Suspected Ebola patient shows improvement after receiving malaria treatment

By Ye Myint

YANGON, 21 Aug — A 22-year-old Myanmar citizen who has been placed in an isolation ward at Yangon’s Waibargi Hospital on suspicion of being infected with the deadly Ebola virus has shown signs of improvement after receiving malaria treatment, according to an official from the Ministry of Health on Thursday.

Tests provided by the National Health Laboratory in Yangon on Wednesday evening showed the man has been infected with Plasmodium falciparum and Plasmodium vivax that cause malaria while four of his close contacts who are also isolated in the same hospital have been cleared of any diseases, said the ministry.

“The health condition of the suspected Ebola patient had improved by Thursday morning after being given appropriate malaria treatment the night before,” Dr Tun Tin, Deputy Director of the Central Epidemiology Unit, told The New Light of Myanmar daily.

On preparedness and response measures undertaken by the ministry’s rapid response team at Yangon International Airport, he said that the team comprising medical officers and health assistants, numbering about 17, are working day and night shifts on high alert following the arrival of the suspected patient two days ago, who returned to Myanmar after more than a year in West Africa.

On Tuesday night, the team detected the man, who had flown in from Bangkok, with fever higher than 38 degree Celsius and signs of weakness. Following temporary loss of consciousness, he was transferred to Waibargi Hospital for further testing with four others who were in close contact with the man.

Myanmar News Agency reported that the Health Ministry is making necessary arrangements, following WHO’s guidelines for an Ebola response and sending blood samples of the suspected male patient and the four others to a laboratory in India’s city of Pune. The ministry is currently taking procedures that include seeking the approval of the designated country and International Air Transport Association for sending the samples by air, the report said.

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News and Periodicals Enterprise
Ministry of Information
Nay Pyi Taw

Correction

Please read “specialist hospital” instead of “specialist hotel” in the fourth line, first column and first paragraph of the story under the headline “Suspected Ebola patient in isolation ward in Yangon: Health Ministry” on the cover page of this daily issued on 21-8-2014. Error is regretted. — NLM
Dy Health Minister tours relief camp, rural health centres

Deputy Minister for Health Dr Win Myint with staff in relief camp in Sittway, inspecting facilities and hearing reports on living standard.—MNA

**NAY PYI TAW,** 21 Aug—Deputy Minister for Health Dr Win Myint looked into health care services being provided to local people at the dispensary of Hsatyoek-ya relief camp in Sittway of Rakhine State on 14 August.

He also inspected projects of the rural health branch in Thetkohlin Village in Sittway and a rural health centre in Hsinatma Village of Pauktaw Township.

In meeting with health staff and officials at Sittway General Hospital, the deputy minister explained plans of the government for improvement of health care standard of the hospital.

The deputy minister met officials of the Rakhine State Health Department and World Health Organization to discuss opening of more rural dispensaries in rural areas. MNA

Japan grants one monastic school in Magway Region

**YANGON,** 21 Aug—The Japanese Government, under its Grant Assistance for Grassroots Human Security Projects (GGP) Scheme, has extended the assistance of US$96,076 for a two-storey RCC building, 356 students, and maternal and child healthcare.

3MDG was formerly known as the Three Disease Fund (3D), a health body which was responsible for raising funds for HIV, TB and malaria in 2004 and 2005. According to reports, 3MDG came into existence in 2010, contributing to health care services in Myanmar. With the assistance from seven donors, the health body has joined Myanmar’s Ministry of Health, UN agencies and other partners to provide health care services in the country.

It will also initiate public health care services in urban and rural areas, aiming to raise health awareness, provide health-related information, reduce child mortality, improve maternal health and combat HIV/AIDS, malaria and other diseases.—Sagawah

APCSS Director meets Myanmar Police Force Chief

**NAY PYI TAW,** 21 Aug—The director of the Asia-Pacific Centre for Security Studies (APCSS) US-Lt-Gen Mr Daniel Leaf (retired) as MPF tries to enhance its capacity.

He also explained how they discussed reform process of the Myanmar Police Force and training to improve policing skills.

MNA

MySQUAR to launch free mobile messaging app on 27 Aug

**YANGON,** 21 Aug—MySQUAR, the first local-language content platform, will launch its free mobile messaging application for Myanmar on 27 August, aimed at providing better service to customers by offering world class consumer technology solutions, according to an official of the company.

David Rossell, Chief Technology Officer of MySQUAR, said on Thursday at a press conference that MyChat is a free beta app for Android devices with localized language which connects users to existing friends while also introducing them to new ones through the innovative ‘look around’ features that is the strong point of the app.

“MYsQUAR’s chief mission is to connect Myanmar youth with experiences built just for them. With MyChat, our goal is to provide a completely tailored messaging app optimized for the Myanmar market so youth may connect with their friends and find new ones easily,” said CEO Linda Lim of MySQUAR.

The app covers iconic Myanmar character and traditional toy stickers such as Pho Wa Yoke and Pho Tha Htoo as well as U Shwe Yoe and Daw Moe that will keep conversations creative and colourful, with new stickers and emoticons being added on a continual basis, Han Tun Lwin, Product Manager of MySQUAR said.

He also explained how to login into the app with user’s email or Facebook account while those users may download the new app from MySQUAR.com.

By Khang Thanda Lwin

MNA

**MNA**
Myanmar, Qatar to cooperate in trade and investment

NAY PYI TAW, 21 Aug — Vice President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar U Nyan Tun received a delegation led by member of the Qatar Emirate family Sheikh Abdullah bin Mohammed bin Saud Al-Thani at the hall of the Presidential Palace in Nay Pyi Taw on Thursday to hold talks about cooperation in trade and investment. They also discussed promotion of friendly relations between Myanmar and Qatar.—MNA

Trade and investment cooperation as well as promotion of ties were discussed between Vice President U Nyan Tun and the Qatar delegation.—MNA

Senior General says relations with Thai armed forces improved a great deal

NAY PYI TAW, 21 Aug — The relationship between the two armed forces of Myanmar and Thailand has improved unprecedentedly given the long tradition of relations between the two neighbours, Senior General Min Aung Hlaing told the second High Level Committee Meeting at Aureum Palace Hotel in Bagan on Thursday morning.

Senior General Min Aung Hlaing, Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services, also expressed his belief that the formation of a bilateral high level committee has opened a new chapter in history for the two armed forces.

Speaking at the meeting, General Tanasak Patimapragorn, Chief of Defence Forces of the Royal Thai Armed Forces said he has pinned his hope on the emergence of the ASEAN Community in 2015 through further cooperation between the two countries and two armed forces.

He continued to say that steps are being taken to enable Myanmar migrant workers to enjoy the same rights as Thai nationals and that Thailand is making arrangements for demarcation between the two countries. Following the meeting, General Tanasak Patimapragorn and his delegation, accompanied by Senior General Min Aung Hlaing and high-ranking military officials, toured around Bagan, visiting the Archaeological Museum.

The first Thailand-Myanmar High Level Committee Meeting was held in Bangkok on 18 September last year. Myawady

U Win Maung presents Credentials to Crown Prince of Thailand

NAY PYI TAW, 22 Aug — U Win Maung, Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar to the Kingdom of Thailand, presented his Credentials to His Royal Highness Crown Prince Maha Vajiralongkorn of the Kingdom of Thailand, on behalf of the King of the Kingdom of Thailand, on 14 August 2014 in Bangkok.—MNA

Agricultural students educated on farming during field trip to Ottarathiri Tsp

NAY PYI TAW, 21 Aug — A teacher and student team of Shwebo Institute of Agriculture viewed round organic vegetable plantations on a 900-acre farm irrigated by Setsetyo Dam in Ottarathiri Township of Nay Pyi Taw Council Area on Thursday.

Union Minister for Agriculture and Irrigation U Myint Hlaing explained nurturing of vegetable plantations, cultivation of asparagus, gourd, chilli and taro, use of good agricultural methods, the thriving of sample plantations of Ngwechi-8 and Shwedaung-8 long staple cotton plants, and sugar-cane and Paleihwee hybrid paddy. He urged the students to participate in development tasks to ensure food sufficiency for the nation and production of organic vegetables.

The agriculturists are to make trips to the farmlands for serving interest of the farmers and solve agricultural problems, he said, adding that agriculturists are to uplift the living standards of the farmers and agriculture sector of the State, applying theory and practical works.

Vice-Senior General Soe Win met Myanmar trainees during recent Moscow trip

NAY PYI TAW, 21 Aug — During his tour of the Russain Federation, Deputy Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services and Commander-in-Chief (Army) Vice-Senior General Soe Win visited Moscow Power Engineering Institute and met with Myanmar army trainees on 17 August. He urged the trainees to study hard so that they can help turn the Myanmar Army into a standard force, before handing out stipends.—Myawady

During his recent trip to Moscow, Vice-Senior General Soe Win visited a number of projects of interest for Myanmar and held talks with Myanmar students.—Myawady
**LOCAL NEWS**

**Myanmar chefs secure bronze medal in Pattaya City Culinary Challenge 2014**

YANGON, 21 Aug—The Myanmar Chefs Association team won the bronze medal in the Pattaya City Culinary Challenge 2014 in Thailand on 17 August.

The Myanmar culinary team comprised leader Oliver E Soe Thei of Laguna Lodge – Ngapali Beach, Chefs—Aung Myo Lwin of Parkroyal Hotel, Zin Maw Win & Jan Moeller of Belmond Governor’s Residence, and Swe Moe Tha of Sule Shangri-La, Hotel Yangon.

A total of 15 international chef teams participated in the challenge by cooking 20 portions and a 11-course seafood buffet, plus a 10 portion protein main course within four hours.

It was the fourth time the Myanmar team won bronze in cooking competitions...

**Students join performance contest in Myingyan**

MYINGYAN, 21 Aug—Myingyan Degree College held the inter-subject singing contest, organized by the Myingyan Degree College Fine Arts Association, at its assembly hall on Tuesday.

On behalf of Principal Dr Ko Ko Myint, Dean and Professor of the History Department Dr Daw Pyone opened the contest. Chairman of the fine arts association and head of the Zoology Department Dr Khin Soe Win explained the disciplines of the contest.

Five students each participated in the modern song contest and stereo song contest. Maung Moe Zaw won first prize, Maung Yan Shin Aung the second and Maung Aung Kyaw Khang the third in the modern contest. Ma Myat Cherry Myat won the first prize, Maung Nyi Nyi Min the second and Ma Thiri Wah the third in the stereo contest.

Zaw Min Naing (Myingyan)

**Four types of licences for hotel and tourism industry issued**

MANDALAY, 21 Aug—The Nay Pyi Taw Head Office of the Ministry of Hotels and Tourism, Yangon Branch and Mandalay Branch have been issuing hotel and lodge licences, travel agency licences, tour agency licences and tour guide licences to entrepreneurs since 15 August.

Entrepreneurs may contact the Directorate of the Hotels and Tourism at Office No 33, Nay Pyi Taw, Yangon Branch, No 4 Warehouse at the corner of Sandaku Street and Merchant Street in Botataung Township and Mandalay Branch at No 211 on 29th street between 84th and 85th street in Mandalay.

**Maintenance of Kyeeni Lake inspected in Yamethin Tsp**

YAMETHIN, 21 Aug—Mandalay Region Minister for Agriculture and Livestock Breeding U Myint Than inspected renovation of the southern and northern bunds of Kyeeni Lake, dredging of a diver drain and dredging of sand from the lake in Yamethin Township of Mandalay Region on Sunday.

The minister instructed officials to take care of maintaining the feeder canals for irrigating monsoon paddy.

He viewed thriving paddy plantations on 25 acres of the Chaungmagyi seed production farm and gave instructions to officials to distribute high yield hybrid paddy strain to local farmers.

Thura Ko Ko (Mandalay)

**Statues and photos of outstanding Myanmar athletes to be displayed**

NAY PYI TAW, 21 Aug—To discuss the erection of statues and display of photos of historical and admiral sports athletes, a meeting was held at the Sports Archives at the Ministry of Sports in Nay Pyi Taw on Wednesday.

At the meeting, Deputy Minister for Sports U Thaung Htaik noted that the statues will be displayed at the Sports Archives in the compound of Nay Pyi Taw Wunna Thokkdi Stadium to honour “victorious athletes who brought prestige to the State”.

Director-General of the Sports and Physical Education Department U Myo Hlaing explained the formation of the scrutiny committee formed with 19 sports writers and scholars, who chose 44 veteran athletes from 15 sports disciplines to erect the statues.

Head of Office of the ministry U Kyaw Oo participated in discussions on the display of documentary photos of leaders of the Myanmar sports arena and directors-general of the SPED, Joint Secretary of Myanmar Olympic Committee U Khin Maung Lwin talked about outstanding persons in the Myanmar sports chronicle and sports writer U Lu Lu Min discussed ideas on where to put the statues and photos of the outstanding athletes.

MNA
Thai junta leader appointed PM by hand-picked parliament

BANGKOK, 21 Aug — Thailand’s coup leader General Prayuth Chan-o-cha was appointed prime minister on Thursday by a legislature he hand-picked, giving the army chief a veneer of legitimacy even while the military pressures on with efforts to silence its critics.

The army seized power on 22 May in a bloodless coup following six months of sometimes deadly street protests that contributed to the ousting of Prime Minister Yingluck Shinawatra, whose populist government was opposed by the Bangkок royalist establishment. Although Prayuth’s appointment paves the way for an interim government to be set up in the coming weeks, power will remain firmly in the junta’s hands. The general has said he plans to press ahead with a year of political reforms before a new election that he said will take place by late 2015. “It is designed to give him the power to run the country according to the newly written constitution. The premier position will give him legal power in the Thaigovt governance system,” said Aarya, a lecturer in human rights studies at Mahidol University, told Reuters.

The nomination comes as the National Legislative Assembly (NLA) that chose Prayuth is widely considered little more than a rubber stamp parliament tasked with enacting sweeping reforms under the army’s watch. The 60-year-old Prayuth will retire as army chief in September but will stay on as head of the junta, formally known as the National Council for Peace and Order. His appointment will need to be endorsed by Thailand’s king.

In the weeks leading up to the coup Prayuth denied rumours that the military was planning to take control, but a Reuters report in May revealed the army had a plan ready that ran through various scenarios and how the military should respond.

Yingluck, the sister of self-exiled former Prime Minister Thaksin Shinawatra, had already been forced to step down on 7 May, after a court found her guilty of abuse of power, but the army said its patch to remove the remnants of her government two weeks later was necessary to restore order. Prayuth, who was not present at Thursday’s vote in the legislature, has said he will hand over power once a three-phase roadmap of reconciliation, an interim government to overcome reforms and elections is complete.

Moments after his appointment Prayuth, who was inspecting troops at an army camp in Chonburi province south of Bangkok, was asked by reporters whether he had heard the news. “I didn’t know they had asked to join,” Prayuth said, shaking his head, adding: “First, I want to head the country to move on.” Since launching the coup, Prayuth has displayed signs of authoritarianism. A draft 2015 fiscal budget was approved on Monday in a unanimous vote, with only three abstentions by the NLA president and deputies according to convention. “Nobody had any problem. Nobody disagreed,” Prayuth said after the vote on Monday.

Indonesia police fire teargas ahead of court verdict on election

JAKARTA, 21 Aug — Indonesian police fired tear gas to disperse thousands of protesters outside the country’s top court in Jakarta on Thursday, as judges started delivering their verdict into last month’s disputed presidential election.

Losing candidate Prabowo Subianto has asked the Constitutional Court to overturn the election result, saying the vote in the world’s third largest democracy was tainted by mass fraud. Judges started reading through their findings — estimated to be hundreds of pages long — in the afternoon and it could take hours before a final verdict is announced. The court is widely expected to uphold Joko Widodo’s election victory and the verdict cannot be appealed.

The case is widely seen as a face-saving gesture and has been a common course of action in previous elections. The court has never overturned the result of a presidential election. Thousands of Prabowo supporters gathered near the court and police fired teargas and water cannons to disperse protesters trying to break through security barriers shortly after the court began its session.

Witnesses said protesters rammed four trucks into the barriers, sparking the police response. A few people were injured and four were arrested. The crowds later largely dispersed. About 50,000 police and military personnel are on standby around the capital in case of more violence, authorities said. Some businesses and schools closed early.

Political rallies in Jakarta have been peaceful since the hearing began two weeks ago.

A spokesman for Prabowo urged supporters to refrain from violence. “We will respect the court’s decision because it is final and binding,” Tanto Yahiya told Reuters.

Indonesian police block supporters of presidential candidate Prabowo Subianto from reaching the Constitutional Court in Jakarta on 21 Aug, 2014. — Reuters

“Prabowo has repeatedly said to his supporters to be calm and peaceful.”

Indonesian stocks closed at a 15-month high, up 0.31 percent at 5,206.14 and near a record high. The rupiah also strengthened against the dollar.

Uncertainty over the election has delayed at least one major economic reform policy, as the outgoing government awaits the verdict before launching talks with Widodo’s transition team on how to address ballooning fuel subsidy costs. “We are waiting for the Constitutional Court decision before starting discussions with the transition team,” chief economist minister Chairul Tanjung told reporters on Wednesday.

The Elections Commission, which has been commended by international observers for its transparency, declared Widodo the winner by nearly 8.5 million votes, with more than 53 percent of the vote.

Malaysian militants bought bomb material for planned attack-official

KUALA LUMPUR, 21 Aug — Suspected Malaysian militants loyal to the extremist Islamic State movement bought bomb-making material ahead of a proposed attack on a Carlsberg brewery near the capital Kuala Lumpur, a top anti-terrorism official said. The plan, which the official said was at a “discussions” stage, would be the first time Southeast Asian militants inspired by Islamic State’s rise have sought to launch a major attack at home, adding to officials’ fears of a domestic “blowback” from Islamic State’s expansion in Syria and Iraq.

Ayob Khan Mydin, the police counter-terrorism division’s deputy chief, told Reuters that the group of 19 suspects had attained aluminium powder, which is often used as an ingredient in bombs. “In terms of ideology and intention it was very clear,” Ayob Khan said in an interview. “It would have been carried out.” The group, seven of whom have been charged under anti-terrorism and weapons laws, had discussed bombing the Danish beer-maker’s factory in Petaling Jaya on the outskirts of the capital as well as other targets such as pubs, Ayob Khan said. Alcohol is forbidden under Islamic rules, but is widely available in Muslim-majority Malaysia.

Carlsberg Brewery Malaysia said in a response to Reuters’ questions that it had taken “necessary steps to ensure security at our premises, as employee safety is a priority”. Ayob Khan said that 12 of the suspects had to be released due to lack of evidence tying them to specific plans for an attack or to join the banned Islamic State. Islamic State’s sweep through northern Iraq, bringing it close to Baghdad and in control of the second city, Mosul, has energized radical Muslim followers in Malaysia, partly due to teachings that “the final battle” would take place in the greater Syrian region.

Reuters

Indonesian police fire teargas ahead of court verdict on election

Jakarta, 21 Aug — Indonesian police fired teargas ahead of court verdict on election.

President of Thailand’s National Legislative Assembly Poraphet Vichitcholchati (C), First Vice President Sarachai Liengboonlerdchai (L) and Second Vice President Peerassak Phorjit (R) speak during a parliamentary session at parliament house in Bangkok on 21 Aug, 2014. — Reuters

President of Thailand’s National Legislative Assembly Poraphet Vichitcholchati (C), First Vice President Sarachai Liengboonlerdchai (L) and Second Vice President Peerassak Phorjit (R) speak during a parliamentary session at parliament house in Bangkok on 21 Aug, 2014. — Reuters
Chinese president arrives in Mongolia for state visit

ULAN BATOR, 21 Aug — Chinese President Xi Jinping arrived in Ulan Bator on Thursday for a two-day state visit to Mongolia. It was the first visit in 11 years by China’s head of state to Mongolia, and also the second time for Xi to make a one-stop trip to a foreign country since he took office in March 2013.

Xi and his wife Peng Liyuan, Mongolian Prime Minister Norov Altankhuyag and his wife at the airport in Ulan Bator. Xi said China and Mongolia are close neighbors who are linked by mountains and rivers and boast profound friendship.

“I believe my visit will be a trip of friendship, cooperation and development that bears the anticipations of both peoples,” he added.

The Chinese president said his trip to Mongolia is like “visiting relatives” and he is very delighted and full of expectations.

“I hope to take this visit as an important opportunity to elevate the bilateral relations to a new height,” he said.

Friendship and cooperation has been the theme of China-Mongolia relations since the two countries established diplomatic ties 65 years ago, Xi noted. “The constant deepening of strategic mutual trust, the growing converging points of our interests, and the increasingly closer relations between the two nations are valuable assets accumulated jointly by the two peoples,” Xi said.

China and Mongolia, which share a borderline of more than 4,700 km long, should be good neighbors in action and friendly neighbors in emotion, in addition to being close neighbors geographically, he added.

The Chinese president also said his trip to Mongolia is “an important opportunity to develop our friendship and cooperation,” Xi said.

Australia’s highest court to hear test case on asylum seekers

SYDNEY, 21 Aug — Australia’s highest court set a date on Thursday for a full hearing into how a group of Sri Lankan asylum seekers were detained at sea, a case that will test the government’s authority to pursue its secretive immigration policies.

Lawyers for the group of Tamil asylum seekers said it was likely the United Nations would seek to join the case, a highly unusual step they said showed the level of international concern over Australia’s “Operation Sovereign Borders”.

Justice Kenneth Hayne, who has said the case appeared to be unique in the world and raised serious questions about how far Australian power extends, set an expedited two-day hearing before a full bench of the High Court for 14-15 October.

The boat carrying the 157 Tamil asylum seekers was intercepted in late June and held by Australian authorities at sea for weeks. The group’s lawyers argue that the their detention and the government’s plan to send them to Sri Lanka or back to India, from where they had left, were illegal.

The fate of the group has highlighted Australia’s immigration policy, in which boats carrying would-be asylum seekers are intercepted at sea and turned back. The policy has been condemned by the United Nations and human rights groups.

Lawyers representing the asylum seekers indicated that the UN High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), which in July expressed “profound concern” over the case, and the Australian Human Rights Commission (HRC) would seek to join the case. The UN would not be a direct party to the case but could offer legal opinion, testimony and text evidence.

“What Australia does on the high seas does affect international law and the approach of other countries,” lawyer George Neouhose told reporters.

“It would be highly unusual for the United Nations to intervene in a High Court case in Australia,” he said.

“It shows the high level of concern internationally over Australia’s treatment of vulnerable men, women and children,” Reuters

US, S Korea officials discuss sanctions on N Korea, Iran, Russia

SEOUL, 21 Aug — Senior US Treasury official David Cohen held talks with South Korean officials here on Thursday on sanctions imposed on such countries as North Korea and Iran over their nuclear and ballistic missile programmes, according to Yonhap News Agency.

Cohen, undersecretary for terrorism and financial intelligence, met at the Foreign Ministry with Hwang Joon Kook, South Korea’s top nuclear envoy, and Lee Kyung Soo, deputy minister for political affairs.

“We’ve discussed issues regarding the DPRK as well as our joint efforts with South Korea,” Cohen said after the meetings, using an acronym for North Korea’s official name, the Democratic People’s Republic of Korea.

The Treasury Department announced on Monday that Cohen would be visiting Japan, South Korea, China, the United Arab Emirates and Oman on 18-25 August and meet with senior government officials to discuss, besides issues related to North Korea and Iran, “international efforts to maintain financial pressure on the government of Russia in response to its destabilizing actions in eastern Ukraine.” Cohen, who arrived in Seoul on Wednesday, was due to depart later Thursday for China, Yonhap said.

KyoDio News

39 dead, seven missing after torrential rain hits Hiroshima

Hiroshima, 21 Aug — A total of 39 people were confirmed dead and seven remain missing on Wednesday after a series of landslides and flooding triggered by torrential rain overnight engulfed residential areas in Hiroshima, western Japan.

The government has boosted the number of Self-Defense Forces personnel deployed for rescue operations to 600 personnel to continue operations through the night. Prime Minister Shinzo Abe, who was taking his summer vacation, cut short a game of golf to return to his office in Tokyo to deal with the disaster.

In the Asakita Ward of Hiroshima, one of the hardest hit areas, a record 217.5 millimetres of rain fell in the three hours from 1:30 am on Wednesday. — Kyodo News

N Korean request for UN Security Council meeting draws no support

NEW YORK, 21 Aug — North Korea’s request for an emergency meeting of the UN Security Council to discuss joint military exercises by the United States and South Korea received no support at an informal meeting of the council held on Wednesday, UK Ambassador Lyall Grant said. China, Pyongyang’s key ally, raised the issue at the meeting, according to the British ambassador, who holds the rotating presidency of the council in August.

North Korea sent a letter in July requesting that the top UN body convene a meeting. Ambassador Ri Tong Il gave a Press conference about the request on 1 August, saying it was “unfair” of the council to condemn its missile launches for “self-defensive exercise” while “turning its blind eyes to the provocative ongoing joint military exercises.”— Kyodo News
AFGHANISTAN gives NYT reporter 24 hours to leave country

KABUL, 21 Aug — Afghanistan has given a New York Times reporter 24 hours to leave the country, accusing him of not cooperating with an investigation into his reporting, the Attorney General’s office said on Wednesday.

Matthew Rosenberg, 40, was summoned for questioning on Tuesday after the newspaper ran a story about officials discussing plans to form an interim government and “seize power” if a deadlock drag on for months, according to the New York Times.

Rosenberg said he and his newspaper had been cooperating fully. “We simply requested a lawyer as is our right under Afghan law,” he said. “We were also never informed of a formal investigation and we do not understand how insisting on the right to a lawyer is not cooperating.”

Hayden, spokeswoman for the White House National Security Council, said the Afghan government’s move was a “significant step backward for the freedom of the press in Afghanistan and should be reversed immediately.”

Rosenberg, 40, was beheaded by an Islamic State militant in a video that surfaced on the Internet last week. President Barack Obama expressed revulsion on Wednesday at the execution and vowed the United States would do what it must to protect its citizens.

The unsuccessful rescue operation “involved air and ground components and was focused on a particular captor network in Afghanistan within 24 hours,” the office said in a statement, using a different name for the militant group. “Unfortunately, the mission was not successful because the hostages were not present at the targeted location.”

Officials would not say exactly when the operation took place but said it was not in the last couple of weeks.

Obama authorized the mission “earlier this summer,” Lisa Monaco, Obama’s top counterterrorism aide, said in a separate statement. “The President authorized action at this time because it was the national security team’s assessment that these hostages were in danger with each passing day in ISIL custody,” she said.

Islamic State said Foley’s execution, which prompted widespread horror that could push Western powers further into the conflict, was in revenge for US airstrikes in Iraq.

The Pentagon said US aircraft conducted 14 airstrikes in the vicinity of Iraq’s Mosul Dam, destroying or damaging militants’ Humvees, trucks and explosives.

Britain’s prime minister cut short his vacation as UK intelligence tried to identify Foley’s killer, while France called for international coordination against the Islamic militancy fighting in Syria and Iraq.

US officials said on Wednesday that intelligence analysts had concluded that the Islamic State video, titled “A Message to America,” was authentic. They also showed images of another US journalist, Steven Sotloff, whose fate the group said depends on how the United States acts in Iraq.

The gruesome video presented Obama with bleak options that could define American involvement in Iraq and the public reaction to it, potentially dragging him further into a conflict he built much of his presidency on ending.

Obama called the beheading of Foley “aact of violence that shocked the conscience of the entire world” and said the militants had killed innocent civilians, subjected women and children to torture, rape and slavery and targeted Muslims, Christians and religious minorities.

“ISIL speaks for no religion. Their victims are overwhelmingly Muslim, and no faith teaches people to massacre innocents,” Obama said in brief comments to reporters in Edgartown, Massachusetts, where he has been vacationing. He said he had spoken with Foley’s family. “ISIL has no ideology of any value to human beings. Their ideology is bankrupt.”

US Secretary of State John Kerry said the United States would “never back down in the face of such evil. ‘ISIL and the wickedness it represents must be destroyed, and those responsible for this heinous, vicious atrocity will be held accountable,” Kerry said in a statement.

A sign outside a shop remembers James Foley in his hometown of Rochester, New Hampshire on 20 Aug, 2014.—Reuters

Hamas says Israel killed three top Gaza commanders

GAZA, 21 Aug — An Israeli air strike killed three senior Hamas military commanders in the Gaza Strip on Thursday, the Islamist group said, the clearest sign yet Israel is focusing its assault on those leading attacks from the Palestinian enclave.

The Israeli military had no immediate comment on what would constitute the killing of the most senior Hamas men since it launched its offensive on Gaza six weeks ago with the declared aim of curbing rocket fire into its territory.

Hamas, which dominates the Gaza Strip, named the men as Mohammad Abu Shamala, Raed al-Attar and Mohammed Barhoum and said they were killed in a bombing of a house in the southern town of Rafah.

A military spokesman said aircraft carried out 20 assaults in Gaza on Thursday, but gave no further details. Late on Tuesday Israel targeted Hamas’s top military commander, Mohammed Deif, but failed to kill him. Deif’s wife and seven-month-old son were killed in the air strike, Hamas said.

Palestinians remove belongings from a house that witnesses said was destroyed during an Israeli air strike in the northern Gaza Strip on 21 Aug, 2014.—Reuters

Egyptian-mediated talks to end weeks of deadly fighting between Israel, Hamas and other militant groups in Gaza collapsed on Tuesday when violence broke out after ten days of relative calm.

Palestinian health officials said 2,050 Palestinians, most of them civilians, have been killed in the fighting.

Israel says it has killed hundreds of Palestinian militants in the conflict, which the United Nations says has displaced about 425,000 people. Sixty-four Israeli soldiers and three civilians in Israel have been killed.

An Israeli soldier sits atop an armoured personnel carrier (APC) near the border with the Gaza Strip on 20 Aug, 2014.—Reuters
**The Essence of Buddhism**

**Kyi Mun**

**What is Buddhism?**

A religion, a philosophy, discipline of the mind, a way of life. The Buddhist Path is a personal experience of achieving deep and long-lasting happiness by gaining wisdom and a mind free of negative emotions. This can only happen if we cultivate positive practices and realize the benefits of doing so. Meditation is an essential means of accomplishing this.

**THE DHAMMA PRACTICE**

**COVETOUSNESS**

With a mind filled with greed, overly attached to possessions and the wish to have more, a person may think that the possessions, wealth, lifestyle or talents of others should be theirs. There is nothing wrong with those objects in themselves but a mind filled with desire and greed will not be satisfied, despite how many are accumulated, and envy of those with more is easily aroused.

**A MEDITATION**

Contemplate how the covetous mind brings dissatisfaction and discontent. Recall thoughts you may have had that fall into this category of covetousness or greed. Develop a sense of regret for such thoughts. Resolve to be generous towards others and to be content with what you have.

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**To Keep Away From (10) Evil Things**

- Killing
- False Witnessing
- Perturbed Mind
- To Reinforce / To Multiply (10) Meritorious Things
- Charity
- Service
- Hearing the Dhamma

**To Purify the Mind**

- Right View
- Right Thought
- Right Speech
- Right Deed
- Right Livelihood
- Right Effort
- Right Mindfulness
- Right One-pointedness of mind

**WROUNG VIEW**

For the Buddhist practitioner, wrong view and the act of killing are the worst of the negative actions.

Wrong view relates to three views in particular:

1. That the Law of Cause and Effect i.e. karma does not exist.
2. There is a permanent ‘self’, the belief of eternalism.

**THE BUDDHIST WAY TO ENLIGHTENMENT**

**Transcend are Conditioned Things**

Transcend all conditioned things: when this, with wisdom, one discerns, then is one disgusted with ill, this is the path to purity.

**Sorrowful are All Conditioned Things**

“Sorrowful are all conditioned things” : when this, with wisdom, one discerns, then is one disgusted with ill; this is the path to purity.

**Everything is soulless**

“All Dhammas are without a soul” when this, with wisdom, one discerns, then is one disgusted with ill; this is the path to purity.

---

**Nay Pyi Taw Council member inspects damaged bridge, flooded paddy fields**

TATKON, 21 Aug—Officials from Nay Pyi Taw Council inspected damage caused by heavy rains in Tatkon Township of Nay Pyi Taw Council Area on 19 and 20 August which destroyed Nyaunggaing wooden bridge. Due to floods, water from Pwesar Dam in Ohbin Village-tract, Nawin Creek and Nyaunggaing Creek eroded the wooden bridge, with Nyaunggaing Creek overflowing some acres of farmlands. Officials of the Agriculture Department said they will provide crop saplings to the farmers after the floods have subsided. The floods and broken bridge did not cause transport interruption as local people still had access to the Pedaw, Thayetbin, Temyint and Nyaunglunt connecting road.

Member of Nay Pyi Taw Council U Myint Shwe, local authorities and departmental officials said they will give assistance to the local community.

---

**Write for us**

We appreciate your feedback and contributions. If you have any comments or would like to submit editorials, analyses or reports please email wallace.tun@gmail.com with your name and title.
Natmauk residents to celebrate centennial birthday of General Aung San

Natmauk, 21 Aug—The centennial birthday of General Aung San, the leader of Myanmar independence struggles, will be held on a grand scale in Natmauk of Magway Region on 13 February 2015, sources said. The birthday celebration will last from 7 to 13 February. The organizing committee members plan to hold entertainment programmes, literary talks and Dhamma talks. On 13 August, a ceremony to offer meals to members of the Sangha will be held at Htaungpyae Phayagyi monastery in Natmauk, said secretary of the leading committee Dr Soe Min.

The organizing committee is inviting the public to attend the centennial birthday of General Aung San.—Hla Win (IPRD)

1 person killed and 1 injured in car accident in ChaungU

ChaungU, 21 Aug—A vehicle with beehive boxes of the Beekeeping Department caused a traffic accident near mile post 67/6 on the Monywa-Mandalay Road in ChaungU Township of Sagaing Region on 18 August, killing one person and injuring another.

According to police, a Dyna driven by Maung Me of West Chaungma Village in Kani Township, leaving Bantbwe Village of Nawnghkio Township for Chaungma Village of Kani Township, overturned due to high speed.

During the incident, a worker identified as Maung Min Zaw Oo was injured and another one called U Myint Htoo was killed, with the driver escaping from the scene.

Following the accident, beehive boxes were scattered on the road, causing blockage for several hours before they were removed by members of the Township Police Force and Auxiliary Fire Brigade.

Computer course conducted in Nay Pyi Taw to improve human resources

Nay Pyi Taw, 21 Aug—A basic computer course was conducted free of charge at the Shwenatha Ward administrator office in Ottarathiri Township of Nay Pyi Taw Council Area, aimed at improving human resources, officials said.

The course supervised by Ward Administrator U Tun Tun Oo was given to 38 trainees under the guidelines of five trainers, with teaching aid and textbooks distributed to the trainees free of charge.

Gangaw, 21 Aug—The Gangaw Township Planning Committee held a coordination meeting on planning of community-based regional development projects at the hall of the Township General Administration Department in Gangaw of Magway Region on Wednesday.

Amyotha Hluttaw (Upper House) MP U Hla Swe, Pyithu Hluttaw (Lower House) MP U Aung Myint and departmental officials discussed transport, supply of water, irrigation for agricultural purpose, electrification, education, health and general matters.

Gangaw District IPRD

Salai Tong Hsi
Ferguson, 21 Aug — US Attorney General Eric Holder, the first African-American to head the Justice Department, spoke in person with students and then community leaders at a community college during a visit to Ferguson for a briefing on a Justice Department investigation into the 9 August killing of 18-year-old Michael Brown.

He later met for about 20 minutes with Brown’s parents at the St Louis US Attorney’s Office. No details of the private session were divulged, but a person familiar with the encounter quoted Holder as promising “a fair and independent inquiry” when family members asked him about the investigative process.

Before meeting with Holder, Brown’s mother viewed her son’s body at a local morgue for the first time since he was shot, the same person told reporters.

Also on Wednesday, a grand jury began hearing evidence in the case, though protesters stepped up their demands that the local criminal probe be turned over to a special prosecutor. Before a briefing at local FBI headquarters, Holder said the thrust of his department’s inquiry differed from the investigation conducted by local authorities.

“We are looking for violations of federal, criminal civil rights statutes,” he said. The Justice Department is seeking specifically to determine whether federal prosecutors can bring criminal charges against Darren Wilson, the police officer who shot Brown, for violating Brown’s civil rights by use of excessive force.

His visit came hours after dozens of protesters were arrested in the latest street disturbances. Many of the protests have been peaceful, but others, especially smaller ones late at night, have been punctuated by looting, vandalism and clashes between demonstrators and police. — Reuters

Barack Obama has set off 12 nights of racialised violence when police shot an unarmed black teenager that they¹re bombing us again. — whoever they are —

Drake's Place Restaurant in Florissant, Missouri

Attorney General Eric Holder talks with Capt Ron Johnson of the Missouri State Highway Patrol at Drake’s Place Restaurant in Florissant, Missouri on 20 Aug, 2014. — Reuters

Dozens die in Ukraine in street battles, Donetsk shelling

Kiev/Donetsk, (Ukraine), 21 Aug — Heavy shelling hit residential neighbourhoods in Ukraine’s rebel stronghold of Donetsk and government forces fought street battles in other towns on Wednesday as they sought to crush a four-month-old separatist rebellion.

The forces of the Western-backed Kiev government are steadily gaining the upper hand over the separatists in Russian-speaking eastern Ukraine and are tightening the noose around the main rebel bastions of Donetsk and Luhansk.

Reuters reporters in Donetsk said mortar rounds had struck Chelyuskintsev Street in the north of the city, a few km (miles) from the frontline of the conflict, shattering the windows of several five-storey apartment buildings and shaking off the branches of trees and downing power lines.

The attack left large craters in the street and a metre-wide hole in the first floor of one of the apartment buildings.

“The Ukrainian army or whoever they are — they’re bombing us again. I’ve lived in the apartment building my entire life and now they want to take everything I have. There is nothing left to lose here in this city,” said Nina, 52.

The Donetsk city administration, controlled by the separatists, said nine residents had been killed in shelling on Wednesday. The Ukrainian government denies that its forces are targeting civilian areas.

Another nine people, pro-Ukrainian volunteer fighters supporting Kiev’s forces, were killed overnight in separate clashes near Donetsk, Ukrainian officials said.

The government in Kiev and its allies have accused Moscow of orchestrating the separatist rebellion and equipping the rebels with tanks, missiles and other heavy weaponry.

Moscow denies this and accuses Kiev of waging a war against its own people and shelling civilians.

The conflict has plunged relations between Russia and the West to their worst level since the end of the Cold War in 1991.

The United Nations puts the death toll in the conflict at 2,086, including civilians and combatants. That figure has nearly doubled since late July, when Ukrainian forces stepped up their offensive and the fighting spread to major urban areas.

The conflict has plunged relations between Russia and the West to their worst level since the end of the Cold War in 1991.

Geneva, 21 Aug — Red Cross officials entered eastern Ukraine on Wednesday to smooth the planned delivery of relief supplies aboard a Russian aid convoy, the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) said.

The convoy has been stuck at the Russia-Ukraine border for nearly a week due to Ukrainian concerns it could serve as a Trojan horse to infiltrate military supplies to pro-Russian separatists in the area. Moscow says the mission is purely humanitarian in support of civilians trapped by the conflict.

“An advance ICRC team crossed into eastern Ukraine this morning, having received security guarantees from groups controlling the territory for this mission. The team is checking conditions of the road, and the general situation, and establishing contacts in preparation for the passage of the convoy,” ICRC spokesman Ewan Watson told Reuters in Geneva.

“Obviously, this is a very positive step, it certainly brings us closer,” he said.

But the ICRC had no time frame for when the cross-border aid operation might start as Ukrainian authorities had yet to begin inspecting cargo on the approximately 260 trucks, Watson said.

ICRC officials and vehicles are expected to accompany the Russian trucks and their drivers once they get the green light. The Russian convoy is carrying 2,000 tonnes of water, baby food and other humanitarian aid left Moscow on 12 August, arriving at the border a few days later.

Despite renewed diplomatic effort to end the conflict this week, Ukrainian forces fought street battles with the rebels in the eastern town of Illovaisk overnight into Wednesday as they sought to isolate separatist strongholds near the border, an Interior Ministry official said in Kiev.

Government forces are gaining the upper hand after fighting for four months to quell rebellions in its Russian-speaking east and are steadily tightening the squeeze on rebels in their two big bastions of Donetsk and Luhansk.

A Russian convoy carrying humanitarian aid for Ukraine enters border crossing point Donetsk for customs control, in Russia’s Rostov Region, on 20 Aug, 2014. — Reuters

Train wagons are seen on the destroyed railway bridge which collapsed during the fighting between the Ukrainian army and pro-Russian separatists, over a main road leading to the eastern Ukrainian city of Donetsk, near the village of Novobakhmutivka, north of Donetsk city on 19 Aug, 2014. — Reuters

A ICRC team enters eastern Ukraine to smooth way for Russian convoy

A Russian convoy carrying humanitarian aid for Ukraine enters border crossing point Donetsk for customs control, in Russia’s Rostov Region, on 20 Aug, 2014. — Reuters
Hewlett-Packard posts surprise revenue gain after PC sales jump

SAN FRANCISCO, 21 Aug — Hewlett-Packard Co posted a surprise increase in quarterly revenue after sales from its personal computer division climbed 12 percent, but a flat to declining performance from its other units underscored the company’s uphill battle to re- vive growth.

HP sales rose a mere 1 percent to $27.6 billion in its fiscal third quarter from $27.2 billion a year earlier. Wall Street analysts had forecast a modest drop in revenue to $27.01 billion.

The Silicon Valley giant is undergoing a major overhaul aimed at cutting costs and re-orienting itself toward higher-margin businesses such as computing infrastructure. It’s trying to reduce a reliance on PCs and move toward servers, storage and networking for enterprises — part of Chief Executive Officer Meg Whitman’s effort to return the sprawling company to growth.

Whitman credited personal computer demand for “coming back some” as consumers and corporations upgraded ageing machines. She was pleased with 2 percent growth in revenue to $6.9 billion at the Enterprise Group, the company’s second-largest business that deals in networking, storage and servers.

“It’s a turnaround in a declining business,” Whitman said in an interview. She singled out a 9 percent increase in sales of industry-standard servers in particular, saying uncertainty around Lenovo’s acquisition of IBM Corp’s low-end server unit helped steer business to HP.

“We’ve been able to capitalize on that uncertainty and our win rates are up against IBM,” Whitman added.

She pegged Russia and China — countries whose relations with the United States have come under strain — as weak spots for PC sales, though Whitman said its Chinese business as a whole remained on solid footing.

HP intends to remain rigorous on costs to try and boost profitability. In May, it estimated another 11,000 to 16,000 more jobs needed to be cut on top of 34,000 previously announced.

It narrowed its earnings forecast for the full year to $3.70 to $3.74 per share, from $3.63 to $3.75. The company posted $1.7 billion or 89 cents per share of non-gaap diluted net earnings in the third quarter, up 3 percent and in line with forecasts.

Whitman said HP was assessing its $4 billion software business in view of an industry migration toward Internet-based or cloud software. And she said the company, with $4.9 billion in operating company net cash at the end of the fiscal third quarter, could make acquisitions if needed.

The company prefers to build its own capabilities and buying when it cannot develop inhouse, Whitman told analysts on a conference call. HP also remains committed to returning at least half its cash flow to shareholders, via dividends and buybacks.

“We’re in a position to make acquisitions the way we weren’t over the past year,” she said.

Shares of the company dipped 0.8 percent to $34.84 after-hours. They closed at $35.12 on the New York Stock Exchange.

Verizon denies it plans to open new app store

WASHINGTON, 21 Aug — Verizon Communications Inc denied a report on Wednesday it was in talks with carriers and hardware manufacturers to open a new mobile software store.

“We have no plans to do that,” Verizon spokeswoman Debra Lewis said. “Been there. Done that,” she added, referring to Verizon’s Apps, a mobile software store the company shut down last year.

Lewis spoke after The Information, an industry website, reported that Verizon was leading discussions to launch an industry coalition to create a mobile app store.

Currently, Google Inc gives its distribution partners, including carriers and device manufacturers, 30 percent of revenue from applications sold in its stores. Apple Inc operates differently, offering no share of revenue from apps sold in its stores.

In 2013, customers spent a record $10 billion on Apple’s App store. Google does not re-lease revenue figures for its store.

Tire makers race to turn dandelions into rubber

MUENSTER, (Germany), 21 Aug — Dutch biologist Ingrid van der Meer often meets with disbelief when she talks about her work on dandelions and how it could secure the future of road transport.

The reaction is understandable, given most people regard the yellow flow- ers as pesky intruders in their gardens rather than a promising source of rubber for tires.

“People just think of it as a horrid weed and ask how can you get enough material for tires from just a small root,” she said.

Her research team is competing with others across the world to breed a type of dandelion native to Kazakhstan whose taproot yields a milky fluid with tire-grade rubber particles in it.

Global tire makers such as industry leader Bridgestone Corp and No 4 player Continental AG believe they are in for rich pickings and are backing such research to the tune of millions of dollars.

Early signs are good. A small-scale trial by a US research team found the dan- delions delivered per-hec- tare rubber yields on a par with the best rubber-tree plantations in tropical Asia.

So within a decade, rather than being a back- yard bane like their wild cousins, the new flowers might be seen in neat rows in hundreds of thousands of acres across Europe and the United States, where they can grow even in poor soil.

And they could have some interesting modifications. For instance, Ger- man researchers have bred the plants to grow up to a foot (30 cm) in height, dwarfing many of their backyard cousins. They are also developing the dandelions with upright rather than flat-grown leaves - just so harvesting machines have something to grab on to.

The tire industry, which consumes about two-thirds of the world’s natural rubber, has long felt uneasy about its complete reliance on rubber-tree tapping in a handful of Southeast Asian nations which account for most of the $25 billion in annual natural-rubber out- put.

Opera browser to become standard on Microsoft mobile phones

OSLO, 21 Aug — Norwegian software maker Opera has signed a deal to take over the browser building unit of Micro- soft’s Nokia mobile phone unit, Opera said on Thurs- day.

“We have signed a strategic licensing deal with Microsoft. We are basically taking over the browser building depart- ment in Nokia,” Opera Chief Executive Lars Boilesen said. “This means that Opera Mini will become the default browser for Microsoft’s feature phone product lines and the Asha phones product lines.”

The deal will be prof- itable from the start, he added.

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Saud Arabia sentences 18 to jail for militant offences

RIYADH, 21 Aug — A Saudi Arabian court has sentenced 18 men to prison terms of 10 months to 25 years for their part in a series of militant attacks against government and foreign targets between 2003-06, state media reported late on Wednesday.

The men were part of a group of 50 on trial at the same time, of whom 30 have already been sentenced to jail and one to death.

Those sentenced on Wednesday were found guilty of crimes including giving information on foreign residential compounds to attackers, sheltering wanted militants, financing militants and possessing illegal arms.

The conservative Islamic kingdom and US ally has detained thousands of its citizens and sentenced hundreds of them to jail after a campaign of bombings and attacks last decade by an Al-Qaeda group that killed hundreds of people.

Riyadh’s concerns about Islamist militants have grown more acute over the past two years as the conflicts in Syria and Iraq have attracted more of its own citizens to travel to those countries in order to join groups fighting in the name of jihad.—Reuters

Six people injured in blasts in Afghanistan

KABUL, 21 Aug — Six people were wounded in two separate blasts in Afghanistan on Thursday.

In one attack, three army soldiers and one civilian got injured when an improvised explosive device (IED) went off near a bus stop in Ahmad Shah Mina locality of the Afghan capital of Kabul at around 7:00 am local time, Deputy Interior Minister Ayoub Salangi said in a short message.

The target of the attack was the army soldiers, who were waiting for a military bus. None of the injured received life threatening wounds, the official added.

In Jalalabad city, the provincial capital of eastern Nangarhar Province, a sticky bomb attached to a police vehicle was detonated, injuring one civilian and one police officer, a provincial police spokesman told Xinhua.

The blast destroyed the police van in the attack that occurred at around 8:00 a.m. in the city, 120 km east of Kabul.—Xinhua

France seeks international meeting to tackle Islamic State

PARIS, 21 Aug — France said on Wednesday it wanted to bring together Arab states, Iran and the main world powers to coordinate a comprehensive response against Islamic State insurgents who control large parts of Syria and Iraq.

Speaking in an interview with Le Monde French President Francois Hollande did not say when such a meeting could be held or who would be invited but said a global strategy was needed to combat the insurgents.

“We can no longer keep to the traditional debate of intervention or non-intervention,” Hollande told Le Monde.

“We have to come up with a global strategy to fight this group, which is structured, has significant financing, very sophisticated weapons and threatens countries like Iraq, Syria and Lebanon,” he said.

The Islamic State has captured swathes of northern Iraq since June, executing non-Sunni Muslim captives and minorities, displacing tens of thousands of people and drawing the first US air strikes in the region since Washington withdrew troops in 2011.

On Tuesday night the group released a video showing the beheading of US journalist James Foley that it said was in revenge for the strikes.

Foreign Minister Laurent Fabius told lawmakers Paris wanted the permanent members of the UN Security Council — Britain, United States, China, Russia and France — and regional countries, including Arab states and Iran, to coordinate action against the militias.

“We have to see with different partners how we can face them (Islamic State) with intelligence and military measures. That means cutting their resources, it means taking action to separate the support this group has from the population,” Fabius said.

A diplomatic source said the conference, if it took place, could be held in Paris in September.

We consider this terrorist group of different level of dangerousness than others. It is a business of destruction. Today it is Iraq, but the caliphate is the entire region, and beyond it is obviously Europe,” Fabius said and condemned Foley’s killing.

France, which has close ties with Iraq’s Kurdish region, started delivering weapons to Kurdish fighters on Friday to help stop an advance by Islamic State into the Kurdish region.

“I believe the international situation is the worst we’ve seen since 2001,” Hollande said. “We are not dealing with a terrorist group like al-Qaeda, but a quasi-terrorist state, Islamic State.”

Speaking on French radio on Tuesday, a Kurdish general said French weapons’ deliveries so far had not been sophisticated enough and called on Paris to provide anti-tank missiles.

Hollande said that France’s weapons deliveries had been carried out in agreement with the central government in Baghdad to ensure Iraq remained united.—Reuters

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Brazil can learn from China to open up for competition

RIO DE JANEIRO, 21 Aug — Brazil can learn a lot from China to open up for competition and boost growth, a US expert said on Wednesday.

Brazil “can open up for competition, little by little,” much like China did in the past, Ann Lee, an economist and finance professor with New York University, said at a seminar here.

Lee, an expert on Chinese economy, praised the Chinese model, which, according to her, is based on concrete experiences.

She said Brazil can learn from China’s experiences in special economic zones and be more open, even if in just a few sectors at first.

“Forty years ago, China had a 100-percent state-owned economy, with no private industry whatsoever. And they had to learn how to integrate themselves into the current global order where private industry played a role. They had to figure out how to move from their then state to a different state, when they had no real market economy, and there were not rulebooks or blueprints,” Lee said.

“China realized they had to do things step by step through trial and error,” she added.

Brazil is going through a presidential campaign and general elections will be held in October.

Lee aid she believes Brazil can get more dynamism and increase its global presence, adding that in order to achieve more growth, the country needs a plan to advance, as well as a political figure with a strategic vision to conciliate different interests and gather them around the same policy.

Again, that is a strategy that has worked for China. China has strategic plans that they have announced to the whole world; it is like a goal setting exercise for them, where they say ‘this is where we would like to be,’ and ‘these are our aspirations.’

And then they try to align all the government officials to carry them out,” she said. “By having hard targets like that, they help attract the right kind of talented and experienced to China to help them reach those goals.”

Xinhua

Former Senator Marina Silva (R), the congressman Luiz Roberto Albuquerque (L) and the national president of the Brazilian Socialist Party (PSB, for its acroynm in Portuguese), Roberto Amaral (C), take part in an extraordinary meeting of the PSB in Brasilia, Brazil, on 20 Aug, 2014. Marina Silva was confirmed as presidential candidate of the PSB and Luiz Roberto Albuquerque as vice-presidential candidate after the death of Eduardo Campos, according to local press.

Xinhua

French Foreign Affairs Minister Laurent Fabius speaks during a news conference with Iraq’s Deputy Prime Minister for Energy Hussain al-Shahristani in Baghdad, on 10 Aug, 2014.—Reuters
Ministry of Energy
Myanma Petroleum Products Enterprise
Invitation for Opened Tender (3/2014)

1. Open tenders are invited for supply of the following respective items in Myanmar Kyats and United States Dollars (CIF Yangon).

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Sr.No</th>
<th>Tender No</th>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Qty</th>
<th>Remark</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>(1)</td>
<td>MPPE/LP/MCY/CAP/T/5</td>
<td>2,800 Gallons Bowser (Brand New) (2014-2015)</td>
<td>10 Units</td>
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<td>(3)</td>
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<td>MPPE/LP/PT/T/2</td>
<td>Tyre with Tube and Flap (2014-2015)</td>
<td>2 Items</td>
<td>Kyats</td>
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<tr>
<td>(7)</td>
<td>MPPE/MCY/CAP/T/5</td>
<td>Mercedes Refueller Engine Assembly with Clutch and Gear Box Assembly (2014-2015)</td>
<td>2 Sets</td>
<td>USD</td>
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<tr>
<td>(8)</td>
<td>MPPE/AV/1/1</td>
<td>Aviation Gasoline 100LL (2014-2015)</td>
<td>480x200 Litre Drums</td>
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<td>MPPE/AV/LUB/1</td>
<td>Aviation Lubricating Oil &amp; Grease (2014-2015)</td>
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<td>Filter Elements (2014-2015)</td>
<td>8 Items</td>
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2. Tender Closing Date & Time - 18-9-2014, 12:00 Hrs.
3. Tender documents are available at our office starting from 19-8-2014 during office hours and for further detail please contact: Phone: 067-411487.

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

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

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Sr.No</th>
<th>Tender No</th>
<th>Description</th>
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<tr>
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<td>IFB-087(14-15)</td>
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<td>(2)</td>
<td>IFB-088(14-15)</td>
<td>Spare for Drilling Accessories (12) Items</td>
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<td>(3)</td>
<td>IFB-089(14-15)</td>
<td>2&quot; Pipe Elevator (3) Nos</td>
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<tr>
<td>(4)</td>
<td>DMPL-014/14-15</td>
<td>Lifting Slings, Webbing Slings &amp; Shackle (13) Items</td>
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<tr>
<td>(5)</td>
<td>DMPL-015/14-15</td>
<td>Air Hose Pipe (3) Items for ZJ50D Drilling Rig</td>
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Tender Closing Date & Time - 16-9-2014, 16:30 Hrs
Tender Document shall be available during office hours commencing from 18th August, 2014 at the Finance Department, Myanma Oil and Gas Enterprise, No(44) Complex, Nay Pyi Taw, Myanmar.

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

Invitation for Open Tender
No. (1) and No. (2) Mining Enterprise, Ministry of Mines invites to submit the tender quotation for the following minerals:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>No.</th>
<th>Type of Mineral</th>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Remark</th>
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<td>Pb, Pb Ore and Other Mixed Antimonial Ore and Other Mixed</td>
<td>Electra Refined Tin</td>
<td>ABT 100 MT,</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Chromium Concentrate and Other Mixed</td>
<td>Pyro Refined Tin</td>
<td>ABT 10 MT,</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Iron Ore and Other Mixed, Zinc</td>
<td>Wolfram Concentrate ABT 0.626 MT, Tin Slag</td>
<td>ABT 85 MT and</td>
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<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Other Mixed Ore</td>
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<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>ABT 11.197 MT</td>
</tr>
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</table>

Tender Closing date and time - 9th September, 2014 (15:30) Hrs

The request for additional military personnel, which would include fewer than 300 people, has not yet been approved, the official said on condition of anonymity.

The US military has already sent more than 800 soldiers to Iraq since Islamic State fighters took over much of the country’s north in June.—Reuters

KUNMING, 21 Aug—A 4.2-magnitude earthquake struck China’s Yunnan Province on Thursday.

The earthquake occurred in Binchuan County, Bai Autonomous Prefecture of Dali at 12:11 am Thursday with its epicenter 12 km deep, according to the China Earthquake Networks Centre.

Residents in the county seat felt the earthquake with many rushing out of their homes, said Zhao Zhizhen, a county official.

There have been no reports of casualties or damage. Local authorities are checking into the situation.

Yunnan is prone to earthquakes. A 6.8-magnitude earthquake in Lufu in the northeast of Yunnan on 3 August killed more than 600 people and destroyed 80,000 homes.—Xinhua
**MURDER, REVENGE, LUST AND RAMPAGE TAKE OVER “SIN CITY” SEQUEL**

**Los Angeles, 21 Aug—Feminists fatales and brutish men form a complex web in “Sin City: A Dame to Kill For,” which expands the original elements of the 2005 film and introduces a new face from Frank Miller’s noir graphic novels to be brought to life in film.**

“Sin City” was the forefront of a new wave of comic book adaptations on the big screen, as DC and Marvel properties such as X-Men, Spider-Man, and Batman reboots dominated the box office in recent years. Director Robert Rodriguez worked closely with Miller to adapt “A Dame to Kill For,” using 3D techniques and animation to lend the graphic novel feel to the film, which Miller said helped the film stay close to the books.

“Dame to Kill For,” will be arriving on 22.8.2014 and cargo will be discharged after the claims day. 

**Actress Emma Stone to make Broadway debut in ‘Cabaret’**

**New York, 21 Aug—** Actress Emma Stone will replace Michelle Williams and make her Broadway debut as singer Sally Bowles opposite Tony winner Alan Cumming in the musical “Cabaret,” producers said on Wednesday.

The 25-year-old actress, who starred in Woody Allen’s “Magic in the Moonlight” and superhero action franchise “The Amazing Spider-Man,” will begin on 11 November in the musical set during the rise of Nazism in Berlin. “Cabaret” is based on Christopher Isherwood’s 1939 novel “Goodbye to Berlin,” which chronicles in part the seedy cabaret nightlife of the German capital in the final years of the Weimar Republic.

Williams has extended her run in the role made famous by Liza Minnelli to 26 November, and Cumming will continue to play the emcee at the Kit Kat Club until 29 March.

The revival of the 1998 Tony Award-winning production that opened on 24 April at Studio 54 has won rave reviews, with the Hollywood Reporter describing it as a “thrilling production, which is even sharper this time around.”

**Teacher Entitled to Amount Declared as Claimant**

**New York—** A federal judge has found that a hit 2010 song by Colombian pop star Shakira copied a Dominica- n songwriter’s work.

U.S. District Judge Alvin Hellerstein in a ruling in Manhattan federal court on Tuesday said Shakira’s Spanish-language single “Loca” infringed on the work of Ramon Arias Vasquez, who wrote “Loca Tiguere” in the late 1990s.

Hellerstein dismissed claims that Shakira’s English version of the track infringed, citing a lack of evidence.

The ruling is a victory for plaintiff Mayumba Music, which holds the rights to Arias’s work and which sued Sony Corp of America and several other Sony units in 2012.

The judge found only two of them liable, Sony/ATV Latin and Sony/ATV Discos, for distributing

**Actress Emma Stone smiles during a news conference at the Maracanaz stadium in Rio de Janeiro 12 July, 2014.**

**Reuters**

Shakira’s hit song ripped off Dominican artist, NY judge

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**Cast member Bruce Willis poses at the premiere of Sin City: A Dame to Kill For in Hollywood, California 19 Aug, 2014.**

**Reuters**

**Los Angeles, 21 Aug—** Femmes fatales and brutish men form a complex web in “Sin City: A Dame to Kill For,” which expands the original elements of the 2005 film and introduces a new face from Frank Miller’s noir graphic novels to be brought to life in film.

“Dame to Kill For,” out in US theatres on Friday, is both a prequel and sequel to 2005’s “Sin City,” adapted by from Miller’s gritty series of the film, distributed by Weinstein. 

The return of characters such as the warrior Mary (Mickey Rourke), private investigator Dwight McCarthy (Josh Brolin) and exotic dancer Nancy Callahan (Jessica Alba), as they battle both the mental and physical demons of new arrivals.

Dwight’s weakness comes in the form of the seductive Ava Lord, played by Eva Green, who embodies all the characteristics of Miller’s ultimate femme fatale—a green-eyed ruthless manipulator who uses her sexuality to get what she wants.

“We’ve all dreamt of being Ava Lord at some point, to have so much power and to just let it all out and use men and be nasty,” said Green. “She’s a fantasy.”

“Sin City” came at the forefront of a new wave of comic book adaptations on the big screen, as DC and Marvel properties such as X-Men, Spider-Man, and Batman reboots dominated the box office in recent years. Director Robert Rodriguez worked closely with Miller to adapt “A Dame to Kill For,” using 3D techniques and animation to lend the graphic novel feel to the film, which Miller said helped the film stay close to the books.

“Miller criticized recent superhero films for straying from original source material, pointing to “Iron Man 3,” “Captain America” and “Avengers,” based on Jack Kirby’s 1960s comics. “There’s a big difference between going from a singular vision and taking the title of something into a boardroom full of people and ripping it to pieces,” he said.—Reuters

**Mariner Allsong, 22 August, 2014**
Liberia police fire on protesters as West Africa’s Ebola toll hits 1,350

MONROVIA, 21 Aug — Police in the Liberian capital fired live rounds and tear gas on Wednesday to disperse a stone-throwing crowd trying to break an Ebola quarantine imposed on their neighbourhood, as the death toll from the epidemic in West Africa hit 1,350.

In the sprawling oceanfront West Point neighbourhood of Monrovia, at least four people were injured in clashes with security forces, witnesses said. It was unclear whether anyone was wounded by the gunfire, though a Reuters photographer saw a young boy with his leg largely severed just above the ankle.

Liberian authorities introduced a nationwide curfew on Tuesday and put the West Point neighbourhood under quarantine to curb the spread of the disease.

“The soldiers are using live rounds,” said a police spokesman Dessalline Allisson, adding: “The soldiers applied the rules of engagement. They did not fire on peaceful citizens. There will be medical reports if (an injury) was from bullet wounds.”

The World Health Organization said that the countries hit by the worst ever outbreak of the deadly virus were beginning to suffer shortages of fuel, food and basic supplies after shipping companies and airlines suspended services to the region.

The epidemic of the hemorrhagic fever, which can kill up to 90 percent of those it infects, is ravaging the three small West African states of Liberia, Sierra Leone and Guinea. It also has a toehold in Nigeria, Africa’s biggest economy and most populous country.

Liberia — where the death toll is rising fastest — said its Ministry of Health warehouse had run out of rubber boots and bottles of hand sanitiser, essential for preventing the spread of the disease.

Still struggling to recover from a devastating 1989-2003 civil war, Liberia recorded 95 deaths in the two days to 18 August, the World Health Organization said. Since it was discovered in remote southeastern Guinea in March, the overall death toll from the outbreak has reached 1,350 from a total of 2,473 cases.

Witnesses said the clashes in West Point started after security forces early on Wednesday blocked roads to the neighbourhood with tables, chairs and barbed wire. Security forces also came in to escort the local commissioner out of the neighbourhood, they said.

Attempts to isolate the worst affected areas of the country and neighbouring Sierra Leone have raised fears of unrest in one of the world’s poorest regions should communities start to run low on food and medical supplies.

“I don’t have any food and we’re scared,” said Alpha Barry, a resident of West Point who said he had come from Guinea and has four children under age 13.

In an effort to calm tensions, authorities on Wednesday started delivering tonnes of rice, oil and essential foodstuffs to West Point, residents and a government official said.

The World Food Programme has begun emergency food shipments to quarantined zones where a million people may be at risk of shortages. The WHO has appealed to companies and international organisations to continue providing supplies and services to countries at risk, saying there was a low risk of contagion.

Fighting corruption is a way to commemorate Deng Xiaoping

BEIJING, 21 Aug — As the nation observes the 110th anniversary of the birth of Deng Xiaoping, one newspaper called for the people to champion Deng’s resolute attitude when fighting corruption.

People’s Daily, the flagship newspaper of the Communist Party of China, ran an editorial Thursday saying Deng attached great importance on fighting corruption throughout the course of China’s reform and opening up. Deng warned the country and Party will “change face” if corruption is not stopped, adding the current leadership of CPC is now carrying out Deng’s insight on fighting corruption, the commentary asserted.

There is never an end to reform, as with the anti-corruption campaign, the paper said. Thirty years after the opening up and reform, groundbreaking changes have taken place in China, but corruption continues.

“We must have a zero tolerance attitude for corruption, and have the courage to confront the toughness in fighting corruption,” said the commentary. It said that people’s full support in anti-corruption campaign is the Party’s guarantee in winning this war.

‘Little limes’ add flavour to Nanjing Youth Olympic Games

NANNING, 21 Aug — An August summer in Nanjing can be daunting. But 20,000 “Little limes” around the city are working long hours to keep the thousands of athletes, officials and media smiling despite the heat.

“Little lime” is the name given to the volunteers, dressed in green kit, that are seemingly everywhere, to lend a helping hand.

A total of 20,000 volunteers were recruited for the Nanjing 2014 Youth Olympic Games to cover 400 positions in spectator services, competition organization, food and beverage, medical services, NOC services and other fields.

The volunteer recruitment drive was launched in October 2013 and a total of 103,000 people submitted their applications online.

After 30 interviews, some 18,000 locals were recruited, together with 2,000 people from other places in China and overseas.

“We planned to include 20,000 volunteers in the Youth Olympic Games and we were successful in recruiting 20,000 volunteers,” said volunteer department director Shan Xiaofeng.

“We had to enroll so many volunteers and we felt it was difficult as they had to work in the summer and they don’t get paid. But we got 103,000 applications. Most of the applications were from local universities. So from every six applications we chose one volunteer. We were moved by their enthusiasm.”

The volunteers went through four phases of training: orientation training, specialized training, job training and participating in validation exercises.

“We highlighted knowledge about fire control, first aid and venue training,” We also enhanced venue training to inform them about team structures and sports knowledge and gave them a number of incentives. We had a number of cultural activities for them to make them communicate better and in order to build team spirit,” said volunteer department deputy director Lin Wuping.
No green jacket for you’, a teasing Woods tells McIlroy

“Tiger Woods of the US and Rory McIlroy of Northern Ireland gesture as they prepare to take their tee shots on 2nd hole during the first round of the 2014 Omega Dubai Desert Classic in Dubai on 30 Jan, 2014. — REUTERS”

Scholes ‘scared’ about United’s future

London, 21 Aug — Manchester United great Paul Scholes has said he is scared about the club’s future and believes they could spiral into decline in the same way rivals Liverpool did in the 1990s. Scholes, who played for United throughout his whole career and won 11 Premier League titles, says the club need to sign five top players and believes current slump saw them fail to qualify for the Champions League last season.

United finished seventh in the Premier League in May, having won the trophy the previous year, and began the latest campaign under new manager Louis van Gaal with a disappointing 2-1 home defeat to Swansea City on Saturday. “I am scared for United. Genuinely scared they could go into the wilderness in the same way Liverpool did in the 1990s,” Scholes said in the Independent newspaper on Thursday.

“What do they need? Five players. Five proper players who can hit the rung running and turn around a situation that looks desperate. Let me be clear: I am sick of having to criticise the club to which I gave my life as a footballer. But United need to arrest their decline.”

The defeat by Swansea shredded the close-season optimism that had been circulating since former Netherlands boss Van Gaal was chosen as the permanent replacement for David Moyes, who was sacked after just 10 months in the role.

With many pundits claiming United’s squad needs a root-and-branch overhaul, the club have so far struggled to make a major splash in the transfer market this window.

While some of the world’s best players have been linked with United, only left back Luke Shaw, midfielder Ander Herrera and defender Marcos Rojo have been recruited to date.

United will get the chance to get points on the board when they play Sunderland away on Sunday.

Real Madrid await tests on Ronaldo

Madrid, 21 Aug — Real Madrid will await the result of checks on Cristiano Ronaldo’s back injury before deciding whether he is fit to play in the second leg of the Spanish Super Cup against city rivals Atletico on Friday.

He was substituted at halftime in Tuesday’s first leg at the Bernabeu Stadium, which finished in a 1-1 draw. Ronaldo’s replacement, the new signing from Monaco James Rodriguez, put the European champions ahead with his first goal for the club but Raul Garcia equalised.

“Cristiano felt something and was uncomfortable,” Real’s manager Carlo Ancelotti told reporters. “We’ll evaluate it. He’ll undergo all the checks and we’ll see. It doesn’t seem to be anything too serious.”

Ancelotti’s team, who have already won the European Super Cup by beating La Liga rivals Sevilla, continue a busy start to the season by playing their first league match against Cordoba on Monday. — Reuters

“Cristiano Ronaldo”

He Yun of China dives into the water during the Women’s 4x100m Freestyle Relay of swimming event at the Nanjing 2014 Youth Olympic Games in Nanjing, capital of east China’s Jiangsu Province, on 21 Aug, 2014. The Team of China advanced. — Xinhua