

President gives awards to outstanding students in English language proficiency competitions

NAY PYI TAW, 26 Aug— President U Thein Sein attended the awarding ceremony of the national-level English language proficiency competitions held at Myanmar International Convention Centre 2 here on Tuesday.

The president gave awards to first-award winners of post-graduates, and graduates in the competitions of essay writing, extempore speech and debates.

Vice President Dr. Sai Mauk Kham also gave awards to the first runner-ups, and Union Education Minister Dr Daw Khin San Yi to the second-runner ups.

A total of 40 participants took parts in this competition after passing university and higher-education levels.

The judges for these competitions include four persons from the British Council and one from the Edulink Australia.

A total of 24 contestants participated in the undergraduate level contest and 16 in the post-graduate level contest, totalling 40.

Of them, students who



President U Thein Sein presents first prize to Maung Ngun Lyan Hsan in the post-graduate level extempore speech contest.—MNA

stood first in the national level extempore speech contest won K500,000, the second prize winner K350,000 and the third prize winner K200,000

respectively. The prizes were presented through the President's education outstanding award fund and the Ministry of Education.

Union Minister Dr Daw Khin San Yi presented flower basket to the students who performed dances and gave gifts to members of

the panel of judges.

Later, the President posed for documentary photo with prize winning students.

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INSIDE

Vice President U Nyan Tun receives Japanese business delegation

PAGE-3

Pyithu Hluttaw (Lower House) Speaker meets ethnic armed group leaders

PAGE-3

Ethnic delegations call on Amyotha Hluttaw Speaker

PAGE-9

Myanmar should have more alternative revenue sources for long-term development

PAGE-8

ACTION

PAGE-8

ASEAN, Plus Three countries retain trade, investment momentum despite challenges

NAY PYI TAW, 26 Aug— Trade and invest-

ment relations between ASEAN and its plus three

countries—China, Japan and South Korea—re-

tained momentum despite challenges derived from

uncertainties in the global economy.

In 2013, ASEAN's trade with the Plus Three countries recorded an increase of 1.8 per cent year-on-year, amounting to \$ 726.4 billion and accounting for 28.9 per cent of ASEAN's trade, according to the joint media statement after the 17th Consultations between the ASEAN Economic Ministers and the economic ministers of China, Japan and South Korea in Nay Pyi Taw on Tuesday.

Though ASEAN's imports from the three countries grew 2.1 per cent year-on-year in 2013, the rate moderated from 11.2 per cent the previous year, while ASEAN's export to

the three grew 1.5 per cent year-on-year.

Total foreign direct investment from the Plus Three into ASEAN reached \$ 56 billion, 46.1 per cent of total FDI and a 9.4 per cent increase from the previous year.

The consultations were co-chaired by Dr Kan Zaw, Union Minister for National Planning and Economic Development of Myanmar, Gao Hucheng, minister of Commerce of China, Toshimitsu Mote-gi, minister for Economy, Trade and Industry of Japan and Yoon Sang-jick, minister of Trade, Industry and Energy of South Korea.

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Economic Ministers of ASEAN countries and dialogue partners China, Japan and South Korea focus on promotion of trade in ASEAN nations.—PHOTO: AYE MIN SOE

Capacity building course for officers kicks off

NAY PYI TAW, 26 Aug—Capacity building course No 1/2014 was given to officers of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in



Union Minister for Foreign Affairs U Wunna Maung Lwin speaking at opening of capacity building course No 1/2014 given to MOFA officers.—MNA

S Korea becomes ASEAN's fifth largest investor, adds \$ 3.5 billion in FDI in 2013

NAY PYI TAW, 26 Aug—Foreign direct investment from South Korea to ASEAN more than doubled from \$1.7 billion in 2012 to \$3.5 billion in 2013, making South Korea ASEAN's fifth largest source of FDI.

At the 11th Consultations between the ASEAN Economic Ministers and South Korea's minister for Trade in Nay Pyi Taw on Tuesday, the ministers also noted bilateral trade between ASEAN and South Korea grew from \$131 billion in 2012 to \$135 billion last year.

ASEAN's imports from South Korea increased 8.1 per cent to \$82.2 billion in 2013, but ASEAN's exports to South Korea fell 4.0 per cent to \$52.8 billion, according to a joint statement after the consultations.

The ministers welcomed the progress in liberalizing ASEAN-Korea Trade in Goods Agreement, which includes incorporation of line-by-line tariff

reduction schedules into the Agreement, the agreement to either waive or incorporate reciprocal tariff rates into the tariff reduction schedules, adoption of transposed product specific rules list, and improvements to customs procedures and trade facilitation.

The ministers encouraged ASEAN members states to come up with more project proposals as well as conduct outreach programmes to increase stakeholders' awareness ASEAN-South Korea economic cooperation activities and the financial vehicle, the ASEAN-Korea Economic Cooperation Fund.

The South Korean delegation was led by Yoon Sang-jick, minister of Trade, Industry and Energy.

The 2nd ASEAN-Korea Commemorative Summit will be held 11-12 December in Busan under the theme "Building Trust, Bringing Happiness".

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istry of Foreign Affairs in Nay Pyi Taw on Tuesday as part of efforts to implement the Third Wave process of the State.

Speaking on the occasion, Union Minister for Foreign Affairs U Wunna Maung Lwin stressed the need for staff of the Myanmar embassies in foreign countries to protect the interest of Myanmar citizens abroad.

Similar courses will be conducted by Myanmar missions abroad under supervision of the head of Myanmar embassies, said sources.

A total of 50 officers of the ministry attended the two-day course.

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs also successfully conducted the Course No 3/2014 in Diplomacy-CID.—MNA

ASEAN, China agree to upgrade ACFTA

By Aye Min Soe

NAY PYI TAW, 26 Aug— ASEAN and China agreed to upgrade the ASEAN-China Free Trade Area-ACFTA to ensure that ACFTA remains dynamic and commercially relevant.

At the 13th AEM-MOFCOM meeting economic ministers from ASEAN and the minister of Commerce of the People's Republic of China on Tuesday, the ministers endorsed the Elements Paper for the ACFTA upgrade, which laid out the key areas on which the upgrade would focus.

The agreement on upgrading the ACFTA would serve to deepen the economic interests of both sides in a mutually beneficial manner, according to the press release of the meeting.

Meanwhile, the min-

isters reaffirmed ASEAN's and China's commitment to achieving the joint target of \$ 500 billion trade by the end of 2015.

"It is about 440 billion, we are not too far away. As the economies grow, we, (ASEAN) are growing. People do not realize that ASEAN is growing fast, 5% to 6% average. That is one of the fastest growth rates in the world as a region," said Malaysian Economic Minister Dato' Sri Mustapa Monhamed.

By the end of 2013, ASEAN's trade with China reached \$351 billion, accounting for 14% of ASEAN's total trade and an increase of 9.7 % year-on-year.

In 2013, ASEAN received \$ 8.6 billion in foreign direct investment from China, a 60.8% increase

year-on-year and accounting for 7.1% of total inflows to ASEAN.

"We've seen for example over the last year, 13% increase, in bilateral trade with China. We continue to expect significant improvement over the next few years," said Gregory L Domingo, Secretary of Trade and Industry.

The ministers also decided, by fully utilizing existing cooperative framework, to maximize the development of opportunity brought by the initiative of the 21st Century Maritime Silk Road to China—ASEAN trade and economic cooperation and continuously push forward China—ASEAN connectivity cooperation to improve the level of trade and economic cooperation and achieve mutual benefits.—NLM



UN Secretary-General's special envoy urges Bengalis to cooperate in citizenship probe

SITTWAY, 26 Aug— Vijay Nambiar, Special envoy to the UN Secretary-General on Myanmar, accompanied by Col Htein Lin, Rakhine State Minister for Security and Border

Affairs, and U Aung Than Tin, Rakhine State Minister for Electric Power and Industry, had a meeting with local departmental officials and civil society in Myebon in Rakhine State on 24 August, sources said.

While in Myebon, Mr Nambiar visited relief camps, where he observed Bengalis being examined for their eligibility for citizenship, urging them to cooperate in the process and restore peaceful co-existence between the two communities.

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Delegates of ASEAN countries and dialogue partner countries taking part in ASEAN+MOFCOM Consultations.

PHOTO: AYE MIN SOE



Delegates of ASEAN countries and dialogue partner Republic of Korea participate in improvement of relationships in all aspects between ASEAN countries and ROK.

PHOTO: AYE MIN SOE

Suspected Ebola patient in better health

NAY PYI TAW, 26 Aug—The 22-year old suspected Ebola patient at Waibagi Specialist Hospital is under care of specialists and getting better

daily while the other four people who had close contact with him are healthy, the Ministry of Health announced on Tuesday.

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NATIONAL

Vice President U Nyan Tun receives Japanese business delegation

NAY PYI TAW, 26 Aug — U Nyan Tun, Vice President of Myanmar, received a delegation led by Mr Akio Mimura, Chairman of the ASEAN-Japan Economic Council as well as of the Federation of Japanese Traders and Industrialists, at the Credentials Hall of the Presidential Palace here on Tuesday, sources said.

They discussed matters related to economic cooperation between ASEAN and Japan as well as between Myanmar and

Japan, assistance to the development of small and medium enterprises, and plans to build infrastructure for a special economic zone.—MNA

Vice President U Nyan Tun greets Chairman of the ASEAN-Japan Economic Council and Federation of Japanese Traders and Industrialists Mr Akio Mimura in focusing on economic cooperation.—MNA



Pyithu Hluttaw (Lower House) Speaker meets ethnic armed group leaders



Pyithu Hluttaw (Lower House) Speaker Thura U Shwe Mann holds talks with leaders of Wa Special Region (2), Shan State Progressive Party and Shan State Army, and vice-chairman of Mongla Special Region (4).—MNA

NAY PYI TAW, 26 Aug — Pyithu Hluttaw (Lower House) Speaker Thura U Shwe Mann on Tuesday met here with ethnic armed group leaders from Shan State, and clarified the functions of parliament.

U Kyauk Kaw Ann, member of central committee from Wa Special Region (2), Sao Khae Tai, vice-chairman of Shan State Progressive Party and Shan State Army, and U San Pae, vice chairman of Mongla Special Region (4) also explained their plans to work together with the government in regional

development programmes, activities on rule of law and peace-making processes.

Thura U Shwe Mann said that the Parliament is emphasizing on legislative processes, while concentrating on internal peace through national unity, reconciliation and rule of law.

He also said that Union Peace-making Work Committee has been formed led by President U Thein Sein, and that the Hluttaw will support the peace-making process between the government and the ethnic armed groups.

The speaker then highlighted the necessity of nationwide ceasefire agreement to protect the lives of ethnics in the conflict areas, urging for the cooperation of ethnic people.

Thura U Shwe Mann also pointed out the importance of careful and decisive approach to amend some paragraphs of the 2008 state constitution.

The meeting was attended by Vice-Speaker of Pyithu Hluttaw (Lower House) U Nanda Kyaw Swa and chairmen of Hluttaw committees.

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ASEAN-Japan bilateral trade reaches \$240.9 billion in 2013

NAY PYI TAW, 26 Aug — Two-way trade between ASEAN and Japan reached \$240.9 billion in 2013, accounting for 9.6 per cent of all ASEAN trade, according to a joint statement after the 20th Consultations of ASEAN Economic Ministers and the Minister for Economy, Trade and Industry of Japan.

At the METI consultations on Tuesday in Nay Pyi Taw, the ministers welcomed the rising interest of Japanese business communities in the realization of the ASEAN Economic Community next year.

Foreign direct invest-

ment flows from Japan to ASEAN amounted to \$22.9 billion in 2013. Japan, ASEAN's largest trading partner after China and EU, has remained the second largest source of FDI for ASEAN, accounting for 18.7% of FDI into ASEAN in 2013.

During the meeting, the ministers welcomed progress made in the implementation of the ASEAN-Japan 10-year Strategic Economic Cooperation Roadmap, including the development of the ASEAN-Japan Chemical Safety Database, "local-to-local" cooperation between

ASEAN and Japan, and Japan's support for the Strategic Action Plan for SME Development post-2015.

At the meeting of the 1st Public Private Dialogue in New Industries, Japanese economists presented the papers on green economy, healthcare services, regional cooperations and media industry, with the discussions of Masayasu Hosumi from Bangkok-based JETRO, Akio Mimura, regional representative of ASEAN-Japan Economic Council and U Win Aung, President of UMFCCL.

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Union Minister for NPED Dr Kan Zaw joining hands with ASEAN economic ministers as a gesture of integration in ASEAN region.

PHOTO: AYE MIN SOE

Body-builders, fashion winners awarded at Kyaukse University



KYAUKSE, 26 Aug—Kyaukse University held a physical culture contest and traditional costume show for the 2013-14 academic year at its hall in Kyaukse of Mandalay on 23 August, with an opening address by Rector Dr Myint Lwin.

Second year chemistry

student Ma Htet Thinza Lin secured the first prize in the physical culture contest, second year MA English student Ma The Nu Khin, the second and third year botany student Ma Shwe Zin Chit the third.

Second year geology student Maung Tun

Paw stood first in the body-building contest, first year botany student Maung Khin Maung Tun second and second year physics student Maung Paing Phyto third.

First year English student Ma Htet Htet Kyaw won the first prize, first

year chemistry student Ma Phyto Pyae Kyaw second and third year Myanmar student Ma Ju Thiri Aung third.

Rector Dr Myint Lwin and officials presented prizes to the winners.

Tin Maung (Mandalay)

Mandalay women win over performers 7-6 in fund-raising football match

MANDALAY, 26 Aug — A fund-raising football match between the tentatively selected women's football team of Mandalay Region and the theatrical performers team took place at Bahtoo Stadium in Mandalay on Sunday.

The women's team won over the performers team 7-6 in the match.

After delivering an address, Commander of Mandalay Region Police Force Police Col Zaw Win Aung greeted players of both sides.

In the first half, the performers team led the match with 5-1 over the women's team. In the second half, the women's team controlled the football with excellent skills and scored six more goals into the performers' net one after another.



The performers team scored six goals from three of Chan Myae Aung, three of Pho Chit and one of Po

Chit while Khin Marlar Tun translated the opportunities into three goals, Mi Mi Lin two, Ei Mon Kyaw

and Htet Thu Thu Aye one each for women's team.

Tin Maung (Mandalay)

Traditional medicine university students enjoy sports competitions

MANDALAY, 26 Aug — The first year team emerged as champion with a 3-1 victory over the third year team in the men's football event at the ground of University of Traditional Medicine (Mandalay) on Sunday.

In the women's event, third year team clinched title with a 2-0 win over the fourth year team.

After delivering an address, Rector Professor Dr Than Maung presented certificates of honour to well-wishers who donated cash to the fund for University of Traditional Medicine

(Mandalay) sports competition. He also gave prizes to the winning team and the best player award to first year student Lwin Moe.

Pro-Rector U Kyaw Thein Htay and officials presented prizes to the winners in the second prize winning teams in the football events, first, second and third prize winners in the volleyball, badminton, table tennis, Sepak Takraw, 100-m, 200-m, 400-m and 800-m race and shot put events.

Tin Maung (Mandalay)

Local people hope for maintenance of road section in Mohnyin Tsp

MOHNYIN, 26 Aug—The Kachin State chief minister has given instructions to construct a seven furlongs long damaged road section from mile posts 185/5 to 186/4 on Shwebo-Myitkyina Road as quickly as possible, as the construction project has not been implemented for

the past year.

Local people informed officials of the damaged road section, addressing Amyotha Hluttaw (Upper House) representative U Sai Tin Aung in their meeting at Nantpok Village in Mohnyin Township on 22 August.

“On his inspection

tour of Mohnyin Township in March 2013, the Chief Minister of Kachin State instructed officials to build the road section within three months. The task has not been completed this year,” said U Set Maung, villager of Nantpok Village.

NLM-001



LOCAL NEWS

Refreshment, food donated to patients at Mandalay hospitals

MANDALAY, 26 Aug —The abbot of West Khinmagan Monastery in Chanayethazan Township gives refreshments and purified drinking water to patients at hospitals in Mandalay every Sabbath day.

Gilanapala Group members on Monday donated refreshments, purified

drinking water, jam, rice and fried fish to patients at Mandalay General Hospital, Women's Hospital, Teaching Hospital (300-bed), Orthopaedic Specialist Hospital and Children's Hospital (550-bed).

Tin Maung (Mandalay)

Stimulant tablets worth K30 million seized in Myawady Town

MYAWADY, 26 Aug —Police and local authorities raided the house of Sai Hsai Pan on Yan Myo Naing Street in Ward 4 of Myawady on Tuesday.

They found 10,000 stimulant tablets weighing 1,000 grams worth K30 million, K8.5 million various notes, one pistol, 9mm bullets in the magazine, 75 9mm bullets in a paper box

and one 91-grenade in the house, and one Toyota Hilux car worth K25 million, one wheel tax, one guarantee book and one motorcycle worth K800,000 in the residence. Myawady Police Station opened file of lawsuit against Sai Hsai Pan and Nang Kham Yon of the house under the law.

Thuzar (Myawady Town)



Stimulant tablets and currency notes seized with pistol and bullets in Myawady Town.

District officials supervise implementation of emerald green project in villages



River water pumping station pumping water from Ayeyawady River to feeder canal.

MYINGYAN, 26 Aug —Myingyan District Deputy Commissioner U Myint Thin Aung and officials on Sunday visited the villages included in the implementation of emerald green projects with the aim of im-

plementing development of rural area and alleviation of poverty.

The officials met local people engaging in agriculture, livestock breeding, trade and production and the respective project im-

plementation committee members from Tebin, Pyogan and Kanswe villages of Myingyan Township in Mandalay Region.

The departmental officials urged the local people to take care of keeping

accounts for the project. The officials also inspected sheep, boat, cow and pig breeding, trading and domestic products in realizing the emerald green project.

Zaw Min Naing (Myingyan)

SMRJ to invite Myanmar entrepreneurs for undertaking joint venture in Japan

YANGON, 26 Aug —SME Support, Japan (SMRJ) (Organization for Small & Medium Enterprises and Regional Innovation, JAPAN) will hold an ASEAN CEO Programme in Japan from 5 to 11 October. According to the programme, the entrepreneurs from ASEAN countries wishing to do

joint venture tasks in Japan will be invited to Japan for carrying out business matching, providing training and creating opportunities for the entrepreneurs to enjoying the site visits in Japan. The programme will be held in Tokyo and Osaka.

The Myanmar entrepreneurs wishing to join the

programme may submit the application to the Republic of the Union of Myanmar Federation of Chambers of Commerce and Industry not later than 27 August. SMRJ will select the application directly.

Joint venture tasks will be undertaken for automotive parts, industrial machinery, machinery/parts

industries, infrastructure, agricultural machines, construction and trading.

SMRJ will give flight tickets and accommodation cost for the selected applicants. The applications are available at services.um-fcci@gmail.com. For further information, contact 214344~6.

Aung Thura

City Hospital in Mandalay commissions CT scan into service

MANDALAY, 26 Aug —The successful installation of Toshiba 640 slice dynamic volume CT scanner

at City Hospital was held at the hospital on Theikpan

Street between 65th and 66th streets in Mahaaung-

mye Township of Mandalay on 24 August.

Commander of Central Command Maj-Gen Soe Htut, Mandalay Region Minister for Social Affairs Dr Win Hlaing and officials formally opened the ceremony.

Region Marketing and Sales Manager Mr Ken Loo explained use of Toshiba 640 slice CT scan and strong points in curing heart and body.

The machine was installed in June 2014 to search clots in arteries, tumors at brains and pathological works at the patients.

Tin Maung (Mandalay)



Cambodia's parliament leadership reshuffled, opposition holds 1st vice-president post

PHNOM PENH, 26 Aug — All but one of the 123 lawmakers from the ruling and opposition parties voted for their new leadership on Tuesday following the leaders of the two parties agreed to an unprecedented power-sharing deal in the legislative body last month.

Heng Samrin, honorary president of the ruling Cambodian People's Party (CPP), remained the president of the National Assembly as the current first vice-president, Nguon Nhel relinquished that post to the opposition Cambodia National Rescue Party (CNRP) and became second vice-president.

CNRP's vice-president Kem Sokha was elected as the first vice-president of the National

Assembly by a confidential vote. Of the 122 lawmakers who were present at the parliamentary session, 116 voted in favor of Kem Sokha, 4 voted against and 2 abstained.

The lawmakers have also voted for the chairpersons of the legislative body's ten commissions, in which five commissions are chaired by the CPP and the other five commissions are controlled by the CNRP based on their agreement last month.

The five commissions under the CPP's chairmanship are commission on economics, finance, banking and auditing; commission on interior, defence, and public functions; commission on foreign affairs and information; commission on

legislation and justice; and commission on transport, telecom, industry, commerce, land management, and construction.

The CNRP-controlled five commissions include commission on human rights, complaints, and investigation; commission on investment, agriculture, rural development, environment, and water resources; commission on education, youth, sports, religions, culture and tourism; commission on health, social affairs, labor, vocational training and women's affairs; and commission on investigation and anti-corruption.

The reshuffle came after CPP's Prime Minister Hun Sen and CNRP's president Sam Rainsy struck an agreement on 22 July that saw the CNRP

end its nearly yearlong boycott of the National Assembly over last year's election that resulted in the CPP winning 68 seats against 55 seats for the CNRP.

Under the deal, the CNRP possesses the post of the first vice — president of the National Assembly and chairs five of the 10 commissions.

In addition, it will control four of nine seats on the would-be National Election Committee.

Speaking to reporters after the session, newly-elected first vice-president of the National Assembly Kem Sokha vowed to promote the culture of dialogues between the opposition party and the ruling party for the sake of the country and people.

"I will propose the

leaders of the opposition CNRP and the ruling CPP to meet regularly, possibly every three months, because we want to create the culture of dialogues to deal with all issues," he said.

CNRP's president and lawmaker Sam Rainsy, who does not take any leadership role in the National Assembly, said, "The political crisis has come to an end, and the lawmakers from the two parties will work together to better serve the nation and people."

During the post-election crisis from July last year to July this year, the opposition had staged many street demonstrations — some of them had turned violence, leaving people dead and injured.

Xinhua

Brunei's Sultan sends congratulation message to new Thai PM

BANDAR SERI BEGAWAN, 26 Aug — Brunei's Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolki-ah has sent a message of congratulation to General Prayuth Chan-ocha following his recent appointment as the Prime Minister of the Kingdom of Thailand, state broadcaster Radio and Television Brunei (RTB) said on its website on Tuesday.

In the message, the Sultan extends his warmest congratulations to General Prayuth Chan-ocha on his appointment as prime minister. The Monarch also wishes the new Thai prime minister much success and looks forward to working with him in enhancing the warm friendship and close cooperation between the two countries.— Xinhua

Abe to reshuffle Cabinet on 3 September



Prime Minister Shinzo Abe

TOKYO, 26 Aug — Prime Minister Shinzo Abe will reshuffle his Cabinet on 3 September, he said on Tuesday in a meeting of Liberal Democratic Party executives. "I would like to make fresh changes as we enter the second chapter of Japan's recovery featuring (work on) national security and regional economies," said Abe, also president of the LDP.

Abe also said the party's new executive lineup will be introduced the same day, according to an LDP official. He is considering making major changes to LDP leadership positions, including that of secretary general, currently held by Shigeru Ishiba.

Ishiba has indicated he will turn down Abe's offer to become state minister in charge of national security legislation as he hopes to retain his post in the LDP.

Abe will likely keep Chief Cabinet Secretary Yoshihide Suga, Finance Minister Taro Aso and Akira Amari, minister in charge of economic revitalization and Trans-Pacific Partnership trade talks, in their current posts.

During the party meeting, the LDP executives held a minute of silence for the victims of the recent landslides in Hiroshima.

"The government will do everything it can" to help those affected, Abe said.

Kyodo News

Vietnam hosts ASEAN maritime forums

HO CHI MINH CITY, 26 Aug — The 5th ASEAN Maritime Forum (AMF-5) and the 3rd Expanded ASEAN Maritime Forum (EAMF-3) kicked off in Vietnam's central Da Nang City on Tuesday, with representatives from ten ASEAN member states and eight East Asia Summit (EAS) partners, local Vietnam News (VNS) reported on Tuesday.

Participants from ten ASEAN member states are

from Brunei, Cambodia, Indonesia, Laos, Malaysia, Myanmar, the Philippines, Singapore, Thailand and Vietnam; and those from eight EAS partners including China, Japan, South Korea, India, Australia, New Zealand, Russia and the United States.

The two events aimed to promote the key role of ASEAN in fostering maritime co-operation and building trust in the region, especially in ensuring secu-

rity and safety of navigation, said the report.

AMF-5 and EAMF-3 are also expected to serve as channels for participants to discuss issues related to maritime collaboration, focusing on building trust and ensuring maritime security and safety.

During the three-day working, which will last until Thursday, participating countries will discuss the maritime situation and cooperation in the region,

review the implementation of initiatives, and set future orientations for the AMF and EAMF, according to VNS.

ASEAN is now operating 11 maritime cooperation mechanisms covering areas such as defence, transnational crime prevention, transport, fisheries, tourism and the environment. The previous 4th AMF and 2nd EAMF took place in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia in October 2013.— Xinhua



Yu Zhengsheng (C front), Chairman of the National Committee of the Chinese People's Political Consultative Conference (CPPCC), presides over the opening meeting of the 7th session of the Standing Committee of the 12th CPPCC National Committee in Beijing, China on 25 Aug, 2014. Wang Qishan, a member of the Standing Committee of the Political Bureau of the Communist Party of China (CPC) Central Committee and secretary of the Central Commission for Discipline Inspection (CCDI) of the CPC, was invited to the meeting and made a report. — XINHUA

WORLD

French PM to unveil pro-reform cabinet after rebel ministers' eviction

PARIS, 26 Aug—France's prime minister will scramble to put together a new pro-reform government on Tuesday, a day after the surprise eviction of rebel ministers who had opposed budgetary rigor.

Manuel Valls will seek as wide a basis as possible for his second cabinet in five months ahead of tough negotiations at home and with EU peers on France's 2015 budget and he is expected to try to poach politicians from other parties.

Valls handed in his government's resignation on Monday after President Francois Hollande decided firebrand Economy Minister Arnaud Montebourg had gone one step too far by attacking his economic policies and Germany's "obsession" with austerity.

Two of France's leading newspapers, the conservative *Le Figaro* and left-wing *Liberation*, summed up the mood on Tuesday with the exact same headline: "Regime-crisis".

"Attacked in his own



French President Francois Hollande (R) gestures as he speaks with French Economy Minister Arnaud Montebourg during a reception honouring the first 110 laureates of the worldwide innovation challenge "Innovation 2030" at the Elysee Palace in Paris on 23 July, 2014.—REUTERS

camp, victim of abysmal unpopularity, Francois Hollande is confronted with an unprecedented crisis," *Le Figaro* wrote on its front page, showing Hollande standing alone, drenched in rain during a World War Two commemoration ceremony.

Hollande, France's most unpopular president in polling history, remained silent on Monday about the government reshuffle as Montebourg accused him of putting the country at risk with his economic policy. Hollande drew a parallel with France in 1944 — "a country in ruins which found in itself the strength to pull itself up".

"We will obtain nothing without efforts, without abnegation, without courage ... Even in the most difficult times, (political) will triumphs," the president said, adding that now, as then, the sole objective should be recovering France's competitiveness to "ensure its independence".

Reuters

Rocket fired from Lebanon towards Israel

BEIRUT, 26 Aug—Unknown assailants fired on Monday evening at least one rocket from south Lebanon towards the northern Israeli occupied territories.

A security source told *Xinhua* on condition of anonymity that one rocket was fired from the Jarmaq region in the Litani river valley, 10 kilometres away from the borders with Israel, and the Lebanese army immediately cordoned the area in search for the assailants.

The source added that the sirens went on in the Israeli northern settlements and were heard in the Lebanese border villages. The Lebanese-Israeli border region is witnessing a tension since the Israeli aggression against the Gaza Strip, with few rockets fired from south Lebanon by unknown assailants on seven different occasions.

Reuters

Four killed in Ohio small plane crash

CLEVELAND, 26 Aug—Four people were killed on Monday when a small plane crashed moments after takeoff from an Ohio regional airport, a police dispatcher said.

The plane went down around 10 pm local time after taking off from Cuyahoga County Airport, about 16 miles from downtown Cleveland, according to a Willoughby Hills Police Department dispatcher.

It was not immediately clear what caused the plane to crash. The identities of the victims were not yet known.

Reuters

Remote, gas-rich islands on Indonesia's South China Sea frontline

RANAI, (Indonesia), 26 Aug—The word "sleepy" could have been invented for Ranai, the largest town in Indonesia's remote and sparsely populated Natuna archipelago.

It has few cars and only two sets of traffic lights. The cloud-wreathed mountain looming over it resembles a slumbering volcano. Nearby beaches lie pristine and empty, waiting for tourists.

From Ranai, it takes an imaginative leap to see Natuna — a scattering of 157 mostly uninhabited islands off the northwest coast of Borneo — as a future flashpoint in the es-

calating dispute over ownership of the South China Sea, one of the world's busiest waterways.

But that's precisely what many people here fear.

They know Natuna is quite a prize. Its fish-rich waters are routinely plundered by foreign trawlers. Lying just inside its 200-nautical-mile exclusive economic zone is the East Natuna gas field, one of the world's largest untapped reserves.

And any quarrel over Natuna would also upset a delicate strategic balance, undermining Indonesia's role as a self-appointed

honest broker in the myriad territorial disputes between its Southeast Asian neighbours and regional giant China.

Jakarta's foreign ministry insists there is no problem with China over the status of Natuna, but the Indonesian military has in recent months struck a more assertive tone.

In April, Indonesian armed forces chief Moeldoko accused China of including parts of Natuna within its so-called "Nine-Dash Line," the vague boundary used on Chinese maps to lay claim to about 90 percent of the South China Sea.—*Reuters*

Asylum seekers file lawsuit against Australian government

SYDNEY, 26 Aug—Asylum seekers held on remote Christmas Island are suing the Australian government for failing to provide adequate health care, piling more pressure on Canberra over its controversial policy of detain-ing children.

Lawyers acting for the asylum seekers filed a claim in the Victorian Supreme Court on Tuesday, using a 6-year-old girl as the lead plaintiff in the class action lawsuit.

Immigration Minister Scott Morrison last week announced plans to release some children from detention after human rights groups said that holding minors was detrimental to their mental and physical health.

However, under tough laws designed to discourage refugees arriving by boat, only 150 of the 876 children currently in detention — and only those held in mainland detention centers — will be eligible for release.

Jacob Varghese, a lawyer with legal firm Maurice Blackburn, said the girl spearheading the class action, known only as AS, had been in detention for a year and has been diagnosed with post-traumatic stress disorder. She has ongoing dental infections, allergies, separation anxiety, bed wetting and is refusing food, he said.

"The government is robbing far too many kids of their childhoods," Varghese told reporters.

"Too many asylum-seekers' health are being severely compromised

by being in detention. Doctors who have first-hand experience of what it is like there say services fall well short of standards the Australian community expects."

The class action alleges that the government and Morrison, as the legal guardian of the children, have breached their duty of care to protect the health and wellbeing of asylum seekers.

It covers people who have been held on Australia's Indian Ocean territory of Christmas Island at some point over the past three years, meaning there are thousands of potential claimants.

The law firm is seeking compensation and an order that the 334 people currently detained on the island, including 148 children, be placed in community detention on the mainland instead. Conservative Prime Minister Tony Abbott won an election last September after campaigning heavily on tough immigration policies, which have been criticized internationally but which polls show remain popular with voters. Morrison says they are needed to stop dangerous people-smuggling ventures.

About 16,000 asylum seekers came to Australia on 220 boats in the first seven months of 2013, but the government says there has been just one "illegal" boat arrival since December. Hundreds of asylum seekers have drowned when rickety boats, mostly from Indonesia, have sunk en route in recent years.

Reuters



A mountain dominates the skyline above Ranai, the largest town in Indonesia's remote Natuna archipelago on 10 July, 2014.—REUTERS

PERSPECTIVES

Wednesday, 27 August, 2014

Myanmar should have more alternative revenue sources for long-term development

By Aung Khin

Myanmar has seen rapid economic growth resulted from its recent democratic and economic reforms. The repealing of export taxes, decreasing import taxes and providing greater access to foreign direct investment are also the new taxation process in

state's revenue sector.

The amount of foreign direct investment into Myanmar rose to US\$2.7 billion in 2012-2013 fiscal year which ended in March 2013, compared with \$1.9 billion of 2011-2012, according to the figures of the World Bank.

Oil and gas revenues play a key role in the economic development of the country with GDP growth of 6.5 percent for 2012-2013. With an increasing volume of natural gas exports, the energy sector will lead as a driving force of GDP growth.

Although the government has received international recognition for taking measures to enhance transparency, the country still has a long road ahead in rooting out corruption. Ranking 157 out of 177 countries in the Transparency International's "Corruption Perceptions Index 2013"—an improvement on its 2012 position of 172—investor confidence will improve further with more commitment by the authorities in this area.

vestor confidence will improve further with more commitment by the authorities in this area.

All the state revenues should be properly allocated while the economy of country is in the upswing. As a large portion of the country's revenue comes from the exploration of natural resources, Myanmar will need alternative income sources like the service industry without damaging environmental conditions.

Write for us

We appreciate your feedback and contributions. If you have any comments or would like to submit editorials, analyses or reports please email wallace.tun@gmail.com with your name and title.

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.

Letter to the Editor

Dear Sir,

A recent letter to these pages by the Ambassador of the Russian Federation called into question the New Light of Myanmar's coverage of the situation in Ukraine. The EU intends to respect the independence of your editorial line and prefers not to resort to the same type of rhetoric used by the Russian Federation, which we hoped belonged to past times. In response to this letter I would simply like to recall some facts.

The EU has been deeply engaged in seeking a solution to the crisis in Ukraine, which developed following months of peaceful protests on the central 'Maidan' in Kyiv. These began on 21 November with the sudden decision to suspend preparations for the signature of the EU-Ukraine Association Agreement. The EU – having taken note of the demonstrations of public support for closer association and integration with Europe – condemned unequivocally the violence that has cost so many innocent lives.

Recent actions by the Russian Federation in violation of Ukraine's sovereignty, territorial integrity, stability and security are unacceptable and have been condemned by the international community. The restrictive measures taken by the EU are directly linked to Russia's violation of international law with the illegal annexation of Crimea and the destabilisation of Ukraine. They are intended to dissuade from further actions against Ukraine's interests and to help bring about a negotiated solution. At the same time, the EU continues to encourage all

possible forms of dialogue with the Russian Federation.

There was no government "overthrow" in Kyiv but a democratic vote in parliament in a crisis situation: the government was approved by an overwhelming majority in the Ukrainian Parliament, showing its inclusive character. Following his flight from Ukraine, effectively refusing to perform his duties, then President Yanukovich was dismissed by a constitutional majority and the void left by his departure filled to restore normal functioning of the state.

In accordance with this agreement, violence in the capital ceased and protesters withdrew from public buildings; a Law reinstating the 2004 constitution was adopted; a comprehensive constitutional reform envisaged along with new electoral laws and a balanced Central Electoral Commission; a democratic and inclusive Presidential election has taken place.

The EU strongly supported the holding of free and fair Presidential elections on 25 May, as they would help overcome the crisis and allow the Ukrainian people to choose their own future. The elections were characterised by a high turnout and the clear resolve of the Ukrainian authorities to hold a genuine democratic exercise in line with international commitments and respecting fundamental freedoms, despite a hostile security environment in two eastern regions.

Stressing the need to agree on a genuine and sustainable cease-fire by all parties to create the necessary conditions for the implementation of President Poroshenko's peace plan, the EU

has condemned the continuation of illegal activities by armed militants in eastern Ukraine, including hostage-taking and armed attacks on Ukrainian law enforcers and border guards. The EU continues to urge the Russian Federation to actively use its influence over the illegally armed groups and to stop the flow of weapons and militants across the border.

The EU and its Member States expressed their shock and conveyed its deepest condolences after the downing of the Malaysian Airlines Flight MH17 in Donetsk and the tragic loss of so many innocent lives. Citizens from many nationalities including many from the European Union were killed. The EU welcomed the unanimous adoption of the UN Security Council Resolution of 21 July 2014 and looks forward to its full implementation, calling on the separatist groups in the area to ensure full, safe and secure access to the site and surrounding area in order to proceed with identification of the victims, to recover their remains and possessions and to provide for their swift, professional and dignified repatriation.

The need to find a political, sustainable solution to this crisis has become a matter of urgency. The EU has called on the Russian Federation, Ukraine, the United States and the OSCE to join it in this pursuit and will actively support multilateral initiatives and any meeting format conducive to creating new political impetus towards this goal.

Yours sincerely,
Roland Kobia
EU Ambassador to
Myanmar

ACTION

Kyi Mun

* Action speaks louder than words.

A Maxim

* Actions are ours; consequences belong to heaven.

A Proverb

* Let a man act so by day that he may live happily by night.

An Indian Saying

* Deeds are accomplished by effort, not wishes; a deer, verily, does not enter into the mouth of a sleeping lion.

An Indian Saying

* For an ACTION to be effective and fruitful, you should follow the 8-P Plan : Plan Purposefully, Prepare Prayerfully, Proceed Positively, Pursue Persistently.

Norman V. Peale

* For an ACTION to be successful, you have got to find a need and fill it"

Anonymous

* An important action should be done with clear, definite PURPOSE in mind in terms of the desired results to be achieved.

Napoleon Hill

All actions should be done with the following succinct aphorisms in mind :

- ✓ "Pure intention is the ideal end and final aim."
- ✓ "Sincerity is righteousness."
- ✓ "Faith means purification of one's work."
- ✓ "Purity is the highest stage of faith."
- ✓ "All efforts are naught except that which has sincerity."
- ✓ "The fruit of knowledge is purity of action."
- ✓ "The acceptance and exaltation of deeds depends on sincerity."
- ✓ "If intentions are pure, actions

acquire loftiness and exaltations."

✓ "He who is sincere (in his work) shall realize his aspirations."

✓ "An ignorant person will always overdo a thing or neglect it totally (i.e. he will be at one extreme or the other.)"

✓ The element that gives importance to a person's action is his intention, motive or objective."

✓ Intention is the criterion of value in every act."

✓ Indeed, good deeds efface misdeeds."

✓ A good deed becomes more valuable if it is done immediately."

✓ Verily, bad behavior toward the people spoils good deeds just as vinegar spoils honey.

✓ To walk does not mean to run and stop intermittently; To walk means to move slowly but steadily."

As action is the most important activity in living, moving and having our being, let us see what the analytical meaning of action is :

- **A for Alive, Active, Alert, Agile, awake**
- **C for Constructive, Creative, Committed**
- **T for Target, Objective, Goal**
- **I for Innovative, Insight, Inspirational**
- **O for Opportunities, Objective-not Subjective, Open-minded**
- **N for Networking, Never-say-die, New and Better Ways of Doing Things**
- **S for Strategy, Strengths, Success**

(To be continued)

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

NATIONAL

NPED Union Minister receives four foreign ministers

NAY PYI TAW, 26 Aug — Chairman of the 46th ASEAN Economic Ministers' Meeting Union Minister for National Planning and Economic Development Dr Kan Zaw held talks about economic matters with Commerce Minister Mr Gao Hucheng of the People's Republic of China at Royal ACE Hotel in Nay Pyi Taw and Trade Minister Tingraser of New Zealand, Toshimitsu Motegi, Minister of Economic, Trade and Industry and Australian Minister of Trade and Investment Mr Andrew Robb AP MP at Myanmar International Convention Center-1 in Nay Pyi Taw on Tuesday.

MNA

ASEAN-Australia-NZ economic ministers meet in Nay Pyi Taw

NAY PYI TAW, 26 Aug — The 19th ASEAN-Australia-New Zealand Economic Ministers Meeting took place at the Myanmar International Convention Centre-1 here on Tuesday evening, sources said.

The meeting dealt with progress of the establishment of a free-trade area among ASEAN, Australia and New Zealand, plans to approve the agreed amendments, plans to deduct tariffs for treaty member countries, and economic cooperation among ASEAN, Australia and New Zealand.

The meeting was at-

tended by economic ministers of ASEAN countries, Australia and New Zealand, the ASEAN Secretary-General, representatives and departmental heads.



tended by economic ministers of ASEAN countries, Australia and New Zealand, the ASEAN Secretary-General, representatives and departmental heads.

Ethnic delegations call on Amyotha Hluttaw Speaker

NAY PYI TAW, 26 Aug — U Khin Aung Myint, Speaker of the Amyotha Hluttaw (Upper House), received ethnic delegations led by U Kyauk Kaw Ann, Central Committee Member of Wa Special Region No.2, Sao Khae Tai, Vice Chairman of SSPP/SSA, and U San Pae, Vice Chairman of Mongla Special Region No.4, here on Tuesday, sources said.

Also present on the occasion were Amyotha Hluttaw Deputy Speaker U Mya Nyein and chairpersons of committees under the Amyotha Hluttaw.

MNA



Speaker of the Amyotha Hluttaw (Upper House) U Khin Aung Myint cordially greets leaders of ethnic delegations.—MNA

Delegates taking part in discussions at AEM-CER Consultations on establishment of a free-trade area among ASEAN.

MNA

and another annexe to the amendment of the agreement on the establishment of ASEAN-Australia-New Zealand Free Trade Area.

The Joint Communique of the 19th ASEAN-Australia-New Zealand Economic Ministers Meeting focused on signing the agreed amendments, plans to deduct tariffs for treaty member countries, and economic cooperation among ASEAN, Australia and New Zealand, result of economic cooperation in post 2015 free trade region joint committee and opportunity for skilled workers in ASEAN countries.—MNA

WHO project for people with epilepsy chooses three sub-urban townships in Yangon, Nay Pyi Taw to access treatment

By Khaing Thanda Lwin

YANGON, 26 Aug — The World Health Organization (WHO) and the Ministry of Health have extended their four-year project for patients with epilepsy in Thanlyin and Kawhmu townships in Yangon and Lewe in Nay

Pyi Taw, Prof Dr Win Min Thit, Project Manager of Myanmar Epilepsy Initiative, said on Tuesday at the workshop in Yangon.

At the workshop on information, education and community (IEC) materials development, U Aye Ko

Ko, Director of Yangon Region Health Department, said that the project is aimed at providing medical treatment to epilepsy patients who cannot access treatment, enhancing the capacity of health staff and correcting the public's misunderstanding on the disease.

The workshop focused on designing pamphlets and posters as well as making public service announcements that play a vital role in accomplishing the mission.

"Epilepsy can be defeated. The WHO programme on reducing the epilepsy treatment gap over

the next four years," said Dr Pe Thet Htoon, public health coordinator.

He also gave messages that epilepsy can easily and affordably be treated with inexpensive daily medicine and the majority of people with epilepsy can lead a normal life when they get treatment.

Prof Dr Win Min Thit said it was successfully implemented at the previous project for people with epilepsy in Hmawby and Hlegu townships in Yangon in 2013, adding that officials of the projects arranged to conduct refresher course to health care providers.

They also arrange to import Phenobarbital drug for epilepsy patients from the WHO.

Epilepsy is a non-contagious, chronic disorder of the brain which can affect

anyone: it is the most common serious brain disorder worldwide.

According to the WHO survey, around 50 million people worldwide have epilepsy and most of them live in resource-poor regions; every year, 2.4 million people are with epilepsy while it is estimated that there are about 500,000 people with epilepsy in Myanmar.

Many people with epilepsy in less-developed countries are not getting treatment because of lack of well-trained health service providers, problems accessing medicines or because epilepsy is highly stigmatized.

About 70 to 80 per cent of those people will lead a normal life with the use of inexpensive medications prescribed at a primary health care level.—NLM



Dr Pe Thet Htoon, public health coordinator, explains health care services of four-year project for patients with epilepsy in Thanlyin and Kawhmu townships.—PHOTO: KHAING THANDA LWIN

US approval of Merck cancer immunotherapy expected soon

LOS ANGELES, 26 Aug — US regulators are likely to approve Merck & Co's highly anticipated immuno-oncology drug, pembrolizumab, as a treatment for melanoma well ahead of a late October deadline, according to three sources familiar with the situation.

If approved by the Food and Drug Administration, the drug would be the first in a promising new class designed to help the body's own immune system fend off cancer by blocking a protein known as Programmed Death receptor (PD-1), or a related target known as PD-L1, used by tumors to evade disease-fighting cells.

Companies including Bristol-Myers Squibb, Roche Holding AG and AstraZeneca Plc are racing to develop similar treatments for a variety of cancers. Some analysts expect the new class could generate more than \$30 billion in annual sales worldwide by 2025.

The FDA is slated to decide on New Jersey-based Merck's application no later than 28 October, but sources said the agency could give its



A view of the Merck & Co campus in Linden, New Jersey on 9 March, 2009, after Merck & Co Inc said it would acquire Schering-Plough Corp in \$41.1 billion deal, widening Merck's pipeline and diversifying its portfolio of medicines.—REUTERS

approval within coming weeks. The sources, who spoke on condition of anonymity because they were not authorized to discuss the FDA's plans, also acknowledged that the early approval was not guaranteed.

A spokeswoman for the FDA said the agency cannot discuss the status of applications.

Merck is first seeking to sell its PD-1 drug for

patients whose skin cancer does not respond to treatment with Yervoy, a Bristol-Myers immunotherapy that targets a different part of the immune system.

Studies have shown that pembrolizumab shrinks tumors in about a third of patients with late-stage melanoma, a disease that kills around 10,000 Americans each year.

"My hope is that over the next five to 10 years, we



will be curing over half of melanoma patients," said Dr Steven O'Day, director of the Los Angeles Skin Cancer Institute.

Dr Antoni Ribas, professor of hematology-oncology at the University of California, Los Angeles, and a pembrolizumab trial lead investigator, said having the drug on the market will be "a big deal" for patients who currently have few options.—Reuters

New recommendations for overweight people with heart risks

NEW YORK, 26 Aug — Overweight patients with risk factors for heart disease should be sent by their doctors for "intensive behavioural counseling" about diet or exercise, according to new recommendations from the United States Preventive Services Task Force (USPSTF).

That includes overweight people with high blood pressure, high cholesterol, 'metabolic syndrome' or blood sugar levels higher than normal and on the cusp of type 2 diabetes.

A literature review commissioned for the government-backed USPSTF, published in the *Annals of Internal Medicine*, found that intensive behavioral counseling can help lower these patients' risk for heart problems.

"My message for patients would be that we have the ability by changing our behaviour to modify our risk for heart disease and stroke and your doctors can help you do that," Dr Michael L LeFevre, the chair of the Task Force, told Reuters Health by phone.

LeFevre is also vice chair in the Department of Family and Community Medicine at the University of Missouri School of Medicine in Columbia.

Reuters



An overweight woman sits on a chair in Times Square in New York, on 8 May, 2012. — REUTERS

E-cigarettes may be tempting non-smoking youths to smoke



A customer tests e-liquids for e-cigarettes during the first international fair of electronic cigarette and vaporology 'Vapexpo' in Bordeaux, southwestern France, on 13 March, 2014. — REUTERS

CHICAGO, 26 Aug — Electronic cigarettes may be more tempting to non-smoking youths than conventional cigarettes, and once young people have tried e-cigarettes they are more inclined to give regular cigarettes a try, US researchers said on Monday.

A report, released by a team at the US Centres for Disease Control and Prevention, lends evidence to the argument that electronic cigarettes encourage youth

smoking.

The study, based on nationally representative youth surveys, found that more than a quarter-million adolescents and teens who had never smoked used an electronic cigarette in 2013, a threefold increase from 2011.

Youths who had tried e-cigarettes were nearly twice as likely to say they would try a conventional cigarette in the next year compared with those who had never tried an e-ciga-

rette, according to the study in the journal *Nicotine and Tobacco Research*.

E-cigarettes are slim, reusable, metal-tube devices containing nicotine-laced liquids that come in exotic flavors. When users puff, the nicotine is heated and released as a vapor containing no tar, unlike conventional cigarette smoke.

Health experts have raised concerns that the burgeoning \$2 billion e-cigarette industry, which has been virtually unregulated, would reverse gains in the decades-long effort to curb youth smoking in the United States. Just 15.7 percent of US teenagers reported smoking in 2013, the lowest rate on record.

In April, the US Food and Drug Administration proposed rules that would ban the sale of e-cigarettes to anyone under 18 but would not restrict flavored products, online sales or advertising, which public health advocates say attract children.

Reuters

Asian shares firm, euro languishes on ECB easing hopes



Pedestrians walk past an electronic board showing Japan's Nikkei average outside a brokerage in Tokyo on 8 Aug, 2014. — REUTERS

TOKYO, 26 Aug — Asian shares inched higher on Tuesday as investors increasingly expect the European Central Bank to expand liquidity as soon as next week to boost the sagging euro zone economy — just as the US Federal Reserve plans to end its bond-buying drive.

The euro slipped to a one-year low against the dollar as comments from ECB chief Mario Draghi late last week that the central bank was prepared to respond with all its "avail-

able" tools resonated in the market.

"Draghi's speech marked a turning point in ECB rhetoric... He also confirmed that beyond liquidity injections through the targeted longer-term refinancing operations (TLTRO) and outright asset-backed securities (ABS) purchases, the ECB was ready to do more if necessary," Philippe Gu-din, an economist at Barclays, said in report.

MSCI's dollar-denominated index of Asia-Pa-

cific shares outside Japan .MIAPJ0000PUS ticked up 0.1 percent, led by 0.3 percent gains in South Korean shares. Japan's Nikkei average .N225 bucked the trend, shedding 0.4 percent on profit-taking.

The mood in the market was buttressed by the S&P 500 .SPX, which briefly topped the 2,000 mark for the first time in history on Monday, and closed up 0.48 percent at 1,997.92.

European stocks led the rally in global equities overnight, with many country and regional indexes climbing more than 1 percent, as investors grew convinced that the ECB could adopt quantitative easing as soon as next week.

On Wall Street, the biggest winners were financial shares, seen as the main beneficiary of any cheap money from the ECB at a time the US Federal Reserve is preparing the ground to exit zero interest rates.—Reuters

SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY

Rare blue lobster trapped by Maine father-daughter team

MANCHESTER, 26 Aug—A Maine teenager and her father have landed a one-in-two-million catch—a blue lobster.

Meghan LaPlante, 14, said she and her father pulled in the vivid blue crustacean from one of their traps on Saturday.

“It definitely stood out,” LaPlante said on Monday. “We were really surprised. I’ve never caught anything like it.”

LaPlante helps her father run the family’s Miss Meghan’s Lobster Catch business in Old Orchard Beach, Maine.

The blue colour is the

result of a rare genetic mutation that causes the lobster to produce an excessive amount of a particular protein.

Most lobsters are dark bluish green to greenish brown. Scientists estimate the blue coloring occurs in only one out of 2 million lobsters.

LaPlante and her father have agreed to donate the lobster to the Maine State Aquarium.

LaPlante said she named the lobster “Skyler” for its blue colour, and because it’s one of her favourite names.

Reuters



A blue lobster captured off the coast of Maine is pictured in this undated handout photo obtained by Reuters on 25 Aug, 2014.—REUTERS

Digital Ally shares surge on interest in wearable cameras

NEW YORK, 26 Aug—Shares of Digital Ally Inc, a company that produces wearable cameras, rose as much as 80 percent to \$14.25 on Monday as outrage over the fatal police shooting of an unarmed black teenager in Missouri fueled interest in the company’s devices.

More than 24 million shares changed hands on Monday making the stock one of the most heavily traded on the Nasdaq. The move in the stock brought shares to levels not seen since October 2013.

Digital Ally shares closed about 57 percent higher at \$12.50.

Public outrage over the 9 August police shooting of

18-year-old Michael Brown in Ferguson, Missouri, has led a growing crowd to sign a White House petition calling for police to be required to wear cameras on the job.

It has also sparked increased interest in Digital Ally shares. At least 7.4 million shares changed hands in each of the last four sessions, but between August 2009 and June 2014, the stock’s average daily volume was only about 13,000 shares.

Digital Ally Chief Executive Stanton Ross told Reuters on Monday that the company had been receiving offers “all the time”, but said he wouldn’t divulge any more details until a commitment letter had

been signed. Digital Ally’s video cameras sell for \$795 and are compact enough to be pinned to shirts, belts or eyeglasses.

“We have had a lot more enquiries because of the civil unrest that is going on over in Ferguson,” Ross told Reuters last week.

Taser International Inc CEO Rick Smith told Reuters the estimated market for wearable video in North America is about \$500 million, citing a Cambridge University study using Taser equipment.

Although wearable cameras only accounted for 9 percent of Digital Ally’s total sales in the June quarter, sales could surge as pressure mounts to find

ways to hold law enforcement officials accountable.

In a Cambridge University study, complaints against a California police department were found to fall drastically after officers began wearing cameras on the job. Both suspects and officers were strongly deterred from violating rules when they were videotaped, the study found.

Still, up until this week, the recent gains in the stock had led many investors to bet against the stock’s rise. Heavy demand drove 68 percent of shares available to borrow being lent for short bets, according to data provider Markit, which watches short-selling activity.—Reuters

Satellite error sets back EU’s ambitious satnav programme

BRUSSELS, 26 Aug—The European Commission said on Monday it still had confidence in its plans to build a rival to the US satellite navigation system despite a problem with the latest launch of satellites for the network.

Space transport company Arianespace launched two satellites for Europe’s Galileo system aboard a Russian Soyuz rocket from French Guiana on Friday but they were put into the wrong orbit, calling into question their usefulness for the Galileo system.

It is the latest setback to Galileo, which has been beset by delays, financing problems and questions over whether Europe really needs its own Global Positioning System.

The EU has approved a 7 billion-euro budget for Galileo and another navigation project between now and 2020. It says Galileo will strengthen Europe’s

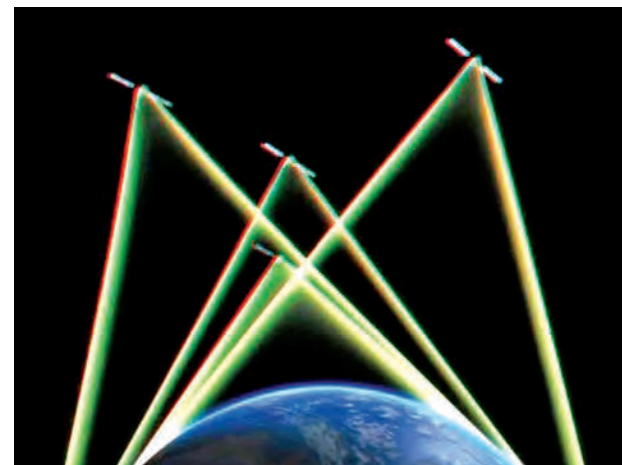
position in a satellite-navigation market expected to be worth 237 billion euros in 2020.

The European Commission said on Monday it had asked Arianespace and the European Space Agency (ESA) for details of the incident along with a schedule and a plan to rectify the problem.

Early information from Arianespace indicate the problem involved the upper stage of the launcher, it said.

“The European Commission will participate in an inquiry with ESA to understand the causes of the incident ... “European Industry Commissioner Ferdinando Nelli Feroci said in a statement. “I remain convinced of the strategic importance of Galileo and I am confident that the deployment of the constellation of satellites will continue as planned.”

Reuters



Marketing software provider HubSpot files for IPO



NEW YORK, 26 Aug—Marketing software provider HubSpot Inc filed with US regulators on Monday for an initial public offering of common stock.

The Cambridge, Massachusetts-based company listed Morgan Stanley, UBS and JP Morgan among the underwriters to the IPO. HubSpot, which runs software that helps local businesses with online advertising and marketing, had more than 11,000 customers as of 30 June.

The company counts funds affiliated with Sequoia Capital, Charles River Ventures and General Catalyst Partners among its stockholders. The filing included a nominal fundraising target of about \$100 million, but did not reveal how many shares HubSpot

planned to sell. The company intends to list its common stock on the New York Stock Exchange under the symbol “HUBS”.

HubSpot’s revenue more than doubled to \$77.6 million from 2011 to 2013, while its net loss attributable to common stockholders grew to \$34.3 million from \$25.5 million.

Marketing software company Yodle Inc, backed by investors such as Draper Fisher Jurvetson, Bessemer Venture Partners and Jafco Technology Partners, also filed for an IPO in July.

Other recent public offerings in the sector include Tremor Video Inc, YuMe Inc, Rocket Fuel Inc and Criteo SA. HubSpot intends to use the proceeds from the IPO for research and development, acquisitions and general corporate purposes.

The amount of money a company says it plans to raise in its first IPO filings is used to calculate registration fees. The final size of the IPO could be different.—Reuters

California to require anti-theft ‘kill switches’ on smartphones

SAN FRANCISCO, 26 Aug—Smartphones in California will be required to come with a “kill switch” to render them useless if lost or stolen under a bill signed Monday by Governor Jerry Brown, the latest effort to stem an epidemic of phone theft in the most populous US state.

The bill would be the strongest attempt yet by a US state to fight smartphone theft, which accounts for more than half of crimes in several of the state’s large cities.

“Our efforts will effectively wipe out the incentive to steal smartphones and curb this crime of convenience, which is fueling street crime and violence

within our communities,” said Democratic state Senator Mark Leno, the bill’s author.

Under the new law all smartphones sold in the state after July 2015 will come pre-equipped with technology allowing them to be shut down remotely in the event of theft.

The bill received wide support from California prosecutors and law enforcement agencies that hoped it could help reduce smartphone thefts.

According to the National Consumers League, handheld devices were stolen from 1.6 million Americans in 2012.

In California, smartphone theft accounts for

more than half of all crimes in San Francisco, Oakland and other cities.

Other states experiencing a rash of smart phone thefts have considered similar measures, and Minnesota passed a theft-prevention law in May. California’s new law, though, will go further, requiring manufacturers to notify consumers that the technology is available on their phones, hopefully prompting consumers to enable the kill switch.

The wireless industry removed its opposition to the bill after Leno agreed to postpone its effective date until July of 2015, the senator said.

Reuters

Scotland's pro-independence leader steamrolls final TV debate before vote

GLASGOW, 26 Aug — Scotland's pro-independence leader Alex Salmond won a final TV debate on Monday just over three weeks before a historic breakaway referendum, but it wasn't clear if his combative performance would help him catch up in the polls.

In a bruising debate before the 18 September referendum, Salmond relentlessly talked over and at Alistair Darling, the leader of the "Better Together" anti-independence movement, and it was sometimes hard to hear what was being said.

With the campaign to break up the United Kingdom and sever Scotland's 307-year union consistently trailing in opinion polls by an average of up to 14 percentage points, Salmond's supporters were looking for a game-changing performance after he failed to sparkle in the first such encounter.

Salmond, 59, did much better this time.

In a snap *Guardian*/ICM poll released soon afterwards, 71 percent of over



Better Together leader Alistair Darling (L) and First Minister of Scotland Alex Salmond debate over Scottish independence at Kelvingrove Art Gallery and Museum in Glasgow on 25 Aug, 2014.

REUTERS

500 respondents judged that Salmond had won, against 29 percent who said they thought Darling had triumphed.

Professor John Curtice of Strathclyde University, a polling expert, also deemed Salmond had won. But he questioned whether the nationalist leader's rhetorical victory would translate into a win at the ballot box.

"A debate doesn't necessarily win you votes," said Curtice, saying it had been notable for its lack of proper discussion about wider economic questions.

"My glance at the flash poll is that while Salmond was the obvious winner, it doesn't seem to have moved votes at this stage," he said. Salmond got more cheers in Glasgow, Scot-

land's biggest city, than Darling, 60, who attracted the odd groan.

But Salmond didn't advance new arguments or land a knock out blow. Instead, over the course of a scrappy hour-and-a-half, he repeatedly interrupted Darling and asked him the same few questions time and time again, a tactic which unsettled the former British fi-

Massive shelter forests to improve Beijing's water supply

BEIJING, 26 Aug — Beijing and neighbouring Hebei Province will jointly plant 100,000 mu (66.7 square km) of forest in 2015, in a step to guarantee the capital city's water security and improve local eco-systems, authorities said on Monday.

According to the programme, the forests will cover areas along Beijing's Miyun Reservoir, the city's major source of drinking water, and the upper reaches of Guanting Reservoir on the Beijing-Hebei border.

The project, initiated in 2009, will also cover eight counties under Hebei's Zhangjiakou and Chengde, Beijing's main barrier against sandstorms from northwestern China and an important water source, said Yuan Shibao, an official with Beijing Municipal Bureau of Landscape and Forestry.

The joint project is expected to realize 500,000 mu of forests by the end of 2014, with further plans to reach one million mu.

Xinhua

nance minister who at times audibly struggled to find a riposte.

"The eyes of the world are indeed focused on Scotland," Salmond told the audience in an emotional opening statement, urging Scots to vote for full independence. "This is our time, our moment. Let us do it now."

Scotland's health ser-

vice would be better off under independence, he argued, questioning whether the British government would give Scotland more devolved powers in the event that Scots reject independence.

Scotland already has its own parliament with control over policy areas such as education and health.

Reuters

Michael Brown remembered in Missouri with calls for peace, justice

ST LOUIS, 26 Aug — Family and supporters of Michael Brown on Monday celebrated the life of the black teenager killed by a white police officer in Ferguson, Missouri, in a music-filled funeral service ringing with calls for peace and police reforms.

Brown's body lay in a black and gold casket at the Friendly Temple Missionary Baptist Church, topped with the St Louis Cardinals baseball cap he was wearing when he was shot dead on 9 August.

People jammed inside the modern red-brick church and gathered outside on Dr Martin Luther King Drive in St Louis for the celebration, a markedly different scene from the violent protests that rocked the St Louis suburb of Ferguson after the shooting of the unarmed 18-year-old Brown.

Brown's death has focused global attention on the state of race relations in the United States. Police and demonstrators in Ferguson clashed nightly for more than a week, with authorities coming under fire for mass arrests and the use of heavy-handed tactics and military gear.

The teenager's coffin

was surrounded by photos of him as a child, graduating from school and smiling in his baseball cap.

Spirited gospel music by a choir and horn players filled the sanctuary, and mourners clapped their hands and danced in the aisles. Readings from the Bible were met with whoops and cheers.

"It was real spiritual," said Mike Montgomery, a black city employee who said he took the day off from work to attend.

"I usually hear more mourning at a funeral," said Montgomery, 38. "I think the family wanted a celebration. That's why they had the upbeat music."

Printed in a programme for the service were letters from his parents to their late son.

A letter by Michael Brown Sr read: "I always told you I would never let nothing happen to you and that's what hurts so much, that I couldn't protect you."

Afterwards, the funeral procession carried Brown's casket to St Peter's Cemetery, a few miles from Brown's home, where it was loaded onto a horse-drawn carriage.

Michael Brown Sr



Musicians perform during funeral service for Michael Brown at Friendly Temple Missionary Baptist Church in St Louis, Missouri, on 25 Aug, 2014.—REUTERS

cried at his son's grave site and let out a scream before leaving. His mother arrived with a separate group. She laid her body across his coffin as she wept.

A grand jury has begun hearing evidence in the shooting and the US Justice Department has opened its own investigation.

In a eulogy for Brown, civil rights activist Al Sharpton demanded a fair and impartial investigation into the shooting and an end to police brutality.

"Michael Brown does not want to be remembered for riots," Sharpton said. "He wants to be remembered as the one that made America deal with how we're going to police in the United States."

He also called on the black community to end the kind of street violence and looting that cast Ferguson in a negative light.

"We have to be outraged for our disrespect for each other," he said. "Some of us act like the definition

of blackness is how low you can go. "Blackness has never been about being a gangster or a thug. Blackness was no matter how low we was pushed down, we rose up anyhow," he said.

Family and friends rose to speak as well, recalling Brown's nicknames of "Gentle Giant," and "Big Mike."

Pastor Charles Ewing, Brown's uncle, recalled Brown once telling him: "One day the whole world will know my name."

"Michael Brown's blood is crying from the ground, crying for vengeance, crying for justice," Ewing said.

Outside, under the hot midday sun, the police presence was heavy but relaxed. Authorities had braced for a possible flare-up, although clashes between protesters and police have waned significantly in recent days.

The crowd repeated the now-familiar "Hands up, don't shoot," which protesters have chanted in the streets of Ferguson.

Missouri State Highway Patrol Captain Ron Johnson told a news conference late on Monday that the evening had passed peacefully.

In differing accounts of Brown's shooting, police have said he struggled with Officer Darren Wilson, who shot and killed him. But some witnesses say Brown held up his hands and was surrendering when he was shot multiple times in the head and chest.

After the funeral, people came in small groups to the impromptu memorial at the site of his death, among them Tameka Bryant, 28, a marketing executive at a radio station.—Reuters

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**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 Barges**

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

Bangladesh opposition's 147 leaders, activists indicted on terror charges

DHAKA, 26 Aug — 147 leaders and activists of ex-Prime Minister Khaleda Zia's opposition alliance have been indicted by a court in Bangladesh capital Dhaka on charges of creating anarchic situation in 2013.

After framing charges on Monday, Dhaka Metropolitan Speedy Trial Tribunal's Judge Tareque Moinul Islam Bhuiyan set 25 September for the next hearing against the opposition men, most of whom are leaders and activists of Khaleda Zia's Bangladesh Nationalist Party (BNP).

Defence counsel Masud Ahmed Talukder said police pressed charges against 148 people but the name of the accused was dropped as he had already died.

The accused included about a dozen BNP high-ups like Zainul Abidin Faroque, the then chief whip, Rizvi Ahmed and Amanullah Aman, joint secretaries general, and Shafiul Alam Prodhan, chief of Jatiya Gananatrik Party, an ally in BNP-led 18-party alliance (now 20-party alliance).

Police sued the leaders and activists of the opposition alliance on charges of attacking law enforcers and blasting bombs during a BNP rally in front of its headquarters in Dhaka's downtown Nayapaltan on 11 March, 2013.

Police raided (BNP) headquarters less than an hour after the blasts.

During the raid on BNP headquarters for nearly three hours, police arrested about 200 opposition leaders, including Mirza Fakhrul Islam Alamgir, BNP acting secretary general, who was later released.

Ninety nine opposition leaders and activists pleaded not guilty and demanded justice after Magistrate Bhuiyan read out charges to them on Monday.

The court cancelled bail petitions of 48 other accused and issued arrest warrants against them as they were not present at the court.

A BNP spokesman who did not want to be named termed the charges against the opposition leaders and activists as "totally false and fake." —Xinhua

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE MV MOROTAI VOY NO (244)

Consignees of cargo carried on MV MOROTAI VOY NO (244) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 27.8.2014 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of M.I.P where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

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Egypt, UAE carried out Tripoli air strikes —US officials

WASHINGTON, 26 Aug — Egypt and the United Arab Emirates were responsible for carrying out two series of air strikes in the past week on armed Islamist factions in Tripoli, Libya, US officials said on Monday.

The officials said the two Arab countries used aircraft based in Egypt.

Earlier the *New York Times* reported that the two US allies acted without consulting Washington, and that Egyptian officials told US diplomats that Cairo was not involved. Egypt has denied conducting air strikes or other military operations in Libya.

Over the weekend, Tripoli residents said unidentified war planes attacked targets in the capital, as Libya is riven by the worst fighting since the overthrow of Muammar Gaddafi in 2011.

There were also strikes on Islamist-held positions last Monday.—Reuters

French flag is projected on the Paris City Hall during a celebration marking the 70th anniversary of Paris Liberation from Nazi rule, in Paris, France, on 25 Aug, 2014. French President Francois Hollande attended the celebration and delivered a speech.
XINHUA



CLAIMS DAY NOTICE MV PANJA BHUM VOY NO (026)

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For our Shwe Ywet Hla Manufacturing Co., Ltd it is hereby inform that BL No. MOLU 13012498540 original BL (3) copies and other papers, which inserted in DHL envelope of Container No. TCLU 8351416 which import from abroad is lost and if it is found, it is our gratification.

U Zaw Min Tun
Ph: 095156143/0973019975

Weather report

STATE OF THE SEA:

Squalls with moderate to rough sea are likely at times Deltaic, Gulf of Mottama, off and along Mon-Taninthy Coasts. Surface wind speed in squalls may reach (30) m.p.h. Seas will be moderate elsewhere in Myanmar waters.

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5.7-magnitude quake hits Iceland — USGS

BEIJING, 26 Aug — An earthquake measuring 5.7 on the Richter scale jolted 116 km southeast of Akureyri, Iceland at 0126 GMT on Tuesday, the US Geological Survey said.

The epicenter, with a depth of 5 km, was initially determined to be at 64.6653 degrees north latitude and 17.4995 degrees west longitude. — Xinhua

Old Emmy favourites 'Breaking Bad,' 'Modern Family' top newcomers

LOS ANGELES, 26 Aug — AMC's gritty drug drama "Breaking Bad" was honored at the Primetime Emmy Awards on Monday as the top drama series on US television for the second consecutive year, and picked up three top acting awards.

The series about

picked up five Emmys for cable network AMC.

"Breaking Bad" held off upstart "True Detective," Netflix's online political thriller "House of Cards," HBO medieval fantasy "Game of Thrones," PBS British period series "Downton Abbey" and AMC ad world portrait "Mad Men."



The cast and crew of ABC's "Modern Family" pose with their award for Outstanding Comedy Series at the 66th Primetime Emmy Awards in Los Angeles, California on 25 Aug, 2014. —REUTERS

schoolteacher Walter White, who begins making and selling methamphetamines to care for his family after a terminal cancer diagnosis, concluded last year after five seasons. "Holy cow!" exclaimed "Breaking Bad" creator Vince Gilligan when accepting the Emmy statuette, US television's highest honour.

"This is indeed a wonderful time to be working in television ... we're all lucky to be working now," added Gilligan, whose show

The annual Emmys, which are handed out by the Academy of Television Arts and Sciences, pitted cable and online newcomers against traditional cable and network heavyweights, with the Academy picking old favorites over cable and Internet upstarts. In comedy, ABC's "Modern Family" about unconventional families won best series for the fifth consecutive year, tying 1990s NBC sitcom "Frasier" for the most comedy victories. —Reuters

Rani Mukerji's 'Mardaani' mints Rs 15 crore in opening weekend

MUMBAI, 26 Aug — Rani Mukerji's fight against the girl trafficking mafia in her latest offering "Mardaani" seems to have appealed to the movie buffs — it has raked in approximately Rs.15 crore in just three days. The first weekend collection of the Yash Raj Films' production venture is Rs.14.46 crore, read a statement. Bollywood celebrities have also given the thumbs up to Pradeep Sarkar's directorial.

Karan Johar: Rani Mukerji is simply Outstanding in #Mardaani!!!! Blows your mind!!! Take a bow @yrf for a relevant and compelling film! Shilpa Shetty: Jus watchd "Mardaani" Wht a powerful film and msg. Super performances by all and Rani was par excellence. Go Girl power..must watch tweets! Ameesha Patel: Saw Mardaani last nite...excellent film.. Rani mUkherjee is outstanding...its a must watch. —PTI



Disney seeks drone-related air show patents

ORLANDO, (Fla), 26 Aug — Walt Disney Co has filed for three drone-related patents that it says could lead to an era of aerial movie screens and larger-than-life puppets flying through the sky.

The company's Disney Enterprises Inc subsidiary suggests its proposed drone-powered air shows

could serve as an alternative to spectacles such as fireworks and large-scale light shows, according to its patent applications.

In filing for the patents, Disney joins a list of companies pressing for the US government to allow commercial use of small unmanned flight systems long associated with mil-

itary and government surveillance.

The Federal Aviation Administration is in the process of drafting rules for the commercial use of drones for everything from TV news coverage to package delivery to crop monitoring.

Disney Enterprises Inc published the three patent applications on 21 August for what it called aerial display systems with floating pixels, floating projection screens and marionettes held aloft and animated by drones.

The drones would be pre-programmed and controlled from the ground and would monitor each other to remain synchronized and prevent aerial collisions in the event of wind gusts, the

company said.

In the case of marionettes, a drone could carry a blimp-sized character through the sky to simulate flight depicted in passages from books and films, according to the patent application.

Other marionettes could be animated by a flock of drones manipulating different limbs.

"This is a significant improvement over prior flying characters, which typically were provided in the form of parade or other blimps/balloons filled with hot air or other gases and that had little and/or awkward articulation of any movable parts," the company said in its patent application.

Reuters



The entrance gate to The Walt Disney Co is pictured in Burbank, California on 5 Feb, 2014. —REUTERS

Jennifer Aniston dropping weight before her wedding?

LOS ANGELES, 26 Aug — Jennifer Aniston is reportedly planning to shed some extra weight before her wedding to fiancé Justin Theroux.

Aniston, 45, had earlier confessed that like any bride-to-be she would lose some weight before her marriage, reported *OK!* magazine. "She doesn't think she's overweight by any means. But she's always said that she feels most confident when she looks a certain way. And there's no doubt she'll want to have that same feeling on her wedding day," a source said. After meeting Theroux, the 'Friends' star has allegedly put on some weight as the couple are often involved in dinning.

"His idea of fun is going out to great restaurants and trying out amazing food with her. And if that leads to her gaining a little weight, he's not going to complain.. Justin thinks Jen looks absolutely perfect the way she is. He likes her curvier, with a little meat on her," the source added. The longtime couple are planning to tie the knot in the end of the year. —PTI



GENERAL

Australia's Qantas, Virgin allow smartphones throughout flights

SYDNEY, 26 Aug — Australian airlines Qantas Airways Ltd and Virgin Australia Holdings Ltd said passengers can use smartphones and tablets throughout flights from Tuesday after a regulator relaxed a ban on electronic devices on planes.

The airlines said they would start letting passengers use personal electronic devices for the duration of their flight after Australia's Civil Aviation Safety Authority followed a similar ruling from the US Federal Aviation Administration in 2013.

The Australian airlines will hope giving customers almost continuous access to personal devices will increase their appeal as they engage in a price war with each other and other market participants. Currently, passengers are forced to switch off devices until the plane reaches cruising altitude.

The two domestic rivals



A Qantas Airlines Boeing 737 plane sits next to a Virgin Australia Boeing 737 plane at the Port Hedland airport in the Pilbara region of western Australia on 3 Dec, 2013.—REUTERS

are expected to post annual net losses later this week.

"We're delighted to give Qantas customers the freedom and flexibility to use their personal electronic devices from the moment

they board the plane until they disembark," Qantas Domestic chief executive officer Lyell Strambi said in a statement.

Virgin Australia chief customer officer Mark Has-

sell said the high number of passengers who travel with a smartphone or tablet shows "how valuable gate-to-gate access is to their overall travel experience".

Reuters

ManU agree to record British transfer for Di Maria — media



Argentina's Angel di Maria

LONDON, 26 Aug — Manchester United have agreed a British record

transfer fee of 59.7 million pounds (\$99 million) to secure Angel di Maria from

Real Madrid and are set to announce his transfer officially on Tuesday, British media reported.

The Argentina winger arrived in Manchester on Monday and would have a medical test later on Tuesday, British newspapers said.

The transfer fee outstrips the 50 million pounds English Premier League rivals Chelsea paid Liverpool for Spain striker Fernando Torres in 2011.

United declined comment.

Di Maria cost Real 20 million pounds from Benfi-

ca in 2010 and he was a key part of the team that won the club's 10th European Cup last term but he was omitted from the squad for the Spanish Super Cup last week.

The 26-year-old turned down a new deal at the Bernabeu and Real coach Carlo Ancelotti said on Sunday he had bade farewell to players and staff.

Di Maria's signing would provide a boost for Louis van Gaal-coached United, who have taken only one point from their opening two games of the Premier League season.—Reuters

MYANMAR TV

(27-8-2014, Wednesday)

- 6:00 am**
- * Paritta by Hilly Region Missionary Sayadaw
- 6:25 am**
- * Physical Exercise
- 7:00 am**
- * News/ Weather Report
- 7:20 am**
- * Pyi Thu Ni Ti
- 8:30 am**
- * National Level English Language Competition for Students from Higher Education Institutions
- 9:30 am**
- * TV Drama Sries
- 11:15 am**
- * Myanmar Traditional Performing Arts Competition
- 12:25 pm**
- * Myanmar Video
- 2:40 pm**
- * Musical Programme
- 3:15 pm**
- * Classical Songs
- 4:15 pm**
- * Science and Technology Programme
- 4:45 pm**
- * University of Distance Education (TV Lectures) -Third Years (Law)
- 5:00 pm**
- * News
- 6:50 pm**
- * TV Drama Series
- 7:00 pm**
- * News
- 7:20 pm**
- * TV Drama Series
- 8:00 pm**
- * News/ International News/ Weather Report
- 8:45 pm**
- * People Talks
- 9:00 pm**
- * News
- 9:30 pm**
- * Fine Arts Bosom Of Dramatic Performance

MYANMAR INTERNATIONAL

(27-8-14 07:00 am~ 28-8-14 07:00 am) MST

- * Local News
- * Tapestry-A Unique Combination Of Painting and Craftsmanship
- * World News
- * Sweet Delicacy of Pathein
- * Local News
- * A Way of Life: Karatedo
- * World News
- * Reflected Glory
- * Local News
- * A Simple And Peaceful Life
- * World News
- * Mogok: The Colourful Land of Rubies
- * Local News
- * Hanlin, A Treasure Trove Of The Ancient Pyu City
- * World News
- * In The Studio: Zip Zapt & Air Air
- * Local News
- * Myanmar Charitable Labour Association
- * World News
- * Chanmyay Yeiktha Meditation Centre-Chaw Dwin Gone
- * Local News
- * Food Trip (Episode-1) Part-2
- * World News
- * Cultural Shows: Theatrical Art
- * Local News
- * Myanmar Alternative Medicine (Noni)
- * World News
- * Shan Novices To Be...
- * Local News
- * The World's Largest Book
- * World News
- * Scented Buddha Images

Tears of joy as Australian Doll Hospital restores childhood memories

SYDNEY, 26 Aug — Making customers cry may not be most shopkeeper's goal, but at Sydney's 101-year-old Doll Hospital workers take tears as a sign of a job well done.

In an age of mass-produced plastic dolls, few doll hospitals around the world have survived, the owners said.

"We're one of the last ones that does everything, when it comes to dolls, there's very few that are capable of that sort of work," said Geoff Chapman, 67

and "surgeon-in-chief" at the family-run business his father started more than a century ago.

Since then, the Doll Hospital has restored more than three million dolls, teddy bears, rocking horses and wheeled toys for Australian and New Zealand children.

"We've had clowns as big as a person, and a 12-foot (4m) crocodile - plush - not real," Chapman joked, noting that "the most common problem usually is the hair and the eyes".

One of the pleasures of

working at the hospital is seeing customers' reactions when they collect their prized possession.

"It's both men and women, obviously more women are getting dolls and teddies repaired, but there's quite a few men attached to teddy bears too," Chapman said.

"We've had customers who've burst into tears" when they saw the treasured doll or teddy as good as new, he said.

Located behind a toy shop on a busy suburban street in south Sydney, work-

ers fix fingers, toes and heads, and repair broken eye sockets in dolls - victims of childhood tantrums, dog attacks or sibling rivalry, sometimes as long as decades ago.

"A lot of our tools are like surgeons', operating on human patients," said Kerry Stuart, who has worked there for 25 years.

Like a real hospital too, work depends on the availability and schedule of a specialist, as well as the backlog. Gail Grainger, for example, specialises in repairing legs, feet and fingers. —Reuters



A young customer looks over the counter as a family member brings in a doll for repair at Sydney's Doll Hospital on 20 May, 2014.—REUTERS

Djokovic, Sharapova sparkle after others toil

NEW YORK, 26 Aug — Former champions Novak Djokovic and Maria Sharapova sparkled under the Arthur Ashe Stadium lights to end a steamy first day that proved more than a little stressful for several of the US Open favourites on Monday.

Djokovic, who had won only two matches in the hard court run-up to the season's final grand slam after getting married just days after his Wimbledon triumph, was back to his best once the center court spotlight shone on him at Flushing Meadows.

The 2011 champion treated his first-round match against unseeded 22-year-old Argentine Diego Schwartzman like a

breezy workout, dominating in all phases with 24 winners including seven aces in a 6-1, 6-2, 6-4 rout.

His fast work followed a scintillating finish by French Open champion and 2006 winner Sharapova, as the fifth seed won 10 straight games to prevail 6-4, 6-0 after falling 2-4 behind against her Russian compatriot and old friend Maria Kirilenko.

Despite the night programme starting one hour later than scheduled due to ceremonies featuring bands, speeches and fireworks, Djokovic enabled the New York night crowd to head to the exits shortly before the stroke of midnight.

"I'm very pleased,"

the Serbian world number one said in a court-side interview after his 97-minute win. "It's never easy to start a US Open smoothly."

Several of the favourites at Flushing Meadows could attest to his opinion.

Busy bees made life difficult for two grizzled veterans and a pair of favourites were forced to work overtime on a hot, steamy day at the US National Tennis Centre that drew a combined 57,000 fans to the day and night sessions.

Eighth-seeded 2012 champion Andy Murray fought off cramps to beat Dutchman Robin Haase in four painful sets, while women's second seed Simona Halep lost an early



Novak Djokovic of Serbia celebrates his win over Diego Schwartzman of Argentina during their match at the 2014 US Open tennis tournament in New York on 25 Aug, 2014.—REUTERS

tiebreak to US debutant Danielle Collins before claiming victory.

Reuters

Murray, Venus grind out wins at steamy US Open

NEW YORK, 26 Aug — Some busy bees made life difficult for two grizzled veterans and a pair of favourites were forced to work extra hard on a steamy opening day at the US Open on Monday.

Eighth-seeded 2012 champion Andy Murray fought off cramps to beat Dutchman Robin Haase in four painful sets, while women's second seed Simona Halep lost a first-set tiebreak to US debutante Danielle Collins before claiming victory.

And in a fascinating match-up between 19th seed Venus Williams and Kimiko Date-Krumm of Japan, the oldest players in the women's draw, some pesky bees joined in and refused to leave them alone.

Murray looked on his way to an easy victory before he fell victim to cramps that left him stretching and straining to get comfortable before clinching a 6-3, 7-6 (6), 1-6, 7-5 victory over Haase.

"I felt extremely good before the match, and I did train very, very hard to get ready for the tournament," said Murray, one of the fittest players on the ATP Tour.

"My quads were cramping, then it started to get to my lats, then my forearms," he added. "I just tried to hang around and at the end I was trying to play without moving my legs much and managed to get through."

Reuters

Manchester City ominous after cruising past Liverpool

LONDON, 26 Aug — A Stevan Jovetic double and a third to Sergio Aguero helped Manchester City send out an ominous warning to those with designs on their Premier League crown, routing Liverpool 3-1 in the first heavyweight clash of the new season on Monday.

With new signing Mario Balotelli watching from the stands, last season's runners-up Liverpool looked lively in miserable conditions at Etihad Stadium, but an error from debutant Alberto Moreno allowed the Montenegro international to smash the ball home on 41 minutes.

He grabbed his second 10 minutes after the restart, putting away Samir Nasri's low cross, while Aguero scored 23 seconds after coming on as a substitute as Manuel Pellegrini's side put down an early-season



Manchester City's Stevan Jovetic (C) scores a goal against Liverpool during their English Premier League soccer match at the Etihad stadium in Manchester, northern England on 25 Aug, 2014.—REUTERS

statement of intent.

After going agonisingly close to winning their first league title in 24 years last season, Liverpool are desperate to mount another creditable challenge, but despite nine new arrivals

they are still looking to adjust to life without Luis Suarez.

The Merseysiders failed to seriously trouble Joe Hart despite having plenty of ball and earned a consolation through a

Pablo Zabaleta own goal when the result was already sealed.

"Every game we play at home against the big four teams it's like six points and you have to make a statement," midfielder Nas-

ri told Sky Sports.

"It's important. Last year Jovetic was injured and we saw in pre-season he was on fire and today was a big start for him for this season."

The pre-match interest surrounded the return of the controversial Balotelli to the Premier League after a season and a half at AC Milan, having previous quit City after falling out with then manager Roberto Mancini.

The 24-year-old Italian appeared at ease in his old stomping ground, warmly greeting some of his old team mates before taking a seat in the stand.

On the pitch both sides looked dangerous on the break, with 19-year-old Raheem Sterling particularly lively on Liverpool's right and giving Gael Clichy plenty of defensive work.—Reuters

Reuters

Champions Atletico held by Rayo and Real beat Cordoba

MADRID, 26 Aug — Champions Atletico Madrid made a sluggish start to the defence of their La Liga title with a 0-0 draw against Rayo Vallecano while a header from Karim Benzema and a late Cristiano Ronaldo strike helped Real Madrid beat promoted Cordoba 2-0.

Mario Mandzukic missed two clear chances in the first half for Atletico, whose Spanish Super Cup victory last Friday over Real appeared to take its toll as the players looked fatigued in the second half.

"The team played very well, they could have scored in the first half and

later what happened is normal. We played on Tuesday and Friday last week and put in all that effort," Atletico coach Diego Simeone told a news conference.

"We were better in the first half and had three clear chances and Rayo improved in the second half and caused us problems."

Simeone was absent from the touchline due to a ban from last season and he has been given a further eight-match sanction on Monday for his dismissal and angry reaction in the Super Cup.

Atletico were missing in-form Raul Garcia in attack through suspension

and was repaid by Raul Jimenez while midfielder Arda Turan was still injured. Rayo had a number of new faces but they continued the same possession-based style from last season and also looked more solid at the back.

Mandzukic first failed to hit the target as he stretched for a cross with the goal gaping and then he shot tamely at the keeper Cristian Alvarez, but for most of the time Rayo held their own.

In the second half Rayo began to dominate with Javier Aquino in particular a threat but if Atletico were lacking their

usual attacking menace they were typically secure at the back and did not give Rayo many scoring opportunities.

It was a more attacking Real lineup with James Rodriguez starting ahead of Xabi Alonso in midfield and they failed to link up well in a scrappy opening spell. Real began to raise the tempo with Ronaldo and Toni Kroos having shots from the edge of the area which Cordoba keeper Juan Carlos Martin dealt with comfortably and the pressure told with Benzema's goal after 30 minutes — his second goal in 15 games.—Reuters



Atletico Madrid's Mario Mandzukic (R) and Rayo Vallecano's Abdoulaye Ba challenge for the ball during their Spanish first division soccer match at Vallecas stadium in Madrid on 25 Aug, 2014. — REUTERS