Vice President attends meeting of industrial zones

NAY PYI TAW, 4 Aug— The government intends to build more industrial zones that can overcome problems facing the existing ones, Vice President U Nyan Tun told a coordination meeting of industrial zones in Yangon on Monday.

**Six farmers arrive back after learning farming methods in Japanese field**

By Soe

Yangon, 4 Aug— Six farmers from Myanmar arrived back after learning agricultural methods and ways of making natural fertilizer in Japan.

During their seven-day stay at the homes of Japanese farmers, Myanmar farmers learnt systematic and effective use of pesticides, land preparation and soil test in the field.

“IT is a surprise to us that in Japan just 10 farmers work for planting rice on 100 acres and for harvesting. Every farmer has enough farming machinery for every step from planting to harvesting and to put the produce on sales,” said Hein Latt, in his 30s, from DaikU, Bago Region, who was one of the six farmers chosen for the field trip. When a farmer needs to buy machinery, local authorities share 30 per cent to 50 per cent of the cost of the machine, he added.

“The reason why Myanmar farmers went to Japan is to strengthen friendship between farmers of the two countries and to share farming knowledge they gained during their tour in Japan to Myanmar farmers,” said U Michel of the Agriculture and Farmer Federation of Myanmar.

According to the AFFM, agricultural experts from Japan plan to conduct agricultural training in Myanmar for farmers to further the exchange.

The six farmers were from Kawhmu, Kayan, DaikU, Kungyangon, Pakokku and Naga Self-Administrated Zone, with the study tour sponsored by the Japan Asia Social and Cultural Centre.—**NLM**

Aiming at industrial development, industrial zones have been developed in Myanmar since 1990 after enacting the private industry law, the vice president said. In Yangon Region, the Department of Human Settlement and Housing Development developed industrial zones to create jobs for people in new townships, to relocate industries in residential quarters and to promote national entrepreneurs of small and medium enterprises, according to the vice president.

However, the industrial zones have been faced with many problems, including lack of infrastructure, skilled workers and bank loans, uncompetitiveness due to high production costs, land price speculation and dispute between workers and employers, the vice president admitted.

In the future, the government intends to develop industrial zones that can overcome such problems, he stressed.

In conclusion, the vice president urged the meeting to build industrial zones with experienced developers and investors who can provide infrastructure and build labour intensive factories that can create jobs.

Following his speech, Yangon Region Chief Minister U Myint Swe reported on the situation of 29 industrial zones in Yangon Region. Deputy Governor U Set Aung of the Central Bank of Myanmar and member of Presidential Advisory Board on economics Dr Zaw Oo then discussed the requirements for developing industrial zones.—**NWA**

Vice President U Nyan Tun discusses requirements for industrial zones with industrial zone management committees in Yangon Region.—**NWA**

**Anti-Bribery Commission renamed Anti-Corruption Commission**

Under the Law Amending the Anti-Corruption Law, the name of “the Anti-Bribery Commission formed under Order No. 6/2014 of the President Office dated 25-2-2014 has been renamed to “the Anti-Corruption Commission”.

Sd/Th ein Sein
President
Republic of the Union of Myanmar
Companies urged to draw fire prevention plans for Thilawa Port

NAI P Y TAW, 4 Aug—Entrepreneurs are to cooperate with the government in fulfilling fuel requirements, Chairman of Myanmar Investment Commission and Union Minister for Energy U Zeyar Aung said at a meeting with responsible persons of 16 companies on Saturday.

On his inspection tour of fuel tanks and jetties at Thilawa Port, the Union minister stressed the need to draw the fire prevention plans for the whole area as the region has a large volume of fuel storage. He called for timely completion of the fuel tanks and jetties in the region, urging departmental officials to solve the problems submitted by the companies in implementing the project.—MNA

Two refuellers of MPPE arrive in Yangon

NAI P Y TAW, 4 Aug—Two refuellers purchased by Myanmar Petroleum Products Enterprise under the Ministry of Energy arrived at the fuel supply section of Mingaladon International Airport on 1 August.

Flight Line business refuellers made in the United Kingdom can store 4,000 gallons each at their tanks to be supplied to fuel the airplanes at the airport where full of airplanes still land.

An expert team of Flight Line Company will give a short-term training to staff of MMPE to operate the machinery for refuellers from 11 to 13 August. After that, the refuellers will be used at Yangon International Airport. Arrangements are being made to buy two more refuellers with 7,000 gallon capacity each and they will arrive in Myanmar by 2014. MMPE plans to undertake a joint venture task with an experienced foreign company for supplying airplane fuel at international level.

Twelve foreign companies won the tenders and the tender submission will be closed on 25 August.—MNA

First service of SAT introduced to media in Yangon

YANGON, 4 Aug — Save Automobile Team of Japan Road Service Company Limited with Myanmar partner will launch its 24-hour auto services as of 4 August. The team will provide auto services to disciplined drivers whose cars broke down or who had accidents, according to Director Mr Hirotaka Yamaguchi and Manager of Save Automobile Team Japan Co., Ltd in Mingaladon Township, Yangon.

Currently, SAT services will be available within 30 kilometers around Yangon. Arrangements are also underway to provide similar services in Nay Pyi Taw and Mandalay, according to the company. The services include towing vehicles that have broken down or have problems on the road and emergency repair service that will be provided within an hour. Members of SAT services are entitled to enjoy free services for minor repairs within 20 minutes. Vehicles that have problems outside the service area will be charged more depending on the distance.

There are three types of membership, including personal membership, family membership, and corporation membership. Basic fees for personal membership is 100 US$ (about K100,000) per year and US$ 250 for 3 years. The services are available for vehicles less than two tons. Fees for personal membership, including discount plans, installment plans, and various kinds of incentives, including discount plans, installment plans, gifts and festivals.—THANT ZIN WIN

Workshop on preservation of cultural heritage on 12 Aug

NAI P Y TAW, 4 Aug—A workshop on preservation of cultural heritages organized by the Ministry of Culture was held in Sagaing, Bagan and Mawlamyine in July 2014. Based on the results from the discussions, a central level workshop will be held at the Ministry of Culture on 12 August.

The researchers are to submit their papers attached to the work experiences and evidences of the papers to the Department of Archaeology and National Museum at Office No 35 in Nay Pyi Taw, not later than 9 August. For further information, dial 067-408032 and 067-408418. Each paper will be allowed 15 minutes. Priority will be given to the papers depending on the number of resource persons.—MNA

SAT tow truck seen at Yangon International Hotel, which can carry the cars in insurance.—PHOTO: THANT ZIN WIN

120,000 vehicles were imported into Myanmar. Myanmar will import and up to 170,000 vehicles in 2015, according to statistics. The company is planning to build a network with sale centers through various kinds of incentives, including discount plans, installment plans, gifts and festivals.—THANT ZIN WIN

Sagaing Region

(1) BC 27447
Major Than Tun
(2) BC 27511
Major Than Zin Htwe
(3) BC 27593
Major Zaw Hlaing Oo
(4) BC 31831
Major Ye Win Aung
(5) BC 35592
Major Tin Tun Lin
(6) BC 27769
Captain Khin Maung Win
(7) BC 29403
Captain Aung Myat Win
(8) BC 29996
Captain Tin Htay
(9) BC 31129
Captain Tun Hla
(10) BC 33885
Captain Zeyar Hlaing

BC 31366
Major Thein Htoo
BC 20238
Major Myo Han Chin
BC 27604
Major Myint Htwe
BC 37207
Major Naing Zin Thet
BC 21057
Major Phone Myint Naing
BC 28470
Captain Thet Naing Oo
BC 27600
Captain Aung Myat Win
BC 48766
Captain Thet Naing Aye
BC 32717
Captain Yazar Htet
BC 35075
Captain Maung Maung Myint
BC 30575
Captain Kyaw Win Hlaing

By Order,
(Tin Tun)
Secretary
Union Election Commission

Chairman of Myanmar Investment Commission and Union Minister for Energy U Zeyar Aung discusses duty of companies to draw fire prevention plans for Thilawa Port.—MNA
Defence Services discharges 363 underage military personnel

_NAV PYI TAW_ 4 Aug—A coordination meeting of the committee for prevention of military recruitment of underage children took place at the Ministry of Defence on Monday, attended by Chairman of the committee Union Minister for Defence Lt-Gen Wai Lwin.

The Myanmar government and the United Nations Country Task Force on Monitoring and Reporting (UN CT-FMR) signed a Plan of Action for prevention of recruitment of underage children at Hotel Thingaha in Nay Pyi Taw on 27 June 2012. According to the plan, the office of the Commander-in-Chief (Army) and the UN CT-FMR investigate who has not reached 18 years of age and arrange for the underage children to be discharged from the armed forces. So far, a total of 363 children have been handed over to their parents, with rehabilitation measures taken.

Members of the committee also discussed implementation of the plan of action, discharging suspected underage military personnel from the armed forces, public educative tasks and rehabilitation.

Yangon, Mandalay technological universities to be upgraded with assistance of JICA

_YANGON, 4 Aug—_ The Ministry of Science and Technology and Japan International Cooperation Agency-JICA and signed a grant agreement on upgrading technological universities in Myanmar.

Under the agreement, Yangon Technological University and Mandalay Technological University will be upgraded.

For the 5-year cooperation on technology between Myanmar and Japan, JICA will also provide the two universities with laboratory equipment.

Two research facilities will be built at Yangon Technological University and Mandalay Technological University under the agreement.

The agreement was signed by U Kyaw Swa Soe, the Director-General of the Higher Education Department, and Mr Masahiko Tanaka, Representative of JICA, in the presence of Union Minister for Science and Technology Dr Ko Ko Oo.—_MNA_

Progress of hydropower projects, Shwegyin dam inspected

_NAV PYI TAW, 4 Aug—_ Deputy Minister for Electric Power U Maw Thar Htwe inspected progress of inflow of water to the main dam, power intake structure, the water control tower, pre-stressed steel pipeline and spillways at Pyuchaung Hydropower Project, seven miles west of Pyu in Bago Region on 1 August.

The power station of the project will generate 120 kilowatt hour million per hour. Kunchaung Dam can store 920,000 acre-feet of water. It has been installed with three 20-megawatt generators to generate about 190 kw/h million yearly. The deputy minister also visited Shwegyin Dam and power station, six miles northeast of Shwegyin. The power station was installed four 18.75-megawatt generators. The power station is generating 262 kw/h million per year.—_MNA_

Accreditation for 46th Meeting of ASEAN Ministers on Agriculture and Forestry

_NAV PYI TAW, 4 Aug_—The 46th ASEAN Economic Ministers’ Meeting (AEM) and related meetings will be held at the Hotel Royal Ace in Nay Pyi Taw from 25 to 28 August.

Local and foreign correspondents who wish to cover the news of the meetings are to click the registration link for the 46th ASEAN Economic Ministers’ Meeting (AEM) of Upcoming Events at the Home Page of www.asean2014.gov.mm to fill up the Media Registration Form. The registration must be done not later than 15 August. The media accreditation cards will be issued at the Hotel Royal Ace on 25 August morning.

The foreign correspondents are to apply for visas at the respective Myanmar embassies to cover news. Please dial 067-417149 and 407150 of the Ministry of National Planning and Economic Development for further information about the meeting and 067-412126 of News and Periodicals Enterprise about news coverage of local-based foreign news agencies and local media.—_MNA_

Investment in production of cement, tyres and textile discussed

_NAV PYI TAW, 4 Aug—_ Union Minister for Industry U Maung Myint received Resident Representative of ICF Mr Vikram Kumar of the International Finance Corporation (IFC) at the ministry, linkage for international loan providers to disburse loans to small- and medium-scale industries development banks, and investment of IFC in Myanmar.—_MNA_

_Union Minister Li-Gen Wai Lwin speaking at meeting of committee for prevention of military recruitment of underage children for scrutinizing underage military personnel._—_MNA_
Hindu families offer Waso robes to Buddhist monks of State Pariyatti Sasana University (Yangon)

Taninthayi, 4 Aug—Sanatan Dharma Swayamsevak Sangh (Hindu) Organisation offered Waso robes and meals for the 20th time to members of the State Sangha Maha Nayaka Committee and Buddhist monks from State Pariyatti Sasana University (Yangon) and students monks at Mogok refectory on Kaba Aye Hill on Sunday morning.

Indian Ambassador Mr Gautam Mukhopadhyay, Deputy Councillor Tara Nath Acharya of the Nepalese Embassy, Pro-rector (Admin) Dr Thant Zin Naing of International Theravada Buddhist Missionary University, the chairman and executives of Sanatan Dharma Swayamsevak Sangh and Hindu families donated Waso robes and alms to the Sayadaws.

Aung Thura

New dragon boat under construction in Taninthayi Township

Taninthayi, 4 Aug—Under the supervision of Buddhist monks of Chaunggyi Monastery, West Monastery and East Monastery, carpenters led by U Maung Hla Shwe and U Maung Ni are building a 69 feet long and 16 feet wide wooden boat in Taninthayi of Taninthayi Region since May 2014. The boat was identified as Aung Nan Thayi and it will be installed with the head with the shape of dragon. Leading monks of the township together with local authorities supervised construction of the boat on 30 July.

Upon completion, the boat will be 75 feet long due to installation of the dragon shaped head. The boat will give seats to 42 crew members for rowing in tradition. Taninthayi Township has five traditional boats namely Mya Lone Naung, Sein Pan Thwe, Yan Gyi Aung, Mya Gyi Aung and Padamya Thwe. The new boat Aung Nan Thayi will be commissioned into service in September 2014.

The Dragon boat race with the participation of six boats will be held on 12 October 2014, 4th waning of Thadingyut in Taninthayi.

Nan Thayi-Hein Win (IPRD)

Myeik Township to get three new bridges soon

Myeik, 4 Aug — Region and state governments are supervising regional development tasks as their one of the functions. Construction of roads and bridges are laying sound foundations for development of the regions and states. It is because roads and bridges are playing a key role in development of transport sector for the local people.

Taninthayi Region Minister for Security and Border Affairs Col Zaw Lwin and Deputy Commissioner of Myeik District U Aung Kyaw Tun made a trip to inspect the conditions of bridges in Myeik Township of Taninthayi Region on 1 August so as to allot funds for construction and repairing of the bridges.

They inspected conditions of the 220-foot long Myeiktaung Creek Bridge, the 220-foot long Naukle Creek Bridge and the 145-foot long Daweiikan Creek Bridge in Myeik Township. The region government plans to allot the development fund for repairing these bridges.

On his inspection tour of Myeik, the Union Minister for Border Affairs heard reports on repairing of these bridges presented by the township management committee and officials.

Myeik District IPRD
At least 398 dead after quake hits southwest China

BEIJING, 4 Aug—A magnitude 6.3 earthquake struck southwestern China on Sunday, killing at least 398 people and leaving 1,881 injured in a remote area of Yunnan Province, and causing thousands of buildings, including a school, to collapse.

The US Geological Survey said the quake registered at a shallow depth of less than 1 mile (1.6 km). Chinese state media said it was felt most strongly in Yunnan as well as in the neighbouring provinces of Guizhou and Sichuan.

The official Xinhua news agency said the epicenter was in Longtoushan town in Yunnan’s mountainous Ludian county.

Communications have been seriously affected and rescuers have begun arriving on the scene, the report said. Pictures posted online by state media showed troops stretching people away from the disaster zone, where heavy rain forecast for the coming days will add to the misery, the report said.

Ludian is home to some 265,900 people, Xinhua added. This region of China is frequently struck by quakes, with one killing more than 1,400 in the same part of Yunnan in 1974.

A quake in Sichuan in 2008 seriously affected and rescuers were ready to help.

US ready to help China in quake relief

WASHINGTON, 4 Aug—The White House on Sunday offered condolences over loss of lives in China’s southwestern province of Yunnan, where a strong earthquake befell earlier in the day, saying the United States was ready to help. “The United States offers sincere condolences to all those who lost loved ones in the 3 Aug earthquake in southwestern China,” National Security Council spokesman Bernadette Meehan said in a statement.

“Our thoughts and prayers are with the families of those that lost their lives, those injured or displaced, and all the people of China on this difficult day,” she added.

She said US disaster response officials were in contact with their Chinese counterparts and the US “stands ready to assist.” A massive relief effort is underway in Yunnan, as the death toll has risen to at least 367, with 1,881 others injured in the 6.5-magnitude earthquake.

Wildfire destroys eight buildings on California - Oregon border

WASHINGTON, 4 Aug—a wildfire burning on the border of Oregon and California has destroyed eight structures and was threatening hundreds more on Sunday, officials said, after California declared a state of emergency amid an extremely aggressive fire season.

California Governor Jerry Brown issued the emergency declaration on Saturday, saying the state’s extreme drought has made fire conditions particularly dangerous.

The declaration allows various state agencies to cooperate while battling at least 14 significant fires currently burning in California, including the Oregon Gulch fire, which started in Oregon last week then spread over the border.

That blaze has charred about 32,000 acres; 23,000 in Oregon and the rest across the border in California, according to the California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection.

The blaze was expanding rapidly amid extremely hot, dry conditions, said CalFire spokesman Dennis Mathisen.

“This is the third really dry year we’ve had,” Mathisen said. “The fire behavior we are seeing out there is usually not behavior we see until September,” he said.

The Oregon Gulch blaze, part of the larger Beaver Complex, has destroyed three homes and five outbuildings, and was threatening another 280 dwellings, fire officials said. Evacuation notices were in effect for several communities on both sides of the border.

About two dozen fires are currently burning from California to Washington state, many triggered by lightning and then fanned by hot temperatures and strong winds.

“With the current conditions, all you need is a spark,” said Mathisen. “We know what the typical fire season should look like. This year nothing’s typical.”
Indian PM vows to boost ties with Nepal in parliament address

KATHMANDU, 4 Aug — Visiting Indian Premier Narendra Modi on Sunday said that his government does not intend to intervene in Nepal’s internal affairs but looks forward to assisting the country at all its odds.

Addressing a special session at Nepal’s Legislative Parliament, Modi said, “We have believed that it is not our work to interfere in what you (Nepal) do but to support you in the path you decide to take.”

Quite strikingly, Modi opened his 30-minute address in Nepali language and then switched to his own Hindi language.

He said that India has cherished the long-standing brotherly relationship between the two countries. “I have returned to this beautiful country as a friend and I am happy to come here as a prime minister,” he said.

He also drew an analogy of Himalayan and Ganga River to describe the purity and eternal relationship between India and Nepal.

Modi who came to Nepal for a two-day official visit, met Indian prime minister to visit the country in 17 years.

Encouraging the lawmakers to draft the constitution and to bring the ongoing peace process to a successful conclusion, the Indian leader also said that India supports the draft of a federal democratic republic constitution. “The path Nepal has chosen from bullet to ballet will turn a model for ending violence and establishing peace in the whole world.”

In his televised address, the Indian leader singled out some potential areas where the two countries can work together including, hydro-power and tourism and others.

“You all would mind if I say I want to do a heet (welfare in Nepal) to Nepal. But I am pretty sure Nepal direly needs ‘HIT’ which includes, highways (roads), infoways (information) and transways (transmission lines).”

Modi noted that Nepal is the country of Buddha and immense hydro-power resources. “As Buddha, nepal for a two-day official visit, met Indian prime minister to visit the country in 17 years.

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Modi noted that Nepal is the country of Buddha and immense hydro-power resources. “As Buddha, one who born in Nepal, enlightened entire world through his knowledge, Nepal’s hydro-power resources also can light up entire South Asia which is still struggling in dark.”

He also expressed India’s readiness to provide as much energy as required to Nepal for 10 years and expects the energy from Nepal after 10 years in return. “But, don’t be afraid, we won’t take your water and energy free, but we will pay for it,” he said, sending his audience to laughter.

Meanwhile, Modi offered 1 billion US dollars in loan to Nepal to be used in priority areas Nepal wish to spend.

After assuming office in May as India’s 15th prime minister, Modi chosen to visit Nepal, his second foreign tour after he first visited Bhutan.

He is scheduled to offer prayers to Pashupatinath and meet Nepal’s President Ram Baran Yadav and chief of Nepal’s major political parties before returning home on Monday.

Xinhua

Bangladesh ferry capsizes with 200 passengers aboard

DHAKA, 4 Aug — At least 20 passengers aboard capsized on Monday in the river Padma, near Munshiganj district, about 30 km (18 miles) southwest of Dhaka, the chief of the district administration told Reuters.

Mohammad Saiful Hasan Badal, the Deputy Commissioner of the district, said 44 passengers had been rescued from the vessel, identified as the Pinak-6. No deaths had yet been reported.

Teams from the Bangladesh Inland Water Transport Authority and the army were engaged in the rescue operation.

Reuters

Afghanistan election crisis deepens with new fraud allegations

KABUL, 4 Aug — Afghanistan’s troubled presidential election plunged deeper into crisis on Sunday when one of the main contenders accused a deputy of President Hamid Karzai of orchestrating fraud in favour of his rival.

Supporters of Abdullah Abdullah, a former foreign minister, released an audio recording they said was Vice President Mohammad Karim Khalili encouraging vote-rigging in favour of Ashraf Ghani, the other contender in the race.

Khalili’s and Ghani’s staff dismissed the recording as a fake.

Allegations of mass fraud have overshadowed the outcome of the vote, which was meant to be the first democratic transition of power in Afghanistan’s history and came before the withdrawal of international combat troops at the end of this year.

The eight million votes cast in the second round of the election, held in June, are currently being audited under UN supervision, according to a deal brokered by the United States.

The audit has also been dogged by delays as Abdullah and Ghani have not been able to agree on some technicalities, such as how to disqualify votes.

The recording released on Sunday is the most recent that Abdullah’s campaign alleges is evidence of high-level collusion in an effort to ensure Ghani, a former finance minister and World Bank technocrat, is declared the winner.

The speaker allegedly encourages cheating at the highest level of the administration to help Ghani win.

“I am aware that in all efforts within the government and within the electoral commissions and with his Excellency the President of Afghanistan there exists an agreeable perception of the victory of this team and this candidate,” the speaker says after referring to one of Ghani’s running mates, Sarwar Danish.

Reuters
Censured over shelter deaths, Israel declares seven-hour Gaza truce

Gaza / Jerusalem, 4 Aug — Israel said it would unilaterally hold fire in most of the Gaza Strip on Monday to facilitate the entry of humanitarian aid and allow some of the hundreds of thousands of Palestinians displaced by an almost four-week-old war to go home.

The announcement, made first to Palestinian media, met with suspicion from Gaza’s dominant Hamas Islamists and followed unusually strong censure from Washington at the apparent Israeli shelling on Sunday of a UN-run shelter that killed 10 people.

An Israeli defence official said the ceasefire, from 10 am to 5 pm (0700 to 1400 GMT) and 5:00 pm (1400 GMT) to 11:00 pm (2200 GMT), would apply everywhere but areas of the southern town of Rafah where ground forces have intensified assaults after three soldiers died in a Hamas ambush there on Friday.

“If the truce is breached, the military will return fire during the declared duration of the truce,” the official said. The official said east Rafah was the only urban area in which troops and tanks were still present, having been withdrawn or redeployed near Gaza’s border with Israel over the weekend.

Hamas, whose envoys are in Egypt for truce negotiations that Israel has shunned in anger at Friday’s ambush in Rafah, saw a possible ruse in the humanitarian truce announcement.

“The calm Israel declared is unilateral and aims to divert attention away from the Israeli massacres. We do not trust such a calm and we urge our people to exercise caution,” said the group’s spokesman, Sami Abu Zuhri.

Israel is winding down its offensive in the absence of a mediated disengagement deal with Hamas. It says the military is close to completing its main objective of destroying cross-border infiltration tunnels from Gaza and is prepared to resume strikes in response to any attacks by the Palestinians.

The Israeli chief military spokesman said forces were deployed along both sides of the Gaza border.

“Redeployment lets us work on the tunnels, provides defence (of Israeli communities nearby) and lets the forces set up for further activity. There is no ending here, perhaps an interim phase,” Brigadier-General Motti Almoz told Army Radio.

In a predawn air strike Israel killed a senior commander of the Islamic Jihad, a Palestinian group fighting alongside Hamas. Islamic Jihad identified him as Danyal Mansour, head of the group’s northern command, and said he was killed in a bombing of a house in Jablaya. Almoz confirmed Israeli forces struck him.

Reuters

Islamic State grabs Iraqi dam and oilfield in victory over Kurds

Baghdad, 4 Aug — Islamic State fighters seized control of Iraq’s biggest dam, an oilfield and three more towns on Sunday after inflicting their first major defeat on Kurdish forces since sweeping across much of northern Iraq in June.

Capture of the electricity-generating Mosul Dam, after an offensive of barely 24 hours, could give the Sunni militants the ability to flood major Iraqi cities or withhold water from farms, raising the stakes in their bid to topple Prime Minister Nuri al-Maliki’s Shi’ite-led government. “The terrorist gangs of the Islamic State have taken control of Mosul Dam after the withdrawal of Kurdish forces without a fight,” said Iraqi state television.

But a Kurdish official in Washington told Reuters the dam was still under the control of Kurdish “peshmerga” troops, although he said towns around the dam had fallen to Islamic State forces. “The situation has taken a turn for the worse over the weekend,” said Karwan Zebari, an official with the Kurdistan Regional Government’s office in Washington. He said peshmerga fighters were preparing for a “major offensive” on Sunday night to take back control of towns near the dam.

The swift withdrawal of the peshmerga troops was an apparent severe blow to one of the few forces in Iraq that until now had stood firm against the Sunni militants who aim to impose their own version of Islam on the whole country.

Islamist fighters have declared an Islamic caliphate “from the Mediterranean sea to the Persian Gulf,” creating a new state that would straddle Syria, Iraq and Iran.

Israel says perchase of and return to Israel

Israel launched its offensive on 8 July following a surge in Hamas rocket salvoes. It escalated from air and naval barrages to overland incursions centred on Gaza’s tunnel-riddled eastern frontier but also pushing into densely populated towns.

Reuters

Hamas says Israel’s 7-hour humanitarian truce “unilateral”

Gaza, 4 Aug — The Gaza Strip-ruling Hamas movement said early Monday that the seven-hour truce announced by Israel is a unilateral move meant to divert people’s attention off “Israel’s massacres” in the blockaded Palestinian enclave.

Israel’s humanitarian truce in some areas in Gaza is unilateral,” Hamas spokesman Sami Abu Zohri said in a press statement. “We do not trust such proposals. Our people must be highly cautious.”

The Israel Defence Forces (IDF) announced on Sunday night that it would hold its fire in most of Gaza between 10:00 am(0700 GMT) and 5:00 pm (1400 GMT) on Monday.

The ceasefire will not apply to areas east of the southern Gaza town of Rafah, “where clashes were still ongoing and there was Israeli military presence,” according to an IDF statement. However, the Israeli army warned that the truce be violated, the army will fire back.

On Friday, a 72-hour ceasefire collapsed after Hamas militants and Israeli forces clashed near Rafah. The two sides accused each other of breaching the truce. The Palestinian death toll in Israel’s ongoing military operation, which started on 8 July, has surpassed 1,800, while the Israeli side has confirmed the death of 64 Israeli soldiers and three civilians.

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The Visionary Leadership

Kyi Mun

Three Types of Leaders

There are many ways to lead, and indeed, we are influenced by some people even centuries after they are gone. Some leaders are teachers, who are rule breakers and value creators; some are heroes, responsible for great causes and noble works; and some are rulers, motivated to dominate others and exercise power. Consider how the ideas and deeds of the teachers, heroes, and rulers in Table I-1 influence the world.

Table I-1

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Nine Key Areas of Leadership

The successful leader must master the art of leadership, with its nine key areas for success. If people cannot decide which course of action to take or if they are not making satisfactory progress along a chosen path, breakdown occurs. Breakdown can be traced to deficiency in one or more of these areas:

1. **Leadership Variables** - understanding the influence of qualities of leaders, characteristics of followers, and the nature of situations.
2. **The Power of Vision** - establishing a clear and compelling direction and a plan to succeed.
3. **The Importance of Ethics** - leading by moral principles, goodness of character, and personal courage.
4. **The Empowerment of People** - fostering a high-performance culture through participative leadership and service to others.
5. **Leadership Principles** - demonstrating human relations skills, managing morale, and developing a winning team.
6. **Understanding People** - comprehending human motivation, the art of persuasion, and the value of diversity.
7. **Multiplying Effectiveness** - using delegation skills and dealing effectively with different kinds of people.
8. **Developing Others** - understanding the role of the leader as teacher, helping people through change, and developing adaptive capacity.
9. **Performance Management** - achieving organization success through personal humility, fierce resolve, and sustained discipline.

Ref: The Art of Leadership by Manning Curtis

Visionary Leadership and Goals

You start by breaking down the vision into the series and/or sequence of goals necessary for attainment. To create your own vision chart, as in Figure 4-3, you need to determine:

1. Which goals will move you closer to your vision?
2. Who will be responsible for executing those goals?
3. When are the completion dates for each goal and reaching the vision?
4. What resources will your team members need?

Fig: Goals that are not vision-directed.

Fig: 4-3 Goals and vision alignment.

Visionary Leadership and Corporate Culture

An organization’s culture is the manifestation of its sustained accomplishments including its beliefs and values, attitudes and behaviors, skills and knowledge, concepts and ideas. To continually raise the level of an organization’s culture is one of the most important tasks of the transformational leaders who have got to be good role models.

The Ten Characteristics of an Organization’s Culture

1. Vision, Values & Strategy
2. Innovation and Risk Taking
3. Total Quality Focus
4. Customer-Focus
5. Results-Orientation
6. People-Orientation

All these phone operators will try to provide highest quality services in the future. Other service sectors should also follow the telecommunication sector which has shown the best example of the benefit of competition. People of Myanmar still have no choice, but poor quality services in other sectors. Everyone deserves the highest quality services.

Write for us

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

7. Team-Orientation
8. Strategic Concentration & Offensive
9. Growth & Consolidation
10. CSR-Orientiation

Source: Management by Stephen J. Robbins and Mary Coulter

The Visionary Leadership and the Five Rules

The Leadership Code

Please carefully study the Leadership Code and the Five Rules, and meticulously compare them with the followings:

- **Long-Term Strategic**
- **Interim Global**
- **Near Term Operation**
- **Organizational Proficiency**
- **Personal Proficiency**
- **Results-Orientation**
- **Customer-Focus**
- **Team-Orientation**
- **Innovation & Risk**
- **Talent & Competency**
- **Strategist**
- **Talent Manager**
- **Executor**
- **Rule 1: Shape the future**
- **Rule 2: Engage today’s talent**
- **Rule 3: Invest in yourself**
- **Rule 4: Build the next generation**
- **Rule 5: Make things happen**

Source: The AMA Handbook of Leadership by Marshall Goldsmith, John Baldoni, Sarah Mcarthur

U Kyi Mun residing in Yangon is a consultant of NAING Group Capital Co., Ltd.

GOLD PRICE, FE RATE (4-8-2014)

Yangon Gold Price
Buying K668,800 per tical: Selling K669,500

Mandalay Gold Price
Buying K668,500 per tical: Selling K669,200

FE RATE
USD Buying K692 - Selling K948
SGD Buying K775 - Selling K782
Euro Buying K1295 - Selling K1310
Ancient Tamok Shinpin Shwegugyi Pagoda, a wonderful destination for pilgrims, visitors

Kyaukse, 4 Aug—Tamok Shinpin Shwegugyi Pagoda located near Kyaukpygon, Nyuangbinzaun and Ngetoe villages in Kyaukse Township of Mandalay Region is decorated with Myanmar handicrafts of Bagan and enshrined with ancient Buddha images.

The pagoda is attracting pilgrims and visitors for their observation daily.

At present, Taungpyone festival is being held in Madaya Township. The visitors to Taungpyone festival also pay homage to the Tamok Shinpin Shwegugyi Pagoda.

The pagoda was built by King Anawrahta who established the first Myanmar Empire from 1044 to 1077 AD centring at Bagan. At first, the Tamok Shinpin Shwegugyi Pagoda was constructed as a one-storey temple. Due to deterioration, the pagoda was rebuilt as a two-storey temple with Myanmar handicraft decorations by King Narapati Sithu (1174-1211 AD).

In the time of King Uzana, the new pagoda covered the ancient pagoda, ordination hall and Buddha image as new pagoda in 684 Myanmar Era. After the Pinya era had collapsed, the buildings constructed in its era gradually came into deterioration. Last 25 years ago, Sayadaw Ashin Candobhasa of Maha Gandayon Monastery of Amarapura Township from Mandalay Region cleared the site of ancient pagoda and found the damaged pagoda parts.

Under the permission of the Archaeology Department, the disciples and the monk continued clearing the mound of ancient pagoda and found ancient Myanmar handicrafts and Buddha images.

Thanks to all-out efforts of Myanmar handicraft expert Tampawaddy U Win Maung, the building with the works of Puya era and urns were unearthed from the northern wing of the pagoda.

Researchers, pilgrims and visitors are very interested in wonderful ancient artifacts from the pagoda.—Nanda Min Lwin

People need to nurture planted saplings for thriving

Mohinyin, 4 Aug—As part of efforts to green the township, the monsoon tree growing ceremony was held in the compound of Mohinyin Degree College in Mohinyin Township of Kachin State on 1 August.

Commander of No 904 Artillery Control Command Brig-Gen Thet Lwin, senior military officers, Deputy Commissioner of the district U Aung Soe Moe, departmental personnel, faculty members and students, local authorities and people totalling 550 participated in tree growing ceremony.

The Staff Officer of the Township Forest Department explained the advantages for growing trees to green the township and to prevent climate change. Next, they planted 550 saplings at the ceremony.

“Growing trees is the best idea. But, it is not actual activity. In fact, it is necessary to nurture the planted saplings to have thriving forever. Yearly, hundreds of thousands of saplings are grown across the nation. However, small forests cannot seen anywhere due to lack of nurturing and conserving the trees. All the people should reform their mindsets to avoid the work show activity,” said local people. NLM-001

Health talks, health care activities performed

Zeyathiri, 4 Aug—The same age health talks, jointly organized by Nay Pyi Taw Council Area Women’s Affairs Organization and Nay Pyi Taw Council Area Health Department, took place at Basic Education Primary School in Zeyathiri Village of Zeyathiri Township on Sunday afternoon.

The talks placed emphasis on personal hygiene of children, sanitation at school and home and health care activities.

Head of Nay Pyi Taw Health Department Dr Daw Hla Hla Kyi and Chairperson of Nay Pyi Taw WAO Daw Myat Myat Moe distributed vitamins and cereal snacks to older persons. Chairman of Township WAO Daw Hla Hla Win presented iodized salt and eggs to pregnant women.

After the talks, officials of Township MCWA sent two mothers of under five children to Myittha Sanyay clinic of the Myanmar Maternal and Child Welfare Association (Central).

Implementation of policing process discussed in Hpa-an

Hpa-an, 4 Aug—A workshop on role of Myanmar police force in implementation of the Third Wave process took place at Hsinbyushin Hall of Kayin State Police Force in Hpa-an on 31 July.

Chief Justice of Kayin State U Saw San Lin, Commander of Kayin State Police Force Police Col Sein Lwin, MPs of Kayin State Hluttaw, departmental officials and police officers participated in the discussions.

A group led by Commander of Hpa-an District Police Force Police Lt-Col Zaw Min Aung discussed the topic on security and rule of law, Hlaingbwe Township, Kayin State Hluttaw MP U Min Aung Lin and party, the implementation of the community-based policing process, member of Hpa-an Township Development Supportive Committee U Tin Aye, the drug elimination, Head of State Directorate of Road Administration U Aung Naing, reduction of traffic accidents, Kayin State Judicial Officer U Khin Maung Tun and Kayin State Immigration and Execution and Deputy Head of State Immigration and National Registration Department U Saw Tint Lwin the investigation of cases and rapid process for prosecution and Deputy Head of State Immigration and National Registration Department U Saw Tint Lwin the prevention against religious related riots.

Deputy Commissioner U Hla Myo of Thandwe District and officials view spraying for prevention against dengue haemorrhagic fever in Thandwe of Rakhine State on 2 August.—DISTRICT IPRD
Lebanese army tries to expel Syria-linked militants from border town

BEIRUT, 4 Aug — Lebanese soldiers traded fire with Islamist gunmen and shelled areas around the border town of Arsal on Sunday aiming to roll back the biggest incursion by militants into Lebanon since Syria’s civil war began.

Security officials said 13 Lebanese soldiers had died in the fighting, which erupted after Islamists seized a police station following the arrest of one of their leaders on Saturday—an attack that army chief General Jean Kahwaji said was premeditated.

“What happened is far more dangerous than some believe,” Kahwaji told reporters in Beirut, saying the arrested commander had admitted to planning a large attack against forces in Arsal.

“The terrorist attack which occurred yesterday was not an attack by chance or coincidence. It was planned previously, a long time ago, awaiting the appropriate time,” he said.

An unknown number of militants and civilians, possibly dozens, were also killed in the fighting. More than a dozen members of Lebanon’s security forces were taken captive, while some 15 soldiers are also missing, security sources said.

Security officials say the gunmen in Arsal include fighters linked to the Islamic State, an al-Qaeda offshoot that has seized territory in Syria and Iraq, as well as Syria’s al-Qaeda branch, the Nusra Front.

Bombardment of the area prompted a large number of the tens of thousands of refugees sheltering in the area to flee, residents said. Entire refugee families abandoned their shelters as fires broke out in the camps, Syrian activists in the area said. Television images showed plumes of black smoke rising from the mountainous area around the town.

“They’re shelling from all directions,” said Qassem Al-Zein, a Syrian doctor at the field hospital in Arsal, adding that the hospital had recorded 17 civilians killed so far, including refugees hit by the shelling. The wounded numbered 150, up to 15 of whom were militants, he said.

Lebanon, a Mediterranean country of about 4 million people that borders Israel, has struggled with the shockwaves of Syria’s three-year-old conflict, whose sectarian dimensions echo those of its own 1975-90 civil war.

Suicide attacks, car bombs, gun battles, kidnappings and rocket fire have plagued Lebanon. But the confrontation in Arsal has been the biggest direct clash between its army and rebels fighting to overthrow Syria’s President Bashar al-Assad.

Russia staging military exercises near Ukraine

MOSCOW, 4 Aug — Russia announced new military exercises involving bombers and fighter jets on Monday in a show of strength near the border with Ukraine.

An air force spokesman was quoted by Interfax news agency as saying more than 100 planes and helicopters would take part in the manoeuvres from Monday until Friday in its central and western districts.

The spokesman, Igor Klimov, said the exercises were the first in a series to improve coordination in the military and make no mention of Ukraine, where pro-Russian rebels are fighting Ukrainian government forces.

The move is likely to alarm Western powers which have accused Russia of beefing up the number of troops along its border with Ukraine and arming the rebels in eastern Ukraine.

Klimov said aircraft such as Su-27 and MiG-31 fighter jets, Russia’s newest frontline bomber Su-34, and Mi-8, Mi-24 and Mi-28N helicopters would be used in the exercises and the aircraft would conduct missile practice.

The aircraft will be testing “aircraft weapons on land and air targets on new ranges, and will be conducting real electronic launches of anti-aircraft missiles in Ashuluk (Astrakhan region in southern Russia) which is specifically designed to aid the coordination between aviation and anti-missile defence”, he was quoted as saying.

Russia’s Defence Ministry could not immediately be reached for comment.

Fighting in eastern Ukraine has intensified, with Kiev stepping up a campaign to squeeze rebels in their two main strongholds of Donetsk and Luhansk after the West accused the rebels of shooting down a Malaysian airliner last month.

An official from Russia’s FSB security service in the Rostov region, just across the border from Ukraine, was quoted as saying more than 400 Ukrainian troops had asked for asylum in Russia.

“During the night 438 Ukrainian soldiers crossed the Russian border guards about asylum,” Itar-Tass news agency quoted Vasily Malayev as saying. The West criticised Russia for staging earlier military exercises near Ukraine.

In March, Russia sent 8,500 artillery personnel to the border, armed with Grad (Hail), Hurricane and Tornado multiple-rocket launchers, for exercises.

Ukrainian army steps up attacks on rebel-held Donetsk

DONETSK, (Ukraine), 4 Aug — Pro-Russian separatists battled on Sunday to keep advancing Ukrainian government forces at bay in heavy fighting on the outskirts of Donetsk, the rebels’ main stronghold in eastern Ukraine.

Shelling by Ukrainian troops, some of them in sunflower fields outside the large industrial city, killed six people over the weekend, city officials said, as well as setting buildings ablaze and leaving shell craters in roads.

The army has all but encircled the eastern rebel stronghold of Luhansk, where three civilians were killed in the latest fighting, and is trying to tighten the noose around Donetsk.

Fighting has intensified since the Downing of a Malaysian airliner in rebel-held territory on 17 July and, with each side blaming the other for the deaths of the 298 crew and passengers, relations between Russia and the West are deteriorating rapidly.

British Foreign Secretary Philip Hammond appealed to Russian President Vladimir Putin to persuade the rebels to end the conflict and to ensure they do not hinder international experts trying to recover human remains from the plane’s wreckage.

“It is an unspeakable abomination that, two weeks after this crash, there are still bodies on the crash site unrecovered and the Russians have not used their influence with the separatists,” Hammond told the Sunday Telegraph newspaper.

“I said last week that there is one man who can snap his fingers and make this happen and he hasn’t done so. He must now do so,” Hammond said, urging Putin to cut off arms to the rebels and “stop destabilizing and interfering” in Ukraine.

Putin denies arming the rebels or trying to orchestrate events in Ukraine since the ousting of a president sympathetic to Moscow in February. He accuses the West of attempting to “contain” Russia, using a Cold War-era phrase to suggest the United States wants to reduce Moscow’s global influence.

A military spokesman in the Ukrainian capital Kiev told a briefing the rebels had now recaptured three-quarters of the territory the rebels once controlled in their self-proclaimed “people’s republics” of Luhansk and Donetsk.

But Russia has firm control of the Crimea peninsula it annexed in March and the separatists are putting up fierce resistance in the last two big cities they hold in the east.

A Reuters reporter in central Donetsk heard shelling throughout the night and saw the smoke from burning buildings in the outlying Petrovsky district drifting as far as the city center.
In Liberia’s capital, fear of Ebola hampers official response

MONROVIA, 4 Aug — Health workers turned up in Monrovia’s Clara Town district on Sunday to remove two bodies of possible victims of the Ebola virus, four days after they dropped dead there when nobody would take them to hospital.

At a swampy field elsewhere in the Liberian capital, the health ministry ordered 100 graves to be dug for victims of the deadly tropical virus, but only five shallow holes partly filled with water had been prepared by Saturday evening.

Monrovia’s overcrowded and understaffed Elwa Hospital has had to turn away Ebola cases this week, a scenario exacerbated by the withdrawal of some international staff following the infection of two US health workers here.

One of them has arrived for treatment in the United States and the second is due to follow on an overnight flight on Monday.

Strong resistance like this from workers too afraid to handle infected corpses or communities opposed to burying them nearby or communities opposed to handling infected corpses have slowed down efforts to control the infection of some international staff at the hospital.

Monrovia’s first burial site for 30 bodies, in the poor township of Johnsonville, was abandoned by health workers after the land owner refused to sell the land to bury Ebola victims.

A few of the corpses were left floating in body bags in pools of water, which led to complaints from the residents.

A local man, Bill Marshall, said residents had not been consulted before the cemetery was created. “Ebola, we don’t know where it came from and we don’t know its effect,” he said. “The grave will give us Ebola, it will kill us.”

At a second site, an angry crowd gathered, shouting at health workers dressed in white protective suits who sought to appease them by handing out Ebola information flyers.

“You will have to kill us first,” shouted one group.

Soldiers from the Liberian army with shields and bulletproof vests arrived on the scene shortly afterwards. A source in the health ministry said the bodies were finally buried overnight with the help of around 40 additional workers.

The government says that high levels of mistrust and resistance from local communities justify a series of strict new measures designed to control the outbreak.

Liberia plans to close schools and consider quarantining some communities as part of an action plan outlined this week by President Ellen Johnson Sirleaf.

In a crisis meeting on Sunday attended by the president, officials decided that the names of those in contact with suspected Ebola cases would be shared with airport and security authorities to restrict their movements.

Cuban scorpions help fight cancer

HAVANA, 4 Aug — Venom from a scorpion endemic to Cuba, “Rophalorus junceus,” is being used by Cuban scientists as an effective weapon to fight cancer.

The venom, with an anti-inflammatory and anti-tumor properties, is the active ingredient in homeopathic medicine “Vidatox 30 CH,” which can be used to treat breast, liver, brain, prostate, lung and other cancers.

The treatment has been successfully used for more than four years in humans after being first tested in biological models.

Labiofam, a Cuban laboratory, has breeding centres for both the Red Scorpion and Blue Scorpion. Each month, some 30,000 scorpions in Las Minas town, 270 km east of Havana, undergo a stimulation process, in which they receive a 20-millivolt electric stimulus to remove the venom. After two years, the scorpions are released back into their natural habitat.

Denier Sanchez, a biologist from Labiofam, explained that the conditions of captivity are tailored for reproduction, proved by the high number of breeding female scorpions.

“The venom, which we call nymphs, comes able to live in the environment, we release them because they do not have the necessary size yet to remove their venom,” said Sanchez.

Sanchez also said that research on the exploitation process of scorpions, such as female mortality or the capacity to survive of the released specimens.

Cuban research on the scorpion’s venom began at the end of 1980s in Guantanamo Province, the island’s eastern tip, where a group of biologists and doctors became interested in the stories told by the peasants about the venom’s benefits.

The first revelation was made by Cuban biologist Misael Bordier, one of the first researchers. In 2001, Bordier visited Mexico’s National Autonomous University (UNAM) and presented the research progress in a professional journal.

Bordier died in 2005, one year before Cuba’s Industrial Property Office granted Labiofam the rights to exploit the patent related to “Rophalorus junceus” venom. Xinhua

Japan’s July monetary base at fresh record high

TOKYO, 4 Aug — Japan’s monetary base grew 42.7 percent in July from a year earlier to 243.11 trillion yen, reaching a fresh record high on the Bank of Japan’s aggressive monetary easing to boost the economy, data released by the central bank showed on Monday.

The average daily balance of the money that the BOJ provides to the economy, data released by the central bank showed on Monday.

The average daily balance of the monetary base reached a record high for the 17th consecutive month. The BOJ aims to raise the amount to 270 trillion yen by the end of the year.

The balance of current account deposits, or the sum of money those institutions can use freely, rose 84.8 percent to 152.19 trillion yen as the BOJ purchases from the lenders massive amounts of Japanese government bonds and other financial assets as part of the monetary easing, introduced in April 2013.
Japan, China seek to hold summit at APEC in November: media

Tokyo, 4 Aug — Japan and China are trying to arrange two-way talks between their leaders at a summit of APEC leaders in November in Beijing, in a bid to mend ties strained over a territorial spat and wartime history, the Nikkei business daily said on Monday.

Such a move would mark a shift in stance by China, which has shrugged off a call by Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe for a summit at the APEC meeting.

Chinese President Xi Jinping expressed his desire to mend relations between Asia’s two major powers during a meeting with former Japanese prime minister Yasuo Fukuda, who visited China late in July on a “stealth mission” to broker a rapprochement, the paper said, citing sources from both sides.

During the meeting, Fukuda conveyed Abe’s call for dialogue, while Xi voiced concern over bilateral relations and expressed a positive stance to resolve the diplomatic deadlock, the paper said.

Xi probably referred to conditions for a breakthrough, the paper said, without elaborating, but added that China had previously refused a summit unless Abe made concessions on the territorial spat and his visit to a war shrine in Tokyo.

Abe has yet to meet Chinese leaders since he returned to power late in 2012, as relations cooled over disputed islands in the East China Sea and Abe’s visit to the Yasukuni Shrine, which China sees as a symbol of Japan’s past militarism.

Fukuda, who has retired from parliament, could not be reached for comments. Fukuda, whose father oversaw a key friendship treaty in 1978, is seen as a key conduit to China.

Japan has been locked in a territorial dispute with China over a group of East China Sea islands, known as the Senkaku in Japan and the Diaoyu in China. Ships of both nations frequently shadow each other around the islands, raising fears of a clash.

Tension escalated after China declared an air defence zone in the area last November, a move that also sparked concern from the United States and South Korea.

German magazine reports Israel spied on Kerry last year

Berlin, 4 Aug — German magazine Der Spiegel reported on Sunday that Israel and at least one other intelligence agency were listening in on US Secretary of State John Kerry’s unsecured phone calls last year when he was holding nearly daily negotiations for peace with various leaders in the Middle East.

The magazine cited several sources from intelligence circles as saying that although Kerry has a secure phone at his mansion in Georgetown, while he was travelling and needed to make a quick phone call, he sometimes used an ordinary telephone that the intelligence agencies listened in on.

“A large number of these conversations, which went via satellite, were listened to by at least two intelligence agencies, including the Israelis,” the magazine wrote. “It is probable that the Russians and Chinese were also listening in.”

Billions of dollars in deals and funding to be announced at Africa summit

Washington, 4 Aug — The United States will announce nearly $1 billion in business deals, increase funding for peacekeeping and commit billions of dollars to expanding food and power programmes in Africa during a summit this week, US and development officials said.

US officials said the August 4-6 summit in Washington of nearly 50 African leaders hopes to showcase US interest in the fast-growing region through a series of government-private partnership deals to boost trade and investment.

The spread of the deadly Ebola virus in Liberia, Guinea and Sierra Leone is also a reminder of the vast development needs that persist in some of the region’s poorest countries, despite rapid their rapid economic growth and investment.

Administration officials have played down questions over whether the summit is in response to China’s growing presence in the region. Instead, they have emphasized that American interests go beyond Africa’s oil and minerals, where China is focused.

“You will see a series of announcements on agriculture and food, and power and energy,” Rajiv Shah, the administrator of the US Agency for International Development (USAID), told Reuters. “We will make big announcements that demonstrate these are big ambitions we can take on with our African partners and the private sector.”

Shah said there will be new support for Power Africa, a privately funded program launched by President Barack Obama last year to install 10,000 megawatts of new generation capacity and connect 20 million new customers across Africa by 2018.
Safety violations at China auto factory led to dust blast

**Five killed in light aircraft crash in northeast Brazil**

*RIO DE JANEIRO, 4 Aug — Five people were killed on Sunday when a light aircraft crashed against a house in Balsas municipality, in Brazil’s northeastern state of Maranhao, the Brazilian Fire Brigade said.*

The five people were passengers of the Embraer-720 aircraft, which crashed on Sunday early morning when flying from Balsas, the capital of Maranhao, to Teresina, the capital of Piauí state.

The aircraft fell shortly after takeoff. The victims are an 87-year-old woman who was taken from a hospital in Balsas to another in Teresina, the old woman’s daughter and her grandson, the pilot and his wife.

The aircraft fell over a house where four people were sleeping but no one was injured.—Xinhua

**Hong Kong, 4 Aug — Chinese officials have blamed the chairman of a car parts factory in eastern China and local regulators for safety breaches that led to the most deadly industrial accident in a year, the official Xinhua news agency reported on Monday.**

The blast at the Kunshan Zhongrong Metal Products Co Ltd factory in the city of Kunshan on Saturday killed at least 75 people and injured 185.

A preliminary investigation suggested the blast was triggered by a flame lit in a dust-filled room, local government officials said.

Dust can be highly explosive when it is suspended in air in the right concentrations, and is true even of materials such as aluminium and iron that don’t typically burn.

Kunshan Zhongrong, which polishes aluminium wheels for automakers including General Motors Co (GM), failed to properly store dangerous goods, did not have appropriate ventilation or dust removal systems, and had a substandard electrical system, according to the government investigation cited by Xinhua.

The factory also ignored prior warnings about dust, did not have appropriate fire safety equipment and did not provide safety training for workers, according to the report.

A senior official in charge of China’s work safety administration called the situation a “very serious dereliction of duty,” Xinhua reported.

Neither Kunshan officials nor executives from Kunshan Zhongrong could be reached for comment.

General Motors said on Sunday that it had asked its main Chinese supplier to find an alternative source of components after the explosion.

The Detroit automaker issued a statement saying it bought components from a company called “Dicast” — which Zhongrong works with, GM went on to say it had no direct dealings with Zhongrong, which it described as a “Tier-2” supplier.

A GM spokesman in Shanghai said she had no information on whether GM conducts safety inspections of production facilities run by lower-tier suppliers with which they do not do business with directly.

Xinhua said previously that two company representatives had been taken into police custody and that President Xi Jinping had demanded a full inquiry into what happened and punishment for those responsible.

It said on Monday that the State Council has approved a special task force to investigate the accident and will soon carry out nationwide inspections on plants and their dust control measures.

—Xinhua
Kareena Kapoor

Kareena Kapoor: The biggest film or the best script, no midway for me

Mumbai, 4 Aug—“Take the best, leave the rest” seems to be Kareena Kapoor’s mantra for choosing films. The actress, who is said to have refused six scripts lately, says she is keen to do a few but fantastic films as there’s never a “middle way” for her.

“If the scripts were good, I would have definitely said ‘yes’. A few scripts work for some actresses, a few scripts don’t work. But, yes, my job is to choose the best script,” Kareena told IANS in an interview here.

The 34-year-old, who married actor-producer Saif Ali Khan in 2012, said: “After marriage, I want to do only one or two films at a time. I can’t do too many films. That’s my personal decision and I want people to respect that.”

“Whatever I will choose it would be according to my time frame. It should be worthy enough that I leave my home and go to work. Either it should be the biggest film of the year or it should have the best script. There is no middle way out for me at the moment.”

Wouldn’t turning down offers affect her personal equation with celebrities?

“I don’t think it affects relationships at all. It’s (a film is) an actor’s choice and one film can’t affect a relationship. In fact, if you say ‘no’ to somebody, there are chances that they will come back. After all, it’s a film! If you are not comfortable, it’s okay,” said the actress, who will now be seen in Singh Is Kinne.

Kareena, who belongs to the famous Kapoor family of Hindi cinema, started her Bollywood career in 2000 with JP Dutta’s Refugee. She made space in the industry with entries like Apana, Kabhi Khushi Kabhie Gham, Chameli, Omkara, Jab We Met, Golmaal Returns, 3 Idiots and Ra One.

The actress is clear about what she wants. In fact, on an episode of celebrity chat show Koffee With Karan, filmmaker Anurag Kashyap advised Kareena: “Don’t ask who is in the film; you should ask what is the film.” She is taking it seriously. “I am taking his advice and that’s why I am rejecting scripts because I am choosing films on the basis of scripts,” Kareena said.

She, however, feels the Hindi film industry suffers from a lack of good scriptwriters.—PTI

“Guardians of The Galaxy” leads North America box office

LOS ANGELES, 4 Aug—Marvel’s latest superhero film “Guardians of The Galaxy” was the master of this weekend North America box office, becoming the biggest debut on record for an August movie.


Also “Guardians of The Galaxy” delivered the third largest opening weekend performances of 2014 to date, behind only Transformers: Age of Extinction and Captain America: The Winter Soldier. 3D grosses represented 45 percent of the film’s overall gross this weekend.

The 3D sci-fi superhero film earned 92 percent of positive critics from Rotten Tomatoes, and first-night moviegoers gave it a collective A, according to online pollsters CinemaScore. Universal’s “Lucy” slid to in a distant second this weekend with an estimated 18.3 million dollars. The sci-fi action film starring Scarlett Johansson was down a sharp 58 percent from last weekend.

“Lucy” earned nicely with a ten-day start of 79.6 million dollars. Universal’s “Get On Up”, the James Brown, opened in third with an estimated 14 million dollars.

It got 77 percent of positive critics from Rotten Tomatoes and a collective A on CinemaScore.—Xinhua

Tara Reid launches new ‘Shark’ perfume

Los Angeles, 4 Aug—“Sharknado” actress Tara Reid is launching a new perfume inspired by her popular shark drama whose second installment Sharknado 2: The Second One premiered on 30 July.

Aptly named ‘Shark by Tara’, the fragrance is described as “a light and refreshing perfume perfect for day-to-day wear” on her website, reported Ace Showbiz.

The fragrance, which is kept in a classic square vial, “incorporates a plethora of lavender” coloured flowers, which is Tara’s favourite colour. It comes in three different levels of “nodes,” the website said. “We hope you all have as much fun wearing it as we did making it,” Reid wrote on the site. The perfume is available for USD 24.95.

Reid, 38, is not the only celebrity who is selling a new perfume. Actress Drew Barrymore is going to launch three fragrances, called Cherished, Radiant and Sultry, for her Flower cosmetics line.—PTI
RFK Jr and actress Cheryl Hines wed on Cape Cod

KANSAS CITY, 4 Aug — Robert F Kennedy Jr and actress Cheryl Hines married on Saturday afternoon at the Kennedy family compound at Hyannis, Massachusetts, on Cape Cod, according to media reports and the designer of Hines’ wedding gown.

The couple married under a tent before a cheering group of family and friends during the Kennedy family’s annual reunion, according to People magazine. Kennedy, 60, is an environmental lawyer and son of the late US Senator Robert F Kennedy, 48, is an actress and writer on the HBO series “Curb Your Enthusiasm.” A fans’ website for Hines provided links to media accounts of the wedding.

Hudson to be named New Zealand coach

WELLINGTON, 4 Aug — Englishman Anthony Hudson is set to be announced as the new coach of New Zealand’s national football team after walking out on Bahrain last week, local media reported on Monday.

The 33-year-old’s departure left Bahrain’s preparations for January’s Asian Cup in disarray and the Gulf state’s football association said on Friday they would challenge his exit through the courts.

New Zealand Football had hoped to appoint Hudson as Ricki Herbert’s successor last week but were forced to delay their announcement. They have called a news conference for Tuesday.

Herbert, who had eight years at the helm, stepped down after the ‘All Whites’ lost a two-legged playoff to Mexico-93 on aggregate and failed to reach this year’s World Cup finals.

Unlike neighbours Australia, who moved to the Asian Football Confederation in 2006, New Zealand have stuck with the Oceania region, which offers easier opponents but no automatic berths for the World Cup finals.

Hudson, born in the United States when his former English midfielder father Alan was playing for the Seattle Sounders, was described as a “young Jose Mourinho” by Harry Redknapp after working under the now Queens Park Rangers boss at Tottenham.

He got his first head coaching job at senior level in 2011 with Welsh non-league club Newport County, where he lasted just five months before being sacked.

He moved to Bahrain to work with the under-23 side under fellow-Englishman Peter Taylor in 2012 and led the team to the title at the 2013 Gulf Cup of Nations.

After taking over the senior team in August 2013 he helped them qualify for the Asian Cup as group winners and signed a new contract through to 2016 earlier this year.

Adrian Whitbread, who had been coaching Bahrain’s Olympic team, will take charge of the senior side for a two-week training camp in Spain later this month, the Bahrain FA said in a statement.

The 2015 Asian Cup takes place from 9-31 January in Australia. — Reuters

“China Joy” attracts 70,000 gamers over weekend

SHANGHAI, 4 Aug — “China Joy” 2014 has opened at the Shanghai New International Expo Centre, bringing over 700 games from all over the world, under one roof. Although it rained heavily in Shanghai over the weekend, the enthusiasm of game aficionados has not been dampened. A record breaking 70,000 people swarmed to the venue on Saturday. Lines hundreds of metres long, under a rainy sky. The passion of these gamers is burning high. And...
Serena announces return to form with Stanford win

London, 4 Aug — Serena Williams showed she has made a full recovery from recent health issues by beating Angelique Kerber 7-6(1), 6-3 in the final of the Stanford Classic on Sunday.

Williams, playing in her first tournament since being forced to retire from a Wimbledon doubles match because of a viral infection, took the Stanford crown for a third time and won her fourth title overall this season.

Her return to fitness has come just in time for the US Open to start on 25 August. “I have a lot of confidence going but every week is a new week and hopefully I can just try to improve,” Williams, who also took the title in 2011 and 2012, told reporters.

Real Madrid confirm arrival of Costa Rica keeper, Navas

Madrid, 4 Aug—Real Madrid confirmed the signing of Levante goalkeeper, Kaylor Navas on a six-year contract on Sunday afternoon.

The Costa Rican international joins Real Madrid until 2020 after the European Champions are thought to have paid his former club around 10 million euros (13 million US dollars) for his services in a deal which ends several days of waiting for Navas who was due to return to training in Valencia on Tuesday.

Instead Tuesday will see him presented as a new Real Madrid player at 13.00 hours in the Santiago Bernabeu Stadium. Navas is Real Madrid’s third signing of the summer and takes the club’s pre-season spending to around 130 million euros, a figure which could well increase before the start of the season if Radamel Falcao joins from Monaco.

The arrival of a goalkeeper, who was one of the stars of the World Cup finals in Brazil means that either Iker Casillas or Diego Lopez will almost certainly abandon the club. Madrid coach Carlo Ancelotti said on Friday that Casillas will play in the European Supercup, but added that after that he “didn’t know what would happen,” and that doubt will have grown after Casillas’ poor display in Real Madrid’s 3-1 defeat to Manchester United.

Robin van Persie to miss Premier League opener

London, 4 Aug — Dutch striker Robin van Persie is set to miss Manchester United’s opening Premier League match against Swansea City after being given an extended break after the World Cup. Van Persie, 30, did not travel with United on their pre-season tour of the United States, and will not appear in the final friendly against Valencia at Old Trafford on 12 August, four days before their first league match. Manager Louis van Gaal said his compatriot would resume training on Monday and, having missed much of last season through injury, would not be rushed back into the team before he reached full fitness.

“Van Persie is definitely 100% fit now and we hope he will get his fitness back very fast, but for now, he won’t play. Robin wants to play every game, I know that, but so do the other 30 players in the squad.” — Reuters

McIlroy wins Bridgestone to claim world number one ranking

Cary, (Carolina), 4 Aug — Rory McIlroy continued his dominating form when he won the WGC-Bridgestone Invitational by two strokes on Sunday and regained the world number one ranking, replacing Australia’s Adam Scott.

McIlroy made a sizzling start to the final round with three consecutive birdies to quickly erase a three-stroke deficit and surge past Sergio Garcia at Firestone Country Club in Akron, Ohio.

The Northern Irishman carded a 66 to finish at 15-under-par 265, while Spanish Garcia (71) was second on 13-under, with Australian Marc Leishman (67) another shot back in third place.

Defending champion Tiger Woods pulled out of the tournament after aggravating his troublesome back, raising more questions about the playing future of the 14-times major champion. McIlroy, 25, took the world number one ranking with his fifth separate occasion, and the first since March of last year, displacing Scott, who had been on top for 11 weeks.

McIlroy, who won the British Open in his previous start two weeks ago, collected $1.53 million for his first victory in a World Golf Championships event.

Mcllroy celebrates with the trophy following the final round of the WGC-Bridgestone Invitational golf tournament at Firestone Country Club—South Course.—Reuters

Bridgestone Invitational

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Glasgow celebrates “friendly” with Welsh team

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Glasgow, 4 Aug — The Glasgow Commonwealth Games proved to be much more than just ‘friendly’ as Scottish culture, sport and six-times Olympic champion Usain Bolt combined to create a memorable 11-day event.

The success of the Games was assured with the golden seal of approval from Bolt, the world’s most recognisable athlete, whose cameo in Jamaica’s sprint relay triumph lit up Scotland’s biggest city.

Inevitably, Bolt stole the show, providing one of the images of the “Friendly Games” as he returned home with a gold medal from his maiden Commonwealth appearance. The Games provided few truly jaw-dropping sporting moments, but they will be remembered for the spirit in which athletes and visitors from the 71 Commonwealth nations and territories were greeted by crowds determined to enjoy the party.

“In my view, they are the standout Games in the history of the movement,” Commonwealth Games Federation chief executive Mike Hopper said.— Reuters

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