



Third hydropower station opened on Belu Creek

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Let's kindle a ray of hope in flood victims

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President fulfils needs in Sagaing Region

NAY PYI TAW, 22 Aug — President U Thein Sein, after inspecting the work progress in repairing a road section between Kalay and Tamu and construction of Kham Park bridge which was destroyed by flood on Saturday, visited Kham Park town, Sagaing Region, and met locals to encourage them.

The president also inspected the reconstruction of Kanan, Kamagyi, Tweban, Tedimyam, and Yanlinphaing bridges and met villagers in Bokekan village in the region.

In the afternoon, the president met flood victims living in Tamu district at Basic Education High School No 1. At the meeting, the chairman of Tamu district management committee briefed the president on the natural disaster, loss and damages, rescue and relief works and the assistance that is needed.

The president explained on arrangements for fulfilling food, clothing and shelter needs of victims, rehabilitation of agriculture and livestock breeding sector and villages, evacuation the victims to new places, food security and the plans of the union government and the region government.

On the occasion, the president presented Buddha images for two villages, food for three villages, household goods for



Under the rain, President U Thein Sein meets locals in Bokekan village in Sagaing Region, Northwestern Myanmar.—IPRD

two wards and a village and sanitation equipments for two wards in Tamu. Donors presented over

K 20 million for flood victims through the chairman of the district management committee.

A total of six bridges were destroyed on Tamu-Kyikon-Kalay Road in Tamu District,

Sagaing Region. The torrential rains cost an estimate of K 414.22 million in damage.—MNA



A Myanmar puppeteer stages a puppet show at Mandalay Marionette Theatre.

PHOTO: DAW MA MA NAING

Myanmar to share puppetry with Singaporean students

By Khaing Thanda Lwin

YANGON, 22 Aug — Myanmar puppeteers will leave for Singapore to share traditional techniques of puppetry with students of Nanyang Academy of Fine Arts, according to Daw Ma Ma Naing, managing director of the Mandalay Marionette Theatre.

The Singapore's school of fine arts has requested the marionette theatre to disseminate the knowledge on how to perform the country's marionettes, she told *The Global New Light of Myanmar* on Saturday.

A team of Myanmar puppet-

teers will leave for Singapore on 25 August and train 20 students for three days from 26 to 28 August.

"It is just a three-day training, so we will teach them basic skills in the use of string puppets," she said, adding that it usually takes one month to learn basic puppetry.

Daw Ma Ma Naing established a Mandalay-based Myanmar Marionette Organization in last August with the aim of promoting the standard of traditional puppetry as well as bringing the country's folk art back to life.

The organization has so far generated around 20 young pup-

peteers, with more and more young people showing greater interest in working the puppets.

When asked about its further plans, the marionette organization spoke of its arrangements for two-week courses to be conducted in October in Mandalay. The courses are aimed at attracting young enthusiasts across the country, especially from such far-flung areas as Chin and Kachin states.

A popular form of entertainment and education, Myanmar's puppet shows depict the differences between good and evil through literature, history and religion.—GNLM

NEWS IN BRIEF

UNESCO initiates Training

YANGON, 22 Aug — Over 140 media professionals and journalism students have participated in the Training Programme on Investigative Journalism that UNESCO has initiated in Myanmar. It is the first time that specific training on Investigative Reporting has been offered in the country.

In July 8-18, UNESCO Myanmar conducted three introductory courses in investigative journalism—two for professional journalists and one for journalism educators of the National Management College (NMC)—and a lecture for NMC students.

GNLM



Comedians from Yangon donate household utensils to flood victims

HINTHADA, 22 Aug — Yangon Comedian Philanthropic Group donated household utensils to the donation centre for flood victims in Hinthada Township, Ayeyawady Region, on Friday.

Film director Maung Thi, comedians Ayeya, Moe Tein and party donated rice cooking oil, instant foods, pots and medicines to the flood victims from 1,285 households and prerequisites for Bud-

dhist monks. Township Administrator U Tin Aung Win accepted the donations worth about K3 million from the group members.

Kyaw Kyaw (Hinthada)

People-centred project meets success in Tatkon township



TATKON, 22 Aug — Rural Development Department and World Bank met departmental officials in Tatkon, Nay Pyi Taw Council Area, on 20 August to accelerate the implementation of public-centred projects in the township.

Township officials briefed on the project and its results.

Leaders from 49 village-tracts participated in discussions on strong and weak points in the project, and they made assessment on the excellent village in which the project met the most success.

Officials presented first, second and third prizes to Shadaw, Shaukkon and Lebyinma village-tracts for their excellent performances in implementation of the project.—*Tin Soe Lwin (Tatkon IPRD)*

Officers presented first, second and third prizes to Shadaw, Shaukkon and Lebyinma village-tracts for their excellent performances in implementation of the project.—*Tin Soe Lwin (Tatkon IPRD)*

Tatkon Tsp to spend K100 million on rural development

TATKON, 22 Aug — Township Administrator U Yi Mon and officials of various committees held a meeting at the Township General Administration Department on 21 August to carry out rural development in 21 villages spending K100 million.

The rural development tasks will include construction of school buildings, roads and bridges, upgrading of rural roads and improvement of livelihoods of local people.

Tin Soe Lwin (Tatkon IPRD)



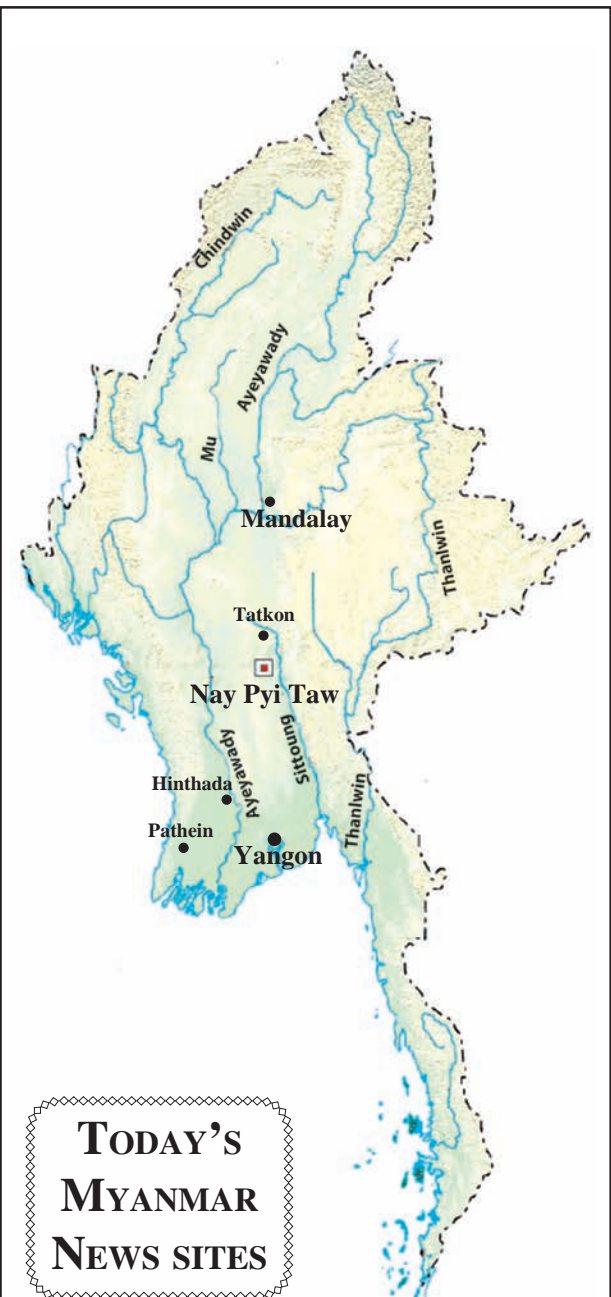
One Stop Shop service for Pathein residents

PATHEIN, 22 Aug — Pathein Township has opened “One Stop Shop” at the General Administration Department since 20 August so as to provide smooth and better services to the local people in all sectors.

Commissioner of Ayeyawady Region U Aye Kyaw of GAD inspected working process at the one stop shop and gave instructions to officials to give one-stop service to the people.

The shop was formed with township level departments. In line with the instructions of the commissioner, the one stop shop will be added with officials of Myanmar Police Force and Fire Brigade.

Region IPRD



American Centre, Asia Foundation donate books in Mandalay



MANDALAY, 22 Aug — The American Centre of the U.S. Embassy and Asia Foundation donated books to libraries in Mandalay on 21 August.

Public Affairs Officer of the US Embassy Satrajit (Jitu) Sardar spoke on the occasion, and Country Representative Dr Kim Ninh of Asia Foundation explained that the Asia Foundation has donated about 183,000 copies of books in various subjects to 351 libraries in Myanmar since 2007.

According to Dr Kim, the donation includes 13,000 copies of child literature, and about 6,000 copies were among the donation on the occasion. Officials of schools and organizations accepted the donated books.

Tin Maung (Mandalay)

Third hydropower station opened on Belu Creek

LOIKAW, 22 Aug — A new hydropower station was opened in Kayah State on Saturday, with Union Minister U Soe Thane and Chief Minister U Khin Maung Oo attending the opening ceremony.

The No.3 Belu Creek hydropower station is located at the reach of Belu Creek and Pun Creek, 13 miles southeast of Loikaw, the capital of Kayah State.

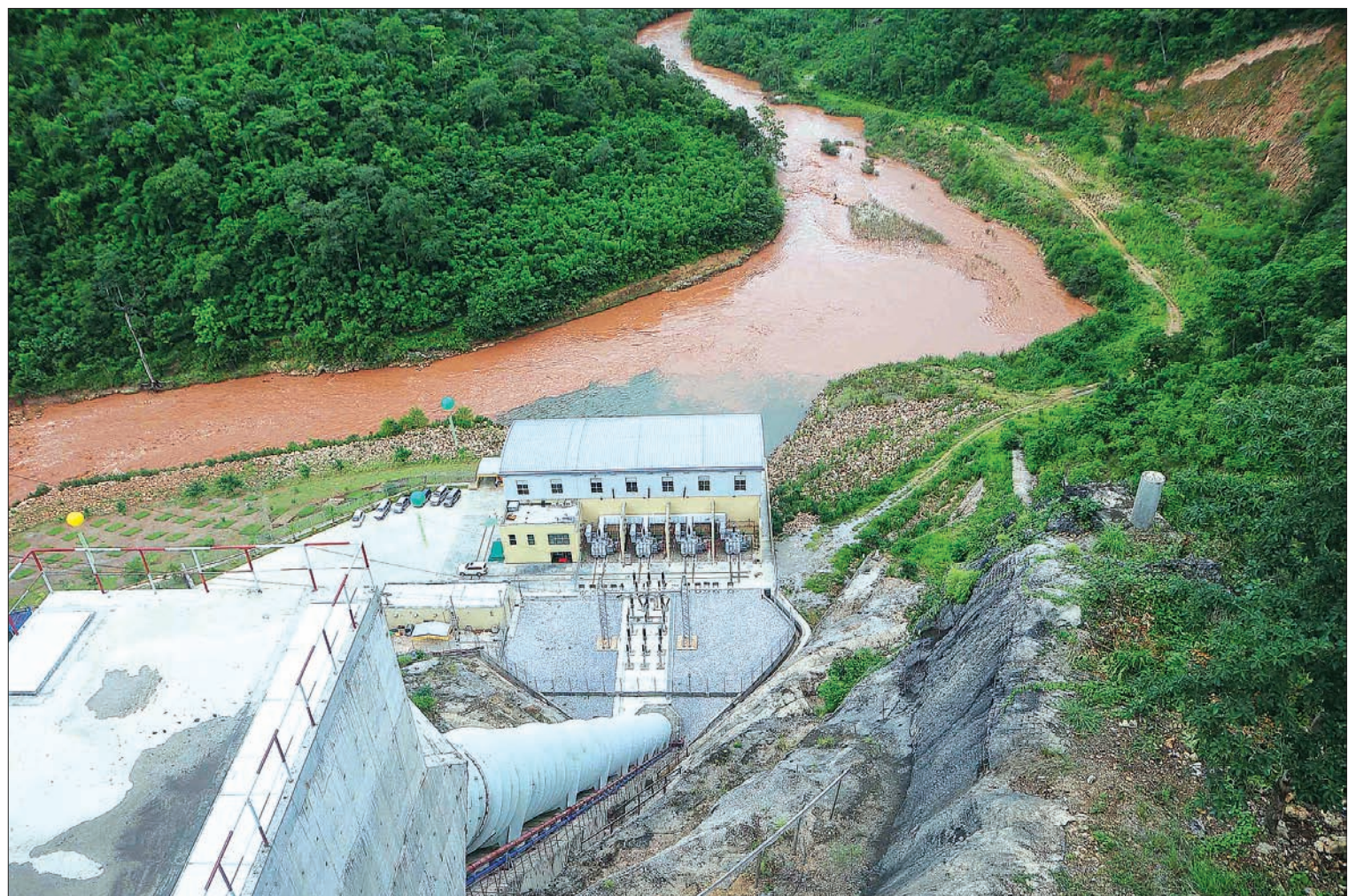
Speaking on the occasion, Union Minister U Soe Thane said that the Belu creek has so far had three hydropower stations capable of generating 248 megawatts of electricity in total.

The government invites and encourages foreign and local firms to generate electricity as part of the effort to meet growing energy needs across the country.

The newly opened power station was built with the investment by a private company called Future Energy Company on a build-operate-transfer basis.

MNA

The No.3 Belu Creek hydropower station generates 52 megawatt of electricity.—MNA



Defence family plant trees



Senior General Min Aung Hlaing plants a tree at the Third Tree Planting Ceremony in 2015.—MYAWADY

NAY PYI TAW, 22 Aug — Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Senior General Min Aung Hlaing participated in the tree planting ceremony together with Commander-in-Chief (Air) General Khin Aung Myint and other senior military officers on Saturday.

The ceremony was the third time in 2015 and was aimed

at conserving the environment around Yezin Dam. The ceremony has been held since 2011 with three times in each year. This year's ceremony is the 15th one. Similar ceremonies were also held in other military command headquarters simultaneously.

The Tatmadaw has planted 416, 346 plants so far.

Myawady

Vice Senior General Soe Win in Japan

NAY PYI TAW, 22 Aug — Vice Senior General Soe Win was welcomed in Tokyo by General Staff of Japanese Self-Defence Forces General Kiyofumi IWATA on Friday.

After the welcoming ceremony, the vice senior general met Special Advisor to Japanese Defence Minister General Shegeru IWASAKI (Rtd), Japanese Deputy Defence Minister Mr Akira Sato, and General Ki-

yofumi IWATA and discussed matters relating to promoting relations between the two armies, exchanging visits of senior officers, sending Myanmar military trainees to Japan, providing assistance for HRD, sharing experience of disaster rescue and relief tasks, conducting training for Judo and bayonet fighting, and observing Fuji Firepower Exercise 2015.

In the afternoon, the

vice senior general visited Camp Asaka at the Eastern Army Headquarters in Tokyo. Lt-General Moriyama welcomed him and they discussed cooperation between the two armies.

The vice senior general later observed demonstration of bayonet fighting and arms to be used in Fuji Firepower Exercise 2015.

Myawady

Singapore donates books to Myanmar's National Library

By Khaing Thanda Lwin

YANGON, 22 Aug — The National Library Board of Singapore donated 300 books to the Myanmar National Library on Saturday, as a gesture of celebrating the lion city's 50th anniversary of independence.

Singapore's Ambassador to Myanmar Mr Robert Chua said that his country donated books to 39 other national libraries worldwide with the aim of promoting people-to-people relations among those countries.

"These books cover topics ranging from architecture to culture, history, economy and literature," he added.

Singapore donated 50,000 books to the Myanmar National Library in April this year.



Singapore's Ambassador to Myanmar Mr Robert Chua donates books through Union Culture Minister U Aye Myint Kyu.—MNA

According to Union Culture Minister U Aye Myint Kyu, a total of 12,000 books have so far been

reallocated to 22 other libraries, with plans to send the rest to other libraries.—GNLM

MYANMAR HAS FOUGHT A GOOD FIGHT

Before

After



Embankment on Yangon-Sittway Road was collapsed but engineers of the Ministry of Construction has retained it by filling stones.



A concrete bridge on a road linking Mandalay and Myitkyina in Kachin State was damaged severely. Myanmar engineers urgently substituted the bridge with the Bailey bridge and now it is serviceable.



Labourers at the worksite to repair the broken embankment on the approach road to Yenantha bridge in Magway Region. The road was repaired with the use of heavy machinery.



Landslide hit a road section between Kalay, Sagaing Region, and Haka, Chin State. A detour was constructed to ensure smooth transportation.

REGIONAL

North, South Korea officials meet at DMZ in bid to ease tension

SEOUL, 22 Aug — Top aides to the leaders of North and South Korea met at the Panmunjom truce village straddling their border on Saturday, raising hopes for an end to a standoff that put the rivals on the brink of armed conflict.

The meeting at the Demilitarised Zone (DMZ) village, known for its sky-blue huts and grim-faced soldiers, was set for half an hour after North Korea's previously set ultimatum demanding that the South halt its loudspeaker propaganda broadcasts along the border or face military action.

That deadline passed without any reported incidents.

Tension on the Korean peninsula has been running high since an exchange of artillery fire on Thursday, prompting calls for calm from the United Nations, the United States and the North's lone major ally, China. South Korea's military remained on high alert despite the announced talks, a defence official said.

South Korean President Park Geun-hye's national security adviser and her unification minister met Hwang Pyong So, the top military aide to the North's leader Kim Jong Un, and a senior official who handles inter-Korean affairs at 6 p.m. Seoul time (0900 GMT).



South Korean soldiers talk next to barricades at a checkpoint on the Grand Unification Bridge which leads to the truce village Panmunjom, just south of the demilitarized zone separating the two Koreas, in Paju, South Korea, August 22, 2015. REUTERS

“The South and the North agreed to hold contact related to the ongoing situation in South-North relations,” Kim Kyou-hyun, the presidential Blue House's deputy national security adviser, said in a televised briefing.

Pyongyang made an initial proposal on Friday for a meeting, and Seoul made a revised proposal on Saturday seeking Hwang's attendance, Kim said.

The North's KCNA news agency also announced the meet-

ing, referring to the South as the Republic of Korea, a rare formal recognition of its rival state, in sharp contrast to the bellicose rhetoric in recent days.

“They need to come up with some sort of an agreement where both sides have saved face. That would be the trick,” said James Kim, a research fellow at the Asan Institute for Policy Studies in Seoul. “North Korea will probably demand that the broadcasts be cut, and they may even come to an im-

passé on that issue.”

North Korea, technically still at war with the South after their 1950-53 conflict ended in a truce, not a peace treaty, had declared a “quasi-state of war” in front-line areas and set the deadline for Seoul to halt the broadcasts from loudspeakers placed along the border.

“The situation on the Korean peninsula is now inching close to the brink of a war due to the reckless provocations made by the south Korean military war hawks,”

the North's KCNA news agency said earlier. Seoul had said it would continue the broadcasts unless the North accepted responsibility for landmine explosions this month in the DMZ that wounded two South Korean soldiers. Pyongyang denies it planted the mines.

South Korean Vice Defence Minister Baek Seung-joo said on Friday his government expected North Korea to fire at some of the 11 sites where Seoul has set up loudspeakers.

The United States, which has 28,500 military personnel based in South Korea, said on Friday it had resumed its annual joint military exercises there after a temporary halt to coordinate with Seoul over the shelling from North Korea.

The drills, code-named Ulchi Freedom Guardian, began on Monday and run until next Friday. North Korea regularly condemns the manoeuvres as a preparation for war.

Four South Korean and four U.S. fighter jets flew in a joint sortie over the South on Saturday, an official at the South's office of the Joint Chiefs of Staff said by telephone, as thousands of South Korean villagers living near the border were evacuated into shelters.

Reuters

Malaysian anti-graft agency seeks three in probe of former unit of 1MDB

KUALA LUMPUR, 22 Aug — Malaysia's anti-graft agency on Saturday summoned three businessmen to appear before it in an investigation of energy firm SRC International Sdn Bhd, a former unit of troubled state investment fund 1Malaysia Development Bhd (1MDB) [TER-RN.UL].

1MDB, whose advisory board is chaired by Prime Minister Najib Razak, has been dogged by controversy over its \$11-billion debt and is being examined by authorities investigating accusations of financial mismanagement and graft.

Najib is trying to reassert his leadership over his government and a stumbling economy following severe criticism after being embroiled in a scandal over the state fund.

The Malaysian Anti-Corruption Commission said it “implored” members of the public who had information about the whereabouts of the three men to contact its

investigators, and listed the names and contact details of officials.

In its statement, the anti-graft agency named the men as Malaysian businessman Low Taek Jho, SRC International's managing director, Nik Faisal Ariff Kamil, and a director, Suboh Mohd Yassin.

It gave no further details, apart from the identity-card numbers and last known addresses of the men.

In July, the Wall Street Journal reported that investigators looking into allegations of graft and financial mismanagement in 1MDB found that nearly \$700 million was deposited into Najib's private bank account.

Reuters has not verified the report. The anti-graft agency has since verified the funds were a donation from the Middle East. It said on Aug. 3 that it would ask Najib to explain why the donation was deposited into his private account. Najib has maintained that he did not take any money for personal gain.—Reuters

4 dead, 700 displaced in Philippines due to typhoon Goni



A view of a fish pen during monsoon rains brought by Typhoon Goni, locally named Ineng, at the mouth of Manila Bay in Bacoor, Cavite August 21, 2015.—REUTERS

MANILA, 22 Aug — At least four people died on Friday and more than 700 people have been displaced due to typhoon Goni (local name Ineng), police and civil defense officials said.

Two of the fatalities were buried by a landslide in north Philippine province of Benguet, said Cordillera regional police spokesperson Cherry Fajardo.

A 10-year-old boy died while his brother, nine, was injured in similar landslide in Sabangan, Mountain Province, said Office of Civil Defense-Cordillera

Administrative Region director Alex Uy.

In north province of Ilocos Norte, one person died when a fallen tree hit his motorcycle in Pinili town, said provincial police spokesperson Leonardo Tolentino.

Two people were reported swept by floodwaters along Abra river in Bucay, Abra and one of them was rescued while the other remains missing, said Uy.

Two people were reported missing when they were carried by floodwaters in Solsona, Ilocos Norte and Naguilian, La Union,

said Office of Civil Defense-Ilocos region director Melchito Castro.

In Batanes, Efren Cabugan was injured when he was hit by a fallen tree branch in Uyugan town, said Office of Civil Defense Cagayan Valley director Norma Talosig.

Some 145 families or 421 people were evacuated to temporary shelters in Batanes and Cagayan. Around 71 families or 355 people were evacuated in the provinces of Abra, Benguet and Kalinga.—Xinhua

France train gunman had been under surveillance — source



French investigating police in protective clothing prepare to enter the Thalys high-speed train where shots were fired in Arras, France, August 21, 2015. REUTERS

PARIS / ARRAS, (France), 22 Aug — A gunman overpowered by passengers during a shooting on a train in France on Friday had been identified as dangerous by foreign security services and had been under police surveillance, a French source with knowledge of the case said.

Three people were wounded in the struggle to subdue the 26-year-old aboard the high-speed train from Amsterdam to Paris. He was eventually overwhelmed by passengers including two American soldiers, one of whom was hurt in the incident.

French newspaper La Voix du Nord said on Saturday that Spanish authorities had pointed out the man to French police. It was not immediately clear whether he was still under surveillance at the time of Friday's attack.

The source, speaking on condition of anonymity, said the gunman was being transferred on Saturday to the Paris region from Arras in northern France,

where the incident took place and where he was arrested.

The attacker carried two bags containing automatic weapons and knives onto the train when he boarded it in Brussels, the source said.

French Interior Minister Bernard Cazeneuve said late on Friday that the French anti-terrorism prosecutor was investigating the incident but the gunman's motives were not known. The gunman has told police he is of Moroccan origin.

French authorities have been on high security alert since January, when 17 people were killed in shootings by Islamist militants in and around Paris.

Spanish newspaper El Pais newspaper said the gunman had lived in Spain until 2014, and had been to Syria.

According to Le Voix du Nord, citing security sources, he was seen on a plane from Germany to Turkey in May this year, and was suspected of having wanted to reach Syria. The French newspaper also said he may have had

connections to a group involved in a suspected Islamist shooting in Belgium in January.

President Barack Obama expressed his gratitude on Friday for the "courage and quick thinking" of the passengers, echoing similar words from Cazeneuve.

"The President expressed his profound gratitude for the courage and quick thinking of several passengers, including U.S. service members, who selflessly subdued the attacker," the White House said in a statement. "It is clear that their heroic actions may have prevented a far worse tragedy."

The wounded U.S. soldier, named only as Spencer and suffering from knife wounds, was expected to be treated at a specialist hospital for people with hand injuries in the northern French city of Lille.

President Francois Hollande's office said he would receive the passengers who subdued the gunman in the coming days.—Reuters

Russian PM visits disputed island off Japan's Hokkaido

VLADIVOSTOK, (Russia), 22 Aug — Russian Prime Minister Dmitry Medvedev on Saturday visited one of the Russian-controlled, Japanese-claimed islands off Hokkaido at the center of a long-standing territorial dispute between Tokyo and Moscow, local media reported.

The premier's visit to Etorofu Island, called Iturup in Russia, comes despite Japan's repeated calls for him not to visit the region.

The visit to one of the islands called the Northern Territories in Japan and the Southern Kurils in Russia was reported by major Russian news media, such as Interfax and Tass news agencies.

Medvedev's latest trip to the disputed region is his third, following two other visits in recent

years including one as Russian president. While on Etorofu, Medvedev is expected to attend a government-affiliated youth forum and inspect some of the government-led infrastructure projects there, including a fish processing plant, according to the reports.

The visit comes at a sensitive time for the two countries as they are making preparations for President Vladimir Putin to visit Japan later this year.

Etorofu and the other islands — Kunashiri, Shikotan and the Habomai group of islets — were seized by the Soviets following Japan's surrender in World War II in 1945, and the ensuing territorial dispute has prevented the two countries from ever concluding a postwar peace treaty.

Kyodo News

Gunman kills guard, himself at Manhattan federal building: police

NEW YORK, 22 Aug — A man fatally shot a security officer and then took his own life at a federal office building in Lower Manhattan Friday afternoon, authorities said.

The suspect pulled out a gun and opened fire at a security guard in the head after walking into the federal office building and approaching the metal detector at the security screening area, New York Police Department Chief James O'Neill said.

He then walked farther into the building, through the metal detectors toward the elevator and "encountered another employee" before shooting himself in the head, O'Neill said.

The suspect, identified as Kevin Downing, 68, was pro-

nounced dead at the scene, while the security officer, identified as Idrissa Camara, 53, was pronounced dead later at Lenox Hill Hospital, according to local media reports. The authorities ruled out any connection between the incident and terrorism, but said it was not clear if there was a connection between the gunman and the security guard.

The federal building houses a Department of Veterans Affairs office, a U.S. Post Office, the National Urban Security Technology Laboratory, an Immigration Court, and other offices.

Police were working closely with the FBI, the Department of Homeland Security and other authorities to determine the suspect's motive, O'Neill said.—Xinhua

Trump widens lead over U.S. Republican presidential field — Reuters/Ipsos poll

WASHINGTON, 22 Aug — Republican Donald Trump is pulling away from the pack in the race for the party's U.S. presidential nomination, widening his lead over his closest rivals in the past week, a Reuters/Ipsos poll showed on Friday.

Republican voters show no signs they are growing weary of the brash real estate mogul, who has dominated political headlines and the 17-strong Republican presidential field with his tough talk about immigration and insults directed at his political rivals. The candidates are vying to be nominated to represent their party in the November 2016 general election.

Nearly 32 percent of Republicans surveyed online said they

backed Trump, up from 24 percent a week earlier, the opinion poll found. Trump had nearly double the support of his closest competitor, former Florida Governor Jeb Bush, who got 16 percent. Retired neurosurgeon Ben Carson was third at 8 percent.

Even when Trump was pitted directly in the poll against just his top two competitors, 44 percent backed him. Bush won about 29 percent of respondents, and Carson 25 percent.

"He's not taking any guff from anybody," Dewey Stedman, 70, a Republican from East Wenatchee, Washington, said of the publicity-loving billionaire. "If you don't have something in your brains, you're not going to have



Republican presidential candidate Donald Trump hugs a U.S. flag as he takes the stage for a campaign town hall meeting in Derry, New Hampshire August 19, 2015. REUTERS

billions of dollars."

Trump has driven the debate on the campaign trail with a hard-line immigration plan that calls for the deportation of undocumented immigrants, amendment of the Constitution to end automatic citizenship for all people born in the United States, and construction of a wall along the border with Mexico. He also has feuded with Bush and other rivals while boasting he could easily beat Democratic front-runner Hillary Clinton.

Trump's campaign momentum has paid off with bigger crowds on the campaign trail. On Friday night, he moved a planned rally in Mobile, Alabama, to a football stadium seating more than 40,000. "It is an appeal to people that are

just aggravated about what's going on," Republican strategist Rich Galen said, adding that Trump is a "novelty act" that voters will tire of.

Friday's results in the online rolling opinion poll are based on a survey of 501 Republicans and have a credibility interval of plus or minus 5 percent.

Separate results found Clinton leading among Democrats, though support for her dipped below 50 percent to 48.5 percent.

U.S. Senator Bernie Sanders of Vermont came in second in the poll of 625 Democrats, followed by Vice President Joe Biden, who has not entered the race. That survey had a credibility interval of plus or minus 4.5 percent.—Reuters

Iran unveils new missile, says seeks peace through strength

DUBAI, 22 Aug — Iran on Saturday unveiled a new surface-to-surface missile it said could strike targets with pin-point accuracy within a range of 500 km (310 miles) and it said military might was a precondition for peace and effective diplomacy.

The defence ministry's unveiling of the solid-fuel missile, named Fateh 313, came little more than a month after Iran and world powers reached a deal that requires Tehran to abide by new limits on its nuclear programme in return for Western governments easing economic sanctions.

According to that deal, any transfer to Iran of ballistic missile technology during the next eight years will be subject to the approval of the United Nations Security Council, and the United States has promised to veto any such requests. An arms embargo on conventional weapons also stays, preventing their import and export for five years.

But Iran has said it will not follow parts of the nuclear deal that restricts

its military capabilities, a stance reaffirmed by President Hassan Rouhani on Saturday.

"We will buy, sell and develop any weapons we need and we will not ask for permission or abide by any resolution for that," he said in a speech at the unveiling ceremony broadcast live on state television.

"We can negotiate with other countries only when we are powerful. If a country does not have power and independence, it cannot seek real peace," he said.

The defence ministry said the Fateh 313, unveiled on Iran's Defence Industry Day, had already been successfully tested and that mass production would start soon.

Iran has one of the largest missile programmes in the Middle East. It wants to export arms to its allies in the region and import anti-missile systems to prevent any possible attack by its arch-foe Israel.

"In our aerospace industry we have various ballistic missiles with different ranges under production," Defence Minister



Iran's President Hassan Rouhani arrives for a bilateral meeting with Indonesia's President Joko Widodo on the sideline of the Asian African Conference in Jakarta April 23, 2015.—REUTERS

Hossein Dehghan said on Friday.

"We will continue this path with maximum power in line with our defensive needs and proportionate to threats ahead of us."

Fars news agency, which is close to the country's Revolutionary Guards, released a music video on Saturday praising Iran's missile capabilities. It contained pictures of what the agency called a new and unknown missile of the Islamic Revolutionary Guards Corps (IRGC).

A senior IRGC com-

mander said on Friday Iran would hold a large ballistic missile manoeuvre in the near future.

"Some wrongly think Iran has suspended its ballistic missile programmes in the last two years and has made a deal on its missile programme ... We will have a new ballistic missile test in the near future that will be a thorn in the eyes of our enemies," the commander of the aerospace division of the IRGC, Brigadier General Amirali Hajizadeh, said on Friday.

Reuters

Brazil judge asks for investigation of Rousseff re-election campaign

SAO PAULO, 22 Aug — The vice president of Brazil's TSE electoral authority on Friday asked for an investigation of President Dilma Rousseff's 2014 re-election campaign, citing evidence that it may have been financed with money from a corruption scheme at state-run oil firm Petroleo Brasileiro SA (PETR4.SA).

In a document sent to federal prosecutors and federal police, Gilmar Mendes said a 17-month-old investigation into a massive price fixing and political kickback scandal had found evidence that Rousseff's Workers' Party was indirectly funded by money stolen from Petrobras, as the firm is known.

The request from the TSE is a further blow to Rousseff, who is not among the dozens of politicians under investigation for taking bribes but has seen her popularity

fall to single digits as a result of the scandal and a stalled economy.

The Workers' Party has said all donations were legal and properly registered with electoral authorities.

On Thursday, prosecutors charged house speaker Eduardo Cunha with taking a \$5 million bribe, the first sitting politician to be formally accused in the corruption scandal, Brazil's largest ever.

Mendes, who is also a Supreme Court judge, cited plea bargain testimony from Ricardo Pessoa, head of construction firm UTC Engenharia. Pessoa said he donated 7.5 million reais originating from the overpricing of contracts with Petrobras to Rousseff's campaign.

Mendes said he had crossed information from the investigation with registers of campaign donations.—Reuters

Macedonia struggles to ration entry of rain-soaked refugees

GEVGEIJA, (Macedonia), IDOMENI, (Greece), 22 Aug — Police and soldiers deployed along Macedonia's southern border with Greece struggled on Saturday to control the numbers of refugees and migrants, many of them fleeing Middle East conflicts, seeking to reach western Europe.

Conditions on the frontier were rapidly deteriorating after the migrants — escaping wars in Syria, Iraq and beyond — spent a cold night under open skies, drenched by heavy rain and with little or no access to food or water.

The United Nations refugee agency UNHCR urged Macedonia to reopen its border and to provide more help to the vulnerable.

Macedonia says it must ration entry to control a tide that hit 2,000 per day in recent weeks and caused chaos at the local Gevgelija railway station as crowds stormed trains.

The impoverished Balkan country declared a state of emergency on Thursday. Police sealed

the border and fired tear gas and stun grenades on Friday to drive back crowds, the latest flare-up in a migrant crisis rattling the whole of Europe.

Some 600 people were allowed through overnight, jammed into a 5 a.m. (0300 GMT) train north towards Serbia, the last stop on a long road from the Middle East, Africa and Asia to

Hungary and Europe's borderless Schengen zone.

More arrived by foot on the Greek side as morning broke, many of them Syrian refugees brought by boat chartered by the Greek government to the mainland from inundated Greek islands such as Kos. Some 50,000 hit Greek shores in July alone.

"It's really cold here,"

said 30-year-old Faroq Awais, from Pakistan, waiting for a train in Gevgelija. "Last night it was raining and we couldn't go anywhere inside.

We were sleeping against the walls of a building but it didn't help."

Some in the crowd told Reuters reporters they had tried to cross the 246-

km border at other points, away from the main crossing of Gevgelija where migrants and refugees normally converge having taken trains and buses north through Greece.

But they said they were turned back by Macedonian soldiers deployed under the emergency decree.

"We urge the (Macedonian) government to start opening the border again and prioritising the most vulnerable, such as women, children and sick people," said Alexandra Krause, a senior protection officer with the UNHCR.

"There are around 3,000 people here and the numbers are rising," Krause told Reuters. "People are exhausted. It has rained all night and they had no shelter."

The chaotic scenes at Gevgelija in recent weeks, of children squeezed through train carriage windows and men wielding sticks, prompted the government to act, citing a lack of capacity.

Reuters



Syrian refugees sleep on rail tracks at the Greek-Macedonian border, near the village of Idomeni, August 22, 2015.—REUTERS

Iran shot down unknown surveillance drone on western border—state news agency

DUBAI, 22 Aug — Iran recently shot down an unknown surveillance drone on its western border, the state news agency said on Saturday.

"After spotting the drone, our air defence system missiles shot it down," Farzad Fereidooni, commander of Anti-aircraft system in Kermanshah province was quoted as saying by IRNA.

"We have given warning to 12 unknown flights last year and they have left Iran's air space."

He did not mention which country the shot-down drone belonged to. Iran has brought down U.S. surveillance and what it claims to be Israeli drones in recent years.—Reuters

PERSPECTIVES

Sunday, 23 August, 2015

Let's kindle a ray of hope in flood victims

By *Kyaw Thura*

It is understandable that the recovery phase of disaster will involve a lot of rebuilding in the aftermath of the country's recent catastrophic floods which have caused severe damage to public facilities and infrastructure in 11 of 14 states and regions.

It is encouraging to see people of different faiths and races coming to the response and re-

covery services in the knowledge that desperate times call for desperate measures. In addition, the president himself visited the flood-affected regions after making an appeal for international donations to flood victims.

Given the huge impacts of the disaster, the recovery effort will no doubt place some financial strain on the government and voluntary organizations in the long run. For instance, a great deal of financial resources will be needed to help the victims cope with their nightmare. It is time for the government to promise full funding for housing repairs to the extent that damaged homes are habitable. Yet, most of the funding is found to have come from private sources.

Furthermore, the government in cooperation with local private financial institutions should introduce low-interest disaster loans to cushion the victims from their property losses. Another im-

portant thing for governing bodies to take into consideration is how to deal with disaster-related unemployment.

Last but not least, individual flood victims deserve encouragement and comfort from all of us in part because the emotional pain can sometimes be worse and more devastating than the loss of personal property.

Write for us

We appreciate your feedback and contributions. If you have any comments or would like to submit editorials, analyses or reports please email wallace.tun@gmail.com with your name and title.

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

May The Dhamma Be With You

By *Htun Tin Htun*

My Homage to Him, the Blessed One, the holy One, the Fully Enlightened One, perfectly enlightened by Himself. My homage also goes to the Dhamma, the Sangha, the Parent and the Teachers. "Mind precedes all mental states. Mind is their chief; they are all mind-wrought. If with a pure mind a person speaks or acts, happiness follows him like his never-departing shadow". "Make an island for yourself! Strive hard and become wise! Rid of impurities and cleansed of stain, you shall not come again to birth and decay". "Good is virtue until life's end, good is faith that is steadfast, good is the acquisition of wisdom, and good is the avoidance of evil". "The gift of Dhamma excels all gifts; the taste of Dhamma excels all tastes; the delight in Dhamma

excels all delights. The Craving-freed vanquishes all suffering".

"All things are not-self"—when one sees this with wisdom, one turns away from suffering. This is the path to purification". "A fool who knows his foolishness is wise at least to that extent, but a fool who thinks himself wise is called a fool indeed". "Not despising, not harming, restraint according to the code of monastic discipline, moderation in food, dwelling in solitude, devotion to meditation—this is the teaching of the Buddhas". "The sun shines by day, the moon shines by night. The warrior shines in armour, the holy man shines in meditation. But the Buddha shines resplendent all day and all night".

"You yourselves strive; the Buddhas only point the way. These meditative ones who tread the path are released from the bonds of Mara". "The monk who

abides in the Dhamma, delights in the Dhamma, meditates on the Dhamma and bears the Dhamma well in mind, he does not fall away from the sublime Dhamma". "Whenever he sees with insight, the rise and fall of the aggregates, he is full of joy and happiness. To the discerning one this reflects the Deathless".

"To avoid all evil, to cultivate good, and to cleanse one's mind—this is the teaching of the Buddhas". "There never was, there never will be, nor is there now, a person who is wholly blamed or wholly praised". "The wise are controlled in thought, controlled in speech and controlled in bodily-action. They are truly well-controlled". "The idler who does not exert himself when he should, who though young and strong is full of sloth, with a mind full of vain thoughts—such an indolent man does not find the path to wisdom".

(See page 9)

Letter to the Editor

Dear Editor

Myanmar and India shares close socio-economic ties as well as biogeographical connectivity. The two countries had close socio-cultural and economic ties during the Mughal dynasty and British colonial rule in the subcontinent. Unfortunately, post independence the two countries moved away for each other for decades. The recently elected federal government in India since 2014; has started working enthusiastically in building positive relationship in the much neglected Asia-Pacific region. India has been busy in developing a giant economic corridor connecting the energy rich nations of Central Asia, via Afghanistan and Iran to the subcontinent; and then linking the corridor across India and Bangladesh to the ASEAN economic zone of SE Asia. The corridor has to pass through the adjoining countries of Bangladesh, Myanmar and Thailand for reaching the markets of South East Asia. Myanmar being at the centre of the eastern junction of the proposed economic corridor is expected to benefit economically from this infrastructural boost quite significantly. India being the major partner needs to take the extra initiative to cater to the immediate pressing needs of a newly merging democratic Myanmar; and help in improving the infrastructure and energy sector for empowering the nation to slowly become further modernized in terms of the industrial and agricultural output. There are great opportunities for Indian investments to the Myanmar economy in the maritime capacity building, in developing roads and railway networks and for investing in the energy and much neglected healthcare and education sectors.

Myanmar, like India is a multi-ethnic nation and has similar concerns of various ethnic conflicts and insurgency issues plaguing the economy of the country. India and Myanmar shares a considerably long densely forested and porous international border. Hence, insurgents and miscreants from either side escape to the opposite nation to escape from the security forces or to take refuge in the forests where they operate illegal militant camps. These camps on either side of the border have been a big question to the peace, prosperity and economic progress of both nations and therefore needs joint action. Joint border management can effectively reduce the insurgent issues and also cut down illegal migration, smuggling and trafficking of helpless victims. The strategic cooperation for dealing with insurgent issues is a long term diplomatic success for both nations. It is sensible and mutually beneficial for India to induct Myanmar as full member of SAARC (an economic association of South Asia); and for Myanmar to propose Indian membership to the ASEAN group. Such cooperation will be helpful in bringing prosperity for the region in terms of diplomatic, socio-economic, cultural, educational, environmental and strategic purposes. Furthermore, a joint Indo-Myanmar conservation initiative can contribute towards better conservation of the local biodiversity, forest and wildlife resources in the vast natural wilderness zones on either side of the border preventing poaching and illegal wildlife trade and smuggling of wildlife and precious forest resources.

Thanking you
Sincerely yours
Saikat Kumar Basu

REHABILITATION



Kanan bridge on Kalewa-Kyikon-Tamu Road in Sagaing Region was destroyed by strong current. It was substituted with Bailey bridge by Ministry of Construction and now is in service for vehicles.— CONSTRUCTION

ARTICLE

May The Dhamma Be With You

(from page 8)

“Those disciples of Gautama ever awaken happily “who day and night constantly practise Mindfulness of the body”, “whose mind by day and night delight in the practice of non-violence”, “whose minds by day and night delight in the practice of meditation”.

“Health is the precious gain and contentment the greatest wealth. A trustworthy person is the best kinsman, Nibbana the highest bliss”. “He who has no attachment whatsoever for the mind and body, who does not grieve for what he has not—he is truly called a monk”. “He who is free from craving and attachment, is perfect in uncovering the true meaning of the Teaching, and knows the arrangement of the sacred texts in correct sequence—he, indeed, is the bearer of his final body. He is truly called the profoundly wise one, the great man”. “He who is meditative, stainless and settled, whose work is done and who is free from cankers having reached the highest goal—him do I call a holy man”.

“Even gorgeous royal chariots wear out, and indeed this body too wears out. But the Dhamma of the Good does not age; thus the good make it known to the good”. “Everywhere the thirty-six currents of craving flow and the creeper (of craving) sprouts and grows. Seeing that the creeper has sprung up, cut off its root with wisdom”. “Even the gods hold dear the wise one, whose senses are subdued, like horses well trained by a charioteer, whose pride is destroyed and who is free from the cankers”.

“Do not give way to heedlessness. Do not indulge in sensual pleasures. Only the heedful and meditative attain great happiness”. “Difficult is life for the modest one who always seeks purity, is detached and unassuming, clean in life, and discerning”. “Delight in heedfulness! Guard well your thoughts! Draw yourself out of this bog of evil, even as an elephant draws himself out of the mud”.

“He who has gone for refuge to the Buddha, his Teaching and his Order, penetrates with transcendental wisdom the Four Noble Truths—suffering, the cause of suffering, the cessation of suffering, and the Noble Eightfold Path leading to the cessation of suffering”. “He who sits alone, sleeps alone and walks alone, who is strenuous and subdues himself alone, will find delight in the solitude of the

forest”. “He who inflicts violence on those who are unarmed, and offends those who are inoffensive, will soon come upon one of these ten states”. “Having savoured the taste of solitude and peace (of Nibbana), pain-free and stainless he becomes, drinking deep the taste of the bliss of Truth”.

“A monk who does not despise what he has received, even though it be little, who is pure in livelihood and unremitting in effort, him even the gods praise”. “Any loose act, any corrupt observance, any life of questionable celibacy—none of these bear much fruit”. “All tremble at violence; all fear death, life is dear to all. Putting oneself in the place of another, one should not kill nor cause another to kill”.

“Much though he recites the sacred texts, but acts not accordingly, that heedless man is like a cowherd who only counts the cows of others—he does not partake of the blessing of a holy life”. “He who does no evil, in thought, word and deed, who is restrained in three ways—him do I call a holy man”. “Just as a Brahmin priest reveres his sacrificial fire, even so should one devoutly revere the person from whom one has learned the Dhamma taught by the Buddha”. “Meditate, O monk! Do not be heedless. Let not your mind whirl on sensual pleasures. Heedless, do not swallow a red hot iron ball, lest you cry when burning, “O this is painful!”

“Mind precedes all mental states. Mind is their chief; they are all mind-wrought. If with an impure mind a person speaks or acts, suffering follows him like the wheel that follows him like the wheel that follows the foot of the ox”. “Whatever harm an enemy may do to an enemy, or a hater to a hater, an ill-directed mind inflicts on oneself a greater harm”. “Realizing that this body is as fragile as a clay pot, and fortifying this mind like a well-fortified city, fight out Mara with the sword of wisdom. Then, guarding the conquest, remain unattached”. “The monk who abides in universal love and is deeply devoted to the Teaching of the Buddha attains the peace of Nibbana, the bliss of the cessation of all conditioned things”.

“A man is not versed in Dhamma because he speaks much. He who, after hearing even a little Dhamma, realizes its truth directly and is not heedless of it, is truly versed in the Dhamma”. “All conditioned things are impermanent, unsatisfactory, not-self”—when one sees this with

wisdom, one turns away from suffering. This is the path to purification”. “The good renounce (attachment for) everything. The virtuous do not prattle with a yearning for pleasure. The wise show no emotion or depression when touched by happiness or sorrow”. “He who seeks another’s faults, who is ever censorious—his cankers grow. He is far from destruction of the cankers”.

“Better than sole sovereignty over the earth, better than going to heaven, better even than lordship over all the worlds is the supramundane Fruition of Stream Entrance (Stream Enterer)”. “Better it is to live alone; there is no fellowship with a fool. Live alone and do no evil; be carefree like an elephant in the elephant forest”. “The man whom the wise praise, after observing him day after day, is one of flawless character, wise, and endowed with knowledge and virtue”. “Blind is this world; here only a few possess insight. Only a few, like birds escaping from a net, go to the realms of bliss”. “There is no fear for an awakened one, whose mind is not sodden (by lust) not afflicted (by hate), and who has gone beyond both merit and demerit”.

“Enduring patience is the highest austerity. “Nibbana is supreme,” say the Buddhas”. “He is not a true monk who harms another, not a true renunciate who oppresses others”. “Easy is life for the shameless one who is as impudent as a crow, is backbiting and forward, arrogant and corrupt”. “Ever grows the glory of him who is energetic, mindful and pure in conduct, discerning and self-controlled, righteous and heedful”. “He who in this world takes nothing that is not given to him, be it long or short, small or big, good or bad—him do I call a holy man”.

“Well done is that action doing which one repents not later, and the fruit of which one reaps with delight and happiness”. “Walking upon this path you will make an end of suffering. Having discovered how to pull the thorn of lust, I make known the path”. “Wisdom springs from meditation; without meditation wisdom wanes. Having known these two paths of progress and decline, let a man so conduct himself that his wisdom may increase”. “Who can blame such a one, as worthy as a coin of refined gold? Even the gods praise him; by Brahma, too, is the praised”. “Whoever here (in the Dispensation) lives the holy life, transcending both merit and demerit, and walks with understanding in this world— he is truly called a monk”. “Wonderful in-

deed, it is to subdue the mind, so difficult to subdue, ever swift, and seizing whatever it desires”. “A tamed mind brings happiness. When a man is sluggish and gluttonous, sleeping and rolling around in bed like a fat domestic pig, that sluggard undergoes rebirth again and again”.

“If by renouncing a lesser happiness one may realize a greater happiness, let the wise man renounce the lesser, having regard for the greater”. “If, like a broken gong, you silence yourself, you have approached Nibbana, for vindictiveness is no more in you”. “If for company you find a wise and prudent friend who leads a good life, you should, overcoming all impediments, keep his company joyously and mindfully”. “In this world good it is to serve one’s mother, good it is to serve one’s father, good it is to serve the monks, and good it is to serve the holy men”.

“Those who in youth have not led the holy life, or have failed to acquire wealth, lie sighing over the past, like worn-out arrows (shot from) a bow”. “Those disciples of Gautama ever awaken happily who day and night constantly practice the Recollection of the Qualities of the, “Buddha”, “Dhamma”, and “Sangha”. “The cankers only increase for those who are arrogant and heedless, who leave undone what should be done and do what should not be done”. “The cankers cease for those mindful and clearly comprehending ones who always earnestly practice mindfulness of the body, who do not resort to what should not be done, and steadfastly pursue what should be done”.

“Hunger is the worst disease, conditioned things the worst suffering. Knowing this as it really is, the wise realizes Nibbana, the highest bliss”. “He who is full of faith and virtue, and possesses good repute and wealth— he is respected everywhere, in whatever land he travels”. “He is indeed virtuous, wise and righteous who neither for his own sake nor for the sake of another (does any wrong), who does not crave for sons, wealth or kingdom, and does not desire success by unjust means”.

“Your life has come to an end now, you are setting forth into the presence of Yama, the king of death. No resting place is there for you on the way, yet you have made no provision for your journey”. “He who in every way

knows the death and rebirth of all beings, and is totally detached, blessed and enlightened—him do I call a holy man”. “He who clings to nothing of the past, present and future, who has no attachment and holds on to nothing—him do I call a holy man”. “He, the Noble, the Excellent, the Heroic, the Great Sage, the Conqueror, the Passionless, the Pure, the Enlightened One—him do I call a holy man”.

“One is not wise because one speaks much. He who is peaceable, friendly and fearless is called wise”. “One truly is the protector of oneself; who else could the protector be? With oneself fully controlled, one gains a mastery that is hard to gain”. “O Atula! Indeed, this is an ancient practice, not only of today: they blame those who remain silent, they blame those who speak much, they blame those who speak in moderation. There is none in this world who is not blamed”. “One by one, little by little, moment by moment, a wise man should remove his own impurities, as a silver smith removes the dross from silver”. “On hearing the Teachings, the wise become perfectly purified, like a lake deep, clear and still”. “Of all the fragrances—sandal, tagara, blue lotus and jasmine— the fragrance of virtue (morality/character/discipline) is by far the sweetest”.

“Upon a heap of rubbish in the road-side ditch blooms a lotus, fragrant and pleasing. Even so, on the rubbish heap of blinded mortals the disciple of the Supremely Enlightened One shines resplendent in wisdom”. “Unchastity is the taint in a woman; niggardliness is the taint in a giver. Taints, indeed, are all evil things, both in this world and the next”. “A worse taint than these is ignorance, the worst of all taints. Destroy this one taint and become taintless”. “O monks! He who knows his former births, who sees heaven and hell, who has reached the end of births and attained to the perfection of insight, the sage who has reached the summit of spiritual excellence—him do I call a holy man”. {Reference: Dhammapada (Anthology of Verses)(A Practical Guide to Right Living)}, by Acharya Buddhārakkhita, Maha Bodhi Ashram, Bangalore, India, 16th October, 1986).

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Dozens killed in Saudi-led air strikes in Yemen-aid group, Houthis Egypt sentences Brotherhood leader to life imprisonment



A man walks on the rubble of houses destroyed by Saudi-led air strikes in Yemen's central city of Taiz August 21, 2015.—REUTERS

SANAA, 22 Aug — Dozens of people, many of them civilians, were killed in air strikes by a Saudi-led coalition on the southwestern Yemeni city of Taiz, an aid organisation and Houthi media said on Friday.

Houses were reduced to rubble and many victims were unable to reach hospitals, Medics Sans Frontieres said.

Saba news agency, which is run by the Houthi

movement, said the air raids late on Thursday targeted Taiz's palace and the Sala neighbourhood, which has a dense Houthis population.

Taiz has become the latest focus of fighting for supporters of President Abd-Rabbu Mansour Hadi, who was driven into exile in Saudi Arabia by Houthi fighters in March. Yemen's third-largest city, it is considered its cultural capital.

The Saudi-led Gulf

Arab coalition intervened on the side of Hadi loyalists in March. They have pushed back Houthi forces who had taken control of most of the country but the civilian death toll has drawn growing criticism from international aid and rights groups.

Medics Sans Frontieres put the toll from Thursday's raids at as high as 65, including at least 17 children and 20 women.

"The deaths occurred

when the strikes hit civilian and homes in the area," Salah Dongu'du, Medics Sans Frontieres project coordinator in Taiz, said in a statement.

"Those who survived the bombings are searching through the rubble with their bare hands in the hope of finding survivors, as well as the bodies of victims of the attack," Dongu'du said.

Saba news agency had earlier put the death toll at 43, with 50 wounded. Medical sources said Houthi attacks in the city killed 13 people, including seven children. There was no immediate comment from officials from the Saudi-led coalition. Dongu'du said patients and Medics Sans Frontier staff were unable to reach hospitals due to the heavy fighting and airstrikes.

"MSF is trying to provide first aid kits to nurses and doctors so they can treat injured people who are not able to reach the hospital, but we know it is not enough," he said.

Local officials told

Reuters that Houthi fighters fired mortars at Taiz's Asifrah neighbourhood and al-Masbah, east of the city, in a bid to drive out Hadi supporters. The barrages destroyed a power plant in the city.

Gains by the pro-Hadi forces have put them in control of parts of the city. The southern port city of Aden was retaken from the Houthis last month with the help of coalition air strikes and weapons deliveries. The Houthis, a Shi'ite Muslim sect traditionally based in Yemen's north, still hold the capital Sanaa, which they seized last September.

The civil war has killed more than 4,300 people and caused a humanitarian crisis. Diplomats and air groups have appealed for a ceasefire.

Saudi Arabia sees the Houthis as proxies for Iran, its rival for regional leadership. The Houthi movement says it is trying to root out corruption and defeat Islamist militants linked to al Qaeda.—Reuters

Egypt sentences Brotherhood leader to life imprisonment

CAIRO, 22 Aug — An Egyptian court sentenced Muslim Brotherhood leader Mohamed Badie and other prominent Brotherhood figures to life in prison on Saturday over an attack on a police station in 2013, judicial sources said, part of a sustained crackdown on the group.

The assault was part of a wave of violence that rocked the country after the army removed elected Islamist president Mohamed Mursi from power following mass protests against his rule in June 2013.

Senior Brotherhood figure Mohamed El-Beltagy and Islamist cleric Safwat Hegazy were also sentenced to life imprisonment on Saturday.

Reuters

Protesters block truck traffic at Iraq's Umm Qasr port

BASRA, (Iraq), 22 Aug — Protesters demanding government reforms have cut off road access to Iraq's southern Umm Qasr commodities port, officials said on Saturday, hampering activity at the harbour which receives grain shipments and heavy equipment used in the oil industry.

Dozens of demonstrators, who have closed the port's two main gates since Friday morning, set up tents overnight and refused to let trucks pass or employees enter the facility, said Ammar al-Safi, a spokesman for the state-run General Company for Ports of Iraq.

Security forces were on hand to keep the protesters out of the port but had not moved to disperse them, said Safi and a security source.

Thousands of Iraqis protested on Friday in Baghdad and southern Iraqi cities, calling for reform of the judiciary, parliament and local governing bodies.

The demonstrations, which began last month in response to power cuts amid a sweltering heat wave, helped prompt a sweeping reform campaign by Prime Minister Haider al-Abadi.

The initiative is the biggest move yet by Abadi to strengthen his hand, even as nearly a third of Iraq's territory has

fallen to Islamic State militants and the central government faces a financial crisis from the collapsing price of its oil exports.

Abadi sacked a third of his cabinet last week, reducing the number of ministers to 22 by eliminating positions or combining some ministries with others.

He earlier eliminated Iraq's three vice president positions, cut politicians' security details and other perks, encouraged corruption investigations and gave himself the power to fire provincial governors and regional officials.

The moves, aimed at reducing corruption and incompetence which critics say have made Iraq nearly ungovernable, followed a call by the country's leading Shi'ite cleric Grand Ayatollah Ali al-Sistani to "strike with an iron fist" against corruption.

On Friday Sistani again backed Abadi's reforms and said they should focus on the judiciary.

"The steps of reform must be carried out according to legal procedures so that those who are affected have no room to file complaints to courts to have them annulled ... which may reduce these steps to mere ink on paper," Sistani said in a sermon delivered by his aide Ahmed al-Safi.—Reuters

Syrians despair amid filth as way to north blocked



A Syrian refugee holds her child in her arms as she sits in the port of the Greek island of Kos waiting to be registered and move with her family to the 'Eleftherios Venizelos' vessel August 15, 2015.—REUTERS

IDOMENI, (Greece), 22 Aug — After a brief respite aboard a Greek passenger ship, Syrian refugee Mohamed has found himself stranded on a filthy, chaotic strip at the Macedonian border, his way to the relative security of northern Europe blocked by razor wire and riot police.

The 20-year-old geology student, like thousands of others stuck at the Greek frontier village of Idomeni, has made an arduous and often dangerous journey to escape the horrors of the Syrian civil war.

What he has found at Idomeni has brought him close to despair and now he simply wants to go anywhere in Europe that is safe. "We just want to survive," he told Reuters.

After making his way through Turkey, Mohamed took a small boat over the narrow stretch of water to Kos, a Greek island where

conditions have been dire as thousands of migrants arrive this summer from as far as Pakistan, Iran and Afghanistan.

Mohamed, who did not give his family name, covered the next stretch in the relative comfort of the ship which crossed the Aegean to Piraeus. After that came an overland journey to the northern Greek city of Thessaloniki, and from there he walked - 70 km (45 miles) in the burning mid-summer heat.

The sight at Idomeni is pitiful. Several thousand refugees and migrants shouted "Help us!" to Macedonian riot police behind the wire. This blocks a railway line that others had used to walk across the frontier as they headed north towards Hungary and Europe's open-border Schengen zone.

One Afghan couple were separated from their two children in the chaos. "I lost my children last

night at about 6 p.m. when the crowd was pushing," said Mohammed Yasin.

"My son is six years old and my daughter is one and a half," he told a reporter at the razor wire. Minutes after he spoke, a man approached from the Macedonian side carrying a small child, Yasin's daughter. His wife cried as she was handed the girl but the man repeated: "I need my son."

Overwhelmed Macedonian authorities are allowing only small groups over to the town of Gevgelija, laying on trains to take them north.

In the meantime, sanitation is dire on the Greek side. The weather turned cold and wet overnight, with fields next to the railway track where migrants have pitched tents becoming muddy. In the morning hours, people huddled around open fires while yet more arrived on foot. Many were trying to find other entry points into Macedonia.

Ahmed, 32, stranded with his wife Rane and seven-month-old child, have waited four days at the border, hoping they can head to Germany where they have friends. "It's miserable here. Our child is coughing and we don't have any clothes," he said.

Frustration spilled over into anger, not necessarily directed at the police blocking their way.

"All the world is lying and the Arab countries are the number one liars," said Shero, a 25-year-old Syrian who has been at Idomeni for two days. "They are supposed to be our brothers but they turn their backs on us."—Reuters

BUSINESS & HEALTH

Northwest Bio suspends patient screening in brain cancer trial

NEW YORK, 22 Aug — The chief executive officer of biotechnology company Northwest Biotherapeutics Inc said on Friday the company has temporarily stopped screening new patients for the late-stage trial of its experimental brain cancer drug.

CEO Linda Powers said in a telephone interview the company had halted the screening process just months before it had planned to complete patient recruitment for the seven-year-old study of the drug, DCVax-L.

The company said in a statement later on Friday that the trial is ongoing and enrolled patients are continuing to be treated, but that screening had been “temporarily suspended while the company submits certain information from the trial for regulatory review.” It said over 300 patients have been recruited for the study, which has a total anticipated enrollment of 348 patients.

Screening is the process by which a company ensures that an individual seeking to enter a clinical trial meets eligibility

requirements, such as age and not having had another cancer for the last five years.

The study, among patients with newly diagnosed brain cancer, is being conducted in Germany, the United Kingdom, the United States and Canada. Northwest Biotherapeutics said some social media comments have noted that the European trial database says there has been a “temporary halt” of the trial in Germany, but said that referred only to the temporary suspension of new screening. “The key question is whether patients are able to continue treatment in their trial,” Powers said. “And the answer is yes.”

The company said it anticipates submitting the trial information for regulatory review within the next couple of weeks.

But the news unnerved many investors on Friday, with the company’s shares falling as much as 11 percent on earlier reports the trial itself had been temporarily halted. Shares closed down 21.6 percent at \$6.96 on Nasdaq.

The company has



Northwest Biotherapeutics CEO Linda Powers sits in her company offices in Bethesda, Maryland, February 22, 2014.—REUTERS

previously said that if it were to complete recruitment of patients for the study by the end of this year, that it hopes to complete the DCVax-L study in 2016.

Patients taking DCVax-L in far smaller informal trials, along with standard care, lived 2.5 times as long as typically seen with patients taking standard treatment alone.

But skeptics have questioned whether the favorable results can be replicated in the larger ongoing study and some have accused the company of over-promoting limited favorable data.

DCVax-L is among an

emerging new crop of immuno-oncology drugs that coax the body’s immune system to track down and kill cancer cells. It harnesses dendritic cells, or master cells of the immune system, that give directions to other immune cells including t-cells and b-cells, which make antibodies.

The treatment is made by isolating a patient’s immature dendritic cells from blood and combining them in a laboratory dish with dozens of antigens, or proteins, from brain tumor tissue of the patient obtained in surgery. The mixture is then purified and injected back into the patient.—Reuters

Officials pinpoint NYC hotel in Legionnaires’ outbreak

NEW YORK, 22 Aug — New York City’s historic Opera House Hotel, identified as the source of a deadly spate of Legionnaires’ disease, said it will go beyond newly imposed regulations in testing its cooling system even as officials declared an end to the outbreak.

City officials on Thursday announced an end to the outbreak, which killed 12 people and sickened 128 people. Of those, two had been guests of the South Bronx hotel, according to the New York City Department of Health and Mental Hygiene. Health officials matched the strain of Legionella bacteria found in the hotel cooling tower with the strain found in Legionnaires’ patients, the department said.

The hotel’s cooling tower and all other cooling towers in the affected area were disinfected, and no new patients have contracted Legionnaires’ since Aug. 3, city officials said. Health experts are still locating and testing all cooling towers in the city, they added.

New York City Mayor Bill de Blasio this week signed an unprecedented law regulating cooling towers throughout the city, requiring building owners to inspect all towers quarterly and to report and disinfect towers with dangerous levels of bacteria.

The Opera House Hotel said as an extra precaution, it will test its cooling tower every 30 days when the tower is in operation. Legionnaires’ disease, a severe form of pneumonia, is caused by inhaling mist infected with the bacteria Legionella. Symptoms include fever, cough, chills and muscle aches.

“Given recent events, we have decided to be especially cautious going forward,” the hotel said in a statement on Thursday, adding that new tests completed this week confirmed the hotel’s tower is clear of the bacteria.

“It’s particularly disappointing because our system is two years old, has the most up-to-date technology available and our maintenance plan has been consistent with the regulations that both the city and the state are putting in place,” the hotel said. The hotel was formerly the Bronx Opera House, which opened in 1913 and hosted entertainers, including the Marx Brothers comedians and illusionist Harry Houdini.—Reuters

Akita Prefecture, Taiwan sign MOU on business tie-ups

TAIPEI, 22 Aug — Akita Gov. Norihisa Satake and Leu Jang-hwa, deputy chief of the Taiwan Ministry of Economic Affairs’ Industrial Development Bureau, held talks here Friday and signed a memorandum of understanding related to industry collaboration. The MOU between the Taiwan Japan Industrial Collaboration Promotion Office under the ministry and the northern Japan prefecture is aimed at helping firms of each side advance into the other.

In Akita, there are many businesses involved in resource recycling in which rare metals are recovered from waste products as well as electronic component-related companies. Some of those firms are interested in expanding their presence into Taiwan or receiving investment from the island.

Satake said in a speech that during his trip he plans invite over 10 Taiwan firms to the prefecture for business talks and inspection trips. “I want to make economic exchanges between the two sides more vigorous,” he said.

Consultations are to be held on such areas as business matching.

In a bid to attract more Taiwan tourists to the prefecture known for its castles and seasonal festivals, an Akita tourism promotion event bringing together concerned personnel of Taiwan government departments and travel companies was slated to be held Friday night.

Satake is being accompanied on the trip by around 40 people from the local business community and municipalities in the prefecture.

Kyodo News

Coca-Cola to invest 4 bln USD in China by 2017

BEIJING, 22 Aug — Coca-Cola will invest 4 billion U.S. dollars into its China operations over the next three years, announced chair and CEO Muhtar Kent, on Friday at the site of a new plant in Hebei Province, north China.

The new round of investment follows 9 billion dollars by the beverage giant between 1979 and 2014.

“China is our third largest market by volume and is critically important to the future growth of our business,” said Muhtar Kent.

At a cost of 56 million U.S. dollars, once complete, the new Huabei plant, located in Xianghe

county in north China’s Hebei Province, will feature nine production lines, and produce a total of 250 million unit cases annually, Kent said.

By 2017, the new 50,000-square meter plant will have four production lines, adding 100 million unit cases to annual production in China.

Following the groundbreaking of a new plant in central China two weeks ago, the Huabei plant is the second Coca-Cola plant to be built under the new investment plan.

“We are committed to investing and growing here. Apart from infrastructure and system development, the new round of



investment will focus on enhancing consumer experiences through marketing and [projects with] our loyal retail partners,” Kent said.

In addition, Coca-Cola’s local bottling partners — COFCO Coca-Cola Beverages, Swire Beverages and Coca-Cola Bottling Investments Group China

— will also invest in local infrastructure and growth drivers, including new investments in production, distribution and marketing.

Coca-Cola’s sales volume has continued to grow in China, up by 6 percent in the second quarter of 2015 over the same period last year.

Xinhua

Saudi Arabia reports fresh MERS fatality, 6 new cases

RIYADH, 22 Aug — Saudi Arabia registered on Friday one Middle East Respiratory Syndrome (MERS) corona virus fatality and six new cases, according to a statement issued by the Saudi Health Ministry.

The death and new

cases reported are from Riyadh which has been witnessing a rise in the spreading of the virus in the last two weeks.

The latest development has put the total death toll up to 486 since the first reported case in July 2012.

MERS, also known as

Coronavirus, causes symptoms similar to colds in individuals it infects.

Riyadh has been witnessing a rise in new cases because of a limited outbreak at one of its hospitals. It happened while Saudi Arabia has started receiving pilgrims from

different country for Hajj.

Although the first MER case in the world was registered in Saudi Arabia in 2012, the country has succeeded in keeping away the virus from holy cities like Mecca, which receives millions of Muslims during the season.—Xinhua

Four new fires at China blast site, widespread safety hazards found



Firefighters in protection suits carry a man playing the role of a victim on a stretcher during an anti-chemical drill next to storage tanks of liquefied petroleum gas, at a factory in Haikou, Hainan province, China, August 21, 2015. REUTERS

SHANGHAI, 22 Aug — Four new fires have broken out at the site where two huge blasts last week killed 116 people, Chinese state media reported Friday soon after officials said safety hazards were found at almost 70 percent of firms handling dangerous chemicals in Beijing.

The explosions in a warehouse storing dangerous chemicals devastated an industrial park in the northeastern port city of Tianjin late on Aug. 12. More than 700 people were injured and thousands were evacuated because of the risk posed by chemicals stored at the site.

The official Xinhua news agency said Friday rescue crews were rushing to the site after four new fires broke out. It said one of the “combustion points” was in a logistics site for automobiles near last week’s blasts.

The other three were within the central blast area, it said without giving any explanation of the cause of the fires.

The news agency also said the death toll rose to 116 on Friday from a previously reported 114, and 60 people were still missing.

State authorities have confirmed that more than 700 tonnes of the deadly chemical sodium cyanide were stored at the Tianjin warehouse that blew up.

Nationwide inspections of facilities handling dangerous chemicals and explosives were ordered by China’s State Council after the blasts last week.

More than 100 chemical firms across seven provinces have been told to suspend operations or shut down due to safety violations in the recent days, announcements by regional governments show.

That includes 19 companies in Hubei province, 26 firms in Anqing city in the southeastern province of Anhui, two in the capital, Beijing, and 39 in Zhejiang province.

In Beijing alone, an inspection of 124 sites that stored

dangerous chemicals found hazards at 85 firms, Xinhua said late on Thursday, citing Beijing’s work safety bureau.

The State Council said in a statement on Thursday that advanced equipment and the best expertise must be used to prevent major environmental incidents in the future.

Pictures taken by Reuters on Thursday showed workers scooping thousands of dead fish out of the Haihe river near Tianjin, a day after authorities had declared the city’s drinking water was safe.

Tianjin officials said the dead fish were caused by regular seasonal low oxygen levels in the water and were not related to the blasts.

Authorities however have also warned that cyanide levels in waters around Tianjin port, the world’s 10th-busiest and the gateway to China’s industrial north, had risen to as much as 277 times acceptable levels.

The blasts at Tianjin also

prompted a nationwide review of China’s industrial safety record, which has struggled to keep pace with the breakneck speed of China’s economic growth.

China has struggled in recent years with incidents ranging from mining disasters to factory fires, and President Xi Jinping has vowed that authorities should learn the lessons paid for with blood.

Executives of Tianjin Dongjiang Port Ruihai International Logistics, the firm whose warehouse exploded, have said they used connections to obtain safety approvals. The site was found to be too close to nearby homes.

Inspectors carrying out the safety reviews in Beijing found that security personnel at a branch of Sinopec Corp (0386.HK), Asia’s largest refiner, were unfamiliar with how to handle an oil tank fire, Xinhua said.

“Companies that fail our inspections will be ordered to suspend operations, and their warehouses will be put under 24-hour surveillance,” Xinhua quoted Qian Shan, vice-head of the Beijing work safety bureau, as saying.

Despite the infractions found at the Sinopec branch, Xinhua did not say that the facility would be shut.

Beijing has also suspended operations at firms that make or deal in highly toxic chemicals and explosives from Aug. 17 to Sept. 6 in preparation for a military parade and athletics event, Xinhua said.

On Wednesday, three oil and gas firms close to residences were told by authorities in the cities of Hangzhou and Shenzhen to halt operations.—Reuters

New Guinness world record for number of stargazers set in Australia

CANBERRA, 22 Aug — A new Guinness world record has been set for the most people stargazing at one site at the Australian National University (ANU) on Friday night. More than 1,800 people arrived at the AUN campus at around 7 p. m. local time (0900GMT) for the attempt to break the Guinness world record.

At 7:10 p.m., all participants were asked to view the moon with their binoculars or telescopes at the same time for 10 minutes.

The previous record stood at 640 people at a single site. Representatives from Guinness World Records later declared the new record at ANU of 1,869.

The record was set at the ANU campus as part of the university’s contribution to National Science Week. “We had a fantastic turnout to smash the old record,” said organizer Dr. Brad Tucker from the ANU Research School of Astronomy and Astrophysics. “The clouds over Canberra gave us a few headaches, but they parted long enough for us to see the stars and moon and set a new record.”

The crowd at ANU was also part of an attempt an hour later to break the second Guinness world record of “most people stargazing across multiple sites in one country.” Some 48 places across Australia including the Torres Strait, Broken Hill and in Western Australia’s Pilbara region participated in the attempt to break the current record of 3,007 people.—Xinhua

Pol Pot’s sister-in-law, indicted for genocide in Cambodia, dies

PHNOM PENH, 22 Aug — Ieng Thirith, the sister-in-law of Cambodian dictator Pol Pot, died on Saturday, nearly five years after she was indicted on charges of genocide and crimes against humanity, Cambodia’s U.N.-backed war crimes court said.

The 83-year-old former minister of social action during Pol Pot’s 1975-’79 “killing fields” regime, died in the old Khmer Rouge stronghold of Pailin in western Cambodia, the court said in a statement. Ieng Thirith was married to former Khmer Rouge foreign minister Ieng Sary, who died in 2013. Her sister, Khieu Ponnary, was married to Khmer Rouge leader Pol Pot, who died in 1998.

The four were French-educated revolutionaries whose bid to turn Cambodia into an agrarian communist state led to the deaths of about 2 million people through execution and starvation.

Reuters

Venezuela declares state of emergency along Colombia border

CARACAS, 22 Aug — Venezuela President Nicolas Maduro on Friday declared a state of emergency along parts of the border with Colombia to restore order after a clash between smugglers and troops left three soldiers wounded.

The measure will remain in effect for 60 days in five municipalities of the Venezuelan state of Tachira, where smugglers of gasoline and subsidized food products have increasingly clashed with security forces.

“This decree provides ample power to civil and military authorities to restore peace,” he said in a ceremony broadcast

on state television. The decree suspends constitutional guarantees in those areas, except for guarantees relating to human rights.

Maduro on Wednesday closed two border crossings to Colombia after a shootout left three soldiers injured, adding that they would be closed until further notice.

A contingent of 1,500 soldiers arrived Friday in the border area to join the 500 already stationed in the area, he said.

The two countries share a porous 2,219-kilometer (1,379 mile) border that is frequently traversed by smugglers and illegal armed groups.—Reuters



Venezuela’s National Guards (bottom) stand in front of Colombia’s soldiers at Simon Bolivar international bridge, on the border with Colombia, at San Antonio in Tachira state, Venezuela August 20, 2015.—REUTERS

ADVERTISEMENT & GENERAL

**CLAIMS DAY NOTICE
MV WEST SCENT VOY NO (088N)**

Consignees of cargo carried on MV WEST SCENT VOY NO (088N) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 23.8.2015 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of A.W.P.T where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

**SHIPPING AGENCY DEPARTMENT
MYANMA PORT AUTHORITY
AGENT FOR: M/S INTERASIA LINES**

Phone No: 2301185

**CLAIMS DAY NOTICE
MV CONMAR DELTA VOY NO
(006W)**

Consignees of cargo carried on MV CONMAR DELTA VOY NO (006W) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 23.8.2015 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of B.S.W where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

**SHIPPING AGENCY DEPARTMENT
MYANMA PORT AUTHORITY
AGENT FOR: M/S THE SHIPPING CORP. OF
INDIA LTD.**

Phone No: 2301185

**CLAIMS DAY NOTICE
MV MATHU BHUM VOY NO (1006W)**

Consignees of cargo carried on MV MATHU BHUM VOY NO (1006W) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 23.8.2015 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of M.I.P where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

**SHIPPING AGENCY DEPARTMENT
MYANMA PORT AUTHORITY
AGENT FOR: M/S MOL (S'PORE) PTE LTD**

Phone No: 2301185

**Ministry of Energy
Myanma Petroleum Products Enterprise
Invitation for Open Tender (5/2015)**

1. Open tenders are invited for supply of Aviation Lubricating Oil and Grease (4)Items (Open Tender No. MPPE/AV(LUB)/T/2(2015-2016)) in United State Dollars (CIF Yangon).
2. Tender Closing Date & Time - 15 - 9 - 2015, 12:00 Hrs
3. Tender documents are available at our office starting from 19 - 8 - 2015 during office hours and for further detail please contact: Phone :067-411487.

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

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WEATHER REPORT

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

FORECAST VALID UNTIL EVENING OF THE 23rd August, 2015: Rain or thundershowers will be scattered in Magway Region, fairly widespread in Mandalay Region and Shan State, widespread in the remaining Regions and States with regionally heavy falls in Taninthayi Region, Rakhine, Kayin and Mon States and isolated heavy falls in Sagaing, Mandalay, Yangon and Ayeyarwady Regions, Kachin and Chin States. Degree of certainty is (100%).

STATE OF THE SEA: Squalls with moderate to rough sea are likely at times off and along Myanmar Coasts. Surface wind speed in squalls may reach (35) m.p.h.

OUTLOOK FOR SUBSEQUENT TWO DAYS: Continuation of increase of rain in the Taninthayi Region, Kayin and Mon States.

FORECAST FOR NAY PYI TAW AND NEIGHBOURING AREA FOR 23rd August, 2015: Isolated rain or thundershowers. Degree of certainty is (100%).

FORECAST FOR YANGON AND NEIGHBOURING AREA FOR 23rd August, 2015: One or two rain or thundershowers. Degree of certainty is (100%).

FORECAST FOR MANDALAY AND NEIGHBOURING AREA FOR 23rd August, 2015: Isolated rain or thundershowers. Degree of certainty is (100%)



Mothers breastfeed their children during the contest "Baby Mamoncito" in the frame of the Week of Breastfeeding of Peru 2015, in Lima city, Peru, on Aug. 21, 2015. The Week of Breastfeeding of Peru takes place on the fourth week in August every year in order to promote breastfeeding, according to local press information.—XINHUA

France welcomes record number of Chinese visitors in 2015

PARIS, 22 Aug — France received a "record" number of Chinese holidaymakers this year, according to French Foreign Affairs minister Laurent Fabius on Friday.

Presenting tourism data, Fabius estimated more than 2 million Chinese visitors came to France in 2015. For the January-August period, 47 percent more tourists from China visited Le Chateau de Chambord, in central France and the number of

those visiting Chateau de Versailles increased by 4.2 percent.

Data released by Regional Tourism Committee showed the number of Chinese visiting the French capital Paris and suburbs jumped by 48.9 percent over the period against last year's performance.

"The goal we have set with our Chinese officials, is to reach quickly 5 million (Chinese tourists)," Fabius said, attributing the growing share of Chinese

market to the "excellent relations between Chinese and French authorities."

"The fact that we had many visits of French officials to China and of Chinese officials to France, the fact that visas have been facilitated, the fact that we improved security — they show that we are in the right direction, but, I think we are still in the beginning of the process," Fabius stressed.

According to official data, outside Europe, China

is France's second biggest tourist market in 2013 after the United States, with 1.7 million visitors and 600 million euros (681.84 million U.S. dollars) of revenue.

Welcoming 84.1 million tourists in 2014, France confirmed its position as world's most visited country.

Tourism in France accounts for 7 percent of the national output and employs 2 million people.

Xinhua

Ukraine seeks to diversify markets for agricultural exports

KIEV, 22 Aug — Ukraine will strive to diversify markets for agricultural exports to offset losses from shrinking sales to Russia, Ukrainian Prime Minister Arseny Yatsenyuk said here on Friday.

"Russia's share in the consumption of Ukrainian agricultural products has fallen fourfold and now makes up 2 percent of Ukraine total agro-exports. In the same time, new markets have been opened up," Yatsenyuk said during a visit

to an agricultural enterprise in the capital city of Kiev.

Ukraine has a great potential to increase farm produce supplies to Asian and European countries, the Premier said, urging local food producers to improve their quality standards in a bid to boost competitiveness of Ukrainian products in international markets. In the first half of 2015, Ukraine's agricultural exports, which account for about one third of the country's total outbound shipments, declined 15 percent to

6.7 billion U.S. dollars year-on-year.

In the recording period, Ukrainian shipments of farm produce to the European Union countries fell by 37 percent to 1.7 billion dollars, while shipments to the Commonwealth of Independent States almost halved to 700 million dollars.

At the same time, exports to Asian countries increased 16 percent to 3.1 billion dollars in the first six months of this year.—Xinhua

Apple defends Dr Dre after he apologizes to 'women I've hurt'

LOS ANGELES, 22 Aug — Apple Inc. came to the defense of rapper and Beats co-founder Dr Dre on Friday following his apology "to the women I've hurt" as reports of his past altercations with women resurfaced around the release of N.W.A. biopic "Straight Outta Compton."

Apple, which acquired Dr Dre's headphone and music streaming company Beats Electronics last year for \$3 billion and made Dre an executive, said the company believed in the rapper's sincerity.

"Dre has apologized for the mistakes he's made in the past and he's said that he's not the same person that he was 25 years ago," Apple said in a statement to Reuters. "After working with him for a year and a half, we have

every reason to believe that he has changed."

Dr Dre, 50, a founding member of Compton rap collective N.W.A., the subject of Universal Pictures' box office hit "Straight Outta Compton," apologized for his actions from 25 years ago, which included an incident with female presenter Dee Barnes.

"I was a young man drinking too much and in over my head with no real structure in my life. However, none of this is an excuse for what I did," the rapper, real name Andre Young, told the New York Times on Friday.

Dr Dre said he has been married for 19 years and is "working to be a better man for my family, seeking guidance along the way. I'm doing everything I can so I

never resemble that man again."

"I apologize to the women I've hurt," he added. "I deeply regret what I did and know that it has forever impacted all of our lives."

Dr Dre's representatives said he would not comment beyond the statement sent exclusively to the New York Times.

The newspaper said Dr Dre pleaded no contest to assault and battery charges in the incident involving Barnes and was sentenced to probation and community service, while a civil suit was settled out of court.

Barnes wrote an essay for Gawker this week in which she rehashed details of the assault.

The incident was left out of the film that traced the origins of N.W.A. and its members.

Two other women, R&B singer and Dr Dre's former girlfriend Michel'le and musician Tairrie B, told the Times that they too had been assaulted by the rapper in the past.—Reuters



Producer Dr. Dre



Lana Del Rey reveals 'Honeymoon' album tracklist

LOS ANGELES, 22 Aug — Singer Lana Del Rey has unveiled the official tracklist of her new album Honeymoon, a month before its release.

The 30-year-old "Summertime Sadness" hitmaker shared on Instagram the titles of the songs off the forthcoming LP, reported Acshowbiz.

The 13 tracks set to appear on Honeymoon include its ti-

tle track, "High by the Beach" and the just-released "Terrence Loves You".

She also informed fans that if they pre-order the album starting from Friday, August 21, they will receive free download of the piano-driven ballad, which is her favourite cut from the album. Honeymoon is slated to hit the stores on September 18.—PTI

Actress Megan Fox files for divorce from Brian Austin Green

LOS ANGELES, 22 Aug — "Transformers" star Megan Fox on Friday filed for divorce from actor Brian Austin Green after five years of marriage, a Los Angeles court spokeswoman said.

The filing in Los Angeles Superior Court cited irreconcilable differences as the reason for the divorce. The filing came after media reports this week that the couple



had separated. Fox, 29, is best known for starring in the blockbuster "Transformers" movie in 2007, and in a 2009 sequel. In 2008 she was named the world's sexiest woman in a poll by the magazine FHM.

She has said she met Austin Green, who appeared in the 1990s television show "Beverly Hills, 90210," when she was 18 and he was 30. They went on to date for years and married in 2010.

The couple have two children together.—Reuters

Carrie Underwood's new song will be about motherhood

LOS ANGELES, 22 Aug — Singer Carrie Underwood says one song from her upcoming album "Storyteller", which releases on October 23, will be about her new role as a mother.

The 32-year-old "American Idol" alum, who welcomed her first son Isaiah Michael in March with husband Mike Fisher, said she initially tried avoiding making a song on motherhood, reported People Magazine.

"I tried to avoid the 'mommy' songs, but one managed to find its way in there! I'm glad it did, because he (Isaiah) will always have that."

During a Facebook interaction with fans, the "Something in the Water" hitmaker said she makes up lullabies to sing to her little baby.

"I change the words to songs that I already know to fit whatever I'm doing with him at the moment," she said. "There are lots of songs about



Carrie Underwood

diaper changing and getting him dressed!"

Underwood also said one of the songs, "Smoke Break," will be about the hectic schedules and the little breaks people have in between.

"(It is) one of those story songs that I feel like everybody can relate to, about how life is so hectic and it's so nice if and when you get to step away for a second."—PTI



Kareena Kapoor Khan

Designer Gaurav Gupta to give dramatic look to Kareena Kapoor Khan

MUMBAI, 22 Aug — Designer Gaurav Gupta will be giving a dramatic look to actress Kareena Kapoor Khan for the Lakme Fashion Week grand finale.

Kareena is all set to be muse to Gaurav Gupta's vision for Lakme 'Sculpt' line this season. The "Bajrangi Bhaijaan" actress has been the showstopper for the Lakme Grand Finale for quite a some time.

"I would be giving her something new and dramatic (look), in my

sculpture," Gaurav told PTI.

Kareena and Gaurav will come together for the first time at the Lakme Grand Finale.

Gaurav thinks the presence of Bollywood stars on the ramp, and otherwise for fashion shows, is beneficial for the brand.

"I see presence of Bollywood stars as a fit for that particular show and brand. If their personality speaks the personality of the brand then it makes sense," he said.

Gaurav will explore the realm of fantasy fashion as he brings the Lakme beauty statement — Sculpt — to the fore.

"The collection is called Sculpt,

inspired by Lakme's statement for the season. It all started with the thought of time and movement, and keeping sculpting in mind. The concept is that of how forms are created and shaped around the body," Gaurav said.

On the runway, Gaurav would be splashing strong colours but is not keen on divulging the details.

"The colours really are strong and simple, and the fabrics are such that I can mould them," he added. Lakme Fashion Week Winter/Festive 2015 will be held from August 26 to 30 here.—PTI

GENERAL

Swiss FIFA inquiry receives more than 100 'suspicious activity' reports

ZURICH, 22 Aug — Swiss authorities have received more than 100 reports of suspicious financial activity linked to FIFA's decisions to let Russia and Qatar host the 2018 and 2022 World Cup tournaments, the Swiss attorney general's office said on Saturday.

Switzerland's Office of the Attorney General (OAG) is investigating corruption at Zurich-based

FIFA and its decisions on who would stage the World Cup. Both Russia and Qatar have previously denied wrongdoing.

"I can confirm that the OAG received so far 103 suspicious financial activity reports regarding the allocation of the Football World Cup 2018 and 2022," an OAG spokesman said in an email.

In July, the OAG said

it had received 81 reports of suspicious financial activity for its investigation.

News of the additional reports was first reported by Swiss newspaper Tagess-Anzeiger.

On Friday, Reuters exclusively reported that the Swiss investigation had hit some roadblocks, according to U.S. and European sources familiar with the matter.

Reuters



The hall of FIFA headquarters is pictured after the Extraordinary FIFA Executive Committee Meeting in Zurich, Switzerland July 20, 2015.—REUTERS

Alba back for Barca's La Liga opener at Bilbao

BARCELONA, 22 Aug — Barcelona have a fit-again Jordi Alba available for Sunday's opening La Liga match of the campaign at Athletic Bilbao, the Spanish and European champions said on Saturday.

The Spain fullback, who damaged a thigh muscle in this month's Gamper trophy invitational match against AS Roma and missed the Spanish and European Super Cups, has been given the all-clear by club medical staff, Barca said on their website (www.fcbarcelona.es).

Neymar is still recovering after a bout of mumps and was not included in the squad for the match at the San Ma-

mes, although he returned to training on Saturday and coach Luis Enrique told a news conference the Brazil forward would be back soon.

Barca, chasing a sixth La Liga title in eight years having won a treble of Champions League and Spanish league and Cup last term, are looking to bounce back after they lost the Spanish Super Cup to Bilbao 5-1 on aggregate.

Spain centre back Gerard Pique was sent off in Monday's second leg for insulting a linesman and banned for four matches and Luis Enrique confirmed the club had appealed the sanction.

The Bilbao game will be Barca's first outing since the exit of forward Pedro, who joined English Premier League champions Chelsea this week.

The Spain's international's departure has prompted suggestions Luis Enrique might be short of attacking options, especially if Lionel Messi, Neymar or Luis Suarez pick up an injury. The situation has been compounded by the fact that Barca cannot register any purchases, including Turkey playmaker Arda Turan and versatile Spain fullback Aleix Vidal, until January because of a FIFA ban for breaking rules on the transfer of foreign under-18 players.—Reuters

Real not targeting another striker, Benitez says

MADRID, 22 Aug — Real Madrid are not planning to bring in another striker before the transfer window closes at the end of the month and have full confidence in France forward Karim Benzema, coach Rafa Benitez said on Saturday.

Real begin their latest La Liga campaign on Sunday at promoted Sporting Gijon, although Benzema is still recovering from injury and will miss the clash at the Molinon.

Benitez, who took over from the sacked Carlo Ancelotti at the end of last season, has set the Frenchman a target of 25 goals for the season, something he has not achieved since 2011-12 when he netted 31.

The 27-year-old, who joined from Olympique Lyon in 2009, only managed

14 last term partly due to injury and has regularly been targeted with whistles by some disgruntled Real fans.

Real have plenty of cover for Benzema, including Portugal forward and top scorer Cristiano Ronaldo, Jese and B team teenager Borja Mayoral, Benitez said at a news conference.

"I have said many times that I am convinced Benzema is a great forward," added the former Valencia, Liverpool, Chelsea, Inter Milan and Napoli coach.

"That's why I set him a target of 25 goals to motivate him and so he can express himself. "So we have a lot of attacking options and that's why right now we are not looking for a striker."

Ancelotti was discarded after Real failed to win the Champions League, La Liga

or the King's Cup last term, with Benitez returning to the club where he was both a player and coach in the youth academy.

Real have brought in a number of new players in the close season, including Croatia midfielder Mateo Kovacic, Brazil fullback Danilo and goalkeeper Kiko Casilla.

Spain keeper David De Gea is widely expected to join from Manchester United but Benitez declined to confirm whether a deal would happen.

"I think I have a great team and a great squad and as Real Madrid coach I am completely satisfied," he said when asked if the world's richest club by income planned any more business in the transfer market.—Reuters

MITV Myanmar International

(23-8-2015 07:00 am~24-8-2015 07:00 am) MST

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- * Kyaikhteeyoe: Bamboo Guns
- * News
- * Sagaing: Pe Kwel Kone Nat Festival
- * Products Of Myanmar — Mya Setkyar Pure Silk
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- * A Nun's Creation in Fruit Carving
- * Chanmyay Yeiktha Meditation Centre — Chaw Dwin Gone
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- * Youth Filmmaker: Lwin Ko Ko Oo

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- * Today Myanmar: Rising Insurance Infrastructure
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- * U Kyaw Thu: From Artist to Philanthropist (Part-I)
- * Myanmar Women Football Champions (Myanmar National Team)
- * News
- * Great Shwedagon-Nine Wonders Around The Platform of Shwedagon Pagoda

Men's marathon results in Beijing worlds



Ghirmay Ghebreslassie of Eritrea celebrates after the men's marathon at the 15th IAAF World Athletics Championships 2015 in Beijing, capital of China, on Aug. 22, 2015.—XINHUA

BEIJING, 22 Aug — Following are the leading results of men's marathon in the Beijing Worlds:

1. Ghirmay Ghebreslassie, Eritrea, 2:12:28
2. Yemane Tsegay, Ethiopia, 2:13:08
3. Munyo Solomon Mutai, Uganda, 2:13:30
4. Ruggero Pertile, Italy, 2:14:23

5. Shumi Dechasa Bahrain 2:14:36
6. Stephen Kiprotich, Uganda, 2:14:43
7. Lelisa Desisa, Ethiopia, 2:14:54
8. Daniele Meucci, Italy, 2:14:54
9. Amanuel Mesel, Eritrea, 2:15:07
10. Jackson Kiprop, Uganda, 2:15:16.—Xinhua

MRTV Entertainment Channel

(23-8-2015, Sunday)

6:00 am

- Myo Ma Nyein Musical Troupe

6:20 am

- Myanmar Video

7:55 am

- Fashion Music

8:10 am

- Game For Children

8:30 am

- Musical Programme

8:40 am

- Pyi Thu Ni Ti

9:05 am

- Sing & Enjoy

10:00 am

- Myanmar Movie

12:00 noon

- Close Down

Myanmar's Champ Tun Tun Min Vs Brazilian Jackson in All Star Big Fights

By Ko Moe

YANGON, 22 Aug — Thein-byu Stadium will host the All Star Big Fights on 30 August. Myanmar traditional boxers will meet their counterparts from international countries on the events.

The big fights among the matches are current champion Tun Tun Min vs Jackson of Brazil and Tu Tu of Myanmar vs Canadian boxers Matthew. The fights between former championship belt winner Saw Ngaman and MMA's Featherweight Champ Thabyaynyo and MMA's Light-weight champ Thway Thit Aung vs Ye Yint Aung are also on the focus of the spectators. In addition to the international fights, local challenges will also take place. The ticket for the fights will be available with K 50,000, K 30,000, and K 10,000 per head each as of 23 August. —GNLM

Myanmar Cricket Federation to conduct training in Mon State

By Ko Moe

YANGON, 22 Aug — The Myanmar Cricket Federation aims to promote cricket among the next generation of players in Mon State, said U Michael Kyaw Min of MCF on Friday. He said that MCF plans to

conduct training and talent scouting programs in Chin, Kachin and Rakhine states as well as Taninthayi Region.

“Our goal is to encourage participation among young athletes from the four corners of the country,” he added. MCF launched training pro-

grams in Mandalay and Sagaing regions and Kayah State earlier this year.

U Michael Kyaw Min said that MCF is keen to resume cricket coaching programs in flood-affected areas of the country, as it will boost morale among Myanmar's youth. —GNLM

Myanmar secures two best awards at AFF Awards Night 2015

YANGON, 22 Aug — The ASEAN Football Federation



Aung Thu receives The Best Young Player award for 2014.

held its AFF Awards Night 2015 at Novotel Hotel here on Saturday, with the host country winning two awards.

The Best Young Player award for 2014 went to Aung Thu of Myanmar, while the Myanmar Football Federation boasted the Best Football Federation award for 2014. MFF won the title for two consecutive years.

AFF's biennial event started in 2013, giving out awards in 18 categories, including the best men's football team and the best women's football team.

In 2013, Kyi Lin of Myanmar was chosen for AFF's best team. —Ko Moe

World Athletics Championships opens in Beijing



Flag-holders and banner-holders march in with the flags and nameplates of the participating IAAF Member Federations during the opening ceremony for the 15th IAAF World Athletics Championships 2015 in Beijing, capital of China, on Aug. 22, 2015. —XINHUA

BEIJING, 22 Aug — The 15th World Athletics Championships opened here on Saturday with around 2,000 athletes from around

the world taking part in.

Chinese President Xi Jinping declared the worlds open at a ceremony held in Beijing's iconic

“Bird's Nest” National Stadium.

Among those present at the ceremony are International Olympic Committee (IOC) President

Thomas Bach and outgoing International Association of Athletics Federation (IAAF) President Lamine Diack.

“During the 2008 Beijing Olympics, the Chinese people felt the charm of athletics. In the next few days, Beijing will come to the spotlight and the elite event will help demonstrate the Chinese people's love for athletics once again,” said Beijing Mayor Wang Anshun, also chairman of the organizing committee.

After the flags parade of the IAAF member associations, there was a brief but intriguing art performance at the ceremony, a brilliant combination of music, dance and cultural extravaganza.

The show reached the climax when all the performers shouted “Welcome to Beijing, my dear friends!”

The world championships is the first world-class event held in Beijing after the Chinese capital won the right to host the 2022

Winter Olympics with adjacent Zhangjiakou of Hebei Province.

Beijing hopes to impress the world again with successful hosting of the athletics worlds which will run through to Aug. 30. China sent a 81-strong team to the championships and will compete in 34 out of 47 events.

The Chinese athletes are expecting medals from the race walking and the women's throwing events and also looking forward to breakthroughs in the men's high jump and long jump. In a speech at the opening ceremony, IAAF President Diack said he believes China has what it takes to become an athletics powerhouse.

Earlier on Saturday, Ghirmay Ghebreselassie from Eritrea stunned a strong field of East African stars to win the men's marathon gold. It was Eritrea's first-ever world championships gold and the 19-year-old Ghebreselassie became the youngest ever world marathon champion. —Xinhua

United held to goalless draw by dogged Newcastle

LONDON, 22 Aug — Manchester United's 100 percent start to the Premier League season ended after they were held to a frustrating goalless draw against Newcastle United at Old Trafford on Saturday.

Wayne Rooney had an early goal ruled out for offside as United, 1-0 victors in each of their two league games, dominated

but it was Newcastle who went closest to scoring in the first half when Aleksander Mitrovic hit the crossbar.

Substitutes Javier Hernandez and Antonio Valencia had opportunities to snatch a late winner for United, who top the fledgling table with seven points from three games, but Newcastle held firm.

Later on Saturday

Leicester City, with their 100 percent record, host Tottenham Hotspur, Stoke City visit Norwich and Crystal Palace play Aston Villa.

Sunderland and promoted Bournemouth, occupying the bottom two places in the table, search for their first points against Swansea City and West Ham United respectively. —Reuters



Manchester United v Newcastle United - Barclays Premier League - Old Trafford - 22/8/15 Manchester United's Chris Smalling heads at goal. —REUTERS