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Our ultimate aims should be to bring prosperity to our people, raise living standards, and ensure peace and stability for them and finally the promotion of human dignity: President U Thein Sein

President U Thein Sein taking documentary photo together with Foreign Ministers of ASEAN countries and ASEAN Secretary General after the opening of 47th ASEAN Foreign Ministers' Meeting.—PHOTO: AYE MIN SOE

NAY PYI TAW, 8 Aug — The Opening of the 47th ASEAN Foreign Ministers' Meeting and the ceremony to mark the 47th ASEAN Day were held in Myanmar International Convention Centre I in Nay Pyi Taw on Friday with an address by President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar U Thein Sein.

In his address the President said: The coincidence of the 47th Anniversary of ASEAN this year and the Opening of the ASEAN Foreign Ministers' Meeting is a rare and significant occasion in the history of ASEAN. Therefore, it is a privilege and great honour for me to speak on the occasion of both the opening ceremony of the 47th ASEAN Foreign Ministers' Meeting and Celebration of the 47th Anniversary of ASEAN here in Nay Pyi Taw.

47 years ago, on this very day, ASEAN was established by its founding members Indonesia, Malaysia, the Philippines, Singapore and Thailand. From the original five members of ASEAN, today ten members have grown to Southeast Asian Nations.

I would like to congratulate our fellow member, Indonesia, for the success and peaceful holding of presidential elections.

In the past forty seven years, ASEAN has weathered, endured and overcome incidences of object poverty, internal conflicts, natural disasters and the

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Roles of civil society organization in elections discussed

NAY PYI TAW, 8 Aug — The meeting on relations between the Union Election Commission and region and state sub-commissions on the one hand and those involved in the election process and civil society organizations on the other hand was held on Friday morning.

Commission member U Win Kyi and Mr. Paul Guerin of IFES explained the pilot project for compilation of voters'lists and the purpose of the meeting.

Chairman of Union Election U Tin Aye said the most important in elections is the voters' list which can only allow people to cast votes and urged the participants to educate the public to be on voters'lists.—*MNA*

Consensus on trying to move on the COC: 47th ASEAN FMM

By *KYW*

Deputy Prime Minister of Vietnam and Minister of Foreign Affairs Pham Binh Minh is not satisfied with the slow progress made on the South China Sea issue, saying the case is "complicated".
PHOTO: AYE MIN SOE

The developments on the South China Sea issue were among the main topics discussed at the 47th ASEAN Foreign Ministers' Meeting in Nay Pyi Taw on Friday, with Vietnam's Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs Pham Binh Minh telling the New Light of Myanmar before the talks that "The South China Sea issue is always something we discuss," with other officials saying that a consensus has been reached on trying to move on the Code of Conduct.

The Vietnamese Foreign Minister said the current situation is "complicated and intense and we want to make sure that such an incident will not occur in the future," referring to a recent standoff between Vietnam and China over a Chinese oil rig drilling near the disputed Paracel Islands in the South China Sea, an incident which dominated the talks at the ASEAN Summit in May.

Responding to a question on whether progress with China has been made in the meantime, the Vietnamese Foreign Minister said "not really, but we will continue to talk with China on this issue."

Following the ASEAN Foreign Ministers' Meeting, Singaporean Foreign Minister K Shanmugam said, that "Our approach to the South China Sea amongst all foreign ministers is that there needs to be a substantive move on the Code of Conduct, and quite a few countries felt that last year there were a number of incidents, and it is a miracle that there were not even more serious incidents," adding that it is in everyone's interest to move in a way that is acceptable to all parties.

According to the Singaporean Foreign Minister, the Philippines suggested a three-point plan, but that "our own position is to look at Article 5 of the DOC which has been agreed by everyone and refers to restraint needed by every country and also refers to the need for an approach that is consistent with international law to act in a manner that reduces tensions".

Showing optimism on the issue, he said he believes ASEAN can try and work out principles which are consistent with Article 5 and other articles of the DOC before moving on to the Code of Conduct. The most crucial issue is "there needs to be a matching between what we say about moving on the COC and actual actions taken," according to K Shanmugam. He also told reporters that China said it wants to see movement before the end of the year.

Highlighting the importance to see action on the COC, Indonesian Foreign Minister Marty Natalegawa said, "Fortunately this region has been relatively peaceful, but there are some trends and we must make sure we control them. We need to ensure the continued peace and stability of our region and this is not an easy undertaking."

President meets ASEAN foreign ministers

NAY PYI TAW, 8 Aug — President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar U Thein Sein met with foreign ministers from ASEAN countries at the Myanmar International Convention Centre-1 in Nay Pyi Taw on Friday morning.

Those present at the meeting were Union Ministers U Wunna Maung Lwin, U Tin Naing Thein, U Aye Myint Kyu and Dr Kan Zaw, foreign ministers from ASEAN countries and ASEAN General Secretary Mr Lee Luong Minh.

MNA

President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar U Thein Sein holds talks with foreign affairs ministers from ASEAN countries at MICC-1 in Nay Pyi Taw.
MNA

ASEAN foreign ministers and representatives of ASEAN Intergovernmental Commision on Human rights meet

NAY PYI TAW, 8 Aug — The meeting of ASEAN foreign ministers and representatives of the ASEAN Intergovernmental Commission on Human Rights was held at Myanmar International Convention Centre-1 in Nay Pyi Taw on Friday afternoon.

The commission discussed its proposal to include matters related to human rights in three pillars in 2015 when the ASEAN Community is to be established, five-year action plan and priorities of the commission, the study on corporate social responsibility by the commission and the review of the responsibilities of the commission. —*MNA*

***A meeting between ASEAN foreign affairs ministers and representatives of the ASEAN Intergovernmental Commission on Human Rights in progress at MICC-1 in Nay Pyi Taw.*—MNA**

Myanmar hosts Fifth Conference on Traditional Medicine in ASEAN countries

YANGON, 8 Aug — Myanmar hosted the Fifth Conference on Traditional Medicine in ASEAN countries, with an opening ceremony held at Innya Lake Hotel in Yangon on Friday.

In his address, Union Minister for Health Dr Than Aung expressed his belief that cooperation in traditional medicine will bring more benefits to ASEAN countries. Exchanging information and sharing views on traditional medicine at the conference by those from member countries and ASEAN partners will contribute towards the development of traditional medicine in ASEAN, he added.

Also present at the conference were Yangon Region Chief Minister U Myint Swe, region ministers and officials.

Participants to Fifth Conference on Traditional Medicine in ASEAN countries pose for documentary photo.
MNA

During the conference which is due to hold from 8 to 11 August at Summit Park View Hotel in Yangon, resource persons will read out their research papers.

Delegates to the conference were hosted to dinner at Karaweik Palace Hotel in the evening.

The theme of the fifth conference is "Strengthening TM Practices and Personnel through Training and Education to Promote the Integration of TM/CAM in National Health Care System.

MNA

Climate change to be among key topics during ASEAN-U.S. Ministerial Meeting

By *KYW*

The ASEAN-U.S. Ministerial Meeting to be held on Saturday was singled out by U Aung Lynn, Director General at the ASEAN Affairs Department of the Myanmar Ministry of Foreign Affairsas "perhaps the most important meeting for ASEAN chair Myanmar" as the United States is putting an emphasis this year on combating global warming, which was also one of the key topics in President U Thein Sein's opening speech of the ASEAN Summit in May.

"The talks with John Kerry will be vital preparation for the ASEAN Summit in November and climate change is one of the key topics Myanmar as ASEAN chair is addressing," U Aung Lynn told the New Light of Myanmar on Friday.

U.S. Secretary of State John Kerry has stressed that the ASEAN region is particularly affected by climate change, and that "This year, as Secretary of State, I will engage in a series of discussions on the urgency of addressing climate change." During a visit to Indonesia in February, Kerry was quoted as saying on the website of the U.S.Department of State that "Jakarta, this city – this country – this region – is really on the front lines of climate change". Indonesian Foreign Minister Marty Natalegawa, who will be among the key members at the U.S. meeting on Saturday, told the New Light of Myanmar that "we welcome every opportunity that we can take advantage of in discussion on this issue, because of the impact of climate change on us as an archipelagic country with many low-lying islands. It can be to some communities an existential threat." He said that Indonesia has been very consistent in ensuring that the issue of climate change is raised at various forums, including the forthcoming climate change summit in September in New York, and that Indonesia would also like to raise the issue at the G20 Summit later this year. "I am not sure what the intentions of host Australia are and whether they wish to bring the issue of climate change to the forum, but we believe it should be on agenda," Natalegawa said.

U Thein Sein opened the 24th ASEAN Summit in Nay Pyi Taw with a speech highlighting Myanmar's action plan to address climate change as extreme weather patterns have affected ASEAN countries with "increased frequencies and ferocity" each year.

He proposed further development of the existing early warning system as well as the establishment of a network of research centres to look into ways for the agriculture industry to be able to adapt to climate change and guarantee food security, some of the issues which are expected to be discussed at the upcoming post-ministerial meetings.

Our ultimate aims should be to bring prosperity to our people . . .

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major powers rivalries, and yet it has shown its extraordinary resilience.

Through the individual and collective efforts, ASEAN has become more united in striving for the establishment of an economically dynamic, politically peaceful, prosperous and stable, and socially caring community.

The absence of wars and conflicts has become a symbol of ASEAN and through this peaceful environment, ASEAN member states have been able to bring economic development and welfare for the majority of the people.

From an organization that promoted cooperation in the beginning, ASEAN today is striving for integration and is gaining success. These integration efforts will become more apparent in the coming years, ASEAN is now a market of 609 million people with a combined GDP of US 2.5 trillion dollars.

Even in past world economic recessions and crises, ASEAN's annual GDP growth rate exceeded more than five percent of annual average growth. ASEAN will soon become an ASEAN Community in line with its motto "One Vision, One Identity and One Community".

In support of our objectives, Myanmar has chosen the theme for its chairmanship "Moving Forward in Unity to a Peaceful and Prosperous Community" to vigorously and relentlessly move the community building process forward.

The current developments in the world are causing serious concern to us. ASEAN should strengthen the ASEAN-led regional architecture. ASEAN should move forward its policy of non-alignment, proactiveness, resort to peaceful settlement of disputes and differences.

ASEAN must show its leadership and maintain its centrality. In the restructuring of new regional political and security frameworks in our region, the Treaty of Amity and Cooperation in the Southeast Asia should remain as basic document for our future endeavours.

In order to maintain the world's peace and prosperity, we should promote within ourselves a common spirit of peaceful co-existence, harmony and tolerance. We should refrain from extremism and let good-will, forbearance, peace and good nature prevail.

At the same time, we should study the root causes behind the rise of extremism. We should cure the disease from spreading and at the same time should prevent the disease from taking root.

At the age of globalization and interdependency, making use of improved communication and information technology, some small groups of people are exploiting the technology in order to spread hatred and to incite people. Peace-loving majority should also radiate the world of good-will and message of peace in response to promote peace.

In moving forward to a peaceful and prosperous community, our first priority at present is the successful establishment of ASEAN Community. ASEAN is now at the critical juncture for the establishment of ASEAN Community as inspired by its Vision 2020.

We are encouraged by the fact that we have completed implementation of 80 percent of the targets of the ASEAN Community Blueprint. We are confident that in the coming 17 months, we will be able to achieve the remaining goals.

In order to redouble our community building efforts, we have adopted the Nay Pyi Taw Declaration on the realization of ASEAN Community at the 24th ASEAN Summit. In the declaration, the ASEAN leaders have show their political will and determination to carry out the implementation task more actively and diligently.

The successful establishment of ASEAN Community will show the world that ASEAN is credible, united and integrated.

The Second priority for ASEAN is to improve its efficiency and effectiveness, and to be more streamlined and better coordinated. After the ASEAN Charter came into force in 2008, ASEAN has transformed itself into a rules-based organization.

ASEAN needs to be more strengthened and better coordinated. The time has come to review ASEAN mechanisms and organs as well as to strengthen the ASEAN Secretariat, in order for ASEAN to perform better in the future.

We adopted the Bandar Seri Begawan Declaration at the 23rd ASEAN Summit in Brunei Darussalam and formed a High Level Task Force for this purpose. I share the view that we should provide adequate resources to match the increasing workload of ASEAN as well as we need to improve better coordination among ASEAN organs and mechanisms.

I am confident that the report and recommendations of the High Level Task Force will be valuable in transforming more streamlined, more capable and efficient organization.

The third priority of our organization is that ASEAN should be able to respond to the realities and changing circumstances of regional and international dynamics. Seventeen years ago, ASEAN adopted its vision 2020.

Today, in accordance with this vision, we are striving to establish an ASEAN Community that will soon be realized in 2015. Based upon this success, we should look forward to the next 15 or 20 years to set a new vision so that ASEAN will be more credible, relevant and responsive to changing circumstances and overcome the threats. Therefore, it is vital that all ASEAN member states participate actively in this important mission.

On this very auspicious ASEAN Day, I would like to stress one important point in our endeavours of community building, setting forward-looking vision and strengthening our organization, i.e. we should not forget the fact that our ultimate aims should be to bring prosperity to our people, raise living standards, and ensure peace and stability for them and finally the promotion of human dignity.

Our efforts should provide tangible benefits to ASEAN people. We should also need to promote ASEAN awareness and create a venue for greater participation of ASEAN people in the Community Building. All inclusive and people-centred ASEAN should enjoy broad-based development and share the benefits to the most marginalized sectors of our societies.

The principles of Equitable Economic Development of ASEAN should be promoted to bring economic growth and create opportunities for all. In order to achieve equitable economic development, ASEAN has implemented the initiative for ASEAN Integration (IAI). I am encouraged to note that due to our collective efforts, the contribution of Cambodia, Lao PDR, Myanmar and Vietnam to the combined GDP of ASEAN has increased from 6 percent in 2009 to 12 percent in 2013.

As we are approaching closer to target year for ASEAN Community, I would like to urge you to accelerate our efforts on Initiatives for ASEAN Integration.

On this occasion, I would also like to highlight an important matter to promote ASEAN integration, equitable development and highly competitive region. That is the promotion of seamless connectivity within the ASEAN and ASEAN with the rest of the world and to fully implement Master Plan on ASEAN Connectivity (MPAC).

The Master Plan consists of physical connectivity, institutional connectivity as well as people to people connectivity that require substantial resources. These resources should not only come from the member states and international financial institutions but we must also prioritize the provision of resources through Public Private Partnership.

When we move forward, ASEAN should be prepared to overcome the challenges and imminent threats. Among the challenges and threats, we should pay greater attention to climate change and natural disasters caused by extreme weather.

Taking these threats into consideration, we need to take preventative action as well as mitigation measures. In this respect, I would like to recall the actions that I proposed at the 24th Summit.

I would like to urge all to take urgent action on these proposals. To facilitate the prosperity of our people, we need to prioritize and undertake the policy and concepts that are focused and support sustainable environmental conservation and sustainable economic development.

On this occasion of the 47th Anniversary of ASEAN, I wish to call on all ASEAN member states to continue to move forward in unity to a peaceful, economically dynamic and people-centred ASEAN; as standing tall as a dignified regional organization in the global community of nations.

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***Union Minister for Foreign Affairs U Wunna Maung Lwin posing for documentary photo together with ASEAN Foreign Ministers.*—MNA**

Our ultimate aims should be to bring prosperity to our people . . .

(form page 3)

Next, Union Minister for Foreign Affairs U Wunna Maung Lwin made a speech. He said: As ASEAN stands at the threshold for a new stage of ASEAN Community, it is of utmost importance for us to make sure that all our targets are fully realized in time. This is a time not only to think of our past glories but also to make candid assessment of our work as well as to plan for our future. This is to further reinforce our collective actions to ensure the emergence of a politically cohesive, economically integrated and socially responsible ASEAN Community by 2015.

I am very pleased to note that ASEAN's ongoing process to review to strengthen our institutions and our external relations are progressing well. I am also encouraged by the progress in formulating our vision for post 2015 to chart our course for future of ASEAN Community. I believe that these endeavours will strengthen ASEAN and enable us to fulfil the aspirations of our peoples.

ASEAN has developed important political instruments such as ASEAN Charter, Treaty of Amenity and Cooperation (TAC) and Southeast Asian Nuclear Weapon Free Zone Treaty (SEANWFZ Treaty) ASEAN's norms and principles enshrined in these documents; that include principles of consultation, decision making by consensus and respect for level of comforts to all, have stood the test of time and become the hall marks of ASEAN, and has not only served the ASEAN's own interest but also contributed to the peace and stability in the region.

Nevertheless, our efforts are not free from challenges. The challenges of ASEAN today are more complex, multifaceted and transnational in nature requiring more coordinated and comprehensive solutions.

Our united voice is important for ASEAN to remain relevant in the changing regional security and economic landscapes.

In Moving collective efforts forward; We must continue ASEAN to build up on capacity to promote regional peace, stability, prosperity and social harmony. We must continue to be outward looking by exerting greater efforts for more consolidated external relations and improved efficiency of ASEAN led processes. We must continue to be proactive in the global processes through active involvement in addressing the issues of global concern and regional relevance.

After the ceremony the president had documentary photo taken together with ASEAN Foreign Ministers and ASEAN Secretary General.

Also present on the occasion were Vice Presidents Dr Sai Mauk Kham and U Nyan Tun, Speaker of Pyidaungsu Hluttaw and the Lower House Thura U Shwe Mann, Speaker of the Upper House U Khin Aung Myint, Chief Justice of the Union U Tun Tun Oo, Commander-in-Chief of Defence Service Senior General Min Aung Hlaing, Chairman of the Constitutional Tribunal U Mya Thein, Chairman of the Union Election Commission U Tin Aye, union ministers, ASEAN Foreign Ministers and their wives, Foreign Ministers of Papua New Guinea, Timor Leste and Mongolia, deputy ministers of Norway and Turkey and others.

MNA

Union FM meets Mongolian Counterpart

Union Minister for Foreign Affairs U Wunna Maung Lwin and his Mongolian counterpart witness signing of Memorandum of Understanding on Cooperation between the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Mongolia.—MNA

Nay Pyi Taw, 8 Aug — H.E. U Wunna Maung Lwin, Union Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar received a delegation headed by H.E. Mr.Luvsanvandanginn Bold, Minister for Foreign Affairs of Mongolia who were in Myanmar from 8th to 10th August, 2014 to attend ASEAN related meetings at Myanmar International Convention Centre-1 in Nay Pyi Taw at 19:30 hrs on 8th August.

The Foreign Minister of Mongolia was accompanied by responsible persons from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Mongolia. Also present at the meeting with Union Minister for Foreign Affairs were senior officials from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Myanmar. At the meeting, they discussed matters on promotion of bilateral relations and cooperation between the two countries.

After the meeting, the Memorandum of Understanding on Cooperation between the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Mongolia was signed by U San Lwin, Director General of Political Department of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar and Mr.Chuluun Bayarmunkh, Director General of Asia and Pacific Affairs Department of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Mongolia in the presence of the two Ministers of Foreign Affairs.—*MNA*

Union Information Minister U Ye Htut welcomes improved ties with US and stresses that work needs to be done on the Post-2015 Vision

Newly appointed Union Information Minister U Ye Htut sat down with the New Light of Myanmar just before the start of the 47th ASEAN Foreign Ministers' Meeting to share his views on the upcoming meetings, discussing pressing issues from creating the Post-2015 Vision to the United States' relations with ASEAN. Interview conducted by KYW.

NLM: Please elaborate on which meetings are of utmost importance for Myanmar as the ASEAN chair and explain the reasons.

Minister: Three meetings are especially important for us, mentioning of course the 47th ASEAN Foreign Ministers' Meeting, the ASEAN-U.S. meeting and the ASEAN-China talks. We have to work on the post-2015 ASEAN vision and basic ideas have been agreed on, but we have to discuss details and implement them. I think the foreign ministers will have to submit that at the coming summit. Regarding the meeting with the United States — we want them to play a major role in ASEAN economically and politically and we welcome their reengagement with us and the shift in US policy toward us. But on the other hand, we don't want to create unnecessary tensions with other regional countries.

Regarding the ASEAN-China meeting, we have to reduce tensions in the South China Sea. We have to build up the mechanism for implementing the Declaration on the Conduct of Parties in the South China Sea. ASEAN will solve the South China Sea dispute in line with the Declaration on the Conduct of Parties in the South China Sea and guidelines of the DOC. And ASEAN is currently giving priority to approving the COC.

The South China Sea issue was a big topic at the summit in May and we have to do preventive diplomacy, and not raise tension in that area, because it would affect the peace, stability and prosperity of the whole region. From an economic point of view, the meetings between ASEAN and ROK and Japan are also important.

NLM: Regarding the ROK and developments on the Korean Peninsula, what is Myanmar's stance?

Myanmar Information Minister U Ye Htut stresses "preventive diplomacy" and highlights importance of DOC and COC in talks.

Minister: We only speak as part of ASEAN on that issue and ASEAN would settle the Korean Peninsula issue within the framework of the ASEAN Regional Forum (ARF), with ASEAN trying to reduce the tensions on the Korean Peninsula and making efforts to promote a nuclear free zone in that region.

NLM: What have been Myanmar's accomplishments as ASEAN chair?

Minister: We want to show the international community that Myanmar is a safe country and a reliable partner, and I think we have shown that. Myanmar will play a more active role on regional and international issues in the future and we want to stress that we are taking our chairmanship role very seriously.

8th ASEAN-China Forum benefits development measures in ASEAN region, China

Nay Pyi Taw, 8 Aug —The 8th ASEAN-China Forum on Social Development and Poverty Reduction continued its second day here on Friday, with discussions emphasizing the strategic framework for rural development tasks being carried out in the ASEAN region and China, sources said.

U Ohn Myint, Union Minister for Livestock, Fisheries and Rural Development, said that the forum yielded fruitful results, which he said would greatly benefit development activities being undertaken both in China and the ASEAN region.

The forum sought ways to reduce poverty, promote regional cooperation, manage resources, ensure food security, and overcome challenges posed by climate change.

Laos will host the 9th ASEAN-China Forum, which is expected to mainly discuss action plans of this forum.

MNA

Humanitarian aids as well as regional development should be initiated at the same time: Dr Sai Mauk Kham

Vice President Dr Sai Mauk Kham discusses implementation of roadmap to enable people in Rakhine State to live in peace and harmony.—MNA

NAY PYI TAW, 8 Aug — Rakhine nationals have been pressing the government to scrutinize Bengalis, who they said sneaked into Rakhine State from a neighbouring country, in accord with the country's immigration law, Vice President Dr Sai Mauk Kham told a meeting at the President's Office here on Friday.

Bengalis however stated that they were born and bred in the country and willing to accept any form of scrutiny for citizenship, on condition that they could enjoy the same rights to education, health and economy as other nationals, the vice president said.

Given the population of over 120,000 refugees in shelters, the provision of local and international assistance to them will not work in the long run, Dr Sai Mauk Kham noted.

The vice president stressed the need to implement the roadmap, which he said was designed to help both communities earn their living in peace and harmony.

Humanitarian aids as well as regional development should be initiated at the same time, Dr Sai Mauk Kham said, urging officials to make collective efforts to bring stability and prosperity to the region.

MNA

Canada to further promote cooperation with Myanmar

YANGON, 8 Aug — Canada will further promote cooperation with Myanmar, Canadain Foreign Minister Mr. John Baird siad at the opening ceremony of the Embassy of Candana in Yangon, Myanmar, held at the ninth floor of the Centre Point Tower on Friday evening with attendance by Cadanian Foreign Minister Mr. John Baird, Deputy Minister for Foreign Affairs of Myanmar U Thant Kyaw, Chairman of Yangon City Development Committee Mayor U Hla Myint, Ambassador of Canada to Myanmar Mr. Mark McDowell and guests.

The Canadian foreign minister said at the ceremony that the opening of the ambassy of Canada in Myanmar shows the intention of establishing long-term relations between the two countries and between Canada and the ASEAN.

Moreover, the Canadian foreign minister said that International Development Ministry of Canada has recognized Myanmar as a major country for its international assistance programme.

Although diplomatic relations between the two countries were not established dring the last two decades, the two countires had shared a history of friendly relations. Canada helped build the Thakayta Bridge and Yangon Pediatric Hospital in the 1970s, according to the Canadian foreign minister.

In conclusion, the Canadian foreign minister said that his country will further promote cooperation between the two countries.

The deputy minister for foreign affairs of Myanmar welcomed the opening of the embassy.

Canadian Foreign Minister Mr. John Baird, Deputy Minister U Thant Kyaw and Canadian Ambassador Mr. Mark McDowell formally opened the embassy.

MNA

Canadian Foreign Minister Mr. John Baird, Deputy Minister U Thant Kyaw and Canadian Ambassador Mr. Mark McDowell open the Canadian embassy in Yangon.
MNA

Plenary, retreat sessions of ASEAN Foreign Ministers' Meeting (AMM) held

Plenary and retreat sessions of the 47th ASEAN Foreign Ministers' Meeting discusses issues including implementation of Declaration on the Code of Conduct of Parties in the South China Sea (DOC).—MNA

NAY PYI TAW, 8 Aug— Plenary and retreat sessions of the 47th ASEAN Foreign Ministers' Meeting (AMM) took place at Myanmar International Convention Centre-1 (MICC-1) in Nay Pyi Taw on Friday evening.

The meeting chaired by Union Minister for Foreign Affairs U Wunna Maung Lwin was also attended by ASEAN Foreign Ministers and the Secretary-General of ASEAN.

During the plenary session, the ASEAN Foreign Ministers held discussions on follow-up process for the 24th ASEAN Summit, the implementation of the Declaration on the Code of Conduct of Parties in the South China Sea (DOC), the progress of ASEAN's Community Building process. The meeting also noted the ASEAN Intergovernmental Commission on Human Right (AICHR) Annual Report 2014 and approved the AICHR's Programmes and Activities and budget for 2015. Moreover, the Joint Statement on the ASEAN-Norway Partnership was adopted by the Foreign Ministers of ASEAN and the Deputy Minister of Norway at the meeting.

The Chair also briefed the meeting on the preparations for the upcoming Ministerial Meetings and Post Ministerial Conference—15th ASEAN Plus Three Foreign Ministers Meeting, 21st ASEAN Regional Forum and 4th East Asia Summit—*MNA*

Myanmar and Thailand discuss anti-corruption

NAY PYI TAW, 8 Aug — Deputy Attorney-General U Tun Tun Oo received Chairman Mr Panthep Klanarongran of the National Anti-Corruption Commission of Thailand in Nay Pyi Taw on Thursday. U Tun Tun Oo explained his guest about duties and functions of the Office of the Attorney-General, forming of anti-corruption commission and measures being taken to complete the mission. Their meeting mainly focused on anti-corruption law of Myanmar

MNA

Nutritious Week launched in Lewe in Nay Pyi Taw Council Area

LEWE, 8 Aug — Lewe Township Maternal and Child Welfare Association organized ceremony to mark the World Breastfeeding Week on Thursday. On the occasion the best breast feeder award was also presented. Demonstration on cooking of nutritious food was also staged.

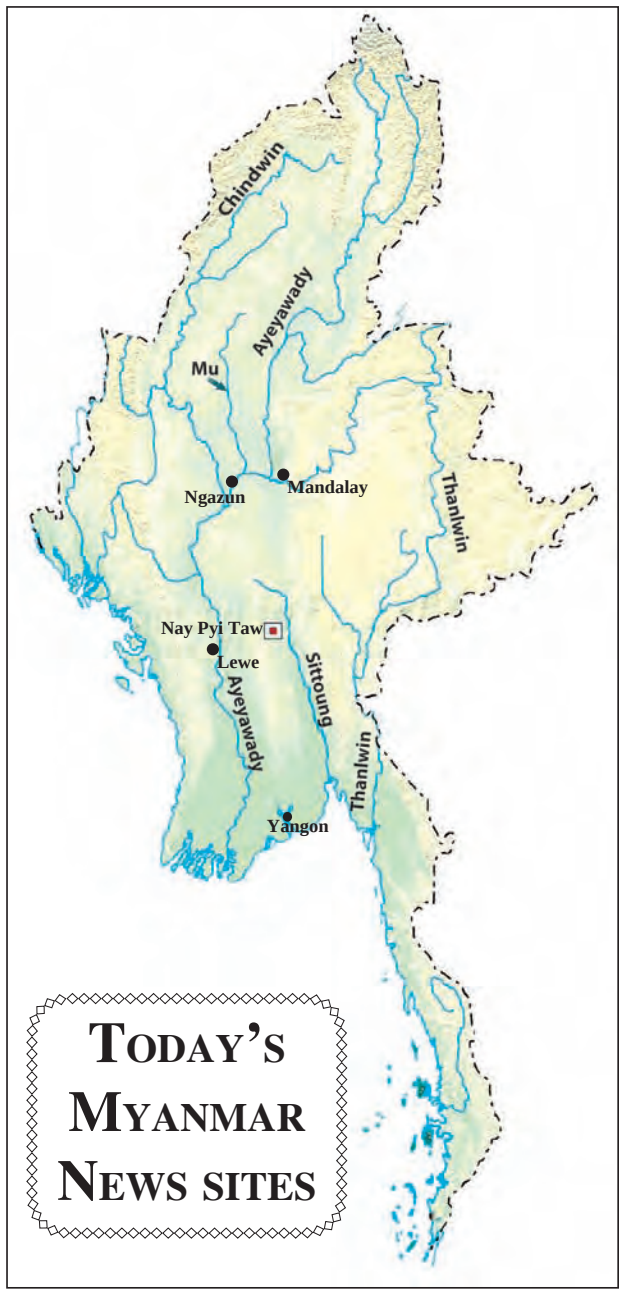
Officials presented nutritious foods to pregnant women and gave Vitamin A tablets to children of under 5. Demonstration of washing hands was one of the agendas at the ceremony.

Zaw Myo Naing

Talent Competition (Miss GLM)

YANGON, 8 Aug — Talent Competition of Miss Golden Land Myanmar was held at Taw Win Garden Hotel (Grand Ballroom) in Yangon on 7 August.

The Finalists of Talent Competition of Miss Golden Land Myanmar were Hsu Larb Bo (Playing Myanmar Traditional Opera), Zin Thiri Win (Myanmar Royal Maid Honor Dance), Phu Myat Chel (Myanmar Dance), Aye Kwyay (Bagan Era Dance), Thu Thu Myat Noe (Tango Dace with Spanish Guitar Solo), Thandar Ko (Palaung Traditional Dance), Ei Mon Khaing (Wu Shuu), Ni Ni Min Thu (Yokekyisin Dance), Halan Myo Ko (Seven Types of Dancing), Angle Lahmon (Playing musical instruments (Piano, Guitar and Recorder) and Sun Lai Wai (Playing Piano and Singing –Crazier Song), Miss Golden Land Myanmar's Preliminary Show will be held on 16 August and Final show at (MCC) Myanmar Convention Centre on 21 August.—*Thant Zin Win*



TODAY'S MYANMAR NEWS SITES

Hseiknyan Water Pumping Station benefits paddy fields in Myingyan District: ***As it is targeted to put over 1000 acres under paddy and other crops using water from Hseiknyan water pumping station, authorities concerned inspected condition of the station on 6 August. The station is not only benefiting to growing of crops but also to generating electricity.***

U ZAW MIN NAING

Myanmar in International Media

By *Kyaw The-ein*

Italian weekly "Corriere della Sera Economia" on 24 July reported about the business opportunity in Myanmar for the companies of the northern part of Lombardia, the so-called Alto Milanese area. A meeting was held on the topic in the town hall of Legnano with representatives of the local institutions and of entrepreneurial associations, Myanmar Ambassador U Tint Swai and Embassy Counselor U Than Sain attending. The Myanmar's economy is reported to be in strong expansion thanks to the reforms introduced in the last few years.

The 16 July issue of The Financial Times (Europe) featured an in-depth report about Rocket Internet, a German start-up that is led by three brothers. While Oliver Samwer is the public face of Rocket, he works closely with his brothers. They sold their first joint company Alando (a German answer to eBay) to the US equivalent in 1999, after a stint in Silicon Valley. Many people say you need to be complementary to be a great team, but actually we are all the same, he says. The beauty there is that you have an unlimited level of trust. While one is building in India, another can handle Russia, while the third might focus on Myanmar.

As reported by Italian daily "Italia Oggi" on 16 July, the Italian Ministry of Agriculture and the Italian Ministry of Economic Development are preparing a technical document on the impact of zero-duty rice imports from countries such as Cambodia and Myanmar. The documents will then be filed with the European Commission. Italian farmers' association Coldiretti demanded stricter controls on non-European rice. Italian Minster for Agriculture, Maurizio Martina, declared to be ready to cooperate with the Italian rice industry, which is currently protesting in many Italian towns.

Myotha Dam repaired

NGAZUN (CENTRAL MYANMAR), 8 Aug — In order to supply water sufficiently for agricultural purpose in Ngazun Township in the arid zone of central Myanmar, Myotha dam is under repair. It is aiming at supplying water for summer and monsoon paddy cultivation. If water of the dam will be at the full brim, it can irrigate 1500 acres of land. Now, it can supply water to just 800 acres.

Zaw Min Naing

Cambodian opposition MPs attend session for 1st time after boycott

*Sam Rainsy (C Front), president of the opposition Cambodia National Rescue Party (CNRP), speaks at the parliamentary session in Phnom Penh, Cambodia, on 8 Aug, 2014. All 55 CNRP members of parliament attended the parliamentary session for the first time on Friday after they boycotted the parliament for 10 months following a disputed election last July.—*XINHUA

PHNOM PENH, 8 Aug—All fifty-five Members of Parliaments (MPs) from the opposition Cambodia National Rescue Party (CNRP) attended a parliamentary session for the first time on Friday after they had boycotted the parliament for 10 months following a disputed election results in July last year.

CNRP's president Sam Rainsy led the group to the parliament, where they will work with the ruling party's 68 MPs to amend the parliament's internal regulations and the Constitution in order to make way for sharing power in the legislative body and reforming the National Election Committee (NEC).

Heng Samrin, president of the parliament, said, "I would like to welcome and congratulate his or her Excellencies from the Cambodia National Rescue Party for your taking seats in the parliament."

Prime Minister Hun Sen, vice-president of the ruling Cambodian People's Party (CPP), was present at the session.

The opposition MPs ended their boycott of parliament over contested election results in July last year after Hun Sen and Sam Rainsy reached a political agreement on 22 July.

Under the deal, the CNRP will hold four of nine seats on the NEC, possess the position of the first vice-president of the parliament, among other roles, and own a television channel. "Today, we can announce that the political crisis in Cambodia has ended," Sam Rainsy said during the session.

"This is the opening of a new historic chapter in Cambodia. We will work together to defend territorial integrity and to build prosperity for the nation."

Hun Sen expressed his welcome to the CNRP's 55 MPs for their first presence in the parliamentary session. "I urge all MPs to increase the culture of dialogues in order to work together to serve the nation," he said. "I hope that from now on, the attack on each other through any means should be reduced." During the post-election crisis, the opposition had staged a lot of street demonstrations and led to deadly violent clashes between demonstrators and government forces. —*Xinhua*

Indonesian capital ready to host 2018 Asian Games

JAKARTA, 8 Aug—Jakarta is ready to host the 2018 Asian Games, governor of the Indonesian capital city said here on Thursday.

Speaking on the sidelines of his meeting with officials of Indonesian Olympics Committee (KOI) and of the Olympic Council of Asia (OCA) in his office, Joko Widodo said that construction of a landmark stadium is already underway in North Jakarta and the Mass Rapid Transport (MRT) transportation network is expected to be finished before 2018.

Widodo, who was last month declared the winner of the country's tight presidential election, added that Jakarta has international-class sport venues that hosted world class sports events in the past and those venues can be prepared soon.

"The Asian Games is not merely sports issue, also an issue of pride. This is a matter of city and country promotion. We must show them our strength in all aspects. I believe that we can do that," Widodo said.

Xinhua

Aceh tsunami victim, 14, reunited with her parents after decade

JAKARTA, 8 Aug—A 14-year-old Indonesian girl who was separated from her parents almost a decade ago amid the earthquake and tsunami disaster in Aceh has finally been reunited with them, local media reported Thursday.

During the December 2004 disaster that killed more than 160,000 people, Wenni, as she was named by the Aceh family who later adopted her, was swept away by waves and was later found by a fisherman in the vicinity of the Banyak Islands, off the west coast of Sumatra, and brought back to the Aceh mainland.

Her parents, 52-year-old Septi Rangkuti and his 42-year-old wife Jamaliah, were reunited with their long-lost daughter on Wednesday.

Separated from them since the age of 4, Wenni could not even remember about the name, Raudatul Jannah, they had given her.

After the tsunami, they spent a month looking for her and their 7-year-old son, Salim Arif Pratama, eventually giving them both up for dead.

"I always prayed my children were still alive... We searched everywhere," Jamaliah said tearfully after Wednesday's emotional reunion, in television footage.

In June, she said, her brother spotted a girl who looked like her daughter as she was commuting home from elementary school where she was a fourth grade student.

"Her face was really similar to mine, so he was curious and investigated... Wenni's adoptive parents admitted that she was orphan from among the ex-tsunami victims."

Based on the girl's testimony, her brother Salim Arif Pratama was also saved and adopted by a different family.

According to media reports, the girl will now live with her parents, while they will continue searching for their son.

Kyodo News

China quake toll rises to 615

***Rescuers search for the survivors in quake-hit Longtoushan Town of Ludian County, southwest China's Yunnan Province, on 7 Aug, 2014. The 6.5-magnitude earthquake that struck Ludian County on Sunday has caused 589 deaths and injured more than 2,800 people.—*XINHUA**

LUDIAN, (Yunnan) 8 Aug—The death toll has risen to 615, four days after a powerful earthquake devastated parts of southwest China's Yunnan Province, local authorities said on Thursday.

Among the reported deaths, 526 were in Ludian County and 76 in Qiaojia County. The quake also caused one death in Zhaotong City and another 12 in Huize County.

In addition to the deaths, 114 people are missing and 3,143 were injured, 343 of whom are in a critical condition. More than 80,000 houses collapsed and 129,100 were damaged. A total of 229,700 people have been evacuated.

According to the provincial civil affairs department, Yunnan has accepted more than 332 million yuan of monetary donations (about 54 million US dollars) and supplies worth over 100 million yuan. A total 1,129 rescuers have been sent to the quake zone, 366 of whom are epidemic prevention personnel.

High temperature and lack of medicines have complicated the post-disaster epidemic control, according to a health official.

"We collect 14 water samples in the quake zone, which show high risk of enteric infectious disease," said Xu Heping of the provincial health department.

The 6.5-magnitude earthquake, the strongest to strike Yunnan in 14 years, occurred at 4:30 pm Sunday (Beijing Time) with its epicentre in Longtoushan Township, Ludian County in Zhaotong City, affecting over 1.08 million people in the cities of Zhaotong and Qujing.

Xinhua

PERSPECTIVES

Saturday, 9 August, 2014

Go, Myanmar. Go! Go!

By *Kyaw Thura*

The year 2014 is an exciting year for Myanmar as the country is chairing the ASEAN for the first time 17 years after its membership of the association.

The ASEAN chairmanship is a great opportunity for Myanmar to demonstrate its ability to handle power in the international system. The country is responsible for taking firm steps to further unite the association.

With some major reforms in political and economic systems, Myanmar is now entrusted with a more active role to play in regional and international affairs. In other words, Myanmar is ready to play a new role in regional and international settings. The international community has also expressed their belief in Myanmar's assumption of the ASEAN chair.

It is therefore important for Myanmar to "continue to make strides in its internal reform processes and increase its linkages to the world beyond its border", according to US Ambassador to ASEAN David Carden.

As the ASEAN chair, Myanmar has set a theme that reads "Moving Forward in Unity to a Peaceful and Prosperous Community". In addition, Myanmar has already set important goals to realize as the chair of the association.

It is necessary for the country to implement the remaining tasks of realizing an ASEAN Community by 2015, to set future initiatives to vitalize the association and to seek ways of promoting external relations with the association.

Myanmar will also need to shoulder responsibilities to transform the ASEAN into a people-centred organization, to enhance engagement with civil society and to encourage the participation of women, youth, parliamentarians and media in ASEAN activities.

The ultimate goal of the ASEAN is to build a peaceful and prosperous community and play a leading role in contributing to the healthy development of the world.

Myanmar's ASEAN chairmanship will no doubt help these objectives materialize, with support and encouragement from ASEAN members, external partners and the international community.

Go, Myanmar. Go! Go!

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.

Myanmar Aesthetic literature, Appreciation of Artistic Works, Feelings that literature gives, Poetic license and Literary techniques

Kin Mg Oo

There seems to be an element of hyperbole in such a claim that each of all living things, animals included, has their own feelings. For saying so, someone may think that such a statement is an awkward one. Animals cannot express their feelings by any other means apart from their manners and sounds whereas human beings can also show their varied feelings by using the art of writing. This intelligence is a key characteristic of human beings, which differs from others. With the development of civilization, men's knowledge and wisdom become wider and wider. Out of ingenuity, they learnt to invent their own languages and literatures so as to communicate with each other, record and share their experiences and feelings. Thus, our respective cultures broadened in many ways—creating, adopting or adapting. It is unanimously accepted that a language and its literature are the national heritage of a country. Some say that we can decide the status of a country by seeing longevity, influence and development of its language and literary works. The acronym, "LID" consists of only three words, but it is deep and sober for our status so as not to be made worse amongst the nations by the legacy of years of neglect. To do so, we all need to co-operate hand in hand with each other.

Nowadays there can be voices heard, especially in the readers' channel of MRTV4, as to whether reading habits of our Myanmar literature have been being lost among our younger generations. Concurrently, they are taking a lot of trouble to broadcast literary talks by famous writers and discussions with writers, poets and literati, continually, with a view to preventing gradual loss of interest in our literary works and promoting reading habits of Myanmar novels, stories and poems as much as possible. As for me, I like these programs and wholly approve of their sayings. The other day, in this channel, I noticed Sayar Mg Sein Win and Sayar Pe Myint say that our teaching system of Myanmar language in schools should be changed, and necessary arrangements should be made to cultivate reading and criticizing habits of Myanmar literature since their childhood days, so that they can learn to appreciate and value their own culture, furthermore they can feel they are responsible for the longevity and development of their cultural heritage.

There may be many reasons which make today's youths find Myanmar literature less and less interesting. They have already had easily accessible social network and other interesting sources of knowledge. For recreation, they can manage to spend their time playing on-line games, chatting with friends, delving into different kinds of subjects on the web-side for their self-development and creating their own blogs. As a matter of fact, youths are very astute, that is, quick at learning. With each passing day, their horizon of knowledge become great while they no longer know they need to read Myanmar literary works. Here I don't mean that they avert their eyes from all books. For all their obviousness of being more interested in informative and educative pieces of writing, they still enjoy reading amusing stories. Very often, I find some boys and girls laugh aloud, while reading books and watching TV and video movies. This depicts they do not lose sense of humor, or rather feelings. It is, in our religion, said that love, hatred, anger, pains and feelings are latent defilements which always exist in us. When an external or environmental impact hits these defilements, various kinds of feelings occur to us. Myriad of happenings in our daily lives and artistic creations of men are impacts. Apart from Ariyas who liberated from the circle of lives, we cannot get rid of these defilements. What I mean is that these feelings will stay with our children, and it is our duty to instigate youths' aspiration to read literature catering to aesthetic enjoyment.

How can we manage to achieve what we want? As said above, the task is really deep and sober. Government or any institution alone cannot implement this duty, without public co-operation. In academic education, reading Myanmar tales, stories, poems and novels—classics and modern—should be compulsorily included as a syllabus. School authorities in collaboration with PTAs (Parent Teacher Associations) need to make students take part in in-house debates, literary talks and poem-recitation contests with famous writers and special guests invited to supervise and observe. Plus, school wall-chart magazines as well can make students grow seeds of reading and writing in them. Awarding prizes to outstanding Myanmar language enthusiasts can help their hobbies to grow larger. This is not a day-dream. Sometime in the past, there used to be these activities in our schools. I wish we could bring such practices back to life in our schools nationwide. Nowadays students are vying for scoring high marks to be admitted to their favorite professional institutes and colleges. Hence high school students and their parents may take no interest to actively participate in those movements, presently. To put it simply, our mother language is a major subject that students like least in our country. Sorrowfully enough, we found some students disclose, albeit unwillingly and shyly, that they were university students majoring in Myanmarsar. They seem to think that it is a disgrace for them to be allowed to study the subject at the lowest level on the totem pole of major-subject-choice-priority-list. This may be attributed to the lack of opportunity for graduates majoring in Myanmar language to get a job in government services and any other institutions. I firmly believe that we need to create incentives for students to be able to choose the subject willingly and decidedly. It had been ever heard that law students in overseas universities have a chance to create their own moot courts to practice trials. Would that our Myanmar-majoring students also had a chance to have literary workshops together with invited famous writers and poets, and to create school-owned moot publishing house so as to be able to produce their literary works, not unlike the above-said first-class overseas students.

Some 15 years ago, I had been in Korea, unexpectedly. There one day, I had a chance to visit a book-shop, maybe in Puchon. Before then, I read a news item in an English newspaper, in which a Korean Pharmaceutical Company was said to have sold one of its patented medicine formulae to an American company. Concurrently I came to know that the Company named "Dong Ah" made an active and concerted effort to make Korea, its culture and literature known to the world and to make the world, international cultures and literatures known to Korea. They invested a lot in compiling "Dong Ah English-Korea dictionary" and "Dong Ah Korea-English dictionary. The two are very reliable ones. Since then, a hope was conceived in my mind that similar well-wishers might appear also in our country. Although we have already had several educational foundations, more and more institutions will be needed yet. There may be, in our country, many tycoons who would like to offer their contributions in educational and social welfare programs. Several years ago, I bought a rare book by Motley Ko Ko from an unexpected source. Later I knew that the publisher was a rich and erudite man, and he reprinted rare and good ones for students and learners to easily get when needed, but not to put on sale. It seemed that he wanted our people to read much—Myanmar and international literatures. If such well-wishers of great wealth and influence would appear in our society, it would be of great help for restoration of Myanmar language and literature, either.

(*to be continued*)

OPINION

As Myanmar takes chair of ASEAN for the first time, Japan will continue to give its full support and cooperation: Japanese FM

YANGON, 8 Aug — ***The following is the New Light of Myanmar's interview with Minister of Foreign Affairs of Japan Mr Fumio Kishida.—Ed***

Q. How are relations between Myanmar and Japan?

A. "This year, Japan and Myanmar celebrate the 60th anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic relations between the two countries. Not only has our economic relationship developed rapidly since the transition to civilian rule in 2011, but our countries have had a long history of mutual appreciation that forms the cornerstone for this. Our bilateral relationship is about to leap forward into a new phase in a wide range of areas including politics/security, economics/economic cooperation, and culture/human exchange. As Myanmar takes the chair of ASEAN for the first time, Japan will continue to give its full support and cooperation."

"This visit will be my second since visiting Myanmar for the first time in March. In the four months since then, the Protocol Amending the Agreement for Air Services between Japan and Myanmar, which enables multiple airline companies from both countries to operate, and the Japan-Myanmar bilateral investment agreement that promotes further economic exchange, went into effect. The Japan-Myanmar relationship continues to develop and evolve on a daily basis like the towns and cities in Myanmar. Amidst these developments, Japan intends to continue to support the progress of Myanmar's democratic and economic reforms, and the improvement of people's livelihoods."

Minister of Foreign Affairs of Japan Mr Fumio Kishida

Q. How do you see the Japan-ASEAN relationship?

A. "Increased stability and prosperity of ASEAN, which is the driving force for various regional cooperation that is progressing in East Asia, is extremely important not only to Japan's peace and prosperity but also to the stability and prosperity of the region as a whole. Based on this recognition, Japan has actively supported the establishment of an ASEAN community by 2015. In particular, we are moving forward with cooperation in strengthening connectivity, disaster management, and people-to-people exchange, which are areas that hold the key to community building."

" In this context, at the ASEAN-Japan Commemorative Summit to commemorate the 40th Year of ASEAN-Japan Friendship and Cooperation , held in Tokyo last year, the heads of state of Japan and ASEAN adopted the Vision Statement on ASEAN-Japan Friendship and Cooperation, and agreed to advance cooperation from a medium to long-term perspective in four principles, "Political and Security Cooperation", "Economy and Economic Cooperation", " Cooperation Towards Better Quality of Life", "People-to-People and Cultural Exchange".

"To advance the cooperation set forth in the Vision Statement, Japan set up a USD 100 million Japan-ASEAN Integration Fund (JAIF 2.0) at the ASEAN Secretariat and made a commitment of 2 trillion yen in ODA over the next five years. Furthermore, we launched a 30 billion yen "WA Project: Toward interactive Asia through Fusion and Harmony" under which we are implementing arts and cultural exchange with ASEAN member states, and support for Japanese language learners."

"Moving forward, Japan will steadily make efforts with follow-ups to the ASEAN-Japan Commemorative Summit, and further strengthen friendly cooperative relationships with ASEAN member states as a partner that shares universal values of freedom, democracy, fundamental human rights, and rule of law."

Q. What is your opinion of the situation in the South China Sea?

A. "The issues involving the South China Sea are concerns of the entire international community, including Japan, and are directly linked to regional peace and stability. Japan cannot recognize a unilateral change to the status quo by force or coercion. We believe that it is important to the formation of an international order in the region that each country abstains from unilateral actions that increase tension, and acts based on the principle of the rule of law."

"Based on this view, Prime Minister Abe delivered a keynote address at the recent Shangri-La Dialogue. He proposed three principles of the rule of law at sea (that (1) States shall make and clarify their claims based on international law, (2) States shall not use force or coercion in trying to drive their claims, and (3) States shall seek to settle disputes by peaceful means), and a return to the 2002 Declaration on the Conduct of Parties in the South China Sea, with all concerned parties agreeing not to undertake unilateral actions associated with a permanent physical change."

"At last year's ASEAN-Japan Commemorative Summit and various other opportunities, Japan and ASEAN have had a shared understanding regarding maritime issues. Moving forward, Japan will continue to deepen communication and cooperation with ASEAN."

Q. What is the position of the Japanese government on ASEAN-related Foreign Ministers' Meetings?

A. "The ASEAN-related Foreign Ministers' Meetings are important opportunities to promote Japan and ASEAN cooperation, as well as confidence-building among the various countries in the Asia-Pacific region. Japan would like to take these important opportunities to actively promote its views toward the realization of peace and prosperity in the region, and confirm its partnerships with participating parties.

"Every year at the ASEAN Regional Forum (ARF), lively discussion is held regarding the regional security situations, including North Korea and the South China Sea. I also want to cooperate closely with the ASEAN Chair, Myanmar, and carry out candid discussions regarding these issues that are especially important to the region. Furthermore, I would like to explain Japan's efforts at the ARF."

"The East Asia Summit (EAS) is a framework that should be further developed as a leaders-led premier forum for discussion of not only economic and social issues, but also political and security issues. At the next EAS Foreign Ministers' Meeting, in addition to the regional situation, Japan would like to pave the way to the strengthening of the EAS and link the results to top-level discussions."

"In ASEAN + 3 (Japan, China, and ROK) cooperation, we would like to discuss practical cooperation in various areas, including financial and food security."

"At the Mekong-Japan Foreign Ministers' Meeting, we would like to confirm the progress and direction of Mekong-Japan Cooperation based on the Tokyo Strategy 2012 for Mekong-Japan Cooperation and the Action Plan."

"I am looking forward to having frank exchanges of views with Foreign Minister U Wunna Maung Lwin and all of the other foreign ministers."

"ASEAN needs to be realistic with SEANWFZ Treaty": Singaporean FM

By *KYWinter*

Progress of the implementation of The Southeast Asian Nuclear-Weapon-Free Zone Treaty was discussed at the SEANWFZ Commission meeting on Friday led by Myanmar Foreign Minister H.E. U Wunna Maung Lwin who stressed in his opening remarks that a strategy must be decided "to engage nuclear weapons states for the signing of the protocol to the SEANWFZ Treaty," with Singapore urging the bloc members to assess the current situation realistically.

The talks were held just before the start of the 47th ASEAN Foreign Ministers' Meeting on Friday, withASEAN Secretary-General Mr. Le Luong Minh explaining"the progress made in implementing the action plan of the SEANWFZ Treaty" and U Wunna Maung Lwin urging the ASEAN Foreign Ministers "to continue to engage with the nuclear weapon states"to ensurea signing "without reservation."

Singaporean Foreign Minister K Shanmugam said, however, the ASEAN member states "must be realistic" and that it is "tremendous idealism in wanting to get the nuclear weapons states to sign up to this treaty."

Following the meeting he said at a press conference, that Singapore, amongst other countries, believes the treaty is aspirational. "It is good to have, but at the same time the agreement must be meaningful," he said, referring to reservations made by a number of nuclear weapons states.

"The treaty took a long time to draft, we almost signed it and then a number of countries came up with reservations, like Russia, which said that if any member country is allowed visits by vessels carrying nuclear weapons, then Russia considers itself free to leave the treaty," the Singaporean Foreign Minister said.

According to Article 7 of the treaty, ASEAN member countries can receive visits from military vessels without this considered a breach of the Nuclear-Weapon-Free Zone.

"The point I made today at the meeting is that we need to look carefully at the situation, and ask yourself what is the meaning and intent? We have a number of states in ASEAN that receive vessels from many countries, including the US, Russia and China and they have a policy of not declaring whether they do or do not carry nuclear weapons. So if tomorrow we have the Philippines or Thailand receive a vessel and one of the other countries would make reservations and say, oh well that's a breach, because that vessel carries nuclear weapons, which the host country will not know, then they move out of the treaty." He said if a big treaty was signed now and within a month someone would move out, it could become somewhat embarrassing for the bloc. "I said aspirational, because we live in the real world. One can see what happened in Ukraine. Ukraine was party to a treaty and its sovereignty was guaranteed by the United States, United Kingdom, and Russia, on the basis of which it gave up its nuclear weapons. And we have seen what has happened to the guarantee," K Shanmugam said.

Indonesian Foreign Minister Marty Natalegawa voiced a bit more optimism following the meeting, saying it was "useful, and we are basically engaged with the nuclear weapons states in how they can respond to the protocol sooner rather than later, but obviously consultations need to continue and there are still some issue we need to talk about."

According to Myanmar's Foreign Minister H.E. U Wunna Maung Lwin, one of the biggest challenges for ASEAN regarding the SEANWFZ Treaty was to "gain respect from the nuclear weapons states and get commitment from those states not to use or threaten to use nuclear weapons."

Singaporean Foreign Minister K Shanmugam outspoken about the SEANWFZ Treaty, saying the current agreement would not work.

PHOTO: AUNG SHINE OO

Obama authorizes possible "targeted" airstrikes in Iraq

WASHINGTON, 8 Aug — US President Barack Obama said on Thursday he has authorized possible "targeted" airstrikes against Islamic State militants in Iraq to help protect minority ethnic groups but ruled out a dispatch of ground troops.

Obama said the US military has airdropped food and water near Sinjar, northern Iraq, to help thousands of Kurds who have been besieged by the militants.

Reading a statement at the White House, Obama said that in recent days the militants have neared Erbil, also in northern Iraq, where American diplomats and civilians serve at a consulate and American military personnel advise Iraqi forces.

"To stop the advance on Erbil, I've directed our military to make targeted strikes" against the militants' convoys should they move toward the city, the president said.

Obama said he has authorized "targeted airstrikes, if necessary, to help forces in Iraq as they fight to break the siege of Mt Sinjar and protect the civilians trapped there."

Obama suggested, however, he has no plan to send group personnel to Iraq, saying, "As commander-in-chief, I will not allow the United States to be dragged into fighting another war in Iraq."

US President Barack Obama talks about the humanitarian relief situation in Iraq, at the State Dining Room of the White House in Washington on 7 Aug, 2014.—REUTERS

The US military has yet to conduct any airstrikes as of Thursday night in Washington time but is ready to carry out operations, a US government official told a teleconference.

The United States has conducted no airstrikes in Iraq since it withdrew its troops from the country in 2011.

Kyodo News

UN chief, Security Council urge international help for Iraq

UNITED NATIONS, 8 Aug — UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon and the United Nations Security Council on Thursday called for the international community to help Iraq's government and people as the country struggles against a sweeping advance by Islamist militants.

The Security Council held an emergency meeting after Islamic State fighters surged toward the capital of the Kurdish region, sending tens of thousands of Christians fleeing for their lives, in an offensive that prompted talk of Western military action.

Britain's UN Ambassador Mark Lyall Grant said he would circulate a draft resolution to the 15-member council later on Thursday that seeks to address the threat of the Islamic State — formerly known as the Islamic State in Iraq and the Levant (ISIL).

Lyall Grant said the text, which he hoped could be negotiated in the coming days, outlines practical steps for "tackling the funding and recruitment for ISIL" and also proposes listing key Islamic State leaders under the Security Council's al-Qaeda sanctions regime.

In a statement, Ban called "on the international community, especially those with the influence and resources to positively impact the situation, to support the Government and people of Iraq and to do all it can to help alleviate the suffering of the population affected by the current conflict in Iraq."

The Security Council echoed Ban's call and condemned "the systematic persecution of individuals from minority populations and those who refuse the extremist ideology of ISIL and associated armed groups."

Reuters

UN Secretary-General's Message on International Day of the World's Indigenous Peoples

9 August 2014

This year's International Day of the World's Indigenous Peoples comes at a critical moment as the world endeavours to meet the Millennium Development Goals, forge a new vision for sustainable development and prepare the groundwork for the adoption of a new legal climate agreement – all by 2015.

Indigenous peoples have a central interest in these objectives – and can act as powerful agents of progress. In order for them to contribute to our common future, we must secure their rights.

The UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples establishes minimum standards for their survival, dignity, well-being and rights. But huge gaps remain between those ideals and the circumstances facing most of the world's indigenous peoples.

While a number of countries have constitutional and legislative frameworks that recognize indigenous peoples, many others do not, leaving their lives and lands exposed to threats. Historical injustices have all too often resulted in exclusion and poverty. Power structures have and continue to create obstacles to indigenous peoples' right to self-determination. They are among those who tend to face comparatively higher barriers to progress. The negative effects reverberate beyond indigenous communities, affecting societies as a whole.

The interests of the indigenous peoples must be part of the new development agenda in order for it to succeed.

As we prepare for the World Conference on Indigenous Peoples in September, I urge all Member States to work in full partnership with indigenous peoples and their representatives to improve their lives and opportunities.

Together, let us recognize and celebrate the valuable and distinctive identities of indigenous peoples around the world. Let us work even harder to empower them and support their aspirations.

On this International Day for the World's Indigenous Peoples, I call on all partners to join the United Nations in promoting and protecting their rights which are essential for our common future.—*UNIC/Yangon*

Ukraine will not seek Serbia to impose sanctions on Russia

BELGRADE, 8 Aug — Ukraine cannot ask Serbia to impose sanctions on Russia due to the fact that it is not a member of the EU, says Charge d'Affaires of the Embassy of Ukraine in Serbia Oleksandr Kirichenko. We regret that Serbia does not have the same stance as most European countries, but you have the sovereign right to develop relations with Russia of the kind you want and it will not affect the good relations between Serbia and Ukraine, Kirichenko was quoted as telling the *Nase Novine* newspaper.

He pointed out that it was encouraging to hear Serbia supporting the territorial integrity of Ukraine, but also expected, as Ukraine had always supported the integrity of Serbia. Kirichenko said that Ukraine would not recognize Kosovo's independence despite Serbia's neutral stance concerning the EU position towards Russia.

The Kosovo precedent is devastating. And regardless of the fact that Serbia might have a neutral attitude towards the EU position, we will never change our stance on Kosovo. It will never happen that Ukraine directly or indirectly recognizes the independence of Kosovo, the Ukrainian diplomat said. The most recent statement by Deputy Prime Minister Ivica Dacic, who said that both Russia and Ukraine were friendly countries to Serbia, is also very important to us — it is important that there is no making one of the sides a priority, Kirichenko said.

Tanjug

Gaza militants resume rocket fire at Israel after truce expires

GAZA / JERUSALEM, 8 Aug — Palestinian militants in the Gaza Strip resumed rocket fire into Israel on Friday after Egyptian-mediated talks in Cairo failed to extend a 72-hour truce in a nearly month-long war.

As police said rocket-warning sirens were sounding in southern Israel, the military's "Iron Dome" interceptor system brought down a missile over the southern city of Ashkelon.

A military spokesman said on Twitter: "After the 72-hour ceasefire, Hamas resumes indiscriminate rocket fire at Israel. At least 5 rockets launched - one intercepted over Ashkelon."

Israel had earlier said it was ready to agree to an extension as Egyptian go-betweens pursued talks with Israeli and Palestinian delegates in Cairo on ending the war that has devastated the Hamas-controlled enclave.

Palestinians sit outside their destroyed house in Beit Hanoun town, which witnesses said was heavily hit by Israeli shelling and air strikes during the Israeli offensive, in the northern Gaza Strip on 7 Aug, 2014—REUTERS

A Hamas spokesman said Palestinian factions had not agreed to extend the truce, but would continue negotiations in Cairo. The Palestinians had wanted Israel to agree in principle to demands which include a lifting of a blockade on the Gaza Strip, the release of prisoners and the opening of a sea port. The armed wing of Hamas released a statement late on Thursday warning Palestinians negotiators not to agree to an extension unless Israelis offered concessions. There was no sign that Israel had made any such moves.

Israel also made it clear that it would respond forcefully if attacked and a minister raised the prospect of re-taking control of the Gaza Strip to overthrow its Hamas rulers.

"Israel will act with force if Hamas resumes its fire and to my mind we will have, this time, to seriously consider, although not with enthusiasm, the option of taking control of the Gaza Strip in order to topple the Hamas regime," Strategic Affairs Minister Yuval Steinitz said on Army Radio.—*Reuters*

Video games can let kids practice being bad

NEW YORK, 8 Aug — Teenagers who play risk-glorifying video games rated for mature audiences are more likely to act aggressively, drink alcohol, smoke cigarettes and have unprotected sex, a new study suggests.

Character-based video games let people practice being someone else, and practicing at being a character who's an antisocial deviant may have broad behavioral consequences for kids, the researchers conclude.

"Your moral compass is warped as a consequence of practicing being a deviant character in these games," lead author Jay Hull told Reuters Health. "If your kids are playing these games, it's not a good sign of things to come."

The study is the first to suggest that game players may develop values consistent with their deviant game characters and are more likely to act in a host of dangerous ways, not just in the specific ways enacted in the games, said Hull, who is a social psychologist at Dartmouth College in Hanover, New Hampshire.

Researchers interviewed 5,019 randomly selected American teens on the telephone and attempted to continue to interview them twice more over four years. The average age of participants was 13 and a half at the start and almost 18 years old at the end, when the pool of subjects, who were paid $5 for each interview, had dwindled to 2,718.

The study examined the behaviour of kids who played mature-rated video games and zeroed in on three — Grand Theft Auto, Manhunt and Spiderman. They all contain violent and risk-glorifying content but vary in the extremity of violence and the depiction of gore, the authors write in the *Journal of Personality and Social Psychology*.

The ratings say no one under 17 should have access to mature-rated

games. But nearly half of the participants said their parents allowed them to play the games.

The study found the games were associated with changes in a wide range of high-risk behaviours.

Alcohol use and cigarette smoking increased "exponentially" over time with the amount of game play. The study found similar patterns for delinquency, risky sex and increased tolerance of deviant behaviour.

The effects were similar for males and females and were strongest among the heaviest game players and those playing games with anti-social protagonists, the authors said.

The authors emphasize that youngsters' troublesome actions in real life were not necessarily the same high-risk behaviors of the characters they were pretending to be when they played.

During video-game play, "They're not practicing drinking and smoking and risky sex, but what they are practicing is being a less than good person," Hull said. "Practicing being like a less than moral person in these games increases the likelihood that they're going to be less than moral."

Grand Theft Auto players, for example, play underworld thugs. The game includes a scenario in which a player might go to a prostitute, have sex, then kill the prostitute to take back the money he paid her, child psychologist Douglas Gentile told Reuters Health.

Gentile runs the Media Research Lab at Iowa State University and was not involved in the current study. He likens violent video games as a gateway to deviance the way some see marijuana as a so-called gateway drug.

"Once a kid is trying one substance, the odds of trying another one go up," he said. "The risk starts piling up much faster, and the outcomes for these children get much worse in a hurry."

He underscored the need for parents to pay attention to video game ratings.

"The ratings are there for a reason. Certain kinds of content really aren't for kids," Gentile said.

But the rating system is flawed, he said. He has staged sting operations and given children as young as seven money to buy mature-rated video games, and one time out of two, they have been able to make the purchase, he said.

Exposing children to mature-rated video games is like exposing them to sex long before they're ready for it, Gentile said.

"Violence is also a complicated adult issue. Kids aren't emotionally or cognitively prepared to think about the ramifications," he said.

Social psychologist Christopher Engelhardt studies video games at the University of Missouri Thompson Centre for Autism and Neurodevelopmental Disorders in Columbia. He told Reuters Health the current study shows that video games "can be excellent teachers."—*Reuters*

High fruit and veggie diet linked to lower risk of heart disease, death

NEW YORK, 8 Aug — Researchers have more evidence linking a diet with lots of fruits and vegetables to better health outcomes.

The idea that fruits and veggies are good for you isn't new, of course. What's new in this study is that researchers saw a dose-response relationship: the more fruits and veggies people ate, the less likely they were to have heart problems or die while researchers were studying them.

The protective effects of fruits and veggies leveled out at five servings per day, which supports current dietary recommendations, senior author Dr Frank B Hu, of the departments of nutrition and epidemiology at the Harvard School of Public Health in Boston, told Reuters Health by email.

The findings are from a fresh analysis of 16 existing studies that involved more than 800,000 people. The studies lasted at least four years, and sometimes up to 26 years. Around 56,000 participants died during the studies.

Six studies included data on vegetables in the diet over time, six examined fruits, and four included both. The studies were conducted in the US, Asia and Europe.

Compared to people who ate no fruits or vegetables, those who ate one serving per day were roughly five percent less likely to die of any cause over the course of the studies. And with every additional serving, the risk of death decreased by another five percent, according to the combined analysis published in *BMJ*.

The risk of dying from heart disease decreased with more fruits and vegetables in a similar way, but the risk of dying from cancer did not appear to change.

More than five servings of fruits and vegetables daily didn't confer any additional benefit.

Most of the studies took into account people's age, body mass index, smoking and alcohol consumption, which can all affect the risk of dying from heart disease or other problems. But since it only included observational studies, the review can't prove that these dietary habits will protect people from heart disease and death, only that the two are connected. People in the studies could have been making other lifestyle choices that would influence the results.

Reuters

China July exports jump, but domestic economy still a worry

BEIJING, 8 Aug — China's surprisingly buoyant exports in July pushed its trade surplus to a record, but a drop in imports signals sluggish domestic demand that will likely call for continuing policy support to keep economic growth on track.

Manufacturing appears to have picked up in the world's second-largest economy but unexpected weakness in the services sector has renewed concerns about the country's growth outlook. The weak housing market remains China's biggest risk, posing a drag on the broader economy and investor confidence.

Exports in July jumped 14.5 percent from a year earlier, the General Administration of Customs said on Friday, doubling from 7.2 percent in June and roundly beating market expectations.

Imports fell 1.6 percent, versus a rise of 5.5 percent in June, leaving the country with a record trade surplus of $47.3 billion for the month.

A *Reuters* poll had predicted a 7.5 percent rise in exports, a 3 percent increase in imports and a trade surplus of $27 billion.

"The (export) data indicates very strong demand externally and less need for a weak currency," said Dariusz Kowalczyk, senior economist at Credit Agricole CIB in Hong Kong.

"However, imports contracted 1.6 percent year-on-year, indicating soft domestic demand and a downward pressure on growth. Policymakers are likely to do more to support the domestic economy."

Financial markets firmed on the data with the Shanghai Composite Index rebounding. It rose 0.25 percent by midday from its intraday low, when it was down 0.32 percent.

After a weak start this year, China's exports have shown signs of improvement helped by stronger global growth as well as supportive domestic policies and the effects of a weaker yuan.

But imports have been weak, although recent data has pointed to some signs of stabilisation as a raft of government stimulus measures start to kick in.

Combined exports and imports grew 2 percent in the first seven months from a year earlier, trailing far behind the government's full-year target of 7.5 percent.

Reuters

Trucks drive past piles of shipping containers at the Qingdao port in Qingdao, Shandong Province on 8 June, 2014.—REUTERS

Normally sunny Hawaii braces for hurricane double punch

HONOLULU, 8 Aug — Hawaii braced for a one-two punch from a pair of major storms barrelling toward the archipelago on Thursday, with Hurricane Iselle leading the way bringing high winds and heavy surf as Hurricane Julio gathered steam behind it, US officials said.

Wind shook palm trees on Hawaii's Big Island and caused white caps to form off the coast as Iselle approached on Thursday afternoon rated a Category 1 hurricane, even with the eye of the storm still about 150 miles (241 km) east of the town of Hilo.

The storm, with maximum winds of 80 miles per hour (129 kph), was due to make landfall on Thursday night before passing south of the state's smaller islands on Friday.

As residents and tourists alike braced for Iselle, Hurricane Julio was gaining momentum further east, and was expected to pass near Hawaii by late Saturday or early Sunday, said Ray Tanabe, acting director of the National Weather Service in the Pacific region.

*Shelly Nakasone looks through her shopping cart as she buys supplies as a hurricane and a tropical storm approach the Hawaiian islands, in Mililani, Hawaii, on 5 Aug, 2014.—*REUTERS

The rare threat of back-to-back hurricanes sent Hawaii residents scrambling to stock up on supplies as state officials warned of the potential for flash floods, mudslides and power outages in the normally calm tourist haven.

Governor Neil Abercrombie signed an emergency proclamation, freeing up funds and resources in anticipation of the storms, and authorities advised residents to prepare seven-day disaster supply kits and cautioned them against driving except in an emergency.

"Everybody knows that a real rough time is coming," Abercrombie told a news conference.

Iselle was expected to strike the Big Island as a hurricane or tropical storm between 9 pm and 10 pm local time, bringing waves of up to 25 feet (8 metres), said meteorologist Chris Brenchley of the Central Pacific Hurricane Centre.

Hawaii's schools would be closed on Friday, but authorities planned to keep airports open so planes could land in an emergency, even as some airlines cancelled flights, officials said.

Officials continued to prepare for Hawaii's primary election, scheduled for Saturday, but said they could reassess how to proceed on Friday after Iselle hits.

"If things are really, really bad when we make the assessment on Friday, we will consider postponing elections for whatever part of the state is adversely affected by the storm," said Rex Quidilla, spokesman for the state Office of Elections.

In Honolulu, where the sun was shining on Thursday morning, resident Don Riseborough said he was taking the weather in stride.

"Talk about the calm before the storm. It's a gorgeous day here, bright sunshine, nice trade winds, a beach day. The furniture is off the lanai, and I'm about to eat everything in the refrigerator in case the power goes out." But on the Big Island, a downpour soaked customers who dashed from cars to the Sunshine True Value Hardware store in Kapaau, only to discover shelves already picked clean of batteries, flashlights, duct tape and plywood. But sales clerk Caryl Lindamood tried to spread a cheerful outlook.

Reuters

Switchover to "special" permanent resident status proceeds slowly

TOKYO, 8 Aug — A new certificate introduced in July 2012 for "special permanent residents" of Korean and Taiwanese descent was issued to only roughly 13 percent of the eligible people totaling just over 370,000 as of 30 June, according to the Justice Ministry's Immigration Bureau.

The slow switchover from the alien registration certificate to the special permanent resident certificate has been attributed largely to a lack of publicity by the bureau about the mandatory measure. The bureau is planning to alert by mail each individual as the changeover window is thought to expire on more than 100,000 people in July. Special permanent resident status was accorded to around 373,000 people as of 31 December, comprising predominantly those hailing from the Korean Peninsula and Taiwan, both colonized by Japan before World War II, and their offspring. Of them, around 369,000 are of Korean ancestry.

Kyodo News

Colombia's president to start new term, faces fierce opposition

BOGOTA, 8 Aug — Colombia's President Juan Manuel Santos will be sworn in for his second term on Thursday to face the formidable task of clinching peace with Marxist FARC rebels as a hostile opposition seeks to hobble any accord that passes through Congress.

Santos won re-election in June with the aid of leftist parties that back negotiations to end 50 years of war. In an unusual display of solidarity, they joined forces with the centre-right Santos to block former President Alvaro Uribe's right-wing candidate, who had sought to scrap talks.

"Our greatest challenge is peace. We must cultivate peace and we must construct it between us all," said Santos, who will take the oath of office before 12 heads of state.

Although Santos wants his second mandate to move the nation toward a post-conflict era, it will likely be a bitter four years.

*Colombia's President Juan Manuel Santos gestures as he speaks as the Colombian army commemorates its 195th anniversary at the Military school "Jose Maria Cordova'' in Bogota on 5 Aug, 2014.—*REUTERS

Uribe — voted recently to the Senate — has invigorated the opposition, trimming Santos' majority in Congress and probably complicating passage of key reforms and peace-related deals.

Santos, who bet his legacy on talks with the Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia (FARC), has used considerable political capital waving the peace flag to win a second term. The launch of the talks in late 2012 enraged Uribe, who heads the biggest opposition party.

A still-popular strongman, Uribe is a bitter rival of Santos and vehemently against the negotiations, preferring to defeat the group on the battlefield instead of allowing it a peaceful entry into society and a possible role in politics.

Uribe will likely be pleased by a high court ruling on Wednesday that bars rebels guilty of atrocious war crimes from public office. It also may complicate the peace discussions underway in Havana since it would prevent many FARC leaders from political participation.

Any agreement with the FARC — which has stepped up attacks in recent weeks — must first go to a referendum and then to Congress for the passage of laws that would deal with the implementation of peace.

"Uribe's opposition to the peace process is a big obstacle, but it's not insurmountable because he doesn't have a majority," said political analyst Marcela Prieto.

"And it's important that there is a balance in Congress to the process because almost half the population has reservations about the talks."

Reuters

Third coal seam in Kolubara opens after May floods

LAZAREVAC, 8 Aug — Coal production resumed on Thursday in Veliki Crljeni coal seam at the Kolubara mining basin, which was heavily affected by the May flooding, and Serbian Minister of Mining and Energy Aleksandar Antic announced that the first quantities of coal will be sent to the Obrenovac thermal power plant Nikola Tesla (TENT) this weekend. Coal production in Veliki Crljeni resumed some fifty days before schedule, saving around EUR 30 million worth of electricity, which means that Serbia will not need to import electricity during winter, said the minister.

This is the third coal seam to reopen in Kolubara after the May floods — Field B and Field D, and finally Veliki Crljeni, where around 20,000 tons of coal will be produced every day. "There was a lake here in late May and the initial, optimistic plan was to drain the water by 1 October, "Antic specified in his statement to reporters.

Veliki Crljeni coal seam was flooded on 15 May with approximately 27 million cubic meters of water, and around 22 million cubic metres have so far been drained.—*Tanjug*

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Consignees of cargo carried on MV SHIBA VOY NO ( ) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 8.8.2014 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of M.I.T.T where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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MYANMA PORT AUTHORITY
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Consignees of cargo carried on MV KULNATEE VOY NO (09/14) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 10.8.2014 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of S.P.W(1) where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

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Weather report

FORECAST VALID UNTIL EVENING OF THE 9th August, 2014: Rain or thundershowers will be isolated in Lower Sagaing Region, scattered in Mandalay and Magway Regions, Kayah State, fairly widespread in Upper Sagaing Region, Kachin, Shan and Chin States and widespread in the remaining Regions and States with likelihood of isolated heavy falls in Taninthayi Region, Rakhine and Mon States. Degree of certainty is (100%).

Ecuador vows to make tourism largest source of non-oil revenue

QUITO, 8 Aug — Minister of Tourism Sandra Naranjo said on Thursday that Ecuador is striving to make tourism the country's largest source of non-oil revenues. The arrivals of foreign tourists have jumped 14 percent over the past six months to 749,410 from 655,605 in the same period of 2013, the official *Andes* news agency reported.

"Our goal is to reach a million and a half or so this year. Tourism represents 5.3 percent of the gross domestic product in Ecuador," Naranjo said. Tourist arrivals reached over 1.3 million in 2013 as the number of tourists has grown steadily since 2009. Tourism, which now generates 5 percent of jobs and is worth around 1.2 billion dollars a year, is ranked as the fourth largest source of non-oil revenues.

"Our long-term goal is to make tourism our largest source of non-oil revenues," said the minister. Naranjo also said that major hotel investments would come in the near future. "The Ibis chain under French group Accor will build 10 new hotels in Ecuador. There will also be a hotel near the new airport in the capital city Quito and we have a lot of investors interested in unique destinations like Galapagos."

The Galapagos Islands, listed on the UNESCO World Heritage site in 1978, are home to exotic fauna and flora in the world.—*Xinhua*

An employee works during the loading operations of cattle in a ship in the port of Montevideo, capital of Uruguay, on 7 Aug, 2014. Uruguay sent on Thursday 10,000 dairy calves of Holstein breed between 8 and 15 months on a boat to China. The boat has a capacity of 20,000 heads and a high technology to ensure the welfare of animals during the trip.—XINHUA

Water Aid cautions against complacency in dealing with Cholera

ACCRA, 8 Aug — International Development organization Water Aid cautioned here on Thursday against complacency in dealing with cholera outbreaks, in spite of the favourable figure from the World Health Organization for 2013. It said the figures from the WHO showed that all regions across the world are affected, with 22 countries in Africa, 14 countries in Asia, eight in the Americas, two in Europe and one in Oceania reporting cholera cases. The 2013 annual report by the WHO painted an encouraging picture of the Cholera situation across the world.

It noted a marked decrease in the number of reported cases down by nearly half compared with 2012 figures, to 129,064 cases and 2102 deaths. But WaterAid cautions that the actual burden of cholera is estimated to be between 1.4 and 4.3 million cases and 28,000 to 142,000 deaths per year worldwide. Water Aid pointed out that Cholera is often underreported due to fear of negative impact on travel and trade, adding "An estimated 1.4 billion (1 in 5 people globally) are at risk from cholera, with poor or no access to sanitation and subsequent contamination of food, water and the living environment the main transmission routes."—*Xinhua*

Malaysia hopes for boost to world medical tourism industry

BEIJING, 8 Aug — Chief of Malaysia Tourism Board recently said he hoped the country's medical tourism facing Muslim market would give a boost to the rapid developing industry worldwide. He said in Kuala Lumpur that Singapore and Thailand lead world's medical tourism industry by their annual industry output value of 55 billion and 38 billion US dollars respectively. Besides, Malaysia ranks the third of the world's "most affordable health-care country" according to *International Living* magazine, the chief added. Malaysia has an advantage of price and technology, and high-end surgery such as cardiac bypass surgery, which is the biggest attraction of medical tourism, according to the chief of Malaysia Tourism.

Meanwhile, head of the Association of Private Hospitals of Malaysia said that Malaysia had further loosen entry restriction for medical tourists, attracting about 770,000 in five years by end of 2013.—*Xinhua*

Jagger, Hawking join big celebrity push to keep Scotland in the UK

Musician Mick Jagger attends the premiere of 'Get on Up' in New York on 21 July, 2014. —Reuters

London, 8 Aug — Singer Mick Jagger, actress Judi Dench and scientist Stephen Hawking are among 200 British stars who have signed a letter urging Scotland to remain part of the United Kingdom, six weeks before a historic referendum on independence.

The letter, an attempt to sway Scots before the 18 September vote, was organized by "Let's Stay Together", a group which says it aims to give a voice to the millions of Britons outside Scotland who don't have the right to vote.

Only Scots residents can take part in the referendum, meaning people who live in the three other constituent parts of the UK — England, Wales and Northern Ireland — don't have a say.

Opinion polls show most Scots will vote against breaking the 307-year union with England. But they also show that many have not yet decided how they will vote, injecting some uncertainty into the outcome.

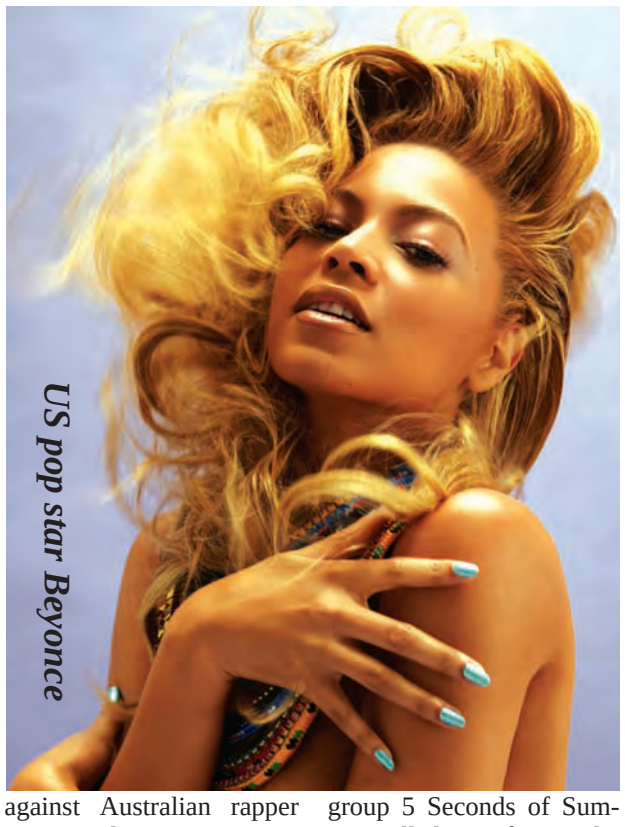
The letter, signed by a Who's Who of celebrities, many of them English, was organized by Dan Snow and Tom Holland, well-known TV historians in Britain. Released at an event on the banks of the River Thames in London close to Tower Bridge, organizers said an extraordinary list of famous Britons had signed the letter, reflecting the fact that non-Scots were not indifferent to Scotland's fate.—*Reuters*

Beyonce to be honoured and perform at MTV Video Music Awards

New York, 8 Aug— US pop star Beyonce, currently on a US tour with rapper husband Jay Z, will receive a special award and perform at the MTV Video Music Awards this month, the cable TV network said on Thursday,

Beyonce, who received eight nominations, will be awarded the Michael Jackson Video Vanguard Award at the show, one of the industry's top ceremonies that will be aired live from California on 24 August. "As a performer, Beyonce has delivered some of the most memorable performances in VMA history," MTV said in a statement.

Beyonce, 32, earned nominations for best video and best collaboration with Jay Z for her hit "Drunk In Love," and will compete for Video of the Year against Australian rapper Iggy Azalea. R&B singer Usher and Australian rock group 5 Seconds of Summer will also perform at the show.—*Reuters*



US pop star Beyonce

Director and actor George Clooney arrives at Omega's dinner party in Shanghai on 16 May, 2014. Reuters

George Clooney and Amal Alamuddin post legal notice of Italy wedding

London, 8 Aug — Hollywood actor George Clooney and human rights lawyer Amal Alamuddin have posted legal notice in London of their plan to marry in Italy, a spokesman for the borough of Kensington and Chelsea said on Thursday. News of the couple's engagement was confirmed in April when Alamuddin's legal practice in London issued a statement congratulating them.

The banns, or formal notice of the wedding, were posted at Kensington and Chelsea Register office in southwest London from last month until Thursday, the spokesman said.

The couple would have had to visit the office and pay a fee of 35 pounds ($59) each before signing the document which was then displayed for 16 days.

Two-time Oscar winner Clooney, 53, has been married once before but since his 1993 divorce from Talia Balsam has remained one of Hollywood's most eligible bachelors and had vowed never to remarry.

Alamuddin has advised United Nations former secretary-general Kofi Annan on Syria, represented Ukraine's ex-prime minister Yulia Tymoshenko in challenging her detention before the European Court of Human Rights and has also represented WikiLeaks founder Julian Assange in extradition proceedings.

Photos of the notice, published by the *Daily Mirror*, show 36-year-old Alamuddin's occupation as "barrister" and her status as "single". Clooney, listed under his full name of George Timothy Clooney, is described as "actor and director", with his marital status "previous marriage dissolved".—*Reuters*

Juhi Chawla becomes brand ambassador for 'Sony Pal'

Mumbai, 8 Aug — Bollywood actress Juhi Chawla has been named the brand ambassador for newly-launched Hindi entertainment channel, Sony Pal while her contemporary Raveena Tandon will be hosting a chat show on the same channel.

As per reports, Juhi pipped Lara Dutta and Raveena Tandon to become the face of the channel, formally launched today by the Multi Screen Media.

"I am happy to be associated with this new channel as the brand ambassador. The channel will showcase content which will empower women while preserving her responsibilities towards family," Juhi said.

Among nine different shows to be aired on the channel is the first-of-its-kind chat show 'Simply Baatein' with actress Raveena Tandon who will address issues under a collective umbrella of womanhood. There will be a game show 'Dil Hai Chotasa Choti Si Asha' featuring women contestants and it will be hosted by popular TV actors Ragini Khanna and Jay Soni.

While 'Ek Rishta Aisa Bhi' is about a relationship between jija and sali (brother-in-law and sister-in-law), another show titled 'Singhasan Battisi' is a period drama based on king Vikramaditya, with 32 angel statues. Among other shows are 'Khushiyon Ki Gullakh Aashi', 'Pia Basanti Re', 'Tum Sath Ho Jaab Apne', 'Sister Didi', 'Yeh Dil Sun Raha Hain'.

The channel is slated to go on air from 1 September . —*PTI*

Bollywood actress Juhi Chawla

GENERAL

Daw Myint Gyi (Wendy)
Age: 91 years

Only daughter of (U Saw Lwin-Daw Mya Tin), daughter-in-law of (U Wi-Daw Ngwe Zin), beloved wife of the late U Zaw Win (Zaw Myint Thein), loving mother of Daw Khin Aye Win (Andrie), U Kyaw Zaw Win (Kenneth)-Daw Khin Thuzar Chan Tun (Gracie), Daw Ni Ni Nay Win-U Nay Win, Dr. Bo Zaw Win-Jeannette, (Capt Lyn Zaw Win., MAF)-Daw Ohn Set (Gee Mar), U Aye Zaw Win-Dr. Khin Sanda Win, beloved grandmother of Khaing Aye - Khin Maung Win, Aung Aye-Khine Khine Oo, Aye Aung-Myat Myat Kyaw, Tun Zaw Win (Naing Naing), Yadanar Zaw Win-Mark, Aung Thurein Win (Craigie)-Tin Hnin Wai (Thida), Myat Sundee Win (Kim)-Aung Myo Tun, Kyaw Thura(Mark)-May Thu, Wai Tun (Wayne)-Anne, Aung Zaw Lyn- Jessica, May Sanda Lyn (Pont Pont)-Matt, Aye NeWin, Kyaw NeWin and Zwe NeWin great-grandmother of 20 passed away peacefully on Tuesday, 5th August at Shady Grove Hospital. Funeral will be held on Saturday, August 9th at Pumphrey Funeral Homes, USA; Buddhist services, then cremation per her request.

Bereaved Family

Malaysia Airlines shares suspend trading

KUALA LUMPUR, 8 Aug — Malaysian stock exchange said on Friday that Malaysia Airlines (MAS) suspended its shares from trading, pending for an announcement. MAS said in an announcement that the suspension was requested by Khazanah Nasional Berhad ("Khazanah"), its major shareholder, " pending for a proposal from Khazanah in relation to a material corporate exercise involving the company." —*Xinhua*

China to spend 5 billion USD on needy schools

BEIJING, 8 Aug — China's central government has allocated 31 billion yuan (5.02 billion US dollars) to improve schools in poor regions, said the Ministry of Education here on Thursday. The fund is about 50 percent more than last year and will be spent on the worst equipped public schools in the poorest regions.

According to basic targets set by the ministry, the money will be used to provide each student his/her own desk and chair, each boarding student his/her own bed, clean drinking water, properly equipped canteens and toilets, safe school buildings, heating systems and digital teaching facilities.

The money must not be spent on staff offices, meeting halls, stadiums or office buildings for local education departments.

Private schools, nurseries, public schools in cities and all schools for non-compulsory education will not be funded. In China, compulsory education covers nine years: six in primary schools and three years of middle schools.

The ministry stressed that precautions will be taken to avoid misuse of the funds. Details of all projects must be published on department websites and media for at least a year so that people can supervise how the money is spent.

If a provincial government is caught cheating , future payments will be reduced. If the fraud is serious, the province will be removed from the list, according to the statement. *Xinhua*

Williams shines at Rogers Cup

TORONTO, 8 Aug — Serena Williams cruised into the quarter-finals of the Rogers Cup with a 7-5, 6-4 win over Lucie Safarova, while sister Venus ousted Angelique Kerber as the Montreal tournament lost more high seeds on Thursday. Petra Kvitova, ranked No 2 and playing in her first event since winning her second Wimbledon title, fell 6-4, 1-6, 6-2 to Russia's Ekaterina Makarova while fourth seed Maria Sharapova was beaten 6-2, 4-6, 6-2 by Spain's Carla Suarez Navarro.

German sixth seed Kerber and seventh seed Jelena Jankovic of Serbia were also sent packing, leaving just two of the top eight seeds — Serena Williams and third seed Agnieszka Radwanska of Poland — in the quarter-finals. Playing in Montreal for the first time in 14 years, world number one Williams has looked at ease on the hardcourts after winning the tournament in Toronto last year.

While not as ruthless as in her 6-2, 6-0 demolition of former-US Open champion Sam Stosur in her opening match, the American still delivered on the big points when it mattered against her 15th-seeded Czech opponent.

"I really needed to serve well today because she was just hitting unreturnable serves for me," said Williams. "We didn't really have too many long rallies."

"We both were just hitting lots of service winners or aces. So it was kind of hard to get in a good rhythm."

Williams will now face Denmark's former world number one Caroline Wozniacki, who brought American qualifier Shelby Rogers' fairytale run to a shuddering 6-1, 6-0 end, in the quarter-finals.

"Obviously Serena has all the experience. She has a big serve. She takes the ball early," said Wozniacki.

"I would need to try and make her move, try and open up the points, serve well myself.

"Serena is obviously a great champion. She's an unbelievable player. You can see that with how many grand slams she's won, how many tournaments she's won.

"It's never a surprise whenever she's doing well. She's ruling the court."

Venus Williams joined her sister in the quarter-finals with a 6-3, 3-6, 6-4 win over Kerber.

It was the second time in four days that Kerber fell to a Williams, as Serena beat the German in the Stanford final in California on Sunday.

"So many matches I've been on the short end of the stick. It felt good this time to pull one out," Venus said after her second career win in five head-to-head matches with Kerber.

American Coco Vandeweghe beat Jankovic 7-6(8), 2-6, 7-5. Vandeweghe won three fewer points but still prevailed.—*Reuters*

***Serena Williams (USA) reacts after winning the first set against Lucie Safarova (CZE) on day four of the Rogers Cup tennis tournament at Uniprix Stadium.*—REUTERS**

MYANMAR TV

(9-8-2014, Saturday)

6:00 am
* Paritta by Venerable Mingun Sayadaw Phayagyi

6:15 am
* Physical Exercise

7:20 am
* Business News

8:30 am
* TV Drama Series

9:00 am
* News/ International News

9:30 am
* Maha Won Tha Myat Buddha

10:00 am
* News

11:25 am
* Game for Children

12:25 pm
* Round Up of The Week's TV Local News

2:10 pm
* Musical Programme

3:00 pm
* News

3:15 pm
* Teleplay

3:30 pm
* Myanmar Traditional Performing Arts Competitions

4:40 pm
* University of Distance Education (TV Lectures) -First Year (Law)

5:00 pm
* News

6:20 pm
* MRTV's Youth Programme

7:20 pm
* Teleplay

8:00 pm
* News/International News/Weather Report

8:35 pm
* Documentary

9:00 pm
* News
* Myanmar Series
* Gitadagale Phwintbarohn

MYANMAR INTERNATIONAL

(9-8-14 07:00 am~ 10-8-14 07:00 am) MST

* Local News
* Great Shwedagon: The Planetary Posts
* World News
* Myanmar Wedding Dresses
* Local News
* Wagaung… A Festival for Presenting Offertories by Lot
* World News
* Myanmar Traditional Art Bronze Casting
* Local News
* Taung Byone Nat Festival (Episode-1)
* World News
* My Life & My Art
* Local News
* Back to A Paradise (Part-II)
* World News
* In The Studio "Ying"
* Local News
* A Highland with Peace and Charm
* World News
* Guiding Star of Song Birds
* Local News
* An Aficionado of Alluring Antiques "U Sein Myint"
* World News
* Parents' Day
* Local News
* Kayah
* World News
* Myanmar Weaving
* Local News
* Food Trip(Episode-1)
* World News
* A Monk's Robe

Venezuelan president attends delegation for 2014 Youth Olympic Games

Venezuela's President Nicolas Maduro (C) attends the flag ceremony for the Venezuelan delegation to the 2nd Youth Olympic Games to be held in China's Nanjing, in Caracas on 7 Aug, 2014.

XINHUA

The New Light of Myanmar

Juve expecting tougher challenge in Serie A and Down Under

SYDNEY, 8 Aug — Juventus expect a much tougher challenge in Serie A this season as they chase a fourth straight Scudetto, new coach Massimiliano Allegri said on Friday after the Italian champions landed in Australia for a friendly as part of their world tour. Allegri is overseeing his first pre-season at Juventus after replacing Antonio Conte, who led the Turin club to a hat-trick of league titles but stood down in July because he felt winning silverware would become increasingly difficult.

Former AC Milan coach Allegri, looking fatigued after the flight from Indonesia where Juventus opened their world tour with an 8-1 victory over a local select XI on Wednesday, was clearly in agreement with his predecessor. "This year will probably be much harder compared to last year," the 46-year-old told a news conference under Sydney's landmark Opera House.

"There will be stiffer competition as the other teams in Serie A have strengthened their squads quite significantly.

"We are still the favourites but it'll be much more challenging title race this year."

Flanked by striker Carlos Tevez and goalkeeper Gigi Buffon, and with new signing Patrice Evra also on the podium, Allegri paid tribute to hundreds of local fans who had got up in the early hours of the morning to welcome the squad at the airport.

Juventus, who estimate they have 250 million fans around the world, will face an A-League All Star XI led by the Italian club's former skipper Alessandro Del Piero at Sydney's Olympic Stadium on Sunday.

While the crowd in Sydney at the weekend is expected to be around the same 60,000 mark that turned out in the humidity of Jakarta on Wednesday, Allegri expects a tougher contest.

"I'm confident the game on Sunday will be much harder than the game in Indonesia," he said.

"Australia football has improved significantly over the last few years, even if they didn't go particularly well at the World Cup, and they have very good players."

*Members of Italian soccer team Juventus, (L-R) Carlos Tevez, Gianluigi Buffon, manager Massmiliano Allegri and Patrice Evra, pose in front of Sydney Harbour Bridge following a news conference in at the Sydney Opera House on 8 Aug, 2014.—*REUTERS

"This will be a very important test for Juventus looking ahead to next season."

Allegri said influential Chilean midfielder Arturo Vidal, who underwent a knee operation before the World Cup, had started training properly again on Thursday.—*Reuters*

Djokovic falls while Federer pulls great escape

TORONTO, 8 Aug — Frenchman Jo-Wilfried Tsonga handed world number one Novak Djokovic a 6-2, 6-2 third round defeat on Thursday as the Rogers Cup was rocked by upsets.

A day of high-drama began under a bright morning sun with South African Kevin Anderson startling third seeded Australian Open champion Stan Wawrinka 7-6 (8), 7-5 and ended in the late evening chill with 17-time grand slam winner Roger Federer out-lasting big hitting Croatian Marin Cilic 7-6 (5), 6-7 (3), 6-4.

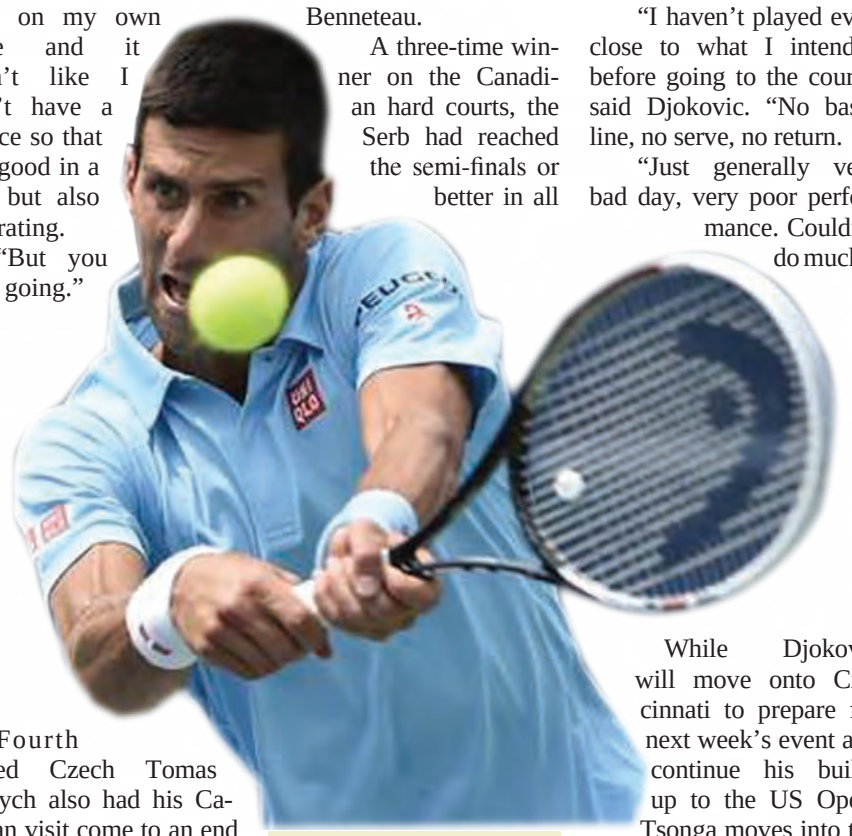
Federer began the nearly three hour marathon on Thursday as a 32-year-old before leaving the Rexall Tennis Centre having turned 33 and the only one of the top seeds to survive a day of upsets that included Wimbledon champion Djokovic.

"It is nice winning those kind of matches, I've also lost a bunch in my career especially this season," said Federer, who had looked poised to join the exodus of seeds after squandering six match points in the second set.

"I had 23 break points against Tsonga in Monaco, that's worse. So from that standpoint I've been there before."

"All six match points were on my own serve and it wasn't like I didn't have a chance so that was good in a way but also frustrating.

"But you keep going."



Novak Djokovic

Fourth seeded Czech Tomas Berdych also had his Canadian visit come to an end with a 3-6, 6-3, 6-4 loss to veteran Spaniard Feliciano Lopez. French 12th seed Richard Gasquet was also a third round casualty, forced out of the tournament with abdominal pain, giving twice Canadian champion Andy Murray direct passage into the quarter-finals.

Sixth seed Milos Raonic, the last Canadian standing, kept hopes of a home grown winner alive riding the support of a boisterous crowd to a 6-3, 4-6, 6-4 victory over Frenchman Julien Benneteau.

A three-time winner on the Canadian hard courts, the Serb had reached the semi-finals or better in all seven tournaments he had played since a quarter-final loss at the Australian Open, winning titles at Indian Wells, Miami, Rome and Wimbledon where he reclaimed the top ranking.

Djokovic, playing his first tournament since getting married, however never found his rhythm in Toronto needing a third set tie-break to get past Frenchman Gael Monfils on Wednesday in his opening match before being thumped by Tsonga.

"I haven't played even close to what I intended before going to the court," said Djokovic. "No baseline, no serve, no return.

"Just generally very bad day, very poor performance. Couldn't do much."

While Djokovic will move onto Cincinnati to prepare for next week's event and continue his build-up to the US Open, Tsonga moves into the final eight and meeting with Murray. Tsonga's win over Djokovic marked the third time he has beaten a world number one but was also the first time in their last 12 meetings the 13th-seeded Frenchman had gotten the better of the Serb.

"We grew up together on the tour, we had many good years," said Tsonga, who is now 6-14 lifetime against Djokovic. "When you play against him you know it's going to be difficult.—*Reuters*

United ready for Van Gaal lift off but dangers lurk

LONDON, 8 Aug — On paper it appears a match made in heaven. Serial winner Louis van Gaal at the helm of 20-times English champions Manchester United with a mission to steer the chastened giants back to the Premier League summit. When United kick off the new season next Saturday lunchtime at home to Swansea City, however, reputations will count for precious little and if United are to confirm last season's horrors as a 'blip' they will have to do it the hard way.

Only the seriously blinkered and maybe Liverpool's most diehard fans would take issue with van Gaal's assertion that Manchester United are England's biggest club.

Plenty will have something to say, however, with any assumption that the wily tactician whose tough demeanour earned him the nickname the Iron Tulip, can provide an instant fix.

"I think what he'll find is the competition in this league will be different to any other league that he's worked in," Liverpool boss Brendan Rodgers warned this week. With champions Manchester City, big-spending Chelsea, Arsenal and Liverpool blocking United's path, Van Gaal faces the biggest test of his trophy-laden managerial career. Last season's seventh-placed finish under David Moyes, their worst ever in the Premier League, was all the more galling as neighbours City clinched a second title in three seasons almost by default after Liverpool buckled and Chelsea shot themselves in the foot.

Reuters

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

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