

President U Thein Sein drives stake for Maha Thakyayanthi Buddha Image in Nay Pyi Taw

NAY PYI TAW, 3 Aug — A ceremony to drive stakes and lay cornerstones for Maha Thakyayanthi Buddha Image was held on Aungmawli Hill in Ottarathiri Township of Nay Pyi Taw Council Area on Sunday morning.

President U Thein Sein offered the nine gems casket, equipment for driving stakes and donations to Presiding Abbot of Maha Withutayama Zaygon Monastery Sayadaw Abhidhaja Maha Rattha Guru Bhaddanta Kavisara.

Vice President Dr Sai Mauk Kham and wife Daw Nan Shwe Hmon presented offertories to Paukpyaing Sayadaw.

Vice President U Nyan Tun and wife Daw Khin Aye Myint gave offertories to members of State Central Working Committee of the Sangha Agga Maha Pandita Bhaddanta Acinna.

Chief Justice of the Union U Tun Tun Oo, Commander-in-Chief of



President U Thein Sein offers nine gems casket to Withutayama Zaygon Monastery Sayadaw Abhidhaja Maha Rattha Guru Bhaddanta Kavisara for placing it at the cornerstone of Maha Thakyayanthi Buddha Image in Ottarathiri Township of Nay Pyi Taw Council Area.—MNA

Defence Services Senior ion U Mya Thein, Deputy General Min Aung Hlaing, Commander-in-Chief of Chairman of the Constitutional Tribunal of the Un-

Vice-Senior General Soe Win and party donated alms to members of the Sangha.

The president, vice presidents, the chief justice of the union and the commander-in-chief of defence

services accepted cash donations from wellwishers.

The president, vice presidents, families of defence services, ministers and wellwishers donated (See page 3)

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China (Taipei) to open door to Myanmar workers

By Khaing Thanda Lwin

YANGON, 3 Aug — U Min Hlaing, chairman of Myanmar Overseas Employment Agencies Federation (MOEAF), told the New Light of Myanmar on Sunday there are many job opportunities for Myanmar workers in China (Taipei) and that those are for work in electronic factories with a basic salary K600,000 per month.

The MOEAF held talks with labour



U Min Hlaing, Chairman of Myanmar Overseas Employment Agencies Federation (MOEAF).

organizations of China (Taipei) about this matter during a tour there from 21st to 25th July. These organizations are ready to allow Myanmar workers when the Myanmar government gives the green light. Both sides are working on sending Myanmar workers during this year, he added.

The federation is planning to submit this matter on Monday to the Ministry of Labour, Employment and Social Security.

According to his observation in China (Taipei), U Min Hlaing said Myanmar workers will have easy access to food and accommodation and that they will fully enjoy labour rights as factories in China (Taipei) are found following the rules of the International Labour Organization (ILO).

There will be fewer problems between employers and employees compared with other countries, he suggested.

The chairman said the federation has further plans to open a pre-departure training course for workers who will go to Malaysia and Thailand at the end of August, at Pinlon Hall in Dagon Myothit (North) Township in Yangon, aimed at familiarizing them with the etiquettes of these countries.—NLM

Ancient artifact copper sulphate ornament on view at village museum in Wetlet Tsp

WETLET, 3 Aug—Artifacts of the Pyu culture, including an ornament made of copper sulphate crystals, are being displayed for public observation at the Sayadaw U Naga Museum in Nyaungkoebin Monastery of Hanlin Model Village in Hanlin Pyu Ancient Cultural Area in Wetlet Township of Sagaing Region.

Most of the artifacts in Pyu era such as ornaments, colourful beads and other materials made of stones and bones can be seen at the museums, but there are a few ornaments made of copper sulphate in typical blue-green colour.

“Stone rings, colourful beads and the artifacts made of bones used in Pyu era can be excavated at the ancient cultural areas. I think the Pyu people might



A copper sulphate ornament in Pyu era displayed at Sayadaw U Naga Museum in Hanlin Pyu Ancient Cultural Area in Wetlet Township for preservation of artifacts.

not wear them daily. These ornaments might be used at grand ceremonies. The ornaments made of copper sulphate are very rare products,” said Nyaungkoebin Sayadaw Bhaddanta Te-

janiya, who acts as curator.

The museum showcases various sizes and types of earthenware, beads, stone ornaments, Pyu coins and stone weapons, one (See page 2)

IT knowledge quiz event held in Yangon

NAY PYI TAW, 3 Aug — Myanmar Computer Professionals Association organized the event of IT knowledge quiz at MICT Park in Yangon on Sunday.

At the opening ceremony, Union Minister for Communications and Information Technology U Myat Hein said that the Myanmar Computer Professionals Association Quiz (Central) is believed to help the students in learning information technology which becomes pivotal in modern age. The union minister also urged that IT sector is essential for economic development and poverty reduction plans of the country. Then, the students from states and regions took part in the MCPA Quiz.

The first prize was



Union Minister for Communications and Information Technology U Myat Hein presents prize to a winner in MCPA Quiz.

MNA

won by the students from Mandalay region, the second one by those from Mon State, and the third by Bago Region.—MNA

Blood donation organized by Myittabyuhar Association at Botataung Pagoda

YANGON, 3 Aug — Myittabyuhar Association held its 122nd special blood donation ceremony at Myanan Sankyaw Prayer Hall of Botahtaung Pagoda in Botahtaung Township of Yangon on Sunday. Over 160 bottles

of blood were donated by the participants. After the blood donation, the association treated the participants with nutrition.

“The association holds blood donation ceremonies three times a year in April, August and December,”

said Daw Khin Soe Tint at the ceremony.

Myittabyuhar Association has been donating blood since 1987 and a total of 24,807 bottles of blood have been donated to the blood bank.

Thant Zin Win



More than 200 vacancies available for job seekers from closed Master Sports Factory

By Khaing Thanda Lwin

YANGON, 3 Aug—The Factory and General Labour Law Inspection Department under the Ministry of Labour, Employment and Social Security held a press conference on Saturday in Yangon to discuss solving the problem of workers from Master Sports Shoes Factory.

The shoes factory in Hlinethaya Industrial Zone owned by a South Korean shut down in June, leaving more than 700 workers jobless, most from rural areas, who are facing dif-

ficulties in getting another job. Now, those workers are claiming remaining salaries and compensation from the owner under the law, said the leader of the workers Tun Tun Naing.

At the press conference, 14 shoe factories in Yangon pledged to create job opportunities for more than 200 workers thanks to U Win Shein, Director-General of the department who held negotiations between employers and employees.

He also made a request

to employ those workers at the shoe factories and urged the employees to apply for jobs not only at shoes factories but also at garment factories and other industries.

U Aung Naing, member of the Hlinethaya Township Consultation Body, said the problem absolutely depends on the owner and that the Union Minister has already presented an aide-memoire to the ambassador of the Republic of Korea to Myanmar on 10 July in Nay Pyi Taw to take action against the factory owner.—NLM

Manufacturing Myanmar 2014 Expo from 2 to 4 Oct

YANGON, 3 Aug—The first manufacturing Myanmar 2014 will be exhibited from 2 to 4 October at Myanmar Convention Center (MCC) in Yangon organized by Singapore Exhibition Services Pte Ltd, aimed at opening doors for international firms to enter budding market, according to the source.

International companies from Australia, Germany, Italy, Singapore, China (Taipei), Thailand and the UK will participate in the exhibition and they will display manufacturing machinery,

equipment and materials as well as services.

Mr. Koh Seng Chee, executive director of SPETA, said the entrepreneurs believe in business opportunities in Myanmar.

Project Director Mr. William Lim said that the exhibition will bridge the international companies with developing markets.

The show will introduce new technology to boost productivity of local manufacturing sector, Mr. Dennis Looi, Economic Development Manager of Hong Chek/Finmar Caser said.

NLM

Ancient artifact copper sulphate ornament on view at village museum . . .

(from page 1)

fossil finger of a human worn with bone ring and two fossil skulls with full of teeth, including a blue-green copper sulphate ornament.

These artifacts were collected by Sayadaw U Naga of Nyaungkoebin Monastery and the museum is being maintained by curator Sayadaw U Tejaniya. Everybody on their arrival in the Hanlin ancient cultural region should pay a visit to the U Naga Ancient Cultural Museum in Nyaungkoebin Monastery.—Nanda Min Lwin

Thai opens additional 53 registration centres for migrant workers

By Aung Khin

YANGON, 3 Aug — Thailand's military government issued an official statement of 113/2557 to open additional 53 registration centres for migrant workers from Myanmar, Cambodia and Laos.

The Kingdom has already set up 23 centres for application of work permits in some district. A total of 75 centres will operate registration processes from 28 July this year to 31 March 2015, according

to the official statement.

Moreover, the period will be extended six months for those who could not finish the process of passport application in time.

A migrant workers advocacy group said that although Thai military has reformed policies on migrant workers, that the civilian governments could not adopt.

However, migrant workers who have official documents or those who do not are still facing some problems with complicat-

ed procedures, high cost, brokerage fees to acquire recommendation from the so-called employers, the lack of full authorities by One-Stop Service (OSS) centres of Myanmar government while working with Thai officials.

Chairman U Moe Gyo from JACBA, migrant workers advocacy group, said that while application processes is complicated for Myanmar migrant workers, they have to contact with brokers causing more expenses.

NLM

NATIONAL



Vice President U Nyan Tun drives stake for the place of Maha Thakyanthi Buddha Image in Nay Pyi Taw.—MNA

President U Thein Sein drives.....

(from page 1)
over K571.1 million to the fund for construction of the Buddha image.

U Aung Khaing Thein-

Daw Toe Toe Nwe (Khaing Mar Toe Company) donated a marble stone weighing 100 tons to be curved as the Buddha image.

The president, vice presidents and the commander-in-chief of defence services drove stake for the place of the Buddha Image



Vice President Dr Sai Mauk Kham sprinkles scented water on stake for Maha Thakyanthi Buddha Image.

MNA

and the Gandakuti chamber.

After the ceremony, the president and party planted Gangaw (*Mesua ferrea*) and star-flower saplings at the designated places for greening Aung-

mawli Hill, at an altitude of 1,155 feet, located at Po Zaung Hill in Ottarathiri Township.

Maha Thakyanthi Buddha Image will be 32 feet and two inches high.

MNA

Implementation Committee for Education Promotion meets

YANGON, 3 Aug — The meeting of the special task force, advisory board and leaders of working groups was held at the Diamond Jubilee Hall in Yangon on Sunday.

Chairman of the Implementation Committee for Education Promotion Union Minister at the President Office U Tin Naing Thein delivered a speech at the meeting.

Then, attendees held detailed discussion on the basic education bill, higher education bill and private education bill.

Union Minister for Education Dr Daw Khin San Yi, union deputy minister for education, directors-general and members



Union Minister U Tin Naing Thein meets members of special task force, advisory board and leaders of working groups in discussion on education promotion.—MNA

of the taskforce, the advisory board and the working group attended the meeting.—MNA

Poverty reduction, rural development need prompt action: Union Minister

NAY PYI TAW, 3 Aug — Poverty reduction and rural development, which is a national concern, needs prompt action through the improvement of the agricultural sector, a move which will benefit peasant farmers, who make up over 70% of the nation's population, U Myint Hlaing, Union Minister for Agriculture and Irrigation, told a meeting here on Saturday, sources said.

Union Minister U Myint Hlaing called on culti-

vators to make their crops marketable in terms of quality, quantity and price, noting that high-yield seeds will ensure agricultural produce the marketplace, thereby bringing about a constant source of regular income plus a healthy profit.

According to the union minister, both local and foreign investment companies are willing to provide hybrid seeds and farm technologies.

MNA

Development of Myanmar tourism sector discussed

NAY PYI TAW, 3 Aug — Union Minister for Hotels and Tourism U Htay Aung met with the delegation of GIZ and discussed cooperation for human resources development in the tourism sector in Myanmar.

Then, the union minister attended the work coordination meeting for 2014-15 of Myanmar Hoteliers Association on Saturday. In his speech, the union

minister said tourism sector of Myanmar has grown and has been contributing to the GDP. Therefore, it is necessary to strive for the improvement of the standards of hotel services and enhancement of the capacity of hotel staff, he added. In conclusion, the union ministers urged the hoteliers to make concerted efforts to meet the requirements of the hotel sector.

MNA

Kanbawza group of companies gets highest score for its transparent businesses, social activities

Ranking	Company Name	Anti-corruption Score/%	Organizational Transparency Score/%	Human Rights, Health, Safety and Environment Score/%	Total Score
1	KBZ (Kanbawza)	3.08/92.31%	2.22/66.67%	1.33/40%	6.63
2	Parani	2.69/80.77%	2.22/66.67%	1.67/50%	6.58
3	Max Myanmar	3.33/100%	0.97/29.17%	1.5/45%	5.8
4	Shwe Taung	2.69/80.77%	1.39/41.67%	1.5/45%	5.58
5	Myanmar Petroleum Resources Ltd E & P	1.67/50%	1.67/50%	1.67/50%	5.01
6	SMART	2.82/84.62%	0.83/25%	1.33/40%	4.98
7	City Mart	1.67/50%	2.08/62.50%	1/30%	4.75
8	Dagon	1.03/30.77%	1.67/50%	1.17/35%	3.87
9	Serge Pun and Associates Group	0.84/25.39%	1.74/52.58%	0.66/19.70%	3.24
10	MK	0/0%	1.67/50%	0.02/5%	1.69

YANGON, 3 Aug — The Kanbawza group of companies has acquired the highest score for its transparent businesses and supports for social welfare activities among other local companies.

Myanmar Centre for Responsible Business (MCRB) ranked Myanmar companies which paid income tax for state revenue.

Kyemon

Lacquer ware Buddha images attract local people for obeisance in Hsipaw

HSIPAW, 3 Aug — Hsipaw Township located in northern Shan State has plenty of ancient pagodas and stupas.

Agga Maha Saddhamma Jotikadhaja Bhaddanta Labhavamsa had urged the local people and disciples to pay homage to Presiding Nayaka of Bhaddanta Milinda of Aungmingala Boedaw Monastery of the township.

Sayadaw Bhaddanta Milinda assigned duty to Myanmar lacquer ware expert U Sai Mai Hsai to make a lacquer ware Buddha image at the Myatswedaw Dhammayon of the monastery.

The Buddha image was made of bamboo straps by lacquer ware experts U Bo Ni, U Hsai Mai, U Thaw Mana, U Thein Win, U Kyar Tun and U Sai Aung Nyunt from Teinchay Teinsan Village of Hsipaw Township as of 2001.

The lacquer ware Buddha image identified as Labha Siddhi Maha Muni is seven feet high and five feet wide flanked by two Arhat images.

Lacquer ware expert U Sai Mai Hsai had made two lacquer ware Buddha images at Aungmingala Boedaw Monastery in Hsipaw, one in Nalan Village of Hsipaw Township, two



in Wenting and Monghla of China, 13 at Salin Monastery in Kyaukme Township, one Sivali Arhat image at Aungmingala Boedaw Monastery in Hsipaw, one in Bhamo of Kachin State, one at the

monastery in Shwegu, four at Labha Siddhi statues at Aungmingala Boedaw Monastery, two Maha Muni Buddha images and two Sivali Arhat statues.

The images made of bamboo were painted with

resin and various coating materials to be lacquer wares step by step.

The abbot of Aungmingala Boedaw monastery keeps the Buddha image made of bamboo straps at his monastery for public obeisance.—Sai (Hsipaw)



Locals in central Myanmar get anti-human trafficking knowledge

TATKON, 3 Aug—Recently, Commander of Anti-Trafficking Police Corps Police Brig-Gen Win Naing Tun made a clarification on the efforts of the Myanmar police force for taking preventive measures against trafficking in persons across the nation.

At present, human traf-

fickers target the girls and children to be trafficked to other countries, especially to China and Thailand. Most of human trafficking victims are working at other countries under labour exploitation and sexual abuse.

That is why the Anti-Trafficking Police Corps is making all-out efforts to

combat human traffickers in all corners of the nation, coordinating with the police forces from other countries to be able to save the Myanmar human trafficking victims through various ways and means.

In accord with the guidance of the instruction of the corps, an educative talk was given to local people in Htandawgyi Village-tract of Tatkon Township in Nay Pyi Taw Council Area on Saturday. Township Administrator U Kan Saw Hlaing stressed the need to look after the girls and children not to be fallen under human trafficking.

IP Kyaw Naing Oo of Nay Pyi Taw Anti-Trafficking Squad explained various ways and means on persuasion of human traffickers and their recruitment methods and Commander of Township Police Force Police Major Kyaw Lwin Oo crime reduction in the township. The talk was attended by teachers and students of No 54 Basic Education Middle School, members of Women's Affairs Organization and Maternal and Child Welfare Association and local people totalling over 700.

Tin Soe Lwin (Tatkon)

Expired foods, personal goods, chemicals destroyed in Mandalay

MANDALAY, 3 Aug — Mandalay City Development Committee and Mandalay Region Health Department jointly organized a ceremony to incinerate overage medicines and foodstuffs, personnel and destroy chemicals at Aye Yeik Nyein cemetery in Mandalay on Friday.

Dr Aye Nyein Myat of Food and Drug Administration, Mandalay City Mayor and Mandalay Region Minister for Development Affairs U Aung Moun and officials inspected incineration of the overage products.

Head of Mandalay Region Health Department Dr

Than Win and officials reported on plans to destroy the products and bury the chemicals.

They destroyed various kinds of medicines worth K 21,900,325.65 handed over by AA Medical Product, Nestle brand foodstuffs worth K36,956,439 by Mega Life SC Ltd,

personal goods worth K 5,427,045, medicines worth K 8,227,776 and GSC foodstuffs worth K 35,789,820.

At the ceremony, they set the various products worth K 86,401,080 in total on fire.

They also systematically buried chemicals worth over K 108 million

from 300-bed children's hospital.

Departmental officials regularly check the overage foodstuffs and products at the shops. The medicines and chemicals from the children's hospital destroyed at the ceremony were issued in 1930.

Tin Maung (Mandalay)



REGIONAL

Abe again calls for talks with China's Xi during Nov APEC meeting

SAO PAULO, 3 Aug — Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe on Saturday reiterated his desire to meet with Chinese President Xi Jinping on the sidelines of Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation summit talks in Beijing in November.

"I hope to have a Japan-China summit meeting during the APEC forum in November," Abe said at a press conference in Sao Paulo when asked about strained relations between the two Asian neighbours.

"Japan and China should talk because we have issues to solve," he said. "My door is always open for dialogue, and



Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe

I would like China to have the same attitude."

Since assuming the premiership for the second time in December 2012, Abe has been unable to hold one-on-one talks with Xi as the two countries remain at odds over territory and perceptions of history.

Beijing has said there will be no summit talks unless Tokyo changes its stance on some Japan-controlled, China-claimed islands in the East China Sea.

On the issue of Russia's support of separatists in Ukraine, Abe said Japan will continue to work closely with its Group of Seven partners for

a peaceful solution while saying "no schedule has been set up" for a visit to Japan by Russian President Vladimir Putin later this year.

As for the Japanese economy, Abe stressed that his policy of giving it top priority remains unchanged as he is determined to pull it out of deflation.

Japan will also accelerate work on legislation for a major security policy shift that would enable the country to come to the defence of allies under armed attack by exercising the right to collective self-defence, he said.

Kyodo News

Iran builds rehab centre to curb rising alcohol addiction

TEHERAN, 3 Aug — Iran has opened the country's first state-run rehab and treatment centre for addicts to alcohol, *Teheran Times* daily reported on Sunday.

The center was launched at Medical School of Teheran University "following an increase in alcohol use among Iranians," a physician at the centre, Moham-

mad-Reza Sargolzaiee, was quoted as saying. Non-governmental organizations have already opened centres for providing treatment services to the addicts but this is the first centre which is established by the government to provide consultative and treatment assistance for those suffering from alcohol addiction, an official said.

In February 2013, Iran's police chief Esmail Ahmadi-Moqaddam said that there are about 200,000 people in Iran addicted to alcohol, according to the daily.

The law bans alcohol for Muslim citizens in Iran. Despite prohibition, there is still widespread alcohol use across the country.—Xinhua

Modi heads to Nepal in regional diplomacy push



Prime Minister Narendra Modi

has been held back by years of political instability. It is still struggling with the transition to a constitutional republic after the abolition of the monarchy in 2008.

Nepal's politicians are at odds over the proposed energy pact. Opponents say it would give Indian firms a stranglehold over Nepal's energy resources and bar other countries, like China, from investment in the sector.

Ahead of Modi's visit, Nepal's government urged political groups to put aside their differences, saying it was a chance to rebuild the aid-dependent economy and revitalise ties with India.

"Modi is result-oriented and gives priority to economic prosperity. He wants to consolidate ties with Nepal," Foreign Minister Mahendra Bahadur Pandey said.

During the two-day trip, Modi plans to meet politicians across the spectrum, including Maoists who accuse India of meddling in Nepal's internal affairs. In a statement made before his departure, Modi promised greater political engagement with Nepal. "We will identify steps to strengthen our bilateral cooperation in key sectors, including trade and investment, hydro power, agriculture and agro-processing, environment," he said.

In June, Modi chose Bhutan for his first foreign trip, vowing to ramp up economic ties with the tiny country, which like Nepal shares a border with China.—Reuters

87th anniversary of PLA marked in Beijing



China's Defence Minister Chang Wanquan (front L) raises a toast during a reception held by Chinese Ministry of National Defence to celebrate the 87th anniversary of the founding of the Chinese People's Liberation Army (PLA) in Beijing, capital of China, on 1 Aug, 2014.—XINHUA

Ukrainian forces advance in east as Russia, West squabble



Ukrainian servicemen, who are members of an artillery section, gather near a cannon being fired during a military operation against pro-Russian separatists near Pervomaisk, Luhansk region on 2 Aug, 2014.—REUTERS

KIEV / DONETSK (Ukraine), 3 Aug — Government forces tightened

the noose around the main stronghold of pro-Russian rebels in east Ukraine on

Saturday and, with diplomacy stalled, Moscow and the West stepped up their

war of words. The seizure of Krasnogorovka and Staromikhailovka, towns just

outside Donetsk, brought the army to the edge of one of the last cities still in rebel hands following its advances in the past month. The other is Luhansk, near the border with Russia.

Shelling near the area where a Malaysian airliner was downed last month forced international experts to stop their search for victims at one part of the crash site, but a local ceasefire enabled them to work unhindered at the main part.

Working with sniffer dogs, they recovered more human remains and personal belongings for examination, officials said.

Diplomatic efforts to end the wider conflict, the worst standoff between Moscow and the West since the Cold War ended in 1991, show no sign of progress.

British Prime Minister David Cameron said NATO must rethink its ties with Moscow and called for it to overhaul itself to be better able to defend mem-

ber states from a potential Russian military threat.

“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,” he wrote in a letter to fellow alliance leaders and NATO Secretary General Anders Fogh Rasmussen.

US President Barack Obama also vented his frustration with Russia after speaking to President Vladimir Putin by telephone on Friday. Obama told reporters the United States had done “everything that we can do,” short of going to war, to persuade Putin of the need to resolve the crisis diplomatically.

“But sometimes people don’t always act rationally, and they don’t always act based on their medium- or long-term interests,” he said.—Reuters

Japan set to create space force within SDF in 5 years’ time

TOKYO, 3 Aug — Japan plans to create a space monitoring force within its Self-Defence Forces by around 2019, with the Defence Ministry having already informed the United States, a source close to Japan-US relations said on Saturday.

Initially, the force will be tasked with monitoring dangerous debris floating in Earth’s orbit and protecting satellites from collisions with such debris, the source said.

The Defence Ministry has altered its strategy on the use of space to include the development of such an observatory force, following the 2008 enactment of a law revising the principles for Japan’s non-military activities in space.

Japan will provide the US military with information obtained in the envisaged operation and seek to strengthen bilateral cooperation in space, the so-called “fourth battlefield,” the source said.

According to the source, the ministry plans to

operate the force by using radar and telescope facilities in Okayama Prefecture acquired from Japan Space Forum, a Tokyo-based think-tank that coordinates aerospace-related activities among industry, government, and academia.

Japan Space Forum owns the Spaceguard Center radar facility in Kagamino and telescope facility in Ihara in the western Japan prefecture.

The Defence Ministry will acquire the radar and telescope facilities, jointly with the Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology and Japan Aerospace Exploration Agency.

The Defence Ministry is currently considering putting the new force together with assigned units from the Air Self-Defence Force to work on the issues of space debris and satellites.

According to the source, Japan and the United States have been paying close attention to the debris issue since 2007 when a missile launched from Chi-

na destroyed one of its own satellites as a test.

Some 3,000 fragments of space debris are at risk of colliding with reconnaissance or communications satellites, which could threaten global security.

At space development cooperation talks held in Washington in May, the Japanese and US governments pledged to enhance their cooperation on using satellites for debris monitoring and marine surveillance, and to swiftly reach an agreement on the foundations of the two countries’ reciprocal space operations.

It was also agreed that JAXA should provide information to the US Strategic Command.

Originally, the US military had requested to use the ASDF’s ground-based radar missile detection and evasion radar system, “FPS5,” currently operated in several places including Shimokoshiki Island in Kagoshima Prefecture and Yozadake in Okinawa Prefecture.

Kyodo News

Shelling in Ukraine hinders work at plane crash site

DONETSK, 3 Aug — Shelling near the wreckage of the Malaysian airliner downed in east Ukraine forced international experts to stop working on Saturday at one part of the crash site, the OSCE rights and security group said.

Alexander Hug, deputy head of the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe’s monitoring mission in Ukraine, said the experts worked without problem at the main part of the site.

But despite a local ceasefire agreed by government forces and pro-Russian separatists, shelling was heard about two km (1.2 miles) from a second area where wreckage came down.

“We also had a second detachment today, which tried to look at another debris location about seven kilometres away,” Hug, whose organisation had a group of monitors with the international experts, told reporters. “We had to abandon that visit due to shelling nearby the location.” The

United States says the separatists probably shot down the plane by mistake with a Russian-made missile. The rebels and Moscow deny the accusation and blame the downing on 17 July on Kiev’s military campaign to quell the separatists’ uprising.

Roads to the crash site from the nearest big city, Donetsk, were for several days too dangerous to use because of fighting, but the experts finally got there on Friday and hope now to re-

cover the last of the 298 victims’ remains.

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, found 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.

Reuters



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.—REUTERS

WORLD

Ten dead in strike on school in new Gaza fighting

GAZA, 3 Aug — An Israeli air strike killed at least 10 people and wounded about 30 others on Sunday in a UN-run school in the southern Gaza Strip, a Palestinian official said, as dozens died in Israeli shelling of the enclave and Hamas fired rockets at Israel.

The Israeli military said it was looking into the reported attack, the second to hit a school in less than a week.

Israeli media, on the 27th day of the fighting, reported that most Israeli troops had pulled out of Gaza, and Reuters TV footage showed a column of Israeli tanks and dozens of infantrymen leaving the enclave. An Israeli military spokesman stopped short of calling the move a withdrawal, but said residents

from a number of evacuated Palestinian neighborhoods had been told by the army they could return.

"The troops are in the midst of a redeployment to other parts of the border," said Lieutenant-Colonel Peter Lerner. "Indeed we are releasing troops from the front line but the mission is ongoing. Ground forces are operating. Air forces are operating." In the town of Rafah, where the military has been battling militants, a missile from an Israeli aircraft struck the entrance to the school, where Palestinians who had fled their homes were sheltering, witnesses and medics said.

Ashraf Al-Qidra, spokesman for the Gaza health ministry, said 10 people were killed and 30 wounded.—Reuters

Gaza death toll keeps rising as Israel vows to proceed with offensive "as long as necessary"

GAZA / JERUSALEM, 3 Aug — Israeli bombardment on the southern Gaza Strip on Saturday killed 20 people and injured dozens, medical sources said.

An Israeli airstrike on the southern Gaza Strip city of Khanyounis killed four and injured a number of pedestrians, medics said, adding that Israeli bombardment in the southern Gaza strip of Rafah killed 14 people earlier in the day.

Meanwhile, Gaza health ministry urged the international community to intervene so that the dead bodies and the wounded can be taken to larger hospitals in the Strip.

Security situation in Gaza has dramatically worsened only hours after a 72-hour humanitarian ceasefire

came into force in the early hours of Friday as Israeli artillery fire killed more than 100 Palestinians in Rafah, leaving the hard-earned conflict break simply in tatters.

A Palestinian delegation, including Hamas and Islamic Jihad representatives, flew to Cairo on Saturday to discuss a long-term truce, while Israel refused to attend the talks.

When the ongoing Gaza conflict broke out last month, Egypt proposed a truce deal, accepted by Israel but rejected by Hamas. The Islamist group deemed the proposal unacceptable as many of its key concerns, such as the lift of years of blockade on Gaza, were not recognized.

Egypt's President Abdel Fattah al-Sisi said on Saturday that the Egyptian truce plan provided a "real chance" to end the Gaza conflict, urging both Israel and the Palestinians to implement it.

More than 1680 Palestinians were killed, and some 9000 others were wounded since Israel stepped up the offensive on Gaza on 8 July. On the Israel side, 61 soldiers and three civilians were killed.

Late on Saturday night, Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu said Israel's military campaign in Gaza will continue "with



Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu (R) talks during a Press conference at the Defence Ministry in Tel Aviv, Israel, on 2 Aug, 2014.

XINHUA

full power" as long as necessary to restore Israel's security. "From the beginning, we promised to return the quiet to Israel's citizens and we will continue to act until that aim is achieved," Netanyahu said in a televised statement. "We will take as much time as necessary, and will exert as much force as needed," he vowed.

Netanyahu added that Israel "will make every effort" to bring the alleged captured soldier Hadar Goldin back home. Israel charges the soldier was captured on Friday during a clash with Hamas militants, yet Hamas denied it had any knowledge on the missing soldier.

The security cabinet decided late on Friday night not to send a delegation to the Gaza ceasefire talks in

Cairo, a part of the US /UN backed truce deal, on Saturday as planned, charging there is "no point" in trying to achieve an agreement with Hamas.

Israel launched on 8 July a military offensive to stop Hamas' rocket firing on its southern communities. Tel Aviv later said the bigger threat menacing Israel's security is cross-border tunnels, through which Gaza militants could use to launch attacks and carry out kidnappings of Israeli nationals. However, a military official told Ynet news website earlier in the day that they were "very close to complete" the destruction of some 30 trans-border tunnels. He estimated that all of the known tunnels will be destroyed by Sunday.

Xinhua



Palestinians carry a wounded man following what witnesses said was an Israeli air strike at a United Nations-run school, where displaced Palestinians take refuge, in Rafah in the southern Gaza Strip on 3 Aug, 2014.—REUTERS

Gaza situation is intolerable, UK foreign secretary says

LONDON, 3 Aug — Britain believes the situation in the Gaza Strip has become intolerable and could lead to an increase in anti-Semitic attacks on British Jews, Foreign Secretary Philip Hammond said in a newspaper interview to be published on Sunday.

Hammond told the *Daily Telegraph* he was receiving thousands of emails from Britons "deeply disturbed" at events in Gaza since Israel launched an offensive against Hamas and other guerrillas in response to a surge of cross-border rocket salvos.

"The British public has a strong sense that the situation of the civilian population in Gaza is intolerable and must be addressed — and we agree with them," Hammond said.



Britain's Foreign Secretary Philip Hammond

He called for an immediate ceasefire without conditions. "We understand that Israel has concerns, we understand that Hamas has concerns. We are not saying we're not interested in those," he told the paper in an interview conducted on Thursday.

"But we cannot allow them to stand in the way of

a humanitarian ceasefire. We have to get the killing to stop." Palestinian officials say the Gaza death toll has risen to 1,675, most of them civilians. Israel has confirmed that 63 soldiers have died in combat, while Palestinian shelling has killed three civilians in Israel.

On Saturday, Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu said Israel would go on fighting Hamas in the Gaza Strip even after the army destroys cross-border tunnels used by Palestinian militants to attack its territory, the main goal for its incursion. On Thursday, a group that advises Britain's 260,000 Jews on security matters said anti-Semitic incidents in Britain had risen to a near-record level since the start of the Israeli offensive.—Reuters

Lebanese army battles gunmen at Syria border, 16 killed

BEIRUT, 3 Aug — The Lebanese army battled Islamist fighters near the Syrian border on Saturday, killing 11 militants, a security official said, in a move against al-Qaeda-linked gunmen who earlier had seized a police station and killed two soldiers.

The gunmen included fighters from the Islamic State, a radical Sunni group that has seized control of large areas of Syria and Iraq, Lebanese security officials said.

The fighting in the border town of Aarsal marked some of the worst spillover violence since Syria's three-year-old war began, and risked exacerbating tensions in Lebanon among sectarian groups at odds over the Syrian conflict.

At least three civilians were also killed, and 16 members of the security



Forces loyal to Syria's President Bashar al-Assad are seen at al-Sakhra village in Qalamoun mountains, northeast of Damascus, after taking control of the village from rebel fighters, on 14 April, 2014. — REUTERS

forces were taken hostage after fighters from the Nusra Front, al-Qaeda's branch in Syria, seized the security building, security source said. A local Lebanese official said the men who had been seized were in "a safe

place".

"It's a war right now," said Ali Hujeiri, the local mayor, who spoke briefly to Reuters by telephone from the area. He gave no details on the whereabouts of the men.—Reuters

PERSPECTIVES

Monday, 4 August, 2014

Putting public interest before personal gain

By Kyaw Thura

Most, if not all, people are egocentric in spite of feeling reluctant to confess it. Ego varies in degrees of intensity. It tends to become stronger when people go up through the ranks.

We are by nature loyal to our mother institution. When it comes to choosing between employers and customers, we tend to take sides with the former. It is intense ego that makes us

all blind to justice.

Leaders of all institutions need to shoulder a fiduciary responsibility. They should act in a fair, unbiased manner. They should put the interests of their people before their personal gain.

Simply put, people want to retain their trust in their leaders. They want leaders who will act in the best interest of the public. They want leaders who will put the public interest before their personal gain. They want leaders who will encourage transparency, integrity, competency, and accountability.

The world has seen leaders who died many years ago, but their names survive. They wrote their own histories beautifully. All people in the world remember all of them for their sacrifices in the public interest. Their names go down in history.

It is quite easy to be branded as notorious. In other words, it just takes a single stupid act to

receive a bad reputation. On the other hand, winning public adulation and good reputation that will go down in history is a different story. A single generous act is never enough to win the hearts of people.

All things considered, the fact that history will judge our own deeds is still many years away. Now is the time for all of us to start being nice to each other. It would be better if we did not allow the history to repeat itself.

In short, we should be nice to people on our way up because we will meet them on our way down for sure. Then the history will repeat itself. We will only have ourselves to blame then!

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.



Deputy Minister for Foreign Affairs U Tin Oo Lwin and wife being welcomed by Ambassador of Switzerland Mr Christoph Burgener and wife at the reception to mark the Foundation of the Swiss Confederation in Yangon on 2 August.—MNA

Pre-aviation service launched at Yangon International Airport

NAY PYI TAW, 3 Aug — Myanma Airways under the Ministry of Transport and Thailand-based MJETS Company launched pre-aviation service at new apron of Yangon International Airport on Saturday.

Union Minister for Transport U Nyan Tun Aung opened the ceremony and Managing Director U Than Tun reported on tasks of Myanmar MJETS Business Aviation Centre.

MJETS Company founder Mr William E Heinecke explained process of

mutual cooperation with Myanma Airways for giving the best ground services to the entrepreneurs and companies with regard to the jet transport service in the nation.

MJETS Company Ltd based in Thailand gives good services of Gulfstream Cessna Citation aircrafts, chartered flights

and health service chartered flights, aviation and ground services in the market. Thanks to cooperation with the company, job opportunities will be created for pilots, engineers and ground aviation staff, contributing to development of aviation business of the nation.

MNA

Foresters get knowledge about advanced forest management capacity

SITTWAY, 3 Aug — The Forest Department conducted the capacity enhancement course for senior foresters in Thandwe Township of Rakhine State

from 14 to 16 July, aimed at improving the forest management and developing human resources.

Similar courses were given to trainees in Kyaukp

pyu from 23 to 25 July and in Sittway from 29 to 31 July, according to the Rakhine State Forest Department.

Those senior foresters

were assigned duty to give multiplier courses to other staff members in respective township Forest Departments.

Rakhine State IPRD

Myanmar in International Media

By Kyaw The-ein

The 30 July issue of International New York Times stated that known as thanakha and prized for its sun block and aesthetic qualities, the yellowish paste made from ground tree bark is ubiquitous to Myanmar skin care. While the use of thanakha has outlasted countless Myanmar dynasties, British colonialism and successive Myanmar governments, this ancient practice is being challenged by a new powder that has invaded Myanmar: multinational cosmetic corporations with

seductive advertising campaigns. In the three years since Myanmar began experimenting with democracy after decades of isolation, new ideas and consumer trends have been altering age-old facets of Myanmar daily life.

The 31 July issue of Financial Times (Europe) disclosed that optimists in Thailand and Vietnam say that visitor numbers will soon bounce back of the surface control that has returned to both countries is maintained. Thailand has been through the cycle of conflict, coup and calm

almost too many times to count in modern times. However, neither nation can be complacent during an era of growing competition from less-visited but fast-growing neighbours, including Cambodia and Myanmar, which are trying to develop independent tourist industries and shed their historical reliance on centres such as Bangkok and Ho Chi Minh City as feeder hubs.

According to a commentary in the 31 July issue of The Independent UK, it is an alarming fact that there are so few tigers left in the

wild. It is grim to imagine future generations knowing the magnificent tiger purely as an animal that lives and breeds in captivity. To prevent this bleak prospect, a goal has been set to double the number of tigers in the wild by 2022. Known as Tx2, the goal was established at a global summit in St Petersburg in 2010. It was agreed by the governments of the 13 tiger-range countries, where tigers still roam free: Bangladesh, Bhutan, China, Cambodia, India, Indonesia, Laos, Malaysia, Myanmar, Nepal, Russia, Thailand and Vietnam.



FRIENDLY MATCH HELD: Indian Armed Forces hockey team that arrived in Yangon to play friendly matches with Myanmar Armed Forces for the 10th time competed a friendly match with Theinbyu Youth Club at Theinbyu turf hockey pitch in Mingala Taungnyunt Township of Yangon on Saturday. The Indian Armed Forces hockey team comprising four selected Indian hockey players trounced Theinbyu Youth Club 7-0.

THAN SWE (PABEDAN)

LOCAL NEWS

Rural people satisfied with electrification in Singaing Township

SINGAING, 3 Aug—Electricity is essential for people of both urban and rural areas for uplifting their living standard.

Not only the developed nations but developing ones are focusing on generating electricity through various methods and technologies to be able to supply electricity consumption of the people.

In Myanmar, the Ministry of Electric Power is striving for electrification of urban and rural areas by generating hydropower at suitable areas of creeks and rivers. In addition, the ministry is seeking the best technology to generate electricity through natural gas, waste and solar, etc to satisfy the demand of the people.

In Ohhtaungdaw Village of Singaing Township in Mandalay Region, the local people were delighted at enjoying electricity as of 1 August thanks to concerted efforts of



the village electrification committee and assistance of the region government.

“At a meeting in September 2013, officials of region government said that a plan is underway to supply electricity to all villages in Mandalay Region by 2014. So, we tried hard to carry out electrification for our village. In

October 2013, we held a meeting in the village for electrification. The villagers funded K22 million for the tasks. After forming an electrification committee for the village, the region government allotted K8 million to us. We spent the fund on the tasks and will save the surplus money from the project at the

bank for maintenance of the electricity supply facil-

ities,” said secretary of the village electrification committee U Tun Kyi.

“Mandalay Region has supplied electricity to about 3,000 villages of 4,000. In this regard, the region government implemented the projects through three ways. At first, the power lines were installed to the village from the nearest power grids spending its fund and loans of the government. For the second way, electricity is generated from the solar panels for the villages far from the power grid. It costs too much. The third way is implemented by generating electricity from the generator. To so do, the region government dis-

bursed loans to the village at very soft interest rate. The region government adopted to implement electrification for all villages in the region by 2014,” said region minister for Forestry and Mining U Than Soe Myint at the self-reliant electrification ceremony of the village.

Thanks to permission of Myanma Electric Power Enterprise under the Ministry of Electric Power, a transformer was installed with 11KV power line of the river water pumping station near the village to supply electricity to 110 houses, spending K26.3 million.

Min Htet Aung (Mandalay Sub-printing House)

Over 70 river water pumping stations contribute to boosting production of crops in Mandalay Region



Return of overage vehicles to be accepted at Mandalay South District Office

MANDALAY, 3 Aug—Mandalay Region Directorate of Road Administration on Theinpan Street in Mandalay gave its services to the vehicle owners for accepting their overage vehicles. However, the activities of the directorate caused traffic congestion on the street.

As of 1 August, the process of returning the overage vehicles is being carried out at the Mandalay South District Branch of the directorate near the Sacred Took Relic Pagoda, according to the official of the region directorate.

The directorate al-

lowed return of overage vehicles as of 21 July 2014. So, owners handed over their overage vehicles to the directorate. During the process of return for each vehicles, the stationary vehicle caused traffic congestion on the street.

Thiha Ko Ko (Mandalay)

Myanmar (B) wins over Vietnam 3-0 in Junior Volleyball C'ship

NAY PYI TAW, 3 Aug —The 18th SEA Junior Men's and Women's Volleyball



Championships, hosted by Myanmar, kicked off at Nay Pyi Taw Wunna Theikdi Gymnasium-B in Nay Pyi Taw on Saturday morning.

Chairman of Myanmar Olympic Committee and Union Minister for Sports U Tint Hsan delivered an opening address and opened the championships. At the opening ceremony, Myanmar athletes demonstrated their skills in Chinlone event.

In the debut of women's event, Thailand beat Vietnam 3-0 (25-15), (25-17) and (25-15).

In the men's event, Thailand trounced New Zealand 3-0 (25-20), (25-20) and (25-15), while Myanmar B won over Vietnam 3-0 (25-17), (25-18) and (25-22).

Host Myanmar, Thailand and Vietnam are taking part in the women's event and host Myanmar (A) and (B), New Zealand, Thailand and Vietnam in the men's event.—Yin Phone; Photo: Soe Nyunt

MANDALAY, 3 Aug—The Ministry of Agriculture and Irrigation has been building dams and reservoirs, sluice gates and diversion weirs one after another all over the nation.

Dam and reservoir construction benefit the farmers to be able to cultivate paddy and other crops for ensuring food sufficiency of the nation.

To build a dam or reservoir, it needs to take a large area of land. If there is no large area of land in the designated area, it is necessary to confiscate some part of the farmlands by coordinating with land owner farmers. Officials of the Irrigation Department calculate the cost for giving compensation for the

confiscated farmlands to the land owners.

Otherwise, the river water pumping projects can be implemented in the nation by taking least area for the project to be installed with pumps at the water tanks for irrigating the farmlands.

In Mandalay Region, a total of 72 river water pumping stations are supplying water to the farmlands. In 2013-14 cultivation season for monsoon crops, 40 pumping stations irrigated 14,213 acres of paddy and other crops and 975 acres of cold season crops.

The local authorities and agricultural coordination committees held a meeting for irrigating

10,182 acres of summer paddy and other crops in 2013-14 season.

Sandbanks emerged in the Ayeyawady River in 2014. Thus, the dredgers removed the sandbanks near Lawkanda, Thag-aungti and Letpanchaypaw water pumping stations in NyaungU Township, Hsimeekhon-2 station in Myingyan Township and Ngamya station in Ngazun Township.

Thanks to the river water pumping stations, the local farmers could boost production of agricultural produce. In addition, the water supply contributes to greening of the environment and hygienic activities of the local people.

Thiha Ko Ko (Mandalay)

Egypt denounces US remarks on crackdown as “ignorant”

CAIRO, 3 Aug — The Egyptian Foreign Ministry denounced in a statement on Saturday the recent remarks of the US Department of State that said Egypt used the US military aids in crackdown “against their own people.”

“These remarks show lack of understanding and complete ignorance of the reality of things in Egypt,” Egyptian Foreign Ministry spokesman Badr Abdel-Aaty said, adding that the so-called Egyptian peaceful protesters referred to in the US remarks “carried weapons and horrified innocent people.”

On Thursday, Marie Harf, deputy spokesperson of the US department of State, explained in a press briefing why the United States suspended its annual aid to Egypt while it continued to Israel.

“In Egypt, you had a government cracking down on its

own people. In Israel, you had a government fighting an external threat coming from Gaza that is from a terrorist organization,” Harf told reporters.

Since the overthrow of Egypt’s first democratically-elected president Mohamed Morsi by the military in July 2013, following mass protests against his one-year rule, the United States suspended a large part of its 1.5-billion-dollar annual aid to the turmoil-stricken country.

The Egyptian interim leadership launched a massive security crackdown on Morsi’s supporters that left at least 1,000 killed and thousands more arrested over the past 11 months.

Abdel-Aaty further described Harf’s remarks as “nonobjective,” explaining that the remarks disregarded the fact that the Egyptian

forces used *Apaches* and *F-16* jets only against terrorists who carried out operations that killed many police and military men.

Harf said the situations in Egypt and Israel were “not comparable,” justifying the Israeli use of force against the Palestinian civilians as “legitimate self-defence.”

The ongoing Israeli offensive against the Palestinian Hamas-ruled Gaza Strip left more than 1,660 killed and about 9,000 injured so far, while Hamas attacks killed at least 60 Israeli soldiers and three civilians during the conflict according to official reports.

“The US remarks lacked credibility and objectiveness by drawing unacceptable and unjustifiable comparison between Egypt and Israel while commenting on the Israeli constant aggression on the Gaza Strip that led to the killing of Palestinian civilians,” the Egyptian Foreign Ministry spokesman said.

Xinhua

Roadside bomb kills three women, wounds seven in Somali capital

MOGADISHU, 3 Aug — Three women were killed in the Somali capital on Sunday, and seven others were wounded when a remotely detonated bomb exploded in a busy market, police and witnesses said.

It was not immediately clear who was behind the bombing.

In recent weeks, al Qaeda-linked al Shabaab insurgents have increased gun and bomb attacks in Mogadishu, with the latest incident on July 5, when its fighters attacked the presidential palace.

The women killed in the blast were city workers, who were cleaning the streets when a bomb hidden in a rubbish pit exploded in the busy market sector known as Hodan district of Mogadishu, police said.

“We heard a big blast, and then I could see the old mothers who were cleaning the scene lying, some of them dead and others screaming. The bomb was wrapped in a big, black plastic bag and then placed inside the rubbish along the Taleh street,” Nuria Ahmed, a mother of four who lives near

the scene, told Reuters.

“I counted three dead and seven others injured. I was the first person who arrived for help. It is very unfortunate if mothers are the target.”

Reuters’ witnesses saw the three dead female city cleaners and the other seven injured at the scene and at Madina hospital.

“A remotely controlled roadside bomb killed three female city cleaners and injured seven others in Hodan district. The militants hid the bomb inside a rubbish pit,” Major Ali Afrah, a police officer, told Reuters. African Union forces along with the Somali army launched a new offensive this year against the group, which is fighting to impose a harsh version of Islamic law on Somalia.

Several towns have been taken back from the group, but officials say the Islamists still control large sections of countryside and some settlements, from where they have been able to continue their guerrilla-style campaign.

Reuters

New Libyan parliament meets far from urban battlegrounds

TOBRUK, (Libya), 3 Aug — Libya’s newly elected House of Representatives held its first session on Saturday, holed up in a heavily guarded provincial hotel as armed factions turned the two biggest cities, Tripoli and Benghazi, into battlefields.

Western governments, which have mostly evacuated their diplomats after two weeks of fighting, hope the new parliament can create space for negotiations after the worst clashes since the 2011 war that ousted Muammar Gaddafi.

But there was no sign of a let-up in the capital, Tripoli, where a huge cloud of black smoke spread over the south of the city again on Saturday after a fuel depot near the international airport was hit for the second time in a week as rival Zintan and Misrata brigades battled for control.

In southern Tripoli, at one of the front lines between warring factions, one block of partially built apartments was on fire after being hit. Nearby streets were littered with shell casings from machine-gun fire where Zintan fighters had defended their positions.

Fighting with rockets, anti-aircraft cannon



Smoke rises after rockets fired by one of Libya’s militias struck and ignited a tank in Tripoli on 2 Aug, 2014.—REUTERS

and other heavy artillery in Tripoli and the eastern city of Benghazi has killed more than 200 people, and edged Libya closer to full-scale civil war just three years after the NATO-backed revolution.

Britain became the latest Western government to announce it would close its embassy, fearing being

caught in the crossfire.

Sky News reported on Saturday that a Royal Navy vessel was moving into position off the coast of North Africa, preparing to evacuate British nationals from Libya. Britain’s Ministry of Defence said it did not give details of any assistance it was providing for operational reasons.

With its national army still in formation, Libya has struggled to control heavily armed factions that have entrenched themselves as de facto power brokers in the messy transition since Gaddafi’s one-man rule.

Elected in June, lawmakers met on Saturday for an emergency session in Tobruk, a coastal city

east of Benghazi, where they are supposed to form a new government that many Libyans hope will be a step to ending the crisis.

“Our homeland is burning,” Abu Bakar Baira, interim head of parliament said. “We have to work fast, to meet the demands of the people and save them from this disaster.”

The 200-member parliament will hold its first official session to elect its new president on Monday, Baira said. Some deputies aim to form a new Cabinet to handle the crisis, three of them told Reuters.

Three years after Gaddafi’s demise, few Libyan state institutions have popular legitimacy and the country still has no new constitution. Militias stormed the last parliament repeatedly to threaten lawmakers.

Heavily armed Interior Ministry troops and the Libyan army protected the Tobruk hotel that was chosen to host the parliament meeting after Tripoli and Benghazi were deemed too risky. Western countries are worried Libya’s escalating conflict could create a failed state just across the Mediterranean from mainland Europe. Fearing the violence could spill beyond Libya’s borders, neighbours Egypt, Tunisia and Algeria all warn of the danger a failed Libya would pose. Hundreds of Egyptians clashed on Friday with Tunisian border guards when they tried to force their way out of Libya, fleeing the fighting in Tripoli. Tunisia temporarily closed its frontier with Libya.

Reuters

SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY

Virtual friendships thrive as personal connects fade

NEW DELHI, 3 Aug — There was a time when Friendship Day meant hanging out with buddies and wearing colourful friendship bands. But now, connect virtually through forwarded messages, mobile app stickers or a simple post on a friend's social networking wall overshadows the personal touch and people's socializing skills.

Easy-to-access, affordable Internet and plethora of mobile apps with fun stickers expressing emotions have made many people connect with one another, but mostly on a superficial level, say experts.

"Friendship bands have become old fashioned. Now, there is WhatsApp, Instagram where you can post your photos with your friends. Virtual friends are more now," Nidhi Sharma, a stylist, told IANS.

While there was paucity of time earlier as well, technology is thought to have made people lazier



and as a result, personal meetings have reduced — thus affecting the quality of friendship. The dilemma is that people feel closer by connecting through apps, but they are actually drifting away.

"You have Internet on phone, work space and don't have to take out extra time to stay in touch with people. Now, people would rather use WhatsApp or do video chat or send pictures. You are becoming closer because of technology, but it has become more superfi-

cial," Harsheen K. Arora, a psychologist, told IANS.

Davistine Liddle, a 30-year-old online marketing professional, agrees that a busy schedule keeps him away from meeting his friends regularly and that technology helps to stay connected. But, yes, he misses that personal touch.

"I stopped buying gifts for friends after I finished school. Now, it's more about WhatsApp, Facebook and Hike messenger. The stickers are pretty interesting. People have become

busy and all these sites and apps help to remember their birthdays or know what's happening in their lives.

"Personal meetings have reduced and I miss that, but most friends are working in different locations, so that gets tough," he said. Consultant psychiatrist Rajiv Mehta describes the new friendship trend as "shallow". "There are some who are active on social networking sites or mobile apps as they are following others blindly. They feel that everybody is doing so and should follow them. Lack of time and effort have also made people turn to virtual friends.

"So, close friendships are not there. Earlier friendship used to mean a lot. People used to take a decision on the basis of friendship. Now, it's becoming shallow," said Mehta. Raman Suri, a life strategist and success coach, says people are now living in a "fancy land" and the fascination for

social networking sites and apps is nothing more than an addiction.

"All these sites are designed in a way that people get addicted to them and they are living in a fancy land where they feel that if they send a friend request to a stranger and that stranger accepts, they become friends in reality. That doesn't happen," said Suri.

Suri says it's time for a reality check. "There are friends on social networking sites, but when you meet them in person you get different energy... We are living our life on autopilot mode. It is easier for robots to lead a virtual life rather than a realistic one," he added.

The virtual medium has affected people's confidence to socialise in the real world, Suri elaborates, saying, "People want to save time but the more time they spend on sites and apps the more they lose confidence of meeting people." — PTI

New study explains the Moon's "lemon shape"

LONDON, 3 Aug — Rather than being a perfect sphere, the Moon is slightly flattened with a bulge at one side, like a lemon. The processes that created our lemon-shaped satellite are uncovered in British scientific journal *Nature* last week.

Learning how the Moon gained these features could help us to understand other events in lunar evolution. However, attempts to interpret the basic shape of the Moon are hampered by the presence of large basins on its surface that formed after the crust solidified.

To circumvent this issue, American scientists from University of California analysed the topography and gravity outside these basins, and explain the shape of the Moon as the consequence of a combination of two early tidal processes.

The scientists proposed that, the main cause of the squashed shape is a crust-building process controlled by early tidal heating throughout the Moon, while its outer shell was weak enough to be affected by the Earth's tidal forces.

They also suggested that the bulge formed later via tidal forces as the Moon drifted away from the Earth. In addition, an uneven distribution of density in the Moon's interior eventually reoriented its polar axis by about 36 degrees to the configuration we observe today. The researchers claimed that, their results are the best explanation yet of the Moon's lemon shape.

Xinhua

Google confirms sale of barge docked in Main



NEW DELHI, 3 Aug — Google is confirming that the barge it docked in Maine has been sold.

The barge carries dozens of old shipping containers that were joined to create a four-story building. Google envisioned it as one of three floating retail stores. *The Portland Press Herald* says an international company is buying the barge and taking it on an ocean voyage. Portland Harbour's deputy harbour master says the containers will be disassembled and scrapped.

The barge first docked

in Portland Harbour in October and moved to South Portland on Wednesday. A Portland city spokeswoman says the city received \$400,000 in state reimbursements while it docked there.

Google initially had little to say about the barges, leading to speculation about its intentions, with industry watchers expecting anything from cheaper-cooled data centres, to another of the search giant's visionary concepts like Internet via high-altitude balloon, to self-driving cars and smart contact lenses.

The Mountain View giant later revealed the barges were to be high-end stores and 'interactive spaces' where people could learn about new technology. A Press statement had been issued, dispelling rumours: "Google Barge ... A floating data center? A wild party boat? A barge housing the last remaining dinosaur? Sadly, none of the above. [...] Although it's still early days and things may change, we're exploring using the barge as an interactive space where people can learn about new technology." — PTI

BlackBerry makes BBM available for Windows Phone users

NEW DELHI, 3 Aug — Moving one-step closer to becoming a platform agnostic messaging software, BlackBerry Messenger has made its debut for on Windows Phone 8 and higher.

"We are intent on bringing the most popular application experiences to Windows Phone, and with BBM, we are pleased to bring many of its top features to the Windows Phone platform," said Bryan Biniak, Vice President and General Manager, Developer Experience, Microsoft.

John Sims, president

Global Enterprise Services at BlackBerry, said the BBM app for Windows Phone shows our commitment to supporting cross-platform capabilities, and we are excited to be working with Microsoft to deliver a new level of collaboration to the Windows Phone platform.

The app has been built specifically for the Windows Phone experience, and BBM users will have a "familiar, native user experience that embraces the clean, modern design of the Windows Phone UI". — PTI

Colombian President attends 2014 Heroes Fest with co-founder of Apple



Image provided by the Colombia's Presidency shows the Colombian President Juan Manuel Santos (L) and Steve Wozniak, co-founder of the Apple Inc, participating in the 2014 Heroes Fest in the city of Medellin, Colombia, on 2 Aug, 2014. — XINHUA

Nishijin still offering free kimono shows to attract foreigners

KYOTO, 3 Aug—The Nishijin district in Kyoto, which is famous for traditional weaving, is continuing to offer a free kimono fashion show in an effort to attract foreign tourists and rejuvenate the industry.

Since 1956, the Nishijin Textile Centre in the ancient capital's Kamigyo Ward has organized some 140,000 shows, attracting a total of 14 million visitors.

The Nishijin weaving business, which dates back more than 1,200 years, has been falling into dire straits as few people today wear kimonos on a daily basis and inexpensive kimonos are imported.

In 2013, total shipments of Nishijin textile products are estimated at 34 billion yen in stark contrast with about 280 billion yen in 1990, according to the



Nishijin Textile Industrial Association.

The current number of weavers registered with the association is also less than half the 1990 level.

Against this backdrop, the association has directed its attention to foreign tourists. "Nothing would please us more than if foreign visitors who come to see our

show spread the word about Nishijin's excellent weaving techniques around the world," Toshimitsu Ikariyama, a 77-year-old senior director of the association,

said. Ikariyama's dreams may not be so unrealistic.

One sunny afternoon in early summer, tourists from Asia packed the centre's hall as women in colorful kimonos appeared on stage, and voiced their delight with shouts of "Beautiful!" and "Gorgeous!" as they took photos with their cameras and smartphones.

Yoshiko Chiaki, 67, who has produced the show for many years, said, "Since people from other countries in Asia seem fond of bright colours, we always choose kimonos containing red or gold." "We aim to display beautiful kimonos, not to bore visitors," Chiaki said. The center, which opened in 1915, launched the kimono show with the aim of promoting the industry and local tourism. The show became free of charge in 1996.

The centre stages seven shows a day except for the New Year holiday season. In a 15-minute show, seven models put on a total of 10 different kimonos.

Chiaki said she sometimes uses kimonos produced in other parts of Japan such as Yonezawa, Yamagata Prefecture, and Amami-Oshima Island, Kagoshima Prefecture.

Yuzuru Otsuki, 53, director of the center, is now preparing to seek a Guinness world record for the center for the largest number of kimono shows and the number of visitors.

"Our shows should be a precious place where people can learn about truly authentic kimono culture," Otsuki said. "We hope as many people as possible will learn about us."

Kyodo News

84% view collective self-defence explanation as insufficient

TOKYO, 3 Aug—A Kyodo News survey showed on Sunday that 84.1 percent of respondents believe the government has yet to provide a sufficient explanation regarding the Cabinet's recent decision to allow Japan to exercise the right to collective self-defence.

In the nationwide telephone survey conducted on Saturday and Sunday, the approval rating for Prime Minister Shinzo Abe's Cabinet stood at 49.8 percent, up from 47.8 percent in the previous survey.

In the survey, 60.2 percent of respondents said they oppose exercising the right to collective self-defence, while 31.3 percent expressed support.—Kyodo News



Large lantern floats depicting human figures parade through the streets in Aomori, northeastern Japan, on 2 Aug, 2014, the first day of the six-day Aomori Nebuta Festival. The largest float called Nebuta is about nine meters wide, about five meters tall, and weighs about four tons. According to organizers, the festival attracts as many as three million people every year.

KYODO NEWS



Women dance during the 14th Copenhagen harbour cultural festival, near Islands Brygge in Copenhagen, Denmark, on 2 Aug, 2014. The Copenhagen harbour cultural festival will last for three days.—XINUA

China's power consumption to jump 6 pct

BEIJING, 3 Aug — China's power consumption, an important indicator of economic activity, is expected to rise 6.5 percent in the second quarter, bringing the annual rate for 2014 to around 6 percent, according to a report released by China Electricity Council.

In the first half of the year, power use rose 5.3 percent from a year ago to reach 2.63 trillion kwh, earlier official data showed, as the economy expanded 7.4 percent during the period, slightly below the government target of 7.5 percent.

In breakdown, electricity use by primary industries

dropped 4.6 percent year on year. Power consumption by the industrial sector rose 5.1 percent while that by tertiary industries went up 6.9 percent. The China Electricity Council expects the economy to steadily grow in the latter half of the year as a string of government support policies gradually filter through, which will give a boost to power use.

So far, several key economic indicators have pointed to gaining strength in the economy. The purchasing managers' index rose to 51.7 in July, the highest level in more than two years.—Xinhua



People take a ride on a miniature train at Burnaby Central Railway in Burnaby, Canada, on 2 Aug, 2014. XINHUA

Magnitude 6.0 quake strikes off coast of Japan

SINGAPORE, 3 Aug—A magnitude 6.0 earthquake struck off the coast of Japan's Okinawa island on Sunday, according to the Pacific Tsunami Warning Centre.

The quake struck at a depth of about 6.2 miles, 125 miles north-northeast of Okinawa's capital city of Naha. No tsunami warning was issued.—Reuters

WORLD

Russia rejects US accusation over nuclear treaty violation

Moscow, 3 Aug — Russia on Saturday rejected US allegation of Moscow's violation of the Intermediate-Range Nuclear Forces Treaty (INF Treaty), and accused Washington of hindering global security.

In a statement, the Russian Foreign Ministry called the US allegation "another attempt to discredit Russia" which "looks biased and brazen, especially in consideration of how loosely the United States itself has applied the INF Treaty provisions on numerous occasions."

It said Washington intended to deploy MK-41

launch systems that can be used for launching intermediate-range cruise missiles in Poland and Romania.

"The issue ... has become especially pressing of late ... their appearance on the ground would grossly violate the INF Treaty," said the statement.

Noting the US government "is surely aware of all these problems," Moscow said by leveling accusations against Russia, Washington was trying to distract attention from its own violations.

It added that the United States unilaterally withdrew from the Anti-Ballis-

tic Missile Treaty (ABM Treaty) in 2001, and has developed the provocative "prompt global strike" strategy.

"The worrisome situation concerning the INF's observance causes special concerns amid the continued purposeful and methodical destabilization of the global strategic stability system by Washington," the statement said.

US President Barack Obama has reportedly warned Russian President Vladimir Putin that Moscow was violating the INF Treaty by testing a new cruise missile.—Xinhua

Sunni insurgents, Kurds battle over north Iraq town

BAGHDAD, 3 Aug — Islamic State militants fought Kurdish forces on Saturday for the northern Iraqi town of Zumar located near an oil field and the Syrian border amid conflicting reports of who was in control.

Jabbar Yawar, secretary general of the Kurdish peshmerga fighters, said his forces controlled Zumar and reinforcements were on the way.

But four residents in different parts of the town said by telephone that Islamic State fighters were in control. "Many Islamic State vehicles are wandering the town of Zumar and I can also see the flags on top of buildings," said one resident.

The group formerly known as the Islamic State of Iraq and the Levant staged a lightning advance through northern Iraq in June, seizing large swathes of land in the biggest challenge to the government of

Prime Minister Nuri al-Maliki. Control of Zumar by Islamic State fighters would give them access to the small Ain Zalah oil field and a nearby refinery. The insurgents have already seized four oil fields, which help fund their operations.

A Kurdish police official in Zumar said Islamic State fighters in pickup trucks mounted with weapons attacked the town from three directions early on Saturday. There were no immediate details of casualties. Islamic State's offensive has whipped up sectarian tensions and threatened to dismember Iraq. The sectarian conflict poses the gravest danger to the OPEC member's stability since the 2003 fall of Saddam Hussein after a US-led invasion.

Shi'ite militias and Kurdish fighters now rival the US-trained and funded Iraqi army in their ability to challenge the insurgents.

Reuters

Islamic State captures Iraqi town, oil field — witnesses

BAGHDAD, 3 Aug — Islamic State Sunni insurgents have captured the northern Iraqi town of Zumar and a nearby oil field after a battle with Kurdish forces who had control of the area, witnesses said on Sunday.

Islamic State, which staged a lightning advance through northern Iraq in June, has warned residents of nearby villages along the border with Syria to leave their homes, suggesting they were planning an assault, witnesses said.

The militant group, which controls large swathes of northern and western Iraq, has threatened to march on Baghdad but has stalled its campaign just north of the town of Samarra, 100 km (62 miles) north of Baghdad.

But it has been trying to consolidate its gains, setting its sights on strategic towns near oilfields, as well as the border with Syria so

that its fighters can move easily back and forth and bring in supplies.

An official in the Northern Oil Company said Islamic State fighters had taken control of the Ain Zalah oil field and a nearby refinery.

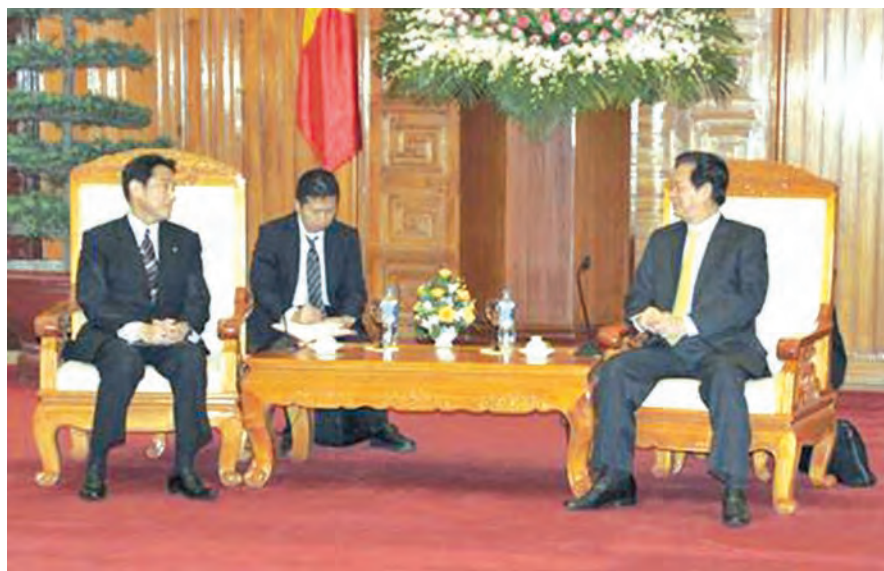
The insurgents had already seized four oil fields, which help fund their operations.

In a statement on its website, Islamic State said its fighters killed scores of Kurdish fighters in a 24-hour battle and then took over Zumar and 12 villages. "Hundreds fled leaving vehicles and a huge number of weapons and munitions and the brothers control many areas," Islamic State said, including Zumar and "the area of Ain Zalah which is rich with oil."

"The fighters arrived in the border triangle between Iraq, Syria and Turkey," it said.

Reuters

Japan to give 6 ships to Vietnam



Visiting Japanese Foreign Minister Fumio Kishida (L) talks with Vietnamese Prime Minister Nguyen Tan Dung (R) in Hanoi on 1 Aug, 2014. The Vietnamese prime minister thanked Japan for providing Vietnam with six vessels that can be used as patrol ships to help boost security capability.—KYODO NEWS

UN says Sri Lanka illegally returning Pakistani asylum seekers

GENEVA / COLOMBO, 3 Aug — Sri Lanka must stop deporting Pakistani asylum seekers, a practice banned under international law, the UN refugee agency UNHCR said on Saturday.

Sri Lanka began arresting asylum seekers and refugees on 9 June and has since detained 214 Pakistanis and Afghans in two asylum centers, UNHCR said. Authorities in Colombo said the influx of illegal immigrants in the past year had become a burden on state resources and potentially compromised state and regional security. The

Sri Lankan government also blamed people trafficking networks for the recent rise in asylum seekers reaching its shores. In the past two days, Sri Lanka had deported 18 people, with another 10 deportations expected on Sunday, UNHCR said in a statement, adding that the repatriations breached a "no forced return" principle.

"This principle is binding on all states and precludes them from sending asylum seekers and refugees to a country where their life or freedom would be threatened," it said.

Reuters

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A man arranges boxes of donated relief supplies for Palestinian people at a collection center in Yellow House in Caracas, Venezuela, on 2 Aug, 2014.

XINHUA

Weather report

FORECAST VALID UNTIL EVENING OF THE 4th August, 2014: Rain or thundershowers will be isolated in Lower Sagaing Region, scattered in Mandalay Region and Kayah State, fairly widespread in Magway Region and widespread in the remaining Regions and States with likelihood of regionally heavy falls in Bago and Ayeyarwady Regions, Rakhine and Mon States and isolated heavy falls in Yangon and Taninthayi Regions, Kayin State. Degree of certainty is (100%).

French police arrest Islamist militant at a Paris airport

PARIS, 3 Aug — French police on Friday arrested a Franco-Moroccan man they described as an Islamist militant at Roissy international airport on suspicion that he was part of a conspiracy to carry out attacks in France.

The man, whose name and age were not made public, had just disembarked from a plane arriving from Istanbul after his expulsion by Turkish authorities, the Interior Ministry said in a statement.

The man was being

held in police custody pending formal charges. A judge had previously opened a preliminary investigation to determine whether the man was part of a conspiracy to carry out attacks, the statement said.

Suspects in terror-related cases can be detained for up to 96 hours without being formally charged.

The statement did not say where the man had traveled before reaching Turkey, which is a common waystation for European Islamist militants en

route to Syria.

Thousands of foreign fighters, many from Western Europe, have joined extremist Islamist groups fighting in Syria and Iraq, according to US and European intelligence estimates.

Fears that militants returning from Syria could carry out attacks in the West were heightened in June when a man who had fought in Syria was arrested on suspicion of killing four people at a Jewish museum in Brussels.

Reuters

Jennifer Lawrence and Nicholas Hoult break up



Jennifer and Nicholas have split because of their hectic work schedules. PTI

LOS ANGELES, 3 Aug — Actress Jennifer has reportedly broken up with her beau and actor Nicholas Hoult once again.

The Academy Award-winning actress has split up with her longtime boyfriend again after rekindling their relationship in the summer of 2013. The couple has separated due to their conflicting work schedules, reports People.com.

They met while co-starring in 2011 movie X-Men: First Class and split in 2013 before reuniting both off and on screen in X-Men: Days of Future Past.

A source close to the pair said, "They spent a lot of time apart because of work and it was difficult on their relationship".

"The split was very amicable," the source added.—PTI

English Vinglish mints \$420,000 in Japan



The movie, backed by Eros International, set the cash registers ringing at the Japanese box office with earning of a bumper 42,608,115 yen (\$420,000 approx) and continues to run successfully in theatres.

Directed by Gauri Shinde, the film tells a moving tale of a home-bound woman who doesn't know English, but an overseas trip helps her to bring out the best in her.

In Japan, the film released across 33 screens on 28 June.

The grand premiere of the film held in Tokyo on 27 May was a huge success and was attended by Sridevi along with First Lady of Japan, Akie Abe and famous Japanese singer, Agnes Chan.

The buzz for the film in Japan began last year itself when director Mr Shinde was invited to attend the prestigious Aichi International Women's Film Festival in August 2013 for the film's screening.—PTI

The film released across 33 screens in Japan on 28 June.—PTI

NEW DELHI, 3 Aug — English Vinglish featuring Sridevi has amassed \$420,000 at the Japanese box office, as it continues its dream run in international markets.

It is said to have become the second highest Hindi film in Japan after 3 Idiots.

Paul Walker's death affected my acting: Vin Diesel

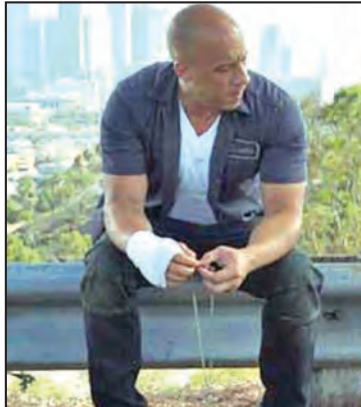
LOS ANGELES, 3 Aug —Actor Vin Diesel struggled to control his emotions on camera when he returned to work on the new "Fast and Furious" film following Paul Walker's car crash death last November.

The production on the film was put on hold to allow the cast and crew time to mourn the actor's death, and for Diesel, dealing with Walker's death was a "heavy thing".

He said: "I grew up in the bouncing world and we lost people bouncing, but the brotherhood in Paul Walker was something completely different.

"We grew up in the business together and we

became famous together and we represented the biggest franchise together and he was my partner and it's a strange thing... I've been acting all my life and they don't teach you in acting how to mourn someone and simultaneously pretend they're in a scene with you.

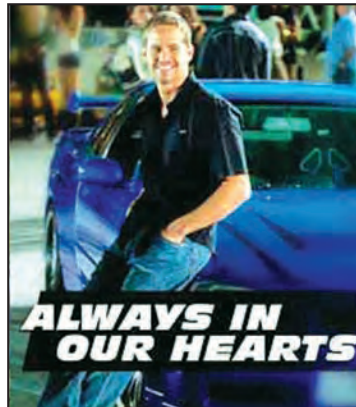


It's one of the darker moments in my journey."

The actor also explained that Walker's death made him rethink shooting dangerous action scenes in films. "A lot of people don't realise when you do these action movies you put your life on the line

more than you should... When you're doing these action films and you're... for lack of a better description, a method-like thespian, and when you go into these action sequences, you put yourself in harm's way in kind of an unfair fashion," he said.—PTI

The actor also explained that Walker's death made him rethink shooting dangerous action scenes in films. PTI



"American Idol" singer Michael Johns dies at 35, programme says

LOS ANGELES, 3 Aug — Singer and "American Idol" finalist Michael Johns has died at the age of 35, the music programme said on Saturday. No official cause of death was given.

The Australian-born

singer finished eighth on Season 7 of the popular music programme, according to a report on his death by People Magazine. He then wrote songs for films, documentaries and other artists, according to Peo-

ple. The Hollywood Reporter said it was believed Johns died as a result of a blood clot that originated in his ankle.

"Michael Johns was an incredible talent and we are deeply saddened by the

news of his passing," said a statement from the Fox network and American Idol on the programme's official Facebook page. "He was a part of our American Idol family and he will be truly missed." — Reuters

Australian singer Michael Johns arrives at the premiere of documentary film "Fed Up" in West Hollywood, California on 8 May, 2014. REUTERS



Manet's 'Le Printemps' poised to reach record auction price



A Christie's employee looks at Edouard Manet's 1881 celebrated portrait "Le Printemps," at Christie's in New York on 1 Aug, 2014.—REUTERS

NEW YORK, 3 Aug — Edouard Manet's 1881 celebrated portrait "Le Printemps," which has been owned by the same family for a century, will be auctioned for the first time this year and could fetch up to \$35 million, Christie's auction house said on Friday.

The rare profile painting of the young Parisian actress Jeanne Demarsy, one of Manet's most famous works,

will be among the highlights of Christie's Impressionist and Modern Art sale in New York on 5 November.

The sale follows Christie's best spring auctions in years and a boom in the global art and antique market — sales last year rose 8 percent to \$65.9 billion, the highest level since 2007, according to the latest report from the European Fine Art Foundation.—Reuters

'Katti Batti' different from usual Bollywood love stories: Kangana Ranaut

MUMBAI, 3 Aug — Kangana Ranaut, who will be seen with Imran Khan in Nikhil Advani's love story 'Katti Batti', says it is different from the usual romance dramas seen in B-Town.

"We will start shooting for 'Katti Batti' in September. It is a very good love story. It is different from the usual love stories that we get to see in Bollywood films," Kangana said on Friday.

She was here at the launch of the cover of Grazia magazine featuring her.

"The element of love has been depicted in a different way in that film. The film's idea and philosophy is very good," added the 27-year-old.

This is the first time Kangana has been paired with Imran and she is looking forward to it.

Meanwhile, she has also been ap-

proached for an Italian ever, she is finding it accommodate it in her busy schedule.

film. How-tough to



"I have got the offer for an Italian film but I have not decided on whether I will be able to fit that in my schedule or not," Kangana said.

Currently, she has three films in her kitty, including "Divine Lovers" and "Tanu Weds Manu 2."

"Katti Batti" will be produced by UTV Motion Pictures.

PTI

GENERAL

Supporters, foes of pot legalization post rival ads in NY Times

SEATTLE, 3 Aug — Supporters and opponents of the federal ban on marijuana took to the pages of *The New York Times* this weekend with full-page colour advertisements that highlight the fast-evolving debate in the United States about medical and recreational drug use.

The advertisements followed *The New York Times'* decision last month in a series of editorials to call for repealing the ban, the biggest US newspaper to do so. Opinion polls show a majority of Americans now back the legalization of pot.

The ads are also designed to undercut pot's decades-old association with the counterculture and drop-outs by featuring people dressed in everyday working attire.

In an ad in Sunday's edition of the paper, Seattle-based Privateer Holdings features its medical marijuana website Leafly.

com, which helps users to find pot dispensaries and to choose strains.

The ad depicts a woman jogger in Spandex gliding past a brownstone building as a crisply dressed professional man stands atop its steps with a bundle of papers under his arm.

"Ian chose an indica cannabis strain to relieve his MS symptoms," a bubble next to him says.

"While fighting cancer, Molly preferred a sativa cannabis," says the bubble next to the jogger.

Explaining the decision to use ordinary working people in the ad, Privateer Holdings' chief executive, Brendan Kennedy, said: "This product and this industry are still depicted as sub-culture or counter-culture. That's just not the reality."

Last month, New York became the 23rd state to allow medical marijuana.

In 2012, Colorado and Washington state became



A man dressed as a marijuana leaf stands with another with a poster, as they ask for money to buy pot at Times Square in New York, on 22 March, 2014.—REUTERS

the first in the nation to approve state-sanctioned recreational marijuana for consumers aged 21 and older.

However, Saturday's edition of *The New York Times* carried an ad from a group opposed to pot legalization, Smart Approaches to Marijuana, and allied organizations.

It featured a suit-and-tie-clad executive leaning over a conference-room

table with a photo of a grinning, bandana-wearing hippy superimposed over his face. The word "Perception" is next to his flowing hair. The suit has the word "Reality."

"The legalization of marijuana means ushering in an entirely new group of corporations whose primary source of revenue is a highly habit-forming product," the advertisement says.

Reuters

Rain to sweep north China

BEIJING, 3 Aug — Most parts in north China will see moderate to heavy rain from Sunday to Monday, the country's meteorological authority forecasted.

Some areas will be hit by torrential rain, along with occasional thunderstorms and strong gales. The maximum precipitation is expected at 60 mm, according to the National Meteorological Centre.

In Beijing, rainfall is predicted at Sunday night to Monday morning, which

will likely disrupt traffic in the morning peak, the centre warned.

Meanwhile, most areas in Yunnan Province will continue to see moderate to heavy rain in the coming three days that would bring risks of geological disasters.

The provinces of Sichuan, Shaanxi, Shanxi and Hubei will remain in scorching heat, with the maximum temperature in some areas to reach 40 degrees Celsius.

Xinhua

Boxing Koseki wins 14th defence of WBC women's atomweight title

TOKYO, 3 Aug — Japan's Momo Koseki defeated Britain's Denise Castle on Saturday to successfully defend her WBC atomweight crown for the 14th time.

Fighting in Tokyo, Koseki defeated Castle, the WBC's second-ranked fighter in the division by technical knockout in the eighth round. Koseki, who has now successfully defended her title more times than any other Japanese fighter, man or woman, improved her career record to 16 wins, six by knockout, and one draw.

Kyodo News



Champion Momo Koseki of Japan (R) delivers a punch to Britain's Denise Castle during the fifth round of their WBC atomweight title match in Tokyo on 2 Aug, 2014. Koseki defeated Castle, the WBC's second-ranked fighter in the division, by technical knockout in the eighth round to defend her crown for the 14th time.—KYODO NEWS

Paris Saint-Germain wins French season-opening Champions



Paris Saint-Germain's Zlatan Ibrahimovic (C) vies for the ball during the match between Paris Saint-Germain and Guigamp in the French season-opening Champions Trophy football match in Beijing, China, on 2 Aug, 2014. Paris Saint-Germain won the match 2-0. — XINHUA

Car crash in Thailand kills 4, injures 16

BANGKOK, 3 Aug — Four people were killed and 16 others injured when a trailer truck crashed into six other vehicles in eastern Thailand's Prachin Buri Province in the wee hours of Sunday. The accident occurred in Nadi district at 2 am local time when the 18-wheeler trailer truck heading downhill rammed into three vans, a car, a pick-up truck and a motorcycle which were running in an opposite direction, Tipol Wadsungnoen, a duty police officer in the district, was quoted by *Bangkok Post* as saying.

The driver of the trailer truck, which was then fully loaded with cassava roots, was believed to have lost control over the vehicle after the brake failed, according to preliminary investigation. All the injured have been sent to nearby hospitals while two of the killed are yet to be identified.

Xinhua

MYANMAR TV

(4-8-2014, Monwday)

6:00 am

* Paritta by Venerable Mingun Sayadaw

6:30 am

* Physical Exercise

8:30 am

* Documentary

9:00 am

* News/ International News

9:30 am

* Cartoon Series

10:15 am

* Weekly Entertainment News

11:20 am

* Documentary

12:00 pm

* News/ Weather Report

2:20 pm

* Musical Programme

3:00 pm

* News

3:15 pm

* Documentary (Women in Myanmar Society)

4:15 pm

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

5:00 pm

* News

6:20 pm

* Traditional Boxing

7:00 pm

* News

7:25 pm

* TV Drama Series

8:00 pm

* News/International News/Weather Report

8:45 pm

* People Talks

9:00 pm

* News

9:30 pm

* Documentary
* Documentary
* Teleplay

MYANMAR INTERNATIONAL

(4-8-14 07:00 am~
5-8-14 07:00 am) MST

* Local News

* Myanmar Traditional Identity (Episode-1) The Culture of Pennant Pillar

* World News

* School for the Blind

* Local News

* The Stories of The Great Souls (Mar Mar Aye)

* World News

* Local News

* Taste of Myanmar: Rice Salad with Vegetables

* World News

* Wedding Planner (U Cho Gyi)

* Local News

* Sarah Special....: A Day Out With Sarah (Episode-4)

* World News

* In The Studio:

May Phyu Phyu

* 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

Record US soccer crowd sees Man United beat Real Madrid

CARY, (NORTH CAROLINA), 3 Aug —The largest crowd to watch a soccer match in the United States — 109,318 — poured into Michigan Stadium on Saturday to see Manchester United beat Real Madrid 3-1 in a friendly.

The appeal of two of the world's most iconic sports teams attracted fans to the International Champions Cup match at the University of Michigan's American football stadium in Ann Arbor.

The previous US record attendance for a soccer match was 101,799 at the 1984 Olympic final between France and Brazil at the Rose Bowl in California.

The largest crowd ever to watch a soccer match was at the 1950 World Cup in Rio de Janeiro when 173,850 paying spectators came to the Maracana for the Brazil-Uruguay final clash, though unofficial estimates put the attendance as high as 210,000.

Two first-half goals by Ashley Young proved enough to help United beat the European champions on Saturday despite Real's world record signing Gareth Bale scoring from the penalty spot.

United's win means they advance to Monday's final in Miami, where they will meet traditional English rivals Liverpool.

The crowd got an add-



Manchester United forward Wayne Rooney (10) battles for the ball against Real Madrid defender Pepe (3) and defender Alvaro Arbeloa (17) during the second half at Michigan Stadium.
REUTERS

ed bonus when Cristiano Ronaldo made a surprise appearance for Madrid in

place of Alvaro Arbeloa in the 74th minute, having been ruled out of conten-

tion before the match with what was reported to be an injured left knee.

Young had opened the scoring in the 21st minute when he capped off a 20-pass move to beat keeper Iker Casillas at his near post from about 12 metres.

Real equalized in the 27th when Bale was fouled in the box by United defender Michael Keane and then got up to convert the penalty by sending David De Gea the wrong way.

However, it took United only 10 minutes to regain the lead when Young curled in what looked like a cross from the left. United's England forward Wayne Rooney timed his run perfectly but did not appear to make contact with his attempted header.

Reuters

Dominant Daley retains diving title

Tom Daley of England poses with his gold medal after winning the men's 10m Platform final at the 2014 Commonwealth Games in Edinburgh, Scotland, on 2 Aug, 2014.

REUTERS



GLASGOW, 3 Aug — England's Tom Daley retained his 10-metre platform diving title with a dominant display at the Commonwealth Games on Saturday.

Daley, who won bronze in the same event at the London 2012 Olympics, produced a stunning performance to score 516.55 points and beat second-placed Malaysian Ooi Tze Liang (433.70) by a large margin. Canadian Vincent Riendeau (429.25) was third.

The 20-year-old's triumph came after he picked up the silver medal with

team mate James Denny in the synchronised 10-metre platform competition on Friday.

"It is the worst feeling being so far in front. You just think, 'What if I do this? What if I do that?'," Daley told reporters.

"I try not to think about anybody else. It is a very individual sport. You can only think once you have finished. 'It has been a very, very long season. I am going to have a rest now. I have not had a day off in four weeks so I cannot wait for a lie-in tomorrow morning,'" added Daley. —Reuters

CARY, (NORTH CAROLINA), 3 Aug — Sergio Garcia maintained a three-stroke lead after the third round at the WGC-Bridgestone Invitational on Saturday, while Rory McIlroy loomed large in second place as the two Europeans set the stage for another showdown.

Two weeks after McIlroy staved off a final round challenge from Garcia to win the British Open, the Northern Irishman will be the hunter instead of the hunted. Garcia, coming off a course record-equalling 61, was solid rather than spectacular as he fashioned a three-under-par 67 at Firestone Country Club in Akron, Ohio.

He posted a 14-under 196 total with one round

left, while McIlroy birdied the final two holes, rolling in a 35-footer at the last to card a 66 for 11-under.

Not that it was only a two-horse race after a round that was interrupted for more than three hours by storms.

Marc Leishman was four shots behind, while another Australian, world number one Adam Scott, was five back with Englishman Justin Rose and American Keegan Bradley.

"I misread a couple of putts here and there and hit a couple of not so good putts," Garcia told CBS television, otherwise expressing overall satisfaction with his game and welcoming the chance to potentially duel again with McIlroy.

"I've felt very com-



Sergio Garcia (left) and Phil Mickelson react after sinking his birdie putts on the 18th hole during the second round of the WGC-Bridgestone Invitational golf tournament at Firestone Country Club — South Course. — REUTERS

fortable throughout the whole week so hopefully I'll be able to do the same thing (on Sunday), just

like he (McIlroy) did to me at Hoylake and hopefully keep him just behind me."

Reuters

French lesson for Benfica as Sanogo hits four for Arsenal

LONDON, 3 Aug — New signing Alexis Sanchez made his first appearance in Arsenal's colours on Saturday but

French striker Yaya Sanogo stole the limelight with a four-goal blast in a 5-1 victory over Benfica in the pre-season Emirates Cup. Chile forward Sanchez, signed for around 35 million pounds (\$58.86 million) from Barcelona last month, came on as a late substitute but by then Sanogo and Costa Rica striker Joel Campbell had done the damage.

The 21-year-old Sanogo has yet to start a Premier

League game since joining from Auxerre in July 2013 while Campbell has spent his entire Arsenal career on loan at Lorient, Real Betis and Olympiakos Piraeus.

However, they showed on Saturday at The Emirates stadium that manager Arsene Wenger will have plenty of attacking options this season. "A headache is when they don't play well," Wenger told reporters of a potential selection dilemma as the new season looms.

"We have some decisions to make when everybody plays well, that's true. But when everybody plays well that's what we want.

"Sanogo was injured for basically two years before he came to us. If you

look at his goalscoring record before he got injured, it is quite frightening," said Wenger. "He has a big future here. He is 21, he has something of (former Arsenal striker Emmanuel) Adebayor. He has a strong body, similar strengths but technical skill as well. "Campbell has done very well," added Wenger. "I like the way he plays, he's good on the ball...he has a good balance between individual skill and collective attitude — that's not easy to find." Sanogo scored three times before halftime and grabbed his fourth in the 50th minute after Aaron Ramsey's shot was saved by Benfica keeper Moraes Artur. — Reuters



Arsenal's Yaya Sanogo shoots and scores his second goal against Benfica during their Emirates Cup soccer match at the Emirates stadium in London on 2 Aug, 2014. —REUTERS