hourlong speech from the ramparts of the historic Red Fort, Modi reiterated his foreign policy tenet of forging strong ties with neighbouring coun-

tries and called for world peace.

Noting that he comes from a poor family himself, Modi also laid emphasis of eliminating poverty and announced a new scheme to ensure poor people have insurance, with bank accounts to facilitate this.

Exhorting militants and insurgents in India to give up arms and take up the path of peace, the prime minister said violence will never lead the country toward development.

Regarding a spate of gang-rapes and lynchings of women and girls that have caught international attention, Modi called

them a national shame and urged parents to take responsibility for the behavior of their sons, instead of just restricting that of their daughters.

He also stressed the need to improve access to basic sanitation, calling for the construction of more toilets in the country so that poor women and girls do not have to put themselves at risk of attack when they go out to relieve themselves, especially after dark, while he said all schools should have separate toilets for girls.

He appealed for an end to the practice of female infanticide.—Kyodo News

Study links 10 common cancers to overweight, obesity

LONDON, 15 Aug — A higher body mass index (BMI) increases the risk of developing 10 of the most common cancers, the largest study of its kind published in the latest issue of scientific journal *The Lancet* has showed.

British researchers at the London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine estimated that over 12,000 British cases of these 10 cancers each year are attributable to being overweight or obese.

Using data from general practitioner records in Britain, the researchers identified 5.24 million individuals aged 16 and over who were cancer-free and had been followed for an

average of 7.5 years.

The risk of developing 22 of the most common cancers, which represent 90 percent of the cancers diagnosed in Britain, was measured according to BMI after adjusting for individual factors such as age, sex, smoking status, and socioeconomic status.

A total of 166,955 people developed cancer over the follow-up period.

The study found that, each 5 kg/m² increase in BMI was clearly linked with higher risk of cancers of the uterus, gallbladder, kidney, cervix, thyroid, and leukaemia. Higher BMI also increased the overall risk of liver, colon, ovarian, and breast cancers.—Xinhua

Asian shares edge up, poised for weekly rise

TOKYO, 15 Aug — Asian shares pulled higher on Friday, on track for a winning week, while the euro remained close to nine-month lows after downbeat data raised expectations of more European Central Bank easing steps.

Conciliatory comments from Russian President Vladimir Putin on Thursday soothed some fears, although investors warily monitored the situation on Ukraine border. Dozens of heavy Russian military vehicles massed there as Mos-

cow and Kiev struggled to agree on border crossing procedures for humanitarian aid. Financial spreadbetters expected European shares to extend their rebound, calling Britain's FTSE 100 FTSE to open up 0.2 percent, Germany's DAX GDAXI 0.3 percent and France's CAC 40 .FCHI 0.3 percent.

Euro zone bond yields dropped to record lows on Thursday after Germany reported its economy unexpectedly shrank in the second quarter.

"When it comes to



Pedestrians walk past at an electronic board showing the stock market indices of various countries outside a brokerage in Tokyo on 2 June, 2014 file photo.

REUTERS

news, at least economic, bad news has resumed its good connotations. Fears of a European recession and deflationary slump have been welcomed by markets now that the case for quantitative easing looks irrepressible," Jonathan Sudaria, a dealer at Capital Spreads, said in a note to clients on Friday.

MSCI's broadest index of Asia-Pacific shares outside Japan .MIAPJ0000PUS added 0.3 percent, poised for a weekly gain over 2.6 percent.

Japan's Nikkei stock

average .N225 ended flat, though it gained 3.7 percent for the week, the biggest weekly gain since mid-April.

Some strategists said that the Japanese market's underperformance this year compared to other major markets is likely to make it appear as an attractive value play, particularly given the prospect of increased buying from the \$1.2 trillion Government Pension Investment Fund. The fund is expected to announce more allocations to domestic stocks later this year.—Reuters

Ecuador cuts quake death toll to three

QUITO, 15 Aug — Ecuador on Thursday lowered the death toll from the Tuesday earthquake to three as a person who has been reportedly missing was found safe.

Quito mayor Mauricio Rodas said three people, not four, were killed in the shallow 5.1-magnitude quake which struck outside the capital city, saying authorities had mistakenly reported that a man who was missing in the quake died.

“Fortunately, the person that had been reported missing is now safe. We have confirmed three deaths after the earthquake in Quito. We’d like to express our condolences to their families,” said Rodas via his Twitter account.

The three victims were a four-year-old boy who was crushed by bags of falling rice and two workers who were building a bridge in Catequilla, north of Quito, near the epicenter, according to the mayor.

Rodas said the city has received 584 reports of damage to buildings and houses that are being checked out.

The US Geological Survey said the moderate quake was only 7.7 km deep, with its epicenter located 23 km northeast of Quito. Damage was not widespread but landslides blocked several highways and more than 60 aftershocks were registered so far.—Xinhua



Image provided by Vanguardia newspaper of Saltillo shows people at the site of a multiple crash, in Saltillo, Coahuila, northern of Mexico on 14 Aug, 2014. At least 98 persons were reported injured in the accident involving at least four vehicles transporting employees of different corporations, according to local Press.—XINHUA

Three die from carbon monoxide poisoning in Greece

ATHENS, 15 Aug — Three men died from carbon monoxide poisoning at a distillery tank on the Ionian Sea island of Lefkada on Thursday, according to local media.

The tragedy occurred when one of the men lost consciousness due to fumes during renovation works at the distillery and the other two went inside to help, according to eye witnesses.

One of the firemen who rushed to assist the men was also transferred to local hospital with breathing problems.

An investigation on the causes of the incident is under way.—Xinhua

Park invites N Korea to int'l confab on biodiversity in October

SEOUL, 15 Aug — President Park Geun Hye on Friday extended an invitation to North Korea to send a delegation to an international conference on biological diversity set to be held in South Korea in October.

“First of all, we need to build a channel for environmental cooperation, through which both Koreas can connect and restore the ecosystem on the Korean Peninsula,” Park said in a speech on National Liberation Day, marking the end of Japan’s colonial rule in 1945.

In this regard, she expressed her hope that North Korea will take part in the 12th Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity

set to be held 6-17 October in Pyeongchang in Gangwon Province.

“We (both Koreas) should begin with the work of jointly managing streams that cut through the South and the North and also forests and expand cooperative projects that will be of benefits to both sides,” she said.

Park also made a proposal to the North to start joint works of excavating cultural relics and preserving them for the next generation to come, and to prepare cultural programmes to jointly celebrate the 70th anniversary of gaining independence from Japan’s colonial rule next year.

She urged the North to accept a proposal made by

the South earlier this week to hold a second round of high-level talks next Tuesday at the truce village of Panmunjeom.

South Korea said it wants to use the talks, if realized, to discuss matters of mutual interest, including arranging the reunions of separated families around Chuseok (Korean Thanksgiving) holiday, which falls on 8 September this year.

North Korea has not yet sent a reply to the proposal.

In Friday’s speech, Park reiterated her call on the North to abandon its nuclear weapons programme and work toward “getting away from being isolated and becoming a responsible member of the

water of Panchani river, in which four people died,” a district official said.

He said the water level in the river rose following heavy rainfall since Wednesday.

Angry residents protested against the district administration for not taking adequate preventive measures despite rising water level in the river.

Xinhua

Black box of Brazilian candidate's crashed plane to be inspected

BRASILIA, 15 Aug — The black box recovered from a plane which crashed on Wednesday in Sao Paulo and killed Brazilian Socialist Party presidential candidate Eduardo Campos, arrived in Brasilia on Thursday for inspection. The Centre for the Investigation and Prevention of Aeronautic Accidents (Cenipa) said the box contains the recordings of the final minutes before the plane crashed.

On Wednesday night, it was revealed that a recording of a conversation between the pilot and the control tower in Santos,

Sao Paulo, where the aircraft crashed, indicated the pilot could not land on the first try due to lack of visibility and decided to approach the landing strip again by turning the craft to the left. The Cessna 560XL crashed moments later into a residential area, killing all seven people on board. Ten people on the ground, including two children and an elderly woman, were injured, but all of them have been reportedly released from the hospital.

The voice of the pilot was calm and he made no mention of any technical failures, though eyewitnesses

said the craft was in flames before falling.

Also on Thursday, the coroner’s office in Sao Paulo said the forensic work to identify the remains of the victims was ongoing.

The victims have so far been identified from the passenger list only, pending DNA analysis to fully identify the bodies.

The other six victims were identified as Marcos Martins and Geraldo da Cunha, pilots; Marcelo Lira, cameraman; Alexandre Severo, photographer; and Pedro Valadares and Carlos Augusto Leal Filho, campaign aides.—Xinhua



Visitors watch bicycles at Liaoning industrial museum in Shenyang, capital of northeast China’s Liaoning Province on 15 Aug, 2014. China (Shenyang) Bicycle Exhibition was opened on Friday with over 110 bicycle enterprises from both home and abroad on show.—XINHUA

ADVERTISEMENT & GENERAL

TRADEMARK CAUTION

Glaxo Group Limited of 980 Great West Road, Brentford, Middlesex, TW8 9GS, England is the Owner and Sole Proprietor of the following trademark:

REQUIP

(Reg. No. 6225/1997)

used in respect of – "Pharmaceutical and medicinal preparations and substances"

All ownership rights of the above trademark have been assigned to Glaxo Group Limited by SmithKline Beecham Limited, the principal owner of the above trademark, by means of the Deed of Assignment (Myanmar Reg. No. IV/3526/2014) made between SmithKline Beecham Limited and Glaxo Group Limited.

Fraudulent imitation or unauthorized use or any other infringement whatsoever of this trademark will be dealt with according to law.

Thein Aung B.Sc./R.L.D.B.L Advocate
MYANMAR TRADEMARK AND PATENT LAW FIRM
E-mail: mtpip@mptmail.net.mm
Tel: 376318 G.P.O Box: 666
Yangon. 16 August 2014

TRADEMARK CAUTION

ViiV Healthcare UK Limited of 980 Great West Road, Brentford, Middlesex, TW8 9GS, England is the Owner and Sole Proprietor of the following trademark:

COMBIVIR

(Reg. No. IV/3159/1998)

(Reg. No. IV/3532/2014)

used in respect of – Class 5: "Anti-viral pharmaceutical preparations and substances"

Fraudulent imitation or unauthorized use or any other infringement whatsoever of this trademark will be dealt with according to law.

Thein Aung B.Sc./R.L.D.B.L Advocate
MYANMAR TRADEMARK AND PATENT LAW FIRM
E-mail: mtpip@mptmail.net.mm
Tel: 376318 G.P.O Box: 666
Yangon. 16 August 2014

Visitor try Korean food during the 25th Food Expo in Hong Kong, south China, on 14 Aug, 2014. The Expo kicked off on Thursday and visitors would be introduced to a huge range of food products by quality suppliers from around the world.—XINHUA

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

MV HONG KAI VOY NO (CAM 039)

Consignees of cargo carried on MV HONG KAI VOY NO (CAM 039) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 15.8.2014 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of M.I.T.T where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

SHIPPING AGENCY DEPARTMENT

MYANMA PORT AUTHORITY

AGENT FOR: M/S CAM SHIPPING CO.LTD

Phone No: 2301186



Advertise with us!

For inquiries to place an advertisement in the NLM, Please email



wallace.tun@gmail.com

Weather report

BAY INFERENCE: Monsoon is moderate in the Andaman Sea and Bay of Bengal.

FORECAST VALID UNTIL EVENING OF THE 16th August, 2014: Rain or thundershowers will be scattered in Lower Sagaing and Magway Regions, fairly widespread in Mandalay, Yangon, Ayeyarwady and Taninthayi Regions, Shan, Chin, Kayah and Kayin States and widespread in the remaining Regions and States with likelihood of isolated heavy falls in Sagaing and Mandalay Regions, Rakhine State. Degree of certainty is (100%).

STATE OF THE SEA: Sea will be moderate in Myanmar waters.

OUTLOOK FOR SUBSEQUENT TWO DAYS: Moderate monsoon.

Russian troops in China for multinational counter-terrorism drill

BEIJING, 15 Aug—Russian troops are heading for the site of a multinational counter-terrorism drill in north China's Inner Mongolia Autonomous Region, the Chinese military said on Friday.

The 800-strong Russian army echelon entered China on Wednesday to join their counterparts from other members of the Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO), including China, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan and Tajikistan.

Earlier reports said Russia would also send 12 aircraft to participate in the SCO drill to be held from 24-29 August at the Zhurihe training base. The aircraft will enter China on Sunday, according to a Chinese military statement.

The drill is the fifth of its kind under the SCO framework and will aim at countering terrorism, separatism and extremism, safeguarding regional peace and stability and improving the militaries' coordinated ability to fight terrorism, said China's Ministry of National Defence.

Xinhua

Texas starts deploying National Guard to border

HOUSTON, 15 Aug—The first batch of US National Guard troops were sent to the Texas-Mexico border on Thursday as part of efforts to slow the recent influx of illegal immigrants.

The *Houston Chronicle* reported "several dozens" have taken up observatory posts in the Rio Grande Valley in south Texas, which borders Mexico and is one of the main routes for illegal border

crossing and human trafficking. They are part of the up to 1,000 National Guard troops assembled by Texas Governor Rick Perry, a potential aspirant for the 2016 Republican presidential nomination, last month.

Tens of thousands of unaccompanied minors from Central America have been swarming into the United States since October, due to a law which does not allow immigrant children from countries

that don't share a border with the United States to be deported. Perry has been a vocal critic of Obama's "inaction" over the crisis and had repeatedly asked President Barack Obama to send troops to the border. However Perry's move, announced on 21 July, was viewed as politically charged by many of his opponents, who argued that the flow of illegal immigrants had slowed and that the troops could only play a

limited role.

The deployment will cost Texas 12 million US dollars per month. Though both Perry and Obama have the authority to deploy National Guard troops, whoever authorizes it has to pay for it. Obama had earlier asked for 3.7 billion dollars in emergency funding from the Congress to deal with the issue. But the proposal was quickly met with skepticism from Republicans, who want to rewrite the

law so as to move quickly to deport the immigrant minors.

According to the 2008 law, US Border Patrol does not have the authority to deport the children, dictating that they must be turned over within 72 hours to the care of the Department of Health and Human Services, which must also find them legal counsel. An immigration judge then decides if the children are eligible to stay.—Xinhua

Agreements with UAE in Serbia's interest



Serbian Prime Minister Aleksandar Vucic discloses previously secret agreements between the government and two companies from United Arab Emirates in Belgrade, Serbia, on 14 Aug, 2014. XINHUA

BELGRADE, 15 Aug—Agreements revealed on Thursday by Serbian Prime Minister Aleksandar Vucic show that the Etihad Airways invested 100 million US dollars in the privatization of the state owned

airline JAT Airways, while the Serbian government obliged to allocate 42 million.

Disclosing the agreements made with companies in the United Arab Emirates (UAE), namely

Etihad Airways and Al Rawafed to the public, Vucic assured them on a press conference on Thursday that the both deals are in favor of the domestic side. Etihad engaged in 2013 in the privatization

of the JAT Airways, while Al Rawafed and the Serbian government formed joint company in the field of agriculture. Both contracts were however until now held as a business secret.

"All this was made for the benefit of Serbia. Air Serbia is advancing into a leader and it can become the region's most successful company by 2018," he said, adding that the Air Serbia will have a positive balance for the first time in years and that the partnership with Etihad will renew the fleet of aircraft and expand the offer of destinations.

Vucic said that the cooperation with Al Rawafed in the field of agriculture is also favorable to Serbia as

the country holds 20 percent ownership, while the whole investment in the joint company worth 140 million euros (about 187.6 million dollars) is provided by the partner from the UAE.

According to the contract joint company will cultivate some 10,000 hectares of arable land in Serbia, previously in possession of four bankrupt state companies.

With the consent of the companies from the UAE, agreements that Serbia signed with Etihad and Al Rawafed are now available to the public at the website of Serbia's government. Vucic said that on Thursday a sum of 1 billion dollars from the UAE was received by Serbia.—Xinhua

'Mockingjay – Part I' to release in India on 21 November

MUMBAI, 15 Aug — Jennifer Lawrence-starrer 'The Hunger games: Mockingjay – Part I' is all set to hit Indian theatres on November 21 along with its US release.

The American sci-fi film is adapted from the 'The Hunger Games' trilogy by Suzanne Collins. The third edition of the franchise is being directed by Francis Lawrence who also helmed 'The Hunger Games: Catching Fire'.

The Film also stars John Hutcherson and, Woody Harrelson, Elizabeth Banks along with the Oscar-winning actress.

The latest franchise is a continuation from the second part where Katniss Everdeen (Lawrence) who, after escaping the Third Quarter Quell, becomes a reluctant hero and symbol of hope for the nation of Panem.

The film was shot in Atlanta, Berlin and Germany. — PTI



Deepika Padukone: I'm still nervous around Farah Khan

MUMBAI, 15 Aug — Queen of Bollywood, Deepika Padukone first made her foray into Hindi with Farah Khan's 'Om Shanti Om' featuring King of Romance Shah Rukh Khan.

Talking about her experience reuniting with Farah and SRK, Deepika says, "Nothing has changed. I still treat me the same way. I'm nervous around Farah."

"Infact on my second shooting, somebody said to me 'You're different around Farah? More reserved and quiet'."

On playing Mohini in the film, Deepika said, "This is my first heist film. I've mostly done love stories and romance. I play a Maharashtrian girl in the film."

SRK and Deepika were last seen in Rohit Shetty's blockbuster 'Chennai Express'. — PTI



Robin Williams' death highlights Parkinson's-depression link

LOS ANGELES, 15 Aug — Robin Williams was suffering from the early stages of Parkinson's disease along with severe depression at the time of his apparent suicide, his widow said on Thursday, drawing public attention to the correlation between the diseases.

Although the gifted comedian had spoken before about his depression, Parkinson's experts have noted how the incurable and debilitating nervous system disorder that causes tremors and slowness of movement also affects people emotionally.

"The neurochemicals that are impacted by Parkinson's disease and the pathways that control motor functions are also integrally involved in the

control of mood," said Dr Irene Richard, a neurology professor at the University of Rochester in New York.

More than half of those who suffer from Parkinson's also experience clinical depression, according to the National Parkinson Foundation, which advises all Parkinson's patients to

be screened for depression.

The 63-year-old Oscar-winning comedic virtuoso, whose madcap style and dramatic versatility made him one of film and television's top stars, was found hanged at his home in Northern California on Monday.

Reuters



A photograph of Oscar-winning actor and renowned comedian Robin Williams is displayed at the Smithsonian's National Portrait Gallery in Washington on 12 Aug, 2014. — REUTERS

Rani Mukherji on Aditya Chopra: I would not like to take his orders

MUMBAI, 15 Aug — Actress Rani Mukherji says she does not want her director-producer husband Aditya Chopra to direct her ever as she cannot take his orders.

The acclaimed director and the actress married in a quiet wedding in Italy in April this year. "I have told him (Aditya) not to direct me. I don't think I will be able to take his directions. A director is the captain of the ship and an actor has to work professionally with the director. There are times when the director can shout at actors," Rani told PTI in an interview.

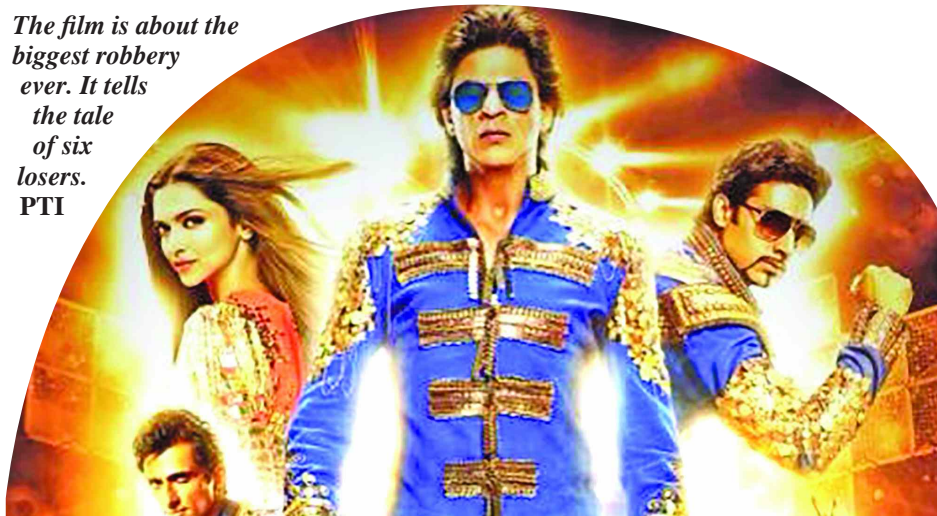
Aditya has so far directed three films, which includes his debut blockbuster 'Dilwale Dulhania Le Jayenge' in 1995.

Rani Mukherji, who will be seen playing a cop in YRF's 'Mardaani' has earlier worked with the banner in several films. "I think I would be happy playing the role of a wife for him. So, I can tell him what to do... and would not like to take his orders. It's better I work with him as a director (at home)," the 36-year-old actress said.

PTI

First trailer: Shah Rukh Khan, Deepika, Abhishek set to enthrall in Happy New Year

The film is about the biggest robbery ever. It tells the tale of six losers. PTI



MUMBAI, 15 Aug — The 'Happy New Year' trailer was launched on the eve of Independence Day, 15 August, at a starry event with the entire cast — Shah

Rukh Khan, Abhishek Bachchan, Deepika Padukone, Sonu Sood, Boman Irani and Vivaan Shah.

The film is about the biggest robbery ever. It

tells the tale of six losers — Charlie, Nandu, Jag, Tammy, Mohini and Rohan who are on a Happy New Year mission.

The team of six get

together to win the World Dance Championship. However, the main part of the plan is to rob a whole lot of money. The trailer is exciting, fun and everything a Farah Khan film should be. It has the boys and the beautiful Mohini starting off their mission with dance rehearsals going terribly wrong. Amidst tights and tutus, we also get a glimpse of some high flying action on a helipad atop a tower in Dubai. "This film is not about one actor. It's an ensemble film. It is dedicated to all the people who think they are losers," said Shah Rukh Khan.

The actors also wished their fans a Happy Independence Day. — PTI

GENERAL

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

Daw Dalia Myat San (1919-2014) fell asleep in the arms of Jesus on August 11, 2014 at Asia Royal Hospital. Her grieving family wishes to express sincere appreciation and profound gratitude to all the doctors, nurses, families and friends from near and far for the intensive hospital care, expressions of sympathy, messages of condolences, floral tributes, spiritual and physical support, and many other ways of valuable assistance during their recent bereavement.

They regret the inability to thank everyone individually. A memorial service in honour of Daw Dalia will be held on Saturday, 16th August 2014 at 6 pm, Judson Church, Yangon. All are most cordially invited.

Georgia's Batumi chosen to host 2018 World Chess Olympiad

TBILISI, 15 Aug — The Georgian Black Sea coastal city of Batumi has been awarded the right to host the 2018 World Chess Olympiad, according to reports reaching here on Thursday.

The decision was made through a voting at the FIDE general assembly being held on the sideline of the ongoing 41st World Chess Olympiad in Norway.

South Africa's Cape Town was the other candi-

date city vying with Batumi in the voting in Norway.

Georgia's Batumi offered to host the 2018 World Chess Olympiad between 1 and 15 September.

Inaugurated in 1924 alongside the Olympic Summer Games, the World Chess Olympiad has been held mostly biennially. The 2016 World Chess Olympiad will be held in Baku of Azerbaijan.

Xinhua

Serena Williams closing in on first Cincinnati title



World number one Serena Williams

TORONTO, 15 Aug — World number one Serena Williams continued her march towards a first Western and Southern Open title, easing into the quarter-finals of the Cincinnati tournament with a 6-2, 6-2 demolition of 13th seeded Italian Flavia Pennetta on Thursday.

The 17-time grand slam winner was joined in the last eight by second

seeded Romanian Simona Halep, who defeated Czech Lucie Safarova 6-4, 7-5.

While Williams' brilliant resume includes 61 titles the Cincinnati hard court event is not on that long list and the 32-year-old American has set her sights on adding it to her collection.

In five previous visits Williams has only reached the semifinals twice with

her best result coming last year when she let the title slip through her fingers losing in a third set tiebreak to Victoria Azarenka.

"I love coming here, it's fun," said Williams, who is a perfect 12-0 on American hard courts this season. "I like it because it's in America, as well, and it's so good to play some tournaments in the United States.

"Being an American, it just feels like you're at home. Even though it's not your home state it's your home country, so it's a great feeling."

Williams looked completely at home on Thursday and in control right from the start as she raced to a 3-0 lead in the opening set then cruised through the second after charging in front 5-0.

"I got an early break on and I just didn't let go," said Williams, who will defend her US Open crown later this month. "That's what I wanted to do, because she can try to come back. Even in the end she tried to make a comeback."

"But I knew I needed to kind of stay focused."

In other action fast rising Ukrainian teenager Elina Svitolina followed up her second round stunner over Wimbledon champion Petra Kvitova with another upset, advancing with 4-6, 6-4, 6-4 win over 15th seed Carla Suarez Navarro of Spain.—Reuters

Six months in jail for teen who stole from car in Paul Walker crash

LOS ANGELES, 15 Aug — A teenager who stole a rooftop panel from the wrecked Porsche of actor Paul Walker, soon after the "Fast and Furious" star was killed in a crash, was sentenced on Thursday to six months in jail, a spokesman for prosecutors said.

Jameson Brooks Witty, 18, who is one of two people arrested for taking the car part, pleaded guilty this month to grand theft of property, destroying evidence and obstructing a peace officer, said a statement from the Los Angeles County District Attorney's Office.

A Los Angeles County judge on Thursday sentenced Witty to six months in county jail and three years of pro-

bation, said Ricardo Santiago, a spokesman for the District Attorney's Office. Anthony Edward Janow, 26, who pleaded guilty to the same charges, is scheduled to be sentenced in October, prosecutors said.

The death of Walker in a fiery one-car crash in Santa Clarita, California, 30 miles (48 km) northwest of Los Angeles, forced a temporary halt to production of the seventh film in the multibillion-dollar "Fast and Furious" action film franchise. Police revealed after the November crash, which also killed driver Roger Rodas, that part of the Porsche Carrera GT the two men were riding in was stolen from the scene.—Reuters

MYANMAR TV

(16-8-2014, Saturday)

- 6:00 am**
 - * Paritta by Hilly Region Missionary Sayadaw
- 7:00 am**
 - * News/Weather Report
- 7:25 am**
 - * Business News
- 8:30 am**
 - * TV Drama Series
- 9:00 am**
 - * News/International News
- 10:20 am**
 - * Current Affairs
- 11:30 am**
 - * Game for Children
- 12:30 pm**
 - * Round Up of The Week's TV Local News
- 2:10 pm**
 - * Myanmar Traditional Performing Arts Competitions
- 3:00 pm**
 - * News
- 4:30 pm**
 - * University of Distance Education (TV Lectures) -Second Year (Psychology)
- 5:00 pm**
 - * News
- 5:20 pm**
 - * Golden Music of Old Stars
- 6:20 pm**
 - * MRTV's Youth Programme
- 6:50 pm**
 - * Teleplay
- 8:00 pm**
 - * News/International News/Weather Report
- 9:00 pm**
 - * News
 - * Myanmar Series
 - * Gitadagale Phwintbarohn

MYANMAR INTERNATIONAL

(16-8-14 07:00 am~ 17-8-14 07:00 am) MST

- * Local News
- * Great Shwedagon: Charitable Associations
- * World News
- * Graffiti: Character Art
- * Local News
- * Shwe Kyet Yet-Shwe Kyat Kya's Boat Race Festival
- * World News
- * Myanmar Chef (Japanese)
- * Local News
- * Crab Business - Soft Shell Crab (Part-II)
- * World News
- * Ngapali Beach: Real Paradise
- * Local News
- * Flying Without Wings-My Great Limitless Adventure - Inle lake (Part-1)
- * World News
- * Dengue Fever
- * Local News
- * Distinct People, Different Lifestyles (Pan-Pack Village)
- * World News
- * Black Gold (Part - II)
- * Local News
- * Myanmar Gemstones: Making Of Nawarat Rings
- * World News
- * In the Studio : Ja Som (The Myth)
- * Local News
- * Customary Costumes: Myanmar Women Day 2014
- * World News
- * Goldsmith
- * Local News
- * Distinguished Myanmar Ladies: "Kalayar Moe"
- * World News
- * Lawka Nandar Wildlife Sanctuary and Its Rare Star Tortoises

'Ball of fury' cat traps California mother, daughter for hours

LOS ANGELES, 15 Aug — A family cat turned into a "ball of fury" and trapped a California woman and her daughter in a bedroom for hours, forcing them to dial 911 so police could coax the feline from the house, local media said on Thursday.

Broadcaster KGTV-TV said the unnamed woman and her adult daughter telephoned the authorities in fear because their enraged cat, "Cuppy," attacked them each time they tried to leave.

Speaking outside the home in San Diego County and brandishing a broom in case the cat came her way, neighbour Karen Yarger

told the TV station: "He's just a ball of fury."

KGTV-TV said Cuppy has been a family pet for 14 years. It said such calls are normally handled by animal control, but that officers from the Chula Vista Police Department were in the area with no pressing calls and so were able to help by cajoling it out of the house and into the garden.

The case recalled a similar one in Portland, Oregon, earlier this year when a 22-pound (10 kg) house cat called Lux attacked a baby and trapped a family in a bedroom.

Reuters

Robredo ends Djokovic bid for elusive Cincinnati title

TORONTO, 15 Aug — Spain's Tommy Robredo shocked world number one Novak Djokovic 7-6(6), 7-5 on Thursday to move into the quarter-finals of the Western and Southern Open in Cincinnati.

For the 16th seeded Robredo the victory was his first over Djokovic since their first meeting in 2005, the Serb sweeping their next six meetings.

The loss brought a temporary halt to Djokovic's bid to become the first player to win all nine ATP World Tour Masters events during his career.

It was also another setback in the Serb's build-up to the US Open later this month after falling to Frenchman Jo-Wilfried Tsonga in the third round last week in Toronto.

"Many, many, many things are not clicking these two weeks on hard courts," said Djokovic.

"It's unfortunate but it's more than obvious I'm not playing even close to what I'm supposed to play.

"I have to keep on working and trying to get better for US Open.

"I just don't feel com-



Tommy Robredo returns a shot from Novak Djokovic on day four of the Western and Southern Open tennis tournament at Linder Family Tennis Centre.—REUTERS

fortable. "It's disappointing that I'm finishing Cincinnati again with a tough loss but it's sport. I didn't play well in Toronto; didn't play well here.

"Hopefully it's going to be different in New York."

While Djokovic has hoisted the Canada trophy three times he has not felt the same comfort level on the Ohio hard courts, reaching the finals four times in 10 visits to Cincinnati and

losing all four.

The Serb appeared out of his normal rhythm, particularly in the second set when he failed to gain even a single break chance.

Robredo managed three break opportunities and only needed to capitalise on one to secure the upset.

"When I finish my career and when I will be sitting at home and talking with friends, I will remember days like this," Robredo said.

do said.

The win marked his second win over a world number one for the 32-year-old Robredo, who also beat Lleyton Hewitt in 2003.

Former world number one Roger Federer avoided tasting an upset of his own as he held off Frenchman Gael Monfils 6-4, 4-6, 6-3.

A five-time winner at Cincinnati, Federer will now face Andy Murray in the quarter-finals after the Briton had to overcome a

stern test against American John Isner.

Third seeded Swiss Stan Wawrinka rallied past 14th seed Marin Cilic 3-6, 6-0, 6-1 to book his place in the last eight.

The Australian Open champion got off to a sluggish start losing the opening set to the big-hitting Croatian but then could do little wrong, blazing through the next two sets dropping just a single game along the way.

Unable to register even a single break chance in the first, Wawrinka broke Cilic five times over the next two sets to seal the win.

Eighth seed Murray, twice a Cincinnati champion, also need three sets and two and a half hours to tame Isner 6-7(3), 6-4, 7-6(2).

The 11th seeded Isner, a Cincinnati finalist a year ago, blasted 21 aces past his Scottish opponent but could not manage a break the entire match.

"It's a very important match for me to win," said Murray. "I had lost a few close matches, matches like that over the last few months. So, yeah, it was

important for me to come through.

"It was a really, you know, good atmosphere to get ready for the rest of the tournament, but also the US Open, as well."

In the women's draw, the world number one Serena Williams cruised into the quarter-finals with a 6-2, 6-2 win against Flavia Pennetta.

Williams served eight aces and broke the Italian five times in their hour-long match.

"I have a lot more confidence," Williams said. "I feel more relaxed. Overall feel a lot better. I'm playing a lot better.

French Open champion Maria Sharapova also advanced with a victory against Anastasia Pavlyuchenkova 6-4, 7-6 (2).

Sharapova's win sets up a match against Simona Halep, who she beat in the Roland Garros final after the Romanian beat Lucie Safarova 6-4, 7-5 to advance.

Caroline Wozniacki and Jelena Jankovic also advanced with straight set victories.

Reuters

Italy name Antonio Conte as coach

ROME, 15 Aug — Italy named former Juventus coach Antonio Conte as their manager on Thursday, replacing Cesare Prandelli who quit after the team's failure at this year's World Cup in Brazil.

Conte has been given a contract until July 2016, the Italian football federation (FIGC) said on its website.

Conte won three consecutive Serie A titles with Juventus before he unexpectedly left last month amid speculation the club's ownership had not guaranteed him the financial resources he believed were necessary for success in the Champions League.

Conte, a former Juventus captain and Italy international during his career as a combative midfield player, coached Siena, Atalanta and Bari before taking over at Juventus in 2011 and leading then to the Serie A title in his first season.

He was forced to sit out the first three months of the 2012-13 season, when the Turin club again won the title, after being found guilty of failing to report a match-fixing incident involving Siena when he was their manager in 2010-11.

Conte, who is known for his fiery temperament, has always denied knowledge of match-fixing.—Reuters



Juventus' coach Antonio Conte greets supporters before the Italian Serie A soccer match against Atalanta at the Juventus stadium in Turin on 5 May, 2014.—REUTERS

Suarez biting bans upheld but he can train with Barca

BERNE, (Switzerland), 15 Aug — Uruguay forward Luis Suarez's four-month playing ban for biting Italy defender Giorgio Chiellini has been upheld by the Court of Arbitration for Sport (CAS) although he will be allowed train with his new club Barcelona. CAS said in a statement that it had removed the clause which banned the 27-year-old from "any football-related activity" following an appeal by the Uruguayan Football Association (AUF) on Suarez's behalf.

The Barca player remains ineligible to play in official matches during the four-month period, and his nine-game international ban also stays in force following the notorious incident during the World Cup group game on 24 June which Uruguay won 1-0.

However, a spokesman for soccer's world governing body FIFA said he could play in friendly internationals for club and country. This could allow him to make his Barcelona debut against Mexican side



Uruguayan striker Luis Suarez leaves after his hearing at the Court of Arbitration for Sport (CAS) in Lausanne on 8 Aug, 2014.—REUTERS

Leon on Monday if selected. "The sanctions imposed on the player by FIFA have been generally confirmed," CAS said in a statement. "However, the 4-month suspension will apply to official matches only and no longer to other football-related activities (such as training, promotional activities and administrative matters)."

"It has however considered that the stadium ban and the ban from "any football-related activity" were excessive given that such measures are not ap-

propriate to sanction the offence committed by the player and would still have an impact on his activity after the end of the suspension."

Suarez's legal team said they had successfully argued that FIFA had misapplied its own rules when considering the case and the sanction it imposed on other football-related activities was disproportionate.

"As a result, Suarez is now permitted to train and attend matches with his Barcelona team mates in preparation for the new

season," his lawyers said in a statement.

Barcelona said in a statement that the forward would train with the La Liga club on Friday and will be presented as a Barca player at the Nou Camp on Monday when they play Leon.

"I expected something different, although not much," said AUF president Wilmar Valdez in a statement.

"CAS is a totally independent tribunal and this is to do with the way people see things, it's a cultural matter. The way we live football in South America is different to Europe.

"For us there are things which are normal and which deserve sanctions, but not such harsh ones.

"The training is something positive because not being able to train was too tough.

"It was shown in the World Cup, in the matches Suarez did not play in, that he is a fundamental player. We will have to work to look for the appropriate alternatives."—Reuters