Gov’t should take responsibility for the rehabilitation of former political prisoners and support families of torture victims: FPPS

By Aye Min Soe

YANGON, 25 June—The Former Political Prisoners Society (FPPS) is urging the government to cooperate with the society to rehabilitate victims of torture.

U Thet Oo, member of the working committee of the Former Political Prisoners Society (FPPS), said: “We have not heard about such abysmal conditions anymore, but the ongoing problem is that prisoners cannot afford medical care after their release and have to deal with the impact the imprisonment has had on their health on their own,” U Thet Oo said.

On behalf of the FPPS, U Thet Oo, is urging the government to cooperate with them for the rehabilitation of former political prisoners and families of the victims of torture.

Many suffered from dysentery during an epidemic at Insein Prison in Yangon in 1990, said U Thet Hmu, 44, a former political prisoner. Two political prisoners died as they did not receive any medical help. Many died in prisons due to contaminated water and food and lack of sufficient medical care, while some did not survive the long-term effects of imprisonment after their release or were left paralyzed.

“We have not heard about such abysmal conditions anymore, but the ongoing problem is that prisoners cannot afford medical care after their release and have to deal with the impact the imprisonment has had on their health on their own,” U Thet Oo said.

According to FPPS, from 1988 to 2010, over 160 political prisoners died in Myanmar prisons and at interrogation camps due to malnutrition, lack of medical care and torture.

Due to the lack of adequate medical care for prisoners, the imprisoned people had to rely on supplies their family members brought during visits, with a lot of medicines confiscated by security guards.

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“We have not heard about such abysmal conditions anymore, but the ongoing problem is that prisoners cannot afford medical care after their release and have to deal with the impact the imprisonment has had on their health on their own,” U Thet Oo said.

Damco opens container freight facilities in Myanmar

YANGON, 25 June—Third-party logistics provider Damco has started operating the first international standard warehouse and Container Freight Station (CFS) facility in Myanmar, according to a press release by the company on 24 June.

The company claimed that customers can now benefit from the same service quality for cargo shipped out of Myanmar as any other country.

Kiattichai Pitpreecha, managing director of the Thailand, Malaysia & Myanmar cluster, said: “Damco is the first global logistics company in Myanmar. After acquiring an operating license in 2013 and opening a new office in Yangon, we have strengthened our position in Myanmar by being the first international logistics company in the country to start offering own-operated CFS/warehousing services.”

He added that the international standard CFS facility provides superior service to customers through direct control and management of the entire operation and service delivery process.

This new facility, “brand-new world-class” 4,000 sqm facility in Thaketa Industrial Zone is C-TPAT compliant and strategically located within 15 kilometres from Yangon ports and major industrial locations, he said.

According to the company, it is suitable for import and export activities for fast-moving consumer goods (FMCGs), consumer electronics, apparel, components, machinery and project cargo.

Pitpreecha said: “Emerging markets have always been one of Damco’s focus areas and core strengths, with many of our key customers sourcing their products from or operating in these markets. They will benefit from the same service quality for cargo shipped out of Myanmar as any other country in which we operate.”

Pitpreecha added that Damco has “proved again that we are one step ahead in Myanmar.”

Damco opened its first international standard warehouse and CFS facility in Myanmar, according to a press release by the company on 24 June.

Photo: Photo:Aye Min Soe

Damco starts operating first international standard warehouse and Container Freight Station (CFS) facility in Myanmar.

Photo: Photo:Aye Min Soe
Muse in northern Shan State stages beauty pageant with traditional costumes

Muse, 25 June — The Myanmar Women’s Affairs Committee in Muse of northern Shan State on Tuesday organized a traditional costume show to mark Myanmar Women’s Day which falls on 3 July. 20 young women wearing different ethnic costumes participated in the show. The best award went to Nan Thandar Soe in a Shan national costume; the first runnerup was Ma Khine Khin Win in a Bamar costume; and the second runnerup was Nan San Mun Kham in a Rakhine costume. Consolation prizes went to Ma Nan Loung Loung and Ma Ja Hsai Pan. The show was closed with the chorus of “Unity is Strength”.

Boat loaded with sand capsizes in Ngamoeyeik Creek in eastern YGN, no one injured

Yangon, 25 June—A boat laden with sand sank in Ngamoeyeik Creek in the eastern part of Yangon on Tuesday. The boat, Kyan Daing Aung, was on its way from Yangon river to Ngamoeyeik Creek. No one was injured, officials said.

Prevention against human trafficking

Myingyan, 25 June—Mandalay and Myingyan Districts Anti-human Trafficking Committees gave lectures on the prevention of trafficking in persons on Tuesday. The said as every one regardless of age and gender can become a victim of human trafficking, people must be informed about the methods of traffickers and educated on how to protect themselves.

Medics give free treatment to locals in central Myanmar

Yenangyoung, 25 June — A 95-member mobile team of medics led by Lt-Col Zaw Myo Marn on Sunday gave medical treatment to locals of 36 villages in Yenangyoung Township in central Myanmar. They provided treatment to 1,832 patients free of charge and will continue their service until 26 June.
Foreign banks to serve interest of local people, banks and companies: central bank vice governor

**NAY PYI TAW, 25 June** —Vice Governor of the Central Bank of Myanmar Dr Set Aung told the Pyidaungsu Hluttaw on Wednesday that Myanmar will place emphasis on the interest of Myanmar and the people, local banks and local companies in allowing foreign banks to enter the Southeast Asian country.

The vice governor said that there are both advantages and disadvantages when foreign banks are allowed to operate either as foreign bank branches, as new companies, as joint venture branches with local partners, or as locals banks after they have bought shares from local banks.

The Central Bank has compared the advantages and disadvantages, but the emphasis is placed on the interests of the country and the people, local banks and local companies, he said.

At the Pyidaungsu Hluttaw session on Wednesday unanimous-ly approved the proposal of the president to appoint Union Deputy Minister U Soe Win of the Ministry of Religious Affairs as the union minister of the same ministry.—MNA

Union Minister opens new school for children from copper mine project area

**NAY PYI TAW, 25 June** —Union Minister U Hla Tun at the Ministry of the President Office on Wednesday took part in a school opening ceremony in Salingyi Township in north-west Myanmar’s Sagaing region.

The two-storey school, which is located near the China-backed Myanmar Wanbao Mining Copper Mine Limited, can accommodate 450 children.

Union Minister U Hla Tun, Chairman of the Working Committee which is under the Investigation Commission for the controversial copper mine project, also visited No.6 Garment Factory in Salingyi which was established to create job opportunities in the project area. He said that the towns and villages in the Lpetdawngtaung copper mine project area lacked electricity, clean drinking water and agricultural water in the past, and that these problems have been solved at present to a certain extent both with state budget and corporate social responsibility (CSR) funds of business companies involved in the project.

He then attended at training course by the Rural Youth Development Programme which was launched by Action Aid Myanmar, a non-profit organization, supported by 40 trainees from 30 villages in Salingyi Township, conducts trainings on rural development activities, development programmes for children, women and disabled persons, and measures to prevent natural disasters and combat climate change.

Union Minister U Hla Tun on his tour of Sagaing region where he said that locals living in the copper mine area must be given opportunities to improve their lives.—MNA

Myanmar to extend anti-drug programme as Int’l Day against Drug Abuse and Illicit Trafficking is marked: union minister

**YANGON, 25 June** —In a message to mark the International Day against Drug Abuse and Illicit Trafficking, Union Minister for Home Affairs Lt.-Gen. Ko Ko, who is also the Chairman of the Central Committee for the Prevention of the Dangers of Drug and Psychotropic Substances, said that a new project to eliminate drugs will be implemented as the old programme is about to run out.

A 15-year project for drug elimination was implemented in Myanmar from 1999 to 2014, he said in his message. However, the cultivation of poppy could not be reduced and the dangers of substitute precursor chemicals and new types of drugs and psychotropic substances have emerged in the country. Therefore, another 5-year project for drug elimination is being implemented until 2019.

In order to control the money generated from drug trafficking, the Anti Money Laundering Law was enacted. “Offences are investigated and action is taken against money laundering activities in accordance with the existing laws. As a result, a total of 49 money laundering activities were investigated and 22 money laundering crimes were exposed, leading to the confiscation of nearly K 20 billion,” the union minister wrote.

UNODC’s theme for this year’s International Day against Drug Abuse and Illicit Trafficking offers a message of hope: Drug abuse is preventable and treatable. But it takes the effort of communities to reorient addicts by supporting them, with an improvement in health care services needed to systematically treat them. Further needed is more education on the dangers of drug abuse and the improvement of people’s livelihoods to give them hope and a perspective to abstain from illegal substance abuse.

FM felicitates Canadian counterpart

**NAY PYI TAW, 26 June** —The 22nd Coordination meeting of the ASEAN Task Force on AIDS is being held from 24 to 26 June at the Hotel Shwe Pyi Tha in Mandalay.

At Tuesday’s meeting, Union Minister for Health Dr Pe Thet Khin said that Myanmar is cooperating with regional countries, UN agencies, partner organizations and social organizations in the fight against AIDS.

Chairman of the ATFOA Dr Bonpheng Phalaveng delivered a speech at the meeting.

Officials from the ASEAN Secretariat, UN-AIDS, International Alliance, UNICEF, WHO and representatives from ASEAN countries attended the meeting.—MNA

ASEAN Task Force on AIDS meets in Mandalay

**NAY PYI TAW, 25 June** —The 22nd Coordination meeting of the ASEAN Task Force on AIDS is being held from 24 to 26 June at the Hotel Shwe Pyi Tha in Mandalay.

Forecast valid until Evening of the 26th June, 2014: Rain or thundershowers will be scattered in Lower Sagaing, Mandalay and Magway Regions, Kayah State, fairly widespread in Upper Sagaing, Shan and Chin States and widespread in the remaining Regions and States with isolated heavy falls in Yangon, Ayeyawady and Tanintharyi Regions, Rakhine and Mon States. Degree of certainty is (100%).
Farmers start work as monsoon sets in

**Indaw (Sagaing Region), 25 June**—As the rainy season has started in Indaw Township in Sagaing Region in upper Myanmar, farmers are now engaging in land preparation work, with cultivation beginning in mid July. According to the Land Statistics Office, 48,411 acres are usable. In the 2014 cultivation season, the Myanmar Agriculture Development Bank will disburse K3.6 billion in loans to 7,300 farmers of 43 village tracts in the township. According to the plan, a farmer can get K100,000 for an acre with 10 acres in maximum. As interest rate is low – 42 pyas (100 pyas=K1) for K100 for a month – farmers who own more lands can buy equipment including power tillers and pumping machines. They can use the equipment for their own use as well as rent it out to earn extra income, a farmer said.—Maung Chit Linn

Police in Padaung educates children on dangers of drugs

**Padaung, (West Bago Region), 25 June**—Padaung Police Force in West Bago Region organized talks on the dangers of narcotic drugs on Tuesday in a bid to keep children away from drug abuse. The organizers talked about the drugs sold, health dangers, drug-related laws, and crimes including trafficking. Local youth and children, members of the anti-narcotic drug association, maternal and child welfare association, women affairs committee, and others were present on the occasion. Aung Myint (042)

Nay Pyi Taw Council member honours outstanding students

**Nay Pyi Taw, 25 June**—Nay Pyi Taw council member U Phone Zaw Han on Tuesday honoured outstanding students who passed the 2013-2014 matriculation exam. Altogether 105 distinction winners from Uttarathiri Township were honoured at the ceremony.

Bridge in Mohnyin Tsp in urgent need of repair

**Mohnyin, (Kachin State) 25 June**—A bridge on a road in Mohnyin Township in Kachin State needs urgent repair as its condition in the rainy season is deteriorating, locals said. As the bridge is located on the route leading to a historic pagoda in the region, many locals are worried about their safety and have called on authorities to rebuild it. The road sees heavy traffic with pedestrians, school children, tourists, and heavy vehicles, according to locals.—Ni Toe

Funds provided for Green Village Project in arid zone

**Natogyi (Central Myanmar), 25 June**—The Rural Development Department under the Ministry of Livestock, Fisheries and Rural Development provided a K30 million fund for 11 villages in Natogyi Township located in the arid zone of central Myanmar. With the establishment of the fund locals will be able to engage in implementing the Green Village Project.

FOR THE EARTH: As Seikpyu Township is located in the dry zone in central Myanmar, it is vital to grow trees for environmental conservation, with the Forest Department of the township on Monday organizing a ceremony to plant trees in a school compound, including neem, eucalyptus, and other big shady trees as a gesture to mark World Environment Day.

Soe Linn Naing (IPRD)
WASHINGTON, 25 June — Military rule in Thailand is likely to last longer than expected and has been more repressive than after the country’s last coup in 2006, a senior US official said on Tuesday.

The official told a congressional hearing Washington was still looking at whether the big regional Cobra Gold military exercise held annually in Thailand could go ahead there next year given the military takeover in May.

“Initially, we held out hope that — as happened with the 2006 coup — the military would move relatively quickly to transfer power to a civilian government and move towards free and fair elections,” said Scot Marciel, the US principal deputy assistant secretary of state for East Asia.

However, recent events have shown that the current military coup is both more repressive and likely to last longer than the last one,” he added. Marciel said in testimony to the Asia-Pacific subcommittee of the House Foreign Affairs Committee that the coup had put the United States in a difficult position, given that Thailand is a key US ally in Asia.

“The challenge facing the United States is to make clear our support for a rapid return to democracy and fundamental freedoms, while also working to ensure we are able to maintain and strengthen this important friendship and our security alliance over the long term,” he said.

Marciel said Washington hoped that strong international criticism of the military takeover would lead to an easing of repression and an early return to democracy. He said the United States would continue to urge for the martial law to be lifted and elections to be held sooner than a vague 15-month timeline laid out by the military government.

However, he added: “To be honest, it’s very hard to predict how long they are going to stay in power.”

Until there is a return to elected government, “we will not be able to do business as usual,” Marciel said.

As required by US law, Washington has frozen $4.7 million of security-related assistance since the coup and cancelled high-level engagements, some military exercises and training programmes for the military and police.

Marciel said Washington had yet to make a decision on the Cobra Gold exercises planned for early next year in Thailand, which he called “hugely important ... not only for Thailand and the United States, but for the region.”

Gunmen fire on plane at Pakistan’s Peshawar airport, one killed

PESHAWAR, Pakistan, 25 June — Gunmen fired on a Pakistan International Airlines plane as it was landing in the northern Pakistani city of Peshawar on Tuesday night, killing a woman on board and injuring three crew members in the third incident at a Pakistani airport this month.

Flight PK 756 was carrying 178 passengers travelling from Saudi Arabia when it came under attack as it was preparing to land, policeman Asghar Khan said at the airport.

The plane was hit by six bullets, police said, killing the Pakistani woman and narrowly missing the captain. At least one bullet struck the plane’s engine, police said.

The woman’s daughter was sitting next to her when she was shot in the head, Pir Sultan Mohammad Kifayatullah Khan said. “When I went inside the plane, I saw the woman lying on the seat and her nine-year-old daughter was crying, ‘My mother is dead, my mother is dead’, said Khan.

“All the passengers were panicked. Some of them wanted to get out as soon as possible because they were afraid of fire inside the plane.

“The captain of the plane had narrowly escaped,” he said. “It would have been a disaster had he been hit.”

The incident will raise further questions about whether the government is prepared for a Taleban backlash after officials announced a military operation to flush the militants from their mountain strongholds in North Waziristan on 15 June.

Pakistan jets have pounded suspected militant hideouts and the Taleban have vowed counter attacks.

Islamabad has promised to tighten security at airports and other potential targets, but critics say decades of neglect of Pakistan’s ragged police force has left citizens vulnerable.

On 8 June, ten Taleban gunmen attacked the airport in the southern port city of Karachi, Pakistan’s financial heart and home to 18 million people. Thirty-four people were killed in the five-hour gunbattle.

The Taleban fired on an academy for the security forces at the airport two days later.

On Monday, the government was forced to divert a plane carrying prominent cleric Tahdirul Qadri after violence broke out on the ground in Islamabad, with hundreds of supporters armed with sticks battling police, who fired teargas.

The authorities, fearing an escalation of unrest, diverted the plane to the eastern city of Lahore, where Qadri and his supporters refused to leave the plane for hours.

Peshawar’s Bacha Khan International Airport has also been a target in the past — in 2012, a Taleban suicide squad staged a car bomb, rocket and gun attack on the airport and nine people, including the five attackers, were killed.

One policeman told Reuters police will not enter the neighbourhood that borders the airport at night for fear of attack by extremists.— Reuters

N Korea identifies Gen Hyon Yong Chol as defence minister

BEIJING, 25 June — North Korea’s defence minister is now Gen Hyon Yong Chol, a former chief of the General Staff of the country’s military, replacing Jang Jong Nam for unknown reasons, an official media report showed on Wednesday.

A radio report by the Korean Central Broadcasting Station in the morning introduced Hyon as People’s Armed Forces Minister, according to Tokyo-based Radio Press, which monitors North Korean media.

Hyon became chief of the General Staff of the 1.2 million-strong Korean People’s Army for about a year from July 2012.

Jang was in the ministerial post from around May 2013. His predecessor Kim Kyok Sik was seen by North Korea watchers as a hardliner for his role in the shelling of a South Korean island in the Yellow Sea in November 2010 and the sinking of a South Korean naval vessel in March that year.— Kyodo News
Kerry urges Kurds to save Iraq from collapse

A fighter of the Islamic State of Iraq and the Levant (ISIL) waves a flag as they celebrate in the city of Mosul, on 23 June, 2014.—Reuters

Kurdistan Regional Government President Massoud Barzani (R) greets US Secretary of State John Kerry at the presidential palace in Arbil, the capital of northern Iraq’s Kurdistan autonomous region, on 24 June, 2014.—Reuters

UNSG's Message on the United Nations International Day in Support of Victims of Torture

26 June 2014

Following is UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon's message for the United Nations International Day in Support of Victims of Torture, to be observed on 26 June:

Every day, mental and physical torture and ill-treatment are intentionally inflicted on women, men, children in all regions of the world at the instigation of public officials — the very people whose job it is to enforce the rule of law, protect human rights and keep people safe.

The prohibition of torture is absolute. The Convention against Torture states unequivocally that the use of torture is illegal under any circumstances, including armed conflict, the fight against terrorism, political instability or other emergency conditions. All 155 States that have ratified this treaty have committed to fight impunity by thoroughly investigating and prosecuting violations and bringing perpetrators, no matter their level of office, to justice. They have also accepted the obligation to provide redress to the victims and their families.

Regrettably, the right of victims of torture to effective remedies, including rehabilitation, is yet to become a reality, in particular in the context of armed conflicts and large-scale humanitarian crises.

The Voluntary Fund for Victims of Torture is a practical tool of the United Nations to extend prompt assistance to victims of torture and their families.

Today, along the borders with Syria, the Fund is supporting projects providing vital services to victims of torture freeing violence and persecution. Essential psycho-social assistance is being delivered to help victims of all age groups recover and regain their dignity. I thank the States and private donors that are supporting the Fund’s efforts, and urge even more to join in this work.

I urge States that have not yet done so to ratify the Convention against Torture, which this year marks 30 years since its adoption. As we honour the victims on this International Day, let us pledge to strengthen our efforts to eradicate this heinous practice.
Israel’s crackdown on Hamas slows in search for missing teens

RAMALLAH, (West Bank), 25 June — Israel eased a crackdown on Hamas in the occupied West Bank on Tuesday after the dragnet, accompanying a search for three Israeli teenagers, raised fears of a Palestinian uprising.

Israel has accused the Islamist group of orchestrating the abduction of the Jewish students on 12 June, and the Israeli military’s raids of Palestinian towns and cities have undermined Western-backed President Mahmoud Abbas.

Militants in the Gaza Strip, a coastal enclave where Hamas is dominant and has vowed revenge at Israel’s crackdown, fired rockets into Israel and Israel responded with air strikes at militant targets there, the Israeli army said in a statement.

A 3-year-old Gaza girl was killed and three of her family were wounded in an explosion which residents blamed on Israel. The Israeli military denied targeting the house and said a militant rocket that fell short was the cause.

A Gaza hospital official said two policemen were wounded in one of the air strikes. Two militant rockets were shot down by Israel’s Iron Dome interceotor system, another fell in an open area and two fell short and landed in Gaza, the army said.

Up to six Palestinians have died as a result of the military operations, locals say, and some 355 people have been arrested.

A senior United Nations official cautioned on Monday the army action risked provoking a revolt, while Palestinians in the West Bank have turned on Abbas for offering to help Israel find those behind the kidnapping.

With the Muslim holy month of Ramadan set to start on Saturday, an Israel government official said members of Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu’s security cabinet had expressed concern that events could “escalate out of control”.

Growing international criticism about the impact on ordinary Palestinians has also been taken into account, he said.

“Following this, a decision was made to significantly narrow the operation and focus it on pinpoint actions to return the abductees,” said the official, who declined to be named.

The Israeli military said on Tuesday that only four Palestinians had been arrested during overnight operations, compared with 37 the day before.

“We are continuing intelligence and operational efforts to bring about the release of the abductees and to get our hands on the kidnappers. That hasn’t changed at all,” Defence Minister Moshe Yaalon told reporters.

Russia’s Putin renounces right to send troops to Ukraine

MOSCOW, 25 June — President Vladimir Putin asked Russia’s upper house on Tuesday to revoke the right it had granted him to order a military intervention in Ukraine in defence of Russian-speakers there.

Minutes before he spoke, Kiev said pro-Russian rebels in east Ukraine had shot down a military helicopter, most likely killing all nine on board. It was the worst breach of a temporary ceasefire agreed in talks between Moscow and Kiev.

Putin’s move received a cautious welcome in the West as a sign Moscow was ready to help engineer a settlement in Ukraine’s large- ly Russian-speaking east, where a pro-Russian uprising against Kiev began in April. Ukrainian President Petro Poroshenko called it a “first practical step” following Putin’s statement of support last weekend for Poroshenko’s peace plan for eastern Ukraine. But later he told security chiefs to “open fire without hesitation” if government forces came under attack, and “did not rule out bringing the cease-fire regime to an early end” if rebels continued to breach it, his press service said.

Putin himself said he now expected Ukraine to begin talks on guaranteeing the rights of its Russian-speaking minority, which Russia would continue to defend.

“It is not enough to announce a ceasefire,” he told reporters on a visit to Vienna. “A substantive discussion of the essence of the problem is essential.”

In the 1 March resolution, the Federation Council had granted Putin the right to “use the Russian Federation’s Armed Forces on the territory of Ukraine until the social and political situation in that country normalises”.

That resolution, together with Russia’s March annexation of Crimea from Ukraine, helped push East-West relations to their lowest ebb since the Cold War and led the United States and Europe to impose sanctions on Moscow.

Two Koreas to hold talks on forestry cooperation

SEOUL, 25 June — Representatives of a South Korean civic group will hold talks with North Korean officials in the North’s border city of Kaesong to discuss the resumption of forestry cooperation, the South’s Unification Ministry said on Wednesday.

The meeting, between South Korean scholars visiting Kaesong on Wednesday, was part of a project with the North to publish a joint Korean language dictionary, the Unification Ministry said.

Japan to deploy F-35 fighters at Misawa Air Base from FY 2017

AOMORI, (Japan), 25 June — Japan will begin deploying the next-generation F-35 fighter jets at its Misawa Air Base in Aomori Prefecture from fiscal 2017, Defence Minister Itsunori Onodera told a meeting of the presidential council on science and education at the Kremlin in Moscow, on 23 June, 2014.— Reuters

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Long lasting old capital Inwa, Part IV
Third Inwa under First Konebaung dynasty

Maha Saddhamma Jotika dhajta
Sithu Dr.Khin Maung Nyunt

Konebaung dynasty (1752-1885 A.D) which King Alaungpaya (1752-1760 A.D) set up had four capitals—Shwebo (1752-1765 A.D), Inwa (1765-1773 and 1823-1837 A.D), Amarapura (1783-1823 A.D and 1837-1857 A.D) and Mandalay (1857-1885 A.D).

Depending upon the rise and fall of might and main of Konebaung Kings, historians divide this dynasty into the First Konebaung dynasty and the second Konebaung dynasty. From the rise of King Alaungpaya to the end of the reign of King Bodawpaya a period of 67 years (1752-1819) was the period of ascendance during which the third Myanmar Empire was established. From King Bagyidaw (1819-1837 A.D) to the last Myanmar King Thibaw (1876-1885 A.D) was the period of decline or decadency during this time span of 66 years the third Myanmar Empire broke up due to three annexations to British Indian Empire of the Myanmar country in three installments as the result of three Anglo-Myanmar wars. During these two periods of 133 years their capitals were shifted from Shwebo to Inwa, Inwa to Amarapura, Amarapura to Inwa, Inwa to Amarapura and Amarapura to Mandalay.

In this article we deal with third Inwa under the First Konebaung dynasty. Shwebo was Alaungpaya’s capital. Though his eldest son and successor King Naunangdawgyi desired to move to Sagain by finding a palace site in Sagain, astrologers advised against it. So he remained in Shwebo. But when Hsinbyushin came to the throne, he moved to Inwa in 1765 and founded third Inwa which remained capital under his son and successor King Sin- gu and under Bodawpaya only for year. Therefore third Inwa lasted 17 years (1765-1782).

King Alaungpaya made Shwebo his capital because it was his birth place as well as the auspicious land of his military victories. But his second son and second successor Hsinbyushin found Shwebo land locked as the River Ayeyawady was the only access to sea via Kyauk Myaung town on its bank. So he moved to old Inwa in April 1765, two years after he succeeded his elder brother King Naunangdawgyi. It was a wise step he took because Inwa placed him in direct communication along the Myongte River with Kyaukse grana ry (Eleven irrigated districts of paddy and other crops cultivation) and also at the confluence of five rivers including the great Ayeyawady. He rebuilt Inwa. The gates of restored Inwa were name after conquered territories such as Chaymaing, Mattabaung and Mogaung on the east side, Gandalay, Sandapu (Ywanning, or Linzin) and Keng Tung on the west side, Taninhtayi, Dawei and Yodaya (Siam) on the north side an Kaimgna, Hanthawady, Myede and Osbaung (Hsipaw) on the south side, the city walls were strongly built up to the 16 feet high reinforced by thick earthwork. Inside the walled city residential quarters were laid out, each for separate ethnic groups, according to their trade and service, such as Indian traders, Chinese communities, Portuguese servicecman, Siamese artists, craftsmen, and performing artists, Manipuri and Assamese horsemen, Brahman priests and astrologers. Crown prince, royal relatives, and Mon and Shan ministers and high officials and military commanders resided around the Palace in their respective houses, but the king and queen lived with their rank and position.

After repairing old irrigation works, water tanks and roads and building new ones, Hsinbyushin turned religious and social works, with his royal patronage he promoted Buddhism, supporting learned monks and laymen who contributed to the development of the country spiritually and materialistically. He also built up to the 16 feet high reinforced by thick earthwork. Inside the walled city residential quarters were laid out, each for separate ethnic groups, according to their trade and service, such as Indian traders, Chinese communities, Portuguese servicecman, Siamese artists, craftsmen, and performing artists, Manipuri and Assamese horsemen, Brahman priests and astrologers. Crown prince, royal relatives, and Mon and Shan ministers and high officials and military commanders resided around the Palace in their respective houses, but the king and queen lived with their rank and position.

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Thura U Shwe Mann meets Brazilian Ambassador to Myanmar

Speaker of Lower House Thura U Shwe Mann meets Brazilian Ambassador to Myanmar at Zababarthi Hall of the Parliament—MNA

President U Thein Sein sends felicitations to Croatia

Chairman of the International relation committee U Hla Myint Oo and committee member Daw Aye Aye Mu and responsible officials of the parliament. They discussed cooperation between two countries frankly.

FM sends felicitations to Croatia

Chairman of Judicial and Legal Affairs Committee U Htay Oo holds talks with expert from the Irish Centre for Human Rights

Thura U Aung Ko receives Senior Programme Lawyer (IBAHRI)

As a special promotion, the two post stamps that will be sold on 28 June at Nay Pyi Taw, Yangon and Mandalay general post offices will be stamped with the date.

Gov’t should cooperate more with private sectors: Patron of MFF

Myanmar Fisheries Federation, ANA discuss reasonable price for air cargo

Myanmar-India bus service set to start in the next two months

Republic of the Union of Myanmar
President Office
Order No. 14/2014
13th Waning of Nayon, 1376 ME
(25th June, 2014)

Appointment of Union Minister

In accord with Sub Section (d) of Section 235, Section 232 of the Constitution of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar and Section 12 of the Union Government Law, Union Deputy Minister U Soe Win has been appointed as the Union Minister for Religious Affairs.

U Htay Oo

Chairman of the Lower House Citizen’s Fundamental Rights, Democracy and Human Rights Committee U Htay Oo received Professor Michael O’Flaherty of The Irish Centre for Human Rights at the Lower House on Wednesday. They discussed human rights and the legislative process.

Myanmar Daily Weather Report

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.

OUTLOOK FOR SUBSEQUENT TWO DAYS: Continuation of Strong Monsoon. FORECAST FOR NAY PYI TAW AND NEIGHBOURING AREA FOR 26th June, 2014: One or two rain or thundershowers. Degree of certainty is (100%).

Myanmar-India bus service set to start in the next two months

The distance between two cities is about 579 km with the estimated driving time 14 hours.

The bus service is a new effort by New Delhi which is seeking to promote ties with Myanmar which could act as transit country between South Asia and Southeast Asia. "The bus service would provide a breakthrough in people-to-people connectivity between India and Myanmar," said the official.

Myanmar and India shares a border of 1,643 km with the latter’s states of Arunachal Pradesh, Nagaland, Manipur and Mizoram, with the former strategically located as the gateway for India to other Southeast Asian countries.

India is making plans to increase its airline services to Myanmar, with Air India now only flying three times a week between Yangon and Kolkata.

India has invested in some important projects in Myanmar, including the Kaladan Multimodal Transit Transport Project, building and upgrading 71 bridges on the Tamu-Kalewa-Kalymo road and construction of the Kalewa-Yargyi section of the Trilateral Highway which envisages a seamless link between India, Myanmar and Thailand by 2016. The border trade between India and Myanmar touched $36.2 million in 2012-13. Bilateral trade stands at $1.9 billion.
**South Africa miners return to work as five-month platinum strike ends**

Workers walk past a Lonmin’s Marikana platinum mine, on 24 June, 2014.—Reuters

Marikana, (S Africa), 25 June — Thousands of South African mine workers returned to the Marikana operations of platinum producer Lonmin on Wednesday after wage deals were signed on Tuesday to end a five-month strike, the longest and most damaging in the country’s history.

The workers, some wrapped in blankets to ward off the chill of the winter morning, lined up outside the gates of Marikana’s process division. They are to undergo medical and other checks before they descend the shafts to reboot production.

Workers also returned to mines operated by Anglo American Platinum, which were affected as well by the strike by the Association of Mineworkers and Construction Union (AMCU), a shop steward with the union told Reuters.

They were also expected to come back to mines run by Impala Platinum.

“They are back to work, it’s good,” said one miner as he walked up a gravel road to take his place in the growing line. It will take months to get back to full production as the process of bringing the mines back to life, which will include extensive safety checks, will take some time after the prolonged stoppage, which cost the companies over 24 billion rand (1.32 billion pounds) in lost revenue.

As it embarked on the strike in January under the populist battle cry of “a living wage”, AMCU had initially demanded that basic wages of miners be more than doubled immediately to 12,500 rand a month. In the end, its members settled for increases that amounted to up around 20 percent annually.—Reuters

**At least four wounded in Cairo explosions**

Cairo, 25 June — Two explosions wounded at least four people at two Cairo metro stations during the morning rush hour on Wednesday, security sources said, highlighting some of the challenges faced by newly elected President Abdel Fattah al-Sisi.

Explosions hit Ghamra metro station in central Cairo and Shubra El-Kheyma, a northern district of Greater Cairo, according to state television and security sources.

Three people were wounded at Shubra, according to security sources, and one person at Ghamra, according to the television report.

An interior ministry official told a privately owned television channel that one person was wounded carrying a home-made bomb to Shubra El-Kheyma station. He added the Ghamra incident was caused by an explosion in a rubbish bin.

Egypt has been hit by a wave of violence, mainly attacks by Islamist militants based in the Sinai peninsula on security forces, since the army ousted Islamist President Mohamed Mursi in July following mass protests against him. Former army chief Sisi, who deposed Mursi in July following mass protests against him.

His supporters see him as a strongman who can save Egypt from chaos after more than three years of political and economic turmoil, following a 2011 revolt that swept veteran autocrat Hosni Mubarak from power.

**Palestinian prisoners suspend hunger strike, terms unclear**

Jerusalem, 25 June — Scores of Palestinians on hunger-strike suspended their protest against detention without charges by Israel on Wednesday, and an Israeli official said there had been no major change of policy.

Around 120 Palestinians on so-called "administrative detention" began fasting on 24 April, and were eventually joined by another 180 inmates. Around 75 required hospitalisation, fuelling debate in Israel over a proposed force-feeding law.

Qadoura Fares, a Palestinian official advocating for the prisoners, told Reuters the hunger-strike had been suspended overnight and reasons for the move would be given later.

An Israeli official, speaking on condition of anonymity, said that in response to the protest ending the Prisons Service would not punish the hunger-strikers. Such sanctions could include fines or reassigning inmates to different prison wings.

The Israeli official said there was no change to the administrative detention policy, under which Palestinians suspected of security offences are jailed without trial to avoid any court proceedings that could expose sensitive intelligence information. The practice has drawn international criticism. Previous hunger strikes ended with some of the protesting inmates securing release from Israeli detention.

There are at least 5,400 Palestinians in Israeli jails. The number has been growing daily, with the round-up of suspects following the abduction of three Israeli teenagers who vanished after leaving a Jewish settlement in the occupied West Bank on 12 June.

**Sudanese police detain Christian-convert woman: lawyer**

Khartoum, 25 June — A Sudanese Christian convert who was released from death row on Monday after his family sought to fly out of the capital on Tuesday, her lawyer and the US State Department said.

Mariam Yahya Ibrahim, 27, was detained with her American husband and their two children as they tried to board a flight at Khartoum airport earlier on Tuesday.

It was unclear where they were being held, but two diplomats said they suspected that the family was trying to go to the United States via Cairo or Juba, South Sudan. Ibrahim was freed on Monday by an appeals court, which cancelled the death sentence imposed on her for having converted to Christianity from Islam, after the government came under what it called unprecedented pressure.

Her lawyer, Mohamed Mostafa, told Reuters that he was with her at the police station, that she had been re-arrested, and that the police wanted to question her about providing forged information. He was unable to immediately provide more details.

In Washington, the US State Department offered a different version of events, saying the Sudanese government had told the United States that Ibrahim had been detained for several hours and then released but that she had not been arrested. “The State Department has been informed by the Sudanese government that the family was temporarily detained at the airport for several hours by the government for questioning over issues related to their travel and I think travel documents. They have not been arrested,” State Department spokeswoman Marie Harf told reporters.

“The government has assured us of their safety,” Harf added, saying that the embassy was “highly involved” in working with the family and the government to resolve the matter.

“We are engaging directly with Sudanese officials to secure their safe and swift departure from Sudan.”

The United States has imposed economic sanctions on Sudan since 1997 over alleged human rights violations. It intensified sanctions in 2006 over Khartoum’s actions in its conflict with rebels in the western region of Darfur.

After her release on Monday, Ibrahim was sent to a secret location for her protection after her family reported receiving threats, another one of her lawyers had said.

**Sudan summons US, South Sudanese ambassadors over Christian-convert woman**

Khartoum, 25 June — The Sudanese Foreign Ministry summoned the American and South Sudanese ambassadors on Wednesday after a Christian-convert woman attempted to travel to the United States using documents issued by the embassy of South Sudan, Sudan’s security service said on its official Facebook page.

Mariam Yahya Ibrahim, 27, who was released from death row on Monday, was detained as she and her family sought to fly out of Khartoum on Tuesday. Her lawyer Mohamed Mostafa, Reuters that she is expected to stay in police custody for 24 hours.

“The airport passport control held Abrar after she presented emergency travel documents issued by the South Sudanese embassy and carrying an American visa,” Sudan’s National Intelligence and Security Services’ media department said on Facebook, referring to Ibrahim by her Muslim name.

“The Sudanese authorities considered (the government’s) handling of the incident, and the Foreign Ministry summoned the American and South Sudanese ambassadors,” it added.
Futuristic elevated transport system

to be built in Israel

TEL AVIV, 24 June —
California-based skyTran
has teamed up with Isra-
el Aerospace Industries
(IAI) to construct the
world’s first public pilot
project for skyTran’s ele-
vated transit network.

A number of skyTran
projects are being planned
globally, including in In-
dia and the United States,
pending the success of the
pilot in Israel.

The pilot will be a
400-500 metre (yard) loop
built at IAI’s campus in
central Israel and, if suc-
cessful, will be followed by
a commercial network
in Tel Aviv in the coming
years, skyTran CEO Jerry
Sanders told Reuters, with-
out disclosing the cost.

SkyTran is a rapid
transit system in which
lightweight two-person ve-
hicles are suspended from
elevated magnetic levita-
tion tracks. The skyTran
vehicles in the pilot will
巡航 at speeds of up to
70 km an hour but that will
jump to 240 km an hour
at the commercial phase,
Sanders said.

Tel Aviv if often grid-
locked with commuter traf-
fic as there is no subway
and many commuters travel
by car.

“Tel Aviv is a world
city. It’s a destination for
people around the world. A
center of commerce. Israe-
lis love technology and we
don’t foresee a problem of
people not wanting to use
the system. Israel is a per-
fect test site,” Sanders said.

The first components
will be pre-assembled at
skyTran’s headquarters at
the NASA Research Park
in California. The rest will
be constructed locally and
the system should be run-
ning by the end of 2015,
Sanders added.

Trade visitors gather at the Israel Aerospace Industries (IAI) exhibition booth at the Singapore Airshow in Singapore on 14 Feb, 2012. — Reuters

Google to unveil new television set-top box on Wednesday

NEW YORK, 25 June —
Google Inc is expected to
unveil at least one small
set-top box that resembles
products like the Roku, Am-
set-top box that resembles
for boosting its main on-
estreaming device “Fire TV”
games and other content
on television. However, the
device will carry another
company’s brand name, the
newspaper said. Representa-
tives from Google were not
available for comment outside regular US business hours. Tech com-
panies from Microsoft Corp
to Apple are vying for space
on the TV, the traditional
family entertainment center
and where people used to
spend most of their leisure
time before the advent of the
smartphone and tablet. Am-
avon unveiled a $99 video
streaming device “Fire TV”
video and game streaming
device in April, with hopes
of boosting its main on-
one line retail business over
the longer term. In December
2012, Google sold its set-
top TV box maker Motorola
Home to Arris Group Inc for
$2.35 billion.— Reuters

Philips, Infineon, Samsung
face EU antitrust fines

BRUSSELS, 25 June —
EU regulators are poised to
fine Philips, Samsung Elec-
tronics Co Ltd and Infine-
on Technologies AG in the
coming weeks for fixing
prices of chips used in mob-
ile SIM cards, two people
familiar with the case said
on Tuesday. The case start-
ed with dawn raids on the
companie
by the Europe-
an Commission in October
2008. The European Union
watchdog charged them
last year with taking part in
a cartel. The chips are also
used in passports, bank cards,
identity cards and
television systems.

“The companies may
be fined in late July or
possibly September,” said
one of the sources, who
demanded to be named as
the EU decision is not yet
public.

Officials with the com-
mission, Philips and Infine-
on declined to comment.
Samsung officials were not
immediately available for
comment. Philips said last
year that the EU charges
covered the period 2003 to
2004 and involved its semi-
icondutor business which
it has since sold.

The sources said Rene-
as Technology — a joint
venture between Hitachi
Ltd and Mitsubishi Electric
that was bought by Renesas
Electronics Corp in 2010 —
would not be fined as it
alerted the regulator to the
cartel. Renesas Electronics
dsaid it had not publicly said
it had told the regulator
and was not aware that the
other companies would be
fined.— Reuters

Japan bets big on making fuel-cell cars a near-future reality

TOKYO, 25 June — Ja-
pan’s government and top
carmakers, including Toyo-
ta Motor Corp, are joining
forces to bet big that they
can speed up the arrival of
the fuel cell era; a still cost-
ly and complex technology
that uses hydrogen as fuel
and could virtually end
the problem of automotive
pollution. Prime Minister
Shinzo Abe’s growth stra-

tegy, announced on Tuesday,
included a call for subsidies
and tax breaks for buyers of
fuel cell vehicles, relaxed
curbs on hydrogen fuel sta-
tions and other steps under
a road map to promote hy-
drogen energy.

That will bolster plans
by Toyota, the world’s big-
gest carmaker, and Honda
Motor Co, Japan’s No 3,
to start selling fuel cell ve-
hicles in 2015. Toyota is
expected to unveil the price
and design for its new fuel
cell car on Wednesday.

With two of Japan’s
three biggest automakers
going all in on fuel cells,
the country’s long-term fu-
ture as an automotive pow-
erhouse could now hinge
largely on the success of
what they hope will be a
key technology of the next
few decades.

The auto sector carries
special significance in Ja-
pan, providing nearly one
in 11 jobs and about one-
fifth of its manufacturing
output. It is also one of the
few big industries where Ja-
pan remains at the pinnacle
of global competition after
losing much of its edge in
electronics and elsewhere.

Japan’s ruling party is
pushing for ample subsidies
and tax breaks for consum-
ers to bring the cost of a
fuel cell car down to about
$20,000 by 2025. The gov-

erment is also aiming to
create 100 hydrogen fuel
stations by end-March 2016
in urban areas where the
vehicles will be launched
initially. “To stay globally
competitive, Japan cannot
afford to lag behind in this
area,” said Yuriko Koike,
a former environment min-
ister who heads a group of
ruling party lawmakers ad-
vocating hydrogen energy.

A fuel cell vehicle, runn-
ing on electricity from
cells that combine hydro-
gen with oxygen, emits
only water vapour and heat.

Hydrogen fuel production
from hydrocarbons emits
some carbon dioxide, al-
though Japan hopes to im-
plement carbon-free pro-
duction by 2040.

Hydrogen vehicles can
run five times longer than
battery-operated electric
cars, and their tanks can be
filled in just a few minutes
compared with recharging
times from 30 minutes up
to several hours for electric
cars.— Reuters
Turkey to present Kurdish reform bill within days

ISTANBUL, 25 June — The Turkish government aims to present to parliament in the coming days a reform bill to advance its peace process with Kurdish militants. Deputy Prime Minister Beşir Atalay said.

Such a move could boost Kurdish support for Prime Minister Tayyip Erdogan ahead of his expected bid to become the country’s first directly elected president in August. Kurds account for around a fifth of Turkey’s population.

Erdogan initiated peace talks with jailed militant leader Abdullah Ocalan in 2012 to end a three-decade insurgency by his Kurdistan Workers’ Party (PKK) which has killed 40,000 people. Increased militant activity and street protests in recent months have sowed fear over prospects for a final deal.

But Atalay told reporters in Bucharest on 4 April that the government had completed work on giving the process a legal framework and was seeking ministers’ signatures for the bill.

Turkey’s Prime Minister Tayyip Erdogan, flanked by his deputy Beşir Atalay (L) and Energy Minister Tunç Yıldız (R), speaks during a news conference at Ataturk International airport in Istanbul on 4 April, 2014. —REUTERS

Turkey to present Kurdish reform bill within days

LIBYANS vote for new parliament in test for transition

TRIPOLI, 25 June — Libyans vote for a new parliament on Wednesday, an election officials hope will ease the chaos that has gripped the OPEC oil producer since the fall of Muammar Gaddafi three years ago.

Marking another step in its transition after decades of one-man rule, Libya is set to hold the vote as the North African country is slipping deeper into turmoil after a renegade former army general launched a campaign against Islamist militants in the east.

The country badly needs a functioning government and parliament to impose authority over heavily armed former rebels, militias and tribes that helped oust Gaddafi, but who now defy state authority, carving out fiefdoms.

Libya is also struggling with a budget crisis as a wave of protests and violence in the country’s western regions, once favoured by the west and east for control of the oil producer.

Many Libyans fear the vote will produce just another interim assembly. A special body to draft a new national constitution has still not finished its work, leaving questions over what kind of political system Libya will eventually adopt.

To discourage political infighting between parties, which paralyzed the country for almost a year, election officials have imposed some of the toughest measures on social media platforms in recent years.

Ballot boxes wait for voters inside a school, ahead of elections tomorrow in Tripoli, on 24 June, 2014. —REUTERS

Spain’s Princess Cristina charged in corruption case as trial looms

MADRID, 25 June — A Spanish court said on Wednesday it had formalised charges against Cristina de Borbon, sister of newly-crowned King Felipe VI, and her husband in a corruption investigation, paving the way for a trial that could further damage the royal family.

The Palma de Mallorca court upheld charges of tax fraud and money laundering against Princess Cristina, in one of the last steps before opening trial proceedings. Her husband Inaki Urdangarin is accused of embezzling several millions of euros in public funds and a trial would centre on his business dealings.

Spain’s Princess Cristina, daughter of King Juan Carlos

Spain’s Princess Cristina charged in corruption case as trial looms

Group of 9 Japanese leaves for N Korea to visit kin’s graves

TOKYO, 25 June — A group of nine Japanese citizens on Wednesday departed Tokyo for North Korea to visit graves of their relatives who died there around the end of World War II in 1945. North Korea has allowed such visits by Japanese citizens since August 2012, but this will be the first since Japan and North Korea reached agreement in late May for the North to reinvestigate the fate of Japanese it abducted or is believed to have abducted.

The group is scheduled to arrive in Pyongyang via Beijing on Thursday, and visit burial sites in the port city of Chongjin in the country’s northeast and the city of Hamhung in the east during their stay through on 5 July.

About 34,600 Japanese are believed to have died in the northern part of the Korean Peninsula, or North Korea in the chaotic times around the end of World War II, with the peninsula still under Japanese colonial rule, according to Japanese government data.

Among the nine, Kuniyasu Ishihara, 78, from Hiroshima, whose younger sister, grandfather and grandmother died in Hamhung on their way to Japan, told reporters before leaving Tokyo’s Haneda airport that he wants to offer incense sticks for his deceased relatives.

Kyodo News

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Spain’s Princess Cristina charged in corruption case as trial looms
Four killed in train derailment in E India, sabotage not ruled out

NEW DELHI, 25 June — At least four people were killed after an express passenger train from the Indian capital to the northeastern state of Dehradun derailed in the eastern state of Bihar early on Wednesday morning, said officials and local media reports.

Officials said sabotage is not ruled out in the incident, in which the Rajdhani Express derailed from 02:30 to 03:00 am local time near Chhipara some 7 km from the state capital of Bihar Patna with 11 of its coaches turned turtle. Indian Railways confirmed the death of four people in the accident and said sabotage by left-wing rebels is likely in view of a shutdown call by the Naxalite guerrillas who are active in the area.

Relief and rescue operations are on in full swing at the accident site. Relief train is taking the stranded passengers to the nearest station, according to TV footages. Railway minister Sadananda Gowda has announced compensation of 200,000 rupees (3,200 US dollars) for the family of the dead and 100,000 rupees for those seriously injured.

He also said railway authorities will conduct an independent inquiry into the accident, the second major mishap of railways within one month.

Over 30 people were killed when a passenger train derailed into a goods train on 26 May in the northern Indian state of Uttar Pradesh. The Gorakhnath Express crashed into a goods train at Chureh railway station in Sant Kabir Nagar in Uttar Pradesh, when it was traveling from Gorakhpur to Hisar via New Delhi.—Xinhua

Helicopter crashes in central Norway

OSLO, 25 June — A helicopter with five persons on board crashed on Tuesday in central Norway, causing one injured but no deaths.

The helicopter crashed from low altitude at 12 o’clock local time (1000 GMT), shortly after it took off from Hjerkinn, a town in the Dovre municipality of the central Norwegian county of Oppland.

All the five people, including three men, a woman and an 11-year-old boy, walked out of the helicopter on their own, the Norwegian news agency NTB reported, quoting witnesses.

A 60-year-old man was moderately injured in the mishap and his condition was reportedly stable.—Xinhua

Road fatalities in Cambodia rise to 1,170 in six months

PHNOM PENH, 25 June — The number of road fatalities in Cambodia has risen to 1,170 so far this year, up 11 percent compared to the same period last year, according to a latest report by the Interior Ministry’s Public Order Department on Wednesday.

Some 2,600 cases of road accidents have been reported since the start of the year, up 15 percent from the same period last year, the report said.

Besides the deaths, the accidents had injured 4,330 people, it said, noting that about 2,700 motorcycles and 1,336 cars were damaged.

“Main causes of the accidents were high-speed driving (45 percent), alcohol driving (14 percent), and overtaking driving (10 percent),” the report said, adding that the rest of the accidents were caused by neglect driving and traffic law violation.—Xinhua

Ornamental square watermelon shipments begin in Kagawa

TAKAMATSU, (Japan), 25 June —This year’s shipments of ornamental watermelons known for their rare square shapes started on Wednesday in the city of Zentsuji in western Japan’s Kagawa Prefecture.

The watermelons, with sides about 18 centimeters in length, acquire their cube shapes from being grown in plastic containers. They are edible as they are harvested unripe.

Priced at about 10,000 yen a piece at department stores and fruit stores, the watermelons are popular as ornaments. Recently, they caught on among consumers abroad, with orders for more than 100 square watermelons placed from Canada before this year’s shipments.

A total of about 400 square watermelons produced by six farmers are scheduled to be distributed by mid-July. Production of the item began about 40 years ago.—Kyodo News

Ornamental watermelons known for their unusual square shape are inspected before being shipped on 25 June, 2014, in Zentsuji in western Japan’s Kagawa Prefecture. The watermelons, which gain their cube shape from being grown in plastic containers, are priced at about 10,000 yen a piece at department stores and fruit stores.

KYODO NEWS

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**Richie Sambora could return to Bon Jovi**

LONDON, 25 June — Former Bon Jovi star Richie Sambora has revealed that he might sign up for a world tour with the band. The 54-year-old guitarist, who left the band after he was given ultimatum before the group’s tour, refused to rule out a return and said all the bad feelings have gone, reported Contactmusic.

“There’s no bad blood with me anymore. I still see the possibility of a return. There are just a few steps I want to take,” he said. The rocker said the stories in the media about his departure from Bon Jovi hurt him. “It hurts me that more and more untrue things have come out,” he said. Sambora added, “But I think this step was the right one at last. We’re going to record an album; I’d like to do a tour after that. Not a tour of 14 months in more than 50 countries. Just a nice tour, playing music then being home for a while,” he said.

He said that he took the decision of leaving the band. “I could choose — join or leave. That’s hard when you share joys and sorrows for 30 years… I’ve done a lot of wrong things in my life and I’ve regularly made bad decisions. “But I think this step was the right one at last… We’re going to record an album; I’d like to do a tour after that. Not a tour of 14 months in more than 50 countries. Just a nice tour, playing music then being home for a while,” he said.

**Kareena Kapoor: ‘Shuddhi’ not happening**

HYDERABAD, 25 June — Actress Kareena Kapoor Khan is not part of Karan Johar’s ‘Shuddhi’ and according to her the project has been shelved. Hritik Roshan was cast in the lead for the film but he quit due to health reasons.

Kareena, who was finalised opposite Hritik, also left the project.

Reportedly, Ranveer Singh and Deepika Padukone were also offered the movie but they are now working on Sanjay Leela Bhansali’s ‘Bajirao Mastani’.

There were rumours that Salman Khan and Kareena would be part of the film but the 35-year-old actress has rubbish such reports.

“Will Salman be part of ‘Shuddhi’? It is all created by you (media). ‘Shuddhi’ is shelved. Karan is working on ‘The Warrior’ remake I think with Siddharth Malhotra and Akshay Kumar… this is what Karan said. It (shooting) will start in August,” Kareena told reporters here.

The actress is at Ramoji Film City to shoot for Rohit Shetty’s next ‘Singham Returns’, which also stars Ajay Devgn.

Kareena said she shares a good bond with Johar, contrary to reports that all is not well between them.

“Karan and we meet often. He loves to party. He is a very good friend. He is a brother to me and we share a deep bond. He is somebody who can be there for you,” Kareena said.

**Marijuana smell from Justin Bieber’s place disturbs neighbours?**

LOS ANGELES, 25 June — Singer Justin Bieber’s neighbours are reportedly disturbed with excessive noise and marijuana smell coming from his place. The 20-year-old star’s neighbours also complained of the pungent smell when he threw a party, reported Aceshowbiz.

“The smell of marijuana was permeating the floor, especially my hallway which is shared by Justin’s unit,” a neighbour was quoted as saying. The pop star has reportedly rented a unit in the building and another in the floor below for his entourage.

Bieber moved in to the place earlier this month. Since he moved in, police reportedly have been called twice due to the alleged problems with the neighbours.

**One Direction launching make-up line**

NEW YORK, 25 June — One Direction are expanding their global brand by launching a cosmetics collection.

The ‘What Makes You Beautiful’ hitmakers released a perfume for girls and a jewellery range last year and they are now capitalising on their international success by creating a line of make-up, reported the Huffington Post.

Bandmember Niall Horan unveiled the collection on Twitter by posting a picture of his nails covered in varnish and his hands scribbled with eyeliner, eyeshadow and lipstick swatches.

“Just had a great meeting about 1D (One Direction) make-up! It’s that beautiful,” he tweeted.

**Bob Dylan lyrics for “Like a Rolling Stone” sell for $2 million**

NEW YORK, 25 June — Bob Dylan’s original, handwritten manuscript for “Like a Rolling Stone” sold for just over $2 million on Tuesday at Sotheby’s rock and roll auction, which also included memorabilia from the Beatles, the Rolling Stones and Elvis Presley.

The price for the 1965 annotated lyrics for “Like a Rolling Stone,” considered one of the most influential songs in postwar music, makes it the most expensive rock music manuscript sold at auction.

It shattered the previous record set in 2010 when John Lennon’s handwritten lyrics for “A Day in the Life,” the final track from the 1967 album “Sgt Pepper’s Lonely Hearts Club Band” sold for $1.2 million, according to Sotheby’s.

“It is always pleasing to set the world record. It carried a strong estimate (up to $2 million) as well, and we felt the estimate was justified given the importance of the work,” said Richard Austin, Sotheby’s head of books and manuscripts.

“I’m a Dylan fan myself,” he added, “and I thought it was one of the coolest things that I have ever handled.”

The auction house described “Like a Rolling Stone,” which was sold to an anonymous private buyer, as “one of rock’s most rousing classics, its thick, layered sound and innovative organ riff instantly recognizable.”
LONDON, 25 June — Uruguay striker Luis Suarez was banned for four matches after appearing to bite Italy’s Giorgio Chiellini on the shoulder during his team’s 1-0 win on Tuesday.

Following are five infamous World Cup offences and their punishments.

**Roberto Rosas, 1989**

Chilean goalkeeper achieved infamy during a qualifier against Brazil when he deliberately injured himself to prevent his side from being beaten.

A firework had been thrown and Rosas cut himself with a bottle, even cutting off his glove. He was carried off the pitch and the match was abandoned.

**Tassotti vs. Rivaldo, 2002**

Brazilian defender Rivaldo was fined for a riotous piece of play-acting at the 2002 World Cup in South Korea and Japan. Struck on the thigh by a ball kicked at him by Turkey’s Hakan Unsal, Rivaldo went down clutching his face. Unsal was then sent off for a second yellow card. A video review revealed the truth and the Brazilian was fined the equivalent of about $13,000.

**Zinedine Zidane 2006**

French World Cup winner Zidane was sent off for head-butting Italian defender Marco Materazzi during the 2006 final, which Italy went on to win in a penalty shootout. Zidane, who claimed he had been verbally provoked, was handed a three-match suspension for the red card.

**And examples of retrospective punishments:**

**Tran Dinh Dong, 2014**

Vietnam defender Tran Dinh Dong was handed a record 28-game suspension by the country’s football federation after breaking an opponent’s leg in a domestic league match.

**Dong of Song Lam Nghe An was also fined 20 million dong ($950) for the foul on Hung Voong An Giang midfielder Nguyen Anh Hung, who was expected to be sidelined for a year.**

**Nicolás Anelka, 2013-14**

The French forward was banned for five games and fined 80,000 pounds ($134,000) by the Football Association for making an alleged anti-Semitic gesture after scoring for West Bromwich Albion in a Premier League game against West Ham in December of last year.

**Luis Suarez, 2013**

The Liverpool striker was given a 10-match ban after biting Chelsea defender Branislav Ivanovic during a Premier League game at Anfield. Suarez was also banned for seven matches for sinking his teeth into an opponent when playing for Dutch club Ajax in 2010.

**Pepe 2001**

Real Madrid’s Portuguese defender was suspended for 10 matches for losing control after conceding a penalty in a La Liga game against Getafe. Pepe kicked opponent Francisco Casquero who was on the ground and raked his studs over the midfielder’s back for good measure. In the ensuing melee he struck another Getafe player, Juan Albin, in the face.

**Paulo Di Canio 1998**

The Italian forward pushed over the referee after being sent off playing for Sheffield Wednesday against Arsenal. He was banned for 11 games.

**Eric Cantona, 1995**

The French striker was banned for eight months following his infamous kung-fu attack on a fan sitting in the stands after being sent off playing for Manchester United — in a famous kung-fu attack on a fan sitting in the stands.

**Frank Rijkaard 1990**

The Dutchman was charged with homicide, and capsized on a routine voyage with 256 passengers on board. The prime minister has announced the breakup of the government of Marine, the ferry operator.

For the survivors and their parents, the two months since the sinking has been a painful time of soul searching, debating whether to transfer to other schools. Some have already decided to return to the familiar surroundings of Danwon Highschool and try and heal the emotional scars, receiving therapy at the school, said Park Suksoon, the father of one of the survivors.

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**South Korean ferry survivors return to school, vow not to forget**

ANNSAN, (South Korea), 25 June — Holding hands as they walked through the school gates, some fighting back tears, 75 children who survived South Korea’s worst maritime disaster in 20 years, returned to class on Wednesday vowing to remember their lost friends.

Wailing parents of the 250 children who did not survive, when a ferry taking them on a capsize sank and capsized, greeted the children outside the Danwon Highschool.

Some grieving parents held signs, one of which read: “We love you.”

“Grownups are constantly telling us to forget and cheer up,” an 18-year-old boy who spoke for the survivors said, fighting back tears. “But we will remember and recollect our friends. Because not forgetting them is what we can do at best. Just as we will remember them, please don’t forget them.”

Two months after the Sewol ferry sank and killed more than 300 passengers, the surviving children were brought to school in five buses under a police escort.

Many were wearing bracelets engraved with the message, “Remember, 40415,” and all were accompanied by their parents.

On 16 April, the Sewol ferry sharply listed and capsized on a routine overnight journey from Incheon, the port city one hour drive from the children’s hometown, to the vacation island of Jeju, overloaded with cargo and sailing too fast on a turn. Most of the 325 students who listened to the order to stay in the cabins were trapped as the vessel sank and paid for their obedience with the lives.

“Our friends and teachers had to leave us because of irresponsible and selfish adults,” said one of the students before going to class.

The 15 surviving crew members are on trial, with four including the captain charged with homicide, amid a national outcry of anger over video footage shown them fleeing the vessel as it began to list after telling passengers to stay put.

The government of President Park Geun-hoe has also been bitterly criticized for the slow and ineffective handling of the disaster and the incompetence displayed in the rescue operation.

The prime minister has resigned and Park has announced the breakup of the Coast Guard citing incompetence.

A massive manhunt has failed to capture the main seen as the effective owner of the company that operated the ferry. Yoo Byung-un is wanted on charges of embezzlement stemming from his control over a web of business interests owned by his sons, including Chonghaejin Marine, the ferry operator.

For the survivors and their parents, the two months since the sinking has been a painful time of soul searching, debating whether to transfer to other schools. Some have already decided to return to the familiar surroundings of Danwon Highschool and try and heal the emotional scars, receiving therapy at the school, said Park Suksoon, the father of one of the survivors.
Suarez bite mars Uruguay win, Greece break Ivoryon hearts

Uruguay’s Luis Suarez (R) reacts after clashing with Italy’s Giorgio Chiellini on 24 June, 2014. REUTERS

SAO PAULO, 25 June — Uruguay forward Luis Suarez faces a lengthy ban after Italy defender Giorgio Chiellini accused him of biting during the South Americans’ 1-0 Group D victory on Tuesday, overshadowing a day of emotional extremes at the World Cup.

Furious of joy ran down the face of Colombia defender Faryd Mondragon when he became the oldest man to play at the finals at the age of 43, making a late appearance off the bench in a 4-1 win over Japan that secured top spot in Group C.

There was anguish for the Ivory Coast and unbilleded joy for Greece in the other Group C clash, after Giorgos Samaras converted a penalty in the dying seconds of injury time to snatch a 2-1 win and pip the Africans to second place.

In the day’s other match, a goalless draw with an experimental England side in Belo Horizonte was enough to secure Costa Rica first place in Group D and condemn the Europeans to their worst World Cup showing since 1958.

For all the footballing drama, it was Suarez’s off-the-ball antics against Italy that were stealing the walking point around the world.

Soccer’s world governing body FIFA said it was investigating the incident, which took the gloss off an otherwise glorious day for Uruguay after they edged 10-man Italy 1-0 in Natal to knock out the four-times former champions.

Liverpool forward Suarez, hailed a hero for his winning brace against England, has been banned twice before for biting, and looks likely to be hit with another lengthy suspension despite escaping punishment during the match.

“We are awaiting the official match reports and will gather all the necessary elements in order to evaluate the matter,” a FIFA spokesperson said.

Italians see red

Suarez’s escape rubbed salt into Italian wounds, after they had complained bitterly about the red card shown to midfielder Claudio Marchisio for a challenge on Egidio Arevalo Rios in the 59th minute.

That decision by referee Marco Rodriguez swung the game in Uruguay’s favour, after Italy appeared to be heading for the knock out they needed to reach the last 16.

With 10 minutes to go, Suarez chased with Chiellini in Italy’s penalty area, and the Italians were still complaining he had bitten the defender when Uruguay captain Diego Godin scored a fortuitous 81st-minute winner that flew in off his shoulder.

A furious Chiellini had pulled down his shirt to show a mark to the referee, and Reuters photographs from the game show what appeared to be bite marks on his shoulder.

“It was ridiculous not to send Suarez off,” he told Rai TV. “It is clear-cut and sending off. You can’t affect a game like that. The referee ruined the game.”

Samaras saves Greece

The other big drama came in Fortaleza, where Ivory Coast were seconds away from making the knockout stage when Samaras was judged to have been tripped in the box by Giovanni Sio as the Greeks poured forward in search of a winner.

Samaras picked himself up after a debatable decision and kept his cool to stroke home the spot kick and make it 2-1, triggering wild celebrations during which the striker was buried under team mates who knew theirs was the narrowest of escapes.

“The end result is cruel, even if the Greeks deserved this victory,” said co-host Ivory Coast coach Sabri Lamouchi. “We could have had the match stopped one minute earlier. We saw that everything is in the details. It’s very tough, it’s very hard.”

The Greeks, who had failed to get past the group stage at their two previous appearances at the World Cup, will face Costa Rica in Recife on Sunday in the last 16.

Group D’s surprise package Costa Rica beat Uruguay and Italy before playing out a lacklustre 0-0 draw with England to make sure of top spot.

2014 FIFA World Cup Groupstage Standing

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<td>1</td>
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<tr>
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<td>2</td>
<td>-1</td>
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World Cup 2014 Brazil

Match 45
Portugal 2-1 USA

Match 46
Colombia 2-0 Japan

Match 47
Korea Republic 2-2 Belgium

Match 48
Algeria 3-2 Costa Rica

World Cup 2014 Results

Match 37
Italy 2-1 Uruguay

Match 38
Costa Rica 1-0 England

Match 39
Japan 1-4 Colombia

Match 40
Greece 2-1 Côte d’Ivoire