The New Light of Myanmar
MYANMAR'S OLDEST ENGLISH DAILY
Volume XXII, Number 47 | 10th Waxing of Nayon 1376 ME | Saturday, 7 June, 2014

SMIDB, BIDV ink MoUs on cooperation, provision of $30 million loan

By *Ye Myint*

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"The signing of the MoU would result in capacity building and transfer of technology in banking sector as well as monetary and foreign exchange activities. Our staff will be provided with further training in Vietnam, thereby contributing towards the country's SME sector development," U Tin Maung Htay, managing director of SMIDB told The New Light of Myanmar before the ceremony.

The signing ceremony followed with extended greetings by Union Minister for Industry U Maung Myint who is also the chairman of SMIDB and BIDV Chairman Mr. Tran Bac Ha and opening addresses by Central Bank of Myanmar Deputy Director-General U Win Thaw and Vietnamese Ambassador to Myanmar Mr. Pham Thanh Dung.

In his address, the BIDV chairman announced that the bank has decided to give $30 million in loans to SMIDB with a 4-percent interest rate for five years. He called for the opening of a BIDV branch in Myanmar as soon as possible.

BIDV has already opened its representative office in Yangon. Vietnamese investment in Myanmar increased to $600 million in 2014, ranking 8th among other countries investing in Myanmar.

The Joint Stock Commercial Bank for Investment and Development of Vietnam founded in 1975 is a large state-owned bank in Vietnam. The bank with a net income of $70 million and an asset of $18.8 billion is offering nine products including transaction accounts, insurance and international payment to its customers.

So far, 35 foreign banks have opened representative offices in Myanmar, including those from Brunei, Bangladesh, Cambodia, China, India, Japan, Malaysia, Singapore, Thailand and Vietnam. There are only four state-owned banks while the number of private banks has grown to 23 in 2014 with the number of their branches reaching 658.

Officials from SMIDB and BIDV sign MoUs on cooperation and loan provisions.
PHOTO: YE MYINT

Matriculation exam results announced on Saturday

NAY PYI TAW, 7 June—The Department of Myanmar Board of Examinations under the Ministry of Education has announced the results of previous matriculation examinations on Saturday at 6 a.m.

Students may see their position on a result lists at respective exam centers across the country.

Moreover, the exam results of states and regions were also posted at No.1 Basic Education High School in Insein Township, No. 1 BEHS in Yankin Township, No. 3 BEHS in Kamayut Township, No. 1 BEHS in Lanmadaw Township, No. 2 BEHS in Dagon Township and No. 1 BEHS in Thingangyun Township.—*MNA*

MJTD allows US Ball Corp. to set up beverage can plant in Thilawa SEZ

Signing of an agreement between MJTD and Ball Corporation in progress at Sedona Hotel in Yangon.—PHOTO: YE MYINT

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YANGON, 6 June —A US firm, Ball Corporation, has conducted first steps to build a one-line beverage can manufacturing plant in Myanmar at the Class A Area of Thilawa Special Economic Zone, which is located 25 km south of Yangon, with the signing of a contract agreement with the Myanmar-Japan Thilawa Development Company on Friday.

Mr. Scott Morrison, CEO of Ball Corporation, said the one-line plant is expected to begin production in mid-2015 with the full investment set to be $ 40 million. Meanwhile, Japanese Ambassador to Myanmar Mr. Tateshi Higuchi announced that the signing of a contract with Koyo Radiator Co., Ltd, a Japanese firm specializing in automobile parts, took place in Japan on the same day. Mr. Yanai Takashi, MJTD's president and CEO, said more than 45 companies from 11

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South Korean Foreign Minister, bereaved relatives unveil bomb victim memorial

YANGON, 6 June—South Korean Foreign Minister Mr Yun Byung-se and family members of the 1983 bomb victims unveiled the 1st Aung San Mausoleum Martyr Memorial to commemorate the high-ranking Korean officials at the Martyrs' Mausoleum in Yangon on Friday morning.

"We are now able to fulfill the wish of bereaved families who had difficulty paying respects to their lost ones who died in action so far away from home," the South Korean foreign minister said at the opening ceremony of the memorial.

The South Korean foreign minister also said that the memorial is a symbol that shows that not only bereaved families and relatives but also the entire people of South Korea keep the sacrifice of the victims in their hearts forever and that the monument represents the strengthening of friendly relations between the two countries.

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South Korean Foreign Minister Mr Yun Byung-se and family members of the 1983 bomb victims unveil the 1st Aung San Mausoleum Martyr Memorial.—PHOTO: THANT ZIN WIN

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South Korean Foreign Minister Mr Yun Byung-se and family members of the 1983 bomb victims unveil the 1st Aung San Mausoleum Martyr Memorial.—PHOTO: THANT ZIN WIN

Second Israeli film festival launched in Nay Pyi Taw

Nay Pyi Taw, 6 June—The second Israeli film festival, organized by the Israeli Embassy, was held at the Junction Cineplex in Nay Pyi Taw on Thursday evening, attended by Chairman of the Lower House Sports, Culture and Public Relations Development Committee Thura U Aye Myint and Deputy Ministers U Pike Htway, Daw Sanda Khin, U Than Swe and U Ba Shwe.

On the occasion, the films "A day in Israel" and "Something Sweet" directed by Dam Turgeman were screened.—*MNA*

A film presented at 2nd Israeli film festival.—MNA

New Swedish Embassy opens

Yangon, 6 June—The Embassy of Sweden to Myanmar was inaugurated in conjunction with the reception to mark the National Day of Sweden at its embassy at No 7 on Pyithu Street at 7th-Mile in Mayangon Township of Yangon on Friday.

Deputy Minister for Foreign Affairs U Thant Kyaw and Swedish Ambassador Mr Klas Molin formally opened the new embassy.—*MNA*

2nd Book Show of MPBA and literary talks held in Yangon National Theater

Yangon, 6 June— The 2nd Book Show of Myanmar Publishers and Booksellers Association (MPBA) and literary talks, organized by Media Sponsor together with co-sponsor JAS mobile, kicked off at National Theater in Yangon on 6 and will last until 8 June.

Books shops showcase the books at 40 booths at a discount and various subjects of books are available at the show. The visitors may enjoy literary talks given by writers Nyein Min, film director San Shwe Aung (Actor Aung Lwin) and U Tin Zan Kyaw (Device) in the hall.

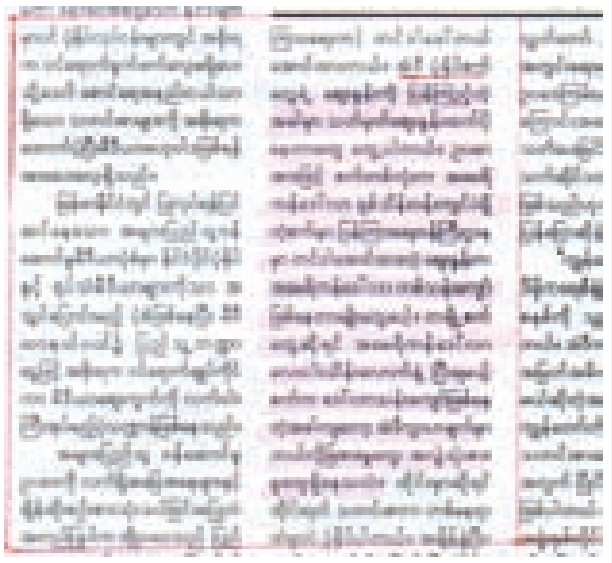
Thant Zin Win

Eleven shows disapproval over bidding for printing machines

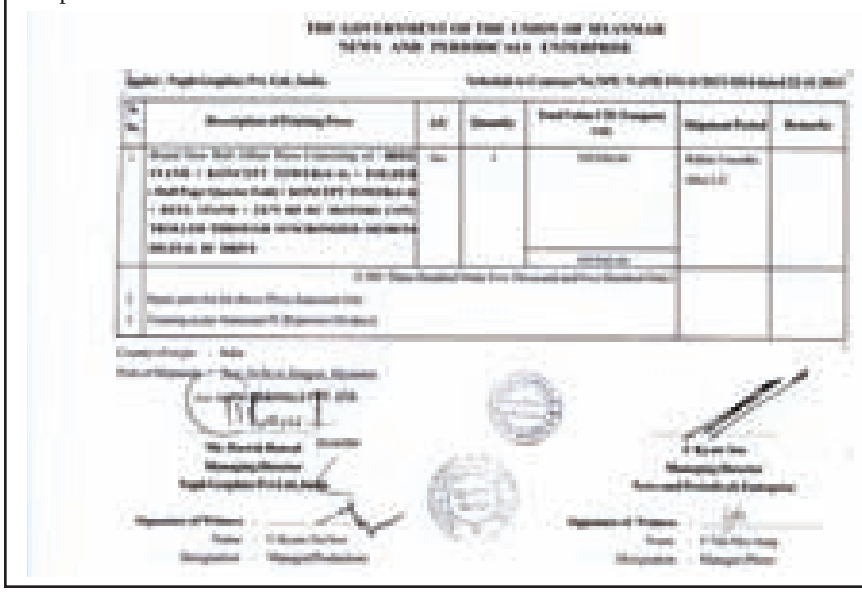
Nay Pyi Taw, 6 June —A news story that appeared in Weekly Eleven Journal on 2 June questioned whether the Public Service Media Law favours state-run media with abuse of public revenues, pointing the finger at the Ministry of Information, sources said.

The news story criticized the ministry over suspicious prices of tenders for printing machines, saying that the highest bid for a printing machine was over US$ 1 million, though its actual value stood at around $ 800,000.

At a press conference concerning the alleged accusation, an official of the News and Periodicals Enterprise explained that the prices of the four printing machines vary, adding that the highest bids were two at $395,000, one at $418,367 and one at $700,000. The official continued to say that information on the bidding had been uploaded on the ministry's website and MPE's webpage, noting that they had kept a record of the bidding in case of complaints.—*MNA*



Documents shown at press conference held at Ministry of Information.—MNA



South Korean Foreign Minister, bereaved relatives unveil bomb ...

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In conclusion, the South Korean foreign minister expressed his thanks to President U Thein Sein and officials who helped in the construction of the memorial.

Following his speech, relatives and family members of the 17 victims paid their respects and prayed for the victims.

NLM

Sales promotion of Neptune Center apartments introduced to businessmen

Yangon, 6 June—China welcomes the investment of entrepreneurs in Myanmar and the two countries have been in close trade relations since 1950, said Calvin Chao, KEO at Luxe Real Estate on Friday at a Chengdu Real Estate Seminar in Myanmar at Sule Shangari-La Hotel in Yangon.

He introduced Neptune Center apartments to Myanmar customers which are located in one of the China's major inland cities, Chengdu. It is the capital of Sichuan province in Southwest China where 252 top companies have set up their branch offices. It is also an attractive city to invest in, they said.

He said there remain 250 flats of the 31-storey building for sales at a fair price. A flat is valued at around US$150,000 on average. Those flats will be sold in installment. Customers can pay 20 per cent of the cost of a flat every quarter of a year.

A 52-year old visitor said he thinks the flat is not expensive for buyers in comparison with the current price in downtown Yangon, where the selling price reaches at least K7 million while the rental rate also increases over K1 million per ground floor.

Tan Peng Dareen, Marketing Director of Luxe Real Estate said it is the first time for Neptune Center so she does not hope too much for sales of many apartments but plans are underway to introduce more projects to Myanmar as she thinks Myanmar is one of the good places for entrepreneurs.

The sales promotion continues on Saturday and Sunday.

Khaing Thanda Lwin

Mr. Marc Hong, Marketing Director explains sales of apartments of Neptune Center in China.—Photo: Khaing Thanda Lwin

Vice-President U Nyan Tun meets Deputy President of SMBC

NAY PYI TAW, 6 June—Vice-President U Nyan Tun held talks with a delegation led by Mr Hiroshi Minoura, Deputy President of Tokyo-based Sumitomo Misui Banking Corporation on Friday at the Presidential Palace in Nay Pyi Taw to discuss bilateral cooperation in banking services and monetary affairs.

During the call, both sides also discussed the development of banking infrastructure in Myanmar.—*MNA*

***Vice-President U Nyan Tun seen together with Mr Hiroshi Minoura, Deputy President of Tokyo-based Sumitomo Misui Banking Corporation.*—MNA**

Pyidaungsu Hluttaw puts into record presidential messages on investment and free trade agreements

***Representatives attending ninth session of Pyidaungsu Hluttaw.*—MNA**

NAY PYI TAW, 6 June—The ninth session of Pyidaungsu Hluttaw on Friday placed on record the messages sent by the president to the speaker of Pyidaungsu Hluttaw to sign investment and free trade agreements between Myanmar other countries.

These agreements include the protocol to amend the framework agreement on the ASEAN comprehensive investment, the first protocol to amend the agreement on ASEAN Australia New Zealand free trade area implementation, the agreement on investment and the agreement on trade in services of India-ASEAN framework agreement on comprehensive economic cooperation.

By signing the protocol to amend the framework agreement on the ASEAN comprehensive investment, economic cooperation among the ASEAN and non-ASEAN countries can be promoted as the number of restricted businesses among ASEAN countries or for businessmen from other countries investing in the region can be reduced, lifted or loosened.

Similarly signing of first protocol to amend the agreement on ASEAN Australia New Zealand free trade area implementation will facilitate trade among the ASEAN, Australia and New Zealand.

The agreement on investment of the India-ASEAN framework agreement on comprehensive economic cooperation will help develop the emergence of a huge investment region full of facilitation, transparency, competitiveness and opportunity for less developed members of the ASEAN.

The agreement on trade in services of India-ASEAN framework agreement on comprehensive economic cooperation will expand trade between the ASEAN and India.

MNA

MJTD allows US Ball Corp...

(from page 1)

countries are making a beeline to the Thilawa industrial park's Class A Area for setting up manufacturing plants and industries. "Discussions are underway and Myanmar companies specializing in plastic products, construction materials and steel are also among the firms as well as a Swedish company that has submitted proposal investments for the 400-hectare site", he added.

Central Bank of Myanmar Vice Governor U Set Aung who is also the chairman of Thilawa SEZ Management Committee confirmed strong investment proposals have been received from interested companies, mostly from Japan and Hong Kong. He, in his speech, highlighted the importance of business-to-business interaction and people-to-people connectivity that can be established through trade and investment.

Ball Corporation, the very first US company for Wanthill SEZ, will build the facility to produce beverage cans for filling the needs of Coca-Cola Pinya Beverages under a long-term agreement and other local, regional and multi-national customers.

Thilawa SEZ development project as a first public-private partnership business between Myanmar and Japan on a 51/49 per cent ownership is Japan's largest investment in Myanmar. The project has been implemented by MJTD comprising Thilawa SEZ Public Holding Limited and three Japanese companies— Mitsubishi Corporation, Marubeni Corporation and Sumitomo Corporation—since last November, following two MoUs on the Thilawa Master Plan and cooperation in Thilawa Development in 2012 and an agreement on the establishment of a Japan-Myanmar Joint Venture. According to a press release by Ball Corporation on 5 June, the firm ranks third among Newsweek's top US Green companies.

GOLD PRICE, FE RATE (6-6-2014)

Yangon Gold Price
Buying K649,300 per tical: Selling K649,800
Mandalay Gold Price
Buying K649,300 per tical: Selling K649,800

FE RATE
USD Buying K966 - Selling K970.5
SGD Buying K767 - Selling K773
Euro Buying K1310 - Selling K1325

Departmental officials urged to assist in laying cables, building towers

***Union Minister U Soe Thane speaking at meeting with township development committees.*—MNA**

YANGON, 6 June—All departmental officials and township authorities are to assist in laying cables for communication and installation of towers, said Union Minister at the President Office U Soe Thane during a meeting with township development supportive committees and development affairs committees at the office of the Yangon Region government on 6 June.

Deputy Minister for Communications and Information Technology U Thaung Tin reported on the requirements in laying the cables and building the towers.—*MNA*

Sheep, goat breeding course conducted in rural areas

SHWEBO, 6 June—The USAID and Pyi Shwebo Comprehensive Development Public Company Ltd jointly organized the sheep and goat breeding course at Pyi Shwebo cow breeding farm in Shwebo of Sagaing Region on 3 June.

Dr Pe Tin of the company explained the purpose of training to alleviate poverty of rural people. He urged the trainees to apply their knowledge in practical fields. Expert Dr Daniel Miller gave lectures to sheep and goat breeders in Shwebo on 3 and 4 June.

Soe Thiha (IPRD)

Good agricultural patterns applied in demonstration

NAY PYI TAW, 6 June—The Agriculture Department under the Ministry of Agriculture and Irrigation organized a demonstration on growing crops through good agricultural patterns in the 900-acre model farmland in Setsetyo area in Pobbathiri Township of Nay Pyi Taw Council Area on Wednesday. Staff of the department gave practical training to local farmers from Lewe Township, with the farmers observing cultivation of taro and asparagus plantations.

Ko Pauk (Okkar Myay)

Nay Pyi Taw WAO provides assistance to students

TATKON, 6 June—A ceremony to present school uniforms to students was held at No 2 Basic Education Primary School in Saya San Ward of Tatkon Township in Nay Pyi Taw Council Area on Thursday.

Chairperson of Nay Pyi Taw Women's Affairs Organization Daw Myat Myat Moe presented school uniforms, raincoats and umbrellas to 100 students. They also gave assistance to students at Setkon Village BEPS in Zeyathiri Township.

Township IPRD

Ancient earthen lake under redredging in Shwebo Township

SHWEBO, 6 June—Under the guidance of Sagaing Region government, the Shwebo Township Agriculture Department is dredging Palaing Lake in Palaing Village of Shwebo Township in Sagaing Region.

Staff Officer U Thura Zaw of Irrigation Department said that as the lake was dredged 600 years ago, it is being silted up. The lake can store water in the rainy season but dries in the summer.

Thanks to re-dredging, the lake will have more storage capacity in the next years, he added.

U Aung San Win, a local of Palaing Village, thanked the authorities for their management in dredging the lake so as to supply potable water to locals for consumption and to farmlands.

Soe Thiha (IPRD)

Traffic rules to be enforced after lecture in Pantanaw

PANTANAW, 6 June—Pantanaw Township Traffic Rules Enforcement Committee Commander of Township Police Force Police Major Aung Aung Mya and party gave educative talks to the people at the corner of Bayintnaung and Bogyoke Aung San streets in Pantanaw of Ayeyawady Region on Wednesday.

The team explained to motorcyclists the need of wearing of helmets and obeying traffic rules. They urged motorcyclists to take driving licence at the Maubin District Directorate of Road Transport.

The township traffic rules enforcement committee designated the educative period from 4 to 10 June. Action will be taken against traffic rules offenders as of 11 June.

Khin Maung Zaw

Stipends provided to students of Township GAD

YEDASHE, 6 June—Yedashe Township General Administration Department of Bago Region presented stipends and school uniforms to offspring of staff at its hall on Thursday.

Head of Township GAD and Township Administrator U Htay Kyaw and officials gave stipends, school uniforms and stationery to the students.

At the ceremony, over K500,000 was shared to 30 staff of the department and 12 students.—*NLM-017*

People in Kyondoe, Kawkareik get healthcare by mobile medical team

KYONDOE, 6 June—A mobile medical team namely 'Ananda Myitta' gave health care services to local people in Kyondoe of Kawkareik Township in Kayin State on Thursday.

The medical team comprised of 35 doctors and health staff. They provided healthcare to 321 people from Kyondoe and its surrounding villages.

They also delivered medical treatment to 2,639 people from Kawkareik and its nearby villages.

Naing Naing Tun (Kyondoe)

K20 billion allotted to SMEs in 14 Regions and States

MANDALAY, 6 June—The Union government allotted a K20 billion loan to 14 regions and states including the Nay Pyi Taw Council Area for the development of small and medium scale industries. A total of 14 regions and states in addition to the Nay Pyi Taw Council Area receive K1 billion each. As Mandalay region demands more loans worth K2 billion from the reserve amount, over 7,400 industries registered in the region are operating their works.

"We have demanded more loans of K2 billion to the Union government, but no reply yet," Mandalay Region Electric and Industry Minister U Kyaw Myint said.

As number of industries is larger in some regions than some states, equal allotment of loans may cause difficulty to some regions. The Mandalay Region Industrial Supervisory Committee will set up the loan scrutiny committee. The security committee will invite applications for loans from 1 to 15 June.

Min Htet Aung (Mandalay Sub-Printing House)

Thai junta tracks Internet posting to capture protest leader

BANGKOK, 6 June — Thailand's security forces have tracked down and detained a prominent activist who helped organize protests against last month's military coup from comments he posted on the Internet, officials said on Friday.

Sombat Boonngamanong was caught in Chonburi Province east of Bangkok late on Thursday, traced via the Internet network he was using, said Major General Pisit Pao-in, head of a technology crime division at the Information and Communication Technology Ministry.

"Soldiers and police were informed of the IP address used by Sombat to post comments so we searched a house in Chonburi and found Sombat there. We detained him. He is now with the army at an army base in Chonburi," Pisit told *Reuters*.

***Sombat Boonngamanong, 42, founder of the Mirror Foundation and well-known civil society activist, poses for a picture in Bangkok on 13 July, 2010. —*REUTERS**

"The case is now with the army and it will investigate and decide how to proceed next."

The detention was the latest in the military crackdown on pro-democracy dissidents and supporters of ousted Prime Minister Yingluck Shinawatra.

Yingluck, her ministers and prominent supporters of the Shinawatras have been detained, most for brief periods, and warned against anti-military activity.

The military has not said how many people are being kept in custody.

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

Yingluck was prime minister until 7 May, when a court found her guilty of abuse of power and she stepped down. The army toppled the remnants of her government on 22 May, saying it needed to restore order after sometimes deadly protests since November that had brought the economy close to recession. Since then the junta has moved to suppress criticism and nip protests in the bud.

Sombat had refused to turn himself in to the military authorities after being summoned following the coup. He managed to post a final status update on Facebook saying: "I have been arrested".

He had helped organise protests via social media in contravention of the junta's ban on political gatherings of more than five people.

Last Sunday, the ruling military council sent 5,700 troops and police sent into central Bangkok to stop anti-coup protests as soon as they sprang up. Most were small events held around shopping malls. Very few protests have been seen this week.

Sombat had helped organise regular demonstrations to mark a crackdown by the military on the "red shirts" in May 2010 that ended a lengthy protest during which more than 90 people died.—*Reuters*

Security officials inspect the blast site in southern Pakistani port city of Karachi on 5 June, 2014. At least two people were killed and seven others injured in a suspected suicide bomb blast near a mosque in Qasba Colony in Karachi on Thursday evening, local media reported.
XINHUA

Landmines kill 10 Cambodians, injure 61 in 4 months

PHNOM PENH, 6 June —Cambodia on Friday reported 71 landmine casualties in the first four months of 2014, an increase of 61 percent from 44 casualties for the same period last year.

The report by the Cambodian Mine Action and Victim Assistance Authority showed that during the January-April period, 10 persons were killed, up from only four at the same period last year.

Besides, 61 others were either injured or amputated during the period, up from 40 in the year-earlier period.

It said that 87 percent of the victims were male.

Last month, two Cambodian deminers were killed on the spot after detonating an anti-tank mine while carrying out mine clearance work in a former battlefield in northwestern Battambang Province.

Cambodia is one of the countries in the world that suffer the worst from mines. An estimated 4 million to 6 million landmines and other munitions have been left over from three decades of war and internal conflicts that ended in 1998.

Heng Ratana, head of the Cambodian Mine Action Centre, has said that the country needs around 50 million US dollars a year until 2020 to entirely get rid of all types of anti-personnel mines.—*Xinhua*

S Korea urges DPRK to abandon nuclear weapons programme

SEOUL, 6 June — South Korean President Park Geun-hye on Friday urged the Democratic People's Republic of Korea (DPRK) to abandon its nuclear weapons programme and become a member of the international community.

"As long as North Korea (DPRK) continues its nuclear development and provocative threats, peace on the Korean Peninsula will go far away," Park said at the 59th anniversary commemoration of the Memorial Day held in the Seoul National Cemetery.

Park urged the DPRK to put down its nuclear development and provocative threats if the regime really wants its economic development and the improved quality of people's life, saying that she sincerely hoped the DPRK give up its nuclear weapons and revive its economy by the help of the international community.

The South Korean woman leader said Seoul has made efforts to build up the foundation for peaceful reunification while dealing sternly with the DPRK's provocations, noting peace and reunification on the Korean Peninsula will open a new opportunity for Northeast Asia and the entire world while bringing peace and prosperity to people of the two Koreas.

Xinhua

Floods displace over 100,000 in Sri Lanka

COLOMBO, 6 June — Floods caused by days of torrential rains have displaced over 100,000 people in Sri Lanka while killing 23 others, latest government data said on Friday as relief work continues.

The Disaster Management Centre said that 26,688 families comprising 109,075 people had been affected by the rain, floods and landslides as of Friday afternoon.

At least 23 people were killed and one person remains missing.

Over 40 houses have been completely destroyed due to heavy rainfall and subsequent flooding in six districts while another 101 homes have been partially damaged.

Most of the deaths and damage have been reported from the Kalutara District in Western Province and relief efforts are going on, Disaster Management Minister Mahinda Amaraweera told reporters.

"We are providing compensation of 15,000 rupees (about 115 US dollars) to people who have lost family members. There has been criticism this is not enough but this is all that has been allocated from the Finance Ministry," he said.

In addition, 148 schools in Western Province opened after being closed due to adverse weather conditions earlier in the week, the Western Provincial Council said.

President Mahinda Rajapaksa tweeted on Monday that he had instructed his officials to "expedite relief measures to communities affected by the bad weather."

Security forces and police have initiated flood relief measures to rescue people trapped or marooned due to rising water levels and roads being inundated.

Xinhua

Weapons are shown during a Press conference at police headquarters in Bangkok, Thailand, on 5 June, 2014. After the 22 May coup, police and military have unearthed and seized caches of guns, rifles, grenades and home-made weapons.
XINHUA

With Russia outside the tent, G7 takes aim at Moscow

BRUSSELS, 6 June — The United States and its allies used the first Group of Seven meeting without Russia in 17 years to condemn Moscow's actions in Ukraine and threaten hard-hitting sanctions if President Vladimir Putin does not help restore stability.

Meeting in Brussels rather than the Black Sea resort of Sochi — a snub to Russia which was supposed to have hosted the G8 — Western powers and Japan delivered strong rhetoric, even if the EU's commitment to further sanctions remains in doubt.

"We are united in condemning the Russian Federation's continuing violation of the sovereignty and territorial integrity of Ukraine," the United States, Germany, Japan, France, Britain, Italy and Canada said in a joint statement.

"Russia's illegal annexation of Crimea, and actions to destabilize eastern Ukraine, are unacceptable and must stop."

That message was reinforced by President Barack Obama, who said Russia's economy was already suffering and would only suffer more if Putin did not change behaviour.

(L-R) Canada's Prime Minister Stephen Harper, US President Barack Obama, European Council President Herman Van Rompuy, Germany's Chancellor Angela Merkel and Britain's Prime Minister David Cameron pose for a group photo during a G7 leaders meeting at European Council headquarters in Brussels on 5 June, 2014.—REUTERS

"If Russia's provocations continue, it's clear from our discussions here that the G7 nations are ready to impose additional costs on Russia," he said. "Today, in contrast to a growing global economy, a sluggish Russian economy is even weaker because of the choices made by Russia's leadership."

Putin, who will meet Germany's Angela Merkel, French President Francois Hollande and Britain's David Cameron on the sidelines of 70th anniversary of the D-Day landings in France on Friday, appeared unfazed by the threats.

Asked at an event in St Petersburg how he felt about being excluded from the G8 for the first time since joining the club in 1997, Putin was typically pointed, barely breaking stride to speak to Kremlin reporters as he left a meeting. "I would like to wish them bon appetit," he said, before walking away swiftly. It appears unlikely that Obama and Putin will talk in France.

"Should we have the opportunity to talk, I will be repeating the same message that I've been delivering to him throughout this crisis," Obama said.

With Putin not at the table, the G7 leaders chose to criticize Russia either by name or implicitly for its actions on several fronts, including Syria and energy policy.

On Syria, the G7 "deplored" a decision by Russia and China to veto a draft UN Security Council resolution involving crimes committed by both sides in the conflict, and on energy policy it highlighted the problem of countries using energy as a weapon. "The use of energy supplies as a means of political coercion or as a threat to security is unacceptable," the statement said. Since Russia supplies around a third of Europe's gas and oil needs and has threatened to cut off supplies to and through Ukraine if it does not settle outstanding bills, the reference was clearly directed at Moscow.

Yet despite efforts to present a united front against Russia's seizure of Crimea and its tacit support for actions in eastern Ukraine, there remain chinks in the G7's armor when it comes to hitting where it hurts.—*Reuters*

In Russian protege Abkhazia, a cautionary tale for Crimea

CHUBURKHINJI, (Abkhazia) 6 June — Trudging over a bridge hundreds of meters long, English teacher Natia Ablotia struggles home in the blazing heat, laden with goods that are cheaper to buy across the river in Georgia than in Abkhazia, where she lives.

After nearly six years as effectively a protectorate of Russia, life is still tough for many in the breakaway Georgian region. Last week, in a spasm of frustration over corruption and poor living conditions, protesters stormed the president's headquarters, forcing him to flee and then resign.

Abkhazia's story — how a once popular and affluent resort area broke away from a former Soviet republic, sought protection under Moscow's wing but has struggled to make ends meet — has resonance for another Black Sea region, Crimea, which split from Ukraine to be annexed by much wealthier Russia in March.

Ablotia, 39, is one of hundreds who cross the bridge from Chuburkhinji in Abkhazia each day to buy cheaper food and goods, enabling them to stretch their modest monthly wages further.

Opposition protesters gather outside the presidential headquarters in Sukhumi, the capital of Georgia's breakaway region of Abkhazia, in this 28 May, 2014 file picture.
REUTERS

"It's hard over here," she said, resting her purchases — three bags of shopping and a green plastic watering can — at the Abkhazia end of the two-lane road bridge over the broad, green valley of the Inguri river.

"Everything is cheaper over there," she added, pointing back at the Georgian side of the de facto border, which is still closed to cars by military posts. "The road is hard. You have to walk 800 meters, over the bridge."

Turning its back on Georgia, as Crimea has to Kiev, disrupted Abkhazia's trade and transport and hitched its economy to the oil-fueled rouble, importing heavily from Russia, where wages and prices are much higher than in Georgia —or Ukraine.—*Reuters*

EU states take aim at radical websites to counter Syria problem

BRUSSELS, 6 June — Nine European countries endorsed plans on Thursday to step up intelligence-sharing and take down radical websites to try to stop European citizens going to fight in Syria and bringing violence back home with them.

The initiative by states that deem themselves most affected by jihadist violence was given new urgency by the killing of three people at the Jewish Museum in Brussels last month. A 29-year-old Frenchman arrested on suspicion of the shooting is believed to have recently returned from fighting with Islamist rebels in Syria's civil war, authorities said.

The proposals drawn up by France and Belgium were broadly supported by the other countries — Germany, Sweden, Denmark, Britain, the Netherlands, Ireland and Spain — at a meeting in Luxembourg on Thursday, according to a statement from the French and Belgian interior ministers.

Officials from the group will hold meetings with "the leading Internet operators" this month to look into the possibilities for immediately shutting down web sites and barring messages that spread hatred or encourage violent militancy or terrorism, the statement said.

A British proposal to create a European task force to use media campaigns to counter the radicals' message received wide backing from other ministers, the statement said. Other proposals include using airline passenger data to track people returning from Syria, information-sharing and follow-up when authorities detect someone who has been in Syria, putting information about such people on an EU data base used by border guards and police, and sending the information to Europol, the EU's law enforcement agency.

Reuters

World Cup leaves Brazil costly stadiums, poor public transport

BRASILIA, 6 June — When the final whistle blows at the World Cup, Brazilians will be left with some of the world's costliest soccer stadiums and few of the public transport improvements they were promised.

Long-overdue airport upgrades have been made just in time for the World Cup which starts on 12 June but many of the longer-term investments in rapid transit systems in Brazil's main cities have been delayed or scrapped.

Seven years have passed since Brazil won the right to host this World Cup. Then - president Luiz Inacio Lula da Silva vowed to use the tournament to shake off underdevelopment and modernize Brazil, a coming out party for an emerging power on the global stage.

While some much-needed investments have been completed, Brazil has fallen far short of what it promised for the Cup and many Brazilians see it as a squandered opportunity regardless of what happens on the pitch.

Men load metallic structures into a vehicle outside the Mane Garrincha National Stadium, one of the venues for the upcoming 2014 World Cup, in Brasilia in this on 31 May, 2014 file photo.—REUTERS

The signature project in public transportation was to be Latin America's first bullet train, a $16 billion high-speed rail service linking Rio de Janeiro and Sao Paulo. It never made it off the drawing board.

"The jump to modernity never happened, and the stadiums are a herd of white elephants," said Gil Castello Branco of Contas Abertas, a private group that monitors government spending.

Brazil has invested 25.8 billion reais ($11.3 billion) in Cup-related infrastructure improvements, a third of which went into building or overhauling stadiums in a dozen host cities.

Four arenas were built in cities that have only third-tier soccer teams and small chance of recovering the investment: Manaus, Natal, Cuiaba and the capital Brasilia, where the magnificent National Stadium cost 1.6 billion reais, more than double the original price tag. City auditors say Brazil's most costly stadium still needs 300 million reais to finish the exteriors after the World Cup.

The huge sums spent on the stadiums helped fuel massive street protests last year by Brazilians fed up with poor public services and corrupt politicians. They said the money would have been better spent on hospitals, schools and public transport.

The anti-World Cup movement has vowed to stage new protests nationwide aimed at disrupting the 32-nation soccer tournament.

Despite the money thrown at infrastructure improvements, Brazil has only delivered half of the projects it pledged to undertake and many of them are unfinished.

Sinaenco, a lobby group for architecture and engineering firms, says a fifth of the projects were dropped because they could not be delivered on time, while others won't be finished until after the Cup, such as an overhaul of Rio de Janeiro's international airport.

The delays in completing works planned for years have also raised concerns about Rio's ability to stage the Olympic Games in 2016. Some international sports federations have asked to discuss alternative venues.

Sao Paulo's Arena Corinthians will not have been fully tested when it hosts the opening match between Brazil and Croatia on June 12. Much of the surrounding area still looks like a construction site.

Advances have been made at airports, easing travel between the venues. They could be the World Cup's most lasting legacy, especially the new terminals in Brasilia and Sao Paulo's Guarulhos airport.

But only a third of the urban transport projects promised by Lula's government have been executed, according Contas Abertas.

"Our biggest disappointment is urban mobility. Brazil's big cities are chaotic. We hoped things would improve with the work done for the World Cup," said Castello Branco. "This has not happened and we don't know when these works will be finished."

Reuters

Gunman kills one, three wounded at Christian college in Seattle

SEATTLE, 6 June — A man armed with a shotgun opened fire on Thursday at a small Christian college in Seattle, killing one person and wounding two others before he was subdued by a group of students and arrested, Seattle police and hospital officials said.

A fourth person was injured in the struggle with the gunman, police said.

The Seattle Police Department said via Twitter that Aaron Ybarra, 26, had been booked into King County Jail for the shooting at Seattle Pacific University.

The lone suspect, who was not a student, entered an academic building of the university in the late afternoon and shot three people, police said.

He was disarmed as he paused to reload his gun and was pepper-sprayed by a student security guard.

Reuters

Suspect arrested in Canadian police killings, ending manhunt

MONCTON (New Brunswick), 6 June — Canadian police have arrested a man suspected to have shot dead three police officers and wounded two more, ending a massive manhunt, the police said on Friday. The shooting in the eastern city of Moncton was one of the worst of its kind in Canada, where gun laws are stricter than in the United States and deadly attacks on police are rare.

"Justin Bourque arrested by RCMP at 12:10 in Moncton," the Royal Canadian Mounted Police said in a tweet. "He is in police custody. Residents of north Moncton can now leave their homes."

Schools and government offices had been shut in the city of about 70,000 in the East Coast Province of New Brunswick.

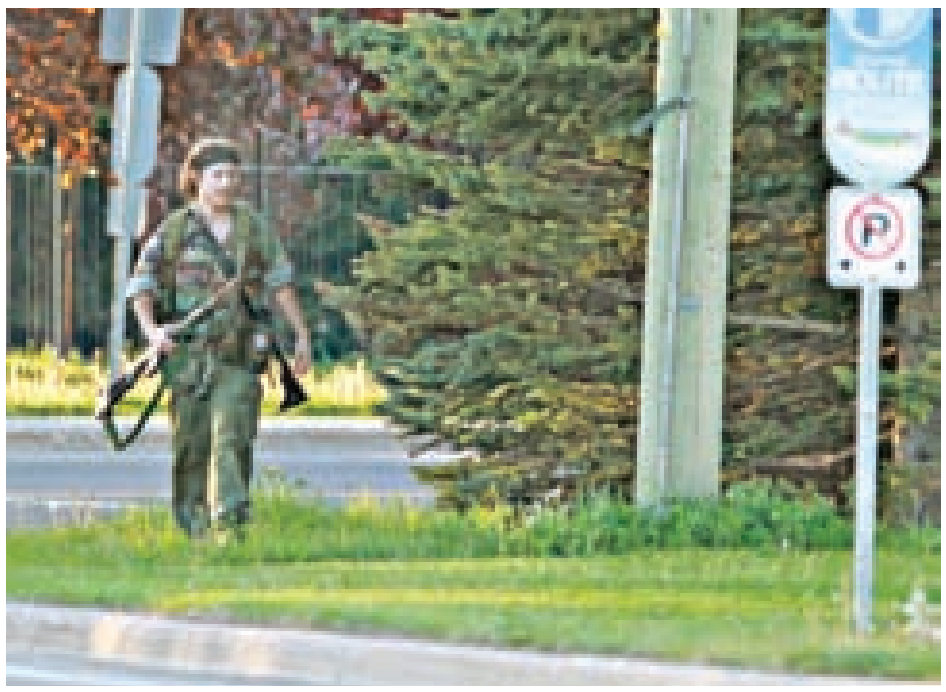
Hundreds of police, some in armoured vehicles and some with dogs, had cordoned off a large area in the city on Thursday and warned residents to stay in their homes and lock their doors.

Bourque, 24, had been named as a suspect late on Wednesday after the shootings, with police saying that Bourque, who had no previous criminal record, had since been spotted several times in Moncton.

Police were alerted on Wednesday afternoon by a member of the public who spotted an armed man in camouflage clothing walking down a residential street. When police arrived, the man moved into a nearby wooded area and opened fire.

Three officers were killed and two more were taken to hospital, where both had surgery on Thursday. One of the two was later released. Canadian media published a photograph of a man wearing camouflage clothing and a black headband and carrying a rifle. *Reuters* could not immediately authenticate the picture.

A Facebook page purporting to belong to Bourque was filled with posts critical of the police and those who back gun control.The killings spurred an outpouring of grief across Canada.—*Reuters*



A heavily armed man that police have identified as Justin Bourque walks on Hildegard Drive in Moncton, New Brunswick on 4 June, 2014 after several shots were fired in the area.—REUTERS

Around 4,000 refugees flee from Ukraine to Russia

Moscow, 6 June — Russia has already received around 4, 000 Ukrainian refugees, Russian Prime Minister Dmitry Medvedev said on Thursday.

"People are frightened, scared. At the same time, the Ukrainian government fails to notice a humanitarian problem, says there are no refugees. It's lies and it's sad to hear it," he said.

Ukraine's State Border Service published a statement on Thursday, claiming that no citizen of Ukraine has expressed a desire to apply for refugee status in Russia on the border of the two countries, the *Ukrainian News Agency* reported on Thursday. The situation is in extraordinary emergency, the prime minister stressed. He also said the Group of Seven's claim on "Ukraine's army measured actions against its people" is cynical, according to *RIA Novosti* news agency. The G7 communique released on Thursday encouraged the Ukrainian authorities to maintain "a measured approach in pursuing operations to restore law and order."—*Xinhua*

PERSPECTIVES

Saturday, 7 June, 2014

South Korea rejuvenates economic cooperation with Myanmar through cultural influence

By *Kyaw Thura*

In October 1983 at the Martyr's Mausoleum in Yangon, North Korean commandos attacked a South Korean delegation led by South Korea's the then President Chun Doo Hwan during his visit. Chun escaped unhurt, but the attack killed 17 Korean senior officials, leaving 50 others wounded.

On Friday this month, South Korea unveiled a memorial dedicated to the victims of the North Korean attack. A five-foot-high stone monument bearing the names of those assassinated was built outside the mausoleum.

Visiting South Korean Foreign Minister Yun Byung-se and families of the victims were present at the ceremony near the site where the bombing took place. Independent political and economic analysts view this Korean move as an attempt to beef up human rights diplomacy on top of economic relations at a time when Seoul is making inroads into Myanmar as its sweeping reforms have widened access to its natural resources, market potential and geopolitical position.

Sharing a common border with China, India and other nations in Southeast Asia, Myanmar boasts a potential to become an economic hub linking neighbouring counties whose combined population amounts to around 3 billion.

There is still room for stronger cooperation between Myanmar and Korea.

With its population of 60 million, Myanmar is a country with massive domestic demand. As a realistic approach, South Korea is expected to utilize its culture, which has now grown popular with the Myanmar people.

With nearly 200 firms, most of which are from manufacturing sectors, South Korea ranks sixth in terms of investment in Myanmar.

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Consultation workshop on reports by Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women held

Consultation workshop on the Combined Fourth and Fifth Periodic CEDAW Reports of Myanmar in progress.—MNA

Nay Pyi Taw, 6 June—Union Minister for Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement Dr Daw Myat Myat Ohn Khin urged officials to give suggestions on writing a Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women report on government efforts for the implementation process of the development of women in Myanmar at a consultation workshop on Thursday in Nay Pyi Taw.

In order to submit the report on 21 August to the parliament, the Report Writing Committee consisting of 53 members—34 from ministries, representatives, NGOs, the UN and social organizations and—19 members from Core Group. The first and second reports were submitted to the parliament in 2007.

MNA

Japan to finance construction, rural electrification in Myanmar

Nay Pyi Taw, 6 June—A signing ceremony of memoranda of understanding (MoUs) on construction and rural electrification between Myanmar and Japan took place at the Ministry of National Planning and Economic Development on Thursday.

Deputy Minister for NPED Daw Lei Lei Thein and Japanese Ambassador to Myanmar Mr. Tateshi Higuchi signed three MoUs on construction of the new Thakayta bridge, upgrade of the Institute of Education and electrification in rural areas.

According to the MoUs, Japan will finance 4.216 billion JPY for the new Thakayta bridge construction, 2.513 billion JPY for the upgrade of the Institute of Education and 994 million JPY for the implementation of rural electrification projects.

The signing of the MoUs is seen as a boost for bilateral ties, officials said.—*MNA*

Deputy Minister Daw Lei Lei Thein exchanges notes with Japanese Ambassador to Myanmar Mr. Tateshi Higuchi.—MNA

Easing restrictions on doing business discussed

Nay Pyi Taw, 6 June—Union Minister U Tin Naing Thein highlighted the importance of business-friendly regulations in Myanmar in his speech at a coordination meeting on Thursday.

He stressed the need of stepping up reforms for ensuring private sector development in Myanmar during the meeting held at the President Office in Nay Pyi Taw.

A time frame setup is needed for the success of respective works being carried out by seven delivery units that serve as special task-forces for reforms, he added.

MNA

UNDP Myanmar's groundbreaking microfinance work enters new phase

Nay Pyi Taw, 6 June—An MoU signing ceremony between the Ministry of Cooperative and UNDP took place on Wednesday in Nay Pyi Taw, where the Ministry also signed a transfer agreement for the project funds and assets with Pact, a non-governmental organization.

The agreement ensures that all funds and assets of the project will remain in the country permanently and continue to be used to provide services to present and future beneficiaries across Myanmar, while also contributing to the expansion of the microfinance sector.

Speaking at the ceremony, Union Minister U Kyaw Hsan said, "UNDP has done an excellent job in helping rural Myanmar people alleviate poverty. I am confident that based on the foundation that UNDP has built, the microfinance sector will continue to expand and meet the needs of the poor as well as contribute to Myanmar's development goal of reducing poverty by half from 2005 to 2015."

According to Mr. Kurbanov, the microfinance project was able to improve more than 600,000 households in Myanmar.

The project will be continued in support of President U Thein Sein's landmark rural development program, said Fahmid Bhuiya, the Chief Operating Officer of Pact Global Microfinance Fund in Myanmar.

UNDP

Mandalay observes World Environment Day

MANDALAY, 6 June—The World Environment Day was observed at No 16 Basic Education High School in Chanayethazan Township of Mandalay on Thursday, with officials of the Mandalay Region Forest Department and Environmental Conservation Department giving talks on climate change and impacts of environmental deterioration.

Departmental officials presented prizes to winners in an essay contest to mark World Environment Day.

Min Htet Aung (Mandalay Sub-Printing House)

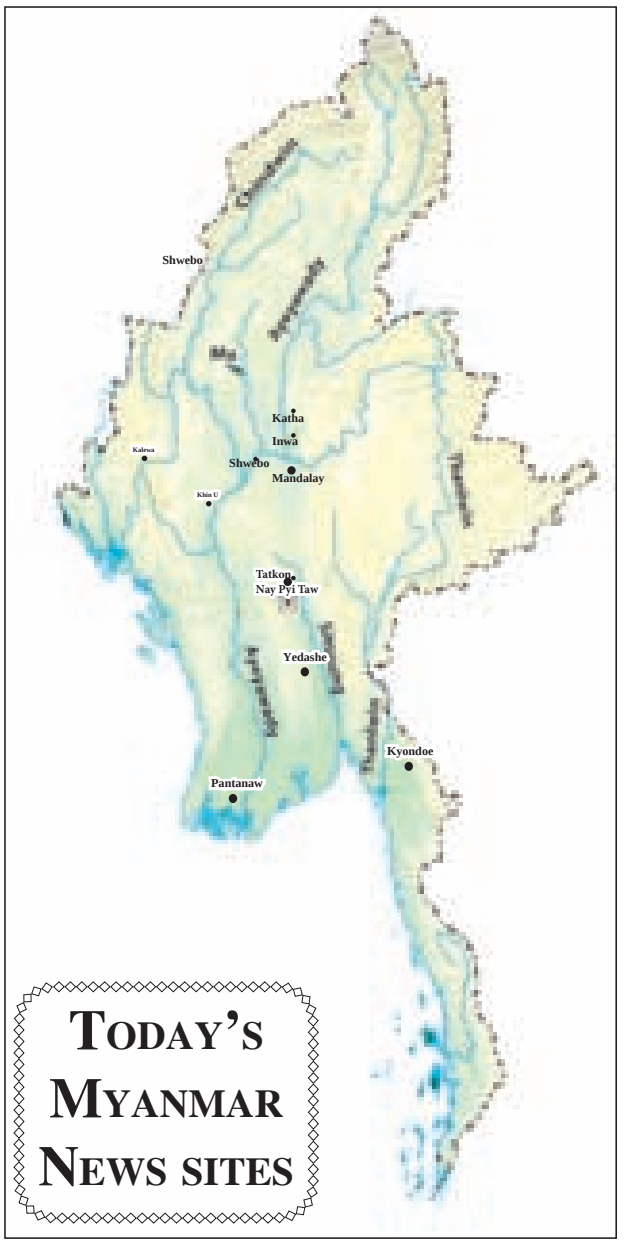
Mandalay Region Chief Minister's national sports competitions to kick off on 11 September: Mandalay Region Chief Minister

MANDALAY, 6 June—A meeting on holding the Mandalay Region Chief Minister's Cup Inter-State/Region Track & Field, Women's Football,U-20 Men's Football and Traditional Rowing Contests was held at the hall of Mandalay Region Sports and Physical Education Department on Wednesday afternoon.

Deputy Director of Mandalay Region SPED U Wai Zin discussed measures on how to successfully hold the competitions.

The track and field event and the men's and women's football events will be held at Mandalar Thiri Sports Ground as of 11 September. In addition, table tennis, chess, Sepak Takraw and soccer events will also be organized.

Tin Maung (Mandalay)



TODAY'S MYANMAR NEWS SITES

Rural road to improve living standard of people in Kalewa Tsp

KALEWA, 6 June—Over 50 villages of Kalewa Township between Mahamyaing Road and Chindwin River are home to over 22,000 people. They are relying on waterway transport only in Chindwin River.

Under the guidance of Sagaing Region Chief Minister U Tha Aye, the Kalewa Township Development Affairs Committee and people cooperating in construction of a five-mile long earthen road with the use of heavy machinery. At present, four miles of the road section have been completed.

The Township Development Affairs Committee spent K5 million in the 2012-13 fiscal year, K5.5 million in 2013-14 fiscal year and K4 million in 2014-15 fiscal year. If the one mile long section of the road has been completed in 2015-16, the Hsegyi-Gazet rural road will emerge in the township.

Kalay District Management Committee U Maung Htoo and officials closely supervise the construction of the earthen road.—*Joe Net*

Tatkon Township MCWA turns out tailors

TATKON, 6 June—The basic tailoring course 1/2014 organized by Tatkon Township Maternal and Child Welfare Association, concluded at the hall of Township General Administration Department in Tatkon on Thursday.

Vice President of Myanmar Maternal and Child Welfare Association Daw Thet Thet Swe and officials presented prizes to outstanding trainees and viewed their practical works.

Township IPRD

World Environment Day marked with tree planting ceremony

KHINU, 6 June—In commemoration of World Environment Day, a tree planting ceremony was held in the compound of Post-Primary School in Kanthit Model Village in KhinU Township, Sagaing Region, on Thursday.

Chairman of Township Management Committee U Yazar Aye urged the participants in the ceremony to cooperate with the Forest Department for greening the township. Departmental officials participated in the ceremony together with staff and local people in growing 700 saplings.

Yaungni Tin Win

Afghanistan blasts target presidential candidate Abdullah's convoy

*Afghan presidential candidate Abdullah Abdullah talks with a group of cyclists during the second round of the presidential candidate election campaign in Kabul on 6 June, 2014.—*Reuters

Kabul, 6 June — Two bombs exploded outside a hotel in western Kabul where Afghan presidential frontrunner Abdullah Abdullah was holding a rally, striking his car and injuring his bodyguards, the candidate said on Friday.

Police said two people were killed and 16 wounded in the attack on Abdullah's convoy, the first such incident in Afghanistan's on-going election campaign. "When I was leaving the rally from the People's Islamic Unity Party, (one of) my car(s) was hit by a roadside bomb and damaged," Abdullah said at another rally soon afterwards.

It was not immediately clear which vehicle Abdullah had been in at the time.

Kabul police spokesman Hashmat Stanekzai confirmed that a suicide bomber detonated the explosives near Abdullah's convoy around noon.

Television images from the location showed at least one dead body on the street, alongside smashed window panes in neighbouring shops and buildings.

The first round of the Afghan elections was praised as an unexpected success after the Taliban failed to cause major trouble, but the security picture looks more challenging ahead of the 14 June run-off.

The Taleban changed its military leadership after the elections, denying that commander Mullah Abdul Qayoum and former Guantanamo Bay detainee had been fired over his failure to prevent large numbers of Afghans from voting in the first round.

Reuters

Bitten by sanctions, Iranians support nuclear compromise

Ankara, 6 June — After years of tough sanctions over Iran's nuclear programme, many in the country now say they want the government to make compromises that could satisfy world powers and allow a semblance of prosperity to return.

Although many Iranians still fervently believe in their country's right to all aspects of a civilian nuclear programme, including those regarded with suspicion in the West, they are increasingly tired of the high economic price.

That weariness will form the backdrop on 16 June when Iran's political leaders send negotiators to Geneva for talks with six world powers aimed at hammering out an agreement that swaps concessions on uranium enrichment for sanctions relief.

"I love my country but I love my family more, and for years I have worked hard to cope with the rising prices," said Ali Mirzai, a father of three in the northern city of Rasht.

"I am tired. My only hope now is (President Hassan) Rouhani. He is trying to improve the economy by resolving the nuclear issue. I believe in him and his policies."

Mirzai, like millions of Iranians who bore the brunt of the sanctions, voted last year for pragmatist Rouhani after he promised to improve the flagging economy in part by striking a deal with the outside world.

Although there are no reliable opinion polls in Iran, Rouhani's large margin of victory on a platform of compromise, and anecdotal evidence gleaned from recent telephone interviews across the country suggest strong public appetite for a deal.

"Rouhani and his team will solve this issue. I am sure his moderate and compromising policy will work. We don't need hostility," said Arvin Sadri, 31, who runs his father's furniture factory in the northern holy city of Mashhad.

After several rounds of talks last year, a preliminary deal was penned in Geneva in November, including a limited easing of sanctions in exchange for Iran halting some nuclear activities.

The agreement took effect on 20 January, and was designed to buy time for a final deal within six months. As the deadline fast approaches, the lifting of some sanctions has given Iranians a taste of how things might improve.

Maryam Simai, 41, a schoolteacher in the central city of Yazd said she supports the atomic program and believes sanctions are unfair. But she still favors compromise. "I want to live in peace. I don't want to fear for the future of my children. The tension with the international community and sanctions have ruined our economy and has isolated us," she said.—*Reuters*

80 killed in Iraq as security forces re-take city of Samarra

Baghdad, 6 June —A total of 80 people were killed and some 88 wounded in separate attacks in Iraq on Thursday as Iraqi security forces re-took control of the city of Samarra in Salahudin province which was seized by extremist Sunni insurgents early in the morning, security and medical source said.

The troops carried out a major offensive and after fierce clashes they managed to regain six neighbourhood in Samarra, some 120 km north of the Iraqi capital Baghdad, which were seized earlier by groups of gunmen believed to be linked to the Islamic State in Iraq and Levant (ISIL), an al-Qaeda breakaway group in Iraq, a source from Salahudin provincial police told *Xinhua* on condition of anonymity.

In the early morning hours, dozens of insurgents entered the city on their vehicles, some with heavy machine-guns, and attacked the security checkpoints and police stations, killing up to nine policemen and wounding some 45 people, the source said.

Some of the militants attacked the house of Abdul-Karim al- Samarraie, Minister of Sciences and Technology, and killed three of his guards before they leave the house which was empty during the attack, the source added.

Major General Sabah al-Fatlawi, Commander of Samarra Operation Command, told *Xinhua* that his troops and helicopters have killed 11 militants and destroyed more than eight vehicles during the morning battles, and that reinforcement troops still arriving from Baghdad and other provinces to defeat the gunmen. —*Reuters*

Gunmen posing as preachers kill dozens in northeast Nigeria

Maiduguri, (Nigeria) 6 June — Suspected Islamist militants pretending to be preachers rounded up and killed at least 42 villagers in northeastern Nigeria, a police source said, as an escalating insurgency increasingly targets civilians.

The shootings on the outskirts of the city of Maiduguri late on Wednesday came a day after officials said raiders killed scores in three other settlements in Borno state, where the Boko Haram militant group first launched its campaign to carve out an Islamist caliphate.

The attackers, who were wearing military-style uniforms, drove into the village of Bardari, told people to gather for a sermon and opened fire, the police source told Reuters. "The people couldn't identify them in time as terrorists," the source added. No group claimed responsibility for the attack. But Boko Haram has stepped up its revolt and mounted nearly daily attacks in the area since it made world headlines in April by abducting more than 200 schoolgirls in another part of the state.

Reuters

After Assad's election triumph, fear grips stay-at-home Syrians

Damascus, 6 June — Two days after Syria's presidential election, there are signs of anxiety among those who boycotted the vote —and who don't have the ink stain on their finger that would show they played their part in Bashar al-Assad's victory.

Assad won Tuesday's election with nearly 89 percent support, according to officials, triggering celebrations in some government-controlled parts of Syria where voting took place.

Authorities said 73 percent of eligible Syrians cast their votes — a remarkably high figure in a country devastated by a conflict which drove 3 million people to flee abroad — dipping their finger in permanent ink to show they had taken part.

"Let's see whose finger has no ink," the host of a local radio show said on Thursday, playing half-jokingly on fears that those who did not vote could face consequences.

On election day, some people tried to find an alternative to the official polling station ink. "Can't we use regular ink from the stationery store?" asked a young man who didn't want to vote but feared he could be arrested for boycotting the election.

"Are they going to flag down me at checkpoints and ask for my army papers?" he said, referring to his mandatory military service which he has postponed by purposely failing the final two parts of his university engineering course.

Another Damascene, who works in a health club, said he stayed at home with his wife for 48 hours to avoid punishment for not voting. "And I don't know if I should go into work later today. What if they all have ink on their finger and they ask how come I don't?" he said. He said that when family and friends called him on election day to ask if he had voted, he lied and said he had.

"I don't want any headache, especially not on the phone. Those who know how much I oppose Assad already know that I didn't go, and those who don't know can keep their illusions," he said.

"I haven't been able to do anything for the rebels, because I live here and everything is under tight control and I worry about my family. So on election day, not voting was the least I could do," he added.

Reuters

*Syria's President Bashar al-Assad and his wife Asma cast their votes in the country's presidential elections at a polling station in Damascus on 3 June, 2014, in this handout released by Syria's national news agency SANA.—*Reuters

Scientists complete genome sequence of sheep

WASHINGTON, 6 June — An international team of scientists said on Thursday they have successfully sequenced the complete genome of sheep, revealing new information about the species' unique and specialized digestive and metabolic systems.

Sheep, a major source of meat, milk, and fiber in the form of wool, is one of the represent animals for the ruminants, which are the dominant land herbivores.

These animals have a unique digestive organ called rumen that turns plant material into a source of protein.

In the new study, the team, led by researchers from China's Northwest A&F University, Kunming Institute of Zoology, Chinese Academy of Sciences and BGI, reported two kinds of proteins with ruminant specific structures, and also specifically and very highly expressed in rumen wall.

"They are Trichohyalin-like 2 protein and PRD-SPRRII family proteins, which play the role of rumen substrate surface, crosslinking themselves and keratins via transglutaminase, to form the tough cornification layer of rumen called sheep tripe, commonly known as Maodu in Chinese," said first author Jiang Yu, associate professor from Northwest A&F University.

They also screened all of the lipid metabolic pathway genes and were surprised to find that two genes known as MOGAT2 and MOGAT3 are highly expressed in sheep skin, but not in liver or duodenum.

In humans, MOGAT3 is an essential enzyme for the absorption of dietary fat in the small intestine and is an important liver enzyme, but never express in human skin, they said.

The findings suggested the loss of MOGAT2 and MOGAT3 in liver may reduce the importance of liver in long chain fatty acid metabolism in ruminants compared to non-ruminants. The collaborative study, also involving Utah State University and Baylor College of Medicine in the US, the Roslin Institute in the UK, Commonwealth Scientific and Industrial Research Organization in Australia and other institutes, was published in the *US journal Science*.

Xinhua

Chinese teen creates website promoting philanthropy

BEIJING, 6 June — Inspired by Bill Gates' words that education is a tool for equality, a top student at the High School Affiliated to Renmin University of China has created a website promoting philanthropy among high school students in China, the first of its kind in this country.

"My classmates and I are interested in philanthropy and dedicated to making a difference in our communities," said Tong Shangyuan, 17, a sophomore at the prestigious and highly competitive school in Beijing.

The website (www.teenphilanthropy.cn) focuses on 13 topics, including charity news, opinions and sharing of information, and it aims to serve as a platform for students, parents, and others to promote and organize charitable activities and share ideas and information for better community building. Tong had the idea for his initiative during a trip to Seattle in September 2013. Bill Gates had long been his role model and "hero," and the teen's visit to the Microsoft headquarters where he learned about the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation further broadened his horizons. "Expanding the influence of adolescents is better than just spending money on particularly activities," he wrote after the visit in an email to the foundation, seeking guidance.

Tong has found that it is very demanding to run his website, as he has to continue his academic studies and also cope with technical issues.—*Xinhua*

New bugs found in software that caused 'Heartbleed' cyber threat

BOSTON, 6 June — Security researchers have uncovered new bugs in the Web encryption software that caused the pernicious "Heartbleed" Internet threat that surfaced in April.

Experts said the newly discovered vulnerabilities in OpenSSL, which could allow hackers to spy on communications, do not appear to be as serious a threat as "Heartbleed."

The new bugs were disclosed on Thursday as the group responsible for developing that software released an OpenSSL update that contains seven security fixes.

Experts said that websites and technology firms that use OpenSSL technology should install the update on their systems as quickly as possible. Still, they said that could take several days or weeks because companies need to first test systems to make sure they are compatible with the update.

"They are going to have to patch. This will take some time," said Lee Weiner, senior vice president with cybersecurity software maker Rapid7.

OpenSSL technology is used on about two-thirds of all websites, including ones run by Amazon.com Inc, Facebook Inc, Google Inc and Yahoo Inc. It is also incorporated into thousands of technology products from companies, including Cisco Systems Inc, Hewlett-Packard Co, IBM, Intel Corp and Oracle Corp.

Reuters

US technology companies beef up security to thwart mass spying

A Google search page is reflected in sunglasses in this photo illustration taken in Brussels on 30 May , 2014.
REUTERS

SAN FRANCISCO, 6 June — A year after Edward Snowden exposed the National Security Agency's mass surveillance programmes, the major US technology companies suffering from the fallout are uniting to shore up their defences against government intrusion.

Instead of aggressively lobbying Washington for reform, Google Inc, Microsoft Corp and other tech companies have made security advancements their top priority, adopting tools that make blanket interception of Internet activity more difficult.

"It's of course important for companies to do the things under our own control, and what we have under our own technology practices," Microsoft General Counsel Brad Smith told *Reuters*. "I don't know that anyone believes that will be sufficient to allay everyone's concerns. There is a need for reform of government practices, but those will take longer."

As part of a "Reset the Net" campaign now reaching a mainstream audience, Google on Wednesday said it was releasing a test version of a programme allowing Gmail users to keep email encrypted until it reaches other Gmail users, without the company decrypting it in transit to display advertising.

Google, Microsoft and Facebook Inc moved to encrypt internal traffic after revelations by Snowden, a former NSA contractor, that the spy agency hacked into their connections overseas. The companies have also smaller adjustments that together make sweeping collection more difficult.

"Anyone trying to perform mass surveillance is going to have a much harder job today than they would have even six months ago," said Nate Cardozo, a staff attorney with the civil liberties group Electronic Frontier Foundation.

Cardozo said the most-improved major company was Yahoo Inc, which went from not encrypting email by default to having protection comparable to that of its peers.

BUSINESS THREAT

The topic of boosting security has gained urgency after countries such as China faulted big tech companies as tools of a powerful US surveillance state, and threatened to curb purchases of American tech products.

Surveillance opponents say the companies could do much more than they have. An NSA slide released last month by journalist Glenn Greenwald, titled "NSA Strategic Partnerships," touted "alliances with over 80 major global corporations" that supported the NSA's cyber offensive and defensive missions.

The slide named 12 companies, including the largest U.S. telecom carriers and Microsoft, Intel Corp, Hewlett-Packard Co and Cisco Systems Inc. None of those companies have renounced working with the agency or said that they would limit their cooperation to defensive measures.—*Reuters*

Copper wires may also work as batteries, Florida researchers say

NEW YORK, 6 June — A breakthrough in the way energy is stored could lead to smaller electronics, more trunk space in a hybrid car and eventually clothing that can recharge a cellphone, according to researchers at the University of Central Florida. Nanotechnology scientist Jayan Thomas said in an interview he believes he has discovered a way to store energy in a thin sheath around an ordinary lightweight copper electrical wire. As a result, the same wire that transmits electricity can also store extra energy.

"We can just convert those wires into batteries so there is no need of a separate battery," Thomas said. "It has applications everywhere." The work will be the cover story in the June 30 issue of the material science journal *Advanced Materials*, and is the subject of an article in the current edition of science magazine *Nature*. Thomas's Ph.D. student Zenan Yu is co-author. Thomas said the process is relatively simple. First, he said, he heated the copper wire to create what he described as fuzzy "nano-whiskers," which are naturally insulated by copper oxide. The microscopic nano-whiskers vastly expand the wire's surface area that can store energy.—*Reuters*

Bosnia arrests three for war crimes near site of biggest mass grave

Forensic experts, members of the International Commision of Missing Persons (ICMP) and Bosnian workers search for human remains at a mass grave in the village of Tomasica near Prijedor, on 22 Oct, 2013.
REUTERS

SARAJEVO, 6 June — Police arrested three Bosnian Serb former soldiers on Thursday on suspicion of war crimes against Muslim Bosniaks following the discovery last year of what is potentially the largest mass grave of Bosnia's 1992-95 conflict.

The state prosecutor said Mitar Vlasenko, 59, Rade Vlasenko, 54, and Drago Koncar, 53, were arrested in the village of Kozarac near the northwestern town of Prijedor. Police were searching more locations for evidence.

Thousands of Bosniaks and Croats perished in Bosnian Serb detention camps in Prijedor as part of bid to drive non-Serbs from the land. Around 100,000 people died in the war, the large majority of them Muslim Bosniaks.

"The men were part of the Serb Republic army and are suspected of killing seven Bosniaks in the area of Kozarac," the prosecutor's office said in a statement. It said the killings took place between May and June 1992. Last year, Bosnian forensic experts unearthed the remains of 435 people from the Tomasica mass grave near Prijedor. It is believed to contain the remains of around 1,000 victims, which would make it the largest mass grave in the Balkan country.

Experts are working on identifying the victims.

So far, 178 have been identified through DNA analysis, among them a man and his six sons. The youngest son was 18 and the oldest 29 when they were killed, said Lejla Cengic, a spokeswoman for the government's Institute for Missing Persons.

In 2001, forensic experts found 373 victims they believe were originally buried at Tomasica, then reburied at a second site as part of a bid to conceal evidence of atrocities. Exhumations halted over the winter but are expected to resume soon. Around 1,200 people are still registered as missing in the Prijedor area. The Hague-based United Nations war crimes tribunal has sentenced 16 Bosnian Serbs to a total of 230 years in prison for atrocities in the Prijedor area.—*Reuters*

N Korea detains 3rd US citizen

WASHINGTON, 6 June — North Korea has detained another American tourist, bringing to three the number of US nationals now known to be held in the country, diplomatic sources said on Thursday.

Pyongyang's official media later confirmed that a US citizen has been detained, for having broken the law by engaging in anti-state activities despite being in the country as a tourist.

The diplomatic sources said the man, who was part of a tour group, was detained in mid-May just before he was about to leave the country, apparently for having left behind a Bible at the hotel where he had been staying.

A US State Department spokesperson said the government is "aware of reports that a third US citizen was detained in North Korea."

"There is no greater priority for us than the welfare and safety of US citizens abroad. We have no additional information to share at this time," the spokesperson added.

On 20 May, the US government strongly urged its citizens not to travel to North Korea, citing the risk of arbitrary arrest without charges and long-term detention.

In an upgraded travel advisory, the State Department noted that North Korean authorities have arrested US citizens who entered the country legally on valid visas as well as those who accidentally crossed into North Korean territory.

"In the past 18 months, North Korea detained several US citizens who were part of organized tours. Do not assume that joining a group tour or use of a tour guide will prevent your arrest or detention by North Korean authorities," it said.

On 26 April, the official *Korean Central News Agency* reported from Pyongyang that a man identified as "Miller Matthew Todd" was detained 10 April for "his rash behavior" when going through formalities for entry into the country.

Kyodo News

Russia's ambassador to Kiev to attend Poroshenko inauguration

MOSCOW, 6 June — Russia said on Thursday its ambassador to Kiev would attend the inauguration of Ukrainian president-elect Petro Poroshenko in spite of Moscow's harsh criticism of Ukraine's attempts to crush pro-Russian separatists. Scores of separatist fighters and Ukrainian troops have been killed in heavy fighting in eastern Ukraine as Kiev has intensified its "anti-terrorist operation" since Poroshenko was elected on 25 May. "Russian ambassador to Ukraine Mikhail Zurabov will take part in the inauguration ceremony of Ukraine's elected president," Russian foreign ministry spokesman Alexander Lukashevich told a briefing. "He is returning to Kiev to continue with his duties," Lukashevich added, more than three months after the envoy was recalled to Moscow in response to the ouster of pro-Russian Ukrainian president Viktor Yanukovich in mass protests.—*Reuters*

*Ukraine's President-elect Petro Poroshenko addresses during the Solidarity Prize award ceremony at the Royal Castle in Warsaw on 3 June, 2014. —*REUTERS

German committee wants to question Snowden in Moscow

BERLIN, 6 June — With backing from Chancellor Angela Merkel's grand coalition government, a German parliamentary committee wants to meet former US intelligence contractor Edward Snowden in Moscow in the coming weeks, German network ARD reported on Thursday.

The ruling right-left coalition has resisted opposition demands that Snowden come to Germany to testify to the parliamentary committee looking into the mass surveillance of German citizens by the US National Security Agency (NSA) that he exposed.

The NSA practices have become a major political issue in Germany, which is sensitive to the abuses of such agencies after their Nazi and Communist pasts and reports that the NSA monitored Merkel's cellphone calls have cast a shadow over the once close US-German relations.

ARD quoted a leader of the committee, Christian Flisek, saying a meeting with Snowden in Moscow would not have the character of witness testifying but rather be a chance to give members a chance to get a better picture of Snowden.

Flisek told ARD that the committee members would have, for instance, the chance to ask Snowden directly whether or not he wanted to return to the United States.

Flisek said it was now up to Snowden to decide if he wants to meet the committee in Moscow, something the Germans would like to do by 2 July.

Accused government whistleblower Edward Snowden is seen on a screen as he speaks via video conference with members of the Committee on legal Affairs and Human Rights of the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe during an hearing on ''mass surveillance'' at the Council of Europe in Strasbourg, on 8 April, 2014.
REUTERS

The Greens and Left parties, the two small opposition parties on the committee, voted against the measure because they want Snowden to come to Germany to testify. The coalition-dominated committee voted against that.

Snowden has said he would like to be questioned in Germany. But the German government had told the committee it could not ensure that Snowden would not be detained and possibly extradited to the United States once he arrived.

Russia granted Snowden a year's asylum in August 2013 despite the United States wanting Moscow to send him home to face criminal charges, including espionage, for disclosing in June secret US Internet and telephone surveillance programme.

Reuters

Iran train crash kills at least 10, injures dozens

ANKARA, 6 June — A passenger train collided with a freight train in northern Iran on Thursday, killing at least 10 people and injuring dozens, Iranian media reported.

"The train was en route from the northeastern city of Mashhad to Teheran. So far 10 passengers have been killed and dozens wounded," the semi-official *Fars* news agency reported. "The death toll is expected to rise."

A local official said the train carried 340 passengers.

State television said the cause of the crash was under investigation by authorities.

The *Students News Agency ISNA* put the death toll at two and said four people were in critical condition.—*Reuters*

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE
MV NINOS VOY NO (1017)

Consignees of cargo carried on MV NINOS VOY NO (1017) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 8.6.2014 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of H.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 CHINA SHIPPING LINES
Phone No: 2301185

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE
MV MALTE RAMBOW VOY NO (1423)

Consignees of cargo carried on MV MALTE RAMBOW VOY NO (1423) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 8.6.2014 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of M.I.P 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 MCC TRANSPORT (S'PORE) PTE LTD
Phone No: 2301185

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE
MV KOTA RAJIN VOY NO (861)

Consignees of cargo carried on MV KOTA RAJIN VOY NO (861) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 7.6.2014 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 ADVANCE CONTAINER LINES
Phone No: 2301185

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE
MV FU XIN SHAN VOY NO (113)

Consignees of cargo carried on MV FU XIN SHAN VOY NO (113) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 7.6.2014 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of M.I.T.T where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

SHIPPING AGENCY DEPARTMENT
MYANMA PORT AUTHORITY
AGENT FOR: M/S COSCO SHIPPING CO LTD
Phone No: 2301186

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE
MV EQUATOR HARMONY VOY NO (453)

Consignees of cargo carried on MV EQUATOR HARMONY VOY NO (453) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 7.6.2014 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of M.I.T.T where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

SHIPPING AGENCY DEPARTMENT
MYANMA PORT AUTHORITY
AGENT FOR: M/S BRIGHT SAIL CO LTD
Phone No: 2301186

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

Singapore Finance Minister accepts slower growth as trade-off for social stability

SINGAPORE, 6 June — Singapore is willing to accept slower growth as a trade-off for social stability as it aims to keep down the number of foreigners working in the city-state, Finance Minister Tharman Shanmugaratnam told *Reuters*.

Over the past decade, Singapore's economy has expanded by a 6.4 percent annual average. Tharman said that he would be happy if Singapore grew 3 percent a year, as long as growth was driven mainly by gains in productivity.

"Three percent growth is good growth," he said during an interview on Thursday.

High past growth has brought rising numbers of foreigners to work in wealthy Singapore, which in turn has spurred discontent among citizens angered by the strains put on infrastructure and services.

Between 2000 and 2013, Singapore's population rose to 5.4 million from 4 million, with foreigners accounting for the bulk of the 35 percent increase.

Singapore's Finance and Deputy Prime Minister Tharman Shanmugaratnam speaks to Reuters during an interview at his office in Singapore on 5 June, 2014.
REUTERS

Unhappiness about inflows of foreigners helped an opposition party gain ground in the 2011 general elections as the People's Action Party, which has ruled Singapore since independence in 1965, won only 60 percent of votes, its worst showing to date. The next election must be held by January 2017.

Tharman, who is also a deputy prime minister, said the government accepts a slower growth rate as the cost of ensuring the country retains its national identity, combats over-crowding and keeps the ratio of foreign to local workers at around one-third.

"We are never going to be Dubai, we are a country with a social ethos that we take very seriously," the 57-year-old finance minister said.

The number of foreigners in Dubai is larger than that of locals, a result of its aggressive economic growth strategy.

At the end of 2013, there were 1.32 million foreigners in Singapore who held employment or work-passes, around 38 percent of the total workforce.

In 2010, Singapore launched a 10-year plan to restructure its economy, aiming to increase productivity and cap the ratio of foreigners in the workforce at around one-third. The plan aimed to raise the productivity rate by an average of 2 to 3 percent a year, though it actually fell in 2012 and 2013.

Reuters

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Kenyan police officers check 302 pieces of ivory, including 228 elephant tusks seized in a warehouse during a raid in the port city of Mombosa on 5 June, 2014.
XINHUA

Sunny Leone "happy" about getting noticed in Bollywood

MUMBAI, 6 June — Indo-Canadian adult film star Sunny Leone is happy for getting noticed but is not sure if she has made her mark in Bollywood.

Before making her Bollywood debut with Jism 2, Sunny had participated in the fifth season of the reality show Bigg Boss.

Sunny also did a special song in Shootout at Wadala and was seen next in Jackpot and Ragini MMS 2.

''I think I have been noticed and I am happy about it. I am happy where I have reached today. I don't know if I have made a mark for myself here. I want to do good work, have fun and entertain people,'' Sunny told *PTI* in an exclusive interview here.

''I have done only three films. I still have to work hard. I want more and more people to watch and enjoy my films. It is a steady process. I think one should work hard and prove oneself in dancing, acting and bringing about sale of tickets,'' she said.

Sunny is happy with the audience response to Ragini MMS 2.

''I wasn't expecting the film to do this well. I thank my fans for watching the film. I wonder how can one film change things,'' she added.

Post the success of Ragini MMS 2, Sunny has been getting a lot of offers but she is in no hurry to do any film.

''Offers are coming in. I think people have realised I am not here just for five minutes (on screen), I love this world. I will continue to work hard and do amazing work. I am sure acceptance will come,'' Sunny said. Responding to a query that she was looking for an image-makeover, Sunny said that she did not set any rules for herself.

''That is not true, I don't know where this came from. I don't set any rules, limits for myself,'' the actress said. —*PTI*

***Sunny Leone says she is not sure if she has made a mark in Bollywood yet .*—PTI**

Godzilla mural unveiled at Tokyo film studio

Akira Takarada (L), star of the first Godzilla film released in 1954, and Gareth Edward.

TOKYO, 6 June — Japanese film company Toho Co unveiled an 11-meter-tall mural of Godzilla on Thursday to celebrate the 60th anniversary of a popular film series featuring the monster character.

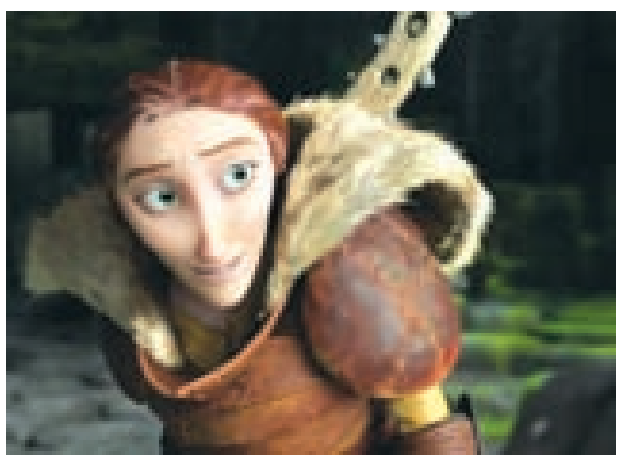
Akira Takarada, star of the first Godzilla film released in 1954, and Gareth Edwards, director of the latest film produced in Hollywood, "Godzilla," attended the unveiling ceremony at Toho Studios in Tokyo's Setagaya Ward.

The studio is the birthplace of the 1954 film.

A digitally remastered edition of the 60-year-old film will be screened across the nation from Saturday. The US film will be shown in Japan from 25 July.

Kyodo News

Cate Blanchett: My kids persuaded me to sign how to train your dragon sequel



***Cate has voiced a character named Valka in the film, which releases on 13 June.*— PTI**

LOS ANGELES, 6 June — Oscar winning actress Cate Blanchett is extremely excited about being part of upcoming animated feature film How To Train Your Dragon 2 ever since she saw the first part with her kids, who persuaded her to sign the sequel.

"I saw How to Train Your Dragon film with my children, and I found it utterly exhilarating. So when director Dean DeBlois asked me to be part of the animation sequel a few years ago, I immediately agreed for the sake of my kids," Cate said in a statement.

"I also agreed because the whole process of trying to bring something to life in advance of the animation, purely with your voice. I found it a really interesting challenge," she added.

Cate has voiced for a character named Valka in the film, which releases on June 13 worldwide.

Directed by Dean DeBlois, the film also features the voices of Jay Baruchel, Jonah Hill, Gerard Butler, Kit Harington and Kristen Wiig.

PTI

Introducing Jackie Shroff's daughter Krishna

NEW DELHI, 6 June — Jackie Shroff's son Tiger, star of Heropanti, is still roaring at the box office and now his daughter Krishna too wants to make it big in Bollywood, but not as a heroine. The star-daughter is producing a documentary that throws light on the lifestyle and issues of transgenders. Krishna is aware that transgenders have been the subject of many different works but she maintains that her film will not be a gritty take and will look at their lives in a positive way.

Krishna has said that she aims to eventually direct but wants to learn the ropes of production first. With father Jackie's star DNA, a sample of which we've seen in her brother Tiger's work, we wouldn't mind some Heroine-panti from Krishna.—*PTI*

***Krishna is producing a documentary on the lifestyle and issues of transgenders .*—PTI**

A R Murugadoss: Film remakes should not deviate from original

CHENNAI, 6 June — Filmmaker A R Murugadoss says that a remake should never deviate from the "proven and tested" path of the original.

A R Murugadoss' Holiday, which is the remake of his own Tamil film Thuppakki, featuring Akshay Kumar, releases in cinemas today.

"A remake is made because it has already been proven and tested. So why would anybody want to make changes to it? If a film is remade by the same director, changes will be avoided because they've given their best to make the original successful and would only like to repeat the formula," A R Murugadoss told IANS.

In Holiday, he has not tried to change much.

"There are minor changes but there will also be a resemblance with the original and I don't mind it because it's my film at the end of the day, and I would always like to do justice to it," he added.

Akshay plays an army officer in the film, which revolves around a network of sleeper cells planning a terrorist attack.

AR Murugadoss chose Akshay because he couldn't picture any other actor more suitable for the lead role.

"I wanted to work with Akshay sir soon after Ghajini, but I wanted a different character for him. It then struck me that he would be more apt in the role of an army officer because he's extremely fit. I couldn't think of a better actor in that role," he said.

He says as a filmmaker, he is never bogged down by the pressure of making a blockbuster.

PTI

***A R Murugadoss' Holiday featuring Akshay Kumar releases in cinemas on Friday.* —PTI**

An excavator cleans mud after rainstorms in Changzhou Township of Fengshan County, south China's Guangxi Zhuang Autonomous Region, on 5 June, 2014. Rainstorms hitting Fengshan County on Wednesday have affected about 18,500 local residents in 76 villages, damaging roads and residences. The downpour also caused class suspension at some schools.
XINHUA

Road deaths in Australia down 25 pct in past decade

CANBERRA, 6 June — Latest data released on Friday shows that road fatalities in Australia have decreased by almost a quarter in the past decade to 2013. The Bureau of Infrastructure, Transport and Regional Economics has released the Road Deaths Australia 2013 Statistical Summary which shows fatal crashes decreased by 23.4 percent and the number of people killed in these crashes decreased by 24.6 percent.

The biggest reductions were in New South Wales, Victoria, Tasmania and the Australian Capital Territory. When population increase is taken into account (annual deaths per 100,000 population), the reductions over the decade are an even greater at 35 percent.

All state and territories achieved reductions on this measure. Young road users achieved some of the strongest reductions in deaths over the decade. Numbers of deaths of people aged 17 to 25 years are now approximately half of what they were in 2004.

In contrast, deaths of older road users (aged 65 years and over) have increased over the decade. Most of this increase can be accounted for by increased population in this age group and increased road use exposure.

"Although these statistics are encouraging, the Australian Government is committed to doing more to ensure our transport networks are safer and more productive across urban and regional Australia," Assistant Minister for Infrastructure and Regional Development Jamie Briggs said in a statement on Friday. The government has committed a record 50 billion AU dollars (46. 7 billion US dollars) in the recent budget to improve the infrastructure of the country.

This includes a record 500 million (467 million US dollar) investment in the national Black Spot Program and a further 2.1 billion (1.9 billion US dollars) towards Roads to Recovery over the next five years to deliver vital funding to every council across Australia to fix local roads.—*Xinhua*

Over 250,000 Austrians struggling with energy costs

VIENNA, 6 June — Socially disadvantaged households in Austria spend an average of over twice their income share on energy costs despite a lower consumption rate, a study of the Austrian Institute for Sustainable Development (OeIN) revealed on Thursday.

The study titled "Energy Poverty in Austria" conducted on 402 Austrian households found that the 263,000 people living in Austria who have difficulty affording heating spend 11 percent of their income on energy, while the national average is 4.8 percent of income. President of Caritas Austria Michael Landau said poorer persons must thus make decisions on whether they spend their money on food, heating, or clothing, *Der Standard* newspaper reported.

Additionally the poor are also affected by an interplay between low income, low energy efficiency of their household, and high energy prices.

Wolfgang Anzengruber, CEO of energy company Verbund AG, said an effective measure to help these households is to provide energy consulting, exchange energy equipment in the household, and provide temporary financial assistance, which he said had already helped 2,500 families. —*Xinhua*

MYANMAR TV

(7-6-2014, Saturday)

6:00 am
* Paritta by Hilly Region Missionary Sayadaw

6:45 am
* Nice & Sweet Songs

7:00 am
* News/ Weather Report

7:20 am
* Business News

8:00 am
* News/ International News

8:30 am
* India Drama Series

9:00 am
* News/ International News

9:30 am
* Documentary

10:00 am
* News

10:20 am
* Current Affairs

11:30 am
* Game for Children

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

12:15 pm
* Round up of The Weeks Hluttaw News

2:25 pm
* Business News

3:00 pm
* News

4:30 pm
* University of Distance Education (TV Lectures) -First Year (Physics)

4:45 pm
* Teleplay (Cartoon)

5:00 pm
* News

5:40 pm
* Documentary

6:00 pm
* News / Weather Report

6:20 pm
* MRTV's Youth Programme

7:00 pm
* News

7:15 pm
* Teleplay

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

8:45 pm
* Business News

9:00 pm
* News
* Myanmar Series
* Gitadagale Phwintbarohn

MYANMAR INTERNATIONAL

(7-6-14 07:00am~ 8-6-14 07:00am) MST

* Local News
* GREAT SHWEDAGON "The Sacred Hair Relics Hailing Pogoda"
* World News
* Talented Musicians
* Local News
* Shwe Kyet Yet-Shwe Kyet Kya's Boat Race Festival
* World News
* The Photographer: Kyaw Kyaw Winn
* Local News
* Youth of the Future "Puppet"
* World News
* Trishaw Man
* Local News
* Rakhine Land "A Trip to The City of Rakkhita, Rakhine"
* World News
* Art Students: Their Dream
* Local News
* A Glance at a Naga Family Life
* World News
* Myanmar Movie Review "Family Feud"
* Local News
* An Ardent Aficionado of Traditional Design
* World News
* Sticky Shan Snack
* Local News
* A Life in the ring
* World News
* The Pride of Myanmar "Traditional Handicraft"
* Local News
* Diverse National Costumes & Their Fashion Trend (Episode-3)
* World News
* Black Gold (Part-I)

England head to Brazil relying on youngsters and luck

LONDON, 6 June — One of the most telling moments of England's World Cup build-up came off the pitch, away from the players, crowds and live TV cameras on the night of a laboured 1-0 win over Denmark at Wembley in March.

Denmark coach Morten Olsen, completing his post-match news conference turned back to the mass of reporters as he left the auditorium and shouted: "Good luck in the World Cup — you need it!"

As well as producing howls of spontaneous laughter, it crystallised in nine words what most people think about England's return to the land of their greatest soccer humiliation — it is doomed to failure.

Even the chairman of the Football Association Greg Dyke does not appear to think much of their chances. At the draw for the finals in December, when England were grouped with four-times champions Italy, twice winners Uruguay and stubborn Central American middleweights Costa Rica, Dyke was caught on camera grimacing and making a throat-slitting gesture.

He later back-tracked, brushing it off as a joke, but there are, nonetheless, real fears about 1966 world champions England failing to make it out of the group stage, which has only happened twice before, in 1950 and 1958.

For once the hyperbole that normally surrounds England's chances ahead of major tournaments has been muted and it would surprise few if they left before the knockout stages start on 28 June.

England's manager Roy Hodgson (2nd L) supervises his team's first training session in Miami, Florida on 3 June, 2014 .— REUTERS

Manager Roy Hodgson, 66, has been careful to avoid talking up England's prospects too much. It is not that he has been getting his excuses in early - he has just been wary about raising unrealistic hopes.

On the one hand, he has a squad full of exciting young talents such as Liverpool's Raheem Sterling, Arsenal pair Alex Oxlade-Chamberlain and the injury-prone Jack Wilshere as well as promising Southampton duo Adam Lallana and Luke Shaw.

He can also call on seasoned veterans like captain Steven Gerrard, Frank Lampard and Wayne Rooney.

But, he warned: "We are in a tough group with two former world champions who are rated as highly as we are, so it's like having three seeds in the group.

"But it is an interesting group and I think we are helped by the realisation from everyone that is not an easy group.

Reuters

The New Light of Myanmar

Myanmar to meet Cerezo Osaka, Vietnamese team in tune-up matches

The Myanmar national team plans to play in international tune-up matches on 28 June and 2 July as part of preparations for the ASEAN Suzuki Cup.

Myanmar will meet with Cerezo Osaka FC at the Youth Training Centre in Thuwunna of Yangon on 28 June and with the Vietnamese national team in Vietnam on 2 July.

For the tune-up matches, the Myanmar national team will be re-organized under Coach Radojko Avramovic, with the coach and other officials watching the football matches of Myanmar National League in order to select outstanding players.

Myanmar dropped out from the AFC Challenge Cup due to poor performance.

The Suzuki Cup will be held in October.

By Nyi Myat Thawda; Photo; Soe Nyunt

Crane spreads wings to lead in Memphis

Ben Crane of the US

MEMPHIS, 6 June — American Ben Crane defied recent poor form to post a bogey-free seven-under 63 and surge to a two-shot lead in a weather-affected first round of the FedEx St Jude Classic in Memphis on Thursday.

Crane, a four-time winner on the US tour but without a title since 2011, sits alone as the clubhouse leader after darkness halted play with 60 players still to complete their rounds due to an earlier storm delay.

Fellow Americans Peter Malnati (65) and Billy Horschel, five-under through 16 holes, shared second at five-under.

Major winners Retief Goosen (66) and Zach Johnson (15 holes) were joined by Joe Durant (66), Jason Bohn (14 holes) and Australian Stuart Appleby (17 holes) in a tie for fourth at four-under.

Phil Mickelson, a runner-up last year, started his tune-up for the US Open with a solid 67, leaving him in a tie for ninth.

Playing the back nine of TPC Southwind first, Crane started modestly with birdies on the 11th and 16th holes before making his move at the turn.

Three birdies on the trot to start the front side and two to finish sent the 38-year-old to the top of the pile, unfamiliar ground for Crane in recent times.

Since a tie for ninth at the Humana Challenge in January, Crane hasn't finished better than a tie for 32nd and missed five of his last seven cuts leading in.

Malnati, a 26-year-old rookie coming off the secondary web.com tour, was another surprise packet given he has missed the cut on eight of his 11 appearances on tour this year.

His 65 equaled his career low on tour and was his first round in the 60s since early March in Puerto Rico.

"There have been some negative thoughts bouncing around in my head for most of the year but in the last couple of weeks I've kind of gotten it turned around," said the Tennessee resident, who sits 172nd on the FedEx Cup points list.—*Reuters*

Wrap Gerrard up in cotton wool, says Hoddle

LONDON, 6 June — England manager Roy Hodgson should wrap his talisman Steven Gerrard up in cotton wool because an injury to the 34-year-old captain would be disastrous for England's World Cup plans, says Glenn Hoddle.

Hoddle, who coached England at the 1998 World Cup, said Hodgson must carefully manage the Liverpool midfielder's game time in friendlies before the team's opener against Italy in Manaus on 14 June .

"Roy must have winced when his captain was hurt in an early tackle during the Peru game at Wembley, in the final warm-up game on home soil before heading off to Miami," said Hoddle, England manager from 1996-1999. "Personally, I wouldn't have risked him for longer than a half, and in fact, wouldn't have even started with him. He needs to be wrapped up in cotton wool and protected like a National Treasure.

"Look at the major worry now circulating around Alex Oxlade-Chamberlain. It's horrible for the player, horrible for the manager."

Arsenal winger Oxlade-Chamberlain injured his right knee against Ecuador in Miami on Wednesday and faces two weeks out.

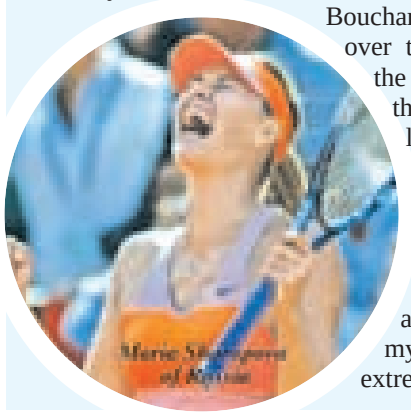
"Now you can see why Roy didn't play Gerrard against Ecuador, such is his importance, especially because of the role he will perform in Brazil — an injury to the skipper would spell disaster for Roy's plans," Hoddle said.

Hoddle, in a column for British bookmaker William Hill (www.williamhill.com), said Hodgson simply cannot risk not having his skipper lead England out against the Italians.—*Reuters*

***England's captain Steven Gerrard runs with the ball during their international friendly soccer match against Peru at Wembley Stadium in London on 30 May, 2014.*—REUTERS**

Sharapova scraps into final showdown with Halep

PARIS, 6 June — She once posed for a photograph with an eight-year-old Eugenie Bouchard but that friendly touch was not on show on Thursday as Maria Sharapova wiped the smile off the Canadian's face to set up a French Open final with Simona Halep. While a 2002 photo of a statuesque Sharapova wrapping her arm around a pixie-like Bouchard has gone viral over the past 48 hours, the Russian hogged the limelight at Roland Garros as she shrieked her way to her third successive Paris final with a 4-6, 7-5, 6-2 win. "Winning a match where I felt my opponent played extremely well, exceptional tennis and I didn't feel that I was playing my best, I fought, I scrambled, and I found a way to win," said seventh seed Sharapova after a third straight win from a set down.



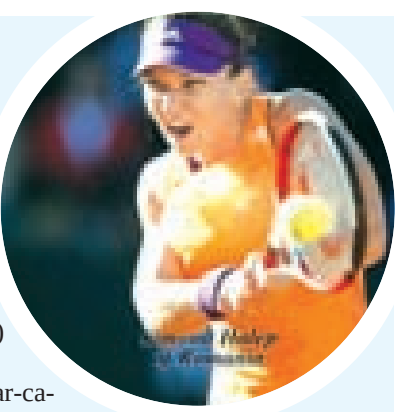
She produced nine double faults, 35 unforced errors and was broken four times in a messy performance but the shot that mattered most was the blazing forehand she sent flying past Bouchard's racket on her fifth match point.

That left the Russian bellowing into the skies while Bouchard, dubbed the 'next Sharapova' was left to reflect on what might have been.

"When you play a great champion, you definitely feel their presence. Often I constructed the point well and then didn't finish it as well as I could," said the 20-year-old, who failed in her bid to become the first Canadian woman to reach a slam final.

"I had a couple of chances here and there and just didn't take my opportunities when I had a few of them. That's part of the learning experience for me."

Halep, 22, proved that she is a fast learner as she became the first Romanian in 34 years to reach a grand slam final by dousing the fire of Andrea Petkovic with a 6-2, 7-6(4) win.



Many of the near-capacity 15,000 spectators who went out for a breather following the conclusion of Sharapova's 2-1/2 hour marathon barely had a chance to file back into the stadium before fourth seed Halep romped through the opening set.

But Petkovic, who almost quit tennis a year ago after her ranking plummeted to 177 following a series of back, ankle and knee injuries, showed her indomitable spirit to hang in there in the second set before Halep finally sealed her fate.—*Reuters*

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