

Thamine junction heavily affected by rainy season as measures to prevent floods not yet taken

By Ye Myint

YANGON, 12 June—With rainy season in full swing and no measures taken to prevent floods in Yangon's Thamine junction—one of the busiest junctions in the city—is frequently under water, with locals criticizing the lack of action taken by authorities despite the fact that floods are an annual occurrence.

On Thursday, commuters from Insein and neighbouring townships to the downtown area had to endure a four-hour journey instead of the usual one-and-a-half-hour trip as flash floods brought Thamine junction to a standstill.

"I waited at the busstop for nearly one hour", said a 30-year-old man who successfully got on the over-crowded 124 Bus that took about two hours to reach Oakyin bus stop, one of the stops on the Yangon-Insein Road.



Heavy rains left Thamine junction in Yangon flooded, causing traffic delays that forced commuters to wade through dirty floodwaters.—PHOTO: YE MYINT

The pavements were packed with waiting commuters as all buses heading to the downtown area were stuck in traffic for hours before finally reaching Thamine junction that re-

sembled a lake this morning.

"As water reaches knee level, all small vehicles have to make a U-turn here at the junction as the car batteries would other-

wise go dead. So, all lanes heading to the junction are clogged with vehicles trying to turn back," a bus driver said. Thursday's torrential rains started before dawn and lasted until about

9 a.m., leaving commuters and drivers stranded in floodwaters and causing traffic delays in several parts of Yangon, particularly in areas with roads leading to downtown.

"Slight rain is expected to continue the whole day. If floodwaters in Thamine junction will not recede until evening, I have to take the train tomorrow in order not to be trapped in traffic again," said a middle-aged man from Danyingon, one of wards in Insein Township.

(See page 2)

Disabled persons in Myanmar vulnerable to discrimination and denial of fundamental rights

By Aye Min Soe

YANGON, 12 June — Myanmar's first ever National Disability Conference ended on Thursday, with officials expressing concern that many people with disabilities in Myanmar are still largely marginalized and subject to discrimination due to shortage of aid and support and denial of human rights and fundamental freedoms.

An agreement was reached during the three-day conference to formally establish the Myanmar Council of People with Disabilities at national level as an accredited civil society organization of Myanmar to protect and to promote the rights and services for citizens with disabilities in Myanmar.

During the conference, independent experts, who will serve as council mem-

bers, urged government ministries to implement the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons With Disabilities - UN-CRPD and to make the rights of Persons with Disabilities real, including the allocation of national budgets and accepting the active participation of Disabled People's Organizations.

At the conference, efforts on developing a new law to protect disabled people by the Ministry of Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement and the union parliament, were welcomed.

"We have the 1958-Employment Act on acquired disabilities, but in reality, the majority of disabled people are jobless due to weak law enforcement," said U Aung Ko Myint, President of the Myanmar National Association of the Blind.

According to a survey

conducted by the Social Welfare Department in 2008, around 1.3 million people with disabilities live in Myanmar.

"As far as we know, the rights of medication, cash assistance, and job opportunities for disabled civilians have not yet been included in the bill to promote the rights of persons with disabilities and the last stage for drafting the bill should be all inclusive," said U Thein Han Thu, Joint Secretary of the Association of Affairs of Myanmar Disabled Women.

The conference highlighted the importance of various mechanisms, including a National Plan of Action for People with Disabilities as an instrument for mainstreaming the issue within Myanmar.

The conference recognized the common voices of the entire community



People with hearing impairment applaud experts who have vowed to promote the rights of people with disabilities.—PHOTO: AYE MIN SOE

with disabilities in Myanmar by vowing to promote their self-determination and full enjoyment of human rights and the meaningful participation in all political, social, economic, civil and cultural spheres.

Further promoted will

be voting rights for citizens with disabilities, in time for the general elections next year.

The conference recalled the provisions of both regional and international disability documents, namely the Incheon Strategy for

People with Disabilities in the Asia-Pacific region, ASEAN Decade of People with Disabilities (2011-2020), the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) and the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities.

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Declaration on Social Responsible Media for a Peace and Prosperous ASEAN Community

WE, the Ministers Responsible for Information of the ASEAN Member States on the occasion of the 12th Conference of the ASEAN Ministers Responsible for Information (AMRI) held on 12 June 2014 in Nay Pyi Taw, Myanmar;

Acknowledging the *Nay Pyi Taw Declaration on Realization of ASEAN Community by 2015* (2014), and the *Bandar Seri Begawan Declaration on the ASEAN Community's Post-2015 Vision* (2013), and vision statements by ASEAN Leaders to move forward in accomplishment of ASEAN's common objective of creating a peaceful, people-oriented, people-centred, dynamic and outward looking Community;

Welcoming the achievements in implementing the action lines under the ASEAN Socio-Cultural Community (ASCC) Blueprint and various commitments under different Declarations and Action Plans under the purview of the ASCC Council;

Noting the recommendation arising from the Mid-Term Review of the ASCC Blueprint which highlights the need for strengthened coordination through cross-sectoral mechanisms, resource mobilisation, multi-sectoral and multi-stakeholder approaches and communication strategies as part of a wider ASEAN Community communication strategy;

Recognizing the urgency in communicating our efforts to the people on the benefits of regional integration and ASEAN community building process, through the use of different types of media including the traditional, mainstream and new media to promote greater awareness about ASEAN;

Noting that these concerns have been discussed by the ASEAN Senior Officials Responsible for Information (SOMRI) and the ASEAN Committee on Culture and Information (COCI) through their policy initiatives, programmes, projects and activities;

Recalling the *Declaration of ASEAN Ministers Responsible for Information* (Jakarta, 25 May 1989) on the principles of ASEAN Media Cooperation;

Reaffirming our commitments to the objectives of the *Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) among the ASEAN Ministers Responsible for Information on the National Communication Plans* to promote ASEAN awareness and understanding adopted in Ha Noi, Viet Nam on 13 October 2000;

Recalling that the ASEAN Ministers Responsible for Information have agreed to enhance the effectiveness of the existing programs to support ASEAN community building to realize One ASEAN Community by 2015, and also agreed on the need to align the National Communication Plans of the three community pillars;

Considering that the ASEAN Community's communication strategy is being developed as the umbrella under which the communication plans of the three community pillars will be synergized to ensure that ASEAN, National Secretariats, Sectoral Bodies, ASEAN Secretariat and other relevant stakeholders communicate clear messages within the agreed framework, to the people from all spectrums of society in the ASEAN;

DO HEREBY AGREE:

1. To further strengthen cooperation in the fields of information and media, to promote awareness and promoting a Peaceful and Prosperous ASEAN Community;
2. To collaborate towards supporting the development of the social responsible media in ASEAN;
3. To expedite the implementation of the relevant action lines under the ASCC Blueprint by undertaking programmes and joint activities, and by leveraging on all forms of media;
4. To further catalyze on the advantages on new and social media in dissemination of information and educating people on ASEAN, and encouraging them to contribute to consolidate ASEAN solidarity and unity in the ASEAN community building process;
5. To formulate the necessary Action Plan and roadmap on information and media to advance ASEAN awareness and community building and realize the ASEAN regional integration and Post 2015 vision which in-

cludes, but not limited to:

- Further strengthen the implementation of the National Communication Plans in support of the three Community Pillars formulated by AMS and approved by their respective AMRI and to attune them to the ASEAN Master Communication Plan;
- A Study for Media Development in ASEAN Member States and identifying opportunities for further cooperation;
- Education and training programmes for media personnel through involvement of relevant stakeholders in an active dialogue on media education;
- More inclusive involvement and participation of the various sectors of society to enable them to contribute to the process of ASEAN integration and development through the public service, commercial and community media;
- Innovation and creativity for increasing diversity of content and the development of the information and media sector, as well as for promoting inter cultural dialogue among and between peoples of different groups and nations with a view to fostering a harmonious and socially integrated ASEAN;
- Cross-sectoral cooperation to ensure that the information and media sector is supporting other sectors in the development and effectiveness of their communication strategies on ASEAN;
- More opportunities for co-production involving various ASEAN Member States, such as on travel and lifestyle to share knowledge and awareness of the region and promote people to people connectivity in ASEAN;
- 6. To call on Dialogue Partners, external partners and other relevant stakeholders to cooperate and join hands in the implementation of this Declaration.

ADOPTED in Nay Pyi Taw, Myanmar on 12th June 2014



Union Foreign Minister U Wunna Maung Lwin and wife being welcomed by Philippine Ambassador Mr Alex Garcia Chua at the reception to mark Independence Day of the Republic of the Philippines in Yangon on 11 June.—MNA

Myanmar, Bangladesh discuss border security issues

NAY PYI TAW, 12 June—At the invitation of Chief of the Myanmar Police Forces Police Maj-Gen Zaw Win, Director-General Maj-Gen Aziz Ahmed, psc, G of the Bangladesh Border Guard Unit and his delegation arrived here on Wednesday, sources said.

At a meeting that took place in Horizon Lake View Resort here from 10 to 12 June, they discussed issues related to border security and cooperation in rule of law, officials said.

The two sides reached a nine-point agreement, which states closer coop-

eration in control of unlawful armed groups along the border and the exchange of information on trafficking of precursor chemicals.

Myanmar handed over Bangladesh fishermen arrested for two separate charges of illegal fishing in the Myanmar waters.

Deputy Speaker of Pyidaungsu Hluttaw back from World Summit of Legislators

YANGON, 12 June—Deputy Speaker of Pyidaungsu Hluttaw and the Lower House U Nanda Kyaw Swa attended the 2nd World Summit of Legislators in Mexico from 6 to 8 June.

The deputy speaker and party arrived back in Yangon on Thursday, and

Deputy Speaker of Upper House meets UNDP, Australian guests

NAY PYI TAW, 12 June—Deputy Speaker of the Upper House U Mya Nyein received leader of the UNDP team Ms Emma Morley and the Clerk Mr David Elder of the Australian Parliament at the hall of the Upper House in Nay Pyi Taw on Thursday to discuss assistance for drawing a strategic plan.

MNA

were welcomed by Speaker U Sein Tin Win and officials.—MNA



Thamine junction heavily...

(from page 1)

Flash floods occur every rainy season at Thamine junction, located in a low-lying area and not far from Thamine ditch.

Thamine junction divides two townships, Mayangon and Hline, with the intersection one of the main points for reaching downtown from the northern suburbs.

A total of 32 basic ed-

ucation schools in Yangon Region have been temporarily closed due to heavy rains on Wednesday and Thursday, MRTV reported.

According to the Department of Meteorology and Hydrology, increase of rain in the lower Myanmar areas will continue, with Yangon expected to experience thunder-showers.

NATIONAL

President U Thein Sein meets Information Ministers of ASEAN, partnership countries

NAY PYI TAW, 12 June—President U Thein Sein met the Information Ministers of ASEAN and three partnership countries who were attending the 12th Conference of the ASEAN Ministers Responsible for Information on Thursday in Nay Pyi Taw.

During the meeting, the President said these meetings will help promote mutual understanding on information sharing in the region and the results of the meeting will also assist the reforms in Myanmar.

Herminio, B. Coloma, JR, the Communications Secretary of the Philippines, on behalf of the ASEAN Ministers, said the Declaration on Social Responsible Media for a Peaceful and

Health For All Programme needs funds

NAY PYI TAW, 12 June—A workshop on raising funds for a health care programme accessible to everyone took place at the Royal Kumudra Hotel here on Thursday afternoon, sources said.

As the chairman of the National Health Committee, Vice President Dr Sai Mauk Kham explained what the Health For All Programme is, saying that it is important to seek ways of channeling insurance funds in hedging against medical expenses, which have put around 100 million of the world's popu-



Prosperous ASEAN Community has been agreed during the meeting and he

believes in the successful implementation of the declaration.

He also said the min-

isters made a decision to improve public education to build the ASEAN community in 2015.—MNA

President U Thein Sein poses for documentary photo with Information Ministers of ASEAN and three partnership countries.—MNA

ASEAN information ministers gather to discuss 'socially responsible media'



Vice President Dr Sai Mauk Kham with ASEAN Information Ministers in group photo.—MNA

No plan to limit drinking age, union deputy minister tells Upper House

NAY PYI TAW, 12 June—Although there is no age limit for consumption of alcoholic drinks in Myanmar, selling them directly or indirectly to people younger than 16 is prohibited under the by-law of the Burma Excise Act, said Union Deputy Minister for Home Affairs Brig-Gen Kyaw Zan Myint at the Upper House session on Thursday.

The union deputy minister also said that as the habit of drinking alcohol in Myanmar is more prevalent with certain groups of society it is difficult and inappropriate to control drinking by law.

The habit should be controlled by parents, teachers and relatives, the deputy

lation in poverty.

Dr Sai Mauk Kham quoted the World Health Organization as saying that nearly 150 million people from all over the world are faced with a wide array of financial problems as they have to pay for medical treatment on their own.

"The huge amount of money spent on medical treatment doubles the pains patients are suffering," he said, adding that the government has annually increased health expenditures in a bid to fight poverty.

MNA

minister pointed out. The government is controlling the export, import, transport, production and storage of alcoholic drinks and possession of raw material for alcohol.

Another topic discussed was travel allowance for teachers in remote areas of the country and budgets for high schools, with the union deputy ministers debating the ways to support teachers.

The ninth session of the Lower House continued in Nay Pyi Taw on Thursday, with union deputy ministers discussing permits for small mining operations, maintenance of embankments, rural healthcare centers and roads. —MNA

NAY PYI TAW, 12 June—The 12th Conference of the ASEAN Ministers Responsible for Information started at the Myanmar International Convention Centre here on Thursday morning, with Myanmar Vice President Dr Sai Mauk Kham saying that the media is a very effective tool for the dissemination of information.

Dr Sai Mauk Kham recalled that the 9th ASEAN Summit last year agreed on a plan to build an ASEAN Community that is peaceful, stable, prosperous and competitive with a view to achieving solidarity and unity among the peoples of ASEAN countries.

Regarding the information sector in Myanmar, the vice president said his country is implementing ASEAN projects under the Master Plan on ASEAN Connectivity by promoting public awareness through the dissemination of information.

"Our new democratic government is implementing unprecedented reforms in political, economic and social sectors and is concentrating on the development of the media which is conducive to closer relationship between the government and the people," he said. He stressed the need to create a socially responsible media and to create harmony

between transparent media and social responsibility.

He also urged ASEAN information ministers to adopt appropriate activities to promote the ASEAN Community and a socially responsible media in accord with the theme "Socially responsible media for peace and prosperous community"

Member countries are to cooperate through various media for the effective implementation of knowledge enhancement of the ASEAN, urged Union Minister for Information U Aung Kyi at the 12th AMRI in Nay Pyi Taw on Thursday morning. The meeting issued the Declaration on

Social Responsible Media for a Peaceful and Prosperous ASEAN Community and also agreed to cooperate for the launch of ASEAN Virtual Learning Resource Centre during the first four months of 2015 and to manufacture DVB T2 Set Top Boxes to enable the people in the ASEAN region to watch programmes.

The AMRI+3 took place in the afternoon where the three dialogue partners discussed matters related to promote the cooperation between the ASEAN and the three countries. In the evening, the minister hosted a dinner in honour of the participants in the meetings.

MNA

One-stop service to be given to entrepreneurs in Mandalay



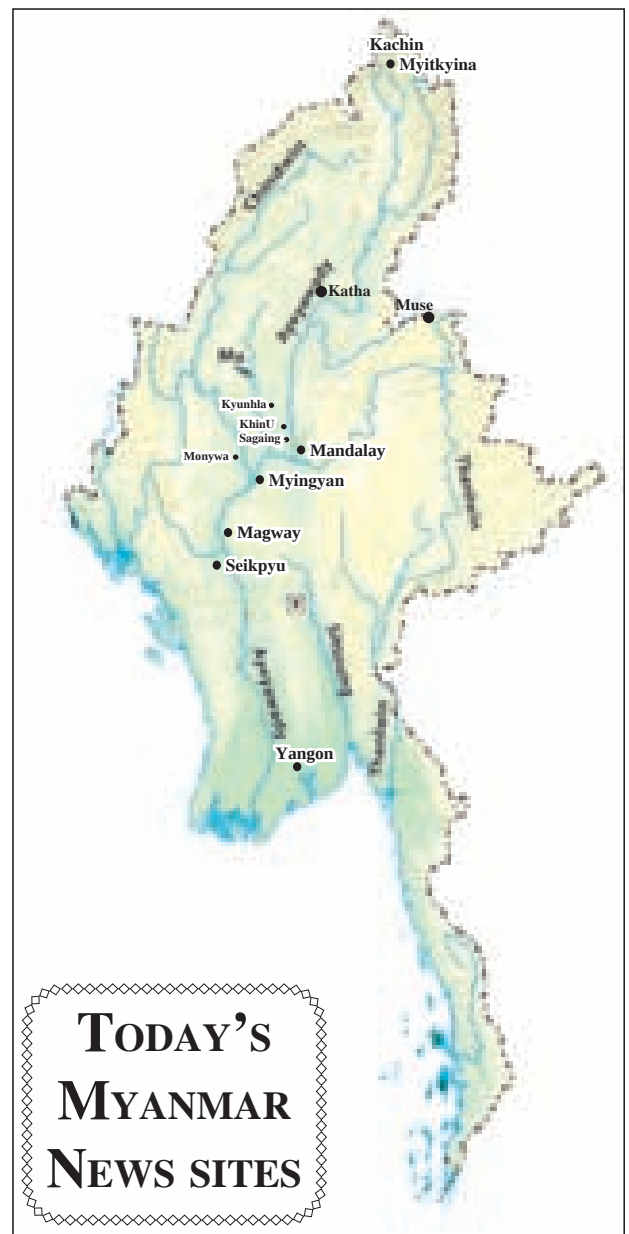
MANDALAY, 12 June—The Mandalay Region Small and Medium Enterprises Agency held a coordination meeting at the hall of the Region Industrial Coordination and Inspection Department in Mandalay on Tuesday.

Mandalay Region Minister for Electricity and Industry U Kyaw Myint recounted the guidance of the SME Development Work Committee (Nay Pyi Taw).

“One-stop service must be given to those who submitted complete documents for their registration forms. Call centers will be opened for public relations,” he said.

The department arranges plans for issuing registration to entrepreneurs in various electronic product industries. SME Agencies are formed with national entrepreneurs and can take loans with 8.5 per cent interest, officials said.

Min Htet Aung (Mandalay Sub-printing House)



Homalin Tsp gets suspension bridge

MONYWA, 12 June—A suspension bridge across Mansein Creek with the official name Shwe Pyi Thar was held in Shwepyithar Village of Homalin Township in Sagaing Region on Tuesday.

Sagaing Region Minister for Mining and Energy U Than Htaik donated K50,000 to the Basic Education Primary School of the village, Region Hluttaw MP U Khin Maung Swe, K50,000 to Treatise and

Culture Group, Deputy Commissioner of the district U Toe Lwin K50,000 to the BEPS and Director U Maung Maung Aung of Ministry of Mines K50,000 and 10 desks to the school. In addition, other donors presented cash to the fund for the school.

The bridge, 500 feet long and 15 feet wide, was built at a cost of K365 million, and can withstand six tons of load.

Sagaing Region IPRD

Traffic police assigned to ensure security of students in Mandalay



MANDALAY, 12 June—Region authorities assigned duty to four traffic police officers at 15 basic education schools in Mandalay with the aim of ensuring traffic safety during school hours.

In order to ensure students and parents are aware of responsible conduct on the roads, pamphlets and talks on traffic rules will be given, said Police Major Thein Ko Ko.

“Mandalay residents need to abide by traffic rules for their safety. But our police force will arrange traffic safety measures for the students to raise awareness.

And we invite the parents of students to cooperate with us in these tasks,” he said.

According to statistics, a total of 162 people died in 556 traffic accidents in 2012, 182 people died

in 426 accidents in 2013 and 78 lost their lives in 177 accidents till 2014 May in Mandalay District

alone.

Although the number of vehicles has increased in the district in 2014, the

number of accidents has declined.

Min Htet Aung (Mandalay Sub-printing House)

Police arrest 116 human traffickers from January to May 2014

YANGON, 12 June—From January to May 2014, police exposed 32 cases of human trafficking and arrested 116 traffickers, with 66 victims freed, the Anti-Human Trafficking Police Corps said. Nine of the victims were children,

according to body.

Police exposed 999 cases of trafficking in person from 2006 to 2013 and arrested 2,757 human traffickers who had trafficked 2,234 victims, of which 228 were under 18 years old. To enforce law and

combat human trafficking, the Anti-Human Trafficking Police Corps was formed with 18 platoons and 12 sections.

The Anti-Human Trafficking law was enacted on 13 September 2005.

Thant Zin Win

District GAD delivers cash assistance to students

MYITKYINA, 12 June—The Myitkyina District General Administration Department held a ceremony to present cash assistance to basic education students who are offspring of its staff at the hall of the department

on Tuesday.

Officials of the department gave cash assistance to the students from primary to university levels. Deputy Commissioner of the district GAD U Khong Lan Dee presented K30,000

to Maung Okkar Zin Khant who won one distinction in the matriculation examination 2014. At the ceremony, departmental officials provided K372,500 as cash assistance to the students.

Myitkyina District IPRD

Local breeders provided with loans in Muse

MUSE, 12 June—The Veterinary Department Livestock Breeding and presented a K30 million



loan to breeders of two villages of Muse Township at the hall of township General Administration Department, northern Shan State, on Thursday.

The move was aimed at improving development in rural areas and reducing poverty.

Township Administrator U Ko Ko Zaw handed over K20 million for breeders from Honawng village and K10 million to those of Mongyu village.

L Soe (IPRD)

LOCAL NEWS

Eden group and Hilton Worldwide Announce Hotels & Resorts Management Agreement

YANGON, 12 June—A management agreement signing ceremony between Eden Group and Hilton Worldwide was held at Strand Hotel, Yangon on Wednesday.

Eden Group and Hilton Hotels and Resorts Worldwide agreed to cooperate in management and will change the name of Thingaha Garden Hotel in Nay Pyi Taw and Thingaha Ngapali Hotel in Ngapali to Hilton Nay Pyi Taw and Hilton Ngapali, with August 2014 mentioned as the date for change.

Hilton plans to open hotels in Bagan, Mandalay and Inlay Regions within four years and create opportunities for individuals and economic growth with social responsibilities, said Andrew J. Clough Senior Vice President of Development Middle East & Asia



Pacific at the press briefing.

The ceremony was attended by Union Minister for Hotels and Tourism U Htay Aung among other officials who said that more hotels are needed as there has been an increase of 90 percent in terms of visitors to the country, with more

than 2 million foreigners visiting Myanmar in 2013. Eden Group Co., Ltd was established by U Chit Khine in 1990 and is doing a wide range of businesses in Myanmar, including hotel construction.

Hilton is operating in the lodging sector from lux-

ury and full-service hotels and resorts to extended-stay suites and focused-service hotels. The company's portfolio includes ten world-class global brands and an award-winning customer loyalty program.

Thant Zin Win

Protestors demand amendment of constitution

KYUNHLA, 12 June—Under permission 1/2014 of the commander of Township Police Force, about 3,000 people led by the Secretary of Township National League for Democracy peacefully protested

to amend the constitution in Kyunhla of Sagaing Region on Thursday.

They expressed their wishes to amend the Sections 436, 59(d) and 59 (f) of the constitution and to build roads and bridges

meeting set standards.

Members of the Township Police Force were deployed along the processing route of the protestors.

Myo Win Nyo
(Kyunhla IPRD)



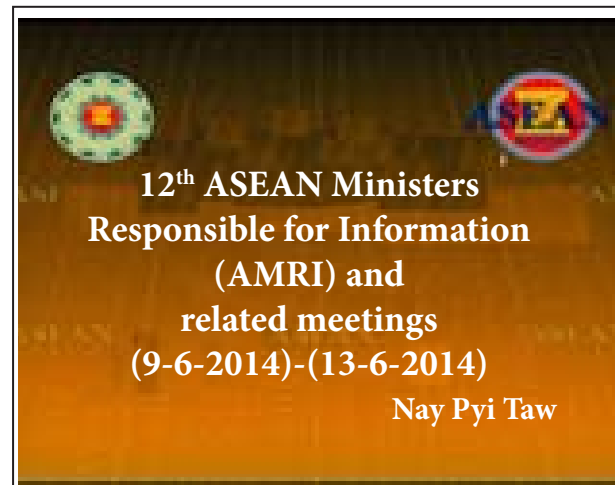
Summer paddy thriving in Seikpyu Township due to irrigation

SEIKPYU, 12 June—The Ministry of Agriculture and Irrigation is implementing projects to build new dams and reservoirs across the nation, officials said.

Farmers in Myinkawa Village grow summer paddy on 275 acres of farmlands irrigated from the water of Aukseik pumping station in Seik-

pyu Township of Magway Region.

The farmers cultivated high yield paddy strains. Staff of Township Agriculture Department shared knowledge about good agricultural patterns, efficient use of water and proper flow of water at drains along sides of farmlands.—Soe Lin Naing
(IPRD)



Training given to administrators for enhancement of capacity

MYINGYAN, 12 June—Myingyan Township General Administration Department conducted a farmland management proficiency course for ward and village authorities at its office on Wednesday.

Township Administrator U Tun Thein Aung explained that the training course was opened for ad-

ministrators to improve their skills in management of farmland utilization.

91 trainees from ward and village administrative offices, clerks and staff of the Township Settlement and Land Records Department attended the two-day course.

Zaw Min Naing
(Myingyan)

Katha District INRD issues citizenship scrutiny cards to youths



KATHA, 12 June—A ceremony to issue citizenship scrutiny cards to citizens aged 10 years was held in Ward 7 of Katha in Sagaing Region on Tuesday.

Sagaing Region Min-

ister for Finance U Tin Win and the head of Katha District Immigration and National Registration Department explained the issuance of CSC to the local people.

The district head of

the department said that although the issuance of the cards was suspended during the census taking period, the issuance process of CSC has resumed for the people.

District IPRD

Farmers of KhinU Tsp receive agricultural loans

KHINU, 12 June—The Agricultural Development Bank in KhinU Township of Sagaing Region delivered agricultural loans to farmers from 63 village-tracts for cultivation of monsoon paddy in 2014.

The bank plans to disburse over K8 billion to the farmers of the township.

The bank will prioritize the disbursement of loans to the villages that have already paid back their loans. So far, the bank has issued K462.9 million to 845 farmers for 4,629 acres of paddy plantations, said manager Daw Yin Nwe of the bank.

KhinU Soe Wai

In Indonesia, foreign investors wait to see who will be president

JAKARTA/TAIPEI, 12 June — Billions of dollars in foreign investment hinge on next month's Indonesian presidential election, with at least one major company holding back after a former special forces general made a surprisingly strong entry into the fray.

A tight 9 July election that will decide who runs Southeast Asia's largest economy for the next five years pits popular Jakarta governor Joko "Jokowi" Widodo against the ex-general, Prabowo Subianto.

Both favour a more nationalist agenda, underpinned by popular perceptions that the economy has for too long depended on selling off its vast natural resources cheaply to foreign buyers and that past governments have done little to nurture, and protect, local firms.

But Prabowo is seen as more fiercely nationalistic, while Jokowi is seen as a hands-on, more capable administrator. And despite Indonesia's large pool of labour, relatively low costs and a growing middle class, many potential investors say they will wait until the election is decided.

At the top of the list of foreigners with big money to spend is Taiwan's Foxconn Technology Group, the world's largest electronics contract manufacturer and one of the major suppliers to Apple Inc.

Its chairman, Terry Gou, made no secret of the fact during a visit to Jakarta in February that he liked dealing with Jokowi in discussions over whether to bring his company's next giant investment to the Indonesian capital.

At the time, Jokowi was the clear front-runner in the election. He still is, but Prabowo has since been backed by the powerful



Supporters walk near a giant banner with pictures of Indonesian presidential candidate from Indonesia Democratic Party of Struggle (PDI-P) Joko Widodo and his running mate Jusuf Kalla during a campaign in Jakarta, Indonesia, on 11 June, 2014. Indonesia's presidential campaign is to be held from 4 June to 5 July and presidential polls on 9 July, 2014. —XINHUA

Golkar party and opinion polls show the former general is catching up. A large percentage of voters are undecided, one survey has said.

Foreign direct investment in Indonesia was 270.4 trillion rupiah (\$23 billion) in 2013, up about 22 percent from the previous year. But growth slowed sharply to 9.8 percent in the first quarter this year, the government has said.

Foxconn, listed as Hon Hai Precision Industry Co Ltd in Taiwan, is waiting for the new government to take office in October before deciding whether to go ahead with a \$1 billion manufacturing project in In-

donesia, a company source had said.

Key sticking points appear to be Foxconn's request for free land in Jakarta and Indonesia's convoluted bureaucracy.

"Regarding the incentives Foxconn has requested, there's no one they can talk to whose decisions will count," said a source with direct knowledge of Foxconn's situation.

"Indonesia is a huge market for Foxconn. Foxconn truly hopes there will be a clear direction in their policies after the election."

The investor community tends to favour Jokowi, a former furniture businessman, compared to Prabowo,

according to interviews with senior executives and capital market players.

Indonesian stocks and currency were hit following Golkar's unexpected announcement on the afternoon of May 19 that it would back Prabowo.

The rupiah has weakened further, trading around 11,800 to the dollar currently against roughly 11,400 before the announcement. Jakarta's main stock index remains more than one percent below the pre-announcement level.

"Generally, business people feel that Jokowi is more business-friendly," said Kenichi Tomiyoshi, President Director of the Ja-

pan External Trade Organization in Jakarta.

Jokowi has earned a reputation of being a hands-on leader and a problem solver, analysts say.

"A lot of problems that businesses face in Indonesia are operational issues such as land acquisition. Based on his track record, he is likely to be more closely or directly involved in trying to solve these issues," said Anton Alifandi, an analyst at IHS.

"If Jokowi wins, businesses will look at what he does in the first six months or a year. If they see some results and that he can deliver what he promised, you'll see the foreign investment coming in." The attraction of Indonesia to investors from countries like Japan, South Korea and the United States lies with its population of 240 million, the world's fourth-biggest, as well as its expanding middle class.

Many companies are also keen to diversify their operations away from Thailand, which has been rocked by political unrest. In Vietnam, another regional manufacturing hub, anti-China riots broke out last month over disputed sovereignty in the South China Sea.

Japanese firms are keenly eyeing the automotive, food products and financial services sectors in Indonesia, Tomiyoshi said. "Japanese companies face limited growth in their domestic market so they have to look overseas, particularly Indonesia."

Chief Economic Minister Chairul Tanjung has invited Samsung Electronics to invest in a mobile phone factory in Indonesia and the South Korean company is considering it, said Lee Kang Hyun, vice president of PT Samsung Electronics Indonesia.

In January, the government imposed a controversial export tax and a ban on mineral ore shipments to force miners to build smelters and processing plants, spurring investor concerns that it signals a more protectionist Indonesia.

Jokowi and Prabowo are both unlikely to lift the mineral ore export ban, party officials said.

Both presidential candidates are also likely to take a more protectionist approach towards the banking sector. Jokowi has proposed restricting the sale of national banks to foreign investors, while Prabowo will insist on "strict reciprocity" for the banking and insurance sectors. Currently, foreign ownership of banks is capped at 40 percent. In July last year, Singapore's DBS Group Holdings Ltd said it would not pursue a \$7.2 billion takeover of Indonesia's PT Bank Danamon after the deal was stuck in limbo for months. US companies were planning around \$61 billion in new investments in Indonesia over the next 3-5 years "provided that the investment environment is conducive and welcoming", according to a study late last year led by Ernst & Young.

But some investors believe it's worth being in Indonesia in the long term.

While Indonesia struggles with a lag in labour productivity versus its neighbours and an uneven income distribution, these are "short-term woes that could be opportunities down the road if acted on," said Bharat Joshi, an investment manager at Aberdeen Asset Management in Asia.

"We still like the attraction of the country's rising wealth and favourable demographics, underpinned by low debt and increased consumerism," Joshi said.

Reuters

Thai junta finds funding easy to come by as banks lend again

BANGKOK, 12 June — As Thailand's junta tries to pull the economy back from the verge of recession, the generals have a significant advantage over the government they ousted — the country's banks are prepared to lend them money, and cheaply too.

When the military government tendered for a 50 billion Thai baht (\$1.5 billion) loan this month to help pay money owed to rice farmers, 12 banks offered a total of 145 bil-

lion baht. The state-run Government Savings Bank (GSB) won the tender, lending for three years at a rate of 2.1792 percent, much lower than a yield of 2.45 percent on three-year government bonds. In contrast, commercial banks and even state banks had been reluctant to lend to the government of Yingluck Shinawatra after it was put in caretaker mode in December. "Previously, there was a problem of legality, whether the Finance Minis-

try would be able to guarantee loans under a caretaker government," said Amnuay Preemonwong, a board member of the GSB.

"But that's not an issue now as the current government has full powers. It's not only the GSB, other banks are more confident about bidding. Everybody will dare lend now."

Indeed, in February a rush of withdrawals by customers saw the GSB scrap a 5 billion baht loan that could have been used

to prop up the then-government's controversial rice-buying scheme, and the bank's president resigned. Also in February, state-owned Krung Thai Bank Pcl said it would not offer loans for the government's rice-buying scheme, mainly due to legal risks.

On Thursday the Finance Ministry will put a 40 billion baht loan up for tender, and the Amnuay said the GSB board had approved bidding for the whole amount.—Reuters



A bank employee counts Thai baht notes at Kasikornbank in Bangkok on 12 Oct, 2010.

REUTERS

Joint Media Statement Twelfth Conference of the ASEAN Ministers Responsible for Information and Third Conference of ASEAN Plus Three Ministers Responsible for Information

Nay Pyi Taw, Myanmar 12 June 2014

1. The Republic of the Union of Myanmar hosted the Twelfth Conference of the ASEAN Ministers Responsible for Information (12th AMRI) and the Third Conference of ASEAN Plus Three Ministers Responsible for Information (3rd AMRI+3) in Nay Pyi Taw, on 12 June, 2014.
2. The Conferences were preceded by the Senior Officials Meeting for the 12th AMRI on 10 June 2014, and the ASEAN Plus Three Senior Officials Meeting for the 3rd AMRI+3 on 11 June 2014.

Opening Ceremony

3. The Conference was officiated by the Vice President Dr. Sai Mauk Kham. In his Opening Address, the Honourable Vice President emphasized that as we are moving forward to set up a people-centred ASEAN Community and enhancing connectivity for an ASEAN Community, media cooperation plays an important role in linking our societies and encouraging civil society to participate in regional-community building. He referred to the outcomes of the 11th AMRI Meeting held in Malaysia in 2012 on the positive role that social media can contribute to enhance cultural values, understanding and solidarity amongst peoples of ASEAN. As such, he concluded that the theme for the 12th AMRI Meeting—"Social Responsible Media for a Peaceful and Prosperous Community"—is timely to further promote media development and cooperation in building the ASEAN Community.
4. The ASEAN Anthem 'The ASEAN Way' was played at the opening ceremony.
5. The Conference was chaired by His Excellency (HE) U Aung Kyi, Union Minister, Ministry of Information of Myanmar. The list of Ministers from all ASEAN Member States and the Plus Three Countries is presented in ANNEX 1.
6. The Chairman in his opening statement stated that the year 2014 is an important year for Myanmar as she is taking the rotating chair of ASEAN for the first time after joining ASEAN in 17 years. 2014 is also a key timeline towards marking the establishment of an ASEAN Community by 2015. He further highlighted the Myanmar is taking all necessary steps to implement the responsibilities of ASEAN Chair in accordance with the theme for 2014 ASEAN Chair as "Moving Forward in Unity to a Peaceful and Prosperous Community". In this regard, he stressed that the information and media sector shall be engaged and cooperated with the governments and other stakeholders to ensure sufficient information about ASEAN will reach our peoples, and to provide an opportunity to educating peoples about the benefits of ASEAN's integration and ASEAN community building process.

Steady Progress of Information and Media Cooperation

7. Appreciating the need to implement a comprehensive communications plan to meet the vision of One ASEAN Community by 2015, the Ministers called for stronger coordination and effective communication among the different sectoral bodies in implementation of the ASCC Blueprint, optimizing opportunities for cross-sectoral cooperation to inform the public about the benefit of ASEAN's integration and community building.
8. The Ministers noted a steady progress and outcomes of key projects aiming to increase ASEAN awareness and mutual understanding through the ASEAN information and media cooperation process, such as the television and radio news exchanges (ASEAN Television News and ASEAN-in-Action respectively), and the ASEAN Quiz (regional and national levels), etc.
9. The Ministers noted with satisfactions that several initiatives have been taken up to address the require-

ment of a growing population using social media, amongst those which include the new website for ASEAN's culture and information which replaces the ASEAN Media Portal and the ASEAN Culture and Information Portal, social media and an ASEAN Virtual Learning Resources Centre (AVLRC). All of which will serve as resourceful platforms that enable online users seamless navigations on culture, history and place of interest in ASEAN.

10. With regard to digital broadcasting, the Ministers welcomed initiatives that were identified to benefit leapfrogging to Digital Video Broadcasting—Terrestrial Second Generation (DVB-T2), and noted regional efforts in the implementation of the 'Guidelines for ASEAN Digital Switch-Over' (2015-2020). The Ministers commended the completion of the first-ever TV co-production programme on 'Rice: Seed of Life' in a series of 'Color of ASEAN' in High Definition format.

11. In the area of technical standards, the Ministers endorsed a recommendation on the development of an ASEAN-wide DVB-T2 Integrated Receiver Decoder (IRD) specification to reap the benefits of economics of scale for affordable DVB-T2 IRDs in ASEAN Member States who already adopted DVB-T2 for DTTB.

Social Responsible Media for a Peaceful and Prosperous ASEAN Community

12. The Ministers agreed that the information and media shall cover more cross-sectoral and multi-stakeholder issues to support creating a sense of belonging and enhancing deeper mutual understanding among ASEAN Member States about their culture, history, religion and civilization. The Ministers also highlighted the need to deepen media cooperation to support communication building through closer coordination, joint projects, media networking and human resources development especially the younger generation, to support ASEAN's concerted efforts in promoting ASEAN awareness and building the ASEAN Community.
13. At the Conference, the Ministers agreed to adopt the Declaration on Social Responsible Media for a Peaceful and Prosperous Community. The Declaration (appeared as ANNEX 2) is a guiding document to further strengthen cooperation in the fields of information and media through undertaking programmes and joint activities, and by leveraging on all forms of media.
14. The Ministers shared positive views on the necessary expansion and improvement of the information and media cooperation in ASEAN so that it will effectively enhance the existing programmes in disseminating information on ASEAN, and educate our peoples on the progress of the ASEAN community building process. In this regard, the Ministers noted the set up of three Working Groups, namely ASEAN Digital Broadcasting (ADB), Working Group on Information, Media, and Training; and Working Group on Content and Production, to strengthen the information and media cooperation in ASEAN.

Enhancing Cooperation with Dialogue Partners

15. The Ministers exchanges views on the progress of ASEAN Plus Three cooperation and possible measures to further enhance cooperation between ASEAN and the Plus Three countries in the field of information and media.
16. The ASEAN Plus Three Minister reviewed the progress of the ASEAN-China Work Plan on Enhancing ASEAN-China Cooperation through information and Media (2010-2015), and the Work Plan on Enhancing ASEAN Plus Three Cooperation Through Information and media (2012-2017). The Ministers noted

that several initiatives are being discussed to further enhance cooperation between ASEAN and the Plus Three countries.

17. The ASEAN Ministers appreciated China's efforts to use broadcasting and publications for fostering the ASEAN-China friendly ties and good-neighbourly relationships. The ASEAN Ministers noted that China pays great attention to the friendly exchanges and cooperation in the field of information and media within the ASEAN Plus Three framework with the understanding that the AMRI-3 is an important mechanism for pragmatic cooperation aimed at promotion mutual understanding and trust and maintaining peace, stability and development in the region.
18. The ASEAN Minister welcomed the progress of cooperation with Japan on digital content, especially local content development and human resource development. The ASEAN Ministers expressed their appreciation for Japan's plan on cooperation to promote authorized distribution of broadcast content, shared knowledge of content, and strength people and cultural exchanged based on the recognition that information and media could contribute to enhancing ASEAN connectivity including people-to-people connectivity.
19. The ASEAN Ministers noted a proposal from the Republic of Korea on possible ways in which ASEAN and the ROK could collaborate, in addition to the ASEAN Plus Three framework. The ASEAN Ministers welcomed the furtherance of media exchanges with the ROK, including exchanges in digital broadcasting technology as well as co-production of digital content, exchanges and training of journalists and the development of human resources.

Closing and Acknowledgement

20. The Ministers agreed to convince the 13th Conference of the ASEAN Ministers Responsible for Information (13th AMRI) and its related meetings with Dialogue Partners in the Philippines in 2016.
21. The Minister expressed their sincere thanks and appreciation to the Government and people of Myanmar for the warm hospitality and excellent arrangements made for the 12th AMRI Conference. The Conference was held in the traditional spirit of ASEAN solidarity and cordiality.

ANNEX 1

List of Ministers

- i. H.E Dato Paduka Haji Abd. Wahab bin Juned. Deputy Minister in the Prime Minister's Office, Brunei Darussalam;
- ii. H.E Dr. Khieu Kanharith, Minister of Information, Cambodia;
- iii. Dr. Suprawoto, Secretary-General, representing Minister of Communication and Information Technology, Indonesia;
- iv. H.E Mr.Savankhone Razmoutry, Vice Minister of Information, Culture and Tourism, Lao PDR;
- v. H.E Mr. Jailani bin Johari, Deputy Minister of Communication and Multimedia, Malaysia;
- vi. H.E U Aung Kyi, Union Minister of Information, the Republic of the Union of Myanmar;
- vii. H.E.Mr.Sonny Coloma, Secretary, Presidential Communications Operations Office, Philippines;
- viii. H.E. Dr. Yaacob Ibrahim, Minister for Communications and Information, Singapore;
- ix. H.E. Mr. Pisanu Suvanajata, Ambassador of Thailand to Myanmar, representing Minister attached to the Prime Minister's Office;
- x. H.E. Mr. Nguyen Thanh Hung, Vice Minister of Information and Communications, Socialist Republic of Viet Nam;
- xi. H.E.Mr.Le Luong Minh, Secretary-General of ASEAN;
- xii. H.E.Mr. Cai Mingzhao, Minister of State Council Information Office, People's Republic of China;
- xiii. Mr. Soichiro Seki, Director General for International Affairs, Global ICT Strategy Bureau, representing Minister for Internal Affairs and Communications, Japan;
- xiv. H.E.Mr. Sun Gyu Bang, Deputy Minister of Culture, Sports and Tourism, Republic of Korea.

PERSPECTIVES

Friday, 13 June, 2014

Myanmar's telecommunication sector to see improvement with foreign firms entering the market

By Myint Win Thein

Myanmar has been a country with one of the lowest telecommunication network densities, but recent reforms are going to change the scene of the Myanmar telecom sector completely, officials said, because for the first time in the history of the country, new licenses were granted to foreign companies. The

two foreign telecom operators received the license about a year ago. They will be launching their services in the third quarter of 2014.

The public, who is disappointed by the current communication services provided by the Myanma Posts and Telecommunications, are looking forward to Sim cards to be issued by the two foreign firms, Telenor from Norway and Ooredoo from Qatar. The new operators will have to compete fiercely in the Myanmar telecom market, which has been monopolized by the MPT for decades.

All the operators have promised to offer best services for the public as the MPT's current services are still slow and unreliable.

Ooredoo said its 3G technology will be the most advanced in the country while Telenor said its goal is to deliver state-of-the-art telecommuni-

cation and internet services that will enrich the daily lives of the people across the country. MPT is trying to partner with a Japanese mobile services provider and promised to offer services as good as others.

All the telephone operators in Myanmar will have to face challenges but the ones that offer best services at the cheapest price to the public will emerge as the winners and the public will be able to enjoy better telecom services in the near future.

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.

U.S. to train Myanmar engineers, technicians on building safety enhancements along Yangon-Mandalay Highway

By Ye Myint

YANGON, 12 June—A letter of agreement to improve the safety of the Yangon-Mandalay Highway was signed on 27 May between the Ministry of Construction of Myanmar and the United States Agency for International Development (USAID), the US Em-

bassy in Yangon has said.

According to a press release, U.S. architecture and engineering experts will train and mentor Myanmar engineers and technicians in highway safety standards and in building safety enhancements along a 10-kilometer section of the road. The demonstration section, funded in coopera-

tion with the U.S. Government, will serve as a model for ongoing improvements implemented by the ministry along the entire highway.

U.S. Ambassador to Myanmar Derek J. Mitchell, said he was pleased the U.S. would be able to improve a small section of the Yangon-Mandalay

Highway, and work with the ministry to help address very real concerns about safety standards.

According to the press release, the agreement formalizes a partnership that began with a preliminary safety survey in May 2013. Following assessment on design, traffic volume, vehicle speed, and existing safe-

ty measures along the highway by USAID engineers, it concluded that the most effective means to achieve scalable road safety improvements is through technical assistance and training on safety standards, bringing experience and best practices from the United States to help improve the safety and security on Myanmar's roads.

The release pointed out that increased speed and a lack of highway safety measures have resulted in a disproportionately high number of fatalities on the 386-mile long Yangon-Mandalay Highway on which over 3,000 vehicles drive every day.

Mr. Christopher Milligan, first mission director of USAID for Myanmar in 24 years, has pledged the agency's assistance to capacity building for Myanmar engineers while speaking of the cooperation program between the agency and the Ministry of Construction during a meeting on planning of safety standards for the Yangon-Mandalay Highway, the main route from Yangon and Nay Pyi Taw through the centre of the country.

Based on statistics during the period from 2009 to 2014, more than 700 highway accidents occurred, claiming the lives of over 360 victims.

Signing of Grant Agreement for "Project for Improvement of Education College"

NAY PYI TAW, 12 June—The Grant Agreement (GA) for the "Project for Improvement of Education College" was signed between U Ko Ko Tin, Director General of the Department of Educational Planning and Training (DEPT), Ministry of Edu-

cation and Mr. Masahiko Tanaka, Chief Representative of Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) Myanmar Office, following the signing of Exchange of Notes between the two governments of Japan and Myanmar on 5 June 2014.

Under this Project, a grant amount of up to JPY 2.5 billion will be extended with the purpose of improving quality of teacher education in the education college.

The said grant amount will cover for administration building including assembly hall and gymnasium, classrooms building, hostels and dining hall with kitchen. Necessary equipment will be set up as necessary.

NLM/JICA



A road section of 386-mile long Yangon-Mandalay Highway on which over 3,000 vehicles drive every day.—PHOTO: YE MYINT

GOLD PRICE, FE RATE (11-6-2014)**Yangon Gold Price**

Buying K652,200 per tical: Selling K652,900

Mandalay Gold Price

Buying K652,000 per tical: Selling K652,700

FE RATE

USD Buying K967 - Selling K971

SGD Buying K769 - Selling K778

Euro Buying K1300 - Selling K1318

Director-General

U Ko Ko Tin shakes

hands with JICA

Myanmar Chief

Representative

Mr. Masahiko

Tanaka after

exchanging notes.

NLM



Global Summit to End Sexual Violence in Conflict



Rape has been used as a weapon of war repeatedly in our lifetimes, on every continent and in every major conflict. It has nothing to do with sex, and everything to do with power and the desire to conquer and humiliate.

The nature of the act consigns many survivors – of both sexes – to a lifetime of isolation, exclu-

sion, and fear.

In some countries survivors of rape are regarded as prostitutes, and are rejected and considered unfit for marriage.

Without social acceptance, many are consumed by shame and mental suffering, and scarred by physical injuries.

Without legal recognition, they often lack finan-

cial support, healthcare, or the counselling needed to recover from their experiences.

The victims are often very young children, whose bodies, minds and future can be irrevocably damaged.

Such is the corrosive power of the stigma that it often attaches itself to the next generation – to chil-

dren born of rape, or the families of survivors.

This powerful taboo around warzone rape also explains why its scale and severity is not widely understood.

(But) when public opinion is roused and governments stir themselves, change can be rapid.

There is evidence that this is now happen-

ing. More than ¾ of all the world's nations have endorsed the Declaration of Commitment to End Sexual Violence in Conflict we put forward last year. And next week, we will host representatives of over 100 governments, the Heads of 8 UN Agencies and nearly a thousand experts here in London.

We will launch the first ever International Protocol on how to document and investigate sexual violence in conflict. Over a year in the making and the work of hundreds of experts, it will help investigators preserve information and evidence in the aftermath of an attack, improve the chances of successful prosecutions, and protect victims from trauma.

We will ask countries to bring their laws on rape and sexual violence into line with international standards. We will call for all soldiers and peacekeepers to be trained to understand and prevent warzone sexual violence. Simple measures, from installing lighting in refugee camps to accompanying women collecting firewood, can dramatically reduce the

number of attacks, and we want these basic protections to become universal.

We will urge countries never to grant amnesties for sexual violence, and pursue the most infamous wanted men like Joseph Kony (Leader of the Ugandan rebel group Lord's Resistance Army). And we will ask for new funding for survivors and the groups who work with them – the unsung heroes whose work we build on.

There is no law that can be passed or treaty adopted that will abolish warzone sexual violence overnight. This is a cause for our generation.

And the truth is that governments will never achieve this by themselves. Ending sexual violence in conflict requires us to break the mould. We need governments and citizens and civil society to work together, in a new model for how we tackle vast global issues.

It is in our power to remove rape as a weapon of war from the world's arsenal of cruelty. And it is in our hands to treat victims not as social outcasts, but as courageous survivors.

By the British Foreign Secretary William Hague and Special Envoy of the UN High Commissioner for Refugees Angelina Jolie

First-ever Motor Partner Network Association Event introduced

By Khaing Thanda Lwin

YANGON, 12 June—The government has reduced the taxation on the export and import of vehicles but the price of cars has not decreased significantly in the market, said Speaker U Moe Kan Shein, Chief Editor of Automobile Weekly Car Journal on Thursday.

At the First-ever Motor Partner Network Association Event at 50th Bar in Yangon, he added the customer demand for the Myanmar automotive market depends on reducing the cost of registering the car.

He also said most of Myanmar customers prefer brands like Toyota rather than other brands and fuel-saving cars are popular with sales of the Honda Fit increasing on a daily basis in the market.

Speaker U Aung Khan, Head of SEO of motors.



Writer Ko Ko Aung shares knowledge on management on vehicle purchase to attendees at NPNA event.—PHOTO:KHAING THANDA LWIN

com.mm, talked about online advertising and social media marketing.

He gave advice to website developers to apply Google+ for an online market extension that has shown to be more useful than Facebook and to create more mobile applications for Myanmar users as mobile culture is on the rise.

During the event, Sci-

ence Affairs Writer Ko Ko Aung shared his knowledge about the prevention of traffic congestion that is one of the causes of a decrease in demand. He pointed out the country needs more road networks, car parks and automatic traffic lights control. According to the survey, there are around 600,000 vehicles across the country.

NLM

Plan underway to cooperate in opening Social Affairs Institute

NAY PYI TAW, 12 June—Pro-Vice-Chancellor Ms. Fiona Docherty of the University of New South Wales of Australia and delegation called on Union Minister for Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement Dr Daw Myat Myat

Ohn Khin at the ministry in Nay Pyi Taw on Wednesday. They discussed sports-based youth development projects being jointly implemented at Kyaikwaing Youth Development School by the University of New South Wales and

the Myanmar Red Cross Society, A Technology for Social Affairs Institute to be opened by the ministry, the opportunity to cooperate with the University of New South Wales in respective subjects and curriculums.—MNA

To formulate Action Plan and roadmap on information and media to advance ASEAN awareness and community building and realise ASEAN regional integration and post 2015 vision

NAY PYI TAW, 12 June—The 12th ASEAN Ministers' Meeting Responsible for Information (AMRI) in Nay Pyi Taw on Thursday released the Declaration on Social Responsible Media for a Peaceful and Prosperous ASEAN Community, aimed at ensuring the emergence of responsible media to broaden the hori-

zon of people and report on the building process of the ASEAN Community.

The declaration features the building of a peaceful and prosperous ASEAN Community, further cooperation in the information and media sectors, working together for Social Responsible Media in the ASEAN region, applying new media and ad-

vantages of social media to educate ASEAN people, jointly conducting training in cooperation with organizations concerned to improve media standards and integration of the single ASEAN Community through public service media, private media and community-based media.

MNA

US focus is on boosting Iraqi forces, not air strikes



An abandoned Iraqi security forces vehicle is pictured on a road in Tikrit, which was overrun by the Islamic State in Iraq and the Levant (ISIL), on 11 June, 2014.—REUTERS

WASHINGTON, 12 June — The White House signaled on Wednesday that it was looking to strengthen Iraqi forces to help them deal with an insurgency rather than to meet what one US official said were past Iraqi requests for US air strikes.

An Obama administration official who spoke on condition of anonymity

said Iraq had previously made clear its interest in drone strikes or bombing by manned US aircraft to help it beat back the militant onslaught.

Sunni rebels from an al-Qaeda splinter group overran the Iraqi city of Tikrit on Wednesday and closed in on the biggest oil refinery in the country, making further gains

in their rapid military advance against the Shi'ite-led government in Baghdad.

The threat to the Baiji refinery came after militants from the Islamic State in Iraq and the Levant, or ISIL group, seized the northern city of Mosul, advancing their aim of creating a Sunni Caliphate straddling the

border between Iraq and Syria.

The White House, however, suggested that air strikes were not at the top of its agenda as it considers what it may do to help the Iraqi government against an insurgency that has drawn strength from the civil war in neighbouring Syria.

Reuters

Japan, Australia effectively conclude defence equipment talks

TOKYO, 12 June — Japan and Australia said on Wednesday they have reached a “substantial conclusion” of negotiations for an agreement on defence equipment and technology cooperation, paving the way for a possible transfer of Tokyo’s submarine technology to Canberra. The foreign and defence ministers of the two countries said after a meeting in Tokyo that they discussed preparations for joint research on marine hydrodynamics used for submarines as an initial area of science and technology cooperation. Australia has shown strong interest in Japan’s submarine technology. Japan already has an agreement on defence equipment and technology cooperation with the United States and Britain. Japan and Australia are preparing

to sign an accord during a planned visit by Prime Minister Shinzo Abe to Australia in July.

The ministers urged North Korea to address “the unresolved abduction issue,” the Press release said, referring to Japanese nationals kidnapped by North Korean agents in the 1970s and 1980s. They underscored the United States’ “significant contribution to peace and security in the region,” and threw “strong support” behind the US strategic rebalance to the Asia-Pacific region. In the wake of China’s apparent provocation over the East China Sea earlier Wednesday, the Japanese and Australian ministers confirmed the importance of “freedom of navigation and overflight of the high seas.”

Kyodo News



(from L to R) Australian Defence Minister David Johnston, Australian Foreign Minister Julie Bishop, Japanese Foreign Minister Fumio Kishida and Japanese Defense Minister Itsunori Onodera pose for photos in Tokyo on 11 June, 2014, prior to their so-called two-plus-two meeting. —Kyodo News

Iraq insurgents take Saddam’s home town in lightning advance

TIKRIT, 12 June — Sunni rebels from an al-Qaeda splinter group overran the Iraqi city of Tikrit on Wednesday and closed in on the biggest oil refinery in the country, making further gains in their rapid military advance against the Shi’ite-led government in Baghdad.

The threat to the Baiji refinery comes after militants from the Islamic State in Iraq and the Levant (ISIL) seized the northern city of Mosul, advancing their aim of creating a Sunni Caliphate straddling the border between Iraq and Syria.

The fall of Mosul, Iraq’s second biggest city, is a blow to Prime Minister Nuri al-Maliki’s attempts to defeat the militants, who have seized territory in Iraq over the past year following the withdrawal of US forces.

About 500,000 Iraqis

have fled Mosul, home to 2 million people, and the surrounding province, many seeking safety in the autonomous Kurdistan region.

Having also taken two small towns north of Baghdad, Dhiluiya and Yathrib, the insurgents are in control of between 10 and 15 pct of Iraqi territory, excluding Kurdistan, and have led many Iraqis to fear they have the capital, Baghdad, in their sights.

Security sources said ISIL militants on Wednesday drove more than 60 vehicles into Tikrit, the home town of former Iraqi dictator Saddam Hussein, which lies about 100 miles (160 km) north of Baghdad.

The militants occupied the provincial government headquarters and raised the black flag of ISIL.

“Our forces were caught by surprise, they never expected ISIL would use police and army Hum-



Burnt vehicles belonging to Iraqi security forces are pictured at a checkpoint in east Mosul, one day after radical Sunni Muslim insurgents seized control of the city, on 11 June, 2014.—REUTERS

vee vehicles, we mistook them for government forces and it was too late to stop them,” said a police captain who fled from Tikrit to Samarra.

“We are fighting devils and not ordinary people”.

Around 100 ISIL fighters held mass prayers in central Tikrit after taking control.

Foreign Minister Ho-

shyar Zebari said Iraq’s leaders must unite to face a “mortal” threat. “There has to be a quick response to what has happened,” he said during a trip to Greece.

Zebari said Baghdad would work with forces from Kurdistan in the north to drive the fighters out of Mosul after Iraqi security forces there fled on Tuesday.

Maliki described the fall of Mosul as a “conspiracy” and said those who had abandoned their posts were volunteers in several provinces to join army brigades to fight ISIL.

In a show of the militants’ reach, a car bombing in a crowded market in the town of Safwan, which sits on Iraq’s southernmost border with Kuwait, killed five people.

In a statement on its Twitter account, ISIL said it had taken Mosul as part of a plan “to conquer the entire state and cleanse it from the apostates”, referring to the province of Nineveh of which the city is the capital.

Militants executed 10 soldiers and policemen on Wednesday near the town of Riyadh, 60 km (40 miles) southwest of Kirkuk, after setting up a checkpoint on

the road, police sources said, while in Tikrit six police officers were executed.

In Mosul, 80 Turkish citizens were being held hostage by the militants, the foreign ministry in Ankara said.

Turkey threatened to retaliate if any of the group, which included special forces soldiers, diplomats and children, were harmed.

Ambassadors of the NATO defence alliance held an emergency meeting in Brussels at Turkey’s request and Prime Minister Tayyip Erdogan held talks with US Vice President Joe Biden about the developments.

ISIL, led by Abu Bakr al-Baghdadi, broke with al-Qaeda’s international leader, Osama bin Laden’s former lieutenant Ayman al-Zawahri, and has clashed with al-Qaeda fighters in Syria.

Reuters

SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY

New tech, venture capital feed “gold-rush” among India’s IT start-ups

MUMBAI, 12 June — In India’s IT services outsourcing sector, local start-ups, often backed by US venture capital funds, are nipping at the heels of industry heavyweights such as Tata Consultancy Services Ltd (TCS NS) and Infosys Ltd (INFY NS).

These nimble start-ups, most of them based in Bangalore, offer niche cutting-edge technology products, solutions and services that traditional outsourcing companies don’t offer, or can’t offer at competitive rates.

To be sure, Tata Consultancy (TCS), Infosys and Wipro Ltd (WIPR NS) still account for the bulk of the \$100 billion-plus core IT industry’s sales and employ hundreds of thousands of engineers. But as these focus on routine services like application development and IT infrastructure management, the start-ups are stealing a march in newer areas such as cloud computing and mobile technology.

The value of outsourcing contracts for digital technologies — social, mobility, analytics and cloud (SMAC) — is set to soar



Employees of ISGN work at their stations inside the company headquarters in Bangalore on 11 June, 2014.—REUTERS

to \$287 billion by 2016 from \$164 billion last year, says Rajat Tandon, a senior director at the National Association for Software and Services Companies, an outsourcing sector lobby group. Start-ups will lead the race in providing solutions based on these SMAC technologies, says the group, which predicts the number of start-ups in India will top 2,000 by 2015, from 450 in 2012.

“There’s a gold rush.

Start-ups are rushing in to serve markets that were never served before,” said Sharad Sharma, co-founder of iSPIRT, a think-tank and start-up consultancy.

One such relative newcomer is ISGN, a mortgage technology and services company backed by California-headquartered New Enterprise Associates and India’s KK Birla group. With a modest workforce of 1,200, the 2007 start-up is already taking business

from its bigger, established rivals, winning outsourcing contracts from leading US mortgage companies.

ISGN last year won a \$75-\$100 million renewal order from one of the top five US mortgage companies which had previously placed work with one of the major Indian IT firms, said CEO Amit Kothiyal, a former Infosys veteran. He declined to give details, citing a confidentiality pact.—Reuters

Tiny ancient fish unlocks secrets of Earth’s early vertebrates

WASHINGTON, 12 June — This is certainly not just another fish tale.

A tiny jawless fish that lived more than half a billion years ago is providing scientists with a treasure trove of information about the very dawn of vertebrate life on Earth.

Researchers on Wednesday described about 100 fossil specimens of the fish unearthed at the Burgess Shale site in the Canadian Rockies and other locales, many exquisitely preserved showing the primitive body structures that would later evolve into jaws.

The fish, *Metaspriggina*, lived about 515 to 500 million years ago amid the astonishing flourishing of complex life during the Cambrian Period. While two fragmentary specimens had been found previously, the new ones revealed unprecedented detail about one of the earliest known vertebrates.

Creatures like *Metaspriggina* began the lineage of vertebrates — animals with backbones — that later would include the whole range of jawed fishes, amphibians, reptiles, birds and mammals including people.

“It allows an understanding of where we come from and what our most distant relatives might have looked like,” said Jean-Bernard Caron, a

paleontologist at the Royal Ontario Museum in Toronto. “Because of its great age — more than half a billion year old — *Metaspriggina* provides a deep down view at the origins of the vertebrates.”

Metaspriggina was a soft-bodied jawless fish no bigger than a person’s thumb — about 2-1/2 inches (6 cm) long, with a small head, a narrow, tapering body, a pair of large eyes atop the head and a pair of small nasal sacs.

It did not have bones but possessed a skull possibly made of cartilage as well as precursors to vertebrae and a skeletal rod called a “notochord” that provided body support like backbones would do in later vertebrates. It is unclear if it had fins.

The scientists were especially excited about the gill structure of the fish because of the preview it gives to the anatomy of later vertebrates — paving the way for the jaws that would open a world of possibilities for so many later creatures. *Metaspriggina* boasted seven pairs of rod-like structures called gill arches, or branchial arches, that functioned for both filtration of food particles and respiration. The first pair of these gill arches was more robust than the others and presaged the first step in the evolution of jaws, Caron said.—Reuters



Metaspriggina fossil from Marble Canyon, which lived about 514 to 505 million years ago during the Cambrian period is shown in this handout image.

REUTERS

MasterCard expects big growth from ‘big data’ insights



A MasterCard logo is seen on a door outside a restaurant in New York on 3 Feb, 2010.—REUTERS

BERLIN, 12 June — MasterCard Inc, the world’s second-largest debit and credit card company, sees business booming from selling data to retailers, banks

and governments on spending patterns found in the payments it processes, a top executive told Reuters.

MasterCard, which handles payments for 2 bil-

lion cardholders and tens of millions of merchants, uses that information to generate real-time data on consumer trends, available more quickly than regular government statistics.

“It is an incredibly fast growing area for us,” Ann Cairns, who heads MasterCard’s business outside North America, said in an interview, stressing that the company respects cardholder privacy, using anonymous data rather than personal information. MasterCard does not give figures for its information services products but “other revenues”, which

include the sale of data, grew 22 percent in the first quarter of 2014 to \$341 million, outpacing the growth of total revenue dominated by payments processing, which rose 14 percent to \$2.177 billion. Cairns said clients for the data include retailers, banks and governments, with MasterCard tailoring it to their needs.

“Retailers are fantastic at using the data they have available about how people shop in their store, how their inventory turns over, but what they don’t know is what happens outside their store,” she said.—Reuters

Intel loses court challenge against \$1.44 billion EU fine

LUXEMBOURG, 12 June — US chipmaker Intel (INTC.O) lost on Thursday its challenge against a record 1.06-billion-euro (\$1.44 billion) fine handed down by European Union antitrust regulators five years ago for blocking rival Advanced Micro Devices (AMD.N).

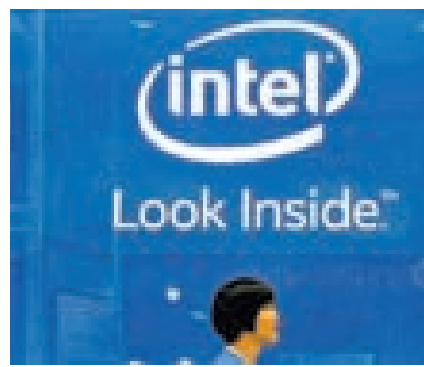
The European Com-

mission in its 2009 decision said Intel tried to thwart AMD by giving rebates to PC makers Dell, Hewlett-Packard Co (HPQ.N), Japan’s NEC (6701.T) and Lenovo (0992.HK) for buying most of their computer chips from Intel. The EU competition authority said Intel also paid German retail chain Media Saturn

Holding to stock only computers with its chips.

Judges at the Luxembourg-based General Court backed the Commission’s decision.

“The Commission demonstrated to the requisite legal standard that Intel attempted to conceal the anti-competitive nature of its practices and implemented



An employee walks past an Intel logo during the 2014 Computex exhibition at the TWTC Nangang exhibition hall in Taipei on 3 June, 2014.—REUTERS

a long term comprehensive strategy to foreclose AMD from the strategically most important sales channels,” the court said. Judges said the EU watchdog had not been heavy-handed with the level of the fine, equal to 4.15 percent of Intel’s 2008 turnover, versus a possible maximum of 10 percent.—Reuters

Somalia could slide backwards if world loses interest: UN



UN special representative for Somalia Nicholas Kay (C) inspects Ugandan peacekeeping troops during a ceremony at Mogadishu airport in Somalia on 18 May, 2014.—REUTERS

BRUSSELS, 12 June — Hard-won security gains in Somalia could be undermined unless the rest of

the world steps up support to improve Somalis' lives, the United Nations' special representative for the coun-

try said on Wednesday.

In the struggle against al Shabaab militants in Somalia, the Somali army and

African Union forces have seized control of 10 or 11 towns from the Islamists in the last few months,

Nicholas Kay told *Reuters* in an interview during a visit to Brussels for talks with European Union officials. "But unless we can consolidate those gains, unless the people in those areas feel the benefit of being in a government-controlled area, they get better services, better governance and also their basic needs for food and medicines are met, unless we can do that, then there is a risk that this will not be a success," he said.

Kay, a British diplomat, voiced concern that Somalia was losing out on attention and resources to other crisis-hit countries such as South Sudan, Central African Republic, Mali and Ukraine.

He said funding for humanitarian work in Somalia had "dropped off a cliff" even though a top UN official had warned of "worrying parallels" between now and 2010 — the year before a famine which killed hundreds of thousands of people.—*Reuters*

Seven freed Bangladeshi hostages return home

DHAKA, 12 June — Seven crew members freed by Somali pirates returned to Bangladesh on Thursday morning, nearly four years after their kidnap ordeal began. They appeared briefly before TV cameras after landing at the Hazrat Shahjalal International Airport in Dhaka around 8:40 am local time.

Senior government officials received them at the airport and they were greeted with bouquets of flowers.

The men, who had been held in dire conditions, beaten and tortured, appeared sombre and still traumatized by their captivity under threat of death.

The seven Bangladeshi sailors with four others from India, Iran and Sri Lanka were freed last week. The 11 men freed were part of the crew on Malaysian-owned cargo vessel *MV Albedo* which was hijacked 1,500 km off Somalia in November 2010, while sailing from the United Arab Emirates to Kenya.

After long persuasion by the government as well as relevant international organizations, the Bangladeshis were released alive by their captors on 6 June this year.

Seven of the ship's 23-man crew were released in 2012, while four others drowned when the ship sank last year.—*Xinhua*

DPRK rejects S Korea's offer to hold dialogue on detained missionary

SEOUL, 12 June — South Korea's Unification Ministry said on Thursday that the Democratic People's Republic of Korea (DPRK) rejected its offer to hold dialogue on a South Korean Christian missionary detained in Pyongyang for more than seven months.

The South Korean government proposed to the DPRK on Tuesday that the two sides should hold talks about Kim Jong-wook, who has been detained in the DPRK since October 2013, on 17 June at the Peace House, the administrative building in the South Korean side of the border village of Panmunjeom, according to the ministry.

The DPRK sent its response to the proposal earlier in the day, saying talks about Kim will not be an issue to argue as Kim, who wore a mask of the missionary, illegally stole into the DPRK to commit "anti-state hostile acts" before being arrested and punished.—*Xinhua*

Cambodia's ruling, opposition parties resume talks over row, but make little progress

PHNOM PENH, 12 June — Cambodia's ruling and opposition parties senior officials on Thursday restarted negotiations over a post-election dispute, but their talks gave little hope to end the 10-month political row.

The meeting was between Interior Ministry

Secretary of State Prum Sokha of the ruling Cambodian People's Party (CPP) and Kuoy Bunreoun, lawmaker-elect of the opposition Cambodia National Rescue Party (CNRP).

Speaking to reporters after their one-hour meeting, Prum Sokha said that at the CNRP's request, the

CPP agreed to make the National Election Committee (NEC) a constitutionally mandated body, but a sticking point arose when the opposition demanded that the selection of NEC members be approved by a two-thirds majority vote of the parliament's 123 lawmakers.

"The CPP does not agree with this point," he said. "Our stance is that the selection of NEC members must be approved by a 50-percent plus one majority vote in the parliament."

The CNRP accused the NEC of rigging votes in July's election for the CPP.

Xinhua

US House Republican No 2 Cantor to step down after election shock



US House Majority Leader Eric Cantor (R-VA) leaves after a news conference at the US Capitol in Washington on 11 June, 2014.—REUTERS

defeat put an end to Cantor's quest for an eighth term but he will serve out his current term through this year. It also brought an abrupt halt

to Cantor's career as a rising star who had his eye on the top job of Speaker. House Speaker John Boehner, who cried during a closed-door

meeting of House Republicans according to some who attended, praised Cantor's work as majority leader and said, "We've been through a lot together".

At a Press conference following that meeting, Cantor said he will step down from his leadership job on 31 July.

Cantor said that he would back Representative Kevin McCarthy of California as his replacement if he seeks it. Cantor and McCarthy were close allies and they often had to try to scale back the demands of the Tea Party. Representative Pete Sessions of Texas, who chairs the House Rules Committee, told reporters he would run for majority

leader. McCarthy and Sessions both have conservative voting records. Other Republicans also could vie for the job, with an election set for on 19 June. Trying to heal intra-party rifts that have plagued House Republicans for the past three years, Cantor said: "The differences that we may have are slight and pale in comparison with the differences that we have with the left."

Capitol Hill buzzed with speculation over whether the Tea Party victory in Cantor's Richmond, Virginia-area district could bring Washington back to the showdowns of 2011, 2012 and 2013 over budget deficits and the size of government.—*Reuters*

ADVERTISEMENT & GENERAL

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE
MV NOBLE BREEZE VOY NO (046)

Consignees of cargo carried on MV NOBLE BREEZE VOY NO (046) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 13.6.2014 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 INTERASIA LINES
Phone No: 01 -2301185

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE
MV EVER APEX VOY NO (427)

Consignees of cargo carried on MV EVER APEX VOY NO (427) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 13.6.2014 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 EVER GREEN SHIPPING
Phone No: 01- 2301185

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE
MV PACIFIC TRADER VOY NO (029)

Consignees of cargo carried on MV PACIFIC TRADER VOY NO (029) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 13.6.2014 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 ORINET OVERSEAS
CONTAINER LINES
Phone No: 01- 2301185

THE REPUBLIC OF THE UNION OF MYANMAR
MINISTRY OF ENERGY
MYANMA OIL AND GAS ENTERPRISE
(INVITATION FOR OPEN TENDER)
(12/2014)

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

Sr.No	Tender No	Description	Remark
(1)	IFB -028(14-15)	Cement Additives (4) Items	US\$
(2)	IFB -029(14-15)	Mud Logging Unit (1) Lot	US\$
(3)	IFB -030(14-15)	Spare Parts for 1.1 MW KG-2 Kongsberg Gas Turbine (25) Items	US\$
(4)	IFB -031(14-15)	Materials for Cathodic Protection System (2) Items	US\$
(5)	IFB -032(14-15)	Electrical Spares for ZJ50D Drilling Rigs (18) Items	US\$
(6)	IFB -033(14-15)	7" Liner Hanger and Accessories (10) Items	US\$
(7)	IFB -034(14-15)	4" Steel Line Pipes (6,000) MTR & Assorted Sizes of Gate Valves	US\$
(8)	IFB -035(14-15)	Assorted Sizes of Hose Pipes (12) Items	US\$
(9)	IFB -036(14-15)	Pump Spares (12) Items	US\$
(10)	IFB -037(14-15)	Spares for Cementing Units (1) Lot	US\$
(11)	IFB -038(14-15)	Industrial Raw Materials (24) Items	US\$
(12)	IFB -039(14-15)	Spares for Perkins Engine Ex 435TC P & H Crane (31) Items	US\$
(13)	IFB -040(14-15)	Spares for Nissan RD 8 Engine Ex 435 TC P & H Mobile Crane (35) Items	US\$
(14)	IFB -041(14-15)	Spares for Komatsu Dozer (D 155A-1) (7) Items	US\$
(15)	IFB -042(14-15)	Spares for Mitsubishi 6 D B10C-K Engine Ex P & H Crawler Crane (24) Items	US\$

Tender Closing Date & Time - 9-7-2014, 16:30 Hr.
Tender Document shall be available during office hours commencing from 13th June, 2014 at the Finance Department, Myanma Oil and Gas Enterprise, No (44) Complex, Nay Pyi Taw, Myanmar.
Myanma Oil and Gas Enterprise
Ph: +95 67 - 411097/411206

16 killed in US drone strikes in Pakistan

ISLAMABAD, 12 June — At least 16 suspected militants were killed in two separate US drone strikes launched in Pakistan's northwest tribal area of North Waziristan late Wednesday night and early Thursday morning, reported local media. Local Urdu TV channel Dunya said that the first strike came at about 8:40 pm local time on Wednesday night when US unmanned aircraft fired two missiles at a house suspected of being a militant hide-out in Dargah Mandi Khel, a village near Miranshah, capital town of North Waziristan, a restive tribal area bordering Afghanistan. At least six suspected militants were killed in the strike, said the report quoting unidentified sources.

Hours later, at about 3

am local time on Thursday morning, five US drones fired eight missiles at four living compounds and a vehicle in Dande Darpa Khel, another village near Miranshah, leaving at least ten suspected militants killed, according to the report.

The identities of the killed are known at this point. The drone strike on Wednesday night is the first of its kind in Pakistan since 25 December, 2013, marking a resumption of such strikes in the country after a nearly-six-month lull. The strike came just a day after a top cabinet meeting chaired by the Pakistani Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif had decided to fight back against terrorists as the months-long efforts made by the Pakistani government to engage Pakistan Taleban in

peace talks have ended in vain. Late on Sunday night, ten heavily armed militants stormed the terminal one of Jinnah International Airport in Karachi, the largest civil airport in the country, causing a huge loss of lives and property.

During the five-hour-long exchange of firing between the militants and the security forces, 40 people, including all the ten attackers, were killed and over 20 others injured. Several planes were also damaged in the attack. The airport was closed for more than 15 hours with 20 flights including seven international flights disrupted.

Both Pakistan Taleban and a Uzbek militant group have later claimed responsibility for the attack.

Xinhua

Chinese navy fleet visits Namibia

WALVIS BAY, (Namibia), 12 June — A Chinese navy fleet consisting of two missile frigates and a supply ship docked at Namibia's Port of Walvis Bay on Wednesday, marking the beginning of China's first-ever navy visit to the Southwestern African country. The warships were welcomed by a cheering crowd of about 600 people at the port. Among them Chinese Ambassador Xin Shunkang, high-ranking Namibian navy officers, the Mayor of Walvis Bay and Chinese nationals working in Namibia, some of whom had driven 400 kilometres from the capital Windhoek to witness the historic occasion.

In his welcoming remarks, Ambassador Xin pointed out that it was the first visit of Chinese navy vessels to Namibia since the two countries established diplomatic ties 24 years ago, hence it would be significant to further enhance mutual understanding and cooperation.

After a brief welcoming ceremony, Chinese and local visitors were allowed to board missile frigates *Yancheng*, the flag ship of the fleet, and frigate *Luoyang*, a rare chance to look closely at the development of a modern Chinese navy. Admiral Nghipandwa, Namibia's Chief of Naval Operations, said after he was given a detailed tour of *Yancheng* that the visit marked another "milestone" in the friendly cooperation between the two navies.

Xinhua



Suicide bomber hits army checkpoint near Libya's Benghazi

BENGHAZI , 12 June—A huge explosion likely caused by a suicide bomber at an army checkpoint outside the eastern Libyan city of Benghazi killed the attacker and wounded six others late on Wednesday, army officials said. A car exploded in Barsis, 50 km (30 miles) east of the port city, an army official told Reuters. "A car approached with great speed and then exploded. It appears to be a suicide attack," he said.

Three soldiers and three civilians were wounded and the alleged attacker was killed, the officials said, after first putting the death toll at two. "There are body parts spread all over ...so we first thought two people had been

killed," one army official said. A suicide bomber hit the same army checkpoint in December, killing 13 soldiers, in the first suicide attack since the 2011 ouster of Muammar Gaddafi. Some soldiers of the targeted army unit had declared support for a military campaign launched by retired army general Khalifa Haftar against Islamist militants months ago. More than 100 people have been killed in fighting, mainly in Benghazi, since then.

Haftar has accused the weak central government in Tripoli of failing to tackle Islamist militants such as the Ansar al-Sharia group, which has its own checkpoint in Benghazi.—Reuters



Author JK Rowling donates 1 mln stg to fight Scottish independence

LONDON, 12 June — JK Rowling, Britain's best-selling author and creator of teenage wizard Harry Potter, has donated 1 million pounds (\$1.68 million) to the campaign against Scottish independence, saying on Wednesday she believed Scotland was better off staying in the United Kingdom.

Rowling lives in the Scottish capital of Edinburgh where she wrote the first of the Potter series in a local cafe and will be among about four million Scottish residents to decide on Sept. 18 whether to end the 307-year tie to England.

Rowling said she was concerned about the economic impact of going alone, with Scotland's oil and gas reserves being depleted and an ageing population, becoming the latest in a string of celebrities to wade into the increasingly heated debate.

"The more I have read from a variety of independent and unbiased sources, the more I have come to the conclusion that while independence might give us opportunities — any change brings opportunities — it also carries serious risks," she wrote on her website.

Rowling said she knew her stance might put her in the firing line of a fringe of aggressive nationalists whom she compared to Death Eaters, followers of Harry Potter villain Lord Voldemort.

"While a few of our fiercer nationalists might like to drive me forcibly over the border after reading this, I'd prefer to stay and contribute to a country that has given me more than I can easily express," she wrote. "I just hope with all my heart that we never have cause to look back and feel that we made a historically bad mistake."

A spokesman for the Better Together campaign confirmed Rowling had donated 1 million pounds to the fight to keep Scotland in the United Kingdom which is the biggest donation yet to the pro-union campaign that is leading in opinion polls.

The largest donation to the team fighting for independence has come from Britain's biggest lottery winners, Scottish couple Colin and Chris Weir, who have given about 3.5 million pounds from their 2011 winnings of 161 million pounds.

Rowling, who was born in England but has lived in Scotland for 21 years, first went public with her opposition to Scottish independence in 2012 but her statement on Wednesday spelt out her thinking.

She said she believed Scotland was more powerful in global markets as part of the union with England, Wales and Northern Ireland and was concerned about Scotland's relationship with the rest of the United Kingdom if it broke away.

"If we leave ... there will be no going back. This separation will not be quick and clean: it will take microsurgery to disentangle three centuries of close interdependence, after which we will have to deal with three bitter neighbours," she wrote. Other celebrities publicly to oppose independence include singer David Bowie who appealed to Scotland to stay with the United Kingdom at an awards ceremony in February and comedian Billy Connolly who said it was a time to stay together.—Reuters

Miranda Lambert album scores first No 1 on Billboard 200 chart

LOS ANGELES, 12 June — Country singer Miranda Lambert debuted at the top of the Billboard 200 album chart for the first time on Wednesday, beating Disney's juggernaut film soundtrack "Frozen" and a new album from rapper 50 Cent.

"Platinum," the fifth album from Lambert, sold 180,000 copies in its first week, according to figures from Nielsen SoundScan. She held off "Frozen," which sold 52,000 copies in its 28th week on the chart and notched No 2. The soundtrack, which features the Oscar-winning song "Let It Go," has sold 2.9 million copies in the United States since its November release.

Country singer Brantley Gilbert's "Just As I Am" dropped one spot to No 3 this



Singer Miranda Lambert

week, while 50 Cent's "Animal Ambition: An Untamed Desire to Win" opened at No 4. Last week's chart-topper Coldplay's "Ghost Stories" dropped to No 5. Rockers Led Zeppelin landed in the top 10 this week after releasing expanded versions of three of its first albums: "Led Zeppelin," "Led Zeppelin 2" and "Led Zeppelin 3." The records, which were originally released between 1969 and 1970, clocked in at No 7, No 9 and No 10 respectively. The soundtrack to teen romance film "The Fault in Our Stars" debuted at No 8. For the week ending 8 June, overall album sales totaled 4.5 million units, down 7 percent from the comparable week in 2013, Billboard said.—Reuters

Sharing Latin music with China

BEIJING, 12 June — Talking with Tamela Hedstrom is a delight. Her sparkling eyes, deep and magnetic voice and signature smiles make you feel that you are on a sunny beach in Costa Rica, not on a noisy backstage in an early May windy afternoon in Beijing.

In a bright yellow little dress, Hedstrom was due to start her first performance in Beijing, after a 48-hour-journey from Costa Rica and a one night show in Shanghai. This is her first trip to China. She was invited by the Costa Rican Embassy in Beijing as the performing artist for the Strawberry Festival in Shanghai and the Latin American and Caribbean Music Festival in Beijing.

Hedstrom is a multi-lingual Latin-pop, soul singer and songwriter. Her song "Acércate" was nominated



Tamela Hedstrom sings at the "Night of the Latin American and Caribbean Music".—XINHUA

for the Best Tropical Song Award of the Latin Grammy Awards in 2012. Born to a Swedish father and an Ecuadorian mother, her musical style is as diverse as her exotic background, ranging from Latin to soul and from funk to pop. "I was born in Sweden but raised in Costa Rica. I have lived in different countries with different peoples and heard different music. I'm hungry to learn different ways of loving and seeing the world.

That's why my music is hard to explain. You have to hear it to understand it," Hedstrom said. But a passion of life, living and for hope are the constant themes of Hedstrom's music. "I grew up with the idea of saving the world, and making the world a better place, as my mother is a sociologist who works to fight against racism and my father is a biologist who works in environmental protection. So I'm hopeful about my music," she said.—Xinhua

GENERAL



A photo of a warplane of PLA Air Force taken by Cui Wenbin, a photographer known for his works of military theme. —XINHUA

Alabama woman charged for asking fake Facebook friend to kill family

NEW YORK, 12 June — An Alabama woman was charged for trying to enlist a Facebook friend, who in fact was her aunt posing as a man, to kill her family, police and prosecutors said on Wednesday.

Marissa Williams, 19, faces 10 years to life in prison if convicted on one count of solicitation for murder, a class-A felony, for her alleged plot to kill several relatives and even a family pet.

Police said Williams had in April moved in with her aunt's family in the

western Alabama community of Fosters, where she started to meet men online and invite them to the house.

Frustrated by this behavior, her aunt created a Facebook alter ego, Tre 'Topdog' Ellis, to befriend her niece, said Lieutenant Andy Norris, spokesman for the Tuscaloosa County Sheriff's Office.

Williams began chatting online with the fictional Ellis late last month, inviting him over and offering to have sex with him in exchange for covering

her \$50 cellphone bill, Norris said.

At one point, she told Ellis that she was sick of her family and asked him to shoot dead her aunt, her aunt's fiancée, Williams' cousin and the family dog and to run away with him, Norris said.

Upon reading the request, the aunt contacted the sheriff's office. Williams admitted to police she had asked her Facebook friend for the favor, but said she did not intend to actually have anyone killed, Norris said.

Norris said Williams' her approach to enlisting a hitman was not typical. "Usually they try to get a friend or an acquaintance to do it, someone they can trust," he said. "This isn't normal behavior."

Williams was arrested on Tuesday and is in jail in lieu of posting \$30,000 bond. She is due in court later this week, a Tuscaloosa County District Attorney's Office spokesman said, adding there is no record of her yet having retained an attorney.

Reuters

MYANMAR TV

(13-6-2014, Friday)

6:00 am

* Paritta by Venerable Mingun Sayadaw

6:30 am

* Physical Exercises

7:40 am

* Documentary

8:00 am

* News/ International News

8:30 am

* India Drama Series

9:00 am

* News / International News

9:30 am

* ASEAN Programme

10:00 am

* News

11:00 am

* Clever

12:00 pm

* News / International News / Weather Report

2:40 pm

* Hyper Sports

3:00 pm

* News

4:30 pm

* University of Distance Education (TV Lectures) -First Year (Mathematics)

5:00 pm

* News

5:15 pm

* Documentary

6:00 pm

* News / Weather Report

6:20 pm

* Amazing World

7:00 pm

* News

7:20 pm

* TV Drama Series

8:00 pm

* News/International News/Weather Report

8:45 pm

* People Talks

9:00 pm

* News

9:30 pm

* Documentary

* Hyper Sports

* Fashion Show

MYANMAR INTERNATIONAL

(13-6-14 07:00am~ 14-6-14 07:00am) MST

* Local News

* Welcome to

Naga Land

* World News

* Food Trip

* Local News

* Flying Without Wings— My Great Limitless Adventure — Bagan

* World News

* Dengue Fever

* Local News

* Myanmar Martial Art (EP-1)(Bando)

* World News

* Porcelain and Glass

* Local News

* Taung Byone Nat

Festival (Episode-5)

* World News

* Myanmar Railways

City Circular Train

* Local News

* Stone of The Heavens

* World News

* Ngapali Beach:

Fishing Villages

* Local News

* Flying Without Wings— My Great Limitless Adventure — Pakokku

* World News

* In the Studio:

Nyi Voyy

* Local News

* Myanmar Mega

Factory (EP-2)(I)

* World News

* Goldsmith

* Local News

* Taung Byone Nat

Festival

* World News

* Great Shwedagon

Messi balks at sky-high rent for Brazil mansion

SAO PAULO, 12 June — Sky-high property prices in Brazil have claimed a new victim in Argentina forward Lionel Messi, the world's highest-paid footballer.

Messi scrapped plans to rent a mansion for his family outside the city of Belo Horizonte for the duration of the World Cup, according to the online edition of *O Estado de S Paulo* newspaper.

His new contract with Spanish club Barcelona will reportedly earn the four-times World Player of the Year a net annual salary of \$27 million.

Messi and his staff thought the 150,000

reais (\$67,600) rent for a month-long stay in the 21,500-square foot mansion was expensive, *Estado* said. In addition to proposing a lower rent, Messi's entourage pressed the landlord to put up an enclosure for privacy purposes.

A source with knowledge of the negotiations confirmed some of the terms, adding that the talks broke down in early May.

Messi's staff made an offer that "didn't please me. The deal didn't go through," Paulo Nassif, the mansion's owner, told *Estado*.

Efforts to reach Nassif and Messi's father Jorge Messi, who runs all his



Argentina's Lionel Messi arrives with the national soccer team at the international airport in Belo Horizonte, ahead of the 2014 World Cup, on 9 June, 2014.

REUTERS

business affairs, were unsuccessful. A spokesman for the Argentine team declined to comment.

The mansion has seven suites, 13 restrooms and 86,000 square feet of land next to a lagoon. Messi decided instead to rent a house in Rio de Janeiro for his family, *Estado* said.

The Argentine squad is based for the World Cup in Belo Horizonte, Brazil's third-largest city.

Real estate prices and rents have soared in Brazil in recent years, with prices in major cities like Rio and Sao Paulo often in the same league as New York, London and Paris.

Reuters

Deja vu for Spain as World Cup defence begins

SALVADOR, (Brazil), 12 June — Spain will be lifted by a reminder of the glory of four years ago as the defence of their World Cup crown begins against 2010 finalists the Netherlands in Salvador on Friday in a standout Group B opener.

Spain, also 2008 and 2012 European Championship winners, arrive in Brazil with 16 players retained from the squad that triumphed in South Africa, the most returned at the following World Cup by any world champion, with many still bearing the scars of a bruising encounter with the Dutch in 2010.

Spain dominated possession in Johannesburg and took a barrage of heavy tackles by a fierce Dutch defensive guard, but fans streaming to the Fonte Nova arena will be hoping for a more attacking treat this time around as Xavi, Andres Iniesta and David Silva's superb passing game comes up against a Dutch counter attack possessing Arjen Robben and

Robin van Persie.

Vincent Del Bosque's La Roja, bolstered this time by the prolific Brazilian-born Diego Costa, begin among the favourites for the tournament in Brazil, where success would see them become the first Europeans to win the World Cup in the Americas.

Much has been made of the addition of Costa, who hails from Lagarto in the north east of Brazil and whose family will travel the 350 kilometres to Salvador to see him take on the Dutch. His presence in Spain's starting XI will bring added value to a team who have often played without a traditional centre-forward.

A revelation in La Liga last season with 36 goals as Atletico won the title, Costa has reacted angrily to claims from Brazil coach Luiz Felipe Scolari that he had offered him the chance to play at the World Cup, insisting only Spain called.

Costa will lead an otherwise familiar line-up in



Spain's national head coach Vicente del Bosque (C) gives instructions during a training session ahead of the 2014 World Cup in Curitiba on 10 June, 2014.

REUTERS

Salvador with defenders Cesar Azpilicueta, Sergio Ramos, Gerard Pique, and Jordi Alba in front of goalkeeper Iker Casillas, and the dynamic midfield of Xabi Alonso, Sergio Busquets, Silva, Xavi and Iniesta helping Costa unlock a Dutch side set-up to counter.

The Dutch tactics under coach Louis van Gaal have been hotly debated in the Brazil build-up after he opted to ditch a traditional 4-3-3 approach in favour of a 5-3-2, after losing midfield king pin Kevin Strootman to long-term injury and favouring a more pressing approach.

"I don't think at the moment we are capable of playing tika taka," Arjen Robben, told Dutch team website Ons Oranje. "The counter is a very dangerous weapon that we will be certainly using at this tournament." While Van Gaal has also pushed to blood more youngsters into the

national side, his team to face Spain will include a core of household names, including a rejuvenated Wesley Sneijder who has bounced back from losing the captaincy and his place in the side to take a key role as provider for Robben and Van Persie.

Sneijder will play just in front of midfield enforcer Nigel de Jong — fortunate to stay on the pitch in the 2010 final after a kung-fu kick on Xabi Alonso — and Jonathan de Guzman if fit. Ron Vlaar will lead a back line including the promising Daley Blind, son of Danny who becomes Dutch coach in 2016.

Van Persie's form and fitness is key to Van Gaal's plans. The captain endured a stop-start domestic campaign and while he has said he is fit for the World Cup after some niggling injuries, the jury is still out after not looking completely comfortable in training.

Group B rivals Australia and Chile also play Friday in Cuiaba.—Reuters

Chile, Australia primed for Cuiaba meltdown



Chile soccer fans arrive at Cuiaba airport on 11 June, 2014, prior to the 2014 World Cup Group B match between Chile and Australia on 13 June.—REUTERS

CUIABA, 12 June — If Australia's World Cup warmup against Ecuador in London in March is anything to go by, their opening Group B clash with Chile at the Pantanal Arena could be a thriller. Australia, who took a shock three-goal lead against the Ecuadoreans before being over-run in the second half and losing 4-3, like to hit opponents with fast breaks and if they are to do anything of note in Brazil they must beat Chile. Chile like to play in their opponents' half with a fast and furious pressing game based on as much possession as possible.

With big guns Spain and the Netherlands, who met in the final in South Africa four years ago, up next in the group Chile also need to take the three points.

The South Americans,

third in their region's qualifying group, are favourites against an Australian team in transition with the 2015 Asian Cup a far more realistic goal. Chile are playing on their own continent but the muggy conditions in Cuiaba deep in the Mato Grosso swampland are not necessarily an advantage for them because the country has a more European climate. Chile have a more talented squad than Australia with Barcelona forward Alexis Sanchez and Juventus midfielder Arturo Vidal major players at top European clubs. They may be thin at the back in a 3-4-3 formation but will aim to starve the opposition of the ball. "On Friday we'll go out to attack from the first minute and we'll run until we've smothered our opponents," midfielder Marcelo Diaz said at Chile's Belo

Horizonte base.

"We'll see if Australia give us space or not... let's hope what we have planned works out," he told a news conference. Vidal, who had knee surgery on 7 May, took full part in Wednesday's practice but is unlikely to start against Australia.

The Chilean squad has the lowest average height in the tournament and will need to counter the Australians' strengths in the air, particularly from veteran midfielder Tim Cahill. "We manage the height factor well, working on our timing and distance," defender Gonzalo Jara said.

Cahill became Australia's all-time top scorer with two headed goals against Ecuador and now has 32 in 68 internationals having also scored against South Africa in their last warmup

Australia coach Ange Postecoglou's main decision is over whether to risk playmaker Mark Bresciano, who arrived in Brazil with a back problem and has been undertaking only light training.

The 34-year-old got safely through a second-half substitute appearance in last week's 1-0 friendly loss to Croatia. Dario Vidosic is likely to come into a rejigged midfield if Bresciano is not fit enough to start.

Reuters

Argentina-Brazil rivalry spills over into training

BELO HORIZONTE, (Brazil), 12 June — Argentina got an early taste of what to expect from their Brazilian hosts at the World Cup when they were welcomed with jeers and whistles in their first open practice session on Wednesday.

Some 5,000 fans attended the session in Belo Horizonte's Independencia stadium with the locals giving their fierce rivals a noisy reception ahead of the tournament start on Thursday.

The decibel levels reached those of a competitive match when Argentina

came out onto the pitch but the players, including Lionel Messi and Angel Di Maria, kept their cool and briefly waved to their own fans in the crowd before turning their focus to their training.

Argentina, who along with Brazil are the South American favourites to lift the trophy, kick off their tournament against Bosnia on Sunday.

"The team down there on the pitch will bring the World Cup back home," Sebastian Suner from Rosario, who was draped in an Argentine flag, told

Reuters.

"Listen to the boos. It can't get any sweeter than lifting the trophy in Brazil in a month's time," the 22-year-old said with a grin.

Tight security was in place with streets around the venue closed and helicopters hovering over the stadium, which hosted World Cup matches at the 1950 tournament including England's shock loss to the United States.

Argentina also play Iran and Nigeria in Group F.

Reuters

World Cup 2014 Brazil			
 Match-2		22:30 MST (13.6.2014)	
	Mexico		Cameroon
		01:30 MST (14.6.2014)	
	Spain		Netherlands
Match-4		04:30 MST (14.6.2014)	
	Chile		Australia