

President U Thein Sein felicitates Hungarian counterpart, PM

NAY PYI TAW, 20 Aug — U Thein Sein, President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar, has sent messages of felicitations to His Excellency Mr. Janos Ader, President of Hungary and His Excellency Mr. Viktor Orban, Prime Minister of Hungary, on the occasion of the National Day of Hungary, which falls on 20 August 2014. *MNA*

Vice President U Nyan Tun delivers speech at central committee meeting on drugs eradication

NAY PYI TAW, 19 Aug — Vice President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar U Nyan Tun delivered a speech at the meeting of the Central Committee for Prevention of Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances held at the headquarters of the Ministry of Home Affairs here.

Vice President U Nyan Tun said that the drugs problem is threatening the global community, but that the illegal flow of these narcotics could not be controlled across the world until now.

He also said that Myanmar has adopted a 15-year plan to eradicate narcotics, resulting in opium-free zones of Mong La Special Region (4) in 1997, Kokang Special Region (2)



in 2003 and Wa Special Region (2) in 2005 respectively despite remaining opium cultivations in some areas.

The opium cultiva-

tion declined in Myanmar from 163,000 hectare in 1996 to 21,500 hectare in 2006, but it has increased again to 57,800 hectare in 2013 since 2007

gradually.

Myanmar plans to accelerate the drug eradication programme under the five-year plan from 2014 to 2019.

The vice president also reminded to implement Drug Free ASEAN 2015 which is the objective of ASEAN community.

MNA

Vice President Dr Sai Mauk Kham meets British delegation

NAY PYI TAW, 19 Aug — Vice President Dr Sai Mauk Kham accepted a call by British Ambassador to Myanmar Mr Andrew Patrick and his delegation on Tuesday at the Presidential Palace in Nay Pyi Taw to discuss further strengthening of bilateral relations and British assistance to accelerate Myanmar's reform processes.—*MNA*

Vice President U Nyan Tun said Myanmar will accelerate drug eradication programmes with long and short-term plans to meet the goal of a Drug Free ASEAN 2015.—MNA

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Myanmar to compete in six categories at ASEAN Skills Competition 2014 in Vietnam



19-year old chef Min Hsu Paing demonstrates his cooking skills to media during a press briefing on Myanmar Team Participation in the 2014 ASEAN Skills Competition to be held in Hanoi from 19-29 October.

PHOTO: YE MYINT

By Ye Myint

YANGON, 19 Aug — Competitors from Myanmar will participate in the 10th ASEAN Skills Competition in Hanoi, Vietnam from 19 to 29 October, according to the “Organizing Committee For Myanmar Team Participation In The 10th ASC 2014.”

At a press briefing on Tuesday at Skills Training Centre in Yangon, committee officials elaborated on preparations for the event saying that the purpose of Myanmar's participation was to “inform international and regional entrepreneurs of the quality of the country's human resources”.

Myanmar nationals will compete in six out of 23 skill categories, including restaurant service, cooking, plumbing & heating, cabinet-making, electrical installation and electronics, with several team members also participating in two performance categories.

It will be the third time for Myanmar to attend the event as it only participated in the 6th and 7th skills competition, officials said.

“Despite not taking part for some years due to various reasons, we will be able to take great pride in the participation of Myanmar in the 2014 event as our country has taken over the ASEAN Chair for the first time this year”,

said committee member U Kyaw Kyaw Sint.

The official, who is also the vice-president of the Myanmar Tourism Human Resources Development Association, expressed hope that the Myanmar team can bring home medals from the Hanoi competition as they are undergoing intensive training provided by experts in respective areas.

“Participation in the event will provide an excellent chance for me to demonstrate my skills at a regional event level,” Min Hsu Paing, one of the selected participants to compete in cooking, told The New Light of Myanmar.

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Immigration union minister inspects preparations on upcoming e-visa system



Union Minister U Khin Yi at Yangon International Airport to ensure that the start of the e-visa system on Sept. 1 will be smooth.—MNA

NAY PYI TAW, 19 Aug—Union Minister for Immigration and Population U Khin Yi arrived at Yangon International Airport on Saturday to inspect preparation for the introduction of the upcoming e-visa system for tourists.

The system will be valid for tourists from 41 countries, starting from 1 September 2014, with the ministry now testing the official Myanmar e-Visa procedure at Yangon International Airport.

A tourist e-Visa costs

US\$50 per person, with visitors able to enter the country within 90 days after obtaining it. The maximum length for visitors to stay in the country on an e-visa is 28 days, according to the Myanmar Visa website.—MNA

Over 1,000 mobile phones confiscated in Muse

YANGON, 19 Aug—Myanmar custom officers have confiscated 1,115 mobile handsets worth at street value of over K103 million in Muse, according to the Ministry of Commerce.

Acting on a tip-off, a team of custom officers discovered the handsets without custom duties piled up at the roadside along the Union Road, near the 105-mile trade zone on 6 August, with officers saying they were supposed to be transported by car to Mandalay and Yangon Region.

The models of the confiscated mobile phones were G 730, Y511, G 610, C 8816, Y321 C, G 6, Y 555 C Coolpad, 7060, 5190 and 5200, and Samsung (SCH-E339) Tablet Player (Mo Mo), according to the Ministry of Commerce.

NLM



Executive Daw Soe Amy Kyaw and member Daw Mya Mya Kywe from the Myanmar Women Entrepreneurs' Association leave for Thailand on Sunday to attend training course of 'Enhancing the Utilization FTA by SMEs' which will be held at Mekong Institute in Khon Kaen in Thailand from 18 to 22 August.—MNA

Consulting firm opens in Yangon

YANGON, 19 Aug—JTJB Myanmar Law Consultant Service Firm that will undertake a joint venture with Singapore-based Joseph Tan Jude Benny LLP was commissioned into service at Chatrium Hotel in Yangon on Monday.

Deputy Minister for Transport U Han Sein and Singaporean Ambassador Mr Robert Chua formally opened the firm.

JTJB Myanmar will provide a wide range of services, including legal consultation on the signing of contracts.—MNA

Foreign affairs Union minister receives UN advisor

NAY PYI TAW, 19 Aug—Union Minister for Foreign Affairs U Wun-na Maung Lwin received Vijay Nambiar, the Secretary-General's Special Adviser on Myanmar here on

Tuesday.

During the meeting at the foreign affairs minister's office, Nambiar expressed his views on peace, stability and development of Rakhine State, the peacemaking

processes and preparations for the 2015 election.

Both sides also discussed matters related to cooperation between Myanmar and the United Nations.—MNA

Agreement signed for upgrading Industrial Training Centre in Hsinde



Officials sign agreement to upgrade No 1 Industrial Training School (Hsinde) and other development projects that will be implemented with the support of KfW Development Bank of Germany.—MNA

NAY PYI TAW, 19 Aug—The Ministry of Industry signed an agreement with Germany's KfW Development Bank in Nay Pyi Taw on Tuesday to upgrade No 1 Industrial Training School in Hsinde and other development projects at the school.

The signing ceremony was attended by Union Minister U Maung Myint,

Director-General U Thwin Myint Maung of the Directorate of Industries and the Economic Development Councillor of the German Embassy, Country Director Mr Christian Richter of KfW Development Bank of Germany.

The development projects will be implemented from 2014 to 2016 with the support of KfW Development Bank which will provide teaching aid and 4 million Euro for the opening of a technical teacher training centre and transfer technology. The Ministry of Industry will also contribute 2.5 million Euro to projects of construction, maintenance and transport to support the industrial training school.

MNA

Myanmar to compete in six...

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With sponsorship from the German Society for International Cooperation (GIZ), the Myanmar team is also receiving support from local associations, including the Myanmar Engineering Society, Myanmar Restaurant Association, Centre for Vocational

Training and government organizations such as the Ministry of Industry, Myanmar Timber Enterprise and the Ministry of Labour, Employment and Social Security.

Several officials have called, however, for more financial and technical support of the team to be successful in the competition.

NLM

Myanmar implements economic zone in border town with China

MUSE, 19 Aug—Myanmar is implementing a new central economic zone in Muse, a border town in northern Shan state linking China's Ruili of Yunnan province, to boost border trade at the most important crossing between the two countries, according to the project official saying on Tuesday.

The new Muse Central Economic Zone, being established on over 120

hectares of land at a cost of \$51.54 million, comprises 18 estates including jade trading facilities, markets, shops, hotels, restaurants and housing complexes, said the official.

The plan of setting up of the Muse central economic zone was approved by local authorities in early 2013 and it was targeted to be completed in 2017.

Myanmar's border trade with China is being

mainly done through Muse, Lweje, Chinshwehaw and Kan Pite Tee.

Muse stands as the highest border trade transaction between Myanmar and China, reaching over \$3 billion in the fiscal year 2013-14, accounting for over 60 percent of Myanmar's total border trade.

According to Myanmar official statistics, the total value of China-Myanmar bilateral trade is \$6.62

billion in 2013, accounting for 28.4 percent of Myanmar's total foreign trade value which was \$23.29 billion during the year.

Figures also show that China's investment in Myanmar has reached \$14.25 billion in 65 projects as of June 2014, accounting for 30.5 percent of the total and ranking the first in Myanmar's foreign investment line-up.

Xinhua

NATIONAL

Vice-Senior General Soe Win visits “Oboronexpo 2014” in Russia

NAY PYI TAW, 19 Aug — Vice-Senior General Soe Win, Deputy Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services who also serves as Commander-in-Chief (Army), while on his visit to Russia last week, attended “The International Exhibition ‘Oboronexpo-2014’” on 14 August, sources said.

Russian military officials briefed Vice-Senior General Soe Win and his delegation and showed them around booths displaying anti-aircraft missile systems, tanks, armours, and anti-tank weapons.

Vice-Senior General Soe Win held discussions with Army General Valery V Gerasimov, Chief of General Staff of Russian Armed Forces at the Ministry of Defence the same day. Their discussion covered the long tradition of mutual relations between the governments and armed forces of the two countries, prospects of greater cooperation in all sectors, and exchange of visits between the two armed forces.

On 15 August, the Myanmar’s commander-in-chief (army) visited the exhibition for a second day.

After briefings on military communication

equipment, he met Sergey I Bugakov, Chief of the Department of the First Department of the Federal Service for Military Technical Cooperation (FSMIC).

Mr Vijay Nambiar, the Secretary-General’s Special Adviser on Myanmar, called on Vice-Senior General Soe Win in Nay Pyi Taw on Tuesday, sources said.

They exchanged views on Myanmar’s ongoing peace processes, the cooperation of the armed forces in democratic reforms, and relations between the Myanmar’s armed forces and the international community.—*Myawady*



Vice President Dr Sai Mauk Kham with British Ambassador to Myanmar Mr. Andrew Patrick in Nay Pyi Taw.

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Vice-Senior General Soe Win holds talks with Mr Vijay Nambiar, the Secretary-General’s Special Adviser on Myanmar, and party.—MYAWADY

Myanmar U-19 to meet Malaysian U-21 in semifinal for Hassanal Bolkiah Trophy U-21 2014

NAY PYI TAW, 19 Aug—The Myanmar U-19 football team sailed into the semifinals with victories over Thailand, Timor-Leste, Laos and the Philippines in

the Hassanal Bolkiah Trophy U-21 2014.

The Myanmar youth

team will play against the Malaysian U-21 team in the semifinal. Myanmar Television will broadcast the match live at 1.15 pm on 20 August.—*MRTV*

Upgrading of railroads and running systems of MR discussed with foreign experts

NAY PYI TAW, 19 Aug — Investments to upgrade railroads and the running systems of Myanmar Railways and the improvement of railway stations and yards were discussed at a meeting between the managing director of AMONA Group of Companies and China Railways Engineering Corporation (CREC) and Union Minister for Rail Transportation U Than Htay at the ministry in Nay Pyi Taw on Monday morning.

The Union minister said there would be a for-

mation of respective committees to enhance rail transportation and monitor the developments at different levels.

In the afternoon, Mr Lee Chae Wook, Vice President of CJ Group and Chief Executive Officer of CJ Express of the Republic of Korea called on the union minister and discussed implementation of tasks regarding road transport and logistics, freight forwarding and third-party logistics tasks.—*Rail Transportation Ministry*

Water levels of Thanlwin River likely to drop below dangerous mark

NAY PYI TAW, 19 Aug — According to the 12:30 hrs MST observation on Tuesday, the water level of Thanlwin River at Hpa-an rose one centimeter above dangerous levels, but will likely decline below the mark within the next 48 hours commencing Tuesday noon, the Meteorology and Hydrology Department announced.

MNA

NAY PYI TAW, 19 Aug — U Soe Tha, Chairman of the Pyithu Hluttaw (Lower House) Planning and Finance Development Committee held talks with Dr. J. Stephen Morrison, Global Health Policy Centre’s Director, Center for Strategic and International Studies (CSIS), and his delegation



U Soe Tha, Chairman of the Pyithu Hluttaw (Lower House) Committee, meets Dr. J. Stephen Morrison, Global Health Policy Centre Director.—MNA

Development prospects of Twantay Township discussed

YANGON, 19 Aug — A meeting to discuss the development prospects of Twantay Township was held in Twantay in Yangon Region on Sunday, attended by Union Minister U Soe Thane and Hluttaw representatives.

At the talks, officials said that the Union government, the Ministry of Livestock, Fisheries and Rural Development, the Ministry of Electric Power, the Ministry of Agriculture and Irrigation, the Ministry of Construction and the Yangon Region government are

implementing an integrated area development project for fish and prawn farms in 34,830 acres of ponds and will form a public breeding complex in the township in the near future. Regarding infrastructure, officials said they are planning to upgrade the Yangon-Twantay road, Twantay Bridge and Maubin-Twantay road. To ensure better transport, a plan is being drawn to dredge Panhlaing River and construct a bridge to link Twantay and the western part of Kyimyindine Township.—*MNA*

Foreign direct investment to boost Myanmar’s economy discussed

on Tuesday at the Hluttaw Building in Nay Pyi Taw to discuss further foreign direct investment in order to boost the economic growth of Myanmar.

They also discussed

cooperation between the parliament and social organizations to control malaria infections in Myanmar and keeping people informed of parliamentary activities.

MNA

High-yield sugarcane saplings distributed in Ayadaw Township

AYADAW, 19 Aug — Deputy Director U Zaw Tun Myint of the Industrial Crops Development Department and officials inspected sugarcane plantations in Zayit Village of Ayadaw Township in Sagaing Region on Sunday as they are jointly cultivated by the department and local farmers who have been introduced to a new profitable strain.

The deputy director explained measures to systematically cultivate sugarcane and to grow quality strains on a commercial scale, saying officials have distributed high-yield sugarcane sap-



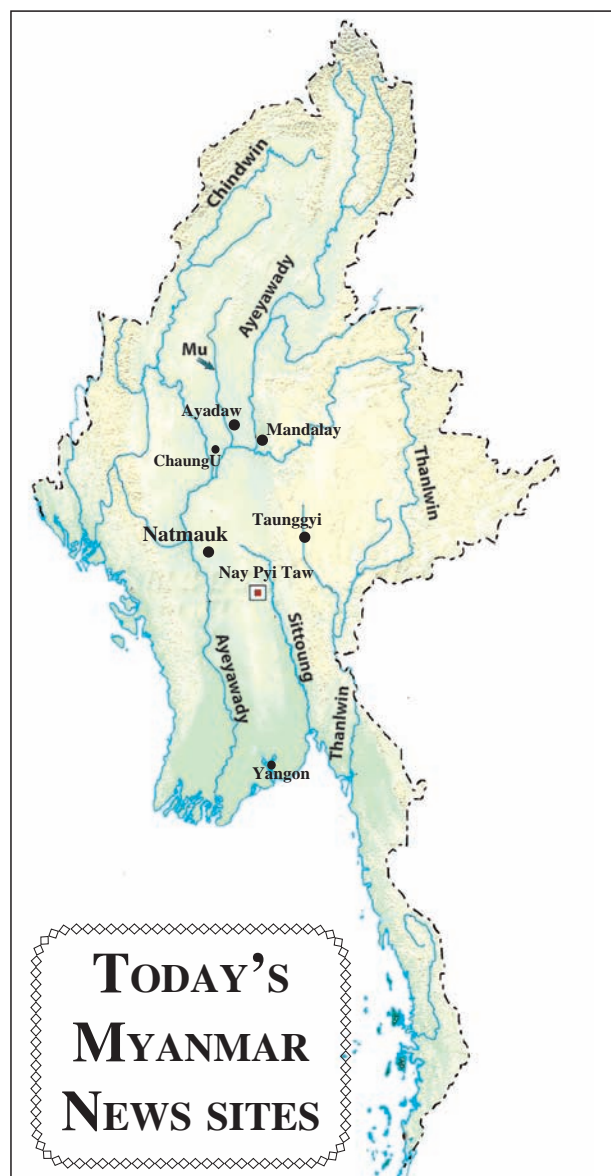
lings that can produce over 80 tons of sugarcane per acre to local farmers.

According to farmer

Daw Myint Kyi, the sugarcane strains the local farmers used in the past produced three tons per acre, fetching K30,000 per ton, with farm-

ers hoping to make more profit in the future with the new high-yield sugarcane strain.

Tint Wai (Ayadaw)



18,000 acres of farmland in ChaungU Township irrigated due to monsoon



CHAUNGU, 19 Aug — Rising water levels of Chindwin River in ChaungU Township of Sagaing Region have had a positive effect on farming, with over 18,000 acres of farmland owned by locals irrigated as of 17 August, locals said. Although the township has been experiencing difficulties with its water transport system due to the recent heavy rainfall, officials said the public is benefitting from the mon-

soon as more river water flows into the township through Sulegon sluice gate, Tantawgyi sluice gate and Taungpon sluice gate, before irrigating the fields.

Chindwin River has reached dangerous water levels in Hkamti and Mawlaik townships, upstream of the river, with Monywa Township likely to be affected in about two weeks, officials said, without giving flood warnings.

Township IPRD

Soaps donated to Upper Myanmar former selected footballers association

MANDALAY, 19 Aug — Padonma Soap Sale Agent U Myo Naing donated 50 packages of Padonma soaps worth K50,000 manufactured by the Union of Myanmar Economic Holdings Ltd to the Upper Myanmar former selected footballers association at the Bahtoo Stadium in Chanayethazan Township of Mandalay on Sunday.

The former selected footballer association provided the donations to the Mandalay Region women's football team training at Mahaaungmye Sports Ground, the Mandalay Region U-20 team at Shwe Mann Taung Sports Ground and the Myanmar Football

Academy team of Sports and Physical Education Institute in Mandalay.

Thiha Ko Ko (Mandalay)



New building constructed for Taunggyi BEHS No 10



TAUNGGYI, 19 Aug — A ceremony to hand over a new school building was held at No 10 Basic Education High School in Taunggyi of Shan State on Monday.

The two-storey RC building was funded by the Union government, costing K324 million.

Chief Minister of Shan State U Sao Aung Myat unveiled the signboard of the school at the ceremony, with officials from Shan Htoo Aung Construction Company handing over documents related to the school to Headmistress Daw Khin San Kyi.

Tint Swe (Taunggyi)

REGIONAL

Australia says to restore intelligence and military cooperation with Indonesia



Australian Foreign Minister Julie Bishop

SYDNEY, 19 Aug — Australia and Indonesia have agreed to resume intelligence and military cooperation, officials from both countries said on Tuesday, ending a rift that erupted late last year over Australian spying.

Australian Foreign Minister Julie Bishop and

Prime Minister Tony Abbott will travel to Indonesia to sign the new “Joint Understanding of a Code of Conduct” with Indonesian Foreign Minister Marty Natalegawa and Indonesia’s outgoing President Susilo Bambang Yudhoyono, Australian media said.

“We have reached agreement on the joint understanding and we are currently arranging a time to sign it,” Bishop told the Australian Broadcasting Corp, without giving further details. Australia’s Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade did not respond immediately to a request for further comment.

Teuku Faizasyah, Indonesia’s presidential

spokesman for international affairs, said the document would allow Australia and Indonesia to resume military cooperation.

The often tetchy relations between the two neighbours struck a new low in November over media revelations that Australia had spied on Yudhoyono, his wife and other top Indonesian officials.

“We are talking about a commitment to build trust after the tapping incident and the code of conduct is the answer,” Faizasyah told *Reuters*. “We will have to evaluate its implementation.”

Ties have been strained further over the issue of asylum seekers who

attempt to sail to Australia via Indonesia.

Abbott implemented a policy, which has been condemned by Jakarta, of towing back to Indonesia often leaky vessels carrying asylum seekers.

Indonesia suspended military and police cooperation with Australia over asylum seekers. In December, Yudhoyono presented a six-point plan for restoring good relations, including a code of conduct on intelligence matters.

The Australian newspaper reported that Yudhoyono had reviewed the new code and that it includes a promise by Australia not to use its spy agencies to harm its neighbour. — *Reuters*

Thai military-dominated legislature to appoint PM



General Prayuth Chan-ocha,

BANGKOK, 19 Aug — Thailand’s military-dominated legislature will nominate a prime minister this week, members of the national assembly said on Tuesday, a move that looks set to consolidate the army’s hold on power almost 100 days since it wrested control of the country. The National Legislative Assembly (NLA) is likely to nominate General Prayuth Chan-ocha, the army chief who led the 22 May coup after months of street protests, assembly members told *Reuters*. NLA president Pornpetch Wichitcholchai told reporters that an interim prime minister would be appointed on Thursday.

“We will nominate a prime minister on 21 August. Meeting members will be the ones to vote,” Pornpetch said, referring to the 197-member, military-dominated national assembly.

Assembly member Air Chief Marshall Arkom Ganchanahirun told *Reuters* that the NLA would likely nominate junta leader Prayuth. “Having spoken to members of the NLA many of us agree that army chief

General Prayuth Chan-ocha is the right candidate.”

The interim premier will head a 35-member cabinet which is likely to be appointed by September.

The military says it took power to avert further bloodshed and restore stability after six months of often violent street protests pitting supporters of ousted Prime Minister Yingluck Shinawatra against her Bangkok-based royalist opponents. General Prayuth, whose weekly speeches to the nation are tinged with nationalist overtones, has enacted sweeping changes since he seized power tackling everything from beach cleanup campaigns to energy policy. He has outlined a three-phase roadmap of reconciliation, formation of a new government and elections to take place by late 2015. Criticism of the military government has been muted, in part because of the junta’s ongoing campaign against dissenters. Public dissent against the takeover was aggressively repressed by the army in the weeks following the coup. — *Reuters*

Hokkaido gov tours Singapore’s resort to learn about hosting casino



Harumi Takahashi, governor of Hokkaido, Japan’s northernmost prefecture, visits a hotel room with a view of an aquarium tank on Sentosa Island, Singapore on 18 Aug, 2014. — KYODO NEWS

SINGAPORE, 19 Aug — Hokkaido Gov Harumi Takahashi toured the casino and hotels on Singapore’s Sentosa Island on Monday to learn firsthand how such a resort complex is run. Hokkaido, Japan’s northernmost prefecture, is among the local governments in Japan interested in hosting a casino once the country’s ban on them is lifted.

A bill to legalize casino gambling was submitted to the Diet in December last year. Before viewing baccarat tables and being briefed about exchanging cash for tokens and other facets of

casino operations, Takahashi met Jerry See, chief executive of Singapore’s Casino Regulatory Authority. She asked about controls on casino-related crime and measures to prevent gambling addiction. See responded by stressing that Singaporeans are required to pay an entrance fee of 100 Singapore dollars, adding that the authority can ban compulsive gamblers from entering if their families request it. Since it opened its first casino in 2010, Singapore has seen visitor numbers increase. — *Kyodo News*

India calls off diplomatic talks with Pakistan

NEW DELHI, 19 Aug — India called off on Monday peace talks with Pakistan, giving a jolt to renewed diplomatic efforts between the two nuclear-armed neighbours and adding to the troubles of Pakistan’s beleaguered government.

The move came nearly three months after Pakistani Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif attended the inauguration of Prime Minister Narendra Modi, the pair shaking hands in a gesture that had raised hopes of warmer ties between the two nations.

India said it would not attend talks involving the foreign secretaries of the two countries, which had been set to take place on 25 August in Islamabad, be-

cause of plans by Pakistan to consult Kashmiri separatists ahead of the meeting.

Foreign ministry spokesman Syed Akbaruddin called the invite an “unacceptable” attempt to “interfere” in domestic affairs, adding that the talks had been “cancelled”.

Pakistan deplored India’s move, calling it a “set-back” in efforts to promote good neighbourly relations.

The Himalayan region of Kashmir has been a bone of contention between India and Pakistan since both gained independence in 1947.

The two nations have fought three wars and came close to a fourth war in 2001 and there have been regular clashes on the heavily mili-



India’s Prime Minister Narendra Modi (R) and his Pakistani counterpart Nawaz Sharif smile before the start of their bilateral meeting in New Delhi on 27 May, 2014. — REUTERS

tarised Line of Control that divides Indian — and Pakistan-controlled Kashmir.

In a statement, Akbaruddin said Pakistan’s proposed meetings with Kashmiri separatists “undermines the constructive

engagement initiated” by India’s new administration.

He added: “...under the present circumstances, it is felt that no useful purpose will be served by the Indian Foreign Secretary going to Islamabad next week.”

Pakistan’s foreign affairs ministry, however, defended the decision to consult the Kashmiri leaders, saying it was a “longstanding practice” prior to talks between the two nations to “facilitate meaningful discussions on the issue of Kashmir”.

India has for years complained that Pakistan backs separatist militants who slip in from Pakistani-controlled Kashmir to stage attacks.

Pakistan says it only gives political support to the Muslim people of Kashmir, who it says face human rights abuses at the hands of Indian troops India denies that. The recent resumption of dialogue had offered the two countries

an opportunity to find lasting peace and boost trade.

Modi, a Hindu nationalist leader, was elected by a landslide on promises to restore India’s economic and military prowess and meet the security challenge posed by a rising China and long-running tension with Pakistan.

Yet he surprised many observers by inviting South Asian leaders — including Sharif — to his inauguration in a bid to bolster neglected regional ties. However, the new-found warmth in the ties between the two nations took a hit last week when Modi accused Pakistan of waging a “proxy war” by sending militants to attack India.

Reuters

Joint foreign policy a must for joining EU



BELGRADE, 19 Aug — Serbia's EU accession talks are progressing well, but Belgrade will have to comply with the joint foreign policy at the time of joining the EU, says Peter Stano, spokesperson of EU Enlargement Commissioner Stefan Fuele. Since the start of Serbia's accession talks with the EU, 18 out of 35 chapters have been subject to analytical screening, Stano said.

The reports for the significant chapters 23 and 24 have been adopted and the Serbian government is already working on action plans for them, Stano told the Belgrade-based *Vecern-*

je novosti daily.

The opening of one or more chapters depends on the decision of EU member states, and comes when they feel that everything in the process is ready and that the negotiations may begin, Stano explained.

The EU is not forcing anyone to do anything, Stano said, adding that Serbia made a voluntary choice when it submitted its EU membership application.

Speaking about the EU sanctions on Russia, which he said have been imposed on clear legal grounds due to an illegal annexation of the Crimea and continued destabilization of Ukraine,

he said that there are third countries that comply with them.

As a membership candidate, Serbia is expected to fully comply with all EU foreign policy decisions at the time of joining the EU, Stano noted.

He said that he has no doubts about Serbia's commitment to the dialogue with Pristina, and added that European integrations are a comprehensive process of reforms and establishing compliance with EU rules and standards.

This does not only include work on one chapter, but on all 35 chapters gradually — and although there is no dialogue under way due to the post-election situation in Kosovo, Serbia is continuing to work on significant matters, Stano said.

The integrations are not a result or a reflection of developments over a few weeks or months within a certain period of time, but of continued reform efforts and resolve over several years, Stano concluded.

Tanjung

Saudi Arabia executes four for drug possession

RIYADH, 19 Aug — Saudi Arabia has executed four men for possession of hashish, domestic media reported, taking to 17 the number of people put to death in the conservative Islamic kingdom in two weeks and prompting disquiet from international rights groups.

Saudi Arabia's Sharia Islamic legal code is not codified and gives extensive powers to individual judges to base verdicts and sentences on their own in-

terpretation of Muslim law.

Activists say the system means similar punishments can result in very different sentences. Judges can also prevent defendants from having access to lawyers and can close their courtrooms to outside scrutiny. Hadi bin Saleh Abdullah al-Mutlaq, Mufreh bin Jaber Zayed al-Yami, Ali bin Jaber Zayed al-Yami and Awadh bin Saleh Abdullah al-Mutlaq, who were executed on Monday, were from Najran on the king-

dom's southern border with Yemen, official media reported. International human rights watchdog Amnesty International said the men were two sets of brothers from the same extended family and that the confessions their sentence was based on may have been obtained through torture.

It said the offense had taken place in 2007 and members of the family had later been warned by the government not to contact Amnesty.—Reuters

Former chiefs of S Korean cyber command charged with political intervention

SEOUL, 19 Aug — Two former chiefs of South Korean cyber command were charged with being involved in posting political comments online before the presidential election and general election in 2012, Seoul's Defence Ministry said on Tuesday.

The ministry's investigation team announced a final conclusion on its months-long probe into the alleged political intervention, saying officials of the cyber command's psychological warfare team posted comments in favor of or against some political parties and politicians "beyond the bound of normal operations."

The two former cyber command chiefs failed to take proper actions though they were notified of such

operations in violation of the military criminal act, which bans a political intervention, the ministry said.

A total of 21 former and current officials of the cyber command, including the two chiefs, faced criminal charges, higher than 10 officials subject to the charges when the interim investigation result was unveiled in December last year.

The cyber command has posted, since its creation in January 2010, nearly 800,000 comments in the cyberspace, among which some 7,100 comments favoured or went against certain political parties or politicians.

The investigation team, however, noted there were no organized

attempts found to interfere with the presidential election in connection with other government agencies such as the spy agency.

South Korea was rattled last year by allegations that the cyber command and the intelligence agency attempted to intervene in the 2012 presidential election by posting online comments in favour of then ruling party candidate and now President Park Geun-hye and against her archrival Moon Jae-in, candidate for the main opposition party.

Then Defence Minister Kim Kwan-jin, who now serves as the national security adviser to President Park, was found not to be notified about the case at that time, the probe result showed.—Xinhua



People lodge a protest on 18 Aug, 2014, in front of the gate of the US Marines' Camp Schwab in Nago, Okinawa, as the Japanese government started a drilling survey with a jack-up barge off the Henoko district of Nago to relocate the US Futenma airbase there.—KYODO NEWS

Thai police receive DNA sample of Japanese man in surrogacy case

BANGKOK, 19 Aug — The lawyer of a Japanese man suspected of fathering at least 15 surrogate babies on Monday submitted a DNA sample to Thai police to be used in paternity testing to verify his claim to be the biological father.

The Thai lawyer told reporters the 24-year-old businessman, who has not been charged with any crime, wants to not only prove that he fathered the babies and also to clear his name as he was not involved with anything illegal. The sample was collected in Japan — witnessed and approved by



Japanese officials and other relevant parties — before being delivered to the Lad Prao police station in north-eastern Bangkok, he said.

He said the Japanese man, who is not in Thailand, is willing to cooperate with Thai officials and has even offered them free air tickets to question him in Japan.

Early this month, Thai authorities found nine pairs of surrogate babies and nannies in apartment in Bangkok. The babies' birth certificates named the Japanese man as their father.

Later investigation revealed at least three other babies he may have fathered.—Kyodo News

Photo taken on 18 Aug, 2014, shows the Thai national police headquarters in Bangkok. The lawyer of a Japanese man suspected of fathering at least 15 surrogate babies submitted the same day a DNA sample to Thai police investigating a case of nine pairs of surrogate babies and nannies found in an apartment in Bangkok early that month, to be used in paternity testing to verify his claim to be the biological father.—KYODO NEWS

WORLD

Backed by US strikes, Iraq Kurds retake strategic dam

BAGHDAD, 19 Aug — Iraqi and Kurdish forces recaptured Iraq's biggest dam from Islamist militants with the help of US air strikes to secure a vital strategic objective in fighting that threatens to break up the country, Kurdish and US officials said on Monday.

US fighter, bomber and drone aircraft took part in the strikes on Islamic State positions near the Mosul Dam, the Pentagon said. The strikes damaged

or destroyed six armed vehicles, a light armoured vehicle and other equipment.

The dam had given the militants control over power and water supplies, and any breach of the vulnerable structure would have threatened thousands of lives. US President Barack Obama said Iraqi and Kurdish forces had retaken the dam with US help. US air strikes this month are the first in Iraq since the United States pulled out in 2011.

"This operation demonstrates that Iraqi and Kurdish forces are capable of working together in taking the fight to ISIS (Islamic State), and if they continue to do so they will have the strong support of the United States of America," Obama told a news conference.

As fighting intensified, Islamic State militants were said to have killed dozens of Kurdish fighters and captured 170 of them, according to a Twitter site that supports the group.

The Islamists' seizure of the Mosul hydroelectric dam in northern Iraq this month marked a stunning setback for Baghdad's Shi'ite-led authorities and raised fears the militants could cut electricity and water, or even blow up the shaky structure, causing huge loss of life and damage down the Tigris river valley.

"The failure of the Mosul Dam could threaten



Displaced people from the minority Yazidi sect, who fled the violence in the Iraqi town of Sinjar, march in a demonstration at the Iraqi-Turkish border crossing in Zakho district of the Dohuk Governorate of the Iraqi Kurdistan Province on 17 Aug, 2014.—REUTERS

the lives of large numbers of civilians, threaten US personnel and facilities — including the US Embassy in Baghdad — and prevent the Iraqi government from providing critical services

to the Iraqi populace," a senior US administration official said in Washington. Iraqi officials hailed what they said was a strategic victory in regaining control of the dam, and

announced that the next objective would be to win back Mosul itself, the biggest city in northern Iraq which lies 40 km (25 miles) downstream.

Reuters



Kurdish men display weapons for sale at an arms market in Arbil, capital of the autonomous Kurdish region of northern Iraq, on 17 Aug, 2014.—REUTERS

Israel, Palestinians renew truce but see risk of more Gaza violence

GAZA/CAIRO, 19 Aug — The chief Palestinian delegate to truce talks with Israel warned on Tuesday that Gaza violence could erupt anew unless progress is made toward a lasting deal ahead of a midnight deadline in Egyptian-brokered talks.

After a last-minute agreement was stuck to extend by 24 hours a deadline to reach a truce, Azzam al-Ahmad, senior leader of President Mahmoud Abbas's mainstream Fatah movement, said there had been "no progress on any point" in talks aimed at resolving the Gaza conflict.

"We hope that every minute of the coming 24 hours will be used to reach an agreement, and if not (successful), the circle of violence will continue," Ahmad said.

He accused Israel of "manoeuvring and stalling" as gaps on key issues continued to dog efforts to achieve a long-term deal between Israel and militant groups in the Gaza Strip, dominated by Hamas Islamists, which would allow reconstruction aid to flow in after five weeks of fighting.

An Israeli government

official said Israeli delegates were still in Cairo poring over details of a possible deal, although the parties had not yet agreed a draft.

"The Israeli delegation has been instructed to insist on security requirements. The moment there is an agreement, the cabinet will be called for discussions," said the official, who asked not to be identified.

Senior Hamas official Moussa Abu Marzouk accused Israel of stalling and insisted in a post on his Twitter account that his group "will never cede any" demands for a comprehensive deal.

A senior Palestinian official in Gaza said sticking points to an agreement were Hamas's demands to build a seaport and an airport, which Israel wants to discuss only at a later

stage.

Israel, which launched its offensive on 8 July after a surge in Hamas rocket fire across the border, has shown scant interest in making sweeping concessions, and has called for the disarming of militant groups in the enclave of 1.8 million people.

Hamas has said that laying down its weapons is not an option.

Reuters



Palestinians ride a donkey cart past the ruins of houses which witnesses said was destroyed during the Israeli offensive in Johr El-Deek village near the central Gaza Strip on 17 Aug, 2014.

REUTERS

Obama urges Iraqis to unite because 'the wolf's at the door'



WASHINGTON, 19 Aug — US President Barack Obama urged Iraqis on Monday to quickly form an inclusive government to unite against Islamic militants, warning "the wolf's at the door" and that US airstrikes can only accomplish so much.

Speaking to reporters at the White House, Obama vowed to avoid the kind of "mission creep" that could deepen the US military's involvement in Iraq to repulse Islamic State militants seen increasingly as a threat not just to Iraq but to the entire region.

Obama emerged from talks with his top national security aides about Iraq to declare US airstrikes had helped Iraqi Kurdish forces take the Mosul Dam from the militants, averting a possible breach of the structure that could end up flooding Baghdad.

Since 8 August, the US military has conducted a total of 68 airstrikes in Iraq, 35 of which were in support of Iraqi forces near the Mosul Dam.

The president's meetings came on a brief stop in Washington before he returns to his two-week vacation on the Massachusetts island of Martha's Vineyard.

Obama is adamant that he will not allow the United States to replay the Iraq war begun by his predecessor, George W Bush. He said Iraqis should not get a false sense of complacency from his decision this month to use airstrikes against the militants.

"Don't think that because we have engaged in airstrikes to protect our people that now's the time to let the foot off the gas and return to the same kind of dysfunction that has so weakened the country generally," Obama said.

A new USA Today/Pew Research Centre poll found on Monday that Americans are increasingly inclined to say the United States has a responsibility to respond to rising violence in Iraq.

Reuters

PERSPECTIVES

Wednesday, 20 August, 2014

World Humanitarian Day 2014 pays tribute to aid workers

By Kyaw Thura

The world needs more...”, so goes this year’s theme for World Humanitarian Day, which falls on 19 August.

In his message to mark the special day, UN Secretary General Ban Ki-moon attached importance to humanitarian aid by honouring those killed while providing assistance to people affected by disaster or conflict.

The UN secretary general called on the world to renew their commitment to life-saving relief work, while making all-out efforts to

provide full protection for humanitarian workers.

Ban expressed outrage at unparalleled attacks on humanitarian workers in 2013, when ‘more humanitarian workers were kidnapped, seriously injured or killed than ever before’.

Attacks on humanitarian workers do not stop there. They produce ill consequences, hindering the ability of people in desperate need to receive lifesaving assistance. As the UN secretary general put it, children go unvaccinated and sick and wounded patients go untreated.

Humanitarian workers should be honoured for their heroic deeds of rushing bravely to help people in need.

This year’s theme for World Humanitarian Day calls for “a campaign to celebrate humanitarian work and raise awareness of the dangers and adversity faced by those on the front line”. The World Health Organization has also called for an end to the targeting of health

workers in areas of conflict. It is important for the country concerned to enable humanitarian workers to carry out their life-saving work free of threat of violence and insecurity. The safety and security of people in situations of disaster or conflict is of particular humanitarian concern.

Humanitarian aid should bar any form of discrimination as to nationality, religion and political systems. Its purpose is to prevent and alleviate human suffering whenever and wherever it is found. In other words, humanitarian organizations are responsible for protecting life and health of individuals without discrimination and impartiality.

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PRE-SCHOOL BOOKS—A PREREQUISITE FOR CHILDREN’S LITERATURE

By Maung Hlaing

No one can deny that hundreds and thousands of books for children are being published all over the world today. The writers for children produce their work in accordance with the age-groups and types of their work for children have become varied and many. They can be classified into picture books, comic journals, pictorials, modern short stories, science stories, tales and creative stories, children’s novels, drama scripts, humour and translation of literary works.

Writers are doing so simply because they have goodwill, or cetana to inspire the children to read more. While producing literary works for children, writers and scholars come to realize that books for pre-school children make the children take interest in reading.

By nature, a child takes great pleasure in becoming able to read some words. According to the educational theorists, however, the excitement fades when the texts the child must read force him to reread the same word endlessly. Word recognition deteriorates into empty rote learning when it does not lead directly into the reading of meaningful content. The longer it takes the child to advance from “decoding” (word recognition) to

meaningful reading, the more likely it becomes that his pleasure in books will evaporate.

The educational theorists conclude that a child’s ability to read depends unquestionable on his learning pertinent skills. That is why they think that children of 3 to 5 age-group should become accustomed to the books without texts, before they go to school. Only when the children come to appreciate the books of illustrations without texts, will they be interested in reading both school text books and other reading materials. From the very beginning, the child must be convinced that his learning pertinent skills are only a means to achieve a goal—the only goal of importance is that he becomes literate. As a result, he comes to enjoy literature.

It is for this reason that pre-school books can be called the source of children’s literature. Literary works for pre-school children are common to Myanmar children. You may see one page or half-page without texts in Shwe Thway Journal published by Sarpay Beikman of the Printing and Publishing Enterprise under the Ministry of Information and other children’s journals published by the private sector.

Pre-school going age, indeed, is the golden time to make the memory and mind of the children creative. We can introduce them to pre-school books at this very

stage, otherwise children may keep on wondering in the streets or playing around. Besides, through pre-school books, we can provide our dear ones with information, education, amusement and recreation. At the same time, we can stimulate their creative imagination.

Another reason is that without pre-school books, children may remain unfamiliar with the books and when they go to school and suddenly encounter with the textbooks, they may develop a sort of aversion to books. As a result, they shirk reading and keep on avoiding. We can conclude that the child who has not gone through the pre-school books cannot become a good reader in future.

Grandmothers can tell the children stories and sing lullaby. However, this is and oral education at pre-school stage. It is the book that can widen their imagination and quest.

Today, some developed countries have many kinds of books for pre-school children. In some countries and under-developed countries, however, they have very few books for pre-school children until now. Due to the lack of advanced technology, low rate of book-buying habit of the parents and financial difficulties of their publishers, they are reluctant to invest in this field.

Regarding ideas on books for pre-school children, some scholars chalk

out the plan based on four main prints. There are (1) Target age - group, (2) Format of the books, (3) Themes and contents, and (4) Printing. In this republic, as the school-going age is 6, the most suitable age-group should be 3 to 5. The children of this age-group can enjoy all the books with colourful illustrations they get hold of. Pre-school children are defined as children who cannot read and are two years below the school entry age.

A format of picture book with as much illustrations as possible is desirable. A type of books necessary for children of this age-group is a picture book in which illustrations (without texts) are keeping a good harmony, supplementing each other, and expressing a single subject theme and single content.

Regarding themes and contents, it can be divided into two groups: story picture books (of folktales and creative stories) and picture books for knowledge on science (of life and animals and plants). Prior to starting illustrations for the work, classic picture books and outstanding illustrations for children’s books in the developed countries have to be studied in depth so that these sophisticated styles of expression could be taken in.

Whatever it may be, the objectives of the pre-school children are: -

(1) To let children have

fun with and stimulated interest in books;
(2) To nurture the reading habit and prepared them for reading skill; and

(3) To acquaint children with the life style of children in other countries.

If we want to raise the standard of the general public’s cultural and scientific education for building a modernized country, we have to attach importance to the beginners. In other words, we must produce as many beautiful and nice books as we can for the pre-school children.

Reading is a crucial element in an enriching and successful life. Serious

reading can change our lives. Furthermore, without good reading skills, the subject matter of any discipline is incomprehensible.

It is reading with which people can achieve intellectual development and reasoning power.

Literature can change not only living standard of an individual but also family, community and society. Encouragement for reading habit of children has become primary importance. Let us inculcate our kids with a reading habit through pre-school books before they go to school. I am looking forward to the participation of publishers who are interested in pre-school books.

Teaching aid competition held at college in Chanayethazan Township

MANDALAY, 19 Aug—The Mandalay Education College under the Department of Education, Planning and Training of the Ministry of Education held a use-of-teaching-aid contest at the hall of the college in Chanayethazan Township of Mandalay on 15 August.

Principal Daw Khin

Mya Thet of the college explained the purpose of holding such an event as well as “the student-centred academic system,” with officials from the literature department of the college explaining the different types of teaching aids.

Thiha Ko Ko
(Mandalay)



LOCAL NEWS

Local entrepreneurs, Indian businessmen to increase cooperation on industrial production

MANDALAY, 19 Aug —The Mandalay-based Indian Consulate General and the Mandalay Region Chambers of Commerce and Industry jointly organized a meeting on industrial cooperation between entrepreneurs from India's city of Kolkata and entrepreneurs from Mandalay Region CCI as well as businessmen from Mandalay and Monywa, with senior officials discussing details at the talks held on Monday in Chanayethazan Township of Mandalay Region.

Indian Consul-General Dr Nadakumar and Vice Chairman of Mandalay Region CCI U Mya Win attended the meeting during which entrepreneurs deliberated on production of shutters, solar panels and LED bulbs, solar-applied products, 3D image production, bio-gas production, aluminum doors, value-added wood products, and bronze, metal and steel wares.

Myanmar imports medicine and industrial raw materials from India and



exports agricultural produce, officials said.

Thiha Ko Ko (Mandalay)



Mobile clinic provides health care services to rural people in Nay Pyi Taw Council Area

Extension to be built for basic education high school in Ayadaw Township of Sagaing Region

AYADAW, 19 Aug — A ceremony to drive stake for the construction of a one-storey reinforced concrete building has been held at the Basic Education Middle School in Gethahmway Village in Sagaing Region recently, with local authorities and construction officials say-

ing the new school building will cost over K40 million.

Chairman of Township Management Committee U Nyein Maung Maung and Township Education Officer U Win Swe took a tour of the school compound, urging the headmistress and teachers to plant

large-leaved trees and carry out sanitation work at the school. To fund part of the construction of the school building, Aungsitha Monastery Sayadaw Bhaddanta Ticakhana handed over K20 million as rural development depends heavily on private donations.

Township IPRD

Water tank and pipelines provided to rural people

NATMAUK, 19 Aug — Namkhon Company has donated a 20-foot water tank and water pipeline to officials in Mayeodaw Village of Natmauk Township in Magway Region, officials said.

At a meeting with villagers, the Head of the Department of Rural Development explained the purpose of laying pipelines, with Pyithu Hluttaw (Lower House) representative U Aung Kyaw Soe and donor

U Sai Loi Kham inaugurating the water tank and pipeline.

According to officials, the construction cost K9.5 million and was mainly funded by private donors.—*Hla Win (IPRD)*



NAY PYI TAW, 19 Aug — The Nay Pyi Taw Ma-

ternal and Child Welfare Supervisory Committee, Nay Pyi Taw Women's Affairs Organization and Nay Pyi Taw Council Health Department jointly provided community-based health services with a mobile clinic stationed at the Basic Education Post-Primary School in Gwaygyo Village of Ottarathiri Township in Nay Pyi Taw Council Area on 16 August.

A total of 87 specialists and staff from the mobile clinic treated 314 patients from Moeswe Village-tract and referred 10 patients to Nay Pyi Taw General Hospital.

Head of Nay Pyi Taw Council Health Department Dr Daw Hla Hla Kyi also gave talks on the local mortality rate, sanitation and prevention of infectious diseases.—*Salai Tong Si*

Departmental officials inspect cotton plantations in Ayadaw Township



AYADAW, 19 Aug — Officials visited two acres of Shwedaung-8 cotton plantations in Magyizaik Village-tract of Ayadaw Township in Sagaing Region on Monday.

Head of Township

Industrial Crops Development Department U Win Ko and departmental officials explained to local farmers the advantages of growing pre-monsoon long staple cotton that can produce over 1,600 kilos per

acre and with departmental officials from the Cotton and Sericulture Division urging the farmers to grow Shwedaung-8 and Ngwe-gyi-9 cotton strains to increase profits.

Township IPRD

Deputy Finance Minister urges bank staff to provide professional services

NAY PYI TAW, 19 Aug — Deputy Minister for Finance and Revenue Dr Maung Maung Thein visited the North Okkalapa bank branch of Myanma Economic Bank on 15 August, inspecting renovation work and urging the staff deal with customers in a polite and professional manner.

He also visited the construction sites of Kyimyindine and Insein bank branches and the renovation of Bank Branch-4 to ensure progress and give advice.

Aung Thura

Theatrical performers form cooperative society in Nay Pyi Taw

NAY PYI TAW, 19 Aug — The Nay Pyi Taw Council Area Theatrical Performers Association held a coordination meeting at the theatre in Tabaung Pagoda Ground in Pinyinmana on 15 August to form a cooperative society.

Chairman of the association U Yar Tin explained plans to disburse loans to the association members, issuance of

membership cards, with Deputy Director U Myo Chit discussing key points for the formation of the Nay Pyi Taw Council Theatrical Performers Association's cooperative society.

The association will open its office at the Myole monastery in Mingala Ward of Pinyinmana.

Ko Gyi Kyaw (Pinyinmana)

Russian sanctions threaten both Europe's farmers and policymakers

PARIS / WARSAW, 19 Aug — Pascal Sauvetre, an apple farmer in Poitou-Charentes on France's Atlantic coast, has a headache beyond the usual concerns about weather and tree fungus—Polish apples.

As the European Union's second biggest apple producer, Poland has some 700,000 tonnes of the fruit it usually sells to Russia but can't, because Moscow has a food embargo on many EU and US goods as part of tit-for-tat sanctions related to the Ukraine crisis.

Many of those Polish apples will inevitably head for western Europe, potentially displacing their more expensive European rivals. Others will go to markets in Asia and the Middle East, traditionally supplied by EU countries such as France. "What's really sending shivers down my spine is the ricochet effect," said Sauvetre, sales manager of Pom' Deux-



A customer picks up cheese at an Auchan grocery store, with a dog seen inside her bag, in Moscow on 18 Aug, 2014. —REUTERS

Sevres cooperative. "These apples from eastern Europe that can't be sold to Russia and will be sent to western Europe — it's obvious it's going to hurt, a lot."

Apples are just one element in an unfolding problem for Europe's farm-

ers and its central bank policymakers. From Polish apples to French pork and Greek peaches, exporters to Russia may either have to slash prices or destroy produce. It is just about the last thing that the European Central Bank wants

to see as it struggles with a flatlining economy and worries about deflation. George Polychronakis of Greek fruit export association Incofruit-Hellas, for example, watched as some 250 truckloads of peaches and nectarines en route to

Russia were halted when the embargo hit. Greece exported 160,000 tonnes of fruit to Russia last year, worth 180 million euros to the crisis-hit EU member.

"They'll either have to sell it at any price to countries along the way or be forced to bring it back to Greece where it will be destroyed," he said.

"Oversupply will drag down prices for other goods and that will have a domino effect on the entire market. Even today, I went to the supermarket to buy peaches for myself and they were cheaper than three days ago."

It is also not just fruit.

"In total, a million tonnes of pork, poultry and beef from the EU will remain on the market (rather than go to Russia). It's a very big blow," said Paul Rouche, general manager in charge of pork for the French meat trade union SNIV.—Reuters

Russia looks for ways to soften impact of food import bans

Moscow, 19 Aug — Russia will allow imports from neighbouring Belarus and Kazakhstan of food processed from Western raw materials as Moscow seeks to damp down domestic food price rises triggered by its ban on food imports from the West.

On 7 August, Russia banned all meat, fish, dairy, fruit and vegetable imports from the United States, the European Union, Norway, Canada, and Australia for one year to retaliate against Western sanctions on Moscow over the Ukraine crisis.

However, the government has struggled to control price rises as some 50 percent of Russian consumption of fish, milk, beef and cheese had been previously met by imports.

"Our Customs Union colleagues can win in this situation because some products, which were previously coming to us directly, will be processed there," Russian news agencies quoted Deputy Prime Minister Arkady Dvorkovich as saying.

A duty-free Customs Union was set up this year by Russia, Kazakhstan and Belarus to boost economic ties and trade.

Russian Prime Minister Dmitry Medvedev said on Monday he hoped Western food import bans would not last too long.

Belarus and Kazakhstan said they will continue to import food banned by Russia but Minsk has said it will make sure sanctioned goods do not cross into Russia.

However, since Moscow announced the bans some traders have been looking for ways to sidestep them.

Last year, Russia imported \$17.2 billion (10.3 billion pounds) worth of food from the countries covered by the sanctions, of which \$9.2 billion was in the affected categories, according to the International Trade Centre, a joint venture of the United Nations and World Trade Organization.—Reuters

Dozens killed in attack on convoy, Ukraine says; rebels deny firing rocket



Ukrainian servicemen drive armoured vehicles along a road as they patrol the Donetsk region on 18 Aug, 2014. —REUTERS

KIEV, 19 Aug — Dozens of people, including women and children, were killed as they fled fighting in eastern Ukraine on Monday when their convoy of buses was hit by rocket fire, military spokesmen said.

Ukraine accused pro-Russian rebels of targeting the convoy, which it said was bearing white flags when it was hit near the eastern city of Luhansk. The separatists denied responsibility for the attack and one rebel leader suggested the incident might never have taken place.

"The rebels were expecting the convoy and

destroyed it entirely," military spokesman Andriy Lysenko told journalists. "We haven't been able to count the number of victims ... dozens (were killed)."

The convoy had been in an area of fierce fighting between government forces and the separatists when it came under fire from rebel Grad and mortar launchers, the spokesmen said.

"A powerful artillery strike hit a refugee convoy near the area of Khryshchuvaty and Novosvitlivka. The force of the blow on the convoy was so strong that people were burned alive in the vehicles

— they weren't able to get themselves out," military spokesman Anatoly Proshin told Ukrainian news channel 112.ua.

Describing the attack as a "bloody crime," Lysenko said: "A lot of people have been killed including women and children. The number of the dead is being established."

A rebel leader denied his forces had the military capability to conduct such an assault, and accused Kiev forces of regularly attacking the area and also using Russian-made Grad missiles.

Reuters

US bars all American airlines from flying over Syria

NEW YORK, 19 Aug — The US Federal Aviation Administration has barred all American airlines from flying over Syria, saying the ongoing conflict poses a "serious potential threat."

The FAA had previously warned American carriers to avoid flying over Syria. The new rule requires operators to contact the FAA before operating in the airspace.

The agency said the move was taken after "updated assessment of risk" and a lack of airlines wishing to fly in the airspace.

"The ongoing armed conflict and volatile security environment in Syria poses a serious potential threat to civil aviation," the FAA said in a statement.

Airlines have been

paying close attention to flight paths over conflict zones since Malaysia Airlines Flight MH17 was downed by a suspected surface-to-air missile last month while flying over eastern Ukraine, where pro-Russia separatists are fighting Ukrainian troops. All 298 people on board died. Syria is in the middle of a civil war in which 170,000 people have been killed since 2011.

The FAA also said "opposition elements" had warned civilian airlines not to provide service to Syria. Armed extremist groups in the country are known to be equipped with anti-aircraft weapons that could threaten civil aircraft, the agency said.

Reuters



Smoke rises after what activists said was an air raid by Syrian government forces at the eastern Syrian city of Raqqa on 18 Aug, 2014. —REUTERS

SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY

Impact of stress on emotions linked to genes: study

VIENNA, 19 Aug — The genetic conditions of each individual person determine what effect stress has on their emotions, researchers from the Medical University of Vienna in Austria have claimed in a new study.

The fact that people react differently to identical stressful life events, such as some managing to persevere while others break down and even fall ill, is determined by a complex interplay in depression gene variants along with external environmental factors, the University said on Monday, according to an *Austria Press Agency* report. The Viennese research team in conjunction with international partners found the hippocampus in the brain, a switching station that processes emotions and is a central interface in the stress process, would lose volume over the long term when confronted with stress, which it interprets as distress.

This was visible in depressed patients and accounts for some of their clinical symptoms. On the

other hand it was observed that positive forms of stress (eustress) as can occur in emotionally stimulating social situations were capable of leading to an increase in the volume of the hippocampus.

People with genes that predispose them to a higher likelihood of depression perceive various life events such as deaths in the family, divorce, and job loss more negatively and thus negatively affects the volume of their hippocampus.

Those with very few or none of these genes may even perceive the same life event in a positive light, and overall maintain a larger-volume hippocampus, the researchers said.

Study leader Luke Pezawas said the research highlighted the importance of gene-environment interactions as determining hippocampus volume.

He added the results are important in understanding neurobiological processes involved in stress-related diseases such as depression or post-traumatic stress disorder.

Xinhua

Microsoft cloud service Azure restored after partial outage



Windows Azure

NEW YORK, 19 Aug — Microsoft said it resolved an outage on its Azure cloud computing service, which occurred across multiple regions.

Partial disruptions began as of 1.40 pm ET on 18 August, the company said on the Azure website.

Microsoft Azure is a cloud-based platform for creating, deploying and maintaining online applications and services such as websites and web-hosted applications. The service, which is used by governments and corporations

around the world, supports various programming languages, tools and frameworks. The company said Azure services such as virtual machines, cloud services, mobile services, service bus, site recovery, HDInsight, websites and Storsimple were down due to interruptions in multiple centres.

The core platform components were working properly throughout and only a small subset of customers were affected by the outage, Microsoft said.

Reuters

Spacewalking cosmonauts launch satellite, set up studies

CAPE CANAVERAL, (Fla), 19 Aug — A pair of Russian cosmonauts began their work week on Monday floating outside the *International Space Station* to toss out a small satellite for a university in Peru, install science experiments and tackle some house-keeping chores.

First out of the hatch was cosmonaut Oleg Artemyev, who stood on a ladder outside the station's Pirs airlock to release a 2.2-pound (1-kg), 4-inch (10-cm) cube-shaped satellite built by students at the National University of Engineering in Lima, Peru.

Video broadcast on NASA Television showed the satellite, called *Chasqui-1*, tumbling away from the back of the station as it sailed about 260 miles (418 km) above the southern Pacific Ocean.

The solar-powered spacecraft, whose name means "messenger" in the Quechua language of the Incas, is outfitted with visible light and infrared



Russian cosmonaut Oleg Artemyev attends a news conference behind a glass wall at Baikonur cosmodrome on 24 March, 2014. — REUTERS

cameras to take pictures of Earth and sensors to measure temperature and pressure as it orbits.

Artemyev was then joined by spacewalker Alexander Skvortsov to install a European package of experiments to the outside of the Russian Zvezda module. The experiments include biomaterials and extremophiles, which are organisms that can live in extremely hostile environments. Scientists hope to use information about

how the organisms fare in the highly radioactive and extreme temperatures of space to devise life-detection techniques for future robotic Mars missions.

The cosmonauts also installed a reinforcing clamp for a communications antenna they attached during their last spacewalk in June. Monday's to-do list included taking samples of residue on the outside of some of Zvezda's windows and setting up an experiment to measure how

plumes from rocket engine burns may be impacting parts of station.

Artemyev and Skvortsov breezed through their planned six-hour spacewalk, which began shortly after 10 am EDT, and were back inside the station's airlock 45 minutes early.

Artemyev, Skvortsov and NASA station commander Steve Swanson are five months into a planned six-month mission. Also aboard the complex are NASA astronaut Reid Wiseman, European astronaut Alexander Gerst and Russian cosmonaut Maxim Suraev, who arrived on 28 May.

The station, a \$100 billion research laboratory for materials and life science experiments, technology demonstrations and other microgravity research, is a partnership of 15 nations that has been occupied by rotating crews of astronauts and cosmonauts since November 2000.

Reuters

BlackBerry creates new unit for potential high-growth assets

TORONTO, 19 Aug — BlackBerry Ltd said on Monday it has created a new unit to house what many consider to be among its most promising assets — cryptographic applications, its QNX embedded software and Project Ion platform for connecting devices.

The Canadian smartphone maker, which CEO John Chen is trying to revamp, said Sandeep Chennakeshu will start immediately as president of the BlackBerry Technology Solutions unit.

The division will also include a portfolio of 44,000 patents and the Paratek antenna tech company purchased by BlackBerry in 2012.

Chen took the reins last year and has worked to stabilize the struggling handset business that made it a global brand while earning more money from its services and software.

"These are the call options for upside value that the market may not be factoring because it just looks too far away," said BGC analyst Colin Gillis.



The Blackberry sign is pictured in Waterloo on 19 June, 2014. — REUTERS

"In any good turnaround, you focus in on the immediate tasks at hand but you also look down the road and say 'Where do we want to be? And what assets do we have to get us there?'"

Gillis said he did not think Chen had shepherded the assets together in one place to prepare it for a sale.

BlackBerry's QNX software powers its latest phones, but also helps run car infotainment panels,

nuclear reactors and massive Internet routers.

The company hopes it will play a major role in the nascent industry forming around the so-called "Internet of things" — the idea that all sorts of static devices could be connected to the Internet in order to send and receive information and commands.

"Combining all these assets into a single business unit led by Sandeep will create operational synergies and new reve-

nue streams, furthering our turnaround strategy," Chen said in a statement.

Chennakeshu himself is a named inventor on 73 patents, BlackBerry said, and was previously chief technology officer at Sony-Ericsson and president of Ericsson Mobile Platforms.

BlackBerry shares traded up 1.8 percent at C\$10.63 on the Toronto Stock Exchange, while on Nasdaq they rose to \$9.76.

Reuters

Attacks on aid workers worldwide hit worst levels on record



Workers unload bags of humanitarian aid inside a warehouse in the Duma neighbourhood of Damascus on 20 March, 2014. — REUTERS

LONDON, 19 Aug — The number of attacks on aid workers soared last year to the highest level on record, with Afghanistan the most dangerous country to be a humanitarian, a report on Tuesday said.

In all, 155 aid workers were killed, 171 wounded

and 134 kidnapped in 2013 — a rise of 66 percent compared with 2012, according to the Humanitarian Outcomes report, published on World Humanitarian Day.

It said three quarters of the attacks took place in Afghanistan, Syria, South Sudan, Pakistan and Sudan amid worsening violence. There were 81 attacks in Afghanistan alone.

The death toll for 2014 shows little sign of abating. Already, 79 humanitarians have been killed this year, including several in Gaza, according to provisional figures.

“One aid worker killed in the line of duty is one

too many,” Valerie Amos, the UN emergency relief coordinator, said in a statement ahead of a memorial service for aid workers to be held in London’s Westminster Abbey on Tuesday.

“Nurses, engineers, logisticians and drivers ... all take great risk doing their work in sometimes extremely dangerous and difficult circumstances,” she added.

The UN General Assembly in 2008 declared 19 August. World Humanitarian Day to mark the day in 2003 when 22 people who were killed in a bomb attack on UN offices in Baghdad. — Reuters

US ship finishes neutralizing Syria’s worst chemical arms

WASHINGTON, 19 Aug — A specially equipped US ship has finished neutralizing all 600 metric tons of the most dangerous of Syria’s chemical weapons components surrendered to the international community this year to avert threatened air strikes, the Pentagon said on Monday.

It said the Cape Ray, equipped with the US-developed Field Deployable Hydrolysis System, neutralized 581.5 metric tons of DF, a sarin precursor chemical, and 19.8 metric tons of HD, an ingredient of sulfur mustard, while afloat in the Mediterranean.

The vessel will travel to Finland and Germany in the next two weeks to unload the resulting effluent, which will undergo treatment as industrial waste to render it safer, a Pentagon spokeswoman said.

It was the first time chemical weapons components had been neutralized at sea, the Pentagon said.

Damascus agreed last September to a Russian proposal to give up its chemical weapons to avert threatened military strikes by the United States and France, which accused Syria of using the

arms against opponents of President Bashar al-Assad.

A number of countries are involved in eliminating the chemical stockpiles. The United States was selected to dispose of the worst of the chemical weapons components because it had recently developed a mobile version of the hydrolysis system it uses for neutralizing chemical stockpiles.

The system uses substances and mixtures such as water, sodium hydroxide and sodium hypochlorite to neutralize bulk amounts of chemical warfare agents, according to the US Army’s Edgewood Chemical Biological Centre. Earlier this year, the hydrolysis system was placed aboard the *Cape Ray*, a 648-foot (198-metre) vessel that is part of the US Maritime Administration’s ready reserve force of 46 ships.

The ship was held at Rota, Spain, for several months due to Syrian delays in handing over its declared stockpiles of chemical agents. The *Cape Ray* began neutralizing the chemicals after picking them up from Italy in late June. — Reuters

UN chief calls for protection of rights in Missouri protests

UNITED NATIONS, 19 Aug — UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon called on US authorities on Monday to ensure the protection of the rights of protesters in Ferguson, Missouri, where there have been demonstrations and rioting over the fatal police shooting of an unarmed black teen.

“The Secretary-General calls on the authorities

to ensure that the rights to peaceful assembly and freedom of expression are protected,” UN spokesman Stephane Dujarric told reporters.

“He calls on all to exercise restraint, for law enforcement officials to abide by US and international standards in dealing with demonstrators,” Dujarric said. — Reuters



United Nations Secretary General Ban Ki-moon

Police fire tear gas, stun grenades at protesters in Missouri town

FERGUSON, 19 Aug — Police fired tear gas and stun grenades at protesters in Ferguson, Missouri on Monday, after days of unrest sparked by the fatal shooting of an unarmed black teenager by a white policeman.

The police action came after hours of street protests that had been tense but mostly peaceful, Reuters witnesses said, adding that a projectile hurled from a crowd of protesters shattered on the ground and erupted into flames.

Protesters threw small projectiles, possibly rocks, at police clad in riot gear and flanked by armored vehicles.

Police arrested at least four people. One police officer was overheard on a CNN broadcast saying there was a “gunshot victim” as he ordered news media to clear the scene.

Missouri’s governor had lifted a curfew for the St. Louis suburb of Ferguson on Monday as National Guard troops were called out.

The National Guard deployment was the latest step by authorities to end the looting and burning of stores that have punctuated protests and stirred questions about race relations in the United States since the shooting death of Michael Brown, 18, on 9 August.

Governor Jay Nixon, who had declared a state of emergency for the town on Saturday and ordered the streets cleared for a curfew that ran from midnight to 5 am, said the National Guard would fall under the supervision of the Missouri Highway Patrol.

National Guard troops could be seen walking on the fringes of the gathering, keeping a distance from protesters.

President Barack Obama said he told the governor the use of the National Guard should be limited, and urged healing, instead of violence. Attorney General Eric Holder will travel to Ferguson on Wednesday, Obama said.

Reuters



A police sharpshooter looks through his rifle as police monitor a group of rowdy demonstrators during further protests in reaction to the shooting of Michael Brown near Ferguson, Missouri on 18 Aug, 2014.

REUTERS

ADVERTISEMENT & GENERAL

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

MV SHAHR E KORD VOY NO (ISC0050E)

Consignees of cargo carried on MV SHAHR E KORD VOY NO (ISC0050E) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 20.8.2014 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 LAND & SEA LOGISTICS

Phone No: 2301185

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

MV YANGON STAR VOY NO ()

Consignees of cargo carried on MV YANGON STAR VOY NO () are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 20.8.2014 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of M.I.P 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 CMA CGM LINE

Phone No: 2301185

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

MV WEST SCENT VOY NO ()

Consignees of cargo carried on MV WEST SCENT VOY NO () are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 20.8.2014 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of A.W.P.T where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

SHIPPING AGENCY DEPARTMENT
MYANMA PORT AUTHORITY

AGENT FOR: M/S INTERASIA LINES

Phone No: 2301185

TRADEMARK CAUTION

Stafford-Miller (Ireland) Limited of Clocherane, Youghal Road, Dungarvan, Co. Waterford, Republic of Ireland is the Owner and Sole Proprietor of the following trademark:



(Reg. No. IV/2751/2008)
(Reg. No. IV/6850/2014)

used in respect of - Class 3: "Non-medicated toilet preparations, dentifrices, mouthwashes and breath fresheners; oral care preparations, dental gels, bleaching preparations, tooth polishing preparations, tooth whitening preparations and accelerators, cosmetic stain removal preparations, medicated tooth polishing preparations, medicated tooth whitening preparations, medicated bleaching preparations"

Class 5: "Medicated oral care preparations, namely medicated mouthwashes; medicated chewing gum and lozenges for dental hygiene"

Class 10: "Dental care apparatus; flexible and disposable dental trays"

Class 21: "Toothbrushes, tooth-picks, dental floss, brushes and sponges; holders and applicators thereof"

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. 20 August 2014

TRADEMARK CAUTION

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

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(Reg. No. IV/6848/2014)

NUCALA

(Reg. No. IV/6849/2014)

used in respect of - Class 5: "Pharmaceutical and medicinal preparations and substances"

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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. 20 August 2014

Amgen thyroid drug succeeds in late-stage trial

NEW YORK, 19 Aug — Drugmaker Amgen Inc said its experimental drug to reduce thyroid levels in patients with chronic kidney disease met the main goal in a late-stage trial.

The drug, AMG 416, treats hyperparathyroidism, or excessive secretion of parathyroid hormone, in kidney disease patients.

The results follow the recent announcement of positive data from a placebo-controlled late-stage study of AMG 416, which was similar in design and size.

Reuters

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

MV DANU BHUM VOY NO (374N)

Consignees of cargo carried on MV DANU BHUM VOY NO (374N) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 20.8.2014 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of M.I.P 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 REGIONAL CONTAINER LINES

Phone No: 2301185

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

MV THIGAYU VOY NO (07/14)

Consignees of cargo carried on MV THIGAYU VOY NO (07/14) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 20.8.2014 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of S.P.W(7) 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 KRUNG THON NAYA CO LTD

Phone No: 2301186

Ministry of Energy Myanmar Petroleum Products Enterprise Invitation for Opened Tender (3/2014)

1. Open tenders are invited for supply of the following respective items in Myanmar Kyats and United States Dollars (CIF Yangon).

Sr.No	Tender No	Description	Qty	Remark
(1)	MPPE/LP/MCY/CAP/T/5 (2014-2015)	2,800. Gallons Bowser (Brand New)	10 Units	Kyats
(2)	MPPE/LP/MCY/CAP/T/6 (2014-2015)	Flow Meter 100 IGPM (Positive Displacement Liquid controls, Branded)	10 Nos	Kyats
(3)	MPPE/LP/MCY/CAP/T/7 (2014-2015)	Air Conditioner	5 Sets	Kyats
(4)	MPPE/LP/TTS/T/2 (2014-2015)	Tyre with Tube and Flap	2 Items	Kyats
(5)	MPPE/MCY/CAP/T/3 (2014-2015)	300 IGPM Fuel Transfer Centrifugal Pump (Engine Driven)	2 Sets	USD
(6)	MPPE/MCY/CAP/T/4 (2014-2015)	Fire Fighting Angus Engine Driven Pump With Trailer	2 Sets	USD
(7)	MPPE/MCY/CAP/T/5 (2014-2015)	Inductor Mercedes Refueller Engine Assembly with Clutch and Gear Box Assembly	2 Sets	USD
(8)	MPPE/AV/T/1 (2014-2015)	Aviation Gasoline 100LL	480x200 Litre Drums	USD
(9)	MPPE/AV/LUB/T/1 (2014-2015)	Aviation Lubricating Oil & Grease	14 Items	USD
(10)	MPPE/MCY/T/2 (2014-2015)	Filter Elements	8 Items	USD

2. Tender Closing Date & Time- 18-9-2014, 12:00 Hrs.

3. Tender documents are available at our office starting from 19-8-2014 during office hours and for further detail please contact Phone: 067-411487.

Planning Department
Myanmar Petroleum Products Enterprise
Ministry of Energy, No(6) Complex, Nay Pyi Taw

Japanese believed held in Syria said he planned to support rebels

DAMASCUS, 19 Aug — A Japanese man believed to have been captured in northern Syria by Islamic State militants said he came to the conflict-ravaged country in preparation for his plan to supply rebels fighting the ruling Assad regime, a rebel leader said on Monday.

Haruna Yukawa, 42, reportedly said he wanted to open an office in Turkey, which borders Syria, to bring supplies to rebels. —Kyodo News

Weather report

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

STATE OF THE SEA: Seas will be slight to moderate in Myanmar waters.

OUTLOOK FOR SUBSEQUENT TWO DAYS: Continuation of weak monsoon.

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**THE REPUBLIC OF THE UNION OF MYANMAR
MINISTRY OF ENERGY
MYANMA OIL AND GAS ENTERPRISE
(INVITATION FOR OPEN TENDER)
(17/2014)**

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

Sr.No	Tender No	Description	Remark
(1)	IFB-087(14-15)	Spare for Stand Line Manifold, Choke & Kill Line Manifold of Drilling Rigs (16)Items	US\$
(2)	IFB-088(14-15)	Spare for Drilling Accessories (12)Items	US\$
(3)	IFB-089(14-15)	2 7/8" Drill Pipe Elevator (3) Nos	US\$
(4)	DMP/L-014(14-15)	Lifting Sling, Webbing Sling & Shackle (13)Items	Ks
(5)	DMP/L-015(14-15)	Air Hose Pipe (3) Items for ZJ50D Drilling Rig	Ks

Tender Closing Date & Time - 16-9-2014, 16:30 Hr

Tender Document shall be available during office hours commencing from 18th August, 2014 at the Finance Department, Myanma Oil and Gas Enterprise, No(44)Complex, Nay Pyi Taw, Myanmar.

Myanma Oil and Gas Enterprise
Ph.+95 67 - 411097 / 411206

Actress Debbie Reynolds to receive SAG lifetime honour

LOS ANGELES, 19 Aug — Debbie Reynolds, the star of such enduring Hollywood films as “Singin’ in the Rain” and “How the West Was Won,” will be honoured with a lifetime achievement award by her peers, the Screen Actors Guild said on Monday.

Reynolds, 82, will be given the accolade at the acting organization’s annual awards ceremony in January for her achievement as an actor, singer, dancer and for her efforts to preserve historical film, the guild said.



Actress Debbie Reynolds

Reynolds, the mother of actress Carrie Fisher, will also be honoured for her humanitarian work, which includes a charity to help fight the stigma of mental illness, which she

co-founded in 1955.

“Her generous spirit and unforgettable performances have entertained audiences across the globe, moving us all from laughter to tears and back again,” Ken Howard, the president of the SAG-AFTRA labour union, said in a statement.

Reynolds, known for her wholesome looks, starred opposite some of the leading male film stars of the 1950s and 1960s, including Gene Kelly, Frank Sinatra, Tony Curtis and Fred Astaire.

Reuters

‘Creature 3D’ not a horror movie, says Bipasha Basu

MUMBAI, 19 Aug — Bipasha Basu has spooked the audience by acting in horror films ‘Raaz’ and ‘Aatma’. But she says her forthcoming film ‘Creature 3D’ does not belong to the genre.

“It’s the first Indian creature film and that was the most exciting part... also being done by Vikram Bhatt is great,” she said.

“I really didn’t know where we were going to head. We shot the entire film and it was completely on the basis of trust. Now ‘Creature’ has been made and it’s looking exciting.

“Anybody who thinks it’s a horror film doesn’t have the right information. It’s a film like ‘Jurassic Park’ or ‘Anaconda’. It’s action-oriented and adventurous film,” she said.

Also starring Imran Abbas, it is produced under the banner of T-Series and is slated to release on 12 September.

PTI



Bipasha Basu

Gisele Bundchen leads pack as world’s highest paid model

NEW YORK, 19 Aug — With estimated earnings of \$47 million during the past year from lucrative contracts and other business ventures, Brazilian super-model Gisele Bundchen is the world’s highest paid model for the eighth consecutive year, Forbes.com said on Monday.

The 34-year-old wife of New England Patriots quarterback Tom Brady and mother of two young children easily outpaced her closest competition, Dutch Victoria’s Secret model Doutzen Kroes, 29, with earnings of \$8 million before taxes and fees, and fellow Brazilian Victoria’s Secret ‘angel’ Adriana Lima, 33, with the same amount.

“The Brazilian icon pocketed \$47 million in the last 12 months before taxes and fees,” Forbes.com said about Bundchen, adding that she made \$16 million more than her football player husband.

The model has contracts with fashion retailer H&M, the French fashion house Chanel and designer Carolina Herrera, among others, and has design deals for lingerie and sandals.

“Bundchen, who boasts 2.7 million Instagram followers, has earned \$386 million from modeling since 2001,” accord-



Brazilian model Gisele Bundchen

ing to Forbes.com.

Forbes calculated the earnings from June 2013 to June 2014 for the models and looked at income from cosmetics, endorsements, advertising and fragrance deals.

British model Kate Moss, 40, the face of luxury jeweler David Yurman, was also among the top earners, bringing in \$7 million, as did American

model and *Sports Illustrated* magazine covergirl Kate Upton, 22, who is a newcomer to the list and rounded out the top five models.

Other newcomers to the list of the 21 highest paid models who earned a combined total of \$142 million include English model Cara Delevingne, 22, and American Karlie Kloss, 22.—Reuters

Brad Pitt, Angelina Jolie to shoot next film in Malta island

LOS ANGELES, 19 Aug — Hollywood star couple Brad Pitt and Angelina Jolie are set to shoot their next film in the Malta island.

‘By The Sea’ is written by the 39-year-old actress, who will also helm the ambitious project. This will be the couple’s second film after their 2005 hit ‘Mr & Mrs

Smith’, said *The Hollywood Reporter*.

The Malta Independent said that set construction is well under way with one structure on the beach nearing completion. The filming will run at Malta till 10 November this year. Universal picked up the worldwide rights to the film.—PTI



Hollywood star couple Brad Pitt and Angelina Jolie

GENERAL

America's cartoon cat Garfield gets TV makeover in Indonesia

JAKARTA/SINGAPORE, 19 Aug — The comic strip cat Garfield was created in America, but the animated television series based on the famous Jim Davis cartoon character is produced at a sprawling studio on the Indonesian resort island of Batam.

Infinite Studios started in 1997 as a film post-production company with 13 people. In part building on the success of Garfield, it has diversified into creating its own content production as well as animation and visual effects, with facilities that employ 200 people in Indonesia and Singapore.

Southeast Asia has been emerging as a film production centre, with an expanding local workforce and growing exports to the region or even to the traditional creative powerhouses like the United States and Europe.

"The Southeast Asian region is very new to the media game. I think we've been in the business for about a decade or just over a decade, whereas the rest of the world has had a lot of time developing their creative economy," Infinite

Chief Executive Mike Wiluan told *Reuters*.

"I think it's a great opportunity. When we go out to the world, we come out as a region as opposed to just coming out as a singular country and trying to compete within such a small region."

The film industry in Indonesia, Malaysia, Philippines, Singapore, Thailand and Vietnam is worth a total of \$1.15 billion in 2014 through ticket sales (box office) and cinema advertising, and is projected to jump nearly 17 percent to \$1.34 billion by 2018, according to PricewaterhouseCoopers estimates. Britain's Pinewood Studios Group, famous for its James Bond film franchise, partnered the Malaysian government's investment arm Khazanah Nasional Berhad to open Pinewood Iskandar Malaysia Studios in June.

American studio The Weinstein Company will use the \$170 million complex in the southern Malaysian state of Johor as the shooting site for "Marco Polo", a series about the Italian merchant traveller from Venice, media reported. It will be shown on



US video streaming service Netflix.

In Singapore, "Star Wars" creator Lucasfilm launched a visual effects and animation hub in January to work on Hollywood blockbusters and bolster its marketing efforts in Asia.

"CREATION BIBLE"

The learning curve to animate Garfield, which started as a comic strip by Davis in 1978, is not too steep for Infinite's team of animators who are mostly Indonesians, Wiluan said.

France's Dargaud Media, which owns the rights to "The Garfield Show", has come up with a "creation bible" which is followed

by the subcontractors in the production process.

"It basically enables anyone to follow the instructions of how this character would look, feel and act," Wiluan said.

"I guess why Garfield has been so successful all over the world is because it's the adventure of a really cute cat and everyone understands it."

On top of bringing to life characters originating in the West, Southeast Asian film makers are increasingly tapping on local culture to create unique content that appeals to both domestic and international markets.

Reuters

Suarez makes winning return to action with new club Barca



Barcelona's player Luis Suarez gestures to his coach Luis Enrique during the Joan Gamper Trophy soccer match against Mexico's Club Leon at Nou Camp stadium in Barcelona on 18 Aug, 2014. — REUTERS

BARCELONA, 19 Aug — Luis Suarez made his first appearance following his biting controversy for new side Barcelona and Neymar scored twice as the Spanish giants beat Mexican side Leon 6-0 in a pre-season friendly on Monday.

Suarez, named as a substitute at the Nou Camp, came on for the final 15

minutes in what was his first action since being banned for biting Giorgio Chiellini in Uruguay's World Cup game with Italy on 24 June.

The striker was initially banned from all football activities for four months, but an appeal hearing last week allowed him to train with Barca and play friendlies.

Suarez, who cost Barce-

lona a reported 81 million euros (\$108m) from Liverpool, will not be allowed to play a competitive game for his new club until after his ban ends at the end of October. Attacking partner Neymar returned after fracturing a vertebra for Brazil in the World Cup quarter-finals against Colombia, and he coolly lifted the ball over keeper William

Yarborough for Barca's second after Lionel Messi had headed home the opener.

Neymar flicked in another before half time, and after the break substitute Munir El Haddadi netted twice and Sandro Ramirez, another youth product, completed the scoring a minute from time. It was a new-look Barcelona that took to the field against Leon following an overhaul of the side for the La Liga season, which starts this weekend.

Barcelona's first season without silverware in six years has led to the arrival of Luis Enrique as coach. Suarez headed the list of reinforcements on the pitch.

Claudio Bravo started in goal following the departure of Victor Valdes, while another new signing, Jeremy Mathieu, partnered Javier Mascherano at the centre of defence.

Luis Enrique continued Barca's trademark 4-3-3 formation that also saw new faces Ivan Rakitic and Rafinha slot in comfortably.

Reuters

MYANMAR TV

(20-8-2014, Wednesday)

6:00 am

* Paritta by Venerable Mingun Sayadaw

6:25 am

* Physical Exercise

7:00 am

* News/Weather Report

7:20 am

* Myanmar Language

8:30 am

* TV Drama Series

9:00 am

* News/International News

9:30 am

* Documentary (ASEAN)

10:20 am

* TV Drama Series

11:15 am

* Myanmar Traditional Performing Arts Competitions

12:25 pm

* Myanmar Movie

2:45 pm

* Musical Programme

3:00 pm

* News

3:40 pm

* Gitamahar

4:45 pm

* University of Distance Education (TV Lectures) -Third Year (Myanmar)

5:00 pm

* News

5:25 pm

* TV Drama Series

6:20 pm

* Shwe Yin Khone Than

8:00 pm

* News/International News/Weather Report

8:35 pm

* Documentary

8:45 pm

* People Talks

9:00 pm

* News

9:30 pm

* Fine Arts Bosom of Dramatic Performance

MYANMAR

INTERNATIONAL

(20-8-14 07:00 am~ 21-8-14 07:00 am) MST

- * Local News
- * Myanmar Delicate Artistic Creations "Gem stone Painting"
- * World News
- * Delicacies From Magwe
- * Local News
- * Myanmar Maga Factory (Episode-3)
- * World News
- * Myanma Railways City Circular Train
- * Local News
- * Next Weekend
- * World News
- * Dhamma School
- * Local News
- * Shots & Logs (Episode-2) Ye' Pyae
- * World News
- * The Storytellers
- * Local News
- * Myanmar Social & Charitable Association (Episode-3) (Part-1)
- * World News
- * Myanmar Social & Charitable Association (Episode-3) (Part-2)
- * Local News
- * Martial Art: Super Traditional Fencing Form (Episode-3)
- * World News
- * Shwe U Min Natural Cave in Kalaw
- * Local News
- * Myanmar Alternative Medicine (Aloe Vera)
- * World News
- * Karaweik Palace-A Symbol of Glorious Myanma Culture
- * Local News
- * Photographer Diary.... The Photographer
- * World News
- * 19 Hours

29 trapped in China coal mine blast

HUAINAN, (Anhui), 19 Aug — Twenty-nine people were trapped after a blast occurred in a coal mine in east China's Anhui Province early Tuesday, rescuers said.

The accident occurred at 3:58 am in the Dongfang coal mine in Xiejiaji District of Huainan City, when 39 miners were in the underground shaft, said the rescue headquarters.

Ten workers were lifted out of the mine after the blast. One of them was injured and sent to a hospital.

Twenty-nine others were trapped.

The licensed mine is privately owned and has an annual capacity of 90,000 tonnes.

The Huainan municipal government ordered all coal mines to suspend production on 30 June and 1 July due to the flood season. But the mine did not obey the order.

Rescue work is under way and the cause of the accident is being investigated.

Xinhua

Fabregas impresses, Costa scores in Chelsea win

BURNLEY, (England), 19 Aug — New signings Diego Costa and Cesc Fabregas made an instant impact for Chelsea as they launched their Premier League title bid with a confident 3-1 win at promoted Burnley on Monday.

Former Arsenal midfielder Fabregas, brought in from Barcelona during the close season, was influential throughout the game, having a hand in all three Chelsea goals and striking up an impressive midfield pairing with Eden Hazard.

Chelsea recovered from conceding a 14th minute goal, quickly turning on the style in an impressive half hour spell to go in 3-1 up at the break.

Jose Mourinho's side were content to see out the game in the second half as Burnley, tipped by many for relegation, put in a creditable professional display after the Londoners had threatened to run away with the game. "I think we had a good reaction and the first part of that is that emotionally we were not affected by the goal we conceded," said Mourinho.

"We kept playing according to the way we want to play, the players were calm and never lost their composure and after that we had a fantastic 20-25 minutes with three goals, the second one a fantastic goal, and in the second half we had control of the game," he said.

"I was a bit afraid because I know that my players are not still in the top physical form, ready to give the same kind of performance for 90 minutes so we lost a little bit of attacking appetite but the control of the game, of the possession was always there and I think we clearly deserved this three points against a side that is going to give a fight to everyone who comes here," added the former Real Madrid coach.

In a fiery atmosphere, the home side took a surprise lead in the with a superb drive from Scott Arfield after a fine run and pull back from Matt Taylor. But any hopes the capacity home crowd at Turf Moor had of witnessing an upset were quickly dashed as Chelsea showed why



Chelsea's Diego Costa (C) celebrates his goal against Burnley during their English Premier League soccer match at Turf Moor in Burnley, northern England on 18 Aug, 2014.—REUTERS

so many bookmakers have them as favourites to win the title this season.

Three minutes after Arfield's strike, Brazilian-born Spain international Costa, a close season signing from Atletico Madrid, brought the Londoners level on his Premier League debut — firing in after a Branislav Ivanovic cross-shot, following

a Fabregas back-heel, had come out off the post.

Four minutes later, Chelsea had the lead — Fabregas providing a beautiful first time pass to German World Cup winner Andre Schurrle who confidently drove home.

Burnley looked shell-shocked and their manager Sean Dyche will be disappointed with the slack de-

fending for Chelsea's third as an unchallenged Ivanovic slotted in a Fabregas corner in the 34th minute.

Mourinho had raised some eyebrows by opting for Thibaut Courtois over Petr Cech in goal and the Belgian showed his quality shortly after the break to deny Arfield a second from a curling shot which he tipped wide.

Lancashire club Burnley, whose entire squad cost just a fraction of Costa's reported 32 million pound transfer fee, will have taken some heart though from the way they applied themselves after the break, even if they rarely threatened to alter the scoreline.

Chelsea brought on Didier Drogba for his first official appearance of his second spell with the club as a late substitute to the delight of their travelling supporters.

Dyche said his team could only learn from playing against a top quality opponent so early in the campaign.

"There has to be a reality to what we are hoping to achieve this season. I think they are top of the market or certainly up there."

"Overall I felt we kept going which was important, that mentality will be important over the course of the season, the will and demand was there. It is fair to say that they have so much quality in all areas and they can hurt you in any way," he said.

Reuters

Max Verstappen to become youngest ever F1 driver

LONDON, 19 Aug — Dutch 16-year-old Max Verstappen is set to become Formula One's youngest ever driver after the Toro Rosso team announced on Monday that he will replace Frenchman Jean-Eric Vergne in their lineup next year.

Verstappen, son of former grand prix racer Jos, turns 17 only next month and is still too young to take a driving test in the Netherlands.

Even when he does turn 17, he will still have

to wait a year before he is allowed to drive unaccompanied on public roads at home.

The sport's youngest driver to date is Spaniard Jaime Alguersuari, who made his debut with the same Red Bull-owned team in 2009 at the age of 19 and 125 days.

Alguersuari — whose arrival was questioned by some on safety grounds — was then discarded at the end of 2011 and reluctantly left the sport at an age where few others had even

broken into it.

Verstappen has already built up an impressive resume, however, after starting in go-karts at the age of seven and comes from a racing family.

He has won a string of karting titles, including the world championship at the age of 15, and is currently challenging for the European Formula Three title.

"We consider Max to be one of the most skilled young drivers of the new generation and we believe he has the necessary ma-

turity and mental strength to take on this challenge successfully," said team principal Franz Tost in a statement.

Verstappen will partner Russian Daniil Kvyat, who made his debut with the team this year at the age of 19 years and 324 days.

Kvyat joined Italy-based Toro Rosso from the junior GP3 series and has made a strong impression, becoming the youngest driver ever to score a point when he finished ninth on his debut in Australia.

The same Red Bull junior production line has produced four times world champion Sebastian Vettel, who took his first win with Toro Rosso before graduating to the main team, and the German's Australian team mate Daniel Ricciardo.

"Ever since I was seven years old, Formula One has been my career goal, so this opportunity is truly a dream come true," said Verstappen, who thanked his father and sponsors for their help.

Reuters

Holder Nadal out of US Open with wrist injury

NEW YORK, 19 Aug — Rafa Nadal has pulled out of his US Open title defence this month because of a wrist problem, the world number two said on Monday. The 28-year-old Spaniard sustained the injury in practice last month and has been training with a cast on his right wrist, forcing him to miss the Rogers Cup in Toronto and last week's Cincinnati Open.

"I am very sorry to announce I won't be able to play at this year's US Open," Nadal said on his Twitter feed and on Facebook. "I am sure you understand that it is a very tough moment for me since it is a tournament I love and where I have great memories from fans, the night matches, so many things."

"Not much more I can do right now other than accept the situation and, as always in my case, work hard in order to be able to compete at the highest level once I am back." The 14-times grand slam winner also triumphed at Flushing Meadows in 2010.

Despite missing the entire North American hardcourt campaign, Na-



Rafael Nadal of Spain

dal had hoped to compete in New York, previously posting a picture of himself working on court with his uncle and coach Toni with a black wrist support clearly visible.

The left-hander won his ninth French Open title in June but has not played since losing in the fourth round to Australian Nick Kyrgios at Wimbledon on 2 July.

It is another worrying setback for Nadal who has had to battle back from injuries several times in his brilliant career. After being sidelined for seven months with a knee injury, he returned last season to win 10 titles including grand slams in Paris and New York.

Reuters



Max Verstappen