Yangon marks World Blood Donor Day 2014 with ceremony

By: Ye Myint/Thant Zin Win

World Blood Donor Day 2014 was observed at the National Blood Centre in Yangon on Saturday, with high-ranking officials urging the public to make blood donations.

Myanmar established the country’s first blood bank facility at Yangon General Hospital in 1945. The facility is now known as National Blood Centre. There are two national blood banks—one at Yangon General Hospital and another at Mandalay General Hospital, with an annual demand of 180,000 units of blood. About 1,500 blood units are being kept at National Blood Centre which delivers blood to hospitals across Yangon, with about 30 or 40 units per day needed, officials said.

The Blood Centre in Yangon has won the International Society of Blood Transfusion award for developing countries 2014 and there are many voluntary organizations assisting in donor recruitment and blood donations across Myanmar.

At the ceremony, Dr Min Thaung Nyunt, Director-General of the Health Department, the President of Myanmar Red Cross Society Dr Tha Hla Shwe, Dr. Koji Wada of JICA’s MIDC Project and Mr. Pisanu Suvanajata, Thai Ambassador to Myanmar, made speeches to raise awareness of the importance to donate blood.

World Blood Donor Day is celebrated annually around the world. It provides an opportunity to highlight the lifesaving role of voluntary unpaid blood donors and also thank those donors who give this precious gift, with no incentive to them, to save millions of lives every year, according to the World Health Organization.

The theme for World Blood Donor Day 2014 is “Safe blood for saving mothers”, with the WHO calling on countries to improve access to safe blood for saving the lives of mothers. Every day, about 800 women die from pregnancy or childbirth-related complications. Severe bleeding during delivery and after childbirth is the major cause of mortality, morbidity and long-term disability.

According to the latest WHO survey on blood availability, blood supply is critically inadequate in many low-and middle-income countries as almost half of about 108 million blood donations collected globally every year are from high-income countries, home to just 15% of the world’s population.

National Blood Centre at Yangon General Hospital on Bogyoke Aung San Street in Latha Township, Yangon. Photo: CREDIT TO NBC

Courses for part-time diploma in journalism to be launched in mid July

By Khaing Thanda Lwin

Working journalists in Myanmar can apply for a one year part-time diploma in journalism to be conducted by the Myanmar Journalism Institute-MJI, said Fiona Barton from Fojo Media Institute from Sweden.

Library in Yangon, she said that those journalists with a minimum two years experience in print, broadcast or online media can send their online applications to www.mjimyanmar.org not later than 25 June. Of them, MJI will offer scholarship to 15 journalists for the first time.

They will have classes early morning from Monday to Friday and full time every Saturday for one week per month. The course covers specialist courses in Business Journalism, Investigative Reporting and Political Journalism that will (See page 9)

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Shwe Parami Tawya Sayadaw Ashin Chandadhika donates blood at 25th Shwe Parami blood donation ceremony at National Blood Centre on 9 June.—Photo: CREDIT TO NBC

National Blood Centre at Yangon General Hospital on Bogyoke Aung San Street in Latha Township, Yangon. Photo: CREDIT TO NBC

Fiona Barton from Fojo Media Institute from Sweden.

Patrick Benning, Programme Coordinator of Myanamar of DW Akademie of Germany.
Myingyan to get new building for the practice of Buddhism

MYINGYAN, 14 June — A ceremony to drive stake for construction of a one-storey extended building took place at Shwepyiso religious building in Myingyan of Mandalay Region on Friday.

The ceremony was led by the chairman abbot of the Township Sangha Nayaka Committee and Buddhist monks.

The building will be donated by U Aye Lu, wife Thudhamma Theingi Daw Yin Yin and family of Shwepyiso cheroot factory in Ward 2 of Myingyan.

Township Administrator U Tun Thein Aung and officials participated in the stake driving ceremony.

Knowledge about monetary affairs shared

MANDALAY, 14 June — The Mandalay Region Chambers of Commerce and Industry, Australia and New Zealand Banking Group Ltd and ANZ Bank Myanmar will jointly conduct monetary affairs talks at the office of the CCI of Yadanabon Supercentre on 78th Street in Chanayethazan Township from 8 am to 6 pm on 27 June.

As admission is free and the participants will be limited, the members of the CCI, staff and interested people are to register no later than 20 June at MRC-Cl if they wish to attend the talks.

Officials will give advice on systematic savings, banking services and credit cards to the attendees.

Thiha Ko Ko (Mandalay)

Water purifier donated to monastery in Hsipaw

HSIPAW, 14 June — In memory of her late husband U Shwe Thein, Daw San Yi of Pyigyidaung Township of Mandalay donated a set of Zhulian water purifiers worth K1.5 million to Phayagyi monastery in Ward 2 of Myingyan.

Township Administrator U Tun Thein Aung and officials participated in the

Farmers in central Myanmar prepare cultivation of crops during monsoon

FARMERS in central Myanmar prepare cultivation of crops during monsoon.

KYAUKPADAUNG, 14 June—Although the monsoon season has begun in central Myanmar in early June, the rains in Kyaukpadaung Township of Mandalay Region started about 15 days later than the last year, with local farmers now preparing to cultivate sesame and pigeon pea.

“Our villagers cannot grow beans due to the late rain in the township. Therefore I prepare cultivation of sesame,” said farmer U Soe Win of Hsintaingkan village.

Kyaukpadaung Township relies on cultivation of sesame plants. Although farmers planted sesame seeds on their farmlands in late May with the hope of rainfall, the monsoon season did not start on time, with all sesame seeds lost. Per-acre yield of sesame will therefore be on the decline in the coming year, said a source. According to locals, farmers now plan to grow groundnut in the cold season.— Ko Nay (Kyaukpadaung)

Electrification of village in Kyaukpadaung Tsp nearly completed

KYAUKPADAUNG, 14 June—The electrification committee of Kyansoh village of Kyaukpadaung Township has completed 90% of the power supply tasks for local people with loans from Mandalay Region government.

“Electrification for the village started on 19 March 2014. A total of 133 households have got new building for the practice of Buddhism from the village fund — K500,000 each for the task. Due to the inadequate fund, the electrification committee took K25 million from the region government. So, the total cost may be K70 million for power supply,” said a patron of the committee. The committee must pay back the loan and interest to the government within six months after starting the power task.

A total of 133 households from 196 houses of the village enlisted to take installation of power lines. The committee will supply power to poor families at reasonable rate, said the patron.

The lamp-post erection and installation of power lines started on 15 May 2014 and the transformer was installed on 29 May. — Ko Nay (Kyaukpadaung)

Associations plan to grow 1,000 raintree saplings at Yangon-Mandalay expressway

MANDALAY, 14 June—The abbot of the All Myanmar Theravada Buddhist Federation, the Border and Hill Regions Missionary Association and the Byamaso Social Service Association will lead the growing of rain tree saplings along both sides of the Yangon-Mandalay Expressway.

They will grow 1,000 raintree saplings along either side of the expressway in June in cooperation with environmental conservation associations.

The committee formed at Taungsalin monastery in Mandalay with persons from TadaU and Singaing townships adopted a plan to grow the saplings during a two-year term. Responsible persons will nurture the saplings during the period.

Consumer protection team members inspect markets, supermarkets in Mandalay

MANDALAY, 14 June—The Head of Commercial and Consumer Affairs Department of Mandalay Region U Swe Tint Kyu and departmental officials from Sanitation and Health Division of Mandalay City Development Committee, Mandalay Region Food and Drug Administration Branch and Industrial Co-ordination and Inspection Department visited food and snacks shops, food factories and oil mills at Yadanabon Market, Zaygyo Market and on 78th street in Chanayethazan Township of Mandalay on Thursday.

The region head of the Commercial and Consumer Affairs Department requested the snack and food producers to stick labels on the products in Myanmar language to enable consumers to know the ingredients and other facts about the foods and snacks, including expiration date.

In Mandalay, educative talks are being given to entrepreneurs and producers of foodstuffs. After enacting the Consumer Protection Rules, action will be taken against the law offenders.

Thiha Ko Ko (Mandalay)
Poverty reduction strategies crucial for delta residents: President

NAY PYI TAW, 14 June—President U Thein Sein on Saturday said that residents in Ayeyawady delta region need the support of a poverty reduction plan as they are still struggling to make a livelihood after Cyclone Nargis wrought havoc in the area in 2008.

U Thein Sein attended the ceremony, which was held at Naung Yoe Town Hall of Myaungmya Township, Ayeyawady Region, and pledged the government would provide loans and agricultural machinery, as well as fishing gear to rural people.

He visited the garment factory of Delta Industrial Company Limited in Pathein Industry Zone.

One aid programme is already being carried out by the Ministry of Cooperatives under the poverty alleviation plan.

At the ceremony, U Thein Sein said, “The residents in Ayeyawady region were seriously hit by Cyclone Nargis in 2008, with 130,000 people killed and nearly 800,000 homeless. Rice cultivation, the fishing sector and the salt industry were completely destroyed. The cyclone-affected people are still suffering the consequences and the poverty in the aftermath of this disaster until now.”

When the deadly cyclone hit the country, U Thein Sein was the prime minister of the State Peace and Development Council.

He said, “I am still taking pride in my leading role for rehabilitation works as a prime minister at that time. The poverty resulting from Cyclone Nargis is a chronic problem in this region. Although this problem cannot be wiped out totally, the Ministry of Co-operatives is now supporting the locals with rehabilitation plans.”

The president said that the poverty rate of the country was 26 percent when his government took office in 2011. He also reaffirmed that the new government is making efforts in speeding up poverty alleviation plans, by improving education and healthcare services.

U Thein Sein said that his government has drawn plans for social and administrative reform processes with the supports of the international community, including local and foreign experts and international organizations of the United Nations.

Union Minister for Cooperatives U Kyaw Hsan then said that his ministry will disburse K11.2 billion micro-finance loans and will sell 1.115 units of agricultural machinery worth K823.83 million in installments for the 2014 monsoon cultivation season.

Under the poverty alleviation plan, the ministry will sell sewing machines and tricycles worth K43.2 million, and 5,150 units of fishing gear worth K148.50 million.

(See page 9)

Outstanding students, teachers honoured in Zeyathiri township

NAY PYI TAW, 14 June—Outstanding students and teachers were honoured with a ceremony in Zeyathiri township here in the morning, with an address by Thura U Shwe Mann, Speaker of the Pyidaungsu Hluttaw and the Lower House, officials said.

The students were awarded for passing the matriculation examinations with distinction in the 2013-2014 academic year and the teachers were awarded for providing excellent training.

In his address, Thura U Shwe Mann urged teachers to motivate students, adding that students should do their part by learning continuously.

“No matter what education system is in practice, a good learning environment is of paramount importance,” the speaker said.

He stated that a national education bill is now under discussion as part of the education reform, urging teachers and parents to nurture students to grow as well-rounded individuals in the future.

A primary school in the township got a new two-storey building, which was constructed and donated by ShweTaung Development Co Ltd, with Thura U Shwe Mann attending the school-handover ceremony, sources said.

The new school buildings house 185 students.

Union Ministers visit relief camps in Myebon, Sittway Tsps

NAY PYI TAW, 14 June—Union Ministers U Soe Thane, U Tin Naing Thein, Lt-Gen Thet Naing Win, U Aung Kyi and U Khin Yi and Rakhine State Chief Minister U Hla Maung Tin met towns elders and local people in Myebon of Rakhine State on Saturday morning, and visited relief camps for Bengalis, where they called for “better understanding” among the different groups in Rakhine.

U Khin Yi said that anyone, though granted citizenship according to the Myanmar Citizenship Law of 1982, can be stripped of their citizenship if found guilty of violating laws.

Regarding regional development, U Soe Thane urged locals to make best use of the town’s rich land and water resources for development on a self-reliant basis.

At a relief camp in Sittway, U Soe Thane stressed the need for peaceful coexistence between the two communities, urging camp-dwellers to take care of their health and hygiene and prevent the outbreak of epidemic and contagious diseases.

U Khin Yi emphasized cooperation with local officials for bringing about reconciliation and security in the region.

The union ministers also went on a guided tour of relief camps for Bengalis in three other places, officials said.

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Buddha image consecrated in Bawkyo Village of Hsipaw Tsp

Hsipaw, 14 June—The consecration of Janamudra Buddha image was held in the precinct of Hsutaungpyae Pagoda in Bawkyo Village of Hsipaw Township in northern Shan State on Thursday. Members of the Sangha consecrated the Buddha image, and religious association recited religious verses. The Buddha image was curved at the blue colour quartz stone. The image is seven feet high kept on a four-foot high throne. U Sai Nwam and Daw Nang San Hwam and family of Golden Lake Hotel in Hsipaw donated curving of the Buddha image. Sai Shwe Khant and family of Bawkyo Village of Hsipaw Township donated the land plot for the Buddha image.

Press briefing on presenting excellent award to cooperative union held

Mandalay, 14 June—Chairman of Mandalay Region Cooperative Union U Soe Myint Aung met media at a press briefing at the office of the union at the southern wing of Zaygyo Market on 84th street between 27th and 28th streets in Chanayethazan Township of Mandalay on Friday.

He explained matters related to presenting the excellent award of the president to the cooperative union.

The Mandalay Region Cooperative Union is formed with 30 township cooperative syndicates to undertake businesses in line with the objectives of the Ministry of Cooperatives, the cooperative union is undertaking the joint venture tasks with Mandalay Dairy Milk Products Factory and other businesses.

In addition, the cooperative union sells products to the staff of the government, cooperative societies and companies though 10 months installments.

In 22 townships of the region, the cooperative union plans to disburse K8.642 billion loans from Exim Bank to 91,905 members of 1,473 societies.

The cooperative union has paid over K1.2 million as commercial tax and over K92 million as income tax in 2012-13 fiscal year.

It has formed 3,814 village cooperative societies with 483,681 members in 28 townships of the region.

Under the permission of the Ministry of Cooperatives, the cooperative union is undertaking the joint venture tasks with Mandalay Dairy Milk Products Factory and other businesses.

Thiha Ko Ko (Mandalay)

Amendment of laws related to taxation clarified

Muse, 14 June—A ceremony to clarify amendment of the laws related to taxation and tax affairs was held at the city hall in Muse of northern Shan State on Thursday.

Deputy Director U Khin Maung Nyunt of Shan State Internal Revenue Department explained the Union tax law and the amendments of the law on taxation.

He distributed pamphlets on amendments on income tax law and commercial tax law and law amending the Union Stamp Act.

The deputy director replied to queries raised by Township Administrator U Ko Ko Zaw and Head of District Immigration and National Registration Department U Win Ko.

The ceremony was attended by departmental officials, entrepreneurs and taxpayers.

Muse District IPRD

School uniforms donated to primary school students in Kyaiklat

Kyaiklat, 14 June—A ceremony to donate school uniforms to poor students was held at Saddhammyanthyi religious building in Kyaiklat of Ayeyawady Region on Thursday.

Thukha Myitta social welfare association presented school uniforms to 550 students at primary level from 10 Basic Education Primary Schools and one BEHS Branch for the 2014-15 academic year.

Tow students representing respective schools accepted the donations.

“As we are poor families, we rely on donors for their distributions,” said a parent of student.

The association contributes donates cash to local people to support with health, social, education and funeral services and also organizes literary talks.—Abyawu
Modi boards on India's largest aircraft carrier

MUMBAI, 14 June — Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi boards on the country’s largest aircraft carrier on Saturday morning in Southern Indian state of Goa, local media reported. This is also his first visit to a military facility after assuming office last month. He also hopped into the cockpit of a MiG-29 K fighter jet.

Modi was accompanied by navy chief Admiral RK Dhowan, and was accorded a ceremonial guard of honour.

The 44,500-tonne INS Vikramaditya, procured from Russia, is one of the newest acquisitions of the Indian Navy and the most powerful symbol of its military reach. It was commissioned by then defence minister AK Antony last November at Russia’s Sevmasr shipyard.

He also witnessed high-speed maneuvers by the Navy’s Western Fleet ships, including aircraft carrier INS Viraat. Delhi-class destroyers and Talwar-class frigates.

INS Vikramaditya has an overall length of 284 meters and a beam of 60 meters, stretching as much as three football fields put together. Standing about 20 storeys tall from keel to the highest point, the vessel has 22 decks.

With over 1,600 personnel on board, Vikramaditya is literally a floating city. Linked to the personnel on board is mammoth logistics requirement — nearly 100,000 eggs, 20,000 liters of milk and 16 tonnes of rice, to name just a few, per month.

During his visit to Goa, Modi is expected to announce some development projects for the state that has played a crucial role in his political career.

Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi

China says will never send military to oil rig spat with Vietnam

BEIJING, 14 June — A Chinese official said on Friday that China will never send military forces to the scene of an increasingly ugly spat with Vietnam over an oil rig in the South China Sea and accused Hanoi of trying to force an international lawsuit.

A senior US official in Washington dismissed the Chinese statement as “patently ridiculous” and said Beijing had been using air force and navy as well as coastguard assets “to intimidate others.”

Scores of Vietnamese and Chinese ships, including coastguard vessels, have squared off around the rig despite a series of collisions after the Chinese platform was towed into disputed waters in early May.

Vietnam has accused China of sending six warships, but Yi Xianliang, deputy director-general of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs’ Department of Boundary and Ocean Affairs, said that Beijing had never sent military forces. “I can tell you very clearly that from 2 May to today, including to when the (drilling) operations are complete, we have never, are not and will never send military forces. Because we are carrying out normal, civilian, commercial activities,” he told a news conference.

“What I can tell you is that this is on a maritime route and at some periods there have been certain Chinese military ships coming back from the south but these have been far away” from where the standoff round the rig has been taking place, Yi added.

China claims about 90 percent of the South China Sea, but parts of the potentially energy-rich waters are also subject to claims by the Philippines, Vietnam, Malaysia, Brunei and Taiwan.

Beijing stations military forces on some of the numerous islands it occupies in the Spratly and Paracel Island groups in the South China Sea.

Beijing’s Haiyang Shiyou 981 rig is drilling between the Paracel Islands and the Vietnamese coast. Vietnam has said the rig is in its continental shelf, while China says it is operating within its waters.

The United States has not taken sides in the territorial disputes but has been strongly critical of China’s behaviour in pressing its claims and called for negotiated solutions.

The US official called Yi’s Xianliang’s statement “a weak attempt to obscure what China is really doing.”

“China has maintained a robust and consistent military presence near the oil rig since its placement on 2 May, including flying helicopters and planes over and around the rig. There are currently multiple military vessels in the vicinity of the rig,” he said.

The official said that on any given day, there were also Chinese navy warships in waters disputed with the Philippines.

Reiterating US criticism of how China has handled maritime disputes with its neighbours, he said China’s actions were “creating serious frictions” in relations with Washington.

Complaints about air pollution in China’s capital double in five months

BEIJING, 14 June — Complaints about air pollution in the Chinese capital of Beijing more than doubled in the first five months of 2014, the city environment authority said, a sign of rising public anger about the cost of rapid economic growth.

The Beijing Municipal Environmental Bureau revealed late on Friday that 12,599 formal complaints about smog were lodged by members of the public from January to May, 124 percent higher than the same period of last year.

Beijing, routinely shrouded in hazardous smog, has been on the front line of a “war against pollution” declared by Premier Li Keqiang in March in a bid to head off growing discontent about the state of the country’s skies, rivers and soil.

Smog was involved in 72.6 percent of the total number of environment-related complaints submitted to the Beijing authorities from January to May, the environmental bureau said.

In a bid to defuse potential sources of unrest, China’s leaders have been desperate to show they are firmly on the side of the public in the battle against pollution, setting up hotlines, task forces and rapid response teams, and encouraging the public to participate in campaigns against violators.

A newly amended environmental law also stipulates that authorities must ensure transparency and accountability, and also promises to improve access to the court system for people harmed by pollution.

In a separate notice, the Beijing environmental bureau said as many as 114 firms had been punished this month after its latest week-long campaign targeting environmental violations in the catering, car manufacturing and car repair sectors.

It said the firms were ordered to pay a total of 2.45 million yuan ($394,600) in fines.

A woman wearing mask walks across a street during a hazy day in Beijing, on 27 March, 2014. — Reuters

Abe, outgoing S Korean envoy agree to seek better bilateral ties

TOKYO, 14 June — Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe and Lee Byung Ki, South Korea’s outgoing ambassador to Japan, agreed on Friday to work toward a cordial relationship as next year marks the 50th anniversary of diplomatic ties.

The two Asian neighbours have been at odds over a territorial row and differing perceptions of wartime history.

After their meeting at the prime minister’s office, Lee told reporters he proposed establishing future-oriented relations to deal with the issues.

Abe pledged to make efforts, Lee said.

Lee was visiting the prime minister’s office to tell Abe he is leaving his position.

South Korean President Park Geun Hye appointed Lee as head of the state intelligence agency on Friday as part of her first Cabinet shuffle since taking office in February last year.

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Egypt’s cabinet to be formed by Sunday, many ministers to stay

CAIRO, 14 June — Egypt is expected to unveil a new cabinet by Sunday, three officials said on Friday, with the finance minister and others likely to keep their posts following the election of President Abdel Fattah al-Sisi. Keeping the main ministers could allow Sisi to quickly implement the types of reform urged by the United Arab Emirates — one of the Gulf states that gave billions of dollars in aid after Islamist President Mohamed Morsi was ousted by the army.

Sisi, the former army chief who was inaugurated last Sunday reappointed Prime Minister Ibrahim Mehleb last week. Consultations on the cabinet lineup are ongoing, state radio reported on Friday. Mehleb has said the current government would stay on in a caretaker role until he forms his cabinet.

UN peacekeepers need to expand further in Mali’s north

UNITED NATIONS, 14 June — UN peacekeepers should expand further into the volatile north of Mali, beyond cities and towns, amid fears that militants are expanding beyond the population centres in Mali’s north, within its static and mobile presence, UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon said on Friday.

The new cabinet is expected to be sworn in on Sunday, two ministers said, speaking on condition of anonymity. It is likely to convene for the first time on Monday, another government source said.

Finance Minister Hany Kadry Dimian is expected to stay, as are the ministers for planning and international cooperation, supplies, housing, industry, defence and interior, government sources have said. Dimian worked as a senior finance ministry official for more than five years until he resigned last year under Morsi.

A senior European diplomat has described him as the only ministry expert able to deal professionally with the International Monetary Fund during a failed attempt under Mursi to secure a $4.8 billion loan. Mehleb, 65, was appointed prime minister in a February reshuffle after serving as housing minister. A civil engineer, he is a former chairman of Arab Contractors, one of the region’s largest construction companies. He worked briefly in Saudi Arabia before joining the government following Sisi’s overthrow of Mursi last July after mass protests against the Islamist president.

Economists see cutting Egypt’s subsidies as central to any meaningful fiscal reform. The finance ministry said last month it would cut its subsidies bill, but still forecast a deficit of around 12 percent of gross domestic product in the new fiscal year starting on 1 July.

The ultra-conservative Salafist Nour party has said it is willing to join a cabinet under Sisi. — Reuters

Israel forces search for three missing Jewish teens in West Bank

JERUSALEM, 14 June — Israeli forces are searching for three Jewish teenagers who went missing in the occupied West Bank late on Thursday, the military said on Friday.

As media speculated that the three youths might have been abducted, large numbers of Israeli soldiers scoured the countryside around the flashpoint city of Hebron, carrying out house-to-house searches in neighbouring villages and blocking roads.

Local media said the three youngsters had last been seen trying to hitch-hike home from a religious seminary in the Jewish settlement of Gush Etzion, to the north of Hebron.

“ Forces are conducting a widespread operation to locate the individuals,” the military said in a statement. Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu convened a special meeting of security ministers and said in a statement that Israel held President Mahmoud Abbas’s Western-backed Palestinian Authority responsible for the safety of the three.

President Abbas’s Palestinian security services in the West Bank, including the Israeli criticim.

“The three settlers are missing — why is this the fault of the Palestinian Authority? We have nothing to do with this issue. If a natural disaster hits Israel, would we be responsible? This is mad and unacceptable. We have no knowledge about this,” he said.

The military did not name the teenagers. The newspaper Haaretz said two were aged 16 and one was 19. Local media added that one of the three also held American citizenship, and that the US ambassador to Israel had been briefed.

US Secretary of State John Kerry “expressed grave concern ... and ... our commitment to working with both the Government of Israel and the Palestinian Authority to try to ensure the situation is resolved quickly and the teenagers are returned to their families,” a US spokesman said.

“Secretary Kerry has ... spoken to President Abbas to urge him to do everything possible to assist in the effort to find them. President Abbas assured him that he is doing so,” Kerry met Israeli chief peace negotiator Tzipi Livni at a conference in London and later also spoke to Netanyahu, an Israeli spokesman said.

“The prime minister said to Kerry: Abu Mazen (Abbas) is responsible for the wellbeing of the missing (boys),” part of the Israeli statement about the conversation said.

Palestinian militants have said in the past that they want to kidnap Israelis to win concessions from the Israeli government.

Union says wage deal to end S African platinum strike is imminent

JOHANNESBURG, 14 June — The leader of South Africa’s AMCU union said on Friday a wage deal with the top three platinum producers was imminent, signalling the end to a crippling five-month strike that has disrupted global output of the metal.

Workers from the Association of Mineworkers and Construction Union (AMCU) begged leader Joseph Mathunjwa on Thursday to end the country’s longest mining strike and sign the latest offer — an increase of about 20 percent, or 1,000 rand (54.7 pounds) a month.

Mathunjwa told Johannesburg radio he would take the offer to more AMCU members at mines on Friday, before meeting with management at Lonmin, Anglo American Platinum and Impala Platinum later or over the weekend to relay the response of his members to their offer.

“At least there is light at the end of the tunnel, which is not the light of a goods train,” he told Talk 702.

The main outstanding sticking point was whether the wage deal should stretch over three or five years, he said.

“We are in quite a sensitive stage of trying to resolve this and reach an agreement. We won’t do things haphazardly,” he said. — Reuters

Israelite soldiers patrol near the West Bank city of Hebron on 13 June, 2014.

Striking platinum miners attend a rally near Lonmin’s Marikana mine on 29 April, 2014. — Reuters

Israel's AMCU union calls off strike to end wage dispute with companies...
Chinese economy improves mildly

BEIJING, 14 June — China’s economy improved mildly in May as retail sales and industrial production edged up although investment slowed slightly, the National Bureau of Statistics said recently.

Retail sales rose 12.5 percent from a year earlier to 2.12 trillion yuan (US$341 billion) last month. The acceleration from the 11.9 percent gain a month earlier. Industrial production added 8.8 percent, slightly faster than April’s 8.7 percent.

Fixed-asset investment growth, however, slowed to 17.2 percent in the first five months from 17.3 percent rise in the January-April period.

“China’s economy is stabilizing,” said Li Mao-yu, an analyst at Changjiang Securities Co. “After the pro-growth policies have deepened further, there will be more signs of recovery.”

Earlier this week, the People’s Bank of China said it will further cut the reserve requirement ratio for targeted banks, the second time it has done so in two months as it bids to support small companies and agriculture.

Seen as part of a mini-stimulus package, the other steps included tax breaks and quicker government spending in railway construction as growth was hit by a property slowdown.

Chang Jian, an economist at Barclays, expects further monetary easing because the central government is serious about achieving the 7.5 percent growth target for 2014.

China’s gross domestic product in the first quarter grew 7.4 percent, the slowest in six quarters and below the government goal.—Xinhua

GM recalls half million Camaros, safety crisis deepens

DETROIT, 14 June — General Motors Co (GM) recalled 511,528 Chevrolet Camaros on Friday for an ignition switch problem similar to the defect linked to at least 13 deaths in Chevrolet Cobalts and other models.

GM said it was aware of minor accidents but no fatalities from the Cama-ro, a sporty two-door car. It said the Camaro switch defect differed from the problem in the Cobalts, but a consumer advocate said GM still should have recalled the Camaros sooner.

GM said a driver’s knee could bump the Camaro key lob and move the ignition switch out of the “run” position, causing the engine to shut off.

The earlier recall of Cobalts and other small cars involved an ignition switch in which a bump of the key lob could turn off the engine, disabling power steering and airbags.

That defect, first observed by GM engineers in 2002, was not reported to consumers for years. Chief Executive Mary Barra in recent months overshadowed the way GM handles safety recalls. The Camaro recall boasts the number of GM vehicles summoned back for switch-related problems to more than 3.1 million as Barra prepares to return to Congress next week to give more testimony on the earlier recall.

It is troubling that GM continues to announce ignition switch-related recalls on late-model vehicles (which raises ques-tions about how pervasive the problem is and why it is taking so long for GM to act,” said Representative Henry Waxman of Californ-ia, the senior Democrat on the House Energy and Commerce Committee that is investigating GM.—Reuters
**Investing in Teacher Education**

By Myo Myint

It is generally acknowledged that investing in education is the best investment for a nation’s future. So too, investing in teacher education can be said to be the best investment for the education sector. This is due to the fact that teachers play an important role not only in providing knowledge to students but also in character building, life skills promotion, and in the long run, building a happy, healthy, peaceful, prosperous, and united nation.

Teacher education usually involves developing mastery of child psycholology, theory of education, teaching methodology, and knowledge of subjects to be taught and teaching practice or classroom experience. However, there are other factors that need to be addressed. Among the important recommendations made for initial teacher education by the UNESCO EFA Monitoring Report 2013/14 report, in 14: TEACHING AND LEARNING: Achieving quality for all, are promotion of equitable learning in students in initial teacher education, preparing teachers to support learners from diverse backgrounds, and making up for weak subject knowledge during initial teacher education when, as part of the thrusts to improve teacher education so that all children can learn.

**SUNDAY, 15 JUNE, 2014**

**Realistic steps should be taken to help Myanmar migrants in Thailand**

By Aung Khin

Media have reported that more than one thousand Myanmar migrants have been arrested in Thailand since early June.

Myanmar and Thai labour officials have agreed to cooperate and provide full labour rights to Myanmar migrants, and to protect them from extortion and employment scams. A team of Myanmar officials began processing applications for migrant workers in early March. However, migrant advocacy groups said that application for a new passport can take up to six months under the new scheme with many complications and demands on documentations that many migrants simply don’t have.

Some Myanmar migrants were arrested while their applications were delayed after the coup of the Thai military.

Although the Thai military insisted that arrest on illegal migrants was authorized, this long-term problem will be a quite complicated issue for the military which on Friday has promised to form an interim government in September at the latest.

Law enforcement should be based on reason, pragmatism and common sense. If a certain law, rules and regulations do not meet the real situations, it is clear that there have been some weaknesses.

Myanmar and Thailand have a long history spanning of cross-border migration. Ethnic groups, especially Kayin, Mon and Shan people have crossed the borders to visit friends, buy goods or seek healthcare services in the past.

Thailand officially opened up its labour market for Myanmar migrants in 1992. The scheme has helped boost the economy of the Kingdom un-
Investing in Teacher ...

(from page 8)

It will be noted that the majority of those who join teacher education institutions are young people of around age seventeen, who have just matriculated. They are of an impressionable age and it is vital that they be provided with the right role models and be familiarized with the values of the Myanmar society and their future students expect from them as teachers and community leaders. In this connection, teacher educators serve a very important function in the all-round development of trainees and it is also essential that the institutions have a well-stocked library that will provide trainees with access to necessary information and guidance.

Just as teacher educators may be equated to a potter, so also the curriculum and teaching materials may be likened to a potter’s wheel that is used to shape the pot. The quality achieved by a teacher is the quality of the potter’s wheel. Hence, it is necessary to ensure that the right questions are asked and the right answers given about the training programme when designing the curricula. For instance, is the programme to train teachers or does it also want to promote continuing education? If it is to do both, does it have adequate time? Can the continuing education component be linked up with what the teacher trainees actually do later in their career? As all teachers will know, since there are no components as such, the focus, it is necessary to ensure that the right questions are asked and the right answers given about the training programme when designing the curricula. For instance, is the programme to train teachers or does it also want to promote continuing education? If it is to do both, does it have adequate time? Can the continuing education component be linked up with what the teacher trainees actually do later in their career? As all teachers will know, since there are no components as such, the focus, it is necessary to ensure that the right questions are asked and the right answers given about the training programme when designing the curricula.

Poverty reduction strategies crucial for delta ...

(from page 3)

U Kyaw Hsan said that the ministry is now upgrading cooperative groups through micro-finance loans by sharing experiences from other successful approaches.

Public digital library service helps raise reading habits of people

Myitkyina, June 14—Myitkyina District Information and Public Relations Department installed the device of public digital library in a 650-metres radius area on their mobile phones and laptops through WiFi system. A similar device was installed at the people’s library of Myitkyina District IPRD on June 1.

In appreciation to all Fathers across the nation

On Father’s Day

June 15, 2014

* Father, you are a great role model to me! All through your career You work smart You work hard

In diligence and perseverance You always stand first

* Integrity and character And the values you treasure You walk the talk

Righteousness along you brought A good legacy to leave behind is your main thought

* You are a special brand A kind so rare and so grand With little or no self-interest

You extend your hand to your best

* You are a top-class leader Yourself, a man of principle Great mentor, coach, advisor and teacher That’s what you are to all your people

* A true scout you stay “Be prepared” is your way With non-stop thinking to serve community For the betterment of mankind and society

* You said I’ve been a blessing from the start And you love me with all your heart The same goes with me “I love you”, too

All my life through.

Aye Phyu

Courses for part-time ...

(from page 1)

The same goes with me

Applicants are required to have completed the training. According to an official of MJI, applicants require K800,000 for the cost of the whole course to join the next part-time diploma course, and plans are underway to launch full-time journalism courses at MJI at the end of the year. MJI was established by the media industry in Myanmar in collaboration with international partners including UNESCO Myanmar, aimed at providing professional qualifications for journalists. —NLM
EU should share out refugees rescued at sea

Roet, 14 June —European Union countries should help Italy absorb the huge number of migrants arriving by boat from North Africa, by agreeing to take in people rescued in international waters, a UN refugee agency spokesman said on Friday.

The EU law governing asylum seekers — the Dublin Regime — requires the country where a person first arrives to handle their application, putting extra pressure on countries, like Italy, on the EU's outer edge to take in migrants.

But those rescued in international waters could be taken in by all EU countries, perhaps according to a negotiated quota system, said Carlotta Sami, southern European spokesperson for the UN High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR).

"This is particularly needed in the case of Syrians, but could be also (done) for other nationalities that in this moment represent very vulnerable groups," she told Reuters.

Last year, the majority of the more than 40,000 migrants who reached Italy by sea were fleeing Syria's civil war and Eritrea's harsh military service. Most of the 366 people who drowned in a ship-wreck off Sicily in October were Eritrean.

So far this year, more than 50,000 people have been rescued by Italy's navy and coastguard, more that reached Italy in the whole of 2013, and the number is set to exceed the 62,000 who came in 2011, at the height of the “Arab Spring” uprisings.

"Asylum claims could be processed jointly by several EU member states, and this could be followed by an assignment of quotas among different states that could host and receive a certain number of refugees," Sami said.

Asylum requests to EU members rose more than 30 percent last year, with Germany receiving almost 100,000 requests from any other country in the world, according to the UNHCR.

On Friday, Germany agreed to take in an additional 10,000 Syrians this year through resettlement, doubling its original offer, far more than any other European country.

About two-thirds of those who arrive in Italy move on to other EU countries, but because of the Dublin Regulation, often are sent back to Italy, where they cannot find jobs or housing.

Italy’s economy has shrunk by more than 9 percent since 2007 and unemployment has soared to levels last seen in the 1970s.

Reuters

Ukraine rebels shoot down military plane, spokesman says 49 dead

KIEV / DONETSK, (Ukraine), 14 June — Forty-nine Ukrainian military personnel were killed when rebels shot down a cargo plane during the night over the airport of the eastern city of Luhansk, a military spokesman said on Saturday.

Luhansk is one of the centers of a pro-Russian separatist movement in Ukraine’s east which has risen up against the pro-European government in Kiev.

"On the night of June 13-14, the terrorists...fired from an anti-aircraft weapon and a large caliber machine gun, shooting down an Il-76 military transport aircraft ... as it was about to land," the Defence Ministry said in a statement.

It gave no death toll but a military spokesman, Vladislav Seleznyov, later said by telephone that 49 had been killed.

The toll would be the biggest suffered by government forces in a single incident since Kiev started a military operation to crush a rebel stronghold in the east of the country, perhaps according to a revised interview on Sunday.

Sami last seen in the 1970s. The country, perhaps according to a revised interview on Sunday.

Other experts said the government forces stormed the rebels after they were surrounded and given 10 minutes to surrender. At least five separatists and two servicemen were killed in the battle before many of the rebels fled. A group of around 100 Mariupol citizens, who had gathered in the town centre to show their opposition to the government’s actions, exchanged obscenities and crude gestures with Ukrainian soldiers, who were driving through town in a column of armoured trucks. —Reuters

Holland urges end to French rail strike, school exams at risk

PARIS, 14 June —The French government called on Friday for a rapid end to one of the longest railway strikes in years but labour unions vowed to prolong industrial action that risks disrupting end-of-school exams for hundreds of thousands of students.

A separate strike by baggage handlers at Charles de Gaulle airport north of Paris looked set to compound disruption on Sunday, with Air France predicting delays but no cuts in flights on a day when 150,000 people travel via France’s main air hub.

Wardi at the SNCF train operator voted to continue their three-day stoppage over a rail reform bill due to go to parliament next week, annoying President Francois Hollande.

"This does not mean the dialogue cannot continue but the time has come and this industrial action must come to an end," Hollande said. Rail services have been cut or scrapped since the strike began on Tuesday evening over plans to boost the SNCF rail operator and the RFF network company under the roof of one holding company while keeping their operations separate. —Reuters

US Democrats have Clinton, but race for Republican presidential contender wide open for 2016

WASHINGTON, 14 June — While it may be a foregone conclusion that former Secretary of State Hillary Clinton will be the Democrats’ pick for the 2016 White House race, the Republican ticket remains wide open, experts said.

To prepare for her race, Clinton is kicking off an unofficial public relations campaign with the recent release of her new book, "Hard Choices," which was followed by a nationally televised interview on Sunday.

But Republicans have no such early starter, although most analysts and pundits at this early stage of the game point to New Jersey Governor Chris Christie.

Appearing on the popular “Late Night with Jimmy Fallon” on Thursday night, the ever-bombastic and colourful governor performed a dance skit parody with the show’s host. When asked whether he could hypothetically beat Clinton in a bid for the White House in 2016, Christie replied, "hypothetically, you bet."

Still, analysts said the Republican Party’s field for the 2016 nomination is far from clear, especially after the recent surprise victory of a relatively unknown Tea Party candidate over House Majority Leader Eric Cantor in Virginia’s Republican primary elections.

Ultimately, the question will be whether a more centrist Republican will win the nomination, or whether candidates such as Senators Ted Cruz or Rand Paul will be able to unite the Tea Party and the Libertarian wing of the party through the primaries, said Dan Mahoney, an analyst with the Center for the Study of the Presidency and Congress.

Other experts said the Republicans will be seeking a candidate to whom ordinary Americans can relate, as Clinton, a former First Lady, is often regarded to be hard to connect with ordinary Americans.

"What the Republic...
Deep underground, water, water everywhere but not a drop to drink

WASHINGTON, 14 June — If you want to find Earth’s vast reservoirs of water, you may have to look beyond the obvious places like the oceans and polar ice caps.

Scientists on Friday said massive amounts of water appear to exist deep beneath the planet’s surface, trapped in a rocky layer near the restrooms. The weight of hundreds of kilometres of rock and very high temperatures above 1,000 degrees Celsius (1,832 Fahrenheit) break down water into its components. And it’s not accessible. It’s not a resource in any way,” Jacobsen added.

Jacobsen said water is taken down into the mantle with minerals during the process known as plate tectonics — the slow, inexorable movement of the tectonic plates that make up the Earth’s surface.

When the minerals containing this water reach certain depths, they break down in a process called dehydration melting, which releases the liquid to form magmas. Such “dehydration melting” is common in the shallow mantle and forms the source for magmas in many volcanoes.

In a study published in the journal Science, the researchers present evidence that this is also occurring much deeper in the mantle in a region called the “transition zone” between Earth’s upper and lower mantle.

“If there is a substantial amount of H2O in the transition zone, then some melting should take place in areas where there is flow into the lower mantle, and that is consistent with what we found,” the research built on another study in March showing that a commercially worthless diamond found in Brazil contained ringwoodite that entrapped water amounting to more than 1 percent of its weight. Ringwoodite has been found in meteorites, but this was the first terrestrial sample because it normally is so deeply buried.

At E3, signs that virtual reality’s time may finally be coming

LOS ANGELES, 14 June — In 2013, Oculus VR’s booth at Electronic Entertainment Expo, the gaming industry’s biggest annual convention, was relegated to a far corner of the showfloor near the restrooms.

What a difference a year makes. At the 2014 expo this week, the startup, which Facebook bought in March for $2 billion, drew crowds of oglers for its latest virtual reality headset, Oculus Rift.

The change is a sign of the rising interest in virtual reality platforms among publishers and developers, who hope the years-old technology — which created a 360-degree view that immerses players in fantasy settings — can finally become a viable platform to reverse shrinking video game industry revenues and draw a new generation of users.

Whether gamers will buy into that remains to be seen, but Facebook’s big bet has jolted gamers and publishers into action. At the expo, known as E3, Sony let gamers try out its virtual reality headset, Project Morpheus, and teased with experiences such as zipping down a highway on a luge. Electronic Arts has dedicated research teams to explore virtual reality, even beyond headsets. Yves Guillemot, chief executive of French video game publisher Ubisoft, told Reuters his company is working on a virtual reality experience that’s “coming soon.”

The chief executive of Oculus, Brendan Iribe, has gone on a hiring spree for engineers, designers and developers to fine-tune the technology, devise more compelling experiences in-house, and convince others to make VR-content.

“The future is now.” Iribe said at the expo.

Some developers say the Rift headset has undergone improvements in display technology in the past six months and is inching closer to overcoming perennial obstacles to mainstream adoption: nausea-inducing motion-blur, uncomfortably grainy displays and sheer bulk. “I have rarely seen this kind of very groundbreaking goodness of developer support,” said Andrew House, group CEO of Sony Computer Entertainment.

Maybe its time has come.”

Oculus and Sony are expected to begin selling their devices next year, but content remains scarce.

Ancient bronze vessel returning home

BEIJING, 14 June — A 3,000-year-old bronze ritual vessel is being brought back to China, almost a century after it left its homeland.

Auction house Christie’s on Thursday handed over the Min Fanglei wine vessel to collectors from central China’s Hunan Province, where it was found by farmers in 1919.

The collectors are donating the vessel to the Hunan Provincial Museum in its capital Changsha.

There it will be reunited with its lid, which has been with the museum for decades.

The vessel, which stands more than 60 centimetres tall, was set to go under the hammer at Christie’s auction in New York on 20 April, but was withdrawn after the group of collectors made a private bid, the auction house said in a statement.

The Hunan collectors reportedly took a 3D printed copy of the lid to New York on 17 March, where they confirmed that it matched the vessel.

It was reported that they bought the vessel for a much lower price than it could have made at auction, although the actual amount was not revealed.

Under the agreement, the vessel, which dates from the 12th or 11th century BC, will never be auctioned or traded again.

Chen Jianming, Hunan museum director, described the reunion as a dream come true.

“The Min Fanglei was unearthed in 1919 in Hunan’s Shuitian Town, but the vessel and its lid became separated during wartime,” he told the China News Service.

The lid has been with the Hunan museum since 1956.

Judge says InterDigital patents not violated by two phone makers

WASHINGTON, 14 June — Handssets made by ZTE Corp and Nokia, now owned by Microsoft Corp, do not violate InterDigital Inc’s patents for wireless phones, a US International Trade Commission judge said in a preliminary ruling released on Friday.

The full commission is expected to issue a final ruling in October.

InterDigital shares plunged more than 10 percent on the ruling, and but they recovered somewhat and were down about 7.3 percent in late-afternoon US trading.

InterDigital said in a statement that it would appeal to the full commission, and potentially to the US Court of Appeals for the Federal Circuit.

“Today’s decision by the administrative law judge is unfortunate, and does not align with the validation of our portfolio and licensing practices that is reflected in our numerous agreements with major wireless companies worldwide,” the company said in a statement.

Initially, Wilmington, Delaware-based InterDigital had sued Samsung Electronics and Huawei for infringement but these two companies opted to settle.

It had accused the companies of infringing on seven patents when the case was filed in 2013, but four dropped out in the course of litigation.

Originally, InterDigital had sued Nokia, which sold its handset business to Microsoft during the course of litigation. That deal closed in April 2014.

Microsoft had no comment on the case, while ZTE did not respond to requests for comment.

The ITC is a popular venue for patent lawsuits because it can ban products that infringe on patents from being imported into the United States more easily than district courts can.

The case at the International Trade Commission is InterDigital Communications v. Nokia Corp and ZTE Corp and is No 337-868.
Afghans vote again in final test as Taliban threats loom

KABUL, 14 June — Afghans headed back to the polls on Saturday for a second round of voting to elect a successor to President Hamid Karzai in a decisive test of Afghanistan’s ambitions to transfer power democratically for the first time in its tumultuous history.

The vote pits former anti-Taliban fighter Abdullah Abdullah against his ex-world Bank economist Ashraf Ghani after neither secured the 50 percent majority needed to win outright in the first round on 5 April.

Voters were not put off by a couple of rockets landing in the capital and some other explosions, forming long queues at polling stations as they tried to claim their democratic right to vote in the final round of the election.

The high turnout of up to 60 percent in the first round of the election was a major test for Taliban insurgents who warned people not to vote in an election they have condemned as a US-sponsored charade.

One person was reported to have been wounded in the blasts in Kabul early on Saturday.

On 6 June, Abdullah survived an assassination attempt when two bombs exploded outside a Kabul hotel where he had just held a rally. Twelve people were killed.

The high turnout of nearly 60 percent in the first round of the election was a major test for Taliban insurgents who warned people not to vote in an election they have condemned as a US-sponsored charade.

Officials in Kabul are haunted by the prospect of a close outcome that could furnish the losing candidate and his supporters with an excuse to reject defeat, and, in the worst scenario, propel the country back into war along ethnic lines.

Rockefeller heir killed in small plane crash near New York City

WHITE PLAINS, (NY), 14 June — The great-grandson of oil tycoon John D. Rockefeller was killed on Friday when his small plane crashed in fog and rain shortly after taking off from a suburban New York airport, a family spokesman and the Federal Aviation Administration said.

Dr Richard Rockefeller, 64, of Falmouth, Maine, was piloting the Piper PA-46 aircraft when it went down about 10 minutes after takeoff from Westchester County Airport in Purchase, 23 miles (37 km) north of New York City, family spokesman Fraser Seitel and the FAA said.

He was the only person on board, according to an FAA statement.

Rockefeller flew to New York on Thursday to have dinner with his father, banker and philanthropist David Rockefeller, who was celebrating his 99th birthday, and was returning home to Maine, Seitel said.

Conditions at the airport on Friday morning were poor, and visibility was low, said Peter Scherrer, the airport’s manager, at a news conference.

“THERE WERE FOGGY CONDITIONS OUTSIDE. YOU CAN ONLY SEE ABOUT A QUARTER MILE DOWN THE RUNWAY,” he said. “THOSE ARE EXTREME CONDITIONS FOR THE AIRPORT.”

Several flights had taken off but many others had been canceled, he said.

“Richard was an experienced pilot, who had flown for many years,” Seitel said.

The FAA and National Transportation Safety Board are investigating the crash.

Rockefeller took off at 8:08 am, but his single-engine plane soon disappeared from radar, the airport manager said.

It crashed into trees on a horse farm about a half mile away in Purchase, New York, 23 miles (37 km) north of New York City, local police said. It broke into many pieces, and debris was spread about 100 feet (30 metres), police said.

The plane narrowly missed a house that was occupied, officials said. Rockefeller was one of six children of David Rockefeller, a former chairman of Chase Manhattan Corporation and grandson of Standard Oil founder John D Rockefeller.

He practiced and taught medicine in Portland, Maine, until 2000, has served on the advisory board to Doctors Without Borders and is a former chairman of the Rockefeller Family Fund, according to his biography on the fund’s website.

Rockefeller frequently flew in and out of the small suburban airport, where about 400 planes take off and land each day, the manager said.—Reuters

Iran’s Rouhani says ready to aid Iraq, nuclear deal by 20 July possible

ANKARA, 14 June — Iran stands ready to help Iraq’s government in its fight against Sunni Muslim insurgents within the framework of international law, although Baghdad has so far not requested assistance, President Hassan Rouhani said on Saturday.

In a Press conference broadcast live on state television, Rouhani also said Iran believed it was possible to conclude a comprehensive agreement ending its nuclear dispute with major powers by a 20 July deadline. Remaining differences could be settled through goodwill and flexibility, he said. Shi‘ite Muslim Iran, which has strong leverage in Shi‘ite-majority Iraq, is so alarmed by the Sunni jihadi front’s advance from Iraq’s north that it may be ready to cooperate with longtime arch-enemy Washington in helping Baghdad fight back.

Senior Iranian officials told Reuters earlier this week that the idea is being discussed within the Tehran leadership. For now, officials say, Iran will send its neighbour’s advisors and weaponry, although probably not troops, to boost Baghdad.

In the nuclear talks the main stumbling block has been the permissible scope of Iran’s uranium enrichment.

Reuters
MINISTRY OF FINANCE
INTERNAL REVENUE DEPARTMENT
INCOME TAX DIRECTORATE
NOTICE FOR FILING OF RETURN OF INCOME
1. All taxpayers under the Income Tax Law including Company, Partnership, Joint-Venture, and Co-operative society, Association of collective farming, Individuals (excluding the heading ‘salary’). Associations formed by individual or by an existing law, those whose income exceeds 1,200,001 Kyats during the income year from 1st April 2013 to 31st March 2014, shall file the return of income, properly filled-in and signed according to the Income Tax Regulations, to the Township Revenue Office and Companies Circle Tax Office, in person or by registered mail. A receipt will be issued by the respective offices in the case of return filed in person.
2. The person, whose income exceeds 1,440,000 Kyats under the heading ‘salary’ during the income year, is not required to file the return of income. However, the employer needs to furnish the Annual Salary Statement to the respective Township Revenue Office.
3. To be Attached to Annual Return
   Financial Report, including the particular forms conducted in the account concerning the business of the Taxpayer as prescribed the Income Tax Regulations, is needed to submit with the return of income.
4. Filing Due Date
   30th June 2014, Monday.
5. Penalty for late filing and non-filing of Annual Returns
   A penalty not exceeding ten percent of the tax shall, in addition to the tax payable, be imposed for default.
6. To get the form of Return and Annual Salary Statement
   Forms of Return and Annual Salary statement are available free of charge at the respective Township Revenue Office or at Companies Circle Tax Office (CCTO) or on official website of the Internal Revenue Department http://www.irddaynmar.gov.mm.
7. Further Information
   Further information can be obtained from the respective Township Revenue Office and from Companies Circle Tax Office.

Kyaw Thant Lwin
Director
Income Tax Directorate

THE REPUBLIC OF THE UNION OF MYANMAR
MINISTRY OF ENERGY
MYANMA OIL AND GAS ENTERPRISE
(INITIATION FOR OPEN TENDER) (12/2014)
Open tenders are invited for supply of the following respective items in United States Dollars.

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<th>Description</th>
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<td>Spares for Perkins Engine Ex 435TC P &amp; H crane (31) Items</td>
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<td>IFB-042(14-15)</td>
<td>Spares for Mitsubishi 6 D B10C-K Engine</td>
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Tender Closing Date & Time : 9-7-2014, 16:30 Hr.
Tender Document shall be available during office hours commencing from 13th June, 2014 at the Finance Department, Myanmar Oil and Gas Enterprise, No (44) Complex, Nay Pyi Taw, Myanmar.

MINISTRY OF FINANCE
INTERNAL REVENUE DEPARTMENT
COMMERCIAL TAX DIRECTORATE
Reminder to Taxpayers to File Annual Returns for 2013-2014 Fiscal Year
1. This is to remind that economic enterprises of the Union Government, State-owned mills and factories, trading and service enterprises, development committees, cooperative societies, individuals, organizations or associations formed by individuals, companies, partnerships and joint-ventures, which have taxable sale proceeds or receipts from services in the 2013-2014 fiscal year (1st April 2013 to 31st March 2014) are required under the Commercial Tax Law, to fill up, sign and file annual returns together with annual financial reports to respective Township Revenue Offices or the Companies Circle Tax Office in person or by registered mail. Taxpayers are also reminded to claim acknowledgement receipts from respective offices in the case of filing the returns in person.
2. For the Cooperative and Private Sectors, Commercial Tax is not assessed if the total sale proceeds or total receipts from services does not exceed each of the following amounts-
   (a) in the case of the goods mentioned in Schedule 2 to Schedule 6 of the Commercial Tax Law, which are produced within the country, the total sale proceeds of Kyat 10 million in a fiscal year.
   (b) in the case of the services mentioned in Schedule 7 of the Commercial Tax Law, the total receipts of Kyat 10 million in a fiscal year.
3. The Last Date of Filing the Returns is 30th June 2014 (Returns may be filed to respective offices until 18:00 hours of 30th June 2014.)
4. Penalty for failure to file returns- For failure to file annual returns within the stipulated period without sufficient cause, a fine equivalent to ten per cent of the additional tax payable after the final assessment of tax.
5. Return forms will be provided free of charge at the respective Township Revenue Offices or Companies Circle Tax Office.
6. Inquiries may be made at the respective Township Revenue Offices or Companies Circle Tax Office or the Tax Service Unit (Yangon), which is situated at No.59/61, Ground Floor, Pansodan Street, Kyauktada Township, Yangon or the Tax Service Unit (Mandalay), which is situated at 65th Street, Between 22nd & 23rd Street, Mandalay.

Soo Naing
Director
Commercial Tax Directorate

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE
MV FRISIA LAHN VOY NO (1438)
Consignees of cargo carried on MV FRISIA LAHN VOY NO (1438) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 15.6.2014 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of MCP 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.

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE
MV PAC AQUILA VOY NO (011)
Consignees of cargo carried on MV PAC AQUILA VOY NO (011) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 15.6.2014 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of B.S.W 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.

People donate blood in Phnom Penh, Cambodia, on 14 June, 2014. The World Blood Donor Day is observed on 14 June every year in Cambodia to raise the awareness about safe blood and to thank the voluntary blood donors.
Rare blue diamond could fetch more than $35 million

London, 14 June — A rare 122.52-carat blue diamond found in South Africa could fetch more than $35 million (20.6 million pounds) for a London-listed mining company.

Only three or four blue diamonds over 100 carats have ever been recovered, according to Cathy Mallins, corporate communications manager at Petra Diamonds Ltd. So far, the highest price on record for a rough diamond is $35.3 million, paid in February 2010 for a 507-carat white stone recovered from the same mine, financiel analyst Martin Potts said in a research note. “We think that this stone may break that record,” he said.

Both diamonds were recovered from the Cullinan mine, the source of many large diamonds, including the largest rough gem diamond ever recovered — the 3,106-carat Cullinan Diamond found in 1905. That diamond was cut into two stones that are part of Britain’s Crown Jewels held in the Tower of London. Petra’s shares rose as much as 7 percent on Friday, making them the top percentage gainer on the FTSE-250 Midcap Index. Petra said it would evaluate the optimal route to market the stone after further analysis to assess its potential value.

Last month, a 100-carat yellow diamond fetched $16.3 million at a Sotheby’s auction in Geneva — the highest amount ever paid for a diamond of that colour. The rough stone was 190 carats. “Given that blue diamonds are rarer, more desirable than both yellow and white stones, we would expect multiples of this in terms of value,” Numis analysts said in a note. “If it comes back from analysis as ‘fancy vivid’ colour then it could blow the roof off.”

Other notable diamonds discovered at the mine include the 25.3-carat Cullinan blue diamond found in 2013, and sold for $16.9 million, and the Star of Josephine diamond recovered in 2008, which sold for $9.49 million. Petra bought Cullinan in 2008. The mine, located at the foothills of the Magaliesberg mountain range northwest of Pretoria, is one of the company’s five producing mines in South Africa. It also has mine in Tanzania.

US joins Jolie’s call to end use of rape in war

London, 14 June — US Secretary of State John Kerry joined Hollywood actress Angelina Jolie and the British government on Friday in calling for action to end the use of rape as a weapon of war.

Closing the world’s first global summit on sexual violence in conflict, Kerry echoed Jolie and British Foreign Secretary William Hague by demanding concrete steps to ensure those responsible for such crimes were punished, and victims helped. The four-day conference has received global attention largely due to the involvement of Jolie, special envoy of the UN High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), who joined forces with Hague in 2012 to tackle sexual violence in conflict. Recent shocking cases of violence against women, including the kidnap of 200 Nigerian girls and the rape and murder of two Indian girls, have also focused attention on the summit. Kerry, who flew into London on Friday, said there was no place in the world for sexual violence as a tool of war.

“It’s time for us, in an age where we see enough of chaos, failed and failing states, to write a new norm, one that protects women, girls, men, boys ... from these unspeakable crimes,” said Kerry, a war veteran with two daughters.

“Ending the cycle of violence is not just a personal priority, it is a priority ... of the US government and its allies.” Up to 1,200 government ministers and officials, lawyers, activists and survivors from over 120 countries attended the summit, which agreed a new set of international guidelines on how to investigate sex crimes, collect evidence and prosecute.

Oprah Winfrey cast in Martin Luther King Jr biopic

Los Angeles, 14 June — Talk show host Oprah Winfrey has joined the cast of Martin Luther King Jr biopic Selma. Oprah, who is also producing the film alongside Brad Pitt, is now set to portray civil rights protestor Annie Lee Cooper, an elderly woman who tried to register to vote and was denied by a sheriff, reports contactmusic.com. The movie will reunite the 60-year-old with her Lee Daniels’ The Butler co-star David Oyelowo, who will play Martin Luther, while Cuba Gooding Jr will star as American civil rights lawyer Fred Gray. British actor Tom Wilkinson has signed on to play former US President Lyndon B Johnson, and Tim Roth will portray controversial US governor George Wallace.

Parineeti Chopra excited about working with her ‘Crush’ Saif Ali Khan

Mumbai, 14 June — Parineeti Chopra has so far not worked with any of the Khan superstars. That’s about to change as she’s doing a movie with Saif Ali Khan, on whom she has a crush since long. Saif’s wife Kareena Kapoor reportedly likes Parineeti’s spunkiness and she thought the Ishqbaaz actress to be ideal for the part in the film that her husband will co-produce and play the lead in.

According to sources, the film is a romantic comedy about two vastly mismatched people who find love under extremely trying circumstances. “I've been a Saif Ali Khan fan for years. He makes me go weak in the knees,” said Parineeti.

“Even as I say it I find it hard to believe (that I’m doing a film with Saif). It will be produced by Saif’s production house Illuminati, What is most interesting is that Saif’s partner Dinesh Vajan will turn director with the film starring Saif and me. So I’ve double reason to be happy and excited.”

Adding to her pleasure is the fact this would be her first film with a Khan. “So far I’ve only worked with the younger heroes, practically all of them from Ranveer Singh to Sushant Singh Rajput to Aditya Roy Kapoor. This is my first film with a Khan superstar. Hopefully, I’ll get to work with the other Khans after this.” —PTI

Ugandan writer wins 2014 Commonwealth Short Story Prize

London, 14 June — A tale about a grieving widow returning to Entebbe airport with her husband’s coffin has earned Ugandan writer Jennifer Nansubuga Makumbi the 2014 Commonwealth Short Story Prize, organizers said on Friday.

Contest judges praised “Let’s Tell the Story Properly” for its grace, breadth and taking risks and selected it as the top story from nearly 4,000 entries from writers in 53 countries.

“This is a dream,” said Makumbi, who is based in England. “For Uganda, once described as a literary desert, it shows how the country’s literary landscape is changing,” she said in a statement.

Novelist and short story writer Romesh Gunesekera presented the award to Makumbi in Kampala on Friday. The Commonwealth Short Story prize identifies original voices from member states of the Commonwealth, independent countries that were formerly under British rule.

Makumbi will receive $5,000 pounds (US$8,483) and her story will be published online by the literary magazine Granta.

Actress and campaigner Angelina Jolie speaks at a global summit on ending sexual violence in conflict, at the ExCel Centre in London on 13 June, 2014. Reuters

Oprah Winfrey cast in Martin Luther King Jr biopic

Oprah is also co-producing the biopic along with actor Brad Pitt. — PTI

Parineeti Chopra

The amazing Spider-Man 3 delayed

Los Angeles, 14 June — The web-casting superhero may not keep his date with London in June 2016 as there are reports that the third film in The Amazing Spider-Man series has been pushed to 2017.

The Marc Webb-directed film, featuring Andrew Garfield as Spider-Man, was originally scheduled to arrive in theatres on 10 June, 2016 but Sony has decided to delay it, according to Ace Showbiz.

Sony may go ahead with The Sinister Six or Venom (2017) first to fill the gap left by Spider-Man. — PTI

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Parineeti Chopra
**Kagawa wants to put Japan on map of world football**

Recife, (Brazil), 14 June — Shinji Kagawa plans to end the four-year wait for his World Cup debut by helping put Japan on the map of global football powers in Brazil.

The Manchester United midfielder said on the eve of Japan’s World Cup opener against Ivory Coast on Saturday that the Blue Samurais, despite their rise in recent years, still have a lot to prove.

Kagawa himself has done a lot of proving since 2010, when he missed Takeaki Okada’s cut for South Africa. He transferred to Borussia Dortmund following the World Cup, which led to his move to Old Trafford two years ago, and he has made the left wing berth his to lose in Alberto Zaccheroni’s first team.

“We want the world to find out about Japan and how well we’re capable of playing,” Kagawa said. “Because I still don’t think we’re that well known yet around the world.”

“We go into the game like we always do through our usual preparations. Naturally, I think each and every one of us feels a bit of pressure because this is a massive tournament.”

“But we’ve got to use that to get the most out of ourselves. We’ve always felt the first game is crucial. We need to have faith in one another and keep fighting.”

Japan’s Group C, which also includes Greece and Colombia, is regarded as being wide open.

“We’ve got to play as a team at both ends of the pitch in order for us to have a chance of winning,” he said. “Everyone has to work hard; it was like that four years ago.”

“Most teams tend to be conservative in the first game. Not a whole lot separates you from the opposition; it’s about concentration, or one lapse of it.”

“We believe we can do it, and we’ve got to believe we can do it. I’m excited.”

Shinji Kagawa

**Suicide car bomb kills five Yemeni soldiers, wounds 10**

Aden, (Yemen), 14 June — A predawn suicide car bomb attack killed on Saturday five Yemeni army soldiers and injured 10 others in the troubled southern province of Abyan, a security official told Xinhua.

“A suicide bomber detonated an explosive-packed vehicle near an army outpost in the Abyan district of Mahfad around 2:30 in the morning, as a result, five army personnel were killed and 10 others injured,” the local security official said on condition of anonymity.

He added suspected members of the Yemen-based al-Qaeda offshoot were behind the large explosion in Mahfad town of Abyan.

Heavy shooting and armed confrontations occurred after the suicide blast, according to local residents.

In the southern port city of Aden, a Somali gunman was killed while trying to infiltrate into Aden International Airport by sea late Friday, a police officer told Xinhua anonymously.

Several towns and provinces in southern and southeastern parts of Yemen have seen growing al-Qaeda-led insurgence for three years.

The Yemeni military and security forces have recently intensified operations against suspect ed al-Qaeda strongholds throughout the country, killing many non-Yemeni al-Qaeda suspects.

Territories in Azan and Mahfad, two of al-Qaeda’s main bastions, have been recaptured by army troops late in May.

ShinUa

**Netherlands outclass reigning champs Spain 5-1 in Group B opener**

Paced by their talismen Arjen Robben and Robin van Persie, Netherlands notched a stunning 5-1 victory against Spain in the Group B opener here on Friday in what was a rematch of the 2010 World Cup final in South Africa. — XINHUA

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**20th Shanghai TV Festival ends**

The 20th Shanghai TV Festival ended in Shanghai, China on 13 June, 2014. — XINHUA

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**Egyptian policeman shot dead in pro-Morsi protest**

Cairo, 14 June — An Egyptian policeman was shot dead here on Friday after dispersing a small protest staged by supporters of the ousted Islamist President Mohamed Morsi, the interior ministry said in a statement.

The police officer was shot in the chest from a rooftop while taking an arrested protestors into a police vehicle, the statement said.

About 50 members of the Muslim Brotherhood, from which Morsi hails, staged the protest at one of Maadi neighborhood in southern Cairo.

Since Morsi’s removal by the military last July, his supporters have been regularly staging such protests, especially on Fridays, Egypt’s weekends, despite a massive security crackdown that left about 1,000 killed and thousands of others arrested over the past 10 months.

But recently, pro-Morsi protests are diminishing due to mounting security measures in the country. — XINHUA

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**2014 World Cup: Netherlands outclass reigning champs Spain 5-1 in Group B opener**

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Xinhua
**ANALYSIS - Spain facing tough choices after Dutch humiliation**

**SALVADOR, (Brazil), 14 June — Chastened Spain coach Vicente del Bosque faces some serious soul-searching after his team of champions were brutally exposed and destroyed 5-1 by Netherlands in a shocking World Cup Group B loss on Friday.**

Spain’s humiliating defeat in Salvador in their opening game, by far the heaviest under Del Bosque since he took over in 2008, was their biggest at a World Cup since they lost 6-1 to Brazil in 1950 and only their fourth competitive loss under the affable 63-year-old. Although the match started well for the holders and they led 1-0 through Xabi Alonso’s penalty, they were ripped to shreds by the rampant Dutch in the second half.

Proven winners of the calibre of goalkeeper Iker Casillas, centre backs Sergio Ramos and Gerard Pique and midfielders Xavi and Alonso were simply brushed aside by their opponents’ intensity and muscular tactics, with Arjen Robben and Rob van Persie in devastating form.

Fans around the world used to watching Spain effortlessly dominating opponents with their “tiki-taka” brand of passing football watched open-mouthed as the Dutch poured forward and repeatedly breached the Spanish line. Although Casillas had a terrible game by his standards, surrendering possession to gift Van Persie his second goal, if it had not been for a number of superb saves the Netherlands could have won even more comfortably. Spain’s desperately rugged performance will leave Del Bosque wondering whether a serious overhaul is needed before they face Chile in their next game on Wednesday. An indication of the scale of Friday’s reverse is that on their way to winning Euro 2008, the 2010 World Cup and Euro 2012, Spain conceded a mere six goals in 19 games.

Del Bosque is unlikely to drop Casillas, the team captain, but Pique could be dropped after the Barcelonan player was made to look slow and witless by the Dutch forwards.

Javi Martinez, a converted midfielder with pace and strength, has looked aspace ased at the back in Spain’s last two warm-up matches and could partner Ramos. In midfield, it might be time for Xavi and Alonso to make way, with Koke and Santi Cazorla the obvious replacements. Reverting to a system without a recognized centre forward, which was so successful at Euro 2012, and playing Cesc Fabregas instead of Diego Costa or Fernando Torres, is another option. “When a team loses a match it’s not just the performance of one single player, it’s a weakness in the whole squad,” Del Bosque told a news conference.

“I feel very upset and disappointed but I have enough experience to understand this defeat,” he added.

“We are all to blame. We have to look ahead and secure a win against Chile.” Del Bosque can take comfort from the fact that Spain lost their opening game at the 2010 World Cup to Switzerland but eventually went through as group winners. However, unless he can find a way to fix what was wrong with the team on Friday, he and his players may find themselves returning to Spain much earlier than anyone expected.

**FIFA referee chief defends contentious penalty in World Cup opener**

**RIO DE JANEIRO, 14 June — The head of refereeing at FIFA on Friday defended a contentious penalty decision during the opening game of the 2014 World Cup between host nation Brazil and Croatia.**

At Thursday’s match at Corinthians arena in Sao Paulo, Japanese referee Yuichi Nishimura ruled that Croatia’s Dejan Lovren had fouled Fred when the Brazilian fell to the floor with 20 minutes remaining and the score at 1-1.

Neymar converted the penalty for his second goal of the game and Brazil went on to win 3-1 in the Group A match against France.

**One of the main talking points after Friday’s game between Mexico and Cameroon at a rain-soaked Dunas arena in Natal was the officiating, after two Giovanni dos Santos efforts were controversially disallowed in the first half.**

Referee Yuichi Nishimura (C) of Japan gestures for a penalty during the 2014 World Cup opening match between Brazil and Croatia at the Corinthians arena in Sao Paulo.

One of the main talking points after Friday’s game between Mexico and Cameroon at a rain-soaked Dunas arena in Natal was the officiating, after two Giovanni dos Santos efforts were controversially disallowed in the first half. **— Reuters**

**Spain’s players react on the bench during their 2014 World Cup Group B soccer match against the Netherlands at the Fonte Nova arena in Salvador on 13 June, 2014.**

**— Reuters**

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**Ayeawady beat defending champion Yangon 3-2**

**Ayeawady United FC defeated a so far victorious Yangon United with a 3-2 win in the 12th fixture of the Myanmar National League on Saturday at Yangon United FC ground.**

Despite securing a record with victories at home matches, the defending champion Yangon United lost as Ayeawady showed off some serious skills, with the goals scored by Naing Lin Oo in the 39th minute, Min Min Thu in the 79th minute and Nanda Lin Kyaw Chit in the overtime. Cezar Augusto scored twice for Ayeawady United in the 80th and 89th minutes.

**By Shite Htet Zaw**