

President U Thein Sein felicitates Egyptian counterpart, PM

NAY PYI TAW, 23 July—U Thein Sein, President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar, has sent messages of felicitations to His Excellency Mr. Abdel Fattah Saeed Hussein Khalil El-Sisi, President of the Arab Republic of Egypt, and His Excellency Mr. Ibrahim Mahlab, Prime Minister of the Arab Republic of Egypt, on the occasion of the National Day of the Arab Republic of Egypt, which falls on 23 July 2014.

MNA

Myanmar moves to help itself out of LDC category



NAY PYI TAW, 22 July—A national-level committee has been set up as part of helping the country out of each criterion that identifies the category of least developed countries, Vice President U Nyan Tun told a meeting at the President Office on Tuesday, sources said.

Presided by U Nyan Tun, the committee has been assigned a task to help Myanmar graduate from the LDC category.

The United States list-

ed 25 countries as least developed countries in 1971, and the number of LDCs has now hit 48, with Myanmar having been included in the LDC list as of 1987.

The UN Economic and Social Council, as recommended by the Committee for Development Council, is mandated to review the LDC classification every three years and report its findings to the UN General Assembly.

The identification of

LDCs includes three criteria that are based on Gross National Income (GNI), Human Assets Index (HAI) and Economic Vulnerability Index (EVI).

U Nyan Tun pointed out the need of a time frame to make systematic preparations in cooperation with UN organizations so as to make Myanmar move out of the three criteria in line with the 2015 UN Millennium Development Goals.

MNA

Vice President U Nyan Tun delivers speech at meeting to help the country out of each criterion that identifies the category of LDCs.

MNA

Malaysia invites entries for theme song for ASEAN chairmanship

NAY PYI TAW, 22 July—Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Malaysia in collaboration with *Institut Penyiaran dan Penerangan Tun Abdul Razak (IPPTAR)* is organizing a theme song writing competition and cordially invites all Malaysians to

participate. This theme song writing competition intends to recognize natural local songwriting talents and at the same time to create awareness about Malaysia's Chairmanship of ASEAN in 2015. In this relation, contestants are encouraged to

reflect deeply on ASEAN's identity and vision, share experiences and memories in line with the theme of "People Centred ASEAN".

The competition is valid from 4 July to 31 August 2014. No entry fees (See page 3)

Vessels for tourist transport operate early in Mandalay

MANDALAY, 22 July—Although the tourist season has not started, vessels have been running from Mandalay to Mingun,

Mandalay to Bagan and Mandalay to Bhamo via Katha since July.

"The tourist season begins in October, but we

started operating vessels as tourists began to visit Myanmar before the start of the season. Our company is now operating Mandalay-

Bagan and Mandalay -Katha-Bhamo routes with the use of three vessels. With the increased number of arrivals when the tourist sea-

son starts, our vessels will be mainly run from Mandalay to Bagan route, said U Ne Win, manager of River Nmai Hka Travel & Tours.

It is planned to run one more vessel at the start of the season for the convenience of visitors, he added.

A total number of licensed vessels operating foreign passenger transport business for Mandalay-Mingun route are 41 while there are five for Mandalay-Bagan and seven for Mandalay-katha-Bhamo routes.

For Mandalay-Bagan

Ferries run for transport of globetrotters from Mandalay to Bagan, Bhamo and Katha.

cruise trip in which five cruises are in operational, foreigners pay US\$ 43 for up cruise and \$38 for down cruise, while local passengers pay K 15,000 and 12,000 respectively.

A tourist is charged \$100 for Mandalay-Katha-Bhamo route while a local pay K 20,000, but both foreigners and locals are charged K 50,000 for Mandalay-Mingun route.

In the year to the end of June 95,238 tourists flocked to Mandalay while 219,518 in 2014, up from 160,975 in 2012.

Myanmar hopes to see more tourist arrivals with the recent inscription of its four sites to the World Heritage List.

Tin Maung (Mandalay)



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Myanmar, Indonesia eye closer cooperation

YANGON, 22 July — Union Minister for Home Affairs Lt-Gen Ko Ko held talks with Indonesian Ambassador to Myanmar Dr. Ito Sumardi on Tuesday morning.

During the meeting, they held comprehensive discussions on enhancement of co-operation between the two nations.

The meeting was also attended by Deputy Minister Brig-Gen Kyaw Zan Myint and officials.—MNA



Union Minister Lt-Gen Ko Ko holds talks with Indonesian Ambassador Dr. Ito Sumardi.
MNA

Energy minister urges to ensure reform plan



Union Minister U Zeyar Aung addresses future strategies in energy sector at the national-level meeting.—ENERGY

NAY PYI TAW, 22 July — Union Minister U Zeyar Aung for Ministry of Energy on Wednesday discussed the development of reform plan and future strategies in energy sector at the national-level meeting held at Yadana Hall of the ministry here.

He said that the ministry has adopted energy

policy; some businesses under Myanma Oil and Gas Enterprise, Myanma Petrochemical Enterprise and Myanma Petroleum Products Enterprise have been operating in joint-venture businesses.

U Zeyar Aung also added that the ministry need to review and preview the project, and to focus

on the direction of Public Private Partnership (PPP) reform plan. He said that the projects must be implemented with the minimum damages on the environment.

The meeting was attended by deputy ministers, departmental heads, retired technical expertise of the ministry.—MNA

Panel discussion on disability and responsible business held in Yangon

By Khaing Thanda Lwin



Programme Director U Nay Lin Soe of Myanmar Independent Living Initiative-MILI at panel discussion on disability and responsible business at UMFCFI Office Tower in Yangon.

YANGON, 22 July—A panel discussion on disability and responsible business took place on Tuesday in Yangon with the participation of U Yu Lwin Aung, director-general of the Social Security Board under the Ministry of Labour, Employment and Social Security, Senior Advisor to the ILO Christopher Land-Kazlauskas, Programme Director U Nay Lin Soe of the Myanmar Independent Living Initiative-MILI and other officials.

In his opening remarks, U Ko Ko Gyi, leader of 88 Generation Peace and Open Society, urged policymakers, businesspeople and the public to give helping hands to the disabled community and for responsible personnel to implement the results of meetings as soon as possible.

At the discussion, U Yu Lwin Aung explained laws and policies on disability in Myanmar, adding that the ministry has been drafting a law on the rights

Union Industry Minister holds talks with foreign guests about Steel Mill, Mechanical Training School

NAY PYI TAW, 22 July —Union Minister for Industry U Maung Myint received Regional Manager Mr Franz Richter and party of RHI ReFractories Asia Pacific of Australia at the ministry in Nay Pyi Taw on Tuesday.

The guests explained fire bricks produced from the RHI ReFractories Asia Pacific, quality of mixes, motors and functional products and use of their bricks and materials at No 1 Steel Mill (Myingyan).

The union minister also held a talk with General Manager Mr Yoshizo Hatta

and party of Sojiz Corporation (Tokyo) of Japan about investment in No 1 Steel Mill (Myingyan) and mutual cooperation in rubber plantations for rubber production.

At noon, CEO Mr Tsuda Shuji and party of Japan Onlyone Partnership (JOP) Co., Ltd of Japan called on the Union minister and discussed hiring the land plot for construction of new mechanical training school in Myanmar in cooperation with the Ministry of Industry and opportunities for cooperation in mechanical training schools.

MNA

Outstanding students from Mon State observe Lower House session

NAY PYI TAW, 22 July—Altogether 174 outstanding students from Kyaikto Township of Mon State led by Deputy Speak-

er of State Hluttaw and Union Solidarity and Development Party U Htay Lwin, visited the 33rd day session of the ninth regular session

of the first Lower House on Tuesday in Nay Pyi Taw.

They also viewed round the Hluttaw complex.—MNA



Documentary photos on people with disabilities working at business displayed at UMFCFI Office Tower in Yangon.

PHOTO: KHAING THANDA LWIN

of people with disabilities-PWDs since 2012.

He urged local entrepreneurs to appoint people from needy families to their worksites and give them suitable positions.

Land-Kazlauskas said 15 per cent of labourers have disabilities and he urged local entrepreneurs to effectively participate in the development of disabled society that help bring more than 20 per cent of the country's GDP. According to a survey, 56 per cent of entrepreneurs do not spend much money on those workers.

Persons with disabili-

ties should have equal opportunities, as should other citizens, to build a developed country, but people in Myanmar think about disability in a traditional way, Nay Lin Soe, who contracted polio at the age of three, said.

He also discussed the differences between disability and impairment, causes of disability and attitudinal and physical aspects of disability as well as systemic and policy barriers for PWDs.

According to a 2009 national sample survey by MSWRR, in Myanmar, 85 per cent of PWDs are job-

less, 53 per cent of children with disabilities cannot access primary school and 80 per cent of PWDs are unaware of their rights.

Yu Ya Thu, operation manager of MILI, said she faces much discrimination and other difficulties in her life and urged other PWDs' families to create a warm community for PWDs and to give opportunities for learning starting from childhood.

A few PWDs in Myanmar are working in suitable positions in tailoring shops, hairstyling shops and some departments thanks to the MILI, she added.—NLM

NATIONAL

MP questions ground accidents at airports: Upper House



Representatives participating in discussions at Upper House.—MNA

NAY PYI TAW, 22 July—Ground accidents are quite common at airports across the country, with a parliamentarian saying that aprons in the Yangon International Airport are crowded with planes and often cause ground accidents.

At an Upper House session on Tuesday, U Nyunt Tin asked if any measures are being taken to deal with such accidents

Malaysia invites entries for...

(from page 1)

would be charged to participate in the competition and more than one entry is allowed.

All songs submitted by contestants will be screened by a panel of judges that include professional composers and lyricists. The best song will be used as the official theme song for Malaysia's Chairmanship of ASEAN in 2015. The winner will be rewarded

at the airports.

In a response, Deputy Minister of Transport U Zin Yaw said the Yangon International Airport has an apron for 16 aircrafts to park on, but the number has doubled as nine local and foreign airlines and oil companies are using the apron.

Speaking of measures being taken to address the problem, the deputy minister said that an apron

the prize of RM20,000 cash and the four runner-ups will be presented cash prizes of RM2,500 each.

The entry form, the rules of competition and other information can be downloaded at <http://www.kln.gov.my/asean-song2015/>, and entry form, song, composer and song demo are to be sent to aseanthemesong@gmail.com.

MNA

management team has been assigned duties to issue directives and provide supervision for ground safety.

Lt-Col Win Myint Tun sought information about the world's rarest gemstones extracted from Myanmar. Regarding an inquiry from the Armed Forces personnel representative, Deputy Minister for Mining U Than Tun Aung responded that the country boasts 46 kinds of gemstones regarded as rare, with 29 being displayed at the Myanmar Gems Museum in Nay Pyi Taw and 15 at the Myanmar Gems Museum in Yangon.

"Painite and Maw Sit

Sit are rare gems that can be found only in Myanmar, and they are put on show in the gem museums of Nay Pyi Taw and Yangon."

At a Lower House session, Daw Win Maw Tun, deputy minister for Labour, Employment and Social Security, responded to a question as to whether the rights of government workers to public holidays, overtime pay and other benefits are consistent with the existing labour laws.

She said her ministry is taking steps to ensure fairness between employers and employees by sticking to laws, regulations, decrees and directives.—MNA

U Han Thu concurrently accredited as Ambassador to Andorra

NAY PYI TAW, 23 July—The President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar has appointed U Han Thu, Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar to the French Republic, concurrently as Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar to the Principality of Andorra.—MNA

Myanmar Parliamentary Union meets

YANGON, 22 July — Myanmar Parliamentary Union held a meeting on Tuesday to seek advice on capacity building of Myanmar parliamentarians and points that should be included at Union level and region/state level while conducting studies in constitutional amendment.

In his speech at the meeting held in Nay Pyi Taw, Thura U Shwe Mann, chairman of Myanmar Parliamentary Union and Speaker of Pyidaungsu Hluttaw and Lower House, invited suggestions from those present for capacity enhancement of Myanmar

parliament and its members.

The meeting continued, with MPU Secretary U Nanda Kyaw Swa who is also the deputy speaker of Pyidaungsu Hluttaw making clarification on work progress and those present holding general discussions.

Also present at the meeting were U Khin Aung Myint, vice chairman of MPU and speaker of Upper House, and MPU members U Mya Nyein, deputy speaker of Upper House, and speakers and deputy speakers of region/state parliaments.—MNA

Union FM sends felicitations to Egyptian counterpart

NAY PYI TAW, 23 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. Sameh Shaukri, Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Arab Republic of Egypt, on the occasion of the National Day of the Arab Republic of Egypt, which falls on 23 July 2014.—MNA

Union Sports Minister, State Chief Minister awards winners of sports events in Lashio

games.

The Union minister also inspected sports grounds in Hsipaw Town-

ship, Kyaukme District and Nawngkhio Township. He also gave instructions on construction of

sports ground and holding of sports events including truck and field event in the township.—MNA



Deputy Minister for Foreign Affairs U Thant Kyaw signs the book of condolences at the Malaysian Embassy to Myanmar in Yangon on 22 July for the demise of 298 passengers on board the flight MH 17 of Malaysia Airlines shot down in eastern Ukraine on 17 July.—MNA



Athletes participate in mini marathon in Lashio of northern Shan State.

MNA

Taungthaman Bridge attracts globetrotters to enjoy scenic beauty



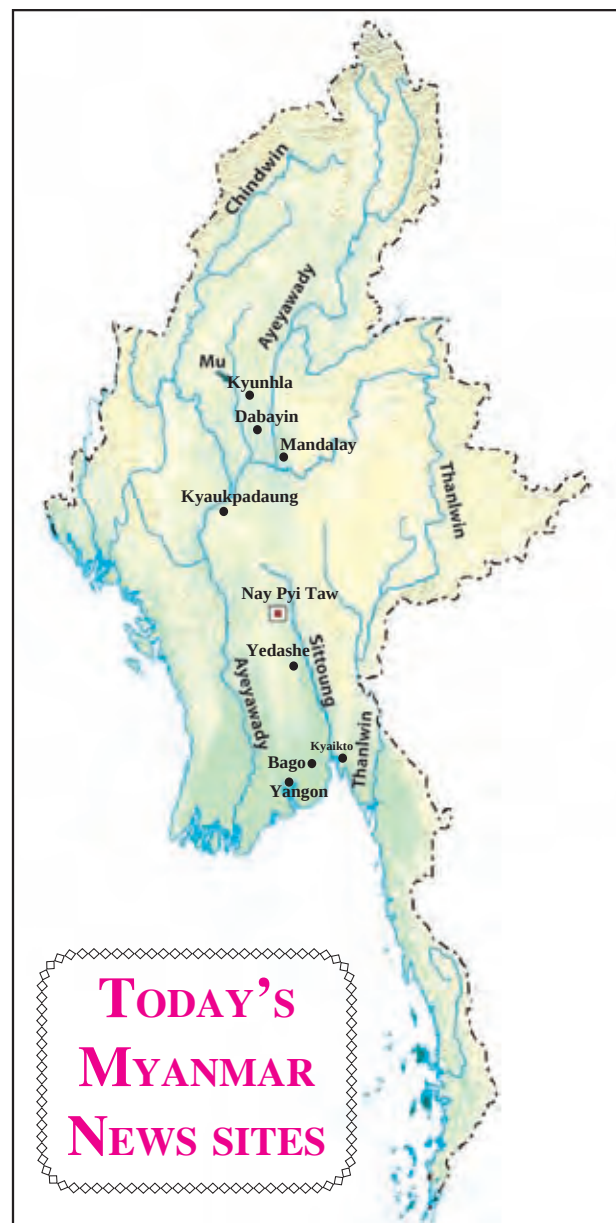
MANDALAY, 22 July— Bridge floated into the Taungthaman Lake in Amarapura Township of Mandalay Region recently. Despite carrying out salvage, the posts could

not be used again due to decaying. Thus, one 17-foot long post and one 12-foot long post were substituted in these places.

At present, the higher water level of Ayeyawady River and heavy rains flow into the lake where flocks of globetrotters and local visitors enjoy scenic beauty from Taungthaman Lake.

The Department of Archaeology and National Museum under the Ministry of Culture and the Mandalay Region Government are carrying out maintenance of the bridge for its durability.

Thiha Ko Ko
(Mandalay)



Teachers, students suffer from food poisoning in Yedashe Tsp

YEDASHE, 22 July— Over 100 teachers and students suffered from food poisoning at Basic Education Middle School Branch in Zeyathin Village, located in the opposite site of the Sittoung River in Yedashe Township of Bago Region on Monday morning.

Altogether 228 students are pursuing education at the school where a wellwisher served them with foods with chicken curry on Sunday.

Since the afternoon, some students suffered from stomachache. On Monday, dysentery and diarrhoea happened among the students. Headmistress Daw The The Aye informed occurrence of students about the Health Departments concerned in time.

Officials of Yedashe Township Health Department and Myohla Station Hospital and Yeni rural health centre provided



health care services to the students in time at the Dhammayon of Zeyathin Monastery.

The students and

teachers are not in critical health conditions. Four female teachers, 30 boys, 58 girls students and 13 villagers are under health care up to 10 pm on 22 July.

Officials of Bago Region Health Department also gave necessary assistance to them.

Ko Lwin (Swa)

Bago Region Police Force donates K700,000 to Bago Region Journalists Association



BAGO, 22 July—A ceremony to share cash rewards to Bago Region Journalists Association was held at the police avenue on Komin Kochin Street in Bago on Monday, attended by Bago Region Minister for Planning and Economic

U Kyaw Myint.

Commander of Bago Region Police Force Police Col Mya Win handed over K700,000 donated by Bago Region Police Force that received rewards given by Waw Township Mobile Team-2 to Chairman of

Bago Region Journalists Association Sein Hlaing Bo. Minister U Kyaw Myint, Commander Police Col Mya Win and Chairman of the association Sein Hlaing Bo explained financial matters of Mobile Team-2.

Ko Latt (Bago)

Village library committee meets

KYAIKTO, 22 July— Kyaikto Township Information and Public Relations Department held a meeting with committees of the village libraries at Thuta Theingi Library in Kyaikpi Village of Kyaikto Township on Monday with the aim of ensuring durability of village libraries. Head of the township department Daw Than

Than Maw explained raising the fund for opening the libraries in the long run and reconstitution of the village library committees.

Townsenders, supportive committee members and youths participated in discussions on maintenance of the books and publications and furniture of the library.

Kyaikto IPRD

Mandalarians have easy access to reading opportunities

MANDALAY, 22 July— As Mandalay Region Information and Public Relations Department on 62nd Street in Pyigyidagun Township of Mandalay broadcasts Wi-Fi

free as of June 2014, about 20 people apply the Internet daily.

Thanks to the free Wi-Fi service, the readers and local people have easier access to

information, books and publications. Likewise, District IPRD offices post Wi-Fi free of charge to the public reading opportunities.

Thiha Ko Ko (Mandalay)



REGIONAL

Rainy season likely over in Tokyo



High school students frolic at a beach in Tokyo's Odaiba district on 22 July, 2014. The rainy season is believed to have ended in the Kanto-Koshin region in eastern Japan, including the Tokyo metropolitan area, the Japan Metrological Agency said the same day. — KYODO NEWS

Philippines raises storm alert level as Matmo churns toward Taiwan

MANILA, 22 July — The Philippines raised storm alert levels on Tuesday as Typhoon Matmo threatened to drench the extreme north of the main island of Luzon with heavy rain as it churned toward Taiwan and mainland China. Packing sustained winds of 130 kph (80 mph) and gusts of up to 160 kph, Matmo was moving at 24 kph northwest towards central Taiwan.

The storm was estimated to be about 180 km (112 miles) north of Bat-

anes group of islands on Tuesday morning.

Storm alert number 2 was raised in the Batanes, where 7.5 to 15 mm per hour of rainfall was expected on Tuesday. The typhoon was also expected to bring rain to other parts of Luzon.

Retired Admiral Alexander Pama, executive director of the National Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Council, said the government had suspended sea travel and prevented small fishing

boats from venturing into the area.

"We do not expect the typhoon to make landfall anywhere in the country but we are still advising our people in the smaller islands in northern Luzon to take extra precautions," Pama said.

"We continue to track the typhoon and we expect it to exit the Philippine area of responsibility on Wednesday afternoon."

Matmo came days after super Typhoon Rammasun killed nearly 100

people and destroyed 7.3 billion pesos (\$168.46 million) of crops and infrastructure.

Wide areas of the southern half of Luzon remain without power after the storm toppled transmission lines and electric poles. Nearly 600 people were stranded in three ports in northern Luzon after 11 ferries suspended service until the storm passes. At least 10 domestic flights were also cancelled. Schools were closed in northern Luzon.—Reuters

Cambodian opposition party agrees to end nearly year-long boycott of parliament

PHNOM PENH, 22 July — The opposition Cambodia National Rescue Party (CNRP) on Tuesday agreed to end its year-long boycott of parliament, according to a joint agreement released after a top-level meeting.

The written agreement was distributed to journalists after a five-hour face-to-face negotiation between Prime Minister Hun Sen, vice-president of the

ruling Cambodian People's Party (CPP), and CNRP's president Sam Rainsy at the Senate Palace.

"The two parties have agreed on a political resolution by joining to work in the National Assembly towards tackling national issues based on the principles of democracy and the rule of law," said the joint agreement.

Xinhua

Taleban shot dead five civilians in eastern Afghanistan

MEHTARLAM, (Afghanistan) 22 July — Five Afghan civilians were killed with one civilian wounded Monday evening when Taleban insurgents attacked a vehicle in eastern province of Laghman, authorities said on Tuesday morning.

"On Monday evening, armed militants fired on a running sedan along a road in Alinagar district, killing five civilians and injuring one other," the provincial government said in a statement. It said an off-duty policeman was among the killed. The motive behind the attack remained unknown.

In a separate incident, a local leader was shot dead along two other civilians in Lashkar Gah city, the provincial capital of southern Helmand Province late on Monday, according to provincial governor spokesman.

Helmand is notorious for poppy growing and is a known Taleban hotbed.

The Taleban-led insurgency has been rampant since the militant group launched an annual rebel offensive against Afghan government forces and nearly 50,000 NATO-led troops stationed in the country in mid-May.

Xinhua

Indonesia's likely loser in presidential race tries to delay result

JAKARTA, 22 July — The likely loser in Indonesia's presidential race made a last-gasp attempt to delay the announcement of the official election results on Tuesday, expected to declare Jakarta Governor Joko "Jokowi" Widodo as the nation's next leader.

Most private tallies show Jokowi beat former special forces chief Prabowo Subianto by about five percentage points.

Prabowo has refused to concede defeat, demanding the result be delayed by two weeks to investigate allegations of mass cheating. He is expected to challenge the vote in the Constitutional Court, though experts say such an appeal is unlikely to succeed.

"All we are asking for is time to study (the allegations). I think we are being reasonable," Prabowo's



Indonesia's presidential candidate Joko Widodo smiles during a talk with his supporters at the *Bisnis Indonesia* newspaper office in Jakarta, on 21 July, 2014. — REUTERS

aide and younger brother, Hashim Djojohadikusumo, told Reuters.

He wants the announcement delayed until 9 August and said that

there was evidence of enough cheating to put the outcome in his brother's

favour. Both sides have claimed victory in the closest presidential election ever in the nation with the world's biggest Muslim community.

The Elections Commission scheduled the announcement for 4 pm (5 am EDT) after initially saying it would take place at 6 pm.

Outgoing President Susilo Bambang Yudhoyono has urged whoever loses to quickly acknowledge the outcome to avoid violence.

Jokowi's team has also asked supporters not to gather in public to celebrate an expected victory.

"Admitting defeat is noble," the president told reporters on Monday, in a clear reference to Prabowo.

Hundreds of thousands of police and military are on heightened alert across

the vast archipelago of 240 million people, the world's third largest democracy. There have been no reports of major violence.

"There are a lot of rumours of instability and unrest but cautiously I'm confident that it is implausible," said Tobias Basuki, a political analyst at the CSIS think-tank.

Markets have rallied for the past few weeks as it started to become clear that Jokowi would be the next leader of Southeast Asia's largest economy.

"The possibility of overturning the election result is very slim. Investors will instead focus on the presidential cabinet, which the new president should announce by October," said Sebastian Tobing of Jakarta-based brokerage Trimegah Securities.

Reuters

Ukrainian rebels to hand over MH17 black boxes to Malaysia: PM Najib

KUALA LUMPUR, 22 July — The pro-Russian separatist leader has agreed to hand over the black boxes of the Malaysia Airlines plane that was shot down over the conflict zone in eastern Ukraine, Malaysian Prime Minister Najib Abdul Razak said on Tuesday.

In a live telecast speech made just past midnight Monday, Najib said he has spoken to Alexander Yurevich Borodai, the self-proclaimed prime minister of the pro-Russian separatist “Donetsk People’s Republic” and that the latter had agreed to hand over the black boxes to a Malaysian team at 9 pm Ukraine time on Tuesday.

Najib had previously stated that Malaysia wants custody of the black boxes, which record flight data.

The black boxes were among one of three issues that Najib and Borodai touched on, according to Najib.

The other two were that the remains of 282 people who are currently in Torez would be transported by train to Kharkiv to be handed over to repre-



Armed pro-Russian separatists receive bullets as they gather near the train transporting the remains of victims from the crashed Malaysia Airlines Boeing 777 plane before its departure from the railway station in the eastern Ukrainian town of Torez, in the Donetsk region on 21 July, 2014. —REUTERS

sentatives from the Netherlands. Kiev had agreed that the Dutch should lead the investigation. Some two-third of the total 298 people on board the *Boeing 777*

were Dutch nationals.

Najib said Borodai also agreed that independent international investigators will be guaranteed safe access to the crash site.

“I must stress that although agreement has been reached, there remain a number of steps required before it is completed. There is work to be done,

work which relies on continued communication in good faith. Mr Borodai and his people have so far given their cooperation,” he said.

The Malaysian leader

also made a remark apparently in response to questions why, unlike western countries, his government has not been strident in pinning the blame on the tragedy on Russia, who does not seem to be pushing hard enough to persuade secessionists to cooperate in the investigation and recovery of victims.

Najib said, “In recent days, there were times I wanted to give greater voice to the anger and grief that the Malaysian people feel and that I feel. But sometimes, we must work quietly in the service of a better outcome.”

The incident is a personal tragedy for Najib who lost his step-grandmother on board the flight. Sri Siti Amirah, 83, was married to Najib’s maternal grandfather as his second wife.

Flight MH17 flying from Amsterdam to Kuala Lumpur, crashed over the east Ukraine region of Donetsk on Thursday, an area that has seen some heavy fighting between the Ukrainian forces and pro-Russian separatists, killing all on board.

Kyodo News

China urges cooperation in MH17 crash investigation

BEIJING, 22 July — China on Tuesday called on all parties involved to cooperate with the international investigation into the crash of Malaysia Airlines flight MH17 in eastern Ukraine.

Foreign Ministry spokesman Hong Lei said in a Press release that China believes the UN resolution on this issue will be fully implemented.

China, a permanent member of the UN Security Council, voted in favor of Resolution 2166 at a meeting of the Council a few hours ago. The resolution, passed unanimously, condemns “in the strongest terms” the downing of flight MH17 on 17 July in Donetsk, resulting in the deaths of all 298 passengers and crew on board.

Hong said the unanimous passage of the resolution is conducive for all parties to enhance mutual understanding, strengthen cooperation and push for progress in the international investigation.—Xinhua

Obama: Russia must press Ukraine rebels to allow plane probe

WASHINGTON, 22 July — US President Barack Obama piled pressure on Russian President Vladimir Putin on Monday to force pro-Russian separatists in Ukraine to stop blocking an international investigation into the downing of a passenger jet last week.

In what has become a dramatic escalation in the worst East-West crisis since the Cold War, Obama denounced the Russian role in eastern Ukraine in some of his strongest language yet and pointedly appealed to Putin to cut ties with the separatists or risk greater international isolation.

“Now’s the time for President Putin and Russia to pivot away from the strategy that they’ve been taking and get serious about trying to resolve hostilities within Ukraine,” Obama said in remarks on the White House South Lawn.

With investigators blocked from the crash site and most of the bodies of the victims removed, Obama said Russia should compel the separatists to let the investigation go ahead.



US President Barack Obama

He questioned why the rebels were blocking access. “What exactly are they trying to hide?” he said. Obama did not specifically threaten new economic sanctions against Russia, and although senior Obama administration officials said additional sanctions were on the table, they made it clear fresh penalties were not imminent.

Adding sanctions now could interfere with the immediate priorities, which were to gain access to the crash site for an investigation and retrieve the bodies, they said.

US officials declined comment on whether Australia, which lost 28 people in the Malaysian plane, should rescind Putin’s invitation to a G20 summit scheduled there in November. Prime Minister Tony Abbott is under some pressure to bar him entry. A senior US official said this was a decision for the host country. Some Republicans criticized Obama for being too weak toward Russia. Republican Senator Lindsey Graham tweeted: “The people who appreciated President Obama’s speech the most were the Russians. Talks loud. No stick.”

Nearly 300 people died when the Malaysian Airlines plane came down. US officials have said it was their assessment that it was shot down by the separatists with a Russian-made SA-11 surface-to-air missile. To bolster their case, US authorities are considering releasing an unclassified intelligence assessment to provide as much material as possible tying the shootdown to the separatists with Russian-supplied hardware.—Reuters

Japan urges Russia to stop assisting separatists in Ukraine

Tokyo, 22 July — Japan urged Russia on Tuesday to “immediately stop” assisting pro-Moscow separatists in Ukraine whose involvement is suspected in the downing of a commercial plane last week over the eastern part of Ukraine.

“Assistance from outside has caused deterioration of the situation. It should stop immediately,” Foreign Minister Fumio Kishida said at a news conference, without naming Russia, which has close ties with the separatists.

Kishida demanded that Russia use its influence over the separatists to cooperate in an international investigation into the crash of the Malaysia Airlines plane, which killed all 298 people aboard, and to hold dialogue with the Ukrainian government to end the conflict.

He said Japan “welcomes” a UN Security Council resolution adopted on Monday demanding a “full, thorough and independent international investigation” into the incident.

The resolution called for pro-Russia armed groups to allow unrestricted access to the crash site.

“We would like to strictly request that (all UN members) abide by the resolution,” he said.

Asked what kind of contribution Japan will make to deal with the incident, the foreign minister said, “We would like to cooperate in a specific way as we promote communications with countries concerned.”

Speaking at a separate news conference, Chief Cabinet Secretary Yoshihide Suga said there is a high possibility that the plane was shot down, and the international community should strictly condemn such an act.

“Those involved must bear a heavy responsibility,” Suga said. “The world must cooperate in ascertaining the cause of the incident and recovering the bodies.”

Kyodo News

WORLD



Chinese President Xi Jinping (C), accompanied by his Venezuelan counterpart Nicolas Maduro (2nd L), visits a housing project in Caracas, capital of Venezuela, on 21 July, 2014.—XINHUA

Sri Lanka nabs large heroin haul from Pakistan

COLOMBO, 22 July — Sri Lanka seized a major heroin haul smuggled from Pakistan, the customs department said on Tuesday.

The heroin was seized when grinding machines imported from Pakistan were checked at a customs yard by officials.

The Customs Depart-

ment said that 100 kg of heroin had been detected inside the machines imported from Karachi in Pakistan.

Sri Lanka has been a transit point for heroin smuggled from Pakistan and parts of India which is then sent to other countries or to local dealers. In March this year the Customs Department had

seized 36 kg of heroin at the customs yard after an attempt was made to smuggle it into the country.

The heroin had been hidden in two boxes and were brought to Sri Lanka from Pakistan. The boxes were labelled as hardware items but when the boxes were opened customs officers found hero-

in hidden among bolt nails.

Last year a massive heroin haul was seized from a container truck from Pakistan at the same yard.

The container was said to contain grease tins but when the tins were checked customs officers had found over 120 kg of heroin inside.—Xinhua

Japanese FM says willing to talk with S Korean counterpart

TOKYO, 22 July — Japanese Foreign Minister Fumio Kishida said here on Tuesday that he is willing to hold talks with his South Korean counterpart Yun Byung-se on the sidelines of a series of regional talks early next month in Myanmar.

Although Kishida had talked with Yun twice in the past, he said he would like to continue their “frank exchange” as the two countries’ relations are at odds over territorial dispute and Japan’s recent moves regarding its wartime history.

Local reports said that Kishida wants to arrange a meeting between leaders of the two countries through his meeting with Yun.

Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe has not yet held formal bilateral meeting with South Korean President Park Geun-hye due to frayed bilateral ties since he took office in December 2012. Kishida told a Press conference that Japan hopes to develop bilateral relations from future-oriented and broader perspectives by holding ministerial dialogues with South Korean leaders.—Xinhua

Body of fugitive South Korea ferry businessman found, police say

SEOUL, 22 July — A body found more than a month ago in a South Korean plum orchard has been identified by authorities as that of a businessman who headed the family that owned the operator of a ferry that capsized in April, killing more than 300 people. Police told reporters on Tuesday that DNA and fingerprint evidence from the body found on 12 June in the south of the country showed it to be that of Yoo Byung-un, the target of South Korea’s largest manhunt for more than two months.

Failure of authorities to apprehend Yoo had become a further political headache for President Park Geun-hye, whose government came under heavy criticism for its handling of the ferry disaster in which most of the victims were children.

The Sewol’s 15 surviving crew members, including the captain, are on trial on charges ranging from homicide to negligence. The disaster prompted an outpouring of grief and anger after some crew were caught on video abandoning ship while children, following instructions, stayed

in their cabins.

Yoo, 73, who was also a photographer and co-founded a church, was accused of embezzlement, negligence and tax evasion. Authorities had offered a reward equivalent to nearly half a million dollars and had arrested several of Yoo’s family members.

Woo Hyung-ho, police chief in Suncheon, told

a televised news conference in the small southern city that a book written by Yoo was found at the site, along with an empty bottle of a shark liver oil product made by a Yoo family company.

He said that the police could have conducted forensic tests more quickly had they immediately identified the two items.

Malaysia Airlines flies over Syrian airspace —Flightradar24

KUALA LUMPUR, 22 July — Malaysia Airlines re-routed a Kuala Lumpur-to-London flight over Syrian airspace on Sunday after its usual route over Ukraine was closed, flight tracking data showed on Monday.

Flightradar24 posted a flight map on its Twitter account on Monday showing the change in the flight’s route. Flight tracking data showed this flight had previously crossed over eastern Ukraine.

After Malaysia Airlines Flight MH17 was shot down last Thursday by a ground-to-air missile in eastern Ukraine, airlines began to avoid the airspace above where the Ukrainian military has been fighting Russian-backed rebels.

On Friday and Saturday the Kuala Lumpur-London flight, MH4, had taken a different route over eastern Turkey, tracking data showed.

The change in route on Sunday highlighted the challenge that airlines face in finding con-

flict-free passageways on congested routes between Asia and Europe.

Hundreds of flights routinely crossed over Ukraine before Thursday’s incident, and it is not unusual for international airlines to overfly war zones such as Syria or Afghanistan.

The US Federal Aviation Administration, whose regulations are among the world’s strictest, “strongly discourages” US operators from flying to, from or over Syria, according to a May 2013 notice on its website.

Malaysia Airlines said the MH4’s flight plan was in accordance with the International Civil Aviation Organization’s (ICAO) approved routes.

“As per the notice to airmen (NOTAM) issued by the Syrian Civil Aviation Authority, the Syrian airspace was not subject to restrictions,” Malaysia Airlines said in a statement. “At all times, MH4 was in airspace approved by ICAO.”

Reuters



Maritime police search for missing passengers in front of the South Korean ferry “Sewol” which sank at the sea off Jindo on 16 April, 2014. —REUTERS

“We didn’t know at that time it was a book written by Yoo,” Woo said. “We admit we were not perfect.”

Another police official said the announcement had been delayed as forensic investigation on DNA takes 40 days.

The time of death was unclear as the body had decayed by more than

80 percent. The body was transferred early on Tuesday from Suncheon to the National Forensic Service in Seoul.

“I was roaming around the field and a person was dead ... but the body was decayed,” Park Yoon-seok, a resident who found the body, told cable news network YTN.

Reuters

PERSPECTIVES

Wednesday, 23 July, 2014

Sympathetic acts are more practical in peace-making processes

By Aung Khin

Peace is not absence of conflict; it is the ability to handle conflict by peaceful means, Ronald Reagan, the 40th President of the United States (1981–89), said. Myanmar has a diversity of ethnic peoples with different traditions and cultures. Though it is not possible to satisfy all needs of every individual, even among family members, a strong sense of purpose is internal peace and unity of

the family.

Thousands of lives have been lost amidst decades-old internal conflicts in our country. Property has been damaged; displaced people have run for shelter in refugee camps at home and abroad; some of them have fallen into the traps of trafficking rings and the country has encountered many prolonged social, economic or political problems.

Who took advantages of these conflicts? Forest areas gradually declined due to illegal logging, especially for export to other countries. For illegal timber production, unethical businesspeople associated with those who considered peace would cause problems for their businesses. Although opium production in the country has noticeably increased, many ethnic people cannot liberate themselves from poverty.

The international community is supporting peace-making in Myanmar by spending millions of dollars and euros to be able to achieve a nationwide cease-fire agreement. While the daily in-

come of street vendors in rural areas is about K 2,000 (US\$2), they cannot dream of visiting cities or going shopping even once in a year. Many of them in far-flung areas have never seen luxurious hotels, and they might not even understand the word "buffet".

Wars left many people in poverty. Although successive Myanmar governments could not handle internal conflicts by peaceful means, the present government is trying its best to reach a lasting cease-fire agreement. All the armed forces concerned will also gain historic success by contributing their best support to this process.

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From Comfort Zone to Combat Zone

Kyi Mun

The Dictionary Meaning of Comfort

1. Comfort means the state of being physically relaxed and free from pain; the state of having a pleasant life with everything that you need.
2. A feeling of not suffering or worrying so much. Comfort Zone, here, means status quo, routine job, a passive state of being with no further progress.
3. The term Comfort Zone is characterized by the following four characteristics:
 - Complacency
 - Apathy
 - Inertia
 - Ignorance

Now, let's see what they mean.

- **Complacency** : a feeling of satisfaction or self-satisfaction with what you have achieved which makes you stop trying to improve or change things. *e.g.* **There are grounds for complacency in today's competitive environment. There is a danger of becoming complacent if you win a few games. We simply cannot afford to be complacent about the future of car industry.**
- **Apathy** : the feeling of not being interested or not caring, either about a particular thing or about life. It also means indifference.
- **Inertia** : Lack of energy and a feeling that you do not want to do anything. A tendency for a situation to stay unchanged for a long time.
- **Ignorance** : Lack of knowledge or information about something. Here, Ignorance means not knowing the difference between:
 - Right & Wrong
 - Good & Bad/Evil
 - Cause & Effect
 - Means & End
 - Seed & Fruit
 - Light & Shade

These are the factors that keep you from succeeding. They are hindrances in your pursuit of progress and advancement. If you want to move forward, you have got to remove them from your daily life. They are, in fact, the factors of failure. The earlier their elimination from your life, the better for your elevation in life !

If you can eliminate the four factors of mediocrity or fail-

ure, you are ready to enter into the Combat Zone. The better you can abandon the hindrances of progress, the better will be your chances of living and moving and having your being in the Combat Zone of the courageous.

Combat Zone

Now, let's see what the Combat Zone means. The Combat Zone means a life of FAITH, FOCUS and FIGHT. There are four characteristics of Combat Zone. But, first of all, let's examine what COMBAT means.

The Dictionary Meaning of Combat

Combat means fighting or a fight. It also means fighting something to stop something unpleasant or harmful from happening or from getting worse.

The 4 Characteristics of the Comfort Zone

- A Burning Desire
- An Indomitable Spirit
- An Unyielding Effort
- Insight Wisdom

A Burning Desire

The love of the Prince Minn Kusa for Papa Wadi was no ordinary love. It was a very passionate love, a tremendous love, a great love born out of the very depth of his being. He was determined to sacrifice his life if he did not get Papa's love in return. At last, his burning desire was crowned with success.

Another example of a burning desire was that of Henry Ford. One day he invited his senior managers and engineers. He requested that he would like to have the engine for his Ford Model T to be cast in one block of steel. Up to that time, the Ford engine was cast in two blocks of steel combined into one engine.

The engineers unanimously replied that it was impossible to achieve. But Mr. Ford insisted that he wanted it done in one block of steel. He gave the engineers six months' time to transform his dream into reality, and dismissed them out of his sight.

At the end of six months, the engineers reported their inability to accomplish their mission. But Mr. Ford was not discouraged. He persisted in his determination to design the engine in one block of steel. He said: "I want it and it'll get it, period. Now, go and do it. I'll give you another six months' time."

Before the end of the 2nd six months' period, the engineers were able to design the engine in one block of steel as desired by Mr. Ford. This example proved the power of a burning desire, born out of a resolute, made-up mind.

An Indomitable Mind

Once upon a time, there was a she-sparrow that lived in a seashore area. After she got married, one day she laid some eggs in a good, secure rocky place at the seaside. But, when the tide was out, her eggs were washed away with ebb tide. She pleaded with the sea to return her children to her again and again. But, the sea remained indif-

ferent to her pitiful requests. So, at last she changed her tactics and challenged the sea. She said she was going to take out the sea's water with her beak, and she did so tirelessly. At long last, the Garuda, who was the spiritual bird, commanded the sea to restore the lost children to the she-sparrow, who in his estimation was a true heroine. The sea complied with the Garuda's command. So, the she-sparrow was reunited with her children. Isn't it a tremendous manifestation of an indomitable mind ?

An Unyielding Effort

It is said that every effort, every endeavour is born of courage. The more courage you have, the more diligence you practice. A courageous, committed painstaking effort has stamina and staying power. The acme of an unyielding effort was epitomized by the last stage practice of the Gotama Buddha who resolved not to rise from his sitting in deep meditation, declaring that :

*"Let me be all bones,
Let me be all skins,
Let me be all sinews,
Let me die; but I'll
Not rise until I attain Buddhahood !"*

This is, I think, one of the finest examples of an unyielding effort.

Insight Wisdom

Insight means seeing through. It also means the ability to see and understand the truth about people or situations. Wisdom means all-knowing or knowing the truth, only the truth, nothing but the truth. It also means the ability to make sensible decisions and give good advice because of the experience and knowledge that you have. An excellent example of Insight Wisdom is : **"We wish to see our son carrying the gold pots on his shoulders."**

Conclusion

So, in the Combat Zone, you have to always cultivate the four factors of success to their ultimate highest accomplishment. In the Combat Zone, you have got to be an active doer, an able achiever, and a willing servant leader of very high caliber.

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

GOLD PRICE, FE RATE (22-7-2014)

Yangon Gold Price

Buying K676,200 per tical: Selling K677,000

Mandalay Gold Price

Buying K676,000 per tical: Selling K676,800

FE RATE

USD Buying K969 - Selling K974.5

SGD Buying K777 - Selling K785

Euro Buying K1308 - Selling K1321

LOCAL NEWS

Agricultural loans disbursed for cultivation of monsoon paddy

DABAYIN, 22 July—Myanma Agricultural Development Bank disburses agricultural loans to local farmers as of 6 June 2014.

The bank gives K100,000 per acre to farmers in Dabayin Township of Sagaing Region.

The bank plans to disburse K9 billion for farm-

ers from two wards and 56 village-tracts of the township.

Up to 21 July, the bank has delivered K3.68 billion to farmers from 23 village-tracts. The remaining farmers will get the loans in August before cultivation of the monsoon paddy.

KK (Dabayin)

Villagers to get health care services at full capacity

KYUNHLA, 22 July—Aimed at providing health care services to rural people, rural health centres and branches were upgraded in Kyunhla Township of Sagaing Region in 2014-15 fiscal year.

Rural health branches were upgraded to the rural health centres in Magyigon and Yayyein villages. Konsi, Mawke, Nanthat, Hekin, Aungpin, Taputaw, Pyinpin, MyinthaU and

Leiksintaung villages were facilitated with rural health branches.

These villages are located in the west of Thaphanseik Dam. Local people faced poor transport in the rainy season. Thanks to the rural health centres and branches, the people will enjoy health care services of health staff all the year round.

Myo Win Nyo (Kyunhla)

People urged to join hands with police to eradicate narcotic drugs

KYAUKPADAUNG, 22 July — The entire people should cooperate with the Myanmar Police Force in control of trafficking and abuse of narcotic drugs and stimulant tablets among the youths, said Commander of Kyaukpadaung Township Police Force Police Major Thein Win at the hall of Township General Administration Department in Kyaukpadaung of Mandalay on Monday.

No 18 Anti-Drug Squad (Mandalay) and

Township Police Force officers gave educative talks on danger of narcotic drugs to ward/village administrators, bus terminal officials, responsible persons of lodges and representatives of social organizations, totalling 120 at the Township GAD Office, 80 students of private schools at the Dhammayon in Thiri Mingala Ward, local people at South Myoma Ward, Station Ward and Lutlatyay Ward.

Ko Nay (Kyaukpadaung)

Youth reproductive health knowledge shared to villagers



KYAUKPADAUNG, 22 July — Chairperson of Kyaukpadaung Township

Maternal and Child Welfare Association and Women's Affairs Organization

Buildings near Mandalay moats to be limited under 46 feet high



MANDALAY, 22 July—The Mandalay Region Government held a meeting on limitation of height of buildings along the moats

in Mandalay at its office in Mandalay recently.

The meeting decided to construct the building with the height of 46 feet in

maximum along the moats. The structures behind these buildings can be constructed higher and higher systematically. The limitation

was based on observations and reviews of the experts at the meeting.

Maung Pyi Thu (Mandalay)

MRCCI meets Thai entrepreneurs for producing, trading of commodities

MANDALAY, 22 July—Members of Mandalay Region Chambers of Commerce and Industry and other entrepreneurs held a meeting with entrepreneurs from 20 companies from Bangkok and Chiang Mai of Thailand at the hall of Sedona Hotel in Chanayethazan Township of Mandalay on Monday.

They discussed mutual cooperation in businesses.

Vice Chairman of the Chamber U Soe Myint and Economic Counsellor Mr Boon Intiratana of Thai Embassy introduced the entrepreneurs one another.

They focused on production and trading of automobile, tyres of motorcycles, spare parts, tractors



and parts, industrial-used rubber products, hydraulic cylinder, pumps, construc-

tion tiles, fire extinguishers, key and security measures, bicycles and parts

and foodstuffs.

Thiha Ko Ko (Mandalay)

Stimulant tablets worth about K500 million seized in Mandalay

MANDALAY, 22 July—Member of No 17 Anti-Drug Squad and police

of No 7 station together with witnesses raided a stationary vehicle on 28th

street between 76th and 77th streets in Hemazala Ward of Chanayethazan Township of Mandalay on 17 July afternoon.

They seized 99,000 stimulant tablets weighing 9.9 kilos worth K495 million.

No 8 police station of Mandalay filed a lawsuit against head of Shwetaungmann bus terminal Kyi Pya (escaped), driver Hsan Ko Aung and other persons totalling six under the Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Law.

Maung Pyi Thu (Mandalay)



Fight against domestic violence stalls in patriarchal Turkey



Activists for women's rights scuffle with riot police during a protest in Istanbul on 5 Jan, 2014. — REUTERS

ISTANBUL, 22 July — Beaten, burned and threatened by her husband, Hayat has repeatedly turned to the Turkish authorities for help. But she still lives with the man who tells her she belongs either to him, or in her grave.

She says she has reason to be afraid. Last year, 13 women in Turkey were murdered by their partners whilst nominally under state protection, according to official figures.

Whenever Hayat reported abuse, either her husband was released by police after a few hours, or she was offered shelter which would have meant

her children being taken away. "Go speak to a hundred women, you'll hear pretty much the same story. It's like a pre-destined misery that we're born to live through," Hayat, the only name she gives so as to protect her identity, told Reuters.

Turkey, which aspires to join the European Union, has drafted new legislation to try to bring women's rights in line with European standards. A law sent to parliament just last month will toughen sentencing for sexual assault.

Officials say the number of shelters has doubled in the past three years and

victim support centers have been set up, allowing women like Hayat to receive protection and remain with their children.

But activists and lawyers say there are still not enough, and that an increasingly conservative and authoritarian political culture under Prime Minister Tayyip Erdogan's government, means progress is, at best, halting.

Turkey ranked 120th of 136 nations in the World Economic Forum's 2013 Gender Gap Index, down 15 places since 2006, while a 2011 UN report indicated domestic violence rates were almost twice those in

the United States, and ten times higher than in some European countries.

"There is a real concrete, open threat to our rights. They want to take them back from us, and we don't want to give them back," said Zelal Ayman, an activist with Istanbul-based Women for Women's Rights (WWHR).

She points to Erdogan's strident views on everything from abortion to the number of children women should have, the sort of meddling in private life that may bolster his standing among his pious core supporters but which alienates a more Western-leaning, secularist strain of Turkish society.

In a 2010 speech, he said he did "not believe in the equality of men and women". Two years later, he likened abortions to the killing of civilians in a military airstrike; activists say abortions all but stopped, since many healthworkers became too frightened to carry them out.

Erdogan, who has loyal support among religious conservatives in the mostly Sunni Muslim though constitutionally secular nation, is expected to win a presidential race next month which could hand him even greater powers.—Reuters

Nigeria Boko Haram attack causes over 15,000 to flee

MAIDUGURI, (Nigeria) 22 July — More than 15,000 people have fled an area around the northeast Nigerian town of Damboa after a spate of lethal assaults by Islamist Boko Haram fighters during the weekend, the emergency services said on Monday.

Suspected Islamists raided Damboa on Friday and Saturday, shooting dead more than 40 residents and burning houses, part of a pattern of killing that has forced tens of thousands to flee this year.

They also attacked six nearby villages.

Boko Haram, which is fighting for an Islamic state in Nigeria, has ceaselessly targeted civilians this year in rural parts of Borno state, where its fighters fled after a military offensive dislodged them from the cities.

Abdulkair Ibrahim, a spokesman for the National Emergency Management Agency (NEMA) in Borno, said the agency had records of 15,204 people who had fled Damboa and the six villages — Kimba, Madaragau, Mandafuma, Chikwar Kir, Bomburatai and Sabon Kwatta.

Addressing press in the capital Abuja on Monday, Defence spokesman Major-General Chris Olukolade appeared to deny that Boko Haram had taken over Damboa and the surrounding areas, when asked about reports that the military had fled and the insurgents had hoisted

ed their black flags in the town.

"We are not conceding any portion of this country to any terrorist group," he said. "Our patrols are active and they are stepping up their activities to reverse any insecurity there."

Whether or not Boko Haram controls significant territory, its ability to strike with impunity is destabilising Africa's biggest economy and making it an unattractive investment destination. Around 200 school girls kidnapped by the rebels in April remain in captivity, despite a vocal campaign calling on President Goodluck Jonathan's forces to rescue them.

A military operation in the northeast last year initially succeeded in breaking up a de facto area in the northeast that had been controlled by Boko Haram.

But the rebels melted away into the hilly border area near Cameroon.

From there they have launched deadly reprisal attacks that are increasingly targeting civilians, after they formed vigilante groups to help the government kick out the militants.

Several bombs across the country since April, including three in Abuja and one in the commercial capital Lagos, in the southwest, have shown they can now bring their insurgency to any part of Africa's top oil producer.

Reuters

Dozens of Turkish police detained over wiretapping

ISTANBUL, 22 July — Dozens of high-ranking police officers were detained in Turkey on Tuesday accused of involvement in spying and illegal wire-tapping during a probe into

corruption in Prime Minister Tayyip Erdogan's inner circle, broadcaster CNN Turk said. At least 76 officers were detained in 22 provinces around the country on suspicion of forming

a criminal organization and illegally bugging phones, the news channel said.

Other local media said most of those detained had held key positions during last year's corruption in-

vestigation, which led to the departure of four cabinet ministers and the detention of prominent businessmen close to Erdogan. Police in Istanbul declined to comment.—Reuters

Seven killed in clashes between army and militants in Libya's Benghazi

BENGHAZI, (Libya), 22 July — Islamist militants attacked an army base in the eastern Libyan city of Benghazi on Monday, triggering fierce clashes involving helicopters and jets that killed at least seven people and wounded 40 others after days of escalating violence.

Benghazi's clashes followed a week of fighting between rival militias for control of Tripoli International Airport in the capital that has prompted the North Africa country to appeal for international help to stop Libya becoming a failed state.

Tripoli was calmer on Monday, but in Benghazi, militants linked to Islamist group Ansar al-Sharia attacked an army camp and were repelled by troops and forces loyal to renegade retired general Khalifa Haftar, who has been carrying out a self-declared war on Islamist fighters, security sources said.

"Ansar al-Sharia tried to take over one special forces camp, but the special forces and Haftar's forces fought back, using helicopters and military aircraft in their attack," one source said, asking not

to be identified for security reasons.

Since the 2011 civil war that toppled autocrat Muammar Gaddafi, Libya's fragile government and new army have been unable to assert authority over rival brigades of former rebels fighting for political and economic influence.

Ansar al-Sharia is listed by Washington as a foreign terrorist organization, and has entrenched itself in Benghazi, where it has often been blamed for assassinations and attacks on soldiers.

Reuters



The picture taken on 21 July 2014 shows the wreckage of a plane at Tripoli International Airport, Libya. The airport has been under constant attack by Islamist fighters since 13 July with the death toll reaching 47. — XINHUA

SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY

China to launch HD observation satellite this year

BEIJING, 22 July — China will launch *Gaofen-2*, a high-definition Earth observation satellite, to space this year, according to the State Administration of Science, Technology and Industry for National Defence (SASTIND).

As one of China's major science and technology projects, the Gaofen satellite series will help in geographic and resources surveys, environment and climate change monitoring, precision agriculture, disaster relief and city plan-

ning.

Launched in April last year and still in service, *Gaofen-1* provided data on the Lushan earthquake in Sichuan; floods in north-east China; and smog in north and east China during the test period. It also provided Pakistan with image data after an earthquake which happened on 24 September.

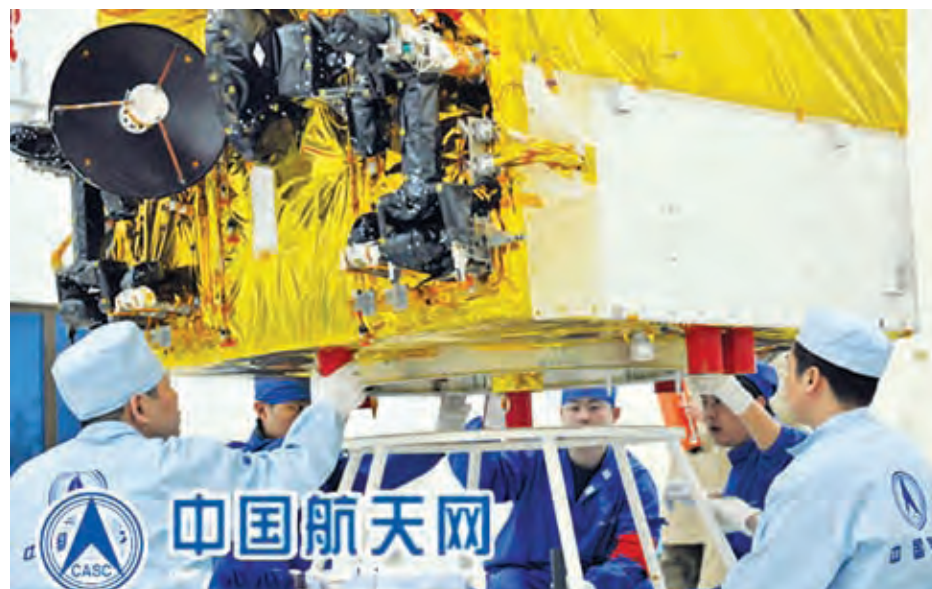
Gaofen-1, was the first of five or six satellites to be launched for high-definition Earth observation before 2016. It is also the

first low-orbit remote-sensing satellite designed to be in use for longer than five years.

Equipped with better technology, *Gaofen-2* will be able to see a one-meter-long object in full colour.

Wu Zhenyu, researcher with the Development Research Center of the State Council, said the project will boost the development of China's remote sensing industry and ensure more effective social management.

Xinhua



China publicized the first batch of high-definition pictures obtained by *Gaofen-1*, the first satellite launched for the country's high-definition Earth observation system. — XINHUA

US CDC says it 'may never know' how bird flu mishap occurred

CHICAGO, 22 July — The US Centres for Disease Control and Prevention "may never know" how a fairly harmless form of bird flu was cross-contaminated with a dangerous bird flu strain before it was sent to a laboratory outside of the CDC, an agency spokesman said on Monday.

That's because most of the materials used in the experiment to culture the virus were discarded shortly after they were used by the scientists performing the work, which occurred in March, CDC spokesman Tom Skinner told *Reuters*.

The CDC disclosed the bird flu incident as part of an internal investigation into the agency's mishandling of live anthrax in June, potentially exposing



US Centres for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) Director Thomas Frieden testifies before the hearing on "Review of CDC anthrax Lab Incident" on Capitol Hill in Washington on 16 July, 2014. — REUTERS

dozens of its own lab workers to the pathogen.

While no humans fell ill as a result of the bird flu breach, CDC Director Dr Thomas Frieden has called it "the most distressing" in

a series of safety breaches at the agency because of the public risk posed by the virus.

Researchers at a high-security CDC influenza lab learned of their

mistake in May. The contaminated bird flu samples had been sent to poultry researchers at the US Department of Agriculture, who noticed their chickens all died.

It took another six weeks before the incident was reported to top brass at the CDC in early July, triggering an outside inspection of CDC labs that concluded on Friday.

Federal investigators are trying to piece together how it was that the laboratory never reported the incident up the chain of command.

Skinner said a key regulatory violation occurred when the CDC failed to properly document what it sent to the high-security biocontainment lab at the

USDA.

"We thought we were sending H9N2," a far less dangerous form of bird flu, Skinner said. "We didn't know it was cross-contaminated."

Skinner said cross-contamination often can occur if improperly disinfected instruments come in contact with a growth medium, the material used to grow up the organisms, or if infected growth medium is inadvertently used.

"The mediums and all of the materials that were used to grow up this particular virus — all of that material likely has been discarded. We may never know exactly how cross contamination occurred," he said.

Skinner said outside

investigators from the USDA's Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS) concluded its investigation into the bird flu mishap on Friday.

Frieden has pledged to make sweeping changes to improve safety measures at CDC labs handling dangerous bacteria and viruses. It has shut down the two labs involved in the anthrax and bird flu incidents and has suspended the transfer of samples from high-security labs until their safety procedures are reviewed.

The agency is also assembling a group of outside experts to advise on biosafety.

That panel could be announced later this week, Skinner said.

Reuters

Yahoo to buy analytics startup Flurry to bolster mobile ad business

SAN FRANCISCO, 22 July — Yahoo Inc (YHOO.O) will buy mobile analytics startup Flurry to beef up a fast-growing mobile advertising business that still lags Google Inc's (GOOG.O) and Facebook Inc's (FB.O)

in scale.

Six-year-old Flurry uses analytics to help target ads at consumers by monitoring activity on more than half a million apps on some 1.4 billion mobile devices around the world,

Yahoo said in a statement on Monday.

The startup provides information to help marketers and brands more easily reach their desired audiences, Yahoo said.

Yahoo did not cite a price tag, but a source familiar with the matter said the Internet company is paying several hundred million dollars. Tech blog *re/code* earlier reported that rough amount.

Flurry will operate much as before after the acquisition closes, and its team will remain in their current locations, Yahoo added.

Yahoo is trying to revitalize a stagnant online advertising business as Chief Executive Marissa Mayer marks her second anniversary at the Internet company. — Reuters



Yahoo CEO Marissa Mayer delivers her keynote address at the annual Consumer Electronics Show (CES) in Las Vegas, Nevada on 7 Jan, 2014.

REUTERS

Apple asks suppliers to produce up to 80 million large-screen iPhones

BANGALORE, 22 July — Apple Inc has asked suppliers to manufacture between 70 million and 80 million of its two forthcoming large-screen iPhones by the end of the year, its largest initial production run of iPhones, the *Wall Street Journal* reported, citing people familiar with the matter.

Its forecast for the iPhones with 4.7-inch (11.9-cm) and 5.5-inch (14-cm) displays is much larger than the initial order last year of between 50 million and 60 million for iPhone 5S and 5C models, the people told the *Journal*.

Foxconn and Pegatron Corp plan to start mass producing the 4.7-inch iPhone model next month, and Hon Hai Precision Industry Co Ltd, whose parent is Foxconn, will begin making the 5.5-inch version exclusively in September, the people said.

Both iPhone 6 screens will be larger than the 4.0-inch (10.2-cm) panels on Apple's existing iPhone 5S and 5C models.

The new phone models are also expected to feature metal cases similar to the iPhone 5S and likely come in multi-



A worker wipes a poster advertisement for Apple's iPhone 5C on a wall of Japan's biggest mobile phone operator NTT Docomo Inc shop before its launch ceremony for the start of the selling of Apple's iPhone 5S and 5C at its shop in Tokyo, on 20 Sept, 2013 file photo.

REUTERS

ple colours, the people said.

Both iPhone 6 screens are expected to use in-cell touch panel technology, built into the screen and allowing for thinner construction than with standard touch panel films, that was introduced with the iPhone 5, sources told *Reuters* in March. — Reuters

Ten killed in air strike north of Baghdad

BAGHDAD, 22 July — Ten people were killed, including a mother and three children, in a government air strike on a militant-controlled town north of Baghdad on Monday, hospital sources and witnesses said.

The attack targeted the town of Hawija, 230 km (140 miles) from the capital, which is controlled by Sunni Muslim insurgents from the Islamic State and other groups opposed to Iraq's Shi'ite-led government.

A tribal leader and former army officer said the dead were all civilians, and also included an elderly couple. He blamed the deaths on the militants for locating a base in the centre of the town.

Hawija has also seen infighting between the insurgents, with jihadist Islamic State fighters clashing in June with the



Iraqi security forces walk during a patrol in the town of Jurf al-Sakhar, south of Baghdad, on 16 July, 2014. —REUTERS

Naqshbandi militants, made up of former army officers as well as loyalists of Saddam Hussein's former ruling Baath party.

The army, backed by

Shi'ite Muslim militias and volunteer fighters, has been trying to push back the Sunni insurgents since they took over the northern city of Mosul on 10 June

and swept south towards the capital.

The army's attempt to regain the city of Tikrit stalled last week in the face of insurgent defense and it

has yet to recapture significant territory.

Further north, the Islamic State has been consolidating its control, driving Christians out of the city of Mosul with a week-end ultimatum to either convert to Islam, pay a religious levy to the hardline Islamists, or face death by the sword.

On Monday, Islamic State fighters took over Saint Behnam monastery 30 km (20 miles) south-east of Mosul, ordering a monk and his assistant to leave, a church official and a Christian resident in the area said. Also on Monday, gunmen from the Shi'ite militia Asa'ib Ahl al-Haq seized 22 men from a village in Diyala Province near the town of Baquba where they believed Sunni insurgents were operating, a colonel in the Baquba police force said.—Reuters

Russia's Putin, Dutch PM discuss probe into plane crash — Kremlin

Moscow, 22 July — Russian President Vladimir Putin spoke to Dutch Prime Minister Mark Rutte on the phone in the early hours of Tuesday to discuss an international investigation into the crash of Malaysia Airlines flight MH17 in Ukraine, the Kremlin said.

It was the second time in three days that Putin has spoken to Rutte about the crash, in which 298 people died, of which 193 were Dutch citizens.

The Kremlin said the "direct and full access of experts to the tragedy site" for further investigation by the United Nations International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO) was discussed.

"In this light, the need for immediate and unconditional ceasefire in the conflict zone was stressed again," the Kremlin added.

Later on Tuesday, Russian ambassador to Malaysia Lyudmila Vorobyeva called for the investigation into the downing of MH17 to be led by the "international community" and not Ukraine.

Reuters

Three foreign advisers killed in near Kabul airport

KABUL, 22 July — A Taliban suicide bomber detonated himself on Tuesday outside Kabul International Airport, killing three foreign advisers and an Afghan interpreter, police said.

The nationalities of the foreign advisers were not immediately clear.

The explosion comes days after one of the most audacious militant attacks

in a year on the airport, which is used by both civilians and the military.

A Taliban spokesman, Zabihullah Mujahid, claimed responsibility for Tuesday's attack. "In this successful attack up to 15 invader soldiers were killed or wounded and many vehicles were damaged," he added.

Kabul airport is home to a major operational

base for NATO-led forces that have been fighting the Taliban for 12 years. Security includes soldiers and police, guard towers and checkpoints.

Militants often fire rockets into the airport, causing little damage, but frontal attacks on the heavily guarded facility are rare and represent an ambitious target for insurgents.

Reuters



Afghan soldiers inspect the site of suicide attack outside the entrance gate of the Interior Ministry compound in Kabul, Afghanistan, on 22 July, 2014.

XINHUA

Israel keeps up Gaza assaults, Kerry presses for truce

GAZA/JERUSALEM, 22 July — Israel kept up its assaults in the Gaza Strip on Tuesday, killing three Palestinians in as many air strikes, as US Secretary of

State John Kerry arrived in the region with a mission to seek a ceasefire in the 14-day-old conflict "as soon as possible."

The deaths in Khan

Younis, Beit Hanoun and Beit Lahiya raised the Palestinian toll to 539 killed, including nearly 100 children and many other civilians, since the offensive

was launched on 8 July, Gaza health officials said.

Israel's death toll also rose to 29, with two soldiers killed in the past day of fighting, the Israeli military said. The total includes two civilian killed by rocket fire.

Violence also spread to the occupied West Bank, where medics said soldiers shot and killed a Palestinian man while dispersing protesters throwing stones at a military jeep.

Israel said a Palestinian shot at a car and seriously wounded an Israeli in the Nablus area on Tuesday.

Kerry arrived in Cairo on Monday and, during talks with United Nations Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon, said the United States would provide \$47 million in humanitarian aid for Gaza.

Washington is "deeply

concerned about the consequences of Israel's appropriate and legitimate effort to defend itself," Kerry said. "No country can stand by when rockets are attacking it."

"But always, in any kind of conflict, there is a concern about civilians — about children, women, communities that are caught in it," Kerry said.

A senior State Department official said on Kerry's flight to Cairo that Washington's goal was to "achieve a cessation of hostilities as soon as possible," but that the process would be difficult with the sides far apart on terms for a truce.

Kerry plans to stay in Cairo until Wednesday morning and has no currently scheduled end to his regional trip, which may include talks with officials

from Qatar, a Gulf state which has relatively close ties to the Islamist Palestinian group Hamas and hosts its leader, Khaled Meshaal.

Israel Radio said Islamic Jihad militants in Gaza said the sides may agree to a five-hour humanitarian truce on Tuesday to allow civilians to stock up on vital supplies.

Ban was scheduled to fly to Israel on Tuesday for talks with Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu and also to meet Palestinian officials in the West Bank.

Egypt presented a ceasefire plan last week. Israel accepted, but Hamas rejected it, saying the group had not been consulted.

An Israeli official in Washington, who declined to be named, said he wanted Kerry to get Egypt to apply pressure on Hamas.

Reuters



An Israeli mobile artillery unit fires towards the Gaza Strip on 21 July, 2014.—REUTERS

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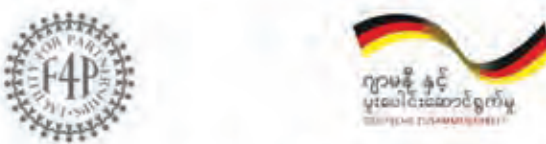
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CIVIL SOCIETY (CSO)

South Korea trains collide, killing one and injuring dozens

SEOUL, 22 July — Two passenger trains collided in South Korea on Tuesday, killing one person and injuring dozens, a hospital official and police said, in the latest in a string of accidents that has rattled the country.

A commuter train and a tourist train collided in Taebaek, a resort area about 200 km (125 miles) southeast of Seoul. A po-

lice official said more than 70 people had been injured, but declined to confirm any deaths.

In April, a ferry capsized on its way to the resort island of Jeju, killing more than 300 people, most of them children, a disaster that provoked grief and outrage.

That was followed by a fire at a shopping mall that killed eight and a fire

at a hospital for the elderly that killed 21. Nearly 200 people were injured in two subway accidents in Seoul earlier this year.

South Korea, Asia's fourth-largest economy, has developed into a vibrant and technically advanced democracy, but faces criticism that regulatory controls and safety standards have not kept pace.

Reuters

Japan foreign minister postpones visit to US

TOKYO, 22 July — Foreign Minister Fumio Kishida has postponed a planned trip to the United States from Wednesday for talks with Secretary of State John Kerry, Japanese government sources said on Tuesday.

Kerry is in the Middle East trying to secure

a ceasefire between Israel and Hamas, and will be in Cairo until Wednesday morning and his return date is unknown, Reuters news agency reported on Monday in a dispatch from the Egyptian capital.

Asked about the trip to Washington, Kishida said at a news conference,

"I don't have an immediate plan to visit the United States. That's all." Kishida hopes to hold talks with Kerry at an early date to discuss the Ukraine crisis, including the downing of a plane over eastern Ukraine last week, and North Korea, among other issues, the sources said.—Kyodo News



Farmer checks chemical-free rice paddy for stork survival Ichio Narita checks his chemical-free rice paddy in Toyooka in the western Japan prefecture of Hyogo, known as the home to Oriental white storks, as seen in this file photo taken on May 26, 2014. The population of the bird continues to increase under the city's project to save it from extinction and bring it back into the wild.
KYODO NEWS

Weather report

BAY INFERENCE: Monsoon is generally strong in the Andaman Sea and Bay of Bengal.

FORECAST VALID UNTIL EVENING OF THE 23rd July, 2014: Rain will be scattered in Lower Sagaing, Mandalay and Magway Regions, fairly widespread in Ayeyarwady Region and Kayah State and widespread in the remaining Regions and States with likelihood of regional heavy falls in Taninthayi Region and Mon State and isolated heavy falls in Upper Sagaing Region, Kachin, Shan and Rakhine States. Degree of certainty is (100%).

STATE OF THE SEA: Squalls with moderate to rough sea are likely at times off and along Myanmar Coasts. Surface wind speed in squalls may reach (35) m.p.h.

Ukrainian spokesman says suicide bomber attacked checkpoint

KIEV, 22 July — A spokesman for Ukraine's military operation in the country's east said on Tuesday a suicide bomber driving a minibus packed with explosives had attacked a Ukrainian checkpoint during the night.

A spokesman for the "anti-terrorist operation" against separatists who have rebelled in eastern Ukraine told 112 television channel: "A checkpoint was attacked by a suicide bomber in a van packed with explosives."

He gave no further details.

Reuters

Vancouver's SkyTrain shutdown strands thousands

VANCOUVER, 22 July — Vancouver's light-rail system the SkyTrain was out of operation for five hours on Monday noon, leaving thousands of passengers stranded in the train cars. The spokesperson for the region's transport authority, Translink, said the five-hour shutdown was due to a "technology issue," without giving further details.

Jiana Ling described the incident as "unfortunate" in a statement, but added: "We're still at 95 percent reliability on the system, which is quite high."

There was no immediate official estimate of the number of passengers affected Monday, but it is thought to have been in the thousands as commuters were escorted off trains and out of stations.

Just four days prior to the incident, SkyTrain lines ground to a halt at the height of rush hour, stranding passengers for three hours. SkyTrain President Fred Cummings said the accident was the result of a "computer problem." SkyTrain was built in 1985 and is the main public transportation in Vancouver, carrying passengers across the city and to nearby towns.—Xinhua

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‘Iron Man’ Robert Downey Jr highest-earning actor



Robert Downey Jr

NEW YORK, 22 July — Robert Downey Jr, the star of Disney’s Marvel superhero film franchises “Iron Man,” and “The Avengers,” is Hollywood’s highest paid actor for the second consecutive year, with estimated earnings of \$75 million, according to Forbes.com.

The 49-year-old star made most of his money from June 2013 to June 2014 from “Iron Man 3,” which made \$1.2 billion at the box office and assured him the top spot again in the annual ranking.

“As Iron Man, he’s the driving force behind four of Marvel’s biggest hits, including ‘The Avengers,’” Forbes.com said.

Former wrestler Dwayne “The Rock” Johnson, 42, who starred in “G I Joe: Retaliation,” and the “Fast and Furious,” films, jumped into second place this year from fifth in 2013 with earnings of \$52 million, followed by “Hangover,” star Bradley Cooper, 39, with \$46 million.

“His work in the lucrative ‘Hangover,’ franchise has given him the ability to take risks with smaller films like ‘Silver Linings Playbook,’ and ‘American Hustle,’” Forbes said about Cooper.

Reuters



LOS ANGELES, 22 July — Scarlett Johansson and her fiance Romain Dauriac reportedly will tie the knot in a few weeks. The star of ‘Avengers: Age of Ultron’ was overheard talking about her wedding plan at a dinner held by Martha Stewart at her East Hampton estate on 19 July, reported *Ace Showbiz*.

In addition to Johansson and her journalist beau, the dinner was attended by Matt Lauer, Nathan Lane, Barbara Walters, Susan Lucci, Christopher Meloni, Dan Abrams, Andrew Saffir and Daniel Benedict, Thom Filicia, Gucci Westman and David Neville, Dylan Lauren and Rachel Zoe among others.

Johansson, 29, and Dauriac got engaged last September. The couple is now expecting their first child together.

The actress is also gearing up for the premiere of her new movie “Lucy”. Written and directed by Luc Besson, the science fiction flick tells the story of Johansson’s titular character who has superhuman abilities.

PTI

‘ Fargo ’ TV miniseries gets second season on FX with new cast



Actor Billy Bob Thornton accepts the Best Actor in a Movie or Mini-Series for ‘ Fargo ’ at the 4th Annual Critics’ Choice Television Awards in Beverly Hills, California in this file photo taken on 19 June, 2014.—REUTERS

BEVERLY HILLS, (California), 22 July — “ Fargo ,” the Emmy-nominated television mini-series inspired by the Coen brothers’ cult film, has been renewed for a second season that will feature a new storyline and characters, cable network FX said on Monday.

The inaugural 10-episode series filmed in Canada received 18 Emmy nominations and is front-runner for the best TV miniseries award. It also earned acting nods for Billy Bob Thornton, Martin Freeman, Allison Tolman and Colin Hanks.

“It is a new cast of actors, which is kind of heartbreaking from my standpoint given how much I loved the actors,” FX Networks chief executive John Landgraf told the summer meeting of the Television Critics Association. “ Fargo ” earned more Emmy nominations than any single show in the history of the basic cable network, owned by Twenty-First Century Fox Inc, and this year was the second-ranked show in the number of total nominations for the 25 August Emmys, behind HBO’s medieval fantasy “Game of Thrones.”—Reuters

US rapper Nas has London crowd spellbound with “ Illmatic ”



US rapper Nas

LONDON, 22 July — Many in the crowd at the Lovebox Festival in London this weekend were not yet born when US rapper Nas released his groundbreaking “ Illmatic ” two decades ago, but they seemed to know all the lines anyway.

The New York-born hip hop star took to the main stage as the sun began setting on Saturday in East London’s Victoria Park, giving the performance as one of a series to celebrate the anniversary of his debut record, widely considered one of the greatest rap albums of all time.

“I never sleep, ‘cause sleep is the cousin of death ... I think of crime when I’m in a New York state of mind,” Nas rapped to the crowd through an unusually hot and humid London air.—Reuters

Beyonce debuts teaser trailer of ‘ Fifty Shades of Grey ’



Pop singer Beyonce

LOS ANGELES, 22 July — Pop star Beyonce has hinted about her involvement with ‘ Fifty Shades of Grey ’ by posting a teaser of the erotic movie ahead of its official trailer launch.

Beyonce took to her Instagram to post the short teaser which featured a lot of heavy breathing. It is not clear

whether Beyonce has contributed to the soundtrack or merely posted the short video as a fan. Her ‘ Haunted ’ was heard during the film’s launch at CinemaCon in March.

And the new clip below has a remix of Beyonce’s ‘ Crazy In Love ’ but there are no shots of film’s leads Jamie Dornan and Dakota Johnson, reported *Deadline*.

The film is an adaptation of EL James novel of the same name. The movie adaptation has been directed by Sam Taylor-Johnson and is slated to land in theatres on 11 February.—Reuters

GENERAL

Play it again: 'Casablanca' piano to be sold at auction

NEW YORK, 22 July—An iconic piano featured in Rick's Cafe Americain in the 1942 Hollywood classic "Casablanca" is expected to be the highlight of a sale of film memorabilia in New York in November, Bonhams auction house said on Monday.

The upright piano is one of two from the film in which actor and singer Dooley Wilson sang "As Time Goes By," the signature song for lovers played by Humphrey Bogart and Ingrid Bergman.

The instrument from the Casablanca cafe owned by Bogart's character Rick is expected to sell for seven figures when it goes under the hammer as part of the sale by Bonhams and Turner Classic Movies (TCM) on 24 November in New York. The piano that was shown in flashback scenes



in Paris in the film fetched \$602,500 when it was sold at auction in 2012.

"We have some great pieces from Casablanca," said Catherine Williamson, the director of entertainment memorabilia at Bonhams. All of the 30 "Casablanca" items in the sale are from a private collector. In

addition to the piano, the auction will include interior and exterior doors from the Casablanca nightclub where Bogart and Bergman meet again and rekindle their romance.

Signed photographs by the film's cast members, the final draft of the original screenplay and passports

and papers created for the movie will also be sold.

The auction will also include a gown worn by actress Rita Hayworth in 1946's "Gilda" and Barbra Streisand costumes from the films "On a Clear Day You Can See Forever," "The Way We Were" and "Yentl."—Reuters

After 13-year struggle, US faces counter-terror fatigue — panel



New York Police Department Counterterrorism Squad members gather in Times Square before a security sweep in advance of New Year's Eve celebrations in New York, on 31 Dec, 2013. — REUTERS

WASHINGTON, 22 July—After 13 years of struggle, Americans are showing a growing public fatigue and waning sense of urgency over terrorism, an attitude that threatens US security, members of the panel that investigated the 11 September attacks said in a report on Tuesday.

A decade after issuing the official account of the 11 Sept, 2001, attacks on New York and Washington, the former members of the bipartisan 9/11 Commission issued a new report warning that, while the world has changed dramatically, the threat from terrorism remains and has "entered a new and dangerous phase."

"Many Americans think that the terrorist threat is

waning — that, as a country, we can begin turning back to other concerns. They are wrong," the report said. "The threat remains grave and the trend lines in many parts of the world are pointing in the wrong direction."

"Al-Qaeda-affiliated groups are gaining strength throughout the greater Middle East," it added. "While the various al-Qaeda spinoffs are primarily focused on regional conflicts, they hate the United States and will not forego opportunities to strike at the US homeland."

The panel, headed by former Republican New Jersey Governor Thomas Kean and former Democratic Representative Lee Hamilton, said foreign fighters returning to Europe from

Syria and Iraq pose a "grave threat" to the United States and Western Europe.

Of the 10,000 foreign fighters that have travelled to Syria, more than 1,000 hold European passports, which in most cases would enable them to enter the United States without a visa, the panel said. More than 100 US citizens also fought in Syria.

"When these battle-hardened, radicalized fighters return to their home countries, they will pose a serious terrorist threat to both the United States and Europe," it said.

The group also noted that "The 9/11 Commission Report" issued a decade ago called for reducing the fragmented oversight that

resulted in the Department of Homeland Security reporting to 88 committees and subcommittees of Congress.

"Incredibly, it has increased to 92," the report said, noting that "Congress has proved resistant to needed reforms."

The report said US counterterrorism capabilities have improved significantly since the 11 September attacks and people in government are tracking the evolving threat, "thinking one step ahead in order to prevent the next attack."

"Our serious concern now is that public fatigue and waning urgency will undermine these accomplishments. We cannot afford that," the report said.

Reuters

MYANMAR TV

(23-7-2014, Wednesday)

- 6:00 am**
- * Paritta by Mingun Sayadaw Phayagyi
- 7:25 am**
- * Myanmar Language
- 8:30 am**
- * TV Drama Series
- 9:35 am**
- * Documentary(ASEAN)
- 10:00 am**
- * News
- 11:10 am**
- * Myanmar Traditional Performing Arts Competition
- 11:45 am**
- * Approaching Science Discovery World
- 12:00 pm**
- * News/ International News/ Weather Report
- 2:45 pm**
- * Documentary
- 3:00 pm**
- * News
- 3:20 pm**
- * Documentary
- 4:00 pm**
- * News
- 4:15 pm**
- * Science and Technology Programme
- 4:45 pm**
- * University of Distance Education (TV Lectures) -Second Year (Physic)
- 5:00 pm**
- * News
- 6:20 pm**
- * Shwe Yin Chone Than
- 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/ Weather Report
- 9:30 pm**
- * Documentary
- * Fine Arts Bosom of Dramatic Performance

MYANMAR INTERNATIONAL

(23-7-14 07:00 am~ 24-7-14 07:00 am) MST

- * Local News
- * Charity in Myanmar: Myanmar Social & Charitable Association (Episode-2)
- * World News
- * Modifying Natural Thanakha Bark into Ready-Made Skin Care Product
- * Local News
- * Simple and Peaceful Life :..... Changes
- * World News
- * Inlay Lake: The Challenges
- * Local News
- * Chinlone and the Dreams of the Player
- * World News
- * Ngapali Beach: Real Paradise
- * Local News
- * Journey To Unimaginable Spots (Episode-3)
- * World News
- * In The Studio: Zip Zap & Air Air
- * Local News
- * Those Who Never Give Up: Shwe Min Thar Foundation
- * World News
- * Myanmar Alternative Medicine (Noni)
- * Local News
- * Simple and Peaceful Life: Dhamma School
- * World News
- * The Eel Business: Fisherman the eel culture
- * Local News
- * Architecture: A Visit to Htam Hsan Cave A Miraculous Place
- * World News
- * Myanmar Street Food
- * Local News
- * Journey To Unimaginable Spots (Episode-2)
- * World News
- * Myanmar Puppet



Bon Odori, a traditional summer folk dance festival in Japan, is held at the observatory on the 58th floor of Japan's tallest building Abeno Harukas in Osaka, western Japan, on 17 July, 2014. —KYODO NEWS

Juventus sign Frenchman Evra from Man United



ROME, 22 July — French left back Patrice Evra is leaving Manchester United after eight-and-a-half seasons to join Serie A champions Juventus, the Italian club said on Monday.

Juve confirmed that they

had agreed a 1.2 million-pound (\$2.05 million) fee for the 33-year-old, who signed a two-year contract. Juventus will pay a further 300,000 pounds to United if they qualify for the 2015-16 Champions League.

The move means the chance of Champions League football this season for Evra, who would have missed out on Europe's top club competition had he stayed at Old Trafford after their seventh-place finish in the Premier League.

"After a great deal of thought I have decided the time is right for me to leave Manchester United," Evra told United's website (manutd.com).

"It is the biggest decision of my career as this club is, and will always remain, in my heart.

"This club is steeped in history and I feel privileged to have become a part of that ... An immense thank you to Sir Alex Ferguson for making it all

possible, for giving me the privilege to be a captain, to be inspired by the legend of Manchester United and to understand that nobody is bigger than the club."

Born in Senegal and raised in France, Evra began his professional career in Italy when he signed for Serie C side Massara as a 17-year-old in 1998. He moved to Monza in Serie B the following season, returned to France to play for Nice and then Monaco before joining Manchester United in January 2006.

He went on to win five English Premier league titles at Old Trafford, plus the Champions League and Club World Cup in 2008.

Italian clubs are making a habit of signing ageing players from the English Premier League. AC Milan signed Chelsea midfielder Michael Essien, 31, during the January close season and Evra's former United team mate Nemanja Vidic, 32, has also moved to Serie A, joining Inter

Milan. Evra's move has come at an uncertain time for Juventus following last week's shock resignation of coach Antonio Conte, who won three successive Serie A titles in as many seasons in charge. Sporting director Giuseppe Marotta said Conte's departure had nothing to do with clashes over transfer policy, after reports that Juventus were willing to sell top midfielders Paul Pogba of France and Chilean Arturo Vidal.

The hugely popular and volatile Conte was immediately replaced by former AC Milan coach Massimiliano Allegri, whose deadpan personality could not be a greater contrast to his predecessor. Allegri won the Serie A title with Milan in 2011

but was sacked midway through last season after a dreadful start that left them languishing in mid-table. Last week, Juventus confirmed they had signed Real Madrid striker Alvaro Morata for 20 million euros (\$27.06 million) while Fabio Quagliarella was sold to neighbours Torino. Evra's departure from Old Trafford following those of Vidic and Rio Ferdinand leaves new United manager Louis van Gaal short of experience in defence.

They signed 19-year-old England left back Luke Shaw from Southampton for 30 million pounds but Van Gaal will be looking to add at least one established central defender to his squad before the new season. —Reuters

Querrey edges doubles partner Johnson in Atlanta opener

ATLANTA, 22 July — Sam Querrey put aside his partnership with doubles team mate Steve Johnson to start his Atlanta Open with a 7-6, 7-5 win on Monday.

The two Americans will play doubles at the tournament and drew each other in singles for the first time in their careers. The big-serving Querrey struck 20 aces but Johnson hung tough against his older, more accomplished opponent, pushing the opening set to a tiebreak before losing it 7-3.

Querrey broke Johnson in the second set to cruise to victory, the first step in a long run-up to the year's final grand slam at Flushing Meadows starting 25 August.

The opening day was a light one but Israeli Dudi Sela avenged a loss to Donald Young in his previous Atlanta Open four years ago, thrashing the American 6-3, 6-0.

Atlanta native Young struggled with serve and was broken five times to disappoint home fans.

Reuters



England's Gerrard retires from international football

LONDON, 22 July — England captain Steven Gerrard announced his retirement from international football on Monday.

Gerrard, 34, earned 114 caps. His last appearance came against Costa Rica at the World Cup last month as England were eliminated from the group stage.

"After a lot of agonising, I've decided to step out of the England fold and retire from international duty," the Liverpool midfielder told the Football Association website.

"It was a very difficult decision to make, it is something that I have been contemplating for a long time, and not just since the end of the World Cup." —Xinhua

Colombia celebrates James Rodriguez goal voted World Cup's best

BOGOTA, 22 July — Colombians Monday celebrated the selection of a goal by national footballer James Rodriguez as the best of the 2014 Brazil World Cup.

World football body FIFA announced on Monday on its website that the player's goal against Uruguay was "voted as the Goal of the Tournament by over four million FIFA.com users."

Colombian President Juan Manuel Santos was the first to congratulate Rodriguez and the rest of the team.

"Our national team gives us one more reason to be happy. The first goal at (Rio de Janeiro's) Maracana (Stadium) by James Rodriguez is the best of the 2014 World Cup. Congratulations!" Santos posted on Twitter.

Rodriguez had earlier won FIFA's Golden Boot for scoring the most goals of the tournament (6).

The second-best goal of the cup was scored by Holland's Robin van Persie, a header at Spanish goalkeeper Iker Casille in a match that the Dutch won 5-1.

Xinhua



Colombia's James Rodriguez