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Insufficient production of quality seeds, delayed distribution pose challenge for rice farmers: Experts

By *Aye Min Soe*

YANGON, 3 June — Myanmar rice experts have urged the International Rice Institute-IRI and private seed firms to cooperate on producing quality seeds to distribute to farmers as insufficient production of quality paddy seeds and the delay for distribution of seeds to farmers are some of the biggest problems in the agricultural sector, officials said on Tuesday.

Delayed distribution of seeds has reduced the quality of seeds as farmers have to store them for next season.—PHOTO: AYE MIN SOE

Seed researchers have vowed to educate farmers in high-yield seed production.—PHOTO: AYE MIN SOE

"Sometimes the seeds are not enough to be distributed to all farmers. Sometimes the distribution of seeds is delayed and farmers have to store them for next season. Therefore the quality of seeds is reduced, and this is a problem we will have to solve," said Dr Min Aung, a seed expert and an ex-official of the Ministry of Agriculture and Irrigation, at the Myanmar Tech Talk Seminar-2014 in Yangon on Tuesday.

As over 10 percent of the seeds sold to farmers should come from the government, the authorities are increasingly facing problems to supply the required amount.

"The government can't afford to produce enough quality seeds for farmers. It cannot even produce these 10 percent," U Myint Thein of the Myanmar Rice Federation said.

Another challenge is that Myanmar needs to replace its ordinary seeds with high yield seeds as the country's farmland areas are getting reduced due to the increase of civil projects, said Dr Tin Htut, Rector of the Yezin University of Agriculture during a discussion with Pyidaungsu Hluttaw Speaker Thura U Shwe Mann at the university last month.

"Hybrid-rice technology and seed production is very important for Myanmar," he said.

He also suggested that farmers should cooperate with researchers and learn how to produce quality rice seeds as "the role of farmers is very important for meeting the success of quality and high-yield seeds production of the country."

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MJTD to sign first lease contract with US firm for setting up business in Thilawa Class A Area

By *Ye Myint*

YANGON, 3 June —The signing of a lease contract with a US company which is among the firms submitting investment proposals for setting up businesses in the Class A Area of the Thilawa Special Economic Zone in Thanlyin Township, Yangon will take place this week, an official of Myanmar-Japan Thilawa Development Company told the New Light of Myanmar on Tuesday. Inking deals with other companies, mainly from Japan, will follow soon, she added.

MJTD, formed of Myanmar Thilawa SEZ Holding Public Limited and a Japanese consortium made up of Mitsubishi Corporation, Marubeni Corporation and Sumitomo Corporation, last month started the sale of leasehold rights for Phase I of the Thilawa Class A Area, which is located 20 km southeast of Yangon.

The Class A Area of the nearly 2,400-hectare Thilawa SEZ, which is scheduled to open in the middle of 2015, has an area of 396 hectares. It is divided into three phases, with Phase I covering an area of about 200 hectares.

She confirmed that many property enquiries and proposals from foreign investors have been received, saying that sale is still ongoing. Investors can purchase land plots with a minimum of one hectare, with no limit on the maximum amount. Price per one square metre for long-term lease is $70, she added.

Regarding the project development, another MJTD official said slow progress was made due to heavy rains in late May, but grading the land surface for the whole industrial park has been finished. Now, fencing is underway around the Class A Area, including part of the area adjacent to a monastery and installation of pipelines will start soon, the official said.

Thilawa SEZ development project, jointly owned by Myanmar and Japan on a 51/49 per cent ownership, is Japan's largest investment in Myanmar. The project has been carried out by Myanmar-Japan Thilawa Development Company since last November.

According to a press release by Mitsubishi Corporation on 19 May, the Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) signed a joint venture agreement for MJTD, making the development of Thilawa Class A the first public-private partnership business between Japan and Myanmar on 23 April this year.

Photo taken on 6 May of construction work on a retention pond at Thilawa SEZ's Class A Area.
PHOTO: YE MYINT

Physically disabled students receive cash donations

YANGON, 3 June—Students with visual and aural disability were provided with cash and school supplies during a ceremony which took place at a high school in Dagon Township here on Monday morning, sources said.

At the ceremony, Union Minister at the President Office U Tin Naing Thein and regional ministers presented school materials and K3.8 million to disabled students.

The 128 students are now enrolled in basic education schools in Mayangon, Insein, Kyimyindine and Dagon townships.—*MNA*

UNOCHA to help Myanmar IDPs

NAY PYI TAW, 3 June— The United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA) on Tuesday discussed with the Ministry of Border Affairs plans to provide humanitarian assistance to internally displaced persons in Rakhine, Kachin and Shan(north) states.

Mark Edward Cutts, Senior Coordinator at Humanitarian Coordination Support Section of OCHA met the Union Minister for Border Affairs Lieutenant General Thet Naing Win in Nay Pyi Taw.

The Union minister and senior coordinator discussed progress in drawing plans for the Myanmar Humanitarian Strategy (2014), including a working plan to help IDPs with aid, preventive measures for disasters, assistance to women, children and elderly people, equal humanitarian aid to residents of communities in Rakhine State and taking priority over public opinion in future cooperation plans transparently.

Both sides also discussed collaboration between government ministries and UN agencies in the country.—*MNA*

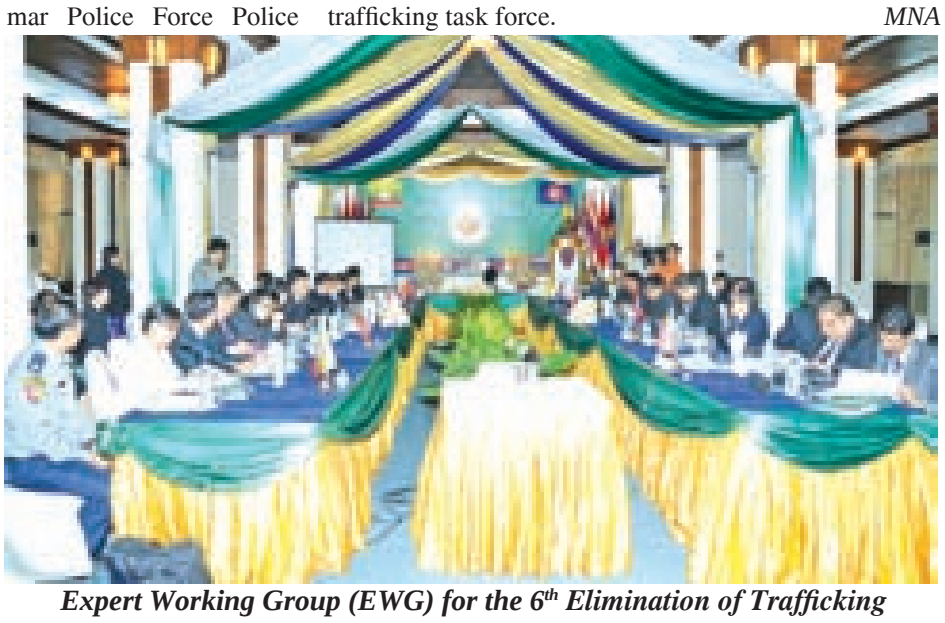
Anti-human trafficking bodies discuss action plans

YANGON, 3 June—An Expert Working Group (EWG) for the 6th Elimination of Trafficking in Persons held a meeting at Hotel Yangon here on Tuesday morning, with an address by Vice Chief of the Myanmar Police Force Police Brig-Gen Thein Oo, sources said.

The meeting drew experts from ASEAN countries, departmental officials and representatives from the cross-national crime agency and the anti-human trafficking task force.

According to officials, the meeting, which is scheduled from 3 to 5 June, will focus on drawing up an ASEAN convention on trafficking in persons and a regional plan of action this year.

MNA



Expert Working Group (EWG) for the 6th Elimination of Trafficking in Persons in progress at Hotel Yangon in Yangon.—MNA

Views exchanged on role of police force

NAY PYI TAW, 3 June—Chief of the Defence Staff (Rtd) General Sir David Richards and his delegation from Britain met Chief of Myanmar Police Force Police Maj-Gen Zaw Win at the MPF hall in Nay Pyi Taw on Tuesday to discuss implementation of the British assistance programme to reform the MPF.

They exchanged views on the reform process in the security sector and the role of the MPF, accomplishment of the public-centred policing process and improvement of the police force to meet international standards.

Police Information

Chief of Myanmar Police Force Police Maj-Gen Zaw Win poses for documentary photo with Chief of the Defence Staff (Rtd) General Sir David Richards and his delegation from Britain.—POLICE INFORMATION

Slight earthquake hits Myanmar-China border

NAY PYI TAW, 3 June—A slight earthquake measuring 4.4 on the Richter Scale with an epicenter in the Myanmar-China border region, about 45 miles southeast of Myitkyina and about 230 miles northeast of the Mandalay seismological observatory was recorded at 12 hours 05 min 06 sec MST on Tuesday, according to the Department of Meteorology and Hydrology.—*MNA*

Myanmar Aquarium construction at Kandawgyi Lake to start in June

YANGON, 3 June—Construction on the Myanmar Aquarium—which will show 45 species of local fresh water and salt water fish—will begin later this month, with officials saying the design has been provided by Singapore-based Surbana Consultants Pte Ltd, with SIPM Consultants Pte Ltd. responsible for the construction management.

The main building of the aquarium and "Under Water World"will be located at the fresh water fish garden in Yangon's Kandawgyi Garden and will include a food court constructed by Australia based Real Scope Private Ltd.

Myanmar Aquariums Co., Ltd. won the tender in October 2013 from the Department of Fisheries to build the Myanmar Aquarium projectwith an annual fee of K1.2 billion paid to the Yangon Region Government, according to manager U Sai Moe Kyaw.

The aquarium is expected to open in December, 2015.—*Thant Zin Win*

SIM card prices still as high as K113,000 in Myanmar

By *Myint Win Thein*

Although the government has reduced SIM card prices to as low as K 1,500 (about US$ 1.5), the prices are still as high as K 113,000 (about US$ 130) on the black market.

SIM cards in Myanmar are traditionally very expensive, fetching as much as K 4 million at their peak price about a decade ago. The Myanmar Posts and Telecommunication then issued SIM cards at an official price of K 1.5 million each but only those who were well connected were able to use mobile phones at the official price. Most user had to buy them on the black market, paying as much as K 4 million.

The MPT reduced SIM card prices to K500,000 when it introduced CDMA phones about five years ago. The MPT further reduced the card prices again to K200,000 about two years later. When foreign telecoms operators like Ooredoo and Telenor were granted licenses to build networks in Myanmar, the MPT cut the card prices to K 1,500. However, it cannot provide enough cards to the public and people have to take part in lucky draws to get the chance to buy a card. As a result, the card prices on the market have not dropped as much as expected and users had to buy them at about K 150,000.

As new telecoms operators speeding up efforts to build their networks in Myanmar, GSM SIM card prices further dropped in the market to as low as K 70,000 for GSM/WCDMA and K 30,000 for CDMA mobile phones.

Ko Htoo Hlaing Zaw, a technician in a mobile phone shop, said that the prices are not as high as K 13,000 at present, but sometime buyers might pay higher prices for some phone numbers that are easily remembered.

Myanmar, the Netherlands hold talks on water resources management, environmental conservation

NAY PYI TAW, 3 June—Vice President U Nyan Tun held talks with Ms M.H. Shultz Van Hargen-Maas Geesteranus, Minister for Infrastructure and Environment of the Netherlands at the Credentials Hall of the Presidential Palace in Nay Pyi Taw on Tuesday afternoon.

Both sides' discussion focused on cooperation in the areas of water resources management and environmental conservation between Myanmar and the Netherlands.—*MNA*

***Vice President U Nyan Tun holding talks with Ms M.H. Shultz Van Hargen-Maas Geesteranus, Minister for Infrastructure and Environment of the Netherlands, and party.*—MNA**

As Lower House discusses banking and infrastructure, Upper House concerned with environment

NAY PYI TAW, 3 June—The tenth regular session of the first Lower House continued on Tuesday, with parliamentarians discussing the banking sector and infrastructure.

In response to a query about bank loans, the vice chairman of the Central Bank of Myanmar explained that bank loans are handed out, particularly to industries involved in food production, agriculture, livestock breeding, fisheries, construction, transport, and logistics services.

As for issues related to the construction of roads, conduits and water-retaining walls in Tamu and Okpo towns, the deputy minister for Construction explained that projects will be started, following the inspection of the towns in question, adding that the water-retaining wall is now under construction, which is expected to finish in the 2014-2015 fiscal year.

At the Upper House session the same day, an MP from Yangon Region asked about arrangements made for environmental conservation to buffer the negative environmental impact from foreign and local investments in the country. In his response to the question, the union minister for Environmental Conservation and Forestry stressed the need of investors to follow Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA), adding that the ministry has the right to turn down any investments that fail to conform to the EIA.

The union minister was quoted as saying that checks in accordance with EIA are conducted, saying that inspection is done three times: Before, during and after the operation of the business.

According to him, special emphasis is placed on industries such as mining, hydropower projects, which are considered as having greater impact on the environment and people living in the environments of the projects.

At the session, the Upper House approved four bills that amended package benefits of parliamentarians representing union, region/state, self-administrative region and Nay Pyi Taw council parliaments.

MNA

Myanmar delegation to attend 2nd World Summit of Legislators in Mexico

YANGON, 3 June—At the invitation of the Global Legislators Organization, Deputy Speaker of the Pyidaungsu Hluttaw and the Lower House U Nanda Kyaw Swa left here for Mexico by air on Tuesday morning, with officials saying that the Myanmar delegation will attend the 2nd World Summit of Legislators, which is scheduled to be convened from 6 to 8 June.

The three-day meeting is expected to be the world's largest conference of parliamentarians representing legislative assemblies from all over the world, media reports said.

Parliamentarians at the three-day summit, which will take place at the Mexican Congress, are expected to ratify a resolution on climate, natural capital and forest legislation, according to media.

MNA

***Deputy Speaker U Nanda Kyaw Swa being seen off at airport before departure for Mexico.*—MNA**

Myanmar, Britain to reform role of Myanmar Armed Forces in democratization process

***Commander-in-Chief of the Defence Services Senior General Min Aung Hlaing receives Chief of the Defence Staff (Rtd) General Sir David Richards and party of Britain.*—MNA**

NAY PYI TAW, 3 June—Commander-in-Chief of the Defence Services Senior General Min Aung Hlaing received Chief of the Defence Staff (Rtd) General Sir David Richards and party of Britain at Bayintnaung Guest House in Nay Pyi Taw on 3 June morning to hold talks about strengthening friendly relations between two armed forces of Myanmar and Britain.

They also discussed the role of the Armed Forces of Myanmar in the present democratization process.

MNA

Union Construction Minister meets Chairman of Financial Services Commission of ROK

NAY PYI TAW, 3 June—Union Minister for Construction U Kyaw Lwin received Mr Shin Je Yoon, Chairman of the Republic of Korea, Financial Services Commission at his office in Nay Pyi Taw on Tuesday to hold discussions on technical assistance for banking services of construction and housing development and loan issues.—*MNA*

Rural people in NyaungU Tsp say free education system was overdue

NYAUNGU, 3 June—As the Union government is implementing the plan to provide free education to primary and middle school children, residents of NyaungU Township in Mandalay Region enrolled their school-aged children at Basic Education Post-Primary School in Yinhsan Village on Monday morning.

"The move was necessary as we rural people face difficulties enrolling our children and spend much money on providing the children with school uniforms and school stationery at the school opening days in addition to various fees. Now we are free from this burden," said Daw Kyi Thein of Yinhsan village.

"We have heard on the radio that children between three and five years of age will be admitted at pre-primary schools. We heard that some pre-primary schools were built with the assistance of the villages. So, we can help with the construction of pre-primary schools," said Ma Win Than, mother of a child from Ywathaaye village.

Kyaw Htay (NyaungU)

Officials call for abiding by traffic rules

MYAWADY, 3 June—The Myawady District Transport Planning Department has formed a team to do conduct regular checks of buses in order to reduce the number of traffic accidents. On Tuesday, the team comprising township officials checked driver licenses, vehicle documents, installation of fire extinguishers and other equipment on board.

During a meeting with bus line officials and bus drivers, township officials talked about proper conduct on the roads as well as traffic rules.—*Thuzar (Myawady Town)*

Three GSM towers under construction in Wetlet Tsp

WETLET, 3 June—With the aim of providing better communication services to rural people, Myanma Posts and Telecommunications sold 1,000 CDMA SIM cards, 2,245 GSM cards and 350 WCDMA cards to locals in Wetlet Township of Sagaing Region, where telecommunication remains an issue.

MPT is building three GSM towers in Hladaw, Hanlin and Sheinmakar villages of the township.

Nan Myint

Insein BEHS No 4 extends school enrollment day till 5 June

NAY PYI TAW, 3 June—Although school enrollment week was designated in Yangon from 25 to 31 May, Insein Township Basic Education High School No 4 extended the period till 5 June.

The school officials admitted old students and offspring of staff who were transferred to the ward and issued textbooks and copybooks to them, but some students did not receive the same privileges, teachers said.

"We are free from corruption and bribery in our work. I take responsibility for the education of 10 students from poor families at the school because they have been facing difficulties with their enrollment," said a teacher of the school.

Kyaw Thura (Nay Pyi Taw)

Bus line committee gives cash assistance to bus workers

YEU, 3 June—The private bus lines committee of YeU Township in Sagaing Region held the second annual general meeting at the hall of Township General Administration Department on Sunday.

Departmental officials and township authorities said that as the township all bus line committee is fulfilling the requirements of education, health and social affairs of local people, and that bus workers must not cheat passengers with higher prices. Township officials presented K1 million for electrification of the new school building at Basic Education High School No 1, K2 million for the building at BEHS No 2, K2 million for sinking tube-well in Paw village of YeU Township, other contributions to development tasks of the town and cash assistance for bus workers.—*Kyemon*

Yinmabin Tsp prepares cultivation of saplings in rainy season

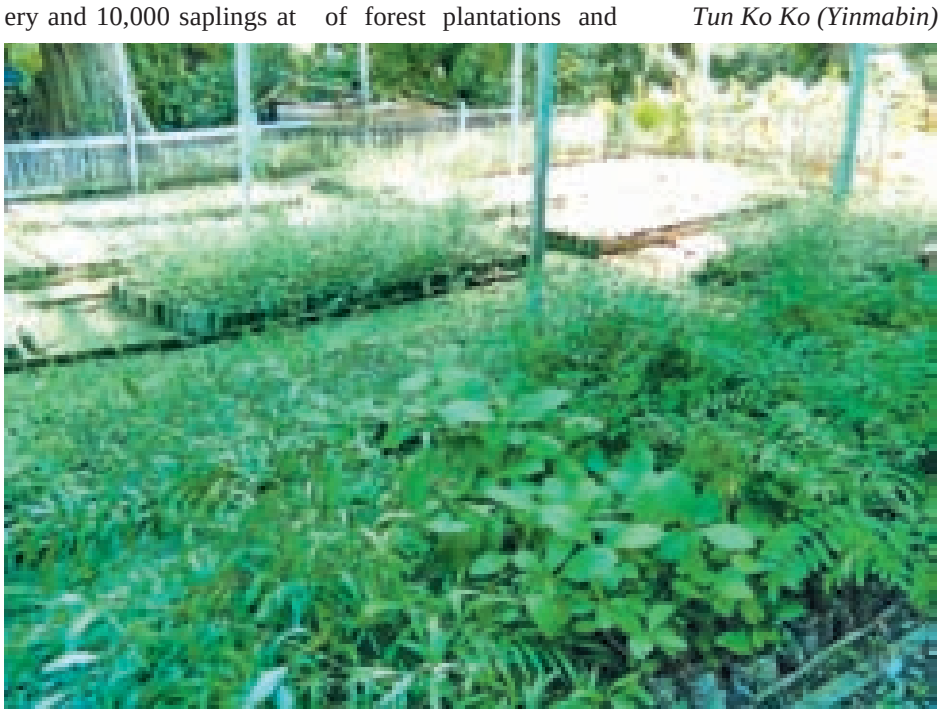
YINMABIN, 3 June—Yinmabin Township Forest Department of Sagaing Region nurtures various species of saplings for holding the monsoon tree planting ceremony in 2014-15 fiscal year.

"There are 10,000 saplings at the Myoma nursery, 5,680 saplings at Kyaukhmaw village nursery and 10,000 saplings at Kwechaung village nursery.

Our department will distribute three teak saplings and 20 hardwood saplings to each household for growing them at the respective plantations and both sides of roads. The Forest Departments gave talks on establishment of rural housings, cultivation of forest plantations and environmental conservation to the local people across the nation," said Head of Township Forest Department U Kyaw Min Oo.

Over 25,000 saplings from nurseries of the township Forest Department will be grown at the designated places in the rainy season this year.

Tun Ko Ko (Yinmabin)



India's Modi faces battle with states to fix power crisis

India's Prime Minister Narendra Modi comes out of a meeting room to receive his Bhutanese counterpart Tshering Tobgay before the start of their bilateral meeting in New Delhi on 27 May, 2014.—REUTERS

NEW DELHI, 3 June — Swathes of India's most populous state plunged into darkness for 12 hours a day last week as temperatures in Delhi hit their highest in 16 years, with the disruptions underlining the tough challenge a new government faces in keeping the lights on.

Two years after one of the world's biggest blackouts deprived at least 300 million people of power, India still suffers from frequent cuts that undermine efforts to revive the third-largest economy in Asia. Prime Minister Narendra Modi's Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP)stormed to office last month on promises to boost the economy and improve basic services for the millions of Indians who still lack running water and electricity.

One of his first steps in tackling the energy crunch has been to unite the portfolios of power, coal and renewable energy under a single minister, Piyush Goyal.

But the power sector also shows the limits to what the central government can do, with key decisions devolved to the country's 29 states.

While Modi is expected to fast-track new projects to boost output and press states to stop politicians from giving away electricity to voters, the task of translating extra capacity into reliable supply falls on state governments.

"We have a situation where there is enough idle power generation capacity in the country but states are witnessing power cuts," said Umesh Agrawal, a power expert at PwC.

"The problem today is not a lack of supply but lack of willingness from state utilities to procure power."

The BJP has blamed last week's outages in Uttar Pradesh on the party that rules the northern state, saying it is punishing constituents who voted for other parties in the general election. The local government rejects the charge and says it is not getting enough power from the center to meet demand.

Temperatures in north India have surged past 40 degrees Celsius, while a dust storm in the capital damaged power lines last Friday, further straining energy infrastructure.

India's power generation has grown — the peak deficit is down to 5.4 percent from 16.6 percent in 2008, government data shows — but getting the supply to end consumers is far trickier. Regional politicians tell distributors to prioritize supply to favoured constituents, while popular pressure for cheap or free power has kept theft high and prices artificially low, straining utilities' finances and curbing new investment.—*Reuters*

S Korea to develop indigenous missile defence system instead of adopting THAAD

SEOUL, 3 June — South Korea will develop its own missile defence (MD) system to intercept missiles at a higher altitude instead of adopting the Terminal High Altitude Area Defence (THAAD), a military source confirmed local media reports on Tuesday.

Yonhap News Agency reported earlier that the military decided to develop its indigenous long-range surface-to-air missile (L-SAM) , which is compatible with the US-based Lockheed Martin's THAAD system based on a pilot study by the Defence Acquisition Program Administration, the country's arms procurement agency.

The military source, who requested anonymity, said over phone " the report was true," noting detailed plans will be announced after the defence project committee's meeting on 11 June.

It is expected to take some seven years to develop the L-SAM system, and it will be deployed between 2023 and 2024.

South Korea has pushed for the Korea Air and Missile Defence, or a South Korea-type MD system, which focuses on a terminal-phase, low-altitude missile defence. Seoul's Defence Ministry has said that the low-tier MD refers to intercepting missiles at an altitude of less than 100 km.

Seoul will upgrade its *PAC-2* missiles to Lockheed Martin's *PAC- 3* to shoot down missiles, possibly launched from the Democratic People's Republic of Korea (DPRK), at an altitude of less than 40 km.

Reuters

Thai confidence jumps on hopes army will bring order after chaos

BANGKOK, 3 June— Thai consumer confidence jumped in May on hopes a new military government would impose order after months of political chaos that had threatened to tip the economy into recession.

The army toppled the remnants of Prime Minister Yingluck Shinawatra's government on 22 May after sometimes deadly protests since November that had forced ministries to close, hurt business confidence and caused the eco nomy to shrink.

The coup was the latest convulsion in a decade-long conflict between the Bangkok-based royalist establishment, dominated by the military, old-money families and the bureaucracy, and the supporters of Yingluck and her brother, Thaksin Shinawatra, who are adored by the poor in the north and northeast.

Since then the ruling junta has moved to suppress criticism of its seizure of power and nip protests in the bud. Yingluck and prominent supporters of the Shinawatras have been briefly detained and warned against any antimilitary activities.

A female riot police officer gives a command to her team as they take position at the vicinity of Victory Monument to stop demonstrations against military rule in Bangkok on 2 June, 2014.—REUTERS

But the crackdown does appear to have brought some stability for now, after months of paralysis under a caretaker government that lacked the power to make policy or approve new spending.

The University of the Thai Chamber of Commerce said on Tuesday its May consumer confidence index hit its highest level since January, just before protesters disrupted a 2nd February. election called by Yingluck in a failed bid to end the crisis.

The index rose to 70.7 in May from 67.8 in April, when it had fallen for the 13th month in a row and was at its lowest level in more than 12 years. Polling for the index was carried out last week, after the coup.

"The main factor boosting sentiment was confidence in the future due to political clarity. People were more confident the economy would get better," Thanavath Phonvichai, an economics professor at the university, told a news briefing. University President Saowanee Thairungroj said an index on the political situation jumped to 59.6 in May from 37.3 in April. "It rose 22 points in a month, compared with just a few point changes previously, and that came in just one week," he said.—*Reuters*

Severe weather kills 14 in Sri Lanka

COLOMBO, 3 June— Floods and landslides following heavy rain which lashed parts of Sri Lanka killed 14 people on Monday, the Disaster Management Center said.

Police spokesman Ajith Rohana said that most of those killed were from the southern township of Kalutara where heavy flooding was reported after overnight rain.

Additional District Secretary in Kalutara Sirisoma Lokuwithana said that 12 people had been confirmed dead in Kalutara.

The Sri Lanka navy meanwhile said it had deployed navy boats to assist the people affected by floods in Kalutara and the surrounding areas.

Navy spokesman Kosala Warnakulasooriya told *Xinhua* that naval personnel are engaged in evacuation of people from trapped homes and buildings, ferrying people to safe places.

The navy is monitoring the flood situation and 16 additional rescue teams are stand-by in the southern and western naval areas for emergency deployments.

The air force has also been deployed to assist the affected people. The Sri Lankan Department of Meteorology meanwhile warned of rough seas due to the active cloudiness in the western sea area.

The Disaster Management Ministry meanwhile said that the government is taking measures to provide immediate relief to the families affected by the severe weather.—*Xinhua*

People wade through a flooded Sri Lanka's main Expressway exit after heavy monsoon rains hit the island's western and southern regions in Colombo, Sri Lanka, on 2 June, 2014. Floods and landslides following heavy rain which lashed parts of Sri Lanka killed 14 people on Monday, the Disaster Management Centre said.—XINHUA

Russia says Ukraine situation worsening, submits UN resolution

Moscow, 3 June — Russia on Monday circulated a draft UN Security Council resolution calling for humanitarian corridors in eastern Ukraine but said that Western council members raised so many questions about the text that Moscow would now contemplate what its next move would be. The 15-member council met briefly behind closed doors to discuss the one-and-a-half page draft resolution, which calls for an end to the worsening violence in southeastern Ukraine and for safe and unhindered humanitarian aid.

*People take photos of the regional administration building in Luhansk, eastern Ukraine, on 2 June, 2014.—*Reuters

"There was some positive reactions from some members of the council. However, others were asking so many questions that if we were to try to answer them then we would be talking about things for weeks," Russian UN Ambassador Vitaly Churkin, president of the Security Council for June, told reporters after the meeting.

"We have not yet decided what out next move is going to be in terms of working on this resolution," he said.

Ukraine and its Western allies accuse Moscow of fueling a pro-Russian uprising that threatens to break up the former Soviet republic of 46 million people. Russia denies orchestrating the unrest and says Ukraine's attempts to end it by military force are making the situation worse.

"We must be clear that the crisis in Ukraine is a political security crisis. It's not a humanitarian crisis," British UN Ambassador Mark Lyall Grant told reporters.

Lyall Grant and his French counterpart, Gerard Araud, said there were key elements missing from the Russian draft.

"There were things missing like the reference to the territorial integrity and sovereignty of Ukraine for instance, the right of Ukraine to defend its territorial integrity," said Araud, adding that a UN report on the humanitarian situation was needed as he was unaware "there was a major crisis."

The United States called the Russian proposal hypocritical because at the same time armed fighters and weapons were entering Ukraine from Russia and Russian-backed separatists were attacking new targets and holding hostage monitors from the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE).

"So if they are going to call for or would support a reduction in tensions and a de-escalation, it would be more effective for them to end those activities," US State Department spokeswoman Jen Psaki said in Washington.

Russian Foreign Minister Sergei Lavrov said earlier on Monday that Western nations had assured Russia the situation in Ukraine would improve after its 25 May presidential election but that "everything is happening in exactly the opposite way."

"People are dying every day. Peaceful civilians are suffering more and more — the army, military aviation and heavy weapons continue to be used against them," Lavrov said.

UN Secretary General Ban Ki-moon spoke to newly elected Ukrainian President Petro Poroshenko over the weekend and urged him to initiate a dialogue with Russian President Vladimir Putin, Ban's spokesman Stephane Dujarric said on Monday.

Reuters

London unveils plans to tackle gang crimes

London, 3 June—The Mayor of London Boris Johnson on Monday unveiled the city's plans to tackle gang crimes in the future, underscoring prevention and early intervention for young people at risk of gang involvement.

"London has turned a corner with gang crime and serious youth violence down in the capital...It is working to ensure they are not drawn into gang culture in the first place and make it easier to leave when they are already involved," Johnson said while addressing a major international summit on gangs.

The London mayor said that while targeted enforcement remains vital to tackling gangs, there should be even greater focus on prevention in the years ahead.

Through the London Crime Prevention Fund (LCPF), the London Mayor's Office for Policing and Crime (MOPAC) is working with London's 32 boroughs, providing funding to 25 gangs projects worth 3 million pounds (5 million US dollars) per year over the next four years.

The majority of the 25 projects funded through the London Crime Prevention Fund are directed at prevention and early intervention for those at risk of gang involvement, and multi-agency enforcement and diversion for those already associated or already involved with gangs.

Other developments include the Crown Prosecution Service, introducing dedicated gangs prosecutors to ensure that these cases have specialist support, according to the London Mayor's Office.

A mentoring programme has reached its target to pair 1,000 at-risk young Londoners with personal mentors to help them steer clear of offending and reach their potential, Johnson said.

It is estimated that there are 3,495 identified gang members in London and around 224 known criminal gangs, according to statistics from the MOPAC. Shootings, stabbings and youth homicides have seen significant reductions, with teenage murders down from 29 in 2008 to 12 last year.— *Xinhua*

Spain's King Juan Carlos abdicates to revive monarchy

Madrid, 3 June — Spain's King Juan Carlos said on Monday he would abdicate in favour of his son Prince Felipe, aiming to revive the scandal-hit monarchy at a time of economic hardship and growing discontent with the wider political elite.

"A new generation is quite rightly demanding to take the lead role," Juan Carlos, 76, said on television, hours after a surprise announcement from Prime Minister Mariano Rajoy that the monarch would step down after almost 40 years on the throne.

The once-popular monarch, who helped to smooth Spain's transition to democracy in the 1970s after the Francisco Franco dictatorship, seemed increasingly out of touch in recent years.

He took a secret luxury elephant-hunting trip to Botswana in 2012, at a time when one in four Spanish workers was jobless and the government teetered on the brink of a debt default.

A corruption scandal in the family and his visible infirmity have also eroded public support. Polls show greater support for the low-key Felipe, 46, who has not been tarnished by the corruption allegations.

The king's younger daughter, Princess Cristina, and her husband, Inaki Urdangarin, are both under investigation and a judge is expected to decide soon whether to put Urdangarin on trial on charges of embezzling 6 million euros in public funds through his charity. He and Cristina deny wrongdoing.

Reuters

Serbian PM demands OSCE apology over allegations of censorship

Serbian Prime Minister and the leader of Serbian Progressive Party (SNS) Aleksandar Vucic

Belgrade, 3 June—Serbia's prime minister accused Europe's chief security and rights watchdog of lying on Monday after it alleged his government tried to smother online criticism of its handling of devastating floods last month.

Declaring himself "deeply worried" by the accusation, Prime Minister Aleksandar Vucic accused the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE) of waging the "dirtiest campaign" against him and Serbia.

Some 51 people died in Serbia and thousands more lost their homes in May when the heaviest rainfall recorded in more than a century caused rivers to burst their banks, submerging towns and washing away roads and bridges.

"From you, dear gentlemen from the OSCE, I expect a simple apology and nothing more," Vucic wrote to the Vienna-based organization. "Whether or not I get it, I want to inform you, dear gentlemen, that I will fight the lies you have spread."

Dunja Mijatovic, OSCE freedom of media representative, said in a statement last week she was deeply concerned about what she described as a "worrying trend of online censorship in Serbia". She cited the removal of online content perceived as critical of Belgrade's flood response and the detention of three people for allegedly spreading panic through online posts.

Serbia's human rights ombudsman also warned on Monday of an "emergency situation" in terms of freedom of expression. "The sequence of events ... suggests that this is not a question of someone's poor understanding of the situation, but an organized effort aimed at stifling criticism," Sasa Janovic told Serbia's B92 television.

Vucic is a former ultranationalist who served as information minister in the late 1990s, when independent media were fined and shuttered under draconian legislation designed to silence dissent as strongman Slobodan Milosevic readied for war with NATO over Kosovo.

He changed tack to embrace Serbia's path to European Union membership in 2008 and returned to government in 2012.

Vucic's strong grip on power has unnerved some in Serbia who fear a return to authoritarianism, something the prime minister has dismissed. Much of that fear has been channeled through blog posts and online media.

Using powers under a state of emergency declared during the flooding, police took three people in for questioning on suspicion of "inciting panic" by their online posts, and summoned about a dozen more.

In a statement, Mijatovic on Monday said she spoke with Vucic earlier in the day and "received assurances that he personally and his government will tackle these issues."

"My message to the government remains: these actions need to be investigated and those behind them must be held accountable," she said. "It is the role and duty of the government to protect and nurture freedom of expression whether online or offline."

Reuters

US says troop plan only guarantees NATO Afghan mission until end-2015

BRUSSELS, 3 June — President Barack Obama's decision to reduce US troop numbers in Afghanistan means a NATO plan to train Afghan security forces throughout the country is guaranteed to last only until the end of next year, the US ambassador to NATO said on Monday.

Obama last week outlined a plan to withdraw all but 9,800 American troops from Afghanistan by the end of this year and to pull out the rest by the end of 2016, ending a more than decade-old combat role triggered by the 11 September attacks on the United States.

The plan foresees a cut in the US troop presence to about half of the 9,800 number by the end of 2015, when US forces will pull back from provincial bases to Kabul and Bagram, the largest US base to the north of the capital.

Defence ministers from the 28 NATO nations, meeting in Brussels on Tuesday and Wednesday, will discuss the implications of the US timetable for NATO's plans to launch a new mission, dubbed "Resolute Support", next year to train and advise Afghan forces after most NATO combat troops leave by the end of 2014.

Several NATO diplomats said the US timetable raises questions about whether the alliance's plan to train the Afghan army from regional bases around Afghanistan can last for more than one year, given the reduced US presence after that.

NATO troops investigate the wreckage of a suicide bomber's car at the site of an attack in Kabul, on 10 February, 2014.—REUTERS

US ambassador to NATO Douglas Lute told a news briefing it was unclear if the NATO mission would last beyond 2015, even assuming the next Afghan president signed agreements with the United States and NATO on the legal basis for their presence.

"I would say that the announcement out of Washington … assured ... that we will have 'Resolute Support' for at least a year," he said.

"Now what follows that is going to depend on planning that hasn't been done yet. So I can't state beyond one year, but I think the US contribution solidifies 'Resolute Support' for the first year," he said.

A senior military representative from a NATO ally said he expected other NATO members to contribute 3,000-4,000 soldiers on top of the US commitment after 2014.

Under NATO's plan for its new training mission, Turkey has agreed to be the lead nation in Kabul, Germany in the northern town of Mazar-e-Sharif, Italy in the western town of Herat and the United States in the south and east.

But one senior NATO diplomat said the US troop reduction decision meant the planned NATO scheme of a hub in Kabul and four regional "spokes" would not be sustainable after 2015.

"It will be a slightly different model for 2016 and by the end of 2016 it will no longer really be a training, advise and assist mission at all," he said, speaking on condition of anonymity.

The US announcement raises questions over whether Germany and Italy will be prepared to continue to run the training and advisory mission from the north and west of Afghanistan after the United States scales down its presence by the end of 2015.

If they are not, the scope of the NATO training mission may shrink after 2015 and focus on mentoring Afghan officials in Kabul.

"As the US presence draws down, allies will have to make a judgment about what that means for them, for example, in the north in Mazar, or in the west in Herat in particular, and what their presence will look like," Lute said.

A key issue for other NATO allies is "enablers" — support forces such as strike aircraft and transport and refueling planes — the bulk of which have been provided by the United States.

Lute said the United States remained committed to contributing 'enablers', but added: "That doesn't mean that the US is going to provide resources for every single allied need in every single location. Because to some extent we view these as national obligations to support their own troops."

The 9,800 troops US troops that remain next year will be split between the NATO-led training mission and a US counter-terrorism mission against remaining al-Qaeda targets. US Defence Secretary Chuck Hagel told reporters traveling with him to Brussels that how these troops would be split up was to be decided and would depend on commitments of allies.—*Reuters*

Eleven EU countries to remain fail to achieve EU austerity target

BRUSSELS, 3 June — The European Commission on Monday recommended that the EU Council of Ministers close the Excessive Deficit Procedure (EDP) for 6 countries, suggesting the overall number of countries missed the austerity target will drop to 11.

At the moment there is an EDP ongoing for 17 EU Member States. This means all EU Member States except Bulgaria, Germany, Estonia, Italy, Hungary, Latvia, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Romania, Finland and Sweden are subject to an EDP. If the Council follows the Commission's Recommendations for closing the EDP for Austria, Belgium, Czech Republic, Denmark, The Netherlands and Slovakia, the overall number of countries in EDP will drop to 11.

The recommendations will be discussed and endorsed by EU leaders and ministers in June and formally adopted by EU finance ministers in July, as part of the European Semester, the EU's calendar for economic policy coordination.

A decision on closing an EDP is based on a "durable correction" of the excessive deficit.

The EDP is a rules-based process established in the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union to ensure that Member States correct gross fiscal policy errors.

There are two key reference values to open an EDP : one for the general government deficit (3 percent of GDP) and one for gross government debt (60 percent of GDP).

To ensure the correction of excessive deficits, member states in EDP are subject to recommendations that are to be respected by a certain deadline of regularly six months or three months for a serious breach.

Xinhua

Two citizens look at a vintage locomotive displayed on Tawan Street in Shenyang, capital of northeast China's Liaoning Province, on 2 June, 2014. —Xinhua

PERSPECTIVES

Wednesday, 4 June, 2014

Fences cannot prevent territorial disputes

By Aung Khin

Myanmar shares borders with five countries. Its land border of 5,876 kilometres is the longest in Southeast Asia.

Although Myanmar rarely has territorial disputes with neighbouring countries, some clashes have broken out, with most of the cases solved through diplomatic channels. The causes of some border conflicts and confrontations included drug and drug-related activities, unsuccessful border demarcation, flow of refugees, unabated strong sense of nationalism as well as vast discrepancies.

The problems with ethnic armed groups have contributed to border clashes in the past. Some neighbouring countries used these groups for a proxy war against each other. Border clashes usually arise out of anger of people in respective countries, tarnishing peaceful relationships between the countries.

As the world is now experiencing territorial disputes and power struggles of world powers, peace should be sustained among regional countries, which are still free from very serious clashes among the militaries.

Many times, Myanmar could resolve territorial disputes without strong conflicts. There are still some armed groups operating between Myanmar and most of the neighbouring countries. These armed groups on both sides now play a key role in maintaining peaceful relationships between the countries. Fences cannot prevent territorial disputes. Each country should respect the territory and the dignity of its neighbours.

Border disputes could mar trade or bilateral relations, leading to the suffering of people. While Myanmar and some neighbouring countries have internal problems ranging from ethnic conflicts to illegal migrants, Asian countries should practice mutual respect.

Write for us

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

Vision, Values and Valiance

3-V Strategy of Success

By Kyi Mun

In the 3-V Strategy:

- Vision is the HEAD
- Values are the HEART
- Valiance is the SOUL/SPIRIT

In this strategy, the supporting factor is the VIGOUR or Energy which represents the rest of the human body.

VISION -The Head of the Strategy

Vision is the Vivid PICTURE of the FUTURE which is planned to be shaped and carried out during a medium-term of roughly (5) years. In plain language, Vision is What You Want to Become in the Future. It is your DREAM - Life Dream, or Golden City. Vision is no Utopia, because it is SMART which represents:

- **S for Specific or Particular**
- **M for Measurable**
- **A for Achievable**
- **R for Realistic**
- **T for Time-bound or Deadline**

The Importance of Having A Vision

"If you don't have a dream, if I don't have a dream, how are we going to make a dream come true?"

-Mary Martin

"Where does one get "the vision"? Often the great vision is nothing more than "get rich" or "get power" on a grand scale. But many Great Captains looked at their world and saw where they could change things in a major way. Business managers face the same opportunities, although less bloody ones. Great managers must have great vision. They must see the possibilities that they can achieve. And then push themselves to achieve those visions. Truly great business leaders set for themselves great goals, then go after them."

-James Dunnigan & Daniel Masterson

"A vision expresses organizational values in that it is the result of picturing what could happen to the present organization after an extended application of those values. It is public extrapolation of those values and must be consistent with the leader's personal philosophy. To grasp and hold a vision, that is the very essence of successful leadership."

-President Ronald Reagan

"A vision seeks to inspire. It taps into what people believe they can be and want to be and what they are willing to endure in the effort to become. It connotes action. At its best, it is more than simply an incremental step away from the present. To truly inspire, there must be a leap of faith imbedded in a vision a hop of hope won't cut it. Only faith coupled with self-confidence can solidify a vision and inspire leaders and followers for the work ahead."

-Patrick L.Townsend & Joan E.Gebhardt

The Mission / Purpose of A Vision

A Vision usually must have a Mission which is to be carried out faithfully. Mission could be concerned with the (5)Ps or (5)Rs of :

- Prosperity
- Position
- Power
- Possessions
- Popularity
- Reason for Being/Existence
- Responsibility
- Rapport
- Resourcefulness
- Results

The Components of a Vision

A vision is usually composed of:

- V means Vitality/Virility/Viability
- I means Insight
- S means Strengths or Capabilities
- I means Innovativeness
- O means Opportunities
- N means Niching or Specializing

In short, VISION should be seen as the Grand Destination.

VALUES or the Heart of the Strategy

Value means what you deem to be precious and desirable. In other words, values are the principles and ideals that you believe in. Examples of values are:

- The personal values of Character, Competence, Commitment, Conviction, Courage and Caring
- The organizational values of Technical Skills & Knowledge, Conceptual Skills & Knowledge, Human/ Interpersonal Skills & Knowledge.

Organizational values also include such talents and attitudes as:

- The Right Mental Attitude
- The Can-Do-Spirit
- The Habit of Going the Extra Mile

Some Core Values

- Integrity
- Knowledge
- Courage
- Decisiveness
- Dependability
- Authenticity
- Constructiveness
- Initiative
- Tact
- Justice
- Enthusiasm
- Endurance
- Persistence
- Unselfishness
- Loyalty
- Judgment

Values represent BELIEFS and PRINCIPLES. The essence of a human being is his or her beliefs and principles such as Uprightness, Integrity, Helpfulness, Service, Altruism and so on. The Soul or the Spirit of an organization is its beliefs and principles manifested as the organizational Core Values such as Respect for Individual, Excellence and Service.

" The values will act as a constant reminder of where your heart and soul lie.

Values are judgment calls that you have made and reflect moral and ethical principles that you intend to uphold. *Common values that some people hold could be:*

- Being unfaithful is wrong.
- Family is more important than work.
- Being selfless is a virtue.

The difference between 'Truths' and 'Values' is that 'Truths' are evidence-based, whereas 'Values' are personal judgment calls."

-Dr. Steve Peters

Individuals as well as organizations desire and hanker after economic value and socio-cultural values. So, individuals and organizations are responsible to GIVE Economic VALUE while keeping Socio-cultural Values as their own beliefs and principles.

VALIANCE as the Spirit of the Strategy

Courage means:

- " Place duty over your personal desires or feelings.
- Look for and readily accept responsibilities.
- Speak in a calm tone; keep an orderliness in your thought processes; don't make any physical danger or hardship bigger than it really is.
- Stand for what is right, even in the face of popular disfavor.
- Never blame others for your mistakes.
- Recognize fear but control your emotions."

-Patrick L.Townsend & Joan E.Gebhardt

It is said that when courage is lost, all is lost. The Bible invariably exhorts us to **"Be Bold and Mighty Forces Will Come To Your Aid"**; "Be Strong and Of Good Courage; Be Not Afraid, Neither Be Thou Dismayed."

The English poet Tennyson urges us: "To Strive, To Seek, To Find and Not To Yield."

Also another Poet Guru advises: "To Dare Nobly, To Will Strongly and Never To Falter in the Path of Duty."

Bhagavad Gita also admonishes us to: "Fight Straight from Your Shoulders."

Valiance is the Spirit that Dares to: "Be Strong Inside, Permit No Defeat and Fight all You Can."

Valiance also means: "My Head Is Bloody But Unbowed; I am the Master of My Fate and the Captain of My Soul."

"Courage is an important trait if you want to inspire your followers."

"If a business leader does not have the courage to do the hard tasks, neither will the followers. Above all else, great managers take risks."

"Above all else, great managers take risks. Calculated risks, not rash ones. When subordinates see their leaders taking risks, they will be more likely to take risks. Conservative leaders breed conservative followers."

-James Dunnigan & Daniel Masterson

So, the 3-V Strategy of Success is for those who are Strong in Vision/ Mission, Values/ Beliefs and Valiance/ Courage. This 3-V Strategy is to be fully supported by VIGOUR, which means the STRENGTHS of an individual or an organization.

Ref : 1. Five-Star Leadership by Patrick L. Townsend and Joan E.Gebhardt
2. The Way of the Warrior by James Dunnigan & Daniel Masterson
3. The Mind Management by Dr. Steve Peters
4. You Were Born Rich by Bob Proctor

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

Panglong Sub-Township gets three new bridges

PANGLONG, 3 June— The inauguration of three concrete bridges took place in Sanin Village-tract of Panglong Sub-Township in southern Shan State on Sunday. The bridges were built with a fund by local people and the Progress of Border Areas and National Races Department under the Ministry of Border Affairs in 2013-14 fiscal year.

Loilem Township Administrator U Nay Myo Zaw and officials cut the ribbon to open the bridges.

Panglong is a sub-township where the Panglong Agreement was signed in 1947 by the national leaders during the period of independence struggles. Till today, the Panglong Monument is located in the sub-township as an Independence symbol of the nation.

Win Min Than (IPRD)

Pyinmana Township MCWA conducts basic tailoring course

PYINMANA, 3 June— The Myanmar Maternal and Child Welfare Association has given instructions to its branches to alleviate poverty of the people and conduct vocational training courses.

Pyinmana Township MCWA opened the basic tailoring course 1/2014 at the hall of Township General Administration Department in Nay Pyi Taw Council Area on Monday.

Chairperson of Township MCWA Daw Nye-in Nyein Aye reported to Vice-President of the MMCWA (Central) Daw Thet Thet Swe and officials on arrangements to provide tailoring course to the trainees.

Officials of the association presented teaching aid to the trainees at the opening ceremony.—*Myo Zeyar (Pyinmana)*

Cash assistance delivered to offspring of GAD staff in Zeyathiri

ZEYATHIRI, 3 June— Officials of Zeyathiri Township General Administration Department of Nay Pyi Taw Council Area presented cash assistance to offspring of its staff for the 2014-15 academic year on Monday.

Township Administrator U Myat Thein Tun and Chairperson of Township Women's Affairs Organization Daw Hla Hla Win gave school uniforms, copybooks and K10,000 each to 12 students at different levels.

Ko Myo (Shwe Paukkan)

TODAY'S MYANMAR NEWS SITES

Road being expanded for pedestrians, vehicles

TANINTHAYI, 3 June— With the aim of ensuring better transport for local people, township level officials and Upper House MP U Than Myint of Taninthayi Township donated K1 million for improving a 12 feet wide road from the police station to the health department in Taninthayi Township of Taninthayi Region.

"To fulfill the transport requirement of the residents, the fund was spent on expanding the concrete road without waiting for fund allotment by the government," said Chairman of Township Development Affairs Committee U In Ko.

Construction of the three-foot wide pedestrian way started on 29 May.

Nan Tharyi-Htein Win (IPRD)

Taninthayi Tsp residents get access to highway buses

TANINTHAYI, 3 June— Ngwe Phyo Khaing, Shwe Tharyi and Myeik Dagun express bus lines have begun serving the Myeik-Taninthayi-Myeik route in Taninthayi Region on a daily basis, authorities said on Tuesday.

Aung Si Min express bus now sells tickets for K5,000 per passenger, with the bus departing near Shwe Thar Yi bus terminal on 8th Street in Naukle Ward of Myeik at 8 am and 2 pm each day.—*Nan Tharyi-Htein Win (IPRD)*

Crop seeds, saplings given to farmers to raise living standard

NYAUNGSHWE, 3 June — A ceremony to present crop seeds and saplings to local farmers was held at the hall of Township General Administration Department in Nyaungshwe of southern Shan State on Monday, aimed at improving their standard.

A total of 1,040 kilos of Palethwe hybrid paddy seeds for 130 acres of farmlands and 2,025 saplings of dragon fruit for 9.64 acres of lands were distributed to farmers of Banpyin, Sanka and Indan village-tracts of the townships, said Head of Township Agriculture Department U Zaw Win Tun.

Officials also organized a demonstration of modern agricultural techniques at monsoon paddy model plots in two village-tracts.

Nay Myo Thurein

UN nuclear chief upbeat on Iran but says bomb probe will take time

VIENNA, 3 June — The head of the UN nuclear watchdog said on Monday that Iran had begun to engage substantively with a long-thwarted probe into suspected atom bomb research, but that more was needed to clear up his concerns.

Describing the investigation as a "jigsaw puzzle", Yukiya Amano made clear that it would not be finished before the 20 July deadline that Iran and six world powers have set for the conclusion of broader talks to settle a long-term dispute over Iran's nuclear programme.

But Amano said he did not believe the major powers expected the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) to finish its investigation by then. "That is not our timeline. It is their timeline. We will take the necessary time to resolve all the outstanding issues," he said.

The IAEA's inquiry focuses specifically on what it calls the possible military dimensions of Iran's atomic activities, notably whether it has worked on designing a nuclear warhead, a charge it denies.

"I can understand the expectation from many countries and people to accelerate the process, and I myself would like to see a speeding up," Amano, the IAEA's director general, told a news conference.

"Iran has engaged with the agency substantively, including in the clarification of issues related to the use of exploding bridge wire detonators," he earlier told a closed-door meeting of the IAEA's 35-nation board of governors.

The Islamic Republic says its uranium enrichment programme is a peaceful energy project, but the West fears it may be aimed at developing a nuclear weapons capability. Western diplomats have long accused Iran of stonewalling the IAEA's investigation.

US officials say it is vital for Iran to address the IAEA's concerns if the United States, France, Germany, Britain, China and Russia are to reach a long-term accord with Iran, setting a framework for its nuclear activity and ending international sanctions.

International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) Director General Yukiya Amano addresses a news conference after a board of governors meeting at the IAEA headquarters in Vienna on 2 June, 2014.—REUTERS

If needed, the sides can agree to extend the negotiations beyond the July target date, and some experts say this is looking increasingly likely in view of the big differences that need to be bridged.

The two sets of talks are separate but complementary as both focus on suspicions that Iran may covertly have sought the means and expertise to assemble nuclear weapons.

For several years, the IAEA has been investigating suspicions that Iran may have coordinated efforts to process uranium, test explosives and revamp a ballistic missile cone in a way suitable for a nuclear warhead. Iran says the allegations are false but has offered to help clarify them.

After years of increasing tension with the West - and fears of a new Middle East war breaking out— last June's election of the pragmatist Hassan Rouhani as Iranian president paved the way for a dramatic thaw in relations. However, the sides remain far apart on what a long-term nuclear agreement should look like.

Amano said Iran's cooperation with the UN agency under a step-by-step "Framework for Cooperation" agreed in November — which includes greater access and more information — had helped the IAEA "gain a better understanding" of the programme.

The relatively upbeat remarks suggested that he was becoming more hopeful of finally making headway in the investigation, despite Iran's continued refusal to provide access to the Parchin military base, where the IAEA suspects that nuclear-related explosives tests may have taken place.

Last month, Iran gave the UN watchdog information it had requested about one of the issues that are part of the IAEA's inquiry. Bridge wire detonators can be used, among other things, to set off an atomic explosive device. Iran also agreed to address two other areas of the investigation by 25 August.

Reuters

Gunmen kill nine in northeast Nigeria church attack

MAIDUGURI / ABUJA, 3 June — Gunmen opened fire on a church service in a remote village in northeastern Nigeria, killing nine people as worshippers fled into the bush, police and a witness said on Monday.

A member of the congregation said people jumped through windows to try to escape Sunday's attack in Attangara in the Gwoza hills — the main stronghold of Boko Haram militants waging an escalating campaign to carve out an Islamist state.

"As we were holding the service, we started hearing gunshots and everybody fled," Matha Yohana told *Reuters*.

"More than 10 of them (the gunmen) were riding motorcycles and one car," she said, adding some local people had pursued the attackers, killing four of them and capturing three. A police source said nine people were killed in the assault on the church.

Reuters

At least 20 killed, dozens wounded in clashes in Libya's Benghazi

BENGHAZI, (LIBYA) 3 June — At least 20 people were killed and almost 70 wounded when the Libyan army and forces of a renegade general fought Islamist militants in the eastern city of Benghazi on Monday, medical sources said.

Combat helicopters belonging to forces loyal to former army general Khalifa Haftar — who wants to purge the North African state of Islamist militants he says a weak government has failed to control — supported the army in the worst fighting in months.

At least 20 people were killed and 67 wounded in Benghazi alone, hospital doctors said. Some 18 wounded were reported in al-Marj, a town east of Benghazi, where fighting also broke out, medical sources said.

Libya is in protracted turmoil three years after the NATO-backed war that ousted Muammar Gaddafi, with Islamist, anti-Islamist, regional and political factions locked in conflict.

Irregular forces loyal to former army general Khalifa Haftar stand with their armed vehicles during clashes with Islamist militants in the eastern city of Benghazi on 2 June, 2014.—REUTERS

The Ansar al-Sharia militant group attacked a camp on Monday belonging to army special forces, residents there said. Haftar's forces joined the battle taking place in residential areas with frightened families staying indoors. Schools and universities were closed.

Special army troops were also seen moving reinforcements to the area of fighting in the west of Libya's second-largest city.

Haftar started a campaign to battle Islamists two weeks ago. Since then, public life has come almost to a standstill in the city, home to several oil companies. Its airport is closed.

On Sunday, a warplane belonging to Haftar bombed a university faculty while trying to attack a nearby Islamist camp. Two people were wounded.

The government, rival militia brigades and political factions rejected Haftar's offensive against militants as an attempted coup after his forces also stormed parliament a week ago.

Ansar al-Sharia, listed as a terrorist group by Washington, warned the United States last week against interfering in Libya's crisis and accused Washington of backing Haftar.

Gaddafi's one-man rule, followed by three years of unrest, have left Libya with few functioning institutions and no real national army to impose authority on the competing militias and brigades of former rebels who have become power-brokers.

The acting prime minister, Abdullah Al-Thinni, refused on Wednesday to hand over power to a newly elected premier. The OPEC oil producer now has two prime ministers and a parliament deadlocked by splits between factions.

Reuters

On election eve, ruined Homs shows cost of Syria's war

HOMS (Syria), 3 June — Less than a month after the last rebel fighters retreated from the centre of Homs, the sound of hammering echoes across its narrow, ancient streets as authorities rush to restore major landmarks.

No place is more symbolic of President Bashar al-Assad's military ascendancy in Syria's grinding, three-year conflict and the repair work carries a powerful message ahead of Tuesday's scripted presidential election, one he is guaranteed to win.

"Together, we rebuild," says a banner for Assad's re-election campaign, flanking the entrance to Umm al Zennar church in the central district of Bab Dreib. "Together, we want to live," says another.

Dazed residents returning home questioned how Syria's patchwork of Sunni Muslims, Alawites and Christians could ever be restored. The fighting has pitted overwhelmingly Sunni rebels, backed by foreign jihadi fighters, against the Alawite president and his Shi'ite backers in Iran, Lebanon and Iraq.

Reuters

A man on a motorcycle rides past a poster depicting Syria's President Bashar al-Assad on a wall in the pro-government al-Zahraa neighbourhood in Homs on 15 May, 2014.—REUTERS

Homework makes children fat: author

SYDNEY, 3 June—Children are overweight because of homework and parents should ban it from their homes, according to a controversial child care expert. Australian author Sharny Kieser urges parents to encourage their children to engage more in outside activities.

"There is no time to waste with new reports showing that the physical activity levels of Australian children are among the worst in the world. Instead of slaving over a computer or books in the few hours of daylight after school, our kids need to be out getting some exercise. Banning homework will produce healthier kids," she told the *Courier Mail.*

The warning is included in her new book Fit, Healthy, Happy Kids. It is the ninth book from the mother of four.

"Kids already spend six hours a day exercising their minds. More active kids are more intelligent kids. The body carries the mind," she said.

Christian Rowan Queensland, president of the Australian Medical Association, said television and computer use was a major factor in childhood obesity and inactivity.

"Reducing rates of childhood obesity requires a multifaceted approach that educates and encourages children to be more active and eat healthier. Low rates of physical activity are more likely attributed to our increased use of technology for entertainment than they are to homework. Parents should consider limiting screen time and encouraging their children to be more active," he said. A Department of Education, Training and Employment spokesperson said schools develop homework policy in consultation with the school community and parents.

"Teachers are best placed to decide the extent and type of homework that suits the individual learning needs of their students. If parents have any concerns with regard to their school's homework policy, they are encouraged to contact the principal to discuss these concerns," he said.

Xinhua

China's non-manufacturing PMI rises in May

BEIJING, 3 June—China's non-manufacturing activity further expanded in May, with the sector's purchasing managers' index (PMI) rising to 55.5 from 54.8 in April, official data showed on Tuesday.

The non-manufacturing PMI, compiled by the National Bureau of Statistics and the China Federation of Logistics and Purchasing, tracks activity in sectors including construction, software, aviation, railway transport and real estate. The rise marks the second straight month of improvement, following a 0.3-point rebound in April and a decline in March. In January, the index hit its lowest level in more than a year at 53.4.

A PMI reading above 50 indicates expansion, while a reading below 50 reflects contraction.

Tuesday's reading came after strengthened manufacturing data freshly released on Sunday. Latest official survey showed China's manufacturing PMI increased to 50.8 in May, hitting a five-month high and adding to signs of a stabilizing economy.

Xinhua

One in eight US children experiences maltreatment

NEW YORK , 3 June—About one in eight American children and adolescents will experience maltreatment by adulthood, according to a new study.

The estimate is higher than the average 0.8 percent of children who are found to be victims of maltreatment during any given year, according to the study's lead author.

"That 12.5 percent of children get to a point where their maltreatment is confirmed highlights just how big of a risk factor this is for children," said Christopher Wildeman. Even that may be a dramatic underestimate because there could be cases that can't be confirmed or others that go unreported, Wildeman, a sociologist at Yale University in New Haven, Connecticut, told *Reuters Health.*

Maltreatment can encompass everything from neglect to physical, mental and sexual abuse.

Beyond the immediate danger to the child, Wildeman said maltreatment may have long-lasting effects, too. "These instances of neglect are extreme enough that they could have really detrimental effects on the children for the long haul," he said.

For their study, the researchers used data on 5.7 million children with confirmed reports of maltreatment between 2004 and 2011 included in the National Child Abuse and Neglect Data System Child File. They estimate about one in eight children will experience maltreatment by age 18, based on the 2011 rates.

Those rates are higher among minority children, with one in five black children estimated to experience maltreatment by adulthood and one in seven Native Americans.

Wildeman and his colleagues write in *JAMA Pediatrics* that black children are about as likely to be victims of confirmed child maltreatment as they are to complete college.

Children were most at risk of maltreatment during their first few years of life, with about 6 percent experiencing some kind of abuse or neglect by the time they were five years old, the researchers found.—*Reuters*

Nikkei leads gains in Asian shares after solid US data

TOKYO , 3 June — The Nikkei led Asian shares higher on Tuesday, supported by solid US and Chinese manufacturing data, while the euro dragged its feet near a 3 1/2-month low on expectations of fresh monetary easing by the European Central Bank.

Japan's Nikkei .N225 hit a two-month high and last traded up 0.8 percent while MSCI's broadest index of Asia-Pacific shares outside Japan .MIAPJ0000PUS rose 0.2 percent, nearing a one-year high hit last week.

Asian shares were bolstered by the US Institute for Supply Management's manufacturing activity index rising to 55.4 in May from 54.9 in April.

The data caused some confusion during US trade because the ISM initially announced a far weaker 53.2 and took nearly three hours to issue a correction.

In the end, though, the corrected figure was nearly in line with expectations. Coupled with other data showing a rise in construction spending, it suggested a healthy recovery after the first quarter's weather-related contraction.

The data followed a gauge of China's factory activity showing expansion at the fastest pace in five months in May, helping to lift MSCI's world index .MIWD00000PUS to a 6-1/2-year intraday high about 1.5 percent away from its lifetime record set in late 2007.

"On the whole, the world's economy is looking up, growing at a moderate pace," said Ayako Sera, senior market economist at Sumitomo Mitsui Trust Bank.

Pedestrians walk past an electronic board showing the graph of the recent movement of Japan's Nikkei average outside a brokerage in Tokyo on 13 May, 2014.
REUTERS

As solid gains in equity prices undermined the allure of safe-haven assets, gold XAU= flirted with a four-month low of $1,240.65 an ounce hit on Monday, having fallen for five days in a row. It last traded at $1,243.80.

Silver XAG= also stood near a one-year low of $18.60 hit on Friday, changing hands at $18.79.—*Reuters*

Apple unwraps 'Healthkit' alongside Mac, iPhone features

SAN FRANCISCO, 3 June — Apple Inc on Monday took the wraps off mobile applications that pool and analyze health and home data, kicking off an annual developers' conference lacking in big surprises, despite hopes the iPhone maker would offer a glimpse into its secretive pipeline of products.

Apple Chief Executive Tim Cook and software-engineering boss Craig Federighi told several thousand developers about new features that come with the latest "Yosemite" Mac platform and iOS8, the software that powers the iPhone and iPad.

Apple shares slid 0.7 percent to close at $628.65.

Investors are waiting for Cook to keep a promise to create new product categories. Last week, Internet services chief Eddy Cue said the pipeline was the best he had seen in more than two decades. "The Healthkit has the most potential for the future," said Nils Kassube, a director of development at Newscope, a Germany-based consulting firm. "Those of us that are interested in health need a platform for sharing information." On Monday, executives talked about "Healthkit," which will pull together data such as blood pressure and weight now collected by a growing number of healthcare apps on the iPhone or iPad. The company also announced an app, dubbed "Health" that will be an integral part of iOS 8.—*Reuters*

***Apple CEO Tim Cook delivers his keynote address at the World Wide developers conference in San Francisco, California on 2 June, 2014.—*REUTERS**

Australian PM Abbott to meet Indonesian president as tensions ease

JAKARTA, 3 June — Indonesian President Susilo Bambang Yudhoyono will meet Australia's Prime minister this week, Foreign Minister Marty Natalegawa said on Monday, a sign of eased relations between the neighbours.

Prime Minister Tony Abbott's visit will be the first since late last year, when often tense relations hit a new low over media revelations that Australia had spied on top Indonesian officials, including the president and his wife.

Visiting Indonesian President Susilo Bambang Yudhoyono gestures as he delivers a speech during his visit at the presidential palace in Manila on 23 May, 2014.

"The meeting will give a chance to both leaders to review the status of the relationship at this time," Natalegawa told reporters. "The ball is in Australia's court to explain the problem of wiretapping and asylum seekers."

The meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, Natalegawa said. Ties have also been strained over the handling of asylum seekers who attempt to sail to Australia via Indonesia. Australia has started implementing a "turn back the boats", towing back to Indonesia often leaky vessels carrying asylum seekers, a practice Natalegawa criticises as "unhelpful".

Indonesia suspended military and police cooperation over preventing asylum seekers from travelling to Australia in the aftermath of the spying scandal. Yudhoyono in December presented a six-point plan for restoring good relations, including a code of conduct on intelligence matters. Indonesia's ambassador is expected to return to his post in Canberra by the end of May, after having been recalled as the diplomatic rift deepened over the spying claims.

Abbott is scheduled to continue on to France, Canada and the United States, the prime minister's office said. — *Reuters*

Abe's N Korea visit one option to settle abduction issue: Kishida

TOKYO, 3 June — A visit to North Korea by Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe may be one option to completely settle the decades-old issue of Pyongyang's abduction of Japanese nationals, Foreign Minister Fumio Kishida said on Tuesday.

Kishida, speaking at the day's session of the House of Councillors Foreign Affairs and Defense Committee, said the government would study a trip by Abe to North Korea to resolve the abduction issue.

The foreign minister said, however, "nothing has been decided at present" with regard to the possible North Korea visit by Abe.

During intergovernmental talks between the two countries in Stockholm last week, North Korea agreed to reinvestigate the fate of Japanese citizens it abducted in the 1970s and 1980s. The Japanese government says North Korea abducted 17 Japanese nationals. Among the victims was Megumi Yokota, who was kidnapped to North Korea at age 13 in 1977.

When Japanese Prime Minister Junichiro Koizumi visited Pyongyang in September 2002, North Korea admitted to having abducted 13 Japanese nationals. Five of the 13 later repatriated to Japan.

Kyodo News

Asia think tanks aim to make mark in easing regional tensions

TOKYO, 3 June — At a time when governments and policymakers in the Asian region are struggling to find common ground on contentious issues such as territorial disputes, think tanks are trying to tap into their unique roles to bridge the gaps.

Ruan Zongze, vice president of the China Institute of International Studies, said at a recent forum in Tokyo that territorial and maritime disputes in the region have intensified in the past two to three years and that the "challenge for us is how to manage those disputes." Ruan was in Tokyo to join fellow think tank experts in the second Asia Think Tank Summit, organized by the Tokyo-based Asian Development Bank Institute together with the University of Pennsylvania's Think Tanks and Civil Societies Program, in late May.

"If we don't handle them (political tensions) properly, it will surely undermine the prospect of further economic integration in the region," he said.

Ruan said think tanks can help by reaching out and engaging the public and media, and by forging "international collaboration in formulating ideas," with an eye to going beyond national borders and looking at the global context.

Tensions remain strong between China and Japan, as well as China and some ASEAN countries, notably Vietnam and the Philippines, over the sovereignty of different sets of islands in the East China and South China seas.

At the forum, which was open to the media, Ruan spoke of their discussions at the think tank summit and how their organizations and think tanks in general could contribute to stronger ties in the region as the Association of Southeast Asian Nations aims to create an ASEAN economic community by 2015. Takashi Shiraishi, president of the Tokyo-based Institute of Development Economies-JETRO, acknowledged that the current situation shows there is "clearly tension mounting between the regional economic architecture and regional security system."

Despite the hostile environment politically, experts said think tanks can conduct joint research with their foreign counterparts to bolster ties at their level when relations between governments are strained.

Other than the headline-making maritime disputes, attention is also focused on ASEAN for what it can offer -- a promising untapped market for the world and ample supply of labor -- although it still has a long way to go to address development needs.

ASEAN faces "increasing challenges that can't be addressed by one country alone or one sector," Veerathai Santiprabhob, adviser to the Thailand Development Research Institute, said, highlighting the need for a transnational approach to address challenges such as movement of professionals within the ASEAN region.

Kyodo News

Ex-Chinese State Councilor Tang to attend Nagasaki meeting

TOKYO, 3 June — Tang Jiaxuan, former Chinese state councilor and head of the China-Japan Friendship Association, will attend a two-day conference starting on Thursday in southwestern Japan's Nagasaki Prefecture, the Foreign Ministry said on Tuesday. Tang, an influential politician who has long been in charge of Chinese policy toward Japan, will take part in a meeting of the New Japan-China Friendship Committee for the 21st Century, which will bring together experts from the two countries, the ministry said.

Tang will chair the committee together with Taizo Nishimuro, president of Japan Post Holdings Co. The conference in the city of Nagasaki is expected to discuss ways to improve and further develop bilateral relations. —*Kyodo News*

Indian minister killed in head-on collision

NEW DELHI, 3 June — Indian Rural Development Minister Gopinath Munde died on Tuesday after a head-on road collision in New Delhi, depriving Prime Minister Narendra Modi of a senior ally just eight days after he took office. Munde was injured while driving to the capital's airport and died later in hospital.

"An accident took place earlier in the morning, following which he was taken to the Safdarjung Hospital in Delhi. Doctors declared him dead at about 8 am," Transport Minister Nitin Gadkari told reporters. Munde, 64, was conscious and able to talk to his bodyguard after the accident. He died in hospital from cardiac arrest, Gadkari added.

"Condolences to Munde's family. We stand by them in this hour of grief," Modi said in a tweet. "My tributes to a dynamic leader whose premature demise leaves a void hard to fill." Gopinath was deputy chief minister in the western state of Maharashtra from 1995 to 1999 and elected twice to India's lower house of parliament, in 2009 and 2014. He had served as deputy leader of Modi's Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) in parliament. The position of rural development is a crucial one in Modi's government, which faces a huge challenge to tackle rural poverty. Over half the population lives in the countryside but generates just 14 percent of gross domestic product.— *Reuters*

Sand storm kills four in Iran's capital

TEHERAN, 3 June — An unprecedented sandstorm killed four and injured scores in Iran's capital Teheran on Monday afternoon, local media reported. Based on the preliminary reports, four people died and 27 were injured as the massive sandstorm engulfed Teheran suddenly, Iran's Emergency Chief Amin Saberinia told semi-official *ISNA* news agency.

"Three of the people died as the uprooted tree fell on them and the other fell down from the roof top," Saberinia said.

The storm, estimated to have the speed of 110 kilometre per hour, hit the telephone lines and electricity suppliers in the city.

Xinhua

People cross a street in dust storm in Teheran, capital of Iran, on 2 June, 2014. At least 5 people have been killed and more than 30 other injured during a heavy dust storm in Teheran on Monday evening. **XINHUA**

ADVERTISEMENT

THE GOVERNMENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF THE UNION OF MYANMAR
MINISTRY OF ENERGY

Dated: 1st June, 2014

INVITATION FOR EXPRESSION OF INTEREST TO CONDUCT JOINT VENTURE PROJECTS IN MYANMAR ONSHORE DRILLING OPERATIONS

l. Myanma Oil and Gas Enterprise (MOGE), under Ministry of Energy, is interested to establish Joint Venture Project(s) for Drilling Service using its own four Drilling Rigs with well experienced international drilling companies for mutual interest to participate in future onshore drilling activities in Myanmar. MOGE hereby invites all interested drilling companies to submit the letter of expression of interest for joint venture project(s) using the following four drilling rigs in single or multiple basis:-

(1) Continental Emsco (2000 HP Deep Rig)
(2) USS Oilwell (2000 HP Deep Rig)
(3) D-3 Type-2 Sr.II (1000 HP Medium Rig) and
(4) National 55 Sr.I (700 HP Medium Rig).

2. All interested foreign drilling companies are cordially invited to submit the Letter of Expression of Interest, together with the following documents endorsed by Myanmar Embassy in the respective country.
   (a) Certificate of Incorporation
   (b) Memorandum of Association
   (c) Article of Association
   (d) Latest Annual Report
   (e) Latest Financial Statements or financial reports for the last five years
   (f) Detailed Track Record
3. The application letter shall be submitted in sealed envelopes and sent to the following address not later than 16: 30 pm on 30th June, 2014;-

Managing Director
Myanma Oil and Gas Enterprise
PO Box 1049.
Building No. 44, Nay Pyi Taw
The Republic of the Union of Myanmar

4. The Potential bidders will be short listed and presented with general overview of each Drilling Rig consisting of representative data and information by teams from Myanma Oil and Gas Enterprise. The potential bidders who passed Pre-Qualification process will be invited to submit tender proposal.
5. For more information, please contact the following:-
   (1) Director (Planning), Myanma Oil and Gas Enterprise, Nay Pyi Taw, Myanmar
   Tel: 95-67 411347
   Fax: 95-67 411346, email: thierry.min@gmail.com
   (2) Director (Drilling), Myanma Oil and Gas Enterprise, Nay Pyi Taw, Myanmar
   Tel: 95-67 411329
   Fax: 95-67 411128, email: dd.moge.npt@gmail.com

MYANMA OIL AND GAS ENTERPRISE,
MINISTRY OF ENERGY,
THE REPUBLIC OF THE UNION OF MYANMAR
INVITATION FOR JOINT VENTURE OR ALLIANCE PROJECTS IN ONSHORE SEISMIC ACQUISITION SERVICES,

Dated: Ist June, 2014

1. Myanma Oil and Gas Enterprise (MOGE), a state-owned Enterprise under the Ministry of Energy, the Republic of the Union of Myanmar is planning to establish joint venture OR alliance project between MOGE and interested party for onshore seismic acquisition services.
2. Myanma Oil and Gas Enterprise primarily intend to conduct as seismic acquisition services contractor for onshore blocks exploration work.
3. Interested parties are cordially invited to submit "the Letter of Expression of Interest" ("LEOI") together with (1) Article of Association (AOA), (2) Memorandum of Association (MOA), (3) Certificate of Incorporation, (4) Latest Annual Report, (5) Latest Financial Statement of Financial Report, (6) Detail Track Record of Seismic Acquisition Work of Company. The LEOI must outline a statement of firm capability to undertake this project, including similar projects undertaken over the past ten years.
4. All documents are to be endorsed for authenticity by the respective Embassy of Republic of the Union of Myanmar at the place of Company's registration OR establishment of nearest, in sealed envelopes superscripted **"Confidential" "Myanmar Onshore Seismic Acquisition Services"** to the following address not later than 5:00 p.m., by 30 June 2014.

Managing Director
Myanma Oil and Gas Enterprise
Ministry of Energy
Building No. 44, Nay Pyi Taw
The Republic of the Union of Myanmar

5. The potential bidders who passed pre-qualification will be invited to discuss with MOGE and to inspect MOGE's own onshore seismic acquisition unit.
6. Then, the potential bidders must submit final proposal for joint venture or alliance seismic acquisition services project.
7. For further inquiry (and/or) information, please contact the followings.

(1) Managing Director
Myanma Oil and Gas Enterprise
Ministry of Energy
Building No. 44, Nay Pyi Taw
The Republic of the Union of Myanmar
Tel: 95-67-411055/411056
Fax: 95-67-411125

(2) Director (Exploration/Development)
Myanma Oil and Gas Enterprise
Ministry of Energy
Building No. 44, Nay Pyi Taw
The Republic of the Union of Myanmar
Tel: 95-67-411110
Fax: 95-67-411326
Email: ed.moge.npt@gmail.com

THE GOVERNMENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF THE UNION OF MYANMAR
MINISTRY OF ENERGY
MYANMA OIL AND GAS ENTERPRISE

Dated: 1st June, 2014

INVITATION FOR EXPRESSION OF INTEREST FOR MYANMAR ONSHORE PIPELINE JOINT VENTURE

1. Myanma Oil and Gas Enterprise (MOGE), a state owned enterprise under the Ministry of Energy, the Republic of the Union of Myanmar is planning to establish Joint Venture project between Myanma Oil and Gas Enterprise and interested party for onshore pipeline construction and maintenance works.
2. All interested foreign pipeline companies are cordially invited to submit "the Letter of Expression of Interest" together with the following documents endorsed by the respective Embassy of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar at the place of Company's registration or establishment for authenticity.
   (a) Article of Association
   (b) Memorandum of Association
   (c) Certificate of Incorporation
   (d) Latest Annual Report
   (e) Financial Statement for the Last Five Years
   (f) Detail Track Records
3. All documents shall be submitted in a sealed envelope superscripted **"Confidential" "Myanmar Onshore Pipeline Construction and Maintenance Services"** to the following address not later than 16:30 pm, by 30th June, 2014.

Managing Director
Myanma Oil and Gas Enterprise (MOGE)
Ministry of Energy
Building No. 44, Nay Pyi Taw
The Republic of the Union of Myanmar

4. The Potential bidder who passed the Pre-Qualification shall be invited to discuss with MOGE and to inspect MOGE's pipeline construction facilities including machineries and then invited to submit a tender proposal.
5. For more information, please contact the followings:-

(1) Managing Director
Myanma Oil and Gas Enterprise
Tel: 95-67 411055 / 411056
Fax: 95-67 411125 / 411178

(2) Director Engineering
Tel: 95-67 411111
Fax: 95-67 411341
Email: mogedirengg@energy.gov.mm

(1) Managing Director, Myanma Oil and Gas Enterprise, Nay Pyi Taw, Myanmar
Tel: 95-67 411055/ 411056
Fax: 95-67 411125/ 411178
(2) Director (Planing), Myanma Oil and Gas Enterprise, Nay Pyi Taw, Myanmar
Tel: 95-67 411347
Fax: 95-67 411346, email: thierry.min@gmail.com

THE GOVERNMENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF THE UNION OF MYANMAR
MINISTRY OF ENERGY

Dated: 1st June, 2014

INVITATION FOR EXPRESSION OF INTEREST FOR CONSULTANCY SERVICE IN ESTABLISHING JOINT VENTURES

1. Myanma Oil and Gas Enterprise, under Ministry of Energy, is interested to establish Joint Venture / Alliance projects for the following services with any potential partner who is reputable and internationally recognized in the related field.
   (a) Drilling Service
   (b) Seismic Acquisition Service
   (c) Pipeline Construction and Maintenance Services
2. The scope of this assignment, which is to commence on around 1st day of August 2014, is to help in legal and technical assessment as required in JV processes, tender document preparation, inspection and prequalification of bidders, JV agreement and contract preparation. Duration of the assignment will be 6 months or may be extended.
3. Interested consultants or consultancy firms are invited to express their interest in undertaking the above consultancy not later than 16:30 pm on 30th June, 2014 by submitting (3) sets of documents containing the following information as a minimum.
   (a) Broad approach to the assignment and appreciation of the requirements
   (b) Job reference for consultancy service of establishing Joint Venture work with similar nature for the last five years.
   (c) Background and organization of the company
   (d) An indication of key staff likely to be employed for the assignment (together with their curriculum vitae)
   (e) An indication of sub-consultants to be employed if any
   (f) Provisional Quotation
4. The letter of expression of interest together with above documents shall be submitted in a sealed envelope to the following address,

The Managing Director
Myanma Oil and Gas Enterprise
Complex 44, Nay Pyi Taw
The Republic of the Union of Myanmar
Tel: 95-67 411055/ 411056
Fax: 95-67 411125/ 411178

5. For further inquiry for information, please contact the followings:-

Advertise with us!
For inquries to place an advertisement in the NLM, Please email wallace.tun@gmail.com

MINISTRY OF ELECTRIC POWER
DEPARTMENT OF HYDROPOWER IMPLEMENTATION
INVITATION TO TENDER

1. Qualified Contractors and/or Joint Venture are invited to submit Tender Proposals in United State Dollars for the 132 kV Transmission Line and Substation, Shwe Li (3) HPP Contract:
2. Closing Date of Tender Acquisition - 26.6.2014 (16:00) pm
   Tender Submission Date - 24.7.2014 (12:00) pm
3. Tender Invitation Letter and Documents with detail informations shall be available at the following address.

Tender Invitation Committee
Department of Hydropower Implementation
Office No. (27), Nay Pyi Taw
Phone: 067 413531, 09250345349, 09 450539248
Fax : 067413531

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

MV PANJA BHUM VOY NO (018)

Consignees of cargo carried on MV PANJA BHUM VOY NO (018) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 4.6.2014 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of A.W.P.T where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

SHIPPING AGENCY DEPARTMENT
MYANMA PORT AUTHORITY
AGENT FOR: M/S WAN HAI LINES PTE LTD
Phone No: 2301185

THE REPUBLIC OF THE UNION OF MYANMAR
MINISTRY OF ENERGY
MYANMA OIL AND GAS ENTERPRISE
(INVITATION FOR OPEN TENDER)
(11/2014)

Open tenders are invited for supply of the following respective items in United States Dollars/ Kyats.

Sr.No	Tender No	Description	Remark
(1)	IFB -019(14-15)	Geological Survey Instrument and Field Equipment (2) Items	US$
(2)	IFB -020(14-15)	Data Processing Center & Interpretation Work Station (1) Lot	US$
(3)	IFB -021(14-15)	Mud Agitator Unit with Motor Driven (7.5 KW) (3) Units	US$
(4)	IFB -022(14-15)	Spares for K-700A Rig Pump & K-280 Mixing Pump (12) Items	US$
(5)	IFB -023(14-15)	Spares for Triplex Mud Pump (Bentonite Pump) Ex HDD Rig (14) Items	US$
(6)	IFB -024(14-15)	Spares for HDD Rig (13) Items	US$
(7)	IFB -025(14-15)	Spares for Cabot Franks Servicing Truck (1) Item	US$
(8)	IFB -026(14-15)	Fire Fighting Truck (5000 L) (1) Unit	US$
(9)	IFB -027(14-15)	Stirred Fluid Loss Cell (Model-7120) (1) Set	US$
(10)	DMP/L-008(14-15)	Transformer Welding Set with Accessories (1) Lot	Kyats

-Tender Closing Date & Time - 23-6-2014, 16:30 Hr.

Tender Document shall be available during office hours commencing from 2nd June, 2014 at the Finance Department, Myanma Oil and Gas Enterprise, No (44) Complex, Nay Pyi Taw, Myanmar.

Myanma Oil and Gas Enterprise
Ph: +95 67 - 411097/411206

Deejay Casey Kasem in stable condition in Washington

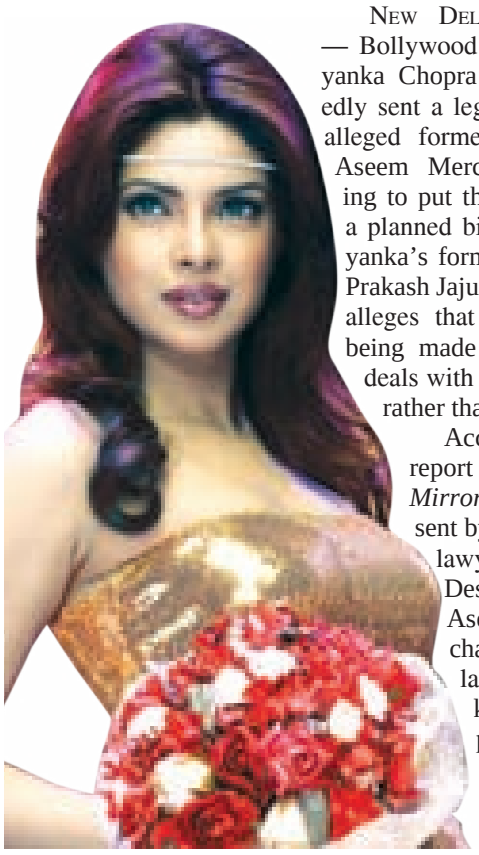
US television and radio personality Casey Kasem

LOS ANGELES, 3 June — Radio personality Casey Kasem, whose family has been locked in a legal battle over his care, is in stable condition in a Washington State hospital, the spokesman for the deejay's children said on Monday.

Danny Deraney, the spokesman for Kasem's children from his first marriage, said the family was still waiting for test results on his condition. Kasem, 82, who is suffering from of a form dementia, was taken to a hospital after suffering from apparent lung and bladder infections as well as bed sores, Kasem's sister-in-law, Mary Kasem, told NBC News on Sunday.

Kasem's daughter, Kerri Kasem, last month was granted control over her father's care after Kasem's wife, Jean, had taken him from Los Angeles to Washington without notice. The deejay most famous for his weekly top 40 countdown radio show and voice-over work, suffers from Lewy body disease, a form of dementia with symptoms similar to Parkinson's disease and hallucinations.—*Reuters*

Priyanka Chopra sends legal notice to alleged former boyfriend Aseem Merchant



NEW DELHI, 3 June — Bollywood actress Priyanka Chopra has reportedly sent a legal notice to alleged former boyfriend Aseem Merchant, seeking to put the brakes on a planned biopic of Priyanka's former manager Prakash Jaju. The actress alleges that the biopic, being made by Aseem, deals with her own life rather than Mr Jaju's.

According to a report in *Mumbai Mirror*, the notice, sent by Priyanka's lawyer Anand Desai, accuses Aseem Merchant of violating Priyanka's right to privacy. It states, "Our client is shocked to note that while all the news articles mention the proposed film as your (Jaju's) biopic, the promotions largely refer to our client and inclusion of aspects of her and her family life rather than references to you.

You are intending to collude with Mr Merchant in violation of our client's rights, including right to privacy, defaming our client and lowering her reputation, seeking to subject her to hatred and ridicule.

Our client calls upon you to withdraw all the publicity material of the film with immediate effect, desist using or referring to any personal or confidential information about her and/or her family, desist from producing, releasing the proposed film and tender an unconditional apology to her."—*PTI*

South Korean casino hopes Chelsea's Mourinho will lure Chinese punters

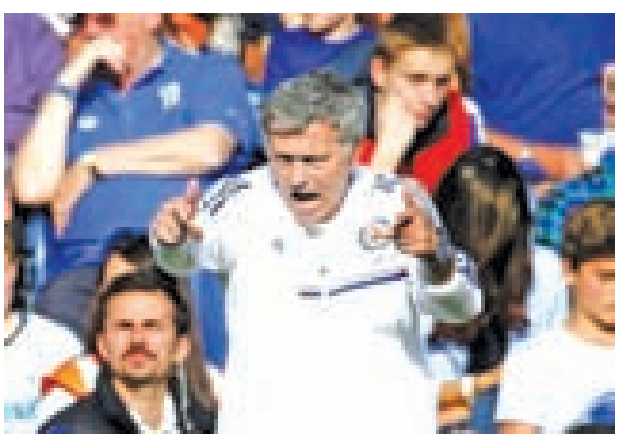
SEOUL, 3 June — South Korean casino operator Paradise Co has hired Jose Mourinho, the outspoken manager of English football giants Chelsea, as the face of its new advertising campaign to lure punters from China, where the sport is increasingly popular.

Paradise is teaming up with Japan's Sega Sammy Holdings Inc to build a $1.7 billion (1 billion pounds) casino resort in the coastal city of Incheon, near the country's main international airport, with construction to be completed in 2017.

It faces steep competition from operators like Genting Singapore PLC and Caesars Entertainment Corp, which are moving to build their own tourist-focused resorts in South Korea, where all but one of the existing 17 casinos are open only to foreigners.

Paradise hopes Mourinho, a football manager with a string of accomplishments that includes the UEFA Champions League titles in 2004 and 2010, will now kick goals for the casino and win over Chinese customers. He replaces Hollywood superstar Robert De Niro as Paradise's brand ambassador.

Reuters



Chelsea manager Jose Mourinho

Actress Lupita Nyong'o cast in new 'Star Wars' film

LOS ANGELES, 3 June — Oscar-winning actress Lupita Nyong'o has been cast in the upcoming "Star Wars: Episode VII," Walt Disney Co's Lucasfilm said on Monday.

Nyong'o, whose first film role last year in "12 Years a Slave," earned her the Academy Award for best supporting actress, will also joining Gwendoline Christie of HBO's "Game of Thrones," in the film. Their roles have not been announced.

Nyong'o, 31, a Kenyan born in Mexico and educated at Yale University, became the darling of this year's Hollywood awards season for her emotionally raw portrayal of Patsey as well as her fashion choices on the red carpet.

''Star Wars: Episode VII,'' will open worldwide on 18 Dec, 2015, and will also star Adam Driver, Oscar Isaac, Andy Serkis, John Boyega and Daisy Ridley.The film, directed by ''Star Trek'' filmmaker J.J. Abrams, will also feature original ''Star Wars'' actors Harrison Ford, Carrie Fisher and Mark Hamill.

Disney has promised three new installments in George Lucas' six-film saga after it purchased Lucasfilm in 2012 for $4.05 billion. Disney also plans to release ''Star Wars'' spinoff films that are considered standalones from the saga. — *Reuters*

Actress Lupita Nyong'o

CONDOLENCES
U Hla Htway Aged (84) years
Correspondent to Nikkei Inc.

We would like to express our deepest condolences at the loss of U Hla Htway who have contributed much to Nikkei Inc, as a correspondent for more than two decades, at 1:30 am June 3, 2014. Our prayers are with him and his family.

Nikkei Inc. (Yangon Bureau)

CONDOLENCES
U Hla Htway Aged (84) years
Founding Father & Patron

Foreign Correspondents Club of Myanmar

We would like to express our deepest condolences at the loss of U Hla Htway (Nikkei Shimbun), the founding father and patron of Foreign Correspondents Club of Myanmar as well as the beloved father of our members U Thitsa Hla Htway (TBS), and U Thurein Hla Htway (Nikkei Shimbun) at 1:13 am June 3, 2014.

Members of Foreign Correspondents Club of Myanmar

Chelsea great Lampard ends 13-year spell at club

Chelsea's Frank Lampard acknowledges crowd at end of his team's Champion's League semi-final first leg soccer match against Atletico Madrid at Vicente Calderon stadium in Madrid, on 22 April, 2014 file photo.
REUTERS

LONDON , 3 June — Chelsea will have a massive void to fill in midfield next season after the club's all-time record goalscorer Frank Lampard announced on Monday he was ending his 13-year spell at Stamford Bridge.

The England World Cup player, who joined the Premier League club from London rivals West Ham United in 2001 for a fee of 11 million pounds, scored 211 goals in all competitions for Chelsea.

"Whatever the next challenge is for me I will always be amongst you and have Chelsea in my heart," Lampard told the club's fans in a statement.

"Hopefully I will get to see you all soon to say goodbye properly. In the meantime thank you for the memories and keep making history."

Lampard, who turns 36 on 20 June and will be England's vice-captain at the World Cup in Brazil, is out of contract and has been linked with a move to new Major League Soccer franchise New York City.

The New York club announced earlier on Monday that Spain World Cup forward David Villa had signed on a three-year deal from Atletico Madrid.

Lampard won three Premier League titles, four FA Cups, two League Cups, the Europa League and the Champions League with Chelsea.

"When I arrived at this fantastic club 13 years ago I would never have believed that I would be fortunate enough to play so many games and enjoy sharing in so much success," he said.

"This club has become part of my life and I have so many people to thank for the opportunity. Firstly (former chairman) Ken Bates, who put his neck on the line to sign me as a young player and without him I would not have even begun this experience.

"Roman Abramovich, the man who saved our club and took us all to new levels. His desire to push the club to the top of the football world has rubbed off on everyone," he added, referring to the Russian billionaire who bought the club in 2003.

Lampard was brought to Chelsea by manager Claudio Ranieri and the player struggled to prove his worth in his first season at Stamford Bridge.

The Londoner started to blossom in his second campaign and it was his two goals at Bolton Wanderers, in Jose Mourinho's maiden season in charge in 2004-05, that sealed the club's first top-flight title in 50 years. Lampard, by then, had turned into the modern-day version of England 1966 World Cup winner Bobby Charlton, with a penchant for spectacular long-range goals.

Reuters

Italy player Sara Errani beats Serbia's Jelena Janovic at French Open Sara Errani of Italy celebrates after the Women's Singles fourth round match against Jelena Jankovic of Serbia on day 9 of the French Open at Roland Garros in Paris on 2 June , 2014. Sara Errani won 7-6(5), 6-2. — XINHUA

Two cops injured in firing on police vehicle in Islamabad

ISLAMABAD, 3 June — Two police personnel were injured when unidentified gunmen opened fire at a police vehicle in Pakistan's capital Islamabad on Tuesday morning, local media reported.

Express TV said that the gunmen opened fire at a vehicle of Rapid Response Force in Aabpara market area located in the downtown Islamabad and fled the scene after the attack.

The injured cops were shifted to Poly Clinic Hospital for medical treatment.

Hospital sources said that the injured received bullets in lower abdomens and limbs.

Following the attack, police sealed the Aabpara area and kicked off a search operation.

No group has so far claimed responsibility for the attack.

Rapid Response Force is a special task force recently established by the Interior Ministry to combat terror attacks and criminal activities in the capital. Members of the force come from the paramilitary Rangers and police departments.

Xinhua

MYANMAR TV

(4-6-2014, Wednesday)

6:00 am
* Paritta by Hilly Region Missionary Sayadaw

6:30 am
* Physical Exercise

7:00 am
* News / Weather Report

7:20 am
* Pyi Thu Ni Ti

8:00 am
* News/ International News

8:30 am
* India Drama Series

9:00 am
* News/ International News

9:30 am
* Documentary (ASEAN)

10:00 am
* News

10:20 am
* TV Drama Series

11:00 am
* Teleplay

12:00 pm
* News / International News / Weather Report

2:30 pm
* Documentary

3:00 pm
* News

4:00 pm
* News Weather Report

4:45 pm
* University of Distance Education (TV Lectures) -Second Years (English)

5:00 pm
* News

5:15 pm
* Documentary

6:00 pm
* News / Weather Report

6:20 pm
* Shwe Yin Khone Than

7:00 pm
* News

7:25 pm
* TV Drama Series

8:00 pm
* News/International News/Weather Report

8:35 pm
* Documentary

8:45 pm
* People Talks

9:00 pm
* News

9:30 pm
* Documentary
* Fine Arts Boson Of Dramatic Performance

MYANMAR INTERNATIONAL

(4-6-14 07:00am~ 5-6-14 07:00am) MST

* Local News
* Myanmar Social & Charitable Association(Episode-1) Mingalar Byuha
* World News
* Sagaing: Gold Leaf
* Local News
* People "Myanmar National Poet And Literary Icon; Prolific Writer of Poems & Prose - Min Thu Wun "Student Life & Early Literary Career"(Episode-3)
* World News
* Myanmar Movies Review "The Golden of the golden abode"
* Local News
* Director: Maung Myo Min (Yin Twin Byit)
* World News
* The Photographer (Portiature) "Aung Kyaw Moe"
* Local News
* Diverse National Costumes & Their Fashion Trend (Episode-1)
* World News
* Myanmar Weaving
* Local News
* Travelling in Shan Mountain Ranges "Ya Za Gyi Village"
* World News
* The Storytellers
* Local News
* People "Myanmar National Poet And Literary Icon; Prolific Writer of Poems & Prose - Min Thu Wun "Student Life & Early Literary Career "(Episode-2)
* World News
* Kyaikhteeyoe: Bamboo Guns
* Local News
* Architecture: Historic And Mystery Behind The Caves
* World News
* Next Weekend
* Local News
* National Costume: "The Beauty of Stylish Myanmar Dress"
* World News
* Myanmar Movies Review "Satan Dancer"

Workers carry packaged vegetables at a vegetable planting base in Rongjiang County, southwest China's Guizhou Province, on 2 June, 2014.
XINHUA

The New Light of Myanmar

Nadal shows no sign of relinquishing King of Clay crown

PARIS, 3 June — Concerns that Rafa Nadal's reign as king of Roland Garros might be in jeopardy due to an aching back proved wide of the mark on Monday as the world number one led a mini Spanish charge into the French Open quarter-finals.

On the day that Spanish King Juan Carlos abdicated his throne, there was no danger of his compatriot doing the same in Paris as the eight-times champion produced a 6-1, 6-2, 6-1 demolition job on Serbian Dusan Lajovic.

Next up will be a man who beat Nadal the last time they faced each other across a net — fellow Spaniard David Ferrer.

Ferrer stalled Kevin Anderson's bid to become the first South African man in 47 years to reach the last eight of the claycourt major with a 6-3, 6-3, 6-7(5), 6-1 win.

The top half of the men's draw could have become an all-Spanish affair if Wimbledon champion Andy Murray and elastic-limbed Gael Monfils had not played spoilsport.

Seventh seed Murray and Fernando Verdasco walked out under sunny skies looking like clones — both kitted out in near identical canary yellow shirts and black shorts.

Both players turned the air blue during a heated third set but it was Murray who buzzed around Court Suzanne Lenglen, stinging Verdasco with vicious winners for a 6-4, 7-5, 7-6(3) triumph.

While the linecall dispute was over in a flash after Murray gamely conceded the point, Verdasco blamed umpire Pascal Maria for fanning the flames.

''Pascal is very peculiar. Several times I had a bad experience with Pascal Maria. He's not the kind of umpire I get along with. I can tell you that,'' Verdasco said. ''He is an umpire that many players remember vividly and not because of his qualities.''

Frenchman Monfils kept the home fires burning with a 6-0, 6-2, 7-5 win over yet another Spaniard, Guillermo Garcia-Lopez.

But no one feels more at home at Roland Garros than Nadal.

The top seed, who said he had to slow down his serve in his previous match after being troubled by back pain, left Lajovic with a sore head and aching joints as he went on a rampage to go 5-0 up in the first set before rattling off 17 straight points at the start of the second.

The winners flying off Nadal's racket appeared to leave everyone in such a trance that the umpire even fluffed his lines at one stage — telling the players 'to replay the point' in English before sheepishly repeating the instruction in French — drawing a rare smile from Lajovic.

With enigmatic American pop singer Prince watching from the stands, it did not take 83rd-ranked Lajovic too long to discover why beating Nadal at Roland Garros is one of the hardest riddles to crack.

Reuters

Rafael Nadal of Spain returns a backhand to Dusan Lajovic of Serbia during their men's singles match at the French Open tennis tournament at the Roland Garros stadium in Paris on 2 June, 2014. —REUTERS

Andy Murray of Britain celebrates after winning his men's singles match against Fernando Verdasco of Spain at the French Open tennis tournament at the Roland Garros stadium in Paris on 2 June, 2014. —REUTERS

Leonard qualifies for US Open, Masters champions fall short

LOS ANGELES, 3 June — Former British Open champion Justin Leonard led a host of big-name players who fought their way through qualifying tournaments for the US Open on Monday.

With 10 sectional sites throughout the country, little-known competitors and former champions alike battled for the chance to qualify for the 12-15 June tournament at the Pinehurst No 2 course in Pinehurst, North Carolina.

The 41-year-old Leonard, who won the 1997 British Open, finished in a three-way tie for the top spot with a 36-hole total of five-under 137 at the Brookside Golf and Country Club in Columbus, Ohio.

''It is nice because it's been three or four years since I've been in the US Open'' Leonard told reporters. ''It will be fun playing in Pinehurst; it's one of my favoUrites.''

He was joined by South Korean youngster Noh Seung-yul, who captured his first PGA tour title in April, while Britain's Paul Casey, American Bo Van Pelt and Australians Aaron Baddeley and Robert Allenby were also among the 16 qualifiers from Columbus.

Former Masters champions Mike Weir and Trevor Immelman failed to qualify, as did PGA Tour regulars KJ Choi, Ryo Ishikawa and Camilo Villegas.

Reuters

Justin Leonard of the US

Soccer: Japan rally past Costa Rica in World Cup warm-up

Bryan Ruiz (L) of Costa Rica scores the opener in the first half of a soccer friendly against Japan at Raymond James Stadium in Tampa, Florida, on 2 June, 2014. Japan's goalkeeper is Eiji Kawashima (R). Japan came from behind to score a 3-1 victory over Costa Rica.—KYODO NEWS

TAMPA, (Florida), 3 June — Manchester United midfielder Shinji Kagawa and Yoichiro Kakitani both scored late goals as Japan came from behind to score a confidence-boosting 3-1 victory over Costa Rica in a World Cup warm-up for both teams in Florida on Monday night.

Japan paid the price for squandering a raft of chances as Costa Rica went in front on 31 minutes through Bryan Ruiz, but substitute Yasuhito Endo swept home the equalizer on the hour mark at Raymond James Stadium.

Kagawa added a second 10 minutes from time before Kakitani wrapped up the win in the second minute of stoppage time.

Japan have one more warm-up here before heading to Brazil when they play Zambia on Friday.

"Personally I didn't think we played that badly in the first half and we made lots of chances," said Japan coach Alberto Zaccheroni. "We made mistakes and allowed our opponents space but overall we carried the game.''

"In the second half we got the ball in space behind their defense and our opponents dropped off a bit. Moving the ball around and making our opponents do the running led to the result, so I have to give my players credit for the way they played in the first half, too.''

"There is still two weeks to go (until the World Cup) so there is no way we are going to be on top form right now.''

Zacccheroni made several changes to the lineup that started in a 1-0 win at home to Cyprus on 27 May, with Maya Yoshida starting back in central defense alongside Masato Morishige and Yasuyuki Konno moving out to the left for benched Yuto Nagatomo. Toshihiro Aoyama came in for Endo and Yoshito Okubo and Yuya Osako joined the attack in place of Kakitani and Shinji Okazaki. Regular captain Makoto Hasebe was left off the bench, with the armband going to Keisuke Honda.

"Hasebe felt a bit tired after training so I decided to rest him,'' said Zaccheroni. "He didn't play and Endo and Nagatomo didn't start so that is why I chose Honda to be captain.''

Both sides enjoyed chances in a lively start to the game at the home of the Tampa Bay Buccaneers, with Costa Rica captain Ruiz firing just wide and Okubo skewing off target after a slip by Roy Miller.

Yeltsin Tejeda brought a smart save out of Eiji Kawashima and Osako then sent a free header over following a good cross from Okubo on 11 minutes.

Okubo, Honda and Yamaguchi all had chances to break the deadlock as Japan enjoyed a spell of sustained pressure but Costa Rica went in front against the run of play, Junior Diaz whipping in a low cross from the left for Diaz, afforded time and space behind Konno, to bury from close range.—*Kyodo News*

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