

Myanmar wants Germany to prioritize its investment not necessarily in extractive industry alone, but primarily in manufacturing sector which encourage job opportunities for local people

President U Thein Sein

Germany supports all-inclusive peace-building efforts and promised to encourage development and freedom in Myanmar

Chancellor Angela Merkel of Germany



President U Thein Sein and German Chancellor Angela Merkel meet media persons at press conference focusing on strengthening friendly ties between two countries.—MNA

NAY PYI TAW, 3 Sept.—President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar U Thein Sein attended the

ceremony held in honour of him by German Chancellor Angela Merkel at 11 45 local time in Berlin on

Wednesday.

When President U Thein Sein arrived at the ceremony, Chancellor An-

gela Merkel greeted him warmly before President U Thein Sein received the salute of and inspected the

guards of honour.

Then, President U Thein Sein attended the working luncheon hosted by

the chancellor.

After the luncheon, President U Thein Sein and Chancellor Angela Merkel held a joint press conference.

At the press conference, Chancellor Angela Merkel said she welcomed the friendly visit of the Myanmar president and they had discussed the developments of Myanmar. Then she said she recognized Myanmar's rotational chair of the ASEAN and expressed her support for reform in Myanmar. In addition, she added that Myanmar Gothe Institute has been opened in Yangon and cultural cooperation programmes have been implemented. She said they had held discussions about assistance for economic development and investment. She continued to say that she supported the all-inclusive peace-building efforts and promised to encourage development and freedom in Myanmar. In conclusion she said that she was glad to

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By Ye Myint

YANGON, 3 Sept — Shinhan Bank, one of the largest banks in the Republic of Korea, on Wednesday donated sports equipment— track-suits and duffel bags— to 134-member Myanmar sports contingent to the 17th Asian Games.

The handover ceremony of sports equipment to the Ministry of Sports took place at Thuwunna Indoor Stadium-1 in Yangon.

During the ceremony, Union Minister for Sports U Tint Hsan received tracksuits and duffel bags presented by Mr. Hong Suk Woo, chief of Shinhan Bank's Myanmar representative office.

"Shinhan Bank wishes Myanmar sports contingent the best of luck

and every success in the 17th Asian Games," the Shinhan Bank's Myanmar representative office chief told The New Light of Myanmar.

He continued that he was very delighted to see a breathtaking view of the extravagant SEA Games opening ceremony in Nay Pyi Taw last year.

He added expressing his hope that Myanmar will continue with medal success in the Incheon Asian Games as Myanmar team did pretty well in the 27th SEA Games, grabbing a chance to showcase all its talents and strong performance in the Games.

The 17th Asian Games, the largest sporting event in Asia, is scheduled to take place in Incheon, the third largest city of the Republic of Korea, from 19 Sep-

tember to 4 October. It is expected to see 50,000 athletes from 54 countries including Myanmar to compete in 439 events in 36 sports.

Shinhan Bank headquartered in Seoul, the Republic of Korea opened its Myanmar representative office in Yangon in March 2013. The bank is also one of foreign banks that have applied for banking licences to launch operations in Myanmar banking market. The bank with total assets of \$225billion and market value of equity of \$21.2 billion now has 946 branches in its own country and 69 in 16 countries outside the ROK.

NLM

Shinhan Bank makes sports equipment donation to Myanmar contingent to 2014 Asian Games



Mr. Hong Suk Woo, Shinhan Bank's Myanmar representative office chief, hands over sports equipment worth about US\$ 20,000 to Union Minister for Sports U Tint Hsan in Yangon on Wednesday.—PHOTO: SHINHAN BANK

Rural people to get electricity through solar panels



Union Minister U Hla Tun views display of solar panels and equipment to be distributed to locals in Kyaukpadaung Township.—MNA

NAY PYI TAW, 3 Sept—The country is generating 4,146 megawatts per year benefiting 32 percent of the nation's population, Union Minister at the President Office U Hla Tun said at a ceremony to distribute solar panels to the rural people in Kyaukpadaung Township of Mandalay Region on Tuesday.

Arrangements are being made for electrification to rural people through solar power, he added.

The Union minister viewed display of solar power equipment.

Sagawah Myay Foundation distributes the solar panels to 3,338 households of 109 villages in Kyaukpadaung Township through installment system.—MNA

Appointment of Ambassador agreed on

NAY PYI TAW, 4 Sept—The Government of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar has agreed to the appointment of H.E. Mr. Evgueni Stefanov Stoytchev as Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the Republic of Bulgaria to the Republic of the Union of Myanmar with residence in Hanoi.

Mr. Evgueni Stefanov Stoytchev was born in 1955 in Dupnitsa, Bulgaria. He attended the French Language School in Sofia, Bulgaria from 1969 to 1974. He obtained a Master's Degree in International Relations in 1986 from Moscow State Institute of International Relations in Moscow, Russian Federation. He joined the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Bulgaria in 1986 as an intern (Attaché) at the Asia Department. He served in various capacities at the Bulgarian Ministry of Foreign Affairs and its missions abroad from 1991 to 2006. He served as Bulgarian Ambassador to Canada from 2006 to 2012. He has been serving as Bulgarian Ambassador to the Socialist Republic of Vietnam since 15th October 2013.

He is married, with two children.—MNA

Myanmar, Vietnam to promote trade and investment

NAY PYI TAW, 3 Sept—Union Minister for Commerce U Win Myint held talks with Chairman of Vietnam-Myanmar Friendship Association

Mr Chu Cong Phung of Vietnam and party on promotion and trade and investment between the two countries at the ministry in Nay Pyi Taw

on Wednesday.

They also discussed enhancement of tourism industry, opening of a branch of Bank for Investment and Development

of Vietnam, JSC (BIDV) of Vietnam in Myanmar and holding expos of Vietnam entrepreneurs in Myanmar.

MNA

MANSI, 3 Sept—Aids including cash and medicines donated by a Pyithu Hluttaw representative reached out to over 1,600 internally displaced persons at Mongkaung and Mansi relief camps in Kachin State in August.

U Tun Tun, a representative of Pyithu Hluttaw, presented the aids and about K29 million to the IDPs sheltering at camps at Mongkaung and Mansi villages during his tour of the villages in Kachin State from 25 to 28 August.

A local pastor expressed thanks to U Tun Tun for his donation of aids and cash for the IDPs since 2012. Being one of the local people of Mansi Village, U Tun Tun has realized the hardships of local people and sent aids to the IDPs since 2012, he added.

During his tour from 25 to 28 August, the MP visited 14 villages and 4 wards and assisted in socio-economic life of the people in the areas.

Besides, he also

MP presents aids to IDPs at Mongkaung, Mansi camps



Pyithu Hluttaw representative U Tun Tun presents relief supplies to a victim from relief camps in Kachin State.

awarded 53 outstanding students from the 14 villages with cash awards.

By Saw Thein Win

Flood Bulletin

NAY PYI TAW, 3 Sept—The water level of Ayeyawady River at NyaungU has reached its danger level starting from 2-9-2014, (20:30) pm. According to the (12:30) hrs M.S.T observation on

Wednesday, the water level has exceeded by (14) cm (about 0.5 foot) above its danger level. It may remain above its danger level during the next (24) hours commencing Wednesday noon, according to the Department of Meteorology and Hydrology.—NLM

Prevent risk of alcohol-related hepatitis diseases

By Khaing Thanda Lwin

YANGON, 3 Sept—Drinkers are suggested to refrain from alcohol at least two days a week for a healthy liver and avoid contaminated alcohol with nutrient-rich foods, liver specialist Prof Dr Win Naing suggested on Tuesday.

He quoted the UK drinking guidelines as saying that men should drink less than 21 units or 168 g of alcohol per week while women less than 14 units of alcohol per week.

The professor from the

Department of Hepatology at 500-bed Yangon Specialist Hospital said that alcohol consumption is one of the underlying reasons for liver disease, adding that there are 3 to 4 per cent of people with alcohol-related liver diseases (ARLD) among patients with hepatic diseases who are being undergone treatment at the hospital.

Some experts said that local authorities and health care workers are responsible for educating the public

to reduce the rate of alcohol consumption among the young people and the habit of alcohol drinking among women that is rising in the country due to easy access to drink beer, wine and other spirits.

The WHO survey in Myanmar showed that 23 persons are drinkers out of 1,000 people, with 3 to 10 per cent of heavy drinker are suffering from liver cancer.

Prof Dr Win Naing quoted a report as saying that alcohol consumption of males in Myanmar was 31 per cent, adding that the

actual figures would be higher than these numbers if a survey is carried out across the country.

The Ministry of Health has recently released public information on prevention of alcohol-related problems among people, saying that the world sees higher alcohol consumption rate annually.

According to the WHO survey, there are more than 2,000 million drinkers on the world while nearly 80 million people are suffering from alcohol-related problems.

NLM

U Soe Nwe concurrently accredited as Ambassador to Estonia

NAY PYI TAW, 4 Sept—The President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar has appointed U Soe Nwe, Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar to the Federal Republic of Germany, concurrently as Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar to the Republic of Estonia.

MNA

U Kyaw Zwar Minn concurrently accredited as Ambassador to Norway, Sweden

NAY PYI TAW, 4 Sept—The President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar has appointed U Kyaw Zwar Minn, Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar to the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, concurrently as Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar to the Kingdom of Norway and to the Kingdom of Sweden.—MNA

NATIONAL

Myanmar wants Germany

(from page 1)

have the opportunity to co-operate with Myanmar and thanked President U Thein Sein for his visit to Germany. In her response to questions raised the media, she said that she and Myanmar president had discussed a number of issues including constitutional amendment, inclusiveness in the political process, tax reform and that she had urged Myanmar to sign international conventions.

At the press conference, President U Thein Sein said, "I am delighted to meet press this morning. At the invitation of German Government, I am coming here as first ever Head of State of Myanmar in the past 20 years. Myanmar-German relations was initiated in the 19th century with close contact. At the early of the 20th century, German companies like Siemens were in Yangon. German Chamber of Commerce and even German Club were also there. What we need to do now is not to start the new relations, but to strengthen and enhance the traditional existing relations. Therefore, the prime purpose of my visit today is to enhance our friendly relations. We not only regard Germany as a true friend, but also expect to become a business partner as well as a main investor in Myanmar.

There are many things we have to learn from Germany, Federal Government System, efficient urban development, business attitude, emphasis on research, quality manufacturing, traditional good education, disciplines and industriousness. Now we are receiving more and more foreign investment in industry and tourism sectors. At this moment, I really invite Germany to come for mutual development. What we utmost need now is a kind of investment which could bring us good job opportunities and accompanying skill and technology. I would like to have Germany's cooperation with Myanmar entrepreneurs in this field, especially for the development of the small and medium enterprises. To have a better economic development, we have to create job opportunities for our citizens. I mean we have to create many job opportunities for unskilled and semi-skilled labourers from rural areas who are going to take part in urbanization. Myanmar wants Germany to prioritize its investment not necessarily in extractive industry alone, but primarily in manufacturing sector which encourage job opportunities for local people. The success of our right path of reform to democracy and peace-build-



President U Thein Sein holds talks with a delegation led by the Chairman of Deutsche Bank and German Asia Pacific Business Organization (OAV) in Frankfurt of Germany.—MNA

ing process also depends also on our ability to attract foreign investment. We have to learn from German companies. Now we are making effort to reform the whole education system in Myanmar. What we urgently need is short term and long term trainings for professional and skilled labourers to facilitate them for immediate engagement with internationals. I expect that Germany has capacity and willingness to assist in this field. Over the three years of reform process, there were success as well as challenges. However,

we could managed to tackle. Myanmar's reform took place as the same time with Arab Spring. As you all are well aware that we had no blood shedding and no fighting for destruction of the country in Myanmar. On behalf of the people of Myanmar, I would like express here my gratitude for the support and cooperation assistance of Germany government as well as private and political institutes. Thank you."

President U Thein Sein met the Chairman of Deutsche Bank and German Asia Pacific Busi-

ness Organization (OAV) in Frankfurt of Germany to discuss bilateral cooperation in production of foodstuff and promotion of tourism industry as well as environmental conservation.

At Tuesday meeting, they also discussed political and economic reform process of Myanmar and business opportunities for German businesspersons to take part in the country's reforms, further cooperation in meat and breeding sector, renewable energy, small and medium indus-

tries, pharmaceutical manufacturing and establishing vocational training institutes.

The President replied the queries on construction of fertilizer plant as well as sectors of financial, hotel and aviation raised by the OAV Chairman who hosted a luncheon to the President and party. During his tour in Berlin, President U Thein Sein heard the report on rail transportation system of Germany by Mr. Simon Giovanazzi, Executive Director of DB BAHN.

MNA

Vice President views round peace and stability, regional development in Rakhine State

NAY PYI TAW, 3 Sept—Rakhine State is suitable for putting investment in businesses as the state possesses the sea beaches, plentiful of natural resources, valuable cultural heritages for tourism industry and sharing borders with large market winning neighbouring countries, said Vice President Dr Sai Mauk Kham in meeting with union ministers and deputy ministers at the hall of Rakhine State government on Wednesday.

He continued to say that efforts will be made for reducing 38 percent poverty rate in 2010 to 19 percent in 2015. He stressed the need for officials of Rakhine State to sustain peace and stability in the state. He said that Rakhine State needs infrastructures, human resources, security, stability and develop-



Vice President Dr Sai Mauk Kham views progress in construction of Sittway Port and jetty in Sittway.—MNA

ment in implementing the projects of Ponnagyun industrial zone, Kyaukpyu Special Economic Zone, garment factories in Sittway and tourism industries in MraukU and Kyauktaw, urging the people to join

hands with the government in implementing the projects. Chief Minister of the state U Maung Maung Ohn reported that the state government will coordinate with ministries for fulfilling the requirements of the

people.

On his inspection tour of Rakhine State, the vice president inspected dredging of Hsatyoeekya Creek and retaining wall work in Sittway.

He visited the Kaladan

Multi-Modal Transit Transport Project site and viewed round Sittway Port and jetty being built by ESSAR Construction Company of India.

In Ponnagyun, the vice president looked into implementation of electricity

supply at the sub-power station and toured the sites for construction of Ponnagyun industrial zone. In Sittway, the vice president viewed health care services being provided (See page 9)

Mandalarians plant saplings along both sides of Yangon-Mandalay Expressway



MANDALAY, 3 Sept — Propagation Association jointly organized the monsoon tree growing ceremony at mile post 366/7 of the Yangon-Mandalay Expressway on 1 September

with the aim of greening and conserving environment in the region.

Chief Minister of Mandalay Region U Ye Myint and region ministers, departmental officials, NGOs, wellwishers and local people totalling 375 participated in the ceremony.

Sayadaw Bhaddanta Tikkha of the association planted a sapling and the region chief minister and party grew rain tree saplings along the road.

The attendees at the ceremony planted 1,500 rain tree saplings along both sides of the expressway.

Thiha Ko Ko
(Mandalay)

Pyaungpya Dam supplies water to farmlands in Natogyi, Myingyan Tsp

NATOGYI, 3 Sept — Pyaungpya Dam in Natogyi Township is irrigating paddy plantations in Myingyan and Natogyi townships of Mandalay Region.

Thanks to the irrigation facilities, local people can grow monsoon paddy on 250 acres of farmland in Natogyi Township and 500 acres in Myingyan Township.

This year, the dam can irrigate the crops and farmlands sufficiently, said an irrigation official.

The dam was built with the purpose of irrigating 4,000 acres of farmlands but it has now capacity of irrigating 2,000 acres.

At present, the local farmers grow monsoon and summer paddy and summer sesame in the two townships.

Khin Zaw Mon Myint (Law)



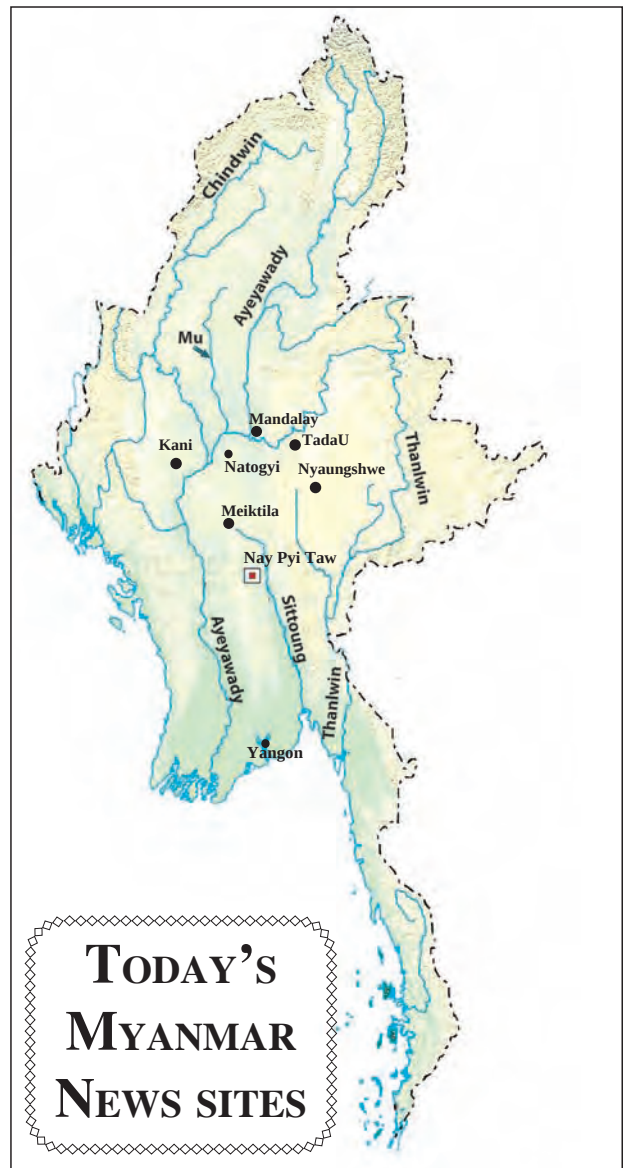
Trainees from community-based policing course make field trips in Mandalay

MANDALAY, 3 Sept — A total of 20 trainees from the community-based po-

licing course conducted at Mandalay Region Police Force, together with course

instructors Mr Trevor Mekeown and Ms Frances Ma-

lan of the European Union (EU) made trips to Pyigyidagun police station and local people on Tuesday.



TODAY'S
MYANMAR
NEWS SITES

Librarian service given to people for raising reading skills

KANI, 3 Sept — Staff of Township Information and Public Relations De-

partment of Kani Township in Sagaing Region give librarian services to the readers.

On their visits to Thinpangon Ward and F Ward in the township, the trainees in groups explained main themes of the community-based policing process, building the trust and good relationship between the people and the police and service of the police force for the people. Commander of Pyigyidagun Township Police Force Police Major Than Hsint and local authorities gave necessary assistance to the police trainee squad.—Tin Maung (Mandalay)

On Tuesday, they visited the township police station and allowed them to borrow the books.

The readers may contact the Township IPRD library for borrowing the books as they like without any endorsement, said a staff of the department.

The staff of the department give mobile library services to the people in the urban area with putting up the wall magazines for disseminating knowledge to the people.

Than Htay Aung
(Kani)



LOCAL NEWS

Budgeting and Oversights for Sub-national Hluttaws discussed



MANDALAY, 3 Sept — A workshop on Budgeting and Oversights for Sub-national Hluttaws under the arrangement of UNDP was held at the hall of Mandalay Region Government at the corner of 66th and 26th streets in Aungmyethazan Township of Mandalay on 2 and 3 September.

It was attended by officials of the finance committees of Mandalay, Sagaing and Magway regions and Shan, Chin and Kachin State Hluttaws.

Speaker of Mandalay Region Hluttaw U Win Maung extended greetings

and Parliamentary adviser to the UNDP Dr Frank Feulner explained the purpose of holding the workshop.

Officials submitted the drawing the budgets of respective region and state Hluttaws.

Participants discussed principles for drawing the budget, interrelation between budgets and planning, challenges, opportunities, enactment of necessary laws and rules, easing the centralization, responsibility and accountability and participation of the people.—*Thiha Ko Ko (Mandalay)*

Computer, English proficiency courses conclude

YANGON, 3 Sept — Organized by Thabyenyo education service association (Htaukkyant), the computer course and English proficiency course concluded at the Thabyenyo Hall on Yangon-Bago Road in Mingaladon Township of Yangon North District on 1 September.

Patrons of the association U Oscar and U Nyunt Yin and executive U Ngwe Soe presented completion certificates to the trainees of computer course and prize to outstanding students in the English proficiency course.

A trainee presented membership applications for Thabyenyo education service association to Chairman U Tin Nyunt.

Khin Zaw (Mingala)

Bridge on Meiktila Lake under construction

MEIKTILA, 3 Sept — Bridge Construction Project Special Group-14 of Public Works is building a 25 feet wide and 206 feet long reinforced concrete bridge beside the existing bridge on Meiktila-Kyaukpadaung Road across Meiktila Lake.

On 31 August, Union Minister for Construction U Kyaw Lwin together with officials inspected progress in construction of the bridge. He stressed the need to complete the bridge at the end of March 2015.

Upon completion, two bridges will be 48 feet wide in total for four-way motor road, with 60 tons load. Myat Noe Thu Company will take responsibility for construction of the 660 feet long approach road on the western part of the bridge.

Mandalay Region Chief Minister U Ye Myint will deliver K600 million fund allotted by the Union government.

At present, Deputy Superintending Engineer U Thein Aung of Public Works and party are building the bridge.

After completion of the bridge, the authorities will designate the two-way motor road on the bridge for traffic safety of the people.—*NLM-018*

Use of paddy transplanting machine introduced to local farmers

NYAUNGSHWE, 3 Sept — A demonstration on use of paddy transplanting machine was held at the farmland of U Win Shwe in Tilaw Village-tract in Nyaungshwe Township of Shan State on Tuesday.

The demonstration of growing paddy with the use of machinery was aimed at broadening the horizon of local farmers in growing paddy, said Head of Town-

MANDALAY, 3 Sept — A ceremony to launch the solar electrification, donated by Yadanabon Solar Company, was held in South Peinnegon Village in PyinOoLwin Township of Mandalay Region, attended by Chief Minister of Mandalay Region U Ye Myint.

ship Agriculture Department U Zaw Win Tun.

The use of paddy transplanting machine can save the time, completion of three-four acres of paddy per day, he added.

The local farmers broadcast fertilizer in hybrid Paletwe paddy plantation in farmlands of U Kyauk Ni and U Me in the village.

Nay Myo Thurein

Rural area in PyinOoLwin Tsp supplied electricity

Head of Engineering Department U Maung Maung Lwin of the company handed over documents related to the solar electrification to an official of the village committee.

In meeting with local people at the monastery in the village, the Chief Min-

ister explained undertakings of the region government for development tasks in rural areas.

Electricity is being supplied to 151 houses from the house, a monastery, a school and along the village road.—*Thiha Ko Ko (Mandalay)*



Literary knowledge shared to university students

DAWEI, 3 Sept — A literary talk was given at the convocation hall of Dawei University in Taninthayi Region on 1 September, with an opening speech by Pro-Rector Dr Ba Han. Veteran writer Chit Oo Nyo gave talks entitled "University or ..." and Chairman of Dawei Township Writers Association Min Thurein (Dawei) "History of Dawei and complicated era, Dawei dwellers and patriotic spirit and maxim of Dawei".

The pro-rector presented gifts to the writers after the talks attended by faculty members, students and local people totalling about 800.

A similar talk was held at Dawei Education College on 31 August, attended by Principal Daw Aye Aye, teachers and students numbering about 500.

Po Shwe Thun (Dawei)

Local farmers pluck chilli at the plantations in TadaU Township. They can gather 15 baskets of chilli per week from the plantation, fetching K2,200 per viss in the market.
KHIN ZAW
MON MYINT
(LAW)



Abe set for 1st Cabinet reshuffle

TOKYO, 3 Sept — Prime Minister Shinzo Abe is set to reshuffle his Cabinet on Wednesday for the first time since returning as prime minister in December 2012, with a lineup likely featuring more women but retaining key ministers.

Ahead of the Cabinet revamp in the afternoon, Abe's Liberal Democratic Party endorsed the appointment of new executives, led by Sadakazu Tanigaki,

currently justice minister, as secretary general. Tanigaki was LDP leader when the Democratic Party of Japan was in power from 2009 to 2012.

Tomomi Inada, state minister in charge of administrative reform, was appointed chairwoman of the LDP Policy Research Council, while Toshihiro Nikai, head of the House of Representatives Budget Committee, will serve as

chairman of the LDP General Council.

The Cabinet reshuffle comes as the Abe government faces a host of challenges at home and abroad, including whether to go ahead with another tax hike after the economy was shaken by a sales tax increase in April, and whether ties with China and South Korea, frayed over territorial and history disputes, can be repaired.

LDP heavyweight Shigeru Ishiba, currently in the powerful post of secretary general, is expected to assume a newly created Cabinet post aimed at boosting regional economies, after declining Abe's offer of another post in charge of national security legislation.

The post of security legislation minister will likely be assumed by former Senior Vice Defence Minister Akinori Eto, who will double as defence minister, according to government sources. While retaining close allies such as Chief Cabinet Secretary Yoshihide Suga and Finance Minister Taro Aso, Abe is expected to appoint Yuko Obuchi, daughter of former Prime Minister Keizo Obuchi, as trade minister.

Abe plans to increase the number of female ministers to a record-tying five from two in his current Cabinet in line with his efforts to raise women's status in society with the goal of in-



Prime Minister Shinzo Abe arrives at the headquarters of his Liberal Democratic Party in Tokyo on 3 Sept, 2014. As president of the LDP, Abe changed the ruling party's executive lineup and is also set to reshuffle his Cabinet later in the day.
KYODO NEWS

creasing the proportion of women in leadership positions in both the public and private sectors to at least 30 percent by 2020.

Prime Minister Junichiro Koizumi's Cabinet had five female ministers between April 2001 and September 2002.

Kyodo News

Japan, China, S Korea to hold joint antinuclear disaster drill

TOKYO, 3 Sept — Japan, China and South Korea have agreed that their first-ever joint antinuclear disaster drill will be staged in South Korea on 20 November, government sources said on Wednesday.

Japan and China will send their officials to the drill and exchange information, the sources said.

The three countries reached the agreement on the drill on Tuesday when their nuclear regulators met in Tokyo to exchange information in a closed-door session. They started such meetings in 2008.

Last year, nuclear regulators from Japan, China and South Korea agreed to stage a joint antinuclear disaster drill every year in one of the three countries.

During Tuesday's meeting, the three countries also agreed to set up a panel of experts to train nuclear regulators in each country, they said.—Kyodo News

Officials highlight potential for expanding China-Poland defence cooperation

WARSAW, 3 Sept — Speaker of the Polish Senate Bogdan Borusewicz and visiting Chinese Defence Minister Chang Wanquan during their meeting here on Tuesday said there is potential for expanding bilateral defence cooperation.

Noting that Poland-China relations have maintained a positive development momentum in recent years, Borusewicz said furthering friendly relations with China remains one of the cornerstones of Poland's foreign relations.

The Polish Senate speaker said both sides are complimentary to each other in terms of military cooperation, highlighting potential for defence technology cooperation.

Chang, who is also a Chinese state councilor, said the recent years have seen increasingly-deepened political mutual trust, fruitful exchanges and cooperation in various areas and closer military-to-military exchanges between both countries.

He said there is still big potential for expanding China-Poland defence and military cooperation.

During the meeting, both sides expressed willingness to work with each

other to further promote Sino-Polish strategic partnership.

Chang also met his Polish counterpart Tomasz Siemoniak on Tuesday. Both officials called for stepped-up exchanges between both countries' defence authorities and militaries.

Chinese President

Xi Jinping and leaders of the European Union have agreed to build partnerships for peace, growth, reform and civilization during Xi's European visit in March, which means China-Europe and China-Poland relations are facing new development opportunities, Chang said.

Chang proposed that

both countries' defence authorities and militaries maintain momentum of high-level visits, initiate defence strategic consultations and expand the scope of bilateral defence and military exchanges.

Siemoniak said that Poland and China are strongly complementary to each other and Polish

defence ministry and military highly value relations with China.

The Polish defence minister called for further exchanges between the two countries' defence ministries and militaries as well as cooperation in personnel training, logistics, healthcare, among other areas.—Xinhua



Defence Minister of Poland Tomasz Siemoniak (1st L) and Chinese State Councilor and Defence Minister Chang Wanquan (2nd L) review the guard of honour at a welcoming ceremony in Warsaw, Poland, on 2 Sept, 2014.
XINHUA

Pakistani forces kill 910 militants in operation

ISLAMABAD, 3 Sept — Pakistani security forces have killed 910 militants in North Waziristan tribal region in a major offensive launched on 15 June, the military said on Wednesday.

The operation code-named "Zarb-e-Azb" was launched after rare peace dialogue with the Taliban collapsed and the militants increased attacks on forces across the country.

Giving details of the operation and casualties, the military said that 42 soldiers were also killed during the North Waziristan operation.

A total of 23 security personnel were also killed in other tribal regions during the period.

A total of 269 soldiers were injured in North Waziristan and other regions, including the port city of Karachi and southwestern Balochistan Province, since the operation had been started. "The Operation Zarb-e-Azb is progressing as per plan," a military statement said.—Xinhua

WORLD

MiGs 29 airborne again



BELGRADE, 3 Sept — The MiGs 29 of the Serbian Air Force can fly again thanks to the batteries donated by the Russian Federation.

Defence Minister Bratislav Gasic and Chief of the General Staff Ljubisa Dikovic watched the first flight of one of the MiGs on radar on Tuesday.

Gasic said he was pleased the aircraft were back in service, but also by the fact that pilot training and maintenance of all the planes had been at a high level.

“Regardless of the great difficulties faced by the Serbian Armed Forces with financial restrictions that have been present since 2006, the military has succeeded in keeping its equipment very safe, and pilot training has also been

uninterrupted,” he stated.

The MiGs 29 were unfit to fly for a while due to battery issues, which are very important for safety, but the problem was solved thanks to the Russian donation.

Serbia’s Prime Minister Aleksandar Vucic said two days earlier the batteries had arrived in Belgrade, and that Russian President Vladimir Putin had insisted on the donation.

Serbia had issued a tender invitation, but Putin personally insisted on donating the batteries, Vucic noted, adding that he was very grateful for the gift.

Thanks to this donation, Serbia will once again, after a long time, have sovereignty over its sky when it comes to patrolling.

Tanjung

Obama’s top foreign policy adviser to visit China from 7 September

WASHINGTON, 3 Sept — US President Barack Obama’s top foreign policy adviser will make a trip to Beijing from 7 to 9 September to meet with Chinese officials to prepare for Obama’s visit in November, the White House said on Tuesday.

Susan Rice, national security adviser, will hold talks with Chinese officials including State Councilor Yang Jiechi, US National Security Council spokeswoman Caitlin Hayden said in a statement.

Rice will underscore the US commitment to “building a productive relationship” with China in advance of Obama’s visit to the country,

Hayden said.

Obama will attend a 10-11 November summit of the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation forum in Beijing and hold a bilateral meeting with Chinese President Xi Jinping the following day, a US State Department official said earlier.

The United States last month protested to China over what it said was an interception by a Chinese fighter of a US naval patrol plane in international airspace over the South China Sea. Beijing denied the allegation and asked the United States to halt what it called anti-China air reconnaissance.

Kyodo News

Rebates, incentives for long-haul flights at Singapore Changi Airport

SINGAPORE, 3 Sept. — Airlines operating at Singapore’s Changi Airport are able to enjoy landing fee rebates for long-haul flights and other incentives that could amount to as much as 50 million Singapore dollars (40 million US dollars) over the next 19 months, Changi Airport Group (CAG) said in a Press release on Wednesday. Details revealed on Wednesday follows CAG announced the Growth and Assistance Incentive (GAIN)

programme in June, which aims to strengthen the Singapore air hub.

CAG will offer airlines a 50-percent rebate on landing fees for all non-stop long-haul passenger flights from 1 September this year to 31 March, 2016.

In addition, CAG is launching a Gateway Incentive to motivate airlines to grow their transit and transfer traffic at Changi Airport. All airlines operating at Changi Airport will receive a 10-Singapore dollar (8-

US dollar) incentive for every incremental departing transit or transfer passenger handled. The 18-month scheme is effective on 1 October and will also include passengers carried by foreign airlines interlining at Changi.

As previously announced, under the GAIN programme, CAG is also offering all airlines operating at Changi Airport across-the-board rebates of 50 percent on aircraft parking fees and 15 percent on aerobridge fees between 1

July this year and 30 June, 2015.

And for passengers travelling on Singapore Airlines or SilkAir flights, they can continue to redeem up to 40 Singapore dollar (about 32 US dollar) in Changi Dollar Vouchers for use during their time at the airport.

Changi Airport is the world’s sixth busiest airport for international traffic. It served a record 53.7 million passengers from around the globe in 2013.

Xinhua

Photo taken on 2 Sept, 2014 shows a building on fire at the Chatterjee International Centre in Kolkata, India. Fire broke out at landmark business building in the eastern Indian state of West Bengal’s capital Kolkata on Tuesday morning, local media reported.
XINHUA



Crew of doomed South Korea ferry drank beer while awaiting rescue

SEOUL, 3 Sept — Some crew of a ferry that capsized in April in South Korea’s worst maritime disaster in 44 years drank beer while waiting for rescue, one of them told a court, in an admission likely to fuel anger at their conduct during the final moments of the mishap.

An engineer said he and a colleague drank beer in a hallway as they waited to be rescued by the coastguard after their ship started to list, South Korean

media reported on Wednesday.

“We took a sip to calm down,” the engineer, who faces charges of negligence, was quoted by major newspaper *Chosun Ilbo* as telling the court in Gwangju, the southern city near the disaster site.

The testimony drew ridicule from the families of some victims, who were in court, the paper added, with one of them asking, “Would you like a beer now, too?”

The 15 crew members on trial, including the captain, Lee Joon-seok, 68, have said they thought it was the coastguard’s job to evacuate passengers.

When he took the stand last week, the ferry captain, on trial for homicide along with three crew members, said he was just following established practice in not making safety checks before the vessel set off.

Video footage of the crew’s escape triggered outrage across South Korea, after they had ordered the passengers, most of whom were high school children, to stay put in their cabins as the ferry sank. Few of the children questioned the order.

Of the 476 passengers and crew on board, 339 were children and teachers from a single school on the outskirts of Seoul. Only 172 people were rescued with the rest presumed drowned in the 16 April disaster.—Reuters

Over a dozen workers injured in blast at Nippon Steel plant

NAGOYA, 3 Sept — More than a dozen workers sustained injuries following a blast at a Nippon Steel & Sumitomo Metal Corp steel factory in central Japan, police said Wednesday, adding that three have been seriously wounded.

An emergency call was made at about 12:30 pm, reporting that “a cove oven exploded” at the Nagoya steel plant in Tokai, Aichi Prefecture. The entire workforce was evacuated from the area by around 2 pm. The city of Tokai said a fire does not seem to have broken out after the explosion. It also called out to residents nearby to stay indoors. Officials of the plant said they are trying to confirm what happened.—Kyodo News



A woman cries at a temporary group memorial altar in Ansan for the victims of the sunken passenger ship Sewol, on 28 April, 2014.—REUTERS

PERSPECTIVES

Thursday, 4 September, 2014

To be on the safe side

By Aung Khin

Myanmar has now opened up international relations in many sectors, ranging from business to entertainment programmes. Foreign movies, especially from Asian countries, flocked to the country, attracting a lot of interest from Myanmar families. Local celebrities have also made overseas performance even in western countries.

Abrupt changes need cautious approaches. Strong law and legal knowledge are very important to prevent problems caused by unethical business cooperation. It is necessary to set up a sound mechanism for legal protection. A modernized investigation body will be required to handle internal cases to safeguard the rights of people.

From cross-border criminal activities to exploitation on the resources of the country, such as human resources or environmental issues, Myanmar also need effective law firms before doing a business or making an agreement.

Law enforcement measures must be carefully monitored to prevent dishonest business practices. While some international law firms are operating in Myanmar, those who want to contact with foreign firms or agencies should seek legal advice before working with overseas partners.

Rules and regulations, as well as outcomes and impacts, should be understood before making an agreement or signing a bond. Myanmar is opening its doors for international community. Both ethical firms and dishonest people are ready to enter the country. People must be alert to the possible money-hungry schemers who would not hesitate to exploit others.

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.

We have never had ethnic nationals called “Rohingya” according to official list of indigenous ethnic groups of Myanmar as well as our historical records

Press Release on Interview

The Myanmar Delegation led by U Thant Kyaw, Deputy Minister for Foreign Affairs attended the 8th Myanmar-Bangladesh Foreign Office Consultations (FOC) held in Dhaka, Bangladesh, on 31 August 2014.

The Deputy Minister gave an interview on FOC as follows:

Q: I have learnt that Your Excellency has attended the 8th Myanmar-Bangladesh Foreign Office Consultations (FOC) between the Ministries of Foreign Affairs of Myanmar and Bangladesh at the Deputy Minister/Foreign Secretary level in Dhaka. Could you brief about this meeting?

A: The Foreign Office Consultations (FOC) is a bilateral meeting between Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs of Myanmar and Deputy Foreign Minister/Foreign Secretary of neighbouring countries as well as some other countries in the world, comprising of

representatives from relevant Ministries. It is held annually and alternatively in each other country aiming to strengthen friendly relations and promote bilateral cooperation. Myanmar is one of the first countries to recognize Bangladesh after the latter gained independence in March 1971. The diplomatic relations between Myanmar and Bangladesh were established in 1972, followed by the opening of embassies at the Ambassadorial level in each other country.

FOC between Myanmar and Bangladesh has been held annually and alternatively 8 times until now. I have led the Myanmar delegation comprising of senior officials from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the Myanmar Police Force, the Immigration and Population Department and the Government

General Administrative Department of Rakhine State. Mr. Md. Shahidul Haque, Foreign Secretary led the Bangladeshi delegation which comprised representatives from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the Ministry of Defence, Ministry of Home Affairs, the Ministry of Shipping, the Ministry of Commerce, and the Ministry of Disaster Management and Rehabilitation. The 8th FOC was held in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Dhaka, on 31 August 2014.

Q: What are the issues discussed at the Foreign Office Consultations?

A: We have cordially exchanged ideas to enhance cooperation between our two countries on immigration matters, boundary affairs, security affairs, energy sector, trade and tourism, agriculture, livestock and fisheries and defence sector.

Among the various

agenda items, we gave special emphasis on repatriation of verified people staying in refugee camps in Bangladesh to Myanmar. We clearly expressed our position to the Bangladeshi side at FOC that Myanmar would processed to receive only 2415 people who were verified by Myanmar authorities in 2005 in accordance with the four criteria agreed by both countries. The Bangladeshi side, however, has not given yet any response to us in this regard. Therefore, this repatriation issue remains delayed until now. Since the issue has latest for years, we need to verify again their list of birth and mortality to get updated figure. We would receive them only after verification process is duly done.

We have extended our proposal to the Bangladeshi side to establish a Joint Working Group on Repatriation between

two countries within two months for the verification process. The Bangladeshi side agreed to this process. I wish to inform that the term “Rohingya” was not expressed by the Bangladeshi side at FOC.

The details on repatriation of these people will be available only after the establishment of this Joint Working Group and the holding of discussions between two sides.

During the meeting we have also discussed other important issues such as boundary and security matters. Both sides agreed to address these issues through bilateral meetings and exchange of visits between the two sides on a regular basis. We handed over to their Bangladeshi side the Draft Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) on the Establishment of Border Liaison Officer Offices on both sides along the common border.

Q: Did you meet with anyone else during your visit to Bangladesh?

A: I paid courtesy calls on Mr. Abul Hassan Mahmood Ali, Minister for Foreign Affairs and Mr. Asaduzzaman Khan, State Minister for Home Affairs after the FOC meeting on the same date to discuss matters pertinent to the consolidation of our bilateral relations and cooperation.

We discussed about the promotion of our bilateral relations and the visit of the Union Minister for Foreign Affairs of Myanmar to

Bangladesh in the future during my meeting with the Foreign Minister of Bangladesh. The Foreign Minister of Bangladesh renewed his Prime Minister's invitation to the President U Thein Sein to pay a goodwill visit to Bangladesh extended during her goodwill visit to Myanmar in 2011.

With regard to the term “Rohingya” I explained to the State Minister for Home Affairs during our meeting that we have never had ethnic nationals called “Rohingya” according to the official list of indigenous ethnic groups of Myanmar as well as our historical records. We exchanged our views on tightening the security along our common border, wiping out illegal armed groups in area, combating illicit narcotic drugs and trans-border crimes and the establishment of Border Liaison Officer Offices on both sides along the common border.

We agreed that the Myanmar-Bangladesh Agreement on the Cultural Cooperation has been renewed for the third time for another five years in line with the Article VIII of the agreement at the FOC meeting. The Agreement was signed in 2002 and expired in 2012.

It is my pleasure to state that the meeting was fruitful because we were able to promote mutual understanding and trust as well as enhancing bilateral relations and cooperation through these dialogues.

People in South East Asia can become professors at a much lower age than is usually the case in the US or Europe: German immunologist

By Kyaw The-ein

The 27 August issue of the German daily “Süddeutsche Zeitung” featured an article on cultural differences at universities in various regions of the world. Christian Stern, a German immunologist, travelled around the world to find out how research works in places such as Ecuador, Indonesia, Myanmar and Vietnam. One key difference is there is a greater distance between superiors and subordinates in Southeast Asia than in the

West. However, people in Southeast Asia can become professors at a much younger age than is usually the case in the US or Europe.

The 30 August issue of The Economist (Britain) stated that relations between India and Australia have grown warmer of late, according to a commentary in “The Economist”. The Lowy Institute, a think-tank in Sydney, calls new ties between Australia, India and others in the region a ballet of hedging and balancing against China. Another po-

tential annoyance for China this week was Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi's dispatch of Indian Foreign Minister Sushma Swaraj on a tour of Myanmar, Singapore and Vietnam. India's President Pranab Mukherjee will go to Vietnam more or less at the same time as Xi Jinping is in India. Partly with China in mind, India is strengthening its security ties with Southeast Asia.

The 27 August issue of The Independent on Sunday reports that divers are searching for Myanmar's

lost copper bell. The world's largest cooper bell is believed to have been lying beneath the riverbed for more than four centuries. Weighing an estimated 270 tons, it is a symbol of pride for many in this country of 60 million. For the first time, search crews are relying mainly on spirituality rather than science to try to find the bell. Myanmar people believe reclaiming the treasure is important if the nation is ever to regain its position of glory as the crown jewel of Asia.

Organizing committees to carefully take security measures for Hluttaw meetings



Pyidaungsu Hluttaw speaker Thura U Shwe Mann and Speaker of Amyotha Hluttaw U Khin Aung Myint discuss holding of 11th session of first Hluttaw meetings.—MNA

NAY PYI TAW, 3 Sept —The Central Organizing Committee for Hluttaw Meetings in 2014 and the work committees held a co-ordination meeting at Zambuthiri Hall of the Hluttaw complex in Nay Pyi Taw

on Wednesday morning.

Speaker of the Pyidaungsu Hluttaw and the Pyithu Hluttaw (Lower House) Thura U Shwe Mann called for submitting the reports on preparations of work committees and cooperation to convene the 11th session of the First Hluttaw meetings.

Union ministers, deputy minister and departmental officials discussed security, transport, reception, information, electricity supply, communications, sound system and voting machine, health and ac-

commodation for the meeting sessions.

Speaker of the Amyotha Hluttaw (Upper House) U Khin Aung Myint instructed all to place emphasis on security measures during the period of Hluttaw meetings.

The Speaker of the Pyidaungsu Hluttaw stressed the need to carefully take security measures in all matters and to coordinate among the organizing committees on time for successfully holding the Hluttaw meetings.

MNA

Senior General takes part in monsoon plantation ceremony

NAY PYI TAW, 3 Sept — Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Senior General Min Aung Hlaing on Wednesday took part the third time of 2014 monsoon plantation ceremony held at near Yezin dam in

Pobbathiri Township here.

The Senior General and wife Daw Kyu Kyu Hla planted a starflower plant and Gangaw plant (Mesua ferrea) at the ceremony.

A total of 4,000

flowering plants, including Gangaw, starflower, gold mohur, rain tree and gum-kino, were planted by the families of Defence Services (Army, Navy and Air) on Wednesday.

Families of the De-

fence Services (Army, Navy and Air) have planted more than 14,000 perennial plants during this monsoon season. Tatmadaw has planted about 95,000 plants in 2014 monsoon period.

Myawady



Vice President views...

(from page 3)

to the local people at the relief camps and cordially met with both communities.

The Turkish Ambassador, the Brunei Ambassador, the official of Bangladeshi Embassy and representatives of UNOCHA and UNICEF expressed their opinions and their participation.—MNA

The Turkish Ambassador, the Brunei Ambassador, the official of Bangladeshi Embassy and representatives of UNOCHA and UNICEF express their opinions and their participation in meeting with victims at relief camps in Sittway.—MNA



Senior General Min Aung Hlaing plants a starflower tree at monsoon tree growing ceremony of families of Defence Services (Army, Navy and Air).—MNA

Smooth process for SME business in Rakhine State discussed

NAY PYI TAW, 3 Sept—The work establishment committee of the SME Development Work Committee held a meeting at the hall of Rakhine State government in Sittway of Rakhine State on Tuesday. Chairman of the committee Deputy Minister for Industry U Thein Aung

said that as SME agency offices and one-stop service centres have been opened in regions and states, industrial entrepreneurs in Rakhine State can get easy access to registration and renewing of licences. He discussed holding of SME agency meetings and establishment of

Ponnagyun industrial zone project and Sittway (Hsaty-oekya) industrial park.

Rakhine state minister U Aung Than Tin explained construction of the industrial ward in Sittway and allotment of land plots. Secretary of Rakhine State SME Agency U Soe Min Thu and U Ba Thein of Rakhine State CCI discussed mobile team service of SME registration and disbursement of K1 billion to Rakhine State.—MNA

Negligent fire causes K12.5 million loss of property

PYINMANA, 3 Sept — A fire broke out at a shop at the northeast corner of Pyinmana Myoma market on Bo Letyar Road in Mingala Ward of Pyinmana in Nay Pyi Taw Council Area at 2.10 am on Wednesday.

The negligent fire starting from sparks of joss sticks at the plastic and toys shop of Daw Myint Myint San engulfed seven shops of the market, losing property worth K12.5 million. There was no casualty in the incident.

Member of Nay Pyi Taw Council U Phone Zaw Han and officials supervised over 110 firefighters and police in putting the fire under

control and they totally put out the fire at 3.15 am.

Pyinmana Police Station filed lawsuit against

Daw Myint Myint San, owner of the shop, under the law.

Moe Zeyar (Pyinmana)



Fire engulfing buildings at Pyinmana Myoma Market on Wednesday morning.— PHOTO: KO HTAIK (PYINMANA)

Suspected patient discharged from hospital as no Ebola virus found in blood sample

NAY PYI TAW, 3 Sept — No Ebola virus was identified in the blood samples of suspected Ebola patient who is being treated at Wabagi Specialist Hospital and four other people close to him,

according to test results from a reference laboratory in Hamburg in Germany.

The condition of the patient has improved completely due to treatments of physicians, doctors and

nurses at the hospital and the conditions of the four other people are fine. The five of them were discharged from hospital on 3 September morning, according to the hospital.—MNA

Obama increases US force protecting embassy in Baghdad



US President Barack Obama waves as he departs the White House in Washington to travel to Estonia on 2 Sept, 2014.— RRUTERS

WASHINGTON, 3 Sept. — President Barack Obama has ordered an increase of about 350 troops in Baghdad to protect the US Embassy in the Iraqi capital and is sending top officials to the Middle East to “build a stronger regional partnership” against Islamic State militants, the White House said on Tuesday.

The actions reflect the growing US concern about the threat posed by the Sunni Muslim militants who have captured parts of Iraq and Syria, and came on the

same day that Islamic State released a video purporting to show its beheading of a second American hostage.

The White House said the additional troops heading to Baghdad would not serve in a combat role.

Rear Admiral John Kirby, the Pentagon press secretary, said the move to augment a US force already in Baghdad providing security at the large embassy compound and its support facilities would bring the total number of military personnel to bolster dip-

lomatic security in Iraq to about 820.

Obama left Washington on Tuesday to visit Estonia and then attend a NATO summit in Wales.

The White House said Obama would be consulting this week with NATO allies on additional actions to take against Islamic State forces and “to develop a broad-based international coalition to implement a comprehensive strategy to protect our people and to support our partners” against the group.

As part of that effort, the White House said, the United States would send Secretary of State John Kerry, Defence Secretary Chuck Hagel and Obama’s counterterrorism adviser, Lisa Monaco, to the Middle East “in the near-term to build a stronger regional partnership.”

The US military has carried out a series of airstrikes against the group in Iraq, with the most recently announced one coming on Monday. The United

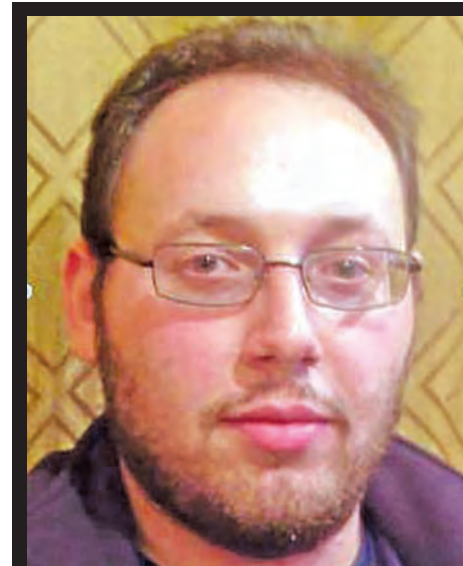
States invaded Iraq in 2003, toppling President Saddam Hussein, and Obama withdrew the last of the American military force in 2011. The United States previously deployed fresh troops to provide embassy security in Baghdad in June.

Islamic State released a video on Tuesday purporting to show the beheading of a second American hostage, journalist Steven Sotloff, raising the stakes in its confrontation with Washington over US airstrikes on its insurgents in Iraq.

Obama has faced bipartisan criticism since he said last week that “we don’t have a strategy yet” for confronting the militant group’s operations in Syria.

In addition, the issue of the security of American diplomatic compounds is a sensitive one for the president, who is still grappling with political fallout from a 2012 attack on a US facility in Benghazi, Libya, that killed the US ambassador there and three other Americans.—Reuters

Islamic State issues video of beheading of US hostage



US journalist Steven Sotloff is pictured in this undated handout photo obtained by Reuters on 20 Aug, 2014. REUTERS

DUBAI, 3 Sept — The Islamic State militant group released a video on Tuesday purporting to show the beheading of a second American hostage, journalist Steven Sotloff, raising the stakes in its confrontation with Washington over US air strikes on its insurgents in Iraq.

A masked figure in the video seen by Reuters also issued a threat against a British hostage, a man the group named as David Haines, and warned governments to back off “this evil alliance of America against the Islamic State”.

A statement released by Sotloff’s family through a spokesman indicated the family considered the video to be authentic.

“The family knows of this horrific tragedy and is grieving privately.

There will be no public comment from the family during this difficult time,” family spokesman Barak Barfi said.

The purported executioner appeared to be the same British-accented man who appeared in an 19 August video showing the killing of American journalist James Foley,

and it showed a similar desert setting. In both videos, the captives wore orange jumpsuits.

In Washington, the White House said it could not immediately confirm the authenticity of the video of Sotloff’s beheading. But several US government sources said it appeared to be authentic.

Sotloff, a 31-year-old freelance journalist from Florida, was kidnapped in Syria in August 2013.

“I’m back, Obama, and I’m back because of your arrogant foreign policy towards the Islamic State, because of your insistence on continuing your bombings and in Amerli, Zumar and the Mosul Dam, despite our serious warnings,” the masked man said in the video, addressing US President Barack Obama.

“So just as your missiles continue to strike our people, our knife will continue to strike the necks of your people.”

In the video, Sotloff describes himself as “paying the price” with his life for the US intervention in Iraq.

Reuters

Four Australians killed in highway car crash

SYDNEY, 3 Sept — Four people have died on Wednesday after their car smashed into a tree in northern New South Wales, Australia.

Police said the car had been travelling south on the Pacific Highway north of Ballina about 1:20 am.

The car’s four occupants died at the scene, police said.

Police said the victims were two males and two females, but no other details have been released.—Xinhua

China-built Danube bridge in Serbia to be up and running on time

BELGRADE, 3 Sept — The bridge spanning the Danube river, which is being built by a Chinese company in Belgrade, capital of Serbia, was to be completed in December as expected, Serbian deputy Prime Minister Zorana Mihajlovic said on Tuesday.

Mihajlovic said that the 1.5-km-long bridge will be open for traffic in December 2014, while in October 2015 the whole project including 21 km of access roads will be completed. The bridge con-

nects the Belgrade city municipalities of Zemun and Borca over the Danube is being built by the Chinese company, China Road and Bridge Corporation (CRBC).

Zhang Xiaoyuan, general director of the company’s branch in Serbia, said that the works started in 2010 and “have advanced as planned so far, and the cooperation with Serbian government, city of Belgrade and the planners that worked on this project was excellent.”

Xinhua

Australian PM Abbott doesn’t rule out boots on ground in Iraq

SYDNEY, 3 Sept — Australian Prime Minister Tony Abbott on Wednesday declined to rule out sending combat troops to support US air strikes in Iraq, amid a growing confrontation with radical Islamists who have seized large swaths of that country and neighbouring Syria.

Abbott was asked by a journalist whether “boots on the ground” were needed to push back the Islamic State militant group, which on Tuesday released a video purporting to show the beheading of a second American journalist, Steven Sotloff.

“Many countries are talking to one another about what is the best way forward here but plainly ISIL is a threat not just to the

people of the Middle East, but to the wider world,” he said, using an acronym for the Sunni militant group.

“This is a conflict which we understandably wish to avoid, but it is a conflict which sadly, is reaching out to us, as we have seen.”

The United States resumed air strikes in Iraq in August for the first time since the pullout of US troops from the country in 2011.

The raids followed major gains by Islamic State, which has declared an Islamic Caliphate in areas it controls in Syria and Iraq.

Although Australia is not a NATO member, its troops fought alongside the coalition in Iraq and Afghanistan, and it is expect-



Australian Prime Minister Tony Abbott

ed to accept formal membership in the coalition’s Enhanced Partnership Program at a summit later this week.

Australia has also joined a multinational relief effort, dropping military equipment and aid to Kurdish forces fighting Islamic State militants in northern Iraq, and Abbott has pre-

viously refused to rule out participating in air strikes.

Former US Assistant Secretary of State Christopher Hill, who served as ambassador to Iraq from 2009-2010, said the beheading of Sotloff should be a wake-up call to the world and that only a military solution was realistic at this point.

Reuters

SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY

India's smartphone wars: Google's Android One adds to Samsung's worries



A worker displays a Micromax mobile phone inside a store in Kolkata on 4 Dec, 2013.—REUTERS

MUMBAI, 3 Sept — Google Inc's partnership with three Indian phone makers is set to rev up fast-growing demand for lower priced smartphones, and spell more trouble for Samsung Electronics which is rapidly losing share in emerging markets.

Micromax Infomatics Ltd, Karbonn Mobiles and Spice Group are the first phone manufacturers to sign up for Google's An-

droid One initiative, which provides specifications for key hardware parts. Some of the new phones are due to hit the market this month.

The aim is a vast improvement in quality that would lead to a surge in demand for low-end Android phones. Currently many cheap emerging market smartphones run different and somewhat customized versions of the Android

operating system, which along with the many variations in hardware make apps on those phones prone to glitches.

While Google plans to push Android One globally, India, the world's third-biggest and fastest growing smartphone market, offers fertile ground for immediate results. Many Indians are buying a smartphone for the first time and a strong recep-

tion for Android One could promote common standards and consolidation in a market where more than 80 smartphone companies operate.

But any boom for higher-quality low-cost smartphones in India and other price conscious markets has the potential to exert intense pricing pressure on Samsung. The South Korean firm uses a customized version of the Android operating system but focuses on higher-margin offerings like its Galaxy S series.

"A major threat for Samsung is that Android One will accelerate the race to the bottom on smartphone pricing," said Neil Mawston, a UK-based analyst at Strategy Analytics.

"Android One now makes Google a foe, not just a friend, for Samsung."

A major strategy rethink for low to mid-tier products is now in order for the world's biggest phone maker and top seller in India, analysts say, particularly as Samsung is also losing share to Apple Inc at the higher-end.—Reuters

Polar bear DNA found from tracks in snow, in conservation step

OSLO, 3 Sept — Polar bear DNA has been isolated for the first time from footprints left in the snow on an Arctic island, a breakthrough that could help scientists better protect rare and endangered wild animals, experts said on Tuesday.

Scientists often spend days tracking rare animals such as snow leopards or orangutans for samples of DNA, for instance from hair or faeces, to understand their movements, monitor their populations and propose ways to protect them.

Using "footprint DNA" from snow or mud could let them study animal numbers and movements more cheaply and without disturbing habitats. It could also free up cash for other measures, such as creating protected areas for vulnerable creatures.

"Animal tracks are what we find most often in the wild," said Arnaud Lyet of the WWF conservation group. Polar bears are a good species to study be-

cause DNA breaks down far more slowly in the cold than in the tropics.

Scientists collected snow around pawprints on the Norwegian archipelago of Svalbard, melted it and used filters to identify DNA genetic material from animal cells in the water, said Eva Bellemain, of French DNA specialist firm SPY-GEN.

"This is the first time we have got polar bear DNA from a track sample in the snow," she told Reuters of the prints collected this year by an expedition by the Norwegian Polar Institute, WWF and Canon Inc.

Analysis of the samples turned up DNA genetic material of a polar bear, a seal it had killed and a seagull that had been seen nearby.

So far, the experts could only say that the DNA was from a polar bear. They were refining the technique as part of a next, vital step to be able to identify individual bears from the DNA left behind.

Reuters

Baidu boosts location-based platform with new services, \$10 million investment



People talk in front of a Baidu's company logo at Baidu's headquarters in Beijing on 16 Jan, 2014.

REUTERS

BEIJING, 3 Sept — Baidu Inc launched on Wednesday a service that helps retailers advertise on the smartphones of nearby users as China's dominant search engine company expands its location-based technology to drive growth.

Baidu currently makes most of its income from desktop-based search advertising and has lagged peers such as Tencent Holdings Ltd in capitalizing on the popularity of mobile internet in China, the world's largest market for smartphones.

It sees real-time, location-based technology as a way to boost advertis-

ing revenues from the rise of e-commerce in China, where government data shows more people now access the Internet via a mobile device than a personal computer.

"In the mobile era consumer behaviour is changing, and the mobile Internet has given us new businesses and opportunities," said Robin Li, Baidu's chief executive, during the launch of the Baidu Connect service.

The service offers toolkits for merchants and software developers to build online-to-offline (O2O) applications, which seek to attract potential

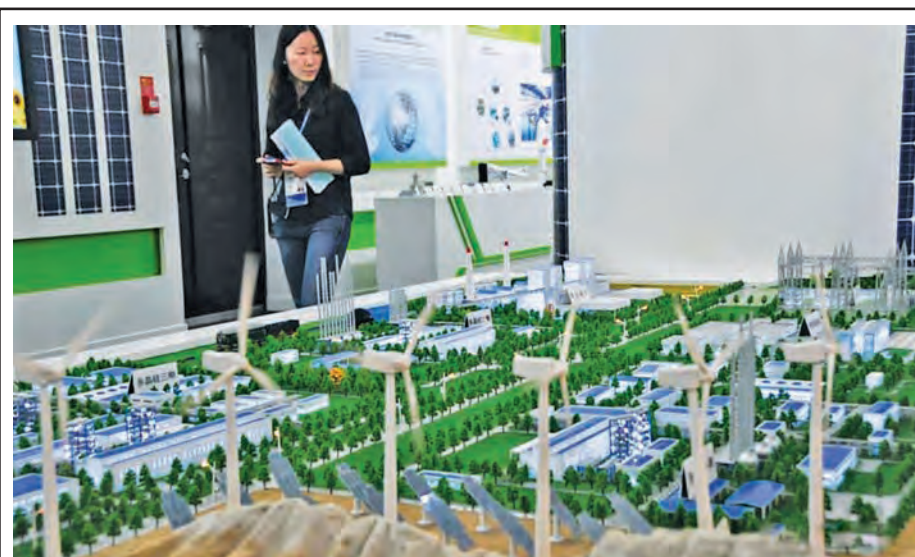
customers to nearby shops and restaurants via promotions and ads displayed on smartphones.

Baidu also said it had recently bought a \$10 million minority stake in IndoorAtlas, a company that offers a special technology that allows smartphone users' positions to be tracked inside buildings, which is often difficult due to the metal used in structures.

Baidu's push into location-based services and O2O puts it increasingly at odds with Alibaba Group Holding Ltd [IPO-BA-BA.N], China's biggest e-commerce company, and Tencent.

Last week, Baidu announced a 5 billion yuan (\$813 million) tie-up with Beijing-based conglomerate Dalian Wanda Group and Tencent to provide O2O services inside Wanda's commercial developments.

Like other tech firms, Baidu is also branching out into wearables. On Wednesday, it demonstrated its Baidu Eye, which uses a camera to scan objects and then synchs with a smartphone.—Reuters



A woman looks at a model of TBEA workshops in TBEA's headquarters in Changji, Xinjiang Uygur Autonomous Region on 31 Aug. TBEA is one backbone equipment manufacturing enterprise in China. China-Central Asia Cooperation Forum on Sci-tech and Innovation, one of the most important forums during China-Eurasia Expo, will open in TBEA's headquarters on 2 Sept. —XINHUA

Google starts quantum computing research project

SAN FRANCISCO, 3 Sept — Google Inc said a research team led by physicist John Martinis from the University of California Santa Barbara will join the company to start a project to build new quantum information processors based on superconducting electronics.

The Quantum Artificial Intelligence Lab is a collaboration between Google, NASA Ames Research Centre and the Uni-

versities Space Research Association (USRA) to study the application of quantum optimization related to artificial intelligence.

"With an integrated hardware group, the Quantum AI team will now be able to implement and test new designs for quantum optimization and inference processors based on recent theoretical insights as well as our learnings from the D-Wave quantum anneal-

ing architecture," Google's director of engineering, Hartmut Neven, said on its research blog.

Google, which is working on projects including self-driving cars and robots, has become increasingly focused on artificial intelligence in recent years.

Earlier in January, Google acquired privately held artificial intelligence company DeepMind Technologies Ltd.—Reuters

Dacic: EU integration is key to cooperation in Balkans

BELGRADE, 3 Sept — The EU integration of the Western Balkans has had a crucial influence on improving regional cooperation and settling issues through dialogue, Serbia's Foreign Minister Ivica Dacic said in Bled, Slovenia on Tuesday.

He took part in a strategic forum entitled Future of the Western Balkans—How to Improve Regional Cooperation, according to

a release from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

Dacic addressed the meeting and said the assurances from Croatia that it would not use open issues to set obstacles on its neighbours' path towards the EU and that it would be among the strongest advocates of EU enlargement were encouraging.

"We are aware that we face a tough period of reforms, but I can also state



with pleasure that Serbia has made great progress in many areas, like the battle against corruption and organised crime, judiciary, and improvements to human and minority rights," he noted.

EU integration is the key factor that enabled the success of the talks on the normalization of relations between Belgrade and Pristina, the foreign minister pointed out.

Full membership in the EU is a priority of the Serbian government, he remarked, adding that the government would try to complete the accession talks by the end of its term in 2018. Despite its own problems, the EU needs to show adequate flexibility regarding the unique nature of the Western Balkans and make sure the issue of EU enlargement is not neglected, he said.—*Tanjug*

Germany unveils memorial to mentally ill, disabled Nazi victims

BERLIN 3 Sept — A memorial wall was unveiled on Tuesday in Berlin to commemorate the systematic murder of up to 300,000 mentally ill and disabled people under the Nazi regime.

The 24-metre blue glass wall is located at the now-demolished offices where more than 60 Nazi bureaucrats and doctors once worked in secret to implement the so-called "T4 euthanasia programme".

The inauguration was attended by German Minister of Culture Monika Gruetters and Berlin Mayor Klaus Wowereit. After inauguration

speeches, people, including some with disabilities and relatives of the "T4 programme" victims, laid flowers by the blue glass as a symbol of remembrance.

The "T4 programme" began in 1939. Between January 1940 and August 1941, about 70,000 people died in what the Nazis deemed "mercy killings" of "unfit members of the society". Victims were mainly sent to gas chambers or killed by lethal injection in death camps in Germany and Poland.

The programme was ostensibly shut down in 1941, but continued in secret. Historians estimated

that between 200,000 and 300,000 people were murdered.

The glass wall is the fourth memorial to distinct groups of Nazi victims. It stands near a memorial to the six million Jews murdered in the Holocaust, and two more to Roma and Sinti victims as well as homosexuals murdered by the Nazis.

The memorial has been designed to accommodate visitors in wheelchairs, and includes audio commentary for the blind, videos with sign language for the deaf, as well as simplified texts for the learning disabled.

Xinhua

EU signs development programmes with 21 African, Caribbean and Pacific countries

BRUSSELS, 3 Sept — The European Union has signed development programmes with 21 African, Caribbean and Pacific countries for a total amount of 339 million euros (445 million US dollars), an EU statement said on Tuesday. Andris Piebalgs, European Commissioner for Development, and representatives from the African, Caribbean and Pacific countries inked the National Indicative Programmes (NIP) under the 11th European Development Fund

for the period 2014-2020 in Samoa.

The list of signatory countries includes 10 from the Caribbean Region, 10 from the Pacific region and one from Africa.

"Today's signatures mark the official go-ahead to continue strengthening our development cooperation with the concerned countries," Piebalgs said after the signing ceremony.

The NIPs represent an important step in the programming of EU aid. EU Member States agreed in

2013 the overall amount for development cooperation that will be channelled to 78 African, Caribbean and Pacific countries through the 11th European Development Fund EDF during the financing period 2014-2020 would total 30.5 billion euros.

It is foreseen that by early 2015, the remaining NIPs will be finalized and signed. In parallel, work on preparing concrete projects and programmes has also started in all countries.

Xinhua

Egypt minister calls on tourists to visit Sphinx



Egypt's Antiquities Minister Mamdouh el-Damaty stands near a paw of the Sphinx, pointing to the Dream Stele in Giza, Egypt on 2 Sept, 2014. El-Damaty said that previously off-limit areas near the paws of the Sphinx will be open to the public from November as part of steps to boost tourism.

KYODO NEWS

CAIRO, 3 Sept — Egypt's Antiquities Minister Mamdouh el-Damaty said on Tuesday that previously off-limit areas near the paws of the Sphinx will be open to the public from November as part of steps to boost tourism, which has been hit by the country's political instability.

The areas will be accessible for an additional fee, allowing visitors to see the Dream Stele from the front, according to the minister, who spoke to the Japanese media in Giza, near Cairo, home to the Pyramids and Sphinx.

Last Thursday, the Japanese Foreign Ministry lowered its legally nonbinding travel advice and warning for Cairo and its surrounding areas including Giza to the lowest on its four-grade scale for the first time in 14 months, advising visitors to stay alert and take precautions.—*Kyodo News*



Brazilian former president, Luiz Inacio Lula da Silva (R), holds the hand of Brazil's President and presidential candidate for the Worker's Party, Dilma Rousseff (L), during an electoral campaign act in Sao Bernardo do Campo, Sao Paulo state, Brazil, on 2 Sept, 2014.—XINHUA

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Consignees of cargo carried on MV HANDE VOY NO () are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 4.9.2014 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of M.I.T.T where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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Weather report

FORECAST VALID UNTIL EVENING OF THE 4th September, 2014: Rain or thundershowers will be scattered in Magway Region and Kayah State, fairly widespread in Upper Sagaing, Mandalay and Bago Regions, Kachin and Shan States and widespread in the remaining Regions and States with likelihood of isolated heavy falls in Sagaing, Mandalay, Bago and Taninthayi Regions and Mon State. Degree of certainty is (100%).

TPP chief negotiators meet in Hanoi to tackle outstanding issues

HANOI, 3 Sept — Chief negotiators from 12 countries involved in a Pacific Rim free trade initiative began talks on Wednesday in Hanoi as part of a 10-day meeting aimed at bridging the gaps over outstanding issues. Koji Tsuruoka, Japan's top negotiator for the Trans-Pacific Partnership initiative, said there are "not a few" remaining problems that are "not easy" to solve.

But "each country shares the goal of striking a deal at an early date, and we would like to make efforts to realize that," Tsuruoka told reporters in Hanoi before the meeting kicked off.

The negotiators hope to thrash out such issues as intellectual property rights and the reform of state-owned firms, and set the stage for a meeting at the ministerial level.

The United States, which leads the TPP, seeks to produce a document on a broad agreement in November, when President Barack Obama is due to travel to Asia for a summit of the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation forum. Senior officials from the 12 negotiating members began their fresh round of talks in the Vietnamese capital on Monday.—Kyodo News

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A 200-meter-long circular runway, which is located on the roof, is officially used in a primary school of China's Zhejiang Province, on 1 Sept, 2014. This kind of roof design is firstly used in China.—XINHUA

Celebrity lawyer tells clients to avoid using iCloud, smart devices

NEW YORK, 3 Sept — A leading celebrity lawyer has advised his clients not to use smartphones and the iCloud after intimate photos of Oscar-winning actress Jennifer Lawrence and female entertainers and models were posted online following an apparent mass hacking.

Martin Garbus, a New York trial lawyer who over the years has represented actors Al Pacino, Sean Connery, Robert Redford and others, said on Tuesday worried clients have approached him about security issues.

“Nothing is safe on the Internet, period,” he told *Reuters*. “Everything on your iPhone, whether it be phone calls, message texts, pictures, is all available.”

Garbus said clients started to contact him after intimate photos of Lawrence, a star of “The Hunger Games” movie franchise and a best actress Academy Award winner for “Silver Linings Playbook,” and other high-profile



Actress Jennifer Lawrence

women began appearing on Sunday.

Personal photos of Sports Illustrated swimsuit model Kate Upton and American actress Mary Elizabeth Winstead were also posted on the image-sharing forum 4chan.

Apple Inc has said it is investigating the reports that its iCloud, which stores data online rather than on a user’s device, had apparently been hacked.

Lawrence’s representative described the release of the photos as a “flagrant violation of privacy” and said the authorities have been contacted.

A spokesman for the FBI said the agency is addressing the matter.

Garbus said he was not surprised by the hacking because he said he has seen it in the past.

“There are just so many different ways that one’s privacy can be invaded,” he added.

Reuters



Italian actress Isabella Ragonese poses on red carpet during the 71th Venice Film Festival, in Lido of Venice, Italy on 2 Sept, 2014.—XINHUA

Pop singer Justin Bieber charged with assault in Canada



Canadian pop singer Justin Bieber is pictured in police custody in Miami Beach, Florida on 23 Jan, 2014 in this Miami Beach Police Department handout released to *Reuters* on 4 March, 2014.—REUTERS

TORONTO, 3 Sept — Pop star Justin Bieber was arrested and charged with assault and dangerous driving over the weekend after an incident near a small Canadian town, police said on Tuesday, in a case that could complicate the singer’s probation in Los Angeles.

The charges came after two drivers got into a “physical altercation” on Friday, Perth County Ontario Provincial Police said in a release.

A minivan and an all-terrain vehicle had collided near Stratford, Ontario, the town where Bieber grew up.

Bieber, 20, was visiting the Canadian province with Selena Gomez, the pop singer and former Disney TV star. The two have been in a four-year, on-and-off relationship.

“Justin Bieber and Selena Gomez’ peaceful retreat in Stratford this weekend was unfortunately disrupted by the unwelcome presence of paparazzi,” Bieber’s lawyer, Brian Greenspan, said in an emailed statement.

“This has regrettably resulted in charges of dangerous driving and assault.”

Bieber, whose songs include the hits “Boyfriend” and “Beauty and a Beat,” has been a favourite paparazzi target and has attracted more attention lately for his legal run-ins than his chart-toppers.

The singer’s latest arrest could add to his legal woes in Los Angeles, where Bieber is on probation after pleading no contest in July to misdemeanour vandalism for pelting a neighbour’s home with eggs.—*Reuters*

Daughter of Robin Williams returns to social media after online harassment

LOS ANGELES, 3 Sept — The daughter of the late Robin Williams has returned to Twitter after she quit the social media website over online harassment she suffered following the suicide death of the Oscar winning actor.

Zelda Williams, 25, an actress who is one of the comedian’s three children, posted the words “thank you” on Twitter on Monday and linked it to a quote from actor and playwright Harvey Fierstein that appeared to take aim at online bullying.

“Never be bullied into silence,” the quote said. “Never allow yourself to be made a victim. Accept no one’s definition of your life; define yourself.”

Zelda Williams announced she was going to



Actor Robin Williams (R) star of the new film “Old Dogs” poses with his daughter Zelda Williams as they arrive in Hollywood, California on 9 Nov, 2009.

REUTERS

quit using Twitter on 12 August, the day after her father’s body was discovered at his San Francisco Bay-area house.

She made the decision after at least two Twitter users sent to her Twitter account graphic photos that were visually manipulated

to look like pictures of a dead Robin Williams, according to media reports at the time. Zelda Williams had also complained of negative online comments from some other Web users. “Deleting this (Twitter application) from my devices for a good long time, maybe forever,” she wrote on Twitter on 12 August.

A number of Web users posted messages to support for Zelda Williams after her father’s death and after she quit the site.

Robin Williams, who won an Oscar for his role in the 1997 drama “Good Will Hunting,” was one of the world’s most well known stand-up comedians. In one of his most recent roles, he starred in the CBS show “The Crazy Ones.”—*Reuters*

Lindsay Lohan uses hypnotherapy to quit smoking?

LONDON, 3 Sept — ‘Mean Girls’ star Lindsay Lohan has reportedly turned to hypnotherapy in a bid to quit cigarettes ahead of her stage debut during the end of this month. The 28-year-old actress turned to alternative medicine to kick her nicotine addiction, reported *Contactmusic*.

“Lindsay knows all eyes will be on her and she’s worried if she starts to crave nicotine on stage, it’ll put her off. Some people may not believe in the powers of hypno-

sis, or think it’s all about swinging a watch about, but Lindsay is willing to try anything to make sure she’s a hit,” a source said.

The starlet has already gone to rehab six times. When it was announced that Lindsay would be making her stage debut in London this year, the actress admitted that she was nervous on opening night. “I’ll be freaking out on the first day. I either do really well under pressure of really horribly. There’s no in between,” she had said.

PTI



Lindsay Lohan turned to alternative medicine to kick her nicotine addiction.—PTI

GENERAL

Players using psychologists to find the extra one percent



Andy Murray of Britain serves to Jo-Wilfried Tsonga of France during their match at the 2014 US Open tennis tournament in New York on 1 Sept, 2014.

REUTERS

NEW YORK, 3 Sept — Tennis players are always looking for that extra 1 percent, the unseen edge that could take them to the very top.

For some it's going gluten free or travelling with a fitness trainer but increasingly, it is that voice in the background; the sports psychologist.

A common sight for years in golf and now used

extensively in sports like cycling and athletics, for a long time it seemed as though tennis players were reluctant to open up their minds, perhaps fearful of what they might find.

But in recent years, psychologists have become a more established presence on the Tour, with top players like Andy Murray and Petra Kvitova espousing the benefits.

Murray has had something of a love-hate relationship with sports psychologists over his career, initially finding them a bit odd, unclear how someone who had never played the game would be able to help him on court.

But, encouraged by his then-coach Ivan Lendl, he tried again and then went on to capture an Olympic gold medal at the 2012 London Games followed by triumphs at the 2012 US Open and 2013 Wimbledon championships.

Alexis Castorri helped Murray find a way to communicate better with Lendl and deal with the dynamics of his support team, as well as prepare for matches and cope with the nerves of a grand slam final.

And the psychologist's services have been in demand at this year's US Open, with South Africa's Kevin Anderson praising her for helping him win

close matches and rebound from tough defeats.

"I just felt it was a part of my game I could maybe just get a bit better at," Anderson said this week. "So many people say, it's 90 percent mental, everybody knows how to hit tennis balls and we've been playing tennis so long that it's tough to make huge changes.

"The bigger thing is just having that belief and confidence in your game and I feel like just chatting with her and having a better understanding of my game.

"She's had a lot of experience, I feel like I've really been able to connect with her and I think I've been able to take a few things on court with me."

When Kvitova won her second Wimbledon title earlier this year, she was quick to thank the influence of Michal Safar, with whom she's been working with for five years.

Reuters

Beijing, Tianjin to revive ancient waterway link

TIANJIN, 3 Sept —The municipalities of Beijing and Tianjin have agreed to restore operation of an ancient waterway linking the two cities.

Restoration of the waterway was included in a development agreement as part of a national-level drive to boost coordinated development in the region around Beijing, Tianjin and neighboring Hebei Province.

The waterway, part of the Grand Canal, a newly listed UNESCO World Heritage site, dates back to 608 AD during the Sui Dynasty (581-618). It was once an important water path to ensure the food supply for the national capital of Beijing in the Yuan Dynasty (1271-1368).

It lost its transportation function in the early 1960s because of climate change and shrinking water levels caused by reservoirs and dams built along its source rivers, according to Zhu Yang, deputy head of the urban planning and design research institute of Tianjin University.

In early August, the two municipalities signed an agreement on coordinated development, including reviving the ancient waterway.

"Making use of the Grand Canal, a UNESCO World Heritage site, the cities will work together to improve the environment along the waterway and speed up progress in resuming shipping," the agreement said.—Xinhua

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Princess Diana's wedding gown to be given to sons Prince William and Harry

LONDON, 3 Sept — The bridal gown, which Princess Diana wore when she wed Britain's Prince Charles in 1981, is set to be handed over to the couple's sons William and Harry, 17 years after her tragic death.

The dress, designed by Elizabeth Emanuel, is one of the most iconic wedding gowns in recent history. The elaborate white gown notably features 'thousands of pearls, silk layers and a 25-ft train', reported *Daily*

Telegraph.

Most recently, the gown was exhibited twice a year at Althorp, the Spencer family estate, as part of an exhibit called 'Diana: A Celebration'.

Besides the wedding gown, both the prince will receive other items that were featured in the exhibit, including their late mother's diamond tiaras, family paintings, letters, home movies and additional pieces from her wardrobe.



Harry will also receive 10 million pounds from his mother's estate upon turning 30, which will be

placed in a family trust. His older brother also received an inheritance on his 30th birthday in 2012.—PTI

UN Security Council condemns attack on peacekeepers in Mali

UNITED NATIONS, 3 Sept — The UN Security Council on Tuesday strongly condemned a deadly attack against UN peacekeepers in Mali, which caused four deaths and some severe injuries. "The members of the Security Council condemned in the strongest terms the attack by an explosive device, 30 km North of Kidal, Mali, on 2 September, 2014, in which four Chadian peacekeepers of the United Nations Multi-dimensional Integrated Stabilization Mission in Mali (MINUSMA) were killed and other peacekeepers

were injured," said a press statement issued here by the 15-nation body.

The incident occurred when a vehicle of MINUSMA hit a landmine while carrying peacekeepers who were leaving the country's northern city of Aguelhok, where they accomplished peacekeeping missions.

According to MINUSMA, all the dead and injured are Chadian nationals, and six of the injured are in critical condition.

In the press statement, the Security Council members expressed their deepest condolences to the families

of the peacekeepers killed, as well as to the government and people of Chad and MINUSMA.

The Council also called on the government of Mali to swiftly investigate this attack and bring the perpetrators to justice, stressing that those responsible for the attack shall be held accountable.

"The members of the Security Council reaffirmed the need to combat by all means, in accordance with the Charter of the United Nations, threats to international peace and security caused by terrorist acts, and

that any acts of terrorism are criminal and unjustifiable, regardless of their motivation, wherever, whenever and by whomsoever committed," said the statement.

"The members of the Security Council reiterated their support for MINUSMA to assist the Malian authorities and the Malian people in their efforts to bring lasting peace and stability to their country," it added.

Since a military coup struck Mali in March 2012, its northern region has served as a stronghold of the rebels.—Xinhua

Osaka airport to get major refurbishment, improved rail access

OSAKA, 3 Sept, —Osaka International Airport, which despite its name serves only domestic flights, will undergo a major refurbishment and get improved access to an adjacent elevated rail station before spring 2020 under a 20 billion yen renovation plan announced on Tuesday.

A corridor will be built directly linking the station and the center of the passenger terminal, while the current two arrival areas will be merged into one, according to the blueprint for the gateway, also known as Itami airport.

Major areas will be refurbished by fall 2016, while all renovated facilities are scheduled to open in the spring 2020 ahead of the Tokyo Olympics.

It will be one of the airport's biggest facelifts since its opening in 1969, according to the airport operator New Kansai International Airport Co.

"We will aim at building a convenient urban airport fit for business (passengers)," said Keiichi Ando, president of the operating body, which also runs Kansai International Airport.—Kyodo News

Federer marches on, youth movement stalls at US Open

NEW YORK, 3 Sept — Roger Federer rolled into the quarter-finals of the US Open for the 10th time in 11 years on Tuesday, while experience finally got the better of youth at the year's final grand slam.

Five-times champion Federer powered his way past Spain's Roberto Bautista 6-4, 6-3, 6-2, the 33-year-old raising his record on Arthur Ashe Stadium court to a dazzling 25-1.

Facing Federer for the first time, the 26-year-old Spaniard quickly found himself 5-1 down in the opening set to the 17-time grand slam winner, who then eased off the gas and coasted to an unflustered straight sets win in just under two hours.

On another sweltering day at the US National Tennis Centre, three emerging talents and potential grand slam winners of the future were finally ushered to the Flushing Meadows exit.

Chinese doubles specialist Peng Shuai routed 17-year-old Belinda Bencic 6-2, 6-1, Tomas Berdych thrashed 20-year-old Austrian Dominic Thiem 6-1, 6-2, 6-4, and Frenchman Gael Monfils schooled 23-year Bul-

garian Grigor Dimitrov 7-5, 7-6(6), 7-5.

Monfils put aside his showman antics for a more workman-like approach to his fourth round match and it resulted in victory over the player dubbed "Baby Fed" for his all-around game that resembles Swiss maestro Federer's. Frenchman Monfils, seeded 20th, returns to the quarter-finals for the first time since 2010 for a date with Federer.

"He's got easy top 10 potential," said Federer of Monfils,

who has yet to drop a set. "He's a great mover. He's got a wonderful serve, really, which nobody really talks about because of his athletic movement which stands out so much.

"His issues have really been just his fitness and his setbacks he's had because of injury. Then sometimes maybe not wanting to play sometimes because of reasons only he can explain.

"I think I can speak on behalf of so many players: We love watching him play."

It was not all joy for the French contingent on Tuesday with Gilles Simon losing to big-serving Croat Marin Cilic.

Cilic and Simon have played a combined 49 five-setters in their careers so it was no sur-



Roger Federer of Switzerland celebrates defeating Roberto Bautista Agut of Spain in men's singles play following their match at the 2014 US Open tennis tournament in New York, on 2 Sept, 2014.—REUTERS

prise that Tuesday's meeting between the two went the distance.

Cilic had won a five-set marathon over Simon earlier this year at the Australian Open and it was the 14th seeded Croatian coming out on top again 5-7, 7-6(3), 6-4, 3-6, 6-3.

While Cilic and Simon battled it out for over four hours in the heat, Federer, Monfils, Berdych, Peng and 10th seed Caroline Wozniacki conserved energy by registering straight-sets wins.

Peng, 28, delivered a 64-minute master class to 2013 junior world number one Bencic

in an unlikely quarter-final between unseeded players.

The Chinese had rattled off three impressive upsets in a row from the second round, ousting fourth seed Agnieszka Radwanska, 28th seed Roberta Vinci and 14th-seeded Lucie Safarova, on her way to reaching her first grand slam singles semi-final in 37 attempts.

"This is amazing time for me," said Peng, who has won 16 doubles titles, including this year's French Open, but is still chasing her first singles crown.

"A lot of tennis. It's a long time, the career. It's tough sometimes. I'm thinking to give up and stop play because I don't know if I can make it or not."

Peng will next meet former world number one Wozniacki, who used her aggressive ground-stroke game to near perfection in a 6-0, 6-1 victory over Italy's Sara Errani. The 10th-seeded Dane, engaging Errani in long baseline rallies but using superior power to open up the court and find lanes for blasting home winners, roared to victory in a brisk 65 minutes at Arthur Ashe Stadium.—Reuters



Peng Shuai of China serves to Belinda Bencic of Switzerland during their quarterfinals match at the 2014 US Open tennis tournament in New York, on 2 Sept, 2014.—REUTERS

Tasty icing, cherry on top but will United cake crumble?

LONDON, 3 Sept — Manchester United emerged from the transfer window with a rich icing and the brightest of cherries to decorate their cake but the suspicion remains that the team's base may crumble under pressure.

Colombia striker Radamel Falcao has the pedigree to light up Old Trafford and Argentine midfielder Angel Di Maria the class to fill the club's iconic number seven shirt with distinction.

The high-profile signings are consistent with United's history of playing attacking football and proof that despite the club's lack of European football this season they can still attract the world's

top players.

Swapping Falcao for Javier Hernandez and Di Maria for Shinji Kagawa is indisputably a significant upgrade.

But United failed to offload midfielders including Tom Cleverley, Marouane Fellaini and Anderson whose futures under new manager Louis van Gaal look bleak.

Even more worryingly, Van Gaal failed to recruit the top-class central defender he so badly needs following the departures of Rio Ferdinand and Nemanja Vidic.

Argentine Marcos Rojo will increase the Dutchman's options along with the arrival of his ver-

satile compatriot Daley Blind but the unconvincing Phil Jones, Chris Smalling and Jonny Evans will have to shoulder the main responsibility at the back.

Central midfield has also been a major problem area for United since the halcyon days of Roy Keane and Paul Scholes.

The experienced Michael Carrick has been the main man for the past two seasons but, partnered by Darren Fletcher or Cleverley, the team's lack of pace and creativity in central areas was frequently exposed.

Van Gaal has brought in Spaniard Ander Herrera, who will add speed and bite in the middle of the park, and he may try to deploy Di Maria centrally as well in order to fit Juan Mata into the side.

Mata has failed to shine since his 37 million-pound (\$61.2 million) move from Chelsea in January and his place in United's starting line-up may be under threat as Van Gaal seeks to play a more energetic and high-tempo game.

United should not be short of goals with Falcao, Robin van Persie and Wayne Rooney leading the line.

Although Van Persie failed to live up to his stellar first year at United last season, the Dutchman should relish working with his former international manager Van Gaal.

Reuters

Foreign players can help England, says Hodgson

LONDON, 3 Sept — The world-class foreign talent in the Premier League could help English players improve, even though many of them are likely to be starting matches from the substitutes' bench, England manager Roy Hodgson said on Tuesday.

"Some of our players will be selected from the bench at club level, which would have been unthinkable five or 10 years ago," Hodgson told reporters before Wednesday night's friendly with Norway at Wembley Stadium.

"But if they are chosen and involved, then it can be advantageous for our players and very helpful for England."

The standard in the Premier League had made the country a magnet for world-class players, added Hodgson, whose team travel to Switzerland—a country he used to coach—for their first Euro 2016 qualification match next Monday. He said England striker Danny Welbeck's move from Manchester United to Arsenal for 16 million pounds on Monday was a bonus for the player.

"I'm pleased for him. There is enormous competition for places and he is now at a club where he may get more starts," he said.

Hodgson was also upbeat about the young talent available to England, despite the disappointment of a poor World Cup in Brazil this year.

"I get the feeling the players can't wait to kick off this new



England manager Roy Hodgson attends a news conference at their team hotel in Watford, north of London, on 2 Sept, 2014.—REUTERS

campaign with a difficult game on Wednesday," he said.

"It's a team that contains a lot of talent and I think one with enormous potential." There is media speculation that the crowd for Wednesday's match may be well down on recent matches but new England captain Wayne Rooney said he was grateful for the fans' support after the disappointing showing in Brazil.

Manchester United striker Rooney took over the armband after the retirement of Liverpool's Steven Gerrard. "There is no point looking back," Rooney said. "We have young players coming through and it is exciting times. We need these young players to bring back good form to England."

"Last summer we were all very disappointed. We went into the tournament with high hopes but unfortunately it didn't happen." —Reuters



Manchester United's Angel Di Maria passes the ball during their English Premier League soccer match against Burnley at Turf Moor in Burnley, northern England on 30 Aug, 2014.—REUTERS