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President U Thein Sein arrives in Netherlands

THE HAGUE, 7 Sept— President U Thein Sein and party visited Swiss National Museum in Zurich, on Sunday morning and studied utensils, clothes and cultural heritages used in the history of Switzerland.

Then, the president signed the visitors' book of the museum and exchanged souvenirs with officials of the museum.

Under Federal Office of Culture of Home Affairs Ministry, the museum was founded in 1898. The architect of the French Renaissance style museum building was Gustav Gull who graduated from Zurich Science and Technology School. It is situated on the island between the Sihl and the Limmat rivers and is a major tourist attraction due to its beautiful scenes. Arts works from prehistoric ages to the modern time are displayed at the museum, which publishes magazines in German and French languages. Special exhibitions, art exhibitions and film festivals are also held at the museum. Weekly guided tours of the museum in English language are also available.

Then, the president and party proceeded to Rietberg Museum, where an exhibition on Bagan and Pyu cultures is to be held. It is the third largest museum in Zurich and it features artefacts outside Europe. The museum was founded in 1940s and over 150,000 people visit the museum every year. It publishes biannual academic journals and monographs.

MNA

***President U Thein Sein views round artifacts at Swiss National Museum in Zurich in Switzerland.*—MNA**

UEC decides not to hold by-elections this year

***Union Election Commission Chairman U Tin Aye explains preparations for 2015 general election and decision not to hold by-elections.*—MNA**

YANGON, 7 Sept —The Union Election Commission will not hold by-elections this year for some reasons, Chairman U Tin Aye told political parties at the Myanmar Peace Centre here on Sunday.

U Tin Aye explained that the Union Election Commission told a parliamentary session on 20 May that the second by-elections would be held in late November or early December after ASEAN meetings, adding that the holding of by-elections needed reconsidering given the 35 vacancies.

Parliament is now occupied with constitutional and electoral reforms, which he said are critical to the country and the people.

Electioneering will be a burden on political parties, some of whose representatives are members to committees and commissions tasked with constitutional and electoral amendments, he stated.

With the general elections expected to take place in August or September in 2015, political parties will face financial and political constraints as a result of standing for two separate elections.

According to the UEC chairman, the government would have to spend over K2 billion on two elections and as a result a second thought should be given to holding the elections as there is no telling whether the spending would benefit the country.

After the meeting, the UEC Chairman and officials met with media persons and explained preparations for the 2015 general elections.—*MNA*

India's 500,000 tonnes offer can make rice prices competitive

YANGON, 7 Sept — India's offer for importing about 500,000 tonnes of rice from Myanmar this year can cause competitive prices for rice in Myanmar market which has been relying on China for export market, according the Myanmar Rice Federation.

India, which stopped importing rice three years ago, has offered to buy about 500,000 tonnes of rice from Myanmar to supply to its three states, according to MRF.

Myanmar can export just over one million tonnes of rice, and will check prices offered by India before making decision on selling rice to India, according to the sources of the Myanmar Rice Federation.

Meanwhile, a four-member delegation from China arrived Myanmar in the last week of August as part of the steps for implementation or rice inspection protocols as the two countries is moving close to reaching a trade agreement. The delegation also inspected paddy fields, rice mills, sea ports and

(See page 9)

Correction

Please read Myanmar overwhelmed Palestine, 4-1, in the third line of second column in the news under heading of Myanmar 3-2 Philippines to win the 2014 Peace Cup title in this daily issued on 7-9-2014.—*NLM*

Talks about danger of human traffickers given

Myeik, 7 Sept — A literary talk was given to students at Basic Education Middle School in Kalwin Ward of Myeik in Taninthayi Region on 5 September.

IP Aung Kyaw Myint of Anti-Human Trafficking Squad and Staff Officer Daw Hla Hla Htay of Myeik District Information and Public Relations Department gave talks on human trafficking events, danger of human traffickers and construction of a successful life.

Writer Win Mya Aung (Myeik) also gave talks about life of teenagers and their future. The talk was attended by about 200 students.

Zaw Myo Naing
(Myeik District IPRD)

Land owners in industrial zones to take guarantees

Mandalay, 7 Sept — The land plots at Industrial Zone No 1, 2, and 3 must be fenced and buildings are to be constructed not later than 31 December 2014. The land owners are to take land grants from the authorities, according to the Mandalay City Development Committee. Action will be taken against those who did not follow the rules and disciplines.

The MCDC issues the guarantees to the land owners by easing the restrictions of process.

The past government had reclaimed over 3,680 land plots for the industrial zones 1, 2, and 3 of Pyigyidagun Township. Of them, the industries are being operated on about 2,800 land plots. Over 800 land plots are misused through other ways and means, according to the member of the Mandalay Industrial Zone Management Committee.

Maung Pyi Thu
(Mandalay)

Election procedures discussed in Chin State

Haka, 7 Sept — A coordination meeting between Chin State, district and township election sub-commissions and media took place at the hall of Chin State General Administration Department in Haka of Chin State on 5 September.

They discussed cooperation in election process in the state.

Social organizations and media discussed educative process for the people and release of voters list. Members of the sub-commission participated in the discussions, and the meeting approved the future tasks for election procedures.

Chin State IPRD

Consumer protection affairs knowledge disseminated

Wakema, 7 Sept — Commercial and Consumer Affairs Department of Ayeyawady Region under the Ministry of Commence held a talk on protection of consumers at the hall of Basic Education High School in Kanasoekon Village-tract in Wakema Township of Ayeyawady Region on Saturday.

Head of Region Commercial and Consumer Affairs Department U Saw Michael made a speech and Head of Region Food and Drug Administration Dr Pyae Phyo explained safety of foods and Deputy Head of Region Commercial and Consumer Affairs Department U Kyaw Min, consumer law affairs.

It was attended by departmental officials and local people totalling over 600.

Township IPRD

Land plots cancelled from forest areas

Myeik, 7 Sept — A ceremony to return the public lands and religious lands was held at the hall of Basic Education High School in Thamok Village in Myeik Township of Taninthayi Region on Saturday.

The lands were cancelled from the list of mangrove forests and protected public forests. Taninthayi Region Minister for Forestry and Mining U Tin Soe and Region Minister for Economic and Planning U Thein Lwin spoke on the occasion.

Officials of the Myeik District Forest Department handed over documents related to the lands to a local.

At the ceremony, a total of 137.74 acres of land for 13 villages, 6,181.15 acres of farmlands and 141.76 acres of religious lands were given back to the owners.

Zaw Myo Naing
(Myeik District IPRD)

Taninthayi Region Chief Minister on inspection tour of Myeik

Myeik, 7 Sept — Chief Minister of Taninthayi Region U Myat Ko inspected major maintenance of Thazin Hall at Basic Education High School No 1 in Myeik on 6 September.

Members of the School Board of Trustees conducted the Chief Minister round the construction site.

The major maintenance of the building will cost K34.7 million.

After inspecting construction of a three-storey building, the chief minister cordially met with school officials.

The chief minister also looked into land preparations for construction of the highway bus terminal by Myeik Public Corporation Ltd in Myeik.

He also fulfilled the requirements of the teachers at BEHS No 2 in Myeik.

Khaing Htoo
(Myeik District IPRD)

President U Thein Sein visits Berne University of Applied Sciences

BERN, 7 Sept — President U Thein Sein and party visited the Berne University of Applied Sciences in Bern on Saturday afternoon.

Director Dr Schindler Stokar Magdalena of the university welcomed the president and party and explained the administrative system of Switzerland.

Professor Fritz Schnelder and Professor Roland Burki explained the value chain of milk and dairy products manufacturing and agriculture and food stuff education system of Switzerland to the president and party respectively.

After raising questions for further information, the president presented souvenirs to the professors.

Then, the president and party studied the pilot plant for food technology and agriculture and livestock breeding farm of the university in Schupfen Village and presented souvenirs for families of the farm before posing for a documentary photo with them. The president and party were treated with local food there.

President U Thein Sein and party visit Berne University of Applied Sciences in Bern of Switzerland.—MNA

In the evening, the president and party met with Myanmar Ambassador to Switzerland and the embassy staff and Myanmar students in Switzerland at the Hotel Bellevue Palace and gave guidance before presenting souvenirs to them. Then, Myanmar Ambassador to Switzerland U Maung Wai hosted a dinner to the president and party.

In the morning on Saturday, the president and party observed Solar Impulse, a solar-powered plane, at Payerne Air Base in Bern. The plane was first flown in June, 2010 and was recorded as the first plane that could flew 26 hours without using fuel. Then, it flew across the United State in 2013. The second generation of the solar plane is flying round the world in March 2015 and making a stop in Myanmar on the request of President Didier Burkhalter which was fulfilled by President U Thein Sein who pledged to help everything necessary for the success of the flight. The solar plane will land in Mandalay where talks about solar energy will be held and the public will also have an opportunity to study the plane. Under current arrangements, the plane will make a stop only in Myanmar among the ASEAN countries.

Afterwards, the president and party visited the factory of Nestle in Konolfingen. Nestle is planning to invest US$ 50 million in coffee, milk and dairy products, drinking water and beverages sector over six year's period starting from 2014. Myanmar Nestle Company was registered in Myanmar in 2013 and the investment plan has been submitted to Myanmar Investment Commission.—*MNA*

Vice President inspects regional development tasks in Lashio

Vice President Dr Sai Mauk Kham views Htinshu Myaing new town construction site in Lashio of Shan State.—MNA

NAY PYI TAW, 7 Sept — Vice President Dr Sai Mauk Kham and wife Daw Nan Shwe Hmon, together with union minister and deputy minister, attended the ceremony to honour outstanding students in 2013-14 matriculation examination in Lashio Sunday morning.

The vice president delivered a speech at the ceremony. In his speech, he urged the students to try hard to become internationally recognized scholars.

Then, the vice president and wife presented prizes to eight 5-distinction winners while the union ministers and deputy ministers presented prizes to a total of 166 distinction-winners.

On behalf of the students, 5-distinction winner Ma May Myat Noe thanked the vice president and wife.

Then, the vice president and party attended the ceremony to donate a fire engine to the Additional Shan State Fire Services Department.

In the afternoon, vice president and party went to the construction site of Htinshu Myaing new town and heard reports on construction of infrastructure for the new town presented by Shan State Chief Minister U Sao Aung Myat and engineers. Then, the vice president fulfilled the requirements for the urban development project.

Afterwards, the vice president and party proceeded to Narmakhaw terminal and heard reports on construction of Cherry Myaing Housing Estate before inspecting the site.

Later, the vice president and party went to Lashio town development committee office and met with officials and village administrators. Then, the vice president and party went to Kanmein Pariyatti Monastery and donated K 10 million for a new monastery building and K 5 million each to Marnpyin, Mongtin, Mansu Phayagyi Taik and Pariyatti Saddhammapala Tawya monasteries.

MNA

Flood Bulletin

NAY PYI TAW, 7 Sept — The water level of Ngawun River at Ngathainggyoung has reached its danger level starting from 29-8-2014, (18:30) pm. According to the (12:30) hr M.S.T observation on Sunday, the water level has exceeded by (42) cm (about 1.4 feet) above its danger level.

It may remain above its danger level during the next (48) hours commencing on Sunday noon, according to the Department of Meteorology and Hydrology.

NLM

Ancient bridge under maintenance in Hsimeekhon Village of Myingyan Tsp

MYINGYAN, 7 Sept— Hsimeekhon Village located in the eastern part of Ayeyawady River is one of the stations in Myingyan Township of Mandalay Region.

In the rainy season, the water overflowed from Ayeyawady River separates the village into two parts. That is why a bridge links the two parts of the village.

According to the local people, the bridge was built in the time of King Bagan. The bridge with 16 posts is called the second Taungthaman Bridge. The posts of the 500 feet long bridge are covered with stones not to be eroded for their durability.

The local people are placing emphasis on maintenance of the bridge.

Zaw Min Naing (Myingyan)

Graduation performances presented

MANDALAY, 7 Sept— The skill demonstration for convocation of students from National University of Arts and Culture (Mandalay) under the Ministry of Culture took place at the National Theatre on 66th Street in Aungmyethazan Township of Mandalay on Saturday.

Chief Minister of Mandalay Region U Ye Myint and guests viewed the painting and sculpture works of the students.

They also enjoyed the graduation performances of the students at the National Theatre on dances and songs.

Thiha Ko Ko (Mandalay)

New Dragon boat to be commissioned into service on 11 September

TANINTHAYI, 7 Sept— With the aim of uplifting the Myanmar traditional dragon boat event, the local technicians have built a dragon boat and oars in Lethit West Village in Taninthayi Township.

A meeting on construction of the shed for the boat was held at the monastery in the village on 4 September. They discussed the ceremony to commission the new boat into service on 11 September.

The 69 feet long boat will give seats to 42 rowers.

The dragon boat rowing contest is held in Taninthayi Township in October every year. The newly built Aung Nan Tharyi dragon boat will take part in the contest this year.

Nanthayi Htein Win

Foods and drugs under checking for prevention against expired products

TANINTHAYI, 7 Sept — A Food and Drug Administration Squad comprising departmental officials of Taninthayi Township checked the food stalls and grocery shops in wards in Taninthayi on 3 September.

They inspected expired foods and medicines, licences of shops, sales of iodized salt, sanitation at restaurants and use of banned mosquito coins, correctness of measurements and weights in sales of goods at wards and Aungmingala 2 market. Assistant medical officer Dr Myo Zaw Oo and officials explained the purpose of checking the goods and danger of expired products to the shop owners and vendors.

Nanthayi Htein Win (IPRD)

Police participate in sanitation at hospital

NAY PYI TAW, 7 Sept— As a gesture of hailing the Golden Jubilee Anniversary Myanmar Police Force, police servicemen led by Commander of Township Police Force Police Major Nyi Nyi Win carried out sanitation in the compound of Zabuthiri Township People's Hospital (50-bed) in Nay Pyi Taw Council Area on Sunday.

Than Naing (Zabuthiri)

Japanese woman becomes special aide to IAEA chief

VIENNA, 7 Sept—Tomiko Ichikawa, 52, hopes to "be of service to Japan and the world" in her new position of special aide to Yukiya Amano, head of the International Atomic Energy Agency.

In July, Ichikawa, who has extensive experience at various international organizations, became the first Japanese woman to be appointed to take the post at the Vienna-based nuclear watchdog.

She previously served as ambassador at the Permanent Mission of Japan to the International Organizations in Vienna.

Hailing from Saitama, north of Tokyo, Ichikawa dreamed of working abroad using English during her senior high school years.

Having read a newspaper article about a woman who passed an examination to become a diplomat, Ichikawa aspired to take the same path and entered the Foreign Ministry in 1985.

In the mid-1990s, Ichikawa, then an officer with the UN Protection Force, set foot in Sarajevo, the capital of conflict-hit Bosnia and Herzegovina, with a bulletproof vest on.

The UN force attempted to advance a cease-fire

Tomiko Ichikawa, shown in this file photo taken on July 18, 2014, is a special aide to Yukiya Amano, head of the International Atomic Energy Agency, appointed in July as the first Japanese woman to take the post.
KYODO NEWS

to rural areas and forge ahead with reconstruction of local infrastructure.

But Ichikawa said their efforts "were unsuccessful in the face of a tough reality" and that she still remembers the feeling of frustration she had at the time.

Ichikawa also represented Japan in six-party negotiations aimed at denuclearizing North Korea for two years until the talks were suspended in December 2008.

In 2007, she joined a team to examine North Korea's nuclear facilities and verify that disablement work was making progress as agreed by Pyongyang.

The six-party talks involving the two Koreas, China, Japan, the United States and Russia seemed at the time to be making steady progress. But they stalled later.

"The situation quickly worsened as if we were tumbling downhill and North Korea moved to conduct a nuclear test in 2009," she said. In 2011 when a powerful earthquake struck northeastern Japan, crippling Tokyo Electric Power Co's Fukushima nuclear power station, Ichikawa reported what was happening each day to the diplomatic corps in Japan.

But Ichikawa said she always faced a complicated reality and kept asking herself, "Is my job being of any help to anyone at all?"

Now as a member of the IAEA, which is tackling decontamination and dismantling of nuclear reactors in Fukushima as well as nuclear issues in Iran and North Korea, Ichikawa wants to work for the benefit of Japan and the whole world.—*Kyodo News*

Chinese Vice Premier Liu Yandong (3rd R) and European Commissioner for Education, Culture, Multilingualism and Youth Androulla Vassiliou (3rd L), attend a forum of students and scholars of the two sides, ahead of the second meeting of China-EU High Level People-to-People Dialogue, in Beijing, capital of China, on 6 Sept, 2014.—XINHUA

Japan, Sri Lanka expected to agree on maritime security cooperation

COLOMBO, 7 Sept—Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe and Sri Lankan President Mahinda Rajapaksa held talks on Sunday in a bid to strengthen cooperation on maritime security at a time when China is expanding its influence in the Indian Ocean country.

The two leaders are likely to agree to launch intergovernmental talks on marine pollution and environmental protection, while Abe is expected to announce that Japan will study providing patrol ships to Sri Lanka so that the island country can boost its security capabilities.

Sri Lanka has geographical importance for Japan as imports of oil from the Middle East are transported via the Indian Ocean.

Abe's visit to the country is the first by an incumbent Japanese prime minister in 24 years.

The two leaders are also likely to agree to promote cooperation between Japan's Maritime Self-Defense Force and the Sri Lanka Navy.

Abe arrived in Sri Lanka from Bangladesh earlier in the day. Bangladesh and Sri Lanka brought the number of countries Abe has visited since taking office in December 2012 to 49 — the most for a prime minister in the history of Japanese politics.

Kyodo News

Police violence, abiding grief for China families of missing on Malaysia jet

Photo Shows a board written with messages for passengers onboard the missing Malaysia Airlines Flight MH370 during a closed meeting held between Malaysian representatives and Chinese relatives of passengers on Flight MH370 at Lido Hotel in Beijing on 2 May, 2014.—REUTERS

BEIJING, 7 Sept — Six months after Malaysia Airlines Flight MH370 went missing, relatives of those lost, desperate for any hint of what happened, say Chinese authorities have become openly hostile toward them.

In interviews, several relatives described how they had been detained and physically abused by police — seemingly in retaliation for publicly pressing Chinese and Malaysia Airlines authorities for information about the hunt for the plane.

"In the beginning, Beijing police were protecting us, but their attitude has completely changed," said 38-year-old Cheng Liping, whose husband was on the flight.

"I can't fathom why they're doing this. I feel so incredibly disappointed." The Boeing 777 aircraft carrying 239 passengers and crew, disappeared on 8 March after taking off from Malaysia's capital, Kuala Lumpur, bound for Beijing.

About two thirds of those on board were from China.

Investigators say what little evidence they have to work with suggests the plane was deliberately diverted thousands of kilometers from its scheduled route before eventually plunging into the Indian Ocean. But no one knows for sure, or why. A painstaking international search has failed to find any trace.

For the relatives, neither their pain nor their single-minded quest for answers has eased, and that seems to have become an annoyance for China's authorities.

Police have beaten at least two people whose children were on the flight, several family members said. In one case, a woman in her fifties was hospitalized for three days. "I went to see her in hospital, I could see the injuries on her head and body," said Zhang Yongli, 64, whose daughter was on the flight. "The way the police acted was very extreme, it's wrong to treat us this way."

Beijing police did not respond to requests for comment.

China's government has repeatedly said it would spare no effort in the search for the plane and leaders have expressed sympathy for the families.

Reuters

Checkpoint skirmish kills three police, 18 militants in Afghanistan

GHAZNI, 7 Sept—Three Afghan police and 18 militants were killed in exchange of fire when the Taleban launched an attack on a security checkpoint in eastern Ghazni province early Sunday morning, police said.

"Several militants raided a police checkpoint in Ogra locality in outskirts of provincial capital Ghazni city around 3:00 am local time.

The police forces responded with intense firing. The battle caused three policemen and 18 militants killed," deputy provincial police chief Assadullah Ensafi told *Xinhua*.

He said four police were kidnapped by the militants.

Following the attack, reinforcement forces were dispatched to the area. The security forces cordoned off the area and launched a search operation on fugitive assailants.

The Taleban claimed responsibility for the incident.

The Taleban insurgent group has intensified attacks over the past couple of months as the NATO and US forces are withdrawing the country.

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

More than 44,000 NATO-led coalition troops, down from the peak of 130,000 in 2010, are stationed in Afghanistan. Some 30,700 of them are Americans and the United States plans to trim its forces to less than 10,000 next year.—*Xinhua*

After Syria and Iraq, Islamic State makes inroads in South Asia

A man sits on a motorbike in front of a wall with a graffiti message at Mission Hospital in Bannu, in Khyber-Pakhtunkhwa province on 11 July, 2014.
REUTERS

PESHAWAR / DERA ISMAIL KHAN, 7 Sept — Islamic State pamphlets and flags have appeared in parts of Pakistan and India, alongside signs that the ultra-radical group is inspiring militants even in the strongholds of the Taleban and al-Qaeda.

A splinter group of Pakistan's Taleban insurgents, Jamat-ul Ahrar, has already declared its support for the well-funded and ruthless Islamic State fighters, who have captured large swathes of territory in Iraq and Syria in a drive to set up a self-declared caliphate.

"IS (Islamic State) is an Islamic Jihadi organisation working for the implementation of the Islamic system and creation of the Caliphate," Jamat-ul Ahrar's leader and a prominent Taleban figure, Ehsanullah Ehsan, told *Reuters* by telephone. "We respect them. If they ask us for help, we will look into it and decide."

Islamist militants of various hues already hold sway across restive and impoverished areas of South Asia, but Islamic State, with its rapid capture of territory, beheadings and mass executions, is starting to draw a measure of support among younger fighters in the region. Al-Qaeda's ageing leaders, mostly holed up in the lawless region along the Pakistan-Afghanistan border, are increasingly seen as stale, tired and ineffectual on hardcore jihadi social media forums and Twitter accounts that incubate potential militant recruits.

Security experts say Islamic State's increasing lure may have prompted al-Qaeda leader Ayman al-Zawahri to announce the establishment of an Indian franchise to raise the flag of jihad across South Asia, home to more than 400 million Muslims.

Seeking to boost its influence in the Afghanistan-Pakistan region, a local cell with allegiance to Islamic State has been distributing pamphlets in the Pakistani city of Peshawar and eastern Afghanistan in the past few weeks, residents said.

The 12-page booklet called "Fatah" (Victory), published in the Pashto and Dari languages of Afghanistan, was being mainly distributed in Afghan refugee camps on the outskirts of Peshawar.

The pamphlet's logo features an AK-47 assault rifle and calls on local residents to support the militant group. Cars with IS stickers have also been spotted around Peshawar. Sameeulah Hanifi, a prayer leader in a Peshawar neighbourhood populated mainly by Afghans, said the pamphlets were being distributed by a little-known local group called Islami Khalifat, an outspoken Islamic State supporter. "I know some people who received copies of this material either from friends or were given at mosques by unidentified IS workers," he told *Reuters*.

A Pakistani security official said the pamphlets came from Afghanistan's neighbouring Kunar Province where a group of Taliban fighters was spotted distributing them.

"We came across them 22 days ago and we are aware of their presence here," said the official. "Pakistani security agencies are working on the Pakistan-Afghan border and have arrested a number of Taleban fighters and recovered CDs, maps, literature in Persian, Pashto and Dari."

"We will not permit them to work in our country and anyone who is involved in this will be crushed by the government."— *Reuters*

US air strikes target militants near Iraq's Haditha Dam

BAGHDAD, 7 Sept—The United States said it launched four air strikes against Islamic State militants threatening the Haditha Dam in western Iraq on Sunday, broadening its campaign against the fighters.

It was Washington's first offensive into Iraq's western Anbar province since it started air strikes on Islamic State forces in the north of the country in August.

"At the request of the Government of Iraq, the US military today conducted coordinated air strikes against Islamic State of Iraq and the Levant (ISIL) terrorists in the vicinity of the Haditha Dam in Anbar province," said Pentagon spokesman Rear Admiral John Kirby.

"We conducted these strikes to prevent terrorists from further threatening the security of the dam, which remains under control of Iraqi Security Forces, with support from Sunni tribes."

Islamic State has overrun large areas of northern Iraq and declared a cross border Islamic caliphate, including territory it controls on neighbouring Syria.—*Reuters*

Strategy against Islamic State in hand, Obama now must make it work

WASHINGTON, 7 Sept — It took President Barack Obama and his top aides a week to explain that he does in fact have a strategy for confronting the Islamic State militancy. Now he has to prove that he can make it work.

Obama has embarked on building what is basically the third major US-backed international coalition of the past 23 years to take on a challenge emanating from Iraq. The other two were constructed by former presidents George HW Bush and George W Bush against the late Iraqi leader Saddam Hussein.

Obama's vision became clearer in the week since he drew criticism for telling a White House news conference that "we don't have a strategy yet" for taking on the militant group's safe haven in Syria.

Clearly stung by the criticism, Obama has been proceeding with his usual caution in trying to avoid a scenario in which air strikes are launched but nothing is done to address the political challenges that have given rise to Islamic State.

Obama, a reluctant warrior adamantly set against repeating what he considers the headlong rush into war conducted by his immediate predecessor, George W Bush, is basing his coalition on what a variety of countries can bring to the table in dismantling Islamic State and its drive for a caliphate straddling Iraq and Syria.

What US officials are unclear on is whether Western allies and Arab states will join the United States in launching air strikes. So far their emphasis has been on plans to train, advise, assist and equip Iraqi forces and moderate Sunni rebels.

A central pillar of Obama's strategy is to ensure Iraq's new prime minister can form a unity government soon, perhaps next week, that shares power with Sunnis so that they will be more inclined to oppose Islamic State.

Obama would like Gulf Arab states to consider military action, but also to support Sunni moderates in Iraq and Syria who can challenge Islamic State for supremacy. He also wants Islamic State's sources of funding cut off.

And he wants NATO ally Turkey to help prevent foreign fighters who have sworn allegiance to Islamic State from crossing through Turkey on their way to their home countries, where they might launch civilian attacks.

The next major milestone in forming the coalition will come later in September when Obama convenes a security conference on the fringes of the UN General Assembly in New York.

US President Barack Obama speaks at a news conference on the second and final day of the NATO summit at the Celtic Manor resort, near Newport, in Wales on 5 Sept, 2014.—REUTERS

"We must be able to have a plan together by the time we come to UNGA, we need to have this coalesce," said Secretary of State John Kerry. "We need a clarity to the strategy, and a clarity to what everybody is going to undertake."

Kerry travels to Saudi Arabia and Jordan next week for talks with Gulf leaders to determine whether they are prepared to back up their anti-jihadist rhetoric with action.

Some may be able to participate in military action as they did in Libya and US officials are trying to judge how each country might be best placed to help, a senior administration official said.

Obama was buoyed by a clear unanimity from the alliance at a NATO summit in Wales, feeling it is proof that his deliberate approach works.

But the hard part will be when the allies get down to the specifics of who does what.

"Our goal is to act with urgency, but also to make sure that we're doing it right," Obama said on Friday.

Reuters

Photo provided by Mexico's Presidency shows Mexican President Enrique Pena Nieto (R) shaking hands with former US Secretary of State Hilary Clinton during their meeting in Mexico City, capital of Mexico, on 6 Sept, 2014.—XINHUA

Iraq air strike kills seven in hospital near Kirkuk

BAGHDAD, 7 Sept — Iraq's air force hit a hospital in a town controlled by Islamic State and other militant groups on Saturday, killing seven patients and wounding 22 others, including children, eyewitnesses said.

The attack on Hawija, near Kirkuk city, was one strike in a series of raids by warplanes in the area, the witnesses said.

The government did not immediately respond to requests for comment.

Islamic State launched a lightning advance through northern and central Iraq in June, declaring an Islamic caliphate. With the help of US air strikes, Iraq's army and Kurdish forces have been able to push the fighters back from some areas.

Civilian deaths are hard to quantify due to security restrictions in the roughly third of Iraq that Islamic State controls.

Reuters

NATO stages major military exercise in Latvia after Wales summit

Riga, 7 Spet—NATO staged a major military exercise in Latvia on Saturday in a practical demonstration of NATO leaders' commitment to defend its Baltic member states in the face of an assertive Russia.

A NATO meeting in Wales on Friday agreed to form a new rapid reaction force and to step up exercises in eastern Europe in response to Russia's actions in Ukraine.

Allies in the Baltics fear Russian President Vladimir Putin could use the same rationale as he used to explain intervention in Crimea — defending Russian speakers — to justify an attack against one of the NATO countries in the Baltics, which also have Russian-speaking minorities.

On Friday night around 500 paratroopers landed at Lielvarde airport, about 60 km (35 miles) from Latvia's capital Riga, along with hundreds of vehicles and aircraft as the exercise Steadfast Javelin II simulates a deployment of NATO soldiers and equipment in another country in a crisis situation.

In total, 2,000 soldiers from nine nations are carrying out exercises across five countries — Germany, Estonia, Latvia, Lithuania and Poland from 2 September to 8 September.

"We want to assure our people that we are able to protect them," said General Hans-Lothar Domrose, commander of the NATO military command in Brunssum, the Netherlands.

"Certainly on top of this we send a clear message to everyone who wants to threaten NATO, that it's not a thing you should do. NATO will always defend and protect its people," Domrose told reporters in Riga.

To demonstrate NATO's commitment to defending the alliance's members, other exercises will follow Steadfast Javelin in Germany, Norway, Ukraine, Poland this autumn. NATO Allied Land Command Deputy Commander Lieutenant General Ed Davis said on Friday NATO's decision to create the new rapid reaction force was a turning point, refocusing on the defence of member states' territory after more than a decade of operations in Afghanistan.

He said details of the rapid reaction force still had to be worked out. The "spearhead" of that force is expected to be 4,000 to 5,000 troops who would be able to deploy within 48 hours across the alliance.

"It needs to be a relatively light force. It needs to be a force that succeeds, builds upon intelligence and agility, and precision as opposed to wait of military force. It is an agile, precise, intelligence-led rapidly deployable force," Davis told *Reuters*.

Reuters

US173 airborne brigade soldiers leave a C-17 aircraft during the 'Steadfast Javelin II' military exercise in the Lielvarde air base, on 6 Sept, 2014.—Reuters

Syrian warplanes hit Islamic State-run bakery, training camp

Beirut, 7 Sept—Syrian warplanes bombed a bakery run by Islamic State in the city of Raqqa, killing 25 people, in air raids on Saturday that also hit a major training camp used by the insurgent group for a second day running, a group monitoring the war said.

The air strikes on Raqqa, Islamic State's stronghold some 400 km northeast of Damascus, also hit a building used as an Islamic court, and another of the group's offices, the Syrian Observatory for Human Rights said.

Rami Abdulrahman, founder of the Observatory, said the bakery was run by the militant group. The Observatory, which gathers information from all sides in the civil war, said the dead included 12 civilians and nine Islamic State activists.

Islamic State, which has seized wide expanses of territory in Iraq and Syria, drove the last Syrian government forces out of Raqqa province in late August when its fighters seized an air base, capturing and later executing scores of Syrian soldiers.

In a headline bar, Syrian state TV said army units had destroyed weapons and ammunition stores used by Islamic State fighters in Raqqa, "eliminating a number of them and wounding others in a number of areas". It gave no further details.

Raqqa is the main Syrian foothold of Islamic State. The group has been overseeing most aspects of civilian life in the city including bakeries, banks, schools, courts and mosques.

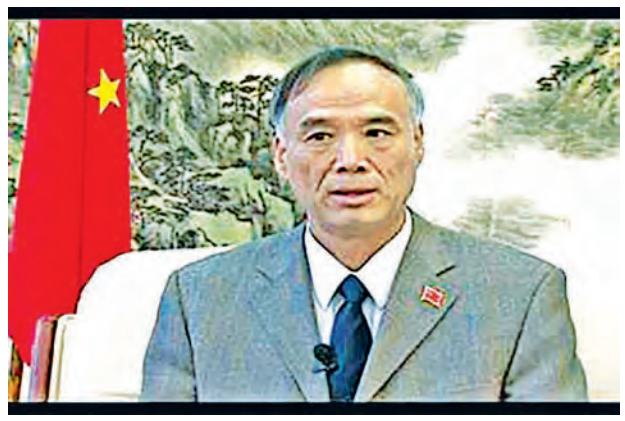
The United States is assembling an alliance to fight the group in neighbouring Iraq. US President Barack Obama said on Friday key NATO allies stood ready to join the United States in military action to defeat the group in Iraq.

The Syrian government has said it should be a partner in the fight against Islamic State. But Western states that have backed the uprising against President Bashar al-Assad have dismissed the idea of cooperating with Damascus and describe Assad as part of the problem.

The Observatory reported that six Islamic State fighters were killed in the air raid on the training camp.

Reuters

Chinese Ambassador expects agreement on summit in Belgrade



Chinese Ambassador to Serbia Li Manchang

Belgrade, 7 Sept—Chinese Ambassador to Serbia Li Manchang has voiced the expectation that the prime minister of Serbia and China, Aleksandar Vucic and Li Keqiang respectively, will reach an agreement on holding a summit of China and 16 European countries in Belgrade this year.

In a statement to *Tanjug*, Ambassador Li confirmed that this will be one of the topics during Vucic's visit to Beijing on 10-11 September, and underscored that the Chinese side attaches special importance to the visit.

I would also like the summit to be held in Belgrade, but whether that will happen— I think that depends on the visit by Prime Minister Vucic, the Chinese ambassador said.

The summit of the prime minister of China and the 16 countries of Central and South-East Europe was held in Warsaw in 2012 for the first time, and then in Romania last year. Besides Belgrade, Prague is also a candidate for hosting this year's summit.

Prime Minister Vucic announced on Thurdsay that he would try to ensure that the summit is held in Belgrade in December.

He noted that this would be the biggest international event organized in Serbia since the death of the president of the Socialist Federal Republic of Yugoslavia (SFRY) Josip Broz Tito. Ambassador Li said that the prime ministers of Serbia and China will in Beijing discuss reform experiences, political issues of interest for both countries and economic cooperation.

He noted that political relations between the two countries are at a high level and that, thanks to that, they have big joint projects, and added that during Vucic's visit another joint project will probably be launched.

Li drew attention to the fact that the Chinese companies are very active in Serbia where they are building the highway, bridge, thermal power plant in Kostolac.

He noted that eight Chinese companies have permanent branch offices in Serbia, describing this as a good start and excellent foundation for further economic cooperation, but also cooperation in other fields.

Tanjug

Residents extinguish a fire caused by what activists say was an air strike by forces loyal to Syria's President Bashar al-Assad on Tal Abyad street market in central Raqqa on 6 Sept, 2014.
Reuters

PERSPECTIVES

Monday, 8 September, 2014

Not all time is of equal value

By *Kyaw Thura*

Most of us are in a habit of deliberately and automatically indulging ourselves in taking time for granted, strange as it may seem. It is in the knowledge of everyone, even with a little education, that time is irreplaceable. Even then, the absurdity is that time is still the worst managed and the least valued resource for many of us.

Eleanor Roosevelt once put it that *"Yesterday is history, tomorrow is a mystery and today is a gift. That's why they call it the present".*

The problem with our use of time might result from our neglect of time management. Generally speaking, we spend eight hours sleeping, two hours cooking and eating, one hour on personal hygiene, eight hours working, and one hours commuting. They take twenty hours, all told. That means that we are left with four hours. Consequently, time management is the most important skill we need to learn without fail in our way to success. In other words, we need to take some value out of our time and invest our time in valuable activities. In fact, time management is the act of taking conscious control over the amount of time spent on specific activities.

There are some beautiful expressions of time in an old Irish literature. "Take the time to work, for it is the price of success; take the time to think, for it is the source of strength; take the time to play, for it is the secret of youth; take the time to read, for it is the seed of wisdom; take the time to be friendly, for it brings happiness; take the time to dream, for it carries you to stars; take the time to love, for it is the joy of life; take the time to be content, for it is the music of the soul.

Benjamin Franklin made it clear in his words: *"Do you love life? Then don't waste time because time is life!"* That is why we should practice time management if we want to enjoy life to the fullest.

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.

Union Minister witnesses issuing citizenship scrutiny cards

YANGON, 7 Sept — Union Minister for Immigration and Population U Khin Yi on Saturday morning visited Indagaw village, Bago Township, and inspected issuing citizenship scrutiny cards to the villagers.

U Khin Yi met the ministry staff members who were issuing citizenship scrutiny cards at the weekend under the Moe Pwint Plan (6).

The union minister said: "The Ministry of Immigration and Population is issuing citizenship scrutiny cards to the people who were born of Myanmar citizens. These cards are official document to identify the citizenship."

The cost for each citizenship scrutiny card is K35 (US$0.04), but the government has announced that official cost for each card is K9, subsidizing K29 per unit. However, people have to incur charges for photos, examining blood group and copies for paper documents.

Indagaw village administrator U Soe Thein reportedly paid for all the costs of citizenship scrutiny cards for his people in the village.

MNA

Two bridges under construction on Gangaw-Kalay Road

KALAY, 7 Sept — Kalay-Gangaw road is an artery of Sagaing and Magway regions in transport for the local people.

Htaukkyant Bridge, 60 feet long and 24 feet wide, is being built with reinforced concrete floor and bored piles between mile posts 74 and 75 of the road.

One more bridge leading to the University of Technology between mile posts 77 and 78 is also under construction. It will be 60 feet long and 24 feet wide with RC floor and spun pipe foundation.

The Union government funded K150 million each for the bridges in 2014-15 fiscal year, and these structures are being built by District Public Works.

The time limitation was set to complete the two bridges in December 2014 meeting set standards, and Chairman of Kalay District Management Committee U Maung Htoo inspected the construction tasks on 3 September.—*Joe Net*

Yangon Region Chief Minister views round free eye care clinic, renovation of YGH

Chief Minister of Yangon Region U Myint Swe meets eye patients before eye surgical operation at free clinic.—MNA

YANGON, 7 Sept — Chief Minister of Yangon Region U Myint Swe attended the free eye surgical operation at Phyo Cetana eye clinic near Thamaing Junction in Mayangon Township of Yangon on Sunday.

The chief minister viewed surgical operations and use of operation theatre equipment.

Alinyaung Foundation of Myanmar and Peace and Development Foundation of China jointly performed free eye surgical operations at over 200 patients from 4 to 7 September.

The chief minister attended the second coordination meeting on extension and renovation of Yangon General Hospital at the hall of the hospital on Sunday afternoon.

Medical Superintendent Dr Hla Myint reported on extension and renovation of the hospital, sanitation and allotment of shops, Pro-Rector Dr Than Htut on construction of a five-storey operation theatre complex and managing director U Soe Hlaing of Mandalay Strength Engineering Co construction and officials on progress in construction of the nuclear medicine unit, power supply and quality control tasks.

Later, the chief minister viewed round the construction project of the operation theatre complex.

MNA

Myanmar Rice Federation opens free agriculture course for media

By *Khaing Thanda Lwin*

YANGON, 7 Sept — The Myanmar Rice Federation (MRF) organized a two-day free agriculture course for media persons on Saturday at its office in Yangon, aiming at increasing the level of understanding on agriculture.

At the course on 6 September, the instructors from the federation lectured on challenges facing the agriculture sector, food safety, seeds and contract farming, the importance of industrialized farming, and the marketing of Myanmar's parboiled rice.

During the training, Dr Min Aung, Senior Advisor to MRF, shared his knowledge on contract farming, saying that it plays a vital role in developing the country's agriculture.

The course on 7 September covered such topics as rural development and investment in the agricultural sector, export and import of rice, rice-milling industries, and the expansion of rice markets.

NLM

Relief items worth over K12 million donated to flood victims in Tachilek

TACHILEK, 7 Sept— The heavy rain on Saturday caused floods at Namyun and Maesai Creeks in Tachilek of Shan State, inundating over 900 houses in eight wards and leaving 4,109 people from 1,079 households flood victims.

Kengtung District Relief and Resettlement Department under the Ministry of Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement provided four relief items worth K8,392,462 for 1,079 households and K3,698,100 for rice for three days to the flood victims.—*MNA*

Township committees meet in discussions of upgrading education sector

YANGON, 7 Sept — An educational coordination meeting among township management committee, township development supportive committee and township education officers of Yangon Region was held at the hall of the Yangon Region government on Friday, attended by Union Ministers U Aung Min, U Tin Naing Thein and Dr Daw Khin San Yi.

Union Minister at the President Office U Tin Naing Thein said that township development supportive committee members, teachers and students are to cooperate in development of education sector in respective townships.

Union Minister for Education Dr Daw Khin San Yi explained drafting the national education law and future processes for drawing laws related to education sector.

Attendees reported on discussions on process of drawing the national education law and officials, participation of parent-teacher associations for upgrading the education standard. After hearing the reports, the union ministers reviewed the discussions of the township committees.

MNA

Farmers harvest paddy with expectation of good price to export paddy and rice to markets of world largest populous countries.—PHOTO: AYE MIN SOE

Vietnam, Myanmar further cement bilateral relations

NAY PYI TAW, 7 Sept— Speaker of Pyidaungsu Hluttaw and Pyithu Hluttaw Thura U Shwe Mann called on President of the Socialist Republic of Vietnam Mr Troung Tan Sang at the Presidential Palace in Hanoi in Vietnam on Saturday.

They cordially discussed Vietnam-Myanmar relation is in a good condition, focusing on cooperation in trade, parliaments, business and the people. Vietnam will put more investment in Myanmar and urge partner countries to investment in Myanmar. Emphasis will be placed on development mechanized farming and boosting agricultural produce. Only when bilateral cooperation promotes, will the two countries enjoy fruitful results. Both countries will further cement bilateral relations. In the evening, National Assembly Chairman Mr Nguyen Sinh Hung of Vietnam hosted a dinner in honour of the Myanmar delegation at Sheraton Hotel in Hanoi.

The Speaker received Chairman of Vietnam-Myanmar friendship association Mr Nguyen Manh Tien and party at Sofitel Plaza Hotel in Hanoi on Saturday to hold talks about an important role of friendship associations and exchange of views between officials of the respective sectors.

MNA

President Mr Troung Tan Sang of Vietnam cordially greets Speaker Thura U Shwe Mann at Presidential Palace in Hanoi.

MNA

India's 500,000 ...

(from page 1)

germ-test programmes and also met with officials in Nay Pyi Taw. Myanmar and China has a plan to hold talks on an export agreement, focusing on cross-border trade more generally, and including an agreement to legalize rice imports via land crossings to China.

After the talks between Myanmar and China in Nay Pyi Taw in the last week of August, the local rice merchants in Muse, a border town on Myanmar-China border, have expressed their concerns about the talks which would pave the way for the big merchants to influence the rice market.

About 80 percent of Myanmar's rice exports are believed to go to China, while it is legal for Myanmar merchants to export rice to China, it is illegal for Chinese merchants to import the products. Frequent large seizures of illegally imported rice to China have effected on prices of rice, causing hardship among merchants living along China's borders with Myanmar and Vietnam.—*NLM*

Golden Jubilee literacy movement marked

YANGON, 7 Sept — A ceremony to mark the Golden Jubilee of the Myanmar Literacy Campaign (1964-2014) was held at the Arts Hall of the Yangon University on University Avenue in Kamayut Township of Yangon on Sunday morning.

Chairman of the Literacy and Regional Development Support Committee (Temporary) retired associate professor of Myanmar Department of Yangon University U Myo Thant extended greetings.

Chairman of Myanmar Literacy Main Centre U Than Oo and Yangon Region Minister for Social Affairs Dr Myint Thein spoke on the occasion.

An old student of 3-Rs movement and one new generation student recounted their experiences. Officials presented certificates of honour to wellwishers.

MNA

Health seminar marks World Physical Therapy Day 2014

By *Khaing Thanda Lwin*

YANGON, 7 Sept — To mark the World Physical Therapy Day 2014, the Myanmar Physiotherapy Association (MPA) organized a health seminar on Sunday in Yangon, aiming to produce more physiotherapists in the country and increase public awareness.

Dr Htoo Maung Ohn, Attending Physician in Internal and Emergency Medicine, gave a lecture entitled "Effects of Immobilization", calling for redoubling rehabilitation efforts. People with a sedentary lifestyle and no physical exercise are doomed to pains, with their strength waning at the end of each day, he warned.

Daw Khin May Tun Chit, Chief Physiotherapist of Parami Hospital, clarified characteristics of professional physiotherapists and their responsibilities, and the framework of clinical leadership competency.

She urged junior physiotherapists to promote their experience in local workplace settings so as to provide high quality health services to patients, suggesting actively seeking opportunities and taking up challenges for personal growth.

The chief physiotherapist elaborated that physiotherapy is a healthcare profession that works with people to identify and maximize the ability to move and function. Functional movement is a key part of what is meant to be healthy, which is why physiotherapy plays a key role in enabling people to improve their health, wellbeing and quality of life, she stated.

Physiotherapists help people affected by injury, illness or disability through movement and exercise, manual therapy, education and advice. They help maintain health for people of all ages, enabling patients to manage pains and prevent diseases.

World Physical Therapy Day is annually held on 8th September. The theme this year is "Fit to take part", which emphasizes the role of physiotherapists in helping people with chronic illnesses or disabilities fulfill their potential by maximizing movement and functional ability.—*NLM*

Visitors view round medical books on physical therapy at the ceremony to mark World Physical Therapy Day 2014.—PHOTO: KHAING THANDA LWIN

Former French hostage says Brussels attack suspect was among his captors in Syria

PARIS, 7 Sept — A French journalist held hostage for months in Syria said on Saturday that one of his captors was a Frenchman suspected of killing four people at the Jewish Museum in Brussels in May.

The reporter, Nicolas Henin, said he recognized Mehdi Nemmouche from video shown to him as part of an investigation. He did not elaborate on the nature of the probe, but mentioned that "a judicial procedure" had been launched while he was still a hostage.

"After the arrest of Mehdi Nemmouche I have been shown a few audovisual documents that allowed me to recognize him formally," Henin, who was freed on 20 April along with three other French journalists, told a news conference.

He said Nemmouche beat him.

"After beating me up, he would show me his gloves. He was very proud of his motorcycle gloves. He told me he had bought them especially for me," he said.

"I do not know if other Western hostages were mistreated but I could hear him torture Syrian prisoners."

Nemmouche, 29, is in custody in Belgium over the 24 May shooting attack after being arrested in Marseille on 30 May and extradited in July. He is to appear before a Belgian court on 12 September.

Henin spoke at the Paris offices of French weekly Le Point, which early on Saturday had published excerpts of a piece written by Henin in which he described Nemmouche as one of a group of French nationals who had moved in Islamic State circles in Syria.

"When Nemmouche was not singing, he was torturing," Henin wrote in Le Point.

Le Point said it had not initially planned to go public with Henin's information for fear of jeopardizing the safety of other hostages, but decided to go ahead when French daily Le Monde reported on Saturday morning that French intelligence identified Nemmouche as one of the captors of Western hostages in Syria.

Reuters

Nicolas Henin (R), former French hostage and journalist, is greeted by his family moments after he arrived by helicopter from Evreux to the military airbase in Villacoublay, near Paris, in this on 20 April, 2014 file picture.
REUTERS

Somalia on high alert over Al Shabaab chief death

MOGADISHU, 7 Sept — Somali government on Saturday said it's on high alert for possible retaliatory attacks following the US drone attack targeting Al Shabaab's leader on Monday.

After nearly a week of silence, the radical group said Ahmed Abdi Godane, 37, was killed in the US drone attack in the Lower Shabelle region in southern Somalia.

The Islamist group named Ahmed Omar Abu Ubeyda as the new Emir of the group. Little is known about the newly-named leader of Al Shabaab.

Somali Minister of National Security Khalif Ahmed Ereg said the government has intelligence that the Islamist group of Al Shabaab is planning attacks against government targets in retaliation for the killing of their leader.

"We have credible intelligence that Al Shabaab wants to launch attacks on health centres, schools and other places. Somali government is prepared for that and will counter them. We have put armed forces on high alert," Ereg told reporters in Mogadishu.

Ereg called on people to assist the Somali forces to counter the possible attacks by militant fighters in Mogadishu and other places in Somalia.

He reiterated government calls on Al Shabaab fighters to take advantage of government amnesty during the 45-day ultimatum that began on 1 September, hours after the US drone attack that killed Godane.

Somali government forces have also tightened security in Mogadishu in an effort to avert possible attacks by Al Shabaab militants in the capital. Security forces apprehended a number of Al Shabaab fighters and a cache of weapons in Mogadishu during security sweep, state radio Mogadishu reported.—*Xinhua*

Pakistani paratroopers perform during a ceremony to mark Pakistan's Defence Day in northwest Pakistan's Peshawar on 6 Sept, 2014. Pakistan's armed forces observed Defence Day on Saturday to commemorate the day when the country's army fought and succeeded in war against India in 1965 on Lahore, Sialkot and other borders.—XINHUA

Slovakia plans to build logistics base supporting NATO operation

BRATISLAVA, 7 Sept — Slovakia is planning to build a logistics base in Poprad, eastern Slovakia, to support NATO operation, confirmed Slovak President Andrej Kiska on Saturday following the recent NATO summit.

According to Kiska, the logistics centre should be used for storing ammunition if required by a NATO operation.

"We've pledged to boost our presence in the headquarters in Szczecin, Poland.

Furthermore, we've offered our airport in Sliac and the training facility in Lest, both in central Slovakia for the Alliance's manoeuvres," Kiska told reporters in a briefing.

In addition, Slovakia promised during the summit not to lower its defence budget. The Slovak delegation also agreed to allocate 20 percent of its defence budget on modernisation as of 2016, and by 2020 it should allocate 1.6 percent of the country's GDP on defence purposes.

Leaders from 28 NATO nations agreed on Friday to reverse the trend of declining defence budgets, and raise them over the coming decade.—*Xinhua*

UN Security Council welcomes release of two diplomats abducted in Mali

UNITED NATIONS, 7 Sept — The UN Security Council on Saturday welcomed the release of two Algerian diplomats abducted in northern Mali more than two years ago.

In a statement issued here, the Council members strongly condemned the assassination of another Algerian diplomat and expressed deep regret about the death while in captivity. They also expressed their deep condolences to the family of the two victims as well as to the government of Algeria.

Seven Algerian diplomats, including vice-consul Tahar Touati, were kidnapped by the Movement for Oneness and Jihad in West Africa (MUJAO) on 5 April, 2012, following the eruption of chaos in northern Mali.

In mid-July 2012, the extremist group released three diplomats. However, the vice-consul was reported executed, while another hostage Boualem Sayes died of illness. The two who survived the kidnapping are Mourad Mekssas and Kadour Miloudi.

In the statement, the Council members stressed that those responsible for these kidnappings and killings shall be held accountable. They called on the Malian government to "swiftly investigate the incidents and bring the perpetrators to justice."—*Xinhua*

Sprint expands rural roaming program, adding 15 new carriers

WASHINGTON, 7 Sept — Sprint Corp said on Friday it was adding 15 new rural and regional wireless providers to its US roaming program, a move bolstering the company's efforts to cheaply expand its footprint as it fights to stay competitive as a national carrier.

The program allows Sprint and its smaller partners to use each other's networks for roaming at a mutually attractive price. A total of 27 carriers, covering 565,000 square miles and a population area of more than 38 million people, have now entered into roaming agreements with Sprint.

The 27 partnerships could save Sprint about $1.9 billion in expenditures on new cell phone towers and other infrastructure that would be necessary to bring 4G coverage to new areas on its own, based on calculations provided by a source familiar with the program estimates.

With those savings, deals with rural carriers could offer Sprint a lifeline to improve its national presence following the collapse of the merger with T-Mobile US Inc.

Like T-Mobile's, Sprint's network has been largely concentrated around metropolitan areas while the coverage by the two biggest US carriers, Verizon Communications Inc and AT&T Inc, stretches nationwide.

Growing its footprint is one of Sprint's major challenges as the company struggles to win back millions of customers it lost during its messy network overhaul in recent years. The task is particularly tough in a nearly saturated market and with No 4 T-Mobile pushing to leapfrog Sprint as the No 3 US carrier.

In March, Sprint Chairman Masayoshi Son struck an agreement with the Competitive Carriers Association, which represents many US rural and regional carriers, providing the framework for a rural roaming program.

In June, Sprint announced the first 12 individual carriers to launch the rural roaming program into reality, including Virginia-based nTelos Wireless and Mississippi-based C Spire Wireless.

The 15 new partners announced on Friday include Kentucky-based Bluegrass Cellular, Idaho-based Syringa Wireless and Alabama-based Pine Belt Wireless.

Perhaps because Sprint needs rural coverage more than its rivals, its 4G roaming agreements offer the carriers more perks and more flexibility than they have seen from other companies. Verizon's program, for instance, largely limits partners to building networks that rely on airwaves owned by Verizon, while Sprint's allows them to use their own spectrum.

*People talk on their cell phones as passers-by walk past a Sprint store in New York, on 15 Oct, 2012.—*REUTERS

Sprint's partners also say it offers more attractive roaming rates.

Another major perk Sprint offers is access to devices at cheaper prices negotiated with handset distributors, solving a major problem for smaller carriers who are often stuck paying top dollar for devices because they lack their competitors' scale.

Reuters

Facebook ready to spend billions to bring whole world online

MEXICO CITY, 7 Sept — Facebook Inc (FB.O) is prepared to spend billions of dollars to reach its goal of bringing the Internet to everyone on the planet, Chief Executive Mark Zuckerberg said on Friday.

"What we really care about is connecting everyone in the world," Zuckerberg said at an event in Mexico City hosted by Mexican billionaire Carlos Slim.

"Even if it means that Facebook has to spend billions of dollars over the next decade making this happen, I believe that over the long term its gonna be a good thing for us and for the world."

Around 3 billion people will have access to the Internet by the end of 2014, according to International Telecommunications Union (ITU) statistics. Almost half that, 1.3 billion people, use Facebook.

Facebook, the world's largest social networking company, launched its Internet.org project last year to connect billions of people without Internet access in places such as Africa and Asia by working with phone operators.

"I believe that ... when everyone is on the Internet all of our businesses and economies will be better," Zuckerberg said.—*Reuters*

***Mark Zuckerberg (R), founder and CEO of Facebook, gestures during his conference at the Seminar ''Mexico Siglo XXI'', organized by Telmex foundation, in Mexico City, on 5 Sept, 2014. —*REUTERS**

Apple to add security alerts for iCloud users, says Cook

SAN FRANCISCO, 7 Sept — Apple Inc (AAPL.O) is planning additional steps to keep hackers out of user accounts in the face of the recent celebrity photo scandal and will aggressively encourage users to take stricter security measures, CEO Tim cook told the *Wall Street Journal* in an interview.

Apple will alert users through email and push notifications when someone tries to change an account password, restore iCloud data to a new device, or when a device logs into an account for the first time, the report said.

Apple CEO Tim Cook

Apple is moving quickly to restore confidence in its systems' security ahead of the crucial launch of its new iPhone next week.

Cook said Apple will broaden its use of the two-factor authentication security system to avoid future intrusions, the Journal reported.

The two-factor authentication requires a user to have two of three things to access an account, which may include a password, a separate four-digit one-time code, or a long access key given to the user when they signed up for the service.

The iPhone maker said it plans to more aggressively encourage people to turn on the two-factor authentication in the new version of iOS, the daily reported. "The usability battle will always be there but could you ever imagine using your debit card at an ATM and not entering a pin? That's two factor, something you have (a card) & something you know (a pin), and we all get along just fine," WhiteHat Security's Matt Johansen told *Reuters*.

Apple said on Tuesday the attacks that emerged over the Labour Day weekend on celebrities' iCloud accounts were individually targeted, and that none of the cases it investigated had resulted from a breach of its systems.

Reuters

Carmakers, others fund research toward cars that talk to each other

DETROIT, 7 Sept — A group of companies, including several large automakers, have joined a public-private research initiative to lay the groundwork for a system that wirelessly connects vehicles and helps smooth the flow of traffic, the University on Michigan said on Friday.

The university's Mobility Transformation Centre will help develop and implement technology that allows vehicles to talk to each other and surrounding infrastructure like stoplights to reduce traffic congestion and vehicle accidents. The programme includes increased use of technology to automate functions like cruise control and traveling in stop-and-go driving.

The initiative hopes to implement a working connected and automated car system by 2021 in Ann Arbor, Michigan, where the university is based and testing a pilot programme, the school said.

Several companies are each committing $1 million over three years to establish the centre, including General Motors Co, Ford Motor Co, Toyota Motor Corp, Honda Motor Co and Nissan Motor Co. The center is expected to raise as much as $100 million through 2021 for the project, a spokesman said.

Others participating include auto suppliers Delphi Automotive Plc, Denso Corp and Robert Bosch GmbH, as well telecommunications group Verizon Communications Inc, printer and copier maker Xerox Corp and insurer State Farm, the university said.

In 2012, officials at the US Department of Transportation and the University of Michigan launched a pilot programme to equip nearly 3,000 cars, trucks and buses with wireless devices that track the speed and location of other vehicles, alert drivers to congestion or change a traffic light to green.

The Mobility Transformation Centre will expand the vehicle-to-vehicle and vehicle-to-infrastructure programme to 9,000 vehicles in Ann Arbor and is working with the state to support a deployment of 20,000 vehicles in southeast Michigan, the university said.—*Reuters*

An indigenous woman from one of the ethnic groups participating in the VI Traditional Indigenous Games, holds her headgear in Maruda beach of Marapanim district, in Para, Brazil, on 6 Sept, 2014. The Traditional Indigenous Games will be held until on 10 Sept. — Xinhua

Nearly 20,000 Beijing couples granted permit for second child

Beijing, 7 Sept— Nearly 20,000 Beijing couples have been granted a permit to have a second child since the city relaxed its family planning policy in February, according to the latest official statistics.

As of the end of August, of all the 21,249 couples who filed birth applications, 19,363 have been given the permit, according to statistics released on Sunday by Beijing Municipal Commission of Health and Family Planning.

Of all the granted applicants, around 56 percent are women aged between 31 to 35, according to the birth watchdog.

It also said that another 537 are women aged above 40.

At the end of last year, China relaxed the decades-old one-child policy which was designed to curb population growth.

A majority of the Chinese provinces, including the most populated, Henan, have allowed couples to have a second child if either parent is an only child.

Beijing followed suit on 21 February.

Before the policy was adopted, both parents must be sole children to be eligible for a second child.

The relaxation came as the world's second largest economy is coping with a declining labour force and an aging population. Demographic experts have said the easing will help promote balanced population growth in the country.

Under the one-child policy, many couples, particularly in China's countryside, had abortions as they prefer boys to girls. This led to a wide gender gap of 118 male births versus 100 female births in 2010.— *Xinhua*

Plane with 10 people aboard crashes in southern Colombia

Bogota, 7 Sept — Colombia's Civil Aviation authority said on Saturday that a Laser's company airplane with two crew members and eight passengers aboard crashed after taking off from an airport in the southern department of Caqueta.

There was no immediate report of any survivors from the crash.

The plane with the registration number HK-4755 PA 34 Navajo was reported missing at 15:00 local time (2200 GMT), after taking off from Araracuara's airport in the Colombian Amazon rainforest, the authority said.

The Colombian Air Force is conducting reconnaissance operations over the area to locate any possible survivors, Air Commander Luis Cordoba told local media.

"We are in a process of searching for an airplane reportedly crashed (...) we are on search and rescue operations in case there are survivors, however we know that weather conditions are not the best for us to advance," Cordoba said.—*Xinhua*

A helicopter operates recue works after an aircraft accident in Caqueta department, Colombia on 6 Sept, 2014.—Xinhua

Serbia should be exporter of electricity

Kladovo, 7 Sept — Serbia should again become an exporter of electricity, for which it needs to build new energy capacities, Serbia's Deputy Prime Minister Zorana Mihajlovic said on Saturday at a ceremony in Kladovo marking 50 years since the start of the construction of hydropower plant (HE) Djerdap on the Danube River.

Serbia's Deputy Prime Minister Zorana Mihajlovic

The realization of the strategic project aimed at building HE Djerdap 3 will certainly help meet this objective of the Serbian government, Mihajlovic said.

She noted that the construction of HE Djerdap was a major achievement, very significant for Serbia, and should serve as a reminder that new production capacities should be built.

The energy minister noted that, one year and a half ago, the first talks on the construction of HE Djerdap 3 opened with Romania, regardless of the fact that this hydropower plant will be located on the Serbian side. She added that the talks with potential partners are ahead of Serbia and noted that such a project would enable the country to even have an influence on the price of electric energy in the region.

The ceremony in Kladovo brought together Serbian Energy Minister Aleksandar Antic, Russian Ambassador to Serbia Alexander Chepurin and Director of the Electric Power Industry of Serbia (EPS) Dusan Obradovic.

The hydropower and navigation system Djerdap 1 is a complex facility, built 10 km down the river from Kladovo.

The construction of the system began on 7 September, 1964, and the first power generating units came into operation on 6 August, 1970, simultaneously on the Serbian and Romanian side. This is still the largest hydropower plant on the Danube River, 1,278 metres in length, which was designed in such a way that Serbia and Romania, which are separated by the Danube River, both have the same parts of the main facility at their disposal.—*Tanjug*

Swedish military conduct defence practices in Stockholm

Stockholm, 7 Sept — The Swedish National Home Guard conducted defence practices, including about 700 soldiers, in the city of Stockholm on Saturday, the Swedish daily *Dagens Nyheter* reported.

"It is conducted every year because the Swedish National Home Guard will practice protection and guarding of important community service and infrastructure in Stockholm," said Philip Simon, the public relations officer of the Swedish Armed Forces.

To avoid unnecessary injury of the public, the practice sites were blocked. During the practice only blank cartridges were shot. There were also pickets to make sure the public would not enter practice sites.

The practice ended on Saturday afternoon. Also on Saturday, the Swedish Armed Forces had a display about the defence practices for those who want to know more about it.

The Swedish National Home Guard is part of the Swedish Armed Forces. Its task is to solve all kinds of conflicts, from providing supports under tense situation in peace time to military actions in war.

Xinhua

Chinese shipbuilders heading for unclear waters

Beijing, 7 Sept — Chinese shipbuilding companies received more orders but saw shrinking profits in the first seven months, according to the latest data by the China Association of National Shipbuilding Industry (CANSI).

As the industry sails into the choppy seas with overcapacity and fiercer competition, the market outlook is "not optimistic", the CANSI said, citing fewer ship transactions and limited price hikes.

New shipbuilding orders jumped 42.5 percent from last year to 45.73 million deadweight tonnes (DWT) during the first seven months, while completed shipbuilding volume fell 21.5 percent to 20.66 million DWT, according to CANSI.

By the end of July, Chinese shipbuilders had incomplete orders totaling 153.45 million DWT, up 36.4 percent year on year.

China's shipbuilding industry heavily relies on external demand for growth. Ships delivered overseas in the first seven months dropped 11.9 percent annually to 18.12 million DWT , or about 88 percent of total completed volume.—*Xinhua*

Wreckage of small US plane believed sunk in ocean, Jamaica says

KINGSTON, 7 Sept — The search for the wreckage of a small US private plane that crashed off the northeast coast of Jamaica continued into the evening on Saturday, after searchers spotted an oil slick where the aircraft is believed to have hit the water, authorities said.

The plane, with an unresponsive pilot, crashed on Friday after veering far off its course to Florida and triggering a US security alert that prompted a fighter jet escort.

The Jamaica Civil Aviation Authority said the wreckage is believed to have sunk into the ocean in an area about 6,600 feet (2,000 metres) deep. Neither debris nor bodies had been recovered by Saturday night, authorities said.

"We would have to assume that the debris sank because we didn't find it at the surface," Jamaica Coast Guard Commander Antonette Wemyss-Gorman said at a news conference on Saturday.

Members of Jamaica's Marine Police leave the port to join in the search for a small US private plane with an unresponsive pilot that crashed off the east coast of Jamaica, in Port Antonio on 6 Sept, 2014.—REUTERS

The Jamaica Defence Force "conducted searches overnight and this morning in same location where they spotted an oil spill," she said.

The crash site is believed to be about 14 miles (22 km) north of the coastal town of Port Antonio.

Two people aboard the plane are believed to have been killed: Larry Glazer, a real-estate executive from Rochester, New York; and his wife, Jane Glazer. It is not yet known if anyone else was on the plane.

"We have been in contact with the family, and we're keeping them updated," said Elizabeth Lee Martinez, chargé d'affaires at the US Embassy in Kingston. She declined to give more information.

The pilot stopped responding to radio calls about an hour after take-off from Greater Rochester International Airport and was headed to Naples Municipal Airport in Florida, the US Federal Aviation Administration reported.

The Glazers were known to jet between homes in Rochester and Naples, local media reported.

As the plane veered off course and flew away from Florida, it was trailed by US fighter jets that halted their escort as it entered Cuban airspace, the North American Aerospace Defense Command (NORAD) said.

NORAD suggested on its Twitter page that the aircraft's pilot may have suffered "possible hypoxia," a rare condition caused by a loss of cabin pressure that may have left everyone on board unconscious.

Reuters

One dead, one missing after severe flooding hits southern Italy

ROME, 7 Sept — One person died and another went missing in Italy's southern region of Puglia on Saturday, after severe flooding caused by torrential rains hit the area.

A 24-year-old farmer was found dead after his car was dragged away by a mix of water and mud near Varano Lake, in the Gargano area.

The man had been last seen on Wednesday, when he had left his house to ensure whether his livestock and farm were in good conditions after a violent storm, authorities said.

Xinhua

Research whaling begins in northern Japan coastal areas

KUSHIRO, (Japan), 7 Sept — A fleet of four small ships left Kushiro in Hokkaido, northern Japan, on Sunday to start seasonal hunting of minke whales for research purposes in Pacific Ocean coastal areas.

The fleet plans to catch up to 51 minke whales in waters off Kushiro through the end of October to survey the impact of the sea mammal's predation on coastal fishing by checking the contents of the whales' stomachs. The whale meat will be sold as food.

It is the first research whaling to be conducted off Kushiro since the International Court of Justice in The Hague in March ordered Japanese whaling be halted in the Antarctic Ocean.

Research whaling was conducted in the Pacific off the Sanriku region in northeastern Japan from April to June.—*Kyodo News*

A girl walks down a stairway that simulates the keyboard of a piano, at Polanco Station of Metro's Line 7, in Mexico City, capital of Mexico on 6 Sept, 2014. The Collective Transport System and the Politechnic National Institute installed stairs that simulate a pinao keyboard to promote the use of normal stairs at Polanco Station of Metro's Line 7. The stairs can produce sounds when users step on it.—XINHUA

Nepal's parties missed first deadline of constitution drafting process

KATHMANDU, 7 Sept — Nepal's political parties have missed the first deadline set by Constituent Assembly (CA) calendar concerning the constitution drafting process.

As per the calendar, parties should have settled contentious issues such as forms of governance, electoral system, federalism and judiciary by Saturday but parties did not make any progress.

The missed deadline has raised questions about the possibility of promulgation of new constitution by 22 Jan next year. After failing to meet the deadline, parties have been divided about extending the deadline through an amendment to working calendar but parties are at odds on the same issue.

The ruling parties Nepali Congress and CPN-UML are in favor of settling contentious issues through a voting process in the CA but opposition parties UCPN (Maoist) and Madhes-based parties want to extend the deadline. A three-party meeting on Saturday also failed to make any headway.

"We are not in favour of extending the deadline. All the contentious issues should be resolved through a process in voting, " CPN-UML senior leader Jhala Nath Khanal told media persons after the meeting.

The Political Dialogue and Consensus Committee (PDCC), a committee responsible to forge consensus on contentious issues is preparing to ask full House CA for the extension of deadline.—*Xinhua*

Weather report

BAY INFERENCE:

Monsoon is generally strong in the Andaman sea and Bay of Bangel.

FORECAST VALID UNTIL EVENING OF THE 8th September, 2014:

Rain or thundershowers will be in widespread Taninthayi Region, Kayin and Mon States, fairly widespread in Bago, Yangon, Ayeyawady Regions and Kachin State, scattered in Upper Sagaing Region, Chin and Rakhine States and isolated in the remaining Regions and States with likelihood of isolated heavy falls in Mon States. Degree of certainty is (100%).

STATE OF THE SEA:

Squalls with moderate to rough sea are likely at times off and along Myanmar coasts. Surface wind speed in squalls may reach (35) m.p.h.

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Katy Perry couldn't afford music lessons

Katy Perry

LOS ANGELES, 7 Sept — Pop star Katy Perry says she couldn't afford music lessons when she was younger.

The 29-year-old 'Roar' hitmaker says she didn't have the best educational system as she moved around a lot growing up,

reported *People* magazine.

"Unfortunately, I wasn't able to experience the best educational system, because my parents moved around a lot. I was often pulled out of school — even in the middle of the year.

"I ended up being home-schooled and going to really strange Christian private schools before I left to pursue my dream. But even though I didn't always have the greatest education, I was influenced by a lot of my music instructors," Perry said.—*PTI*

Mariah Carey bans Nick Cannon from speaking about split

Mariah Carey & Nick Cannon

LONDON, 7 Sept — Pop star Mariah Carey has reportedly banned her husband, Nick Cannon, from speaking out about their split.

The 44-year-old singer has been living apart from her husband since June and has started the divorce process, reported *Daily Mirror*.

"Nick and Mariah have the paperwork in place for the break-up. Both will not have to give away their fortunes, and will split very easily in legal terms," a source said.

"The one clause that is a problem is that he must not speak about Mariah or kiss and tell. If he does Mariah can come after him legally. Mariah has always been controlled about her personal life. Nick is a much more open book and could face troubles if he lets slip," it added.

Mariah and Nick, who have three-year-old twins, Moroccan and Monroe, together, married in 2008.

PTI

Singer Simone Battle found dead at West Hollywood home

LOS ANGELES, 7 Sept — Singer Simone Battle, a member of the band GRL and former contestant on the "The X-Factor" television show, has been found dead in her West Hollywood home, authorities said on Saturday. She was 25. Battle was found on Friday morning and an autopsy could be conducted as soon as Sunday, said Lieutenant David Smith from the Los Angeles County Coroner's Department. The cause of death is officially listed as pending.

"Words cannot express the depth of our loss," GRL said in a statement on its website. "Simone's incredible talent was only surpassed by the size of her heart."

News of Battle's death was first reported by celebrity website TMZ. "Simone was an exceptional young talent and human being, and we are all devastated to learn of her passing," Reign Deer Entertainment, Robin Antin, Kemosabe Records and RCA Records said in a statement.—*Reuters*

Director Roy Andersson kisses Golden Lion for Best Film he received for his movie "A Pigeon Sat on a Branch Reflecting on Existence" during the awards ceremony at the 71st Venice Film Festival, in Lido of Venice, Italy on 6 Sept, 2014. The Swedish film won the Golden Lion for Best Film, the highest prize awarded at the 71st Venice film festival which ended here on Saturday.—XINHUA

Charlie Hunnam is face of Calvin Klein's new fragrance

LONDON, 7 Sept—'Sons Of Anarchy' star Charlie Hunnam has been announced as the face of Calvin Klein's new fragrance.

The 34-year-old actor fronts the brand's new ad campaign for Reveal Men, which is described as having notes of pear brandy, crystallised ginger and golden amber, and is set to be released next February, reported Contactmusic. Hunnam who said he loved the luxury and glamour of the campaign shoot which was a world away from filming movie in some less than welcoming locations. "Everyone always thinks the film business is so glamorous, and it really isn't at all. Most of the time I'm up at 5 am working outside in the beating sun from sunrise to sunset in some dusty hell of a location. "I mean, I love the business, but it's not at all glamorous. The fashion and fragrance (world) is all about capturing the idea of aspirational living, the most extreme luxury and glamour that life has to offer," he said.—*PTI*

CONDOLENCE

Since we have learnt that U Girdharilal Goenka who is the eledest son of the Vipassana Teacher: Wunna Kyawhtin Maha Sadhama Zawticadhaja U Goenka and Mata Gyi Daw Hla Aye Kyi, and the eleder brother of Thrithudhamma Manizawtadara Bandoola U Maung Shwe, has passed away in India on 3rd September 2014, all of our Dhamma friends from the International Dhammagiri Vipassana Association, Yangon, Myanmar deeply feel sorry together with the family.

International Dhammagiri Vipassana Association

McKenzie lauds Australian character after last-gasp win

Australian Wallabies head coach Ewen McKenzie (L) talks with team captain James Horwill before the start of the Bledisloe Cup rugby test match against the New Zealand All Blacks at Stadium Australia in Sydney on 17 Aug, 2013.—Reuters

Perth, 7 Sept —Australia coach Ewen McKenzie praised his team's character after they rebounded from a hammering by New Zealand to beat South Africa in the Rugby Championship on Saturday, even if they needed a late try to do it.

The Wallabies were destroyed 51-20 by the All Blacks in Auckland a fortnight ago and a third straight loss to the Springboks since McKenzie took charge would have put the coach and team under huge pressure a year out from the World Cup.

Trailing 23-17 with two minutes to go, though, they produced their best move of the match despite the greasy conditions to put winger Rob Horne in for his fourth test try and allow Bernard Foley to kick the match-winning conversion.

"We knew it was going to be a game of character, coming from the loss in Auckland, we knew we needed to show some character," McKenzie told Fox TV.

"While it wasn't an extravagant scoreboard, a win against South Africa is no easy thing and to come from behind is even better."

After reshuffling his backline in the wake of the Eden Park debacle, McKenzie would have been delighted with the early returns when fullback Israel Folau scored a try inside the first two minutes. A series of sloppy penalties allowed the Springboks back into the game, however, and the home side were trailing 14-11 at the break.

"We were happy with the first half but came out in the second half and promptly gave the ball away five or six times so ended up playing the rest of the game in front of our posts," McKenzie added.

"The scoreboard was getting away from us. We did well to get back into it and made the most of it with that try at the end."

The victory gave McKenzie his first win against a team in the top four of the world rankings after four defeats and a draw against New Zealand, two defeats to the Springboks and a loss to England on the last November tour.

The match probably turned on Irish referee George Clancy's decision to yellow card South Africa winger Bryan Habana for a high tackle on Adam Ashley-Cooper in the 65th minute.

"It was always going to be close, especially away from home, but I thought we were in control for large periods of the game," said Springbok coach Heyneke Meyer. —*Reuters*

Ronaldinho signs for Mexico's Queretaro

Ronaldinho (R) of Brazil's Atletico Mineiro challenges Gustavo Portillo of Argentina's Lanus during their Recopa Sudamericana final soccer match in Belo Horizonte on 23 July, 2014.—Reuters

Mexico City, 7 Sept — Former Brazil and Barcelona midfielder Ronaldinho, twice the World Player of the Year, has signed a two year deal with Queretaro, the Mexican first division club said on Friday.

The 34-year-old, who has also played for Paris St Germain and AC Milan, became a free agent in July after cancelling his contract with Brazilian club Atletico Mineiro.

"We are very pleased to add to our ranks as of today, a player who has excelled in international football. A world champion in 2002, World Player of the Year in 2004 and 2005," the club, nicknamed 'Gallos' (roosters) said in the statement.

"We hope the fans of our city and around the country join in this celebration of having Ronaldinho as a Gallos who will contribute his experience and expertise to further strengthen this great team."

Queretaro, coached by former Mexico defender Ignacio Ambriz, are currently eighth in Liga MX after seven matches in the championship.

Ronaldinho, who was linked with numerous clubs around the world, said he would wear the number 49 shirt in Mexico as it was his lucky number.

"I've always been received with affection in Mexico - I am very motivated to represent Queretaro," he posted on his Twitter account.

Reuters

Bradley pulls out of BMW due to infraction concerns

Cherry Hills Billage Colorado, 7 Sept—American Keegan Bradley pulled out of the BMW Championship on Saturday before teeing off in the third round because of his unease about a potential rules infraction over a drop taken in the opening round.

Bradley's withdrawal could cost him a place in next week's elite Tour Championship in Atlanta, the last of the PGA Tour's four lucrative FedExCup events.

"I just feel withdrawing is the right thing to do to protect the field in the BMW Championship and the Tour Championship next week," Bradley said in a statement released by his management company.

Bradley's decision to pull out followed the withdrawal earlier in the day by compatriot Phil Mickelson, who had languished 14 strokes off the pace after 36 holes and said he wanted to rest for this month's Ryder Cup. Bradley had been 11 strokes off the pace after the second round at Cherry Hills Country Club, having opened with scores of one-over-par 71 and 72.

However, he had lingering doubts over a drop taken in Thursday's first round after his third shot at the par-four 18th had embedded in grass just above a bunker.

After taking relief under Rule 25-2 for a ball embedded in its own pitch mark, he chipped on to the green and two-putted for a double-bogey six.

A spectator later told Bradley that he seen the ball bounce before it came to a rest in the grass face above the greenside bunker at the 18th.—*Reuters*

MYANMAR TV

(8-9-2014, Monday)

6:00 am
* Paritta by Venerable Mingun Sayadaw

6:45 am
* The Biography of Kyaungban Tawya Sayadaw (Budalin)

7:00 am
* News/Weather Report

7:20 am
* Full Moon Day of (Taw Tha Lin)

8:00 am
* News/ International News

8:35 am
* People Talks

9:30 am
* The Nine Precepts

10:00 am
* News

10:25 am
* Weekly Entertainment News

11:00 pm
* Teleplay

12:25 pm
* Myanmar Movie

2:45 pm
* Musical Programme

3:00 pm
* News

4:25 pm
* University of Distance Education (TV Lectures) -Second Year (Botany)

5:15 pm
* Documentary

5:30 pm
* TV Drama Series

6:20 pm
* Traditional Boxing

7:00 pm
* News

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

8:35 pm
* People Talk's

9:00 pm
* News

9:30 pm
* Talk on Old Film Teleplay

MYANMAR INTERNATIONAL

(8-9-14 07:00 am~ 9-9-14 07:00 am) MST

* Local News
* An Aficionado of Alluring Antiques
* World News
* Graffiti: Character Art
* Local News
* Director: Thiha Kyaw Soe
* World News
* The Storytellers
* Local News
* Kho Taung Noodle Soup
* World News
* Paper Flower
* Local News
* In The Studio.... 'Sunee'
* World News
* A Glance at a Naga Family Life
* Local News
* Rakhine Tourist Area
* World News
* Manaw Festival (Short Cuts)
* Local News
* MUUN (Episode - I)
* World News
* Scented Buddha Images
* Local News
* Strolling Along A Memory Link — U Pein Bridge
* World News
* Indian Footsteps
* Local News
* An Ardent Aficionado of Traditional Design
* World News
* Myanmar Chef (Japanese)

Keegan Bradley of the US watches his tee shot on the sixth hole during the first round of the 2014 PGA Championship at Valhalla Golf Club in Louisville, Kentucky, on 7 Aug, 2014.—Reuters

I just wasn't myself', says Djokovic after stunning loss

NEW YORK, 7 Sept — World number one Novak Djokovic had no explanation for his flat performance in a stunning semi-final loss to Japan's Kei Nishikori at the US Open on Saturday.

"I think he just played better in these conditions than I did," the Serb said of the 6-4, 1-6, 7-6(4), 6-3 setback in brutal heat and humidity on Arthur Ashe Stadium.

"I just wasn't managing to go through the ball in the court," Djokovic told reporters.

"I wasn't in balance. Unforced errors. Even when the ball gets back to his part of the court it's pretty short; he takes advantage of it. On the other side I didn't. That's it."

"Other than that second set, my game today was not even close to what I wanted it to be. A lot of unforced errors, a lot of short balls. Just wasn't myself."

Kei Nishikori (JPN) celebrates recording match point in his match against Novak Djokovic (SRB) on day thirteen of the 2014 US Open tennis tournament at USTA Billie Jean King National Tennis Centre in New York on 6 Sept, 2014.—REUTERS

Straining to make sense of his showing, reporters asked seven-times grand slam champion Djokovic whether he has been distracted by the approaching birth of his first child.

"Of course, I'm in touch with my wife. Of course, I am being part of her pregnancy. It's normal," he said. "But it's no different for me in terms of preparing for the match and for the tournament."

"I had all my dedication, everything directed to this US Open. I tried to give my best and I did. Now my best today was not where I wanted it to be."

The Wimbledon champion gave full credit to the 10th-seeded Nishikori, who became the first male Asian player to reach a grand slam singles final.

"He played some great tennis. I congratulate him for the effort," the Serb said. "He was the better player today."—*Reuters*

Cilic upsets Federer in second US Open shocker

NEW YORK, 7 Sept — Marin Cilic completed a sensational set of shocking semi-finals by upsetting 17-times grand slam winner Roger Federer 6-3, 6-4, 6-4 on Saturday to reach the final of the US Open.

Croatian 14th seed Cilic's opponent in Monday's final will be 10th seed Kei Nishikori of Japan, who sent world number one Novak Djokovic out of Flushing Meadows with a stunning 6-4, 1-6, 7-6(4), 6-3 victory.

The powerful 6-foot-6 (1.98 m) Cilic had lost all five previous meetings with the Swiss master but was in charge from the outset, with his booming service game and heavy groundstrokes and Federer failed to find an answer.

Cilic completed his dismissal of second seed Federer with three aces and a sizzling backhand winner up the line as he served a love-game to finish a one hour 45 minute demolition of the grand slam king.

"Just amazing day for me," said Cilic, who smashed 43 winners, including 13 aces. "To be able to play like this I never dreamed of. I think today was my best performance ever in my career."

Cilic, like Nishikori, was playing in his first grand slam semi-final.

"I think that's going to be a sensational day for both of us," said 25-year-old Cilic, the first Croat to reach a grand slam final since his coach Goran Ivanisevic won Wimbledon in 2001.

Roger Federer of Switzerland

"I'm extremely happy to be in the final, the first time in my career. I'm just going to enjoy, be happy and try to win."

The twin surprises created the first grand slam final in nine years that does not include at least one of the recent Big Three of tennis — Federer, Djokovic and Rafa Nadal — dating back to the 2005 Australian Open which pitted Marat Safin against Lleyton Hewitt.

Reuters

Williams, Wozniacki put friendship aside in final

NEW YORK, 7 Sept— For Serena Williams and Caroline Wozniacki, there is a time for friendship and a time for business, and business does not get much more serious than a grand slam final.

The pair spent some holiday time together in Miami earlier in the summer but on Sunday they will be bidding for US Open glory, with very different motivations.

For world number one Williams, victory would give her an 18th grand slam title, putting her alongside Chris Evert and Martina Navratilova in the all-time list.

Former world number one Wozniacki is hoping to win her first grand slam title and complete an unlikely comeback, having recorded just one quarter-final appearance in her past 11 grand slams.

"I'm just really excited to be in the final," top seed Williams said, who is chasing her third straight US Open title.

"At the beginning of the week, I definitely wasn't sure I would make it this long. Definitely wasn't sure I'd be here. So I'm just elated, to be honest, to have made it this far."

Serena Williams in action during her match against Ekaterina Makarova (RUS) on day eleven of the 2014 US Open tennis tournament at USTA Billie Jean King National Tennis Centre in New York on 5 Sept, 2014.
REUTERS

Having failed to get beyond the last 16 of the year's first three grand slam events, Williams exited Wimbledon under a cloud after she retired from the doubles, looking dazed and disorientated.

After later revealing she had been suffering from a viral illness, Williams rebounded in the North American summer, winning two titles and reached the final in New York without dropping a set.

Missing out on an 18th grand slam title would not go down well, the American admitted, but she is trying not to make it the be-all and end-all.

"It would be hard for me to imagine that I would be happy losing," she said. "I won't be."

"But 10 years from now… I won't be sad about it. I have accomplished a lot and I think I should be happy about that, and I am.

"When I look at the big picture like that, that helps me. That's the part that helps me to be able to relax and not take it so serious."

In addition to their beach time, Williams and Wozniacki met on the court twice this summer, with the American edging out the Dane in three sets each time.

The 24-year-old Wozniacki leaned on Williams for support after golfer Rory McIlroy broke off their engagement just before the French Open.

But on Sunday, the former world number one will simply be trying to win her first grand slam title, five years after her only other final, when she lost to Belgium's Kim Clijsters.

"It would mean so much to me," she said. "I have been close before I would love to win it and have a grand slam under my belt."

"The last two times I played Serena we played two really tough three-set matches. It's going to be exciting. Either way, it's been a great tournament for me, and I hope that I can get one more win under my belt."—*Reuters*

Caroline Wozniacki of Denmark misses as she reaches for a return to Peng Shuai of China during their semi-final match at the 2014 US Open tennis tournament in New York, on 5 Sept, 2014.
REUTERS

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