

More efforts with added momentum to implement reform processes needed President U Thein Sein addresses Republic of the Union of Myanmar Project Commission meeting

NAY PYI TAW, 25 June —Chairman of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar Project Commission President U Thein Sein addressed the meeting of the commission at the meeting hall of the Union Government Office in the Presidential Palace, here, this morning.

The meeting was also attended by Vice-Presidents Dr Sai Mauk Kham and U Nyan Tun, the Union ministers, the Attorney-General of the Union, the Auditor-General of the Union, the Chairman of Union Civil Service Board, the Region/State Chief Ministers, the deputy ministers, chairmen of the leading body of self-administered division and zones and departmental heads.

In his opening address, the President said that during the previous two years, there had been both successes and slowdowns in political, economic and social reform



processes of the government as the country did not have enough democratic experiences and practices to translate the challenges into a success. He called

for more efforts with added momentum to implement the reform processes, putting an emphasis on the attitudes of the people as these has been a tide

of criticism that there is no change at the bottom made by the people who are willing to see a rapid change and development.

(See page 9)

Meeting of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar Project Commission in progress at the hall of Union Government Office in Presidential Palace in Nay Pyi Taw.

MNA

Senior General Min Aung Hlaing, Russian Defence Minister General of the Army Sergey K Schoigu hold talks



Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Senior General Min Aung Hlaing holds talks with Russian Defence Minister General of the Army Sergey K Schoigu.—MNA

NAY PYI TAW, 25 June—Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Senior General Min Aung Hlaing held talks with

Russian Defence Minister General of the Army Sergey K Schoigu over cooperation between two forces of the country at

the Ministry of Defence of Russia yesterday.

Also present at the meeting were senior military officers from the

Tatmadaw, Ambassador of Myanmar to Russia U Tin Yu, Myanmar military attaché (Army, Navy and Air) Col Nay Win while

Russian Defence ministers was accompanied by Deputy Defence Minister Mr Anatoly I Antonov and officers from Russian Army.

During the meeting, Russian Defence Minister General of the Army Sergey K Schoigu said he believed that the cooperation between the two forces of the country would reach higher than the current level as Russian is modernizing its armed forces.

He also discussed matters related to promoting exchanging visits of the military delegations, convenience of Myanmar military scholars in Russia and exchanging sports teams and coaches between the armed forces of the two countries.

Senior General Min Aung Hlaing said that his visit to Russian is the new step for promoting relations and friendships

between the two armed forces.

The visits of military leaders including the Russian defence minister's visit to Myanmar in May and his current visit to Russia would promote the friendship and good relations between the two forces, he added.

He hoped that Russian would share its experiences to Myanmar to overcome the challenges for democratic transition in the country, he added.

The Senior General also pledged to strengthen the cooperation and friendship between the two armed forces.

After the meeting, Russian Defence Minister General of the Army Sergey K Schoigu hosted a dinner in honour of Myanmar delegation led by Senior General Min Aung Hlaing.

MNA

LOCAL NEWS

HEALTH

Health education given in Nay Pyi Taw

YANGON, 25 June — Jointly-organized by Women's Affairs Organization and maternal and Child Welfare Association of Nay Pyi Taw Development Committee, an education talks on health was held at Nay Pyi Taw City Hall on 22 June.

It was attended by Patron of Nay Pyi Taw WAO and MCWA Daw Kyin Khine, chairpersons

and members of Nay Pyi Taw Development Committee WAO and MCWA and guests.

Daw Thet Htar Tin, chairperson of Nay Pyi Taw Development Committee WAO spoke on the occasion.

Next, the head of Nay Pyi Taw Council Area Health Department gave talks on DHF and medical officers on dangers of HIV/AIDS and reproductive health. — MNA

DEVELOPMENT

New transformers installed in Lashio urban wards



LASHIO, 25 June — Aimed at supplying electricity at full voltage to urban wards in Lashio of Shan State (North), electrical staff recently installed two new transformers on the main road in sector (8) of ward-12 and at the corner of Natsin street and ring road in sector (6) of ward-7 separately.

In cooperation with Mya Thin Kyu Electric Power Company Ltd, Lashio Township Electrical Engineer Office carried out construction of 11/0.4 KV 315 KVA sub-power station

and installation of 2350 feet long 11 KV power line so as to supply more power.

Likewise, electrical staff performed installation of 0.2 mile long 11 KV power line and construction of 11/0.4 KV 315 KVA sub-power station at the corner of Natsin street and ring road. Moreover, they set up 21 electrical posts and installed 0.5 mile long power line at the places where 400 V power line has not reached yet.

Kyemon-San Zarni
Aung (Lashio)

More homecomings of Myanmar workers soon

YANGON, 25 June — According to General Manager U Ye Myo Hein of Ayeyawady Foundation, more Myanmar workers who have been experiencing difficulties in Malaysia will arrive back home upcoming week batch by batch.

He said that he recently went to three towns where is home to most of Myanmar workers to make necessary arrangements for their homecomings. "It is planned to bring 175 Myanmar workers to home in a chartered flight

coming Saturday. The number of workers who are going to return to Myanmar by regular flight are 70 on coming Monday, 30 on Wednesday, 60 on Saturday and 80 on next Monday", says U Ye Myo Hein.

He added that coordination between Myanmar Embassy in Malaysia and Malaysian departments concerned, social networks and MAI Airline were in progress.

Kyemon-Htet Khaing
(Sangyoung)

Yangon Children Hospital under major repair

YANGON, 25 June — Yangon Children Hospital on Pyidaungsu Avenue in Dagon Township, here, is currently under major repair and construction of a new building where CT and MRI X-ray machines will be installed is in progress.

"Major repair means overall repair including repair room structure, wiring, interior decoration and sanitary facilities which are in need of repair. The under-construction building at the entrance to the hospital will be a place for X-ray machines for CT and MRI scans. It will also be needed to partition the building. These two machines are donation of India.

They have not arrived here yet. All repair works have been financed by the budget of the Ministry of Health by the Union



government", says Medical Superintendent Dr Than Htaik.

The 550-bed Yangon Children Hospital was built by Canadian Government on

5 January 1970. A contract for repair works and construction of a new building for X-ray machines was signed between the hospital and a company in January. According to the

medical superintendent, it is expected that overall repair works and construction of a new building will cost K 1500 million.

Kyemon-Soe Win (MLA)

Apartment blaze in Kaba-Aye Villa

YANGON, 25 June — An overheated safeguard is attributed to the root cause of a fire at an apartment in the compound of Kaba-Aye Villa on Kaba-Aye Pagoda Road in ward-5 of Mayangon ward, here, on 23 June.

The fire is believed to have started from a safeguard for an air conditioner at Room No (32) on the third floor of Building (D) where one Malaysian and four Thais stay at about 2.25 pm on that day.

Firefighters accompanied by 15 fire trucks and three supportive vehicles managed to bring the fire under control and put it out at about 3.15 pm.

The air conditioner, two double-decker iron beds and one single bed, mattresses and some parts of the ceiling caught fire that caused nearly 1.5 million worth of things lost. Moreover, Tun Tun, one of firefighters, collapsed unconscious as he was suffocated by fumes while opening the door of a room in which the blaze swept



through. He was sent to North Okkalapa Hospital and actions are being taken

against the fire incident.

Kyemon-Zaw Gyi
(Pannida)

Ayeyawady dolphin study tour concludes successfully

MANDALAY, 25 June — An Ayeyawady Dolphin Study Tour with the participation of 155 explorers guided by veteran tour guides in Mandalay started on 23 June cruising along the Ayeyawady which is a natural habitat for Ayeyawady dolphins. Officials of the Ministry

of Hotels and Tourism, tour guides from Mandalay, Yangon and Bagan, responsible persons of travel agencies, media persons and enthusiasts went on the study tour.

A vessel carrying observers departed from Mayanchan jetty in Mandalay on 5 am and made

ENVIRONMENT

a stop near Nanndawkyun village on the other bank of Mingun where an opening ceremony of Ayeyawady dolphin study tour was held. Patron U Tin Tun of Myanmar Tour Guide Association (Mandalay Zone) gave a detailed explanation of Ayeyawady dolphins with the use of

illustrators to members of the tour at the ceremony.

Next, the emotional journey took explorers to a place near Sein Pann Kone village to see Ayeyawady dolphins. Those on board the vessel were able to observe life of Ayeyawady dolphins swimming in formation near Myaysoon village. On their arrival at Myitkanbargyi and Kyattuyway villages in Hinthama village-tract, observers had a chance to interview fishermen regarding their job of catching fish in cooperation with Ayeyawady dolphins.

Then, WCS Project Manager U Kyaw Hla Thein elaborated on the situation of Ayeyawady dolphins which are in danger of becoming extinct and measures being taken for Ayeyawady dolphin conservation.

Kyemon-002



WORLD



Chinese State Councilor Yang Jiechi (front, R) shakes hands with Nepali Foreign Minister Madhav Ghimire (front, L) during a meeting in Kathmandu, capital of Nepal, on 24 June, 2013.—XINHUA

Ten car bombs kill 39 in Iraqi capital

BAGHDAD, 25 June—Ten car bombs exploded across the Iraqi capital on Monday, killing nearly 40 people in markets and garages on the evening of a Shi'ite Muslim celebration, police and medical sources said.

Some of the attacks targeted districts where Shi'ites were commemorating the anniversary of the birth of a revered Imam, but there also were explosions in mixed neighbourhoods and districts with a high population of Sunnis.

The violence reinforced a growing trend since the start of the year, with more than 1,000 people killed in militant attacks in May alone, making it the deadli-

est month since the sectarian bloodletting of 2006-07.

Waleed, who witnessed one of Monday's explosions in which five people were killed in the Shi'ite stronghold of Sadr City, described a scene of chaos: "When the explosion happened, people ran in all directions."

"Many cars were burned, pools of blood covered the ground, and glass from car windows and vegetables were scattered everywhere."

Eight people were killed in two car bomb explosions in the central District of Karada, one of them in a car garage. Two car bombs exploded simultaneously near a market in the western District of Jihad, killing eight.

Separately, a bomb placed in a cafe in the northern city of Mosul killed five people, pushing Monday's death toll over 40.

Insurgents, including al-Qaeda's Iraqi affiliate, have been recruiting from the country's Sunni minority, which feels sidelined following the US-led invasion that toppled former dictator Saddam Hussein and empowered majority Shi'ites.

Since the withdrawal of US troops in December 2011, critics say Shi'ite Prime Minister Nuri al-Maliki has consolidated his power over the security forces and judiciary, and has targeted several high-level Sunni leaders for arrest.

Reuters

US presses Russia as mystery over Snowden deepens

WASHINGTON/MOSCOW, 25 June—The United States increased pressure on Russia on Monday to hand over Edward Snowden, the American charged with disclosing secret US surveillance programmes, and said it believed he was still in Moscow.

Snowden, until recently a contractor with the US National Security Agency, had been expected to fly to Havana from Moscow on Monday, perhaps on the way to Ecuador, according to sources at the Russian airline Aeroflot who spoke on Sunday.

But he was not seen on the daily Aeroflot flight that landed in Havana on Monday evening and the captain of the plane said he had not

been aboard.

White House spokesman Jay Carney, speaking hours after the Moscow-Havana flight took off, said it was Washington's assumption that Snowden was still in Russia and pressed Russia to use all options to expel him to the United States.

The US State Department said diplomats and

Justice Department officials were engaged in discussions with Russia, suggesting they were looking for a deal to secure his return.

"Given our intensified cooperation working with Russia on law enforcement matters ... we hope that the Russian government will look at all available options to return Mr Snowden back

to the US to face justice for the crimes with which he is charged," spokesman Patrick Ventrell told reporters.

Snowden flew to Moscow after being allowed to leave Hong Kong on Sunday, even though Washington had asked the Chinese territory to detain him pending his possible extradition on espionage charges

Julian Assange, founder of anti-secrecy group WikiLeaks which is assisting Snowden, said the 30-year-old had fled to Moscow en route to Ecuador and was in good health in a "safe place" but did not say where he was now.—Reuters

A Russian policeman stands outside the embassy of Ecuador in Moscow, on 24 June, 2013.

REUTERS



Indonesia makes first arrests amid Sumatra fires — two farmers

JAKARTA, 25 June—Indonesian police on Monday arrested two farmers for illegally starting fires to clear land in Sumatra, the first detentions linked to blazes that have blanketed neighbouring Singapore and Malaysia with thick smog for days.

Police said the two farmers were not linked to any of the eight companies the government suspects are responsible for Southeast Asia's worst air pollution crisis in years.

The parent companies of those firms included Ma-

laysia-listed Sime Darby, which has denied wrongdoing.

"We arrested two farmers in Riau who were clearing their land by burning. They were not working for anyone but just clearing their own land," said Agus Rianto, deputy spokesman for the national police.

Under Indonesian law, any company or person involved in an illegal forest fire faces up to 10 years in prison and fines of up to 5 billion rupiah (\$503,800).

The smog has cleared in the financial centre of

Singapore, with the pollution index remaining under "unhealthy levels" for the second consecutive day. It hit a record of 401 on Friday afternoon, a level considered potentially life-threatening for the ill and the elderly.

A conference on nuclear policy was postponed due to some participants unwilling to travel to Singapore because of the haze. The speakers included former US secretary of state George Shultz and former secretary of defence William Perry.—Reuters

India coast guard rescues 16 fishermen stranded by Somali pirates

MUMBAI, 25 June—The Indian coast guard has rescued three Pakistani and 13 Iranian fishermen who had been held captive by Somali

pirates for 25 days and later left adrift on the high seas, coast guard officials said on Monday.

The Iranian fishing boat

left the Kanraka/Chahbhar port of Iran on 16 May and was captured by Somali pirates off Socotra island.

The pirates reportedly

left the fishermen stranded in their vessel on 10 June after emptying it of food and fuel.

An Indian coast guard vessel reached the vessel on

Saturday and was towing the fishing boat to the western Indian port Kochi, an Indian coast guard spokesman said.—Kyodo News



Smoke rises from the site of an attack in Kabul on 25 June, 2013.—REUTERS

Taleban attack Afghan presidential palace

KABUL, 25 June—Taleban gunmen attacked Afghanistan's presidential palace and surrounding buildings, including the CIA's Afghan headquarters, early on Tuesday, with explosions and gunfire shaking the city centre.

A Reuters reporter at the palace said the attack began soon after 6.30 am (0300 BST), when at least one man opened fire with an automatic rifle at a gate to the palace in the central Shash Darak District. Karzai's whereabouts were not immediately known, though he was due to attend a press event at the palace after 9 am (0530 BST).

Reporters had been gathering at the palace when the attack began and dived for cover as government forces returned fire. Heavy explosions resounded and the gunfire intensified.

Schoolchildren walking to classes nearby were also

caught in the exchanges.

The Taleban claimed responsibility the attack in a text message to Kabul reporters from spokesman Zabihullah Mujahid. "Today at 6.30 am a number of suicide bombers attacked the presidential palace, defence ministry and the Ariana Hotel," Mujahid said.

The Ariana Hotel is known to house the headquarters of the US Central Intelligence Agency (CIA) in Afghanistan. A thick plume of smoke was seen rising from the building.

An Afghan official told Reuters the attackers had made their way into a nearby building from which they were firing. Shash Darak includes the most important buildings in Kabul, including the palace, the headquarters of NATO-led forces in Afghanistan, the Afghan Defence Ministry and the CIA's Afghan station.

Reuters

SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY

BlackBerry launches service to manage Android, Apple devices

TORONTO, 25 June—BlackBerry launched a service on Tuesday allowing government agencies and corporate clients to secure and manage devices powered by Google Inc's Android platform and Apple Inc's iOS operating system.

The long-anticipated offering, which BlackBerry had said would come out around mid-year, could help the company sell high-margin services to its large clients even if many, or all, of their workers are using smartphones made by its competitors.

The new Secure Work Space feature will be managed through BlackBerry Enterprise Service (BES) 10, a new back-end system launched at the start of this year that allows BlackBerry's clients to control mobile devices on their internal networks.

The company, a one-time pioneer in the smart-

phone arena, is now fighting to regain ground lost to Apple's iPhone and Samsung Electronics Co Ltd's Galaxy devices. To compete, it has rolled out a trio of devices powered by its new BlackBerry 10 operating system.

It hopes to win back users with the Z10, Q10 and Q5 devices that were unveiled during the first half of this year. The first comprehensive look at the success of its turnaround plan will likely emerge when it reports quarterly results on Friday.

At the same time, it has indicated a shift in emphasis from smartphones to services.

"With an integrated management console, our clients can now see all of the devices they have on their network, manage those devices and connect to them securely," David



A view shows the keyboard of the BlackBerry Z10 at a Rogers store in Toronto on 5 Feb, 2013.

REUTERS

Smith, the head of enterprise mobile computing at BlackBerry, said in an interview.

"We now also have a secure work space on Android and iOS that allows our clients to secure and manage the data on those devices as well."

BlackBerry has installed some 18,000 BES 10 servers since the system was launched in January, up from a little more than 12,000 servers one month ago, and more than 60 per-

cent of US Fortune 500 companies are testing or using the system.

The feature, when used to manage Android and iOS devices, will allow IT managers to fence off corporate email, calendars, contacts, tasks, memos, Web browsing and document editing from personal apps and content, which could be less secure.

Reuters

Microsoft to bring 'Age of Empires' to Apple, Android phones

SAN FRANCISCO, 25 June — Microsoft Corp will offer its popular "Age of Empires" game for Apple Inc's iPhone and other smartphones through a tie-up with Japan's KLab Inc, seeking to capture growth in a booming mobile game market.

Microsoft's gaming business is dependent primarily on its Xbox franchise but mobile devices have been eating into the gaming industry, luring consumers away from traditional consoles.

While the tech giant has released a few mobile games for iOS and Android like Wordament, "Age of Empires" is its most popular game to date to be offered beyond its own consoles.

The strategy is one that analysts argue other game machine makers such as Mario Brothers creator Nintendo Co Ltd could consider in a bid to leverage their

software assets.

KLab will develop a mobile version of "Age of Empires" which will be released before the end of March, a KLab spokesperson said.

Shares in KLab were overwhelmed by a glut of buy orders in Tokyo trade on Tuesday, with its price indicated at 972 yen, 18 percent higher than its last close.

Contrary to an earlier report, the agreement is only to develop a mobile version of "Age of Empires" and there were no announcements on other titles, the two companies said.

The historical strategy game will be released worldwide in English for iPhones and Android-based phones, "with plans to release the game in other languages and on a Windows Phone in the future," a Microsoft spokesperson said.

Reuters

Australia shelves plans to store phone, Internet metadata

CANBERRA, 25 June—Australia's government on Monday shelved plans to force phone and Internet companies to hold two years of phone call and email data following concerns raised by a parliamentary inquiry into telecommunications interception laws.

The move follows long-running criticism by privacy advocates in Australia, and comes in the aftermath of revelations in the United States, where spy agency contractor Edward Snowden exposed secret US surveillance of vast amounts of Internet data under a programme known as Prism.

The government had

wanted phone and Internet companies to hold metadata for two years to help fight criminal activity, but lawmakers on the telecommunications inquiry called for changes. They said Internet browsing data should be excluded from the plans, and called for greater oversight of government agency access to telecommunications data by the ombudsmen and the Inspector-General of Intelligence and Security.

Attorney-General Mark Dreyfus responded to the inquiry findings by delaying any changes until after the 14 September parliamentary election and only after further consultations.

"The government will not pursue a mandatory data retention regime at this time and will await further advice," Dreyfus said in a statement after the report was tabled. Conservative opposition lawmakers, who are expected to win power in September, have raised concerns about surveillance of cloud server data stored in the United States, but are still likely to support the new laws in Australia if they take office.

The influential Australian Greens Party, which holds the balance of power in the upper house, said the security and intelligence committee report reflected

political and privacy concerns first raised last year about plans to collect and store the telephone and email data of all Australians.

"This report refused to endorse data retention and condemned Government's secretive approach," said Greens communications spokesman Scott Ludlum.

The report did not specifically mention the Prism programme, as its hearings were completed before the Snowden revelations about Prism.—Reuters



The Microsoft logo is seen at their offices in Bucharest on 20 March, 2013. —REUTERS

Snowden says got Booz Allen job for access to NSA programmes

WASHINGTON, 25 June—Edward Snowden said he accepted a job at contractor Booz Allen Hamilton (BAH.N) to gain access to details of the US National Security Agency's surveillance programmes, according to the *South China Morning Post*.

Snowden, who worked for Booz Allen Hamilton for roughly three months at an NSA facility in Hawaii, is now the subject of an international manhunt after leaking highly classified documents to the Washington Post and Britain's *Guardian* newspaper.

He told the *South China Morning Post* on 12 June that he gained the job as a systems administrator be-

cause of the access it afforded him. *The Post's* article was published on Monday.

"My position with Booz Allen Hamilton granted me access to lists of machines all over the world the NSA hacked," Snowden said, according to the article. "That is why I accepted that position about three months ago."

Booz Allen Hamilton fired Snowden on 10 June, one day after Snowden went public about his role in revealing details of the NSA programmes in a video posted by the *Guardian*. James Fisher, a spokesman for Booz Allen Hamilton, said the company had no comment beyond its statement on 11 June.—Reuters



A banner supporting Edward Snowden, a former contractor at the National Security Agency (NSA), is displayed at Hong Kong's financial Central district on 21 June, 2013, the day marking Snowden's 30th birthday. REUTERS

Shenzhou-10 spacecraft to return on Wednesday morning

BEIJING, 25 June—China's *Shenzhou-10* spacecraft will return to the Earth at about 8 am on Wednesday as scheduled.

The spacecraft, with three astronauts aboard, was launched on 11 June.

Chinese spacecraft *Shenzhou-10* on Tuesday morning docked with the target module *Tiangong-1* from behind after flying around the latter, the Beijing Aerospace Control Centre said. This marked the success of China's first such flying-around and docking test.

Xinhua



The graphics shows the procedure of Shenzhou-10 spacecraft's return to earth on 25 June, 2013.

XINHUA

BUSINESS & HEALTH

Gold inches up as Fed officials downplay stimulus wind-down

SINGAPORE, 25 June—Gold edged higher on Tuesday as the dollar weakened after two top Federal Reserve officials downplayed an imminent end to monetary stimulus.

Bullion is still down more than 7 percent since the start of last week due to worries over an early end to the Fed's \$85 billion monthly bond purchases and a cash crunch in China.

* Spot gold rose 0.2 percent to \$1,283.55 an ounce by 0018 GMT. It fell around 1 percent on Monday, extending last week's 7 percent slide as fears of a cash crunch in China spooked investors, and a slide in US equities prompted bullion selling to cover margin calls.

* Comex gold rose \$6 to \$1,283.10.

* Last Wednesday, Federal Reserve Chairman Ben Bernanke gave his most explicit signal yet that the US central bank was considering scaling back its \$85 billion per month of Treasuries and mortgage-backed debt purchases.

* On Monday, Minneapolis Fed President Narayana Kocherlakota said investors were wrong to view the central bank as having become more keen to tighten policy than it was before last week's policy meeting.

* Dallas Fed President Richard Fisher said even if the bank dialled back stimulus this year, it will still be running an accommodative policy.

* Fears of a credit crunch in China's banking system eased on Monday as short-term interest rates fell.



Gold rings are displayed for sale at a Bao Tin Minh Chau gold shop in Hanoi on 21 June, 2013.—REUTERS

The central bank said there were sufficient funds in the market but banks needed to improve cash management and control lending.

* India's biggest jewellers' association has asked its members to stop selling gold bars and coins, about 35 percent of their business, adding to government efforts to cut gold imports and stem a swelling current account deficit.

* HSBC lowered its

2013 gold price forecast to \$1,396 from \$1,542 an ounce and its 2014 price to \$1,435 from \$1,600, mainly on the Fed's plans to reduce economic stimulus and weak Chinese growth prospects.

* SPDR Gold Trust, the world's largest gold-backed exchange-traded fund, said its holdings fell 0.43 percent to 985.73 tonnes on Monday — its lowest in over four years.

Reuters

Carrefour considering sale of China, Taipei businesses

PARIS, 25 June—Carrefour SA (CARR.PA) the world's second largest retailer, is exploring a sale of its businesses in China and Taipei, including a possible initial public offering in Hong Kong or a combination of some of those assets with another company, The Wall Street Journal reported on Monday, citing people familiar with the matter.

An IPO route could represent around \$1 billion (647.4 million pounds) in funds, the Journal said, citing a source, adding that Carrefour's plans were still at a preliminary stage.

Carrefour has not hired bankers yet, The Wall Street

Journal said, citing sources.

Carrefour declined to comment on the report.

The French group, which is Europe's largest retailer, has been struggling for years in Europe, partly due to a reliance on supermarkets, which have been losing out as time-pressed shoppers buy more goods locally and online and prefer to buy general merchandise from specialists.

Carrefour has been exiting non-strategic markets to raise cash and to cut its debt. However, investors are concerned that the company is retreating from too many high-growth markets.

Reuters



Customers at the checkout counters of Carrefour supermarket in Changfeng Street, Taiyuan, Shanxi Province, on Monday.—REUTERS

China central bank says to guide market rates



A staff member walks in front of the headquarters of the People's Bank of China (PBOC), the central bank, in Beijing, on 25 June, 2013.—REUTERS

SHANGHAI, 25 June—China's central bank said on Tuesday that it would guide market rates to reasonable levels, and it expected seasonal factors that caused a recent spike in interbank market rates would gradually fade.

Appropriate liquidity management will help maintain reasonable growth in China's money and total social financing, and the People's Bank of China will manage liquidity in a

flexible manner, Ling Tao, vice head of the central bank's Shanghai branch, told reporters in a news briefing for a financial forum in the city.

Short-term cash rates had soared last week after the People's Bank of China (PBOC) allowed funding to tighten in an apparent effort to curb credit channeled into China's vast "shadow banking" system.

Reuters

Dengue cases continue to increase in Singapore

SINGAPORE, 25 June—A total of 853 new cases of dengue infections were reported in Singapore last week, the highest weekly number of new dengue cases ever, Minister of Environment and Water Resources Vivian Balakrishnan said on his Facebook page on Monday.

There were 73 new cases of dengue on Monday, bringing the total number of cases so far this year to 11,098, which is far more than what has been reported in the same period time over past years.

However, news of the epidemic has been out of the spotlight recently as the transboundary haze

UN Secretary-General's Message on the International Day Against Drug Abuse and Illicit Trafficking

26 June 2013

This year I visited the San Patrignano drug rehabilitation centre in northern Italy where more than 1,200 young women and men from 28 countries are learning how to free themselves from the curse of addiction and enjoy dignified, productive lives. Their road is not easy. It demands courage, commitment and the compassion of dedicated mentors. But the members of this inspiring community understand that they are fortunate. All over the world, drugs threaten the health and welfare of youth and children, families and communities, and the billions of dollars generated by the drugs trade feed corruption, enhance the power of criminal networks and create fear and instability.

Illegal drug trafficking is a clear obstacle to development. This cross-border problem requires a robust and coordinated law enforcement response within and among countries. Tackling organized crime and the illicit drugs trade is a shared responsibility. But the rule of law is only part of the equation. For instance, farmers dependent on the cultivation of illicit drugs such as coca, marijuana and opium must be offered alternative livelihoods, while drug users and addicts need help not stigmatization.

A human rights and science-based public health approach is the only sound basis for preventing and treating addiction and related consequences such as HIV transmission through unsafe injecting practices. We must also address threats such as the emerging problem of new psychoactive substances, many of which are not under international control. Young people, in particular, must be made aware of the dangers of these drugs.

On this International Day against Drug Abuse and Illicit Trafficking, I call on governments, the media and civil society to do everything possible to raise awareness of the harm caused by illicit drugs and to help prevent people profiting from their use.

UNIC/Yangon

UN Secretary-General's Message on International Day in Support of Victims of Torture

26 June 2013

As we mark International Day in Support of Victims of Torture, I call on Member States to step up efforts to assist all those who have suffered from torture and other cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment.

This year is also the 25th anniversary of the Committee against Torture. This body—along with other UN human rights mechanisms such as the Subcommittee on Prevention of Torture and the Special Rapporteur on Torture—is vital to strengthening a victim-oriented approach that also includes a gender perspective. This effort was further strengthened by the adoption this year of a UN Human Rights Council resolution focussing on the rehabilitation of torture victims.

I urge all Member States to accede to and fully implement the Convention against Torture and support the United Nations Voluntary Fund for Victims of Torture. Let us work together to end torture throughout the world and ensure that countries provide reparation for victims.—UNIC/Yangon

resulting from the illegal practice of clearing land by fire for farming made headlines in the region and beyond.

Balakrishnan there is no basis for the theory that haze would reduce the mosquitoes, and there is a need to focus on both problems simultaneously.

Singapore had the

worst dengue epidemic in 2005, when about 14,000 people were infected, with 25 deaths.

Dengue fever is an illness caused by infection with a virus transmitted by the Aedes mosquito, with the symptoms including fever, fatigue as well as joint and muscle pains.

Xinhua

WORLD

Merkel launches campaign with populist but costly promises



German Chancellor and leader of the Christian Democratic Union (CDU) Angela Merkel (C) arrives for a party meeting with the Christian Social Union (CSU) in Berlin on 23 June, 2013.—REUTERS

BERLIN, 25 June—German Chancellor Angela Merkel launched her re-election campaign on Monday with promises her coalition partners dismissed as unaffordable and even one party ally said would never see the light of day.

Merkel told leaders of her Christian Democrats (CDU) and their Christian Social Union (CSU) sister party that if she is re-elected she wants to raise child benefits, pensions for women with children and pensions for low-income workers.

At the same time as preaching austerity to other euro zone nations struggling under high debt, Merkel said she wanted to see Germany invest billions more in infrastructure projects on top of the other multi-billion euro promises. The pledges were criticised by the opposition and German media as expensive voter giveaways. One newspaper, *Bild*, estimated the increase in child benefits

and pensions would total 15 billion euros (12.7 billion pounds) per year. Most proposals have little chance, *Bild* said.

Merkel and CSU chairman Horst Seehofer, the Bavarian state premier who is also up for re-election in September, said there would be no tax increases to pay for the promises. The German economy is in solid shape with low unemployment.

Party leaders believe tax revenues will rise to 700 billion euros in 2017 from 600 billion in 2012 so no tax increases are needed. The government expects to have a balanced budget in 2014 and could even post a surplus soon. “That would be the wrong way to go,” said Merkel, referring to tax increases. She learned her lesson after nearly squandering a sure win in 2005 by pledging to raise value added tax (VAT) to 18 percent from 16 percent before the vote.

Reuters

Men with small children apt to work long hours

TOKYO, 25 June—One in every five male workers in their 30s works more than 60 hours a week, making it difficult for them to participate in child-raising, a government 2013 white paper on low-birth-rate countermeasures showed on Tuesday.

The report stressed

the need to curb prolonged working hours for those with small children as a way to tackle the falling birth rate.

It found that a father with children younger than 6 years old spends only around one hour a day on child-raising and domestic tasks, around one-third

Plane veers off runway in Washington airport

WASHINGTON, 25 June—A passenger jet on Monday veered off runway in Washington’s Reagan National Airport and got stuck in mud. There’s no report of injuries.

According to airport officials, the plane veered off runway leaving Reagan National Airport on Monday afternoon, and its landing gear on the right side got stuck in the mud. The

plane was Delta flight 1763, an MD-90. Chris Paolino, an airport spokesman said the passengers have been off-loaded and crews are working to move the plane’s wheels, and there were no reports of injuries.

He said there are no reported flight delays because of the incident, and the airport’s main runway is clear and operating normally.

Xinhua



Ground service personnel direct a plane of Delta airlines to a runway at Ronald Reagan National Airport in Washington, capital of the United States, on 24 June, 2013.—XINHUA

Egypt steps up Gaza tunnel crackdown, dismaying Palestinians

GAZA, 25 June—Egypt has intensified a crackdown on smuggling tunnels between its volatile Sinai desert and the Gaza Strip, causing a steep hike in petrol and cement prices in the Palestinian territory.

Palestinians involved in the tunnel business say that the campaign, which began in March and has included flooding of underground passages, was ramped up in the past two weeks before a wave of opposition-led protests in Egypt expected to start on 30 June.

Egyptian President Mohamed Mursi has come under political fire at home over a strong challenge to his authority by militant Islamists in the Sinai who have attacked Egyptian security forces in the peninsula.

Egypt’s military, struggling to fill a security vacuum in the Sinai since autocrat Hosni Mubarak was swept from power in



A Palestinian man calls on smugglers as he works inside a smuggling tunnel beneath the Gaza-Egypt border in Rafah in the southern Gaza Strip on 24 June, 2013.

REUTERS

2011, has pledged to shut all tunnels under the Gaza border, saying they are used by militants on both sides to smuggle activists and weapons.

The moves against the tunnels have dashed the hopes of many Palestinians that Mursi, a member of the Muslim Brotherhood from which Hamas was born, would signifi-

cantly ease Egyptian border restrictions on Gaza, which is also subjected to blockade by Israel.

“Business is clinically dead,” said Abu Bassam, who employs 40 workers in a Palestinian tunnel network in Rafah, a town on the border. “Tunnels are almost shut down completely.”

Only 50 to 70 tunnels,

out of hundreds that have provided a commercial lifeline for the Gaza Strip, are still open and in partial operation, owners said. Other tunnels are used to smuggle in weapons for militants from Hamas and other groups.

The Egyptian army has sternly warned residents in Sinai not to approach the fence with Gaza and to stop trading through tunnels or face punishment, according to Palestinian tunnel owners who learned about the order from Egyptian counterparts.

“Today we have to pay extra money to convince an Egyptian driver to bring goods to us..., resulting in rising prices of basic materials here,” said Abu Ali, another tunnel owner, standing beside the shaft of his deserted tunnel.

The price of cement in Gaza has soared from 350 shekels (62 pounds) a tonne to 800 shekels. Palestinians who bought relatively cheap petrol smuggled from Egypt now have to pay for fuel imported from Israel selling for double the price.

Reuters

Websites of S Korea’s presidential office hacked

SEOUL, 25 June—The websites of South Korea’s presidential office and another government agency were shut down on Tuesday in apparent hacking attacks, according to Yonhap News Agency.

The home page of Cheong Wa Dae is now showing a message that it has been temporarily suspended to check the system.

Sources told Yonhap that right after the attack the website showed messages

in red reading “Great leader Kim Jong-un.”

The website of the Government Policy Coordination was also shut down, apparently due to hacking attacks.

Kyodo News

US VP to visit India, Singapore

WASHINGTON, 25 June—US Vice President Joe Biden will visit India and Singapore in late July to underscore the importance of relations with the two nations, the White House said on Monday.

In India, Biden will discuss a full range of bilateral, regional and global

issues, “with a focus on advancing the prosperity, security and shared values of our two countries,” the White House said in a statement.

US Secretary of State John Kerry was in India on 23-25 June for the fourth annual US-India Strategic Dialogue.

During his stay in Singapore, Biden will consult with leaders on a range of shared priorities, including implementing the Asia-Pacific rebalance, and highlight US “continued engagement with a key partner in Southeast Asia,” the White House said.

Xinhua



An employee works at an assembly plant operated by Nissan Motor Co in Barcelona, Spain, on 18 June, 2013.—KYODO NEWS

of the level in the United States and Scandinavian countries. According to the white paper, the rate of male employees working more than 60 hours a week in 2012 stood at 18.2 percent for those in their 30s, 17.5 percent for those in their 40s and 12.9 percent for those in their 50s.

It said male workers should take more child-care leave, noting that a fiscal 2011 labour ministry survey showed only 2.63 percent of them took it, compared with 87.8 percent of female workers. The white paper also showed 20 percent of men and 10 percent of women have never gotten married by the age of 50. The rate of married men among non-regular workers is below the half of that of regular employees.—Kyodo News

LOCAL NEWS

Riverbank erosion looms in Tanawgyun Village, Waw Tsp



BAGO, 25 June—Erosion of Sittoung River is escalating in Tanawgyun village in Tanawgyun village-tract in Waw Township in Bago District.

According to a survey team formed with the township administrator and the officials of Irrigation Department, four monasteries, one basic

education high school, two primary schools and some houses would be eroded in coming five years.

The team has submitted their report to the respective departments.

The erosion could continue when the river water level rises again, prompting the need to lay flood barriers and embankment.

Authorities are planning resettlement of the displaced persons and aids from them.

Waw Township and Bago District General Administration Departments have suggested the region government the appropriate resettlement so as to minimize socio-economic loss to the people in the village.

MMAL-Thant Zin

Farming rights certificates presented in Indaw Township

INDAW, 25 June—Farming rights certificates were presented to farmers in villages in Nantkhin village-tract in Indaw Township in Katha District in Sagaing Region at the Nantkhin village-tract administrator's office on 21 June morning.

The deputy staff officer

of Township General Administration Department delivered a speech and presented farming rights certificates to farmers.

The ceremony is the second of its kind held in Indaw Township.

The first ceremony on 5 June was held in Township Generation Administration

Department Office, presenting 102 farming rights certificates to 87 farmers.

In the second ceremony a total of 37 certificates were presented to 25 farmers in Aung Zeya ward and 174 certificates to farmers in Nantkhin village-tract.

MMAL-Township IPRD

Farming rights certificates presentation ceremony for farmers in Nantkin village-tract in Indaw Township in progress.



New generation Judo athletes recruited for SEA Games

NAY PYI TAW, 25 June—The Ministry of Sports and Myanmar Judo Federation will recruit new faces for XXVII SEA Games for the second time for a Judo competition in commemoration of 2013 Olympic Day.

The event completed on 22 June was attended by the President of Myanmar Judo Federation and officials of the Sports Ministry.

MJF President U Tun

Tun and Sports Ministry officials presented prizes to winners in events of men's 55 kilos, 66 kilos,

73 kilos, 81 kilos, 90 kilos and 60 kilos and women's 45 kilos, 57 kilos, 63 kilos and 70 kilos.—MNA

Inter-village road opened in Naungtaya

NAUNG TAYA, 25 June—The opening ceremony of inter-village road between Tikyit village-tract and Bantbyin village-tract's Naung-ga-hmi village in Naungtaya Sub-Township was held at the entrance to Naung-ga-hmi village on 19 June morning.

At first, Township Administrator U Saw Maung Bwe, Executive Officer of Township Development Affairs Committee U Khun Maung Hein and Administrator of Bantpyin village-tract U Zaw Latt formally opened the road.

HRD

Mandalay Pharmacology University organizes extempore talks contest



Mandalay University of Pharmacology organizes second extempore talks contest.

MANDALAY, 25 June—The second extempore talks contest was organized in University of Pharmacology (Mandalay) on 21 June afternoon at the hall of the university.

Rector Professor Dr

San San Nwe delivered a speech.

The finalists from each class participated in the competition.

Ma Wah Wah Khaing, a fourth-year student, won the first prize; Ma Phyto Darli

Maw, a third-year student, the second prize and Maung Hlaing Ko Ko Aung, a fourth-year student, a third prize.

The rector awarded the winners.

MMAL-Tin Maung (Mandalay)

Educative talks on traffic rules organized



NAY PYI TAW, 25 June—The educative talks on traffic rules were organized at Yezin University of Agriculture in Zeyathiri Township in Nay Pyi Taw

Council Area on 22 June.

It was attended by Rector of the university U Tin Htut, Township Administrator U Myat Thein Tun, Township Police Force Commander

Police Maj Than Win, acting in-charge of Traffic Police Corps Police Inspector Yan Naing, traffic police, department staff in the campus, lecturers and 1502 students.

The rector and the administrator delivered a speech at the ceremony. Police Inspector Yan Naing gave talks on traffic rules.

The similar talk will be organized at University of Veterinary Science and the University of Forestry.

MMAL-Township GAD

MWAF presents cash, stationery to students in Singaing Tsp

SINGAING, 25 June—Myanmar Women's Affairs Federation presented cash, stationery and school uniforms to students in Singaing Township for 2013-2014 academic year on 22 June.

At the ceremony held at Singaing Township General Administration Department Office, Kyaukse District Women's Affairs Organization Chairperson Daw Aye Aye Win



elaborated on the assistance. A total of 10 students from five schools in the

township received the assistance.

MMAL-160

Car plunges off road in Myawady

MYAWADY, 25 June—A vehicle slipped off Bayintnaung road in Myawady Township in Myawady District recently. High speed is attributed to the crash of Pajero in the accident in which U Thein

Maung, 51, a passenger on board sustained injuries.

Myawady Township Police Station filed a lawsuit against driver Khaing Nyein, aged 17.

MMAL-Nadi Myint Mo

PERSPECTIVES

Wednesday, 26 June, 2013

Lead the nation into a better way of life

The government and the parliament have a crucial role to play in bringing about economic development and national reconciliation, solving the problems of poverty, reducing the income gap and providing work opportunities as the flagship of its reform strategy is at crossroads.

In our midst are the MPs through whom we could put up what we need to the parliament but it is neither be-all nor end-all. Frankly speaking, we could never be perfect filled with our utmost aspiration though the government has made much exertion to transform the nation into a modern, developed, democratic state.

With an untiring effort, our President travelled around the globe and negotiated with the world leaders in order to have all sanctions imposed against our nation relaxed while our Speaker of Pyithu Hluttaw followed suit in a move to lead the nation into the better way of life. While they make every endeavor to promote our living standard by building an all-round developed nation, we need to be unfailingly lively, enterprising and considerate to help realize the aspiration.

All their endeavors are guided by the fundamental belief that at the time of global uncertainties, change and challenges, Myanmar and global nations are natural and indispensable partners. At a time when we are benefiting from the opening up of the country to the international community, we should be very mindful that the unusual unrest in the country could play into the hands of the opportunists.

As the incumbent government has led a historic change of its country with bold reform initiatives since its birth in order to further raise its global profile, we are confident that the impressive commitment of the President and the Speaker to political, economic and social reforms will deliver real improvements to the lives of our people, and thence bring about sustained inclusive growth in the country.

Deputy Attorney-General meets London-based media

NAY PYI TAW, 25 June— U Tun Tun Oo received Deputy Attorney-General Director Alex Grose of London-based Capacity Media and party at the office



Deputy Attorney-General U Tun Tun Oo receives Director Alex Grose of London-based Capacity Media and party.—MNA

ARTICLE

NO ROOM FOR DOPE PUSHERS

When I was in my childhood, I happened to meet a man called U Ba Tun. He made a living by giving massage to the aged living in our ward. As he was our next door neighbour, we the children were on very friendly terms with him. Because he was a true product of monastic education, he could read a lot. He was so well-versed in Jataka stories that he could recite the stories without looking at the texts.

Whenever we the children asked him to tell tales or Jataka stories, he never hesitated to comply with our requests. That was why we loved him. However, our parents did not want us to mix with him simply because he was notorious for his bad habit of opium addiction.

He was known as a *beinzar*, or opium eater in our community. In those days, as the insurgency was at large and the prevalence of law and order was vague, most of the *beinzars* could freely live by greasing the palm of the ward headman in those days.

If there was any pretty theft or such loss in the neighbourhood, the person designated *beinzar* would surely be accused.

To make matters worse, it was such an addict that would lose any personal respect and go after anything that might be traded for the

opium. Although U Ba Tun whom we loved was not so low down to steal other people's things, he was outcast and shunned. Simply because he was labelled *beinzar* and other people thought very little of him all the time.

No matter how much a person may have donated by building pagodas, monasteries, rest houses and taken pious names, if he ever took the false step of becoming a *beinzar*, no one would want to associate with him anymore. All previous good name and fame, all honour and prestige would be negated. He would be held up to ridicule.

If there were any addict or drug abuser in the community, there was much despising. As a matter of fact, one of the traits in the basic culture and traditions of the indigenous peoples of the Union is that whether it is in the family, the community or in the nation as a whole, there is hatred for the dangerous drugs, internationally known as D.D., which can harm us even on the national scale.

If you take a look at narcotics including opium from sources to end stage, you will find that laws governing society and traditions and norms in Myanmar society have always dealt with them strictly.

Let's have a look at the world today!

Some countries face rising levels of violence fuelled by transnational organized crime and drug trafficking. The region where such countries are

situated has become home to the highest homicide rates in the world.

In some parts of the world, billions of dollars generated from illicit drugs fuel terrorist activities and abet other crimes such as human trafficking and the smuggling of arms and people.

In other parts of the world, development is being hindered by the highest rates of opiate prevalence. Farmers are trapped by food insecurity compelling them to grow poppies as an each crop.

No one can deny that illicit drugs and related criminal networks undermine the rule of law. Besides, the impunity with which they go about their business causes tremendous fear and sows disillusion with governance at all levels.

Regarding the personal health, abuse of narcotic drugs can lead to HIV/AIDS epidemic and one could fail before reaching his goal.

As for the anti-narcotic drug activities, through the media, print and electronic, we may see or read reports on ceremonies to destroy seized precursor chemicals and paraphernalia including narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances, being held in Yangon, Mandalay and other cities. Such reports reveal that the government is making strenuous efforts for eradication of narcotic drugs while families, schools, social organizations, religious organizations, and civil societies can make preventive measures against narcotic drugs.

Myanmar's anti-drug endeavours, indeed, date back to the time of Myanmar kings and successive governments had to make efforts to address narcotic drug problems, based on their own capacity.

People say that the problem of drug in Myanmar is a pernicious legacy of its colonial past. And the problem was

Maung Hlaing

further aggravated after independence when the production of drugs and their trafficking bounced back.

The threat now is not only confined to opium, heroin and marijuana but manifests itself also in stimulants. The proliferation of the drug habit among youths spells a disaster to call countries. It is essential for the youth to join up in the battle against narcotic drugs.

Setting eradication of narcotic drugs as national duty, the two strategies namely development of the life of national races and totally eradication of narcotic drugs, have been implemented through three tactics—supply eradication, demand eradication and law enforcement.

Efforts to combat the scourge of narcotic drugs have been intensified through domestic and international strategies. Despite some achievements, shortcomings still exist in drugs control at both national and international level. It means the menace of narcotic drugs continues to pose a serious threat to both developed and developing countries.

Today, every country in the world holds commemorative ceremonies on the International Day against Drug Abuse and Illicit Trafficking. The UN's theme "Make health your "new high" in life, not drugs" will spotlight that Myanmar is fully committed to combating the scourge of narcotic drugs.

Whenever the International Day against Drug Abuse and Illicit Trafficking comes round, I usually have very fond memories of my childhood days when I met U Ba Tun.

There is no room for U Ba Tun who fell prey to drugs as well as dope pushers in our society.

Beware of DHF.

NATIONAL

More efforts with added momentum to...

(from page 1)

He spotlighted a point that a transition period from one system to another needs to take much time according to incidents of other countries.

He continued that those countries had seen only economic and administrative reforms as political stability prevailed there; and that Myanmar had experienced difficulties and challenges like unexpected sectarian and religious conflicts, demonstrations against the acts occurred in old era and old system and natural disasters while efforts were being made to ensure a political stability in the country, bring an end to the conflicts with non-state armed groups and lift economic sanctions.

He added that the government had overcome

challenges thanks to public support and public understanding, but some still remained and had decided to move forward with goodwill.

He stressed the importance of significant economic development in the country. He called on the people, in their part, to give a helping hand in the task of ensuring peace and stability and the rule of law as economic development rests on peace and stability. Instead of playing a blame game, it is required to nurture noble minds valuing a sense of cooperation among all national brethren.

The government had tried hard for peace and stability of the country, putting an end to the more than 60-year-old internal armed conflicts. Peace talks with all national races

were held and agreements acceptable to both parties reached. As there were no more fighting and sounds of gunshots, a nationwide ceasefire agreement would be signed after presenting it to the parliament.

Ceasefire does not mean peace and there would be discussions in terms of politics. The President stressed the need to strive for socio-economic development of the lagging behind border regions where peace and stability can be seen to a certain extent.

Rural development and poverty alleviation task was a government's prioritized one. It is seen that it has yet to see success of task till now. Capital was a major need for the poor. Systematic disbursement of capital loans and job creations would bring about a significant drop in poverty alleviation rate. Region/State should make efforts for establishment of

small own businesses on a competitive basis.

Meanwhile, it needed to give encouragements to those who have capitals for establishment of small and medium industries in their regions. It also needed to help them in the forms of individuals, groups and cooperative societies and to give tax exemptions to small industries.

Efforts should be made for ensuring sound foundation of agricultural sector as the country can not carry out transformation of agro-based economy to industry-based one. It needed to review five reforms for development of agricultural sector—(1) mindset changes, transformation of farmlands into valuable ones, (3) high-yield strains (4) transformation into scientific agricultural system (5) transformation into mechanized farming.

It needed to give

encouragement for cooperation with foreign investors and production of quality products with low costs and emergence of more local entrepreneurs. He called for development of private sector which is a country's fourth reform process.

He continued to say that tourism industry was a major earner for hoteliers, transport industry and shops as well as for tour guides. Efforts were to be made for achieving the annual target of three million tourists for the country as a whole.

In an attempt to boost production for country's economic development, it needs to promote production, agricultural, infrastructures, energy/mining, tourism, monetary and communication sectors annually. Only then, would country's GDP become high significantly. And emphasis should be placed on socio-

economic development of each and every citizen.

In conclusion, he urged officials to make strenuous efforts for promoting socio-economic status of each and every citizen.

After that, Union Minister U Tin Naing Thein discussed development of private sector; Union Minister U Htay Aung, development of hotels and tourism industry; Union Minister U Myat Hein, e-Government system; and Union Minister Dr Kan Zaw, five-year plan (draft) (from 2011-2012 FY to 2015-2016 FY).

Afterwards, Union Minister U Soe Thane gave a supplementary report. The meeting came to an end after the Region/State chief ministers and chairmen from Self-Administered Region/Division discussed regional projects. The meeting will go tomorrow.

MNA

Seventh regular session of First Pyithu Hluttaw...

(from page 16)

Moreover, any act which is intended or is likely to promote feelings of hatred, enmity or discord between racial or religious communities or sects is contrary to this Constitution.

A law may be promulgated to punish such activity." However, it is not yet necessary to promulgate a law because a new law can cause complications to the criminal law, the penal code and other existing laws. Besides, complications can arise regarding the essence and concepts of the law among the personnel or bodies who practise laws and the people, he said.

U Thein Tun Oo replied that his question is aimed at

protecting life and property of the people when unrest happens as he found the fact in the Section 364 of the constitution.

U Sai Thiha Kyaw of Mongyae Constituency asked **how the rural area development tasks of the companies funded by the government are supervised.**

Deputy Minister for Border Affairs Maj-Gen Zaw Win replied that the government invited tender for creating job opportunities for local people, and development tasks were carried out as from 2012-2013 FY after laying down strict rules for the companies and signed the contracts with them.

A combined team

comprising officials from respective state/region/township Development Affairs Departments was organized to inspect the works and to control the quality of the works, he said.

Those companies who failed to complete the work in time or who harm the people are obliged to renew their assignments or to replace the materials in accordance with the instructions of the supervisory team, he said. If they failed to complete their works, their deposit were confiscated or they are fined, he said. If there occurred damages to the works within five year, they are obliged to repair the damages.

The meeting ended at 2.15 pm. The second day meeting continues tomorrow.

MNA

Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Senior General Min Aung Hlaing visits JSC RAC MiG plant

NAY PYI TAW, 25 June—At the invitation of Russian Defence Minister General of the Army Sergey K. Shoigu, a Myanmar delegation led by Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Senior General Min Aung Hlaing

left here for Russia on 23 June, and reached Moscow of Russia at 4.50 pm local time.

Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Senior General Min Aung Hlaing yesterday visited JSC RAC MiG Plant in Lykhovitsy

of the Design Bureau on production of MiG-29 M/M 2 Multirole Fighters. Then, they observed production process of fighters there.

He enjoyed a flight-test of MiG-29 M Fighter.

Next, the Commander-in-Chief enjoyed the dinner



Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Senior General Min Aung Hlaing poses for a documentary photo together with officials of JSC RAC MiG.

MNA

Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Senior General Min Aung Hlaing and Russian Defence Minister General of the Army Sergey K. Shoigu inspect the Guard of honour.—MNA

180 km from Moscow.

On their arrival at the plant, Director-General Sergey S Korotkov welcomed the Commander-in-Chief and party who heard reports presented by Director Vladimir D Barkovskiy of the Engineering Center

hosted by officials from JSC RAC MiG.

After the dinner, the Commander-in-Chief presented gifts to Director-General Sergey S. Korotkov who returned him a scale model of MiG-29 M fighter.

MNA



Central Committee for Drug Abuse Control (CCDAC) Chairman, Union Home Affairs Minister Lt-Gen Ko Ko's Message for 2013 International Day Against Drug Abuse and Illicit Trafficking (26, June 2013)

As today is the International Day Against Drug Abuse and Illicit Trafficking, I believe that regional drug abuse control bodies in Myanmar are holding ceremonies and carrying out activities to mark the International Day Against Drug Abuse and Illicit Trafficking across the country while the ceremonies are being held in countries of the world today. Moreover, drugs, chemicals and related items seized across the country are being incinerated in Yangon, Mandalay and Taunggyi today.

In the Republic of the Union Myanmar, the successive governments, making better use of own strength and resources, had made efforts to solve drug related problems. Taking on the duty of eradicating drug as a national duty, the government adopted plans and have been making efforts for drug eradication in the country. To be able to carry out the duty more effectively, the government has added five years to its 15-year drug elimination plan from 1999-2000 to 2013-2014, extending the plan up to 2018-2019 FY.

As it needs international cooperation to carry out the drug elimination tasks, the government has signed Memorandum of Understanding-MoUs with neighbouring countries, regional countries and sub-regional countries and cooperating with international bodies for combating drug abuse and trafficking.

With the help of local peoples, the government has been implementing alternative development projects

in the area of opium poppy destroyed, in collaboration with the United Nations Office for Drugs and Crime (UNODC) and the governments of Thailand and China. In 2012, 4006 cases of opium, heroin, opium oil, low-grade opium, marijuana, stimulant tablets and chemicals were exposed and 5740 culprits were charged. The government has pledged to implement a health-centered and human rights approach to drug users.

The government is making all-out efforts for eradication of narcotic drugs while families, schools, social organizations, religious organizations and economic entities on their part are to carry out preventive measures against narcotic drugs. It needs to help the government to build a drug-free country through collaboration of social organizations.

Narcotic drugs and stimulant tablets remain a danger to human beings even though the world countries are making efforts for narcotic drugs control. Drug abuse and illicit trafficking pose a threat to peace and stability and development across the world.

UNODC's this year motto is "Make health your "new high" in life, not drugs". It means that all human beings are to make collaboration in eradication of narcotic drugs so as to enjoy a healthy life.

All youths, people, international organizations, government departments and NGOs are urged to make cooperation in eradication of narcotic drugs for healthy life.

Sunday, 14th July, 2013

School Environment Day

Let all basic education schools participate in activity

Ministry of Education

Buddha Tooth Relic Sayadaw donates farm equipment

NAY PYI TAW, 25 June— Venerable Shi Chang Zang of Beijing Buddha Tooth Relic Temple in China has presented farm equipment to Agriculture and Irrigation Department for two times.

The Beijing Buddha Tooth Relic Temple Sayadaw together with 17 monks held a farm equipment donating ceremony today.

Union Minister U Myint Hlaing offered certificates of honour and fruits to the Sayadaws.

The Buddha Tooth Relic Temple Sayadaw explained the purpose of donation and he also has a plan to donate farm equipment to promote farm sector in Myanmar. Next, they viewed 3000-acre of summer paddy plantation and farming works.

They then visited farm products shops near Chai village and looked packing small oranges at fruit packaging factory in Alyinlo village and combined harvesters and power tillers.

During Myanmar visit, the Buddha Tooth Relic Temple Sayadaw enjoyed three Buddha tooth relics and Golden Chamber consecration ceremony in Mandalay, Nay Pyi Taw and Yangon. He also donated religious edifices in Mandalay and renovation of ancient pagodas in Bagan. He then undertook the task of donating water in Ayeyawady Region.—MNA



Venerable Shi Chang Zang of Beijing Buddha Tooth Relic Temple views farm equipment.—MNA

Peaceful coexistence and amity among all religions discussed in Myawady

MYAWADY, 25 June—A ceremony to discuss peaceful coexistence and amity among all religions in Myawady was held at the hall of Cedarar Funeral Service Association

in Myawady Township on 22 June. At the ceremony, the chairman Sayadaw of Township Sangha Nayaka Committee made an opening speech.

2nd Myanmar Senior PGA Championship 2013 in Mandalay

YANGON, 25 June—Organized by Myanmar Senior PGA, the 2nd Myanmar Senior PGA Championship 2013 will be held at Shwemantaung Golf Club in Mandalay of Mandalay Region from 24

to 26 July.

The championship comprises the senior professionals who must be members of Myanmar Senior PGA and above 50 amateur golfer divisions. The entrance fee will be K

Then, Staff Officer U Myo Ko Swe of Township Religious Affairs Department and Leader of funeral service association U Hla Tun participated in discussions.

Afterwards, the leaders of Buddhism, Islam and

Christianity and townsenders took part in the discussions. After speaking conclusion remarks by the Taungkalay Sayadaw, those present posed for a documentary photo.

Kyemon-Nadi Myintmo (Myawady)

20000 for Myanmar senior professionals and K 50000 for amateurs. The championship will be held in line with St Andrew golf rules and regional rules. Those wishing to take part in the championship may enlist Han Golf Masters Pro-Shop, Asia Centre Golf Shooting Range (Mandalay) and Tel: 09-2037671, 09-73130474 and



09-420017835 and Shwemantaung Golf Club.—H

Five more private dailies granted

NAY PYI TAW, 25 June— The Central Supervisory Committee for Registration and Distribution of Printers and Publishers held its meeting (5/2013) at the Ministry of Information, here, this morning, with the attendance of the committee chairman and members.

The Ministry of Information had already given green light three times to publication of 26 private dailies starting from 1 April 2013. Today's meeting scrutinized and granted five applications to publish dailies as of 1 July 2013. The list of applicants granted is (a) People Net Daily (applicant Daw Lei Yin Win), (b) The Myanma Thawon Daily (applicant U Thant Sin), (c) The Myanmarwady Daily (applicant Daw Sann Sann Win), (d) The Myanmar Daily (applicant Daw

Yamin Htin Aung), (e) Victory Daily (applicant Daw Khin Nilar Way).

Next, those present held discussions on a matter of distribution of publications imported from abroad. The meeting decided to make a request to the State of Emergency Management Central Committee of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar in order to take necessary measures against some points included in an article entitled The FACE OF BUDDHIST TERROR in Vol.182 No.1 of Time Magazine to be issued on 1 July as these points not only may jeopardize an interfaith process but also may cause reoccurrence of unwanted conflicts at home. Moreover, these points may tarnish Fundamental Rights and Duties of Citizens stated in Section 361, 362, 363 and 364 of the Constitution of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar.—MNA

Beware of Dengue Hemorrhagic Fever

REGIONAL

S Korea's PM calls on N Korea to arrange family reunions

SEOUL, 25 June—South Korea's Prime Minister Jung Hong Won called on Tuesday on North Korea to arrange more opportunities for families separated in Korean War to reunite.

Speaking at a ceremony marking the outbreak of the 1950-1953 Korean War on 25 June, 1950, Jung said, "North Korea should take the cooperative attitude for the reunions of separated families as soon as possible."

The first temporary reunions of families from the two Koreas were held after a landmark inter-Korean summit in 2000, the next round not until 2010. Due to deteriorating inter-Korean ties, no new date for reunions has yet been set.

About 128,000 South Koreans, mostly elderly, have applied for a reunion with their families who were left behind in the North during the Korea War. Around 55,000 people have died without getting the chance to see their families in the North.—Kyodo News



Fire fighters work to put out a fire caused by an explosion at a chemical plant in the Jinshan District of east China's Shanghai, on 24 June, 2013. Six people were injured in the accident at about 2:15 pm. The fire has been extinguished as of 3:30 pm.—XINHUA

S Korean Coast Guard holds rescue exercise in Vietnam

HANOI, 25 June—A ship from South Korean Coast Guard on Monday anchored at the PTSC port in Vietnam's southern coastal Province of Ba Ria-Vung Tau to join a fire fighting and rescue exercise there.

The South Korean Coast Guard 3012, coded 6M31, is 113 metres long, 14.2 metres wide and with a tonnage of 2,953 tons.

The ship, with 68 sail-

ors on board and carrying with it a helicopter, is one of the 33 biggest ships of the South Korean Coast Guard fleet.

Speaking at a welcoming ceremony for the ship and its crew, Colonel Ngo Ngoc Thu, deputy head and chief of staff of the Vietnam Maritime Police Department, said the visit will increase mutual understanding and strengthen the relation-

ship between the two forces and the two countries as a whole.

It is a good chance for the two sides to share experience and promote their future cooperation, he added.

The ship is scheduled to join the Vietnam Maritime Police Region 3 on Tuesday in the exercise, and will leave for Ho Chi Minh City on the same day.

Xinhua

Japan should raise output through FTA, emerging economies

TOKYO, 25 June —Japan should pursue free trade agreements and capitalize on the growth of emerging economies to achieve long-term economic growth amid rapid aging of the population, the industry ministry said in a white paper on trade released on Tuesday.

Japan's growth has been stalled since the 1990s and for decades its productivity level has remained less than 60 percent of that of the United States, the paper said.

"If tariff and nontariff barriers are eliminated through the pursuit of economic partnerships..., it would promote economic activities which would contribute to increase the productivity of the overall Japanese economy," it said.

The economic partnerships include the Trans-Pacific Partnership that Japan is expected to join next month as the 12th member of the negotiations and a tri-lateral deal being discussed with China and South Korea.

"By pursuing econom-

ic partnerships multilaterally, Japan will aim for establishing a 'web of economic partnerships' covering most of our trading partners," according to the paper.

The White Paper on International Economy and Trade was reported at Tuesday's Cabinet meeting by Economy, Trade and Industry Minister Toshimitsu Motegi.

The Japanese government under Prime Minister Shinzo Abe seeks to raise the proportion of trade with free trade agreement counterparts by value terms to 70 percent of total trade by 2018 from the current 19 percent.

The paper also stated Japan needs to be strategic about cultivating markets in regions such as China, the Association of South-east Asian Nations, Russia, South America and Africa as emerging economies will see a combined 1.4 billion increase in population and around a 60 percent increase in global consumer spending in the decade from 2010.—Kyodo News

Singapore smog eases as Indonesian planes waterbomb fires



A car drives past fire from burning trees planted for palm oil, during haze at Bangko Pusako District in Rokan Hilir, on Indonesia's Riau Province, on 24 June, 2013.—REUTERS

SINGAPORE/JAKARTA, 25 June—Air quality in Singapore improved significantly to "moderate" pollution levels on Saturday, as Indonesian planes waterbombed raging forest fires and investigators scrambled to determine the cause of one of Southeast Asia's worst air pollution crises.

Indonesia's environment minister said eight domestic firms were suspected of being responsible for the blazes on Sumatra island that blanketed neighbouring Singapore in record levels of hazardous smog. Parent companies of the Indonesian firms included Malaysia-listed Sime Darby, the government said.

A senior presidential

aide on Friday also blamed units of Jakarta-based PT Sinar Mas Agro Resources and Technology (SMART) and Asia Pacific Resources International (APRIL) for the fires.

"We will take legal action whoever they are," Environment Minister Balthasar Kambuaya told reporters. "Any companies from Indonesia, Malaysia or Singapore, they will be legally processed."

But Indonesia's Forestry Ministry, which is leading the investigation, warned about naming suspects and jumping to conclusions too soon. "We have to be very careful in any legal action. We have to really find out what happened, why the fire

happened, and so on. This could be due to negligence too," said Hadi Daryanto, the ministry's general secretary.

Under Indonesian law, any company or person proven to be involved in an illegal forest fire could face up to 10 years in prison and fines of up to 5 billion rupiah (\$503,800).

Sime Darby and APRIL said there were no fires in any of their operating areas in Indonesia. SMART said they it had a "zero burning" policy and that most, if not all, the fires raging in and near their concessions were caused by the local community.

Singapore has warned the "haze" — which has fuelled fears about health problems and raised diplomatic tension in Singapore, Malaysia and Indonesia — could last for weeks, or even longer. Indonesia has deployed military planes to fight the blazes on Sumatra island from illegal burning that typically takes place in the June to September dry season to clear space for palm oil plantations. The fires are unusually widespread this year and the smog was the heaviest in Singapore's history.—Reuters

Yudhoyono apologizes for haze, Malaysia closes schools

JAKARTA/KUALA LUMPUR, 25 June—Indonesian President Susilo Bambang Yudhoyono apologized to Malaysia and Singapore on Monday as smog engulfed the two neighbouring countries as a result of slash-and-burn ground clearing on plantations in Indonesia.

"For what has been happening, I as Indonesian president offer my apology and ask for the understanding of our brothers and sisters in Singapore and Malaysia," Yudhoyono told a news conference in Jakarta.

Malaysian authorities closed schools in several parts of the country on Monday as hazardous levels of smog forced the government to declare a state of emergency in two districts in southern

Johor State.

The Air Pollutant Index rose above 700 in the Muar and Ledang districts in Johor on Sunday, prompting Prime Minister Najib Abdul Razak to impose a state of emergency until further notice.

Schools and child-care centres must be closed while all public and private sector entities have been advised to stop work during the emergency situation. Schools in Malaysia's capital Kuala Lumpur and in the states of Selangor and Malacca were closed on Monday as the API reached an unhealthy level.

According to the Department of Environment, an API reading above 101 is considered unhealthy, above 201 very unhealthy and more than 301 hazardous.

As of Monday morning the situation in Muar and Ledang had improved, with the API at 148. The reading in Kuala Lumpur remained in the unhealthy range.

Indonesian authorities have named eight Malaysian-owned plantations in Riau and Jambi as among those contributing to the smog.

After meeting for three hours with the haze control team, Yudhoyono raised the status in Riau Province to emergency disaster.

Malaysia's Environment and Natural Resources Minister G Palanivel said he will meet with representatives of the Malaysian plantation owners as well as his Indonesian counterpart when he travels to Jakarta on Wednesday.—Kyodo News

Farmers reap in undated paddy fields at Vi Thuy District in Hau Giang Province, Vietnam, on 24 June, 2013. Heavy downpours across Hau Giang Province have affected about 6,000 hectares of autumn-winter rice crops, Vietnam's state-run news agency VNA reported.—XINHUA



ADVERTISEMENT & GENERAL

**The Government of the Republic of the
Union of Myanmar
Ministry of Information
Myanma Radio and Television
Nay Pyi Taw**

Invitation to open tender to construct building

1. Open tenders are invited from Myanmar entrepreneurs to construct buildings at Myanma Radio and Television of Ministry of Information in Nay Pyi Taw Pyinmana (Thapyaytaung).

Sr.	Location	Work name	Quantity
1.	Nay Pyi Taw, Pyinmana (Thapyaytaung)	one-storey 120x25x12 ft 60-person-capacity RCC building with water and power supply	2 Lots
2.	Nay Pyi Taw, Pyinmana (Thapyaytaung)	one-storey 60x30x10 ft 60-person-capacity mess hall of Brick Masonry Building with water and power supply	1 Lot
3.	Nay Pyi Taw, Pyinmana (Thapyaytaung)	8-unit 20x10x8 ft Common WC Brick Masonry Building	1 Lot

2. The open tender forms and rules are sold out during office hours from 20-6-2013 to 19-7-2013. Open tender forms are to be submitted not later than at 16:00hr on 20-7-2013 and the tenders will be opened the same day.

3. Those wishing to submit the open tender are to pay deposit to Myanma Radio and Television for respective works and open tenders are to be submitted along with the copy of receipt. If more than one tender is submitted, deposits for the works must be paid before submitting the open tender.

4. The place where open tender document will be sold and submitted is Myanma Radio and Television, Nay Pyi Taw (Tatkon).

5. For further information about full text of the announcement, detailed rules, price of tender form and deposit, please visit www.moi.gov.mm/mrtv and www.moi.gov.mm/mrtv:zg.

6. Detailed information are available at the maintenance section, Ph-067 79377 and Purchasing section, Ph 067 79135.

Myanma Radio and Television

**The Government of the Republic of the
Union of Myanmar
Ministry of Information
Myanma Radio and Television
Nay Pyi Taw**

Invitation to open tender to construct building

1. Open tenders are invited from Myanmar entrepreneurs for following construction tasks at re-transmission stations of Myanma Radio and Television under the Ministry of Information in Hninthada, Manhero and Mongyu 105th-Mile (105 mile).

Sr.	Work name
1.	Re-transmission Station (30' x 20' x 12') building (Brick Masonary)
2.	Generator House (10' x 10' x 9') building Brick Nogging
3.	(40'x 20' x9') two-unit staff quarters Brick Mansory
4.	(200' x 200' x 6') fencing with concrete post and barbed wire (including gate)
5.	Sinking of brick tube-well (3' x 30') in depth and repairing work of brick water tank (4'-0 x 3' -0 x3'-6")
6.	Erection of five lamp-posts for electricfication
7.	Laying 1m x 1m x 1m eight concrete foundations for tower foundation work

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Myanma Radio and Television

**CLAIMS DAY NOTICE
MV AYSAN VOY NO (004)**

Consignees of cargo carried on MV AYSAN VOY NO (004) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 26.6.2013 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of M.I.T.T where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

**SHIPPING AGENCY DEPARTMENT
MYANMA PORT AUTHORITY
AGENT FOR: M/S LAND & SEA LOGISTICS**
Phone No: 256908/378316/376797



Students observe the silkworms in a lab of Huiwen No 1 primary school in Beijing, capital of China, on 24 June, 2013. The Huiwen No 1 primary school provided its students with the opportunity to cultivate and observe the life process of silkworms every semester.—XINHUA

Chicago corn, wheat fall on weather concerns

CHICAGO, 25 June—Chicago agricultural commodity futures were traded mixed on Monday, with corn and wheat prices down while the soybeans price unchanged.

The most active corn contract for December delivery fell 9.75 cent, or 1.75 percent, to close at 5.465 dollars per bushel. September wheat fell 17.25 cents, or 2.45 percent, to settle at 6.8775 dollars per bushel. November soybeans closed unchanged at 12.735 dollars per bushel.

According to Chicago Mercantile Exchange (CME), the corn market traded lower on the day on a more favourable extended weather forecast and sour-

ing outside markets. Cash bids were steady to slightly lower in the interior markets with some ethanol plants showing modest weakness.

Also for corn, as for the week ending 20th June, export inspections failed to promote any buying support in the market after coming in at a sluggish 5.84 million bushels, down from 14.14 million bushels a week ago. This was the slowest shipment pace in the last 20 weeks. The cumulative shipment pace is at 81 percent of the US-Department of Agriculture (USDA) forecast as compared with the 5 year average of 78 percent.

Wheat futures traded sharply lower on the day on

harvest pressure and weaker European wheat markets. The weather forecasts suggest good harvest progress will be made this week. Yields in the eastern US continue to come in better than expected with many beginning to hike up their Chicago production estimates from the USDA forecast of 509 million bushels.

For soybeans, export inspections for the week ending 20th June were estimated at 7.83 million bushels, up from 2.8 million a week ago and hit a fresh 8-week high. Shipments needed each week to reach the USDA export estimate are at 4.6 million bushels, down from 4.9 million a week ago.—Xinhua

Xinhua

Singapore Airlines completes sale of stake in Virgin Atlantic

SINGAPORE, 25 June—Singapore Airlines has completed the sale of its 49 percent stake in Virgin Atlantic to Delta Air Lines, the company said on Monday.

“As announced on 11 Dec, 2012, Delta agreed to pay 360 million US dollars in cash for Singapore Airlines’ entire shareholding in the UK-based airline

group,” it said in a statement on Monday evening.

The commercial arrangements between Singapore Airlines and Virgin Atlantic, such as codesharing, frequent-flyer programme ties and reciprocal lounge access, will remain in place, it added.

Singapore Airlines acquired 49 percent stake in Virgin Atlantic in March

2000, but the cooperation obviously did not turn out as good as expected. The company said last December that it has been “evaluating strategic options for some time, as the investment has not performed to expectations and the synergies the parties originally hoped for have not materialized.”

Xinhua

The best time to plant a tree was 20 years ago. Second best time is now.

ENTERTAINMENT

Angelina Jolie gifts Brad Pitt expensive vintage watch

LOS ANGELES, 25 June—Actress Angelina Jolie has reportedly gifted a platinum vintage Tiffany watch to fiancé Brad Pitt to thank him for showering love and support on her and their children.

The watch, which is said to be worth \$30,000, was given by Jolie, 38, along with their kids Maddox, eleven, Pax, nine, Zahara, eight, Shiloh, six, and four-year-old twins Knox and Vivienne, reports contactmusic.com. “The kids were excited



Actress Angelina Jolie and actor Brad Pitt

to pick something for their dad. Angie said Brad had been so supportive over the past few months. The watch was a way to say thank you,” a source said.—PTI

Rihanna hits fan with microphone



LOS ANGELES, 25 June—R&B singer Rihanna is in fresh trouble, as she was caught on camera hitting a fan with a microphone during a concert.

The incident happened at a Birmingham show when a person in the crowd grabbed onto the singer’s outfit too tightly as she walked across the floor near the front row of fans, reported Ace Showbiz.

Rihanna took the matter into her own hands before the security guard could handle the situation and hit the overeager fan before turning around and resuming her show as if nothing had happened.

The singer performed at Birmingham’s LG Arena as part of her Diamonds world tour. She reportedly showed up more than two hours late after partying with her model pal Cara Delevingne the night before.

PTI

R&B singer Rihanna

Johnny Depp’s fans surprised he is blind in one eye

LOS ANGELES, 25 June—Hollywood superstar Johnny Depp has recently revealed that he is completely blind in one eye.

Actor Johnny Depp surprised his fans at a special advance screening of his film *The Lone Ranger* in Oklahoma.

The 50-year-old actor stunned members of the American Indian tribal community, Comanche Nation, by showing up at the red carpet event with social activist LaDonna Harris, who is his adopted Comanche mother, reports femalefirst.co.uk.

Depp worked closely with the community to make his role as Tonto in the controversial film as authentic as possible.



Hollywood superstar Johnny Depp

“I’m proud to show this film to the Comanche Nation and members of the Indian Nations first,” Depp said at the screening.

“It really does feel like home after being here last year. It’s good to be back. The Comanche people re-

ally welcomed me into their nation,” he added.

The actor signed hundreds of autographs for fans. The movie’s producer Jerry Bruckheimer and director Gore Verbinski were also present on the occasion.—PTI

US singer Robin Thicke holds on to UK number one

LONDON, 25 June—American R&B singer Robin Thicke has notched up a fourth week at the top of the British pop charts with his summer hit “Blurred Lines”, the compiler said on Sunday.

The Official Charts Company said Thicke sold a further 133,000 copies of the single over the last week to bring total UK sales to 718,000, the year’s second biggest selling track.

The song, which features vocals by US artists T.I. and Pharrell Williams, has already been a number one hit in the United States and around the world.

Second place on the weekly single chart went to American singer Jason



Singer Robin Thicke

Derulo’s new release “The Other Side”.

London-based rapper Dizzee Rascal was the second highest new entry at number five with “Goin’ Crazy”, a collaboration with British singer Robbie Williams.

Reuters

Katie Holmes not ready for love?

LOS ANGELES, 25 June—Hollywood actress Katie Holmes is not keen to be in a relationship at the moment. Her prime focus currently is raising her seven-year-old daughter Suri.

The 34-year-old actress, who split from actor Tom Cruise last year, is rumoured to be dating her *Mania Days* co-star Luke Kirby. But if a source is to be believed, it isn’t true.

“She’s lying low on the romantic side of things. She doesn’t need that right now. She’s just focusing on her daughter Suri,” contactmusic.com quoted a source as saying.

However, the source does not deny that there is an interesting chemistry between the two.

“The word on-set is that they are hot and heavy, you can totally tell the chemistry between them. Katie obviously has it bad for Luke. They’re desper-

ate to keep the state of their relationship under wraps until it’s at least had a chance to start,” the source said.

“Luke’s a total gentleman who always puts others first. He’s also incredibly handsome, charming and completely

down-to-earth. Katie adores him,” the source added.

PTI



Katie Holmes

SPORTS

Nadal shocked at Wimbledon first round, Federer, Murray goes through



Andy Murray of Britain returns a shot during the first round of the men's singles against Benjamin Becker of Germany at the Wimbledon Lawn Tennis Championships in the All England Lawn Tennis and Croquet Club in London, Britain, on 24 June, 2013. Andy Murray won 3-0.—XINHUA

LONDON, 25 June—French Open champion Rafael Nadal suffered his first opening-round loss at a Grand Slam as he was shocked by Steve Darcis of Belgium, ranked No 135 in the world.

But seven-time Roger Federer and local hero Andy Murray both eased past their first-round opponents.

Darcis took the biggest win of his career on No 1 Court 7-6 (4), 7-6 (8), 6-4 in two hours and 55 minutes.

"I think today I serve very good," said Darcis. "I could use a lot of slice. And I think he didn't like it so

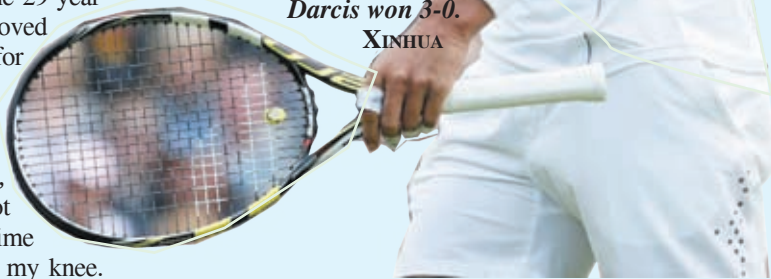
much. Of course, he didn't play his best tennis. But I knew it is the first match on grass for him. Me, I played already four. So I think it helped me today."

Nadal, who was upset in the second round by Lukas Rosol last year, just won his record eighth title at Roland Garros but the 29-year-old Darcis proved too much for his younger opponent. The fifth seed said, "Now is not the right time to talk about my knee."

The only thing I can do is congratulate my opponent. It is not a tragedy, I lost, it is sport. I'm confident that I will recover and be ready for the next tournaments. I have played far more than I expected after my injury and I will try my best for the next couple of years."

Darcis had played at Wimbledon only three times before

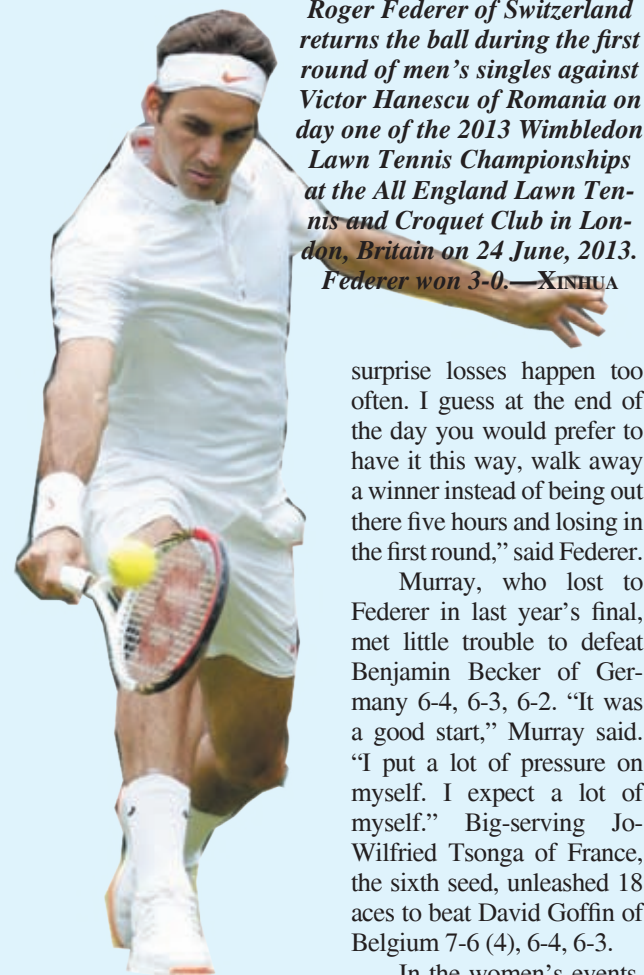
Rafael Nadal of Spain reacts during the first round of the men's singles against Steve Darcis of Belgium at the Wimbledon Lawn Tennis Championships in the All England Lawn Tennis and Croquet Club in London, Britain, on 24 June, 2013. Steve Darcis won 3-0.—XINHUA



and in 12 of his 18 previous Grand Slam appearances he had lost in the first round. His best previous result at Wimbledon was to reach the second round in 2009.

Federer claimed his 67th match at Wimbledon by breezing past Romanian Victor Hanesu 6-3, 6-2, 6-0 in the first match on the Centre Court.

The 31-year-old Federer, who came on court holding a 5-0 winning record against Hanesu, took only 69



Roger Federer of Switzerland returns the ball during the first round of men's singles against Victor Hanesu of Romania on day one of the 2013 Wimbledon Lawn Tennis Championships at the All England Lawn Tennis and Croquet Club in London, Britain on 24 June, 2013. Federer won 3-0.—XINHUA

surprise losses happen too often. I guess at the end of the day you would prefer to have it this way, walk away a winner instead of being out there five hours and losing in the first round," said Federer.

Murray, who lost to Federer in last year's final, met little trouble to defeat Benjamin Becker of Germany 6-4, 6-3, 6-2. "It was a good start," Murray said. "I put a lot of pressure on myself. I expect a lot of myself." Big-serving Jo-Wilfried Tsonga of France, the sixth seed, unleashed 18 aces to beat David Goffin of Belgium 7-6 (4), 6-4, 6-3.

In the women's events, second seed Victoria Azarenka of Belarus beat Maria Joao Koehler of Portugal 6-1, 6-2 and third seed Maria Sharapova of Russia defeated Kristina Mladenovic of France 7-6 (5), 6-3.

Xinhua

minutes to finish off match. He landed 70 per cent of his first serves on target, and 90 per cent of them were winners. "I pack my bags for five sets every single time, so I'm happy things went well today because we have seen

Uruguay defender accuses Neymar of diving

BELO HORIZONTE, 25 June—Uruguay defender Diego Godin has accused Brazil striker Neymar of serial diving ahead of Wednesday's Confederations Cup semifinal between the South American rivals.

Neymar has scored in each of Brazil's victories over Japan, Mexico and Italy during the group phase of the World Cup warmup tournament.

Godin, who will be among those charged by Celeste coach Oscar Tabarez to curb the 21-year-old at the Mineirao stadium, admitted the task was one of football's toughest. "Neymar is a player who is unpredictable, one of the best in the world," the

Atletico Madrid centre-back said. "He is fast, dribbles and scores lots of goals. I just hope that he doesn't dive so much. He always makes the most of minimal contact to win a free-kick."

Godin said his team's heralded strike force — which includes Luis Suarez, Edinson Cavani and Diego Forlan, could ill afford to waste goalscoring chances against Brazil's miserly defence. "We have to make the most of the chances that come our way," the 27-year-old said. "It's going to be special to play Brazil in such an important match, and even more so in front of their own fans. It will be like a final for us."—Xinhua



Spain's Sergio Ramos (R top) heads the ball next to Uruguay's Diego Godin (R bottom) during their Confederations Cup Group B soccer match at the Arena Pernambuco in Recife on 16 June, 2013.—REUTERS

Sharapova returns to business after Williams row

LONDON, 25 June—Third seed Maria Sharapova moved on from her weekend spat with Serena Williams by returning to her day job on Monday and earning a 7-6(5), 6-3 win over Kristina Mladenovic in a tricky first round match at Wimbledon.

The Russian had been embroiled in a conflict with Williams after a magazine interview with the world number one that included a reference the reporter interpreted as an attack on Sharapova's relationship with Bulgarian player Grigor Dimitrov.

or Dimitrov.

"I've said everything that I wanted to say about the issue," Sharapova, who told the American on Saturday to keep her nose out of other people's business, told a news conference.

"You know, Wimbledon (has) started. This is my work. This is my job. I'd really appreciate it if we move on."

Even if those asking the questions were not ready to move on, Sharapova tried to make it business as usual even though her match was not quite as easy

as a first-round clash might be. Frenchwoman Mladenovic exuded confidence



Maria Sharapova of Russia reacts during the first set tie-break in her women's singles tennis match against Kristina Mladenovic of France at the Wimbledon Tennis Championships, in London on 24 June, 2013.—REUTERS

way above her world ranking of 37 as she matched 2004 Wimbledon champion Sharapova every step of the way in the first set, with neither player dropping serve on their way to the tiebreak.

It took until 5-5 in the breaker for Sharapova to earn a set point which she converted with a backhand volley.—Reuters

All eyes on Mourinho next season, says Villas-Boas

LISBON, 25 June—English Premier League fans should expect new Chelsea coach Jose Mourinho to attract a lot of attention next season, Tottenham Hotspur coach Andre Villas-Boas said.

In an interview published in Monday's edition of Portuguese sports daily O Jogo, Villas-Boas said his compatriot's return will vastly improve the visibility of the Premier League.

"It won't be possible to take your eyes away from Mourinho," he said.

"One of his characteristics, and I don't say it in a negative way, is to deviate

attentions, positive and negative, in such a way that the team is only worried about winning." Villas-Boas said he is intrigued by next season's Premier League race which will feature Mourinho and also have David Moyes as Manchester United's new coach, following the departure of Alex Ferguson after 26 years at the club.

"These are two deep changes to English football...it will be interesting," he said in an interview while on holiday in Porto before competing in a celebrity car race.

"The fear that

came from playing Alex Ferguson's sides made everything harder and that may still continue if (Moyes's) adaptation is fast. That is something I am curious to see".

Villas-Boas's Tottenham amassed a club record points total last season but were still disappointed as they finished fifth, just outside the Champions League places but enough for a Europa League spot.

The Portuguese said he has evolved

Newly reappointed Chelsea manager Jose Mourinho speaks during a news conference at Stamford Bridge stadium in London on 10 June, 2013.

REUTERS



GENERAL



Delegates attend the 4th International Capital Conference in Paris, France, on 24 June, 2013. ICC 2013 was held here on 24 and 25 June with the theme of "Where Chinese and Western CEOs Build Relationships".—XINHUA

Venezuela plans to develop three Caribbean island resorts

CARACAS, 25 June—Venezuela plans to develop three pristine Caribbean islands that are home to military facilities into tourist resorts, Tourism Minister Andres Izarra announced on Monday.

The state-run *Venezuelan News Agency (AVN)* quoted Izarra as saying that Venezuela has vast untapped tourism potential and has identified the islands of La Blanquilla, La Tortuga and La Orchila for development.

Izarra said plans would

include renovating island infrastructure, constructing airstrip and development in nearby areas.

La Blanquilla derives its name from an untouched white-sand beach lapped by turquoise waters and surrounded by shallow coral reefs. The island is also known for a type of rare black coral that is commonly used to make jewelry.

La Tortuga, the main part of an archipelago, is the second largest island in Venezuela after Margarita, the country's best known

vacation destination. It is known for migratory birds and fishing between September and April.

La Orchila has numerous beaches including Arena Rosada, of which the sand is obviously pink.

The three islands are presently home to military facilities such as military encampment and naval and air bases. Venezuela has some 314 large and small islands, most of them paradisiacal spots that are virtually unknown to travelers.—Xinhua

Kenya Airways launches travel package to woo Asian, Mideast traders

NAIROBI, 25 June—Kenya Airways on Monday launched a new travel package to visitors to the Middle East and the Far East at a special fare of 999 US dollars. The Green City Promotion is valid until end of September will see traders travel from the airline's Nairobi hub to Dubai in the United Arab Emirates and Hong Kong and Guangzhou in China.

"This gesture is meant to appreciate traders, who have been our key customers and partners in encouraging sustainable development over the last 36 years of our operations," Kenya Airways Area Manager Albert Abwoga said in Nairobi.

The new package comes as the national carrier hopes to strengthen its presence in China by offering better connection options to its passengers from Africa and its association

with China.

Kenya Airways recently inked an agreement with China Eastern Airlines to enable KQ code share on daily services between Bangkok and Shanghai, while China Eastern Airlines will code share on daily Kenya Airways service between Bangkok and Nairobi.

Kenya Airways is seeking to more than double the number of its aeroplanes to 115 in the next ten years. The company said it will also take bank loans to finance the ten year expansion plan that will cost 3.6 billion dollars when completed.

Abwoga, who unveiled the package on Monday during a recent traders' forum held in Nairobi, said the airline was keen to provide the best travel services to traders in these markets.

Xinhua

Spain still the best as they close in on another title

FORTALEZA, 25 June—Although Barcelona and Real Madrid failed to win the Champions League last season, many of the same players have forgotten what it is like to lose when they are united in the red shirts of Spain.

The world and European champions' 3-0 win over African champions Nigeria at the Estadio Castelao on Sunday meant they finished top of their group with maximum points and reinforced the belief that next Sunday's Confederations Cup final will be between them and the other group winners, hosts Brazil.

Spain and Brazil have been the best two teams in the competition and while the Confederations Cup may not be high on the list of everyone's priorities, winning it would give Spain a clean sweep of every international honour available.

Wins in the 2008 and 2012 European championships and the World Cup three years ago have put

Spain's trophy cabinet almost at full capacity, but there is one space left for the last of the missing silverware — the Confederations Cup.

Coach Vicente Del Bosque would not be drawn on the possibilities of winning it after Sunday's comfortable victory over Nigeria, and gave little away about their chances in the semi-final against Italy.

"It will be tough as they are seeking revenge after losing 4-0 to us in last year's European final," he said.

Del Bosque, 62, does not have to say much as his team do the talking for him.

They look set to extend their long unbeaten competitive run of 28 matches and they have not lost to the Italians in 25 games.

The last team to beat Spain competitively were Switzerland who produced a 1-0 upset at the 2010 World Cup.

Spain now seem to be playing with even more confidence, authority and at



Spain's coach Vicente del Bosque talks with player Andres Iniesta (R) during a training session ahead of the Confederations Cup, in Recife on 14 June, 2013.

REUTERS

times sheer brilliance, than a year ago.

Consistency is key with eight of the side that beat Italy last year starting against Nigeria. The only absentees were Iker Casillas (rested), Xabi Alonso (injured) and David Silva, who started as a substitute on Sunday but replaced Pedro for the last 15 minutes.

They may not play the most sparkling football ever seen, but their possession game is a highly effective

one which produces delightful passages of play at regular intervals.

Jordi Alba's two excellent goals against Nigeria which came either side of Fernando Torres's fifth goal of the tournament had all the trademarks of the world's best team.

Eight Barcelona players also started against Nigeria — the most from one club since eight from Barca played against Poland in 1959.—Reuters

MYANMAR INTERNATIONAL

(26-6-13 09:30 am ~ 27-6-13 09:30 am) MST

- * Local News
- * A Diary of a Fisherman
- * World News
- * Wonderful Maynma Handicrafts from Inlay Lake
- * Local News
- * Creator of Imagination
- * World News
- * Awesome Myanma Sculptures
- * Local News
- * Life In Night...Art In Life (Episode-2)
- * World News
- * Buddha Image Build of Bamboo Strips
- * World News
- * Myanmar Traditional Identity (Myanma Chinthe)
- * Local News
- * Rakhine Tourist Area
- * World News
- * School for the Blind
- * Local News
- * Festive Mood & Festival Food
- * Large Parasol: A Souvenir of Pathein
- * World News
- * Try Your Best
- * Local News
- * Historic Temples of Massiveness and Unique Structures
- * Nay Pyi Taw Hot Spring
- * World News
- * Back to School

Myanmar TV

(26-6-2013, Wednesday)

- | | |
|--|--|
| 6:00 am | Races |
| 1. Paritta By Venerable Mingun Sayadaw | 4:40 pm |
| 6:25 am | 19. University Of Distance Education (TV Lectures) - Third Year (Botany) |
| 2. To Be Healthy Exercise | 5:00 pm |
| 6:30 am | 21. News |
| 3. Song & Dance of National Races | 5:15 pm |
| 7:00 am | 22. Documentary (Fashion) |
| 4. News/ Weather Report | 5:35 pm |
| 7:20 am | 23. Gitamahar Pyawsayar |
| 5. Teleplay | 6:00 pm |
| 8:00 am | 24. News/ Weather Report |
| 6. News/International News | 6:20 pm |
| 8:25 am | 25. Shwe Yin Khone Than |
| 7. Sing A Song | 7:00 pm |
| 9:20 am | 27. News |
| 8. Mono Classical Songs | 7:15 pm |
| 10:00 am | 28. Kyae Pwint Myaye Yin Khone Than |
| 9. News | 7:35 pm |
| 10:15 am | 28. Pianist Kun Zaw Music Troupe (Part-1) |
| 10. TV Drama Series | 8:00 pm |
| 11:30 am | 29. News/International News/Weather Report |
| 11. Approaching Science Discovery World | 8:35 pm |
| 12:00 am | 30. People Talk |
| 12. News/International News/Weather Report | 8:45 pm |
| 12:25 pm | 31. Hit Songs of Stars |
| 13. Myanmar Movies | 9:00 pm |
| 3:00 pm | 32. News |
| 16. News | 33. My Mind Game My SEA Games |
| 3:15 pm | 34. Coiffure & Attire of Myanmar Ladies (Kanbaung & Amarapura Periods) |
| 16. India Drama Series | 4:00 pm |
| 4:00 pm | 35. Teleplay |
| 17. News | |
| 4:30 pm | |
| 18. Dance of National | |

Seventh regular session of First Pyithu Hluttaw kicks off

It needs to promulgate fair laws which people should and can follow: Pyithu Hluttaw Speaker

NAY PYI TAW, 25 June—Seventh regular session of First Pyithu Hluttaw was held today, with an opening address by Pyithu Hluttaw Speaker Thura U Shwe Mann.

New 24 Defence Services Personnel Pyithu Hluttaw Representatives took oaths in accord with Section 8 (b) of Pyithu Hluttaw Law.

In his speech, the Pyithu Hluttaw Speaker called for success of exercising of legislative power and checks and balance system. The end of decade-long armed conflicts, the rule of law, peace and stability, national reconsolidation and national unity are interrelated with each other. The new laws prescribed by Hluttaws were also related with law enforcement officials, people and organizations, he added.

It needs to promulgate fair laws which people should and can follow. He urged law makers to do

their duty for the interests of the people and the State. He called for monitoring of citizens' law-abiding practices by Hluttaws and dutifulness of law makers.

After that, the matters relating to foreign trips of the Pyithu Hluttaw Speaker, the Deputy Speaker and the representatives during sixth and seventh regular sessions were put on record.

Appointment of retired Director-General U Myint Swe of Settlement and Land Records Department as a member of Legal Affairs and Special Cases Assessment Commission was also approved.

At the question-and-answer session, U Thein Tun Oo of Amarapura Constituency asked if there is any plan to draft a new law that can take actions against racial and religious conflicts by the Union Government and respective ministries in accord with the Section 364 of the Constitution.

With respect to the question, Deputy Minister



Hluttaw representatives sign attendance book at the seventh regular session of First Pyithu Hluttaw.

MNA

for Home Affairs Chief of Myanmar Police Force Police Brig-Gen Kyaw Kyaw Tun replied that Myanmar has already prescribed the

2012-Peaceful Gathering and Peaceful Procession Law and Bylaws in addition to Criminal Law, Criminal Procedure Law, Riots Control Handbook and

Police Acts. The existing laws are enough according to the Constitution the President can promulgate an ordinance and declare a state of emergency.

Section 364 of the constitution describes that "The abuse of religion for political purposes is forbidden.

(See page 9)

Personnel representatives.

Deputy Ministers answered three questions about health sector and one question about electric power sector and one question about transport sector at the first day session. Next, the Speaker informed the Amyotha Hluttaw representatives of Pyithu Hluttaw's approval on the three bills.

Then, Deputy Minister for Rail Transportation U Han Sein proposed bills to amend regarding water transport and Myanmar Maritime University.

U Khin Maung Yi of Ayeyawady Region Constituency No (6) submitted a proposal to take necessary measures and punitive actions against the violation of already-promulgated "Control of Smoking and Consumption

of Tobacco Product Law". As the proposal was in favour of majority, the Hluttaw decided to discuss it.

Next, Dr Myint Kyi of Yangon Region Constituency No (8) presented a proposal to establish an only and one National Single Window (NSW), U Myo Myint of Mandalay Region Constituency No (6) a proposal to scrutinize agricultural figures over irrigable land areas again and to seek the approval of the Union Government. The two proposals won the approval of representatives and the Hluttaw decided to discuss them. Today's session ended in the afternoon and the second-day session continues tomorrow.

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Seventh regular session of First Amyotha Hluttaw starts

NAY PYI TAW, 25 June — The first day seventh

regular session of First Amyotha Hluttaw started

today with a program of taking affirmation before the

Speaker by nine Amyotha Hluttaw Defence Services



Hluttaw representatives seen at the first day seventh regular session of First Amyotha Hluttaw.

MNA

Bay Bulletin

NAY PYI TAW, 25 June— According to the observation at (12:30) hrs MST today, the low pressure area over

Northwest Bay of Bengal has become unimportant, announced the Department of Meteorology and Hydrology.—MNA