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# FISHERIES EYE RECOVERY

## Govt gives fingerlings to flood-hit fish farmers

By Aye Min Soe

NAY PYI TAW, 26 Aug — The Ministry of Livestock, Fisheries and Rural Development has given out K150 million (US\$117,000) worth of fingerlings to farmers as part of its attempt to rehabilitate the flood-hit fisheries sector, it said on Wednesday.

Ministry Secretary Dr Khin Zaw said that the ministry will work alongside the Myanmar Fisheries Federation to distribute the baby fish so as to ensure that farmers can re-start their businesses in time for the breeding season.

In addition to providing the fingerlings, the ministry has spent more than K101 million (US\$79,000) to prop up the sector since late July, when Myanmar was hit by the most severe flash flooding in a century.

The country's private fisheries sector is estimated to have lost more than K24 billion (US\$97 million) while the livestock sector has lost more than K5 billion (US\$3.9 million), according to the Ministry of Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement.

The ministry's Rural Development Department also announced that it will cost around K 28 billion to rebuild infrastructure damaged by the floods.—GNLM



Workers sort through the afternoon catch at a fish market in Kyimyindine Township in Yangon.—Photo: Aye Min Soe

## PSC signed for Mottama M-7 offshore-block

NAY PYI TAW, 26 Aug — Myanmar Oil and Gas Enterprise, Australia's Tap Oil Ltd and Myanmar's Smart E& P International Co., Ltd signed a Production Sharing Contract (PSC) for Mottama offshore block M-7 in Nay Pyi Taw on Wednesday.

The signing agreement provides for a US\$5.2 million signature bonus and a \$3.5 million data fee. At least \$110.75 million will be spent during

the two year observation period in the Gulf of Mottama and another \$110.75 million during a six year oil testament period. An Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) and Social Impact Assessment (SIA) must be carried out before exploration can begin.

Tap Oil Ltd was established in 1995 and has operations in Australia, New Zealand, the Philippines, Brunei, Ghana.—MNA

## ADB to provide US\$3m for flood relief

YANGON, 26 Aug — The Asian Development Bank will provide Myanmar with US\$3 million to assist flood relief efforts, according to an ADB press release issued on Tuesday.

"ADB is committed to assist Myanmar in these difficult times," ADB President Takehiko Nakao said.

"It is important to link the relief and early recovery phase with the longer term rehabilitation plans, and ADB will support Myanmar in this effort."

In a letter to Myanmar's President U Thein Sein earlier this month, Mr Nakao expressed his condolences to those who lost

their lives or livelihoods as a result of the flash floods that began in late July.

According to the press release, the grant will be issued from ADB's Asia Pacific Disaster Response Fund, which was set up to meet priority needs and restore live-saving services to communities affected by natural disasters.

Mobilising new resources and adjusting existing programs for the rehabilitation and reconstruction of damaged infrastructure and affected livelihoods will be also considered, said the release.

It added that ADB's efforts

are geared towards supporting the Government of Myanmar at the national and state/regional levels and that it works in close coordination with the development community.

Heavy monsoon rains in late July caused severe flooding, landslides, and wind damage across most parts of the country. Over 1.6 million people are estimated to have been affected by the disaster, which has destroyed farmland, roads, railroads and bridges. The government has declared natural disaster zones in Chin and Rakhine states, as well as in Magway and Sagaing.

GNLM



## Pyidaungsu Hluttaw



Deputy Minister for Foreign Affairs U Tin Oo Lwin.—MNA



Daw Nan Say Ewa of Hpa-an constituency.—MNA



Deputy Minister for LFRD U Tin Ngwe.—MNA



Deputy Minister for Health Dr Daw Thein Thein Htay.—MNA

## Pyidaungsu Hluttaw (Union Parliament) Roundup

NAY PYI TAW, 26 Aug—The Pyidaungsu Hluttaw on Wednesday approved a proposal to take out two loans from international development lenders.

The Asian Development Bank's ASEAN Infrastructure Fund will provide US\$260 million while the French Development Agency will provide 40 million euros. Officials have said that the loans will be provided to the Ministry of Construction, the Ministry of Electric Power and the Mandalay Region Government and used to speed up several development projects.

U Mahn Kan Nyunt of Kayin

State constituency argued in favour of the loans, saying that upgrading the Asian Highway from Eindu to Kawkaik will benefit surrounding regions, including Kayin State and the Greater Mekong Sub-region. He stressed the need for fair compensation to be paid to those who lose farmland located within the project site area.

Daw Nan Say Ewa of Hpa-an constituency also supported the road improvement project, saying that it will boost trade volumes between Myanmar and India and create jobs.

The session also saw MPs

express wide support for adopting an optional protocol governing the involvement of children in armed conflicts as per the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child (CROC).

According to Deputy Minister U Tin Oo Lwin, 159 countries have already signed up to the protocol, including eight out of 10 ASEAN members.

"The signing of the protocol will serve as convincing evidence of Myanmar's commitment to protect the rights of its children," he added.

Parliament also approved the broadcasting bill.—MNA

## Pyithu Hluttaw

## Pyithu Hluttaw (Lower House) Roundup

NAY PYI TAW, 26 Aug—The Ministry of Livestock, Fisheries and Rural Development is using special funds on top of the existing budgetary allocation to prevent water being contaminated by arsenic in 200 villages, said Deputy Minister U Tin Ngwe during the Pyithu Hluttaw session on Wednesday.

The deputy minister said that efforts were stepped up to lay

deeper tube wells for drinking water after a survey detected arsenic in tube wells less than 400 feet deep. He added that the ministry has allocated K 1.22 billion to laying 123 deep tubewells in 115 villages during 2015-16 financial year.

During the same session, parliament approved the blood and blood material bill as well as the organ donation bill.

Meanwhile Deputy Minister Dr Daw Thein Thein Htay spoke about the ministry's determination to address the needs of the most vulnerable, including infants, children and pregnant women. She said that all efforts are geared towards meeting the United Nations' development goals and that the government has increased health spending year on year since it entered office.—MNA

## Japan's Kirin Co. to put 55% investment in production of Myanmar Brewery Ltd

YANGON, 26 Aug—A press conference on mutual cooperation between Myanmar Brewery Limited and Kirin Company Ltd. of Japan was held at Sedona Hotel, here, Wednesday.

Myanmar Brewery Ltd will continue its production without changes of

quality and cooperate with Japan's Kirin Company in distribution of products at home and abroad.

The Japanese company will invest 55 percent and Myanmar Economic Holdings Ltd. 45 percent in the productions of joint venture tasks.—Win Win Maw

## Australian Gov't donates technological equipment to Myanmar Police Force

NAY PYI TAW, 26 Aug—Australian government donated technological equipment for investigation to Anti-Trafficking in Persons Division of Myanmar Police Force at the hall of MPF, here, on Wednesday.

Australian Ambassador Mr Nicholas Coppel spoke about the purpose

of donation and presented technological equipment worth US\$16,161 and K16.934 million to Chief of Myanmar Police Force Police Maj-Gen Zaw Win.

Also present at the ceremony were officials of Australia-Asia Program to Combat Trafficking in Persons-AAP-TIP.—Police Information

## Motorcade tourism on the rise: H&amp;T Ministry

By Ye Myint

YANGON, 26 Aug — Motorcade tourism is becomingly increasingly popular in Myanmar and numbers are rising despite the country being in the midst of the monsoon season, according to a statement issued by the Ministry of Hotels and Tourism on Wednesday.

A 26-car motorcade comprising drivers from Thailand completed their journey through Myanmar this week.

Moe Sin Kyal Travels and Tours Co., Ltd oversaw arrangements for the 78 Thai tourists in Myanmar, who entered the country via Myawady on 19 August.

The motorcade passed through Hpa-an, Mawlamyine, Dawei, Mounmgagan and Htee-khee during the five-day trip.

Earlier, nine Chinese tourists in a three-car motorcade arrived in Myanmar via Muse and passed through Mandalay, Bagan, Yangon, Kyaikto and Myawady before returning to their homeland on 16 August.

The ministry also noted that Myanmar has been selected as 'Destination of the Year' in 2015 by Singapore-based TTG Travel Trade Publishing. The award will be presented to Myanmar during the 26th Annual TTG Travel Awards 2015 in Bangkok on 1 October. —GNLM



A 26-car motorcade comprised of Thai drivers passes through Myanmar.  
FILE PHOTO/ MINISTRY OF HOTELS AND TOURISM



## Vice-Senior General Soe Win tours Thailand, discusses military affairs

NAY PYI TAW, 26 Aug — A welcoming ceremony was held for Vice-Senior General Soe Win at Thai Royal Army Headquarters on 25 August and hosted by the Royal Thai Commander-in-Chief (Army) General Udomdej Sitabutr.

A guard of honour greeted Vice-Senior General Soe Win, before he laid a wreath at General Chulalongkorn's memorial.

The pair discussed the two armed forces' close corporation in military affairs, particularly in relation to tackling the illicit drug trade, human trafficking and arms smuggling. They also discussed military exchange training

schemes and the ongoing efforts to rehabilitate Myanmar's flood-affected communities.

Myanmar's vice-senior general later visited Wat Benchamabophit Dusitvanaram Temple (The Marble Temple) in Bangkok and Ananta Samakhon Throne Hall of Thai Queen Sirikit Institute, where he viewed traditional Thai artwork and architecture.

The vice-senior general discussed military training with his counterparts at the Command and General Staff College of the Royal Thai Armed Forces and Army Training Depot in Bangkok.

Myawady



Vice-Senior General Soe Win and Royal Thai Commander-in-Chief (Army) General Udomdej Sitabutr take salute of Guard of Honour at welcoming ceremony.—MYAWADY

## Union Home Affairs Minister meets UN reps



Union Minister for Home Affairs Lt-Gen Ko Ko holds talks with UNFPA Resident Representative Janet E. Jackson.—MNA

NAY PYI TAW, 26 Aug — Union Minister for Home Affairs Lt-Gen Ko Ko met with Gender Theme Group members of the United Nations led by UNFPA Resident Representative Janet E. Jackson in Nay Pyi

Taw on Wednesday.

They exchanged views on the recent passing of the Interfaith Marriage Bill by parliament and other issues affecting women.

The Union minister later met with UNHCR

Resident Representative Giuseppe De Vinchenti to discuss the government's ongoing efforts to develop Rakhine State in corporation with UNHCR, along with other projects.—MNA

## Myanmar strengthens economic ties at 29<sup>th</sup> AME meeting

NAY PYI TAW, 26 Aug — Dr Kan Zaw, Union Minister for National Planning and Economic Development, attended the 47<sup>th</sup> ASEAN Economic Ministers Meeting and related meetings held in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia, from 21 to 25 August, according to officials.

On 21 August, the union minister attended a seminar on ASEAN Pathfinder Project organized by Dato Seri Idris Jala, Minister at Malaysia's Prime Minister's Office.

On 22 August, he participated in discussions at AEM's related meetings of the 29<sup>th</sup> ASEAN Free Trade Area (AFTA) Council and the 18<sup>th</sup> ASEAN Investment Area

(AIA) Council.

The ASEAN economic ministers also had meeting with their counterparts and trade organizations from Japan, South Korea, China, Australia, New Zealand, India, the United States

and Canada.

The meetings focused on economic cooperation and pledged greater effort to help small and medium enterprises grow in the region.

MNA



Economic ministers joining hands at 47<sup>th</sup> ASEAN Economic Ministers Meeting.—MNA

## Yedaguntaung Golf Course to be upgraded



Joint Secretary of the MCDC U Thet Naing Tun and chairperson of Phwint Phyo Thit Company Ltd. U Maung Maung exchange notes on agreement to upgrade golf course.—MAUNG PYI THU (MANDALAY)

MANDALAY, 26 Aug — Mandalay City Development Committee signed a memorandum of understanding with Phwint Phyo Thit Company Ltd. for upgrading Yedaguntaung Golf Course on 24 August.

Mandalay Mayor U Aung Moun was in attendance and Joint Secretary of the MCDC U Thet Naing Tun and company chairperson U Maung Maung signed the MoU.

The project will start in September and is expected to be completed in 2016.

Also present at the signing ceremony was the secretary of MCDC and departmental officials.

Maung Pyi Thu (Mandalay)

## Thai companies donate aid to Myanmar's flood victims

MYAWADY, 26 Aug — A group of companies in the Thai border city of Mae Sot donated cement, sheets of corrugated iron, rice, medical equipment, milk powder, stationery and foodstuffs worth K22.7 million (US\$17,700) to victims of the floods this week.

The group of companies was represented by GMM Media Public Co Ltd and Greenwave 106.5 Radio, who presented the relief supplies to Myawady District's Deputy Commissioner U Lwin Ko Oo and township officials, as well as the Chairperson of Myawady Township Merchants Association Daw Thin Thin Myat. Myawady's General Administration Department in Kayin State recently opened a donation centre to coordinate the distribution of relief supplies to flood victims across the country.—Htein Lin Aung (IPRD)



# Thailand wins guarded praise for destroying ivory stockpile



Officials hold confiscated elephant tusks before destroying the ivory at the Department of National Parks, Wildlife and Plant Conservation, in Bangkok, Thailand, August 26, 2015. —REUTERS

BANGKOK, 26 Aug — Wildlife officials in Thailand destroyed more than two tonnes of confiscated ivory worth around \$3 million on Wednesday in what one rights group called a milestone in the fight against the illegal trade.

Thailand is a top destination for African ivory smuggling in Asia and has come under increasing pressure to crack down on the trade. Animal rights campaigners have long accused successive governments of turning a blind eye to the problem.

The government in recent

months has rolled out public awareness campaigns aimed at stopping ivory from being smuggled in and out of the country.

In January, new legislation was passed to control the possession and trade of ivory and in April, customs officials seized four tonnes of ivory worth \$6 million.

At a ceremony on Wednesday presided over by Prime Minister Prayuth Chan-ocha, wildlife department officials pulverized the 1.2 million tonnes to prepare the haul for incineration.

Under the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES), the ivory trade was banned in 1989 but that has not stopped criminals from scrambling to meet burgeoning demand, particularly from China and Vietnam.

Steven Galster, executive director of Freeland, an anti-trafficking NGO, said the destruction showed Thailand was getting serious.

"Today's act shows that the Thai government is taking wildlife crime more seriously, which

is very important since Thailand has served as one of the world's largest transit points for global wildlife trafficking," he said.

Sallie Yang, senior programme officer at Freeland, said Wednesday's destruction was a "milestone" but more needed to be done including catching perpetrators.

Over 20,000 African elephants were killed for ivory in 2013, a CITES monitoring program showed, leaving a population believed to be around 50,000.

Reuters

## India, Pakistan border security chiefs to meet in Sept after peace talks collapsed

ISLAMABAD, 26 Aug — India and Pakistan border security force chiefs will meet in New Delhi next month, said Pakistani officials, days after the first high-level peace talks in years between the two arch-rival countries collapsed.

The chiefs of the Pakistan Rangers and the Indian Border Security Force will meet in New Delhi from Sept 9 to 13, according to a statement released on Wednesday by the Pakistan Rangers.

Representatives from the two paramilitary border forces held a meeting on Tuesday at the Wagah-Attari border "to coordinate modalities of (the) September meeting", the statement said.

Indian officials were not immediately available to confirm the meeting.

On Saturday, the first high-level peace talks between the two country's national security advisors were cancelled after a dispute over the agenda for those talks.

India and Pakistan have fought three wars since becoming independent nations in 1947, two of them over the Himalayan region of Kashmir, which both claim in full but rule in part.

New Delhi has for years accused Pakistan of backing separatist Muslim rebels in India's part of Kashmir. Pakistan denies the allegations and blames India for fomenting unrest inside Pakistan.

In the cancelled talks, India wanted to only discuss terrorism-related issues and objected to Pakistan's intentions of meeting separatists from Kashmir. Pakistan wanted a wider agenda.

Reuters

## Malaysia, Indonesia to deploy rapid response team to fight soaring piracy

SINGAPORE, 26 Aug — Malaysia and Indonesia are deploying rapid reaction teams to combat a soaring number of attacks on merchant vessels in one of the world's busiest shipping chokepoints, a Malaysian admiral said.

Over 70 ships have been attacked in the Malacca and Singapore straits, on the western side of the Malay Peninsula, this year, the highest number since at least 2008, including at least seven at the end of last week, according to security and anti-piracy groups.

"We have in general recommended that vessels proceeding to Singapore and passing Malaysian waters take appropriate security measures," said Michael Storgaard, spokesman for the world's biggest shipping firm Maersk

Line. One of the ships attacked last week was the 106,043 deadweight container ship Maersk Lebu.

The surge of attacks has led the Malaysian Maritime Enforcement Agency (MMEA), or coast-guard, to deploy a helicopter-equipped special task and rescue (STAR) team at Johor Bharu, First Admiral Maritime Zulkifli bin Abu Bakar, director of maritime matters in the MMEA's crime investigations department, told Reuters.

The Malaysian and Indonesian navies are forming a similar rapid reaction force in the area, Zulkifli added. While the MMEA force would respond to robbery and hijacking incidents team members would sometimes be de-

ployed on merchant ships operated by Malaysian government-linked firms, he said. "The STAR team is in addition to the other MMEA personnel tasked to combat anti-piracy/sea robbery. I can't tell you the number of personnel, but (it is) formidable enough to undertake any anti-hijacking operations," the Admiral said.

Singapore, Indonesia and Malaysia already coordinate naval and police patrols in the Malacca Strait and South China Sea, but have been hampered by a lack of resources, while sheltered coasts and islands make it easy for robbers to operate.

Shipping and security experts welcomed the latest move, but urged a more active approach.

"There remains a need for a proactive, permanent security presence in the area during the hours of darkness," said Mark Thomas, Asia Pacific regional manager at maritime security consultancy Dryad Maritime in Singapore.

South East Asia has become the world's maritime armed robbery and piracy hotspot, registering 84 out of 106 global incidents in the first half of this year, the International Maritime Bureau said. Data from the Regional Agreement on Combating Piracy and Armed Robbery against Ships in Asia (ReCAAP) shows the most recent spate of attacks took place in Indonesian waters within 48 hours, suggesting a single group of attackers.

Yet anti-piracy organisations and security firms draw a distinction between the attacks around Singapore, which security experts equated to maritime mugging, and violent piracy off the coast of Somalia, which was only reined in after concerted international efforts.

In most of the attacks in the Malacca and Singapore straits, lightly armed robbers fled, either empty-handed or after stealing ship's stores, while pirates in Africa tended to be heavily armed, attacking larger ships and kidnapping crews.

Shippers said the low level of violence and strict arms regulations in southeast Asia meant it was difficult to employ armed guards.—Reuters



# India's Modi urges calm after caste protest in home state

NEW DELHI, 26 Aug — India deployed paramilitary forces and imposed a curfew in the western state of Gujarat on Wednesday after violence broke out at a protest led by a powerful clan to demand more government jobs and college places.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi called for calm in the state he ran for more than a decade before leading his nationalist Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) to victory in last year's general election.

"I appeal to the people of Gujarat to maintain peace. Violence will never achieve anything," Modi said in a statement broadcast on television.

At least half a million members of the Patidar, or Patel, community rallied on Tuesday in the city of Ahmedabad to demand changes to policies that, they argue, unfairly favour groups at the lower end of India's social order.

Clashes broke out after the arrest of the movement's leader,

21-year-old activist Hardik Patel, prompting police to fire tear gas and to baton-charge protesters.

"The agitators clashed with the police and members of the lower castes. They have burnt down nine police stations and over three dozen buses," P.C. Thakur, Gujarat's top police officer, told Reuters.

"We had to impose a curfew to control the clashes. Offices, trading houses and educational institutions will not open today."

The Patels, a wealthy business community in India and overseas, have been a driving force in the economy, dominating the thriving diamond trade, oil processing and textiles.

But they say that caste-based reservations deprive them of opportunities. They insist the government should put an end to affirmative action policies that favour Muslims, low-caste Hindus and Other Backward Classes - a collective term covering socially and educationally deprived



A man on a scooter stands next to burning vehicles after the clashes between the police and protesters in Ahmedabad, India, August 26, 2015. India deployed paramilitary forces and imposed a curfew in the western state of Gujarat on Wednesday after violence broke out at a protest led by a powerful clan to demand more government jobs and college places.—REUTERS

groups.

Caste-based reservations have always been a sensitive issue in India, used often as a tool for what is called vote-bank politics.

In a speech he gave in May, Modi said that India must overcome its caste-based divisions.

Modi comes from a lowly caste included in the Other Backward Classes, and has made much of his rise to power from humble origins as the son of a tea seller.

Caste politics are likely to play a role in a forthcoming election in the state of Bihar, whose chief minister belongs to the Pa-

tel community and has sympathised with the Gujarat protesters.

Modi's BJP is targeting gains in Bihar, home to one in 12 Indians, to boost its representation in the upper house of parliament where it lacks the majority it needs to pass economic reforms.

Reuters

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## South Korea says willing to discuss North's demand to lift sanctions

SEOUL, 26 Aug — South Korea is willing to discuss North Korea's demand for an end to sanctions imposed over a 2010 naval attack, the South said on Wednesday, a day after the rivals struck a landmark pact that defused a standoff between their forces.

South Korea is preparing to open a new channel of dialogue with the North after the Tuesday accord, in which North Korea

expressed regret over a landmine incident that wounded South Korean soldiers and the South agreed to stop anti-North Korea propaganda being broadcast over border loudspeakers.

"When talks get under way, we think the May 24 issue will be raised by the North which has an interest in it, and I think it can be handled through dialogue," South Korea's Unification Ministry spokesman Jeong Joon-hee

told a briefing.

Jeong was referring to May 24, 2010, when South Korea announced sanctions that cut off most exchanges with the North, including tourism, trade and private aid, after it accused the North of a torpedo attack on a navy ship that killed 46 sailors.

North Korea denied any role in the attack and had called for the lifting of the sanctions before any talks could begin.

South Korea had demanded an apology from the North as a precondition for lifting the sanctions, but has appeared to relax its stance since late last year amid rising domestic sentiment in favour of re-engaging with the North.

In their agreement reached just after midnight on Tuesday, the two sides pledged to hold talks to discuss a range of issues on improving ties.—Reuters



Catholic nuns from the Missionaries of Charity, the global order of nuns founded by Mother Teresa, take part in a mass service to mark the 105th birth anniversary of Mother Teresa in Kolkata, India, August 26, 2015. Teresa, a Nobel Peace Prize winner who died in 1997, was beatified by Pope John Paul II in 2003 at the Vatican.—REUTERS

## US to work with Sri Lanka on UN resolution addressing alleged war crimes

COLOMBO, 26 Aug — The United States said on Wednesday it would work together with Sri Lanka's new government to propose a resolution to a U.N. human rights forum that seeks to come to terms with the painful legacy of a 26-year civil war.

Washington will move the resolution, to address responsibility for alleged human rights abuses and propose a framework for reconciliation, at next month's U.N. Human Rights Council session in Geneva.

"We have recognised that there is a different opportunity that exists today and a different landscape for trying to advance reconciliation," Nisha Biswal, U.S. as-

sistant secretary of state for South and Central Asian Affairs, told reporters in Colombo. "We look forward to a process in Geneva that allows an opportunity to reflect on that." Former president Mahinda Rajapaksa, who led Sri Lanka in the final years of the Tamil insurgency, lost a presidential election in January and failed in his bid to come back as prime minister in the Aug. 17 polls.

The election strengthened President Maithripala Sirisena, a reformist leader who has taken steps to reconcile Sri Lankan Tamils with majority Sinhala speakers, many of whom still regard Rajapaksa as a national hero.

Reuters



## Merkel backs emergency funds for German towns facing refugee influx

BERLIN, 26 Aug — Germany's government plans to double funding this year to help towns cope with record numbers of refugees, moving to tackle an issue that is straining resources and fuelling social tensions.

With refugee shelters in the country being attacked almost daily and politicians warning of a rise in xenophobia, Chancellor Angela Merkel's cabinet agreed a draft law to bring forward the transfer of 500 million euros



German Chancellor Angela Merkel attends a session of Germany's parliament, the Bundestag, in Berlin, Germany, August 19, 2015. —REUTERS

(\$575 million) originally intended for 2016.

Germany, the biggest recipient of migrants in Europe, and its European Union partners are groping for answers to the continent's worst refugee crisis since World War Two.

Ever greater numbers of migrants, most fleeing conflict or extreme poverty in Africa or the Middle East, are trying to gain access to the 28-nation bloc, testing its unity and fuelling widespread anti-im-

migration sentiment.

Germany alone expects the number of asylum seekers to quadruple this year to 800,000, and those towns in the frontline say they are already struggling to pay for accommodation and fund medical care for the new arrivals.

Merkel will on Wednesday visit the eastern town of Heidenau where violent anti-refugee protests erupted at the weekend, underlining the urgency of the towns' re-

quest for more resources.

Total long-term funding for municipalities could rise as high as 3 billion euros if they get their way when representatives of federal authorities and Germany's 16 regional governments meet on Sept. 24.

Some of Merkel's conservatives also want to change the constitution to allow direct federal payments to municipalities. Currently they are funded at regional level.

Reuters

## Russia and NATO need new rules to cut risk of war, ex-ministers say

BRUSSELS, 26 Aug — Russia and NATO must agree common rules to handle unexpected military encounters to reduce the risk of inadvertently triggering a war between Moscow and the West, a group of former foreign and defence ministers said on Wednesday.

With both Russia and NATO intensifying military exercises because of the crisis in Ukraine, incidents such as mid-air face-offs between rival military jets are on the increase.

Calling for a high-level NATO-Russia meeting, the group of 14 — including former Russian foreign minister Igor Ivanov, ex-German defence minister Volker Ruehe and colleagues from Britain, France, Spain and Turkey — said rules for communication at sea and in the air were paramount.

"The situation is ripe with potential for either dangerous miscalculation or an accident that could trigger a worsening of the crisis or even a direct military confrontation," they said in a report published by the European Leadership Network.

The London-based think-tank, which this month said both sides were training for the possibility of war, said it had recorded 66 "close military encounters" between Russian and NATO military forces, and between Russia and neutral Sweden and Finland, which NATO counts as partners.

It has been keeping count since March 2014,

when Russia annexed the Crimean peninsula from Ukraine. The following month, a separatist war broke out in eastern Ukraine between pro-Russian rebels and government forces.

The group said an agreement, possibly based on a similar pact between the United States and China, would set out actions to avoid, such as attack simulations near the other side's military vessels and aircraft.

If such exercises or live weapons-firing did take place, there should be timely warnings and agreed radio frequencies and signals vocabulary.

NATO has suspended all practical and military cooperation with Russia but can still convene political meetings.

Russian snap exercises in March were one of the Kremlin's biggest shows of force since the start of the Ukraine crisis. It put the navy's Northern Fleet on full combat readiness in Russia's Arctic North, close to Norway, a NATO member.

NATO has also held exercises — although not on the same scale — mainly in eastern Europe and the Baltics. Along with its partners, the 28-nation alliance will hold its biggest military exercise in more than a decade from October.

The report said an "action-reaction cycle" was now under way between NATO and Russia that could be hard to stop.

Reuters

## Hungarian government has discussed using army to help handle migrants

BUDAPEST, 26 Aug — Hungary's government has discussed how the army could be used to help secure the country's southern border, where a surge of migrants are entering the European Union, government spokesman Zoltan Kovacs said on Wednesday.

Kovacs said any decision to use the army must be based on a decision by parliament, which would discuss the issue next week.

"Hungary's government and national security cabinet... has discussed the question of how the army could be used to help protect Hungary's border and the EU's border," Kovacs said.

A surge in migrants, many of them refugees from Syria, hit Hungary's southern border on Tuesday, passing through gaps in an unfinished barrier to a Europe groping for answers to its worst refugee crisis since World War Two.

Reuters



Syrian migrants cross under a fence into Hungary at the border with Serbia, near Roszke, August 26, 2015. Hungary's government has started to construct a 175-km-long (110-mile-long) fence on its border with Serbia in order to halt a massive flow of migrants who enter the EU via Hungary and head to western Europe.—REUTERS

## Distraught Colombians flee Venezuela as border dispute intensifies

ERNESTO GUEVARA, (Venezuela), 26 Aug — Hundreds of Colombians waded across a border river with fridges, chickens and mattresses on their backs as goats and children followed under the scorching tropical sun, victims of an escalating dispute with Venezuela's government.

Saying they were forced from their rickety wooden or corrugated metal homes and scared of what might happen next if they stayed inside Venezuela, they fled across the River Tachira and back into their homeland on

Tuesday.

"I feel impotent. I want to cry. I lost everything overnight," Darwin Arenas, a 26-year-old Colombian, said as he and his Venezuelan wife dragged their possessions across the river in a wheelbarrow.

Most of the refugees have lived for years in Ernesto Guevara, an extremely poor Venezuelan border village, or other nearby settlements, but they were forced to leave after Venezuelan authorities marked their homes with a "D" for "demolition" over the weekend.

Venezuela says it is cracking down on paramilitary and smuggling gangs active along the border but the families fleeing said they had nothing to do with crime.

Some like Arenas, a supermarket worker with two children, were formally deported by Venezuela. Others said that National Guard officers ordered them to get out, and others decided to leave before the border crisis gets worse.

Venezuelan President Nicolas Maduro has blamed many of recession-hit Venezuela's prob-

lems on Colombians, sparking a spat between the two South American neighbors who share a long and porous border plagued by drug trafficking, paramilitaries, left-wing guerrillas and smugglers.

Maduro last week closed an official border crossing near here and suspended some constitutional guarantees along parts of the border, allowing authorities the right to search homes and businesses without a warrant, after Venezuelan soldiers were injured in a firefight with smugglers.—Reuters



## Yemeni forces launch Scud missile at Saudi Arabia: Houthi TV

SANAA, 26 Aug — Yemeni army units allied to the Houthi militia fired a ballistic missile toward southern Saudi Arabia on Wednesday, the group's TV channel said, as combat between the kingdom and the Iran-allied group has intensified.

"The Yemeni army fired a Scud ballistic missile toward Jizan," Houthi-run Al Maseera TV reported on its twitter page.

Residents in the capital Sanaa reported hearing a big roar as the Scud was launched from near the city, followed by Saudi-led air strikes on a presidential palace and a military depot for rockets.

Saudi Arabia led an Arab

military intervention against the Houthis beginning on March 26 to restore the Yemeni government ousted by the group and fend off what it sees as the creeping influence of the Shi'ite Muslim group's main ally, Iran.

The Houthis say their rise to power is a revolution against corrupt officials beholden to Saudi Arabia and the West.

A powerful Cold War-era weapon, the Scud had been launched at Saudi Arabia by Yemeni forces twice before during the five-month war but was shot down by American-provided Patriot missiles both times.

Two Saudi soldiers and a

brigadier general were killed this week in border fighting along the kingdom's long frontier with northern Yemen, a heartland of the Houthis.

Yemeni state news agency Saba, which is controlled by the Houthis, said that Saudi-led war planes launched over 100 air strikes against the group's main base of support in Saada province on Tuesday alone.

The report could not be immediately confirmed. Human Rights Watch said in June that months of air attacks had hit markets and homes, killing dozens of Yemeni civilians and possibly violating the laws of war.—Reuters

## Kurds launch new assault on Islamic State in northern Iraq

ERBIL, Iraq, 26 Aug — Kurdish forces attacked Islamic State insurgents in a cluster of villages in Iraq's northern province of Kirkuk on Wednesday, bent on securing territory they have gained in the course of rolling back the jihadists since last summer.

The assault began overnight south of Daquq, a town about 175 km (108 miles) north of the Iraqi capital Baghdad. The front line between the regional Kurdish peshmerga forces and Islamic State in northern Iraq has hardly budged for months. The Kurds already control most of the territory they claim as their own, and have little incentive to push further into predominantly Sunni Muslim Arab towns and villages. By mid-morning, Islamic State militants had been routed from the village of Albu Najm, according to a source within the peshmerga forces. Fighting continued in another village nearby, he said. A Kurdish officer with the rank of captain was killed by an improvised explosive device, a source in the Kirkuk morgue said. The peshmerga have emerged as an important partner for the United States in its aerial campaign against Islamic State.

They have pushed back the ultra-radical Sunni insurgents in northern Iraq, effectively expanding the area of their autonomous region in the process. Large parts of Kirkuk province remain in Islamic State hands.

Reuters

## NATO troops killed in Afghanistan's Helmand, Taliban grab district



An Afghan National Police armored vehicle patrols on a street in Lashkar Gah capital of Helmand province, Afghanistan August 26, 2015. The Taliban seized a district headquarters in Afghanistan's Helmand province on Monday despite U.S. air strikes to repel them, and two NATO soldiers were shot dead by uniformed men on an army base in the area, a stronghold for militants and opium. —REUTERS

LASHKAR GAH, (Afghanistan), 26 Aug — The Taliban seized a district headquarters in Afghanistan's Helmand province on Monday despite U.S. air strikes to repel them, and two NATO soldiers were shot dead

by uniformed men on an army base in the area, a stronghold for militants and opium.

The district of Musa Qala fell after the Taliban over-ran police and army posts in an offensive that lasted several days.

Three U.S. air strikes on Saturday killed up to 40 militants, but they regrouped and chased government officials out of town.

Elsewhere in Helmand, two men in military uniforms opened fire in the former British base

of Camp Bastion, killing two NATO soldiers.

In the first summer fighting season since foreign troops formally stepped back from combat roles in the Afghan war, the Taliban have pushed into a number of districts but have struggled to hold them when the Afghan army counter-attacks.

Musa Qala and neighboring Nawzad, which recently fell to the Taliban, saw some of the most lethal battles between Taliban insurgents and British and U.S. forces following toppling of the hardline Islamists' five-year rule in 2001.

Nearly 14 years later, the Taliban is still fighting a guerilla war aimed at returning to power.

"We left the district early in the morning because the Taliban were attacking from all sides," district governor Mohammad Sharif told Reuters by telephone.

"We had asked for reinforcements for days but none arrived and this was what happened," he said.

Strong through much of Helmand province, which is the largest producer of Afghanistan's lucrative opium crop, the Taliban killed more than 400 British soldiers, who led the counterinsurgency there until pulling out last

year.

Violence has increased sharply across Afghanistan since foreign forces mostly withdrew in December, leaving a small contingent of about 12,000 NATO troops to train Afghan forces.

The U.S.-led Resolute Support mission issued a statement confirming that two of its soldiers were killed in Helmand.

"Two Resolute Support service members died early this morning, when two individuals wearing Afghan National Defence and Security Forces uniforms opened fire on their vehicle," the alliance said in a statement. The attackers were shot dead. It was the second incident this year involving Afghan troops, or people wearing Afghan uniforms, shooting at foreign soldiers. No group has claimed the attack. The statement did not give further information on the exact location of the incident and nationalities of those killed, but most foreign forces operating in Helmand now are American.

A regional official said the incident involved two apparent Afghan special forces firing on their allies at the former Camp Bastion, a major base handed over to Afghan forces last year.

Reuters

## South Africa mine industry job plan targets platinum as c.bank reserve asset

JOHANNESBURG, 26 Aug — South Africa's mining industry, unions and the government have committed to a broad plan to stem job losses, including boosting platinum by promoting the metal as a central bank reserve asset, according to a draft agreement seen by Reuters on Wednesday.

The parties also said they would strive to delay lay-offs, sell distressed mining assets instead of closing them, and look at ways of streamlining the legal process which employers must follow to cut jobs.

The mining industry, which contributes around 7 percent to Africa's most

developed economy, is struggling with sinking commodity prices, rising costs and labour unrest, forcing a number of companies into mine closures and layoffs.

The agreement is expected to be signed on Monday next week after its details were hammered out on Tuesday.

The draft agreement lays out 10 wide interventions including getting the BRICS group of emerging nations to hold "platinum as a reserve asset" - like gold - in their central banks. Brazil, Russia, India, China and South Africa comprise the BRICS.

South Africa sits on close to 80 per-

cent of the world's known reserves of platinum, a metal used in emissions-capturing catalytic converters which is facing depressed demand.

Its spot price is pinned near 5-1/2 year lows below \$1,000 an ounce.

The gravity of the situation faced by South Africa's mining sector was outlined on Aug. 5 - when the meetings over the jobs crisis began - by Roger Baxter, head of the Chamber of Mines. He said over 50 percent of the country's mines were currently operating at a loss, according to minutes seen by Reuters. In an apparent

compromise to industry, the parties have also agreed to look at ways to streamline the legal process which companies must follow before they lay off workers. Mining companies, including Glencore, Kumba Iron Ore, Sibanye Gold and Lonmin, have said they plan to cut jobs but are facing pressure from unions and the government to maintain jobs.

South Africa's unemployment rate is around 25 percent and data on Tuesday showed the economy contracted in the second quarter.

Reuters



## PERSPECTIVES

Thursday, 27 August, 2015

## Replanting after the floods

By Myint Win Thein

**M**yanmar was recently hit by torrential rains that caused more than K150 billion of damage to farmland across 1.4 million acres.

Now that the rescue and relief phase of operations has finished, both the government and non-government organisations are engaged in

reconstruction projects to ensure ongoing livelihoods for the country's farmers, who were the worst hit by the disaster.

The importance of delivering enough farming equipment, fertilizer and crop seeds to farmers cannot be underestimated. Nor can the distribution of appropriate seeds. Myanmar spans a diverse geographical region, so there is no 'one size fits all' rule that applies to replanting. Should there be a shortfall of a particular crop species, it is imperative not delay asking for international assistance. Failure to do so could result in food shortages. Organisations such as the International Rice Research Institute have been helping to support Myanmar's rice industry for decades and their specialist knowledge has never been more vital to the future of the sector.

Only then, will the farmers be able to reap the benefits of what they sow in the harvesting seasons. Special crop species are essential for reconstruction of the economy of flood-hit areas as only right seeds of crops can grow into healthy plants.

## Write for us

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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.

## Keep Our Mind Pure Be Good to Others

By Htun Tin Htun

(Continued from 26-8-2015)

**E**ven though he be well-attired, yet if he is poised, calm, controlled and established in holy life, having set aside violence towards all beings-he, truly, is a holy man, a renunciate, a monk. 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.

Good are friend when need arises; good is contentment with just what one has; good is merit when life is at an end, and good is the abandoning of all suffering (through Arahatsip). It may be ill with the doer of good as long as the good ripens not. But when it does ripen, then the doer of good sees (the pleasant results of) his good.

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. 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.

O Atula! Indeed, this is an ancient practice, not one 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. Make an island for yourself! Strive hard and become wise! Rid of impurities and cleansed of stain, you shall enter the celestial abode of the Noble Ones.

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. Those who are ever vigilant, who discipline themselves day and night, and are ever intent upon Nibbana-their defilements fade away.

Those who discern the wrong as wrong and the right as right- upholding right views, they go to realms of bliss. Good it is to see the Noble Ones; to live with them is ever blissful. One will always be happy by not encountering fool. Indeed, he who moves in the company of fools grieves for long. Association with fool is ever painful, like partnership with an enemy. Association with the wise is happy, like meeting one's own kinsmen.

One who destroys life, utters lies, takes what is not given, goes to another man's wife, and is addicted to intoxicating drinks and drugs- such a man digs up

his own root even in this very world. 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.

One should first establish oneself in what is proper; then only should instruct others. Thus the wise man will not be reproached. One should do what one teaches others to do; if one would train others, one should be well controlled oneself. Difficult, indeed, is self-control.

There never was, there never will be, nor is there now, a person who is wholly blamed or wholly praised. But the man whom the wise praise, after observing him day after day, is one of flawless character, wise, and endowed with knowledge and virtue. Who can blame such a one, as worthy as a coin of refined gold? Even the gods praise him; by Brahma, too, is he praised.

He who is free from craving and attachment, is perfect in uncovering the true meaning of the Buddha's Teachings, 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.

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. Blessed is the birth of the Buddhas; blessed is the enunciation of the sacred Teaching; blessed is the harmony in the Sangha (the Order), and blessed is the spiritual pursuit of the united truth-seekers.

Riches ruins only the foolish, not those in quest of the Beyond. By craving for riches the witless man ruins himself as well as others. Hunger is the worst disease, conditioned things the worst suffering. Knowing this as it really is, the wise realize Nibbana, the highest bliss. Health is the precious gain and contentment the greatest wealth. A trustworthy person is the best kinsman, Nibbana the highest bliss.

Speak the truth; yield not to anger; when asked, give even if you only have a little. By these three means can one reach the presence of the gods. Should a person do good, let him do it again and again. Let him find pleasure therein, for blissful is the accumulation of good. The gift of Dhamma excels all gifts; the taste of Dhamma excels all tastes; the delights in Dhamma excel all delights. The Craving-Freed vanquishes all suffering. (Dhammapada,

A Practical guide to Right Living, Acharya Buddhakkhita, Maha Bodhi Ashram, Bangalore, India, 16<sup>th</sup> October 1986)

## Conclusion

"May I be happy. May I be free from stress and pain. May I be free from animosity. May I be free from oppression. May I be free from trouble. May I look after myself with ease. May all living beings be happy. May all living beings be free from animosity. May all living beings be free from oppression. May all living beings be free from trouble. May all living beings look after themselves with ease. May all living beings be freed from all stress and pain. May all living beings not be deprived of the good fortune they have attained. All living beings are the owners of their actions, heir to their actions, born

of their actions, related through their actions, and live dependent on their actions. Whatever they do, for good or for evil, to that will they fall heir. May all beings live happily, always free from animosity. May all share in the blessings springing from the good I have done. May there be every good blessing. May all the devas protect you. Through the power of all the Buddhas, may you forever be well. May there be every good blessing. May all the devas protect you. Through the power of all the Dhamma, may you forever be well. May there be every good blessing. May all the devas protect you. Through the power of all the Sangha, may you forever be well. May there be every good blessing. May all the devas protect you."

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Freelance Management and Development Consultant, former International UNV UNCHS/ILO/UNIDO Cooperative and Small Business Specialist in Malawi and Kiribati /UNDP Community Empowerment and Development Specialist in Bangladesh

## Students receive free dental care

NAY PYI TAW, 26 Aug—Staff from a rural health centre gave free dental check-ups to almost a hundred students at Basic Education High

School in Kyaunggon village, Pobbathiri Township, on 24 August. Medicines were also provided without charge.

Dentist Daw Thit Thit

Ko also gave a lecture on dental and oral health, while a nurse called Daw Saw Myint spoke about HIV/AIDS and Health Assis-

tant of Phyo Khwe rural health centre U Hla Zaw Oo, warned about the harmful effects of tobacco.

Shwe Ye Yint





## LOCAL NEWS

# Free cattle feed and medicines distributed



MRAUKU, 26 Aug — The Livestock Breeding and Veterinary Department provided feed-stuffs and medicines for animals in flood-affected areas of Rakhine State this week.

Dr Lamin Ko Ko of LBVD presented feedstuff and medi-

cines worth about K500,000 to local farmers from nine villages in MraukU Township. The department lies under the Ministry of Livestock, Fisheries and Rural Development, whose representatives recently undertook field trips to assess the damage done to

the livestock industry in flood-hit regions.

Donations to the livestock industry may be arranged by contacting Dr Lamin Ko Ko from MraukU Township LBVD on 09260565633.

*Ministry of Information*

# Aid from China reaches out flood-hit Monyo

YANGON, 26 Aug — Chinese citizens donated relief aids to flood-hit people in Monyo, Bago Region, Wednesday.

A group donors led by the Mingalar Magazine, the bilingual monthly magazine which has been published in Myanmar since 1992, will go to Monyo Thursday to distribute relief aid worth around US\$ 600 to the people in the flood-hit area.

They have also a plan to fund health care activities in the area.

The donors also include China Kunming International Logistics & Finance Association, CITTC (Myanmar) Co., Ltd, Zhejiang Association of China and a temple in Kunming.

The flood in late July and in August displaced 87,955 residents, affecting 177,315 and killing five in Bago Region, according to the Ministry of Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement. — *GNLM*



# Youth take part in military training and first-aid course

THABEIKKYIN, 26 Aug — The Township Red Cross Society, Women's Affairs Organisation and Maternal and Child Welfare Association jointly conducted a six-day military training program and basic first-aid course at a school in Kyaukpyu village, Thabeikkyin Township, this week.

Village administrator U Phone Naing handed over free medical kits and a stretcher provided by Mandalay Region Red Cross Society to the Township Red Cross Battalion.

Col Maung Maung Tin and Col Tin Maung Htwe presented awards to the best performing trainees.

*Tin Maung (Mandalay)*



# Myoma Band to celebrate 90<sup>th</sup> anniversary

MANDALAY, 26 Aug — Mandalay's well-known band "Myoma" is holding auditions for an upcoming singing competition that will be held to commemorate the band's 90<sup>th</sup> anniversary.

Auditions will take place twice daily at the National Theatre in Aungmyethazan Township from 25 August to 2 September. It is free to attend the sessions, which take place from 9am-12pm and 1pm-4pm.

Those who make it through the auditions will compete in the singing competition, which will be held at the theatre from 4 to 6 September. Tickets for the singing contest are available at ward administration offices and range from K2,000 to K5,000.

*Thiha Ko Ko (Mandalay)*

# Shopkeepers encouraged to sell iodized salt

TATKON, 26 Aug — Officials and health professionals from the Public Health Department checked the quality and stocks of iodised salt at 36 wholesale and retail stores in Tatkon Township in Nay Pyi Taw on 25 August.

Tests were carried out to determine whether the available brands of salt contained adequate levels of iodine. Departmental representative Daw Thin Thin Hlaing explained the public health benefits of iodised salt and urged shopkeepers not to stock brands without iodine.

Iodine deficiency is the leading preventable cause of intellectual development disabilities globally and also causes goiters, or swelling in the neck.—*Tin Soe Lwin (Tatkon IPRD)*





# Currency volatility upsets Asian growth plans

SINGAPORE, 26 Aug — Faced with falling exports and deflation risks, it suited much of Asia to let their currencies drift lower, until China's abrupt devaluation triggered a tide of volatility that is upsetting not just their currency management but also their growth strategies.

China's 2 percent devaluation on Aug. 11 added to evidence that its economy was struggling, and overseas it caused a ripple of panic that a currency war was in the offing.

Currencies and stock markets in the region have since tumbled to multi-year lows, pulling global markets in their wake, as worries about China played into broader concerns about global growth, a collapse in commodity prices and the timing of a rise in US interest rates.

Suddenly, in a region still haunted by memories of destabilising currency devaluations during the 1997/98 Asian crisis, the option of a gently sliding currency has been taken off the table by a freefall that threatens a destabilising flight of capital, sharp market swings and a spike in the cost of funds.

Central banks from South Korea to Thailand have deferred rate cuts, which would put further downward pressure on vulnerable currencies, with the result that growth and stimulus plans are



An advertisement poster promoting China's renminbi (RMB) or yuan , U.S. dollar and Euro exchange services is seen outside at foreign exchange store in Hong Kong, China August 13, 2015.—REUTERS

likely to take a back seat.

Bank Indonesia kept its main interest rate unchanged at a policy review last week, making clear currency stability is foremost among its priorities, even though the economy has slowed to its weakest pace in six years and inflation is falling.

"We will not follow competitive devaluation," Indonesia's central bank Governor Agus Martowardojo said this week.

The central bank said it was aggressively intervening in the rupiah markets and even mopping up short-term cash to stop inves-

tors speculating against the currency.

Indonesia is particularly vulnerable after a sharp loss of 14 percent in the rupiah IDR= against the dollar so far this year, low forex reserves and a heavy dose of foreign money in its debt markets.

But even central banks such as India's and Singapore's are unlikely to be able to cut rates while markets remain volatile.

"Asian authorities have got to be willing to stomach high interest rates for a while," said Cliff Tan, head of east Asian markets research at Mitsubishi UFJ in Hong

Kong. Capital Economics analysts Gareth Leather and Daniel Martin said in a note to clients that Malaysia and Indonesia might even be forced to raise rates "if the currency sell-off became a rout".

Citibank has already cut its Asian growth forecast for 2015 to 6 percent from 6.1 percent, citing the volatility associated with China's weakening of the yuan, its slowing growth and the possible adverse policy reaction among other countries.

It cut its forecast for Thailand's growth to 2.7 percent from 3.5 percent.—Reuters

# Amazon expands Prime Now, offers US alcohol for first time

SAN FRANCISCO, 26 Aug — Amazon.com Inc (AMZN.O) said on Tuesday it will begin delivering wine, beer and spirits to US customers for the first time as part of its speedy delivery service, Prime Now.

The online retailer is expanding Prime Now, its one- and two-hour service, to Seattle, where the company is headquartered, and offering alcohol deliveries there.

Amazon Prime, the company's \$99 per year shopping membership program, offers free two-day delivery on millions of items. It is a key testing ground for the retailer's new services, ranging from TV and on-demand video to fast delivery.

Amazon has said it has "tens of millions" of Prime subscribers. Analysts estimate the program to have around 40 million users worldwide. The company has steadily expanded Prime Now since it launched the service in New York City last year. It facilitates integration of the retailer's grocery delivery service, Amazon Fresh, which has been slower to expand to new markets.—Reuters

# US startup seeks crowdfunding to produce business jet

WASHINGTON, 26 Aug — XTI Aircraft, a Denver, Colorado-based aerospace startup firm, launched an equity crowdfunding campaign on Tuesday to raise \$50 million to fund the production of the TriFan 600, a six-seat fixed wing jet that can take off and land like a helicopter.

XTI was founded in 2009 by David Brody, the former chairman and chief executive officer of AVX Aircraft Co, who developed and patented the concept for the new business jet.

The company's leaders include Jeffrey Pino, the former president of Sikorsky Aircraft, a unit of United Technologies Corp that is being sold to Lockheed Martin Corp, and Charles Johnson, the former president of Cessna, the business jet maker owned by Textron Inc.

The group's chief engineer is Dennis Olcott, the former chief engineer at Adam Aircraft, and for the PiperJet program.

XTI launched the equity crowdfunding campaign under new rules approved by the U.S. Securities and Exchange Commission in March 2015. Equity crowdfunding is when private in-



An artist rendering shows a TriFan 600 aircraft with the ability to both takeoff and land vertically, in this image released by XTI Aircraft Company on August 25, 2015.—REUTERS

vestors fund startup companies in return for equity.

It is also seeking venture capital, private equity and high net worth investors for the project.

The company said its financing approach would allow both accredited and non-accredited investors to support XTI Aircraft by reserving non-binding equity in the company.

"We fully expect that investors, especially crowdfunders and

those with an interest in aviation, will be drawn to the idea of having their own 'Kitty Hawk' moment by being part of a truly new aircraft program that will change flight as we know it," the company said.

In development for over two years, XTI is designing the TriFan 600 to become the first commercially certified high-speed, long-range vertical takeoff and landing (VTOL) airplane.

Reuters

# PayPal expands One Touch program to new markets in Europe, Australia

SAN FRANCISCO, 26 Aug — PayPal Holdings Inc said on Tuesday it would expand its One Touch payments product to 13 new markets in Europe and Australia, bringing a simpler checkout to online shoppers and merchants.

PayPal, which separated from eBay Inc last month, is a formidable player in the fast-growing payments industry, which has attracted new entrants like Apple Inc.

The company said "millions" of consumers had already enabled One Touch to make payments on desktops and through mobile apps in the United States, United Kingdom and Canada and that half of the world's top 100 online retailers were already using the program.

Existing PayPal users can opt-in to use One Touch once and then no longer be required to re-enter their billing and shipping information into shopping apps or websites that support PayPal in their checkouts. Merchants that already accept PayPal will see One Touch automatically enabled, PayPal said.

A smoother shopping experience is crucial to online retailers as they often blame the high rates of unfinished or abandoned online sales on the tiring process of re-entering payment information.

PayPal said more than half of e-commerce shopping sessions are taking place on mobile but said that only around 10 to 15 percent of purchases occur on mobile devices.

"If consumers can't check out in one touch or tap and instead have to do data entry on their mobile device they're far less likely to complete the transaction," Bill Ready, PayPal's senior vice president, said in an emailed response to Reuters.

"With One Touch, we're bridging that gap and creating better buying experiences for consumers, which in turn means higher conversions for merchants." PayPal said the One Touch program had led to 50 percent or greater improvement in conversion rates and said it planned to eventually launch One Touch to all markets in which PayPal exists.

Reuters



# 3D printed models of protein complexes key to cancer treatments

LONDON, 26 Aug — Researchers created large-scale 3D printed models of protein complexes which were vital components in the process of DNA replication, and these models could hold the key to future cancer treatments, according to a study released Tuesday by the Imperial College London.

When our cells copy their DNA to grow and replicate, it is

vital the process runs smoothly. When it doesn't, mistakes are made that can lead to cell death or cancer. To get DNA replication right, cells use a complex "machine", made from many hundreds of components.

Researchers from the Imperial College London tried to create large-scale 3D printed models of these protein component structures, based on high resolution

microscope images.

The 3D models help the researchers to visualize how tiny protein components assemble together to form the complex copying machine, each and every time it is required.

Through the models, the researchers found that if they blocked one key protein, Cdc6, from joining the "machine", the "machine" jammed and DNA

copying stopped.

So Cdc6 motor activity made sure the process worked smoothly, and kept the production line going, said Christian Speck, who led the study. "It's a sort of quality control protein."

The findings may one day help to improve cancer treatments. Current chemotherapy drugs kill cancer cells by damaging their DNA, but they can also

harm the DNA in healthy cells. This can cause mutations that ultimately drive the cells to develop into secondary tumors.

If researchers could develop a treatment that targets the cellular machinery that copies DNA, instead of targeting the DNA itself, they may be able to reduce the risk of such side effects, according to the study.

*Xinhua*

## Saudi Arabia reports 7 more deaths from MERS

RIYADH, 26 Aug — Saudi Arabia on Tuesday confirmed seven more deaths of the Middle East Respiratory Syndrome (MERS) coronavirus in the capital Riyadh, taking the toll up to 498 in the oil-rich kingdom.

The Saudi Health Ministry said in a statement that new seven infections of the virus have been identified in Riyadh.

Earlier, the ministry confirmed the infection of 49 people with the virus in a week ending on Aug. 22.

Saudi Arabia has identified 1,162 infections of the virus since its appearance in the kingdom in 2012.

The MERS virus can cause symptoms such as fever, breathing problems, pneumonia and kidney failure.

*Xinhua*

## HIV hits more younger males in Hong Kong

HONG KONG, 26 Aug — Young gay men are now becoming the majority of HIV virus carriers, a latest study by Hong Kong's Center for Health Protection has revealed.

Dr. Wong Ka-hing of the center said that unlike before, those aged between 20 and 29 now make up the majority of the group. "Some were below 20 years," he said.

The number of new HIV cases recorded in the first half of the year hit a record high of 352. That represents a 16-percent rise from the same period last year. Most of the cases involved men who had sex with men. The total number of HIV virus infection cases recorded in Hong Kong since 1984 has reached 7,354, according to the center.

*Xinhua*

## Sierra Leone releases last known Ebola patient from hospital

FREETOWN, 26 Aug — Sierra Leone released its last confirmed Ebola patient from hospital on Monday and began a 42-day countdown to being declared free of the virus, medical sources said.

The world's worst known Ebola epidemic has raged in West Africa for more than 18 months, infecting more than 28,000 people and killing more than a third of them.

Sierra Leone confirmed its first case in May 2014 and has since recorded the highest number of cases in the region, although neighboring Liberia has suffered more fatalities.

Adama Sankoh, 35, responded well to treatment and received her second negative test result on Sunday before her release the following day, which was marked by a ceremony attended by President Ernest Bai Koroma.

Medical staff celebrated and Ebola survivors held up signs of praise to Koroma at the International Medical Corps treatment center in the city of Makeni 140 km (87 miles) east of Freetown.

"...Today is without doubt a day for celebration and reflection on the thousands of lives lost during this devastating crisis," said Sean Casey, regional director for



British health workers lift an Ebola patient onto a wheeled stretcher at the Kerry town Ebola treatment centre outside Freetown, Sierra Leone December 22, 2014.—REUTERS

the International Medical Corps West Africa Ebola response.

Sankoh is thought to have caught the virus from her son who was a victim of the last known transmission chain in the country in the northern village of Massessebeh. The entire commu-

nity of more than 500 people was quarantined for three weeks as a result to contain the infection.

During the course of the epidemic, the outbreak has ebbed only to flare back again. Liberia was declared Ebola-free in May but a fresh cluster of cases ap-

peared nearly two months later.

Scientists say sexual transmission is the most likely explanation for the resurgence in Liberia since the virus can live on in semen beyond the usual 21-day incubation period.

*Reuters*

## Blood vessel cells help tumors trick cancer treatments

STOCKHOLM, 26 Aug — Blood-vessel cells in cancerous growths in the body help stave off immune-based cancer treatments, Swedish researchers said Monday.

The research suggests that cells found in the blood vessels of malignant growths curb the body's own method of fighting cancer cells, Karolinska Institutet

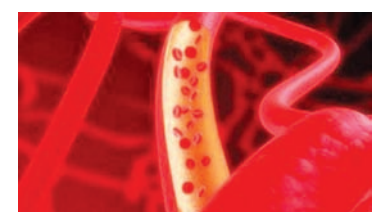
said in a press release.

"Understanding the interplay between tumor pericytes, malignant cells, and the immune system might help in designing more personalized and effective therapeutic approaches," said Guillem Genove, one of the researchers behind the study. Tumors escape the treatment by suppressing the ability of killer T cells, often used in immu-

notherapy, to destroy cancer cells.

The study, published in the Journal of the National Cancer Institute, found that a lower number of pericytes — a cell that is part of the tumor blood vessels — correlates to a higher presence of cells that suppress the body's cancer-fighting mechanism.

Cancer treatments that strengthen the body's own re-



sponse to cancer have in recent years found success in repressing diagnoses such as malignant melanoma.—Xinhua

## Key parts added to massive radio telescope

BEIJING, 26 Aug — The installation of reflectors on the world's largest radio telescope has begun, marking the start of a final key stage of the telescope's construction.

Located in a natural valley of Southwest China's Guizhou province, the 500-meter aperture spherical radio telescope, known as the FAST Project, had its first

reflecting unit installed in early August.

Wuchang Shipbuilding Industry Group, a company in Hubei province responsible for installing the reflectors, said the reflector surface, with a diameter of 500 meters, consists of 4,450 reflecting units. About 20 units can be installed a day, and the installation is due to be completed

by March next year.

FAST is a key national project and received funding of 1.2 billion yuan (190 million U.S. dollars) when construction began in 2011.

Zhang Haiyan, deputy director of the FAST Project's general office, said the telescope will take the place of the 305-meter-diameter Arecibo Observatory in

Puerto Rico as the largest of its kind in the world.

The sensitivity of the telescope will be more than 10 times stronger than that of a 100-meter telescope near Bonn, Germany, Zhang said. Scientists believe more discoveries and breakthroughs are expected after construction is completed in September 2016.—Xinhua



# Hoping for domestic reform, Iranian activists back nuclear deal

DUBAI, 26 Aug — Iranian pro-democracy activists, lawyers and artists have thrown their weight behind last month's nuclear deal with world powers, hoping it will lead to a promised political opening that President Hassan Rouhani has so far failed to deliver.

Dozens of prominent figures, many of whom have spent time in jail and faced travel or work bans, have recorded short video clips on social media sites this week praising the July 14 accord that will lift international sanctions from Iran in exchange for strict curbs on its nuclear programme.

"These video messages show that those who have paid the highest prices for the cause of democracy and human rights

in Iran are supporting the deal," Mohammadreza Jalaeipour, a pro-democracy activist who organised the campaign said.

Many of the videos implored the U.S. Congress to approve the deal in a vote due next month, arguing that it offers the best hope of promoting democracy in Iran and is not a capitulation to Iranian hardline factions to which they, too, are opposed.

"War and sanctions create crisis, and crisis is the death of democracy, the death of peace and human rights," film director Jafar Panahi, who has received accolades abroad but seen his work banned in Iran, noted in his video.

Human rights lawyer Nasrin Sotoudeh, who has represented

opposition politicians and activists, said it was "unrealistic" to hope that the deal would automatically resolve civil rights issues in Iran, but that it was still a step forward.

"We are hopeful that the same approach that was adopted by the Iranian government to resolve international animosity, can be used to resolve differences within the country," she told Reuters by telephone from Tehran.

Opposition Republican lawmakers in Congress have vowed to sink the deal but need to recruit dozens of Democrats reach the two-thirds majority needed to override President Barack Obama's veto. Some hardliners in Iran's parliament have also opposed the deal, but have no legis-

lative power to reject it.

Reformists have been excluded from Iranian politics since 2009, when the authorities put down pro-democracy demonstrations after a disputed presidential election, arrested several leaders, and barred candidates from subsequent elections.

Some of those who appear in this week's videos have paid a high price for their activities.

Jalaeipour spent five months in solitary confinement, Panahi was banned from making films and forbidden from travelling in 2010, while Sotoudeh was sentenced to six years in jail in 2010 and banned from practice.

At the 2013 election, reformists turned out in force to elect Rouhani, a pragmatic insider who

promised to lift social and political restrictions. But the United Nations noted in March that the rights situation remains dire.

The video campaign suggests many Iranian reformists hope and expect that Rouhani, who championed the nuclear talks, can finally fight for political reform against hardline factions that dominate the judiciary and security establishment.

"Rouhani has focused on external engagement, but now will be expected to use the political capital to fulfill his other promises," Jalaeipour told Reuters.

"Hardliners in Iran have benefited, and civil society has suffered, from the standoff with the West."

Reuters

## Flooding in North Korea kills 40, strands thousands

SEOUL/ BEIJING, 26 Aug — Heavy rain in North Korea killed 40 people, stranded thousands in flash floods and caused "massive" damage on the weekend, the International Federation of the Red Cross said and North Korean media said.

More than 11,000 people were forced from their homes or otherwise affected by the floods, which hit the northeastern city of Rajin, near the border with Russia and China, on Saturday and Sunday, Hler Gudjonsson, a spokesman for the Red Cross in Beijing told Reuters.

Rajin is the capital of the Rason Special Economic Zone in North Hamgyong Province.

"It rained really hard, and fast. On Saturday morning the city was flooded. Cars were wading through water like boats," a source who was in area when it flooded told Reuters.

It was not clear what impact the rain would have in a country that said in June it was suffering from its worst drought in a century. South Korea said in July some rain had fallen in the North, easing conditions.

North Korean state media said there had been 40 "casualties" and "massive" damage after 250 mm (9.5 inches) of rain fell over the weekend. About 155mm (6 inches) fell in just three hours on Saturday, it said.

Following the downpour, authorities in neighbouring Chi-



Residents attempt to clear flood debris from under a bridge in the city of Rajin in North Korea in this August 22, 2015 picture taken by a recent visitor.—REUTERS

na worked with North Korean border officials to evacuate 484 Chinese tourists, according to a Chinese news website, stranded when part of the sole road to the border was washed away.

Many of the tourists had been at a trade fair in Rajin.

Chinese authorities sent dump trucks, forklifts and other heavy equipment to Rajin to help with relief efforts, the news website said, adding that all of the tourists were safe.

Calls to government offices in the neighbouring Chinese city of Hunchun went unanswered.

The heavy weather was associated with a system surrounding Typhoon Goni, which struck the Philippines on Saturday, killing four people.

North Korea was not directly hit by Goni, but it is prone to flooding. High ground is often cultivated meaning there is little forest cover to soak up rain, so it runs off into villages and towns

below, and often causes landslides. In early August, torrential rain in the same area killed 21 people and affected 3,400, according to the U.N. Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs. The source in the area said farm land was also flooded.

"Fields were completely filled with water. Rice paddies just looked like square lakes," said the source, who declined to be identified.

Reuters

## India, Australia to hold naval drills with eye on China

NEW DELHI, 26 Aug — India and Australia will hold their first ever joint naval drills next month, as the two countries seek to deepen defence ties and counter China's growing sway in the Indian Ocean.

The maritime exercises, to be held in the Bay of Bengal off India's eastern coast next month, will include anti-submarine warfare and coordinated anti-submarine drills, the Australian High Commission in Delhi said in a statement.

The Indian Ocean is fast emerging as a new arena of competition between China and India as New Delhi tries to regain its position as the dominant maritime power in what it views as its backyard.

China shocked India last year with two submarine visits to Sri Lanka's commercial port in Colombo. The island nation's general election this month returned a government friendly to India and the West, cementing a shift that followed the election of a new president in January. David Brewster, a security expert at the Australian National University, said the Chinese submarine activity had served as a "wake-up call" that India needed to work more closely with other navies. "We are seeing right across Asia many countries realising the importance of submarines," he told Reuters. "India knows that it needs to build up its capacity in submarines and particularly anti-submarine warfare. It's an area where both (India and Australia) can learn a lot from each other." India is also set to take part in joint naval exercises with Japan and the United States in October, the first such event in eight years.

Reuters

## 10 South Korean nationals sentenced to one year in jail in Cambodia

PHNOM PENH, 26 Aug — A Cambodian court on Wednesday sentenced 10 South Korean nationals -- five men and five women -- to one year in prison each for joining as a group to prepare for committing offences, according to a verdict pronounced by presiding judge Chhe Virak on Wednesday.

The group was arrested on Nov. 12, 2014 during a raid on a villa in Phnom Penh's Tuol Kork district and a number of laptops and cell phones were confiscated. They were charged with hacking into the Ministry of Post and Telecommunications' computer system, listening to stored phone

conversations and stealing automated system safety data.

According to Wednesday's verdict, the group, aged between 21 and 35 years old, were acquitted of the above-mentioned charges, but were found guilty of "joining as a group to prepare for committing offences." "The court

decides to sentence each of them to one year in prison," the verdict said. During a trial on Aug. 19, the group confessed to their role in the hack, but pleaded for pardons, saying that they had only checked into the automated system safety data, but not stolen any data.

Xinhua



## ADVERTISEMENT &amp; GENERAL

### Toyota Provides Aid for Flood Relief in Myanmar



Toyota extends its heartfelt sympathy to those impacted by the recent large scale flooding across Myanmar, which began mid-July and still continues to affect the country.

To support local relief efforts, Singapore based Toyota Motor Asia Pacific Pte., Ltd, Toyota regional sales headquarters in Asia (excluding China; wholly-owned local subsidiary of Toyota Motor Corporation), and Toyota Tsusho Corporation will be making a combined donation of 100,000 U.S dollars through the Myanmar Red Cross Society.

On August 24, Professor Tha Hla Shwe, president of Myanmar Red Cross Society appreciated Toyota's contribution and committed to utilize it for the sustainable recovery of people's life and business in the flood-impacted region.

Toyota and Toyota Tsusho hope for the soonest possible recovery of the affected areas.

#### INVITATION FOR OPEN TENDER (6/2015)

[TENDER NO. MPPE/ HSD / T / 1 (2015 — 2016)]

1. Open Tender is invited for the Myanma Petroleum Products Enterprise, Ministry of Energy for the supply of High Speed Diesel (752,000 ± 10% Barrels)
2. Tender Closing Date & Time - 9 - 9 - 2015, 12:00 Hrs
3. Tender Opening Date & Time - 9 - 9 - 2015, 13:00 Hrs
4. Delivery Time - October 2015 to January 2016
5. Tender documents and details information are available at the Department of Finance, Myanma Petroleum Products, Nay Pyi Taw, during our office hours commencing 26 - 8 - 2015 on payment of Myanmar Kyat One Hundred Thousand (Kyat 100,000.) per set.
6. Only bid from tenderer who has purchased tender document officially from Myanma Petroleum Products Enterprise will be accepted for evaluation.

Managing Director

Myanma Petroleum Products Enterprise

Ministry of Energy, No(6) Complex, Nay Pyi Taw

Contact Phone No.

067-411487/411486/411280

### CLAIMS DAY NOTICE MV BBC BERGEN VOY NO (1051-011)

Consignees of cargo carried on MV BBC BERGEN VOY NO (1051-011) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 27.8.2015 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of M.I.P.L 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 BBC CHARTERING GMBH

Phone No: 2301186

### CLAIMS DAY NOTICE MV EVER ABLE VOY NO (416N)

Consignees of cargo carried on MV EVER ABLE VOY NO (416N) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 27.8.2015 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of H.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 EVERGREEN SHIPPING LINE

Phone No: 2301185

### CLAIMS DAY NOTICE MV UBC CYPRUS VOY NO (61)

Consignees of cargo carried on MV UBC CYPRUS VOY NO (61) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 27.8.2015 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of M.I.T.T where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

SHIPPING AGENCY DEPARTMENT  
MYANMA PORT AUTHORITY

AGENT FOR: M/S THALAMAR SHIP: AG

Phone No: 2301186

### CLAIMS DAY NOTICE MV MOROTAI VOY NO (YF270R)

Consignees of cargo carried on MV MOROTAI VOY NO (YF270R) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 27.8.2015 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 CMA CGM LINE

Phone No: 2301185

### WEATHER REPORT

**BAY INFERENCE:** According to the observation at (13:30) hrs MST today, a low pressure area has formed over West Central Bay and adjoining Northwest Bay of Bengal. Monsoon is strong in the Andaman Sea and Bay of Bengal.

**FORECAST VALID UNTIL EVENING OF THE 27th August, 2015:** Rain or thundershowers will be isolated in Lower Sagaing, Mandalay and Magway Regions, scattered in Upper

Sagaing Region, Shan and Chin States, fairly widespread in Kachin and Kayah States and widespread in the remaining Regions and States with isolated heavy fall in Ayeyarwady Region, Rakhine and Mon States. Degree of certainty is (100%).

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

### PICTURE OF THE DAY



Lockheed Martin JLTV production-representative vehicle undergoes testing at the company's headquarters in Grand Prairie, Texas in this August 2015 handout picture. Oshkosh Corp has won a \$6.75 billion contract to build 17,000 light tactical vehicles to replace the aging Humvees used by the U.S. Army and Marine Corps, the U.S. Army announced on August 25, 2015. Oshkosh beat out a team made up of Lockheed Martin Corp and Britain's BAE Systems Plc, as well as AM General, a privately held company that built the original Humvees, the Army said in a statement.—REUTERS

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# High-end author A L Kennedy dives into sci-fi with Dr Who

LONDON, 26 Aug — A L Kennedy, the feted British writer of high-end literary fiction, knew she was reaching a different audience when websites such as Nerdist.com started praising her depiction of Dr. Who.

The Scottish author, a



Author A L Kennedy reacts after winning the Costa Book Award with her book "Day" at the Intercontinental Hotel in central London in this file photograph dated January 22, 2008.—REUTERS

Fellow of the Royal Society of Literature and a Costa Book Award winner, has just switched dimensions into sci-fi by publishing "The Drosten's Curse", her first novel starring the face-changing time lord first made famous on BBC TV.

"I've always loved the Who world, although not obsessively, and it seemed a fun thing to do. I'd been asking for ages and they finally let me," she told Reuters in an interview.

The novel makes her a fully fledged member of the Dr Who universe - a phenomenon that started as a British children's TV series in the 1960s and,

boosted by a revamp 10 years ago and a dedicated fan base, has spread to win audiences on BBC America and beyond.

Kennedy's past grown-up novels such as "Day" - which delves into the psyche of a World War Two veteran - are all page-turners but are not scared of challenging readers with their narrative complexity.

"The Drosten's Curse" kicks off with the sentence: "Paul Harris was dying" and charges on with the Doctor and his helpers confronting a carnivorous golf bunker which turns out to be a mind-bending monster "at the edge of reality's nightmares".—Reuters

# I am influenced by punk music: Rita Ora



LOS ANGELES, 26 Aug — Singer Rita Ora has revealed she is influenced by punk music, taking inspiration from the likes of The Clash and The Sex Pistols.

The "How We Do (Party)" hitmaker has revealed she was inspired by the bands but insists she never stuck to "one specific genre", reported Femalefirst.

"Growing up I never really listened to one specific genre. I was really in-

volved actually surprisingly enough in my love for punk music and that really graduated to even the style references you know and kind of really focusing on a culture more than anything because for me music is a specific type of culture," Ora said.

And for her latest album, the 24-year-old beauty describes it as her "most eclectic record" yet, revealing she drew on many personal experiences. —PTI

# Damon, Bullock lead stars descending on Toronto for 40<sup>th</sup> film festival

TORONTO, 26 Aug — The 40th Toronto International Film Festival will play host to a star-studded roster of top filmmakers and movie stars next month, including Ridley Scott, Matt Damon, Sandra Bullock and Johnny Depp.

The festival, a frequent launch pad for Oscar contenders, will showcase 289 feature films and more than 100 shorts from 71 countries from Sept. 10 to Sept. 20, including 132 world premieres.

Director Scott and cast members of the highly anticipated space film, "The Martian," are expected to

be in Toronto for the film's world premiere. Damon plays an astronaut fighting for survival on Mars after being presumed dead and left behind following a brutal storm.

Bullock and Billy Bob Thornton plan to be on hand for the world premiere of David Gordon Green's "Our Brand is Crisis," a film about rival American political strategists working to fix a Bolivian presidential election.

Returning favorites, director Jean-Marc Vallée and Jake Gyllenhaal, will present the festival opener, "Demolition," while Kate Winslet

and Liam Hemsworth will promote the world premiere of Australian film, "The Dressmaker," directed by Jocelyn Moorhouse.

Helen Mirren and Bryan Cranston are expected to be in town for the world premiere of Jay Roach's biopic "Trumbo", about Hollywood blacklist victim Dalton Trumbo, while Michael Moore returns to the big screen with the first screening of "Where to Invade Next."

Others expected in Toronto include: Cary Fukunaga and Idris Elba for "Beasts of No Nation"; Tom Hooper and Eddie Redmayne for

"The Danish Girl"; Denis Villeneuve, Emily Blunt and Benicio Del Toro for "Sicario."

The Toronto event, ranked among the world's top film festivals, has grown dramatically from its launch in 1976, when some 80 films screened in five theaters.

The festival's top prize, the People's Choice Award, is voted on by festival attendees. Six of the last seven audience favorites became Best Picture Oscar nominees or winners, including "Slumdog Millionaire," "The King's Speech" and "12 Years a Slave."

Reuters

# Naomi Watts likes no make-up look

LONDON, 26 Aug — Supermodel-actress Naomi Watts she hardly ever wears make-up when she is not working because she struggles to apply it. When asked if she is comfortable without make-up, the 46-year-old "Insurgent" star said, "I rarely wear any in my day-to-day life, mostly because I'm horrible at applying it."

Watts, however, said there are times when she has to wear heavy make-up ten hours a day for three months whilst she works on

films, reported Hello! magazine.

Asked about her favourite skincare product, she shared, "Cleanser is really important to me, especially as I wear too much make-up most of the time when filming. 'I do shoots that are ten or 12 weeks long, wearing make-up for ten hours a day under lights that push it into your skin. It's then reapplied and layered on. So to cleanse well and take care of my skin is important.'—PTI

# Cumberbatch's 'Hamlet' wears a hoodie, wows fans in London

LONDON, 26 Aug — Benedict Cumberbatch delivered a "Hamlet" for our time in London in a production that played to his strengths, dresses up Shakespeare for a younger crowd and had the British actor's fans roaring in approval at the end.

Ever since the 12-week run was announced a year ago and sold out in record time for a London stage show, people have been wondering if the production, which began previews on Aug 5 and officially opened on Tuesday, was going to be a Cumberbatch fest or a serious "Hamlet".

The fears can be laid to rest. It is "Hamlet," but not in the brooding Laurence Olivier or Richard Burton

tradition.

The three-hour-long production directed by Lyndsey Turner at the Barbican Theatre is set for the first half in a palace that looks more like Downton Abbey than Elsinore, while in the second half the same set has been ravaged by war.

In this environment, the 39-year-old British film and television star works some of his most famous roles into the DNA of a very modern prince. He at one point wears a hoodie and for most of the play is dressed like a guy from the 'hood - as are his mates.

Displaying the quick wit and mental acuity of his television detective "Sherlock," Hamlet figures



Actor Benedict Cumberbatch performs in Director Lyndsey Turner's production of Hamlet at the Barbican, in London, August 4, 2015, in this handout picture and released August 8, 2015.—REUTERS

out that his uncle Claudius, portrayed by a wonderfully two-faced Ciaran Hinds of "Game of Thrones" fame,

killed his father, usurped the crown and married his mother (Anastasia Hille).

The prince then does

his best to alienate everyone around him, especially the young Ophelia (Sian Brooke), whom he deeply loves, a bit like Cumberbatch's sociopath mathematician Alan Turing does to his colleagues in "The Imitation Game".

One thing Cumberbatch's Dane is not is melancholy. There's a hilarious scene in the first part where he enters dressed as a drum major and proceeds to dance and drum on a banquet table, before eventually retreating inside a toy fort guarded by four giant-sized toy soldiers.

The production tinkers with the text, but "To Be or Not to Be," which in early previews opened the play, sensibly has been restored

to its normal spot.

Other revisions are more subtle, including having Ophelia use some of the dialogue from earlier in the play for the wistful songs she sings just before she drowns herself.

It may not be a "Hamlet" for the ages, but it is one for now, and for Cumberbatch's legions of predominantly female fans.

Some of those attending Tuesday's performance said while queuing for day tickets that they were seeing it for the fourth or fifth time. At least one or two were planning to jump back in the queue when the show ended, to see it again.

The production will be broadcast to cinemas on Oct. 15.—Reuters



## GENERAL

# Day hopes to unseat Spieth as player of the year

EDISON, (New Jersey), 26 Aug — Newly-crowned PGA Champion Jason Day sees the FedExCup playoffs as the opportunity for a challenge to world number one Jordan Spieth in the voting for the PGA Tour Player of the Year award.

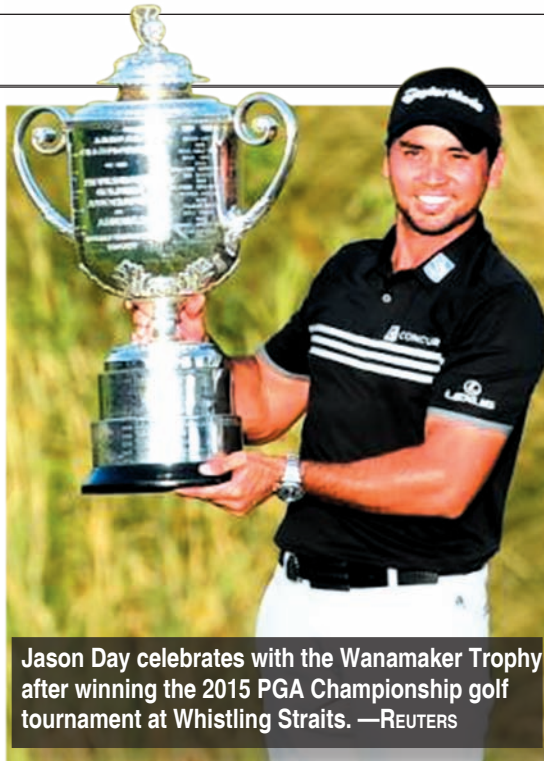
Day is returning to competition at The Barclays this week at Plainfield Country Club after his breakthrough three-stroke success over Spieth at Whistling Straits in Wisconsin.

The 27-year old Australian plans to play all four FedExCup events and is hopeful, despite Spieth having captured two majors and two other PGA Tour titles this season, that winning the FedExCup could lift his own Player of the Year chances.

“The next four weeks starting this week here in New Jersey are very important and to be able to win the FedExCup would be the icing on my season,” Day told Reuters on Tuesday at Plainfield.

“If I could snag the FedExCup trophy to go with my PGA Championship victory I could go very close to being named Player of the Year. “I know it’s going to be tough to unseat Jordan because he’s played such amazing golf this year but then if I were to capture the FedExCup, it puts my name in the mix for that award, and gives our peers voting on the award someone else’s name to think about.”

Spieth leads the FedExCup standings with Day



Jason Day celebrates with the Wanamaker Trophy after winning the 2015 PGA Championship golf tournament at Whistling Straits. —REUTERS

in second, 1710 points behind the young American and the Australian said winning the PGA Championship’s Wanamaker Trophy for his maiden major only added to his motivation to win the playoff series and its \$10 million bonus prize.

“If there is any extra inspiration I need to win the FedExCup then it’s been looking each day at the Wanamaker Trophy that’s sitting proudly upstairs back home in my office,” he said.

“I sat there one time last week just looking at it for I don’t know how long and just reading all the names on the trophy. “Now having won one major, it would be nice to go on and win all four.”

Apart from hosting two corporate outings in Columbus, Ohio, the world number three has spent much of last week relaxing with his family and only arrived at the Plainfield course on Tuesday, where he was congratulated by his fellow competitors, officials, caddies and spectators.

“The reception since I arrived here at Plainfield has been simply amazing,” he said. —Reuters

## mitv Myanmar International

(27-8-2015 07:00 am~28-8-2015 07:00 am) MST

### Today Fresh

07:03	Am	News
07:27	Am	Caves of Myanmar
07:52	Am	Kindhearted Pet Lovers
08:03	Am	News
08:25	Am	Alaungdaw Kathapa
08:44	Am	Distinguished Myanmar Ladies “Tin Moe Lwin”
08:53	Am	Young Talent “Animator Swan Thura Htun”
09:03	Am	News
09:27	Am	Products Of Myanmar - Craft Blacksmithing
09:52	Am	Talented Musicians
10:03	Am	News
10:26	Am	Taung Byone Nat Festival (Ep-2)
10:52	Am	Cultural Show: Theatrical Make Up

(11:00 Am ~ 03:00 Pm) - Monday Repeat (07:00 Am ~ 11:00 Am)  
(03:00 Pm ~ 07:00 Pm) - Today Repeat (07:00 Am ~ 11:00 Am)

### Prime Time

07:03	Pm	News
07:26	Pm	Dawei -Tavoy, Travel To The Southern Part of Myanmar
07:45	Pm	Impressionist Myanmar Master Artist - U Lun Kywe
07:51	Pm	Today Myanmar: Rising Insurance Infrastructure
08:03	Pm	News
08:27	Pm	Myanmar Delicate Artistic Creations- Gem Stone Painting
08:45	Pm	Myanmar Harpist
08:51	Pm	Horse Cart Driver

(9:00 Pm ~ 11:00 Pm) - Today Repeat (09:00 Am ~ 11:00 Am)  
(11:00 Pm ~ 03:00 Am) - Monday Repeat (07:00 Am ~ 11:00 Am)  
(03:00 Am ~ 07:00 Am) - Today Repeat (09:00 Am ~ 11:00 Am)

(For Detailed Schedule – [www.myanmaritv.com/schedule](http://www.myanmaritv.com/schedule))

## MRTV Entertainment Channel

(27-8-2015, Thursday)

<b>6:00 am</b> • Mono Classical Songs	<b>9:40 am</b> • Pyi Thu Ni Ti
<b>6:20 am</b> • Myanmar Series	<b>9:55 am</b> • ASEAN China Cultural Show
<b>6:45 am</b> • Fashion Show	<b>10:10 am</b> • Myanmar Video
<b>7:05 am</b> • TV Drama Series	<b>3:20 pm</b> • AFF U-19 Championships (2015) Football (Live) (Myanmar U-19 Vs Timor-Leste U-19)
<b>7:50 am</b> • TV Drama Series	
<b>8:35 am</b> • Myanmar Video	
<b>9:30 am</b> • Musical Programme	



## Nakamura wins Japan's 1st gold at worlds in women's 52 kg

ASTANA, 26 Aug — Misato Nakamura won Japan's first gold medal at these world judo championships, capturing the women's 52-kilogram title on Tuesday.

Nakamura beat last year's finalist Andreea Chitu of Romania in the final for her third world title, her first since 2011. Nakamura won her first three bouts by ippon before edging Chitu on points. Nakamura became the third Japanese woman to win three world titles after Ryoko Tani (seven) and Noriko Anno (four).

In the men's 66 kg, Japan failed to medal for the first time since 2009 as Masashi Ebinuma lost in the third round and Kengo Takaichi fell at the first hurdle.—Kyodo News

# Sewage spill closes Honolulu's Waikiki Beach through Wednesday

HONOLULU, 26 Aug — Public health officials warned beachgoers to stay out of the water along Honolulu's famed Waikiki Beach at least through Wednesday after a 500,000-gallon sewage spill triggered by heavy rain sent wastewater streaming over the tourist spot.

The beachfront was closed

to the public due to risk of infection after brown, fetid water spewed over the white-sand stretch of shore following a downpour that dumped 4 inches of rain in Honolulu between Sunday night and Monday morning.

The waste overflowed from manholes and poured into storm drains leading to the ocean. City

officials said on Tuesday the spill was caused by a pumping station having been shut down for maintenance when the showers hit.

“All I can do is apologize to the public,” Lori Kahikina, director of environmental services for the city and county of Honolulu, said at a news conference. “This is unheard of. It’s

unprecedented.”

The spill and beach closure forced postponement of events at the Duke's Oceanfest, an annual water sports tournament honoring legendary Hawaiian sportsman Duke Paoa Kahanamoku. More than 2,700 athletes compete in 22 events over nine days.

“The safety of our swimmers

is paramount,” festival chairman Jim Fulton said. “We don't want to put our participants at risk.”

The Hawaii Department of Health issued a brown water advisory across the island of Oahu, which includes Honolulu, and collected water samples for analysis, Honolulu officials said.

Reuters



## Van Gaal tips United's Fellaini to succeed up front



Manchester United's manager Louis van Gaal during training. REUTERS

LONDON, 26 Aug — Manchester United manager Louis van Gaal hinted he could play Belgium international midfielder Marouane Fellaini, who scored seven goals last season, higher up the field this campaign.

The former Barcelona manager hopes Fellaini will help solve United's strike problems, with the club managing two goals in their first three Premier League games.

"He can play in a nine position and a 10," Van Gaal, who lead Netherlands to the semi-finals of the World Cup in Brazil, said.

"He can also play at six and eight, but this year he shall play more at nine and 10 because there we have other players," he added.

Fellaini is confident he can handle the job.

"In the past I have played number 10 and number nine sometimes so I can play there and help my teammates and my team," the 27-year-old was quoted as saying by the British media.

"It is different to play midfield and striker but I enjoy all the positions I can play," the former Everton midfielder added.

Reuters

## Female weightlifters to compete in Thailand

YANGON, 26 Aug — Two female Myanmar weightlifters will take part in the Asian Weightlifting Championships 2015 in Phuket, Thailand from 3 September.

Ma Moe Thu Zar will compete in the 69-kilo class while Ma Zin May Oo is entering the 48-kilo competition.

"The federation wishes the two weightlifters the best of luck

— we'll be cheering for them all the way," said Myanmar Weightlifting Federation General Secretary U Myint Swe. Meanwhile two former pro weightlifters, Daw Win Win Maw and Daw Yin

Yin Tun, will not be residing over this year's championship and will discharge duty as judges of the championship, which attracts athletes from 45 Asian countries.—GNLM

## Villa's Traore should expect more rough treatment - Sherwood

LONDON, 26 Aug — Aston Villa's record signing Adama Traore is a "marked man" and should be prepared for rough treatment, manager Tim Sherwood said after the forward picked up a knock to his ankle in their League Cup victory against Notts County on Tuesday.

Traore, 19, scored his first goal for the club in the 5-3 win but was forced off the field in the 60th minute. "The only way to stop him at the minute is to kick him. He's a marked man.

He will have to get used



Aston Villa's Adama Traore scores their first goal. —REUTERS

to it," Sherwood told the club website.

"It doesn't look good to be honest. He took a heavy knock — I thought it was a bad tackle. It was his ankle," the 46-year-old said of Traore, who joined from Barcelona earlier this month on a

five-year contract.

"He's a real talent. It's too soon to tell how serious but he's packed in ice and hobbling around," the former Tottenham Hotspur manager added.

Sherwood is also excited to face Championship side Bir-

mingham City, their city rivals, in the next round of the League Cup.

"We will give them (the fans) a performance. We won't leave anything on the field," he added.

Reuters

## Cuadrado joins Juventus on loan from Chelsea

LONDON, 26 Aug — Colombian winger Juan Cuadrado joined Italian champions Juventus on Tuesday on a season-long loan from Chelsea, both clubs announced.

The 27-year-old, who made little impact in 15 Chelsea appearances including 11 as a substitute, has previous experience of Serie A, having played for Fiorentina, Lecce and Udinese.

Juventus said on their website (www.juventus.com) that Cuadrado, who was given a warm welcome from fans when he flew to Turin on Monday for

a medical, would join his new team mates for training on Tuesday. "Juventus are a great team and one of the best in Europe," he told the club website.

"We've got everything it takes to fight for the Scudetto and we hope to defend our title. I'm here to give 100 percent, work hard and prepare well for every game."

An important player for Colombia at last year's World Cup in Brazil, Cuadrado joined Chelsea from Fiorentina in February on a four and half year deal for an estimated 23.3 million pounds.

His move follows the arrival at Stamford Bridge last Thursday of Spain winger Pedro from Barcelona.

Reuters

## Australia skipper Jedinak in doubt for World Cup qualifiers

MELBOURNE, 26 Aug — Australia captain Mile Jedinak is in doubt for World Cup qualifiers against Bangladesh and Tajikistan after injuring his hamstring playing for Premier League side Crystal Palace. Jedinak came off early in the second half of Palace's 4-1 League Cup win over Shrewsbury Town on Tuesday and his coach Alan Pardew feared his midfielder captain could be sidelined for some time.

"I'm a little bit worried about the skipper, he might have

done a hamstring, but we'll have to wait and see," Pardew said in comments published by British media. "We think he might have done something a little bit long-term, but we'll have to assess him in the morning." Australia are due to play Group B rivals Bangladesh in Perth on Sept. 3 then away to Tajikistan on Sept. 8 in the second round of Asian qualifying for Russia 2018. Australia won their opener away to Kyrgyzstan in June and are third in the group behind first-placed Jordan and the second-placed Central Asians.—Reuters



Mile Jedinak of Crystal Palace warms up. —REUTERS