SMIDB, BIDV ink MoUs on cooperation, provision of $30 million loan

By Ye Myint

YANGON, 6 June—A signing ceremony of a Memorandum of Understanding on Cooperation between Small & Medium Industrial Development Bank Limited of Myanmar and Joint Stock Commercial Bank for Investment and Development of Vietnam took place at Sedona Hotel in Yangon on Friday evening.

“The signing of the MoU would result in capacity building and technology transfer in banking sector as well as monetary and foreign exchange activities. Our staff will be provided with further training in Vietnam, thereby contributing towards the country’s SME sector development,” U Tin Maung Hay, managing director of SMIDB told The New Light of Myanmar before the ceremony.

The signing ceremony followed with extended greetings by Union Minister for Industry U Maung Myint who is also the chairman of SMIDB and BIDV Chairman Mr. Tran Bac Ha and opening addresses by Central Bank of Myanmar Deputy Director General U Win Thaw and Vietnamese Ambassador to Myanmar Mr. Pham Thanh Dung.

In his address, the BIDV chairman announced that the bank has decided to give $30 million in loans to SMIDB with a 4-percent interest rate for five years. He called for the opening of a BIDV branch in Myanmar as soon as possible.

BIDV has already opened its representative office in Yangon. Vietnamese investment in Myanmar increased to $600 million in 2014, ranking 8th among other countries investing in Myanmar.

The Joint Stock Commercial Bank for Investment and Development of Vietnam founded in 1975 is a large state-owned bank in Vietnam. The bank has a net income of $70 million and an asset of $18.8 billion is offering nine products including transaction accounts, insurance and international payment to its customers.

So far, 35 foreign banks have opened representative offices in Myanmar, including those from Brunei, Bangladesh, Cambodia, China, India, Japan, Malaysia, Singapore, Thailand and Vietnam. There are only four state-owned banks while the number of private banks has grown to 23 in 2014 with the number of their branches reaching 658.

MJTD allows US Ball Corp. to set up beverage can plant in Thilawa SEZ

By Ye Myint

YANGON, 6 June—A US firm, Ball Corporation, has conducted first steps to build a one-line beverage can manufacturing plant in Myanmar at the Class A Area of Thilawa Special Economic Zone, which is located 25 km south of Yangon, with the signing of a contract agreement with the Myanmar-Japan Thilawa Development Company on Friday.

Mr. Scott Morrison, CEO of Ball Corporation, said the one-line plant is expected to begin production in mid-2015 with the full investment set to be $40 million. Meanwhile, Japanese Ambassador to Myanmar Mr. Tateshi Higuchi announced that the signing of a contract with Koyo Radiator Co., Ltd, a Japanese firm specializing in automobile parts, took place in Japan on the same day. Mr. Yanai Takashi, MJTD’s president and CEO, said more than 45 companies from 11 countries will be involved in the operation of the plant.

Matriculation exam results announced on Saturday

NAVPY TAW, 7 June—the Department of Myanmar Board of Examinations under the Ministry of Education has announced the results of previous matriculation examinations on Saturday at 6 a.m.

Students may see their position on a result list at respective exam centers across the country.

Moreover, the exam results of states and regions were also posted at No.1 Basic Education High School in Insein Township, No. 1 BEHS in Yankin Township, No. 2 BEHS in Kamayut Township, No. 3 BEHS in Kanyay Township, No. 1 BEHS in Lanmadaw Township, No. 2 BEHS in Dagon Township and No. 1 BEHS in Thingangyun Township.

South Korean Foreign Minister, bereaved relatives unveil bomb victim memorial

YANGON, 6 June—South Korean Foreign Minister Mr Yun Byung-se and family members of the 1983 bomb victims unveiled the 1st Aung San Mausoleum Martyr Memorial to commemorate the high-ranking Korean officials at the Martyrs’ Mausoleum in Yangon on Friday morning.

“We are now able to fulfill the wish of bereaved families who had difficulty paying respects to their lost ones who died in action so far away from home,” the South Korean foreign minister said at the opening ceremony of the memorial.

The South Korean foreign minister also said that the memorial is a symbol that shows that not only bereaved families and relatives but also the entire people of South Korea keep the sacrifice of the victims in their hearts forever and that the monument represents the strengthening of friendly relations between the two countries.

(See page 2)
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(See page 2)
Second Israeli film festival launched in Nay Pyi Taw

NAY PYI TAW, 6 June—The second Israeli film festival, organized by the Israeli Embassy, was held at the Junction Cinema in Nay Pyi Taw on Thursday evening, attended by Chairman of the Lower House Sports, Culture and Public Relations Development Committee Thura U Aye Myint and Deputy Ministers U Pike Hiway, Daw Sanda Khin, U Than Swe and U Ba Ba Swe.

On the occasion, the films “A day in Israel” and “Something Sweet” directed by Dam Turgeman were screened.—MNA

Eleven shows disapproval over bidding for printing machines

NAY PYI TAW, 6 June—A news story that appeared in Weekly Eleven Journal on 2 June questioned whether the Public Service Media Law favours state-run media with abuse of public revenues, pointing the finger at the Ministry of Information, sources said.

The news story criticized the ministry over suspicious prices of tenders for printing machines, saying that the highest bid for a printing machine was over US$ 1 million, though its actual value stood at around $ 800,000.

At a press conference concerning the alleged accusation, an official of the News and Periodicals Enterprise explained that the prices of the four printing machines vary, adding that the highest bids were two at $395,000, one at $418,367 and one at $700,000. The official continued to say that information on the bidding had been uploaded on the ministry’s website and MPE’s webpage, noting that they had kept a record of the bidding in case of complaints.—MNA

South Korean Foreign Minister, bereaved relatives unveil bomb memorial

YANGON, 6 June—The Embassy of Sweden to Myanmar was inaugurated in conjunction with the reception to mark the National Day of Sweden at its embassy at No 7 on Pyithu Street at 7th-Mile in Mayan-
gon Township of Yangon on Friday.

Deputy Minister for Foreign Affairs U Thant Kyaw and Swedish Ambassador Mr Klas Molin formally opened the new embassy.—MNA

2nd Book Show of MPBA and literary talks held in Yangon National Theater

YANGON, 6 June—The 2nd Book Show of Myanmar Publishers and Book-sellers Association (MPBA) and literary talks, organized by Media Spon-
sor JAS mobile, kicked off at National Theater in Yangon on 6 and will last until 8 June.

Books shops showcase the books at 40 booths at a discount and various sub-
jects of books are available at the show. The visitors may enjoy literary talks given by writers Nyein Min, film director San Shwe Aung (Actor Aung Lwin) and U Tin Zan Kyaw (Device) in the hall.

Thant Zin Win

Sales promotion of Neptune Center apartments introduced to businessmen

YANGON, 6 June—China welcomes the investment of entrepreneurs in Myanmar and the two countries have been in close trade relations since 1950, said Calvin Chao, KEO at Luxe Real Estate on Friday at a Chengdu Real Estate Seminar in My-

anmar at Sule Shangari-La Hotel in Yangon.

He introduced Nep-
tune Center apartments to Myanmar customers which are located in one of the China’s major inland cities, Chengdu. It is the capital of Sichuan province in South- west China where 252 top companies have set up their branch offices. It is also an attractive city to invest in, they said.

He said there remain 250 flats of the 31-storey building for sales at a fair price. A flat is valued at around US$150,000 on average. Those flats will be sold in installment. Customers can pay 20 per cent of the cost of a flat every quarter of a year.

A 52-year old visitor said he thinks the flat is not expensive for buyers in comparison with the current price in downtown Yangon, where the selling price reaches at least K7 million while the rental rate also increases over K1 million per ground floor.

Tan Peng Dareen, Marketing Director of Luxe Real Estate said it is the first time for Neptune Center so she does not hope too much for sales of many apartments but plans are underway to introduce more projects to Myanmar as she thinks Myanmar is one of the good places for entrepreneurs.

The sales promotion continues on Saturday and Sunday.

Khaing Thanda Lwin

New Swedish Embassy opens

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Mr. Marc Hong, Marketing Director explains sales of apartments of Neptune Center in China.—PHOTO: KHAING THANDA LWIN
Vice-President U Nyan Tun meets Deputy President of SMBC

Nay Pyi Taw, 6 June—Vice-President U Nyan Tun held talks with a delegation led by Mr Hiroshi Minoura, Deputy President of Tokyo-based Sumitomo Misui Banking Corporation on Friday at the Presidential Palace in Nay Pyi Taw to discuss bilateral cooperation in banking services and monetary affairs.

During the call, both sides also discussed the development of banking infrastructure in Myanmar. —MNA

Pyidaungsu Hluttaw puts into record presidential messages on investment and free trade agreements

Representatives attending ninth session of Pyidaungsu Hluttaw.—MNA

Nay Pyi Taw, 6 June—The ninth session of Pyidaungsu Hluttaw on Friday placed on record the messages sent by the president to the speaker of Pyidaungsu Hluttaw to sign investment and free trade agreements between Myanmar and other countries.

These agreements include the protocol to amend the framework agreement on the ASEAN comprehensive investment, received from interested companies, mostly from Japan and Hong Kong. He, in his speech, highlighted the importance of business-to-business interaction and people-to-people connectivity that can be established through trade and investment.

Ball Corporation, the very first US company for Wantill SEZ, will build the facility to produce beverage cans for filling the needs of Coca-Cola Pinya Beverages under a long-term agreement and other local, regional and multi-national customers.

Thilawa SEZ development project as a first public-private partnership business between Myanmar and the US will facilitate trade among the ASEAN, Australia and New Zealand.

The agreement on investment of the India-ASEAN framework agreement on comprehensive economic cooperation will help develop the emergence of a huge investment region full of facilitation, transparency, competitiveness and opportunity for less developed members of the ASEAN.

The agreement on trade in services of India-ASEAN framework agreement on comprehensive economic cooperation will expand trade between the ASEAN and India.

Departmental officials urged to assist in laying cables, building towers

Union Minister U Soe Thane speaking at meeting with township development committees.—MNA

Yangon, 6 June—All departmental officials and township authorities are to assist in laying cables for communication and installation of towers, said Union Minister at the President Office U Soe Thane during a meeting with township development supportive committees and development affairs committees at the office of the Yangon Region government on 6 June.

Deputy Minister for Communications and Information Technology U Thaung Tin reported on the requirements in laying the cables and building the towers. —MNA
Sheep, goat breeding course conducted in rural areas

SHWEBO, 6 June—The USAID and Pyi Shwebo Comprehensive Development Public Company Ltd jointly organized the sheep and goat breeding course at Pyi Shwebo cow breeding farm in Shwebo of Sagaing Region on 3 June.

Dr Pe Tin of the company explained the purpose of training to alleviate poverty of rural people. He urged the trainees to apply their knowledge in practical fields. Expert Dr Daniel Miller gave lectures to sheep and goat breeders in Shwebo on 3 and 4 June. Soe Thihia (IPRD)

Good agricultural patterns applied in demonstration

NAY PYI TAW, 6 June—The Agriculture Department under the Ministry of Agriculture and Irrigation organized a demonstration on growing crops through good agricultural patterns in the 900-acre model farmland in Setsetyo area in Pobbatuari Township of Nay Pyi Taw Council Area on Wednesday. Staff of the department gave practical training to local farmers from Lewe Township, with the farmers observing cultivation of taro and asparagus plantations.

Ko Paung (Okkar Myay)

Ancient earthen lake under redredging in Shwebo Township

SHWEBO, 6 June—Under the guidance of Sagaing Region government, the Shwebo Township Agriculture Department is dredging Palaing Lake in Palaing Village of Shwebo Township in Sagaing Region.

Staff Officer U Thura Zaw of Irrigation Department said that as the lake was dredged 600 years ago, it is being silted up. The lake can store water in the rainy season but dries in the summer. Thanks to re-dredging, the lake will have more storage capacity in the next years, he added.

U Aung San Win, a local of Palaing Village, thanked the authorities for their management in dredging the lake so as to supply potable water to locals for consumption and to farmlands. Soe Thihia (IPRD)

Nay Pyi Taw WAO provides assistance to students

TATKON, 6 June—A ceremony to present school uniforms to students was held at No 2 Basic Education Primary School in Saya San Ward of Tatkon Township in Nay Pyi Taw Council Area on Thursday.

Chairperson of Nay Pyi Taw Women’s Affairs Organization Daw Myat Myat Moe presented school uniforms, raincoats and umbrellas to 100 students. They also gave assistance to students at Setkon Village BEPS in Zeyathiri Township.

Township IPRD

Traffic rules to be enforced after lecture in Pantanaw

PANTANAW, 6 June—Pantanaw Township Traffic Rules Enforcement Committee Commander of Township Police Force Police Major Aung Aung Mya and party gave educative talks to the people at the corner of Bayintnaung and Bogyoke Aung San streets in Pantanaw of Ayeyawady Region on Wednesday.

The team explained to motorcyclists the need of wearing of helmets and obeying traffic rules. They urged motorcyclists to take driving licence at the Maubin District Directorate of Road Transport. The township traffic rules enforcement committee designated the educative period from 4 to 10 June. Action will be taken against traffic rules offenders as of 11 June.

Khin Maung Zaw

Stipends provided to students of Township GAD

YEDASHE, 6 June—Yeadash Township General Administration Department of Bago Region presented stipends and school uniforms to offspring of students. They also gave assistance to students at Setkon Village BEPS in Zeyathiri Township.

Township IPRD

K20 billion allotted to SMEs in 14 Regions and States

MANDALAY, 6 June—The Union government allotted a K20 billion loan to 14 regions and states including the Nay Pyi Taw Council Area for the development of small and medium scale industries. A total of 14 regions and states in addition to the Nay Pyi Taw Council Area receive K1 billion each. As Mandalay region demands more loans worth K2 billion from the reserve amount, over 7,400 industries registered in the region are operating their works.

“We have demanded more loans of K2 billion to the Union government, but no reply yet,” Mandalay Region Electric and Industry Minister U Kyaw Myint said.

As number of industries is larger in some regions than some states, equal allotment of loans may cause difficulty to some regions. The Mandalay Region Industrial Supervisory Committee will set up the loan scrutiny committee. The security committee will invite applications for loans from 1 to 15 June.

Min Htet Aung (Mandalay Sub-Printing House)

People in Kyondoe, Kawkareik get healthcare by mobile medical team

KYONDOE, 6 June—A mobile medical team namely ‘Ananda Myitta’ gave health care services to local people in Kyondoe of Kawkareik Township in Kayin State on Thursday.

The medical team comprised of 35 doctors and health staff. They provided healthcare to 321 people from Kyondoe and its surrounding villages.

They also delivered medical treatment to 2,639 people from Kawkareik and its nearby villages.

Naing Naing Tun (Kyondoe)
Thailand’s security forces have tracked down and detained a prominent activist who helped organize protests against last month’s military coup from comments he posted on the Internet, officials said on Friday.

Sombat Boonngamanong was caught in Chonburi Province east of Bangkok late on Thursday, traced via the Internet network he was using, said Major General Pitis Pao-in, head of a technology crime division at the Information and Communication Technology Ministry.

“Soldiers and police were informed of the IP address used by Sombat to post comments so we searched a house in Chonburi and found Sombat there. We detained him. He is now with the army at an army base in Chonburi,” Pitis told Reuters.

“The case is now with the army and it will investigate and decide how to proceed next.”

The detention was the latest in the military crackdown on pro-democracy dissidents and supporters of ousted Prime Minister Yingluck Shinawatra.

Yingluck, her ministers and prominent supporters of the Shinawatras have been detained, most for brief periods, and warned against anti-military activities.

The military has not said how many people are being kept in custody.

The coup was the latest chapter in a decade-long conflict between the Bangkok-based royalist establishment, dominated by the military and old-money families, and supporters of Yingluck and her brother, ousted former premier Thaksin Shinawatra, who are adored by the poor in the north and northeast.

Yingluck was prime minister until 7 May, when a court found her guilty of abuse of power and she stepped down. The army toppled the remnants of her government on 22 May, saying it needed to restore order after sometimes deadly protests since November that had brought the economy close to recession. Since then the junta has moved to suppress criticism and nip protests in the bud.

Sombat had refused to turn himself in to the military authorities after being summoned following the coup. He managed to post a final status update on Facebook saying: “I have been arrested.”

He had helped organise protests via social media in contravention of the junta’s ban on political gatherings of more than five people.

Last Sunday, the ruling military council sent 5,700 troops and police sent into central Bangkok to stop anti-coup protests as soon as they sprang up. Most were small events held around shopping malls. Very few protests have been seen this week.

Sombat had helped organise regular demonstrations to mark a crackdown by the military on the “red shirts” in May 2010 that ended a lengthy protest during which more than 90 people died. —Reuters

**Landmines kill 10 Cambodians, injure 61 in 4 months**

Phnom Penh, 6 June — Cambodia on Friday reported 71 landmine casualties in the first four months of 2014, an increase of 61 percent from 44 casualties for the same period last year.

The report by the Cambodian Mine Action and Victim Assistance Authority showed that during the January-April period, 10 persons were killed, up from only four at the same period last year.

Besides, 61 others were either injured or amputated during the period, up from 40 in the year-earlier period.

It said that 87 percent of the victims were male.

Last month, two Cambodian deminers were killed on the spot after detonating an anti-tank mine while carrying out mine clearance work in a former battlefield in northwestern Battambang Province.

Cambodia is one of the countries in the world that suffer the worst from mines. An estimated 4 million to 6 million landmines and othermunitions have been left over from three decades of war and internal conflicts that ended in 1998.

Heng Ratana, head of the Cambodian Mine Action Centre, has said that the country needs around 50 million US dollars a year until 2020 to entirely get rid of all types of anti-personnel mines. —Xinhua

**Floods displace over 100,000 in Sri Lanka**

Colombo, 6 June — Floods caused by days of torrential rains have displaced over 100,000 people in Sri Lanka while killing 23 others, latest government data said on Friday as relief work continues.

The Disaster Management Centre said that 26,688 families comprising 109,075 people had been affected by the rain, floods and landslides as of Friday afternoon.

At least 23 people were killed and one person remains missing.

Over 40 houses have been completely destroyed due to heavy rainfall and subsequent flooding in six districts while another 101 homes have been partially damaged.

Most of the deaths and damage have been reported from the Kalutara District in Western Province and relief efforts are going on, Disaster Management Minister Mahinda Amaratunga told reporters.

“We are providing compensation of 15,000 rupees (about 115 US dollars) to people who have lost family members. There has been criticism this is not enough but this is all that has been allocated from the Finance Ministry,” he said.

In addition, 148 schools in Western Province opened after being closed due to adverse weather conditions earlier in the week, the Western Provincial Council said.

Mahinda Rajapaksa tweeted on Monday that he had instructed his officials to “expedite relief measures to communities affected by the bad weather.”

Security forces and police have initiated flood relief measures to rescue people trapped or marooned due to rising water levels and roads being inundated. —Xinhua

Weapons are shown during a Press conference at police headquarters in Bangkok, Thailand, on 5 June, 2014. After the 22 May coup, police and military have unearthed and seized caches of guns, rifles, grenades and home-made weapons. —Xinhua

**S Korea urges DPRK to abandon nuclear weapons programme**

Seoul, 6 June — South Korean President Park Geun-hye on Friday urged the Democratic People’s Republic of Korea (DPRK) to abandon its nuclear weapons programme and become a member of the international community.

“As long as North Korea (DPRK) continues its nuclear development and provocative threats, peace on the Korean Peninsula will go far away,” Park said at the 59th anniversary commemoration of the Memorial Day held in the Seoul National Cemetery.

Park urged the DPRK to put down its nuclear development and provocative threats if the regime really wants its economic development and the improved quality of people’s life, saying that she sincerely hoped the DPRK give up its nuclear weapons and revive its economy by the help of the international community.

The South Korean woman leader said Seoul has made efforts to build up the foundation for peaceful reunification while dealing sternly with the DPRK’s provocations, noting peace and reunification on the Korean Peninsula will open a new opportunity for Northeast Asia and the entire world while bringing peace and prosperity to people of the two Koreas. —Xinhua
With Russia outside the tent, G7 takes aim at Moscow

BRUSSELS, 6 June — The United States and its allies used the first Group of Seven meeting without Russia in 17 years to condemn Moscow’s actions in Ukraine and threaten hard-hitting sanctions if President Vladimir Putin does not help restore stability.

Meeting in Brussels rather than the Black Sea resort of Sochi — a snub to Russia which was supposed to have hosted the G8 — Western powers and Japan delivered strong rhetoric, even if the EU’s commitment to further sanctions remains in doubt.

“We are united in condemning the Russian Federation’s continuing violation of the sovereignty and territorial integrity of Ukraine,” the United States, Germany, Japan, France, Britain, Italy and Canada said in a joint statement.

“Russia’s illegal annexation of Crimea, and actions to destabilize eastern Ukraine, are unacceptable and must stop.”

That message was reinforced by President Barack Obama, who said Russia’s economy was already suffering and would only suffer more if Putin did not change behaviour.

“If Russia’s provocations continue, it’s clear from our discussions here that the G7 nations are ready to impose additional costs on Russia,” he said. “Today, in contrast to a growing global economy, a sluggish Russian economy is even weaker because of the choices made by Russia’s leadership.”

Putin, who will meet Germany’s Angela Merkel, French President Francois Hollande and Britain’s David Cameron on the side-lines of 70th anniversary of the D-Day landings in France on Friday, appeared unfazed by the threats.

Asked at an event in St Petersburg how he felt about being excluded from the G8 for the first time since joining the club in 1997, Putin was typically pointed, barely breaking stride to speak to Kremlin reporters as he left a meet-

ing. “I would like to wish them bon appetit,” he said, before walking away swift-

ly. It appears unlikely that Obama and Putin will talk in France.

“Should we have the opportunity to talk, I will be repeating the same mes-

sage that I’ve been delivering to him throughout this crisis,” Obama said.

With Putin not at the table, the G7 leaders chose to criticize Russia either by name or implicitly for its actions on several fronts, including Syria and energy policy.

On Syria, the G7 “de-

clared” a decision by Rus-

sia and China to veto a draft UN Security Council resolution involving crimes committed by both sides in the conflict, and on energy policy it highlighted the problem of countries using energy as a weapon. “The use of energy supplies as a means of political coercion or as a threat to security is unacceptable,” the state-

ement said. Since Russia supplies around a third of Europe’s gas and oil needs and has threatened to cut off supplies to and through Ukraine if it does not settle outstanding bills, the refer-

eence was clearly directed at Moscow.

Yet despite efforts to present a united front against Russia’s seizure of Crimea and its tacit support for actions in eastern Ukraine, there remain chinks in the G7’s armor when it comes to hitting where it hurts.—Reuters

In Russian protege Abkhazia, a cautionary tale for Crimea

CHUBURKHIN, (Abkh-

azia) 6 June — Trudging over a few hundred of meters long, English teach-

er Natalia Ablotia struggles home in the blazing heat, laden with goods that are cheaper to buy across the river in Georgia than in Abkhazia, where she lives.

After nearly six years as effectively a protectorate of Russia, life is still tough for many in the breakaway Georgian region. Last week, in a spasm of frustra-

tion over corruption and poor living conditions, protesters stormed the president’s headquarters, forcing him to flee and then resign.

Abkhazia’s story —

how a once popular and affulent resort area broke away from a former Soviet republic, sought protection under Moscow’s wing and has struggled to make ends meet — has resonance for another Black Sea region, Crimea, which split from Ukraine to be annexed by much wealthier Russia in March.

Ablotia, 39, is one of hundreds who cross the bridge from Chuburkhinji in Abkhazia each day to buy cheaper food and goods, enabling them to stretch their modest-monthly wages further. “It’s hard over here,” she said, resting her pur-

chases — three bags of shopping and a green plastic watering can — at the Abkhazian end of the two-

lane road bridge over the broad, green valley of the Inguri river.

“Everything is cheaper over there,” she added, pointing back at the Geo-

rian side of the de facto border, which is still closed to cars by military posts. “The road is hard. You have to walk 800 meters, over the bridge.”

Turning its back on Georgia, as Crimea has to Kiev, disrupted Abkhaz-

ia’s trade and transport and hitched its economy to the oil-fueled rouble, import-

ing heavily from Russia, where wages and prices are much higher than in Geo-

russia or Ukraine.—Reuters

EU states take aim at radical websites to counter Syria problem

BRUSSELS, 6 June — Nine European countries endorsed plans on Thursday to step up intel-

ligence-sharing and take down radical websites to try to stop European citi-

zens going to fight in Syria and bringing violence back home with them.

The initiative by states that deem themselves most affected by jihadist vio-

lence was given new urgen-

cy by the killing of three people at the Jewish Museum in Brussels last month. A 29-year-old Frenchman arrested on suspicion of the shooting is believed to have recently returned from fighting with Islamist rebels in Syria’s civil war, authorities said.

The proposals drawn up by France and Belgium were broadly supported by the other countries — Ger-

many, Sweden, Denmark, Britain, the Netherlands, Ireland and Spain — at a meeting in Luxembourg on Thursday, according to a statement from the French

and Belgian interior minis-

ters.

Officials from the group will hold meetings with “the leading Internet operators” this month to look into the possibilities for immediately shutting down web sites and bar-

ring messages that spread hatred or encourage violent terrorism or terrorism, the statement said.

A British proposal to create a European task force to use media campaigns to counter the radicals’ mes-

sage received wide backing from other ministers, the statement said. Other pro-

posals include using air-

line passenger data to track people returning from Syr-

ia, information-sharing and follow-up when authorities detect someone who has been in Syria, putting infor-

mation about such people on an EU data base used by border guards and police, and sending the informa-

tion to Europol, the EU’s law enforcement agency.
World Cup leaves Brazil costly stadiums, poor public transport

BRASILIA, 6 June — When the final whistle blows at the World Cup, Brazilians will be left with some of the world’s costliest soccer stadiums and few of the public transport improvements they were promised.

Long-overdue airport upgrades have been made just in time for the World Cup which starts on 12 June but many of the longer-term investments in rapid transit systems in Brazil’s main cities have been delayed or scrapped.

Seven years have passed since Brazil won the right to host this World Cup. The president at that time, Inacio Lula da Silva vowed to use the tournament to shake off underdevelopment and modernize Brazil, a country out for an emerging power on the global stage.

While some much-needed investments have been completed, Brazil has fallen far short of what it promised for the Cup and many Brazilians see it as a squandered opportunity, regardless of what happens on the pitch.

Gunman kills one, three wounded at Christian college in Seattle

SEATTLE, 6 June — A man armed with a shotgun opened fire on Thursday at a small Christian college in Seattle, killing one person and wounding two others before he was subdued by a group of students and arrested, Seattle police and hospital officials said.

A fourth person was injured in the struggle with the gunman, police said. The Seattle Police Department said via Twitter that Aaron Ybarra, 26, had been booked into King County Jail for the shooting at Seattle Pacific University.

The lone suspect, who was not a student, entered an academic building of the university in the late afternoon and shot three people, police said.

He was disarmed as he paused to reload his gun and was pepper-sprayed by a student security guard. — Reuters

The signature project in public transportation was to be Latin America’s first bullet train, a $16 billion high-speed rail service linking Rio de Janeiro and Sao Paulo. It never made it off the drawing board.

“The jump to modernity never happened, and the stadiums are a herd of white elephants,” said Gil Castello Branco of Contas Abertas, a private group that monitors government spending.

Brazil has invested $28.8 billion (€11.3 billion) in Cup-related infrastructure improvements, a third of which went into building or overhauling stadiums in a dozen host cities.

Four areas were built in cities that have only third-tier soccer teams and small chance of recovering the investment: Manaus, Natal, Cuiaba and the capital Brasilia, where the magnificent National Stadium cost $1.6 billion reais, more than double the original price tag. City auditors say Brazil’s most costly stadium still needs $30 million reais to finish the exteriors after the World Cup.

Around 4,000 refugees flee from Ukraine to Russia

MOSCOW, 6 June — Russia has already received around 4,000 Ukrainian refugees, Russian Prime Minister Dmitry Medvedev said on Thursday.

“They are frightened, scared. At the same time, the Ukrainian government fails to notice a humanitarian problem, says there are no refugees. It’s lies and it’s sad to hear it,” he said.

“Ukraine’s State Border Service published a statement on Thursday, claiming that no citizen of Ukraine has expressed a desire to apply for refugee status in Russia on the border of the two countries, the Ukrainian News Agency reported on Thursday. The situation is in extraordinary emergency, the prime minister stressed. He also said the Group of Seven’s claim on “Ukraine’s army measured actions against its people” is cynical, according to RIA Novosti news agency. The G7 commune released on Thursday encouraged the Ukrainian authorities to maintain “a measured approach in pursuing operations to restore law and order.” —Xinhua

Men load metallic structures into a vehicle outside the Mane Garrincha National Stadium, one of the venues for the upcoming 2014 World Cup, in Brasilia in this on 31 May, 2014 file photo.— Reuters

The anti-World Cup movement has vowed to stage new protests nationwide aimed at disrupting the 32-nation soccer tournament.

Despite the money thrown at infrastructure improvements, Brazil has only delivered half of the projects it pledged to undertake and many of them are unfinished.

Sinaenco, a lobby group for architecture and engineering firms, says a fifth of the projects were dropped because they could not be delivered on time, while others won’t be finished until after the Cup, such as an overhaul of Rio de Janeiro’s international airport.

The delays in completing works planned for years have also raised concerns about Rio’s ability to stage the Olympic Games in 2016. Some international sports federations have asked to discuss alternative venues.

Sao Paulo’s Arena Corinthians will not have been fully tested when it hosts the opening match between Brazil and Croatia on June 12. Much of the surrounding area still looks like a construction site.

Advances have been made at airports, easing travel between the venues. They could be the World Cup’s most lasting legacy, especially the new terminals in Brasilia and Sao Paulo’s Guarulhos airport.

But only a third of the urban transport projects promised by Lula’s government have been executed, according Contas Abertas.

“Our biggest disappointment is urban mobility. Brazil’s big cities are chaotic. We hoped things would improve with the work done for the World Cup,” said Castello Branco.

“This has not happened and we don’t know when these works will be finished.” — Reuters
South Korea rejuvenates economic cooperation with Myanmar through cultural influence

By Kyaw Thura

In October 1983 at the Martyr’s Mausoleum in Yangon, North Korean commandos attacked a South Korean delegation led by South Korea’s then President Chun Doo Hwan during his visit. Chun escaped unhurt, but the attack killed 17 Korean senior officials, leaving 50 others wounded.

On Friday this month, South Korea unveiled a memorial dedicated to the victims of the North Korean attack. A five-foot-high stone monument bearing the names of those assassinated was built outside the mausoleum.

Visiting South Korean Foreign Minister Yun Byung-se and families of the victims were present at the ceremony near the site where the bombing took place. Independent political and economic analysts view this Korean move as an attempt to beef up human rights diplomacy on top of economic relations at a time when Seoul is making inroads into Myanmar as its sweeping reforms have widened access to its natural resources, market potential and geopolitical position.

Sharing a common border with China, India and other nations in Southeast Asia, Myanmar boasts a potential to become an economic hub linking neighbouring counties whose combined population amounts to around 3 billion.

There is still room for stronger cooperation between Myanmar and Korea.

With its population of 60 million, Myanmar is a country with massive domestic demand. As a realistic approach, South Korea is expected to utilize its culture, which has now grown popular with the Myanmar people.

With nearly 200 firms, most of which are from manufacturing sectors, South Korea ranks sixth in terms of investment in Myanmar.

Japan to finance construction, rural electrification in Myanmar

Nay Pyi Taw, 6 June—A signing ceremony of memoranda of understanding (MoUs) on construction and rural electrification between Myanmar and Japan took place at the Ministry of National Planning and Economic Development on Thursday.

Deputy Minister for NPED Daw Lei Lei Thein and Japanese Ambassador to Myanmar Mr. Tateshi Higuchi signed three MoUs on construction of the new Thakayta bridge, upgrade of the Institute of Education and electrification in rural areas.

According to the MoUs, Japan will finance 4.216 billion JPY for the new Thakayta bridge construction, 2.513 billion JPY for the upgrade of the Institute of Education and 994 million JPY for the implementation of rural electrification projects.

The signing of the MoUs is seen as a boost for bilateral ties, officials said. —MNA

Consultation workshop on reports by Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women held

Nay Pyi Taw, 6 June—Union Minister U Tin Naing Thein highlighted the importance of business-friendly regulations in Myanmar in his speech at a coordination meeting on Thursday.

He stressed the need of stepping up reforms for ensuring private sector development in Myanmar during the meeting held at the President Office in Nay Pyi Taw.

A time frame setup is needed for the success of respective works being carried out by seven delivery units that serve as special task-forces for reforms, he added. —MNA

Easing restrictions on doing business discussed

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UNDP Myanmar’s groundbreaking microfinance work enters new phase

Nay Pyi Taw, 6 June—An MoU signing ceremony between the Ministry of Cooperative and UNDP took place on Wednesday in Nay Pyi Taw, where the Ministry also signed a transfer agreement for the project funds and assets with Pact, a non-governmental organization.

The agreement ensures that all funds and assets of the project will remain in the country permanently and continue to be used to provide services to present and future beneficiaries across Myanmar, while also contributing to the expansion of the microfinance sector.

Speaking at the ceremony, Union Minister U Kyaw Hsan said, “UNDP has done an excellent job in helping rural Myanmar people alleviate poverty. I am confident that based on the foundation that UNDP has built, the microfinance sector will continue to expand and meet the needs of the poor as well as contribute to Myanmar’s development goal of reducing poverty by half from 2005 to 2015.”

According to Mr. Kurbanova, the microfinance project was able to impact more than 600,000 households in Myanmar.

The project will be continued in support of President U Thein Sein’s landmark rural development program, said Fahmid Bhuiya, the Chief Operating Officer of Pact Global Microfinance Fund in Myanmar.

—UNDP
Mandalay Region Chief Minister’s national sports competitions to kick off on 11 September: Mandalay Region Chief Minister

Tatkon Township MCWA turns out tailors

World Environment Day marked with tree planting ceremony

Rural road to improve living standard of people in Kalewa Tsp
Afghanistan blasts target presidential candidate Abdullah’s convoy

Afghan presidential candidate Abdullah Abdullah talks with a group of cyclists during the second round of the presidential candidate election campaign in Kabul on 6 June, 2014 — Reuters

80 killed in Iraq as security forces re-take city of Samarra

BAGHDAD, 6 June — A total of 80 people were killed and some 88 wounded in separate attacks in Iraq on Thursday as Iraqi security forces re-took control of the city of Samarra in Salahadin province which was seized by extremist Sunni insurgents early in the morning, security and medical sources said.

The troops carried out a major offensive and after fierce clashes they managed to regain six neighbourhoods in Samarra, some 120 km north of the Iraqi capital Baghdad, which were seized earlier by groups of gunmen believed to be linked to the Islamic State in Iraq and Levant (ISIL), an al-Qaeda breakaway group in Iraq, a source from Saladin provincial police told Xinhua on condition of anonymity.

In the early morning hours, dozens of insurgents entered the city on their vehicles, some with heavy machine-guns, and attacked the security checkpoints and police stations, killing up to nine policemen and wounding some 45 people, the source said.

The militants attacked the house of Abdul-Karim al-Samarraie, Minister of Sciences and Technology, and killed three of his guards before they leave the house which was empty during the attack, the source added.

Major General Sabah al-Fatlawi, Commander of Samarra Operation Command, told Xinhua that his troops and helicopters have killed 11 militants and destroyed more than eight vehicles during the morning battles, and that reinforcement troops still arriving from Baghdad and other provinces to defeat the gunmen. — Reuters

Gunmen posing as preachers kill dozens in northeast Nigeria

MAIDUGURI, (Nigeria) 6 June — Suspected Islamist militants pretending to be preachers rounded up and killed at least 42 villagers in northeastern Nigeria, a police source said, as an escalating insurgency increasingly targets civilians.

The shootings on the outskirts of the city of Maiduguri late on Wednesday came a day after officials said raiders killed scores in three other settlements in Borno state, where the Boko Haram militant group first launched its campaign to carve out an Islamist caliphate.

80 killed in Iraq as security forces re-take city of Samarra

WORLD

Afghanistan blasts target presidential candidate Abdullah’s convoy

Ankara, 6 June — After years of tough sanctions over Iran’s nuclear program, many in the country now say they want the government to make compromises that could satisfy world powers and allow a semblance of prosperity to return.

Although many Iranians still fervently believe in their country’s right to all aspects of a civilian nuclear programme, including those regarded with suspicion in the West, they are increasingly tired of the high economic price.

That weariness will form the backdrop on 16 June when Iran’s political leaders send negotiators to Geneva for talks with six major world powers and the international community and sanctions have ruined our economy and has isolated us,” she said. — Reuters

Bitten by sanctions, Iranians support nuclear compromise

After Assad’s election triumph, fear grips stay-at-home Syrians

Damascus, 6 June — Two days after Syria’s presidential election, there are signs of anxiety among those who boycotted the vote — and who don’t have the ink stain on their finger that would show they played their part in Bashar al-Assad’s victory.

Assad won Tuesday’s election with nearly 89 percent support, according to officials, triggering celebrations in some government-controlled parts of Syria where voting took place.

Authorities said 73 percent of eligible Syrians cast their votes — a remarkably high figure in a country devastated by a conflict which drove 3.5 million people to flee abroad — dipping their finger in permanent ink to show they had taken part.

“Let’s see whose finger has no ink,” the host of a local radio show said on Thursday, playing half-jokingly on fears that those who did not vote could face consequences.

On election day, some people tried to find an alternative to the official polling station ink. “Can’t we use regular ink from the stationery store?” asked a young man who didn’t want to vote but feared he could be arrested for boycotting the election.

“Are they going to flag me down at check points and ask for my army papers?” he said, referring to his mandatory military service which he has postponed by purposely failing the final two parts of his university engineering course.

Another Damascus, who works in a health club, said he stayed at home with his wife for 48 hours to avoid punishment for not voting. “And I don’t know if I should go into work later today. What if they all have ink on their finger and they ask how come I don’t?” he asked.

He said that when family and friends called him on election day to ask if he had voted, he lied and said he had.

“I don’t want any headache, especially not on the phone. Those who know how much I oppose Assad already know that I didn’t go, and those who don’t know can keep their illusions,” he said.

“I haven’t been able to do anything for the rebels, because I live here and everything is under tight control and I worry about my family. So on election day, not voting was the least I could do,” he added. — Reuters

The attackers, who were wearing military-style uniforms, drove into the village of Bardari, told people to gather for a sermon and opened fire, the police source told Reuters. “The people couldn’t identify them in time as terrorists,” the source added. No group claimed responsibility for the attack. But Boko Haram has stepped up its revolt and mounted nearly daily attacks in the area since it made world headlines in April by abducting more than 200 schoolgirls in another part of the state. — Reuters

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Scientists complete genome sequence of sheep

WASHINGTON, 6 June — An international team of scientists said on Thursday they have successfully sequenced the complete genome of sheep, revealing new information about the species’ unique and specialized digestive and metabolic systems.

Sheep, a major source of meat, milk, and fiber in the form of wool, is one of the represent animals for the ruminants, which are the dominant land herbivores.

In the new study, the team, led by researchers from China’s Northwest A&F University, Kunming Institute of Zoology, Chinese Academy of Sciences and BGI, reported two kinds of proteins with ruminant specific structures, and also specifically and very highly expressed in rumen wall.

“They are Trichohyalin-like 2 protein and PRD-SPRKII family proteins, which play the role of rumen substance surface, crosslinking themselves and keratins via transglutaminase, to form the tough es and BGI, reported two kinds of proteins with ruminant specific structures, and also specifically and very highly expressed in rumen wall.”

New bugs found in software that caused ‘Heartbleed’ cyber threat

WASHINGTON, 6 June — Security researchers have uncovered new bugs in the Web encryption software that caused the pervasive “Heartbleed” Internet threat that surfaced in April.

Experts said the newly discovered vulnerabilities in OpenSSL, which could allow hackers to spy on communications, do not appear to be as serious a threat as “Heartbleed.”

The new bugs were disclosed on Thursday as the group responsible for developing that software released an OpenSSL update that contains seven security fixes.

Experts said that websites and technology firms that use OpenSSL technology should install the update on their systems as quickly as possible. Still, they said that could take several days or weeks because companies need to first test systems to make sure they are compatible with the update.

“They are going to have to patch. This will take some time,” said Lee Weiern, senior vice president with cybersecurity software maker Rapid7.

OpenSSL technology is used on about two-thirds of all websites, including ones run by Amazon.com Inc, Facebook Inc, Google Inc and Yahoo Inc. It is also incorporated into thousands of technology products from companies, including Cisco Systems Inc, Hewlett-Packard Co, IBM, Intel Corp and Oracle Corp.

US technology companies beef up security to thwart mass spying

NEW YORK, 6 June — A breakthrough in the way energy is stored could lead to smaller electronics, more trunk space in a hybrid car and eventually clothing that can recharge a cellphone, according to researchers at the University of Central Florida. Nanotechnology scientist Jayan Thomas said in an interview he believes he has discovered a way to store energy in a thin sheath around an ordinary lightweight copper electrical wire. As a result, the same wire that transmits electricity can also store extra energy.

“We can just convert those wires into batteries so there is no need of a separate battery,” Thomas said.

“It has applications everywhere.”

The work will be the cover story in the June 30 issue of the material science journal Advanced Materials, and is the subject of an article in the current edition of the scientific magazine Nature.

Thomas’s Ph.D. student Zennan Yu co-author. Thomas said the process is relatively simple. He said, he heated the copper wire to create what he described as fuzzy “nano-whiskers,” which are naturally insulated by copper oxide. The microscopic nano-whiskers vastly expand the wire’s surface area that can store energy. — Reuters

A Google search page is reflected in sunglasses in this photo illustration taken in Brussels on 30 May, 2014. REUTERS

Copper wires may also work as batteries, Florida researchers say

‘Chinese teen creates website promoting philanthropy

BEIJING, 6 June — Inspired by Bill Gates’ words that educators is a tool for equality, a top student at the High School Affiliated to Renmin University of China has created a website promoting philanthropy among high school students in China, the first of its kind in this country.

“My classmates and I are interested in philanthropy and dedicated to making a difference in our communities,” said Tong Shangyuan, 17, a sophomore at the prestigious and highly competitive school in Beijing.

The website (www.teenphilanthropy.cn) focuses on 13 topics, including charity news, opinions and sharing of information, and it aims to serve as a platform for students, parents, and others to promote and organize charitable activities and share ideas and information for better community building. Tong had the idea for his initiative during a trip to Seattle in Summer 2013. Bill Gates had long been his role model and “hero,” and the teen’s visit to the Microsoft headquarters where he learned about the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation further broadened his horizons.

“Expanding the influence of adolescents is better than just spending more on our daily activities,” he wrote after the visit in an email to the foundation, seeking guidance.

Tong has found that it is very demanding to run his website, as he has to continue his academic studies and also cope with technical issues. — Xinhua

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Bosnia arrests three for war crimes near site of biggest mass grave

WASHINGTON, 6 June — North Korea has detained a US citizen for having broken the law by engaging in anti-state activities despite being in the country as a tourist.

The diplomatic sources said the man, who was part of a tour group, was detained in mid-May just before he was about to leave the country, apparently for having left behind a Bible at the hotel where he had been staying.

A US State Department spokesperson said the man had been detained for organizing reports that a third US citizen was detained in North Korea.

"There is no greater priority for us than the welfare and safety of US citizens abroad. We have no additional information to share at this time," the spokesperson added.

On 20 May, the US government strongly urged its citizens not to travel to North Korea, citing the risk of arbitrary arrest without charges and long-term detention.

In an upgraded travel advisory, the State Department noted that North Korean authorities have arrested US citizens who entered the country legally on valid visas as well as those who accidentally crossed into North Korean territory.

"In the past 18 months, North Korea detained several US citizens who were part of organized tours. Do not assume that joining a group tour or use of a tour guide will prevent your arrest or detention by North Korean authorities," it said.

On 26 April, the official Korean Central News Agency reported from Pyongyang that a man identified as "Miller Matthew Todd" was detained 10 April for "his rash behavior" when going through formalities for entry into the country.

German committee wants to question Snowden in Moscow

BERLIN, 6 June — With backing from Chancellor Angela Merkel’s grand coalition government, a German parliamentary committee wants to meet former US intelligence contractor Edward Snowden in Moscow, reported on Thursday.

The ruling right-left coalition has resisted opposition demands that Snowden come to Germany to testify to the parliamentary committee looking into the mass surveillance of German citizens by the US National Security Agency (NSA) that he exposed.

The NSA practices have become a major political issue in Germany, which is sensitive to the abuses of such agencies after their Nazi and Communist pasts and reports that the NSA monitored Merkel’s cell-phone calls have cast a shadow over the once close US-German relations.

ARD quoted a leader of the committee, Christian Flisek, saying a meeting with Snowden in Moscow would not have the character of witness testifying but rather be a chance to give members a chance to get a better picture of Snowden.

Flisek told ARD that the committee members would have, for instance, chance to ask Snowden directly whether or not he wanted to return to the United States.

Flisek said it was now up to Snowden to decide if he wants to meet the committee in Moscow, something the Germans would like to do by 2 July.

Thousands of Bosnians and Croats perished in Bosnian Serb domination camps in Prijedor as part of bid to drive non-Serbs from the land. Around 100,000 people died in the war, the largest mass grave in the Balkan country.

"The men were part of the Serb Republic army and are suspected of killing seven Bosnians in the area of Kozarac," the prosecutor’s office said in a statement.

It said the killings took place between May and June 1992. Last year, Bosnian forensic experts unearthed the remains of 435 people from the Tomasica mass grave near Prijedor. It is believed to contain the remains of around 1,000 victims, which would make it the largest mass grave in the Balkan country.

Experts are working on identifying the victims.

So far, 178 have been identified through DNA analysis, among them a man and his six sons. The youngest son was 18 and the oldest 29 when they were killed, said Lejla Cengic, a spokeswoman for the government’s Institute for Missing Persons.

In 2001, forensic experts found 373 victims they believed were originally buried at Tomasica, then reburied at a second site as part of a bid to conceal evidence of atrocities. Exhumations halted over the winter but are expected to resume soon. Around 1,200 people are still registered as missing in the Prijedor area.

The Hague-based United Nations war crimes tribunal has sentenced 16 Bosnian Serbs to a total of 230 years in prison for atrocities in the Prijedor area. — Reuters

Bosnia arrests three for war crimes near site of biggest mass grave

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The state prosecutor said Mitar Vlasenko, 59, Rade Vlasenko, 54, and Drago Koncar, 53, were arrested in the village of Kozarac near the northwestern town of Prijedor. Police were searching more locations for evidence.

Forensic experts, members of the International Commission of Missing Persons (ICMP) and Bosnian authorities were searching more locations for evidence.

The village of Tomasica near Prijedor, on 22 Oct, 2013. — Reuters

WORLD

Russia’s ambassador to Kiev to attend Poroshenko inauguration

Moscow, 6 June — Russia said on Thursday its ambassador to Kiev would attend the inauguration of Ukrainian president-elect Petro Poroshenko in spite of Moscow’s harsh criticism of Ukraine’s attempts to curb pro-Russian separatists. Scores of separatist fighters and Ukrainian troops have been killed in heavy fighting in eastern Ukraine since Kiev has intensified its “anti-terrorist operation” since Poroshenko was elected on 25 May. “Russian ambassador to Ukraine Mikhail Zurabov will take part in the inauguration ceremony of Ukraine’s elected president,” Russian foreign ministry spokesman Alexander Lukashevich told a briefing. “He is returning to Kiev to continue with his duties,” Lukashevich added, more than three months after the envoy was recalled to Moscow in response to the ouster of pro-Russian Ukrainian president Viktor Yanukovych in mass protests. — Reuters

Iran train crash kills at least 10, injures dozens

ANKARA, 6 June — A passenger train collided with a freight train in northern Iran on Thursday, killing at least 10 people and injuring dozens, Iranian media reported.

"The train was en route from the northeastern city of Mashhad to Teheran. So far 10 passengers have been killed and dozens wounded," the semi-official Fars news agency reported. "The death toll is expected to rise."

A local official said the train carried 340 passengers.

State television said the cause of the crash was under investigation by authorities. The Students News Agency ISNA put the death toll at two and said four people were in critical condition. — Reuters

Ukraine’s President-elect Petro Poroshenko addresses during the Solidarity Prize award ceremony at the Royal Castle in Warsaw on 3 June, 2014. — Reuters

Ukraine's elected President Petro Poroshenko addresses the Solidarity Prize award ceremony at the Royal Castle in Warsaw on 3 June, 2014. — Reuters

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Ukraine’s President-elect Petro Poroshenko addresses during the Solidarity Prize award ceremony at the Royal Castle in Warsaw on 3 June, 2014. — Reuters
Singapore Finance Minister accepts slower growth as trade-off for social stability

SINGAPORE, 6 June — Singapore is willing to accept slower growth as a trade-off for social stability as it aims to keep down the number of foreigners working in the city-state, Finance Minister Tharman Shanmugaratnam told Reuters. Over the past decade, Singapore’s economy has expanded by a 6.4 percent annual average. Tharman said that he would be happy if Singapore grew 3 percent a year, as long as growth was driven mainly by gains in productivity.

“Three percent growth is good growth,” he said during an interview on Thursday. High past growth has brought rising numbers of foreigners to work in wealthy Singapore, which in turn has spurred discontent among citizens angered by the strains put on infrastructure and services.

Between 2000 and 2013, Singapore’s population rose to 5.4 million from 4 million, with foreigners accounting for the bulk of the 35 percent increase.

Unappiness about in-flows of foreigners helped an opposition party gain ground in the 2011 general elections as the People’s Action Party, which has ruled Singapore since independence in 1965, won only 60 percent of votes, its worst showing to date. The next election must be held by January 2017. Tharman, who is also a deputy prime minister, said the government accepts a slower growth rate as the cost of ensuring the country retains its national identity, combats overcrowding and keeps the ratio of foreign to local workers at around one-third.

“We are never going to be Dubai, we are a country with a social ethos that we take very seriously,” the 57-year-old finance minister said.

The number of foreigners in Dubai is larger than that of locals, a result of its aggressive economic growth strategy.

At the end of 2013, there were 1.32 million foreigners in Singapore who held employment or work-passes, around 38 percent of the total workforce. In 2010, Singapore launched a 10-year plan to restructure its economy, aiming to increase productivity and cap the ratio of foreigners in the workforce at around one-third. The plan aimed to raise the productivity rate by an average of 2 to 3 percent a year, though it actually fell in 2012 and 2013.

Reuters

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**CLAIMS DAY NOTICE**

**MV NINOS VOY NO (1017)**

Consignees of cargo carried on MV NINOS VOY NO (1017) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 8.6.2014 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of H.P.T where it will lie at the consignee’s risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

**SHIPPING AGENCY DEPARTMENT**

**MYANMA PORT AUTHORITY**

**AGENT FOR: M/S CHINA SHIPPING LINES**

Phone No: 2301185

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**CLAIMS DAY NOTICE**

**MV MALTE RAMBOW VOY NO (1423)**

Consignees of cargo carried on MV MALTE RAMBOW VOY NO (1423) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 8.6.2014 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of M.L.P where it will lie at the consignee’s risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

**SHIPPING AGENCY DEPARTMENT**

**MYANMA PORT AUTHORITY**

**AGENT FOR: M/S MCC TRANSPORT (S’PORE)**

PTE LTD

Phone No: 2301185

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**CLAIMS DAY NOTICE**

**MV KOTA RAJIN VOY NO (861)**

Consignees of cargo carried on MV KOTA RAJIN VOY NO (861) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 7.6.2014 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of A.W.P.T where it will lie at the consignee’s risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

**SHIPPING AGENCY DEPARTMENT**

**MYANMA PORT AUTHORITY**

**AGENT FOR: M/S ADVANCE CONTAINER LINES**

Phone No: 2301185

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**MINISTRY OF ELECTRIC POWER**

**DEPARTMENT OF HYDROPOWER**

**IMPLEMENTATION**

**INVITATION TO TENDER**

1. Qualified Contractors and/or Joint Venture are invited to submit Tender Proposals in United State Dollars for the 132 KV Transmission Line and Substation, Shwe Li (3) HPP Contract.
2. Closing Date of Tender Acquisition - 26.6.2014 (16:00) pm
3. Tender Submission Date - 24.7.2014 (12:00) pm
4. Tender Invitation Letter and Documents with detail informations shall be available at the following address:

Tender Invitation Committee
Department of Hydropower Implementation Office No. (27), Nay Pyi Taw
Phone: 067 413331, 09250343549, 09 450539248
Fax : 067413531
Sunny Leone “happy” about getting noticed in Bollywood

MUMBAI, 6 June — Indo-Canadian adult film star Sunny Leone is happy for getting noticed but is not sure if she has made her mark in Bollywood. Before making her Bollywood debut with Jism 2, Sunny had participated in the fifth season of the reality show Bigg Boss. Sunny also did a special song in Shootout at Wadala and was seen next in Jackpot and Ragini MMS 2.

“I think I have been noticed and I am happy about it. I am happy where I have reached today. I don’t know if I have made a mark for myself here. I want to do good work, have fun and entertain people,” Sunny told PTI in an exclusive interview here.

“I have done only three films. I still have to work hard. I want more and more people to watch and enjoy my films. It is a steady process. I think one should work hard and prove oneself in dancing, acting and bringing about sale of tickets,” she said.

Sunny is happy with the audience response to Ragini MMS 2.

“I wasn’t expecting the film to do this well. I thank my fans for watching the film. I wonder how can one film change things,” she added.

Post the success of Ragini MMS 2, Sunny has been getting a lot of offers but she is in no hurry to do any film.

“Offers are coming in. I think people have realised I am not here just for five minutes (on screen), I love this world. I will continue to work hard and do amazing work. I am sure acceptance will come,” Sunny said. Responding to a query that she was looking for an image-maker, Sunny said that she did not set any rules for herself.

“That is not true, I don’t know where this came from. I don’t set any rules, limits for myself,” the actress said.

Cate Blanchett: My kids persuaded me to sign how to train your dragon sequel

LOS ANGELES, 6 June — Oscar winning actress Cate Blanchett is extremely excited about being part of upcoming animated feature film How To Train Your Dragon 2 ever since she saw the first part with her kids, who persuaded her to sign the sequel.

“I saw How To Train Your Dragon film with my children, and I found it utterly exhilarating. So when director Dean DeBlois asked me to be part of the animation sequel a few years ago, I immediately agreed for the sake of my kids,” Cate said in a statement.

“I also agreed because the whole process of trying to bring something to life in advance of the animation, purely with your voice. I found it a really interesting challenge,” she added.

Cate has voiced for a character named Valka in the film, which releases on June 13 worldwide.

Directed by Dean DeBlois, the film also features the voices of Jay Baruchel, Jonah Hill, Gerard Butler, Kit Harington and Kristen Wiig.

Introducing Jackie Shroff’s daughter Krishna

NEW DELHI, 6 June — Jackie Shroff’s son Tiger, star of Heroine-panti, is still roaring at the box office and now his daughter Krishna too wants to make it big in Bollywood, but not as a heroine. The star-daughter is producing a documentary that throws light on the lifestyle and issues of transgenders.

Krishna is producing a documentary on the lifestyle and issues of transgenders.

A digitally remastered edition of the 60-year-old film will be screened across the nation from Saturday. The US film will be shown in Japan from 25 July.

AR Murugadoss: Film remakes should not deviate from original

CHENNAI, 6 June — Filmmaker AR Murugadoss says that a remake should never deviate from the “proven and tested” path of the original.

A R Murugadoss’ Holiday, which is the remake of his own Tamil film Thupparakkali, featuring Akshay Kumar, releases in cinemas today.

“A remake is made because it has already been proven and tested. So why would anybody want to make changes to it? If a film is remake by the same director, changes will be avoided because they’ve given their best to make the original successful and would only like to repeat the formula,” AR Murugadoss told IANS.

In Holiday, he has not tried to change much.

“There are minor changes but there will also be a resemblance with the original and I don’t mind it because it’s my film at the end of the day, and I would always like to do justice to it,” he added.

Akshay plays an army officer in the film, which revolves around a network of sleeper cells planning a terrorist attack.

AR Murugadoss chose Akshay because he couldn’t picture any other actor more suitable for the lead role.

“I wanted to work with Akshay sir soon after Ghajini, but I wanted a different character for him. It then struck me that he would be more apt in the role of an army officer because he’s extremely fit. I couldn’t think of a better actor in that role,” he said.

He says as a filmmaker, he is never bogged down by the pressure of making a blockbuster.

Godzilla mural unveiled at Tokyo film studio

AKIRA TAKARADA, star of the first Godzilla film released in 1954, and Gareth Edwards. TOKYO, 6 June — Japanese film company Toho Co unveiled an 11-meter-tall mural of Godzilla on Thursday to celebrate the 60th anniversary of a popular film series featuring the monster character.


The studio is the birthplace of the 1954 film.

A digitally remastered edition of the 60-year-old film will be screened across the nation from Saturday. The US film will be shown in Japan from 25 July.

Kyodo News
An excavator cleans mud after rainstorms in Changzhou Township of Fengshan County, south China’s Guangxi Zhuang Autonomous Region, on 5 June, 2014. Rainstorms hitting Fengshan County on Wednesday have affected about 18,500 local residents in 76 villages, damaging roads and residences. The downpour also caused class suspension at some schools. — Xinhua

MYANMARTV

6:00 am  Parita by Hilly Region Missionary Sayadaw
6:45 am  NICE & SWEET SONGS
7:00 am  News/Weather Report
7:20 am  Business News
8:00 am  News/International News
8:30 am  India Drama Series
9:00 am  News/International News
9:30 am  Documentary
10:00 am  News
10:20 am  Current Affairs
11:30 am  Game for Children
12:00 pm  News/International News/Weather Report
12:15 pm  Round up of The Weeks Hunat News
2:25 pm  Business News
3:00 pm  News
4:30 pm  University of Distance Education (TV Lectures) First Year (Physics)
4:45 pm  Teleplay (Cartoon)
5:00 pm  News
5:40 pm  Documentary
6:00 pm  News/Weather Report
6:20 pm  MRTV’s Youth Programme
7:00 pm  News
7:15 pm  Teleplay
8:00 pm  News/International News/Weather Report
8:45 pm  Business News
9:00 pm  News
9:45 pm  Meymar Series
10:45 pm  Phuwinbanorin

MYANMAR INTERNATIONAL

7:6-14 07:00am– 8-6-14 07:00am MST
* Local News
* GREAT SWEDAGDON
   “The Sacred Hair Relics Hanging Boba”
* World News
* Talented Musicians
* Local News
* Shwe Kyet Yet-Shwe
* Kyet Kya’s Boat Race
* Festival
* World News
* The Photographer: Kyaw Kyaw Win
* Local News
* Youth of the Future
* “Puppet”
* World News
* Trishaw Man
* Local News
* Rakhine Land “A Trip to The City of Rakhitta, Rakhine”
* World News
* Art Students: Their Dream
* Local News
* A Chance at a Naga Family Life
* World News
* Myanmar Movie Review “Family Feud”
* Local News
* * An Ardent Aficionado of Traditional Design
* World News
* Sticky Shan Snack
* Local News
* A Life in the ring
* World News
* The Pride of Myanmar “Traditional Handicraft”
* Local News
* Diverse National Costumes & Their Fashion Trend (Episode-3)
* World News
* Black Gold (Part-I)

Vienna, 6 June — Socially disadvantaged households in Austria spend an average of over twice their income share on energy costs despite a lower consumption rate, a study of the Austrian Institute for Sustainable Development (OeIN) revealed on Thursday.

The study titled “Energy Poverty in Austria” conducted on 402 Austrian households found that the 263,000 people living in Austria who have difficulty affording heating spend 11 percent of their income on energy, while the national average is 4.8 percent of income. President of Caritas Austria Michael Landau said poorer households must thus make decisions on whether they spend their money on food, heating, or clothing, Der Standard newspaper reported.

Additionally the poor are also affected by an increased energy price. Persons must thus make decisions on whether they spend 11 percent of their income on energy, while the national average is 4.8 percent of income. The study titled “Energy Poverty in Austria” conducted on 402 Austrian households found that the 263,000 people living in Austria who have difficulty affording heating spend 11 percent of their income on energy, while the national average is 4.8 percent of income.

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**Myanmar to meet Cerezo Osaka, Vietnamese team in tune-up matches**

**Wrap Gerrard up in cotton wool, says Hoddle**

*LONDON, 6 June* — England manager Roy Hodgson should wrap his talisman Steven Gerrard up in cotton wool because an injury to the 34-year-old captain would be disastrous for England’s World Cup plans, says Glenn Hoddle.

Hoddle, who coached England at the 1998 World Cup, said Hodgson must carefully manage the Liverpoo midfielder’s game time in friendlies before the team’s opener against Italy in Manaus on 14 June.

“Roy must have winced when his captain was hurt in an early tackle during the Peru game in London on 30 May, 2014.—

**Sharapova scraps into final showdown with Halep**

*PARIS, 6 June* — She once posed for a photograph with an eight-year-old Eugenie Bouchard but that friendly touch was not on show on Thursday as Maria Sharapova wiped the smile off the Canadian’s face to set up a French Open final with Simona Halep. While a 2002 photo of a statuesque Sharapova wrapping her arm around a pixie-like Bouchard has gone viral over the past 48 hours, the Russian hovered the limelight at Roland Garros as she shrieked her way to her third successive Paris final with a 4-6, 7-5, 6-2 win. “Winning a match where I felt my opponent played extremely well, exceptional tennis and I didn’t feel that I was playing my best, I fought, I scrambled, and I found a way to win,” said seventh seed Sharapova after a third straight win of her five-match point. She produced nine double faults, 35 unforced errors and was broken four times in a messy performance but the shot that mattered most was the blazing forehand she sent flying past Bouchard’s racket on her fifth match point.

**Crane spreads wings to lead in Memphis**

*MEMPHIS, 6 June* — American Ben Crane defied recent poor form to post a bogey-free seven-under 63 and surged to a two-shot lead in a weather-affected first round of the FedEx St Jude Classic in Memphis on Thursday.

Crane, a four-time winner on the US tour but without a title since 2011, sits alone as the clubhouse leader after darkness halted play with 60 players still to complete their rounds due to an earlier storm delay.

Fellow Americans Peter Malnati (65) and Billy Horschel, five-under through 16 holes, shared second at five-under.

Major winners Retief Goosen (66) and Zac Johnson (15 holes) were joined by Joe Durant (66), Jason Bohn (14 holes) and Australian Stuart Appleby (17 holes) in a tie for fourth at four-under.

Phil Mickelson, a runner-up last year, started his tune-up for the US Open with a solid 67, leaving him in a tie for ninth.

Playing back the nine of TPC Southwind first, Crane started modestly with birdies on the 11th and 16th holes before making his move at the turn.

Three birdies on the trot to start the front side and two to finish sent the 38-year-old to the top of the pile, unfamiliar ground for Crane in recent times.

Since a tie for ninth at the Humana Challenge in January, Crane hasn’t finished better than a tie for 32nd and missed five of his last seven cuts leading in.

Malnati, a 26-year-old rookie coming off the secondary web.com tour, was another surprise packet given he has missed the cut on eight of his 11 appearances on tour this year.

His 65 equalled his career low on tour and was his first round in the 60s since early March in Puerto Rico.

“There have been some negative thoughts bouncing around in my head for most of the year but in the last couple of weeks I’ve kind of gotten it turned around,” said the Tennessee resident, who sits 172nd on the FedExCup points list.—*Reuters*