Myanmar should cooperate with Myanmar labour rights activists in Thailand, Thai civil societies, Myanmar ILO official says

By Aye Min Soe

YANGON, 19 June — A member of the International Labour Organization has urged the Myanmar government to work with Myanmar labour rights activists in Thailand and Thai civil societies to settle the arrests of legally registered Myanmar migrant workers in Thailand.

The government should send the deputy minister for Labour to Thailand to ask the Thai authorities why Myanmar migrant workers were detained and (they) should work together with Myanmar labour rights activists in Thailand who have worked for Myanmar migrant workers for many years and Thai civic societies to solve the current issue, U Maung Maung, member of the governing body of the ILO, said Thursday.

According to Myanmar’s Foreign Affairs Ministry, Myanmar’s ambassador to Thailand held talks with high ranking officials from the Thai junta, which calls itself the National Council for Peace and Order (NCPO), on 6 and 14 June over recent reports of crackdowns on legally registered Myanmar migrant workers by the Thai authorities.

During the meeting, the junta representatives denied the reports, saying Thailand has no policy to crack down on or arrest legally registered migrant workers in Thailand, and that the junta aims to promote proper employment so Myanmar workers would receive the “full benefits” of health and welfare protection in accordance with the Thai laws.

During the crackdown, Thai authorities, including border security forces, arrested undocumented migrant workers from Myanmar, Cambodia and Laos.

Daw Htwe Htwe Thein of the Domestic Worker Department of the Federation of Trade Unions Myanmar (FTUM) quoted a Thai official as saying the move is aimed at cracking down on narcotic drug trading and trafficking in persons.

“Both sides have weaknesses. Owners of some Thai factories are not willing to issue work permits to all migrant workers as attempts to evade tax. Another reason is that some migrant workers move to other towns to get higher incomes after they receive work permits,” U Maung Maung said.

“Myanmar migrant workers also need to understand Thailand’s labour law. They should not move (See page 2)

Myanmar, France draft Air Services Agreement

YANGON, 19 June— The consultations for revising the existing Air Services Agreement between Myanmar and France were held at the Department of Civil Aviation in Yangon Wednesday and Thursday.

The Myanmar delegation led by Director-General U Win Swe Tun of the Department of Civil Aviation were held at the Department of Civil Aviation in Yangon Wednesday and Thursday.

The consultations for Myanmar-France Air Services Agreement in 1972.

Director-General U Win Swe Tun of DCA and Deputy Director Mr. Francois Theoleyre of the Civil Aviation Authority of France seen at consultations for Myanmar-France Air Services Agreement.—DCA
Nay Pi Taw, 19 June—Union Minister for Labour, Employment and Social Security U Aye Myint delivered a speech at the 103rd Session of the International Labour Conference held in Geneva on 10 June.

In his speech, he said that Myanmar is striving for better working environment for Myanmar migrant workers abroad and sending labour officials on diplomatic missions to help solve disputes between Myanmar migrant workers and their employers abroad.

The union minister also attended the Asia-Pacific Labour Ministers’ Meeting.

ASEAN Working Group on Environmental Education meets in Yangon

Yangon, 19 June—The 6th Meeting of the ASEAN Working Group on Environmental Education jointly held by the Ministry of Education, the Ministry of Environmental Conservation and Forestry and the ASEAN Secretariat was held in Yangon on Thursday. Rotating Chair of the working group Ms. Martinah Binti Haji Tamit of Brunei Darussalam and Rector Dr Lwin Lwin Soe of Yangon University of Foreign Languages delivered opening speeches at the meeting.

MRTV to broadcast delay nine world cup matches on 18-27 June

Nay Pi Taw, 19 June—Myanmar Radio and Television-MRTV will broadcast delay nine world cup matches from 18 to 27 June with the use of DVB-T2 Digital system. DVB-T2 Set-top Box users in Yangon, Nay Pi Taw (Pmyinmana) and Sagaing (Mandalay) can watch the matches as of 19 June and the MRTV will also be broadcast in other regions next three days.

Through delay system, MRTV will broadcast Belgium vs Algeria on 18 June, Cameroon vs Croatia on 19 June, Japan vs Greece on 20 June, Honduras vs Ecuador on 21 June, Nigeria vs Bosnia and Herzegovina on 22 June, South Korea vs Algeria on 23 June, Croatia vs Mexico on 24 June, Honduras vs Switzerland on 26 June and Algeria vs Russia on 27 June.

Myanmar should cooperate ...

(from page 1) to another town where their work permits are illegal,” he added. Around 1,000 Myanmar migrant workers have been detained in Thailand from 3 to 9 June, according to the Joint Action Committee for Burma Affairs.

The ILO official has urged the Myanmar government to raise awareness of the rights and responsibilities of migrant workers by making the best use of the labour union network in Myanmar.

.whichever government takes office in Thailand, it will never send Myanmar migrant workers back to Myanmar because its factories will have to be shut without Myanmar workers,” he said. A huge labour force from Myanmar works in Thai factories.

According to statistics, there were more than 6 million Myanmar migrant workers in Thailand in 2004. Now, Myanmar migrant workers hold a huge share in Thailand’s labour market and 80 per cent of the workers in Thailand’s fishery sector is from Myanmar.

Myanmar Golf Tour kicks off for third leg

Mandalay, 19 June—Zaw Zaw Latt (Han Golf Academy) on Thursday is standing first in the professional golfer division in the first round of the third leg of Myanmar Golf Tour, followed by Naing Naing Lin (Srixon) and Min Naing (Srixon) tying at 72 each. Maung Maung Oo secured the first position with 68, Kyaw Thet Oo, 71 and Zaw Zaw Tun, 72 in the amateur division.

The Myanmar Golf Tour took place at Shwe Mann Taung Golf Club in Mandalay, attended by Mandalay Region Chief Minister U Ye Myint, Lt-Gen Khin Zaw Oo, Chairman of Myawady Bank Ltd which is sponsor for the tournament and Commander of Central Command Maj-Gen Soe Htut.

Soe Nyunt

Myanmar women’s hockey team seen off at Yangon International Airport on 19 June before departure for Singapore to take part in FIH World League Round 1 from 21 to 26 June.—Than Swe (Paredan)
Health care reform needs as much momentum as reforms in other sectors, President

President U Thein Sein deliv-
ers speech at the meeting on health promotion at Union Government Office. MNA

Nay Pyi Taw, 19 June—It is necessary to speed up the momentum in the health care sector in tandem with a rapid acceleration in political, economic and executive reforms without neglecting the promotion of the private sector, President U Thein Sein told a meeting on health promotion at the Union Government Office in Nay Pyi Taw on Thursday morning.

According to the president, a 19-member committee named the National Health Committee has been formed to provide health care nationwide in a bid to vitalize the country’s health sector. U Thein Sein urged the Ministry of Health to adapt to reforms and work together with related ministries, region/state governments, local and foreign NGOs, stakeholders and experts, stressing that on his visits to health facilities four months ago he witnessed some services that needed reforming even as he was praising health staff for their endeavours in providing health care to people.

The president pointed out the importance of keeping hospitals and their immediate environs clean and tidy, putting emphasis on repair and renovation and the construction of new buildings.

He called for more broad-based campaigns at the grassroots level to equip the public with health awareness of the dreadful consequences of smoking, drinking and infectious diseases.

In rural areas, the proportion of patients to health staff is 10,000 to 4. So, it is necessary to organize health volunteers and give systematic training to them,” the president said, adding that more courses should be conducted to produce as many human resources for health care as possible.

U Thein Sein also talked of the introduction of the Universal Health Coverage in the country, a World Bank-aided programme designed to ensure everyone has easy access to health care with no financial burdens.

MNA

Organizations in the Health Ministry are responsible for health policy implementation

Vice President Dr Sai Mauk Kham speaking at the meeting on enhancement of health sector. MNA

Republic of the Union of Myanmar
Chairman of the Union Government Office (Order No. 12/2014)
7th Waning of Nayon, 1376 M.E.
(19 June, 2014)

Duty of Union Minister terminated

Under the Para (i), Sub-section (c) of the Section 235 of the Constitution of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar and Sub-section (a) of the Section 69 of the Union Government Law, Union Minister for Religious Affairs U Hla Maung Tin has been terminated from his duty.

Sd/ Thein Sein
President
Republic of the Union of Myanmar

Republic of the Union of Myanmar
Chairman of the Union Government Office (Order No. 13/2014)
7th Waning of Nayon, 1376 M.E.
(19 June, 2014)

Resignation of Chief Minister of Rakhine State allowed

Under the Sub-section (a) of the Section 264 of the Constitution of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar and Sub-Section (a) of the Section 52 of the Region or State Government Law, Chief Minister of Rakhine State U Hla Maung Tin has been allowed to resign of his own volition.

Sd/ Thein Sein
President
Republic of the Union of Myanmar

Prevention of HIV caused by narcotic drugs discussed

Nay Pyi Taw, 19 June—The Ministry of Home Affairs, Ministry of Health and UNAIDS jointly organized a talk on prevention of HIV caused by narcotic drugs at Mingala Thiri Hotel in Nay Pyi Taw on Thursday.

Secretary of Central Committee for Drug Abuse Control and Chief of Myanmar Police Force Police Maj-Gen Zaw Win and Country Director Mr Eamon Murphy of UNAIDS made speeches. Officials discussed educative talks on prevention against infection of HIV, medical treatment and rehabilitation, and participation of those from all sectors in reducing menace of narcotic drugs.

Police Information

Inflation-hit national economy needs control

Nay Pyi Taw, 19 June—The Upper and Lower Houses continued their sessions on Thursday here, with queries being raised and responded and proposals being submitted and accepted, sources said.

In the session of the Upper House, a proposal that the union government should lay down a policy to curb inflation came under discussion.

Parliamentarians pointed out that the country’s economy is now faced with an inflationary spiral of wage and price increases, with people suffering from the domino effects of price rises, resulting from the demand out of proportion with the supply due to soaring production costs.

They blamed the inflation on high government expenditure, banks’ low interest rates and unconventional investments, calling for a sustainable monetary policy to control inflation.

In a response to the proposal, an official of the Central Bank of Myanmar explained government’s efforts to bring inflation under control in details.

At the session of the Lower House, a proposal was rejected of branches of the Supreme Court of the Union to be opened for court clients to save travel expenses because they have to come to the capital city to stand trial.

In a response, the chief justice of the Union said it is apposite for the Supreme Court, as the highest court, to be located at the capital city of the country.—MNA
MCDC prepares Mandalay to be garden city

MANDALAY, 19 June—Mandalay City Development Committee organized the monsoon tree growing ceremony at Sa Ward of Pyigyidagu Township of Mandalay on Wednesday.

Mandalay Mayor and Mandalay Region Minister for Development Affairs U Aung Moone planted a sapling together with MCDC members, departmental officials, social organization members and local people.

As efforts are being made to emerge Mandalay City as garden city, the MCDC has grown 600 shade saplings in its first tree growing ceremony.

Thiha Ko Ko (Mandalay)

Rules and regulations for presentation of performing arts discussed

MANDALAY, 19 June—The Myanmar Thabin Association (Central) and Mandalay Region Thabin Association held a coordination meeting at Lawkanat Hall on 42nd street between 83rd and 84th streets in Mahaungnye Township on Tuesday.

Pantaya U Mya Kyiing, chairman of the association (Central) said that the association officials met artistes and technicians from all strata of the association for uplifting their live standard.

The association has formed the education foundation for offsprings of its members. Moreover, the association coordinatated with the Cooperative Department to be able to disburse loans to the members. In addition, the responsible persons of the association discussed with region and state authorities for allotment of land plots for the members of the association.

On other hand, the members of the association are to abide by rules and regulations of the association, he added.

Officials discussed drawing of rules and regulations for presentation of the performing arts.

Min Htet Aung (Mandalay Sub-printing House)

Shop owners hope cleaning garbage pile from Kawbein station market

KAWKAREK, 19 June—The pile of garbage is larger and larger at the station market of Kawbein model village in Kawkarek Township.

Shop owners are urged to clean the garbage pile from Kawbein market which is a centre of businessman and customers from nearby villages. Although workers from Kawbein Station Development Committee collect the tax from the shop owners daily, lesser number of workers cannot clean the garbage in time.

Tun Tun Htwe (Hpa-an)

Registration for unlicensed motorcycles till 4 July in Mandalay

MANDALAY, 19 June—The people are urged to take registration for their motorcycles without licences at the Mandalay Region Directorate of Road Administration through one-stop service not later than 4 July, said an official. They have to register the motorcycle at the southern district of the directorate near the Tooth Relic Pagoda in Mandalay.

According to the statistics of the directorate, district offices in Mandalay Region has issued 31,681 motorcycles in Mandalay District, 7,315 in Meiktila District, 12,259 in Myingyan District, 6,652 in Kyaukse District, 3,008 in Yameythin District and 5,018 in PyinOoLwin District, totalling 65,933.

Min Htet Aung (Mandalay Sub-printing House)

Village of Pale Township gets electricity through solar penal system

PAIL, 19 June—Nwein Village in Pale Township of Sagaing Region enjoys power supply through solar penal system on 10 June with the contribution K6.6 million by Union Minister for Cooperatives U Kyaw Hsan and K4.4 million by local people.

“The union minister donated K6.6 million to the fund for implementation of the solar system electrification for the village. A total of 220 houses have been installed with 195 solar panels for the first phase and 25 for the second phase,” said electrician U Myint Thein of Pale Township.

“I have been spending my life for over 50 years with oil lamps and candles for the light. Although generators supply power to the people at K3,000 per month, most of the people were unaffordable to enjoy it. As the village is far from the power grid, we could not install the power line with the village to the power grid. Thanks to the union minister, our village can be illuminated with solar light,” said a local.

Myint Thein Soe (IPRD)

Prevention against DHF lectured at pre-primary school

NAY PYI TAW, 19 June—Organized by Zabathiri Township Health Department of Nay Pyi Taw Council Area, a talk on prevention against dengue hemorrhagic fever held at Nan Htaik Yadana Pre-primary school of Social Welfare Department in Wunna Theikdi Ward of the township on Wednesday.

Officials of the township Health Department gave lectures on ways to prevent DHF and dysentery.

Myint Thein Soe (IPRD)

Surprise checks performed at highway buses in Pakokku

PAKOKKU, 19 June—A combined team led by head of Pakokku District Directorate of Road Administration U Aung Than Oo made surprise checks at buses at the exit of Pakokku highway bus terminal in Pakokku on Wednesday.

It was aimed at reducing traffic accidents and ensuring traffic safety for the passengers.

The officials checked wheel tax, preparations for emergency situation of the vehicles, bus conductor, driver licenses, systems of vehicles, and installation of fire extinguishers.

“We check the buses thrice a week for traffic safety for the passengers. Some of drivers from the buses that centre in Pakokku drank before driving. So, we need to check the highway buses,” said an official.

Aung (Mandalay University)

Monsoon tree growing ceremony in progress in Mandalay.

Surprise checks performed at highway buses in Pakokku.

Registration for unlicensed motorcycles till 4 July in Mandalay.

Prevention against DHF lectured at pre-primary school.
Indonesian president throws weight behind PIDF

Regional

New Light of Myanmar, 19 June — Indonesian President Susilo Bambang Yudhoyono on Thursday lauded the establishment of the Pacific Islands Development Forum (PIDF), calling it “a great service” to the peoples of the region rendered by the leaders of Fiji and the other Pacific Islands countries, as the forum further strengthens the existing regional cooperative frameworks.

Susilo, the first Indonesian president to visit Fiji and the South Pacific region, also reiterated Indonesia’s strong support to the PIDF countries in a keynote address at the forum’s second summit that opened here on Thursday under the theme “Green Growth in the Pacific: Building Resilient Sustainable Futures and Geometric Partnership Partnerships.”

“Green economy is certainly essential for our resilience. It becomes a new economic paradigm which promotes economic progress without harming our natural riches and resources,” said Susilo.

“We need green economy because our world today is facing a great challenge from the impact of climate change,” he added.

For sustainable growth, the Indonesian president said, it is also important to make appropriate choice of science and technology, tap indigenous knowledge and make persistent efforts to promote “need not greed” as an outlook.

Also critical to Indonesia and the Pacific Islands countries is blue economy, which Susilo believes is an integral part of the green economy.

“This is a concept which is often referred to as a green economy in a blue world,” Susilo told the summit of about 400 high-level participants from more than 10 Pacific island government officials, civil society and business circles as well as observers from nations such as Morocco, Venezuela, Israel, Singapore, Kazakhstan, Kuwait and Georgia.

Central to the pursuit of such visions is the promotion of equity and the eradication of poverty, he said. Equity is crucial because it is about justice and fairness while poverty remains “one of the greatest challenges that we all must confront.”

As the world’s largest archipelago with over 17,000 islands, Indonesia and the Pacific island countries have yet to fully explore the potential of oceans and coastal areas in addressing the impact of climate change, Susilo said. Since the aspiration of the PIDF to achieve a Sustainable Pacific Society is in many ways similar to Indonesia’s approach to development, the Indonesian president said his country is committed to intensively cooperate with the PIDF in the area of common concerns and interests.—Xinhua

Nine missing after boat carrying 27 Indonesians sinks in Malaysia

KUALA LUMPUR, 19 June — Nine people are still missing after a boat carrying 27 Indonesians sank in Sepang waters in Malaysia early on Thursday, according to local media report.

Another boat with 97 Indonesians onboard sank in Kuala Langat waters in this Southeast Asian country just a day before on Wednesday.

Malaysian English Language newspaper The Star quoted Klang Malaysian Maritime Enforcement Agency (MMEA) director (operations) Left Commander Mohd Hamzali Yaakub as saying that 18 people had been rescued while nine were still missing. “Initial investigations revealed that the boat, bound for Tanjung Balai, sank at about 3 am,” he said, adding that it was believed that the boat came from Pontian Morib.

Seven soldiers killed, 13 hurt in clashes in S Philippines

MANILA, 19 June — Seven soldiers were killed and 13 others were wounded in separate encounters with suspected Abu Sayyaf rebels in southern Philippines on Thursday, a military official said.

Indonesian President Susilo Bambang Yudhoyono

Australia marks six months without successful people smuggling venture

SYDNEY, 19 June — Australia on Thursday marked six months since the last successful people smuggling venture into the country, with the conservative government of Prime Minister Tony Abbott saying it is delivering its commitment to stop the boats.

“The people smugglers now understand that the way to Australia is closed. We are putting the smugglers out of business,” Abbott and Immigration Minister Scott Morrison said in a joint statement. “While today’s milestone recognizes the progress that we have made, the government remains resolute in our determination to stop the boats,” they said.

The statement said that thanks to “Operation Sovereign Borders” launched after the Liberal-National coalition was swept to power in last September’s general election, there has been no successful people smuggling venture to Australia since one on 19 December.

By contrast, over the same six-month period in 2012-2013, at which time Australia was ruled by the Labor Party, a total of 190 boats with 12,771 people on board illegally arrived in Australia, or more than a boat a day. During the six years of Labor rule, it said, over 900 boats arrived in Australia carrying more than 50,000 people, including more than 8,000 children.

Kyodo News

LDP, Komeito confirm no Cabinet OK on collective self-defence by Sun

Prime Minister Shinzo Abe enters the premier’s office in Tokyo on 19 June, 2014, for talks with the New Komeito party leader Natsuo Yamaguchi to break the stalemate over talks related to Japan’s use of the right to collective self-defence.

KYODO NEWS

Tokyo, 19 June — Prime Minister Shinzo Abe and New Komeito party leader Natsuo Yamaguchi confirmed on Thursday there will be no Cabinet approval for Japan’s potential exercise of the right to collective self-defence by the end of the current Diet session this weekend.

The leaders of the two ruling parties said the statement meeting at the prime minister’s office, agreed that the Liberal Democratic Party and its junior coalition partner after the Diet session will continue talks on exercising the right, which would enable the Self-Defence Forces to come to the defense of Japan’s allies under armed attack.

“The ruling parties are now in talks on security, and we confirmed that will continue even after the end of the session,” New Komeito chief Yamaguchi told reporters after the meeting.

“There was no agreement in particular,” Yamaguchi said when asked if he agreed with Abe on details such as the timing of the Cabinet approval.

Yamaguchi indicated that more time is needed for New Komeito to reach a consensus, saying, “I told the prime minister opinions vary within the party.”

New Komeito has in recent days shown signs of taking a softer line and giving the green light to Japan’s potential use of the right to collective self-defence in a limited manner in the wake of Abe’s increased pressure on the LDP to get the coalition partner’s support.

Starting their talks in May at Abe’s request, the LDP and New Komeito have been divided over the theoretical scenarios presented by the government for debate. The issue of whether Japan should defend allies under armed attack, even when Japan itself is not threatened, remains divisive, with past government interpretations of the war-renouncing Constitution as banning the exercise of the right allowed under the UN Charter.

At Article 9 of the supreme law, which prohibits the use of force to settle international disputes and only allows the minimum level of self-defence. Amid a changing security environment in the Asia-Pacific region, Abe is hoping to persuade parliament to change the interpretation and remove Japan’s long-standing ban in time for the planned revision by the end of the year to US-Japan defence cooperation guidelines that define the role and responsibilities of the SDP and the US military.

Kyodo News

Firemen try to put out the fire at a chemical storage facility in Colombo, capital of Sri Lanka, on 18 June, 2014.

XINHUA

XINHUA

Eighty-one people were killed and 166 others injured in separate blasts in the Sri Lankan capital on Thursday.

Xinhua

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Kyodo News
Iran’s foreign minister says Iran ready to prove not pursing nuclear weapons

TEHERAN, 19 June — Teheran is ready to prove that the country is not trying to produce nuclear weapons, the official IRNA news agency quoted Iran’s foreign minister as saying on Thursday.

“The Islamic republic is ready to prove to the world that it is not, and has not been after nuclear weapons,” Mohammad-Javad Zarif said on Wednesday at a nuclear meeting between Iran and six world powers.

Although the ongoing nuclear negotiations between Iran and the P5+1 group (the five permanent members of UN Security Council plus Germany) are moving slowly, and differences are still there, both sides have started drafting a comprehensive deal, said the top Iranian diplomat.

“Some demands of the P5+1 are totally unacceptable, and we hope that they would have realistic stances” over the differences regarding Iran’s nuclear issue, he added.

Nuclear negotiators of the world powers and Iran started new round of talks in Vienna on Monday in an attempt to reduce differences and to start drafting a comprehensive nuclear accord.

The West demands that Iran dramatically lower its uranium enrichment capacity, and wants Teheran to maintain only a few hundred centrifuges.

The powers have also expressed concerns over Iran’s Arak heavy water reactor which might be used for building nuclear weapons. But Iran insists on the “peaceful” nature of its nuclear activities, arguing for a complete removal of sanctions that is hurting its economy badly.

Earlier, Iran’s top negotiator Abbas Araghchi told IRNA that Iran hoped to settle all differences with the six negotiating partners by the deadline.

“It won’t be a catastrophi— if the 20 July deadline is not met... We hope to start work on Wednesday on drafting the text of a final agreement, not the big issues but the general framework and the introduction,” Araghchi said.

He also warned that there is still a long way to go before a final agreement that is acceptable to all sides can be reached.

Iran and the world powers struck last November an interim deal that led to the release of a partial lift of Western sanctions on Teheran in return for a slow-down of Iran’s controversial uranium enrichment.

Kurdish committed abuses in Syria: rights group

BERUIT, 19 June — Kurds in parts of northern Syria have carried out arbitrary arrests and failed to investigate the killings and disappearance of political opponents, Human Rights Watch said on Thursday in a report documenting human rights abuses. The Democratic Union Party (PYD), an offshoot of the Kurdistan Workers’ Party (PKK) in neighbouring Turkey, has run three Kurdish enclaves in northern Syria since 2012, when Syrian government forces withdrew from the areas.

The PYD, which runs a local administration with courts, prisons, and police, could not be immediately reached by Reuters for comment on the report, which said the party had denied holding political prisoners.

In its first full report on the Kurdish enclaves, Human Rights Watch said it had found that children had been recruited into the PYD’s police force and armed wing. Kurdish opposition members have also been convicted in unfair trials and detained and have complained of abuse, the New York-based rights group said.

The Kurds, Syria’s largest minority group and long oppressed by Dassuks, have been largely left to their own devices by the army of Syrian President Bashar al-Assad. Government troops and PYD security forces are battling Islamist groups such as the Nusra Front and the Islamic State in Iraq and the Levant (ISIL), whose fighters overran parts of Iraq last week.

TALIBAN ATTACK NATO SUPPLIES IN AFGHAN EAST, DESTROY DOZENS OF TRUCKS

KABUL, 19 June — Four Taliban militants struck a NATO post in the eastern Afghan province of Nangarhar on Thursday, destroying dozens of trucks and sparking a gun battle with police, Afghan officials said.

The attack took place in the parking compound of a NATO base near the Torkham crossing on the Pakistan border, near the Khyber Pass and a main supply route for NATO-led forces in land-locked Afghanistan.

Militants on both sides of the border have for years been attacking supplies bound for NATO-led forces in Afghanistan.

Ahmad Zia Abdulzai, a spokesman for the provincial governor, said one attacker blew himself up while police killed the other three.

He said 37 trucks containing fuel and other supplies were destroyed in explosions set off by the attackers.

One Afghan driver was injured, a witness told Reuters.

Taliban spokesman Zabiullah Mujahid confirmed that the militants, fighting to expel foreign forces and bring down the US-backed Kabul government, were behind the attack.

Afghanistan’s Taliban have sustained a high level of violence even though most foreign troops are due to pull out of the country this year leaving Afghan security forces to face the insurgents on their own.

Taliban fighters killed scores of people in attacks on Saturday on a second-round, run-off presidential election.

Afghanistan’s allies hope the election can usher in a strong, stable government but accusations of cheating have raised fears of a deadlock between the two rival candidates, both of whom support a security pact with the United States.

The Taliban dismissed the vote as a US ploy.

IRAQ BATTLES TO HOLD BIGGEST REFINERY

TIKRET, 19 June — Iraqi government forces battled Sunni militants for control of the country’s biggest refinery on Thursday as Prime Minister Nuri al-Maliki waited for a US intelligence team between Iran and the P5+1 group (the five permanent members of UN Security Council plus Germany) are moving slowly, and differences are still there, both sides have started drafting a comprehensive deal, said the top Iranian diplomat.

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NATO troops walk near burning NATO supply trucks after, what police officials say, was an attack by militants in the Torkham area near the Pakistani-Afghan in Nangarhar on 19 June, 2014. “It won’t be a catastrophi— if the 20 July deadline is not met... We hope to start work on Wednesday on drafting the text of a final agreement, not the big issues but the general framework and the introduction,” Araghchi said.

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Volunteers, who have joined the Iraqi army to fight against the predominantly Sunni militants from the radical Islamic State of Iraq and the Levant (ISIL) who have taken over Mosul and other northern provinces, prepare to board a bus in Baghdad, on 19 June, 2014. Reuters

NATO troops walk near burning NATO supply trucks after, what police officials say, was an attack by militants in the Torkham area near the Pakistani-Afghan in Nangarhar on 19 June, 2014. Reuters
Biden warns of further costs for Russia over Ukraine violence

WASHINGTON, 19 June — US Vice President Joe Biden told Ukrainian President Petro Poroshenko on Wednesday the United States would work with its allies to “impose further costs on Russia” if Moscow failed to use its influence to stop separatist violence in eastern Ukraine, the White House said.

Biden’s warning came as fighting continued in the east, which has killed 147 Ukrainian soldiers and wounded hundreds more. He said Russia has failed to stop sending weapons and militants across the border.

“The vice president noted that the United States would work with our partners to impose further costs on Russia if it continued on its current course,” the White House said in a statement.

The United States and European Union imposed sanctions on Russian individuals and some companies after Moscow annexed Ukraine’s Crimea region in March, and have threatened broader economic sanctions on sectors such as energy and mining.

European Union leaders are expected to discuss sanctions at a meeting slated for 27 June. Biden and Poroshenko agreed to “stay in touch” ahead of that meeting, the White House said.—Reuters

13 Cubans imprisoned for methanol poisoning

HAVANA, 19 June—The People’s Provin- cial Court of Havana on Wednesday convicted and sentenced 13 people to up to 30 years in jail for steal- ing and selling methanol as liquor, causing 11 deaths.

State daily newspaper Granma said the trial of those behind the incident, which was committed in 2012, was carried out on 5-7 May.

The sentences were justified “given the seriousness of the crimes and the contemptible behaviour of the principal perpetrators, who endangered human life in the search for profit,” the report said.

Two security guards, who had stolen 60 liters of methyl alcohol from the Institute of Food and Drugs (IFAL) at the University of Havana, were sentenced to 30 and 27 years in prison respectively, on charges of robbery, negligent homicide and causing serious injury.

The other 11 people in- volved received jail terms ranging from six months to six years.—Xinhua

Gun battle erupts as Israeli soldiers search for missing teens

RAMALLAH, 19 June — Israeli forces traded gunfire with Palestinians on Thurs- day, the military said, in the fiercest street battles in the occupied West Bank since a search began for three Is- raeli teenagers missing for a week.

Hospital officials said three Palestinians suffered bullet wounds in the over- night clashes in Jenin, a militant stronghold and the scene of deadly fighting during a Palestinian uprising a decade ago. There were no reported Israeli casualties.

In a statement, the mil- itary said about 300 Pal- estinians, including some who “hurled explosives and opened fire”, confronted soldiers who entered Jenin looking for the three semi- nary students.

Israel says the Hamas Islamist group abducted them last Thursday as they were hitchhiking near a Jewish settlement. “The soldiers responded with live fire, identifying hits,” the statement said, adding that 30 “terror suspects” were detained in West Bank, bringing to 280 the number of Palestinians taken into custody over the past week.

Reuters photographers in Jenin heard heavy gun- fire during the night but were kept away from the scene of the clashes by the Israeli army.

Israel has said its West Bank operation is two-fold: to find Gil-Ad Shaer and US-Israeli national Naftali Fraenkel, both aged 16, and Eyal Yifrach, 19, and to deal as a substantial blow to Ha- mas, a group dedicated to its destruction.

Israeli raids have spread from house-to- house searches in Hebron, a flashpoint town in the area where the three went missing, to raids across the West Bank of institutions believed to provide funding and other support for Ha- mas. At Bir Zeit University, near the Palestinian town of Ramallah, Israeli soldiers on Thursday seized Ha- mas posters and flags from a student group affiliated with Hamas. The military said that so far, soldiers have searched about 900 locations. There has been no word from the missing teens or any public claim of responsibility or ransom demands — including by Hamas. Hamas however has not issued any denial of involvement.

Western-backed Pales- tinian President Mahmoud Abbas roundly condemned the kidnappers on Wednes- day and promised to hold to account those responsi- ble. His words in turn were denounced by Hamas and other factions, who accused him of betraying the nation- al cause.—Reuters

Kiev, 19 June — Ukrainian forces and pro-Russian separatists were locked in a fierce bat- tle in the rebellious east of the country on Thursday, Ukrainian military sources said.

The sources said there were reports that tanks had been deployed by both sides but this could not im- mediately be confirmed.

One military source said heavy fighting broke out around 4 am near the town of Krasny Liman, which has been under govern- ment control since early this month, and that separa- tists in the area appeared to have tried to break through a cordon of government troops.

“There’s a major bat- tle going on which exceeds in terms of force and scale anything there has been up to now,” the military source said.

Dmytro Tymchuk, a military analyst who has good sources in the mili- tary, said separately that fighting had begun when separatists refused a call for them to lay down their arms in line with a peace plan outlined by President Petro Poroshenko.

Up to 4,000 separatist fighters could be involved and armored vehicles, possi- bly tanks, were being used by each side, the mil- itary source said.

“The anti-terrorist op- eration is continuing. There is a battle going on,” gov- ernment forces spokesman Vladyslav Seleznyov said.

Asked about the report that 4,000 separatists could be involved, Seleznyov re- plied: “Then, there’ll be 4,000 coffins.”—Reuters

Ukraine forces fight fierce battle with eastern separatists

Two US citizens arrested on terrorism charges

Houston, 19 June — Two young men, both US citizens, were arrested on charges of trying to “provide material support to terrorists,” with one of them allegedly planning to join insurgents fighting in Syria, US media reported on Wednesday.

Rahmatul Ashkim Khan and Michael Todd Wolfe, both 23 and resident in Austin, Texas, were arrested separately on Tuesday by the Central Texas Joint Terrorism Task Force, daily newspaper the Austin American-Statesman reported, quoting court documents obtained from the US Department of Justice.

Khan, born in Bangladesh, is a full-time student at the University of Texas. Authorities say he conspired to recruit people to travel overseas to support terrorist activities. The complaint charged Khan with using an Internet chat room to spot and recruit people for “committing violent Jihad overseas.”

The other man, Wolfe, was arrested at George Bush Intercontinental Airport in Houston when he was boarding a flight to Europe.—Xinhua

Pro-Russian separatists stand guard at a checkpoint near a burnt truck outside Luhansk, on 18 June, 2014.—Reuters

US Vice President Joe Biden delivers a speech at the UN-controlled buffer zone splitting Cyprus and its capital Nicosia on 22 May, 2014.—Reuters

Gun battle erupts as Israeli soldiers search for missing teens, in the West Bank city of Hebron on 18 June, 2014.— Reuters

Israeli soldiers patrol during operation to locate three missing teenagers, in the West Bank city of Hebron on 18 June, 2014.— Reuters

On Friday, 20 June, 2014 | 7
Hotel entrepreneurs to emphasize development of human resources

NAY PYI TAW, 19 June—Union Minister for Hotels and Tourism U Htay Aung met officials of Union of Myanmar Travels Federation at the ministry. He said that the national tourism development central committee will hold the second coordination meeting soon. The meeting will discuss progress and accomplishment of the tasks in respective sectors submitted to the vice president who chaired the central committee.

Officials of the ministries participated in the discussions.

In the afternoon, the Union Minister U Htay Aung meets hotel entrepreneurs and staff in Nay Pyi Taw.—MNA

Mandaril entrepreneurs meet Thai businessmen

MANDALAY, 19 June—Mandalay Region Chambers of Commerce and Industry held a meeting with officials of Economic Department and entrepreneurs from Ranong of Thailand at the hall of Mandalay Hill Resort Hotel in Aungmyet-hazan Township of Mandalay on Wednesday.

Director Mrs Chimis-inhar of Economic Department of Ranong explained purpose of their trip to promote trade between Myanmar and Thai entrepreneurs.

They discussed trading of commodities between them.

Thailand is the second top trade partner in Myanmar and the most of trade comes through border trade routes.

Thihka Ko Ko (Mandalay)

Youth gymnastic athletes show off excellent skills

YANGON, 19 June—As a gesture of hailing the International Olympic Day which falls on 23 June, the Sports Ministry and Myanmar Gymnastics Federation jointly organized the Olympic day commemorative artistic gymnastic contest at the gymnasium of the federation at Kyak-kasan ground in Tamway Township on Wednesday morning.

The contest was categorized as the floor exercises, pommel horse and vault events for the men’s youth selected players, the balance beam, vault and floor exercise events for the women’s youth selected players, the floor exercises and pommel horse events for the men’s and women’s novice classes and the balance beam, vault and floor exercises events for women’s novice classes.

President of the federation U Thein Win and executives presented prizes to the winners in various events.

Altogether 60 athletes from Nay Pyi Taw Gold Camp, Yangon and Mandalay Institutes of Sports and Physical Education, Nay Pyi Taw Lewe club, new generations from the federation and summer training courses took part in the contest.—MNA

Fresh Water fishery law (draft) discussed

KYENTALI, 19 June—A ceremony to conduct the poll for the Rakhine State Fresh Water Fishery Law (draft) was held at the hall of Township General Administration Department in Kyentali Sub-Township in Rakhine State on Wednesday.

Deputy Speaker of Rakhine State Hluttaw U Tha Nyunt explained the background history of fresh water fishery law of Rakhine coast and Head of Fisheries Department U Zaw Min Naing, matters related to the fisheries sector of the sub-township.

It was attended by departmental officials and fishery entrepreneurs.

District IPRD

Department U Zaw Min Naing, matters related to the fisheries sector of the sub-township.

It was attended by departmental officials and fishery entrepreneurs.

District IPRD

Vehicles resume running along Kalewa-YeU-Monywa road

KALEWA, 19 June—Bus lines in Sagaing Region runs along the Kalewa-YeU-Monywa route in the rainy season.

“In the rainy season, the route of Yargyi cannot be used. At present, only four-wheel drive vehicles can run along the route of Yargyi,” said a local.

“In Kalewa, the buses from Shwe Myanmar bus terminal run along the Kalewa-YeU-Ma-hamyang route. The route from Kalewa to YeU is 105 miles long. The bus fare is K6,000 per passenger,” explained a resident.

The road of Ma-hamyang was a main link to Kayal, Tamu and northern part of Chin. Later, it was not used due to less maintenance of bridges and many sandy creeks.

The Yargyi road constructed in year 2000 is shorter than that of Ma-hamyang road. Now, the Kalewa-YeU road is being reused for transportation. On completion of Chindwin Bridge, the road will be useful for the people,” said a driver.

Linlet Kyel Sin

GOLD PRICE, FE RATE (19-6-2014)

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FE RATE

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An illustration showing a child athlete showing his skills in gymnastics in Artistic gymnastic contest.
New school building handed over in Hlaingbwe Tsp

Hlaingbwe, 19 June—A ceremony to hand over a two-storey building to the education department was held at Basic Education Post-Primary School in Kawpa village of Hlaingbwe Township, Kayin State, on Wednesday. The 90x30 feet building namely Pyinnya Myethman was constructed with contributions K63.8 million by the Ministry of Education, Phalon Sawaw Party and local people.

Kayin State Chief Minister U Zaw Min planted a tree in commemoration of the handover ceremony.

Tun Tun Htwe (Hpa-an)

IPRD staff give mobile library services to students

Magway, 19 June—With the aim of broadening horizon of the rural people and raising reading habits of children, Magway District Information and Public Relations Department gives mobile library services to the people in its district monthly.

On Wednesday, the district IPRD opened the mobile library at Basic Education High School Branch in Kanbya village of Magway.

The staff of the department lent the students to borrow books and publications from the mobile library and distributed pamphlets on Phan Khar Myay anti-narcotic drugs to the students.

Deputy Director U Nyunt Naing of Magway Region Information and Public Relations Department donated copy books and ball-pens to students.

Khin

Edunative talks on menace of narcotic drugs given in Myawady

Myawady, 19 June—The educative talks to mark the International Day against Drug Abuse and Illicit Trafficking was held at the hall of BEHS No 2 in Myawady of Kayin State on Wednesday.

Departmental officials gave lectures on advantages of reading for students, prevention against trafficking in persons, menace of narcotic drugs, penalty and punishment in the drug related law and crime reduction and traffic rules.

Wai Yan Lin (IPRD)

Chin national affairs minister views round rural development tasks

Kalay, 19 June—Chin national affairs minister of Sagaing Region U No Thang Kat made a trip to Thanpho, Ingyinkhon and Kaukcholwin villages in Kalay Township of Sagaing Region on 14 and 16 June to provide necessary assistance for rural development.

The minister met local people and discussed rural development tasks such as education, health, transport, solar power, water supply, issuance of citizenship scrutiny cards and farmland problems.

He then inspected reconstruction of Zee bridge and Hsegyi Bridge damaged in the last monsoon.—Joe Net

Katha, 19 June—A 500 KVA sub-power station and four 11/0.4 KV (100) KVA sub-power stations were built on a self-reliant basis at Meza, Nanthe and Alesieik villages in Indaw Township of Sagaing Region in 2010.

At present, three 11/0.4 KV (100 KVA) sub-power stations also supply electricity to Thanbo, Naungmoe and Pinthinchay villages for electrification.

Under the supervision of the Katha District Electrical Engineer and with the assistance of the Ministry of Electric Power, the 33/11 KV (1250 KVA) transformer has been installed in the place of 33/11 (500 KVA) transformer due to prevention against electricity overloads.

Nyein Nyein (Katha)
King Felipe VI to be sworn in as Spain’s royals try to update

MADRID, 19 June — Spain’s new king, Felipe VI, will be sworn in on Thursday in a low-key ceremony which monarchists hope will usher in a new era of popularity for the troubled royal household.

Felipe becomes king after his father, Juan Carlos, abdicated earlier this month following a series of scandals that led many Spaniards to question the role of the monarchy itself.

The ceremony, at Spain’s lower house of parliament, has little pomp and circumstance compared with royal handovers in other countries. It is more of a legal process, attended by lawmakers, high-level politicians and some members of the royal family. No foreign leaders have been invited.

The event has been designed to chime with times of austerity, palace officials say, mindful that more than one in four Spanish workers say, mindful that more than one in four Spanish workers

Spain’s Crown Prince Felipe waves to the media before a meeting with Chile’s President-elect Michelle Bachelet in Santiago, on 10 March, 2014. Bachelet will take office as Chile’s president on Tuesday.—REUTERS

Felipe, who is 46, will wear military uniform with a sash and swear loyalty to Spain’s constitution before addressing the chamber. He will then be driven through central Madrid with his wife, Queen Letizia, a former journalist.

His father Juan Carlos will not attend the event to allow the spotlight to rest fully on the new monarch, according to the palace.

The outgoing king and his wife, Queen Sofia, will also stay away from an afternoon reception at the Royal Palace with 2,000 guests from all walks of society.

Juan Carlos and Sofia will however greet crowds from a balcony at the Royal Palace alongside the new monarchs.

King-to-be Felipe has remained untouched by a royal corruption scandal, in which his brother-in-law is charged with embezzling millions of euros of public funds in a case that shocked ordinary Spaniards.

Juan Carlos also lost favour after going on a secret elephant hunting trip at the height of Spain’s financial crisis in 2012.

Libya condemns US arrest of Benghazi suspect

Tripoli, 19 June — Libya condemned the United States on Wednesday for snatching a man suspected of masterminding the deadly 2012 attack on the US consulate in Benghazi, describing the arrest as a violation of Libyan sovereignty.

President Barack Obama authorized Sunday’s operation in which US special forces captured Ahmed Abu Khatallah in Libya for transfer to the United States.

The action is very sensitive for the weak Libyan government which is under pressure from various militias, Islamists and armed tribesmen who helped topple Moammar Gadhafi in a NATO-backed uprising in 2011 but defy state authority in the vast desert country.

In the first official reaction from Tripoli, Justice Minister Saleh al-Marghani said Khatallah should be returned to Libya and tried there.

“We had no prior notification,” Marghani told a news conference. “We expect the world to help us with security. We expected the United States to help us, but we did not expect the United States to upset the political scene.”

He said Khatallah had been wanted by Libyan authorities for questioning but they had been unable to arrest him due to the security situation.

Diplomats say Libya has done next to nothing to make arrests over the 2012 consulate attack in which four Americans died, as the government has little sway in Libya’s second-largest city.

Libyan foreign ministry spokesman Said al Saoud said: “This attack on Libyan sovereignty happened at a time when Benghazi is suffering from many problems.” He asked that Khatallah receive a fair trial.—Reuters

While polls show the decision to hand over to the US arrest of the popularly of the royals, almost two thirds now also support the idea of a referendum on whether Spain should continue to be a constitutional monarchy, according to a recent poll by Metroscopia for El País newspaper.

Security forces are taking no chances and police have carried out house-to-house searches along the route King Felipe will be driven, with 7000 police and 120 snipers out on the streets. A Republican rally has been refused authorisation by the Madrid authorities.

Red and yellow flowers — the colours of Spain’s flag — are decoroating the route from Congress to the Royal Palace that will be taken by the motorcade and an escort of mounted guards.

Hundreds of Madrid buses will be decorated with Spanish flags and the palace is giving out 100,000 flags for well-wishers to wave as the new king is driven to a reception at the royal palace, a 1738 building used for visits of heads of state and special ceremonies.

Germany plans to extend training of Kenya’s security agencies

MONBASAA, (Kenya), 19 June — Germany on Wednesday announced plans to extend training and equipping of Kenya security agencies on counter terrorism operations.

German Ambassador to Kenya Andreas Peschke said at least 1,000 security agencies which include anti-terrorism police unit have so far been trained by German detectives in the country. The envoy was speaking in Nairobi after handing over forensic kits, laptops and motorbikes to the police. Peschke said the two governments will continue to further extend their cooperation in matters of security.

Kenya Association of Hotelkeepers CEO Sam Ikwaye wanted that at least 7,000 workers at the tourism hotels risk being fired if the sector will not revive. He said they are committed to further develop cooperation in matters of security. Kenyan Association of Hotelkeepers CEO Sam Ikwaye wanted that at least 7,000 workers at the tourism hotels risk being fired if the sector will not revive.

He said some of foreign countries have officially written to the association demanding to be reassured of their safety ahead of the high season.

Xinhua

A protester reacts as the US Consulate in Benghazi is seen in flames during a protest by an armed group said to have been protesting a film being produced in the US on 11 Sept, 2012.—REUTERS

Germany plans to extend training of Kenya’s security agencies
Billionaire JD.com founder lines up next challenge: beating Alibaba

BEIJING, 19 June — With an iron grip, JD.com Inc founder Richard Liu has dragged China’s number two online retailer from a Beijing backwater to a rich New York listing. Beyond the wealth that brought him lies Liu’s next target - beating Jack Ma’s Alibaba.

“The competition makes the two companies stronger,” said Liu, a billionaire at 41. “I actually enjoy competing,” the chief executive told Reuters in an interview.

On top of shares in a $37 billion company that mean he’s now worth close to $8 billion, Liu still controls 84 percent of voting rights at JD.com. If that causes corporate governance concerns, it makes his resolve to take on his biggest competitor, the Alibaba Group Holding Ltd [IPO-ALIB.N] e-commerce juggernaut co-founded by Ma, all the more personal.

“He has this ambition to win... He says there’s only number one, there’s no number two,” said Kathy Xu, founder and managing partner of Capital Today Group. Xu, one of China’s most successful venture capitalists, put $10 million into JD.com in 2007 and another $8 million in 2008. Her $18 million investment’s now worth 110 times that amount.

Like Amazon.com Inc, JD.com has a logistics-focused e-commerce business. The company, whose delivery staff outnumber Alibaba’s 22,000 employees, promises same-day delivery in 43 of China’s biggest cities.

That sets it apart from Alibaba, which still depends on China’s often unreliable postal infrastructure to get goods to its customers’ doors as it accounts for about 80 percent of all e-commerce in China.

“It’s who can give customers the best experience, they’re the one who’ll succeed and achieve ultimate victory,” said Liu. According to iResearch, China’s e-commerce market will grow nearly two-thirds to 4.45 trillion yuan ($717 billion) in 2017 from 3.14 trillion yuan in 2013.

Like Amazon in its early days, it could also take JD.com time to build a record of lasting profitability. In 2013, the company only scored a net income of $36 million with the help of Chinese government subsidies, after total losses of more than $430 million for the two previous years.—Reuters

Data sharing deal with US referred to EU’s top court

DUBLIN, 19 June — Ireland’s High Court on Wednesday asked the European Court of Justice (ECJ) to review a European Union-US data protection agreement in light of allegations that Facebook FB.O shared data from EU users with the US National Security Agency.

It asked the European Court to clarify whether a Safe Harbour deal, which allows the transfer of data from EU consumers to the United States, was compatible with the EU Charter of Fundamental Rights.

The judge was ruling on a request by Austrian student group europe-v-facebook for an investigation into allegations that companies including Apple AAPL.O and Facebook help the US National Security Agency (NSA) harvest email and other private data from European citizens.

The group appealed to the High Court after the Irish data watchdog - the effective supervisor of the EU activities of some of the biggest US Internet companies which have their European headquarters in Ireland - had said in July there were no grounds for such an investigation.

High Court Justice Gerard Hogan said that given the Safe Harbour agreement, which says that US has sufficient data safeguards in place, the Irish regulator did not have the authority to investigate.

If Safe Harbour stands, the student group’s application must fail, he said. “The critical issue which arises is whether the proper interpretation of the 1995 [EU data protection] directive and the 2000 Commission decision [on the Safe Harbour principles] should be re-evaluated in the light of the subsequent entry into force of article 8 of the EU charter,” on the right to the protection of personal data, Hogan said.—Reuters

Intel woos Internet heavyweights with flexible server chips

SAN FRANCISCO, 19 June — Intel Corp is taking a new approach to the powerful server chips it sells to Internet heavyweights like Facebook and Google.

The Santa Clara, California company is integrating its Xeon processor chips with programmable chips that will give customers with unique technical requirements more flexibility to optimize their servers.

With a stagnant PC industry and little progress in smartphones and tablets, selling high-end server chips is an increasingly important source of profits for Intel.

Most servers are made with off-the-shelf Xeon chips, but last year Intel manufactured about 15 customized versions of those processors to meet the particular needs of high-end customers like eBay and Facebook.

It plans to manufacture over 30 customized chips this year, Diane Bryant, who leads Intel’s data center division, told reporters at a briefing this week.

The technology Bryant announced at an event Wednesday goes a step further, letting data center operators customize the chips themselves, as often as they want.

Intel dominates the server market, but it faces a new source of competition as rivals prepare low-power processors based on technology from ARM Holdings.

The new component integrates a standard Xeon processor and a chip known as a field-programmable gate array, or FPGA. Customers can configure the chips as needed to make servers faster at handling proprietary tasks, like providing web-search results or updating social networks.

“If they have an application that spends a lot of time on a particular algorithm, they can take that algorithm, take the soft (intellectual property), and load it into the FPGA and accelerate that workload,” Bryant said.

Intel already sells server products that combine Xeon chips and programmable chips but on the new component they will be much more closely integrated, resulting in up to double the performance, Bryant said.—Reuters

Fish-eating spiders discovered worldwide

WASHINGTON, 19 June — Spiders from at least eight different families can prey on small fish and “fishing spiders” are probably geographically widespread, occurring on all continents except Antarctica, according to a study published on Wednesday in the US open-access journal PLOS ONE.

Spiders are traditionally viewed as predators of insects, but in recent years, researchers have become increasingly aware that spiders are not exclusively insectivorous, and that certain larger- sized species might supplement their insect diet by occasionally catching small vertebrate prey.

In the new study, Martin Nyffeler of the University of Basel, Switzerland and Bradley Pusey of the University of Western Australia gathered and documented numerous incidents of spiders preying fish from all around the world.

According to their systematic review, spiders from as many as five families have been observed preying on small fish in the wild and three more families contain species that catch fish under laboratory conditions.

These so called semi-aquatic spiders typically dwell at the fringes of shallow freshwater streams, ponds or swamps, the researchers said.

These spiders, some of which are capable of swimming, diving and walking on the water surface, have powerful neurotoxins and enzymes that enable them to kill and digest fish that often exceed them in size and weight, they said.

The study showed that naturally occurring fish predation by spiders has been reported from all conditions, with the exception of Antarctica.

Most incidents have been documented in North America, especially in the wetlands of Florida, where semi-aquatic spiders have often been witnessed catching and eating small freshwater fish such as mosquitofish, the researchers said.

In order to catch its prey, the spider will typically anchor its hind legs to a stone or a plant, with its front legs resting on the surface of the water, ready to ambush, they said. The fish will then be dragged to a dry place before the feeding process can begin which usually lasts several hours. “Our finding of such a large diversity of spider families being engaged in fish predation is novel,” they wrote in their paper.

Evidence suggests that fish... might be an occasional prey item of substantial nutritional importance.” —Xinhua

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An employee walks past an Intel logo during the 2014 Computex exhibition at the TWTC Nangang exhibition hall in Taipei on June 3, 2014.—Reuters

A fishing spider (Dolomedes facetus) is pictured with a captured fish (genus Xiphophorus) in a garden pond in Brisbane, Australia in this undated handout photograph.—Reuters
UN chief calls global youth unemployment situation “intolerable”

GENEVA, 19 June — UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon on Wednesday said that the global youth unemployment situation is intolerable, particularly for young women. “Employment and decent work show up in every discussion and every poll as critical to successful and sustainable development,” the Secretary-General said in a speech at the 103rd International Labour Conference held in Geneva.

“I am pleased to see some encouraging trends and to acknowledge the tremendous achievements of the Bologna Declaration,” he said. “But, we have to go on the path firmly anchored in the Ger- man programmes are now a two-cycle system.

“The Bologna process has made it possible for education to be a right for all and for talented students to pursue their studies in universities,” the Nobel Prize laureate said. “This is why we can call the Bologna process a success story.”

Meanwhile, he said, “The Bologna process has been converted into the two-cycle system.

“Fourteen years after the launch of the Bologna Declaration, we have seen significant progress in terms of the implementation of the two-cycle system,” said Ms. Wanka. “The introduction of the two-cycle system has led to far-reaching changes in the national higher education systems in Europe since then and Germany has actively followed this process from the beginning.”

According to the Federal Ministry of Education and Research, almost three quarters of all students in Germany are now enrolled in a bachelor’s or master’s degree programme, and 87 percent of all courses at German universities have been converted into the two-cycle system.

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CLAIMS DAY NOTICE
MV ESM CREMONA VOY NO (100)
Consignees of cargo carried on MV ESM CREMONA VOY NO (100) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 20.6.2014 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of M.I.P where it will lie at the consignee’s risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.
Damaged cargo will be surveyed daily from 8 am to 11:20 am and 12 noon to 4 pm to Claims Day now declared as the third day after final discharge of cargo from the Vessel.
No claims against this vessel will be admitted after the Claims Day.

SHIPPING AGENCY DEPARTMENT
MYANMA PORT AUTHORITY
AGENT FOR: MS ORINET OVERSEAS CONTAINER LINES
Phone No: 2301185

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE
MV CTP FORTUNE VOY NO (133)
Consignees of cargo carried on MV CTP FORTUNE VOY NO (133) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 20.6.2014 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of H.P.T where it will lie at the consignee’s risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.
Damaged cargo will be surveyed daily from 8 am to 11:20 am and 12 noon to 4 pm to Claims Day now declared as the third day after final discharge of cargo from the Vessel.
No claims against this vessel will be admitted after the Claims Day.

SHIPPING AGENCY DEPARTMENT
MYANMA PORT AUTHORITY
AGENT FOR: MS SAMUDERA SHIPPING LINE
Phone No: 2301185

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE
MV KOTA RAKAN VOY NO (379)
Consignees of cargo carried on MV KOTA RAKAN VOY NO (379) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 20.6.2014 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of A.W.P.T where it will lie at the consignee’s risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.
Damaged cargo will be surveyed daily from 8 am to 11:20 am and 12 noon to 4 pm to Claims Day now declared as the third day after final discharge of cargo from the Vessel.
No claims against this vessel will be admitted after the Claims Day.

SHIPPING AGENCY DEPARTMENT
MYANMA PORT AUTHORITY
AGENT FOR: MS ADVANCE CONTAINER LINES
Phone No: 2301185

Ministry of Information
Myanmar Radio and Television
Invitation for open tender to build male hostel
1. Open tenders are invited to build a male hostel for Myan-
(a) Male Hostel R.C two-storey building (220’x36’x 0’x 25.’0") (Including water, electric power, sewage and road construction works)
(b) Open tender forms can be taken out from Myanmar Radio and Television, Nay Pyi Taw (Tatkan) as of (17-6-2014) during 9:30 am to 16:30 pm.
(c) Tenders with the following documents must be submitted in the presence of the tender board members on 18-7-2014 from 9:30 am to 16:30 pm at Myanmar Radio and Television, Nay Pyi Taw (Tatkan). The overdue tenders will not be taken into consideration.
(d). Measurement BQ and cost
(b). Financial situation of company, capacity of investment and bank statement
(c). Copy of company registration certificate and company’s profile
(d). Copy of Yangon City Development Committee’s contract licence
4. Disciplines of open tender, architectural design and detail data can be taken out from the following address.
Construction supervisory Committee
Ministry of Information
Myanmar Radio and Television
Nay Pyi Taw (Tatkan)
Telephone No. 067-79135, 067-79400, 067-79377

Lithuanian teachers protest, demand pay rise
VILNIUS, 19 June — Around 1,000 teachers from across Lithuania protested here on Wednesday, demanding bigger budget allocation for education and a pay rise.

In the protest held by the Lithuanian Education Trade Union, teachers called for a consistent increase in budget spending on education, bringing it up to 6 percent of GDP by 2020.

According to the union, the 6 percent of GDP level is what recommended by the European Union and United Nations agencies.
Protestors also asked government to prepare a long-term programme, ensuring a pay rise from 2015, and guarantee safe working conditions in educational institutions.—Xinhua

State of the Sea
Occasional squalls with rough sea will be experienced Deltaic, off and along Rakhine Coasts. Surface Wind speed in squalls may reach (40) m.p.h. Seas Will be moderate to rough elsewhere in Myanmar waters.

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE
MV BBC OLYMPUS VOY NO ( )
Consignees of cargo carried on MV BBC OLYMPUS VOY NO ( ) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 20.6.2014 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of M.I.T where it will lie at the consignee’s risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.
Damaged cargo will be surveyed daily from 8 am to 11:20 am and 12 noon to 4 pm to Claims Day now declared as the third day after final discharge of cargo from the Vessel.
No claims against this vessel will be admitted after the Claims Day.

SHIPPING AGENCY DEPARTMENT
MYANMA PORT AUTHORITY
AGENT FOR: MS BBC CHARTERING
Phone No: 2301186
US comedian Leno tapped for Mark Twain Prize for American Humour

New York, 19 June — US comedian receive this year’s Mark Twain Prize for American Humor from the John F Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts, the centre announced on Wednesday. Leno, who ended a 22-year run as the host of NBC’s “Tonight Show” in February, will receive the award during a gala performance at the Kennedy Center in Washington, DC, on 19 October.

The Kennedy Centre created the award in 1998 to recognize comedians who have had “an impact on American society” similar to that of Mark Twain, the 19th-century satirist and author of novels including “Adventures of Huckleberry Finn”.

“What an honour!” Leno, 64, said in a statement in which he jokingly pretended to confuse Twain with the British novelist Charles Dickens. “I’m a big fan of Mark Twain’s. In fact, ‘A Tale of Two Cities’ is one of my favorite books!” Previous winners of the award include Billy Crystal, Tina Fey, Whoopi Goldberg and Lily Tomlin. Leno, who lives in Los Angeles, began his career touring clubs as a stand-up comedian, and continued to hit the road even after he helped make the “Tonight Show” the highest-rated late-night show on television for nearly two decades. The show is now hosted by Jimmy Fallon.—PTI

Katy Perry launches own music label

London, 19 June — Pop star Katy Perry has launched her own music label. The 29-year-old singer took to Twitter to announce her label Metamorphosis Music and its first signing, reported E!Online.

“I am so ecstatic to finally announce my new label Metamorphosis Music and my first signing, the incredibly talented and soulful Ferras,” she wrote. The “Roar” hitmaker said that she had joined forces with her own record label, Capitol Records, for the music venture.

“Ferras is a man with a message, and a unique lyrical way of communicating his perspective on life that makes you feel connected to every note when you listen. I believe he is going to be an important artist to watch unfold,” she added. LA-based singer-songwriter Ferras broke into the music scene in 2008 with his debut album Aliens and Rainbows. He signed with Capitol in 2007 and met Perry when both were new artists at the label. —PTI

Arterton goes back to roots for “Made in Dagenham” musical

London, 19 June — British actress Gemma Arterton is best known as a Bond girl in “ Quantum of Solace” and as a princess in “Prince of Persia”, but she’s back to her working-class roots for a musical version of the film “Made in Dagenham” about a strike at a car plant. The West End end adaptation of the 2010 British film, which stars women workers at a Ford plant near London going on strike for equal pay with men and against sexual harassment will mark the stage singing debut for the 28-year-old Arterton, who was born not far from Dagenham where the 1968 strike took place. “I hope that...the story itself, which is completely relevant, and the fact that it’s about women — and I think most of the people that go to musical theatre are women — but I think it’s just one of those shows that you can’t help but be moved by it,” Arterton told Reuters in an interview this week. “That’s something that I felt when I watched the film. It makes you want to get up on your feet, it makes you want to sing,” said Arterton, whose mother worked as a cleaner and whose father is a welder.—Reuters

Gemma Arterton poses for photographers at the British Academy of Film and Arts (BAFTA) awards ceremony at the Royal Opera House in London on 10 Feb, 2013. —Reuters

Christopher Walken, another Oscar-winner, plays mobster Gyp DeCarlo, the group’s godfather figure and mentor to Valli. Eastwood admired the musical and just tried to “open it up, give it a certain realism,” in the film.

In an unusual twist, the actors speak directly to the camera, giving the audience personal insights.

“It is my favourite thing about the film. It is so unexpected and it can be a little bit disconcerting at first,” said Berger, who in one scene is shown watching Eastwood in the 1960s TV show “Rawhide.”

“But what I think it does is keep the audience completely engaged,” he added. “It keeps the audience feeling like we are watching them. It in a way it recreates the theatrical experience in the film.” Eastwood, a jazz buff who directed “Bird,” a biographical film about saxophonist Charlie Parker and produced a documentary about pianist Dave Brubeck, had met Valli many years ago and was a fan of The Four Seasons.—Reuters

‘Jersey Boys’ director Eastwood puts high value on cast, script

New York, 19 June — Director Clint Eastwood saw three versions of the Tony Award winning musical before casting the film adaptation “Jersey Boys,” which charts the rise of 1960s pop-vocal group The Four Seasons from the mean streets of New Jersey to the top of the charts.

With hit songs like “Sherry,” “Rag Doll,” “Dawn” and “Big Girls Don’t Cry,” the rags-to-riches tale of the group’s struggle to overcome their humble beginnings, “Jersey Boys” won four Tonys, including best musical, in 2006.

Eastwood, 84, knew that finding the right actors was the key to transforming the hit juke-box musical, among the longest running shows on Broadway, into the film that opens in US theatres on Friday.

“Finding for me is one of the most important things next to the writing,” Eastwood, a double Oscar-winner for “Unforgiven” and “Million Dollar Baby,” told a news conference.

“If you cast it properly it takes place very easily, but if you cast it improperly you are fighting an uphill battle.” Instead of opting for Hollywood names, Eastwood went back to the stage to find his stars. John Lloyd Young reenacts his Tony-winning role as singer Frankie Valli, whose falsetto tenor propelled the group to the big time.

Erich Bergen, as songwriter(engineer) Bob Gaudio, who composed many of the group’s hits, and chael LoMenda, as guitarist Nick Massi, reprise their touring company roles.

Boardwalk Empire’s Vincent Piazza, who plays hot-headed manager and lead guitarist Tommy DeVito, knows the only way out of the neighbourhood is to join the Army, the mob or get famous. Piazza is the only member of the group who was not in a stage production.

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Gemma Arterton poses for photographers at the British Academy of Film and Arts (BAFTA) awards ceremony at the Royal Opera House in London on 10 Feb, 2013. —Reuters
Preview - Swiss up next as French dare to dream

SALVADOR, (Brazil), 19 June — Since 1998, the erratic French soccer team has either reached the final or failed to win a game at the World Cup. So now, after a clinical 3-0 defeat of Honduras, fans of Les Bleus could be daring to dream again as France take on neighbours Switzerland in the second Group E game on Friday.

The dominant display against Honduras on Sunday featured a resurgence of flair and free-flowing football that was non-existent in a disastrous South Africa campaign in 2010.

Four years ago the players mutinied against coach Raymond Dome- nech and returned home in disgrace. But Didier Deschamps has built a more unified squad and even though Franck Ribery is out injured, Karim Benzema looking in fine form, are likely to provide France with an exciting blend of flair and free-flowing football.

Saturday's win against Ecuador was the first time the selection has reached the final in a World Cup for their last win. France won the two games prior to that and Switzerland have to go back to 1992 for their last win. But the Swiss have made great strides in recent years, their prospects boosted by a more exciting crop of players largely playing in Europe's top leagues, such as hard-tackling captain Gokhan Inler and the skilful Xherdan Shaqiri.

Deschamps is unlikely to tinker much with his side, with the same back four of Mathieu Debuchy, Raphael Varane, Mamadou Sakho and Patrice Evra likely to start. His big decision will come on the left of midfield.

Antoine Griezmann started against Honduras with the excellent Benzema up front, but Deschamps could be tempted to move Benzema out to the left and bring in Giroud up front to add more height and power to the side.

Whoever gets the nod will have an eye on the history books, since the next goal will be France's 100th at a World Cup.

Hannes Seferovic, Switzerland's hero in the first match after grabbing a 93rd minute winner, said France's attacking talents could be their downfall. “There will surely be more space (than versus Ecuador) because the French like to play more. They are strong in attack, but it may be their weakness to want to attack too much,” he said.

Switzerland coach Ottmar Hitzfeld, who like Deschamps has a target of reaching the last 16 in Brazil, must decide whether to shuffle his front line after substituting forwards Admir Mehmedi and Seferovic grabbed both their goals against Ecuador.

The pair are vying to start in place of Josip Drmic.

France's national soccer team players Antoine Griezmann (L) Morgan Schneiderlin (C) and Remy Cabella react during a training session at the Botafogo soccer club's Santa Cruz stadium in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, 19 June 2014. France take on neighbours Switzerland on 20 June 2014, (North Car-

Unpublished Pablo Neruda poems discovered among manuscripts

SANTIAGO, 19 June — Twenty previously unknown poems by Chile’s Nobel Prize-winning poet Pablo Neruda have been discovered among sheaves of manuscripts in boxes and will be published this year.

The poems were stumbled upon when the Pablo Neruda Foundation was carrying out a rigorous cataloguing of the poet’s manuscripts and have been verified as being Neruda’s work after being examined by experts, the foundation said on Wednesday.

Six of the poems relate to the theme of love and the others have different themes and date from 1956 onwards.

“It has not been possible to date all these poems, because they don’t all carry the date on which they were written; the poet only dated them in some cases,” said Dario Oses, director of the foundation’s library.

Neruda, one of Latin America’s most admired and influential writers, died in September 1973.

Women set to follow men with Pinehurst US Open

PINEHURST, (North Car-

olina), 19 June — Just four days after Germany’s Martin Kaymer won his second major title in the US Open played at Pinehurst Resort in North Carolina, the top women’s golfers will tee off at the same venue vying for the US Women’s Open.

American world number one Stacy Lewis, third-ranked New Zealand- er Lydia Ko and reigning champion Park Inbee of South Korea have com-
muched much of the attention ahead of the season’s second women’s major where all three are among the favourites.

Also front and centre in the media spotlight has been American Lucy Li, the tenager of age 11, who, at the tender age of 11, became the youngest ever to qualify for the US Women’s Open after going two under par in her sectional qualifier last month.

Li first tasted the lime-

light by winning her age group at Augusta National’s inaugural Drive, Chip and Putt Championship before the Masters in April, and she has charmed the fans during Pinehurst practice with her zest for golf and life in general.

With her hair in pigtails and a readiness to smile and giggle at every opportunity, she does not take herself too seriously and is determined to make the most of her first experience at a women’s major. “The perfect week, I just want to go out there and have fun and play the best I can and I really don’t care about the outcome,” Californian Li told reporters while preparing for Thursday’s opening round at Pinehurst. “I just want to have fun and learn. I want to learn a lot from these great players.”

Li is not the youngest player to participate in the US Women’s Open as Beverly Klass was 10 when she competed in the 1967 cham-
pionship, prior to the qualifica-
tion process.

While Li aims to make the most her week at Pinehurst, Korean Park will be bidding to become the first player since Australian Karrie Webb in 2001 to win back-to-back US Women’s Open titles.
Champions Spain out of World Cup, Dutch march on

BELO HORIZONTE, (Brazil), 19 June — Holders Spain crashed humiliatingly out of the World Cup on Wednesday after a second shock defeat while 2010 runners-up the Netherlands continued their perfect start with another high-scoring win.

Thrashed 5-1 by the Dutch in their opening game, Spain’s normally composed and incisive team again looked a spent force, allowing Chile to score twice in the first half then hold firm for a totally deserved, glorious win.

“It is difficult to explain,” bemoaned Spain captain and goalkeeper Iker Casillas, who was at fault on both goals and is likely to be among an old guard jettisoned for fresh faces.

“We ask people’s forgiveness. We are responsible but also the first faces. Our guard jettisoned for fresh likely to be among an old guard jettisoned for fresh faces.

“Players of YVC and Joker clubs power in attacking each other to kick the ball into the net.—Sok Nyunt

Robin van Persie (2nd L) of the Netherlands celebrates with teammates after scoring a goal, as Australia’s Alex Wilkinson and Australia’s Ryan McGowan react, during their 2014 World Cup Group B soccer match at the Beira Rio stadium in Porto Alegre on 18 June, 2014.—Reuters

However, to stem the Dutch tide, Chile’s opening goal behind was to win with a long-range strike by 20-year-old substitute Memphis Depay that made him the youngest player to score in his nation’s long and illustrious World Cup history.

With maximum points and eight goals scored, coach Louis van Gaal was one of the happiest men in Brazil.

The Netherlands, hoping to finally shed their unwanted tag of being the best country never to win the World Cup, and Chile have now both secured berths in the last 16. They meet on Monday to decide the Group B winners.

Cameroon’s torrid World Cup also ended on Wednesday when they were trounced 4-0 by Croatia in the Amazonian heat of Manaus. Having lost captain Samuel Eto’o to injury, a miserable campaign for the ‘Indomitable Lions’ was compounded by a needless sending off for Alex Song after he hit Mario Mandzukic.

Croatia, no doubt motivated by a sense of injustice over a penalty awarded to Brazil in their opening defeat by the hosts, were ruthless, Mandzukic helping himself to a double.

Brazil and Mexico each have four points in Group A, and Croatia three, meaning a win for them against the Mexicans in Recife on Monday would take the European side into the last 16 for the first time since they reached the semi-finals in 1998. The tournament has been a spectacular affair so far, with daredevil teams bringing goals galore and pacy end-to-end football that has eclipsed the duller fare in South Africa.

The football action has also taken attention away from sporadic political protests against Brazil’s government and worries about whether infrastructure would be ready.

Pele, Maradona miss games

This would not be South America, though, if everything went perfectly and about 200 Chilean fans stormed the media center at the Maracana stadium just before the game on Wednesday.

Journalists are not the only ones to be inconvenienced. Former Argentina captain Diego Maradona, who is working as a TV pundit in Brazil, said on Wednesday he was denied entry to the Maracana for his team’s weekend game against Bosnia.

This followed discomfort for another soccer great, Brazil’s Pele, who had to listen to the first half of Brazil’s 0-0 draw with Mexico on his car radio due to being stuck in traffic.

2014 FIFA World Cup Groupstage Standing

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The MFF Ooredoo Cup Futsal tournament reached the quarterfinals at the National Indoor Stadium-1 in Thuwunna of Yangon on Thursday.

UPT routed Myo Chat 7-3; MIC beat Lansdowne 5-3; VUC trounced Joker 8-2; and Nay Pyi Taw hammered Zwagabin 8-2 in the quarterfinals. On 21 June, UPT will play against MIC while VUC will compete with Nay Pyi Taw in the semifinals.—By Nyi Nyat Thawda