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Myanmar needs to adopt the most appropriate primary healthcare services: Vice President Dr Sai Mauk Kham

NAY PYI TAW, 9 June—The opening ceremony of the workshop on primary healthcare was held at the Royal Kumudra Hotel in Nay Pyi Taw on Monday.

Chairman of the National Health Committee Vice President Dr Sai Mauk Kham delivered a speech at the ceremony.

In his speech, the vice president said that with the aim of providing primary healthcare services for all human beings, all the countries agreed to take measures to provide primary healthcare services to all at the international conference on primary healthcare held in Alma Ata in 1978 under the motto to "Health for all by the year 2000".

Primary healthcare services are essential, scientific and affordable basic healthcare for everyone irrespective of their social classes, races and religions, the vice president continued. The best example of providing primary healthcare was barefoot doctors in a neighbouring country who took six-month to one-year courses and went to remote rural areas to provide the cheapest and closest healthcare services, he said.

The vice president also said that Myanmar needs to adopt the most appropriate primary healthcare services. About 70 percent of the about 60 million people in Myanmar live in rural areas and most of them are poor. A rural healthcare centre has to take care of about 38 villages as there are only 1,684 rural healthcare centres for more than 64,000 villages across the country.

To provide primary healthcare services for rural people, Myanmar must build more rural health centres and train more health workers as well as assistant midwives and Community Health Workers, the vice president pointed out.

In conclusion, the vice president urged the participants in the workshop to cooperate with other ministries and local and international NGOs to provide primary healthcare services to all. The workshop will continue until 10 June.—*MNA*

Vice President Dr Sai Mauk Kham delivers speech at opening ceremony of workshop on primary healthcare.—MNA

El Niño affects crop cultivation in Myanmar's arid region

By Aung Khin

El Niño conditions have caused an adverse impact on crop cultivation in the central Myanmar region, farmers says.

The cultivation of sesame, beans, peas and other crops have started in the dry zone of the country such as Monywa, Magway and Pakokku. However, the impact of El Niño conditions has caused a lack of water for farm and in these areas.

A farmer from Magway Region said: "I have scattered bean seeds. But there is not enough rain for the soil to grow the plant. I worry about the yield in the coming harvest."

Myanmar meteorologist U Tun Lwin warned in May to make preparations for the effects of El Niño, which is forecast to last from this month until June next year, with the worst conditions in December.

The effects of El Niño include declining rainfall, hot weather, drought, a late monsoon and the early departure of the monsoon.

The current price of mung bean FAQ is about K 740,000 per ton and green gram is K1.2 million per ton.

An exporter from Bayintnaung Brokerage said: "The prices of beans and peas are quite cool since three weeks ago. However, these current prices are higher than those of summer."

He added that the demand for green gram is highest from China, while India is purchasing pigeon peas and mung beans.

Press Release on ASEAN Regional Forum (ARF) Defence Officials' Dialogue, ARF Security Policy Conference and ARF Senior Officials' Meeting

YANGON, 9 June—As the Chair of the ASEAN during 2014, Myanmar hosted the ASEAN Regional Forum Defence Officials' Meeting, ARF Security Policy Conference and ARF Senior Officials' Meeting at Parkroyal Hotel as well as Sedona Hotel, Yangon, from 7th to 9th June 2014 respectively.

The meetings were attended by ARF Defence Officials, ARF Security Policy Officials as well as ARF Senior Officials.

ASEAN Regional Forum Defence Officials' Dialogue (ARF DOD)

The ARF Defence Officials' Dialogue was held on 7 June 2014 in Parkroyal Hotel in Yangon. The Meeting was chaired by the Major General Tin Maung Win, Vice Chief of Armed Forces Training. During the meeting, Defence Officials discussed on the role of the armed forces in Non-Traditional Security Challenges as well as role of the Military in Human Security.

ASEAN Security Policy Conference (ASPC)

The ARF Security Policy Conference was held on 8 June 2014 in Parkroyal Hotel in Yangon chaired by H.E. Commodore Aung Thaw, Deputy Minister for Defence. At the meeting, the officials exchanged the views on regional and international security situation and also discussed on contribution of armed forces to Confidence Building Measures in the wake of growing friction among nations. Furthermore, they were also briefed on the outcomes of the 8th ASEAN Defence Ministers' Meeting which was held at last May 2014 in Nay Pyi Taw and report of ARF Defence Officials' Meeting held on 8 April 2014 in Brussels respectively.

ASEAN Regional Forum Senior Officials' Meeting (ARF SOM)

The ARF Senior Officials' Meeting (ARF SOM) was held on 9th June 2014 chaired by Myanmar SOM Leader, Director-General U Aung Lynn from ASEAN Affairs Department, Ministry of Foreign Affairs. At the meeting, ARF Senior Officials exchanged views on regional and international issues, reviews of Confidence Building Measures and Preventive Diplomacy, the recommendations of the

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Progress of roads, bridges inspected on Nay Pyi Taw Council Area

NAY PYI TAW, 9 June—Union Minister for Construction U Kyaw Lwin on Sunday inspected progress in placing asphalt on Muntegwin-Kyidaung-Khawma-Nay Pyi Taw ringroad in Nay Pyi Taw Council Area and progress of Paunglaung Bridge being built by Bridge Construction Project Special Group (3).

The Union minister gave instructions on timely completion of the road and bridge meeting set standards.

He also viewed upgrading of 5th road linking the Yangon-Mandalay Expressway and the Yangon-Mandalay Highway (Nay Pyi Taw-Mandalay section), construction of earthen pavement.

The Union minister also inspected prevention against erosion at the mile post No 12/2 and 12/3 on the highway.—*MNA*

***Photo shows progress in construction of Paunglaung Bridge being built by Bridge Construction Project Special Group (3) in Nay Pyi Taw Council Area.*—MNA**

Union FM felicitates Portuguese counterpart

NAY PYI TAW, 10 June—U Wunna Maung Lwin, Union Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar, has sent a message of felicitations to His Excellency Mr. Rui Machete, Minister of State and Foreign Affairs of the Portuguese Republic, on the occasion of the National Day of the Portuguese Republic, which falls on 10 June 2014.—*MNA*

Serbian Embassy in Myanmar opens account at MFTB

YANGON, 9 June—The Embassy of Serbia in Myanmar takes this opportunity to inform the friendly Myanmar citizens that Serbia has recently been hit by unprecedented natural disaster caused by heavy floods, resulting with the loss of many human lives and huge devastation of the country. Tens of thousands of Serbia citizens have been displaced from their homes and they are in need of humanitarian relief.

Regarding that, the Embassy has opened a Special Foreign Currency Account (in US Dollar) at the Myanma Foreign Trade Bank in Yangon at which those who are willing to help can deposit their financial donations. The account of the embassy is 1 DA 02 00116 and account name is The Embassy of the Republic of Serbia (Donations to the flood victims in Serbia).

The embassy takes this opportunity to express its profound gratitude to all those who wish to help the victims of floods in Serbia and removal of their consequences.—*NLM*

Union ministers enjoy sports activities in Kayin State

***Union Minister for Sports U Tint Hsan and Chief Minister of Kayin State U Zaw Min present gift to an official.*—MNA**

MAWLAMYINE, 9 June—The Kayin State Chief Minister's Cup Inter-State/Region Myanmar Traditional Boxing Challenge kicked off in Hpa-an of Kayin State on Sunday, attended by Chairman of Myanmar Olympic Committee Union Minister for Sports U Tint Hsan, Union Minister for Education Dr Daw Khin San Yi and Kayin State Chief Minister U Zaw Min.

In the early morning, the cycling demonstration was performed, and the Union ministers presented prizes to the winners.

Union Minister U Tint Hsan handed over gifts and sports gear presented to Kayin State government.

Upper House Relief and Victim Rehabilitation Committee Chairman Vice-Chairman of MOC Dr Khin Shwe presented K2.5 million to the referees, K2.5 million to the challenge and K5 million to Kayin State sports committee fund, vice president of Myanmar boxing federation U Khin Oo K2.5 million to Kayin State sports committee fund, other wellwishers cash to the same fund to Kayin State Sports Committee U Saw Sa Law Hla.

The Union minister, the chief minister, General Mutu Sae Poe of KNU and District Chairman Pado Saw Shwe Maung enjoyed the boxing matches.

MNA

Civil Service Training kicks off at Ministry of Information

NAY PYI TAW, 9 June—The Ministry of Information and Konrad Adenauer Stiftung jointly organized the Civil Service Training at the hall of the ministry in Nay Pyi Taw on Monday.

Director-General U Ye Tint of Information and Public Relations Department made a speech and country representative of German Foundation Dr Thomas Lawo explained purpose of conducting the training course.

Dr Tin Maung Maung Than, Dr N Ganesan and Daw Seint Yi Htet will give the lectures to the trainees in the three-day course.

On Monday, Dr Tin Maung Maung Than discussed the Myanmar's political economy, the social science terminology and the human security.

On Tuesday, Dr N Ganesan will give lecture on the public administration and the core values. On Wednesday, Daw Seint Yi Htet will explain the leadership and people management competencies, the understanding self and others and the skills for team leadership.

Altogether 52 trainees from ministries are attending the course. The similar course will be conducted in Yangon from 12 to 14 June.—*MNA*

Phu Pwint Yati Khaing emerges champion in Singapore Junior Golf Championships

YANGON, 9 June—Phu Pwint Yati Khaing of Myanmar stood first in the girls' 12-14 aged event in the Singapore Junior Golf Championships 2014 at Keppel Golf Club in Singapore held from 3 to 6 June.

She won the daily best award in the first round with 75 strokes. A total of 236 golfers participated in the championship.

The Myanmar golf team arrived back in Yangon on Saturday.

NLM

Third leg of Myanmar Golf Tour to be held 19-22 June

YANGON, 9 June—Organized by Myanmar Golf Federation and Myanmar PGA and sponsored by Myawady Bank Ltd, the third leg of Myanmar Golf Tour will take place at Shwe Mann Taung Golf Club in Mandalay from 19 to 22 June.

Hole-in-one scorer at hole No 16 of the club will win the Isuzu Single Cab.

For the amateur level, the golfers are to take part in the sports qualifier on 16 June and to register at the club not later than 14 June. Women golfers are to contact the club on 17 June, dialing 092037671, 09420017835 and 0973130474.

Those who stood from the first to 20th positions in the tours held in Yangon do not need to join the qualifier.—*NLM*

Government considers property taxes to further control real estate market

Representatives attending Lower House session.—MNA

NAY PYI TAW, 9 June— As there is no restriction as to how many plots of land a person can buy in Myanmar, wealthy and well-to-do people invest in and speculate on land as if it were a commodity, resulting in unstable and skyrocketed land prices in Myanmar, Union Minister for President Office U Soe Maung told the lower house session in Nay Pyi Taw on Monday.

The union minister said although the government allows first time buyers to pay lower taxes, it is controlling land prices by levying 30 percent property transaction taxes and income taxes on those who speculate on land. However, he admitted that the government is losing taxes because land speculators buy land form owners under general power or special power without officially registering the transaction with the Yangon City Development Committee, which is responsible for collecting taxes on land transactions.

The union minister also said that land prices tend to rise in early stages of economic liberalization as factories, hotels and houses are being built hastily, but they will later fall and become stable since the government is drawing town plans for factories, hotels and houses.

The union minister said that the government is considering property taxes adopted in the international community by consulting with state/region governments, state/region parliaments and businessmen. The Ministry of Finance will also consider drafting a bill for property taxes if necessary, he concluded.

At the Monday session, the proposal submitted by Lower House Representative U Thein Nyunt to adopt a special law safeguarding the lives of about 3 million Myanmar migrant workers abroad was not approved by the lower house.

At the upper house session in Nay Pyi Taw on Monday, representative debated the proposal to adopt proportional representation system for the upcoming elections for the upper house, and most representatives participated in the debate rejected the proposal as the system is new and complicated for Myanmar voters.

MNA

President U Thein Sein sends felicitations to Portugal President, PM

NAY PYI TAW, 10 June—U Thein Sein, President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar, has sent messages of felicitations to His Excellency Professor Anibal Cavaco Silva, President of the Portuguese Republic, and His Excellency Mr. Pedro Passos Coelho, Prime Minister of the Portuguese Republic, on the occasion of the National Day of the Portuguese Republic, which falls on 10 June 2014.—*MNA*

Vice-Senior General Soe Win receives Deputy Chief of General Staff of PLA

NAY PYI TAW, 9 June— Deputy Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Commander-in-Chief (Army) Vice-Senior General Soe Win received Lieutenant General Wang Guanzhong, Deputy Chief of the General Staff of the People's Liberation Army of the People's Republic of China and party at the hall of the Bayintnaung Avenue in Nay Pyi Taw on Monday to hold discussion on further strengthening friendly relations between the armed forces of Myanmar and China.

Both sides exchanged views on military technological training and cooperation, and stability in border regions.

Myawady

Vice-Senior General Soe Win with Lieutenant General Wang Guanzhong, Chinese Deputy Chief of the General Staff of PLA and party.—MYAWADY

Rural & urban planning course opened

NAY PYI TAW, 9 June — The opening ceremony of the rural and urban regional planning course (2/2014) was held in Nay Pyi Taw on Monday morning.

Union Minister for National Planning and Economic Development Dr Kan Zaw made an opening speech at the ceremony.

The union minister urged the trainees to draw plans that are in accord with the policies of the state and the ministry, international norms and the needs of the people.

A total of 90 trainees are attended the course, which lasts until 17 June.

Officials of the Planning Department of the Ministry of National Planning and Economic Development, Human Settlement and Housing Development Department of the Ministry of Construction and Rural Development Department of the Ministry of Livestock, Fisheries and Rural Developmentwill give lectures to the trainees.

MNA

***Union Minister Dr Kan Zaw speaking at opening ceremony of rural and urban regional planning course.*—MNA**

Press Release on ASEAN Regional Forum (ARF) Defence Officials' Dialogue, ARF Security ...

(from page 1)

ARF Experts and Eminent Persons (EEPs) as well as share updated on implementation of the Hanoi Plan of Action to implement the ARF Vision Statement.

The meeting discussed on activities and initiatives on Confidence Building Measures and Preventive Diplomacy for the inter-sessional year 2014-2015, ARF Statements and Work Plans and ARF Security Outlook 2014 to be published the upcoming 21st ASEAN Regional Forum that will be held on 10 August 2014. Furthermore, the meeting exchanged views on the Provisional Agenda and Tentative Programmes of Activities for the 21st ARF at the same time.

MNA

GMS tourism working group meeting focuses on tourism HRD

MANDALAY, 9 June—The 33rd Meeting of the Grater Mekong Sub-region Tourism Working Group took place at Mandalay Hill Resort Hotel in Mandalay on Monday.

Delegates from six Mekong sub-region countries, officials of Ministry of Hotels and Tourism and the Asia Development Bank attended the meeting, focusing on market promotion in the GMS tourism industry and attractions, tourism package tours among GMS countries, development of human resources in GMS tourism industry, alleviation of poverty, sustainable development of tourism industry, implementation of GMS tourism strategy, cooperation among partner organizations and private sectors.

The meeting continues till 12 June.

Tin Maung (Mandalay)

Mon State stands first with high pass rate in matriculation exam result

MAWLAMYINE, 9 June—A total of 7.420 students of 15,873 passed the 2014 matriculation examination result in Mon State. Of them, 1,915 students won the distinctions including five six-distinction winners. Mon State stood first in the whole nation with 46.75% pass rate in the examination result for the six successive years. Thanks to guidance of the Mon State government and concerted efforts of education officers, teachers, students and social organizations, the Mon State achieves the success in the examination result, said an official of the Education Department.

Mon State IPRD

Medical team delivers free health care to locals in South Dagon Tsp

YANGON, 9 June—A medical team of Dagon Myothit (South) Township Union Solidarity and Development Party gave free medical treatment to the local people at Basic Education Middle School No 7 Branch in Ward 57 of the township on Sunday.

The medical team led by Dr U Aung Naing Oo comprised of general practitioners, dentists and eye specialists.

They provided health care services free of charge to 138 patients of the ward.

Myint Than (Oxygen)

Human rights knowledge shared to police in Mandalay

MANDALAY, 9 June—Provisions on human rights are included in the existing laws and regulations being practiced by the Myanmar Police Force, said Police Col Zaw Win Aung of Mandalay Region Police Force at the opening ceremony of the Human Rights Course, jointly conducted by the MPF and the UNOHCHR at Ye Thurein Hall of the region police force in Mandalay on Monday.

Abiding by the police code of conduct is practicing the human rights, the police colonel added.

Human Rights Officer Mr Fred Rowski of the UNOHCHR extended greetings. Altogether 75 police officers are attending the course up to 10 June.

Tin Maung (Mandalay)

Mini book corners fulfilled with new books in Lashio

LASHIO, 9 June—Lashio District Information and Public Relations Department of northern Shan State keeps mini book corners in public places in Lashio.

On Monday, staff of the department delivered 1,764 books to 28 mini book corners for raising reading habit of local people.—*Lashio District IPRD*

Inspection teams check highway buses for traffic safety in Kyaukse

KYAUKSE, 9 June—Under the arrangements of Transport Planning Department, Directorate of Road Transport, the Central Transport Supervisory Committee, the inspection teams performed surprise checks at buses at the highway bus terminal in Kyaukse of Mandalay on Saturday, aiming at declining traffic accidents and ensuring roadside safety. The teams comprising officers of Transport Planning Department and Police squads checked the highway buses passing Kyaukse along the routes from Mandalay to Nay Pyi Taw, Yangon, Meiktila, Magway, Myingyan, Myittha and Kume whether there are fire extinguisher, driver licence and bus conductor licences. In addition, the buses must have emergency exit and good maintenance.

Action will be taken against the buses and bus workers who do not abide by the traffic rules and instructions of the inspection teams. The surprise checks will be performed twice a week.

Tin Maung (Mandalay)

Dredging drain to be proper flow of water in rainy season

KAWTHOUNG, 9 June—With the aim of ensuring proper flow of water in the rainy season, the drains were dredged in front of Basic Education Middle School (Branch) in Shwezinyaw Ward of Kawthoung in Taninthayi Region on Sunday. As water improperly flowed in the drain in front of the school, the retaining walls of the school collapsed last year. Thus, the regional authorities and local people funded reconstruction of the retaining walls. That is why an over-200-foot-long drain was dredged for proper flow of water.

Kyaw Soe (Kawthoung)

REGIONAL

Militants attack airport in Pakistan's Karachi, 27 dead

ISLAMABAD, 9 June — A group of heavily armed gunmen stormed Pakistan's biggest airport on Sunday and at least 27 people were killed in a night-long battle at one of the country's most high-profile targets.

The assault on Jinnah International Airport in Karachi, Pakistan's sprawling commercial hub of 18 million people, took place as Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif's government tries to engage Taleban militants in talks to end years of fighting. The attack began just before midnight when 10 gunmen wearing military uniforms shot their way into the airport.

Gun battles went on for five hours and television pictures showed fire raging as ambulances ferried casualties away. By dawn on Monday, the army said the airport had been secured. "Ten militants aged between 20 and 25 have been killed by security forces," said a spokesman for the paramilitary Rangers force. "A large cache of arms and ammunition has been recovered from the militants."

Smoke billows from Jinnah International Airport in Karachi on 9 June, 2014. —REUTERS

Pakistan's paramilitary force said that the attackers were ethnic Uzbeks. Pakistani officials often blame foreign militants holed up in lawless areas on the Afghan border for staging attacks alongside the Pakistani Taleban around the country.

"Three militants blew themselves up and seven were killed by security forces," Rizwan Akhtar, the regional head of the paramilitary Rangers, said in televised remarks. "The militants appear to be Uzbek." Officials said no aircraft had been damaged.

There was no immediate claim of responsibility, but Pakistani Taleban militants, allied with but separate from the Afghan Taleban, are battling to overthrow the Pakistani state and impose their hardline vision of Islamist rule.

Earlier, officials said all flights had been diverted. Peace talks between the government and the Pakistani Taleban have failed in recent months, dampening hopes of reaching a negotiated settlement with the insurgency, which continues attacks against government and security targets.

Reuters

Pakistani Taleban claim responsibility for Karachi airport attack

PESHAWAR, 9 June— Pakistan's Taleban claimed responsibility for an attack on the country's busiest airport on Monday, saying it was revenge for the army's air strikes in areas along the Afghan border where the insurgents are based. "We carried out this attack on the Karachi airport and it is a message to the Pakistan government that we are still alive to react over the killings of innocent people in bomb attacks on their villages," said Shahidullah Shahid, a Taleban spokesman.

Reuters

China talks trade, economic potential on visit to new government

NEW DELHI, 9 June —China's Foreign Minister Wang Yi promised on Sunday to help India's economic development and emphasized that the two countries see eye-to-eye of most issues, playing down difference over a trade deficit and a festering border dispute.

Wang was visiting India as a special envoy of China's president on a two-day trip designed to show Beijing's interest in improving cooperation between the world's two most populated nations on issues including regional security.

The trip came two weeks after Prime Minister Narendra Modi won a resounding majority in a general election on promises of reviving a flagging economy.

"China stands by your side throughout your efforts of reform and development," Wang told the *Hindu* newspaper.

"No country can choose its neighbour, but friendship may be fostered," he said, calling for innovative solutions to resolve the two country's vastly differing perception of where large stretches of their shared Himalayan border lies.

Modi is seeking to strengthen India's armed forces and economy, in part to enable him to react more decisively in foreign relations than his predecessor, the mild-mannered Manmohan Singh.

Wang met his Indian counterpart Sushma Swaraj on Sunday for talks that lasted more than three hours, the first high-level meeting between the two countries since Modi assumed office.

"Both leaders felt that there was tremendous untapped potential for the growth of economic ties," Syed Akbaruddin, spokesman for Ministry of External Affairs, told a media briefing following the talks.

Akbaruddin said China and India are looking at least six more visits at ministerial level or above this year, a significant intensification of bilateral meetings.

China dealt India a humiliating defeat in a short border war in 1962, an event that has cast a shadow over relations ever since, with occasional flare ups along disputed patches of the border to this day.

India runs a $40 billion trade deficit with China, and when Modi meets Wang on Monday he is expected to renew India's demands for greater market access to reduce that gap.

China's own embrace of an export-led model has helped its economy outgrow India's fourfold since 1980.

At the meeting on Sunday, Swaraj and Wang raised the possibility of China investing in industrial parks in India, a move that could help rebalance trade.

Reuters

Chinese Foreign Minister Wang Yi (L) gestures to External Affairs minister Sushma Swaraj before their meeting in New Delhi on 8 June, 2014.—REUTERS

India to engage with neighbours, China — President Mukherjee

NEW DELHI, 9 June — India's new government will engage energetically with its neighbours, including China, the president said on Monday in a speech to parliament setting out Prime Minister Narendra Modi's policy agenda.

Modi, elected in a landslide last month, invited South Asian regional leaders to his inauguration. He was due to meet China's foreign minister on Monday.—*Reuters*

Suspected Abu Sayyaf member nabbed in S Philippines

MANILA, 9 June — Government security forces arrested on Monday morning a suspected member of terrorist group Abu Sayyaf who is believed to be involved in several atrocities in southern Philippines, a police official said.

Benjamin Magalong, chief of the Philippine National Police's Criminal Investigation and Detection Group, identified the suspect as Moraham Ameng, alias Ameng Alamsirul and Rahang. Ameng was nabbed at Bulan-bulan village in Lantawan town, Basilan Province.

Magalong said Ameng was arrested by virtue of warrants issued by the Basilan Regional Trial Court for the crime of kidnapping and illegal detention. He said Ameng was involved in the kidnapping of a doctor and his family, kidnapping of 16 teachers and was also involved in the killing of three coconut plantation workers many years ago.

The Abu Sayyaf group, founded in the early 1990s, is a violent terrorist group operating in southern Philippines.

Xinhua

Kerry says freed Taleban inmates would target US at 'enormous risk' —CNN

WASHINGTON, 9 June — If the five Taleban inmates released from Guantanamo Bay prison in exchange for a captive American soldier rejoined the fight against the United States, they would do so at great risk, US Secretary of State John Kerry said on Sunday.

"I'm not telling you they don't have some ability at some point to go back and get involved," Kerry said in an interview with CNN's "State of the Union" programme. "But they also have the ability to get killed doing that.

"These guys pick a fight with us, in the future or now or at any time, at enormous risk."

US Secretary of State John Kerry gestures as he speaks during a news conference in Beirut on 4 June, 2014. —REUTERS

Concern that the five former inmates might return to fight has been a factor in controversy in the United States over the deal, under which Army Sergeant Bowe Bergdahl was handed over to US troops in Afghanistan on 31 May after nearly five years in captivity and the five Taleban members were flown from Guantanamo to Qatar.

Kerry said the United States has proven its ability to target al - Qaeda fighters in western Pakistan and Afghanistan in the war on terrorism and that nobody should doubt the capacity of the United States to protect Americans.

US officials have referred to release of the Islamist militants in exchange for Bergdahl as a transfer. They said the men would be subject to certain restrictions in Qatar, which brokered the deal. One official said that would include a minimum one-year ban on travel outside of Qatar as well as monitoring of their activities.

"They're not the only ones keeping an eye on them," Kerry told CNN.

The five had been held at the US Guantanamo Bay prison in Cuba since 2002. Their release drew criticism from members of the US Congress, who complained they were not notified in advance by the Obama administration.

Adding to the controversy, some of Bergdahl's former comrades have alleged he was captured by the Taliban after deserting his post.—*Reuters*

Malaysia spends over 9 mln USD on flight MH370 search operations

KUALA LUMPUR, 9 June — Malaysia has so far spent about RM27.6 million (some 9 million US dollars) on search-and recovery operations for missing Malaysia Airlines Flight MH370, a government official said on Monday.

Transport Minister Hishammuddin Hussein told reporters that the cost was for food and fuel for five Malaysian agencies that took part in the search.

The five agencies were the Royal Malaysian Airforce, Royal Malaysian Navy, Royal Malaysian Police, Fire and Rescue Department and the Malaysian Maritime Enforcement Agency. "The cost that we had to bear is relatively small compared with the other assets given by other countries used in the search", he said.

MH370, carrying 227 passengers and 12 crew, left the KL International Airport for Beijing, China, at 12.41 am on 8 March 8 and disappeared from radar screens about an hour later while over the South China Sea.

Xinhua

Japan co-op official to oversee unions in Asia

Satoko Horiuchi, an official of the Japanese Consumers' Cooperative Union —KYODO NEWS

TOKYO, 9 June— Having been sent to the International Labour Organization, Satoko Horiuchi is tasked with studying cooperative unions' medical care and welfare businesses in Asian countries.

"I think connections with people can produce some great power," the 34-year-old official of the Japanese Consumers' Cooperative Union said in an interview before leaving Tokyo.

Horiuchi was dispatched to the Switzerland-headquartered organization in April to support the operation of cooperative unions, which are nonprofit mutual support entities, in Asia for the next two years.

"I'm looking forward to experiencing the culture in Europe," she said. She probably never expected to pursue an international career in the future when she entered university.

Horiuchi disliked studying English until she took part in a summer language training program in the United States when she was a freshman.

After returning to Japan, she joined an English language circle. While enrolled in a graduate program, she visited countries such as Thailand and Cambodia to do research on cooperative unions' efforts to promote local businesses.

She said she had always felt frustrated at "not being able to return any favors to local people who had supported my research for a long time."

To repay them for their favour, Horiuchi flew to the Philippines in 2003 as a member of the Japan International Cooperation Agency's Japan Overseas Cooperation Volunteers programme.

While there, she helped a local association producing sausages to turn a profit by better calculating what prices to charge to offset costs. She said that the job was quite well suited to her as it allowed her to take time to look at what she can do to help others. In 2007, Horiuchi entered Japan's cooperative union and took charge of educational training for officials of cooperative organizations in Asia.

Kyodo News

Taleban storms NATO logistic compound in E Afghanistan, 4 killed

JALALABAD, 9 June — Four people were killed as gunmen broke into a NATO logistic complex in Jalalabad, the provincial capital of eastern Afghan province of Nangarhar overnight, sources said on Monday.

The attack occurred at midnight when one militant set off a car bomb at the entry of the compound in third police district to pave the way for two other armed militants to break into the building, a security source told *Xinhua* anonymously.

The casualties included three militants and one police with one policeman wounded, the source said.

"Two militants attached bombs to logistic trucks and exploded about 25 vehicles. Most of the trucks caught fire and destroyed. The militants were killed by security forces," he said.

No foreign soldier was in the complex when the incident took place in the city, 120 km east of Afghan capital of Kabul, he noted.

The Taleban insurgent group claimed responsibility for the attack. The Taleban-led insurgency has been rampant since the militant group launched an annual rebel offensive against the Afghan government forces and more than 51,000 NATO-led troops stationed in the country in mid-May.

The Taleban urged civilians to stay away from official gatherings, military convoys and centres regarded as the legitimate targets by militants besides warning people not to support the government and foreign troops.—*Xinhua*

China confirms attendance at US-hosted naval exercises in June

A Chinese navy sailor (R) guides a helicopter to land on Chinese destroyer Harbin during the Joint Sea-2014 naval drill outside Shanghai on the East China Sea, on 24 May, 2014.—REUTERS

BEIJING, 9 June — China on Monday confirmed that it will participate for the first time in a major US-hosted naval drill this month, sending four ships including a destroyer and frigate, even as deep military distrust persists between the two countries. Beijing's agreement to join the drills comes at a moment of heightened tension in the disputed East and South China Seas, and growing unease in the United States over China's rapid military buildup and its cyber capabilities.

The Rim of the Pacific exercise, known as RIMPAC, is billed as the world's largest international maritime exercise, with 22 nations and more than 40 ships and submarines participating the last time it was held off Hawaii in 2012.

Not all the participants are treaty allies with the United States. Last year's participants included Russia and India. But China has never participated in the event, although it did send observers to RIMPAC in 1998, the Pentagon says. US officials said in March that China had accepted the invitation.

Reuters

World leaders face pressure to act against sexual violence at UK summit

London, 9 June — The kidnapping of 200 Nigerian girls and several recent horrific murders of women is expected to raise pressure on the world community to take concrete action to punish those responsible for sexual violence at a global summit in London this week.

Invited by Hollywood actress Angelina Jolie and British Foreign Secretary William Hague, government ministers, military and judicial leaders and aid workers from about 150 nations will join the first global summit to end sexual violence in conflict.

The 10-13 June summit follows a run of shocking cases of violence against women including the kidnap of schoolgirls by Islamist Boko Haram, the stoning to death of a pregnant woman in Pakistan in a so-called "honour killing", and the gang-rape and murder of two Indian teenagers who were hanged from a tree.

Hague said too often those who committed these crimes never faced justice and the summit would agree the first international protocol on how to document and investigate sexual violence in conflicts.

"Often it is the lack of evidence that means that these things go unpunished," Hague told Sky television on Sunday.

"Now this will lead to prosecutions. None of this will be achieved overnight but this is a problem which has been getting worse in recent decades and is utterly unacceptable in the 21st century."

The conference, with 1,200 attendees including US Secretary of State John Kerry, will be co-hosted by Hague and Jolie, special envoy of the UN High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), who joined forces in 2012 to tackle rape and sexual violence in conflict and post-conflict situations.

Oscar-winner Jolie's involvement in humanitarian issues dates back to 2001 when she traveled to Sierra Leone as a UNHCR Goodwill Ambassador and was horrified to see the impact of years of civil war when an estimated 60,000 women were raped.

The unlikely pair have traveled together to witness the legacy of sexual violence in war and the work to help victims.

Earlier this year they went to Bosnia where more than 100,000 people, most of them civilians, were killed in the 1992-95 war when an estimated 20,000 women were believed raped.

Figures from UNICEF estimate an average of 36 women and girls are raped daily in the Democratic Republic of Congo where up to 200,000 women have suffered sexual violence since 1998.

Alice Allan, head of advocacy at CARE International, said the world had been horrified by several recent cases of violence on women which would raise the bar at the summit.

"Violence against women is not new but social media has helped bring these cases to the fore and helped galvanize governments to commit to taking action," Allan told *Reuters*.

"These cases have been horrific but hopefully it will lead to greater action this week and public commitments from governments to which they will be held accountable."

The summit comes after Hague and Jolie last year launched a Declaration of Commitment to End Sexual Violence in Conflict that pledged to end impunity, promote accountability, and provide justice and safety for victims of sexual violence.

So far about 150 countries have signed the declaration that calls for funding to tackle violence and help survivors, improved collection of data and evidence for court action, and a ban on amnesties for sexual violence in peace agreements.

All signatory countries were invited to the London summit where the fate of the missing Nigerian schoolgirls will be debated at a ministerial meeting on Thursday.

But the need for concrete action after four days of talking at the summit was seen as critical if there was to be progress.

"Just because Myanmar signed the international declaration on sexual violence, it doesn't mean they will do anything about it. There should be a six-month deadline for seeing implementation of the declaration in Myanmar," said Zoya Phan, campaign manager at Burma Campaign UK.

Reuters

Italy rescues 5,200 boat migrants since Thursday, three dead

Rome, 9 June — Italy has rescued about 5,200 men, women and children and recovered three dead bodies from overcrowded boats in the Mediterranean Sea since early Thursday.

Calm seas have led to this latest wave of migrants who have left North African shores for Italy over just three days, a navy spokesman told *Reuters*, with merchant ships and a Maltese vessel also aiding in the rescue efforts.

The merchant tanker *Norient Star* recovered three bodies from one of the migrant boats, the spokesman said, adding that he had no details about the cause of the death or identity of the victims.

Three merchant ships, including the *Norient Star*, took aboard a total of 700 migrants, a navy statement said, and is taking them to ports in Sicily.

The surge in arrivals is straining the ability of the Italian naval mission — called Mare Nostrum or "Our Sea" — to patrol the waters between Africa and Italy on its own. It has prompted local officials in Sicily, where most of the migrants are taken, to call for more European support.

"Europe can't just turn its back on us," Lillo Firetto, mayor of the Sicilian port city of Porto Empedocle, said in a television interview on Sunday. "This isn't just Sicily's border, but it's Europe's border, too."

Italy has repeatedly asked for more European Union countries to join Mare Nostrum, which is Europe's biggest ever search-and-rescue mission, but so far only Slovenia has chipped in, offering one ship for two months late last year.

Mare Nostrum began last October after 366 migrants fleeing African countries drowned when their boat capsized a mile from Sicily. After the tragedy, the EU pledged 30 million euros ($40.85 million)in emergency funding, mainly targeted to fund immigration facilities on land. The number of boat migrants who have reached Italy this year has already topped the total of more than 40,000 for the whole of 2013. The pace of arrivals is on track to exceed the record of 62,000 set in 2011 during the Arab Spring uprisings.

Reuters

UK's Cameron seeks school inspection clampdown after alleged extremist plot

London, 9 June — British Prime Minister David Cameron said he wants snap inspections at schools in response to "deeply concerning" allegations of a plot by extremist Muslims to take over schools in the English city of Birmingham.

In March an anonymous, unverified letter was made public, detailing a scheme to force state schools to adopt a more Islamic culture by installing school governors and teaching staff who would support a conservative Islamic religious agenda.

Last week the issue took on increased political significance for Cameron after two of his most senior ministers, Education Secretary Michael Gove and Home Secretary Theresa May, publicly criticised each other for their handling of the affair.

British Prime Minister David Cameron (L) waves next to his wife Samantha Cameron prior to a British D-Day commemoration ceremony at the Bayeux Cathedral in Bayeux, on 6 June, 2014.—Reuters

Seeking to reassert his control of the issue and his party, Cameron censured both ministers over the weekend and on Monday released a pre-emptive statement ahead of the publication of an investigation by Ofsted schools inspectors into the alleged plot, known as Operation Trojan Horse.

"Protecting our children is one of the first duties of government and that is why the issue of alleged Islamist extremism in Birmingham schools demands a robust response," Cameron said in a statement issued by his office.

The Prime Minister said he wanted to deny schools the opportunity to cover up "activities that have no place in our society", amid suggestions that schools had hastily arranged lessons to include Christianity teaching after being given notice of an inspection.

Cameron asked the government's chief schools inspector to examine the practicalities of allowing school inspections without prior notice. He also said he was convening a meeting of the government's extremism task force and that inspectors would maintain a regular presence in the schools, reporting back directly to him.

The opposition Labour party said Cameron's response was "weak and inadequate".

Previous inspections of five of the schools in 2012 and 2013, when they were given up to two days' notice, had found them to be "good" or "outstanding". A statement from the Park View Educational Trust, which runs some of schools inspected in the latest wave, criticised the way the recent inspections had been carried out and rejected findings of a critical report on one school, saying it had been mischaracterised.—*Reuters*

PERSPECTIVES

Tuesday, 10 June, 2014

Peaceful reconciliation among Myanmar citizens

By Aung Khin

The State Constitution guarantees any citizen to enjoy the right to vote, work and live in the country, the right to own real estate and legal protections without favour for any citizen based on race, birth, religion, official position, status, culture sex and wealth.

Despite some controversial sections in the constitution, it prescribes equal rights for the citizens in terms of civil service, occupation, trade, business, and technical know-how professions.

In return, any citizen with different backgrounds of religion, ancestry and race are responsible for certain duties to follow the country's law and integration with other communities.

Although the constitution recognizes the special position of Buddhism, it also recognizes Christianity, Islam, Hinduism and Animism as the religions existing in the country, forbidding any abuse of religion for political purpose.

Therefore, every citizen should not discriminate against others from another religion, ancestry or race. All Myanmar citizens should regard each other as a part of single community.

Actually, any act intended or is likely to provoke feelings of hatred, enmity or discord between racial or religious communities or sects is contrary to the constitution. Such activities and behaviours could not help to establish a democratic society in which everyone can enjoy trust and respect each other.

Racial or religious prejudice may have negative impacts on the development of the country, leading to mistrust among the citizens. Those who accept themselves as Myanmar citizens should maintain peace and trust without differentiating each other based on colourism or races.

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.

The sacred Mahacinapaba Pagoda (Cetiya) of 108 feet in height, the Replica of the famous Shwedagon Pagoda of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar which has already been built in Luoyang, the capital of Henan Province of the People's Republic of China

Ba Sein

According to the concrete historical records, the close and friendly relations including religious relations between the two Nations, the People's Republic of China and the Republic of the Union of Myanmar have been existed since years ago. As we all Buddhists throughout the Republic of the Union of Myanmar know, the sacred Tooth Relic of the Buddha from the People's Republic of China has been conveyed to the Republic of the Union of Myanmar for four times in order to be able to be paid deep homage closely by Buddhist people in the Republic of the Union of Myanmar according to the agreements and arrangement of the responsible personnel and the head of the two Nations.

For successfully building the sacred Mahacinapaba Pagoda (Cetiya) of 108 feet in height, the Replica of the famous Shwedagon Pagoda of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar in Luoyang, the capital of Henan Province of the People's Republic of China, the coordination meeting was held at the Ministry of Religious Affairs in Nay Pyi Taw on 15th January 2013. At the coordination meeting, the Vice President Dr Sai Mauk Kham said that the leading Chinese Buddhist monks officially requested the President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar, U Thein Sein during his official visit to the People's Republic of China in May, 2011, in order to build a sacred Pagoda, the Replica of the famous Shwedagon Pagoda of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar in Luoyang, Henan Province of the People's Republic of China. It is further learnt that this newly sacred Pagoda which is to be built, will be the highest Pagoda across the People's Republic of China.

According to the kind request of the Chinese Buddhist monks, the necessary arrangements were extended to build a sacred Pagoda (Cetiya), the Replica of the famous Shwedagon Pagoda of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar in the precinct of the White Horse Temple in Luoyang, the capital of Henan Province of the People's Republic of China. According to the historical records, the Buddhism (Teachings of the Omniscient Buddha) flourished in this Luoyang City of China about 5000 years ago.

In order to successfully carry out the construction of this Pagoda systematically and completely, the Central Working Committee and the Sub-working Committees for construction of this sacred Pagoda, were formed and assigned duties by the President Office of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar.

The Vice President, Dr Sai Mauk Kham stressed that there were two parts for construction of the sacred Pagoda to be carried out. The first part was to make diamond orb, golden umbrella, pennant-shaped vane and religious objects to be enshrined, Buddha images made of teak, jade and bronze which were to be made and created by Myanmar artists and sculptors. All the above-mentioned tasks must be carried out at home. The second part was to carry out the construction of the main structure of the sacred Pagoda must be carried out and conducted in the People's Republic of China. The noble tasks of the construction of the sacred Pagoda started in April 2012, and it was further learnt that the whole building of the sacred Pagoda would be completed within two years.

The Myanmar cultural handicrafts for construction of the sacred Pagoda, must be the best ones in agreement with Buddhist traditions and culture, and also must be stable and existed for long time. Those finished materials associated with Myanmar culture and traditions relating to the construction of the sacred Pagoda must be safely sent to the People's Republic of China in accordance with agreements and co-ordinations of the two Nations.

The construction of this sacred Pagoda in the People's Republic of China must be concrete and sustainable protection from danger of natural disaster and sustainable protection, and also must be specific and highly recorded. All these tasks must be viewed and inspected by the Myanmar Ambassador to the People's Republic of China and authorities concerned.

Furthermore, it is known that the respective Buddhist buildings of Thailand, India and Japan are situated in the precinct of the White Horse Temple in Luoyang, and now, the sacred Mahacinapaba Pagoda of 108 feet in height, the Replica of the famous Shwedagon Pagoda which was built by the Republic of the Union of Myanmar, and it is learnt that this sacred Pagoda will be the highest Pagoda in the People's Republic of China.

It is known that many tourists pay visit to this famous Buddhist region of the People's Republic of China, and so as a leading Theravada Buddhist nation, the Republic of the Union of Myanmar must express its deepest faith of Buddhism by descriptions of perfect and excellent Myanmar handicrafts and traditions through tourists to the worldwide.

According to close friendly and religious relations between the Republic of the Union of Myanmar and the People's Republic of China, and the close relations of the chief monks of the two nations, the noble tasks for the construction of the sacred Pagoda, the Replica of the famous Shwedagon Pagoda could be deeply and perfectly carried out and the situations of these noble tasks were reported in time.

Afterwards, the Chairman and the Vice Chairman of the Leading Committee for construction of the Pagoda, the Union Minister for the Ministry of Religious affairs and the Union Minister for the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the Chairman of the Working Committee for construction of the Pagoda, Deputy Minister for the Ministry of Religious Affairs Dr. Maung Maung Htay and chairmen and authorities of respective sub-committees explained and reported the present situation for construction of the sacred Pagoda respectively.

Furthermore, the Vice President said that, in order to be able to respectfully and deeply pay homage to this sacred Pagoda, all necessary requirements for the construction of the Pagoda must be the best and complete and beside, all religious materials needed for the sacred Mahacinapaba Pagoda will be firstly paid homage at the Shwedagon Pagoda in Yangon and Uppatasanti Pagoda in Nay Pyi Taw before conveying them to the People's Republic of China. In this regard, it was known to all internal and external well-wishers in order to donate for these sacred religious materials being paid homage there.

It is further learnt that the sacred Mahacinapaba Pagoda, the Replica of the famous Shwedagon pagoda was built on the land of 1.73 acres in the precinct of the White Horse Temple in Luoyang, the capital of Henan Province of the People's Republic of China starting from 10th April in the year of 2012, and the construction of the sacred Pagoda was undertaken by the Asia World Co., Ltd of Myanmar and the construction of the sacred Pagoda was completed in the year of 2013.

GOLD PRICE, FE RATE (9-6-2014)

Yangon Gold Price

Buying K650,000 per tical: Selling K650,500

Mandalay Gold Price

Buying K649,700 per tical: Selling K650,200

FE RATE

USD	Buying	K966 -	Selling K969.5
SGD	Buying	K768 -	Selling K775
Euro	Buying	K1310 -	Selling K1325

LOCAL NEWS

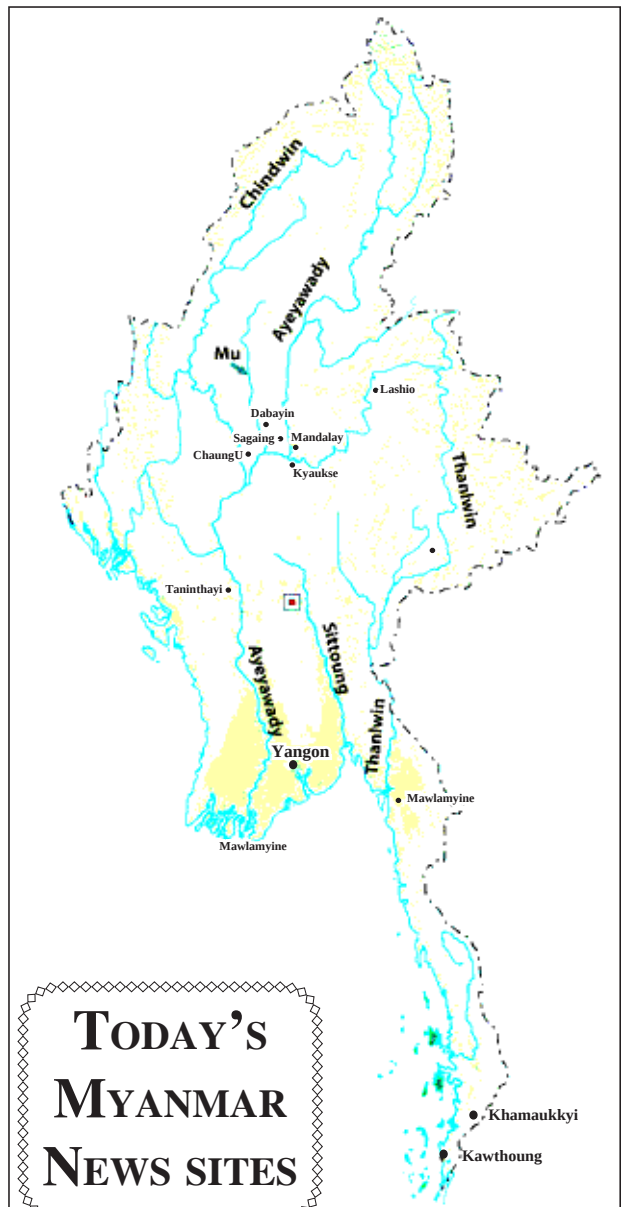
Thai army officers donate alms to Buddhist monks in Khamaukkyi

KHAMAUKKYI, 9 June—A 15-member team led by senior officers of No 25 Division of the Royal Thai Army and those of Ranong District of Thailand made donations at Maha Zeyathiri Monastery in Ward 4 of Khamaukkyi Sub-Township in Taninthayi Region on 6 June.

They were welcomed by officials of Khamaukkyi Sub-Township and departmental officials. The Thai delegation offered robes and alms to Buddhist monks at the monastery and shared merits gained.

It was aimed at ensuring durability of Buddhism and further strengthening relations between the peoples of two nations.

Khamaukkyi IPRD



TODAY'S MYANMAR NEWS SITES

Dabayin Township Forest Department organizes tree growing ceremony

DABAYIN, 9 June—The tree growing ceremony for the rainy season took place in Dabayin of Sagaing Region on Monday.

The ceremony organized by the Township Forest Department was attended by township authorities, departmental personnel, members of social organizations and students, totalling about 300.

They planted 520 teak, eucalyptus, neem, raintree and white jute saplings at the designated places.—*Thein Tun (IPRD)*

Nine distinction winners in Myanmar subject emerge in Sagaing Tsp

SAGAING, 9 June—Nine Myanmar subject distinction winners emerged from the 2014 matriculation examination result from Model Ywathitgyi Village in Sagaing Township of Sagaing Region, according to the Sagaing District Education Office.

A total of 900 students of 3,498 students from 19 Basic Education High Schools passed the examination in the township.

"This year, nine distinction winners in Myanmar subject came out from the result in Sagaing Township. Significantly, they all are from Model Ywathitgyi Village—four from Ywathitgyi BEHS and five from the BEHS of University for Development of National Races," said District Education Officer U Min Oo.

The students from Sagaing Township may enter the Magway University of Medicine.

Nanda Min Lwin

ChaungU police arrest nine suspects within 24 hours

CHAUNGU, 9 June—Police of ChaungU Township arrested nine suspects who beat four persons including Nay Myo Tun and robbed K80,000, one mobile phone and a hand drill at 2 am on Saturday near Ngashan Village of Monywa-Mandalay Road in ChaungU Township.

The incident happened on the way of Nay Myo Tun and party who came back from their work of ceiling decoration at Shwedahkan monastery in Dabayin Township.

After investigating, the police and local authorities seized three motorbikes used by the robbers in the bush near Monywa-Mandalay railroad at 6.10 am. They also arrested two suspects namely Nyi Nyi Hlaing and two others.

According to further investigation, the police officers of ChaungU Township and those of Monywa Myoma police station arrested Pauksi (a) Thiha of Yongyi Ward of Monywa, Myauk Zeegwet of Shwetheindaw Ward in Salingyi, Yin Maung and Yin Aung of the same address, Chit Oo of Hnindaw Ward in Salingyi, Dahma (a) Ye Lin of Htandaw Village in Salingyi Township and Koyin Detchi (a) Moe Set of Yongyi Ward in Monywa under the law.

Township IPRD

Inauguration highlights Egyptian leader's shaky global standing

Cairo, 9 June — The list of foreign officials attending Egyptian President Abdel Fattah al-Sisi's inauguration on Sunday spoke volumes about his shaky international standing a year after toppling the country's first freely-elected leader.

Turnout was strong among Gulf Arab monarchies including Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates who were happy to see Sisi depose President Mohamed Mursi after mass protests against his rule and then move to crush the Muslim Brotherhood. Those states are expected to announce billions more in aid to the new government any day.

The Kings of Jordan and Bahrain and the Palestinian president also attended as did the leaders of five African countries.

But no top officials from Western countries, which provide billions of dollar in military and other aid, attended the ceremony. The heads of states from the most important African countries did not attend, likely because the African Union suspended Egypt after Sisi toppled Mursi last year. Analysts say that the make-up of the attendees suggests that Egypt's Western allies are hesitant to fully embrace Sisi because of concerns over his crackdown on dissent. Meanwhile, some African nations feel neglected by Egypt, many of whose citizens see themselves more as Arabs than Africans.

"It is a symbolic and important reflection of the ways in which the West is still trying to engage but is obviously very concerned about the direction Egypt has taken," said Michael Hanna, senior fellow at the New York-based Century Foundation. Hanna said that although the AU's suspension of Egypt may have affected the decision of some African heads of state not to attend the inauguration, other states simply might not see Sisi's inauguration as important, "a reflection of the ways in which Egypt has neglected its relationships in Africa."

Egyptians celebrate after the swearing-in ceremony of President elect Abdel Fattah al-Sissi, in front of the Presidential Palace in Cairo, on 8 June, 2014.—Reuters

Four of the five African leaders who congratulated Sisi either came to power by coup d'etat decades ago, have recently faced coup attempts—or both, a reminder of how Sisi came to power and of the challenge he faces in proving that he is a democrat after winning last month's election.

The elusive men who rule Equatorial Guinea, Chad, and Eritrea are shunned by the international community and do not often receive such invitations given their lack of allies, while the president of Mali rules a nation facing divisions within its army and Islamist extremist threats in its desert expanses. The United States only sent a senior advisor to Secretary of State John Kerry and most European countries only planned to send ambassadors.

"Just having ambassadors shows very clearly that while the governments are recognizing the new transfer of power they are certainly not doing so with a huge amount of enthusiasm," said HA Hellyer, non-resident fellow at the Brookings Institution in Washington.

Rights groups have long accused the presidents of Chad and Eritrea of subjecting opponents to arbitrary detentions and torture. The same charges have been levelled against the military-backed interim government that was installed after Mursi's ouster, accusations it denied.

Sisi has been the country's de facto leader since he toppled Mursi. Since then, security forces have killed hundreds of Islamists and jailed thousands of others.

The West has voiced concerns about abuses in Egypt, although none of Cairo's allies in Washington or European capitals have taken strong measures to force change, possibly leaving Sisi some breathing room to concentrate on forging better regional ties.

"Now everyone is hoping…that gradually there will be another transition to a true democratic state, but there are some fears of another dictatorship, another coming back of the old regime," said Hassan Nafaa, a professor of political science at Cairo University.

Egypt has been a less enthusiastic partner to fellow African states since the heady days when President Gamal Abdel Nasser welcomed liberation leaders to Cairo in the 1960s as many states gained independence from colonial rule.

Reuters

Sisi says in first speech to nation fighting terrorism will be top priority

Cairo, 9 June — Egyptian President Abdel Fattah al-Sisi said in his first speech to the nation on Sunday that he will focus on fighting terrorism in the "coming phase".

"Defeating terrorism and achieving security is the top priority in our coming phase," said Sisi hours after being sworn in, referring to his Islamist opponents.—*Reuters*

Female suicide bomber hits Nigerian barracks

Abuja, 9 June — A female suicide bomber killed herself and a soldier outside an army barracks in Nigeria's northeastern city of Gombe on Sunday, the military said, as local leaders reported the death count from a string of earlier militant attacks had reached 110.

No one claimed responsibility for the blast or last week's assaults but Islamist group Boko Haram has set off bombs and killed thousands in its five-year-old bid to carve out an Islamist state in the region.

Soldiers stopped the woman as she tried to get into the barracks with explosives hidden under her robes, defence headquarters said in a statement.

The device went off, killing her and a soldier searching her, it added. "I heard a loud sound and then black smoke covering the place ... We saw soldiers moving bodies," Gombe trader Bello Kasuwankatako told *Reuters*.

Witnesses had earlier said between three and five people died. Boko Haram — which dominated world headlines by kidnapping more than 200 schoolgirls in April — has fought back against an army offensive, piling political pressure on President Goodluck Jonathan and the military to end the carnage. Leaders from Gombe's neighbouring state of Borno told journalists on Sunday they had now buried 110 bodies from attacks on nine villages early last week — giving the first detailed breakdown on the casualties. "It was a great tragedy. There are still corpses lying in the bushes surrounding the communities. Many of our people that fled to the top of the hills during and after the attacks are still there and now stranded," said Ali Ndume, a senator representing southern Borno.

Boko Haram started off focusing on military and government targets alongside schools — seen as representing corrupt Western influence — churches, and Muslim leaders who do not follow its brand of Islam. It has been increasingly turning its guns on civilians in recent months, particularly after locals started setting up vigilante groups to try and fight back. It has become the biggest security threat to Africa's biggest economy and oil producer.

Traditional leader Lawan Abba Kaka said they had buried 42 corpses at the village of Attagara, 24 at Aganjara, 20 at Agapalawa and smaller numbers at other settlements — all of them in the Gwoza hills near the border with Cameroon. "The insurgents came and said they wanted to discuss something with us. They said we need to discuss some issues bordering on our differences in the communities but they opened fire on people who were gathered," said Kaka.

Reuters

Gunmen kidnap foreign oil expert in Yemen

Sanaa, 9 June — Armed Yemeni tribesman kidnapped a foreign expert working for a U.S. oil company in the country's central province of Marib on Sunday, an official of the interior ministry told *Xinhua*.

"The expert, working as a manager at a U.S. oil company in the oil-rich Marib, was snatched along with his two Yemeni security bodyguards late Sunday while they were driving to the capital Sanaa," the official said on condition of anonymity.

He also said security forces have cordoned off the areas, adding that the police have set up several checkpoints along the Sanaa-Marib highway. The official did not reveal the expert's nationality.

Foreigners are frequently kidnapped in Yemen by al-Qaeda militants or tribesmen, who usually demand for ransoms or release of their jailed fellows. Most of the hostages have been freed unharmed.

Altogether six foreigners were kidnapped in Sanaa over the past three months. Last month, the tribesmen in Marib province released a German hostage who was detained for nearly four months. In return, they were paid for a ransom and their relatives were freed from the jail, according to Yemeni officials.

Xinhua

Israel joins major EU scientific initiative

JERUSALEM, 9 June — Israel joined on Sunday Horizon 2020, a major EU research programme, though its guidelines bar Israel from transferring funding to settlement-related projects, officials said in a statement sent to media.

The signing ceremony, which took place in Jerusalem, was witnessed by European Commission President Jose Manuel Barroso and Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu.

"Israel is a strong player in research and innovation and for this reason an important partner for the EU," Barroso said in the statement." I am pleased that we are signing the agreement today since it reflects the mutual importance we attach to cooperation and partnership in

research and innovation," he added.

Israel is the first non-European member in the 80-billion-euro programme. "Under the terms of the agreement," a statement issued by the EU said, "Israel will have the same access to the programme as EU Member States and other Associated Countries."

In August, the EU said that in order to take part in the programme, Israel would have to accept its guidelines, which restrict European businesses and other entities from conducting trade or cooperating with Israeli organizations and companies operating in the West Bank territories.

The guidelines angered Israel because the document forced it to acknowledge — in a written official form — that the settlements are not part of Israel.

But in November, Israeli official announced they reached understanding which would allow Israel to take part of the programme. According to the agreed formula, the project would only apply within Israel's pre-1967 border and not in the West Bank. The agreement would include a clause stating Israel's objection to the guidelines.

Israel occupied the West Bank and East Jerusalem during the 1967 Mideast War and has held this territory ever since, despite international criticism. —*Xinhua*

Big data could help battle flu outbreaks

BEIJING, 9 June — The Chinese Centre for Disease Control and Prevention is working with online search giant Baidu to tap its huge user database to help forecast flu outbreaks.

Gao Fu, deputy director of the centre, said a data-crunching prediction tool might be available as early as this year to track flu outbreaks nationwide. "Big data will play a major role in safeguarding and improving public health."

The tool is expected to provide the public with estimated flu epidemic levels and help boost prevention measures as well as aid authorities with more targeted responses, said Lai Shengjie, a researcher at the CDC's infection prevention and control department.

Previous reports said that Baidu's search engine had more than 100 million users a day, making it the most popular site of its kind in the country.

Users often search for flu-related information like symptoms and medications when they come down with the ailment and the data gleaned from such activity can be faster than that collected through traditional flu surveillance based in hospitals, Lai said. Keywords in searches such as "cold" and "fever" as well as a combination of these can be applied to gather useful data.

Xinhua

Apple to make 3-5 million smartwatches monthly, sales begin in October

SAN FRANCISCO , 9 June — Apple Inc is preparing to sell its first wearable device this October, aiming to produce 3 million to 5 million smartwatches a month in its initial run, the Nikkei reported on Friday, citing an unidentified parts supplier and sources familiar with the matter.

Specifications are still being finalized, but the devices are likely to sport curved OLED (organic light-emitting diode) displays and sensors that collect health data from blood glucose and calorie consumption to sleep activity, the Japanese news service cited industry sources as saying.

The industry has long expected Apple to unveil some sort of smartwatch, following the release of Samsung Electronics' Galaxy Gear watches.

Wall Street is hoping to see a new Apple product this year to galvanize the former stock market darling's share price and end a years-long drought of ground-breaking devices. CEO Tim Cook has promised "new product categories" in 2014.

Apple declined to comment. — *Reuters*

Game of Thrones might need more seasons, says George R R Martin

NEW DELHI , 9 June— This might not have been the most violent season of Game of Thrones — the body count for the Red Wedding and the Battle of the Blackwater would've been pretty high too — but the last couple of episodes certainly feel like that. After the brutal ending of Episode 8: The Mountain and the Viper, the next episode didn't let up on things much either.

Episode 9: The Watchers on the Wall keeps the action up, as expected; after all, the show's had a tradition of having big events take place in the ninth episode of each season.

As a book reader though, it's interesting to see how much ground has already been covered by the shows. So far, each season has been roughly the contents of one book, and the show's fourth season looks to be set to close around the end of the fourth book, A Feast for Crows. That means that the next season of the show is going to take us through all the written material so far, if its creators continue at this pace. While readers are still waiting for the sixth book, Winds of Winter, the author, George R R Martin recently suggested in an interview with Entertainment Weekly that he might need eight books to complete the story of A Song of Ice and Fire, the name of the book series.— *PTI*

Uber snags $1.2 billion in new funding; seen valued at $18 billion

SAN FRANCISCO , 9 June — Uber Inc has raised $1.2 billion from mutual funds and other investors in a funding round valuing the fast-growing rides-on-demand service at $18.2 billion, one of the highest valuations ever for a Silicon Valley startup.

Uber Chief Executive Officer Travis Kalanick announced the funding round on Uber's blog on Friday.

The funding, eclipsed only by the likes of Facebook Inc before it went public, is a vote of confidence by investors in four-year-old Uber's growth potential.

"Uber is one of the most rapidly growing companies ever, and we believe there are opportunities for continued tremendous growth," Joan Miller, a spokeswoman for Summit Partners, an investor in the funding round, said by telephone.

Investors hope the company, which allows users to summon a ride on their smartphones, can expand globally and diversify into logistics.

The investors in the round valued Uber "pre-money" at $17 billion, the blog post said. The $1.2 billion infusion took the startup's valuation to $18.2 billion.

An Uber app is seen on an iPhone in Beverly Hills, California, on 19 Dec, 2013. Uber has entered more than 60 markets, ranging from its hometown of San Francisco to Berlin to Tokyo. Leaked financials in December indicate that the company, which began connecting passengers with drivers of vehicles for hire about 3-1/2 years ago, is generating $200 million a year in revenue beyond what it pays to drivers. —REUTERS

Fidelity Investments put in about $425 million, Wellington Management added $209 million and BlackRock Inc contributed $175 million, according to a person familiar with the matter.

Venture firms Summit Partners, Kleiner Perkins Caufield & Byers, Google Ventures and Menlo Ventures also participated in the round, a person familiar with the matter said.

Kleiner's investment came from its Digital Growth Fund, run by former stock analyst Mary Meeker, known for her bullish recommendations during the first dot-com boom. Her fund has had recent hits, including traffic app Waze, acquired last year for $1.1 billion by Google.

Uber, which did not give details about its latest investors, operates in 128 cities across 37 countries.

Kalanick said he expected to close a second round of funding from strategic investors of about $200 million.

Uber originally started with a luxury town-car service, but in many cities has since added UberX, a low-frills service with non-professional drivers using personal cars.

Reuters

British phone-hacking trial nears conclusion

LONDON, 9 June—The jury in the seven-month trial of two ex-Rupert Murdoch editors, one the media mogul's head of British newspapers and the other a close aide to the prime minister, is expected to retire to consider its verdict this week.

Judge John Saunders is likely to finish his summing up of the high-profile case on either Monday or Tuesday, leaving the eight women and three men of the jury to decide the fates of Rebekah Brooks, Andy Coulson and five others.

The two were both editors of Murdoch's brash *News of the World Sunday* tabloid which was shut three years ago as the hacking scandal engulfed his company.

Three former senior news editors from the paper have pleaded guilty to phone-hacking, and the jury at London's historic Old Bailey court will have to decide whether Brooks and Coulson were complicit in the activity.

The case has been one of the country's most high profile in years.

Saunders told the jury at the start of the process the matter of British justice itself was on trial, due to the close relationships that existed between the media elite and members of government and the police.

Brooks and Coulson are on trial for conspiring to hack into voicemails to generate exclusive news and for paying public officials.

Brooks, once one of the most influential women in Britain, faces a separate charge of conspiring to pervert the course of justice with her husband and staff.

The issue of voicemail interception at the 168-year-old Murdoch paper first broke into the public conscience in 2007 when its royal editor Clive Goodman and a private detective went to jail for tapping into the messages of aides to the British royal family.

News International, the British newspaper arm of Murdoch's media empire, insisted the practice was limited to a single "rogue reporter".

But due to the severity of the matter, Coulson quit as editor although he said he had not known about the crime at the time.

He went on to become the communications director for David Cameron, first in opposition and then in Downing Street when Cameron became prime minister. He was forced to stand down in January 2011 as the scandal intensified. Brooks, who edited the News of the World from 2000 to 2003, also edited its daily sister paper the *Sun* before she was promoted to run *News International* in 2009. She too left the company in 2011 and was arrested shortly afterwards. Brooks' husband Charlie, a friend of the prime minister, her personal assistant and head of security are also on trial for trying to hinder the police investigation, while Stuart Kuttner, the paper's ex-managing editor, is on trial for conspiring to hack into phones.

Goodman, the former royal editor, is on trial for authorising illegal payments to the police.

All seven defendants deny the charges. If found guilty Brooks and Coulson are likely to face jail.

Reuters

***Former News International chief executive Rebekah Brooks arrives with her husband Charlie at the Old Bailey courthouse in London on 6 June, 2014.*—REUTERS**

One killed, four injured in explosion in SE Turkey

ANKARA, 9 June — One person was killed and four others wounded in an explosion in southeastern Turkey on Monday, private *Dogan* news agency reported.

The accident occurred early on Monday morning as a gas cylinder exploded in a house at a village in Lice town of Diyarbakir Province, leaving one woman dead and four others injured, including two in serious conditions, according to the report.

An investigation was underway.— *Xinhua*

Indian river bathers swept away as dam releases water, four dead

NEW DELHI, 9 June — Indian rescuers were searching on Monday for 20 students and a professor swept away by waters released from a dam while the group was bathing in a river in the mountainous northern state of Himachal Pradesh.

Rescuers found four bodies and officials say prospects of finding the rest alive are bleak after the students, who were on a college trip from southern India, were swept away when the waters of the river Beas spiked dangerously high on Sunday.

"I think they were playing in the water," said a police official, who declined to be named because he was not authorized to speak to the media. "The water rose and they were washed away."

Whether warning signals were sounded before the dam released water is a matter of dispute.

"There was no warning," said D Naidu, principal of the VNR Vignana Jyothi Institute of Engineering and Technology, the south Indian college from which 65 students had set off on the trip.

"They were trying to take photos on the banks when they were washed away," he told *Reuters*, saying he spoke to the survivors.

Others disputed the account.

Mandeep Singh, an engineer on the dam's power plant, told news channel CNN-IBN that staff sounded warnings before releasing the water and local residents "definitely warned the students to come out of the river" several times.

Officials have launched an investigation to determine the sequence of events, said police official Rajesh Kumar, but are now focused on rescue operations to find the rest of the group.

"The chances are minimal" to find them alive, he said, "but we're trying." -

Reuters

Five people, including two police, dead in Las Vegas ambush shooting

***Metro Police officers are shown outside a Wal-Mart after a shooting in Las Vegas on 8 June, 2014.*—REUTERS**

LAS VEGAS, 9 June — An armed man and woman shouting about a "revolution" opened fire and killed two Las Vegas policemen who were eating lunch in a pizza parlour on Sunday, then fatally shot a civilian in a nearby Wal-Mart store before killing themselves, police said.

The two uniformed patrol officers, later identified as Alyn Beck, 42, and Igor Soldo, 32 — both described as family men — were ambushed without provocation shortly before 11:30 am local time inside a CiCi's Pizza shop, authorities said.

One of the two officers managed to return gunfire before the suspects fled to an adjacent Wal-Mart, where they killed a bystander inside the front door, then exchanged gunfire with police who pursued them further into the store, Clark County Sheriff Douglas Gillespie said.

Moments later, the female suspect shot her accomplice to death, then took her own life, Gillespie told reporters at a late-afternoon news conference.

A city police spokeswoman, Laura Meltzer, earlier told *Reuters* that the two suspects died after they "engaged in what is being described as a suicide pact."—*Reuters*

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

MV YANGON STAR VOY NO (7J008R)

Consignees of cargo carried on MV YANGON STAR VOY NO (7J008R) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 10.6.2014 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of M.I.P where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

SHIPPING AGENCY DEPARTMENT
MYANMA PORT AUTHORITY
AGENT FOR: M/S CMA CGM LINE

Phone No: 2301185

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

MV DANU BHUM VOY NO (369N)

Consignees of cargo carried on MV DANU BHUM VOY NO (369N) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 10.6.2014 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of M.I.P where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

SHIPPING AGENCY DEPARTMENT
MYANMA PORT AUTHORITY
AGENT FOR: M/S REGIONAL CONTAINER LINES

Phone No: 2301185

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

MV E.R. TURKU VOY NO (046)

Consignees of cargo carried on MV E.R. TURKU VOY NO (046) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 9.6.2014 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of H.P.T where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

SHIPPING AGENCY DEPARTMENT
MYANMA PORT AUTHORITY
AGENT FOR: M/S HANJIN SHIPPING LINES

Phone No: 2301185

Ministry of Construction
Public Works
(Invitation for Open Tender)

1. Open tender applying prequalification method is invited by Public Works, Ministry of Construction, Nay Pyi Taw, the Republic of the Union of Myanmar for upgrading projects with the part of proceeds of the Regional Development Project for Poverty Reduction under JICA ODA Loan, Japan.

Sr.	Name of Work	Type of Work
1.	KyeinPinSae-SetKot-DaNu Phyu-Zalun Road (Ayeyarwaddy Region) (24 miles)	Asphalt Concrete Road
2.	TaYanNar-Pha Yar Gone Road (Mon State) (30 miles)	Bituminous Road

2. Selling period of Prequalification Form - (5.6.2014) to (13.6.2014)
3. Submission period for Prequalificaion Form - (23.6.2014) to (30.6.2014)
4. Distribution of Tender Documents to Qualified Bidders - (28.7.2014) to (31.7.2014)
5. Submission Date of Tender - 1.9.2014
6. Opening date of Tender - 13:00 hours on 11.9.2014
7. Prequalification form can be purchased with (50000/) kyats at the following address and for the detail information, please contact the office within office hours.

Tender Selection Committee. Public Works
Road Department, Office No.(11), Nay Pyi Taw
Tel: 067-407578, 407603, 407583, 407380

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

MV KOTA RAKAN VOY NO (377)

Consignees of cargo carried on MV KOTA RAKAN VOY NO (377) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 9.6.2014 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of A.W.P.T where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

SHIPPING AGENCY DEPARTMENT
MYANMA PORT AUTHORITY
AGENT FOR: M/S ADVANCE CONTAINER LINES

Phone No: 2301185

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Chinese party newspaper says Western democracy only brings chaos

BEIJING, 9 June — China's top newspaper on Monday warned against aping Western-style democracy just a week after the 25th anniversary of the Tiananmen crackdown, pointing to Thailand and Ukraine as examples of the kind of chaos the system can bring.

President Xi Jinping's ascendancy in a once-in-a-decade generational leadership transition had given many Chinese hope for political reform, mainly due to his folksy style and the legacy of his father, Xi Zhongxun, a former reformist vice-premier.

But the repeated message the party has given out since Xi became president last year is that there will be no political liberalization. China has been on high alert over the past few weeks in the run-up to the 25th anniversary of the bloody suppression of pro-democracy demonstrations around Beijing's Tiananmen Square, detaining dissidents and tightening Internet controls.

In a lengthy commentary, the ruling Communist Party's official *People's Daily* newspaper said the country needed to be on guard against falling into the "trap" of Western-style democracy. "Over the past few months, from Kiev to Bangkok, the politics of the street and public clashes have caused deep sorrow," the newspaper said.

Reuters

Mexican president hints may be open to change in marijuana laws

Mexico's President Enrique Pena Nieto speaks during the third Caribbean Community (CARICOM)-Mexico summit in Merida on 29 April, 2014.— REUTERS

MEXICO CITY, 9 June — Mexico and the United States cannot pursue diverging policies on marijuana legalization, Mexican President Enrique Pena Nieto was quoted as saying on Sunday, hinting he may be open to following the lead taken by some US states in changing drug laws.

Political pressure has grown in Mexico to take a more liberal stance on marijuana since Washington and Colorado decided to legalize possession and sale of the drug for recreational use in 2012. Other US states plan votes soon.

Marijuana, along with contraband like cocaine and crystal meth, has been a major source of income for violent drug cartels responsible for thousands of deaths in Mexico in recent years.

Proponents of reform say legalizing marijuana would both reduce the gangs' economic power and help generate more tax revenue.

Reuters

France's Marine Le Pen rebukes father in new anti-Semitism row

PARIS, 9 June —- Marine Le Pen, leader of France's far-right National Front (FN), rebuked her father and former party head on Sunday for remarks reviving long-standing allegations of anti-Semitism soon after a major poll victory.

Marine Le Pen, who took over the anti-immigrant and anti-EU party from Jean-Marie Le Pen in 2011, said a controversial quip he made about a French Jewish singer that included an implied reference to concentration camp ovens had been misinterpreted.

But for an experienced politician like her father, she said, "not to have foreseen how this phrase would be interpreted is a political mistake the National Front is (now) paying for."

Marine Le Pen, who has made the FN more acceptable to voters by playing down some hardline traditions, led the party last month to first place in French voting for the European Parliament, the first time it has ever won a nationwide poll.

French and European Jewish groups denounced her father's comments as anti-Semitic. Another prominent leader of the FN, speaking out before Marine Le Pen, said his attack was "politically stupid and deplorable."

Jean-Marie Le Pen, France's National Front political party founder delivers a speech during a campaign rally before the European Parliament elections in Marseille, on 20 May, 2014.
REUTERS

The controversy began on Friday with a video posted on the FN website in which Jean-Marie Le Pen lashed out at several celebrities — including US singer Madonna, French comedian Guy Bedos and tennis star Yannick Noah — for expressing alarm that the party had swept 25 percent of the European Parliament vote.

Reminded by his interviewer that Jewish singer Patrick Bruel was among the critics, Le Pen chuckled and said: "That doesn't surprise me. Listen, we'll do up a batch next time."

Reuters

Tamannaah Bhatia toned down, lost five kilograms for Humshakals

Mumbai, 9 June — Actress Tamannaah Bhatia, who is part of upcoming comedy film Hummshakals, believes in including fitness regime in everyday life and says she lost five kg for her role in the laugh riot.

"Fitness is like brushing your teeth. You must include fitness to your daily life. For Humshakals, I had to lose 5 kg. So, I went to famous dietician — Pooja Makhija - and she gave me a new diet plan," Tamannaah told IANS.

"I am allowed to eat everything — rice, pastas, and nuts, but controlled portions. At one point of time you don't eat too much of anything and it really helped me to lose weight," she added.

Actress Tamannaah Bhatia

A known name down south, the actress started working out "six years back".

She said: "I was a fussy eater. I had to pull down a few kilos to look a certain way. People should not enter into dieting without any guidance. You should take professional help".

"I always kept myself fit compared to other people because I feel if your lifestyle is not fit, then you can't work properly. If your lifestyle is unhealthy, it will reflect on screen," she added.

Scheduled for a 20 June release, director Sajid Khan's Humshakals stars a host of big names like Saif Ali Khan, Riteish Deshmukh, Bipasha Basu, Esha Gupta and Ram Kapoor.

PTI

Teen tearjerker 'Fault in Our Stars' trounces Tom Cruise flick

Los Angeles / New York , 9 June — "The Fault in Our Stars," a heart-wrenching love story about teens who meet in a cancer support group, won over moviegoers with a stellar $48.2 million (28.67 million pounds)at US and Canadian theaters over the weekend, handily beating the new Tom Cruise sci-fi action film, "Edge of Tomorrow".

"Edge of Tomorrow," which cost about $175 million, had to settle for third place with $29.1 million from Friday through Sunday, according to estimates from tracking firm Rentrak.

"Maleficent," starring Angelina Jolie in Walt Disney Co's reimagining of the Sleeping Beauty fairy tale, took in $33.5 million from Friday through Sunday to finish second.

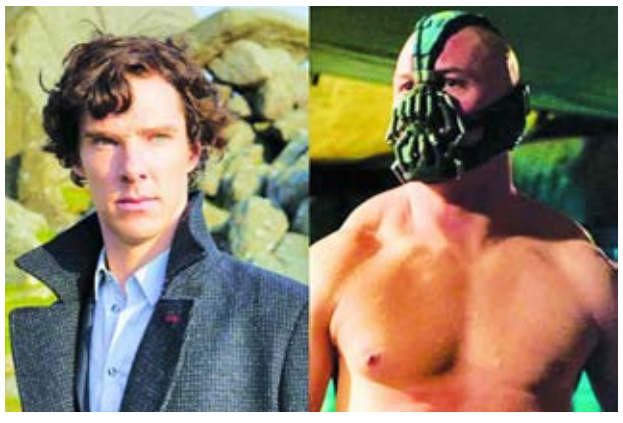
"Fault in Our Stars," produced for just $12 million, is based on John Green's best-selling novel about a girl who wheels around a portable oxygen tank as she fights metastatic cancer, and her boyfriend who lost a leg to the disease. Shailene Woodley and Ansel Elgort, who played siblings in dystopian thriller "Divergent," star as the couple. Fervent fans of the book turned the film into a social media phenomenon long before it hit theaters. The trailer was viewed more than 21 million times on YouTube, while Green, known for a YouTube video blog, tweeted to some 2.6 million followers.

"Fault in Our Stars" is the latest film to tap into a teen frenzy surrounding a best-selling book, following blockbusters like "The Hunger Games" and "Twilight".—*Reuters*

Benedict Cumberbatch, Tom Hardy to star in Marvel's Doctor Strange

Los Angeles, 9 June — Sherlock star Benedict Cumberbatch and Tom Hardy are set to star in Marvel's Doctor Strange movie adaptation. The actors are on the producer's early wish lists, although it's unclear what roles they're being lined up for, according to Deadline.

It was recently announced that Scott Derrickson will be directing the film, news he confirmed on Twitter earlier this week. Scott Derrickson's previous credits include Sinister and The Exorcism of Emily Rose. Marvel Studios president Kevin Feige recently said that the film will show the supernatural side of the Marvel universe. "There's a whole other side to the Marvel universe, which is the supernatural side. We haven't done anything that mind-trippy yet and for me, Doctor Strange is our doorway into that," he said. The film is in line for Marvel's 'Phase Three' (a sequence of releases), which will also include Ant-Man, Captain America 3 and alleged Thor 3 and Black Panther movies.—*PTI*



***Benedict is famous for playing Sherlock on British TV series, while Tom has played Batman villain Bane in Christopher Nolan's Dark Knight Rises.*—PTI**

Neil Patrick Harris, Cranston go for Tonys on Broadway's big night

Actor Neil Patrick Harris

New York, 9 June — Broadway rolls out the red carpet on Sunday for the 68th annual Tony Awards, theatre's top honours, in a star-studded ceremony at New York's Radio City Music Hall with Hugh Jackman returning to host the show for the fourth time.

Clint Eastwood, Bradley Cooper and Orlando Bloom will be among those appearing while Tony nominees Neil Patrick Harris and Idina Menzel are set to perform during the show, along with Sting, who will give a preview of his upcoming Broadway debut musical "The Last Ship".

The show will be broadcast live on the CBS television network.

Forty-four productions, ranging from "Act One," an adaptation of American playwright Moss Hart's autobiography, to "Rocky", the stage version of the Oscar-winning film, opened on Broadway during the 2013/2014 season.

"It's a very even playing field, which means there is a lot of great stuff out there". said Hal Luftig, the producer of last season's Tony winning musical "Kinky Boots".

"We had a lot more shows this season," he added in an interview. "Nobody has an edge, which I think is really great."

"A Gentleman's Guide to Love & Murder," a comedy of manners about a would-be heir and a family inheritance, leads the competition with 10 nominations, including two for best actor in a musical and best director.

Reuters

Why Jennifer Aniston needs a confidence boost for George Clooney's wedding

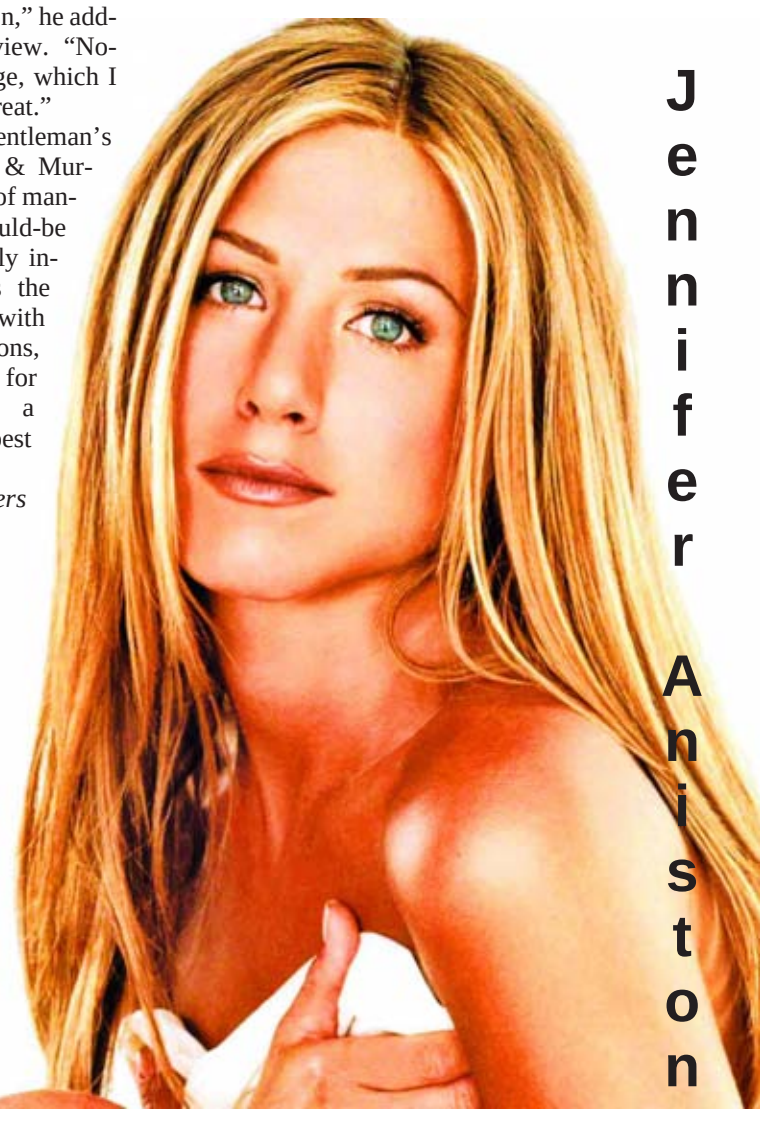
Los Angeles, 9 June — Actress Jennifer Aniston has reportedly been attending sessions with a confidence coach ahead of actor George Clooney's wedding as she fears she will run into her ex-husband Brad Pitt at the celebrations.

Jennifer, who is engaged to Justin Theroux, is said to be nervous about coming face-to-face with Brad Pitt and his fiancee Angelina Jolie when their mutual friend Clooney ties the knot with lawyer Amal Alamuddin later this year, so she is doing everything she can to put her anxieties to rest, reports contactmusic.com.

"Jen's no stranger to therapy, so she decided to seek some help," a source was quoted as saying by Britain's *Grazia* magazine.

"At the wedding, she'll have Justin there for support, but the thought of seeing Brad and Angelina is quite overwhelming. The therapist has been helping to build her confidence and eliminate the fear she seems to have built up about coming face-to-face with them.

"She has also been having hypnotherapy," the source added. Though Jennifer has seen Brangelina only once, at the 2009 Oscars, since they divorced nine years ago, she is said to be particularly concerned about the wedding as it will be so intimate.—*PTI*



Asleep in Jesus
Teacher Marjorie (72 years)

Teacher Marjorie, devoted wife of Eddie Khin Maung Thwin, loving Mother of Mi Mi Thwin, (Mg Mg Thwin), Nyi Nyi Thwin, Thiha Soe Thwin and Sundee Soe Thwin, loving grandmother of Krystal Marie Brown, Marc Mg Mg Thwin, (Emma-Rose) and Noel Nyi Nyi Thwin and Emmeline Thiha Soe Thwin, fell asleep in Jesus on 9th June, Monday. Funeral service will be held at Yayway Christian Ecumenical Garden Church on 10th June, Tuesday at 2:00 pm 3:00 pm.

A memorial Praise and Worship service will be held on 14th June, Saturday at 10:00 am at No. 8, Kabaung Road 51/2miles, Hlaing Township.

Loving family

Children raise glasses of "butterbeer," a beverage that appears in the "Harry Potter" film series, in a new section of Universal Studios Japan in Osaka based on the "Harry Potter" film series on 8 June , 2014. USJ Co, the operator of the theme park, invited the children and the Press to the area ahead of its opening on 15 July.— KYODO NEWS

Japan train in front of thousands at 1st practice in Brazil

SOROCABA, (Brazil) , 9 June —As a police helicopter circled overhead to keep a watchful eye on scores of anti-World Cup demonstrators outside the stadium, over 5,000 fans turned out to watch Japan's first practice session on Sunday, a day after the Asian champions arrived in Brazil for the soccer's showpiece tournament.

Huge cheers went up as the likes of AC Milan attacker Keisuke Honda and Manchester United's Shinji Kagawa came up the steps from the dressing room and walked out onto the sunbathed pitch at Sorocaba Municipal Stadium.

Looking relaxed after arriving from a training camp in Florida on Saturday, the players greeted local Japanese schoolchildren and posed for photos on the pitch before they were put through their paces by coach Alberto Zaccheroni.

"It's pleasing (for all the fans to come)," Kagawa, who has scored in Japan's last two warm-up games for the finals, told *Kyodo News* after the practice. "We want to go into the first game motivated and in first-class condition both physically and mentally so it is great to get this kind of support from everybody and the Japanese fans."

Members of Japan's national soccer team hold their first practice session in Sorocaba near Itu, Brazil, on 8 June, 2014, after the squad arrived in the country for the World Cup finals. — KYODO NEWS

"The important stuff starts from now. All my body is thinking about is the first game."

The players may have looked relaxed, but Cerezo Osaka striker Yoichiro Kakitani warned Japan's Group C rivals that the Blue Samurai have not come to Brazil for a vacation.

"I have been to Brazil before and know how passionate the country is about soccer but we are not on vacation," Kakitani told *Kyodo* ahead of the team's arrival in Brazil. "We have to show (fans) the brilliance of Japanese soccer."

"I think our toughest game is going to be the first one against Ivory Coast and I think it is the same for all the teams," said Kakitani, referring to the team's opener in Recife on Saturday.— *Kyodo News*

Yosakoi Soran dance festival in Sapporo enters final day A group of dancers participates in a performance on the last day of the 23rd Yosakoi Soran dance festival in Sapporo on on 8 June , 2014. Around 27,000 people from some 270 groups took part in the five-day festival this year. KYODO NEWS

MYANMAR TV

(10-6-2014, Tuesday)

6:00 am
* Paritta by Venerable Mingun Sayadaw

6:40 am
* The Mirror Images of The Musical Oldies

7:00 am
* News/ Weather Report

7:20 am
* People Talks

8:00 am
* News/ International News

8:30 am
* India Drama Series

9:00 am
* News/ International News

9:30 am
* Documentary

10:00 am
* News

10:20 am
* TV Drama Series

11:20 am
* Musical Programme

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

12:25 pm
* Myanmar Video

2:15 pm
* Documentary

3:00 pm
* News

4:35 pm
* University of Distance Education (TV Lectures) First Year (Maths)

4:50 pm
* Songs of Yester Years

5:00 pm
* News

5:30 pm
* India Drama Series

6:00 pm
* News / Weather Report

6:20 pm
* Kyae Pwint Myaye Yin Khone Than

7:00 pm
* News

7:25 pm
* TV Drama Series

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

8:35 pm
* Current Affairs

9:00 pm
* News

9:30 pm
* Documentary
* Alinka Wat Yi Music Troupe

MYANMAR INTERNATIONAL

(10-6-14 07:00am~ 11-6-14 07:00am) MST

* Local News
* Travelling to Shan Plateau(Main Ma Ye' The-Khin-Ma Mountain)
* World News
* Parents' Day
* Local News
* Flying Without Wings-My Great Limitless Adventure - Inle lake (Part-2)
* World News
* Hip-Hop and Design
* Local News
* Architecture: The World's Largest Book
* World News
* Scented Buddha Images
* Local News
* Taung Byone Nat Festival-(Episode-2)
* World News
* Green Grocer
* Local News
* Myanmar Masterclass: Portraiture
* World News
* In The Studio : May Phyu Phyu
* Local News
* Flying Without Wings-My Great Limitless Adventure - Inle lake
* World News
* School for the Blind
* Local News
* Glass Noodle Soup
* World News
* Inspiration
* Local News
* Taung Byone Nat Festival (Episode-1)
* World News
* Kyaikhteeyoe: Mountain Drivers

Malaysian gov't announces new measures to promote investment

KUALA LUMPUR, 9 June — Malaysian Prime Minister Najib Tun Razak announced here on Monday new liberalization measures to further promote investments in the country.

In his keynote speech at Invest Malaysia 2014, the prime minister said one of the measures was the removal of the mandatory requirement for credit ratings effective on 1 Jan, 2017.

He said a gradual approach was being adopted to provide industry players sufficient time to further refine mechanisms necessary to operate under the new regime.

Najib also announced that the equity shareholding for credit rating agencies would be liberalized. International Credit rating agencies with full foreign ownership will be allowed in the Malaysian market from 1 Jan, 2017, he added. "The entry of international agencies will further enhance the quality and standard of rating services, introduce a more competitive fee structure and widen both expertise and the range of credit rating services on offer," Najib said.— *Xinhua*

Gymnastics: Uchimura wins 6th straight NHK Cup

Four-time world champion Kohei Uchimura cruises to a sixth consecutive men's individual all-around title at the NHK Cup on 8 June , 2014, at Yoyogi National Gymnasium in Tokyo. Uchimura was nearly flawless as he collected 181.050 points in the tournament.
KYODO NEWS

TOKYO, 9 June — Doing what he does best, four-time world champion Kohei Uchimura cruised to a sixth consecutive men's individual all-around title at the NHK Cup on Sunday.

Uchimura, who has already booked a spot for the world championships in Nanning, China, this October, was nearly flawless as he collected 181.050 points in the tournament at Yoyogi National Gymnasium, which doubled as a qualifier for the worlds.

Uchimura, who recovered nicely with a stellar performance on the vault after overstepping the line in the floor exercise and falling on the pommel horse, won by a 2.325 margin and extended his own record for most consecutive victories.

Shogo Nonomura and Ryohei Kato placed second and third, respectively, to book their tickets for the worlds.

Uchimura's record is the most by either a man or woman in Japan.

The remaining three spots for the worlds, which run from 3 to 13 Oct, will be decided at the national individual apparatus championships on 5 and 6 July at Chiba Port Arena.—*Kyodo News*

Van Persie fit to play Spain in World Cup

RIO DE JANEIRO, 9 June — Robin van Persie had a disappointing season with Manchester United, suffering from several injuries, but is ready to conquer Spain in the first match of the Netherlands at the World Cup on 13 June in Salvador, he said during a Press conference in Rio de Janeiro on Sunday.

Van Persie completed the full group training at the Flamengo training ground and did not show any signs of injury. "I feel well, as you all could see," he said. "Yesterday I also only missed a small part. It is all part of the build-up."

After suffering from a knee injury Van Persie returned to action with Manchester United in the beginning of May. During the last friendly for the Netherlands against Wales (2-0) last Wednesday he withdrew at half-time with groin problems.

"I made progress in recent weeks," he said. "Although I have some minor groin problems, I would not call it an injury. I can't remember I played a match without minor niggles. I can manage that."

Netherlands captain Van Persie noticed his team is fully focussed for the first match against Spain. "Everyone talks about

football," he said. "The joking is over. We are focussed."

"Spain has a good team of course, but we do as well," Van Persie added. "I am curious. I think it's good to start againt Spain, a big challenge, and after that play Australia and Chile. I hardly see any better team."—*Xinhua*

England manager Hodgson relieved to escape to Rio

MIAMI, 9 June — Roy Hodgson was left frustrated after England failed to win either of their World Cup warm-up matches in Miami, though he claimed he did not read much into the results and was relieved there were no more injuries.

Lacklustre England were held to a 0-0 stalemate by Honduras on Saturday before jetting off to Rio de Janeiro having played out an entertaining 2-2 draw with Ecuador on Wednesday.

But Hodgson insisted he had not learned a lot from the games at the Miami Dolphins' Sun Life Stadium, which followed a 3-0 win over Peru at Wembley, and was relieved to get through them.

England were subjected to some rough treatment by Honduras, who finished with 10 men,

and Hodgson was just pleased to escape from the sunshine state without any more injuries.

"It was the sort of game really that was extremely frustrating as a football coach, especially a coach of many years standing. You realise those games can happen in your life from time to time but you immediately dismiss them," he said.

Reuters

Ricciardo takes his first F1 win in Canada

MONTREAL, 9 June — Australian Daniel Ricciardo celebrated his first Formula One victory on Sunday in a Canadian Grand Prix that put Red Bull back on top of the podium and dealt Mercedes a first defeat of the season.

An afternoon of high drama at the Circuit Gilles Villeneuve ended behind the safety car after Brazilian Felipe Massa's Williams smashed into the back of Sergio Perez's Force India as they entered the final lap.

Ahead of them, Ricciardo cruised to the chequered flag with championship leader Nico Rosberg second for Mercedes after starting on pole position in what turned out to be a thriller in Montreal.

Reuters

Nadal on cloud nine after soaring new heights

PARIS, 9 June — One man's despair was another man's ecstasy as the most inopportune of double faults propelled a world-beating Rafa Nadal into a nine-times French Open champion on Sunday.

Waiting to launch into a second serve on match point down, a yell from the stands, followed by another, left a distracted Novak Djokovic to fire down the most costly of double faults and see his hopes of completing a career grand slam pounded into the red dust. While Djokovic was left utterly dejected and with a strange sense of deja vu, having also surrendered the 2012 final with a double fault, he could only watch on in wonder as Nadal sunk to his knees in triumph following a 3-6, 7-5, 6-2, 6-4 victory.

"In matches like this every moment is crucial. Playing against Novak is always a big challenge as I had lost against him the last four times," Nadal told the crowd before being handed over the trophy by Swedish great Bjorn Borg."For me it's amazing and emotional, I lost the final at Australia this year where I had a problem with my back and that was a hard moment. Today tennis gave back to me what happened in Australia."Overcome with the emotion of cradling the Musketeers' Cup for a record-extending ninth time, the world number one burst into tears.

His win was also accompanied by a deluge of eye-watering statistics.

He became the first man to win five successive Roland Garros titles.

His record in French Open finals stands at 9-0.

He has won a record 35 successive matches at the claycourt major.

He has won 90 of his 91 best-of-five-set matches on clay.

He owns a 66-1 win-loss record at Roland Garros.Over the years grand slan champions in the calibre of Roger Federer, Djokovic, Andy Murray, Lleyton Hewitt, Juan Martin del Potro and Carlos Moya have all tried — and failed miserably — to conquer the claycourt phenomenon at a tournament one person suggested should now be renamed "Nadal Garros".

Djokovic, who had come off second best to Nadal in five previous Parisian tussles, did not even come close to ending that losing run on Sunday."It was a very emotional day and I gave everything. The trophy was a bit too far out of reach this year but I will come back again and again until I win it," a teary-eyed Djokovic told the crowd after being given a prolonged standing ovation by 15,000 hollering fans.It seems there is nothing that Nadal cannot control at his beloved Roland Garros.He had stated 48 hours earlier that he "cannot command the sun" but after Sunday's forecast of thunderstorms failed to materialise, it seems that the Spaniard's powers of persuasion also stretch to the weather Gods.

The hot weather meant the left-hander could count on his forehand being "very fast and very powerful" which in turn would allow to him add an extra zing to his already fearsome topspin. Despite the conditions being to his liking, Nadal was strangely flat and restless for a set and a half and raised hopes in the Djokovic camp, which included coach Boris Becker, that perhaps his day of reckoning had come.The world number one scorched those aspirations when he fired a blazing forehand winner to break and take the second set 7-5.

Reuters

Rafael Nadal of Spain reacts after winning his men's singles final match against Novak Djokovic of Serbia at the French Open Tennis tournament at the Roland Garros stadium in Paris on 8 June, 2014.—REUTERS

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