

SEOs from ASEAN, dialogue partners to discuss free trade agreements, economic cooperation



Senior economic officials from ASEAN countries held talks on Sunday over an ASEAN Free Trade Agreement, economic cooperation and an agenda for upcoming meetings with dialogue partners of ASEAN.—PHOTO: AYE MIN SOE

By Aye Min Soe

YANGON, 20 July — Senior economic officials from ASEAN and its dialogue partners will discuss issues related to the establishment of free trade areas and economic cooperation between ASEAN and its dialogue countries from Monday to Wednesday.

The meetings between ASEAN's senior econom-

ic officials and dialogue partners, namely China, Korea, Japan, India, Australia, New Zealand, the EU, Hong Kong, US, Russia, Canada, will launch on Monday afternoon after the 3rd meeting of the ASEAN Senior Economic Officials for the 45th ASEAN Economic Ministers Meeting (SEOM3/45) in Yangon.

During the SEOM

3/45 which kicked off in Yangon on Saturday, the senior economic officials from ASEAN countries discussed issues regarding an ASEAN Free Trade Agreement, ASEAN economic integration and tasks being carried out by sectoral working groups of ASEAN, and they also exchanged views over reports which will be presented to the meeting of

46th ASEAN Economic Ministers, meetings of ASEAN Free Trade Area Council (AFTA Council), ASEAN Investment Area Council (ASEAN Council) and ASEAN Economic Council Meeting (ASEAN Council).

The 46th ASEAN Economic Ministers' meeting will be held from 23 to 28 August and ASEAN economic ministers will dis-

cuss issues related to the ASEAN Economic Community, Implementation of tasks by sectoral working groups of ASEAN, implementation over free trade area agreements between ASEAN and its dialogue partners and progress of their economic cooperation, said Daw Than Than Lynn, Myanmar's ASEAN senior economic official.—NLM

YANGON, 20 July— Kanbawza Bank Ltd has won an award for its excellent banking services at a ceremony that took place at Island Shangri-La Hotel in Hong Kong on 17 July, sources said. Euromoney, a London-based institution, presented the "Euromoney Award for Excellence-2014: Best Bank in Myanmar" to Kanbawza Bank, whose boss U Aung Ko Win accepted the prize.

Based in London, Euromoney is an influential institution in banking and business transactions, and keeps assessing and evaluating business activities across the world. It annually presents awards to banks offering excellent services as recommended by interna-

tional bankers.

According to reports, Kanbawza has been named the best bank in Myanmar for its excellent services to the public, its disbursement of substantial loans to small and medium enterprises, its production of human resources, its links with international banks, its contributions to the public, and its reputation as the biggest tax payer. The award-winning bank won 'best bank' awards from international organizations last year, and two awards from the Asia Banking and Finance in July this year: "Best Domestic Retail Bank of the Year in Myanmar 2014" and "Best Core Banking System Initiative of the Year in Myanmar 2014".—Kyemon

Euromoney names Kanbawza best bank in Myanmar



Kanbawza Bank Ltd boss U Aung Ko Win accpets "Euromoney Award for Excellence-2014: Best Bank in Myanmar".—KYEMON

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About 3,000 patients in Yangon receive free eye care services



Speaker Thura U Shwe Mann donates glasses and cash to patients during the launch of free eye care services to poor patients.—MNA

NAY PYI TAW, 20 July—The Pyidaungsu Hluttaw and Lower House Speaker Thura U Shwe Mann attended a ceremony on Sunday, which was held to launch

free eye care services to poor patients in Yangon.

It was organized by Upper House's Relief and Resettlement Committee and a 20-member team led by Eye

Specialist Dr Aye Tun, who will provide health care services to about 3,000 patients as part of a project that started on July 17.

At the ceremony,

Chairman U Khin Shwe of Zaykaba Co., Ltd donated cash and glasses through Eye Specialist Dr Aye Tun and departmental officials.

MNA

Education Minister visits Germany to attend seminar on higher education

YANGON, 20 July—Union Minister for Education Dr Daw Khin San Yi led a delegation and left for Germany on Saturday evening, sources said.

Union Minister Dr Daw Khin San Yi is scheduled to attend a seminar on the higher education sector under a programme called "German Academic Exchange Service", which

will take place from 20 to 26 July in Germany.

The Myanmar delegation will take part in discussions on quality of higher education, exchange visits of teachers and students between the two countries, issues related to self-management of independent universities, and bilateral cooperation in education.

MNA



Union Minister for Education Dr Daw Khin San Yi is being seen off by officials.—MNA

Refugees leave shelters as stability improves in Kachin



MOHNYIN, 20 July—More and more refugees were reported to be leaving their shelters as security and stability has improved in Kachin State since armed clashes there forced them to leave their homes and take refuge at shelters, media reported.

According to official statistics released this month, 26 shelters still house 2,853 people from 706 families.

A female refugee who has yet to return home said, "It is still impossible for me to return to my village. Houses are gone,

and so are my cattle. And I hear the village is not safe yet."

The Myanmar Red Cross Society provided refugees basic supplies, including hygiene kits and bottled water last month, reports said.

NLM 001

World Hepatitis Day marked in Yangon to raise public awareness

By Khaing Thanda Lwin

YANGON, 20 July—As World Hepatitis Day was marked on July 28, a seminar was held at the University of Nursing in Yangon to educate the public on the causes and symptoms of hepatitis, particularly Hepatitis B, which is prevalent in Myanmar.

Prof U Win Maung said on Sunday at a seminar on awareness of hepatitis B, C and liver cancer, that Myanmar has a large number of people with liver cancer and that most Myanmar people, especially the young, are found to be contracted with the hepatitis B virus.

Associate Professor U Myint Maung noted that alcohol consumption is one of the major culprits of liv-

er disease, with patients and hospitals in need of medicine, modern technology and equipment.

Hepatitis is an inflammation of the liver, most commonly caused by a viral infection, Prof Dr Tin Tin May explained. There are five main types of hepatitis viruses—A, B, C, D and E. These viruses affect hundreds of millions of people worldwide, of which types B and C are the most common cause of liver cirrhosis and cancer, killing close to 1.4 million people every year, she added.

Hepatitis A and E are typically caused by ingestion of contaminated food or water. Hepatitis B, C and D usually occur as a result of

parenteral contact with infected body fluids, she said.

Liver Specialist Prof Dr Khin Maung Nyunt said that even people living with Hepatitis C in the USA are found to pay less heed to the causes of liver diseases, with only five per cent of people infected receiving medical treatment.

Doctors urged the general public to protect themselves against hepatitis B with vaccination and patients with hepatitis C should undergo regular

medical check-ups not to get liver cancer.

At the seminar, Prof Dr Tin Tin May gave a brief account of World Hepatitis Day, saying the day was designated in honour of the

birthday of Nobel Laureate Professor Baruch Samuel Blumberg, who discovered the hepatitis B virus.

The theme of World Hepatitis Day this year is "Hepatitis: Think Again",

chosen by the World Health Organization to urge policymakers, health workers and the public to "think again" about this silent killer.

NLM

With Hepatitis B prevalent in Myanmar, health officials explained symptoms and treatment to the public to raise awareness.

PHOTO: KHAING THANDA LWIN



NATIONAL

Papers presented for development of technological education

NAY PYI TAW, 20 July —Papers on development of technical education at technological universities and universities of computer science were read out at Yangon Technological University on Sunday morning.

Union Minister for Science and Technology Dr Ko Ko Oo said that the ministry has been implementing measures aimed at upgrading technological institutions, bridging theories and practices in government technical high schools and government technical institutes.

Rectors of technological universities across the country read papers on university-industry links and



Union Minister for Science and Technology Dr Ko Ko Oo addresses university staff on improving education at tech universities and colleges.—MNA

challenges faced in technical education.

Rectors, pro-rectors,

professors of technological institutions and members of Myanmar Engineering

Society participated in the discussions.

MNA

President U Thein Sein felicitates King of Belgium, PM

NAY PYI TAW, 21 July — U Thein Sein, President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar, has sent messages of felicitations to His Majesty King Philippe, King of Belgium and His Excellency Mr. Elio Di Rupo, Prime Minister of the Kingdom of Belgium, on the occasion of the National Day of the Kingdom of Belgium, which falls on 21 July 2014.—MNA

Union FM felicitates Belgium counterpart

NAY PYI TAW, 21 July — U Wunna Maung Lwin, Union Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar, has sent a message of felicitations to His Excellency Mr. Didier Reynders, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs, Foreign Trade and European Affairs on the occasion of the National Day of the Kingdom of Belgium, which falls on 21 July 2014.

MNA

Citizenship scrutiny cards issued free of charge



Union Minister U Khin Yi is engaged in a cordial conversation with a local.—MNA

NAY PYI TAW, 20 July — Union Minister for Immigration and Manpower U Khin Yi inspected tasks to issue citizenship scrutiny cards under Phase-6 of the Moepwint Project at Paya Ngote to villages in Myaungmya Township in Ayeyawady Region on Sunday afternoon.

The union minister explained the importance of citizenship scrutiny cards

to locals, urging them to keep the cards safely to ensure their rights as a citizen.

The ministry is issuing citizenship scrutiny cards with the assistance of Norwegian Refugee Council in 24 townships.

The union minister also met with staff of the immigration departments in the district on Sunday morning.

MNA

Agricultural development tasks inspected

YANGON, 20 July — Union Minister for Agriculture and Irrigation U Myint Hlaing inspected fields of sweet potato and other vegetables to be exported to Thailand, Japan and South Korea along the former Pyinmana-Yangon Highway on Sunday.

The union minister then proceeded to a 2,000-acre mechanized farm of Myat Eindray Company, a 100-ton rice mill and a 4,000-ton storage facility in Pyu Township, Bago Re-



Union Minister for Agriculture and Irrigation U Myint Hlaing inspects vegetable plantations.—MNA

gion. The union minister also inspected a 4,000-acre farm near Nay Pyi Taw-Yangon Highway.—MNA

HSL Group JV Co., Ltd, Chinese Co., sign MoU



Yangon Region Chief Minister U Myint Swe and a Chinese delegation celebrate the signing of a MoU on construction projects.—MNA

YANGON, 20 July — Dr Khin Maung Aye, Chairman of HSL Group JV Co., Ltd. and Mr. Xu Xiaojin,

South East Asia CEO of China Sate Construction Engineer Corporation Ltd, signed a MoU on construc-

tion of Polo Club (Asia) Hotel and Residence Project on Sunday at Sedona Hotel in Yangon.

The ceremony was attended by Yangon Region Chief Minister U Myint Swe.—MNA

Low pressure formed over North Bay of Bengal

NAY PYI TAW, 20 July—According to the observation at 15:30 hrs MST on Sunday, a low pressure area has formed over North Bay of Bengal, the Meteorology and Hydrology Department announced.—MNA

Citizenship cards issued to high and middle school students in Hpa-an



HPA-AN, 20 July—As part of implementing the Moe Pwint Plan (6), the Township Immigration and National Registration Department and NRC group jointly issued citizenship scrutiny cards to eligible citizens at Basic Education Middle and High Schools in Hpa-an Township of Kayin State on Friday.

Officials and staff of the department gave cards to 92 students, supervised by Kayin State Chief Minister U Zaw Min and Head of Kayin State INRD U Zaw Win Aung.

State IPRD

Consumer protection top of the agenda in Mawlamyine during visit by officials

MAWLAMYINE, 20 July—Mon State Department of Consumer Protection and Mawlamyine Township School Health Committee Group-1 undertook consumer protection tasks at the Basic Education

High Schools in Mawlamyine on 15 July.

“Students should eat snacks with vitamins and avoid snacks and fruits with artificial colouring,” leader of the school health group-1 Dr Yadana said on her vis-

it to Mawlamyine BEHS No 11.

Head of Mon State Consumer Protection Department U Khin Aung Thwin explained to consumers the health issues related to consuming

poor-quality foodstuffs, and urged them to check for manufacturing and expiry dates of foods.

The team also undertook educative works at No 12 BEHS in Myaingthaya Ward of Mawlamyine in the afternoon.

Hset Nay Min Aung

AFC visits football grounds in Mandalay



MANDALAY, 20 July—Members of the Executive Committee of the Asian Football Confederation (AFC), accompanied by officials of the Myanmar Football Federation, toured football grounds in Mandalay on Friday, giving sug-

gestions on how to improve the standard of Myanmar football, sources said.

In a briefing at Ba Htoo Sports Ground, Myanmar officials told them about ground management activities such as ground improvement, usage, ca-

capacity, quality and safety of sports fields.

AFC officials also visited the Myanmar Football Academy in Chanmyathazi Township. The academy is sponsored by FIFA, officials said.

Thiha Ko Ko (Mandalay)

Prusho-Lawja road commissioned into service in Kayah State

PRUSHO, 20 July—A ceremony to launch road and bridge construction projects, which will be implemented by NGOs, UNDP, IRC and Progress of Border Areas and National Races Department, was held at Lawja Village in Prusho Township of Kayah State on Friday.

Deputy Director U Win Kyaw Thwin of the

PBRNRD explained implementation for the projects and an official of UNDP, their efforts for undertaking the road and bridge tasks.

Officials inaugurated the 3,600 feet long and 12 feet long Prusho-Lawja road, which will give access to rural people to the urban areas of Prusho Township.—District IPRD



Prevention of avian flu explained by foreign experts



MANDALAY, 20 July — The Myanmar Livestock Federation joined the United States Agency for International Development (USAID) and Australian Aid in conducting an introductory course on the prevention of avian influenza for media workers on Friday at Hotel Mandalay, with an opening speech by MLF Vice Chairman Dr Mya Han.

Dr Than Hla, MLF's executive advisor, gave an account of why the course was run, course contents and the responsibilities of the news media.

Dr Wa Wa Han, PREVENT Project Country Coordinator, and Dr Hla Hla Thein gave lectures on avian flu, H5N1 and H7N9 viruses, infection in humans, control and prevention of the spread of the viruses, and biosecurity practices.

According to reports, MLF officials have been going on voluntary tours of districts and townships in Mandalay, educating farmers about the prevention of bird flu as well as biosecurity systems.

Thiha Ko Ko (Mandalay)

University students in Sagaing educated on dangers of narcotic drugs

SAGAING, 20 July—Drug elimination talks were given by Lu Min from the film star academy, Rector of Cooperative University of Sagaing Dr Yi Yi Win and Rector of Sagaing University Dr Thura Oo on the campus of Sagaing University on Friday.

Vice Chairman of

Myanmar Anti-Narcotics Association U Saw Ngwe talked about drug problems in the nation, with executive writer Aung Kyi Nyunt from Tekkatho elaborating on the health problems caused by cigarettes and liquor. Joint secretary writer Tekkatho Sein Myint Tun also informed about the dangers

of “youth” and narcotic drugs and Commander of Sagaing District Police Force Police Lt-Col Myint Swe about progress of drug elimination in Sagaing Township.

Following the talks, Lu Min, and other artists and vocalists performed songs to the attendees.

Myo Win (Sagaing)

21 kilos of opium speciosa seized in Taninthayi Tsp

TANINTHAYI, 20 July—Police seized opium speciosa in Mamathoung village of Taninthayi Township of Taninthayi Region on 15 July.

A police squad, acting on a tip-off, searched



four suspects at the bridge of Mamathoung Village. Two of the four suspects escaped from the scene and the police arrested the remaining two suspect persons, identified as Myint Tun and Thet Naing Oo.

Police found 300

packets of opium speciosa weighing 21 kilos wrapped in polyethylene bags.

Taninthayi Township police station filed a lawsuit against the drug dealers, according to authorities.

Nang Tharyi Htein Win (IPRD)

REGIONAL

Gov't plans to deploy SDF's Osprey aircraft in Saga in FY 2015



Defence Minister Itsunori Onodera meets with reporters in Tokyo, Japan, on 20 July, 2014.

KYODO NEWS

TOKYO, 20 July — Defence Minister Itsunori Onodera said on Sunday the Self-Defence Forces plans to deploy Osprey transport

aircraft at Saga airport in southwestern Japan when it introduces the US tilt-rotor plane in fiscal 2015.

Onodera told reporters he recently informed Saga Gov Yasushi Furukawa of the plan, in the first mention of an expected deployment site for SDF-operated Osprey aircraft.

The Defence Ministry will send a senior official to Saga Prefecture on Tuesday to start talks with local officials.

The ministry plans to purchase 17 Osprey aircraft under its medium-term defence programme through fiscal 2018.

Kyodo News



People gather at a Ground Self-Defence Force camp in Sapporo, Japan, on 20 July, 2014, to view two Osprey transport aircraft on display.—KYODO NEWS

Chinese ambassador donates necessities to Indonesian welfare agency

JAKARTA, 20 July — Chinese ambassador to Indonesia Xie Feng on Saturday donated necessities and funds to Jakarta Social Welfare Coordinating Agency, showing goodwill to the locals in Indonesia, a country with the largest population of muslims in the world.

Xie Feng, new Chinese ambassador to Indonesia, conveyed firstly his best wishes to the Indonesian muslims who are now practicing their religious ritual during the month of Ramadan in his speech in the donation ceremony.

By mentioning that the over 20 million Chinese muslims whose freedom of religious belief and tradition are fully respected and protected, Xie Feng emphasized the common ground that China and Indonesia both share. “Same as the Indonesian muslim brothers and sisters, Chinese muslims are also experiencing the mind purification during the fasting month peacefully,” said Xie Feng.

The contact between the muslims from China and Indonesia dating back to a long time ago has become an important part of the rapidly growing bilateral relationship, Xie said. “China welcomes more Indonesian friends to visit China, in an effort to enhance mutual understanding and friendship,” he added.

During the ceremony, Xie Feng handed over the funds to acting Jakarta Governor Basuki Tjahaja Purnama, as well as other necessities including rice, oil and other foodstuff.

Donation during the Ramadan has become an annual practice by the Chinese embassy as a way to convey the Chinese people's wishes to the Indonesian people. Last year, more than 1,000 boxes of foodstuff were donated across Jakarta.—Xinhua

Heavy rain to hit north, NE China

BEIJING, 20 July —Torrential rain triggered by typhoon Rammasun was forecast to hit northeast China and north China in coming days after the strongest typhoon in four decades battered southern provinces, China's meteorological authority said on Sunday.

Heavy rain or rainstorms

were predicted to sweep most parts of northeast China as well as central and northern parts of north China from Sunday to Tuesday, with some areas to see precipitation of 100 to 150 mm, the National Meteorological Center (NMC) said in a statement.

As of Saturday, Ram-

masun had killed at least 16 people in China as it brought gales and downpours to a number of southern provinces. An orange alert for Rammasun has been lifted as it is abating and affecting fewer Chinese localities. A top-level red alert for Rammasun was issued by the center on Saturday.—Xinhua

Malaysian FM to leave for Ukraine after plane crash

KUALA LUMPUR, 20 July — A government team led by Malaysian Foreign Affairs Minister Anifah Aman will be departing for Ukraine on Sunday night, according to an official statement said.

“Anifah Aman will be meeting the president of Ukraine, the vice president of Ukraine and the foreign minister of Ukraine on Monday with regards to MH17,” the statement said.

Malaysian Transport Minister Datuk Seri Liow Tiong Lai left for Kiev on Saturday. Malaysia Airlines' MH17 disappeared from radar screens in eastern Ukraine on Thursday, hours after taking off from Amsterdam's Schiphol airport, Netherlands, bound for Kuala Lumpur.

The Boeing 777 is believed to have been shot down 50 km from the Ukraine-Russia border. All 298 passengers and crew on board, including 44 Malaysians, are believed to have been killed.

Xinhua



Indonesian policemen take part in a security drill ahead of the announcement of the real result of presidential election in Jakarta, Indonesia, on 19 July, 2014. Personnel of the Indonesian military have been told to be on their highest alert in the running up to the announcement of presidential election results on 22 July and prepare to suppress possible clashes between supporters of the two president candidates.—XINHUA

Singapore Airlines apologizes for previous post over MH17

SINGAPORE, 20 July — Singapore Airlines (SIA) apologized for its previous social media posts following the crash of Malaysia Airlines MH17 in a statement sent to Channel NewsAsia on Saturday.

“We are aware that our Facebook and Twitter update on Friday morning may have come across as insensitive to some,” an SIA spokesperson said in the statement.

The apology came in response to public debate over

the company's posting following the MH17 crash, which said “Customers may wish to note that Singapore Airlines flights are not using Ukraine airspace”.

The post has drawn strong criticism, with many saying that it was “inappropriate” and “opportunistic”. The company then posted another message in an hour, saying “our thoughts are with the passengers and crew of MH17 and their families”.

In Saturday's statement, the spokesman said that “we recognize that the information could have been better communicated and we sincerely apologize if it had offended our customers and anyone else in the online community,” adding that SIA is “deeply saddened” over the tragedy. “Our thoughts remain with the families and loved ones of the passengers and crew who perished on board,” It stressed.—Xinhua

Iran warned of 'last chance' in nuclear talks after deadline missed

VIENNA, 20 July — Iran faced Western pressure on Saturday to make concessions over its atomic activities after it and six world powers failed to meet a 20 July deadline for a deal to end the decade-old dispute but agreed to keep talking.

The countries agreed to extend the high-stakes negotiations by four months, and let Iran access another \$2.8 billion of its cash frozen abroad during that period, though most sanctions on the Islamic Republic stayed in place.

Germany — one of the major powers trying to persuade Iran to curb its nuclear programme — warned that the extended talks might be the last chance for a long time to reach a peaceful solution.

Echoing the views of other envoys, a Western diplomat said there had been some progress during nearly three weeks of mar-

athon discussions in Vienna's 19th century Coburg palace and that gaps in positions were not "unbridgeable".

But, the senior diplomat added: "We cannot accept that Iran stays at current levels of enrichment."

The six powers want Iran to significantly scale back its uranium enrichment programme to make sure it cannot produce nuclear bombs. Iran says the programme is entirely peaceful and wants sanctions that have severely damaged its oil-dependent economy to be lifted as soon as possible. After years of rising tension between Iran and the West and fears of a new Middle East war, last year's election of a pragmatist, Hassan Rouhani, as Iran's president led to a thaw in ties that resulted in the current nuclear negotiations.

The announcement to give diplomacy until 24



Iranian Foreign Minister Mohammad Javad Zarif (C) and diplomats leave a news conference in Vienna on 15 July, 2014. — REUTERS

November came in the early hours of Saturday, a day before the 20 July deadline that Iran, the United States, Britain, France, Germany, Russia and China had earlier set for an agreement.

"These few months until November could be the

last and best chance for a long time to end the nuclear argument peacefully," German Foreign Minister Frank-Walter Steinmeier said.

"Iran must show it is willing to dispel all doubts about the peaceful nature

of its nuclear programme," he said. Under the terms of the extension of the negotiations, Iran will be able to access during this time a relatively small portion of an estimated more than \$100 billion held abroad, in return for limits to its nuclear

programme.

It prolongs — with some adjustments — an interim deal hammered out in Geneva last year, under which Iran halted its most controversial nuclear work in exchange for some easing of sanctions. The six-month deal — which allowed Iran to receive \$4.2 billion — was designed to create time and space for the negotiation of a permanent agreement.

US officials stressed that most sanctions against Iran would remain in place for now. "Iran will not get any more money during these four months than it did during the last six months, and the vast majority of its frozen oil revenues will remain inaccessible ... We will continue to vigorously enforce the sanctions that remain in place," said US Secretary of State John Kerry.

Reuters

Snowden seeks to develop anti-surveillance technologies

NEW YORK, 20 July — Edward Snowden, a former US spy agency contractor who leaked details of major US surveillance programmes, called on supporters at a hacking conference to spur development of easy-to-use technologies to subvert government surveillance programmes around the globe.

Snowden, who addressed conference attendees on Saturday via video link from Moscow, said he intends to devote much of his time to promoting such technologies, including ones that allow people to communicate anonymously and encrypt their messages.

"You in this room, right now have both the means and the capability to improve the future by encoding our rights into programmes and protocols by which we rely every day," he told the New York City conference, known as Hackers On Planet Earth, or HOPE.

"That is what a lot of my future work is going to be involved in," he told hundreds of hackers who crowded into an auditorium and overflow rooms to hear him speak from Moscow, where he fled to last year.

He escaped the United States after leaking documents that detailed massive US surveillance programmes at home and

abroad — revelations that outraged some Americans and sparked protests from countries around the globe.

Snowden did not discuss the status of a request he made earlier this month to extend his Russian visa, which expires at the end of July.

The United States wants Russia to send him home to face criminal charges, including espionage. At the HOPE hacking conference, several talks detailed approaches for thwarting government surveillance, including a system known as SecureDrop that is designed to allow people to anonymously leak documents to journalists. — Reuters



Journalists listen to a speech and a question posed by former US spy agency NSA contractor Edward Snowden, at a media centre during Russian President Vladimir Putin's live broadcast nationwide phone-in, in Moscow on 17 April, 2014. — REUTERS

G-20 trade chiefs reaffirm importance of trade facilitation



Trade ministers from the Group of 20 industrialized and emerging economies pose for a group photo in Sydney, Australia, on 19 July, 2014, as they begin a one-day meeting aimed at promoting global trade facilitation and boosting cooperation against protectionism. — KYODO NEWS

SYDNEY, 20 July — Trade ministers from the Group of 20 industrialized and emerging economies on Saturday reaffirmed the importance of promoting global trade facilitation, a key part of a trade deal agreed last year in Bali.

Attention was focused on whether developed and emerging economies could bridge their gaps to rapidly implement the so-called "Bali Package" agreed on in December under the long-stalled Doha Round of global market-opening talks, with the deal's first implementation goal looming on 31 July.

The Bali Package contains agreements on

some of the issues negotiated in the talks, including trade facilitation through such measures as reducing customs procedures. It is one of the major outcomes yielded under the negotiations sponsored by the 160-member World Trade Organization.

"There was a reaffirmation on the importance of the Bali outcome...and the absolute need to meet the timetable if we were to restore the confidence in the WTO," Australian Trade Minister Andrew Robb said at a Press conference after wrapping up the trade chiefs' meeting in Sydney.

But countries such as

India voiced concern over the early implementation of the package saying that more discussion is needed, according to people familiar with the matter.

According to the government of Australia, the chair, more than 400 protectionist measures, such as tariff rate hikes and investment regulation, were introduced globally last year, hampering efforts for trade liberalization.

During the meeting, Japan's trade minister Toshimitsu Motegi expressed concern about protectionism and called for more efforts to improve the situation.

Kyodo News

WORLD

West toughens calls on Russia to cooperate over downed Malaysian plane

HRABOVE DONETSK (Ukraine), 20 July—Ukraine accused Russia and pro-Moscow rebels on Saturday of destroying evidence to cover up their guilt in the shooting down of a Malaysian airliner that has intensified a showdown between the Kremlin and Western powers.

As militants kept international monitors away from wreckage and scores of bodies festered for a fourth day on Sunday, Russian President Vladimir Putin urged the rebels to cooperate and insisted that a UN-mandated investigation must not leap to conclusions. Moscow denies involvement and has pointed a finger at Kiev's military.

The Netherlands, whose citizens made up most of the 298 aboard MH17 from Amsterdam en route to Kuala Lumpur, said it was "furious" about the manhandling of corpses strewn for miles over open country and asked Ukraine's president for help to bring "our people" home.

US President Barack Obama said the loss of the Malaysia Airlines flight showed it was time to end the Ukraine conflict and Germany called it Moscow's last chance to cooperate. European powers seemed to swing behind Washington's belief Russia's separatist allies were to blame. That might speed new trade sanctions on Moscow, without waiting



A pro-Russian separatist holds a stuffed toy found at the crash site of Malaysia Airlines flight MH17, near the settlement of Grabovo in the Donetsk region, on 18 July, 2014. —REUTERS

for definitive proof.

"He has one last chance to show he means to help," Dutch Prime Minister Mark Rutte said after a telephone call to Putin.

Britain, which lost 10 citizens, said further sanctions were available for use against Russia. Prime Minister David Cameron, writing in *The Sunday Times*, said European countries should make their power count. "Yet we sometimes behave as if we need Russia more than Russia needs us."

German Chancellor Angela Merkel, the most

powerful figure in the EU, spoke to Putin on Saturday, urging his cooperation. Merkel's foreign minister, Frank-Walter Steinmeier, told *Bild am Sonntag* newspaper: "Moscow may have a last chance now to show that it really is seriously interested in a solution."

"Now is the moment for everyone to stop and think to themselves what might happen if we don't stop the escalation."

Germany, reliant like other EU states on Russian energy and more engaged in Russian trade than the United

States, has been reluctant to escalate a confrontation with Moscow that has revived memories of the Cold War. But with military action not seen as an option, economic leverage is a vital instrument.

Russia said on Saturday it was retaliating against sanctions imposed by the United States last week, before the air disaster, by barring entry to unnamed Americans and warned of a "boomerang effect" on US business. But Foreign Minister Sergei Lavrov and US Secretary of State John

Kerry agreed in a phone call to try to get both sides in Ukraine to reach a consensus on peace, Russia's Foreign Ministry said.

The US State Department, however, put the onus on Russia, saying Kerry urged Russia to take "immediate and clear actions to reduce tensions in Ukraine".

Driving home its assertion that the Boeing 777 was hit by a Russian SA-11 radar-guided missile, Ukraine's Western-backed government said it had "compelling evidence" the battery was not just brought

in from Russia but manned by three Russian citizens who had now taken the truck-mounted system back over the border.

The prime minister, denying Russian suggestions that Kiev's forces had fired a missile, said only a "very professional" crew could have brought down the speeding jetliner from 33,000 feet (10,000 metres) — not "drunken gorillas" among the ill-trained insurgents who want the Russian-speaking east to be annexed by Moscow.

The *Wall Street Journal* reported that US intelligence assessments indicated that Moscow likely provided rebels with sophisticated anti-aircraft systems in recent days. The *Journal* cited US officials as saying they now suspect that Russia supplied the rebels with multiple SA-11 systems by smuggling them in with other equipment, including tanks.

Fighting flared in eastern Ukraine on Saturday. The government said it was pressing its offensive in the east. Observers from Europe's OSCE security agency visited part of the crash site near the village of Hrabove for a second day on Saturday and again found their access hampered by armed men from the forces of the self-declared People's Republic of Donetsk. An OSCE official said, however, they saw more than on Friday.

Reuters

Germany to send experts for MH17 crash probe

BERLIN, 20 July — The German government will send two experts to Ukraine to support the MH17 crash probe, German media reported on Saturday.

Citing German Transport Minister Alexander Dobrindt, Focus Online said two experts from the German Federal Bureau of Aircraft Accident Investigation (BFU) would fly to Kiev on Sunday.

"As we expect that there will be an international commission for investigation into the cause of MH17 crash under the leadership of the International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO), BFU Director Ulf Kramer and another expert should be available in order to support the ongoing investigation and contribute to the clarification of the case," Dobrindt told Focus Online. A Ma-

laysia Airlines Boeing 777 plane crashed on Thursday in eastern Ukraine near the Russian border, killing all the 298 people on board.

At her annual summer Press conference on Friday, German Chancellor Angela Merkel called for an independent investigation into the crash. Merkel and Russian President Vladimir Putin held a telephone conversation on Saturday and have agreed for an international investigation into the downing of Malaysia Airlines flight MH17, according to a statement of the German government. The two leaders "agreed that an international, independent commission under the direction of ICAO should quickly have access to the crash site to shed light on the circumstances of the crash and recover the bodies," the statement said.—Xinhua

Wave of bombings in Baghdad kills 27 people

BAGHDAD, 20 July—At least 27 people were killed in a wave of bombings in mostly Shi'ite Muslim areas of Baghdad on Saturday, police and medics said, in the deadliest day of attacks in the capital since a Sunni insurgency overran large parts of Iraq's north last month.

In the first explosion, a suicide car bomber drove into a police checkpoint, killing nine people including seven policemen and wounding 21 people in the Abu Dsheer district in the south of the capital, the sources said.

Four other car bombs killed a total of 19 people: one in the Bayaa district in southwestern Baghdad, one in the western district of Jihad and two in northern Baghdad's Kadhimiya, the site of a major Shi'ite shrine.

One person was killed



Residents gather at the scene of one of a series of car bomb attacks that struck Baghdad on 19 July, 2014.

REUTERS

when a bomb laid on the side of a road exploded in the mixed Sunni-Shi'ite district of Saydiya in southern Baghdad later in the day.

No person or group immediately claimed responsibility for the attacks.

Islamic State, an al-Qaeda offshoot that seized large parts of northern Iraq last month, has claimed several suicide bombings in the

capital. Its latest claim was for a bombing that killed three people on Thursday in the heart of the city.

Baghdad has experienced few attacks compared with other areas targeted by the Islamic State's offensive last month, though bombs still hit the capital on a fairly regular basis.

At least 5,576 Iraqi civilians have been killed

since January, when Sunni insurgents led overran the city of Falluja in the western province of Anbar, the United Nations said on Friday.

The UN said more than 1.2 million people have been displaced this year. More than 600,000 of them have fled their homes since early June.

The patchwork of Sunni insurgents led by Islamic State, which swept across northern Iraq last month, advanced to within 70 km (45 miles) of Baghdad. The Iraqi army and allied Shi'ite militia have been trying since then to regain the territory.

Militants fought off an army offensive to retake the northern city of Tikrit on Tuesday. The army was forced to pull back south of the city on the banks of the Tigris.

Reuters

PERSPECTIVES

Monday, 21 July, 2014

Act according to the will of the people

By Myint Win Thein

A country has its own laws to take action against offenders. These laws represent the collective will of all citizens and thus they are called the collective will of the people.

When a person commits a crime, he or she must be punished according to the law or according to the collective will of the people.

No one has the right to punish anyone according to one's own will. If one punishes others according to one's own will, there will be no law and everything will be in a chaos. This is what happens whenever violence breaks out.

However, some people tried to punish others on their own individual wills. There was no law in Mandalay for a while and innocent people were killed or injured because of those who rejected the collective will of the people and acted on their own individual wills.

Now it has been exposed that the violence in

Mandalay was caused by false accusation of rape, according to the Ministry of Home Affairs. People should not have believed what they heard and should not have punished others according to their own individual wills. Everything was wrong.

If one rejects the collective will of the people and acts according to one's own individual will, Myanmar will be in a chaos again and more innocent people will be put into danger.

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 efficiency

By Myo Myint

(continued from yesterday)

It necessitates extensive study of a field. It promotes thinking and problem solving skills. It develops collaboration skills as many researches are conducted in teams. It enhances the reputation of the university, department and staff. If the research is done for a business, industry or service, it can generate income for those involved. Finally, it nurtures new generations of researchers necessary for the social, economic, scientific and technological development of the country. To really enjoy the benefit of undertaking research, firstly, the heads of departments must provide sound leadership regarding research; secondly, heads of departments must ensure that his/her academic staff

must have good knowledge of research methodology; thirdly, the heads of departments must make sure that the department has adequate facilities to do research; fourthly, the heads of departments must guarantee that the research topics are worthy of being explored and that they do not duplicate research being done elsewhere; fifthly, the heads of departments must see that all academic staff are involved in some kind of research; sixthly, the heads of departments should introduce the practice of doing research with simple researches right from the first year of study and seventhly, the heads of departments must ensure that those assigned to supervise researches have the qualification as well as the dedication to carry out proper supervision.

With the expansion of

the role of universities in society, and by reaching out to form partnership with many types of organizations, universities of the 21st century are no longer isolated entities. Heads of departments probable have to interact with the largest groups of people both from within the university as well as beyond extending from the rector, administrative officials, fellow professors, academic staff, support staff, students, parents, to community leaders, and officials of various organizations. Promotion of internationalization to modernize and reinvigorate the university also calls for establishment of networks with international universities which is a mission all heads of departments have to undertake. Depending on the person that a head of department has to interact with, he/she has to serve different roles. For instance,

with the rector he/she is subordinate, colleague, advisor, etc., with his/her staff he/she may be academic, manager, leader, arbitrator, role model, disciplinarian, friend, etc., A head of department therefore needs to have such qualities as the following to effectively perform his/her different roles.

1. Moral principles: having integrity and ability to assess correctly, being free from abusing one's authority, being fair, impartial, straightforward, courageous, candid, non-vindictive, etc.
2. Empathy: being patient, understanding, helpful, sympathetic, kind, generous, appreciative, supportive, forgiving, trustworthy, non-discriminatory, etc.
3. Behaviour: being well-mannered, cultured,

polite, etc.

4. Effective communication: having the ability to interact with people of all ages and all statuses, make effective presentation, negotiate, explain, argue, instruct, persuade, etc.

5. Being sociable: being friendly, accessible, open-minded, affable, comradely etc.

The many roles of university heads of departments enumerated in this brief article seem too few to some, or too many to others. To those who feel that many more tasks remain to be discussed, I humbly would like to admit that there are many more responsibilities to be discussed and I have addressed only a few which I feel are important based on my own experience. To those who say too much is being demanded from university heads of depart-

ments, I would like to state that complacency is the root of stagnation and decline of institutions. It needs also to be stressed that education institutions and the teachers instructing in these institutions are there to advance modernization and development, and not to foster backwardness and degeneration. It must also be mentioned that education is too important for the country and its citizens to be complacent about. It is natural for academics to take pride in their academic achievements, but in a society where teachers are regarded as being on the same level as the Buddha and parents, I believe that it is much, much, more satisfying to know that one has contributed academically for the advancement of one's students, colleagues, society, and country.

(Concluded)

Myanmar's prospects for Achieving Middle Power Status

By Sayar Mya

Myanmar Institute of Strategic and International Studies (MISIS) in Yangon hosted a paper reading session at MISIS Building, No. 37 Tantam-an Road in Dagon Township, where Associate Dean Dr. Jonathan H. Ping of Bond University in Australia read out a paper with the title "Middle Powers and Myanmar's Prospects for Achieving Middle Power Status" on Thursday 10 July 2014.

The talk was attended by diplomats, defense attaches, scholars, researchers, students and interested persons.

Joint Secretary U Khin Maung Lynn of the MISIS acted as the Master of Cere-

monies.

The writer of this article has written a short news report in the New Light of Myanmar on page (8) Sunday 13 July, which was also posted on my own Face Book and subsequently sent the press cutting to more than (100) friends through email.

Some close and intimate friends responded with motley assortment of remarks laced with optimism, pessimism, positive view, negative outlook and even with sarcastic remarks. On the whole, good remark and observation has overwhelmed than the cynicism.

As I have already decided to convey the paper to the esteemed readers and general public in the shortest possible length and in the simplest terms in the New Light of Myanmar, I asked the power pointer and relevant

information from Dr. Ping through the email.

Dr. Ping kindly provided the power pointer so that I could write this article in line with his presentation.

In simplifying the paper of Dr. Ping, I refer and search some of the political and economic terms on the Google search machine in writing this article.

Definition of Middle Power

On the web definition it is seen that in international relations, a middle power is a sovereign state that is not a superpower or a great power, but still has large or moderate influence and international recognition.

The concept of the 'middle power' dates back to the origins of the European state system. In the late 16th century, Italian political thinker Giovanni Botero divided the world into three



Photo of Bond University.

CREDIT GOES TO GOOGLE ALBUM.

types of states – grandissime (empires), mezano (middle powers) and piccioli (small powers). According to Botero, a mezano or middle power "... has sufficient strength and authority to stand on its own without the need of help from others."

(To be continued)

OPINION

Ah - Yai-Paing-Min

By BA THAN

It has been an avowed mission of the author to recount and record various aspects of social and administrative life which the author had experienced through the prime years and beyond. Among the scintillating experiences, the author has touched on the famous Civil Service, an administrative steel frame introduced after the Myanmar kingdom of the last Konbaung King Thibaw was subjugated by the British Colonial Empire in 1886. The British Civil Service goes by the name of the ICS (Indian Civil Service) selected by the British Public Service Commission to serve in the colonial administration in India and Burma. Myanmar ICSs were appointed during the years spanning from 1921 to 1935 to serve in the high administrative posts both in Central Government and district administration. A short history of the ICS covenanted service a.k.a. "The Heaven Born-Moe-Kya-Shwe-Ko" has been printed in the New Light of Myanmar (NLM) on Monday 28 April 2014.

This article 'Ah-Yai-Paing-Min' commonly known in administrative circle as 'Deputy Commissioner or Depcom', recounted the constitutional change affecting the province of Burma under the British Indian Empire. Following the political agitation within Colonial Burma, a new constitution was enacted namely "The Government of Burma Act 1935" whereby Burma became a separate province under the British Colonial Rule. As in the previous Indian Constitutions the new Burma Constitution of 1935 offered constitutional guarantee to the civil servants of the Crown. A new Public Service Commission Act was promulgated and the first Public Service Commission was formed in 1937 under the chairmanship of Mr.C.F. Grant to recruit through open competitive examinations, prospective university graduate candidates to serve in various branches in the Class 1 cadre crucial services such as the BCS(Burma Civil Service), Burma Police Service(BPS),Burma Education Service(BES), Burma Judicial Service (BJS), Burma Foreign Service (BFS), Burma Audit

& Accounts Service (BA and AS) etc. However the focus of this article was on the Burma Civil Service in this process of change. The erstwhile ICS cadre ceased as Burma Public Service Commission took over complete control to recruit top-notch honours graduates from Yangon University. The ICS was replaced with B.C.S (Class I) and BCS (Class II) services for the gazetted rank and Subordinate Civil Service (SCS) for non-gazetted positions. The BCS (I) recruits numbered 35, and its tenure was rather brief interrupted by the Second World War from 1942 to 1945. The British Colonial administration came back at the end of the Second World War but then Burma was a different country from what they had governed. Politically enlightened Myanmar in the crucible of world war and revolutionary resistances actively agitated for political independence. A new constitution was written, formulated and approved by the Constituent Assembly in 1947...

On 4th January 1948, Myanmar became independent and Union Constitution came into effect. One noticeable thing in the Union Constitution was that the constitutional guarantee given over the civil servants all along the Indian Constitution and Burma Constitution of the British Colonial Rule were absent in the 1948 Union Constitution.

The Civil Service structure was also changed as follows:-

(a) The BCS (Class I) was abolished.

(b) The BCS (Class II) was reconstituted as BCS (Senior Branch) gazetted cadres.

(c) The Subordinate Civil Service (SCS) was reconstituted as BCS (Junior Branch)

(d) BCS (Sr. Branch) gazetted positions and BCS (Junior Branch) non-gazetted positions were notified as points of entry subject to open competition and selected centrally by the Public Service Commission.

The following high ranking positions were also subsequently notified: such as BCS (Selected Grade); BCS (Junior Administrative Posts) and (Senior Administrative Posts). The highest positions in permanent career service were 2 Financial Commissioners and the Chief Secretary. All senior positions above the points of entry were posted through internal promotions according to seniority or in exceptional cases through merit. The BCS (Junior Branch) held positions as Township Officer. BCS (Sr. Branch) held the post of Township Officer on first probationary appointment, and later confirmed to full Senior Branch substantive position such as Subdivision officers, Revenue Officer (Akunwun), Treasury Officer (NgweTaikWun), HQA (Headquarters Assistant) etc.

BCS (Senior Branch) posts were designated as the single point of entry for gazetted officers. Subsequent posts to the Selection Grade (deputy commissioner and upwards) were promoted from the civil list; maintained by the Home Ministry. The BCS (Junior Branch) were promoted to the mainstream Senior Branch after being selected into the single point of entry by the PSC.

In district administration the Deputy Commissioner commanded the focal position. He was the head of administration, Revenue Collector, Collector of Customs in border towns, District Magistrate (DM), and coordinator of social work, all combined into his official self. Thus Deputy Commissioner is commonly known a 'Ah-Yai-Paing-Min', or 'father of the District'.

Training forms the important aspect in grooming the BCS (Sr Br) officers. After they were selected by the PSC they were assigned to various divisions in field administration. Then the Commissioners of various divisions assigned them to various districts under their jurisdictions. They were placed on probation

for two years. The first year was spent on OJT or on job training with training schedule drawn by the DC's office. The second year was spent on field assignments. They were also required to pass the departmental examination on 4 subjects; Revenue Law, Criminal Law, Civil Law and Treasury within the probationary period of two years by the higher standard. Confirmation to the Sr Branch Service depended on the date of passing the departmental examinations or completion of two years probationary period of whichever came later.

An institutionalized training school was experimented in Meiktila during 1923 called Meiktila Training School but was subsequently closed. After Independence the first BCS Officers' Training School was opened in No. 50 Natmauk Road around 1959 attended by 1955 batch gazetted officers. It was later shifted to Chawdwingone Mass Education Training Campus. Later on it was established on a larger scale into Central School for Public Services in Phaunggyi, Hlegu Township in 1965, whereby BCS Senior Branch Officers' course lasted for nine months.

There are manuals prescribed for the conduct of office administration, which the BCS officers must abide, namely D.O.M or District Office Manual and SD and T.O. namely (Subdivision and Township Manual). There are also many notified Acts, rules, regulations including the multi volume Burma Code, Courts Manual which he must study to manage the affairs of his respective charge. Then there are certain critical acts of parliament he must strictly follow, namely the Official Secrets Act, the Government Service conduct rules, The Riots Manual etc. The District Officers had a prescribed tenure in one position namely two years after which they were transferred on rotation to another position in the district within the same division or outside the division

known as divisional transfers.

Then as the years grew with field experiences, seniority and maturity he was posted to Central Government positions in the Secretariat in Yangon. There are ministries serving the cabinet by the elected MPS called Ministers. Serving under them were the elected Parliamentary Secretaries. The office of the ministry was headed by Secretaries to the Government, the permanent career service which provided continuity, impartiality in the affairs of governance, personnel management, HR etc. The Secretary, a senior BCS (Administrative Grade Officer) served as Cabinet Secretary in the Prime Minister's Office. The Secretary served as Head of the Ministry. Serving under him were the Deputy Secretaries, Assistant Secretaries and office staffs. The Secretary as career official provided continuity of administration as he advised the ministers of the affairs concerning the functions of the state, with the pros and cons to be decided on the issues at hand. Once the decision has been made by the Cabinet and the Ministries, it is the duty of the Secretary to carry out the tasks to the best possible implementation with integrity and impartiality.

Here again he is guided by the Secretariat Manual in the conduct of the office administration as well as the Rules of Executive Business, and the Official Secrets Act, Government Service Conduct Rules in addition to Acts, rules, regulations, circulars and executive orders pertaining to the ministerial functions. Such executive assignments and functions are carried out with loyalty, commitment, impartiality, and accountability, during the tenure of

office. Rules governing the conditions of Government Service were prescribed in Fundamental Rules, Supplementary Rules, Discipline and Appeal Rules, Leave Rules etc which must also be studied thoroughly and practiced with fairness and impartiality.

Postwar and post-independence recruitment to the BCS (Sr Branch) were conducted in the years 1947 (15), 1948 (9), 1950 (33), 1952 (17), 1954 (24), 1955 (22), 1956 (16), 1957 (15), 1958 (20), 1959 (4), 1961 (7), 1962 (5). The above data is quoted from the 1962 Civil List published by the Ministry of Home Affairs quoted from 'Memoirs of a BCS officer researched by' Myo Aung Hein (U Ohn Than, 1954 batch) (February 2013). They were actively involved in the maintenance of law and order, collection of land revenue, administration of justice. In addition they also were deeply involved in nation building works, economic and social development, welfare schemes, international relations and formulation and implementation of long term, medium term economic development programs from 1948 to 1962.

In March 1962 the military took over the regime of civil power. The recruitment of BCS officers from the PSC was thenceforth abolished, and all BCS officers serving the government departments of the Revolutionary Council were allowed to continue service on individual basis. Heads of civil service in Townships, subdivisions, districts and Divisions in field administration and Central Government were replaced by Committees at all levels.

In 1972 an Administrative Reform Committee Report was officially published. Under the provisions notified in Volume 27, the Civil Service, core of civil administration through the Colonial days, and post-independence era was totally abolished.

(To be continued)

U Ba Than is a seasoned writer of English, regularly contributing hundreds of articles of lasting interest in both English and Myanmar. His career began as an English tutor, with him rising to Director-General. He was honoured with 'Literary Lifetime Award' in 2012, sponsored by Pakokku Sarpay, for his lifelong contribution to literature.

Israel expands Gaza ground offensive; no sign of truce

GAZA / JERUSALEM, 20 July — Israel said on Sunday it had expanded its ground offensive in Gaza and militants kept up rocket fire into the Jewish state with no sign of a diplomatic breakthrough to end the worst fighting between Israel and Hamas in two years.

Gaza residents said land and naval shellings were the heaviest in 13 days of fighting. Explosions rocked the coastal enclave overnight and shells fired by Israeli naval forces lit up the sky.

Israeli tank shelling killed one Palestinian and hit houses in the northeastern Shejaia district, where residents called radio stations pleading for evacuation.

An Israeli air strike there on the house of senior Hamas official Khalil al-Hayya killed his son and daughter-in-law and



An Israeli convoy manoeuvres outside central Gaza Strip on 19 July, 2014. REUTERS

two children, hospital officials said. Near the southern town of Rafah shelling killed four Palestinians, health officials said.

In Israel, sirens sounded in towns near Gaza,

warning of approaching rockets.

Israel sent ground forces into Hamas-dominated Gaza on Thursday after 10 days of heavy air and naval barrages failed

to stop rocket fire, some of which reached deep into Israel, from the Palestinian territory.

The military said in a statement on Sunday it had sent additional forces into

the Palestinian enclave. Israel has vowed to destroy a network of tunnels out of Gaza and hunt down the militants' stockpiles of missiles.

Gaza officials said at least 345 Palestinians, many of them civilians, have been killed in the 13-day conflict. On Israel's side, five soldiers and two civilians have died.

Diplomatic efforts to secure a ceasefire involving, among others, Egypt, Qatar, France and the United Nations, have failed to make headway.

Qatar was due to host a meeting between Palestinian President Mahmoud Abbas and UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon on Sunday, a senior Qatari source told *Reuters*. Ban was due during the week to travel to Kuwait, Egypt, Israel, the Palestinian Territories and Jordan, a UN statement said. The Qatari

source said Abbas was also due to meet Hamas leader Khaled Meshaal.

Western-backed Abbas in April struck a deal with Islamist Hamas that led to the formation of a Palestinian unity government, seven years after the group seized control of Gaza from Abbas's Fatah party.

Israeli shelling kills at least 20 in Gaza neighbourhood - health officials

Israeli shelling killed at least 20 Palestinians in a Gaza neighbourhood on Sunday, and thousands of residents fled for their lives, local health officials and witnesses said.

Gaza's Shifa hospital was filled with dozens of wounded from the attack on the eastern Shejaia neighbourhood, about three kilometres (two miles) away.—*Reuters*

Gunmen kill 21 Egyptian military border guards near Libya

CAIRO, 20 July — Gunmen killed 21 Egyptian military border guards near the frontier with Libya on Saturday, highlighting a growing threat from an area that security officials say has become a haven for militants seeking to topple the Cairo government.

Security officials said the assailants were smugglers. But an army spokesman said on his Facebook page that "terrorists" — the term authorities use to describe Islamist militants — were behind the attack.

He said a weapons storage facility was blown up by a rocket-propelled grenade in an exchange of fire, killing the soldiers and wounding four others.

The attack took place in Wadi al-Gadid governorate, which borders both Sudan and Libya. Two smugglers were killed in clashes with the guards, security officials said.

Egyptian President Abdel Fattah al-Sisi has repeatedly expressed concerns about militants who have capitalized on the chaos in Libya and set up operations along the border.

Sisi met with top Egyptian security officials after the attack, state news agency *MENA* reported.

Security officials say militants pay smugglers to transport weapons, including machine guns and rocket-propelled grenades, to comrades in Egypt, which is already facing an Islamist insurgency based in the Sinai Peninsula near Israel.

Sinai militants have stepped up attacks against policemen and soldiers since then-army chief Sisi toppled President Mohamed Mursi of the Muslim Brotherhood last summer and launched a fierce attacks on Islamists.

Hundreds have been killed in shootings and bombings.

Security officials say militants operating from Libya are trying to forge ties with Islamists in the Sinai, an alliance that could prolong Egypt's instability and scare away investors that are badly needed to help fix the battered economy.

Tribal smugglers told *Reuters* they charge up to one million Egyptian pounds (\$140,000) to move weapons in four-by-four vehicles along desert routes.

Five border guards were killed in a similar attack in the same area a few months ago.—*Reuters*

After clashes, rush after some Tripoli flights resume

TRIPOLI, 20 July — Flights have resumed from two small airports in Libya triggering a rush of Libyans and expatriates trying to leave the country on Saturday after fighting closed the main international airport a week earlier.

Local carriers have resumed flights to neighbouring countries from Tripoli's Mitiga airport, which is mainly used by the military and oil firms, and another airport 210 km (130 miles) to the west in Misrata.

Flights out of Libya almost completely halted from Sunday when rival militias turned Tripoli International Airport into a battlefield with rockets hitting the runway, at least 20 planes and the main terminal building. A few airlines continued to fly from tiny airports in the east.

Tripoli International Airport remained closed on Saturday, but flights took off from Mitiga bound for Egypt, Jordan and Tunis.

Bomb suspect killed in police raid in Lebanon

BEIRUT, 20 July — A main terrorist suspect was killed during a raid in Lebanon's northern port city of Tripoli on Sunday, a security source told *Xinhua*.

The source said the Information Branch of the Internal Security Forces raided a residential complex in

Tripoli where Monzer Al Hassan stayed.

The source said Hassan, who held a Swedish citizenship, was suspected

of providing explosives to two suicide bombers who blew themselves up when police raided their Beirut hotel on 25 June.—*Xinhua*



A general view of the front of the airport is seen after a shelling at Tripoli International Airport on 17 July, 2014.—REUTERS

More than hundred people packed the departure hall, trying to check in or to buy a ticket that could be bought on the spot in cash, airport officials and

residents said.

The airport standoff is one of most serious between rival militias in the three years since the fall of Muammar Gaddafi.

Libya's weak government has proved unable to control brigades of former rebel fighters who often battle for political and economic power.—*Reuters*

SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY

Apple should do more to tackle in-app purchases problem: EU

BRUSSELS, 20 July — Apple has provided no concrete and immediate solutions to tackle the problem of adults and children racking up credit card bills by making “in-app” purchases on tablets and mobile phones, the European Commission said on Friday.

Following concerns raised by consumer groups in a number of European countries, the EU executive called in industry members, policymakers and consumer protection authorities to discuss clearer guidelines in February.

Since then, Google, which owns the Android operating system for smartphones, has proposed a number of measures that are being implemented. These include banning the word “free” when games contain in-app purchases

and changing the default settings so that payments have to be actively authorized before every purchase.

But the Commission regretted that Apple, maker of iPhone, had not made any firm commitments on tackling the issue of payment approvals.

“No concrete and immediate solutions have been made by Apple to date to address the concerns linked in particular to payment authorization,” the Commission, the EU executive, said in a statement.

Many of those playing the games are children or teenagers, who can often make the in-app purchases without parental approval. It is then up to the parents to foot the bill.

Industry members, including Apple, could face legal action from nation-



A woman poses for a photo illustration with an iPhone as she plays Candy Crush in New York on 18 Feb, 2014. — REUTERS

al authorities if they are deemed to be breaking EU consumer protection law.

Apple said it would address the concerns brought up by the Commission, although it gave no time frame for when it might make the changes, the EU executive said.

“Over the last year we made sure any app which enables customers to make in-app purchases is clearly marked,” said an Apple spokesman. “We will continue to work with the EC member states to respond to their concerns.”

The app industry in

Europe is huge and growing. It employs more than 1 million people and has annual revenue of around 10 billion euros (\$13.53 billion), of which about 80 percent comes from in-app purchases, according to the Commission.

National authorities will continue to engage with Apple to ensure that it addresses the concerns they brought up in December last year.

While the company has not met their demands on payment consent, it has introduced clearer labeling on its iTunes store when apps marketed as free also offer in-app purchases. It has also proposed creating a specific email address through which enforcement authorities can contact it about possible breaches of EU law and discuss the

problem with the app developers.

The Commission estimates that over half of the EU online games market is advertised as “free” despite carrying hidden costs.

“In-app purchases are a legitimate business model, but it’s essential for app-makers to understand and respect EU law while they develop these new business models,” said Neelie Kroes, the EU’s telecoms commissioner.

In one case in Britain, an 8-year-old girl managed to run up a bill of 4,000 pounds (\$6,700) making “in-app” purchases from games such as My Horse and Smurfs’ Village. In that instance, Apple reimbursed the girl’s father.

In-app purchases can be disabled on most mobile devices. — Reuters

Japan PM says will offer about \$20,000 subsidy for fuel-cell cars

TOKYO, 20 July — Japan will offer at least 2 million yen (\$19,700) in subsidies for fuel-cell vehicles,

Prime Minister Shinzo Abe said according to media, as the government and Japanese carmakers including



Toyota Motor Corp’s prototype fuel cell vehicle (FCV) sedan car, which has the same body design as the one will launch in 2015, is unveiled during a news conference at the company’s showroom in Tokyo on 25 June, 2014. — REUTERS

Toyota Motor Corp join forces to speed up the introduction of the vehicles. The subsidy would mean that consumers would pay about 5 million yen for Toyota’s fuel-cell sedan, which is set to go on sale by the end of March 2015 and priced at about 7 million yen. Abe, who visited a hydrogen station and test-drove fuel-cell cars on Friday, vowed to back the technology through subsidies and the purchase of the cars by government agencies. “This is the car of a new era because it doesn’t emit any carbon dioxide and it’s environmentally friendly,” Abe told reporters.

Reuters

Experts map deep magma reservoir below Washington’s Mt Rainier

SEATTLE, 20 July — Experts have mapped a huge magma reservoir below Mount Rainier in Washington state that begins melting deep in the Earth’s mantle before pushing upwards to where it will eventually be tapped for eruption.

Researchers from the United States and Norway used seismic imaging and the measurement of variations in electrical and magnetic fields to create a detailed road map of the pathway molten rock takes to the surface.

Their findings, published this week in the journal *Nature*, are aimed at

helping experts understand the volcano’s inner workings, and eventually determine when it might again erupt.

A state landmark, Mount Rainier last erupted in the 19th century. It is widely expected to erupt again, according to the US National Park Service.

The tallest volcano and fifth-highest peak in the contiguous United States, it towers some 14,410-feet (4,392 metres) about 58 miles (93 km) southeast of Seattle, from most of which it is visible.

Phil Wannamaker, a geophysicist at the University of Utah, said the new

images were most detailed to date, but that they did not provide any information on the timing of future eruptions by Mount Rainier or other Cascade Range volcanoes.

The volcano’s magma forms deep in the Earth’s mantle, the layer between the planet’s crust and its core. The magma, which is fluid molten rock, then flows upwards to a pool about five miles (8 km) below the peak, the study found.

The pool appears to be about 5 to 10 miles (8 km to 16 km) thick and the same width, the researchers said. — Reuters

Gene key to developing stem cells found

WASHINGTON, 20 July — Researchers have found a gene that could be key to the development of stem cells — cells that can potentially save millions of lives by morphing into practically any cell in the body.

The gene, known as ASF1A, is at least one of the genes responsible for the mechanism of cellular reprogramming, a phenomenon that can turn one cell type into another, which is key to the making of stem cells.

Researchers at the Michigan State University analysed more than 5,000 genes from a human egg, or oocyte, before determin-

ing that the ASF1A, along with another gene known as OCT4 and a helper soluble molecule, were the ones responsible for the reprogramming.

“This has the potential to be a major breakthrough in the way we look at how stem cells are developed,” said Elena Gonzalez-Munoz, a former MSU post-doctoral researcher and first author of the paper.

“Researchers are just now figuring out how adult somatic cells such as skin cells can be turned into embryonic stem cells. Hopefully this will be the way to understand more about how that mecha-

nism works,” said Gonzalez-Munoz.

In 2006, an MSU team identified the thousands of genes that reside in the oocyte. It was from those, they concluded, that they could identify the genes responsible for cellular reprogramming.

In 2007, a team of Japanese researchers found that by introducing four other genes into cells, stem cells could be created without the use of a human egg. These cells are called induced pluripotent stem cells, or iPSCs.

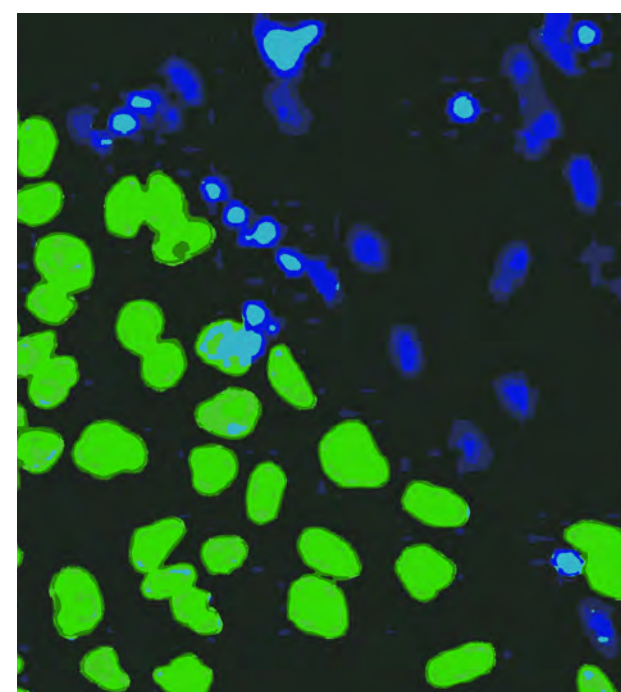
“This is important because the iPSCs are derived directly from adult tissue and can be a perfect

genetic match for a patient,” said Jose Cibelli, an MSU professor of animal science and a member of the team.

The researchers say that the genes ASF1A and OCT4 work in tandem with a ligand, a hormone-like substance that also is produced in the oocyte called GDF9, to facilitate the reprogramming process.

“We believe that ASF1A and GDF9 are two players among many others that remain to be discovered which are part of the cellular-reprogramming process,” Cibelli said.

The finding was published in the journal *Science*. —PTI





Visitors look at different aircrafts displayed on the Boundary Bay Air Show in Delta, Canada, on 19 July, 2014. The 9th Boundary Bay Air Show featured more than 4 hours of aerial demonstrations as well as vintage aircraft displays which drew about 15,000 spectators attend.

XINHUA

Japan, Brazil eye cooperation on offshore oil development

TOKYO, 20 July — Japanese and Brazilian leaders are expected to discuss Brazil using Japanese technology to build a mega offshore logistics hub for developing oil fields far out to sea, according to a draft of the statement to be released after talks on 1 August.

When Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe meets with Brazilian President Dilma Rousseff in Brazil, Abe will propose that Brazil use Japanese large-floating-structure technology to build the hub, the draft indicates.

According to Japanese government sources, the offshore hub under consideration would be about 300 meters long and 100 metres wide, and cost more than 50 billion yen to build.

For Brazil, efficiently

transporting people, equipment and supplies from land to offshore oilfields located far away is a challenge. Constructing a mega offshore logistics hub is expected to contribute to development of deep-water oil deposits, the safety of production, and reduction of transportation costs.

Brazil's crude oil output ranked 13 in the world in 2011, a large part of which came from offshore oilfields.

The draft statement also said the Japan International Cooperation Agency will begin a training project for people in the Brazilian shipbuilding industry later this year. Japanese experts are likely to be sent to shipbuilding yards in Brazil to teach shipbuilding know-how.

Kyodo News

Chinese, Kenyan experts to share findings on ecosystem management

NAIROBI, 20 July — Experts from China and Kenya's major institutions are due to meet in the Kenyan capital Nairobi next Tuesday to share key findings on sustainable ecosystem management and climate change adaptation," UNEP said.

The diverse range of projects will also showcase technologies for combating desertification. According to the UNEP, it is estimated that by 2030, between 75 and 250 million Africans will live in areas of high water stress, which could result in a crop yield decrease of 23 percent.

Some findings and insights from the pan-regional UNEP-China-Africa Cooperation Programme on Environment will be a national master plan for rainwater harvesting in Kenya, according to the statement.

"The programme enlisted the expertise of 20 Chinese academic institutions, and dozens of African universities and research institutions across 16 African countries, to demonstrate the positive

impacts of new low-cost technologies, training, and experimentation, on sustainable ecosystem management and climate change adaptation," UNEP said.

Under the initiative, Chinese experts will train hundreds across the continent in cost-saving, sustainable land management, rainwater harvesting and dry-land agriculture.

"Enhancing African capacities to address serious environmental challenges is critical to ensuring that Africa's natural resource base can meet the needs of the continent's growing population," UNEP said.

Under the initiative, Chinese experts will train hundreds across the continent in cost-saving, sustainable land management, rainwater harvesting and dry-land agriculture.

Xinhua

Giant aerated toad appears in Yuyuantan Park

BEIJING, 20 July — A giant aerated toad is shown in the "Summer in Yuyuantan", a recreational summer event in Beijing's Yuyuantan Park on Saturday, on 19 July, 2014, *The Beijing News* reports.

The golden toad, sitting on a huge lotus leaf, is made of 550 pieces of coated fabric.

It is the biggest aerated toad in Asia, which is 22 metres high and 34 metres long at the bottom.

Since toad is always compared to sun and moon in Chinese folk culture, the park made this aerated product to wish good luck and fortune, as long as bring a visual attraction to visitors.

Xinhua



A giant aerated golden toad sits on a huge lotus leaf in the Yuyuantan Park in Beijing, on 19 July, 2014. —XINHUA

Venezuela vows to boost all-out cooperation with China

CARACAS, 20 July — Venezuelan Foreign Minister Elias Jaua said on Saturday that his country and China should deepen trade and economic relations and strengthen cooperation in areas of common interests.

Jaua made the remarks at the opening of the 13th meeting of the China-Venezuela High-Level Joint Commission, which kicked off hours before a visit of Chinese President Xi Jinping to the nation.

The Venezuelan top diplomat said the meeting should produce better results for economic and social advancement of both Venezuela and China and bring about tangible contribution to the technical training of human resources and the efficiency of project development. "We have placed particular emphasis on promoting the development in energy, agricultural, scientific, technological, industrial, com-

mercial and cultural areas, among others," he said.

"Now it is urgent to strengthen cooperation in social matters to work toward the reduction of poverty in both countries. The 13th meeting of the China-Venezuela High-Level Joint Commission should produce better results for the prosperity of our nations," Jaua said.

Despite cultural difference and geographical distance, Venezuela and

China have been able to appreciate the benefits of cooperation, said Jaua, adding that Venezuela represents one of China's main partners in Latin America, and the Asian nation is the strategic priority for the development of his country.

Venezuela and China have signed more than 500 cooperation agreements, with bilateral trade amounting to 19.2 billion US dollars in 2013.

Xinhua

ADVERTISEMENT & GENERAL

BID NOTICE

Date: July 17 - 23, 2014

Loan Agreement N°: MY-P3 on June 7, 2013

I. Myanma Electric Power Enterprise (MEPE) of Ministry of Electric Power (MOEP) invites sealed Bid for Construction of Gas Pipeline in Thilawa Area under Infrastructure Development Project in Thilawa Area. It is intended that part of the proceeds of Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) loan will be applied to eligible payments under the Contract for "package 4: Gas Pipeline of Sub-project for Electric Power Development in Thilawa Area under Infrastructure Development Project in Thilawa Area (Phase I) (MY-P3).

2. Bidding will be conducted through procedures in accordance with the applicable Guidelines for Procurement under Japanese ODA Loans, and is open to all Bidders from eligible source countries, as defined in the Loan Agreement

3. Completion of the Works as below:

Eligible Bidder

- Minimum average annual construction turnover of 12 Million US\$, calculated as total certified payments received for contracts in progress and/or completed, within the last five (5) years.
- A minimum number of three (3) similar contracts that have been satisfactorily and substantially completed as a prime contractor (single entity or JV member) within the last five (5) years prior to the Bid submission deadline.

The Works

- Procurement of Materials and Equipment of Gas Pipeline
- Construction work of Gas Pipeline with HDD (Horizontal Directional Drilling)
- Other services included Non Destructive Test (NDT), Cathodic Protection System and Nitrogen Purging

4. Interested eligible Bidders may obtain further information from and inspect the Bidding Documents at the office of Thermal Power Department for the technical matter and Material Planning Department for the bid procedure matter, Myanma Electric Power Enterprise, No. 27 Building, Nay Pyi Taw.

Technical Matter

- Contact Person: Chief Engineer of Thermal Power Department
- Phone: 95-67-410557
- E-mail: thilawagt@gmail.com

Bid Procedure Matter

- Contact Person: General Manager of Material Planning Department
- Phone: 95-67-410075
- E-mail: mepemp@moep.gov.mm

5. A complete set of Bidding Documents can be purchased by interested Bidders on the submission of a written application to the address above at office hour and upon payment of a non-refundable fee of two hundred fifty thousand Myanmar Kyats (Ks. 250,000/-) during:

- From 9:30 to 16:30 on July 21 (Mon.) — August 21 (Thu.), 2014 (except for Government holiday)

6. The provisions in the Instructions to Bidders and in the General Conditions of Contract are the provisions of the Standard Bidding Documents under Japanese ODA Loans for the Procurement of Small Works.

7. Bids must be delivered to the above address on or before at 2:00 p.m. on August 21, 2014 and must be accompanied by a security two hundred forty thousand US Dollars (240,000 US Dollar). The bid security shall be provided by any bank, which should be related to Myanma Foreign Trade Bank (MFTB).

- Attention: Myanma Electric Power Enterprise (MEPE)

8. Bids will be opened in the presence of Bidders' representatives who choose to attend at 2:00 p.m. on August 21, 2014 at No. 1 Meeting Room of Myanma Electric Power Enterprise at ground floor.

Missing girl in Okayama found safe, man arrested for imprisonment

OKAYAMA, 20 July — An 11-year-old schoolgirl who went missing on 14 July in the western Japan city of Kurashiki was found safe by police late Saturday.

The local police arrested Takeshi Fujiwara, 49, for imprisoning her at his house in the neighbouring city of Okayama, some 8 kilometres from the girl's home.

The Okayama prefectural police said they found the girl watching television when they searched the suspect's house around 10:20 pm on Saturday. Her mother remembered the license plate number of a car repeatedly seen following the girl in her neighbourhood earlier this year. The vehicle belonged to Fujiwara.—Kyodo News

INVITATION FOR OPEN TENDER

(TENDER NO. 3(T)MPE/MOGAS(1)/2014-2015)

1. Open Tender is invited for the Myanma Petrochemical Enterprise, the Ministry of Energy for the supply of Mogas (92-RON) UNL (47,000 ± 10%Barrels).
2. Tender Closing Date : 5 - 8 - 2014 at (12:00) noon.
3. Tender Opening Date : 5 - 8 - 2014 at (13:00) hrs .
4. Delivery Time : End of August 2014
5. Tender Documents and details information are available at the Department of Finance, Myanma Petrochemical Enterprise, Nay Pyi Taw, during office hours commencing 15-7-2014 on payment of the Myanmar Kyat One Hundred Thousand (Kyat 100,000) per set.
6. Only bid from tenderer who has purchased tender document officially from Myanma Petrochemical Enterprise will be accepted for evaluation.

Managing Director

Myanma Petrochemical Enterprise

Contact Phone no.

067-411108/411193

Forty-three people killed in China highway collision

BEIJING, 20 July — Forty-three people were killed in a collision between a bus and a van carrying flammable liquids in southern China, state media reported on Saturday.

The crash in Hunan Province happened in the early hours of Saturday when the van drove into the back of the passenger coach, triggering a fire and explosion, the official Xinhua news agency said.

Six people were injured, including four with severe burns. Five vehicles were destroyed, Xinhua said.

Last week, 11 people were killed, including eight children, when a school bus crashed into a reservoir in Hunan.

A series of accidents in recent years involving vehicles carrying school children have made such incidents a sensitive issue, particularly in China's rural areas where roads are often poorly maintained.—Reuters

Exhumation of bodies of alleged Indian rape victims halted by rain

LUCKNOW, 20 July — Indian federal investigators on Saturday suspended the exhumation of the bodies of two teenage girls, who were allegedly raped and found hanging by their necks from a tree in May, as heavy rainfall inundated the burial area.

Authorities had decided to exhume the bodies after local police cast doubt on whether the girls had been sexually assaulted and suggested instead that it could have been a case of honor killing carried out by their families.

Five men, two of them police officers, were arrested in connection with the killing of the girls, aged 14 and 15, in the northern state of Uttar Pradesh.

The two cousins, from a low-caste community, went missing from their village when they went out to go to the toilet. The next morning, villagers found their bodies hanging from a mango tree in a nearby orchard.

Sex crimes against young girls and women are widespread in India, say ac-



Onlookers sit at the site where two girls were hanged from a tree at Badaun district in the northern Indian state of Uttar Pradesh on 28 May, 2014. —REUTERS

tivists, adding that females from poor, marginalized, low-caste communities are often the victims.

The poor state of women's safety in India has been in the spotlight since the gang-rape and murder of a 23-year-old student on a moving bus in the capital Delhi in 2012, which led to the introduction of tougher rape laws.

The investigation agency will resume the

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Weather report

STATE OF THE SEA: Frequent squalls with rough sea will be experienced off and along Myanmar Coasts. Surface wind speed in squalls may reach (40) m.p.h.

OUTLOOK FOR SUBSEQUENT TWO DAYS: Continuation of increase of rain in the coastal areas.



People walk on the flooded street in Istanbul, Turkey, on 19 July, 2014. Heavy downpours triggered flash floods in some areas of Istanbul. Several main roads were waterlogged due to floods since the beginning of the day. —XINHUA

groups say.

A six-year-old schoolgirl was allegedly raped by two staff members at a school in the southern city of Bangalore on 2 July, local media reported.

Amnesty International India said on Saturday the country needs clear guidelines to help schools prevent instances of sexual violence and other abuse of children.

Reuters

exhumation on Sunday if water levels recede, a local police officer said.

Authorities also took down a tent next to the burial ground where a team of seven doctors were to carry out the autopsy.

A rape is reported in India every 21 minutes on average, but such crimes are often not reported or properly investigated because of law enforcement failures, human rights



The game was announced by the actor and Disney India's Interactive business.—PTI

Salman Khan launches mobile game on 'Kick'

MUMBAI, 20 July — Bollywood superstar Salman Khan has launched a mobile game which is based on his upcoming film 'Kick' in Mumbai on Saturday.

In the game, the player takes on the role of 'Devil' (Salman's name in the movie) and embarks upon a benevolent yet exciting journey where he robs the

rich and corrupt and deposits that money in the bank for philanthropic causes.

The game includes numerous obstacles which include security alarms, lasers, manholes, street corners and more. The gamer has to be played in a stealth style and demands escape from cops.

Replying to a query by reporters at the launch

function, Salman said he was not very much interested in games.

"At our house, Arhaan (son of Arbaaz Khan), and Nirvaan and Yohan (both sons of Sohail Khan) are good in it. I am interested in sports and not games," he added. The game was announced by the actor and Disney India's Interactive business.—PTI

Top European movies to be screened at Serbian film festival

PALIC, (Serbia), 20 July — International audience at the Lake Palic in Serbia will have a chance to watch 64 European movies that represent best productions in 2013 and 2014.

The week-long European Film Festival Palic opened on Saturday with the screening of the Hungarian movie "White God" directed by Kornel Mundruczo and will close on Friday with the Turkish drama film "Winter Sleep" directed by Nuri

Bilge Ceylan, a movie that won Palme d'Or-winner at the 2014 Cannes Film Festival.

Among the movies in the repertoire are also "Wonders" directed by the Italian director Alice Rohrwacher, Russian movie "Leviathan" by Andrei Zvyagintsev, and the French-German movie "Stations of the Cross" by Dietrich Bruggemann which won this year's silver bear at the festival in Berlin.—Xinhua

Sandra Bullock to star in 'Tupperware' biopic



Sandra Bullock

LOS ANGELES, 20 July — 'Gravity' star Sandra Bullock has landed the lead role in 'Tupperware' biopic, which will be directed by Tate Taylor.

Bullock, 49, will be seen in the film, which will depict the life of Brownie Wise, the sales executive behind the launch of Tupperware and its famous parties that made the storage product a household name and into the multi-billion company it is today, said *The Hollywood Reporter*.

The untitled project is the screen adaptation of the novel, 'Tupperware Unsealed'. Sony Pictures have acquired its rights. —Reuters

Tom Hanks shoots 'A Hologram for the King' in Egypt

CAIRO, 20 July — Hollywood star Tom Hanks is in Egypt to shoot for his upcoming film 'A Hologram for the King'. The Oscar-winning actor is currently filming in Hurghada city, *el-Masry el-Youm* newspaper reported.

"It's my first time to visit Hurghada, but I have read more about the Red Sea. I'm very glad to shoot in Egypt," said Hanks. Some scenes of Hanks movie will be shot in Hurghada's beautiful Red Sea and several underwater scenes will feature the coral reefs of Hurghada, ac-

cording to a statement from Ministry of Tourism.

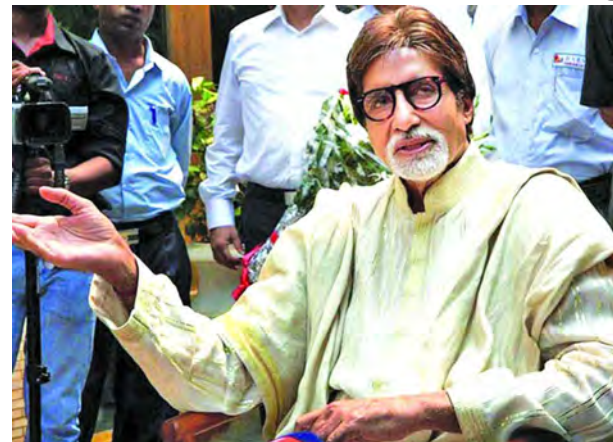
'A Hologram for the King', directed by German helmer Tom Tykwer and starring Hanks, 58, tells a story of a failed American businessman looks to recoup his losses by traveling to Saudi Arabia and selling his idea to a wealthy monarch. The movie is based on a 2012 novel of the same name by Dave Eggers. Hanks will spend 25 days in Egypt to finish the scenes. The film is set to premiere in November 2015.

PTI



Tom Hanks

Amitabh Bachchan to be formally invited by the State of Goa to inaugurate IFFI



Mr Bachchan had responded positively to an informal request made by the Goa CM.— PTI

PANAJI, (Goa), 20 July — Goa Chief Minister Manohar Parrikar said that the state government will formally invite Bol-

lywood megastar Amitabh Bachchan to inaugurate the International Film Festival of India (IFFI) scheduled to take place in Goa this

November.

"Amitabh Bachchan's name is at the top of the list for being invited for the upcoming IFFI. I have informally spoken to him. Once we get approval from the Information and Broadcasting Ministry, we will send a formal invitation to him," he said.

Mr Parrikar was speaking to reporters after chairing the Governing Council meeting of Entertainment Society of Goa (ESG), the nodal agency for hosting the festival, conducted jointly by the I&B Ministry and State Government.

PTI

Alia Bhatt: I am a very clumsy human being



Alia Bhatt

NEW DELHI, 20 July — Bollywood's young star Alia Bhatt put up a confident front while walking a three-ramp set-up in a lehenga as heavy as over 20 kg, for ace designer Manish Malhotra's show at the Shree Raj Mahal Jewellers India Couture Week. She said she was nervous as she's usually clumsy.

"I get very nervous. I am not the best walker. I am a very clumsy human being, I fall (while) standing, so walking on the ramp wearing (an outfit of) almost 25 kg and high heels, looking good, posing and smiling while people are clapping. I think it's nerve

wrecking, but I think it's the best two minutes," Alia told reporters here post the show.

With minimalist make-up, a roughly done-up hairdo and no jewellery, Alia carried the red bridal wear couture outfit, adorned by vintage gold embroidery, with aplomb on Saturday night.

Adding more Bollywood flavour on the ramp was Aashiqui 2 actor Aditya Roy Kapur, while off the stage and in the audience were names like Urmila Matondkar and Huma Qureshi.

PTI

GENERAL

Ten inmates injured after Texas jail roof collapses

HOUSTON, 20 July — Ten inmates were hospitalized and dozens more were briefly trapped in a jail house in east Texas after its roof collapsed on Saturday morning, local media reported.

The incident happened at Diboll Correctional Centre in Diboll, about 170 km northeast of Houston, according to local TV ABC13.

The jail's warden said 84 inmates were in the building when the accident happened and were temporarily trapped.

Ten people were taken to the hospital for injuries, while an untold number are being treated for minor injuries at the privately run facility.

None of the injuries are life threatening.

Jail officials are assessing damage to the roof and trying to figure out how it happened.

Texas Department of Criminal Justice is sending a team to assess the situation.

On 26 June, a garage ceiling collapsed during a religious gathering at a residential house in Houston, injuring some 30 people.

Xinhua



Chinese President Xi Jinping (C) visits the Republic Farm, some 70 km away from Buenos Aires, Argentina, on 19 July, 2014. — XINHUA

Sabella set to decide on Argentina future in midweek

BUENOS AIRES, 20 July — With a September friendly looming for Argentina against their World Cup final conquerors Germany, coach Alejandro Sabella is aware of the urgency of a decision on his future.

Sabella, whose side lost 1-0 after extra time to Germany in the Maracana final a week ago, told reporters on Friday he would be mulling over his future this weekend and then arrange a Wednesday meeting with Argentine FA chief Julio Grondona.

"I know there are

friendlies scheduled. In the middle of the week I'll talk with Julio," Sabella said.

"It's a situation that can't wait much, this weekend I'll think about it and I'll call Julio to have a meeting with him... I have to feel capable of doing (the job)," the 59-year-old said.

Argentina play Germany in Duesseldorf on Sept. 3 in a match that will serve as a warm-up for the world champions' opening Euro 2016 qualifier against Scotland four days later. Argentina also face Brazil and Hong Kong in friendlies in

October.

Argentina's World Cup squad have said they want Sabella to stay at the helm and prepare the team for the Copa America in Chile next year.

"That makes me proud but my decision doesn't depend on that... It's down to whether I feel strong enough to give 100 percent," he said.

"If I can't give the players what I ask of them, it wouldn't be honest."

Sabella said he was not analysing alternative job offers.—Reuters

5.5-magnitude quake hits 90km SE of Raoul Island, New Zealand

HONG KONG, 20 July — An earthquake measuring 5.5 on the Richter scale jolted 90km SE of Raoul Island, New Zealand at 04:18:47 GMT on Sunday, the US Geological Survey said.

The epicentre, with a depth of 10.0 km, was initially determined to be at 29.9099 degrees south latitude and 177.3325 degrees west longitude.—Xinhua

MYANMAR TV

(21-7-2014, Monday)

- 6:00 am
- * Paritta by Venerable Min Gun Sayadaw
- 7:20 am
- * People Talks
- 8:30 am
- * ASEAN Programmes
- 9:30 am
- * Cartoon Series
- 10:00 am
- * News
- 10:20 am
- * Weekly Entertainment News
- 11:50 am
- * Teleplay (Health)
- 12:00 pm
- * News / Weather Report
- 2:35 pm
- * Musical Programme
- 3:00 pm
- * News
- 3:15 pm
- * Documentary (Women in Myanmar Society)
- 3:35 pm
- * Joint Performance by State Orchestra and State Traditional Orchestra
- 4:20 pm
- * University of Distance Education (TV Lectures) -First Year (Economic)
- 5:00 pm
- * News
- 6:25 pm
- * Traditional Boxing
- 7:00 pm
- * News
- 7:25 pm
- * TV Drama Series
- 8:00 pm
- * News/ International News/ Weather Report
- 8:35 pm
- * Documentary
- 9:00 pm
- * News
- 9:30 pm
- * Documentary
- * Documentary (Talk on old film)
- * Pyi Thu Ni Ti

MYANMAR INTERNATIONAL

(21-7-14 07:00 am~ 22-7-14 07:00 am) MST

- * Local News
- * The Pride of Myanmar "Traditional Handicraft"
- * World News
- * Sticky Shan Snack
- * Local News
- * Simple and Peaceful Life: A Lucky Boy
- * World News
- * Myanmar Traditional Art Bronze Casting
- * Local News
- * Taste of Myanmar: Noodle with Fermented Soya Bean
- * World News
- * Myanmar Movie Review : At Your Command
- * Local News
- * Journey to Unimaginable Spots (Episode-1)
- * World News
- * Myanmar Chef (Japanese)
- * Local News
- * Home Made: Product of Myanmar "Craft Blacksmithing"
- * World News
- * Kayah Style
- * Local News
- * A Day Life of Kayan Padaung Tribe
- * World News
- * Indian Footsteps
- * Local News
- * To The Land of Countless Temples - Bagan Trip (Episode-1)
- * World News
- * In The Studio: Shin Min Eain
- * Local News
- * Odd Jobs....: The Man and The Elephant
- * World News
- * I'm In Love With Diamond



People participate in the Festival of Colours in St Petersburg, Russia, on 19 July, 2014. — XINHUA

Pilot killed in Czech small plane crash

PRAGUE, 20 July — A small plane crashed in southeast Czech Republic on Saturday, killing the pilot. The small sport plane crashed during an international aerobatics contest in Kromeriz, South Moravia, said regional firefighters' spokesman Libor Netopil, adding the

accident caused fire and the Czech pilot died.

Local police spokeswoman Simona Kysnerova said the pilot was a 51-year-old Czech man from central Bohemia.

She said the plane fell at about 11:00 am (0900 GMT) in a private garden near the airfield, some 60

metres far from a house.

Jan Zona, who is the contest organizer, said the plane was flown by an experienced Czech pilot. The contestants performed a compulsory sequence within an aerobatic box, i.e. a cube with its length, width and height being each one kilometre.—Xinhua

Yangtze River sees first flood peak this year

WUHAN, 20 July — The Yangtze River, China's longest, is expected to hit its first flood peak this year soon, due to continuous rainfall upstream, authorities said on Sunday.

The water level at the Chenglingji Hydrological Station in central China's Hunan Province, a major flood monitoring spot on Yangtze, exceeded the warning level at 10 am on Sunday, according to the Yangtze River Flood Control and Drought Relief Headquarters.

The headquarters issued a notice to the governments of Hunan and Hubei Provinces, both on the river and often victim to floods, to be alert on the peak flow.—Xinhua

McIlroy teases rivals for Open, then storms clear

HOYLAK, (England), 20 July — Rory McIlroy left the door invitingly ajar for a charging pack led by Rickie Fowler and Sergio Garcia before slamming it shut with a dazzling finish on Saturday to lead the Open by six strokes with one round left.

The Northern Irishman began the day four shots clear of Dustin Johnson, was reeled in by inspired American Fowler after 12 holes, but magnificent eagles at the 16th and 18th saw him disappear over the horizon with a 16-under-par total of 200 at a rain-soaked Royal Liverpool course. It is 50 years since a player went into the fourth round of the Open with a bigger lead, on that occasion Tony Lema taking a seven-stroke advantage into Sunday at St Andrews in 1964.

Yet for much of the third round on a links course softened to perfection by stormy weather,

McIlroy seemed in real danger of missing out on his fair share of the birdie feast which allowed 17 players to shoot sub-70 rounds and 35 to break par.

After 13 holes he was level par for the day and, with dark clouds brewing overhead, Fowler was breathing down his neck.

He responded with an incredible 3-3-3-5-3 climax to move clear and only an extraordinary turnaround on Sunday can prevent him completing a first Open triumph to add to the US Open and US PGA titles he won in 2011 and 2012 respectively.

"I was conscious that Rickie was getting a little closer or Sergio or whoever it was," McIlroy, who would break three-times winner Tiger Woods's Open record of 19 under (set in 2000) with a round 68 or lower on Sunday, told reporters.

"But it was nice to be

able to come up with the goods when I needed them the last few holes."

Should he close the deal on Sunday, the 25-year-old McIlroy will have completed three legs of the career slam on Sunday, leaving just the Masters title missing from his collection.

"I'd be in pretty illustrious company," he added.

"So not getting ahead of ourselves, here, but yeah, it would mean an awful lot. I didn't think that I'd even have the chance at 25 to go for three legs of the Grand Slam. So I'm going to try to put all of that out of my head."

Like McIlroy, Fowler also carded a four-under 68 but three bogeys over the closing five holes left him ruining what might have been as he chases a first major title.

"If I'm able to go out and get off to a good start, maybe I can put a little bit



Rory McIlroy of Northern Ireland plays a shot on the fifth hole during the third round of the British Open Championship at the Royal Liverpool Golf Club in Hoylake, northern England on 19 July, 2014. REUTERS

of pressure on him," Fowler, who will play alongside McIlroy in the final round, said.

"He's definitely in control of the tournament right now."

Spaniard Garcia, who hit back from a poor start in which he found two greenside bunkers at the first, is seven shots adrift in a tie for third place with John-

son after a round of 69.

Frenchman Victor Dubuisson is on eight under.

Darren Clarke, the 2011 champion, fired the day's joint best round of 67 but three-times winner Tiger Woods, who started on the 10th along with half the field, was wallowing in a distant 58th place at three over par after a rusty 73.

Last year's champion Phil Mickelson fared slightly better than his old sparring partner with a one-under 71 but his hopes of retaining the title are over.

McIlroy looked anxious early on, finding sand with his second shot at the first and then missing a par putt after an under-cooked bunker shot.—Reuters

Lampard close to New York City FC transfer



England international Frank Lampard

LONDON, 20 July — England international Frank Lampard is expected to confirm his move to new Major League football franchise New York City FC next week, according to British media reports. The 36-year-old was released by Chelsea at the end of last season following the expiration of his contract.

He left Stamford Bridge as the club's record goalscorer with 211 from 648 appearances during a 13-year spell in west London. It is understood Lampard was impressed by the Manchester City and New York Yankee-owned club's vision.

Should Lampard sign, the midfielder may follow the lead of another recent recruit, Spanish record goalscorer David Villa, in joining their sister club, Australian-side Melbourne City, to maintain fitness ahead of the MLS season in March 2015.—Reuters

Wenger positive but Walcott will miss start of the season

LONDON, 20 July — Arsenal forward Theo Walcott will miss the start of the Premier League season but should be back in full training by the end of August and playing again soon afterwards, manager Arsene Wenger said.

The 25-year-old England international ruptured the anterior cruciate ligament in his left knee during an FA Cup third-round tie against Tottenham in January and missed the rest of the season and the World Cup.

"We expect him to be

back in full training at the end of August," Wenger was quoted as saying on the BBC website.

"Theo has a good basis, which is what he's working on now," added Wenger, who also predicted that Walcott's return to contention would be "very quick" once he was back in full training.

When Walcott suffered the injury Arsenal said he would be out of action for at least six months. However, the club has for some time accepted that he would not return before the



Arsenal's Theo Walcott is stretchered off the pitch during their English FA Cup soccer match against Tottenham Hotspur at the Emirates stadium in London, on 4 Jan, 2014.—REUTERS

start of the season on 16 August.

Walcott himself is positive over the prospects for his return to action for the Gunners.

"Things are looking really good and I have worked very hard for the last five months now," he told Arsenal's website (www.arsenal.com).

"The most important thing is getting the strength back and it has pretty much nearly healed — it is just about building up that stability and strength again."

Reuters

Maldonado staying with Lotus next year, says Lopez

NEW YORK, 20 July — Venezuelan Pastor Maldonado will stay with Lotus in 2015, despite the Formula One team suffering a terrible first half of the season, team principal Gerard Lopez said on Saturday.

Maldonado has yet to score a point this season as Lotus struggle with the new technical changes.

"I can confirm 50 per cent of our driver line-up for 2015 as Pastor is with us for next year," said Lopez on the Lotus F1 website (www.lotusf1team.com).

"Despite the difficulties we've had so far this season, he recognises our

true potential as a team and we recognise his true potential as a driver.

"We will achieve great things together."

Maldonado, 29, had



Lotus Formula One driver Pastor Maldonado of Venezuela waits in his car during the first practice session of the Malaysian F1 Grand Prix at Sepang International Circuit outside Kuala Lumpur, on 28 March, 2014. REUTERS

been with Williams for three years when he switched to Lotus at the end of the 2013 season.

Ironically, Williams are one of the success stories of this season, in fourth place in the constructors' championship table behind runaway leaders Mercedes with 103 points, while Lotus have a meagre eight points and lie eighth of the 11 teams racing.

In qualifying for Sunday's German Grand prix at Hockenheim, Maldonado failed to make it out of the first session and will start 19th.

Reuters

Iran defender Hosseini signs Al Ahli of Qatar

TEHERAN, 20 July — Iran defender Jalal Hosseini has joined Al Ahli of Qatar, Tasnim news agency reported on Saturday.

The 32-year-old, the defender of the Iranian team in the 2014 FIFA World Cup in Brazil, parted company with the Iranian Persepolis club due to financial disagreement, said the report which did not disclose the terms of his contract with the Qatari team.

Hosseini has made 86 appearances for Iran and scored six times.

Xinhua