**Myanmar’s economic outlook looks to brighten in 2014**

**By Ye Myint**

YANGON, 18 June—The International Monetary Fund in a statement issued Tuesday predicted Myanmar will see a slight pickup in growth to 8.5 per cent in the current fiscal year, but it stressed the need to ensure the growth is sustainable and inclusive through the “decisive implementation” of a broad range of policy and structural reforms.

The IMF released the statement at the conclusion of a mission led by Matt Davies who held talks with Union ministers, the Central Bank of Myanmar governor and other senior officials, parliamentarians, representatives from the private and civil sectors, donors and the diplomatic community during a June 4-17 visit to Myanmar for the 2014 Article IV Consultation discussions.

Davies, IMF’s Myanmar mission chief, said in the statement inflation is expected to remain around an annual rate of 6.5 per cent this year while increasing capital inflows outweigh a widening external current account deficit and money and credit to the economy will continue to expand at double-digit rates.

But, the IMF warned of risks to the economic outlook, pointing out demand-side pressure on inflation and large capital inflows will strain the still-infant macroeconomic management tools.

With the expected entry of foreign banks to the already rapidly growing financial sector, there will be further demand for macroeconomic policy and scarce supervision capacity will be stretched, it said.

The mission chief, in the statement, highlighted the importance of keeping the deficit ratio under 5 per cent of gross domestic product while also expanding development.

(See page 3)

**Tatkon Township tops two others in selection for World Bank-supported CDD project**

**By Ye Myint**

U Thiha Zaw, deputy administrator of Tatkon Township, told The New Light of Myanmar on Wednesday there should be a focus for better transportation and rural electrification as it can contribute towards higher living standards among people, especially those from village-tracts.

He made the remarks after the township was ranked first in the Nay Pyi Taw Council Area for getting a benefit from a World Bank-supported project.

Topping Lewe and Pyinmana townships, Tatkon was selected as first priority following consultations among 20 groups of stakeholders at a consultation meeting on township selection for the National Community Driven Development Project in Nay Pyi Taw Territory on Tuesday.

For the second year of the community-based project, the meeting followed consultation meetings in Yangon, Sagaing, Magway and Ayeyawady regions and Kayin and Rakhine states, with departmental officials, responsible persons from non-governmental organizations, civil society groups and development partners and local people taking part in the selection process at Myanmar International Convention Centre in Nay Pyi Taw.

(See page 3)
Union Industry Minister meets General Manager of Marubeni Corporation

NAY PYI TAW, 18 June—Union Minister for Industry U Maung Myint met Mr. Tetsuro Terasaki, General Manager of Marubeni Corporation Tokyo Head Office, on Wednesday at the Ministry in Nay Pyi Taw, to discuss bilateral cooperation in manufacturing caustic soda and polyvinyl chloride (PVC) at Caustic Soda Plant which will be constructed in Thaton of Mon State.—MNA

Inauguration of office of Swedish Embassy, providing high awards of honour to Myanmar National held

YANGON, 18 June—The new office of the Embassy of Sweden was officially inaugurated on 6th June at the Nordic House on No.7, Pyithu Lane, 7th mile, Pyay Road in Yangon. On the occasion, Dr Myint Han, Honorary Consul of Sweden was decorated with high awards of honour the “DIPLOM” and “the Royal Order of the Polar Star—Officer First Class” awarded by His Majesty Carl Gustaf XVI, King of Sweden. The decoration was proceeded by Mr. Klas Molin, Swedish Ambassador to Myanmar, in recognition of his long and close relationship with Sweden and of his achievements, services and contributions to Sweden and Myanmar. Dr Myint Han is one of the first Myanmar nationals to receive the high prestigious awards of honour from the King of Sweden.—NLM

Japanese government provides $680,224 for four projects in Sagaing Region, Chin State

YANGON, 18 June—The Food and Hotel Myanmar 2014 kicked off at Myanmar Convention Centre on Mindhamma Road in Mayangon Township on Wednesday. Over 250 companies from 29 countries participated in the Myanmar foodstuff contest, the coffee and beverages contest, the Ahra-ASEAN Bartender contest and the food safety talks.

The Food Science and Technology Association of Myanmar will give educative talks on safety of foods at the meeting hall of MCC on Thursday morning. A total of 150 chefs are taking part in the Myanmar foodstuff contest and 15 in the coffee and beverages contest. Contestants from Laos, Malaysia, Myanmar, the Philippines, Singapore and Thailand will take part in the competition.

Deputy Minister Dr Daw Phyo Zin Thet meets Mr Pacholk Pongpanich, Director of Mumbai-based UPL Limited of India

NAY PYI TAW, 18 June—Deputy Minister for Environmental Conservation and Forestry Dr Daw Phyo Zin Thet met Mr Pacholk Pongpanich, Director of Mumbai-based UPL Limited of India and Tatva Global and Pacific paddy, watercress, dragon fruit and the new export product taro fields at 900-acre farmland in Ottarathiri Township.

The Union Minister also urged the officials to increase export of dragon fruit to the international market and to distribute quality seeds to the farmers. He also viewed the harvesting of Palathwe hybrid summer paddy near Tegyik Village in Zabuthiri Township.—MNA

Ofﬁcials urged to increase exports to international market

Deputy Managing Director U Han Min Lwin of the company presented prizes to five winners. Over K510 million as rewards have been given to winners in the lucky draw programme.—Soe Thaw Zin

Chefs participate in contests in Food and Hotel Myanmar 2014

YANGON, 18 June—A ceremony to award winners in the lucky draw programme organised by Blue Mountain soft drink was held at the hall of Loi Hein Company in Lannmadaw Township on Wednesday.

Deputy Managing Director U Han Min Lwin of the company presented prizes to five winners. Over K510 million as rewards have been given to winners in the lucky draw programme.—Soe Thaw Zin

Lucky draw winners awarded

YANGON, 18 June—As per the agreement of Food and Hotel Myanmar 2014, a contest was held for scrutinizing the environmental conservation law and rules, rules for scrutinizing the environmental impacts, and opportunities for UPL Limited to carry out the tasks related to environmental conservation such as use of chemicals in agriculture sector of Myanmar, and seeds and waste management.

NAY PYI TAW, 18 June—Union Minister for Agriculture and Irrigation U Myint Hlaing urged the experts and market managers to increase export to the markets of Singapore, Thailand and Japan with the use of one village, one product system on Wednesday at a meeting in Nay Pyi Taw.

The Union Minister inspected the thriving of organic fruits Papaya, Palathwe hybrid monsoon fruit, watercress, dragon fruit and the new export product taro fields at 900-acre farmland in Ottarathiri Township.

The Union Minister also urged the officials to increase export of dragon fruit to the international market and to distribute quality seeds to the farmers. He also viewed the harvesting of Palathwe hybrid summer paddy near Tegyik village in Zabuthiri Township.—MNA

Third Secretary of Japanese Embassy Mr Kota Watanabe formally opens new school building in Thantlang Township


The hand-over and opening ceremonies of these four projects were held in Kalay Township in Sagaing Region and Falam, Haka and Thantlang Townships in Chin State on 14th, 15th and 16th June 2014 respectively.

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EU recognizes achievements of reform process in Myanmar

NAY PYI TAW, 18 June—President U Thein Sein received EU Ambassador Mr. Roland Kobia at the hall of the Presidential Palace in Nay Pyi Taw on Wednesday to hold talks about assistance of the European Union for reforming the Myanmar Police Force to become the international level police force and local peace-making process. They also discussed assistance for the peaceful coexistence among both communities in Rakhine State and development affairs, the recognition of the EU over the achievements of reform process in Myanmar, and more cooperation in all sectors.

MNA

President U Thein Sein shakes hands with EU Ambassador
Mr. Roland Kobia at the hall of the Presidential Palace in Nay Pyi Taw.—MNA

Construction plans for more hydropower plants set

NAY PYI TAW, 18 June—Deputy Minister for Electric Power U Maw Thar Htwe on Wednesday said hydropower is a renewable energy that will not lose water resources, adding plans are underway to construct more hydropower plants in the future.

During the 10th session of First Pyidaungsu Hluttaw, the deputy minister said the installed capacity in Myanmar now is 4,362 MW from all hydropower sources.

The Ministry of Electric Power has estimated electricity demand will increase 13 per cent each year, and that plans are being made to reserve 30 per cent of electricity.

U Maw Thar Htwe also said the ministry has drawn a master plan based on stability, low cost and conservation of natural and Myanmar’s economic...

(from page 1)

spending, saying that requires increased tax revenues and relies on policy reforms that create a system that is easy to comply with and enforce, with minimal exceptions.

The IMF also suggested the issuance of new domestic licenses should be carefully controlled to allow supervision capacity to develop and to minimize risks.

According to the statement, the IMF pledged to continue to work with the authorities on macroeconomic policies and reform and intensify technical assistance and training in Myanmar.

The government’s growth forecast of 8.5 per cent for Myanmar is higher than the 7.8 per cent IMF forecast at the 2014 Asia and Pacific Regional Economic Outlook press briefing in April.

Tatkon Township tops two... (from page 1)

Through the project financed by the World Bank with $80 million, all village tracts in a selected township will be able to roll out their own small infrastructure projects following community level consultations.

“Tatkon Township was chosen to be covered by the project as it has not yet received foreign aid before”, said the official.

Only four of 49 village tracts have access to electricity while urban wards have power supplies, he added.

One of eight townships in Nay Pyi Taw, the Tatkon township is famous and relies on policy making due to its location and local people to avoid future problems.

The first feasibility test was conducted by Kingbao Mining Ltd of China, but the company had to stop its tests due to the lack of technology.—MNA

Republic of the Union of Myanmar
President Office (Order No. 9/2014)
6th Waning of Nayon, 1376 M.E
(18 June, 2014)

Resignation of deputy minister allowed

Under the Sub-section (b) of the Section 235 of the Constitution of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar and the Sub-Section (b) of the Section 68 of the Union Government Law, Deputy Minister for Education Dr Myo Myint has been allowed to resign of his own volition.

Sld/ Thein Sein
President
Republic of the Union of Myanmar

Republic of the Union of Myanmar
President Office (Order No. 10/2014)
6th Waning of Nayon, 1376 M.E
(18 June, 2014)

Appointment of deputy minister

Under the Sub-sections (a) and (d) of the Section 234 of the Constitution of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar and Para (9), Sub-section (b) of the Section 16 of the Union Government Law, Deputy Minister at the President Office (1) U Thant Shin has been appointed as Deputy Minister for Education.

Sld/ Thein Sein
President
Republic of the Union of Myanmar

Republic of the Union of Myanmar
President Office (Order No. 11/2014)
6th Waning of Nayon, 1376 M.E
(18 June, 2014)

Former military duties assigned

Deputy Minister for Border Affairs Maj-Gen Maung Maung Ohn was assigned to former military duties.

Sld/ Thein Sein
President
Republic of the Union of Myanmar

Republic of the Union of Myanmar
Union Government Notification (No. 40/2014)
6th Waning of Nayon, 1376 ME
(18 June, 2014)

Presidential Advisory Group extended and duty assigned to new members

The Presidential Advisory Groups appointed under notification No. 1/2011 of the Union Government dated 19-4-2011 were extended and those in the list were assigned duties as leaders and members in various advisory groups of the President.

(1) Thura U Myint Maung Luon—Leader (Retired minister)

Religious Affairs Advisory Group

(2) U Sein Win Aung—Member (Retired ambassador)

Religious Affairs Advisory Group

(3) Dr Nu Nu Thar—Member (Retired Medical Superintendent)

Health Advisory Group

(4) Dr Yin Yin Nwe—Leader (Retired UNICEF staff)

Education Advisory Group

(5) Dr Kyaw Yin Hlaing—Member

Education Advisory Group

(6) U Tin Htut Oo—Member (Retired Director-General)

Economic Advisory Group

By order,

Zaw Than Thinn
Secretary
Union Government
Outstanding athletes with disabilities honoured in Mandalay

Mandalay, 18 June—Mandalay Region Social Welfare Department and Myanmar Disabilities Association (Mandalay) jointly organized the ceremony to honour the athletes with disabilities who secured prizes in the SEA Paralympics Games at the city hall in Mandalay on Tuesday.

Mandalay Region minister for Planning and Economic U Aung Zan and Chairman of the association U Myat Oo extended greetings.

Advocate-General of the region U Ye Aung Myint and officials presented equipment for the disabled and prizes to the outstanding athletes in the SEA Paralympics Games. The chairman and executives of the association through officials, Thiha Ko ko (Mandalay) gave cash assistance and stationery to the students with disabilities.

The Mandalay Region government, the Mandalay City Development Committee and wellwishers donated cash to the fund of the association through officials.

Action taken against illegal walkie-talkie owner

Mandalay, 18 June—A traffic police squad found a vehicle that stopped the roadside to the Mandalay Region government office on 64th street between 24th and 25th streets in Aungmyethazan Township of Mandalay on 16 June midnight.

With the assistance of the Mandalay City Development Committee, the police brought the car to the police station by crane. They found one Icon IC-V83 walkie-talkie, battery charger, one passport for Myanmar-China border, one green jerkin, one travel bag and other equipment on board. According to the investigation, the vehicle was owned by U Naing Htwe, 46 of 22nd street between 63rd and 64th streets in Maha Zeyabon Ward in Aungmyethazan Township. After observing the gold mining industries in Kawlin, he stopped the vehicle there due to the engine failure. The walkie-talkie was used at his shop in addition to three other machines. The devices can be used in 400 feet radius area.

Township authorities manage repaving road in Hlinethaya

Yangon, 18 June—Under the instructions of Yangon Region Development Affairs Committee, officials and staff from the Engineering Section of Hlinethaya Township are making strenuous efforts for timely completion of upgrading the 3,300 foot long Bo Aung Kyaw Road in Hlinethaya Township in Yangon to a concrete one starting on Monday.

Those also made a sanitation tasks in drains for proper flow of water in front of the No. 22 Basic Education Middle School (Branch) in the township on Tuesday—Min Htet Paing (Hlinethaya)

Modern farming technology introduced to farmers in Nay Pyi Taw

Nay Pyi Taw, 18 June—Head of Ottara District Agriculture Department U Win Oo urged the farmers to grow special high-yield Palethwe hybrid paddy strain through good agricultural pattern on Sunday at the educative talks at the hall of Aungthukha village in Pobbathiri Township in Nay Pyi Taw Council Area.

He also clarified use of quality paddy strain, systematic use of fertilizers, irrigation facilities and production process of Palethwe hybrid paddy seeds in Aungthukha Village.

Departmental officials replied to queries raised by the farmers and fulfilled their needs—Ko Pauk (Okkar Myay)

Public service librarian course conducted in Nay Pyi Taw

Nay Pyi Taw, 18 June—In order to realize the process and management of a library, the Information and Public Relations Department conducted public service librarian course at the hall of the monastery in Pobbathiri Township in Nay Pyi Taw Council Area recently. The course was also aimed at successfully upgrading the village’s library to a modern one. Officials and staff from Township IPRD gave lectures on the duty and functions of librarian and compilation of catalogue to 20 trainees.

MEB presents cash assistance, stationery to students in Sagaing

Monywa, 18 June—A ceremony to provide cash assistance and stationery to offspring of staff was held at the Myanmar Economic Bank in Sagaing of Sagaing Region in early June.

General Manager U Than Lwin Oo of MEB (Head Office), Sagaing Region Manager U Aye Kyaw and officials presented 258 dozens of copy books, 108 dozens of ball-pens, 108 dozens of pencil and 22 dozens of eraser and K420,000 to students and 14 staff.—District IPRD

Stake driven for self-reliant rural health branch

Mingin, 18 June—A ceremony to drive stake for construction of the rural health branch was held in Thinbaw Village of Mingin Township in Sagaing Region recently.

Townsenders and local authorities drove stakes for the building—Chindwin Thar (IPRD)

BEMS in Kawkareik Tsp upgraded as high school branch

Kawkareik, 18 June—The Basic Education Middle School in Dawphya Village in Kawkareik Township of Kayin State was upgraded to a high school branch on Tuesday, said Headmistress Daw Nyo Nyo Oo at the inaugurating ceremony of the school.

She also explained the condition of the school to the attendees before the Deputy Commissioner of Kawkareik District and officials formally opened the school.

Soe Htet Aung (IPRD)

Staff of Natmauk Township Information and Public Relations Department change old books with S2014 books and publications at mini book corners in public places in Natmauk Township of Magway Region recently.

NATMAUK TOWNSHIP IPRD
**Regional**

**Bangkok, 18 June** — For more than three decades, Chalad Vorachat’s hunger strikes have drawn crowds. Once, he even helped topple a government.

But this time, the veteran Thai anti-coup campaigner says he’s contemplating a very different outcome: wasting away unnoticed on a Bangkok pavement.

He wants to see Thailand’s military, which took power following a November coup, usher in a democratically elected government.

“If it doesn’t happen soon, then I’ll have to sacrifice my life,” he told Reuters outside Bangkok’s parliament building, where he sits beside plastic wreaths symbolizing the death of democracy and subsists on honey and water.

“If I don’t die, then I win. And if I do die, I also win,” he said, a smile flickering across his face.

Chalad, 71, embodies the vicious cycle that is Thai politics. Since 1980, the former Democrat Party lawmaker has refused food as a form of protest against everything from oil prices to constitutional amendments. He was thrust into notoriety in 1992, when a hunger strike against then-Prime Minister General Suchinda Kraprayoon, who took power following a coup, prompted a protest march led by the BBS or supporters of a former monk, who is today at the center of an anti-government rally.

Chalad was accompanied by just two supporters.

Manila seeks early tribunal ruling over sea dispute with China

**Manila, 18 June** — The Philippines said it will ask an international arbitration tribunal to make a speedy ruling on its dispute with China over expelling waters in the South China Sea after Beijing refused to take part in the proceedings.

Foreign Minister Albert del Rosario said Manila might also ask the United Nations arbitral court in The Hague to issue an order that would halt Chinese reclamation work in contested waters, such as on Johnson South Reef and Fiery Cross Reef in the Spratly archipelago.

Manila is seeking confirmation at the tribunal of its right to exploit waters in its 200-nautical mile exclusive economic zone as allowed under the UN Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS).

Earlier this month, China rejected a notice from the tribunal which gave Beijing until December to reply to the first international case filed against it over the potentially energy-rich waters.

“Because China is not participating and because the situation is getting worse every day in the South China Sea, I am asking our (legal) team in the US if we can present a request to the tribunal to hasten the process,” del Rosario said late on Tuesday.

China has said all along it will not cooperate, preferring a bilateral approach to resolving conflicts. In March, Manila made its formal submission to the tribunal.

China claims 90 percent of the South China Sea. The Philippines, Malaysia, Vietnam, Brunei and Taiwan also have claims over the waters, where about $5 trillion in ship-borne trade passes every year.

Del Rosario said China was rushing construction activity before the tribunal handed down its ruling, adding the Philippines could ask the tribunal to order China to halt such work in disputed areas while Manila’s complaint was being heard.

Legal experts, however, have said any decision from the tribunal would be effectively unenforceable as there was no body under UNCLOS to police such rulings.

Del Rosario has called for a moratorium on all activities in the South China Sea that could escalate tensions, proposing more dialogue between China and the Association of South East Asian Nations (ASEAN).—Reuters

US condemns Sri Lanka violence, says minorities must be protected

**Washington, 18 June** — The United States on Tuesday condemned religious violence in Sri Lanka and called on the government to fulfill its obligations to protect religious minorities.

At least three Muslims were killed and 75 people seriously injured in violence that erupted on Sunday between Buddhists and Muslims in southern Sri Lankan coastal towns, officials and residents said.

It was part of an increasing pattern of violence against Muslims in Sri Lanka since 2012.

US State Department spokeswoman Jan Psaki said Washington was concerned by inflammatory rhetoric that had incited the violence.

“We urge the Sri Lankan government to fulfill its obligations to protect religious minorities, including protecting all citizens and places of worship, conducting a full investigation into the violence and bringing those responsible to justice,” she told a regular briefing.

“We also urge all sides to refrain from violence, exercise restraint and respect the rule of law.”

Amnesty International said it was the worst outbreak of communal violence in Sri Lanka in years and there was a real risk of it spreading further. The rights group said the Sri Lankan authorities must act immediately to end the anti-Muslim violence and to rein in groups targeting religious minorities.

“Eyewitness reports that police have stood by and refused to intervene in the violence are very troubling and must also be investigated.”

Amnesty’s Deputy Asia Pacific Director David Griffiths said in a statement.

“Security forces have a duty to protect the right of everyone to life and security regardless of their beliefs or identity.”

The clashes erupted on Sunday in Aluthgama and Beruwela, two Muslim-majority towns on the Sinhalese-dominated southern coast, during a protest march led by the hardline Buddhist group Bodu Bala Senna (BBS), or “Buddhist power force”.

Many independent analysts say well-coordinated violence against Muslims and Christians appears to have tacit state backing as those involved in previous attacks have yet to be punished.

The government denies any collusion.

A Reuters team in Aluthgama and Beruwela witnessed an uneasy calm and a heavy police presence, with Muslims worried for their safety, many of them sitting on the road in front of their ruined houses. Reuters reporters counted 16 houses gutted by fire.

Many residents said the police directly and indirectly helped the BBS organization. Police rejected the claim.

The BBS has said its members came under attack when they were protesting peacefully against an assault on a Buddhist monk by a Muslim youth three days earlier.

The Colombo government has been strongly criticized by the United States and other Western governments and the United Nations for alleged rights abuses in fighting the Tamil Tigers in a 2009 offensive. The United Nations is launching an investigation into alleged war crimes.

The government has said it will not cooperate with the inquiry and it has rejected Western calls for demilitarization in the former conflict zone.—Reuters
Baghdad, 18 June — Iraqi Prime Minister Nuri al-Maliki broadcast a joint appeal for national unity on Tuesday with bitter Sunni critics of his Shi'ite-led government — a move that may help him win US help against rampant Islamists threatening Baghdad.

Just hours after Maliki's Shi'ite allies had angrily vowed to boycott any cooperation with the biggest Sunni party and his government had accused Sunni neighbours Saudi Arabia of backing "genocide," the premier's visibly uncomfortable televised appearance may reflect US impatience with its Baghdad protege.

In a rerun of previous failed efforts at bridging sectarian and ethnic divisions, Shi'ite, Sunni and Kurdish leaders met behind closed doors and then stood frostily before cameras as Maliki's Shi'ite predecessor Ibrahim al-Jaafari read a statement denouncing "terrorist powers" and supporting Iraqi sovereignty.

US President Barack Obama is considering military options to push back al-Qaeda splinter group the Islamic State of Iraq and the Levant (ISIL), which has swept the Sunni north of the country over the past week as the Shi'ite-led government accused Saudi Arabia for supporting militants in the past, but the language was unprecedented.

On Monday, Riyadh blamed sectarianism in Baghdad for fuelling the violence.

Maliki, who has been booted by a call by Iraq's senior Shi'ite cleric for citi- zens to rally to the armed forces, dismissed four generals for abandoning the big northern city of Mosul a week ago and said they would face court martial.

Scores were killed and wounded when ISIL fighters who aim to build a Muslim caliphate across the Iraqi-Syrian frontier launched their revolt by seizing Mosul and swept through the Tigris valley towards Baghdad.

The fighters, who consider all Shi'ites to be her- etics deserving death, pride themselves on their brutality and have boasted of massacre of hundreds of troops who surrendered.

Western countries, including the United States, have urged Maliki to reach out to Sunnis to rebuild national unity as the only way of preventing the dis- integration of Iraq. "There is a real risk of further sec- tarian violence on a mas- sive scale, within Iraq and beyond its borders," UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon said. "I have been urging Iraqi government leaders including Prime Minister al-Maliki to reach out for an inclusive dialogue and solution of this issue."

But the prime minis- ter, in power for eight years and effective winner of a parliamentary election two months ago, seems instead to be relying more heavily than ever on his own sect, who form a majority long opposed to US occupation of Saddam.

Though the joint state- ment late on Tuesday said only those directly em- ployed by the Iraqi state should bear arms, thousands of Shi'ite militiamen have been mobilised to defend Baghdad. The sudden ad- vance by Sunni insurgents has the potential to scram- ble alliances in the Middle East, with the United States and Iran both saying they could cooperate against a common enemy, all but un- precededed since the 1979 Iranian revolution. Iran, whose Shi'ite power has close ties to Maliki and the Shi'ite parties that have won elections since US forces toppled Saddam in 2003. Although both Wash- ington and Teheran are al- lies of Baghdad, they have not cooperated in the past but diplomats discussed Iraq briefly on Monday in Vienna.

Sunni militants control “75 percent” of Iraq's Baiji refinery

Baghdad, 18 June — Sunni militants have taken control of most of Iraq’s largest oil refinery, located in Baiji in northern Iraq, an official at the refinery said on Wednesday.

“The militants have managed to break in to the re- finery. Now they are in control of the production units, administration building and four watch towers. This is 75 percent of the refinery,” an official speaking from inside the refinery said.

He says clashes continue near the main control room with security forces. —Reuters

Maliki stands with Sunni leaders, appealing for Iraqi unity

Jerusalem, 18 June — Israel re-arrested 51 Pale- stinians freed in a 2011 prisoner swap deal, the army said today. The West Bank operation was the sixth in a hunt for three missing teenagers believed abducted in the occupied territory.

Israel accuses Hamas Islamists of kidnapping the seminary students, who disappeared on Thursday while hitchhiking from a Jewish settlement. There has been no word from them since, nor any pub- lic claim of responsibility or ransom demands — in- cluding by Hamas, though neither has it denied involve- ment.

A military spokesman said more than 65 Pale- stinians were detained overnight, including 51 who were part of a group of 1,027 prisoners released by Israel three years ago in return for soldier Gilad Shalit, who was seized by Hamas in 2006.

“We have two efforts ongoing in parallel. First is to bring back the boys, and the second is to take a toll on Hamas for its ac- tions,” spokesman Lieu- tenant-Colonel Peter Lern- er said.

Palestinians said the majority of those re-ar- rested were affiliated with Hamas, and accused Is- rael of reneging on the prisoner-swap deal, which was partially brokered by Egypt.

“What Israel is doing has nothing to do with se- curity, but is a policy of revenge,” said Qadoura Fares, chairman of the Pal- estinian Prisoners Club, which advocates on behalf of Palestinians in Israeli custody.

An Egyptian official said that Cairo, which is in contact with Hamas and other Palestinian factions, was helping Israel gather information that might lead to the missing teen- agers. But the official, who spoke to Reuters on condition of anonymity, denied Israeli and Palestinian me- dia reports that Egyptian mediation was already un- der way to return the boys.

There is a flow of in- formation (between Egypt and Israel), but we are still short of information, so there is no negotiation,” the official said.

Israel wants to make clear to Hamas it will pay a high price for the ab- duction. Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahau was swift to praise the latest arrests, which brought the total number of those de- tained to 240.

The operation ton- night in which Hamas terrorists were arrested, including some who had been freed in exchange for the return of Gilad Shalit, is a component with an im- portant message in a series of many actions," he said in a statement.

Israel re-arrests former Palestinian prisoners in hunt for teens

Israeli soldiers take part in an operation to locate three Israeli teens in the West Bank City of Hebron on 17 June, 2014. —Reuters

“The operation to- night in which Hamas terrorists were arrested, including some who had been freed in exchange for the return of Gilad Shalit, is a component with an im- portant message in a series of many actions," he said in a statement.
Obama moves to protect vast Pacific Ocean areas

WASHINGTON, 18 June — The White House on Tuesday unveiled efforts to expand protection of vast areas of the Pacific Ocean controlled by the United States from over fishing and environmental damage.

President Barack Obama’s proposal, to go into effect later this year, would create a vast marine sanctuary and is part of an effort to safeguard more ocean territory, which is under threat from several factors including overfishing and climate change, the White House said.

The announcement, part of the president’s national ocean policy, coincided with an oceans conference held by the State Department on Monday and Tuesday at which Secretary of State John Kerry called for a global effort to protect the world’s oceans, which cover more than 70 percent of the planet.

“We’ve already shown that when we work together, we can protect our oceans for future generations. So let’s redouble our efforts,” Obama said in a statement.

The president’s plan would expand the Pacific Remote Islands Marine National Monument from its current area of 87,000 square miles and would affect seven islands and atolls controlled by the United States.

The coral reefs and marine ecosystems of this section of the south-central Pacific Ocean are some of the most vulnerable areas to climate change and ocean acidification, the White House said.

The president will also direct federal agencies to create a comprehensive program to prevent illegal fishing and stop illegally caught fish from being sold, a move designed to spur the market for sustainably caught seafood.

“Because our seafood travels through an increasingly complex and non-transparent supply chain, there are numerous opportunities for seafood fraud to occur and illegally caught fish to enter the US market,” said Beth Lowell, campaign director at the ocean conservation group Oceana.

Obama also announced measures to protect coastal communities vulnerable to climate change, including an offer of $102 million in grants to restore flood plains and natural barriers along the Atlantic coast, and released a paper detailing the impacts of ocean acidification.

The measures will be carried out by executive order, and do not require congressional approval.

A comment period over the summer will allow the Commerce and Interior departments to hear objections and fine-tune the plan. In addition to the White House measures, actor and environmental activist Leonardo DiCaprio announced that the ocean conference his foundation will pledge $7 million to support ocean conservation programs over the next two years.

DiCaprio previously gave Oceana a $3 million grant to back their efforts to support sharks, marine mammals, and key ocean habitat in the Eastern Pacific.

Benghazi suspect was planning more attacks on Americans

UNITED NATIONS, 18 June — The United States told the Security Council that a suspected ring leader of the deadly 2012 attack on its diplomatic compound in Benghazi, Libya had been planning to target more Americans and that justified his capture.

In a letter obtained by Reuters on Wednesday, US Ambassador to the United Nations, Samantha Power, notified the council of the capture on Sunday of Ahmed Abu Khatallah by US special forces in Libya after an investigation identified him as a key figure in the 2012 attack that killed four Americans.

“The investigation also determined that he continued to plan further armed attacks against US persons,” Power wrote in the letter dated on Tuesday.

“The measures we have taken to capture Abu Khatallah in Libya were therefore necessary to prevent such armed attacks, and were taken in accordance with the United States’ inherent right of self-defense,” she wrote.

Power said the United States was reporting the capture of Khatallah to the Security Council under Article 51 of the UN Charter, which requires that the body be notified immediately of measures taken by states in self-defense against armed attack.—Reuters

Cameron may fail to stop Junker getting EU job, ex-UK PM Major says

LONDON, 18 June — British Prime Minister David Cameron may fail to stop Jean-Claude Juncker from becoming European Commission president but it is conceivable, for the wrong reasons, that Europe might elect the wrong candidate for the European Commission presidency Jean-Claude Juncker arrives at an European People’s Party (EPP) meeting in Brussels, ahead of an informal dinner of EU leaders on 27 May, 2014.—Reuters

Candidate for the European Commission presidency Jean-Claude Juncker arrives at an European People’s Party (EPP) meeting in Brussels, ahead of an informal dinner of EU leaders on 27 May, 2014.—Reuters

Candidate for the European Commission presidency Jean-Claude Juncker arrives at an European People’s Party (EPP) meeting in Brussels, ahead of an informal dinner of EU leaders on 27 May, 2014.—Reuters

Cameron may fail to stop Junker getting EU job, ex-UK PM Major says

London, 18 June — British Prime Minister David Cameron may fail to stop Jean-Claude Juncker from becoming European Commission president but Britain will be able renegotiate a new settlement with the European Union, former Prime Minister John Major has said.

Cameron, who wants to renegotiate Britain’s ties with the EU and hold an in-out referendum on membership by the end of 2017, has publicly opposed Juncker, the former prime minister of Luxembourg.

Some other European leaders privately share Cameron’s reservations about appointing Juncker but Cameron has risked irritating German Chancellor Angela Merkel with his implacable opposition to Juncker.

“I do not think he is the right candidate but it is conceivable, for the wrong reasons, that Europe might elect the wrong person to the interests of a particular country they often seek both subliminally and publicly to make that right in some other way.”

Major said he thought Cameron would be able to secure a new settlement with the European Union and that British voters would then vote to stay in the European Union.

“The question is: Can we get a satisfactory negotiation along the lines that Britain has been talking about and my answer to that is categorically ‘Yes’.”

Disagreements over Britain’s relations with Europe helped bring down Major’s predecessor Margaret Thatcher in 1990, and convulsed the Conservatives throughout Major’s time in office when he faced repeated rebellions by Eurosceptic party members.

Putin, Poroshenko discuss possible ceasefire in east Ukraine

MOSCOW, 18 June — Russian President Vladimir Putin and his Ukrainian counterpart, Petro Poroshenko, discussed a possible ceasefire in eastern Ukraine and the deaths of two Russian journalists there in a late night telephone conversation, the Kremlin said.

The conversation “touched on the theme of a possible ceasefire in the area of military action in southeastern Ukraine”, the Kremlin said in a statement.

It also said Putin had expressed his concern over the deaths of two Russian state television journalists, who were killed in shelling in clashes between Ukrainian forces and pro-Russian separatists near the eastern city of Luhansk.

Poroshenko expressed his condolences and assured Putin there would be an investigation and measures would be taken to protect journalists.—Reuters
**Fundamentals needed for Myanmar media industry**

By Aung Khin

The international community has been full of praise for democratic reform in Myanmar after the country’s 2010 General Elections and the newly elected government was born in 2011. And since then, some foreign-based news organizations have rushed to forge cooperation with their local counterparts.

And although foreign news media have understood the situation for Myanmar’s media industry, they have invested or supported with money, technology and training. But the matter of human resource development is still a problem in this industry. From reporting to printing and marketing, Myanmar media groups are facing a lack of experience and expertise compared to their foreign counterparts.

What leaves us with a lack of good media skills? While media groups in neighbouring countries were enjoying support ranging from information and communication technology to journalism training, Myanmar journalists were still trying to present the news in tactical ways to avoid rules and regulations of the press scrutiny board. This meant there was a lack of motivation for young journalists to study journalism skills.

When working with foreign editors, they give suggestions and make corrections in the news presentation style of local newspapers, but often they also need multiple sources and background information to meet international norms for news stories.

The situations here are very different. Many news sources are very often reluctant to comment on sensitive stories except to push their own interests or propaganda. Moreover, most of the local media cannot set up database system to get facts and figures as it is very expensive.

News media should have efficient tax exemptions to bring in essential facilities. Journalists should acquire effective training in journalism skills and have codes of ethics to avoid lawsuits from both the authorities and business firms.

Only when the flow of information is smooth, will journalists have more confidence in their profession. Myanmar people are not inferior to foreigners in various sectors, but they do need support such as research, training, encouragement and so on to preserve the dignity of the profession!

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**Trade and Investment Framework Agreement discussed**

Nay Pi Taw, 18 June—Deputy Minister for National Planning and Economic Development Daw Le Le Thein, Deputy Minister for Commerce Dr Pwint Hsan, Deputy Minister for NPED Dr San Lwin and officials held a meeting with Deputy Assistant of Trade Representative Mr Karl Ehlers and party of the US at the Ministry of NPED in Nay Pi Taw on Tuesday.

They focused on promotion of trade and investment of the US in Myanmar for implementation of the Trade and Investment Framework Agreement between the Government of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar and the Government of the United States-TIFA.

They discussed the Myanmar trade policies concerning the WTO Trade Policy Review, import licence issues, drawing the intellectual property rights law, promotion and easing investment for cooperation opportunities between the two countries and extension of ASEAN and E3 affairs between the ASEAN and the US.—MNA

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**GOLD PRICE, FE RATE (18-6-2014)**

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**Myanmar, India to establish Myanmar Institute of Information Technology in Mandalay**

Nay Pi Taw, 18 June—The cornerstone laying ceremony for the six-storey building of Myanmar Institute of Information Technology was held on 73rd Street between Ngushwewah and Khaingshwewah streets in Chanmyathazi Township on Tuesday.

The university jointly established by Myanmar and India is aimed at conducting education and research works on information technology according to the cooperation agreement between the two countries, said Dr Ko Ko Oo, Union Minister for Science and Technology on the occasion.

The university will employ workers from Myanmar and India.

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**Knowledge about labour affairs shared to employers, employees**

Yangon, 18 June—The Ministry of Labour, Employment and Social Security held a talk on labour affairs at the hall in Yangon Industrial Zone on Monday with the aim of enabling the employers and employees to abide by the labour laws and declining labour disputes between the employers and employees.

Entrepreneurs need to consider the corporate social responsibilities (CSR) without focusing on the benefit in the production, said Union Minister for Labour, Employment and Social Security U Aye Myint speaking at the talk on labour affairs at Yangon Industrial Zone.—MNA

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**Perspectives**

Thursday, 19 June, 2014

Fundamentals needed for Myanmar media industry

By Aung Khin

The international community has been full of praise for democratic reform in Myanmar after the country’s 2010 General Elections and the newly elected government was born in 2011. And since then, some foreign-based news organizations have rushed to forge cooperation with their local counterparts.

As the minimum wages law and rules have been issued, the national committee and the region/state committees were formed for the minimum wages. Officials held discussions on the designation of minimum wages in regions and states. All are to take care of too high and too low amount of the minimum wages, he said.

Departmental officials held talks about the EC treaty and labour organization laws, matters related to the labour laws, the social security law and the solving labour disputes. It was attended by 127 representatives of employers and employees from Mandalay, Yangon and Pynnabar in industrial zones.—MNA

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**Write for us**

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

Yadanabon Zoo allows visitors by car, motorcycle

 Mandalay, 18 June—The Wildlife Conservation Division of the Ministry of Environmental Conservation and Forestry leased Yadanabon Zoological Gardens to Htoo Company through a long-term contract.

 Cash donated to education and health foundation in Dala

 Dala, 18 June—U Moe Hsain and wife Daw Ohmna Saw Win of Hello (Goldsmith) of the foundation accepted the cash donation. The foundation focuses on providing assistance to the youths to have opportunities to learning the higher education and giving health care services to the poor families. The foundation invites wellwishers for the donations and they can dial 09-73116435, 0973049298 and 09-254044505.

 Kyunhla’s schools resume regular school hours

 Kyunhla, 18 June—Basic education schools, changed school hours in recent weeks of June in Kyunhla Township of Sagaing Region due to overheat temperature. As of 17 June, the schools resume their regular school hours, according to an official.

 New express mini bus line emerges on Pakokku-Gangaw route

 Pakokku, 18 June—Phyo Myitta the express mini bus line operates its transport service for the Pakokku-Gangaw route as of 12 June.

 “Our bus line runs along Pakokku-Pale-Mint-aingbin-Kyaw-Yemyet-ni-Gangaw route as part of efforts to give transport services to the people for their convenience. In the rainy season, number of passengers decline on the route. After the rainy season, we will operate the line with two buses regularly. In recent days, the heavy rain hit in Pontaung and Ponnay region, causing blocks on the route. Kyaw Creek and Yaw Creek also block vehicles that ran from Mandalay, Monywa, Pakokku and other regions. Now, we cannot enter Pakokku due to overflow of creeks,” said an official of the bus terminal.

 The new bus line collects K10,000 per passenger and it leaves Pakokku at 5.30 am and Gangaw at 6 am daily.—Aung (Mandalay University)

 Seeds of Palethwe hybrid paddy sown in Mawlamyinegyun Tsp

 Mawlamyinegyun, 18 June—The seed sowing ceremony took place at the 2-acre farmland of U Hla Tun in Kanyinkhe Village of Mawlamyinegyun Township in Ayeyawady Region on Tuesday.

 Staff of District and Township Agriculture Departments demonstrated sowing of Palethwe paddy seeds, attended by 250 farmers from four village-tracts.

 Officials of the department explained cultivation of Palethwe paddy strain to increase family income. A local farmer recounted experience of growing Palethwe padd
Chlorine gas-like chemicals likely used in Syrian conflict: watchdog

Amsterdam, 18 June — Chemical weapons inspectors who came under attack while investigating claims of chlorine gas attacks in Syria last month found information suggesting that similar chemicals had indeed been used, the global chemical weapons watchdog said on Tuesday.

The Organization for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons, which is overseeing the destruction of Syria’s chemical stockpile, said inspectors had information pointing to chlorine gas-like chemicals having been used despite having been forced to cut short their mission after the attack.

“Despite the grave incident which prevented the fact-finding mission from conducting an important field visit, the team was able to prepare a preliminary report,” the organization said in a statement.

“The information that was available to the fact-finding mission lends credence to the view that toxic chemicals — most likely pulmonary irritating agents, such as chlorine — have been used in Syria,” the body said.

The inspectors, from a joint OPCW/United Nations fact-finding team, were travelling to the central province of Hama to investigate allegations of illegal chlorine attacks by government forces when their convoy came under attack.

No team members were injured in the attack, which the Syrian government blamed on rebel fighters.

President Bashar al-Assad, whose forces have been battling rebels trying to unseat him for more than three years, agreed last year to hand over Syria’s entire chemical weapons stockpile after hundreds of people were killed in a sarin gas attack near Damascus. — Reuters

At least 13 killed in bombing of Nigeria World Cup viewing venue

Damaturu, 18 June — At least 13 people including young children were killed when a bomb tore through a venue in north-east Nigeria where fans had gathered to watch a World Cup soccer match, witnesses said.

Some people at the scene told Reuters an attacker dropped a device in front of the venue on Tuesday night in the town of Damaturu and ran off, while others said it was the work of a suicide bomber.

No one claimed responsibility for the blast, but Damaturu and the surrounding Yobe state are at the heart of a five-year-old insurgency by Islamist group Boko Haram.

The group was blamed for an attack on another venue screening soccer matches in the northeastern state of Adamawa that killed at least 14 people and wounded 12.

A Free Syrian Army medical group conducts a training on how to cope with chemical weapons attacks in Aleppo on 25 Dec, 2013. — Reuters

South Africa’s Zuma under pressure in major policy speech

Cape Town, 18 June — South African President Jacob Zuma delivers the first State of the Nation address of his second term on Tuesday, under pressure to outline plans for reviving the ailing economy.

“Much of the debate wants to outline plans for the economy, or does it believe it can fix its problems on its own?” political analyst Stephen Friedman wrote in the Business Day newspaper on Tuesday.

Standard & Poor’s downgrade means South Africa could even lose its coveted investment grade credit rating if growth fails to pick up. S&P’s outlook is stable for now, indicating it is not looking at cutting its rating again soon but investors will want reassurance that the government is committed to steering the economy back to health.

The economy has been further strained by a cold snap at the start of the southern hemisphere winter and outages at some power generation units, which led to temporary rolling blackouts to prevent the already stretched national grid from collapsing.

“The much of the debate wants to hear an address that does not ‘waffle’ about policy but promises to get things done’. But if that is all we hear, we are likely to remain stuck where we are,” said Friedman. Zuma’s address to parliament in Cape Town is due to start at 1700 GMT. — Reuters

President Jacob Zuma

Foreign passenger arrivals in Japan top 5 m in January-May

Tokyo, 18 June — The number of foreign passenger arrivals in Japan reached 5.20 million in the first five months of the year, with a new annual record expected following the previous year’s record of 10.36 million, a government estimate showed on Wednesday.

The figure was up 28.4 percent, or 1.15 million, from the January-May period last year, according to the Japan National Tourism Organization.

The increase was attributed to expanded flight capacity, relaxed visa requirements for Southeast Asian tourists and enhanced collaboration with overseas tour operators, the JNTO said. The organization is expecting the record level of foreign passenger arrivals to continue over June, led by visitors from China, Taiwan and Southeast Asia.

The flow of visitors from South Korea, the biggest source last year, is expected to remain slow amid a national mood of restraint following the sinking of the Sewol ferry in April, which left more than 300 people dead or missing.

Kyodo News
Huawei expects strong sales for new flagship phone Ascend P7

**Amazon expected to unveil 3D smartphone to court mobile shoppers**

**YouTube to launch paid music service**

**Chile’s giant space lab aims for heights with final antenna**

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**Huawei expects strong sales for new flagship phone Ascend P7**

_Singapore, 18 June_ — China-based telecommunications giant Huawei is expecting better sales for its latest flagship smartphone, the Ascend P7, compared with its precursor Ascend P6, senior executives of the company said on 18 June.

“We envision that LTE (long-term evolution) will experience major growth in the coming three years as the volume of high speed networks increases, leading to a surge in mobile data traffic,” said Low Han Thong, country head of Huawei Device Singapore.

The 4G LTE-enabled Ascend P7 was launched globally on 7 May at a ceremony in Paris. Executives of the company said that by 13 June it has sold over 1 million units. The company has set a target of 10 million units in 12 months, media reports said.

Huawei sold about 4 million units of the predecessor Ascend P6, which was launched in June 2013. It proved especially popular in China and Western Europe and, the company says, has helped Huawei gain a strong position in the premium segment.

The Ascend P7 is a significant improvement from its precursor P6, which is not 4G LTE-enabled. The P7 is powered by a Hisilicon Kirin 910T 1.8 GHz quad-core chip and a Mali450 GPU. It features a 5-inch full high-definition display, an industry-leading 8-megapixel front camera and a 13-megapixel rear camera.

The phone is also slim at 6.5 millimetres thin and has an obviously more chic design and finish than the Ascend P6.

Huawei has also held ceremonies to unveil the P7 for regional markets such as the Middle East on 11 June in Dubai, and the South Pacific on 17 June at the CommunicAsia in Singapore, respectively.

It is priced at 699 Singapore dollars in Singapore, 449 euros in Europe and 2,888 yuan in China, respectively. In comparison, the iPhone 5s is now available at 988 Singapore dollars or above, or 649 US dollars and above.

The phone has been well received online and is already selling quickly from online stores.

Huawei sold 52 million units of smart phones in 2013, making it the third largest producer of smartphones after Samsung and Apple, though it is still far behind the two leaders in terms of sales value.

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**Amazon expected to unveil 3D smartphone to court mobile shoppers**

_Seattle, 18 June_ — Amazon Inc’s newest mobile device, a smartphone that may sport a 3D screen, is the retailer’s latest attempt to exert its influence over the way consumers shop online.

Chief Executive Officer Jeff Bezos will preside over a mystery launch on Wednesday near its Seattle campus. Industry observers predict the arrival of a long-rumored smartphone after years of development.

It is unclear if a 3D display, as widely reported, is enough to help the new entrée stand out in a crowded field dominated by Apple Inc’s seven-year-old iPhone and Samsung Electronics Co Ltd’s Galaxy device.

Amazon has more opportunities outside the United States. Only 30 percent of the 5.2 billion phones on the market are smartphones, Topeka Capital Markets analyst Victor Anthony said in a 5 June research note.

“As the world shifts toward mobile, how do you make sure Amazon is front and center?”, Jeffere-son Wang, senior partner at IBB Consulting, said in an interview.

Two sources have said the device contains 3D features visible to the eye without special glasses. Analysts expect Amazon’s Prime membership programme, which offers features such as movie streaming and two-day delivery, to be tied to the phone. A phone would represent yet another new area for Amazon, which got its start selling books and has since expanded into everything from original television shows to grocery delivery. It could also boost adoption of an Amazon payments platform.

On Tuesday, the Wall Street Journal reported AT&T Inc would carry the smartphone exclusively, as it did the iPhone for years and a short-lived Facebook phone made by HTC Corp that at one point was discounted to 99 cents.

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**YouTube to launch paid music service**

_San Francisco, 18 June_ — Google Inc’s YouTube said on Tuesday that it plans to launch a paid streaming music service, amid criticism that its existing, free video website might block the music videos of labels that do not agree to its terms.

YouTube has partnered with “hundreds of major and independent” music labels for the new service, the company said in a statement, confirming long-running rumors that the world’s most popular online video website will offer a paid music service.

The news comes as some music trade groups have criticized YouTube’s plans to potentially block the content of certain labels from appearing on YouTube’s free, ad-supported Website unless they sign deals to participate in the new, subscription streaming music service.

The deals that YouTube is offering are on “highly unfavorable and non-negotiable terms,” according to a news release issued by the Worldwide Independent Music Industry Network last month.

YouTube declined to comment on the terms of the deals, but said in a statement that the new service would provide new revenue for the music in-dustry.

“We’re adding subscription-based features for music on YouTube with this in mind — to bring our music partners new revenue streams in addition to the hundreds of millions of dollars YouTube already generates for them each year,” YouTube said in a statement.

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**Chile’s giant space lab aims for heights with final antenna**

_Santiago, 18 June_ — The arrival of the 66th and final giant antenna at the world’s largest land-based space observatory in the Chilean desert will allow the endeavor to better probe the mysteries of the universe, the project’s director said on Tuesday.

The Atacama Large Millimeter/submillimeter Array’s (ALMA) antennae are situated high on the Chajnantor Plateau, a remote area of the Atacama desert in northern Chile at 16,400 feet (5,000 meters) above sea level.

There, the dryness and altitude create some of the best conditions for observing the night sky.

With all the antennae working in unison as a giant telescope, the observatory will provide astronomers with a window into the “cold universe” where cosmic secrets wait to be discovered, said project director Pierre Cox.

He added that ALMA is poised to reach its full potential next year.

“Up to now ALMA’s observations and data were published with 16 to 20 antennae, now we’re going to have double that or more, hence there will be a jump in sensitivity: better, quicker and more data,” Cox said.

“I think there will be a real stream of scientific results in the coming months and years.”

The new 12-meter (13-yard) diameter dish is the 25th European antenna to be transported up to the observatory. It will work alongside 25 other antennae from North America and four from East Asia, as well as a smaller 7-meter (7.7- yard) dishes from East Asia.

The $1.1 billion telescope, which began full-scale operation in March, has already spotted galaxies expelling gas and a star formation near the center of the Milky Way’s supermassive black hole.

It also has captured the first image of an icy ring around a distant star.

ALMA is funded by the European Union, the United States, Canada, Taiwan and Japan.
Hillary Clinton notes distance from Obama on Syria rebels

WASHINGTON, 18 June — Potential Democrat presidential candidate Hillary Clinton pointed out her differences with President Barack Obama on Tuesday over his decision not to arm moderate Syrian rebels, as neighboring Iraq struggles to cope with extremist spillover from Syria.

“We pushed very hard. But as I say in my book, I believe that Harry Truman was right, the buck stops with the president,” Clinton said in a CNN interview.

The former secretary of state said she, along with other top U.S. officials, had urged Obama to arm the rebels fighting Syrian President Bashar al-Assad, but that the White House resisted.

Clinton said it was not clear whether arming moderates in Syria would have prevented the rise of the al-Qaeda splinter group, the Islamic State of Iraq and the Levant, which has swept toward Baghdad and towns in northern Iraq.

Among the challenges could be the reform of the rig in South China Sea waters claimed by both countries as well as Beijing’s demand for compensation in the wake of anti-Chinese riots that erupted in Vietnam in the days after the drilling platform was deployed.

Chinese State Councilor Yang Jiechi, who outranks the foreign minister, first met Vietnam’s Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Pham Binh Minh.

The two officials shook hands in front of reporters without smiling and said little before the media was ushered out of the room at a government guesthouse. Outside the building, neither country’s national flag was flying, as is customary when senior foreign ministers attend meetings in Hanoi.

Yang will later hold talks with Prime Minister Nguyen Tan Dung as well as the head of Vietnam’s ruling communist party before attending a dinner hosted by Minh.

No news conferences are planned.

Yang’s visit is the highest-level direct contact between the two sides since the rig was parked 240 km (150 miles) off the coast of Vietnam in 2 May.

Climate change threatens tourism as ski slopes thaw, seas rise

OSLO, 18 June — Climate change is a growing threat to tourism, from thawing ski resorts to coral reefs hit by warmer seas, and the industry itself should do more to curb its soaring greenhouse gas emissions, a study showed on Tuesday.

Tourism’s greenhouse gas emissions, on current rising trends buoyed by ever more travel, are set to reach about 10 percent of the world total by 2025 from between 3.9 and 6 percent now, it said.

“The tourism industry will be severely impacted by climate change,” according to the study by Cambridge University’s Institute for Sustainability Leadership (CISL) and its Judge Business School and the European Climate Foundation.

Coral reefs, for instance, contributed $11.5 billion a year to tourism earnings and are under threat from warmer sea temperatures, rising sea levels and an acidification caused by a build-up of carbon dioxide in the atmosphere, it said.

And warmer winters are shortening winter sports seasons and threatening the viability of some ski resorts, according to the report which distils findings about tourism from studies this year by the UN panel of climate scientists.

Ski resorts can try to adapt by attracting summer hikers, for instance, or buy more snow making machines. “But it is hard to tell a positive story around ski resorts,” Eliot Whittington, climate change director at CISL, told Reuters.

A few areas of the world might benefit from a shift in tourism, such as Alaska or northern Europe. And elsewhere, seasons may shift.
Thank You

My heartfelt thanks to His Excellency Mr. Klas Molin, Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary to Myanmar on the occasion of the Awards of one of the highest decorations the “DIPLOM” and the Medal of Honor “THE ROYAL ORDER OF THE POLAR STAR- OFFICER FIRST CLASS” awarded by His Majesty CARL GUSTAF XVI, KING OF SWEDEN, the decorations of which were proceeded by His Excellency Mr. Klas Molin on behalf of the KING OF SWEDEN, at the opening of the Section Office of the Embassy of Sweden in Yangon on the National Day of Sweden 6th June 2014.

My deepest appreciation to His Excellency U. Thant Kyaw, Deputy Minister, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, His Excellency Mr. Bruno Beijer, former Ambassador to U.A.E., officials from the Diplomatic and United Nations Missions, Swedish friends, working colleagues and associates from the Swedish Embassy in Bangkok who were present at this auspicious occasion. My love and affection to my beloved and devoted wife Ruby-Daw Khin Myint Khine, who always stands beside me to share the joy and merit together with me on this wonderful event.

Dr. Myint Han
Honorary Consul (Consulate of Sweden)
P.E., Fellow-AAET (ASEAN Academy of Engineering and Technology)
Member-Myanmar Engineering Council
Deputy Director General (retired)
(Myanmar Scientific and Technological Research Department)

Congratulations
Our heartfelt congratulations to my beloved and devoted Husband and dearest Dad
Dr. Myint Han
Honorary Consul (Consulate of Sweden)
P.E., Fellow-AAET (ASEAN Academy of Engineering and Technology)
Member-Myanmar Engineering Council
Deputy Director General (retired)
(Myanmar Scientific and Technological Research Department)

“Recipient of the Award for Outstanding Performance in the Field of Industrial Economy” Awarded by the Government-4th January 1996 on the occasion for the Awards of “DIPLOM” and the Medal of Honor “THE ROYAL ORDER OF THE POLAR STAR- OFFICER FIRST CLASS” awarded by His Majesty CARL GUSTAF XVI, KING OF SWEDEN,

Your Loving Wife Daw Khin Myint Khine (Ruby), Daughters, Son and Grandchildren

MINISTRY OF ELECTRIC POWER
Invitation of Open Proposal

1. The Ministry of Electric Power invites all Foreign and Local investors to submit Proposal for Renting of Gas Engine or Gas Turbine Generator at Kyauk Phyu, Rakhine State.
2. Natural gas resources for the projects shall be “SHWE” offshore gas.
3. For the proposal both of Technical and Commercial Proposal shall be submitted not later than at 16:00 hr on 16th July 2014.
4. Detail information and Technical Specification can be inquired up to (30-6-2014).

Please contact the following address in office hour;
Contact Address:Managing Director
Myanmar Electric Power Enterprise, Ministry of Electric Power, Office No. (27), Nay Pyi Taw
Phone: +95 67 410202
Fax: +95 67 410557

5. Bidding Documents of the project can be available at -
- Material Planning Department, Myanmar Electric Power Enterprise
Office No 27, Ministry of Electric Power
Phone +95 67 410282, 410391

Car explosion kills one in Somali hospital

MOGADISHU, 18 June — A car bomb explosion killed one person and wounded several others on Wednesday at a hospital in the Somali capital, police and medics said.

The bomb, hidden under one of the front seats of the car owned by a Somali doctor, went off as the driver was parking it at the Keysaney Hospital in the northern suburbs of Mogadishu, police said.

“One person died in the explosion and several other people nearby were also injured, two of them seriously,” police officer Ahmed Osman said.

Osman said Dr Abdulkadir Hussien Jimale whose car was targeted survived with slight injuries.

Jimale is one of the senior staff members of the hospital which offers treatment to the general public as well as to Somali government workers. —Xinhua

Nigeria losing $35 million a day from oil theft

ABUJA, 18 June — Nigeria is losing an estimated $35 million (20.6 million pounds) a day from oil theft and needs to put a “full, final stop” to the growing black market for crude exports, according to a national conference report seen by Reuters on Tuesday.

Africa’s largest economy and top oil producer has been struggling with oil theft for years, much of the stolen crude being left in the country in tankers.

The energy committee of Nigeria’s national conference said in a report submitted this week the losses were “equivalent to $35 million each day,” or roughly a quarter of Nigeria’s annual revenue. It called upon Abuja to “bring this racket to a full, final stop”.

“The potential gains should clearly outweigh the cost of any intense security operation to stamp out this economic sabotage,” the committee said in the 71-page document, which has not been made public.

Delegates from around the country have been meeting in Abuja for the national conference, which was convened by President Goodluck Jonathan in March with the aim of examining longstanding problems in Africa’s most populous country. —Reuters

CLAMS DAY NOTICE

MV BAO XIANG LING VOY NO (1406)

Consignees of cargo carried on MV BAO XIANG LING VOY NO (1406) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 19.6.2014 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of M.I.P.L 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: MS BRIGHT SAIL TRANSPORATION SERVICES CO LTD.
Phone No: 2301186
Adele steps out with chic bob haircut

LOS ANGELES, 18 June — Oscar-winning singer Adele was spotted with a new chic short hairdo.

The mother of one enjoyed a date night out with boyfriend Simon Konecki, dining at celeb hotspot Chiltern Firehouse, reported Us magazine. Donning black leggings and a black top with converse sneakers, the ‘Rolling in the Deep’ singer looked happy and content.

The Brit has been busy as of late working on her upcoming third studio album. Adele hinted at the album’s title when she tweeted on her 26th birthday: “Bye bye 25. See you again later in the year.”

Her first two albums were named 19 and 21, respectively, in honour of the ages she was when she wrote them.—PTI

I am stronger post break-up: Jennifer Lopez

LOS ANGELES, 18 June — Pop star Jennifer Lopez, who recently split up from boyfriend Casper Smart, says she feels refreshed and has a newfound confidence about her career. The 44-year-old singer, a mother of two, broke up with Smart after two and a half years of dating, but she is coping well, reported Billboard magazine. “I don’t feel like I have anything to prove anymore. Things have changed so much for me. I had to really do some soul searching and just realise a lot of things about love, and now I feel like I come from a place where I’m stronger and, I think, better,” Lopez said. —PTI

Prosecutors drop domestic spat case against Paul Simon, wife

MILFORD, (Connecticut) 18 June — Prosecutors have decided not to go forward with disorderly conduct charges against Grammy Award-winning musicians Paul Simon and Edie Brickell after the couple had a shoving match in April at their Connecticut home, a court clerk said on Tuesday.

Simon, 72, and Brickell, 48, who married in 1992, were not present at Norwalk Superior Court on Tuesday. At a hearing last month, the couple had told Judge William Wenzel that the spat was atypical of their relationship and that they posed no threat to one another.

The charges were filed against the couple by New Canaan police who were called to a cottage on their property in the wealthy Connecticut suburb on 26 April.

On Tuesday, prosecutors said that they would not pursue the charges although they would reserve the right to reopen the case if the couple are arrested or charged again within the next 13 months, Deputy Court Clerk Emmy Kalmanidis said. Wenzel accepted the prosecutor’s decision to drop the case at a hearing on Tuesday afternoon.

Simon had attempted to leave the cottage, Brickell blocked the door and the incident escalated into a shoving match, their attorney said. Simon was given a Grammy Lifetime Achievement Award in 2003 for his work as part of the duo Simon and Garfunkel, which produced hits including “The Sound of Silence,” and is a member of the Songwriters Hall of Fame.

Brickell, best known for the 1988 hit “What I Am,” released by Edie Brickell & New Bohemians, won a Grammy this year with comedian Steve Martin for their bluegrass song “Love Has Come for You.”—Reuters

Colin Firth drops out of Paddington Bear movie

LONDON, 18 June — British actor Colin Firth is no longer attached to star in the ‘Paddington’ movie as the voice the titular bear.

The 53-year-old ‘The King’s Speech’ star borrowed Gwyneth Paltrow’s ‘conscious uncoupling’ phrase to announce his departure from the family adventure movie, reported Ace Showbiz.

“It’s been bittersweet to see this delightful creature take shape and come to the sad realisation that he simply doesn’t have my voice,” he said in a statement.

“A period of denial we’ve chosen conscious uncoupling. I’ve had the joy of seeing most of the film and it’s going to be quite wonderful. I still feel rather protective of this bear and I’m pestering them all with suggestions for finding a voice worthy of him,” the actor added.

Produced by David Heyman, the producer of ‘Harry Potter’ film series, the hilarious movie follows the adventures and mishaps of a talking bear from ‘Darkest Peru’ who gets adopted by a London family when they find him lost at Paddington Station.

It is set to hit theatres on Christmas Day, 25 December in North America. The trailer was already released last week, but there was no dialogue scene for the bear. No replacement has been announced, but the remaining cast stays including Nicole Kidman, Hugh Bonneville, Sally Hawkins, Julie Walters, Jim Broadbent, and Peter Capaldi.

Lady Gaga’s plagiarism suit dismissed

LOS ANGELES, 18 June — A plagiarism lawsuit against pop star Lady Gaga has been dismissed. US District Judge Marvin E. Aspen ruled that the 28-year-old star’s hit song ‘Judas’ did not feature samples of musician Rebecca Frerescatti’s 1999 track Juda, reported Billboard magazine.

In his conclusion the judge stated: “We conclude, as a matter of law, that the two songs are not substantially similar.

“The songs do not share enough unique features to give rise to a breach of the duty not to copy another’s work.”—PTI

Singer Adele

Andrew Bowman (L), attorney for singer Edie Brickell (C) and her husband singer Paul Simon (L), speaks at the Norwalk Superior Court in Norwalk, Connecticut on 16 May, 2014.—Reuters

In his conclusion the judge stated: “We conclude, as a matter of law, that the two songs are not substantially similar.”—PTI
Rooney role the question for England

KUALA LUMPUR, Malaysia, 18 June — An overloaded boat carrying suspected illegal Indonesian immigrants sank as it left Malaysia’s west coast early on Wednesday, and at least three passengers drowned and 34 are missing.

The boat, whose passengers included women and children, sank at the mouth of a river shortly after midnight as it left Malaysia’s Carey Island, likely bound for Indonesia’s Sumatra island, officials and witnesses said.

Police said the boat lacked safety equipment such as life jackets, but that rescuers were still holding out hope of finding more survivors. The boat went down in shallow water close to shore.

“It is likely that survivors could have swum ashore and went into hiding since they have no legal documents here,” said Mohammed Hambali Yaakup, head of operations in the area for the Malaysian Maritime Enforcement Agency (MMEA).

Hamblad said he could not confirm reports that a people-smuggling gang had been involved with the boat. All 60 survivors have been arrested under immigration laws, he said.

Malaysia, one of Southeast Asia’s wealthier economies, has long been a magnet for illegal immigrants from Indonesia and other poorer countries in the region. Many undocumented Indonesians work in Malaysia’s extensive oil palm plantations, a mainstay of its economy.

“This was an illegal boat and all the passengers were Indonesian,” Mohamad Zuri, another MMEA official told Reuters. Police said two bodies had been recovered. A Reuters reporter saw three bodies — two on the deck of a rescue boat and another washed up on shore.

Rescuers were scouring the area for survivors and had deployed a helicopter, one large ship and eight smaller boats in the operation, officials said.

Despite periodic crackdowns on illegal workers, Malaysia is home to an estimated two million undocumented immigrants or about 7 percent of its 29 million population.

The question of migrant workers has long been a touchy issue in Indonesia. Both candidates in a July 9 Indonesian presidential race have said that Indonesian workers overseas, often doing menial labour, need better protection.

Reuters

Overloaded boat sinks off Malaysia, 34 Indonesians missing, three dead

A Malaysia Maritime helicopter is seen in the air during a search and rescue for the suspected illegal Indonesian immigrants off Malaysia’s western coast, outside Kuala Lumpur on 18 June, 2014.—REUTERS

SÃO PAULO, 18 June — Start him. Drop him. Move him. The whole of England seems to have an opinion on what Roy Hodgson should do with Wayne Rooney for their Group D clash against Uruguay on Thursday.

It was the under-fire front man’s inviting cross swatted home by Daniel Sturridge that got England level against Italy in their opener on Saturday but, posted on the left, Rooney looked short of fitness and promised with defensive duties at times.

Despite the clamour in some quarters for Rooney to be dropped to the bench, Hodgson is likely to switch him to a central role behind Sturridge, pushing the jet-heeled Raheem Sterling out wide to romp up and down Uruguay’s right.

The pace of Sterling, Sturridge and Danny Welbeck could cause real problems for the South Americans’ defence, which crumbled in the face of Costa Rica’s direct running in a shock 3-1 defeat in the first game in the group.

While England’s 2-1 defeat on Saturday was their first in a World Cup opener since 1986, they go into their second game at the Corinthians arena in a confident frame of mind after a fearless display full of pace and promise against Italy.

Sturridge acknowledged the level of performance promised much for the future but said England could not be satisfied with being unlucky losers.

“At the end of the day it’s about results, not performances, and we realise that as a team as well,” he said on Monday.

“I don’t think we need to change much, we just need a bit of luck, a break, but we will take the positives out of that and the end thing is that we want results,” he told reporters.

Hodgson savoured what he called England’s “best performance” since he took over two years ago, suggesting he feels little need to ring the changes for Copa America champions Uruguay.

Like England, Uruguay must recover from an opening loss but there were few positives from a dire performance against Costa Rica in which right back Maxi Pereira was sent off in stoppage time.

Coach Oscar Tabarez told reporters after training on Monday that his team had to be wary of England’s front men, who showed “great technical potential” against Italy.—REUTERS
Ochoa hero, Akinfeev villain in World Cup draws

Brasilia, 18 June — Mexico goalkeeper Guillermo Ochoa produced a heroics performance in a 0-0 draw with Brazil and his Russian counterpart Igor Akinfeev was the villain in a 1-1 draw with South Korea as the World Cup produced more drama on Tuesday.

While Ochoa kept four points from two games which left both teams with through the North Africans took over against Colombia and that’s something we can’t forget. On another day it could have been us winning, and that’s something we need to take into this massive match.”

That may be, but Portuguese coach Fernando Santos will certainly be hoping for an end to concentration lapses at the back that cost the team so dear in Belo Horizonte.

Tricky winger Giannis Fetfatzidis’s better ball retention might get him the nod ahead of forward Mitroglou up front despite hitting the bar against Colombia.

“Mitrogoal” is Greece’s most expensive export and although a knee injury disrupted his preparations for the tournament, the time for caution is over.

We just hope it brings a better result for us because Japan is now a must, must-win game for us.

“Everyone expected we would have 11 men behind the ball, defend, defend and give everything to keep a clean sheet,” said experienced striker Giorgios Samaras.

“But I think what they saw was a team that likes to attack, that moves the ball really well, and that tries always to create chances.”

“We went out to win against Colombia, and that philosophy will not change.”

Japan and Greece go back to the well for Natal clash

Japan’s national soccer team player Maya Yoshida takes part in the training session at Japan’s team base camp in the town of Itu north-west of Sao Paulo on 17 June, 2014.—Reuters

Japan, 18 June — After losing their Group C openers, Japan and Greece will be looking to rediscover the qualities which got them to Brazil as they bid to keep their campaigns alive at the Dunas arena on Thursday.

There is little doubt that only three points will do if either side is to extend their stay in Brazil beyond the group stage.

Japan’s attacking flair helped them become the first country to qualify for Brazil but they paid the price for uncharacteristic timidity after taking an early lead in their opening 2-1 loss to Ivory Coast in Recife.

Attacking midfielder Shinji Kagawa has also taken some flak for his display against the Elephants but his place in the side is probably safe with Japan fans hoping he might be able to produce something special to unlock the Greek defence.

Former European champions Greece conceded four goals in 10 qualifying matches for Brazil but almost as many in their first match of the tournament, a 3-0 defeat to Colombia in Belo Horizonte.

They came to the World Cup promising a more adventurous style and, considering themselves unlucky to have gone down by such a margin to the Colombians, will not be abandoning it.

“I believe this was the best match of my life before.—Reuters

“I don’t know whether I can think of another goalkeeper in memory...some one who has done what Memo (Ochoa) did today,” Mexico coach Miguel Herrera told a news conference.

Brazil coach Luiz Felipe Scolari also praised Ochoa, describing his performance as spectacular, and could not resist pointing out that this time, unlike the controversial 3-1 win over Croatia, his side had a late penalty appeal turned down.

“Best match of my life before.—Reuters

‘Big Phil’, shrugging his shoulders.

Cameroun and Croatia, the other teams in the group, who are yet to get off the mark, meet in Manaus on Wednesday.

In the Group H clash in Cuaba, Akinfeev’s blushes on 68 minutes were spared when veteran Alexander Kerzhakov pounced to equalise for Russia after more scrappy goalkeeping by Jung Sung-ryong six minutes later. Much-fancied Barcelona were made to work hard for a 2-1 win over Algeria in Belo Horizonte after the North Africans took the lead with a Sofiane Feghouli penalty in the 25th minute.—Reuters

Japan’s attacking flair helped them become the first country to qualify for Brazil but they paid the price for uncharacteristic timidity after taking an early lead in their opening 2-1 loss to Ivory Coast in Recife.

“Possession, that is our strength,” striker Honda said this week.

“When we have the ball we just need to keep the ball and not give it away easily. When we do lose the ball we should press immediately. That is our philosophy.”

Italian coach Alberto Zaccheroni is unlikely to make sweeping changes to his side, although Yoshito Okubo might have done enough as a substitute in Recife to get the nod over the disappointing Yuya Osako up front.

FIFA World Cup Group Stage Standing

Teams P W D L F A +/- pts

**Group A**

1) Brazil 2 1 1 0 3 1 2 4
2) Mexico 2 1 1 0 1 1 1 4
3) Cameroon 1 0 0 1 3 1 1 1 0 0 1 3 1 1 0
4) Croatia 1 0 0 1 3 1 3 2

**Group B**

1) Netherlands 1 1 0 0 5 1 4 3
2) Chile 1 1 0 0 3 3 0 3
3) Australia 1 0 0 1 3 2 0
4) Spain 1 0 0 1 5 4 0

**Group C**

1) Colombia 1 1 0 0 3 0 3 3
2) Côte d’Ivoire 1 1 0 0 2 1 1 3
3) Greece 1 0 0 1 3 3 0
4) Japan 1 0 0 1 2 1 0

**Group D**

1) Costa Rica 1 1 0 0 3 1 2 3
2) Italy 1 1 0 0 2 1 1 3
3) England 1 0 0 1 2 1 0
4) Uruguay 1 0 0 1 3 2 0

**Group E**

1) France 1 1 0 0 3 0 3 3
2) Switzerland 1 1 0 0 2 1 1 3
3) Ecuador 1 0 0 1 2 1 0
4) Honduras 1 0 0 1 3 3 0

**Group F**

1) Argentina 1 1 0 0 2 1 1 3
2) Iran 1 0 0 0 0 0 0
3) Nigeria 1 0 0 0 0 0 0
4) Bosnia and Herzegovina 1 0 0 1 2 1 0

**Group G**

1) Germany 1 1 0 0 4 0 4 3
2) USA 1 1 0 0 2 1 1 3
3) Ghana 1 0 0 1 1 2 0
4) Portugal 1 0 0 1 2 1 0

**Group H**

1) Belgium 1 1 0 0 2 1 1 3
2) Korea Republic 1 0 1 0 1 1 0 1
3) Russia 1 1 0 1 1 0 0
4) Algeria 1 0 0 1 2 1 0

Mexico’s goalkeeper Guillermo Ochoa makes a save during the 2014 World Cup Group A soccer match between Brazil and Mexico at the Castelao arena in Fortaleza on 17 June, 2014.—Reuters

Mexico’s goalkeeper Guillermo Ochoa produces a heroics performance in a 0-0 draw with Brazil and his Russian counterpart Igor Akinfeev was the villain in a 1-1 draw with South Korea as the World Cup produced more drama on Tuesday.

Ochoa produced four world class saves to deny Brazil but he paid the price for uncharacteristic timidity after taking an early lead in their opening 2-1 loss to Ivory Coast in Recife.

Belgium were made to work hard for a 2-1 win over Algeria in Belo Horizonte after the North Africans took the lead with a Sofiane Feghouli penalty in the 25th minute.—Reuters

**World Cup 2014 Brazil**

**Match-21**

Colombia

22:30 MST (19.6.2014)

Côte d’Ivoire

**Match-22**

Uruguay

01:30 MST (20.6.2014)

Englang

**Match-23**

Japan

04:30 MST (20.6.2014)

Greece