

Myanmar to get Australian aid to improve schooling, teacher quality



Photo shows one of Myanmar's 43,000 schools that will benefit from Australia's \$27.8 million aid to help students get a quality education.—PHOTO: AUNG KHIN

By Ye Myint

YANGON, 5 July—The Australian government will give US\$27.8 million in aid to boost services in 43,000 schools and teacher training colleges in Myanmar, according to a press release by the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade of Australian government on Saturday.

Promotion of cooperation in Myanmar's education sector was among the topics discussed at a meeting between Australian

Minister for Foreign Affairs Julie Bishop and President U Thein Sein in Nay Pyi Taw on Thursday.

She announced during her visit to Myanmar that the Australian government will focus on increasing educational opportunities for primary and tertiary students, and improving teacher quality.

At the moment, about half of five million school-aged children in Myanmar do not complete primary school.

The media release says the aid package,

which is additional to Australia's commitment to the provision of \$24.6 million to promote economic growth and community engagement with the peace process, will be for education in Myanmar to help strengthen schooling and teacher training in cooperation with the Ministry of Education and the World Bank.

Apart from the financial aid, Australia will also provide 50 long-term Australia Awards for Myanmar students to study in Australia in 2015 and it is also exploring opportunities within the New Colombo Plan to provide Australian students with an opportunity to study in Myanmar.

Bishop expressed her view in the press release that education is essential to the success of the Myanmar government's broader reform efforts.

NLM

Lethal weapons found in religious building

MANDALAY, 5 July—Security forces have found a collection of lethal weaponry, following a search of a religious building in Chanayethazan township, in Mandalay on Friday morning, local officials reported.

A mass funeral of a victim of 2 July violence was being conducted when a person from the funeral procession attacked two passengers aboard an express bus at the junction of Shwekyin on Mandalay-Mogoke Highway.

The attacker is yet to be identified and the two

victims were taken to Mandalay General Hospital, police said.

At a cemetery in Patheingyi township, a crowd set fire to a building with a corrugated iron roof and bamboo-matted walls, with 10 fire engines rushing to the scene, witnesses said.

According to the local government, some people were found to arm themselves with sticks on their way back from the funeral service, resisting arrest and fleeing when security forces stopped them. Four were arrested, police said.

MNA

Arrest of Myanmar migrant workers in Bangkok turns out to be rumour

NAY PYI TAW, 5 July—The news that arrests are being made in Bangkok has been found out to be a rumour, sources said.

Myanmar's Ministry of Foreign Affairs quoted the Mahachai-based Myanmar Migrant Workers Rights Network as saying that combing all areas in the capital city for illegal migrant workers was just a rumour and that Thai me-

dia were found ready for media coverage of the arrests as they occurred.

Reports said the National Council for Peace and Order, the Thailand's military government, has ordered a crackdown on arm and drug dealers and their rings in Mesok and Chiang Mai as of 1 June, following the apprehension of arm dealers in the north-east of Thailand, near the

Cambodian border, in late May.

From 1 to 4 June, Thai immigration authorities evicted squatters on the bank of the Thaungyin River in Mesok and detained 268 Myanmar migrant workers, followed by the return of 103 illegal Myanmar workers to its neighbour. A negotiation between the Myanmar ambassador to Thailand and

the NCPO's vice chairman on 6 June saw the release of the remaining workers on 7 June.

According to officials, around 30 Myanmar migrant workers faced arrest in a clearout in Chiang Mai from 10 to 12 June, all of whom were released following a negotiation between high-ranking officials of two countries on 15 June.—MNA

INSIDE

Vice President U Nyan Tun joins International Co-operative Day



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Jades sales exceed reservation prices

NAY PYI TAW, 5 July—The 51st Myanmar Gems Emporium continued at Mani Yadana Jade Hall in Nay Pyi Taw and 110 lots of jade have been sold at competitive prices.

Myanmar jades were purchased at prices higher than reservation

prices, when compared with those at the previous emporiums, a visitor said.

At the emporium, the Jade Lot No 7318 received over 20 million euros, although its floor price was 800,000 euros, he added.

MNA



Merchants purchasing jade lots through competitive bidding at the 51st Myanmar Gems Emporium.—MNA

Welaung dam benefits cultivation of sesame in Taungtha Tsp



TAUNGTHA (central Myanmar), 5 July—Welaung dam is located 15 miles to the southwest of Taungtha town in Myingyan District in Mandalay Region. Normally the dam feeds water to monsoon and summer pad-

dy fields. This year sesame has been put on some land to which water from the dam is difficult to supply.

The aim of cultivating sesame is to preserve soil in the irrigated areas of the dam. Starting from this

year, altogether 150 acres of land have been put under sesame as a pilot project. "After the summer paddy cultivation season, we put sesame on the land and the cost for cultivation of sesame is less than cost for

growing rice. As sesame is in high demand we can get much profit from this crops," said farmer U Kyaw Win of Aungchantha village of Welaung village tract.

Kyaw Myo Naing(Taungtha)

Outstanding students, best pass rate school honoured in Myeik Tsp

MYEIK, 5 July—A ceremony to present prizes to the outstanding students for 2013-14 academic year and grant stipends to the needy students was held at the hall of Basic Education High School No 3 in Myeik of Taninthayi Region on Friday.

It was organized by Myeik Township Education Microfinance Cooperative Ltd Chairman of Township Education Microfinance Cooperative Ltd U Tin Maung Swe explained prize awarding and stipend presentation.

Officials of the cooperative society presented overall award to the outstanding students, prizes to the students who passed



the matriculation examination for 2013-14 academic year and the best pass rate

award to Thamok BEHS Branch.

Myeik District IPRD

Construction of asphalt street discussed in Yebyu

YEBYU, 5 July—A coordination meeting on placing of asphalt on Kanyingauk street was held in Aungthawady Hall of Yebyu in Dawei District of Taninthayi Region on

Wednesday.

The street stretches the Wards A and B.

Taninthayi Region Minister for Development Affairs U Aung Kyaw Kyaw Oo, Director of

Taninthayi Region Development Affairs Department U Hla Myo and officials participated in the meeting.

Yebyu Township IPRD

University students take part in Computer Quiz

THATON, 5 July—The University of Computer Studies (Thaton) and Mon State Computer Professionals Association jointly organized the MCPA Quiz at the convocation hall of the university in Thaton of Mon State on Friday.

Principal Dr Win Htay and Chairman of Mon State PCA U Thein Zaw explained the purpose of holding the quiz and registrar U Win Bo, rules of the quiz.

A total of 16 students from first year to first hon-est participated in the quiz.

Mon State Hluttaw Representative U Thein Zaw and officials presented prizes to the winners.

The winners in the quiz will have the opportunity to take part in the Central Level Computer Quiz to be held by Myanmar Computer Professionals Association in Yangon on 2 August.

Thet Oo (Thaton)



WB's tasks gaining momentum in Kyunsu Township

KYUNSU, 5 July—Officials of the Community-centred project group, formed by Department of Rural Development and the World Bank, met members of the maintenance committee in Mingok Village of Kyunsu Township

of Taninthayi Region on Thursday.

Training specialist Mr Klaus Thomas Kirchmann of Holland, Ms Nodoka Hasegawa of Japan, complaint expert U Banyar Tun of Nay Pyi Taw and Head of Kyunsu Township Depart-

ment of Rural Development U Than Tun Oo inspected tasks being undertaken by the World Bank in Mingok Village. They gave instructions to members of the maintenance committee for the tasks of WB.

Kyunsu IPRD

Village in central Myanmar gets BEMS (Branch)

MYINGYAN, 5 July—Basic Education Post Primary School in Tuywinboe village in Myingyan

Township was upgraded into Basic Education Middle School (Branch) on Friday. The new middle

school will enroll children from the village and nearby villages.—U Zaw Min Naing (Myingyan)



NATIONAL

Ambassador U Soe Lwin accredited to ROK

NAY PYI TAW, 6 July—The President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar has appointed U Soe Lwin as Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar to the Republic of Korea. *MNA*

Vice President U Nyan Tun joins International Co-operative Day



Vice President U Nyan Tun and party observe products at celebration on International Co-operative Day 2014.—MNA

NAY PYI TAW, 5 July—Vice President U Nyan Tun took part in celebration on International Co-operative Day 2014 held here on Saturday, with the theme of “Co-operative enterprises achieve sustainable development for all”.

The vice president said: “Reports have mentioned that the Ministry of Co-operative is making plans to establish a small micro-finance loan programme at the end of 2015 with low interest rate for its members at the rural areas.”

He also urged that this programme must be supported as it also has useful and effective objectives for the grass root people who are impossible to contact with monetary organizations.

The World Bank has estimated that 43 percent of GDP in Myanmar and 70 percent of its workforce are from the country’s agricultural sector.

According to the figures of January 2014, the International Co-operative Alliance (ICA) represents 272 co-operative federations and organizations in 94 countries.

Union Minister for Co-operative U Kyaw Hsan also said that the member of ICA are doing businesses in agricultural, property and service sector, as well as contributing in social sectors.

Minister added that 40 percent of the United States’ citizens are the members of co-operative organizations; the agricul-

tural sector in Japan are being worked by its farmers; Kenya’s 45 percent GDP and New Zealand’s 22 percent GDP come from the co-operative organizations.

U Kyaw Hsan said,

quoting the report of the United Nations, that the co-operative federations have ensured the livelihoods of more than three billion world population.

NLM

Myanmar military to help establish economic zones with Thailand: Senior General Min Aung Hlaing

NAY PYI TAW, 5 July — Myanmar military will help establish the projects at the border areas and economic zones with Thailander, said Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Senior General Min Aung Hlaing on Friday, while meeting with Thai army chief General Prayuth Chan-ocha in Bangkok.

During the meeting at the Royal Thai Armed Forces Headquarters, senior general also appreciated Thai military to legalize Myanmar migrant workers in the Kingdom.

General Prayuth Chan-ocha, leader of the National Council for Peace and Order (NCPO) acknowledge about the successful cooperation of the two militaries in solving border affairs and Myanmar immigrants.

Prayuth also promised to work together in the establishment of border economic zones, and to promote the ties between the two militaries.

Min Aung Hlaing then visited Rajaworadit Pier of Royal Thai Navy near the Grand Palace in the afternoon.

On 5 July morning, Myanmar military delegation visited the Temple of the Emerald Buddha (officially known as Wat Phra Kaew) on the grounds of the Grand Palace and the Trinitawittayaram Temple near Chinatown in Bangkok.

The Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services and Myanmar delegation arrived back to Nay Pyi Taw International Airport in the afternoon.

NLM

Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Senior General Min Aung Hlaing and General Prayuth Chan-ocha seen in group photo of military personnel in Bangkok.—MNA



Union Minister U Khin Yi being greeted by US Ambassador to Myanmar Mr. Derek J Mitchell at the reception to mark the 238th Independence Day of the United States of America on 3 July.—MNA

Seminar on ‘change management’ By Khaing Thandar Lwin

YANGON, 5 July—A seminar on the change of management held in Yangon on Saturday with the suggestion of economists on possible measures to create successful businesses in the country.

Dr Daw Moe Moe Khaing, Associate Professor from the Department

of Management Studies of Yangon Institute of Economics, said: “Most of Myanmar entrepreneurs need a business partner to create a successful business and they should make more data analysis and market survey.”

“Economic sector is facing many challenges in changing business manage-

ment because of new products, demographic variation, changes in legislative and economic trends, social and cultural changes and raising competition,” she added. Dr Daw Moe Moe Khaing also suggested to all businesspersons on changing practices in business restructuring and utilization of modern technology, sharing her experience on business management. —*NLM*



GOOD DEEDS: Myanmar Construction Entrepreneurs' Association on 3 July offered robes to monks. President of the association U Thar Htay led its members to offer robes to members of the Sangha.

AUNG THUYA

NEW HOTEL IN MYAWADY: Ngwe Setkya Hotel II in Myawady in Kayin State is now ready to provide services to foreign guests and local travellers. It was opened on 5 July by owners U Minn Pan Hmwe and Daw Thida San. Located on Yawmingyi Road in Ward-4, the hotel is affordable for travellers.

THUZAR
(MYAWADY TOWN)



Lectures on agriculture given to local farmers in MraukU Tsp

MRAUKU, 5 July—Organized by MraukU Township Agriculture Department of Rakhine State, the farmer educative course No 1/2014 was opened at the Agriculture Department of the township recently.

Altogether 50 local farmers from 15 village-tracts attended the course.

Head of Rakhine State Agriculture Department U Thein Win explained the

point for development of agriculture sector in Rakhine State. Officials of the department gave lectures on production of quality strains of crops and matters related to infection of pests on plants.

Head of Township Agriculture Department U Soe Lwin Phyo discussed 14 points of good agricultural patters and problems of farmers in cultivation tasks.

MraukU IPRD

Paddy plants transplanted in Palaw Township

PALAW, 5 July—Officials of Agriculture Department of Palaw Township in Taninthayi Region and World Vision (Myanmar) on Friday met 99 local farmers in Hmawyoung Village of the township.

Head of Township Agriculture Department U Aye Win explained advan-

tages of nurturing the paddy saplings and cultivation of quality paddy strains.

Staff of Agriculture Department and Palaw Township World Vision (Myanmar) and local farmers transplanted Shwewahtun paddy plants from the nursery of farmer U Myo Win.

Palaw Township IPRD

Myingyan dwellers enjoy electricity

MYINGYAN, 5 July—Myanmar Electricity Supply Board installed 315/KVA transformer at Ward-18 in Myingyan. Thanks to the installation of the transformer, people living in the ward got electricity starting from 3rd of this month. The transformer can handle

300 meter boxes with full capacity. Those living in the ward and who wish to install meter boxes in the ward can submit their application for installation of meter boxes and MESB is ready to give a helping hand.—U Zaw Min Naing (Myingyan)



REGIONAL

China's top graft-buster says no off limits in probes

BEIJING, 5 July — No part of China's ruling Communist Party is off limits for its crackdown on corruption, the country's top graft buster was quoted as saying, sounding a warning a few days after the one of the country's most senior former soldiers was purged.

The party this week announced that Xu Caihou, who retired as vice chairman of the powerful Central Military Commission last year, had been expelled from the party and will be court-martialled after being accused of corruption.

President Xi Jinping, who heads the Central Military Commission, which controls the 2.3 million-strong armed forces, has launched a drive against pervasive graft



China's Politburo Standing Committee member Wang Qishan

since assuming office.

Speaking during a visit to the northern region of Inner Mongolia, Wang Qishan, who heads the party's efforts to combat corruption, warned that every part of the party would be liable for inspection.

"Inspection work is a 'health check' for the party. There are no off limits for oversight within in the party, and there are no exceptions," the party's graft

watchdog cited Wang as saying, in a statement issued late on Friday.

President Xi has vowed to take down powerful "tigers" as well as lowly "flies".

Xu is the most senior person to date to have been felled.

However, a potentially far juicier scandal is brewing — the case of the powerful former domestic security chief, Zhou Yongkang.

Sources have told Reuters that Zhou is under virtual house arrest, and while the party made no announcement about his case, many of his allies have been publicly taken down.

On the same day Xu's fate was announced, three other former senior officials were also expelled

from the party, all closely connected with Zhou, including the one-time head of the state assets regulator and a former deputy public security minister.

The party has sent numerous teams into the provinces and government departments to expose corruption.

Problems discovered during this process show that the party is "absolutely correct" in its judgement that corruption remains a serious and complex problem, Wang added.

"It warns us that we must take the arresting of the spread of corruption as our aim and mission, and that these inspections are absolutely something we cannot do without," he said.

Reuters

DPRK conducts island landing drill by armed forces

PYONGYANG, 5 July — The Democratic People's Republic of Korea has conducted an island landing drill with participation of its armed forces and top leader Kim Jong Un guided the drill, the country's official news agency KCNA reported on Saturday. The ground, naval, air and air defence forces of the Korean People's Army participated in the training, with the deployment of combatants, artillery pieces with varying calibers, combat ships, bombers and transport planes.

The drill field looked like an "active volcano" after Kim gave the order to start, said KCNA. Kim said it was possible to strike deadly blows to the enemies if the attack time was proper and firepower was concentrated through "prompt, accurate and united actions."

After the drill, Kim reviewed combat ships aboard a warship and commended the success of the maneuver, saying it has met the requirements of the Juche-based war method, according to the KCNA report.

"History proves that it is impossible to protect the destiny of the country and its people unless the army is bolstered up," said Kim, underscoring the need to increase the country's military strength.—Xinhua

Indonesia seeks ways to tame hunger for food imports

JAKARTA, 5 July — Indonesia's two presidential candidates have pledged to increase the amount of farm land to improve self sufficiency, although previous such plans by Asia's top importer of wheat and a major buyer of other grains and edibles have often stumbled.

In the case of rice, a high-profile attempt by former autocrat Suharto to restore Indonesia's self-sufficiency in the 1990s under Central Kalimantan's Mega Rice Project on Borneo island proved disastrous due to the ill-suited peat land soil.

The rich volcanic soil on Java can support up to three rice harvests a year but land is running out on the densely populated central island of the archipelago. Indonesia plans to import at least half-a-million tonnes of rice this year.

Pawan Kumar, an analyst at Rabobank International, said rice and corn offered the best opportunity to increase production, mostly through improving yields given a scarcity of

land.

"But commodities like soybeans, wheat and sugar would be more challenging," said Kumar, citing the cost of land conversion and cultivation compared to cheaper imports.

Indonesia's agro-food imports have more than quadrupled in a decade to about \$18.4 billion in 2013, according to the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development.

Indonesia has to import all its wheat, with rising wealth encouraging people to eat more bread, noodles and fast foods.

But unless it lifts output of soybeans, corn, sugar and rice Indonesia will have to rely on imports from places such as Australia, the United States, Brazil and Thailand.

President Susilo Bambang Yudhoyono introduced self-sufficiency targets in 2009 after food prices soared, but many have not been met partly due to red tape and corruption scandals over import quotas that caused shortages for food such as beef.



A farmer collects rice during harvest time at paddy field in Padalarang, Indonesia's West Java Province, on 27 May, 2014.—REUTERS

His administration also tried to encourage a greater use of home-grown cassava to replace rice in meals.

In Yudhoyono's second term, agricultural land only rose by 700,000 hectares, well below a target of 2 million hectares, Agriculture Minister Suswono told Reuters. Indonesia has less available agricultural land than many countries. According to the OECD,

agricultural land covers about 53.6 million hectares, or around 30 percent of the total land area.

The two contenders to replace Yudhoyono have also made promises to increase food production, though they have given few details. Front-runner Joko Widodo has said he will fix damaged irrigation systems to open up 3 million hectares of ag-

ricultural land if elected on 9 July. His rival, ex-general Prabowo Subianto, has said he would open up 2 million hectares of new land for rice, corn, soybeans and sugarcane, that he says will also provide 12 million jobs.

Agriculture policy will be among issues discussed by the presidential candidates during a televised debate on 5 July.—Reuters

Several oil tankers catch fire as rockets hit parking lot outside Kabul

KABUL, 5 July — Several oil tankers caught fire and burned to ashes as three rockets fired by militants slammed into a parking lot in the western part of Kabul on Friday night, drivers at the site said.

"It was 11:00 pm Friday night when three rockets hit the parking lot in Arghandi area in the outskirts of Kabul city burning several oil tankers," a driver Tawab Khan told Xinhua at the site of the incident.

"Two of my own oil tankers have burned to ashes and I have lost whatever I had in my life," Khan added. Another dejected driver who declined to be named said his oil tanker was devoured in the fire.

Fire brigade fighters after hours of fighting were able to extinguish the fire at 06:am local time on Saturday. Officials have yet to make comment on the incident.

Meantime, Taliban militants fighting the government to regain power have claimed responsibility for the attack, saying scores of oil tankers were supplying fuel to the NATO-led forces had been turned to ashes in the attack.—Xinhua

Putin tells Obama he wants better ties, equal treatment

Moscow, 5 July — President Vladimir Putin called for an improvement in ties between Russia and the United States on Friday in an Independence Day message to Barack Obama, urging Washington to treat Moscow as an equal partner.

Relations between the two presidents and countries are at a low ebb following disagreements over the conflicts in Ukraine and Syria, and over human rights, democracy and defence matters.

“The head of the Russian state expressed hope that ... ties between the two countries will develop successfully on the basis of pragmatism and equality despite difficulties and disagreements,” the Kremlin said in a statement, outlining a telegram sent to Obama on the 4 July holiday.

“Vladimir Putin also highlighted that Russia and the United States, as countries carrying exceptional responsibility for safeguarding international stability and security, should cooperate not only in the interests of their own nations



Russian President Vladimir Putin

but also the whole world.”

The telegram underlined a message Putin has made central to his third term as president — that Russia, like the United States a veto-wielding member of the UN Security Council, must be treated as a world power and on an equal footing two decades after the fall of the Soviet Union.

The Kremlin statement made no reference to sanctions imposed on Moscow by Washington after Russia annexed the Black Sea peninsula of Crimea in March, or to other differences between the two former Cold

War enemies.

But the call for “pragmatism and equality” in relations suggested Putin put the onus on Obama to improve ties.

The language was less upbeat than in last year’s Independence Day telegram, in which Putin expressed “certainty” that Moscow and Washington would be able to work out solutions to various issues “regardless of the fact that not all approaches of the sides concur”.

The telegram sent on 4 July, 2012, at the height of the Syria conflict but long before the Ukraine crisis,

was also more positive, referring to an improvement in preceding years and presenting an optimistic outlook for the future.

Relations have deteriorated particularly since Russia annexed Crimea following the overthrow of Viktor Yanukovich as Ukrainian president. He had spurned a trade pact with the European Union in favour of better ties with Moscow.

Russia accused the United States of supporting protests against Putin before his re-election in 2012 and Washington has accused Moscow of suppression of his opponents and of gay rights.

Putin reiterated complaints this week the United States was trying to “contain” Russia, using a term from the Cold War era.

Other Russian officials have also taken a tough line this week, deflecting Western accusations that Moscow did not do enough to ensure pro-Russian separatists who have risen up in eastern Ukraine stuck to a ceasefire last week.

Reuters

Floods hit northern Spain as river bursts banks due to heavy rainfall

MADRID, 5 July — Intense rainfall early on Friday morning has caused the river Baztan in the north Spanish Community of Navarra to burst its banks and flood parts of the town of Elizondo, it was reported on Spanish television.

The heavy rain, which was caused by a deep area of low pressure over central and northern Spain, saw the river Baztan unable to cope with a flow of 350 cubic meters per second and its level rose to almost four metres, flooding the heart of Elizondo, where several people needed to be rescued from their homes and cars were carried away by the strength of the floodwater. This is the latest incident in what has been a chaotic 48 hours in terms of weather in Spain.

Tuesday saw a spectacular hailstorm leave around one meter of ice in the streets of the town of Almazan, which is in the province of Soria.

The hail which fell in the period of just an hour has provoked flood damage of varying degrees in over 60 percent of the buildings in the locality of around 6,000 inhabitants. Wednesday was spent clearing away the hail, although some ice could still be seen on the town streets on Thursday morning, despite it being high summer in Spain. Madrid was also affected by a serious hailstorm on Wednesday, the hail causes flooding in several areas of the Spanish capital and trains had to be suspended on some parts of the city metro.

Meanwhile flights had to be diverted from Madrid’s Adolfo Suarez-Barajas airport and the airport’s Terminal 4 was also badly flooded as the roof of the terminal leaked badly. Hailstorms throughout the region have also caused widespread damage to crops, while over 9,000 lightning strikes were recorded in the country on Wednesday.

Finally service was resumed on the high-speed rail link between Madrid and Alicante on Friday after heavy rain washed away ballast supporting the line on Wednesday, forcing one train to a halt and subsequent trains to be diverted to non-high-speed lines.—Xinhua

Ukraine’s president seeks new crisis talks at weekend, fighting rages

KIEV, 5 July — Ukraine has proposed a time and a place for talks on Saturday on reaching a durable ceasefire with pro-Russian rebels and is awaiting a reply, the president’s website said, as fighting in the east killed 13 servicemen.

The website did not name the venue but a Western diplomat expected the talks to be held again in eastern Ukraine’s major industrial hub of Donetsk, where the rebels control key points.

In some of the worst violence since President Petro Poroshenko called off a 10-day unilateral ceasefire on 30 June, Ukraine’s “anti-terrorist operation” (ATO) headquarters said at least 13 Ukrainian military personnel had been killed on Friday.

More than 200 people on the government side have been killed, as well as hundreds of civilians and rebels, in more than two months of fighting in Russian-speaking eastern regions that want to quit Ukraine and join Russia.

Kiev said Ukraini-

an military personnel had sustained losses from sniper fire on its position near the rebel stronghold and flashpoint city of Slavi-ansk, where shelling has

left roads pockmarked and buildings damaged and burnt out.

ATO headquarters said on Friday it had regained control of the nearby village

of Mykolayivka after heavy fighting. “In the course of the operation, a large number of terrorists were taken prisoner and a significant arsenal of various weapons

were taken,” a statement on Facebook said.

Slaviansk, a city of 130,000, and surrounding villages have been the main focus of Ukraine’s military

drive to force out fighters loyal to rebel commander Igor Strelkov, a Muscovite.

Strelkov made an impassioned appeal to Russia on Friday, warning on a rebel website that without Moscow’s help the entire region the rebels lay claim to, known as Novorossiia (New Russia), would fall to Kiev’s forces.

“Slaviansk will fall earlier than the rest,” he wrote.

Russia’s foreign ministry accused Ukraine of endangering innocent civilians in the region. “We call on the Ukrainian authorities to cease firing on civilian targets and residential areas,” it said.

The statement on Poroshenko’s website said he had informed European Union foreign policy chief Catherine Ashton that Kiev had proposed a time and a place for Saturday’s talks. Separatist officials have suggested the venue could be a problem since rebel leaders could be subject to arrest by Ukrainian authorities if they move out of their strongholds.—Xinhua



Ukrainian soldiers drive a military vehicle with a torn Ukrainian flag at a checkpoint near Slaviansk in eastern Ukraine on 3 July, 2014.—REUTERS

WORLD

Winds from Hurricane Arthur wallop Massachusetts' Nantucket Island

BOSTON, 5 July — A weakened but fast-moving Hurricane Arthur swept along southern New England on Friday night, wielding tropical storm-force winds, after an earlier landfall in North Carolina that caused only slight damage.

Powerful wind and heavy rain lashed the Massachusetts summer resort island of Nantucket, a popular destination for visitors over the Fourth of July holiday weekend that was under a tropical storm warning by the US National Hurricane Centre.

Nantucket reported winds of 49 miles per hour (80 kph) gusts as strong as 62 mph (100 kph), the Centre said in a late-night advisory.

A tropical storm warning also was issued for Cape Cod, although it was not being hit as hard as Nantucket.

The centre of the hurricane was offshore about 75 miles southeast of Chatham, Massachusetts, said Jack Beven, a senior hurricane specialist at the Centre.

It was moving northeast at a fairly quick pace but will slow and likely be downgraded to a post-tropical storm system by Saturday, he said.

"The storm is weakening as it moves over cold water," said Beven. "The storm and the cold are get-



Flooding from Hurricane Arthur is pictured on the Outer Banks of North Carolina in this 4 July, 2014 aerial handout photo provided by the US Coast Guard. —REUTERS

ting tangled together."

The centre of Arthur will pass over western Nova Scotia on Saturday and over the Gulf of St. Lawrence on Saturday night, the National Weather Service said in an advisory.

In Massachusetts on Friday, the storm brought driving rain and caused isolated power outages and flooding.

On Thursday, the famed Boston Pops Fireworks Spectacular, already rescheduled a day early due to the weather, was cut short by heavy rain and lightning.

The first hurricane of the Atlantic season, Arthur cut power to almost 20,000 homes and businesses, downed trees and cut off barrier islands from

the mainland after making landfall on North Carolina's Outer Banks late on Thursday.

State officials said there was minimal damage

from the storm. A dozen counties were under states of emergency, and the tourist haven of Ocracoke Island was without power.

"This has been a very

good day. There have been no casualties or serious injuries reported," North Carolina Governor Pat McCrory said at a news conference in Raleigh.

Arthur hit with top sustained winds of 100 mph (160 kph), earning a Category 2 status on the five-step Saffir-Simpson scale. It weakened to a Category 1 as it moved northeast into colder waters of the Atlantic Ocean with 90-mph (145-kph) top sustained winds.

Kathleen O'Neal, owner of Island Artworks on Ocracoke Island, said she could feel her house lift up as the storm passed overhead.

"It was very bad here," she said, adding that many trees had been knocked down.

Officials on Ocracoke said power could be restored by late on Sunday. A generator was supplying power on a rotating basis.

Reuters

Russian navy starts drills in Black Sea

MOSCOW, 5 July — The Russian Black Sea Fleet started military exercises of all-arms forces on Friday, the Defence Ministry said.

More than 20 warships and auxiliary ships, over 20 aircrafts and helicopter gunships, as well as Marine Corps and coastal missile units, were involved in the

navy exercises, which covered the whole Black Sea maritime area, the ministry said.

The Russian warships test-fired five cruise missiles which hit the targets precisely, the ministry said.

"All the forces that take part in the exercises are acting in almost real combat conditions,"

the ministry said, adding that "the commanders are improving their decision-making skills in the ever-changing situation during the exercises."

The drills were supervised by the Black Sea Fleet Commander Alexander Vitko, it added.

However, the ministry did not say how long the

drills would last.

Russian Black Sea Fleet has a base in the city of Sevastopol which, along with Crimean Peninsula, became a part of Russia in mid-March. The Ukrainian navy which shared the Sevastopol port with Russia vacated their Sevastopol barracks soon afterwards.

Xinhua

Mexico finds radioactive load from stolen truck

MEXICO CITY, 5 July — Mexican authorities on Friday found a load of dangerous radioactive material that was in a stolen pick-up, a top civil protection official said.

The load of iridium 192 was found abandoned on a street a few miles from where the truck was stolen in the industrial Mexico City suburb of Tlalnepantla, Luis Felipe Puente, the head of the country's civil protection agency, said on Twitter.

Military troops mounted a security perimeter around the small container emblazoned with logos for hazardous materials until it was removed from the site by the country's nuclear safety commission, according to

media reports.

The material, normally used in industrial radiography, was housed in a specialized container and would only pose a health risk if the housing was tampered with, Mexico's interior ministry said in a statement.

The truck, which belongs to a metalworking company, had been stolen on Thursday.

In December, thieves in Mexico made off with a truck containing dangerous radioactive medical material — Cobalt-60 — that the United Nations' nuclear agency said could provide an ingredient for a "dirty bomb", in which conventional explosives disperse radiation from a radioactive source.

That radioactive load was also found dumped by the thieves close to where it was stolen.

The UN International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA), which has stepped up calls on member states to tighten security to prevent nuclear and radioactive materials from falling into the wrong hands, had no immediate comment on Friday.

Because radioactive material is regarded as less hard to find and the device easier to make, experts say a dirty bomb is a more likely threat than a nuclear bomb in a terrorist attack.

However, they say a dirty bomb carries more potential to terrorize than cause a large loss of life.

Reuters

Iraq's Maliki rejects to withdraw candidacy for third term

BAGHDAD, 5 July — Iraqi outgoing Prime Minister Nuri al-Maliki rejected on Friday to withdraw his candidacy for a third term in office, he said in a statement.

"I will never abandon my candidacy for the post of prime minister, as the Coalition of the State of Law is the largest bloc that has the right to assume the premier post," Maliki said in the statement broadcast on the state-run Iraqiya channel.

"No party has the right to put conditions, which is dictatorial act which we strongly reject," the statement said.

Earlier, the outgoing Parliament Speaker Osama al-Nujaifi said in a statement that he with-



Iraq's Prime Minister Nuri al-Maliki

drew his candidacy for the speaker post after Maliki put Nujaifi's withdrawal a condition to withdraw his nomination for the premier post.

The latest move by Maliki could prolong the country's political deadlock as the parliament is scheduled to hold its next session on Tuesday after

the lawmakers in the first parliament meeting on 1 July failed to agree on electing a new speaker and two deputies.

According to the Iraqi constitution, if the parliament succeeds to elect a new speaker and two deputies, the next step should be choosing new president within the next 30 days.

Following that, the new head of state will have half of a month to ask the bloc with the most lawmakers to nominate a prime minister, who will be responsible for forming a new government.

The duration for the prime minister-designate to select his cabinet members, and present the list to the parliament is 30 days.

Xinhua

PERSPECTIVES

Sunday, 6 July, 2014

Media should report responsibly in critical situations

By Aung Khin

People take to social media, websites and other technology to spread and get information, and exchange views quickly and effectively. However, ethical media have the role to promote peace and democracy in any state and to report responsibly, avoiding instigating hatred or conflicts in the society, especially in multicultural communities.

Authorities releasing information should also have knowledge about media ethics so as to avoid disinformation, malice and hate speech, which are tantamount to undermining the stability of society.

Although foreign media see a certain conflict from international perspectives, local media should carefully make a wise choice of words in ethical ways, not to worsen the problems, but to ensure peace in the country. Their reports have many effects on the situations of the state and people, as well as on restoring peace.

Prominent writers and experts on conflict issues should make suggestions to calm the problems instead of just pointing out the faults. Media should also deliver their comments fairly to promote peace and democracy.

Media need to handle very sensitive matter professionally without instigating conflict. Both

local and foreign media have the power to lessen or exaggerate the degree of conflict, which can change the future of a country.

Though a certain matter is required to report comprehensively, media must fairly balance reporting with the ultimate aim to support harmony and social equality for the welfare of respective communities or the country.

Media people must uphold professionalism and ethical standards in their reporting, checking the accuracy of materials and realistic situations before publishing.

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.

Enhancing higher education institution capacity

By Myo Myint

One of the national priorities of developing countries is to raise the quality of higher education institutions in order to develop an educated work force with advanced knowledge, and thinking, technological and research skills in order to promote their economically competitiveness and social advancement.

To promote the quality of higher education, not only must the capacity of individual institutions be enhanced, but competition must also be promoted among them in order to sustain quality development.

As in any large organization, it is the chief executive officer of higher education institutions who has the most responsibility and the authority to raise their standard. On the surface, the role of the chief executive officers of Myanmar universities appears to be no different from that of their counterparts at international universities. The presidents of international universities such as those in the US are usually appointed by the university board of trustees at the recommendation of the search committee which consists of trustees, faculty members, students and administrative staff. University presidents are responsible for implementing the directives of the board of trustees or directors, and making recommendations to the board. They carry out day-to-day administration of the university. They

undertake fiscal management of the institution. They are in charge of staff matters. They have wide ranging authority regarding personnel appointment, promotion and transfers and fixing staff salary. They also have the responsibility to raise funds for the university, to interact with members of the legislature and to campaign for higher education.

Myanmar rectors, on the other hand, are appointed by the Government at the recommendation of the Ministry of Education. In Myanmar, rectors are appointed from among the pro-rectors. Pro-rectors are chosen from among the professors with high academic qualifications and the potential to lead a higher education institution and after at least one year's service as pro-rectors they can be promoted as rectors. A Myanmar rector serves as the chair of the senate which is the board for academic matters, as well as the chair of the administrative board and is guided by the higher education law. Rectors are assisted by senior faculty and senior administrative officers in implementing the programmes and activities set by the Ministry of Education and in making recommendations related to their institution to the higher education department. As chair of both the academic and administrative wings, rectors appear to have wide ranging authority. However, in reality, regarding the administration of staff they only have the authority to appoint, promote and take action against junior

administrative staff. They can make recommendations regarding promotion and disciplinary matters of academic and senior administrative staff to the department of higher education concerned and it is the department of higher education that carries out appointments, transfers, promotions and disciplinary matters of administrative and academic staff with the approval of the Ministry of Education. Rectors, themselves, are under the jurisdiction of the department of higher education which is again under the administration of the Ministry of Education. Nevertheless, rectors have extensive authority in the daily running of their institutions and are accountable for all matters relating to the budget, the campus, buildings, facilities, security and welfare of students and staff, and make the final decision in almost all matters. They are also assigned to monitor teaching, research and other academic matters and promote the quality of teaching and learning. However, due to the entrenched system of having to provide detailed instruction and supervision in all matters, rectors can sometimes become embroiled unnecessarily in routine matters and waste their valuable time that could have been spent on more important matters.

Most of what is presented in this brief article are matters that rectors are familiar with, but as the Myanmar saying goes, even a man of wisdom sometimes errs, there are minor details that may need

their careful consideration in accomplishing more important tasks.

Myanmar universities are on the path to autonomy and during the transitional period from a centralized system to a decentralized one, rectors play vital roles both in the smooth transition as well as the swift promotion of quality. The tasks of rectors are too numerous to be covered in this brief discussion and seven areas that are deemed to advance the current stage of transition of higher education are highlighted.

Since there are many functions that a university can perform in addition to teaching and carrying out research, such as undertaking staff development programmes, participating in community development, serving as think tanks for local and central governments, etc. The first task of the rector, near the beginning of the academic year, is to set institutional priorities, strategies and activities for the year based on the vision, mission and objectives of the university so that activities can be done systematically and not in an ad hoc manner. In this connection, it is useful to develop an event calendar for the university with the participation of faculty members so that priority activities of individual departments can also be incorporated. The planning of the calendar itself will guide the rector and faculty members in deciding the priority tasks for the university and departments. Each year, new focuses will emerge in tandem with the changing direction of

the institution. For instance, if the university wants to emphasize the development of partnership with local industries, then one of the items on the calendar could be to hold an event such as an exhibition to showcase the university's capabilities to fulfil the research needs of industries, or it could be a seminar on exploring research needs of local industries participated by industrialists and faculty. Together with the development of institutional priorities, the rector also needs to set his/her personal priorities, since as the head of an institution he/she will need to utilize a vast amount of time administering the institution. He/She must ensure that administrative and personal priorities do not clash. For example, if he/she is fond of writing, which can take up a lot of time, he/she should not be spending office hours indulging in his/her hobby.

One of the tasks that requires immediate attention of the rector is the development of a Quality Assurance System. A demand made on international higher education institutions by students, parents, employers, other institutions and stakeholders is that they guarantee the quality of academic programmes they provide. To prove that the programmes are of high quality, a yardstick for measurement acceptable by international universities is needed. It is therefore of vital importance that all universities have a reliable quality assurance system in place. Rectors need not wait for the development of

a common framework for all institutions in the country. So also assessment of all programmes at a university need not be initiated at the same time. It can be done programme by programme over a period of time. The crux of the matter is that institutional quality assurance system be initiated as soon as possible as the quality of programmes provided by institutions need to be known before effective measures to raise the quality of our universities can be taken. A simple but regionally or internationally accepted QA model, such as the ASEAN Quality Assurance System which enjoys worldwide recognition, can be used and adaptations made to suit the needs of particular institutions. The internal institutional level quality assurance system will not only provide information about the quality of the programmes to students and stakeholders outside the institution but it will also provide feedback to the rector, and most importantly, to the heads of departments and faculty. Equally importantly, the information can be used to assist rectors and heads of departments diagnose the state of the health of each department, consider the remedies that should be taken, and later, find out whether the remedy used has been effective or not.

Another important task that the rector might want to consider carrying out is the promotion of the culture of interaction among members of the institution community — the rector, senior and junior faculty, students and administrative staff.

(To be continued)

ARTICLE

Wachet Hospital where local and foreign doctors treating poor patients with loving kindness



Wachet Jivatadana Sangha Hospital on Sagaing Hills.

Sayar Mya

Wachet Jivatadana Sangha Hospital in Sagaing Hills is providing medical treatment and health care the whole year round to monks, nuns, yogis and lay persons irrespective of race, religion and ethnicity, especially marginalized, vulnerable and poor patients.

The presentation of this article is about a senior Italian surgeon born in Myanmar named Dr. Robin Chan and his colleagues and friends senior surgeon Dr. Mehn Thein Thaung from the United States, senior surgeon from Mandalay Dr. U Nyi Nyi Htun, senior surgeon Dr. U Thet Naing Htun, Anesthetists Dr. U Soe Myint, Dr. Daw Hnin Aye Khaing, Dr. Daw Khin Pyone Nyunt (East Malaysia), which provided surgical treatment to the patients suffering from gastrointestinal ailment, illness and motley assortment of diseases from 19 to 25 June 2014.

The Wachet Jivatadana Sangha Hospital was first established in 1984 with the self-sacrificing, shared sentiment and collective endeavors of elderly and senior Sayadaws in the area.

First of all, it is an honor to submit the five-point resolutions of main leading Kyaswa Religious Resort Sayadaw Dr. Lakkhana.

Main Leading Venerable Buddhist Monk Kyaswa Sayadaw Bhaddanta Dr. Lakkhana, Agga Maha Kamahtana Sariya, Agga Maha Saddhamma Zawtika, has had already laid down five-point Resolutions some years ago. The Supervisory and Logistic Committee of Wachet Jivatadana Sangha Hospital in Sagaing Hills

has embraced into their hearts on the resolutions of Sayadaw as its guiding principles and vowed to uphold these mottos in their daily activities for the mankind.

1. I will make use of my life for all the good things and better atmosphere while having the opportunity to be a human being.

2. I will employ my mind and body in all the beneficial acts and valuable performances while getting a rare chance of possessing physical existence.

3. I will develop my human mental power while in possession of the brain for the fruitful outcomes and advantages of all mankind.

4. I will exert my human energy while it is still active and energetic for the constructive impact and better achievements.

5. I will pour out all my worldly resources while it is in certainty and realism for the comfort and happiness of human beings.

Italian senior surgeon Dr. Robin Chan has had profound, significant and strong impression of Kyaswa Sayadaw Dr. Lakkhana for many years.

According to the e-mail sent recently from Dr. Robin, he has already supplicated to the Sayadaw over the telephone in person that the communal libation ceremony of the endoscope instrument worth Myanmar Kyats (100) million being donated by Loi Hein Company family and other devices and apparatuses donated by other well-wishers was earmarked to launch at the Wachet Jivatadana Sangha Hospital on Sagaing Hills on 22 June 2014, and that Sayadaw duly accorded and

agreed the agenda.

It is customary and habitual for Dr. Robin Chan that all the surgical instruments and devices are set up before the members of Sangha for communal libation and sharing of merits thus gained, and only after that activity the instruments are used at the operation theatre for the patients. Unfortunately, the main leading Kyaswa Sayadaw passed away peacefully due to pancreatic cancer on 4 June 2014. Since this article is meant to present about the health care and medical treatment practice of local and foreign doctors at the Wachet Hospital, the illness of the Sayadaw would be recounted very briefly.

When there was suspicion of cancer seen on the venerable monk, he was ushered to Singapore for medical examination at the National University of Hospital in Singapore in March 2014. After listening attentively and carefully to the view, opinion and suggestion spelled out by Myanmar senior physicians and doctors, Sayadaw finally decided to avoid in taking treatment with the standard procedure of chemotherapy and radiation.

Sayadaw returned back to Yangon from Singapore on 14 March 2014.

With the participation of senior and elderly venerable monks, Dr. Lakkhana led the communal libation ceremony on the occasion of the attainment of Myanmar Kyats 300 million with the eternal hospital funds donated by well-wishers. The ceremony was held on the Royal Ayeyawaddy boat cruising on the Yangon River on the clear, tranquil and serene morning under the

blue sky on 16 March 2014.

Next, Sayadaw proceeded to Hyderabad of India accompanied by his close doctors and aides. He embraced medical intervention through Cancer Dendritic Cell Therapy trial treatment at the Asian International Gastrointestinal Hospital. He returned back to Myanmar after administering the experimental therapy. The result was to check after three months duration.

Despite the most enthusiastic and proposed agenda of Dr. Robin Chan to carry out communal libation among the members of Sangha, donors and guests on the installation of endoscope and the official opening of "Endo Unit" at the Wachet Hospital, earmarked on the 22 June 2014, the black dark clouds cast over Wachet and Dr. Lakkhana suddenly passed away on 4 June 2014.

In line with the earlier schedules, Dr. Robin Chan have arrived Yangon from Italy. As promised, he conducted a short lecture on the use of the endoscope, worth Myanmar Kyats 100 million generously donated by Loi Hein Company Family at the Pun Hlaing Hospital Conference Hall in Hlaingthaya Township of Yangon Region on 16 June 2014, attended by donors, relatives, Wachet Hospital EC members. After the briefing, Dr. Robin entertained the guests with lunch at Pun Hlaing large and clean buffet hall.

One week later, the official opening ceremony of two combined events such as the "Endoscope Unit" and the "Laboratory Room (2)" was held at the Wachet Jivatadana Sangha Hospital

Uniform) Myanmar Kyats (7) million.

Various donation of Kyaswa Religious Resort Sayadaw Dr. Lakkhana.

Mandalay General Hospital (Cardiac Care Unit) Myanmar Kyats (10) million.

Mandalay General Hospital (Gastro Intestinal Unit) Myanmar Kyats (10) million.

Mandalay General Hospital (Cancer Treatment Unit) Myanmar Kyats (5) million.

Mandalay General Hospital (Nuclear Radiation Treatment Unit) Myanmar Kyats (2.5) million.

Before the arrival of senior surgeon Dr. Robin Chan and team, the following foreign doctors and Myanmar doctors provided necessary medical treatment to the patients at Wachet Hospital in the second half of 2014.

- (a) Dr. H. Kwon Kang, Retina and Vitreous Center, Sydney, Australia; Ophthalmologist Dr. Sunil of India; Professor Dr. Daw Yee Yee Aung of Mandalay Eye Hospital; Ophthalmologist from Mandalay Dr. U Saw Htoo Sett.
- (b) Dental and Oral Care and Treatment Team led by Dr. U Win Maung Maung and Dr. U Tin Maung Maung.

Dr. Robin Chan's Team Surgeons

1. Dr. Mehm Thein Thaung, Clinical Associate Professor of Surgery (Retired), Brody School of Medicine, Greenville, NC, USA.
2. Dr. U Nyi Nyi Tun, Lecture Consultant Surgeon, Mandalay General Hospital, Mandalay.
3. Dr. U Thet Naing Tun, Consultant Surgeon, Mandalay General Hospital, Mandalay.
4. Dr. Robin Chan, Consultant Surgeon (Retired), University of Padova, Italy.

(To be continued)

Written by Mya Tun, Retired DD of MOFA, Currently working as Independent Freelance Consultant as well as Patron of Wachet Hospital.

Rescuers free three trapped Honduran miners, eight still missing

SAN JUAN ARRIBA, (Honduras), 5 July — Rescuers freed three miners on Friday who had been trapped by a landslide at an illegal gold mine in southern Honduras, but eight more remained unaccounted for as the search moved into its second day.

The workers were trapped when the entrance to the mine in San Juan Arriba collapsed on Wednesday. Officials said the mine, 70 miles (110 km) south of the Central American nation's capital Tegucigalpa, had been ordered to close a few months ago because it was unsafe.

"We've rescued three of the miners, thank God, and we're going to keep looking for the other eight," Moises Alvarado, a senior emergency services official, told reporters.

The three miners were whisked away in ambulances. Oscar Cruz, a spokesman for El Salvador's

Green Cross, which came to help with the search effort, said the men were dehydrated and one had a broken right leg. Chile's foreign ministry said that a team of specialists would arrive on Saturday to aid in the rescue efforts. In 2010, 33 Chilean miners were rescued after being trapped for 69 days underground.

Hopes of a major breakthrough had surged on Wednesday night when Honduran President Juan Hernandez sent a tweet from the scene, saying that eight of the miners had been freed. However, shortly afterwards he deleted the tweet and apologized for reporting false news.

The collapse occurred in a drought-stricken region of Honduras that had been a gold mining center for Spanish colonists. The rise in gold prices in recent years had spurred dozens of small mines to open in the area.—Reuters



Miners carry stretchers as other take cover from rain in a makeshift tent at the site of a landslide at a gold mine in San Juan Arriba, outskirts of Tegucigalpa on 3 July, 2014. —REUTERS

State of emergency declared in Paraguay's flooded capital

MONTEVIDEO, 5 July — Paraguay's President Horacio Cartes on Friday declared a state of emergency in the capital Asuncion, where more than 16,000 families have been displaced by floods.

A total of 5 billion guaranies (1.1 million US dollars) in federal emergency funds have been allocated to aid affected families and handle the

disaster, daily newspaper *Ultima Hora* reported.

Earlier in the day, residents of the severely inundated Banado Sur area had protested outside the presidential residence demanding emergency funds.

Cartes also instructed his minister of Social Action, Hector Cardenas, to make progress on a project to build 524 housing units

on state lots in order to relocate families that lost their homes.

Days of heavy rain caused the Paraguay River to overflow, resulting in 16,602 displaced families in the capital, according to the Municipal Emergency and Disaster Bureau, while nationwide, some 50,000 families have had to leave their homes.

Xinhua

Israeli jets raid southern Gaza Strip

GAZA, 5 July — Israeli fighter jets carried out a series of air raids on the Gaza Strip on Friday, as Palestinian militants continued to fire rockets into Israel, security sources said.

Israeli warplanes carried three air raids on a Hamas military site in the city of Rafah and another Hamas site in Khan Younis City, both in southern Gaza Strip, the sources told *Xinhua*, adding that more airstrikes targeted open space

in Rafah and Khan Younis. No casualties have been reported so far. The air raids came as Gaza militants continued to fire rockets into neighboring Israeli cities on Friday. Israel's Public Radio reported that six rockets hit Israeli cities, causing no damages or casualties.

Earlier in the day, an Egyptian-brokered truce between Israel and Hamas was restored after bloody days of tit-for-tat violence between the two sides, a

Hamas official told *Xinhua* on condition of anonymity.

"Egypt's intelligence and UN officials have brokered the ceasefire in order to avoid more deterioration," the Hamas official said, stressing that both Hamas and Israel are not interested in a wider cycle of violence. Gaza has witnessed an increasing violence since three Israeli teenagers disappeared in the West Bank city of Hebron on 12 June.

Xinhua

Iraq army retakes Saddam's birthplace; Sistani laments political mess



Shi'ite volunteers secure the area from predominantly Sunni militants from the Islamic State, previously called the Islamic State in Iraq and the Levant (ISIL), in the desert region between Kerbala and Najaf, south of Baghdad, on 3 July, 2014. —REUTERS

BAGHDAD, 5 July — The Iraqi army retook Saddam Hussein's home village overnight, a symbolic

victory in its struggle to seize back swathes of the country from Sunni insurgents. Backed by helicopter

gunships and helped by Shi'ite Muslim volunteers, the army recaptured the village of Awja in an hour-long

battle on Thursday night, according to state media, police and local inhabitants.

Awja lies 8 km (5 miles) south of Tikrit, a city that remains in rebel hands since Islamic State, formerly the Islamic State in Iraq and the Levant (ISIL), launched a lightning assault across northern Iraq last month. The offensive to retake Tikrit began on 28 June, but the army has still failed to retake the city, which fell after the police and army imploded last month in the face of the militant onslaught that also captured Mosul and other major Sunni areas.

The military spokesman of embattled Shi'ite Prime Minister Nuri al-Maliki said Awja had been "totally cleansed" and 30 militants killed, according to state television. A police

source told *Reuters* three insurgents had been killed.

The birthplace of Saddam, Awja benefited hugely from the largesse of the Sunni dictator before his ousting by the US invasion of 2003 and locals remained fiercely loyal to the man who would select his relatives from the area for top posts. Spokesman Qassim Atta said security forces had seized control of several government buildings, including a water treatment plant, but security sources and residents said militants were still holding Iraqi forces from entering Tikrit.

The army said it now held the 50-km (30-mile) stretch of highway running north from the city of Samarra — which is 100 km (60 miles) north of Baghdad — to Awja. But the mainly Sunni communities along

this corridor remain hostile towards government forces and army convoys continue to come under guerrilla attack.

Military officials in the United States, which has deployed advisers to Iraq, believe the Iraqi army will be able to defend Baghdad but struggle to recapture lost territory, mainly because of logistical weaknesses.

Government forces could benefit if cracks in the loose alliance of insurgents in Sunni majority areas widens.

In the town of Hawija, site of infighting last month between Islamist fighters and Sunni militia forces, members of local Sunni tribes told *Reuters* that community members had organised to fight against the militants in control of the town.

Reuters

HEALTH & BUSINESS

China, ROK pursue FTA to conclusion



Chinese President Xi Jinping (L) and South Korean President Park Geun-hye jointly meet journalists after their talks in Seoul, South Korea, on 3 July, 2014. — XINHUA

BEIJING, 5 July — As the global recovery falters, China and the Republic of Korea (ROK) will seek new opportunities together, with the close economic relationship that a free trade agreement (FTA) brings.

Accompanied by a huge trade delegation, Chinese President Xi Jinping began his first visit to ROK as Chinese leader on Thursday.

The first tangible result of the visit was a memorandum of understanding between the two central banks on renminbi (RMB) clearing in Seoul, bringing direct trading of the yuan against the won, the ROK currency, a step closer. Seoul's bid to become an offshore center for the RMB enjoys increasing international popularity, backed by China's rapidly

stabilizing economy.

For Zhang Jianping of the foreign economic research institute at the National Development and Reform Commission, less reliance on a third-party currency, fewer transaction fees and reduced investment costs can only be good for both sides.

The memorandum includes an 80 billion yuan (13 billion US dollars)

investment quota granted to ROK under the RMB Qualified Foreign Institutional Investors (RQFII) programme. Launched in 2011, RQFII allows foreign investors to invest on Chinese stock and bond markets with offshore RMB.

Other documents covering trade, finance and consular issues were signed during Xi's visit. Beyond the work of the two governments, an exceptionally impressive business delegation from China on Friday afternoon met with their ROK peers. Over 250 Chinese entrepreneurs from manufacturing, finance and IT accompanied the President. Among them were Ren Zhengfei, president of Huawei, and Li Yanhong, board chairman of search engine Baidu.

Trade between China and ROK amounted to 710 billion yuan in the first five months, with investment from the latter up 88 percent. Two-way trade passed 270 billion US dollars in 2013, making ROK China's sixth largest trade partner and third largest source of imports.

Xinhua

Banking group drafts guidelines for online theft compensation

TOKYO, 5 July — Japan's top banking industry group has drafted new guidelines on how banks should compensate companies, especially small and midsize ones, for damage from online money theft, sources familiar with the matter said on Saturday.

The draft guidelines, scheduled to be released after being formally approved by the Japanese Bankers Association on 17 July, stipulate that banks



will consider paying compensation if companies that suffer from online theft took necessary coun-

termeasures, they said.

The recommended countermeasures include using security software,

shunning computer operating systems whose support has already ended, and changing passwords for online banking on a regular basis, they said.

Online theft damage so far this year amounted to 1.4 billion yen as of 9 May, eclipsing the amount for the whole of last year.

Damage to companies reached about 480 million yen, a fivefold increase from last year.

Kyodo News

Smartphones allow do-it-yourself stress hormone tests

NEW YORK, 5 July — The next addition to the collection of health apps coming online for smartphones may be a stress test, researchers said at a recent conference.

With a simple tube, some software and a saliva sample, people and their doctors can measure levels of the stress hormone cortisol, according to new research presented last week at ICE/ENDO 2014, the joint meeting of the International Society of Endocrinology and the Endocrine Society in Chicago.

"We have designed a method by which anyone with a smartphone will be able to measure their salivary cortisol level quickly, easily and inexpensively," said lead investigator Dr Joel Ehrenkranz, director of diabetes and endocrinology at Intermountain Healthcare in Murray, Utah.

While a commercial lab in the United States may charge up to \$50 to run a quantitative salivary cortisol test and take up to a week to provide the results, the smartphone test



A 20-year-old woman holds her smartphone as she waits for her friends at a train station before a ceremony celebrating Coming of Age Day at an amusement park in Tokyo on 13 Jan, 2014. REUTERS

will cost under \$5 and give results in less than about 10 minutes, Ehrenkranz told Reuters Health in an interview.

"Parts of the United States and the rest of the world that lack facilities to measure cortisol will now be able to perform this essential diagnostic test," he said. "Also, measuring salivary cortisol with this technology will provide a way for individuals to monitor their personal biometric stress levels easily and inexpensively."

Reuters

China's vaccines system meets WHO standards

BEIJING, 5 July — China's national vaccine supervision system has met or passed all the standard requirements of the World Health Organization (WHO), according to a WHO announcement on Friday.

The WHO stipulates only countries with an approved national vaccine regulatory system can receive WHO accreditation and have their vaccines added to the WHO international vaccine purchase list. Countries which make it through an initial assessment undergo a second inspection after three years.

China passed the initial WHO evaluation in



March 2011, and passed the second in October last year. China has a mature vaccine regulatory system with supervision reinforced continuously, the WHO announcement said.

Zhang Yong, chief of the State Food and Drug Administration, said China will fulfill its duty as a WHO member in disease prevention and control.

Xinhua

Spain's Telefonica buys Mediaset Espana stake in Canal+



A man talks on a mobile phone as he walks past Spanish telecom group Telefonica flagship store in central Madrid on 8 Nov, 2013. — REUTERS

MADRID, 5 July — Telefonica (TEF.MC) said on Friday it had agreed to buy the 22 percent stake held by Mediaset Espana (TL5.MC) in pay-TV firm Distribuidora de Television (DTS), giving full ownership of the TV firm to the telecoms group.

Spanish media group Prisa (PRS.MC) in May agreed to sell 56 percent of

DTS, known as Canal+ in Spain, to Telefonica, which already held 22 percent of the company.

Mediaset Espana said in a statement the sale of its stake was worth 295 million euros (\$402.40 million). It will also receive 30 million euros for giving up its preferential right to acquire Prisa's stake in DTS.—Reuters

Israel ready to help Jordan fend off Iraq insurgents if asked



Minister of Strategic and Intelligence Affairs for International Relations of Israel Yuval Steinitz attends a news conference at UN headquarters in New York on 25 Sept, 2013.

REUTERS

JERUSALEM, 5 July — Israel is ready to meet any Jordanian request to help fight off Islamist insurgents who have overrun part of neighbouring Iraq, an Israeli official said on Friday, although he believed Jordan was capable of defending itself.

Jordan is one of two

Arab countries — along with Egypt — to have full peace treaties with Israel and Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu on Sunday praised Amman's stability while echoing Western powers in pledging support to safeguard it.

Asked to elaborate on the statement, Strategic Af-

fairs Minister Yuval Steinitz said potential Israeli assistance could include sending troops or arms, though he saw that as unlikely.

"We have an interest in ensuring that Jordan does not fall to, or be penetrated by, groups like al-Qaeda or Hamas or ISIS," he told

Reuters.

"If, God forbid, there is a need, if such a request comes, if there is an emergency situation, then of course Israel will extend all help required. "Israel will not allow groups like ISIS to take over Jordan."

ISIS, or ISIL as it also known, are radical Sunni Islamist insurgents who have seized much of northern and western Iraq, which has borders with Syria and Jordan.

Steinitz drew a comparison with Israel's willingness to intervene during 1970 border skirmishes between Syria and Jordan as Amman cracked down on Palestinian guerrillas on its turf.

"Israel said it would take action against the Syrian tank brigades that invaded Jordan, but what happened is exactly what I

assess would happen now, too — the Jordanian army managed on its own to halt the Syrian advance and destroy dozens of Syrian tanks and the Syrian army withdrew."

Today's Jordanian military similarly did not require help, Steinitz said, "as they are sufficiently professional and determined".

Following in Egypt's footsteps, the Hashemite kingdom made peace with Israel in 1994. But the countries had maintained discreet security ties since the early 1970s, Israeli Defence Minister Moshe Yaalon said in a 19 February speech in Jerusalem.

Jordan's embassy in Israel declined comment on possible security coordination with the Netanyahu government.

Reuters

Afghan battle leaves six Taliban dead in Badakhshan

FAIZABAD, (Afghanistan), 5 July — Six Taliban militants were killed and 10 others sustained injuries as clash erupted in Jarm district of Badakhshan Province 315 km northeast of Kabul on Friday night, spokesman of provincial government Ahmad Naved Frutan said on Saturday.

"A group of armed Taliban rebels attacked police checkpoints outside Jarm city on Friday night and police returned fire killing six militants on the spot and injuring 10 others," Frutan told *Xinhua*.

There were no casualties on the security personnel, he contended.

Taliban militants who have intensified activities since launching their so-called spring offensive in May have yet to make comment.—*Xinhua*

46 Indian nurses arrive in Mumbai from Iraq

NEW DELHI, 5 July — Some 46 Indian nurses, along with 100 other Indians, arrived in Mumbai by a special flight Saturday, a day after they were freed by militants in war-torn Iraq, sources said. The sources also said that the para-medics would soon head to their home town of Kochi in southern state of Kerala.

"All the 146 Indians have reached Mumbai by a special Air India flight. The plane, which took off from the airport in Erbil in the Iraqi autonomous region of Kurdistan at 4.15 am (local time) made a stopover in Mumbai. After refueling, it will head to Kochi, the home town of the nurses," the sources said. In fact, apart from the nurses, most of the other Indian nationals on board the special flight hail from Kerala. Though not directly hit by the civil war in Iraq, these people wanted to come back and boarded the flight after contacting the Indian Embassy in Baghdad, the sources added.—*Xinhua*

China jails 68 in online gambling bust

BEIJING, 5 July — China has jailed 68 people for up to nine years for online gambling, state media said on Friday, making it the country's largest such bust of a ring, which was valued at \$78 billion. The group operated in the southern province of Guangdong via overseas gambling websites between March 2008 and April 2013, using the sites to lure bettors and take commissions, the official *Xinhua* news agency said.

"Of those convicted, 55 were found guilty of opening online casinos, seven guilty of gambling and six guilty of both crimes," *Xinhua* said, citing a court in the provincial capital, Guangzhou.

Prosecutors said the ring was run within a circle of friends and relatives like a pyramid scheme, *Xinhua* reported. They were given sentences between one year and five months and nine years, and ordered to pay

finer up to 20 million yuan (\$3.2 million). Gambling has been illegal on mainland China since 1949, though a state lottery does operate. Underground rings have drawn gamblers in increasing numbers in recent years, *Xinhua* said.

The southern Chinese territory of Macau, a special administrative region, runs a string of legal casinos. Two horse racing tracks operate in nearby Hong Kong.—*Reuters*



A visitor tries a slot machine during the Global Gaming Expo Asia in Macau on 20 May, 2014.

REUTERS

UK PM's ex-media chief Coulson jailed for Murdoch tabloid hacking

LONDON, 5 July — British Prime Minister David Cameron's former media chief Andy Coulson was jailed for 18 months on Friday for encouraging widespread phone-hacking by journalists to obtain scoops at the Rupert Murdoch-owned tabloid he edited.

Coulson, editor of the now defunct *News of the World* newspaper from 2003-2007, was convicted last week of conspiracy to intercept voicemails on mobile phones following a high-profile eight-month trial at London's Old Bailey court.

"What this says is that it's right that justice should be done and that no one is above the law," said Cameron, who has apologised for having hired Coulson.

Opposition Labour leader Ed Miliband has criticised Cameron for bringing a "criminal into the heart of Downing Street". The maximum sentence the 46-year-old Coulson could have faced was two years but the judge said he had taken into account signs of good character outside his career. Coulson showed no emotion as the sentence was read out in a packed Court 12 at London's Old Bailey court.

"Mr Coulson ... has to take the major blame



Andy Coulson arrives at the Old Bailey courthouse in central London on 30 June, 2014.—REUTERS

for the phone hacking at the *News of the World*," judge John Saunders said. "He knew about it and encouraged it when he should have stopped it."

The sentence was passed exactly three years to the day that the *Guardian* newspaper published revelations that staff on the paper had hacked into the voicemails of murdered schoolgirl Milly Dowler.

That sparked widespread outrage across the country and prompted Murdoch to close the 168-year-old tabloid just days later. It emerged that the newspaper had listened into messages of thousands of targets — from movie stars to crime victims to government ministers — to obtain information for scoops. The judge said Coulson must have known

about the failure of the paper to immediately tell police about Dowler's voicemails, an act he described as "unforgivable".

Coulson, found guilty of conspiracy to illegally intercept voicemails on mobile phones, was the only one of seven defendants to be convicted following a long-running trial, one of the most expensive of its kind in British legal history.

Rebekah Brooks, his predecessor as *News of the World* editor who later ran News Corp's British newspaper arm, was among those found not guilty of phone-hacking and other allegations. The two had been lovers for part of the time they worked together, according to testimony that emerged during the trial.

Reuters

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

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Pioneering editor sees open Internet in Cuba's future

HAVANA, 5 July — A magazine editor who has tested the limits of free speech in Cuba believes the Cuban government has no option but to allow universal Internet access, and he plans to exploit that opening to promote a more pluralistic Cuba.

"The government is obligated to allow it because the country's development demands it," Roberto Veiga told *Reuters* in an interview on Friday. "The government is aware it has to make political openings."

Veiga and his partner Lenier Gonzalez turned the Roman Catholic magazine Espacio Laical (Lay Space) into a rare forum for critical, open debate in Communist-ruled Cuba, where authorities monopolize the media and censor the opposition.

Espacio Laical operated freely but after 10 years Veiga and Gonzalez resigned under pressure from within the church in May. On Tuesday they an-

nounced they were launching a new website and debating forum called Cuba Posible.

Like the previous venture, Cuba Posible will air a broad range of views, but now they will operate without the protection of the church, which is by far the largest and best organized institution on the Caribbean island with a different ideology than that of the Communist Party.

Broadband Internet is available only to a tiny minority of Cubans due to technological and political restrictions imposed by the government.

While some authorities have said Cuba needs an open Internet for its economic development, the government still blocks opposition websites, such as 14ymedio.com, a news site run by dissident blogger Yoani Sanchez and her husband, Reinaldo Escobar.

Veiga plans to keep pushing the bounds of debate.—*Reuters*

Greek court rules strike by electricity workers illegal



An employee of the Power Public Corporation (PPC) shouts slogans through a loudspeaker during a rally in Athens on 3 July, 2014.—*REUTERS*

ATHENS, 5 July — A Greek court ruled on Friday that a strike by electricity workers which caused brief power outages across the country was illegal, in a verdict that will bring relief to the government as the summer tourist season kicks off.

Backed by the leftist opposition, the workers have been protesting against government plans to sell part of the Public Power Corporation (PPC), Greece's biggest power producer, fearing this will lead to higher tariffs and fewer jobs.

The workers launched a series of 48-hour strikes on Wednesday as lawmakers debated a bill allowing the sale of 30 percent of the firm to a competitor in 2015.

The court ruling, which paves the way for the government to order the strikers back to work,

followed a lawsuit filed by PPC against the workers on Thursday.

Privatizing the firm is part of efforts by Greece to liberalize its energy market at the behest of its European Union and International Monetary Fund lenders and one of the conditions for its next aid tranche worth 1 billion euros.

Athens is also eager to avoid major disruption this summer as tourism is the biggest earner of Greece's economy, accounting for about 17 percent of its output and 20 percent of employment.

Tourism Minister Olga Kefalogianni has said the strike could tarnish Greece's image abroad, which has just begun to recover from years of political instability and disruptive protests prompted by the sovereign debt crisis that erupted in 2009.

Reuters

13 kg of heroin seized at Vienna Airport

VIENNA, 5 July — Austrian customs officials reportedly seized about 13 kg of heroin at the Vienna International Airport in early May in a blow to a suspected international drug-smuggling ring.

News of the arrest was only made available on Friday due to tactical reasons from law enforcement officers, a *Der Standard* report stated.

A person arriving from Istanbul was seen acting suspiciously at the airport's baggage claim area, talking loudly on his cell phone and repeatedly glancing in the direction of the green "Nothing to declare" customs lane.

Upon subsequent inspection by customs officials, his suitcase was found to have a double-bottom, under which the high-grade heroin with an estimated value of over one million US dollars was found.

The officials immediately contacted the police, who in the course of a quick investigation found the courier had an accomplice staying at a hotel in Vienna who was to pick him up. The second suspect was also subsequently arrested.

The duo, both registered residents of Spain, are currently in custody and have partially confessed to the crime, admitting the drugs were meant for both the Austrian and Spanish markets.—*Xinhua*

Bulgaria hosts NATO manoeuvres in Black Sea

SOFIA, 5 July — Bulgaria launched naval manoeuvres in the Black Sea on Friday with six other NATO countries including the United States, in the latest demonstration of the alliance's resolve to support its eastern European members in light of the Ukraine crisis.

Bulgaria's defence ministry said the 10-day war games, dubbed BREEZE 2014, were designed to boost NATO solidarity and regional readiness, though it added they had been scheduled before Russia annexed Ukraine's Black Sea region of Crimea in March.

Vessels from Bulgaria and its Black Sea neighbours Romania and Turkey and also from Greece, Italy, Britain and the United States were due to take part in the exercises.

The drills will involve more than 1,000 Bulgarian marines, 15 ships and cutters, as well as two helicopters and two planes, the ministry said. A US guided missile cruiser and US aircraft are also involved in the exercises.

Reuters



Photo taken on 4 July, 2014 shows the exterior scene of the new terminal of Jomo Kenyatta International Airport (JKIA) in Nairobi, capital of Kenya. The JKIA new terminal building, which was built by Aviation Industry Corporation of China (AVIC) International Holding Corporation, started a test on Friday. The building, with a construction area of 25,000 square meters, will start a three-week trial operation on 8 July.—*XINHUA*

Czech Karlovy Vary film festival awards actor Mel Gibson



Mel Gibson

PRAGUE, 5 July — At the opening ceremony of the 49th Czech Karlovy Vary International Film Festival on Friday night, Oscar-winning actor Mel Gibson was awarded with the Crystal Globe for Outstanding Artistic Contribution to World Cinema.

Mel Gibson was born in the US and moved to Australia when he was 12, he has won two Oscar Academy Awards for *Braveheart* (1995), directed and produced by and starring him, a Golden Globe and about 30 other film awards.

Although Gibson complained that the 15,000 kilometers' flight to Karlovy Vary was exhausting, and he had a toothache when driving to the airport and had to be medically treated at three in the morning, he said he would never miss the festival, "I'm honoured by the fact that I can be among so many great people."—Xinhua

Jessica Alba remembers down-to-earth Paul Walker



Jessica Alba

LOS ANGELES, 5 July — Actress Jessica Alba has opened up about her sadness following the death of her 'Into the Blue' co-star Paul Walker last year.

Hollywood was stunned in November when it emerged the actor had been killed in a horrific car smash in California aged 40.

Now Alba, who teamed up with Walker on their 2005 sea disaster movie, has spoken out to pay tribute to the down-to-earth star, reported Marie Claire magazine. "He had a real childlike innocence and he was game to try anything or do anything. He treated everyone with respect and love," Alba said.—PTI

Garth Brooks Irish comeback shows canceled over local objection

DUBLIN, 5 July — Two of American country singer Garth Brooks five sold-out comeback concerts at Dublin's Croke Park stadium this month were canceled on Thursday after objections were raised by local residents.

Brooks, who retired from recording new music and touring in 2001, chose Dublin for his five-night "Comeback Special Event", selling a record 400,000 tickets, equivalent to almost 10 percent of the population, ahead of a wider tour later in 2014.

However residents of the densely populated area surrounding the 82,000-seat Gaelic sports stadium objected to the holding of five successive shows and the local council refused permission for the concerts scheduled for 28 July and 29 July.

"The cumulative effect on residents and on some businesses would lead to an unacceptable level of disruption to their lives and livelihoods," Dublin City Council said in a statement.

Brooks, who has sold more than 125 million albums and is best known for hits such as "The Thunder Rolls" and "Friends in Low Places", has played the occasional one-city run of shows and benefit concerts during his retirement but has never toured.

No act, including Ireland's U2, has ever played five shows in a row at Croke Park, the country's largest venue, and concert promoters had said some 70,000 of the 400,000 tickets sold were bought by people living abroad.

PTI

Reuters

Justin Bieber wants 'open relationship' with Selena Gomez

LOS ANGELES, 5 July — Pop sensation Justin Bieber reportedly doesn't want to commit himself to his on-off girlfriend Selena Gomez as he'd like to date other women as well.

The 20-year-old 'Baby' hitmaker has recently rekindled his romance with the 'Come & Get It' hitmaker, but he's now decided he doesn't want to commit himself to just her, reported *Hollywood Life*.

"He wants an open relationship with Selena, and he actually thinks he can make it happen. A lot of the guys he hangs out with now get away with that kind of thing, they talk about it all the time and that's got in Justin's head," a source said.

Bieber has been in an on/off relationship with Gomez since 2010. He has been spotted with a string of girls recently, including his former fling Chantel Jeffries, who he took on vacation in February.

PTI



Justin Bieber & Selena Gomez



Alia Bhatt

wows her fans with Punjabi track 'Main Tenu Samjhawan Ki'

BENGALURU, 5 July — Alia Bhatt, who has been busy promoting the upcoming 'Humpty Sharma Ki Dulhania' with co-star Varun Dhawan, rocked her fans with crooning the famous Punjabi track 'Main Tenu Samjhawan Ki' from the film.

The song, however, is rendered in the film by Shreya Goshal and Arijit Singh, but Alia's version is titled 'Samjhawan Un-

plugged.'

The song is a remake of the song which was originally sung by Rahat Fateh Ali Khan for the Punjabi film — *Virsa*.

Varun and Alia, who were earlier seen in 'Student of the Year', have once again paired up for the romantic comedy.

Talking about the film, Varun said the film was a typical romantic triangle and shot in Ambala, Chan-

digarh, Delhi and Mumbai.

Replying to a query, Varun said, "I have been slapped when people said there are 15 to 16 kisses in the film. I have been slapped 22 times for that."

Varun, who is playing the title role of Humpty Sharma, said he has visited Bangalore several times and really enjoyed the night times here.

GENERAL

Djokovic and Federer show that Big Four still rule



Roger Federer (SUI) during his match against Milos Raonic (CAN) on day 11 of the 2014 Wimbledon Championships at the All England Lawn and Tennis Club.—REUTERS

LONDON, 5 July — When Novak Djokovic's flying forehand kissed the net and bounced into the corner, he let out a primal roar that echoed around Centre Court, the All England Club and probably all the way to his hometown of Belgrade.

It was the point that had spared him going into a nerve-jangling fifth set.

It was the point that secured him a 6-4, 3-6, 7-6(2), 7-6(7) over win over shot-maker extraordinaire Grigor Dimitrov.

Most importantly it was the point that propelled him into a final showdown at Wimbledon with seven-times champion Roger Federer.

The so-called revolution by the 'generation

next' of men's tennis failed to gather further momentum on Friday as 23-year-olds Dimitrov and Milos Raonic came up short in their bids to overthrow the establishment.

Instead a 27-year-old father-to-be and a 32-year-old father of four — who between them own 23 grand slam titles — will battle it out for the biggest prize in lawn tennis. A nonchalant 6-4, 6-4, 6-4 demolition of Canadian Raonic left Federer standing just three sets away from becoming the oldest man to triumph at the grasscourt major in the professional era. That particular statistic, however, mattered little to a tennis great who is chasing a record eighth Wimbledon trophy to take his overall grand

slam haul to 18.

"I have a lot of energy in the tank. I am very excited for the final because that's how you want to feel before a final, totally energized and eager to play," said the Swiss, who will be contesting a 25th grand slam final.

After watching a sure-footed Federer neutralize Raonic's bullet-like serve and firecracker forehand with casual ease, no one would have guessed that the same court had resembled a treacherous and dusty minefield only minutes earlier.

Razzle-Dazzle tennis

The all-white uniforms Djokovic and Dimitrov had walked out wearing soon turned into not-so-white outfits as they spent more time rolling about in the dust in the worn out areas around the baseline than standing on their feet.

But there was no denying the quality of the contest that could have graced any grand slam final as the duo produced a three-hour display of spellbinding shot-making and heart-thumping drama. When Djokovic led 6-4 and with a break point to go 4-1 up in the second, no one could have guessed the razzle-dazzle tennis that was just around the corner.

Those who had never laid eyes on 11th seed Dimitrov soon realized why he had been christened "Baby Fed" as he produced Federer-esque shots that drew a 15,000-strong chorus of "oohs" and "aahs" to draw level at one set all.

The elastic-limbs of both players were tested to their limits as they hit eye-popping winners while on their knees, while diving into the ground.

Reuters



Novak Djokovic (SRB) celebrates recording match point in his match against Grigor Dimitrov (BUL) on day 11 of the 2014 Wimbledon Championships at the All England Lawn and Tennis Club. —REUTERS

MYANMAR TV

(6-7-2014, Sunday)

6:00 am

* Paritta by Venerable Mingun Sayadaw

6:25 am

* Physical Exercise

6:35 am

* Musical Programme

8:00 am

* News / International News

8:30 am

* Amazing World

9:30 am

* Documentary (ASEAN)

10:00 am

* News

10:15 am

* Science and Technology Program

12:00 pm

* News/ International News/ Weather Report

12:35 pm

* Myanmar Movie

2:45 pm

* Musical Programme

3:00 pm

* News

4:25 pm

* University of Distance Education (TV Lectures) -Second Year (Maths)

4:40 pm

* Sing & Enjoy

6:00 pm

* News/Weather Report

6:20 pm

* Cartoon Series

7:20 pm

* Weekly Entertainment News

8:00

* News/ International News/ Weather Report

9:00 pm

* News

* Tamyethnar Takwest sar

MYANMAR INTERNATIONAL

(6-7-14 07:00 am~ 7-7-14 07:00 am) MST

- * Local News
- * Home Made: Products of Myanmar "Shin Ma Taung Thanakhar"
- * World News
- * Myanmar Chef (Japanese)
- * Local News
- * Pa-O in the Union
- * World News
- * Myanmar Movies Review "The Giggles"
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- * "Myanmar's Traditions and Culture" Myanmar's Secret Beautifier
- * Local News
- * Great Shwedagon-The Ten Traditional Arts & Crafts
- * World News
- * Kay Tu Mar Lar "The Decision"
- * Local News
- * Celebration "Shwe Myanmar"
- * World News
- * The Pride of Myanmar "Traditional Handicraft"
- * Local News
- * Youth Film Maker (Sai Aung Tun)
- * World News
- * Ngapali Beach: Real Paradise
- * Local News
- * Kachin Land: Snow Flakes... Scenic Confluence... To Kachin State

Hot dogs gobbled, small-town parades cheered as US marks soggy 4 July

NEW YORK, 5 July — Hot-dog eating champs, backyard picnickers and small-town parade lovers pressed on with Fourth of July celebrations on Friday, some featuring less sizzle than usual after Hurricane Arthur dampened many Independence Day plans.

In Washington, President Barack Obama and his wife, Michelle, presided over a barbecue and concert on the White House South Lawn attended by members of the US military and their families.

"Today immigrants from around the world dream of coming to our shores. Young people aspire to study at our universities. Other nations look to

our support and leadership at times of disaster and conflict and uncertainty," Obama said. "And when the world looks to America, so often they look to all of you, the men and women of our armed forces."

"Today we honour all of you," he said.

Hurricane Arthur traveled up the East Coast but did not wash out the annual Nathan's Famous Fourth of July International Hot Dog-Eating Contest in Coney Island, New York, where a slate of professional eaters competed for purses of \$20,000.

World champion Joey "Jaws" Chestnut, 30, of San Jose, California, walked away with his

eighth straight title after consuming 61 wieners and buns — short of his world record of 69 set in 2013. Runner-up Matt Stonie took down 56 hot dogs in 10 minutes.

Chestnut proposed marriage to his girlfriend on stage to roars from the crowd of about 1,000 people just before the competition.

The women's contest saw an upset, with rookie Miki Sudo, 28, of Las Vegas toppling reigning champion Sonya Thomas, eating 34 hot dogs in 10 minutes.

"I love watching the guys stuff their faces," said Barbara Hicks, 43, of Queens.—Reuters



Contestants Sonya Thomas (L) and Miki Sudo compete in the annual Nathan's Famous Fourth of July Hot Dog Eating Contest at Coney Island in the Brooklyn borough of New York on 4 July, 2014. —REUTERS

Neymar out of Cup as Brazil and Germany make semis

BELO HORIZONTE, (Brazil), 5 July — Hosts Brazil suffered a huge blow when they lost leading forward Neymar for the rest of the World Cup through injury on Friday as they set up an epic-looking semi-final against Europe's biggest remaining team Germany.

Brazil's poster-boy, in terrific form with four goals at the tournament, fractured a vertebra near the end of a 2-1 quarter-final win over Colombia and will be out for several weeks.

"It doesn't need surgery, but he'll need to immobilize it to recover," team doctor Rodrigo Lasmar said.

The news dampened the host nation's celebrations, given the team's reliance on the 22-year-old Barcelona forward's skill and talismanic presence. Many bookmakers now have Brazil and Germany as joint favourites at around 9/4.

"It's the worst possible news. Neymar is so important to us. It is going to be so difficult against Germany now," said shocked student Fabian Ruiz, 19, dressed in a yellow Brazil shirt and quaffing beer with friends in a Belo Horizonte street.

"They must do it for him. We all have to unite now."

Brazil face their biggest test of the tournament in the semi-final in Belo Horizonte on Tuesday against Germany, who defeated France in their quarter-final earlier on Friday.

The clash of styles and continents will excite fans around the world, but Neymar's absence is a big dis-

appointment.

He writhed in pain and was taken off the pitch on a stretcher after receiving a knee in the back from Colombia defender Juan Camilo Zuniga. Fans gathered outside the hospital in Fortaleza shouting "Be strong" as Neymar was wheeled in.

"I hope it's nothing serious, let's pray to God. He is a great talent for Brazil and for the world," Zuniga said.

Colombia's dream over
The five-time champion's victory ended Colombia's dream run to their first quarter-final in a passionate and physical game.

First, Brazil captain Thiago Silva bundled in Neymar's corner with his waist after seven minutes to settle his nervy team mates. Then a pumped-up David Luiz scored with a sublime 69th minute free kick to put Brazil two goals ahead.

Colombia's man-of-the-moment James Rodriguez pulled his side back into the match from the



Brazil's David Luiz celebrates after scoring a goal against Colombia.—REUTERS

penalty spot, his sixth goal of the tournament, with just over 10 minutes remaining.

But Brazil's passion and will saw them hold firm.

"It was a great match, both teams played beautiful football," said the emotional Luiz, who prayed on the pitch and hugged Rodriguez in consolation at the end.

Rodriguez, the target of rough treatment from the Brazilians, wept distraughtly at the end. But he will long be remembered as one of the great players of this World Cup.

"We wanted to carry on, but we hold our heads

high," he said. "We left our skins out there."

Predictably, Brazil came to a standstill during the game, with businesses closed and cans rattling in empty streets as locals packed into homes, bars and beachside fanzones.

The final whistle signaled a cacophony of parties and fireworks in a nation whose people believe they are destined to win a sixth World Cup on home soil. That joy, though, was quickly tempered by the news about Neymar.

In a further worry for Brazil, they will be without

captain Thiago Silva for the Germany game after a yellow card for a needless foul on goalkeeper David Ospina.

In the earlier quarter-final in Rio de Janeiro, defender Mats Hummels shook off the effects of flu and fever to win a surprisingly subdued match against France with a well-steered 13th minute header from a free kick.

It gave Germany a remarkable fourth successive World Cup semi-final spot.

"I hope our ride isn't over yet and I hope we'll be back here," the 25-year-old Hummels said, referring to the 13 July final, also at Rio de Janeiro's Maracana stadium.

Germany want first World Cup in 24 years

He brushed off a challenge from France's Raphael Varane, appearing to push him lightly, to meet the ball perfectly before wheeling away in delight after securing a dream early lead. Though perennially competitive, the Germans have not won football's ultimate crown since 1990 despite having a bigger pool talent since the unification of West and East.

'Les Bleus' looked uninspired but did have their moments, not least a stinging last-gasp shot by striker Karim Benzema that goalkeeper Manuel Neuer stopped one-handed. "That was just an automatic reaction," said the modest Neuer.

In truth, Germany, whose team showed no ill effects of a flu virus menacing their camp in recent days, never looked in great

danger of losing and substitute Andre Schuerrle wasted two chances to secure a more flattering scoreline.

Though losing once more to old rivals Germany was painful, France have at least restored some pride after the embarrassment of in-fighting and a first round exit in 2010.

"We had our chances. But they had more experience than we did. They had us under control," said coach Didier Deschamps.

Away from the action, disgraced Uruguay striker Luis Suarez received a second offer to continue playing football during his four-month ban for biting an Italy defender at the World Cup.

Nart FC, a club in the self-declared Republic of Abkhazia within Georgia, said Suarez could join them and keep match fit because the local federation is not part of FIFA.

Hajvalia from Kosovo have also offered the Liverpool striker — reportedly in talks over a possible transfer to Barcelona — the chance to play for them. The Kosovo Football Federation is also not a member of soccer's world governing body.

In the remaining two quarter-finals on Saturday, Europe squares off against Latin America.

First, Lionel Messi-led Argentina take on dark horses Belgium in a match that is hard to predict. Both teams have won four games from four, but curiously every win was by a single-goal margin, and neither have yet sparkled as expected.—Reuters



Germany's Mats Hummels (L) scores the winner past France's goalkeeper Hugo Lloris (C) during their quarter-final at the Maracana Stadium in Rio de Janeiro on Friday.—REUTERS

I never meant to hurt Neymar, says Colombia's Zuniga

FORTALEZA, (Brazil), 5 July — Colombia defender Juan Zuniga said he did not deliberately try to hurt Brazil forward Neymar when he kned him in the back on Friday, fracturing his vertebra and ruling the marquee player out of the rest of the World Cup.

Brazil held on for a 2-1 quarter-final win over their fellow South Americans but will be without Neymar against Germany in Belo Horizonte on Tuesday and the final should they progress.

"We wanted to score, and it was a tough game. Brazil was marking strong-

ly. I hope it's nothing serious, let's pray to God," Zuniga told reporters.

"On the pitch I'm defending my shirt, my country, but I didn't expect him to fracture a vertebrae. He is a great talent for Brazil and for the world."

Zuniga jumped into the back of Neymar and his knee struck the Brazilian's third vertebra two minutes from the final whistle, dealing a major blow to the hosts who are seeking a sixth world title.

"It's a normal action, I tried to shadow him," Zuniga said. "I was not thinking of hurting him. I was

defending my country's colours." Neymar had to be taken off on a stretcher and was transported to hospital where the extent of the injury was diagnosed.

Colombia were desperate for an equalizer after falling 2-0 behind before cutting the deficit with a late penalty.

"Sadly it happened this way. I hope he gets well, God willing," the Colombia defender said.

Neymar, who had netted four times in the tournament, will not require surgery but will be out for several weeks, team doctors said.—Reuters



Brazil's Neymar holds his back after being challenged by Colombia's Camilo Zuniga during their 2014 World Cup quarter-final match at the Castalao arena in Fortaleza on 4 July, 2014. REUTERS

World Cup 2014 Results				
	Match 58	France	0 - 1	Germany
	Match 57	Brazil	2 - 1	Colombia