

Vice President Dr Sai Mauk Kham opens Science Fair 2014 at Yangon University

YANGON, 24 Aug— Vice President Dr Sai Mauk Kham formally opened the Science Fair-2014 at the Arts Hall in Yangon University on Sunday morning. At the opening ceremony, the vice president said the government has been carrying out education reforms to improve the education standards of Myanmar since it took office by inviting advice from experts at educational workshops as educational (See page 3)

ASEAN Economic Ministers to focus issues on AEC, FTA between ASEAN and its dialogue partners

NAY PYI TAW, 24 Aug — ASEAN economic ministers will discuss issues related to ASEAN Economic Community, Implementation of tasks by sectoral working groups of ASEAN, implementation over free trade area agreements between ASEAN and its dialogue partners at the 46th ASEAN Economic Ministers' meeting which will be held from 25 to 28 August, according to the sources from the Ministry of National Planning and Economic Development.

ASEAN economic ministers will also discuss progress of their economic cooperation and focus on the ASEAN's service liberalization, on talks on the Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership (RCEP) and the elimination of non-tariff barriers once

ASEAN international goes into effect in 2015.

Issues on service and investment liberalization with Japan, as well as upgrade its existing free-trade pacts with China and South Korea will be finalized at the meeting.

Besides, ASEAN will sign four agreements on the liberalization of more service businesses; agree to amend FTAs with Australia and New Zealand; sign an FTA with India; and agree on the acceptance of accounting professionals among ASEAN members, according to sources.

NLM

Economic cooperation, service liberalization, elimination of non-tariff barriers to be discussed at 46th AEMM.—MNA



ASEAN Youth Football Tournament 2014 champions Myanmar arrive home holding trophy

By Ye Myint

YANGON, 24 Aug — Myanmar's U-19 football team was given a hero's welcome when they arrived at Yangon International Airport with the Hassanal Bolkiah Trophy (HBT) for the ASEAN Youth Football Championship 2014 held in Brunei on Sunday.

Crowds of football fans gathered at the airport to welcome back Myanmar's new generation at Yangon International Airport who celebrated their win against Vietnam and lifted the Hassanal Bolkiah Trophy.

(See page 2)

Victorious Myanmar's U-19 football team receives heroes' welcome on their return home.
YE MYINT



Myanma Airways to launch Osaka flight

OSAKA, 24 Aug—Myanma Airways International said it will inaugurate a flight linking Myanmar's biggest metropolis Yangon and Osaka via the Cambodian capital Phnom Penh three times a week on Oct 8.

This will be the first scheduled flight, though technically operated as a charter service, to Cambodia from Osaka's Kansai International Airport, according to the airport operator. This will also be the first flight to Myanmar since March 2000 when All Nippon Airways discontinued a service to and from the Osaka gateway.

The Myanmar flag carrier stands to benefit from strong demand from (See page 3)

MR launches third air-conditioned carriage

YANGON, 24 Aug—Union Ministers for Rail Transportation U Than Htay, Union Minister for Transport U Nyan Tun Aung, Yangon Chief Minister U Myint Swe launched the third air-conditioned

coach of Yangon circular train on Sunday.

The coach can give seat to 239 passengers together with 427 standing passengers. Locomotive operator can control the automatic door system of the

carriage.

Myanma Railways has provided 15 new carriages across the nation including Yangon circular railroad from September 2013 to date.

MNA

Dy Construction Minister views progress of Bayintnaung Overpass-2, Shwelon housing

YANGON, 24 Aug—Deputy Minister for Construction Dr Win Myint looked into installation of iron frames at Bayintnaung

Overpass No 2 and construction of approach structure in Mayangon Township of Yangon on Saturday.

The deputy minister

also inspected construction tasks on 51st street in Botahtaung Township and Shwelon housing project in Bahan Township.—MNA



Deputy Minister for Construction Dr Win Myint inspects a housing project as Yangon demands more affordable apartments for increasing population.—MNA

Myanmar seizes \$ 20m worth drug haul

YANGON, 24 Aug—Myanmar authorities arrested 15 men and seized the largest shipment of illegal drugs in the history of country, according to the report of Bangkok Post on Sunday quoting officials.

The navy intercepted a ship near southern town of Kawthoung, at the border of Thailand with around 2,400,000 stimulant tablets.

The estimated value of these illegal drugs is worth up to US\$20 million.

"This seizure is the largest amount in history," senior anti-drug official Myint Oo said.

Fifteen men including the captain were arrested and detained at police station last week, he said.

Myanma Airwats to . . .

(from page 1)

Japanese tourists visiting Buddhist heritage sites in Myanmar. Counting on

Authorities in July seized heroin with an estimated value of \$2.3 million in the eastern town of Tachilek in Shan state bordering with Thailand.

In June, Myanmar incinerated around \$130 million worth of seized drugs, including 1.3 tonnes of opium, 225 kilogrammes of heroin and 1.2 tonnes of methamphetamine tablets.

To maintain the momentum of war against drug, Myanmar has announced extension of its 15-year drug eradication plan from 1999 to 2014 for another five years until 2019, while the original 15-year plan has reached the last year of its final five-year phase before it was extended.—NLM

demand from business travellers, the airline is considering upgrading the service from a charter to a regular scheduled flight, it added.

Kyodo News

Outstanding offspring of motion picture organization honoured



Deputy Minister for Information U Pike Htway presents prize to an outstanding student in matriculation examination.—MNA

YANGON, 24 Aug—Deputy Minister for Information U Pike Htway and Chairman of Myanmar Motion Picture Organization awarded prizes organization members' offspring who passed the matriculation examination for 2013-14 academic year with flying colours, at the ceremony of the organization on Wingabar Street in Ba-

han Township on Sunday.

U Khin Maung Chin of the awarding committee explained the purpose of the awarding ceremony.

Patrons of the organization film Director U Bagyi Soe Moe and film Director U Hnin Moe accepted K7.31 million donated by departments and enterprises under the ministry, Mingalar Company

Ltd, Junction Cineplex, 5 Network Channel and Forever Group Co Ltd.

The organization has held the ceremony to honour the outstanding students for the ninth time. This year, prizes were presented to one five-distinction winner, two two-distinction winners and one one-distinction winner.

MNA

Suspected Ebola patient shows sign of improvement

NAY PYI TAW, 24 Aug—The suspected Ebola patient at Waibagi Specialist Hospital is getting better day by day while other four people who had close contact with him were found no health

problems, the Ministry of Health announced on Sunday.

The suspected patient receiving malaria treatment by the specialist as they believed that the patient suffers from severe

and complicated Malaria with mixed infection of plasmodium falciparum and plasmodium vivax.

According to the specialists, the patient has not experienced bleeding symptoms.

At University of Medicine-1, a combined team including medical specialists held a discussion on controlling the patient's disease in Yangon on that day, the Ministry added.

MNA

ASEAN Youth Football Tournament...

(from page 1)

Walking through the airport's arrival gate, the champions, who claimed as the HBT for the first time by beating Vietnam 4-3 in the final at the National Stadium in Brunei Darussalam on Saturday night, were greeted by rousing cheers.

"I was here to honour them as they all have same unselfish motives, knowing to do what is the best for the team. That's why their efforts were finally crowned with success," a 30-year-old taxi driver at the airport told The New Light of Myanmar.

He added that the game had a thrilling finale, with Aung Thu scor-



Victorious soccer players from Myanmar U-19 team being honoured by officials and fans at Yangon International Airport.

PHOTO: YE MYINT

ing the winning goal to bring home the trophy in the 82nd minute after Viet-

nam leveled the score 3-3 on 72nd minutes.

Myanmar was the

only unbeaten team in the group stage of the event.—NLM

NATIONAL

Vice President Dr Sai Mauk Kham opens Science . . .

(from page 1)

development is the foundation of the national development.

While reform in the higher education sector is being speeded up as the third wave of the reform process, measures that must be taken include nurturing new generation human resources to become intellectuals, improving the quality of teachers in the higher education sector, application of teaching aids, adoption of modern curricula and raising the education standard to the international level, the vice president added.

The vice president said that he was proud of the fact the science fairs organized by experts from universities and technology companies at home and abroad could be held at the university for the first time in many years as a result of universities becoming independent.

Government organiza-

tions and technology companies are opening 60 exhibition booths of teaching aid and research equipment and experts will give lectures on research and various subjects, according to the vice president.

The objectives of the science fairs include nurturing scientific thinking skills in students, instilling them with the mentality of scientists, spreading knowledge about teaching aids, research equipment and technology among the public and increasing the research and teaching and learning cooperation among universities, industrial manufacturers and socioeconomic organizations.

In conclusion, the vice president said the government is increasing the education budget year by year and thanked those who have organized the science fairs successfully.

Lectures on science and technology will be held at the Recreation Centre



Vice President Dr Sai Mauk Kham views round machinery and equipment innovated by students and faculty members at Science Fair 2014 at Arts Hall of Yangon University.—MNA

and the Arts Hall at Yangon University every day. Although the science fair was arranged to open from 23 to 25 August, it will be open until 26 August to fulfill the wish of enthusiasts.

Then, the vice presi-

dent proceeded to the training centre of Yangon General Hospital and met with union minister for health, the chief minister of Yangon Region, officials and faculty members.

At the meeting, the

vice president explained the purpose of his second visit to the hospital for the second time. Yangon Region Chief Minister U Myint Swe and Union Minister for Health Dr Than Aung reported to the vice pres-

ident on measures being taken to improve conditions at the hospital.

The vice president urged the officials to speed up the maintenance work at the hospital before leaving.—MNA

Mandalay region development discussed



Union Ministers U Soe Thane and U Tin Naing Thein focus on development of Mandalay Region in meeting with departmental officials.—MNA

NAY PYI TAW, 24 Aug — Union Ministers at the President Office U Soe Thane and U Tin Naing Thein held a meeting with Mandalay Region ministers and departmental officials as well as towns' elders on

Sunday in Mandalay to discuss regional development tasks. At the meeting, they discussed easing traffic congestion, reducing traffic accidents and controlling drug trafficking in the region.

The Union ministers

urged the officials to actively participate in the country's reform process and to hold meetings severally to emerge a perfect education system that can actually support development of human resources. Later,

the Union ministers heard the reports on the requirements of the townships in the region raised by the officials.—MNA

Over six thousand job seekers apply for jobs at Fifth Myanmar Job Fairs

YANGON, 24 Aug — The opening ceremony of the fifth Myanmar Job Fairs organized by Myanmar Youth Entrepreneurs Association took place at the Tatmadaw Convention Hall in Yangon on Friday. The opening ceremony was attended by Union Minister for Labour, Employment and Social Security U Aye Myint and officials.

The union minister said that the purpose of the fairs is to bring together the businesses that create best

job opportunities home and abroad and qualified youths who are seeking best jobs at the same place without spending much time and money as a one stop service and that his ministry is encouraging such fairs as they can create job opportunities for Myanmar youths. The job fairs continued until today and 76 companies home and abroad displayed 131 booths where a total of 6,055 job seekers applied for available jobs.—MNA

Tokyo Pipe donates water supply equipment for Yangon region

YANGON, 24 Aug — Tokyo Pipe of Myanmar Pipe & Accessories Co., Ltd on Sunday donated K10 million worth water-supply equipment for rural development programmes in Yangon region.

The tools manufactured from the company have won the ISO 9001: 2008 Quality Management System certifications.

The donation ceremony held at Sedona Hotel was attended by Union Minister for Commerce U Win Myint, Yangon Region chief minister U Myint Swe, Yangon Region Hluttaw Speaker U Sein Tin Win, deputy Minister for Commerce Dr. Pwint Hsan, regional ministers and president of UMFCCL. At the event, U Myint Swe congratulated

the company on the certificate for the qualities of their products.

Then the management of the company explained the services of companies.

Yangon Mayor U Hla Myint also accepted K5 million worth water supply equipment provided by the company for development plans of YCDC in the city areas.—MNA



Union Minister U Aye Myint visits 5th Myanmar Job Fair as creation of job opportunities for the people.—MNA

Tube-well supplies drinking water to rural people

MAHLAING, 24 Aug—Department of Water Resource Utilization and well-wishers sink tube-wells for supply of drinking water to the rural people.

A tube-well and a water tank were put into service in KanU Village of Mahlaing Township of Mandalay Region on 18 August.

Wellwisher Dr Chit (former deputy minister)-Daw Kyi Kyi Nyunt and local authorities formally



mally opened the signboard of the tube-well.

Deputy Minister for

Culture Daw Sanda Khin explained the purpose of donations and wellwisher

South and north Pinle Dams irrigating farmlands



MYINGYAN, 24 Aug—Myingyan District Deputy Commissioner U Myint Thin Aung inspected flow of water into South Pinle

and North Pinle dams and irrigation of water to farmlands and cultivation of paddy plants on sawn acreage in Myingyan of Mandalay re-

cently. North Pinle Dam irrigates 350 acres of paddy and South Pinle Dam, 150 acres.

Zaw Min Naing
(Myingyan)

Traffic islands under construction at Kalay junction

KALAY, 24 Aug — Local roads in Kalay have been expanded to both sides, installed with solar traffic lights.

Now, traffic islands are under construction at the junctions for ensuring

traffic safety of the people.

The traffic islands will be 150 feet long and 1.5 feet wide to be installed with steel rails.

Chairman of Kalay District Management Committee U Maung Htoo

and official supervised timely completion of construction of the traffic islands.

Upon completion, the Kalay junction will be pleasant and safe of traffic.

Joe Net



Libraries of Paungde Township get new publications



PYAY, 24 Aug—In order to raise reading habit of rural people, wellwisher U Aung Tun (Seikkantha) donated more than K300,000 worth publications for rural libraries in Paungde Township of Bago Region on Sunday.

These publications were handed over the Township Information and Public Relations Department through the official from Township Writers Association.

NLM-017

Foreign students of MUFL host farewell party



MANDALAY, 24 Aug—A farewell party of foreign students who pursued Myanmar language was held at Mandalay University of Foreign Languages for 2013-14 academic year at its assembly hall on 22 August, attended by Chairman of Mandalay Region My-

anmar-China Friendship Association Rector (Rtd) U Po Myint and officials.

Head/Dean of Myanmar Language Dr Soe Moe Moe of MUFL extended greetings and Chairman of Myanmar Language Association Assistant Lecturer Dr Myo Min Nyein ex-

plained the purpose of the farewell party.

Advanced one year course student Ma Yin Yin (Ms Zhao Ya) spoke words of thanks and the foreign students performed dances and songs to the audiences.

Thiha Ko Ko
(Mandalay)

Earthen pots marketable in Magway Township

TAUNGDWINGYI, 24 Aug — Earthen pots produced from Kokkogwa Village in Taungdwingyi Township are on high demand at the earthen wares market in Magway of Magway Region. Kokkogwa Village, located near ancient Beikthanoe city of Pyu era, is engaged in pottery industry in its tradition, with evidences of ancient pots and earth wares around the city area.

Local people produce pots as their traditional tasks, focusing on vases and cooking pots. One cottage industry can manufacture 200 pots per day. The products from Kokkogwa Village are transported to Taungdwingyi, Magway and Minbu townships by car, fetching one water pot per K600-K800 and vase per K300.

Phu Pwint Naygyi (Magway)



REGIONAL

China rejects US criticism over jet encounter

BEIJING, 24 Aug — China on Saturday called US criticism of an approach by one of its jets to a US Navy patrol plane off the Chinese coast earlier this week “completely groundless” and said its pilot had maintained a safe distance from the US aircraft.

The strongly-worded statement attributed to Ministry of National Defence spokesman Yang Yujun was a response to a diplomatic complaint the Pentagon filed with Beijing on Friday.

The complaint concerned an 19 August encounter about 215 km (135 miles) east of China’s Hainan Island in which a Chinese fighter jet came within metres (yards) of a US P-8 Poseidon anti-submarine



A US Navy P-8 Poseidon aircraft takes off from Perth International Airport in this 16 April, 2014 file photo. — REUTERS

and reconnaissance plane and, the US claimed, performed acrobatic maneuvers around it.

In its statement, the Chinese defence ministry said the J-11 jet was con-

ducting routine checks and described the pilot’s actions as professional.

The United States’ frequent short-range reconnaissance missions threatened the safety of both mil-

itary, it said.

It urged the US to reduce short-range reconnaissance against China and to respect international law and conventions.

Reuters

IAEA inspection on Parchin base unnecessary

TEHERAN, 24 Aug — The International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) has no need to revisit Iran’s Parchin military base, as no new development has taken place there since the UN inspectors’ last visit, Iran’s Defence Minister Brigadier General Hossein Dehqan said on Saturday. “The IAEA inspectors have visited Parchin before, and we have addressed their questions, and they have inspected the locations they wanted and took samples ... Therefore, we think there is no need for giving them more access to the site,” *Tasnim* news agency quoted Dehqan as saying on Saturday.

The UN nuclear agency’s reports have never shown any suspicious activity at Parchin, the Iranian minister said ahead of an 25 August deadline for Iran to provide a new set of information on its nuclear programme to the IAEA.

Although investigation in Parchin has not been included in the agreement between Iran and the IAEA, visits to the military base have been an urgent demand of the UN nuclear watchdog to certify the peaceful nature of Iran’s nuclear programme.

On 13 Jan, 2005, IAEA inspectors were allowed access to the Parchin military base as a confidence-building measure. —Xinhua

Annual live-fire GSDF exercise held near Mt Fuji

GOTEMBA, (Japan), 24 Aug—An annual large-scale live-fire exercise for the Ground Self-Defence Force took place on Sunday in Gotemba, Shizuoka Prefecture, near Mt Fuji, with the nation’s air, sea and ground forces simulating the retaking of an outlying island captured by an enemy. Around 44 tons of live ammunition, worth some 350 million yen, were prepared for the exercise with a scenario reflecting Tokyo’s growing emphasis on defending far-flung islands.

In the Fuji Firepower Review, held in the ground force’s East Fuji Maneuver Area in the foothills of the nation’s highest peak, artillery shells and antitank guided missiles were fired. Defence Minister Itsunori Onodera also inspected the annual event, which draws many members of the public. The exercise has been held every year since 1961.—Kyodo News

Fire breaks out at major Indian tourist attraction

NEW DELHI, 24 Aug — A fire broke out Sunday morning at a major tourist attraction, the Jaipur City Palace in the state capital of the western Indian state Rajasthan, without causing any casualty, said local media.

The *Press Trust of India* quoted police as saying the fire broke out in the office of the museum and no one was injured in the incident while fire tenders were putting the fire under control.

City Palace is a palace complex in the Pink City of Jaipur and was the former seat of the Maharaja or king of Rajasthan, which draws many tourists.—Xinhua

Two dead in landslide on remote Rebun Island off coast of Hokkaido

ASAHIKAWA, 24 Aug — Two people died on Sunday afternoon in a landslide triggered by heavy rain on remote Rebun Island off the coast of Hokkaido, municipal officials said.

The two residents of the town of Rebun showed no signs of life when they were pulled from rubble of a home destroyed by the landslide, the officials said, adding that landslides have also occurred in other parts of the town, with residents evacuating to an elementary school and other shelters. Over the 24-hour period from 1:40 pm on Saturday, 183 millimetres of rain fell in the town, the most since record-keeping began in 2003, according to the Sapporo branch of the Japan Meteorological Agency.

Kyodo News

3,500 Filipinos in Ebola-affected African countries to be evacuated

MANILA, 24 Aug — The Philippine government is set to evacuate nearly 3,500 Filipino workers in three Ebola-hit states in Africa, the Department of Foreign Affairs (DFA) said on Sunday.

“We are preparing for the implementation of mandatory repatriation of Filipinos in Guinea, Liberia and Sierra Leone in view of the threat posed by Ebola virus disease,” DFA spokesman Charles Jose said in a statement.

Jose said there are 880

Filipinos in Guinea, 632 in Liberia, including 148 peacekeepers and 1,979 in Sierra Leone.

Earlier, a Filipino sailor, who was suspected to have contracted the deadly virus, tested negative for Ebola and was instead diagnosed with flu.

The World Health Organization has declared Ebola epidemic a global emergency after the virus killed 1,350 this year, with most deaths in Liberia, Sierra Leone and Guinea.

Xinhua

Iran unveils homemade missiles, drones

TEHERAN, 24 Aug — Iran unveiled two home-made missiles and two drones on Sunday in a ceremony attended by President Hassan Rouhani.

Qadir (Almighty) missile, with a range of 300 km, is used for destroying marine targets. It can be either launched from sea vessels or by other missile systems, according to official *IRNA* news agency.

Nasr-e-Basir (Astute Victory) cruise missile carries a searching head, and operates silently and smartly, said the report without detailing on the range of the *Nasr-e Basir*.

Also, Iran launched two drones named *Karrar 4* (Striker 4) and *Mohajer 4* (Immigrant 4). *Karrar 4* is an interceptor of flying objects and *Mohajer 4* provides aerial maps for military and civilian purposes. No further details were given by the report.

In June, Iran unveiled a long-range radar system to enhance its air defence. The radar system, also dubbed *Qadir*, had a range of about 1,100 km and could monitor its surrounding radius round the clock and detect small three dimensional targets. —Xinhua



Wang Ning (3rd L), chief director of the anti-terror drill and deputy chief of the People’s Liberation Army (PLA) general staff, watch the performance of traditional Chinese art ahead of the Peace Mission-2014 anti-terror drill at the Zhurihe training base, north China’s Inner Mongolia Autonomous Region, on 23 Aug, 2014. The drill will be held from 24 Aug to 29 Aug among troops from China, Russia, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan and Tajikistan. —XINHUA

Merkel says tightening Ukraine-Russian border is key to peace deal



Ukraine's President Petro Poroshenko (R) greets Germany's Chancellor Angela Merkel in Kiev on 23 Aug, 2014. —REUTERS

KIEV, 24 Aug — German Chancellor Angela Merkel said on Saturday the standoff over Ukraine could be solved but only if control was tightened over the Ukraine-Russia border across which, the West alleges, Russia has been funnelling arms to help a separatist. Merkel was visiting Kiev as a prelude to a meeting next week between the Russian and Ukrainian leaders that diplomats say is the best chance in months of a peace deal in eastern Ukraine, where government forces are fighting pro-Moscow separatists.

She arrived as tensions flared up again. NATO has alleged Russia's military is

active inside Ukraine helping the separatists, and Moscow angered Kiev and its Western allies by sending an aid convoy into Ukraine against Kiev's wishes.

"There must be two sides to be successful. You cannot achieve peace on your own. I hope the talks with Russia will lead to success," Merkel said, looking ahead to the meeting on Tuesday involving Russian President Vladimir Putin and his Ukrainian counterpart Petro Poroshenko.

"The plans are on the table, about how you can achieve peace and good cooperation between the countries. Now actions must follow," she told a

news briefing.

She said the main obstacle was the lack of controls along the nearly 2,000 km (1,300 mile) border. She proposed a deal between Kiev and Moscow on monitoring of the frontier by the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE). "Now we need a two-sided ceasefire linked to a clear controlling of the Russian-Ukrainian border, otherwise peace won't be achieved," Merkel said.

Diplomats say Merkel came to Kiev with two objectives: primarily to show support for Kiev but also to urge Poroshenko to be open to peace proposals when he meets Putin next week in

the Belarus capital, Minsk.

Poroshenko, whose forces have been forcing the rebels to retreat, said Kiev had offered ceasefires before and they were flouted. He said no peace deal was worth sacrificing Ukraine's territorial integrity, and placed the blame at Russia's door. "Ukraine is ready and capable of guaranteeing a peaceful settlement," Poroshenko said. "What is stopping us are the foreign mercenaries. Take the people with guns out of our territory....and peace in Ukraine will be quickly restored."

Hours before Merkel's plane landed in Kiev, there was heavy artillery bombardment in Donetsk, the main separatist stronghold on the east of Ukraine, near the border with Russia. Reuters reporters saw apartments destroyed and puddles of blood, where, according to residents, two civilians were killed.

Reuters photographer saw three dead bodies of civilians in the eastern part of Donetsk 7 km (about 4 miles) from the centre after shelling in the afternoon.

Witnesses said the bodies belonged to a family which had run out of their home to take cover in a bomb shelter.

The unusually intense shelling may be part of a drive by government forces to achieve a breakthrough against the rebels in time for Ukrainian Independence Day, which falls on Sunday.—Reuters

Defence Ministry eyes record-high budget request of over 5 tril yen

TOKYO, 24 Aug — The Defence Ministry plans to request a record-high 5.05 trillion yen budget for fiscal 2015 from next April which focuses on measures to bolster their defence of remote islands, government officials said Saturday.

The budget request to be announced next Friday, including US military realignment costs, marks an increase of 3.5 percent from the budget earmarked for the current fiscal year and comes at a time when Prime Minister Shinzo Abe is eyeing a security policy overhaul.

While a senior ministry official attributed the increase mainly to the purchase of two new government planes for use by the prime minister and imperial family members, a prioritized allocation is made to remote island defence.

The budget request for the next fiscal year covers 19 billion yen for measures to protect such islands, including an amphibious land acquisition costs con-

nected to the deployment of the US military's MV-22 Ospreys to Saga airport in southwestern Japan, the officials said.

The ministry will also seek 5 million yen in research costs to introduce new vessels similar to the US Navy's amphibious assault ships to engage in missions such as landing on remote islands, and 35.4 billion yen for using two passenger ferries to transport Ground Self-Defence Force troops, the officials said.

The budget includes 95.9 billion yen to acquire six F-35 stealth fighters which will serve as the Air Self-Defence Force's next-generation main fighter jets.

The ministry wants to allocate 378.10 billion yen for the bulk purchase of 20 P-1 jet aircraft succeeding the aging P-3C.

The ministry will also ask for 7 billion yen for the development of new patrol helicopters to step up submarine surveillance, the officials said.

Kyodo News

We will not interfere with Republika Srpska elections



BELGRADE, 24 Aug — Serbia will not interfere in any way with the electoral process in Republika Srpska (RS), or support any side, Serbian Prime Minister Aleksandar Vucic said.

I am in no way engaged in the elections in Republika Srpska, Vucic told Belgrade-based daily *Danas*, and underlined that Serbia will respect the will of the people and not voice its support to any of the candidates.

RS President Milorad Dodik also told *Danas* that he does not expect the support of Belgrade.

"In that respect, the position of Serbia's government is neutral. I expect the support of the people, that is, of the voters. I think that we have done everything to stabilize RS and the people appreciate that," stressed Dodik.

"I did not even consider inviting any Serbian leaders to the campaign events, but I think that they made it very clear that they do not want to interfere in any way with the electoral process in RS and that they would not accept such an invitation," added Dodik.

"We are perfectly content with the neutrality of Serbia's state leadership regarding the elections in BiH," said Dodik.—Tanjug

China executes eight for 'terrorist' attacks in Xinjiang

SHANGHAI, 24 Aug — China has executed eight people for "terrorist" attacks in its restive far western region of Xinjiang, including three who "masterminded" a dramatic car crash in the capital's Tiananmen Square in 2013, state media said.

Xinjiang is the traditional home of Muslim Uighurs who speak a Turkic language, and China has attributed attacks there to Islamist separatists it says seek to establish an independent state called East Turkestan.

Exiled Uighur groups and human rights activists say the government's own repressive policies in Xin-

jiang have provoked unrest, an accusation Beijing denies. Three of the executed group "masterminded" the October 2013 attack in the heart of the Chinese capital, official news agency *Xinhua* said late on Saturday.

Five people were killed and 40 injured in the incident, when a car plowed into a crowd in the square and burst into flames. The other executions, carried out in recent days, were punishment for crimes ranging from setting up a terrorist outfit and illegally making explosives to attacking police officers and killing government officials, *Xinhua* said.

A report by China Central Television (CCTV) on Sunday showed images of the individuals who have been executed being led into court and questioned by police. It also showed footage of the Tiananmen attack, with a car being driven into the square.

Some of those executed were blamed for attacks in Xinjiang's prefecture of Aksu, the city of Kashgar and the town of Hotan, the agency added.

China has been cracking down on violent crime in Xinjiang after a string of deadly attacks there, and it executed 13 people in June.

Hundreds of people have died in violence in

the region over the last two years, with dozens jailed in the last month, some at mass public sentencing reminiscent of China's revolutionary-era rallies.

This month a court in Xinjiang sentenced 25 people to jail for terror-related offences. Authorities also tightened security around public transport in a bid to crack down on violence, demanding bus passengers show identification to travel. A suicide bombing in May killed 39 people at a market in Xinjiang's capital of Urumqi. In March, 29 people were stabbed to death at a train station in the southwestern city of Kunming.—Reuters

WORLD

Obama orders review of police use of military hardware



A riot police officer aims his weapon while demonstrators protest the shooting death of teenager Michael Brown, in Ferguson, Missouri in this file photo taken on 13 Aug, 2014.—REUTERS

EDGARTOWN MASS / WASHINGTON, 24 Aug. — US President Barack Obama has ordered a review of the distribution of military hardware to state and local police out of concern at how such equipment has been used

during racial unrest in Ferguson, Missouri.

The president ordered the examination of federal programmes and funding that enable state and local law enforcement to purchase such equipment, a senior

Obama administration official said on Saturday.

Images of police wielding military-style guns and armour have shocked many Americans following clashes that were triggered by the fatal shooting of a black

teenager, Michael Brown, by a white police officer in Ferguson two weeks ago.

Obama wants to know whether the programmes, which were expanded after the 11 Sept, 2001, attacks, are appropriate and whether

state and local law enforcement are given proper training, the official said.

The review will be led by White House staff including the Domestic Policy Council, the National Security Council, the Office of Management and Budget, and relevant US agencies including the Departments of Defence, Homeland Security, Justice and Treasury, and conducted in coordination with Congress.

Obama signaled he would review the programmes at a White House news conference on Monday when he said he wanted to make sure police were purchasing equipment they actually needed because there is “a big difference between our military and our local law enforcement and we don’t want those lines blurred.”

A growing number of lawmakers have voiced concern about the militarization of US police forces through programmes administered by the Pentagon, Justice Department and Department of Homeland Security.

Democratic Senator Claire McCaskill of Missouri, who heads the oversight subcommittee of the

Senate Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs Committee, announced plans this week for a hearing in September about the programmes.

Senate Armed Services Committee Chairman Carl Levin, a Michigan Democrat, said last week he planned a review to ensure that the Pentagon’s 1033 programme, which transfers surplus equipment to local and state authorities, was working as intended before the full Senate considers the annual bill that authorizes military spending.

Key concerns include a clause in the programme that requires police to use the equipment within a year, something the American Civil Liberties Union argues may give police forces an incentive to use the equipment in inappropriate situations. The programme also does not mandate training for crowd control or other uses.

House of Representatives lawmakers defeated a bill to halt the 1033 programme in a 355-62 vote in June, but concerns about the handling of the crisis in Ferguson have revived the reform effort.

Reuters

Thousands rally in New York to protest over police killing

NEW YORK, 24 Aug. — Thousands marched peacefully in New York’s Staten Island on Saturday protesting the killing of Eric Garner by the New York City police and resonating the similar concerns of the Ferguson black communities.

The “We Will Not Go Back” march, led by Rev Al Sharpton, a political activist in the fight against racial injustice, was meant to express outrage over Garner’s killing by the police for allegedly selling loose, untaxed cigarettes.

He was a 43-year-old father of six who lived in Staten Island, and he died in the street in July after as many as four New York police officers choked him and slammed his head on the ground.

“We are not against police,” said Sharpton. “But those police who break the law must be held accountable.” Many carried signs in the crowd, reading “Stop Police Brutality” or “Police the Police,” but the most popular were “Hands Up,

Don’t Shoot,” which came into being during protests in Missouri over the police killing, and “I can’t breathe,” Garner’s last known words.

Protesters also chanted “No Justice No Peace,” and the song of “Heal the World” as they marched.

“It’s peaceful demonstration. It will help things change. If they (Police) do something wrong, they should be punished, and they should be held accountable. If not, nothing will change, because they know they can get away from it,” said Gurald Burrough, a resident from Queens, another borough of New York City.

An old lady who was seen weeping with her two grandkids told *Xinhua* that they came far away from Jersey City early in the morning, and the reason for them to come here is to protest about injustice.

“We know the police have to do their job, but be fair about doing a job,” she said.—*Xinhua*

Canada’s intelligence head says returning Islamist militants pose threat

TORONTO, 24 Aug. — Canadians who go abroad to join militant groups such as Islamic State pose a threat on their return home and could use their foreign contacts to set up networks in Canada, the country’s intelligence director said on Saturday.

Michel Coulombe, director of the Canadian Security Intelligence Service, wrote in a *Globe and Mail* article that “well over 100 Canadians,” both men and women, have left the country to join groups such as al-Qaeda and al-Shabaab.

“The most obvious national-security threat is the one posed by extremists who return,” Coulombe said. “How many are coming back to Canada more radicalized than when they departed? Will their status as veterans of a foreign conflict better enable them to recruit other Canadians?”

“And, most importantly, will they use their terrorist training to attempt violent acts here in Canada?

This is a very real prospect.”

Other Western governments have expressed similar concerns about citizens who go abroad to join militants fighting in the Middle East and elsewhere and then return home radicalized. Islamic State militants now control swathes of Iraq and Syria.

Britain announced plans on Saturday to crack down further on such militants. On Friday, Austria raised its estimate for the number of residents suspected of allying themselves with militants fighting abroad.

Last month, a Canadian provincial court imposed a 10-year prison sentence on a man convicted of attempting to join a militant group abroad.

The conviction comes as Canada wrestles with several cases of radicalized Canadians plotting attacks at home or heading overseas to join militant groups. Two men were arrested last



Canadian Security Intelligence Service (CSIS) director Michel Coulombe waits to testify before the Senate national security and defence committee in Ottawa on 3 Feb, 2014.—REUTERS

year and charged with plotting to derail a Toronto-area passenger train bound for New York.

Also last year, two Canadians were part of a group that stormed a gas plant in Algeria and took hostages. After a four-day siege, Algerian forces stormed the plant. At least 80 people were killed.

Coulombe said some of those who went abroad had been killed, including

the two in Algeria “and a number of other young men from Calgary who met a violent end in Syria or Iraq”.

“Even if a Canadian extremist does not immediately return, he or she is still a Canadian problem,” Coulombe said. “No country can become an unwitting exporter of terrorism without suffering damage to its international image and relations.”—*Reuters*

PERSPECTIVES

Monday, 25 August, 2014

Selfie obsession has good and bad consequences

By Aung Khin

Selfie is an image of oneself taken by a camera of digital or phone. Most of the selfie images are to be shared and flagged in social networks such as Facebook, Instagram etc. Selfies are a current trend that is increasing in popularity across the world.

Many adults in Myanmar are also influ-

enced by selfie culture. Most of them are female. As beauty and values vary from culture to culture, only few young girls share their shameless selfies on social media.

However, selfies have some advantages. Group selfies can be fun and enjoy especially wacky snapshots, and they can be shared into social sites for friends living away. On the other hand, selfies might be used for personal intentions, with making fun of these photos. Excessive and increasingly provocative selfie-ing is a common behaviour pattern to get attention. Selfies are valuable when they can make someone playful or they turn out honest reflection.

Therefore, someone who are addicted to selfies should ask themselves—selfies are for fun or to get comments. It is important that Myanmar people should develop an awareness of how the

selfie popularity should be accepted as it cannot be avoided in global community.

The misuse of online activities could provide an early warning system of problems among young people. Parents and teachers are responsible for educating their children how to accept modern technologies in line with Myanmar culture.

Write for us

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Due to limitation of space we are only able to publish articles that do not exceed 500 words. Should you submit a text longer than 500 words please be aware that your article will be edited.

“An Advice for Beginner-readers As to What and How to Read English”

By Kin Mg Oo

(Continued from 24-8-2014)

It is not an invented story. I want teachers, especially primary assistant teachers to try hard to the best of their caliber to become qualified ones, because they sure are to produce future-leader-to-be. Ridiculously enough, an English subject teacher corrected her pupil's answer wrong and the next day she corrected it over when asked to check it again. This may be a careless mistake, due to the lack of time to spare for giving individual attention to all. In my opinion, however, such a care-free mistake was unacceptable in any way. Teachers should notice that some parents are ambitious and they never lose sight of their children's education. Such an incident can make parents lose respect for teachers. Unless parents pay attention to teachers' teaching, the false will exist as the true in the children's minds forever.

Now let me return to the main topic, “an advice for beginner readers as to what and how to read English”. This writing is intended for children in two age groups. One is from age 5 to age 10 or 12 and, another is teenage and above. Now that education is becoming edutainment, children are being found enjoy learning before we recognize it. Educational cartoon series and TV programs are available free almost daily. Parents should notice that their offspring love watching them. We should give priority to children to let them do as they desire if our favorite program coincides with theirs. These programs are of great help for the improvement of their speaking and listening skills. In

my opinion, even adult beginner learners ought not to miss this opportunity. I would not like you to ask them as to what characters in these cartoon programs are saying. I just want them to get accustomed to listening. Over time, language skills will develop instinctively. A picture dictionary sure will help children to recognize things and their names easily. Readable story books for younger ages are now available everywhere. These books are cheap and every family can afford. At the very beginning we need to control our greed from growing bigger. That is, we shouldn't make them read books beyond their knowledge. On seeing their abilities and eagerness develop, we must go to next step.

Here is my advice for teenagers and their superiors. Unlike their juniors, they need to study English basic grammar, if possible, thoroughly. In fact, they become old enough to do so. I firmly believe that grammar knowledge will strengthen preliminary language acquisition. Much as frequent seeing is easy to remember words and understand sentence construction, better knowledge about grammar will help learners to produce their own good English sentences. There is a well-known saying, “Nothing ventured, nothing gained”. Without any effort, we will never acquire language proficiency. First of all, we must find at least one hour every day to study the language. I recommend the following reading material for all enthusiastic students. “The Shwe Thway” is the one, which is already in existence. Having heard its name, someone may flinch from reading. Do try reading. A neo-learner will find it difficult to know

stories very well, without the help of Myanmar translation. Firstly, you only read English version. Without glancing at Myanmar renderings, read on and on. After two or three times, you are itching to know more and more. Never give up your attempt at one time. Some say that we need not read the book any longer if there is more than 8 words we don't know on the first page. As for me, I never accept that idea. Frequent readings will make us notice words and their usages. Bilingual readable books which can be found in bookshops are really convenient for beginners. If we find difficulty in reading versos, we can solve the problem by reading rectos. I would not like you to abandon your burning desire. I myself had ever undergone many difficulties.

During my early years of high school education, I started reading the English newspaper, the Working People's Daily. Not having any one to help me read the paper, I had to read them in consultation with its Myanmar version, the “Lokethar Pyithu Nezin” and “the U Tun Nyein Eng-Myanmar Dictionary”. It was very difficult for me, even to read a news item per day. Very often I was satisfied with reading titles for news items only. Many usages that we never find in our lessons confused me very often. Knowing nothing except Passive Pattern and Active Pattern [= subject-verb-object/complement format], writing by using “adj+as” for “though” was less than understandable for me. I didn't know why the news titles were written in “To+ infinite” for Future tense. To put it simply, I could read a newspaper very well after passing my 10th standard exam,

but even though not yet to the full satisfaction. Another important thing is to cultivate the practice of reading a dictionary; having a readable one at the beginning and thence choosing a reliable one to further our language skills. In our school days, our teachers recommended the King's Way dictionary to us. Today there are various kinds of modern English lexicons. I think that scholars will never deny the importance of a reliable dictionary.

In Oxford Advanced American Dictionary, it is defined that a dictionary is a book that gives a list of the words of a language in alphabetical order and explains what they mean, or gives a word for them in a foreign language. For us, a reliable dictionary is not a perfect teacher as such, but it can help us acquire better understanding of sentences or rather the language. Why? It gives us definite meanings of a word, its correct pronunciation, grammatical functions and example sentences. Moreover, it points out synonyms, antonyms and literary elements. Read as much as we can and accumulate words. In my salad days, I used to write down in my own note books all abstruse sentences found in the newspapers. Trying to understand these sentences became my favorite pastime. With reading speed developing, I want our young readers to give more time to study dictionaries. Here I used the plural noun as I assume that having more than one is more convenient for reference. Which words are we to learn? The key words of Oxford 3000 are highly recommended by world-famous language experts to all learners to study especially.

“Rome wasn't built in a

day,” as the saying goes. It will take us a long time and needs patience to accomplish our aims and objectives. It is generally accepted that we must essentially know at least 850 words for the basic level. That number is too limited for intermediate and advanced learners to read newspapers and novels. Now it's time to depart from our usual way of learning words. Most of us are usually satisfied with our first-ever knowledge of English words' Myanmar meanings. That is, since our childhood days we knew that “Go” means သွားသည်။ “Sleep” means အိပ်သည်။ “Get” means ရသည်။ “A” means တစ်၊ တစ်ခု၊ တစ်ကောင်၊ တစ်ယောက်။ “Job” means အလုပ် and etc. . We need to look for more meanings of words and a variety of their usages. If possible, read the preface or forewords of a dictionary and get more advantages.

We should distinguish different meanings of commonly used seemingly similar verbs and words such as deploy, employ, comply, imply, deduce, induce, seduce, affect, defect, effect, infect, assure, ensure, insure, acquire, inquire, enquire, require, and so on. Many words are confusable and prepositions also are interesting. Some scholars and today's brightest youths may disapprove of my ideas. But I believe that it will be great use and benefit to slow-witted but enthusiastic beginner learners with burning desires to know English. I deeply request our respected scholars and all my superiors to share their knowledge and experiences for the benefit of posterity.

May all youths build up their edifices of hopes successfully!

(Concluded)

LOCAL NEWS

Yadanagu Pagoda Festival held in Amarapura on a grand scale



AMARAPURA, 24 Aug — Yadanagu Pagoda Festival and Popa Meidaw-

gyi festival were held in Amarapura Township of Mandalay Region from 8th

waning of Wagaung to 14th waning of Wagaung (from 18 to 24 August).

Yadanagu Pagoda was built by King Swasawke (1367-1400 A.D.) in 742 Myanmar Era in Nge-toe Village of Amarapura Township.

In 1185 ME when King Bagyidaw ruled the nation, a large fire broke in Amarapura Township. To be relaxation of local people, Nanmadaw Mei Nu and Salin Town Chief Maung Oh supervised the Yadanagu Pagoda festival and Popa Meidawgyi festival after the Taungpyone Festival.

At the festivals, local people visited spirit chambers by boat in Taungthaman Lake and sell domestic products and foods from Sagaing, Amarapura, Mandalay, Shwebo and Pyin Oo Lwin.

Thiha Ko Ko (Mandalay)



DAWEI, 24 Aug—The training course for uplifting capacity of staff from Fire Services Department was held at the hall of Taninthayi Region Fire Services Department in Dawei On Saturday.

Region Minister for Security and Border Affairs Col Zaw Lwin urged

Capacity building course for staff of fire services conducted

the trainees to set up the best society for serving the interest of the people.

The minister and party viewed fire extinguishers and rescue items of the fire brigade.

Last year, the region government funded uniforms to 11,622 members of Auxiliary Fire Brigade and 185 light water pumps to village-tracts as fire prevention measures.

Altogether 20 fire staff from Fire Services Department of Taninthayi Region attended the two days course.

Po Shwe Thun (Dawei)

Midwife trainees conclude theoretical course



THATON, 24 Aug—Township Maternal and Child Welfare Association and Health Department jointly conducted the rural midwifery course for declining of mortality rate and mother death rate in Thaton of Mon State.

On 22 August, the training course concluded at the hall of Township MCWA, with addresses by Township Health Supervisory Committee Township Administrator U Tun Tun Naing

and Head of District Health Department Dr Daw Khin Win.

Officials presented medical kits comprising 22 medical items to 22 trainees from 22 villages.

The course commenced on 21 May. After a three-month theoretical course, the trainees are to continue their studies at their respective health units for three more months in practical works.

Thet Oo (Thaton)

Master of Business Administration (MBA) Batch II kicks off

MANDALAY, 24 Aug—Thitsa Yazar Training and Development and SIU International, Bangkok, Thailand jointly opened the Master of Business Administration (MBA) Batch II at the training centre of Thitsa Yazar on 62nd Street in Thazin and Ngupya Roads in Chanmyathazi Township of Mandalay on Saturday.

President Dr Voradej Chandarasorn of SIU International presented laptop to trainees as teaching aid. Admission and Registration Office Director Ms Tanarat Teeratanakiat explained the disciplines of the training



course.

The training is aimed at providing international level curric-

ulum and research knowledge to the trainees.

Tin Maung (Mandalay)

Betel leave price hikes in Mawlamyine

MAWLAMYINE, 24 Aug—The price of betel is hiking day by day at the market in Mawlamyine.

The price of betel in two types rise to K6,5 from K4,000 per viss and K4,000 from K2,000 per viss.

“We mostly sell betel in Mawlamyine produced from Kyai-kto. Due to heavy rains in last week in Kyai-kto, the betel plantations were flooded and betel production declined, causing price hike,” said Ma Thida San from betel brokerage

in Mawlamyine.

Due to high demand of local consumption, betel leaves were purchased from various townships.

“To be able to supply the demand, betel was bought from Shwedah betel from Pyawbwe, Yamethin and Monywa at K7,500 per viss,” she said.

Some shops sell three quid of betel per K100 from four quid but consumer rate does not decline.

On the average, one viss of betel comprise 450-500 leaves.

Hset Nay Min Aung



Forces from Libyan city of Misrata say they seized Tripoli airport

TRIPOLI/BENGHAZI (LIBYA), 24 Aug—Forces from the Libyan city of Misrata on Saturday seized Tripoli's main airport after more than a month of fighting with a rival group, a Misrata spokesman said.

Pictures on social media purportedly showed Misrata fighters celebrating at the terminal building and standing on civilian planes in what, if confirmed, would be a big development in the battle to control the capital.

Arab channels Jazeera and Al-Arabiya also said Misrata forces were controlling the airport, although Reuters was unable immediately to access the area. Heavy shelling could be heard in other parts of the city.

War planes had earlier struck Misrata positions in Tripoli in an attack claimed by renegade general Khalifa Haftar. The raids killed 10 people and wounded

dozens, the Misrata faction said.

The fighting is the worst since the overthrow of Muammar Gaddafi in 2011.

In the NATO-backed campaign to oust Gaddafi, fighters from the western region of Zintan and Misrata, east of Tripoli, were comrades-in-arms. But they later fell out and this year have turned parts of Tripoli into a battlefield.

Haftar launched a campaign against Islamists in the eastern city of Benghazi in May and threw his weight behind the Zintan fighters.

In Saturday's fighting, residents heard explosions early in the morning near the airport, where the two groups have been fighting for control for more than a month.

Local television channel al-Nabaa said planes had attacked four Misrata positions. A Misrata



A general view of the damage of the 27th Bridge is seen along a road linking Tripoli and the western Libyan cities, near a former Libyan Army camp known as Camp 27 following clashes between rival militias in the 27 district, west of Tripoli, on 22 Aug, 2014.—REUTERS

spokesman said the planes had come from Egypt and the United Arab Emirates, two countries which have cracked down on Islamists.

But Haftar's air defence commander, Sager

al-Jouroushi, told Reuters that his forces were responsible for the attack. Haftar's forces also claimed responsibility for air raids on Misrata positions in Tripoli on Monday.

Western countries and Egypt, worried about Libya becoming a failed state and safe haven for Islamist militants, have denied any involvement. The Libyan government has said it does

not know who is responsible for the air attacks.

In a challenge to the parliament elected on 25 June, the spokesman for Operation Dawn called for the old General National Congress (GNC) to be reinstated. Misrata forces have rejected the new House of Representatives, where liberals and lawmakers campaigning for a federalist system have made a strong showing.

In a sign of deep divisions between Libya's regions and political factions the House of Representative declared the Operation Dawn as well as militant Islamists like the Ansar al-Sharia as "terrorist groups".

"This is a war between the Libyan state and the state institutions led by our sons, soldiers and officers in the army, against terrorist groups outside of the law," the house said in a statement.—Reuters

Iranian FM arrives in Baghdad for talks with Iraqi leaders

BAGHDAD, 24 Aug — Iran's Foreign Minister Mohammad Javad Zarif arrived in Baghdad on an official visit to meet with the Iraqi leaders to discuss the bilateral relations and latest political and security development in Iraq, an official television reported on Sunday.

The state-run Iraqiya channel said that Zarif is expected to meet his Iraqi counterpart Hoshyar Zebari and the Prime Minister designate Haider al-Abadi as well as the Iraqi President Fuad Masoum, the outgoing Prime Minister Nuri al-Maliki and the Parliament Speaker Salim al-Jubouri, and others Iraqi top officials. —Xinhua

Five rockets fired from Syria hit Israel

JERUSALEM, 24 Aug — Five rockets fired from Syria hit the Israeli-occupied Golan Heights overnight between Saturday and Sunday, the Israeli military said in a statement. Israel's Ynet website news said that three rockets exploded in a settlement in the northern Golan Heights and two have hit an open space. No injuries or damages were immediately reported.

The rocket salvo was fired only a few hours after a rocket fired from southern Lebanon hit the Upper Galilee in northern Israel. A spokesperson with the police said that the rocket hit an empty building in an open area, with two children lightly wounded. No group has immediately claimed responsibility for both incidents. The unexpected fires come as a deadly war between Israel and Hamas in Gaza enters its 48 day and as the death toll in Gaza climbed to more than 2,100, according to Palestinian health officials. Over the past years, there has been relative calm in the Israel's northern border with sporadic fire trades.—Xinhua

Egypt calls for Gaza ceasefire as fighting rages



A view of what witnesses said was an explosion caused by an Israeli air strike on a house in Gaza City on 23 Aug, 2014. —REUTERS

GAZA / CAIRO, 24 Aug, — Egypt called on Israel and the Palestinians on Saturday to halt hostilities and resume peace talks, but both sides kept up attacks, including an Israeli air strike which destroyed a residential tower block in the centre of Gaza City.

Hamas militants also fired rockets at Israel, hitting the southern city of Beersheba, where two people were hurt, police said. At least two rockets were also fired from Lebanon

into northern Israel, but it was not initially clear who fired them, Lebanese and Israeli sources said.

At least five rockets fired from Syria also landed at various locations on the Israeli-occupied Golan Heights, the Israeli army said. All fell in open areas, causing no injuries or damage. It was not immediately known who fired the rockets.

Initial reports said 17 people were wounded in the attack

on the 13-storey Gaza building, local health officials said.

An Israeli military spokeswoman said the building, which collapsed completely, contained a command centre belonging to Hamas militants. Local residents said it housed 44 families.

Another Israeli strike later destroyed a commercial centre in the southern Gaza town of Rafah and three people were hurt, local medical staff said.

Five Palestinians, including two children, were killed in another Israeli strike on a house in central Gaza, health officials said. Seven more Palestinians were killed in other strikes, including one on a car.

The Israeli military said it bombed about 20 targets across the Hamas-ruled strip, including rocket launchers and weapon caches next to schools.

No Israeli casualties were reported on Saturday, although rockets and mortar bombs rained down on

Israel throughout the day, including one intercepted over the Tel Aviv area, the military said. At least 570 rockets have been fired at Israel since a ceasefire collapsed on Tuesday, it added. Palestinian health officials say 2,083 people, most of them civilians, have been killed in the small, densely populated coastal enclave since 8 July, when Israel launched an offensive with the declared aim of ending Palestinian rocket fire into its territory.

Sixty-four Israeli soldiers and four civilians have been killed. Indirect ceasefire talks mediated by Egypt to end the conflict collapsed after rockets were fired from Gaza during a truce and Israel responded with air strikes.

The Egyptian Foreign Ministry on Saturday called on both sides to resume talks. Palestinian President Abbas, in Cairo after meeting President Abdel Fattah al-Sisi, also urged a swift resumption of negotiations.

A senior Egyptian

diplomat said Abbas had informed Sisi that Hamas was prepared to come to Cairo for further talks, but Hamas did not immediately confirm the report. Israel also had no immediate comment. The Egyptian diplomat said Cairo expected to receive responses from both Israel and Hamas by Monday. The talks, conducted in Cairo, have not involved direct meetings between Israeli officials and representatives of Hamas. Israel considers Hamas a terrorist organization and Hamas, for its part, refuses to recognize Israel. Egyptian officials shuttle between the two sides.

Hamas has said it will not stop fighting until the Israeli-Egyptian blockade on Gaza is lifted.

Both Israel and Egypt view Hamas as a security threat and are reluctant to make sweeping concessions without guarantees weapons will not enter the economically crippled enclave.

Reuters

Bomb attacks kill 22 in Iraq's Kirkuk

KIRKUK, 24 Aug—At least 22 people were killed and 132 wounded in three bomb attacks in the northern Iraqi city of Kirkuk on Saturday, a police source said. Three suicide car bombers targeting headquarters of Kurdish forces blew themselves in northern and southern Kirkuk, leaving some buildings collapsed, a local police told Xinhua on condition of anonymity. The consecutive attacks killed at least 22 people and injured 132 others, including members of the Kurdish Peshmerga forces, Alsumaria news website quoted security officials as saying. Iraq is witnessing some of its worst violence in recent years. According to the UN Assistance Mission for Iraq, a total of 8,868 Iraqis, including 7,818 civilians and civilian police personnel, were killed in 2013, the highest annual death toll in years. —Xinhua

SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY

Apple iPhone 6 screen snag leaves supply chain scrambling

TOKYO, 24 Aug — Suppliers to Apple Inc are scrambling to get enough screens ready for the new iPhone 6 smartphone as the need to redesign a key component disrupted panel production ahead of next month's expected launch, supply chain sources said.

It's unclear whether the hiccup could delay the launch or limit the number of phones initially available to consumers, the sources said, as Apple readies larger-screen iPhones for the year-end shopping season amid market share loss to cheaper rivals.

But the issue highlights the risks and challenges that suppliers face to meet Apple's tough specifications, and comes on the heels of a separate screen technology problem, since resolved, in making thinner screens for the larger

iPhone 6 model.

Cupertino, California-based Apple has scheduled a media event for 9 September, and many expect it to unveil the new iPhone 6 with both 4.7 inch (11.94 cm) and 5.5 inch (13.97 cm) screens — bigger than the 4-inch screen on the iPhone 5s and 5c.

Two supply chain sources said display panel production suffered a setback after the backlight that helps illuminate the screen had to be revised, putting screen assembly on hold for part of June and July. One said Apple, aiming for the thinnest phone possible, initially wanted to cut back to a single layer of backlight film, instead of the standard two layers, for the 4.7-inch screen, which went into mass production ahead of the 5.5-inch version.



The Apple logo is pictured at its flagship retail store in San Francisco, California on 27 Jan, 2014.—REUTERS

But the new configuration was not bright enough and the backlight was sent back to the drawing board to fit in the extra layer, costing precious time and temporarily idling some screen assembly operations, the source said.

Output is now back on track and suppliers are

working flat-out to make up for lost time, the supply chain sources added.

Japan Display Inc, Sharp Corp and South Korea's LG Display Co Ltd have been selected to make the iPhone 6 screens, the sources said.

Representatives for those three suppliers, and

for Apple, declined to comment.

Apple is known to make tough demands on its parts suppliers for new iPhones and iPads as it competes to create designs, shapes, sizes and features to set it apart and command a premium price in a fiercely competitive gadget market.

This can cause glitches and delays, including screen problems that crimped supplies at last year's launch of a high-resolution version of Apple's iPad Mini.

It also highlights the danger for suppliers of depending too heavily on Apple for revenues, creating earnings volatility.

Earlier this month, Japan Display, said to be the lead supplier for the new iPhone panel, said orders for "a large customer" —

which analysts said was Apple — arrived as expected, but shipments may be delayed in the July-September quarter.

Japan Display's reliance on Apple's cyclical business has spooked some investors. UBS Securities has forecast that Apple will contribute more than a third of the Japanese firm's total revenue in the year to March 2015. Japan Display's share price dropped to a 12-week low of 501 yen after first-quarter earnings on 7 August lagged market expectations.

In Taiwan, home to several Apple suppliers and assemblers, export orders grew less than expected in July, even as factories rushed output ahead of new smartphone launches, reflecting the erratic nature of the business.

Reuters

A little Neanderthal in us all: Australian scientists

SYDNEY, 24 Aug — A researcher from the Australia National University (ANU) may have blown anthropology's Neanderthal narrative out of the history books by proving in the latest edition of *Nature*, published on Thursday, that groups of the doomed forerunners to modern man lived alongside modern humans for thousand of years.

It may not have been amity all round, but Dr Rachel Wood, working alongside an international team of experts applied a new radiocarbon dating method which revealed that Neanderthals across Europe did not all die out at one time — as modern humans ap-

peared, which has been the prevailing theory but dwelt for millennia in the suburbs of modern man.

"The two groups lived in neighbouring regions for several thousand years," Dr Wood from the Research School of Earth Sciences at ANU said. "They would have had plenty of time to interact." The work will be closely studied by another Australian researcher — Adelaide University archaeologist Alan Cooper — who last year formulated that the mercurial Denisovans Neanderthal — like relatives of ancient humans crossed Wallace's Line, one of the world's most formidable marine barriers, more than 100,000 years

ago. With professor Cooper linking traces of their DNA existing in modern humans, he went to theorize that the two groups interbred in Asia. Published in *Science* in October last year, Cooper's study suggested that genetic evidence of interbreeding had only been proven in indigenous populations of New Guinea, Australia.

Cooper's Denisovans are the walking shadows of anthropological history, with just a finger bone and some teeth unearthed in a Siberian cave in 2008, proving they ever existed at all. Some scientists now believe they outnumbered the Neanderthals and lived throughout Asia. —Xinhua

SpaceX rocket terminated in Texas test flight, company says

HOUSTON, 24 Aug — A Space Exploration Technologies' Falcon 9 rocket suffered an anomaly shortly after launch on a test flight in Texas on Friday, triggering its automatic termination system, the company said in a statement.

"Earlier today, in McGregor, Texas, SpaceX conducted a test flight of a three engine version of the F9R test vehicle (successor to Grasshopper)," the privately owned company said.

"During the flight, an anomaly was detected in the vehicle and the flight termination system automatically terminated the mission."

There were no inju-



ries, SpaceX said, and the vehicle remained in its designated flight area throughout the test and subsequent termination.

"With research and development projects, detecting vehicle anomalies during the testing is the purpose of the programme," said the statement from

spokesman John Taylor.

The test was especially complex, "pushing the limits of the vehicle further than any previous test," it added.

SpaceX will review flight record details and analyze its data ahead of its next test, Taylor said.

Reuters

US undercover investigators among those exposed in data breach



A man types on a computer keyboard in Warsaw in this on 28 Feb, 2013 illustration file picture.—REUTERS

BOSTON / WASHINGTON, 24 Aug — A cyber attack at a firm that performs background checks for US government employees compromised data of at least 25,000 workers, including some undercover investigators, and that number could rise, agency officials said on Friday.

The breach at Falls Church, Virginia-based US Investigations Services (USIS) exposed highly personal information of workers at the Department of Homeland Security's headquarters as well as its US

Immigration and Customs Enforcement and US Customs and Border Protection units, two officials familiar with the investigation into the breach told Reuters.

Some employees have already received letters warning them about the breach that say compromised information includes Social Security numbers, education and criminal history, birth dates along with information about spouses, other relatives and friends including their names and addresses.

"Records including this

data were exposed to unauthorized users during the cybersecurity intrusion," according to a notification letter obtained by Reuters. "We do not yet know whether the data was actually taken."

One DHS official told Reuters the agency has identified some 25,000 employees whose information it believes were exposed in the breach.

"More could be notified in coming weeks as we learn more about the breach," said the official, who asked not to be iden-

tified by name. The company disclosed the attack earlier this month, but did not say how many records had been compromised or which agencies were affected. It did say the intrusion has "all the markings of a state-sponsored attack."

While the number of employees affected is relatively small compared to breaches at retailers such as Target Corp, which have affected tens of millions of customers, security experts say the attack on USIS is nonetheless quite serious.

Reuters

There was no pressure from Germany

BELGRADE, 24 Aug — Serbian Foreign Minister and First Deputy Prime Minister Ivica Dacic said that no pressure was put on him in Germany and that Berlin is primarily interested if Serbia will stay on the EU path, adding that the opening of Chapters 32 and 35 of the EU accession talks can be expected by the end of the year.

“What they want to know is if Serbia will stay on its EU path, and there is absolutely no doubt about that. They want Serbia to be the engine for the entire region in terms of drawing closer to the European Union and of stabilizing the situation in the region. As the problem-solving factor, Serbia is crucial for the stability of the region. They expect us to play a constructive role and provide assistance in that respect,” Dacic said upon his return from Berlin late on Friday.

In an interview on RTS evening news broadcast Dnevnik, Dacic said that German Foreign Minister Frank-Walter Steinmeier did not even mention the aide-memoire from the European Union, and that no pressure was put on him



in Germany, as “everyone is aware of the situation and the principled stance of Serbia”, which, as he added, consists of three points.

“The first is our support to the territorial integrity of Ukraine. Secondly, we cannot impose sanctions on Russia because it would harm our national, state and, above all, our economic interests, and put the people of Serbia at a great risk. And thirdly, Serbia will not take advantage of Russia’s counter-measures against the EU,” said Dacic.

Dacic added that Chapters 32 and 35 of Serbia’s EU accession talks, related to financial control, and to normalization of Belgrade-Pristina relations,

are expected to be opened by the end of the year.

“The negotiations are not up in the air,” said Dacic, noting that the government has drawn up its negotiating position on Chapter 32, and that Serbia is not to blame for the delays in the implementation of the Brussels agreement.

“We expect Chapter 35 to be opened by year-end as well,” said Dacic, adding that the decision on opening Chapters 32 and 35 would be a fair award for the Serbian government’s efforts.

Speaking about the upcoming Conference of Western Balkan States to be held on 28 August in Berlin, Dacic said that such initiatives existed before

but they only served to promote those who organized the summits.

The situation is different now, considering that this summit will be held at the initiative of German Chancellor Angela Merkel, stressed Dacic, adding that the next conference will take place in Austria next year and in France the year after that, which is also indicative of the standing of the initiative.

The aim of the conference is to define and articulate the common objectives, said Dacic, adding that serious preparations for the summit are under way in all participating countries.

The conference will consist of three parts, said Dacic. “The first part will be a meeting between the prime ministers and Angela Merkel. The second part will be a meeting with German Foreign Minister Steinmeier, and the third with Germany’s minister of finance,” Dacic explained.

The meetings will be dedicated to specific economic projects and matters of importance for the stability of the region.

Tanjug

Chinese Premier stresses social funds in railway construction

BEIJING, 24 Aug — Chinese Premier Li Keqiang has encouraged the China Railway Corporation (CRC) to further emancipate the mind and seek more social capital, the central government’s website reported on Sunday.

“Railway construction invested solely by the government and promoted by administrative orders will not work any more,” said the premier during an inspection tour to the CRC on Friday. Li said innovations in investment and financing are key to reform in the railway sector. He asked the CRC to explore ways of better soliciting non-governmental funds and gather experience for other state-owned enterprises.

“Railway development is multifunctional as it can stabilize economic growth, enhance social harmony and push forward urbanization,” said the premier.

China spent a lot on railways in recent years and attached great importance to reforming railway investment and financing mecha-

nism since the CRC’s inception in March 2013. The State Council, the cabinet, released an action plan to deepen reform in railway investment and financing in April after an executive meeting chaired by Li. According to the plan, a railway development fund will be set up and open to social investment. The fund’s value is expected to reach up to 300 billion yuan (48.6 billion US dollars).

In addition, 150 billion yuan of railway bonds will be issued this year. The government will also encourage banks to fund railway construction.

Rail links in central and western regions will be prioritized to expand investment, boost related sectors, and help urbanization, noted the plan.

Shortly after the cabinet meeting, the CRC raised railway investment target for 2014 to 800 billion yuan and aimed to put over 6,600 kilometers of new lines into operation, mostly in the central and western regions.—Xinhua



An Egyptian labourer works at a brick factory on the outskirts of Cairo, Egypt, on 8 Aug, 2014. XINHUA

Niger minister arrested in ‘baby-trafficking’ investigation

NIAMEY, 24 Aug — Niger’s agriculture minister has been arrested on suspicion of involvement in a baby-trafficking network, a spokesman for his political party and legal sources said on Saturday.

The arrest of Abdou Labo, a senior figure in President Mahamadou Issoufou’s ruling coalition, comes after 17 people, including his wife and the spouses of other politicians, were arrested in June as part

of a police investigation.

Following the arrest of his wife, Labo, who is one of five ministers of state in the 36-member government, denied any involvement in trafficking.

Kabirou Adamou, spokesman for Labo’s Democratic and Social Convention (CDS) party, said: “We had a party meeting this morning.

The minister called to say the judge had decided to place him in detention.

He is presumed innocent for the moment.”

Niger police suspect those currently being detained of acquiring newborn babies from “baby factories” in neighbouring Nigeria. The case has been referred to Niger’s public prosecutor.

“Abdou Labo was imprisoned on Saturday at the civilian prison in Say, 60 km (37 miles) southwest of (the capital) Niamey,” a judge told Reuters, asking

not to be named.

“This is in the framework of the investigations into baby trafficking.”

A second judicial source confirmed the arrest.

Human trafficking and the sale of children is a long-standing issue across West Africa.

Last year, police in Nigeria raided several “baby factories”, freeing dozens of pregnant girls who were being forced to bear children for sale.

Reuters

Police horses trample rival protesters at far right rally in Sweden

STOCKHOLM, 24 Aug — Several people were hurt, one seriously, when mounted police moved in to separate rival sides at a far right demonstration in the Swedish city of Malmo on Saturday, police said.

“A number of people were trampled and one person was seriously injured,” Malmo police said in a statement. “We do not know currently how seriously.” Police arrested nine people at the march where

supporters of the Party of the Swedes were confronted by a counter demonstration by opponents who consider them neo-Nazis.

Swedes vote in a general election on 14 September with immigration a major issue. Party of the Swedes has too little support to make any impact.

A more moderate anti-immigration party, the Sweden Democrats, is polling at around 10 percent.

Reuters

Biographer Dame Hermione Lee gives a speech after receiving the biography category prize for her book about Booker prize-winning author Penelope Fitzgerald: *A life. The winners of Britain’s oldest literary awards were announced on Saturday at an evening event during the ongoing Edinburgh International Book Festival.* XINHUA



ADVERTISEMENT & GENERAL

**Ministry of Energy
Myanma Petrochemical Enterprise
Request for Letter of Expression
of Interest (LOEI)
for Joint Venture Project
of Coastal Oil Tankers, River Crafts
and Barge**

1. The Myanma Petrochemical Enterprise, Ministry of Energy of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar hereby announced an invitation to the interested local investors, companies, the organizations / foreign companies to submit the Letter of Expression of Interest (LOEI) for Joint Venture Project of coastal oil tankers, river crafts and barges under Crude Oil and Petrochemical Movement Department of Myanma Petrochemical Enterprise (MPE). This business will be carried out by classification in accordance with coastal oil tankers, river crafts and barges group and the interested applicants can propose by conducting individual group or more.
2. The required data for LOEI submission and information related to coastal oil tankers, river crafts and barges group are available in the Ministry of Energy Website (<http://www.energy.gov.mm/index.php/en/information/announcement>) as well as the following address in person during the office hours.
3. LOEI shall be submitted to Managing Director, Building No.44, Myanma Petrochemical Enterprise, Nay Pyi Taw in person not later than 12:00 noon at the date of 25.9.2014. No submission of LOEI can be allowed by fax or email.
4. Only the qualified LOEI proposals will be invited to conduct the tender process.

Director (Planning)
Myanma Petrochemical Enterprise
Building No 44, Nay Pyi Taw
Fax:-067 411124
Email:- cpmdjv@gmail.com

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Weather report

FORECAST VALID UNTIL EVENING OF THE 25th August, 2014: Rain or thundershowers will be widespread in Kachin State, fairly widespread in Upper Sagaing Region, Kayin and Mon States, scattered in Bago, Yangon, Ayeyarwady and Taninthayi Regions, Shan, Chin and Rakhine States and isolated in the remaining Regions and States with likelihood of isolated heavy falls in Upper Sagaing Region and Kachin State. Degree of certainty is (80%).

Germany has spied on Turkey since 1976: Focus magazine

BERLIN, 24 Aug — Germany's foreign intelligence agency has been spying on Turkey for nearly four decades, *Focus* magazine said on Saturday in a report which could raise tensions further between the NATO allies.

The details about the duration of possible surveillance and on the decision-making surrounding it go further than first reports earlier this week.

Turkey summoned Germany's ambassador in Ankara on Monday after media reports that Berlin had identified Ankara as a top target of surveillance in a government document from 2009 and had been spying on Turkey for years.

Focus magazine said

the BND intelligence agency had been spying on Turkey since 1976 and that German government under the then Social Democrat chancellor Helmut Schmidt had expressly approved the step. The magazine also cited government sources as saying the BND's current mandate to monitor Turkish political and state institutions had been agreed by a government working group.

That included representatives of the chancellor's office, the defence, foreign and economy ministries. A spokesman for the German government declined to comment on the report.

The report is a further embarrassment for Ange-

la Merkel's government which faces accusations of hypocrisy because of its outrage over allegations of widespread surveillance by the United States on Germans, including the tapping of the chancellor's phone.

However, conservative lawmaker Hans-Peter Uhl told *Focus* there were "good reasons" for the BND to bug Turkey. He cited human trafficking, drugs and terrorism as issues of concern and his comments chime with the views of many German politicians.

"We need to know what is coming to us from EU-applicant Turkey," *Focus* quoted him as saying.

Germany is Turkey's largest trading partner in

the European Union and home to at least 3 million Turks. But relations are not always smooth. Merkel's conservatives are skeptical about Turkish EU membership. In response to media reports about US spying in Germany, Merkel has said spying among friends is "not at all acceptable".

In a public spat which chilled relations between Berlin and Washington, Germany told the top US spy in Germany to leave earlier this year after a double agent at the BND was unearthed.

Der Spiegel magazine reported that the BND has also targeted Albania, another member of NATO, for surveillance.

Reuters

Murakami's latest novel becomes New York Times best seller

NEW YORK, 24 Aug — Japanese novelist Haruki Murakami's book "Colorless Tsukuru Tazaki and His Years of Pilgrimage" topped the *New York Times* best-selling hardcover fiction list for the week after

being translated into English and put on sale on 12 August.

The book, originally published in Japanese in April last year, depicts a 36-year-old man who visits his old friends in his quest

to find out why he was banished from them.

The manager of a Manhattan bookstore run by Japan's Kinokuniya Co said Murakami has a stable fan base in the United States and the latest novel's

first-week sales at the store topped 100 copies.

The second best-selling book on the list was "Love Letters" by Debbie Macomber, followed by James Rollins' "The 6th Extinction." — *Kyodo News*



A Landing Ship Division of PLA South China Sea Fleet were conducting in full formation carrying troops for a training mission.—XINHUA

US hostage rescuers dropped from night sky: Syria activist

BEIRUT / WASHINGTON, 24 Aug — It was just after midnight on 4 July when at least two dozen US Delta Force commandos arrived on heavily armed *Black Hawk* helicopters in Akriishi, a small town near the eastern Syrian city of Raqqa on the bank of the Euphrates River.

Before they landed to search for American hostages including journalist James Foley, they destroyed a crucial target: anti-aircraft weapons at a jihadist base about 3 miles (5 km) southeast of the city, a stronghold of Islamic State militants seeking to build a monolithic Islamic state.

The above account and other details of the raid have emerged from witnesses who spoke with a member of a Syrian opposition activist group, who identified himself as Abu Ibrahim al Raqaoui. Raqaoui told the information to *Reuters* in an interview via Skype from inside Syria.

His group also posted witness accounts of the raid on Facebook soon after it took place. The posts, which were viewed by *Reuters*, have since been taken down. "The raid happened just after midnight," Raqaoui said. "The helicopters first started destroying anti-aircraft weapons." *Reu-*

ters could not verify the account.

The White House publicized details of the raid on Wednesday, a day after Islamic State jihadists posted a video showing Foley being beheaded. The White House said the commandos failed to find Foley or other hostages and that it

was prompted to make the announcement after several US news organizations learned of the operation.

The US military incursion into the heart of Islamic State territory, made on US Independence Day, ended in disappointment when the soldiers found no prisoners. — *Reuters*

‘Haider’ was a life changing experience

MUMBAI, 24 Aug — Actress Shraddha Kapoor says being part of Vishal Bhardwaj’s upcoming release ‘Haider’ was a life changing experience for her. ‘Haider’ is the Bollywood adaptation of William Shakespeare’s Hamlet and the final film of his trilogy that began with ‘Maqbool’ followed by ‘Omkaara’.

“I have first time experienced a different world of cinema which Vishal sir has put me in. I was surprised to see myself. Also audience wants to see you in different roles. I feel lucky and fortunate to be part of this film. It was a life changing experience for me,” Shraddha said in an interview.

The film also stars Tabu, Shahid Kapoor, Irrfan Khan and Kay Kay Menon in pivotal roles.

“In my fifth film to share screen space with great actors like Tabu, Irrfan Khan, Kay Kay Menon, Shahid Kapoor is unbelievable. I feel fortunate to get this opportunity. It was phenomenal to work with such actors. I used to pinch myself every day,” Shraddha said. The film is set in Kashmir and Shraddha had great time shooting there.

“I had come to Kashmir three-four days before shooting to understand the dialect of Kashmiri people. I used to go on the sets when I was not required also just to observe these stalwarts,” she added.

As trailers of ‘Haider’ have got a positive response Shraddha hopes the film also does well.

“Usually commercial films have similar feel to the promos but this film is drastically set in a different world. We have got good response for the trailer. The audience is also demanding to see something different,” she said. The film is scheduled to be released on 2 October. — PTI



Jennifer Lawrence not part of ‘The Hateful Eight’?



Jennifer Lawrence

NEW YORK, 24 Aug — Oscar-winning actress Jennifer Lawrence’s representative has reportedly denied her involvement in Quentin Tarantino’s ‘The Hateful Eight’.

The 24-year-old star was to play one of the central eight characters in the film, whose teaser trailer was recently leaked online, reported Huffington Post online.

‘The Hateful Eight’, starring Samuel L Jackson, Kurt Russell and Amber Tamblyn, is set to release in 2015.

PTI

Diana Penty walks for Rocky S at LIFW



Actress Diana Penty

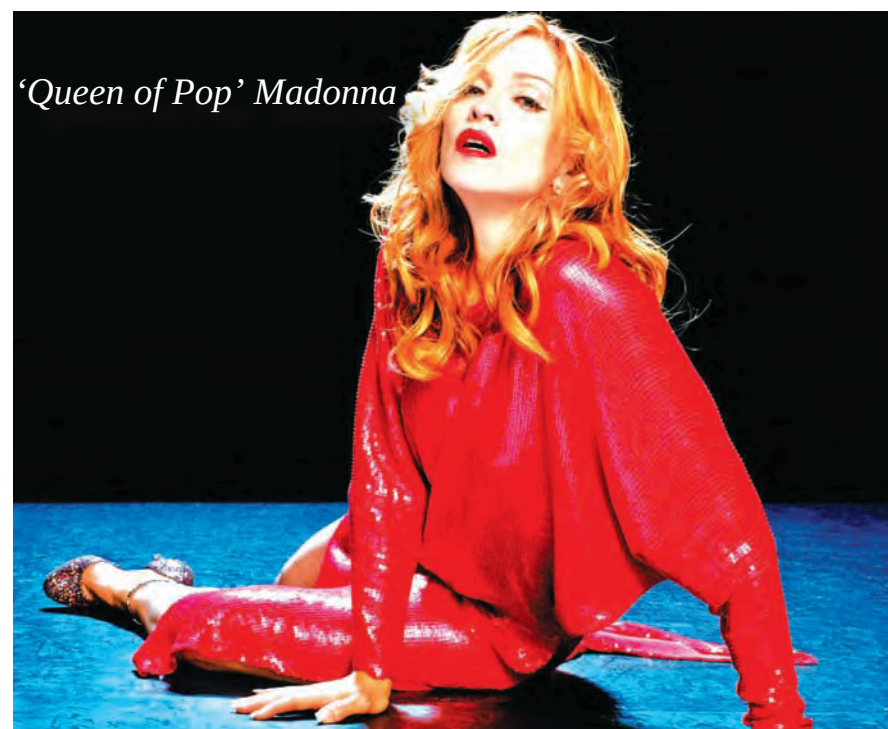
Madonna working on a ‘super weird’ song

LOS ANGELES, 24 Aug — ‘Queen of Pop’ Madonna has been working on a super weird song, according to music producer Diplo.

Diplo has been in the studio three times with the 56-year-old ‘Material Girl’ hitmaker to work on her forthcoming 13th studio album, collaborating with her on a number of different songs, reported *Billboard* magazine.

“One song is super weird. Late one night in the studio we got a little bit drunk and she improvised a little hook and we made a song out of it. I think it’s going to be a breakthrough if she can manage to get everything together and get it out properly,” Diplo said.

Madonna has been working on her 13th studio album throughout 2014 and has been in the studio with Avicii, Natalia Kills and ‘Wrecking Ball’ writer MoZilla, among others. —PTI



‘Queen of Pop’ Madonna

MUMBAI, 24 Aug — Actress Diana Penty, who debuted with ‘Cocktail’, stole the limelight as a show stopper for designer Rocky S at Lakme Fashion Week Winter/Festive 2014.

The actress walked the ramp, having donning a long black gown with detailed, diamond studded sequence work on the top. With open hair and minimal makeup, she looked gorgeous in Rock’s outfit. “I love black and I love this outfit. I am feeling great wearing this outfit,” Diana told reporters post the show. Rocky, who has collaborated with the Treseemme brand for this collection, says the stress that women experience because of their haircare issues was something they wanted to depict.

The designer, who has used more of black and white colours in all his outfits, says his collections are timeless and can be worn for red carpets.

“My collection is not a seasonal collection... it is a timeless collection and it can be worn for red carpets. I have worked a lot on this collection and all of them are hand crafted. Besides Diana absolutely justified my outfit.”

Sharing Treseemme’s philosophy that every women deserve to look their best at all times, Rocky brought alive this essence through a collection that was divided in two distinct parts and concludes with how every woman needs to take out time from a stressful life and indulge herself.

The Lakme Fashion Week, which kicked off 19 August, will continue till 24 August. —PTI

GENERAL

“Game of Thrones” exhibits delight Vancouver fans



VANCOUVER, 24 Aug — “Game of Thrones” is one of HBO’s most successful TV drama series. And from now on to 1 September, fans in Vancouver get a chance to see the props and costumes that actors actually use in the show at the Pacific National Exhibition (PNE).

Now in its fourth season, “Game of Thrones” is a fantasy drama based on the book series “A Song of Ice and Fire.” The story is set in the fictional lands of Westeros and Essos and follows several noble families

in a civil war for the coveted Iron Throne.

Jason Bring, a fan of “Game of Thrones”, told *Xinhua* that he likes the TV show because “it always keeps you on the edge of your seat and always keeps you guessing. It gives me severe anxiety every time I watch it because I don’t know what’s going to happen.”

Jason Bring and his girlfriend Manayer Alhendi came to the exhibition this year to have a chance to sit on the replica of “Iron

Throne,” which is among more than 100 artifacts used in the show’s first three seasons. Alhendi said she liked to cheer for the show’s villains — the Lannisters.

“I suppose I like it as they’re all fighting one another for this coveted throne and I love the strategy behind the battle plans. I actually love the Lannisters. I love to hate them,” she said.

In the PNE, fans waited up to 30 minutes for a chance to enjoy a full 3D experience of climbing the show’s famed “Wall” — a massive and iconic barrier that divides the fictional Westeros from the dangerous northern wilderness. Brittney Webber enjoyed the 3D and explained her experience.

“It was pretty scary, like you are in an elevator and it goes really high up and you don’t know when it’s going to stop. And like

looking around you’re in like this cage and there’s nothing above you,” she said, adding that she had a feeling of free falling and fireballs shooting at her.

Some fans of the show took their interest to a whole new level, including Aaron Harrison, who arrived in a costume he made for himself based on the outfits worn by the show’s villains — the Lannisters. Harrison works in Vancouver’s film industry as an actor and set builder. He said the costumes and set designs from “Game of Thrones” are some of the best he’s seen. He said the show is notorious for its violence and gruesome scenes, and is certainly not for the whole family. “I think murder porn is what my girlfriend says all the time, but I mean it’s like the bible, but more entertaining,” he said.

Xinhua

MYANMAR TV

(25-8-2014, Monday)

- 6:00 am**
- * Paritta by Hilly Region Missionary Sayadaw
- 6:35 am**
- * Nice & Sweet Song
- 7:00 am**
- * News/Weather Report
- 7:20 am**
- * People Talks
- 8:50 am**
- * ASEAN (LIVE Broadcast)
- 10:00 am**
- * News
- 10:20 am**
- * Weekly Entertainment News
- 10:50 am**
- * Documentary
- 11:25 am**
- * Songs of Yester Years
- 12:25 pm**
- * Myanmar Movie
- 2:40 pm**
- * Musical Programme
- 3:20 pm**
- * Documentary (Women in Myanmar Society)
- 4:30 pm**
- * University of Distance Education (TV Lectures) -First Years (Economic)
- 5:00 pm**
- * News
- 6:20 pm**
- * Traditional Boxing
- 6:50 pm**
- * TV Drama Series
- 7:00 pm**
- * News
- 7:20 pm**
- * TV Drama Series
- 8:00 am**
- * News/International News/Weather Report
- 8:35 pm**
- * Documentary
- 9:00 pm**
- * News
- * Talk on Old Film
- * Teleplay

MYANMAR INTERNATIONAL

(25-8-14 07:00 am~ 26-8-14 07:00 am) MST

- * Local News
- * Myanmar Traditional Identity(Episode- 4) Tumbling Doll,Pyit Tine Htaung
- * World News
- * Myanmar Sculpture Work of Art
- * Local News
- * A Trip to The City of Rakkhita, Rakhine
- * World News
- * We’ll Leave After 12 Passengers Are on Board ...
- * Local News
- * Taste of Myanmar: Shan Style Clay Pot
- * World News
- * Hip-Hop and Design
- * Local News
- * Historic and Mystery Behind The Caves
- * World News
- * Sticky Shan Snack
- * Local News
- * Products of Myanmar - Seashells Products
- * World News
- * A Day Trip to Thanlyin
- * Local News
- * Shwe Maw Daw: The Glory of Bago City
- * World News
- * Cultural Show: Composer Ma Mya Lay
- * Local News
- * Me N My Travel With Maria (Night Market of Pyay)
- * World News
- * Orchid Lover
- * Local News
- * Herbal Medicine By Thurein (Ta Bin Dine Mya Nan)(Vitis)
- * World News
- * Paper Flower

Holdings Bayern to face Hamburg in big German Cup clash

BERLIN, 24 Aug — Holdings Bayern Munich will take on Hamburg SV in the biggest game of the German Cup second round after the draw was made on Saturday. Bayern have won the Cup a record 17 times with Hamburg lifting the trophy on three occasions.

Eintracht Frankfurt face Borussia Moenchengladbach in the only other all-Bundesliga tie while last season’s runners-up Borussia Dortmund travel to second division St Pauli.

Bayer Leverkusen have been drawn against amateurs Magdeburg.

Reuters

Manchester United set to sign Real’s Di Maria



Argentina’s Angel di Maria

LONDON, 24 Aug — Manchester United are close to signing Real Madrid’s Argentina winger Angel Di Maria in a deal that is expected to smash the British transfer record, according to media reports.

British newspapers said a move for the 26-year-old is likely to cost more than the 50 million pounds Chelsea paid Liverpool for Spain striker Fernando Torres in 2011.

Di Maria cost Real 20 million pounds

from Benfica in 2010 and he was a key part of the team that won the club’s 10th European Cup last term but he has since fallen out of favour and was omitted from the squad for the Spanish Super Cup this week.

The Argentine, who looked strong in pre-season after suffering a thigh injury in the World Cup quarter-finals which forced him out of the tournament, has turned down a new deal at the Bernabeu having been linked with the Premier League.

“Di Maria asked to leave this summer and rejected the option to renew,” Real manager Ancelotti said on Thursday.

“We’ll look for the best option for him and if at the end of August he is still here then he will work with us like last season.” The *Daily Mail* reported that Di Maria had already spoken with United manager Louis van Gaal about his likely role and said he was expected to be given the iconic number seven shirt worn by George Best, Eric Cantona and David Beckham.

United declined to comment on the reports. — *Reuters*



A vessel passes the five-level ship dock of the Three Gorges in Yichang, central China’s Hubei Province, on 23 Aug, 2014. The Three Gorges have risen its water level to meet with the flood season, which makes vessels to extend travel time by 40 minutes as they pass the five-level ship docks of the Three Gorges. *XINHUA*

Man shot to death at Wiz Khalifa concert in Northern California

NEW YORK, 24 Aug — A man was shot to death backstage at a Wiz Khalifa rap concert in Northern California and the gunman remained at large, police said on Saturday.

The 38-year-old man was hit by gunfire at the concert on Friday night at the Shoreline Amphitheatre in Mountain View, police spokeswoman Shino Tanaka said in a written statement. Mountain View is near San Jose.

The victim, who was not immediately identified, was shot multiple times, apparently with a pistol that had a large magazine,

Tanaka said. He later died of his wounds.

“This was a senseless tragedy,” Khalifa said in a post on Twitter. “Violence is never the answer. My prayers go out to the victim’s family.”

Khalifa said on Twitter that a concert planned for Saturday night at the Sleep Train Amphitheatre in Chula Vista, California near San Diego was cancelled “due to a situation out of our control.”

A recorded message at the theatre confirmed that the show was cancelled and would not be rescheduled. — *Reuters*

Myanmar athlete secures silver in Wushu in Youth Olympic Games

NAY PYI TAW, 24 Aug — Ma Aye Thitsa Myint stood second with the Vietnamese athlete first and the Canadian athlete third in Nanquan and Nandao event of the Wushu Championship at the Youth Olympic Games 2014 in Nanjing of the People's Republic of China on Saturday, attended by Vice Chairman of Myanmar Olympic Committee Deputy Minister for Sports U Zaw Win.

After the awarding ceremony, the deputy minister greeted and presented gifts to Mr Yu Zaiqing, Vice President of the International Olympic Committee and President of International Wushu Federation.

After giving words of encouragement to athletes, the deputy minister gave cash awards to silver medalist Ma Aye Thitsa Myint and sixth positioned Ma Sein Thiha Aung of the men's Gunshu event.

MNA



Arsenal salvage late Everton draw, Chelsea win

LONDON, 24 Aug — Arsenal showed the resilience that could underpin a Premier League title challenge when they scored twice in the closing minutes to draw 2-2 at Everton after the home side largely dominated the match on Saturday.

Aaron Ramsey tapped in after 83 minutes and substitute Olivier Giroud planted home a header in the 90th to cancel out

the lead Everton held after a first-half header from Seamus Coleman and Steven Naismith's second on the stroke of halftime.

Chelsea, who beat Leicester City 2-0 at Stamford Bridge with goals from home debutant Diego Costa and Eden Hazard, and Swansea City, who sank Burnley 1-0 at the Liberty Stadium, head the early season standings with six points. Arsenal stayed third

with four points from two games, although their run of six successive league victories, which started after they lost 3-0 at Everton in April, came to an end.

In Saturday's other matches, West Ham United won 3-1 at managerless Crystal Palace, while the games between Aston Villa and Newcastle United and Southampton and West Bromwich Albion ended goal-

less. Tottenham Hotspur, who host Queens Park Rangers, and Hull City, who welcome Stoke City, both on Sunday, can also move on to six points after winning their opening games as can champions Manchester City and runners-up Liverpool, who meet on Monday. Arsenal's late Goodison Park rally was the second time this season they had scored late after Ramsey's 90th minute

strike gave them a 2-1 win over visiting Crystal Palace last week.

It was also the second successive week Everton had conceded a late goal which denied them victory after allowing hosts Leicester City to equalise and force a 2-2 draw in their opener. Arsenal manager Arsene Wenger told Sky Sports: "It is a strong point because we were 2-0 down but a deserved one."—Reuters

Record as Leverkusen's Bellarabi scores after nine seconds

BERLIN, 24 Aug — Bayer Leverkusen winger Karim Bellarabi registered the fastest goal in the Bundesliga's 52-year history when he netted after nine seconds in their 2-0 victory at Borussia Dortmund on Saturday.

The visitors struck straight from kickoff with Hakan Calhanoglu feeding Sebastian Boenisch who sent the 24-year-old winger through to score.

"I am really happy for him (Bellarabi)," Leverkusen sports director Rudi Voeller told reporters. "This record is great for him. We did absolutely everything right in that first half and so did he."

Bellarabi returned to Leverkusen this season after a loan spell at Eintracht Braunschweig.

The previous record was 11 seconds, held by Ulf Kirsten, Giovane Elber

and Paul Freier.

"It's great that the Bundesliga record will now stay at Leverkusen. That's great for us and for the player," Leverkusen chief executive Michael Schade said, referring to Kirsten's goal against Kaiserslautern in 2002. Stefan Kiessling scored another goal from a Bellarabi pass with the last kick of the game for Leverkusen's season opening win.—Reuters



Bayer Leverkusen winger Karim Bellarabi registered the fastest goal in the Bundesliga's 52-year history when he netted after nine seconds.—REUTERS

Spurs rout QPR 4-0 in Pochettino's 1st home game

LONDON, 24 Aug — Tottenham tore apart Queens Park Rangers to produce a stylish 4-0 rout that showcased the expressive attacking football demanded of new manager Mauricio Pochettino on Sunday, ensuring a miserable return to White Hart Lane for Harry Redknapp.

In a high-tempo first-half display, Nacer Chadli seized on hapless QPR defending to score twice and defender Eric Dier made it two goals in two games at the start of his Tottenham career.

Dier also scored the

late winner at West Ham in last weekend's season opener but Tottenham was far more rampant in Pochettino's first home game in charge.

Emmanuel Adebayor

completed QPR's humiliation in the second-half with a goal on the break provided by Dier, who joined Tottenham in the offseason from Benfica for \$6 million.—Internet



Serena plays young Townsend in symbolic US Open opener

NEW YORK, 24 Aug — Serena Williams, who opens her quest for a third successive US Open title with a meeting against fellow African American Taylor Townsend on Tuesday, said Arthur Ashe would have been proud.

On Arthur Ashe Kids' Day that drew legions of young hopefuls to the National Tennis Centre on Saturday, Williams pondered the significance

of her clash against the 18-year-old Townsend and the legacy of Ashe, whose name graces the centre court stadium. "I think he would say it's a great opportunity to see a veteran American player play the future of American tennis," 32-year-old Williams told reporters about her match against the 2012 Australian Open girls' champion.

"He was such an amazing guy. I had an opportu-

nity to meet him. So I think he would be really proud and honored to see so many young African-American players... doing so well and playing so hard and just being role models for the next generation."

Williams said she took a lot from the example set by Ashe, a three-times major winner who claimed the US title in 1968, and died in 1993 from AIDS-related pneumonia.—Reuters