

Myanmar will let go none of its own territory: MOFA official

NAY PYI TAW, 2 Aug — In an interview with the Myanmar News Agency, U Chan Aye, Director of the Consular and Legal Affairs Department under the Ministry of Foreign Affairs expounded his views on the Myanmar-India border dispute.

The Daily Eleven, a local newspaper, recently reported that Myanmar was losing some pieces of its territory in the Kabaw valley following the eruption of border disputes.

When asked about the issue, U Chan Aye said that Myanmar and India signed an agreement to demarcate the border on 18 March 1967, with demarcation being carried out from 1968 to 1972.

Nine areas were left in the Kabaw valley as some disagreement broke out, he said, adding that coor-

dination through diplomatic channels is still going on and pledging that the government will spare no effort to safeguard its national territory.

Regarding the construction of buildings on Myanmar land and the removal of old boundary pillars, he said it is necessary for both sides not to trespass into each other's territory.

According to the director, Indian courts are taking steps to remove invaded villages, some of which have been removed.

Speaking of the integration of over 3,000 acres of land on the Myanmar-India border into the international territory, he said it is up to India to allow its own land to be designated as the international boundary, but they have no right to be generous

with the disputed territory.

The news report of giving up the land as the international boundary appeared in the 4 July issue of the Myanmar Alinn, a state-run newspaper, which he said was a translated version of a news report written outside the country and that it caused misunderstanding for readers because of lack of proper reference to the original source.

Myanmar will not accept the inclusion of the unsettled territory in the international boundary, he said.

MNA



Director U Chan Aye of Consular and Legal Affairs Department under Ministry of Foreign Affairs meets media in an interview.—MNA

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Ooredoo Myanmar kicks off promotion with free services ahead of official launch on 14 Aug

By Ye Myint

YANGON, 2 Aug — Ooredoo, one of the first foreign mobile operators that received Myanmar telecommunication licenses, hosted a press conference in Yangon, with Ross Cormack, Ooredoo Myanmar CEO, presenting the company's free kick-off service as a promotion to media persons.

During the promotion which will last until midnight on 14th August, Ooredoo users will be offered 900 free minutes to call and 90 free SMS to text any other Ooredoo phones,



Ooredoo Myanmar CEO Ross Cormack presents free kick-off campaign offering high definition voice calls and fast Internet to media at Sule Shangri-la in Yangon.

PHOTO: YE MYINT

Taungpyone Festival to attract believers from all parts of Myanmar

MANDALAY, 2 Aug — Taungpyone Festival is held on a grand scale in conjunction with Taungpyone Pagoda Festival in Madaya township, Mandalay Region, without missing a single year.

Both festivals will take place from 3 to 8 August, attracting enthusiasts from all parts of Myanmar.

Being the most popular in Upper Myanmar, the

festival will be busy with food stalls and souvenir shops as well as entertainment programmes. According to a shop-owner, rents for shops have gone up.

Despite difficult access to the township, scores of visitors are believed to enjoy the festival without fail.

Min Htet Aung
(Mandalay Sub-printing



Residents visit shops that sell various kinds of goods, toys and souvenirs of Taungpyone Festival in Madaya Township.

along with 90 minutes of free calls and 90 free SMS to other networks in Myanmar and 20 megabytes (MB) of free Internet per day and free facebook, said its press release on Saturday.

“As we undertake final preparations for the launch and optimize the network we would like to extend this invitation to those living in Mandalay, Nay Pyi Taw and Yangon, hence our offer of free services with crystal clear voice calls and fast Internet during this time. We are confident that the feedback from our new customers will assist us greatly in enhancing

our network in time for our commercial launch, the CEO commented.

Limited sales of Ooredoo SIM cards began in some shops in Mandalay and Yangon two days ago, with customers paying K5,000 or more for a card. Regarding shops selling Ooredoo SIM cards with prices higher than K1,500, Ross Cormack called on customers not to pay more than K1,500 for a SIM, suggesting that they should go to another shop as SIMs are readily available at the shops of all 6,500 Ooredoo dealers.

“We are able to deliver SIM cards to meet the

demand and stocks are not limited,” U Myint Zaw, national sales director of Ooredoo Myanmar voiced.

According to the press release, by 15th August when the promotion is over, Ooredoo to Ooredoo calls will cost K25 per minute while K35 per minute will be charged for calls to other networks, and K25 each for texts and 1MB of data usage.

According to the Ooredoo Myanmar CEO, further details on Ooredoo's pricing and “fantastic launch promotions” will be announced on 14 August at its official launch ceremony.—NLM

Waso robes offered to monks of Muse Township



Outstanding students honoured in Madaya Township



MANDALAY, 2 Aug — The prize presentation ceremonies of retired deputy minister for Information Brig-Gen Aung Thein were held at Thonhsepay and Nyaunggontaung villages in Madaya Township of Mandalay Region on 28 and 30 July.

At the hall of Basic Education High School in Thonhsepay Village on 28 July, Brig-Gen Aung Thein (Rtd) made a speech and presented prizes to second time excellent award winner Maung Aung Myat Min and outstanding students in the matriculation examination and basic education. He donated books and cash to the library of the school.

Wellwisher U Tin Maung Win-Daw Than Than Aye (Shwenaychi Company) also awarded the outstanding students.

A similar ceremony took place at the hall of Nyaunggontaung BEMS

on 30 July, the retired deputy minister awarded the students and presented cash and books to the school library. Wellwisher U Tin Maung Win-Daw Than Than Aye donated K1 million to the fund of the school.

Members of the school board of trustees donated cash to the school foundation and U Kyaw Soe-Daw Thida (Nan Htaik Aung Company Ltd) donated K180,000 for one-year delivery of five copies of Myanma Alinn and Kyemon dailies to Nyaunggontaung Village.

Tin Maung (Mandalay)

MUSE, 2 Aug — The Muse Township Waso robes offering ceremony took place at Cetawun meditation centre in Muse of northern Shan State on Saturday.

The deputy commissioner of Muse District and officials offered robes and offertories to members of

the Sangha.

At the ceremony, Township officials, townselders and entrepreneurs donated robes and alms to 97 members of the Sangha from 97 monasteries from Monekoe, Manthiro, Panghsai and Muse.

Muse District IPRD

Protection of rights of child discussed



DAWEI, 2 Aug — The Taninthayi Region Committee for the Rights of Child held a meeting at Edu Park hall in Dawei on Friday.

At the meeting, Region Minister for Social Affairs Dr Win Aung said that Social Welfare Department provides assistance for the orphanage and philanthropic houses and ex-

tends early child care tasks. He stressed the need to emphasize development of the children and protect the rights of children.

Head of Region Social Welfare Department Daw

Khin Nwe Tun reported on protection of the rights of child in the region and Dr Tin Aung of UNICEF progress of its tasks in the region.

Taninthayi Region IPRD

Authorities try to ensure smooth transport on Taungup-Maei Rd

THANDWE, 2 Aug — While a Hyundai truck driven by Kyaw Zin Oo carrying heavy machinery was crossing the Kyaukyoe Tamar wooden bailey bridge

on Taungup-Maei road section of Yangon-Kyaukpyu Highway in Rakhine State at 7 pm on 31 July, the bridge damaged and the heavy machinery fell into the creek.

The 120 feet long bailey bridge could withstand 13 tons of loads. Due to the damage, Yangon-Kyaukpyu, Yangon-Yanbye, Taungup-An and Taungup-Maei

bus lines and passengers face transport difficulties.

The bridge is located 80 miles from Kyaukpyu. The local authorities are transporting the passengers to

their destinations by crossing the creek.

The bridge is being repaired by Public Works of the Ministry of Construction.—District IPRD



NATIONAL

Myanmar, Thailand to cooperate in drug elimination

NAY PYI TAW, 2 Aug — Senior General Min Aung Hlaing, Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services, received a delegation led by Lieutenant General Preecha Jan-O-Cha, Commander of the Third Army of the Royal Thai Armed Forces who attended the 28th Meeting of the Myanmar-Thai Regional Border Committee-RBC, at Zeyathiri Beikman in Nay Pyi Taw, on Saturday to

hold talks about emphasizing cooperation in drug elimination between Myanmar and Thailand.

The Thai delegation explained discussions at the meeting on opening of special economic zones at the border areas of two countries, cooperation in cultivation of forests and exchange of goodwill visits. The Senior General gave necessary instructions.—Myawady



Senior General Min Aung Hlaing with Thai delegation focusing on strengthening friendly ties between Myanmar and Thailand through border committee meetings.—MNA

Myanmar-Thai Regional Border Committee meets for cross-border issues

NAY PYI TAW, 2 Aug — Delegations from Myanmar and Thailand held a meeting on cross-border issues in Tanintharyi Region, southern Myanmar.

The two-day 28th My-

anmar-Thai Regional Border Committee meeting commenced on Friday and discussed forging mutual trust, cooperation on cross-border issues, elimination against narcotic

drugs and demarcation between the two countries.

On the second-day event, both side agreed the date and venue to hold 29th meeting of this kind.

Myawady

Requirements of people must be fulfilled for winning their trust

NAY PYI TAW, 2 Aug — As the people are always watching the endeavours of the government in implementing the public-centred system, it is necessary to fulfill the requirements of the people to be able to win their trusts, Union Minister at the President Office U Hla Tun at the opening ceremony of the 16-bed station hospital in Salingyi Town-

ship of Sagaing Region on Friday.

The Union minister who is also Chairman of Implementation Committee of the Report of the Investigation Commission for Letpadaungtaung Copper Mine Project stressed the need to effectively carry out peace and stability and rule of law in the project area under the laws and regulations.

The Ministry of Health, region government and project officials are to provide necessary assistance for health care services and maintenance of the hospital, he added.

Vice-Chairman of the committee Chief Minister of the region U Tha Aye, committee members Union Ministers U Myint Aung and U Soe Win discussed

Union Industry Minister inspects heavy industries in Magway Region



Union Minister U Maung Myint views production of engines at heavy industries for development of industrial sector in the nation.—MNA

NAY PYI TAW, 2 Aug — Union Minister for Industry U Maung Myint together with officials made an inspection tour of heavy

industries in Magway and inspected No.35 Heavy Industry (Chauk) and No. 13 Heavy Industry (Magway) on Friday and Saturday.

At No.35 Heavy Industry (Chauk), the Union minister discussed distribution of the products of the factory. The official

Health ministry makes preventive measures against Ebola as world fears rise

NAY PYI TAW, 2 Aug — Preventive measures against the spread of Ebola virus is being carried out across the country, according to the statement of Min-

istry of Health on Saturday. The Central Infectious Disease Control Branch under the health ministry is making early responses and prevention of this viral disease.

The statement said that the ministry is now cooperating with health ministries of global countries, UN agencies, local and international NGOs, and civil societies.

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More than 60 suspects arrested in riot in Mandalay

NAY PYI TAW, 2 Aug — Pinyinmana Myoma Police Station and PinyinOoLwin Myoma Police Station in Mandalay Region took actions against suspects who believed to participate in the riot that occurred in Mandalay and arrested 56 suspects, according to the police forces.

The police force has

equipment, such as gloves, when caring for the patients.

Groups with higher risk of infection in an outbreak - health workers; family members or others in close contact with infected people.

The typical signs and symptoms of Ebola include onset of fever, intense weakness, muscle pain, headache and sore throat, followed by vomiting, diarrhoea, rash, impaired kidney and liver function, and in some cases, both internal and external bleeding.

No one is yet detected with infection of Ebola, according to the statement of health ministry.

The four western Africa countries—Guinea, Liberia, Nigeria and Sierra Leone— have found 729 death, with 1,323 infected cases between March 2014 and 27 July 2014.

Although Ebola virus has not spread to Southeast Asian countries, Myanmar is now examining the cases at the airports and ports by using modern equipment. Training course and infection control programmes are being carried out at the healthcare facilities, with the establishments of isolation wards there.—MNA

been investigated into 36 suspects who still escape from the case.

The police force also took action against more than 1,400 suspects who committed the judicial order that issued under the Section 144 of the Criminal Procedure Code, the Ministry of Home Affairs announced.—MNA

Final vet students learning practical works



NYAUNGU, 2 Aug — Final students of Yezin University of Veterinary Science made a trip to Bagan-NyaungU region for observation at the region and for providing animal treatment free of charge on 31 July.

About 250 students led by two faculty members of the university gave medical treatment to cattle and animals free of charge

in various village-tracts in NyaungU Township of Mandalay Region from 31 July to 2 August with the assistance of district and township veterinarians. *Ye Thura Aung (NyaungU)*

Region Chief Minister's Cup Sepak Takraw Tourney kicks off

MANDALAY, 2 Aug—The Mandalay Region Chief Minister's Cup Inter-Township Sepak Takraw Tournament 2014 began at the Bahtoo Gymnasium in Mandalay of Mandalay Region on Friday.

A total of 93 players

from 17 townships are taking part in the double regu event and 115 in the regu event.

The semifinal matches will be held on 3 and 4 August and the final match on 5 August.

Tin Maung (Mandalay)



700 Eucalyptus saplings planted in ChaungU Township

CHAUNGU, 2 Aug —“Emerald Land” Association held a tree growing ceremony in Ngashan Village of ChuangU Township in Sagaing Region on Thursday.

Village administrator U Zaw Min, members of the association and local people totalling 120 grew 700 saplings of Eucalyptus at the bund of the village lake.

“Growing 700 saplings of Eucalyptus may contribute to greening our village and maintaining the bund of the lake,” said the village administrator.

Township IPRD



Nurse and medical assistance course opened

DAWEI, 2 Aug — Nurse and medical assistance course was opened at Sitagu Aroja Dana Hospital in Dawei of Taninthayi Region on Friday, with an address by Region Minister for Social Affairs Dr Win Aung.

Managing Director U Aung Kyaw of Fourteen Star Network Dawei Co Ltd explained progress of the project. Dr Tun Nyunt Kyu of the hospital management board explained the purpose of the training and teaching programme and donated K500,000 to the fund of the hospital.

The training course was aimed at turning out skilled workers at Medi-



land Hospital to be built by Fourteen Star Network Dawei Co Ltd.

Dr Tun Nyunt Kyu and officials provide the training to the trainees as of 1 Au-

gust. Altogether 59 trainees must attend the three-month lecture course and a one-month practical work.

Taninthayi Region IPRD

Land plots in Toungoo get high prices for prospect of industrial zone construction project



TOUNGOO, 2 Aug—The prices of land plots between mile posts No 148 and 153 beside Yangon-Mandalay Expressway, west of Toungoo in Bago Region, are rising day by day due to the

information that an international level industrial zone will be constructed.

Since last two years, the land plots have been getting high prices. The entrepreneurs bought the land

plots as investment. The land plot worth K300,000 per acre in the past can fetch K4 million at present. The plots along the expressway between mile posts 150 and 151 in Htandaw, Kantaya and Hthanthonbin villages are marketed at K5 million to K 8 million.

At present, about 4,000 acres of land plots between mile posts 149 and 153 have been sold to entrepreneurs. An entrepreneur has bought 2,000 acres of land, said real estate broker Ko Saw Myo Thura of Zayatkin Village.

“Farmers are worrying about confiscation of farmlands. Companies do not hold discussions about it openly because they think

the discussions may cause raising the prices of lands. If the authorities make clarification thoroughly, the local farmers may have the chance to adopt their future plans,” said farmer U Win Zaw Oo of Pechetkon Village.

Ketumati Public Company Ltd will establish Ketumati Integrated Economic Zone on 6,400 acres of farmlands between 148-153 mile posts of Yangon-Mandalay Expressway. After the rainy season, the company will start construction tasks, said head of the company U Khin Maung Aye at the meeting on the industrial zone at the Tawwin Ketumati Hotel in Toungoo.

Kyaw Swa (Toungoo)

REGIONAL

India's Congress slams book challenging party chief Sonia Gandhi

NEW DELHI, 2 Aug — Revelations in a new book by former Congress Party stalwart K Natwar Singh have put Sonia Gandhi on the defence this week, in the latest challenge to her leadership of the embattled party and India's foremost political dynasty.

In the autobiography "One Life is Not Enough," released on Friday, Singh paints an unflattering picture of the 67-year old Congress party head, labelling her an at-times "Machiavellian" leader who has been "coarsened" by politics. The remarks come at a fraught time for Gandhi, having recently presided over her party's slide from a decade in power to its worst-ever defeat in national elections in April and May.

Singh, a former external affairs minister who was expelled from the party, places the blame for the drubbing on Gandhi, alleging her grip on the Congress Party has been both complete and destructive.

"What Sonia Gandhi has achieved is to reduce



India's Congress party chief Sonia Gandhi (C) and her son and lawmaker Rahul Gandhi (2nd R) arrive to attend Prime Minister Narendra Modi's oath-taking ceremony at the presidential palace in New Delhi on 26 May, 2014.

REUTERS

the Congress, one of the greatest political parties of the world, to a rump of forty-four members in the Lok Sabha," he wrote.

Unsurprisingly, Congress has come out swinging in defence of its leader.

"We note the necessity

to sensationalize such matters on the eve of publication because that is vital to increase sales," Congress spokesman Abhishek Singhvi said in a on 31 July press briefing. "It is, of course, highly regrettable that persons who have

enjoyed high positions of power and entrusted to them by and on behalf of the Congress party ... misuse and distort such confidentiality for commercial purposes."

The passage in Singh's book that has created the

biggest stir is one in which he reports Gandhi declined the prime ministership after leading Congress to victory in 2004 because her son, Rahul, objected. Rahul Gandhi is now vice president of the party. "Rahul was vehemently opposed to

his mother becoming Prime Minister, fearing that she would lose her life, much like his grandmother and his father," Singh wrote.

"He had his way. That was the reason for her not becoming Prime Minister."

After the 1984 assassination of Prime Minister Indira Gandhi, her son Rajiv Gandhi, Sonia's husband, took over as prime minister. He was assassinated by a suicide bomber in 1991. On Thursday, in an unusual public comment, Sonia Gandhi struck back at Singh's claims, telling reporters that she would write a book to give her own account of events. "The only way the truth will come out is if I write," she said, according to NDTV.

Analysts have said the big win by the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP), which secured 282 seats in India's lower house of parliament compared with Congress's 44, had as much to do with the well-run campaign of Prime Minister Narendra Modi as the lacklustre re-election bid by Congress.—Reuters

Factory blast in eastern China kills at least 68



Medical personnel transport a victim of a factory explosion, at a hospital in Kunshan, Jiangsu Province, on 2 Aug, 2014. — REUTERS

KUNSHAN, (China), 2 Aug — China suffered its worst industrial accident in a year on Saturday when an explosion killed at least 68 people and injured more than 120 at a factory in China that makes wheels for US carmakers, including General Motors.

The blast in the wealthy eastern province of Jiangsu occurred around

7:30 am in Kunshan city, about an hour's drive from Shanghai, after an explosion ripped through a workshop that polishes wheel hubs. An preliminary investigation suggested that the blast at Kunshan Zhongrong Metal Products Co Ltd was triggered when a flame was lit in a dust-filled room, the local government said at a Press

conference, describing the incident as a serious safety breach.

Several officials from the firm have been since been detained, the government said. State news agency Xinhua said five company representatives were held by authorities.

Survivors with charred skin were seen being wheeled into ambulances, as residents recalled hearing the explosion from two kilometres away. At the site of the blast, television images showed wrecked walls and heavy machinery that was hurled through windows.

"We heard a really loud blast at about 7 am this morning so we rushed out of our dormitories," said Zhou Xu, a 26-year-old working at a plant across the site.

"First the ambulance

ing of the votes at 07:00 am local time on Saturday, but the plan has been postponed. However, the officials believe that the process would resume within the next 24 hours.

The electoral team of presidential candidate

came, then as the news surfaced in the media, many families — especially the wives — rushed to the site to see if their husbands were okay."

A security guard from an adjacent factory, who declined to be named, said the impact from the explosion was so great that it shattered the windows of his guard house, located about 500 metres away from the site of the blast.

Images online and on state television showed large plumes of black smoke billowing from a white low-rise building. Many of the injured, who appeared badly burnt in scorched clothing, were shown lying on wooden pallets, waiting to be stretchered on to trucks, public buses and ambulances.

Reuters

Abdullah Abdullah didn't attend the audit process on Saturday. A statement released by Abdullah's team pointed out that their observers won't attend the audit process until negotiations with the UN and concerned parties are concluded. This is

Eight dead, 16 injured after landslide blocks Nepal river

KATHMANDU, 2 Aug — At least eight people were killed and 16 injured after a landslide blocked the flow of a river in central Nepal, causing water to sweep through a village and wash away at least 70 houses in the wee hours of Saturday, an official said.

"We have recovered eight dead bodies. But many more may have died because the disaster happened at nighttime," said Bharat Bohara, police chief of Sindhupalchowk district, located some 60 kilometres northeast of Kathmandu, where the disaster struck.

"There is no information of how many people managed to flee to safety and how many were washed away," he told Kyodo News by phone from the district.

The landslide blocked the Sunkosi River at Jure

the fourth time since the beginning of recounting votes on 17 July that audit process of votes cast in Afghan presidential elections has been suspended. Meantime, Nilab Mubariz, a spokesperson for United Nations Assistance Mission in Afghanistan

village in the district at around 3 am local time.

Blockage of the river that flows alongside the Araniko highway, the main trading route between Nepal and Tibet, has put several villages at risk of inundation. Authorities have shut down the highway and have urged residents at risk to move to higher ground.

Landslides are continuing in the area, Bohara said. Authorities have mobilized army helicopters for rescue, and bombing of landslide debris to clear a lake that has formed due to the blockage is being considered.

Villages downstream of the river have been evacuated in view of downstream flooding that could occur if the lake bursts its banks, or after the debris is bombed. — Kyodo News

(UNAMA) in talks with local television Tolo, expressed concern over delay in vote auditing, saying any suspension in the audit process would damage the interest of those who cast vote in the presidential polls.

Xinhua

Votes auditing of Afghan presidential elections again postponed

KABUL, 2 Aug — The auditing process of votes cast in Afghan presidential elections was once again postponed on Saturday, local media reported. According to the officials with the election commission, it was scheduled to resume audit-

Two Americans held in N Korea seek US gov't help

BEIJING, 2 Aug — Two American tourists held in North Korea for alleged “anti-state” actions on Friday urged the US government to help secure their release, in their first media appearance since being detained more than three months ago, the *Associated Press* reported.

Matthew Todd Miller and Jeffrey Edward Fowle told an AP Television News crew during a brief meeting that they have been in good health, but expressed worries about the possibility of being tried soon, the news agency said.

Their remarks came after another American detainee, Kenneth Bae, held since November 2012, told a Japan-based pro-Pyongyang newspaper published online on Thursday that he

feels “abandoned” by the US government.

Their media appearances seem to have been allowed as part of a maneuver by North Korea to pressure the US government to seek resumption of dialogue.

AP said it was not clear whether Miller and Fowle were forced by North Korean authorities to make such remarks during the meeting.

North Korean state media reported Miller was taken into custody after tearing up his visa and saying he was not a tourist when entering the country on 10 April.

Fowle is accused of leaving a Bible at a nightclub after arriving in the country on 29 April, according to AP.

Kyodo News

UN chief condemns reported Hamas breach of Gaza ceasefire

UNITED NATIONS, 2 Aug — UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon condemned on Friday the reported violation by Islamist Hamas militants of a 72-hour humanitarian ceasefire in Gaza and demanded the immediate, unconditional release of a captured Israeli soldier.

“He is shocked and profoundly disappointed by these developments,” UN spokesman Stephane Dujarric said. “The Secretary-General is deeply concerned about the resumption of Israeli attacks on Gaza.”

“The Secretary-General



United Nations Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon speaks to the media in San Jose on 30 July, 2014. — REUTERS

al urges both sides to show maximum restraint and return to the agreed 72-hour humanitarian ceasefire that tragically lasted such a brief period of time,” Dujarric said. — *Reuters*

Israel looks for missing soldier; Hamas says he may have been killed



Smoke rises following what witnesses said were Israeli air strikes in Rafah in the southern Gaza Strip on 1 Aug, 2014. — REUTERS

GAZA / JERUSALEM, 2 Aug — The armed wing of the Palestinian Islamist group Hamas said on Saturday it had no clear indication on the whereabouts of an Israeli soldier that Israel has accused it of abducting in the Gaza Strip, adding he may have been killed during an ambush.

Israel said Second Lieutenant Hadar Goldin, 23, who went missing on Friday, had been abducted by Hamas gunmen. It declared a planned 72-hour Gaza ceasefire over, saying Hamas militants breached the truce soon after it took effect.

The ceasefire lasted only about 90 minutes early on Friday. Israel resumed shelling, killing at least 150 Palestinians and wounding hundreds of others, hospital officials said.

A latest signal that the

ceasefire was over came at daybreak when Israel’s Iron Dome interceptor system shot down two militant rockets over the Tel Aviv area and a third over Beer-sheba. Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu called his security cabinet into special session and warned Hamas and other militant groups they would “bear the consequences of their actions”. No announcement was made after the meeting.

But a statement by Hamas’s armed wing said it had no contact with militants who were operating in the southern Gaza Strip where Israel said Goldin went missing.

“We have lost contact with the group of fighters that took part in the ambush and we believe they were all killed in the (Israeli) bombardment.

Assuming that they

managed to seize the soldier during combat, we assess that he was also killed in the incident,” the statement said.

The planned 72-hour break in fighting announced by US Secretary of State John Kerry and UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon hours before it was due to take effect early on Friday was the most ambitious attempt so far to end more than three weeks of fighting.

At least 1,592 Gazans have been killed since the start of hostilities on 8 July when Israel launched its drive to halt militant rocket fire on its territory from the coastal enclave by unleashing air and naval bombardments. Tanks and infantry pushed into the territory of 1.8 million people on 17 July.

Sixty-three Israeli soldiers have been killed, and

Palestinian rockets have killed three civilians in Israel.

US President Barack Obama called for the soldier’s unconditional release and said it would be tough to reinstate a truce after the day’s events.

“I think it’s going to be very hard to put a ceasefire back together again if Israelis and the international community can’t feel confident that Hamas can follow through on a ceasefire commitment,” he told a White House news conference. Obama said he has been in constant contact with Netanyahu about the situation, and added that more needed to be done to protect Palestinian civilians.

In a boost to Israel, the US Congress approved \$225 million in emergency funding for Iron Dome, sending the measure to Obama to be signed into law. The House of Representatives approved the funding by a 395-8 vote late on Friday, several hours after the Senate passed it unanimously.

Kerry said he had asked Qatar, which is close to Hamas, and Turkey to help free the soldier. “We have urged them, implored them, to use their influence to do whatever they can to get that soldier returned,” a senior State Department official told reporters travelling with Kerry. “Absent that, the risk of this continuing to escalate, leading to further loss of life, is very high.”

Reuters

NATO must change to better repel Russian threat — Cameron

LONDON, 2 Aug — NATO must overhaul itself to be able to better defend its members from a potential Russian military threat, British Prime Minister David Cameron said on Saturday.

He said the US-led Atlantic alliance had to rethink its ties with Moscow because of the Ukraine crisis. Cameron, who is hosting a NATO summit in Wales next month, said he would use the event to push for the 28-member bloc to review its long-term relations with Russia to reflect the fact that Moscow sees NATO as an adversary.

The British leader has been scathing about Russia’s annexation of Crimea and accused it of illegally



Britain’s Prime Minister David Cameron leaves Downing Street in London on 31 July, 2014. — Reuters

arming pro-Russian separatists in eastern Ukraine, something Moscow denies. He has also sharply criticised Moscow’s response to the downing of a Malay-

sian airliner over Ukraine last month.

NATO suspended all practical cooperation with Russia in April to protest against Moscow’s annex-

ation of Crimea, but this did not include contact between the two at ambassadorial level or higher.

In a letter to fellow alliance leaders and NATO Secretary General Anders Fogh Rasmussen, Cameron made it clear that the alliance needed to now go further.

“Six months into the Russia-Ukraine crisis we must agree on long-term measures to strengthen our ability to respond quickly to any threat, to reassure those allies who fear for their own country’s security and to deter any Russian aggression,” Cameron wrote, according to a text of the letter released by his office. He proposed drafting a new schedule of

military exercises, building new infrastructure, pre-positioning equipment and supplies, and enhancing the NATO Response Force of up to 25,000 troops.

“We must accept that the cooperation of recent years is not currently possible because of Russia’s own illegal actions in NATO’s neighbourhood, and revisit the principles that guide our relationship with Russia,” Cameron wrote.

A report by British lawmakers on Thursday accused NATO of being complacent about the threat that Russia posed, and said Baltic states Estonia, Lithuania and Latvia — all ex-Soviet republics ruled from Moscow — are particularly vulnerable.

In response, NATO said it was already considering reinforcement measures and had acknowledged the need to adapt to a changed security environment.

The alliance has stepped up exercises in eastern Europe since Russia annexed Ukraine’s Crimean Peninsula in March and has tripled the number of fighter jets based in the Baltics. On Monday, Britain said it would send 1,350 military personnel and more than 350 vehicles to Poland for a NATO exercise aimed at reassuring allies in eastern Europe worried that, after Ukraine, they could be the next target of Russian intervention.

Reuters

WORLD

Post-Obama visit, Honduras president sees child migrant stalemate

TEGUCIGALPA, 2 Aug — After meeting US President Barack Obama in Washington, Honduran President Juan Hernandez sees little hope of an immediate solution to stemming a wave of child migrants fleeing misery and violence in Central America for the United States.

Joined by his counterparts from El Salvador and Guatemala, Hernandez met with Obama and US lawmakers last week to discuss how to confront an unprecedented surge in child migrants that has overwhelmed border re-

Obama offered the presidents no explicit help. The Honduran leader said political bickering between Democratic and Republican lawmakers was killing the chances of any short or long-term fix to the crisis.

"I haven't lost hope, but I thought by this stage, we would already have our first concrete results in terms of dealing with this crisis," Hernandez said late on Thursday in his dark-wood, oval shaped office at the presidential residence.

"This is a huge monster with one foot in Central America and Mexico,

ernment funds to tackle the child migrant crisis, but the deeply divided Congress, which is due to leave for its summer recess on Friday, has not yet decided whether to approve it.

If approved, Hernandez said, Honduras, a poor and violent country with the world's highest murder rate, would see about \$300 million of that money to spend on receiving children and their families and reintegrate them into society.

"President Obama is urging Congress to approve resources," Hernandez said. "But the problem is that in Congress, on the side of the Republicans, we're not hearing the same, and for a definitive solution to be reached ... they need to work in unison and I don't feel that is happening."

Republicans want to beef up security on the US-Mexican border to curb the influx of migrants and change a 2008 law so that immigrants can be deported more quickly. They have also criticized Obama for not acting fast enough to get to grips with the crisis.

The chances of reaching a bipartisan solution in Washington is further complicated by the fact that both parties have their eye on the 2016 election, Hernandez said.—Reuters

and the other foot in the United States," he said. "As time passes, this problem is only going to get worse."

Obama wants \$3.7 billion in emergency gov-



A child deported from the US plays with a balloon after his arrival to the Ramon Villeda international airport in San Pedro Sula, in this on 18 July, 2014 handout photo provided by the Honduran Presidential House.

REUTERS

sources and ignited a fierce political debate in the United States over what to do with the children.

In an interview with Reuters, Hernandez said

Obama on Putin: 'Sometimes people don't always act rationally'

WASHINGTON, 2 Aug — US President Barack Obama phoned Russia's Vladimir Putin to urge him to stop supporting separatists in Eastern Ukraine and seek a diplomatic solution to the crisis that has spurred tough new economic sanctions.

Obama told reporters on Friday he believes the United States has done "everything that we can do," short of going to war, to deter Russia from further threats to Ukraine with the sanctions on its energy, defense and financial sectors.

"President Putin should want to resolve this diplomatically. Get these sanctions lifted, get their economy growing again, and have good relations with Ukraine," Obama said during a news conference.

"But sometimes people don't always act rationally, and they don't always act based on their medium- or long-term interests," he said.

It was the first conversation between the two leaders since 17 July, when a Malaysian passenger jet was shot down over eastern Ukraine by what US officials believe was a missile launched by pro-Russian separatists.

During the call, Putin told Obama that the measures were "counterproductive," a statement from the



Russia's President Vladimir Putin attends a ceremony unveiling a World War One monument at the Poklonnaya Gora War Memorial Park in Moscow on 1 August, 2014.—REUTERS

Kremlin said.

"The Russian leader described Washington's course of ramping up sanctions pressure as counterproductive, causing serious damage to bilateral relations and international stability in general," the Kremlin said.

The Kremlin statement said "significant differences" remained between the two leaders but that both emphasized the importance of an "immediate and sustained ceasefire" in east Ukraine.

The two leaders agreed to keep open their channels of communication, the White House said.

Ties between the United States and Russia have plunged to their lowest level since the end of the Cold War over the Ukraine cri-

sis, which Washington accuses Moscow of fanning with weapons and support.

During the call, Obama also raised his concerns about what Washington says was a violation by Russia of the 1988 Intermediate-Nuclear Treaty designed to eliminate ground-launched cruise missiles, the White House said.

The US government pledged about \$8 million in new aid on Friday to bolster Ukraine's border guard service, a promise made by Vice President Joe Biden in a phone call with Ukraine President Petro Poroshenko.

The aid includes engineering and surveillance equipment, transport and patrol vehicles, and small boats, the White House said in a statement.—Reuters

Experts work at Ukraine plane wreckage, lull in fighting

DONETSK, (Ukraine), 2 Aug — A lull in fighting between Ukrainian forces and pro-Russian separatists allowed international experts on Saturday to resume their search for human remains at the wreckage of a Malaysian airliner downed in eastern Ukraine last month.

About 70 experts worked at the site for a second successive day following an agreement on a local ceasefire by the Ukrainian army and the pro-Russian rebels, the Organization for Security and Cooperation (OSCE) said.

"Long day ahead. Intensive work focused on recovery (of) victims' remains," the security and rights body, which also has eight representatives at the site, said on Twitter.

Roads had for days

been too dangerous to use because of heavy fighting, frustrating efforts to recover all the last of the 298 victims' remains and push ahead with an investigation into the cause of the disaster.

Ukrainian officials said this week about 80 bodies had not yet been recovered from the wreckage of the Boeing 777.

The experts, who include Dutch and Australians, recovered more remains on Friday but security was deemed "unstable and unpredictable" at the site. The 298 killed on the plane included 196 Dutch, 27 Australians and 43 Malaysians.

The United States says the separatists probably shot down the plane by mistake with a Russian-made missile. The



Members of a group of international experts inspect wreckage at the site where the downed Malaysia Airlines flight MH17 crashed, near the village of Hrabove (Grabovo) in Donetsk region, eastern Ukraine on 1 Aug, 2014. International experts started recovery work at the wreckage site of a downed Malaysian airliner in east Ukraine on Friday despite clashes nearby between government forces and pro-Russian rebels.—REUTERS

rebels and Moscow deny the accusation and blame the downing on 17 July on Kiev's military campaign to quell the separatists' uprising.

The Ukrainian military said its forces had suffered no losses overnight in the conflict, although there was continued shooting in some areas, including tank and missile fire around the rebel-held city of Luhansk.

The military reported three cases of shooting from across the border with Russia, a charge it has leveled at Moscow increasingly often. Moscow denies such accusations, and Russia's RIA news agency quoted border guards as saying nine shells had been fired from Ukrainian territory onto Russian soil.

Reuters

PERSPECTIVES

Sunday, 3 August, 2014

Myanmar should not neglect world Ebola fear

By Aung Khin

Europe and Asia have been alerted to spread of Ebola as the virus could get out of control in West African countries Guinea, Liberia and Sierra Leone, although suspect cases reported outside these countries have tested negative for the virus.

A Hong Kong woman arriving from Africa was quarantined on suspicion of having contracted the virus, but she has tested negative. The International Civil Aviation Organisation has discussed with global health officials poten-

tial measures to halt the spread through the airports. Some Asian countries are taking preventative measures against the spread of Ebola.

Quarantine inspections of arriving passengers are also being enhanced at the South Korea's Incheon International Airport using an infrared camera to detect fevers.

The World Health Organization has elaborated that the Ebola virus disease, formerly known as Ebola haemorrhagic fever, is a severe, often fatal illness, with a death rate of up to 90%. The illness affects humans and non-human primates such as monkeys, gorillas, and chimpanzees. It has an unknown origin, but fruit bats are considered a possible host of the virus.

After a person comes into contact with an animal infected with Ebola, it can spread within the community from human to human. Infection includes direct contact of broken skin or mucous membranes with the blood, other bodily fluids or secretions such as stool, urine, saliva and semen of infected people.

Although several vaccines are being tested, there are as yet no licensed vaccines for the Ebola virus. Raising awareness of the risk factors and measures is the only way to reduce illness and deaths.

Someone who has been in an area known to have Ebola virus or in contact with a person known or suspected to have Ebola and they begin to have symptoms should seek medical care without delay. The case should be reported to the nearest health care units.

Necessary measures should not be neglected by both health authorities and public. A good immune system is also crucial to prevent this viral disease, with having nutritious and hygienic foods and getting enough sleep.

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.

Sports Ministry uplifts capacity of sports officers

NAY PYI TAW, 2 Aug—The Sports and Physical Education Department under the Ministry of Sports conducted the officer capacity enhancement course 1/2014 at the multipurpose training hall of the Sports Training Centre in Nay Pyi Taw on Friday.

At the ceremony, Vice Chairman of Myanmar Olympic Committee Deputy Minister for Sports U Thaung Htaik stressed the need for officers to thoroughly understand their role in laying the democratic foundation. He said that it is necessary to adopt the long-term plans for development of public sports in addition to short-term plans for securing achievements and medals in the



Deputy Minister for Sports U Thaung Htaik presents certificates to trainee leaders in uplifting their capacity.—MNA

South-East Asian Games. He called for changing

mindset of the sports officers to be able to apply the experiences and knowledge obtained from the training.

The deputy minister presented completion certificates to the trainees.

Altogether 67 trainees attended the training course.

MNA

People raising fund for construction of suspension bridge in Indaw Township

INDAW, 2 Aug—Local people seek the fund for construction of the suspension bridge in Thila Village of Indaw Township in Sagaing Region with a view to ensuring smooth transport of the region.

Thila Village is located at the confluence of Meza and Taung creeks in Indaw Township. It is home to about 1,000 people from 177 households. Most of the people are Shan, Bamar, Kadu and Kanan ethnics, engaging in agriculture tasks. At present, they cross 650-foot wide Meza creek to have access to Indaw-Bamauk Road.

The local people raise



the fund for construction of the bridge by transporting the people from one bank to another by boat. They can earn K8,000 to K25,000 daily. Thanks to the fund built by the local people, they have enjoyed electricity round the clock

as of March 2014. As such, they can operate the small-scale industries in the village.

At present, they are striving for construction a suspension bridge across the Meza Creek.

Kyemon-058

Onion marketable at Tamu border trade camp

TAMU, 2 Aug—The border trade reached K1 billion between Myanmar-India border in Tamu of Sagaing Region in July.

Myanmar exports onion to India at the border trade camp in Tamu and imports motorcycles from India, said an official.

“Trade volume rose remarkably in July, exceeding the estimated trade volume of the border trade. At home, the price of onion is in normal. Local people of Kalay prefer onion produced from Chin Hill more than that of

their region. In recent days, many orders came into the market to buy about 50 tons per day of onion,” said a merchant of Tamu.

At present, Indian merchants purchase 27-28 rupees per kilo of onion from Myanmar. In July, Myanmar exported 85 tons of onion to India through Tamu border trade camp, fetching US\$ 680,000. Due to export of onion to India, the price of onion rose a little in the central Myanmar, said a onion broker of Tamu Township.

Chindwin Thar

GOLD PRICE, FE RATE (2-8-2014)

Yangon Gold Price

Buying K668,900 per tical: Selling K669,700

Mandalay Gold Price

Buying K668,800 per tical: Selling K669,600

FE RATE

USD Buying K969 - Selling K974

SGD Buying K775 - Selling K783

Euro Buying K1295 - Selling K1308

Students invited to participate in painting, cartoon poster contest-2014

YANGON, 2 Aug —The Yangon City Development Committee has invited students from monastic education schools and private schools for the first time to participate in a painting, cartoon and poster contest for 2014. The contest is organized by the YCDC under the theme that all should participate and cooperate in upgrading Yangon City to become a city with a high

living standard.

Students from basic education primary, middle and high schools and universities have also been invited to participate in the contest.

The students from the monastic education and private schools should create art works to raise awareness for the need to preserve Yangon city, said the committee for organizing the contest.

NLM



PHOTO ESSAY

Myanmar workers making a living in Thailand



African leaders agree steps to fight runaway Ebola outbreak

CONAKRY, 2 Aug — West African leaders agreed on Friday to take stronger measures to try to bring the worst outbreak of Ebola under control and prevent it spreading outside the region, including steps to isolate rural communities ravaged by the disease.

The World Health Organization and medical charity Medecins Sans Frontieres said on Friday the outbreak, which has killed 729 people in four West African countries, was out of control and more resources were urgently needed to deal with it.

WHO chief Margaret Chan told a meeting of the presidents of Guinea, Liberia and Sierra Leone — the countries worst affected — that the epidemic was outpacing efforts to contain it and warned of catastrophic consequences in lost lives and economic disruption if the situation were allowed to deteriorate.

“The presidents recognize the serious nature of the Ebola outbreak in their countries,” Chan said after the meeting. “They are determined to take extraordinary measures to stop Ebola in their countries.”

In a communique after their talks, the leaders agreed to deploy security



Sierra Leonean President Ernest Bai Koroma (L), Liberian President Ellen Johnson Sirleaf (C) and Guinean President Alpha Conde (R) speak during a conference on the Ebola virus in Conakry on 1 Aug, 2014. — REUTERS

forces to isolate the frontier regions where 70 percent of the 1,323 cases have been detected.

They banned the transportation of anyone showing signs of disease across borders, and pledged to introduce strict controls at international airports to prevent the virus spreading outside the region.

There was international alarm last week when a US citizen died of Ebola in Nigeria — Africa’s most populous country — after flying there from Liberia. Two people quarantined in Lagos after coming into

contact with him were released on Friday after they tested negative for the disease. The three leaders also agreed to step up efforts to protect local healthcare workers and encourage them to return to work.

With healthcare systems struggling to cope with the highly infectious disease, which requires rigorous precautions to stop it spreading, more than 60 medical workers have lost their lives, hampering efforts to tackle the outbreak.

Liberia has already put in place tough measures including closing all schools

and some government departments. Sierra Leone on Wednesday declared a state of emergency and called in troops to isolate Ebola victims. However, Friday’s agreement marked a reversal by Guinea, which had previously resisted taking tough steps, saying the disease was under control there.

“Somewhat drastic measures will be taken,” Guinea’s Cooperation Minister Moustapha Koutoub Sano said. “These (border) prefectures and communities will be isolated.”

Reuters

Campaign for an independent Scotland stalls before historic vote

LONDON, 2 Aug — The campaign for Scotland to break away from the United Kingdom has stalled just over a month before Scots decide whether to go it alone in a referendum, an analysis of the latest six opinion polls showed on Friday. It came as one of Scotland’s highest profile businesses, Royal Bank of Scotland, said a vote for independence could significantly increase its costs and have a material impact on its business.

The poll research, published 47 days before the on 18 September vote and before a televised debate on Tuesday between the leaders of the “Yes” and “No” campaigns, showed that the independence movement has been largely stuck in the 42-44 percent support range since March after making gains at the start of the year. Published in Britain’s *The Independent* newspaper, the analysis showed that if the results of the last six polls conducted in June and July were averaged out, 57 percent of Scots would reject independence and 43 percent would back breaking away.

That gives the “No” campaign a lead of 14 per-

centage points.

“The ‘Yes’ campaign seems to have stalled while still significantly short of its destination,” said Professor John Curtice of Strathclyde University, who conducted the analysis.

“There isn’t any consistent evidence of movement towards a ‘Yes’ vote since March.” A “yes” vote would cast Britain into uncharted constitutional waters, trigger a prolonged period of uncertainty, and could diminish its clout on the world stage. A “No” vote would be likely to lead to more powers being devolved to Scotland, which already has control over swaths of policy.

The “Yes” campaign says Scotland, which has its own parliament but lacks tax-raising powers, would be freer, better governed and more wealthy if it went it alone.

The “No” campaign has warned that Scotland would be unable to keep the pound, that tens of thousands of jobs in the defence and financial sectors would be at risk, and that an independent Scotland could struggle to rejoin the European Union.

Reuters

Students burdened by heavy workload

BEIJING, 2 Aug — Chinese students are burdened by a heavy academic workload, an education authority inspection of primary and junior high schools across ten provinces has found.

The Ministry of Education (MOE) inspected nine-year compulsory education in Hebei, Shanxi, Liaoning, Jilin, Jiangsu, Anhui, Henan, Hubei, Sichuan and Shaanxi provinces.

The ministry found, for instance, school hours, particularly time allocated for maths and Chinese classes, exceeded permitted lengths. However, school hours spent on art and physical education were limited. Some schools failed to carry out the “one hour physical exercise per day” requirement.

Xinhua

Protesters in Libya’s Benghazi march against militias

BENGHAZI, (Libya) 2 Aug — Two thousand people took to the streets of Benghazi on Friday to protest against Islamist militants and former rebel militias who have been fighting armed forces and taken over an important military base in the eastern Libyan city.

The heavy clashes in Benghazi and the capital Tripoli over the past two weeks have been the worst since the 2011 fall of Muammar Gaddafi, killing more than 200 people and forcing most Western governments to pull their diplomats out of the North African state.

Fierce fighting among rival factions in the country’s two major cities also underscores Libya’s fragile control over the heavily armed brigades of former anti-Gaddafi rebel fighters and militias who refuse to disband.

The Benghazi Revolutionaries Shura Council, an alliance formed by former

rebels and Islamist militants from Ansar al-Sharia, which Washington classifies as a terrorist organization, have forced the army to pull out of Benghazi.

Chanting slogans praising Libya’s army and condemning extremism, protesters marched in Benghazi, the city where in 2012 the US ambassador and three other Americans were killed in an attack on the US mission blamed on Islamist fighters.

“We are here to say Benghazi will not become another Mosul,” said Seraj Byouk, a doctor, referring to the Iraqi city which has fallen under the control of an al-Qaeda splinter group.

The battle in Benghazi has pitted Islamist militants and militias against special forces who have joined ranks with a renegade former army officer, Khalifa Haftar, who had vowed to oust militants from the city.

While Haftar initially gained support from some Libyans weary of militant



Fighters from the Benghazi Shura Council, which includes former rebels and militants from al-Qaeda-linked Ansar al-Sharia, gesture on top of a tank next to the camp of the special forces in Benghazi on 30 July, 2014. — REUTERS

attacks and assassinations, he has failed to make significant gains. Critics dismiss him as a power-hungry, former Gaddafi ally.

There were no sign of the Libyan army, Haftar’s forces or Shura Council forces in the city on Friday, and only civilians were controlling checkpoints and organizing traffic, a Reuters reporter said.

The city’s main police station was destroyed by bombs placed inside the building on Friday morning. The special forces base was empty three days after it was overrun, and other parts of the city were quiet.

Mediators including tribal leaders and elders have been trying to negotiate separate ceasefire agreements to stop the militia

clashes that have turned the two biggest Libyan cities to battlefields.

Libya’s new elected parliament is set to hold its first session, in the town of Tobruk on Saturday. Libya’s acting prime minister, Abdullah al-Thinni, other ministers and around 100 members of parliament arrived in the eastern town on Friday. — Reuters

HEALTH & BUSINESS

Vietnam launches campaign to promote breastfeeding

HO CHI MINH City, 2 Aug — Vietnam has launched here and in other big cities across the country a week-long campaign this month to encourage breastfeeding among Vietnamese mothers as statistics show that the number of newly-born babies being breastfed has decreased in recent years.

The campaign, with the theme, “Mother’s Breast Milk A Valuable Gift to Life”, was organized in support of the World Alliance Breastfeeding Action (WABA) which, since 1991, has held breastfeeding events in the first week of August every year with participation of more than 170 countries, including Vietnam. Currently Vietnam ranks third among the Asia-Pacific countries that have the lowest rate of breastfed babies in the first six months of their life with less than 20 percent, according to the alliance.

A survey by the Vietnam Institute of Nutrition showed that in 2010, 62 percent of Vietnamese babies were breastfed in the first hour after their birth, and 19.6 percent of mothers fed their babies totally with breast milk in the first six months. The rates have decreased in recent years, to around 55 percent and 15 percent, respectively.

Xinhua reporters conducted random surveys

at some pediatric hospitals in HCM City and in capital Hanoi, and the results showed that one out of three pregnant women who gave birth in hospitals brought along a formula milk can, saying she would feed her newly-born baby in case she had little breast milk.

Also, about half of the respondents said they did not know much about breastfeeding.

Local doctors attributed the reasons for the decrease in the number of mothers breastfeeding their babies to their desire to return to work shortly after childbirth. Another reason could be the massive advertisements in the various mass media about the benefits of milk products for infants.

According to Netmat Hajeebhoy, Director of Nutrition and Development Project in Vietnam, the amount of powdered milk consumed in Vietnam had increased 17 percent year on year.

In particular, milk producers and traders had spent more than 10 million US dollars per year for advertising their products, which led to a decrease in breastfeeding rate in Vietnam, from 34 percent in 1998 to about 19 percent in late 2013.

Dr Nguyen Cong Khan, head of the Vietnam



Mothers in HCM City breast-feed their babies in a move to promote breast feeding

National Nutrition Institute, said that those ads have made many parents switch to using powdered milk products for their babies even if this would cost them a lot of money.

Le Thi Minh, a 30-year-old marketing officer for a private media company in HCM City, told Xinhua that she gave birth to a 3.4 kg son two months ago, and she is feeding him with bottle milk.

“My first daughter, born in 3.3 kg, was totally breastfed, but she was so skinny, weighing only 7 kg when she was six months old. That’s why I change

my feeding of my son this time,” Minh said, adding that her baby got nearly 2 kg more after two months old.

She also said that she spent monthly around 3 million VND (150 US dollars) to buy formula milk for her son, and another 2 million VND (100 US dollars) to buy milk products for her 4-year-old daughter.

According to Dr Do Thi Ngoc Diep, Director of Ho Chi Minh City Nutrition Centre, the newly-born babies should be fed with mother’s milk within the first hour and after birth for

the next first six months, without being fed with water, milk powder or supplement food. The more the babies suckle the mothers, the more milk the mothers can produce.

Breastfeeding should be continued until the babies are 24 months old, said the doctor, adding that breast milk is complete with nutrition supplements that are essential to a child’s development.

Statistics from major medical institutions and hospitals in Vietnam showed that breastfed babies are less contaminated by respiratory and diges-

tive diseases compared to those bottle-fed babies.

Also, they have better educational quotient (EQ), less infected with malnutrition or obesity, and chronic diseases such as high blood pressure, diabetes and asthma when growing up.

Vietnam has participated in the World Alliance Breastfeeding Action (WABA) since 1992, but so far has achieved considerable results.

However, since May 2013, Vietnam has extended the maternal leave for women, from four to six months. Along with this, the law on advertisements has prohibited all advertisements of formula milk for the under-24-month-old babies, as well as nutrition supplements for the under-six-month-old babies. Those efforts are aimed at raising the rate of breastfeeding for newly-born babies.

“Vietnam becomes the first nation in the western Pacific region to prohibit advertisements of powdered milk for under-two-year-old kids. This is significant in terms of protecting the mothers’ breastfeeding and the consumers against profit-oriented milk producers and traders,” said Ornella Lincetto, team leader for Maternal and Child Health of the World Health Organization.

Xinhua

Shareholders formally approve Fiat-Chrysler merger to create FCA

MILAN, 2 Aug— The majority of Fiat shareholders on Friday formally approved the merger between the Italian carmaker and US Chrysler that has created Fiat Chrysler Automobiles (FCA), local reports said.

CEO Sergio Marchionne told the shareholders’ meeting in the northern city of Turin, where the Italian company was founded in 1899, that the new group will be able to make a “leap” to greater quality.

He insisted, however, that FCA will maintain its social and historic commitments to Italy, being it “rooted” in the Mediterranean country, according to Turin-based *La Stampa* newspaper.

He said that in all the choices that Fiat has made and will make, the company has always sought “the

right balance between the logic of profit and social responsibility, between economic return and sustainable development.” Fiat’s administrative offices and jobs will remain in Italy, he pledged.

The CEO recalled that Fiat was “on the edge of collapse” in 2004. The fusion with Chrysler, which was the culmination of a major industrial project launched in 2009 and resulted in the world’s

seventh largest auto producer, has offered to Fiat “solid and concrete perspectives of growth” on the international level, he pointed out.

The new production plans after the merger with Chrysler could see annual group revenues exceeding 130 billion euros (175 billion US dollars) in five years and an output of up to seven million cars per year, Marchionne said.

Xinhua



Apple \$450 million e-book settlement wins court approval

NEW YORK, 2 Aug— Apple Inc (AAPL.O) on Friday won preliminary court approval for its \$450 million settlement of claims it harmed consumers by conspiring with five publishers to raise e-book prices.

In approving the accord, US District Judge Denise Cote in Manhattan overcame concerns she had expressed over a settlement provision allowing Apple to pay just \$70 million if related litigation were to drag out.

Apple has been appealing Cote’s July 2013 finding, in a case brought by the US Department of Justice, that it violated antitrust laws for colluding with the publishers to drive up e-book prices and impede rivals such as Amazon.com Inc (AMZN.O).

In June, Apple agreed to settle related class-ac-



The Apple logo is pictured inside the newly opened Omotesando Apple store at a shopping district in Tokyo on 26 June, 2014.— REUTERS

tion litigation brought on behalf of consumers and 33 US states. That accord calls for Apple to pay \$400 million to consumers and \$50 million to lawyers if the federal appeals court in New York upholds Cote’s findings, and nothing if the

Cupertino, California-based company wins its appeal.

But if the appeals court overturns Cote and returns the case to her, perhaps for a new trial, Apple will owe \$50 million to consumers and \$20 million to lawyers.

Reuters

Italy PM Renzi sees no new budget tightening despite weaker growth

ROME, 2 Aug — Italian Prime Minister Matteo Renzi outlined measures on Friday aimed at bolstering public works investments and ruled out an extra budget squeeze despite a gloomier economic outlook.

“We expected higher growth (this year) in line with forecasts all over the euro zone,” he told reporters after a cabinet meeting. “Unfortunately it’s not yet what we expected and we will try to work with more decision and determination.”

But on public spending, Renzi told reporters:

“Things are getting back on track and there’s no surprise on the way (to realign the budget).”

Renzi’s government had targeted 0.8 percent growth for this year, but the Bank of Italy cut its forecast to just 0.2 percent last month.

While Italy’s bond yields are dramatically lower than they were in 2011 and recent employment figures have improved slightly, the euro zone’s third-biggest economy has yet to rebound from a slump that began three years ago.

The 39-year-old Ren-

zi took office about six months ago promising sweeping change to revive growth and overhaul an often inefficient institutional framework, but he has recently hit stiff resistance in parliament to the latter.

A proposed reform of the Senate and Title V of the constitution, which governs the relationship between the regions and the national government, has been mired in parliamentary trench warfare all week, threatening to block the premier’s wider reform agenda.

Renzi’s aim is to halve the size of the Senate and



Italian Prime Minister Matteo Renzi is pictured after delivering his speech at the Italian Parliament in Rome on 24 June, 2014.—REUTERS

turn it into an assembly of regions with little power, replacing the elected Sena-

tors with local mayors and regional politicians.

While some opposi-

tion parties walked out of the Senate on Thursday, refusing to participate in voting for a reform they say will undermine democracy and concentrate too much power in the government’s hands, Renzi was optimistic that “next week will be conclusive” for an initial passage of the reform.

On Friday, Renzi touted measures proposed by the government, called the “unblock Italy” package, saying they would “help along” growth and may free up blocked infrastructure projects worth billions of euros.

Reuters



January 2012 photo shows a Japanese Shinkansen train, which will be used as the base of a high-speed railway system to be introduced in the US state of Texas by 2021. The system will enable passengers to travel between Dallas and Houston in less than 90 minutes. — KYODO NEWS

Bolivia, France negotiate deal on radars, prospecting satellite

LA PAZ, 2 Aug — Bolivia and France are negotiating an agreement for 10 French-made radars to monitor Bolivian airspace and a prospecting satellite, a top diplomat said on Friday.

Speaking at an event marking the delivery of a French-built *Super Puma* helicopter to the Bolivian Air Force, France’s interim ambassador to La Paz Jean Pierre Pauly said the radars would be used to combat the illegal drug trade, aid civilian air traffic control and bolster military security operations.

“We have a project with President Evo Morales for 10 radars to monitor above all Bolivia’s airspace, and help the fight against drug trafficking,” Pauly said in central Cochabamba department, where the event took place.

While Bolivia has six Chinese-made *K-8* planes to intercept any aircraft that illegally enter its airspace, it lacks the radars needed to detect such violations, which often involve drug traffickers.

Vice Minister of Social Defence Felipe Caceres complained on Monday that Bolivia “acquired the Chinese-made *K-8* planes three years ago, but we can’t operate them as long as we don’t have the radars needed to detect clandestine aircraft.”

Pauly said the French government and Morales were also discussing the provision of a prospecting satellite. In April, Morales passed the Airspace Security and Defence Act, which authorizes the shooting down of “enemy” aircraft.—Xinhua

India says WTO deal not dead, can sign in September if concerns addressed

NEW DELHI/GENEVA, 2 Aug — India is willing to sign a global trade deal, which it has torpedoed, if other World Trade Organization members can agree to its parallel demand for concessions on stockpiling food, senior officials in New Delhi said on Friday.

The deadline to sign the WTO pact to ease worldwide customs rules lapsed at midnight in Geneva on Thursday after India demanded that the group also finalize an agreement giving it more freedom to subsidise and stockpile food grains than is allowed by WTO rules.

It was not immediately clear if the latest comments by Indian officials would open a window for the deal to be resurrected.

In Geneva, a trade diplomat from a developing nation said: “The trust that

countries have in what India says is going to be significantly diminished.”

The officials in New Delhi said the deal could be signed as early as September.

“It is ridiculous to say the Bali deal is dead,” said a senior official at India’s trade ministry, referring to the Trade Facilitation Agreement (TFA) pact that was agreed on the Indonesian island of Bali last year.

“We are totally committed to the TFA, and only asking for an agreement on food security,” said the official, who cannot be identified under briefing rules.

Another trade official said: “We expect that the (WTO) director general will call a meeting in September and we are ready to sign the deal in September itself, provided TFA and



US Secretary of State John Kerry (L) meets with Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi (R) at the Prime Minister’s residence in New Delhi on 1 Aug, 2014.

REUTERS

food security issues are passed together. We are quite hopeful for the deal.”

US Secretary of State John Kerry, who was on a visit to India, told Prime Minister Narendra Modi earlier on Friday that India’s refusal to sign the trade deal had undermined the country’s image.

“Failure to sign the Trade Facilitation Agreement sent a confusing signal and undermined the very image Prime Minister Modi is trying to send about India,” a US State Department official told reporters after Kerry’s meeting with Modi.

Reuters

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 In
 Yangon, Mandalay & Nay Pyi Taw
 (2nd August 2014)
 From,
 Merx Construction Management Pte., Ltd.
 Dynamic Engineering and General Trading Co., Ltd.

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE**MV NOBLE BREEZE VOY NO (051)**

Consignees of cargo carried on MV NOBLE BREEZE VOY NO (051) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 3.8.2014 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of A.W.P.T 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 INTERASIA LINES

Phone No: 2301185

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE**MV MERATUS GORONTALO VOY NO (074)**

Consignees of cargo carried on MV MERATUS GORONTALO VOY NO (074) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 3.8.2014 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of A.W.P.T 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 YANG MING LINE

Phone No: 2301185

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE**MV MALTE RAMBOW VOY NO (1430)**

Consignees of cargo carried on MV MALTE RAMBOW VOY NO (1430) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 3.8.2014 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 MCC TRANSPORT (S'PORE)
PTE LTD

Phone No: 2301185

THE REPUBLIC OF THE UNION OF MYANMAR
MINISTRY OF ENERGY
MYANMA OIL AND GAS ENTERPRISE
(INVITATION FOR OPEN TENDER)
(16/2014)

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

Sr.No	Tender No	Description	Remark
(1)	IFB -072(14-15)	Assorted Sizes of Ball Valves and Accessories (6) Items	US\$
(2)	IFB -073(14-15)	Spares for L-Type /ZW-Type Compressor and Dispenser (56) Items	US\$
(3)	IFB -074(14-15)	Steel Wire Ropes for Sand Line and Casing Line (3) Items	US\$
(4)	IFB -075(14-15)	Spares for KB 150 Well Servicing Truck (10) Items	US\$
(5)	IFB -076(14-15)	14" ERW API 5L Grade X-46, 3LPE Coated Steel Line Pipe (45) Miles & Hot Bends	US\$
(6)	IFB -077(14-15)	3.25mm/4mm/4.8mm Electrode(E 6011)(18) Tons	US\$
(7)	IFB -078(14-15)	14" Ball Valve Complete Set (2) Sets	US\$
(8)	IFB -079(14-15)	Heat Shrinkable Sleeve and Closure Patches	US\$
(9)	IFB -080(14-15)	100 KW Diesel Engine Driven Generating Set (1) Set	US\$
(10)	IFB -081(14-15)	Spares for Kenworth Truck (15) Items	US\$
(11)	IFB -082(14-15)	Spares for ATLAS COPCO Compressor (1) Lot	US\$
(12)	IFB -083(14-15)	30" Foam Pigs (15) Nos	US\$
(13)	IFB -084(14-15)	NDT Services for 30" Domestic Gas Pipe Line	US\$
(14)	IFB -085(14-15)	Cathodic Protection System Installation for 30" Domestic Gas Pipe Line	US\$
(15)	IFB -086(14-15)	Nitrogen Purging Services for 30" Domestic Gas Pipe Line	US\$

Tender Closing Date & Time - 25-8-2014, 16:30 Hr.

Tender Document shall be available during office hours commencing from 30th July, 2014 at the Finance Department, Myanma Oil and Gas Enterprise, No (44) Complex, Nay Pyi Taw, Myanmar.
Myanma Oil and Gas Enterprise
Ph: +95 67 - 411097/411206

Weather report

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

STATE OF THE SEA: Squalls with moderate to rough sea are likely at times off and along Myanmar Coasts. Surface wind speed in squalls may reach (35 - 40) m.p.h.

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

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Argentina debt talks must continue after default

NEW YORK / BUENOS AIRES, 2 Aug — Argentina cannot turn its back on negotiations with holdout creditors after defaulting on its sovereign debt, a US judge instructed on Friday, just as the country's failure to service a June interest payment was declared a "credit event."

In a stern tone, US District Judge Thomas Griesa in New York slammed the decision by Latin America's third-biggest economy to defy his order to pay holdout investors in full and instead default on \$29 billion in debt.

As Griesa was speaking, a 15-member committee

facilitated by the International Swaps and Derivatives Association (ISDA) voted unanimously to call the missed coupon payment a "credit event." The move triggers a payout process for holders of insurance on Argentine debt, which analysts estimate could amount to roughly \$1 billion.

Argentina's economy ministry said later in a combative statement that Griesa's attitude sought to favor "vulture funds". It has asked Argentina's securities watchdog to investigate whether the litigation against the nation by holdouts was merely the "facade of speculative maneuver".

Griesa said: "Nothing that has happened this week has removed the necessity of working out a settlement." He chided Argentina for making public statements he characterized as misleading.

"The debts weren't extinguished. There's no bankruptcy, no insolvency proceedings," Griesa said. "The debts are still there."

The veteran judge has been at the centre of Argentina's drawn-out fight against the New York hedge funds suing it for full payment on bonds they bought on the cheap following the country's record 2002 default on \$100 billion in debt.

Reuters

Actress Rani Mukerji preparing for motherhood?

NEW DELHI, 2 Aug — Mardaani actress Rani Mukerjee and her filmmaker husband Aditya Chopra are reportedly leaving no stone unturned to ensure that they are blessed with a bundle of joy.

The couple recently visited the famous Kamakhya temple in Assam, a place which is visited by thousands of women who are hopeful of having

a child

While most of Bollywood seems to be focusing on professional matters, Rani certainly knows how to balance her professional and personal life well and the only thing she is

interested in producing right now seems to be babies.

We are eagerly waiting

for some good news from the couple if that's the case.

PTI

Katy Perry: I don't need a dude to have children

LOS ANGELES, 2 Aug — Singer Katy Perry has plans to have children even if she doesn't meet "the right man" because she believes a woman doesn't need a man to have babies.

However, the singer, who is currently dating disc jockey Diplo after splitting from singer John Mayer, is not considering motherhood right now, reports mirror.co.uk. The 29-year-old star said, "I don't need a dude. It's 2014! We are living in the future; we don't need anything. I don't think I'll have to, but we'll see. I'm

not anti-men. I love men. But there is an option if someone doesn't present himself."

Katy's older sister, Angela Hudson, welcomed her first child into the world in February and it made the singer realize she still isn't ready for motherhood.

She said, "I see that my sister is completely devoted to her child, 24 hours a day. And so far, the little girl is so alert, so aware, so conscious, so beautiful, so happy, and I want to be doing that in the right time, and that's not in the next two years, you know!"

PTI



Brad and
Angelina got
engaged in
2012.
PTI

When Angelina Jolie, Brad Pitt exchanged love-letters

LOS ANGELES, 2 Aug — Actors Angelina Jolie and Brad Pitt kept their romance alive while shooting films in two different continents by sending each other handwritten love letters.

"He was supportive from a distance, and it was quite romantic in a way," Angelina said.

The Salt star was directing Unbroken in Australia, while her fiancé Brad was in London, shooting his own Nazi war film, Fury.

The actors decided to embrace the time period

their onscreen dramas were set in and shunned modern technology in favour of hand written notes, reports femalefirst.co.uk.

"We decided to be of that time when we could imagine he was in the European theatre and I was in the Pacific theatre, and we wrote handwritten letters to each other that were very connecting for us, thinking of the people that were separated for months, if not years, at a time back then," said Angelina.

The couple got engaged in 2012. —PTI

Alzheimer's documentary 'Alive Inside' pushes for music therapy

LOS ANGELES, 2 Aug — Michael Rossato-Bennett initially thought it was the worst job he had ever taken. The filmmaker was flabbergasted when he entered a nursing home on a commission to film a few clips for a website.

"I walked into these hallways with hundreds of residents in wheelchairs just sitting on the side of the hallway, and I had felt like I'd entered into Dante's 'Inferno,'" he said.

That visit, though, eventually sparked "Alive Inside," an award-winning independent documentary on musical therapy for those suffering from Alzheimer's disease and other neurological ailments. When Rossato-Bennett started filming three years ago he met Henry. The 94-year-old man was crumpled in his wheelchair with his head down, eyes closed

and hands clasped. He had been in a nursing home for a decade and couldn't recognize his daughter.

But when a nurse put headphones over Henry's ears and played his favourite music, he began to shuffle his feet, move his arms and sing.

"It was like a resurrection of life in a person," Rossato-Bennett, 53, said. "Then when we took the headphones off the guy, and we started talking to him, the being revealed itself. He had this incredible voice and he spoke poetry, like greater poetry than I'm capable of."

Henry's story, which went viral a few years ago when the video clip was released online, is a common occurrence in the film that has begun its rollout into US theaters this month after winning the audience award for top US documentary at the Sundance Film Festival in January.

Reuters

GENERAL

Michael Jackson's Neverland estate being considered for sale



A general view of the train station at Michael Jackson's Neverland Ranch in Los Olivos, California on 3 July, 2009. — REUTERS

LOS ANGELES, 2 Aug — Late pop singer Michael Jackson's Neverland estate is being considered for sale, a spokesman for the company controlling the property said on Friday.

Owen Blicksilver, spokesman for investment firm Colony Capital LLC, said the company will make a decision soon as to whether it will place Jackson's estate near the central Californian coast on the market. He declined to reveal any further details.

Jackson, who died in June 2009 at age 50 from an overdose of the powerful anesthetic propofol, had handed over the title on his Neverland ranch in 2008 to Colony Capital, which held his \$23 million loan on the property.

At the time of the deal, Colony Capital said the firm had been planning to spruce up the ranch and sell it for an estimated \$70 million to \$80 million or more if Jackson was able to revitalize his career.

Jackson's estate, managed by John McClain and John Branca, said it is "saddened at the prospect of the sale of Neverland," and will continue to manage the singer's family home in Encino, a neighbourhood of Los Angeles.

"We hope and trust that any new owners of Neverland will respect the historical importance and special nature of this wonderful property. Michael's memory lives on in the hearts of his fans worldwide," the

statement said.

Neverland, named by Jackson after the land from the fairytale of Peter Pan, whose main character refused to grow up, featured a private amusement park and zoo on its grounds.

Since his death, Jackson has been featured each year on *Forbes'* highest-earning dead celebrities list, with his estate making an estimated \$160 million from October 2012 to 2013, the magazine said.

Reuters

Star Wars characters attend presentation at Mexico's museum



People dressing up as Star Wars characters attend a presentation at the Memory and Tolerance Museum in Mexico City, capital of Mexico, on 1 Aug, 2014. — XINHUA

MYANMAR TV

(3-8-2014, Sunday)

- 6:00 am
- * Paritta by Venerable Mingun Sayadaw
- 6:45 am
- * The Biography of Kyaungban Tawya Sayadaw (Budalin) (Part-8)
- 7:20 am
- * MRTV's Youth Programme
- 8:35 am
- * Amazing World
- 9:00 am
- * News/ International News
- 9:30 am
- * The Nine Precept
- 10:20 am
- * Science and Technology Programme
- 11:00 am
- * Teleplay
- 12:00 pm
- * News/ International News/ Weather Report
- 12:35 pm
- * Myanmar Movie
- 3:00 pm
- * News
- 4:30 pm
- * University of Distance Education (TV Lectures) -Second Year (History)
- 5:00 pm
- * News
- 6:20 pm
- * Sing & Enjoy
- 7:00 pm
- * News
- 7:20 pm
- * Weekly Entertainment News
- 8:00 pm
- * News/International News/Weather Report
- 9:00 pm
- * News
- * 47th ASEAN Day Quiz Show
- * Teleplay

MYANMAR INTERNATIONAL

(3-8-14 07:00 am~ 4-8-14 07:00 am) MST

- * Local News
- * Products of Myanmar — Mya Setkyar Pure Silk Fabric From Inle Lake
- * World News
- * Tea Leaves
- * Local News
- * Continuation in Rural Tradition
- * World News
- * "Human Rights & Human Dignity Film Festival" Forgiving Sky
- * Local News
- * Me N My Travel (Wonderful Pagodas on The Mount Akauk)
- * World News
- * Snake Dancer
- * Local News
- * Sitagu International Buddhist Academy
- * World News
- * Orphanage
- * Local News
- * The Exhibition Hall of The Great Chronicle of Buddha
- * World News
- * Trishaw Man
- * Local News
- * A Famous Festival & Its Fantastic Fair
- * World News
- * Kyaikhateyoe: My Father The Porter
- * Local News
- * Fishing: Crab Business (Part- I) "Mud Crab"
- * World News
- * The Storytellers
- * Local News
- * Back to A Paradise (Part-1)
- * World News
- * Nang

Lampard set for Manchester City loan



WASHINGTON, 2 Aug — Former Premier League side Chelsea star Frank Lampard will play for Manchester City under a loan deal from his new Major League Soccer Team New York City FC, the *New York Daily News* reported on Friday. Lampard, who spent 13 seasons with Chelsea, signed a two-year deal last week with New York City FC. He will be loaned to Manchester City for six months.

The 36-year-old England midfielder has scored 29 goals in 106 appearances for his country since making his international debut in 1999.

The New York City FC also signed Spanish star David Villa. — Xinhua

Beijing's bid logo for 2022 Winter Olympic Games unveiled



Handout photo provided by Beijing 2022 Winter Olympic Bid Committee on 1 August shows Beijing's bid logo for the 2022 Winter Olympic Games.—XINHUA

Woods, Mickelson, Harrington grouped at PGA Championship

CARY, (North Carolina), 2 Aug — Tiger Woods and Phil Mickelson will continue their long rivalry when they play together in the first two rounds at the PGA Championship in Kentucky next week.

Americans Woods and Mickelson and Irishman Padraig Harrington, the 2008 champion, will tee off in the first round at

the American standings, while Woods, who won the 2000 PGA Championship at Valhalla, is 69th after missing most of this year while recovering from back surgery.

The top nine US players after the PGA Championship make the team automatically, while Watson will later select three others to complete his line-up.

The PGA has kept with tradition by grouping the winners of the first three major champions of the year — American Bubba Watson (Masters), German Martin Kaymer (US Open) and Northern Irishman Rory McIlroy (British Open). They will play at 1:45 pm ET (1745 GMT) on Thursday and 8:35 am ET (1235 GMT) Friday.

World number one Adam Scott of Australia will play with Englishman Lee Westwood and American Jordan Spieth at 8:15 am ET (1215 GMT) and 1:25 pm ET (1725 GMT).

Jason Dufner will start his title defence in the company of two other former champions, fellow American Keegan Bradley and South Korean Yang Yong-eun at 1:55 pm ET (1755 GMT) and 8:45 am ET (1245 GMT).

The PGA Championship field includes every player ranked in the top 100 in the world.

Reuters



Tiger Woods

8:35 am ET (1235 GMT) on Thursday at Valhalla in Kentucky, and at 1:45 pm ET (1745 GMT) on Friday.

The PGA of America could have given Tom Watson, captain of next month's US Ryder Cup team, a chance to observe up close the two stars, who are in danger of failing to earn automatic spots.

Instead, Watson will play the first two rounds with fellow American Steve Stricker and Spaniard Sergio Garcia.

Five-time major winner Mickelson is 10th in

Commonwealth Games — Bolt hits the track to delight Glasgow crowd

GLASGOW, 2 Aug — Six-times Olympic champion Usain Bolt steered Jamaica to a comfortable victory in their 4x100 metres relay heat in front of an expectant crowd at the Commonwealth Games on Friday.

The towering sprinter, an eight-times world champion, ran the final leg as Jamaica easily qualified for Saturday's final in a time of 38.99 seconds ahead of Nigeria.

Legions of fans flooded to Hampden Park to catch a glimpse of Bolt, the 100 and 200 metres world record holder, and his mere presence lit up a Games that has been lacking in genuine world-class athletes in many of the track events.

"I was looking forward to coming out here and showing the people that I'm here to have fun, and I'm here to compete and give my best," Bolt told reporters after making his first ever Commonwealth Games appearance.

"I felt sluggish because it was my first race of the season and I knew it was going to take me time

to get into my rhythm, but otherwise it felt okay.

"I'm just happy to be part of the relay team and be at the Commonwealth Games. For me it's always important coming out here and competing with my team, (important to) feel the vibes, enjoy, laugh, have fun, and just to be one."

With the likes of double Olympic champion Mo Farah and Jamaican sprinter Yohan Blake, who won

a relay gold and two silvers at the London 2012 Olympics, having to pull out injured, the quality of competition has been called into question.

The 27-year-old Bolt was the answer, though, having promised to run in the relay heats to ensure the Scottish fans could see him in action even if his team did not reach the final.

His appearance at the Games was in danger of turning sour earlier in

the week when *The Times* newspaper ran an interview with Bolt in which he was quoted criticising the Games.

The sprinter denied he had made the comments and there were no signs of any ill feeling towards the Jamaican as he posed and postured before an adoring crowd, providing the moment the Games, and its organisers, had been waiting for.

Reuters



Usain Bolt of Jamaica (R) smiles and shakes hands with a competitor after Jamaica won their first heat in the men's 4x100m relay at the 2014 Commonwealth Games in Glasgow, Scotland, on 1 Aug, 2014.—REUTERS

No escaping Van Gaal's gaze for Man United squad

LONDON, 2 Aug — Manchester United's squad have been warned. Slack off in training and new manager Louis van Gaal will be watching you.

The 62-year-old Dutchman is leaving nothing to chance as he prepares in painstaking detail for the start of the Premier League season, introducing

a range of new innovations.

High-definition cameras have been installed at the club's Carrington training facility, meaning every kick can be monitored by the former Bayern Munich and Barcelona coach charged with restoring the 20-times English champions back to the top after a woeful seventh-placed

finish last season.

The no-nonsense coach has also insisted on players speaking English at all times during training and has even replaced rectangular tables in the canteen with round ones to encourage conversation amongst his players.

New pitches, to replicate the Old Trafford

surface, have been put down at Carrington and Van Gaal has prioritized making the squad fitter than it was under former manager David Moyes who was sacked less than a season after taking over from Alex Ferguson.

"I think it is a lot more detailed at the training ground (now)," United defender Evans told a news conference in Michigan where United will play European champions Real Madrid in front of an expected 100,000 fans on Saturday.

"They have spent thousands on it and a few of the lads have seen HD cameras around the pitch.

"We have this system at the minute where he can watch us on the pitch.

"I think a lot of teams use it but we are looking into it in quite a lot of detail," Evans added. "He is saying 'you should be five yards to the right', we are able to see things that are happening live on the pitch.

"That kind of scrutiny is new to every single player.

Reuters



New Manchester United manager Louis Van Gaal speaks to the media during a news conference at the club's Old Trafford Stadium in Manchester, northern England, on 17 July, 2014.—REUTERS