

Upper House Speaker says ignorance of the law is no excuse

NAY PYI TAW, 13 Sept—The Amyotha Hluttaw (Upper House) organized a workshop on development of news media in Myanmar here on Saturday, with an address by Speaker U Khin Aung Myint, sources said.

Upper House Speaker U Khin Aung Myint said that the people will judge representatives at parliament on their effort, virtue and honesty, adding that the freedom of media will grow in degree in line with democratic norms.

The media, as a fourth pillar of the State, is responsible for ensuring that 'good governance and clean government' is in place, quoting Guardian U Sein Win, a late veteran journalist, as saying that four pillars act like four legs of a table not only because there will not be stability in the country if the media pillar is longer than the other three but also be-



Amyotha Hluttaw Speaker U Khin Aung Myint says media, as a fourth pillar of the State, is responsible for ensuring 'good governance and clean government'.—MNA

cause if the executive pillar is longer, it will lead to tyranny.

Speaking of investigative journalism, he suggested that media persons familiar-

ize themselves with the law to make sure that their news reporting benefits nationals

rather than others, stressing that ignorance of the law is no excuse.—MNA

Chinese rescue team lands in Myanmar to reinforce search for missing two mountaineers on Mt. Khakaborazi



A nine-member team from China's Blue Sky Rescue arrived at Yangon International Airport before leaving for Putao to help search for two Myanmar climbers who went missing after reaching the summit of Mt. Khakaborazi, Southeast Asia's tallest peak.—PHOTO: YE MYINT

By Ye Myint

YANGON, 13 Aug—A nine-member Blue Sky Rescue team from China arrived at Yangon International Airport on Saturday on a short rest before flying

to Putao to join the search for two Myanmar climbers who lost contact with the rest of their Mt. Khakaborazi expedition team more than 10 days ago.

"We are keen on starting the rescue works for

the missing pair", said An Shaohua who leads the team from BSR, the largest civilian rescue organization in China. "We brought mountaineering equipment with us as scaling a very high mountain needs a lot of

specialized gear", the team leader said, adding his team has experienced climbers who have scaled mountains similar to Mt. Khakaborazi, considered Southeast Asia's highest peak.

(See page 2)

Japan technology key to turning Myanmar into rice exporter

By Ko Hirano

TOKYO, 13 Sept—Myanmar agricultural experts have expressed amazement by a high level of fertilizer

produced in Japan, saying that if Myanmar farmers could afford to use such fertilizer, rather than the one they currently use, they (See page 2)



Supplied photo shows Myanmar agriculture experts watching a demonstration of an innovative irrigation system at the National Institute for Rural Engineering in Tsukuba, Ibaraki Prefecture, on Aug. 20, 2014. —(PHOTO COURTESY OF THE ASIAN PRODUCTIVITY ORGANIZATION) (KYODO)

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Myanmar Red Cross Society celebrates World First Aid Day 2014



World First Aid Day 2014 is marked with the aim of expanding life-saving skills—MNA

NAY PYI TAW, 13 Sept — World First Aid Day 2014 was celebrated at the headquarters of Myanmar Red Cross Society in Nay Pyi Taw on Saturday, along with a ceremony to honour those who were awarded in First Aid skill competitions.

In his speech, Deputy Minister for Health Dr Win

Myint called for expansion of life-saving skills for everyone, calling on the people to know about the first aid.

He noted that Myanmar Red Cross Society is widely acknowledged as an organization that has made a record of reliability since its establishment.

He called on RCS members to make strenuous efforts in humanitarian works of the organization.

Next, the deputy minister and party opened the launching ceremony of First Aid Mobile Application software. Officials, then, presented awards to region/state Red Cross Societies. The theme for World First Aid Day 2014 is: "First Aid Heroes in Daily Emergencies and Disasters".

MNA

Quality groundnut plantations introduced to local farmers

CHAUNGU, 13 Sept—The field day of Hsinpadetha-11 quality groundnut plantation of farmer U Aung San Win was held in Ngashan Village-tract in ChaungU Township of Sagaing Region on Friday.

Head of Township Agriculture Department Daw Than Hla explained characteristics of Hsinpadetha-11 groundnut and time of spraying the plantations.

On requests of local farmers, the Township Agriculture Department will



distribute quality groundnut seeds to the local farmers in time.—Township

IPRD (ChaungU)

Japan technology key to turning...

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could significantly increase rice output and produce rice of higher quality.

When the experts watched fertilizer manufacturing process during a visit Aug. 25 to a plant in Chiba Prefecture of Kakakura Chikkarin Co. as part of a study mission to Japan, they voiced hope that Japan will build plants in Myanmar and provide farmers with effective fertilizer.

Along with richer fertilizer, the introduction of advanced rice milling, storage and postharvest technology, as well as the expansion of irrigation systems are key to boosting competitiveness in Myanmar's farm sector in its

quest to become a major rice exporting country like neighboring Thailand and Vietnam, they said.

"We need technology. For example, we can grow rice twice and even three times a year if irrigation facility is available for more farmers," Myo Kywe, vice rector at Yezin Agricultural University in Nay Pyi Taw, said in Tokyo after wrapping up the weeklong mission Aug. 26.

Myanmar rice exports are estimated to total 1.30 million tons in 2014, up from 1.16 million tons in 2013, according to the U.S. Department of Agriculture. But the figures lag behind Myanmar's target of exporting 4 million tons of rice in 2020.

Myanmar's rice is exported mainly to comparably low-end markets such as Africa, Bangladesh, China and India.

"But farmers in our country cannot afford to invest," Myo Kywe said. "The government needs to give them incentives such as subsidies, machinery and fertilizer. We would like countries like Japan and foreign investors to help us develop the agriculture sector, as well."

During the mission, 19 Myanmar officials and agricultural industry leaders held meetings with Japanese experts on agricultural technology and toured the Tsukuba plant of farm equipment manufacturer Kubota Corp., and Satake Corp., a rice processing equipment maker in Hiro-

ပြည်သူ့အသံ	လွှတ်တော်အသံ
People's Voice	Hluttaw's(Parliament's)Voice
ပြည်သူ့စာနွဲ့	လွှတ်တော်စာနွဲ့
People's Will	Hluttaw's(Parliament's)Will
ပြည်သူ့တိုးတက်မှုလုပ်ငန်း	လွှတ်တော်ကတော်ဆောင်ရွက်
People's Expectation	Hluttaw's(Parliament's)Implementation

Chinese rescue team lands in

(from page 1)

"It is impossible to say definitely how much time it will take to conduct the rescue mission until knowing the situation on the ground where the incident happened", An told the media. More members of the BSR

Students join extempore talk, poem recitation contest

MYITTA, 13 Sept—A ceremony to kick off the Extempore Talk and Reciting Poems Contest in English was held at the hall of Basic Education High School in Myitta of Dawei District in Taninthayi Region on Thursday.

Headmistress Daw Cho Cho explained the purpose of holding the contest. A total of 20 students from basic education primary, middle and high school students from Myitta BEHS participated in the contest. It was attended by about 150 departmental officials, members of the School Board of Trustees and students.

Myitta IPRD

rescue team will join the search effort if the mission is considered beyond the scope of nine-member team alone, he added.

"We will try our best to rescue the missing mountaineers", he said, expressing optimism they will find the missing men who failed to return to a base camp at the foot of the mountain on Tuesday. Six other climbers reached base camp as planned. Shortly after arrival at the airport, the BSR team left for Putao in Kachin State to cooperate with local rescue teams at a remote outpost in Pannandin sub-township.

On hearing the news about the disappearance of two mountaineers, we began at once our humanitarian rescue mission in which U

Tay Za, patron of the Htoo Foundation, and climbers who are trained to scale Mt. Everest are involved, U Phyo Ko Ko Thet of the Htoo Foundation told The New Light of Myanmar.

He said the Invitation of Nature Foundation organized the eight-member team for the first ascent of Mt. Khakaborazi by an all-Myanmar squad in the 50-year history of Universities Hiking and Mountaineering Association, adding that the two missing climbers— team leader Aung Myint Myat, 32, and team manger Wai Yan Min Thu, 28, were the only climbers to reach the summit. The Mt. Khakaborazi expedition set off from Putao on 31 July and the missing pair reached the summit on 31st August.

NLM



An Shaohua who leads the rescue team from BSR, answers questions raised by local media at Yangon International Airport.—PHOTO: YE MYINT

shima Prefecture, among other institutions, to learn advanced technology and innovation.

The mission was funded by the Japanese government and organized by the Asian Productivity Organization, a Tokyo-based regional development body that groups 20 economies.

Mitsuo Nakamura, a program officer at the Agriculture Department of the APO, hailed the Myanmar experts' eagerness to learn from Japan and said most of the Japanese companies and research institutions they visited showed interest in conducting research and business in an emerging, yet untapped market in Myanmar.

As rice production is a source of livelihoods for about 70 percent of My-

anmar's population, an increase in rice exports and farmers' income is likely to help reduce poverty in the country, whose per-capita gross domestic product is the lowest among the Association of Southeast Asian Nations.

In the latest step to help Myanmar boost rice output, the Japanese government on Sept. 5 offered up to 14.87 billion yen in low-interest loans for an irrigation project in the Bago region, north of Yangon.

Japanese officials called for increased government-private sector tie-ups in raising competitiveness in Myanmar's rice industry, saying official development assistance alone is not sufficient to achieve such a goal.

Citing the need to

modernize Myanmar's milling sector, which operates with obsolete processing units that cause about 15 percent to 20 percent losses in quality and quantity during the milling, the World Bank said the country's average paddy yields of 2.5 tons per hectare are only half of those realized by other exporters in the region.

"Myanmar has the potential to more than double its rice exports by diversifying and increasing rice production, opening its rice milling sector to direct foreign investments, and reducing export procedure costs, and thereby helping many rural poor to escape poverty," the bank said in a report on Myanmar's rice export strategy.

Kyodo

NATIONAL

UEC urges political parties to win public trust for election success



Chairman of Union Election Commission U Tin Aye explains the importance of elections, voting rights and electoral processes.—MNA

NAY PYI TAW, 13 Sept—The functions of an election are a big national task as they involve the selection of representatives for the Pyithu Hluttaw (Lower House), the Amyotha Hluttaw (Upper House) as well

Victory Flag promotes Myanmar athletes' spirit

NAY PYI TAW, 13 Sept—A ceremony to hand over the flag of victory to the Myanmar sports contingent who will take part in the 17th Asian Games was held at the Ministry of Sports in Nay Pyi Taw on Friday.

Union Minister for Sports U Tint Hsan presented the flag of victory to Deputy Director-General U Thet Lwin who is leader of the Myanmar sports contingent.

A total of 65 Myanmar athletes from 10 sports events—archery, Sepak Takraw, shooting, weightlifting, Wushu, volleyball, Taekwondo, Judo, wres-

tion of representatives for the Pyithu Hluttaw (Lower House), the Amyotha Hluttaw (Upper House) as well

ting and track & field—will participate in the 17th Asian Games to be held in Incheon of the Republic of Korea from 19 September to 4 October. On Thursday, the Union minister attended the ceremony to honour Myanmar Chinlone team.

Head of Office of the ministry U Kyaw Oo presented K7.6 million to 19 umpires, Director-General U Myo Hlaing K4 million to coaches and managers, President of Myanmar Chinlone Federation U Soe Naing K8.8 million to executives of the federation and the Union minister K80 million to 32 players.

MNA

as of Region/State parliamentary representatives, the Union Election Commission told a meeting in

Kayah State on Saturday, sources said.

According to UEC Chairman U Tin Aye, the meeting focused on the importance of elections, voting rights and how to cast votes.

U Tin Aye called for concerted cooperation in counting ballot papers and advance votes to ensure greater transparency, inviting political parties, community service organizations, media and observers and promising a free and fair election in the next general elections.

He also urged political parties to organize people and serve public interests, saying gaining public trust is a sure sign of winning the election.

MNA

Myanmar Anti-Trafficking in Persons Day held with the commitment to work together with international community in fighting against human trafficking cases.—MNA



Myanmar vows anti-human trafficking activities

NAY PYI TAW, 13 Sept— Myanmar pledged anti-human trafficking activities in collaboration with international community with a ceremony marking the Anti-Trafficking in Persons Day on Friday here.

At the ceremony, Union Minister for Home Affairs and Chairman of Central Body for Suppression of Trafficking in Persons Lieutenant General Ko Ko said that Myanmar has been fighting against trafficking in persons with the first five-year plan from 2007 to 2011 and the second five-year plan from 2012 to 2016 with the collaboration of relevant ministries and UN agencies, working together with local and international NGOs.

He also said that Myanmar has taken part in the

programme of the Coordinated Mekong Ministerial Initiative against Trafficking (CoMMIT) joining hands with the six Mekong regional countries.

Myanmar will draw and implement the plan of Sub Regional Plan of Action (SPA) for 2014-2018 period, working together with ASEAN member countries, China and Thailand.

Authorities could rescue 105 trafficked victims in 72 cases, arresting 211 traffickers in 2014.

Myanmar was ranked as Tier 2 Watch list of US. Department of State's 14th annual Trafficking in Persons (TIP) report, while the southeast Asian country was placed at third point from 2001 to 2010, imposing economic sanctions on the country.

MNA

Parasol project aims to put Pathein parasols on comeback

YANGON, 13 Sept—A health-care team organized its second parasol project at Pansodan Scene



in Yangon on Sunday, with the aim of restoring a culture of Pathein parasols in the country, sources said.

A local clinical organization, the team launched the project, which is kept open from 10am to 6pm, to

raise funds for needy unhealthy people of Yangon.

The project is scheduled to take place from 13 to 19 September, with sales of 90 Pathein parasols designed by 37 artists through a bidding system.

Parasols are available at a floor price of US\$200 each, according to Dr May Kyaw Thet, who went on saying that highest bidders will be announced on the last day of the event.

She added that half of the proceeds will go to the

Health-care team members pose for a documentary photo at 2nd parasol event in health-care team Yangon.

KHAING THANDA LWIN

By Khaing Thanda Lwin

fund of the team and the other half to the artists.

"We hope that about 50 parasols will be sold at the event," she said.

Artist Jeannie, who created two acrylics paintings on the parasols, said that she was happy with the opportunity to take part in the event and that she invited enthusiasts to the art exhibition.

An art lover at the exhibition said that he liked all painted umbrellas on display and felt very proud of Myanmar artists for their creations, adding

that he would pay a second visit to the event with like-minded friends.

Dr Sa Mar Jar Lin, founder of the team, said that his organization is planning to provide affordable quality health care to local communities and train local health workers for new skills, as part of helping build a sustainable health care structure of the country.

Currently, members of the team are providing health care to patients in suburban areas.

NLM

Myanmar, Thai entrepreneurs focus on business, investment matters



MYEIK, 13 Sept—Entrepreneurs from Myeik District Chambers of Commerce and Industry and the Federation of Thai Industries (FTI) of Thailand held a meeting on business and investment matters at the hall in Myeik of Taninthayi Region on 13 September.

Chairman of Myeik

District CCI U Hla Than extended greetings and explained the bilateral advantages and trade and business opportunities.

Director of the FTI Mrs Manunchai Fueangfukachorn explained the purpose of the meeting. A total of 27 Thai entrepreneurs explained their prod-

ucts such as leather wares, marine products, equipment and foodstuffs.

Vice-Chairman of the Myeik District CCI U Tun Tun explained construction of Myeik highway bus terminal construction project.

After the meeting, Thai entrepreneurs displayed sample products,

Next, they exchanged views on business and investment matters.

The meeting was attended by 65 Myanmar entrepreneurs from Myeik District and 48 Thai entrepreneurs from FTI.

*Khaing Htoo
(Myeik District
IPRD)*



School health activities undertaken in basic education schools in Palaw Tsp

PALAW, 13 Sept—Palaw Township Health Department undertook school health activities and medical checkups at Basic Education Primary School No 8 in Palaw of Taninthayi Region on Thursday.

Dentist Dr Aye Aye Myint of the township Health Department performed dental and oral

checks at students and gave vitamin and other necessary medicines to the students.

Health officials gave lectures on dental care, infection of mosquito-borne diseases such as malaria, dengue haemorrhagic fever and elephantiasis and personal hygienic activities to the students.

Palaw Township IPRD



Nippon Foundation donates solar lamps, mosquito nets to households of Kayin nationals

THATON, 13 Sept—Nippon Foundation of Japan donated solar-fired power lamps and mosquito nets to villages of Kayin nationals in Thaton District of Mon State.

On Friday, the project manager of Myanmar Relations office of Nippon Foundation and officials presented 1,757 sets of solar lamps and mosquito nets to each household at KNU relation office in Naungbo Village of Thaton Township.

It was attended by officials of No 1 Brigade of KNU, departmental officials and local people.

Thet Oo (Thaton)



Water bowzers, fire extinguishers provided to township fire stations

MYEIK, 13 Sept—Taninthayi Region govern-

ment provided four water bowzers and equipment to

fire stations in townships of Myeik District in Tanin-

thayi Region on 9 September,

The 1,200-gallon-capacity water bowzers have two hydrants each. The region government distributed one water bowser, 27 sets of rescue suits, one light fire engine and other fire extinguishers and equipment to Myeik, Kyunsu, Palaw and Taninthayi township fire stations.

A plan is underway to deliver more fire trucks to the fire stations.

*Khaing Htoo
(Myeik District
IPRD)*



REGIONAL

Xi makes four-point proposal for SCO development



Chinese President Xi Jinping (C front) attends the 14th meeting of the Council of Heads of State of the Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO) in Dushanbe, capital of Tajikistan on 12 Sept, 2014.—XINHUA

DUSHANBE, 13 Sept — Chinese President Xi Jinping on Friday made a four-point proposal for the development of the Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO).

When delivering a speech at the 14th meeting of the SCO Council of Heads of State in the Tajik capital of Dushanbe, Xi said the six-nation bloc has entered a crucial stage of development as the world is undergoing complex and profound changes.

“It is our common responsibility and mission to bring more security and benefit to the SCO member states and their people,” he

said. The Chinese president made a four-point proposal on the SCO development.

Firstly, safeguarding regional security and stability is the SCO member states’ responsibility, he said. “Currently, (we) should focus on combating religion-involved extremism and internet terrorism,” said Xi.

He suggested the SCO members launch consultation on an anti-extremism convention and initiate studies on a mechanism for actions against internet terrorism. “(We) should take it as our own responsibility to safeguard regional security and stability, enhance our

ability to maintain stability, continue to boost cooperation on law enforcement and security, and improve the existing cooperation mechanisms,” said Xi. The president also called on the SCO members — China, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Russia, Tajikistan and Uzbekistan — to grant the group’s Regional Counter-Terrorism Structure (RCTS) new function to combat drug trafficking at an early date.

“(We) should make concerted efforts to crack down on the ‘three evil forces’ of terrorism, extremism and separatism,” he said.

Secondly, the SCO member states should ad-

here to the goal of common development and prosperity, Xi said. The member states should discuss the possibility of conducting more extensive and higher level cooperation in trade and investment, in a bid to push forward regional economic integration, said Xi.

He urged member states to reach an agreement on establishing the SCO financial institution at an early date and beef up policy coordination on energy and food. The president called on member states to enact an SCO partnership plan in science and technology, and to speed up the building of an information sharing platform on environment protection. Thirdly, the SCO member states should comprehensively promote people-to-people exchanges, said the Chinese president.

Xi suggested the SCO member states strengthen capacity building on international communication, enhance media cooperation, and support personnel training in the fields of public policy, administration and judiciary.

China is willing to provide training opportunities for 2000 people of the SCO member states from 2015 to 2017, including officials, as well as management and technological staff, he said.

Xinhua



Prime Minister Narendra Modi gestures as he gives a speech in front of students at the University of the Sacred Heart in Tokyo on 2 Sept, 2014. —REUTERS

Two Indian states to go to polls 15 October, chance for Modi gains

NEW DELHI, 13 Sept — The Indian states of Maharashtra and Haryana will go to the polls on 15 October, the Election Commission said on Friday, offering Prime Minister Narendra Modi the chance to chalk up gains after his general election triumph in May.

The bigger prize is Maharashtra, which has a population of 114 million and is home to India’s financial capital, Mumbai. Haryana, to the west of capital New Delhi, has a population of 25 million.

Both states have chief ministers from the opposition Congress party that was routed by Modi in the gener-

al election, when his Hindu nationalist Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) won the strongest lower-house mandate in India in three decades.

The BJP and its allies in the National Democratic Alliance are, however, in the minority in the upper house, or Rajya Sabha, where India’s 29 federal states are represented.

That means that, even if Modi makes gains in Maharashtra and Haryana, he will still have to cut deals with opposition and regional parties to pass some reforms. The elections come as the term of the state legislatures is expiring. Results are due on 19 October.—Reuters

India applies for SCO full membership

NEW DELHI, 13 Sept — India on Friday formally applied for full membership in the Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO), said local media. Indian External Affairs Minister Sushma Swaraj formally submitted an application for full membership to the SCO on behalf of India at the SCO Heads of State Summit 2014 meeting at Dushanbe, in Tajikistan. External Affairs Ministry spokesperson Syed Akbaruddin said that following India’s application, it is now for the SCO to take the decision on membership, said Indo-Asian News Service.

“It is our expectation that we will be able to contribute to the SCO in a better capacity once the SCO opens up its membership to other countries,” he said.

“India sees the SCO as a forum where it can work regionally on several aspects, such as regional anti-terror mechanisms,” said Akbaruddin. He also said India believes it can contribute in a better capacity after gaining full membership, and also in the case of aiding in Afghanistan’s development.

India currently has an observer status with the SCO.—Xinhua

China maintains heavy rain alert, warns of typhoon

BEIJING, 13 Sept — The National Meteorological Centre (NMC) on Saturday maintained a blue alert for heavy rain in the country’s western regions, which have seen substantial precipitation in the past week.

China has a four-tier colour-coded warning system for severe weather, with red being the most se-

rious, followed by orange, yellow and blue.

From Saturday to Sunday morning, parts of the Sichuan Basin and Chongqing Municipality in southwest China and northwest China’s Shaanxi Province will see heavy rains or rain storms, with some areas to receive precipitation of 100 to 150 mm, the NMC said in a statement.—Xinhua



Pakistani policemen inspect the blast site in southwest Pakistan’s Quetta on 13 Sept, 2014. Three people including a security guard were killed and around 15 others injured when a bomb went off near a military vehicle in Pakistan’s southwestern Quetta city on Saturday morning, local media reported.—XINHUA

Kerry opposes Iran role in anti-Islamic State coalition

ANKARA, 13 Sept — US Secretary of State John Kerry said on Friday it was “not appropriate” for Iran to join talks on confronting Islamic State militants, as he appeared to play down how fast countries can commit to force or other steps in an emerging coalition.

Kerry met Turkish leaders to try to secure backing for US-led action against Islamic State militants, but Ankara’s reluctance to play a frontline role highlighted the difficulty of building a willing coalition for a complex military campaign in the heart of the Middle East.

As he tours the region to gather support for President Barack Obama’s plan to strike both sides of the Syrian-Iraqi frontier to defeat Islamic State Sunni fighters, Kerry said Shi’ite Iran should have no role in talks on how to go about it.

Accusing Iran of being “a state sponsor of terror” and backing Syria’s brutal

regime, Kerry said it would be inappropriate for Iranian officials to join an Iraq conference in Paris on Monday to discuss how to curb a jihadist movement that has seized a third of both Iraq and Syria. Teheran has described the coalition as “shrouded in serious ambiguities”.

“Under the circumstances, at this moment in time, it would not be right for any number of reasons. It would not be appropriate given the many other issues that are on the table in Syria and elsewhere,” he told a news conference in the Turkish capital Ankara.

Faced with disparate interests and goals among the region’s often squabbling nations, Kerry said it was too early to say publicly what individual countries were prepared to do in a broad front to cut off funds to the militants, encourage local opposition and provide humanitarian aid.

Kerry won backing



US Secretary of State John Kerry (R) and Turkey’s President Tayyip Erdogan talk at the beginning of a meeting in Ankara on 12 Sept, 2014. —REUTERS

on Thursday for a “coordinated military campaign” against Islamic State from 10 Arab countries — Egypt, Iraq, Jordan, Lebanon and six Gulf states including rich rivals Saudi Arabia and Qatar.

But it remains far from clear what role individual nations will play. While he confirmed France’s commitment to use military

force in Iraq, he declined to say whether France would join strikes in Syria.

That follows conflicting reports in key ally Britain over its potential role, with Prime Minister David Cameron on Thursday saying he has not ruled out military action in Syria after his foreign secretary said Britain would not take part in any airstrikes there.

“It is entirely premature and frankly inappropriate at this point in time to start laying out one country by one country what individual nations are going to do,” said Kerry, who travels to Cairo on Saturday, adding that building a coalition would take time.

“I’m comfortable that this will be a broad-based coalition with Arab nations, European nations, the United States, others,” he said. “At the appropriate time, every role will be laid out in detail.”

Turkey, which has the second-largest armed forces in the NATO military alliance after the United States and hosts a major US Air Force base at Incirlik in its south, has so far conspicuously avoided committing to any military campaign.

Prime Minister Ahmet Davutoglu, who did not join the news conference with Kerry, said in a live interview on Turkish

television hours after their meeting that US action in Iraq would not be enough on its own to bring political stability.

“It is necessary, but it is not enough to establish order,” he told the Kanal 24 TV station.

US officials played down hopes of persuading Ankara to take a significant role in any military involvement, saying Friday’s talks were focused on issues including Turkey’s efforts to stem the flow of foreign fighters crossing its territory and its role in providing humanitarian assistance.

“The Turks have played an extraordinary role on humanitarian aspects of the situation ... and they are going to play and have been playing a pivotal role in our efforts to crack down on foreign fighter facilitation and counter terrorist finance,” a senior US State Department official said before the talks.

Reuters

Iraq’s speaker warns of civilian deaths from US air strikes

BAGHDAD, 13 Sept — Iraq’s parliament speaker Salim al-Jabouri has told US Secretary of State John Kerry that air strikes on Islamic State should not kill civilians, the speaker said to Reuters in an interview.

President Barack Obama has promised to destroy the Islamist militants using a “systematic campaign of air strikes”. Washington has already conducted more than 150 strikes in Iraq in recent weeks.

“The only condition that we made was that the air strikes must be concentrated and accurate and against the terrorist groups,” Jabouri said at his house in Baghdad on Wednesday after meeting Kerry.

Islamic State fighters have seized large chunks of Iraq’s north and parts of western Anbar Province this year. The group has been tolerated by some of the Sunni Muslim minority who accuse the Shi’ite-led government of marginalising their community and arresting them indiscriminately. Jabouri, a 43-year-old Sunni, is considered a balancing force in a political system dominated by Shi’ites.

A doctor of law, Jabouri says he believes in Baghdad’s government; two of his brothers were killed by the Sunni militant group al-Qaeda in Iraq. But he also appeals to Sunnis who are sceptical of Iraq’s

Shi’ite elite.

Washington hopes that Sunnis like Jabouri can help bring the country together to defeat Islamic State. Until now, many Sunni tribal fighters and members of armed factions have sided with Islamic State rather than the government, convinced Baghdad is the greater of two evils.

To help win Sunnis over, Jabouri argued that the Iraqi security forces needed to stop immediately their use of indiscriminate “barrel bombs” and artillery to batter Sunni areas of Iraq where Islamic State are in control.

Residents in Falluja and Gharna in Anbar, where Islamic State has a large presence, regularly report massive shelling that kills civilians and destroys homes.

The US supplied munitions to the Iraqi military for its fight against Islamic State this year in Anbar, where hundreds of thousands have been displaced.

In June, the US military asked the Iraqi government to stop the use of barrel bombs, but according to the New York-based watchdog Human Rights Watch, Anbar residents and security officers, barrel bomb at-

tacks have resumed.

“Random shelling that targets civilians is rejected by us, naturally, and is not considered as a constructive military practice,” Jabouri said. “Because civilians will receive the greatest degree of harm and in truth we will lose many lives and they will hate us more.”

On Thursday, 14 barrel bombs were dropped on Falluja city, killing 22 civilians, a source at a hospital in the city said.

Washington only agreed to deepen its involvement in Iraq on the condition that newly-appointed Prime Minister Haider al-Abadi formed an inclusive government, bringing in Sunnis who had been isolated by his predecessor, Nuri al-Maliki.

The speaker was a key figure in forming the government, pushing parliamentarians to stop bickering and vote on Abadi’s cabinet on Monday.

Kurdish politicians had threatened to pull out of politics in Baghdad unless they were given a greater share of government revenues but joined the parliament session halfway through, finally agreeing to give Abadi a three-month trial period.

Reuters

Swedish opposition leads before Sunday’s election — Polls



Swedish Opposition leader Stefan Lofven (L) of the Social Democrats and Prime Minister Fredrik Reinfeldt participate in a debate at television channel TV4 in Stockholm, on 11 Sept, 2014. —REUTERS

STOCKHOLM, 13 Sept — Two polls indicated on Friday Sweden’s centre-left opposition has a lead of 7.6 percentage points and 6.8 percentage points respectively over the ruling centre-right government before Sunday’s election.

Opinion polls have consistently shown the centre left ahead of the centre-right governing Alliance bloc, but the gap has narrowed over the past two weeks.

A poll by Ipsos, commissioned by daily *Dagens Nyheter* showed the Social Democrat, Green and Left parties, who are not a formal coalition, had 46.4 percent support against 39.6 percent for the four-party Alliance

government — a 6.8 percentage points lead. In the latest Ipsos poll, published on 4 September, the opposition had an 11.2 percent lead. A poll by Demoskop published earlier on Friday, commissioned by daily *Expressen*, showed the opposition had 46.1 percent support against 38.5 percent for the government — a 7.6 percentage points lead. In the previous Demoskop poll two days ago, the gap was 6.3 percentage points. In the Demoskop poll, the anti-immigration Sweden Democrats got 10.2 points and Feminist Initiative, a left-leaning party, got 3.9 percent, below the 4 percent threshold to get into parliament. —Reuters



Speaker of the Iraqi Parliament Salim al-Jabouri meets with US Secretary of State John Kerry in Baghdad on 10 Sept, 2014. —REUTERS

WORLD

Twenty years after Cuban raft exodus, they keep coming

MIAMI, 13 Sept — Alicia Garcia vividly recalls her rescue at sea 20 years ago during a mass exodus from Cuba, a dramatic event that changed the lives of hundreds of thousands of people and reshaped relations between the communist-run island and the United States.

"We didn't think we'd make it. We prayed, and put ourselves in God's hands," she said of her six-day ordeal clinging with five others to a raft made of truck inner tubes and rope.

Illegal departures by sea from Cuba are on the rise again, US officials say, with more than 2,000 migrants picked up by the US Coast Guard over the last 12 months. That is the highest rate in six years.

Many more are passing undetected, mostly headed west aboard flimsy homemade vessels in a risky bid to cross the Caribbean to Honduras, in hopes of getting across the Mexico-US border.

Late last month 17 Cubans were rescued by the Mexican navy after almost a month at sea, 20 days without food. Details are unclear, but more than a dozen others may have died from dehydration — the survivors forced to throw their bodies overboard.

The town of Manzanillo in eastern Cuba,



A boat used by Cuban migrants to travel to the United States is seen in this 31 Aug, 2014 handout photograph made available to Reuters by Mexico's Navy (SEMAR) on 1 Sept, 2014.—REUTERS

where most of the victims are from, planned a church Mass on Friday night.

"My wife, she can't bring herself to tell me what really happened. It's too terrible," said Jose Caballero, husband of one of the survivors, who left Cuba via a similar route in December and now lives in Texas. According to the latest US figures, more than 14,000 Cubans have crossed the southwestern US border illegally since 1 October, almost triple the number four years ago.

The spike is attributed to delays of up to five years for Cubans seeking to emigrate legally to join

relatives in the United States. Economic reforms designed to open up Cuba's state-controlled system and create private sector jobs have also failed to improve living conditions for most people. "We left (Cuba) because there are no jobs or the basic items for living," said Angel, a former fishing boat captain who reached Honduras with 11 others aboard a home-made boat last week after a two-week journey via the Cayman Islands. The boat was built clandestinely with cannibalized parts, including a car engine, a propeller and aluminium sheets sealed together with resin, he said.

It wasn't much different in 1994, said Garcia, except on that occasion Cuba lifted restrictions, opening the flood gates for anyone who wanted to jump on a raft.

That summer, between 12 August and 13 September, some 31,000 Cubans were detained at sea by US ships. It was the largest exodus since the 1980 Mariel boatlift that brought 120,000 Cubans to Miami.

The 1994 crisis led to a major shift in US-Cuba policy and an accord under which Washington agreed to grant visas to 20,000 Cuban migrants a year.

Reuters

Around 1,500 people evacuated as result of East Coast wild fire in Spain

MADRID, 13 Sept — Around 1,500 people have been evacuated from their homes as the result of a wild fire which has affected part of the Montgo national park, close to the coastal town of Javea in the province of Alicante.

Those who have been evacuated are being housed in the local sports hall, while the road between Javea and the nearby town of Denia has been closed as a precautionary measure.

The fire began on Thursday afternoon, through causes which have yet to be determined and spread as a result of a strong wind and favourable dry conditions after a long spell without rain in the area. The representative for the regional authority Luis Santamaria confirmed to Spanish TV network RTVE that the Spanish Military's Emergency Military Unit (UME) is collaborating in firefighting duties and the UME confirmed they have sent 82 soldiers and 29 vehicles to help extinguish the flames.

Meanwhile the Red Cross have also been working with a boat from Spain's Maritime Rescue Services to help evacuate anyone trapped by flames in the narrow bays and coves along the coast.

2014 has been a destructive year in terms of wild fires in Spain, with the Ministry of Agriculture and the Environment confirming earlier in the week that 39,410 hectares of land have been ravaged by fire in the first eight months of the year. The amount of land damaged rose 15 percent over the same period in 2013 and was provoked by a total of 8,131 different fires, of which 2,571 burned an area of at least a hectare.—Xinhua

8th APEC Tourism Ministerial Meeting kicks off in Macao

MACAO, 13 Sept—The 8th APEC Tourism Ministerial Meeting (TMM8) kicked off on Saturday in Macao, a Chinese special administrative region which is known as the "Las Vegas of the Far East".

Chinese Vice Premier Wang Yang highlighted tourism as a pillar of economic growth in his keynote speech.

"Against the backdrop of fragile global economic recovery, the Asia-Pacific region should develop tourism as an engine for growth and development as well as job creation," Wang said.

With output growing at an annual average rate of six percent, tourism has become one of the fastest developing economic sectors in the region, generating 8.5 percent of the region's GDP and accounting for

8.8 percent of gross job creation, he said.

Wang called on APEC member economies to accelerate tourism facilitation, infrastructure connectivity and information exchange, in a bid to meet the goal of raising the number of APEC international tourists to over 800 million by 2025.

His words were echoed by Mari Pangestu, minister of Indonesian Tourism and Creative Economy, who said tourism helps generate trade opportunities, create decent jobs and deepen cultural exchanges among different peoples.

"Tourism is the world's third largest industry after finance and automobile manufacturing, which works as a driving force of economic growth and a bridge of different

cultures," she said.

With the theme "Exploration of Asia Pacific Tourism Cooperation and Future Development", the event attracted a total of 152 attendees, including the tourism ministers or representatives of 21 APEC economies, delegates from the APEC Secretariat, the United Nations World Tourism Organization, the World Travel and Tourism Council, the Asia Pacific Travel Association, and the APEC Centre for International Sustainable Tourism.

They will discuss five main topics including integration of Asia Pacific tourism markets, facilitating transformation and growth of the tourism industry, promoting intelligent tourism with modern technology and interconnection

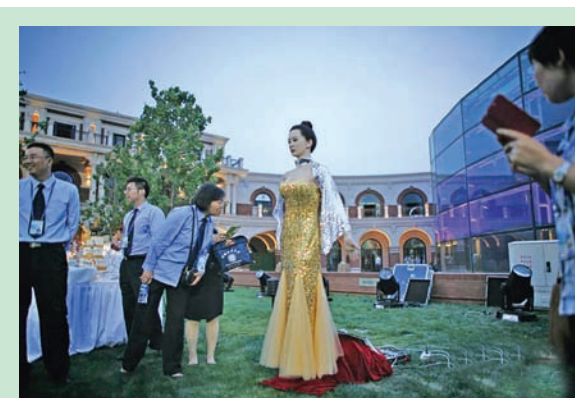
of Asia Pacific travel, and encouraging low-carbon development and co-operation between tourism operators.

Established in 1989, APEC is the highest level and most influential regional economic organization in the Asia-Pacific region.

It currently has 21 member economies and three official observers. To enhance tourism exchanges and cooperation and facilitate tourism development of the Asia Pacific Region, a biennial tourism ministerial meeting was launched in 2000.

TMM8 is the first APEC Tourism Ministerial Meeting hosted by China, which has been sending delegations to the event since its inception.

Xinhua



A beauty robot drew people's attention during Summer Davos Forum in China's Tianjin on 11 Sept, 2014.—XINHUA

US to train Liberian armed forces to help tackle Ebola crisis

MONROVIA/ FREETOWN, 13 Sept — The United States said on Friday it would train Liberia's security forces to assist in isolation operations to tackle an Ebola epidemic ravaging the West African nation, after a boy was killed when soldiers opened fire on a protest last month.

The worst Ebola outbreak on record has killed more than 2,400 people in West Africa — more than half of them in Liberia. Liberian officials have called the outbreak the greatest threat to national stability

since a 1989-2003 civil war. Many in the country, founded by descendants of freed American slaves, have looked to Washington for support, as they did during the civil war, which killed nearly 250,000 people.

The US government has already committed around \$100 million (61.51 million pounds) to tackle the outbreak by providing protective equipment for healthcare workers, food, water, medical and hygiene equipment.

Reuters

PERSPECTIVES

Sunday, 14 September, 2014

Dual education system to tackle shortages of skilled employees

By Aung Khin

Dual education system is a combination of apprenticeships in a company and vocational education at a vocational education in one course. Under this system, the precise skills and theory taught are strictly regulated and defined by national standards.

This system is gaining momentum in several global countries such as Germany, Australia, Switzerland, the Netherlands and France, as well as in China and other Asian countries.

Dual education system makes young peo-

ple possible to learn many apprenticeship occupations before they completed their university degrees. For example, a student of university of economy can acquire the same skills and take the same course in production planning, accounting and controlling, marketing, HR management, trade laws etc. Similarly, students from medial universities and computer universities can get experience from hospitals and IT companies before they become grads.

A student is an employee of a company from the beginning and receives tasks according to his growing abilities. If the company is willing to make an employment-contract with the student after his dual education time, the company will get an employee who knows the company's workflow. This will be advantages for companies. On the side of student, he can gain knowledge about hard skills and soft skills of more experienced co-workers and real working conditions, and can earn money from the beginning.

However, some companies are less willing to take on apprentices for some reasons as they need to follow a large number of regulations and considerable costs for training.

Myanmar, with potential for rapid economic catch up is being held back by a large skills deficit, suffering from shortages of skilled labour, while unemployment and underemployment are also widespread. Therefore, a long-term plan should be developed to solve the shortages of skilled workers in the country through dual education system.

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Flood-hit farmers resort to selling farmland to relieve debt burdens if fortune does not smile on them in second crop harvest

By Aye Min Soe

KAWA, 13 Sept— After rice plants have been destroyed by floods each rainy season for four years, farmers in flood hit areas in the Bago Region will have to resort to giving their pledged land to private money lenders to settle year-by-year accumulated debts if they do not get good bean prices from their second harvest.

About 26,100 acres of rice plantations in Kawa Township in the region were destroyed by floods in early August and more than 4,000 acres were damaged, increasing the debt burdens on farmers who have been living with already crippling debts.

It is already too late to replant rice, but they are hoping there will be a silver lining for them from second crops of peas and beans that they grow after the rice harvest as a winter crop.

Still, they cannot be sure they can meet their

debt obligations unless the winter crops are good and bring in top prices, particularly for the beans.

"The upcoming harvest of beans will decide our fate," said Than Soe, a 35-year-old a father of two, as he cleared wild grass from his rice field on which he hopes for a bumper crop of beans after the rainy season. "If the price is not good in the upcoming harvest, our life would be destroyed."

A flood in early August killed all the rice plants on his 10 acres of land, leaving him with the loss of a nearly K1 million agricultural loan from the government.

The government, on compassionate grounds, provided the flood-hit farmers with K12,000 per acre rate for rice plantations destroyed by the flood and K6,000 per acre rate for damaged paddies.

This year's damage follows hard on 2011 floods that first destroyed their rice plants and then left

them able to get only poor prices for their beans.

Since then, farmers in the region have got into a circle of debt and have come to realize that rice growing in the rainy season is no longer reliable.

Than Soe owes nearly K5 million, including the K1 million farm loan from the government bank for rice planting this year.

repaying the loan to the government last year.

Although the government agricultural loan has just a 0.8 per cent interest rate, it doesn't help as much as it could when it comes after the planting season.

And to grow peas and pulses after the rice harvest, most farmers have to borrow money at 10 per

cents, which accumulate

Even selling draught cattle or farmland to cover their private loans rarely helps the farmers because they are left with fewer, or no, cattle with which to plow, or less land on which to grow.

Ma Khaing, 35, Than Soe's wife, said her mother turned 5 acres over to a pri-

lenders 'happy' to lend us money," she added.

Her mother's loss was a warning signal to Than Soe and Ma Khaing that their heavy debts are an even greater burden than they had imagined.

Like other farmers, they realize they too may have no choice but to sell or to give up some of their land to settle their debts.



Like other farmers in recent flood-hit area, Than Soe, 35, a farmer, also don't know what to do when faced with these floods.—PHOTO: AYE MIN SOE

And to be able to plant rice in time for the rainy season that began in June, he had to borrow from a private money lender at 10 per cent interest before getting the agricultural loan from the government.

This year, he only got the loan from the government in August, two months later than planting season, because he was late

cent interest from a private money lender again.

And thus continues the circle of debt.

To ensure early receipt of a government loan the following year, even when the second-harvest is good and the prices strong, farmers must pay back the government back as quickly as possible, often leaving them with little left to settle their private, high-interest

private money lender last year to settle her crippling debts.

The private money lenders never say they will seize the land, but the farmers really have no option except to give their land to the money lenders, Ma Khaing said.

"It means we surrender. How can we work for our livelihood without land? Only when we have farmland are private money

"Every farmer has the same idea that they will finally sell their land to repay their debts and some have already sold their land, repaid their debts and gone to towns to work as daily wage workers. But some have not even been able to clear last year's agricultural loans owed to the government bank," Than Soe said.

ARTICLE

Study Skills to Promote Independent Learning in Higher Education Institutions

By Myo Myint

Basic education aims to provide students with general knowledge about their country and the world they live in, the knowledge that will serve as foundation for higher learning, and life skills which include the ability to take care of themselves, to live harmoniously with members of their community and the environment and, thinking ability that will assist them in earning a livelihood if they do not continue with higher education. On the other hand, the responsibilities of 21st century higher education are to provide students with the opportunity to study areas of one's interest, pursue job relevant skills, and develop specialized knowledge and skills that can contribute to their own advancement, as well as that of their societies and the world. In addition, higher education institutions aim to foster in their students, maturity, social responsibility, positive attitude, creativity, critical thinking, ability to do independent learning, the skill to do research, the capability to create new knowledge, and the capacity to use one's initiative.

In order to promote the above mentioned complex set of knowledge, qualities and skills in higher education students, the first and most important step is to imbue in them the ability to carry out independent learning. The reason is that, as

there is so much to learn in an academic environment vastly different from that of a high school, and so much emphasis being given to creativity at this level, and as there are so many assignments to carry out, and so many intellectual and academic demands made on students that, it is vital for them to not only learn from their teachers but also to supplement the lectures and other academic activities with knowledge and skills gained from varied sources. To assist students to be able to carry out independent learning, higher education institutions must develop the study skills of their students. Cottrell, S. (2013) in her book *The Study Skills Handbook* (4th edn.) explains that study skills consist of four types of skills: self-management skills for study, academic skills, people skills for studying with others, and task management skills.

The starting point of developing learning independence for Myanmar university students is the ability to manage oneself. They have experienced so much spoon-feeding, guidance and management by teachers, multiple tutors, guides and parents throughout their school days that there is a huge likelihood that they will need to develop self-management skills. According to Cottrell (2013) self-management skills include developing independence as well-informed students; skills management which is realizing what one's strengths and weaknesses are and taking the neces-

sary measures; developing a learning style suited to oneself; forming study strategies; managing study time, improving one's performance using feedback; and developing metacognitive skills which is reflecting about how one thinks, learns and manages oneself for study.

The second category of study skills is academic skills. They are vital for academic success and needs to be gradually expanded in scope and depth as a student moves to higher and more complex levels. Cottrell, S. (2013) divides academic skills into 4 types. The first set of academic skills is basic research skills. They include locating information, extracting information through reading and making notes and organizing information and making use of numerical data. The second set of academic skills is having thinking skills that include the ability to make decisions, memory skills, critical thinking skills, creative problem-solving skills, synthesis and understanding. The third set of academic skills is having an understanding of academic and subject conventions. This understanding consists of comprehending the function of higher education; foundation concepts, terminology, the construction and advancement of knowledge relating to one's specialization; providing evidence as basis of argument; sound methodologies used to establish the evidence based, and academic integrity and ethical awareness. The fourth

set of skills is related to such aspects as written and other forms of communication skills such as mastery of precision, structure and clarity, style and format, audience awareness, citing and referencing.

The third category of study skills that Stella Cottrell mentions are people management skills. These skills, in my view, are very important as learning together with others, learning from others and sharing one's knowledge with others contribute to achieving intellectual maturity and depth and also develop social skills. When students work together with fellow students to collaborate, for example, on a project, they need to take part in various kinds of interactions and play a wide variety of roles. The people management skills that Cottrell mentions are taking an active part, contributing constructively, providing peer feedback, making presentations, participating in collaborative team work and supporting others.

The fourth and final set of study skills that Cottrell proposes is task management skills. University students are assigned a number of individual and group tasks such as essays, presentations, and case studies. These require producing the assigned tasks in accordance with set procedures and conventions. In addition, students need to manage the various steps involved in completing the task, meeting the given requirements such as word limits and deadlines,

following the appropriate protocols, using specialist equipment and resources including IT and lab equipment, and managing projects.

Another study skill for Myanmar university students that I wish to add to the four proposed by Cottrell is development of English language proficiency as it plays multiple roles in Myanmar higher education. It is the language of instruction for the majority of disciplines, the language in which the majority of the textbooks and references students have to use are written, and the language used to carry out academic interaction. It is also necessary for Myanmar university students to be trained to interact fluently with precision, clarity and sound evidence on academic matters in the Myanmar language.

It is evident from what has been presented that study skills form a wide spectrum of skills without which students will find it difficult to achieve true academic success. Without the skills to face the challenges of managing the huge amount of information and the thinking skills to systematically organize it, students will resort to rote learning. At the same time, without independent learning, it is difficult to promote thinking skills and without developing thinking skills, it is challenging to promote the quality of students. Moreover, it should also be noted that the abilities that form part of study skills also serve as useful skills that can be used in many professions

and contribute to the future success of students when they join the world of work.

How do we foster study skills in university students? In international universities, students are exposed to study skills using a variety of forms. Study skills may be taught as part of an undergraduate programme, or in the form of workshops, online courses, guidebooks and one-to-one counselling. In Myanmar universities, students, especially undergraduates, need to be systematically taught study skills as part of the undergraduate programme so that they become learners who are capable of acquiring knowledge independently. University teachers must also allow students the opportunity to make use of the knowledge and skills they acquired using study skills in the lecture room, as well as in examinations and collaborative projects, so that students come to realize the value of study skills.

In retooling higher education, we must remember that one of the important functions of 21st century higher education is to prepare students to face the unknown due to the frequent occurrences of rapid changes in the world, to provide knowledge, abilities and attitudes that will enable students to pursue new skills, to survive and to be able to compete in new environments. For students to be able to capitalize on and expand the specialized knowledge and new skills that universities provide in the changing landscape, it must be reiterated that they definitely need study skills.

Partnership between UNDP and Finland supports Democratic Governance in Myanmar

YANGON, 13 Sept — The United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and the Government of Finland have signed an agreement which would see Finland contribute 2 million euros (approximately USD \$ 2.6 million) towards UNDP's work on strengthening democratic governance in Myanmar.

UNDP's works with government, parliament, judiciary and civil society

to promote democratic governance, the rule of law, and the advancement of human rights in order to support the country's reforms and strengthen foundations for inclusive growth and sustainable development in Myanmar.

"This partnership with Finland will contribute significantly to UNDP's efforts to invest in accountable and responsive public institutions and make a big

difference enhancing trust between the state and society," said Toily Kurbanov, Country Director for UNDP Myanmar.

The funds from Finland will contribute to the achievement of Myanmar's priorities in the areas of: improving planning and statistical capacities; enhancing legislative processes; supporting rule of law and accessible and fair justice; and enabling civil service to

become more accountable and responsive to the needs of the people. In line with best practices of international development assistance, the funding is provided on programme basis, i.e. not earmarked towards specific activities or projects, thus enabling strategic and flexible leveraging in funds in support of larger reform objectives, as well as reducing transaction costs for development actors involved.

Finnish Charge d'Affaires in Myanmar, Jarmo Kuuttila noted that "Finland is committed to supporting the process of transformation in Myanmar, of which the promotion of good governance and respect for human rights is a critical part. We are confident that UNDP's work with the government, the parliament and the judiciary, as well as civil society, can positively contribute to that process."

The agreement was signed by Jarmo Kuuttila, Charge d'Affaires of the Diplomatic Mission of Fin-

land in Myanmar and Mr. Toily Kurbanov, UNDP's Country Director in Myanmar, in Yangon today, in the presence of the UN Assistant Secretary-General and UNDP Assistant Administrator Mr. Haoliang Xu who is on an official visit to Myanmar, and UN Resident and Humanitarian Coordinator in Myanmar Mrs. Renata Lok-Dessallien.

UNDP's democratic governance work in Myanmar is also financially supported by the peoples and governments of Australia, Denmark and Japan.—NLM

Rousseff gaining on Silva in likely Brazil runoff race

BRASILIA, 13 Sept — Brazilian President Dilma Rousseff has narrowed the lead of her top challenger, Marina Silva, to one percentage point in a potential runoff vote expected to follow the on 5 October first-round election, an opinion poll by pollster Ibope showed on Friday.

In a runoff, Silva has 43 percent support to 42 percent for Rousseff, said Ibope, which polled more than 2,000 people. The gap represents a statistical tie because it is within the survey's margin of error.

Silva had a seven-point lead in last week's Ibope poll. The survey was the latest evidence that Rousseff had recovered from Silva's dramatic surge earlier this

month and that her strategy of criticizing the popular environmentalist is paying off.

Analysts said Silva, the widely favoured contender just over a week ago, has hit her ceiling and the incumbent's more powerful political machine and media exposure have kicked in. If Silva, Rousseff or any other candidate fail to win a majority of votes on 5 October, the top two finishers will face each other on 26 October. In the first round, the poll found, support for Rousseff rose to 39 percent from 37 percent in last week's survey, while Silva's support fell to 31 percent from 33 percent, Ibope said. Support for centrist Aécio Neves, the market favourite, was unchanged at 15 percent.—Reuters



Brazil's President Dilma Rousseff smiles during a news conference at the Alvorada Palace in Brasília on 10 Sept, 2014. —REUTERS

Foley family says was 'threatened' by US official over ransom

WASHINGTON, 13 Sept — The family of murdered American journalist James Foley says it was threatened by a US official who warned that family members could be charged with supporting terrorism if they paid a ransom to his Islamist captors, ABC News reported on Friday.

ABC News quoted Foley's mother and brother as saying a military officer working for President Barack Obama's National Security Council had told them several times that they could face criminal charges if they paid a ransom.

The White House refused to discuss conversations that the family had with officials, but said they involved people from different government branches, including the White House, the FBI, the intelligence agencies and the Defense Department.

"I'm not going to get into who said what in the context of these individual conversations," spokesman Josh Earnest said, but he reaffirmed the US policy not to pay ransoms because it can encourage further abductions.

Foley's mother Diane

told ABC News they were told several times of the possibility of charges if a ransom were paid. "We took it as a threat and it was appalling," she said. ABC did not identify the official she was referring to.

"Three times he intimidated us with that message. We were horrified he would say that. He just told us we would be prosecuted. We knew we had to save our son, we had to try," Diane Foley said in an ABC interview.

ABC quoted a spokeswoman for the National Security Council as saying that the Foley family was informed of US laws banning terrorism financing but denying the family was told they could face charges if they made a ransom payment.

Obama's national security adviser, Susan Rice, while not discussing the family's charges directly, said she had gotten to know Diane Foley in the last 18 months as she pressed the government to help secure her son's release.

"She's just relentless in a good way, in a way any mother who wanted to do her utmost would. And I admire her very much, all



James Foley (R) arrives at Rixos hotel in Tripoli, in this picture taken on 18 May, 2011. —REUTERS

that she did. As a mother, I can only imagine her pain," Rice told a group of reporters.

Secretary of State John Kerry said he was "taken aback" by the report. "I am totally unaware and would not condone anybody that I know of within the State Department making such statements," he told reporters during a visit to Istanbul to discuss international action against Islamic State.

A video of the beheading of James Foley by an Islamic State militant was posted on the Web on 19 August. Two weeks later a similar video showed another American journalist,

Steven Sotloff, being beheaded.

The United States mounted an unsuccessful military mission to try to rescue Foley and other US hostages held by the group in Syria this summer.

"We have found that terrorist organizations use hostage taking and ransoms as a critical source of financing for their organization and that paying ransoms only puts other Americans in a position where they're at even greater risk," Earnest said.

Islamic state is still holding a number of hostages from Western and other countries.—Reuters

How UN troops defied orders, opened fire and escaped Syrian rebels

UNITED NATIONS / MANILA, 13 Sept — Early on 28 August, al-Qaeda-linked militants fighting government forces in Syria crossed a ceasefire line in the Golan Heights on Israel's border and seized 45 Fijians serving in a United Nations peacekeeping force.

The leader of a near-by UN contingent from the Philippines telephoned a commanding officer in Manila. They were surrounded, the leader said. Should they surrender and risk being kidnapped by the rebels or hold their ground?

The UN force commander, General Iqbal Singh Singha of India, fearing Fijian lives could be in jeopardy if the Filipinos engaged in a firefight, ordered the Filipinos to hold their fire. In Manila, General Gregorio Catapang gave different orders to his subordinate thousands of miles away in the Middle East: Stand your ground. Don't surrender.

For three days, Filipino troops fended off hundreds of rebels from the Islamic

militant Nusra Front group, killing at least three on the final day before escaping under cover of darkness to Israel. The Fijians were released on Thursday after two weeks of negotiation.

UN officials and diplomats say the incident with the Philippine peacekeepers highlights a fundamental problem with peacekeeping missions, one that may be impossible to resolve. National peacekeeping contingents retain allegiance to their commanders at home and when bullets fly, they have no problem disobeying UN force commanders and taking orders from home.

Based on interviews with UN officials, diplomats and Philippine military sources, including an official report on the incident from Manila, Reuters has pieced together a narrative of the events of 28 August to 30 August leading up to the dramatic escape of Philippine troops from the militants' siege.

It was not the first time that fighting from Syria's



Philippine Armed Forces chief General Gregorio Pio Catapang Jr gestures as he speaks during a forum with members of Foreign Correspondents Association of the Philippines (FOCAP) in Mandaluyong city, Metro Manila on 2 Sept, 2014. —REUTERS

three-year-old civil war spilled onto Israel's doorstep. But it was the most violent incident in the Golan Heights since the Syrian conflict erupted in March 2011.

The 1,223-strong six-nation UN force, known as UNDOF, has been on the Golan Heights since 1974. Its job is to monitor the ceasefire line between Syria

and Israel — the so-called disengagement zone that bars both Israeli and Syrian troops. The two countries have officially been at war since the end of the 1973 Arab-Israeli war but their border has been largely quiet.

Before the Syrian war broke out, blue-helmeted UN observers stationed in the mountainous region had

a relatively easy job. For years their main enemy was boredom.

That changed in March 2013, when Syrian rebels kidnapped 21 Filipino peacekeepers. All were released unharmed, but two months later rebels kidnapped and released a handful of others. The spillover of violence from Syria's civil war prompted Austria, Croatia and Japan to pull out of UNDOF.

The Philippines also considered pulling out but stayed at the UN's request. Fiji, Nepal and Ireland agreed to help fill UNDOF's depleted ranks and the UN Security Council toughened the mission's rules of engagement to give its peacekeepers more freedom to fight back when under threat.

After the 2013 kidnappings, countries providing troops complained that carrying a pistol was insufficient for a shifting battleground where rebels have shoulder-launched missiles and heavy machine guns.

They wanted armoured vehicles and heavier weapons — and the freedom to shoot to kill, if necessary, when under attack.

In June of last year, when the UN Security Council approved its six-month renewal of UNDOF's mandate, the council emphasized "the need to enhance the safety and security of UNDOF." It also endorsed UN recommendations for UNDOF to change its "posture and operations," allowing troops to defend themselves when attacked. The Security Council language on the UNDOF mandate was typically vague about the lengths to which peacekeepers could go in their own defence, but the new flexibility granted to the force did satisfy the demands of the council members and UNDOF troop contributing countries.

The Filipinos put those tougher rules of engagement to work on 30 August when they killed three rebels in a firefight.—Reuters

BUSINESS & HEALTH

China August factory output growth near six-year low

BEIJING, 13 Sept — China's factory output grew at the lowest pace in nearly six years in August while growth in retail sales and investment also cooled, adding to signs of fragility in the economy that may prod Beijing into fresh policy measures to prevent a sharper slowdown.

Industrial output rose 6.9 percent in August from a year earlier — the lowest reading since December 2008 when the economy was buffeted by the global financial crisis, compared with expectations for an 8.8 percent expansion and slowing from 9.0 percent in July.

Retail sales climbed 11.9 percent, lagging forecasts of 12.1 percent and slowing from 12.2 percent in July, the National Bureau of Statistics said.

Fixed-asset investment, an important driver of economic activity, grew 16.5 percent in the first eight months from the same period last year, lower than forecasts, it said.

Economists polled by *Reuters* had forecast 16.9 percent growth in fixed-as-



An employee guides a crane as it transports a roll of steel sheet, at a factory in Handan, Hebei Province on 13 Aug, 2014.—REUTERS

set investment, slowing from 17.0 percent in Jan-July.

China's economy got off to a weak start this year as first-quarter growth cooled to an 18-month low

of 7.4 percent. A raft of stimulus measures pushed that up slightly to 7.5 percent in the second quarter, but recent data have suggested the economy is again losing momentum

and policymakers may have to do more to offset the growing drag from the cooling housing market.

Property investment data released on Saturday showed further declines

in sales and new construction along with a drop in mortgages, while growth in housing-related goods such as home appliances, furniture and building materials such as steel and ce-

ment all slowed.

Data showed on Friday that credit levels in China appeared to improve in August after an alarming drop in July, but remained below average.

That followed trade data that showed China's exports were buoyant but import growth unexpectedly fell for the second consecutive month in August, posting its worst performance in over a year.

Most analysts expect the government to unveil more steps in coming months in order to meet its 7.5 percent economic growth target for the year, but the room for policy loosening is seen as limited after past stimulus programmes left many local governments saddled with piles of debt.

Premier Li Keqiang said on Monday that China cannot rely on loose credit to lift its economy, and reassured a business forum that Beijing would continue to roll out modest "targeted" measures as policymakers look to avert a sharper slowdown.

Reuters

Gilead to raise price for new hepatitis C drug above \$84,000

LOS ANGELES, 13 Sept—The next generation version of Gilead Sciences Inc's \$84,000 hepatitis C drug, already under fire for its record-breaking costs, is going to be even more expensive.

Gregg Alton, Gilead's executive vice president of corporate and medical affairs, declined to give an exact price for the new medicine, the first all-oral treatment for the virus which is expected to launch next month.

The total cost of the current treatment is \$95,000, which includes Sovaldi and two older medicines, ribavirin and interferon, according to Gilead. The price of the new drug would be based on that cost, Alton said in an interview. "We are going to price this fixed-dose regimen based on those costs," Alton said. "We do plan on launching a better product without having a significant premium." Health insurers, US state authorities and congressional lawmakers have pleaded with Gilead to offer a greater discount for Sovaldi as the cost of treating more than 3 million US patients are expected to reach hundreds of billions of dollars.

The drugmaker is expected to rake in nearly \$12 billion in hepatitis C drug sales worldwide in 2014. Sovaldi sales have been unprecedented for any drug in its first year on the market.

"The blank check mindset we've seen from Gilead is a threat to our entire health care system, and we hope they will pursue more sustainable pricing in the future," said Brendan Buck, a spokesman for the insurance industry's largest lobbying group, America's Health Insurance Plans. Gilead expects savings for some patients in its pricing scheme. It said that nearly half of hepatitis C patients — previously untreated, healthier individuals — can be cured after eight weeks of using the new pill, compared with 12 weeks for the current Sovaldi regimen. That would effectively cut the treatment cost by one-third for such patients.—*Reuters*

US sees Europe deflation risk, plans G20 bid to boost global demand

WASHINGTON, 13 Sept — The United States is planning to push Europe towards new and more aggressive efforts to boost demand and economic growth given a renewed risk of deflation in the euro zone, a senior Treasury official said on Friday.

Group of 20 finance ministers and central bankers will meet in Australia late next week and the offi-

cial said that lagging global growth will top the agenda.

The United States hopes over the next two months to craft a commitment from that grouping to boost investment and infrastructure spending and take other steps to prop up aggregate demand in the short term.

The G-20 includes the world's biggest industrial economies and major

developing nations, and since the financial crisis has become a central forum for discussing economic policies. Europe will be a focus at the talks, with Germany singled out for its large current account surplus as a nation that could help its neighbours by spending and importing more, an argument Washington has pressed before.

"Boosting domestic

demand is key and efforts to do so should be supported by decisive actions across a full range of economic policies, fiscal, structural and monetary," said the official, who called the still-anemic inflation rate in the euro zone currency union "dangerously low." "The very long recovery from the Great Recession has failed to gain solid and durable momentum."

The session among finance ministers and central bankers next week will lay the groundwork for a G-20 leaders summit scheduled for November in Brisbane.

Australia, the current chair of the global body, hopes the summit will produce an accord on efforts to boost world economic growth and tie up loose ends on financial industry reform measures developed in response to the 2007-2009 economic crisis.

The group allowed top economic powers to coordinate their response to the crisis but in recent years it has been less effective as a forum for joint action.

Reuters



People take their lunch at San Anton market in central Madrid on 30 July, 2014.

REUTERS

China offers \$50 million to Mali in midst of IMF talks

BAMAKO, 13 Sept—China has extended 26 billion CFA francs (\$51 million / £31.5 million) in funding to Mali, the West African country said on Friday, as it negotiates a programme with the International Monetary Fund.

President Ibrahim Boubacar Keita reached the agreement, which includes a gift of 18 billion francs and a 6 billion franc interest-free loan, during a visit to China for the World Economic Forum in Tianjin, a presidency statement said.

Mali also signed several partnership agreements with China, including for the construction of a fourth bridge across the Niger riv-

er in the capital Bamako and a railway line between Bamako and Conakry, the capital of neighbouring Guinea, the statement said.

The IMF restarted talks on Thursday in Bamako to review a programme for Mali and resume aid payments to the West African country halted this year.

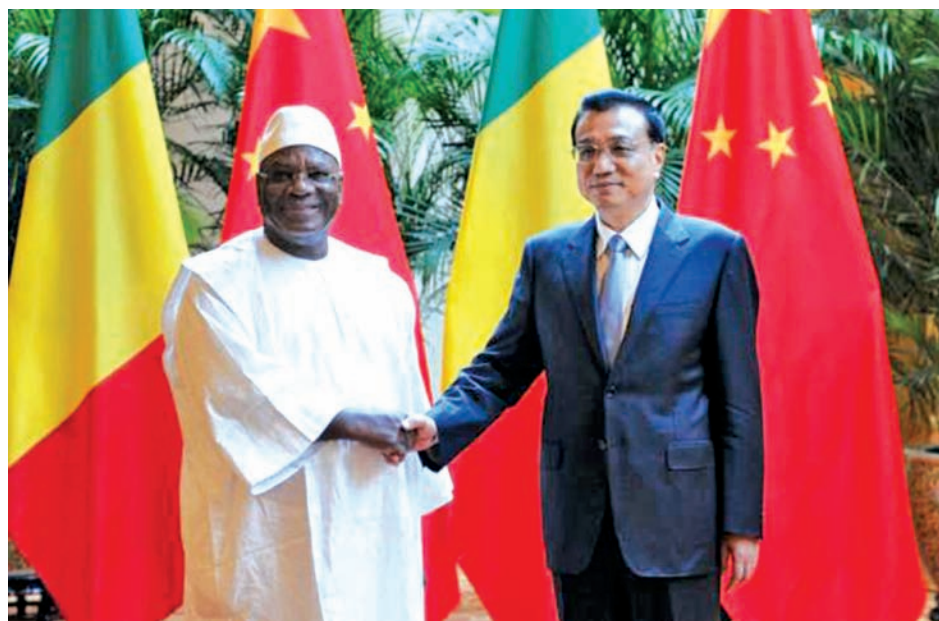
The IMF and World Bank froze nearly \$70 million in financing after the Fund expressed concern in May over Mali's purchase of a \$40 million presidential jet and a loan for military supplies, which undermined donor confidence in Keita's government.

A senior finance ministry official said an agree-

ment was expected within two weeks, after the government agreed to cut expenditure to ensure the aircraft purchase would not increase debt.

An IMF spokesman in Washington said on Thursday authorities had agreed to a review of the transactions by an independent auditor and a tightening of the procurement code.

Mali secured over \$4 billion in donor pledges last year to rebuild after twin crises in 2012. In the first, Malian soldiers ousted the president and, in the second, a mix of separatist and al-Qaeda-linked rebels seized the country's desert north. French troops scattered the Islamist fighters



Mali's President Ibrahim Boubacar Keita and China's Premier Li Keqiang (R) shake hands before their meeting during the World Economic Forum's annual meeting of the New Champions in Tianjin on 10 Sept, 2014.—REUTERS

and a UN peacekeeping mission has since deployed. But slow progress has left Keita struggling to retain the popular support that

swept him to power last year.

The row over the jet and the defence deals led to criticism that the era of

murky deals that shrouded the administration of ousted president Amadou Toumani Toure had not come to an end.—Reuters

US pledges nearly \$500 million aid for people, nations hit by Syria war



(From L-R): Egypt's Foreign Minister Sameh Shoukry, Kuwait's Foreign Minister Sabah Al-Khalid al-Sabah, Saudi Foreign Minister Prince Saud al-Faisal, US Secretary of State John Kerry, Oman's Foreign Minister Yusef bin Alawi bin Abdullah, Bahrain's Foreign Minister Sheikh Khaled bin Ahmed al-Khalifa and Lebanon's Foreign Minister Gebran Bassil, stand together during a family photo with of the Gulf Cooperation Council and regional partners at King Abdulaziz International Airport in Jeddah on 11 Sept, 2014.—REUTERS

ANKARA, 13 Sept—US Secretary of State John Kerry announced on Fri-

day nearly \$500 million (£307.5 million) in humanitarian aid for people and

countries hit by Syria's civil war. The aid package includes more than \$250

million "to assist refugees and host communities in the neighbouring countries affected by the crisis," Kerry said in a statement.

Some 3 million Syrian refugees have registered in neighbouring countries, according to the United Nations, but many remain trapped by the advance of Islamist militants or are having difficulty reaching open border crossings.

The UN refugee agency said two weeks ago that almost half of all Syrians had now been forced to leave their homes by the conflict, with 6.5 million thought to be displaced within Syria.

The highest concentrations of refugees in neighbouring countries are in Lebanon (1.17 million), Turkey (830,000) and Jordan (613,000), according to UNHCR. Some 215,000 are in Iraq with the rest in Egypt and other countries.

Reuters

UN chief hails world move to help West Africa in fighting Ebola

UNITED NATIONS, 13 Sept — UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon on Friday "warmly welcomes" efforts by the international community to help West African countries in fighting the Ebola crisis, and renewed his call for "countries to refrain from closing their borders to people coming from Guinea, Liberia and Sierra Leone."

"The secretary-general warmly welcomes the announcement by the Cuban government that it will be sending 165 medical personnel to Sierra Leone soon to assist in the response to Ebola," Ban said in a statement issued here by his spokesman. "In addition, the African Union has begun to mobilize medical personnel for the response, and the government of Ghana has agreed to use Accra as a key hub for flights into and out of Monrovia."

"Offers of cash, equipment and personnel from governments, NGOs and

the private sector have also begun to materialize," the statement said.

The Ebola outbreak, by far the largest in the nearly 40-year history of the disease, has infected 4,269 people and killed 2,288 this year in three West African countries — Guinea, Liberia and Sierra Leone — according to the WHO. While the outbreak, which emerged in March, has now reached four countries — Guinea, Liberia, Nigeria and Sierra Leone, Liberia and Sierra Leone account for more than 60 percent of the deaths, according to the WHO. Liberia, along with the other hard-hit countries, Guinea and Sierra Leone, is facing an Ebola outbreak unprecedented in its scope — more than 4,000 cases have been reported region-wide and more than 2,200 people have died — but also for the major blow it has dealt the already-fragile health care systems in West Africa.—Xinhua



File photo taken on 31 Aug, 2014 shows a "bicycle taxi" cyclist carrying passengers in Quelimane, capital of Zambezia, central province of Mozambique.

XINHUA

Cambodian scholars hail Chinese President's proposal

PHNOM PENH, 13 Sept—Cambodian scholars on Saturday voiced their support to Chinese President Xi Jinping for his four-point proposal for the development of the Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO). In the 14th meeting of the Council of Heads of State of the SCO in Dushanbe, capital of Tajikistan, on Friday, Xi suggested that the SCO member states, including China, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Russia, Tajik-

istan and Uzbekistan, take responsibility to safeguard regional security and stability, adhere to the goal of common development and prosperity, comprehensively promote people-to-people exchanges, and expand external exchanges and cooperation. Chheang Vannarith, a senior researcher of the Cambodian Institute for Cooperation and Peace, said China has taken significant steps in promoting comprehensive cooperation

with SCO member states. "People diplomacy is one of the core areas of cooperation and China is taking a leadership role in linking the peoples from the region," he told Xinhua.

He said SCO is going to be stronger and plays more significant role in promoting regional peace and development.

"It should explore and strengthen its external relations with other regional institutions and mecha-

nisms such as ASEAN and Summit of Conference on Interaction and Confidence Building Measures in Asia (CICA)," he said. Sok Touch, deputy chief of the International Relations Institute, an arm of the Royal Academy of Cambodia, said Xi's proposal was aimed to create possibilities for closer cooperation among the SCO member states and to expand SCO's cooperation with other countries.—Xinhua

ADVERTISEMENT & GENERAL

Vacancy Announcement (For Myanmar Nationals Only)

Fostering Agricultural Revitalization in Myanmar (FARM) project will be launched by the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD) loan and the interested candidates who are eligible for the following positions are invited to apply.

Project area	:	Nay Pyi Taw
Project duration	:	from 2014 to 2020(6 years)
1. Project Manager and Agriculturalist		Male / Female (1) Post
2. Finance Manager		Male / Female (1) Post
3. Accountant		Male / Female (1) Post
4. Procurement and Contract Management Specialist		Male / Female (1) Post
5. Rural Finance Specialist		Male / Female (1) Post
6. Monitoring and Evaluation Specialist		Male / Female (1) Post
7. Community Development and Gender Specialist		Male / Female (1) Post
8. Irrigation and Water Users Group Specialist		Male / Female (1) Post

The salary for all the positions will be competitive basic with international organization and private sectors. The deadline of application is 28th September 2014.

Please note that: Qualified candidates are invited to submit an updated CV and a cover letter in English, to the email farmmoai@gmail.com or the Director General, Department of Agricultural, Ministry of Agricultural and Irrigation, Office No.(15),Nay Pyi Taw (Ph 067-410007/ 067-410007/410016).

All candidates shall include the job title in the cover letter and in the email's subject lines. Candidates who have already applied for the positions do not need to re-submit their application.

Detailed Terms of Reference and qualification for the position can be found at: Ministry of Agricultural and Irrigation(MOAI) website:

<www.moai.gov.mm/zg/index.php/doanoticboard>

Myanmar Information Management Unit website:www.mimu.org

Application shall be sent to the email farmmoai@gmail.com

Namibia gives green light to CAF tournament despite Ebola fears

WINDHOEK, 13 Sept—Namibia says it will allow entry into the country participants from Ebola-ravaged West Africa to take part in the ninth edition of the biannual Confederation of African Football (CAF) African Women Championship scheduled next month. A local weekly newspaper quoted the Namibia Football Association (NAF) president John Muinjo Friday saying that the tournament, scheduled to start from 11 to 25 October in Windhoek, will go ahead as planned despite an outbreak of the deadly Ebola virus in West Africa.

"The virus will not affect the competition... travelling fans and players will have to go through a thorough test at their respective airports before boarding a plane to Namibia.

"We know that the virus is highly contagious

and therefore the NFA does not want to take any chances," Muinjo said. Eight countries will take part in the two-week tournament, including four West African countries: Cameroon, Ghana, Ivory Coast, and tournament favourites, Nigeria. While there are no confirmed cases in the other three West African countries, 19 confirmed cases have so far been reported in Nigeria according to health officials in that country with seven deaths.

The NFA said players, officials and supporters coming from West African countries will need careful screening. "Zambia, South Africa and Egypt are not close to Ebola affected countries and I am sure they will not have to go through as many monitoring procedures as the West African countries," Muinjo added.—Xinhua

THE REPUBLIC OF THE UNION OF MYANMAR MINISTRY OF ENERGY MYANMA OIL AND GAS ENTERPRISE (INVITATION FOR OPEN TENDER) (18/2014)

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

Sr.No	Tender No	Description	Remark
(1)	IFB -090(14-15)	Smart UPS for Ywama Gas Distribution Station (2) Items	US\$
(2)	IFB -091(14-15)	Electrical Spares for ZJ70LSRI Rig (1) Item	US\$
(3)	IFB -092(14-15)	Deutz Genuine Engine for HDD Rig (1) No	US\$
(4)	IFB -093(14-15)	Spares for CNG Storage Cascade and Dispenser Pipe Line (14) Items	US\$
(5)	DMP/L -016(14-15)	Siemens DC Converter (4) Nos	Ks
(6)	DMP/L -017(14-15)	Spares for Nissan RD 8 Engine Ex:435TC P & H Crane (1) Lot	Ks
(7)	DMP/L -018(14-15)	Spares for Mitsubishi 6 DB 10C-K Engine Ex P & H Crawler Crane	Ks
(8)	DMP/L -019(14-15)	Spares for MUD Pump Ex Road Boring Machine (1) Lot	Ks
(9)	DMP/L -020(14-15)	Spares for F 1600 Mud Pump Ex ZJ 70L Rigs (1) Lot	Ks
(10)	DMP/L -021(14-15)	Valve Assembly & Valve Seat for D375 Rig Pump (2) Items	Ks
(11)	DMP/L -022(14-15)	PGGO 140 (Gear Oil) (1) Lot	Ks
(12)	DMP/L -023(14-15)	H.O.L (Hydraulic Oil) (1) Lot	Ks
(13)	DMP/L -024(14-15)	Engine Oil for Gas Engine (1) Lot	Ks

Tender Closing Date & Time - 6-10-2014, 16:30 Hr.

Tender Document shall be available during office hours commencing from 10th September, 2014 at the Finance Department, Myanma Oil and Gas Enterprise, No (44) Complex, Nay Pyi Taw, Myanmar.

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

IFRC calls for expansion of life-saving skills for everyone, everywhere

GENEVA, 13 Sept—The International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC) on Friday called on communities worldwide to be equipped with life-saving skills, be it in times of everyday crises, disasters or conflicts.

According to IFRC, 90 percent of lives in an emergency are saved by local people. In the most critical of times, bystanders are often the first to act before a professional arrives.

"Time and again, we see first aid being put into action as the first step in the chain of survival, on the ground saving lives during conflicts, disasters or in everyday crises. But you don't need to be a medical professional to make a difference," Elhadj As Sy, Secretary General of the IFRC said in a statement.

"Our vision and our commitment is that as many people, at any age, can be equipped with life-saving skills in their own community. Most of us have, or will at some time, encounter a situation where first aid is needed. Saving lives is a matter of skills that can be learned by everyone, everywhere," he added. He stressed governments must support first aid training and education in places where people at every age can learn to make a difference, including schools, workplaces and driving programmes.

With the crucial fact that the annual disaster fatalities reached 70,000, IFRC highlighted first aid is a driving force for what the world needs most today and skills that enable people to effectively prepare, respond and recover from crises. Started in the year 2000, the World First Aid Day, which occurs on the second Saturday of September every year, aims to raise global awareness of how first aid can save people's lives in everyday situations and provides an opportunity for citizens to understand they can quickly learn skills that could save someone's life.

Xinhua



Palestinian fishermen sell fish at the beach of Gaza City on 12 September, 2014. At the end of a 50-day Israeli offensives on the Gaza Strip, which started on 8 July, Israel allowed fishermen in the coastal enclave to go for fishing in a six-mile area.—XINHUA

Cuban medical team to help fight Ebola in West Africa

HAVANA, 13 Sept—Cuba is joining the global effort to fight the spread of the deadly Ebola virus in West Africa, state daily *Granma* reported on Friday.

Cuban Public Health Minister Roberto Morales made the announcement in Geneva, Switzerland, at a joint press conference with Director General of the World Health Organization Margaret Chan.

The tiny Caribbean nation, known for its high medical level, will send a

165-member team of health-care workers, 62 doctors and 103 nurses, "who have more than 15 years of experience in their field," to the Ebola-hit countries, Morales said. "Everyone on the team has worked in other countries with epidemiological or natural disasters," the minister said, adding that the team is expected to spend six months in West Africa, starting from the first week of October.

Cuba's contribution of specialists to the Ebola crisis

will be the largest to date, Dr Chan said. The WHO estimates some 500 foreign doctors and nurses are needed to effectively combat the epidemic.

The WHO's latest situation report on the Ebola outbreak, issued Friday, said 2,218 deaths were reported as of Sept. 7 and 4,366 probable, confirmed or suspected cases registered in the countries affected, including Guinea, Liberia, Nigeria, Senegal and Sierra Leone.

Xinhua

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Weather report

FORECAST VALID UNTIL EVENING OF THE 14th September, 2014: Rain or thundershowers will be isolated in Magway Region and Kayah State, scattered in Lower Sagaing, Mandalay and Ayeyawady Regions, Shan and Chin States, fairly widespread Upper Sagaing, Bago and Yangon Regions, Kachin, Rakhine and Kayin States and widespread in the remaining Regions and States with isolated heavy falls in Kachin State. Degree of certainty is (100%).



Madonna shows off DJ skills

LOS ANGELES, 13 Sept — Pop diva Madonna hit the DJ booth alongside Diplo and Skrillex at a New York Fashion Week after party.

The 56-year-old pop star later took to Twitter to share photos from the bash.

“Another lecture from Diplo on djbooth etiquette! #sorrynotsorry #unapologeticbitch #diplotic,” she captioned a snap of her and her collaborator.

The trio was not the only famous names who made appearance at the bash. In addition to the three stars, the party was attended by ‘Orange Is the New Black’ stars Taryn Manning and Dascha Polanco as well as Whoopi Goldberg, Leigh Lezark, A-Trak, DJ Jus Ske, DJ Rukus and Scout Willis.

PTI



Katy Perry: I’ve got a good idea what I want in a man

LOS ANGELES, 13 Sept — Pop star Katy Perry admits she has made huge mistakes when it comes to falling in love.

The ‘Teenage Dream’ singer, who was married to funnyman Russell Brand and dated John Mayer, said as she prepares for her 30s, she’s determined to find the perfect guy, reported *Contact-music*.

“What I’ve learned is that if you don’t have the foundation of self-love first, you really have nowhere to pull love from

to give it away. I had to learn about taking care of myself before I could take care of others. I want to mommy everyone. I want to take care of them. I want to save them, and I forget myself in the meantime. I learned that through therapy.” “As I’m heading into my 30s, I have less time for it. I look for the same characteristics: a sense of humour — someone who makes me laugh off the charts — someone who is sensitive, someone who loves and understands music, and who is really smart,” Perry, 29, said.—PTI

Jackie Chan, Zhang Ziyi open Chinese Film Days in Romania

BUCHAREST, 13 Sept—Chinese famous movie stars Jackie Chan and Zhang Ziyi on Thursday opened the Chinese Film Days in the Romanian capital city, in the presence of officials and fans from both countries.

Romania’s State Secretary of Cultural Ministry Alexandru Oprean conferred the honorary title of Friendship Ambassador upon Jackie Chan and Zhang Ziyi, while Tong Gang, Deputy Director of China’s State General Administration of Press, Publication, Radio, Film and Television (SARFT) handed the certificates of Ambassador for Chinese Culture and Film to the two actors.

The opening ceremony took place in the Baneasa Grand Cinema and was followed by the screening of the film *Chinese Zodiac*, written, directed, produced and action choreographed by Jackie Chan.

Another four films *Beijing Love Story*, *Flying Swords of Dragon Gate*, *The Grandmaster* and *Full Circle* will be also screened during the week.

Chinese Film Days, one of the series of events to celebrate the 65th anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic relationship between the two countries, is organized by China’s SARFT and Romania’s National Film Center with the support of the Chinese embassy in Romania and the Romanian-Chinese House.

Next Thursday, the Chinese Film Days will continue in cities of Craiova and Arad.

Xinhua



Movie stars Jackie Chan (3rd R) and Zhang Ziyi (3rd L) hold the certificates of ambassador for Chinese culture and film at the opening of the Chinese Film Days in Bucharest, capital of Romania on 11 Sept, 2014.

XINHUA

Michael Jackson’s family memorabilia to be auctioned



NEW YORK, 13 Sept—King of Pop’ Michael Jackson’s family belongings will be part of an online auction after a major collector went bankrupt.

The items include Janet Jackson’s bras, La Toya Jackson’s old toys and a black tuxedo worn by Michael’s pet chimpanzee Bubbles, reported *New York Daily News*. “Some of the items are ordinary items that could come out of any household — but when it has the provenance of being from the Jackson household, that’s history,” said Peter Siegel, spokesperson of the auction house Gotta Have It.

Other items that will be auctioned are 56 master recordings of the Jackson 5, as well as their performance outfits.

The reel-to-reel tapes include unreleased songs from Jackson 5, including their cover of Donny and Marie Osmond’s hit song, ‘A Little Bit Country’.

Peter said that they wouldn’t be sold with copyrights to release the songs although the tapes were part of the auction.

The online auction will start on 19 September on GottaHaveIt.com. Most of the bids start at USD 100, while the master recordings will start at USD 1,000.

“This is a great way for the general public to own a piece of Jackson family history for as little as USD 100,” Peter added.—PTI

Celebs attend activity in Beijing

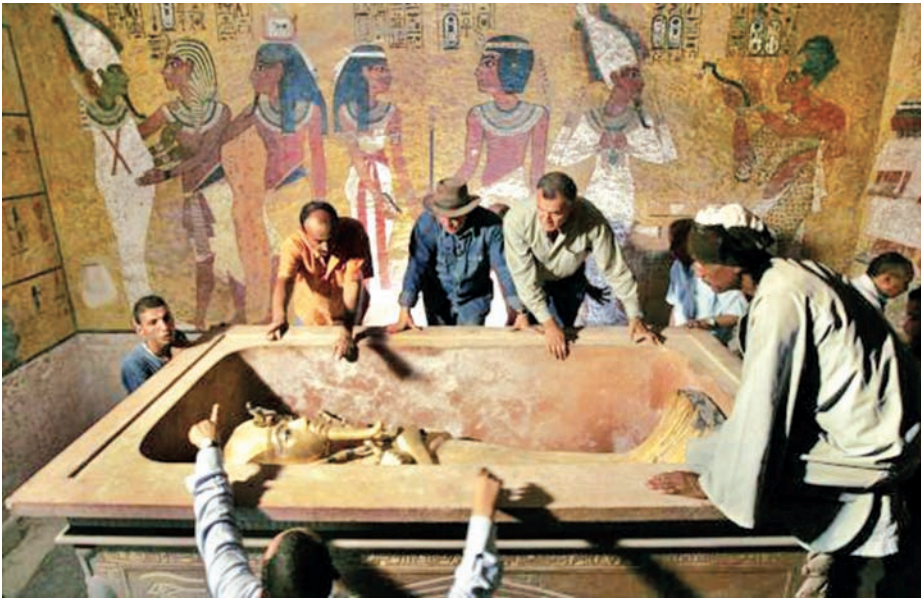


Chinese actress Fan Bingbing attends commercial activity with actor Feng Shaofeng, Singer Zhang Jie and other celebrities in Beijing on 12 Sept, 2014.

XINHUA

GENERAL

Exhibition unwraps drama of Tutankhamun's discovery



Zahi Hawass (back, 3rd L), head of the High Council for Antiquities, supervises the removal of the mummy of King Tutankhamun from his stone sarcophagus in his underground tomb in the Valley of the Kings in Luxor in this on 4 Nov, 2007 file photo. — REUTERS

OXFORD, (England) 13 Sept — Egypt's "boy king" Tutankhamun has gripped the imagination since his tomb was discovered in 1922, and a new exhibition tells the enthralling tale of how archaeologists unearthed and recorded the contents of his 3,000-year-old resting place.

"Discovering Tutankhamun", at Oxford University's Ashmolean Museum until 2 November, takes visitors through the drama of how Howard Carter found a step leading down into the

sand in the Valley of the Kings to the opening of the tomb and the painstaking unwrapping of the king's mummified body.

Along the way, the exhibition places the discovery in the political context of Egypt's struggle for independence, looks at the cultural impact that turned Tutankhamun into something of a Hollywood star and at the origins of the legend of "the pharaoh's curse".

Unlike some previous Tutankhamun exhibitions, the Ashmolean show does

not include masses of gold treasures — many of those items never leave Egypt.

At the core of "Discovering Tutankhamun" are photographs, drawings and other records from the university's Griffith Institute, marking its 75th anniversary this year, of the thousands of artefacts jumbled in the tomb. "Our initial thought was to mark the moment just by showing some examples from their most famous archive, the Carter archive," said Paul Collins, who curated the exhibition

with Liam McNamara. "But then we thought there were many other stories we could tell, and the great story is the process of surveying the tomb of Tutankhamun and its impact on the wider world and our understanding of Egypt."

Tutankhamun died, of causes still disputed, in about 1322 BC at around 18, having reigned for nine years. He lived in turbulent times and many of the monuments he left behind were usurped by his successors. So why does he have such a hold on the imagination?

Collins thinks it is partly due to when the tomb was found. World War One was over, economies were picking up and international travel was growing. Mass media fought to cover the story and it was the heyday of Hollywood.

"King Tut" inspired fashion and furnishings, included in the exhibition, based on motifs from the tomb, novels, films and even a song called "Old King Tut was a wise old nut".

"It's the first time you get fashion and tourism coming together, and Tutankhamun becomes in a sense a Hollywood star," Collins said. For Egyptian nationalists, who won nominal independence from Britain in 1922, Tutankhamun became a symbol of national identity. Political disagreement over access to the tomb meant Carter had to stop work for a year. — Reuters

I'll win trophies with White Roosters, crows Ronaldinho

MEXICO CITY, 13 Sept — Brazilian great Ronaldinho put on a Queretaro shirt for the first time on Friday and promised he would give his all to help the modest Mexican team win some silverware.

The 34-year-old forward signed for the provincial club known as Gallos Blancos (White Roosters) just before the transfer window closed last week.

"I have decided to come to Los Gallos because I believe we can do great things here," Ronaldinho told reporters after being presented with the number 49 shirt, the jersey he wore with much success at his previous club Atletico Mineiro.

"I have never won anything in Mexico before and that's why I have come. I am going to fight to help my team win something."

Ronaldinho joined Queretaro after leading Atletico to their first Copa



Soccer player Ronaldinho holds up a sign showing his name and the name of his new club Queretaro during a news conference in Mexico City on 12 Sept, 2014. — REUTERS

Libertadores title triumph last year. "I had the chance to sign for teams from almost all over the world but I have always fancied living here and I want to keep my story going," he said.

"I've been a champion at all the teams I've played for. I am a player with loads of ambition, I want to make history with the club and I

am very motivated," added Ronaldinho who will not be making his debut in Friday's home game against Puebla because of fitness issues.

"I am going to perform to the best of my abilities. I want to give it my all to raise the club's name."

Queretaro are eighth in the Apertura first division on 10 points after three wins

and a draw in seven matches. Ronaldinho started his career with hometown club Gremio from Porto Alegre. — Reuters

MYANMAR TV

(14-9-2014, Sunday)

6:00 am

* Paritta by Venerable Mingun Sayadaw

6:30 am

* Physical Exercise

7:00 am

* News/ Weather Report

7:20 am

* MRTV's Youth Programme

8:00 am

* News / International News

8:30 am

* Amazing World

9:45 am

* Beautiful (ASEAN)

10:20 am

* Science and Technology Programme

12:25 pm

* Round up of The Week's International News

12:35 pm

* Myanmar Movies

2:20 pm

* Musical Programme

3:00 pm

* News

3:25 pm

* Mono Classical Song

4:20 pm

* University of Distance Education (TV Lectures) Second Year (History)

5:15 pm

* Sing & Enjoy

6:30 pm

* MRTV's Youth Programme

7:00 pm

* News

7:20 pm

* Weekly Entertainment News

8:00 pm

* News/ International News/ Weather Report

9:30 pm

* Documentary (Women in Myanmar Society)

MYANMAR INTERNATIONAL

(14-9-14 07:00 am~ 15-9-14 07:00 am) MST

- * Local News
- * Yatana Theinga City and Shwe Bon Yatanamingalar Palace
- * World News
- * Entrepreneur "Kalayar Pyi Wai Shan"
- * Local News
- * "Discovering Tribes" Muun (Episode-II)
- * World News
- * I'm In Love With Diamond
- * Local News
- * To The Land of Countless Temples - Bagan Trip (Episode-1)
- * World News
- * Sweet Delicacy of Patheon
- * Local News
- * Shwe Myanmar and Full Moon Day of Waso
- * World News
- * Myanmar Masterclass: Cubism
- * Local News
- * The Historic Bells
- * World News
- * A Girl Guide
- * Local News
- * Shwe Kyet Yet — Shwe Kyet Kya's Boat Race Festival
- * World News
- * Waso or the Buddhist Retreat Period
- * Local News
- * The Man and The Elephant
- * World News
- * Wholesale Fish
- * Local News
- * Young Artist Pann Kyi
- * World News
- * A Monk's Robe



Photo taken on 12 Sept, 2014 shows a street manhole cover painted with a cartoon image in the Fenghuangcheng residential area in Shenyang, capital of northeast China's Liaoning Province. — XINHUA

Ancelotti backs Casillas on keeper's 15th Real anniversary

MADRID, 13 Sept — Real Madrid coach Carlo Ancelotti gave captain Iker Casillas a vote of confidence on Friday as the decorated Spain goalkeeper celebrated 15 years since making his debut for the 10-times European champions.

Now 33, Casillas was a fixture for Real for well over a decade until he was dropped by Ancelotti's predecessor Jose Mourinho and has lost some of the aura that made him a hero to fans and earned him the nickname "Saint Iker".

After captaining Spain to successive European titles in 2008 and 2012 with a debut global crown in between, Casillas endured a woeful 2014 World Cup title defence in Brazil after a shaky season with Real but appears to be Ancelotti's number one this term ahead of new signing Keylor Navas.

The Italian used an awkward rotation policy last term when Diego Lopez, who has left to join AC Milan, played in La Liga and Casillas in the Champions League.

The latter's error of judge-



Real Madrid's goalkeeper Iker Casillas (L) looks on near Real Madrid coach Carlo Ancelotti (2nd R) and Zinedine Zidane (R) before their Spanish First Division soccer match against Osasuna at Santiago Bernabeu stadium in Madrid on 26 April, 2014.—REUTERS

ment in the final against Atletico Madrid handed Real's city rivals a 1-0 lead before Sergio Ramos

saved Casillas and the team with a last-gasp equaliser and Ancelotti's men went on to win 4-1.

"He (Casillas) has never lost our confidence," Ancelotti told a news conference ahead of Satur-

day's La Liga match against Atletico. "We congratulated him today for his anniversary with Real Madrid and we wish him the best for the future. We have the same confidence in him as always."

Born in the gritty Madrid suburb of Mostoles, Casillas came through Real's youth academy and made his first-team debut under former coach John Toshack on 12 Sept, 1999, a 2-2 draw at Athletic Bilbao.

He has won three Champions League crowns, five La Liga titles and two King's Cups and with 683 appearances is third on Real's all-time list behind Raul (741) and Manolo Sanchis (710).

Casillas has made a host of superb saves over the years but will probably best be remembered for the one he pulled off to deny Netherlands forward Arjen Robben in the 2010 World Cup final in Johannesburg.

Robben raced clear on goal and placed a low shot towards the corner but Casillas flung out a leg and diverted the ball narrowly wide before Spain went on to win 1-0 after extra time.

Reuters

Serbia beat France to join US in basketball World Cup final

MADRID, 13 Sept — Serbia continued their remarkable run in the basketball World Cup knockout rounds after a 90-85 win over European champions France on Friday steered them into Sunday's final against holders United States.

The Serbs, who have secured their first World Cup podium finish as an independent nation, will head into the showdown with the US under no pressure after punching well above their weight in the 24-nation tournament.

They squeezed into the last 16 from a tough preliminary group with a 2-3 record but then brushed aside more fancied Greece and Brazil before an impressive win against the French.

"It was a great match and this victory means the world to us and our fans back home," forward Nikola Kalinic told Serbian television in a courtside interview.

"We will head into the final with our heads high and determined to play our best basketball.

"The match against the Americans will be a great experience for us. We won't make idle threats of course but we won't roll over either."

Reuters

Maidana hoping to make Mayweather pay for rare rematch

LAS VEGAS, 13 Sept — Floyd Mayweather Jr rarely hands anyone a rematch and Argentine brawler Marcos Maidana is hoping to make the undefeated welterweight champion regret giving him a second chance when the fighters meet again on Saturday.

For only the second time in his brilliant 18-year career, Mayweather will face an opponent he has met before when he puts his 46-0 record, World Boxing Association (WBA) and World Boxing Council (WBC) title belts on the line in Las Vegas.

"I'm calm, I'm in shape and hopefully can change history," Maidana told reporters on Friday after a raucous weigh-in at the MGM Grand attended by thousands of cheering supporters for both men.

"The first fight was very close," the 31-year-old from Santa Fe added. "I made a couple of errors and I will rectify those and we will see a different result. My punches weren't that accurate, that is why I did not win the fight but this time they are going to be." The hard-hitting Maidana (35-4, 31 knockouts) gave Mayweather what many regarded as the toughest test of the American's career when the two met on 4 May, even though the champion earned the majority decision.

In announcing the rematch, Mayweather, widely seen as the world's leading pound-for-pound boxer, acknowledged Maidana's style was "difficult at best" and



WBC/WBA welterweight champion Floyd Mayweather Jr (L) of the US and Marcos Maidana of Argentina pose with the WBC belt during their official weigh-in at the MGM Grand Garden Arena in Las Vegas, Nevada on 12 Sept, 2014.—REUTERS

that the Argentine had a ferocious will to win.

Certainly Maidana gave the 37-year-old American all he could handle in the opening rounds of their previous clash, the Argentine slugger launching a blizzard of punches and trapping his opponent against the ropes at every turn.

Though Mayweather went on to dominate the second half of that contest, Maidana felt he had done enough to earn the decision.

"It was a good competitive fight. I won, you live, you learn what else can I say," said Mayweather, whose only other rematch was against Jose Luis Castillo in 2002.

"The only thing you want to do is make things better always.

"I can make adjustments, that's happened before in my career. No one is perfect, I was trying to be a perfectionist but no one is perfect."

Perhaps he is right, but Mayweather's record is perfect and having announced earlier this week that he plans to retire in 2015 when his Showtime contract expires, he has three more fights to win if he wants to go out undefeated.

With one punch, however, the aggressive Maidana could end Mayweather's plans to cement his legacy as the greatest fighter of all-time.

"Floyd is a great fighter. He has been the best the last 20 years we have to respect and admire that but we're against him this time for the second time, so we have to do everything possible to beat him," Maidana's trainer Robert Garcia said.

"Marcos has something a lot of other opponents don't have and that's that he doesn't respect anybody in front of him."

Mayweather has been described as much more subdued and focused in his buildup to Saturday's fight, leaving most of the trash talking to Maidana, a former two-division title holder, who urged his opponent "to stop crying and just fight".

The champion seemed unaffected by the taunts when he walked onto the stage for Friday's weigh-in to thundering cheers with the customary stare down ending quickly and free of incident.

"My job is to just go out there and be Floyd Mayweather," Mayweather added. "I don't worry about pace, I just worry about being me, being first and being smart."

It is a job that has paid Mayweather very well in the past.

The world's highest-paid athlete earned \$105 million last year according to Forbes.com and the man nicknamed "Money" will be making another sizeable deposit in his bank account on Saturday with another \$32 million guaranteed.—Reuters