The New Light of Myanmar
MYANMAR'S OLDEST ENGLISH DAILY
Volume XXII, Number 118 | 7th Waning of Wagaung 1376 ME | Sunday, 17 August, 2014

Govt, ethnic armed groups heal rift in draft ceasefire agreement

Union Peacemaking Working Committee focuses on nationwide ceasefire with ethnic armed groups for enabling entire people to enjoy peace and tranquillity.—MNA

YANGON, 16 Aug — Government's peace negotiation team and the ethnic armed groups reached agreements on the major controversial issues in the draft ceasefire agreement, according to a special advisor to Myanmar Peace Centre.

The Union Peacemaking Working Committee (UPWC) of the government and the Nationwide Ceasefire Coordination Team (NCCT) held the second day meeting on Saturday in the former capital.

MPC's special advisor U Hla Maung Shwe said: "Both sides continued discussions on chapter 3 and 4 concerned with the military affairs. Expect the changes on words, most of the paragraphs in the ceasefire draft have been agreed."

The agreements in this discussion include the implementation of Union based on democracy and federal system which will be resulted from political dialogues; the possible formation of Federal Tatmadaw to be inserted in political dialogues; the establishment of a political culture through political ways without choosing political confrontation and armed conflicts; the end of civil war.

The meeting was the fifth time between UPWC and NCCT, and the remaining chapters 5 and 6 will be discussed on the third day of 17 August.

During the press conference at the end of the meeting, General Secretary Pado Kwe Htoo Win from Karen National Union, deputy leader 1 of NCCT said that the nationwide ceasefire agreement could be finalized after the discussion of chapter 7 in the draft.—*MNA*

INSIDE

Union Minister meets Myanmar Press Council (Interim)
PAGE-3

Female students to get accommodation at Thiri, Marlar hostels in coming academic year
PAGE-2

MPT conducts training course on telecom marketing strategies
PAGE-3

Meet the three basic needs for people through careful management of resources
PAGE-8

International Myanmar Studies Conference 2014 in Singapore and Myanmar Media
PAGE-8

People pin hopes on fresh efforts to rescue massive legendary bell missing for centuries

By *Aye Min Soe*

YANGON, 16 Aug — "Is it sure that they have found the bell?" asked Myint Myint Naing, 38, just after she read a document that says a massive bell that has been submerged for centuries has been found by a search team.

She is among the crowds of people swarming the bank of the Bago River to see the efforts of a search team in rescuing a bell that has been missing for more than 400 years.

"If someone says that the news of spotting the bell is wrong, I feel sorrow. If someone says that news is correct, I am happy," the 38-year old woman said. "I'm worried that the team could not rescue the bell because it has been submerged over 400 years."

(*See page 3*)

A salvage team in action in their search for one of the world biggest bell called Dhammazedi Bell.—PHOTO: AYE MIN SOE

Union ministers discuss formation of region and state scouts associations, school and university scouts associations and opening of head office and scout equipment shop in Yangon.—MNA

Female students to get accommodation at Thiri, Marlar hostels in coming academic year

YANGON, 16 Aug — Union Ministers at the President Office U Soe Thane and U Tin Naing Thein visited SEAMEO Regional Centre for History and Tradition at Thiri Hostel and National Centre of English Language at Marlar Hostel on the campus of Yangon University on Pyay Road in Yangon on Saturday.

They held discussions with officials on accommodation of female university students at Thiri and Marlar Hostels and moved the two sections of Higher Education Department (Lower Myanmar) to suitable places in Yangon.

The union ministers visited Pinya and Sagaing male student hostels and Thitpok tree which is one of significant places of Yangon University.

The Yangon University is being renovated under its plan. The university authorities have allowed students to stay at the hostels.

In coming academic year, Thiri Hostel and Marlar Hostel will be used as female hostels.

The union ministers attended the discussions with members of Myanmar Scouts Association at the Diamond Jubilee Hall of Yangon University to open its head office in Yangon.—*MNA*

Water level of Sittoung River exceeds danger level of Madauk

NAY PYI TAW, 16 Aug — The water level of Sittoung River at Madauk has reached its danger level starting from 6.30 am on Friday.

According to the 12:30 hr M.S.T observation on Saturday, the water level has exceeded by (25) cm (about 0.8 — foot) above its danger level. It may remain above its danger level during the next (48) hours commencing this noon, announced the Department of Meteorology and Hydrology.—*NLM*

Hypertension, diabetes found as common diseases in people

YANGON, 16 Aug — Hypertension and diabetes are common diseases of people in Yangon, according to a mobile medical team of the Health Department.

With the arrangement of local authorities in Dawbon Township, a mobile medical team from Dawbon township Health Department has provided health care services regularly to dwellers in the Township for three weeks every month.

"We have found that people suffer mostly flu this month because of rain, and children suffer cough and asthma," said Daw Thin Thin Khaing, a nurse of the mobile clinic.

The team provides health care to over 80 people a day, according to the nurse.

The team comprises a doctor and about three nurses.—*NLM*

People pin hopes on fresh efforts to . . . . .

Enthusiasts watch efforts of search team working to salvage 270-ton cast bronze bell, which experts believe may be one of the largest bells in the world.—PHOTO: AYE MIN SOE

(*from page 1*)

It is the third time within a week for her to watch divers salvage the massive 270-ton cast bronze bell, which experts believe may be one of the largest bells in the world.

Like other enthusiasts, she wants to visit the place where the search team is working to salvage the bell, but she is scared of taking a motor boat into the waves even though there is a shuttle service provided by a group of nearby fishing boats from the bank to the divers' site.

According to some historical record, the bell was cast in 1484 by order of King Dhammazedi of Hanthawaddy Pegu. It is an alloy of copper, gold, silver and tin and was later donated to the Shwedagon Pagoda in Yangon.

It was stolen by Filipe de Brito, a Portuguese warlord and mercenary working for the king of Arakan, in 1608.

But the raft with the stolen bell on it broke up and the bell went to the bottom of the Bago River, taking de Brito's ship with it somewhere at the confluence of the Yangon and Bago rivers and Pazundaung Creek.

Among about 300 spectators, U San Myint, 57, a worker from a nearby dockyard, visited the dive site by boat.

During his trip, he found Buddhist monks on a nearby ship praying for the safety of the divers and the success of the salvage mission.

The search team comprises about 70 people, including 10 salons or Myanmar "sea gypsies" who live in the southern part of the Myeik Archipelago and can dive several times in a day and can stay underwater for many minutes without the aid of equipment.

A document written by U San Lin, who leads the salvage mission, says the massive bell would be salvaged within two weeks at the cost of more than K1.8 billion. The divers began the search on 9 August and the expedition will last 45 days.

Saw Thein Win, who also participated in a previous attempt with the assistance of a Singaporean company around 1996-97 to rescue Myanmar's sunken treasure in the muddy confluence of the three rivers, said they carried out salvage tasks with modern techniques to find the enormous bell, but they did not find it during a two-week mission but they did find wrecked ships at the place where the bell is believed to have sunk.—*NLM*

A mother with a child who is also among spectators on the riverbank looks at the sketch of Dhammazedi Bell.— PHOTO: AYE MIN SOE

Union Minister meets Myanmar Press Council (Interim)

Union Minister U Ye Htut focuses on greater cooperation in implementing the country's media reforms in meeting with responsible persons of Myanmar Press Council (Interim).—MNA

YANGON, 16 Aug—Union Minister for Information U Ye Htut met with Vice Chairman U Khin Maung Lay (Po Thaw Kyar) and Secretary U Kyaw Min Swe of the Myanmar Press Council (Interim) here on Saturday, sources said.

Their discussion involved the approval of the printing and publishing law as well as the media law.

Both sides also discussed matters related to greater cooperation in implementing the country's media reforms and active participation in initiating the four pillars at a meeting which is expected to take place at the end of September.

According to officials, the ministry and the interim press council sought ways to uphold media ethics through monthly meetings.

Union Minister U Ye Htut visited the printing house of The Global New Light of Myanmar in Tamway the same day, where he met with staff who will work for The Global New Light of Myanmar, a daily which will be published on 1 September.

The State-run The New Light of Myanmar daily in English is reported to become The Global New Light of Myanmar. This marks the start of a joint venture between the News and Periodicals Enterprise and the Global Direct Link Company with shares of 51% and 49% respectively.—*MNA*

President U Thein Sein sends felicitations to Indonesian counterpart

NAY PYI TAW, 17 Aug — U Thein Sein, President of the Republic of Union of Myanmar, has sent a message of felicitations to His Excellency Dr. Susilo Bambang Yudhoyono, President of the Republic of Indonesia, on the occasion of the 69th Anniversary of the Independence Day of the Republic of Indonesia which falls on 17 August 2014.—*MNA*

Vice Presidents Dr. Sai Mauk Kham, U Nyan Tun send felicitations to Indonesian Vice President

NAY PYI TAW, 17 Aug — Dr. Sai Mauk Kham and U Nyan Tun, Vice Presidents of the Republic of Union of Myanmar, have sent messages of felicitations to His Excellency Dr. Boediono, Vice President of the Republic of Indonesia, on the occasion of the 69th Anniversary of the Independence Day of the Republic of Indonesia which falls on 17 August 2014. —*MNA*

Union FM sends felicitations to Indonesia counterpart

NAY PYI TAW, 17 Aug — On the occasion of the 69th Anniversary of the Independence Day of the Republic of Indonesia which falls on 17 August 2014, U Wunna Maung Lwin, Union Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Union of Myanmar, has sent a message of felicitations to His Excellency Dr. R.M. Marty M. Natalegawa, Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Indonesia.—*MNA*

MPT conducts training course on telecom marketing strategies

NAY PYI TAW, 16 Aug —A training course on marketing strategies for telecommunication sector is being conducted here for the staff of Myanma Posts and Telecommunications under the Ministry of Communications and Information Technology.

The course aimed to support the Third Wave reform process of the government emphasized on ways and means to penetrate into competitive market economy, knowledge and practices on international telecommunication sector, and telecommunication technologies.

The trainers at the course are Dr. Rohi, William and Robert from the Global Training Group (Singapore) with the supports of senior engineers from MPT and experts from the KDDi Corporation and the Sumitomo Corporation of Japan.—*MNA*

Union Minister U Myat Hein views drawing marketing strategies for telecommunications in Myanmar.—MNA

Union ministers, chief minister inspect regional development tasks of Ayeyawady Region

PATHEIN, 16 Aug—Union Minister for Sports U Tint Hsan, Union Minister for Health Dr Than Aung and Ayeyawady Region Chief Minister U Thein Aung inspected local development tasks in Myaungmya Township in the region on Friday.

During the tour, the Union ministers and the chief minister also attended the ground baking ceremony to construct a car park in the township that plays a key role to help trade to flow smoothly.

At the ceremony, the Upper House Representative of Myaungmya constituency Dr Htay Naing presented compensation more than K21.4 million to six land owners.

They met with health staff at 200-bed district hospital in the township to discuss further development of the hospital while Dr Than Aung pledged to fulfill the needs of the hospital and urged the staff to provide perfect health services to public.

During the tour, they also looked round the construction of food stalls in schools, renovation of Aungchanthamyat Pagoda and maintenance of sports grounds.—*MNA*

First workshop on development of Myanmar's insurance held in Yangon

YANGON, 16 Aug— The first workshop on development of Myanmar's insurance among the Ministry of Finance, the World Bank and the US Chamber of Commerce and Industry took place on Saturday in Yangon to discuss future plans to develop insurance sector.

Deputy Minister for Finance Dr Maung Maung Thein said capacity building of key players of Myanmar's insurance sector—insurance companies and insurance supervisory body—plays a crucial role to meet development of the sector.

He also focused on increasing policy insurance such as health insurance, education insurance and micro insurance, observing international business models and establishing insurance organizations, an insurance database system and National Insurance College.—*MNA*

Yangon's circular railway gets another air-con carriage

YANGON, 16 Aug — Myanmar Railways launched its second air-conditioned carriage on Yangon's circular line on Saturday.

The air-conditioned carriage which is the second for Yangon's circular railway was officially launched by Union Minister for Rail Transportation U Than Htay and Yangon Region Chief Minister U Myint Swe at Yangon Railway Station.

According to officials, MR will roll out its third air-conditioned coach on 23 August.

MR's special circular air-con train started running on the circular line in last October and K400 is charged per head. As of today, the ticket price was reduced by K300 as charged in the recently-inaugurated air-con carriage.

Myanmar Railways

Kyunsu Township IPRD emphasizes durability of village libraries

KYUNSU, 16 Aug — The staff officer and staff of Myeik District Information and Public Relations Department gave talks on durability of library and raising the number of readers at the Sareikta Mandaing Library in Linmalo Village of Kyunsu Township in Taninthayi Region on Friday.

Staff Officer Daw Hla Hla Htay praised the library committee members for their efforts and local people's contribution in building the library. She urged them to organize the people to raise number of readers at the library and try to increase number of books and publications.

She then donated books to the village library.

A similar talk was held at Basic Education Primary School in Linmalo Village. Staff of the township IPRD displayed the documentary photos on destruction of seized narcotic drugs and organized the students at the reading sessions.

Yan Naing Tun
(Kyunsu IPRD)

Implementation of public-centred project reviewed

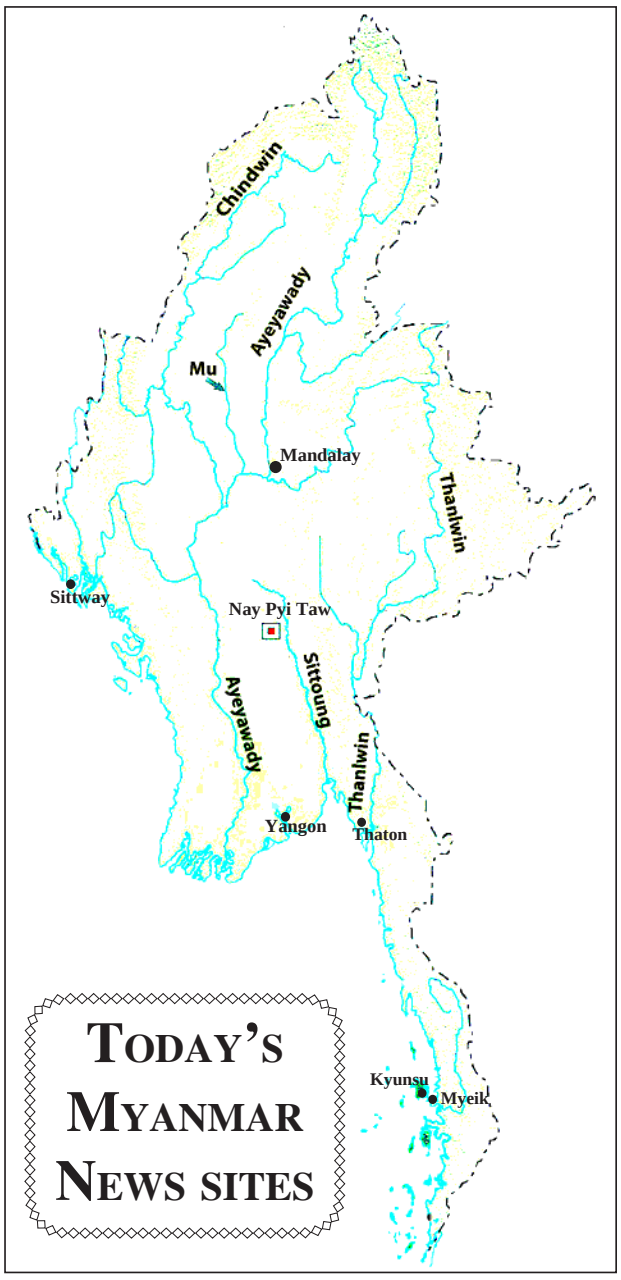
KYUNSU, 16 Aug — A ceremony to review the township level public-centred project was held at Kyunyadana Hall of Kyunsu Township General Administration Department in Taninthayi Region on Thursday, with an address by Township Administrator U Nyein Htwe.

Deputy Director U Hla Khaing of Department of Rural Development extended greetings and Japanese Ms Hasegawa Nadoka of World Bank explained plans of the World Bank for rural development tasks in three successive years.

Staff Officer U Than Tun Oo of Department of Rural Development explained vision and mission of the meeting and Leader of the Township Project Advisory Group Dr Kyaw Myat Thu discussed implementation for the project.

The participants of the meeting chose the village-tracts to implement the project and adopted 143 tasks of the public-centred projects in the township. So far, rural development tasks are being carried out at 125 villages in the region.

Yan Naing Tun
(Kyunsu IPRD)



Officials cultivate reading habits among villagers

THATON, 16 Aug—With the aim of broadening the horizon of the people and developing the villages, Thaton District Information and Public Relations Department held the reading sessions and showcased wall magazines and documentary photos at the Dhammayon of the monastery in Kyonpa Village of Thaton Township in Mon State on Thursday.

Head of Township IPRD Daw Thuza Aung explained the five-point standard for durability of rural villages. Staff Officer Daw Khin Saw Lin of the District IPRD briefed on advantages of reading and raising the reading habit so as to increase literacy rate.

Officials of the District IPRD donated books on various subjects to the village library.

Thaton District IPRD

Milk, eggs given to schoolchildren in Myeik

MYEIK, 16 Aug — Myeik Township Livestock Breeding and Veterinary Department gave milk and egg to children at the Basic Education Primary School in Myeik Airbase in Taninthayi Region on Friday.

Head of Myeik District LBVD Dr Pe Aung explained the purpose of feeding milk and egg to the children for enhancement of talents of the schoolchildren.

Acting Commander of the Airbase Lt-Col Aung Min Naing spoke words of thanks for providing milk and egg to the schoolchildren.

Officials then fed 149 students with milk and egg.

Zaw Myo Naing
(Myeik District IPRD)

Myeik Township Livestock Breeding and Veterinary Department officials give milk and eggs to schoolchildren at basic education school at Myeik Airbase for improvement of their talents.

Indian PM inducts country's largest home-made warship into Navy

New Delhi, 16 Aug — Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Saturday inducted the country's largest ever indigenously built warship, *INS Kolkata*, into the Navy at the naval dockyard in Mumbai.

"In the age of science and technology, intelligence and security is of utmost importance. *INS Kolkata* is the biggest indigenous warship in our fleet. Through this commissioning, we are providing a glimpse of India's strength to the world," Modi said in his address to the sailors.

He added: "*INS Kolkata* is a prime example of India's technical abilities. Our Naval officers have prepared a fine vessel of communication in this modern age. Let India be powerful and let our armed forces never fall behind in the world." The 6,800-tonne stealth destroyer is a part of the Kolkata Class destroyers of the Indian Navy, which will include follow-on ships by the names of *INS Kochi and INS Chennai*. It is fitted with the most advanced weapons systems, including anti-submarine technology.—*Xinhua*

Firemen work at the site of a gas blast in New Taiepi, southeast China's Taiwan, on 15 Aug, 2014. A gas explosion killed at least one person and injured 14 in the city of New Taipei in Taiwan on Friday.
Xinhua

Landslide traps five workers in China rail tunnel

Lanzhou, 16 Aug — Five workers were trapped in a rail tunnel after a landslide covered the tunnel's opening in northwest China's Gansu Province, rescuers said on Saturday.

The landslide occurred at around 2 am Saturday and closed off the mouth of a tunnel in Hongliangying Village, Yuzhong County. The under-construction tunnel is part of the Baoji-Lanzhou high-speed railway.

A ventilation system has been restored to supply air to the tunnel, according to rescuers.

Rescue efforts are under way.

Xinhua

Floods, landslides kill two, displace hundreds in Indonesia

Jakarta, 16 Aug — Floods and landslides in West Java and Gorontalo provinces on Friday killed 2 people and force hundreds others to flee homes, official said here on Saturday.

Heavy downpours incurred floods in Bogor district of West Java on Friday evening and flash floods in Bone Bolango district of Gorontalo Province on Friday afternoon, Sutopo Purwo Nugroho, spokesman of national disaster agency said.

The rain in Bogor triggered landslides North Bogor sub-district at 19 : 30 pm Jakarta Time, hitting a house.

"A mother and her child were killed, another child survived the accident," he told *Xinhua* over phone.

The floods and landslides cut a road and a railway in the district as well as submerged over 100 houses, Sutopo disclosed.

Separately in Bone Bolango district, rivers bloated by the heavy rain burst its bank that incurred flash floods at around 16 : 00 pm local time, displacing nearly 600 people and sweeping away a house, he said.

Emergency relief aids were sent to the affected people, said Sutopo. Seasonal downpours have often incurred floods each year in Indonesia, a chain of 17,500 islands where over millions of people live in vulnerable flood plains that are near to rivers.—*Xinhua*

29 die, dozens missing after floods, landslides across Nepal

Kathmandu, 16 Aug — Floods and landslides triggered by incessant downpours have left at least 29 people dead across Nepal since Thursday, officials said on Friday.

Dozens more people are missing.

The National Emergency Operation Centre at the Home Ministry has mobilized security forces and dispatched army helicopters for rescues that have, however, been hampered by poor weather.

Rudra Khadka, a senior official at the centre, confirmed 16 deaths in nine districts, while Lokendra Singh Karki, a police official in the Surkhet district in western Nepal, confirmed another 13 deaths in Surkhet, which has been hit hardest by the disasters.

"Water is receding in the flood-hit areas. More dead bodies are likely to be found," Karki told *Kyodo News* by phone. "Hundreds of houses have been inundated and dozens are missing."

Khadka said a large number of people are awaiting relief on rooftops and in treetops in affected areas.

"We have asked private airlines to allow use of their helicopters for rescue work," Khadka told *Kyodo News*.

This year's monsoon has been particularly disastrous for Nepal.

Earlier this month, a massive landslide that blocked a major river left 156 dead in the Sindhupalchowk district in central Nepal.

The landslide blocked the Sunkosi River that features several hydropower projects and created an artificial lake 3 kilometres long.

Hydropower projects downstream of the disaster site have remained shut down since the disaster, leading to additional electricity rationing in chronically power-short Nepal.

Despite some water outflow, the artificial lake has still not been cleared and settlements downstream of the blocked section of the river remain at risk of flooding in the event the lake bursts through the dam formed by the landslide.

The disaster left hundreds displaced.

Kyodo News

*A tree falls on the road after heavy rain in northwest Pakistan's Peshawar, on 15 Aug, 2014. At least 13 people were killed and 55 others injured in two separate accidents caused by wind storms in Pakistan's northwest Peshawar city on Friday evening, local media reported.—*Xinhua

Philippines to participate in Australia-led multinational maritime exercise

Manila, 16 Aug — The Philippine Navy (PN) will send 180 Navy personnel and one of its two Hamilton-class cutters to attend the multinational military exercise soon to be held in Australia, Philippine military announced on Friday.

The exercise, dubbed as"KAKADU 2014", is to be held from 25 August to 12 September. at Northern Australia Exercise Area.

The Philippine cutter, *BRP Ramon Alcaraz*, will depart from Subic Bay in northern Philippines on Sunday after the scheduled Send-Off Ceremony.

KAKADU is the largest multinational maritime exercise hosted biennially by Australian Navy with an aim to promote and enhance regional interoperability and cooperation among the participating navies, according to a Press release issued by PN.

This year's exercise will be attended by 12 countries with Japan, New Zealand, Philippines, Pakistan and Australia as participants, while Bangladesh, Cambodia, China, Thailand, Vanuatu, South Korea and India will be sending personnel as observers. This is the second time the Philippines sent its ship to participate in the exercise since it began in 1993.

Xinhua

Russia denies Ukrainian allegation of destroying military convoy

Moscow, 16 Aug — Russian Defence Ministry denied Friday the alleged "destruction" by Ukraine's army of a "Russian military convoy." "There is no Russian military convoy that allegedly crossed the Russian-Ukrainian border at night or in the daytime," the *Itar- Tass* news agency quoted ministry spokesman Igor Konashenkov as saying. It is regrettable that "fake" media reports on social networks, instead of facts, have become the basic of statements made at a higher level in some European states and "those have chosen the European path," Konashenkov said.

Ukrainian President Petro Poroshenko said during a phone conversation with British Prime Minister David Cameron that Ukrainian artillery units destroyed part of a convoy of heavy military vehicles that crossed into Ukraine from Russia in the early hours of Friday, the *Interfax* news agency reported.

Meanwhile, Russian Foreign Ministry warned on Friday of new attempts to sabotage cargo delivery to conflict-hit eastern Ukraine.

"Attempts to hamper the delivery of Russian relief aid to the regions in need are a source of our deep concern. The humanitarian action has entered its final stage," the ministry said in a statement, adding that Moscow and Kiev have coordinated almost all the key issues of the humanitarian aid mission.

The ministry added that the Ukrainian army had stepped up military hostilities with a clear aim to cut off the Kiev-approved route of the Russian relief convoy from the Russian-Ukrainian border to Lugansk.

"According to incoming reports, a punitive battalion is planning to lay mines under separate sections of the road in the Lugansk region to destroy the relief cargo and the accompanying personnel and then accuse the militias of terrorist activities," the *Itar-Tass* quoted the ministry as saying.

"Those who are nurturing such criminal plans should take enormous responsibility for the consequences," it warned.

The ministry reiterated that Russia is doing everything possible to make the delivery safe and calling on all parties to immediately announce a ceasefire for the period of the mission in compliance with norms of international humanitarian law.

Russian Foreign Minister Sergei Lavrov and his Ukrainian counterpart Pavlo Klimkin on Friday continued to discuss issues related to the delivery of humanitarian aid to southeastern Ukraine in a telephone conversation.

The two stressed the need for more prompt and responsible participation of international organizations in the implementation of the humanitarian mission.—*Xinhua*

Chinese president urges prevention of humanitarian crisis in Ukraine

Nanjing, 16 Aug — Chinese President Xi Jinping said on Saturday that efforts should be made to prevent Ukraine from falling into humanitarian crisis.

When meeting with Ban Ki-moon, secretary-general of the United Nations, Xi described the crash of a Malaysian plane in eastern Ukraine as "a tragedy." The incident showed that "it is important and imperative to properly address the Ukraine crisis," he said.

On 17 July, Malaysia Airlines flight MH17, a *Boeing 777* en route from Amsterdam to Kuala Lumpur, went down in eastern Ukraine, killing all 298 people on board. The cause of the incident remains unknown and the investigation cannot go smoothly due to the armed conflicts in the region. Xi said he hoped all relevant parties could make concerted efforts and good use of the existing communication channels and mediation mechanisms to advance a political solution.

Xi urged all parties to negotiate for a programme that could take into consideration the interests of all parties in a balanced manner at an early date.

Efforts should be made to "ease the tense situation and avoid acceleration of confrontations and conflicts in an alternative way," he said.

He stressed that China continues to support the UN to play a major part in the process.

Xinhua

Kiev says forces destroyed Russian armour inside Ukraine

Kiev, 16 Aug — Ukraine said its artillery destroyed part of a Russian armoured column that entered its territory overnight and said its forces came under shellfire from Russia on Friday in what appeared to be a major military escalation between the ex-Soviet states. Russia's government denied its forces had crossed into Ukraine, calling the Ukrainian report "some kind of fantasy", and in turn raised its own serious concerns about activity by the US -led NATO defence alliance near its borders.

Moscow accused Kiev of trying to sabotage aid deliveries to eastern areas torn by fighting between pro-Russian separatists and the Western-backed government of Moscow's former satellite.

In a call to US Defence Secretary Chuck Hagel, as reported by Russia's state news agency *RIA*, Defence Minister Sergei Shoigu said Moscow was "seriously concerned" by increased NATO activity and called for a ceasefire to get aid into Ukraine. The agency did not specify what Western military movements he meant. The Pentagon said in a statement that Hagel had sought clarification about the Russian convoy during the phone call and was "guaranteed" it did not include Russian military personnel and would not be used as a pretext for intervening in Ukraine.

A Ukrainian serviceman guards a checkpoint outside Donetsk on 15 Aug, 2014. — Reuters

NATO said there had been a Russian incursion into Ukraine, which is not a member of its mutual defence pact, but it is avoiding calling it an invasion. Other European capitals accused the Kremlin of escalating a conflict that has revived Cold War-era animosities and chilled the region's struggling economies.

The White House, which said it could not confirm that a Russian military convoy had crossed the border, warned Moscow that any intervention into Ukraine without Kiev's permission was unacceptable.

The United Nations said it could not verify the reports from the Ukrainian border but called for an immediate de-escalation.

German Chancellor Angela Merkel urged Russian President Vladimir Putin in a phone call on Friday to help defuse the crisis and halt the stream of weapons and armed personnel into Ukraine, her office said.

"In view of the need for an urgent ceasefire she urged the president to help de-escalate the situation and in particular to halt the stream of weapons, military advisers and armed personnel into Ukraine," spokesman Steffen Seibert said.

Kiev and its Western allies have repeatedly accused Russia of arming pro-Moscow separatist rebels in eastern Ukraine, and of sending undercover military units onto Ukrainian soil. They have also expressed concern Russia may use an aid convoy it has assembled on the border as a pretext for stoking the conflict.

It was not clear whether the armoured column was officially part of the Russian army on active service. But evidence of Russian military vehicles captured or destroyed on Ukrainian territory would give extra force to Kiev's allegations — and possibly spark a new round of sanctions against the Kremlin.— *Reuters*

Argentina seeks to export more food to sanction-hit Russia

Buenos Aires, 16 Aug — Major world food supplier Argentina will send a trade delegation to Russia next week to try to increase exports to the country, which this month banned many Western products in response to sanctions over its intervention in Ukraine.

Argentina's enthusiasm for trade with Russia will improve Moscow's chances of filling any gaps left by its ban on European Union supplies and reduce the odds of food shortages.

Argentina's neighbour Brazil has already jumped in with both feet. About 90 new meat plants there were hastily approved to export to Russia, and Brazil began work to increase its corn and soybeans sales to Russian buyers.

Argentine state news service *Telam* said meetings would take place on Tuesday and Wednesday in Moscow, "with the explicit objective of quickly signing export contracts."

Dairy product exports alone could rise 20 percent if Russia turns to Latin America's No 3 economy after blocking US and EU milk, Miguel Paulon, head of Argentina's dairy industry chamber, told *Telam*. Moscow has blocked food imports from the United States, the EU, Australia, Canada and Norway in retaliation for sanctions over the Ukraine crisis.

The Argentine mission will include trade and agriculture ministers.

Reuters

A customer buys vegetables at a greengrocer shop in Buenos Aires on 31 July, 2014. —Reuters

German security recorded Clinton conversation — media

BERLIN, 16 Aug—German security agents recorded a conversation involving Hillary Clinton while she was US Secretary of State, media reported on Friday, a potential embarrassment for Berlin which has lambasted Washington for its widespread surveillance.

Clinton's words were intercepted while she was on a US government plane, Germany's *Sueddeutsche Zeitung* newspaper and German regional public broadcasters NDR and WDR said, without giving details of where she was or when the recording was made.

The respected broadsheet quoted German government sources saying the conversation had been picked up "by accident" and was not part of any plan to spy on Washington's top diplomat. The fact the recording had not been destroyed immediately was "idiocy", said one of the sources.

Former US Secretary of State Hillary Clinton reacts to a question as she discusses her new book "Hard Choices: A Memoir'' at George Washington University in Washington on 13 June, 2014.—REUTERS

Both Germany's government and a spokeswoman for the National Security Council at the White House declined to comment on the reports on Friday.

Relations between the United States and Germany were hit last year by revelations by former US National Security Agency (NSA) contractor Edward Snowden that Washington spied on German officials and bugged the phone of Chancellor Angela Merkel.

The dispute was revived in July when Germany's Federal Prosecutor arrested Markus R, a 31-year old employee of Germany's foreign intelligence agency (BND), on suspicion of spying for the Americans.

Details of the German recording of Clinton's conversation were included in documents that Markus R had passed on to Washington, said the German media reports, without citing a source for that information.

The newspaper and the radio stations said a joint investigation had discovered the documents also showed Germany's government had ordered the BND to spy on a NATO partner state, without naming the country.

The media reports said US authorities had brought up the affair in recent discussions, including one between current Secretary of State John Kerry and German Foreign Minister Frank-Walter Steinmeier.

Merkel said in an interview last month that the United States and Germany had fundamentally different conceptions of the role of the intelligence service, and she stressed the Cold War was over.

Reuters

UN nuclear chief Amano to visit Iran on Sunday

VIENNA, 16 Aug—UN nuclear watchdog chief Yukiya Amano will visit Iran on Sunday to try to advance cooperation with the agency's long-running inquiry into Teheran's nuclear activities, the IAEA said on Friday. He will visit ahead of an 25 August deadline for Iran to provide information relevant to the International Atomic Energy Agency's investigation into suspicions that Iran may have researched how to build a nuclear bomb, an accusation it denies.

"The Director General of the IAEA ... will visit Iran for meetings on 17 August with Iranian leaders and senior officials. The visit is part of the efforts to advance dialogue and cooperation between the Agency and Iran," a brief IAEA statement said.

Diplomatic sources told *Reuters* two weeks ago that the Vienna-based IAEA was concerned about Iran's failure to make good on pledges of more transparency.

Western officials say Iranian clarifications would also advance efforts by six world powers to negotiate an end to a decade-old standoff over the Islamic Republic's nuclear programme, suggesting some sanctions relief may depend on it.

The Islamic Republic says it is enriching uranium solely as a peaceful project to generate electricity, not to accumulate fissile material for a potential atomic bomb, as the West suspects.

It rejects such suspicions as based on false and fabricated information from its enemies but has promised, since pragmatist Hassan Rouhani became president in mid-2013, to work with the Vienna-based UN agency to clear them up.

Reuters

International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) Director General Yukiya Amano

Security Council slaps sanctions against extremist groups

UNITED NATIONS, 16 Aug—The UN Security Council on Friday adopted a resolution on sanctions against extremist groups in Iraq and Syria, in an attempt to cut off their external funding support.

In the unanimously approved resolution, the 15-member Council expressed its "gravest concern" over the control of land by al-Qaeda-connected groups such as Islamic State in Iraq and the Levant (ISIL) and Al Nusrah Front (ANF) in Iraq and Syria, which has undermined stability in the region.

The Council stated that all states shall prevent "direct or indirect supply, sale or transfer" of arms and related materials to ISIL and ANF and associated individuals and groups, and demanded those groups "disarm and disband with immediate effect."

Friday's resolution also placed six Islamist leaders — from Kuwait, Saudi Arabia and other nations — on the al-Qaeda sanctions list, which provides for a travel ban and assets freeze.

The six include senior al-Qaeda leaders who have provided financing to the Al-Nusra Front in Syria and Abu Mohammad al-Adnani, the spokesman for the ISIL. The resolution also focused particularly on the "flow of foreign terrorist fighters" to the extremist Islamist groups, calling on UN member states to bring foreign terrorist fighters to justice and engage with those at risk of being recruited to discourage their travel to Syria and Iraq.—*Xinhua*

Panama Canal celebrates 100th anniversary amid expansion projects

PANAMA CITY, 16 Aug—Panama Canal, one of the greatest engineering feats in the world, celebrated its 100th anniversary here on Friday, amid ongoing expansion works and proposals.

At 8:00 am local time, the ship "Lowlands Kamsar" slowly passed by the Miraflores Locks of the Panama Canal with ringing siren, commemorating the first ship which passed through the Panama Canal 100 years ago.

Sailors on the deck waved the flags of Panama. Dancers and bands performed besides the locks.

A highlight of the ceremony was an oversized cake bearing a replica of the Miraflores locks, where the event was taking place, complete with a passing ship whose deckhands waved miniature Panamanian flags.

Dancers take part in the commemoration of the 100th anniversary of the Panama Canal, at the Miraflores Locks, in Panama City, capital of Panama, on 15 Aug, 2014. Panama celebrated the 100th anniversary of its canal with a ceremony and gala on Friday. The canal, an engineering masterwork that transformed global commerce, opened on 15 Aug, 1914, connecting the Atlantic and Pacific Oceans.
XINHUA

The Panama Canal, approximately 80 km long between the Atlantic and Pacific Oceans, saves about 12,875 kilometres and half the time from a journey around the southern tip of South America, Cape Horn, according to the official website of the canal.

Nowadays, the 100 years old waterway serves more than 144 maritime routes connecting 160 countries and regions, and reaching some 1,700 ports in the world. It manages about 5 percent of the world's shipments.

In a speech to those gathered, Panama Canal administrator Jorge Luis Quijano began by recalling that the US steamship SS Ancon, with 200 passengers on board, including then president Belisario Porras, inaugurated the waterway in 1914. The US operated the canal until late 1999, when it handed over the management of the waterway to Panama. Following the ceremony, the Miraflores locks were opened to the public for a tour of the site and a folkloric show featuring regional songs and dances.

The Panamanian government announced the minting of 3 million commemorative 50-cent coins and 2,000 pure silver coins to mark the centennial.

The earliest mention of a canal across the Isthmus of Panama dated back to 1534, when Charles V, Holy Roman Emperor and King of Spain, ordered a survey for a route through the Americas.

Xinhua

PERSPECTIVES

Sunday, 17 August, 2014

Meet the three basic needs for people through careful management of resources

By *Kyaw Thura*

It is clear that every government takes office pledging to remain morally and lawfully in power and promising to make its citizenry satisfied by careful management of all available resources. What is important in this respect is a clear vision with achievable goals and transparent strategies that demonstrate political maturity and morality in all sectors.

Pivotal is the provision of three basic needs: food, clothing and shelter for all people in the country through sustainable development of its natural and human resources. The key to the proper exploitation of existing resources is to stave off wastage, corruption and pollution, all of which will trigger unnecessary conflict.

It is encouraging to hear President U Thein Sein promise in his speech that plots of land would be granted to the landless in a bid to combat poverty and ensure higher living standards for people of both in urban and rural areas.

This move is seen as a shot in the arm of the drive to guarantee one of the basic requirements for survival. It is easy to go around asking for food and clothes.

Shelter is a different story.

Although shelter is as important as food and clothes, but only the government can deal with it. Now people with no shelter are happy with the promise the president has given, for their dreams will come true in the future not too distant.

All in all, these fundamental requirements serve as the base for survival as easy access to food, clothing and shelter is central to the development of a strong community. In addition, these basic needs of life are precursors to individual self-sufficiency for generations to come.

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.

International Myanmar Studies Conference 2014 in Singapore and Myanmar Media

By *Sayar Mya*

"We go to remote war zones to report what is happening. The public have a right to know what our government, and our armed forces, is doing in our name. Our mission is to speak the truth to power. We send home that first rough draft of history. We can and do make a difference in exposing the horrors of war and especially the atrocities that befall civilians."

Marie Colvin, UK – Courage in Journalism Award 2000

The writer of this article has high impression on Marie Colvin.

Marie Colvin was a journalist who worked for the British newspaper "The Sunday Times" from 1985 until her death in 2012 while covering the siege of Homs in Syria. Colvin, who had lost an eye to shrapnel in Sri Lanka, had covered conflicts in Chechnya, Kosovo, Sierra Leone, Zimbabwe, Libya, East Timor and Syria.

While the journalists are shouldering their own duties and obligation, the academicians are also contributing for the development of the respective countries.

In the last week of July 2014, my friends in Singapore informed me and provided me with some basic information on the **"International Myanmar Studies Conference 2014: Singapore", (Envisioning Myanmar: Issues, Images, Identities)** held on 1 – 3 August 2014.

The conference is initiated by the Center of Myanmar Studies, Northern Illinois University, USA, and Myanmar Studies Group of the Association of Asian Studies.

Under the aegis of the National University of Singapore (Faculty of Arts and Social Science); the Institute of Southeast Asian Studies; and the NUS (Center for Asian Legal Studies Faculty of Law), the academic conference was realized. It was sponsored by the Asia Foundation; the Tun Foundation Bank; the YOMA: Strategic Holding Ltd; and the Hanns Seidel Foundation.

About Myanmar Study Conference

Recent reforms in Myanmar have reinvigorated scholarly, business, legal, policy, media, and advocacy interest in the country, as domestic and foreign observers attempt to understand the immediate and long-term dynamics surrounding the issue of transformation. With the widening of participatory political and media spaces, new and old voices within the domestic socio-political landscape continue to debate each other over the country's future through locally and trans-nationally defined issues and images. Crucial to understanding these debates is the recognition that Myanmar's many communities have historically envisioned the country's past, present, and future in very different ways.

"Envisioning Myanmar" had invited panels that consider the various ways in which the country has been conceptualized by scholars, stakeholders, and other social groups within and without the country. Envisioning could be interpreted to imagine what a situation will be like in the future. The organizers welcomed the studies that examine how varying experiences by researchers, writers, ethnic groups, artisans, performers, NGO's, business groups, politicians, shopkeepers, soldiers, activists and cultivators, have produced different concerns and conversations about Myanmar. As such, scholarship on any topic or theme has been welcomed, but participants are also asked to think about how particular issues—scholarly, political, economic, legal, social, cultural, and humanitarian—have produced appropriate images or understandings of Myanmar.

Panelists and participants are thus encouraged to think about the relationship between these issues and the images that have emerged within scholarly, policy, and public debates over the definition and circumstances surrounding the conceptualization of Myanmar. In this way, participants might think about how their own research, careers, work, or projects have contributed to both the process of "envisioning" Myanmar and the various images and identities that emerged from these experiences. The organizers welcomed the presentations that rigorously investigate the perspectives and perceptions of different stakeholders and communities that have contributed to the construction of Myanmar.

Photo of the National University of Singapore.
CREDIT GOES TO GOOGLE ALBUM

The Conference Speakers for the Opening Panel were as follows:

Dr. Kyaw Yin Hlaing is a member of the National Economic and Social Advisory Council to president of Myanmar; member of the Myanmar Peace Centre Secretariat; director of Myanmar Egress, an NGO concerned with political change in the country; and former Associate Director of the Southeast Asia Research Centre at City University of Hong Kong.

Dr. Zaw Oo is one of the economic advisors to the President of Myanmar, and Executive Director of the Centre for Economic and Social Development at the Myanmar Development Resource Institute (MDRI).

Dr. Thant-Myint U is a historian and an acclaimed writer. He is currently the Chairman of the Yangon Heritage Trust; Special Adviser, Myanmar Peace Center; and Member of the National Economic and Social Advisory Council. In December 2013 Foreign Policy magazine named him as one of the "100 Leading Global Thinkers" for the year.

Dr. Ma Thida is one of Myanmar's leading public intellectuals. She is a medical doctor, a writer, a human rights advocate and former prisoner of conscience who now has an important role in helping societies and communities in Myanmar play a part in the current reform process.

The Closing Panel Speakers for the Vision for Myanmar were as follows.

U Than Swe is Deputy Minister for Culture of Myanmar and the current vice-chairman of Myanmar's ASEAN Socio-Cultural Community Council. He is leading project coordination on the Myanmar side for conservation of Shwe Nan Daw Kyaung in Mandalay, with support from the US Ambassadors Fund for Cultural Preservation and with expertise provided by the World Monuments Fund.

U Kyaw Win is Editor-in-Chief of The Waves Magazine and member of the Political, Economic and Legal Commission of the Amyotha Hluttaw (National Assembly) in the Myanmar legislature. A former prisoner of conscience, he is an active contributor to the Myanmar literary scene.

U Zeya Thu is director, deputy chief editor and columnist of a local news publication 'The Voice' and co-founder of Myanmar Development Partners, a Myanmar-based research firm.

Dr. Tin Maung Maung Than is Senior Research Fellow and Coordinator of the Myanmar Studies Program at ISEAS. He has been following economic and political developments in Myanmar since 1983. His research interests focus on developmental issues, democratization, civil-military relations and political cooperation in Southeast Asia. He has contributed several chapters in edited volumes and numerous articles on Myanmar politics, economics and security issues in regional and international publications.

There were (120) Panel Speakers starting alphabetically from (A) to (Z), and the writer of this article depicted only two persons, one speaker from (A) and the other speaker from (Z), with a view to squeeze the columns.

Amara Thiha, Centre for Social Studies, University of Coimbra, Portugal: "Good and Precious Women" in Myanmar Military (Tatmadaw) Propaganda Films.

Dedi Zuraidi, Lecturer, School of Social and Political Science Raja Haji, Tanjungpinang, Riau Island Province, Indonesia: "Myanmar Illegal Immigrants in Indonesia: the perceptions of their own country."

(to be continued)

Chinese Consulate-General donates US$40,000 for rural electrification

Consul-General of the PRC Mr Wang Yi accepts certificate of honour from Mandalay Region Chief Minister U Ye Myint for donation.

Mandalay, 16 Aug — Mandalay-based Consulate-General of the People's Republic of China donated US$40,000 for solar power electrification in rural areas of Mandalay Region on Saturday.

At the region government office, Chief Minister of Mandalay Region U Ye Myint accepted the cash donation.

Consul-General of the PRC Mr Wang Yi explained the purpose of donation for implementation of electricity supply in rural areas.

The donated cash will be spent on electrification task in rural areas through solar penals.

Thiha Ko Ko (Mandalay)

First-aid course given to Sittway University students

Sittway, 16 Aug — The basic first-aid course kicked off at TII Hall of Sittway University in 2013-14 academic year on Friday.

Staff Officer Grade-I of Rakhine State Red Cross Brigade U Nyunt Shwe and course instructors, faculty members and students were also present on the occasion.

On behalf of the rector-in-charge of the university, Professor Daw Tin Hlaing of English Department delivered a speech. The staff officer Grade-I explained the purpose of opening the course and social welfare tasks of the Myanmar Red Cross Society. Altogether 120 Red Cross members from various subjects of the university are attending the course and pursuing the subjects on Red Cross history, seven basic points of the Red Cross and first-aid course in practical and theoretical from 15 to 18 August.

Sittway District IPRD

Basic first-aid course concludes at Medical Technology University (Mandalay)

Mandalay, 16 Aug —Mandalay Region Red Cross Supervisory Committee and Medical Technology University (Mandalay) jointly conducted the basic first-aid course at the hall of the university in Mandalay on Thursday.

Rector Professor Dr Theingi Hlaing of the university gave a concluding remark, and Chairman of the University Red Cross Supervisory Committee Daw Sanda Shein presented 174 membership applications to Staff Officer Grade-I of the region U Phone Kyaw who handed over a Red Cross kit.

The rector presented prizes to the outstanding trainees and gifts for instructors to Staff Officer Grade-II U Aung Zaw Zaw.

Tin Maung (Mandalay)

University students participate in sports competitions

Mandalay, 16 Aug —The University of Traditional Medicine (Mandalay) kicked off the sports competition at its ground in Mandalay on Friday, aimed at ensuring health and fitness of the university students and culturing the sporting spirit among the students.

In the debut, Third Year student team defeated the bridge course student team 3-2 in the men's event while Third Year student beat the house surgeon team 2-1.

The sports competition comprises men's and women's football, volleyball, Sepak Takraw, table tennis, badminton and track & field events. The competition are being held up to 22 August.

Tin Maung (Mandalay)

Duty assigned to water taxation groups in Mandalay District

Mandalay, 16 Aug — A ceremony to assign duty to the district, township and ward/village-tract taxation groups was held at the hall of Mandalay District General Administration Department in Mandalay of Mandalay Region on Friday.

In his address, head of Mandalay Region Agriculture Department U Hla Myint Aung said that district level departmental officials are assigned duty as the water taxation groups in line with the directives of the Mandalay Region Government. The groups are to levy the water tax in respective townships, wards and villages systematically.

The deputy commissioner of Mandalay District presented certificates of assignment to township administrators of Aungmyethazan, Pyigyidagun, Amarapura and Patheingyi.

Tin Maung (Mandalay)

SEA-ME-WE-3 submarine cable causes disconnection

Yangon, 16 Aug — The disconnection caused at SEA-ME-WE-3 network on 12 August. As a result, Internet users in Myanmar will face the connection slow process across the nation, said sources.

The disconnected international submarine cable SEA-ME-WE-3 is stretching between Singapore and Myanmar for providing Internet access to Myanmar.

"Technicians of Myanma Posts and Telecommunications are repairing the connection of cables. During the period, the users can get the one-fourth of normal connection," said an official.

Due to the disconnection, the users will face delay process of Internet access about one month, said sources.

Internet access in Myanmar is controlled entirely through state-owned Myanma Posts and Telecommunications. The international submarine cable SEA-ME-WE-3.

In the past, similar disconnections had caused in Myanmar many times.

NLM

Iraqi Sunnis say could join new government, fight Islamic State

BAGHDAD, 16 Aug — Tribal leaders and clerics from Iraq's Sunni heartland offered their conditional backing on Friday for a new government that hopes to contain sectarian bloodshed and an offensive by Islamic State militants that threatens to tear the country apart.

One of the most influential tribal leaders said he was willing to work with Shi'ite prime minister-designate Haider al-Abadi provided a new administration respected the rights of the Sunni Muslim minority that dominated Iraq under Saddam Hussein.

Ali Hatem Suleiman left open a possibility that Sunnis would take up arms against the Islamic State fighters in the same way as he and others joined US and Shi'ite-led government forces to thwart an al-Qaeda insurgency in Iraq between 2006 and 2009.

Yet amid the signs that political accords were possible in the fractious nation, some 80 members of Iraq's Yazidi minority were "massacred" by Islamic State insurgents, a Yazidi lawmaker and two Kurdish officials said on Friday.

Displaced children from the minority Yazidi sect, fleeing violence in the Iraqi town of Sinjar west of Mosul, take refuge at Dohuk Province on 15 Aug, 2014.
REUTERS

Abadi faces the daunting task of pacifying Iraq and particularly the vast desert province of Anbar. It forms much of the border with Syria, where the Islamist fighters also control swathes of territory.

Sunni alienation under outgoing Shi'ite premier Nuri al-Maliki goaded some in Anbar to join an Islamic State revolt that is now drawing the United States and European allies back into varying degrees of military involvement in Iraq to contain what they see as a militant threat that goes well beyond its borders.

The United Nations Security Council blacklisted the Islamic State spokesman and five other militants on Friday and threatened sanctions against those backing the insurgents, giving UN experts 90 days to report on who those people are.

Iraq has been plunged into its worst violence since the peak of a sectarian civil war in 2006-2007, with Sunni fighters led by the Islamic State overrunning large parts of the west and north, forcing hundreds of thousands to flee for their lives and threatening ethnic Kurds in their autonomous province.

Winning over Sunnis will be vital to any efforts to contain the violence marked by daily kidnappings, execution-style killings and bombings.

Taha Mohammed al-Hamdoon, spokesman for the tribal and clerical leaders, told *Reuters* that Sunni representatives in Anbar and other provinces had drawn up a list of demands.

This would be delivered to Abadi, a member of the same Shi'ite Islamist party but with a less confrontational reputation than Maliki, who announced on Thursday he would stand down.

Hamdoon called for the government and Shi'ite militia forces to suspend hostilities in Anbar to allow space for talks.

"It is not possible for any negotiations to be held under barrel bombs and indiscriminate bombing," Hamdoon said in a telephone interview with *Reuters*. "Let the bombing stop and withdraw and curtail the (Shi'ite) militias until there is a solution for the wise men in these areas."

Iraq's most influential Shi'ite cleric, Grand Ayatollah Ali al-Sistani, said the handover of power offered a rare opportunity to resolve the crisis.

He told feuding politicians to live up to their "historic responsibility" by cooperating with Abadi as he tries to form a new government and overcome divisions among the Shi'ite, Sunni and Kurdish communities that deepened under Maliki.

Reuters

G77+China meeting in Bolivia postponed

LA PAZ, 16 Aug — A meeting of energy and mining ministers of the G77+China grouping scheduled for 25-26 August in Bolivia has been postponed until November "due to international events," a government spokesman said on Friday.

"The United Nations, through a letter issued in New York, has requested the Summit of G77+China Energy Ministers be suspended or postponed until November due to international events," Daniel Beccar, the Energy and Hydrocarbons Ministry's representative for the Tarija region, the meeting's location, told reporters in La Paz.

The meeting's agenda includes the management of natural resources and industrialization, with input from the UN Industrial Development Organization (UNDO) and Economic Commission for Latin America and The Caribbean (ECLAC).

Beccar said Bolivia accepted the UN request, because the G77 bloc operates according to consensus.

Xinhua

People gather at the scene where a small plane crashed in a farm field in front of La Salle University, in Santa Cruz Xoxocotlan township, Oaxaca state, Mexico on 15 Aug, 2014.—XINHUA

Pope Francis denounces wealth gap in open-air Seoul mass

SEOUL, 16 Aug — Pope Francis on Saturday celebrated a huge open-air Mass in the centre of Seoul, where he denounced the growing gap between the haves and have nots, urging people in affluent societies to listen to "the cry of the poor" among them.

The pope made his remarks in the homily of a Mass where he beatified 124 Korean martyrs who were killed for refusing to renounce Christianity in the 18th and 19th centuries. Beatification is the last step before sainthood in the Roman Catholic Church.

In his homily before a crowd of hundreds of thousands, Francis said the martyrs' courage and charity and their rejection of the rigid social structures of their day should be an inspiration for people today.

"Their example has much to say to us who live in societies where, alongside immense wealth, dire poverty is silently growing; where the cry of the poor is seldom heeded and where Christ continues to call out to us, asking us to love and serve him by tending to our brothers and sisters in need," he said. It was a theme the pope has been repeating since he arrived in South Korea on Thursday for his first trip to Asia since his election in March, 2013, and has been a lynchpin of the papacy of the first non-European pontiff in 1,300 years. Last year, in the first major written work of his papacy, Francis attacked unfettered capitalism as "a new tyranny", urging global leaders to fight poverty and growing inequality.

Pope Francis (C) waves to Catholic worshippers as he arrives to lead a mass at Gwanghwamun square in central Seoul on 16 Aug, 2014. —REUTERS

Rapid economic growth has made South Korea one of the world's wealthiest countries, but it has also become increasingly unequal, with nearly half the elderly in poverty. The pope said the Mass from a white altar platform in front of Gwanghwamun Gate, where some of those beatified by Francis were killed during the Chosun dynasty.

During his procession to the altar, Francis stopped to pray with family members of victims of the Sewol ferry disaster, one of whom handed him a letter and said: "please do not forget." The Sewol capsized and sank during a routine voyage on April 16, killing more than 300 people, most of them school children.—*Reuters*

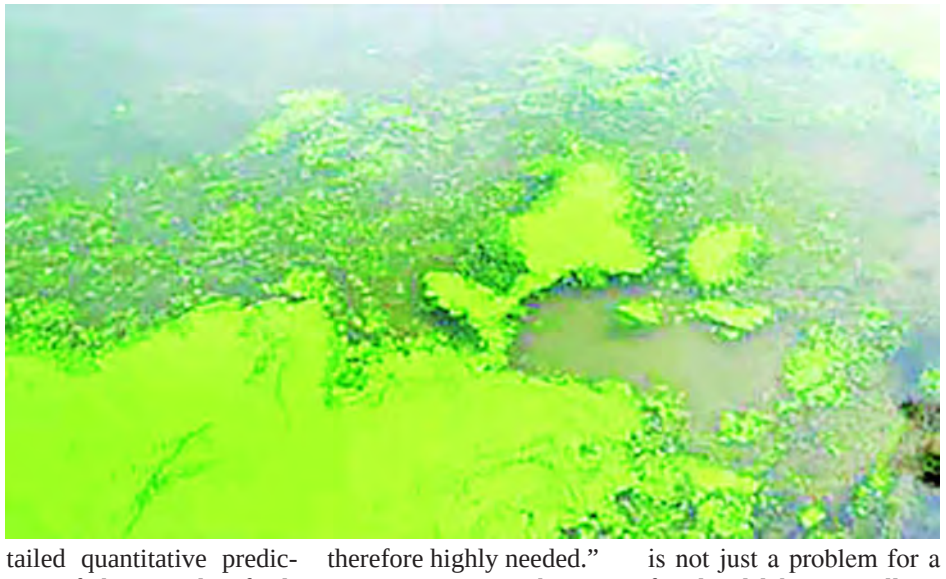
Rising CO2 levels intensify algal blooms across globe: Dutch scientists

THE HAGUE, 16 Aug — Rising carbon dioxide (CO2) concentrations in the atmosphere will stimulate harmful algal blooms at a global level, Dutch scientists Jolanda Verspagen and Jef Huisman of the University of Amsterdam concluded in research to be published in the next edition of the scientific journal *PLOS ONE*.

The research was carried out at the Department of Aquatic Microbiology of the University of Amsterdam, The Netherlands, in collaboration with the Netherlands Institute of Ecology in Wageningen. Verspagen and Huisman did their investigations on the basis of new mathematical models, laboratory experiments and field research.

Harmful algal blooms are a major concern in water quality management, and often lead to the closure of recreational waters. The harmful algal blooms form a threat to the water quality of nutrient-rich ponds, lakes and reservoirs. Dense blooms may smother water plants and can lead to fish kills. In addition, several harmful algal species can produce toxins causing serious and sometimes fatal liver, digestive and neurological diseases in birds, mammals and humans, according to the researchers.

"The novelty of our work is the tight combination of mathematical models and experiments", Verspagen said in a press release issued by the University of Amsterdam. "This approach allows detailed quantitative prediction of the complex feedback between algal growth and the availability of CO2 in water. Algae are responsible for about fifty percent of the global primary production of our planet. Such quantitative approaches are therefore highly needed."



"In essence, the rise in atmospheric CO2 concentrations is one big fertilization experiment at an unprecedented large scale," Huisman added. "An enhanced CO2 influx into aquatic ecosystems is not just a problem for a few local lakes. It will intensify algal blooms in nutrient-rich waters across the globe. Water managers and policy makers will have to prepare for a deterioration of the water quality due to climate change."—*Xinhua*

Experimental chikungunya vaccine shows promise in human trial

***A patient suffering from Chikungunya is treated at a hospital on the outskirts of Santo Domingo, in this 23 May, 2014 file photo.*—REUTERS**

WASHINGTON, 16 Aug — An experimental vaccine being developed by US government scientists to prevent the painful mosquito-borne viral disease chikungunya has shown promise in its first human trials but remains years away from approval for widespread use.

In a study published on Thursday in the *Lancet* medical journal, National Institutes of Health scientists said the vaccine elicited an impressive immune response in all 25 adult volunteers who took part and caused no worrisome side effects.

"We believe it is a highly promising vaccine given how well tolerated it was and how robust the immune responses were," said the leader of the study, Dr Julie Ledgerwood of the NIH's National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases.

Infection with the virus, spread by two mosquito species, typically is not fatal but can cause debilitating symptoms including fever, headache and severe joint pain lasting weeks or months. There is no current treatment and no licensed vaccine to prevent it.

It showed up for the first time in the Americas late last year. In the United States, locally transmitted infections — as opposed to infections in Americans traveling abroad — have been reported for the first time this year.

The early-stage clinical trial involved 25 healthy American volunteers ages 18 to 50 years old who were given one of three dosage levels of the vaccine in three injections over a 20-week period.

The volunteers were not exposed to the chikungunya virus, but their immune response was measured in the form of neutralizing antibodies — proteins produced by a special type of white blood cell that defends a person from an invading virus.

An immune response was seen in most of the volunteers after the first vaccination. Following the second, all exhibited high levels of antibodies. There also was a significant increase in antibodies after the third injection.

The antibodies lasted a long time and were present in all of the volunteers six months following their final shot.

This was a so-called Phase I trial testing the safety of a vaccine and looking at dosage ranges. Before securing regulatory approval, the vaccine would need to go through a Phase II trial using a larger group of people to test potential effectiveness and further evaluate safety. Next would be a Phase III trial with large numbers of people to confirm effectiveness and safety.

The vaccine already was shown to protect rhesus monkeys from chikungunya.—*Reuters*

IBM says sale of low-end server business gets regulator approval

BANGALORE, 16 Aug — International Business Machines Corp IBM.N said on Friday that US regulators had approved the $2.3 billion sale of its low-end server business to Lenovo Group Ltd 0992.HK, as the company continues its shift to more profitable software and services like cloud computing and data analytics. IBM has already divested $16 billion in annual revenue over the past decade from low-margin businesses like personal computers and printers.

The approval by the Committee on Foreign Investment in the United States came despite CIFUS members' concern, first reported by the *Wall Street Journal* earlier this year, that IBM servers used in the Pentagon's networks could be accessed remotely by Chinese spies and compromised.

Lenovo has been through the secretive CFIUS process three times before and has won approval each time, according to a source familiar with the process.

CFIUS, an interagency group chaired by the Treasury Secretary, reviews deals that could bring US businesses under foreign ownership and is required by law to assess any transaction involving a state-owned firm. Lenovo said in a statement that it remains on track to close the IBM server deal by the end of the year. Analysts say Lenovo will likely find it easier than IBM to sell the x86 servers to Chinese companies as Beijing tries to localize its IT purchases in the wake of revelations about US surveillance.—*Reuters*

***A worker is pictured behind a logo at the IBM stand on the CeBIT computer fair in Hanover on 26 Feb, 2011.*—REUTERS**

'Mission Blue' film charts scientist's quest to save oceans

NEW YORK, 16 Aug — From the Galapagos Islands to Australia's Coral Sea and a marine park off the coast of Mexico, the documentary "Mission Blue" navigates the journey of renowned oceanographer Sylvia Earle as she travels the globe to save the planet's threatened seas.

With stunning underwater footage, the film that airs on Friday on the online streaming service Netflix and in selected US theaters, shows the devastating impact of pollution, overfishing and climate change on the oceans through the eyes of the renowned scientist, explorer and author who has been charting it for decades.

"I really wanted to make people aware of this woman and her life because she is such an incredible person and has dedicated so much of her life toward the ocean," Fisher Stevens, 50, who co-directed the film with Robert Nixon, said in an interview.

Stevens, an actor and producer of the 2010 Oscar-winning dolphin-hunting documentary "The Cove," met Earle, 78, while filming her trip to the Galapagos Islands with scientists, explorers and policy makers more than four years ago.

The trip was a brainstorming session to protect the world's oceans and to create "hope spots," underwater national parks and conservation areas where dredging, drilling, dumping and commercial fishing is prohibited.

"Mission Blue" chronicles Earle's life from her childhood in New Jersey and on the Gulf Coast of Florida, her pioneering days as a marine biologist in a field dominated by men, her underwater expeditions and lecture tours to promote marine conservation.

Stevens dons scuba gear to accompany Earle as she examines the environmental changes she has witnessed over decades. Earle has led more than 100 ocean research expeditions and logged thousands of hours underwater.

Reuters

Officer in Missouri shooting unaware teen was a suspect — police

FERGUSON, (Missouri), 16 Aug — Minutes before a police officer shot him dead, Michael Brown had become a suspect in the theft of cigars from a store, according to police reports released on Friday after days of protests in a St Louis suburb over the unarmed black teenager's death.

But what, if anything, that had to do with the fatal encounter became less clear as the day went by. Hours after the reports' release, police said that Officer Darren Wilson, 28, had no idea 18-year-old Brown was a robbery suspect. He simply wanted Brown to move from the road to the sidewalk, Ferguson Police Chief Tom Jackson said at a news conference.

"He was walking down the middle of the street blocking traffic. That was it," Jackson said.

After nearly a week of accusations that the Ferguson Police Department did not know how to communicate with the public, Jackson did little to dispel that image during two appearances on Friday.

He was visibly nervous, stuttering as he fumbled his notes, and made announcements that sowed more confusion. After releasing the robbery incident report without any attempt to explain its fuller context, he let more than five hours pass before confirming, and only when asked, that Wilson did not know about the robbery when he encountered Brown.

The decision by the police department, which is overwhelmingly white, to release a report on the robbery while keeping details of the shooting secret only added to the frustration felt by many in the St Louis area.

Still, as protests entered their sixth night on Friday there was far less tension than earlier in the week, before local forces were replaced by state police led by an African-American captain.

Outside a burned-out building where protesters were shot with rubber bullets two days ago, the scene resembled a summer carnival. Horns blew in support as cars drove past a crowd of people, many of whom brought picnic coolers.

Hope Walker, 46, sat in a folding chair on the sidewalk with some friends. "It's more like a block party than what I was calling little Beirut," said the music teacher.

Earlier Friday, after identifying Wilson as the officer involved in the shooting, the Ferguson police chief described him as a "gentleman" who has been devastated by the incident. Wilson worked four of his six years as an officer on the Ferguson police force, Jackson said.

Wilson's identity has been kept a secret since the 9 August shooting and authorities had been under mounting pressure to both identify the officer and to provide details about the investigation to ease unrest in the largely black community.

Since Saturday's killing, which took place shortly after noon on a street running through a quiet, tree-lined residential neighbourhood, protesters have converged on Ferguson.

Civil rights groups have complained that Brown's death is the latest in a long history of racial profiling and harassment by police, and discriminatory arrests.

Eric Davis (centre, L) and Louis Head (centre, R), family members of slain teenager Michael Brown, embrace as their lawyer speaks to the media regarding the shooting of Brown and the resulting police response to protests in Ferguson, Missouri on 15 Aug, 2014. — REUTERS

Some residents saw the police report on the robbery as the latest example of the pattern.

"This is how the police operate here, they always defame the name of the victim," said area resident Arthur Austin, 39. "The more I hear, the less I trust what the police are saying."

A Brown family attorney said it appeared to be Brown in the convenience store's security-camera footage, which showed a man shoving a store clerk during an apparent robbery. Dorian Johnson, the friend who was with Brown that day, told the FBI and Justice Department officials about the robbery this week, his lawyer said.

Reuters

US doctor with Ebola hopes to leave Atlanta hospital soon

Dr Kent Brantly (R) speaks with colleagues at the case management centre on the campus of ELWA Hospital in Monrovia, Liberia in this undated handout photograph courtesy of Samaritan's Purse.—REUTERS

WINSTON-SALEM, (NC), 16 Aug —The Texas doctor being treated for Ebola said on Friday that he was "recovering in every way" at an Atlanta hospital and hoped to be released soon.

Kent Brantly, 33, was one of two US aid workers who were infected with the deadly virus in Liberia and evacuated earlier this month for treatment at Emory University's hospital as their health declined.

Brantly said he still faced "a few hurdles" before he could be discharged from the isolation unit where he is being treated, although he gave no other details.

"I am more grateful every day to the Lord for sparing my life and continuing to heal my body," Brantly said in a statement released by North Carolina-based Samaritan's Purse, the Christian relief group he worked for in West Africa.

"I hold on to the hope of a sweet reunion with my wife, children and family in the near future," he said.

A spokesman for the organisation had no further information on Friday as to when Brantly might go home.

Nancy Writebol, a 59-year-old missionary from Charlotte, North Carolina, also remains hospitalized in Atlanta. Her son said in an interview this week that she, too, was getting better and that doctors felt optimistic about her recovery.

The Ebola outbreak in four West African nations has killed more than 1,100 people and could take six months to get under control, government and health providers in the region said on Friday.

"Please continue to pray for and bring attention to those suffering in the ongoing Ebola crisis in West Africa," Brantly said. "Their fight is far from over."

Reuters

Thai surrogate scandal search extends to Cambodia

BANGKOK, 16 Aug — Thai officials will soon travel to Cambodia after an advisor to a Japanese man claiming to be the father of at least 15 babies in Thailand invited the officials on Friday to see how well four children apparently fathered by the man are being raised in Cambodia.

Assistant National Police Chief Kokiat Wongworachart, in a Press conference in Bangkok, referred to the advisor as the man's "coordinator" and said the coordinator had sent police photographs of the children in Cambodia showing they are in good health.

Still, the assistant chief said, the Thai authorities need to check on them in person. According to Thai Immigration records, the Japanese man has traveled to Thailand 40 times and on at least some occasions he left the country with children, apparently those he fathered via surrogate mothers in Thailand.

Bangkok Deputy Police Chief Chayuth Thanataweerat urged the Japanese businessman to meet with Thai officials to prove he is the father of all the children and to tell the officials why he wants to father so many children.

Chayuth said an explanation from the businessman would go a long way to reassuring both the authorities and the public that all the children are wanted and that the man is prepared to take care of all of them. Chayuth admitted Thailand holds little power to deal with the man, but "several channels" are being used to obtain information about him.

DNA tests on the babies have shown at least nine of them were fathered by the same man, with several different women, but it has not been definitely proven the unnamed Japanese businessman and the father of the nine is the same person.

Kyodo News

ADVERTISEMENT & GENERAL

INVITATION TO OPEN TENDER

Sealed tenders are invited by the Department of Health, Central Medical Stores Depot for the supply of medical goods.

Tender documents are available during office hours at the office of the Deputy Director (Medical Stores), Central Medical Stores Depot, No. 57, Sakawa Road, Dagon Township, Yangon, commencing from (20.8.2014).

Sealed bids are to be submitted to the office of the Deputy Director (Medical Stores), Central Medical Stores Depot, not later than (19.9.2014) 14:00 hour, after which no bid will be accepted. No telegraphic/ telex proposal will be accepted.

For detail information please contact the Deputy Director (Medical Stores) Phone No. 371969, 372362, 371284.

Central Medical Stores Depot
Department of Health

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE
MV MALTE RAMBOW VOY NO (1432)

Consignees of cargo carried on MV MALTE RAMBOW VOY NO (1432) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 17.8.2014 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of M.I.P where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

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

Phone No: 2301185

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE
MV E.R. TURKU VOY NO (052W)

Consignees of cargo carried on MV E.R TURKU VOY NO (052W) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 17.8.2014 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of H.P.T where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

SHIPPING AGENCY DEPARTMENT
MYANMA PORT AUTHORITY
AGENT FOR: M/S HANJIN SHIPPING LINES
Phone No: 2301185

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE
MV PANJA BHUM VOY NO (025)

Consignees of cargo carried on MV PANJA BHUM VOY NO (025) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 17.8.2014 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of A.W.P.T where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

SHIPPING AGENCY DEPARTMENT
MYANMA PORT AUTHORITY
AGENT FOR: M/S WAN HAI LINES PTE LTD
Phone No: 2301185

Advertise with us!
For inquries to place an advertisement in the NLM,
Please email
wallace.tun@gmail.com

Weather report

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

FORECAST VALID UNTIL EVENING OF THE 17th August, 2014: Rain or thundershowers will be widespread in Upper Sagaing Region, Kachin and Rakhine States, fairly widespread in Bago Region, Chin, Kayin and Mon States and scattered in the remaining Regions and States with likelihood of isolated heavy falls in Upper Sagaing and Mandalay Regions, Kachin and Rakhine States. Degree of certainty is (100%).

STATE OF THE SEA: Seas will be moderate in Myanmar waters.

OUTLOOK FOR SUBSEQUENT TWO DAYS: Likelihood of decrease of rain in the Southern Myanmar areas.

UN envoy plans Libya trip soon to negotiate ceasefire

TRIPOLI, 16 Aug—The new UN special envoy to Libya plans to visit Tripoli as early as next week to seek a ceasefire between armed factions whose clashes have turned parts of the capital into a battlefield, his office said.

Bernardino Leon aims to end fighting between brigades from Misrata and fighters allied to the western town of Zintan, whose rivalries erupted a month ago into the worst clashes since the 2011 uprising that ousted Muammar Gaddafi.

The battles, which involve brigades of former rebels who once fought Gaddafi together, have forced the United Nations and Western governments to evacuate their diplomats, fearing Libya is sliding into civil war.

A statement by his office said Leon's Tripoli visit for talks would be conducted with the United Nations as the only international mediator accepted by all Libyan parties.

"It is in this framework (that) I am planning to travel to Tripoli as early as next week to continue to support the talks between the parties," it said.

Most of the fighting has raged over the international airport in Tripoli, which fighters from Zintan have controlled since sweeping into the capital during the 2011 war. Misrata and Zintan forces have exchanged barrages of Grad rockets, artillery fire and mortars across southern Tripoli, forcing hundreds of families from their homes and killing more than 200 people.

European Union envoy, Bernardino Leon

Libya's fragile government still has no national army and often put former rebels on the state payroll as semi-official security forces, as a way to co-opt them into the new state.

But the heavily armed rival brigades are allied with competing political factions and are often more loyal to their region, city or local commanders than to the Libyan central government.

"In my personal opinion, there are some urgent matters and a principle that should be agreed. The principle is that this should be a real ceasefire where ... I expect both sides to (both) talk in good faith and not to use it for military regroupment purposes," Leon said.

He said talks should address conflicts in other parts of Libya, the government control of airports with UN support, and the withdrawal of armed groups and their allies from Tripoli. Several thousands people rallied in Tripoli, Benghazi, Misrata and other cities against the Congress, which has called on the United Nations to protect civilians.—*Reuters*

Car crashes drop in Canada's BC due to tough driving laws

VANCOUVER, 16 Aug — A new study released by University of British Columbia shows that the drunk driving laws in British Columbia in west Canada is taking effect by forcing a drop in fatal car crashes and hospital admissions.

According to the study issued on Friday, the drunk driving laws which went into effect in 2010 in BC with harsher penalties for impaired driving and speeding have led to fewer crashes, with 21 percent decline in car crashes and 8 percent drop in crash-related hospital admissions.

The study said that each year since 2010, there have been 84 fewer fatal crashes, 308 fewer hospital admissions and 2,553 fewer ambulance calls for road trauma.

BC amended its Motor Vehicle Act in 2010 lowering the prohibited blood alcohol content (BAC) for drivers to .05 percent. The province also has some of Canada's toughest roadside impaired driving penalties. First-time offenders caught with a BAC between . 05 percent and .08 percent, can have their driver's license suspended on the spot for three days, and have their vehicle impounded for three days. Drivers with a BAC higher than .08 percent can have their license suspended for 90 days, in addition to facing Criminal Code charges. Jeffrey Brubacher, lead author of the new study, said in a statement that his team's findings suggested the new rules had led to "marked improvements" in road safety. The study said that based on those numbers and the latest figures, enforcement of the new laws along with media coverage have been responsible for the reduced number of fatal crashes and hospital admissions.—*Xinhua*

Japan-Cambodia direct flights to start next month: minister

PHNOM PENH, 16 Aug — A Japanese airline will launch regular direct flights from Japan to Cambodia next month in order to further boost economics, trade, and tourism ties between the two countries, Akihiro Ohta, visiting Japanese Minister of Land, Infrastructure, Transport and Tourism, said on Friday.

Ohta unveiled the plan during a meeting with Cambodian Prime Minister Hun Sen at the Peace Palace in Phnom Penh, the capital of Cambodia. "There will be direct flights from Narita Airport (Tokyo) to Phnom Penh in September and from Narita Airport to cultural city of Siem Reap Province in October," he said. He said Japan wanted to create cooperation with Cambodia in infrastructure sector such as the development of highways, clean water system and civil aviation. For his part, Hun Sen said he fully supported direct flight connection between the two nations as it would further broaden bilateral ties and cooperation.—*Xinhua*

Miley Cyrus causes hotel chaos

Los Angeles, 16 Aug — Pop star Miley Cyrus reportedly caused chaos in a New York hotel. The 21-year-old 'Wrecking Ball' hitmaker is said to have angered management and guests at the Greenwich Hotel when she stayed there on 2 August because she and her entourage were loud and out of control, reported E! online.

"It was like a tornado hit the lobby. Miley and her posse took over, screaming and carrying on so much that management received a number of complaints," a source said. "Led by Miley, someone in the group was smoking pot, and they were swearing loudly and throwing themselves all over the expensive furniture," it added. Cyrus reportedly told staff who asked her to be quieter they "should be glad to have her" because she has "spent so much money there".—*Reuters*

Pop star Miley Cyrus

Fans bid to sleep and dine at 'Downton Abbey' for charity

London, 16 Aug — Fans of the British costume drama "Downton Abbey" have spent a collective 40,750 pounds for a chance to sleep at the castle, take a butlering lesson on setting the table and have their portrait painted.

Auction house Christie's two-week online sale of 12 items and "experiences" gave fans a chance to live like the Crawleys, the fictional family at the centre of the show, at Highclere House, the real-life Victorian castle used as the location for the drama series.

The Emmy — and Golden Globe-winning drama focuses on the family and their servants in the early 20th century.

"Every lot found a buyer. With 'Downton Abbey's' great popularity, interest in the auction was geographically diverse," said Elizabeth Van Bergen, a Christie's spokeswoman.

Yet securing a lot at the auction required the kind of wealth the Crawleys possess.

The top lot attracted a bid of 16,000 pounds for an overnight stay in rooms used during the filming of the first season as the guests of the Earl and Countess of Carnarvon, whose family seat is at the 175-year-old Highclere Castle.

The visit includes cocktails, a three-course dinner and a traditional English breakfast in the state dining room, Van Bergen said.

The charity auction, which began on 1 August and wrapped up on Thursday, raised money for armed forces charities to support veterans and victims of war, Christie's said.

The cast of season 4 of Downton Abbey in an undated photo.—Reuters

Located in the rolling green countryside of Hampshire, England, Highclere is one of the few great country estates still occupied by its owners.

Most of its peers were sold or fell into disrepair as industrialization shook up British class traditions — which is reflected in "Downton Abbey" storylines.

Season 5 premieres in Britain in the autumn on ITV and in the United States in January on PBS.—*Reuters*

Shraddha Kapoor: I am greedy for great opportunity

Shraddha Kapoor

Mumbai, 16 Aug — Actress Shraddha Kapoor, who is half Maharashtrian and half Punjabi, hopes Marathi cinema gets more power with more films like Lai Bhaari. "It's great that a film like Lai Bhaari is doing so well. So, more power to Marathi cinema. I have not got any offers for Marathi films. But I never say never. I am greedy for a great opportunity," Shraddha said. Shraddha, whose father Shakti Kapoor is a Punjabi and mother Shivangi Kolhapure a Maharashtrian, can't speak Punjabi. But she is fluent in Marathi.

She is keen to watch Lai Bhaari, which marked Bollywood actor Riteish Deshmukh's foray in to Marathi cinema. It was lauded upon its release. "I really want to see Lal Bhaari. Riteish showed me the promo and I went completely nuts looking at it. I told him, 'This is one of the best promos I have ever seen and I dying to want to watch the film'."—*PTI*

Tallulah Willis checks into rehab

Tallulah Willis

Los Angeles, 16 Aug — Tallulah Willis, the daughter of actors Demi Moore and Bruce Willis, has entered rehab.

Tallulah was given an ultimatum by her parents to seek help at a treatment centre or they would take away everything from her, reported *People* magazine.

"Tallulah was pretty much given an ultimatum. Her parents were about to take away everything from her," a family friend said.

Tallulah reportedly checked into a treatment centre, The Meadows, in Arizona in late July to seek help for her alcohol and cocaine issues. The 20-year-old fashion blogger did post a cryptic "bai bai" message in one of her last tweets on 23 July.

Her former classmate in high school said she was struggling to cope with her mother's hospitalisation and subsequent rehab stint in 2012.

"When Demi was hospitalised, Tallulah didn't show up to school for days because she was too embarrassed. She was very open about Demi's issues and would sort of imply, 'Of course I have issues too, look at my mom'," the friend said.

Moore and Willis have visited Tallulah at the rehab.—*PTI*

Statue of sumo legend Taiho erected in birthplace in Russia

PORONAYSK, (Russia), 16 Aug — A ceremony to unveil a bronze statue of the late Japanese sumo legend Taiho was held on Friday in his birthplace Poronaysk in Sakhalin, eastern Russia, a move achieved through joint efforts by the Russian city and Japanese people.

"We hope obstacles hindering peace between Japan and Russia will be gone on the occasion of erecting this statue," Aleksandr Radomski, the mayor of Poronaysk in eastern Sakhalin, said during the ceremony.

It is rare for a Japanese person to be honoured with a statue in Russia.

The 2.3-metre-high statue of Taiho, who won a record 32 Grand Sumo tournaments and died last year at age 72, is located in a park. It depicts Taiho in a sumo wrestler's ceremonial apron and faces south toward Japan.

Citizens offered flowers at the statue. The ceremony was also attended by 69-year-old Toshio Kamada, a Japanese sculptor living in the village of Ogata, Akita Prefecture, who created the original mold.

Taiho, whose real name was Koki Naya, was born to a Ukrainian father who moved to Sakhalin and a Japanese mother. When he was 5 years old, he and family members aside from his father went to Japan's northernmost main island of Hokkaido from the area which is now called Poronaysk but was at that time held by Japan.

The family members had to flee from the invasion of the then Soviet Union, which had declared war on Japan shortly before the end of World War II in 1945.

Taiho had hoped to visit Sakhalin after retiring as a sumo wrestler, but the visit was not realized due to health and other reasons.

After Taiho passed away, the city of Poronaysk came up with a plan to erect a statue of him. Kamada in Ogata, Akita Prefecture, decided to take part in the project as he felt a connection with the sumo wrestler, given that Taiho's wife and other relatives were originally from the same northeastern prefecture.

Photo taken on 15 Aug, 2014, shows a ceremony to unveil a bronze statue of the late Japanese sumo legend Taiho in his birthplace Poronaysk in Sakhalin, eastern Russia. Toshio Kamada (far R), the Japanese sculptor who created the original mold was in attendance.
KYODO NEWS

Costs to mold the statue and to transport it to Russia were expected to reach 8 million yen, so people in Ogata sought donations. The statue was completed in July and the Russian city prepared a park and pedestal for it.—*Kyodo News*

"Return rush" of summer vacationers peaks in Japan

TOKYO, 16 Aug — The number of travellers returning after the Bon summer vacation peaked on Saturday, flooding public transportation and causing long traffic jams on expressways.

Seats on some shinkansen bullet trains heading for Tokyo were sold out from the morning, and reserve seats in the afternoon are almost fully booked, according to railway companies.

Most of the domestic flights of All Nippon Airways Co and Japan Airlines Co arriving at Tokyo's Haneda airport are also fully booked in the afternoon.

Traffic jams stretched 22 kilometres from the Tomei Expressway's Toyokawa interchange and 15 km from the Nirasaki interchange on the Chuo Expressway, both in central Japan, according to the Japan Road Traffic Information Centre.

Kyodo News

Ford recalls 160,000 Focus, Escape models for wiring problem

International flags fly along side the US flag in front of the Ford Motor Co headquarters in Dearborn, Michigan on 16 Dec, 2009.
REUTERS

DETROIT, 16 Aug — Ford Motor Co (F.N) is recalling nearly 160,000 Focus ST sedans and Escape crossovers from model years 2013-2014 to correct a wiring problem that could affect engine performance, the company said on Friday.

There are no crashes or injuries attributed to the problem, Ford said. It did not specify how many of each vehicle are covered by the recall.

It is the 11th recall for the 2013 Escape. The compact crossover, one of Ford's best-selling US models, was redesigned for the 2013 model year.

Ford said wiring harnesses on vehicles with 2.0-liter engines could have poor electrical connections that could affect the powertrain control module. Dealers will fix the cars for free.

About 133,000 of the cars are in the United States, and the rest in Canada and Mexico.

Reuters

'Mission Blue' film charts scientist's quest to save oceans

NEW YORK, 16 Aug — From the Galapagos Islands to Australia's Coral Sea and a marine park off the coast of Mexico, the documentary "Mission Blue" navigates the journey of renowned oceanographer Sylvia Earle as she travels the globe to save the planet's threatened seas. With stunning underwater footage, the film that airs on Friday on the online streaming service Netflix and in selected US theaters, shows the devastating impact of pollution, overfishing and climate change on the oceans through the eyes of the renowned scientist, explorer and author who has been charting it for decades.

"I really wanted to make people aware of this woman and her life because she is such an incredible person and has dedicated so much of her life toward the ocean," Fisher Stevens, 50, who co-directed the film with Robert Nixon, said in an interview.

Stevens, an actor and producer of the 2010 Oscar-winning dolphin-hunting documentary "The Cove," met Earle, 78, while filming her trip to the Galapagos Islands with scientists, explorers and policy makers more than four years ago.

The trip was a brainstorming session to protect the world's oceans and to create "hope spots," underwater national parks and conservation areas where dredging, drilling, dumping and commercial fishing is prohibited. "Mission Blue" chronicles Earle's life from her childhood in New Jersey and on the Gulf Coast of Florida, her pioneering days as a marine biologist in a field dominated by men, her underwater expeditions and lecture tours to promote marine conservation.

Stevens dons scuba gear to accompany Earle as she examines the environmental changes she has witnessed over decades. Earle has led more than 100 ocean research expeditions and logged thousands of hours underwater. The film also details the story of Cabo Pulmo, a village in Mexico where fishermen made a good living until the fish disappeared. Years after fishing was stopped the ocean recovered and the area attracts eco-tourists.—*Reuters*

MYANMAR TV

(17-8-2014, Sunday)

6:00 am
* Paritta by Venerable Mingun Sayadaw

7:00 am
* News/Weather Report

7:20 am
* MRTV's Youth Programme

8:30 am
* Amazing World

9:00 am
* News/ International News

10:15 am
* Science and Technology Programme

11:05 am
* Gitadagale Phwintbarohn

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

12:35 pm
* Myanmar Movie

3:00 pm
* News

3:40 pm
* Teleplay

4:35 pm
* University of Distance Education (TV Lectures) -Third Year (Myanmar)

5:00 pm
* News

5:15 pm
* Sing & Enjoy

6:20 pm
* Cartoon Series

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

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

9:00 pm
* News
* Teleplay

MYANMAR INTERNATIONAL

(17-8-14 07:00 am~ 18-8-14 07:00 am) MST

* Local News
* Products of Myanmar - Power Ring
* World News
* Porcelain and Glass
* Local News
* The Iron Rider
* World News
* Traditional Snacks
* Local News
* Me N My Travel With Maria (Pyay-Shwe San Taw) (Episode-4) (Part-2)
* World News
* In The Studio: Side Effect
* Local News
* Sitagu International Buddhist Academy (Part-3)
* World News
* "Myanmar Movies Review" The Goddess of the Golden Abode
* Local News
* Great Shwedagon: Charitable Associations
* World News
* Graffiti: Character Art
* Local News
* Shwe Kyet Yet-Shwe Kyat Kya's Boat Race Festival
* World News
* Myanmar Chef (Japanese)
* Local News
* Crab Business - Soft Shell Crab (Part-II)
* World News
* Ngapali Beach: Real Paradise
* Local News
* Flying Without Wings-My Great Limitless Adventure — Inle lake (Part-1)
* World News
* Dengue Fever

The New Light of Myanmar

Oscar award helps Drogba get No 11 Chelsea shirt back

*Chelsea's Didier Drogba (R) runs with his teammates as they warm up before their friendly soccer match against Real Sociedad at Stamford Bridge in London on 12 Aug, 2014.—*Reuters

London, 16 Aug — Didier Drogba praised an Oscar performance on Friday when the returning Chelsea great was handed the number 11 shirt he made famous during his first spell at Stamford Bridge.

Drogba displaces the Brazil international who instead took the number eight jersey vacated by Manchester City loan signing Frank Lampard after the London club released their squad numbers for the new season.

"I am very pleased to be able to return to the number 11 shirt and I am very grateful to Oscar for allowing me to make this change," the influential Ivorian told the club website (www.chelseafc.com).

Drogba last donned the jersey when he scored the winning penalty in the Champions League final against Bayern Munich in May 2012.

He wore the number 15 during pre-season, the shirt he originally had when he first signed for Chelsea from Olympique de Marseille in 2004.

"Didier is a Chelsea legend and a senior player. I am happy for him to take the 11 and for me to take the eight," Oscar said. "Lamps is another legend at this club and I hope I will be as successful in the shirt as he was."

Goalkeeper Thibaut Courtois, returning to Chelsea after a loan spell at Atletico Madrid, has been given the 13 shirt while new signings Cesc Fabregas, Diego Costa and Filipe Luis will wear numbers four, 19 and three respectively.

Manager Jose Mourinho told Chelsea TV he expects Drogba to recover from an ankle injury in time for their opening Premier League game at promoted Burnley on Monday. *Reuters*

NASCAR tells drivers to stay in cars in wake of fatal crash

Charlotte, (North Carolina), 16 Aug — NASCAR on Friday said it would forbid drivers from getting out of their cars during caution periods following an on-track fatality last weekend when three-time champion Tony Stewart struck another driver.

The most widely followed motorsports organization in the United States said the new rule would require drivers involved in accidents to remain in their car unless it was unsafe to do so due to fire or smoke.

A track safety official would then direct the driver to leave the car and walk directly to an ambulance or other vehicle. The new rule puts into the books something that had "been informal, just an understanding," said Robin Pemberton, NASCAR's vice president of competition and racing development.

*NASCAR Sprint Cup Series driver Tony Stewart (14) during practice for the Cheez-It 355 at Watkins Glen International on 9 Aug, 2014.—*Reuters

Stewart struck Kevin Ward, Jr, 20, during a dirt track race last Saturday in upstate New York after Ward left his car and pointed at Stewart while standing in the middle of the track. "You have to recognize when you get a reminder or tap on the shoulder, something that may need to be addressed," Pemberton told a news conference at the Michigan International Speedway in Brooklyn, Michigan. "It was time to address this."

No charges have been filed against the 43-year-old Stewart, one of the sport's biggest names. The investigation has not yet been completed.

Stewart will not take part in the Michigan 400 on Sunday, the second straight NASCAR race he will skip following the deadly incident in Canandaigua, New York, his team said. Jeff Burton will take Stewart's place in the race.—*Reuters*

Harrington misses cut, loses PGA Tour exempt status

Greensboro, (North Carolina), 16 Aug — Three-times major champion Padraig Harrington lost his exempt status on the PGA Tour after missing the cut at the Wyndham Championship on Friday. The Irishman, whose form decline over the past couple of years has been both precipitous and unexpected, will rely on tournament invitations next season.

There are no guarantees he will get into every event he wants, but his status as a multiple major winner should help.

Harrington has the option of taking a one-season exemption as one of the tour's all-time top 50 money winners, but he wants to save that option for another time. The 42-year-old also has some exempt status as a former champion, but that will get him into only a handful of tournaments.

Harrington hopes to start playing again as soon as the new season starts in October. In retrospect, he thinks he started his schedule too late this season, and had too much catching up to do.

"I was 12 tournaments into the season before I played over here (this season)," he told reporters after shooting a 72 for a four-over-par 144 total at Sedgefield on Friday.

"I could do with (a break but) I'll probably end up playing 34 events this year. It's too much."

Not that he feels like he has much choice.

Harrington finished 16th on the money list last year and barely kept his card. This year he was ranked 88th starting the Wyndham Championship, the final event of the season for players who do not qualify for the playoffs.

"My expectations were very high this week," he said. "I didn't play well. I just can't get out of my own way. I'm certainly working on some good things but it will probably happen when I least expect it."—*Reuters*

*Padraig Harrington of Ireland tees off on the 10th hole during the first round of the 2014 PGA Championship at Valhalla Golf Club in Louisville, Kentucky on 7 Aug, 2014.—*Reuters

Navratilova hails Mauresmo's coaching breakthrough

*Amelie Mauresmo, newly appointed coach of Britain's Andy Murray, joins Murray for a training sesssion at the Wimbledon Tennis Championships, in London on 1 July, 2014.—*Reuters

Singapore, 16 Aug — Men's tennis will see a flurry of women coaches after Andy Murray broke down a gender barrier by hiring Amelie Mauresmo, says 18-times grand slam singles champion Martina Navratilova who is open to tutoring men.

Briton Murray raised eyebrows with the appointment of former world number one Mauresmo in June but Czech-born American great Navratilova said gender should not be an issue when a player, male or female, selects a new trainer to work with.

"When I looked for a coach gender never entered into it. I never thought I need a male coach or a female coach, it never occurred to me," the 57-year-old told a small group of reporters in Singapore on Friday.

"In fact my first coach was a transgender, Renee Richards. It doesn't matter, the ball doesn't know if you are male or female, the strategy is the same. I know I could coach a man and I know there are plenty of women who could coach a man."

The Mauresmo-Murray partnership is not the first of its kind with Billie Jean King previously tutoring American compatriot Tim Mayotte, while Marat Safin, Murray and Denis Istomin have all been coached by their mothers.

But Murray, winner of the 2012 US Open and 2013 Wimbledon title, is certainly the most high profile male tennis player to opt for a woman coach.

"If a guy like Murray doesn't care why should anybody else care? It widens the field and widens the possibilities," said Navratilova, the winner of 167 singles and 177 doubles titles on tour. "I'm sure for some guys it hadn't occurred to them to hire a women and its a case in all the sports. We don't questions men's coaches coaching women's teams but we question women coaching men's teams, why is that?—*Reuters*

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