Myanmar launches Early Childhood Care and Development policy

By Ye Myint

YANGON, 8 July—Myanmar launched its first-ever multi-sectoral policy on Early Childhood Care and Development (ECCD) in Nay Pyi Taw on Tuesday.

Participants included high-level officials from ministries, chairs of parliament and representatives from UN agencies, development partners and civil society organizations, who all called for “the best start in life for children” at the ECCD policy launching ceremony.

Myanmar has achieved only 22.9 per cent in ECCD service coverage while other ASEAN countries have achieved 57 per cent coverage, according to a press release the New Light of Myanmar received from UNICEF Myanmar. It has also pointed out that there has been a great service coverage gap for urban and rural areas, 39.1 and 15.9 per cent respectively.

UNICEF Myanmar stressed the importance of investing in early childhood, saying that investment in ECCD is the best cost-effective way for national development as it could yield high economic returns and break the cycle of poverty.

Launching the ECCD policy is the first concrete step toward mobilizing more resources across ministries for the support to early childhood development and a crucial measure in tackling child poverty and reducing inequalities, UNICEF Myanmar voiced.

Calling for increased investments in early childhood services, UNICEF emphasized the importance of governments making a legally binding commitment to invest 12 per cent of its budget in early childhood care and development, stressing the need to fully cooperate with development partners for achieving the vision, mission and objectives collectively agreed upon for children.

The release says the SWRR Ministry will inject 28 per cent of its budget in ECCD services while the Education Ministry will invest 12 per cent of its budget in early preschool and kindergarten education by 2020.

On behalf of the Multi Donor Education Fund (MDEF) which has invested $300 million in Myanmar’s education sector since 2002, UNICEF pointed out that poverty is the root cause of educational inequities, and that the Ministry of Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement had the responsibility to address the issue.

Photo supplied/UNICEF Myanmar

A total of 49 workers from foreign countries are engaged in the production of gold foils in Myetpa Ward. About 15,000 pieces of gold foils per month can be sold for Maha Muni Buddha Images in Mandalay.

In fact, the gold foil industries in Mandalay depend on people donating gold foils at Shwedagon Pagoda in Yangon and Maha Muni Buddha Image in Mandalay.

In the reign of King Anawrahta (AD 1044-77), the gold foil making process was taken from Mon nationals to the people of Bagan.

Gold industries worried about fading out of traditional work process

Mandalay, 8 July—Gold foil production is a traditional work of Myanmar, with many tourists interested in observing the production of gold foils at the industries, but as local producers are worried about prospects for the Myanmar traditional gold foil production, the gold foils from foreign countries flow into the domestic market.

“Gold foil industries are located in Myetpa Ward of Mandalay. The workers produce very thin layers of gold so their residence was called the Gold Thinner Ward in the past,” said an entrepreneur who has been producing gold foils for 40 years.

“This year, foreign-made gold foils flow into the domestic market. But I do not know its quality. The quality of domestic gold foils is 92.22 per cent. The gold foils are offered to pagodas, stupas and religious buildings. That is why it needs to test the quality of foreign-made gold foils. Moreover, if the plenty of foreign-made gold foils flow into the domestic market, the employers and employees from the domestic gold foil industries might be jobless. If so, it is sure to fade out the Myanmar traditional gold foil making process,” said an entrepreneur.

In Myetpa Ward of Mandalay, ten workers in a group can produce 200 sheets of gold foils daily. The production process passes five steps to finish the work. A total of 49 workers are engaged in the production of gold foils in Myetpa Ward. About 15,000 pieces of gold foils per month can be sold for Maha Muni Buddha Images in Mandalay.

In fact, the gold foil industries in Mandalay depend on people donating gold foils at Shwedagon Pagoda in Yangon and Maha Muni Buddha Image in Mandalay.

In the reign of King Anawrahta (AD 1044-77), the gold foil making process was taken from Mon nationals to the people of Bagan. Till today, the gold foil industries in Myetpa Ward of Mandalay are attracting flocks of globetrotters.
Everyone must avoid hate speech and incitement

Nay Pyi Taw, 8 July—The following was the full text of the radio message of President U Thein Sein on Mandalay riots on Monday.

My fellow citizens,

The reason I am speaking to you today is because I want to inform you of my government’s position on the terrible events that occurred in the cultural city of Mandalay - events caused by those that used a crime as a pretext to instigate violence on an entire community. I share in the sadness of the families of those injured and killed by the violence.

The main goals of the reforms undertaken by my government since it took office are stability, development and nurturing democratic practices. Due to political reforms - the most important of the reforms we are undertaking - there is now freedom of expression and the media is one of the freest in South-East Asia.

When building an open and developed society, the most important requirement is to nurture democratic practices within our society. This means cultivating democratic attributes such as understanding and accepting our differences, respecting the rights of the minorities, and solving differences in opinions peacefully. We should also note that our Constitution fully guarantees freedom of religious worship. During this reform period, we have faced various challenges with ethnic and religious conflicts. Some of these conflicts are due to poverty, lack of education, and lack of development. However, many of the conflicts were deliberate instigations to derail our aim of achieving a society based on democratic principles. Innocent people were injured and killed and the nation’s image damaged because of the actions of those who put their self-interest and hate first. Those seeking to provoke hatred within our communities intend to destroy our nation, and are a threat to our society no matter from which race or religion. We must bring the full force of the law to bear on all those responsible for such developments.

The citizens of Mandalay have for generations peaceably coexisted with each other without regard for ethnicity or religion. Indeed, Mandalay citizens are admired afar for setting an example of tolerance, and living under a common identity. It is not uncommon for citizens of this city to help with each other’s social and religious events, and enjoy these occasions together in peace. For these reasons, the citizens responded sensibly, bravely, and intelligently to the events of the last few days. Amid the sad scenes of violence and destruction, it was reassuring to see Mandalay citizens respond to the events in unity. Monks, religious leaders, community leaders of both faiths, and elders worked hand-in-hand to reduce tensions, clearly showing that the cherished values of mutual trust and cooperation exist in Mandalay. My government encourages and welcomes these efforts, and we pledge to work together with everyone in the future.

With the help of the security forces, we are currently taking systematic action to bring peace and stability. We will investigate and take swift legal action against those participating in and promoting violence. The nation will not accept incitement and violence, and will bring immediate and severe legal action against those responsible. Every society, ethnicity, and religion has people who put their self-interest and hate first with the aim of destroying their societies. It is clear that the events in Mandalay are the intentional and deliberate acts of a group or organization. I urge all citizens to denounce incitements, violence and threats and to work together with the government.

We are making tangible progress with internal peace building, and will soon achieve a nationwide ceasefire, and a political solution through dialogue. We are preparing for the tasks that will accompany political dialogue such as securing equal rights for each and every citizen, making necessary constitutional amendments, and for the emergence of a genuine Union. Since our country is multi-cultural, multi-ethnic and multi-religious, it is only through embracing harmonious relationships with each other that we will nurture democratic practices and achieve a developed and open society. Indeed, there are many examples in the world today where diversity among citizens has led to chaos. Therefore, everyone must avoid hate speech and incitement, and sensibly, bravely and with foresight cooperate to bring legal action against those responsible for such acts.

In conclusion, I urge you all to take lessons from the Mandalay events so that they are never repeated, and to cooperate with the authorities so that swift and stern legal action is brought against those inciting hatred and violence.
**Myanmar needs more X-ray machines: Union health minister**

New Light of Myanmar Wednesday, 9 July, 2014

NATIONAL

8 July—Union health minister Dr Pe Thet Khin said on Tuesday that more X-ray machines are needed for the huge number of patients.

During the Lower House session on Tuesday, Dr Pe Thet Khin also said cancer patients have to wait from one and a half months to four months to receive radiation therapy treatment as the capability of existing machines is declining, and the need for more machines constantly increasing. He said the number of cancer patients is getting higher in the country.

He also said that a linear accelerator (Linac) machine, a source of powerful X-rays has been set up at Yangon General Hospital in April 2014, providing treatment to 80 more cancer patients each month.

Dr Pe Thet Khin now has four Radiotherapy Departments in four major cities of Yangon, Mandalay, Taunggyi and Nay Pyi Taw.

Regarding the agricultural sector, Deputy Minister for Agriculture and Irrigation U Ohn Then said that the ministry has no plan to give out agricultural loans to the farmers of perennial crops and horticulture as the budget allocation for the ministry this year was only K964 billion.

Moreover, the government will not fix the minimum price of raw rubber to stabilize its market as Myanmar has adopted a market-oriented economic system. Myanmar practiced a centralized planning economic system for more than two decades before 1988.—MNA

**Arrangements for cooperation between Myanmar and UNFPA discussed**

Nay Pyi Taw, 8 July—Ms Janet E Jackson, the United Nations Fund for Population—UNFPA representative for Myanmar called on U Wunna Maung Lwin, Union Minister for Foreign Affairs at his ministry in Nay Pyi Taw on Tuesday to hold talks about holding an International Conference on Population and Development (ICPD) during the forthcoming United Nations General Assembly in New York.

They also discussed arrangements for cooperation between Myanmar and UNFPA.

**Myanmar to establish national qualifications framework**

Yangon, 8 July—The fourth meeting on the establishment of a National Qualifications Framework was held here on Tuesday.

At the meeting it was decided to implement the framework by September, following discussions among universities and colleges under the government ministries, the National Skills Standards Authority (NSSA), State schools and private schools.

The event took place at the Diamond Jubilee Hall of Yangon University. It was attended by Roger Chao Jr, Higher Education expert from UNESCO-Myanmar and officials from the universities of Ministry of Education, Ministry of Health, and Ministry of Co-operative.—MNA

**Kayah state gov’t to construct dykes along Belu creek**

Dr Pe Thet Khin said on Tuesday that the Kayah state government will construct more dykes along Belu creek to prevent flood into the paddy farms in nearby areas.

During the parliamentary session of the Upper House, U Aung Thein said that the state government will use its original budget allocation of K 40 million for this project.

The Belu Creek originates at Inlay Lake of southern Shan State and flows through Loikaw plain in Kayah State, where various kinds of crops are cultivated.

The deputy minister also said that the Rakhine state government has made a plan for the full supply of hygienic drinking water in Maungtaw Township of Rakhine State in western Myanmar, with an estimate cost of K1 billion.

Talking about the census at the same session, Deputy Minister for Ministry of Immigration and Population U Win Myint said that the ministry will detail the names of ethnic groups, with people required to submit proof of their ethnicity.—MNA

**General Hla Htay Win receives UNODC, Thai military officials**

General Hla Htay Win, Union Minister for Home Affairs, received representatives of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) and the Royal Thai Army at the investment seminar at Zeyathiri Beikman Hall.

During the meeting at Zeyathiri Beikman Hall at the capital, the officials discussed drug elimination activities of Myanmar and UNODC, and the contribution of the military working together with the Ministry of Home Affairs, international organizations and local people from respective areas.

General Hla Htay Win also met General Suravach Butrwong, Director of the Neighbouring Countries Coordination Centre of the Royal Thai Army at the same venue.

Both sides agreed on promotion of military ties and border security affairs between the two countries.—MNA

**Myanmar Investment Commission invites more Japanese investments**

Nay Pyi Taw, 8 July—The Chairman of the Myanmar Investment Commission said on Tuesday that Japanese companies have the opportunity to invest in the agriculture, telecommunication and manufacturing sectors of Myanmar.

In his opening speech at the investment seminar of Mizuho Myanmar Mission held in the capital to mark the 60th Anniversary of the Establishment of Diplomatic Relations between Myanmar and Japan, U Zeyar Aung said that the new investment policies of Myanmar government will benefit the private sector, job opportunities and market competition.

He added that the government is implementing to ensure ‘green economy’ and ‘green growth’ in the country’s business sector.

U Zeyar Aung also said that Myanmar is cooperating with ASEAN, the European Union, Asia Development Bank and World Bank to meet the country’s legal procedures and financial matter with international norms. Those present at the seminar were senior government officials from MIC and the Ministry of National Planning and Economic Development, as well as representatives of 26 companies under the Mizuho Myanmar Mission.—MNA

**Technical skills, vocational qualifications create job opportunities and more incomes: Union Minister**

Nay Pyi Taw, 8 July—Technical skills and vocational qualifications play a pivotal role in creating job opportunities and generating more incomes for people, Union Minister U Tin Naing Thein told a meeting held at the Ministry of Science and Technology here on Tuesday, sources said.

U Tin Naing Thein quoted President U Thein Sein as saying that the Third Wave Reforms emphasizes the growth of private businesses, more job opportunities and more incomes through the development of technical skills and occupational qualifications.

The union minister urged ministries to take pragmatic approaches to reforming their vocational training schools to strike a balance between private industries and skilled labour.

“Policies and laws should focus on national development and fulfill the public desires of higher living standards,” he said.—MNA

**Warning for heavy rain in next days**

Nay Pyi Taw, 8 July—According to the observation and analysis of meteorological conditions at 12.30 hrs on Tuesday, sources said the Myanmar Meteorological and Hydrological Department warned that the southern tip of the country will experience heavy rains, particularly in the delta region.

The department warned that the river levels in the Bago and Toryai Regions, Kayin and Mon States will likely experience heavy rains from Tuesday until Friday.

The department warned that heavy rains will lead to flooding in many places in the country.—MNA
Agricultural machinery provided to poor farmers of Kawkareik Tsp

Kathka District General Hospital turns out new midwives

Vehicles under K10 million on high demand in Mandalay market
**Japan’s Abe declares ‘special relationship’ with Australia on visit**

**Canberra, 8 July**

Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe told Australia’s parliament on Tuesday that the two nations were launching a “special relationship” of cooperation on both regional and global issues. Abe, who has arrived for his first official visit to Australia, is expected to discuss trade and security issues, including China’s territorial claims in the South China Sea.

**JAKARTA, 8 July** — Indonesia’s presidential election on Wednesday could be the last chance for old style politicians to lead what is one of the world’s biggest democracies, and one of its youngest. Since 1998, when Indonesia finally shrugged off decades of autocratic rule, the national leadership has remained dominated by old faces and old practices, including patronage and rampant corruption. Until now, that is.

On 9 July, ex-general Prabowo Subianto will battle for the presidency against Joko “Jokowi” Widodo, who has arrived on the national stage through local politics and is the first presidential candidate not to rely on the traditions that have produced past leaders. “(Prabowo’s bid) is really the last gasp of the old guard,” said one of Indonesia’s most senior bankers, speaking on condition of anonymity because of the sensitivity of the issue.

Jokowi, the governor of Jakarta, was born in poverty and muscled into key positions with the promise of a leader who gets things done, cuts through red tape and is clean. For decades, officials have viewed tribes as their chief source of income and have helped turn Indonesia into one of the world’s most corrupt societies. The public response to the new group of politicians has been remarkable and is changing the face of the country’s politics. About a third of Indonesia’s 190 million voters under 30, entrenched political parties are being forced to embrace the change to remain in power. Jokowi is considered the most popular politician in Indonesia and is the frontrunner heading into Wednesday’s election.

**South Korea ferry children were steps from safety**

**Gwangju, (South Korea), 8 July** — Many of the 250 children who drowned when a South Korean ferry sank in April would have survived if the crew had issued a simple order to evacuate to emergency decks just outside their cabins, a prosecutor said on Tuesday.

Fifteen surviving crew of the ferry Sewol, including the ship’s captain, are on trial on charges ranging from negligence to homicide after they told passengers to stay put in their cabins or no casualties.”

Family members rose in rage when one by one the crew were seen escaping the vessel. Many broke down in sobs and shouted at the defendants who watched the video as if mesmerized. A woman tried to throw a shoe but was restrained by a court guard.

Another rose to ask yet again what has been asked repeatedly during the trial — whether the crew would have done the same if it had been their children obeying orders and waiting in their cabins.

“The court in Gwangju, the city closest to the scene of the 16 April disaster, was shown video for the first time of the crew abandoning ship, prompting an outpouring of anger and grief. Family members rose in rage when one by one the crew were seen escaping the vessel. Many broke down in sobs and shouted at the defendants who watched the video as if mesmerized. A woman tried to throw a shoe but was restrained by a court guard. Another rose to ask yet again what has been asked repeatedly during the trial — whether the crew would have done the same if it had been their children obeying orders and waiting in their cabins.

A woman read messages on yellow ribbons dedicated to dead and missing passengers of the sunken ferry Sewol, at Seoul City Hall Plaza in Seoul on 19 May, 2014.—Reuters
**Italy’s Renzi cancels meeting with 5-Star over reforms**

Rome, 8 July — Italy’s ruling Democratic Party (PD) on Monday cancelled a meeting with the anti-establishment 5-Star Movement (M5S) to discuss fundamental reforms, with each side blaming the other for the failure to meet.

The setback with M5S may increase the chances that Prime Minister Matteo Renzi will concentrate on sealing a deal with centre-right leader Silvio Berlusconi to help push through changes to Italy’s political system.

The agreement to meet was a U-turn for former comedian Beppe Grillo’s M5S, which had previously refused to talk to traditional parties. It potentially gave the PD an alternative partner with whom to negotiate reforms instead of its historic rival Berlusconi.

The electoral system is widely blamed for creating political deadlock, contributing to widespread voter disillusionment that helped propel Grillo’s party to 25 percent of the vote in its first general election last year.

Renzi’s PD said M5S had failed to provide written responses to 10 proposals which the PD said had to be part of a reform package. But later on Monday the M5S published answers on Grillo’s blog, saying that it accepted all the pre-requisites.

One of the M5S’s most prominent members, vice president of the chamber of deputies Luigi Di Maio, expressed regret that the meeting had not occurred. “We are sorry to have missed an important opportunity. Our ideas are clear — on the other side there is a lot of confusion,” Di Maio told a news conference in Rome.

Renzi reached a preliminary agreement over the electoral law and abolishing the Senate as an elected chamber with Berlusconi in January, but Berlusconi has threatened to pull out of the deal several times, and the proposals have made slow progress in parliament.

Beppe Grillo said on his blog that Renzi clearly preferred closed-door meetings with Berlusconi and wanted to isolate M5S. “We see that a democratic and transparent debate is impossible in Italy today,” Grillo wrote. “The M5S represents millions of Italians who cannot be treated like pariahs.”

He said M5S was still open to discuss reform proposals.

Grillo’s party came second to the PD in European elections in May, losing ground after its resounding success in the general election, but still more than four percentage points ahead of Berlusconi’s Forza Italia.

M5S’s electoral reform proposal aims to ensure representation for small parties but it also includes a run-off between the two highest scoring parties if neither gets 51 percent.

The agreement in the first round, and a bonus of extra seats for the victor.

The two-round system is an aspect insisted on by Renzi which M5S had previously rejected. —Reuters

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**Moscow accuses United States of ‘kidding’ Russian hacker**

**WASHINGTON / MOSCOW, 8 July — Russia accused the United States on Tuesday of violating a bilateral treaty and “kidding” a Russian accused of hacking into US retailers’ computer systems to steal credit card data.**

The US Department of Homeland Security said on Monday the Secret Service had arrested Roman Valerevich Seleznev, 30, on 5 July for actions carried out from 2009 to 2011.

Russian media carried reports that the man arrested may be the son of a member of parliament, Valery Seleznev. The deputy told Russia’s Interfax news agency he had not been able to speak to his son but added: “This is a monstrous lie and a provocative act.”

The man was apprehended in an airport in the Maldives, the Russian Foreign Ministry said.

“We consider this as a monstrous lie and a provocative act,” the ministry said. “We see that a demonstrative and transparent debate is impossible in Italy today,” Grillo wrote. “The M5S represents millions of Italians who cannot be treated like pariahs.”

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**North Korea’s Kim takes centre stage with a limp**

**SEOUL, 8 July — North Korean leader Kim Jong Un limped on to the stage on the anniversary of his grandfather’s death, footage broadcast by state media on Tuesday showed, in a rare display of weakness in a country where leaders are portrayed as semi-divine.**

The footage showed Kim limping quickly on to the centre of a large stage in front a vast smiling portrait of his grandfather, North Korean founding president Kim Il Sung, who died 20 years ago.

State media and propaganda are highly choreographed by the isolated country and any defects with its leadership are usually kept a tightly guarded secret.

Kim II Sung, who ruled until his death in 1994, has been deeply implicated in an ongoing tennis-ball sized growth on the back of his neck which meant state media were forbidden from filming him from certain angles.

It was not immediately clear how Kim Jong Un developed the limp. State media has shown the 30-year-old leader conducting extensive military on the spot guidance visits on the east and west coasts in recent weeks.

North and South Korea are technically still at war after their 1950-53 civil conflict ended in a truce, not a peace treaty.

North Korea, which has threatened a fourth nuclear test in violation of UN sanctions, has test-fired short-range missiles and rockets three times in the past 10 days and threatened to continue doing so. —Reuters

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**Iran’s Khamenei says US, Israel playing ‘good cop, bad cop’**

**DUBAI, 8 July — Iran’s supreme leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei said the United States and Israel were playing “good cop, bad cop” to intimidate his country into making concessions on the nuclear dispute with the West.**

“They make it seem like Israel wants to attack, but America is stopping it: the good cop, bad cop trick.…” Khamenei told senior statesmen at an iftar (fast-breaking supper during the holy month of Ramadan) function. “But I say out-loud: the reason they are not attacking is because it is too costly. The enemy has no other option at its disposal but make threats and impose sanctions.”

Israel has repeatedly threatened to attack Iran’s nuclear sites, and been skeptical about the current diplomatic drive by Western allies to persuade Iran to scale back its nuclear programme in exchange for relief in economic sanctions imposed over the years as penalty.

Iran insists its nuclear programme is peaceful, saying Israel’s presumed nuclear arsenal are the real threat to peace.

In a boost to President Rouhani, who has been accused of being too soft toward the West, Khamenei said: “All should know that I support his government and use everything in my power to help it. I have trust in our negotiators and am sure they will not give in on the rights of this nation.”

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**The New Light of Myanmar**

Wednesday, 9 July, 2014

**Image 294x766 to 405x912**

**Image 53x300 to 404x544**
US, France say Russia could draw further costs over Ukraine

WASHINGTON, 8 July — President Barack Obama and French President Francois Hollande decided on Monday that Europe should impose further costs on Russia if Moscow does not immediately take steps to de-escalate tensions in eastern Ukraine, the White House said. The two leaders spoke by phone.

They agreed that Russia should stop “destabilizing activities” such as allowing and facilitating the transit of weapons and fighters across the border and should cease its own military build-up near the Ukrainian border and its ongoing support for separatists, the White House said.

WASHINGTON, 8 July — The Central Intelligence Agency was involved in a spying operation against Germany that led to the alleged recruitment of a German intelligence official and has prompted renewed outrage in Berlin, two US officials familiar with the matter said on Monday.

CIA Director John Brennan has asked to brief key members of the US Congress on the matter, which threatens a new rupture between Washington and a close European ally, one of the officials said.

It was unclear if and when Brennan’s briefing to US lawmakers would take place. The CIA declined any comment on the matter.

The office of Germany’s Federal Prosecutor, based in the western city of Karlsruhe, late last week issued a statement saying that a 31-year old man had been arrested on suspicion of being a foreign spy, and that investigations were continuing. The statement offered no further details.

German politicians have said that the suspect, an employee of the country’s foreign intelligence service, admitted passing to an American contact details concerning a German parliamentary committee’s investigation of alleged US eavesdropping disclosed by Edward Snowden, a former contractor for the US National Security Agency.

The US officials who confirmed the CIA’s role spoke on condition of anonymity, and offered no further details.

White House Press secretary Josh Earnest declined comment on the dispute.

“The relationship that the United States has with Germany is incredibly important,” Earnest said. “All of those things are high priorities not just to this administration, but to this country. So we’re going to work with the Germans to resolve this situation appropriately.”

Snowden’s revelations last year, which included evidence that the NSA was targeting German Chancellor Angela Merkel’s personal cell phone, frosted US-German relations. The White House agreed to stop targeting Merkel, but rejected Berlin’s pleas for a wider “no spy” pact.—Reuters

Pushed from Slaviansk, Ukraine rebels barricade Donetsk

DONETSK, (Ukraine) 8 July — Pro-Russian rebels erected new barricades on the streets of Donetsk on Monday, preparing to make a stand in the city of a million people after losing their bastion in the town of Slaviansk in the worst defeat of their three-month uprising. Occasional bursts of gunfire could be heard in the distance from the centre of Donetsk, where residents said they were living in fear of a potential battle between government forces and the separatist gunmen now out in force.

Ukraine’s richest man, Rinat Akhmetov, pleaded with the government on Monday not to bomb his home city. Local authorities say thousands of residents have left Donetsk, but most have nowhere to go.

The Kiev government has said it will act quickly from the rebels after re-taking Slaviansk over the weekend in what President Petro Poroshenko called a turning point in the conflict.

Rebels retreating from Slaviansk, some driving armoured vehicles flying Russian flags, drove 110 km (65 miles) south into Donetsk over the weekend.

About 1,000 of them held a bellicose rally in the central square on Sunday, and on Monday many were visible on the streets, having established checkpoints to examine the documents of drivers.

Their presence drew a warning from Donetsk’s local authorities. “There are men in camouflage and with weapons on the streets. We ask residents not to enter into arguments with these people and be extremely careful,” said a message from the municipality.

Most shops and businesses were still open, but some were shut, and residents spoke of their fear that government forces could soon attack. “The atmosphere is very tense now. There is no prospect of a future. You go to sleep in alarm and wake up in alarm,” said Konstantin, 28, a cook. —Reuters

Israel launches military offensive against Gaza militants

GAZA/ JERUSALEM, 8 July — Israel launched an aerial offensive in the Gaza Strip on Tuesday, bombing more than 30 targets including homes and calling it part of a campaign named “Operation Protective Edge” targeting Hamas Islamist militants firing rockets at the Jewish state.

The military urged Israelis within a 40-km (24-mile) radius of the southern coastal territory to stay within reach of protected areas and ordered summer camps shut as a precaution against rocket fire.

Palestinian officials said Israel bombed more than 30 targets in little more than an hour before dawn, including two homes in southern Gaza, one of which was identified by a neighbour as belonging to a Hamas member.

Nine people suffered shrapnel injuries. There were no other reported casualties as the buildings were believed to have been evacuated beforehand.

Witnesses said a house bombed in Khan Younis was flattened. The Palestinian Health Ministry said nine neighbourhoods were wounded by debris from that strike.

The Palestinian Interior Ministry said the family in the targeted home had received a telephone call from an Israeli intelligence officer asking them to leave the house because it would be bombed, and the family evacuated in time. A military spokeswoman confirmed air strikes were launched but had no details.

A Military spokesman Lieutenant Colonel Peter Lerner said in a tweet that “Operation Protective Edge is under way, targeting Hamas capabilities that are terrorizing Israel.”

Hamas’ armed wing threatened an “earthquake” in response to Israel’s attacks, and said it had fired a rocket at a southern Israeli town.

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At a time when our country demands a greater unity and amity, now is a crucial time for all people in the country to move from indifference to involvement so that a peaceful coexistence cannot lose its meaning.

If we want to enjoy human rights to the full, we have to examine human responsibilities on our own initiatives. Therefore it is time to talk about human responsibilities, which starts with individuals.

Long lasting old Capital Inwa Part V
Fourth Inwa under second Konebaung dynasty

Maha Saddhamma Jinika dhaja
Sithu Dr. Khin Maung Nyunt

(Continued from Monday)
Rajas of Manipur and Assam, two border states on the western frontier of Myanmar empire, were respected Myanmar kings and sought military assistance when they had disputes over succession between rival claimants, when the Myanmar military might was great. Myanmar kings responded to their requests for help and accepted the settlement of their disputes by Myanmar kings whom they recognized as their suzerains, to whom they paid yearly tributes. But when the Myanmar military might declined, they turned to the British in India for foreign suzerainty. Bagyidaw was bound to send out punitive military expeditions to the two vassal states—Assam and Manipur, thereby coming into confrontation with British India. The un-demarcated border between Rakhine and British India also became a burning issue because rebels were freely crossing the borders at their free will. In 1823 the British, unknowingly the real background history, occupied Shapuri Island [Shinnhpuyu Kyun] in the Naaf River, which was Myanmar territory. So, the Myanmar army drove out the occupiers by force and put the island under army control.

Meanwhile, the British mercantile communities in British India urged the British India Government to annex Myanmar for commercial interest and the French would succeed the British. The Anglo-French colonial rivalry which had already started in Myanmar in the reign of Alaungpaya was now played up to the point of war brinkmanship. Though the Home Government in London was hesitant to expand the British Empire too far fling as that would mean greater responsibilities and heavier budget for defence, the British Indian Government overruled the authority on the spot, well versed in oriental affairs.

Therefore, the first Anglo-Myanmar war was unavoidable and inevitably broke out. Although the British gave excuses of British diplomatic measures to settle matters with the “Ava” (Inwa) King Lord Dalhousie, the then Governor-General of British India Government and Viceroy and Governor of British India, the British gave excuses of war indemnity (a million sterling pound)

(1) Myanmar to give to the British all vassal states, Assam, Manipur, Cacher and Jaintia.
(2) Myanmar to give up two provinces, Rakhine and Taninthayi.
(3) Myanmar to pay by instalment so-called war indemnity (a million sterling pound).
(4) A British Resident Envoy to station at Inwa and Inwa King may send Myanmar Resident Envoy to reside at Delhi.
(5) A commercial Treaty to be signed by Inwa King to allow free trade to the British.
(6) Boundaries between Myanmar and British India were to be demarcated.

In April 1830, Major Henry Burney arrived at Inwa. But for some months, he could not get royal audience because he refused to understand and agree to comply with Myanmar court etiquette of taking off shoes, unshoeing and bowing upon entering the Palace and at the royal audience. But Minister Myawaddy Mingyi U Sa managed to convince him logically.

After some months of stay at Inwa, Burney came to understand Myanmar culture and Myanmar spirit. He kept on sending to the royal court favourable reports and high opinion of Inwa king and things Myanmar. The Myanmar king and court also held him in good esteem as he proved fair and just in the settlement of dispute over the Kabaw valley. Unknowingly, the British in demarcating the Indo-Myanmar boundary included that part of the river valley within their side. With strong evidences of maps and documents Myawaddy Mingyi U Sa protected and pressed for its return to Inwa-Burney after careful study, found that the valley was Myanmar territory and he presented the care to the British India Government and Kabaw Valley was officially returned. For this service and other matters which the British Resident had done for Inwa, King Bagyidaw conferred upon King Myawaddy the rank of Wundawkyi and an insignia of Salwe [twelve chains of gold worn on the shoulder].

Burney ceased to be a person at the court of Inwa, when Bagyidaw’s younger brother Thayawaddy Min quarreled with his brother king especially chief queen Mei Nu and Minthagyi her brother who he thought were interfering in the state affairs. Besides Thayawaddy Min never recognized Yandabo treaty because it was unjust and he would at any amount reduce it to scarp.

Two credits that Myanmar culture and history owed to King Bagyidaw of Fourth Inwa were (1) the famous religion song about the sacred Tooth Relic of the Buddha kept for royal worship in the courtyard of Inwa and (2) a history of Myanmar kings from the earliest to the time of Bagyidaw. The religious song was a Te Diem “Hoo Ma Cha Nar” which Myawaddy Mingyi U Sa composed instrument “Saung” (harp). It became a classical hit in Myanmar song and music. The history of the Glass Palace Chronicle [Hman Nan Yazawantawgyi]. Bagyidaw task learned scholar monks, Brahmín priests and laymen formed into a royal historical commission to compile history of kings to draw lessons from the past to improve the present and to plan the future. The main purpose was to find out why Myanmar was defeated I the war and to get answer how to prevent such a national humiliation in future. Because the commission carried out its task in the ante-chamber of the Glass Palace of Bagyidaw, it came to be called “The Glass Palace Chronicle”. Well documented and objectively written, with critical remarks on every king, foreign writers of Myanmar history use this chronicle as a standard reference. Ashamed and humiliated King Bagyidaw often fell into frequent moments of mental deregangement. Thayawaddy Min dethroned him.

Inwa was no longer auspicious. Its glory and greatness were spent up. Therefore Myanmar was utterly defeated in the war. Thayawaddy Min escaped to Shwebo, the victory land of Alaungpaya there he collected followers and marched to Inwa and dethroned his elder brother Bagyidaw. Burney interfered so that coup was bloodless. Though Bagyidaw was spared and given safe and fair treatment, his chief queen and followers were done to death.

Burney knew that he was unlikely by new King. So he returned to India on the excuse of ill health. New king Thayawaddy abandoned inauspicious and spent up Inwa. But he did not move to Shwebo though he went there to collect followers to de-throne his brother and he earned two more names for him (1) Shwebo Min and (2) Kone Baung Min. He moved back to Amarapura where his royal grandfather Bodawpaya reigned long and made many great achievements. Thayawaddy Min ascended the throne in In Amarapura in 1837. Since then, Fourth Inwa under second Konebaung dynasty was abandoned for good.

Though its career as long lasting capital ended, it remains till today one of the rich archaeological sites in Myanmar with a wealthy store of Myanmar cultural heritage.

(Concluded)
Talks given in memory of late professor Dr Daw Myint Myint Khin

Mandalay, 8 July — A talk on facts about Professor Dr Daw Myint Myint Khin was given at Yadana Bon Hall of Myanmar Medical Association (Mandalay) at the corner of 31st and 71st streets in Chanayethazan Township of Mandalay.

Professor Dr Than Yin Mar, writer Kyaw Yin Myint and Professor Dr Aung Gyi talked about the legacy of the late professor Dr Daw Myint Myint Khin in the medical and literary arenas. Dr Myint Zan explained the plans to establish a Professor Daw Myint Myint Khin Foundation to provide assistance to outstanding persons in the Myanmar literature and medical fields.

Emphasizing the development of not only the medical education but also the Myanmar social field, Professor Dr Daw Myint Myint Khin wrote her masterpieces of various books and a lot of articles on medical, health and education sectors from 1995 to 2014. She passed away aged 91 on 19 June 2014.

Thida Ko Ko (Mandalay)

Use of paddy transplanting machine demonstrated in Dawei Township

Dawei, 8 July — Farmers in Dawei District of Taninthayi Region place 27,000 acres of farmlands under monsoon paddy through good agricultural patterns in 2014-15 cultivation season.

Officials of Ministry of Agriculture and Irrigation held educative talks on cultivation of monsoon paddy through GAP system in the region. To overcome shortage of farming workers and high cost of cultivation, the Region Government provided six paddy transplanting machines to Dawei District.

On Monday morning, a ceremony to introduce use of paddy transplanting machines was held at the nine-acre farmland of U Than Sein in Kanaingda Village of Dawei Township.

Dawei District IPRD

Dawei, 8 July — The Norwegian Refugee Council (NRC) has been striving for rehabilitation of the human trafficking victims and other refugees who returned home since 2008, Taninthayi Region Chief Minister U Myat Ko said at the opening ceremony of the Vocational and Life Skills Education (VLE) No 1, organized by Norwegian Refugee Council (NRC), at the Mechanical Training School in Hsanchi Ward of Dawei in Taninthayi Region on Monday.

At first, Region Chief Minister U Myat Ko and officials opened the VLE centre. The three-month course will be given to 100 trainees from villages of Myitkyina region of Dawei District. The trainees will have the opportunities to learn agriculture, foodstuff, basic business management, anti-human trafficking and life skill courses. An official of KNU Brigade No 4 (Myek-Dawei) extended greetings to all.

Taninthayi Region IPRD

Police, local authorities on patrol for public security in Mandalay District

Mandalay, 8 July — After placing Mandalay District under curfew of Section 144 of the Criminal Law as of 3 July, police from Mandalay Region Police Force, No 4 and No 14 police battalions are on patrol at junctions of Chanayethazan, Ma-haungmye and Chammyat-hazi townships discharging security duty day and night for the people.

The police joined hands with local authorities and members of the Auxiliary Fire Brigade for patrolling the streets in the townships of Mandalay District by security van from 10 p.m. to 5 a.m. every night.

Thida Ko Ko (Mandalay)

People plant trees to green ancient Pyu city Hanlin

Wetlet, 8 July — Hanlin located in Wetlet Township of Sagaing Region is one of the ancient Pyu city states in Myanmar. The ancient Pyu city has already been included on the World Heritage List thanks to utmost efforts of the government, archaeologists and local people.

Local people should join hands with departmental officials under the guidance of the authorities to maintain the ancient cities, said an official.

As part of efforts to green the ancient Pyu city, the Arid Zone Greening Department held a monsoon tree planting ceremony at the entrance road to the ancient city on Saturday.

Staff Officer U Hong Lwam of the Wetlet Township Arid Zone Greening Department, the staff officer of Township Forest Department, staff, policemen, teachers, students, NGOs and local people participated in growing of 400 saplings in various species along both sides of the road.

In June, they planted 900 saplings along both sides of the road.

Nan Myint (Wetlet)

100 youths get opportunity to get vocational and life skills education

Nay Pyi Taw Council

Pyinuma, 8 July — Member of Nay Pyi Taw Council Col Myint Aung Than met with Islamic leaders from 13 mosques at Daw Thay Mosque in Pyinuma of Nay Pyi Taw Council Area on Tuesday.

The council member said that action will be taken against all those who participate in riots, regardless of race, religion and citizenship, and that “rumours are the root cause of conflicts and must be ignored.” Security personnel has been assigned in the township to beef up security, with officials saying that law and order have so far been maintained.

Zaw Myo Naing

Wed, 9 July, 2014 | 9
Kenya opposition demands troops quit Somalia after attacks

Nairobi, 8 July — Kenya’s opposition leaders demanded on Monday the country withdraw troops from Somalia after a spate of bloody attacks by militants at home, but dropped a demand for talks with the government.

Before the opposition rally began, police fired tear gas at protesters who chanted slogans against President Uhuru Kenyatta and clambered over statues in Nairobi’s streets. They also shot gas canisters at youths who hurled stones at them at the park venue of the gathering.

But the rally passed off calmly, after many Kenyans had feared it would stoke tensions in a nation battling an upsurge in political violence. In the latest assaults on Saturday, gunners killed at least 29 people at two locations on the coast.

Somali Islamist group al Shabaab said it carried out those and other attacks, vowing to drive Kenyan and other African Union forces out of Somalia. The government has blamed local politicians instead, drawing angry denials from the opposition. “Time for talks is over,” opposition leader and veteran politician Raila Odinga told his supporters, speaking on the day he had said was the deadline for dialogue. Fellow opposition politician, Stephen Kalonzo Musyoka, told the crowd: “We cannot speak with dead people.”

Odinga had promised mass rallies to drive home his message. Several thousand turned up at the rally but that was fewer than had gathered at the same park on 31 May to welcome the veteran politician from three months abroad.

Religious leaders had called for calm and some told their congregations to stay away, fearing the event could fuel the kind of political violence that has haunted Kenya in recent years.

The government said anyone heckling Odinga’s call to take a day off work would be disciplined.

In a list of demands issued at the rally, the opposition called on the government to take “immediate steps to withdraw our gallant soldiers from Somalia”, deal with “runaway insecurity”, halt price rises and address other grievances. Government officials had dismissed the opposition’s demand for talks, saying the place for discussion was parliament. They have also repeatedly said Kenya will not withdraw from Somalia.

“This country is not well and this government hasn’t delivered a single thing from their manifesto,” said Mohamed Hassan, 30, at the rally. “Raila Odinga wants people to get jobs and (a) poor man to get a good home.”

==Xinhua==

More than 60 females escape from abductors in Nigeria

LAGOS, 8 July — More than 60 women and girls kidnapped by suspected Boko Haram militants two weeks ago have escaped from their abductors, local media reported on Monday.

About 63 of the abducted women and girls had made it back home when their warders dozed off, local vigilante Abbas Gava was quoted as saying.

However, more than 200 school girls abducted by Boko Haram in April remained captive.

==Xinhua==

Bahrain expels top US diplomat

MANAMA, 8 July— Bahrain has ordered a top US diplomat to leave the country immediately, as he meddled in Bahrain’s internal affairs, the Foreign Ministry said in a statement on Monday. The Ministry said that US Assistant Secretary of State for Democracy, Human Rights and Labour Tom Malinowski was unwelcome and should leave immediately. “His activities included holding meetings with one party, leaving out others who represent different parts of society,” the statement said.

Reports said that Malinowski on Sunday met with members of Shiite opposition group Al Wifaq, which has staged frequent anti-government protests in order to gain more political rights. “Such activities are contrary to diplomatic norms and relations between states,” the statement added. But the statement reaffirmed Bahrain’s strong and solid relations with the United States, underlining that the progress and development of the bilateral ties should not be affected by such unfortunate acts. A US ally in the Middle East, Bahrain provides a base for US Navy’s fifth fleet.

==Xinhua==

US ship begins neutralizing Syrian chemical weapons

WASHINGTON, 8 July — US container ship Cape Ray began neutralizing chemical materials on Monday that were once part of Syrian President Bashar al-Assad’s weapons arsenal, the Pentagon said.

The ship, in international waters in the Mediterranean Sea, began processing about 600 metric tonnes of chemical weapons and raw materials that could be used in them, Pentagon spokesman Colonel Steve Warren told reporters.

The US government has said the materials include mustard gas and components for the nerve agent sarin.

The materials were transferred to the Cape Ray earlier in July from a vessel that brought them out of Syria. Assad agreed last year to turn over his chemical weapons stockpile as part of a disarmament deal.

Warren said it is expected that the ship will need 60 days to process the materials. The Cape Ray is equipped with a hydrolysis system that uses substances like water, sodium hydroxide and sodium hypochlorite to make chemical warfare agents safe enough to be disposed of at commercial sites.

Warren said the processed material would be transferred to Finland and Germany.

==Reuters==

A US Navy personnel gestures in front of the US MV Cape Ray ship docked at the naval airbase in Rota, near Cadiz, southern Spain on 10 April, 2014.—Reuters

=More than 60 females escape from abductors in Nigeria=

At least 56 people were killed in a deadly clash on Friday between security forces and the Boko Haram sect in the northeast Nigerian city of Damboa in Borno State, defence spokesman Chris Olukolade said late Sunday.

Over 50 rebels died after troops repelled a daring attack by the sect, which stormed the troops’ bases and police locations while most of the troops were out on patrol of surrounding villages.—Xinhua

==Xinhua==

Four NATO servicemen killed in Afghanistan — ISAF

KABUL, 8 July — At least four NATO service men were killed in an attack in eastern Afghanistan on Tuesday, the International Security Assistance Force said.

Earlier, Ziaul Rahman Sayedchili, a senior police officer in the eastern province of Parwan, said the death toll included six NATO soldiers, 10 Afghan civilians and two Afghan policemen.

“The days ago a rocket was fired from the village of Qalandar Khil which hit the Bagram military base and this morning a joint Afghan-ISAF operation went there to investigate the case,” he said.

“There was a suicide bomber on a bicycle who detonated his explosives which killed 10 local civilians, two policemen and six ISAF soldiers.”

ISAF said in a separate statement four of its servicemen were killed.

The Taleban claimed responsibility for the attack in a text message to Reuters.

The attack took place amid deteriorating security in Afghanistan as most ISAF forces prepare to leave the country after 12 years of war against Taleban insurgents.

==Reuters==

=US ship begins neutralizing Syrian chemical weapons=

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Asian shares pause after recent climb, focus on earnings

Sydney, 8 July — Asian stocks were subdued on Tuesday as Wall Street turned cautious ahead of the corporate reporting season and earnings guidance from regional tech heavyweights Samsung came in worse than expected. Investors could also be forgiven for feeling a touch of altitude sickness after many indexes recently hit all-time or multi-year peaks. MSCI’s broadest index of Asia-Pacific shares outside Japan, MIA0J0000PG.S was a fraction lower in thin trade. It briefly struck a three-year high at 502.00 but shed away from tough resistance at the 2011 top of 512.12. Samsung Electronics Co Ltd (005930.KS) said its operating profit probably fell 24.5 percent in April-June to 7.2 trillion won ($7.12 billion), under the 8.3 trillion mean estimate from 38 analysts polled by Thomson Reuters. Its shares, however, still managed to bounce 0.6 percent, perhaps because they have been falling for most of the past month as the market priced in a poor result.

Japan’s Nikkei. N225 followed Wall Street’s lead and fell 0.5 percent, so falling to sustain last week’s six-month high. The Dow DJI had lost 0.3 percent on Monday, while the S&P 500, SPX shed 0.4 percent and the Nasdaq. IXIC 0.8 percent. Wall Street hit a number of milestones last week, with the Dow topping 17,000 for the first time and the S&P 500 closing at a record high after a strong June jobs report. The earnings season kicks off with Alcoa. AA later on Tuesday, and dozens of major companies are scheduled to report next week, including numerous Dow components.

Profits are forecast to grow 6.2 percent for the quarter, according to Thomson Reuters data, but investors see a slight chance of a return to double-digit growth for the first time in nearly three years. Markets are also on guard for minutes of the Federal Reserve’s last meeting to be released on Wednesday, which will be searched for hints on when the policy committee might consider raising interest rates. Some analysts have brought that day forward following June’s upbeat payroll report. Yet most assume a move is still a whole year away, too distant to trouble Treasury investors right now. —Reuters

Study paves the way for a blood test to predict Alzheimer’s

London, 8 July — British scientists have identified a set of 10 proteins in the blood that can predict the onset of Alzheimer’s and call this an important step towards developing a test for the incurable brain-wasting disease.

Such a test could initially be used to select patients for clinical trials of experimental treatments being developed to try to halt progression of Alzheimer’s, the researcher said, and may one day move into routine use in doctors clinicals.

“Alzheimer’s begins to affect the brain many years before patients are diagnosed (and) many of our drug trials fail because the time patients are given the drugs the brain has already been too severely affected,” said Simon Lovestone of Oxford University, who led this work from King’s College London.

“A simple blood test could help us identify patients at a much earlier stage to take part in new trials and hopefully develop treatments,” he said.

Alzheimer’s is the most common form of dementia, a brain-wasting disease which in 2010 was estimated to be costing the world $604 billion a year. The fatal disease affects 44 million people worldwide, with the number set to triple by 2050, the campaign group Alzheimer’s Disease International says.

Several big pharma firms including Roche, Eli Lilly, Merck & Co and Johnson & Johnson, are pursuing various approaches to get to the root cause of Alzheimer’s and try to find treatments to halt its progression. Yet over the past 15 years, more than 100 experimental Alzheimer’s drugs have failed in trial. Lovestone and other experts believe this may be because drug trials are conducted too late, in patients whose condition has already gone too far.

A predictive test for use before people develop symptoms would help researchers select the right people for drug trials, and help show whether the experimental drugs are working.

Previous studies have found that PET brain scans and tests of lumbar fluid can be used to predict the onset of dementia from people with a less severe condition known as mild cognitive impairment (MCI), but these tests are expensive and invasive, so scientists are keen to develop a cheaper, simpler blood test. —Reuters

How to maintain falling suicide rate

Beijing, 8 July — Suicide is a major public health issue across the world. It is the cause of 800,000 premature deaths globally, according to latest statistics.

In the 1990s, China had one of the highest suicide rates (25.2 per 100,000 people). An estimated 250,000 suicides were reported every year in the 1990s, accounting for about a quarter of all suicides in the world. In fact, suicide was the fifth leading cause of deaths in China.

Besides, more women than men committed suicides in China during the period, which was drastically different from the above 3:1 male-female suicide ratio in Western countries. Also, the suicide rate in China was substantially higher in rural areas than in cities, with older adults more prone to committing suicide.

Perhaps the imbalance in medical and social welfare between urban and rural areas in China put older residents in the countryside at greater risk of committing suicide. Although mental illness plays a relatively low role in suicides in China, psychiatric help and other related support are far from sufficient. And the low social status of Chinese women and the limited opportunities they have to fulfill their dreams have been blamed for the relatively high rate of suicide among women, especially in rural regions.

The good news is that the overall suicide rate in China has declined significantly because of the country’s fast-paced economic development. The estimated national suicide rate now is 9.8 per 100,000 people, nearly 60 percent lower than in the 1990s.

Urbanization and economic growth in the past decade have created more education and employment opportunities for everyone, especially those women in rural areas, and reduced gender inequality. Controls on the sale of pesticides, which many rural people use to drink to commit suicide, and the improvement in healthcare services have also contributed to the decline in the suicide rate.

China’s experience seems to be at odds with French sociologist Emile Durkheim’s suicide theory, which says that economic growth epitomized by industrialization, urbanization and modernization usually leads to higher level of social anomie and lower level of social integration as a result of popularized individualism and egoism, and subsequently increases the suicide rate. In China, however, these factors can work as protective shield against suicides.

An increasing number of rural women are migrating to cities in search of better livelihood. Relocation from rural to urban areas provides women with an escape route — from familiar obligations and undesired marriage proposals and employment problems — and allows women to fulfill their dreams, which many rural people use to drink to commit suicide, and the improvement in healthcare services have also contributed to the decline in the suicide rate. —Xinhua
One dead as powerful typhoon hits Japan’s Okinawa

TOKYO, 8 July — One man died, more than 500,000 people were urged to evacuate and hundreds of flights were canceled in Japan as a strong typhoon brought torrential rain and high winds to its southwestern islands and could bring heavy rain to Tokyo later this week.

Typhoon Neoguri weakened from its original status as a super typhoon but remained intense, with gusts of more than 250 km per hour (155 mph). It was powering through the Okinawa island chain where emergency rain and high-seas warnings were in effect.

The storm was at its most powerful when passing Okinawa, some 1,600 km (1,000 miles) southwest of Tokyo on Tuesday, but the Japan Meteorological Agency (JMA) warned of heavy rains and potential flooding in Kyushu, the westernmost of Japan’s main islands, as well as heavy rain in the rest of the nation as the storm turns east later in the week.

“The public must take the utmost caution,” Kei-ji Furuya, state minister in charge of disaster management, told a news conference.

One man died after his boat was swamped by high waves, NHK national television said. Several people suffered minor injuries from falls.

More than 50,000 households in Okinawa lost power and an oil refinery halted operations.

Nicaragua approves route for $40 billion canal linking oceans

MANAGUA, 8 July — A Nicaraguan committee approved a proposed route on Monday for a $40 billion (23.35 billion pound) shipping channel across the Central American isthmus.

The committee of government officials, businessmen and academics approved a 172 mile (272 km) route from the mouth of the Brito river on the Caribbean to the Pacific side of the Ponto Gorda river on the Caribbean that was proposed by executives from the HK Nicaragua Canal Development Investment Co Ltd (HKND Group).

The Hong Kong-based HKND group, which is leading the project, is headed by Chinese lawyer Wang Jing, who also heads Chinese company Xinwei Telecom Enterprise Group.

The proposed canal would pass through Lake Nicaragua, Central America’s largest lake, and will be between 230 metres and 520 metres (755 feet to 1,706 feet) wide and 27.6 metres (90 feet) deep, said HKND engineer Dong Yunsong.

The proposed route still faces environmental and social impact studies that could recommend some changes to the plan, but those studies should be finished later this year to allow work to begin by December, said committee member Telemaco Talavera. Opponents of the plan are concerned about the canal’s effect on Lake Nicaragua, an important fresh water source for the country, as well as the impact on poor communities.

The plan is to finish the canal in 2019 and begin operations in 2020, Talavera said. The proposed channel would be more than three times longer than the 48-mile (77-km) Panama Canal, which took the United States a decade to build at the narrowest part of the Central American isthmus. It was completed in 1914.

Brazil bandits steal $36 mln of Samsung phones, computers

RIO DE JANEIRO, 8 July — Bandits attacked a Samsung Electronics Co Ltd (005930.KS) factory near Sao Paulo late Sunday and held workers hostage while they robbed trucks laden with more than 40,000 Samsung products.

State police are investigating the attack, he added, but said no suspects have yet been identified.

A spokesman for the state’s public security secretary said the bandits made off with seven trucks laden with more than 40,000 Samsung products. State police are investigating the attack, he added, but said no suspects have yet been identified.

A spokesman for Samsung in Sao Paulo confirmed the heist but said police estimates for the value of the stolen goods were too high.

He said roughly 100 employees were present at the factory during the robbery, though not all of them were stolen goods were too high.

“We have cooperated fully with the police investigation that is underway and will do our best to avoid any sort of repeat incident,” said Samsung Electronics da AmazoniaLtda, the manufacturing unit of the Korean electronics giant in Brazil, in a statement on Tuesday.

The police, as related to Reuters by the spokesman for the state security secretary, read like the script of a daring crime movie.

After stopping the shuttle on its way to the factory, seven armed assailants took over the vehicle while colleagues took all but two of the eight employees originally on board to a remote location, where they were set free. Just before midnight, the assailants proceeded with the two other employees to the factory, where they disarmed security guards, gathered the rest of the plant’s employees and made sure none of them could communicate with the outside.

While with the reports we still have to do with something,” said Kei Shima, a self-employed Okinawa resident in her 30s. “The lights are fading in and out, like the house is haunted. The rain is getting stronger and falling sideways.” Neoguri was roughly 110 km (68 miles) west of Kumejima of island and coming close to Tokyo on Friday. “But it will be weaker by then, so Tokyo can mainly expect a lot of rain, and maybe some gusts of wind,” he added.

Around two to four typhoons make landfall in Japan each year but they are usually in July.

Nicaraguan President Otto Perez said the baby died when a hospital ceiling collapsed on him in San Marcos, an area hit hard by quakes in recent years. In November 2012, the region suffered a 7.4-magnitude quake that killed 48 people.

“With the reports we have so far, we can say this quake has caused moderate damage. It’s not light damage, but much more severe,” he added.

Quake rocks Guatemala, Mexico, newborn baby among three dead

GUATEMALA CITY, 8 July — A strong earthquake shook the border between Guatemala and Mexico on Monday, killing at least three people, including a newborn boy, damaging dozens of buildings and triggering landslides.

Much of the damage from the 6.9-magnitude quake was reported in the Guatemalan border region of San Marcos, where it downed power lines, cracked buildings and triggered landslides that blocked roads.

Guatemalan President Perez earlier said the baby was born dead when a hospital ceiling collapsed on him in San Marcos, an area hit hard by quakes in recent years. In November 2012, the region suffered a 7.4-magnitude quake that killed 48 people.

“With the reports we have so far, we can say this quake has caused moderate damage. It’s not light damage, but much more severe,” he added.

Thirty-three people were hurt, mainly with head injuries, and 41 houses were severely damaged, Perez said. A further 39 houses suffered lighter damage, and 36 people in the municipality of San Sebastian Huchuetemango were evacuated, he added.

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GOVERNMENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF THE UNION OF MYANMAR
MINISTRY OF FINANCE
BUDGET DEPARTMENT
MODERNIZATION OF PUBLIC FINANCE MANAGEMENT PROJECT (MPFM)
(PROJECT ID No: P144952)

REQUEST FOR EXPRESSION OF INTEREST FOR
INDIVIDUAL CONSULTANT - AN INTERNATIONAL PROCUREMENT SPECIALSET POSITION

(REF: E2-C001)

1. Background.
   The Republic of the Union of Myanmar has received financing in the amount of US$ 30 million equivalent from the World Bank, and US$25 million grant from the UK and Australian governments toward the cost of the Modernization of Public Finance Management Project, and it intends to apply part of the proceeds to payments for goods and services to be procured under this project.

   The development objective of the Modernization of Public Finance Management (PFM) Project for Myanmar is to support efficient, accountable, and responsive public service delivery through a strengthened governance and institutional structure. The project has five components:
   a. Improving revenue mobilization through bringing more revenues from natural resources on budget and strengthening tax administration
   b. Responsive Planning and Budget Preparations
   c. Supporting Effective Budget Execution and Financial Reporting
   d. Establishing a Sustainable Institutional Platform and Skills-base for PFM

   For more detailed understanding of the scope of the Project and its governance and organizational structure, kindly consult the project appraisal document (PAD): http://documents.worldbank.org/curated/en/2014/02/19393607/project appraisal document (PAD):

2. On behalf of the Ministry of Finance, the Procurement Coordinating and Advisory Unit (PCAU) is now seeking to recruit consultants to carry out and assist the PCAU in all procurement related activities in compliance with the World Bank guidelines.

   Brief description of the assignment:
   3. The main tasks of the Consultant within this assignment are as follows:
   a. Training and Skills Development of PCAU project staff on procurement tasks and management;
   b. Develop draft proposal for a long term capacity building plan on procurement for relevant MoF staff and staff from the Office of the Auditor General;
   c. Assistance, Advice, Mentoring, and Guidance in conducting the procurement procedures for the project.
   d. Assist in procurement document development and guidance on evaluation, as required by the head of the PCAU.

   The assignment is for an estimated duration of 10 months over a two year period. Consultant will be subject to a performance review within 3 months into the position; contract may be extended beyond the 10 months period, subject to the needs and availability of funds. Consultant will need to travel to Nay Pyi Taw as specified in the terms of reference.

   Selection criteria:
   3. The consultant will be selected in accordance with the “Guidelines: Selection and Employment of Consultants under IBRD Loans and IDA Credits & Grants by World Bank Borrowers” dated January 2011. The attention of interested Consultants is drawn to paragraph 1.9 of the Guidelines, setting forth the World Bank’s policy on conflict of interest:


   b. The minimum selection criteria are: (other criteria are discussed in the Terms of Reference)
   - Master Degree in one of the followings: Accounting, Finance and/or Administration, Engineering, Economics/ law/business administration;
   - At least 10 (ten) years of experience in procurement management; or have had responsibilities with a substantial content of his/her position in the procurement area and at least 5 (five) years must be in Donor funded projects and must be fully proficient in application of the World Bank Procurement Guidelines and Procedures;
   - Experience in capacity building and skills development in procurement related matters.

   Administration and submission details
   7. In submitting their expressions of interest, consultants are kindly requested to indicate the following reference: E2-C001. Interested consultants must provide their updated curriculum vitae, indicating personal and technical skills, academic qualifications, experience in similar assignments, and experience in Myanmar and/or other developing countries along with the names of at least three (3) referees with contact information (e-mail address, telephone or fax numbers). Expressions of Interest shall be submitted in hard copy to be transmitted by fax followed by an electronic copy sent by email to the below specified addresses.

   8. Expressions of interest must be submitted to the address below or by email no later than July 31, 2014 (before 17:30 hours).

   Modernization of Public Finance Management Project Unit
   To the Attention: Daw Khin Lay Myint,
   Deputy Director General
   Budget Department
   and
   U Zaw Naing,
   Director, Budget Department
   Procurement Coordination and Advisory Unit (PCAU)
   Budget Department,
   Ministry of Finance, Office No. 26 Nay Pyi Taw,
   Tel: 95-67-410529, 410530
   Fax: 95-67-410529,410350,410451
   e-mail: pcaum@mptmail.net.mm

Bank Holiday
All Banks will be closed on 11th July (Friday) (Fullmoon Day of Wase) 2014, being public holidays under the Negotiable Instruments Act.
Central Bank of Myanmar

TRADEMARK CAUTION
Warnex Printing Co. Ltd., a company incorporated in Myanmar, has registered the trademark “TRADEMARK CAUTION” with Serial No. 80909. It is hereby notified to all concerned that the said trademark is the property of the above-mentioned company and the use of the said trademark by any person or entity as a trademark for services/products is strictly prohibited under the provision of the Trademark Act, 1972.

Flood victims launch Australia’s largest ever class action

SYDNEY, 8 July—Lawyers for more than 4,000 flood victims have filed Australia’s largest class action on Tuesday three and half years after their homes and businesses were destroyed. The lawyers argued that the flooding from Brisbane’s Wivenhoe Dam caused a disaster almost completely avoidable if the operators had not released enough water earlier enough.

The case was lodged in the New South Wales Supreme Court against the dam operator and the

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

Sr.No Tender No Description Remark

Tender Closing Date & Time - 5-8-2014, 16:30 Hr
Tender Document shall be available during office hours commencing from 9th July, 2014 at the Finance Department, Myanma Oil and Gas Enterprise, No (44) Complex, Nay Pyi Taw, Myanmar.
Myanma Oil and Gas Enterprise Ph: +95 67 - 411097/411206

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State of the Sea
Occasional squalls with rough sea will be experience Deltaic, Gulf of Mottama, off and along Mon-Taninthayi Coasts. Surface wind speed in squalls may reach (40) m.p.h. Seas will be moderate elsewhere in Myanmar waters.
SELENA GOMEZ’S family urges her to join rehab?

LOS ANGELES, 8 July — Singer Selena Gomez’s family and friends have reportedly urged her to return to rehab soon so that she can avoid getting stressed out.

The 21-year-old singer, who is apparently going through a rough patch with her on-off boyfriend Justin Bieber, 20, and friend Demi Lovato, 21, has been asked by her closed ones to join the rehabilitation centre, reported Hollywood Life.

“Family and friends are stressing to Selena that she should enter rehab this weekend,” a source said, adding, “She is a mess over what Justin has been doing to her, and how he has played with her emotions. She really is taking things hard with the Justin and Demi (Lovato) drama.”

Her family and friends are reportedly worried that Gomez will party hard on the Fourth of July weekend and not care for her health.

“And with this weekend being all about partying, people in her camp believe she is going to partake in it and really get into some trouble so they want to get her help as soon as possible,” the source said.

The singer has also been reported to rehab in January this year reportedly for young adult issues, working too much, relationship issues, and really getting into some trouble so they want to get her help as soon as possible,” the source said.

Robert Pattinson flirts with multiple girls?

LONDON, 8 July — “Twilight” star Robert Pattinson reportedly flirted with multiple girls at a party.

The “The Rover” star, who split from Kristen Stewart last summer and is rumoured to be dating British model Imogen Kerr, was among the star-studded crowd at a nightclub at Nobu in California, reported Contactmusic. “He was wearing a hat and trying to stay undercover. He hung out at a corner table and was flirtatious with multiple girls all night. He stayed through the performances and was really enjoying himself,” a source said.

The 28-year-old actor attended the Independence Day bash with “The Lying Game” star Ryan Rottman, 30, and watched a number of artists, including Chris Brown and Jamie Foxx perform. — PTI

Sunny Leone’s ‘Pink lips’ attracts 1 million YouTube views

MUMBAI, 8 July — Bollywood ‘Baby Doll’ Sunny Leone-starrer song “Pink lips” is turning out to be a chartbuster, and her fluid moves in the number have already managed to attract over one million views for the video on YouTube.

The song’s video was uploaded on the online platform on 2 July. It features Sunny grooving to the beats of the song, composed by Meet Brothers and choreographed by Umaga. The choreographers were under pressure to deliver something bigger and better than “Baby doll”, and made sure Sunny gave her best shot to the new song, which is a promotional track for the movie “Hate story 2. But they’re excited with the response.— PTI

Pharrell leaves Montreux festival fans wanting more

MONTREUX, (Switzerland), 8 July — Pharrell Williams gave a slick concert for a maximum crowd at the Montreux Jazz Festival on Monday night, but some fans were less than happy when he left the famed stage after just an hour.

The American R&B singer and producer, accompanied by his band, two vocalists and six female dancers, played tracks from his second album “GIRL”, including “Marilyn Monroe” and “Come Get it Bae”, before closing with his global viral hit “Happy.”

Known simply by his first name Pharrell, he repeatedly voiced support for women’s rights during the concert, declaring 2014 “The Year of the Woman” when things are going to change.

“My new album is an ode to women. From A to Z, I make no apologies for the way I appreciate women,” he told the sold-out standing crowd who paid 135 Swiss francs ($150/87.57 pounds) per ticket. “I make no apology. I love women in every kind of way.”

Minutes later he played “Blurred Lines”, the raunchy R&B smash hit that was last year’s top song across the US Billboard music charts, followed by Daft Punk’s Grammy-winning disco track “Get Lucky.”

“I told you, it’s all about women,” Pharrell said. For “Happy,” from the “Despicable Me 2” soundtrack, he was joined on stage by a young female fan whom he told: “We are depending on a girl like you to grow up and change the world.” — Reuters

PIERCE BROSNAN

gets strength from faith

NEW YORK, 8 July — Former James Bond star Pierce Brosnan credits his faith for helping him through tough times, such as the death of his first wife. The 61-year-old actor was left devastated when his first wife Cassandra Harris died from ovarian cancer in 1991 and his adopted daughter Charlotte succumbed to the same disease last year, and thinks his religious beliefs and upbringing have given him the strength he needed to carry on, reported New York daily News. “I would say faith, being Irish, being Catholic, it’s ingrained in my DNA,” Brosnan said. The ‘Long Way Down’ actor, who is now married to Keely Shaye Smith, also admitted to being a keen artist.

“I paint landscapes, figuratives. I painted all my life. In fact, I started as a commercial artist,” he said. — PTI

Advertisement & entertainment
Sony to solicit early retirement from August

Tokyo, 8 July — Sony Corp. will solicit applicants for early retirement from its corporate planning and finance sections at its Tokyo headquarters starting in August as part of its efforts to restructure its businesses and cut costs, sources close to the matter said on Tuesday. The programme is part of a reform plan unveiled in February that sets forth plans to slash 1,500 domestic jobs, including those at group companies, by the end of the current business year through March 2015. Those who have worked for at least 10 years and are aged 40 or older may apply for early retirement, the sources said, adding that those in management positions must be at least 45 years old to apply. The company will solicit applicants until the end of October, with no numerical target set initially. Those working in distribution and procurement may also apply for the programme. Sony plans to increase retirement payments for those taking early retirement, depending on the length of their service and their positions, while helping them find jobs, according to the sources. The company aims to cut costs at its finance and other sections affected by the programme by about 30 percent by the business year through March 2016, compared with the year ended this March. Sony also plans to cut about 3,500 jobs overseas by the end of next March. — Kyodo News

American studio talks making Doraemon for a Western audience

Burbank, (California), 8 July — It took brainstorming and compromise, mixed with a lot of trust, love and respect, but after two years of effort, Eric Sherman and his employees at Bang Zoom! Entertainment have finally brought Japan’s beloved blue robotic cat Doraemon to US television screens. With a 20-minute pilot and 26 episodes lined up, America was treated to its first taste of the show Monday afternoon when the US version debuted on cable channel Disney XD. It will be broadcast in the channel’s 12:30 pm time slot every weekday throughout the summer. The anime, based on manga written by Fujiko F Fujio, has aired in 55 countries and regions mainly in Asia and Europe, but those broadcasts used the Japanese version of the show, adding only subtitles or voice dubbing in local languages. This is the first time Doraemon has been localized for a specific audience. Changes include character names, food and item names, other cultural references, and music and sound effects to appeal to US audiences. Sherman, president and CEO of Burbank, California-based audio post and creative production company Bang Zoom, said localizing the show was challenging because “the rights holders are extremely protective of their beloved character and show, as they should be,” but added that he thought Bang Zoom was a good fit because “we always approach every project from a place of respect and admiration for the creators.” “We need to know lots of details and we need to get deep into the show, to what the bones are,” he said. “Then we can put the flesh back on and color it for a new audience — the US audience — maintaining the original intent of the creators, while making it amazing for the new audience.” On Twitter, the show received a number of positive reviews and viewers appeared to enjoy the show. Kevin Grussing (@KevinGrussing), an anime fan, wrote, “This #Doraemon is...actually good. Unbelievable, I dare say SUPPORT THIS DUB...” Rex Kidd (@EponymousKid) also wrote “Doraemon is really good and I’m diggin it. I’m on the hook for more, I gotta say.” Some, though, were quick to note the name change for dorayaki, Doraemon’s favourite snack, to “Yummy Buns.” Kyodo News

Japan mulls introduction of amphibious assault ships

Tokyo, 8 July — The White House said on Monday that most unaccompanied minors flooding into the United States from Central America will not be allowed to stay as the Obama administration prepares to ask Congress for $2 billion to address the border crisis. White House spokesmen Josh Earnest said most of the border-crossers would not qualify to stay in the United States. Those who possibly could get asylum are children who have been victims of domestic abuse. Minors who fled because of gang-related violence could have a harder time qualifying, according to immigration experts. The strong warning came as the White House is expected to lay out on Tuesday what it wants in emergency funding from the US Congress to deal with the flood of children. The money would go toward more detention facilities to house the children and additional immigration judges and asylum officials to expedite hearings. A Justice Department official told Reuters the aim is to hire 30 more immigration judges to help tackle the case load. The spending bill could face some rough going in Congress, however. — Reuters

Japan mulls introduction of amphibious assault ships

Tokyo, 8 July — Japan is mulling the introduction of amphibious assault ships to bolster its defense against China’s increasing attempt to assert its sovereignty over disputed islands in the East China Sea. Photo shows USS Makin Island, an amphibious assault ship of the US Navy, at a Navy facility in San Diego, on 7 July, 2014. — Kyodo News

White House says most children at border to be sent home

Washing T on, 8 July — The White House said on Monday that most unaccompanied minors flooding into the United States from Central America will not be allowed to stay as the Obama administration prepares to ask Congress for $2 billion to address the border crisis. White House spokesmen Josh Earnest said most of the border-crossers would not qualify to stay in the United States. Those who possibly could get asylum are children who have been victims of domestic abuse. Minors who fled because of gang-related violence could have a harder time qualifying, according to immigration experts. The strong warning came as the White House is expected to lay out on Tuesday what it wants in emergency funding from the US Congress to deal with the flood of children. The money would go toward more detention facilities to house the children and additional immigration judges and asylum officials to expedite hearings. A Justice Department official told Reuters the aim is to hire 30 more immigration judges to help tackle the case load. The spending bill could face some rough going in Congress, however. — Reuters
IOC accepts Beijing, Almaty and Oslo for bidding 2022 Winter Olympics

LAUSANNE, 8 July — Beijing, Almaty and Oslo have been accepted as candidate cities for the 2022 Olympic Winter Games and proceeded to the second phase of the bidding process, the International Olympic Committee (IOC) Executive Board unanimously agreed here on Monday.

In a meeting held from 7 to 9 July at the IOC headquarters in Lausanne, the Executive Board made the decision based on a technological analysis of the applicant cities’ applications submitted earlier this year.

“The Executive Board was impressed by the legacy plans of each of the three cities, and will continue to support any future candidate or host city in developing them further,” IOC President Thomas Bach said.

“The Executive Board is confident that the future hosts of the Olympic Winter Games can break even with the Olympic Games budget, as Vancouver has just announced for the Olympic Winter Games 2010. Or, as in the case of Sochi, make a considerable profit, which they project to be in the range of 200 million dollars,” Bach added.

As the the candidate Beijing, he said the city is seeking to provide an extended legacy for venues built for the Olympic Games 2008. It wants to create a winter sports center for China and use the winter games to act as a catalyst for the further development of the tourism and winter sports industry. Five bidding cities, namely Almaty (Kazakhstan), Beijing (China), Krakow (Poland), Lviv (Ukraine) and Oslo (Norway) for the 2022 Olympic Winter Games met the deadline of 14 March and submitted their application file.—Xinhua

Rio 2016

PREVIEW — All eyes on Messi and Robben with Rio in sight

SAO PAULO, (Brazil), 8 July — The Netherlands are one win away from a second straight World Cup final after they continued their dominance against Argentina head into Wednesday’s last-four clash looking to end their 24-year wait for a place in the biggest game of all.

Two teams with a rich tradition and an abundance of motivation should produce a close game, characterized by tight marking, disciplined defence and threats on the break as they bid to reach the 13 July final at Rio de Janeiro’s Maracana. But is all the expectation, all the history and all the focus on the tactical approaches of Alejandro Sabella and Louis van Gaal, the clash of styles and the clash of stars — the contest is likely to come down to how two individuals seize the moment.

With both teams set to pack the midfield, regardless of what formal formation they field, Argentine Lionel Messi and Dutchman Arjen Robben will be charged with producing thrilling moments of skill that could decide who heads to Rio for the final.

The narrative around the 27-year-old Messi’s stature in the game has long suggested that the four-time World Player of the Year needs to take his country to a World Cup triumph to enter the list of the game’s true greats.

Whether that assessment is fair or not, Messi is certainly doing his best to prove that he deserves to be mentioned in the same breath as compatriots Diego Maradona and Brazil’s Pelé.

The forward has four goals, all in the group stage, but his contribution has gone well beyond finding the back of the net.

Messi has always had the ability, for Barcelona and Argentina, to drop away from the opposing back-line and run at defences from deep, but in the quarter-final win over Belgium he played almost as a classic playmaking number 10.

In this withdrawn role, Messi successfully controlled the tempo of the game, slowed it down when needed and probing for spaces for striker Gonzalo Higuain to exploit.

Conductor Messi

So often theizado who provides the dramatic crescendo to an attack, Messi has evolved in this tournament into the conductor of the orchestra.

The absence of Angel Di Maria on the right through injury is a blow for Argentina because the Real Madrid winger has provided the other main attacking threat for Sabella’s team.

It will be interesting to see whether the Argentine coach goes with the defence-minded Enzo Perez, who replaced Di Maria against the Belgians, or goes for a more attacking option.

His Dutch counterpart Van Gaal has been willing to adjust his lineup and formation for each game, but the one constant is the reliance on Robben to terrorise defences with his high-speed dribbling.

While much attention has focused on the tricky winger’s tendency to go down easily in seeking penalties, that has distracted somewhat from the way his pace, directness and shooting have been the main focus of the Dutch attacks.

Van Gaal’s side have cut it fine on the route to the semi-finals though — they needed penalties to get past Costa Rica in the quarter-finals having only beaten Mexico by a controversial last-minute penalty in the previous round.

They will need striker Robin van Persie to recapture his form from the group stage to give the Argentina defence something else to ponder apart from Robben’s direct threat.

The two teams have met four times before in the World Cup, including in the 1978 final which Argentina won 3-1 after extra time on home soil. That was their only win over the Dutch at the finals having lost twice and drawn once in the other matches.—Reuters

Becker gamble pays off for Djokovic

LONDON, 8 July — When Novak Djokovic jumped on the super-coach bandwagon and hired Boris Becker, the appointment came straight out of left field and appeared to be a baffling one.

Three-times Wimbledon champion Becker had never shown any inclination towards coaching, was neck deep with his media and business commitments and as a classic serve-and-volleyer, his playing style could not have been more different to Djokovic’s baseline power game.

But just as Ivan Lendl found the lure of working with Andy Murray hard to resist, Becker was intrigued by the challenge of working with a man who, like him, owned six grand slam titles.

Six months later Djokovic hit the jackpot when he finally ended months of torment and frustration by edging out Roger Federer in a pulsating five-set Wimbledon final on Sunday for his seventh grand slam title.

Despite the joyous scenes that unfolded in the players’ box, with the Serb clambering up to hug his German mentor, many were left wondering what exactly Becker’s impact had been. Whereas Federer provided plenty of evidence of why he too had hired a grand slam champion — in his case Becker’s great rival Stefan Edberg — by approaching the net 67 times and winning 78 percent of his serve-and-volley approaches during Sunday’s battle, Becker’s influence was less tangible. It was nevertheless omnipresent in Djokovic’s mind.—Reuters

World Cup 2014 Brazil

Semi-final

Argentina

2:30 MST (10.7.2014)