Myanmar deploying all diplomatic means with country concerned through diplomatic channel to send boat people back to place of origin

Nay Pyi Taw, 3 June—The Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar issued a press release on boat people Wednesday. The following is the full text of the press release.

Press Release

1. Myanmar is making serious efforts to prevent human smuggling and illegal migration while Myanmar Navy and Air Force are regularly patrolling its territorial water. On 21 May 2015, during patrolling, Myanmar Navy found a boat with 208 people and rescued them on humanitarian ground. They are given temporary shelters at Taung Pyo (Let Wai), Rakhine State.

2. In order to send them back to their place of origin expeditiously, the findings from the verification process were sent to the Bangladeshi side through diplomatic channel. According to the procedures, consular access was permitted to the Bangladeshi side to make necessary verification based on the verification results of the Myanmar side.

3. Also on 29 May 2015, while Myanmar Navy was on duty patrolling for the safety of territorial water, they spotted a suspicious fishing vessel located at south-east of Pyapon Township of Ayeyawady Region. On the boat, 734 men, women and children were found. In order for them to return back to their original place, women and children are kept at temporary shelters near Boundary Pillar No. 37 from Bangladesh border, north of Taung Pyo (Let Wai) on humanitarian ground.

4. Myanmar is deploying all diplomatic means with the country concerned through diplomatic channel to send the boat people back to their place of origin.

5. On 3 June 2015, Union Minister for Foreign Affairs U Wunna Maung Lwin received the Bangladeshi Ambassador to Myanmar, at Nay Pyi Taw. During the discussion, the Union Minister said that Myanmar is providing temporary shelters to the boat people on humanitarian grounds and urged the Bangladeshi side to expeditiously receive back the people who are given temporary shelters after completing the verification process. The Bangladeshi Ambassador said his government has given priority on the matter and as bilateral relations between the two countries are flourishing, necessary preparations are being carried out expeditiously. He also replied that the repatriation process will begin on 7 June 2015.

6. Officials from the Embassy of People’s Republic of Bangladesh in Yangon and Bangladesh Consulate in Sittwe will begin consular access on 4 June 2015 to the above-mentioned rescued people who are given temporary shelters.

7. While the Government of Myanmar is protecting the interests of its people as well as the interests of the country in the international community, arrangements are being made to send the rescued boat people back to their place of origin by taking serious consideration on the matter on humanitarian grounds.

Ministry of Foreign Affairs
Nay Pyi Taw
June 3, 2015

UN special envoy calls on ethnic leaders to get ceasefire, political dialogue started as soon as possible

By Ye Myint
Yangon, 3 June—Real trust and progress in Myanmar can be brought about by ethnic rebel leaders jointly implementing a ceasefire accord with the government and starting a credible political dialogue, Mr. Vijay Nambiar, U.N. Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon’s special adviser on Myanmar, said Tuesday.

Calling on the ethnic leaders to negotiate a ceasefire and political dialogue as soon as possible in his speech delivered at the opening of the Ethnic Armed Organizations Summit, Nambiar pointed out that a nationwide ceasefire is only the first step and political dialogue is the only way forward in Myanmar.

“The success of reforms in Myanmar will depend on a sustained peace in the country. Every transition is deeply difficult and fraught with setbacks, but we cannot wait until everything is perfect. We cannot allow the best to become the enemy of the good. If we do that we may get neither peace nor democracy”, he said.

“The simple point is that the future of Myanmar rests in your hands”, he added.

Nambiar continued, “The current government has made some promises that have long been asked for by ethnic groups as well as by the international community. Only by starting the process of a political dialogue can we begin to see if these promises can be delivered.”

Nambiar also expressed the view that if the process can be started before the elections and with the support of the international community, there is a greater possibility of ensuring that the post-election government will be willing to commit to it.

With the participation of most ethnic armed groups and observers including from the UN and the People’s Republic of China, the five-day summit from 2 June is taking place at Law Khee Lar in Kayin State to seek final approval of a draft peace deal approved by the Nationwide Ceasefire Coordination Team, a coalition of 16 ethnic armed groups, and Union Peace-making Work Committee, the government’s negotiating team, late March in Yangon.

MIC refuses to comment on Myakyunthar Park project in Yangon

Yangon, 3 June—Myanmar Investment Commission does make any remark on the Myakyunthar Park project which is under public criticism and media coverage recently.

The Deputy Director General Daw Cho Cho Win of MIC said the commission does not intervene in the land rental price, but issue permits for a suitable period. Daw Cho Cho Win said, in an interview, that land lease permit in Myanmar is now 50 consecutive years and it can be extended by 10 years two times, totally 70 years, depending on the type of business after the two laws of the Foreign Investment Law in 2012 and the Myanmar Citizens Investment Law in 2013 were enacted. She also said any proposal was not submitted to MIC for the park development project, adding that it is a lawful option for investor.

The deputy director general noted that any proposal to MIC will be considered on the facts of employment opportunities, industrial technology and environmental impacts.

She added the Myakyunthar Park project is reportedly known that it is under the management of Yangon City Development Committee, and that the commission does not make any comment on this project.

She also said MIC is facating the investors through one-stop-service after scrutinizing the investments not to damage social, cultural and environmental situations of the country.

The Ministry of Defence owned the park until 2012, and it was transferred to YCDC in 2012-2013 fiscal year.

Khin Maung Htwe, Win Win Maw

Daw Cho Cho Win
Deputy Director-General of Myanmar Investment Commission.——MNA
Security forces on right track to fight against illegal trade

**Pyithu Hluttaw**

Deputy Governor U Set Aung of the Central Bank Myanmar.—MNA

NAY PYI TAW, 3 June—Union Commerce Minister U Win Myint said on Wednesday the illegal trade control measures of mobile teams are being taken in collaboration with Myanmar Police Force, navy and Air Force.

MP U Than Myint of Salingyi Township constituency made a query about the government’s plans to enforce safety measures for the staff controlling illegal trade, and educative programmes to be aware of the danger of illegally imported food items.

The commerce minister said security measures for the members of mobile teams are being taken by 27 officers and 98 members of various ranks from MPF. He added that the ministry has promoting trade and awareness on food safety measures in states/regions in collaboration with the respective ministries.

Pyidaungsu Hluttaw suspends approval for bill amendment of Myanmar Mining Law

**Pyidaungsu Hluttaw**

Representatives of Pyidaungsu Hluttaw highlight bill amendment of Myanmar Mining Law and Condominium Bill.—MNA

NAY PYI TAW, 3 June—The Speaker of Pyidaungsu Hluttaw announced suspension to approve the bill amendment of Myanmar Mining Law at the 54th-day session of Pyidaungsu Hluttaw Wednesday.

The Joint Bill Committee submitted a report that the Condominium Bill was amended with 31 points and 17 points of some MPs. Their amendments may directly serve the interest of the people. Thus, the joint bill committee needs to take time for holding coordination to improve the bill.—MNA

Tax exemption on school bus imports concerned with Union government

**Amyotha Hluttaw**

Deputy Minister for Commerce Dr Pwint Hsain.—MNA

NAY PYI TAW, 3 June—Tax exemption on the import of school buses can only be allowed by the approval of Union government, said Deputy Minister for Commerce Dr Pwint Hsain to Amyotha Hluttaw on Wednesday.

MP Dr Myat Nyana Soe of Yangon region constituency 4 urged the Ministry of Commerce for tax exemption scheme for being used to send children to schools.

He also said there is no plan to prohibit private cars for being used to send children to schools.

The report said temporary national registration card holders are ineligible for voting rights and that the approval of Pyithu Hluttaw should be confirmed.

U Sai Paung Nap of Shan state constituency 12 and Daw Khin Waing Kyi of Yangon region constituency 1 suggested the bill on conservation of ancient buildings.

Information for Public Remonstration

1. Eastern Shan State Development Democratic Party, headquartered at No 1/A on Tachileik Road, Hokhon Block, Ward 3, Kengtung, Shan State, has submitted its application for the registration as a political party to the Union Election Commission on 3 June 2015 in accord with Section 3 of the Political Parties Registration Law, along with the following party’s name, flag and emblem.

2. It is hereby announced that those who want to remonstrate with the UEC about the party’s name, flag and emblem they may submit a complaint along with the strong evidence within seven days starting from issuance of this announcement in line with the Section 14 (d) of the Political Parties Registration Rules.

Flag of Eastern Shan State Development Democratic Party

**Amyotha Hluttaw**

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**Eastern Shan State Development Democratic Party**

Emblem of Eastern Shan State Development Democratic Party

**Union Election Commission**

**Republic of the Union of Myanmar**

Union Election Commission

Nay Pyi Taw Notification No.14/2015

2nd Waning Day of Nayon, 1377 ME

(3 June, 2015)

New Society Party allowed to register as political party

The Union Election Commission announced Wednesday that New Society Party headquartered at No. 106/208 at the corner of Myamna Gonyi and 91st streets in Mingala Taungnyunt Township, Yangon Region, has been allowed to register as a political party as of 3 June 2015 in line with Section 9 of the Political Parties Registration Law.

The party’s registration number is 85.

By order,

(Tin Tun)

Secretary

Union Election Commission

**Nay Pyi Taw**

Pyithu Hluttaw

Union Commerce Minister U Win Myint.—MNA

tries and other organizations by educating students and teachers, as well as school vendors to ensure food safety at schools.

MP U Than Win from Taungdwingyi constituency asked the impacts of exchange rate fluctuation on the country.

Deputy Governor U Set Aung of the Central Bank Myanmar said Myanmar has varieties of exchange rate, in addition to illegal exchange rate market as in other countries. He also added that currency rates in Myanmar and other countries have declined as the Federal Reserve Bank of the United States has increased its interest rate in 2014. He noted that the Central Bank of Myanmar is controlling local currency rate by addressing illegal monetary market.

Pyithu Hluttaw then approved the amendment bill on the Union Election Commission Law.—MNA

**Amyotha Hluttaw**

Deputy Minister for Commerce Dr Pwint Hsain.—MNA

NAY PYI TAW, 3 June—Tax exemption on the import of school buses can only be allowed by the approval of Union government, said Deputy Minister for Commerce Dr Pwint Hsain to Amyotha Hluttaw on Wednesday.

MP Dr Myat Nyana Soe, also the secretary of Amyotha Hluttaw Bill Committee, read out the report of Pyithu Hluttaw to Amyotha Hluttaw on the amendment bill on referendum law to modify the 2008 State constitution.

The report said temporary national registration card holders are ineligible for voting rights and that the approval of Pyithu Hluttaw should be confirmed.

U Sai Paung Nap of Shan state constituency 12 and Daw Khin Waing Kyi of Yangon region constituency 1 suggested the bill on conservation of ancient buildings.

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Flag of Eastern Shan State Development Democratic Party

**Union Election Commission**

**Eastern Shan State Development Democratic Party**

Emblem of Eastern Shan State Development Democratic Party

**Union Election Commission**
National & Int’l organizations urged to exercise great care to avoid creating misconceptions about Myanmar

NAY PYI TAW, 3 June—Speaker of the Pyidaungsu Hluttaw and the Pyithu Hluttaw Thura U Shwe Mann sent a letter to UN Secretary-General and UN Security Council Chairman Mr Ban Ki Moon dated 3 June 2015. The following is the full text of the letter.

The Republic of the Union of Myanmar
The Pyidaungsu Hluttaw
The Union Assembly

Yaza Htarni Road, Zabu Thiri Township,
Nay Pyi Taw, Myanmar

Tel.: +95 67501291
Fax: +95 67 591207
E-mail: ird.mnpmparliament@gmail.com

H.E. Ban Ki Moon
United Nations Security Council
New York
Your Excellency,

I would like to appeal to the Security Council of the United Nations to be just and fair in its pronouncements and actions with regard to Myanmar, which is in the process of implementing democratic reforms.

In addressing the issues of human trafficking and boat people, we would request that national and international organizations exercise great care to avoid creating misconceptions about our country and aggravating communal tensions and conflict. Keeping in mind the peace and security of the whole world, including Myanmar, the international community needs to adopt an objective and impartial approach.

In the interests of consolidating Myanmar’s endeavours to achieve democracy and peace, the country’s sovereignty and the characteristics of its nationalities should be kept in mind. May the United Nations Organization enhance its dignity and prestige through a positive approach that takes into consideration all facets of the situation.

May I assure you, Excellency of my highest consideration.

Sincerely,

H.E. Thura U Shwe Mann
Speaker of the Pyidaungsu Hluttaw and the Pyithu Hluttaw

Commander-in-Chief describes healthy, educated human resources as important to national development

Senior General Min Aung Hlaing views progress of construction tasks on Cocogyun Township.—Myawady

Vice-Senior General Soe Win meets Director of Directorate of Joint Intelligence of Thailand

Vice-Senior General Soe Win holds talks with Director of Directorate of Joint Intelligence Lieutenant General Seehanart Wongsa-raj of the Royal Thai Armed Forces.—Myawady

U Thit Linn Ohn presents his Credentials to Mongolian President

U Thit Linn Ohn presents his Credentials to Mongolian President

Daw Yin Yin Myint presents her Credentials to German President

Daw Yin Yin Myint presents her Credentials to German President

Vice-Senior General Soe Win holds talks with Director of Directorate of Joint Intelligence Lieutenant General Seehanart Wongsa-raj of the Royal Thai Armed Forces.—Myawady

The General Staff (Army), Hla Tun Oo of the office of the Commander-in-Chief (Army).—Myawady
Illegal goods incinerated in Muse

Muse, 3 June — A ceremony to incinerate illegally imported foodstuffs and other prohibited products was held in a paddy field in Swansaw Ward, Muse, northern Shan State, on 2 June.

A mobile team seized inappropriate foodstuffs, fertilizers, beer, soft drinks and personal goods worth K34 million.

Ko Mong (IPRD)

Course aims to improve standard of primary teaching

NAY PYI TAW, 3 June—More than 80 primary teachers completed a course Tuesday aimed at improving their classroom knowledge at Basic Education High School in Kyitaungkan Village, Pobbathiri Township, Nay Pyi Taw Council Area.

Ottara District Education Officer U Ba Tun presented certificates to the teachers following a speech by Nay Pyi Taw Council Area Education Officer U Soe Win.

Altogether 89 primary teachers attended the special course from 27 April to 2 June.

Shwe Ye Yin

Local farmers encouraged to grow poppy-alternative crops

MONGSHU, 3 June—As part of efforts to combat narcotic drugs, a ceremony to distribute seeds for poppy-alternative crops to local farmers was held at the hall of Township General Administration Department in Mongshu, Shan State, on 1 June.

Township departmental officials distributed seeds for Palethwe hybrid paddy, maize and sunflower, as well as 38,115 tea saplings to local farmers for cultivation season.

The attendees to the ceremony viewed magazines and photos displayed by Township Information and Public Relations Department in commemoration of the International Day against Drug Abuse and Illicit Trafficking.

Win Min Thant-
Township IPRD

Rainy season damage restricts buses on Kalewa-Yagyi Road

KALAY, 3 June—Poor road conditions have been hampering the movement of vehicles on Kalewa-Yagyi Road, a major thoroughfare for express buses, since the start of rainy season.

The road section between Metme and Kyaw villages has been damaged year after year in rainy season, forcing express buses onto Gangaw-Pontaung Ponnya Road.

Built in 2000, the 135-mile-long Kalewa-Yagyi-Monywa Road links western Sagaing Region and northern Chin State. The 23-mile-long Kalay-Kalewa road section was built as part of the India-Myanmar friendship road in 1997.

“The previous government built the Kalewa-Yagyi Road for development of Chin hill region and Kabaw plain. As the road will be connected with the ASEAN Highway and Asian Highway, (the government) should place emphasis on maintenance of the road,” a local resident said.

Linlet Kyel Sin

New bridge in Kyauktan Tsp nears completion

KYAUKTAN, 3 June — A bridge linking Nyaungwai and Panchaung villages across Hmaswun Creek in Kyauktan Township, Yangon South District, is nearing completion.

The 900-foot-long reinforced concrete bridge can withstand a 60-ton load. It is 90 feet wide and has a water clearance of 15 feet. The government has spent K4.4 billion on construction of the bridge.

Aung Swe (Shwe Tada)
Photographers get opportunity to show skills

Mandalay, 3 June — Photographers will have the opportunity to gain exposure for their work and win prize money in an upcoming competition in Mandalay.

The Café Inle Photo Contest 2015 was launched at a press conference at the café, with entries to be submitted by 12 September.

Selected photographers will be in the running for cash prizes including K500,000 for the winner.

Tin Maung (Mandalay)

Billboards erected in anti-drug campaign

Mandalay, 3 June — Signboards warning of the dangers of narcotics were erected on 1 and 2 June to coincide with the International Day against Drug Abuse and Illicit Trafficking in Aungmyethazan Township.

Authorities and local people erected posters in Nyaunggwe, Minte Ekin, Thiri Marlar, Thiri Mandalay bus terminal and Pathingyi township.

The ceremonies were attended by Commander of Mandalay District Police Force Police Li-Col Sem Tun, Police Major DD Yaw Han of No 17 Anti-Drug Police Squad, Commander of Township Police Force Police Major Ko Ko Latt and officials.

Tin Maung (Mandalay)

Bronze bell placed in precinct of Shwetaungsar Pagoda in Dawei

Dawei, 3 June — A 12-foot-high bronze bell was placed in the grounds of the Shwetaungsar Pagoda in Dawei, Taninthayi Region, after being transported from a foundry in Mandalay.

A heavy machinery team from Thailand fixed the bell, named Maha Wizaya Khemathitala Neikbutagawtha, in position a day after it was paraded around villages and wards in Dawei Township.

The bell, decorated with a Lawkanat statue and traditional Myanmar handicrafts, resembles the bell of King Thayawady from the platform of Shwedagon Pagoda in Yangon.

Po Shwe Thun (Dawei)

Football tournament puts spotlight on emerging players

Mandalay, 3 June — An inter-club tournament bringing together 36 teams from across Mandalay Region kicked off Tuesday at Bahtoo Stadium.

The Thanlwin Myanmar Cup men’s tournament, organized by the Mandalay Region Football Subcommittee, aims to identify emerging local players.

The clubs from Mandalay, Amarapura, PyinOolwin and Madaya townships will play matches at Shwemantaung, Aungmyay Mandalay and Bahtoo stadiums in Mandalay.

Ahmar-1 trounced Angry Boys 12-0 in the opening match of the tournament. First-round matches will continue until 19 June.

Tin Maung (Mandalay)

Seven Myanmar golfers to take part in SEA Games

Yangon, 3 June — Myanmar Golf Federation has selected four men and three women golfers for taking part in the 28th SEA Games to be hosted by Singapore.

The golf tournament in the SEA Games will be held from 9 to 12 June. Myanmar golfers will participate in the tournament in groups and individuals.

Myanmar golfer team is constituted with Maung Maung Oo, Sithu Ye Yint, Phone Pyae Chan Han, Hein Sithu, Yin May Myo, May Oo Khaung and Phu Pwint Yati Khaing.—GNLM
**Regional**

**Singapore offers Indonesia aid to combat transboundary haze**

**Singapore, 3 June** — Singapore is renewing its offer of assistance to Indonesia to fight against land and forest fires which could lead to transboundary haze, the Ministry of the Environment and Water Resources said on Wednesday.

In the new package, Singapore will deploy one C-130 aircraft for cloud seeding operations; up to two C-130 aircraft to ferry a fire-fighting assistance team from the Singapore Civil Defence Force (SCDF); a team from SCDF to provide assessment and planning assistance to Indonesian counterparts in their fire-fighting efforts as well as a Chinook helicopter with one SCDF water bucket for aerial fire-fighting.

The new package is the same as last year, local media said.

The Ministry of the Environment and Water Resources said the government has been offering assistance packages to the Indonesian government from June to October since 2005 to work with its neighbours to fight against possible land and forest fires, adding that the El Nino phenomenon this year may cause drier weather, which could exacerbate the impact of transboundary haze.

Singapore has been suffering from transboundary haze for decades, with the city-state’s air pollution index soared to a record high in June 2013. The haze was mainly caused by forest fires in neighbouring Indonesia.

To combat the air pollution, Singapore has rolled out the Transboundary Haze Pollution Bill last year, saying that companies that cause haze in Singapore by setting fires on their land will face a maximum fine of up to 2 million Singapore dollars (1.61 million US dollars).—Xinhua

**Beijing’s largest coal-fired boiler house retired**

**Beijing, 3 June** — The largest coal-fired boiler house in urban Beijing was shut down on Tuesday, as part of the government’s plan to cut pollution in the capital city.

The boiler house, which has four boilers with a total capacity of 80 tons of vapor per hour, accounts for over a fifth of the total coal-fired boiler capacity in urban Beijing and provides heating for a rail equipment manufacturing company and 20,000 local residents.

The boiler house, located near the famous Marco Polo bridge in Fentang District, will be replaced with three gas-fired boilers before November, when the city’s centrally controlled heating is turned on for the winter.

**Indonesia raises volcano status to top alert over increasing activity**

**Jakarta, 3 June** — Indonesian authorities have raised the alert status of a volcano on Sumatra Island to the highest level due to its increasing activity that may lead to a major eruption, the country’s volcanology agency said on Wednesday.

In a Press statement, the Volcanology and Geological Disaster Mitigation Agency based in the West Java provincial capital of Bandung said that in the past two days, the activity of Mt Sinabung in North Sumatra Province has continued to increase drastically.

The agency said the lava dome has reached more than 3 million cubic metres in volume and has been unstable. “The continuous growth of the lava dome will potentially cause lava flows and hot clouds that threaten the southern and southeastern areas on the slopes of the volcano,” it said.

“Based on visual monitoring and potential danger of Mt. Sinabung, the status of the volcano has been raised from Level 3 to Level 4 from 18:31 pm on Tuesday,” it added.

In a related development, Suropto Purwo Nugroho, a spokesman of the Jakarta-based National Disaster Mitigation Agency, said the agency has recommended the evacuation of residents living within a radius of 7 kilometres from the dome and the relocation of those living in seven villages on the slopes of the volcano.

Suropo said coordination has been done with related institutions to deal with possible situations that may happen if the volcano erupts.

The 2,460-metre volcano has continuously erupted since September 2013. In February 2014, 16 people were killed from an eruption just after evacuated residents had been allowed to return home due to decreasing scope of eruption.

**Cambodian king awarded honorary title by Japanese Buddhist sect**

**Phnom Penh, 3 June** — Cambodian King Norodom Sihamoni on Wednesday was given an honorary title by a Japanese Buddhist sect for his efforts in spreading Buddhism in the world.

The awarding ceremony was held in Cambodia’s Royal Palace by Nebutatsu- sha Buddhist Sect of Japan in the presence of Buddhist monk leaders from Cambod, Japan, Mongolia and Singapore.

The certificate of the honorary title signed by sect founding priest Kyuse Enshinoh called King Sihamoni a devout Buddhist who is admired for his propagation of Buddhism.

“His Majesty with the heart of high integrity is the ideal for all Buddhists in the world. In this 21st century, the period full of confusion, His Majesty is and will be a great torch of hope, brightly illuminating the way to propagate Buddhism, the religion that brings true peace to the world,” it said.

The ceremony included a parade in front of the Royal Palace by thousands of people including Budhhist monks, government officials, civil servants and leaders from the internation title certificate was displayed on a golden bird-shaped float.

The award was presented less than a year after King Sihamoni attended the sixth World Buddhist Summit in Japan in December last year.

Speaking at the ceremony, the king called Buddhism “a right guidance that brings all of us to live in serenity, happiness, peace, and progress.” Some 90 percent of Cambodia’s 15 million people are Buddhists.

**CARICOM, India meet to further cooperation**

**Kingston, 3 June** — The regional bloc the Caribbean Community (CARICOM) and India held a meeting in Georgetown, Guyana on Tuesday to further their collaboration under a joint commission.

The CARICOM-India Joint Commission is a mechanism for dialogue between the two parties to enhance cooperation in the political, economic, environmental, health, scientific and technical areas.

Though the agreement to initiate the commission was signed in 2003, the two sides had never met under the mechanism over the past 12 years.

In his opening remarks, India’s Vice Foreign Minister Ramachandran Swaminathan praised the longstanding relationship between his country and the CARI-

COM, saying ties have been strengthened by mutually beneficial co-operation agreements and cricket. CARICOM Secretary-General Irwin LaRocque said that India was an important partner for the Caribbean states and has well established its presence in the region. “This meeting allows us to exchange views and to enhance bilateral collaboration in various fields and issues on the international stage. It will further the scope of collaboration and also pave the way for regular political exchang-

es at a higher level,” he said.

He also said he wants the CARICOM and India to work together on climate change, and expressed his sympathy over the death of more than 2,000 Indians as a result of unusual heat wave.—Xinhua
Japanese Diet enacts law to fully privatize JR Kyushu

Tokyo, 3 June — Japan’s Diet on Wednesday enacted a law to fully privatize Kyushu Railway Co that serves Japan’s southwestern main island.

The government is considering listing the stock of JR Kyushu, known as JR Kyushu, that serves the country’s southwestern main island, in fiscal 2016 starting in April next year.

JR Kyushu, which operates the Kyushu Shinkansen bullet train service, will be the fourth JR group company to be fully privatized following East Japan Railway Co, Central Japan Railway Co, known as JR Central, and West Japan Railway Co or JR West.

Under the revised law, JR Kyushu is allowed to use some 387.7 billion yen ($3.1 billion) in management stabilization funds previously received from the government.

The funds will be used for such purposes as payment of facility usage fees for the Kyushu Shinkansen and repayment of borrowings.

The revised law also allows JR Kyushu not to seek government approval of its business plans, the selection of executives and long-term loans from financial institutions.

S Korea fires ballistic missile capable of hitting entire N Korea

Seoul, 3 June — South Korean President Park Geun-hye on Wednesday watched the flight test of a guided ballistic missile capable of striking anywhere in North Korea, according to South Korea’s presidential office.

“The Agency for Defense Development technically proved through this flight test the improved capability of a ballistic missile capable of swiftly striking any place in the entire North Korea with accuracy in case of North Korea’s military attack or provocation,” it said in a statement.

The flight test was held at Taean, South Chungcheong Province, on South Korea’s west coast.

The statement did not provide details on the flight test, but domestic media reported the missile has a range of at least 500 kilometres. In recent years, North Korea has heightened tensions in the region with ballistic missile tests and rocket launches. North Korea said last month that its long-range missiles have now acquired the highest accuracy and that it already succeeded in miniaturizing nuclear warheads.

On 9 May, North Korea announced for the first time that it had successfully test-fired a ballistic missile from a submarine, saying the missile was a newly developed one.

Korea refuses to rejoin 6-party nuclear talks

Seoul, 3 June — North Korea has refused to rejoin the long-stalled six-party talks aimed at achieving its denuclearization, South Korean media reported on Wednesday, citing a German-North Korean friendship association, said in an interview with Yonhap News Agency on Tuesday.

“North Korean officials mainly cited the US’ attitude as the reason and said they would not sit at the table for six-party talks,” Hartmut Koschyk, head of the German-North Korean friendship association, said in an interview with Yonhap News Agency on Tuesday.

He visited North Korea for five days through Monday before coming to South Korea on a tour of Asia. In Pyongyang, Koschyk met with top North Korean officials, including Kim Jong Nam, president of the Presidium of the Supreme People’s Assembly, and Vice Foreign Minister Kung Sok Ung.

In our meetings with them, we got the impression that we are faced with a firm position,” he was quoted as saying.

Relatives, politicians call on Iran to free detained Americans

Washington, 3 June — A senior US congressman on Tuesday accused the Iranian government of spitting in America’s face by holding US citizens while negotiating an end to sanctions in return for curbing its nuclear programme.

At a House of Representatives committee hearing, relatives of three detained Americans, Saeed Abedini, Amir Hekmati and Washington Post reporter Jason Rezaian, said they should not be forgotten in the effort to seal a nuclear deal with Iran by a 30 June deadline.

The House Foreign Affairs Committee passed a resolution calling on Iran to immediately release the three and to provide information about Robert Levinson, an American missing in Iran since 2007. Committee Chairman Ed Royce, a Republican, said the detentions showed Iran’s “contempt” for the United States.

“If top Iranian officials cannot be counted on to assist these wrongfully jailed Americans, can they be counted on to honour the commitments they make at the negotiating table?” he asked.

Eliot Engel, the senior committee Democrat, said that while the cases should not be tied in with the nuclear talks, it would be “illicit and outrageous” to have a deal with Iran that did not include freeing the Americans.

“I feel so angry that at a time when we are sitting with Iran ... to discuss a new arrangement between our two countries ... they continue to poke us in the eye and continue to spout in our face,” Engel said.

This was especially so given what he called the ongoing “show trial” on espionage charges the Washington Post’s Jason Rezaian, he said.

Sarah Hekmati, whose brother Amir, a former US Marine, was arrested in August 2011 while visiting his grandmother in Teheran, said her father was suffering from terminal brain cancer and had several strokes in the last year.

“It’s our father holding on hoping to hold Amir in his arms again, but fearful that he will not,” she said. Amir Hekmati was convicted of spying for the CIA when he disappeared in 2007 from Kish Island, an Iranian resort in the Gulf. Abedini, an Iranian-American Christian pastor, was sentenced to eight years in prison in 2013 on charges of underming Iran’s national security by setting up home-based Christian churches in Iran.

Iranian-American Amir Mirza Hekmati, who has been sentenced to death by Iran’s Revolutionary Court on charge of spying for the CIA, stands with Iraqi soldiers in this undated still image taken from video in an undisclosed location made available to Reuters TV on 9 Jan, 2012.— Reuters

“Out father holds on hoping to hold Amir in his arms again, but fearful that he will not,” she said. Amir Hekmati was convicted of spying for the CIA when he disappeared in 2007 from Kish Island, an Iranian resort in the Gulf. Abedini, an Iranian-American Christian pastor, was sentenced to eight years in prison in 2013 on charges of undermining Iran’s national security by setting up home-based Christian churches in Iran.

Tokyo, 3 June — Tokyo police served a 40-year-old man with a fresh arrest warrant on Wednesday on suspicion of illegally modifying warning flares mounted on a drone which he flew onto the roof of the prime minister’s office in April.

The man, Yasuo Yamamoto, was earlier indicted on a charge of obstructing work at the prime minister’s office over the drone incident.

Yamamoto, a former Air Self-Defense Force member, is alleged to have maneuvered the drone during predawn hours on 9 April to the roof. The drone was found on 22 April before he turned himself in to police on 24 April. He was indicted on 15 May.

The drone was mounted with two modified warning flares as well as a small camera and a plastic container including sand contaminated with radioactive cesium, according to the police.

The warning flares had no trace of having been fired.—Kyodo News

N Korea suffers from sanctions

Current and former US officials have acknowledged that Levinson was a source for the CIA.

In undated meetings with them, we got the impression that we are faced with a firm position,” he was quoted as saying.

“Out father holds on hoping to hold Amir in his arms again, but fearful that he will not,” she said. Amir Hekmati was convicted of spying for the CIA when he disappeared in 2007 from Kish Island, an Iranian resort in the Gulf. Abedini, an Iranian-American Christian pastor, was sentenced to eight years in prison in 2013 on charges of underming Iran’s national security by setting up home-based Christian churches in Iran.

Reuters
Nurturing the Young

Nurturing the young is as universal as the domain of the living creatures that bring their off-springs into the world to inhabit it for their lifetime. The beasts of the forest, the birds of the air, the reptiles of the swamps, the fishes of the waters, the creatures of the sea all nurture their young so that they may mature and multiply and carry on their lineage to serve nature’s purpose till their demise.

The lions in the wild, most ferocious of the beasts, roam in pride, care for their cubs, guard them against enemies and while young, teach them the arts of survival till they can go out and fend for themselves. The birds of the air, keep their eggs in their nests warm till they hatch, bring food to their chicks, protect them from the predators and harm, watch them grow, till on their own they can fly away.

The reptiles in their habitat lay their eggs, make sure they are safe from the predators and when the young emerge are not exposed to harm in their search for food and the quest for survival.

The fishes in the water, hatch their eggs in the watery environment promoting the survival of the fin-gerlings, keep them together from harm, lead them to their food source and ensure their survival till they can be on their own.

The giants of the sea, the huge fishes and mammals, all in their own way nurture their young so that their lineage may survive the predators and the vagaries of nature till the young can hold their own.

Why then some people, when a child is of school age deprive him/her of education that he/she needs for his/her future well being? Some make their children work purportedly because of poverty, thus depriving the right of the child to at least a basic education. In a way the employers of children also deprive adults, of employment opportunities to an extent.

The Government, since it was formed in 2011, has been undertaking extensive measures to reduce poverty and is now also providing free basic education for all. So parents, teachers and members of the community should cooperate to ensure that children are not deprived of their right to education.

Lokethar

The editorial titled “Nationalism is an infantile disease” on the 30th May, 2015, gave me a terrible shock and an impulse to write this letter. Nationalism means patritotic feeling, not doubt. The President of America, Mr Woodrow Wilson once called it self-determination. It is true that the leaders or politicians of Myanmar aroused national consciousness in our people of yore in the struggle for independence, as you put it.

Have a look at our world history the age of nationalism originated in the 17th or 18th Centuries to the best of my knowledge. Then, the people identified with national ideas and shaped the national character in a process of constant interaction. Nationalism presents itself a great diversity of forms and aspirations but the same name does not imply the same values and attitude. For this account, a multi-national state, like Myanmar, the role of nationality not only plays to limit the absolutism but to defend self-government. Here, I can’t make out why you only highlight the dangerous side of nationalism and fail to recognize the advantages of nationalism. Indeed, nationalization, the strongest force, should be set at work for the welfare of mankind and the development of our nation along with the practice of tolerance and coexistence.

Yours truly
Maung Shin (Shwe Myaing)
Foresters forecast impacts of climate change

NAY PYI TAW, 3 June—Climate change causes bad impact on ASEAN counties, especially in coastal areas and hilly regions, Union Minister for Environmental Conservation and Forestry U Win Tun told the opening ceremony of the 6th ASEAN Social Forestry Network (ASFN) in Inlay Khaungdaing, Shan State, recently.

The conference aims to reduce impacts of climate change and ensure longevity of land, forest, water and marine products so as to develop food sufficiency of the global people, he said.

The 6th conference runs till 3 June, followed by the 9th annual meeting on 4 and 5 June. After the opening ceremony, the union minister met Global CC advisor Dr Jurgen Blaser, RECOFTC-AS FCC director Dr Tint Lwin Thaung, Head of ASFN Secretariat Ms Sagita Arhidani and Senior Advisor AS FCC Dr Doris Capistrano to discuss matters related to ASEAN Social Forestry Network.

Union minister views thriving organic vegetable plants

NAY PYI TAW, 3 June—Organic vegetables and crops are being cultivated on a 900-acre farm in Ottarathiri Township for serving fresh and hygienic foods to the delegates of the 7th CLMV Summit and the 7th ACMECS Meeting to be hosted by Myanmar.

On Tuesday morning, Union Minister for Agriculture and Irrigation U Myint Hlaing inspected thriving vegetables and seasonal crop plantations, and organic vegetables and fruit showroom.

He viewed processing of Seintalon mango for export by Myanmar Shwe Fruits Company at the 500-ton modern cold storage of Myanmar New Ayeyar Company.

Union Minister for Environmental Conservation and Forestry U Win Tun speaking at 6th ASEAN Social Forestry Network (ASFN).—MNA

MODEL LEADERSHIP...

(from page 8)

“Prior Planning Plus Preparations Promote Peak Performance.”

Good leadership always strives for perfection. A leadership worth its salt is never satisfied with mediocrity. A superior leadership usually follows:

KAIZEN: Continuous Quality Improvement. Kaizen also means: Everybody can improve anything at any time.

DANTOSU: You Can Better The Best.

TOTAL QUALITY LEADERSHIP

• Personal & Professional Development
• Interpersonal Development
• Operational Efficiency
• Managerial Effectiveness
• Organizational Productivity.

PRODUCTIVITY & INNOVATION

Productivity means: The rate at which goods are produced, and the amount produced, compared with the work, time and money needed to produce them. It can be stated as:

\[
\frac{\text{Output}}{\text{Input}} = \text{Productivity}
\]

INNOVATION

Innovation means: A new, better or different idea, method or process, or invention. Innovation also means: Creativity, which includes invention, is only the starting point for innovation, a necessary but not sufficient condition for it. The business of innovation needs to be managed all the way from the creative inspiration through to a launch-able product or service. Innovation is not restricted to products and services. It might be internal to business, in the form of new and more effective organizational structures or processes. It could be a new way of marketing or distribution. Innovation must lead to greater, better, faster, more economical or more sustainable RESULTS.

POETIC

It means leaders should be good at POETIC in the following ways:

• P for Persuading
• O for Organizing
• E for Enabling
• T for Teaching
• I for Inspiring
• C for Caring

PLANNING, PLOTTING, PLOYING, PREVAILING, PROFITING

Planning means: setting goals and objectives against the available resources with a deadline or deadlines

Plotting means: Programming the effective steps to be taken to achieve an objective

Ploying means: Devising a clever method of getting an advantage

Prevailing here means Winning in the competition

Profiting means: Gaining growth, progress and prosperity

CONCLUSION

There are FOUR FACTORS OF SUCCESS IN WAR OR COMPETITION, viz, 3

• The quality and capability of the leader
• The quality and capability of the followers
• Morale
• Resources

In war or competition, it is very important for the leadership to creatively follow the following Eight Principles of War or Competition:

• The Principle of Objective
• The Principle of Concentration
• The Principle of Offensive
• The Principle of Cooperation
• The Principle of Economy of Force
• The Principle of Security
• The Principle of Surprise
• The Principle of Mobility

It is also essential for the leadership to creatively deploy the following guerrilla tactics:

• Enemy Advance: We Retreat
• Enemy Camp: We Harass
• Enemy TRO: We Attack
• Enemy Retreat: We Pursue

Superior Leadership means All Ends Well That Ends Well.
Labour should run own pro-EU campaign

Labour Party leadership contender Andy Burnham

London, 3 June — The Labour Party should run its own campaign to persuade Britons to remain inside the European Union, lawmaker Andy Burnham, front-runner to become the party’s new leader, said on Wednesday.

After securing an outright parliamentary election win in May, Conservative Prime Minister David Cameron plans to renegotiate Britain’s relationship with Europe before putting its membership of the 28-country bloc to a public vote before the end of 2017.

Cameron has said he wants to stay within a reformed EU, but has not ruled out campaigning for an exit if renegotiation does not yield the changes he wants.

Burnham is most bookmakers’ favourite to succeed Ed Miliband, who resigned after Labour’s election defeat. On Wednesday he said the party should run its own ‘Yes’ campaign rather than a joint campaign with others.

“It is my intention to have a separate ‘Labour Yes’ campaign,” Burnham said in remarks released by his office. “Even though Labour is in a leadership campaign, I am not going to let the EU debate be defined by David Cameron.”

Burnham said it was necessary to heed the lessons of last year’s Scottish independence referendum, when Labour joined forces with the Conservatives and Liberal Democrats to campaign against Scotland becoming an independent country.

The decision to campaign alongside other parties alienated some of Labour’s core voters in Scotland and is seen as a factor behind the rise of the Scottish National Party, which took 50 previously Labour-held seats at the election.

Labour is due to announce its new leader on 12 September.— Reuters

Serbian prime minister confers with US managers

Serbian Prime Minister Aleksandar Vucic

Washington / Belgrade, 3 June — Serbian Prime Minister Aleksandar Vucic stated after Tuesday’s meetings with managers of several US companies that their interest in investing contributes to the acceleration of Serbia’s EU integration process and greater political support of the US.

The prime minister conferred with representatives of General Electric on cooperation in the fields of energy, health care, transport and airline industry, reads a statement issued by the Serbian government’s press office.

Karan Bhatta, General Electric vice president in charge of international relations, said that the company is open for new investments in Serbia.

General Electric will be organizing “Sourcing Day” in Serbia on 11 June in cooperation with the Chamber of Commerce and the Serbian parliament so as to look into the possibilities of launching production in Serbia and including Serbian producers into the chain of General Electric companies, Bhatta said.

The Serbian prime minister also met with managers of ITI and NCR, representatives of Freepoint-McMoran who informed him about the progress of the Cukaru Peki project of exploitation of copper and gold from the city of Bor, eastern Serbia. Richard Levellie, the company’s vice president for global exploration, underlined that the company wants to give an example of a successful foreign investment in Serbia.—Tanjug

Obama signs bill reforming surveillance programme

WASHINGTON, 3 June — President Barack Obama signed into law on Tuesday legislation passed by the House and the Senate earlier in the day reforming a government surveillance programme that swept up millions of Americans’ telephone records.

Reversing security policy in place since shortly after the 11 September, 2001 attacks, the bill ends a system exposed by former National Security Agency contractor Edward Snowden. The spy agency collected and searched records of phone calls looking for terrorism leads but was not allowed to listen to their content.

Passage of the USA Freedom Act, the result of an alliance between Senate Democrats and some of the chamber’s most conservative Republicans, was a victory for Obama, a Democrat, and a setback for Senate Republican Majority Leader Mitch McConnell.

After the Senate voted 67-32 on Tuesday to give the bill final congressional approval to the bill, Obama used his Twitter account, @POTUS, to say he was glad it had passed. “I’ll sign it as soon as I get it,” the tweet said.

Before voting, senators defeated three amendments proposed by Republican leaders after they reversed themselves and ended efforts to block it. The House of Representatives passed the measure overwhelmingly last month.

In the end, 23 Senate Republicans voted for the freedom Act, joining 106 who backed it in the House. In a rift between Republicans, House leaders had warned that amendments proposed by McConnell would be a “challenge” for the House that could delay the bill.

A federal appeals court on 7 May ruled the collection of “metadata” illegal.

The new law would require companies such as Verizon Communications Inc and AT&T Inc, to collect and store telephone records the same way that they do now for billing purposes.

But instead of routine feeding US intelligence agencies such data, the companies would be required to turn it over in only response to a government request approved by the secret Foreign Intelligence Surveillance Court.

The Freedom Act is the first major legislative reform of US military lab. US Today reported on Monday, following disclosures last week that samples of the bacteria were mistakenly sent to 11 US states and two other countries.

The newspaper cited two Defence Department officials as saying the samples sent to Canada came from the Dugway Proving Ground in Utah, where the other samples appear to trace back to as well. It is one of the US military labs responsible for inactivation and shipping of biological material.— Reuters

Greece will not pay IMF on Friday without prospect of a deal — lawmaker

ATHENS, 3 June — Greece will not make a 5 June repayment to the International Monetary Fund if there is no prospect of an aid-for-reforms deal with its international creditors soon, the spokesman for the ruling Syriza party said on Wednesday.

The payment of 300 million euros ($218 million pounds) is the first of four this month totalling 1.6 billion euros from a country that depends on foreign aid to stay afloat.

Syriza owes a total of about 320 billion euros, of which about 65 percent is owed to euro zone governments and the IMF, about 8.7 percent to the European Central Bank.

On Tuesday, Greece’s creditors drafted the broad outlines of an agreement to put to the leftist government in Athens in a bid to conclude four months of negotiations and release aid before the country runs out of money.

“If there is no prospect of a deal by Friday or Monday, I don’t know by when exactly, we will not pay,” Nikos Filis told Mega TV.

Greek Prime Minister Alexis Tsipras heads to Brussels on Wednesday to meet European Commission President Jean-Claude Juncker.

Tsipras, who has vowed not to surrender to more austerity, tried to preempt a take-it-or-leave-it offer by the creditors, sending what he called a comprehensive reform proposal to Brussels on Monday.

A Syriza European Parliament lawmaker said the government’s 47-page proposal would be a good basis for discussion at a meeting of euro zone deputy finance ministers in the so-called EuroWorking Group which would convene on Wednesday.

“I think the lenders show the same realism that the Greek government and the Greek Prime Minister is showing, then we can have a deal in principle by Friday or before Friday,” Dimitris Papadimoulis told Antenna TV.

He said this could turn into a comprehensive deal next week.

“But right now there is no deal, there is convergence,” he said.

Deputy social security minister Dimitris Stratoulis said a deal with lenders would have to respect the government’s commitments. “The agreement will either be compatible with Syriza’s policy pledges, the core, or there will not be a deal;” he told Antenna TV.
Syrian insurgent advances put Assad under pressure

A rebel fighter stands with his weapon at a building after what activists said were clashes with Islamic State fighters in Soran, Azaz, Aleppo countryside on 1 June, 2015. — Reuters

BEIRUT, 3 June — Steady advances by insurgents on key fronts in Syria mean President Bashar al-Assad is under more military pressure than at any point in the four-year-old war. Losses in the north, east and south to groups including al-Qaeda’s Syrian and Islamic State may test Assad’s hold over western parts of the country that are the most crucial to his survival.

After his loss of Palmyra, a symbolic and militarily strategic city, and nearly all of Idlib Province, he appears to be circling his wagons more closely to a western region that includes Damascus, Homs, Hama and the coast.

Sources familiar with the thinking in Damascus acknowledge that pressure is growing but say the government is confident the army can defend crucial territory with the help of its allies.

Assad still controls areas in more far-flung parts of Syria, but these are dwindling in number. His decision to maintain forces in places such as in Deir al-Zor, Hasaka and Aleppo suggests he still wants to preserve a nationwide presence, rejecting Syria’s de facto partition.

So similar is the government’s thinking say Assad is confident about standing his ground: extra support is expected from Iran, his strongest ally, which said on Tuesday it would continue to stand by Syria. The Lebanese militia, which is backed by Iran, is more widely deployed in Syria than ever.

And Assad still believes his forces will eventually rehabilitate him as a partner in the fight against Islamic State — a shift that shows no sign of happening but which he thinks is inevitable given the risk of a full jihadist takeover.

“The summer will be tough on the ground, but red lines will not be breached,” said one source familiar with the thinking in Damascus, declining to be named because he was discussing private conversations with Syrian officials. Assad has survived such pressure before, notably at the end of 2012 when the insurgents’ advance near Damascus was near collapse. But the difference now is that the insurgents have grown in strength while government forces have been weakened after more than four years of fighting.

Assad has also lost Iraq’s support when he was fighting alongside Syrian forces. They went home to fight Islamic State after it captured Mosul and other Iraqi cities last June.

The sudden advances also added to the military pressures facing Iran both in Syria and Iraq.

Insurgent groups in the north and south of Syria have emerged as the war’s most dynamic force in the past two months. They are better organized and armed than before and are believed to have received new support from Assad’s regional enemies.

“Clearly the trends right now are working against the regime, but it appears the regime’s backers — and Iran in particular — may test Assad’s hold over all of Syria until the very end.”

Lebanon’s As-Safir newspaper on Tuesday said the government was seeking to maintain as much of its geographic reach as it can.

“It is too early to tell what such an escalation could achieve,” he said. “The regime’s opponents are attempting to maintain as much of its geographic reach as it can.”

Palestinian NGO denies Hamas ties, threatens Israel with legal action

UNITED NATIONS, 3 June — The British-based Palestinian Return Centre on Tuesday threatened Israel’s UN mission with legal action after the Jewish state accused it of having ties to the Palestinian militant group Hamas, an allegation the group said was false.

The Israeli accusations came after a United Nations committee that oversees non-governmental organizations voted to approve UN accreditation for the PRC, which Israel’s mission said was not only linked to Hamas but promoted “anti-Israel propaganda in Europe.”

“We announce that PRC is considering legal action against the Israeli delegation at the UN,” the group said in a statement circulated to the 19-member UN Committee on Non-Governmental Organizations. “Such allegations and defamation are described as terrorist and affiliated to Hamas are dangerous, baseless and will have negative ramifications on our work and members,” the group added.

On Monday, the mission said Israel had banned the PRC in 2010 because of its recognition by the UN as a “victim of aggression” under Article 33 of the UN charter. The PRC said it would appeal the decision.

The PRC is a non-governmental organization accredited to the United Nations.

CAIRO, 3 June — The 2003 US invasion of Iraq was a main reason for the expansion of the Islamic State (IS) militant group as well as the general chaotic situation in the Middle East region, said Egyptian political experts.

On Tuesday, the 24-nation, US-led coalition against IS held a summit in Paris to see how to help Iraq to take on the militant group after the fall of strategic city of Ramadi and the IS alarming expansion in the region.

Talking to reporters ahead of the meeting, Iraqi Prime Minister Haider al-Abadi lamented that Iraq is now getting “torn asunder.”

The PRC said it would soon send an official letter to protest to UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon and the 54 member states of the UN Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC), which has final say on NGO-related matters.

28 paramilitaries killed in car bombings in Iraq’s Baiji

TIKRIT, (Iraq), 3 June — Car bomb attacks killed at least 28 government-backed militiamen and wounded 36 others in Iraq on Tuesday, a security source said.

The casualties were inflicted by four suicide car bomb attacks on the edge of the IS-held town of Baiji in Iraq’s northern central province of Salaheddin.

The suicide attacks occurred on the edge of Baiji, some 200 km north of the Iraqi capital Baghdad, as the Iraqi security forces and allied militias, known as Hashd Shafti, or Popular Mobilization, were advancing to recapture the IS-seized town, the source said on condition of anonymity.

The powerful blasts stopped the advance of the troops and allied militias, while heavy clashes continued, the source said.

The battles in Baiji came after the town’s mayor, Mohammed Hammed, told Xinhua on Tuesday that the troops freed several villages outside the town and were preparing to launch an offensive to recapture it.

Since 2 March, some 30,000 Iraqi troops and thousands of Shi’ite militiamen and Sunni militias have involved in Iraq’s biggest offensive to recapture the northern part of Salaheddin Province, including Tikrit and other key towns and villages, from IS militants.

The security situation in the town has drastically deteriorated since last June, when bloody clashes broke out between Iraqi security forces and IS militants.
Congratulations!

Our sincere congratulations to

U Aung Ko Win,
Patron of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar Federation of Chambers of Commerce and Industry and also Chairman of Kanbawza Bank Ltd.,
on his achievements of President’s Award for Excellent Performance and President’s Special Honorary Awards for Excellent Performance as the three-time winner of Highest Taxpayer Award of the country for three consecutive years.

In the time of the new government, he was recognized as the three-time winner of Highest Taxpayer Award for paying

K 6,015,397 million in income tax in 2011-2012 fiscal year,
K 10,827,70 million in 2012-2013 FY, and
K 17,010,37 million in 2013-2014 FY.

Our dearest wishes are to witness your greater contributions to the interests of the country than ever before.

Chairman and Board of Directors

Congratulations!

Our sincere congratulations to

Daw Nang Lang Kham,
Chairperson of Brighter Future Myanmar Foundation of Kanbawza Group of Companies
who has been awarded President’s Awards for Excellent Performance (Best Philanthropic Organization Award), for her donations of over K 64 billion in various sectors in five years after 2010 in the time of the new government.

Her generous donations were to

- disaster-hit areas across the country,
- the efforts to bring back home over 3,000 Myanmar citizens who faced social hardship in Malaysia, over 270 Myanmar fishermen who stranded in Port Blair, India, for various reasons, in 2013 and 2014, and about 500 Myanmar fishermen who were forcibly enslaved in human trafficking in Benjina Island, Indonesia, on 14, 17, 18 and 22 May 2015, and
- noble deeds such as digging tube wells in the townships of Taunggyi, Heho, Aungban, Kalaw, Pintaya, Hopone, Nansam and Bawsai in southern Shan State for local people to have easy access to clean water, in addition to the construction of roads and hospitals.

We would like to congratulate Daw Nang Lang Kham, Chairperson of Brighter Future Myanmar Foundation of Kanbawza Group of Companies, who has achieved President’s Awards for Excellent Performance (Best Philanthropic Organization Award), which she accepted in Nay Pyi Taw on 15 May 2015, for her generous contributions to various sectors including religion, education, health, social activities, sports, internally displaced persons and people living in disaster-hit areas, all of which are aimed at the betterment of the society and the development of the country as a whole.

Chairman and Board of Directors
Liquefied stimulant drugs shipped to Japan disguised as sesame oil

Tokyo, 3 June — Around 8 kilograms of liquefied stimulant drugs were found hidden in 40 bottles of hot sesame oil shipped by air to Japan from Hong Kong last September, police said on Wednesday.

The liquefied drugs were dyed red, similar to the colour of hot sesame oil, and shipped by express mail to Nara International Airport near Tokyo. When synthesized into powder, they have a street value of 700 million yen ($5.6 million), the police said.

Police have searched a Taiwanese restaurant in Tokyo’s Shinjuku Ward, which was the shipping address, among other places.

They also arrested a 59-year-old Chinese man, Zhang Kai, for allegedly producing some 190 grams of stimulant drugs at his home in Shinjuku between February 2012 and last November, and suspect his involvement in the smuggling of the liquefied stimulants.

Police said they confiscated a manual for manufacturing drugs from his home. Zhang has denied producing drugs, they said.—Kyodo News
REQUEST FOR EXPRESSIONS OF INTEREST (CONSULTING SERVICES—Individual Consultant)

The Republic of the Union of Myanmar

Myanmar Electric Power Project

Credit No.: 5306-MM

Assignment Title: International Financial Management Consultant

Reference No.: MEPE-CS-7

The Republic of the Union of Myanmar has received financing from the World Bank toward the cost of the Electric Power Project, and intends to apply part of the proceeds for consulting services.

The Services are expected to be carried out over a period of twelve months; possibly starting in August 2015. The Myanmar Electric Power Enterprise (MEPE) now invites eligible individual consultants to indicate their interest in providing the Services. Interested Consultants should provide information demonstrating that they have the required qualifications and relevant experience to perform the Services. The minimum qualifications requirements are:

- At least a bachelor degree in accounting, finance or relevant field with an IFAC recognized accounting professional qualification;
- At least 10 years of professional experience in accounting and/or other relevant field;
- Previous experience in conducting similar engagement within the region or other regions;
- Experience in FM capacity development and training;
- Experience working with the World Bank financed projects or other major donors is an advantage;
- Good PC/systems literacy, including strong Excel skills;
- Excellent interpersonal skills and result oriented features;
- Reliable, independent and dynamic worker with high social competence and good team spirit;
- Willing and able to travel within Myanmar when required.

The attention of interested Consultants is drawn to paragraph 1.6 of the World Bank’s Guidelines: Selection and Employment of Consultants under IBRD Loans and IDA Credits & Grants by World Bank Borrowers dated January 2011 (“Consultant Guidelines”), setting forth the World Bank’s policy on conflict of interest.

A Consultant will be selected in accordance with the procedures set out in the Consultant Guidelines.

Interested applicants may send an email to the address below seeking the TOR for this position.

Further information can be obtained from the address below between 10:00 to 15:00 hours on working days.

Expressions of Interest must be delivered in a written form to the address below (in person, by mail, or by e-mail) by 16:00 hours of June 23rd, 2015. (This date will be determined after obtaining WB clearance).

Attn: Daw Zaw Zaw Than

The General Manager

Finance Department

Myanmar Electric Power Enterprise (MEPE)

Office Building No.27

Nay Pyi Taw

Myanmar

Email: mepfin@moepp.gov.mm

THE REPUBLIC OF THE UNION OF MYANMAR

MINISTRY OF ENERGY

MYANMAR OIL AND GAS ENTERPRISE

(INVITATION FOR OPEN TENDER)

(9/2015)

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

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Sr.No</th>
<th>Tender No</th>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Remark</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>IFR-015(15-16)</td>
<td>Assorted Sizes of Hose Pipes (6) Items</td>
<td>USD</td>
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<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>IFR-016(15-16)</td>
<td>Mud Pump Valve Seat Puller and Spares</td>
<td>USD</td>
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<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>IFR-017(15-16)</td>
<td>HT 400 Pump Spares and Cementing Accessories (22) Items</td>
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<td>4</td>
<td>IFR-018(15-16)</td>
<td>Spares for S NW 1300 C Rig Pump</td>
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<td>5</td>
<td>IFR-019(15-16)</td>
<td>Wash Pipe and Packing, for N 69 and N 815 Stivel (2) Items</td>
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<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td>IFR-020(15-16)</td>
<td>Ferronichrome Lignosulfonate (Spersene) (200) Tons</td>
<td>USD</td>
</tr>
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</table>

Tender Closing Date & Time: 29-6-2015, 16:30 Hr

Tender Document shall be available during office hours commencing from 1st June, 2015 at the Finance Department, Myanmar Oil and Gas Enterprise, No(44) Complex, Nay Pyi Taw, Myanmar.

Myanmar Oil and Gas Enterprise

Ph. +95 67-411074/411206

Tender No. 14

Ariana Grande’s new album titled Moonlight

LOS ANGELES, 3 June — Ariana Grande’s follow-up to last year’s chart-topping album My Everything would be called Moonlight.

Last month, Grande, 21, teased her new project with a tweet and new lyrics.

“In‘nyta talk to u…… There’s a boy… And I don’t quite know… What to do,” she tweeted before denying speculations that the lyrics were from her album’s rumoured title track Moonlight.

A curious fan then asked her if Moonlight is a title of a song or an album, and that was when Grande confirmed her third effort’s name.

“Both,” she simply replied.

In another Twitter exchange, Grande shared more details about her new album.

She said Moonlight would serve as her next single, adding that she wrote it with Victoria Monet who also worked with her on tracks like “My Everything”, “Only 1” and “Cadillac Song”.

Kim Kardashian’s dress catches on fire at CFDA Awards

LOS ANGELES, 3 June — Reality TV star Kim Kardashian’s dress caught on fire from a candle at a dinner following the Council of Fashion Designers of America Awards.

Kardashian, who wore a feathered see-through Proenza Schouler design at the ceremony, took to Instagram to share about the incident.

The 34-year-old pregnant star thanked musician Pharrell Williams and his wife Helen Lasichanh for “jumping” on her dress to put the fire out, reported Huffington Post.

“Shout out to Pharrell and Helen who saved my life last night! LOL” Afghanistan after the awards at the feathers of her dress caught on fire from a candle & they jumped on me to get it out!” she captioned a picture of herself with husband Kanye West, William and Lasichanh.

Los Angeles, 4 June, 2015

Advertisements & Entertainment
Spanish restaurant tops world’s best 50 list

LONDON, 3 June — Spanish restaurant El Celler de Can Roca in Girona topped the World’s 50 Best Restaurants list released Monday in London, as claiming the title it won in 2013 after being ranked second last year.

Italian restaurant Osteria Francescana in Modena came second and Noma in Copenhagen was voted third by 972 chefs, critics and industry experts around the world in the annual list sponsored by Italian motor brand S.Pellegrino and Acqua Panna.

The top-ranked establishment in Asia was Japanese restaurant Narisawa in Tokyo’s Minami-Aoyama, which came eighth, its highest ever ranking.

The other top 10 restaurants were Peruvian, American, Spanish, British, Brazilian and Thai. The award ceremony, which has been held in London up to now, will move to New York in 2016, as part of the organizers’ global location strategy.

Kyoodo News

The incident even went well, but mostly it’s because of Stan’s quality of shot making, forehand, backhand, serving big when he had to,” said the 33-year-old. “(The conditions) were tough. So it’s impressive the way Stan was able to play.” A day after knocking out 2014 champion Maria Sharapova, Safarova’s excitement kept soaring as she stormed into her first Roland Garros semi-final with a 7-6(3), 6-3 win over Spain’s Garbine Muguruza.

“It’s not easy because you have so many emotions going on... I couldn’t really fall asleep yesterday, and then I woke up so early,” said Safarova, who is bidding to become the first Czech to triumph in Paris since Hana Mandlikova in 1981.

So I was a little tired in the morning. But the will to win and to be in the semi-finals was so big that once I stepped on the court I was just fighting and playing really well.” Ivanovic’s boyfriend, Bayern Munich midfielder Bastian Schweinsteiger, looked far more animated than his Serbian girlfriend when she completed a 6-3, 6-2 win over Ukraine’s Elina Svitolina. Whopping and exchanging high-fives with the rest of Ivanovic’s entourage in the player’s box, Schweinsteiger stood up to give the seventh seed a standing ovation as she reached a grand slam semi for the first time since her 2008 Paris triumph.

*Reuters

Chimps have mental skills to cook: study

NEW YORK, 3 June— They’re not likely to start barbecuing in the rainforest, but chimpanzees can understand the concept of cooking and are willing to postpone eating raw food, even carrying food some distance to cook it rather than eat immediately, scientists reported on Tuesday.

The findings, based on nine experiments conducted at the Tchimpounga Sanctuary in Republic of Congo and published in Proceedings of the Royal Society B, suggest that chimps have all the brainpower needed to cook, including planning, causal understanding and ability to postpone gratification.

They do lack the ability to produce fire. But if they were given a source of heat, chimps “might be quite able to manipulate (it) to cook,” said developmental psychologist Felix Warneken of Harvard University, who conducted the study with Alexandra Rosati.

Whilst the finding may seem exotic, it lends support to the idea that cooking accelerated human evolution. Cooked food is easier to digest, meaning the growth of large brains in our australopithecine ancestors, Harvard’s Richard Wrangham proposed about a decade ago.

“Chimpanzees have the cognitive skills to cook, australopithecines likely did too, said Wrangham, who was not involved in the study: “It suggests that with a little extra brainpower, australopithecines could indeed have found a way to use fire to cook food.” —Reuters

Paris, 3 June — Swirling winds caused mayhem and chaos at Roland Garros on Tuesday but Jo Wilfried Tsonga and Stan Wawrinka emerged unscathed to set up a French Open semi-final. On a day when Wawrinka would have hoped to bask in the glory of beating his celebrated rival Roger Federer 6-4, 6-3, 7-6(4) for the first time on a grand slam stage, it was a freak accident that set the claycourt slam stage, it was a freak accident.

For men’s second seed Federer, however, hopes of a second French Open crown were gone with the wind as he was outplayed, outthought and outwitted by a rival he had beaten in every one of their previous four grand slam meetings.

Federer’s wife Mirka hid her worried eyes behind dark shades and let her nails raged as the match neared its inevitable conclusion, with a forehand volley from Wawrinka killing off the 2009 champion’s chances of adding to his 17 grand slam trophies.

“Many things... didn’t go well, but mostly it’s because of Stan’s quality of shot making, forehand, backhand, serving big when he had to,” said the 33-year-old. “(The conditions) were tough. So it’s impressive the way Stan was able to play.” A day after knocking out 2014 champion Maria Sharapova, Safarova’s excitement kept soaring as she stormed into her first Roland Garros semi-final with a 7-6(3), 6-3 win over Spain’s Garbine Muguruza.

“It’s not easy because you have so many emotions going on... I couldn’t really fall asleep yesterday, and then I woke up so early,” said Safarova, who is bidding to become the first Czech to triumph in Paris since Hana Mandlikova in 1981.

So I was a little tired in the morning. But the will to win and to be in the semi-finals was so big that once I stepped on the court I was just fighting and playing really well.” Ivanovic’s boyfriend, Bayern Munich midfielder Bastian Schweinsteiger, looked far more animated than his Serbian girlfriend when she completed a 6-3, 6-2 win over Ukraine’s Elina Svitolina. Whopping and exchanging high-fives with the rest of Ivanovic’s entourage in the player’s box, Schweinsteiger stood up to give the seventh seed a standing ovation as she reached a grand slam semi for the first time since her 2008 Paris triumph.

*Reuters
Sweet 16 for rampant Portugal

Ivo Rodrigues of Portugal shoots and scores an overhead or bicycle kick for the second goal of the game past goalkeeper, Younsef Hassan of Qatar during the FIFA U-20 World Cup New Zealand 2015 Group C match between Qatar and Portugal held at Waikato Stadium on 3 June, 2015 in Hamilton, New Zealand.—FIFA

HAMILTON, 3 June — Portugal have cruised through to the last 16 at New Zealand 2015 after a thumping 4-0 win over Qatar at Hamilton’s Waikato Stadium. Winger Ivo was the star of the show, scoring two and setting up another as Helio Sousa’s side weathered a torrid downpour to comprehensively outclass the Asian champions. Qatar, who must now win their final Group C match to stand a chance of qualifying, rarely threatened, although they did carve out the first chance of the match.

That came in nine minutes when Portugal keeper Andre Moreira unconvincingly gathered at the second attempt after Ahmed Alsadi had raced through on to an accurate long ball and shot weakly. Possession was dominated by the Europeans throughout but it took patience for their probing to pay off, with 34 minutes having elapsed before they took a deserved lead.

Andre Silva was the scorer, ghosting in unmarked to steer home a cross from Gelson Martins, who had drifted in cleverly from the right. It was a fine goal but nothing in comparison to the spectacular strike that doubled Portugal’s lead soon after, as Ivo took centre stage.

Qatar’s failure to clear their lines was punished in superb style, with the Victoria Guimaraes youngster adjusting his body to meet Chico Ramos’ looping header and sending an acrobatic overhead kick beyond the helpless Younsef Hassan. Ivo continued to shine as the match progressed and on 66 minutes doubled his tally, climbing powerfully at the back post to direct a downward header through the legs of Hassan. And he wasn’t done yet because, with 16 minutes remaining, the winger helped complete the rout with an impressive assist.

Nice skill, along with a little luck, took him past his marker on the right and his cutback was swept first-time into the roof of the Qatari net by substitute Joao Vigarino.

Portugal can now plan for the Round of 16, while Qatar know that only a win against Senegal on Saturday will maintain their slim hopes.—FIFA

United striker Van Persie keeping options open

AMSTERDAM, 3 June — Robin van Persie is keeping his options open over his future at Manchester United as he enters a final season of his contract with the club, Dutch media reported on Wednesday.

The striker returned from injury towards the end of the season but was no longer able to command a regular place in the team.

“The club must do its homework and so must I. It’s a new situation,” he told reporters in an interview with several Dutch newspapers ahead of Friday’s friendly international between the Netherlands and the US in Amsterdam.

“I’m going to calmly and relaxed sit down and consider everything.

“I still have ambitions of playing every week. I feel top fit and I think I can still go on for several years. Take note of my words,” said the 31-year-old, who moved to Old Trafford from Arsenal in 2012.

Van Persie said he should have had six or seven more goals than the tally he recorded for the club last season.

“People don’t accept that I just scored 10. Actually that’s a compliment because they expect more of me on the basis of what I can do. I was the club’s second highest goal scorer together with Juan Mata and behind Wayne Rooney (14 goals).

“It’s not good that a top club like Manchester United does not have a scorer with 20 or more goals behind his name each season and that is why we only finished fourth.”

Van Persie struggled with an ankle injury through the season, blaming a hectic pre-World Cup training programme, as he battled to get fit for Brazil, and then a lack of a break after the tournament last summer.

“After I came back from injury I realised that I would not automatically get back in the starting line-up,” he said. “But I didn’t have a problem with that because they were playing well at the time.”

Manchester United’s Robin Van Persie misses a penalty against West Bromwich Albion during the Barclays Premier League at Old Trafford on 2 May, 2015.—Reuters

Blatter unconvincing, should go ASAP before next election: Tashima

TOYO, 3 June — FIFA executive committee member Kozo Tashima said on Wednesday that he is not buying President Sepp Blatter’s explanation for his resignation and that the leader of soccer’s world governing body should consider stepping down before his successor is decided.

Hours after the about-face took place at FIFA headquarters in Zurich, Tashima said he was stunned by Blatter’s announcement to quit amid a corruption scandal, just four days after he was re-elected to a fifth term.

But Tashima, who learned of the news as he watched the live broadcast of the French Open quarterfinal between Kei Nishikori and Jo-Wilfried Tsonga, is not convinced by Blatter’s reasoning that he did not have the “mandate of the entire world of football.”

Tashima also does not see why Blatter, now said to have tendered his resignation, did not act sooner.

“At the Exco meeting (on Saturday), he spoke glowingly about how he had been given a new mandate by the FIFA and then he looked like he was raring to go again,” Tashima said.

“But I’m shocked to see him change the way he has changed since the two days since, and I can’t stop myself from asking what has happened.”

“There were no charges against Mr Blatter himself, only rumors. But if there is something that’s forced him to resign, he has an obligation to explain himself. He cannot be allowed to leave things as fuzzy as they are, and it’s a kind of farce for now for him to stay in office for the next six months or however long it takes to decide the new president.”

“There’s no reason for him to resign if there’s nothing on him. But if there is something on him then you could make the argument that he shouldn’t be allowed to stay on a moment longer.”

“Sepp Blatter didn’t say he should go ASAP before the voting takes place. Tashima also does not believe he is not being allowed to stay in office. He is believed to be huge repercussions.” Tashima said.

“It remains to be seen how things will unfold but one thing is clear that we are starting to see factual evidence of corruption in the organization.”

Kozo Tashima, vice president of Japan Football Association, meets with reporters in Tokyo on 3 June, 2015, after FIFA President Sepp Blatter announced that he will stand down as the head of soccer’s world governing body. Tashima sought a full explanation about the sudden resignation.

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