

We are striving to lay foundation for peace by soon concluding nationwide ceasefire agreement, followed by successful start of political dialogue

NAY PYI TAW, 1 Sept — *The following is the full text of the monthly radio message delivered by President U Thein Sein.*

My fellow citizens,

In this radio speech, I would like to give you the monthly update on the work of my government, and the developments that have taken place in our country.

If we realistically examine the current reform process, it is undeniable that we are on the right path and moving in the appropriate direction. All of us doing our part for the success of the reform process through commitment to nurturing moderation and a new political culture are acting with political goodwill for the benefit of the nation.

As we undertake our tasks, people may, depending on their viewpoints, see the way we overcome challenges and difficulties in a good or bad light. Since I am the one who bears the most responsibility for these reforms, I acknowledge these different viewpoints. But importantly, I urge political and business leaders to look beyond merely agreeing or disagreeing with my government's efforts and to focus on sustaining the momentum of the reform process.

In August, the Union Peace Working Committee (UPWC) and the Nationwide Ceasefire Coordination

Team (NCCT) completed the third draft of the nationwide ceasefire agreement. Only a few issues remain.

As a preparatory step towards political dialogue, a first ever meeting was held between the UPWC, NCCT and legally registered political parties. During my government's remaining time in office, we are striving to lay the foundation for peace by soon concluding a nationwide ceasefire agreement, followed by the successful start of political dialogue.

At appropriate times, I have met with leaders of armed ethnic groups. In August, I met with representatives of Wa Special Region (2) UWSP/UWSA, Mongla Special Region (4), NDAA, and SSPP/SSA. We discussed the groups' desire to sign the nationwide ceasefire agreement and participate in the subsequent political dialogue.

We should understand and accept that since the peace process is seeking to solve 60 years of disputes and conflict, it must be given time. I urge political leaders, Tatmadaw leaders, leaders of ethnic armed groups and citizens, to ensure through practical political means, a better today and the future by continuing to act with goodwill and courage.

Also in August, we successfully hosted the meetings of ASEAN foreign ministers, ASEAN economic ministers and ASEAN Regional Forum in Nay Pyi Taw. Ministers and high-level officials from ASEAN, the People's Republic of China, Japan, the Republic of Korea, Australia, New Zealand, the Republic of India, the European Union, the United States of America and the Russian Federation participated in those meetings.

The meetings discussed important global and regional issues the pressing global and regional issues of the day. It should be noted that these meetings were one of the most important international meetings to be held in this country since independence.

It is a mark of achievement for our country to have successfully hosted these events given this country is emerging from years of sanctions and isolation. Our efforts are also fitting as Chair of ASEAN, a position we hold to further peace and stability in the region.

I congratulate and commend staff of all government agencies for their energetic efforts to ensure that these events were successful.

(See page 2)

Amyotha Hluttaw speaker presents regional development funds in Shan State

NAY PYI TAW, 31 Aug — Amyotha Hluttaw (Upper House) Speaker U Khin Aung Myint delivered a speech at the ceremony to provide cash for Danu Self-Administered Zone by the Amyotha Hluttaw (Upper House) Relief and Care Provision Committee on 28 August.

Present at the ceremony were Chief Minister of Shan State U Sao Aung Myat, Chairman of Amyotha Hluttaw (Upper House) Relief and Care Provision Committee Dr Khin Shwe and members and officials from Shan State.

In his speech, U Khin Aung Myint said that regional development tasks are being carried out with K 100 million regional development funds each for every township in order to contribute to the efforts for



Speaker of Amyotha Hluttaw U Khin Aung Myint presents K20.5 million fund for Ywangan Township to an official.—MNA

poverty reduction.

Then, U Khin Aung Myint presented K 20.5 million for Pindaya Township and K 20.4 million for

Ywangan Township to local authorities.

The chief minister of Shan State and wife donated K 1.5 million and

the leading body of Danu Self-Administered Zone donated K 1 million for regional development.

(See page 3)

President U Thein Sein felicitates Uzbekistani counterpart, PM

NAY PYI TAW, 1 Sept — U Thein Sein, President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar, has sent messages of felicitations to His Excellency Mr. Islam Karimov, President of the Republic of Uzbekistan, and His Excellency Mr. Shavkat Mirziyoyev, Prime Minister of the Republic of Uzbekistan, on the occasion of the Independence Day of the Republic of Uzbekistan, which falls on 1st September 2014.—MNA

Myanmar Investment Commission eases restriction on economic activities for foreigners

NAY PYI TAW, 31 Aug — Myanmar Investment Commission recently amended the list of prohibited economic activities for foreigners announced on 31 January last year, removing 11 businesses from the previous list.

Significantly, the list of prohibited economic activities for foreigners includes: - prospecting, exploration and production of jade and gem stone, small scale and medium scale production of minerals and printing and distribution

of newspapers, magazines and journals in Burmese and national ethnic languages. Meanwhile, the commission also reduced the list of economic activities which are allowed only in the form of Joint Venture with Myanmar Citizens from 42 to 30.

The investment commission also removed some economic activities from the list of businesses which are permitted with the recommendations of the relevant ministry.

(See page 2)

I UEC Chairman
N attends opening
S new school
I building, honouring
D outstanding students
E

PAGE-3

U Union A & I
I minister inspects
progress of
agriculture-
related works

PAGE-3

T Time to rise
to the challenge
of feeding
3 billion
more people

PAGE-8

We are striving to lay

(from page 1)

The flooding in parts of Bago Region in August is a stark reminder that our country faces unprecedented and unavoidable environmental dangers for which we must always be vigilant. My government, together with the public and civil society, is working to reduce and prevent environmental dangers, and improving recovery efforts. I applaud those organizations and members of the public that assisted with the relief efforts.

One of the most important and difficult issues faced by a reforming country is that of urban planning and land reform. Urban and rural development programs require effective utilization of land. Concerning the landless and illegal encroachment of land, I believe just as legal action will be taken against illegal encroachment, distribution of farmable land to the truly landless farmers will continue since these distributions are a major aid for poverty reduction efforts.

The current affordable housing projects should be expanded to include not only Yangon and Mandalay but also other large cities such as Mawlamyine, Patheingyi, Tounghoo, Monywa, Magway, and Sittway. These projects should be undertaken in conjunction with urban and rural development projects.

We must also focus on urban planning of our bigger cities including Yangon, the nation's commercial capital and its most populous city with over five million residents. Our goal must be to develop Yangon in a way that integrates its unique architectural heritage and make the city one of Asia's most liveable and attractive as well as modern and dynamic. Yangon is endowed with a collection of historical buildings, streetscapes and places of interest unparalleled in the region. The work of the Yangon Municipal Committee and the Yangon Heritage Trust (YHT), the organization primarily responsible for Yangon urban conservation, to plan for a 21st century Yangon that protects what is best of our past, is commendable and exemplary.

In early August, the programme to mark Yangon's his-

torical buildings and places with commemorative plaques started with the placement of the first plaque at City Hall. The programme, spear-headed by YHT, will place plaques at an estimated 100 locations by 2016. YHT is also working on the renovation of buildings and with the Yangon Municipal Committee on the establishment of a downtown conservation area to compliment the existing list of heritage sites.

During the last week of August, I called a 2014-2015 financial year four-monthly meeting to discuss continued efforts on reforms and improving efficiency of the public service. These efforts will succeed only through increased cooperation and coordination between the Union government, state and regional governments, and self-administered regions.

In conclusion, I would like to inform you that I continue to strive for achieving internal peace, improving socioeconomic conditions, and ensuring a brighter future for our children.

I wish you all good health.

Myanmar Investment . . .

(from page 1)

According to the recent announcement of the MIC, **list of economic activities under prohibition are:**

1. Manufacturing and related services of arms and ammunition for the national defence;
2. Economic activities managing and conserving natural forests;
3. Prospecting, exploration and production of jade and gems stones;
4. Production of minerals by medium scale and small scale;
5. Administration of Electric Power System;
6. Inspection services related to electricity;
7. Air Navigation,
8. Mining of metallic minerals that include gold in river way areas;
9. Sea navigation;
10. Jointly conducting printing and broadcasting media businesses without the permission of the Union Government and Printing
11. Publishing and distribution of newspapers, magazines and journals in Burmese and national ethnic languages.

List of Economic Activities to be allowed only in the form of Joint Venture with Myanmar Citizens

1. Production and Distribution of hybrid seeds
2. Production and propagation of High-yield seeds and local seeds
3. Manufacturing and marketing of grain products such as biscuits, wafers, noodles, macaroni, vermicelli, spaghetti and other cereals related food products
4. Manufacturing and marketing of all kinds of confectionery including

those of sweets, cocoa, and chocolate

5. Preserving, manufacturing, canning and marketing of other food products except milk and milk products
6. Manufacturing and marketing of malt and malt liquors and non-aerated products
7. Distilling, blending, rectifying, bottling and marketing of all kinds of spirits beverages and non-beverages
8. Manufacturing and marketing of all kinds of ice
9. Manufacturing of purified drinking water
10. Manufacturing and marketing of cordage, rope and twine of textile fibers
11. Manufacturing and marketing of enamelware, cutlery, crockery of all kinds.
12. Manufacturing and marketing of plastic wares
13. Manufacturing of rubber and plastic
14. Packaging
15. Processing of hides, skins and leathers of all kinds, excluding synthetic leather, and manufacturing and marketing thereof including foot wears, handbags, etc.
16. Manufacturing and marketing of all kinds of paper including paper board, carbon paper, waxed paper, toilet paper, etc.
17. Manufacturing and marketing of chemicals based on natural resources available in domestic. (Except oil, gas and oil-products)
18. Manufacturing and marketing of solid, liquid, gaseous fuels and aerosol (Acetylene,

Gasoline, Propane, Hair Sprays, Perfume, Deodorant, Insect spray) (Except oil, natural gas and oil-products)

19. Manufacturing and marketing of Oxidants (Oxygen, Hydrogen Peroxide), compressed (Acetone, Argon, Hydrogen, Nitrogen, Acetylene)
20. Manufacturing and marketing of corrosive chemicals (Sulfuric Acid, Nitric Acid)
21. Manufacturing and marketing of industrial chemical gases including compressed, liquefied and solid forms
22. Manufacturing of raw materials for drugs
23. small- and medium-scale electricity generation enterprises
24. Establishment of international standard golf courses and resorts
25. Establishment, sales and lease of residential apartments /condominiums
26. Establishment and sales of office/commercial buildings
27. Establishment, sales and lease of residential apartments in residential areas connected to industrial zones
28. Establishment of affordable housing
29. Domestic Air Transport Service
30. International Air Transport Service

NLM

Dy Construction Minister oversees flood preventive measures

NAY PYI TAW, 31 Aug — Deputy Minister for Construction U Soe Tint inspected preventive measures against floods and inundation in four Dagon Myothit townships of Yangon Region on Saturday.

The deputy minister and party viewed proper flow of water at Toegyaunggyi Creek in Ward 33 of Dagon Myothit (North) Township, construction of the dyke

in the ward for prevention against floods, construction of a box culvert and future plans for dredging drains by Myanmar Construction Entrepreneurs Association on Bayintnaung Street near Shwe Pinlon Housing in Ward 27 of Dagon Myothit (North) Township, and dredging of Thein Creek for proper flow of water in Ward 63 of Dagon Myothit (South) Township.

He also looked into installation of new sluice gate at Kyargyi Creek in Dagon Seikkan Township and production of precast concrete by High Tech Company at Ayeyawun Yadana high-rise housing project. In the afternoon, the deputy minister inspected progress of No 2 Bayiantnaung Bridge and stressed the need to focus on safety first in the worksite to officials.—MNA

Trainees of tailoring course employed at garment factories



YANGON, 31 Aug—The advanced tailoring course No 2 concluded at the central training school on Myawady Mingyi Street in Ward 51 of Dagon Myothit (North) Township in Yangon on Saturday.

On behalf of Union Minister for Border Affairs

Director-General U San Shwe Aung and officials view products at tailoring training course.—MNA

Lt-Gen Thet Naing Win, Director-General U San Shwe Aung presented certificates and cash assistance to 100 trainees.

Head of Yangon Region Labour Department

Daw Moh Moh Thwin presented employee certificates to the workers, handing over 50 workers to Myanmar Synergy Garment Co Ltd for their employment and another 50 workers to Cherry Garment Co Ltd.

A total of 54 female trainees, 10 Naga, 10 Shan, three Kayah, four Palaung, four Lisu, 10 Chin and five Rakhine female trainees attended the training course from 18 to 29 August.

The course No 3 will admit 140 trainees and they will be employed at garment factories.—MNA

Foreign learners from YUFL show regional culture

YANGON, 31 Aug — Regional culture comparing show took place on Thursday at Yangon University of Foreign Language (YUFL) here, with participant students from Asian regions and an EU member

country who studying Myanmar Language at YUFL.

Those students from China, Korea, Japan, Vietnam, Thailand, India, Bangladesh, Laos, Germany and Cambodia entertained the attendees with traditional

dances and songs as well as their stories and customs.

After the show, Rector Dr Lwin Lwin Soe presented certificates of honours to participants, the source said.

MNA

NATIONAL

UEC Chairman attends opening new school building, honouring outstanding students



Chairman of Union Election Commission U Tin Aye meets teachers and students at Mandalay Basic Education High School No 15.

TIN MAUNG (MANDALAY SUB-PRINTING HOUSE)

MANDALAY, 31 Aug — Parents and teachers are to nurture youths for emergence of highly-qualified leaders in the future, Chairman of the Union Election Commission U Tin Aye said at the opening ceremony of Nilar school building at No 15 Basic Education

High School in Mandalay on Sunday.

Chief Minister of Mandalay Region U Ye Myint said that a total of 452 basic education schools have been upgraded in the region in 2014-15 academic year with appointment of over 3,000 primary assistant teachers.

He urged parents, teachers, students and wellwishers to join hands in development of human resources.

Mandalay Region Minister for Social Affairs Dr Win Hlaing unveiled the new school building, and the UEC chairman and party sprinkled scented

water on the plaque of the building.

The Chairman of UEC, the chief minister and region ministers presented medals and certificates of honour to one six-distinction winner, two five-distinction winners, five four-distinction winner, seven three-distinction winner, 13 two-distinction winners and 23 one-distinction winners from Mandalay BEHS No 15 in the 2014 matriculation examination.

A responsible person of Chrystal Mingalar Mandalay Construction Company handed over documents related to the building to Aungmyethazan Township Education Officer Dr Kyaw Lwin.

The Mandalay Region Chief Minister presented 30 desks to No 15 BEHS through officials.

The school building is 90 feet long and 30 feet wide two-storey concrete type, funded K64.8 million allotted by No 2 Basic Education Department.—MNA

Amyotha Hluttaw speaker presents regional . . .

(from page 1)

Dr Khin Shwe presented 250 dozens of exercise books for the region and K 1.5 million for Dhamma Monastery in Pindaya while Amyotha Hluttaw Representative U Win Maung presented K 10 million for construction of the ordination hall for Letle Village in Pindaya.

After the ceremony, U Khin Aung Myint inspected the 50-bed hospital in Pindaya. Dr Khin Shwe donated K 5 million for the hospital.

Then, U Khin Aung Myint went to Shwe Umin Natural Cave Pagoda and donated K 3.5 million for the pagoda.

On 29 August, U Khin Aung Myint attended the ceremony to present financial support for Nyaungshwe Township held at the General Administration Department of the township and presented K 40.71 million for regional development tasks and education sector of the township.

Amyotha Hluttaw Representative U Win Maung presented K 10 million to U Tin Aye Educa-

tion Foundation. Dr Khin Shwe presented 450 dozens of exercise books for the township.

Then, U Khin Aung Myint and party went to Inlay PhaungdawU Pagoda and donated K 2.5 million.

On 30 August, the Speaker presented K 37 million for regional development tasks in Loikaw and Taunggyi townships to authorities and Dr Khin Shwe presented K 20 million for the education foundation of Shan State Government. Amyotha Hluttaw (Upper House) Representative U Win Maung presented K 10 million for monastic education schools in Taunggyi Township.

Afterwards, the Speaker and party went to Mwedawkutku Pagoda and donated K 3.5 million while Dr Khin Shwe donated K 100 million for Sasana Nuggaha Association.

The Amyotha Hluttaw (Upper House) Relief and Care Provision Committee presented a total of K 183.1 million and 1,350 dozens of exercise books donated by Zaygaba Company in Shan State.—MNA

Union A & I minister inspects progress of agriculture-related works

NAY PYI TAW, 31 Aug — Union Minister for Agriculture and Irrigation U Myint Hlaing inspected the progress of preparations of agriculture-related works on Sunday here to welcome

the participant ministers who will attend the upcoming ASEAN ministers' meetings. During his tours, the Union Minister looked round the construction of ministry's booth building

as well as viewed the cultivation of watercress in greenhouse, net house vegetables growing, sugarcane farms and organic vegetables showrooms.

The 36th Meeting of

the ASEAN Ministers on Agriculture and Forestry (AMAF) and China-Japan-South Korea Trilateral Summit will be held on 21st September in Nay Pyi Taw, source said.—MNA

Deputy Minister urges dailies reach rural areas

YANGON, 31 Aug — U Pike Htway, Deputy Minister for Information, accompanied by departmental officials, went on an inspection tour of printing houses of the state-run dailies, The Mirror, the Myanma Alinn and the New Light of Myanmar, here on 30 August, sources said.

U Pike Htway urged officials at the printing houses to put more effort into printing quality, correct spelling, maintenance of machinery, systematic use of raw materials, supervision of expenditures,

security and safety matters, and early distribution of dailies to the public.

On Sunday morning, Deputy Minister U Pike

Htway met officials from the three dailies at the News and Periodicals Enterprise, calling on them to make arrangements for the

dailies to be available at rural areas and inform the public of economic, social and political news as they are.—MNA



Deputy Minister for Information U Pike Htway views products at the printing press of New Light of Myanmar Daily.

MNA

Union FM felicitates Uzbekistan counterpart

NAY PYI TAW, 1 Sept — U Wunna Maung Lwin, Union Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar, has sent a message of felicitations to His Excellency Mr Kamilov Abdulaziz Khafizovich, Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Uzbekistan, on the occasion of the Independence Day of the Republic of Uzbekistan, which falls on 1st September.—MNA

Media accreditation cards for ASEAN Summit to be issued on 29 Sept

NAY PYI TAW, 31 Aug — The 25th ASEAN Summit will be held at the Myanmar International Convention Centre in Nay Pyi Taw on 12 and 13 November, according to officials.

Media accreditation cards will be issued to local and foreign correspondents who have to register online of www.asean2014.gov.mm not later than 15 October, at Sky Palace Hotel in Nay Pyi Taw from 10 am to 4 pm on 10 and 11 November.

Foreign correspondents are to apply for visa at respective Myanmar embassies. Foreign correspondents may dial 067-412227 and 412057 of the ASEAN Affairs Department for further information of the meeting and local-based foreign news agencies and local journalists 067-412125~6 of the News and Periodicals Enterprise for coverage of news on the meeting.—MNA

7-mile long Kanaung-Myanaung Road under maintenance



MYANAUNG, 31 Aug—The seven-mile long Kanaung-Myanaung road was maintained with the concerted efforts of the local people in Myanaung Township of Ayeyawady Region on 29 August.

The road was repaired

on a self-reliant basis in 2008. Now, the road repair committee has stockpiled 33 suds of gravel and K400,000 for the fund of maintenance. However, they need more wellwishers because the road was damaged in all parts, said a road committee

member. The road is a main artery for Kanaung in transporting commodities.

Nay Win Zaw
(Myanaung)

Mobile users happy with new GSM tower in Zigon Tsp

ZIGON, 31 Aug—Myanma Posts and Telecommunications under the Ministry of Communications and Information Technology is building GSM towers in Zigon Township of Thayawady District in Bago Region.

A tower, 42 metres in height, and its related building have been constructed in Nyaungzin Village of the township.

In the past, the telephone users from Nyaungzin and 10 surrounding villages, three miles from Zigon faced difficulties due

to far distance from GSM stations.

At present, the GSM tower has been built on the 40x80 feet plot donated by U Tin Myint-Daw San family of Nyaungzin Village. As a result, the local phone users have convenient access to telecommunications.

Now, MPT has built towers in Laymyethna, Phayagyi and Nyaungzin villages for providing better access to the people for telecommunications in September 2014.

Thein Toe (Zigon)



Commander of Ottara District Police Force Police Lt-Col Hla Win discusses leadership in the police force, enhancement of capacity for policemen in legal affairs and community-based policing process to police servicemen of Ottara District Police Force in Zeyathiri Township of Nay Pyi Taw Council Area.—MIN MIN LATT
(PHYSICS)

Branch of insurance company commissioned into service in Mandalay

MANDALAY, 31 Aug—A ceremony to put the Mandalay Branch of Aung Thitsa Oo Insurance Company Ltd into service was held at its office on 34th street between 80th and 81st streets in Chanayethazan Township of Mandalay on Saturday.

Managing Director U Ba Tun of Aung Thitsa Oo Insurance Co Ltd, Deputy Managing Director U Myint Aung of Union of Myanmar Economic Holdings Ltd and Director of Aung Thitsa Oo Company U Thein Toe formally opened the Mandalay branch.

Mandalay Region Minister for Finance Dr Myint Kyu unveiled the signboard of the company.

The managing director explained the opening of branches. The company opened its fifth branch in Mandalay to give insurance services to the people for loss of the people in economic, social and other

sectors.

The ceremony was also attended by Commander of Central Command Maj-Gen Soe Htut and officials.

Tin Maung
(Mandalay)



University students donate blood in Magway

MAGWAY, 31 Aug—Magway Universities/Colleges held blood donation at Magway Region General Hospital in Magway on Saturday morning.

A total of 26 students from Magway University, 13 from Magway Community Health University and 41 from Education College totalling 80 donated blood at the blood bank of the hospital.

Chief Minister of Magway Region U Phone Maw Shwe met with blood donors and presented refreshment and cash assistance to the students.

The blood donation of students hailed the World First-aid Day.

Khin Marlar (Magway)



Short-term course for keeping accounts lectured

YEUE, 31 Aug—A short-term course for keeping accounts for loans from Exim Bank of China was conducted on 27 August at YeUE Township Cooperative Department in Sagaing Region, aimed at enhancing capacity of executives from basic cooperative societies.

Staff Officer Daw Ohn Ohn Myint of Township Cooperative Department, Secretary of Township Cooperative Syndicate U Khin Maung Win and Branch Clerk U Sein Tun gave training to the executives.

Members and executives of the basic cooperative societies totalling 50 attended the three-day course.

Than Htaik (YeUE)

Fingerlings released into Chindwin River

KALEWA, 31 Aug—Sagaing Region Fisheries Department released fingerlings into Chindwin River as part of efforts for maintenance of the environment.

Pyithu Hluttaw representative U Soe Thein, Sagaing Region Hluttaw representative U Kyaw Soe Win and officials re-

leased 100,000 fingerlings into the river at the jetty in Kalewa of Sagaing Region on 28 August.

Chindwin Thar
(IPRD)



Pyithu Hluttaw representative U Soe Thein and township level officials release fingerlings into Chindwin River in Kalewa of Sagaing Region.

REGIONAL

40 UN peacekeepers trapped in Golan Heights arrive in safe location

UNITED NATIONS, 31 Aug—The United Nations said here Saturday night that its 40 Philippine peacekeepers previously trapped by Islamist militants in the Golan Heights had arrived in a safe location.

After the rescue, more than 70 Philippine UN peacekeepers are now safely away from Islamist militants in the Golan Heights.

Earlier Saturday, “32 Filipino peacekeepers confined at United Nations Position 69 were extracted by the UN Disengagement Observer Force (UNDOF) and are safe and unharmed,” a UN spokesman told reporters here.

“The United Nations Disengagement Observer Force (UNDOF) reports that shortly after midnight local time on 31 August, during a ceasefire agreed with the armed elements, all the 40 Filipino peacekeepers from UN Position 68 left the position,” the spokesman said in a note to the press here. “The 40 peacekeepers arrived in a safe location one hour later,” the spokesman said.

The group of UN peacekeepers, who manned the Position 68 in the Golan Heights, remained trapped on Saturday as they were surrounded by UN Security Council-designated terrorist groups and non-state armed actors, the world body said. — *Xinhua*



Indonesia's President Susilo Bambang Yudhoyono (1st R) visits the Indonesia Hakka Museum during the opening ceremony of the museum in Jakarta, Indonesia on 30 Aug, 2014. Susilo is awarded as the honorary president of the Indonesia Hakka Association.—XINHUA

Pressure mounts on Pakistan leader to quit as protests continue

ISLAMABAD, 31 Aug—Thousands of protesters massed outside the residence of Pakistani Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif on Saturday to demand he step down, after efforts to find a negotiated solution to the country's political crisis failed. Pakistan has been gripped by unrest for more than two weeks, with protest leaders Imran Khan and Tahir ul-Qadri saying they will not back down unless Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif resigns. On Saturday Sharif once again said he would not go. Security forces fired tear gas at protesters on Saturday night and the opposition said a woman was killed in the clashes. Police were not immediately available for comment.

Late on Friday, up to 8,000 protesters, some armed with clubs, had gathered outside parliament, with police on standby.

Pakistan's military stepped in this week to try to defuse the unrest. Qadri said the army had offered to mediate in the stand-off.

Pakistan, a nuclear-armed nation of 180 million, has been ruled by the military for half of its entire history and has repeatedly oscillated between civilian and military rule.

Although the army's role is key to how the cri-



Pakistan's Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif

sis unfolds, few believe the army is bent on seizing power again.

Nevertheless, its public intervention has demonstrated how fragile Pakistan's democracy is, more than a year after Sharif swept to office in the country's first democratic transition of power.

Sharif has displeased the army by trying to strengthen civilian rule and improve relations with India and Afghanistan, and the latest conflict has given the military an opportunity to sideline him on security and foreign policy issues.

Sharif also angered the military by putting the former army chief, Pervez Musharraf, on trial for treason. Musharraf ousted Sharif in the 1999 coup.

The army's involvement is likely to unnerve some Pakistanis but it also offers Khan and Qadri a face-saving solution to end their deadlocked protest as both are seen as close to the military.—*Reuters*

Modi visits Japan to boost security ties

KYOTO, 31 Aug—Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi started a five-day official visit to Japan on Saturday as the two governments seek to strengthen security and economic ties in the face of China's rising territorial ambitions and military buildup.

After flying into Kansai airport in Osaka Prefecture, Modi attended an unofficial dinner hosted by Prime Minister Shinzo Abe at the Kyoto State Guest House.

In an extraordinary gesture of welcome, Abe traveled to the ancient Japanese capital for dinner with Modi. When Modi arrived at the guest house, the two leaders hugged each other and then shook hands for photographs.

It is Modi's first visit outside South Asia solely for a bilateral summit since taking office in May.

The two leaders are scheduled to visit Toji Temple, a World Heritage site in Kyoto, on Sunday before holding a summit in Tokyo on Monday.

Calling Japan and India “two major maritime democracies in Asia,” Japanese officials said Abe and Modi are expected to affirm cooperation in ensuring a “peaceful and stable maritime order” in an apparent effort to curb Beijing's rising activity in the East and South China seas and the Indian Ocean.

In the summit, Abe and Modi are likely to

agree to launch a security consultative framework involving the two countries' foreign and defense ministers, according to a senior Japanese Foreign Ministry official.

Currently, the two governments run the so-called two-plus-two dialogue at the vice ministerial level. If it were upgraded to a ministerial level, it would be the fifth of its kind for Japan after the United States, Australia, Russia and France.

Abe and Modi are expected to agree to continue joint maritime drills between the two countries and trilateral drills with the United States, possibly on a regular basis. They will also discuss a possible Indian purchase of US-2 amphibian planes from Japan.

China has been pressing its territorial claims over the Japan-administered Senkaku Islands in the East China Sea. Along with border disputes with China, India has become concerned about Beijing's growing ties with its neighbors such as Pakistan and expanding presence in the Indian Ocean.

During Modi's trip, Japan and India will seek to conclude negotiations for a civil nuclear pact that would allow Tokyo to export nuclear-related technology to New Delhi, but it is not known whether the leaders will strike a deal at the summit, according to Japanese officials.

India has yet to join the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons, an international accord commonly known as the Non-Proliferation Treaty to prevent the spread of nuclear weapons, raising concern in Japan about its push for civilian nuclear cooperation with the country.

On the economic front, Abe is expected to pitch Japan's shinkansen bullet train technology as India plans to build a train network between Mumbai and Ahmadabad in western India.

Abe and Modi are expected to agree to jointly produce rare earths that could be exported to Japan, a move that would further reduce Japan's reliance on China for supply of such

minerals that are vital to the production of high-tech products such as hybrid cars and mobile phones.

They are also likely to agree on a joint project to clean up the river Ganges, which is holy to Hindus and also known as one of the world's most polluted rivers.

On Monday, Modi will have a luncheon meeting with Japanese business leaders and hold separate meetings with the Japanese ministers for foreign affairs, industry, finance, transport and defense before attending a summit and a banquet with Abe, according to the Japanese Foreign Ministry.

Modi will have an audience with Emperor Akihito on Tuesday.

Kyodo News



India's Prime Minister Narendra Modi (front R) shakes hands with Japan's Prime Minister Shinzo Abe upon his arrival at the State Guest House in Kyoto, western Japan, in this photo released by Kyodo on 30 Aug, 2014.—REUTERS

Dacic: Serbia supports dialogue, no lectures from Kosovo



BELGRADE, 31 Aug — Serbian Foreign Minister Ivica Dacic said that Belgrade is ready to continue the dialogue with Pristina, and stressed that Kosovo is in no position to lecture anyone on international law.

Dacic told Radio and Television of Serbia (RTS) that the incident at the UN Security Council meeting on Friday, when Kosovo's Foreign Minister Enver Hodzaj accused Serbia of participating in the aggression on Ukraine, is a diplomatic scandal without precedent.

Hodzaj said that Russia is invading the east of Ukraine, and condemned Serbia for the support of some Serbian citizens to pro-Russian activist groups in east Ukraine which, as he said, constitutes a violation of the international law.

I responded quite sharply, noting that Kosovo is no position to lecture anyone on international law, as the unilateral proclamation of independence of Kosovo, without any agreement with Serbia, is a true example of a violation of the inter-

national law, said Dacic.

The Serbian minister stressed that Serbia is not taking part in any acts of aggression anywhere in the world.

He noted that certain Serbian citizens of Muslim faith are participating in jihad organizations in Syria and Iraq, which Serbia strongly condemns, and also that there are volunteers from Serbia fighting on the side of the pro-Russian forces and on the side of Ukraine.

Dacic also pointed to the number of individuals from Kosovo taking part in terrorist operations in Syria, Iraq and other countries.

Noting that the negotiations with Pristina are now held at a lower level, Dacic underlined that Serbia is ready to do whatever it is necessary, considering that the recent events, particularly the death of a Serbian Gendarme, show that security continues to be a cause for concern.

"We are ready to continue with the dialogue and we hope for a positive incentive from the EU," added Dacic.—*Tanjug*

Protests held in Ferguson three weeks after police killing of black youth

CHICAGO, 31 Aug — Hundreds of people marched on the streets of Ferguson, suburb of St Louis, Mo., on Saturday in memory of Michael Brown, who was shot and killed by a white police officer three weeks ago.

Brown's parents and other relatives led the march, which began on a West Florissant Avenue stretch that became the venue of nightly protests in the days after Brown's death, to the spot where the African American was shot on 9 August by Ferguson police officer Darren Wilson.

Later, hundreds protested in front of the suburban police department and fire station, blocking the road.

The death of 18-year-old Brown has sparked nearly two weeks of unrest and clashes be-

tween protesters and law enforcement in the St Louis suburb.

Wilson, a six-year police veteran, has not been charged yet.

Six Missouri residents have filed a lawsuit with the federal court, accusing Ferguson police of using excessive force and making false arrests.

The *Los Angeles Times* reported that one claimant, Dewayne Matthews Jr, said he was standing with his hands in the air, in surrender mode, when police officers wearing riot gear riddled him with rubber bullets and slammed him into the concrete.

The man alleged that police also used some sort of chemical spray on him, despite the fact he was not engaging in any aggressive or violent act.—*Xinhua*

Five deputy PMs in Thailand's royally endorsed cabinet

BANGKOK, 31 Aug — A royal command appointing Thailand's interim Cabinet headed by Prime Minister Prayuth Chan-ocha was announced on Sunday, with five deputy prime ministers included in the list.

The five deputy premiers are Prawit Wongsuwan, Pridiyathorn Devakula, Yongyuth Yuthawong, Supreme Commander Tanasak Patimapakorn and Wisanu KreaNgam, according to the royal command issued by the

king on Saturday and published in the *Royal Gazette* on Sunday.

Ministers of the PM's Office are ML Panadda Diskul and Director of the National Intelligence Agency Suwaphan Tanyuwardhana.—*Xinhua*

Iran says possible response to new US sanctions could not be 'pleasant'

DUBAI, 31 Aug — Iran's possible response to new US sanctions could "not be pleasant", its foreign minister said on Sunday, raising the prospect of tit-for-tat retribution against the Islamic Republic's old adversary weeks ahead of fresh nuclear talks.

Iranian leaders reacted with dismay to Friday's announcement that Washington was going to penalize a number of Iranian and other foreign companies, banks and airlines for violating sanctions against Tehran, most of which are tied to a decade-old dispute about its nuclear program.

Washington said the moves were a signal that there would be no let-up of sanctions while international talks were underway to ease the economic measures in exchange for Iran's agreement to curb its nuclear activities..

Iran says its nuclear program is for civilians ends only and denies allegations from the West that it may want to develop nuclear weapons.

On Saturday President Hassan Rouhani said the new curbs were unconstructive and against the spirit of the talks, although he added he was not pessimistic.

On Sunday, Foreign Minister Mohammad Javad Zarif told a news conference that Iran would respond to the sanctions "if deemed necessary," according to state news agency *IRNA*.



Iranian Foreign Minister Mohammad Javad Zarif attends a news conference after a meeting with his Russian counterpart Sergei Lavrov in Moscow on 29 Aug, 2014.
REUTERS

"We can take actions that would be unpleasant to the other side," he added.

Zarif did not elaborate on what the measures might be.

He added that the sanctions had been implemented to appease "pressure groups in the US that are against any nuclear deal", using a phrase Iranian officials normally invoke to refer to Israeli interest groups. The United States, France, Germany, Russia, China and Britain want Iran to scale back its nuclear program. Iran says it is entirely peaceful and wants sanctions lifted quickly.

Iran and world powers — the United States, France, Germany, Britain, Russia and China — are set to resume nuclear talks in mid-September on the sidelines of the annual UN General Assembly Meeting in New York.

The parties failed to meet an earlier self-imposed 20 July deadline for a comprehensive accord and decided to prolong the talks until 24 November.—*Reuters*

Five Lebanese soldiers freed by al-Qaeda affiliate

BEIRUT, 31 Aug — The Lebanese army said it received on Sunday four soldiers and one Internal Security Forces (ISF) member who were released by the al-Qaeda linked group Al-Nusra Front late Saturday.

The Army Command Guidance Directorate said in a statement that the Intelligence Department of the Lebanese armed forces received in the morning the four soldiers and one ISF member who went missing in Aarsal battles early this month.

Late Saturday, the five were handed over from the al-Nusra Front to Sheikh Mustafa al-Hujeiri who told local LBCI TV that the release of the soldiers was for nothing in return, adding that the main demand of the gunmen is to make "Hezbollah withdraw from Syria." Al-Hujeiri relayed a message from the kidnappers as saying that "the fight is not with the Sunnis or Christians or Druze in Lebanon, but it is only with Hezbollah who waged a war against us in Syria."

Al-Hujeiri added that he is not in contact with the Islamic State (IS) gunmen who are believed to have kidnapped an unknown number of Lebanese soldiers.

Following five days of the clashes between the Lebanese army and Syrian Islamist gunmen in the Lebanese town of Aarsal on the Syrian border, the army said at least 18 soldiers were killed, 86 others injured and at least 20 went missing.

Xinhua

Colombian army kills four FARC rebels

BOGOTA, 31 Aug — At least four rebels were killed by Colombian army in a combat in northern Bolivar department, authorities said on Saturday.

"Four terrorists were killed during clashes. Other four were captured, two of them injured," Colombia's military general command said in a statement, adding the operation was to prevent the Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia (FARC) from attacking

people in Montes de Maria of Bolivar department. Another battle occurred in a rural area near Santa Rosa municipality in Bolivar department, according to the general commander of the armed forces, Juan Pablo Rodriguez. The result of this battle is still unclear.

Colombian President Juan Manuel Santos' government began peace talks with the FARC, the country's largest rebel group, in December 2012 in Cuba.

The Colombian government and the FARC have reached deals on three points of the six-point peace agenda: eliminating illicit drug trafficking, land reforms and political engagement with rebel groups.

The remaining points include disarmament and the mechanism by which the final peace deal will be adopted. The latest round of peace talks are underway in Cuba.—*Xinhua*

WORLD

US planes strike militants near Iraq's Amreli, airdrop aid

BAGHDAD/WASHINGTON, 31 Aug — The United States carried out air strikes on Saturday against Islamic State fighters near the besieged Shi'ite town of Amerli in northern Iraq and airdropped humanitarian aid to civilians trapped there, the Pentagon said.

over a hundred bundles of emergency supplies and more aid was dropped from British, French and Australian planes, officials said, signaling headway in Obama's efforts to draw allies into the fight against Islamic State.

Iraqi army and Kurd-

fend off attacks by Islamic State fighters, who regard the town's majority Shi'ite Turkmen population as apostates. More than 15,000 people remain trapped inside.

"At the request of the government of Iraq, the United States military today airdropped humanitarian aid to the town of Amerli, home to thousands of Shia Turkmen who have been cut off from receiving food, water, and medical supplies for two months by ISIL," Rear Admiral John Kirby, the Pentagon press secretary, said, using an alternative name for Islamic State. "In conjunction with this airdrop, US aircraft conducted coordinated air strikes against nearby ISIL terrorists in order to support this humanitarian assistance operation," he said, adding that a key objective was to prevent a militant attack on civilians in the town.

He said the operations would be "limited in their scope and duration" in or-



A child cries in a military helicopter after being evacuated by Iraqi forces from Amerli, north of Baghdad on 29 Aug, 2014. —REUTERS

President Barack Obama authorized the new military action, broadening US operations in Iraq amid an international outcry over the threat to Amerli's mostly ethnic Turkmen population.

ish forces closed in on Islamic State fighters on Saturday in a push to break the Sunni militants' siege of Amerli, which has been surrounded by the militants for more than two months.

Armed residents of Amerli have managed to



Kurdish Peshmerga fighters guard their position on the Jalawla front line in the northeastern district of Baquba near the city of Khanaqin on 29 Aug, 2014. — REUTERS

der to protect Amerli's population.

Warplanes hit three Humvee patrol vehicles, a tank and an armed vehicle held by militants in addition to a checkpoint controlled by the group, according to the military's Central Command, which

runs US operations in the Middle East. "All aircraft safely exited the area," it said in a statement.

When Obama ordered the first air strikes and air drops in Iraq earlier this month, he justified the military operation in part to prevent a humanitarian ca-

tastrophe for thousands of ethnic Yazidis trapped by Islamic State militants on Sinjar mountain in northern Iraq.

In mid-August, he declared that the militant siege there had been broken.

Reuters

Islamic State militants behead captive Lebanese soldier

BEIRUT, 31 Aug — Islamic State militants beheaded a Lebanese soldier who was one of 19 captured by hardline Syrian Islamists when they seized a Lebanese border town for a few days this month, a video posted on social media showed on Saturday.

The soldier, recognizable as Ali al-Sayyed, a Sunni Muslim from north

Lebanon, was shown blindfolded with his hands tied behind his back, writhing and kicking the dusty ground while a militant announces he will be killed. Another militant then beheads him.

Islamic State, which declared a "caliphate" in June in parts of Iraq and Syria under its control, has been cited as a major

security threat by Western governments since posting a video in August of the beheading of US journalist James Foley.

The Lebanese army declined to comment, but security and Islamic State sources confirmed the latest beheading.

Hours later, the group posted a second video showing nine other soldiers

begging for their lives, urging their families to take to the streets in the next three days to demand the release of Islamist prisoners as a condition to escape al-Sayyed's fate.

Earlier this month, several Syrian groups, including Islamic State and Nusra Front battled the Lebanese army after the arrest of rebel commander

Emad Gomaa in the border town of Aarsal. Gomaa is a Nusra commander who switched affiliation to Islamic State but remained popular among Nusra fighters.

The militants seized Aarsal for five days before withdrawing to a mountainous border region, taking the 19 captive soldiers with them.

Most of the soldiers were taken by Islamic State militants while Nusra kept a few soldiers and a number of policemen.

On Saturday, Nusra released four soldiers and a policeman, all Sunnis, a source close to the group said. The circumstances of their release were not immediately clear.

Reuters

UK's Cameron 'delighted' with new EU chief's reform pledge



Britain's Prime Minister David Cameron speaks at a news conference in Downing Street, central London on 29 Aug, 2014. — REUTERS

BRUSSELS, 31 Aug — British Prime Minister David Cameron said he was "delighted" with a promise from Polish premier Donald Tusk, newly elected to a top European Union post, to address his demands for reforming the EU to keep

Britain in the bloc.

Two months after suffering a severe and very public setback when he failed to block the appointment of another EU leader whom he judged hostile to his reform drive, Cameron was upbeat about the

choice of the Polish center-right leader as head of the European Council, the body representing the 28 EU governments.

Immediately after being appointed by EU leaders at a Brussels summit on Saturday, Tusk held out an olive branch to Britain, saying he was prepared to compromise on British concerns in order to keep the country in the EU.

"I am delighted obviously with what Donald Tusk has said about the importance of reform in the EU and addressing the concerns that Britain has in the EU and I look forward to working with him in the months and the years ahead," Cameron told reporters as he left the meeting early on Sunday.

In the face of eu-

roskeptic sentiment within his own party and the wider British electorate, Cameron has promised to renegotiate Britain's ties with the EU if he is re-elected next year, and then to put the country's continued membership of the EU to a referendum in 2017.

In June, Cameron's bid to block the nomination of former Luxembourg prime minister Jean-Claude Juncker as president of the European Commission, the EU's executive body, failed disastrously, leaving Cameron isolated among his peers. A downcast Cameron said then that the choice of Juncker, who he viewed as too federalist, was "a serious mistake" that would make it harder for him to keep Britain inside the EU.—*Reuters*

Heavy fighting in Libya's Benghazi city; airport hit

BENGHAZI, (Libya), 31 Aug — Heavy clashes broke out between the forces of a renegade general and Islamist fighters in Libya's eastern city of Benghazi on Saturday, killing at least 10 people and showering the airport with rockets, medical and military sources said.

Libya is being racked by factional violence as the armed groups which helped topple Muammar Gaddafi in 2011 turn their guns on each other in a struggle to dominate politics and the country's vast oil resources. In Benghazi, forces of retired general Khalifa Haftar have been fighting Islamist brigades including Ansar al-Sharia, blamed by Washington for an attack

on the US consulate in September 2012 in which the US ambassador was killed.

On Saturday, Islamist forces were trying to seize the Benina area, home to a civilian and military airport under the control of Haftar's forces. They have already overrun several army camps this month.

Grad rockets hit the civilian airport, military sources and residents said. At least 10 soldiers from Haftar's forces were killed and 25 wounded, a hospital medic told *Reuters*.

Western powers worry Libya will become a failed state as a weak central government cannot control the competing armed groups in a country awash with arms.—*Reuters*

PERSPECTIVES

Monday, 1 September, 2014

Time to rise to the challenge of feeding 3 billion more people

By Kyaw Thura

With the world's population estimated to increase from 7.2 billion now to 9.6 billion in 2050, world nations are facing a daunting challenge of growing enough food for 3 billion people without trashing the planet.

Farms are a major source of much-needed food around the world. With the process of urbanization developing fast, it is, however, hard for farmers to find new cultivable land. This has forced farmers to yield more agricul-

tural produce out of the existing cropland.

On the other hand, it is axiomatic that clearing more land for farming has negative impact on the environment, which can result in deforestation, one of the major causes of global warming.

A recent study by scientists from the University of Minnesota's Institute on the Environment has identified a few improvements to farms. They have come up with some broad, technologically feasible changes that can significantly improve agricultural productivity to meet global food security. According to their findings, crop yields in many areas, for example Africa, Asia, and Eastern Europe, are found to be below their potential.

One tip they proposed in their study is to boost crop yields through the use of technology and better fertilizer, thereby eliminating the need for more farmland. A second factor is concerned with growing certain crops more efficiently by

choosing crops best suited to the farmland. As a third point, they suggest systematic consumption of food, estimating that 30 to 50 percent of food is wasted due to poor preservation. According to them, food waste in the US, China and India alone can feed 413 million people.

All things considered, their suggestions bear no guarantee of global food security but are worth a try given the fact that "having something, though unsatisfactory, is better than having nothing at all".

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Due to limitation of space we are only able to publish articles that do not exceed 500 words. Should you submit a text longer than 500 words please be aware that your article will be edited.

Preparing for e-learning

By Myo Myint

Education is a catalyst in bringing multidimensional, social and economic gains to a nation. It also creates an environment conducive for further acquisition of knowledge and skills. In addition, it forms better understanding, cooperation and harmony among members of a society. As higher education institutions are often founded in or near big cities in most countries due to high cost of operation, higher education may not be accessible to everyone even though one may possess the qualifications to pursue it. Hence, ways and means have been sought to enable as many persons as possible to pursue higher education and to overcome the constraints of place, time, affordability, number and age of learners. To overcome these barriers, distance education was introduced as early as the beginning of the 20th century in some western countries using learning materials and assignments posted to students and providing feedback to students by posts when the assignments are returned to them. The learning materials which may include tapes or CDs were supplemented by teaching via radio, television and intensive courses at higher education institutions before examinations. In Myanmar, university correspondence courses were initiated by Yangon University in 1975 to ena-

ble those living in far flung areas and those in full time employment to continue with their university education. Later in 1993, Yangon University of Distance Education was established and in 1998, Mandalay University of Distance Education was founded and currently the two universities have the largest enrolment of students in Myanmar.

Worldwide, with the development of ICT, distance education universities began to explore ICT to improve quality by promoting not only better and more varied access to learning and reference materials, but also facilities for interaction among students, interaction between students and faculty, and the reach of distance education. With computers becoming accessible to a huge chunk of the population in developed countries, e-learning became a popular and convenient form for the acquisition of knowledge in these countries. Omidinia, Siavash et al in their study Review of E-Learning and ICT Infrastructure in Developing Countries (Case Study of Iran) defines e-learning as the use of Information and Communications Technology to enhance and/or support learning. They note that e-learning makes use of a wide range of tools and technologies including e-mail, internet, video streaming and virtual classrooms. Jim Scrivener in his book Learning Teaching, the Essential

Guide to English Language Teaching (3rd ed.) states that some common virtual learning environment (VLE) would include forums for students and teachers to send and read messages; the ability to attach text documents, videos, audios, presentations, etc. that students can download; a facility for students to post their work, have it marked and collate the marks in a mark book; automated exercises, activities and tests; add-ons such as wikis (e.g. allowing on-line co-created encyclopaedias) and blogs (e.g. for class diaries). He also points out that teachers are given authoring or editing rights so that they can create content and learners are given user access to be able to read, download and post messages on forums.

From the facilities mentioned above, it will be noted that on-line learning is much more than sending learning materials using e-mail. The emphasis is on providing facilities for interaction among students and between students and teachers mimicking the interaction of sharing information and discussion among students, posing questions to and receiving feedback from teachers not just in the written format but also in the audio format, etc. as found in the classroom of a conventional institution. The second important facility is the access created for students to a wide range of practice activities and references as

they will be required to do a lot of self learning. The third important feature is the facility and opportunity for students to collaborate, create and present.

Through on-line learning one can pursue certificate, diploma and undergrad and postgrad degree level courses on areas too numerous to be listed here. They also come in various forms – purely on-line, blended with in-house teaching or combined with a short period of on job training. The courses can be fee paying or students may have free access. If one has the required qualifications and ICT facilities, one can attend these courses from almost any part of the world, urban or rural, easily accessible or remote.

There is no doubt that the advantages derived from on-line learning easily outweigh the disadvantages. On-line learning is currently the answer to swiftly provide education to the masses from basic literacy to highly advanced programmes. But there are challenges both for those institutions that are eager to introduce online learning and for students eager to gain access to new knowledge and skills. Especially if our aim is not just merely to provide digestible traditional education but to provide quality education that is truly relevant to the needs of a developing country and the 21st century, then we need to question how prepared are institutions regarding financial, technological, knowledge and human resources. On the other hand, do the majority of students that the

institution concerned wish to cater to have the necessary study skills, technological skills, financial and ICT resources necessary to pursue these courses? If the answer is a resounding "Yes" then as many on-line courses as possible should be introduced swiftly. If the answer is "No" then we should start making preparations as soon as possible. We cannot prevent the birth of premature babies, but we can give second thoughts to the delivery of premature programmes. If we do not do so, we will be deviating from the path of pragmatic reform of education, the nation's chosen path.

While little harm may be caused to the introduction of on-line courses on general interest with the current ICT facilities, educators should think very carefully when it comes to providing on-line courses that concerns the interest of the bulk of society such

as initial or pre-service teacher education. Students attending courses require not just learning materials to be memorized and reproduced in exams but practical training in the classroom with real students under the supervision of human teachers. Moreover, since they will be the guardians and disseminators of moral, ethics, responsible citizenship and management of youths, it is important that these be taught through examples and repetition rather than through learning materials delivered by impassive machines.

I heartily welcome on-line learning as it will promote much needed knowledge and skills in the masses but I also welcome realistic assessment and systematic planning, especially when it concerns promotion of the quality of education of our young people.

Raising of pass rate for matriculation discussed in Thantlang Tsp

THANTLANG, 31 Aug — A workshop raising pass rate of matriculation examination was held at the hall of Basic Education High School in Thantlang of Chin State on Saturday.

School heads of BEHS and BEHS branches, township development supportive committee members and clergies of the churches participated in discussions of raising pass rate and implementation ways.

Government staff in

Thantlang Township, the township administrator and departmental officials donated cash to the fund as of 2014 for raising pass rate of matriculation examination. According to the meeting resolution, the Rural Development and Poverty Alleviation Fund spent K14.4 on hiring 12 teachers for Basic Education High School and six BEHS branches to teach the students in 2014-15 fiscal year.

Township IPRD

LOCAL NEWS

Tube-wells sunk in Myingyan District for local consumption, agricultural purpose



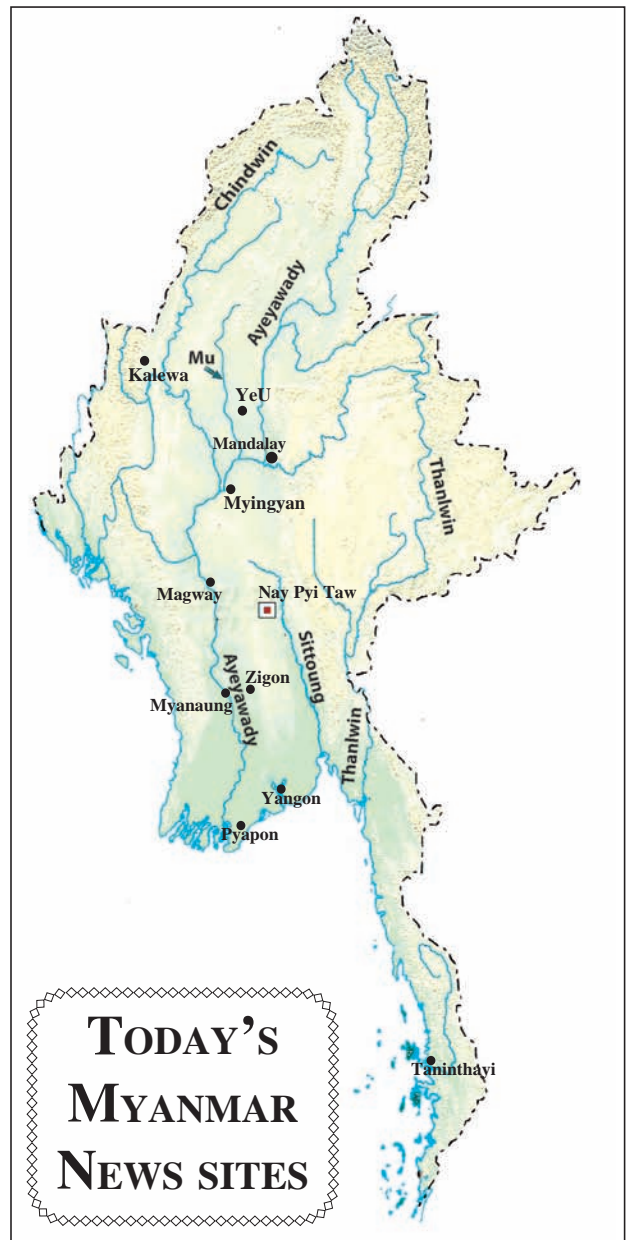
MYINGYAN, 31 Aug—The union government is sinking tube-wells in hot and dry regions of the nation one after another for consumption and agricultural purpose. At present, the Myingyan District Water Resources Utilization Department has sunk 130 tube-wells in Taungtha Township.

Deputy Commissioner of the district U Myint

Thin Aung and departmental officials met local people in Taungtha Township, urging them to systematically maintain the tube-wells for durability and efficiently use

the water. The department has sunk 233 tube-wells against 528 wells in the plans in Myingyan District.

*Zaw Min Naing
(Myingyan)*



Departmental officials focus on township development

MYINGYAN, 31 Aug—Myingyan Township General Administration Department of Mandalay Region held a meeting for development of the township at its hall on Friday.

Myingyan Township Pyithu Hluttaw representative Secretary of Banks and Monetary Affairs Development Committee U Win

Myint discussed construction of a sub-power station in Kokke Village, use of solar panels in villages, rural development and improvement of the township.

Township Administrator U Tun Thein Aung and departmental officials participated in discussions of township development.

Zaw Min Naing (Myingyan)



Traffic rules enforced in Pyapon Township

PYAPON, 31 Aug — With the aim of ensuring traffic safety for the people, eight teams of traffic rules enforcement comprising members of traffic police and departmental officials check vehicles in Pyapon of Ayeyawady Region and take action against traf-

fic rules offenders at the courts.

The teams take action against over 100 vehicles and motorcycles daily, and the courts fined K5,000 each against them up to 31 August.

*Chan Thar
(Pyapon)*

Nyaungbinkwin Bridge on Taninthayi-Mawtaung Road under construction

TANINTHAYI, 31 Aug—Bridge Construction Project Special Group-16 of Public Works is building Nyaungbinkwin RC Bridge on Taninthayi-Mawtaung road in Taninthayi Township with 90 per cent completion.

The Ministry of Construction funded K40 million in 2013-14 fiscal year and K300 million in 2014-15 fiscal year for construction of the bridge as of December 2013.

The bridge will be 360 feet long and 29 feet wide with 24 feet wide motor

way. The bridge will withstand 60 tons of load, and it is expected to finish the bridge at the end of October, according to Sub-Assistant Engineer U Tun Pe of Public Works. The local people relied on a temporary wooden bridge in the pasts for their transport. Yearly, the overflow of the creek destroyed the bridge.

Upon completion of the RC bridge, the local people including students will have easy access to eastern and western parts of Nyaungbinkwin Village.

Nanthayi Htein Win



Nigeria tightens border control to fend off Ebola

LAGOS, 31 Aug — Nigeria has procured vehicles to beef up patrols at the nation's borders in an attempt to fend off further spread of Ebola virus, officials said on Saturday.

Minister of State for Health Khalliru Alhassan told a news conference in northern state of Sokoto that the government has formed a specialized rapid response team to effectively deal with the epidemic.

The team is comprised of doctors, medical laboratory scientists and other professionals, and also includes experts from the Centers for Disease Control (CDC) of the United

States and Medicins Sans Frontiers, an international humanitarian organization.

According to the minister, a total of 13 cases of Ebola disease have been confirmed in Nigeria. Seven have been discharged, while others, including the importer of the virus, a Liberian, died.

Meanwhile, over 400 people are still under watch.

Since earlier this year, the Ebola epidemic has spread to five West African countries, namely Guinea, Liberia, Nigeria, Sierra Leone and Senegal, and claimed over 1,500 lives in the region. —Xinhua



Turkish people dressed in national costume participate in the parade marking the 92nd anniversary of the Victory Day in Ankara, capital of Turkey on 30 Aug, 2014.—XINHUA

Japan, N Korea likely held secret contact over abductions

TOKYO, 31 Aug — Foreign Ministry officials from Japan and North Korea held a secret contact, most likely in China, in recent weeks to discuss the abduction issue, a source close to bilateral ties said on Saturday.

The meeting comes as Tokyo and Pyongyang are making arrangements for the first report to come soon on a newly launched investigation into the whereabouts of Japanese nationals abducted by North Korea in the 1970s and 1980s.

While disagreements remain between the two sides over the quid pro quo expected by Pyongyang

in return for its upcoming report, there is a growing possibility the report may come in the third week of next month or later, rather than the second week Japanese officials had expected.

The officials met secretly in search of common ground but apparently failed to fix the timing for the report's release, the source said.

The investigation is being conducted by a special committee set up by North Korea.

The secret contact was held sometime between the second half of last week and the first half of this week, between Keiichi

Ono, director of the Japanese Foreign Ministry's Northeast Asia Division, and Ryu Song Il, chief of the Japanese affairs section at the North Korean Foreign Ministry, according to the source.

Junichi Ihara, head of the Asian and Oceanian Affairs Bureau of the Japanese Foreign Ministry, may have participated in the meeting, as well, the source said.

North Korea's investigation into the abductions was launched following an agreement reached between Japan and North Korea on 29 May, in which Japan promised to lift some

of its unilaterally imposed sanctions on North Korea after Pyongyang agreed to form a special committee to investigate the whereabouts of the Japanese.

The special committee was established on 4 July. In response, Japan lifted some of its unilaterally imposed sanctions against North Korea.

Attention is focused on whether the report mentions the 12 Japanese on Tokyo's official list of 17 abduction victims who remain missing, as well as those considered highly likely to have been abducted by North Korea.

Kyodo News

Suicide car bomb rocks military camp in southeast Yemen, six killed

ADEN, (Yemen), 31 Aug — A suicide car bomb explosion rocked a military camp in Shabwa province of southeastern Yemen on Sunday afternoon, leaving six soldiers dead and two others injured, a Yemeni security official said.

"A suicide bomb explosion with a booby-trapped car targeted a camp of the armed forces in Gul-Raida region of Shabwa province, killing six soldiers and injuring two others," the local security official said on condition of anonymity.

He said the suicide terrorist attack that targeted the army camp coincided with other armed attacks and shootings on two military checkpoints in the same region.

A residence, who said on condition of anonymity, told Xinhua via cell phone that he heard large explosions and saw a big smoke near the military base, but he did not mention the casualties.

"One of the al-Qaeda terrorists detonated his explosive-borne vehicle at the main gate of the military camp enabling other terrorists to enter the camp and began firing," an army commander said.

Xinhua

Macau 're-elects' new leader as authorities stifle democratic rumblings



Macau Chief Executive Fernando Chui

HONG KONG, 31 Aug — Macau, the world's largest gambling hub, re-elected its leader and sole candidate Fernando Chui on Sunday, a widely expected result after the pro-China government stifled an unofficial referendum on democracy.

Chui was returned to office by a select panel of 400 largely pro-China loyalists in the tiny but wealthy former Portuguese colony. Macau's leaders have taken a much harder

line than in neighbouring Hong Kong, where pro-democracy activists have been struggling for universal suffrage.

The election in Macau coincides with a meeting of China's parliament that is expected to limit 2017 elections for Hong Kong's leader to a handful of candidates, a move likely to escalate plans by pro-democracy activists to blockade the city's Central business district. Activists in Macau have still made un-

precedented moves to have their voices heard, trying to follow in the footsteps of its fellow special administrative region Hong Kong by launching an unofficial democracy poll to coincide with Chui's re-election.

However, authorities moved quickly to quell the informal survey that asked whether residents have confidence in Chui and whether they support universal suffrage. Police arrested five people for allegedly breaching privacy laws,

charged one of the leaders with aggravated disobedience and shut down polling booths on Monday.

Despite those moves, close to 9,000 people had voted in the unofficial referendum by midday on Sunday. While the pro-democracy movement has grown steadily in Hong Kong since it was handed back to China in 1997, calls for change in largely apolitical Macau have been slower. However, residents have become more vocal as

Macau's average per capita income soared above that of Switzerland.

More than 20,000 people took to the streets in May to protest against perceived inequalities and worsening quality of life.

Chui, who belongs to one of Macau's most prominent families, starts his new five-year term at a time when gambling revenue growth has fallen dramatically to lows not seen since 2009.

Reuters

SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY

Microsoft will not hand over overseas email, despite order

NEW YORK, 31 Aug — A judge on Friday lifted a suspension on her order directing Microsoft Corp (MSFT.O) to turn over a customer's emails stored overseas to US prosecutors, but the software company said it would not release any emails while it appeals the ruling.

Chief Judge Loretta Preska of the US District Court in Manhattan had on 31 July upheld a magistrate judge's ruling on the emails, which have been held in a data center in Ireland.

That prospect had drawn concern from technology companies — fearful of losing revenue from foreign customers worried that US law enforcement might win broad power to seize their data.

Microsoft in particular was stung by revelations last year by former National Security Agency contractor Edward Snowden and has been at pains to prove to customers that it does not al-

low the US government unchallenged access to personal data on its servers.

Preska had delayed enforcement of the government's search warrant so Microsoft could appeal.

But prosecutors later said that because her order was not a "final, appealable order" and because Microsoft had yet to be held in contempt, there was no legal reason to enforce the stay.

Preska agreed, saying her order "merely confirmed the government's temporary forbearing of its right to stay enforcement of the order it secured."

She added that "the fact the court has not closed this case cuts against Microsoft's argument" that her order was final and appealable.

The judge ordered both sides to advise by 5 September how to proceed. However, Microsoft is still refusing to

comply with the judge's order, pending attempts to overturn it.

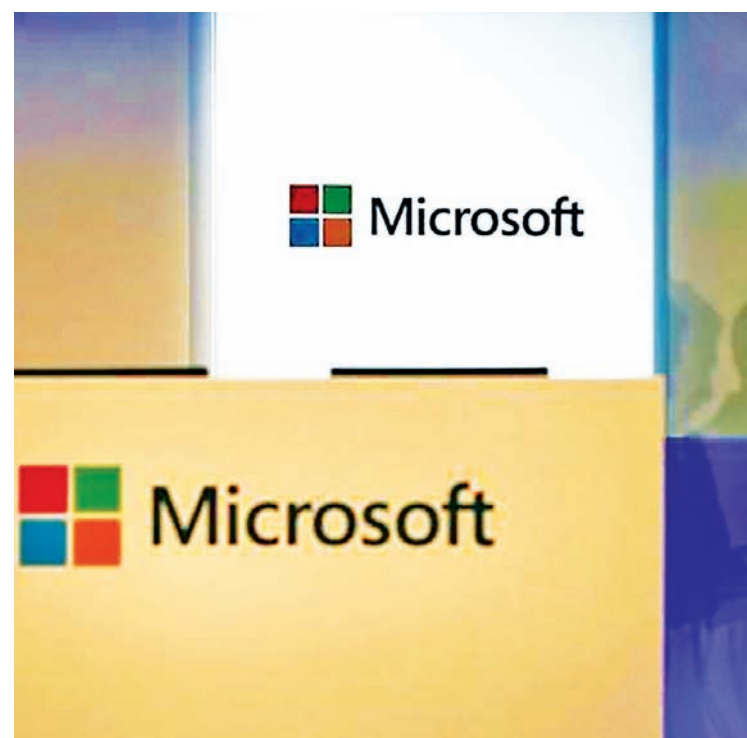
"Microsoft will not be turning over the email and plans to appeal," a Microsoft spokesperson told *Reuters*. "Everyone agrees this case can and will proceed to the appeals court. This is simply about finding the appropriate procedure for that to happen."

The case appeared to be the first in which a corporation has challenged a US search warrant seeking data held abroad.

AT&T Inc (T.N), Apple Inc (AAPL.O), Cisco Systems Inc (CSCO.O) and Verizon Communications Inc (VZ.N) submitted briefs supporting Microsoft's opposition to the warrant.

The case is *In re: A Warrant to Search a Certain E-Mail Account Controlled and Maintained by Microsoft Corp*, US District Court, Southern District of New York, No 13-mj-02814.

Reuters



A shadow of a man using his mobile phone is cast near Microsoft logo at the 2014 Computex exhibition in Taipei on 4 June, 2014.

REUTERS

Google tests airborne drones to deliver goods

SAN FRANCISCO, 31 Aug — Google Inc is developing airborne drones capable of flying on their own and delivering anything from candy to medicine, the Internet company said on Thursday.

The effort, which Google calls Project Wing, marks the company's latest expansion beyond its Web-based origins and could help Google break into lucrative markets such as commerce and package delivery, ratcheting up the competition with Amazon.com Inc.

Google, the world's largest Internet search engine, said it will take years of development to create a service with multiple vehicles flying multiple deliveries per day.

An early version of the drone, which Google showcased

in a video on its website, has a 1.5 metre-(yard)-wide wingspan and is capable of flying pre-programmed routes. "These planes have much more in common with the Google self-driving car than the remote-controlled airplanes people fly in parks on weekends," Google said on its website, referring to the company's test fleet of automobiles that use sensors and radars to navigate city streets and freeways on their own.

The drone Google showed in the video on Thursday was equipped with rotors to allow for vertical takeoff and landing, as well as a fixed wing for plane-like flying. The drone flew about 40 metres above the treeline, Google said, and dropped a package of chocolate bars to a farmer in Queensland, Australia.—*Reuters*

Boston Scientific nerve device no help in heart failure study

BARCELONA, 31 Aug — A Boston Scientific device that stimulates the vagus nerve — a superhighway connecting the brain to the rest of the body — failed to help patients with heart failure in a mid-stage clinical trial.

Vagus nerve stimulation (VNS), which involves delivering mild electrical pulses to the nerve in the neck, is already used to treat epilepsy and depression — and researchers have been looking to expand its use to other conditions.

Faiez Zannad from the University of Lorraine in France, who led the study, said the failure of the device to improve cardiac function was surprising as pre-clinical research findings had been promising. Heart failure is a serious, progressive disease in which the heart

fails to pump blood properly. It causes shortness of breath, fatigue and fluid retention, and is often fatal. Results from the US medical technology company's NECTAR-HF trial, involving 95 heart failure patients in Europe, were unveiled on Saturday at the annual meeting of the European Society of Cardiology (ESC).

Patients enrolled in the study had a VNS device implanted in their neck, near the right vagus nerve. Some of the patients had the devices switched off, while the others received regular stimulation. After six months, the study found no difference between the two groups. The result is a disappointment for Boston Scientific and Zannad said there were several possible explanations, including

the fact that a stronger electrical pulse may have been needed and it might take longer than six months to show a benefit. Boston Scientific officials were not immediately available to comment.

Cyberonics, the leading proponent of VNS in difficult-to-treat epilepsy and treatment-resistant depression, is also to present results from a clinical study in heart failure to the ESC meeting on Monday. VNS involves a pacemaker-like device the size of a small watch being surgically implanted under the skin on the patient's chest. A wire is then threaded under the skin connecting it to the vagus nerve and, when activated, the device sends electrical signals to various areas of the brain.

Reuters

Angry Birds maker Rovio names new CEO



Angry Birds products are displayed during a news conference in Hong Kong on 3 July, 2012.—REUTERS

HELSINKI, 31 Aug — Current CEO Mikael Hed, son of board chairman Kaj Hed, will join the

company's board of directors as well as take on the role of chairman at Rovio's animation studi-

os. Rantala, who is currently the CEO of Hartwall, earlier worked for 14 years for Nokia.

After scoring a global breakthrough with Angry Birds in which players use a slingshot to attack pigs who steal birds' eggs, Rovio has expanded the brand into an animated TV series and merchandising of toys and clothing.

But it has struggled to retain players and earnings halved last year due to investments in the animation business as well as stalling sales.

Rovio said several years ago it could go public in Hong Kong or New York, but has later said it was not planning an initial public offering any time soon.

Reuters

Digital Ally says camera inquiries up five-fold after Ferguson shooting

FERGUSON, 31 Aug — Digital Ally Inc forecast full-year revenue of about \$22.5 million, encouraged by a "five-fold" rise in inquiries for its wearable cameras from police departments in the aftermath of the fatal shooting in Ferguson this month.

The forecast translates into a 26.4 percent jump in revenue from \$17.8 million in 2013.

The fatal shooting of an unarmed black teenager in Ferguson, Missouri, sparked demand to hold law enforcement officials accountable and in turn fueled interest in companies such as Digital Ally and Taser International Inc.

The company's 2014 revenue forecast was first reported by USA Today on Thursday, citing Chief Executive Stanton Ross, according to a regulatory filing on Friday.

Digital Ally said on Thursday it had received its first camera order after the Ferguson incident from the Michigan police department.

The company's shares closed at \$18.66 on Friday on the Nasdaq.

Up to Friday's close, the stock had risen about 387 percent since on 8 August, the day before the shooting, while Taser's shares had risen nearly 27 percent.—*Reuters*

Man turns local aquarium into “jellyfish dream museum”

YAMAGATA, 31 Aug — A 50-year-old admirer of jellyfish has helped turn a small aquarium in Tsuruoka, Yamagata Prefecture, into a popular spot to see the gelatinous aquatic creature.

“I was absolutely charmed by the species after watching it swim so softly in the water,” Kazuya Okuizumi, deputy director of the city’s Kamo Aquarium, said. “I’m enjoying every challenge in keeping jellyfish.”

The aquarium, which is famous for exhibiting the world’s largest variety of jellyfish, reopened on 1 June under the nickname Jellyfish Dream Museum.

With a 6-meter-tall water tank housing 2,000 jellyfish, the facility attracted 93,500 visitors in the initial month and 112,200



Kazuya Okuizumi, deputy director of the municipal Kamo Aquarium in Tsuruoka, Yamagata Prefecture, northeastern Japan, and credited with a large collection of jellyfish, is shown in this file photo taken on 1 June, 2014.

KYODO NEWS

in July, much more than the pre-renovation monthly record of 66,500 marked in August last year, according to the aquarium.

“I couldn’t be happier to see visitors’ smiles again,” said Okuizumi, who has been working at the aquarium for 31 years.

A native of Tsuruoka on the Sea of Japan coast, Okuizumi loved animals and fishing as a boy. He joined the aquarium after graduating from an agricultural high school. At the time, it had a total of four workers, including Okuizumi himself.

He said he had to do everything from organizing a seal show to dish washing and parking management.

In 1997 when the aquarium was struggling with a decline in

visitors, it was noticed that a jellyfish had accidentally got into a tank for corals.

It proved an eye-catching sight for visitors, and gave Okuizumi the idea that jellyfish could be a fresh magnet to lure visitors back. It was easy to collect jellyfish in nearby waters but the problem was that they got tangled up in regular tanks. Some even got caught in the drain for water circulation.

Since the aquarium could not afford to purchase an expensive tank for jellyfish, Okuizumi spent three years creating an original tank at 10 percent of the cost.

“I tend to get immersed in anything I do,” he said. “For those three years, I dreamed over and over of completing the tank.”

He also spent more than a year developing an efficient feeding method so that even a small number of workers could manage the creatures. Okuizumi has to replace jellyfish whose bell-shaped bodies are damaged with new ones every day. “Our duty is to raise them into beautiful ones,” he said.

Kyodo News

Nikolic patron of ICS Congress

BELGRADE, 31 Aug — Serbian President Tomislav Nikolic conferred with the delegation of the International Committee of Slavists (ICS) to mark Serbia’s four-year presidency in the science organisation which will be crowned by the 16th International Congress of Slavists in Belgrade in 2018.

Welcoming Slavic experts from some ten countries, Nikolic said on Friday that he is honoured to be the patron of the forthcoming International Congress of Slavists, noting that understanding for each other and helping each other can be achieved only by respecting and observing history and tradition.

This is an opportunity for you



to see that Belgrade is a metropolis and that Serbs are a hospitable nation, to learn more about Serbia’s tradition and compare it to

your own, Nikolic said addressing the delegation.

He noted that Serbia’s chair in ICS would contribute to better

ties between Slavic countries and scientific institutions.

The chair in ICS was granted to Serbia at the 15th International Congress of Slavists in Minsk and speaking on behalf of Belarus as the previous chair in the organisation, Alexander Lukashanets expressed gratitude to Nikolic. Lukashanets presented Nikolic with the photo album from the International Congress of Slavists held in Minsk last year and a decree whereby Serbia was granted chairmanship in ICS.

ICS President Bosko Suvajdzic said that the Belgrade congress will be the crown of the Slavic science and that Serbia will be a centre of Slavic scientific research in the next four years.—*Tanjug*

Hiroshima city partially lifts evacuation advisories, orders

HIROSHIMA, 31 Aug — The Hiroshima city government on Sunday lifted evacuation advisories and orders issued for about 106,000 people in the mudslide-hit city.

The advisories and orders were lifted for the city’s Asakita Ward at 8 a.m., but those for about 44,000 others in neighbouring Asaminami Ward remain in place due to a lack of safety measures for emergencies, city government officials said.

The city office may issue evacuation advisories and orders again, depending on rainfall conditions, they said.

“A tense situation will continue for a little longer. Residents are requested to respond by gathering weather and other information,” Hiroshima Mayor Kazumi Matsui said at a news

conference.

Hisako Igarashi, a 61-year-old Asakita Ward resident who has taken refuge at a nearby elementary school, said she “was relieved” by the step. Her husband Etsuji, 64, looked forward to “sleeping in our own home” again.

The death toll from the rain-triggered mudslides that broke out 20 August has climbed to 72, with two still unaccounted for and about 1,100 people stuck in shelters following the disaster.

Kyodo News

A man bringing some fruits passes a traditional bridge made of two wires over the river in Pidie, Aceh, Indonesia, on 30 Aug, 2014. The wires bridge is the only way to cross the river. — XINHUA

23 dead in W Afghan traffic accident

HERAT, (Afghanistan), 31 Aug — At least 23 people were killed and four others wounded when a bus collided with a truck in western Afghan Herat Province on Sunday morning, sources said.

“A bus crashed with a truck head-on along Herat-Islam Qala highway at around 7:30 a.m. local time on Sunday, leaving the casu-

Fazlullah Wahidi told *Xinhua*.

Police and rescue teams rushed to the site shortly after the accident happened in the road which leads to the Islam Qala bordering town near Iran, he said.

All injured have been shifted to the nearby hospitals. There were women and children among the victims.—*Xinhua*



F-16s dispatched for unresponsive pilot of small plane near DC

WASHINGTON, 31 Aug — Two F-16 fighter jets were dispatched to check on a small plane that entered restricted airspace around Washington, DC, on Saturday, and the fighter pilots observed the person at the controls to be unconscious before the plane ran out of fuel and crashed into the Atlantic Ocean, officials said. The pilot of the Cirrus SR22 propeller plane took off from Waukesha County Airport in Wisconsin and had been destined for Manassas Regional Airport in Virginia, the Federal Aviation Administration said in a statement.

But the pilot failed to land as scheduled and remained at an altitude of about 13,000 feet as the plane crossed into restricted airspace around Washington, the US Coast Guard said in a statement. The pilot had stopped responding to radio calls.

The North American Aerospace Defence Command dispatched two F-16 fighter jets, a spokeswoman for the agency said. Their pilots got alongside the small plane and saw that the pilot appeared to be unconscious, the Coast Guard statement said.

They stayed with the plane as it continued past the coast of Virginia, ran out of fuel and crashed into the Atlantic Ocean, the statement said. The Coast Guard declined to identify the pilot pending notification of next of kin. The Coast Guard sent a cutter ship, a helicopter and an airplane to search for the wreckage and the body of the pilot, but nothing has been recovered, Coast Guard spokesman Petty Officer Nate Littlejohn said.—*Reuters*

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Weather report

FORECAST VALID UNTIL EVENING OF THE 1st September, 2014: Rain or thundershowers will be isolated in Kachin State, scattered in Sagaing, Mandalay and Magway Regions, Shan and Kayah States, fairly widespread in Bago and Yangon Regions, Chin State and widespread in the remaining Regions and States with likelihood of isolated heavy falls in Rakhine and Mon States. Degree of certainty is (100%).
STATE OF THE SEA: Squalls with moderate to rough sea are likely at times off and along Myanmar coasts. Surface wind speed in squalls may reach (30) m.p.h.

Taleban suicide bombers hit Afghan intelligence agency



Afghan security forces arrive at the site of an attack in the city of Jalalabad on 30 Aug, 2014.—REUTERS

JALALABAD, 31 Aug—Taleban suicide bombs hit an office of the Afghan intelligence agency in an eastern city on Saturday, killing six people, and insurgents shot dead another 11 in the west, in an upsurge of violence as foreign combat troops prepare to withdraw from the country.

Seven militants were also killed during several hours of heavy fighting with Afghan security forces at the Jalalabad headquarters of the National Directorate of Security

(NDS), said Ahmad Zeya Abdulzai, a spokesman for the governor of eastern Nangarhar Province near the border with Pakistan.

Abdulzai said four NDS agents and two civilians were killed when a truck and a smaller car, both loaded with explosives, were driven into the compound and a gunfight broke out between Afghan forces and the insurgents.

Reuters was not able to reach the NDS immediately for comment. The Taleban claimed responsibility

for the attack, in which dozens were wounded.

A pattern of bold offensives by militants has emerged across Afghanistan in recent weeks during the summer “fighting season.” It coincides with political deadlock in the capital, Kabul, where rival presidential candidates have failed to resolve months-long disputes over an election meant to mark the first democratic transfer of power in Afghan history.

Most foreign combat troops are due to leave by

the end of 2014 but the election dispute has meant a prolonged delay in signing a security pact with the United States governing how many troops would remain.

On Saturday, the insurgents struck in the western province of Farah, stopping a truck carrying workers to a construction site near the Iranian border and killing 11 of them. Authorities were trying to find out why the workers were targeted.

“They were innocent Afghan workers. They did not have any connection to the government, so we don’t know the reason for the attack,” said Jawad Afghan, a spokesman for the provincial governor.

As the political impasse drags on, the Taleban-led insurgency has focussed on important tactical and symbolic targets as a challenge to the Afghan security forces who are taking over from their NATO-led counterparts.

Afghan forces have struggled to fight off large numbers of insurgent fighters in provinces to the east, north and south of Kabul.

“This is part of an alarming trend across the country,” said Graeme Smith, a senior analyst at the International Crisis

Group in Kabul. Taleban offensives “are longer in duration, bigger in size and against more ambitious targets than we’ve seen previously.” In northern Kunduz Province, security forces were in a stand-off with insurgents in a weeks-long battle for control over the province that was the last Taleban stronghold before they were driven out by the US-backed Northern Alliance in 2001.

“The insurgents are better armed than us,” said Kunduz police chief Mustafa Mohseni. “They use heavy machine guns, RPGs (rocket-propelled grenades) and 82mm rockets against our forces.”

A Kunduz police spokesman said security forces were concentrated on a district just next to the provincial capital. Many Kunduz residents have fled to nearby provinces to escape the violence and some who remained show little enthusiasm for the government’s effort to hold back the insurgents.

“There is no job, no security, no life,” said Kunduz shopkeeper Sayed Malek. “We don’t care if the Taleban come back and take over the whole country. We want a peaceful life.” —Reuters

DNA test identifies motorcycle thief

TAIYUAN, 31 Aug—A DNA test on saliva left on a discarded plastic water bottle has led to the capture of a motorcycle thief in north China, local police said on Sunday.

The suspect, surnamed Wang, has been put under criminal detention by police officers in Xinjiang County of Shanxi Province on a charge of theft.

Security camera footage showed a man stealing a motorcycle from a middle school in Xinjiang at the end of July. He fled the scene but left a water bottle behind.

The DNA test helped police to track the suspect, who served two years and six months in jail three years ago for theft.

According to police, Wang confessed that he sold the motorcycle to a 25-year-old man named Li, who he met in jail, for 300 yuan (49 US dollars).

Li has also been detained. Police said Wang confessed that he was behind a series of thefts of motorcycles and electric bikes in Xinjiang County.—Xinhua

Lesotho PM says army staged coup, flees to South Africa

MASERU, 31 Aug—Lesotho’s prime minister, Thomas Thabane, on Saturday accused his country’s army of staging a coup against him and fled to neighbouring South Africa, which condemned the military’s action and called for a peaceful settlement.

Early morning gunfire was heard in Maseru, capital of the small southern African kingdom encircled by South Africa. Army units occupied police headquarters and surrounded the prime minister’s residence, residents and diplomats said.

Hours after the army’s

move, the capital was reported to be quiet, but it was not immediately clear who was running the government of the mountainous state of 2 million people.

Thabane, who in June dissolved parliament to avoid a no-confidence vote against him amid feuding in his two-year-old coalition government, said he had crossed over to South Africa because he feared for his safety.

“There was clearly an effort to launch a coup,” Thabane told Reuters, saying he was at his daughter’s home in South Africa.

“We are taking concrete steps to nip it in the bud,” he added, saying the regional Southern African Development Community (SADC) was addressing the situation.

South Africa, speaking on behalf of SADC, condemned the actions of the Lesotho military, which it said “bear the hallmarks of a coup d’etat”. It called on Lesotho’s army commander to order his units back to their barracks.

“Any unconstitutional change of government shall not be tolerated,” South African Foreign Ministry spokesman Clayson



A member of the Lesotho military looks on as he stands guard in front of an armed personnel carrier at the entrance of the army barracks in the capital Maseru on 30 Aug 2014.—REUTERS

Monyela told a news briefing in Pretoria.

Earlier, the Lesotho

Defence Force denied attempting a coup against Thabane, saying it had

moved against police elements suspected of planning to arm a political faction, an army spokesman said.

“There is nothing like that (a coup), the situation has returned to normalcy ... the military has returned to their barracks,” Major Ntlele Ntoi told Reuters. He added the military “supports the democratically elected government of the day”. Ntoi said one soldier and four police had been injured during the army action. At least one witness reported police officers being detained by soldiers.

Reuters

Miley Cyrus poses naked with bunch of stuffed animals

LOS ANGELES, 31 Aug — Songstress Miley Cyrus bared all again for a racy spread in a magazine cover. The photo shows the blue-eyed beauty laying with a bunch of stuffed animals around her, reported E!Online.

Cyrus, 21, posted the black-and-white photo on her Instagram, with little happy faces covering her modesty. “@vmagazine #rebelissue,” she captioned the picture.

Another shot featured on the cover of the V magazine continues with the same stuffed animal idea, except Cyrus’ nude

Miley Cyrus



body is partially covered in a custom blue fur Fendi bathing suit.—PTI

Justin Bieber, Selena Gomez go horse riding

LOS ANGELES, 31 Aug — On-and-off couple Justin Bieber and Selena Gomez enjoyed horse riding during a romantic break in Canada.

The 20-year-old ‘Baby’ hitmaker kept his 20.1 million followers in the fold about the trip by uploading some cowboy-style snaps along the way.

In one taken from horseback, the 22-year-old actress can be seen riding a few feet in front of Bieber who is close behind on a white stallion. In a black and white snap, the duo is seen getting close as they posed for side-by-side selfie. The shot was without a caption.—PTI



Selena Gomez and Justin Bieber

Dakota Johnson’s father upset with her ‘50 Shades’ role

LOS ANGELES, 31 Aug — Actress Dakota Johnson’s father Don earlier stated he is fine with her role in erotic-romance ‘Fifty Shades of Grey’ but according to her grandmother he is quite upset that she acted in the film.

‘Fifty Shades of Grey’, based on EL James’ novel of the same name, has a lot of intimate scenes between characters Christian Grey and Anna Steele, played by Jamie Dornan and Dakota respectively. Don is not happy with the steamy scenes, says Dakota’s grandmother Tippi Hedren, according to *The Hollywood Reporter*.

“I understand Don Johnson is very upset about her being in the film. He kind of had the same feeling that I did. I’ve seen the trailer. That’s all I have to watch,” she said.

“This is the family business. I am absolutely certain that Dakota will take a piece of material and a character, which a lot of people might imagine could be inappropriate in some ways, and turn it into something spectacular,” Don had previously said.

The movie, co-produced by EL James and directed by Sam Taylor-Johnson, is slated to release on February 13, 2015.

PTI



Dakota Johnson

LONDON, 31 Aug — Actress Reese Witherspoon channelled her famous ‘Legally Blonde’ character to show her support for a young cancer-stricken fan.

The Oscar-winning actress played dress-up for the four-year-old who is obsessed by her alter ego Elle Woods, and dedicated a photo posted on her Instagram account to the fan. Witherspoon also held up a sign in the picture, which reads, “Get better soon! #TeamWill Love Reese”.

The actress added the caption, “This is for one of the strongest little four-year-olds I can imagine. Will – I hear that you’re fighting so hard and strong against cancer and that in the hospital you’ve been watching a lot of Legally Blonde and loving it. I hope it makes you laugh!—PTI

Reese Witherspoon

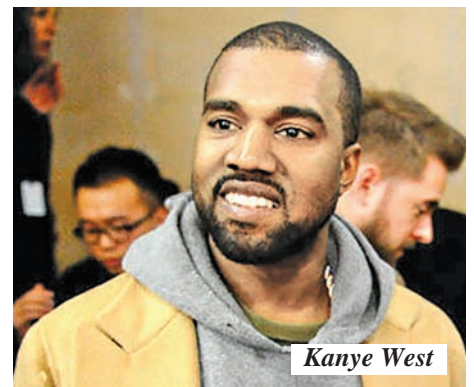
Revisits ‘Legally Blonde’ character for fan



Kanye West wants to do a comedy movie?

LOS ANGELES, 31 Aug — Rapper Kanye West reportedly wants to star in a comedy film. West, 37, who did a cameo in Will Ferrell’s comedy sequel ‘Anchorman 2: The Legend Continues’, wants to do a full-fledged role, reported *OK! Magazine*.

He’s told his agent to find him a role in a big comedy, but so far no one’s interested,” a source said. The ‘Slow Jamz’ hitmaker has also appeared on the TV show ‘Entourage’ and 2008 movie *The Love Guru*.—PTI



Kanye West

Angelina Jolie, Brad Pitt to have working honeymoon in Mediterranean



Brad Pitt and Angelina

NEW YORK, 31 Aug — Newlyweds Angelina Jolie and Brad Pitt are in Mediterranean island post their secret nuptials last week to work on their next project together. The star couple, who enjoyed a nine-year-long courtship, tied the knot in a private ceremony on 23 August, at their es-

tate in the south of France.

Jolie, 39, and Pitt, 50, have started shooting for their next film, ‘By The Sea’ in Malta and have taken their kids along with them to spend time in island Gozo, reported the *New York Post*. It is said that the couple is paying the Gozo locals to leave

the island during the two-month shoot so that they can get privacy.

“A lot of people have agreed to leave the island so that they can have privacy to film the movie,” a source said. The Jolie-Pitt family is expected to move onto a 100-foot boat in early September.—PTI

GENERAL

Men march on at US Open but more upsets in women's draw

NEW YORK, 31 Aug—World number ones Novak Djokovic and Serena Williams advanced safely to the next round of the US Open on Saturday but the women's draw saw yet another big upset as Wimbledon winner Petra Kvitová was sent packing by a 145th-ranked qualifier.

Third-seed Kvitová fell victim to 21-year-old Serbian Aleksandra Krunic, leaving only three of the top eight women's seeds still in the tournament. Simona Halep (2nd), Agnieszka Radwanska (4th), Angelique Kerber (6th) and Ana Ivanovic (8th) have already been shown the door.

While the women's draw has been ravaged by upsets the top 10 men are still in the hunt, with number three Stan Wawrinka, number five Milos Raonic, eighth seed Andy Murray and number nine Jo-Wilfried Tsonga all moving on.

The shock of the day was delivered by the little-known Krunic, who stung the unsteady Kvitová 6-4, 6-4. The diminutive Serbian, who aims to graduate from university this year with a degree in economics, was a blur as she sprinted and slid into splits while stretching for returns.

"It was an honour for me to be on the same court as Petra, who is a great champion," said Krunic, who will come up against Victoria Azarenka in the next round.

"Of course, I didn't expect to win. Of course, I hoped to. I'm very happy."

Twice Australian Open winner Azarenka secured her spot in the last 16 with a 6-1, 6-1 win over Russian Elena Vesnina.

Eugenie Bouchard, a semi-finalist in the previous three slams, including a runner-up finish at Wimbledon, had to fight to keep from joining the list of upsets, the seventh-seeded Canadian holding her

third round, while Nicole Gibbs and Varvara Lepchenko also made third-round exits, leaving home fans pinning their hopes on Williams heading into the second week.

Five-time US Open champion Williams played her part in the American demise, dispatching three of her compatriots in rap-



Serena Williams of the US celebrates a point against compatriot Varvara Lepchenko during their match at the 2014 US Open tennis tournament in New York on 30 Aug, 2014.—REUTERS

nerve to earn a 6-2, 7-6(2), 6-4 win over Czech Barbora Záhlová Strycová.

Williams is the last American standing at the US Open after the remaining home-grown hopefuls said goodbye to Flushing Meadows on Saturday.

A total of 29 Americans (12 men, 17 women) started the year's final grand slam on Monday and by the time the gates to the US National Tennis Centre closed on Saturday only the world number one was still in the hunt for a singles title. The last two hopes of the men's draw, 13th seed John Isner and Sam Querrey, both bowed out in the

id succession. After dismissing Taylor Townsend in the opening round and Vania King in the second, Williams chased the 52nd ranked Lepchenko with a 6-3, 6-3 victory. Williams, who has failed to reach the quarter-finals of any of the previous three grand slams this year, was just happy not to be one of the US casualties.

"I've been a casualty this whole year at grand slams," said Williams, who will next face Kaia Kanepi of Estonia, a 7-5, 6-0 upset winner over 15th seed Carla Suarez Navarro. "I'm just hoping to keep staying in there."

"I just treat every round as if it's your last. Do the best that I can. Just stay positive, you know, because I want to continue to do the best I can."

Djokovic, a US Open finalist the last four years and winner in 2011, has also done his part to spoil America's grand slam party. The Serb squashed another American hope on Saturday, pounding Querrey 6-3, 6-2, 6-2 to reach the fourth round for the eighth straight year while improving his record to a perfect 8-0 when facing US opponents at Flushing Meadows. Isner bombarded Philipp Kohlschreiber with 42 aces and never lost his serve but still dropped a 7-6(4), 4-6, 7-6(2), 7-6(4) decision to the German.

Briton Murray, the 2012 Open champion and 2013 Wimbledon winner, double-faulted to send his match to a fourth set, then swiftly took charge in a 6-1, 7-5, 4-6, 6-2 win over Russian Andrey Kuznetsov.

That set up a clash against Tsonga, a 6-4, 6-4, 6-4 winner against Pablo Carreno Busta of Spain.

Raonic won three tie-breakers in a straight-sets win against Dominican Victor Estrella Burgos to set up a fourth-round duel with Japanese 10th seed Kei Nishikori, who beat 23rd seed Leonardo Mayer of Argentina in straight sets.

Australian Open winner Wawrinka was given a walkover into the fourth round when Blaz Kavcic of Slovenia defaulted because of a right foot injury.

Reuters

MYANMAR TV

(1-9-2014, Monday)

- 6:00 am**
* Paritta by Venerable Mingun Sayadaw
- 6:45 am**
* The Biography of Kyaungban Tawya Sayadaw (Budalin)
- 7:00 am**
* News/Weather Report
- 7:20 am**
* People Talks
- 8:30 am**
* Documentary (ASEAN)
- 9:00 am**
* News/ International News
- 9:30 am**
* The Nine Precepts
- 11:25 am**
* Dhamma Puza Song
- 12:25 pm**
* Myanmar Movie
- 2:45 pm**
* Musical Programme
- 3:00 pm**
* News
- 3:35 pm**
* Instrumental Music
- 4:15 pm**
* Cute Little Dancers
- 4:25 pm**
* University of Distance Education (TV Lectures) -Second Years (Economic)
- 5:00 pm**
* News
- 5:30 pm**
* TV Drama Series
- 6:00 pm**
* News/Weather Report
- 6:20 pm**
* Traditional Boxing
- 7:20 pm**
* TV Drama Series
- 8:00 pm**
* News/ International News/ Weather Report
- 8:35 pm**
* Documentary
- 8:45 pm**
* People Talks
- 9:00 pm**
* News
- 9:30 pm**
* Talk on Old Film
* Hit Songs of Stars
* Pyi Thu Ni Ti

MYANMAR INTERNATIONAL

(1-9-14 07:00 am~
2-9-14 07:00 am) MST

- * Local News
- * Tapestry; A Genuine Myanmar Handicraft
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- * Local News
- * A Short Trip To Upper Myanmar Sagaing, Kawlin
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Sharapova and Wozniacki to clash in US Open fourth round



NEW YORK, 31 Aug — Another top 10 seed in the US Open women's draw is set to fall on Sunday when Maria Sharapova (fifth) faces Caroline Wozniacki (10th) on centre court in the fourth round.

Roger Federer then faces unseeded Spaniard Marcel Granollers in the third round to cap daytime play on Arthur Ashe Stadium.

Maria Sharapova (RUS) hits to Sabine Lisicki (GER) on day five of the 2014 US Open tennis tournament at USTA Billie Jean King National Tennis Centre.—REUTERS

Sharapova and Wozniacki barely raised a sweat as they breezed through their third-round matches.

Russian Sharapova, a five-time grand slam champion who won the French Open in June, has a 5-2 head-to-head edge against Wozniacki, but both of the Dane's victories came on hard-court surfaces.

Sharapova won the 2006 US Open while Wozniacki got to the 2009 final before losing to Kim Clijsters.

Seeds are now in short supply in the women's draw, with only five of the top 10 left in the tournament.

Federer had his hands full at times in his third-round match against big-serving Australian Sam Groth but Granollers will present a different kind of challenge. The Spaniard, whose best results this year have come on clay, won a five-setter against Ivo Karlovic in the second round, overcoming 31 aces by the Croatian. In clashes between seeded players away from centre court, Gael Monfils (20th) takes on Richard Gasquet (12th) in an all-French showdown, while Croatian Marin Cilic (14th) faces South African Kevin Anderson (18th).

Reuters

Chelsea hit Everton for six as Man City lose at home

LONDON, 31 Aug — It was a day of role reversal as Jose Mourinho's often cautious Chelsea thumped Everton 6-3 in a thriller on Saturday while champions Manchester City's attacking talents were blunted in a shock 1-0 home defeat by Stoke City.

New signing Diego Costa was on target twice, scoring for the third Premier League game in a row, as Chelsea produced a swashbuckling performance to overwhelm Everton at Goodison Park.

"It was wonderful for everyone at the stadium and people watching television around the world but not for me," Mourinho told the BBC. "We cannot make so many defensive mistakes.

"We want to improve as a team by keeping our defensive strength and quality and improving in other areas. Today we showed we are improving in other areas but not keeping the balance in defence."

Manchester City dropped their first points of the season when Mame Biram Diouf scored a superb individual goal to silence the home fans who have become used to seeing one-sided romps at the Etihad Stadium.

It was also another miserable day for Manchester United, their frustrations continuing after a 0-0 draw at promoted Burnley with British record signing Angel Di Maria unable to spark an improvement in their fortunes. Swansea City's excellent start to the season continued as they swept



Manchester City's Sergio Aguero (R) is challenged by Stoke City's Marc Wilson during their English Premier League soccer match at the Etihad stadium in Manchester, northern England on 30 Aug, 2014.

REUTERS

aside West Bromwich Albion 3-0 and they are level on a maximum nine points with Chelsea at the top of the fledgling table.

Southampton came from behind to beat West Ham United 3-1 while Crystal Palace, playing their first game under new manager Neil Warnock, scored through on-loan Wilfried Zaha in the fifth minute of stoppage time to grab a 3-3 draw at Newcastle United.

Queens Park Rangers beat Sunderland 1-0 to collect their first win since gaining promotion while the goals flowed for west London rivals Chelsea in a dynamic display by the normally pragmatic and defensively-sound Blues. Everton were caught cold as Costa put the visitors ahead after 35 seconds and

Branislav Ivanovic scored two minutes later, incensing the hosts who felt he had strayed offside.

The home side hit back seconds before half-time when Kevin Mirallas powered a header past keeper Thibaut Courtois but a Seamus Coleman own goal, after an excellent dribble by Eden Hazard, restored Chelsea's cushion.

It then had the feel of a basketball match as Steven Naismith's effort gave Everton hope before Nemanja Matic replied with his first goal for Chelsea.

Samuel Eto'o scored on his debut for the hosts, against his former club, only to see Ramires and Costa complete the rout for the visitors.

Games at Manchester City have frequently resembled carefully scripted

affairs with their glittering array of footballers showering the supporters with goals and entertainment.

Both were in short supply against a rugged and resilient Stoke who scored 13 minutes into the second half when Senegal international Diouf raced 60 metres before beating keeper Joe Hart.

It was only the second time in 71 games that Manchester City, who were ruthless in Monday's 3-1 win over Liverpool, had failed to score at home and it ended a run of seven consecutive league wins stretching back to last season's title triumph.

"It's a surprising defeat because we don't expect to lose against Stoke but these games sometimes happen," said manager Manuel Pellegrini. "We were not very creative, we did not find the spaces and that is credit to Stoke." There was more gloom for manager Louis van Gaal as Manchester United, who were embarrassed 4-0 in the League Cup by third tier MK Dons on Tuesday, again looked uncomfortable with their new three centre back system against Burnley. With cameras panning to former boss Alex Ferguson yawning in the stands, questions are already being asked of Van Gaal who is struggling to implement his playing style and scrambling to recruit players before the transfer window shuts on Monday.

"The progress is there," the Dutchman told BT Sport, "but ... a club like Manchester United has to win. We have two points

from nine and that's disappointing."

Di Maria, signed from Real Madrid for 59.7 million pounds on Tuesday, showed encouraging flashes in a 70-minute debut but United generally looked short of attacking ideas.

The Argentina winger was United's most dangerous player in the first half and the architect of their best chance with a searching long ball that found Robin van Persie who could not beat Burnley keeper Tom Heaton.

Swansea, who had beaten Manchester United and Burnley in their opening two games, completed a comfortable win over West Brom.

Nathan Dyer rounded the keeper and slotted the ball into an empty net after two minutes before Wayne Routledge volleyed

home beautifully midway through the first half.

Dyer then stroked home a Gylfi Sigurdsson pass to complete the scoring for Swansea.

Newcastle thought they had suppressed a spirited Palace when Mike Williamson put them 3-2 ahead in the 88th minute but Zaha, returning from Manchester United for a second spell at the club, levelled at the end.

West Ham paraded loan signing Alex Song before kickoff and took the lead against Southampton when Mark Noble struck with a deflected shot after 27 minutes.

Morgan Schneiderlin then scored twice for Saints and Graziano Pelle added a third to hand manager Ronald Koeman his first Premier League win.

Reuters

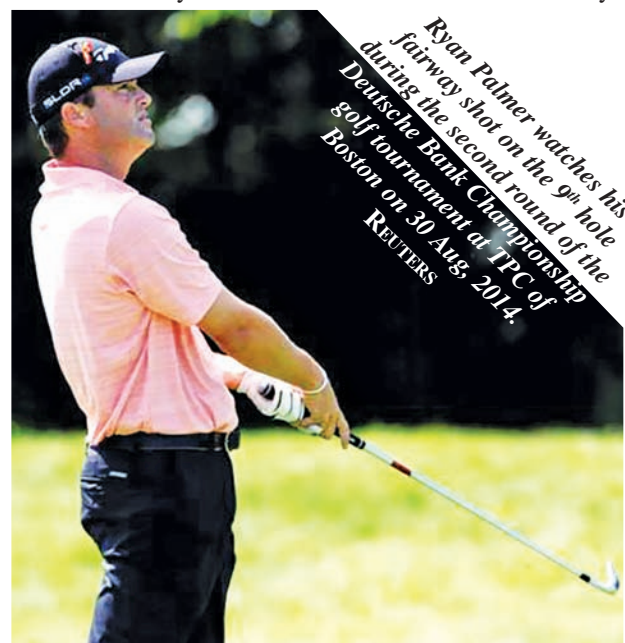


Manchester United's Angel Di Maria (top) is challenged by Burnley's Dean Marney during their English Premier League soccer match at Turf Moor in Burnley, northern England on 30 Aug, 2014.—REUTERS

Day and Palmer share halfway lead at Deutsche Bank

BOSTON, 31 Aug— Australian Jason Day continued his sizzling form to tie American Ryan Palmer

for the lead after the second round of the Deutsche Bank Championship in Norton, Massachusetts on Saturday.



Ryan Palmer watches his fairway shot on the 9th hole during the second round of the Deutsche Bank Championship golf tournament at TPC of Boston on 30 Aug, 2014.

REUTERS

Despite an unexpected bogey on his final hole, Day carded a three-under-par 68 in fluctuating afternoon winds while Palmer shot a 71 in the morning at the TPC Boston.

They finished level at eight-under 134, one stroke ahead of Americans Matt Kuchar (66) and Billy Horschel (66) on a tightly-bunched leaderboard.

World number one Rory McIlroy, slowed by a double-bogey at the par-four 14th where his approach shot bounded 30 yards over the green into a hazard, fired a 69 to trail the leaders by five shots.

Day, the world number seven whose quest this year to win a first major title was ruined by a thumb injury,

maintained the red-hot form he displayed last week to tie for second in the first of the PGA Tour's four FedExCup playoff events.

"To be in contention last week and (again) this week goes to show the hard work I've put in the last four or five weeks is definitely paying off," Day told reporters.

Day's round was a tale of two halves. He was five under on the front nine but two over coming home as the swirling wind made it difficult to judge club selection. The Australian had visions of a birdie at the par-five 18th when he had an iron in his hands for his second shot, only to drop a stroke after firing his approach over the green and

taking four more shots to hole out.

"I made the front nine look very easy today (and) made the back nine look very hard, but overall I'm very happy with how I've played the last couple of days," Day said.

Palmer, meanwhile, says his goal over the final two rounds was to play well enough to "make it hard on Tom Watson".

He was referring to US Ryder Cup captain Watson, who on Tuesday will announce his three wildcard selections to complete the 12-man team to take on holders Europe at Gleneagles in Scotland next month.

"I'm proud of the way I hung in today. I had to grind

it out," said Palmer. "It could have got away pretty fast (but I) stayed patient, stayed calm and salvaged even par."

Eighty players made the cut, which fell at three-over 145, and several Americans with hopes of earning a late Ryder Cup spot bowed out early, including Brendon Todd, Kevin Na and 2012 FedExCup champion Brandt Snedeker.

The top 70 players on the FedExCup points list after the Deutsche Bank Championship advance to next week's BMW Championship in Englewood, Colorado where the leading 30 will qualify for the 11-14 September Tour Championship finale in Atlanta.

Reuters