Myanmar Railways promises to complete new Insein flyover construction in 2014-2015 FY

By Ye Myint

To avoid a traffic bottleneck at the busiest junction in Insein Township which is part of Yangon’s suburban area, Myanmar Railways will construct a new flyover that will run parallel to the old one. The flyover crossing flyover can with-stand 72 tons of loads as well. According to the Senior Engineer who is in charge of the bridge depot, Myanmar Railways will be responsible for preliminary engineering and pre-stressed concrete girder construction while the remaining construction works will be under supervision by the Yangon Region government that will invite tender in August or September before Parliament approves K 5.5 billion in additional budget for the flyover in November.

Regarding the advantages of this flyover construction compared to other bridge constructions, he explained that the railroad crossing flyover can withstand 72 tons of loads as first advantage while other bridges have capacity to withstand only a 60-tonne load. It is because the PC girder is designed to withstand a locomotive weighing 72 tons. As second advantage, there will be bridge construction-caused traffic congestion for about one and half month only at the junction of Lanjht and Mingyi streets and Bahal Road during the six-month construction period as 75 per cent of the whole construction site is included in the MR’s property, he voiced.

Upon completion of the new railroad crossing flyover on the roads leading to the downtown area on one side and Hlinethaya Township on the other side, traffic delays at one of the busiest junctions of Insein Township will be reduced to a certain extent and there will be smooth and speedy flow of traffic on the old bridge on which vehicles are often left stranded during rush-hour traffic, the official said.

The old bridge crossing the railroad is 1,245 feet long and nine inches long and 34 feet wide. The bridge built in 1989 by Myanmar Railways with a total cost of K 19.65 million is serving as an entry-exit for local people in the populous area of the township.

Dangers of bird flu and prevention of outbreak in Myanmar discussed at workshop in Yangon

By Khaoing Thanda Lwin

YANGON, 20 June—Myanmar people should continue to take measures to prevent an outbreak of the influenza A virus subtypes H7N9 in the H5N1, said Dr Wah Wah Han, Country Coordinator of the Prevent Project on Friday at a workshop for media orientation in Yangon, stressing that there have never been any known cases of H7N9 in Myanmar and no outbreak of H5N1 in 2013.

The project was arranged by the Myanmar Livestock Federation, US-AID and Australian AID and aimed at ensuring prevention and control of H5N1 and H7N9 and giving a key message to communicate to the media, she added. The Vice President of the Myanmar Livestock Federation-MLF, Dr Hla Hla Thein said the H7N9 virus can be controlled if it occurs in the country as Myanmar does not have “a larger amount of poultry than other countries”.

Dr Wah Wah Han said plans are underway to conduct 3-day courses for farmers in five townships including Amarapura, Myintgan and PyinOoLwin of Mandalay Region. The Course for media persons in Mandalay and Nay Pyi Taw will also be conducted soon.

During the workshop, the participants also discussed how to provide education on prevention against the disease at waiting areas such as bus stops.

The vice president gave advice on how to provide education on prevention against the disease at waiting areas such as bus stops.

One of the participants came to speak at the workshop to discuss how to provide education on prevention against the disease at waiting areas such as bus stops.

By Aye Min Soe

Zones for chicken farms have been established along the Chinese border as part of measures to prevent an outbreak of bird flu.—PHOTO: AYE MIN SOE

High prices of farming cattle creates problems for farmers: Lower House debate  
PAGES 8-9-10

Don’t get trapped in a ‘more haste, less speed’ situation  

PAGE 5

The Myanmar National Human Rights Commission Law  
The Pyidaungsu Hluttaw Law No. 21/2014  

PAGE 8

Don’t get trapped in a ‘more haste, less speed’ situation  

PAGE 5
Nine schools in Bago receive awards for good conduct

Pyay Township School Health Committee has selected model schools in the township of Bago Region. Pyay Basic Education High School No 1 secured the first model prize, BEHS No 2 branch the second, and BEHS (North Nawin) the third at high school level. Basic Education Post-Primary School (Defence Services) won the first prize, Shwedaga BEMS No 1 the second and Mahtaw BEPPS the third at middle school level. Kyoyatha BEPS stood first, Pyinmaaing BEPS the second and BEPS Nontin the third at the primary level.

PyinOoLwin District, Mandalay District champions in Inter-District Volleyball Tournament

Mandalay, 20 June—PyinOoLwin District routed Mandalay District 3-0 in the men's event and Mandalay District hammered Meiktila District 3-0 in women's event in the final matches of the Mandalay Region Chief Minister's Cup Inter-District volleyball tournament. At the Bahtoo gymnasium on Wednesday, officials of Region Sports and Physical Education Department presented prizes to the winning teams. On behalf of the region chief minister, Region Minister for Finance Dr Myint Kyu presented championship trophies and K300,000 each to Mandalay District women's team and PyinOoLwin District men's team.

Abhidhamma course commences at Shwesaryan Pagoda in Thaton

Thaton, 20 June—Sasana Yaungchi Association of Thaton opened the Abhidhamma course at the precinct of Shwesaryan Pagoda in Thaton on Thursday evening. Course instructor U Kyaw Hlaing explained matters related to the training course.

Essay contest in commemoration of the International Day against Drug Abuse and Illicit Trafficking held

Pazundaung, 20 June—The essay contest in commemoration of the International Day against Drug Abuse and Illicit Trafficking was held at Basic Education High School No 2 in Pazundaung Township on Thursday. It was jointly organized by Pazundaung Township Education Department and the Township Information and Public Relations Department. Altogether 28 students participated in the middle and high school level essay contests.

Western tourist narrowly escapes attack in Ngwehsaung

Ngwehsaung, 20 June—A female tourist from the Netherlands was nearly attacked in her bungalow in the beach resort of Ngwehsaung, after a local man broke into her room at night, with the traveller escaping a possible assault by screaming for help.

The Ngwehsaung tourist police said that during rainy season many hotels are closed and those remaining open often run with only half-staff capacity, leading to a decline in security.

Police said that last year, a Polish tourist was robbed by two men while out taking a stroll along the beach in the evening. Tourists are advised to leave valuables with the hotel manager and female solo travellers are advised to seek the company of other tourists, especially during off-season.

Ngwehsaung is a popular beach destination, about a 6-hour bus drive from Yangon, and has seen a huge increase in foreign tourists over the past three years.

Confiscated farmlands to be handed over in Kyientali of Rakhine State

Kyientali, 20 June—A ceremony to coordinate the handover of confiscated farmlands was held at the library in Ponnyet Village of Kyientali Sub-Township in Rakhine State on Wednesday.

At the meeting, Gwa Township administrator U San Shwe Aung said 475.60 acres of farmlands will be handed over to 260 farmers from four villages. Local farmers participated in discussions for handing over the confiscated farmlands.—District IPRD

Cash donated to fund for rural electrification

Pyay, 20 June—The cash donation for electrification was held at the monastery in Kyoyatha village of Pyay Township in Bago Region on Thursday.

Donors presented over K7 million for undertaking electrification in Kyoyatha and Zalaytin villages.

Wellwishers donate K500,000 to fund of electrification to an official.

IPRD Daw Sanda Moe.

The prize presentation ceremony will take place at the hall of Township IPRD on 26 June.
High prices of farming cattle creates problems for farmers: Lower House debate

NAV Pyi Taw, 20 June—Peasant farmers in Myanmar depend heavily on farming cattle for plowing their land and threshing rice paddy.

In his response to the question, Union Deputy Minister for Agriculture and Irrigation U Ohn Than said his ministry, in cooperating with other departments, has been taking legal actions against transporting farming cattle to other regions without permission.

Other measures taken to solve the problem include registration of cattle and cattle farms, crackdown on smuggling of farming cattle, training farmers to breed farming cattle and offering loans for farming cattle and agricultural machinery, the union deputy minister said.

Other questions raised at the Friday session of the Lower House included agricultural loans for farmers and conservation of the Bilin River in Mon State.

The Lower House session also approved the bill amending the Anti-corruption Law.

According to the bill, five of the members of the Myanmar migrant workers abroad, electrical workshop training for students of Myanmar Maritime University and manufacturing phosphate and potash chemical fertilizers in Myanmar.

Appointment of doctors for health care services at Yezin Universities Campus discussed

NAV Pyi Taw, 20 June—Union Ministers U Win Tin, U Myint Hlaing and U Ohn Myint and Deputy Minister for Health Dr Than Aung met faculty members and students from universities and departments in Yangon.

The meeting discussed the reform process in all sectors of the nation and matters related to agriculture, livestock and fisheries, rural development, environmental conservation, forestry and health sectors. Union Minister U Myint Hlaing explained appointment of doctors for health care services in the campus, opening of a mini market in the campus for availability of personal goods and provision of WiFi services for the students.

After the meeting, the union ministers visited the Yezin University station hospital and fulfilled the requirements of the hospital.—MNA

Israeli Embassy donates books to Bago Region

YANGON, 20 June—The Israeli Embassy Project on Education, “Donation of Soul Birds Translation Books” continued in Bago Region on Wednesday. The donation ceremony was held at Six Kaung Library, Nandawayar Ward of Bago.

The embassy has donated 500 copies of Soul Birds Translations in Myanmar, Kayin and Mon versions to be distributed in the region.

Before the donation, Ambassador of Israel to Myanmar Mr Hagay Moshe Behar called on Bago Region Chief Minister U Nyan Win at his office and explained to him about the embassy education project and discussed future bilateral cooperation. So far, the embassy has donated over 5,600 copies of translated books in six different languages all over Myanmar hoping to promote the reading habits of the young generation in Myanmar.—NLM

High prices of farming cattle creates problems for farmers: Lower House debate

Republic of the Union of Myanmar Union Election Commission

Nay Pyi Taw Notification (No. 20/2014)

8th Waning of Nayon, 1376 ME (20th June, 2014)

Six region/state Hluttaw representatives of Armed Forces substituted

According to a request made in accordance with Section 33 of the Region/State Hluttaw Election Law to substitute six representatives of the Armed Forces who are parliamentarians, the Union Election Commission scrutinized and substituted the following six region/state Hluttaw representatives under the Notification No. 32/2011 of the commission dated 20-1-2011 and Notification No. 48/2012 of the commission dated 15-11-2012.

The region/state Hluttaw representatives to be substituted were nominated by the Commander-in-Chief of the Defence Services in the first multi-party general election held on 7 November 2010.

Magway Region Hluttaw

(1) BC 28532 Major Moe Kyaw Tun Captain Tin Htay

Rakhine State Hluttaw

(2) BC 33134 Major Nyan Lin Maung BC 16517 Mag-Jen Maung Maung Ohn

(3) BC 34345 Major Kyaw Myo Tun BC 48352 Captain Kyaw Thu

Yangon Region Hluttaw

(4) BC 35744 Major Arkar Kyaw Swe BC 35132 Captain Khin Maung Win

(5) BC 36204 Major Tun Lin Tar BC 29403 Captain Aung Myat Win

(6) BC 28470 Captain Thet Naing Oo BC 32469 Captain Than Myint

By order, (Tin Tun)

Secretary

Union Election Commission

Republic of the Union of Myanmar Union Election Commission

Nay Pyi Taw Notification (No.21/2014)

8th Waning of Nayon, 1376 ME (20th June, 2014)

Rakhine State National Front Party of Myanmar allowed to change to Rakhine State National Front Party

The Rakhine State National Front Party of Myanmar registered as a political party under Article 9 of the Political Parties Registration Law submitted its application to change its name to Rakhine State National Front Party to the Union Election Commission.

It is hereby announced that UEC allowed the Rakhine State National Front Party of Myanmar to change its name to Rakhine State National Front Party in accord with the law as of 20 June.

By order, (Tin Tun)

Secretary

Union Election Commission

Table tennis tournament marks International Olympic Day 2014

YANGON, 20 June—The Olympic Day commemorative table tennis tournament 2014 was held at the hall of the Myanmar Table Tennis Federation on U Wisara Road in Yangon on Thursday. 60 athletes took part in the men’s open singles and women’s open singles events.

President U Kyaw Kyaw Kyaw and executive presented the first prize to Aung Htut, the second to Myo Min Tun and the third to Kyi Myint in the men’s event and the first to Kyu Kyu Lin, the second to Mar Mar Soe and the third to Myint Myint Hlaing.

Players showing off their skills at the table tennis tournament in Yangon.
Malaria Day and ASEAN Dengue Fever Day marked in Mandalay

Mandalay, 20 June—A ceremony to mark the World Malaria Day and ASEAN Dengue Fever Day was held at the hall of Mandalay Region Health Department on 70th street in Chanayethazan Township of Mandalay on Friday. Head of the region department Dr Than Win explained matters related to both commemorative days. Head of the district department Dr Kyaw Soe read the message sent by the Union Minister for Health to the occasion. They visited the booth on prevention against malaria and DHF. DHF and malaria are mosquito-borne diseases. Departmental personnel have vowed to educate people about the causes and dangers of the mosquito-borne diseases.

Milk provided to 500 basic education students in Mandalay

Mandalay, 20 June—A ceremony to launch the provision of milk to students was held at No 14 Basic Education Middle School in Aungmyethazan Township of Mandalay on Wednesday. It was jointly sponsored by the Department of Rural Development under the Ministry of Livestock, Fisheries and Rural Development and Mandalay Region Government.

Mandalay Region Minister for Agriculture and Livestock Breeding U Myint Than and delegation handed out milk to 500 school children.

Arrangements are being made to give milk to over 20,000 students from 90 basic education schools in 28 townships of the region. The region government funded K100 million for the breeding of milk cows to be able to provide milk to students from Mandalay and Kyaukse districts once a week.

Unison, Aye Aye Chan, Happy Cow, Myanmar Dairy Industrial Ltd, Tetra Level and MK companies supported the milk breeding of the department and Myanmar CP Livestock Company donated eggs for the activity.

Agricultural know-how disseminated to farmers in Hopin

Hopin, 20 June—A meeting on increasing per-acre yield of monsoon paddy was held at the hall in Nantyin Village-tract of Hopin Sub-Township in Kachin State on Wednesday. Village administrator U Zaw Min discussed increased production of agricultural produce, while officials of the Sub-Township Agriculture Department talked about matters related to good agricultural patterns, systematic use of fertilizers and techniques for prevention against diseases.

Departmental officials distributed pamphlets on agricultural issues to over 100 farmers.

Billboard erected to prevent human trafficking in Yedashe

Yedashe, 20 June—A writing test for clerks was held at No 1 Basic Education High School in Thandwe of Rakhine State on Thursday.

A total of 15 candidates from Thandwe, Taungup and Gwa townships joined the test for the township election sub-commissions in Thandwe District, with nine passing the writing test. After another test, one candidate each will be appointed for one township. The test was supervised by Rakhine State Election Sub-commission member U Maung Maung Hla and officials.

Clerk test conducted in Thandwe District

Thandwe, 20 June—A writing test for clerks was held at No 1 Basic Education High School in Thandwe of Rakhine State on Thursday.

A total of 15 candidates from Thandwe, Taungup and Gwa townships joined the test for the township election sub-commissions in Thandwe District, with nine passing the writing test. After another test, one candidate each will be appointed for one township. The test was supervised by Rakhine State Election Sub-commission member U Maung Maung Hla and officials.
Heavy rains, floods hit Bulgaria; 10 people killed

SOFIA, 20 June — Torrential rains and floods hit Bulgaria on Thursday, killing at least 10 people, cutting off electricity, blocking roads and sparking evacuations, officials said.

Heavy rainfall in the Black Sea resort city of Varna triggered a flood wave late on Thursday in one of its low-lying suburbs that killed at least 10 people, the mayor of Varna told the national radio.

TV footage showed smashed cars on top of each other on the streets of the suburb, where a state of emergency was declared.

People try to help a man during heavy flooding in the city of Varna, in northeastern Bulgaria, on 19 June, 2014.—REUTERS

People try to help a man during heavy flooding in the city of Varna, in northeastern Bulgaria, on 19 June, 2014.—REUTERS

"The tragedy is enormous. I am here on a street in the suburb of Aspruhovo. The street is not here, the houses are not here, there are cars on top of each other." Varna mayor Ivan Portnih said.

Electricity in the suburb was cut off, the mayor said.

In central Bulgaria, firefighters evacuated 11 people from the top of their houses in the town of Kilifarovo, police said. Thunderstorms and heavy rains flooded roads and damaged houses in several villages near the capital.

Weather forecasters said the rains that fell in the eastern regions of Varna and Burgas in the past 24 hours equaled the usual amount per month and warned new rainfall and thunderstorms were expected in northern and eastern Bulgaria on Friday.

In late May, neighbouring Balkan countries Serbia, Bosnia and Croatia were hit by the heaviest rainfall since records began 120 years ago. At least 40 people were killed.

Russia plan to boost Syria aid ‘not good enough’ yet

UNITED NATIONS, 20 June — A Russian proposal to open four border crossings into Syria for aid deliveries from Turkey, Iraq and Jordan “is not good enough” and needs more work to be included in a draft UN Security Council resolution, Australia’s UN envoy said on Thursday.

Veto-wielding council members - the United States, Britain, France, China and Russia — have been negotiating a humanitarian resolution drafted by Australia, Luxembourg and Jordan to boost aid assistance in war-torn Syria to millions of people in need.

Russia said on Tuesday it has gained Syrian approval to open the border crossings named in the draft text by Australia, Luxembourg and Jordan under a “far-reaching formula.” UN diplomats said this involved using monitors to inspect convoys.

But western UN diplomats, speaking on condition of anonymity, have expressed concern about proposed Syrian government conditions placed on the plan and how that could affect its potential operation on the ground.

“Usually in the debate in the developed world, there is this idea that refugees are all fleeing north and that the objective is not exactly to find protection but to find a better life. “The truth is that 86 percent of the world’s refugees live in the developing world,” he said. "Desperate refugees and migrants from the Middle East and Africa have drowned after taking risky boats in North Africa to cross the Mediterranean to reach Europe, mainly via Italy. Italy has a mission, known as Mare Nostrum or "Our Sea", which has rescued about 50,000 migrants already this year. Italy will ask the European Union next week to take over responsibility for rescuing migrants, a task that is costing its navy 9 million euros ($12.25 million) a month.

More than 50 million displaced worldwide, UN says

GENEVA, 20 June — More than 50 million people were forcibly uprooted worldwide at the end of last year, the highest level since after World War Two, as people fled crises from Syria to South Sudan, the UN refugee agency said on Friday.

Half are children, UNHCR said in its annual briefing. The overall figure of 51.2 million displaced people soared by six million of 51.2 million displaced people this year in Central African Republic, Ukraine and Iraq are driving more families from their homes, he said, raising fears of a mass exodus of Iraqi refugees.

“A multiplication of new crises, and at the same time old crises that seem never to die,” he added.

Afghan, Syrian and Somali nationals accounted for 53 percent of the 11.7 million refugees under UNHCR’s responsibility. Five million Palestinians are looked after by a sister agency UNRWA. Most refugees have found shelter in developing countries, contrary to the myth fuelled by some populist politicians in the West that their states were being flooded, Guterres said.

"We are seeing here the immense costs of not ending war, of failing to resolve or prevent conflict,” Guterres said.

“We see the Security Council paralysed in many crucial crises around the world.” Conflicts that erupted this year in Central African Republic, Ukraine and Iraq are driving more families from their homes, he said, raising fears of a mass exodus of Iraqi refugees.

“The tragedy is enormous. I am here on a street in the suburb of Aspruhovo. The street is not here, the houses are not here, there are cars on top of each other.” Varna mayor Ivan Portnih said.

Electricity in the suburb was cut off, the mayor said.

In central Bulgaria, firefighters evacuated 11 people from the top of their houses in the town of Kilifarovo, police said. Thunderstorms and heavy rains flooded roads and damaged houses in several villages near the capital.

Weather forecasters said the rains that fell in the eastern regions of Varna and Burgas in the past 24 hours equaled the usual amount per month and warned new rainfall and thunderstorms were expected in northern and eastern Bulgaria on Friday.

In late May, neighbouring Balkan countries Serbia, Bosnia and Croatia were hit by the heaviest rainfall since records began 120 years ago. At least 40 people were killed.

Russia said on Tuesday it has gained Syrian approval to open the border crossings named in the draft text by Australia, Luxembourg and Jordan under a “far-reaching formula,” UN diplomats said this involved using monitors to inspect convoys.

But western UN diplomats, speaking on condition of anonymity, have expressed concern about proposed Syrian government conditions placed on the plan and how that could affect its potential operation on the ground.

“Usually in the debate in the developed world, there is this idea that refugees are all fleeing north and that the objective is not exactly to find protection but to find a better life. “The truth is that 86 percent of the world’s refugees live in the developing world,” he said. "Desperate refugees and migrants from the Middle East and Africa have drowned after taking risky boats in North Africa to cross the Mediterranean to reach Europe, mainly via Italy. Italy has a mission, known as Mare Nostrum or "Our Sea", which has rescued about 50,000 migrants already this year. Italy will ask the European Union next week to take over responsibility for rescuing migrants, a task that is costing its navy 9 million euros ($12.25 million) a month.

More than 50 million displaced worldwide, UN says

GENEVA, 20 June — More than 50 million people were forcibly uprooted worldwide at the end of last year, the highest level since after World War Two, as people fled crises from Syria to South Sudan, the UN refugee agency said on Friday.

Half are children, UNHCR said in its annual Global Trends report. “We are really facing a quantum leap, an enormous increase of forced displacement in our world,” UN High Commissioner for Refugees Antonio Guterres told a news briefing. The overall figure of 51.2 million displaced people soared by six million of 51.2 million displaced people this year in Central African Republic, Ukraine and Iraq are driving more families from their homes, he said, raising fears of a mass exodus of Iraqi refugees.

“A multiplication of new crises, and at the same time old crises that seem never to die,” he added.

Afghan, Syrian and Somali nationals accounted for 53 percent of the 11.7 million refugees under UNHCR’s responsibility. Five million Palestinians are looked after by a sister agency UNRWA. Most refugees have found shelter in developing countries, contrary to the myth fuelled by some populist politicians in the West that their states were being flooded, Guterres said.

“Usually in the debate in the developed world, there is this idea that refugees are all fleeing north and that the objective is not exactly to find protection but to find a better life. “The truth is that 86 percent of the world’s refugees live in the developing world,” he said. "Desperate refugees and migrants from the Middle East and Africa have drowned after taking risky boats in North Africa to cross the Mediterranean to reach Europe, mainly via Italy. Italy has a mission, known as Mare Nostrum or "Our Sea", which has rescued about 50,000 migrants already this year. Italy will ask the European Union next week to take over responsibility for rescuing migrants, a task that is costing its navy 9 million euros ($12.25 million) a month.

Syrian refugee children help their family transport small stones for their tents at Al Zaatari refugee camp in the Jordanian city of Mafraq near the border with Syria on 20 Nov, 2013 file photo.—REUTERS

Syrian refugee children help their family transport small stones for their tents at Al Zaatari refugee camp in the Jordanian city of Mafraq near the border with Syria on 20 Nov, 2013 file photo.—REUTERS
Obama sends US military advisers to Iraq as battle rages over refinery

WASHINGTON/TIKRIT, (Iraq), 20 June — President Barack Obama said on Thursday he was sending up to 300 US military advisers to Iraq but stressed the need for a political solution to the Iraqi crisis as government forces battled Sunni rebels for control of the country’s biggest refinery.

Speaking after a meeting with his national security team, Obama said he was prepared to take “targeted” military action later if deemed necessary, thus delaying but still keeping open the prospect of air strikes to fend off a militant insurgency. But he insisted that US troops would not return to combat in Iraq.

Obama also delivered a stern message to Prime Minister Nuri al-Maliki on the need to take urgent steps to heal Iraq’s sectarian rift, something US officials say the Shi’ite leader has failed to do and which an aide to Maliki said was making the Sunni revolt has exploited.

“We do not have the ability to simply solve this problem by sending in tens of thousands of troops and committing the kinds of blood and treasure that has already been expended in Iraq,” Obama told reporters. “Ultimately, this is something that is going to have to be solved by the Iraqis.”

Obama, who withdrew US troops from Iraq at the end of 2011, said the United States would increase support for Iraq’s beleaguered security forces. But he stopped short of acceding to Baghdad’s request for the immediate use of US air power against Islamist insurgents who have overrun northern Iraq.

The contingent of up to 300 military advisers will be made up of special forces and will staff joint operations centres for intelligence sharing and planning, US officials said.

Leading US lawmakers have called for Maliki to step down, and Obama aides have also made clear their frustration with him. Some US officials believe there is a need for new Iraqi leadership but are mindful that Washington may not have enough clout to influence the situation, a senior administration official said.

While Obama did not join calls for Maliki to go, saying “it’s not our job to choose Iraq’s leaders,” he avoided any expression of confidence in the embattled Iraqi prime minister when asked by a reporter whether he would do so.

Warning that Iraq’s fate “hangs in the balance,” Obama said: “Only leaders with an inclusive agenda are going to be able to truly bring the Iraqi people together.”

The US president also said he was sending Secretary of State John Kerry to Europe and the Middle East starting this weekend for talks he hoped would stabilize the region. A US official said: “Kerry is expected to go Iraq soon,” but did not give a date.

Obama’s decision to deploy military advisers and deepen US re-engagement in Iraq came after days of arduous deliberations by a president who won the White House in 2008 on a pledge to disentangle the United States from the long, unpopular war there.

He said that recent days had reminded Americans of the “deep scars” from its Iraq experience, which started with the 2003 US-led invasion that toppled Saddam Hussein and saw US troops occupy the country for nine years.

Ukraine’s Poroshenko confirms he’ll sign EU agreement on 27 June

KIEV, 20 June — Ukrainian President Petro Poroshenko said on Thursday he would sign an association agreement with the European Union on 27 June and would also send his new foreign minister to Luxembourg next week to lay out a peace plan for the east to EU ministers.

Poroshenko made his comments after presenting Pavlo Klimkin, who was earlier endorsed as foreign minister by parliament, to the media.

Klimkin commented: “Our priorities are obvious — they are a peace plan (for eastern Ukraine) and association with the EU.”

Referring to plans to sign the association agreement, Poroshenko said: “That for which we have waited for so long will take place next week.”

IAEA report likely to show Iran living up to nuclear deal terms

VIENNA, 20 June — The UN nuclear watchdog is expected to report in a monthly update on Friday that Iran is living up to its commitments to curb its atomic activities under an interim pact with six world powers last year, diplomats said.

In exchange for a limited easing of sanctions, Iran agreed last 24 November to take action to eliminate its most proliferation-prone enriched uranium stockpile and halt the production of the material.

The six-month agreement, which took effect on 20 January, was designed to buy time for negotiations on a final settlement of the decade-old dispute over a nuclear programme which Iran says is peaceful but the West fears may be aimed at developing bombs.

Those talks began in February and are continuing this week in Vienna. One diplomat from one of the six powers — the United States, Russia, France, Germany, Britain and China — said some progress had been made but that big gaps remained.

The aim is to reach a comprehensive solution by the fourth day of the 16-20 June meeting.

The UN International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA), which has inspectors on the ground in Iran around the clock, has a pivotal role in ensuring that the Islamic Republic is abiding by the terms of the preliminary, half-year accord.

Diplomats said the IAEA was expected to issue the monthly report on Friday, the fifth since the accord entered into force, confirming that Tehran was continuing to honour the terms. — Reuters

Smoke rises from a oil refinery in Qayyara, north of Baghdad, in this picture taken through the windscreen of a car, on 19 June, 2014. — Reuters

Would-be bomber causing Stockholm lock-down surrenders to police

STOCKHOLM, 20 June — A man who had threatened to set off explosives in the heart of Stockholm on Thursday, prompting an hours-long lockdown in the Swedish capital, finally gave himself up to police, a spokesman said.

Police sealed off large parts of the city and evacuated buildings as they negotiated with the man holed up inside a building near the headquarters of the main ruling political party, the Moderates, saying he was carrying explosives.

“The negotiation went well in that he understood that it was an untenable situation,” police spokesman Kjell Lindgren said.

“He came out, he showed he wasn’t dangerous and he could be detained undramatically and he has now been taken away from there ... What remains for us is to search the premises to make sure there are no dangerous objects.”

The man had expressed threats against the Moderates and the opposition Social Democrats, causing police to cordon off large areas around the Moderates’ headquarters in the old town and the Social Democrats’ offices in another part of the city-centre. — Reuters

Police men and a bomb robot are seen in a cordoned-off area in the old town of central Stockholm on 19 June, 2014. — Reuters
**BUSINESS & HEALTH**

**World stocks at record high, gold holds gains as dollar dips**

Friday while gold celebrated its biggest one-day rise in nine months as markets wagered monetary policy would stay super loose in the United States, Europe and Japan for a long time to come.

Investors had piled into bullion while selling US government debt on the premise the Fed might be comfortable with higher inflation if it meant faster economic growth.

Spot gold was enjoying the view at $1,312.24 an ounce having been as far as $1,321.70 at one stage on Thursday when it climbed 3.3 percent.

Traders also said a major hedge fund had cut back a large short position in the precious metal which pushed prices above $1,300 an ounce and triggered a wave of stop-loss buy orders.

Equities were in ebullient mood with MSCI's all-country world index, which includes about 85 percent of global investable equities, passing its previous all-time high set in November 2007.

Japan's Nikkei firmcd 0.3 percent to a fresh five-month peak, while the broader TOPIX brought its gains to more than 10 percent in just the past four weeks.

MSCI's broadest index of Asia-Pacific shares outside Japan eased 0.2 percent after rising 0.7 percent on Thursday. In Europe, the FTSEurofirst 300 index of regional shares had risen 0.6 percent to a six-year top.

Wall Street was more circumspect, though data on jobless claims and regional US manufacturing continued to show improvement. The Dow had ended up 0.09 percent, while the S&P 500 gained 0.13 percent and the Nas-****d lost 0.08 percent.

The revival in risk appetite follows Wednesday's decision by the US Federal Reserve to recommit to keeping rates near for some time to come.

Crucially, Chair Janet Yellen sounded unconcerned by inflation despite a recent pick-up in price pressure, surprising many who had thought the central bank would take a more hawkish turn.

---

**US scientists develop new monkey model for AIDS research**

WASHINGTON, 20 June — US researchers said on Thursday they have finally infected a species of monkey called pigtailed macaques with an AIDS-like disease after years of trying, a major step toward an animal model with which to study HIV-1, the virus responsible for most cases of AIDS. HIV-1, a very selective virus, does not readily infect species other than its usual hosts - humans and chimps, which has made the search for effective treatments and vaccines for AIDS much more difficult, researchers at the Rockefeller University and the Aaron Diamond AIDS Research Centre said.

The reason is simple as without an accurate animal model of the disease, researchers have had few options for clinical studies of the virus.

“HIV-1 only causes AIDS in humans and chimps, but the latter are not a practical model and are not longer used for HIV/AIDS research. Our goal has been to figure out how HIV-1 could cause disease in a new host,” Paul Bieniasz of the Rockefeller University said. “By accomplishing this with macaques, we have taken a step toward establishing a new model for AIDS that can be used universally in prevention and treatment research.”

According to the researchers, although pigtailed macaques have fewer defences against HIV-1 than most other primates, they lack an antiviral protein that fights off the virus.

As a result, the researchers altered both the virus and the macaque immune system in order to induce AIDS.

They bolstered the virus with a defence-disabling protein made by Simian Immunodeficiency Virus (SIV), a relative of HIV-1, and then encouraged the modified HIV strain to adapt to its new host by passing it from one monkey to another, resulting in six generations of infected monkeys and an adapted virus.

Even so, the monkeys' immune systems were still able to control the HIV-1 infection. So, the researchers temporarily weakened their immune systems by depleting a type of white blood cell, known as a CD8 T-cell, that destroys virus-infected cells.

“When we depleted their CD8 cells, the infected monkeys developed disease closely mirroring that of human patients. For example they contracted AIDS-defining conditions including pneumocystis pneumonia, a textbook example of an opportunistic infection in AIDS,” said Theodora Hatziioannou of Aaron Diamond. “Because it replicates what happens when HIV-1 compromises a human patient's immune system, our approach could potentially be used in the development of therapies and preventative measures for human patients.”

---

**Softbank chief pledges to improve US communications industry**

Tokyo, 20 June — Softbank Corp Chief Executive Officer Masayoshi Son said on Friday that he wants to contribute to lowering communications fees and improving network speed in the United States by Softbank's entry into the market.

Speaking at a shareholders' meeting in Tokyo, Son said, “Competition is the best solution to not only lowering (lowering) prices but also (improving communications) speed.”

“Japan’s population is declining. But we want to make a challenge in the world’s No 1 country where the population and growth domestic product are expected to grow,” he said.

Last year, the Japanese communications giant acquired Sprint Nextel Corp, the US market’s No 3 player, and recent media reports said Sprint and the fourth largest mobile communications service provider T-Mobile US Inc have reached a preliminary agreement for a merger.

Son has said on different occasions that the US mobile market is controlled by the “two big duopolies” of AT&T Inc and Verizon Communications Inc and that Softbank can help improve US mobile networks that are relatively expensive and slow. At the shareholders’ meeting, Son also expressed his readiness to further expand Softbank’s business in the field of green energy and robotics, saying, “Eventually, we are hoping to offer a set of services combining mobile communications and clean energy.”

Softbank’s group net profit for the year to March ended in March soared 41.5 percent from a year earlier to a record 527.04 billion yen on a rise in subscriptions and the purchase of Sprint. Its operating profit grew 35.8 percent to a record 1.09 trillion yen on record sales of 6.67 trillion yen, up 108.2 percent.

---

**Brent trading around $115, near nine-month high**

SINGAPORE, 20 June — Brent crude held near $115 a barrel on Friday close to a nine-month high and headed for its second weekly gain on increased risks of supply disruptions from Iraq.

Iraqi government forces battled Sunni militi-...
Don’t get trapped in a ‘more haste, less speed’ situation

By Kyaw Thura

It is in a crisis that people yearn for strong leadership. Nobody in their right minds would prefer to live in fear. A few years back, people witnessed unwanted consequences of disputes between two communities in some parts of the country. Any disputes should be addressed as soon as they arise. Though not serious, public discontent tends to smoulder with time. History has it that different times have produced different leaders. In this twenty-first century, political leadership has come to the fore. With this end in mind, it is time for political parties and ordinary people to take stock of political leadership in the build-up to 2015, when Myanmar will see general elections.

With 2015 drawing nearer and nearer, voices to fix the State Constitution have echoed. As is known to all, it has become undeniable that any amendments to the Constitution do require fundamental change. In a sense, enormous heed to an English idiomatic expression should be paid: “More haste, less speed”.

It is believed that the Myanmar people have known for some time that political institutions are not well structured yet, far from acting as representative bodies. To be frank, most political party leaders are still not in a close relationship with everyday people.

There is a general notion that political leadership needs a particular combination of skills. Leaders are different in appearances but have some characteristics in common. All leaders are good communicators, but not all good communicators are leaders. Great leaders are determined to commit themselves to their mission and approach challenges with great care by seeking advice and suggestions from people with great ideas. On top of that, patience, tolerance, sympathy and evenhandedness are common qualities that belong to all leaders.

All in all, what is important is a form of polities capable of uniting typically divided groups in a battle for rights and freedoms. Simply put, a truly democratic form of political leadership should be a system by, of and for ordinary people. Politically, that is where the similarities start.

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

The Myanmar National Human Rights Commission Law

The Pyidaungsu Hluttaw hereby enacts this Law.

Chapter I

Name and Definition

1. This Law shall be called the Myanmar National Human Rights Commission Law.

2. The following expressions contained in this Law shall have the meanings given hereunder:
   (a) State means the Republic of the Union of Myanmar;
   (b) Government means the Union Government of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar;
   (c) Human Rights means the following:
      (i) the rights of citizens enshrined in the Constitution of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar;
      (ii) the human rights contained in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights adopted by the United Nations;
      (iii) the human rights contained in the international human rights instruments applicable to the State;
   (d) Commission means the Myanmar National Human Rights Commission established under this Law;
   (e) Member of the Commission means any member, including the Chairperson and the Vice-Chairperson, of the Myanmar National Human Rights Commission;
   (f) Selection Board means the board which selects prospective members of the Commission;
   (g) Office of the Commission means the Office which is established to carry out the office work of the Myanmar National Human Rights Commission.

Chapter II

Objectives

3. The objectives of this Law are as follows:
   (a) to safeguard the fundamental rights of citizens enshrined in the Constitution of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar;
   (b) to create a society where human rights are respected and protected in recognition of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights adopted by the United Nations;
   (c) to effectively promote and protect the human rights contained in the international conventions, decisions, regional agreements and declarations related to human rights accepted by the State;
   (d) to coordinate and cooperate with the international organizations, regional organizations, national statutory institutions, civil society and non-governmental organizations related to human rights.

Chapter III

Establishment of the Commission, Status and Rights

4. The President shall establish a Myanmar National Human Rights Commission consisting of not less than seven and not more than fifteen members.

5. The President shall form a Selection Board comprising the following members to establish the Commission:
   (a) Chief Justice of the Union;
   (b) Union Minister, Ministry of Home Affairs;
   (c) Union Minister, Ministry of Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement;
   (d) Attorney-General of the Union;
   (e) a representative from the Bar Council;
   (f) two representatives from the Pyidaungsu Hluttaw;
   (g) a representative from the Myanmar Women’s Affairs Federation;
   (h) two representatives from registered Non-Governmental Organizations.

6. The Selection Board shall consider for nomination as prospective members of the Commission those who meet the following criteria:
   (a) a person who is a citizen of Myanmar;
   (b) a person who is not younger than 35 years;
   (c) a person who is recognized as being a person of integrity and good character, and is capable of fulfilling the responsibilities of a member of the Commission with independence and impartiality;
   (d) a person who has extensive knowledge or experience in any area of the following:
      (i) principles of human rights and relevant domestic and international human rights laws;
      (ii) promotion and protection of human rights;
      (iii) good governance and public administration;
   (e) a person who demonstrates commitment to the achievement of the objectives of the Commission.

7. The Selection Board shall:
   (a) take into account the overall composition of the Commission in considering the nomination of prospective members of the Commission;
   (b) consider as prospective members of the Commission those who have knowledge of or expertise or experience in the following:
      (i) human rights laws and international human rights laws;
      (ii) current economic, employment and social issues;
      (iii) cultural issues and the needs and aspirations of individuals, different communities and population groups in society;
   (iv) other diverse matters likely to come before the Commission;
   (v) human rights advocacy;
   (vi) public education;
   (vii) public governance, administration and financial management and
   (viii) civil society, academia, social welfare, community development and legal affairs.

8. The Selection Board shall adopt procedures for nominating prospective members of the Commission and shall submit to the President a list of thirty nominees selected in accordance with those procedures.

9. The President shall, in consultation with the Speaker of the Lower House and the Speaker of the Upper House, select and appoint suitable members of the Commission from prospective members of the Commission submitted under section 8. In selecting and appointing members, the Chairperson and the Vice-Chairperson shall be determined.

10. On appointment, a member of the Commission shall:
    (a) be deemed to have retired from the government service in accordance with the standing service rules and regulations, if the person is a government servant;
    (b) resign from any office or employment in domestic or foreign organizations that may conflict with the functions of a member of the Commission.

11. A member of the Commission shall act impartially and independently in carrying out the functions of the Commission and shall not hold any other office or engage in any activities or practices that conflict with or may be perceived to conflict with the functions of the Commission.

Chapter IV

Term of Members of the Commission, Resignation, Termination and Filling a Vacancy

12. (a) The Chairperson of the Commission shall have the rank of Union Minister and the Vice-Chairperson and other members of the Commission have the rank of Deputy Minister.

13. The members of the Commission shall not serve more than two consecutive terms.

14. Except in case of resignation from the post or termination of service, a serving member of the Commission shall continue to serve in the current position until a new member of the Commission is appointed.

(See Page 9)
The Myanmar National Human Rights Commission Law
The Pyidaungsu Hluttaw Law No. 21/2014
(from page 8)

Resignation, Termination and Filling a Vacancy

16. If the Chairperson wishes to resign during the term of office of his/her own volition for any reason, he/she may do so by submitting a letter of resignation to the President.

17. If a member of the Commission except the Chairperson wishes to resign from office of his/her own volition for any reason, he/she may do so by submitting a letter of resignation to the President through the Chairperson.

18. The President may, in coordination with the Speaker of the Lower House and the Speaker of the Upper House, terminate the term of office of any member of the Commission on any of the following grounds:

(a) if he/she is determined by a medical board of competent jurisdiction to be unfit to continue in office by reason of permanent physical or mental incapacity;
(b) if he/she is sentenced to imprisonment by any court for a criminal action;
(c) if he/she is declared insolvent by any court;
(d) if he/she fails to comply with the regulations laid down by the Commission.

19. The President shall:

(a) in coordination with the Speaker of the Lower House and the Speaker of the Upper House, fill the position vacated by the resignation or termination or death of a member of the Commission or for any other reason, with a person from the list of nominees submitted by the Selection Board;
(b) fill the vacancy in accordance with sections 4, 5, 6, 7, 8 and 9 in the event that no suitable nominee is available in the list of prospective members of the Commission.

20. Where the vacancy is the office of the Chairperson or the Vice-Chairperson, the President shall temporarily designate any remaining member to such position before filling the vacancy.

21. Notwithstanding any provision in respect of the term contained in section 13, the term of the member appointed under section 19 shall be the remaining term of the replaced member.

Chapter V
Duties and Powers of the Commission

22. Duties and Powers of the Commission are as follows:

(a) promoting public awareness of human rights and combating all forms of discrimination through the provision of information and education;
(b) carrying out the following to monitor and promote compliance with international and domestic human rights laws:
(i) recommending to the Government the international human rights instruments to which Myanmar should become a party;
(ii) reviewing existing laws and proposed bills for consistency with the international human rights instruments to which the State is a party and recommending the legislation and additional measures to be adopted for the promotion and protection of human rights to the Pyidaungsu Hluttaw through the Government;
(iii) assisting the Government in respect of its preparation of reports to be submitted under obligation in accordance with the international human rights instruments to which the State is a party and on the contents of those reports;
(c) verifying and conducting inquiries in respect of complaints and allegations of human rights violations;
(d) visiting the scene of human rights violations and conducting inquiries, on receipt of a complaint or allegation or information;
(e) inspecting the scene of human rights violations and, after notification, prisons, jails, detention centres and public or private places of confinement;
(f) consulting and engaging the relevant civil society organizations, business organisations, labour organizations, national races organizations, minorities and academic institutions, as appropriate;
(g) consulting, engaging and cooperating with other national, regional and international human rights mechanisms, including the Universal Periodic Review;
(h) responding to any matter referred to the Commission by the Pyidaungsu Hluttaw or the Lower House or the Upper House or the Government;
(i) responding to the specific matters referred by the President in connection with the promotion and protection of human rights;
(j) preparing reports in respect of the functions of the Commission and publishing them as appropriate;
(k) carrying out anything incidental or conducive to the implementation of any function of the Commission as appropriate;
(l) submitting to the President and the Pyidaungsu Hluttaw an annual report on the situation of human rights in Myanmar, the activities and functions of the Commission, with such recommendations as appropriate;
(m) submitting special reports on human rights issues to the President as and when necessary.

23. If the Chairperson is, for any reason, not able to perform his/her responsibilities, the Vice-Chairperson shall assume the responsibilities of the Chairperson.

24. The Commission shall:

(a) have the right to act independently on matters that fall within its powers;
(b) have the right to act independently in respect of financial management and administrative matters in conformity with the provisions of this Law.

25. Where a member of the Commission becomes aware of his/her action in relation to the interest of the Commission, the member shall promptly inform the Chairperson and members of the Commission, and take corrective action immediately.

26. The Commission has the power to engage thematic experts to be effective in undertaking its functions after informing the President.

27. The Commission shall, in respect of holding of the regular and special meetings, the fulfillment of quorum of the meetings, the presiding of meetings and making of decisions, act in accordance with the rules and procedures issued under this Law.

Chapter VI
Inquiry
Inquiry into Human Rights Violations, Handling of Complaints

28. Where the Commission becomes aware of widespread, systemic or entrenched situations or practices that violate human rights, the Commission may initiate an inquiry.

29. In conducting an inquiry, the Commission shall abide by the principles of natural justice. In addition, the Commission may invoke the relevant provisions of the Code of Civil Procedure, the Code of Criminal Procedure and the Evidence Act as appropriate.

30. An individual may lodge a complaint with the Commission on his/her own volition, on behalf of another person or on behalf of a group of persons with a similar cause of complaint concerning any alleged violation of human rights.

31. The complainant shall submit to the Commission in writing, in carrying out the following:

(a) withdrawing the complaint;
(b) obtaining the permission of the Commission to amend the complaint.

32. The Commission shall conduct an inquiry into a complaint unless it decides not to do so for the following reasons:

(a) the complaint is not made in good faith;
(b) the complaint is not within the competence of the Commission;
(c) a more appropriate remedy or reasonable channel of complaint is available to the complainant.

33. No decision by the Commission to decline to conduct or to defer or to discontinue an inquiry into any subject of a complaint shall affect the power of the Commission to inquire generally into a matter on its own initiative.

34. In addressing a complaint, if the Commission is of the view that the subject of the complaint is amenable to conciliation, the Commission shall address the complaint through conciliation. In doing so, this shall be done in accordance with the existing laws.

35. The Commission may summon in writing to testify, to take oath, for questioning and to sign affidavits any person who in its opinion is able to give any information relating to any matter being investigated by the Commission, to appear before the Commission at a time and place specified.

36. The Commission may summon in writing any person or office to produce any documents or evidence in their possession or control that, in the opinion of the Commission, relate to any matter being investigated by it except the following:

(a) documents or evidence, the release of which would affect the security and defence of the State;
(b) documents which are classified by the department or organizations of the Government.

37. The Commission shall not inquire into the complaint which violates any of the following:

(a) cases under trial before any court, cases under appeal or revision on the decision of any court;
(b) cases that have been finally determined by any court.

38. The Commission shall, for further action on the complaint which involves the government departments, organizations or its related entity, refer its findings to the relevant government department or organization with recommendations. That department or organization shall respond to the Commission on its action regarding the Commission’s recommendations within thirty days. In doing so, the action that ensures that complainants are not subjected to reprisals shall be mentioned.

39. At the conclusion of an inquiry, the Commission may report its findings and recommendations to the President and the Pyidaungsu Hluttaw and may publish them for public information as may be necessary.

40. If the Commission finds out the credible evidence, in its inquiry of the complaint concerning any alleged violation of the rights of an individual or individuals, the report submitted under sections 38 and 39 shall mention the recommendations on the following:

(a) a determination that a violation of human rights has occurred and a recommendation that such human rights violation and similar violations should not be repeated or continued;
(b) appropriate measures by a person or any agency to redress the violation of human rights;
(c) obtaining due compensation for the victim of violation of human rights for any loss or damage suffered;
(d) recommending for action to any department, organization, service, person or the relevant authority and to require them to inform the Commission within a reasonable period of the steps that have been taken to give effect to that recommendation.

Protection
41. Anyone who threatens, hinders, obstructs, molests or interferes with a member of the Commission or a staff member of the Commission or a person acting on behalf of the Commission while that person is undertaking its functions under this Law shall be punished by the existing law.
The Myanmar National Human Rights Commission Law
The Pyidaungsu Hluttaw Law No. 21/2014
(from page 9)

42. A person shall not victimize, intimidate, threaten, harass or otherwise interfere with any person on the ground that that person, or any associate of that person:
(a) intends to use of the rights under this Law;
(b) has used the rights under this Law, or promoted those rights of some other persons;
(c) has given information or evidence in relation to any complaint, investigation or proceedings under this Law;
(d) has declined to do anything which would contravene this Law;
(e) has otherwise done anything under or by reference to this Law.

The Inspection of Prisons, Jails, Detention Centres and Places of Confinement
43. The Commission has the power to inspect prisons, jails, detention centres, and places of confinement in order to ensure that persons imprisoned, detained or confined are treated humanely and in accordance with international and national human rights laws. The inspection shall be carried out in accordance with relevant laws.
44. In carrying out the functions under section 43, the Commission shall have the following powers:
(a) right of inspecting prisons, jails, detention centres and places of confinement after notifying the relevant authorities of the time of its intended visit;
(b) right of inspecting all areas and facilities for those detained or confined in prisons, jails, detention centres and places of confinement;
(c) right of interviewing prisoners, detainees and those confined freely and privately;
(d) right of recommending for action to the relevant departments and organizations and requiring them to inform the Commission of the steps that they have taken to give effect to those recommendations.
45. The Commission may inform the relevant organizations at the Union level of its findings and recommendations and make them public as appropriate.

Chapter VII
Financial Management
46. The State shall provide the Commission with adequate funding to enable it to effectively discharge the functions assigned to it by this Law.
47. The Commission may receive unconditional contributions from any individual or organization that do not prejudice the independence of the Commission concerning the promotion and protection of human rights.
48. The Commission shall cause proper accounts to be kept of its income, expenditure, assets and liabilities in accordance with financial regulations.
49. The accounts of the Commission shall be audited by the Office of the Auditor-General of the Union.
50. The Commission shall apply in accordance with the relevant existing Revenue Laws for exemption from assessment of taxes on its funds and monetary transactions.

Chapter VIII
Staff Organization Structure
51. The Commission shall:
(a) establish a staff organization structure to assist the Commission to fulfill its functions and appoint the staff as required;
(b) prescribe regulations, bye-laws and benefits in respect of the personnel matters of the Commission.
52. The Commission may appoint the necessary staff including the Head of the Office of the Commission in order to effectively discharge its functions.
53. (a) The Head of the Office of the Commission shall act as Secretary of the Commission and also perform the other functions determined by the Commission.
(b) The Head and staff of the Office of the Commission are accountable to the Commission.
54. The Commission shall determine the rank of staff of the Office of the Commission, subject to the laws and regulations for civil service personnel.
55. The Chairperson of the Commission may, by signed document, specifically delegate to any officer of the Office of the Commission, any of the functions of the Commission. The entrusted delegate shall perform only the function specified in the instrument of delegation.
56. The Chairperson of the Commission may revoke the function so delegated to the officer concerned at any time by written instrument.

Chapter IX
Miscellaneous
57. The Commission shall establish its headquarters and may establish its branches as required to implement its mandate.
58. The Commission shall hold its meetings as prescribed.
59. The Commission may establish the necessary separate groups and working groups, based on locations or themes and may entrust specific duties to them in order to effectively discharge the functions contained in this Law.
60. The Commission shall have the right to own, logo and perpetual succession, and have the right to sue and be sued.
61. In performing the functions under this Law, a member of the Commission and the person assigned by the Commission shall be deemed as a public servant under section 21 of the Penal Code.
62. No criminal or civil action shall be prosecuted against the Commission or a member of the Commission or the person assigned by the Commission for any act or omission, or observation made or opinion issued in good faith in the exercise of the functions and powers vested under this Law.
63. Documents, materials and information communicated and delivered to the Commission or the Office of the Commission, or collected by the Commission shall be exempted from censorship or interference.
64. The premises, archives, files, documents, communications, properties, funds and assets of the Commission, wherever located and by whomever held, shall be inviolable and exempted from trespassing, searching, confiscation, seizure, requisition or any other means of interference.
65. The Commission has the right to conduct its investigation smoothly, such information which in its opinion ought to be disclosed.
66. The Commission shall ensure that the name and identifying information concerning any person appearing before it for examination, testimonies, documentary evidence, things furnished to it, are not published or disclosed by any person without the Commission’s authorization. The Commission may also take other measures for the protection of witnesses.
67. The Commission shall refrain from using the information it has obtained in ways other than realizing its objectives.
68. Except in the case of trial of any person for perjury in respect of his statements, testimonies and answers, no person shall be prosecuted before any court on the basis of those statements, testimonies and answers. The statements, testimonies and answers produced before the Commission shall not be used in prosecuting any other person.
70. The Commission may issue notifications, orders, directives and procedures to implement the provisions of this Law.

I hereby sign in accordance with the Constitution of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar.

Sd/- Thein Sein
President
Republic of the Union of Myanmar

Sagaing Region Chief Minister joins tree growing ceremony

Yangon Region Chief Minister visits Education and Employment Show 2014

YANGON, 20 June—The Education and Employment Show 2014, organized by Dagon Exhibitions Ltd, kicked off at the Tatmadaw Convention Hall on U Wisara Road in Yangon on Friday.

Yangon Region Chief Minister U Myint Swe, Regional Minister for Planning and Economic U Thant Myint and entrepreneurs together with visitors viewed round booths at the show. About 70 local and foreign companies, private training schools, universities and colleges at home and abroad, business and management schools, IT training schools, tourism, engineering, medical and education training schools show documents on their services at 100 booths. The show continues up to 22 June. Those interested can visit the show from 9 am to 5 pm daily.

Chief Minister of Sagaing Region U Tha Aye plants star-flower sapling.

SAGAING, 20 June—Chief Minister of Sagaing Region U Tha Aye planted a star-flower sapling at the tree growing ceremony 2014 in the compound of Nationalities Youth Resource Development Degree College in Sagaing on Thursday morning.

The principal of the degree college and faculty members, local authorities and students totalling over 900 grew 820 saplings in the compound.

The chief minister provided uniforms to 337 students of border areas.

In meeting with officials, the chief minister viewed progress of construction for school buildings.—MNA
NASA identifies third valid candidate for asteroid capture

WASHINGTON, 20 June — US space agency NASA said on Thursday it had identified an “odd, tiny asteroid” as a third valid candidate for its ambitious asteroid-capture mission.

Astronomers using NASA’s Spitzer Space Telescope measured the size of the asteroid, called 2011 MD, for the Asteroid Redirect Mission (ARM), which seeks to drag a space rock into orbit around the moon for future visitation by astronauts, NASA said.

“The near-Earth asteroid ... was found to be roughly 20 feet (6 meters) in size, and its structure appears to contain a lot of empty space, perhaps resembling a pile of rubble,” it said in a statement. “The Spitzer results confirm that asteroid 2011 MD has characteristics suitable for the ARM proposal, elevating it to the ‘valid candidate’ level.”

According to the space agency, valid candidates are those asteroids with the right size, mass and rotation rate to be feasibly captured by the robotic spacecraft.

Prior to the Spitzer study, the size of 2011 MD was only very roughly calculated with visible light observations. Spitzer, however, can use its heat-sensing infrared vision to spy asteroids and get better estimates of their sizes.

Previously, two other valid candidates, 2009 BD and 2013 EC20, have been identified. NASA said it continues to search for and find new potential candidates.

The Asteroid Redirect Mission aims to identify, capture and redirect a near-Earth asteroid to a stable orbit around the moon with a robotic spacecraft. US astronauts will then visit and explore the asteroid using NASA’s Orion spacecraft and Space Launch System rocket in the 2020s, returning to Earth with samples.

NASA said this bold mission will help it test new systems and capabilities needed to support future human missions to Mars.

Xinhua

Power of Microsoft’s Bing an open question in search industry

SEATTLE, 20 June — Microsoft Corp’s (MSFT.O) new chief executive, Satya Nadella, likes to boast that Bing is growing and research industries

that measure and manage search as a business. Microsoft’s strength is an open question. The figures quoted by Microsoft, which include searches by partner Yahoo Inc (YHOO.O), are much higher than the rate at which people actually click on the links that a search returns, according to new studies by

ComScore said Google sites had 67.6 percent of US searches in May, compared with Microsoft’s 18.8 percent and Yahoo’s 10 percent, which are both powered by Bing.

ComScore bases its calculations on desktop computer Internet searches by about a million anonymous people in the United States. It does not measure searches on mobile phones or tablets, which are dominated by Google, but it does count searches within the big MSN and Yahoo portals, factors which help explain why Bing has such a significant share.—Reuters

BlackBerry shares surged more than 10 percent after the company said it spent less cash than many expected in its fiscal first quarter, ended on 31 May, and its gross profit margin rose.

“The short trade is over in this name, for now,” said BGC analyst Colin Gillis. “They’ve got enough liquidity, and they’ve given us clear profitability targets.”

BlackBerry said its low-cost Z3 smartphone was selling well in Indonesia and that it services business, which manages its own and rival mobile devices on the internal net-work of large organizations, had won back some customers from rivals.

BlackBerry has more than halved its workforce over the last two years as part of a do-or-die push to turn its business around after losing ground to Apple Inc’s iPhone and Samsung Electronics Co devices that run on Google Inc’s Android system.

Chen wants BlackBerry to remain a competitor in the smartphone segment, but he is focused on its services business, which made up 54 percent of revenue in the quarter, up from 26 percent only a year earlier. The company works with hundreds of large companies and government agencies to securely manage their networks. As the company rolls out new phones later this year, its revenue growth is likely to be driven more by its smartphone business, but the services business is likely to drive higher margins, Chen told reporters.—Reuters

Japan plans ample support for fuel cell car technology

TOKYO, 20 June — The Japanese government is planning to offer ample support to popularize fuel cell vehicle technology as Toyota Motor Corp and Honda Motor Co prepare to launch hydrogen-powered cars in 2015.

The government on Thursday drafted a timeline that spelled out targets and actions over the next 25 years to commercialize FCV cells and boost use of hydrogen energy in general.

The move comes as Japan’s ruling Liberal Democratic Party considers supporting the technology through subsidies and tax breaks, so that by 2025 fuel cell vehicles can sell for around $20,000 or a little more, the same price as popular gas-electric hybrids. A fuel cell vehicle, which runs on electricity generated from cells that combine hydrogen with oxygen, emits only water vapor and heat. The vehicles can run five times longer than battery-operated electric cars, and their hydrogen tanks can be filled in just a few minutes.—Reuters

Honda Motor Co prepare a fuel cell vehicle prototype. In this file photo Honda Motor Co has prepared a fuel cell vehicle prototype. In this file photo
Strike wanes as France pushes on with railway reform

PARIS, 20 June

Growing numbers of French railway employees returned to work on Thursday after lawmakers voted to approve the broad outline of a railway reform that has triggered a nine-day strike.

Deputies in the National Assembly approved late on Wednesday the new structure of France’s ageing railway system, which will bring state-owned railways company SNCF and track owner RFF into the same holding company while maintaining separate operations.

The reform, designed to prepare the system ahead of European Union moves to liberalise Europe’s transport routes, has worried unions for railway workers who fear their generous benefits will be eroded as more competition comes to the sector.

To allay those concerns, deputies voted for amendments that maintain the “inseparable and integral character” of the new entities, and the establishment of a works council.

Support for the strike among rail workers waned on Thursday with SNCF reporting that only 10.5 percent of its 150,000 workers were participating.

A small core of workers voted to pursue a strike which has forced hundreds of cancellations and huge delays across France.

“The strike is extended because there are still rail workers protesting today,” said Gilbert Garrel, an official at the CGT union’s branch for rail workers.

Earlier the CGT’s head, Thierry Lepaon, acknowledged the strike had reached a “turning point” after the vote in parliament, although he refused to declare it completely over.

A final parliamentary vote on the reform is due on 24 June.

On Thursday, seven out of ten trains were expected to run, in what SNCF called “ongoing improvement” of service.

“If it’s time to get back to work,” the head of SNCF, Guillaume Pepy, told Le Parisien daily. “We’ve lost 153 million euros … a third of our last year’s results. That’s huge.”

The Socialist government of President Francois Hollande has said the reform — which has been in the works since 2011 — is necessary and overdue.

Prime Minister Manuel Valls, under pressure to stand firm, has insisted the government will not back down on the reform, and while he has said he will not force unions to stop the strike, he has called for it to end.

Valls called on Wednesday for a parliamentary report to study solutions to the 44 billion euros ($60 billion) in debt carried by SNCF, which unions want the government to absorb.

Albania cracks down on marijuana production in key southern village

LAZARAT, (Albania), 20 June — The smoke from burning marijuana plants billowed from a dozen houses on Day Five of Albania’s most serious move yet against a southern village, armed to the teeth, that has churned out weed on an industrial scale for more than 15 years.

Lazarat has long blighted Albania’s efforts to shed the image of a Balkan badlands since it threw off communism in 1991.

With the fruits of its labor turning up in Italy, Greece and, last year, Germany, Albania has come under increasing pressure from the European Union to crack down on drug producers long considered untouchable, out of reach of the law thanks to a web of corrupt connections to the police and politicians.

Albania hopes to get approval later this month from each of the EU’s 28 member states to become an official candidate for inclusion in the group. Crime and corruption are sure to be top of the list of issues that must be resolved before it can join.

Under the command of a new government sworn in September, police moved into Lazarat on Sunday after coming under fire while spying on the crops planted all along the hillsides the day before. They approached from the south side of the sprawling community, drawing fire from heavy machinegun rounds and anti-tank grenades.

The village of some 5,000 people lives off the proceeds from the marijuana business. Aerial pictures suggest some 60 hectares were cultivated in Lazarat last November with 300,000 plants capable of yielding 500 tonnes of cannabis, or half the total production in Albania.

“This time we’ll put an end to this; law and God are on our side,” a commander of a police special forces unit told his men as a Reuters reporter looked on.

The commander declined to be named.

Afghan candidate Abdullah blames Karzai for election standoff

KABUL, 20 June — Afghan presidential candidate Abdullah Abdullah accused Hamid Karzai on Thursday of orchestrating a stalemate after last weekend’s runoff election and said the incumbent would be responsible for any ensuing political crisis.

The vote is a decisive test of Afghanistan’s ambitions to transfer power democratically for the first time in its history.

Preliminary results are not due until 2 July but Abdullah’s refusal to accept the outcome has raised the risks of the war-torn country plunging into a protracted political crisis as most foreign troops prepare to leave Afghanistan this year.

Afghans braved Taliban threats to vote in a second-round run-off on Saturday but accusations of cheating have since created a deadlock between Abdul- lah and his rival, former World Bank economist Ashraf Ghani.

Abdullah has demanded a suspension of vote counting and declared he had no trust in electoral bodies.

On Thursday, he directly accused Karzai, who was constitutionally barred from running for office again after 12 years in power, of playing a role in the standoff.

“Any undertakings will be regarded as illegal and whatever results are announced, are not acceptable to us,” Abdullah told reporters. “This unfortunately has created a political stalemate and the president of this country and the electoral commissions are responsible for this stalemate and any consequences.”

Karzai, expected to retain a hand in politics even after standing down, has repeatedly denied claims of interference.

“The government have been neutral in this process and we are on neither side,” government spokesman Sifatullah Safai said in response to Abdullah’s comments.

Afghan President Hamid Karzai shows his card before voting in the presidential election in Kabul on 14 June, 2014. — Reuters

Ashraf Ghani, Abdullah has demand-
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 Kyaukphyu, 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
Myanma 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,
Myanma Electric Power Enterprise
Office No 27, Ministry of Electric Power
Phone +95 67 410282, 41091

THE REPUBLIC OF THE UNION OF MYANMAR
MINISTRY OF ENERGY
MYANMA OIL AND GAS ENTERPRISE
(INVITATION FOR OPEN TENDER)
(13/04/2014)

Open tenders are invited for supply of the following respective items in United States Dollars/Kyats.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Sr.No</th>
<th>Tender No</th>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Remark</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>(1)</td>
<td>IFB -043(14-15)</td>
<td>1500 Series Well head Equipment &amp; Accessories (5) Sets</td>
<td>US$</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(2)</td>
<td>IFB -044(14-15)</td>
<td>2900 Series Well head Equipment &amp; Accessories (4) Sets</td>
<td>US$</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(3)</td>
<td>IFB -045(14-15)</td>
<td>900 Series Well head Equipment &amp; Accessories (11) Sets</td>
<td>US$</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(4)</td>
<td>IFB -046(14-15)</td>
<td>55 Ton Hydraulic Crawler Crane (1) Unit</td>
<td>US$</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(5)</td>
<td>IFB -047(14-15)</td>
<td>Spare Parts for Mud Pump Engine hydraulic (1) Lot</td>
<td>US$</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(6)</td>
<td>IFB -048(14-15)</td>
<td>Power Pack Ex HDD Rig (11) Items</td>
<td>US$</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(7)</td>
<td>IFB -049(14-15)</td>
<td>Spare Parts for Drilling Trailer Hydraulic System Ex HDD Rig (16) Items</td>
<td>US$</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(8)</td>
<td>IFB -050(14-15)</td>
<td>Power Pack Ex HDD Rig (7) Items</td>
<td>US$</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(9)</td>
<td>IFB -051(14-15)</td>
<td>Rollers Chain for EMSCO Drilling Rig (4) Items</td>
<td>US$</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(10)</td>
<td>IFB -052(14-15)</td>
<td>Mast Raising Line for Z150D Sr-I Rig (2) Nos</td>
<td>US$</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(11)</td>
<td>IFB -053(14-15)</td>
<td>Oil &amp; Gas Production Accessories (27) Items</td>
<td>US$</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(12)</td>
<td>IFB -054(14-15)</td>
<td>Valves &amp; Fitting (7) Items</td>
<td>US$</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(13)</td>
<td>DMP-L-009(14-15)</td>
<td>Telephone Cable (No. 24 AWG 100 Pair, 50 Pair, 20 Pair &amp; 10 Pair) (4) Items</td>
<td>KS</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(15)</td>
<td>DMP-L-011(14-15)</td>
<td>Motor for CNG Compressor (3) Items</td>
<td>KS</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Invitation to Open Tender for Tender 2014-A-OVS

1. Myanma Posts and Telecommunications(MPT), Ministry of Communications and Information Technology invite open tender for Purchasing of Communications Equipments and Construction of service quarter building that are described in the below table.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Sr. No</th>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Qty</th>
<th>Remark</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>IGW SoftSwitch Expansion Equipments</td>
<td>1 Lot</td>
<td>Foreign Currency</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>Primary Reference Clock</td>
<td>1 Set</td>
<td>Kyats</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>70 KVA Engine Generator</td>
<td>1 Lot</td>
<td>Kyats</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>MPT Satellite Gateway Equipments</td>
<td>1 Lot</td>
<td>Kyats</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>Transmission Measuring Equipments &amp; OFC Racks</td>
<td>1 Lot</td>
<td>Kyats</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td>Service Quarter Building (RC)</td>
<td>1 No</td>
<td>Kyats</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

2. Bidder should submit open tender (Technical and requirement Proposal) on 10th July, 2014, during (09:30 to 16:30) at Head Office Building of Overseas Communications Department, Myanma Posts and Telecommunications, Near 8 mile junction, KalBar-Aye Pagoda Road, Yangon, Myanmar and MPT will deny the tender that is submitted after the assigned period as above. Tender documents are available From Head Office Building of Overseas Department and detail can be asked to telephone number +95 9 450000142 and +95 1 650118 during office hours.

3. Bidder should submit the price proposal when we call you the day for price bargain-
ing.

State of the Sea

Occasional squalls with rough sea will be experienced off and along Myanmar Coasts. Surface wind speed in squalls may reach (40) m.p.h.

State of the Sea

Occasional squalls with rough sea will be experienced off and along Myanmar Coasts. Surface wind speed in squalls may reach (40) m.p.h.

Invitation to Open Tender for Tender 2014-A-OVS

1. Myanma Posts and Telecommunications(MPT), Ministry of Communications and Information Technology invite open tender for Purchasing of Communications Equipments and Construction of service quarter building that are described in the below table.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Sr. No</th>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Qty</th>
<th>Remark</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>IGW SoftSwitch Expansion Equipments</td>
<td>1 Lot</td>
<td>Foreign Currency</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>Primary Reference Clock</td>
<td>1 Set</td>
<td>Kyats</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>70 KVA Engine Generator</td>
<td>1 Lot</td>
<td>Kyats</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>MPT Satellite Gateway Equipments</td>
<td>1 Lot</td>
<td>Kyats</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>Transmission Measuring Equipments &amp; OFC Racks</td>
<td>1 Lot</td>
<td>Kyats</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td>Service Quarter Building (RC)</td>
<td>1 No</td>
<td>Kyats</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

2. Bidder should submit open tender (Technical and requirement Proposal) on 10th July, 2014, during (09:30 to 16:30) at Head Office Building of Overseas Communications Department, Myanma Posts and Telecommunications, Near 8 mile junction, KalBar-Aye Pagoda Road, Yangon, Myanmar and MPT will deny the tender that is submitted after the assigned period as above. Tender documents are available From Head Office Building of Overseas Department and detail can be asked to telephone number +95 9 450000142 and +95 1 650118 during office hours.

3. Bidder should submit the price proposal when we call you the day for price bargain-
ing.

Tender Evaluation & Selection Committee

“Inclusive” PIDF summit concludes with commitment on partnership, green/blue growth

NADL (Fiji) 20 June — Fijian Prime Minister Voreqe Bainimarama concluded the 2nd summit of the Pacific Islands Development Forum (PIDF) on Friday afternoon, calling it a success. “I have to admit that after the success of the inaugural Forum last year — and the wonderful spirit that marked our first gathering, I've received from so many of you,” said the prime min-
ister in his closing speech.

The inclusiveness of the meeting is a great strength, said Bainimara-
ma. “Part of the attraction of the PIDF is still its nov-
elty value, the fact that for the first time, we all have a

genuinely Pacific gathering that is also genuinely in-
clusive — Governments, civil society organizations and business working togeth-
er to forge a sustainable development path for us all,” he said.

The summit, themed “Green Growth in the Pacific: Building Resilient Sustainable Futures and Genuine Partnership,” gathers about 400 high-level participants from more than 10 Pacific island governments, civil society and business circles as well as observers from nations such as Morocco, Venezuela, Israel, Singapore, Kazakhstan, Kuwait and Georgia.

Xinhua
Man accused of stalking Sandra Bullock charged with stockpiling guns

Los Angeles, 20 June — A man accused of breaking into Oscar-winning actress Sandra Bullock’s Los Angeles home pleaded not guilty on Wednesday to charges that he possessed a stockpile of weapons, the Los Angeles County District Attorney said.

Police found the weapons cache, which included several machine guns, at the Montrose, California, home of 39-year-old Joshua Corbett following his 8 June arrest at Bullock’s residence in an upscale neighbourhood near Beverly Hills, prosecutors said. Corbett, who has already pleaded not guilty in Los Angeles Superior Court to felony charges of burglary, stalking and possession of a machine gun, now faces 19 additional felony weapons charges.

Corbett’s bail was set at $2 million on the new charges in addition to the $185,000 bond from the original charges. He is being held in Los Angeles County Jail. Bullock, the star of such films as “The Blind Side” and this year’s Academy Award-winner “Gravity,” was at home during the alleged break-in but prosecutors said Corbett was not in possession of the machine gun at the time of the break-in.—Reuters

Harrison Ford has surgery after breaking leg on ‘Star Wars’ set

Los Angeles, 20 June — Actor Harrison Ford has undergone surgery on his broken left leg that was injured in an accident on the set of “Star Wars: Episode VII,” the publicist for the 71-year-old actor said in a statement on Thursday.

Disney, the studio behind the new “Star Wars” films, had said last week that Ford had hurt his ankle while filming at Pinewood Studios on the outskirts of London.

Ford’s publicist, Ina Treciokas, said in the statement that Ford will begin rehabilitation shortly.

“He’s doing well and looks forward to returning to work,” Treciokas said.

Filming on the reboot of George Lucas’ blockbuster “Star Wars” franchise will continue on schedule while Ford recovers.—Reuters

Shraddha Kapoor: Have to conquer a lot in Bollywood

Mumbai, 20 June — Post the success of Aashiqui 2, actress Shraddha Kapoor, who is three films old in Bollywood, wants to “conquer” a lot more and is willing to work hard.

Shraddha, daughter of popular actor Shakti Kapoor, made her acting debut with Teen Patti alongside megastar Amitabh Bachchan, R Madhavan and others. Her next release was Luv Ka The End with Y-Films, which is a subsidiary of Yash Raj Films. However, both the films failed to garner much attention. It was her third release, Aashiqui 2 which turned out to be a huge success.

“Apart from the success of Aashiqui 2, I believe that I need to conquer a lot more. I am constantly working towards it and I will work harder. Nobody expected Aashiqui 2 to do so well as it had two new faces. It changed so many lives that Friday; of mine, Mohit Suri’s (director) and also that of Aditya Roy Kapur’s (actor), besides singers and composers,” Shraddha said in an interview here.

Shraddha says that the success Aashiqui 2 has received is like a “crazy phenomenon”. For Shraddha, the kind of appreciation that came from all quarters post the release of Aashiqui 2 was overwhelming. “For me, actually being remembered as ‘Arohi’ (the name of character) was the biggest compliment.—PTI

Emma Stone, Andrew Garfield are making the most of fame, in the nicest way

New Delhi, 20 June — Hollywood couple and co-stars Emma Stone and Andrew Garfield have chanced upon the best way to deal with paparazzi cameras thrust in their faces. They’re giving those cameras something to look at.

They were at a New York eatery having lunch recently and spotted the group of photographers outside, waiting to pounce. So Emma and Andrew wrote out two notes addressed to the paps. When they left the restaurant after their meal, they were holding the notes up to their faces.

Emma’s note read: Good morning! We were eating and saw a group of guys with cameras outside. And so we thought, let’s try this again. We don’t need the attention but these wonderful organizations do.

It ended with an arrow pointing to Andrew’s note which listed the couple’s favourite charities — youthmentoring.org, autismspeaks.org, wwo.org and gildasclubnyc.org — and ended with: Here’s to stuff that matters. Have a great day! —PTI

Emma Stone and Andrew Garfield
Kagawa’s benching dictated by tactics rather than form

Shinji Kagawa

NATI (Brazil), 20 June — Japan manager Alberto Zaccheroni said Shinji Kagawa’s benching in Thursday’s Greece game was a tactical decision and not because the Manchester United midfielder had been out of form.

“It was a tactical choice,” Zaccheroni said. “We wanted to make them work on the wings, which is where they usually begin their build-up. When Kagawa plays wide, he usually likes to cut in which would’ve made what we wanted to do difficult.”

Kagawa, who had a poor game by his standards in Saturday’s 2-1 defeat to Ivory Coast, was dropped with Yoshito Okubo taking his place in a four-man attack. Kagawa came on for Yuya Osako in the 57th minute but failed to spark the Asian champions, who could not unlock the Greek defence which grew even more defensive after they went down to 10 men late in the opening half.

Through the first two games, Kagawa’s World Cup debut has been anything but great and he was as quiet in his short dealing with the press after the match.

In order to qualify for the second round, Japan on Tuesday must beat Group C leaders Colombia and pray Ivory Coast do not beat Greece.

“I just made sure I was ready if and when I got the call,” Kagawa said. “That’s it. Obviously, we’re not happy about the result.”

Kaneko to pay compensation to victims of skin-whitening products

Tokyo, 20 June —

Kaneko Cosmetics Inc. plans to pay up to several billion yen to some 4,000 users of its skin-whitening cosmetics who developed white blotches on their skin, sources familiar with the matter said on Friday.

Kaneko Cosmetics plans to make payments to those who were worst affected, the sources said.

The company, which is wholly owned by major cosmetics and household goods maker Kao Corp, recalled from last July products containing “Rhododenol,” a chemical brightening ingredient.

Users of the products developed white blotches on their skin as a result of using the Kaneko products, which is smaller than the amount calculated by the group.

The number of people who developed white blotches on their skin as a result of using the Kaneko products reached some 19,000 as of late May. The company recalled some 700,000 products as of the end of that month.

The cosmetics maker is already covering the victims’ medical and transportation costs.

Kaneko Cosmetics Inc. plans to pay compensation for damages to some 4,000 users of its skin-whitening cosmetics who developed white blotches on their skin, Lawyer Tadashi Nakamura, a lawyer in charge of consulting by around 100 people who have received letters. In the letters, Kaneko Cosmetics has offered to pay 400,000-500,000 yen, the sources said.

Lawyer Tadashi Nakamura, who serves as head of the group’s secretariat, said Kaneko Cosmetics has failed to explain how it failed to compensate for loss of income due to taking time off work to receive treatment at hospitals, the sources said.

The company has started to send letters to the victims, saying it is ready to pay compensation, they added.

A Tokyo-based group of lawyers who represent the victims said it has been consulted by around 100 people who have received the letters. In the letters, Kaneko Cosmetics has offered to pay 400,000-500,000 yen, the sources said.

Obituary, Aged 91 years

Professor Dr. Daw Myint Myint Khin

Professor, Department of Medicine (Retired), Institute of Medicine, Mandalay.

B.A, M.B.B.S (Yangon), M.R.C.P, F.R.C.P (Edinburgh)

Founder and Chairperson, (Support Group for Elderly Doctors) Member, (Dr U San Baw Research Award Committee) Member, (Myanmar Academy of Arts and Sciences) Emeritus Researcher, (Department of Medical Research) Ministry of Health.

Dr. Daw Myint Myint Khin, eldest daughter of late U Aung Hla and Daw Ma Ma Gyi, daughter-in-law of late Dr. U Thaw Zan and Daw Si Si, beloved widow of late Dr. U San Baw, elder sister of Daw Tin Tin Toe, beloved mother of Dr. Myint Zan (Professor, Faculty of Law, Multimedia University, Malacca, Malaysia), Daw Nilar Khin-U Thant Zin Shwe (Future Gift International Ltd), aunt of Dr. Khin Thwai Thein-Dr. Kyaw Tun Wai, Daw Hla Hla May-U San Tun Aung, Daw Than Than May-Dr. Tun Hla Pru, U Hla Myint-Daw San San Maw passed away at 2:20 pm on Thursday, 19 June 2014 at Shweganondine Specialist Centre. Funeral would be at 3 pm at Yayway cemetery on Saturday, 21 June 2014.

Bereaved family.
Take Italy to the moon please Mario, says coach

Recife, (Brazil), 20 June — Mario Balotelli is a one-man weapon who can take Italy all the way “to the moon” but if he does not keep his mind on the job he will be brought straight back down to earth, his coach Cesare Prandelli said on Thursday.

The mercurial striker teams jostling for top spot in Group D after opening their World Cup campaigns with victory.

The AC Milan forward’s frequently lethargic displays ensure he continues to divide opinion on his place in the pecking order of the game’s current top talents.

Yet he showed his undeniable value in the 2-1 victory over England last week by capping a largely anonymous performance with the match-winning goal.

“If we look at the last four years, there are times where he was our weapon, the man who would take us to the moon, then two months later, he was not the same player,” Prandelli told a news conference with Balotelli sat beside him.

“What is important is that he concentrates. If he can do that for 90 minutes, then good, if not we will have someone else come in and replace him.”

“He can be decisive and important but as in the last match he must give 100 percent.”

The irony of the final point was that as Prandelli delivered his verdict, Balotelli’s attention seemed to have wandered and his gaze was distractedly looking elsewhere.

The striker had earlier described how the hubbub of the World Cup was not taking its toll on his nerves and how the man with a hot-headed reputation was remaining ice cool.

“I am experiencing this moment with great peace of mind,” he said. “I don’t feel any pressure, nothing of the sort.”

While the heat is not getting to the striker, the Brazilian climate and Friday’s 1300 local time kickoff was clearly not to his coach’s liking.

He had previously complained about his players not being allowed drinks breaks in their win over England, played in the stifling jungle climate of Manaus. Recife is unlikely to offer any shelter from Brazil’s soaring temperatures.

“It would seem that everything remains the same,” he said when asked if FIFA would relent and allow stoppages.

“The climate is not normal. Today we simulated the climate and at 1:25pm, it was 29 degrees and 57 percent humidity.

After 20 minutes, the clouds cleared and we almost had 40 degrees and 70 percent humidity.

“As far as I am concerned the South American teams have an advantage, not least because they live and work in these conditions and their explosiveness is different to Europeans. Europeans are more resilient, but less explosive.”

On the injury front, Prandelli said goalkeeper Gianluigi Buffon could return to the starting lineup after missing the first match with a twisted ankle, although the final decision would be left until on Friday. —Reuters