President U Thein Sein meets foreign ministers from PRC, DPRK, India

YANGON, 11 Aug—Political parties on Monday issued a joint announcement which emphasizes the necessity of lasting ceasefire agreement in Myanmar.

A total of 150 representatives from 66 parties attended clarification of peace-making processes by Myanmar Peace Center which was founded in October 2002. At the meeting, Union Minister U Aung Min, vice-chairman of Union Peace-making Work Committee, said President U Thein Sein invited all the groups concerned for nationwide peace dialogue on August 2011, with the establishment of peace committees for negotiation with ethnic armed forces.

The peace-making work committee has held 250 informal dialogues and more than 50 formal dialogues with armed groups, as well as at least 150 discussions with civil societies, political parties, political bodies and ethnic groups. The government has signed ceasefire agreements with 14 armed groups out of 16 which have called a truce to move forwards to nationwide ceasefire agreement. (See page 3)

Republic of the Union of Myanmar
President Office
(Order No. 21/2014)
1st Waning of Wagaung, 1376 ME
(11 August, 2014)
Reshuffle of member at Union Peace-making Work Committee

Deputy Minister for Border Affairs Maj-Gen Maung Maung Ohn, Member of the Union Peace-making Work Committee, re-constituted under Order No. (48/2013) of the President Office dated 28-10-2013, has been replaced with Maj-Gen Tin Aung Chit, Deputy Minister for Border Affairs as member of the Work Committee.

Sd/President
Republic of the Union of Myanmar

Curfew lifted in Mandalay

NAY PYI TAW, 11 Aug —Curfew imposed in seven townships in Mandalay District due to riots on 1 and 2 July has been lifted on Monday, according to Mandalay District General Administration Department.

The curfew was imposed to maintain community tranquility and the rule of law in the district and it was eased step by step as the community tranquility improved, the order issued by the department said.

The order came into force at 6 pm on Monday.

Curfew lifted in Mandalay—MNA
Department of Medical Research (Lower Myanmar), KOICA celebrate handover ceremony of research laboratory on communicable diseases

By Ye Myint

YANGON, 11 Aug — The Department of Medical Research (Lower Myanmar) of the Ministry of Health on Monday received an advanced molecular research centre from Korea International Cooperation Agency (KOICA) to improve its research capacity on eradication of three communicable diseases – malaria, viral hepatitis and tuberculosis.

The ceremony marking the handover of the Communicable Diseases Research Laboratory (Advanced Molecular Research Centre) took place at the department in Yangon, with Union Minister for Health Dr Than Aung and Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Korea Yun Byung-se delivering speeches.

Thanks to the opening of the disease lab, there will be improvements to molecular-based diagnostic methods in Myanmar, thereby contributing towards reduction in morbidity and mortality of communicable diseases, the Union minister said in his address. Moreover, he added, it will enable the two countries to further conduct joint research on communicable diseases.

In his speech, the South Korean foreign affairs minister said improved relations between Myanmar and South Korea during the past five years led to tangible results for both sides, adding that the ceremony proved the two countries have a strong interest in further cooperation.

According to a press release from KOICA, the project implemented in close collaboration with the medical research department from 2011 to 2014 includes the establishment of the Advanced Molecular Research Centre on Communicable Disease, including a Bio Safety Level 2+ Laboratory, transfer of advanced medical and technical knowledge and experience for the enhancement of research capacity in Myanmar, conducting joint research and organizing study tours for Myanmar medical staffs.

Beyond the KOICA project, there will be a continued and strengthened bilateral cooperation between Myanmar and South Korea via people-to-people exchanges, joint research and organizing research seminars, the release added.

Following the signing of the record of discussions on 19 August in 2011 between KOICA and Department of Medical Research (Lower Myanmar), construction of the laboratory for research on communicable diseases began in 2012 with a $3 million contribution from KOICA.

KOICA-funded Communicable Disease Research Laboratory (Advanced Molecular Research Centre) is opened at Department of Medical Research (Lower Myanmar) on Monday for enhancement of research capacity on communicable disease eradication.—PHOTO: YE MYINT

Myanmar Development Summit 2014 held in Yangon

By Khaing Thanda Lwin

YANGON, 11 Aug — Myanmar Development Summit 2014, jointly hosted by Myanmar Institute of Certified Public Accountants (MICPA), Republic of the Union of Myanmar Federation of Chambers of Commerce and Industry (UMFCCI) and Association of Chartered Certified Accountants (ACCA), took place Sunday in Yangon.

The conference also commemorated the launch of the 91st branch of ACCA in Myanmar that is located at No. 129 on 36th Street in Kyaukda Township in Yangon.

In a speech, U Thein Htai, auditor-general of the Union, said he hopes that not too far off, with the rapid growth of the economy, the country will have a fully developed capital market where capital will flow freely for the benefit of all entrepreneurs. He added that he firmly believes this summit will make significant progress for all participants on all aspects of the topics the speakers dealt with extensively.

‘‘We are assured that ACCA will continue to endeavour more actively towards evolving efficient human resources in this field to meet the increasing needs of our new era of economic development,’’ said U Win Aung, president of the UMFCCI.

Helen Brand, chief executive of the ACCA, said, ‘‘ACCA has signed MoUs with national stakeholders in Myanmar to work in partnership to advance the finance and accounting profession in Myanmar, and build capacity and capacity to support Myanmar’s economic aspirations and social development goals.’’

The country needs more qualified accountants as it is paving the way for overseas businesses to invest in economic sector, U Kyaw Lwin Oo, head of the ACCA in Myanmar, said.

He added ACCA has a plan to cooperate with the ministries of Myanmar to promote skills of their accountants.

The role of finance and accountancy in supporting business growth, in emerging markets; the impact of international financial reporting standards on economic development; the role of international standards on auditing in boosting market confidence; and creating sustainable markets and financial systems were topics at the summit.

Opening ceremony of 91st branch of ACCA in Myanmar takes place at Parkroyal Hotel in Yangon.—PHOTO: KHAING THANDA LWIN

Public announcement for remonstration

1. The Karen National Party headquartered at No. (636) on 1st Kawegyan Street in West Gyocon Ward in Kawegyan in Insein Township of Yangon Region, submitted its application to register as a political party under the Article 5 of Political Parties Registration Law. In its application, it is mentioned that the party will use its name, flag and seal described hereunder.

2. It is hereby announced in accord with Political Parties Registration Rules 14 (d) that if there is anyone who wants to remonstrate about the name, flag and seal of the party, they may remonstrate with the Union Election Commission with firm evidence within seven days from the day of the announcement.

Union Election Commission

Political party applies for registration

NAIY PTI TAW, 11 Aug — The Union Election Commission scrutinizes and allows application for registration of political parties.

On Monday, Karen National Party applied for registration as a political party at the Union Election Commission.

MNA

Opening ceremony of 91st branch of ACCA in Myanmar takes place at Parkroyal Hotel in Yangon.—PHOTO: KHAING THANDA LWIN

The flag of the Karen National Party

The seal of the Karen National Party

NAY PYI TAW, 11 Aug — The Union Election Commission scrutinizes and allows application for registration of political parties.

We are assured that ACCA will continue to endeavour more actively towards evolving efficient human resources in this field to meet the increasing needs of our new era of economic development,” said U Win Aung, president of the UMFCCI.

Helen Brand, chief executive of the ACCA, said, “ACCA has signed MoUs with national stakeholders in Myanmar to work in partnership to advance the finance and accounting profession in Myanmar, and build capacity and capacity to support Myanmar’s economic aspirations and social development goals.”

The country needs more qualified accountants as it is paving the way for overseas businesses to invest in economic sector, U Kyaw Lwin Oo, head of the ACCA in Myanmar, said.

He added ACCA has a plan to cooperate with the ministries of Myanmar to promote skills of their accountants.

The role of finance and accountancy in supporting business growth, in emerging markets; the impact of international financial reporting standards on economic development; the role of international standards on auditing in boosting market confidence; and creating sustainable markets and financial systems were topics at the summit.

NLM
Vice President U Nyan Tun urges NESAC to develop strategies for human resources development

NATURAL

Vice President U Nyan Tun with union ministers and members of National Economic and Social Advisory Council.—MNA

Union FM hold talks with DPRK, Chinese and Indian Foreign Ministers

NAV PYI TAW, 11 Aug.—Union Minister for Foreign Affairs U Wunna Maung Lwin held a talk with Mr Ri Su Yong, Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Democratic People’s Republic of Korea and party about promotion of bilateral relations and cooperation between the two countries, at the ministry at 8 am on Monday.

The vice president pointed out that human resources development is important for Myanmar as it cannot rely on foreign investment as a solution to problems in the long run. In conclusion, the vice president urged the participants of the meeting to develop strategies that will contribute to human resources development of Myanmar through foreign investment, international trade and international development assistance.

After the vice president’s speech, the meeting discussed programmes to solve economic problems facing Myanmar.

Dr Ha Joon Chang of the University of Cambridge, Mr Rick Rowden of the Jawaharlal Nehru University, Director-General U Aung Naing Oo of the Directorate of Investment and Companies Administration, Deputy Governor U Set Aung of the Central Bank of Myanmar, Director Daw Wai Wai Thet Lwin of TMW Enterprise Ltd, Dr Armin Bauer of the ADB, Urban Development and Poverty Reduction Advisor Mr Michael Slingsby of Yangon City Development Committee and NESAC members U Moe Kyaw, Dr Daw Yin Yin Nwe and Dr Thant Myint Oo participated in the discussions. After the discussions, Union Minister for National Planning and Economic Development Dr Kan Zaw made concluding remarks for the first ever meeting of the NESAC. MNA

NATIONAL

Speaker Thura U Shwe Mann receives journalists, FMs

NAV PYI TAW, 11 Aug.—Pyidaungsu Hluttaw and Lower House Speaker Thura U Shwe Mann on Monday met local and foreign journalists at the Hluttaw building here.

The speaker answered the questions of journalists from Ji Ji Press, NHK, Sankei Shimbun, Wall Street, Channel News Asia, AFP, DVB, RFA, Mizizi, Kumudra, Union Daily and MRTV-4.

In the afternoon, Thura U Shwe Mann individually received a Chinese delegation led by foreign affairs minister Mr. Wan Yi, foreign minister Mr. Ri Su-yong of the Democratic People’s Republic of Korea and foreign minister Mrs Sushma SWARAJ of India.

The meetings were attended by MPs and representatives of parliamentary committees. MNA

PSC signed for inland oil block

NAV PYI TAW, 11 Aug.—The production sharing contract for inland oil block EP 4 in Mayamyan area in Bago Region was signed by Myanma Oil and Gas Enterprise, Bashneft International BV of Russia and Sun Apex Holdings Ltd of Myanmar at the Max Nay Pyi Taw Hotel in Nay Pyi Taw on Monday.

Chairman of Myanmar Investment Commission and Union Minister for Energy U Zeyar Aung, Union Minister for Hotels and Tourism U Huay Aung, Union Attorney-General Dr Tun Shin and officials attended the signing ceremony.

Myanmar will receive US$ 4 million singature bonus for the contract and foreign oil companies are required to conduct environmental and social impact assessments before drilling. MNA
Buddhist monk, disciples donate foods to flood victims

BAGO, 11 Aug — A ceremony to donate dry rations to flood victims and poor families of Bago was held at the monastery in Shandan Ward in Bago on Sunday. Abbot of the monastery Agga Maha Gantha-vacaaka Pandita Bhaddanta Punnananda and disciples donated rice and edible oil to the flood victims and poor families.

As of 4 August, they donated rice, egg and packets of rice to flood victims in Shandan and Kyaukkyesa wards, Kalatkalay, Pyidawtha and Okpo Kyonyoe villages in the township.

So far, they have donated 150 bags of rice, over 2,500 eggs, 1,500 bottles of edible oil and over 2,000 packets of instant noodle worth K12 million to the people.—Ko Latt (Bago)

Philanthropic group refuses teaching arrangements of Mandalay Region government

MANDALAY, 11 Aug—Mandalay Region Minister for Social Affairs Dr Win Hlaing met with responsible persons from Pannya-thu teaching session at the office of Mandalay City Development Committee in Mandalay on Saturday morning, attended by Mandalay University Rector Dr Maung Thin, Mandalay Region Education Officer Dr Soe Myint Tun and media persons.

The region minister explained education tasks of the region government, informal education in the region and a plan to take responsibility for providing teaching to the children who missed the learning chance of basic education due to various reasons. The responsible persons of the teaching session said the children prefer supplies to be provided to them to pursuing education. They said that if officials teach them at the schools, school furniture may be damaged and lost. They refused offer of the region government for providing teaching arrangements for the children under shelter.

The people criticized that the persons willing to give teaching opportunities to the children should accept the offer of the region government.

Maung Pyi Thu (Mandalay)

Magway University students climb up Natayyagan Hill

Magway, 11 Aug—Magway University hicking and mountaineering team climbed up Natayyagan Hill in Ngaphe Township of Minbu District in Magway Region on Saturday.

On their way, the team comprising 185 students left Magway and donated 60 pairs of slippers, one bag of rice and Waso robes to the monastic education school in Padan Village of Ngaphe Township.

The team members could climb at the tea plantations, 4500 feet high at Natayyagan Hill.

The mountaineering team was welcomed by Rector Dr Aye Kyaw and officials on Sunday.

Nyi Min Thar

Performers to entertain globetrotters for tourism promotion in Mandalay

MANDALAY, 11 Aug — A coordination meeting on performance of Myanmar culture for attracting globetrotters and sales of Myanmar traditional foods was held at the National Theatre on 66th Street in Aungmyethazan Township of Mandalay recently.

According to the meeting, the traditional arts performances for tourism promotion and sales of Myanmar traditional foods will be held at the National Theatre in Mandalay on 17 August.

The artists will perform music of Myanmar traditional orchestra, choral dances, harp and traditional songs in addition to Anyeint troupe at the theatre from 7 pm to 8.30 pm. The entertainment will be held twice a month.

Admission fee is fixed for US$ 5 per foreigner and K1,000 per local people. The income from the performance will be shared to the maintenance fund of the theatre and to performers.

Thiha Ko Ko (Mandalay)

Dhamma Schools train students in Myingyan Township

MYINGYAN, 11 Aug—The deputy commissioner of Myingyan District and party visited Dhamma Schools opened in Myingyan of Mandalay Region on Saturday.

The Dhamma Schools were opened across the nation with the aim of enabling the youths to understand and abide by Buddhism and traditional culture based on Buddhist Sasana.

Deputy Commissioner U Myint Thin Aung and officials visited the schools in Sankyatawya Monastery inMyingyan and in Chauing-daung Village.

He gave words of encouragement to the trainees. Myingyan Township opened eight Dhamma Schools in urban area and 12 in rural area, totalling 20.

Zaw Min Naing (Myingyan)

Education promotion of basic education discussed in Mandalay

MANDALAY, 11 Aug—No 2 Department of Basic Education under the Ministry of Education held a meeting on education promotion programme and role of teacher at the hall of No 14 Basic Education High School in Chanayethazan Township of Mandalay from 9 to 11 August.

Patron of Myanmar National Education Promotion Implementation Committee U Than Oo made a speech on the occasion. The groups of the committee discussed implementa-tion for five tasks of 2014 basic education seminar, drawing the basic education plan, basic education law and education promotion programmes.

Thiha Ko Ko (Mandalay)
Cambodian PM says state’s institutions to be strengthened after opposition ends parliament boycott

Cambodian Prime Minister Hun Sen

HUN SEN, 11 Aug— Cambodian Prime Minister Hun Sen said on Monday that the state’s institutions will be further strengthened after the opposition ended a 10-months long boycott of parliament over disputed election results in July last year. “The normalcy of all state institutions in the legislative, executive and judicial bodies will be further enhanced after the opposition completely ended its parliament boycott on Friday,” he said during the graduation ceremony of 2,500 students at the Nortton University. “There is no more the words ‘one-party parliament’.” “We are happy together. It opens a new chapter to further develop the nation,” he said.

All 55 Members of Parliaments (MPs) from the opposition Cambodia National Rescue Party (CNRP) sat in the parliament with the ruling party’s 68 MPs, for the first time on Friday last week after boycotting the parliament for 10 months following a disputed election results in July last year. The opposition group ended their boycott after Prime Minister Hun Sen of the ruling party and CNRP’s president Sam Rainsy reached an agreement on 22 July. Under the deal, the CNRP will hold four of nine seats on the National Election Committee, possess the position of the first vice-president of the parliament, among other roles, and own a television channel.

During the post-election crisis, the opposition had staged many street demonstrations and led to violent clashes between demonstrators and government forces. —Xinhua

Modi to commission home-made stealth destroyer into navy this week

NEW DELHI, 11 Aug— Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi will commission a naval warship this week, local media reported on Monday. INS Kolkata, a home-made stealth destroyer, will join the Indian Navy on 16 August. It will be commissioned into the naval fleet by Modi, the reports said. The warship, with an operating range of 15,000 kms, will be the first Indian ship to be armed with anti-ship Brahmos missile, apart from an integral hanger and a landing deck for a helicopter.

Two months back, the prime minister had commissioned India’s biggest warship, the aircraft carrier INS Vikramaditya, into the Indian Navy. —Xinhua

US to monitor South China Sea, talks with Australia on regional defence

SYDNEY, 11 Aug— The United States will monitor actions in the South China Sea to see whether “deescalate steps” are being taken, a senior State Department official said on Monday, a day after Beijing repelled US pressure to rein in its actions in the disputed waters.

The official spoke as US Secretary of State John Kerry arrived in Sydney for a meeting with Defence Secretary Chuck Hagel and Australian officials to discuss increased defence and cyber security cooperation.

A US proposal for a freeze on provocative acts in the South China Sea got a cool response from China and some Southeast Asian nations at a regional meeting at the weekend, an apparent setback to Washington’s efforts to thwart China’s assertive actions.

The state department official, speaking on condition of anonymity, said that close ally Australia had supported a US proposal put forward at the ASEAN meeting in Myanmar which called for a voluntary freeze on provocative actions in the disputed sea.

Tensions spiked in May when China parked a giant oil rig in waters claimed by Vietnam. The US and Philippine proposals aimed to prevent such actions, as well as building and land reclamation work on disputed islands being carried out by China and other claimants.

The rancour over the disputed sea has split ASEAN, with several states including some of the claimant nations reluctant to jeopardize rising trade and investment ties with China. Beijing has been able to use its influence to block regional action on the maritime issue, most notably in 2012 when an ASEAN meeting chaired by Chinese ally Cambodia broke down in acrimony.

Kerry and Australian Foreign Minister Julie Bishop attended the Nay Pyi Taw meeting before traveling to Australia together. The pair planned to explore follow up actions to the Myanmar talks including an upcoming meeting between ASEAN members and China, the official said. Bishop is hosting the annual Australia-United States Ministerial Consultations (AUSMIN) in Sydney, where defence and security cooperation is expected to be high on the agenda along with developments in Iraq and Ukraine.

Talks will include discussions on cooperation in ballistic missile defence, cyber security and maritime security, the official added. — Reuters
Ukrainian forces encircle rebel-held city, talk of truce collapses

Kiev / Donetsk (Ukraine), 11 Aug — Artillery shells slammed into the outskirts of the Ukrainian city of Donetsk on Sunday as government forces tightened the noose around the rebel-held redoubt and called on pro-Russian separatists to surrender.

To the east of Donetsk, government forces and the separatists were fighting for control of the town of Krasny Luch, a rail and road junction through which Kiev says the rebels are receiving supplies of Russian military equipment.

Talk of a ceasefire, a possibility raised by a separatist leader on Saturday, evaporated as Kiev government forces kept up an offensive to crush the rebels.

Ukrainian military spokesman Andriy Lysenko said if the rebels wanted a ceasefire this meant “raising white flags and putting down their guns”.

There would be no truce while the Ukrainian army continued “punitive” military action, the rebels retorted in a statement.

Donetsk, a major industrial hub in Ukraine’s Russian-speaking east, resonated with the crash of shells on its outskirts for about eight hours up to mid-day on Sunday, a Reuters witness in the town said. In the city’s northern district of Putlivka, a building housing the offices of Ukrtelecom telecommunications company was ablaze, apparently hit by a shell.

Residents had come out to watch, while one man was putting up corrugated metal to protect the windows of his home.

Lysenko said in the past 24 hours, the military had “continued successful offensive operations, considerably tightening the circle around the capital of the Donbass, Donetsk”.

He added: “The (separatist) fighters are in panic and chaos. There are numerous cases of desertion among the terrorists.” Neither he nor the rebels gave any indication of casualties in the fighting over the weekend.

A statement on the Facebook page of rebel commander Igor Girkin, known as Strelov (The Shooter), said: “They have been bombing all morning. There are explosions, some close, some far off. There is news coming in all the time by phone. Just now, we had a fire near hospital No 18, a woman has been killed…”

Accusing the Ukrainians of maintaining “punitive” operations that endangered the people in Donetsk and threatened a humanitarian catastrophe, a later rebel statement said: “As long as the Ukrainian army is continuing military action there can be no ceasefire.”

Ukraine and its Western allies accuse Russia of orchestrating the separatist revolt which erupted in April after Russia’s annexation of Ukraine’s Crimea peninsula.

It says Russia is funneling tanks and missile systems to the rebels, who have declared independent “people’s republics” in the two main industrial regions. Moscow denies involvement.

Donetsk, a once bustling metropolis of nearly one million people, is facing an increasing shortage of food, water and electricity. Few people are on the streets, though groups of armed separatist fighters can be seen, and few cars. Most people are staying indoors or have left the city for the countryside.

Most shops are closed but the municipal authorities said bakeries were still producing bread despite a lack of electricity.

Fuel supplies had run out and few chemists are operating. Banks are closed and pensions and social allowances are not being paid.— Reuters

Iraqi Shi’ite coalition close to nominating prime minister

Baghdad, 11 Aug — A bloc comprising Iraq’s biggest Shi’ite parties is close to nominating a prime minister, the deputy speaker of parliament said on Monday, directly challenging Nuri al-Maliki who has refused to give up his bid for a third term.

Haider al-Abadi’s comments in a tweet came after police sources said special forces and Shi’ite militias loyal to Maliki had been deployed in strategic areas of Baghdad after he made a defiant speech on television suggesting he would not cave in to pressure to drop his bid for the job.

Maliki accused Iraq’s Kurdish President Fuad Masum of violating the constitution by missing a deadline for him to ask the biggest political bloc to nominate a prime minister and form a government.

“I will submit today an official complaint to the federal court against the president of the Republic for committing a clear constitutional violation for the sake of political calculations,” Maliki said in the televised speech. Serving in a caretaker capacity since an inconclusive election in April, Maliki has defied calls by Sunni, Kurds, some fellow Shi’ites, regional power broker Iran and Iraq’s top cleric to step aside for a less polarising figure.— Reuters

Kurdish Workers Party (PKK) fighters participate in an intensive security deployment against Islamic State (IS) militants on the front line in Makmur on 9 Aug, 2014.— Reuters

Riot erupts following shooting death of unarmed black teen in Missouri

Washington, 11 Aug — Rioting and looting erupted in Ferguson, Missouri, late on Sunday as protests over the killing of a black teenager by a police officer turned violent, law enforcement officials and media reports said.

Crowds broke the windows of cars and stores following a day of demonstrations over the death of Michael Brown, an unarmed 18-year-old shot dead on Saturday by a Ferguson police officer.

“We are currently experiencing a riot,” a Ferguson police dispatcher said.

About 150 officers in riot gear from throughout St. Louis County, along with canine units, were sent to the area, a dispatcher for the St Louis County Police Department said.

There was no immediately word on injuries. Police said Brown was shot after a struggle over a gun in a police car. It was not immediately clear why Brown was in the car. At least one shot was fired during the struggle, and then the officer fired more shots before leaving the car. The officer, who was not identified, is a six-year veteran and has been put on administrative leave, St. Louis County Police Chief Jon Belmar told a news conference.

“It is our understanding at this point in the investigation, that within the police car, there was a struggle over the officer’s weapon,” Belmar said.

Protests erupted soon after the shooting in Ferguson, a town of about 23,000 people some 20 miles (32 km) north of St Louis. Some demonstrators shouted “kill the police”. Sunday’s protests turned violent after dark, according to news station KMOV-TV, with rioters smashing the window of a store and damaging cars.— Reuters
Israel, Palestinians launch new three-day truce

Gaza / Jerusalem, 11 Aug — Israel and the Palestini-ans held their fire ear-ly on Monday at the start of a new 72-hour ceasefire proposed by Egypt that took effect at 2100 GMT. There were no imme-diately reports of breaches of the ceasefire although Hamas claimed it fired roc-kets as far as the Tel Aviv area on Monday for the first time since a previous truce expired on Friday, just minutes before the new truce took hold. The Israeli military had no comment but Israeli media said a rocket exploded in an open area in the Tel Aviv metropolitan area and at least two other rockets were intercept-ed in a town just south of that region. A senior Israeli government official said on Sunday Israeli negotia-tors would return to Cairo to resume indirect talks with the Palestinians, if the truce held, also confirming the Jewish state had accepted Egypt’s proposal for the new truce. The Israeli team had flown home on Friday when the sides failed to reach a deal to prolong a previous three-day truce, and hostili-ties in the month-old con-flict resumed. A Hamas official said Palestinian factions had accepted Egypt’s call and that the Cairo talks would continue. Hamas spokes-man Sami Abu Zuhri said that these new negotiations would be “the last chance” for a deal. Egypt’s Foreign Minis-try urged “both sides to exploit this truce to re-sume indirect negotiations immediately and work towards a comprehensive and lasting ceasefire agree-ment”.

The new truce won the praise of United Nations Secretary General Ban Ki-moon who, in a statement, urged both sides to “avoid any steps which would lead to a return to violence.” Ban expressed a “strong hope” the truce might lead to a “durable ceasefire for the benefit of all civilian populations and as a starting point to ad-dress the underlying griev-ances on both sides.”

Hamas has demanded an end to Israeli and Egypti-an blockade of the coastal territory and the open-ing of a Gaza seaport — a project Israel says should be dealt with only in any future talks on a permanent peace deal with the Palestin-i ans.

Israel air strikes and shelling on Sunday killed nine Palestinians in Gaza, in cluding a boy aged 14 and a woman, medics said, in a third day of renewed fighting since the last truce ended.

One air strike de-stroyed the home of Gaza City’s mayor, Nizar Hijazi, across the street from the Reuters bureau where reporters and cameramen hit the floor as the explo-sion occurred. There were no casualties in the attack because Israel telephoned warnings to residents in the house and neighbour-ing buildings.

The Israeli military said it targeted 11 “terror squads” in Gaza, among them gunmen involved in or preparing to fire rock-ets.— Reuters

Palestinians react as they put out a fire in an apartment which witnesses said was hit by an Israeli air strike in Beit Lahiya in the northern Gaza Strip on 10 Aug, 2014.— Reuters

A new publication from the United Nations shows that 20 per cent of the world’s young people experience a mental health condition each year. The risks are especially great as they transition from childhood to adulthood. Stigma and shame often compound the problems prevent-ing them from seeking the support they need. For this year’s observance of International Youth Day, the United Nations wants to help lift the veil that keeps young people locked in a chamber of isolation and silence.

The barriers can be overwhelming, particularly in countries where the issue of mental health is ignored and there is a lack of investment in mental health services. Too often, owing to neglect and irrational fear, persons with mental health conditions are marginalized not only from having a role in the design and implementation of development policies and programmes but even from ba-sic care. This leaves them even more vulnerable to poverty, vi-lence and social exclusion, and has a negative impact on society as whole.

Young people who are already considered vulnera-ble, such as homeless youth, those involved in the juvenile justice system, orphaned youth and those having ex-perienced conflict situations, are often more susceptible to stigma and other barriers, leaving them even more adrift when they are most in need of support. Let us remem-ber that with understanding and assistance, these young people can flourish, making valuable contributions to our collective future.

We have just about 500 days to reach the Millennium Development Goals. We must support all young people, especially those who are vulnerable, to succeed in this his-toric campaign.

Wide-ranging efforts at all levels are needed to raise awareness about the importance of investing in and sup-porting young people with mental health conditions. In-creased education is crucial in reducing stigma and in changing how we talk about and perceive mental health.

Mental health is how we feel; it is our emotions and well-being. We all need to take care of our mental health so that we lead satisfying lives. Let us begin to talk about our mental-health in the same way we talk about our over-all health.

As we mark International Youth Day 2014, let us enable youth with mental health conditions to realize their full potential, and let us show that mental health matters to us all.

**Human Rights Watch executive director, other member, denied entry to Egypt**

Kenneth Roth, Executive Director of Human Rights Watch speaks during a keynote panel discussion at the Internation-al CTIA wireless industry conference in Orlando, Florida on 24 March, 2011. REUTERS

Tokyo, 11 Aug — Japan will move forward with strong determination to relocate the US Marine Corps’ Futenma Air Sta-tion in Okinawa to a less populated coastal area within the prefecture as planned, Chief Cabinet Secretary Yoshihide Suga said on Monday.

He made the remark in a meeting in Tokyo with Howard McKeon, chairman of the US House Armed Services Com-mittee, and McKeon wel-comed the Japanese govern-ment’s stance, Japanese of-ficials said.

McKeon also ex-pressed strong support for Japan when Suga explained Prime Minister Shinzo Abe’s attempt to make the country a proactive contrib-utor to peace and his Cabi-net’s decision to allow Ja-pan to exercise the right to collective self-defence, the of-ficials said. The two also confirmed that the United States and Japan will con-tinue to work closely amid an increasingly severe se-curity environment in the Asia-Pacific region, ac-cording to the of-ficials.

Last December, Okinawa Gov Hirokazu Nakaima approved landfill work to build a replace-ment facility in the Henoko district of Nago to accom-modate the functions of the US air base in Ginowan amid strong local opposition.— Kyodo News

Japan determined to go ahead with US base relocation plan

Japan will move forward with strong determination to relocate the US Marine Corps’ Futenma Air Station in Okinawa to a less populated coastal area within the prefecture as planned, Chief Cabinet Secretary Yoshihide Suga said on Monday.

He made the remark in a meeting in Tokyo with Howard McKeon, chairman of the US House Armed Services Com-mittee, and McKeon wel-comed the Japanese govern-ment’s stance, Japanese of-ficials said.

McKeon also ex-pressed strong support for Japan when Suga explained Prime Minister Shinzo Abe’s attempt to make the country a proactive contrib-utor to peace and his Cabi-net’s decision to allow Ja-pan to exercise the right to collective self-defence, the of-ficials said. The two also confirmed that the United States and Japan will con-tinue to work closely amid an increasingly severe se-curity environment in the Asia-Pacific region, ac-cording to the of-ficials.

Last December, Okinawa Gov Hirokazu Nakaima approved landfill work to build a replace-ment facility in the Henoko district of Nago to accom-modate the functions of the US air base in Ginowan amid strong local opposition.— Kyodo News

A new publication from the United Nations shows that 20 per cent of the world’s young people experience a mental health condition each year. The risks are especially great as they transition from childhood to adulthood. Stigma and shame often compound the problems prevent-ing them from seeking the support they need. For this year’s observance of International Youth Day, the United Nations wants to help lift the veil that keeps young people locked in a chamber of isolation and silence.

The barriers can be overwhelming, particularly in countries where the issue of mental health is ignored and there is a lack of investment in mental health services. Too often, owing to neglect and irrational fear, persons with mental health conditions are marginalized not only from having a role in the design and implementation of development policies and programmes but even from ba-sic care. This leaves them even more vulnerable to poverty, vi-lence and social exclusion, and has a negative impact on society as whole.

Young people who are already considered vulnera-ble, such as homeless youth, those involved in the juvenile justice system, orphaned youth and those having ex-perienced conflict situations, are often more susceptible to stigma and other barriers, leaving them even more adrift when they are most in need of support. Let us remem-ber that with understanding and assistance, these young people can flourish, making valuable contributions to our collective future.

We have just about 500 days to reach the Millennium Development Goals. We must support all young people, especially those who are vulnerable, to succeed in this his-toric campaign.

Wide-ranging efforts at all levels are needed to raise awareness about the importance of investing in and sup-porting young people with mental health conditions. In-creased education is crucial in reducing stigma and in changing how we talk about and perceive mental health.

Mental health is how we feel; it is our emotions and well-being. We all need to take care of our mental health so that we lead satisfying lives. Let us begin to talk about our mental-health in the same way we talk about our over-all health.

As we mark International Youth Day 2014, let us enable youth with mental health conditions to realize their full potential, and let us show that mental health matters to us all.
A study of scientists has found that although the brains of older people are slowing down, they possess many experiences and knowledge that can help them make better decisions in daily life. A research has revealed that the older group of aged between 60 and 82 fare better than younger counterparts of 18 to 29 in economic tests. Although the younger generations have easy access to information technology that helps them acquire global knowledge, the older ones have their own experience in facing challenges.

Some developing countries are now passing laws to increase the minimum retirement age of people, intending to allow older people who have professional skills continue to work until later in life, especially in leadership roles. Without being brushed aside, the talent and wisdom of older people should be brought into modern times. But their contributions should be supported with modern technology.

The combination of experience of older people and the modern education of younger adults could overcome many difficulties. Young people should have knowledge to understand the physical and mental problems of the senior citizens in working together with them.

Many older people have experienced economic crises, political turmoil and natural disasters in life. On many occasions, they could provide a lot of valuable advice to tackle problems. Experience is the best teacher, whose lessons are very practical for us.

The older, the wiser
By Aung Khin

A hundred ducks and a lone hyacinth. She is jostled and kicked but holds her lips tight and keeps wearing her flower.

We managed to take moral lessons from books throughout our lives. From the literatures we read, we learnt to love heroes and men of power, and simultaneously we learnt to hate villains and mischievous people. Biographies and auto-biographies inspired us to emulate them. Detective stories gave us sense of reasoning and different lines of reasoning. And it taught us that crime does not pay. What was conceived in our minds was that violation of the law would lead us to being punished for sure. Most parents did not encourage their children to read love stories, regarding these as a forbidden literature. But reading this kind of book was a thing of the past for nearly all of us in our younger days. These novels mostly made us love to read books, and they gave us tender feelings. It is just a matter of time before the world comes to extinction if we are void of love. Nowadays, there is a place which attracts most of the populace. It is none other than TV channels that are broadcasting foreign, especially Korean movies. Most of us are the language literates, so we can enjoy the movies by courtesy of Myanmar subtitles. We select our favorites.

When the time comes, we automatically seat ourselves before televisions. We cannot deny that TV audiences outnumbered literature readers presently. Generally speaking, we like these movies for many features—their plots, characters, settings, themes, etc. Their dialogues are also good. In translating a foreign movie into our mother tongue, a translator plays an important role. Some were amazingly good at rendering because of their excellent bi-lingual knowledge while some seemed to be less arduous in their works. Sometimes we find it difficult to translate humorous dialogues into our own. It may be attributed to the difference of cultures and traditions between the languages. For example, generally we know that anatomy is defined as the scientific study of the structure of human or animal bodies. Just by seeing the sentence, “Various parts of his anatomy were clearly visible”, we cannot feel the sense of humor in it. Anatomists also deal with different parts of the body. So as to be able to give the readers sense of humor, we need to search for the same word in our tongue. Once, it was heard that it took Sayar Mya Than Tint several days to find a Myanmar word for the word, “plump”. This depicts Sayar’s Cetana towards his readers. Here I would like to advise our translators of youth to read books, magazines, journals and newspapers written in our own language as many as possible. In my opinion, the entertainment media will give effectiveness to our Myanmar literature development, to some extent.

As the penultimate conclusion, let me say a little about the poetic license. Poetic license is defined as the freedom to change facts, the normal rules of language, etc. in a special piece of writing or speech in order to achieve a particular effect. Sometimes we use poetic license to embroider an interesting story but we need to be free from a hint of grudge and envy. In the world of Myanmar literature, there were many literary works which were tremendously remarkable for their skillful use of poetic license. So far, we cherish a liking for our favorites. How influential they are.

Ultimately, as a layman, I want to apologize authorities, literary experts, writers, financially reliable entrepreneurs who are eager to support for public welfare, non-governmental organizations, academicians, teachers and all interested persons to actively take part in launching the campaign for the continual progress of our Myanmar language and literature.

May our literature live long forever!
Mandalay, 11 Aug—Mandalay based Indian Consulate-General and No 2 Department of Basic Education jointly organized the Myanmar-India cultural exchange and friendly dancing contest in commemoration of the 67th Anniversary Independence Day of the Republic of India at the National Theatre on 66th Street in Aungmyethazan Township of Mandalay on Sunday.

Director U Than Aung Kyi of Fine Arts Department and the Indian Consul-General lit the oil lamps at the opening ceremony.

The contest was supervised by Staff Officers Daw Nyo Nyo Win and Daw Sein Poe Ti of Fine Arts Department.

The Indian Consul-General and officials presented prizes to the winners in the dancing contest.

Thiha Ko Ko (Mandalay)

Mandalay, 11 Aug—A Karaweik floating hotel is under construction near the dockyard of Inland Water Transport on the strand road in Chanayetazan Township of Mandalay.

Construction of the hotel started in early 2014. So far, the building has been completed by 80 per cent. GC Myanmar Company is building the hotel with the aim of enabling the globetrotters to enjoy scenic beauty of Mandalay, Sagaing, Mingun, Shwekyeteyet jetty, and pagodas on Minwun mountain range.

The rooms of the hotel are being decorated with Myanmar handicrafts. The upstairs of the hotel will be hall type as the view desk to enjoy the beach beauty of Ayeyawady River.

Members of the Sangha from four corners of Mandalay were invited on board to recite Maha Pathana treatise on Sunday.

Maung Pyi Thu (Mandalay)

Mawlamyine, 11 Aug—A total of 10,503 acres of paddy fields were flooded in heavy rains on 6 and 7 August in Kyaikto, Bilin and Thaton Townships of Mon State.

On 8 August, the flood subsided from 10,174 acres of farmlands.

Mon State Agriculture and Livestock Breeding U Myo Nyunt, Head of Mon State Agricultural Mechanization Department U Maung Maung Hsan and party met local farmers from Naingpun and Thittokyun village of Bilin Township on 8 August to provide necessary assistance for timely cultivation of monsoon paddy and other crops on the flooded lands.

Officials pledged to give agricultural machinery, quality paddy seeds and fertilizers to the farmers for their cultivation.

A total of 20 tractors from Agricultural Mechanization Department are ready to be used in ploughing of farmlands in Naingpun Village of Bilin Township.

Min Min Latt (Physics)

Mawlamyine, 11 Aug—A total of 10.503 acres of paddy fields were flooded in heavy rains on 6 and 7 August in Kyaikto, Bilin and Thaton Townships of Mon State.

On 8 August, the flood subsided from 10,174 acres of farmlands.

Mon State Agriculture and Livestock Breeding U Myo Nyunt, Head of Mon State Agricultural Mechanization Department U Maung Maung Hsan and party met local farmers from Naingpun and Thittokyun village of Bilin Township on 8 August to provide necessary assistance for timely cultivation of monsoon paddy and other crops on the flooded lands.

Officials pledged to give agricultural machinery, quality paddy seeds and fertilizers to the farmers for their cultivation.

A total of 20 tractors from Agricultural Mechanization Department are ready to be used in ploughing of farmlands in Naingpun Village of Bilin Township.

Min Min Latt (Physics)
Theme: PEOPLE & GOVERNMENT

BEIJING, 11 Aug—The People’s Liberation Army (PLA) and armed police have been urged to support and implement major reforms to the defence system and the armed forces that are critical to improve the military’s war capacity. The PLA General Political Department has issued a circular on the issue, urging the military and armed police to contribute to the reforms, according to a report by Monday’s PLA Daily.

It said soldiers and officers should carefully study and implement the policies and directives of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of China (CPC), the Central Military Commission and its Chairman Xi Jinping. The military should understand that the reforms are needed to ensure the army is capable of fighting and winning in modern warfare, to break current constraints on military development and to increase military preparedness, the report said, quoting the circular.

“The absolute leadership by the CPC over the armed forces must be upheld,” said the circular, adding that the reforms should be carried out without prejudice to the army’s original nature and purpose.

The circular stressed that the military reforms should focus on enhancing the army’s capability to fight and win battles. Special efforts should be made to reform the system of command, optimize the army’s size and structure and more closely integrate the army with civilians. The document warned that the overhaul may touch on deep-seated interests and structural problems in the national defence and military systems. “Individuals should be amenable to the comprehensive interests of the entire army and adapt to the changes,” the circular urged.

It urged military personnel to “resolutely oppose misconceptions that may confuse or disturb the reform efforts.” The military should “always be vigilant and staunch on political issues and strictly abide by disciplines regarding politics, organization and secrecy.”

The military should be amenable to the comprehensive interests of the entire army and adapt to the changes, the circular said. The reforms should not be confused with the army’s original nature and purpose. The reforms should be carried out without prejudice to the army’s original nature and purpose.

The circular also told soldiers and officers not to comment or spread hearsay on such matters. In a key policy document approved by the landmark Third Plenary Session of the 18th CPC Central Committee last year, the CPC vowed to advance reforms and strive to clear obstacles hindering the development of national defence and the army.

S Korea offers high-level talks with N Korea on 19 August

SEOUL, 11 Aug—South Korea on Monday made an offer to North Korea to hold a second round of high-level talks on 19 August at the truce village of Panmunjom, according to South Korea’s Unification Ministry. The offer for the talks, the first round of which was held in February, was conveyed to the North earlier Monday, the ministry said in a statement.

As for the date for the talks, it said South Korea prefers 19 August but is open to accepting a different date that suits the North.

“Our side told the North in the message we want to use the talks to discuss matters of mutual interest, including arranging the reunions of separated families around Chuseok holiday or (Korean Thanksgiving holiday),” the ministry said. The Chuseok holiday falls on 8 September this year.

The two Koreas agreed in the first round of the high-level talks to hold an additional round of the family reunions, and also to stop acts of vilifying each other to pave the way for a second round. But the two sides have so far failed to convene the second round due to heightened tensions on the Korean Peninsula. At the first round, Kim Kyu Hyan, chief of the secretariat of South Korea’s National Security Council, headed Seoul’s delegation while his counterpart was Won Dong Yon, vice director of the United Front Department of North Korea’s ruling party.

Since the two Koreas first arranged temporary reunions after the landmark inter-Korean summit in 2000, more than 20,000 family members who had not seen each other since the war have been brought together.

The two Koreas agreed in the first round of the high-level talks to hold an additional round of the family reunions, and also to stop acts of vilifying each other to pave the way for a second round. But the two sides have so far failed to convene the second round due to heightened tensions on the Korean Peninsula. At the first round, Kim Kyu Hyan, chief of the secretariat of South Korea’s National Security Council, headed Seoul’s delegation while his counterpart was Won Dong Yon, vice director of the United Front Department of North Korea’s ruling party.

Since the two Koreas first arranged temporary reunions after the landmark inter-Korean summit in 2000, more than 20,000 family members who had not seen each other since the war have been brought together. The two Koreas agreed in the first round of the high-level talks to hold an additional round of the family reunions, and also to stop acts of vilifying each other to pave the way for a second round. But the two sides have so far failed to convene the second round due to heightened tensions on the Korean Peninsula. At the first round, Kim Kyu Hyan, chief of the secretariat of South Korea’s National Security Council, headed Seoul’s delegation while his counterpart was Won Dong Yon, vice director of the United Front Department of North Korea’s ruling party.

Since the two Koreas first arranged temporary reunions after the landmark inter-Korean summit in 2000, more than 20,000 family members who had not seen each other since the war have been brought together.

People pose for photos during the Dominican Day Parade in New York, the United States, 10 Aug, 2014. Dominican Day is a festive occasion celebrating Dominican tradition, heritage and folklore in the streets of New York.—Xinhua
China to test recoverable moon orbiter

BEIJING, 11 Aug — China is preparing for the launch of an experimental recoverable moon orbiter, said the State Administration of Science, Technology and Industry for National Defence on Sunday.

The orbiter arrived in Xichang via air in south-west China’s Sichuan Province on Sunday and then transported to the Xichang Satellite Launch Centre, according to a statement from the administration.

The launch will take place before the end of this year, it said.

The plan is for the orbiter to launch into lunar orbit and return to Earth at an escape velocity of 11.2 km per second.

The orbiter is one of the test missions for China’s new lunar probe Chang’e-5, which will be tasked with landing on the moon, collecting samples and returning to Earth.

The launch is aimed at testing the technologies that are vital for the success of Chang’e-5, the statement said.

China launched the Chang’e-3 lunar orbiter with its moon rover, Yutu, in late 2013. Chang’e-3 successfully landed on the moon and Yutu operated well until its control mechanism failed in January.

As the backup probe of Chang’e-3, Chang’e-4 will be adapted to verify technologies for Chang’e-5.

The more sophisticated Chang’e-5 mission, including unmanned sampling, rendezvous and docking in lunar orbit, as well as high-speed Earth reentry, is planned. — Xinhua

Amazon stops some Disney movie preorders — WSJ

NEW YORK, 11 Aug — Amazon Inc (AMZN.O) has halted pre-orders of some Disney movies, the Wall Street Journal reported, in what appears to be another contractual dispute after the online retailer began a protracted spat with publisher Hachette Book Group this year.

Physical copies of titles such as “Maleficent” and “Captain America: The Winter Soldier” were unavailable for order on Amazon.com on Sunday. Digital copies of some of the movies in question were still available for pre-order.

Amazon.com did not immediately respond to a request seeking comment on the report. A Disney spokesman had no comment.

Amazon has been waging a battle against Hachette, the fourth-largest US book publisher, over the price the online retailer can charge for e-books. Hachette is owned by France’s Lagardere.

A group called Authors United ran a two-page ad in the New York Times on Sunday, criticizing Amazon for halting pre-orders from some Hachette authors and slowing delivery of books by Hachette authors. The ad was signed by more than 900 writers, including Stephen King and Donna Tartt.

In response, Amazon’s Books Team ran a message on a website (www.readersunited.com) on Friday evening reiterating its arguments for cheaper ebooks, and suggested people email Hachette CEO Michael Pietsch. The company published Pietsch’s email address and listed key points people might want to make.

[ID:nL2N0QF0FJ]

Pietsch replied to every individual who emailed him saying that the dispute started because Amazon is seeking a lot more profit and even more market share at the expense of authors, bookstores and Hachette.

“Both Hachette and Amazon are big businesses and neither should claim a monopoly on enlightenment, but we do believe in a book industry where talent is respected and choice continues to be offered to the reading public,” Pietsch wrote on Sunday, a copy of which was emailed to

“Naked PCs’ lay bare Microsoft’s emerging markets problem

SAN FRANCISCO, 11 Aug — On a trip to Beijing a decade ago, Bill Gates was asked by a senior government official how much money Microsoft Corp made in China. The official asked the interpreter to double check Gates’ reply as he couldn’t believe the figure was so low.

It’s a problem that hasn’t gone away. Indeed, Microsoft’s current issues in China conceal a deeper problem for the US software giant — despite the popularity of its Windows operating system and Office suite, few people in emerging markets are willing to pay for legitimate copies.

This not only costs Microsoft in lost revenue, but is also holding back the spread of its Windows 8.1 version — analysts say even buyers of pirate software prefer older versions. According to StatCounter, a website that tracks what software is loaded on Internet-connected computers, more than 90 percent of PCs in China — now the world’s biggest market — are running pre-8 versions of Windows.

Microsoft is trying to tackle this. This year it’s offering Windows 8 at a discount to PC manufacturers who install its Bing search engine as the default search engine. It’s also giving away Windows 8 phones and some tablets.

But, as the industry shifts from desktop to mobile, the cloud and free or cheap software, China sums up both the old and new challenges Microsoft faces in emerging markets — and, increasingly, in developed ones.

“The great danger for the company is that what has happened to them in emerging markets — basically no revenue from new PCs because of piracy — is not far off what’s happening everywhere,” said Ben Thompson, the Taiwan-based author of stratechery.com, a popular technology blog.

For sure, China is a major, and unique, headache for Microsoft. Many of the problems are tied to the Chinese government’s solicitude for foreign firms’ dominance and encourage local technology firms to become viable competitors.

But the spats mask the fact that Microsoft has never really cracked how to get people in emerging markets to pay for its software. The company rarely breaks out revenues by geography, but it has provided clues about the size of the problem.

In 2011, then CEO Steve Ballmer reportedly told employees that, because of piracy, Microsoft earned less revenue in China than it did in the Netherlands — with 1 percent of its population — even though China bought as many computers as the United States.

According to the BSA anti-piracy lobby group that Microsoft co-founded, emerging markets account for 56 percent of all PCs in use, and 73 percent of software piracy. Of the $77.8 billion revenue Microsoft generated in its 2013 financial year, China, Brazil and Russia each “exceeded” $1 billion, according to a Microsoft presentation. For comparison, Apple Inc generated $27 billion in Greater China, which includes Hong Kong and Taiwan, in its 2013 financial year.

Reuters
Hillary Clinton distances herself from Obama’s foreign policy

WASHINGTON, 11 Aug — Distancing herself from President Barack Obama’s foreign policy, potential 2016 US presidential candidate Hillary Clinton said in an interview published on Sunday that the US decision not to intervene early in the Syrian civil war was a “failure.”

Republican critics and others have faulted Obama for doing too little to support Syrians who rose up against President Bashar al-Assad. Syria has been torn apart by a civil war for three years, with Assad staying in power and Islamic militants among the opposition gaining strength.

“The failure to build up a credible fighting force of the people who were the originators of the protests against Assad — there were Islamists, there were secularists, there was everything in the middle — the failure to do that left a big vacuum, which the jihadists have now filled,” Clinton said in an interview with The Atlantic.

Clinton was Obama’s secretary of state during his first term as president, stepping down in early 2013, so she was part of the administration during the start of the Syria uprising. Seen as a possible strong contender for the 2016 US Democratic presidential nomination, she ran unsuccessfully against Obama for the party’s nomination in 2008.

Asked about Obama’s slogan of “Don’t do stupid stuff” to describe his foreign policy thinking, Clinton said, “Great nations need organizing principles, and ‘Don’t do stupid stuff’ is not an organizing principle.” In the interview, Clinton also offered strong support for Israel and Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu, who has a tense relationship with Obama.

Israel has drawn international condemnation for the deaths of Palestinian non-combatants in Gaza and the destruction of thousands of homes during its month of war with the Islamist movement Hamas. The Obama administration, while supporting Israel’s right to defend itself, has rebuked Israel at least once during the current conflict over the deaths of civilians.

“I think Israel did what it had to do to respond to (the Hamas) rockets. Israel has a right to defend itself. The steps Hamas has taken to embed rockets and command and control facilities and tunnel entrances in civilian areas, this makes a response by Israel difficult,” Clinton said.

Questioned about whether Israel has taken enough steps to prevent the deaths of civilians including children, Clinton said the United States also tries to be careful to avoid civilian casualties in war but sometimes mistakes are made.

“We’ve made them. I don’t know a nation, no matter what its values are — and I think that democratic nations have demonstrably better values in a conflict position — that hasn’t made errors, but ultimately the responsibility rests with Hamas,” Clinton added.—Reuters

Hillary Clinton

Drecun: Pristina should form its gov’t as soon as possible

NOVAK, 11 Aug — Chairman of the Serbian parliament’s Committee for Kosovo-Metohija (KIM) Milovan Drecun said on Sunday that it was necessary for the executive government in Pristina to be set up as soon as possible, as it was vital for the creation of the community of Serb municipalities (ZSO) and continuation of the Brussels process.

“For us it is most important that the executive power is formed as soon as possible, so that we can finalize the creation of the community of Serb municipalities, as the ZSO is the condition of all conditions for a promising future of the Serb people in Kosovo-Metohija and long-term sustainability of a policy pursued by Serbia in our southern province,” Drecun said for Novi Sad-based daily Dnevnik. Drecun said that every delay in setting up the government in Pristina was putting the realization of that objective, the central element of the Brussels agreement, fundamentally out of reach.

Expressing his confidence that the ethnic Albanians would soon reach an agreement between them on the government creation following the 8 June Kosovo election, Drecun stressed that if the KIM Serbs would “definitely be part of the executive power in Pristina, not just because it is guaranteed by the constitution there or because the EU will insist on that, but also because of the fact that it is important for their voice to be clearly heard there.”

Drecun pointed out that the creation of the executive power in Pristina was a necessary condition for a discussion about “the format of the continuation of the Brussels process,” adding that “as long as the government is not formed there, the normalization of relations cannot be taken forward and no new topics can be opened.” Speaking about a possible change of the model of dialogue, Drecun stressed that Serbia’s key requirement remained that the dialogue had to be status-neutral.

Erdogan wins Turkey’s 1st presidential election

CAIRO, 11 Aug — Recep Tayyip Erdogan won Turkey’s first direct presidential election on Sunday after serving as prime minister for more than a decade.

With 100 percent of the votes counted, the 60-year-old from the ruling AK Party won a victory by securing 51.96 percent of the vote, according to unofficial results reported by the state-run Anadolu news agency. Erdogan has enjoyed strong public support as he has ushered in a period of economic prosperity since becoming premier in 2003. But critics see him as an increasingly autocratic leader. He has set his sights on serving two five-year presidential terms to stay in power past 2023.

Parliament had selected the head of state but this was changed under a law pushed through by Erdogan’s government.

Ekmeleddin Ihsano glu, the joint candidate of Turkey’s two largest opposition parties, claimed 38.33 percent of the vote, while Selahattin Demirtas — candidate of the pro-Kurdish Peoples’ Democracy Party — won 9.71 percent, according to Anadolu.—Kyodo News

At least 5 killed in police chase in Texas

HOUSTON, 11 Aug — A car escaping police chase at a speed as fast as 160 km per hour slammed into another vehicle and hit a utility pole in a Texas city Sunday night, leaving at least five people dead and a community without power, local media reported.

The chase began in League city, some 40 km southeast of Houston, on Sunday night when an officer tried to pull over a Dodge Durango because the driver was swerving and not using headlights, the Houston Chronicle reported.

The car hit a vehicle, resumed its way into another road where the driver ran onto a stop sign and slammed into another SUV. It then proceeded to hit a utility pole, knocking power out in the area. Nobody in neither the SUV nor the Dodge survived the crash. At least five people were killed, and it’s not immediately known how many people were inside each car.

The stretch of the road was closed to all traffic as authorities were investigating at the scene. It’s not clear if alcohol caused the accident.

Xinhua

Supporters of Turkey’s Prime Min ister Tayyip Erdogan celebrate his election victory in front of the party head-quarters in Ankara on 10 Aug, 2014.

KYODO NEWS
Two sides were going on until Monday morning, officials said. The wounded border guards and civilians were admitted to Government Medical College hospital in Jammu.

According to India’s official broadcaster All India Radio (AIR), BSF retaliated to Pakistani firing with equal caliber weapons.

The firing created panic among the villagers situated near Arnia sector after some mortars fell in residential areas, locals said.

Pakistan said on Monday a woman was killed and two others were wounded after Indian border guards resorted to unprovoked firing in Charwah sector near Sialkote. According to Pakistan’s official broadcaster Radio Pakistan, Pakistan Rangers effectively responded to Indian BSF fire.

“Indian forces restored unprovoked firing in Charwah sector near Sialkot working boundary today morning that resulted in killing of one woman and wounding two other persons,” Radio Pakistan said.

India last month said it has deployed nearly 2000 additional border guards of BSF and special surveillance equipment along the IB in the aftermath of fresh exchanges for effective domination of the areas.

On Friday, Pakistan Rangers on Friday returned to India the captured Indian border guard, who had been swept away to Pakistani side after being captured by Indian BSF along the IB in the aftermath of fresh exchanges for effective domination of the areas.

Local fishermen have yet to be formally briefed on the TEPCO plan but are likely to react sharply to it given fears that the move may increase consumer concerns over marine products.

Indian, Pakistan border guards clash on Kashmir border

Typhoon downgraded to extratropical depression in Sea of Japan

India, Pakistan border guards clash on Kashmir border

Approval eyed for toxic-groundwater dumping facility at Fukushima

Chinese Indonesians prepare food to honour their ancestors during the Hungry Ghost Festival in Medan, North Sumatra, Indonesia, on 10 Aug, 2014. The Hungry Ghost Festival is celebrated on the 15th day of the seventh lunar month.
**I will not be part of ‘Bigg Boss’**: Ameesha Patel

**Mumbai, 11 Aug** — Actress Ameesha Patel has quashed rumours that she will participate in the upcoming season of ‘Bigg Boss’ saying she has no plans to be a part of the controversial reality show.

The 38-year-old actress’ name was doing the rounds for quite some time as a probable participant of the eighth season of the show to be hosted by Salman Khan.

“For all those free people who have nothing better to do than to spread rumors… I am not going to be in ‘Bigg Boss’ 8 9, 10, 11, 12, or any bigg Boss,” Ameesha posted on Twitter. The actress said that she is busy with her production venture ‘Desi Magic’, in which she will be seen opposite Zayed Khan.

“Suggest you target someone else... ‘Desi Magic’ work is going on and we will come soon with the teaser…we don’t owe you explanations of our work,” the actress further posted.

**Norway’s Nico & Vinz storm to top of British music charts**

London, 11 Aug — Norwegian double act Nico & Vinz shot to the top of Britain’s music charts on Sunday as their single “Am I Wrong” ousted last week’s chart-toppers Magic!, the Official Charts Company said on Sunday.

The Oslo-based duo snatched the number one position a week after the song’s official UK release, pushing “Rude” by Magic! into second place. American band OneRepublic entered the chart in third place with “Love Runs Out.”

Cheryl Cole’s “Crazy Stupid Love” dropped two places to number four and George Ezra’s “Budapest” rose one place to fifth.

Ed Sheeran’s dominant run at the top of the album chart continued for a seventh week as “X” continued to outsell its rivals. Dolly Parton held on to second spot with “Blue Smoke — The Best Of” while Sam Smith gained a place to chart at number three with “In The Lonely Hour.”

Coldplay’s “Ghost Stories” rose two places to number four, leapfrogging “Wanted On Voyage” by George Ezra in fifth.

**‘Turtles’ beats Marvel’s ‘Guardians’ at US, Canada box office**

Los Angeles / New York, 11 Aug—The return of the “Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles” earned $65 million in ticket sales at US and Canadian movie theaters over the weekend, easily winning a box office battle with Marvel’s outer space hit “Guardians of the Galaxy.”

“Ninja Turtles,” a reboot of a franchise born in 1980s comic books and popularized in TV cartoons, rang up another $28.7 million in international markets for a global debut of $93.7 million, according to distributor Paramount Pictures which wasted no time in announcing a sequel, set to open on 3 June, 2016.

“Guardians,” which ruled the box office universe a week ago with a record opening for August, collected $41.5 million during its second weekend, according to estimates from research firm Rentrak. New tornado-chasing thriller “Into the Storm” landed in the No 3 slot with $18 million.

Forecasters had predicted a tight race between “Guardians” and “Ninja Turtles.” But the hard-shelled reptile heroes, brought back to TV on a Nickelodeon show in 2012, crushed expectations for a domestic total of around $40 million.

Megan Fox stars in the film as a reporter who becomes a close ally of the four pizza-loving turtles who emerge from the sewer to fight criminals in New York City. The movie cost $125 million to make.

“This exceeded all our expectations,” said Megan Colligan, head of domestic marketing and distribution at Paramount Pictures, a unit of Viacom Inc as is Nickelodeon Movies, which together released the film.

“Families came out in a very big way” while teenagers were drawn to the film’s incredible action sequences,” said Colligan, explaining how the film’s box office performance was driven far beyond the expected fan base of 25 to 35-year olds. Global sales for “Guardians” reached $313 million, distributor Walt Disney Co said. The film stars Chris Pratt and Zoe Saldana as galactic warriors who lead a rag-tag band of heroes including a talking raccoon and a human-like tree. While “Turtles” and “Guardians” have provided a late boost to summer ticket sales, the season remains 16.5 percent behind last year’s record pace with a total of $3.465 billion since 2 May , against $4.15 billion for the same period a year ago, according to Rentrak. The weekend’s No 3 film, “Into the Storm,” takes place in a fictional Midwest town hit by the strongest tornadoes ever seen. The movie, released by Time Warner Inc’s Warner Bros, cost $50 million to make.

**I owe my Bollywood career to modelling: Esha Gupta**

New Delhi, 11 Aug — Esha Gupta has credited her days in modelling for her stint as an actress in Bollywood. The ‘Humshakals’ actress, who started off her career in showbiz as a model, was the show-stopper for her designer friend Jyotsna Tiwari on the final day of India Bridal Fashion Week.

“I started my career as a model and if I am standing here as a show stopper it is all due to my modelling. It made me an actress and gave me my much-needed break. I still get nervous when I walk on the ramp and still seek for blessings before starting the catwalk. I owe a lot to it,” Esha told reporters after the show.

Esha Gupta turned a contemporary Christian bride on the ramp. She completed the look of the bride in a flowing gown and a veil covering her head.

“I am happy to wear such a contemporary wedding gown which does not make me look sexy. She gave me something which is young and contemporary,” she added.

Asked if she would like to be dressed as a contemporary bride and do a Christian wedding, the 28-year-old actress said, “My mother would kill me if I don’t do Indian traditional wedding and my father wants an Arya Samaj way of wed-
Two dozen rescued after Maryland roller coaster malfunctions

WASHINGTON, 11 Aug — Two dozen people were rescued on Sunday from a Maryland roller coaster that malfunctioned, leaving a car stuck for hours near a high point of the ride, emergency officials said.

The passengers were trapped about 75 feet (23 metres) in the air atop the Joker’s Jinx roller coaster at the Six Flags America amusement park in Upper Marlboro, outside Washington, fire officials said.

The ride stopped working at 2:30 pm and the rescue took about four hours, according to Prince George’s County Fire Chief Marc Bashoor.

Crews used a tower bucket to reach stranded passengers.

They were unstrapped one by one, loaded into the bucket and then it was lowered to the ground, he said.

The passengers were checked by medical personnel before being released, Bashoor said.

Six Flags Entertainment Corp said in a statement that the ride would remain closed during an investigation into what caused the malfunction.

“While we are not yet sure what caused the stoppage, the ride performed as it is designed to,” Six Flags said in a statement.

Reuters

Beaming Wenger all set for new season to start

LONDON, 11 Aug — Arsenal manager Arsene Wenger gave the impression of a man who cannot wait for the new season to begin after praising his side following their 3-0 demolition of Premier League champions Manchester City in the Community Shield on Sunday.

“It was a complete performance in the first half, we defended well and kept the spirit and organisation in the second half and the win today provides a very positive platform to prepare from,” Wenger told reporters.

“Now we have to start well against Crystal Palace at home in the league (Saturday 1630 GMT) and that won’t be easy, that’s a different type of game.”

Arsenal’s Joel Campbell (R) reacts as he waits to introduce substitute Arsenal’s Joel Campbell (R) during their English Community Shield soccer match against Manchester City at Wembley Stadium in London, on 10 Aug, 2014. REUTERS

London derby and it will be

The Community Shield is not the most important trophy in English football but securing it 85 days after winning the FA Cup, which ended a nine-year trophy drought, brought a smile to Wenger’s face.

“I like to win a trophy every week,” he beamed. “But it was very important to win today. You not only want to win the game and take the trophy but you want a good performance and we produced quality for long spells today.”

He also singled out 19-year-old defender Calum Chambers for special praise, saying that the teenager he has just signed from Southampton gave “an outstanding performance” and would challenge Per Mertesacker and Laurent Koscielny for a central defensive place following the sale of Thomas Vermaelen to Barcelona.

“For a 19-year-old who does not have a long history in that position, he was outstanding. He can challenge both centre backs, play at right back or in midfield.

“Even if Thomas did not leave I would have bought him anyway.” Vermaelen’s departure means Spanish midfielder Mikel Arteta is the new club skipper with Wenger saying Mertesacker will be vice-captain.

Reuters
REAL MADRID TO FIELD COSTLY STRIKEFORCE IN SUPER CUP

LONDON, 11 Aug — European champions Real Madrid are expected to field the world’s most expensive strikeforce — including local Welsh hero Gareth Bale — when they play Sevilla in the UEFA Super Cup at the Cardiff City Stadium on Tuesday.

Three months after winning the all-Spanish Champions League final against Atletico Madrid in Lisbon, Real and Europa League winners Sevilla meet in an all-Spanish Super Cup match with the home fans delighted to be able to watch Bale in his home town.

He joined Real for a world record 85 million pounds ($142.58 million) from Tottenham Hotspur a year ago and is expected to play in a 240 million pounds trio with Cristiano Ronaldo and James Rodriguez as the Madrid side seek to win the Super Cup for the first time since 2002.

Ronaldo signed for 80 million pounds from Manchester United in 2009 while Colombian Rodriguez, the Golden Boot winner at this year’s World Cup, cost about 80 million euros ($107.27 million) when he joined from AS Monaco after the finals.

German World Cup winner Toni Kroos, who has just joined Real from Bayern Munich for about 30 million pounds, could also be in action in an official match for Real for the first time.

While Bale will be reshuffling a return to his home town, Ronaldo is expected to start after working hard to shake off a knee problem that hampered his performances for Portugal at the World Cup in Brazil.

Sevilla’s squad, by contrast, is worth just under 108 million euros, according to website transfermarkt.com, and they sold their best player, Croatian midfielder Ivan Rakitic, to Barcelona in June.

Centre back Nico Pareja is undaunted, however, and said on Sunday that he and his team mates had the same hunger that yielded the Europa League crown and a fifth-place finish in La Liga last season and were hopeful of an upset win. “Of course Real are starting when you are the home side,” Pareja told sport.sevilla’s website (www.sevilla.es). “But we have been working hard and we are ready to take the battle to them.”

Although the match, like the English Community Shield, is a charitable curtain-raiser — in this case to the European club season — it does have wider significance for the Football Association of Wales (FAW).

The stadium — Cardiff City’s home ground — will be unveiled as a 33,000 seater venue for the first time, and the FAW hopes successfully staging the game will boost its chances of hosting matches in the continent-wide 2020 European Championship.

McIlroy wins PGA Championship, claims fourth major

LOUISVILLE (Kentucky), 11 Aug — Pre-tournament favourite Rory McIlroy recovered from a stumbling start to overcome a series of challengers and clinch his fourth major title by a shot at the PGA Championship on Sunday.

A stroke in front of the chasing pack overnight, the Northern Irish world number one lost the lead but regained control after the turn, signing off with a three-under-par 68 at Valhalla Golf Club for a 16-under total of 268.

Phil Mickelson, who had been bidding for a sixth major title, recorded his first top-10 finish on the 2013-14 PGA Tour after a disappointing season.

“It was good for me to get back to the mix and to feel the pressure and get in the thick of it,” said the American left-hander. “I kind of ran out of steam there after 12, wasn’t able to get a couple of birdies coming in like I needed to.”

With birdies abundant on a receptive, rain-soaked layout, the galleries were treated to a breathtaking display of shot-making in the final round.

While beating second seeded Roger Federer 7-5, 7-6, 6-2, to win the Rogers Cup tennis tournament at Rexall Centre - Tsonga won 7-5, 7-6, 6-2, to win the Rogers Cup.

Tsonga caps week of upsets with Rogers title

TORONTO, 11 Aug — Frenchman Jo-Wilfried Tsonga had one more surprise in his bag of upsets, beating second seeded Roger Federer 7-5, 7-6 (3) to cap a scintillating march to the title.

It provided a timely jolt of confidence going into Fleming Meadows and the year’s final grand slam with 11 of her 14 career titles having come on hard courts.

“One of my biggest titles,” said Radwanska, who has registered a long line of firsts for tennis in her country, including Poland’s first grand slam finalist and first Pole to win a WTA Tour title. “As you can see in the draw had pretty all top players. So very, very special title for me. "I think she (Williams) played great tennis whole week, playing and beating a lot of good players on the way to the final. "I think I even happen to beat Venus when she’s really on fire.”

Williams, a twice US Open champion, will also be buoyed by her performance in Montreal with a projected return on Monday to the year’s final grand slam.

The tournament also pushed Williams past the $30 million in career earnings, joining an elite club that includes her sister Serena and Maria Sharapova.

“I really wanted to be in the top 20 like earlier this year,” said Williams. “I’ve been having goals. It’s always a goal in mind for myself and hopefully most tennis players. "It’s waiting for this since couple of months now, I was looking for my best level, today I had it and it’s great.”

Rory McIlroy of Northern Ireland holds up the Wannamaker Trophy after winning the 2014 PGA Championship at Valhalla Golf Club in Louisville, Kentucky, on 10 Aug, 2014.— Reuters

Reuter