President U Thein Sein inspects Inlay Lake conservation works

YANGON, 9 June—Union Minister for Information U Ye Htut met with students and faculty members of the Journalism Department of National Management College in Yangon on Tuesday and discussed media reform, news gathering methods and press ethics.

Present at the seminar were Principal Dr Daw Tin Tin Htway of the college, Head of Journalism Department Professor Marget Wong, heads of department, external experts, faculty members and students.

The union minister explained challenges for the media and impacts of social media on the press and responded to the queries raised by the attendees.

Journalism students said they were happy to have the opportunity to speak with the minister and that the discussion contributed to their understanding of the media.

“We are glad as the union minister said the Ministry of Information will help our department,” said Ma Khin Wadi Oo, a fourth-year journalism student.

“We can learn his view on the media during the discussions,” said third-year student Maung Lwan Sai Aung. —Yi Yi Myint and Ohmar Thant

Breeder touts earning potential of aquatic crustacean

By Ye Myint

YANGON, 9 June—Technological know-how and market access are required to turn the breeding of artemia, also known as brine shrimp, into a profitable industry in Myanmar, aquaculture entrepreneur Dr Aung Kyaw Zaw said Tuesday.

Dr Aung Kyaw Zaw has led trials in Ayeyawady Region to cultivate the aquatic crustaceans. Their dormant eggs, or cysts, are a valuable source of live feed in fish, shrimp and crab hatcheries.

Artemia are used as live feed in fish, shrimp and crab hatcheries.

The president and party then arrived at Inlay Phaungdaw U pagoda, where they met members of the local community and heard about rural development programmes and conservation works in the area surrounding the second-largest lake in Myanmar.

Some 13 government agencies led by the Ministry of Environmental Conservation and Forestry are working together with NGOs to conserve the freshwater lake.

Dr Aung Kyaw Zaw said he had invited Vietnamese partners to enter artemia cyst and biomass production in Myanmar under a 50-50 joint venture in which he would provide the land and cover all operational costs, with the counterparts providing technology and market access.

India and Saudi Arabia are also interested in artemia breeding in Myanmar, he added.

“We can do it ourselves, but lack of market access is a problem.”

As artemia breeding is combined with traditional salt production, the business in Ayeyawady, where 30,000 salt fields were in operation before severe cyclonic storm Nargis in 2008, artemia cultivation could boost incomes for salt field owners and workers.

Although artemia cultivation has a much higher cost per hectare than salt production, the income is also much higher, Dr Aung Kyaw Zaw said.

Myanmar vs. Cambodia match to be broadcast live

NAY PYI TAW, 9 June—Football fans will be able to watch a live broadcast of Myanmar’s match against Cambodia at the 28th Southeast Asian Games on 10 June, with MRTV News Channel and MRTV Entertainment Channel and Myanmar Radio confirming they will air the group stage game.

The game will be broadcast at 6:35 p.m. Myanmar standard time on 10 June by MRTV News Channel, MRTV Entertainment Channel and Myanmar Radio. Regular 8 p.m. news programmes will be rescheduled to 9 p.m.

MNA
Finance Ministry seeks approval of parliament for investment in infrastructure bank

NAY PYI TAW, 9 June — Finance Ministry has decided to invest US$264.5 million in a new infrastructure bank, and the ministry submitted a proposal to Pyidaungsu Hluttaw for the approval of $52.9 million, 20 percent of investment at the initial stage.

The Memorandum of Understanding of the Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank which will be headquartered in Chinese capital Beijing has specified that the authorized capital of AIB will be $100 billion with an initial subscribed capital of $50 billion. If Pyidaungsu Hluttaw has approved the investment, Myanmar will have to contribute $52.9 million every year to AIB for 10 years.

Union Minister for National Planning and Economic Development Dr Kan Zaw supported the proposal, with saying that Myanmar is capable of investing the amount of capital.

Deputy Minister for Home Affairs Brigadier General Kyaw Zan Myint explained the reports of investigation commission on land confiscation cases, calling for the cooperation of parliamentarians in respective areas.

Deputy Minister for Defence Services Maj-Gen Kyaw Nyunt clarified land release of the military as possible as it could, and additional 20,735.13 acre of land will be handed over under the management of military commands and land management committees in respective areas.

MNA

Trend of Myanmar Anyient to be broadcast by MRTV channels

YANGON, 9 June — The Trend of Myanmar Traditional Anyient, a variety show, jointly presented by Myanmar Radio and Television and House of Media and Entertainment will be broadcast in seven series every Sunday. — MNA

A female dancer presents performance of Myachegyin Ma Ngwe Myaing Anyeint dance. MNA

Amyotha Hluttaw passes two bills for antiques and ancient buildings

NAY PYI TAW, 9 June — The Amyotha Hluttaw session on Tuesday passed two bills for conservation of antiques and ancient buildings.

A member of the Amyotha Hluttaw Bill Committee read out the findings of the committee on the bill for conservation of antiques and the Amyotha Hluttaw speaker sought the approval of the session for each clause of the bill.

Then, Union Minister for Culture U Aye Myint Kyu sought the approval of the session for the entire bill, which was seconded by a representative and approved by the session later. Afterwards, another member of the bill committee reported the committee’s findings on the bill for conservation of ancient buildings and the union minister sought the approval of the session. A representative discussed in support of the bill and it was approved by the session.

Concerning the question on research of primates of about 40 million years ago, the union minister said that the ministry has no plan to continue with the research at the moment and explained the tasks carried for primate research at the session.

MNA

Three illustrated books available for children

NAY PYI TAW, 8 June — The Printing and Publishing Enterprise has been distributing three illustrated children books to libraries around the country.

The books were prize winning books of Children’s Literature Competition jointly organized by Myanmar Writers Association and Shanti Volunteer Association. The books entitled “Once in the life of Melone” by Htar Htar Oo, Happy Family World” by Win Myint Aung and “The Farmer and the Ogre of Flute” were printed on quality paper by the PPE and jointly published by the Information and Public Relations Department of the Ministry of Information and Shanti Volunteers Association of Japan.

Children are interested in the book at mobile book shows.

MNA

Media invited to attend 52nd Myanma Gems Emporium

NAY PYI TAW, 10 June — The 52nd Myanma Gems Emporium will be held at Mami Yadana Jade Hall, here, from 24 June to 6 July.

Local and foreign media may cover the information on the emporium from 24 to 26 June. The information on the emporium will be released at the Reception House outside the Jade Hall at 4 p.m. on the remaining days.

Local and foreign media wishing to cover the information may submit the designated applications to the News and Periodicals Enterprise under the Ministry of Information, Nay Pyi Taw, not later than 20 June. Applications are available at the Copyrights and Registration Division and the Myanmar Foreign Correspondents Club. For further information, may call NPE on 967-412125-6.

MNA

The cover of child literature book written by Nyi Nyi.
President
U Thein Sein ...
(from page 1)
The president and senior government officials then visited the Royal Nadi Resort to view a display of toilet facilities manufactured by Japan’s Kubota Corporation.

They later met with Pa-O ethnic leader U Aung Hkam Hti and discussed development programmes in the Pa-O Self-Administered Zone.—MNA

President
U Thein Sein meets Pa-O ethnic leader U Aung Hkam Hti and party.—IPRD

Union A&I Minister attends 39th session of FAO conference

NAY PYI TAW, 9 June—Government places emphasis on development of agriculture and socioeconomic sector as well as food sufficiency of the people, Union Minister for Agriculture and Irrigation U Myint Hlaing told the 39th session of the Conference of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the UN in Rome, Italy, on 9 June.
The union minister noted that Myanmar could reduce its nutrient deficiency index from 62.6 percent in 1990-91 to 14.2 percent in 2014-16 while decreasing 26.8 million people with nutrient deficiency in 1990-92 to 7.7 million in 2014-16, according to the FAO.
The conference was also attended by the FAO director-general, the executive director-general of UNFPA and ministers and delegates from 197 countries.—MNA

Union Minister
U Myint Hlaing speaking at 39th session of the Conference of FAO.—MNA

Tourism conference draws delegates from around world

NAY PYI TAW, 9 June—The 3rd Myanmar Hospitality and Tourism Conference kicked off here on Tuesday, with more than 200 industry representatives from 15 countries in attendance.
The event at the Kempinski Hotel was co-organized by Sphere Conferences and the Myanmar Tourism Federation with the support of the Ministry of Hotels and Tourism.
Union Minister U Htay Aung delivered the opening address, saying tourist arrivals to Myanmar reached more than 3 million in 2014, increasing by 51 percent compared with the previous year.
He encouraged industry experts to share their ideas, and said infrastructural development would play a vital role in the development of the tourism sector.
The conference started with a session in which tourism specialists shared their perspectives on Myanmar’s dynamic hospitality market.
In the panel discussion, Curtis S. Chin, former US Ambassador to the Asian Development Bank, shared his views on the economic sustainability of frontier markets such as Myanmar.
The conference will continue on 10 June and will cover the investment situation in Myanmar’s hospitality sector.—MNA

Foreigners study Myanmar language

YANGON, 9 June — Myanmar’s Department of Yangon University opened the 14-week-long basic Myanmar language course for foreigners at Toungoo Hall of YU, here, on Tuesday.
The department conducts basic-1, basic-2 and intermediate courses for Myanmar language.
“I started my studies in learning Myanmar language with some difficulties but I will try my best,” an Australian female trainee of above 70 years old said.

President
U Thein Sein sends messages of felicitations to Portuguese

NAY PYI TAW, 10 June — U Thein Sein, President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar, has sent messages of felicitations to His Excellency Mr. Pedro Passos Coelho, Prime Minister of the Portuguese Republic, on the occasion of the National Day of the Portuguese Republic, which falls on 10 June 2015.—MNA

Union FM felicitates Portuguese counterpart

NAY PYI TAW, 10 June — U Wunna Maung Lwin, Union Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar, has sent a message of felicitations to His Excellency Mr. Rui Machete, Minister of State and Foreign Affairs of the Portuguese Republic, on the occasion of the National Day of the Portuguese Republic, which falls on 10 June 2015.—MNA

British Ambassador Mr Andrew Silas Patrick welcomes Chief Minister of Yangon Region U Myint Swe and wife at the reception to mark the birthday of Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II of the United Kingdom at No 65, Alanpya Pagoda Road in Yangon on 9 June.—MNA
Teachers undertake course in Kyaukme

KYAUKME, 9 June — An additional teaching course for primary assistant teachers concluded at the hall of No 1 Basic Education High School in Kyaukme, northern Shan State, on 8 June. District and township level officials who spoke on the occasion presented certificates to the trainees. The trainees donated K500,000 to the township education fund through Township Education Officer Daw Cho Si and K500,000 to the school board of trustees.

MRCCI eyes market promotion, economic cooperation

Mandalay, 9 June — Mandalay Region Chambers of Commerce and Industry held a coordination meeting at its hall in Chanayethazan Township on Monday, with Chairman U Aung Than, Vice Chairman U Kyaw Min and officials in attendance.

Vice Chairman U Kyaw Min spoke about visits of Vietnamese, Indian, Thai and Japanese business delegations to Mandalay, while Vice Chairman U Win Htay recounted a meeting among SME entrepreneurs.

Secretary Dr Maung Maung outlined market promotion and future tasks.

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Secretary Dr Maung Maung outlined market promotion and future tasks.

The Civil Engineering and Petroleum Engineering teams played in the opening match of the tournament. The tournament will run until 26 June.

Businessmen from Seoul of the Republic of Korea pose for documentary photo in front of Inlay Khaungdaing Hotel recently after paying homage to Alodawpauk and PhaungdawU Pagodas in Inlay Lake in Nyaungshwe Township, Shan State, under the arrangements of Hana Tourism Company.

Agriculture Department aims to discourage poppy cultivation

MUSE, 9 June — The Department of Agriculture recently conducted an agricultural technological course in Kuttai, northern Shan State, where it distributed saplings to local farmers in the hope that they will plant them as crops instead of growing poppies.

Head of Township Immigration and National Registration Department U Min Min Zaw, along with police and government staff, gave lectures on drug elimination and cultivation of the poppy-alternative saplings.

The head of Township Department of Agriculture outlined land utilization, seeds of crops, pest prevention and good agricultural patterns.

Township officials distributed saplings to 120 farmers who own more than five acres of perennial crop land.
China says G7 remarks on East and South China Seas irresponsible

Beijing, 9 June — A Chinese Foreign Ministry spokesperson on Tuesday lambasted the G7 over comments insinuating China is at fault over tensions in the East and South China Seas. “The remarks of the G7 fall far short of the facts and international justice,” said Hong Lei at a regular press briefing, referring to a declaration released on Monday, after a summit of the G7, which groups the industrialized nations Canada, France, Germany, Italy, Japan, Britain and the United States. “We are concerned by tensions in the East and South China Seas. We underline the importance of peaceful dispute settlement as well as free and unimpeded lawful use of the world’s oceans,” the G7 leaders said in the statement. “We strongly oppose the use of intimidation, coercion or force, as well as any unilateral actions that seek to change the status quo, such as large scale land reclamation.” Although they stopped short of mentioning any specific country, it is obvious that the Western countries were pointing fingers at China — the largest stakeholder in the South China Sea issue.

Hong said the international community have fair opinions on the rights and wrongs of the issues over the East and South China Seas, in which a number of countries hold competing claims of sovereignty. China is committed to maintaining freedom of navigation and overflight in the East and South China Seas, and it will be the first to come out against any behavior threatening navigational freedom in these waters, he said. The spokesperson also reaffirmed China’s sovereignty over the Diaoyu Islands and their affiliated islets in the East China Sea, as well as the Nansha Islands and adjacent waters in the South China Sea. He said China’s land reclamation around islands and reefs of the Nansha Islands falls within its sovereignty and no foreign countries should intervene.

According to Hong, construction on these islands is mainly for civilian purposes, which will enable China to better fulfill its international obligations, such as maritime search and rescue and navigation, and their military function is defensive in nature. “The Chinese government will never recognize the illegal occupation of its Diaoyu Islands and its affiliated islands as well as parts of the Nansha Islands by other countries,” he said.

China has shown restraint over the so-called status quo to maintain the peace and stability in the region, he said, noting that as a sovereign state, China is ready to respond to any behavior infringing its sovereign rights and territorial integrity.— Xinhua

Singapore’s PM thanks Malaysia for assistance after Sabah quake

Singapore’s Prime Minister Lee Hsien Loong thanked his Malaysian counterpart Najib Razak for offering assistance after the Sabah earthquake, reported Channel NewsAsia on Tuesday.

Lee said on Monday in a letter to his Malaysian counterpart that the earthquake “is a tragic occasion for both our nations,” and he “greatly appreciated the support and assistance that the Malaysian government has rendered.”

Lee also expressed his appreciation for the condolences sent by Najib on Sunday.

The Malaysian prime minister in the letter extended condolences and sympathy to the families of the Singaporean victims on behalf of the government and people of Malaysia.

He said, “I wish to assure you that we have taken all the necessary steps to provide immediate rescue and recovery efforts to the affected people.”

Six students and one teacher from Tanjong Katong Primary School in Singapore, as well as one Singaporean adventure guide, were confirmed dead in the earthquake which hit Malaysia’s Sabah state on 5 June. The city state declared Monday as the Day of National Remembrance to mourn all the victims.— Xinhua

China wants “stable” military ties with Sri Lanka

Beijing, 9 June — China’s defence minister told the head of the Sri Lankan navy on Tuesday he wanted to ensure a “continuous and stable” development of military ties, after Sri Lanka ruled out future Chinese submarine visits to the country.

Defence Minister Chang Wanquan told Jayantha Perera that China was willing to continue and deepen cooperation with Sri Lanka, including efforts to train personnel, China’s Defence Ministry said in a statement.

“China is willing to work hard with Sri Lanka ... to ensure the continuous and stable development of relations between the two militaries and make positive efforts to further deepen ties,” the ministry paraphrased Chang as saying.

New Sri Lankan President Maithripala Sirisena has unnerved China with his re-examination of certain projects in which China has invested, including a $1.5-billion “port city” project in the capital, Colombo.

China has built a sea port and airport in Sri Lanka’s south, raising fears it is seeking influence in a country with which India has traditionally had deep ties.

India’s concern grew after the previous government allowed the Chinese submarines to dock. Visiting Beijing in February, Sri Lanka’s foreign minister said future such visits were unlikely.— Reuters

Cambodia names new president of Senate

Phnom Penh, 9 June — The Cambodian Senate chose its new president on Tuesday, one day after the incumbent died due to illness and old age.

In a statement, the Senate said Say Chhum, who was first vice president of the body, was elected president unanimously by the 52 senators who were present, and the first vice president position was given to Nai Pena, who was the second vice president.

Say Chhum is also secretary general of the ruling Cambodian People’s Party. The election took place after Chea Sim, the Senate president and CPP first vice chief, died on Monday at age 82.— Kyodo News

Five leftist rebels killed in N Philippines

Manila, 9 June — Five leftist rebels were killed in a clash with policemen in north Philippine province of Pampanga on Tuesday, said local police.

Rodolfo Recomono, provincial police director, said the rebels belonged to the Marxist-Leninist Party of the Philippines’ Revolutionary Armed Forces of Hukbong Bayan (RHB, Revolutionary People’s Army).

The group broke away from the New People’s Army in the 1990s.

Recomono said the incident occurred around 1:20 a.m. at San Jose Matulid village in Mexico town, involving forces of the provincial intelligence branch, Special Weapons and Tactics, and Mexico police stations.

Recomono said they launched an operation against the group in response to their criminal activities. “The suspects were alleged to be responsible for the robbery hold-up, car napping, gun-for-hire and extortion activities in Pampanga and nearby provinces,” said Recomono.

Police seized four handguns, two Carbine rifles, an M16 rifle, a hand grenade, two cal. 38 revolvers, ammunition, four motorcycles, and communication equipment.— Xinhua

An artist paints a 7.8-metre canvas to memorize the quake victims and historical architectural loss in front of Gaddi Baithak Palace in Kathmandu, Nepal, on 8 June, 2015.— Xinhua

Singapore’s Prime Minister Lee Hsien Loong and Malaysia’s Prime Minister Najib Razak.
Japan sets up MERS task forces at its missions in S Korea

Seoul, 9 June — South Korean health authorities on Tuesday announced that a 68-year-old woman became the seventh fatality linked to the Middle East Respiratory Syndrome coronavirus and reported eight new cases, raising the total number of infections to 95.

The announcement of the latest fatality came as the South Korean government vowed all-out efforts to contain any further spread of the potentially fatal respiratory disease since the first case was set a fixed deadline on 20 May — a 68-year-old South Korean man with a recent history of travel to four countries in the Middle East.

As of Monday, more than 2,500 people have been quarantined while more than 1,900 schools, including kindergartens, have been temporarily closed.

Meanwhile, a joint team of eight South Korean experts and eight experts from the World Health Organization began work on Tuesday to assist efforts to fight the virus.

For five days, the joint mission will discuss infection control and epidemiological investigations into confirmed cases, visit hospitals that have confirmed cases or isolated patients and analyze the characteristics of the virus, according to the health ministry.

The virus that has now become the second-largest number of MERS patients after Saudi Arabia, which has reported over 1,000 confirmed cases since the virus emerged there for the first time in 2012.

Globally, since September 2012, the WHO has been notified of at least 1,185 laboratory-confirmed cases of infection with MERS, including at least 443 related deaths.

Japan reports 7th MERS-linked death, cases now total 95

Tokyo, 9 June — Japanese Foreign Minister Fumio Kishida meets with reporters at the Prime Minister’s office on 9 June, 2015. He said Japan has set up task forces at its diplomatic missions in South Korea to help its nationals there deal with the spread of the Middle East Respiratory Syndrome coronavirus.

Kishida said his ministry has been making “all-out efforts” to gather and provide information to Japanese nationals abroad and will work closely with the health ministry to prevent an outbreak of the virus in Japan.

The minister said he is not aware of any plan yet to issue a travel alert to passengers to South Korea.

Also Tuesday, South Korea’s health authorities reported their seventh MERS-linked death and reported eight new cases, raising the total number of infections to 95.

UN — Interim deal to help show any military side of Iran nuclear past

Vienna, 9 June — Any possible military dimensions of Iran’s nuclear past can be clarified if the details of a preliminary deal sealed in April between Tehran and six world powers are implemented, the head of the UN nuclear watchdog said on Monday.

Iran has been stalling an investigation by the International Atomic Energy Agency into its nuclear programme. The agency is yet to make a final assessment, although it has said the process will not be open-ended.

The investigation is running in parallel with political talks between Iran and the six powers which are meant to end in a final agreement at the end of this month.

It is the first time Amano has clearly linked the technically separate UN investigation into possible military dimensions of Iran’s past activities to the political talks Iran is holding with the United States, France, Britain, China, Russia and Germany.

“I am confident that the clarification of issues with possible military dimensions is possible within a reasonable timeframe if Iran implements the measures envisaged in the (preliminary)... announce ment,” IAEA head Yukiya Amano said.

“I cannot say how long it will take, but with the cooperation from Iran it is not a matter of weeks and not a matter of years that we can clarify the issues with possible military dimensions”, Amano told reporters, implying it would take months once Iran starts to fully work with the IAEA.

As part of the initial deal reached in April in Switzerland, Iran was to implement a so-called Additional Protocol giving the IAEA more intrusive access to facilities in Iran. Iranian officials have been giving conflicting messages about what kind of access would be granted to crucial military sites.

A senior adviser to Iran’s Supreme Leader, who has the last word on foreign policy, said on Monday that no foreigners would be allowed to visit military sites in Iran, in comments carried by state news agency IRNA.

A touring a mask to prevent contracting Middle East Respiratory Syndrome (MERS), is reflected on mirrors in Seoul, South Korea, on 8 June, 2015.

Aramco is the first in a series of meetings between the six powers which are set to hold local elections in July, 1st under current leader

HC issues red travel warning for S Korea over MERS

Hong Kong, 9 June — The Hong Kong government on Tuesday issued a red travel warning for South Korea in view of the rising health risk from the ongoing outbreak there of the Middle East Respiratory Syndrome.

The travel warning, which came a day after the issuance of a travel alert, would enable travellers to seek partial refunds from tour agencies.

“The Food and Health Bureau (on Monday) adv ises Hong Kong residents to avoid non-essential travel to Korea, including leisure travel,” acting Chief Executive Carrie Lam said ahead of the weekly Cabinet meeting.

Joseph Tung, executive director of the Travel Industry Council that regulates tour agencies said there will be fewer complaints from tourists now that a travel warning has been issued.

Tung said all South Korea tours in June will be canceled, affecting some 10,000 people of 600 tours.

So far, all of the suspected MERS cases found in Hong Kong have tested negative for the virus.

South Korean health authorities on Tuesday announced that a 68-year-old woman became the seventh fatality linked to the Middle East Respiratory Syndrome coronavirus and reported eight new cases, raising the total number of infections to 95.

As of 3 June, the World Health Organization recorded 1,179 confirmed MERS cases, including at least 442 deaths, since the disease emerged in 2012. — Kyodo News

The flag of the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) flies in front of its headquarters in Vienna, Austria, on 28 May, 2015. — Reuters

Life goes on as normal in Dubai, despite the Middle East Respiratory Syndrome (MERS) outbreak in the country. — Reuters

“Visiting Iran’s military sites is forbidden in the Supreme Leader’s view, and permission to visit our sensitive locations will not be given to any foreigners, American or otherwise,” Ali Akbar Velayati was quoted by IRNA as saying.

“Implementation by Iran of the Additional Protocol will ... significantly increase the Agency’s ability to provide credible assurance about the absence of undeclared nuclear material and activities in (Iran),” Amano said.

Once Iran starts to fully implement the Additional Protocol, it would still take years before a broader conclusion can be reached on whether Iran’s current programme is fully peaceful, Amano said. Such broad assessments would be reviewed annually.

Diplomats have voiced concern that once sanctions relief is granted to Iran in exchange for it curbing its nuclear programme under any final deal, there will be little incentive for Tehran to disclose all details of its past activities to the IAEA. — Reuters
Greek PM Tsipras says accord possible if pensions are not cut

KRUEN, (Germany), 9 June — Leaders of the world’s major industrial democracies resolved on Monday to wean their energy-hungry economies off carbon fuels, marking a major step in the battle against global warming that raises the chances of a UN climate deal later this year.

The Group of Seven’s energy pledge capped a successful summit for host Angela Merkel, who revived her credentials as a “climate chancellor” and strengthened Germany’s friendship with the United States at the meeting in a Bavarian resort.

Ties between the Cold War allies have been strained in the last couple of years by spying rows but Merkel appeared to be reaching out to her US counterpart after her efforts. “There just needs to be a positive attitude on alternative proposals to cuts to pensions or the imposition of recessionary measures,” the German chancellor said.

The comments came as Greece’s international partners, including German Chancellor Angela Merkel and European Central Bank officials, have warned that a deal is not possible if pensions are not cut. But he showed no signs of accepting creditor demands for cuts to pensions or other social spending, repeating comments he has made over recent days.

“Ties between the Cold War allies have been strained in the last couple of years by spying rows but Merkel appeared to be reaching out to her US counterpart after her efforts. There just needs to be a positive attitude on alternative proposals to cuts to pensions or the imposition of recessionary measures: “The comments came as Greece’s international partners, including German Chancellor Angela Merkel and European Central Bank officials, have warned that a deal is not possible if pensions are not cut. But he showed no signs of accepting creditor demands for cuts to pensions or other social spending, repeating comments he has made over recent days. "Tsipras is due to meet Merkel and French President Francois Hollande on Wednesday to try to break the impasse that has raised fears Greece could be forced out of the euro zone, with unforeseeable consequences for the single currency and the wider world economy.

UK opposition Labour to run separate pro-EU campaign

LONDON, 9 June — The opposition Labour Party will run a separate campaign to keep Britain inside the EU when the country holds a referendum on the issue, the party said on Tuesday, ruling out sharing a platform with Conservative Prime Minister David Cameron.

After dismissing the latest proposal from the European Union and International Monetary Fund as “absurd” last week, the left-wing party has now consistently said it will not rule out campaigning for an exit if renegotiation does not yield the changes it wants.

Labour’s foreign affairs spokesman Hilary Benn said that regardless of which side Cameron decides to fight for, he would not campaign alongside the Prime Minister.

“What everyone agrees on is there will be a distinct Labour ‘Yes’ campaign,” Benn told the Daily Mirror newspaper.

He said the decision not to rule out taking part in the official pro-EU campaign, which has yet to be formed.

“Don’t yet know what the (official) Yes campaign is going to be. That decision is for later, it’s not for now. But I’m not going to be standing on a platform with David Cameron.”

Benn’s stance reflects Labour’s desire to learn the lessons of last year’s Scottish independence referendum and how it came out on top. The party’s family was inside when bottles containing liquid hit the house in a suburb of Prague, said police. Police did not say who they suspected. The force said in May it had uncovered a plot by a group of leftist militants to throw a large petrol bomb at a top figure. The Provo daily newspaper reported Stropnický had received a number of threats recently, citing unnamed sources. A small fire was extinguished quickly, it added.

A ministry spokesman said authorities had waited to report the incident until police had finished an investigation at the scene. “Such things do not happen often on the Czech political scene. For me, it actually confirms that the ministry is on the right course,” said Stropnický in a statement late on Monday.

Suspected petrol bombs thrown at Czech defence minister’s house

PRAGUE, 9 June — An attacker or attackers threw suspected petrol bombs at the house of Czech Defence Minister Martin Stropnický on Sunday morning, starting a small fire but injuring no one, media and his ministry said.

Stropnický, who was not there at the time of the attack, pointed to “the radicalization of certain groups, which stand against the values we hold,” without going into further detail. Members of Stropnický’s family were inside when bottles containing liquid hit the house in a suburb of Prague, said police.

Police did not say who they suspected. The force said in May it had uncovered a plot by a group of leftist militants to throw a large petrol bomb at a top figure. The Provo daily newspaper reported Stropnický had received a number of threats recently, citing unnamed sources. A small fire was extinguished quickly, it added.

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Remarkable atmospheric changes have led to increasing speculation that Greece’s European partners could be willing to allow it to be forced out of the euro zone, with unforeseeable consequences for the single currency and the wider world economy.

This would be the beginning of the end of the eurowe. If Greece, fails, the markets will immediately go to look for the next one. If negotiations fail, the cost for European taxpayers would be enormous,” he said...— Reuters

The EU and the Union flags fly outside The European Commission Representation in the United Kingdom in central London on 23 Jan, 2013.— Reuters
Trust must be earned, not bought

By Aung Khin

Trust can take a long time to build, but only a short time to destroy. It is something that must be earned and cannot be bought. In fact, money, in some cases, can erode trust.

In a business environment, a boss cannot build his reputation solely with money. He can win the trust of his employees by making sound policies that are considerate of staff. If an employee fails to create a positive working environment for his staff, they will not give their best to improve the firm.

On the other hand, some bosses are accused of showing favouritism to certain staff members, giving them bigger salaries and bonuses than others. But money is not a genuine means to obtaining lasting trust from these employees. There have been cases in which politicians have spent seemingly unlimited amounts of money on their election campaign yet still failed to get elected.

Trust is the glue that binds strong relationships. If a boss does not consider the interests of his staff and focuses only on his own, his employees will not put their trust in their company.

Politicians should base their campaigns on honesty rather than big spending, while business organizations should demonstrate genuine concern for staff in order to win their trust.

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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.

Nanyang Polytechnic of Singapore

By Sayar Mya

There are five local polytechnics in Singapore namely:

• Nanyang Polytechnic;
• Ngee Ann Polytechnic;
• Republic Polytechnic;
• Singapore Polytechnic; and
• Temasek Polytechnics.

Nanyang Polytechnic (NYP) is a Singapore polytechnic located in the central part of the nation. It is in Yio Chu Kang area next to Yio Chu Kang MRT Station in Singapore. This station serves students of neighboring educational institutions, residents as well as workers at adjoining industrial estates.

History

The Polytechnic was established on 1 April 1992, and enrolled its first batch of students for its “School of Health Sciences” and “School of Business Management” in July 1992. “The School of Engineering” and “The School of Information Technology” was opened in July 1993.

Organizational excellence

Nanyang Polytechnic (NYP) plays a critical role in providing quality industry-relevant polytechnic education. Over the years, NYP has distinguished them by leading the way with the Teaching Factory Concept to train technologists, innovated constantly to meet the needs of a changing economy, worked closely with partners in industry and focused continually on developing new capabilities.

Academic schools

Nanyang Polytechnic has seven academic schools, offering a variety of courses.

• School of Business Management (SBM);
• School of Engineering (SEG);
• School of Information Technology (SIT);
• School of Design (SDN);
• School of Health Sciences (SHS);
• School of Chemical & Life Sciences (SCL);
• School of Interactive & Digital Media (SDIM).

School of Business Management (SBM)

At Nanyang Polytechnic’s “School of Business Management”, it offers pragmatic business courses. It is termed as “The Business School with a Difference”.

Recently, NYP-ACCA offers New Fast-Track Upgrading Programme to Accountancy & Finance Students. ACCA (the Association of Chartered Certified Accountants) and NYP signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) to develop a new fast-track route that will allow diploma students studying accountancy to work towards acquiring the prestigious ACCA professional accounting qualification, even before they graduate.

School of Engineering (SEG)

The School of Engineering offers an exciting range of quality engineering, science and technology courses that is designed for success. Learn and grow with innovation-based curriculum and extensive industry partnerships. Learning beyond the classroom to gain a well-rounded and highly relevant education. Students can experience a vibrant student life and learning experiences full of endless possibilities, as NYP prepares for both promising careers and higher studies at reputable local and overseas universities.

School of Technology (SIT)

Life in School of Information Technology (SIT) is more than going for lessons; it is coming home to an inspiring place where students can be with friends and caring mentors to have fun together.

School of Design (SDN)

If students have set sights on a career as a designer, NYP’s School of Design (SDN) helps develop creative talents.

School of Health Science (SHS)

The School of Health Sciences (SHS) at Nanyang Polytechnic is the place for students who are keen to embrace the challenge of working in a healthcare environment. It prepares and trains people for careers in Nursing, Dental Hygiene and Therapy, Social Work, Physiotherapy, Occupational Therapy, Diagnostic Radiography and Radiation Therapy. Up till now, more than 20,000 students have graduated from the Diploma, Advanced Diploma, and Specialist Diploma courses conducted by the School. These health and social care professionals work in hospitals, clinics, laboratories, rehabilitation centers, community health agencies, schools, research organizations, family service centers and other healthcare and social work-related settings.

School of Chemical Life Science (SCL)

The School of Chemical & Life Sciences (SCL) is committed to provide a learning environment to nurture fertile minds and spark creativity and innovation. NYP, students enjoy brand-new facilities as well as training on the latest technologies in modern and state-of-the-art laboratories. In addition to this, the team of highly qualified, dynamic and caring lecturers is committed to equipping the students with professional and value-added skills. Beyond academic excellence, NYP also encourages the development of important personal skills to complement the professional knowledge that students will acquire.

Prospects in Chemical & Life Sciences

Singapore is committed to build the Chemical & Life Sciences industry as the fourth key pillar of its economy. The NYP had attracted 15 world-class Life Sciences companies to Singapore by 2010, as well as enable Singapore to be a regional centre for clinical trials & drug development. The vision is for Singapore to have a competitive base for state-of-the-art, high value-added pharmaceutical activities.

Interactive Digital Media (SDIM)

The School of Interactive & Digital Media (SDIM) is centered on a dynamic mix of creativity, the applied arts and digital media technologies. It is committed to developing creative talents for a vast spectrum of applied arts industries, including the enterainment, edutainment, advertising and corporate communications sectors.

Conclusion

The Global New Light of Myanmar, in 2 June issue, reported that “Myanmar, Singapore to jointly open vocational training school”. The news report elaborated that Myanmar and Singapore will jointly open a vocational training school in Yangon offering a range of course including hospitality and electronics, the Department of Technological and Training Education under the Ministry of Science and Technology announced on 1 June.

The Singapore Myanmar Vocational Training Institution (SMVTI) will be completed at the former building of the No (1) Technological High school on Nantaung Road in September 2015.

Three union ministers inspected renovation of the school building. The SMVTI will conduct training courses on hospitality, electronics, facility management and engineering services in accordance with the curriculum of the Institute of Technological Education in Singapore. At a time in the process of cooperation between Myanmar and Singapore in establishing a vocational school in Yangon, the author of this article earnestly believe that the article “Nanyang Polytechnic of Singapore” would draw the interest of the esteemed readers of the Global New Light of Myanmar and the relevant educators in the educational sphere.

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Climate conditions are getting worse because of deforestation.

So, why are people getting more and more corrupt?

Timber smuggling is linked to corruption in Myanmar, so we can blame deforestation too.

Haing Win Thit (Pauzandaung)
New building opens at rural school

Tahley, 9 June — A new building recently opened at the Basic Education Primary School Branch in Mihkhun Hsankha village in eastern Shan State’s Tahley Township.

Six primary students and 15 pre-primary children have enrolled at the school for the 2015-16 academic year.

Well-wisher U Sai Nanda Kyaw Swa Aung and local people donated K5 million for construction of a 30-foot-long and 18-foot-wide one-storey building for the students.

Headmaster U Than Lin of Yankin Basic Education Primary School No 1, well-wisher U Sai Nanda Kyaw Swa Aung and local authorities formally opened the new school building.

Court workers begin on-the-job training

Dawei, 9 June — Taninthayi Region High Court opened an on-the-job course for court staff in Dawei, Taninthayi Region, on Monday.

Chief Justice of the region high court U Myint Win outlined strategic aims for this year.

Altogether 27 trainees from the high, district and township courts are studying management, office works, codes of conduct for staff, accountability and other subjects until 19 June.

Traffic education campaign targets motorcyclists

Mandalay, 9 June — With the number of motorcyclists on Mandalay’s roads on the rise, authorities are stepping up traffic enforcement to reduce accidents.

Traffic enforcement teams have given talks on use of helmets, proper driving in downtown areas, avoiding noisy driving and abiding by traffic rules.

Officials clarify tax law amendments

Nyaungshwe, 9 June — A series of talks to explain tax law amendments was held at the hall of Nyaungshwe Township General Administration Department, Shan State, recently.

Director of Shan State Internal Revenue Department U John Sein Gi outlined amendments of tax law this fiscal year, as well as the issuance of receipts and vouchers with stamps of commercial tax to customers.

High-rise construction to blame for parking shortage: MCDC

Mandalay, 9 June — With the number of vehicles on its roads rising, Mandalay is facing a severe parking shortage, which the City Development Committee says is largely due to the construction of high-rise hotels without adequate parking.

With large numbers of cars illegally parked by roadsides, traffic congestion is prevalent on main roads in the city.

With the aim of easing traffic congestions in the city and ensuring safety for road users, the Building and Warehouse Department under the MCDC issued an announcement that those wishing to construct hotels and other buildings with more than four flats must submit their plans, including adequate parking areas, to the department.—Maung Pyi Thu (Mandalay)

Downtown roads in Mandalay blocked with small and large vehicles.
Iraqis make progress against Islamic State in Baiji — Pentagon

WASHINGTON, 9 June — Iraqi forces backed by US-led coalition air strikes have opened supply lines into Baiji town and its near-by oil refinery, making progress at last against Islamic State rebels in a battle that has gone on for months, the Pentagon said on Monday.

Army Colonel Steve Warren, a Defence Department spokesman, said the Pentagon was not ready to declare Baiji refinery, the country’s biggest, or the town “liberated,” but progress was being made.

“In Baiji (town), the progress is more notable,” Warren said.

“Friendly forces have begun moving into the town ... and are methodically beginning to root out the enemy.”

Turkish opposition leader says Islamic State behind bombings of Kurds

ISTANBUL, 9 June — A string of bombings targeting Turkey’s pro-Kurdish party during its campaign to enter parliament has been linked with Islamic State in Syria, the party’s chairman said on Monday.

Three people were killed in two blasts on Friday in the mainly Kurdish city of Diyarbakir in southeast Tur- key, minutes before Sela- hatin Demirtas, head of the Peoples’ Democratic Party (HDP), addressed a political rally.

The death toll in the bombings rose from two to three on Monday after a 17-year-old boy died of his injuries, local media said, citing hospital officials. At least 200 people were wounded in the attack.

The HDP on Sunday became the first-ever po- litical party with Kurdish roots to enter Turkey’s parlia- ment as a party after it easily cleared the 10 percent threshold required.

The party took 80 seats in the new parliament, help- ing to deprive the ruling AK Party of a majority to form a single-party government.

Demirtas said the at- tack, as well as two other bombings of HDP offices in May in which no one was killed, were connected to an armed militia group that espouses a hardline interpre- tation of Islam and controls swathes of war-torn Iraq and Syria, both of which have linkages to territories with Turkey.

“Our air power we have opened supply lines — Iraqi forces moving up the west side of the river, Warren said.

“We don’t know ex-actly who is firing those weapons,” he said, noting it could be Iraqis or Irans with Iranian advisers. Co- alition air power has been supporting the bid to retake Baiji.

“Our air power we believe has been effect-ive,” he said. “You’ve seen strikes in and around the oil refinery and Baiji virtually every day,”

Pakistan man has death penalty deferred for fourth time

ISLAMABAD, 9 June — A Pakistani man whose lawyers say was a child when charged with murder, and only confessed after being tortured, was handed a reprieve on Tuesday.

The Justice Project Pakistan (JPP), a human rights law firm representing Shahid Hus- sain, said the Supreme Court in the capital Islamabad would hear its appeal against an earlier court decision that rejected an inquiry into the case.

The Supreme Court adjourned the hearing until Wednesday.

It was the fourth time that Hussain, whose age is disputed, has had his death penalty postponed, and came hours before he was due to be hanged in the southern port city of Ka- rachi. A JPP spokesman said that on this occasion, Hussain would have been changed into white clothes and moved to a different part of the prison in preparation for his execution.

“Each time he has to say goodbye to his brothers. He has to go through this over and over again,” the spokesman said.

Hussain’s lawyers say he was just 14 in 2004 when he was burnt with cigarettes and had fingernails removed until he confessed to the killing of a child, a case that has angered rights groups and prompted mercy appeals from his family.

The authorities say that he was 23 when he was sentenced.

In addition to the legal appeal being heard in the Supreme Court, the JPP and one of Hussain’s brothers filed a 22-page appeal to President Mamnoon Hussain urging him to grant “permanent clemency or pardon from execution.”

His decision came a day after Taliban militants attacked a school killing more than 130 pupils and 19 adults. —Reuters

Iran arrests five over deaths of Saudi children in hotel

TEHRAN, 9 June — Five people have been ar- rested over the death of four children of a Saud- i pilgrim who were po- isoned on Sunday in a hotel in northern Iran, State IRIB TV reported on Monday.

“Hotel managers have been questioned and five people have been arrested” after the Saudi pilgrims were poisoned, an Iranian Judiciary spokesman, Ghol- lam-Hossein Mohseni-Ejei, was quoted as saying.

Towhid Hotel of Mashhad, where the Saudi pilgrims stayed, was shut down on Monday for further investigation, the chief of Mashhad Hotels Union, Mohammad Qanei, told IRIB.

Official RNA news agency reported earlier on Monday a total of 33 Saudi pilgrims were poisoned, in- cluding three three-year-old boys and a 14-year-old girl who died in a hospital in the religious city of Mashhad.

The pilgrims were poisoned by vapour from a substance used as pesticide in the hotel, IRIB TV quoted Rassoul Dinvarvand, who heads the Iranian Food and Medicine Organization, as saying.

The organization has banned the use of such poisi- son in hotels, Dinvarvand said, without naming the substance.

Further investigation is underway to determine whether its use was “de- liberate” or not, Dinvarvand said.

Millions of Ira- nians and foreign pilgrims go to the northern city of Mashhad annually to visit a renowned Shiite Muslim shrine.

Syrian air strikes kill 49 people in Idlib; monitor

DAMASCUS, 9 June — At least 49 people were killed on Monday, alleg- edly by a Syrian air strike against a rebel-held area in northwestern Syria, a monitor group reported.

Six kids and four women were among those killed by the air raids, which targeted a main square in Jairahiy town in northwestern city of Jisr al-Shughour in Idlib province, according to the Syrian Observatory for Human Rights.

The UK-based watch- dog group said the death toll is likely to rise due to the large number of critically wounded people.

Meanwhile, the ob- servatory, which relies on a network of activists on ground, said clashes took place between Syrian army and jihadist groups in the town of Frikh and country- side of Jisr al-Shughour.

It added that several Syrian military vehicles withdrew from the town toward Ghain Plains in the countryside of central prov- ince of Hama.

The state news agen- cy SANA said the Syrian air strikes targeted several areas in Idlib countryside, killing “terrorists” and de- stroying their weaponry. 

The JLP-affiliated Nusra Front and likemind- ed groups captured much of Idlib Province over the last couple of months. 

The radical militants are still scoring progress against the Syrian forces in the few remaining gov- ernment-controlled towns in the province near Turk- ish borders. —Xinhua

Iraqi Shiite paramilitary personnel launch a rocket towards Islamic State militants on the outskirts of Baiji on 3 June, 2015.—REUTERS

Warren said the troops moving against the oil re- finery were primarily con- ventional Iraqi security forces, while the Popular Mobilization Forces made up a majority of units oper- ating in Baiji town.

Iran-made artillery pieces were arrayed south of Baiji town on the east side of the Tigris river, par- allel to the main Iraqi force moving up the west side of the river, Warren said.

“Islamic State” is underway to determine “Our air power we believe has been effect-ive,” he said. “You’ve seen strikes in and around the oil refinery and Baiji virtually every day,”

primarily targeting Islamic State tactical units in the open. —Reuters

An Iranian-made artillery piece is seen in northwestern city of Damascus in September, 2013. —IRNA

Iran, Iraq: US-led coalition ready to begin so-called ‘final battle’ in Baiji

WASHINGTON, 9 June — US-led coalition forces have opened supply lines into Baiji town and its near-by oil refinery, making progress at last against Islamic State rebels in a battle that has gone on for months, the Pentagon said on Monday.

Army Colonel Steve Warren, a Defence Department spokesman, said the Pentagon was not ready to declare Baiji refinery, the country’s biggest, or the town “liberated,” but progress was being made.

“In Baiji (town), the progress is more notable,” Warren said.

“Friendly forces have begun moving into the town ... and are methodically beginning to root out the enemy.”

Syria's President Bashar al-Assad, who has been at- tributed to the BBC, said the oil refinery would be “liberated” in the next few days.

US-led coalition air strikes on Monday opened supply lines into Baiji town and its oil refinery, on the outskirts of Ba- ji, a strategic site that is one of the rare key infrastruc- ture sites that remain under Islamic State control.

Pentagon spokesman, said the Pentagon was not ready to declare Baiji refinery, the country’s biggest, or the town “liberated,” but progress was being made.

“Our air power we believe has been effect-ive,” he said. “You’ve seen strikes in and around the oil refinery and Baiji virtually every day,”

primarily targeting Islamic State tactical units in the open. —Reuters

At the refinery, Iraqi troops have broken through to a contingent of Iraqi troops dug in at the north-west corner of the facility for several months and were able to deliver equipment and personnel to the men on the ground.

There was no single factor that had allowed the Iraqi forces to advance in the town and refinery, lo- cated at a strategic cross- roads north of Tikrit on the main Baghdad-Mosul highway.

“This was a methodi- cal and often times grinding movement from the south to the north,” Warren said.

“It took the friendly forces several weeks to be able to break through” an Iraqi Islamic State defensive line.

The Iraqi force is com- prised of a mix of conven- tional security forces and the so-called Popular Mo- bilization Forces, which tend to be Shi’ite militias.

Warren said the Shi’ite militias were under the control of the Iraqi govern- ment. Washington has declined to support Shi’ite militias that are not con- trolled by the central gov- ernment.

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Hyundai Motor Group to cut domestic operating expenses

HSBC to cut up to 50,000 jobs, slash investment bank

US base shipped live anthrax to 19 states plus DC

Vehicle production slumps to 2005 levels in Brazil

Worst US bird flu outbreak in history expands to Michigan

US base shipped live anthrax to 19 states plus DC

The number of labs that received live anthrax samples from a US military base in Utah has risen to 66 in 19 states, Washington and three foreign countries, the Pentagon said on Monday. Army Colonel Steve Warren, a Defence Department spokesman, said 31 people were receiving precautionary treatment for exposure to live anthrax, unchanged since the Pentagon’s last update on the incident.

Warren said one new state, Pennsylvania, had been added to the list of locations where live anthrax may have been sent. In addition to the US states and Washington, the pathogen was sent to South Korea, Canada and Australia.

Investigators are trying to ascertain whether the inadvertent shipments of the anthrax, which can be used as a biological weapon, stemmed from quality control problems at the base, the Dagway Proving Ground, Pentagon officials said. No one at the labs has been infected and there is no known risk to the public, officials said.

A number of US military facilities for the past decade have shipped what were supposed to be inactivated, or killed, anthrax samples to outside labs to develop countermeasures against biological weapons. The one in Utah is the only one known to have sent samples that proved to have live bacterial spores. – Reuters

**Vehicle production slumps to 2005 levels in Brazil**

RIO DE JANEIRO, 9 June — Brazil’s vehicle production fell 25 percent in May compared to the same period last year, plummeting to levels not seen in the past 10 years, carmakers’ association Anfavea said on Monday.

With the production level, we have returned to 2005, with a very negative performance in truck production, which is back to 1999 levels. I have already checked the figures three times,” Anfavea President Luis Moan said.

From January to May, vehicle production fell 19 percent compared to the same period of 2014, with 1,09 million units produced. The figure is the lowest in eight years.

“Besides, vehicle sales dropped 3 percent in May compared to April, and plummeted 27.5 percent compared to May 2014. New vehicle registration fell 21 percent,” Moan said.

The bleak number is reflected in the sector’s employment figures. Some 6,000 jobs were axed in the first five months of this year. Employment in the automotive sector fell 9.2 percent in May compared to the same period last year. Another 25,000 workers are currently on furlough. “The employment level is equivalent to the level registered in 2010 and 2011,” said Moan. – Xinhua
WASHINGTON, 9 June — Turkish President Tayyip Erdogan’s loss of his parliamentary majority is unlikely to end disagreements between Washington and Ankara, particularly over the conflict in Turkey’s southern neighbor Syria, US officials said on Monday.

Erdogan’s AK Party lost the majority it has enjoyed for more than a dozen years, ushering a period of uncertainty as parties jockey to form a coalition government.

Whatever the outcome, officials and analysts said that the main lines of Turkish foreign policy are unlikely to shift dramatically. The AK Party is still by far the biggest party and Erdogan maintains enormous influence.

Ankara and Washington have disagreed sharply on Syria, where Erdogan has argued for buffer zones inside the country to halt the flow of refugees fleeing the civil war into Turkey and for robust US action to unseat Syrian President Bashar al-Assad.

The Obama administration has rejected US military action against Assad and has pressed Erdogan to do far more to stop foreign fighters from crossing Turkish territory into Syria, where they can join IS and potentially threaten the West.

The NATO allies also differ on Egypt, where Turkey backed an Islamist leader toppled in 2013 by the army, and on Israel, with which Turkey has had tense ties since nine Turks died when Israeli soldiers stormed a Gaza-bound aid ship in 2010.

While nominally a member of the coalition against the Islamic State militant group, Turkey has refused to let US forces use its bases to bomb the group’s forces which occupy large parts of Iraq and Syria.

One US official who spoke on condition of anonymity said some in Washington might be inclined to celebrate the AK Party’s defeat and conclude “Erdogan is dead, but that’s not the case.”

US-Turkey dispute on Syria to persist after Erdogan setback

WASHINGTON, 9 June — Turkish President Tayyip Erdogan has argued for buffer zones to have disagreed sharply by far the biggest party and is unlikely to shift dramatically.

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US President Barack Obama and Turkey’s President Tayyip Erdogan attend the NATO Summit at the Celtic Manor Resort in Newport, Wales on 5 Sept. 2014. REUTERS

Greenpeace says India denies entry to Australian activist

BEIJING, 9 June — A Chinese villager armed with a double-barreled hunting gun killed four people, including two police, in northern Hebei province on Tuesday, state media said, a rare outbreak of gun violence in a country where firearms are tightly controlled.

Liu then shot dead two police officers and wounded two, Xinhua added.

Liu was trapped in his house and found dead when police broke in around dawn, it said, adding the cause of his death was not yet known.

State television had said Liu had been shot.

Media carried pictures of a news release from the government which said the 55-year-old Liu was killed in a mass shooting.

Five killed in Chinese village ‘mass shooting’

BEIJING, 9 June — A Chinese villager armed with a double-barreled hunting gun killed four people, including two police, in northern Hebei province on Tuesday, state media said, a rare outbreak of gun violence in a country where firearms are tightly controlled.

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Five killed in Chinese village ‘mass shooting’
Fuel depot blazes in Ukraine, three firemen missing

VASYLYKIV, (Ukraine), 9 June — Emergency services are battling to prevent the spread of a deadly fuel depot fire outside Kiev, the head of the emergency services said on Tuesday, and three firemen were reported missing after the blaze triggered a powerful explosion.

The fire burned overnight and by morning had spread to at least 16 tanks, most of them storing petrol, sending a huge pall of smoke over the area surrounding the depot near Vasylykiv, 30 km (19 miles) from Kiev.

“At the depot, entire fuel tanks have been destroyed. Nearby — 100 metres (330 ft) away — there’s another fuel depot and the main thing is to prevent the fire reaching it,” the emergency services chief Valery Borysov said in a televised briefing.

Three firemen were unaccounted for after an explosion ripped through the area as they battled the fire. At least 11 people were injured in the fire and one later died in hospital, local media reported. Some 62 fire-fighting units and three trains delivering water and supplies had been mobilized, emergency services said.

Interior Ministry official Zoryan Shkiryak said police were investigating three possible causes for the fire.

These included “violations of fuel storage regulations, technical malfunctions or arson,” the ministry quoted him as saying. Of the 16 affected, eight had a capacity of 900 cubic metres, while the rest were smaller volume, the emergency ministry said.

Earthquake felt in Greek capital, no reports of injuries

ATHENS, 9 June — An earthquake shook central Greece early on Tuesday and was felt as far away as the capital, Athens, but there were no immediate reports of damage or injuries, Greek authorities said.

The quake of 5.2 magnitude occurred at 0109 GMT, the Athens Geodynamic Institute said on its website. Its epicentre was 5 km (3 miles) deep near the city of Chalkida on Evia island.

“It was certainly felt, but so far we have not received any calls for assistance,” a Greek fire brigade official in Athens said.

Greece is often rattled by earthquakes, most causing no serious damage.

Chinese tourist jailed for killing New Zealand child in road crash

WELLINGTON, 9 June — A Chinese tourist whose dangerous driving caused the death of a 5-year-old girl in a road crash in New Zealand was jailed for 18 months on Tuesday. The man named Jin Cao, 32, had pleaded guilty in April to dangerous driving causing the death of Ruby Marris and seriously injuring her parents and older sisters, Radio New Zealand reported.

Cao then stood to tell the family, through an interpreter, of his deep sorrow and he bowed five times to the family.

Judge Kevin Phillips said Cao had not been paying sufficient attention while driving to realize he was on the wrong side of the road.

In sentencing, the judge also ordered him to pay about 61,000 NZ dollars (43,292 US dollars) to the Marris family in reparations.

Meteorological Agency said.

No tsunami alert was issued.

The 5.84 am temblor occurred in the southern part of Ibaraki Prefecture at a depth of about 30 kilo-metres, registering 4 on the Japanese seismic intensity scale. It was felt in Moka, Tochigi Prefecture, and 2 in central Tokyo.

M4.7 quake hits Tokyo, surrounding region

TOKYO, 9 June — An earthquake with a preliminary magnitude of 4.7 struck Tokyo and its surrounding region on Tuesday morning, the Japan Meteorological Agency said. No tsunami alert was issued.

The 5:44 am temblor occurred in the southern part of Ibaraki Prefecture at a depth of about 30 kilo-metres, registering 4 on the Japanese seismic intensity scale. It was felt in Moka, Tochigi Prefecture, and 2 in central Tokyo.

Weather Report

FORECAST VALID UNTIL EVENING OF THE 10 June, 2015: Rain or thunder-showers will be isolated in Lower Sagaing, Mandalay and Magway Regions, Kayin State, scattered in Upper Sagaing and Taninthayi Regions, Shan and Chin States, fairly widespread in Kayin and Mon States and widespread in the remaining Regions and States with likelihood of isolated heavy falls in Rakhine State. Degree of certainty is (80%).
British model Kate Moss escaped off plane for being disruptive

British police said they had called to escort a passenger from the easyJet flight EZY2232 arriving from Bodrum, Turkey. The police did not name Moss. The passenger had been reported as being disruptive on the flight. Officers attended and escorted the passenger from the plane. No formal complaints were made against her and she was not arrested, Bedfordshire police said.

EasyJet confirmed police had met the flight due to the behaviour of a passenger onboard.

“EasyJet does not tolerate disruptive behaviour and will always report any incidents to the authorities,” the company said, in a statement. — Reuters

London, 9 June — British model Kate Moss was escorted off a plane at Luton airport on Sunday after disruptive behaviour, the BBC reported.

Moss, 41, could not be reached for comment. She was not arrested as no formal complaints were made, the BBC reported. Her spokes-woman did not respond to an email and to phone calls seeking comment.

I’ve won my battle against cancer: Rita Wilson

Los Angeles, 9 June — Actress Rita Wilson is feeling great, recovering from a double mastectomy and breast reconstruction after being diagnosed with breast cancer. Wilson said she was not battling the disease anymore.

The 58-year-old actress, who is married to Tom Hanks, said she is thankful to her family and colleagues for showering her with love through her difficult times, reported E! Online. “I feel great. When you do Broadway, you have a family there and one at home as well. I had so much love through the process. I’m very thankful,” she said at the red carpet of the 2015 Tony Awards.

Wilson, who resumed her role in stage production “Fish in the Dark” in May, was accompanied to the ceremony by her son Colin and was very excited to be at the show, which honoured the best in theatre.

PTI

Mysterious ‘Entourage’ poster haunts an Indian restaurant

Los Angeles, 9 June — Comedy-drama TV series “Entourage”, which recently had a movie adaptation, haunts an Indian restaurant with a poster the owner cannot remove.

India Castle, an Indian restaurant in Cambridge, Massachusetts, has a very old “Entourage” poster hanging on its wall, reported Entertainment Weekly.

According to Rabhbir Singh, the owner, when the HBO series had a brief run about five years ago, a local TV representative offered to pay the restaurant owner to have a poster box installed in his restaurant.

Eleven years later, however, the poster still hangs on the wall, as the representative, who said the artwork would change every two weeks, never returned.

Singh does not have the key to the box locks or any other way to break the box.

The TV station, when contacted, said they had no idea where the poster came from or why it is there.

PTI

Shankar Mahadevan lauds Priyanka Chopra’s Bollywood singing debut

Kuala Lumpur, 9 June — Music composer Shankar Mahadevan is all praise for actress Priyanka Chopra, who made her Bollywood playback singing debut with the title track of her latest film “Dil Dhadakne Do”.

Shankar along with Ehsaan Noorani and Loy Mendonsa has composed the music of Zoya Akhtar’s movie about a dysfunctional family on a cruise.

“She (Priyanka) is extremely talented. We don’t know what to expect when she came to the studio for recording. And she really rocked it,” Shankar told PTI.

The film’s other peppery Punjabi number “Gallan Goodiyan” has been topping music charts. “I’m very thankful,” the actress said at the red carpet of the 2015 Tony Awards.

PTI

Ariana Grande’s empowering feminist tweet

Los Angeles, 9 June — Singer Ariana Grande vented her frustration on the double standards and misogyny women face in today’s society on Twitter. The 21-year-old “Love Me Harder” hitmaker thinks being ‘empowered’ is not the same as being arrogant.

She is currently making the best music so media should not be around her current status as a singleton, reported MTV News.

“I am tired of living in a world where women are mostly referred to as a man’s past, present or future PROPERTY/POSSESSION. the star said.

“I can’t wait to live in a world where people are not valued by who they’re dating/married to/attached to, having sex with (or not) seen with, but by their value as an individual,” she added.—PTI

‘The Magnificent Seven’ remake casts actor Billy Slaughter

Los Angeles, 9 June — “Focus” actor Billy Slaughter has joined the cast of director Antoine Fuqua’s upcoming remake of 1960 film “The Magnificent Seven”.

The film also stars Denzel Washington, Chris Pratt, Ethan Hawke, Vincent D’Onofrio, Matt Damon, Haley Bennett and Peter Sarsgaard.

It revolves around a story of a disparate group of seven gunslingers, who are hired by a woman (Bennett) to defend her town from bandits led by a robber baron, said The Hollywood Reporter.

John Lee Hancock and “True Detective” creator Nic Pizzolatto wrote the script. 35-year-old Slaughter’s credits include “When the Game Stands Tall”, “Parker” and “The Campaign and Colombiana.”—PTI

New trailer of Jake Gyllenhaal’s ‘Southpaw’ released

The second trailer of Hollywood actor Jake Gyllenhaal’s sports drama film “Southpaw”, directed by Antoine Fuqua, has been unveiled.—PTI

Los Angeles, 9 June — The second trailer of Hollywood actor Jake Gyllenhaal’s sports drama film “Southpaw”, directed by Antoine Fuqua, has been unveiled.

The 34-year-old star plays a boxer, who finds success in the ring but has issues in his personal life, said The Hollywood Reporter.

The “Nightcrawler” actor is shown in an intense fighting sequence in a boxing ring in the one-minute-seven-second trailer.

Earlier, rapper Eminem, whose new song features in the trailer, was set to star in the film.

Written by “Sons of Anarchy” creator Kurt Sutter, the film also stars Forest Whitaker and Rachel McAdams.

The gritty-boxing drama is scheduled to release on 24 July, 2015.—PTI
Americans bring Women's World Cup to life

Winnipeg, (Manitoba), 9 June — The United States brought the Women’s World Cup to life on Monday as they rose to the top of the ‘Group of Death’ with a 3-1 win over Australia in front of a ravenous crowd.

A day after the Ivory Coast were humiliated 10-0 by Germany, Nigeria and Cameroon restored African pride while Japan opened the defence of their title in Vancouver with a 1-0 win over Switzerland courtesy of a 29th minute strike from Aya Miyama.

Cameroun, who were making their first World Cup appearance, looked right at home on football’s biggest stage as Gaëlle Enganamouit scored a hat-trick to lead the 53rd ranked Les Lionnes to a 6-0 victory over South American debutant Ecuador.

Nigeria and Sweden, who have appeared in all seven women’s World Cups, experienced some first up jitters in Winnipeg with Franciaca Ortega grabbing a late equaliser for the Africans to earn a 3-1 draw in the so-called ‘Group of Death’.

No nation will face a tougher road to the final than those in Group D, which features three teams ranked in the top 10, the US (2), Sweden (5), Australia (10) and the 33rd-ranked Nigerians, who are the top African nation.

The first appearance by the US created an electric atmosphere as fans flooded across the border, filling Winnipeg Stadium with a boisterous red, white and blue flag-waving crowd.

Tokyo’s Olympic bid promised a “compact Olympics,” with a majority of venues within 8 km of the Olympic Village, but sharply rising construction and labour costs have forced a widespread revamping of its venue plans to make more use of existing facilities that are often far cheaper.

At an IOC meeting in Lausanne that ended on Monday, another eight venues were approved. Changes include coe site for fencing, wrestling and taekwondo, which will be at a site roughly 40 km from downtown Tokyo, and sailing, which will be situated at a similar distance away at a venue used in the 1964 Tokyo Olympics.

Japan minister says trouble-plagued Olympic stadium to be ready on time

Tokyo, 9 June — Japan’s sports minister promised on Tuesday that Tokyo’s new National Stadium, the centrepiece of the 2020 Summer Olympics, will be completed on time and blamed a “lack of clear responsibility” for the structure’s raft of woes.

The new National Stadium has been hit by numerous problems, including skyrocketing costs and demolition delays that led to media speculation it might not be finished in time, prompting International Olympics Committee (IOC) president Thomas Bach to say on Monday he wanted Japan to settle plans for it soon.

Hakubun Shimomura, who is also education minister, told reporters that a lack of clearly delineated overall responsibility may be partly to blame. The stadium is due to be used for the Rugby World Cup in 2019.

“For example, there were reports that completion might be delayed in April. If we’d gotten those reports earlier I believe we might have been able to make a more flexible response,” he said, without giving further details.

“We will not lose international trust,” he added.

There are still four more years. We will deal with this effort to that end,” he added.

An official at the Japan Sports Council, which is in charge of the stadium, agreed that it will be completed in time. “We are making every effort to that end,” he added.

Japan in May established a new cabinet post for a minister who will be in charge of preparing for the Games, with the name of the new minister expected to be announced later this month.

Hakubun Shimomura, Minister of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology, and Minister of Olympic and Paralympic Games of Japan

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Myanmar wins gold medal in canoeing event

SINGAPORE, 9 June — Union Minister for Sports U Tun Htun Hsan watched competitions of Myanmar athletes in canoeing, bowling, 5000-m race, long jump, high jump, pole vault and 100-m race in the 28th SEA Games in Singapore on Tuesday.

The golf team of five men and three women players was seen off at Yangon International Airport by President of Myanmar Golf Federation U Ko Ko Aye and officials.

GNLM

Myanmar golfers to take part in 28th SEA Games

YANGON, 9 June — Myanmar golf team left here by air on Tuesday for Singapore to take part in the 28th SEA Games.

The golf team of five men and three women — Maung Maung, Maung Maung, and Sandi Oo — will represent Myanmar in the singles canoeing event and Phyu Wah Thet one bronze in the women 5000-m race.—SPED

Victorious Myanmar medalists arrive home

YANGON, 9 June — Victorious athletes of Myanmar sports contingent arrived here by air on Tuesday afternoon.

They were welcomed back at Yangon International Airport by Patron of Myanmar Women’s Sports Federation wife of the Union Minister for Hotels and Tourism Daw Chaw and party, trainees of Sports and Physical Education Institute (Yangon) and relatives.

Myanmar Chilolone team won two gold medals in non-repetition secondary and same stroke events, Mya Thet Hsu Wai Phyo and Aye Thitsa Myint one gold in Wushu attack event, Aye Thitsa Myint one gold in Taolu (Nanquan+Nandao) event, Sandi Oo one gold in Taolu (spar) event, Kyaw Lin Tun one silver in Sanshou 65-kilo event, Sandi Oo and Eint Mie Mie one silver in women’s weaponless attack event, Sandi Oo one silver in Chanquan event, Wai Phyo Aung one bronze in men’s Nanquan+Nangun event, Yan Naing Soe one gold in Judo event, Khin Myo Thu one gold in Judo event, Zin Lin Aung, Phyo Swe Zin Kyaw and Aye Aye Aung one silver each in Judo event, Myo Zaw Oo and Khin Khin So one bronze each in Judo event.

SPED

Meet the youngest swimmer in the pool

SINGAPORE, 9 June — Most 10-year-olds dream up fantasies for their birthday wishes. But not Oo Shun Lei Maw, she says firmly, “I don’t have anything I want for my birthday.”

Though Lei Maw turns 11 on 9 June, her focus remains on the competition. “They are so fast and I am the slowest one!” she pips, “I want to be better than the slowest one.”

Even though she admits to feeling scared, her fears have since appeared to be allayed.

“My father opened a swimming pool in Myanmar when he was 13th out of 14 swimmers. This is an improvement from her previous heats, where she placed last in the heats for the 200m Individual Medley. Age is clearly no hindrance for the youngest swimmer in the pool at the 28th SEA Games. In fact, Lei Maw made the trip to Singapore without her parents – a journey that would surely be daunting for others her age. This is not her first trip to Singapore for swim meets. In March earlier this year, she participated in the Singapura Eificates SNAI Swim Junior Championships, showing her potential as she placed first in numerous events within her age category.

Having been swimming since she was seven, Lei Maw’s training regime typically starts at 5am, stopping at 9am for school, before returning to the pool from 4pm to 6.30pm. It all started when her father opened a swimming pool in Myanmar and she participated in some of the classes held there.

But make no mistake — despite her commitment to swimming and maturity, Lei Maw is still very much like any other 10-year-old. “I like to watch TV, play games, read books and listen to music!” she grins. Despite what one would expect, she was never the favourite subject in school is maths, not physical education.

“It’s too tiring!” Lei Maw pouts. “I can’t do the training very well.”

We wish Lei Maw all the best in her future endeavours and a very happy birthday!

seagames2015.com

Football Match Schedules for 10 June 2015 (all times local)

**Group A**
- **Malaysia vs. Philippines**
- **Ceylon vs. Vietnam**
- **Myanmar vs. Thailand**
- **Singapore vs. Vietnam**

**Group B**
- **Cambodia vs. Thailand**
- **Vietnam vs. Thailand**
- **Myanmar vs. Singapore**
- **Singapore vs. Philippines**

**Medal Standings for Tuesday 9 June, 2015**

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Members of management board and coaches of Taekwondo and cycling events seen at Yangon International Airport on Tuesday before departure for 28th SEA Games in Singapore.—SPED (YANGON)