

Ghetto dwellers hope for more financial assistance from Thilawa SEZ investors

By Ye Myint

Locals, who have been relocated due to the Thilawa Special Economic Zone, have expressed their hope for more financial assistance from investors as they say their new dwellings are not adequate.

"We call the new place that was built here 'Japan ghetto' as it was set up by Japan following its investment in the Thilawa SEZ, although the official name for the place is new Myaing Tha village," said local Ko Maung Htoo, who has been living in Myaing Tha village all his life, about the new "village" which is now the home of 68 households that have been relocated from the 400-hectare Class A Area of the Thilawa Special Economic Zone, since the start of the industrial park's development project in November last year.

According to a JICA release, "68 households were provided with plots and house at relocation site and other compensation/assistance, 13 households received compensation/assistance for their assets."

"Every resettler is given K2.5 million for construction of a wooden house that measures about 18 feet by 20 feet on a land plot of 25 feet by 50 feet. I decided to spend K2 million, part of crop compensation I got for my betel plantations, on house construction in order to get a bigger one as the houses planned by the Thilawa SEZ resettlement committee are too small for my family of five members," U Myint Thu, one of the resettlers told the New Light of



68 households have been cramped into the "Japan ghetto," after locals were relocated from the 400-hectare Class A Area of the Thilawa Special Economic Zone.—PHOTO: YE MYINT

Myanmar.

"But, I agreed with the amount of compensation I got, while others are demanding to receive more compensation," U Myint Thu, who also serves as the head of the ghetto, said.

According to an article published by the Japan

JICA of funding the project without sufficiently assessing the environmental and sociological impact as its Guidelines for Environmental and Social Consideration stipulate." Mekong Watch, a Tokyo-based NGO that supports the residents, was quoted as saying by the Ja-

to factories and schools."

The three residents, who went to Tokyo—U Aye Khine Win, U Mya Hlaing and Daw San Shar—lodged a complaint with JICA, accusing the agency of taking part in the project without assessing whether its guidelines are being im-



Flooded backyards, breeding grounds for diseases, occur frequently in the ghetto, with locals saying no measures have been taken to improve the situation.

Times, published on June 2, "Three residents, representing more than 1,000 families who either moved or are expected to be forced out of Thilawa, say they ended up in an area with lousy water and other facilities and few prospects for fair employment." The article continues to say, that "they accuse

pan Times, that "68 families were evicted and given space on a tiny plot of land with poor water supply outside the development zone in November last year... (and) received insufficient compensation and support, leaving farmers without land and workers and children with lengthy commutes

plemented correctly on the ground or not.

The letter of complaint was received by a third "independent" party that will study the letter and contact JICA after concluding its task, said Mr. Tanaka Masahiko, JICA's chief representative in Myanmar, at a briefing on Wednesday,



Supply of drinking water is a major issue as not enough pumps have been installed, with "yellow" water coming out of all of them, according to locals.

stressing that JICA will handle this issue appropriately when suggestions by the third party will come out.

The Myanmar government is mainly responsible for compensation matters and is doing well in line with JICA's guideline, he added.

"We are living in debt, borrowing money to overcome our daily difficulties as we are out of cash now with no compensation left," said Daw Myint Myint Thein, who also built a new house for her family. "I only received K280,000 in compensation for the loss of my perennial trees," she said.

"I would like JICA to urge the government to provide more financial assistance to us and to meet JICA's guidelines," the 50-year-old woman said.

Mr Tanaka told local reporters during the brief-

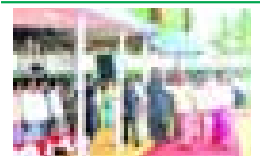
ing, that 80 percent of the affected people have been given assistance to find new jobs and that assistance is being given to the remaining people.

Ohnma Myint, who was resettled in the ghetto, but decided not to live there, said her husband was employed as a daily wage earner at the Class A Area development project after completing a driving course conducted under an income restoration program. But now he has no job as he was told to stop working there by his labour head, who had initially promised him to call him again.

"I am not willing to go back there as we were not paid our daily wages regularly," said 32-year old Tin Zaw Oo, who used to work at the construction site there.

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Correction

Please read "1957" instead of "1975" in the fourth line, second column and sixth paragraph of the story under the headline "SMIDB, BIDV ink MoUs on cooperation, provision of \$30 million loan" on the cover page of this daily issued on 7-6-2014. Error is regretted.—NLM

Cargo ship Han Thar delivered

YANGON, 7 June—A ceremony to welcome the arrival of Han Thar general cargo ship bought by the Union of Myanmar Economic Holdings Ltd was held at No 3 Bo Aung Kyaw Port in Yangon on Saturday morning, with Chairman of UMEHL Lt-Gen Khin Zaw Oo and other officials attending the event.

Myanmar Five Star Line bought Han Thar general cargo ship built by Kurinoura Dockyard Co., Ltd. in Japan in 2008. It can carry 9,934 tons of commodity, with a speed of 13 nautical miles per hour.

MNA



Chairman of UMEHL Lt-Gen Khin Zaw Oo views round engine of Han Thar general cargo ship.

MNA

Political dialogue on prospects for future of Myanmar's political transition held

YANGON, 7 June—According to a survey in 2012, Myanmar's political stability has increased about 8 per cent, while control of corruption has also been raised 11 per cent in comparison with a 2010 survey, said U Tin Maung Than,



U Tin Maung Than, Director of the Centre for Economic and Social Development (CESD).

Director of the Centre for Economic and Social Development (CESD), on Saturday at a political dialogue on prospects for the future of Myanmar's political transition in Yangon.

In his political point of view, he said implementation of the development of the tourism industry is closer to develop the nation's democracy than resource-based economy.

Dr Min Zaw Oo, of the Myanmar Peace Centre-MPC, said the body and ethnic groups should adjust their point of view that is vital for democracy and he also explained the importance of the implementation of a nationwide-cease-fire agreement.

During the transaction period, demand on the

NAY PYI TAW, 7 June—The 2nd China-South Asia Exposition and the 22nd Kunming Fair are being held at Kunming International Convention and Exhibition Center in the capital of China's Yunnan province from 6 to 10 June.

Union Minister for Commerce U Win Myint together with Shan State Chief Minister U Sao Aung Myat and Kachin State Chief Minister U La John Ngan Hsai visited the booths of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar Federation of Chambers of Commerce and Industry and merchant associations of Myanmar at the expo.

Myanmar showcases



agricultural produce, forest products and jewellery items at 30 booths.—MNA

Union Minister for Commerce U Win Myint visits 2nd booths at China-South Asia Exposition and 22nd Kunming Fair.—MNA

High school matriculation results come out with a declined pass rate

By Aung Khin

YANGON 7 June—The Department of Board of Examinations under the Ministry of Education on Saturday announced matriculation exam results, and sources said the pass rate has declined compared to the previous year.

For the 2013-2014 academic year, a total of 541,946 students enlisted for the high school matriculation exam, and 171,647 students (31.67 per cent) have passed, according to the figure of examination board.

An Education Ministry staff in Yangon said, "The amendment of Section 59 (f) and Section 436 of the Constitution should not be focused on. Instead all the opponent groups should focus on other more important issues, said Dr. Salai Ngun Cung Lian, Legal Advisor of MPC.

He added that the prospects for the future of Myanmar's political transition play a crucial role in the progress of democracy.

During the dialogue, U Aung Thu Nyein, Senior Research Officer of Myanmar Resources Institute-Centre for Economic and Social Development-MDRI-CESD, and U Aung Naing Oo, Former Foreign Affairs Secretary of ABSDF, participated in the discussion.

Khaing Thanda Lwin



Matriculation examination result crowded with students with smiles and sadness at a exam centre.

overall matriculation pass rate this year is over 30 per cent. The highest rate is in Ayeyawady Region."

Director General U Myo Nyunt of the Department of Board of Examinations said that the list of marks will be issued by 13 June in Nay Pyi Taw and Yangon, but the matriculation certificates will not be issued during this busy period.

The matriculation exams were held from 12 to 22 March both in and out of the country. Students living abroad can opt to complete examinations at a Myanmar embassy of the respective country.

U Win Kyaw, father of a student who got five distinctions in this year's

exam in Thanlyin Township, said, "I am very glad that my daughter passed five subjects with flying colours except Maths. Although we, the parents, have faced many struggles in our lives, we have now successfully supported our daughter to complete her basic education."

The failure rate is higher in far-flung corners of the country, said an education official. However, many students said that they could answer well at the exams as most of the questions in almost all the subjects were from the old question sets of previous years.

Daw Myo, a mother of a student who failed the exam, said, "My daughter

failed in the exam. We are vendors of drinks, but we will give our daughter one more chance to try again for next year's exam. Although education cost is relatively difficult for us, we don't want her to abandon education and to become uneducated as the lives of roadside vendors are very bitter."

U Myint Than, English teacher in Yangon, said, "The existing university enrolment system totally depends on the marks of the matriculation exam. The students with lower marks will have no chance to enrol in the universities that accept those with higher marks. So, the students should try to get good marks in the exam."

NATIONAL

President: Government has seen successes and challenges in reforms

NAY PYI TAW, 7 June — The government has met successes and challenges in its relentless efforts to initiate political and economic reforms since taking office, President U Thein Sein told the audience at a ceremony held in the parking lot of the Shwemawdaw Pagoda in Bago on Saturday morning, sources said.

The ceremony discussed matters related to rural development and socioeconomic development.

“A transition from one system to another involves changes in the political, economic and executive sectors, so in this process, every step has to be taken with great care,” the president said, adding that it is impossible for his country to force the transition to democracy, a system with which the Myanmar people had been unfamiliar for years.

U Thein Sein pointed out that through media channels it is easy to witness conflicts resulting from instability in countries that failed to take into consideration the realities of the transitional period.

Speaking of reform policies, he promised his government will strive to ensure stability and rule of law, and socioeconomic development, as an answer to two public desires, noting that his reforms include political stability, allowance for all nationals to participate in the national political process, and peace building for an end to armed conflicts with ethnic groups.

President U Thein Sein urged all to join hands with the government in the process of ensuring stability and smooth transition to democracy, whereby socioeconomic development materializes.



Union Minister for Cooperatives U Kyaw Hsan briefed on his ministry's measures being taken for narrowing down the poverty divide through the disbursement of small loans to farmers in rural areas.—MNA

President U Thein Sein greets departmental officials and local people at the meeting in Bago.—MNA

Thura U Shwe Mann: People should have knowledge about law

NAY PYI TAW, 7 June— Speaker of Pyidaungsu Hluttaw and Lower House on Saturday said that people should understand the law as it is very important not to be tricked in daily life.

At the meeting on law enactment and rule of law held at the Diamond Jubilee Hall of Yangon University Campus, Thura U Shwe Mann said, “Law is an art that everybody should know, or they would be tricked in their daily life. Those who do not have law knowledge cannot differentiate between right and wrong, leading negligence on the truth.”

He also added that as the Hluttaw is responsible for enactment of law, MPs



Speaker of Pyidaungsu Hluttaw and Lower House Thura U Shwe Mann meets officials and members of social organizations.—MNA

will have to take this responsibility.

Thura U Shwe Mann said that the Hluttaw will have to take the tasks for the amendment, cancella-

tion and abolition of existing laws. Hluttaw has amended and enacted 100 laws, and over 50 laws are under debate, while a total of 136 laws are being

amended, cancelled and enacted in collaboration with Union Government and the Supreme Court of Union, he said.

MNA

Ghetto dwellers hope ...

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“Water is still undrinkable here although hand pumps were set up within one or two minutes’ walk from the houses of the resettlers. We have to buy drinking water from outside as the water turns yellow after two buckets are pumped out,” said Tin Tin Mar, wife of Aye Khine Win.

“It is required to always use hand pumps for getting clean water, but they prefer buying water even for household use,”

said U Myint Thu who set up a generator pump at his home. “You can try drinking water from my pump. It is drinkable,” he asserted.

“Pump repairs have been made frequently, but it’s useless,” said a villager, drawing water through the hand pump.

Whilst even basic needs are not met, long term solutions to improve the livelihoods of people are also out of reach.

A training program that includes 15 courses is

being conducted for affected people, supposedly paving the way for enabling them to find a new job, but with little results, locals said.

“I can’t afford to run my own business after concluding the food production training course as there is no money to invest in buying a jelly-making machine. During the training session, a regional official told me that a new machine will be provided to me, but nothing has happened,” Daw Myint Myint Thein said.

My sons could not accept the training course offer

as they have no time to be in a class while struggling to make ends meet, she added.

“We are given K1,500 for getting to our designated classes that are run on weekends,” the daughter of U Myint Thu said.

Some called for increasing the K1,500 to K2,500 to be able to pay for meals during their class trip and the committee accepted their demand, she added.

“We have corrugated-iron-sheet-roofed wooden houses, and toilets at each house and sometimes power supply, but it is dif-

YANGON 7 June— A Meeting, 15th ASEAN Plus Three Ministerial Meeting, 21st ASEAN Regional Forum and preparations for the bloc’s other meetings scheduled in 2014.

The meeting discussed the establishment of the ASEAN Community decided during 24th ASEAN Summit, the capacity-building programme of ASEAN Secretariat Office and process of reviewing ASEAN working committees, the processes of the bloc’s communication working committee to establish ASEAN Community in 2015, the bloc and external relations, ASEAN Plus Three Senior Officials Meeting, senior officials meeting of the East Asia Summit, preparations for ASEAN Region Forum of senior officials, 47th ASEAN Foreign Ministers’

Meeting, 15th ASEAN Plus Three Ministerial Meeting, 21st ASEAN Regional Forum and preparations for the bloc’s other meetings scheduled in 2014.

The meeting was attended by senior officials, representatives and U Nyan Linn, deputy secretary-general of ASEAN Secretariat Office.

U Aung Linn said that 25th ASEAN Summit will be held in Nay Pyi Taw in November, and representatives from partnership countries of China, Japan, Korea, India, Australia and the United States will attend the event.

The East Asia Summit of ASEAN senior officials, ASEAN Plus Three Meeting of senior officials and ASEAN-US Partnership Meeting will be held at the same venue till 9 June.

MNA

difficult to live there with an empty stomach”, said a grandfather of a big family, who refused to be named. “My new house costs 4.5 million so I poured all compensation money into it. Now I have no money to repair it if necessary,” he said pointing at his muddy backyard.

“As there is no space at the backs of our houses, as all houses are closely built together, our backyards are flooded when the rain

comes. I paid K 10,000 for pumping out water from my toilet yesterday as water went into the latrine pit. I want to fill my plot with soil in order to avoid floods, but I cannot as all money has gone,” he added.

Most of the resettlers say their living conditions will become worse in the rainy season, and stressed the need for the government and investors to take more affective actions and not to turn a blind eye.

ISD Weightlifting and Boxing Tournament commences in Bago

YANGON, 7 June—The Bago Region Chief Minister's Cup Inter-State/Region Weightlifting and Boxing Tournament kicked off in Bago on Friday.

Union Minister for Sports U Tint Hsan launched the event, with Union Minister and Chief Minister of Bago Region awarding the winners. Ko Ko Naing of Thanatpin Township stood first in the men's and Hnin Hnin Oo of Pyu Township in the women's event.

As the weightlifting event came to an end, the Union minister and the chief minister presented



the first prize to Thura Hein of Bago Region I in the

men's 62-kilo category and Min Min of Yangon Region in the men's 56-kilo category.—MNA

Dutch minister visits Ayeyawady River ahead of water management pilot projects



MANDALAY, 7 June—Ms M.H. Sthultz van Haeden-Maas Geesteramus, Minister of Infrastructure and the Environment of the Netherlands visited Ayeyawady River as part of a tour to improve water management in the country with Dutch support, during her 5-day goodwill visit to Myanmar. She said her country is geographically low-lying and rounded by four rivers, with Dutch officials having

long experience in protecting overflow of water and maintenance of rivers.

She also said on Thursday that plans are underway to draw a master plan for pilot projects regarding water management. Myanmar and the Netherlands have recently signed an MoU on water resources management, aimed at close cooperation in water management.

Min Htet Aung (Mandalay Sub-printing House)

Talks on prevention of dengue fever and nurturing of pre-primary children given in Bahan Tsp

YANGON, 7 June—Talks on prevention of dengue haemorrhagic fever and nurturing of pre-primary children was given at No. 1 Pre-Primary School of the Social Welfare Department under the Ministry of Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement at Kanbawza Avenue in Bahan Township of Yangon on Friday afternoon.

Dr Htet Kaung Kyaw of a medical company gave talks on ways to prevent DHF with the heads of pre-primary schools holding discus-



sions with 150 parents of children in four groups on

activities and education of early-child development.—Aung Than (Min-gala Taungnyunt)

Thaton District IPRD to raise literacy of rural people

THATON, 7 June—Staff of the Thaton District Information and Public Relations Department made field trips to rural areas to give mobile library services to locals and talks about prevention of trafficking in persons. On Thursday, they stationed a mobile library at Dhammayon of the monastery in Hsinkyon village and at the monastery in Shwebawgon village in Thaton Township.

Staff Officer of the district IPRD Daw Khin Saw Lin gave talks on improving the reading habits of people in rural villages and Head of Township IPRD Daw Thuzar Aung talked about combating human trafficking.

The staff displayed a photo and wall magazine for the people and donated books and publications to the village libraries.

Thaton District IPRD



Sagaing District reports 25.20 per cent pass rate in 2014 matriculation exam

SAGAING, 7 June—The result of matriculations for 2013 was posted at District and Township Education offices and respective examination centres in Sagaing on Saturday.

Out of 6,004 students, a total of 1,513 passed the examination, accounting for 25.20 per cent in the district. Eleven students won four distinctions, 39 students three distinctions, 51 students two distinctions, 311 students one distinction, totalling 412 distinction winners. In Sagaing District, 900 students out of

3,298 passed the examination with a 27.29 per cent pass rate, including 317 distinction winners in Sagaing Township. Likewise, 315 students out of 1,331 passed the examination, making it a 23.67 per cent pass rate and 32 students won distinctions in Myinmu Township. In Myaung Township, 298 students out of 1,375 students including 63 distinction winners passed the examination, accounting for a 21.67 per cent pass rate, according to the Sagaing District Education Office.

Nanda Min Lwin

Matriculation exam results announced in Shwepyitha Township

YANGON, 7 June—Shwepyitha Township Education Office of Yangon Region posted the results of the matriculation examination for the 2013-14 academic year at its office and eight examination centres on Saturday.

A total of 1,196 students out of 4,574 passed the examination with a 26.15 per cent pass rate in the township. Seven five-distinction winners, 25 four-distinction win-

ners, 23 three-distinction winners, 33 two-distinction winners and 60 one-distinction winners were reported.

In the compound of the exam centres, teachers, officials of administrative bodies and members of fire brigade supervised security measures for students and relatives who waited for the examination result.

Myint Than Kyi (Shwepyitha)

Dwellers get concrete road in North Okkapala Tsp

YANGON, 7 June—The ward authorities and local people improved Aungthabye Road to a concrete one in Hta Ward of North Okkalapa Township in Yangon.

Local people funded K14.5 million for upgrad-

ing the road. On 4 June, the construction work finished the 430-foot long road.

With the new road, local people and students will have smooth access to the main roads of the township and the basic education school.—Tun Win

Training on implementation of green village project conducted

HAKA, 7 June—The trainer course for a green village project, conducted by the Chin State Rural Development Department, was held at the city hall in Haka on 3 June.

Chief Minister of Chin State U Hong Ngai said that a K30-million fund will be allotted for the implementation of the green village project for 24 villages in

Chin State. He urged the trainees to try hard in studying the technology to implement the green project.

Altogether 70 trainees from Haka, Falam, Mindat, Tonzang, Matupi and Paletwa townships including staff of Rural Development Department are attending the one week course.

Chin State (IPRD)

REGIONAL

Thai coup leader asks protesters not to make “three-finger” sign in public, vows to reform country

BANGKOK, 7 June — Thai army chief Gen Prayuth Chan-ocha has asked demonstrators not to make a “three-finger” sign in public in protest of last month’s coup, warning such gesture is against the martial rule.

In a 40-minute speech broadcast nationwide on TV and radio on Friday night, Prayuth, who led the 22 May military coup to overthrow a caretaker civilian government, urged the street protesters to stop making the protest sign, which, he said, merely imitated a gesture by characters in blockbuster film the Hunger Games.

According to anti-coup protesters who admitted to have been inspired by the Hollywood movie, the index, middle and ring fingers which they conspicuously showed off while taking to the streets in the Thai capital mean peace, freedom and fraternity.

“The ‘three-finger’ sign may represent some kind of principle originally adopted in a foreign country and I do not want to argue about it.

“But if you really want to make that ‘three-finger’ sign, would you please do so at home? If you did it in public, you’d obviously break martial rule,” Prayuth said.

The martial rule, imposed a few days ahead of the bloodless coup, is currently effective nationwide and those alleged to have violated it may be brought to



Protesters against military rule gesture by holding up their three middle fingers in the air, during a brief demonstration at a shopping mall in Bangkok on 1 June, 2014.—REUTERS

martial court which might probably deliver harsher penalties than criminal or civil court.

“Instead of that, let’s make a ‘five-finger’ sign today. Two fingers mean the country, which is the most important. One other finger means religion, one other means the monarch and the other represents the people. Stop imitating characters in the foreign film with that ‘three-finger’ sign,” he said.

His comments about the otherwise superficial subject followed repeated gatherings in the heart of the capital of anti-coup pro-

testers who had engaged in tense standoffs with army troops and policemen, some of them armed with guns and others with batons and shields.

Though no violence has occurred to either side since the coup was staged a few weeks ago, such recurring public phenomena obviously has upset the coup leader, who repeatedly called on the peaceful demonstrators, many of whom being university students, to stop doing so and allow him to work things out for the interests of the country and people.

Under Prayuth’s “roadmap,” a Reconciliatory Center for Reforms has been set up to fix social rifts which have existed for nearly a decade and divided the Thais into two opposing sides.

The coup leader has repeatedly vowed to take steps to put an end to such polarized politics, in which many Thais had been persuaded to wear either yellow shirts or red shirts to signify their different ideologies.

“I’d like to ask all of those protesters to stop taking to task the National Council for Peace and Or-

der and allow us to follow the ‘roadmap’ and solve the country’s problems which have prevailed since the last nine years.

“Over time all the problems will be addressed by sustainable, effectual solutions. Let’s reform our country which was nearly on the brink of a debacle,” he said, apparently referring to Bangkok’s six-month-long street unrest which finally prompted him to stage the coup.” A marathon anti-government protest in 2005 prompted the military to stage a coup the next year to oust former leader Thak-

sin Shinawatra, brother of deposed Premier Yingluck Shinawatra.

The “roadmap” calls for the setting up of an interim, non-elected government, an interim constitution, a National Assembly which will draft a new charter and a Reform Council which will perform based on feedbacks from the Reconciliatory Centre for Reforms.

Following the military-led efforts toward national reconciliation and restoration of public peace and order, which are expected to take a few months time from now, those bodies will have about one year to finish their assigned duties after which democratic rule will be returned to the country, according to the army chief. That primarily will feature an election nationwide, followed by the reopening of parliament where elected legislators will pick a prime minister from among themselves.

Meanwhile, Prayuth reassured that Thailand’s tourism will return to business as usual since curfew has already been lifted in several major tourist spots, mostly in southern seaside areas. Curfew, imposed from midnight until 4 am, is still effective in the capital and provinces throughout the country except in Pattaya, Phuket, Samui Island, Krabi, Pang-nga, Hua Hin and Cha-am, all favorite seaside resorts for foreigners.—Xinhua

Heavy rains, floods kill more than 100 people in N Afghanistan

PUL-E-KHUMRI, 7 June — Heavy rains and floods killed more than 100 people, wounded around 100 others and washed away dozens of houses in Gazargah-e-Noor district of the northern Baghlan Province on Friday night, district governor Noor Mohammad Gazar said on Saturday. “Powerful wind, heavy rains and hailstones caused heavy flood in Gazargah-e-Noor District

of Baghlan Province on Friday night killing more than 100 people and injuring around 100 others within hour,” Gazar told newsmen. However, he said that the casualties could go higher. The flood had also washed away dozens of houses and damaged hundreds of others, he added. All the roads leading to Gazargah-e-Noor district have been destroyed or badly damaged, the dis-

trict governor further said.

He also added that the locals are in urgent need of humanitarian assistance.

Meanwhile, an elder of Gazargah-e-Noor district, Mullah Baz Mohammad Khan, said that more than 1,000 houses had been destroyed and hundreds of people including women and children had lost their lives in the natural disaster.

Xinhua

Malaysia to strengthen defence near Sabah’s East Coast

BEIJING, 7 June — Malaysian Defence Minister Hishammuddin Hussein stated in 5 June that Malaysia will strengthen the defence forces near the Sabah’s East Coast which is connected with the Philippines in order to conduct

anti-piracy and anti-kidnapping operations.

Hishammuddin said, the aim of establishing the defence force — the ESSCOM — is to prevent pirates and fight against terrorism. However, problems have kept coming since the

ESSCOM was set up. For this purpose, the government has decided to further strengthen the defence of the region, especially in terms of strengthening the abilities of military training and intelligence collecting.

Xinhua



Cambodian dancers celebrate the return of three stolen ancient statues during a ceremony in Phnom Penh on 3 June, 2014.—KYODO NEWS

Poroshenko promises united Ukraine and no compromise on Crimea

KIEV, 7 June — Ukraine's new president Petro Poroshenko said his country would never give up Crimea and would not compromise on its path towards closer ties with Europe, using his inaugural speech on Saturday to send a defiant message to Russia.

The 48-year-old billionaire took the oath of office before parliament, buoyed by Western support but facing an immediate crisis in relations with Russia as a separatist uprising seethes in the east of his country.

Russia annexed the Crimean peninsula in March, weeks after street protests ousted Poroshenko's pro-Moscow predecessor, in a move that has provoked the deepest crisis in relations with the West since the Cold War. "Citi-



Petro Poroshenko (L) arrives for his inauguration ceremony as Ukraine's new president in Kiev on 7 June, 2014.—REUTERS

zens of Ukraine will never enjoy the beauty of peace unless we settle down our relations with Russia. Russia occupied Crimea, which was, is, and will be Ukrainian soil," Poroshenko said

in a speech that was greeted with a standing ovation.

He had told this to Russia's Vladimir Putin when the two met on Friday at a World War Two anniversary ceremony in

France, he said.

Poroshenko, who earned his fortune as a confectionery entrepreneur and is known locally as the "Chocolate King", said he intended very soon to sign

the economic part of an association agreement with the European Union, as a first step towards full membership.

This idea is anathema to Moscow, which wants to keep Ukraine in its own post-Soviet sphere of influence. His voice swelling with emotion, Poroshenko stressed the need for a united Ukraine and the importance of ending the conflict that threatens to further split the country of 45 million people. He said it would not become a looser federalized state, as advocated by Russia.

"There can be no trade-off about Crimea and about the European choice and about the governmental system. All other things can be negotiated and discussed at the negotiation table. Any attempts at internal or external enslave-

ment of Ukraine will meet with resolute resistance," Poroshenko said.

Cheering crowds later greeted him on a walkabout in blazing sunshine on the square in front of Kiev's St Sophia's Cathedral, which was decked with the blue and yellow national flag.

Since Poroshenko's election, government forces have begun an intensified campaign against the separatist rebels in eastern Ukraine who want to split with Kiev and become part of Russia.

The rebels have fought back, turning parts of the east into a war zone. On Friday they shot down a Ukrainian army plane and killed a member of the interior ministry's special force in the separatist stronghold of Slaviansk, where residents said shelling continued all day.—Reuters

Netanyahu, Peres congratulate Egypt's Sisi on winning presidency

JERUSALEM, 7 June — Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu and President Shimon Peres called Egyptian President-elect Abdul Fattah al-Sisi on Friday to congratulate him on his election victory, both underscoring that Israel is committed to the peace treaty between the two countries.

Netanyahu stressed in his call to Sisi the strategic importance of maintaining bilateral ties and the 1979 peace accords, wishing the Egyptian people "a future of stability, prosperity and peace," according to a statement released by Netanyahu's office.

Peres, who will retire next week, highlighted Israel's continued commitment to the peace with Egypt. "We will remain committed to maintaining the peace treaty and strengthening cooperation," he said.

Peres wished the Egyptian people prosperity and success, and expressed his hope that Sisi would lead them to great achievements.—Xinhua

Third shipment of Israeli humanitarian aid reaches Serbia



BELGRADE, 7 June — The Embassy of Israel in Serbia handed over the aid in sanitation materials,

aimed to reduce the flood damage, to Serbia's Ministry of Health on Friday.

This is the third ship-

ment of humanitarian aid sent from Israel to Serbia in response to the government appeal during the disastrous floods that swept through Serbia last month.

State Secretary at the Ministry of Health Berislav Vekic recalled that the first shipment of Israeli aid contained rescue boats, rubber boots, raincoats, blankets and other emergency supplies, while the second consisted of water pumps and power generators.

Health Ministry is in daily contact with Serbian embassies abroad and

expects that the help of friends will continue to come, noted Vekic.

Consul at the Embassy of Israel to Serbia Sigalit Shay expressed hope that after three humanitarian shipments, new relief supplies would be sent to help reduce the impact of the floods.

The Jewish tradition is to help friends in need, and Israel certainly sees Serbia as a good friend. As always, we are doing everything we can to help Serbia, Israeli Consul said.

Tanjung

US spy agency CIA joins Facebook, Twitter

WASHINGTON, 7 June — Make a friend with CIA on your Facebook or Twitter? It sounds weird.

The US spy agency on Friday stepped from the back to the front on social media as it sent its first tweet on its official Twitter page, a rare move for the agency to show its engagement with the public.

"We can neither confirm nor deny that this is our first tweet," CIA tweeted for its debut on Twitter.

It quickly confirmed in a press release that it had established a presence on Twitter and also on Facebook. Within two hours of the post, it received around

90,000 retweets and the CIA counted 115,000 followers.

The purpose of joining Twitter and Facebook was to help the agency "more directly engage with the public and provide information on CIA's mission, history and other developments," CIA director John Brennan said in a statement. However, the agency will unlikely post spy secrets.

The agency already has a public website, and accounts on YouTube and Flickr, an online photo-sharing website. CIA has long been following social media, secretly.

Xinhua

DONETSK / LUHANSK (Ukraine), 7 June — Pro-Russian separatists shot down a Ukrainian army plane as fighting raged in the eastern town of Slaviansk on Friday, a day before the inauguration of pro-European billionaire businessman Petro Poroshenko as Ukraine's president.

Slaviansk has been at the heart of a two-month insurgency in the Russian-speaking east of Ukraine by rebels opposed to the overthrow of a Moscow-leaning president and the formation in Kiev of a pro-Western government.

Separatists operating from the grounds of a church in Slaviansk also

killed a member of the Ukrainian interior ministry's special forces and seriously wounded two others in a mortar attack on Friday, the ministry said.

The self-appointed mayor of the city, Vyacheslav Ponomaryov, said an Antonov An-30 intelligence plane had been shot down.

"The airplane was hit in the center of the city. It happened in front of my own eyes. It was a wonderful sight. The residents who saw it applauded," Ponomaryov told Reuters by telephone. A spokesman for Ukraine's "Anti-terrorist operation" or ATO, later confirmed a plane had been

shot down but said it was an An-26 transportation plane carrying humanitarian aid.

The Ukrainian army and defense ministry were not available to comment on the reports. A YouTube video purporting to be of the An-30 and posted on several local news websites showed a plane clearly heading downwards in an irregular manner.

A photographer in Slaviansk, a city of 130,000 people in the province of Donetsk bordering Russia, said she saw the plane, visibly on fire, slowly descending but did not see it crash.

Residents said the sounds of shelling rever-

berated around the city on Friday. One separatist in Slaviansk told Reuters there had been shooting in the city center and that there were casualties, although he did not know how many.

Resident Larissa Akincheva said she stayed away from her work as a store clerk due to the heavy shelling.

"Today I didn't go out at all. I hear the explosions, the shelling. They have been firing all day," Akincheva, 50, said by telephone. "You could hear the planes circling overhead, I don't know if they were scouting or what."

Reuters

Rebels down Ukraine army plane

WORLD

UN, AU vow to further cooperation in boosting peace, security in Africa

UNITED NATIONS, 7 June — The UN Security Council and the Political and Security Council of the African Union (AU) on Friday agreed to further their cooperation in the efforts to promote peace and security and fight against terrorism on the African continent.

The agreement came as Vitaly Churkin, the Russian UN ambassador who is the president of the UN Security Council for June, and Mull Sbuja Katende, Uganda's AU ambassador who is the chair of the Political and Security Council (PSC) of the AU for this month, were speaking to reporters here after the meeting here between the UN council and the AU body. At the meeting, the Security Council and the AU council exchanged views on a wide range of issues of mutual concern

and of mutual interest, such as the situation in the Central African Republic, Mali, the Democratic Republic of Congo, Somalia, the UN-AU peacekeeping operations in Africa, and the fight against terrorism, Churkin said. "We had a deeper understanding of the African continent" after the meeting. Describing the annual meeting as "a useful experience," Churkin said, "The African Union and the United Nations work very closely together," and "there is room for more close cooperation between our two councils."

The meeting "was very constructive," Katende said. "We believe that we, working together with the Security Council, would be able to make more achievement."

"What we are doing in Africa relating to conflict,

ending of conflict, is really a partnership exercise," he said. "We are happy that we are doing very well with the Security Council."

"To the international community, we already said that as Africa, there is a lot we put in place to resolve the conflict on the continent," he said. "We require further support from the international community." On the campaign to fight terrorism, Katende said, "The issue of terrorism is high on our agenda, and we have constructively engaged with each other."

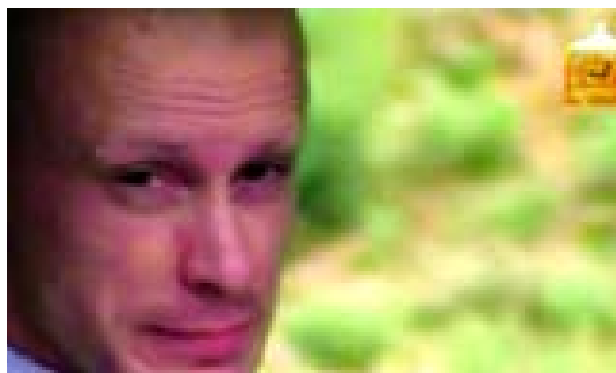
"We all appreciate that terrorism is a menace, we have to come together to curb it," he said, referring to the cooperation and sharing of information between the two organizations, including intelligence on the anti-terrorism war.

Xinhua



Mull Sbuja Katende (L), Uganda's AU ambassador who is the chair of the Political and Security Council (PSC) of the AU for June, and Vitaly Churkin, the Russian UN ambassador who is the president of the UN Security Council for this month, attend a joint Press briefing at the UN headquarters in New York, on 6 June, 2014. The UN Security Council and the Political and Security Council of the African Union (AU) on Friday agreed to further their cooperation in the efforts to promote peace and security and fight against terrorism on the African continent. —XINHUA

Americans split on prisoner swap of Taliban for US soldier



US Army Sergeant Bowe Bergdahl waits in a pick-up truck before he is freed at the Afghan border, in this still image from video released on 4 June, 2014. —REUTERS

WASHINGTON, 7 June — Americans are deeply divided over whether the Obama administration did the right thing by swapping five Taliban leaders to win the freedom of Afghanistan prisoner of war Bowe Bergdahl, according to Reuters/Ipsos survey released on Friday.

Americans strongly agree the United States should make every effort to free prisoners of war like Bergdahl, an Army Sergeant who was captured in eastern Afghanistan in 2009. But they also think the prisoner swap deal set a dangerous precedent.

The Reuters/Ipsos poll of 958 Americans interviewed online found that 44 percent disagreed with the statement that trading Taliban prisoners for Bergdahl was "the right thing to do," with 26 percent of

them strongly disagreeing.

Twenty-nine percent of those polled said they thought the prisoner swap was the right thing to do and 27 percent said they were not sure, the poll found.

Bergdahl was handed over to US special operations forces in Afghanistan last Saturday after the Obama administration agreed to send five Taliban leaders held at Guantanamo prison to Qatar, where they must remain for a year.

After an initial wave of euphoria over the release, the deal triggered a backlash among US lawmakers angry because they were not given 30 days notice before the transfer of the Guantanamo prisoners, as required by law. Some of Bergdahl's former Army comrades said they believe he deserted his post.

White House counselor John Podesta on Friday told a Christian Science Monitor breakfast that President Barack Obama knew the prisoner swap would be a "controversial decision."

The president said he acted quickly because he was faced with a "delicate situation that required no publicity" and that he had no regrets about the action.

"This is something that I would do again and I will continue to do whenever I have an opportunity, if I have a member of our military who's in captivity," he told NBC Nightly News. "We're going to try to get 'em out."

Obama decided to personally announce the exchange in the White House Rose Garden, accompanied by Bergdahl's parents, in order to explain to the public the reasons behind the decision, Podesta told a breakfast meeting.

The uproar over the prisoner swap has left Americans with conflicted views of the events, the Reuters/Ipsos poll showed.

Asked whether they thought Bergdahl was a patriot or a traitor/deserter, 65 percent said they did not know. Only 13 percent said they viewed Bergdahl as a patriot and 22 percent saw him as a traitor/deserter.

Reuters

UN reports rising number of displaced civilians in Western Iraq

UNITED NATIONS, 7 June — The UN Refugee Agency (UNHCR) said that the number of civilians displaced by violence in Anbar Province in west Iraq continues to climb due to escalating fighting early this year, Farhan Haq, the deputy UN spokesman, told reporters here on Friday.

"With a deteriorating security situation, it is also becoming harder for

humanitarian workers to reach people in need," Haq said at a daily news briefing here. "As of today, the Iraqi government says that 434,000 men, women and children have fled their homes since fighting escalated in January this year," he said. "However, the Iraqi authorities have had to suspend registration over the past month because of insecurity."

The current figure of people being displaced is now close to 480,000, said Haq, quoting the UNHCR data. A UNHCR special appeal for 26.4 million US dollars, launched in March, is currently only 12 percent funded, Haq said. "Better funding is critical to help those who are displaced now, and when they return home in the future."

Xinhua

Spain to pursue inquiry into killing of cameraman by US shell in Iraq

MADRID, 7 June — Spain's High Court ruled on Friday that a criminal investigation into the killing of Spanish cameraman Jose Couso by a US tank

shell in Iraq in 2003 could be pursued, despite a new law placing limits on judicial powers in international cases.

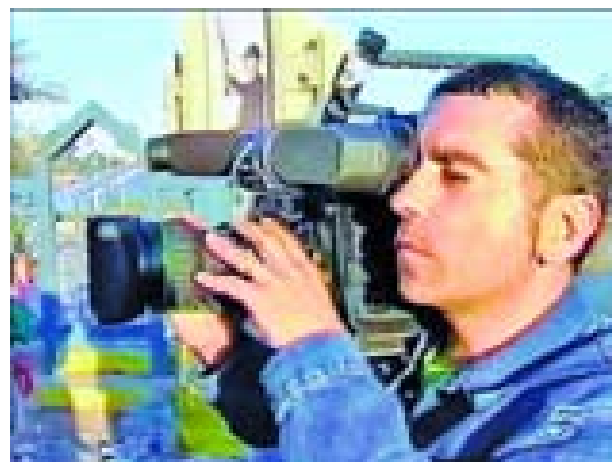
Judicial authorities

have sought the arrest and questioning of three US soldiers accused of involvement in Couso's death. Reuters cameraman Taras Protsyuk, a Ukrainian, was also killed by the shell that crashed into a Baghdad hotel.

A law passed by Spain's centre-right government in March curbed the powers of judges to prosecute human rights cases under the principle of universal jurisdiction. The High Court must now rule on the legality of all pending cases one by one.

Cases now must be dismissed if they do not meet the new legal requirements that those accused of alleged human rights abuses must themselves be Spanish citizens.

Reuters



Undated file TV grab of Spanish TV cameraman Jose Couso, 37, who was working for Spanish TV channel Tele5, was killed along with Reuters TV cameraman Taras Protsyuk in Baghdad on 8 April, 2003. —REUTERS

PERSPECTIVES

Sunday, 8 June, 2014

Land use plan should favour ordinary residents

By Aung Khin

Myanmar has 25 million acres of forest reserve and 4.7 million acres of fallow land. Net area sown with different crops is 20 million acres, according to the 'Statistical Yearbook 2012' of the Ministry of National Planning and Economic Development.

The Statistical Yearbook for Asia and the Pacific 2013 of the United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific shows that the population growth per annum is 0.9 percent, with an urban population of 33.2

percent and a 2.6 percent increase per annum, and with population density of 78 per square kilometre.

As the development programmes have not spread across the country, the urban migration is an emerging issue suffered in major cities. Although land reform plans are being carried out in accordance with the law, it has many impacts on the public. Fallow, vacant or virgin land with no registered owners were handed to private firms. But much of the land did not benefit most of the ordinary residents.

Many private firms transformed the land into places for high-priced real estates. Some medium-scale business groups established petrol stations after obtaining ownership of the land. With this plan it is easier to obtain property ownership, with the land being sold on easier after a certain period of time when prices rise.

Land should not be considered natural mo-

nopolies. The government seriously needs to tackle the problems of urban residents who are facing a shortage of apartments. Land reform and registration plans should benefit ordinary people. Land use plan should not favour only a handful of wealthy people. The taxation plan should be reformed to restrict purchasing land plots as a lucrative investment.

No country can enjoy a stable development if the gaps of income and lifestyles are remarkably wide in the country. Short-sighted and greedy business people are doing economic sabotage through corruption and bribery which are greater threats than any acts of terrorism in Myanmar.

Write for us

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

Transformation

How would you transform yourself from being a non-entity to becoming an entity? How would you like to change yourself from being a mediocrity to become a person of consequence?

The Bible says: "Be ye transformed by the renewal of your mind".

Grow From Within

What is the purpose of a plant or a tree? The purpose is to grow and bear fruits. And what is the purpose of a human being? I think the purpose serves to be the same as a plant, to grow and bear fruits. It means to GROW INSIDE-OUT.

Growth is Transformation

For a human being to grow, he/she has got to purposefully transform himself/herself. Some of the radical transformations take the forms of changing from:

- Being Passive to Becoming Active
- Being Static to Becoming Dynamic
- Being Negative to Becoming Positive
- Being Reactive to Becoming Proactive
- Being A Brooder to Becoming a Doer.
- Status quo to Progressive Development

Growth Is Your Birthright

You have got "To Strive, to Seek and to Find, and not to Yield," as the Poet Tennyson says, in the pursuit of your personal Growth.

A good formula for personal growth is:

- G** for **Goal** You must have a Definite Goal
- R** for **Resources** You must have adequate resources
- O** for **Opportunities** You must find opportunities for growth
- W** for **Work for Win-Win** Outcomes
- T** for **Trust-building** You must be TRUST-WORTHY
- H** for **High-Energy** You must have the Spirit of "The Quitter never Wins, and the Winner never Quits."

Rely On GOD

If you are not a self-reliant fighter, you should faithfully rely on GOD. GOD, here, means:

- G** for **Goal** A Definite Mission/Purpose/Aim and Object
- O** for **Opportunities** Napoleon Bonaparte said: "I don't seek opportunities. I create them."
- D** for **Dedication** Be totally Dedicated to your Purpose with might and main. (Have a Consuming Dedication)

Go all-out for your Great Goal. And aim high. Give all you've got. Give every bit of yourself. Hold nothing back.

By Kyi Mun

Organizational Transformation

Organizational Transformation must be designed and planned taking into consideration the following Five International Best Practices:

- The Financial Viability
- The Operational Efficiency
- The Managerial Effectiveness
- Customer and Employee Satisfaction
- Competitive Advantage

To increase Economic Value of the Stakeholders' Wealth, the whole DRIVE must come from the Organizational Capability and Effectiveness.

People Transformation

So, People Transformation must precede the Economic Value Drive. In other words, the Economic Value of Stakeholders' Wealth is created by the Cutting Edge based on the Distinctive Capabilities of the people. As the people are the engine of growth and cutting edge, people must be TRANSFORMED in the following aspects:

- Arrogance to Camaraderie
- Greed to Win-Win-Win-Win Outcomes
- Complacency to Renewal / Revitalization
- Inconsistency to Prompt Delivery of Mutual Benefits (Walk the Talk)
- Myopia to Long-term Growth, Profitability, and Consolidation.

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

KOICA donates US\$400,000 to ASEAN Affairs Department

NAY PYI TAW, 7 June—Mr. Nam Kwon Hyoung, Chief Resident Representative of Convention Equipment handed over technical equipment worth US\$ 400,000, which was donated

ed by the Korea International Cooperation Agency (KOICA) Myanmar Office, to the ASEAN Affairs Department on Thursday at Royal Kumudra Hotel, in Nay Pyi Taw.

KOICA has been implementing the convention management capability project with a volume of US\$1 million between 2013 and 2014. KOICA contributed provision of convention equipment, inviting officials from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs for the training programs in Korea, conducting local education training programs in Myanmar, dispatching Korean experts to assist the implementation of the project in support to Myanmar's ASEAN Chairmanship 2014.—NLM



Mr. Nam Kwon Hyoung, Chief Resident Representative of Convention Equipment presents technical equipment worth US\$400,000 donated by KOICA Myanmar Office to an official.—KOICA

GOLD PRICE, FE RATE (7-6-2014)

Yangon Gold Price

Buying K649,600 per tical: Selling K650,100

Mandalay Gold Price

Buying K649,600 per tical: Selling K650,100

FE RATE

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

LOCAL NEWS

Pagoda under construction with contributions from Myanmar locals who work overseas

MYINGYAN, 7 June—Villagers are building a 66-foot-high Yadana Shwegu Aye Pagoda in the precinct of Buddha Viha-ra monastery in Dahkyun village of Myingyan Township, Mandalay Region, with financial support from Myanmar locals who work in Korea, officials said.

The construction of the pagoda is estimated to cost over K40 million, with construction of four stairways and the platform of the pagoda underway, said Abbot Bhaddanta Iddibala of the monastery.

The people from the village who are working in the Republic of Korea donated cash for the construction of an archway, one prayer hall and one banner post.

Chan Thar (Meiktila)

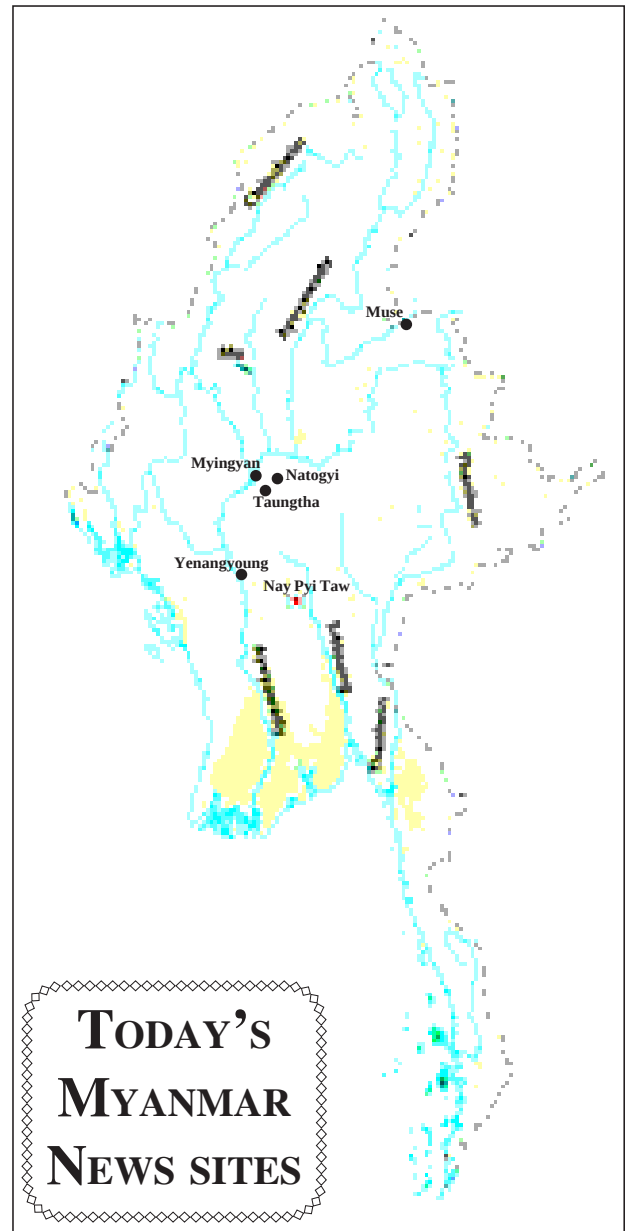


Winners awarded in World Environment Day commemorative essay contest

NATOGYI, 7 June—A ceremony to mark World Environment Day 2014 was observed at the hall of the Basic Education High School in Natogyi of Mandalay Region on 5 June morning.

Head of Township Forest Department U Myo Min Oo gave awards to winners in the essay contest, which focused on ideas on how to deal with environmental issues, at middle and high school levels.

Than Aung Zaw (Natogyi)



**TODAY'S
MYANMAR
NEWS SITES**

Directorate of Road Transport legalizes unlicensed motorcycles in Myingyan

MYINGYAN, 7 June—The Directorate of Road Transport in Myingyan of Mandalay Region provided a one-stop service to the owners of motorcycles to obtain registration within a day.

Up to now, the directorate has issued licences to about 7,800 of the owners in Myingyan, 1,066

in NyaungU and 1,604 in Kyaukpadaung.

In Myingyan, over 100 motorcycles drivers receive licences from the directorate daily. The staff will make field trips to Ngazun on 12 and 13 June, Natogyi on 16 and 17 June and Taungtha on 19 and 20 June respectively for legalizing the motorbikes, said



Head of the District Directorate U Lay Naing, adding that the owners are to take registration for the motor-

bikes at the directorate no later than 4 July.

Zaw Min Naing
(Myingyan)

Agricultural technology explained to farmers in Yenangyoung Tsp

YENANGYOUNG, 7 June—Officials and staff of Magway District and Yenangyoung Township Agriculture Departments discussed the impacts of

climate change and agricultural technology to farmers, with local people and village administrators of the village-tracts of Yenangyoung Township at-

tending the event on Thursday.

Officials of Magway Region Agriculture Department also explained seeds preservation, land

utilization and prevention of pests with agricultural technology.

Yenangyoung
Township IPRD



Literary talks given to university students in Myingyan

MYINGYAN, 7 June—The first literary talk was given at the Government Technological University in Myingyan of Mandalay Region on Friday.

The talk, organized by faculty members and students union of the universi-

ty, took place on the ground.

Writers Nyi Min Nyo, U Phone (Chemistry) and Chit Oo Nyo discussed literary at the ceremony, which was attended by about 2000 bookworms including faculty members.

Chan Thar (Meiktila)

Taungtha observes World Environment Day

TAUNGTHA, 7 June—Taungtha Township held a ceremony to mark the World Environment Day at a school near the Myingyan-Meiktila Road in Taungtha of Mandalay Region on 5 June.

Head of Township Forest Department U Shwe Naing and Staff

Officer of Arid Zone Greening Department U Aung Zaw Myo explained facts about the day, with officials presenting prizes to outstanding students in the essay contest to mark world environment day.

Kyaw Myo Naing
(Taungtha)

Muse District gets new office of SLRD

MUSE, 7 June—A ceremony to open a new office for the Settlement and Land Records Department of Muse District in northern Shan State was held in front of the office

on Gangaw Street in Muse on Friday.

The building is 48 feet long, 27.5 feet wide and 12 feet high. The brick structure was funded with over K 16 million

in the 2013-14 fiscal year, with the district farmland management committee saying they have opened their office at the same building.

Muse District IPRD



Pope's Mideast prayer meeting not political meddling

VATICAN, 7 June — Pope Francis hopes an unprecedented meeting of the Israeli and Palestinian presidents at the Vatican on Sunday can help end “eternal negotiations” and lead to peace but he has no wish to meddle in Middle East politics, the Vatican said on Friday.

Israel's Shimon Peres and Palestinian leader Mahmoud Abbas will pray for peace together following a surprise invitation made by Francis during his visit to the Holy Land last month.

“This is a moment to invoke God for the gift of peace. This is a pause in politics,” said Father Pierbattista Pizzaballa, a Church official in charge of Catholic sites in the Holy Land and a key organiser of Sunday's encounter.

“This is also an invitation to politicians to pause and look heavenward,” Pizzaballa told a Vatican briefing. “Everyone wants something to happen, something to change. Everyone is tired of these eternal negotiations that never end ...”

The two presidents will spend about two hours in the Vatican gardens at an intricately planned service that will include prayers and meditations by Jews, Christians and Muslims in each other's presence.

The pope, Peres and Abbas will read individual invocations for peace, shake hands and plant an olive tree in the gardens.

Patriarch Bartholomew, the spiritual head of the Orthodox Church, will also attend.

Reuters



Pope Francis looks on as he rides past an Italian flag during a special audience for Carabinieri paramilitary police in Saint Peter's Square at the Vatican on 6 June, 2014. —REUTERS

Jordan's UN envoy proposed as new UN human rights chief

UNITED NATIONS, 7 June — UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon on Friday proposed that Jordan's UN ambassador, Prince Zeid Ra'ad Zeid al-Hussein, replace Navi Pillay as the United Nations' human rights chief based in Geneva, the world body's Press office said.

The nomination will now go to the 193-nation UN General Assembly for approval.

Several UN diplomats said there was unlikely to be any resistance to the appointment given that Prince Zeid is generally popular and has established a solid reputation as a human rights advocate.

Prince Zeid, a graduate of Johns Hopkins University and Cambridge University, has previously served as Jordan's ambassador to the United States and Mexico. He was also a political affairs officer in UNPROFOR, the UN

peacekeeping mission in the former Yugoslavia during the Balkan conflict.

Last year Prince Zeid was among the UN envoys who called for a boycott of a UN meeting on international justice the United States and others described as “inflammatory” and a forum to merely complain about the treatment of Serbs in war crimes tribunals.

The session was organised by a Serbian politician who chaired the General Assembly at the time.

If approved as UN High Commissioner for Human Rights, Prince Zeid will replace Pillay, a South African jurist who in 2012 was given an abbreviated second term of only two years due to criticism the United States, which disliked her criticism of Israel, UN diplomats said at the time.

In 2012, Syria also

made clear it was not a fan of Pillay, whom the Syrian delegation described as “hostile” towards the government of President Bashar al-Assad because of its approach to the country's civil war, now in its fourth year.

Pillay has accused the Syrian government of war crimes and called for the conflict to be referred to the International Criminal Court in the Hague.

Last month Russia and China vetoed a French-drafted resolution that would have brought the Syrian conflict to the ICC.

The Jordanian diplomat who will replace Prince Zeid as Amman's UN ambassador is Dina Kavar, who will become the sixth female to head a delegation on the UN Security Council. Jordan will be on the 15-nation council through the end of 2015.—Reuters

Strike tangles Sao Paulo again in run-up to World Cup



A woman rides the metro during what is usually rush hour, in Republica station during a strike in Sao Paulo on 5 June, 2014. —REUTERS

SAO PAULO, 7 June — Brazil's biggest city straightened out a second day of commuting chaos on Friday, as striking subway workers and a protest over housing conditions tangled the streets of Sao Paulo less than a week before it hosts the opening match of the World Cup.

Police used tear gas to break up a demonstration blocking access to one metro station, but a third of

the city's subway stops remained closed early in the morning. More than 200 kilometers (125 miles) of traffic choked city streets.

The strike already set a record on Thursday for morning gridlock in Sao Paulo this year and snagged several FIFA officials in over two hours of traffic as they arrived for a conference ahead of the World Cup.

Logjams could also

complicate access to Brazil's final test match before the tournament, a friendly against Serbia in the Morumbi Stadium on the city's leafy west side.

World Cup organizers have urged soccer fans to use public transportation to stadiums on game days at 12 host cities, but just a fraction of the transportation projects promised for the tournament have been delivered.

Frustration with those broken promises and the ballooning cost of new World Cup stadiums contributed to widespread protests that drew over a million Brazilians into the streets during a warm-up tournament last year. The government is braced for another wave of demonstrations, but protests so far this year have lacked the spontaneous energy and scale of 2013.—Reuters

Egypt turns to Western economic advisers, signalling possible reforms under Sisi



Egypt's presidential candidate and former army chief Abdel Fattah al-Sisi speaks during an interview with Reuters in Cairo on 14 May, 2014. —REUTERS

CAIRO / LONDON, 7 June — Western advisers are drawing up plans for reshaping the Egyptian economy, sources said, with the apparent blessing of president-elect Abdel Fattah al-Sisi who so far has spoken only vaguely in public about reviving the state's finances.

The driving force behind the consulting project is the United Arab Emirates, which along with Saudi Arabia and Kuwait has showered Egypt with

billions of dollars in aid since Sisi removed the Muslim Brotherhood from power last year, sources familiar with the exercise and businessmen told Reuters.

If Egypt were to accept reforms proposed by US consultancy Strategy& and international investment bank Lazard, this could be used as a basis for reopening talks on a loan deal with the International Monetary Fund which ousted Islamist President

Mohamed Mursi failed to seal, unwilling to impose unpopular reforms.

Gulf allies opposed to the Muslim Brotherhood have extended a lifeline exceeding \$12 billion (7.1 billion pounds) in cash and petroleum products to help Egypt stave off economic collapse.

The hiring of Lazard and Strategy& — formerly called Booz & Company — suggests the Gulf states want to ensure aid is spent efficiently in a country where past leaders with military backgrounds have often mismanaged the economy.

“UAE are involved in the process, as they are among the country's lenders. Lending money is not enough in itself. You also need to make sure the government has the means to identify what needs to change and execute it,” said one of the sources familiar with the situation.

Reuters

HEALTH & BUSINESS

WHO experts find hospital breaches worsened MERS outbreak in UAE

LONDON, 7 June — Lapses in hospital infection control measures exacerbated an outbreak of a deadly new viral disease which has infected more than 60 people and killed at least 10 in the United Arab Emirates, health investigators said on Friday.

Reporting the findings of a five-day mission to the UAE, experts from the World Health Organization said, however, that they found no evidence of sustained human-to-human transmission of new Middle East Respiratory Syndrome

coronavirus (MERS-CoV).

“The recent upsurge of cases in Abu Dhabi appears to have been caused by a combination of factors, including a breach in infection prevention and control measures in health care settings, active surveillance and increase in community acquired cases,” they said in a statement.

First reported in humans in 2012, MERS causes severe and often fatal respiratory illness, with symptoms similar to those seen during the outbreak of severe acute respiratory

syndrome (SARS) in 2003. Its around 40 percent death rate and reports of clusters of human-to-human transmission have raised concerns it may blow up into a pandemic.

So far, it has infected more than 800 people around the world, killing at least 310 of them. The vast majority of cases have been in Saudi Arabia, but there have also been sporadic cases and clusters across the Middle East and in Europe, Asia and the United States.

At the heart of the outbreak, Saudi Arabia

has been criticized for its handling of MERS, which public health experts say could have been under control by now if officials and scientists there had collaborated more on studies into how the virus operates and where it is coming from.

In response, the Saudi health ministry says it has put in place new measures for better data gathering, reporting and transparency, including standardization of testing and improved guidelines for labelling and storing samples.

Reuters



The Middle East respiratory syndrome (MERS) coronavirus is seen in an undated transmission electron micrograph from the National Institute for Allergy and Infectious Diseases (NIAID). — REUTERS

Solid US job growth continues, unemployment rate unchanged

WASHINGTON, 7 June — The US job market continued to improve at solid pace in May, indicating that the world's largest economy has recovered from an abrupt contraction in the first quarter.

Nonfarm payroll employment increased 217,000 in May, the fourth consecutive month of job gains above 200,000. The unemployment rate stayed unchanged at 6.3 percent, the Labour Department reported on Friday.

After revision, employment gains in March and April were 6,000 lower than previously reported.

The labour force participation rate, or the ratio between the employed and unemployed but seeking for jobs and the entire population, was unchanged at 62.8 percent. “The participation rate has shown no clear trend since this past October but is down by 0.6 percentage point over the year,” the

department said in a statement.

The number of long-term unemployed, or those jobless for 27 weeks or more, was unchanged at 3.4 million, accounting for 34.6 percent of the total unemployed. Average hourly earnings rose by five cents to 24.38 US dollars.

The US economy contracted 1.0 percent in the first quarter, as the severe weather held back consumption and construction. However, a string of data on personal expenditure, manufacturing activities and inventory building have seen hefty rebound since March, reinforcing the view that the US economy has emerged from the bad weather. The Federal Reserve has decided to keep reducing the money it is pumping into the recovery by trimming the monthly bond purchase by 10 billion US dollars since May.

Xinhua

S&P 500 nearing the 2K summit

NEW YORK, 7 June — Investors have spent several months deciphering the mixed signals from the US economy, and yet the S&P 500 has kept moving higher, slowly but surely, putting it just shy of the 2,000 mark.

With its Friday close, the S&P would need just a 2.5 percent gain to vault the 2K level — something most did not expect during the depths of the Great Recession.

The move has been anything but frantic. The S&P 500 has not made a 1 percent move in a single session in almost two months, and the CBOE Volatility Index, the market's favored gauge of anxiety, fell below 11 on Friday, for its lowest close since 2007.

“That the market is going up in low volatility is good for investor sentiment,” said Doug Côté, chief market strategist at Voya Investment Management in New York.

What's unclear is whether the market is start-



A Wall Street sign is pictured outside the New York Stock Exchange in New York, on 28 Oct, 2013.

REUTERS

ing to become overvalued. The forward P/E ratio of the index is now 15.8 and would rise above 16 if the index hits 2,000 and earnings estimates remain the same. However, Côté said given current low interest rates, that level would still be low.

Still, the economy notably contracted in the first quarter of this year. As always, hope of a takeoff in growth persists among equity managers, boosted on Friday by employment data showing the economy

finally recouped all the jobs lost during the Great Recession. It took 77 months to do so, the longest time needed to regain jobs lost in a recession.

“The jobs report was not only strong, but also not too good, so the overheating fear is not there yet,” said Jim Paulsen, chief investment officer at Wells Capital Management in Minneapolis. “It suggests we're headed up to 2,000 (on the S&P 500) in the next weeks.” As the market has rallied, some, includ-

ing several members of the Federal Reserve, have expressed concern that investors are ignoring risks. The cost to protect against market declines, measured in the options market, has been steadily falling.

Some would call that complacency, but the lack of actual volatility is keeping option prices subdued. Realized volatility for the S&P in the last 10 days has been a bit more than 4 percent, which theoretically makes the VIX expensive, not cheap.

“A lot of people who hedged their bets by buying volatility, many did it in the 13 and 13.5 area (on the VIX), so they don't feel a need to readjust their hedges,” said JJ Kinahan, chief derivatives officer at TD Ameritrade in Chicago. The round 2,000 print will scare some, while others will have no option but to buy in as they chase performance. Paulsen is expecting a slide in stocks in the second half of the year.

Reuters

GM sets four more recalls, covering over 105,000 vehicles

DETROIT, 7 June — General Motors Co on Friday announced four more recalls covering 105,688 cars and trucks globally, raising the number of recalls to 34 including the high-profile for defective ignition switches linked to at least 13 deaths.

GM's 34 recalls so far this year cover almost 13.9 million vehicles in the United States, including the 2.6 million older cars with the defective ignition switch. Globally, GM has recalled

about 15.9 million vehicles. Almost 90,000 of the vehicles recalled on Friday were sold in the United States.

The automaker on Thursday released its internal probe detailing how lower-level employees turned a blind eye to the defective switch for 11 years, but cleared top executives of any blame.

GM's largest recall on Friday covers 69,552 heavy-duty Chevrolet Silverado and GMC Sier-



ra full-size pickup trucks from model years 2014 and 2015, as well as Chevy Tahoe and Suburban, and GMC Yukon SUVs from model year 2015.

The vehicles are being recalled because the base radio may not work, preventing audible warnings if the key is in the ignition when the driver's door is opened, GM said. There also would not be an audible chime if a front seat belt is not buckled. GM said it was not aware of any crash-

es or injuries related to the possible defect.

Vehicles with this condition would not meet federal standards for theft protection, rollaway protection and occupant crash protection, GM said. Dealers will reprogramme the radio control module.

GM also is recalling 36,012 2012 model Buick Verano, Chevy Camaro, Cruze and Sonic compact cars for a defect that could cause the driver's air bag not to deploy. —Reuters

Pakistan's biggest channel Geo News pulled off air

ISLAMABAD, 7 June — Pakistan's biggest private TV channel GEO News suspended its transmission on Friday following an order issued earlier in the day by the authority regulating television channels for delivering a programme that allegedly defamed the country's intelligence service last month.

A spokesperson for the Geo group said, "The government finally gave in to the pressure of the powerful unseen forces and rushed through the decision to suspend the transmission of the leading independent and most popular news channel in the country."

The Pakistan Electronic Media Regulatory Authority acted on a complaint against Geo News lodged by the Ministry of Defence.

The PEMRA board recommended a 15-day suspension and a fine of 10 million rupees (\$100,000) for the 19 May programme that the ministry said blamed the Inter-Services Intelligence for an attack on a popular anchor person with Geo TV.

"We do not agree with the decision of PEMRA but in honor of its decision are ceasing our telecast," GEO TV announced on one of its affiliated channels website. It went off air all over Pakistan in the evening.

Geo News is owned by Independent Media group which also owns four other television channels and two of Pakistan's biggest newspapers — *Jang* published in Urdu and *The News* published in English.

Kyodo News

At least three killed in power plant explosion in Kosovo



Forensic experts inspect the site of a explosion at Kosova A power plant in Obilic near Pristina on 6 June, 2014. — REUTERS

PRISTINA, 7 June — At least three people were killed and many more wounded in an explosion of a major power plant outside the Kosovo capital Pristina on Friday, according to media reports.

Edmond Nulleshi, service director in the Kosovo Energy Corporation told media that the situation is under control in terms of preventing further possible explosions.

The blast caused damages to the buildings near the power plant and was heard also in capital Pristina, some 10 km away from the power plant.

Xinhua

S Africa mindful of recurring elephant poaching

JOHANNESBURG, 7 June — South Africa has been mindful of any attempts by international criminal syndicates to expand their elephant poaching operations across the country's borders, the government said on Friday.

Safety and security measures have been developed, and actions taken, alongside steps to address the menace of rhino poaching, to ensure elephant poaching does not increase in South Africa, the Department of Environmental Affairs (DEA) said.

South Africa was warned at the 16th Conference of Parties to the Convention on the Interna-

tional Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES) in Bangkok, Thailand, in March 2013, that elephant poaching was expected to become a problem as of the start of 2014.

South Africa's Kruger National Park, which is battling a high number of rhino killings, has recorded its first case of elephant poaching in more than a decade. Ivory poaching is rife on the African continent but South Africa had escaped the onslaught. Neighbouring Zimbabwe and Mozambique have reported an increase in the number of cases, including some where some animals were killed by cyanide

poisoning.

"The cross-border crime of rhino and elephant poaching, as with all wildlife crimes, requires coordinated and joint responses not only by individual countries and environmental authorities, but also by domestic, regional and international security agencies to ensure that terrorist groups and well-organized cross border crime syndicates are unable to benefit from particularly endangered species such as the rhino and elephant," the DEA said.

The department said it is important to note that South Africa's elephants were not affected by poach-

ing for more than a decade following the once-off sale, approved by the CITES in 2007.

The sale of ivory by South Africa, Namibia, Botswana and Zimbabwe in November 2008 to approved buyers was authorized by CITES, and was the first sale permitted following a ban on the trade in elephant and elephant products by CITES in 1989. "While South Africa has been fortunate to escape the onslaught on elephant populations by poachers across Africa in recent years, the country is ready to deal with any elephant poaching incidents," the DEA said. — *Xinhua*

Nepal's PM says his China visit successful

KATHMANDU, 7 June — Nepal's Prime Minister Sushil Koirala on Friday said his two-day visit to China's Yunnan Province is a success in strengthening Nepal's bilateral relationship with China.

He also said the northern neighbour is committed to providing comprehensive support in areas like hydropower, railway, aviation and so forth.

Koirala left for China on Thursday to attend the second China-South Asia Expo in Kunming.

"I believe Nepal's high-level participation in the expo has been of great importance in regard to promoting exports, inviting foreign investment and promoting tourism in Nepal,"

said the 76-year-old prime minister, who attended the opening ceremony of the expo this morning.

Speaking to media persons in the Tribhuvan International Airport in Nepal's capital of Kathmandu, Koirala also said that China has expressed its commitment to providing logistic support for the upcoming South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation (SAARC) summit which is set to take place in Nepal in November, 2014.

During his maiden visit to China since he assumed office in February 2014, Koirala met with some high-level Chinese officials, including Chinese Vice Premier Wang Yang.

Xinhua

Fourth person dies after Brussels Jewish Museum shooting

BRUSSELS, 7 June — A Belgian man shot in the attack at the Jewish Museum in Brussels died on Friday, bringing the death toll to four. Federal prosecutors said the 24-year-old museum worker, who had been in a critical state since the May 24 shooting, died early on Friday afternoon.

An Israeli couple and a French woman were also killed when a gunman opened fire with a Kalashnikov rifle. French national Mehdi Nemmouche, arrested in the southern city of Marseille on 30 May, is

suspected of having carried out the attack.

French prosecutors said he was carrying a Kalashnikov, another gun and ammunition similar to that used in the shooting and that he was a repeat-offender who had spent most of 2013 fighting in Syria with Islamist rebels. Nemmouche, 29, refused to be extradited from France to Belgium during a court hearing on Wednesday. His refusal is likely only to delay rather than block his eventual transfer to Brussels. — *Reuters*



Eighteen wedding couples who are also PhD candidates of Harbin Institute of Technology (HIT) attend a group wedding in Harbin, capital of northeast China's Heilongjiang Province, on 6 June, 2014. HIT held a group wedding for its PhD candidates on Friday. — XINHUA

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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

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Gas leak kills two at China mine

XINING, 7 June — A leak of toxic gas killed two and sickened another six at a ferronickel mine in northwest China's Qinghai Province early on Saturday, the local safety authority said.

A Cyanogen sulfide leak was detected at around 1 am at Yuanshishan ferronickel mine in Ping'an county of Haidong City, Qinghai provincial safety administration said in a Press release.

It said rescue began immediately after the accident, and the sickened miners were rushed to hospital.

The cause of the leak is still under investigation, the document said.

Cyanogen gas is colorless with a pungent odor. Inhalation can lead to headache, nausea, loss of consciousness, convulsions and death.

Xinhua

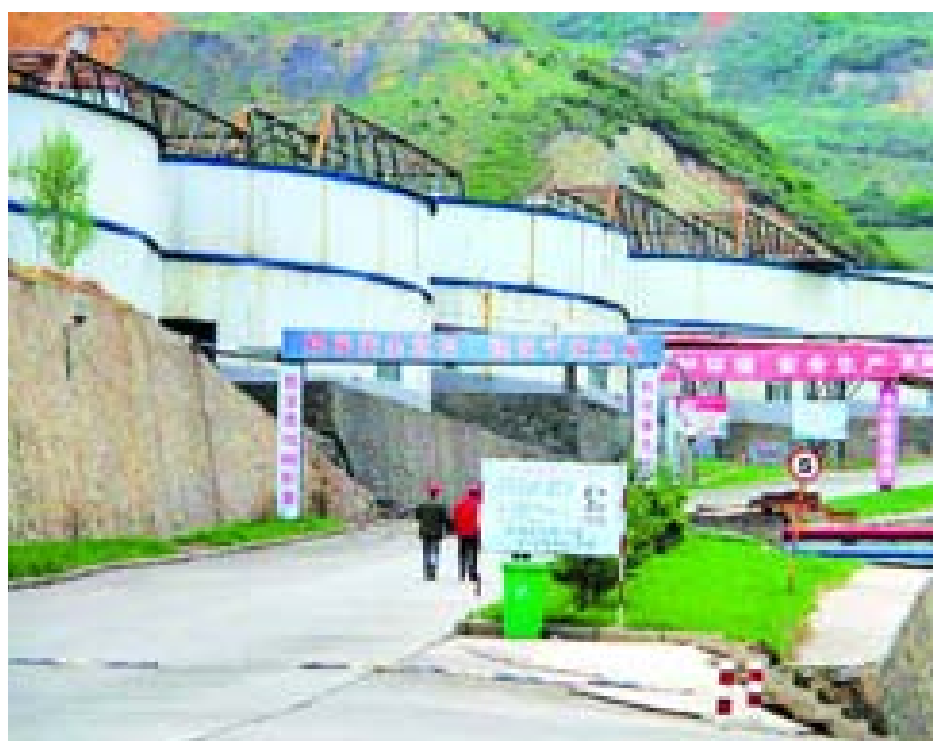


Photo taken on 7 June, 2014 shows the site of gas leak at Yuanshishan ferronickel mine in Ping'an County of Haidong City, northwest China's Qinghai Province. A Cyanogen sulfide leak killed two and sickened another six at the ferronickel mine early Saturday, the local safety authority said.

XINHUA

Brazil is ready to receive tourists for World Cup

RIO DE JANEIRO, 7 June — Brazil's Tourism Minister Vinicius Lages reaffirmed on Friday that the country is ready to receive the thousands of tourists who are expected to arrive over the next days for the FIFA World Cup.

Lages said that Brazil can receive the tourists in a satisfactory manner despite some shortcomings which have been brought to light over the past few days,

such as airports not being fully ready.

The Brasilia International Airport had leaks after a storm earlier this week and in some airports, renovations are not fully completed.

"Unfortunately we have some unfinished urban mobility, airports and infrastructure projects, but that will not get in the way of the World Cup. Brazil has never had such a good

and large infrastructure as it has nowadays, and the country is ready to receive tourists," the Minister said in a radio show aired earlier in the day.

In relation to the possibility of protests amid the tournament, Lages said any tourists who find themselves unable to get to a stadium because of a protest should call the hotlines set up to aid tourists or the closest precinct.—Xinhua

EU ministers back proposal to modernize cross-border insolvency rules

BRUSSELS, 7 June — European Union (EU) Justice Ministers on Friday reached an agreement on new rules to deal with cross-border insolvency issue, aiming at helping businesses overcome financial difficulties.

The new rules will allow the procedure of restructuring a business in a cross-border context to become easier, meaning more businesses will be saved

from liquidation.

The new rules are also set to be a "win-win situation" for both businesses and creditors — businesses get a second chance and creditors are more likely to obtain their money than during liquidation, a EU statement said.

The rules will help increase legal certainty and provide clear guidelines to determine jurisdiction. "When a debtor is faced

with insolvency proceedings in several member states, the courts handling the different proceedings will work closely with one another," the statement said. Every year in the EU, cross-border insolvency proceedings affect an estimated 50,000 companies, thus every year 1.7 million jobs are at stake. About one in four bankruptcies in the EU have a cross-border element.—Xinhua

Vietnam's exports in riot-hit first half of May decrease sharply

HANOI, 7 June — Vietnam's exports have seen a sharp decrease by 29.9 percent in the riot-hit first half of May against the previous period, according to newly-released statistics of the General Department of Vietnam Customs.

The statistics released on the Vietnam Customs e-portal on Friday show that in the first half of May, Vietnam's exports stood at 5.1 billion US dollars, down by 29.9 percent in value against the previous period in the second half of April, with cumulative exports of 51.59 billion dollars.

Meanwhile, imports amounted to 6.1 billion US dollars, up by 2.3 percent compared with the previous period, with cumulative imports reaching 50.66 billion US dollars.

Generally, Vietnam's

total exports and imports shrank by 15.4 percent in the first half of May by link relative ratio.

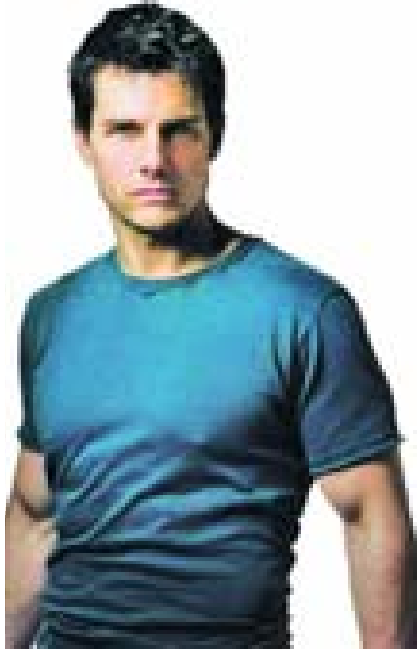
In the first half of May, Vietnam's foreign trade posted 1 billion US dollars of deficit, with its cumulative surplus in 2014 cut by over half to 0.93 billion dollars. Foreign companies contribute 6.68 billion US dollars to Vietnam's exports and imports, down by 15.2 percent compared to the second half of April.

According to Foreign Investment Agency (FIA) under Vietnam's Ministry of Planning and Investment, Foreign direct investment (FDI) flown into Vietnam has turned flat in the first five months of 2014, while newly registered FDI shrunk by one third compared to the same period last year.—Xinhua



Three men are besieged on an iron tower by flood in Zonguldak in Turkey, on 6 June, 2014. Excessive precipitation, which started from the beginning of the week paralyzed daily life in several parts of the country. Heavy downpours triggered flash floods in some rural and mountain areas of Turkey. Main roads were waterlogged due to floods since the beginning of the week. According to meteorology reports, the rainfall will continue till next week.—XINHUA

Tom Cruise: Emily Blunt cried when she tried edge of tomorrow costume



LONDON, 7 June — Actress Emily Blunt cried when she tried on her *Edge of Tomorrow* costume, says her co-star Tom Cruise.

Blunt and Cruise had to wear bulky plastic suits in the sci-fi movie and though the 51-year-old actor, who tried his costume first, found the outfits uncomfortable, he didn't want to tell Blunt how "challenging" they were.

Blunt cried when she tried on her bulky costume and Cruise made her smile later, reports FemaleFirst.co.uk.

PTI

Edinburgh Fringe takes over numerous venues for huge festival

EDINBURGH, 7 June — With venues ranging from a 16th-century courtyard house to a converted church, Edinburgh's Fringe Festival has unveiled its programme with productions from around the world.

On the 100th anniversary of the World War One, veteran actor Guy Masterson will rest his writings from both sides in "Dear Mr Kaiser" at the Space on North Bridge.

former church.

Actor, writer and presenter Stephen Fry will present "Forgotten Voices" at the Pleasance Courtyard, while Hour Lot Theatre tells the intriguing story of an unlikely friendship between the German Kaiser and a British prisoner-of-war in "Dear Mr Kaiser" at the Space on North Bridge.

The festival covers a huge range of art forms including cabaret, comedy, dance, circus, music, opera and theatre.

Reuters

D-Day Dispatch — The first reporter on the beach

NORMANDY, 7 June — Seventy years ago, *Reuters* correspondent Norman Campbell was the first reporter to set foot on the Normandy beaches with the sea-borne forces seeking to liberate Europe from Nazi Germany. Campbell is 24 at the time, the youngest British war correspondent covering the invasion. He stayed with *Reuters* for 30 years, covering other events including the assassination of Gandhi.

He died in 2003, aged 83. The follow-

ing is taken from his book 'Magic Mistress — A 30 year affair with *Reuters*', published in 2000:

"A smudge, brown on black in the far distance, marked our landing-area. The craft zigzagged the last mile or two, dodging the shells now coming out to meet us.

There were ships everywhere, one or two smoking or even sinking, some fouling uncharted obstacles, but most of them swinging massively towards the hazy coastline that was Normandy.

Reuters

Melanie Griffith files for divorce from Antonio Banderas

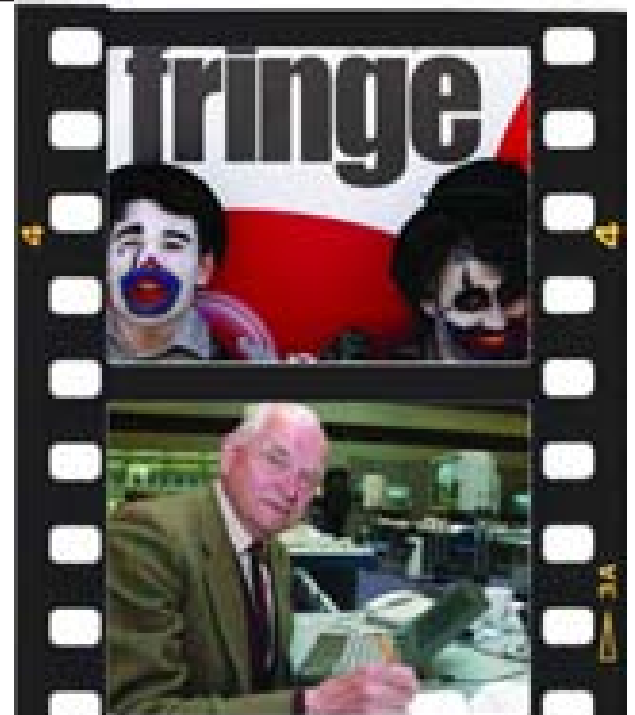
LOS ANGELES, 7 June — Actress Melanie Griffith on Friday filed for divorce from Spanish actor Antonio Banderas after 18 years of marriage, citing irreconcilable differences, according to a petition filed in Los Angeles Superior Court.

Griffith, 56, and Banderas, 53, married in 1996 after striking up a romance filming the comedy "Two Much" and have a 17-year-old daughter, Stella Banderas.

"We have thoughtfully and consen-

sually decided to finalize our almost 20 years marriage in a loving and friendly manner honoring and respecting each other, our family and friends and the beautiful time we have spent together," Griffith and Banderas said in a statement issued by their publicist.

Griffith requested physical custody of Stella, who turns 18 in September, but joint legal custody, with the "Desperado" star allowed visitation.—Reuters



Doon Campbell



Actor Antonio Banderas and wife Melanie Griffith



Actress Jennifer Aniston



Tom Cruise and Emily Blunt in a still from *Edge of Tomorrow*.—PTI

Jennifer Aniston freaks out on movie set?

LONDON, 7 June — Actress Jennifer Aniston reportedly freaked out on her movie set, after her co-actor Sam Worthington played a prank on her.

The 45-year-old F.R.I.E.N.D.S star got scared at the sets of her new movie *Cake* about a scene where she visits a woman's grave, reported Showbiz Spy.

"She kept telling everyone she couldn't wait

for the scene to be done and gone, because the graveyard gave her eerie vibes. That gave Sam the idea for his prank, so he talked a sound technician into concealing a microphone on the grave right next to where Jennifer was filming!" a source said.

Jennifer is playing a character haunted by the shocking suicide of a woman in her chronic pain support group in the movie.

"So just as the star delivered her final lines, a soft female voice whispered, 'Jennifer!' "Cast and crew fought to suppress giggles as Jen turned ghost-white and gasped, 'Did you all HEAR that? Someone was calling my name!' Everyone played dumb, until the voice called out again and Jen screamed 'There, did you hear that? Who's doing that?'" the source said.

Reuters

Banksy works offered for 'private sale' in London

LONDON, 7 June — Secretive British street artist Banksy often paints on walls at night and has complained when people remove and re-sell his works, so he is sure to be infuriated by Sotheby's offering of about 70 items for "private sale" in London. Dubbed "The Unauthorised Retrospective" and curated by

Steve Lazarides, a street-art promoter and Banksy's former agent, the London show includes sculptures, oils, and prints — all of which are said to have increased enormously in value in a few years. "I think for him it's probably the last thing in the world he'd ever want to see," Lazarides told Reuters at a press preview

of the exhibition on Friday.

"It's an unauthorised exhibition — he has nothing to do with it apart from the fact he painted all the paintings, of course. For him — I don't know — I think it's interesting to get all the works together. It will probably mean more commercially than it will mean anything else."—Reuters



A woman looks at "Marilyn 29" (L) by artist Andy Warhol and "Kate Moss (Black)" and "Kate Moss (Yellow)" by Banksy, part of the exhibition *Warhol vs Banksy at The Hospital in Covent Garden, London, on 9 Aug. 2007.*

REUTERS

GENERAL

Indonesia to host UN forum promoting harmony in global civilization

JAKARTA, 7 June — Indonesia's leisure island of Bali is scheduled to host the 6th United Nations Alliance of Civilizations (UNAOC) to be attended by 2,000 participants from 114 countries and 25 international organizations, an official of Indonesian Foreign Affairs Ministry said here on Friday.

The two-day event will be held in Nusa Dua

Bali from 29 August with the confirmed presence of UN Secretary General Ban Ki-moon and leaders of 11 countries. Indonesian President Susilo Bambang Yudhoyono was scheduled to open the forum. "With the nation's motto that says Bhinneka Tunggal Ika (Unity in Diversity), Indonesia was assessed a role model to the world that with persistence of differ-

ence in beliefs, people can live harmoniously in one country," said the ministry's information and public diplomacy director-general Esti Andayani. The event is expected to produce an outcome called Bali Declaration containing views, joint commitments and joint steps to the future formulated by participants in the event, she said.

Participants will be

discussing four main pillars comprised of education, youths, media and migration in the event themed "Unity in Diversity: Celebrating Diversity For Common and Shared Values."

The forum is also expected to inspire measures in curbing extremism which is spreading in several parts of the world, fostering pluralism for world peace.

Xinhua

MYANMAR TV

(8-6-2014, Sunday)

- 6:00 am
- * Paritta by Venerable Mingun Sayadaw
- 6:45 am
- * Musical Programme
- 7:00 am
- * News/ Weather Report
- 7:20 am
- * MRTV's Youth Programme
- 8:00 am
- * News/ International News
- 8:30 am
- * Amazing World
- 9:00 am
- * News/ International News
- 9:30 am
- * Documentary (ASEAN)
- 10:00 am
- * News
- 10:25 am
- * Science and Technology Programme
- 11:00 am
- * Teleplay (Health)
- 12:00 pm
- * News / International News / Weather Report
- 12:25 pm
- * Round up of The Weeks International News
- 12:35 pm
- * Myanmar Movie
- 3:00 pm
- * News
- 4:30 pm
- * University of Distance Education (TV Lectures) -Second Year (Chemistry)
- 4:50 pm
- * Teleplay
- 5:00 pm
- * News
- 5:15 pm
- * Sing & Enjoy
- 6:00 pm
- * News / Weather Report
- 6:30 pm
- * Cartoon Series
- 7:00 pm
- * News
- 7:20 pm
- * Weekly Entertainment News
- 8:00 pm
- * News/International News/Weather Report
- 8:35 pm
- * Documentary (Women in Myanmar Society)
- 9:00 pm
- * News
- * Myanmar Series

MYANMAR INTERNATIONAL

(8-6-14 07:00am~ 9-6-14 07:00am) MST

- * Local News
- * Home Made Myanmar Delicate Artistic Creations (Gem Stone Painting)
- * World News
- * In the Studio: Ja Som (The Myth)
- * Local News
- * Oboist and His Life
- * World News
- * Fortune Teller: "Yan Moe Aung"
- * Local News
- * Cruising to Precious Islands (Part-2)
- * World News
- * Cosplayer
- * Local News
- * Myanmar Women's Forum 2013
- * World News
- * Crocodile Keeper
- * 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



Photo taken on 24 April, 2014 shows Hidefumi Owada, a former school teacher and antinuclear activist, holding a crane figurine belonging to the abandoned garden of his home in Namie, Fukushima Prefecture. The amount of radiation in the garden remains high, leaving no time for Owada, a devoted gardener, to attend to his once-proud garden. — KYODO NEWS

World War II hand grenade found in tree in Singapore

SINGAPORE, 7 June — A World War II hand grenade has been safely disposed of after it was found in a tree in Singapore, the Singapore Army said on its Facebook page on Friday.

Several construction workers were resting near a tree close to the Outram subway station near the

downtown area on Thursday when they were drawn to the sight of a tree stump with a heart shape, it said.

The workers, on closer inspection, discovered a war relic, nestled in a crevice between two branches.

The Explosive Ordnance Disposal team from the Singapore Armed Forces

was called in to investigate and found the device to be a World War II hand grenade.

With a police security cordon in place, the disposal team "worked through the night, and successfully disposed of the war relic" at 12:45 am on Friday, it said.

Singapore, then a British colony, fell to Japanese occupation in February 1942. The Japanese occupation only ended when Japan surrendered itself in 1945 with hundreds of thousands of local civilians believed to have been killed in three years.

Xinhua

Soccer: US confident of good showing despite tough draw

NEW YORK, 7 June — The days are long gone when it was a surprise for the United States to reach the World Cup finals, but for a country used to sporting success they are still some way short of making a major impact on the tournament. It remains one of the final sporting frontiers for the United States to conquer although they reached the semi-finals in 1930 and caused one of soccer's greatest upsets when they beat England the last time that the World Cup was held in Brazil in 1950.

Since that inaugural event they have reached the quarter-finals just once, in 2002, although this will be the United States' seventh successive appearance in the finals, a consistent run

bettered only by Brazil, Italy, Argentina, Germany, Spain and South Korea.

They face a tough challenge going far in Brazil after being drawn in Group G with Germany, Portugal and Ghana although head coach Juergen Klinsmann is adamant his side has every chance of reaching the round of 16.

"I'm not worried at all. I'll just take it the way it is and we're going to prepare the best way and we're going to be well prepared for the World Cup," Klinsmann said. "We'll build up confidence and believe that we can get good results to get into the next round."

"We're excited about this, big time. That's where you want to be in a World Cup. It's a difficult draw

but we'll find a way to go through it."

The US have a solid team with a lot of depth in

the midfield and an experienced coach who knows what it takes to win the sport's ultimate prize.

The main strength of the team is their central midfield, particularly Michael Bradley and Jermaine

Jones, who provide the steel and overall focus to dominate the centre of the park. The US have surpassed Mexico as CONCACAF's best team after dominating the qualifying tournament. In the final round of qualifying, the Americans won seven and drew one of their 10 matches, scoring 15 goals and conceding eight.

They have also recorded confidence-boosting victories against European opposition since Klinsmann took over in 2011, including Germany, Italy and world champions Spain.

"I look at things always from a positive side. We have a young team, a team that is growing. We've built a lot over the past two years," Klinsmann said.—Reuters



The US National soccer team players pose for photographers before their international friendly soccer match against Turkey in Harrison, New Jersey, on 1 June, 2014. — REUTERS

Alonso upstages mighty Mercedes in first practice

MONTREAL, 7 June — Ferrari's former world champion Fernando Alonso upstaged the mighty Mercedes team by setting the pace in first practice for the Canadian Grand Prix on Friday.

Alonso, a winner on the Circuit Gilles Villeneuve in 2006 and runner-up to world champion Sebastian Vettel last year, lapped the island track with a best time of one minute 17.238 seconds on an overcast morning on the banks of the St Lawrence river.

Right behind the Spaniard were the Mercedes due of Lewis Hamilton, a three-times winner in Canada, and his team mate and championship leader Nico Rosberg.

The Briton and German arrived in Canada



Ferrari driver Fernando Alonso of Spain prepares for the first free practice of the Canadian F1 Grand Prix at the Circuit Gilles Villeneuve in Montreal on 6 June, 2014.

REUTERS

downplaying a spat between the team mates that had dominated talk up and down the paddock but on the track their rivalry remained firmly in place.

Hamilton, who had

his four-race win streak snapped by Rosberg in Monaco, was just 0.016 behind Alonso followed closely by Rosberg.

With six wins from six races Mercedes have ruled the Formula One grid and are expected to continue their domination on a Montreal circuit that plays to the car's strengths with high-speed straights.

Red Bull continued to improve with Vettel fourth on the timesheets ahead of Valtteri Bottas of Williams and Australian Daniel Ricciardo in the second Red Bull.

McLaren's Jenson Button, who claimed victory in a rain-soaked 2011 Canadian Grand Prix, was seventh best followed by team mate Kevin Magnussen.—Reuters

Yangon with four-nil win over Nay Pyi Taw FC

The last fixture of the first round of Myanmar National League 2014 took place in the designated places at the Yangon United FC sports ground in Yangon on Saturday.

Defending champion Yangon United FC routed Nay Pyi Taw FC with a 4-0 result. Although captain Khin Maung Lwin was sent off with a red card, players of Yangon United successfully blocked the counter-attacks of its opponent.

The winning goals for Yangon United came from a hat-trick score by striker Cesar Augusto in the 34th minute, 65th minute and 81st minute and one goal from Emerson Luiz in the 67th minute.

Shine Htet Zaw



Nadal and Djokovic set up Sunday scorcher

PARIS, 7 June — The belated appearance of the blazing sun at what had been a cold and chilly French Open until Friday allowed Rafa Nadal to scorch past Andy Murray and set up a hotly-anticipated final with Novak Djokovic.

Murray's bid to become the first British man in 77 years to reach the Roland Garros showpiece wilted away in a 6-3, 6-2, 6-1 pasting by the world number one who now stands just one win away from lifting the Musketeers' Cup for a ninth time.

To do that he will need to beat his great Serbian rival, who showed Ernests Gulbis that a French Open final is no place for a tennis wild child as he beat the Latvian 6-3, 6-3, 3-6, 6-3 to keep alive his dreams of

completing a career grand slam.

While Djokovic spent some of his youth honing his world-beating tennis skills in a drained swimming pool in Belgrade, Gulbis, the son of one of Latvia's richest men, was busy enjoying the high life.

Djokovic's two-decade long dedication to his craft was clear for all to see on Friday as despite struggling with the heat late in the third set, he hung in there to finish off the match in four sets and spare his reddening coach Boris Becker from opening up a second bottle of sunblock.

"I'm glad I won in four sets because if it went to a fifth, God knows in which direction the match could go," the six-times grand slam champion said after beating his childhood



Rafael Nadal of Spain adjusts his head band during his men's semi-final match against Andy Murray of Britain at the French Open tennis tournament at the Roland Garros stadium in Paris on 6 June, 2014. —REUTERS

friend.

"Suddenly midway through the third set I started to feel physically fatigued a little bit. You could see that both me and him, we struggled on the court."

Nowhere was that struggle more evident than in the fourth set because after Gulbis had broken back in the third game, Djokovic's anger boiled over.

He smashed his racket on the red dirt and left it

a mangled mess. With the crowd loudly whistling at his petulance, he raised his arms to apologize before giving the racket another bashing by slamming it to the ground behind his bench.

Becker, who spent the changeovers applying more and more sunblock on his arms and face, gestured to his charge from the stands to put an iced towel around his neck.

Djokovic heeded the German's advice and also donned a baseball cap before he returned to the task in hand and eventually broke for a 5-3 lead before sealing victory.

Gulbis produced some nonchalant dropshots, crafty angles and thunderous backhands but never really threatened to stop Djokovic from setting up

a 42nd meeting with Nadal.

Djokovic rattled through the final game to love, sealing the match with a bone-crunching forehand that left Gulbis stirred and shaken following his first foray into a grand slam semi.

"I'm not used to playing these kind of big matches. It's just normal I felt extra nervous and extra tense ... it was a struggle out there," said Gulbis, who is said to have travelled to junior matches on his father's private jet and helicopters.

Murray will also be jetting out of Paris earlier than he would have wanted after being subjected to a 100-minute mauling on Nadal's personal playground, with the Scot winning just 10 points on the Spaniard's serve.—Reuters

Rakitic moves from Sevilla to Barcelona

ZAGREB, 7 June — Ivan Rakitic's transfer from Sevilla to FC Barcelona is all but done, local media reported on Friday.

Sevilla's captain and one of the key players of Croatian national team had a brilliant season. He helped his team win the UEFA Europa League trophy and has been voted as the Player of the Match in the Final game against Benfica in Turin, Italy.

His performances in Sevilla's jersey got him on the radar of Spanish powerhouses Real Madrid, Barcelona and Spanish champions Atletico Madrid. Rakitic didn't want to comment any speculations about his future but the latest news coming from Spain said that he agreed personal terms with FC Barcelona and but the transfer fee has not been decided yet.

With completion of Cesc Fabregas's move from FC Barcelona to Chelsea FC, Catalan giant opened up both

financial space and that on the field to lure Rakitic, one of the most wanted players on the market this summer. Sevilla's captain had one year left on his contract with the club but it was more than evident that he will be heading to one of the Europe's most prominent clubs.

"The best option for him is to stay with the club but I can understand his wish to play for Barcelona. If he leaves us, we'll do everything in our power to find a new Rakitic," Sevilla's coach Unai Emery said on Friday.

However sad Sevilla's supporters and management are to see Rakitic leave the club, they will still have a substantial financial gain from his transfer. When Rakitic came from Schalke 04 to Sevilla in January 2011, club from Andalusia paid Germans just 2.2 million Euros for his transfer. Now they will get at least ten times more as reports suggests that the transfer fee will be in a range from 25 to 40 million Euros.—Xinhua



Ivan Rakitic