Vice President U Nyan Tun to attend opening ceremony of 28th SEA Games in Singapore

SINGAPORE, 4 June—Vice President U Nyan Tun left Yangon International Airport on Thursday morning to attend the opening ceremony of the 28th SEA Games in Singapore.

On arrival at Changi International Airport in Singapore, the vice president was welcomed by Myanmar Ambassador U Hay Aung, the Deputy Chief Executive Officer of the Singaporean sports contingent and Myanmar embassy officials.

In the afternoon, the vice president met with staff of the Myanmar embassy and military attaché office and family members at the residence of the Myanmar Ambassador to Singapore.

The first SEA Games were held in Bangkok in 1959. The games are held once every two years in ASEAN member countries in rotation, with Timor-Leste recently joining the competition.

Myanmar hosted the 27th SEA Games from 11 to 22 December 2013.

Some sports events of the 28th SEA Games started in Singapore as of 29 May. The Games, incorporating Olympic and traditional sports events, will run until 16 June.—MNA

Myanmar yoga enthusiasts set to join international celebrations

By Ye Myint

YANGON, 4 June—More than 500 yoga enthusiasts will take part in public demonstrations of the discipline in Yangon and Mandalay on 21 June to coincide with the UN-designated International Yoga Day, the Indian Embassy said Thursday.

The Indian embassy, in cooperation with the Ministry of Sports, is holding the public events on Sunday morning at Thuwunna National Indoor Stadium in Yangon and Mandalar Thiri Football Stadium in Mandalay, the embassy said.

A yoga competition, as a run-up to the main event, will be held at the embassy on 16 June with the participation of yoga centres and clubs from around Myanmar, it added.

Indian Ambassador to Myanmar Mr Gautam Mukhopadhyaya said celebrations will take place in 177 countries, promoting physical, mental and spiritual health through yoga.

Yoga is one of the foundations of India’s civilization, said the ambassador, adding that the practice can bring about an overall sense of happiness.

The United Nations designated 21 June each year as the International Day of Yoga through a resolution in December, 2014.

There are roughly 20 yoga clubs and centres in Yangon.—GNLM

Tatmadaw discharges another 51 minors from military service

By Ye Myint

YANGON, 4 June—The Myanmar Armed Forces discharged 51 children and young people from military service Thursday, bringing the annual total to 93, UNICEF Myanmar said in a press release.

UNICEF Myanmar said the UN Country Task Force on Monitoring and Reporting (CTFMR) on Grave Violations against Children commended the Myanmar Armed Forces Thursday, the Indian embassy said.

“Mr Bertrand Bainvel, UNICEF Myanmar’s chief representative and also co-chair of the CTFMR, stressed the need for long-term efforts and continued funding for the reintegration programme for the minors discharged from the military,” said Ms Renata Lok-Dessallien, UN Resident and Humanitarian Coordinator in Myanmar, said that “recruitment and use of underage children is against both international and Myanmar standards.”

“We welcome the official discharge of the children, including those who were accused of desertion - and for not punishing them - as we formally recognize through today’s discharge that they should not have been in the army in the first place,” said Ms Lok-Dessallien, who is also co-chair of the CTFMR.

Mr Bertrand Bainvel, UNICEF Myanmar’s chief representative and also co-chair of the CTFMR, stressed the need for long-term efforts and continued funding for the reintegration programme for the minors discharged from the military.

(See page 2)
MPs discuss plan to borrow K400 billion as agricultural loan from CBM

NAY PYI TAW, 4 June — Pyidaungsu Hluttaw on Thursday put the trip of President U Thein Sein and party to Asia Africa Summit from 21 to 24 April 2015 in Indonesia and the trip to ASEAN Summit in Malaysia from 26 to 28 April 2015 on record.

Member of Joint Bill Committee U Aung Mya Than sought the approval from the Hluttaw for the bill on rights of people with disabilities sent back by the President with amendments.

Joint Bill Committee member U Khin Maung Shwe also sought the approval from the Hluttaw for the Myanmar Accountability Council bill.

MP U Aung Nyein of Magway Region Constituency No 2, MP U Sein Win of Maubin Constituency, MP U Tin Maung Oo of Shwepyitha Constituency and MP U Myint Oo of Thanatpin Constituency discussed a plan sent by the president for borrowing K400 billion as agricultural loans from Central Bank of Myanmar for 2015-16 FY.

Deputy Minister for Agriculture and Irrigation U Ohn Than and Deputy Finance Minister Dr Lin Aung explained plans to deliver the loans to farmers, Deputy Minister Daw U Han Sein.—MNA

Pyithu Hluttaw session covers teacher vacancies, ferry service

NAY PYI TAW, 4 June — Pyithu Hluttaw MPs raised queries on waterway transport, mini hydropower projects and hiring of teachers Thursday during the 58th day session of the Lower House.

U Saw Hlut Khauang Lwin from Kyain-Seikkyi Township constituency in Kayin State asked the Ministry of Transport about progress on repairs on a ferry boat crossing the Athtayan River.

Deputy Minister for Transport U Han Sein said the vessel is being repaired at Thanlwin shipyard and is expected to return to the river in July.

Daw Sandar Min, MP from Zabuthiri constituency, asked for construction of a mini hydropower project on Nant Salain creek in fiscal 2016-17. Deputy Minister U Maw Tha Htwe said the creek has no steep slope and is suitable for a reservoir rather than a hydropower plant. The deputy minister, however, said a hydropower plant would be constructed on Honenhnyi creek, which has a potential capacity of 5 megawatts in rainy season, and could be a site for two plants.

Lawwwaw National Unity and Development Party applies for registration as political party

NAY PYI TAW, 4 June — The Union Election Commission has been scrutinizing and passing the applications for registrations as a political party. Lawwwaw National Unity and Development Party applied for registration as a political party to the UEC on Thursday.—MNA

Myanmar, New Zealand in U-20 match, opening of SEA Games to be broadcast live

NAY PYI TAW, 4 June — Myanmar U-20 team will play against host New Zealand in the (A) group match in the FIFA U-20 World Cup at 1.30 pm Myanmar standard time on 5 June.

MRTV News Channel, MRTV Entertainment Channel and Myanmar Radio will broadcast the football match live at 1.30 pm and after the 9 pm news programme. Moreover, MRTV News Channel, MRTV Entertainment Channel and Myanmar Radio will broadcast the opening ceremony of the 29th SEA Games held in Singapore at 6.30 pm Myanmar standard time on 5 June.—MNA

Tatmadaw discharges . . .

(from page 1)

"UNICEF and its partners support the Myanmar government’s commitment to ensuring its children are protected and have access to their basic rights," he added.

In 2007, the armed forces, known as the Tatmadaw, as well as seven non-state armed groups in Myanmar, were named on the UN Secretary-General’s list of parties to conflict who recruit and use children.—GNLM

Information for Public Remonstration

1. Lawwwaw National Unity and Development Party, headquartered at No 81, Ward 2, Waingmaw, Kachin State, has submitted its application for the registration as a political party to the Union Election Commission on 4 June 2015 in accord with Section 5 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 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 Lawwwaw National Unity and Development Party

Emblem of Lawwwaw National Unity and Development Party

Union Election Commission
Country’s 2nd-largest bronze bell installed at Shwetaungsa Pagoda in Dawei

NAY PYI TAW, 4 June — The commander-in-chief of defence services and high-ranking officials attended a ceremony Thursday to install a bronze bell — the second-largest in Myanmar — at Shwetaungsa Pagoda in Dawei, Taninthayi Region.

The commander-in-chief and officials offered food, fruit, flowers and water before the Buddha statue at the pagoda.

The congregation received the Ninefold Precept from Abhidhatthajja Aggamahe Saddhammajaoticaka Bhaddanta Arindama, presiding Sayadaw of Zeyawat Monastery in Dawei.

Families of defence service members and well-wishers donated K32 million, which was accepted by the pagoda’s board of trustees, Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Senior General Min Aung Hlaing and wife also offered lunch to members of the Sangha.

The 12-foot-tall bell, the second-largest to be cast in the country in the post World War II period, is similar in shape to one donated by King Thayawady, which is kept at Sunday Corner of the Shwedagon Pagoda in Yangon.

In the evening, the commander-in-chief attended the opening of new buildings at a high school in Dawei.

He described education as an important investment in a country’s development, adding that local people will greatly benefit from the deep sea port project and special economic zone project in the town, with lots of investment opportunities for local business people.

He pointed out the need to focus on higher literacy rates in the region, calling for the creation of a pleasant learning environment for students.

The new two-storey school buildings were constructed at a cost of K1.1 billion contributed by the Myanma Economic Holding Limited and the Myanmar Economic Corporation.

Union FM meets diplomats, UN agency officials at new briefing

YANGON, 4 June — Union Minister for Foreign Affairs U Wunna Maung Lwin gave a briefing to the Yangon-based diplomatic corps and the UN agencies on the current developments in Myanmar at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Yangon, on Thursday.

Deputy Ministers and responsible personnel from respective ministries were also present on the occasion.

The Union Minister for Foreign Affairs briefed the current developments related to the political, economic, administrative and private sector development reform process being undertaken in Myanmar, signing of the draft nationwide ceasefire agreement with ethnic armed groups and progress being made in preparation of the upcoming 2015 general elections, Myanmar’s successful chairmanship of ASEAN in 2014 and Myanmar’s continue active cooperation in the future works of ASEAN, and on the provision of humanitarian assistance and temporary shelters to the victims of human trafficking as well as on the progress of repatriation of victims rescued by Myanmar Navy on 21 May and 29 May to their country of origin.

The Union Minister for Foreign Affairs and the respective officials answered the questions from the attendees. — MNA

Myanmar businesses invited to take part in Thailand lighting exhibition

By Ye Myint

YANGON, 4 June — The Thailand-based organizers of an international lighting industry exhibition on Thursday invited Myanmar businesses to take part in the upcoming event.

The Thailand Lighting Fair 2015 will take place at Bangkok International Trade & Exhibition Centre from 19 to 21 August.

Officials of the Provincial Electricity Authority of Thailand (PEA) and The Exhibiz Co., Ltd held a press conference in Yangon prior to a seminar on promotion of electrical energy efficiency for businesses at the office of Republic of the Union of Myanmar Federation of Chambers of Commerce and Industry.

The fair will enable sellers and buyers to view, source or promote lighting-related products and technologies, said Pakwan Jiamjiroj, general manager of The Exhibiz.

The organizers said the fair will feature products relating to commercial, industrial and residential lighting, including displays by more than 250 international lighting companies.

Mr. Niwat Chayakul, assistant governor of the PEA, invited Myanmar businesses to visit the fair to discover new ideas in electrical energy efficiency and lighting solutions.

“As Myanmar is gradually liberalizing its economic sector, it is necessary for local enterprises to adjust and try to raise their productivity and competitiveness in order to thrive in the era of the ASEAN Economic Community,” he said.
Students view construction of new Meiktila Lake bridge

Hawnnan Building reopens to visitors

Hsipaw, 4 June—The historic Hawnnan building in Hsipaw, Shan State, has reopened to visitors after a closure of more than three months.

Built in 1924 by the 87th successor Hsipaw chieftain Sao Ohn Kyar, the building was home to Hsipaw chieftain Sao Kya Seng, wife Mahadevi Thu Sandi and daughters Mayari and Keinnayi from 1948 to 1962. It is now in the care of Sao Oo Kya and wife Daw Sao Sam Phone. Daw Sao Sam Phone explains the history of the building to visitors in English, Myanmar and Shan. The building was temporarily closed as of February 2015 so she could receive medical treatment.

The building is open from 9 am to 12 noon and 3 pm to 6 pm daily.

Bronze statue of king to be erected for Sagaing anniversary

Sagaing, 4 June — Sagaing city officials recently inspected work on a bronze statue of King Athinkaya Saw Yun being made for the city’s upcoming 700th anniversary celebration.

The 14-foot-tall statue will weigh roughly one ton and cost K35 million to make, according to bronze caster U Hla Myint of Pyae Wa Myanmar handicraft workshop in Chanmyathazi Township, Mandalay.

The statue of the king, who founded Sagaing city in Myanmar Era 677, will be placed at Ohbo roundabout at the entrance to the city.

Official celebrations for the 700th anniversary will run from 9 to 11 July.

Wall magazine, photo show depict anti-drug campaign

Nay Pyi Taw, 4 June — Dekkhina District Information and Public Relations Department held the wall magazine, photo show and educative talks at No 19 Basic Education High School in Ywama Village in Dekkhinathiri Township on Wednesday.

The wall magazine, photo show depict anti-drug campaign

Nay Pyi Taw Police Force Police Col Ko Ko Aung and members of the organizing committee supervised the competition.

Altogether 80 students from basic education schools in eight townships of two districts in Nay Pyi Taw Council Area took part.—Ko Gyi Kyaw (Pyinmana)
Tokyo, 4 June — Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe and Philippine President Benigno Aquino agreed on Thursday to start negotiations on an accord for the transfer of defence equipment and technology as the two nations aim to bolster security ties amid China’s increasing assertiveness.

Meeting in Tokyo during Aquino’s state visit to Japan, the two leaders also shared their deep concerns over unresolved territorial disputes based on international law and called for restraint in taking unilateral actions.

Japan, the Philippines, and the United States and European nations have voiced their concerns over the scope and extent of Beijing’s reclamation work in contest waters in the South China Sea, where China has overlapping territorial claims.

China claims sovereignty over most of the South China Sea, which is a vital shipping lane and lusted as having rich fishing grounds. Rival claimants in the dispute are the Philippines, Vietnam, Malaysia, Brunei and Taiwan.

The Philippines has been vocal in opposing Beijing’s growing maritime assertiveness, having taken its dispute with China over the South China Sea to a UN tribunal based in The Hague.

In the statement, Japan expressed its support for Manila’s move.

Beijing has defended its reclamation work as not just meeting its defence needs, but also providing an “international public service” for maritime safety. China also says it is resolving territorial fields through bilateral negotiations, not multilaterally.

While Japan is not involved in the South China Sea spat, it has its own tensions with Beijing in the East China Sea, where Japanese-controlled, Chinese-claimed islands lie. These islands are known as the Senkakus in Japan and Diaoyus in China.

To ensure regional peace and stability, Abe and Aquino agreed to bolster their security cooperation through expanded joint and multilateral exercises.

Japanese government sources have said P-3C patrol aircraft and radar-related equipment are among potential export items under the envisioned transfer of defence equipment.

Holding talks for the sixth time, Abe and Aquino welcomed the signing of an accord the same day to pave the way for the provision of patrol boats to the Philippines, with Abe promising Japan’s continued support for capacity-building of the Philippine Coast Guard, the statement said.

Tokyo has promised 10 patrol boats to the Philippine Coast Guard to help Manila beef up its maritime patrol activities.

Tapping into the potential of the Southeast Asian country, whose annual growth has stayed at around 6 percent to 7 percent, the two leaders unveiled a road map for better transport infrastructure in Manila to make it easier to conduct business in the capital, known for its traffic congestions.

In this context, Japan pledged to launch a railway project worth about 300 billion yen ($2.4 billion), according to the statement.

Aquino, whose country has strategic partnerships with Japan and the United States, praised Japan’s post-war path as a peace-loving nation, the document said, noting Japan-Philippine ties as an example of countries overcoming issues of the past.

Despite being one of the sites of fierce battles during World War II, the Philippines has developed close economic, political and cultural ties with Japan over the years. Next year, the two countries will mark the 60th anniversary of bilateral ties.

Speaking at an investment forum earlier in the day, Aquino said Japanese firms have “made their mark on the Philippine electronics, shipbuilding and automotive industries, among others — to the point where their work and their products are already irreplaceable in the lives of Filipinos.”

He urged more companies to follow suit, saying, “Today, I tell you, there is no better time to set up shop in the country.”

Some 1,200 Japanese firms currently operate in the Philippines, and Japan was the Philippines’ largest trading partner in 2014 as well as the largest source of official development assistance.

**Japan, Philippines agree to launch talks on defence equipment transfer**

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822 schools in S Korea suspend classes for MERS fears

SEOUL, 4 June — More than 800 schools in South Korea have decided to suspend classes as of Thursday for fears of student contagion from the Middle East Respiratory Syndrome (MERS).

Schools, which decided to temporarily stop classes, totaled 822 nationwide at 11 am (0200 GMT), according to the Education Ministry.

Those included 309 kindergartens, 417 elementary schools, 66 middle schools, 12 high schools, five colleges and 13 special-education schools.

About 70 percent of the total came from Gyeonggi Province where many infected cases were allegedly found. In capital Seoul, 24 kindergartens, 13 primary schools and two junior high schools decided to halt classes.

As of Thursday, the number of MERS-infected cases in the country surged to 35 since the first case was found on 20 May.

The 35 infected were classified in their 10s, 40s, in their 50s and 70s each, live in their 60s, four in their 30s and two in their 20s. No infection case of minors has been reported yet.

The MERS is a respiratory illness caused by a new type of corona-virus that is similar to the one causing Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome (SARS).

There is no vaccine or treatment for the disease, with its fatality rate reaching 40.7 percent.

The first case was spotted in Saudi Arabia in 2012. The World Health Organization has reported more than 1,000 cases of MERS globally and more than 400 deaths.

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Ospreys arrive in Tokyo for 1st time since crash in Hawaii

US, India agree to boost defence cooperation

NEW DELHI, 4 June — The United States and India have agreed to boost bilateral defence cooperation, including launching joint research in the area of security, according to officials.

US Defence Secretary Ashton Carter and Indian Defence Minister Manohar Parrikar signed an agreement describing the framework of defence cooperation in the coming 10 years following their talks in New Delhi on Wednesday.

The move to enhance defence cooperation between the two countries is believed aimed at keeping China, which has been strengthening its influence in the South China Sea and the Indian Ocean, in check.

The joint research, whose expenditures are planned to total about $2 million, will involve the development of solar power generation for navy use and of protective clothing against chemical and biological weapons for use by the army. The United States and India also agreed to accelerate discussions over cooperation in the areas of designing and building jet engines and airplane carriers.
Alarm spreads as South Korea reports more MERS cases

SEOUL, 4 June — An outbreak of Middle East Respiratory Syndrome (MERS) in South Korea spread on Thursday with North Korea calling for border checks while hundreds of schools closed in the South and authorities reported five new cases.

South Korea President Park Geun-hye has demanded that everything be done to halt the outbreak which began two weeks ago, brought into the country by a South Korean man returning from a business trip to the Middle East.

Two people have died in South Korea. With 35 cases, South Korea has the most infections outside the Middle East where the disease first emerged in Jeddah and where most of the 440 fatalities have been. About 1,600 people have been quarantined in South Korea, most of them at home but some in medical institutions, a health ministry official said.

Soldiers have been con-

fined to base in areas near hospitals where outbreaks have occurred, while par-

ents from those areas may not visit their children in the armed forces, a defence min-

istry official said.

Among the five new South Korean cases were two more health workers who treated infected pa-

tients. “We are in a war,” said an official at a health centre in Seoul’s wealthy

Gangnam district, where panic spread early on Thurs-

day when medical workers in protection suits were spot-

ted near a hotel.

The official said a Mid-

dle Eastern guest at the hotel fell ill and was later quaran-

tined at a hospital.

MERS infection is caused by a coronavirus from the same family as the one that caused SARS, or Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome (SARS), which emerged in 2002-2003 and killed around 800 people worldwide.

MERS has a much higher death rate - 38 percent, according to WHO figures — but also spreads far less swiftly than SARS from person to person, mak-

ing it less of a threat for now.

North Korea has asked the South to provide heat-det-

ecting cameras to monitor temperatures of South Kore-

an workers travelling to the inter-Korean Kaesong In-

dustrial Complex, just north of the border, a South Kore-

an government official said.

South Korea lent North Korea three cameras to use at the complex during the recent scare over Ebola, the official said.

The World Health Or-

ganization (WHO) has not recommended travel restric-

tions but about 7,000 people from mainland China, Hong

Kong and Taiwan had can-

celled trips to South Korea

as of 2 June, a spokesman for the Korean Tourism Or-

ganisation said.

Japan said it was look-

ing into possible quarantine measures for people arriv-

ing from South Korea.

China last week re-

ported its first case, that of a South Korean man who tested positive after breaking a voluntary house quarantine and travelling to Hong Kong and on to mainland China.

Authorities have been criticised for being slow to respond to the initial spread of MERS.

It took several days for the 68-year-old man returning from the Middle East to be diagnosed and in the meantime, he infected people at health facilities where he went for treat-

ment of a fever and cough.

All of South Korea’s cases have been traced to the man who visited Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates before returning to the countries with the most MERS cases.

More than 800 schools in South Korea were closed or had classes cancelled as of Thursday, the Ministry of Education said.

While there has been no sustained human-to-

human transmission, the virus could change and spread rapidly. South Korea’s new cases bring the total number globally to about 1,180, based on World Health Organization (WHO) data, with at least 442 related deaths. — Reuters

N Korea asks South for MERS detection device in joint industrial zone

SEOUL, 4 June — North Korea has asked South Korea to provide devices to detect Middle East Respiratory Syndrome coronavirus infection at the joint industrial zone in the North’s border town of Kaesong, a South Korean Unification Minis-

try spokesman said on Thursday.

“The North has re-

quested thermal scanners to screen South Korean workers for possible in-

fection with MERS,” Park Soo Jin said.

On a daily average, about 300 to 400 South Ko-

erian workers commute to the industrial zone where more than 120 South Ko-

erian firms can employ around 52,000 North Korean work-

ers. The North’s request has been made after the number of patients diag-

osed with the potentially fatal virus rose to 35 as of Thursday since a South

Korean man who returned from the Middle East was confirmed positive on 20

May.

Pyongyang’s official Korean Central News Agency reported the two fatalities of the virus on Wednesday, citing South Korean media. North Korea is also known to have sent workers to the Middle East to earn foreign currency. South Korea has tempo-

rarily placed three thermal scanners at the industrial

zone at the request of North Korea to combat the Ebola epidemic last year.

The industrial zone, launched in 2004 with a combination of the North’s cheap labor and the South’s capital and technology, is a key source of revenue for North Korea. Last October, North Korea sealed its bor-

ders to almost all foreigners out of concerns that the Eb-

ola epidemic might wreck havoc in the country.

Kyodo News

SOUTH KOREA

Australians slapped sanctions on alleged Islamic State recruiter, seizes funds

SYDNEY, 4 June — Aus-

tralia on Thursday unveiled fresh financial sanctions against one of its citizens alleged to be a top recruit-

er for the Islamic State militant group, Foreign Minister Julie Bishop said, stepping up a crackdown on militant activity.

Australia is on high alert for attacks by radical-

ised Muslims or by home-

grown radicals returning from fighting in the Middle East, having raised its threat level to “high” and un-

leased a series of high-pro-

file raids in major cities.

Melbourne-born Neil Prakash is the third Australi-

an citizen to be frozen by the government because of membership in the radical Sunni group, which has seized wide swaths of territory in Iraq and Syria.

Prakash, who is be-

lieved to have relocated to Syria last year, joins two

Australian government

lower house OKs bill to lower voting age to 18 next year

TOKYO, 4 June — Ja-

pan’s lower house unani-

mously approved on Thurs-

day a bill to lower the voting age for national elections from 20 to 18, in a step towards first suf-

ficient election to the House of Representa-

tives, is expected to be enacted as early as 17 June with ap-

proval from the House of Councillors.

If enacted, 18- and

19-year-olds can vote start-

ting from next year’s House of Councillors election, unless the House of Repre-

sentatives is dissolved before. Some 2.4 million people aged 18 and 19 are expected to join the elec-

torate next year.

The voting age was

last changed in 1945, when it was lowered from 25 to 20.

The move comes after a revision to the national referendums law came into effect in June 2014, which means the voting age for plebiscites on constitution-

al changes will be lowered to 18 from the current 20 in four years’ time.

Prime Minister Shinzo Abe aims to amend Japan’s pacifist Constitution to en-

able the Self-Defence Forc-

es to play a greater security role. The bill on voting age also includes a provision to

send minors to public pros-

ecutors in cases of serious crimes against electoral laws that compromise the fairness of elections.

In line with the law change, the minimum age for appointment to elec-

toral management commit-

tees, which oversee elec-

tions, will also be lowered from 18 to 18 from 20.

Lay judges and mem-

bers of prosecution inquiry committees are selected from citizens of voting age, but the minimum age for these duties remains at 20. The bill was submitted by six parties, including the ruling coalition of the Liberal Democratic Party and Komeito party, and the main opposition Democratic Party of Japan. — Kyodo News

Australians have been slapped with sanctions on an Islamic State recruiter who is believed to have relocated to Australia, after a revision to the national referendums law came into effect in June 2014, which means the voting age for plebiscites on constitutional changes will be lowered from 20 to 18.

The voting age was last changed in 1945, when it was lowered from 25 to 20, when the law was lowered from 25 to 20.

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Prime Minister Shinzo Abe aims to amend Japan’s pacifist Constitution to enable the Self-Defence Forces to play a greater security role. The bill on voting age also includes a provision to send minors to public prosecutors in cases of serious crimes against electoral laws that compromise the fairness of elections.

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Lay judges and members of prosecution inquiry committees are selected from citizens of voting age, but the minimum age for these duties remains at 20. The bill was submitted by six parties, including the ruling coalition of the Liberal Democratic Party and Komeito party, and the main opposition Democratic Party of Japan.
Ex-German foreign minister Fischer warns Cameroon over EU reform

LONDON, 4 June — Prime Minister David Cameron should not get carried away with apparent German support for his bid to reform the European Union, former German foreign minister Joschka Fischer warned on Thursday.

After winning a national election last month, Cameron plans to renegotiate Britain’s ties with the EU before holding a referendum on the country’s membership of the bloc by the end of 2017.

His diplomatic bid to win support for reforms started last week with a tour of European capitals. The headline leg of that trip was a meeting with German Chancellor Angela Merkel in Berlin, in which she said she would work with Cameron to strike a deal.

Her support was welcomed by British officials. But, Fischer, who also served as Germany’s vice chancellor before leaving front line politics in 2005, sought to temper that optimism.

“Don’t lose yourself in wishful thinking,” he told the BBC. “Angela Merkel will do nothing which will endanger the basic principles of the common market, of the EU. She added that finding a solution to Greece’s financial problems within the eurozone would be Merkel’s top priority.

Italian police arrest 44 over migrant centre corruption

ROME, 4 June — Italian police said they arrested 44 people on Thursday suspected of being part of a network of corrupt politicians and business people in Rome accused of rigging public contracts to manage migrant reception centres.

The arrests follow the discovery of a vast system of corruption in the Rome city government last year — a case dubbed “Mafia Capital” which prompted the city hall to ask the national anti-corruption authority to investigate a list of suspect public contracts.

Rome police said search warrants were also issued against another 21 people in the area around Rome, L’Aquila in central Italy and Catania and Enna in Sicily.

They said the investigation had uncovered a widespread system designed to allow a cartel of companies to win lucrative public contracts to manage migrant reception centres.

The centres, often run on contract by cooperative social organizations, have proved a rich source of income for unscrupulous operators as the Mediterranean migrant boat crisis has intensified, leaving authorities struggling to deal with the tens of thousands of arrivals.

“We need to stop the boat departures and stop the public tenders immediately,” Matteo Salvini, head of the anti-immigrant Northern League party said following the latest arrests.

The case has underlined the persistent problem of political corruption in Italy, which ranked 69 out of 177 countries in the latest index by Transparency International, the global anti-corruption organization.

Police said “Mafia Capital” was based around a network running back over many years in Rome involving local politicians, business people and criminals linked to violent neo-fascist groups active in the 1970s and 1980s.—Reuters

Russia says Kiev’s actions threaten truce in east Ukraine

MOSCOW, 4 June — Russia accused Kiev on Thursday of endangering a ceasefire in eastern Ukraine after the heaviest fighting in months between government forces and pro-Russian separatists.

“The February Minsk (ceasefire) agreements are constantly under threat because of the actions of the Kiev authorities, trying to walk away from their obligations to foster direct dialogue with Donbass,” Foreign Minister Sergei Lavrov said at a security meeting, referring to a rebel-held region in east Ukraine.—Reuters

Ukraine says 5 servicemen killed in fighting, tensions still high

KIEV, 4 May — Five Ukrainian servicemen were killed in the worst upsurge of fighting in the east of the country in months and the situation remains tense, Ukrainian officials said on Thursday, as pro-Russian rebels also updated their own death toll.

Presidential aide Yuri Biryukov reported the Ukrainian deaths on his Facebook page and said 39 servicemen had also been injured in battles near the town of Maryinka, which Kiev says the pro-Russian rebels had tried to seize on Wednesday to seize.

The fighting, in which both sides used heavy weapons, went far beyond regular low-level skirmishing and severely tested a ceasefire brokered in February by the leaders of Ukraine, Russia, Germany and France. The rebels have blamed Kiev’s forces for the clashes and on Thursday revised their own estimate of casualties in the past day to 19, comprising 15 civilians and four fighters. On Wednesday they had said 15 people in total had been killed.

Russia said on Thursday Kiev was reneging on its ceasefire obligations, while the US State Department pointed a finger at Moscow, saying it had a responsibility to lean on the rebels to halt the fighting.

Concerns over the military escalation in Ukraine caused Russia’s rouble to weaken 1.2 percent against the dollar in early trade on Thursday following a 3 percent fall on Wednesday.

A Ukrainian military spokesman said the situation near Maryinka remained “tense but stable” on Thursday morning.

“On three occasions the (separatist) fighters shelled our positions during the night. At the moment there is an operation going on to find sabotage Thargy and diversification groups,” he said. Separately, the Ukrainian military said rebels had fired overnight at government troop positions near the eastern port city of Mariupol, as well as on villages near Luhansk city in the north-eastern Donbass region.

Russia’s Foreign Minister Sergei Lavrov speaks during a session of Foreign Ministers Council of the Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO) in Moscow on 3 June, 2015. —REUTERS

US headyng A-bombed cities’ voice over Manhattan Project park plan

WASHINGTON, 4 June — US officials involved in commemorating the country’s atomic bomb programme in the 1940s indicated on Wednesday that when designing a national park on the issue, they will be mindful of critical voices from Japanese cities that suffered US bombing.

The officials from the Energy Department and the National Park Service told an event that they will try to strike a balance between promoting scientific advancement and the tragic events behind the Manhattan Project in exhibits in the planned park.

While many in the United States see the 1945 attacks on Hiroshima and Nagasaki in a positive light, in the belief that they quickened the end of World War II, those cities have expressed concern the planned Manhattan Project National Historic Park could lead to justifying the nuclear bombing that killed and injured many civilians.

Jaime Shink, deputy assistant secretary of the department, told the event marking the 70th anniversary of the Manhattan Project that the US government recognizes that “there are many aspects and this is a complicated story.”

“Not only is it about the rapid advances in science that have changed the world but it is also “a story about the world’s first use of nuclear weapons, and the tragic stories of death and the destruction that was caused by those weapons as well.”

Patrick Gregerson, chief of planning for the park service, suggested that the organization will be mindful of various opinions from outside the United States before releasing an outline of the park design, possibly this summer.

“We do not look at where Europe is going to decide whether we look at their comments or not. And so we accept all comments,” Gregerson said.

The three-site park will consist of facilities and land in Oak Ridge in Tennessee, Los Alamos in New Mexico and Hanford in Washington State, according to the park service.

The Los Alamos complex was the centre of scientific efforts to develop an atomic bomb during the war. Enriched uranium that was used for the atomic bomb dropped on Hiroshima was produced in Oak Ridge and plutonium that was used for the atomic bomb dropped on Nagasaki was produced in Hanford.—Kyodo News
Investing in education the smartest choice

By Kyaw Thura

It is undeniable that investing in education is the smartest thing a poor country can do to help itself out of poverty and into prosperity. This is because education provides people with the skills they need to survive and then thrive. It is not hard to see that most poor people lack proper education rather than good luck. In similar fashion, a country that lacks educated human resources is incapable of lifting itself out of least-developed status. In fact, education is a one-size-fits-all answer for continuous and rapid growth on all fronts.

For example, education can pave the way for peace and stability in social and political contexts. It is through literacy that people can learn about their own rights and acquire knowledge and skills they need throughout their lives.

When it comes to health, educated people are better prepared to prevent diseases and immunize their children than people with little or no schooling.

As an agricultural country, Myanmar depends on its farmers, who account for nearly two thirds of the entire population. There is no doubt that increased education among farmers will lead to a more productive agricultural sector.

Now is the time for Myanmar to invest in its future by spending more on education and health than anything else. If the country is to make genuine progress, investing in education is not just the smart choice, it is the only choice.

Write for us

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

Due to limitation of space we are only able to publish “Letter to the Editor” that do not exceed 500 words. Should you submit a text longer than 500 words please be aware that your letter will be edited.

Foundation helps improve rural lives through small loan enterprises

A foundation providing financial support for small and medium enterprises is winning accolades for its efforts to improve the lives of rural people in Myanmar.

The Brighter Future Myanmar Foundation carries out philanthropic tasks that include issuing small loans, education, health and transportation programmes, as well as supplying clean drinking water.

Chairwoman Daw Nang Lang Kham said her foundation has established small loan enterprises in Hlegu and Taikkyi townships for development of small and medium enterprises since August 2013 in order to reduce poverty and promote development. The small loan enterprises have 6,683 members, with profits spent on regional development and philanthropic works, according to the chairwoman.

In addition, the foundation is working together with Project Smile to educate young children in Twantay and Belin, and has helped build a clinic and hospital in Ayethaya in Taunggyi and Bawsai, the chairperson added.

The foundation spent over K24 billion to supply clean water to 6,771 families in Shan State and has actively participated in women’s affairs. Daw Nang Liang Kham discussed wider participation of women in the economy of Myanmar on 23 September last year and held discussions with former US Secretary of State Hillary Clinton.

In recognition of the foundation’s work, the government presented it with an excellence award in social affairs on 15 May in Nay Pyi Taw.

Daw Nang Lang Kham said she was proud of the award and promised to continue philanthropic works including assistance to victims of conflicts and natural disasters.

The foundation helped repatriate around 3,000 Myanmar refugees in Malaysia, 270 Myanmar fishery workers in India, 270 Myanmar fishery workers in Myanmar and K35.32 million to 4,000 families in Shan State.

The foundation has donated some K64 billion for the people and the country.

(Yangsón Region marks School Enrolment Day)

YANGON, 4 June—Yangon Region Chief Minister U Myint Swe delivered an address at the ceremony to mark the School Enrolment Day for 2015-16 academic year of Yangon Region at the hall of No 4 Basic Education High School in Ahlon Township Thursday.

The chief minister accepted K5 million donated by Forever Group Co Ltd and K2 million by Mother Trading Co Ltd.

Patron of Region Women’s Affairs Organization Daw Khin Thet Htay and officials provided stationery to students from four districts of the region.

On behalf of the well-wishers, the region minister for Electricity and Industry and minister for Social Affairs presented cash donations to district education officers. At the ceremony, officials and well-wishers donated K528.4 million to four district education officers while Yangon Region WAO presented 10 kinds of stationery worth K35.32 million to 4,000 students from four districts.

Union Minister for Foreign Affairs U Wunna Maung Lwin being welcomed by Vietnamese Ambassador to Myanmar Mr Pham Thanh Dung at the reception to mark 40th anniversary of diplomatic relations between Myanmar and Vietnam at Chatrium Hotel on 4 June.

MNA
**MU Chemistry Dept provides assistance to ailing faculty members**

*Mandalay, 4 June* — The Chemistry Department of Mandalay University held a meeting Wednesday to provide health care services for retired faculty members.

A committee was formed with faculty members and past students. They presented K50,000 each to eight ailing faculty members. Attendees to the meeting donated K6.7 million to the committee.

Well-wishers may donate cash to the committee by calling Dr Mi Mi Thin on 09-2021726, Dr Tha Zin on 02-72623 and Dr Thanda Aye on 09-256438761.

*Tin Maung (Mandalay)*

**Chinlone clubs demonstrate skills in contest**

*Mandalay, 4 June* — The 87th Waso Chinlone Contest kicked off at the gymnasium near Maha Muni Buddha Image in Mandalay on 3 June.

U Kyaw Thin, chairman of the Maha Muni Buddha Image board of trustees, as well as secretary of the contest organizing committee, and officials formally opened the contest.

Six women demonstrated their skills as a special event at the opening ceremony. A total of 1,800 Chinlone clubs will participate in the contest from 4 a.m. to midnight from 3 June to 1 August.

A ceremony to pay respect to senior Chinlone players will be held at the gymnasium on 31 July morning.

*Tin Maung (Mandalay)*

**Mandalay Region government concentrates on financial development**

*Mandalay, 4 June* — A coordination meeting to set up the Mandalay Region financial development supporting committee was held at the hall of the region government, here, on Wednesday.

Mandalay Region Minister for Finance Dr Myint Kyu extended greetings while head of Region Internal Revenue Department U Soe Naing spoke about taxation matters and formation of the supporting committee for financial development.

The supporting committee was formed with heads of the Internal Revenue Department Township Development Affairs Committee, Township Police Force, Township General Administration Department and Township Development Supporting Committee. The committee was assigned to explain taxation to business owners and submit reports to take action against those who fail to pay tax.

Member of Mandalay City Development Committee, the commander of Region Police Force and departmental officials participated in discussions. The region minister reviewed their discussions.—Maung Pyi Thu (Mandalay)

**Well-wisher donates stationery to basic education students**

*Mandalay, 4 June* — Well-wisher Ko Aung Naing Tun, wife Daw Than Than Aye and daughter Ma Thun Poe Ein donated 120 dozens of notebooks and stationery to basic education students on 9th street in East Htani Ward, Aungmyethazan Township, on 2 June.

The well-wisher family has successively donated stationery to the basic education students for five years.

*Tin Maung (Mandalay)*

**Cyclists plan ride for World Environment Day**

*Yangon, 4 June* — Cycling enthusiasts will ride from Yangon to Lekkhokkon Beach to mark World Environment Day on 5 June, according to U Nyi of Bikers Networks Myanmar.

The association invites all enthusiasts to join its 12th long-distance group ride. Riders will gather at Pansodan Jetty at 5:30 a.m. on 5 June and cycle 35 miles from Dala to Lekkhonkon.

“We urge all bikers to check their bicycles and take spare parts with them,” U Nyi said. “On arrival at Lekkhonkon, we will have lunch and spend an hour before departure.”

The group has previously organized rides to destinations including Hmawby, Ngahsutaung and Bago.—Htet Khaing (Sangyoung)
Al-Qaeda’s Syria wing sees no peace with Islamic State soon

BEIRUT, 4 June — The head of al-Qaeda’s Syria wing Nusra Front said he saw no solution soon to a conflict with the rival Islamic State group in Syria that has killed thousands of fighters, according to an interview with Al Jazeera aired on Wednesday.

Nusra Front, loyal to the successors of Osama bin Laden, and Islamic State are the two most powerful forces fighting government forces in Syria. The groups have fought each other since a split in 2013 largely due to a power struggle between leaders.

“‘There is no solution between us and them in the meantime, or in the foreseeable future. We hope they repent to God and return to their senses...If not then there is nothing but fighting between us,” Abu Muhammad al-Golani told the channel. It was not clear where or when the rare interview took place.

It was the second of a two-part interview and included footage of a Nusra training camp, weaponry, a lens inside a classroom as well as images of a prison and a food packing operation inside Nusra-held territory.

The group has made gains in northwestern Syria alongside other insurgent groups in recent weeks, seizing the city of Idlib, the town of Jisr al-Shughour and bringing armed groups closer to government-held coastal areas north of the capital.

Golani said his Sunni Muslim militant group had around 30 percent foreign fighters including “a small number” of Americans. The foreign contingent also included Europeans and many Asians, Russians and Chechens, he said.

The two-part interview on the Qatar-financed channel appeared to be an attempt by Nusra Front to cast itself as an Arab audience as a Syrian national movement. This has triggered debate among Western diplomats following Syria’s conflict who still see it as a dangerous, hardline group that is not clearly distinguishable from Islamic State.

In last week’s instalment Golani had made clear he took orders from al-Qaeda chief Ayman al-Zawahiri, who had told him to focus Nusra’s fight on Syria. This week he evaded a question about whether Nusra was thinking of splitting from al-Qaeda.

Nusra follows al-Qaeda’s hardline interpretation of Islam and sees Shi‘ite Muslim power Iran as a major foe. Golani said Iran, which backs Syrian President Bashar al-Assad, was using only militias to fight jihadis in Syria.

He said Tehran had also sent military experts but not its national troops to Syria and Nusra was determined to fight Iranian-backed groups.

“We will cut off the arms of Iran in our region, and as for Iran, it will be handled by those (inside it),” he said, alluding to possible revolt by minority Sunnis and Kurds.

Syria’s United Nations envoy said last week the interview violated UN counterterrorism resolutions and was an attempt by Qatar to whitewash the group’s image. The channel has not responded to requests for comment.—Reuters

Amnesty says Nigerian military responsible for deaths of 8,000 prisoners

ABUJA, 4 June — More than 8,000 people have died while being detained by Nigeria’s armed forces during its war against Islamist group Boko Haram, Amnesty International said on Wednesday, allegations that the military denied.

The group said many of the prisoners were executed and others died due to starvation, overcrowding, torture and denial of medical assistance.

Boko Haram’s six-year insurgency has killed thousands and left 1.5 million people displaced. The group wants to establish an Islamic caliphate in the northeast of Nigeria, Africa’s biggest economy and top oil exporter.

Muhammadu Buhari, the new president, has vowed to defeat Boko Haram and was holding talks on Wednesday with his counterparts in neighbouring Niger and Chad on how best to tackle the insurgency.

The militant group controls a swath of territory around the size of Belgium at the start of the year but has lost most of it in recent months due to the combined efforts of troops from Nigeria and Niger, Chad and Cameroon.

Amnesty said Nigerian troops had rounded up thousands of men and boys, some as young as 9, in Boko Haram strongholds. Many of those held were executed or died in custody if their families were unable to pay a bribe.

More than 1,200 people were extrajudicially executed and more than 7,000 starved or died of disease in severely overcrowded cells, Amnesty said.

Many of the people executed were shot dead inside detention facilities, despite presenting no danger, in violation of international humanitarian laws, Amnesty said.

Saudi names suspects in mosque bombings, offers $1 million bounty

DUBAI, 4 June — Saudi Arabia offered a cash reward of 5 million riyals ($1.3 million) for information leading to the arrest of six people it said were involved in two deadly mosque bombings claimed by Islamic State, the Interior Ministry said on Wednesday.

The ministry also offered a $750,000 reward for tips that would thwart any future attacks, according to a statement published by state news agency SPA.

The ministry published a list of 16 men and their photographs on state TV, saying they were involved in the two attacks.

Islamic State, a hardline Sunni militant group based in Iraq and Syria, claimed responsibility for both attacks. The group has said it wants to drive all Shites from the Arabian Peninsula and urged young men in the kingdom to join its cause.

The bombings in Saudi Arabia came as wars with sectarian overtones ravage Iraq, Syria and Yemen — stoking tensions between Sunni and Shia groups throughout the region.

Some clerics in Saudi Arabia, the birthplace of Islam and home of its Sunni denomination, are deeply hostile towards Shi‘ites, whom they regard as apostates. The Kingdom is also part of an international coalition bombing Islamic State targets in Iraq and Syria, and the organization has threatened to launch revenge attacks. Saudi and Gulf governments fear that the wars in the region, in which their Sunni allies are fighting alongside the Shia archrival Iran, will radicalize their citizens and undermine their security.—Reuters

Israeli war jets strike Gaza in response to rockets’ firing

Gaza, 4 June — Israeli war jets struck with air-to-ground missiles early Thursday military facilities in the Gaza Strip in response to earlier rockets firing from the enclave into Israel, witnesses and security officials said.

The war jets had first intensively hovered over Gaza before firing a missile, where a huge explosion was heard in the northwest part of Gaza city, said residents in the area. Witnesses said that the war jets kept hovering over the Gaza Strip, where several explosions were heard in its northern, central and southern areas. Firefighting and ambulances rushed to the targeted areas.

Paramedics said no injuries were reported, while police and security forces evacuated buildings and security headquarters all over Gaza in fear of being targeted by Israel. Security officials said that at least one missile was fired at a training facility that belongs to the Islamic Hamas movement’s armed wing, known as al-Qassam Brigades. Huge explosion was heard in the area and no injuries were reported.

The Israeli airstrike was a response to an earlier rocket’s attack on Israel carried out from northern Gaza city. Israeli said three rockets were fired into Israel, but caused no damages or injuries.

However, Palestinian sources, speaking on condition of anonymity, said that a radical Islamic Salafist group, affiliated with the Islamic State (IS) organization was responsible for firing the rockets into Israel.

The Israeli media had earlier reported that the Salafists fired rockets into Israel due to deep differences with Hamas movement following Hamas crackdown on the group and the killing of one of its members on Tuesday.

It is the second time in one week that this group fired rockets from the Gaza Strip. Last week Israeli war jets carried out six airstrikes on Hamas and Islamic Jihad military facilities in response to rockets firing.—Xinhua
Reforms at risk as China eyes 2020 growth goal

BEIJING, 4 June — China looks likely to target annual growth of about 7 percent in its next five-year plan so it can hit ambitious 2020 goals, raising concerns that politics could trump a commitment to disruptive reforms entailing slower but more sustainable growth. Many economists already think 2015 growth will miss that mark — the IMF expects 6.8 percent followed by 6.25 percent in 2016 — but Beijing needs average growth of close to 7 percent to hit a previously declared aim of doubling gross domestic product per capita by income by 2020 from 2010.

The National Development and Reform Commission (NDRC), the country’s top planning agency, has been soliciting recommendations from think-tanks and policy advisers, which are divided into those advocating a lower growth goal of 6.5 percent for the five-year period and those recommending 7 percent. “The goal of doubling GDP will be a hard constraint, which will make it difficult for the government to set a lower target,” said a researcher with the NDRC. The leadership will discuss the country’s 13th five-year plan — a blueprint for economic and social development between 2016 and 2020 — at a party meeting in the autumn, according to sources involved in the internal policy discussions.

“A 7 percent target could be accepted by all sides,” said a senior economist at a top government think-tank. “Growth cannot be too low,” said an influential economist who advises the government. “Changes in the economic model and structural adjustment require a sound economic environment.”

Bank of France sees French growth picking up

PARIS, 4 June — The Bank of France forecast on Thursday that growth in the euro zone’s second largest economy would start to pick up from this year onwards after three years of virtual stagnation.

The central bank predicted that growth would hit 1.2 percent this year before accelerating to 1.8 percent next year and 1.9 percent in 2017 — slightly higher than the government’s own projections. Inflation would likewise rise from 0.3 percent this year to 1.4 percent next and 1.7 percent in 2017. Driving the improvement were external factors, notably cheap oil and a favourable euro rate, combined with low euro zone interest rates and domestic factors including a recovery in French corporate margins.

“On a domestic level, the measures introduced to cut labour costs should also start to support activity via gains in cost competitiveness which will in turn boost exports, job creations and business investment,” it said of reforms including tax credits to companies and cuts to employer social contributions.

“Profit margins have already begun to recover, and this, combined with a persistently low cost of debt and projected increases in the capacity utilization rate, should help to stimulate business investment,” it said.

The prospect of job creation will be welcome to President Francois Hollande’s government after data earlier this week showed France’s jobless rate total rose 0.7 percent to a fresh record high of 10.2 million people in April.

Holland, already facing low popularity levels, has said he would not stand for a second term in 2017 if unemployment is not falling by then. “It’s more of a political issue than an economic issue,” the economist said.

There have already been some signs that Beijing is open to flexing its push for reforms where they threatened growth; it put pressure on banks to help out when its preferred market solution for local government borrowing looked likely to lead to a funding crunch. It rowed back on a clampdown on opaque local government financing vehicles for the sake of the same reason and relaxed rules on phasing out some market-distorting tax breaks when their immediate withdrawal might have led to lower investment. “Growth cannot be too low,” said an influential economist who advises the government. “Changes in the economic model and structural adjustment require a sound economic environment.”

Facebook addiction linked to depression

WASHINGTON, 4 June — In a small study of Facebook users in Poland, depression was one predictor of greater vulnerability to becoming dependent on using the social media site.

So-called Facebook intrusion is similar to an addiction but the problem is on the user’s side, affecting their mental health, according to a study presented by Dr Robert Cloninger, a psychiatrist with the Washington University School of Medicine in St Louis who wasn’t involved in the study.

Cloninger told Reuters Health that he is concerned the study didn’t properly take personality traits into consideration. “If you are introverted and socially shy, then your social skills may not be very good,” he said. “So using your intelligence to navigate the Internet allows you to create an image that may not be very accurate, but that gets you social contacts — it’s like you can kind of live a lie or a fantasy on the Internet.”

For the study published in European Psychiatry, Agata Blachnio, a researcher at the John Paul II Catholic University of Lublin and her colleagues recruited Polish Facebook users to answer questionnaires, including mental health tests. The main goal, Blachnio’s team writes, was to examine “potential associations” between Internet use in general, Facebook in particular and depression. “A large body of research... shows that Internet addiction often co-occurs with other disorders, such as depression, loneliness, sexual dysfunction, or other addictions,” the study team writes. “The main aim of our study was to answer the question of whether depression and daily Internet use time was related to Facebook intrusion.”

They define Facebook intrusion as “excessive involvement in Facebook, disrupting daily activities and interpersonal relationships.”

Blachnio and her colleagues enrolled 672 native Polish-speaking participants between the ages of 15 and 75. The average age of the participants was about 28, and almost two thirds were women.

Each participant answered two questionnaires. One was designed to measure levels of Facebook intrusion, and the other to detect depression. The study team found that the amount of time spent on the Internet daily was positively associated with levels of Facebook intrusion, and that Facebook intrusion was linked with higher depression scores. But time spent on the Internet daily was not linked to deprivation.

Cloninger said that people likely to become addicted to Facebook are those who are low in self-directedness and high at novelty seeking. “These people use social media sites like Facebook as a substitute for meeting people face to face and keep other people at a distance, he added. “That just doesn’t give you real intimacy; it doesn’t build your capacity for trust and confidential relationships that are really deep and honest,” he said.

Cloninger thinks a lot of people using Facebook in this manner are also vulnerable to being shamed and rejected.

“The people who try to use it are the ones who are going to be the most vulnerable to being shamed and attacked and rejected and not being able to handle crises well,” he said.
Invitation to Submit Expression of Interest for Design and Building Construction Work

Myanmar Japan Rice Industry Company Ltd (MJRI), which is a joint venture between Myanmar Agribusiness Public Corporation Ltd., (MAPCO) and Mitsui & Co., Ltd (MITSUI), hereby invites Expressions of interest (EOI) from competent construction companies to undertake both the design and construction of buildings for Integrated Rice Complex Project (IRCP), in Twantay Township, Yangon Region.

Interested companies can submit Expression of Interest Letter (EOIL) addressed to Managing Director, Myanmar Japan Industry Company Ltd (MJRI), by email (to md@mapco-vgn.com) or by sending to MJRI office, MAPCO Building, No.100, Wardan Street and Kan Nar Street, Beside the Concrete Express Way, Wardan Port Area, Seik Kan (Port) Tsp, Yangon, not later than Friday, 11th June 2015 at 5:00PM. MJRI reserves the right to select the pre-qualified bidders from the list of companies which submit EOI.

Any enquiries can be made by phone to MJRI Office, 01-2301652, 01-2301653, 01-2301826 (or) by email to md@mapco-vgn.com

FBI extends FIFA scrutiny to World Cup host bids of Russia, Qatar

NEW YORK/ZURICH, 4 June — The FBI’s investigation of bribery and corruption at FIFA includes scrutiny of how football’s governing body awarded World Cup hosting rights to Russia and Qatar, a US law enforcement official said.

Russia and Qatar have denied wrongdoing in the conduct of their bids for the 2018 and 2022 tournaments, which were not the subject of charges announced by US prosecutors a week ago against FIFA officials that stunned world football.

The US law enforcement official, who spoke to Reuters on condition of anonymity, said the review of the bids would be part of a probe that goes beyond the indictments. Among issues the FBI is examining is the stewardship of FIFA by longtime president Sepp Blatter, who unexpectedly announced on Tuesday he was resigning shortly before it emerged that he too was under investigation by US law enforcement.

Authorities said last week they were investigating a case of $150 million (98 million pounds) paid in bribes over two decades, while Swiss prosecutors announced their own criminal inquiry into the 2018 and 2022 bids.

On Wednesday, the partially blacked out transcript of the November 2013 guilty plea of Chuck Blazer, a US citizen and FIFA executive committee member from 1997 to 2013, showed he and others in FIFA agreed to accept bribes in bidding for the 1998 and 2010 World Cups and other tournaments. “Among other things, I agreed with other persons in or around 1992 to facilitate the acceptance of a bribe in conjunction with the selection of the host nation for the 1998 World Cup,” Blazer told a federal judge in New York, according to the transcript.

The tournament was hosted by France, but separate court documents contain the prosecutors’ allegation that bidding nation Morocco paid a bribe to another FIFA executive, Jack Warner of Trinidad and Tobago, and that Blazer acted as intermediary. Warner has denied this and other charges against him, and late on Wednesday aired a paid political statement saying he feared for his life, but would tell investigators all he knows about corruption at FIFA.

Blazer went on to say in his plea hearing that from 2004 and through 2011 “I and others on the FIFA executive committee agreed to accept bribes in conjunction with the selection of South Africa as the host nation for the 2010 World Cup.”

Blazer’s lawyer declined to comment on Wednesday.

Many of the details were previously revealed in charging documents released by prosecutors when they announced indictments for 14 people, including nine FIFA officials.

Football power Brazil hosted the World Cup in 2014 but in the case of Qatar, there was some surprise that the tournament was awarded to a small desert country with no real football tradition and where daytime summer temperatures can top 40 degrees Celsius (104F).—Reuters
Friday, 5 June, 2015

**WEATHER REPORT**

**BAY INFECTION:** Monsoon is in the Andaman Sea, South Bay and East Central Bay and weather is partly cloudy anywhere in the Bay of Bengal.

**FORECAST VALID UNTIL EVENING OF THE 5th June, 2015:** Rain and thundershowers will be fairly widespread in Yangon and Ayeyawady Regions, Chin State and scattered in remaining Regions and States. Degree of certainty is (80%).

**ADVERTISE WITH US!**

Three investigators of the Japan Transport Safety Board are ready to start investigations on 4 June, 2015, over an alleged severe breach of runway safety involving three aircraft, including an Air Self-Defense Force helicopter, at Naha Airport in the southwestern Japanese prefecture of Okinawa the previous day.—KYODO NEWS

**ADVERTISMENT & GENERAL**

**Vacancy Announcement**

Myanmar Veneer & Plywood Industry in Sagaing Region invites application for—

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- Interested candidates may apply within 7 days on sureshmyandalan@gmail.com and can call Ph: Nos. 09-978997527, 09-31338539, 072-229278.

**Claims Day Notice**

**MV ESM CREMONA VOY NO (125W)**

Consignees of cargo carried on MV ESM CREMONA VOY NO (125W) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 5.6.2015 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of M.I.P where it will lie at the consignee’s risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

Damaged cargo will be surveyed daily from 8 am to 11:20 am and 12 noon to 4 pm to Claims Day now declared as the third day after final discharge of cargo from the Vessel.

No claims against this vessel will be admitted after the Claims Day.

**Shipping Agency Department**

MYANMA PORT AUTHORITY

AGENT FOR: M/S EVERGREEN SHIPPING LINE

Phone No: 2301185

**Claims Day Notice**

**MV E.R TURKU VOY NO (073W)**

Consignees of cargo carried on MV E.R TURKU VOY NO (073W) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 5.6.2015 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of A.W.P.T where it will lie at the consignee’s risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

Damaged cargo will be surveyed daily from 8 am to 11:20 am and 12 noon to 4 pm to Claims Day now declared as the third day after final discharge of cargo from the Vessel.

No claims against this vessel will be admitted after the Claims Day.

**Shipping Agency Department**

MYANMA PORT AUTHORITY

AGENT FOR: M/S HANJIN SHIPPING LINE

Phone No: 2301185

**Advertisement & General**

**ASDF chopper in Naha near-collision incident took off against order**

Naha, (Japan), 4 June — An Air Self-Defense Force helicopter involved in a near-collision incident on Wednesday at Naha Airport in Okinawa, southwestern Japan, had taken off against an order by the air traffic controllers to wait, transport ministry sources said on Thursday.

The behaviour of the CH-47 helicopter, which took off because the pilot mistakenly believed the controllers’ takeoff clearance directed to a different aircraft was meant for himself, may constitute a possible violation of air traffic control orders, the sources said.

As the helicopter suddenly crossed in front of a Boeing 737, operated by All Nippon Airways and with 83 passengers and crew members aboard, the ANA plane was forced to abort its takeoff.

The air traffic controllers then instructed an approaching Japan Trans-Ocean Air Boeing 737 to circle, but the flight with 44 people aboard proceeded to land before the ANA plane had moved, posing the danger of collision. The distance between the two planes narrowed to about 400 to 500 metres.

The incident took place at about 1:25 pm Wednesday at the airport, which has a 3,000-metre runway used by both civilian and Self-Defense Forces aircraft.

The Japan Transport Safety Board is investigating the case as a near accident, sending three of its investigators to the airport office in Naha on Thursday. One of the investigators said, “We will analyze what has happened.”

Kyodo News

**REQUEST FOR EXPRESSIONS OF INTEREST (CONSULTING SERVICES)—Individual Consultant**

The Republic of the Union of Myanmar Electric Power Project

Credit No.: 5306-MM

Assignment Title: International Financial Management Consulting

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 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 P/C/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 1.9 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 given below seeking the TOR for this position.

Further information can be obtained from the address below during 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, or by mail, or by e-mail) by 16:00 hours of June 23rd, 2015. (This date will be determined after obtaining WB clearance).

Attn: Dāw Zāw Zān Than

The General Manager

Finance Department

Myanmar Electric Power Enterprise (MEPE)

Office Building No.27

Nay Pyi Taw

Myanmar

Email: mepefin@moep.gov.mm

**The Republic of the Union of Myanmar Ministry of Energy**

MYANMA 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>IFB-015(15-16)</td>
<td>Assorted Sizes of Hose Pipes (6) Items</td>
<td>US$</td>
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<td>(2)</td>
<td>IFB-016(15-16)</td>
<td>Mud Pump Valve Seat Puller and Spares (4) Items</td>
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<td>(3)</td>
<td>IFB-017(15-16)</td>
<td>HT 400 Pump Spares and Cementing Accessories (22) Items</td>
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<td>(4)</td>
<td>IFB-018(15-16)</td>
<td>Spares for 3 NB 1300 C Rig Pump</td>
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<td>(5)</td>
<td>IFB-019(15-16)</td>
<td>Pipe Wash and Packing, for N 69 and</td>
<td>US$</td>
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<tr>
<td>(6)</td>
<td>IFB-020(15-16)</td>
<td>Ferrocrome Lignosulphonate (Spersene) (200) Tons</td>
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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:4/4 Complex, Nay Pyi Taw, Myanmar.

Myanmar Oil and Gas Enterprise

Ph: +95 67-411097/411206

**credit No.: 5306-MM**

**title:**

**importance of selecting the Services:**

**fiac**

**experience in:**

**financial management consulting services**

**savryitaritabetic**

**yapinWIN**

**credit No.: 5306-MM**

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**yapinWIN**
Japanese cartoon Doraemon film purrs to top of China’s box office

BEIJING, 4 June — A movie featuring Japanese popular robotic cat Doraemon claimed the No 1 spot at China’s box office in its first week of release, amid a thaw in relations between the two countries.

“Stand By Me Doraemon,” a 3-D animated film about the friendship between the chubby cat and its schoolboy companion Nobita, raked in 237 million yuan (about $38 million) in the week ended Sunday, according to data from the China Film Distribution and Exhibition Association.

The film arrived in Chinese theaters on 28 May. It is the first Japanese movie to go on general release in China since July 2012.

China strictly controls which foreign films are screened in the country’s theaters.

Since Japan put most of the Senkaku Islands in the East China Sea under state control in September 2012, its relations with China had severely deteriorated.

China continues to assert its sovereignty over the uninhabited islands that have been administrated by Japan for decades.

But two face-to-face meetings between Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe and Chinese President Xi Jinping in five months, most recently in April, have helped ease tensions heightened also by disagreements over wartime issues.

Despite diplomatic disputes, not just the Doraemon cartoon figure, but Japan’s popular culture has long been well-received in China.

The Doraemon film hit Chinese screens several days after Xi showed up unannounced at an event aimed at promoting closer bilateral ties, telling more than 3,000 Japanese people, including lawmakers from Tokyo, that “people-to-people and cultural exchanges are vital.”

The data showed that Chinese ticket sales for the Doraemon film were more than double those for the superhero blockbuster “Avengers: Age of Ultron,” which ranked second in the charts and took in 105 million yuan in ticket sales in the week.

Kyodo News

Director Cameron Crowe defends Emma Stone in Hawaiian ‘Aloha’ role

Many critics questioned the decision. Entertainment Weekly’s Chris Lee wrote: “Accepting Emma Stone as an Asian-American in ‘Aloha’ requires a certain suspension of disbelief.”

Crowe had defended his casting choices for the Hawaii-based movie well before its 29 May release after it came under fire for its Caucasian-led cast, particularly Stone’s role as an Air Force pilot who is a part-Asian Hawaiian.

Crowe were said to have gone to an actor of Asian-Pacific heritage. Crowe acknowledged the critiques on his website on Tuesday, saying he offered “a heart-felt apology to all who felt this was an odd or misguided casting choice.”

Citizens walk by an advertisement board for “Stand By Me Doraemon” at a theater in Beijing on 27 May, 2015, the day before the release of the Japanese animation movie across China.

Hollywood superstar Johnny Depp charms Australian fans

SYDNEY, 4 June — Hollywood superstar Johnny Depp has returned to Australia where he has been embroiled in a controversy over his illegally imported pet dogs Pistol and Boo.

On Wednesday he met more than 1000 fans on Queensland’s Gold Coast where his latest movie the Pirates of the Caribbean 5 is being filmed.

He was dressed as his character Jack Sparrow and posed for many selfies as he met fans.

Depp’s Australian visit has been marked by several odd incidents, from breaking his wrist in a go-kart accident and being threatened with a jail term for smuggling his two small terriers into Australia against quarantine laws.

But Wednesday’s charm offensive won him much affection among fans. His dogs have returned to the United States.

Xinhua

Big commercial hit and small, creative musical lead Tony Awards

New York, 4 June — Broadway is preparing for its biggest night on Sunday with the 2015 Tony Awards, US theatre’s highest honours, following a record-breaking season with a commercial hit touting with an edgy musical for the top prize.

Tony winners Alan Cumming and Kristin Chenoweth, who are hosting this year’s ceremony, will co-host the show that will be broadcast live on CBS television from Radio City Music Hall.

The best musical prize has turned into a race with “An American in Paris,” with a score by George and Ira Gershwin, and the lesbian coming-out story “Fun Home” in the lead.

“An American in Paris” had a slight edge among a poll of 14 theatre experts on the awards show tracking website GoldDerby.com.


Producer Debbie Bisno described 2014-2015, in which attendance topped 13.1 million and grosses soared to $1.36 billion, as “an incredibly robust, creative season.”

Reuter

One Direction have only five years left: Noel Gallagher

LOS ANGELES, 4 June — Former ‘Oasis’ rocker Noel Gallagher recently predicted that the “One Direction” are only left with few years.

During a chat with James Corden on “Late, Late Show,” the 48-year-old musician blasted Zayn Malik for leaving the band.

“Malik should’ve stayed with the band although he wouldn’t be doing anything.

The rocker — who served as the lead guitarist, co-lead vocalist and principal songwriter of the rock band Oasis — recalled the time when his band parted ways.

“It was in a festival in Paris, as I left the band, I was walking out of the dressing room and somebody came in and said ‘10 minutes to stage time.’ And that was it. And we left a load of French people very, very upset in a field.” he added — PTI
**FIFA-lionising film that failed in Europe to hit US**

London, 4 June — The film “United Passions” in which British actor Tim Roth portrays FIFA president Sepp Blatter does not hit American cinema screens until Friday, but whether it sinks - as it did in Europe - or swims it has at least one immortal line: “Blatter is apparently good at finding money,” a voice intones on the trailer for the film which industry website IMDb says will have its US launch on 5 June. Heavily financed by FIFA and meant to show it as a force for good — and Blatter as the Maradona of scoring fouls — “United Passions” was born under investigation of FIFA, arrests of several FIFA oficials in Zurich last week.

US prosecutors have launched a fraud and corruption investigation of FIFA, which was announced to the world by the early-morning arrests of several FIFA officials in Zurich last week. There were more arrests this week and on Tuesday, Blatter announced his resignation, four days after being re-elected as FIFA president and shortly before it emerged that he too was under investigation by US law enforcement.

This is not the kind of real-world trailer that FIFA had envisaged for its movie which, according to IMDb, had an estimated budget of 24 million euros ($27 million), of which FIFA officials have acknowledged providing about 20 million. "FIFA has been considering the production of a feature film about its history for some time, dating back to 2004 when FIFA was approached with a concept to coincide (with) our centennial celebrations," FIFA says in a post on its website explaining why it helped finance the film when the producers came cap in hand. "FIFA then agreed to contribute, considering this to be a unique opportunity to raise awareness of the breadth of FIFA’s work to develop football globally. ‘United Passions’ allows FIFA to highlight the challenges involved in establishing the FIFA World Cup in order to turn it into the world’s biggest single sporting event.” Direct- ed by France’s Frederic Auburtin, the film casts Gerard Depardieu as Jules Rimet, the FIFA president who launched the World Cup, and Sam Neill as Joao Havelange, who as FIFA’s second longest serving presi- dent signed up developing nations as members — and ran into bribery issues of his own.

Critics who saw it at the Cannes film festival in 2014 dismissed it as a hagiography of Blatter and his predecessors and it sank like a stone in limited release in soccer-mad Europe. On its opening weekend in Hung- ary last year it took in under $8,000 on 27 screens, IMDb says.

Director Auburtin could not be reached for comment through his Paris-based agent, but in an interview with the New York Times this week he said he would have to look deeper into the underside of FIFA. “But I accept the job,” he said. “I know FIFA is producing the film. As we say in France, don’t be more royalist than the king: Don’t be the king if you are not the king.”

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**Djokovic ends Nadal’s remarkable reign in brutal fashion**

Paris, 4 June — It was sharp, quick and brutal as Novak Djokovic finally dropped the French Open guillotine on Rafa Nadal — ending the most remarkable of Roland Garros reigns in ruthless fashion on Wednesday.

The champion, who was rumoured to have red veins after ruling the Paris stage for nine of the last 10 years, tamely surrendered his crown at 6.12pm local time. A double fault ended the most miserable of mis-erable days for the Spaniard, with Djokovic proving that even players of Nadal’s stardust can be turned into mere mortals.

The manner of Djok-ovic’s 7-5, 6-3, 6-1 execu- tion was impressive enough but unfortunately for the Serb, no one was running out on court to hand him a gleaming trophy for con- demning Nadal to only his second defeat at Roland Garros.

For this was merely a quarter-final.

To get his hands on the Musketeers’ Cup and complete the coveted ca- reer grand slam, the world number one will first have to tackle Andy Murray — a 7-6(4), 6-2, 5-7, 6-1 winner over David Ferrer — and then win the final on Sun- day. A match belting the final of any grand slam stage came two rounds too early for that Nadal’s slide down the rankings. While injuries and ap- pendicitis kept Nadal off court during the second half of 2014, 2015 has not ex- actly been a stellar year by his own high standards — he arrived in Paris without winning a European clay- court event for the first time in over a decade.

Nadal’s woes meant he entered Roland Garros ranked seventh, which set him on the path to a horror 29th birthday date with Djokovic. The traffic-stop- ping 44th showdown be- tween the two was dubbed “The Superbowl on clay” by John McEnroe but there was nothing ‘super’ about it during the opening ex- changes because within a blink of an eye, Djokovic unleashed an assortment of lethal backhands, forehands and volleys, McEnroe ex- claimed: “Nadal unbeliev- ably has no idea what he’s doing — that spells trouble.”

There was trouble with Nadal’s forehand, there was trouble with his usually reli- able top spin and there was trouble with his serve.

“Novak had me under control most of the time. He was better than me. That’s it, simple,” said the sixth seed after suffering only his second loss in 72 matches in Roland Garros.

“I’m gonna fight. I lost in 2009 (to Robin Soder- ling) and that was not the end. I lost in 2015 and this is not the end,” added Na- dal, who produced only three forehand winners during the two hour 27 minute mar- tial. Even when Nadal came back to level the set at 4-4, his shots seemed to lack the firepower that in the past left countless oppo- nents gasping for air.

Djokovic, who had lost six previous French Open tussles against Nadal, stayed cool and collected throughout the contest to notch up his 21st win against his Roland Garros nemesis.

“It’s definitely a big win, a match that I will re- member for a long time,” said Djokovic. “At the end of the day, he’s human. I understand that people are questioning his game. But if you need a reminder of who he is, you just look at his career stats and grand slams that he won.” Djokovic’s next test will be against a player who also boasts a 15-0 record on red dirt this year.

Murray’s triumph over Ferrer ended a miserable day for the Spaniards, who will not feature in the last four here for the first time since 2009. While Djokovic harbours hopes of becom- ing only the eighth man to win all four majors, Seren Williams showed that she is primed to win a 20th grand slam singles title. After surviving three tough matches, she subjected poor 2012 final- ist Sara Errani to a 6-1, 6-3 hammering to prove that it will take a brave woman to dethrone a third title in a city she calls her second home.

Standing in her way to a final date on Saturday is surprise Swiss semi-final- ist Timea Babosznsky, who toppled little-known Bel- gian Alison van Uytvanck 6-4, 7-5. — Reuters
SINGAPORE, 4 June — Singapore lost 1-2 to Myanmar in the South-east Asian (SEA) Games under-23 football tournament.

The game turned on a Singapore goalkeeper error. An innocent-looking free kick from distance by Ye Ko Oo (#21) bounced over Syazwan Bahar (#24) who misjudged the bounce.

This is their first loss after an opening 1-0 win over Philippines earlier this week. For Myanmar, this is their second win in a row, after they beat Indo-nesia 4-2 in their opening game.

Myanmar got themselves on the score sheet first from a free kick. Shakir Hanzah (#2) gave away a free kick outside the penalty box on the right flank. The incoming free kick was missed by Sheikh Abdul Hadi (#15) who tucked and let the ball go over him instead of heading it away. The ball landed at the feet of a grateful Nay Lin Tun (#8) who bundled it past a stranded Syazwan Bahar (#24) in goal.

Sahil Suhaimi (#7), who also had two chances in the opening 15 minutes, saw his effort on goal charged down in the 28th minute. Singapore got their equaliser in the 32nd minute when a Myanmar handball gave Singapore a penalty. Kyaw Zin Phyo (#1) guessed the right way but Faris Rahmat’s (#10) penalty was too powerful and accurate for him to stop.

Coming out of the half-time break at 1-1, Singapore almost went ahead within the minute when Pravin Guanasaran (#12) hit a stiff shot from outside the box that just missed the left upright.

The home crowd raised a cheer when Irfan Fandi (#17) came on in place of Saffirul Sulaiman (#28) but the mood turned dark within minutes. Pravin got a yellow card for a challenge and the resulting free kick seemed far away enough not to cause worry. However, Ye Ko Oo (#21) delivered a wickedly spinning shot that took a bounce which fooled Syazwan in goal and the ball bounced over him into goal for a 2-1 Myanmar lead.

Singapore next play Cambodia on Monday, June 8——redsports.sg

Nigeria get into gear against Korea DPR

NEW PLYMOUTH, 4 June — A spirited second-half display saw Nigeria get their FIFA U-20 World Cup back on the rails as they romped to a 4-0 win over Korea DPR.

After weathering a tight first-half, An Ye Gun’s side went to pieces after the break as a quick-fire brace from Saviour Godwin undid all that good work. A fine final two goals secured all three points for Nigeria and put them back in the mix for qualification from Group E.

Manu Garba’s team almost put their disappointments second-half against Brazil behind them inside the opening two minutes. Captain Musa Muhammed looked to lead by example as he struck a thunderbolt of a shot off the inside of the post from 25 yards, for which keeper Cha Jong Hun was only an airborne spectator.

From there, though, Korea DPR improved for a spell. They contained the threat of Nigeria and had occasional forays forward, but were ultimately blunt in attack. The Flying Eagles looked more menacing as the half wore on. Taiwo Awoniyi and Bernard Bulbwa threatened, before a Muhammad free-kick and Awoniyi follow-up brought out a superb double save from Jong Hun in a half in which he was busy, but rarely tested to his limits.

The second half saw all that change, as the Korea DPR goalkeeper spoiled what had been an impressive display. His misjudgement to come and challenge Saviour Godwin for a Bulbwa cross saw the side lose their foothold, as Godwin scored. It only took the same player just three minutes to double his tally, after a lucky ricochet allowed Awoniyi to skilfully progress up the field before playing in the FC Sports forward, who coolly slotted through legs of defender and goalkeeper.

The third was a peach. A corner found its way out to Kingsley Sokari and his laser-guided shot from the edge of the area screamed into the top left corner. The final one wasn’t bad either, following a slick team move. Awoniyi and substitute Isaac’s exchanged passes sliced through the Korea DPR defence before the latter slammed home from a tight angle to revive the African champions’ last 16 hopes.—FIFA

Union Sports Minister joins South East Asian Games Federation Council Meeting

SINGAPORE, 4 June — Chairman of Myanmar Olympic Committee and Union Minister for Sports U Tint Hsan attended the South East Asian Games Federation Council Meeting at Fair Mount Hotel, here, Thursday.

The permanent honorary chairman from Malaysia spoke about policies for hosting the SEA Games in Southeast Asian countries, and policies for introducing traditional and Olympic sports into the SEA Games’ sports events.

The Olympic Committee secretary of Malaysia reported on plans to host 36 sports events in the 29th SEA Games on 16 September 2017 with preparations of sports venues the coming Games.

Thet Ko Ko Latt of Myanmar beat Ryan Roddy Jaccoco of the Philippines 3-2 in the table tennis event of the group match in the SEA Games.—SPED

Cash-rich Premier League remains in a league of its own

LONDON, 4 June — The Premier League continues to pull away from its European rivals in terms of total revenue, if not quality on the pitch, and the bubble looks unlikely to burst any time soon.

English clubs were eclipsed by the likes of Barcelona, Bayern Munich and Paris St Germain in this season’s blue-ribbon Champions League, with none of them reaching the quarter-finals, yet they continue to be the envy of the continent when it comes to the size of their fanCOOLK accounts.

According to Deloitte’s latest Annual Review of Football Finance, based on the 2013-14 season, the 20 Premier League clubs generated record revenue of 3.26 billion pounds ($4.99 billion), a rise of 29 percent on the season before.

That was 1.4 billion pounds higher than Germany’s Bundesliga, second on the list, and more than Spain’s La Liga and Italy’s Serie A combined.——Reuters

MySQL football fans in Singapore celebrate a 2-1 victory of Myanmar U-23 over host Singapore.