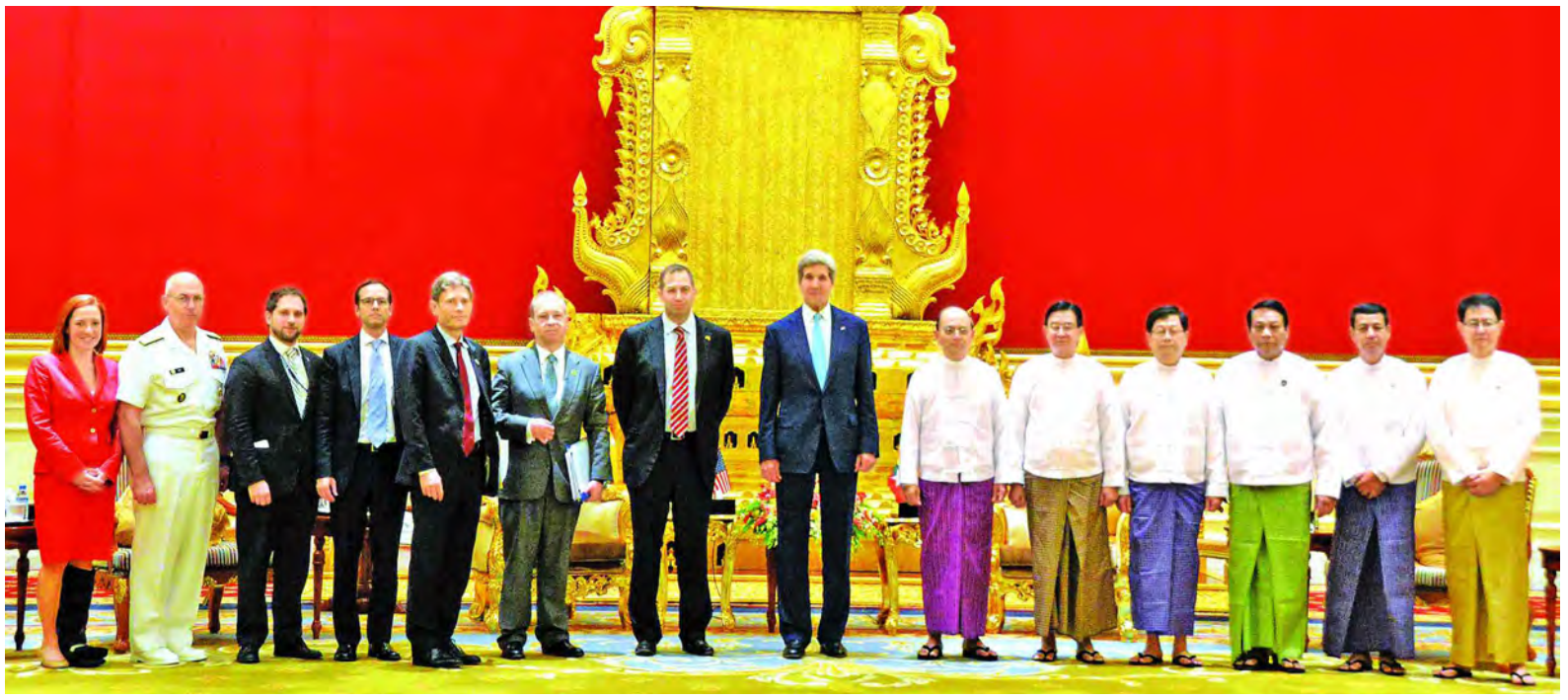
The New Light of Myanmar
MYANMAR'S OLDEST ENGLISH DAILY
Volume XXII, Number 111 | Fullmoon Day of Wagaung 1376 ME | Sunday, 10 August, 2014

There will be no "backsliding": President U Thein Sein



President U Thein Sein and U.S. Secretary of State Mr John Kerry discuss promotion of bilateral relations and provision of techanical assistance, as well as development programmes in Rakhine State.—MNA

Nay Pyi Taw, 9 Aug — A U.S. delegation led by U.S. Secretary of State Mr John Kerry called on President U Thein Sein at the Presidential Palace on Saturday morning, sources said.

They discussed matters related to promotion of bilateral relations, provision of technical assistance, promotion of cooperation in economy and trade, and development of electricity, farming and infrastructure.

They also exchanged views on developments in Rakhine State, peace-building processes, improvement of human rights in the country, and lawsuits against journalists.

During the call, President U Thein Sein spoke of challenges facing Myanmar as a nascent democracy, objectives in shaping democracy, and the roadmap and work projects designed to overcome the hardship of the Rakhine issue.

In connection with transition to democracy, the president said that his country has succeeded in implementing reform processes a lot more smoothly than new democracies in the Middle East region, adding that the country's achievements should be recognized fortified, instead of challenges being highlighted.

There exist some limits that have deterred democratic criteria from bearing fruit in the past three years, with the president promising there will be no 'backsliding' and urging the international community to give support to the country in its march to the goal.

Kerry described Myanmar's reforms as historic and recognized the

(See page 3)

Japan, China, S. Korea foreign ministers to attend regional meeting

Nay Pyi Taw, 9 Aug — Japanese Foreign Minister Fumio Kishida will attend a regional meeting Saturday with his counterparts from China and South Korea to discuss how best to strengthen cooperation at a time of continuing tensions with the two countries.

Association of Southeast Asian Nations are North Korea, tensions in the South China Sea and measures to help increase exchanges in the region that is seen as a major engine of the world's economic growth, according to delegates.

The annual meeting hosted this year by Myanmar provides a rare occasion for the top diplomats of the three countries to get together when Tokyo's relations with Beijing and Seoul are at the lowest point in decades due to disagreements over territorial and wartime historical issues.

Under such circumstances, Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe, who took office for the second time in December 2012, has not been able to hold any formal talks with the leaders of the two countries.

(See page 2)

No suspected Ebola cases detected in Myanmar, but points of entry on alert for virus

By *Ye Myint*

Yangon, 9 Aug —Despite no reports of Ebola cases in Myanmar, the Ministry of Health is monitoring all points of entry into the country for the virus, including Yangon International Airport, health officials said at a press conference on Saturday.

"The source of infection of the Ebola virus has never been found in the country and no one is yet detected with infection of the disease at points of entry", said Deputy Director Dr Kyaw Kan Kaung of the Centre for Prevention and Control of Communicable Diseases while briefing local reporters at Yangon Region Health Department. He cited zero reporting in which no cases of a designated disease of interest occurred during routine disease surveillance as the reason for not witnessing the deadly virus in the country.

He added that fever surveillance involving infrared thermal scanning has been undertaken at Yangon International Airport since one week ago while posting teams comprising medical staffers who had been trained to check travelers with fever at ground-crossing points.

Moreover, four hospitals in Nay Pyi Taw, Yangon and Mandalay, including Yangon's Waibagi Specialist Hospital, and 15 district-level hospitals across the country are taking preventive measures against this viral disease, he added.

Regarding the mitigation strategy, Myanmar has adopted to avert the possible risk of infectious disease, and that more health campaigns are needed to educate the people who play a more important role than health staff in realizing the goals of the strategy, the deputy director told The New Light of Myanmar. According to WHO's statistics as of 4 August, the death toll from the latest outbreak of Ebola virus in West African countries has risen to 932, with 1,711 reported cases.

NLM

Dr Kyaw Kan Kaung, deputy director of Ministry of Health, asserts that Ebola virus disease has never been contracted in Myanmar.
Photo: Ye Myint

Japan to extend 10.5 billion yen in loans to Myanmar

Nay Pyi Taw, 9 Aug — Japan said Saturday it will extend a total of 10.5 billion yen in loans to Myanmar to help the Southeast Asian country improve its communications network linking major cities to meet growing demand for mobile phones and the Internet.

Japanese Foreign Minister Fumio Kishida offered the low-interest loans during his talks with Myanmar Foreign Minister Wunna Maung Lwin on the sidelines of Association of Southeast Asian Nations-related meetings in Nay Pyi Taw.

With the loans, Myanmar aims to strengthen its communications network involving Yangon, Mandalay and Nay Pyi Taw, as well as to improve access to the Internet in Yangon, the country's largest city, according to the Japanese Foreign Ministry.

The 10-member bloc groups Brunei, Cambodia, Indonesia, Laos, Malaysia, Myanmar, the Philippines, Singapore, Thailand and Vietnam.

Kyodo

Production sharing deals for Padaukpin-Natmee, Zeebyutaung-Nandaw onshore blocks inked

NAY PYI TAW, 9 Aug — Myanma Oil and Gas Enterprise of the Ministry of Energy, PTTEP South Asia Ltd & Palang Sophon Offshore Pte. Ltd of Thailand and Win Precious Resources Pte. Ltd signed a production sharing contract for Padaukpin-Natmee onshore block on Friday.

The signing ceremony held at Horizon Lake View Hotel in Nay Pyi Taw was attended by Union Minister for Energy U Zeyar Aung who is also the chairman of Myanmar Investment Commission, Union Minister for Hotels and Tourism U Htay Aung, Chairman of Natural Resources and Environmental Conservation Committee of Lower House U Lun Thi, Magway Region Minister for Forestry, Mines and Energy U Thein Tun, deputy ministers, the deputy attorney-general and the Thai Ambassador to Myanmar.

Next, MOGE Managing Director U Myo Myint Oo, the directors of PTTEP South Asia Ltd and Palang Sophon Offshore Pte. Ltd and Managing Director of Win Precious Resources Pte. Ltd U Tun Lin Shein inked the deal and posed for documentary photos.

According to officials, the onshore block (Padaukpin-Natmee) is located in Aunglan of Magway Region and the signature bonus for the contract is US$6 million.

MOGE also signed another production sharing contract for Zeebyutaung-Nandaw region PSC B2 block with ONGC Videsh Ltd and Machinery and Solutions Co Ltd of India the same day. The signature bonus for the contract is US$ 3.5 for the ministry.—*MNA*

***Officials sign production sharing contract for Padaukpin-Natmee onshore block in the presence of Union Minister for Energy U Zeyar Aung.*—MNA**

A New Chapter in Myanmar-Canadian diplomatic relations opened

By: *Khin Yadana*

***Canadian Foreign Minister Mr. John Baird at an interview focusing on progress of Myanmar issue.* PHOTO: MAY MOE OO**

(Interview with Canadian Foreign Minister Mr. John Baird, who opened a new chapter in the relations between the two countries by opening the Embassy of Canada in Myanmar.)

YANGON, 9 Aug — Canada opened its embassy to Myanmar on the ninth floor of the Centre Point Tower in Yangon on Friday to further promote relations and cooperation in various sectors between the two countries.

Concerning the opening of the embassy, Foreign Minister John Baird said that the friendly relations between the two countries went back to 1970s when Canada offered assistance for health and transportation and development of Myanmar. His country resumed diplomatic relations with Myanmar in 2012 in recognition of reform momentum in various sectors. As a result, Canada was satisfied enough with the reform and democratic transition of Myanmar to open an embassy in Yangon to further accelerate cooperate with Myanmar, according to the Canadian foreign minister.

Asked about the 2015 General Elections, he said his country agrees with the fact that Myanmar is carrying out political reforms step by step and is taking measures to strengthen the democratic system. Canada is ready to provide financial assistance and techniques to implement a democratic system, according to Baird. He also expressed his hope that good governance for the people will emerge.

As for the trade and investment of Canada in Myanmar, he said his country is sure to promote trade and investment in Myanmar and will encourage exports from Myanmar. He also promised to do everything necessary to promote trade with Myanmar, the volume of which he said is sure to grow dramatically in the future. He admitted his country has invested only a little in Myanmar in the past, but he said that Canada is prepared to invest in the banking, mining and industry sectors in Myanmar while offering assistance for the economics sector, poverty reduction, creation of job opportunities and innovation.

With the opening of the embassy in Myanmar, Canada is in a better position to provide financial, technical and social assistance to Myanmar, he said.—*Trs: MWT*

Japan, China, S. Korea foreign ministers.....

(from page 1)

Whether Kishida will exchange even a few words with the foreign ministers of the two countries on the sidelines of the gathering is being closely watched as Japan hopes to explore the possibility of a one-on-one meeting between Abe and Chinese President Xi Jinping or South Korean President Park Geun-Hye later this year.

Kishida could have talks with Chinese Foreign Minister Wang Yi, diplomats familiar with the situation said.

With South Korean Foreign Minister Yun Byung Se, it is most likely that Kishida will meet him on Saturday, according to the diplomats.

Kishida and Yun last held talks in September in New York, but the Japanese minister has never had an official meeting with Wang since the formation of Abe's government.

At the meeting of the so-called ASEAN-plus-three, the ministers will most likely focus on discussing practical cooperation among the 13 countries, instead of going into details of thorny security or diplomatic issues, according to the delegates.

Kyodo

Wash your hands with soap to prevent infectious diseases

By: *Khaing Thanda Lwin*

YANGON, 9 Aug — The simple act of handwashing with soap and clean water can prevent 60 per cent of communicable diseases and 45 per cent of diarrhea and it can also prevent the Ebola virus spread, Dr Khin Maung Lwin, a national consultant of Asian Development Bank, said he passed on his knowledge on hand hygiene at an event in Yangon on Thursday.

He added that most Myanmar people in rural areas use dirty water and soap that can cause number of diseases, including diarrhea and pneumonia, and that more than 49,000 children under 5 in Myanmar die with these infections.

Handwashing with soap is an effective public health intervention to prevent child deaths. It can save more than 600,000 children each year.

Evidence shows that handwashing may significantly reduce newborn deaths and offer a 41 per cent lower mortality rate among newborns.

The doctor urged the public to wash their hands before handling food and soil materials, touching babies and after using a toilet.

According to a survey, a researcher said that only 17 per cent of populations in 11 countries, including Ghana and India, regularly wash their hands at the right time.

"Every day, people pick up millions of germs on their hands just by going about their daily business. These germs cause them to get sick, but the simple act of handwashing with soap can kill the germs and protect families from catching deadly infections," celebrity Chit Thu Wai said.

She also urged locals to join lifesaving handwashing programmes as much as they can.

The child morality rate in Myanmar in 2012 was 52 deaths per 1,000 live births. Half of the 49,000 child deaths in the country in 2012 occurred within the first 28 days of life, and a quarter of all child deaths were attributed to pneumonia or diarrhea, the top two killers of children worldwide. A child dies every 15 seconds from these diseases.—*NLM*

***Residents from Kanthadwingyi Village take part in lifesaving handwashing activity.*—PHOTO: UNILEVER COMPANY**

Myanmar's reform . . .

(from page 1)

presence of some hardship, pledging the support and friendship of the United States.

With the international community thinking highly of Myanmar, a few unexpected incidents have potential to have negative impact on the country's reforms, Kerry warned, promising that the US will work with Myanmar to help it overcome difficulties in the transition.

At another event, U Thein Sein accepted a delegation led by Canadian Foreign Minister John Baird at his palace on Saturday, officials said.

Baird said Canada has plans to help Myanmar with its development measures after enlisting the country as a "country of focus".

Their discussions included promotion of bilateral relations, assistance to civil society and peace talks, prevention of transnational crimes, health, and democratization.—*MNA*

President U Thein Sein shakes hands with Canadian Foreign Minister John Baird at the meeting to discuss promotion of bilateral relations.
MNA

Bago flood victims receive relief aid

***Vice President U Nyan Tun presents supplies to flood victims in Bago.—*MNA**

NAY PYI TAW, 9 Aug—The Bago region government has provided flood victims with food and paddy seeds.

Heavy rains nearly every day have resulted in inundation in some areas of the region, damaging paddy fields and transportation networks.

Vice President U Nyan Tun on Friday made an inspection tour to Bago together with union ministers and deputy ministers for rescue, relief and rehabilitation programmes.

U Nyan Tun said that preventative measures could reduce the losses compared with the inundation of previous years.

The vice president and senior government officials also gave cash and relief assistance and visited camps for the flood victims that are temporarily placed at some religious buildings in the town.

The Ministry of Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement also distributed clothes worth 42 million kyats and K 1.8 million in relief cash for 5,390 families of flood victims.

Region Chief Minister U Nyan Win also explained repair plans for the damaged transportation networks, sluices and reservoirs.—*MNA*

U.S. assistance in stepping up reform process in Myanmar discussed

***Pyidaungsu Hluttaw and Lower House Thura U Shwe Mann and U.S. Secretary of State John Kerry meet at a discussion on democratic reform process of Myanmar.—*MNA**

NAY PYI TAW, 9 Aug—Speaker of the Pyidaungsu Hluttaw and Lower House Thura U Shwe Mann received U.S. Secretary of State John Kerry and party at the Zabuthiri Hall of the Hluttaw Complex in Nay Pyi Taw on Saturday morning to talk about Myanmar-US bilateral relations and cooperation.

They also discussed the reform process in the political, administration, economic and social sectors of the nation, checks and balances on the executive, legislative and judicial pillars by the Hluttaws, priorities being given by 19 political parties to national unity, national reconciliation, internal peace and rule of law, cooperation of all organizations, including Hluttaw, in amending the 2008 Constitution and advices and necessary assistance of the US for stepping up the democratic reform process in Myanmar.—*MNA*

Union foreign affairs minister receives counterparts from Vietnam, Timor-Leste

NAY PYI TAW, 9 Aug—Union Minister for Foreign Affairs, U Wunna Maung Lwin on Saturday separately received his counterparts from Vietnam and Timor-Leste at the Myanmar International Convention Centre here. Foreign ministers from ASEAN countries are attending the 47th ASEAN Foreign Ministers' Meeting held in Nay Pyi Taw from 8 to 10 August.

Mr. Pham Binh Minh, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Socialist Republic of Vietnam and the ambassador of Vietnam to Myanmar met U Wunna Maung Lwin at 8 a.m. local time, discussing and exchanging views on promotion of existing bilateral relations and economic cooperation between the two countries.

U Wunna Maung Lwin also discussed with Dr. Jose Luis Guterres, Senior Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs and Cooperation of Timor-Leste, about promotion of existing bilateral relations and exchanged views on cooperation.—*NLM*

***Union Minister U Wunna Maung Lwin holds talks with Dr. Jose Luis Guterres, Senior Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs and Cooperation of Timor-Leste.—*MNA**

Foreign ministers meet on Mekong region development plans

NAY PYI TAW, 9 Aug—ASEAN foreign ministers on Saturday discussed on Mekong region development plans at the sidelines of 47th ASEAN Foreign Ministers' Meeting and Related Meetings held at Myanmar International Convention Center-1 (MICC-1) here.

The topics at the meetings included the 7th Lower Mekong Initiative (LMI) Ministerial Meeting, the 7th Mekong-Ganga Cooperation Ministerial Meeting and the 4th Friends of Lower Mekong (FLM) Ministerial Meeting, building a sustainable future for the Mekong in he contest of Food-Water-Energy Security, in support of ASEAN Economic Community in 2015.

In the evening, the Union Minister, Chairman of the 47th ASEAN Foreign Ministers' Meeting and related Ministerial Meetings, and wife Day Lynn Lynn Tin, hosted a dinner for ASEAN Regkional Forum Foreign Mninisters and spouses, the Secretary-General of ASEAN, and Turkey Foreign Mninister at the Myanmar International Convention Centre -1(MICC-1) in the capital.—*MNA*

Taungpyone Festival attracts locals, globetrotters

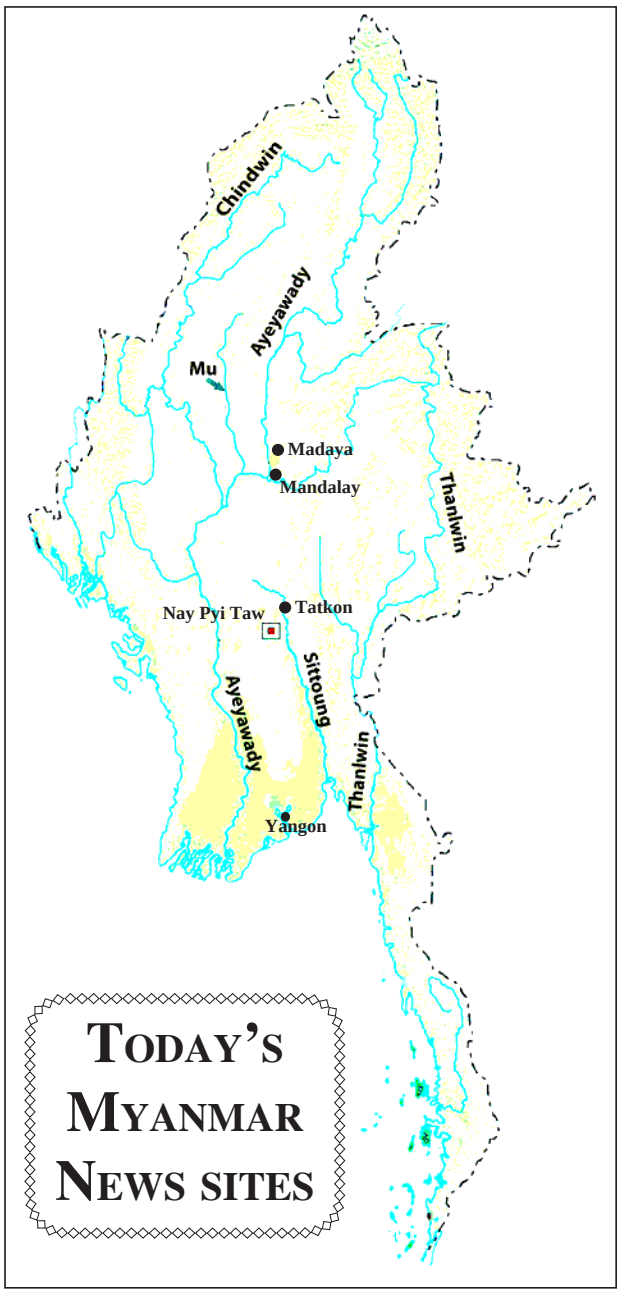
MADAYA, 9 Aug—The Taungpyone Festival is being held in its tradition in Madaya Township of Mandalay Region from 3 to 10 August.

The festival is crowded with visitors from all corners of the nation and globetrotters.

The people from Mandalay, Sagaing, Madaya, PyinOoLwin, Shwebo and Monywa regions sell domestic products, traditional foods and snacks, toys, iron and bronze wares, agricultural machinery, wickerwork and mats. Although the various products are on high demand, the sellers fetch least benefits, according to the shopkeepers.

The festival allows the theatrical drama performances. But, the region has been placed under the curfew, local people from Madaya and Patheingyi townships only enjoy the performances.

Thiha Ko Ko (Mandalay)



TODAY'S MYANMAR NEWS SITES

Construction and Housing Development Bank (Mandalay Branch) ready to disburse loans

MANDALAY, 9 Aug—A ceremony to introduce the Construction and Housing Development Bank (Mandalay Branch) formed under the Myanmar Companies Act and Monetary Organization Law took place at the Great Wall Hotel on 78th street in Mahaaungmye Township of Mandalay on Thursday morning.

Vice Chairman of the bank U Tha Htay extended greetings and Vice Chairman U Thein Zaw explained duty and functions of the bank.

The bank was established with K100 billion capital. Construction entrepreneurs, land owners and others wishing to buy housings, condo apartments and low-priced apartments to borrow loans may contact the Construction and Housing Development Bank (Mandalay Branch).

Thiha Ko Ko (Mandalay)

Reporter trainees visit press of Kyemon Daily

YANGON, 9 Aug—Trainees from Myanma Alinn and Kyemon reporter refresher course 2/2014 conducted by News and Periodicals Enterprise under the Ministry of Information visited the press of Kyemon Daily on Strand Road in Botahtaung Township on Thursday.

Chief Editor U Khin Maung Kyaw Din and trainees viewed round production process of newspapers at the press.

The ORIEN-X-CEL 4 Hitower (2) Unit Offset imported from India was launched its production in December 2012. The press was worth US$70,000.

Assistant Manager (Press) U Ye Lin Aung of Kyemon Daily explained that the press is producing 150,000 copies of newspapers a day and workers are trying hard to produce quality products.

Maung Yin Oo (Dala)

Workshop on endoscopic surgical operation for gynecology held in Mandalay

MANDALAY, 9 Aug—The Myanmar Medical Association (OG Society) and MMA (Endoscopic Surgical Society) jointly held the workshop on endoscopic surgical operation for gynecology at the hall of Central Women's Hospital in Mandalay on Thursday.

It was attended by Chairperson of MMA (Endoscopic Surgical Society) Prof Dr Win Myint, Patron of MMA (OG Society) Prof Dr Myint Maung Maung, Medical Superintendent of Mandalay Central Women's Hospital Dr Than Than Myint, GO specialists from Singapore and India and officials.

Chairperson of MMA (Endoscopic Surgical Society) Prof Dr Win Myint extended greetings. Singaporean and Indian OG specialists gave lectures and practical works to the attendees. Altogether 29 master degree students from Yangon University of Medicine-1 and -2, Mandalay University of Medicine, Magway University of Medicine and Defence Services Medical Academy.

The workship was held at the Mandalay Central Women's Hospital for the first time.

Thiha Ko Ko (Mandalay)

Implementation of 100 Resilient Cities Network project discussed

MANDALAY, 9 Aug—Chief Minister of Mandalay Region U Ye Myint received Relationship Manager Mr Scott Rosenstein and party of the Rockefeller Foundation of the Union Nations Human Settlements Programme Myanmar at the hall of the Mandalay Region Government in Mandalay on Thursday.

They discussed implementation for the 100 Resilient Cities Network projects that would have capacity to resist the natural disasters and be easy to repair.

Thiha Ko Ko (Mandalay)

Mandalay City selected as member of 100 Resilient Cities Network

MANDALAY, 9 Aug —The workshop on 100 Resilient Cities Network, jointly organized by Mandalay City Development Committee and the UN-Habitat, was held at Mandalay Hill Resort in Aungmyethazan Township on Friday, with an address by Mandalay City Mayor Mandalay Region Minister for Development Affairs U Aung Moung.

Relationship Manager Mr Scott Rosenstein of New York based the Rockfeller Foundation of the United States of America explained the resilient cities.

Mandalay City was selected as one of the 33 prioritized cities of six continents.

The network will share information and assistance for natural disaster risk reduction of climate change, earthquake and flood, cooperation among the cities and exchange of knowledge and technology.

Thiha Ko Ko (Mandalay)

Donations for Buddhist monks under draw lots in Tatkon Tsp

TATKON, 9 Aug —The draw lot programme for members of the Sangha was held at the Sasana Beikman in Tatkon of Nay Pyi Taw Council Area on Friday.

On the Fullmoon day of Wagaung which falls on 10 August, the wellwishers will supplicate the members of the Sangha to visit their homes so as to accept the donations.

In line with the tradition, members of the organizing committee will convey the Buddha image to the draw lot winning house for pay homage. The ceremony has been organized in Tatkon Township for the 23rd time.

Tin Soe Lwin (Tatkon)

Mandalay UFL select queens

MANDALAY, 9 Aug — The Mandalay University of Foreign Languages (Junior) Contest, organized by Higher Education Department (Upper Myanmar) of the Ministry of Education, took place at the main building of the university on Friday.

Pro-Rector Dr Tint Tint of Mandalay University of Foreign Languages extended greetings and Chairman of the organizing committee Professor (Dean) of the International Relations Department Dr Daw Thet Yu explained the rules and disciplines of the contest.

The pageant students participated in the contest.

Pro-Rector Dr Tint Tint of Mandalay University of Foreign Languages presented the first prize to Ma Yati Lin Let, Pro-Rector Dr Thida Win of Mandalay University the second prize to Ma Thabyay Aung, Pro-Rector Dr Nu Nu Yi of Mandalay University the third to Ma Lin Kalyar Oo, Pro-Rector of Mandalay University of Foreign Languages Dr Aung Naing Soe and Professor (Dean) of Geography Department of Kyaukse University the consolation prize to the winners.

A total of 11 pageant students from six language departments participated in the contest.

Tin Maung (Mandalay)

MR runs special trains from Mandalay to Taungpyone

MANDALAY, 9 Aug — The Taungpyone festival is being held in Madaya Township of Mandalay Region from 8th waxing of Wagaung to the Fullmoon day (from 3 to 10 August).

Myanma Railways runs its special trains for smooth transport of passengers.

A train leaves Mandalay Station for Madaya station at 5.15 am and another train from Thaye Market station in Aungmyethazan Township for Taungpyone Station at 6 am, 8.15 am, 9.57 am, 11.50 am and 3.15 pm.

The trains leave Taungpyone station for Madaya station at 11.15 am, 1.30 pm and 3.15 pm at special fare.

The Dyna buses ply along Mandalay-Taungpyone routes at K1,000 per passenger and the light trucks K1,500 per passenger.—*Thiha Ko Ko (Mandalay)*

Mdy Women's Hospital chooses top breastfeeders

MANDALAY, 9 Aug —The model mother contest in commemoration of the First Breastfeeding Week organized by Mandalay Central Women's Hospital, took place at the hall of the hospital on Thursday morning. Head of Mandalay Region Health Department Dr Myo Thant Khaing, Medical Superintendent Dr Than Than Myint and officials checked the participation of 20 contests. The medical superintendent explained the purpose of holding the contest and Dean/Head of OG Department Dr Kyi Kyi Nyunt, breastfeeding and child health.

Officials presented first, second third prizes to the winners and special prizes to the contestants.

Thiha Ko Ko (Mandalay)

Rival Afghan presidential candidates sign deal to cooperate

KABUL, 9 Aug — Afghanistan's rival presidential candidates have agreed in writing to work together to form a government of national unity, both candidates told a news conference, following meetings with US Secretary of State John Kerry on Friday.

A joint declaration signed by both candidates, a copy of which was obtained by *Reuters*, did not provide details on the government framework, except to say that both sides would form commissions to work on its structure.

"One of these men is going to be president, but both are going to be critical to the future of Afghanistan, no matter what," Kerry told reporters in Kabul.

The joint declaration stated that the candidates would agree to a timeline for the electoral process and an inauguration date for the next president by the end of August.

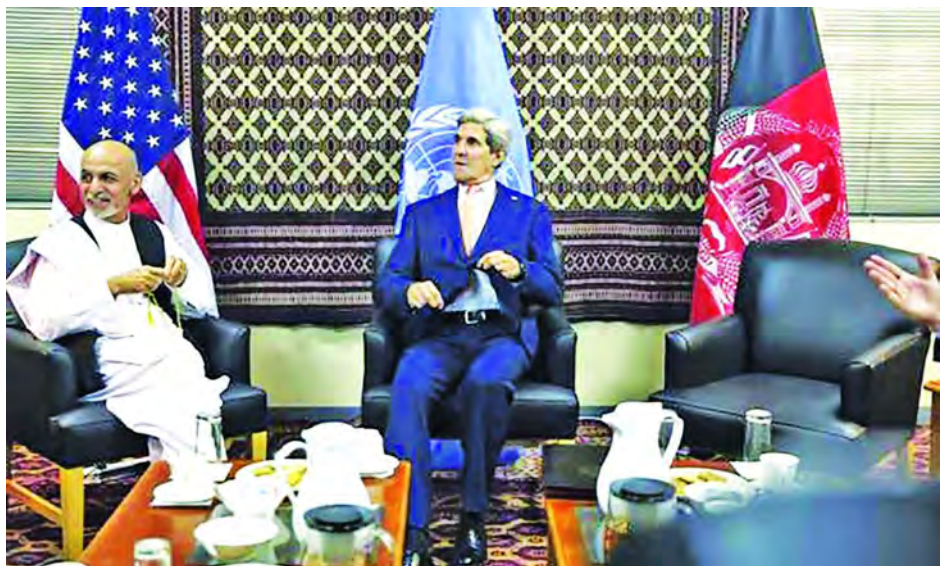
However, it did not appear to signal significant progress from the original deal, also brokered by Kerry when he was in Kabul in July, aimed at ending the bitter dispute between Ashraf Ghani and Abdullah Abdullah.

There were no fresh details of how a government of national unity might work, after meetings between Kerry and the Afghan candidates during his overnight stay.

"The two parties affirm they are committed to sincerely cooperate ... and draw up the detailed text of the political agreement in light of the constitution and the political framework agreement reached on 12 July," the declaration said.

The power sharing deal, agreed verbally a month ago, was intended to reduce the risk of a violence flaring between the different ethnic groups represented by the two presidential hopefuls.

Reuters



US Secretary of State John Kerry (R) speaks as Afghanistan's presidential candidate Ashraf GhaniAhmadzai looks on during a meeting at the US embassy in Kabul on 8 Aug, 2014. —REUTERS

Chinese FM meets Vietnamese Deputy PM in Myanmar

Chinese Foreign Minister Wang Yi (L) meets with Vietnamese Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Pham Binh Minh on the sidelines of the series of Foreign Ministers' Meetings on East Asia cooperation in Myanmar's capital Nay Pyi Taw, on 8 Aug, 2014.—XINHUA

NAY PYI TAW, 9 Aug — Chinese Foreign Minister Wang Yi met with Vietnamese Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Pham Binh Minh on the sidelines of the series of Foreign Ministers Meetings on East Asia cooperation in Myanmar's capital Nay Pyi Taw on Friday. Wang thanked Pham for conveying sympathy to China once again for the grave earthquake that struck Ludian, Yunnan Province.

Noting that China and Vietnam are close neighbours, Wang pointed out that both the two countries are at a crucial stage of reform and development when all kinds of complex and challenges emerging at home and abroad. He stressed the need for the two countries to enhance cooperation and purse common development.

Regarding the temporary difficulty in bilateral relations, Wang emphasized that both sides should implement in real earnest consensus of leaders of the two countries, bearing in mind the overall interest of bilateral relations and staying committed to properly resolving relevant issues through bilateral communication so as to bring China-Vietnam relations back to the right track at an early date.

Elaborating on China's principled position on maritime issues, Wang said the Chinese side will take all necessary means to safeguard national sovereignty and maritime rights and interest.

He urged the Vietnamese side to properly deal with the aftermath of the incident involving beating, looting and arson to create condition for the improvement of bilateral relations.

Xinhua

Vietnamese party chief says US among most important partners

HANOI, 9 Aug — General Secretary of the Communist Party of Vietnam Nguyen PhuTrong said on Friday that Vietnam sees the United States as one of the most important partners of Vietnam.

Trong made the remark in capital Hanoi on Friday while receiving the US Senate delegation headed by Senator John McCain and Senator Sheldon Whitehouse.

Vietnamese party leader said he supports promoting the bilateral relations between Vietnam and the United States at all levels and in all fields suitable for the two countries' people, for peace, stability and development of the region and the world. Trong expected the two sides to seek for active measures to effectively implement the Vietnam-US comprehensive partnership, reported state-run radio VOV. The US Senator John McCain and Senator Sheldon Whitehouse, for their parts, said at the meeting that the US-Vietnam relations are enjoying good development trend. They also proposed several measures to boost bilateral ties in the coming time.

On the same day, the US senators also met with Vietnam's National Assembly Chairman Nguyen Sinh Hung and Vietnamese Defence Minister Phung Quang Thanh.

Xinhua

Drama reading of Fumiyo Kono's A-bomb manga staged in India

NEW DELHI, 9 Aug — Indian theater artists staged a drama reading of a Japanese manga story by FumiyoKono about victims of the 1945 Hiroshima atomic bombing at the Japan Foundation on Wednesday, the day the Japanese city was reduced to ashes 69 years ago.

Five actors read out stories from the Hindi version of "Yunagi no Machi, Sakura no Kuni" ("Town of Evening Calm, Country of Cherry Blossoms"), playing out different characters of the stories, with the translated manga book given to around 30 people in the audience.

The work was translated in the main Indian language and published last year by Tomoko Kikuchi, a Japanese translator based in India, with support from the foundation.

Kikuchi said the drama reading was intended in part to relate the disaster to those who witnessed the performance.

"They must take back the message of nuclear disarmament from here and spread this message," she said.

After watching the performance, Suresh Rituparna, 65, said pictures in the book took him to the place where this disaster happened. "It turned me emotional... We all should speak and discuss about this kind of disaster so that people know what is the result of such nuclear attacks and people should spread the message of world peace."

Shashank Malhotra, a 20-year-old Japanese language student said, "It was interesting to listen to a manga comic rather than reading it. Being a Japanese language student, I have read many manga comics before but this was an absolutely new experience."

The story tells of psychological scars left by the bombing and the familial bond through the ordinary lives of two women in different time periods — one a decade after the bombing and the other years after that.

A movie version of the story was released in 2007 in Japan.

Kyodo News

Modi says India willing to build partnership of peace, stability with US

NEW DELHI, 9 Aug— Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Friday told visiting US Defence Secretary Chuck Hagel that India is willing to work with the United States to "build a partnership for peace, stability and prosperity in the world", the Prime Minister's Office officials quoted Modi saying during the meeting.

The prime minister also expressed his desire to see further progress in the area of defence manufacturing, technology transfer, exercises and higher studies in the field with the United States.

Hagel arrived here Thursday evening on a three-day official visit, his first ever to India.

The other topics covered in the discussion included Afghanistan, the threat of terrorism in the Middle East and security issues in the areas comprised by the Indian and Pacific Oceans, said a communique from Pentagon press secretary Rear Admiral John Kirby to the press.

Earlier in the day, Hagel also met Indian Defence Minister ArunJaitley and External Affairs Minister SushmaSwaraj.

Local media said the United States is offering to co-produce and co-develop high tech Javelin infra red guided anti-tank missiles with India, besides selling anti-submarine choppers, military transport planes and ultralight howitzer cannons.

Xinhua

US bombs Islamic State after Obama call to prevent Iraq 'genocide'

BAGHDAD/ARBIL, (Iraq), 9 Aug — US warplanes bombed Islamist fighters marching on Iraq's Kurdish capital on Friday after President Barack Obama said Washington must act to prevent "genocide".

Islamic State fighters, who have beheaded and crucified captives in their drive to eradicate unbelievers, have advanced to within a half hour's drive of Arbil, capital of Iraq's Kurdish region and a hub for US oil companies.

They have also seized control of Iraq's biggest dam, Kurdish authorities confirmed on Friday, which could allow them to flood cities and cut off vital water and electricity supplies.

The Pentagon said two *F/A-18* aircraft from an aircraft carrier in the Gulf had dropped laser-guided 500-pound bombs on the fighters' artillery and other air strikes had targeted mortar positions and an Islamic State convoy.

Obama authorised the first US air strikes on Iraq since he pulled all troops out in 2011, arguing action was needed to halt the Islamist advance, protect Americans and safeguard hundreds of thousands of Christians and members of other religious minorities who have fled for their lives.

Sailors guide an F/A-18C Hornet assigned to the Valions of Strike Fighter Squadron (VFA) 15 on the flight deck of the aircraft carrier USS George HW Bush (CVN 77) in the Gulf, in this handout image taken and released on 8 Aug, 2014.—REUTERS

For the second straight night, the United States also dropped relief supplies to members of the ancient Yazidi sect, tens of thousands of whom are massed on a desert mountaintop seeking shelter from fighters who had ordered them to convert or die.

"Earlier this week, one Iraqi in the area cried to the world, 'There is no one coming to help'," said Obama in a late night tele-vision address to the nation on Thursday. "Well, today America is coming to help."

"We can act carefully and responsibly to prevent a potential act of genocide," he said. On Friday the White House said the strikes would last as long as the security situation required.

The Islamic State was defiant. A fighter told *Reuters* by telephone the US air strikes would have "no impact on us".

"The planes attack positions they think are strategic, but this is not how we operate. We are trained for guerrilla street war," he said. "God is with us and our promise is heaven. When we are promised heaven, do you think death will stop us?"

The advance of the Sunni militants, who also control a third of Syria and have fought this past week in Lebanon, has sounded alarm across the Middle East and threatens to unravel Iraq, a country divided between Shi'ites, Sunnis and Kurds.

A US official told *Reuters* the Iraqi government had provided a planeload of ammunition to Kurdish fighters in Arbil, in what the official called an "unprecedented" act of military cooperation between Baghdad and the Kurds, who have long feuded over land and oil.

The US air strikes prompted renewed calls on jihadi online forums for attacks on the United States and oil interests in the Gulf. "The mujahideen must strive ... to discipline America and its criminal soldiers," the SITE monitoring service quoted one such message, on the Shumukh al-Islam jihadi forum, as saying.

In Baghdad, where politicians have been paralysed by infighting while the state falls apart, the top Shi'ite cleric all but demanded Prime Minister Nuri al-Maliki quit, a bold intervention that could bring the veteran ruler down.

Reuters

Five Ukrainian soldiers who crossed in Russia arrested

MOSCOW, 9 Aug — Five Ukrainian soldiers have been arrested on suspicion of shelling civilian areas of eastern Ukraine and firing into Russia, a Russian law-enforcement agency said on Friday.

The five were among some 300 Ukrainian soldiers and border guards who were forced by fighting in eastern Ukraine to cross into Russia on Monday, Ukraine said earlier this week.

Most of those troops have since been returned to Ukraine, but Russia's Investigative Committee, a law-enforcement agency that reports directly to Russian President Vladimir Putin, said it detained five officers from a Ukrainian mechanised brigade.

The Russian agency said it had evidence the brigade had fired indiscriminately between 19 July and 3 August into the cities of Krasnodon and Chervonopartizansk in the Luhansk region, one of two the rebels want to detach from Kiev.

"As a result, no less than 10 civilians were wounded or killed" and at least 20 buildings damaged, the investigators said, adding that the attack had been confirmed by other Ukrainian soldiers who were questioned. The five men, who include two battalion commanders, face up to 20 years in jail if convicted under laws on banned methods of warfare.

The committee said it was also investigating whether the five were involved in shelling Russian territory. Moscow has complained several times that the Ukrainian military has fired across the border onto its territory. A Ukrainian military spokesman said in Kiev on Thursday the five were among 18 against whom Russia had opened criminal investigations. Twenty-eight Ukrainian border guard officers were also being held in Russia, he said.

Ukrainian troops are fighting separatist rebels in pro-Russian regions of eastern Ukraine. Kiev and the West accuse Russia of actively supporting and arming the rebels, which Moscow denies. —*Reuters*

EU experts to debate Russia's ban on European food on 14 August

BRUSSELS, 9 Aug — Senior agricultural experts from all 28 European Union countries will hold an emergency meeting next Thursday to analyse the impact of a Russian ban on EU food imports, the European Commission said on Friday.

Moscow banned most food imports from the EU and the United States on Thursday in retaliation for Western sanctions imposed over Russia's actions in Ukraine.

The Commission, the EU executive, has already said it reserves the right to respond and will set up a task force on Monday to assess the situation.

"In the current context, the most important is to react in a proportionate and rapid way should the situation arise," European Agriculture Commissioner Dacian Ciolos said in an emailed statement.

"I am confident that our resilient farm sector will reorient rapidly towards new markets and opportunities."

An employee sorts products at a Metro Cash and Carry store in Moscow on 8 Aug, 2014.—REUTERS

Roughly 10 percent of EU agricultural exports go to Russia annually and their total value is around 11 billion euros (14.73 billion dollar) (8.77 billion British pound), Commission figures show.

To ensure a smooth transition to other markets, the Commission says the bloc's Common Agricultural Policy provides options for financial support, including a crisis reserve to compensate farmers if necessary.

Ciolos said he had already spoken to farm ministers from across Europe, including Italy's. Rome now holds the rotating EU presidency until the end of the year.

A spokesman for the Italian presidency said there were no plans for now to summon an emergency meeting of agricultural ministers. Next Thursday's emergency meeting will be attended by national experts as well as Commission officials, he said.

Poland said on Friday it would file a complaint to the World Trade Organization over the Russian embargo and the Commission has also gone to the WTO over a ban by Moscow on EU pork.—*Reuters*

PERSPECTIVES

Sunday, 10 August, 2014

Time to translate commitments into concrete actions

By *Kyaw Thura*

Myanmar has long been boasting of its great wealth in natural resources. It is a real blessing that nature favours the country. One thing important to bear in mind however is that natural resources, no matter how abundant, are useless if they lie idle. The real blessing for a country is its human resources capable of managing its natural resources.

Unfortunately, our country lacks human resources. This does not mean that our country has no human resources. It does have human resources, but the number is not satisfactory.

As a developing country making strides to graduate from the bracket of Least Developed Countries, Myanmar has directed its priorities to poverty alleviation and rural development. Every individual in the country has accepted the government's initiatives.

Our challenge now is to translate our commitments into concrete actions. To accelerate the process, we need to set up national arrangements for establishing a national forum that will monitor the implementation of commitments at the national level.

In carrying out these commitments, we need to make sure that everyone is involved in the march to prosperity. Other measures will involve putting sustainable development at the core and transforming economies for jobs. Besides, what matters most is building open, effective and accountable institutions for all and forging new global partners.

Realizing a future we all want will end in vain if we fail to ensure national economic growth, social progress and environmental sustainability. It is through the creation of human resources capable of tapping natural resources that our aspirations for a country free of want and fear will come true.

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

(Continue from yesterday)

It is heartening for us to see the media, institutions and interested persons take actively part in launching activities for the progress of Myanmarsar. Simultaneously, it is essential for the government to add necessary aids to the above-said organizations' efforts. Here I would like to say that we cannot exclude the importance and influence of art and artistic creations. So far, people are admiringly eulogizing the painting, "Mona Lisa" painted by Leonardo da Vinci over 500 years ago. Many are still saying about the paintings by Vincent Willem van Gogh—Starry Night, Sunflowers and Sorrow. There are many people who love paintings by Pablo Picasso, in the world. Nothing can stand the test of time, without any distinctive features. The features are none other than the qualities that can give feelings to viewers/ readers/ listeners. Feelings can be said to have much influence on people. Far as my hobby is away from painting, I enjoy seeing paintings. I had never touched a paintbrush but I want to keep paintings. Since my childhood days, mural paintings and description of parables were attractions for me and my peers. In fact, these give us moral and spiritual lessons for us. And an unforgettable event happened to me, when I was learning at grade 8. One day, a painting captioned "A ghost is nothing to the blind. [Which way will you follow?]" was in a Forward Magazine (Shay-thoe) . The painter was Sayargyi U San Win. The picture was a drawing of a human's body, one part of which was blank and the other part was the illustration of inner parts of the body in gory details. The moment I saw the picture attentively, I was horrified so much so that I dared not ruminate whether the inner part of my body would be the same. Later, I realized that the picture was a disgusting sight for me and it gave me a sudden feeling of panic. It influenced me for a long time. Suffice it to say that the arts — art, music and literature — cannot exist apart from us, and they have strong influence on people, in one way or another. As known by all, they can educate us what to do and what not to do in our daily lives. And they can guide the ones who go astray to choose the right path. They can tame the cruel to become kind to others. What is more, they can change a[n] selfish man/ misanthrope/ opportunist into a selfless/ philanthropist/ benevolent one.

It is endless to say the virtues of the arts. Here I would like to emphasize the attractiveness and influence of literature, within the reach of my knowledge. And, I believe in the need to briefly explain as to how a writer presents his writing. Writers use the typical structures in their works to convey their messages in a simple manner to their readers. These are called literary devices—literary elements or literary techniques. Literary elements inherently exit in a literary work. Writers cannot create their work without literary elements—plot, setting, narrative structure, characters, mood and theme. Contrariwise, literary elements are a word or phrases in the works that writers employ to achieve not only artistic ends but also to give readers a greater understanding and appreciation of their literary works. To add verisimilitude, actors need to use makeup to make them seem to be victims or villains in real life, so as to give more feelings to audiences. Likewise, a writer unavoidably use mosaic of literary techniques—metaphor, simile, hyperbole, alliteration, litotes, figurative and etc,. Here are some examples of literary techniques.

1/Imagery: It is the use of figurative language to create visual representations of actions, objects and ideas in our mind in such a way that they appeal to our physical senses. For example:

— The room was dark and gloomy.
The words [dark] and [gloomy] are visual images.
— The river was roaring in the mountains.
The word [roaring] appeals to our sense of hearing.
— He exploded with rage.
This is the figurative use of the verb [explode].
— The sound of the doorbell announced Jack's arrival.
This is the figurative use of the verb [announce].
— She followed her mother into the medical profession. [figurative]
— My name was written in white ink in the exam results. [figurative]
— All the old hostilities resurfaced when they met again. [figurative]
— Her spirits took a sudden nosedive after her husband's death. [figurative]

2/Simile and Metaphor: Both compare two distinct objects and draws similarity between them. The difference is that Simile uses "as" or "like" and Metaphor does not.

— My love is like a red rose. [Simile]
— Her face is as white as snow. [Simile]
— She has a heart of stone. [Metaphor]

3/Hyperbole: It is deliberate exaggeration of actions and ideas for the sake of emphasis. For example [Hyperbole]

— I will love you only, for eons. [Hyperbole]

4/Personification: It gives a thing, an idea or animal, human qualities.

— The flowers are dancing beside the lake.
— Have you ever seen my car? She is a real beauty.
— This dictionary is my bedside companion.

5/Alliteration: the occurrence of the same letter or sound at the beginning of adjacent or closely connected words.

— sing a song of sixpence
— She sells seashells at seashore.
— Better butter always makes the batter better.

6/Allegory: It is a literary technique in which an abstract idea is given a form of characters, actions or events. For example:

— "Animal Farm", written by George Orwell is an example of allegory using the actions of animals on a farm to represent the overthrow of the last of the Russian Tsar Nicholas II and the Communist Revolution of Russia before WW II. In addition, the actions of the animals on the farm are used to expose the greed and corruption of the Revolution.

7/Satire: In the Oxford Advanced American Dictionary, it is defined that Satire means a way of criticizing a person, an idea or an institution in which you use humor to show their faults or weaknesses. A piece of writing that uses this type of criticism as well is a satire. In our literature, some were good at writing satire.

8/Irony: In the dictionary, it is defined that irony is the use of words that say the opposite of what you really mean, often as a joke and with a tone of voice that shows this. In other words, it is use of the words in such a way in which the intended meaning is completely opposite to their literal meaning. For example:

— The bread is soft as a stone.
— It is very nice of you to disturb my private hours!

9/Litotes: It is the use of a negative or weak statement to emphasize a positive meaning. In other words, it is an ironical understatement in which an affirmative is expressed by the negative of its contrary, for example:

— He wasn't slow to accept the offer. [He was quick to accept the offer.]
— I will not be sorry. [=I will be glad.]

It will take me a few pages to explain these literary techniques at length. To put it simply, I am only a dilettante. Plus the subject is beyond my knowledge, and I firmly believe that it would be an excellent opportunity for us to enjoy the literary treasure if our bi-lingual experts would join in our contributions to give their chapter and verse to us. With a scanty knowledge gained from my mediocre learning, let me express my opinion about the subject. As per usual, a writer produces literary works from their own experiences and very often creates invented stories. In doing so, they can present in various styles and it is generally accepted that a writer has a poetic license to make their readers enjoy the writing more. In the early years of my reading life, cartoons were reading materials for me. With passing time, I learnt to find more books to read. Thus, I loved reading detective and love stories. As the reading habit deep-rooted in me, it helped me appreciate literatures to some extent. Much had been learnt about literatures' influences that changed people's lives. At home and abroad, there are many people who gained success through books. And books could guide morally unacceptable men to become respected ones in our society.

(*to be continued*)

ASEAN holds ministerial meetings with China, ROK, Japan, India, Russian Federation, US, EU and Canada

Foreign Ministers of ASEAN countries and three dialogue partner countries join hands for depicting integration of ASEAN and dialogue partner countries.—MNA

NAY PYI TAW, 9 Aug — Myanmar International Convention Centre (MICC-1) in Nay Pyi Taw hosted ASEAN-China, ASEAN-Republic of Korea, ASEAN-India and ASEAN-Russian Federation ministerial meetings that are related meetings of the 47th ASEAN Foreign Ministers' Meeting (AMM) on Saturday.

During the ASEAN-China ministerial meeting, cooperation between ASEAN and China was reviewed and achieving a targeted trade volume of US$ 500 billion between ASEAN countries and China and promoting ASEAN-China cooperation towards ASEAN integration and people-to-people connectivity between ASEAN and China discussed.

Likewise, ASEAN-ROK ministerial meeting was held with the focus on Plan of Action of ASEAN-ROK (2011-2015) and holding a commemorative Summit marking the 25th anniversary of the ASEAN-ROK dialogue relations in Busan on 11-12 December in 2014.

Similarly, ASEAN Foreign Ministers and the Minister of External Affairs of India held talks on extending the India-Myanmar-Thailand trilateral highway to Laos, Cambodia and Vietnam, cooperation in agriculture, energy and science and technology sectors and India's assistance to sea transport in ASEAN.

Bilateral cooperation was reviewed and discussions on follow-up works and international issues held at ASEAN-Russian Federation meeting.

In the afternoon, ASEAN plus Three Ministerial Meeting was held with an opening address by Union Minister for Foreign Affairs U Wunna Maung Lwin, focusing on ASEAN+3 cooperation, exchange of views on international and regional issues and the 17th ASEAN+3 Summit to be held in November in Nay Pyi Taw.

Likewise, ASEAN-EU, ASEAN-US and ASEAN-Japan ministerial meetings took place at the same venue.

ASEAN countries welcomed EU's decision to assist EUR 170 million to ASEAN for building the integrated ASEAN Community for 2014-2020 at the ASEAN-EU meeting. EU's assistance to maritime security and safety, ASEAN-EU relations and future prospects were discussed at the meeting.

Topics discussed at ASEAN-US meeting were to issue a Joint Climate Change Statement, to hold ASEAN-US informal ministerial meeting in September and the second ASEAN-US Summit this year in Nay Pyi Taw.

ASEAN-Japan meeting encouraged to strengthen dialogue relations in various sectors and welcomed setting up of a US$100 million ASEAN-Japan integration Fund level-2.

Progress on the ASEAN-Canada Plan of Action for 2010-2015 was acknowledged at ASEAN-Canada meeting.

A video of ASEAN Integration was presented to foreign ministers from ASEAN countries, Australian foreign minister, ASEAN secretary-general and officials at MICC-1 on Saturday morning.—*MNA*

Foreign Ministers and delegates hold talks at ASEAN+US Meeting.
MNA

Information, Commerce, Rail Transportation win over opponents

NAY PYI TAW, 9 Aug —Ministry of Information trounced Ministry of Border Affairs 7-1 in the Seventh Inter-Ministry Football Tournament 2014 at Nay Pyi Taw Wunna Theikdi sports ground No 3 on Saturday.

At the ground No 4, Ministry of Commerce threshed Ministry of Health 6-1 while Ministry of Rail Transportation routed Ministry of Religious Affairs 7-1 at the ground No 3.—*MNA*

China prefers "Dual-Track Approach" to the Philippines' "Triple-Action Plan" to settle South China Sea disputes

Chinese Minister of Foreign Affairs Wang Yi explains attitude of China for ASEAN+China at press conference.—PHOTO: AYE MIN SOE

By *Aye Min Soe*

NAY PYI TAW, 9 Aug — China expressed preference Saturday for sticking to its current diplomatic efforts to settle disputes in the South China Sea, turning down the Philippines "triple-action plan" that seeks to reduce and manage tensions in the region until a settlement of disputes is obtained.

"China is ready to listen to the proposals for the South China Sea from all parties. But, these proposals themselves should be objective for and constructive instead of constituting a cause for new problems of differences or be driven by ulterior motives," Wang Yi, China's foreign minister, told reporters on the sidelines of the ASEAN-China Ministerial Meeting in Nay Pyi Taw on Saturday.

"The relevant proposals are designed to prevent complications and escalation of the situation, then possibly they are not necessary because there have been declared provisions on that in the DOC," he added, referring to the Declaration of Conduct in the South China Sea.

China expressed it willingness to stick to the DOC framework and eventual implementation of a legally binding Code of Conduct through consultations, a process that has made little progress over several years of talks.

To settle the South China Sea disputes, China supports and advocates a "dual-track approach", saying that consultation and negotiation between all parties that are directly involved in finding a settlement to the dispute is the most effective and flexible way to settle the issue in line with international law and norms. It said that is a principle in the DOC.

"If relevant proposals are not in line with the DOC direction, they are not constructive and thus they are not adaptable," Wang said.

All parties have agreed to convene a special officials meeting in September in China and senior officials from South East Asia will hold a meeting on implementation of the DOC in October in Thailand.

NLM

Ukraine troops break out of encirclement, 15 troops killed

KIEV, 9 Aug — Ukrainian army units which had been trapped by separatists on the border with Russia broke out of the blockade on Friday and rejoined government forces, but 15 soldiers and border guards were killed in the operation, the Ukrainian military said.

Military sources quoted by Ukrainian media said Ukrainian units had been effectively encircled by the rebels on a section of the border with Russia south of the town of Luhansk and east of the main regional city of Donetsk.

After government forces opened up an escape corridor, the trapped units were able to force their way out, military sources quoted by the media said.

"Seven service staff and eight border guards were killed and 79 injured," military spokesman Andriy Lysenko told journalists.

Government forces say they are gradually tightening the noose around the heavily armed pro-Russian separatists whom they have been battling since mid-April in a conflict which the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights says has cost the lives of more than 1,100 people in all, including government forces, rebels and civilians.

The latest military deaths from the fighting in the Russian-speaking east of Ukraine push the death toll among government forces alone to more than 400.

The Kiev government and its Western allies accuse Russia of seeking to de-stabilize Ukraine and arming the rebels, who have declared independent "people's republics" in the two main industrial regions. Moscow denies involvement.

*An armed pro-Russian separatist stands in front of damaged buildings following what locals say was shelling by Ukrainian forces in Donetsk on 7 Aug, 2014.—*REUTERS

In the biggest Russia-West confrontation since the end of the Cold War, the United States and European Union have imposed sanctions on Russia. Moscow has retaliated with a sweeping ban on imports of many Western foodstuffs.

Fighting has intensified since the shooting down of flight MH17 on 17 July, killing all 298 passengers and crew, an act which the West laid at the door of the rebels. Russia and the rebels blame the disaster on Kiev's military offensive.

An international crew of experts retrieving debris and victims' belongings from the crash site which is spread over a wide area in the conflict zone halted their work on Wednesday because of dangers to their safety from fighting.

The Kiev government on Friday announced it would continue to observe a ceasefire in the area, contradicting an earlier announcement on Thursday.

Reuters

Israel strikes Gaza after militants resume rocket fire

An Israeli soldier inspects the damage caused by a rocket launched from Gaza to Israel in a village near the Israeli-Gaza border on 8 Aug, 2014.— REUTERS

GAZA / JERUSALEM, 9 Aug — Israel launched air strikes across the Gaza Strip on Friday in response to Palestinian rockets after Egyptian-mediated talks failed to extend a 72-hour truce in a month-old war.

Egypt later called for a resumption of the ceasefire, saying only a few points remained to be agreed. Palestinian factions said they would meet Egyptian mediators later in the day but there was no sign of any imminent deal.

An Israeli government official said Israel would not negotiate with Palestinians while militants continued to unleash missiles.

As warning sirens sounded in southern Israel, the military said "Gaza terrorists" had fired at least 57 rockets on Friday and the "Iron Dome" interceptor system had been used against some of them.

Islamic Jihad and the Popular Resistance Committees claimed responsibility for the salvoes from the Hamas-dominated enclave. Accusing Hamas of breaking the ceasefire, Israel said several of the rockets had been launched about four hours before the truce was due to end at 8 am (6 am BST).

Heavier barrages followed shortly after the ceasefire period expired.

By resuming the attacks, Gaza militants appeared to be trying to put pressure on Israel, making clear they were ready to fight on to end a blockade of the coastal territory that both Israel and neighbouring Egypt have imposed.

In the first casualties since hostilities resumed on Friday, Palestinian medical officials said a 10-year-old boy was killed in an Israeli strike near a mosque in Gaza City.

An Islamic Jihad militant and three other Palestinians were killed in attacks from the air in the southern Gaza Strip.

In Israel, police said two people were injured by mortar fire from Gaza.

Israel's armed forces said they had responded to the cross-border attacks by targeting 51 "terror sites" across the Gaza Strip, including rocket launchers and military compounds and headquarters, and would continue to strike Hamas and its infrastructure and operatives.

Israeli Justice Minister TzipiLivni, a member of Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu's security cabinet, said on Channel 2 television that Gaza militants "have to get hit in return, and not in the same proportion, but to a greater degree".

Heavy civilian casualties and destruction during Israel's campaign against militants in packed residential areas of the Gaza Strip have raised international alarm over the past month, but efforts to prolong a ceasefire at talks in Cairo failed.

UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon said in a statement he was deeply disappointed an extension of the ceasefire could not be agreed, and he condemned the renewed rocket fire on Israel.

"The Secretary-General firmly calls on the parties not to resort to further military action that can only exacerbate the already appalling humanitarian situation in Gaza," it said.

Israel had earlier said it was ready to agree to an extension as Egyptian go-betweens pursued negotiations with Israeli and Palestinian delegates.

Hamas spokesman Sami Abu Zuhri said Israel had rejected most Palestinian demands. "However, we did not close the door and will continue with the negotiations," he said.

His comments came in response to a statement from the Egyptian foreign ministry, which indirectly blamed the Palestinians for refusing to end the truce. Egypt said an agreement had been reached on the major issues of concern to the Palestinian people and only a few sticking points remained.

Reuters

FAA bans US airlines from flying over Iraq

WASHINGTON, 9 Aug — The US Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) on Friday restricted US airlines and commercial operators from flying over Iraq while armed conflict raged and the United States launched air strikes. The FAA had previously, on 1 August, restricted US airlines from flying at or below 30,000 feet (9,100 metres) over Iraq. The latest order will be reviewed by year-end.

The move reflected "the potentially hazardous situation created by the armed conflict between militants associated with the Islamic State in Iraq and the Levant and Iraqi security forces and their allies," the agency said in a notice to airmen. The ban applies to all US-registered planes except those operated by foreign carriers, and to FAA-licensed pilots, but makes an exception for flights operated with US government permission.

US warplanes on Friday bombed Islamic State fighters marching on Iraq's Kurdish capital of Arbil, after President Barack Obama said Washington must act to prevent "genocide."

Reuters

LG Electronics seeks fresh smartphone start in China with G3 launch

SEOUL, 9 Aug — LG Electronics Inc will on Monday begin selling its latest flagship smartphone in China, a market where it has struggled to make a dent and that has become increasingly tough for makers of high-end handsets other than Apple Inc.

Eager to capitalize on strong early reception for its G3, the company on Friday said it will sell the device through online shopping site JD.com, China's second-biggest e-commerce company by market share, at 3,999 yuan ($650).

While that is cheaper than its 899,800 won ($869) launch price at home in South Korea in late May, it is more than twice as expensive as feature-rich phones offered by local players led by Xiaomi Inc that have battered the likes of global No 1 Samsung Electronics Co Ltd in China.

LG ranked fifth in global smartphone sales in the second quarter, according to IDC, but does not crack top 10 lists in China, the world's biggest smartphone market.

It could struggle to pick up meaningful early market share as it won't have local carriers pushing the device. Apple, by comparison, inked a long-awaited distribution tie-up in December with China Mobile, the world's biggest carrier.

A sales assistant uses his mobile phone in front of mock LG electronics smart phones displayed at a store in Seoul on 22 July, 2014. — REUTERS

An LG spokeswoman said the firm opted to go only with JD.Com for now to cut distribution costs, noting that non-carrier vendors account for more than half of handset sales in China.

The G3 has won praise as a major improvement on its predecessor. Sporting a high-resolution 5.5-inch screen and features like laser focus for the camera, LG has said reception for the device has been better than anticipated.

Tom Kang, an analyst with Counterpoint in Seoul, said the new LG phone's high quality display, which has nearly twice the resolution as that of Samsung's flagship Galaxy S5, will be an attraction for Chinese buyers, but the absence of carrier subsidies and distribution will be a challenge.

"No one really orders a BMW over the internet even though there's a price discount. You want to go into the shop, touch it, feel it," he said.

Upstart Chinese manufacturer Xiaomi usurped Samsung to became the No 1 China player during the second quarter, according to Canalys. Samsung and Apple Inc were the only foreign firms to rank in the top 10 in the period, as local brands increasingly pack on features but cost less.

Reuters

John McAfee speaks at hacker conference, unveils complaint website

John McAfee, anti-virus software guru, speaks during an interview with Reuters in Guatemala City, on 5 Dec, 2012 file photo.— REUTERS

LAS VEGAS, 9 Aug — John McAfee, the flamboyant anti-virus software industry pioneer, made a surprise appearance at a computer hackers' conference on Friday evening, where he unveiled a new website to give people a place online to vent their anger.

The one-time millionaire who fled the Central American nation of Belize in 2012 after police sought to question him about the murder of a neighbor said he set up the site for ordinary people to lodge complaints on anything from government corruption to bad consumer products.

The site, called BrownList (www.brownlist.com/), carries the motto "It's payback time."

"This taps into anger in a positive way," he said in a brief interview before taking the stage at Def Con, the world's largest conference of computer hackers. "Instead of getting angry and shooting at somebody on the highway, or yelling at your wife, you can log onto the site."

BrownList offers a forum for people to file specific complaints and for users to propose solutions to problems. Suggestions are voted on by site members who decide what sorts of response might be best.

"Instead of just lashing out, give us your positive solutions," he told an audience of hundreds of hackers taking part in a three-day conference.

McAfee told *Reuters* that he plans to make money by offering subscription services to businesses, but he did not elaborate.

He said he is looking for more investors in the site, which he has started up with $450,000 from a private investor who he declined to name.—*Reuters*

China detains man for spreading panic on WeChat

BEIJING, 9 Aug — Chinese authorities have detained someone for the first time for spreading panic on mobile messaging app WeChat, state media said on Friday, hours after China imposed new rules on instant messaging tools.

The move is part of a broader state crackdown on spreading rumors and obscene material online, as well as attempts to rein in political commentary from media that has not been sanctioned by the state.

The man was taken into custody on Thursday after writing on WeChat that three people carrying explosives had been shot dead by police outside a hospital in the eastern province of Jiangsu, said a newspaper subsidiary of the official *Xinhua* news agency. Police investigated the claim and found that it was untrue, the report said, adding that the man had confessed that he had spread the information to try and gain attention and boost his online business as an e-commerce merchant.

It was not immediately clear what sanctions he might face. WeChat is a hugely popular mobile messaging app run by Tencent Holdings Ltd, which has already had dozens of widely read accounts run by outspoken columnists shut down in recent months as part of the state's Internet clampdown.—*Reuters*

Russia demands Internet users show ID to access public Wifi

MOSCOW, 9 Aug — Russia further tightened its control of the Internet on Friday, requiring people using public Wifi hotspots provide identification, a policy that prompted anger from bloggers and confusion among telecom operators on how it would work.

The decree, signed by Prime Minister Dmitry Medvedev on 31 July but published online on Friday, also requires companies to declare who is using their web networks. The legislation caught many in the industry by surprise and companies said it was not clear how it would be enforced.

A flurry of new laws regulating Russia's once freewheeling Internet has been condemned by President Vladimir Putin's critics as a crackdown on dissent, after the websites of two of his prominent foes were blocked this year.

Putin, who alarmed industry leaders in April by saying the Internet is "a CIA project", says the laws are needed to fight "extremism" and "terrorism."

Communications Minister Nikolai Nikiforov said that demanding ID from Internet users was normal. "Identification of users (via bank cards, cell phone numbers, etc.) with access to public Wifi is a worldwide practice," he tweeted.

A pro-Kremlin lawmaker said the measure was needed to prevent Cold War-style propaganda attacks against Russia.

"It's about security. An information war is under way. Anonymous access to the Internet in public areas allows illegal activities to be carried out with impunity," Vadim Dengin, deputy chair of parliament's information technology committee, was quoted by state newspaper *Izvestia* as saying.

Alexei Venediktov, editor of the popular Ekho Moskvy radio, lampooned the decree, saying the government's next step would be to embed a chip in people's chests "to automatically detect potential sellers of information to the enemy."—*Reuters*

IBM unveils new chip designed to work like human brain

BEIJING, 9 Aug — IBM has unveiled a brain-inspired chip that the company says has the potential to make your smartphone as powerful as a supercomputer.

The chip, code-named TrueNorth, processes data in a similar fashion as the human brain.

"Our architecture is designed to approximate the structure and function of the brain in silicon, while being efficient in terms of power," said Dharmendra Modha, IBM Research Fellow and chief scientist on brain-inspiring computing.

Containing one million programmable neurons, 256 million synapses and 4,096 neurosynaptic cores, TrueNorth processes data much faster than traditional chips. It is smart enough to memorize information and learn, so devices with the chip can be trained to do object recognition on visual and auditory sources that now usually requires a dedicated server.

Designed to operate only when it needs to, the chip runs with low power — equivalent to that of a battery from a hearing aid. This feature opens vast opportunities to use the chip on mobile phones and other devices with limited power sources.

Xinhua

Two men clean cars during a classic car exhibition in Teheran, Iran, on 8 Aug, 2014. More than 70 classic cars are displayed during the six-day-long exhibition. XINHUA

Imposing sanctions on Russia would cost Serbia EUR 1 billion

UB, (Serbia), 9 Aug — Serbian Prime Minister Aleksandar Vucic said on Friday that Serbia could not impose sanctions on Russia because it would lose at least EUR 1 billion.

Introducing sanctions against Russia would ruin business for fruit growers, vegetable and dairy farmers, and Serbia would lose at least EUR 1 billion, Vucic told reporters in the town of Ub near Belgrade, where he attended the beginning of the works on the future Belgrade–Bar motorway section through Serbia.

He pointed out that the damage would be immense if Russia would respond to sanctions by increasing the price of gas. "The fact that we have not imposed sanctions on Russia means that we are pursuing a responsible state policy," the Serbian prime minister said, stressing once again that Serbia respects the territorial integrity of Ukraine.

"I think we have pursued a good, serious and responsible policy, and the results are yet to be seen," said Vucic.—*Tanjug*

Nine Afghan soldiers, 59 militants killed within two days

KABUL, 9 Aug — About 59 militants have been killed in Afghan army operations across the country over the last two days, said the Defence Ministry on Saturday morning.

"Afghan National Army (ANA) conducted cleanup operations in Kunar, Paktiya, Ghazni, Kandahar, Uruzgan, Badakhshan, Herat, Nangarhar and Helmand provinces within the last 48 hours, killing 59 militants, wounding 33 and detaining 16 other militants," the ministry said in a statement.

The ANA personnel also seized weapons and ammunition, and the army specialists defused 106 roadside bombs and landmines during the operations, according to the statement.

The statement also confirmed that nine army soldiers were killed in roadside bombings over the same period.

The Taleban-led violence continues in Afghanistan. Security forces have pressed on to clear the militants in restive provinces.

The Taleban responds by bombing and armed attacks. The war-torn country is due to take over the responsibility for its own security from foreign troops by the end of the year. — *Xinhua*

Violence continues to uproot civilians in Iraq

UNITED NATIONS, 9 Aug — The UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA) reported that the humanitarian situation has further deteriorated in Iraq, as armed clashes continue to drive the displacement of civilians fleeing the violence, including in Erbil city in the north part of the Middle East country, a UN spokesman said here Friday.

The World Food Programme (WFP) is working with the UN Refugee Agency (UNHCR) to provide assistance there.

"The number of those displaced remains fluid and unverified," Farhan Haq, the deputy UN spokesman, said at a daily news briefing here. "An estimated 50,000 people are believed to be trapped on Sinjar Mountain, and over 200,000 are estimated to have made their way to Dahuk governorate over the past 72 hours."

At the UN briefing in Geneva earlier Friday, WFP said that it has set up three emergency field kitchens in Dahuk to urgently cater to the needs of the increasing number of displaced people arriving from Sinjar. The kitchens have helped WFP provide food to 75,000 people since 4 August.

Xinhua

Thai police suspect at least 13 surrogate babies tied to Japanese man

BANGKOK, 9 Aug — Thai police believe at least 13 surrogate babies were fathered by a Japanese man including the nine found in a Bangkok condominium, and he took three children out of the country, a police officer said on Friday.

Following the discovery by police on Tuesday of the nine surrogate infants and toddlers believed to share the same Japanese biological father, the man is believed to have left Thailand for Macao on Thursday and his whereabouts remain unknown.

Thai media reported earlier the man told his lawyer that he fathered 12 babies through surrogacy when asked about a discrepancy in the number of children registered as living at the condominium in the Thai capital. The names of 12 children were listed in a register book as living at the 24-year-old Japanese man's condominium, the Thai media reported.

When asked by his lawyer where the other three babies were, the man said he had taken them to Japan, the reports said.

But the police investigator said, citing the latest information, "There were more than 13 surrogate babies believed related to the alleged Japanese father including the batch of nine." The police are verifying the birth certificates and house registrations of the children, he added.

Thai police have determined that the Japanese man did depart from Bangkok International Airport with a baby in both March and July, investigative sources said.

The Japanese man lives in Hong Kong and has said the children in Bangkok, aged between one month and two years old, are all his offspring born through surrogacy, his lawyer said. The man has spent 200,000 baht, or around 630,000 yen, per month to raise them, the lawyer said.

Thai police suspect the man may be engaged in human trafficking, and had the children in order to sell them. His lawyer denies the allegation.

Records show that he visited Thailand 65 times over the past two years.

Thai immigration authorities said the man is suspected of also possessing a Cambodian passport and are investigating the matter.

Surrogacy is not strictly regulated in Thailand and many foreigners go there for surrogates, drawn by both the relatively cheap cost and high-quality healthcare available there.

But surrogacy has become a hot issue in Thailand in the wake of recent media reports about a Thai woman who claimed to have been hired by an Australian couple to have their child, and who then took home only one of the two children that were born, leaving behind one baby with Down's Syndrome.

Kyodo News

More than 1,543 killed in Ukraine fighting in nearly 4 months

UNITED NATIONS, 9 Aug — Two UN agencies reported to the UN Security Council on Friday that more than 1,543 people have been killed and another 4,396 wounded in Ukraine since fighting flared up in mid-April.

Assistant Secretary-General Ivan Simonovic delivered his latest Ukraine report to the 15 council members in a formal meeting, citing figures provided by the UN Human Rights Monitoring Mission in Ukraine and the UN's World Health Organization.

The totals included "civilians, the military and members of the armed groups," or militant separatists, he said.

He stressed "the need to find a peaceful solution to the current situation."

"At least 50 people are being killed or wounded every day. The price being paid by all Ukrainians as a result of the conflict is too high.

Ukrainians and Russian Ukrainians in the east are losing their lives, but the whole country is paying the price of conflict as a result of the deterioration of social services," he said.—*Xinhua*

Members of the Colombian Air Force move a shipment of water at the military base of Catam, in Bogota, Colombia, on 8 Aug, 2014. A plane of the Aerial Command of Military Transport moved 20 tons of water to La Guajira department, to help mitigate the severe drought. —XINHUA

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Consignees of cargo carried on MV FRISIA LAHN VOY NO (1446) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 10.8.2014 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of M.I.P where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

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

Phone No: 2301185

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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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Weather report

BAY INFERENCE: According to the observations at (11:30) hrs MST on Saturday, a low pressure area has formed over the North Bay of Bengal. Monsoon is strong to vigorous in the Andaman Sea and Bay of Bengal.

STATE OF THE SEA: Occasional squalls with rough sea will be experienced off and along Myanmar coasts. Surface wind speed in squalls may reach (40) m.p.h.

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

Iceland sees increase of foreign visitors' overnight stays

REYKJAVIK, 9 Aug — Iceland saw an increase of foreign tourists' overnight stays in hotels by 6 percent in June 2014, compared with the same period of previous year, according to Statistics Iceland.

The Statistics Iceland's figures quoted by local daily paper *Frettabladid* on Friday showed that the total overnight stays in hotels in Iceland rose to 239,700 in June 2014 from 231,800 in June 2013, increasing by 3 percent

Meanwhile, the nights spent by foreign tourists accounted for 90 percent of the total overnight stays in June 2014, increasing by 6 percent compared with the same period in 2013.

Iceland also saw a growth in numbers of foreign visits to 110,602 in June 2014 from 89,859 in the same period of previous year, increasing by 23 percent, according to Icelandic Tourist Board.—*Xinhua*

Water supply restored in China quake zone

BEIJING, 9 Aug — Emergency water distribution systems have finally been established after Sunday's earthquake in southwest China's Yunnan Province, providing water to 187,000 people.

Over 185 km of pipelines have been repaired, the State Flood Control and Drought Relief Headquarters said on Friday, but there are still 42,900 people without drinking water.

Sunday's quake killed over 600 people and injured another 3,000. More than 110 people are still missing.

Xinhua

Malaysia restricts auto washing time against drought

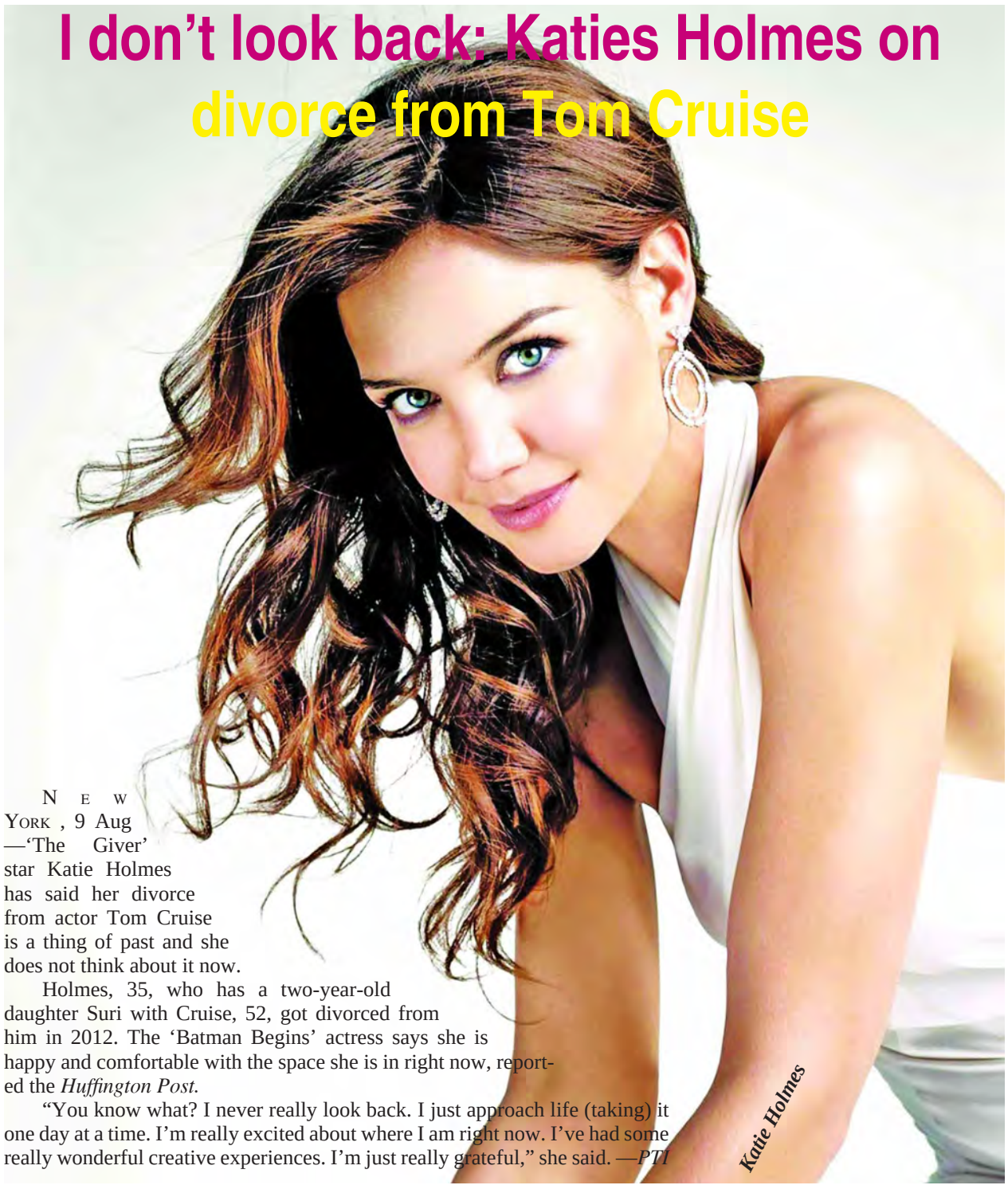
BEIJING, 9 Aug — The business period of certificated car wash in the State of Selangor is restricted to six hours per day, according to the spokesman of the State of Selangor on Thursday, with immediate effect.

The spokesman said that this move aims at alleviating recent shortage of water supply due to the El Nino phenomenon, so as to ensure steady supply of water in the state.

He also said the business period is restricted from 12;00 to 18:00 and those illegal car washes would be sealed up as soon as possible.

He pointed out that residential water and commercial water use would not be restricted except for unexpected reasons.—*Xinhua*

I don't look back: Katies Holmes on divorce from Tom Cruise


Katie Holmes

NEW YORK, 9 Aug —'The Giver' star Katie Holmes has said her divorce from actor Tom Cruise is a thing of past and she does not think about it now.

Holmes, 35, who has a two-year-old daughter Suri with Cruise, 52, got divorced from him in 2012. The 'Batman Begins' actress says she is happy and comfortable with the space she is in right now, reported the *Huffington Post.*

"You know what? I never really look back. I just approach life (taking) it one day at a time. I'm really excited about where I am right now. I've had some really wonderful creative experiences. I'm just really grateful," she said. —*PTI*

Shooting 'Scandal' during pregnancy was tough: Washington

LOS ANGELES,
Actress Kerry Wa
has revealed that l
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challenging.

The 37-year-
who gave birth to
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during the third sea
the drama, said *Th
lywood Reporter.*

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was a challenge fo
on a few levels. F
thing, I was going t
this amazing physical transition, this physical journey of having a baby, that my character was not going through. And I work very physically. What I do is often grounded in the body.

"That meant I had to figure out how to be this woman while my instrument was changing and evolving every day. It was like seeing the keys on a piano jump around on a daily basis. It was tough for me to even maintain Olivia's walk because of the changes," Washington said.

The actress, however, credits her pregnancy for making her a better actress.

"The season really broke me. I'm a Type A actor who likes to have it all figured out going in, but suddenly I had no idea where this woman was going to go next. I had to jump in without everything being perfect.

"I felt like I had been in control playing the character, but it all got taken away from me last season. That meant my acting toolbox had to be upgraded. I had to trade in my screwdriver and hammer for a Black and Decker power tool," she said. — *PTI*

Scottish singer Eddi Reader revisits her roots at folk festival

Scottish singer-songwriter Eddi Reader

CAMBRIDGE, (England), 9 Aug — "This is my Aunty Molly's coat," Scottish singer-songwriter Eddi Reader, resplendent in a vintage gold-coloured jacket, told the crowd at the Cambridge Folk Festival. "She was 97 when she died. I like having her on stage with me."

Reader, who played two sets at the folk festival's 50th anniversary last weekend, charmed festival-goers as much with her wit as her diverse repertoire. Jazz standards, mediaeval Gaelic songs and new tracks from her latest album "Vagabond" were on the set list, as was Van Morrison's "Into the Mystic", which she performed as a tribute to one of her favourite artists. Morrison closed out the festival on Sunday. Reader said she found the coat while clearing house after her aunt's death, along with some books and papers written by her great-uncle James Reader, who fought to help the Irish win independence and then became a founder of the abortive Scottish Republican Army.—*PTI*

Riddhi-Siddhi win applause for Sonakshi Sinha's London stage outfit

PANAJI, 9 Aug — Fashion designers Riddhi and Siddhi Mapxencar's outfit for Sonakshi Sinha's recent live performance at London's O2 arena drew appreciation both from the actress and the audience.

The Goan designers chose a funky denim jacket with a patch work for the actress. "Our design drew lot of appreciation from the crowd and Sonakshi also liked it very much. This time she (Sonakshi) wanted the look to be fierce yet glamorous. We always love to work with Sonakshi and her stylist Sakshi Mehraa, who exactly knows what would look good on her," the designers said in a statement. "With a lot of brainstorming and different ideas we unanimously decided on a denim jacket with patch work of tiger print. Lot of detailing has gone on the same. Crystals, studs and patch details dominated the surface ornamentation on the jacket," the designer duo added. Riddhi and Siddhi, who have styled the look of many Bollywood actresses including Katrina Kaif and Ileana D'cruz, said they enjoyed the experience of designing a stage outfit.

"We really enjoyed working on this project! Stage costumes have so many different aspects to it. Most important it has to be comfortable to dance. Hence, construction of garment should be made accordingly. It should look larger than life and should stand amongst others dancing in chorus," they said.

PTI

J.K. Khanna

(Jayant Kumar Khanna)

Age (90) years

Mr. J.K Khanna (Jayant Kumar Khanna), father of Neelan Khanna and Nina Khanna has passed away on 8th August, 2014 (Friday) at (5:20) pm. Cremation ceremony was held on 9th August, 2014 at Yay Way (Hindu) cemetery.

Bereaved Family

Toyota to begin negotiations to buy wind tunnel facility from Dome

NAGOYA, 9 Aug — Toyota Motor Corp said on Friday it has agreed with Dome Co., a maker of race vehicles, to begin negotiations to purchase an air resistance testing facility.

Toyota already owns such a wind tunnel facility located at its headquarters in Toyota, Aichi Prefecture. But the automaker believes acquisition of the facility from the Shiga-based company will help it develop more aerodynamic racing vehicles.

Toyota's subsidiary Toyota Technocraft Co is currently developing racing vehicles.—*Kyodo News*

Pepe Reina joins Bayern Munich

BERLIN, 9 Aug — Bayern Munich signed Liverpool goalkeeper Pepe Reina on a three-year contract, the German giants confirmed in an official statement on Friday.

Reina, who spent his last season on a loan spell at Napoli, penned a contract until June 2017 after passing the medical on Friday. The new arrival received the jersey number 23, which he also wears with the Spanish national team.

"I am delighted to join one of the biggest clubs of the world," Reina told Bayern's official homepage.

Reina will be the second man behind German World champion Manuel Neuer, who remains the undisputed number one between the posts.

"Pep wanted a goalkeeper who plays like Manuel Neuer. You can' t take it for granted to find a man with his experience and quality, who is ready to take the place as the number two," Bayern CEO Karl-Heinz Rummenigge said.

Pepe Reina

Bayern Munich clinched the domestic double last season but failed to defend their UEFA Champions League title as they lost to Real Madrid at the semis. The Bavarians kick off the Bundesliga season 2014-2015 on 22 August against Wolfsburg.

Xinhua

Russia confirms Iceland not on EU sanction list

REYKJAVIK, 9 Aug — The embassy of Russia to Iceland confirmed that Iceland was not on Russia's sanction list, the Icelandic National Broadcasting Service reported on Friday.

Alexey V Shadskiy, Counsellor of the Russian embassy in Iceland, confirmed Iceland was not on Russia's sanction list, but did not say why.

The Russian government on Thursday imposed a one-year ban on imports of beef, pork, poultry, fish, cheeses, fruit, vegetables and dairy products from Australia, Canada, the European Union, the United States and Norway. Icelandic Foreign Minister Gunnar Bragi Sveinsson has said he did not know why Iceland was not on Russia's sanction list.

"It is too early to say whether we are in danger of being on that list," said Sveinsson.

"It is clear Russia took measures against some selected nations. Of course, the risk exists, but we have to wait and see how it develops," he added.

Xinhua

MYANMAR TV

(10-8-2014, Sunday)

6:00 am
* Full Moon Day of Wagaung

7:00 am
* News/Weather Report

7:20 am
* MRTV's Youth Program

8:30 am
* Amazing world

9:00 am
* News/ International News

9:30 am
* The Nine Precept

10:00 am
* News

11:10 am
* Gitadagale Phwintbarohn

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

12:35 pm
* Myanmar Movie (Part-1)

3:00 pm
* News

3:15 pm
* Myanmar Movie (Part-2)

3:35 pm
* Mono Classical Songs

4:35 pm
* University of Distance Education (TV Lectures) -Second Year(Maths)

5:00 pm
* News

6:20 pm
* Cartoon Series

7:20 pm
* Weekly Entertainment News

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

8:35 pm
* Documentary(Women in Myanmar Society)

9:00 pm
* News

MYANMAR INTERNATIONAL

(10-8-14 07:00 am~ 11-8-14 07:00 am) MST

* Local News
* Products of Myanmar — Myanmar Circular Stone Slab
* World News
* The Pride of Myanmar "Traditional Handicraft"
* Local News
* Amazing: Magician Sak Kaw Ma
* World News
* Myanmar Masterclass: Cubism
* Local News
* Taung Byone Nat Festival (Episode-2)
* World News
* Independent Filmmaker
* Local News
* Sitagu International Buddhist Academy (Part-2)
* World News
* Myanmar Movie Review: Everlasting Love
* 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"

2014 Xi'an Robotic Carnival kicks off

Visitors pose for photos with a bionic robot during the 2014 Xi'an Robotic Carnival in Xi'an, capital of northwest China's Shaanxi Province, on 8 Aug, 2014. The three-day robotic carnival kicked off on Friday at Xi'an's Qujiang International Convention and Exhibition Center, featuring a number of highlights including home/school-use robots, bionics, robotic labs, 3D-printing devices and multimedia interaction devices.—XINHUA

For pro-soccer players, concussion increases risk of other injuries

NEW YORK, 9 Aug — Professional soccer players who sustain a concussion are more likely to suffer another injury over the next year than players with other injuries, like groin strains or hamstring pulls, according to a new study from Sweden.

Researchers used data from the ongoing Union of European Football Associations (UEFA) Champions League injury study. Participants included 46 all-male pro soccer teams at the highest level of the sport in 10 countries.

Between 2001 and 2012, 1,665 players sustained more than 8,000 injuries. Sixty-six players sustained at least one concussion, the teams reported.

Players who had a concussion tended to also sustain more injuries in general, before and after their head injury, than players who did not, the authors found.

In the year following the concussion, these players were 50 percent more likely to sustain another injury than players who had hurt themselves another way, the authors report in the *British Journal of Sports Medicine*.

"Compared to the year before, they have doubled the risk of getting any acute injuries the year following a concussion," lead author Dr Anna Nordstrom told Reuters Health by phone.

She worked on the study in the department of surgical and perioperative sciences in sports medicine at Umea University in Sweden.

During recovery from a head injury, reaction times can be slower, and a player who returns to the game before fully recovering may be more vulnerable to another injury, she said.

That reinforces the belief that getting players out of the game after a concussion until they are fully recovered is the best policy, which the US already does a better job of enforcing than most other countries at the professional and the amateur level, Nordstrom said.

Reuters

Fullmoon Day of Wagaung 1376 ME

The New Light of Myanmar

Sunday, 10 August, 2014

Williams sisters renew sibling rivalry in Montreal

MONTREAL, 9 Aug — World number one Serena Williams and sister Venus will renew one of sport's great sibling rivalries after posting quarter-final wins at the Rogers Cup on Friday to set up a showdown on the Montreal hard courts.

Serena kept her title defence on track rallying for a 4-6, 7-5, 7-5 win over Caroline Wozniacki while Venus booked her place in the final four by beating 14th seeded Spaniard Carla Suarez Navarro 4-6, 6-2, 6-3.

It will mark the 25th time the sisters have squared off and first since a 2013 semi-final clash in Charleston that Serena won.

While it is a matchup tennis fans always look forward to, for the sisters it is something they could live without.

"I definitely don't like playing her," explained Serena. "I think I've lost to her more than anyone on the tour. Definitely not a fun match.

*Serena Williams (USA) (Left) hugs Caroline Wozniacki (DEN) after their match on day five of the Rogers Cup tennis tournament at Uniprix Stadium. Williams won 4-6, 7-5, 7-5.—*REUTERS

"She's tough. She has a great serve. She runs every ball down. She has a great backhand. She hits winners off the forehand.

"She does everything well, so it's not an ideal matchup for anyone, to be honest."

Despite the high praise, Serena holds a 14-10 advantage over her older sister in head-to-head meetings and has come out on top in their last five encounters, including the 2009 Wimbledon final.

But the sisterly clashes, which were at one time almost a regular and welcome occurrence on tennis courts across the globe, have become rarer-and-rarer.

In fact, Saturday's meeting will be just the second in the last five years and Venus has a simple philosophy of how to play her sister.

"There's no secret or science to it," she said.

"I think that anyone who has gotten any wins against her, they've pretty much played the match of their life.

"Granted, I'd like to imagine that I hopefully won't have to play the match of my life... but I know I need to play well."

The other semi will pit third seed Agnieszka Radwanska against Ekaterina Makarova.

Poland's Radwanska, the third seed, advanced with a dominant 6-2, 6-2 win over Belarus' Victoria Azarenka.

Unseeded Russian Makarova beat American qualifier Coco Vandeweghe 6-1, 4-6, 6-1.

Both Serena and Wozniacki arrived in Montreal in winning form.

Williams, a three-time champion on the Canadian hard courts, picked up her 61st career title last week at Stanford while Wozniacki was champion in Istanbul.

The match served up plenty of intrigue, Williams, the defending champion and current world number one, going against a former number one and former champion, who has her own love affair with the Montreal hard courts where she had built a 9-1 record.

The muscular American was certainly not going to outwork Wozniacki, who is training to run the New York City Marathon in November, but Williams had enough weapons and experience to see off the dangerous Dane.

At 34, Venus continues to prove she remains a force on the court out-lasting Navarro, who at 25 is nearly 10 years her junior.

"She (Venus) is been playing really well. She's in really good form," said Serena. "I definitely feel great when I see her playing so well.

"Obviously not when it's time for me to play her but other than that it always is really good to see her playing really well."

Reuters

Ibrahimovic double earns PSG draw 2-2 at Reims

REIMS, (France), 9 Aug — Paris St Germain's Zlatan Ibrahimovic struck twice and missed a penalty in an enthralling 2-2 draw at Stade de Reims as the French champions avoided an embarrassing defeat when the Ligue 1 season got underway on Friday.

PSG, without newly-signed Brazil defender David Luiz, are favourites for a third straight title but will be disappointed at not holding on to an early lead and allowing a physical but technically weaker Reims to get in front before halftime.

PSG's Argentina midfielder Javier Pastore found Ibrahimovic just inside the area in the seventh minute, allowing the Sweden striker to slide the ball through Reims keeper Johnny Placide's legs for his first goal of the season.

PSG then missed three easy chances to kill the game in the first 20 minutes, with Ibrahimovic hitting the post and then having a penalty saved by Placide.

*Zlatan Ibrahimovic (L) of Paris St Germain scores his second goal during their French Ligue 1 soccer match against Reims at the Gustave Delaune Stadium in Reims on 8 Aug, 2014.—*REUTERS

"It's a waste. We gave away the game ourselves, when we should have won it," PSG coach Laurent Blanc was quoted as saying by French media. "We gave Reims a stick to beat us with and they took advantage and used it."

After looking overwhelmed, Reims capitalised on some sloppy defending when midfielder Prince Oniangue got on the end of a freekick to score in the 22nd before Antoine Devaux linked up with striker Gaetan Charbonnier to beat keeper Salvatore Sirigu.

However, PSG regrouped at halftime and found their rhythm with Ibrahimovic's chip from near the goalline in the 63rd slipping through Placide's hands for his second of the game.

PSG's Uruguay striker Edinson Cavani, who has been linked with a move to the English Premier League, was denied his wish to play up front instead of on the wing and looked frustrated throughout the game as Blanc kept Ibrahimovic, Ligue 1 top scorer for the past two seasons, in the number nine position.

His counterpart at Reims, Jean-Luc Vasseur, in his first coaching job in France's top division, nearly pulled off an astonishing display of lese-majeste as the reigning champions were briefly humbled in the coronation place of French kings.

His side, which finished 11th last season under Hubert Fournier, showed glimpses of what could be a promising season by exploiting gaps left by PSG's attack-minded fullbacks.

Reuters

Federer celebrates birthday with win at Rogers Cup

Roger Federer

TORONTO, 9 Aug — Roger Federer celebrated his 33rd birthday with a 6-3, 4-6, 6-3 win over Spaniard David Ferrer on Friday to move into the semi-finals of the Rogers Cup and a step closer to a landmark 80th career title.

Federer will next face another Spaniard, Feliciano Lopez, who ended the last hope for a homegrown winner in sixth seed Milos Raonic 6-4, 6-7(5), 6-3.

The other semi-final will see rising star Grigor Dimitrov take on Jo-Wilfried Tsonga, who has reached the last four by knocking off world number one Novak Djokovic and twice-champion and eighth seed Andy Murray in Friday's quarter-final.

With Ferrer 14-0 against the Swiss maestro there was little concern the fifth seed might spoil the party as the capacity crowd serenaded 17-time grand slam winner Federer with a chorus of "Happy Birthday" between games during the second set.

But there would be no gifts from Ferrer, who made Federer work a little longer and little harder than he wanted.

"It's a dream come true to still be playing tennis at this age," Federer told the cheering crowd. "I love tennis but it is a whole lot more fun when you do win and play against guys like David who leave it all out there.

"Stay injury free and go out on my terms, maybe try and win tournaments, I have two this year and hopefully we will have a few more.

Reuters

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www.facebook.com/thenewlightofmyanmar
The New Light of Myanmar
R/489 Printed and published by the New Light of Myanmar press in Nay Pyi Taw, the News and Periodicals Enterprise, Ministry of Information.