

State-run The New Light of Myanmar to become joint venture in September

YANGON, 26 July — The State-run The New Light of Myanmar daily in English will become the Global New Light of Myanmar as of 1st September, 2014, marking the start of a joint venture.

The News and Periodicals Enterprise of the Ministry of Information owns a 51-percent share of the joint-venture business and the Global Direct Link company 49 percent, said U Aung Kyi, Union Minister for Information, at the opening ceremony of the printing factory of the joint venture on Saturday.

Converting the state-run newspaper into a daily run by a joint-venture is the first such experience for the government and can be considered as a profound change in essence during the period of transition to democracy, said Union Minister U Aung Kyi at the dinner to mark the opening of the printing factory on Friday.

The move is aimed at transforming the state-run English language paper into a free and public-centered media as part of efforts to reform the media landscape, the union minister said at the opening ceremony of the printing factory.

He continued to say that the change is part of media pluralism, while stressing the need to im-



Union Minister U Aung Kyi, Yangon Region Chief Minister U Myint Swe, President of Kyodo News Agency Masaki Fukuyama and other officials during a quality check after the test-run of the new printing press.—PHOTO: AYE MIN SOE

prove the skills of the current human resources with the assistance of the Japanese Kyodo News

Agency.

The joint venture-owned printing press is worth US\$ 3.45 million

and the Mitsubishi Lithopia 4 Hi Tower 3 Units Offset has a printing capacity of 70,000 copies

per hour of a 48-page tabloid paper and 24-page broadsheet paper.—NLM (Photo gallery on page 9)

Press conference on preparation for 10th ASEAN Skills Competition held in Yangon

By Khaing Thanda Lwin

YANGON, 26 July — Vice-President U Nay Linn of the Myanmar Restaurant Association (MRA) and the Managing Director of Emerald Lion Co. signed an agreement on providing sponsors for the preparations of the 10th ASEAN Skills Competition in Vietnam on Saturday at a press conference at Monsoon Restaurant and Bar in Yangon.

Member of the 10th ASEAN Skills Competition

Organizing Committee Daw Hnin Hnin Aye said that the committee has chosen three cooking winners and four restaurant service winners of which the committee will select one winner for cooking skill and two for restaurant skill in order to participate in the competition from 19 to 29 October in Hanoi after conducting two months of training.

Executive Chef Daw Nyo Nyo San, member of

World Chef Association and one of the trainers, said the training will start on Monday at Monsoon Cooking School on Theinbyu Road in Yangon by six trainers.

From his point of view, Tun Win Hlaing, one of the trainers for restaurant service skill, said the winners (See page 3)

Min Su Paing, 19, the youngest winner at cooking contest.

PHOTO: KHAING THANDA LWIN



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University men's footballers to be selected in Upper Myanmar



MANDALAY, 26 July —A coordination meeting on selection of Upper Myanmar universities' men's football team was held at the office of Higher Education Department on 80th street between 34th and 35th streets in Mandalay recently.

Deputy Director-General Dr Thein Win of Higher Education Department (Upper Myanmar) stressed the need for holding the inter-university/degree college foot-

ball tournament without disturbing the academic matters and examination schedules so as to the men's football team.

The players and officials will be accommodated at Yadanabon Hall of Mandalay University. A plan is underway to finish competition of the zonal football matches. Outstanding footballers will be picked out from the competitions from 20 to 22 August.

Tin Maung (Mandalay)

Teachers join introduction to child centre approach

MYINGYAN, 26 July—The child centre approach was introduced at Basic Education Middle School Branch in Myaukkyun Village of Myingyan Township in Mandalay Region on Friday.

Teacher U Myo Myint Lay taught the students ap-

plying the child centre approach method with the use of teaching aid.

Assistant Township Education Officer U Aung Ko Lin, village authorities and school heads participated in applying the child centre approach.

Zaw Min Naing (Myingyan)

Eye patients of Myeik District receive free eye surgical operations

MYEIK, 26 July — Organized by Pyae Phyo Tun Company, a coordination meeting on performing eye surgical operations with the support of eye specialists from Nepal and officials from the Ministry of Health was held at the hall of Myeik District General Administration Department in Taninthayi Region on Thursday.

The meeting decided that eye patients above the age of 15 years old are to enlist at the village and ward administrative officers for receiving eye surgical treatment.

The specialists will perform eye surgical operations on patients from Myeik Township on 7 and 8 August, with patients

from Kyunsu, Palaw and Taninthayi townships being treated on 9 and 10 August at Myeik General Hospital.

Patients with cataract diseases will have the opportunity to receive surgical treatment from 14 to 17 August.

Arrangements will be

MANDALAY, 26 July—The Mandalay Region government is placing emphasis on generating job opportunities, development of the tourism industry and promotion of travelling and trading between Myanmar and India, Chief Minister U Ye Myint of Mandalay Region said at a Seminar on "India-Myanmar Trade through Land Border: Opportunities and Challenges" at Amarapura Hall of Sedona Hotel in Chanayethazan Township of Mandalay on Friday.

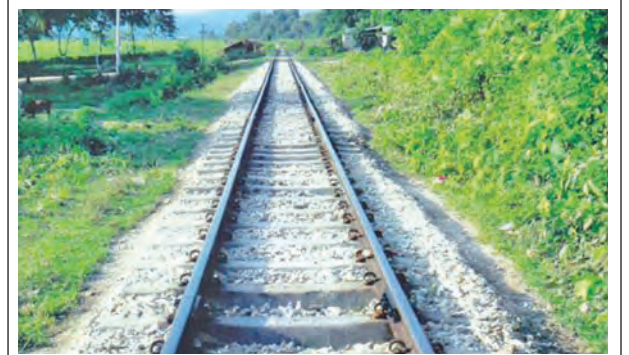
"The two countries cooperate in agriculture, industry and production, communication, information technology, iron and steel, oil, and food processing sectors," he added.

Vice President Mr. Siddhanth Kaul of the Indian Chamber of Commerce discussed arrangements

Khiang Htoo (Myeik District IPRD)



Mandalay Region to promote trade and cooperation with India



With the aim of ensuring railroad safety, Myanmar Railways substitutes concrete sleepers in the places of wooden ones in 110 miles long section of Mandalay-Myitkyina railroad, completing 50 per cent of the task, according to railway engineers from Mohnyin, Mogaung and Myitkyina townships of Kachin State.—NLM-001

opportunities and Challenges" at Amarapura Hall of Sedona Hotel in Chanayethazan Township of Mandalay on Friday.

"The two countries cooperate in agriculture, industry and production, communication, information technology, iron and steel, oil, and food processing sectors," he added.

Vice President Mr. Siddhanth Kaul of the Indian Chamber of Commerce discussed arrangements

of Myanmar-India border trade promotion, Indian Ambassador Mr. E Gautam Mukhopadhyaya border trade sector and future plans, Secretary of North East Council Mr Ameising Luikham, Director-General U Hla Maw Oo of the Directorate of Trade of the Ministry of Commerce and Director Ms Amrit Rij of FT-ASEAN new opportunities for trade development in North East India, trade and investment opportunities in Myanmar,

trade procedures and functions of customs.

Responsible persons of Mandalay Region Chambers of Commerce and Industry, Indian Chambers of Commerce and Industry, experts and economists participated in discussions on trade promotion between the two countries, private sector, banking services, higher education and development of the Mandalay industrial zone.

Tin Maung (Mandalay)

Local farmers choose quality Palethwe paddy strain

MAUKMAI, 26 July—As monsoon came Maukmai Township of Langkho District in southern Shan State later than other townships, local farmers chose Palethwe hybrid paddy strains in 2014-15 fiscal year.

Due to climate change, local farmers chose high yield short-term paddy strains in the region.

Monsoon paddy Palethwe strains can be harvested from 115 to 120 days. Depending on local demand, the Township Agriculture Department distributes quality paddy seeds to the local farmers, according to Head of



the department U Maung Maung Soe.

Head of District Agriculture Department and staff made field trips to Myoma and Mongpok pad-

dy fields to give educative talks to farmers about selection of quality paddy strains.

Sai Myo Thant (IPRD)

NATIONAL



Senior General Min Aung Hlaing plants saplings at monsoon tree planting ceremony

NAY PYI TAW, 26 July — Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Senior General Min Aung Hlaing and wife Daw Kyu Kyu Hla joined a monsoon tree growing ceremony for the second time in Zeyathiri Township of Nay Pyi Taw on Saturday.

They planted star-flow-

Senior General Min Aung Hlaing plants a star-flower tree at a monsoon tree planting ceremony in Zeyathiri Township.

MNA

Excursions to farmlands in Nay Pyi Taw to help education of Thegon growers

NAY PYI TAW, 26 July — Union Minister for Agriculture and Irrigation U Myint Hlaing met with a study team from Thegon Township of Bago Region on Friday.

While holding talks with them at a 900-acre educative farmland in Ottara-

thiri Township, the Union minister highlighted the importance of the one-village one-product system for meeting market requirements while considering what kinds of crops including paddy should be grown.

He also stressed the need of private sector invest-

ments in crop production and post harvest handling for fetching good prices on the market. During his inspection tour of farmlands and croplands, the Union minister also visited a site for construction of a rice processing mill in Pyinmana Township.

MNA

Ayeyawady Foundation constructs two artificial turf football fields



YANGON, 26 July — The Ayeyawady Foundation constructed two artificial turf football fields and handed them over to the Ministry of Sports on Saturday.

The two pitches cost the local foundation more than US\$ 2 million, with a contribution of 2,600 square metres of concrete floor from the Yangon City Development Committee.

These two football grounds will be used for the training of the Myanmar National League football clubs and national team.

Together with the do-

nation ceremony, Union Minister for Sports U Tint San, Deputy Minister U Thaung Htaik and President of Myanmar Football Federation U Zaw Zaw opened the 'Grassroots Football Festival 2014' which will be participated by more than 1,200 students in Yangon Region this year.

At noon, Union Minister U Tint San arrived at Mawlamyine Township, Mon State to witness the State Chief Minister Cup Sepak Takraw Competition, beach football arena and U-20 inter-township football tournament.—MNA

Local youths participate in opening ceremony of artificial turf pitches.—MNA

Smartphones to outnumber basic mobiles

By Kyaw The-ein

NAY PYI TAW, 26 July — In 2016, the number of smartphone subscriptions will exceed those for basic phones and by 2019 the number of smartphone subscriptions is expected to reach 5.6 billion, said an official of Ericsson Myanmar at a recent briefing to share the findings of its

er and Gangaw (Mesua ferrea) saplings at designated places.

Deputy Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Commander-in-Chief (Army) Vice-Senior General Soe Win and wife, Union

Minister for Defence Lt-Gen Wai Lwin, Chief of the General Staff (Army, Navy and Air) General Hla Htay Win and wife, Commander-in-Chief (Navy) Admiral Thura Thet Swe and wife, Commander-in-Chief (Air)

General Khin Aung Myint and wife and senior military officers participated in the tree planting ceremony.

During Saturday's ceremony, they planted 54,257 saplings of various species.

Myawady

Home Affairs Union Minister meets UN Special Rapporteur



NAY PYI TAW, 26 July — Union Minister for Home Affairs Lt-Gen Ko Ko received Ms Yanghee Lee, United Nations Special Rapporteur on the sit-

uation of human rights in Myanmar, at the ministry in Nay Pyi Taw on Saturday morning.

They discussed the reform process for the

Myanmar Police Force and issues on peaceful gatherings.

The UN special rapporteur left Yangon on Saturday night.—MNA

Culture workshops held to stress importance to preserve cultural heritage and local customs

NAY PYI TAW, 26 July — As part of implementing the Third Wave Reform, the Ministry of Culture organized a workshop on preserving the country's cultural heritage at the University of Education in Sagaing recently.

"It is of national concern to guard against the

influx of cultures alien to our traditions," Union Minister U Aye Myint Kyu said, urging for the preservation of the cultural heritage a shared responsibility. Papers on cultural heritage and historical research were also read out at the workshop.

The Ministry of Culture

Press conference....

(from page 1)

are actively preparing for the Myanmar's first ever competition, but the winners face challenges as there are no diploma level qualifications, with customer care playing a vital role to win over their opponents.

Min Su Paing, 19, the youngest winner of cooking skill contest, said he works at Hotel Bo Bo Min in North Dagon Township in Yangon and that now, he has two years working experience in foodstuff industry.

At the press confer-

ence, the secretary of MRA also clarified current activities of the association for the development of the foodstuff industry. The local contest is jointly organized by the Myanmar Restaurant Association (MRA), Myanmar Tourism Federation and National Skill Standard Authority (NSSA).—NLM

According to sources, the workshops have seen reciprocal discussions among speakers and participants.

MNA

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maximizing user experience. This in turn puts even higher requirements across the network and the operations and business support systems of the future.

Ericsson believes in the potential of telecommunications technology to create positive impact on Myanmar's economy and society.

latest Mobility Report.

He added that in Europe, the number of smartphone subscriptions will reach about 765 million in 2019 and thereby exceed the population number. 65 percent of all phones sold in the first quarter of 2014 were smartphones. Compared to today, a smartphone user in 2019 is expected to consume almost

four times the amount of mobile data per month. This contributes to the 10-fold growth prediction in mobile data traffic between 2013 and 2019.

He said that the growth and the revolution in M2M and the 10-fold growth in mobile data traffic strengthen the emphasis on network performance, handling complexity and

Role of service personnel in acceleration of Third Wave process discussed



MANDALAY, 26 July—A workshop on stepping up the Third Wave process took place at the hall of Mandalay Region Livestock Breeding and Veterinary Department in Mandalay on Friday.

Speaking on the occasion, Deputy Minister for Livestock, Fisheries and Rural Development U Tin Ngwe said that while marching towards a new

system from the old one, the government has adopted reform processes in political, education, social, administrative and private sectors. With a view to develop a community-based system, township management committees, the township development supportive committee and township development committees have pledged to become more active in

developing rural areas.

He stressed that the Third Wave process is aimed at uplifting the living standard of people to build a proper foundation in building a new democratic nation.

Mandalay Region Minister for Agriculture and Livestock Breeding U Myint Than said that with the assistance of Myanmar Posts and Telecommuni-

cations, training has been given to 40 staff members from each departments of Mandalay Region. Service personnel are to uplift their capacity and morality for the improvement of the administrative sector, he said.

Departmental officials under the Ministry of Livestock, Fisheries and Rural Development participated in discussions on the reform missions of departments.

*Tin Maung
(Mandalay)*

Dinner hosted for trainees of Education College

DAWEI, 26 July—Dawei Education College under the Department of Education Planning and Training of the Ministry of Education hosted a dinner in commemoration of the second semester course for the Diploma in Teaching Education-DTEd (18/13) for the 2013-14 academic year at its hall in Dawei of Taninthayi Region on Friday.

Principal of the college Daw Aye Aye and officials presented prizes to 117 winning students in Dham-



macakka recitation, mathematics skills, painting and impromptu contests.

The trainees en-

tertained the guests with songs and performances.

*Taninthayi Region
IPRD*

Health service provided to elderly locals in Nay Pyi Taw

NAY PYI TAW, 26 July—Head of Dekkhina District Traditional Medicine Department U Hla Maw and his delegation visited Pyut-

win Village of Pinyinman Township in the Nay Pyi Taw Council Area to provide health care services to local people with the use of

traditional medicines.

Joined by traditional medicine practitioners, staff of Pinyinman Township Information and Public Relations Department showed wall magazines and documentary photos on infections with dengue haemorrhagic fever and the dangers of narcotic drugs. The medical team and officials gave health care services to older persons of over 80 years old in Pyutwin, Thazi and Thayetgon villages in the township and also provided cash donations.—*Shwe Kokko*



Selected youths to be sent to India for advanced learning programmes

MANDALAY, 26 July—Chief Minister of Mandalay Region U Ye Myint received Mandalay-based Consul General Mr Nandakumar Nagendran and Director Mr Sourav Daspatniak of Global Proteck & Board Member of National HRD Network of India at the region gov-

ernment hall in Mandalay on Friday afternoon.

They held talks on sending youths, who have shown talent for English and computer science, to India. Among other topics of discussion were electrification of the region with solar panels, providing

short-term courses to universities, construction of a coal-fired power plant in Myotha industrial city and health care services to people through modern technology under the linkage of Mandalay General Hospital and township hospitals.

Thiha Ko Ko (Mandalay)

Silted creeks flood paddy fields in Thaton Tsp



THATON, 26 July—Due to heavy rains, 1,388 acres of farmlands owned by 62 farmers were flooded in Hteinbin Village of Thaton Township in Mon State.

The root causes for flooding are heavy rains and silted creeks and

drains, with the silted Chaungmeeto Creek overflowing much of the farmlands, according to a local farmer.

Township Administrator U Tun Tun Naing and officials of the Irrigation Department and the Settlement and Land Records

Department inspected the flooded areas on Thursday.

In meeting with local authorities and village elders, officials discussed ways to dredge the silted drains and creeks as soon as possible, with the participation of local people.

Thet Oo (Thaton)

REGIONAL

Japan, Australia PMs discuss
downed Malaysian jet over phone

TOKYO, 26 July — Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe and his Australian counterpart Tony Abbott agreed in phone talks on Friday to cooperate in multinational investigations into the recent shooting down of a Malaysia Airlines plane in eastern Ukraine.

In a call made to Abe, who was aboard a government plane bound for Mexico, the first leg of his five-nation tour of Latin America, Abbott explained the situation at the crash site and asked for Japan's support for the ongoing investigation, according to the Japanese government.

Abbott was quoted as saying that humanitarian

activities in the area require the cooperation of the opposing forces in the former Soviet state.

Abe voiced concern over the denial of access to the site and the taking away of wreckage by armed forces, while expressing his condolences for the many Australian victims of the downing.

The two leaders agreed to work closely on the probe.

All of the 298 people aboard Flight MH17 were killed when the Boeing 777 bound for Kuala Lumpur from Amsterdam was shot down on 17 July over the Donetsk region held by pro-Russian separatists.

Kyodo News

Seven air force
personnel die in
helicopter crash
in India

NEW DELHI, 26 July — An Indian air force helicopter crashed in India's northern state of Uttar Pradesh on Friday, killing all seven personnel on board, the air force said.

No casualties were reported on the ground.

According to an official Press release, radar and radio contact was lost with the helicopter soon after the pilots issued an emergency call.

The Dhruv helicopter caught fire after crashing in Sitapur District, according to reports.—Kyodo News

Cambodia's election council recognizes
opposition chief as MP-elect

PHNOM PENH, 26 July — Cambodia's National Election Committee (NEC) on Friday officially recognized Sam Rainsy, president of the opposition Cambodia National Rescue Party (CNRP), as a Member of Parliament (MP)-elect, according to its statement. The recognition came after Sam Rainy on Thursday applied documents to become a MP-elect instead of CNRP's lawmaker-elect Kuoy Bunroeun, who has stood down.

"The NEC decided to endorse Sam Rainsy as a

CNRP's lawmaker-elect for Kampong Cham Province," NEC's Secretary General Tep Nytha said in the statement.

NEC barred Sam Rainsy from standing as a parliamentary candidate for the national election in July last year, citing his absence from the country's voter list due to criminal convictions.

Sam Rainsy, who spent nearly four years in self-imposed exile to avoid an 11-year jail term on charges of disinformation and destruction of public

property, received a pardon from King Norodom Sihamoni and returned to Cambodia just two weeks before the national election on 28 July last year.

In October, he was allowed to re-register as a voter so that he is eligible to replace another lawmaker on the CNRP's list.

The National Assembly will hold its plenary session on Monday, 28 July to confirm the validity of Sam Rainsy as a lawmaker, said a National Assembly's statement on Friday.

CNRP announced

to end its 10-month long boycott of parliament over disputed election results on Tuesday after the ruling Cambodian People's Party (CPP) of Prime Minister Hun Sen agreed to its requests for an overhaul of the NEC, power sharing in the parliament and a TV license. The CNRP's 55 lawmakers-elect will soon be sworn in at the parliament, where they will join the CPP's 68 lawmakers to amend the Constitution in order to enshrine the autonomy of a new NEC.

Xinhua

Indian foreign minister arrives in
Nepal for 3-day visit

KATHMANDU, 26 July — Indian External Affairs Minister Sushma Swaraj arrived in Kathmandu on a three-day official visit on Friday to lay the groundwork for Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi's Nepal visit scheduled for 3 August, and to initiate dialogue for cooperation in harnessing Nepal's massive hydropower potential, among other things.

Swaraj, who is leading a high-level official delegation that will discuss with Nepali officials a range of bilateral issues, faces the challenge of addressing sensitivities heightened in Nepal by a controversial Indian proposal that seeks to reserve for energy-hungry India exclusive investment rights on Nepal's

rivers. Nepal has a hydro-power potential of 84,000 megawatts of which half is technically feasible and economically viable. Nepal currently generates only around 600 MW of electricity and faces up to 18 hours of power cuts a day in winter, a legacy of 18 years of political instability that started with an armed Maoist insurgency in 1996.

Despite the chronic power crisis and Nepal's inability to fund hydro-power projects on its own, the Indian proposal has not gone down well with Nepalis. Some critics have equated it with the "unequal" 1950 Nepal-India Peace and Friendship Treaty that requires Nepal to consult with India on all its defence requirements,

effectively meaning Nepal cannot procure military hardware from any country except India. The proposal for cooperation in hydro-power has been so widely criticized in Nepal that the Indian Embassy in Kathmandu issued a statement this week clarifying that it is not India's final position.

Indian Ambassador Ranjit Rae told reporters in Kathmandu on Wednesday, "It is a preliminary draft and subject to negotiation. Both governments are free to change its content if they feel necessary." Modi's Nepal visit next month will be the first by an Indian prime minister in 17 years. IK Gujaral, who came to Nepal in 1997, was the last Indian prime minister to visit.—Kyodo News

Firing, bomb
blast kill five
security
personnel in
Pakistan

ISLAMABAD, 26 July — Three soldiers and two policemen were killed in separate incidents of firing and bomb blast in southwest and northwest Pakistan on Friday, officials and local media reported.

Superintendent of Police Imran Qureshi said that two policemen were gunned down by unknown militants in the country's southwest Balochistan Province.

He said that the cops came under attack when they were performing their duties in New Sariab area of Quetta, the capital city of Balochistan.

The attackers fled the scene following the attack.

In another incident, two soldiers were killed in a landmine blast in Ghulam Khan area of South Waziristan, one of the seven semi-autonomous tribal agencies at Pakistan-Afghanistan border, local Urdu TV channel Geo reported.

In a separate attack in FR Jandola Bazaar in South Waziristan, a paramilitary soldier was shot dead by unidentified gunmen.

No group has claimed responsibility for any of the attack yet.

Security personnel cordoned off the area and a probe into the incident is under way.—Xinhua



Rescuers work at the crash site of TransAsia Airways Flight GE 222 on Chinese Taiwan's Penghu Island, on 25 July, 2014. The rescue and on-the-spot survey on the air crash draw to the end on Friday afternoon. Forty-eight people have been confirmed dead and 10 others injured in the plane crash on the Penghu Island, amid stormy weather, authorities confirmed on Thursday.

XINHUA



Members of the Philippine National Police's Civil Disturbance Management participate in a formation drill inside Camp Karingal in Quezon City, the Philippines, on 25 July, 2014. Philippine National Police will deploy 10,000 police officers in Metro Manila during President Aquino's fifth State of the Nation Address on 28 July to ensure peace and order as various activist groups will conduct protest rallies near the Philippine Congress.

XINHUA

Israel, Gaza militants agree to a 12-hour truce

GAZA/JERUSALEM, 26 July — A 12-hour humanitarian truce went into effect on Saturday after Israel and Palestinian militant groups in the Gaza Strip agreed to a UN request for a pause in fighting, and efforts to secure a long-term ceasefire moved ahead.

Israel's military said it would hold fire starting at 8 am (1 am EDT) but would pursue its search for tunnels used by militants. A spokesman for the Islamist group Hamas, which is dominant in the Gaza Strip, said all Palestinian factions would abide by the brief truce. Fighting had continued overnight as US Secretary of State John Kerry, on a visit to the region, spearheaded international efforts to end 19 days of conflict.

Gaza officials said five people were killed in Israeli air strikes, bringing the Palestinian death toll to 865, most of them civilians.

Earlier, militants fired a barrage of rockets out of Gaza, triggering sirens across much of southern and central Israel. No injuries were reported, with the Iron Dome interceptor system knocking out many of the missiles.

Israel said that two more of its soldiers were killed in Gaza, bringing the army death toll to 37, as troops battled militants in the north, east and south of Gaza - a tiny Mediterranean



US Secretary of State John Kerry speaks on the phone to Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu about the terms of a ceasefire in Israel's fight against Islamist militants in Gaza, from his hotel suite in Cairo on 25 July, 2014.—REUTERS

enclave that is home to 1.8 million Palestinians.

It also announced that a soldier unaccounted for after an ambush in Gaza six days ago was definitely dead, although his body had not been recovered. Hamas said on Sunday it had captured the man but did not release a photograph of him.

Three civilians have also been killed in Israel by rockets from Gaza - the kind of attack that surged last month amid Hamas's anger at a crackdown on its activists in the West Bank, prompting the 8 July launch of the Israeli offensive. Israel on Friday rejected international proposals for a

more permanent ceasefire, a government source said, but Kerry, speaking in Cairo, said no formal proposals had yet been put forward.

The top US diplomat said there were still disagreements on the terminology, but he was confident there was a framework that would ultimately succeed and that "serious progress" had been made, although there was more work to do.

Efforts to secure a truce will be pursued in Paris on Saturday, with France hosting diplomats from the United States, Britain, Germany, Italy, the European Union, Turkey and Qatar, a French diplomatic source said.

Hamas wants an end to an Israeli-Egyptian blockade of Gaza before agreeing to halt hostilities. Israeli officials said any ceasefire must allow the military to carry on hunting down Hamas's tunnel network that criss-crosses the Gaza border. The Gaza turmoil has stoked tensions in the nearby occupied West Bank, where US-backed Palestinian President Mahmoud Abbas governs in uneasy coordination with Israel. Medics said eight Palestinians were killed in incidents near the cities of Nablus and Hebron on Friday, including one shooting that witnesses blamed on an apparent Jewish settler.—Reuters

Iraq's top cleric sends subtle message to Maliki

BAGHDAD, 26 July — Iraq's most influential Shi'ite cleric urged political leaders on Friday to refrain from clinging to their posts — an apparent reference to Prime Minister Nuri al-Maliki, who has defied demands that he step aside.

Speaking through an aide who delivered a sermon after Friday prayers in the holy city of Kerbala, Grand Ayatollah Ali al-Sistani said leaders should show flexibility so that political deadlocks could be broken and Iraq could confront an insurgency.

Maliki has come under mounting pressure since Sunni militants led by the hardline Islamic State swept across northern Iraq last month and seized vast swathes of territory, posing the biggest challenge to Maliki's Shi'ite-led government since US forces withdrew in 2011.

Critics say Maliki is a divisive figure whose alienation of Sunnis has fueled sectarian hatred and played into the hands of the insurgents, who have reached to within 70 km (45 miles) of the capital Baghdad.

Sistani said it is time for politicians to think of Iraq's interests, not their own. "The sensitivity of this phase necessitates that all the parties concerned

should have a spirit of national responsibility that requires the practice of the principle of sacrifice and self-denial and not to cling to positions and posts."

Maliki, a Shi'ite, has ruled since an election in April in a caretaker capacity, dismissing demands from the Sunnis and Kurds that he step aside for a less polarizing figure. Even some Shi'ites oppose his bid for a third term.

Despite pressure from the United States, the United Nations, Iran and Iraq's own Shi'ite clergy, politicians have been unable to quickly come up with an inclusive government to hold the fragmenting country together.

Iraq's parliament took a step toward forming a new government on Thursday, when lawmakers elected senior Kurdish lawmaker Fouad Masoum as president.

The next step, choosing a prime minister, may prove far more difficult as Maliki has shown no sign he will give up his post.

Sistani's call for flexibility could hasten his departure. He is seen as a voice of reason in the deeply divided country, and has almost mythological stature to millions of followers, members of Iraq's Shi'ite majority.

Reuters

EU edges to economic sanctions on Russia but narrows scope

BRUSSELS, 26 July — The European Union reached outline agreement on Friday to impose the first economic sanctions on Russia over its behaviour in Ukraine but scaled back their scope to exclude technology for the crucial gas sector.

The EU also imposed travel bans and asset freezes on the chiefs of Russia's FSB security service and foreign intelligence service and a number of other top Russian officials, saying they had helped shape Russian government policy that threatened Ukraine's sovereignty and national integrity.

FSB director Alexander Bortnikov and Mikhail Fradkov, a former prime minister who now heads the foreign intelligence service, were among 15 Russians or Ukrainians and 18 companies and other organizations named in the EU's latest sanctions list.

Also sanctioned were

the secretary of Russia's Security Council, Nikolai Patrushev, Chechen leader Ramzan Kadyrov, who the EU said had made statements supporting Russia's annexation of Ukraine's Crimea region and the insurgency in eastern Ukraine, and several Ukrainian separatist leaders.

After months of hesitation, the EU is set to go beyond asset freezes by imposing sanctions on sectors of the Russian economy.

The 28-nation EU toughened its stance towards Moscow following last week's downing of a Malaysian airliner, killing 298 people, in an area of eastern Ukraine held by Russian-backed separatists.

EU ambassadors reached a preliminary agreement on Friday.

European Council President Herman Van Rompuy wrote to EU leaders asking them to authorize their ambassadors to

complete an agreement by Tuesday. That would avoid the need for leaders to hold a special summit to approve the sanctions.

Van Rompuy said the proposed sanctions package "strikes the right balance" in terms of costs and benefits to the EU and in its flexibility to ramp up sanctions or reverse them over time.

"It should have a strong impact on Russia's economy while keeping a moderate effect on EU economies," he wrote in the letter, seen by Reuters.

But Van Rompuy said the sanctions on access to capital markets, arms and hi-tech goods were likely to apply only to future contracts, leaving France free to go ahead with the controversial delivery of Mistral helicopter carriers being built for Russia.

The narrowing of the proposed measures highlighted the difficulty of agreeing to tough sanctions

among countries which have widely different economic interests and rely to varying degrees on Russian gas.

European Commission President Jose Manuel Barroso said late on Friday that following the ambassador's discussions the Commission had adopted a draft legal text for the Russia sanctions package.

"The final decision now lies with the EU's member states, but I believe that this is an effective, well-targeted and balanced package providing the flexibility to adjust our reaction to changes on the ground. I hope that member states will agree on this package of restrictive measures next week," he said in a statement.

The measures are not an end in themselves, "but a means to achieve a negotiated and political solution to the crisis... I call on Russia to take decisive steps to stop the violence and genu-



Ukraine's President Petro Poroshenko smiles as he speaks during a news conference at the EU Council in Brussels on 27 June, 2014.—REUTERS

inely engage in peace plan discussions," he said.

EU ambassadors will try to reach a final deal at a meeting on Tuesday.

Key measures include closing EU capital markets to state-owned Russian banks, an embargo on arms sales to Moscow and restrictions on the supply of dual-use and energy technologies. They would not affect current supplies of oil, gas and other commod-

ities from Russia.

Van Rompuy said there was an "emerging consensus" among EU governments that "the measures in the field of sensitive technologies will only affect the oil sector in view of the need to preserve EU energy security."

The Commission had proposed restricting equipment for deep-sea drilling, shale oil and Arctic energy exploration.—Reuters

WORLD

Russia transfer of rocket system to Ukraine rebels imminent

WASHINGTON, 26 July — The Pentagon said on Friday the transfer of heavy-caliber multiple-launch rocket systems from Russia to Ukrainian separatists appeared to be imminent with the arms close enough to the border they could be handed over “potentially today.”

“We have indications that the Russians intend to supply heavier and more sophisticated multiple-launch rocket systems in the very near future,” said Army Colonel Steve Warren, a Pentagon spokesman, adding that the weapons were in the over-200mm range.

Warren indicated the weapons had been seen getting closer to the border and the Pentagon believed a transfer was imminent and could happen “potentially today.” “We believe that they are able to transfer this equipment at any time, at any moment,” he said.

Warren said it was unclear whether Russian operators of the rocket launchers might cross the border as well but he said there been indications of Russian operators of other systems going over.

A multiple-launch rocket system is a wheeled or tracked vehicle mounted with multiple tubes



A pro-Russian separatist stands guard nearby a rally in support of Novorossiia (New Russia) on Lenin Square in the centre of the eastern Ukrainian city of Donetsk, on 13 July, 2014. — REUTERS

capable of firing a half dozen or more guided or unguided rockets in quick succession at targets scores of miles (km) away. The rockets are generally 100mm to 300mm, with those over 200mm in the heavier-caliber category.

“We’re very concerned with the quantity and the capability of weapons flowing from Russia into the Ukrainian separatists’ hands,” Warren said.

“There has been a continuous flow over the last several weeks of weapons and equipment from Russia to Ukraine,” he said,

noting that the “most egregious example” was a column of more than 100 vehicles crossing the border.

The Pentagon’s assessment that a transfer of heavy weaponry was imminent came as Russian authorities accused Ukraine of firing a volley of mortar rounds across the frontier into Russia on Friday while a group of investigators was in the area assessing reports of cross-border shooting.

A Russian security official said up to 40 mortar bombs fired by Ukrainian forces fell in the Russian

province of Rostov near the border where Ukrainian government forces are fighting pro-Russian separatists. There were no reports of injuries.

Warren also said the United States continued to see Russian artillery on Russian soil firing on Ukrainian military positions inside Ukraine, a practice that has been going on for several days now.

He said he had no information about Ukrainians firing across the border into Russia.

Reuters

Arms export ban to Russia “sensible”: Austrian president

VIENNA, 26 July — Austrian President Heinz Fischer said on Friday he considers an arms export ban to Russia to be a sensible proposition, in an interview with local Austrian media.

At the same time, he said talks should continue with Moscow in order to find a solution to the Ukraine crisis and to remind Ukraine of its promise of constitutional reform and a federalization.

“I still give negotiated solutions preference over purely military solutions,” he said.

Fischer also defended

his government’s decision to invite Russian President Vladimir Putin to Austria in June, saying the decision was deliberated over at length, that some positives came out of it, and called it “irrational” to judge the decision in light of the Malaysia Airlines MH17 crash in Ukraine that took place the following month.

Regarding the MH17 crash a week ago, Fischer said the wreckage must be examined carefully and objectively, and those responsible must be “sharply called to account.”

Xinhua

Lufthansa, Air Berlin to resume flights to Tel Aviv

FRANKFURT, 26 July — German airlines Lufthansa (LHAG.DE) and Air Berlin (AB1.DE) said they will resume flights to Israel on 26 July, lifting a ban imposed in response to fears that rockets being fired from the Gaza strip could pose a threat to aircraft.

“On the basis of the most up-to-date information we have available and our own assessment of the local security situation, the airlines of the Lufthansa Group will resume their flights from and to Ben Gurion International Airport,” the airline said on Friday.

Lufthansa Group also operates German wings, Austrian Airlines and Swiss.

In a separate statement on Friday, rival German airline Air Berlin (AB1.DE) said that they would resume flights to and from Israel from midday on 26

July onward.

Earlier this week the US Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) lifted a ban on flights by US airlines to Ben Gurion, Israel’s main hub.

Israel had criticized the FAA decision, saying the airport was safe.

The FAA had imposed the ban in response to a Palestinian rocket that struck a building 2 km (1 mile) from the airport. Israel said the damage was debris from a mid-air rocket interception by its Iron Dome missile defence system.

Palestinian militants have fired hundreds of rockets into Israel’s heartland during two weeks of conflict, but Israeli authorities have emphasised the success of the Iron Dome in protecting Ben Gurion Airport, as well as a precautionary narrowing of air corridors.—Reuters



People are seen in the United Airlines terminal at Newark International Airport in New Jersey, on 22 July, 2014.— REUTERS

Thousands take to NY streets to protest Israeli offensive in Gaza



One World Trade Centre is seen in the background during a protest march demanding an end to the recent Israeli-Palestinian violence through Lower Manhattan, New York, on 24 July, 2014. REUTERS

NEW YORK, 26 July — Thousands of people took to the streets of New York City on Friday evening to protest Israel’s offensive in the Gaza Strip and demand an end to the violence that has already killed nearly 850 Palestinians.

Police scrambled to corral the demonstrators,

which officers estimated numbered between 2,000 and 3,000, as they flooded into the busy streets around Times Square.

Waving Palestinian flags and signs condemning Israel for the offensive, many called for an end to US aid to the country.

“We’re trying to break

the siege and end the killing in Palestine. We just want them to live like human beings,” said Ramsey Jamal, 37, a Palestinian-American from Montgomery, New York.

On his shoulders sat his 8-year-old son, Moses, who carried a placard reading: “Israel I’m just a kid. Please don’t kill me,” alongside marks resembling a child’s bloody handprints.

Israel began its offensive earlier this month, citing a surge in rocket attacks launched from Hamas militants in Gaza.

The Palestinian death toll in the Gaza Strip on Friday climbed to 844, most of them civilians. Thirty-five Israeli soldiers and three civilians have also died.

On Friday, both sides agreed to a 12-hour humanitarian ceasefire set to begin on Saturday morning.

Reuters

PERSPECTIVES

Sunday, 27 July, 2014

Flood contributes to decline of agricultural productivity

By Aung Khin

As climate change and agriculture are interrelated processes on a global scale, floods also contribute to the devastation of the agricultural sector in Myanmar. The factors of global warming, including temperature, carbon dioxide, glacial run-off, precipitation and the interaction of these elements, have some significant impacts on agriculture.

Torrential rainfall has caused floods and wiped out many nursery paddy plants in many lower parts of Myanmar during the monsoon period. Inundation can also have other negative impacts, including soil water logging and effects on plant growth. On many occasions, flood is followed by erosion and soil degradation.

Many farmers in lower Myanmar have to plant their nursery plants again after the paddy fields were flooded, causing losses in their business. Therefore, Myanmar farmers need more agricultural subsidies in some years.

A greenhouse effect is projected to lead to an increase in intense rainfall and global warming. Sea-level rise is an inevitable consequence of a warming climate. Many major river deltas provide important agricultural land owing to the fertility of fluvial soils. A rise in sea level threatens to inundate

agricultural lands and to cause groundwater to be saline.

Most of an estimated 70 percent population in rural areas is engaging in agricultural activities. Their livelihoods are being affected by flood, drought or landslides. These situations are pushing them into poverty and preventing them from liberating from the cycle of poverty. Therefore, the Myanmar agricultural sector needs the support of advanced technologies from planting to producing quality products for both domestic and international markets.

Write for us

We appreciate your feedback and contributions. If you have any comments or would like to submit editorials, analyses or reports please email wallace.tun@gmail.com with your name and title.

Aspirations for Future

By Maung Hlaing

A few days ago, I ran into a young medical doctor from my native town at a social gathering. As he is a young man of progressive idea, he writes some articles and poems while he is running a private clinic. And being a bookworm, he reads a lot. He told me that the New Light of Myanmar was changing both in form and substance and the daily came to give priority to reader's satisfaction.

"Besides the veteran writers and scholars, new writers turn up and their works attract the readers. But as for new young readers, they hardly read the English dailies. To make matters worse, we young readers have no easy access to English publications produced by the government sector," he concluded.

What he said was true. There are no English publications except Shwe Thway published by the government sector, indeed.

It is very heartening to read articles of renaissance in the New Light of Myanmar.

In addition to veteran writers, authors and scholars a (new) dynamic literary force has come to occupy the pages of NLM. One or two years ago, it would be impossible for us to read criticism in the NLM, which was one of the State-owned papers. The new force comes to venture to suggest a change in the fields ranging from super structure to the grass-roots.

What they report or write surely makes the New Light of Myanmar attract more readers simply because they carry new ideas, or thoughts. (Please don't think

I butter you editors up a bit.) Both form and essence are indeed on the way of renaissance. Although almost every piece of information is readable and knowledgeable, can we really attract the younger generation to change their mind and revert to English dailies?

What I mean is that although new pseudonyms have emerged, new young readers are still staying away from the English dailies. No matter what kind of paper is blessed with better works produced by better writers, their efforts will not come to fruition as long as younger generation fall into deep slumber.

Whenever I ask (some) young graduates including those who majored in English, "Do you take out a subscription to an English paper? Or, do you read Myanmar Times or other English periodicals?" Their answer to my question is the only word—"NO".

The mindset of (some) youths today is quite different from that of our past time, indeed.

Due to the education system of the past, only when we were in the fifth standard, did we begin to learn English, reciting A B C D etc. (According to the present education system, our children have a golden opportunity to learn English when they are in the kindergarten. What difference!) Although we had to read only Archway Readers I, II, III and Composition without Troubles and Brighter Grammar, in middle school days, our teachers inspired us to read English. As our native town is in the countryside, English publications were

out of our reach. That was why if we wanted to read English paper, we had to go to the then Information Reading Room (now Information and Public Relations Department Library). And so, we came to be familiar with the dailies—The Working People's Daily, The Guardian (both daily and monthly magazine) (the) Forward, even the OM (Open Mind) though we could not read them well.

We did so because we were inspired.

When I passed the matriculation examination, I joined the Posts and Telecoms Department (now Myanmar Posts and Telecommunications: MPT). In the department where I was working as a junior clerk; almost all of my fellow clerks were not graduates. However, more than half of them were subscribers to the Working People's Daily or the Guardian Daily.

While I was reading at the Worker's College, I noticed that most of the students never failed to read English publications including dailies, periodicals such as the Guardian magazine, Time, Newsweek, Reader's Digest and so on. Thanks to the reasonable prices of the English publications, even an office boy or a peon could afford to buy them.

As we gained momentum in reading English publications, we came to enjoy reading OM: The Open Mind and Spectrum, the journals of selective international writings which were published monthly by the Directorate of Information (now IPRD) under the Ministry of Information. By spending two kyats only, we gained vocabulary development and knowledge on public administration, agricul-

ture, politics, economics, history, warfare, geography, industry, education, science, culture and general interest. Besides, we could imitate the style of international writing and reporting. Most of us at that time were only 20 or so, possessing a youthful life.

What I mean is that youths of our time read English and when we were abroad on official visit, we never felt intellectually inferior among the foreigners. We could do so because we were inspired.

No matter how often we vociferously say to build up a modern and developed nation; no matter how hard we strive for human resource development; no matter how vigorously we urge them to

keep abreast of the world, no progress can be seen as long as we fail to change their mindset and bring their attention to English periodicals and papers.

One may say that there are so many youths who are well-versed in English and there are those who pass the matriculation examination with flying colours. I do not mean such a handful of able ones. We need not blame others but we need to cultivate our new generation to learn more English.

Objectively, it is heart-breaking to hear that there are no English publications except a bilingual children's Journal Shwe Thway published by the government sector while those concerned are gabbling on teaching and learning English today.

Before I conclude my

article, may I refer to your perspectives "Future of Myanmar is relying on new generation" by (Ko) Aung Khin on 22 July, 2014. May I quote his conclusion wording. "Despite political or socio-economic challenges in the country, the youths themselves should focus on building their capacities for their readiness in making right decisions for their country through a common sense." I agree with you but to my opinion, they may not forcefully face these challenges of the world where more people use English than any other languages in communicating with each other.

It is very encouraging to see more contributors but we still need to launch a campaign to organize younger readers. If there is a will, there will be a way.

Chevening Scholarship Programme invites applications for 2015-16 academic year

YANGON, 26 July—The Chevening Scholarship Programme will treble in ODA countries totalling 1,500 for the 2015-16 academic year, according to the chancellor of the Chevening which is the official residence of the Foreign Secretary of the United Kingdom.

The applications from

candidates across the world for the scholarships will open on 1 August 2014. All applications should be submitted online to www.chevening.org/burma for detailed information about recruitment criteria, application details and deadlines.

The scholarship programme offers the very best

graduates the opportunity to travel to the UK to study a post-graduate course at a British university. The products of the programme enable future international leaders to form long lasting social, cultural, academic and commercial relationship.

NLM



Over 500 scholars, alumni and partners attended the 30th anniversary celebrations at Chevening House on 9 July 2015.

GALLERY

Gallery on opening ceremony of the Global New Light of Myanmar



Union Minister for Information U Aung Kyi addresses officials at the opening ceremony of the printing factory of the joint venture on Saturday.
PHOTO: AYE MIN SOE



Union Minister U Aung Kyi, Yangon Region Chief Minister U Myint Swe, Japanese Ambassador Mr. Tateshi Higuchi, President of Kyodo News Agency Masaki Fukuyama and officials view the paper after a test-run.
PHOTO: AYE MIN SOE



President of Kyodo News Agency Masaki Fukuyama at the opening ceremony of the printing factory of the joint venture on Saturday.—PHOTO: AYE MIN SOE



Union Minister U Aung Kyi, Yangon Region Chief Minister U Myint Swe, Kyodo officials, Japanese Ambassador Mr. Tateshi Higuchi, Managing Director U Kyaw Soe and private investor U Tin Nyunt.—PHOTO: AYE MIN SOE



Rolls of paper installed at the Mitsubishi Lithopia 4 Hi Tower 3 Units Offset are ready to be operated at test-run.—MNA



Union Minister U Aung Kyi, Yangon Region Chief Minister U Myint Swe, Japanese Ambassador Mr. Tateshi Higuchi and delegation view production process of the Global New Light of Myanmar Daily.—PHOTO: AYE MIN SOE

Islamic State kills Syrian soldiers, captures parts of base



Militant Islamist fighters travel in a vehicle as they take part in a military parade along the streets of Syria's northern Raqqa Province on 30 June, 2014 file photo.

REUTERS

BEIRUT, 26 July — Fighters from al-Qaeda offshoot Islamic State killed at least 50 Syrian army soldiers and took over parts of their base on Friday outside the northern city of Raqqa, as the radicals escalated

their attacks on government forces, a monitoring group said.

Fighters from the ul-

tra-hardline group captured and killed at least 50 members of the army's 17th Division after ambushing them outside Raqqa when they withdrew from the area where they were based, the Britain-based Syrian Observatory for Human Rights said.

Raqqa is already a stronghold of Islamic State, which has advanced in Syria and taken over swaths of territory in neighbouring Iraq in what it has described as a bid to establish an Islamic caliphate.

Since its lightning advance in Iraq last month, the group has confronted government forces in Syria more frequently whilst continuing to attack rival rebel groups fighting to oust President Bashar al-Assad.

Raqqa is the only Syr-

ian provincial capital to have fallen completely outside Assad's control and Islamic State has paraded military hardware through its streets.

A Twitter account linked to Islamic State also published pictures of the beheaded corpses and heads of five soldiers killed in Raqqa Province, saying they belonged to the 17th division.

A separate video posted online on Friday appeared to show an Islamic State fighter filming himself entering an abandoned part of the base and tearing down images of Assad and Syrian flags.

The video, with the title "What is left of Division 17 in Raqqa," in German, shows the fighter opening a refrigerator, pulling out wine bottles and then pour-

ing one of them on ground outside in front of other armed men.

However, it was not immediately possible to verify the contents of the video independently.

The Islamic State draws its strength in Syria from foreign fighters and members sometimes post videos filmed in a mixture of Arabic and other languages.

The group, previously known as the Islamic State in Iraq and the Levant (ISIL), has mainly advanced in Syria by capturing land from more moderate rebel fighters. But it is now clashing more often with the Syrian military directly, and the army has responded by stepping up aerial bombings on its positions.

Reuters

Cameron says Europe must stand up to Putin

LONDON, 26 July — The loss of Malaysian Airlines flight MH17 must prove a catalyst for changing Russia's approach and ending the conflict in Ukraine, Prime Minister David Cameron wrote on Friday in an opinion piece in the *New York Daily News*.

Russia has been attempting to destabilise a sovereign state, violate its territorial integrity and arm and train thuggish militias, he wrote, and the world has paid the price. Cameron has been pushing the European Union to impose harder-hitting sanctions on Russia after the downing of a Malaysian airliner in Ukraine, advocating an EU ban on future sales of military equipment to Moscow.

The 28-nation EU has been under pressure from the United States and Ukraine to take a harder line on Russia, but some EU governments are wary



Britain's Prime Minister David Cameron

of potential retaliation from Moscow, the bloc's biggest energy supplier.

"Hurting Russia economically will carry some pain for our own economies too," Cameron wrote. "But serious economic measures are the only language that Russia will understand."

The European Union governments agreed on Thursday to add 15 people and 18 companies or other organizations to the bloc's sanctions list for undermining Ukraine's territorial integrity, diplomats said.

"It is time to make our power, influence and resources felt," Cameron wrote in the newspaper article. — Reuters

TRIPOLI, 26 July — Black plumes of smoke marked shell blasts and bulldozed earthen barricades mapped out the frontlines around Tripoli's largest airport, now at the heart of a standoff between the country's powerful militias.

With barrages of Grad rockets, anti-aircraft guns and artillery fired at their rival enclaves just kilometres apart, brigades of former rebels have turned parts of southern Tripoli in a battleground for nearly a fortnight.

The clash over Tripoli International Airport is the latest eruption in a deepening rivalry among bands of ex-fighters who once battled side by side against Muammar Gaddafi, but have since turned against each other in the scramble for control.

Since the 2011 fall of Tripoli, fighters from the western town of Zintan

Libya seeks ceasefire as south Tripoli a militia 'war zone'

and allies have controlled the area including the international airport, while rivals loyal to the port city of Misrata had entrenched themselves in other parts of the capital.

Heavily armed, they have refused to hand over their guns and sided with competing political forces trying to shape the future of Libya in the messy transition since Gaddafi's four-decade rule over the North African state.

Libya's government on Friday urged the two broad factions to sit down for talks, and negotiators were trying to broker a ceasefire between the groups which have become de facto powerbrokers in post-Gaddafi Libya.

"We call the people of Zintan and Misrata to

urgent talks with the government to resolve this crisis and work out an initiative to settle this at once," Prime Minister Abdullah al-Thinni's office said.

Deep divisions, however, were clear along Tripoli's empty airport road, where burning grasslands smoked from recent shelling. Sporadic artillery and anti-aircraft fire could be heard booming out from the airport toward southern Tripoli.

Outside on the highway, Zintani fighters were dug in to defend the airport they say they are officially sanctioned to protect as part of Libya's armed forces. Young fighters in Toyota trucks mounted with canons guarded the road.

"They are strong and we are strong," said Mo-

ammed, a Zintan fighter inside the airport terminal, which has been damaged by shelling. "When we fought Gaddafi's army, they did not resist more than two hours. Now we are fighting for ten days and no one has won."

Inside the main terminal, debris was scattered across the floor of the passenger area, where a hole has opened in the ceiling from a shell hit. An empty wheelchair sat among rubble in the check-in area packed with travellers just weeks before.

Clashes over Tripoli's airport involving heavy weapons have killed around 50 people and made parts of Tripoli look like they were caught in a civil war once again.

Reuters

Colombia, Panama reopen stalled electricity project

PANAMA CITY, 26 July — Colombia and Panama on Friday agreed to resurrect a stalled electricity transmission line project between the two countries that would also supply power to the rest of Central America.

"We hope that by the beginning of 2018, we could have connected Panama and Colombia with this project," Colombian President Juan Manuel Santos said after meeting his Panamanian counterpart, Juan Carlos Varela, during a state visit to the Central American country.

The proposed transmission line had been shelved for two years after first being proposed during the administration of Varela's predecessor, Ricardo Martinelli.

Martinelli balked at the estimated \$500 million price tag, placing the project on ice.

Varela said the transmission line "would give energy security to Panama," adding that the energy Colombia produced would also be passed on to other countries in Central America. — Reuters



Smoke rises over the Airport Road area after heavy fighting between rival militias broke out near the airport in Tripoli on 25 July, 2014. — REUTERS

HEALTH & BUSINESS

Wall St Week Ahead: Even modest GDP bounce may support market

NEW YORK, 26 July — Even if data next week shows a mediocre rebound in US economic growth, that might be enough to keep the stock market aloft at record highs and the Federal Reserve steadfast in its winding down of stimulus through bond purchases.

US gross domestic product for the second quarter, due to be released on Wednesday, is forecast to have grown 3.2 percent. Growth had shrunk 2.9 percent in the first quarter due to a harsh winter and spending cuts tied to the federal Affordable Care Act.

Still, some lackluster recent data on housing and capital spending, plus a mixed bag of second-quarter earnings, have raised the risk that even a moderate GDP bounce may fall short of expectations.

Indeed, Friday's disappointing report on durable

goods orders in June spurred J P Morgan and Goldman Sachs to shave their second-quarter outlook by 0.1 percentage point to 2.6 percent and 3.0 percent growth, respectively.

While recent anxiety over conflict in Ukraine and Middle East has somewhat kept a lid on stock prices, it has not spooked investors enough to prompt them to dump equities for bonds and cash.

"The market has been resilient to these setbacks. They have taken bad news in stride," said Steve Weiting, global chief investment strategist with Citi Private Bank in New York.

The Standard & Poor's 500 index fell 0.4 percent on Friday after closing at a record high of 1987.98 on Thursday, while benchmark 10-year Treasuries yield was little changed on the week at 2.48 percent.



Traders work on the floor of the New York Stock Exchange on 17 March, 2014.—REUTERS

There has been steady improvement on the job front. Domestic jobless claims in the latest week fell to their lowest since early 2006, while monthly

jobs gains have jumped by more than 200,000 in each of past five months, a level of strength last seen in the late 1990s.

While more Ameri-

cans have returned to work, Federal Reserve Chair Janet Yellen told two Congressional panels earlier this month she remained worried about stagnant wage

growth and a low inflation rate that is below the Fed's 2 percent target.

Those concerns have supported a notion that the Fed is in no hurry to move away from its near-zero interest rate policy.

On Friday, US short-term interest rate futures implied that traders priced in a 53 percent chance of a Fed rate hike in June 2015 and a 75 percent chance of such a move a month later.

"We expect very little new information from the Fed next week. We have been given a clear map going into October," Wieting said.

The Federal Open Market Committee, the Fed's policy-setting group, is scheduled to announce whether it will further pare its bond purchases — currently at \$35 billion a month — at 2:00 pm (1600 GMT) on Wednesday.—Reuters

Amazon's far-reaching ambitions, lack of profits, unnerve investors

SAN FRANCISCO, 26 July — Amazon.com Inc's message to investors has always been clear: trust in founder and CEO Jeff Bezos. But after more than a year of mostly disappointing quarterly results, that faith is being tested. Some on Wall Street wonder if Amazon may have bitten off more than it can chew. After an unusually busy first half of the year that saw the online retailer spend on developing everything from mobile phones and Hollywood-style production to grocery deliveries, investors are ready to see it curtail its ambitions and start delivering sustainable profits.

Or at least offer evidence that Bezos' ever-increasing investments are going to soon generate appealing returns for its main online retailing business.

"It does get frustrat-



Amazon CEO Jeff Bezos discusses his company's new Fire smartphone at a news conference in Seattle, Washington in this file photo taken on 18 June, 2014.

REUTERS

ing when they continue to spend quarter after quarter and they don't let the revenue flow through," said Michael Scanlon, who manages \$3.5 billion at Manulife Asset Management and holds shares of Amazon. "I'm definitely ready for profits."

Others argue that eas-

ing off on the throttle now may thwart its goal of becoming the Wal-Mart of online retail. That is particularly the case as China's Alibaba — which handles more ecommerce than Amazon and eBay Inc combined — slowly develops a US consumer presence and prepares for an initial

public offering in the US.

Bezos insists on taking the long view. In his letter to shareholders last year, he responded to criticism about spending by saying investing in a "just-in-time fashion would be too clever by half."

Its increasing share of the retail dollar is still a big selling point for investors.

"You have to take a long-term perspective and you have to buy in that you're going to see solid topline growth," said Needham & Co analyst Kerry Rice. But that market share grab comes at a price a price that was highlighted in its second-quarter results issued on Thursday. Amazon reported its largest quarterly loss since 2012 as operating expenses rose 24 percent, led by a 40 percent surge in spending on technology and content.

Reuters

Teens speak more openly with doctors in private

NEW YORK, 26 July — Teenagers are more likely to discuss topics like sexual health and drug use with their doctors if their parents are out of the room for at least part of their check-up, a new study shows.

Researchers found the greatest number of health-related topics were discussed when parents were present for some of the visit but outside the room for the rest.

"The study shows that parents are important. It's really important for them to be there to foster conversation with a doctor," said study author Matthew Aalsma, of Indiana University School of Medicine in Indianapolis.

"But it's also important for adolescents to have alone time with the doctor. We have to recognize that adolescents have their own life, and we have to talk to them alone to make sure they're doing well," he told Reuters Health. Aalsma, a child psychologist, and his team analyzed data from online surveys that the National Foundation for Infectious Diseases and Pfizer collected to better understand adolescent health issues.

The surveys asked 504 teens ages 13 to 17 and their parents whether the adolescents' last visit to the doctor included confidential conversations and which

topics were discussed. Teens and their doctors tended to discuss the greatest number of topics when parents were present for only part of the visit and the fewest number of topics when parents were present for the entire visit, the authors write in the Journal of Adolescent Health. The teenagers were more likely to talk about smoking, drugs and alcohol, sexual health, self-image, stress, issues at school and mental health when they were able to speak with their doctors alone for at least part of the visit.

Nearly half of the teens whose parents were outside the room for the entire visit reported that the conversation would have been different had their parents been in the room, the study found.

"No one's saying all parents are evil," sociologist Laura Lindberg told Reuters Health. "It's just that teens need some time alone to speak to their doctors about the issues that are private to them." "It has a real-world impact on the discussion of health issues across a range of topics," she said.

Lindberg, a senior research associate at the Guttmacher Institute in New York, focuses on adolescent health but was not involved with the current study.—Reuters

Bayer says Nexavar fails in breast cancer study



The logo of Germany's largest drugmaker Bayer is pictured in Leverkusen on 26 April, 2014.—REUTERS

FRANKFURT, 26 July — German drugmaker Bayer said a Phase III trial of cancer drug Nexavar in patients with advanced breast cancer did not meet its primary endpoint of delaying the progression of the disease.

The study, called Resilience, evaluated Nexavar in combination with chemotherapeutic agent capecitabine, in women with HER2-negative breast cancer.

Oral drug Nexavar, which Bayer is developing jointly with Amgen, is approved for use against certain types of liver, kidney and thyroid cancer.

Study details are expected to be presented at an upcoming scientific conference.

Reuters

Five policemen killed in al-Qaeda checkpoint attack in Yemen

ADEN, (Yemen), 26 July — At least five Yemeni policemen were killed on Friday evening when suspected al-Qaeda gunmen attacked a security checkpoint in the southeastern province of al-Bayda, an Interior Ministry official told *Xinhua*.

“Heavily armed gunmen fired machineguns and rocket-propelled grenades on a checkpoint manned by police troops near the main entrance of al-Bayda Province, leaving five policemen killed and two

others injured,” the Interior Ministry official said on condition of anonymity.

He said that two of the assailants were injured in the assault. The attack turned into an intense two-hour gun battle between the police troops and al-Qaeda suspects in the area, the Yemeni official added.

“Two armoured vehicles were torched during the attack and the army and security units were sweeping the region now,” an intelligence officer told *Xinhua* anonymously.

No one has claimed responsibility for the attack, but Yemeni military officials blamed militants of the Yemen-based al-Qaeda offshoot for a series of assassinations and armed attacks, mostly in the country’s southern parts.

Al-Qaeda in the Arabian Peninsula, also known locally as Ansar al-Sharia, which emerged in January 2009, is considered one of the greatest threats to the Yemeni government and neighbouring oil-rich Saudi Arabia.—*Xinhua*



Artists show wedding costumes in Phnom Penh, Cambodia, on 25 July, 2014. A Cambodian traditional wedding exhibition kicked off here on Friday evening, aiming to maintain and enhance Khmer culture and civilization, officials said.

XINHUA

Japanese comic exhibition opens in S Korea after court order

SEOUL, 26 July — An exhibition of a popular Japanese manga series opened on Saturday at Seoul’s War Memorial of Korea after a court ruled the government-run facility was contractually obliged to run the show despite its objections.

Around 80 fans, including families with children, lined up to await the opening of the collection of works from “One Piece,” a series about a crew of pirates searching for a fabled treasure.

Initially scheduled to start on 12 July, the show was put on hold when the War Memorial cancelled a contract renting exhibition space to the organizers, citing a drawing in the original comic series resembling Japan’s Rising Sun flag, which arouses anti-Japanese sentiment in the country due to its history as a military flag.

A Seoul district court on 18 July ordered the War Memorial to uphold the contract after the

organizers complained. No such flag is displayed in the exhibition itself, the organizers had said.

One fan of Japanese animation who attended the exhibition with friends, 34-year-old Yun Un Hui, expressed relief that the event is going ahead, adding she had worried the War Memorial might not have been the best choice of venue.

“If culture gets tied up in politics and diplomatic issues, it’s hard on people

like me who like (Japanese) culture,” Yun said.

According to the organizers, the show took the top spot in online ticket bookings for exhibitions nationwide as of Saturday.

The Rising Sun flag’s history as a military flag makes it a point of tension in South Korea, where anti-Japanese sentiment still runs high due to Japan’s colonial rule of the Korean Peninsula from 1910 to 1945.

Kyodo News

54 French passengers die in Air Algerie plane crash: French FM

PARIS, 26 July — French Foreign Minister Laurent Fabius on Friday revised upwards the number of French victims killed in Air Algerie plane crash to 54 including three with dual nationality. “The death toll is terrible: 118 passengers were on board, including 54 French, among them three with dual nationality,” Fabius said during a Press briefing with the Defence Minister Jean-Yves Le Drian and the Minister of Transport, Frederic Cuvillier.

“Everything must be done to shed light as soon as possible (on the crash),” he added, stressing “it is still premature to determine with certainty the cause of this drama.” Fabius also pledged full mobilization to identify victims before sending them home despite “difficult material condition of researches.”

“Everything must be done to bring the victims back to their families as soon as possible,” he said.

The wreckage of the Spanish MD-83 aircraft was located in an area of 900 square kilometres, in a savannah where access is very

difficult, especially in rainy season, according to French top diplomat.

One of the aircraft’s two black boxes has been found in the site and was transferred to Gao in northern Mali to be rapidly analyzed and help to determine the crash, French President Francois Hollande said earlier in the day, adding he did not excluding any theory of the crash.

About 200 military officials including 120 French, 40 Dutch and 40 Malians have been deployed in the site “to secure the area, which is not one that risks immediate conflicts, and to prepare the ground for the arrival of investigators,” Defence Minister Jean-Yves Le Drian said at a joint Press meeting. “Despite the lack of immediate danger, this zone is subject to a relative uncertainty due to the presence of certain terrorist groups,” he added.

Operated by Air Algerie, the Spanish MD-83 reported missing 50 minutes after it took off from Ouagadougou, capital of Burkina Faso, en route to Algiers on Thursday.—*Xinhua*

Relatives of victims wait at the international airport of Ouagadougou, Burkina Faso, on 25 July, 2014. No passengers aboard the Air Algerie flight AH 5017 that crashed over Mali can survive, Algeria’s official APS news agency reported on Friday. Operated by Air Algerie, the Spanish MD-83 reported missing 50 minutes after it took off from Ouagadougou, capital of Burkina Faso, en route to Algiers on Thursday.

XINHUA



German daycare centres lack 120,000 educators

BERLIN, 26 July — German daycare centres need 120,000 additional educators for a good early childhood education, according to a study of the Bertelsmann Foundation published on Friday. That would cost Germany 5 billion euros (6.7 billion US dollars) yearly and the personnel expenses in the area

would increase by one-third, as the Bertelsmann Foundation has calculated.

The analysis also showed clear east-west disparity concerning the staffing ratio inside Germany.

Therefore, Joerg Draeger from the foundation’s Management Board required quality standards that apply throughout the

country in the German federal law on daycare centres.

According to the analysis, an educator must take care of 6.3 children in East Germany statistically, while an educator needs to face 3.8 children on average in West Germany.

In Bremen and Baden-Wuerttemberg, an educator is responsible for

an average of three children, in Saxony-Anhalt, however, for more than six children. In practice, the supervisory relationship is even more unfavourable, as it said in the study.

In fact, educators could only spend 75 percent of their time for the kids, with the rest attributable to team talks, training and vacation,

so an educator supervises in East Germany at least eight children and in West Germany five children.

For a child-friendly and educationally meaningful service, the foundation required that an educator is responsible for a maximum of three children when it comes to children under three years old, and

the staffing ratio should be no worse than 1 to 7.5 for the age group of three years and above.

“Policies and practices should agree on nationwide child-friendly standards, so that all children in daycare center in Germany can have good educational opportunities,” Draeger said.

Xinhua

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THE GOVERNMENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF THE UNION OF MYANMAR

BID EVALUATION AND AWARDING COMMITTEE (BEAC)

KYAUK PHYU SPECIAL ECONOMIC ZONE

Invitation for the Expression of Interest (EOI)

From the Potential Developers

The Government of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar has identified Kyauk Phyu SEZ as one of the economic potentials to contribute to the country's economic development.

Bid Evaluation and Awarding Committee (BEAC), in close cooperation with the CPG Consortium has developed a master plan for the Kyauk Phyu Special Economic Zone (KPSEZ), which is strategically positioned with the potentials to become a world trade corridor to China, India and ASEAN playing a vital role in unlocking Myanmar's full potential as Asia's last significant frontier economy.

The Kyauk Phyu SEZ BEAC hereby would like to invite Expression of Interest from the local and international developers to develop key features of the development which includes a deep-sea port, an industrial package and an integrated residential area.

The interested potential developers are encouraged to visit our website <http://www.kpsez.org> for further detailed information and instructions and are invited to submit their EOI (Expression of Interest) before the closing date of 25 August 2014, 1700hrs (GMT+6.30).

We look forward to your participation.

**Bid Evaluation and Awarding Committee (BEAC)
of the Kyauk Phyu Special Economic Zone
and CPG Consortium**

Comprising CPG Consultants Pte Ltd,
DTZ Debenham Tie Leung (SEA) Pte Ltd,
Ernst & Young Solutions LLP,
Global Maritime And Port Services Pte Ltd
and PM Link Pte Ltd



Global Maritime and Port
Services Pte Ltd



CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

MV PACIFIC TRADER VOY NO (032)

Consignees of cargo carried on MV PACIFIC TRADER VOY NO (032) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 27.7.2014 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of M.I.P where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

No claims against this vessel will be admitted after the Claims Day.

**SHIPPING AGENCY DEPARTMENT
MYANMA PORT AUTHORITY
AGENT FOR: M/S ORINET OVERSEAS
CONTAINER LINES**

Phone No: 2301185

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

MV FRISIA LAHN VOY NO (1444)

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No claims against this vessel will be admitted after the Claims Day.

**SHIPPING AGENCY DEPARTMENT
MYANMA PORT AUTHORITY
AGENT FOR: M/S MCC TRANSPORT
(S'PORE) PTE LTD**

Phone No: 2301185

**Outgoing JET programme
English teachers designated
"honourary ambassadors"**

TOKYO, 26 July — The Ministry of Internal Affairs and Communications on Friday expressed gratitude to this year's outgoing participants of the Japan Exchange and Teaching (JET) Programme, designating the 1,450 young adults "honorary ambassadors" and asking them to continue fostering good relations between Japan and their home countries after leaving the programme.

Minister Yoshitaka Shindo met with a delegation of four JET participants who will soon finish their tenure, including three-year Yamanashi Prefecture employee Aimee Wenyue Chen of California, and hand-delivered a letter honouring the programme's newest alumni.

The minister expressed interest in enhancing the JET programme, saying, "I would like to see support given to those who are completing the programme in finding jobs in Japan and encourage those returning to their home countries to stay actively involved with the community of former JET participants."—Kyodo News

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

No claims against this vessel will be admitted after the Claims Day.

**SHIPPING AGENCY DEPARTMENT
MYANMA PORT AUTHORITY
AGENT FOR: M/S MOL (S'PORE) PTE LTD**
Phone No: 2301185

**CLAIMS DAY NOTICE
MV PANJA BHUM VOY NO (023)**

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

No claims against this vessel will be admitted after the Claims Day.

**SHIPPING AGENCY DEPARTMENT
MYANMA PORT AUTHORITY
AGENT FOR: M/S WAN HAI LINES PTE LTD**
Phone No: 2301185

**Weather
report**

FORECAST VALID UNTIL EVENING OF THE 27th July, 2014: Rain or thundershowers will be scattered in Sagaing, Mandalay and Magway Regions, Chin and Kayah States, fairly widespread in Bago Region, Kachin, Shan and Rakhine States and widespread in the remaining Regions and States with likelihood of isolated heavy falls in Taninthayi Region and Mon State. Degree of certainty is (100%).

MINISTRY OF RAIL TRANSPORTATION
MYANMA RAILWAYS
INVITATION TO OPEN TENDER

1. Open Tender is invited for supply of the following items in Euro:

Sr No.	Tender No	Description	Closing Date & Time
1.	12(T)24/(ISN) 2014-2015	Spare and Equipment for Repower of 2000 HP Dalian D.E.L (with MOI 16V 170,1617 KW At 1800 RPM Engine) (97)Items	29.8.14 (12:30)Hrs
2.	12(T)22/(ISN) 2014-2015	CAT 3516 B Engine(6)sets for Repowering of Diesel Electric Locomotives (3)Items	12.9.14 (12:30)Hrs
3.	12(T)23/(ISN) 2014-2015	Main Componets required for Repowering of Diesel Electric Locomotives (79)Items	12.9.14 (12:30)Hrs
4.	1/MR/Loco(M) 2014-2015	Meter gauge 2000 Hp Diesel Electric Locomotives & Spare (Brand New) (11)Nos	26.9.14 (12:30)Hrs

2. Tender documents are available at our office starting from 28.7.2014 during office hours and for further detail please contact: Deputy General Manager Supply Department, Myanma Railways, Corner of Theinbyu Street and Merchant Street, Botahtaung, Yangon. Phone:95-1-291985, 291994,

“The Judge”, with Duvall and Downey, to open Toronto Film Festival

TORONTO, 26 July — “The Judge”, starring Robert Duvall and Robert Downey Jr, will open the annual Toronto International Film Festival on 4 September, the festival said on Friday.

The film, by “Wedding Crashers” director David Dobkin, follows a lawyer who returns to his childhood home where his estranged father, who is also a judge, is suspected of murder.

It was one of about 60 films unveiled by the festival on Tuesday when it announced just under a fifth of the slate for its 39th edition, but organizers at the time said they had yet to decide on an opening night film.

The Toronto festival ranks with Cannes and Sundance as one of the most influential in the world and also acts as a showcase for films hoping to compete for Oscars.—Reuters



Cast member Robert Downey Jr. waves next to co-star Gwyneth Paltrow at the premiere of “Iron Man 3” at El Capitan theatre in Hollywood, California on 24 April, 2013.—REUTERS

James Earl Jones back on Broadway in ‘You Can’t Take It With You’

NEW YORK, 26 July — Double Tony-winner James Earl Jones returns to the New York stage next month as an eccentric grandfather in a revival of the 1930s comedy romance “You Can’t Take It With You” along with Australian actress Rose Byrne, who is making her Broadway debut.

The play, about a loving but odd American family, won the Pulitzer Prize in 1937. Previews begin on 26 August and the play

opens on 28 September for a limited 19-week run. Jones (“Fences,” “The Great White Hope”), who last appeared on Broadway in a revival of Gore Vidal’s “The Best Man” in 2012, is Martin Vanderhof. He heads a multiracial cast as the income tax-averse patriarch of the family in the role made famous by Lionel Barrymore in Frank Capra’s 1938 Oscar-winning film of the same name.

Reuters

T-Series acquires music rights of Sonam Kapoor’s ‘Khoobsurat’

MUMBAI, 26 July — Bhushan Kumar’s T-Series has acquired the music rights of Sonam Kapoor starrer romantic comedy ‘Khoobsurat’.

‘Khoobsurat’ stars Sonam Kapoor and Pakistani heartthrob Fawad Khan.

The film is a remake of Hrishikesh Mukherjee’s 1980 film of the same name which had Rekha and Rakesh Roshan in the lead.

“I am glad that Disney’s first Hindi film is co-produced by Anil Kapoor Film Company and the music rights are acquired

by T-Series. I am looking forward to associate with them for their future projects too,” Bhushan Kumar said in a statement here. The music is composed by Sneha Khanwalkar who last worked on the music of Anurag Kashyap’s ‘Gangs of Wasseypur’.—PTI

Charlize Theron sparks engagement rumours with new ring



Charlize Theron

LOS ANGELES, 26 July — Charlize Theron was photographed wearing a flashy piece of jewelry on her left ring finger while strolling through the Los Angeles International Airport.

The glimpse of the new ring came just days after reports that the 38-year-old actress was planning to wed Sean Penn emerged, reported Ace Showbiz.

In the photograph, the actress, who was wearing minimal make up, was trying to cover her face

with a white jacket. A diamond ring could be seen as she lifted her left hand.

Theron and her boyfriend are reportedly set to tie the knot in her native South Africa later this summer. The couple is currently filming new movie ‘The Last Face’ in South Africa, in which she is starring and Penn is directing.

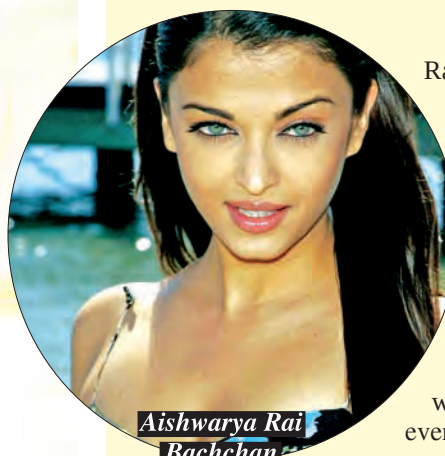
Theron and Penn had been friends for 18 years before they started dating each other. This will be the first marriage for Theron and third for Penn, who previously married Madonna and Robin Wright.

PTI



Actress
Sonam
Kapoor

Aishwarya Rai Bachchan makes stunning appearance at Commonwealth Games opening ceremony



Aishwarya Rai
Bachchan

GLASGOW, (Scotland), 26 July — Actress Aishwarya Rai attended the opening ceremony of the 20th Commonwealth Games in Scotland’s largest city as the Longines Ambassador of Elegance.

Aishwarya, who was dressed in a black coat with her lustrous locks tied in a high bun, was accompanied at the event on 23 July by Longines President Walter von Kanel.

The Swiss luxury watch brand Longines is the Official Timekeeper and Watch of the CWG, being held here 23 July - 3 August. During the opener, the CWG Baton was delivered to Queen Elizabeth II, who read her welcome message to the athletes. This event officially opened the Games.—PTI

GENERAL

Bare burger burglars caught on security camera in Florida

ORLANDO, (Florida), 26 July — Three bare burglars burgle beef. Only in Florida is that not a tongue twister but the latest true crime.

The break-in occurred at Doc's Beach House in Bonita Springs in the middle of the night on Sunday, according to Lee County sheriff spokesman Tony Schall.

The three young men are seen on video roaming around the kitchen in their underwear and taking a case of hamburgers and some red bell peppers from the refrigerator, according to

the report.

Then they stripped off their underwear and walked around the kitchen nude awhile longer before leaving. Although photos from the security camera are being posted widely on the Internet, only two tips have come in, Schall said, with no one apparently recognizing the faces.

Investigators might never uncover the culprits, Schall said.

Schall said officers suspect the three might have been tourists.

Reuters



A group of three men wearing only underwear are seen in the kitchen of Doc's Beach House restaurant in Bonita Springs, Florida in this 20 July, 2014, handout photo taken from security camera video released by the Lee County Sheriff's Office.— REUTERS

Pennsylvania parents locked son in car trunk to cure fear of dark

PITTSBURGH, (Pennsylvania), 26 July — A western Pennsylvania couple, accused of luring their five-year-old son into the trunk of their car with candy to resolve his fear of the dark, was granted probation this week, according to court officials on Friday.

Jeffrey and Danielle Lenhart were charged with felony child endangerment and reckless endangerment for locking their son in the car during three trips to the Idlewild amusement park

in Lingonier, Pennsylvania, in July 2013, court records showed. They gave him a flashlight and told him to look for sweets before locking the trunk at the park, about 9.5-miles (15 km) from their home in Latrobe, court officials said.

They were accepted into the Accelerated Rehabilitative Disposition programme on Thursday in a deal approved by Westmoreland County Judge Richard McCormick Jr, according to Danielle Lenhart's

lawyer, Deborah Jackson.

"She recognizes the serious nature of what has happened and I don't think we will see her in court again," Jackson said of her client. The incidents came to light when one of the couple's children was interviewed by child welfare officials for undisclosed reasons, according to the *Pittsburgh Tribune Review*.

The boy and another sibling, who is 4, have been staying with relatives following the charges,

but will be returned to the home, court officials said. A younger sibling, 1, has already been reunited with the parents.

Upon completion of two years probation, charges against the Lenharts will be dismissed and records expunged, Jackson said.

A previous judge in the case did not want to allow the Lenharts to enter the rehabilitative program, but Jackson said she was pleased with McCormick's decision. — Reuters

New Zealander wins women's division of Mt Fuji run

KOFU, (Japan), 26 July — Ruth Charlotte Croft of New Zealand won the women's division of the 21-kilometre Mt Fuji running race on Friday, an event that drew 2,340 competitors this year.

The 25-year-old athlete scored her first victory and clocked 3 hours, 11 minutes, 44 seconds. Dai Matsumoto, 30, of Nagano Prefecture, won the men's race, marking 2:47:45. It was his second consecutive victory.

Participants started at the Fujiyoshida city hall in Yamanashi Prefecture and ran a trail to the summit of Japan's highest peak, which stands 3,776 metres. The race requires overcoming an elevation gain of around 3,000 metres.

About half — 1,020 — completed the run within the designated 4 hours and 30 minutes this year, which marked the 67th run, city officials said.

Kyodo News

California woman 'embarrassed' by fallout from doll giving

SAN CLEMENTE, (California), 26 July — A California woman who spooked her small community by anonymously leaving porcelain dolls on the doorsteps of fellow churchgoers that eerily resembled their daughters told police she is embarrassed by the incidents, authorities said on Friday.

The dolls, some wearing fuzzy slippers or frilly gowns, turned up at more than a half-dozen homes in San Clemente last week, according to Orange County Sheriff's Lieutenant Jeff Hallock.

Interviews with families that received the dolls led authorities to the local woman, who then admitted her involvement, he said. She has not been publicly identified.

The woman, who attended church with most of the girls' families, said she did not mean to scare anyone, he said.

"She felt like some of the girls would enjoy the dolls," Hallock said.

She has daughters of her own who are too old to play with dolls, he said.

The woman said she wanted the dolls to resemble

the children who received them and matched their hair and eye colour, Hallock said.

After delivering a few of the dolls, the woman noticed on social media that some families were frightened, he said. She stopped leaving the dolls when some parents called for a criminal investigation. "She felt really embarrassed," Hallock said.

No charges were filed, and the sheriff's department has closed its investigation, chalking it up to an act of good will gone wrong, Hallock said. — Reuters



A combination photo showing two of the porcelain dolls found on doorsteps of numerous residences in the Talega community of San Clemente, California, on 24 July, 2014. — REUTERS

MYANMAR TV

(27-7-2014, Sunday)

- 6:00 am**
 - * Paritta by Hilly Region Missionary Sayadaw
- 6:25 am**
 - * Physical Exercises
- 7:20 am**
 - * MRTV's Youth Programme
- 8:30 am**
 - * Amazing World
- 9:00 am**
 - * News/ International News
- 9:30 am**
 - * Documentary (ASEAN)
- 9:45 am**
 - * Beautiful ASEAN
- 10:20 am**
 - * Science and Technology Programme
- 12:25 pm**
 - * Round Up of The Week's International News
- 12:35 pm**
 - * Myanmar Movie
- 3:25 pm**
 - * Mono Classical Songs
- 3:50 pm**
 - * Football Live Broadcast (Women) (Thailand & Myanmar)
- 6:20 pm**
 - * Cartoon Series
- 7:20 pm**
 - * Weekly Entertainment News
- 8:00 pm**
 - * News/ International News/ Weather Report
- 9:00 pm**
 - * News
 - * Documentary
 - * Documentary (Women in Myanmar Society)
 - * Teleplay

MYANMAR INTERNATIONAL

(27-7-14 07:00 am~ 28-7-14 07:00 am) MST

- * Local News
- * Home Made: Marketable Goods (Straw painting)
- * World News
- * Porcelain and Glass
- * Local News
- * A Moment with Miss Asia Pacific World 2014 (May Myat Noe)
- * World News
- * Fantastic Orchid Garden from the Flower City
- * Local News
- * Flying Without Wings- My Great Limitless Adventure — Bagan
- * World News
- * Myanmar Movies Review "The Goddess of the golden abode"
- * Local News
- * Odd Jobs.....: On the River
- * World News
- * Distinguished Myanmar Lady "Kyin Po"
- * Local News
- * Great Shwedagon — Nine Wonders Around The Platform of Shwedagon Pagoda
- * World News
- * Myanmar Traditional Identity (Episode- 4), Tumbling Doll, Pyit Tine Htaung
- * Local News
- * Waso Charity Feast
- * World News
- * Director: Kyi Phyu Shin
- * Local News
- * Youth of the future (Episode-16) Young Photographer (Thi Ha Aung)
- * World News
- * Dengue Fever
- * Local News
- * Kachin Land: The Beauty in The North of Myanmar
- * World News
- * Family of Toys

Drogba returns to Chelsea on one-year deal

LONDON, 26 July — Didier Drogba completed a remarkable return to Chelsea on Friday, signing a one-year deal to rejoin the club where he wrote his name into the record books and spearheaded the most successful period in their history.

Two years after leaving Stamford Bridge on a high after his heroics helped them win the Champions League, the emotional pull of reuniting with manager Jose Mourinho proved too great a draw for the Ivory Coast striker.

"It was an easy decision — I couldn't turn down the opportunity to work with Jose again," the 36-year-old told the club website (www.chelseafc.com).

"Everyone knows the special relationship I have with this club and it has always felt like home to me." Drogba's last appearance for Chelsea came in the 2012 Champions League final against Bayern Munich, where he almost single-handedly clinched the trophy for the London club, scoring the winning penalty in the

shootout after powering home a header to force extra time. It seemed a fitting way to end his eight-year spell at Stamford Bridge where his dynamic game, combining power and pace, almost re-invented the

traditional target-man role. Drogba joined the Blues from Olympique Marseille for 24 million pounds (\$40.8 million) in 2004, at the start of Mourinho's first spell in charge, and scored 157 goals in 342 appearances, hoovering up silverware along the way.

He won three Premier League titles, four FA Cups, two League Cups as well as the Champions League before leaving in 2012.

While Chelsea's billionaire owner Roman Abramovich seemed determined to bring more glamorous centre forwards to the club, with Andriy Shevchenko and Fernando Torres all arriving with lofty reputations, the Ivorian proved immovable.

He remains their record scorer in European competition with 34 goals while his nine

strikes in nine cup finals is also a record.

When he left Stamford Bridge two years ago to play for Shanghai Shenhua in China, many thought his career was on the wane with his performances in that final season fluctuating between brilliant and largely ineffective.

Mourinho has decided to bring him back, however, after a successful year in Turkey playing for Galatasaray that showed he still had something to offer at the highest level.

The Portuguese predicted in March, when Galatasaray played Chelsea in the Champions League, that Drogba would one day return to the Chelsea family and said on Friday that there was no emotion or sentiment involved in the decision.

"He's coming because he's one of the best strikers in Europe," Mourinho said.

"I know his personality very well and I know if he comes back he's not protected by history or what he's done for this club previously. He is coming with the mentality to make more history."

Reuters



Ivory Coast's Didier Drogba

Liverpool new boy Lallana to miss start of season



England's Adam Lallana

LONDON, 26 July — Liverpool's new signing Adam Lallana will miss the start of the season after suffering a knee injury in training, the club said on Friday.

Lallana, who left Southampton earlier this month for a fee of around

25 million pounds, was hurt on the pre-season tour of the United States.

The England midfielder, yet to feature in a pre-season match for Liverpool, does not require surgery but will not be fit in time for their opening Premier League game against Southampton on 17 August.

"No specific time frame has been placed on a return to fitness but injuries of this nature can result in a spell of anywhere up to six weeks on the sidelines," the club said on their website (www.liverpoolfc.com).

The 26-year-old Lallana, a member of England's World Cup squad in Brazil last month, is also likely to miss away league games against Manchester City and Tottenham Hotspur.

Reuters

Ancelotti aims to end Real Madrid goalkeeper debate

MADRID, 26 July — Real Madrid coach Carlo Ancelotti said on Friday that he was looking to avoid the debate over who should be first team goalkeeper which affected the club last season.

Real Madrid count on two fine goalkeepers in their squad: Spain international Iker Casillas and Diego Lopez, last season Ancelotti avoided the debate over who should be first choice by playing Lopez in the BBVA Primera Liga and Casillas in the Copa del Rey and the Champions League.

Whilst the strategy appeared to maintain both keepers happy, Casillas' inactivity on a week by week basis did seem to affect him as he was poor in the final of the Champions League (which Real Madrid won despite his errors) and way below his best as Spain crashed out of the first stage of the World Cup finals.

Now the club appears to be close to signing Costa Rica international Keylor Navas from Levante, something which will complicate matters still further with either Casillas or Lopez likely to look to change club in search of more regular football.

"Navas is not a Real Madrid player," said Ancelotti from the club's

training camp in Los Angeles. "At the moment we have the same keepers we had last year and Iker has just returned to training. We don't have a problem with the goalkeeper and although there were a lot of debates about the issue last season, there never was with me."

"I am going to decide at the start of the coming season who is going to be first choice keeper with this team," said the Real Madrid coach, who is looking forward to the new campaign where his side will defend their Copa del Rey and Champions League titles.

"The club is doing a good job and the two players we have signed (Tony Kroos and James Rodriguez) are going to strengthen the squad. We have a good and competitive squad," he said.

The Champions League title Real Madrid won last season was the tenth of their history and the coach believes that after reaching that historic milestone a lot of pressure will be lifted from the players this campaign.

"It is the start of a cycle that began last season. We have to continue winning titles and that is why the squad is more competitive," said Ancelotti.

Xinhua

United sell misfit Bebe to Benfica

LISBON, 26 July — Benfica have signed Bebe from Manchester United in a deal worth up to three million euros (\$4.03 million), the Premier League club said on Friday as the forward ended a difficult four-year spell in England.

Bebe was bought for 7.4 million pounds from Vitoria de Guimaraes in August 2010 by then-manager Alex Ferguson who later said he had not seen the player in action either live or on video before completing the deal.

He failed to impress at United and quickly became known as one of Ferguson's biggest mistakes in the transfer market, making just two substitute appearances in the league.

Bebe was loaned out to Besiktas and Rio Ave before rebuilding his reputation in a third loan spell at Portuguese side Pacos de Ferreira.

The 24-year-old joins

a Benfica side who won the domestic treble last season but need attacking reinforcements after sell-

ing Serbian winger Lazar Markovic to Liverpool.

"Everybody at United would like to wish Bebe the

best of luck for the future," United said on the club website (www.manutd.com). —Reuters



Manchester United's Bebe (R) is challenged by Crawley Town's Dean Howell during their English FA Cup soccer match at Old Trafford in Manchester, northern England on 19 Feb, 2011.—REUTERS