Men’s canoeists clinch Myanmar’s first gold of 28th SEA Games

Vice President U Nyan Tun seen together with gold medalists Myanmar canoeists Sai Min Wai and Win Htike.—MNA

Toddy farms in danger of disappearance

MAHLAING, Sagaing Region, 6 June—Toddy palm, botanically known as *borassus flabellifer*, is a plant of many uses. Its trunks can be made into furniture. Its fruits serve as snacks. It is also medic-inal. All parts of a toddy plant are good for health, but toddy juice should not be consumed with pork and bananas.

There are two kinds of toddy palm, male and female. When seeds are planted face up, the seeds grow female toddy plants. And when planted face down, they grow male toddy plants. Toddy trees, both male and female, give juice over 15 years after being grown. The juice is sweet and can be brewed and served as a raw alcoholic beverage. In addition, the collected juice can be simmered to make jaggery balls. Toddy roots are edible too. They are usually baked or boiled.

Now, toddy plants are on the verge of extinction. With prices for toddy pro-duce and products falling, people have come to lose interest in toddy farming. In addition, the growing prices of teak and hard wood have forced people to turn to toddy stems for building materials and fences. Some researchers have warned about the possible disap-pearance of toddy farms in ten years’ time, stressing bad weather patterns will follow as a result.

Kyaw Kyaw (Mahlaing)

Myanmar vs. Philippines match to be broadcast live

NAY PYI TAW, 6 June—Football fans will be able to watch a live broadcast of Myanmar’s match against the Philippines at the 28th Southeast Asian Games on Sunday, with MRTV News Channel and MRTV Entertain-ment Channel confirming they will air the group stage game.

The game will be broadcast at 6:30 p.m. Myanmar standard time on 7 June by MRTV News Channel, MRTV Entertainment Channel and Myanma Radio. Regular 8 p.m. news programmes will be rescheduled to 9 p.m.—MNA
New school building under construction in Lewe Tsp

Nay Pyi Taw, 6 June — A ceremony on 4 June marked the beginning of construction of a new building at Basic Education High School in Okshithlaing Village, Lewe Township.

The Ministry of Education allotted K15.12 million for construction of a 140-foot-long and 30-foot-wide two-storey building in this year’s budget.

The ceremony was attended by presiding Nayaka abbot of the village monastery Bhaddanta Sujana, headmaster U Kya Nyo and teachers together with local residents.

Ko Pink (Okkar Myay)

Power-tillers sold through installment to farmers in Pyinmana Township

Nay Pyi Taw, 6 June — The Ministry of Cooperatives and South Korea’s Daedong Group sold agricultural machinery to farmers in west Gyobin village in Pyinmana Township on 5 June.

Deputy Director of Nay Pyi Taw Council Area Cooperative Department U Myo Chit spoke about sales of 98 power-tillers to local farmers through installment.

Dr Kang Ki Toe of the company explained sales of Daedong power-tillers to the farmers.

After the ceremony, South Korean guests presented clothes and soft drinks to local farmers and students.

Maung Kyai Latt

Planting ceremony marks World Environment Day

Kyangin, 6 June — In commemoration of World Environment Day 2015, the Kyangin Township Forest Department organized a tree planting ceremony along Pathem-Monywa Road in Kya-in Village, Betye.

Township Administrator U Phyo Min Htaik, Commander of Township Police Force Major Aung Ko and Township Forest Department staff officer U Hsan Win led the people and social organization members in planting some 1,500 saplings along the road.

Ayeya Oo Thar

Myanmar Railways invites bids for Kyimyindine Station development

Yangon, 6 June — Myanmar Railways on Friday invited local and foreign firms to bid on a project to develop Yangon’s Kyimyindine Station into a transportation, retail and commercial hub.

The new Kyimyindine railway station complex will be an essential part of the development of greater Yangon city, Myanmar Railways said in a newspaper advertisement announcing the tender.

According to the ad, the project will include multi-storied commercial and office buildings, hotels and serviced apartments across 2.63 hectares (6.48 acres). The project will be implemented in line with an international tender process, it said. The deadline is 5 August for local, international or joint venture developers or investors to submit expression of interest documents to undertake the designing, construction and operation of the complex.

Myanmar Railways in April invited bids for development of a Pazundaung station complex. — GNLM
Community prepares to celebrate Venerable Parama’s centenary

NAY PYI TAW, 6 June — Preparations are under way to celebrate the 100th birthday of the Venerable Parama, who will mark his centenary this December after 79 years of monkhood.

The Venerable Parama is abbot of Tar Tun Aye monastery, situated in Satkhingyi village of Mandalay Region’s Mahlaing Township, where he was born in 1915.

Having renounced the material world to concentrate on meditation, the senior monk said spiritual purity is more important than popularity.

Born Mg Ba Thein, he was the eighth son of nine children born to U Kuan and Daw Shwe Myint.

Traditional pottery techniques survive in Sagaing Region village

MAHLAING, (Sagaing Region) 6 June — A pottery industry based on centuries-old techniques handed down from generation to generation is thriving in Nwenein, a village of some 2,000 households near Shwebo district in Sagaing Region.

Combined effort for peace will save locals from armed conflict: Pyithu Hluttaw speaker

NAY PYI TAW, 6 June — A combined effort to restore peace will save innocent people from armed conflict and ill consequenc-es, the speaker of Pyithu Hluttaw on Saturday told a meeting in the town of Mone, Bago Region.

The town is notorious for its chronic armed conflict which has still left local people disconsolate, Thura U Shwe Mann added. He explained the local government’s effort to improve accessibility to the town. He urged local people to be frank with their requirements for regional development activities.

The speaker also visited the hospital in the town, where he conversed with patients.

He also went on inspection tours of basic schools and provided cash assistance for their maintenance and renovation.

Pyithu Hluttaw Speaker Thura U Shwe Mann meets local people in Mone, Bago Region. MNA

Myanmar to uphold int’l responsibility on boat people: gov’t

U Htin Linn, acting director general of the International Organizations and Economic Department of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs.—MNA

World Bank framework will improve electricity, services: gov’t

NAY PYI TAW, 6 June — Myanmar will have better access to electricity and other basic services in the next three year under a full partnership framework between the country and the World Bank, the first since 1984, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs said in a statement.

The board of directors of the Washington-based monetary institution have endorsed the 2015-2017 Country Partnership Framework and will provide up to $1.6 billion in credits, loans and grants, as well as technical assistance and knowledge from the International Development Association, the bank’s fund for the poorest countries.

According to the bank, the CPF focuses on reducing rural poverty, providing basic services, and stimulating the private sector in an inclusive manner, so that the poor and vulnerable in particular can share in the benefits of reform.

The CPF draws on its engagement with the government, the private sector and a broad range of civil society, which has helped build mutual understanding and identify priority issues for Myanmar.

The aid programme was based on findings from the bank group’s recent Systematic Country Diagnostic, extensive consultations with a wide range of stakeholders, and lessons learned since the institution began re-engagement in Myanmar in 2012.—GNLM
World Environment Day 2015: Seven Billion Dreams. One Planet. Consume with Care

At the Crossroad of Becoming a Sustainable Myanmar

Introduction

Myanmar is living a historical moment. Ever since the country’s shift to democracy a few years ago, foreign investments have drastically improved and in consequence a lot of foreign investment and aid has found its way to the land of 130 million people. The Southeast Asian country with full expectation of bright future for Myanmar’s 51.49 million people (Ref: Myanmar’s census 2015 data), with inherited and abundant natural resources, have made their country one of the fastest growing countries of the region (over 8 per cent annually, World Bank) and this trend is expected to continue at least over the next few years. The expected economic growth with new jobs could lift much of its population (currently 26 per cent of the population, UNDP 2014). All in all, the future looks bright. Will it be sustainable development, not only bright, particularly in the medium and long-term?

Impacts of climate change are considerably one of the riskiest factors for Myanmar’s bright future to be realized. Myanmar is a particularly prone to climate change among the countries most affected by extreme weather events from 1994 to 2013 (and first in Asia-Pacific, Global watch 2015). Cyclone Nargis in 2008 was responsible for an estimated loss of 140,000 lives as well as USD 20 billion worth (in 2015 data), with inherited and abundant natural resources, have made their country one of the fastest growing countries of the region (over 8 per cent annually, World Bank) and this trend is expected to continue at least over the next few years. The expected economic growth with new jobs could lift much of its population (currently 26 per cent of the population, UNDP 2014). All in all, the future looks bright. Will it be sustainable development, not only bright, particularly in the medium and long-term?

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Bangladesh and India to swap 19th-century border enclaves

DHAKA, 6 June — Bangladesh and India will seal an agreement simplifying their 4,000-km border at the weekend, after four decades of talks. Neighbours first tried to untangle complex territorial rights set down in 1713. The agreement will be one of several to be finalised during a two-day state visit by Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi beginning on Saturday. Dhaka’s Foreign Minister Abul Hassan Mahmood Ali told journalists on Friday.

In 1974, the then leaders of the two countries — Indira Gandhi of India and Sheikh Mujibur Rahman of Bangladesh — agreed to swap almost 200 enclaves of land located in one country but officially belonging to the other. “But with the assassination of Sheikh Mujibur Rahman (in 1975), along with the almost all the members of his family, the process of the agreement stopped for a long time,” Ali said.

The agreement, which has since been updated, will be “a historic milestone in the relationship between the two neighbouring south Asian countries,” he added. Established by a treaty between two former princely states, the 106 Indian enclaves in Bangladesh and 92 Bangladesh enclaves in India are islands of foreign territory inside each country, most of them close to the official border.

Their inhabitants — about 37,300 in Indian enclaves and 14,200 in Bangladeshi enclaves — are deprived of public services because their governments have no access to them. Under the agreement, each country will take over most of the enclaves on its territory and inhabitants will have the right to stay where they are or move to the other side of the border.

Ali said the two countries would also sign a number of deals to boost trade and security along the border and fight human trafficking.

Officials would also discuss a possible increase in Indian aid for Dhaka and in Bangladeshi electricity imports from India.

In a separate meeting on Friday, the Confederation of Indian Industry (CII) said Prime Minister Shinzo Abe urged Indian businesses to use his country as a low-cost manufacturing base for goods for local and global markets. The CII President, Sumit Mazumder said in a statement.

Bangladesh aims to become a middle-income country by 2021 and India should emerge as a strong partner in realizing this goal,” President Sumit Mazumder said in a statement.

Abe picks Shima in central Japan as 2016 G-7 summit venue

TOKYO, 6 June — Prime Minister Shinzo Abe said on Friday the city of Shima in central Japan’s Mie Prefecture will be the venue for the annual Group of Seven summit of major industrialized countries in 2016. Before his departure for this year’s G-7 summit in Germany, Abe said he picked the city famous for its saw-tooth coastline so world leaders will feel “world leaders will feel beautiful nature.” The premier that “world leaders will feel beautiful nature.”

Abe is believed to have chosen Mie, located some 300 kilometres southwest from Tokyo, for security reasons. The main facility for next year’s G-7 summit, expected to be held sometime between May and June, will likely be held at a hotel on Kashiko Island.

The island in Ago Bay, known globally for its pearl farming, is one of Japan’s most famous marine resorts. It is part of Ise-Shima National Park that also includes Ise Shrine. Shima Kanko Hotel The Classic is seen as the leading candidate for the main facility. It has hosted various international conferences since its opening in 1951. It was the first resort hotel to open in the postwar era in Japan, and is scheduled to reopen in the spring of 2016 after renovation work. The choice of Mie would help Abe’s push for revitalizing regional economies, as the prime minister aims to end nearly two decades of deflation.

The prime minister picked Shima from eight candidate sites that had expressed readiness to host the event. The other seven candidates were Kurazawa, Sendai, Niigata, Hama-matsu, Nagoya, Kobe and Hiroshima. Abe said the government would consider choosing venues for G-7 ministerial meetings from the candidate sites.

The National Police Agency advised Abe’s office that the city of Shima and the town of Kariyama in Nagano Prefecture were “desirable” in terms of security.

Japan, China hold meeting of finance ministers 1st time in three years

BEIJING, 6 June — Japan and China on Saturday held a meeting of their finance ministers for the first time in more than three years to discuss how Asia’s two biggest economies should best respond to fast-growing demand for infrastructure financing in the region.

Japanese Finance Minister Taro Aso and his Chinese counterpart Lou Jiwei were also expected to share their views in Beijing on other topics, including the current health of the global economy, and the tax and financial systems of the two countries. Japan and China resumed the so-called finance dialogue, last held in April 2012, amid a broader thaw in bilateral relations, which had been in a deep freeze due to disputes over territory and wartime issues.

Relations between the two countries have shown “momentum toward improvement,” Lou told Aso at the outset of the meeting that was open to the media, adding that through such dialogues, China and Japan must “inject new driving force” to continuously improve their ties. Aso said the dialogue will help them “promote our strategically mutually beneficial relationship.” Although the disputes remained unsettled, high-level contacts have been increasing since Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe’s first meeting last November with Chinese President Xi Jinping. On Friday, Aso said he held talks with Chinese Vice Premier Zhang Gaoli and agreed with him that the two countries will “continue dialogue at various levels and strengthen our relations of trust.” Through the dialogue on Saturday, Aso, who is also Japan’s deputy prime minister, and Lou are hoping to pave the way for their senior officials to collaborate more actively on areas of mutual interest in the future. Japan has kept a cautious stance toward China’s initiative to set up the Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank by the end of this year, citing a lack of transparency in its operations. But Aso and Lou are likely to acknowledge the need of Japan and China working more closely and meeting strong demand for infrastructure financing in Asia. Chinese efforts to establish the AIIB have been broadly welcomed by the international community.” Lou said at the opening of the talks. Abe announced last month a plan to offer about $110 billion to fund “high-quality” infrastructure projects in Asia through collaboration with the Asian Development Bank and other channels. The amount represents a 30 percent rise from Japan’s infrastructure funding over the last five years and his pledge is seen as a counter to China’s growing economic influence in the region. — Kyodo News

S Korea’s Park raps N Korea for nuclear ambitions

SEUL, 6 June — South Korean President Park Geun-hye on Saturday criticized North Korea for its nuclear ambitions as a threat to the international community. "North Korea is repeating its intimidation against the stability of the Korean Peninsula and against the international community, Park said in an address during a ceremony marking Korean Memorial Day at the National Cemetery in Seoul. She was referring to Pyongyang’s claim last month that it had successfully test-fired a ballistic missile from a submarine, saying the missile was a newly developed one. Park also took up the issue of “comfort women” who were forced to work in Japanese military brothels before and during World War II, saying the issue and territorial disputes in East Asia are hampering progress in South Korea’s relations with its neighbours including Japan.

Kyodo News
United Nations, 6 June — Western nations and Russia traded accusations at the United Nations on Friday over the recent upsurge in violence in eastern Ukraine, while a senior member of an international monitoring team blamed both sides in the conflict for breaking a ceasefire.

The diplomatic clash between European, US and Russian envoys came a day after Ukraine warned of a possible “full-scale invasion” by Russia, following the worst fighting with separatists in months.

The deputy head of the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe’s (OSCE) monitoring mission, Alexander Hug, was more balanced in his remarks to the Security Council.

He said both sides of the conflict were putting civilians at risk as the security situation deteriorates.

“Civilians continue to bear an unacceptable price in this conflict,” Hug told an emergency meeting of the 15-nation council. “They are killed and wounded, as both sides continue to place military positions in and around civilian infrastructure. Their property and livelihoods have been destroyed.”

Britain placed the blame for the new violence squarely on Moscow.

“This was a separatist assault on Ukrainian military units,” said British Ambassador Matthew Rycroft, adding that it was “clearly premeditated.”

“The separatist forces are Russia’s creation, they are Russia’s tool,” he said. “Russia has the capacity and the influence to control the separatist forces. It must exercise that influence to ensure compliance with the Minsk agreement.”

He was referring to a ceasefire agreement clinched in February in the Belarusian capital.

Russian Ambassador Vitaly Churkin presented the opposite view.

He blamed the latest fighting on Kiev, saying it was violating the Minsk agreement and putting civilians at risk.

“If we allow Kiev to continue... the situation could fall out of control,” he said.

US Ambassador Samantha Power cited Twitter announcements by separatist fighters boasting of a successful attack on Marinka, Ukraine.

She said Russia continues to deny the “open secret” that it arms the rebels and sends Russian soldiers to die anonymously in neighbouring Ukraine.

French Ambassador Francois Delattre echoed Power’s remarks: “Everyone knows the role that they’ve (Russia) been playing in this crisis since the start.”

The ambassadors of Lithuania and Ukraine said Kiev had a right to defend itself against the rebels.

Kiev and its NATO allies accuse Russia of sending weapons and troops to fight on behalf of separatists who control part of two provinces in its east. Moscow, which seized and annexed Ukraine’s Crimea peninsula last year, denies its troops are participating.

G7 to express concern over East, South China Sea: newspaper

TOKYO, 6 June — Group of Seven leaders will express their concern over any unilateral action to change the status quo in the East and South China Sea amid tensions between China and a number of Asian countries, Japan’s Yomiuri newspaper said on Saturday.

At the end of the summit in Germany, which starts on Sunday, members will release a declaration calling for maintaining an international order of seas based on international law, the report said, without citing sources. No country will be singled out.

G7 leaders a year ago expressed their concern about tensions between China and a number of other Asian countries over resources in the East and South China Seas, and warned against any use of force.

China claims most of the South China Sea, through which $5 trillion in ship-borne trade passes every year. The Philippines, Brunei, Malaysia, Taiwan and Vietnam also have overlapping claims.

All but Brunei have fortified bases in the disputed waters, which are roughly 1,300 km (800 miles) from the Chinese mainland but much closer to the Southeast Asian claimants.

Japan also has a territorial row with China over islands in the East China Sea.

China has been criticized for extensive reclamation work and moves to turn submerged rocks into man-made structures. The United States last week said Beijing had placed mobile artillery systems in contested territory.—Reuters

Dutch foreign minister to discuss MH17 prosecution in Russia

Amsterdam, 6 June — Dutch Foreign Minister Bert Koenders will discuss efforts to prosecute suspects in the downing of Malaysia Airlines flight MH17 while in Moscow on Friday, his office said in a statement.

Koenders will also discuss a Russian blacklist of European politicians during a meeting with his counterpart Sergei Lavrov, it said. Roughly two-thirds of the 298 victims of the airline disaster on 17 July were Dutch. Suspects have yet to be identified by Dutch prosecutors.

The plane is widely believed to have been shot down with a surface-to-air missile launched by pro-Russian forces in Ukrainian territory, but Moscow denies involvement.

A Dutch Safety Board report on the precise cause of the crash is due in October.

The Netherlands is leading an international investigation into the disaster and has vowed to prosecute those responsible. But the case is unprecedented and it will be legally and politically challenging to put foreign suspects on trial.
UN reports alleged Israel crimes against children, no consensus on listing

United Nations, 6 June — UN agencies in Israel and the Palestinian territories reported an alarming number of child victims in last year’s war in the Gaza Strip but were split on whether Israel should be put on a list of violators of children’s rights, a UN document shows.

Their 22-page confidential country report, obtained by Reuters on Friday, was prepared by United Nations agencies on the ground for submission to the UN special envoy for children and armed conflict as she readied a draft of the annual list.

The special envoy, Leila Zerrougui of Algeria, included Israel’s army and the Palestinian militant group Hamas in her draft list to be passed on to Ban, has used strong language on alleged violations of children’s rights in the Gaza war.

It specified what it said were unlawful deaths and injuries of Palestinian children caused by Israeli forces, detention of Palestinian children and attacks on schools. It said more information was needed on the question of recruitment of children by Palestinian armed groups.

However, in a section that would appear to undermine the case for listing Israel, the country report said the heads of the UN agencies on the ground had failed to reach a consensus on whether to list Israel.

It said it was “not clear how the listing criteria should be applied and whether they had been satisfied.” Diplomats say the final version of the list, which names grave violators of children’s rights in armed conflicts, could reach UN member states as early as the beginning of next week.

Whether to include the Jewish state is a politically charged issue for Israel and the United States. Some US lawmakers have spoken out on the issue as the US presidential hopeful Senator Ted Cruz wrote to Ban about it this week.

UN diplomatic sources told Reuters that Israel has lobbied hard against its inclusion and that Ban was leaning against including Israel.

Diplomats say the US ambassador to the UN Samantha Power had urged Ban not to list Israel.

Ban has also received information on Palestinian groups, including New York-based Human Rights Watch, which issued a statement this week urging the UN not to give in to pressure to keep Israel off the list.

Diplomats say the US did not have an immediate response to the country report.

A UN inquiry published in April said Israeli soldiers had fired on seven UN schools during the Gaza war, killing 44 Palestinians who were sheltered at some of the sites, while Palestinian fighters had weapons and launched attacks from several empty UN schools.

While Zerrougui’s report was being prepared, diplomatic sources told Reuters UN agency chiefs had felt pressured by Israel not to support including the Israeli army. Is- rael has said it should not be listed but denied pressuring anyone.

Pakistan court frees eight men charged with attack on schoolgirl Malala

PESHAWAR, (Pakistan), 6 June — A Pakistani court has freed eight out of 10 men charged with organising the shooting of schoolgirl activist Malala Yousafzai, police said on Friday, a move that will raise further questions about the nation’s heavily criticised justice system.

Pakistani Taliban militants claimed responsibility for attacking Malala in 2012 as she travelled home from school in Swat, northwest of the capital Islamabad. She was shot in the head and airlifted to Britain for treatment, where she now lives. Two other schoolgirls were also wounded.

Malala became a global symbol of defiance after she campaigned for girls’ education despite Taliban repression and she won the 2014 Nobel Peace prize.

Senior police official Salim Khan said the eight men were freed because there was not enough evidence to connect them to the 2012 attack.

Police had said in April that all 10 had been convicted and jailed for 25 years each in a trial that began behind closed doors. It was not clear why officials had given incorrect information.

“The only reason for their release was lack of proof against them,” Khan said.

Prosecutor Naem Khan said the men had confessed to the court that they had helped plan the attack.

None of the accused were suspected of being the gunmen, who security officials believe fled to Afghanistan.

“During the trial, all the 10 persons had admitted and confessed their role in Malala’s attack on 18 May but the men had already been freed on 30 April,” Khan said.

The case will raise further questions over police competence, account- ability and secret trials in Pakistan.

Police are poorly trained and equipped. Most officers have never been trained in how to gather evidence and rarely fol- low basic procedures such as securing crime scenes. Cases mostly hinge on highly unreliable oral testimony, leading judges to frequently dismiss charges involving major militant attacks.

Trials are often held behind closed doors because judges, lawyers and witnesses fear retribution from militants.—Reuters

US defence chief working on plan to close Guantanamo prison

ABOARD A US MILITARY AIRCRAFT, 6 June — US De- fence Secretary Ash Carter said on Friday he was work- ing with the White House to prepare a proposal for Con- gress on closing the Guar- namo prison for terrorism suspects, a long-time goal of President Barack Obama.

The Senate is currently debating an annual defence policy bill that would per- mit closure of the prison, but only if the president first sub- mit a plan that is approved by the Senate Armed Services Committee, has long urged the US military to close Guantanamo and is backing the language in the policy bill, the National De- fence Authorization Act.

Mc Cain says the close- sure proposal would have to include a plan for hearing the cases of the remaining prisoners at the camp. It also would need a proposal for fu- ture detention of the remain- ing prisoners unlike the issue by both Japan’s Prime Minister Shinzo Abe and the US administration that failed to put forward a plan for closing Guantanamo.

“My own view is this is a very constructive step,” he added. “It’s important to see if we can find a way forward for this that is widely shared enough that we can actually get it done.” — Reuters

Iran rejects limited international access to military sites: agency

ANKARA, 6 June — Iran will not allow even restrict- ed outside access to its mil- itary sites, unless under nuclear accord with six powers, the deputy chief of its armed forces said on Friday, re- affirming Tehran’s tough stance on the issue as the deal nears a final deal.

Access for UN nuclear inspectors to Iranian mili- tary sites and the pace and timing of sanctions relief for Tehran are among several major disputes that Iran and the powers need to resolve before the self-imposed 30 June deadline for a final deal.

“Any kind of inspec- tion of Iran’s military sites, including managed and re- stricted access, is unaccept- able,” Brigadier General Masoud Jazayeri was quoted by FARS news agency as saying. Some senior Iraq- ian negotiators had raised the possibility of some lim- ited access, with Tehran in control of the process.

“Controlled and managed access (to the military sites) does not mean inspection,” Iran’s senior nuclear negoti- ator Abbas Araghchi said after arriving in Vienna on Thursday for another round of talks with officials from the six powers. “We are trying to set some rules for managed access to non-mu- rine sites,” Iran’s official IRNA news agency quoted him as saying. But Jazay- eri’s comments reinforced the hard line long taken on the issue by Iran’s Supre- me Leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei, who has the last say on all state matters, and by top military commanders.

“We will not allow any visits to military sites, whether they be limited, controlled, unfore or in any other form,” Jazayeri said. “Let’s avoid playing with words.”

Western powers have long suspected Iran of plan- ning to build a nuclear bomb. Tehran denies any such in- tention and says its nuclear programme has purely civil- ian aims.—Reuters

A Palestinian boy sits on a sofa outside his family house that witnesses said was destroyed during the 50-day war last summer, in the east of Gaza City on 4 May, 2015.—REUTERS

Nobel Peace Prize laureate Malala Yousafzai flashes the “V” sign from the balcony of the Grand Hotel in Oslo on 10 Dec, 2014.—REUTERS
MODEL MARKETING

Kyi Mun

Customer is business.

- Theodore Levitt

The primary purpose of a business is to create Customers.

- Peter F. Drucker

Marketing is Targeting Customer, who is business as well as profit; so, Marketing means getting and keeping Customers. The official definition of marketing is:

Marketing is anticipating, identifying and satisfying the needs, wants and expectations of the customer profitably.

In short, marketing is Meeting Customer Needs Profitably.

Model Marketing includes: The Strategic Marketing Mix of (10) P’s as follows:

1. Philosophy (of Business) is : Delivering Best Value
2. Purpose (of Business) is : Win-Win Relationships
3. Policy (of Business) is : Put the Customer First
4. Product must deliver : Core Benefits for the Customer
5. Price means : Cost for the Customer
6. Place means : Convenience for the Customer
7. Promotion means : Communication for the Customer
8. Physical-evidence means : Confidence for the Customer
9. People means : Caring for the Customer
10. Process means : Comfortability for the Customer

Model Marketing also includes: the Tactical Marketing Mix of:

1. Product Architecture
2. Product Variety
3. Packaging
4. Branding
5. Pricing
6. Distribution (Channels)
7. Distribution (Logistics)
8. Merchandizing (Displaying)
9. Selling
10. Customer Service
11. Advertising
12. Promotions
13. Public Relations

From the Marketing Point of View;

- Customer is Business
- Customer is King
- Customer is Queen
- Customer is Foundation
- Customer is Root
- Customer is Lifeblood
- Customer is Holy Cow
- Customer is Judge & Jury
- (of Business Success or Failure)
- Customer is Always Right

In the heat of battle, contestants may momentarily forget the notion of fair play. Nonetheless, any transgressions are likely to be seen either by their opponents or spectators. In such cases, it is vital that the referees are able to maintain order.

Graciousness in defeat, or victory, is a sign of respect for one’s opponent and oneself, and it is in no way an indication of weakness. There are many factors that determine who wins or loses, including natural talent, quality of coaching, or amount of time spent practicing. Regardless of these factors, all players can nonetheless conduct themselves with dignity on the field.

Dignity is as important as victory in a game. As in sports, unethical behaviour should be kept out of business and politics. While having the highest score or the most wealth might be enough to secure what is considered a victory, without dignity one cannot be a true victor.

CONCLUSION

Model Marketing is all about Strategy, Strategy is all about Moves, Moves are all about Customer, Customer is all about Value, Value is all about for Money

The seller sells benefits and the buyer buys Value.

The Seller Sells the Following Benefits: (Unique Selling Points — USP)

- Core Features, Advantages, Benefits
- Cost which is fair or competitive
- Convenience to get the product/service
- Communication about the product/service
- Caring on the part of the Customer Service Staff
- Comfortability concerning the accuracy & speed of the service
- Confidence of the Customer in the Product/Service

The Buyer Buys the Following Value:

- Product Value
- Service Value
- People Value
- Image Value
- Differentiation Value

The Main Tactical Approach of the Model Marketing should be:

- To Think the Most ABOUT the Customer
- To Feel the Closest WITH the Customer
- To Act the Best FOR the Customer

In order to get optimum results, the Successful Business Mantra of QUIVERS should be boldly adopted and passionately practiced:

- Quality
- Uniqueness
- Innovation
- Value
- Excellence
- Relationship
- Service

The following Competitive Strategy of the Model Marketing should be adopted and practiced:

- Cost Leadership (Lowest Cost Producer)

- Differentiation (Unique Products/Services)
- Focus (On Innovation & Productivity)

Because price and quality are the main determinant factors in competition.

Model Marketing includes:

- Selling

Selling is helping people to buy the right product, at the right price, at the right place, and at the right time.

- Customer Service

The Moment of Truth, at which the Customer gets the service experience, should be created with the following 7-S:

- To Be Sweet
- To Be Smiling
- To Be Smart
- To Be Spirited
- To Be Sincere
- To Be Savvy
- To Be Sizzling

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.

U Kyi Mun residing in Yangon is a consultant of NAING Group Capital Co., Ltd.

Cartoon: Yan Gyi Aung

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Value for Money is all about: Quality Price + Speed & Accuracy, Convenience, Caring and Customization.
Thawt (1776-1819) became quite well-to-do, each new generation of the village married and the village settlers and new comers intermixed. Ko San Nyunt of Shwe Min Tha of Shwe Dah village, Ko San Nyunt and Ma Soe, wife of wealthy families became richer. Daughters of Saya Bo Wun-na (Hermit Monk) Age 96, Yathey Taung Thawhuti

In January of that year a hermit from Bo Wun-na (Hermit Monk) who was also a recluse. It was in April of 1928 that the hermit moved to a sandbank in the middle of a stream, to the north of Thawhuti. Out in the open, in a hilltop place, the hermit, under the guidance of Auvadha Monks with his family and visitors home and abroad, carry out special religious rites and offerings. The Bodhi tree of the hermit U Wun-na, Pariyatti Sasana and Yathey Taung Pariyatti school was closed down. But Buddha Sasana, Scripture and preceptor were provided in public fund and individual donations of cash and kind. Every year in the month of Thandawlawtya (February) after the 10th waxing moon to the full moon moon days, there is a continuous recitation of Mahabodhi Purana. The monks and on full moon day at 1 p.m., the offering of rice and dravya to the invited scriptures, offer special meditations, and does acts of public affairs (Karesa). Among them there is an organization that is the Sasana Phaya. The central hill is surrounded by four hills at four cardinal directions. These hills are low and they look more like archaeological mounds. On their summits are pagodas, originally built by the hermit U Wun-na. They are now repaired and renovated by the public. Very pleasant and sublime, these religious monuments and associated rest house and meditation hermitages are blissful refuges for religious practices. Shady flowering and fruiting trees, wild flowers and creepers provide coolness and natural fragrance. Small flights of stone steps connecting the hills with corridors on the ground and a natural lake right in the centre, into which all rain water from the paddy fields and the hills flows, where scarlet-colour lotus blooms are a perfect setting for those who seek real ultimate truth - Dhamma.

Yathey Taung hill is a highly sacred place in the five Buddha worlds including our. Perhaps symbolizing four already revealed Buddhas – Kaukwan Buddha, Kona Buddha, Bodawpaya Buddha and Gotama Buddha and symbolizing five Buddha worlds including future Buddha Meteya. After the death of the hermit U Wun-na, Pariyatti Sasana also flourished at Yathey Taung hill. Monk teachers to the hermit U Wun-na, the monk pupils would build religious monuments and visit the hermit U Wun-na, Pariyatti Sasana and Yathey Taung Pariyatti school was closed down. But Buddha Sasana, Scripture and preceptor were provided in public fund and individual donations of cash and kind. Every year in the month of Thandawlawtya (February) after the 10th waxing moon to the full moon moon days, there is a continuous recitation of Mahabodhi Purana. The monks and on full moon day at 1 p.m., the offering of rice and dravya to the invited scriptures, offer special meditations, and does acts of public affairs (Karesa). Among them there is an organization that is the Sasana Phaya. The central hill is surrounded by four hills at four cardinal directions. These hills are low and they look more like archaeological mounds. On their summits are pagodas, originally built by the hermit U Wun-na. They are now repaired and renovated by the public. Very pleasant and sublime, these religious monuments and associated rest house and meditation hermitages are blissful refuges for religious practices. Shady flowering and fruiting trees, wild flowers and creepers provide coolness and natural fragrance. Small flights of stone steps connecting the hills with corridors on the ground and a natural lake right in the centre, into which all rain water from the paddy fields and the hills flows, where scarlet-colour lotus blooms are a perfect setting for those who seek real ultimate truth - Dhamma.

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Kurds mourn, protest after bombing at Turkish election rally

DIYARBAKIR, (Turkey), 6 June — Turkish Kurds gathered on Saturday to mourn and protest at the scene of bomb blasts that killed two people and wounded more than 200 at an election rally, with many voicing anger at Prime Minister Tayyip Erdogan a day before parliamentary polls.

The two explosions, which Erdogan termed a “provocation” designed to undermine Sunday’s election, tore through a rally of the pro-Kurdish Peoples’ Democratic Party (HDP) in Diyarbakir, largest city in Turkey’s mainly Kurdish southeast.

Ball bearings, nails and other metal parts from the device were gathered as evidence but no suspects have been identified, security sources told Reuters. However, sources said more than 200 had sought treatment. A Kurdish political group said more than 300 were hurt.

Chanting “Murderer Erdogan”, hundreds marched behind a banner declaring “peace despite everything” to the scene, where they laid red carnations, a witness said.

Erdogan, the most popular politician in Turkey but accused by opponents of authoritarian tendencies, seeks a large majority for the ruling AK Party to furnish him with broader new powers.

However, if the HDP clears a 10 percent threshold to enter parliament that could thwart his ambitions.

Hundreds joined a convoy of cars heading to a funeral for a 16-year-old boy. Onlookers made the victory sign and chanted “martyrs don’t die” and “AKP you will pay for this”.

“If it weren’t for Chairman Selahattin there would have been a lot of bloody and violent events yesterday,” said retired 61-year-old Mehmet, referring to Friday’s call for calm from HDP leader Selahattin Demirtas.

Demirtas has sought to extend support for the HDP beyond its Kurdish core with appeals to centre-left and secular opponents of Erdogan who has assumed an increasingly religious tone in recent months.

Prime Minister Ahmet Davutoglu said “a dirty hand, a provocative hand” had targeted democracy itself.

Witness Guy Martin, a British photographer, told Reuters the blasts occurred some five minutes apart - the first in a rubbish bin and the second in front of a power generator. He saw one person who had lost a leg and others with shredded wounds.

“It was a heart-shaking, ribcage-shaking noise,” he said. “The most terrifying thing is that crush of people.”

Police fired water cannon and tear gas to disperse crowds after the blasts, witnesses said.

Nationalists clashed with HDP supporters at a Demirtas rally in the northern town of Erzurum. Demirtas has said his party has been the target of more than 70 violent attacks during the campaign, including medical facilities, “security Council resolutions on the largest air force base in senator coalition said.

The war has killed 11 million people and their advance south of the Hajin is now in its fifth year, and urged the Security Council to take collective action to put an end to the carnage.

The war has killed more than 220,000 people. Of the country’s roughly 23 million people, some 12.2 million are in need of humanitarian aid, including 5 million children.

“The members of the Security Council expressed their deep concern at the continued high level of violence in Syria and condemned all violence directed against civilians and civilian infrastructure, including medical facilities,” the council said in a statement. “They expressed outrage at all attacks against civilians, as well as indiscriminate attacks, including those involving shelling and aerial bombardment, such as the use of barrel bombs, which have reportedly been extensively used in recent days in Aleppo.”

It said.

Western officials blame aerial and barrel bomb attacks on the government.

Several Western council members noted that the unanimously adopted statement condemned all violence directed against civilians and civilian infrastructure, including medical facilities,” the council said in a statement. “They expressed outrage at all attacks against civilians, as well as indiscriminate attacks, including those involving shelling and aerial bombardment, such as the use of barrel bombs, which have reportedly been extensively used in recent days in Aleppo.”

The council also “condemned increased terrorist attacks resulting in numerous casualties and destruction carried out by ISIL (Islamic State), al Nusra Front and other individuals, groups, undertakings and entities associated with al-Qaeda.”

The Security Council also voiced support for UN Syria peace mediator Staffan de Mistura, who has started a new attempt to broker negotiations between rebel groups and the government. Western officials say they have little hope that a breakthrough is imminent.

Last month, Syria’s main political opposition group complained about de Mistura’s decision to include Iran, which, like Russia, has been a strong supporter of Assad.

Erdogan has accused the HDP of being a front for Kurdish Workers Party (PKK), which took up arms in 1984 in an insurgence that has killed 40,000 people.

Jailed PKK leader Abdullah Ocalan and Ankara launched peace talks more than two years ago. Another possible peace initiative was proposed by Hamas but was rejected by the government. Western powers say Hamas hasn’t yet been disarmed.

DUBAI / SANAA, 6 June — Saudi Arabia shot down a Scud missile fired into the kingdom by Yemen’s dominant Houthi group and its army allies on Saturday, according to the Saudi state news agency, in a major escalation of two months of war.

In the first use of a Scud in the conflict, the missile was fired early Saturday morning at the city of Khamees al-Mushait in the kingdom’s southwest and was intercepted by two Patriot missiles, a statement by the Saudi-led Arab military coalition said.

The area is home to the largest air force base in southern Saudi Arabia, the world’s top oil exporter, but there are no oil facilities in the vicinity.

An alliance of Gulf Arab nations has been bombing Yemen’s dominant Houthi militia and its allies that enjoy units loyal to powerful ex-President Ali Abdullah Saleh since 26 March in an attempt to restore exiled President Abd-Rabbu Mansour Hadi to power.

The coalition has said a main goal of its war effort is to neutralise the threat that rockets in Yemen pose to Saudi Arabia and its neighbours.

The Summi Muslim coalition states also fear the Houthis, hailing from a Shi’ite sect in Yemen’s far north, will act as a proxy for the influence of their neighbours. Shia’ite Iran, in the Arabian Peninsula.

Iran and the Houthi deny any military or economic links, and the Houthis say their seizure of the capital Sanaa in September and their advance southward is part of a revolution against a corrupt government.

Arab air strikes have pounded arms and missile stores in the capital Sanaa and other military bases in Yemen almost every day, but the firing of the Scud — an 11-metre (35-foot) long ballistic missile with ranges of 300 km (200 miles) and more — shows the country’s supply has not yet been eliminated.

Saleh, Yemen’s autocratic president from 1978 to 2012, was forced to step down amid Arab Spring street protests but retains most of the army’s loyalty and has joined forces with the Houthis in combat with Hadi’s armed backers in Yemen’s south. — Reuters
**Data hacked from US government dates back to 1985**

WASHINGTON, 6 June — Data stolen from US government computers by suspected Chinese hackers included security clearance information and background checks dating back three decades, US officials said on Friday, underlining the scope of one of the largest known cyber attacks on federal networks.

The breach of computer systems of the Office of Personnel Management was disclosed on Thursday by the Obama administration, which said records of up to 4 million current and former federal employees may have been compromised.

A total of 2.1 million current US government workers were affected, and the source was familiar with the FBI-led investigation into the incident.

Accusations by US government sources of a Chinese role in the cyber attack, including possible state sponsorship, could further strain ties between Washington and Beijing. Tensions are already heightened over Chinese assertiveness in pursuit of territorial claims in the South China Sea. The hacking also raises fears of a Chinese role in the 2013 theft of 4 million current and former federal employees' records from the fleet networks of the Office of Personnel Management.

Another US official said the breach was being investigated as a matter of national security, meaning it may have originated from a foreign government.

The cyber attack was among the most extensive thefts of information on the federal workforce, and one US defense official said it was clearly aimed at gaining valuable information for intelligence purposes.

“This is deep. The data goes back to 1985,” a US official said. “This means that they potentially have information about retirees, and they could know what they did after leaving government.”

Access to data from OPM’s computers, such as birth dates, Social Security numbers and bank information, could help hackers test potential passwords on other sites, including those with information about weapons systems, the official said.

That could give them a huge advantage,” the official said.

**New Jersey governor sues to stop to ocean sonic boom research**

TRENTON, (New Jersey) 6 June — Governor Chris Christie’s administration went to federal court on Friday in the hopes of stopping an underwater study off New Jersey’s coast during summer tourism season, saying sonic boom research would endanger marine mammals and other species.

In a complaint filed in US District Court in Trenton, the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection seeks to halt the study being performed by Rutgers University and funded by the National Science Foundation.

The project aims to map the ocean floor near the coast in an effort to help the world’s coastal regions better protect themselves from such natural disasters as Superstorm Sandy.

The project will shoot powerful sonic blasts every five seconds for thirty days into prime fishing areas and waters used by marine mammals and threatened and endangered species,” the lawsuit said. The Christie administration argued the project, which is taking place during peak fishing season, violates federal laws protecting marine mammals. The “high-energy 3-D seismic study in the Atlantic Ocean” involves a 12 by 50 metre (7 by 31 mile) rectangular area off the coast of New Jersey, according to court complaint.

“The impacts will be felt far outside of the study area and are likely to include reduced catch rates for New Jersey’s commercial and recreational fishing industries, and harassment of marine mammals,” the state said in court papers.

If New Jersey’s request is granted, it would be the second year in a row that Rutgers has received federal funding to conduct the study, but last year the project was canceled due to mechanical problems with the research vessel.

The shoreline action comes at the same time the Republican governor faces harsh criticism from Democrats for a proposed $225 million settlement with Exxon for environmental damage in the state.

Democrats said a judge should instead impose $2.5 billion in damages and that the governor’s proposed settlement would short-change citizens for the damages caused by Exxon pollution at two petroleum treatment centers in northern New Jersey and at other facilities and gas stations across the state.

**Google to release monthly data on self-driving car accidents**

SAN FRANCISCO, 6 June — Google Inc said it would give monthly updates of accidents involving its driverless cars.

The report for May showed Google cars had been involved in 12 accidents since the company first began testing its self-driving cars in 2009, mostly involving other drivers and pedestrians. Google said one of its vehicles was rear-ended at a stoplight in California on Thursday, bringing the total to 13 accidents.

“That could mean that the vehicles tend to stop more quickly than human drivers expect,” public interest group Consumer Watchdog said. A Google spokesperson said the consumer watchdog conclusion was erroneous because cause most of the rear-end accidents occurred when the vehicle was stopped. Consumer Watchdog called for more details on the accidents, including statements from witnesses and other data.

None of these accidents were caused by a fault with the car, Google said. Google’s self-driving-car programme director, Chris Urmson, said in May that the cars have not been involved in 11 accidents. The accidents mostly involved Google’s self-driving Lexus RX450h sport utility vehicles. Google is about to take its pod-like prototype vehicles off the test track and on to Mountain View, California, roads this summer.

The company described the two-seater car as “the world’s first fully self-driving vehicle.”

Built in Detroit by auto supplier Rouss Industries, the prototypes will be equipped with reconfigurable steering wheels, brake pedals and accelerator pedals so test engineers can “take over driving if needed,” Urmson said in May. Reuters

**Scientists design “most accurate” quantum thermometer**

WASHINGTON, 6 June — Scientists claimed on Friday they have designed the “smallest, most accurate” quantum thermometer allowed by the laws of physics.

The theoretical thermometer, made up of just a handful of atoms, could detect the smallest fluctuations in microscopic regions, such as the variations within a biological cell, they reported in the US journal Physical Review Letters.

The device is so small that it exhibits distinctive “quantum” features, according to the research, which was conducted jointly by physicists at Universitat Autonoma de Barcelona in Spain and University of Nottingham in the UK.

“Devising sensitive and practical nano-scale thermometers would represent a huge leap forward as such technology would enable a plethora of applications in biology, chemistry, physics and in the diagnosis and treatment of many diseases,” according to a statement from the authors of the research.

To design the thermometer, the physicists combined thermodynamic tools with quantum metrology, which deals with ultra-precise measures in quantum systems.

In the research, they observed that the device could maintain a constant sensitivity over a wide range of temperatures by subtracting some of their precision.

In addition, they looked at the maximum accuracy achievable in realistic situations in which the time available for the temperature measurement may be short due to unavoidable experimental limitations.
South Korea reports nine new MERS cases, one recovers and leaves hospital

Seoul, 6 June — South Korea’s health ministry reported on Saturday nine more cases of Middle East Respiratory Syndrome (MERS) raising the total to 50 but said one patient had recovered and became the first to be discharged from hospital.

The outbreak first reported on 20 May has claimed four lives and stirred public fear as the government was blamed for an ineffective initial response that allowed one man who had returned from Saudi Arabia to infect more than half the rest.

All nine new cases were traced to the initial patient, the health ministry said, calling them health care associated infections. They included one health care worker at a hospital that treated an infected patient, it said.

There has been no sustained human-to-human transmission, but the worst case scenario is the virus changes and spreads rapidly, as Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome (SARS) did in 2002-2003 killing about 800 people around the world.

MERS was first identified in humans in 2012 and is caused by a coronavirus from the same family as the one that triggered SARS. But MERS has a much higher death rate at 38 percent, according to World Health Organization (WHO) figures.

South Korea’s new cases bring the total number globally to about 1,194, based on WHO data, with at least 443 related deaths.—Reuters

Gambia expels European Union’s top diplomat; no reason stated

Banjul, 6 June — The government of Gambia has expelled the European Union’s top diplomat in the West African state, the Foreign Ministry said in a statement on Friday, but gave no further details.

Agnès Guillaud, the European Union’s chargé d’affaires in Banjul, who is acting in place of an ambassador, was asked to leave Gambia within 72 hours, according to the statement, which was read on Gambia national TV.

The statement said the decision was effective Friday. No reason was given for the expulsion.

Boston bomber’s friends sentenced for hampering investigation

Boston, 6 June — Two college friends of the Boston Marathon bomber were sentenced to prison on Friday for removing a backpack containing empty fireworks shells from Dzhokhar Tsarnaev’s dorm room amid a massive manhunt three days after the deadly 2013 attack.

Kazakh exchange student Azaat Tazhayakov was sentenced to 3-1/2 years for obstructing justice by taking, with his roommate, Tsarnaev’s pack and dropping it in a dumpster by the off-campus apartment they shared.

Rebel Phillipos, of Cambridge, Massachusetts, was sentenced to three years in prison for lying to investigators about the incident, which occurred in the hours after the FBI released images of Tsarnaev and his older brother, Tamerlan, identifying them as suspects.

A third friend, Dias Kadyrbayev, also of Kazakhstan, was sentenced on Tuesday to six years after pleading guilty to obstructing the investigation into the attack that killed three people and injured 264.

The United States never claimed that the three men had any advanced knowledge of the bombing plan, one of the highest-profile attacks on US soil since 11 September, 2001.

Tazhayakov and Kadyrbayev made statements of apology to the court for their crimes. Phillipos opted not to speak, citing a planned appeal of his conviction.

“It just makes me sick what Dzhokhar did,” Tazhayakov told the court, holding back tears. “I didn’t go there to the dorm room because I made connection that Dzhokhar was some jihadi. I never thought about it. At that moment I saw that one of my friends was alleged bomber and I didn’t know if it was true.”

Prosecutors had sought a four-year sentence for Tazhayakov, which they said reflected his willingness to testify against Tsarnaev. They were seeking a five-year, three-month sentence for Phillipos.—Reuters

China ship disaster death toll jumps, company says sorry

Yichang, China — Cargo ship Eastern Star was pulled out of the Yangtze River on Saturday state media said, bringing the death toll to 456 from 452 on Friday.

The ship was able to right itself and was pulled out of the river after it capsized three days ago with 456 passengers and crew on board.

The captain of the ship said that it was not overloaded and had enough life vests for everyone on board. The ship was not seaworthy and had just 60 life jackets for a crew of 27 at the time of the accident.

The company responsible for the ship said that it has offered compensation to the families of the victims.

Beijing has pledged there would be “no cover-up” in the probe.

Police have detained the captain and chief engineer for questioning as part of the investigation.

An initial probe found the ship was not overloaded and had enough life vests for everyone on board.

The disaster has now caused a higher toll than the sinking of a ferry in South Korea in April 2014 that killed 304 people, most of them children on a school trip. It is also China’s worst shipping catastrophe in seven decades.

More than 1,000 family members have come to Jianli in the central province of Hubei, where the ship went down, with many expressing frustration at the lack of information from the government.

The government says that it is doing everything possible to help the relatives, including providing free accommodation and medical services, and on Saturday state television ran an interview with a tearful family member saying how happy she was with all their help.

But relatives speaking to Reuters have expressed concern about security apparently being aimed at them, including the number of police cars parked outside of hotels where they are staying.

“Everyone who has come here is being controlled. Basically there is no freedom. They follow us everywhere,” one man who lost several relatives on the boat told Reuters, asking not to be identified.—Reuters

Passengers wearing masks to prevent contracting Middle East Respiratory Syndrome (MERS) sit inside a taxi in Seoul, South Korea on 5 June, 2015.—Reuters

Rescue workers stand on the river bank as the capsized cruise ship Eastern Star is pulled out of the Yangtze against sunset, in Jianli, Hubei Province, China, on 5 June, 2015.—Reuters

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Mali govt, rebels agree security deal as step to peace accord

Implementing any peace arrangement and ceasefire is complicated, with fighters on the ground divided into various competing factions and splinter groups, and Islamist militants also trying to return.

“There are two texts that we will sign today, one security and one political, that will allow the Coordination to go ahead and sign the final agreement, hope- fully on 20 June in Bamako,” Hamdi told Reuters at the signing ceremony in Algiers.

Hamdi said one ar- rangement called for a ceasefire in the northern town of Menaka and the withdrawal of pro-Bamako armed groups from the area, to be replaced tempo- rarily by UN security be- fore Malian troops would be stationed there.

The text of the agreement calls for the retreat of all rebel forces to 20 kilo- metres outside Menaka, a strategic town 200 km (125 miles) east of Gao, the largest city in northern Mali.

Pro-government armed groups seized Menaka from Tuareg separatists in April during fierce fighting that has complicated interna- tional efforts to get a final peace agreement.

In a sign of splits, pro-Bamako group Plat- forme, which has signed up for the UN peace deal, rejected Friday’s Menaka security accord, saying its proposals had been ig- nored.

A second political text addresses some “concerns” by the rebel alliance about the peace deal, including guarantees on issues such as return of refugees, se- curity arrangements and development plans for their region.

After signing the two documents, Malian Foreign Minister Abdoulaye Diop said they created “all the conditions for peace”.

Tuaregs have risen up four times since Mali’s independence from France in 1960 to demand some form of self-rule.

The Algiers document in March proposed more devolved powers for the north, a regional security force and a special devel- opment plan. But it left the issue of France’s political identity for a national de- bate between Malian par- ties.

Mali’s government rejected any notion of full auton- omy for Azawad in a federal system, but said it would devolve more au- thority under Mali’s exist- ing decentralised structure. Rebels had pushed for a federalist system.

Reuters

Japanese families leave for disputed Russian islands for annual visit

TOYOYO, 6 June — Former Japanese resi- dents of disputed islands off Hokkaido left for the Russian-held islands on Saturday for an annual visit, as the two coun- tries struggle to address the long-standing row.

The first group of this year’s visitors, made up of some 60 former residents and their fam- ilies, left the northern Japanese city of Nemuro by boat. They will see the remains of their old homes and other places on one of the islands, Etorofu, before returning to Nemuro on Monday, organizers said.

The trip, which comes as both countries are promoting exchang- es between the former and current residents of the islands by allowing visa-free visits, had originally been scheduled for mid-May but was canceled due to a delay in Russia’s internal arrange- ments, the Japanese gov- ernment said earlier.

This time, the depar- ture was delayed from Friday due to bad weather.

Japan and Russia have been negotiating an end to their territorial dispute involving four islands — Kunashiri, Etorofu Shikotan and the Habomai islets — that Russia took control of at the end of World War II and which has prevented the countries from sign- ing a formal peace treaty.

Kyodo News

Two climbers killed, 17 missing after quake hits Malaysia’s highest mountain

KUALA LUMPUR, 6 June — Two people were killed and 17 climbers, includ- ing one Chinese national, were still unaccounted for on Mount Kinabalu after a 5.9-magnitude earthquake hit Malaysia’s eastern Sabah state, a Malaysian official said on Saturday.

Ranau District Police Chief Superintendent Fur- han Lee Abdullah told the media that eight Singapo- reans, six Malaysians, and three each from Chi- na, the Philippines and Ja- pan were still missing after the earthquake on Friday.

The bodies of a 12-year- old Singaporean student and a 30-year- old local moun- tain guide have already been brought down and taken to hospital, he added.

The Chinese Consul- rate in Kota Kinabalu told Xinhua that a Chinese was among the those missing after the quake, and local authorities were continu- ing an effort to locate those climbers.

Ferhan said that the search and rescue operation was still underway.

“We will continue the search until everyone has been accounted for,” he said.

The Malaysian Mete- orological Department said the earthquake, which oc- curred at 7:15 am local time (0215 GMT Thursday), was centered 16 km northwest of Ranau near Mount Kinaba- lu, with a depth of 54 km. It was felt across the Sabah state.

The tremor triggered small landslides and stone- falls on the 4,095-metre Mount Kinabalu, the highest peak in Malaysia. Accord- ing to the photos posted on- line by the trapped climbers, part of the iconic Donkey’s Ear twin peaks of the moun- tain were badly damaged.

Hikers always start climbing the mountain af- ter midnight from the camp and reach the top by dawn to watch the sunrise.

Xinhua

WEATHER REPORT

BAY INFERENCE: Monsoon is weak in the Andaman Sea and Bay of Bengal.

FORECAST VALID UNTIL EVENING OF THE 7th June, 2015: Rain or thundershowers will be widespread in Kachin State, fairly widespread in Upper Sagain Region, Chin and Rakhine States, scattered in Mandalay, Bago, Yangon, Ayeawady and Taninthayi Regions, Shan and Mon States and isolated in the remaining Regions and States. Degree of certainty is (80%).

STATE OF THE SEA: Sea will be moderate in Myanmar water.

OUTLOOK FOR SUBSEQUENT TWO DAYS: Likelihood of thundery activities in the Northern Myanmar areas.

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Angelina Jolie wants to play Boba Fett’s wife in ‘Star Wars’ movie

LOS ANGELES, 6 June — Hollywood actress-director Angelina Jolie has revealed that she would love to play Boba Fett’s missus in George Lucas’ “Star Wars” movies.

Jolie, 40, revealed her fandom for the sci-fi franchise when interview-ing her “Unbroken” actor Domhnall Gleeson for the Interview Magazine.

“I’m personally a Boba Fett fan,” Jolie said, to which Gleeson responded, “Well, you make a phone call and I’m pretty sure, Angie, that they’ll have you in, in a second.”

Jolie then replied, “Can Boba Fett have a missus? Well, put in a good word for me, then.”

Gleeson is set to appear in J J Abrams’ “Star Wars: The Force Awakens”, which is due for re-release in December 2015.

Leonardo DiCaprio and Michael Bay to produce Rwandan Cycling movie

LOS ANGELES, 6 June — Hollywood star Leonardo DiCaprio and director Michael Bay are teaming up for a movie based on the Rwandan national cycling team.

The “Wolf of Wall Street” actor will not star in the film, and the “Transformers” director is not directing the project, said The Hollywood Reporter. The duo will produce the movie via their respective banners Appian Way and Bay Films.

“Virunga” director Orlando von Einsiedel has roped in to helm the movie which is still in development stage. The movie will revolve around American cyclist Jacques “Jock” Boyer, who after retiring went to Rwanda and formed the country’s cycling team, Team Rwanda.

DiCaprio, 40 and the 50-year-old Bay got connected on the project through Bay’s former assistant-turned-vp, Elsey Klais.—PTI

Keeping China’s film legends alive

BEIJING, 6 June — In a dark workshop in Beijing, film reels are stacked on the floor in cases that have kept better days. Their contents are waiting to be transferred to a digital format.

The China Film Archive (CFA) is working to save these old films, the treasures of a Chinese movie industry that is celebrating its 110th birthday this year. Considered the first film made in China, 1905 short “Dingjun Mountain” gave birth to a sector that is flourishing today as never before.

The reels came from Shaanxi Province’s Xi’an Film Vault, a giant climate-controlled warehouse designed for careful storage of the delicate archives.

“The temperature must be kept between minus and plus 5 degrees centigrade,” says CFA engineer Wang Zheng. “The indoor relative humidity must be 30 to 40 percent.”

Even more complex processes are involved in the restoration project, which has been reclaiming and preserving valuable material for film historians since its launch in late 2006.

After cleaning and re-pairing the film with chemical reagents, Wang scans it using a telecine machine and transfers the footage to the CFA’s central system.

“We use several computer programs, including Photoshop, to digitally re-store the footage,” Wang explains. This step is the most time-consuming as the engineers must check and patch the film’s frame by frame, staring at a screen for hours.

“We’re all under age 40, but our heads are spinning after a day’s work,” Wang says.

A skillful film restorer can finish 200 frames at most in a day. A 90-minute feature — with around 130,000 frames — can take six months to restore.

“Old film dims and gets dirty over the years,” says Wang. “We must not only repair them technically, but also keep their historical integrity.”

His comment hints at the true importance of this project — building an accessible library of films that can give viewers an understanding of movie history.

Through the painstaking monotonity of their task, Wang and his colleagues have accumulated a wealth of knowledge about Chinese films and grown to appreciate these cinematic works.

“We restored an animation in 2012, ‘Rat and Frog’, which was produced in 1931,” he recalls. “The techniques and production standards were on par with the Walt Disney Company — so it’s hard to say who might have influenced whom.”

Wang complains that younger restorers, though technically accomplished, lack understanding of old Chinese films, and the social and historical context.

“All the movies, once restored, must be evaluated by experts and directors,” he says, noting that historical know-how is especially important to the work of CFA counterpart the Central Studio of News Reels Production, which works to restore vintage Chinese documentaries.

The CFA’s digital library holds more than 30,000 Chinese feature films and 600,000 copies of works produced since 1922.

Li Tao, deputy head of the CFA’s public affairs division, explains that the restorers prioritize badly damaged films with high historical value. “We are not willing to see these precious archives disappear.”

The CFA has digitally restored some 7,000 films, including the earliest exist-ing feature-length Chinese movie, “Labour’s Love”.

Despite the success, the CFA faces challenges. It receives annual government funding of 35 million yuan (about 5.6 million US dollars), but still needs more donor assistance.

“It’s common practice internationally for film restoration work to get financial support from production companies or nongovernmental bodies as it’s considered a public service,” according to Li. “In China, we need to attract more private capital into film preservation.”

The CFA is also short of skilled techni-cians. “The intensive and tiring nature of the work keeps many young engi-neers away,” he says.

“A good film restorer should have understand-ing of the film’s chemical and physical nature, be skilled at using computer software, and know Chinese film history — not many people have all that.”

His summary of the job may be the biggest recruitment draw. “Legends survive on film. What we do is keep legends alive.”—Xinhua

Bruce Willis stars in Chinese second world war film

LOS ANGELES, 6 June — Hollywood star Bruce Willis has been cast for the upcoming Chinese epic “The Bombing”, which is about Japan’s aerial bombardment of the southwestern city of Chongqing in World War II.

Willis, 60, will be seen in the role of a flying instructor, said The Hollywood Reporter.

He is joined by Asian stars including South Korea’s Song Seung-hoon, Hong Kong actors Nicholas Tse and William Chan, and Chinese actor Liu Ye in the 3D movie.

Directed by Xiao Feng, the film started shooting last month and the “Die Hard” star has already shot key scenes in Xiangshan in China’s Zhejiang province, according to Xiao’s Sina Weibo microblog.

The film is due for release early next year.

On his website, Feng said the budget for the movie was USD 56.47 million. The timing of the film’s release will coincide with events to mark the 70th anniversary of the end of WWII.

Willis previously starred in “Looper”, which was co-produced by Chinese-American production company DMG.—PTI

Bicycle fashion show kicks off in Budapest

A participant attends a bicycle fashion show in Budapest, Hungary, on 5 June, 2015.—Xinhua

Hollywood star Bruce Willis with events to mark the 70th anniversary of the end of WWII.

Willis previously starred in “Looper”, which was co-produced by Chinese-American production company DMG.—PTI

Director Orlando von Einsiedel has roped in to helm the movie which is still in development stage. The movie will revolve around American cyclist Jacques “Jock” Boyer, who after retiring went to Rwanda and formed the country’s cycling team, Team Rwanda.

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Japan hotels offer tight space for a tight budget

Tokyo, 6 June — With Japan’s tourist numbers and hotel prices on the rise thanks to a weaker yen, developers are getting creative with a new niche line in stylish but cheap accommodation in all shapes and sizes.

Even a tiny double room in a hotel with limited service can set you back 30,000 yen in a hotel with limited service. But if you can set you back 30,000 yen in a hotel with limited service. But if you can set you back 30,000 yen in a hotel with limited service. But if you can set you back 30,000 yen in a hotel with limited service.

Just 10 minutes’ walk from Tokyo’s famous Akihabara shopping district, an eight-storey white building called Grids stands among office and apartment blocks. The hotel, a conversion of an office and apartment blocks. The hotel, a conversion of an office and apartment blocks.

A woman sits inside a one man capsule bed unit called a ‘pod’ inside a hotel at Grids at the Akihabara shopping district in Tokyo, Japan, on 19 May, 2015. — Reuters

The hotel, a conversion of an office and apartment blocks. The hotel, a conversion of an office and apartment blocks. The hotel, a conversion of an office and apartment blocks.

About 8,000 people are staying in these hotels converted from office blocks until the end of May. The accommodation is a 28 square meter premium room with tatami mats on a raised floor where guests can lay out futons for four, costing about 5,000 yen per person.

If you’ve come with family or friends, the top floor has a 28 square meter premium room with tatami mats on a raised floor where guests can lay out futons for four, costing about 5,000 yen per person.

“Building a hotel from scratch costs too much money now because of high construction costs,” she added. It typically takes about three years to build a new hotel, while Sankei spent a year to open Grids once it started planning last summer.

Sankei has already secured another property for Grids in the Nihonbashi district not far from Tokyo station and is planning to build more in Kyoto and Osaka. A survey of 13.4 million foreigners visited Japan last year, partly thanks to the weak yen. Japan aims to boost that to 20 million by 2020, the year of the Tokyo Olympics, and 30 million by 2030. First Cabin also runs hotels converted from office buildings in six cities nationwide.

FIFA may be embroiled in scandal but its Women’s World Cup set to be hit with fans

Vancouver, 6 June — With a bribery scandal enveloping FIFA it might seem like a bad time for football’s governing body to hold the Women’s World Cup in Canada — even more so given indictments last week included top officials from the North American and Caribbean region on corruption charges.

But that isn’t proving to be the case. Tickets for the month-long competition that starts on Saturday are selling quickly, TV audiences around the world are expected to be large, and the sponsors say they expect good exposure for their products.

Some current and former players even say the scandal, which led to Sepp Blatter’s resignation as FIFA president on Tuesday, has triggered more interest in the women’s competition rather than casting a shadow. “We all love train wrecks,” said former Canadian national team player Carrie Serwety.

“I think this World Cup is going to benefit from the scandal. It’s going to drive more people into seats and it’s going to create a bigger television audience, because people are curious about what’s happening with FIFA.”

One attraction is that the Women’s World Cup is FIFA’s mom-and-pop operation, meaning it is far less drenched in money than the men’s game and therefore less likely to be tainted by illicit payments.

The opening match between Canada and China in Edmonton, is on track to record the largest attendance — 52,000 people — for any Canadian national team match in any sport, according to the Canadian Football Association. That is quite something in a country usually more obsessed with ice hockey.

The 24-team tournament has games spread across six cities and five time zones from Canada’s Atlantic to Pacific coasts.

The final on July 5 sold out within 72 hours, all the US team matches are selling out and more than 1.5 million fans are expected in total. That compares with 845,711 spectators at the last Women’s World Cup in 2011 in Germany, which had fewer games.

“Ticket sales are going very very fast across our country,” said CSA General Secretary Peter Montopoli.

“Due to demand in Montreal, we’re opening up the upper bowl in Montreal’s Olympic Stadium for Canada’s third group stage match.” That will nearly double the capacity for the game. Some sponsors who shuddered as the scandal erupted last week and worsened this week are now quietly giddy at the attention.

“Bad press, good press, it’s all press and draws attention to the event,” said the representative of a major sponsor who spoke on condition of anonymity.

Even practices and warm-ups games have drawn extra attention as the twists and turns in the scandal have unfolded in the past 10 days. “There’s a lot of talk about Football right now, perhaps, maybe, we’ll get people to watch this amazing tournament.” US player Heather O’Reilly told reporters in Winnipeg.

Some players said they welcomed the reforms in FIFA and more attention on developing women’s football. “We’re excited for FIFA to restructure and go forward with more transparent people at the head of it,” said Meghan Klingenberg, also a player in the US team. — Reuters

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Japanese crocodiles, offspring of Castro gift, reach Cuban swamp

ZAPATA SWAMP NATIONAL PARK, (Cuba), 6 June — Ten baby crocodiles transferred from Sweden have reached a Cuban hatchery to strengthen the species and extend the blood lines of a pair of Cuban crocodiles former President Fidel Castro gave to a Soviet cosmonaut in the 1970s.

The hatchlings, a gift from a Swedish zoo in April, were delivered to the Zapata Swamp National Park’s hatchery on Thursday after a 40-day quarantine in Havana. Scientists hope to boost a species thinned by loss of habitat and interbreeding with the American crocodile.

“They can be a new source of genetic help to preserve the species,” said Etian Perez, a biologist at the Zapata Swamp hatchery, where 4,000 to 5,000 Cuban crocodiles are nurtured.

Each year the hatchery releases as many animals as scientists believe are ready for the wild, where they can grow to 2.5 to 2.8 metres long, about 8 to 9 feet. Another 6,000 to 8,000 are in the wild, Perez said, numbers that Cuban officials are trying to keep from dwindling.

The newly arrived 21-month-old siblings, each about a meter (3 feet) long, could be held for a year or more before release, Perez said. — Reuters

Baby crocodiles, offspring of Castro gift, reach Cuban swamp

A Cuban crocodile (Crocodylus rhombifer) is seen in a hatchery at Zapata Swamp National Park, on 4 June, 2015. — Reuters

Zapata Swamp National Park, (Cuba), 6 June — Ten baby crocodiles transferred from Sweden have reached a Cuban hatchery to strengthen the species and extend the blood lines of a pair of Cuban crocodiles former President Fidel Castro gave to a Soviet cosmonaut in the 1970s.

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Baby crocodiles, offspring of Castro gift, reach Cuban swamp
By Ye Myint

YANGON, 6 June — Myanmar’s U23 footballers will be gunning for a third consecutive win Sunday at the 28th SEA Games in Singapore, with victory against the Philippines guaranteeing a semifinal berth with a group match in hand.

Myanmar sit atop Group A with the maximum six points from their opening two matches, having defeated the hosts 2-1 on Thursday after opening the tournament with a 4-2 win over Indonesia two days earlier.

Teams in the football tournament are divided into two groups, with the top two teams from each advancing to the semis.

Draws in both remaining group matches will also be enough to secure a place in the semis for Myanmar, who failed to advance past the group stage as hosts of the 27th SEA Games in 2013.

Myanmar are brimming with confidence before the match at Jalan Besar Stadium against a Philippines side that has yet to secure a point, having lost 3-1 to Cambodia and 1-0 to Singapore in its two group games.

Myanmar Head Coach Kyi Lwin said after the win against Singapore on Thursday, “We will try our best in every game, and we will try to win the next two games.”

Myanmar will face Cambodia on Wednesday in their final match of the group stage—GNLM

Portugal stay perfect, Colombia sneak through

DUNEDIN, 6 June — Colombia have sneakied through to the last 16 at New Zealand 2015 on goal difference after a 3-1 defeat to Portugal that maintains the Europeans’ flawlessness thus far. Helio Sousa’s side were deserved and comprehensive winners in a match that underlined their credentials as genuine title contenders.

The first half was a disappointingly low-key affair but there were a couple of moments of genuine quality, most notably when Nuno Santos gave the Europeans a third-minute lead. It was the latest superb free-kick in a tournament crammed full of them, with the Portugal No 11 adapting to a position just outside the box with a ferocious left-foot drive around the wall and high into the Colombian net.

Los Cafeteros’ first decent effort, 27 minutes later, also came from a dead ball. Joao Rodriguez was the man responsible on this occasion, curling a 30-yard effort up and over the wall only to see the ball drop just a few inches wide of the left-hand post.

Portugal remained in control of the match, though, and it was no surprise when they went ahead nine minutes into the second half. The goal came from the penalty spot, and the award was inevitable after goalkeeper Alvaro Montero rushed from his goal to crash wildly into Andre Silva. The Portugal No 9 dusted himself down to assume responsibility and coolly sent the keeper the wrong way, side-footing low into the right-hand corner.

Silva has been one of the stars of Portugal’s campaign thus far and on 67 minutes he doubled his tally with third goal of the tournament. Again, Montero did not cover himself responsible on this occasion, with the Portuguese stopper completely off his line only to completely miss Nuno Santos’s teasing cross from the left. Silva, though, deserved great credit for directing a looping header back towards goal so accurate that even Davinson Sanchez, covering on the line, could not prevent it dropping in.

The only disappointment for Portugal on an otherwise perfect afternoon was the blemish applied to their erstwhile perfect defensive record. That came in the shape of an ultimately crucial consolation goal for Colombia, with Jarlan Barrera threading a pass through for Santos Borre to pick his spot in the bottom corner with a precise left-foot finish.

FIFA

Draw takes Mali, Uruguay through

HAMILTON, 6 June — Mali and Uruguay have qualified for the Round of 16 after a 1-1 draw that left them facing the drawing of lots to decide which of the two finishes second in Group D. That draw took place in Auckland shortly after the sides were left with identical points and goal tallies, Serbia having secured top spot with a 2-0 win over Mexico.

The ‘loser’ of this drawing of lots will advance in any case as one of the best third-placed teams, and the fact that a draw was enough for both was evident in the sides’ safety-first approach. It was certainly not a match that will live long in the memory, with chances in extremely short supply and neither team willing to commit numbers to attack.

Uruguay’s 17-minute opener came completely out of the blue and was a tribute to the intelligence of Franco Acosta. Mali had made a hash of clearing the ball out of defence and when Ramiro Guerra looped a header back into the area, Acosta — unmarked, offside but with his back to goal — applied the most delicate of glancing touches to deflect it past the keeper.

Mali responded and might have drawn level on a couple of occasions, first when Aboubacar Doumbia was off target with a powerful cross-cum-shot and then when Falaye Sacko’s curling effort was held by the impressive Gaston Guruceaga. However, as half-time neared, Guruceaga was involved in the incident that led to parity being restored when he was penalised for handling a back-pass.

Uruguay protested the award but Mali made sure to take full advantage, with Adama Traore taking possession of the indirect free-kick and curling a powerful left-foot shot into the bottom corner from 16 yards.

That set up the result that both teams needed and, in truth, the second half — a complete non-event in terms of goalscoring chances — showed that Uruguay and Mali can now both look forward to the last 16, with an update on the final group rankings to be provided soon on FIFA.com.—FIFA

Portugal stay perfect, Colombia sneak through

A general view during the FIFA U-20 World Cup New Zealand 2015 Group C match between Colombia and Portugal at Otago Stadium on 6 June, 2015 in Dunedin, New Zealand.—FIFA

Draw takes Mali, Uruguay through

FIFA U-20 World Cup results 6 June, 2015

Group C

Senegal 2-1 Qatar
Colombia 1-3 Portugal

Group D

Serbia 2-0 Mexico
Mali 1-1 Uruguay

Match Schedules for 7 June 2015 (all times local)

Group E

Hungary - Nigeria 11:30
Brazil - Korea DPR 11:30

Group F

Honduras - Germany 08:30
Fiji - Uzbekistan 08:30