Vice President looks into West Yangon General Hospital

YANGON, 7 June — Vice President Dr Sai Mauk Kham inspected healthcare facilities at the West Yangon General Hospital on Sunday.

The 200-bedded hospital in Kyimyindine Township is also providing medical services to outpatients, and it consists of 17 wards including a medical ward, a surgical ward, a pediatric ward, and an obstetrics and gynecology ward.

Dr Daw Nyunt Nyunt Wai, the medical superintendent of the hospital, explained the number of staff, healthcare services and free medical treatments in 2014.

Deputy Minister for Health Dr Win Myint and Yangon region’s Chief Minister U Myint Swe presented the possible infrastructural development at the hospital.

At the meeting with responsible persons, Dr Sai Mauk Kham said renovation and development works at the hospital will be carried out depending on the budget allocation each fiscal year together with the contribution of private sector.

He also urged the staff member of the hospital to be hospitable to the patients. The West Yangon General Hospital was constructed in 1965-1966 and the four-storey building in 1997.

The hospital provided free medical treatments to 14,746 inpatients in 2014.

Vice President Dr Sai Mauk Kham visits child ward at West Yangon General Hospital in Kyimyindine Township. — MNA

MJA offers exchange visit for excellent Myanmar matriculation students

YANGON, 7 June — Myanmar Japan Association made the outstanding Myanmar matriculation students an offer of applying for exchange visit programme.

A total of 20 outstanding matriculation students in 2014-2015 academic year will be awarded the 8-day visit to Japan in September this year, according to the announcement of MJA.

Some 95 students from states and regions who got the highest mark in previous exam can apply for this exchange visit programme by 10 July, and MJA will interview the shortlists.

U Saw Hla Min, the President of Myanmar Japan Association, said the exchange visits is aimed to promote relations between two countries, providing human resource development and honouring outstanding Myanmar students in the matriculation exam.

Under the programme, the selected Myanmar students will get a chance to visit a university in Tokyo and general science museum during their three-day visit in the capital and a four-day home stay in northern Japan, according to MJA.

MJA has donated school uniforms and stationery to the students at two basic education primary schools in Phygys Station and Shwemyaya monastic education middle school in north district of Yangon, on 2 June.

The West Yangon General Hospital was constructed in 1965-1966 and the four-storey building in 1997.

The hospital provided free medical treatments to 14,746 inpatients in 2014.

The West Yangon General Hospital was constructed in 1965-1966 and the four-storey building in 1997.

Police rescue 22 human trafficking victims in May

YANGON, 7 June — Myanmar police last month rescued 22 human trafficking victims bound for foreign countries as forced labourers or brides, Police Captain Min Naing said Saturday.

In May, the Anti-Trafficking in Persons Division arrested 18 traffickers in 11 separate cases, most of them women, he added.

According to the police, 56 trafficking cases have been recorded from January to May this year, nearly doubling from the same period last year.

Fifteen cases occurred in Shan State, while Mandalay and Yangon were the next highest, with 10 and seven respectively.

Bago, Sagaing, Magway and Ayeyawady regions, and Kayin, Mon and Kachin states all had fewer than seven cases but there have been no reports of human trafficking cases in the capital Nay Pyi Taw, Taninthayi Region and Rakhine State this year.

The authorities arrested 93 traffickers during the five months, but 51 suspects are still at large. All of the wanted traffickers are Myanmar nationals, Police Captain Min Naing said.

According to the official figures, the number of trafficking cases from 2006 to May this year reached 1,179 nationwide, with police rescuing more than 2,000 victims and arresting 2,199 traffickers. More than 1,000 suspects remain on the run.

Trafficking in persons is a serious crime in both developed and developing countries, with cases involving forced labour or sexual exploitation prevalent. Most Myanmar victims were sold into forced marriages in China and forced labour in Thailand. — GNLM
Local farmers receive poppy-alternative crops

KYAUKSE, 7 June — A ceremony to distribute poppy-alternative crops to local farmers was held at the hall of Township General Administration Department in Mantong, northern Shan State, recently.

On the occasion, Commander of Township Police Force Police Major Tin Pe gave talks on prevention of narcotic drugs, Head of Township Agriculture Department U Zeyar Min Aung, cultivation of poppy-alternative crops in implementation of special Yimmar project, and cultivation of crops through good agricultural patterns.

Township officials presented Paletthwe paddies and maize seeds and 60 bags of pearl and compound fertilizers to local farmers.

Myint Aung

Mandalay Region secures 38.56 percent of pass rate in 2015 matriculation exam

Mandalay, 7 June — Mandalay Region Minister for Planning and Economy U Aung Zan spoke about economic cooperation and investment in the region and easing the restrictions for development of border trade between the two countries.

Indian Consul General Dr Nadakumma explained export of Myanmar products by Mandalay Region to Indian market, cooperation in development of IT, and bilateral trade promotion and investment matters.

Chairman of MRC-Cl clarified cooperation in seeking Indian market for exporting Myanmar products and Indian products to upper Myanmar market.

Deputy Director U Swe Tint Kyu reported on agricultural produces and chemical free vegetables and fruits to the market.

Thiha Ko Ko (Mandalay)

Myanmar, Indian businessmen concentrate on development of bilateral trade, investment

Mandalay, 7 June — Mandalay Region Chambers of Commerce and Industry and Mandalay-based Indian Consulate General jointly staged the roundtable discussion on India-Myanmar Trade and Investment at Sedona Hotel at the corner of 26th and 66th streets in Aye Chan Thazan Township on 5 June.

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Thiha Ko Ko (Mandalay)

Advocates discuss legal aid law (draft)

Mandalay, 6 June — A roundtable discussion on legal aid law (draft) at Shwe Ye Mon Hotel on 53rd street in Mahauungmye Township, Mandalay, on 6 June.

Chairman of Myanmar Legal Aid Network Advocate U Hla Ko made a speech while leader of the management committee of the network U Kyaw Myint spoke about matters related to the drafted law.

Advocates from the network discussed chapters of the drafted law.

Thiha Ko Ko (Mandalay)

Mahlaing Tsp records top pass rate in matriculation exam

Meiktila, 6 June — Mahlaing Township topped the table in the recent matriculation exam in Mandalay Region’s Meiktila District, recording a pass rate of 53.73 percent, followed by Wundwin Township with 42.95 percent and Meiktila Township with 41.42 percent.

The exam results were released on 6 June, with over 5,000 students in the township passing the exam. A total of 12,871 students sat the matriculation exams across the district in March 2015.

In the 2014-2015 academic year, Meiktila District had 1,000 outstanding students who passed the examination with flying colours, including 33 students who achieved distinctions in all subjects. Of these students, 571 were from Mahlaing Township. There were nearly 150,000 students from over 800 basic education schools plus 35 monastic education schools in Meiktila District last academic year.

GNLM-018

Ministers, local residents participate in tree growing ceremony

Nyaungshwe, 7 June — A growing ceremony marked the World Environment Day 2015 in Inlay Lake in Nyaungshwe Township, on 5 June.

Shan State Minister for Forestry and Mining U Sai Aik Paung, Minister for Development Affairs U Sai Hla Win, Minister for Electricity and Industry U Sai Tun Yin, Minister for Social Welfare Dr Myo Tun, Inn Ethnic Affairs Minister U Win Myint, departmental personnel, members of social organizations and local people planted 853 saplings of various species nearby village.

Myat Tha (IPRD)

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Global New Light of Myanmar
Local News
NEGLIGENCE

MONDAY, 8 JUNE, 2015

NATIONAL

STONE AGE MURAL PAINTINGS DISCOVERED IN YWANGAN TSP

YANGON, 7 June — A team of archaeologists and experts led by Union Minister for Culture U Aye Myint Kyu on Saturday visited the site where stone age mural paintings were discovered by locals called U Win Bo and U Soe Naing. The site is located about 3-hour walk in the jungle from Ywaseopyin Village on the bank of Kinta Dam.

The mural paintings were found on the largest boulder of 80-foot length and 40-foot breadth, which stood like a roof, and depict animals, palms and others drawn with natural dyes made of mud and stones. On a stone wall of 50-foot length and 22-foot height were paintings of a 14-foot long and 9-foot high elephant and others. Some of the drawings cannot be seen clearly as they were covered with dust.

After studying the paintings, the union minister advised the archaeologists and experts to protect the murals properly, do more research and search other possible sites for similar mural paintings.

The Ministry of Culture will invite local and foreign experts to the site for research, preservation and identification of the times the paintings were drawn. — MNA

COMPUTER PAINTING CONTEST MARKS INTERNATIONAL DAY AGAINST DRUG ABUSE AND ILLICIT TRAFFICKING

YANGON, 7 June — Yangon Region Chief Minister U Myint Swe on Saturday attended a computer painting contest to mark the International Day against Drug Abuse and Illicit Trafficking.

The competition was organized by Yangon Region Committee for Drug Abuse Control with the aim of raising awareness on danger of drugs.

The chief minister together with rector of the university Dr Saw San-da Aye and Chairman U Myat Kyaw Kyaw of Yangon Region Committee for Drug Abuse Control enjoyed the contest. Altogether 25 students from basic education schools in Yangon participated in the competition.— MNA

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Myanmar, Chinese FM’s exchange messages to mark 65th anniversary of establishment of diplomatic relations

YANGON, 8 June — On the occasion of the 65th anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic relations between the Republic of the Union of Myanmar and the People’s Republic of China which falls on 8 June 2015, U Wunna Maung Lwin, Union Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar and Mr Wang Yi, Minister of Foreign Affairs of the People’s Republic of China exchanged the congratulatory messages.— MNA

UNION MINISTER DELIVERS SPEECH AT HOTEL SERVICE COURSES IN RAKHINE STATE

YANGON, 7 June — Union Minister for Hotels and Tourism U HlayAung made a speech at the opening ceremony of Hotel Service Courses (16/2015) organized by Myanmar Hoteliers Association (Rakhine Zone) under the supervision of the Ministry of Hotels and Tourism at the Amazing Ngapali Resort Hotel in Ngapali Beach, Thandwe district in Rakhine on Saturday.

In his speech, the union minister said that with considerable development of tourism in Myanmar, the Ministry of Hotels and Tourism has been conducting hotel service courses and tour guide courses at tour destinations for human resources development.

Nation building tasks require educated youths and only educated youths can bring about development for the country, the minister added.

In conclusion, the union minister urged the trainees to continue their learning after the courses in order to conduct multi-tiered courses in their towns and cooperate with the government, private sector and the public for the sustainability of tour destinations. After the union minister’s speech, Chairman of Myanmar Tourism Federation U Yan Win made a speech.

In his speech, he said that it is necessary for trainees to try as hard as they can because hotel and tourism industry is an extensive service industry and requires new employees every year.

As tourism can benefit the country as well as individuals involved in it, the trainees can contribute to the interests of the country by trying at the courses, the chairman concluded.

Afterwards, the union minister warmly greeted the trainees.

Present at the opening ceremony of the courses were Thandwe District Administrator U MyoOo, Thandwe District Police Officer Police Lt-Col Kan Win, Chairman of Myanmar Tourism Federation U Yan Win, Chairman of Myanmar Hoteliers Association (Rakhine Zone) U AungMyo Min Din and executive members.

The courses are conducted free of charge for 301 trainees from Rakhine State. — MNA

CHARGE D’AFFAIRES AI OF SWEDISH EMBASSY MR JOHAN HALLENBORG WELCOMES YANGON REGION CHIEF MINISTER U MYINT SWE AND WIFE AT THE RECEPTION TO MARK NATIONAL DAY OF SWEDEN AT NORIDE HOUSE, 7 PYUTHU LANE, MAYANGON TOWNSHIP, ON 6 JUNE — MNA
Mobile school accepts cash and stationery

Myawady, 7 June — The donation ceremony of cash assistance, school textbooks and stationery for Myanmar mobile schools in Thailand was held at No 1 Basic Education High School in Myawady, Kayin State, on 5 June. Chief Minister of Kayin State U Zaw Min delivered an address while Chairperson Daw Naw Phaw Yay of Myanmar Mobile Education Assistance Foundation of Myanmar Mobile Education Committee and Principal of Sathulay School Daw Naw Sar El accepted the donations.

The ceremony was attended by wife of the chief minister, district’s deputy commissioner U Lwin Ko Oo and officials of peace groups and social organizations.

On the occasion, Kayin State also donated K3 million, 2,200 dozens of notebooks, 300 dozens of pencils, 200 dozens of half-pens and other stationery. More than 6,000 students are attending over 30 Myanmar mobile schools in Thailand.

Hein Lin Aung (IPRD)

Trainees complete manual trades course in Dawei

Dawei, 7 June — Courses in a variety of trade disciplines concluded at the Border Region Youths Industrial Training School in Dawei, Taninthayi Region, on 5 June.

Deputy Director of Education and Training Department under the Ministry of Border Affairs U Aung Kyaw Myint presented prizes to the best trainees in the carpentry, masonry, steel fixing and basic mechanic courses.

Nyan Win

Winners bag prizes in bullock-cart and equestrian contests

Tin Maung (Mandalay)
China, Japan finance ministers meet for cooperation

BEIJING, 7 June — The Fifth China-Japan Finance Dialogue was held in Beijing on Saturday after about two years of delay due to sour relations.

Chinese Finance Minister Lou Jiwei talked with Japanese Deputy Prime Minister and Finance Minister Taro Aso over cooperation in economic, financial and international affairs.

The fourth dialogue was held in Tokyo in April 2012. But rows and friction delayed the fifth scheduled for 2013 in China.

“The ministers shared the common view that the Dialogue will enhance exchange of macroeconomic situation and policy measures of the two countries, strengthening financial cooperation, and hence helping further advance China-Japan strategic and mutually beneficial relationship in the economic and financial fields,” said a statement released after the dialogue.

Both sides said they are committed to deepening communication and coordination of macroeconomic policies, strengthening communication and cooperation in dealing with external risks and uncertainties, and maintaining consultation on major international economic and financial issues.

The ministers emphasized the need to further deepen bilateral pragmatic cooperation in finance, enhance policy communication in budget, taxation, social security reform, public debt management and tariff, scale up financial cooperation and support collaboration in the economic, trade and investment fields.

China and Japan agreed to strengthen cooperation in the G20 to actively implement previous summits’ consensus, and push for new achievements in the Antalya Summit in 2015.

As two major countries in Asia, both sides pledged to further advancing financial cooperation in East Asia and discussed the direction for the future development of ASEAN+3 financial cooperation.

The two sides will promote infrastructure development in Asia, including infrastructure projects and the development of financial institutions, on the basis of common interests.

The two sides also agreed to hold the Sixth China-Japan Finance Dialogue in Tokyo next year.

South Korea to track cellphones to prevent MERS spread; 5th patient dies

SEOUL, 7 June — South Korean authorities will track the cellphones of hundreds of people under quarantine to prevent the spread of Middle East Respiratory Syndrome (MERS) and reported a fifth death in the outbreak, with the number of infections rising to 64.

The government, criticised over its lack of transparency in handling the outbreak, bowed to public pressure on Sunday and identified 24 health facilities where infections took place or MERS patients visited.

It reported 14 confirmed new cases of MERS, adding to the largest number outside of the Middle East.

“Please understand this is an unavoidable measure for the sake of our neighbours and families,” Deputy Prime Minister Choi Kyung-tiwan told a news briefing in the central city of Seongju, where he announced the plan to track the mobile phones of people under quarantine to ensure they stay at home.

Nearly 2,000 people in South Korea are under quarantine, some in health care facilities but most at home, including an entire village of about 105 people in the southwest after a resident who visited a hospital where the country’s first patient with MERS was treated turned out to be infected.

Late last month, South Korea confirmed a voluntary house quarantine and flew to Hong Kong and then travelled to mainland China, where he tested positive for the MERS.

South Korea’s outbreak of the often-deadly MERS virus, first reported on 20 May, has prompted fear and the closure last week of more than 1,000 schools, with thousands of tourists cancelling plans to visit the country.

The virus has not absolutely controlled this because all MERS cases in our country are infections in health facilities, not spreading into communities,” Choi said.

First identified in humans in 2012, MERS is caused by a coronavirus related to SARS, and is the one that triggered the Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome. But MERS has a much higher death rate at 38 percent, according to World Health Organization figures.

Cambodia protests Indian plan to build Angkor Wat replica

PHNOM PENH, 7 June — Cambodia sent a letter of protest to India on Saturday, urging it to intervene to prevent the building of an replica of the Southeast Asian country’s famous 12th century temple Angkor Wat.

The Foreign Ministry’s diplomatic note, a copy of which was seen by Kyodo News, said Cambodia had learned that Mahvir Man-dir, a Hindu trust based in India’s eastern state of Bihar, plans to build the replica there. “The Royal Government of Cambodia considers that this copy of Angkor Wat temple for commercial benefit seriously violates the world heritage which is of a universal and cultural value of humanity,” the ministry said in the note addressed to India’s Ministry of External Affairs.

It strongly requested in India to seriously and urgently address this issue to prevent traditional historical relations between the two countries and peoples from being undermined.

The Indian trust says on its website that the massive temple it plans to build on land acquired some 60 kilometres outside the ancient city of Vanchal, in western Bihar, would replace Angkor Wat as the largest Hindu temple in the world.

It says the name has been changed from Virat Angkor Wat Ram Mahal to Virat Ramayyan Mandir “to respect the sentiments of the Cambodian people.” “When this project is contemplated, it will cement further the strong bond between the two culturally rich countries India and Cambodia” that exists for two millennia, it says. The Cambodian Foreign Ministry said in its protest letter that Angkor Wat, which was built in the early 12th century and is now a major attraction for foreign tourists, has always been the symbol of Cambodia.

KUNDASANG, (Malaysia), 7 June — The death toll among climbers on Mt Kinabalu, Malaysia’s highest mountain, in the wake of a magnitude 6.0 earthquake rose to 13 on Saturday while six are still unaccounted for, officials said.

Eleven bodies were recovered between 6.5 kilometres and 7.0 km from Timponoh Gate, the starting point for the trek up the 4,095-metre high mountain on the west coast of Sabah state on Borneo island, Ranau district police chief Mohamad Farhan Lee Abdullah said.

Late Friday, rescue personnel found two other bodies — that of a 30-year-old male local mountain guide and a 12-year-old Singaporean girl.

The girl was part of a group of 29 primary school students and eight teachers from Singapore who were on school excursion to Mt Kinabalu when the quake hit shortly after 7 am on Friday, according to Singaporean media.

Queen Elizabeth Hospital in Kota Kinabalu said it has not yet to confirm the information.

“The is a very sad day for Kinabalu,” Sabah state Tourism, Culture and Environment Minister Masidi Manjun said in a Press conference at Kinabalu National Park Headquarters.

A total of 187 climbers from 21 countries to gether with 107 mountain guides, park rangers and lodge workers were at the peak when the quake hit, triggering rock falls that left them stranded.

Malaysian police said on Sunday one of the missing is a 29-year-old Japanese man, Masahiro Ozaki.

While the park’s management was the worst on the mountain that seems to be Ozaki’s.

Japan’s consular office in Kota Kinabalu said it has yet to confirm the information.

The body was found in the area where rock falls occurred and other bodies were recovered, the manager, Yassin Miki, said.

Most of those who died were doing the “via ferrata” route, a more extreme form of climbing with climbers attached to ropes secured to pegs hammered into near vertical slopes on certain stretches.

Mountain Torq, the company running the route, counts it as the world’s highest via ferrata, beginning at 2,200 metres and ending at 3,776 metres above sea level.

“Via ferrata” is Italian for “iron road.”

Fractured the mountain will be closed for three weeks but the park will still be open for tourists.

Director Jamali Nais said the tragedy was the worst on the mountain since the park was established 51 years ago.

Friday’s quake had a relatively shallow depth of 10 km, with its epicenter located 12 km from Ranau, according to the US Geological Survey.

Sabah has a history of earthquakes since it is located near the Pacific Ring of Fire, which includes some 450 volcanoes and accounts for 90 percent of the world’s quakes.
MUNICH, 7 June — Group of Seven leaders will start a two-day meet- ing on Sunday in Germany at which Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe will seek to drum up the major democracies’ opposition to attempts by Russia and China to “change the status quo” in Ukraine and the East and South China seas, respectively, by force.

Drawing parallels between the Ukraine crisis sparked by Russia’s annexation of Crimea last year and China’s massive land reclamation in disputed waters in the South China Sea, Abe, together with his Group of Seven peers, is expected to urge Moscow and Beijing to refrain from flexing muscles that escalate tensions with other countries and undermine national law, according to Japanese officials.

Abe is not part of the group of eight claimant states in the South China Sea, but it is en- broided in a row with China over a group of islands in the East China Sea. China has repeatedly been sending official ships into Japanese waters around the Senkaku Islands in an attempt to under- mine Japanese administra- tion of the islands.

“The situation in Ukraine is shaking the foun-
dation of the basic rules of the international communi-
Feng Mini said, adding that “in the near future Russia and China will continue to face those sanctions until a diplomatic solution is fully implemented.” Ben Rhodes, US deputy national se-

Abe is expected to explain Japan’s decision to reduce greenhouse gas emissions by 26 percent by 2030 from 2013 levels and express the nation’s will-
ing to contribute to the adoption of an emissions cut deal that would involve all countries, they said.

Separately, German Chancellor Angela Merkel is advancing the G-7 agreement for a 60 percent cut in greenhouse gas emissions globally by 2050 from 2010 levels in an effort to inject fresh momentum into cli-

The leaders also plan to focus on antiterrorism measures, nuclear pro-

A senior US official said the leaders of Britain, Canada, France, Germany, and Japan and the United States will affirm the importance of maintaining sanctions on Russia to in-
centivize full implementa-
tion of a February cease-fire agreement and to serve as a deterrent against further Russian aggression.

MUNICH, 7 June — Japan’s Prime Minister Shinzo Abe arrives at Munich International Airport on 6 June, 2015, for Group of Seven summit talks beginning the following day. Abe will seek to drum up the major democracies’ opposition to attempts by Russia and China to “change the status quo” by force in Ukraine and the East and South China seas, respectively. —Kyodo News

Prime Minister Narendra Modi shakes hands with Bangladesh’s Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina at Shahjalal International Airport in Dhaka on 6 June, 2015. —Reuters

Bangladesh sign historic land boundary agreement

DHAKA, 7 June — India and Bangladesh signed an agreement on Saturday to simplify their 4,000-km border and clarify the iden-
tities of 52,000 living in enclaves, over four decades after the neighbours first tried to untangle complex territorial rights set down in 1713.

Under the deal, signed in Dhaka in the presence of Prime Minister Narendra Modi and his Bangladeshi counterpart Sheikh Hasina, the two countries will swap some 200 tiny enclaves dotted around the border. Their inhabitants have been deprived of public services and living in squalid condi-
tions. A string of trade and investment deals accompanied the land deal, with $4.5 billion of invest-
ments in power and a $2 billion credit facility for Bangladesh unveiled on Saturday.

Established by a treaty between two former prince-

India, Bangladesh sign historic land boundary agreement

Tokyo, 7 June — The Japan Pension Service, now at the heart of massive personal data leaks, said on Saturday that hacking had made its website inaccessible by In-

ternet users after finding a security vulnerability.

The pension provider said the move will not affect its core computer system containing sensi-
tive personal information, such as pensions and tax contributions, because the website is not maintained on its own server. The website was halt-
ed at 3:40 pm, according to the pension provider. It said it was working to re-
new access to the website.

The pension body said earlier this week that the names and ID numbers of about 1.25 million peo-
ple in the nation’s public pension programme were leaked after its personal computer were compro-
nised in cyberattacks.

Reuters

India will demand that all parties fully implement their com-
nitments in power and a $2 billion credit facility for Bangladesh unveiled on Saturday.

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina has described the deal, which has since been updat-
ed by the G-7, as likely to be shared by the militaries of Eight nations, or the G-8, and that the G-7 sanctioned Moscow’s par-

Who is Pakistan’s next prime minister likely to be?

Ousted former Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif was arrested on Monday for his alleged role in a corruption scandal, ending his record setting tenure. Any new premier would be selected by the country’s powerful military, which is strongly backing the status quo in Kashmir, where Pakistan and India have been fighting for the region’s territory for decades.

The G-7 members will be split in their response to Beijing’s initiative. While Britain, France, Germany and Italy have signed up to become founding members of the AIIB, Canada, Japan and the United States have stayed out given concern over the forming body’s governance and debt susta-

The leaders also plan to focus on antiterrorism measures, nuclear pro-
gressions in Iran and North Korea, a China-led regional-
vestment bank to be launched by the end of the year, as well as a new car-
bon-capping framework the United Nations aims to adopt at a climate change conference late this year in Paris, according to the Japan-

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Turkey vote in election set to shape Erdogan’s legacy

Istanbul, 7 June — Turks voted on Sunday in the closest parliamentary election in more than a decade, one that could pave the way for President Tayyip Erdogan to amass greater economic power or end 12 years of single-party rule for the AK Party he founded.

A deadly bombing in the mainly Kurdish south-east on Friday has magnified attention on the pro-Kurdish opposition, which is trying to enter parliament as a party for the first time. Efforts to end a three-decade Kurdish insurgency as well as Erdogan’s political ambitions could hinge on that party’s fate.

Turkey’s most popular yet most divisive politician, Erdogan seeks a large majority for the ruling AK Party to boost his powers. He says a US-style executive presidency is necessary to bolster the regional influence and economic advances of NATO, TO-member Turkey.

“They say ‘If Erdogan gets what he wants on Sunday he will be uncontroll- able,’” he told a rally in the northeastern province of Adana on Saturday.

“They actually mean Turkey will be unstoppa- ble.”

In power since 2002, the AKP is expected to again be the largest party by far. But achieving a majority may depend on the pro-Kurdish Peoples’ Democratic Party (HDP) falling below the 10 percent hurdle required to enter parliament. Opinion polls put it around that level.

Polling stations opened at 8 am (0600 GMT) and some of the country’s 54 million voters began vot- ing, including in the HDP stronghold of Diyarbakir in the mainly Kurdish south-east.

“I am certain the HDP will exceed the threshold. My only worry is the theft of votes,” said a social services worker Bahar Haram, 25, said, highlighting a fear of election fraud among some voters.

Like many people in the region, her priority was an end to the conflict between Ankara and the militant Kurdistan Workers Party (PKK), which took up arms in 1984 in an insurrection that has killed 40,000 people.

“We want peace, that’s all we want. We want this horrible war and fighting to come to an end. If people steal votes, I fear there is going to be a bigger war,” Haram said in the garden of a school after voting.

Jailed PKK leader Abdulah Ocalan and the state launched peace talks more than two years ago and advanc- ing the process could hinge on the outcome of the election.

Polling stations will close at 1400 GMT. The first results are set to be an- nounced at 1800 GMT although authorities could lift a reporting ban before then.

While constitutionally required to stay above party politics, Erdogan has held frequent outbreaks during what has been a confrontational election campaign, join- ing Prime Minister Ahmet Davutoglu in attacking op- position parties.

The two have portrayed the election as a choice be- tween a “new Turkey” or a return to a history marked by short-lived coalition govern- ments, economic instability and military coups.

“Either the stability of the last 12 years will contin- ue, or there will be the crisis scenario of those who want to take Turkey back to the chaos and crisis atmosphere of the 1990s,” Davutoglu said a rally in the southern city of Antalya.

Ratcheting up tension ahead of the vote, HDP lead- er Selahattin Demirtas called for Erdogan to apologize for his muted response to Fri- day’s bombing of a HDP rally in Diyarbakir, which killed two and wounded more than 200.

Security was tightened after the attack and some 9,000 police and gendarme- rie officers were assigned for duty in Diyarbakir on Sunday.

Erdogan late on Friday expressed his condole- nces for victims of the attack, calling it a “provoc- ation.”

He says he is equally distant from all par- ties, HDP leaders have ac- cused Erdogan of whipping up sentiment against them and party deputy Idris Bal- uken said he and the AKP bore responsibility for Fri- day’s attack.

“The source of the vio- lence is the AKP, the pres- ident. For two months, we have been warning that the rhetoric would result in just this kind of attack,” he said.

Cameron to vent dismay over EU-US trade deal delay at G7

GARMISCH-PARTEN-KIRCHEN, (Germany), 7 June — British Prime Minister David Cameron will use a meeting of the Group of Seven industrial nations to vent frustration at what he sees as poor progress toward- a US trade deal with the European Union and the Unit- ed States.

Cameron, in bull- ish mood after winning re-election with a surprise majority last month, is ex- pected to raise the issue in one-to-one talks with US President Barack Obama on Sunday at the G7 and to join host Angela Merkel, the German chancellor, in pushing EU officials to speed negotiations.

His intervention would come after the EU’s chief negotiator said in April that talks to clinch the so-called Transatlantic Trade and Investment Partnership (TTIP) would stretch into 2016.

“We launched this at a G8 that was ours in Lough Erne in 2013,” one Brit- ish official told reporters.

“That was over 700 days ago, and the prime minister feels we should be making far greater progress.”

Cameron wanted a po- litical deal by the year-end, the official said, warning the global cost of not get- ting one was about 630 million pounds ($962.01 million) daily.

Proponents say such a settlement could add $100 billion in annual economic output on both sides of the Atlantic.

The TTIP has faced opposition from protesters in Germany, however, and has also stumbled on US demands for an investor protection clause.

Britain’s Prime Minister David Cameron leaves Number 10 Downing Street to attend Prime Minister’s Question Time in parliament, in London, Britain on 3 June, 2015.

Cameron, who has said he wants the G7 to use the scandal engulfing FIFA to focus on cracking down on corruption, will also warn the world must be much better prepared for a disease epidemic.

“The reality is that we will face an outbreak like Ebola again and that virus could be more aggressive and far more difficult to contain,” Cameron said on the eve of the summit. “It is time to wake-up to that threat.”

He is expected to say Britain is ready to “lead the way” and work with the World Health Organiza- tion to try to harness better global research, more drug development, and a faster and more comprehensive approach to fighting dis- ease outbreaks.

He will announce a British programme to fo- cus on the most threaten- ing diseases, a requirement for UK-funded vaccine research to be shared glob- ally, and the creation of a rapid reaction unit of spe- cialists backed by a reserve force of doctors who can be dispatched to global dis- ease hot spots. — Reuters

EU Parliament president warns Athens of dramatic consequences if talks fail

BERLIN, 7 June — Eu- ropean Parliament President Martin Schulz urged Greece on Sunday to try to harness better global research, more drug development, and a faster and more comprehensive approach to fighting disease outbreaks.

He will announce a British programme to fo- cus on the most threaten- ing diseases, a requirement for UK-funded vaccine research to be shared glob- ally, and the creation of a rapid reaction unit of spe- cialists backed by a reserve force of doctors who can be dispatched to global dis- ease hot spots. — Reuters

A European Union flag flutters next to a Greek flag atop the Greek Ministry of Finance during sunset in central Athens, Greece on 5 June, 2015. — Reuters

Alexis Tsipras has spurned the terms of proposed aid from eurozone lenders, saying an im- pass that threatens to push Greece into default and out of the euro zone.

Schulz said Tsipras and his Syriza party should come to terms with the fact that they were not only account- able to their voters, but that they also had a responsibility for the country and the Euro- pean Union.

Greece is in a standoff with its euro zone and Inter- national Monetary Fund creditors over an aid pack- age aimed at unlocking money for the country. The impasse, which is weighing on financial mar- kets and could hit the glob- al economic recovery, will hang over a Group of Seven leaders’ summit that Chan- cellor Angela Merkel will chair in southern Germany from Sunday. — Reuters
The destiny of the country lies in the capable hands of teachers

By Kyaw Thura

The new academic year has just begun. There may be some truth in blaming the current education system on the lower creative and intellectual powers of students. Yet, the reform of the education system will definitely take time. The downward spiral of education in the country will no doubt apportion the blame to teachers too. In a country like Myanmar, teachers are held in high esteem by people from all walks of life. They have a formative influence over the lives of their students.

The academic success of children should not rest with the government alone. Teachers should accept their share of the responsibility and bear in mind that effective teaching is a matter of how much students have learned rather than how much they have been taught.

It is important for teachers to come to school with an inspiration to encourage students to become more self-sufficient in their lifelong learning process. If the future is in the hands of students, then the future of students is in the hands of teachers.

Better education requires teachers to enhance their pedagogic skills on their own and seek approaches best suited and directly applicable to the needs of their students in class. Just as learning is a lifelong process, a teacher is a perennial student.

Anyone who stops learning and reading is a living death. Good books are teachers’ best friends. Continuous learning will one day convince us that what we have learned today will be just like a drop of water in the bucket then.

Write for us

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.

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Sedona Hotel Yangon set to open new wing in late 2015

Iconic 5-star addition will feature 431 new guest rooms and suites, upscale shopping gallery, state-of-the-art fitness centre and more

YANGON, 7 June—Sedona Hotel Yangon announces that it is adding an expansive and iconic addition to the existing five-star luxury hotel. Set to open in late-2015, the new wing to Sedona Hotel Yangon, complete with a high-end retail experience and a luxury spa, will position the hotel as one of the city’s top destinations for visitors and locals alike.

As one of Yangon’s five-star hotels, Sedona Hotel Yangon is an icon of gracious elegance, sitting on eight acres of beautifully landscaped gardens and water features with breath-taking views of the Shwedagon Pagoda and Inya Lake. Currently, the hotel offers 366 newly-upgraded guest rooms and suites along with several dining options, executive club rooms and a fitness centre with a swimming pool, sauna and steam bath.

Photo shows Sedona Hotel in Yangon.

Sedona Hotel Yangon set to open new wing in late 2015

Photos show Sedona Hotel in Yangon.

Pyidaungsu Hluttaw delegation leaves for Malaysia

YANGON, 7 June—A Pyidaungsu Hluttaw delegation led by member of the Pyidaungsu Hluttaw ASEAN Inter-Parliamentary Assembly Joint Committee and Chairman of Amyotha Hluttaw International Relations, Inter-Parliamentary Friendship and Cooperation Committee U Nyunt Tin left Yangon International Airport on Sunday afternoon to attend the 12th Meeting of the ASEAN Inter-Parliamentary Assembly Fact Finding Committee-12th AIFOCOM in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia from 7 to 11 June. The delegation consists of members of Pyithu Hluttaw Health Promotion Committee Dr Khin Maung Shwe and Assistant Director U Soe Min Oo of Pyidaungsu Hluttaw Office.—MNA

Pyidaungsu Hluttaw delegation leaves for Malaysia

Oo of Pyidaungsu Hluttaw Office.

Myanmar Women’s Sports Federation welcomes back silver medalist walker

YANGON, 7 June—Silver medalist Than Soe in the walking of the 28th SEA Games arrived back at Yangon International Airport on Sunday afternoon. She was welcomed back by Patron of Myanmar Women’s Sports Federation wife of the Union Minister for Hotels and Tourism Daw Chaw, general secretary of Myanmar Women’s Sports Federation Daw Nang Aye Khaing and party. Than Soe of Myanmar won the second prize in the 20km walking race while Vietnamese athletes bagged first and third prizes.—MNA

Myanmar sports teams leave for Singapore

YANGON, 7 June—Myanmar men’s basketball team and Myanmar Squash team left Yangon International Airport on Sunday morning for Singapore to take part in the 28th SEA Games. The remaining sports teams will leave for Singapore till 10 June.—MNA

An Expedition into...

(from page 8)

Saya U Hla Thaung also added that the practice of making finger-marked bricks originated in India, that they were found in Rajagaha and Saravathi in India. Noted sites are Dhannavati and Vesali cities in Rakhine State, the sites of Pyu cities such as Sra Khetra, Vishnu, Halin, Maungma etc, the sites of Mon old cities such as Thaton, Taikka, Kyaiakka, etc and the site of Dvaravati in Thailand, that these brick might date back to Mauryan Period(3rd century B.C to 1st centruy A.D) in India and that the finger-marked bricks found in Myanmar might, at any rate, go back to the first millennium. I was compelled by their explanation to think that this Twantasy-Kawmu area might go back to pre-Christian era.

Then we paid homage to the presiding Sayadaw of the Sein Phya Monastery and viewed the Sein (diamond) Buddha image kept in the shrine room. It is learnt from the Sayadaw that this Buddha image was found about a hundred years ago from a remote place buried underneath the ground. According to a dream the then presiding Sayadaw had. Out of this phenomenal event, we were filled with great awe and reverence for this Buddha image. We left the Sein Phya Monastery at 3 pm, saying farewell to the team of excavators. On the way back home, we called in on the Maung Dee Pagoda which is situated in San Kalay Village. It was also an ancient pagoda standing on a high brick plinth. We learnt that it was renovated by King Anawrahta in the 11th century A.D. and that he donated large votive tablets to the pagoda during the renovation. We saw some large votive tablets donated by King Anawrahta and a few broken Buddha images kept in a small museum located some feet on the north of the spire of the Maung Dee pagoda.

When our bus came out of the precinct of the Maung Dee Pagoda, the rain came down again in torrents, accompanied by gusts of wind. The glass-window panes had to be shut again. Outside the bus were the rain pelt down and the wind whistling. Out of tiredness, I leaned against the back of cushion with the eyes closed. The patterning sound of rain-drops on the roof of the bus lulled me to slumber. In my mind’s eyes appeared the image of King Ukkalapa in full regalia , paying obeisance to the hair-relics of the Buddha loaded in the golden casket studded with nine types of gems, with a great congregation of queens, princes, princesses, ministers, generals and the public, in a pavilion surmounted with a multi-tiered roof in Pakkhara Vedi City with Sin-guttara Hill thickly wooded out the new wing from the magnificent lighting centerpiece in the lobby to the fritted glass ceiling. The lacquered rice bowl is used as a sculptural element that is incorporated into the lobby art and the guestroom large windows.

Championing green practices, Sedona Hotel Yangon has ensured that its new wing has been designed and built utilising sustainable materials and incorporated energy- and water-efficiency into the building’s features.

For more information about Sedona Hotels and Suites, or to make a reservation, please visit www.sedonahotels.com.sg.—GNLM

Pyidaungsu Hluttaw delegation leaves for Malaysia

A delegation of the Pyidaungsu Hluttaw ASEAN Inter-Parliamentary Assembly Joint Committee for the 12th Meeting of the ASEAN Inter-Parliamentary Assembly Fact Finding Committee-12th AIFOCOM in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia from 7 to 11 June.

Myanmar Women’s Sports Federation welcomes back silver medalist walker

Than Soe of Myanmar won the second prize in the 20km walking race while Vietnamese athletes bagged first and third prizes.
Syrian army regains ground against Islamic State in Hasaka city

Assamakha, 7 June — The Syrian army said on Sunday it had repulsed a major offensive by Islamic State militants in the northeastern city of Hasaka and drove out fighters who had taken over key installations on the southern edge of the city.

The northeastern corner of Syria is strategically important because it links areas controlled by Islamic State in Syria and Iraq. Syrian Kurds have also sought to expand their territorial control over a region that stretches from Kobani to Qamishli, as they see it as part of a future historic Kurdish state.

The militants, approaching from their stronghold the city of Shadadi, further south of Hasaka city, made lighting advances this week after conducting around a dozen suicide attacks using explosives-laden trucks on army checkpoints in the city.

But Syrian state television, quoting an army source, said in a newsflash they had taken back an electricity station, a juvenile prison and two villages, almost two kilometres (one mile) south of the city that had been occupied by militants.

The attacks were the biggest push launched by the ultra-hardline militants on Hasaka, the provincial capital of the oil and grain producing province of Syria, that is divided into zones run separately by the government of President Bashar al-Assad and a Kurdish administration.

The offensive was meant to relieve pressure on hardline jihadists who have otherwise lost significant ground recently to Kurds and some local Arab tribes backing them after their loss of Arab inhabited villages around Ras Al Ayn and Tal Abyad, both major towns that lie north west of Hasaka along the Turkish border.

The Kurds, whose well-organised militia receives air support from a US-led alliance bombing Islamic State, had been helping government forces to repel last week's attacks, according to the Syrian Observatory for Human Rights.

The Observatory, which tracks violence across the country, said at least 71 army and loyalist militiamen were killed in the week-long battles with Islamic State.

The United States and its allies said on Thursday they staged 17 air strikes on Islamic State targets in Syria and Iraq with four of the raids near Hasaka.

Scud missile fired at Saudi Arabia as 38 Yemeni soldiers reported killed

Dubaï/Sanaa, 7 June — Yemen’s dominant Houthis have fired a Scud missile at Saudi Arabia which the kingdom said it shot down on Saturday, in a major escalation of two months of war. Arab air strikes and shelling after the attack killed 38 Yemenis in provinces near Saudi Arabia, according to reports in the Houthi-controlled state news agency Saba which could not be immediately confirmed.

An alliance of Gulf Arab nations has been bombing Yemen’s Houthi militia and allied army 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.

Yemen’s official Saba news outlet said Saudi shelling and air attacks hit a camp for displaced people, a medical centre and a school in the border province of Hajja, killing 28 people, and bombings elsewhere in the north killed 10 others. It was not immediately possible to confirm the reports among residents of the remote border area.

As, which are cut off from telephone lines and are often the scene of clashes between Houthi and Saudi forces.

Saturday’s violence came despite progress toward United Nations-brokered peace talks planned for Geneva this month, to which both the exiled government and the Houthis have agreed.

The United Nations said on Saturday it would convene the talks on 14 June, and renewed a call for a pause in hostilities.

This could also help create an atmosphere that is more conducive for peaceful dialogue,” a spokesman said.

The coalition has said a main goal of its war effort is to neutralise the threat that exiled Yemen is a base for the Houthis and its neighbours. The alliance’s spokesman, Saudi Brigadier General Ahmed Asseri, said in April that it had removed the threat of 80 percent of the 300 or so missiles had been destroyed - a figure he repeated on Saturday.

“Praise God, we have air defence forces capable of blocking these kinds of rockets, destroying them and thwarting attempts like this,” he added. The Sunni Muslim coalition states fear the Houthis movement, from a Shi’ite sect in north Yemen, will act as a proxy for their arch-rival in the region, Shi’ite Iran.

The Houthis 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.

Israel launches air strike on Gaza after militant rocket salvo

Jerusalem, 7 June — Israeli aircraft struck the northern Gaza Strip on Sunday in response to a rocket fired from the Hamas-controlled territory that hit southern Israel, the Israeli military said.

The militant rocket landed in open ground and caused no damage or injuries, the army said. No casualties were reported in Gaza.

Following the air strike, which struck a Hamas training facility. An Israeli army spokesman’s statement said the air strike was aimed at “terror infrastructure in the Northern Gaza Strip. Hits were confirmed.”

Sporadic rocket fire from Gaza in recent weeks has broken a lull in cross-border violence since a 50-day Israeli war against Hamas ended with an Egyptian-brokered truce last August.

A rocket fired from the Hamas-controlled Gaza Strip struck southern Israel on Saturday, causing no damage or casualties, Israeli’s military said.

Air raid sirens sounded throughout Ashkelon, a city with a population of about 120,000 people, which was also targeted three days ago by rockets fired by a radical group sympathetic with Islamic State.

Israel’s military retaliated for the earlier rocket fire with bombing raids against militant training camps in the Gaza Strip.

A rocket fired from Gaza in recent weeks has broken a lull in cross-border violence since a 50-day Israeli war against Hamas ended with an Egyptian-brokered truce last August.
Apple set to introduce Apple Pay in Britain

WASHINGTON, 7 June — Apple is planning to introduce its mobile payment system, Apple Pay, to Britain this summer, The Telegraph reported on Saturday, citing industry sources.

Apple is expected to make the announcement on Monday in San Francisco at its annual conference for developers, the paper said.

It quoted the sources as saying the company had been in talks with banks and retailers about the project since last year.

A spokeswoman at Apple did not immediately respond to a request for comment.

China to host World Robot Conference in November

BEIJING, 7 June — The World Robot Conference 2015 will be held in Beijing from 23 to 25 November, focusing on collaborative innovation and the building of an intelligent society, organizers announced on Friday.

Jointly held by China Association for Science and Technology (CAST) and the Ministry of Industry and Information Technology, the event will include a forum, an exhibition and an international robot competition.

The latest incident gives hackers access to a treasure trove of personal information, including birth dates, Social Security numbers, email addresses, and security clearances.

All that data could help hackers identify information about specific targets, including potential passwords for websites that may be portals to information about weapons systems or other research data.

“They can dig down into that data and learn more about the individuals, what their hobbies are, what their vices are, what skeletons they have in their closet,” said Babak Pasdar, president and chief executive of Bat Blue Network, a cybersecurity firm.

He said he was involved in a recent case in which hackers gained access to private data of a website administrator by finding passwords on a public website linking to the victim’s hobby.

“This empowers the malevolent cyber actor to target a huge number of people with phishing and other schemes to reel in information,” said one US defense official. “The more targets you have, the more likely you are to score.”—Reuters
Eight Australian veterans to visit Brunei to mark Oboe campaign against Japan in WWII

BANDAR SERI BEGAWAN, 7 June — Eight World War II (WWII) Australian veterans will visit Brunei from 8 to 11 June to commemorate the 70th anniversary of the Oboe campaign, amphibious landings of Australian troops on Borneo in 1945 to liberate its people from Japanese occupation. The Australian High Commission in Brunei said on Sunday.

In a press release, the Australian High Commission said Australian Minister for Veterans Affairs, Senator Michael Ronaldson, and a delegation of eight Borneo campaign veterans will visit Brunei from 8 to 11 June. The eight veterans will represent all service arms and major aspects of the landings. They are aged from 89 to 96 years old and are from across Australia.

Senator Ronaldson will also be opening a multimedia exhibition entitled Stories through Memories, showcasing stories through the memories of survivors who witnessed the tumultuous events of WWII in Brunei and historical images of Australian forces’ leading role in the 1945 liberation of Borneo.

Liberalising the people of Borneo from Japanese occupation involved more than 75,000 Australians supporting the Borneo landings from May to July in 1945, including the largest Australian amphibious landing of the WWII, the press release said.

The exhibition will be open to the public from 12 to 30 June, and is a joint research project between the High Commission and Universiti Brunei Darussalam.

Greek Prime Minister Alexis Tsipras looks on during a parliamentary session for the briefing of lawmakers over the ongoing talks with the country’s lenders, in Athens, Greece on 5 June, 2015.—REUTERS

Greek PM to hold talks with Merkel, Hollande in Brussels on Wednesday

ATHENS, 7 June — Greek Prime Minister Alexis Tsipras will hold talks with German Chancellor Angela Merkel and French President Francois Hollande on the sidelines of a summit in Brussels on Wednesday, a Greek government official said on Saturday.

The three leaders held a teleconference on Saturday, which the official said was held in a “good climate”, without giving details on the content of the call.

Greese is locked in a standoff with its euro zone and IMF creditors over an aid package aimed at unlocking money for the cash-strapped country.

Reuters

China mourns Yangtze shipwreck victims as search continues

JIANLI, (Hubei), 7 June — Ship horns wailed as hundreds of people gathered in the drizzle on Sunday to mourn the victims of the Eastern Star disaster.

Rescue workers and government officials at the site bowed their heads during a three-minute silence on Sunday, the seventh day since the ship capsized with the loss of more than 430. According to Chinese tradition, the seventh day is a key occasion to mourn the passing of the dead.

At around 9 am, following an announcement from Minister of Transport Yang Chuantang rescue workers stopped what they were doing and removed their hats to face the salvaged vessel.

They set up a table with candles and chrysanthemums on at the large crane vessel that dragged the ship from its muddy grave on Thursday night. Families of the victims prayed for their loved ones on the riverbank or in their hotels.

Jianli, a once un-known county, has attracted widespread attention. In the early morning, more than 1,500 cars with yellow ribbons began to collect families of the victims and rescue workers from hotels or the rescue site.

“We hope the dead can rest in peace and go home soon with their relatives,” said Qu Zhigang, an organizer of volunteers in Jianli. Qu said psychologists are available to help the relatives at any time.

Only 14 people survived and 11 remain missing.

Hu Kaihong, deputy director of the Press Bureau of the State Council Information Office, told a news conference on Sunday that the search is continuing and authorities are matching the DNA of the victims with blood samples provided by their relatives.

Rescuers are still searching along the Yangtze River from Jianli where the ship sank, more than 1,000 km downstream to Shanghai.

Xinhua
WEATHER REPORT

BAY INFERENCE: Monsunoon is weak in the Anda-
man Sea and Bay of Bengal.

FORECAST VALID UNTIL EVENING OF THE
7th June, 2015: Rain or thundershowers will be
fairly widespread in Kachin, Chin and Rakhine States,
scattered in Sagaing, Mandalay, Magway, Bago, Yang-
gon and Ayeyawady Regions, Shan, Kayin 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 WEEKS:
Continuation of thundery activities in the Northern
Myanmar areas.
Notice to Aamir Khan for using emblem in TV show ‘Satyamev Jayate’

LOS ANGELES, 7 June — “Game of Thrones” writer G R R Martin has defended the portrayal of violence against women in the hit series and his books, saying his fiction is merely reflecting the reality of Middle Ages.

The book and its small screen adaptation have often come under fire for the poor depiction of its women characters and there was a huge backlash over the marital rape of Sansa Stark’s character in the latest series with many women calling it unnecessary and in bad taste.

Martin said he was not writing about “utopia” but a fantasy which is deeply rooted in the reality of middle ages despite its fantasy tone, reported the Entertainment Weekly.

“Now there are people who will say to that,” Well, he’s not writing history, he’s writing fantasy—he put in dragons, he should have made an egalitarian society,”…

“I wanted my books to be strongly grounded in history and to show what medieval society was like, and I was also reacting to a lot of fantasy fiction. Most stories depict what I call the ‘Disneyland Middle Ages’—there are princes and princesses and knights in shining armor, but they didn’t want to show what those societies meant and how they functioned.”

The author said despite the recent backlash there are millions of women who love the books and its female characters, some of which are very strong be it Arya, Daemerys Targaryen and Brienne while others love Sansa and Queen Cersei despite her obvious flaws. “And then there’s the whole issue of sexual violence, which I’ve been criticized for as well.”

Martin said, war is not only about war and there’s something fundamentally dishonest about that. Rape, unfortunately, is still a part of war today. It’s not a strong testament to the human race, but I don’t think we should pretend it doesn’t exist.

“I want to portray struggle. Drama comes out of conflict. If you portray a utopia, then you probably wrote a pretty boring book,” said the writer.—PTI

G R R Martin explains “Game of Thrones” violence against women

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“I wanted my books to be strongly grounded in history and to show what medieval society was like, and I was also reacting to a lot of fantasy fiction. Most stories depict what I call the ‘Disneyland Middle Ages’—there are princes and princesses and knights in shining armor, but they didn’t want to show what those societies meant and how they functioned.”

The author said despite the recent backlash there are millions of women who love the books and its female characters, some of which are very strong be it Arya, Daemerys Targaryen and Brienne while others love Sansa and Queen Cersei despite her obvious flaws. “And then there’s the whole issue of sexual violence, which I’ve been criticized for as well.”

Martin said, war is not only about war and there’s something fundamentally dishonest about that. Rape, unfortunately, is still a part of war today. It’s not a strong testament to the human race, but I don’t think we should pretend it doesn’t exist.

“I want to portray struggle. Drama comes out of conflict. If you portray a utopia, then you probably wrote a pretty boring book,” said the writer.—PTI

‘Marvel’s Agent Carter’ to premiere in the UK

LONDON, 7 June — “Marvel’s Agent Carter” has been picked up by a UK channel. FOX UK has acquired the rights to the 8-part first season starring Hayley Atwell as Peggy Carter, reported Digital Spy.

A TV spin-off from the Marvel Cinematic Universe, “Agent Carter” will get its UK premiere in July. The first season sees Peggy working for the covert SSR (Strategic Scientific Reserve) while dealing with the loss of Steve Rogers — Captain America — and her male colleagues’ chauvinist attitudes. Jeff Ford — Managing Director of FOX International Channels (FIC) UK — said: “Marvel’s Agent Carter is blockbuster Hollywood entertainment at its best. With high production values and a stellar UK and international cast, the series is the perfect addition to FOX UK’s summer line up, continuing the channel’s commitment to bring exclusive, original and breakthrough series to a UK audience.”

The series also stars Dominic Cooper as Howard (father of Tony) Stark, and James D’Arcy as Jarvis, Stark’s butler and Peggy’s greatest ally. “Marvel’s Agent Carter” has already been renewed for a second season by ABC, which will air in the US in 2016.—PTI

Ennio Morricone announces 2016 world tour

LONDON, 7 June — Composer Ennio Morricone is going on a worldwide tour to celebrate 60 years in the film industry.

Morricone will travel across the globe from January 2016 to cities including Prague, Dublin and Amsterdam, reported Digital Spy.

The tour will arrive at Dublin’s 3Arena on 14 February and London’s O2 Arena on 16 February. During his years in the industry, Morricone has composed music for more than 500 films and TV shows, including “Django Unchained”, “The Untouchables”, “Once Upon a Time in America” and “The Good, The Bad and The Ugly”—PTI

Models present creations at Bridal Couture Fashion Week

First look of Chris Hemsworth’s ‘The Huntsman’ revealed

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First look of Chris Hemsworth’s ‘The Huntsman’ revealed

Los Angeles, 7 June — The first set photos from “The Huntsman” have arrived and they feature Jessica Chastain joined by Chris Hemsworth in costume as the titular character, Eric the Huntsman.

The 31-year-old actor looked sexy in a leather vest over a long-sleeved white shirt. He rocked a wig since just last week he was spotted sporting short hair.

As for Chastain, she sported a black dress with a braided hair style. Some of the photos showed Hemsworth’s character and Chastain’s character conversing in a boat. The scenes are seemingly taken in a lake, reported Ace Showbiz.

The Huntsman, which is a prequel to the 2012 film “Snow White and the Huntsman”, also stars Charlize Theron, Emily Blunt, and Sam Claflin.—PTI

A model presents a creation by designer Erum during the second day of Bridal Couture Fashion Week in southern Pakistani port city of Karachi on 6 June, 2015.—INP
Canada, Dutch win openers but fans the big winners

 EDMONTON, 7 June — Canada scored a heart-stopping injury time win over China to kick off the Women’s World Cup on Saturday as the spotlight returned to action on the field after a deflating week of scandal away from the pitch. Christine Sinclair sent a capacity crowd at a sun-kissed Commonwealth Stadium home happy by slotting the winning spot kick in a 1-0 victory over China. The Dutch were also celebrating after the Netherlands made a winning World Cup debut with a 1-0 victory over New Zealand. But the biggest winners on the day were the fans who barked in the excitement and joy the ‘beautiful game’ can create rather than dwell on the dreary details of a corruption bribery scandal that has engulfed the sport’s governing body, FIFA.

“It was an amazing atmosphere. This is how we envision this World Cup in front of 50,000-plus fans,” I’m so satisfied,” said Canadian midfielder Sophie Schmidt, who named player of the match. “There was never a doubt that game was going to get away from us.”

While the World Cup went off to a rousing start, was going to get away from 50,000-plus fans, I’m so atmosphere to kick off the sport’s governing body, scandal that has engulfed tails of a corruption bribery game’ can create rather and joy the ‘beautiful game’ can create rather than dwell on the dreary details of a corruption bribery scandal that has engulfed the sport’s governing body, FIFA.

The Women’s World Cup has not been touched directly by the scandal but the questions and media’s search for answers hung over the tournament like a dark cloud. A controversy over the use of artificial turf that triggered a lawsuit and claims of discrimination by a group of unhappy players also lingered as Canada and China took to the plastic pitch. In the end it was a column by Globe and Mail columnist Cathal Kelly cabling Edmonton as an unfit venue for the prestigious kick off that provided the greatest outrage in the host nation. But scandals big and small evaporated in the roar of the largest Canadian crowd for a national team football game as 53,058 filled a sun-kissed Commonwealth Stadium, topping the 51,136 that watched the Canadian men draw 1-1 with Brazil 21 years ago in Edmonton. “Three points, Canada is on a roll,” beamed Canada coach John Herdman. “Good start, three points in the bag, exactly where we want to be.”

Greece and Ukraine crises drown out G7 summit agenda

GARMISCH-PARTENKIRCHEN, 7 June — Leaders from the Group of Seven (G7) industrial nations meet on Sunday in the Bavarian Alps for a summit overshadowed by Greece’s debt crisis and ongoing violence in Ukraine. Host Angela Merkel is hoping to secure commitments from her G7 guests to tackle global warming to build momentum in the run-up to a major United Nations climate summit in Paris in December. The German agenda also foresees discussions on global health issues from Ebola to antibiotics and tropical diseases.

But on the evening before the German chancellor welcomes the leaders of Britain, Canada, France, Italy, Japan and the United States, she and French President Francois Hollande were forced into their fourth emergency phone call in 10 days with Greek Prime Minister Alexis Tsipras to try break a deadlock between Athens and its international creditors. The two sides have been wrangling for months over the terms of a cash-for-reform deal for Greece. Without aid from euro zone partners and the IMF, Greece could default on its loans within weeks, possibly forcing it out of the currency bloc. An upsurge of violence in eastern Ukraine was seen as a change of pace at the meeting at Schloss Elmau, a luxury hotel perched in the picturesque mountains of southern Germany near the Austrian border.

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European monitors have blamed the bloodshed on Russian-backed separatists and the leaders could decide at the summit to send a strong message to President Vladimir Putin, who was frozen out of what used to be the G8 after Moscow’s annexation of Crimea last year. Ahead of the gathering, thousands of anti-G7 protesters marched in the nearby town of Garmisch-Partenkirchen on Saturday. There were sporadic clashes with police and several marchers were taken to hospital with injuries, but the violence was minor compared to some previous summits.

The Germans have deployed 17,000 police around the former winter Olympic games venue at the foot of Germany’s highest mountain, the Zugspitze. Another 2,000 are on stand-by across the border in Austria. Merkel is due to hold talks with US President Barack Obama on Sunday morning before the summit gets underway, with Ukraine, Middle East turmoil and the TTIP free trade agreement being negotiated between Washington and the European Union at the top of the agenda. Obama may also be keen to hear the latest from Merkel on the Greek talks. Officials in Washington, worried that a so-called “Grexit” could hit the world economy, have stepped up pressure on their European counterparts in recent weeks to clinch a deal.

Netherlands midfielder Tessiel Midag with (17) shoots against New Zealand midfielder Katie Duncan (4) during the second half of a Group A soccer match (8-6-2015) in the 2015 women’s World Cup at Commonwealth Stadium, Edmonton, Alberta, CAN, on 6 June, 2015. Reuters

News Channel in Brief

News / International

6:00 am • Parrita by Venerable Mingun Sayadaw
6:30 am • Physical Exercise
6:45 am • Documentary
7:00 am • News / Weather Report
7:35 am • Weekly Entertainment
8:00 am • News / International
8:35 am • Documentary (SEA Games)
9:00 am • News / International
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11:00 am • News / International
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News / Weather Report
1:20 pm • Gyitagadale Phwinbarbon
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4:35 pm • Documentary (ASEAN)
5:35 pm • Documentary (Women in Myanmar Society)
6:00 pm • News / Weather Report
6:30 pm • Head Line News
6:55 pm • Socio Economic Scenes
8:00 pm • News / International
9:00 pm • Hlutaw Image
10:00 pm • TV Drama Series

Entertainment Channel

6:15 am • Teleplay
6:35 am • Fashion Show
7:00 am • Musical Programme
7:10 am • TV Drama Series
8:00 am • TV Drama Series
8:35 am • Teleplay
9:05 am • Musical Programme
9:20 am • Teleplay
9:50 am • ASEAN Japan Cultural Show (2013)
10:00 am • Myanmar Video
Myanmar demolishes Philippines, 5-1

SINGAPORE, 7 June — The Philippines U-23 Men’s football team were outclassed by favorites Myanmar, 5-1, at the 28th Southeast Asian (SEA) Games at the Jalal Basar stadium in Singapore on Sunday.

With no wins to their name, the nationals were fighting for their pride. It was the Philip- pines who found joy early on in the first half as Shirmar Felongco struck a deflected shot from outside the box to gain an early 1-0 advantage. But the Myanmar struck back quickly as a driven shot from out-side the box by Kyaw Zin Lwin struck at the death for the Philippines.

It didn’t take long af- ter the break for Myanmar to wrestle control of the game with a Shame Thura strike in the first minute of the second half to make it 2-1. The Myanmar showed why they were one of the favorites to win the gold in this year’s games as they dominated the second half with ruthless play. A Ye Win Aung goal in the 65th minute seemed to settle the tie for Myan- mar, but just three minutes later Si Tha Aung pounced on a keeper error to make the scoreline 4-1 with 20 minutes to play. With time winding down Kyaw Zin Lwin struck at the death for the Myanmar as they took home a dominant 5-1 win against the Filipinos.

Union Minister for Sports honours Myanmar athletes in SEA Games

SINGAPORE, 7 June—Union Minister for Sports U Tint Hsan awarded winners in the sports com-petitions in the 28th SEA Games Sunday.

The union minister viewed participation of Myanmar athletes in the triathlon event, traditional boat race, shooting, eques-trian, Chinlon and Wushu events.

Union Minister for Sports U Tint Hsan, officials and Myanmar athletes celebrate victory in 28th SEA Games.—SPED

Uzbekistan win books last 16 spot

WHANGAREI, 7 June — Uzbekistan have booked a place in the FIFA U-20 World Cup last 16 after a 3-0 win over Fiji, coupled with Honduras’ heavy defeat to Germany, saw them leap from bottom to sec-ond place in Group F.

A trio of second-half goals sealed the dramatic upturn in fortunes, with Eldor Shomurodov and Zabikhilho Urinbov on target in the space of a minute before Mirjamol Kosimov rounded off the scoring.

Both sides fielded un-changed sides, which was certainly no surprise when it came to the islanders, coming off the back of that historic 3-0 win over Hon- duras. Unless the Central Americans pulled off a sur prise and earned a point of more against Germany, the Oceanian side knew a point was all but over, as Urinbov’s shot squirmed off a Praneel Naidu’s heel giving him a second bite at the cherry, with his weak effort slipping through the hands of Nairube.

While it was two and the Fijian fairy-tale was all but over, as Urinbov’s shot squirmed off a Praneel Naidu’s heel giving him a second bite at the cherry, with his weak effort slipping through the hands of Nairube.

Union Minister for Sports U Tint Hsan awarded winners in the sports com-petitions in the 28th SEA Games Sunday.

It came from some-thing of a comedy of er-rors as, having allowed Khamdamov — arguably the most creative figure on the field — to get his cross in, Shomurodov badly misplaces his header. But it proved to be his lucky day as the ball cannoned off a Praneel Naidu’s heel giving him a second bite at the cherry, with his weak effort slipping through the hands of Nairube.

Within a minute it was two and the Fijian fairy-tale was all but over, as Urinbov’s shot squirmed off a Praneel Naidu’s heel giving him a second bite at the cherry, with his weak effort slipping through the hands of Nairube.

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The Philippine U23 football team was eliminated from contention after losing to Myanmar. —CNN Philippines

FIFA U-20 World Cup results 7 June, 2015

Group E

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Country</th>
<th>Gold</th>
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Group F

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