

President receives vision diagnosis as free eye treatment programme starts in Nay Pyi Taw



President U Thein Sein donates cash and glasses to patients at Zabu Thiri Specialist Hospital before receiving a vision diagnosis from specialists taking part in the free eye care programme of the Zabu Thiri Foundation.—MNA

NAY PYI TAW, 13 Aug— President U Thein Sein visited Zabu Thiri Specialist Hospital in Nay Pyi Taw on Wednesday where patients with eye disorders can now receive free treatment, sponsored by the Zabu Thiri Foundation.

According to officials, it is the second time since May that the foundation is running a free eye care programme.

Upon his arrival at the hospital, the president

and Vice President Dr Sai Mauk Kham, union ministers and members of Nay Pyi Taw Council met with medical specialists of the hospital and officials from the foundation, with the director-general of the President Office handing over K 1 million for the eye specialists and patients through Union Minister U Thein Nyunt.

Following the cash donation, the president, vice-president and union

ministers underwent eye tests before handing out reading- and sunglasses to the patients.

So far about 1,230 people have received free eye exams and vision diagnosis at the hospital, with the majority of them government and defence services staff as well as their families. Out of the current 100 patients registered for the programme, 40 people have been treated since 4 August, officials said.

The Zabu Thiri Foundation was set up on 1 June 2012, providing free healthcare and medicine to elderly and poor people and monks over the age of 70.

Other social activities of the foundation include the arrangements of meditation courses, religious ceremonies and healthcare services which are supported by local and foreign senior medical staff.

MNA

Education Ministry distributes textbooks in national race languages for basic education schools

YANGON, 13 Aug — The Ministry of Education has distributed textbooks in 24 national race languages to basic education schools free of charge in the 2014-15 academic year, according to Director-General Dr Myo Thein Gyi of the Myanmar Education Research Bureau.

“No 1 and No 2 Basic Education Departments published 24 kinds of textbooks in six national race languages in Lower Myanmar and 18 languages in Upper Myanmar for the 2014-15 academic year,” said the director-general.

A total of 233,850 copies of textbooks for 18

ethnic languages have been distributed in the upper Myanmar area, said Director (Education) U Khin Maung Myint of No 2 Basic Education Department. The textbooks are published for Jaingphaw, Lawwaw, Lacheik, Rawam, Lisu and Zaiwa, Kayah, Kayan and Kayaw, Tiddim, Falam and

Haka Chin ethnics, Tailon, Tainai/Red Shan, Inntha, Danu, Palaung and Pa-O ethnics. A total of 349,298 copies in the languages of Sakaw, East Poe and West Poe Kayin ethnics, Pa-O, Mon and Rakhine ethnics have been printed for the lower Myanmar era, said Director of Education U

Aung Myint of No 1 Basic Education Department.

“These learning opportunities in ethnic languages were given to the students of basic education schools as part of the contributions to the peace-making process undertaken by the Union Government and ethnic armed groups,” said Mon State Minister for Planning and Economy Dr Min Nwe Soe.

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Eye specialists from No.2 Defence Services General Hospital (1000-bed) participate in the programme to provide free eye exams at Zabu Thiri Specialist Hospital.

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Union Minister for Agriculture and Irrigation urges for increased seed production

NAY PYI TAW, 13 Aug — Union Minister for Agriculture and Irrigation U Myint Hlaing on Wednesday made an inspection tour of farmlands in the Nay Pyi Taw Council Area to ensure an increase of seed production in order to improve the livelihoods of local farmers and guarantee national food

security.

During his tour of farmlands where seed production is carried out in the townships in Nay Pyi Taw, the Union minister inspected planting of Palethwel hybrid paddy strains at the farmlands and presented refreshment to agriculturalists and farmers.

During a meeting, the Union minister called for public-private partnerships to boost seed production, which he said is the main task for the ministry and more efforts to ensure increased coverage of Palethwel hybrid paddy growing in the council area.

MNA



Singaporean Ambassador to Myanmar Mr Robert Chua and wife welcomed Union Minister for Foreign Affairs U Wunna Maung Lwin and wife at a reception to mark the 49th Anniversary of the National Day of the Republic of Singapore in Yangon on 12 August, strengthening bilateral relations between Myanmar and Singapore.—MNA

Union Minister U Myint Hlaing inspects 3,000-acre seed production farmland in Dekkhinathiri Township.—MNA

ADB to focus on 'inclusive business' in Myanmar

NAY PYI TAW, 13 Aug — A delegation led by Dr Armin Bauer, principal economist from the Asia Development Bank, on Tuesday here held talks with Union Minister for Industry U Maung Myint on 'inclusive business' in Myanmar.

The ADB is planning to help the country create a type of business which can also be contributed by small-scaled firms.

The Union minister talked about the importance of CMP (cut, make, pack) industry in the implemen-

tation of inclusive business, and asked for the contribution of the ADB in drawing state-level 'Industry Policy and Industry Planning'.

On 8 August, the Directorate of Industrial Supervision and Inspection (D.I.S.I) under the Ministry of Industry signed a MoU

with the Friedrich Naumann Foundation (FNF) from Germany to draw strategic plans on the development of small and medium-scale enterprises (SMEs), capacity building, holding workshops and conference, study tours and dissemination of knowledge about

democratic reform processes.

FNF has worked for many years in Myanmar but the foundation was only allowed to open its office in Yangon in October 2013 with the political reform process in the country.—MNA

Ceremony of signing a MoU between the Directorate of Industrial Supervision and Inspection (D.I.S.I) and Germany's Friedrich Naumann Foundation (FNF).

MNA



Arbitration Centre to deal with disputes in trade sector to be set up

YANGON, 13 Aug — The Republic of the Union of Myanmar Federation of Chambers of Commerce and Industry is planning to establish an arbitration centre in line with international standards, according to the President of the federation U Win Aung.

"Currently, we are able to deal with disputes

between traders. But regarding the economic development of our country, we should establish an arbitration centre which is recognized on an international level," U Win Aung said at the 23rd annual meeting of the UMFCFI in Yangon on Tuesday.

Meanwhile, the UMFCFI is also working with

technical assistance of the International Labour Organization to set up an organization of employers in Myanmar with the aim of assisting them to settle disputes between employers and employees.

Moreover, the Myanmar Chamber of Commerce Law will be drafted to meet the standards of

the international chamber of commerce laws, he said.

Since Myanmar opened up, foreign investment has flown into the country, reaching US\$ 10 billion in foreign trade volume in the 2013-14 FY, said U Win Myint, Union Minister for Commerce and Industry.—NLM

Public announcement for remonstrations

1. The Federal Union Party headquartered at No. (73/75) on the first floor on Upper Pazundaung Road near Pazundaung Market, Mingala Taungnyunt Township of Yangon Region, that has been allowed as a political party under the Article 9 of Political Parties Registration Law submitted an application to change its seal described hereunder.

2. It is hereby announced in accord with Political Parties Registration Rules 14 (d) that if there is anyone who wants to remonstrate about the seal of the party, they may remonstrate with the Union Election Commission with firm evidence within seven days from the day of the announcement.

Union Election Commission



The seal of the Federal Union Party.

Myanmar culture university student wins first prize in ASEAN Youth Arts Competition for Arts and Human Rights

NAY PYI TAW, 13 Aug — Ministry of Foreign Affairs and ASEAN Culture and Information National Committee jointly organized the ASEAN Youth Arts Competition for Arts and Human Rights on 8 June this year.

The committee selected the painting of Ma Aye Myat Thanda Aung at the national level. The work was sent to the ASEAN 10-country regional level contest and it was chosen as the best work of the contest.

Ma Aye Myat Thanda Aung, second year student

of Arts Department of the National University of Arts and Culture (Yangon), created the work under title of Equal And Peace for Everyone depicting peaceful co-existence among the ASEAN countries, social, education, faith and environmental conservation.

The winner will win US\$450 at the national level and US\$2,000 at the regional level.

Prize will be awarded to the winner at the ASEAN Secretariat in Jakarta of Indonesia on 18 August.

MNA

NATIONAL

Vice-Senior General Soe Win visits Russia

NAY PYI TAW, 13 Aug — Deputy Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services and Commander-in-Chief (Army) Vice-Senior General Soe Win left for an official tour of the Russian Federation on Wednesday, accompanied by Lt-Gen Yar Pyae of the office of the Commander-in-Chief (Army) and other senior military officers.

They were seen off by Commander Maj-Gen Hsan Oo of Yangon Command and senior military officers at Yangon International Airport.

The Myanmar military delegation was invited by Alexander Fomin, Head of Federal Service for Military-Technical Cooperation of the Russian Federation. During the tour, they will attend the International Exhibition “Oboronexpo-2014” and Tank biathlon-2014.—MNA



Deputy Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Commander-in-Chief (Army) Vice-Senior General Soe Win leaves for Russia on Wednesday, accompanied by a large delegation from the Defence Services.—MNA

Hotel entrepreneurs urged to make preparations for 46th ASEAN Economic Ministers' Meeting (AEM)



With the influx of foreign visitors and the upcoming 46th ASEAN Economic Ministers' Meeting, hotel officials are urged to provide better services and step up efforts to maintain hotel facilities.—MNA

NAY PYI TAW, 13 Aug — Hotel staff are to be trained to provide better

services to guests as the 46th ASEAN Economic Ministers' Meeting (AEM)

and related meetings will be held on 25 August this year, Union Minister for Hotels and Tourism U

Htay Aung said at a meeting with the capital's hotel officials at Mount Pleasant Hotel in Nay Pyi Taw on Wednesday afternoon.

He called for the timely completion of hotel construction projects in Nay Pyi Taw and stressed the need for restaurants to prepare hygienic food for the international guests.

The union minister also urged the entrepreneurs to keep their hotels “clean and pleasant” for the delegates to the meetings as well as tourists. The meeting was followed by a Q&A session during which hotel officials asked details on how to improve their services.—MNA

NAY PYI TAW, 13 Aug — As part of the implementation of the Third Wave process, the Ministry of Information began an officer capacity building course at its hall in Nay Pyi Taw on Wednesday.

Deputy Minister for Information U Pike Htway, Director-General U Ye Tint and the Economic Adviser to the President Dr Aung Tun Thet gave lectures on the reform process regarding administration, enhancement of capacity, carrying out tasks with responsibility and accountability and in

cooperation with public representatives in regional tasks. The three-day course, which will last until 15 August, is being attended by 66 officers, with the Union minister, experts, directors-general and managing directors giving talks.—MNA

Top government officials are among the lecturers of a three-day course to improve the skills of 66 Information Ministry staff in order for them to carry out their Third Wave process tasks more efficiently.—MNA



Development of Kayin State only possible with local cooperation: Union Minister

NAY PYI TAW, 13 Aug — Union Minister at the President Office U Hla Tun held talks on regional development implementation with officials and parliamentarians, including Chief Minister U Zaw Min, the speaker of the Kayin State Hluttaw and the chief Justice of Kayin State High Court, at Zwekabin Hall in Hpa-an in Kayin State on Monday. He said that, “With a stronger foundation for cooperation brought about by peace and stability, Kayin State will certainly yield fruitful results.”

He stressed the importance of the role of the local national races in re-

alizing the government's people-centred reform efforts. He called for collaboration and cooperation between officials and local people while undertaking the process of achieving regional peace and prosperity.

“Only when we have peace and stability in the region, can there be step-by-step implementation of the eight-point rural development scheme,” he added, vowing to bring job opportunities to local people as “resource-rich Kayin State, which once lagged behind in development due to instability, can become prosperous”, he said.

MNA

Education Ministry distributes textbooks. . . .

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“It is important for the ethnic people to preserve their language and culture,” the minister continued to say.

U Sai Tin Aung, Chairman of Lashio Township

Shan Literature and Culture Committee, said, “The government allows the ethnic students to learn ethnic languages outside the school hours as part of giving equal opportunity to everyone.”

Htet Htet

Yangon circular railway network to be upgraded with RBE air-con carriages

NAY PYI TAW, 13 Aug — The Ministry of Rail Transportation will upgrade its circular railway system in Yangon by replacing old carriages of two of its three trains with special RBE air-conditioned ones, officials said.

Five newly imported Railway Bus Engine (RBE) carriages will be added to each of the two trains, with the third train on the

Yangon circular railway network already operating with RBE carriages.

The first replacement will be made on 16 August, according to officials. The ticket fees for RBE carriages will be reduced from K400 to K 300, with tickets for the current upper-class—which is lower in standard than RBE—to be fixed at K200.

MNA

Information Ministry to enhance capacity of government officers

Branches of trees cleared around power lines in Mandalay

MANDALAY, 13 Aug — To ensure smooth electricity supply in Mandalay District, township electrical engineers and electricians from the Township Electrical Office and electricity supply companies are carrying out repairs and substitution of power lines in Mandalay, as well as cutting trees.

With the assistance

of Myanmar Integrated Strength Company, they also cut the branches of trees to clear up around the power lines in Nanmyo of Aungmyethazan Township and along 28th street between 71st and 72nd streets and at the corner of 27th and 74th streets in Chanayethazan Township on 10 and 11 August.—*Thiha Ko Ko (Mandalay)*



MUFL students participate in song contests



MANDALAY, 13 Aug — The Departments of Mandalay University of Foreign Languages held a song contest at the assembly hall of the university on Tuesday morning.

Rector Dr Zaw Lin of the university opened the ceremony with a speech. The Head of the Myanmar Department Dr Soe Moe

Moe explained the purpose of contest, with Principal of State School of Fine Arts U Aung Thet Tun and party acting as panel of judges.

Officials presented the first prize to Maung Nay Thu Aung from the Russian Department, the

second to Maung Chit Kyi Htoo from the Korean Department, and the first prize to Ma Cho Nwe Oo from the Chinese Department.

In the foreigner students event, Mr Xiang De Bin won the first prize in the “stereo songs” contest,

Mr Cai Dong Jiang the second and Mr Huang Yuan the third prize while Ms Li Zongxiao secured the first prize, Ms Zhao Ya the second and Ms He Ying Ying the third in the stereo song contest.

Thiha Ko Ko (Mandalay)

Some students of Kalay Township suffering from dengue fever

KALAY, 13 Aug — Infection of dengue haemorrhagic fever has been on the rise among the students in Kalay Township of Sagaing Region, with school officials saying many students have not been able to attend class, but so far no casualties have been reported.

The Health Department has been carrying out measures to control DHF before the start of rainy season. However, many chil-

dren are suffering from the diseases, said a nurse of the people's hospital.

“Due to population density, a number of children from Sanmyo and Tarhan wards in the west of Kalay have increasingly been infected with DHF. Most of them are receiving medical treatment at hospital and clinics,” said local people.

Infection of DHF causes in Kalay once every four

years. Although staff of Health Department have made prevention against DHF but they could not control it thoroughly.

A total of 672 patients from 19 wards in Kalay suffered from the disease in 2013. According to statistics, a total of 123 patients have been receiving medical treatment at the township people's hospital from January to 31 July.

Chindwin Thar

KYAUDAGA, 13 Aug — A culvert was built at the corner of Bogyoke Street and U Aung Zeya Street in Kyaukdaga of Bago Region to drain out water from the town.

However, the culvert was blocked with garbage in flow of water and it becomes damaged. To be able to ensure proper flow of water along the drains passing the culvert, the officials of the township built a concrete bridge, 18 feet long and six feet wide on Tuesday.



At present, motor cars and various vehicles can flow under the road and use the road smoothly and the water from the town

Myo Oo (Kyaukdaga)

Talks on danger of dyed food products given to students

MANDALAY, 13 Aug — Under the arrangement of the Food and Drug Administration, officials of the Consumer Affairs Department of the Ministry of Commerce gave talks on protection of consumers and danger of dyes at No 1 Basic Education High School in Kyaukse of Mandalay Region on Tuesday.

Director of Commercial and Consumer Affairs Department U Khin Zaw gave lectures on facts

about consumer protection, Director U Swe Tint Kyu on safety of food products and Assistant Director Dr Aye Nyein Myat of the Food and Drug Administration talked about the dangers of eating dyed food products as they contain toxic chemicals.

They further discussed “suitable” food and unhealthy choices, as well as the sale of hygienic food at the canteen of the school.

Thiha Ko Ko (Mandalay)



REGIONAL



Thai Army Chief Gen Prayuth Chan-ocha (C) presides over the celebration for Thai Queen Sirikit on her 82nd birthday in Bangkok, Thailand, on 12 Aug, 2014. Thailand celebrated Queen Sirikit's birthday on 12 August.

XINHUA

China urges public to walk, ride bikes to help cut smog

BEIJING, 13 Aug — China has issued a “behavioural standards” guide to combat pollution and reduce environmental damage, urging people to do everything from walking and riding bicycles to buying goods with less packaging.

The Chinese government has identified public participation as a key element in its efforts to reverse some of the environmental damage done by more than three decades of breakneck economic growth.

The list of eight standards, published on the environment ministry's website (www.mep.gov.cn) on Wednesday, urged citizens to refrain from burning garbage, and limit the use of fireworks and barbecues.

It also urged the public to take responsibility for pollution by reporting illegal behaviour to the authorities. Amendments to the country's Environmental Protection Law, passed in April, made it an obligation for all Chinese citizens to protect the environment.

A local government study showed in April that 31 percent of the smog in China's capital Beijing is derived from vehicles, 22.4 percent from coal burning and 18.1 percent from industry.

Beijing's environmental bureau said 14.1 percent was made up of other smaller sources like food preparation, livestock rearing and vehicle repairs. — Reuters



Residents cover their face from dust as they ride their bicycles along a street on a hazy day in Zhengzhou, Henan Province on 10 Dec, 2013. —REUTERS

Japan to protest over Russia's military drills on disputed islands

TOKYO, 13 Aug — Prime Minister Shinzo Abe said on Wednesday the Japanese government will lodge a protest with Russia over military exercises on a islet chain off Hokkaido at the heart of a territorial dispute.

Calling the military exercises on the Northern Territories “totally unacceptable,” Abe told reporters in Yamaguchi Prefecture, western Japan, “We

will lodge a strong protest with Russia through the Foreign Ministry.

“The Northern Territories are an inherent part of Japan's territory, and we cannot accept the move,” a senior ministry official also said, a day after Russia announced its military began military exercises on the Russia-held, Japan-claimed islands.

The official said Japan has confirmed that Russia

conducted drills on two of the four islands — Etorofu and Kunashiri. Tokyo had urged Moscow through diplomatic channels to cancel the drills after learning of the Russian military's move by on 5 August, the official added.

The spat over the Northern Territories, which also include Shikotan, and the Habomai islet group, has prevented Tokyo and Russia from signing a

peace treaty. The islands, called the Southern Kurils in Russia, were seized by the Soviet Union following Japan's surrender in World War II on 15 August, 1945.

Abe has been trying to resolve the dispute by building a personal relationship of trust with Russian President Vladimir Putin, who has been under international pressure since Moscow's annexation of Crimea. — Kyodo News

Iranian Stanford professor first woman to win top maths prize

SEOUL, 13 Aug — Iranian mathematician Maryam Mirzakhani on Wednesday became the first woman to be awarded the Fields Medal, mathematics' equivalent to the Nobel Prize.

The professor at Stanford University in California was among four Fields Medal recipients at the International Congress of Mathematicians held in Seoul, and the first female among the 56 winners since the prize was established in 1936.

“This is a great honour. I will be happy if it encourages young female scientists and mathematicians,” Mirzakhani was quoted as saying on Stanford's website.

“I am sure there will be many more women winning this kind of award in coming years,” she said.

Mirzakhani, 37, was

born in Teheran and lived there until she began her doctorate work at Harvard University.

She said she had dreamed of becoming a writer when she was young, but she pursued her enthusiasm for solving mathematical problems.

“It is fun — it's like solving a puzzle or connecting the dots in a detective case.

I felt that this was something I could do, and I wanted to pursue this path,” she said.

Mirzakhani was recognised for her work in understanding the symmetry of curved surfaces, according to the Stanford site.

The prizes are awarded every four years. Wednesday's prizes were presented by South Korean President Park Geun-hye, the first woman to hold that post.

Reuters



Beijing police authorities performed security checks on various vehicles entering the capital city on 12 Aug, 2014. Since 1 August, Beijing has tightened security for the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) 2014 Third Senior Officials' Meeting (SOM3) and Related Meetings, which will be held in the city between 6 and 21 August. —XINHUA

Talks on ending Gaza war ‘difficult’, but truce holds



A girl sits on the ruins of her family's home that witnesses say was destroyed by Israeli airstrikes in the Beit Hanoun neighbourhood of Gaza City on 12 Aug, 2014.—REUTERS

GAZA/CAIRO, 13 Aug — Talks to end a month-long war between Israel and Gaza militants are “difficult”, Palestinian delegates said on Tuesday, while Israeli officials said no progress had been made so far and fighting could soon resume.

As a 72-hour ceasefire held for a second day, Palestinian negotiators held fresh talks with Egyptian intelligence following a meeting on Monday that lasted

nine hours.

Hamas, the Islamist group that dominates the Gaza Strip, and its allies are seeking an end to an Israeli and Egyptian blockade of the coastal Palestinian enclave.

“We are facing difficult negotiations,” Hamas’ leader in Cairo, Moussa Abu Marzouk, said on Twitter.

An Israeli official, who declined to be named, said the gaps between the sides were big. “There is no pro-

gress in the negotiations,” the official said.

Defence Minister Moshe Yaalon told Israel’s armed forces to prepare for a possible resumption of hostilities.

“I don’t know if, by midnight on Wednesday, we will reach an accommodation. I don’t know if we will need to extend negotiations. It could be that shooting will erupt again and we will again be firing at them,” he said, visiting a

navy base.

A Palestinian official with knowledge of the Cairo talks told *Reuters*, on condition of anonymity: “So far we can’t say a breakthrough has been achieved ... Twenty-four hours and we shall see whether we have an agreement.”

Hamas also wants the opening of a seaport for Gaza, a project Israel says should be dealt with only in any future talks on a permanent peace agreement with the Palestinians.

Israel has resisted lifting the economically stifling blockade on Gaza and suspects Hamas will restock with weapons from abroad if access to the coastal territory is eased. Neighbouring Egypt also sees Hamas as a security threat.

Israel pulled ground forces out of Gaza last week after it said the army had completed its main mission of destroying more than 30 tunnels dug by militants for cross-border attacks. It now wants guarantees Hamas will not use any reconstruction supplies sent into the enclave to rebuild those tunnels.

Reuters

Saudi jolts wife by taking 10 and 11-year-old boys to fight in Syria

DUBAI, 13 Aug — A Saudi father gave his ex-wife the shock of her life when he informed her he was taking their 10 and 11 year-old-sons to join Islamist militants in Syria, telling her to count them as “birds in heaven”, Saudi-owned media reported. *The pan-Arab al-Hayat* newspaper said on Tuesday that the unsuspecting mother had been told that her sons, Abdullah and Ahmed, were going on holiday with their father, identified as Nasser al-Shayeq, in a neighbouring Gulf Arab country when she saw an Instagram photo of them in Turkey.

Al-Hayat said she telephoned her son to ask about the photo, only to receive a message from her ex-husband, a former Saudi civil servant, to say that he was taking the boys to Syria to join Islamic State, one of the most militant groups fighting to topple President Bashar al-Assad.

“Count your children as birds in heaven,” Shayeq said in his message, according to *al-Hayat*, suggesting that they may be killed and become young “martyrs”.

Fellow Islamic State militants later posted a photo of the father and his two sons crouching in front of Islamic State’s black flag, with each boy brandishing an AK-47 rifle in one hand. The father was smiling as one of the boys also held a grenade in his other hand.

Many Saudis have joined foreign Islamist militant groups but another Saudi newspaper, *al-Riyadh*, said the involvement of children in this case had jolted the Saudi government into action, setting up a hotline with the Turkish government to try to bring the two boys home.

Saudis are among the hundreds of foreign fighters who have joined Islamist militant groups such as Islamic State and al-Nusrah Front in Syria.

Islamic State renamed itself last month after it captured swathes of territory in western Iraq and unified them with territories it holds in eastern Syria.—Reuters

Kosovo authorities raise indictment against Oliver Ivanovic

KOSOVSKA MITROVICA, 13 Aug — The Office of the Kosovo Special Prosecutor has raised an indictment against one of the political leaders of the Kosovo Serbs, President of the Citizen Initiative Freedom, Democracy, Justice Oliver Ivanovic, *Tanjug* learned on Tuesday.

EULEX spokesperson



Dragana Nikolic Solomon told *Tanjug* that a prosecutor from the Office of the Kosovo Special Prosecutor had raised an indictment against 5 people on Monday, but she could not specify the identity of the inditees.

However, she said that one of them was accused of inciting war crimes in April

1999 and, along with another person, of inciting accessory to aggravated murder and attempted aggravated murder in February 2000.

Ivanovic was suspected of these crimes when he was arrested on 27 January this year.

The Serbian government issued guarantees that

in case of Ivanovic’s release from detention pending trial, the defendant will at all times be available to the court, but he was not released in spite of the guarantees.

After Ivanovic’s hunger strike in March, the authorities transferred him from the prison in Pristina,

where his safety was jeopardised, to the detention unit in northern Kosovska which is home to majority Serb population.

The remaining three inditees in the case are accused of aggravated murder and attempted aggravated murder in February 2000.

Tanjug

On Russia’s border with Ukraine, fighters and military gear move freely

VERKHNYAYA OREKHOVKA, (Russia) 13 Aug — In Russia’s southwestern Rostov region bordering Ukraine, a military-style training camp, a broken down border fence and tracks consistent with armoured personnel carriers or tanks add to a body of evidence of Russian involvement in Ukraine’s war.

The Kremlin has consistently denied assertions by the West that it is arming, supporting and training separatists fighting to estab-

lish an independent state in eastern Ukraine.

US officials said in July they had identified a separatist training facility near Rostov, and a surface-to-air rocket that turned up in east Ukraine in June originated from a base near Moscow, according to its logbook. On Russia’s border with Ukraine, some 170 kilometres north of Rostov, there is further evidence pointing to Russia’s role in the insurrection.

A gap a few metres

wide has been cut in the razor-wire fence opening a route for vehicles and pedestrians to the rebel-controlled area of eastern Ukraine.

On the Russian side of the divide, a track leads towards the Russian town of Donetsk, 1 km away and bearing the same name as the rebel stronghold in Ukraine. The soil has the imprints of caterpillar treads, the kind used on tanks or some types of armoured personnel carriers.



An armed pro-Russian separatist stands guard at a border checkpoint near the territory of Russia in Izvaryne, Luhansk region, on 31 July, 2014.—REUTERS

When *Reuters* visited this section of border in late July and early August, two Russian border guards emerged from bushes and waved the reporter away. “It’s better not to drive here”, one said.

The guards denied that armoured personnel carriers or tanks had crossed into Ukraine along the rough track. A kilometre away, on the outskirts of the Russian town of Donetsk, caterpillar treads have left white marks on the roadside.—Reuters

WORLD

UK ban on prisoners voting breaches their human rights — European rights court

BRUSSELS, 13 Aug — Britain's ban on prisoners voting breaches their human rights, a top European court ruled on Tuesday, its latest ruling in an ongoing tussle that has riled British politicians hostile to EU human rights laws.

Disagreement between Britain and the European Court of Human Rights has previously played into strong anti-European Union sentiment in Britain at a time when its ties to the 28-member bloc are being increasingly questioned.

The ruling concluded a case brought to the court by a group of 10 British prisoners who argued that the ban breached their right to free elections under Eu-



A general view shows C wing at Wormwood Scrubs prison in London on 22 Oct, 2012.—REUTERS

ropean Union law.

They had been unable to vote in elections to the

European Parliament in 2009 because they were serving their prison sen-

tences. British law prohibits prisoners from voting in national and European

elections.

The Strasbourg-based court agreed that denying prisoners the right to vote was a breach of human rights but rejected their claim for damages, saying that the conclusion that their rights had been breached was sufficient. It also rejected their claim for the reimbursement of legal costs.

The court already ruled against Britain on its ban on prisoners voting in similar cases in 2010 and 2005.

In December 2013 a parliamentary committee recommended giving some prisoners the right to vote, but the government has so far not brought forward any legislation.

"It makes me physically ill even to contemplate having to give the vote to anyone who is in prison," Prime Minister David Cameron said in 2010.

Although the Strasbourg court is not an institution of the EU, it has angered the ruling Conservatives who adopt a tough line on crime and see its judgements as a threat to British sovereignty.

Britain's interior minister, Theresa May, has suggested that the Conservatives could pledge that if they win the 2015 election, Britain will pull out of the European Convention of Human Rights which the Strasbourg court enforces.

Reuters

Obama to see Clinton after criticism of his foreign policy



US President Barack Obama delivers a statement on the situation in Iraq from his vacation home at Martha's Vineyard, Massachusetts on 11 Aug, 2014.—REUTERS

EDGARTOWN, 13 Aug — President Barack Obama will have a reunion with former Secretary of State Hillary Clinton on Wednesday on Martha's Vineyard, days after the former top diplomat criticized the foreign policy vision of his administration.

Obama and his wife, Michelle, will attend a party hosted by Washington power broker Vernon Jordan, a Clinton friend, on the Massachusetts island, where the presidential family is spending a two-week vacation, a White House spokesman said. Clinton will be on the island to promote her book, "Hard Choices," a memoir of her time as Obama's secretary of state.

"The president and first lady have accepted

an offer to attend a social gathering at the home of Vernon Jordan on Wednesday evening," White House spokesman Eric Schultz said. "(They) are very much looking forward to the occasion and seeing former Secretary Clinton."

Clinton, a potential Democratic presidential candidate in 2016, distanced herself from Obama's foreign policy in an interview with *The Atlantic* that was published on Sunday, saying it was a failure that the United States did not intervene early in the Syrian war.

She also took issue with Obama's slogan of "Don't do stupid stuff" to describe his foreign policy thinking.

"Great nations need organizing principles, and 'Don't do stupid stuff' is not an organizing principle," she said in the interview.

Obama and Clinton were adversaries for the Democratic presidential nomination in 2008 but developed a close relationship when she served as his secretary of state.

They have seen each other a handful of times, sometimes for lunch at the White House, since she departed the administration in 2013.—Reuters

Hillary Clinton calls Obama to clarify Syria remarks

WASHINGTON, 13 Aug — Hillary Clinton, a likely Democratic contender for the White House in 2016, called President Barack Obama on Tuesday to clarify that controversial remarks she made in an interview were not intended to attack him, her spokesman said.

In an interview published by *The Atlantic* magazine on Sunday, former Secretary of State Clinton identified the US choice not to intervene early in Syria's civil war as a "failure."

"Earlier today, the secretary called President Obama to make sure he knows that nothing she said was an attempt to attack him, his policies, or his leadership," Clinton spokesman Nick Merrill said in a statement.

"While they've had honest differences on some issues, including aspects of the wicked challenge Syria presents, she has explained those differences in her book and at many points since then."

Clinton, also a former first lady and senator from New York, served as Obama's secretary of state from 2009 to 2013. Since



Former US Secretary of State Hillary Clinton

then she has been touring the country giving a series of lucrative speeches and promoting her memoir, "Hard Choices."

She will be on Martha's Vineyard, Massachusetts, to sign copies of her book on Wednesday. Obama is vacationing there, and the two are expected to see each other Wednesday night.

"Like any two friends who have to deal with the public eye, she looks forward to hugging it out

when they see each other tomorrow night," Merrill said.

The call was first reported by Politico.

Clinton has not said whether she will run for president, but she is regarded as the favourite to win the Democratic nomination. Therefore each of her public statements has been scrutinized as a possible reflection of her potential campaign platform.

While these comments were Clinton's clearest ef-

fort at distancing herself from the White House, she has been subtly creating space between her own record and Obama's for months. The June release of "Hard Choices" also provided her with a chance to note her differences with the president.

In the book she specifically identified Obama's decision not to arm moderate Syrian rebels as a point of contention while she was at the State Department.

Reuters

PERSPECTIVES

Thursday, 14 August, 2014

Environmental protection vital for sustainable economic growth

By Myint Win Thein

It is true that foreign direct investment is important for the economic growth of countries, especially for developing ones like Myanmar. However, it is essential to adopt policies that will prevent excessive exploitation of natural resources and destruction of the environment.

Some developing countries have suffered negative consequences with a massive impact on the environment, caused by foreign direct investment as they placed emphasis on economic growth and failed to take the environment and sustainability into account. Sustainable economic growth cannot be maintained when the environment has been damaged and natural resources have depleted.

Foreign companies are now investing in Myanmar but only a few of them adopt corporate social responsibilities in their business practices. Therefore, it is time for Myanmar to adopt policies to protect the environment, and enforce them.

In addition, foreign direct investment alone cannot solve all the economic problems facing Myanmar in the long run. Therefore, it is important to develop strategies that will contribute to human resources development of Myanmar through foreign direct investment.

Human resources development is key to create sustainable and inclusive economic growth.

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.

STRATEGY of Success

Kyi Mun

* What is Strategy ?

Strategy is the route to get from HERE TO THERE. It is about setting a DIRECTION.

Janice Caplan

Strategy is HOW TO GET, WHAT YOU WANT, which is objective.

Anonymous

Strategy is the JOURNEY, and The objective is the DESTINATION.

Anonymous

Strategy is a process of discovery In which you create the Future.

C.K. Prahalad

Strategy is the Means to an End. In Competition, it is the Winning Edge.

Anonymous

* STRATEGY

- S = Strategic Objective
- T = Time
- R = Resources
- A = Attack / Offensive
- T = Technology
- E = Excellence in Performance
- G = Going All-out for the Mission / Concentration
- Y = Yin & Yang of Tactics

Strategic Objective

A business organization has got to determine what is its primary objective is—whether it is Industry Standing, Innovation, Market Positioning, Market Share, Growth, etc. It must have a definite goal to achieve. All the people of the organization have got to know where they are supposed to be going. They must know on which road they are travelling, in which direction and to what destination. They should have a compass point, a focus. In business terms, all the people of the organization have got to thoroughly understand:

- What business are they in !
- Where are they now ?
- Where do they want to be in some future point in time ?
- How can they get there ?
- Which is the best way ?

Time

Time is the final arbiter of our success. Time is our most valuable resource. It must be used must prudently. Out of 24 hours each day, time must be most effectively used. Time should be used in the optimum balance between work and life. We cannot buy time, nor can we manipulate time by force to yield to our wishes. We have got to invest time most wisely to get the best outcome. We should always be earnest in the use of time, and should always bear in mind that time and tide wait for no man. We also should remember that our total life-span is not very long—not as long as we want it to be. So, let us value our time and make the most of it.

Resources

A resource is an endowment that you have inside of you as your quality or ability. Personally everybody has five kinds of resources or endowments as follows:

- Physical Strength
- Mental /Intellectual Strength
- Emotional Strength
- Spiritual Strength
- Achievement Strength / talents

An organization or a company can have the following resources:

- Human Resource
- Financial Resource
- Technological Resource
- Organizational Resources such as Relationships, Information and Raw Materials

Resources should be collected, nurtured, cultivated, developed and positively used most constructively to get maximum excellent results. In a business organization, people development is one of the most important areas of excellence for survival and success, just as a personal development is essential for individual advancement in life.

Attack / Offensive

In the matter of strategy, there are very important categories, such as Offensive Strategy and Defensive Strategy. Offensive Strategy is to be deployed for success and expansion whereas Defensive Strategy is deployed to main the status quo.

Whether individually or organizationally, the reason for being is to grow. Growth is the inevitable purpose for being in existence. Without growth and development, i.e., without being able to produce fruits means an unproductive life, a barren existence.

One of the prerequisites of accomplishing a useful purpose is to find and to seize opportunities. In the present day, hyper-combative world, we have got to search for opportunities more or less aggressively. We have got to wage an offensive campaign in finding and getting the right opportunities for sustainable growth and progress.

Technology

To engage in business successfully, we have to deal with Man, Money, Machine, Method etc. Method is nothing but technology. Today's technology has advanced beyond all previous anticipation. Nowadays, Computer technology, ICT technology has reached a point where even (human) intelligence is on the way to be experimented and invented to some extent. Some new technologies are so fast in coming into being and so impactful in application that such technologies are now called disruptive technologies. It must be given top-priority in the business.

In the intelligent use of strategy, technology is indispensable. But the question is how to use a certain technology must effectively. Just as doing the right thing is to be effective, adopting the right technology at the right time is also to have effectiveness.

Excellence

In the business world, EXCELLENCE must be embedded and manifested in:

- Quality
- Uniqueness
- Innovation
- Value
- Esteem
- Relationship
- Service

Without the true and full excellence in the above areas of CUSTOMER PREFERENCE, a business firm would not be able to position itself in the top-notch places in the industry. To establish a strong BRANDNAME in the business world, you have got to be able to deliver the most innovative OFFERINGS with the best BENEFITS, ADVANTAGES AND FEATURES.

Going All-out for the Mission

In the business world, the most reliable cutting edge can be obtained out of the following Four Strands of War/ Competition:

- The Quality and Capability of the Leader
- The Quality and Capability of the Followers
- Morale
- Resources

So, to be the undisputed Market Leader, the Leader must go all-out. He has got to give all he/she has got. He or She must give every bit of himself or herself. He or she must hold nothing back.

The followers or the entire people of the organization must all perform at their PEAK. They should be the REAL FIGHTERS. They have got to fight or die, period. The entire people must be appropriately empowered to fight their battle and win victory. They must be enabled and fully equipped. They must be adequately trained and developed. They must be nurtured, cultivated and looked after well. Because, MORALE could be the decisive factor in the battle decision. Napoleon Bonaparte said: “**Morale is to Material As Three Is To One.**”

Resources have been somewhat death with previously.

Yin & Yang of Tactics

Yin means, Softness, Female-nature and Yang means Hardness and Male-nature. So, yin and yang means : Adaptability, flexibility, agility, resilience, endurance and fortitude. Yin and Yang on the whole represents the unity and struggle of opposites. It means completeness, wholeness, fullness and readiness-readiness for the struggle of Life & Death.

U Kyi Mun residing in Yangon is a consultant of NAING Group Capital Co.,Ltd.

GOLD PRICE, FE RATE (13-8-2014)

Yangon Gold Price

Buying K675,800 per tical: Selling K676,700

Mandalay Gold Price

Buying K675,800 per tical: Selling K676,700

FE RATE

USD Buying K970 - Selling K974

SGD Buying K774 - Selling K781

Euro Buying K1290 - Selling K1305

LOCAL NEWS

Herbal plants, tubers on sales at Myathalun Pagoda in Magway

MAGWAY, 13 Aug — Shopkeepers selling herbal plants and tubers to pilgrims and visitors at the stairway of Magway Myathalun Pagoda have said they rely on the Buddhist festivals to make a living, and customers who use the plants for traditional medicine, locals said.

"I live in Sedoktara Township. My family sells herbal plants and tubers and produces traditional medicines. My forefathers were traditional medicine practitioners. We look for various species of herbal plants in the mountains and forests. Sales of plants increase at the pagoda festival and Buddha Pujaniya period. We will sell herbal plants at Myathalun pagoda festival in October," a vendor said.

Some herbal plants and



tubers are traded in the central Myanmar to produce traditional medicines on a commercial scale. Some people themselves produce

traditional medicines with the use of herbal plants for household uses.

*Phu Pwint Naygyi
(Magway)*

Artificial limbs and braces donated in Kawkareik



KAWKAREIK, 13 Aug — Hpa-an Artificial Limb and Brace Rehabilitation Unit, jointly established by the Myanmar Red Cross Society and the International Committee of the Red Cross, provided artificial limbs and braces installation service for disabled persons at the Kawkareik District General Hospital on Tuesday.

Responsible persons of the unit repaired the damaged artificial legs and compiled a list of those wishing to receive artificial legs.

The team, consisting of one physiotherapy technician, two artificial limb technicians and two helpers led by U Thant Zin Win, made field trips around the district to repair artificial

limbs.

The unit was opened in 2003, with over 5,000 artificial legs given to disabled people. The unit supports people from Kayin,

Mon and Kayah States and Taninthayi and Bago East Regions, giving free services to people, who can also get free accommodation.

Soe Htet Aung (IPRD)

500-acre Palethwe paddy plantation harvested in Pobbathiri Tsp

NAY PYI TAW, 13 Aug — The Agricultural Mechanization Department have harvested Palethwe paddy plantation with the use of five combined harvesters on 500-acre plantation in Nyaungbingyisu Village of Pobbathiri Township in Nay Pyi Taw Council Area recently.

Officials of the AMD carried out harvest of paddy for minimizing loss and waste of paddy and for growing monsoon paddy in time.

The plantation of Palethwe paddy produced 150-200 basket per acre.

*Ko Pauk
(Okkar Myay)*

Assistance provided to flood victims in Hopang

HOPANG, 13 Aug—A ceremony to present cash donated by the Shan State Government to flood victims and farmers who lost crops in floods was held at the office of Wa Self-Administered Zone Leading Body in Hopang of Shan State on Monday.

Secretary of the Zone U Myo Aung explained that the Shan State government provided assistance to the people who were affected by floods.

EC member of the Leading Body U Sai Hla Pe, Secretary U Myo Aung, U Hoke Sun, Deputy Director of Planning Department and township administrator U Nyi Nyi Lwin presented K30,000 each to 102 flood victim families and K10,000 each to owners of damaged acres of crops via the local authorities.

Township IPRD

TODAY'S MYANMAR NEWS SITES



Public Call Offices lose customers as the use of mobiles increases

MAGWAY, 13 Aug — Public Call Offices, run by Myanmar Posts and Telecommunications, has been losing customers since foreign communication companies started selling SIM cards at affordable prices to the public in July and August 2014.

"Most of the people now can use mobile phones. So the income of the PCOs is gradually declining. In the past, we earned K5,000 on average a day by giving services

to the people. Now, about five people on average use the PCO phones per day," said a woman of a PCO near Magway University, adding that some staff had to look for other jobs.

Public Call Offices used to be the only way for the public to make calls as SIM cards cost around \$200 until the foreign companies won tenders to provide telecommunication services in the country.

Kyaw Swa (Magway)



Canada's 'Prince of Pot' returns home after 5 years in US jail

TORONTO/VANCOUVER, 13 Aug — A Canadian man jailed for five years in a US federal prison for shipping marijuana seeds across the border returned to his homeland on Tuesday, as laws regulating the drug in both countries have slowly been relaxed.

Marc Emery, Canada's self-proclaimed "Prince of Pot," crossed the border from Detroit, Michigan to Windsor, Ontario, and soon after addressed television cameras and supporters with his wife Jodie Emery by his side.

He said he expected to resume his activism for cannabis policy reform and would support Jodie's political campaign to run for the Liberals in Vancouver East as well as embark on a speaking tour that includes

visits to Spain and Ireland.

"After five years of prison you can't scare me," he said. The leader of the federal opposition Liberals, Justin Trudeau, has promised to back legalization of marijuana if his party wins the 2015 federal election.

Emery, who ran a successful mail-order marijuana seed business from Vancouver, was first arrested in Canada in 2005 and later extradited to the United States, where he pleaded guilty to one count of conspiracy to manufacture marijuana. A US Drug Enforcement Agency statement in 2005 hailed Emery's arrest as a blow to the "marijuana legalization movement" and cited his financial support of pro-pot groups in Canada and the United States.— Reuters

United States sends another 130 military personnel to Iraq

WASHINGTON, 13 Aug — The Obama administration has sent about 130 additional military personnel to Iraq, US Defence Secretary Chuck Hagel said on Tuesday, as Washington seeks to help Iraq contain the threat posed by hardline militants from the Islamic State.

Hagel, speaking to troops in California, said the soldiers had arrived in the area around Iraqi Kurdistan's capital, Erbil, earlier in the day on Tuesday.

A US defence official, in a statement issued as Hagel was speaking, said the soldiers sent to northern Iraq would "assess the scope of the humanitarian mission and develop additional humanitarian assistance options beyond the current airdrop effort in support of displaced Iraqi



civilians trapped on Sinjar Mountain by the Islamic State of Iraq and the Levant."

Reuters

A F/A-18E Super Hornet of Strike Fighter Squadron (VFA-31) comes in to land onboard the flight deck of the aircraft carrier USS George HW Bush (CVN 77), in the Gulf on 12 Aug, 2014.

REUTERS

US ready to help new Iraq leader, Iran welcomes choice

BAGHDAD, 13 Aug — Iraq's new prime minister-designate won swift endorsements from uneasy mutual allies the United States and Iran on Tuesday as he called on political leaders to end crippling feuds that have let jihadists seize a third of the country.

Haider al-Abadi still faces opposition closer to home, where his Shi'ite party colleague Nuri al-Maliki has refused to step aside after eight years as premier that have alienated Iraq's once dominant Sunni minority and irked Washington and Teheran.

However, Shi'ite militia and army commanders long loyal to Maliki signalled their backing for the change, as did many people on the streets of Baghdad, eager for an end to fears of a further descent into sectarian and ethnic blood-letting. Sunni neighbours Turkey and Saudi Arabia also welcomed Abadi's appointment.

A statement from Maliki's office said he met senior security officials and army and police commanders to urge them "not to interfere in the political crisis".

A suicide bomber attacked a checkpoint near Abadi's Baghdad home on Tuesday, two police sources



Displaced people from the minority Yazidi sect, fleeing violence from forces loyal to the Islamic State in Sinjar town, walk towards the Syrian border, on the outskirts of Sinjar mountain, near the Syrian border town of Elerbeh of Al-Hasakah Governorate on 11 Aug, 2014. — REUTERS

es and local media said. There was no immediate word on casualties.

At least 17 people were killed in two car bombings earlier on Tuesday in Shi'ite areas of Baghdad.

As Western powers and international aid agencies considered further help for tens of thousands of people driven from their homes and under threat from the Sunni militants of

the Islamic State near the Syrian border, Secretary of State John Kerry said the United States would consider requests for military and other assistance once Abadi forms a government to unite the country.

The United States sent about 130 additional military personnel to northern Iraq on Tuesday, US Defence Secretary Chuck Hagel said. The soldiers will develop options for

helping Iraqi civilians trapped on Mount Sinjar by Islamic State fighters, the Pentagon said in a statement.

Since June the United States has sent about 700 military personnel to Iraq to protect US diplomats there and take stock of Iraq's military capacity.

The European Union gave the green light on Tuesday for its individual members to supply weap-

ons to Kurdish forces in coordination with Baghdad. Diplomats said France, Italy and the Czech Republic were among the countries in favour of supplying arms. However, there was no immediate indication that they were about to do so. Underscoring the convergence of interest in Iraq that marks the normally hostile relationship between Washington and Iran, senior Iranian officials

congratulated Abadi on his nomination, three months after a parliamentary election left Maliki's bloc as the biggest in the legislature. Like Western powers, Shi'ite Iran is alarmed by Sunni militants' hold in Syria and Iraq.

"Iran supports the legal process that has taken its course with respect to choosing Iraq's new prime minister," the representative of Supreme Leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei on the Supreme National Security Council was quoted as saying.

"Iran favours a cohesive, integrated and secure Iraq," he said, adding an apparent appeal to Maliki to concede.

Abadi himself, long exiled in Britain, is seen as a far less polarising, sectarian figure than Maliki, who is also from the Shi'ite Islamic Dawa party. Abadi appears to have the blessing of Iraq's powerful Shi'ite clergy, a major force since US troops toppled Sunni dictator Saddam Hussein in 2003.

Iraqi state television said Abadi "called on all political powers who believe in the constitution and democracy to unite efforts and close ranks to respond to Iraq's great challenges".

Reuters

HEALTH & BUSINESS

Japan suffers biggest economic slump since 2011 quake as tax hike bites

TOKYO, 13 Aug — A sales tax hike last quarter drove Japan's economy into its biggest contraction since the March 2011 earthquake and tsunami, Cabinet Office data showed on Wednesday, keeping policymakers under pressure to expand fiscal and monetary stimulus should recovery falter again.

The 1 April sales tax hike took a heavy toll on household spending, shrinking the world's third-largest economy by an annualised 6.8 percent from April through June, and wiping out growth of 6.1 percent seen in January-March as consumers went on a shopping spree to avoid the higher tax.

The median market forecast was for a 7.1 percent drop.

Seeing the slump as

Legal & General says to quit British insurance body ABI

LONDON, 13 Aug — Life insurance and pensions company Legal & General Group Plc (LGEN.L) will quit trade body Association of British Insurers (ABI), a spokesman said on Wednesday without giving reasons for the decision.

The 177-year-old company will release a statement later in the day giving details of its decision, the spokesman said. ABI has nearly 300 members, accounting for 90 percent of the UK insurance market.

Reuters



A man stands in front of a shop window at a shopping district in Tokyo on 13 Aug, 2014.—REUTERS

temporary, however, the Bank of Japan remains publicly convinced the economy is on course for a moderate recovery and has no plans to expand stimulus any time soon.

The soft data, though,

could compel the central bank into trimming its rosy fiscal year economic projections when it reviews them in October.

If third quarter growth proves weak the BOJ may also come under pressure

to add stimulus — particularly before Prime Minister Shinzo Abe decides later this year whether to implement a second sales tax hike from 8 to 10 percent in October next year, analysts say.

“Should the next quarter be weaker than expected, there's the chance that the BOJ will be called on to do some more easing — and how the BOJ responds then will be another point to watch,” said Yuichi Kodama, an economist at Meiji Yasuda Life Insurance.

Economics Minister Akira Amari signalled the government's readiness to compile an extra budget later this year should growth in the third-quarter stay weak, although any fiscal stimulus would probably not be big enough to have a major impact on the economy, given Japan's dire government finances.

“At the moment I don't feel the need (to prepare an extra stimulus) but we will take necessary steps as appropriate depending

on economic developments from now on. Appropriate steps mean every possible measure,” he told reporters after the data was published.

On a quarter-to-quarter basis, Japan's economy shrank 1.7 percent in the second quarter, less than a median forecast for a 1.8 percent fall.

The second-quarter contraction was the biggest decline since the first quarter of 2011, when the devastating earthquake and tsunami in March disrupted factory production and chilled household spending. Private consumption, which makes up about 60 percent of the economy, fell 5.0 percent in the quarter, more than the 4.3 percent drop forecast by markets.

Reuters

Surprisingly weak China July money data cast doubts on recovery's durability

BEIJING, 13 Aug — The amount of money flowing into China's economy slowed to the lowest level in nearly six years in July, adding to fears that a sustained recovery may be at risk in the second half of the year despite government efforts to shore up growth.

Both the central bank and economists had expected some payback in July after unexpectedly strong financing data in June, but new loans and money supply growth were far below economists' expectations.

China's total social financing (TSF) aggregate, a broad measure of liquidity in the economy, fell to 273.1 billion yuan (26.37 billion

pounds) in July, about one seventh of that in June and the lowest monthly reading since October 2008 in the depths of the global financial crisis.

The People's Bank of China took the unusual step of issuing a statement immediately after the data, reassuring markets that credit and financing growth was still reasonable and that it had not changed its monetary policy.

Still, it conceded the slowing economy, and in particular the cooling property market, were dampening loan demand and highlighted the risks of pumping too much money into a softening econo-

my too quickly, citing the growing number of bad loans.

Non-performing loans have now risen for 11 straight quarters, the central bank's statement said.

“It's surprising. On the face of it, we've not observed any tightening of monetary conditions by policymakers,” said Louis Kuijs, an economist at Royal Bank of Scotland in Hong Kong.

“I don't know if this has anything to do with disagreements between policymakers. In its recent monetary policy report, the central bank warned of continued risks in fast credit lending.”



People cross a bridge at Pudong financial district in Shanghai on 11 Aug, 2014.—REUTERS

Chinese banks made 385.2 billion yuan worth of new yuan loans in July, down sharply from 1.08 trillion yuan in June and well below expectations of 727.5 billion yuan, central bank data showed on Wednesday.

The People's Bank of China said in its second quarter policy report earlier this month that it will maintain reasonable growth in credit and social financing and fine-tune its monetary policy in a timely way.

Reuters

WHO backs use of experimental Ebola drugs in West Africa

LONDON / GENEVA, 13 Aug — People infected in the West African Ebola outbreak can be offered untested drugs, the World Health Organization said on Tuesday, but the scarcity of supplies has raised questions about who gets priority access to treatment.

Liberia said it planned to treat two infected doctors with an unproven Ebola medicine called ZMapp. They would become the first Africans to receive the

drug, which has been given to a Spanish priest who later died and two US aid workers. The outbreak is the world's largest and deadliest and the UN agency last week declared it an international health emergency. The WHO has appealed for funds and medical staff to supplement health care in one of the poorest regions in the world. So far, 1,013 people have died, the vast majority in Guinea, Liberia and Sierra Leone. Three



A man has his temperature taken using an infrared digital laser thermometer at the Nnamdi Azikiwe International Airport in Abuja, on 11 Aug, 2014.—REUTERS

have died in Nigeria.

The suffering has been exacerbated by health services that are struggling to cope. On Tuesday, Liberian Ceceilia Gbelley lay on the grass among a group of seven outside an Ebola treatment center at Monrovia's Elwa hospital because there was no space for them inside. All said they feared they might have the disease.

“I'm very weak. My chest is burning,” said Gbelley, who had nursed

her aunt while she vomited blood and showed other symptoms of the virus. The aunt died and Gbelley then fell ill. She said she rode to the hospital in a shared taxi.

In a sign of the desperation for even experimental medicine as the death toll mounts, Twitter users in West Africa, where Ebola is killing around 60 percent of patients who become infected, created the #GiveUs-TheSerum hashtag.

Reuters

Shooting of black teen highlights racial divide in Missouri town

FERGUSON, 13 Aug — The fatal shooting of an unarmed black teenager in Ferguson, Missouri, on Saturday, and subsequent violent protests, highlight a stubborn racial divide in a St Louis suburb that has struggled to build healthy relations between blacks and whites.

From the 1970s, Ferguson, pop. 21,000, changed from being overwhelmingly white to predominantly black as whites left the town and its surrounding areas, seeking to avoid racial integration of public schools.

African Americans, allegedly excluded from buying homes in many St Louis neighbourhoods in an illegal practise called redlining, found Ferguson a hospitable place to set down roots.

“Most of the communities around Ferguson have gone from all Caucasian to all African-American over a 40-year period,” said Terry Jones, a political science professor at the University of Missouri-St Louis. Ferguson, on St Louis’ northern border, is relatively mixed, with 63 percent of the residents African American and 34 percent white, according to 2010 US Census data.

To some Ferguson residents, the shooting death of Michael Brown,

18, symbolizes how African Americans are treated unfairly in a town still run by a Caucasian minority.

Mayor James Knowles is white, as are all but one of six city council members. The police chief is white, and only three members of the 53-person police force are African Americans. A 2013 state attorney general’s report found more than 85 percent of motorists pulled over in the city are African American, and the arrest rate among blacks is twice the rate among white residents.

Obama says Missouri shooting death tragic, reflection needed

President Barack Obama called the police shooting death of an unarmed black teenager a tragedy on Tuesday and urged a thoughtful response after two nights of violent protests, looting and arrests in a St Louis suburb.

He promised a full investigation by the US Department of Justice into the case, which has provoked outrage in the largely African-American town of Ferguson.

“I know the events of the past few days have prompted strong passions, but ... I urge everyone in Ferguson, Missouri, and across the country, to remember this young man through reflection and un-



Demonstrators Aaron Little, Gianni Cook and Troy Jones hold signs while protesting in Clayton, Missouri on 12 Aug, 2014. — REUTERS

derstanding,” Obama said in a statement.

Friends and family of 18-year-old Michael Brown held a peaceful church vigil on Tuesday night, and his father pleaded for an end to the violence. Standing with supporters, including the Rev Al Sharpton, Michael Brown Sr said he wanted justice for his son but wanted it “the right way.”

“I need all of us to come together and do this right, the right way,” said

Brown Sr., who wore a T-shirt showing his son’s baby picture. “No violence.”

Several hundred protesters appeared to heed the calls for non-violence late on Tuesday evening, chanting “hands up, don’t shoot” and “no justice, no peace” during a tense but ultimately peaceful standoff with police clad in riot gear and flanked by armored vehicles near the site of Brown’s death.

The protesters, some of whom waved signs as the group was led in chants by megaphone, had dwindled to a handful before midnight.

Sharpton, a New York-based civil rights leader, called for peaceful protest in the wake of looting and more than 50 arrests since the shooting. Sharpton’s National Action Network will pay for Brown’s funeral.

“To become violent

in Michael Brown’s name is to betray the gentle giant that he was,” Sharpton said of the 6-foot, 4-inch (198-cm) Brown, who had planned to start college this week. The activists also were demanding authorities make public the name of the officer involved. The police had said they would release the officer’s name on Tuesday, but changed the plan, citing fears of retaliation, according to media reports.—Reuters

Spain picks up almost 1,000 African migrants in two days

MADRID, 13 Aug — Spanish emergency services picked up 755 immigrants travelling in dozens of small boats and makeshift rafts across the Strait of Gibraltar on Tuesday and 227 from the same stretch of water the day before, the Maritime Safety Agency said. The Mediterranean shipping lane is almost 15 km (9 miles) wide at its narrowest and is often used by migrants trying to get to Europe.

More than 75,000 have tried to cross the Mediterranean from North Africa in the first half of 2014, landing in Italy, Greece, Spain and Malta, the UNHCR agency says, with about 800 people dying in



A worker carries an African child immigrant after arriving on a rescue ship at the southern Spanish port of Tarifa, near Cadiz, southern Spain on 12 Aug, 2014. — REUTERS

the attempt.

About 10,500 children, two thirds of them unaccompanied or separated from their families, were included in those numbers,

as people flee violence in Africa and the Middle East, often using unseaworthy vessels and with the help of smugglers.

The number of peo-

ple trying to get to Europe across the Mediterranean is already about 60 percent higher than the whole of last year, the UN refugee agency said in July.

On Tuesday, some 78 boats and rafts carrying mostly men, but also 95 women and 20 under-18s, made the journey from North Africa to the south of Spain, Spanish authorities said.

The rush in the past 48 hours may be due to calm seas and warm weather. Increased security around the North African Spanish territories of Melilla and Ceuta is also likely to have pushed people to the coasts, local Spanish media said.—Reuters

80 militants killed in Afghanistan

KABUL, 13 Aug — Up to 80 militants have been killed in a series of military operations in Afghan provinces within the past 24 hours, said the country’s Interior Ministry on Wednesday morning.

Afghan National Security Forces (ANSF) carried out cleanup operations in 11 provinces out of 34 provinces over the past 24 hours, killing 80 armed Taliban militants, wounding 69 and arresting four,” the ministry said in a statement providing daily operational updates.

The ANSF also seized weapons during the above raids, the statement said.

The statement failed to disclose if there were any casualties on security

forces. The Taliban insurgent group, which has been waging an insurgency of more than one decade, has yet to make comments.

Afghan security forces took the full operational lead from foreign troops in mid-last year.

The war-torn country is due to take over the responsibility for its own security from NATO-led troops by the end of this year.

Nearly 50,000 NATO-led coalition troops, down from the peak of 130,000 in 2010, are stationed in Afghanistan. Some 32,800 of them are Americans and the United States plans to trim its forces to less than 10,000 next year.—Xinhua

ADVERTISEMENT & GENERAL



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KASIKORNBANK





**ကျွန်တော်တို့ကတစ်ကြိမ်တစ်ခါသာ
အထောက်အပံ့ပေးယုံမကတစ်ဘဝလုံးအသုံးပြုဖို့ သင်ကြားထောက်ပံ့ပေးပါတယ်။**

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CLAIMS DAY NOTICE MV OCEAN-02 VOY NO (-)

Consignees of cargo carried on MV OCEAN-02 VOY NO (-) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 14.8.2014 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of S.P.W(4) where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

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Weather report

FORECAST VALID UNTIL EVENING OF THE 14th August, 2014: Rain or thundershowers will be isolated in Lower Sagaing and Magway Regions, scattered in Mandalay Region, fairly widespread in Upper Sagaing, Bago and Yangon, Ayeyawaddy and Taninthayi Regions, Shan, Chin and Kayah States and widespread in the remaining Regions and States with likelihood of isolated heavy falls in Upper Sagaing Region, Kachin and Rakhine States. Degree of certainty is (100%).

Suicide bomber attacks checkpoint near new Iraq PM's house

BAGHDAD, 13 Aug — A suicide bomber attacked a checkpoint near the Baghdad home of new Iraqi Prime Minister Haider al-Abadi on Tuesday, two police sources and local media said. "The suicide bomber blew himself up at a checkpoint that leads to the prime minister's house," said one of the police sources.

There was no word on casualties. Officials in Abadi's office were not immediately available for comment on the attack. One official said: "We are in a meeting".

Iraq's president nominated Abadi, a low-key figure, as prime minister because he is seen as a moderate Shi'ite, unlike his predecessor Nuri al-Maliki, widely regarded as an authoritarian and sectarian ruler.

Maliki rejected calls by Sunnis, Kurds, some Shi'ites, power broker Iran and the United States to step aside for a less polarising figure who is capable of uniting Iraqis against Islamic State insurgents who seized large sections of the country.— Reuters

Vacation exodus during "Bon" holidays peaks with traffic jams

TOKYO, 13 Aug — The annual rush of travellers during the country's mid-August "Bon" holidays peaked on Wednesday, with roads, train stations and airports congested as people headed for their hometowns and other destinations.

Bumper-to-bumper traffic stretching 47 kilometres was observed on a section of the Kan-etsu expressway in Saitama Prefec-

ture at 9 am, while vehicles were backed up for 42 km on the Tohoku expressway in Tochigi Prefecture. Domestic flights from Tokyo's Haneda Airport were nearly fully booked for All Nippon Airways and Japan Airlines in the morning, with 41,000 people and 15,000 people expected to leave Narita Airport near Tokyo and Haneda, respectively, for overseas destinations on

Wednesday alone.

Shinkansen bullet trains leaving Tokyo were also seen packed, some of them crammed to over-capacity. "I want to relax in cooler Aomori and play with my cousin," said Ryota Oshikawa, 13, who was at Tokyo Station to head to his mother's hometown in the city of Aomori in north-eastern Japan.

Kyodo News



Photo taken on 13 Aug, 2014, shows a shinkansen platform at JR Tokyo station in Tokyo, Japan, crowded with travellers heading for their hometowns for the Buddhist Bon holidays. The return rush will come on 16 and 17 August. KYODO NEWS

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Ministry of Livestock, Fisheries and Rural Development
Department of Rural Development

1. Ministry of Livestock, Fisheries and Rural Development, Department of Rural Development invites open bids for water supply pilot projects remaining work of Taunggyi and Kalaw in Shan State.

Bidding Document for Taunggyi Water Supply Pilot Project remaining work (Urgent Procurement)

Sr No	Name of Work	Component	Lot No
Lot.1 (Pipe & Accessories)			
1	Distribution pipe from Yatanar Thiri Reservoir	12"Ø,6"Ø,4"Ø PVC Pipe & Accessories	Lot 1.1
2	Transmission pipe from Yatanar Thiri Reservoir to Yat Taw Mu Monestry Reservoir	6"Ø GI Pipe & Accessories	Lot 1.2
3	Distribution pipe from Yat Taw Mu Reservoir	8",6",4" PVC Pipe & Accessories	Lot 1.3
Lot.2 (Pump, Motor, Engine & Accessories)			
1	Pump Procurement at Yatanar Thiri Reservoir	Centrifugal Pump 2 Sets & Accessories	Lot 2.1
2	Water hammer measures (Nar Yaung, Sin Hna Kaung and Yan Kin Taung)	Water hammer vessel 3 Sets & Accessories	Lot 2.2
3	Chlorine dosage equipment	Chlorine dosage equipment 2 Sets & Accessories	Lot 2.3
4	Water quality test devices (Residual chlorine, pH and turbidity)	Water quality test devices	Lot 2.4
5	Modification of the Pump Control Circuit at Nar Yaung, Sin Hna Kaung and Yatanar Thiri Pump Station	Pump Control Circuit 4 Nos	Lot 2.5
Lot.3 (Power Supply Procurement)			
1	Power supply and transformer procurement for Yatanar Thiri Pump Station	50 KVA Transformer & Accessories	Lot 3.1

Bidding Document for Kalaw Water Supply Pilot Project remaining work(Urgent Procurement)

Sr No	Name of Work	Component	Lot No
Lot.1 (Pipe & Accessories)			
1	6"Ø PVC pipe, from Chin Tae Hna Kaung along Inn Pyinn (400')	6"Ø PVC Pipes & Accessories	Lot 1.1
Lot.2 (Pump, Motor, Engine & Accessories)			
2	(A) Chlorine dosage equipment for Chin Tae Hna Kaung WTP	Chlorine dosage Equipment (2)Nos & Water Quality Test Device (1)No	Lot 2.1
	(B) Chlorine dosage equipment for Ya Aye Kan WTP		
	(C) Water quality test devices (Residual chlorine, pH, Turbidity)		

2. Bids must be concluded with Technical proposal and Financial proposal and must be deliver to the following address at or before (12:00)hrs on the 1/9/2014 and bids will open at (13:00)hrs on 1/9/2014.
3. Interested bidders can obtain bidding document and other information from Rural Development, Office No.(14) Nay Pyi Taw, Tel (067-409407, 409215) from (13-8-2014).

Procurement Committee
Ministry of Livestock, Fisheries and Rural Development
drdmyanmar@gmail.com

I don't feel jealous of
other actresses:
Julia Roberts



LONDON, 13 Aug — Hollywood star Julia Roberts does not consider herself highly ambitious and has never felt jealous of her colleagues.

The 'Pretty Woman' actress, 46, feels there is enough work for everyone and she has never felt insecure, reported Contactmusic. "I always feel like there is room for everybody. I don't consider myself really all that ambitious."

"When I didn't get a part — even when I was younger and needing to pay my rent, I would think, 'Oh, someone else got it. She's going to be so good.' I never felt sour grapes," Roberts said.—PTI

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Daniel Radcliffe recently criticised his own performance in the sixth 'Harry Potter' movie.—PTI

I didn't like
my acting
in 'Harry
Potter':
Daniel
Radcliffe

LOS ANGELES, 13 Aug — Daniel Radcliffe says he is not easily satisfied with his work although it earns him big bucks.

The 'Harry Potter' depicter in the hit wizard movie franchise recently criticised his own performance in the sixth movie, reported Ace Showbiz.

"The moments I'm not as proud of, mistakes other actors get to make in rehearsal rooms or at drama school, are all on film for everyone to see.

"I never liked watching myself on film but I do make myself sit through it. I think it comes from not actually realising I didn't have to go to my own premieres and watch the film — that's something I've only just realised you don't have to do. I always went along and sat with everyone else watching the movie," he said.—PTI

Sylvester Stallone rubbishes
fall-out with Bruce Willis

LONDON, 13 Aug — Hollywood star Sylvester Stallone has said there is no bad blood between him and Bruce Willis despite the 'Sin City' star refusing his offer to star in the upcoming film of 'The Expendables' franchise.

The 68-year-old action star said that Willis'

refusal to be in the film has not caused any personal animosity between them, reported Contactmusic. "That happens in film and casting. It's nothing personal. It sounded like it got personal and I'm sorry it did sound that way. But it was actors talking and things move on.

"I think Bruce Willis is a great guy and he does fantastically entertaining films and when he nails it, he nails it big time," Stallone said. Willis, 59, who starred in the second installment of the action franchise, has now been replaced by Harrison Ford in the third film.—PTI

GENERAL

Family pleads for release of Ohio man held in North Korea

LEBANON, (Ohio), 13 Aug — The family of an Ohio man being held in North Korea pleaded on Tuesday for his release and said they are urgently seeking help from US government leaders.

North Korea, officially known as the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, said in June it had detained Jeffrey Fowle, a married father of three from Miamisburg, Ohio, for violating its laws after entering the country as a tourist.

"The family would like to express its heartfelt apology to the people and the government of the DPRK," the Fowle family's attorney, Timothy Tepe, said in a statement.

"Jeff has apologized publically for his actions and Jeffrey's family petitions the government of the DPRK for mercy toward Jeffrey and asks for his release," Tepe said.

Fowle had entered North Korea in late April on a tour and was described by fellow travelers as warm and amiable. A source familiar with the Fowle case told *Reuters* earlier in August that authorities arrested him for leaving a Bible under a bin in the bathroom at a club for foreign sailors in Chongjin.

A cleaner found the package and alerted local



The family of Jeffrey Fowle, his wife Tatyana (2nd R) and children Alex (L), Chris (2nd L) and Stephanie, surrounds family attorney Tim Tepe after Tepe read a family statement in Lebanon, Ohio on 12 Aug, 2014.

REUTERS

authorities. Fowle was arrested on 7 May at an airport where he was due to board a flight out of North Korea. That brought to three the number of US citizens held by Pyongyang.

The North said in April it was holding Matthew Todd Miller, who it said had made "a gross violation of its legal order" after entering the country on a tourist visa. In June it said it would put Fowle and Miller on trial.

North Korea is also holding Kenneth Bae, a Korean-American missionary sentenced to 15 years

of hard labour on charges of trying to use religion to overthrow its political system. "The next few days are critical as we approach the trial date set for Jeffrey, and the family is urgently seeking assistance from our government leaders," Tepe said.

He said Fowle's wife and children have received a letter and phone call from him. All have written to President Barack Obama seeking help, Tepe said.

North Korean citizens are taught to revere the country's leaders with a religious-like fervour. The

isolated communist country takes a hard line on Christians proselytizing within its borders and has used detained foreigners to win economic concessions.

Thousands of tourists travel to North Korea each year, bringing foreign hard currency to the nation where foreign commerce has been severely hit by international sanctions largely imposed because of its pursuit of nuclear weapons.

Tourists are kept removed from the general public and tours typically are tightly controlled.

Reuters

Rare Beatles photographs to go up for auction

LONDON, 13 Aug — An early photograph of the Beatles featuring former drummer Pete Best is to go under the hammer later this month.

The black and white picture shows the Fab Four performing at the legendary Cavern Club in Liverpool, England in 1961, a year before drummer Best was replaced by Ringo Starr, reported *Daily Mirror*.

The photographs are part of a series of recently discovered snaps of the band at the beginning of their career which will be sold at the 2014 Liverpool Beatles Memorabilia Auction.

The Cavern Club pic-



In this 8 Feb, 1964 file photo, Ed Sullivan, centre, stands with The Beatles, from left, Ringo Starr, George Harrison, John Lennon, and Paul McCartney, during a rehearsal for the British group's first American appearance, on the "Ed Sullivan Show," in New York.—REUTERS

ture is expected to fetch up to 1,500 pounds. All 330 items will go under

the hammer at the Paul McCartney Auditorium at The Liverpool Institute for

the Performing Arts on 23 August.

Reuters

MYANMAR TV

(14-8-2014, Thursday)

- 6:00 am**
- * Paritta by Hilly Region Missionary Sayadaw
- 7:00 am**
- * News
- 7:20 am**
- * People Talks
- 8:30 am**
- * TV Drama Series
- 9:00 am**
- * News/ International News
- 9:30 am**
- * Shwe Yin Chone Than
- 11:05 am**
- * Teleplay (Health)
- 11:15 am**
- * Sing & Enjoy
- 12:25 pm**
- * Teleplay
- 1:25 pm**
- * Myanmar Traditional Performing Arts Competitions
- 3:00 pm**
- * News
- 3:45 pm**
- * Documentary
- 4:40 pm**
- * University of Distance Education (TV Lectures) -Third Year (Myanmar)
- 5:00 pm**
- * News
- 5:30 pm**
- * TV Drama Series
- 6:20 pm**
- * Approaching Science Discovery World
- 7:00 pm**
- * News
- 8:00 pm**
- * News/International News/Weather Report
- 8:35 pm**
- * Current Affairs
- 9:00 pm**
- * News
- * CLEVER
- * Teleplay

MYANMAR INTERNATIONAL

(14-8-14 07:00 am~ 15-8-14 07:00 am) MST

- * Local News
- * Youth of the Future: Vocalist, L - Jar Ngaing
- * World News
- * In The Studio : L Co
- * Local News
- * Myanmar Gem Stones: Gold :King of All Metals
- * World News
- * Amazing Sayargyi Nyein Chan Aung
- * Local News
- * Living Myanmar Glazed Ceramics
- * World News
- * Mon Traditional Wedding
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- * World News
- * "Moe Huyin Than Buddhé" The Unique Pagoda In Monywa
- * Local News
- * Director: Kyi Phyu Shin
- * World News
- * A Traditional Doctor

Briton Pavey, 40, becomes oldest woman to win Euro gold

ZURICH, 13 Aug — Jo Pavey became the oldest female to claim a gold medal at the European championships when she won the 10,000 metres on Tuesday, the first track final of this year's event. The Briton, who is 41 next month, took the lead with just over a lap to go and held off the challenge of Frenchwoman Clemence Calvin to snatch her first major championship title.

Pavey, silver medallist in Helsinki two years ago, finished in 32 minutes 22.39 seconds, more than a second ahead of Calvin.

Laila Hmatou Traby of France was third.

"To try for so many years and to finally do it at the age of 40 is funny really," the winner told the BBC. "I should have learned how to do it by now."

"I was feeling tired but I had to try and keep relaxed and remind myself that everyone else might be feeling the pace." Irina Khabarova, the previous oldest female gold medallist, was 40 and 27 days when she was a member of Russia's 4x100 relay-winning team in 2006.

In the evening's other final, world champion David Storl of Germany won the men's shot put with a throw of 21.41 metres. Spain's Borja Vivas was second with 20.86 followed by 2008 and 2012 Olympic champion Tomasz Majewski of Poland on 20.83.—Reuters

Rooney gets captain's job at Manchester United

MANCHESTER, 13 Aug — New Manchester United manager Louis van Gaal has given England striker Wayne Rooney the role of team captain and made Scotland midfielder Darren Fletcher his vice-captain.

"It is a huge honour for me — and for my family — to be named captain of this great club," Rooney told United's website after Van Gaal's side beat Valencia 2-1 in a pre-season friendly at Old Trafford on Tuesday.

"It is a role I will perform with great pride. Team spirit has always been very high in our dressing room and I am very grateful to the manager for the faith he has shown in me.

"I look forward to leading the team out on Saturday at our first match of the new season," added Rooney referring to the

opening Premier League fixture against Swansea City at Old Trafford.

Former Netherlands coach Van Gaal, who took charge of United last month, said Rooney had the capacity to galvanise the youngsters in the squad.

"For me it's always very important the choice of captain," added the Dutchman. "Wayne has shown a great attitude towards everything he does."

"I have been very impressed by his professionalism and his attitude to training and to my philosophy."

"He is a great inspiration to the younger members of the team and I believe he will put his heart and soul into his captaincy role," said Van Gaal.

"Darren Fletcher will become the vice-captain. Darren is a natural leader



Manchester United's Wayne Rooney (L) challenges Valencia's Jose Gaya during their friendly soccer match at Old Trafford in Manchester, northern England on 12 Aug, 2014.—REUTERS

and will captain the team when Wayne isn't playing."

Rooney, 28, joined United from Everton 10 years ago while Fletcher,

30, has spent his entire professional career at Old Trafford.—Reuters

Real lift Super Cup thanks to Ronaldo double



Real Madrid's Cristiano Ronaldo celebrates after scoring his second goal against Sevilla during the UEFA Super Cup final soccer match at Cardiff City stadium, Wales, on 12 Aug, 2014.—REUTERS

CARDIFF, 13 Aug — Cristiano Ronaldo struck twice as a rampant Real Madrid side, featuring the most expensive strike force ever assembled, powered to a 2-0 win over Sevilla in an all-Spanish UEFA Super Cup on Tuesday.

It was a thoroughly deserved victory before a 33,500 crowd at the Cardiff City Stadium in the traditional curtain-raiser to the European club season.

Europa League holders Sevilla battled well but were outclassed by the

Champions League winners. Carlo Ancelotti's men dominated from start to finish with Ronaldo producing two sublime finishes to beat keeper Beto, his Portugal team mate, after 30 and 49 minutes while Sevilla were restricted to just two chances.

The first opportunity for Sevilla came after 20 minutes when Vito forced Iker Casillas to make a block at the near post and the second arrived in the closing stages when Grzegorz Krychowi-

ak prompted an acrobatic save from the experienced keeper. Real were superior in defence, midfield and attack with Ronaldo showing no sign of the knee injury that blighted his 2014 World Cup campaign in Brazil.

After being presented with the Man of the Match trophy by his former Manchester United manager Alex Ferguson, Ronaldo told reporters: "It's the first official match of the season and I was not sure how I would feel.—Reuters

Nara breezes through opening match in Cincinnati

CINCINNATI, (Ohio), 13 Aug — Japan's Kurumi Nara made short work of Swiss opponent Romina Oprandi with a straight-sets win in the first round of the women's singles at the Western & Southern Open on Tuesday.

Nara, ranked 34th in the world, took just 47 minutes to book her spot in the next round, cruising to a 6-0, 6-2 victory at the Lindner Family Tennis Centre.

"I had a few nerves at the start but gained momentum from winning points in the first set," said Nara, beaten finalist at the Citi Open in Washington earlier this month.

"I am getting results recently and feel like I

am fundamentally getting stronger."

Japan's Kimiko Date-Krumm and Czech partner Andrea Hlavackova reached the second round of the women's doubles with a 3-6, 6-1, 10-3 win over Australia's Casey Dellacqua and Croatian Mirjana Lucic-Baroni.—Kyodo News



Japan's Kurumi Nara

Djokovic pulls through in Cincinnati, Tsonga out

CINCINNATI, 13 Aug — World number one Novak Djokovic needed three sets to get past Gilles Simon in the Western and Southern Open second round on Tuesday, but Jo-Wilfried Tsonga lost to Mikhail Youzhny in his opener two days after winning the Rogers Cup in Toronto.

Djokovic grabbed the crucial third set break in the seventh game to prevail 6-3, 4-6, 6-4. Coming off a round of 16 loss in Toronto, the Wimbledon champion pulled out the crucial points when he had to.

Simon battled hard throughout, almost breaking back in the eighth game of the third, and holding off one match point, but eventually fell short and dropped to 1-8 in his career against Djokovic.

Earlier, Tsonga was brought back down to earth



Novak Djokovic

with a bump with a 6-1 6-4 loss in his tournament opener to Russian Youzhny.

The 12th-seeded Frenchman, whose victory over Roger Federer in the Toronto final was his fourth straight win over a top-10 opponent, including a win over Djokovic, offered little resistance as Youzhny advanced in 68 minutes.

"I just gave everything last week," said Tsonga, who was unable to get any practice in on Monday due to rain.

"Before the match I believed I was able to play at the good level but on the court I realized that it's going to be impossible and it was."

Third seed Stan Wawrinka of Switzerland pushed through his evening

second round contest with German qualifier Benjamin Becker 6-3, 7-6(5).

The world number four and Australian Open champion won 82 percent of his first serves to take the match in 83 minutes.

Croatian 14th seed Marin Cilic breezed to a 6-3, 6-4 first round win over Spaniard Feliciano Lopez, who lost to Federer in the Toronto semis.

British qualifier James Ward claimed his first ATP World Tour Masters win by holding on to beat Spain's Guillermo Garcia-Lopez 6-2, 3-6, 6-1.

Other first round winners included Americans Robby Ginepri and Steve Johnson, Italian Andreas Seppi, Canadian Vasek Pospisil, Frenchman Julien Benneteau and ninth seed Ernests Gulbis of Latvia.

Reuters